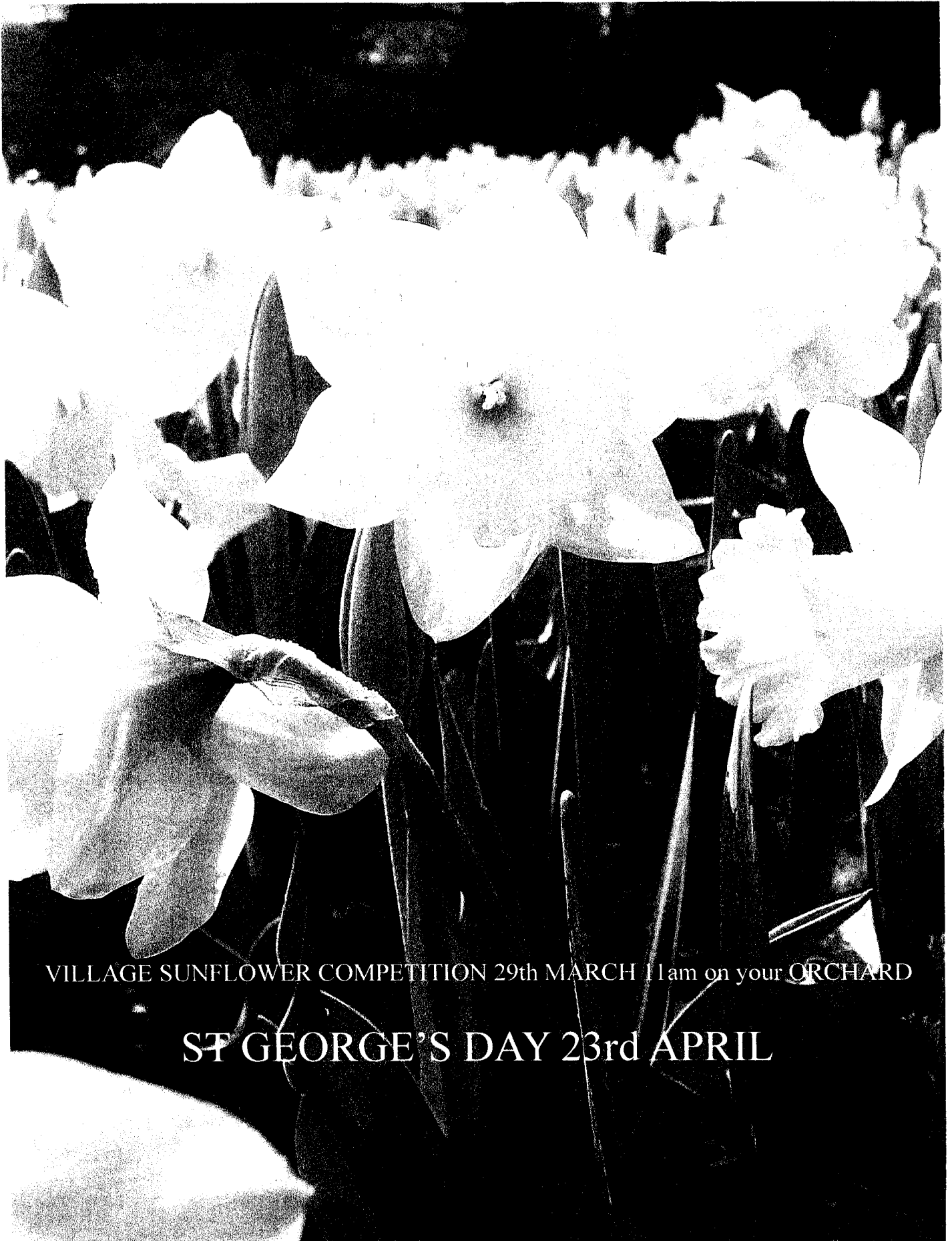


# THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine - April 2013



VILLAGE SUNFLOWER COMPETITION 29th MARCH I am on your ORCHARD

ST GEORGE'S DAY 23rd APRIL

# Editorial

I've had no response from potential editors - you can read an amusing take on the 'election of the editor' proposed by Nigel Palmer on page 13. If you are interested in taking on the role then please do get in touch.

Spring has not arrived - it's cold and wet. Can we have some sunshine soon please.

AVDC Green Division gave me some saplings of Black Poplars - a corner of my field is always wet and farm machinery does not venture on it; so it seems an opportunity to improve its attractiveness to wildlife. So seven poplars will hopefully appreciate the near bog like conditions that exist at the moment.

I'm hoping to win the Village Sunflower Competition that Wendy Bentley has organised. Last year I had a competition with one of my grandsons. His sunflower beat mine as mine was eaten (or sabotaged). Sunflowers can grow into the most amazing plants and even when way past their best they are still a most interesting object; and the birds love the seeds.

Judy and I went to Cheltenham on Gold Cup Day. The weather was not kind and it was a real scrum getting around. One of our grandchildren has chickenpox so we decided to back horses with spotty colours. The ploy didn't work; not even a place; the bookies won.

We've been given tickets to go and see a matinee performance of 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' at a theatre in the West End. I've read the book as one of the titles read by the Book Club. It was hard to imagine how this was going to translate to the stage. Really enjoyed the play - thoroughly recommend it; After the show we treated ourselves to a trip up The Shard, the views were amazing!

My camera trap, watching the new owl box, has only recorded jackdaws and squirrels so far.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 8th May - please read the Parish Clerk's article on page 19. Hope you will be able to attend.

The front cover is a repeat of last year's March issue - my daffodils are barely out - where's the Spring gone?

*John*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- EASTER ACTIVITIES
- WHAT'S on in April
- COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS
- ALLOTMENT DIARY
- ORCHARD REPORT

**THE CHRONICLE**

Issue 331

April 2013

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A note to all would be advertisers - More than 205 households receive The Chronicle 11 times a year and with rates from just £25 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish Magazines). Can you afford not to be in?

Copy date for the next issue

**Friday 19th April**

Please pass items to the Editor John Hardcastle or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible.

Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbots, our local Doctors' Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

# Alison's Gossip Column

## BIRTHDAYS

### April

Chris Farrands	1 <sup>st</sup>
Katy Bull-Diamond	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Ian Hinds	4 <sup>th</sup>
Caroline Lane	5 <sup>th</sup>
Philip Wheaton	6 <sup>th</sup>
Karen Brandon	7 <sup>th</sup>
Harry Bystra	9 <sup>th</sup>
Adrian Bystra	11 <sup>th</sup>
Laura Whyte	11 <sup>th</sup>
Annie Copping	13 <sup>th</sup>
Anthony Palmer	13 <sup>th</sup>
Jan Rose	17 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Clarke	18 <sup>th</sup>
Sam King	20 <sup>th</sup>
Alison Lewis	20 <sup>th</sup>
April Curnow	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Matthew James	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Abbie Lee	26 <sup>th</sup>
Kate Curry	27 <sup>th</sup>
Diana Picking	28 <sup>th</sup>
Kirsty Peacock	28 <sup>th</sup>
Chris Espley	30 <sup>th</sup>

## PLAY AROUND THE PARISHES

AVDC is hosting a series of play and sports holiday activities for children in rural locations.

Each team has a variety of play equipment for children aged 4+.

please note that a team will be on the **Rec on Friday 5th April between 10am - 12noon.**

The event is free

*more details on page 17*

Two peanuts walk into a really rough bar. Unfortunately one was a salted.

*Apologies but there's a few more like this on following pages. Ed*

Condolences to Carol Spooner whose mother died recently and unexpectedly.

As anyone who has been on a Whytie Tour will know, they always run smoothly. Unless you turn up early. Then there is panic, confusion and a headless chicken springs to mind! Thanks for the entertainment John.

**SUNFLOWER COMPETITION - meet at your Orchard  
11am 29th March - see page 19**

**LITTER BLITZ NOW SATURDAY 6TH APRIL!!**

## St. George's Day Tuesday, 23 April, 2013

George's Day in England remembers St George, England's patron saint. The anniversary of his death, which is on April 23, is seen as England's national day. According to legend, he was a soldier in the Roman army who killed a dragon and saved a princess.



## WADDESDON MANOR - 01296 653226

Bring Cadbury magic to your family by joining in at one of our Easter Egg Trails! Follow the clues, answer the questions and complete the challenges to find your way to a prize just for you!



This Easter Egg Trail will have face painters, a games area and activities to take part in such as giant snakes and ladders, sack races, the egg shy and lots of other fun!

Trail Cost £3.00 (Please note, normal admission fees also apply)

29/03/2013 10:00 am 4:00 pm

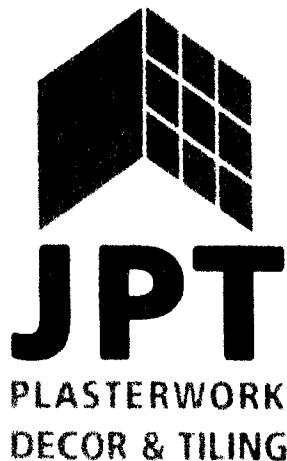
30/03/2013 10:00 am 4:00 pm

 31/03/2013 10:00 am 4:00 pm

 01/04/2013 10:00 am 4:00 pm

## Egg and Spoon Race - 1st April 2013

We are participating in the national Egg and Spoon Race. Race along the North Front to the Manor, Don't forget to bring your spoon!



Jason Tomlinson

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## Orchard Report

Four more trees have been planted in the Village Orchard. A Ribstone Pippin, reportedly one of the nicest eating apples that is no longer grown commercially. The individual apples ripen at different times on the tree so commercially it doesn't fit in very well where growers want as many apples as possible at one time.

It should suit us very well.

A Warden Pear, that originated over the border in Bedfordshire and the fruit is reputed to take one and a half to two hours to cook. It is a very rare tree and the fruit look beautiful.

Another Bramley Seedling was requested. We now have three Bramleys so that will be the last one to be planted.

The final tree planted was an apple called Newtons Wonder - rumour had it that this was the tree Isaac Newton sat under when an apple fell on his head and he discovered

a) gravity existed b) it hurt and c) it tasted nice.

Apparently this is unlikely to be true and it is more likely that the apple was named after its breeder Mr Newton.

There are some green shoots in the Orchard; Quince trees being the first to break bud. No doubt there will soon be the first signs of blossom on the Apricot tree; these always bloom very early.

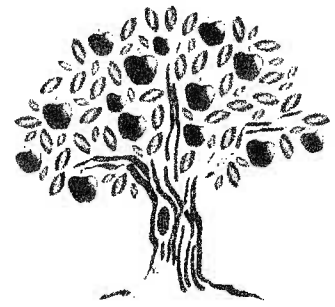
Daffodils seem to be coming up round many trees and they too will be showing colour soon - most are not the short, semi-wild daffodils that we would prefer.

I did discover a tiny bit of storm damage - one of the big walnut trees had broken loose from the tie that held it to the post - two staples cured that; no problem.

I have been asked why I don't mind moles. Well I have always tried to be as tolerant to all wildlife despite recognising that any serious over population may have to be controlled. With moles this also means that they cannot be tolerated on the allotments so it may come to the point where they should be 'discouraged' from breeding too fast and spreading into carefully tended ground. Moles are however a sure sign that the soil is in excellent condition, full of worms and well drained, all in splendid order.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to next month - how many trees will blossom? Will any trees fruit? - they may well. I can't wait to watch it all develop.

*Peter Knight*



## ASTON ABBOTTS THEATREGOERS

Listed below are the 'press tickets' that The Waterside Theatre have kindly made available to villagers. If you would like to enter the raffle for any of these events then contact the editor by email or a note through his door. If you are successful you will be notified two weeks before the show. It would be good if you could then write a short review for the Chronicle. *Ed*

<b>THE MOUSETRAP</b>	MON 8 APR 7.30PM
<b>ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS</b>	THU 18 APR 7.30PM
<b>BIRDS OF A FEATHER</b>	TUE 14 MAY 7.30PM

## WOW! A CELEBRATION OF THE MUSIC AND ARTISTRY OF KATE BUSH

I was very pleased to win two tickets to go and see this show at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury. I took my sister, Shirley along with me. Both of us like Kate Bush's music so were interested to see how well Maaïke Breijman would perform her songs, as Kate has such a wide vocal range. We weren't disappointed; as well as looking the part (with her long dark hair and petite figure) Maaïke sang beautifully and had no trouble hitting the high notes, even while she was dancing delightfully across the stage. She had a very professional 4 piece band and back up singer completing the musical side of things and she performed most of Kates best known songs as well as some lesser known ones, which we both really enjoyed. I must also mention the two male dancers who were fascinating to watch (how do they bend like that?). Also, with costume changes between most songs it made for a very entertaining and pleasant evening. Thank you very much for the free tickets and complimentary drink we received.

*Mel Smith*

How do you approach an angry Welsh cheese?

Caerphilly

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## ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

Our book for March was Alison Lewis's choice 'The Terrible Privacy of Maxwell Sim' by Jonathan Coe. The book is about Max, a man in a midlife crisis who stumbles through life. He can be endearing, he can be funny but mostly he's depressing. His life seems pretty pointless. The book invoked extreme differences of opinion. Some thought it an easy, enjoyable read, others thought it difficult and monotonous. The ending is weird and unexpected and very clever.

Next Book Club will be April 24<sup>th</sup> at Sally Clark's and she has chosen "The Diary of a Nobody" by George & Weedon Grossmith.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>'s Book club will be hosted by David Grey and his choice is "The Hundred Year Old Man who climbed out of the window and Disappeared" by Jonas Jonasson.

*Alison Lewis*

*I will be distributing, at the end of April, 20 copies of Andy McNab's book 'Last Night Another Soldier...'. This is courtesy of World Book Night. Copies will be given to men in the village trusting they enjoy the novel and perhaps pass the book onto a friend.*

*John Hardcastle*

## COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

The Schmallenberg Virus (named after the German Town where it was discovered) hit the Netherlands and Germany in October 2011. The signs in cattle were fever, reduced milk yields and diarrhoea. From December 2011, abortion and stillbirths associated with foetal deformities, especially of limbs and skull, were being experienced in sheep flocks and to a lesser extent cattle and goat herds. Surveillance across Britain was stepped up by Defra, but in January 2012 the first case was detected in east of England. SBV is spread by biting insects and are members of the midge family, blown across the North Sea from the Continent and has effected every rural county in England and Wales. In pregnant ewes, the virus can cross the placenta and affect the nervous system of the foetus causing defects such as inflexible joints, twisted necks and sometimes abortions. This in early lambing flocks is causing devastation in lamb numbers being born, as shown on Country File last week. Just one more problem faced by livestock farmers in Britain today.

I must take my hat off to Phillip Clarke CEO of Tesco, who did have the guts to address a large meeting of the NFU, and tried to explain the supermarket's position on the horse meat scandal. It could not have been an enviable task to stand up in front of all those very angry red faced farmers within breathing distance. He now promises to buy all fresh meat products from British and Irish Farmers (he said nothing about frozen meat?) to use in his stores instead of buying cheap imported meat from other countries with lower welfare standards, using banned battery hen cages and sow stalls. This is very welcome news, and the NFU shall be watching his company like a hawk. But I have to ask, what the hell was Tesco and others buying this way in the first place?? He quotes "By changing the way Tesco source food, I am determined to lead the way". I ask the question, why when you buy a chicken sandwich for lunch, does the meat come from Thailand instead of Wing Airfield? Buy British look for the little red tractor. *James Henderson*

## SPRING NATURE WATCH

What a Spring! This time last year we were enjoying bbq's, sunshine and 21degrees C. What is more we were only weeks away from a hosepipe ban. It is at times like this that I wish that I could talk to the animals!

What do they make of it. Some of them at least seem to be able to alter their behaviour to cope with the weather. However that doesn't always work. Worms for instance. Animals and plants that don't live in water can only cope with a deluge for a limited period. Surprise - worms like you and I ( I don't mean that you and I are worms!) left submerged in water just drown. This means that there are great tracts of land which are now worm free because of waterlogging. Now worms form a major part of the diet of lots of birds and animals so to a certain extent they will go hungry. Worms are also very important for soil aeration - getting oxygen into the soil. No worms - no aeration - dead soil, a little like a stagnant pond except that you can't see it. Let's hope we get some sunshine soon.

Being a bit of a boaty type of chap I have to stick my oar into the rook storm! Sometime in the dark ages when I was a schoolboy I was listening to Arthur Street (remember him?) talking on the wireless about rooks. He was going even further back recounting that his Father, a farmer, had been watching rooks in a field of young mangles. They were apparently quite randomly pulling the seedlings up and then just discarding them. Being aware that nature doesn't waste anything he was intrigued. Examination of the discarded seedlings revealed that every one had been attacked by some sort of insect pest, which being absent he assumed had been consumed by the rooks. He then shot one and found that the gizzard was full of these pests. After that he never shot another rook. Some farmers go to great lengths to shoot out the nests and I can remember once counting some thirty odd carcasses hanging on a fence. Rooks will take grain if it is left about and can also have a go at newborn lambs if they are unprotected. They are carnivorous and also carrion eaters. A "Min of Ag" (remember them) publication on rooks which appeared in the 50's came down very heavily on the side of rooks as an aid to the farmer. They may be a little noisy sometimes but then so are owls and at night! Would anyone want to get rid of the owls? Then of course how many times do people staying in the countryside only very rarely complain that it is too quiet!

*Alan Jones*

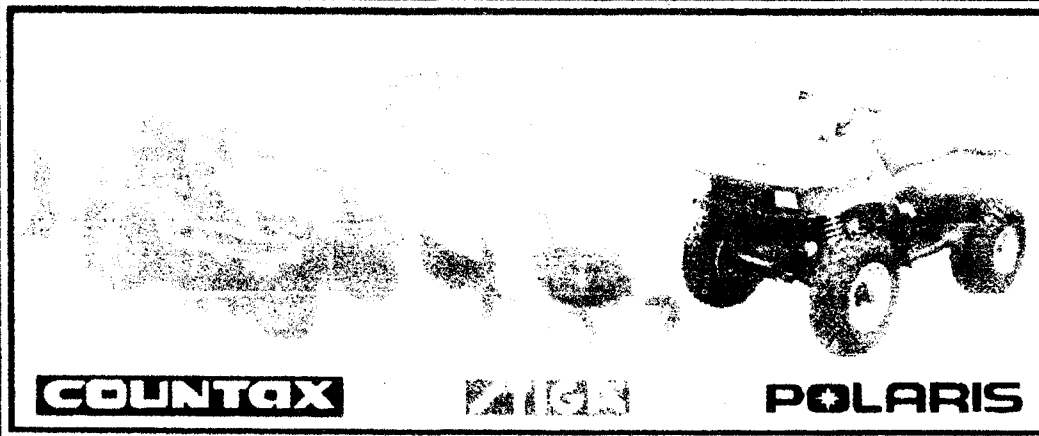
What cheese is made backwards?

Edam

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## WINGRAVE WI

MEETS ON THE 1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7.30 PM  
IN THE METHODIST SCHOOLROOM, NUP END LANE, WINGRAVE.

VISITORS ARE MOST WELCOME FOR A SMALL FEE OF £3  
WHICH INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS AND ENTRY INTO OUR RAFFLE.

SPEAKERS FOR OUR NEXT TWO MEETINGS ARE:

3RD APRIL - AVDC - What happens when we recycle  
1ST MAY - Paul Heslop - Murderous Women

DO HOPE TO SEE SOME NEW FACES AT OUR MEETINGS - NO NEED TO BOOK JUST TURN UP

## Wingrave Singers

invite you to

**A Choral Workshop with Malcolm Archer accompanied by Colin Spinks**

**Saturday 11 May 2013 - 10.30am to 6.15pm at Wingrave Parish Church**

We welcome applications from singers of all ages with some sight-reading ability, and we are certain that they will enjoy the unique experience of working with such a prestigious choral conductor and composer. The day will culminate in a choral evensong service for Ascension at 5.15pm in Wingrave Parish Church, to which you are invited.

For more information and singer's application form contact

Brenda Horne 01296 681418 or Liz Morgan 01296 681101

Music List includes **Introit: The Lord goes up** (Archer) **Responses: Ayleward Psalm 84:** (Chant by Parry) **Canticles: Sumsion in A Anthems: Coelos Ascendit** (Stanford) and **Ascendit Deus** (Philips)

**Hymn: Christ triumphant, ever reigning** (Guiting Power)

**Cost £15 per person** (under 18s free - we ask that under 16s are accompanied by an adult).

The fee includes the cost of the music booklet which can be taken home afterwards. Refreshments will also be provided.

## Anyone for tennis?



**Open Day**  
**28th April 1-5pm**

Join your local tennis club at very reasonable rates and get fit! Go on, you know you want to! All levels of tennis available from beginner through to competitive league. Friendly club tournaments and social tennis available.

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Membership details can be obtained from  
Caroline Lane on 681373 or [www.cublington.com](http://www.cublington.com)

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2013**  
**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY AT 8PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM**

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. To approve minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012
3. Matters arising
4. County Council, District Council and Police reports
5. Annual report from the Parish Council Chairman
6. Village Plan Publication
7. Village Activity Reports
8. Church Room
9. The Chronicle
10. Fete 2012 and 2013
11. A.O.B.

*THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED TO CELEBRATE THE PUBLISHING OF OUR VILLAGE PLAN.*

**WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US.**

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## Below are the Easter holiday activities taking place in Aylesbury and the east of the Vale

### Angling 8 to 16 years

Beginner sessions for those who want to get started in fishing. Fish species will include roach, perch and also carp, bream and tench. All fishing equipment, bottled water, bacterial hand wash and seating will be provided but you can bring your own. Photographs may be taken for the Tring Anglers collection. It is advisable that participants are able to swim 25m.

Please bring refreshments, wear suitable clothing and if sunny, hats and sun cream. Participants must have a swimming certificate.

**Friday 12 April Session 1 10.30am - 12.30pm Session 2 1.30pm - 3.30pm**

*Grand Union Canal, Lock 39-40, Starstops Car Park, Marsworth HP23 4LJ*

*Price: £12 per session passport to leisure £8 per session*

### Archery 8 to 15 years

Fancy becoming a toxophilite? Qualified archery coaches will lead participants through a variety of skills during these popular fun indoor sessions. Please bring a drink.

**Friday 5 April Session 1 10am - 12pm Session 2 1pm - 3pm**

*Mandeville School, Ellen Road, Aylesbury HP21 8ES*

*Price: £13 per session passport to leisure £9 per session*

### Green Park Challenge Day 8+ years

Fancy a challenging day of activities such as the crate stack challenge, mountain biking and climbing. Please bring refreshments, packed lunch and wear suitable clothing. No jeans.

**Monday 8 April 10am - 3.30pm**

*Green Park, Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton HP22 5NE*

*Price: £26 passport to leisure £21*

### Play Around the Parishes

Friday 5 April 10am – 12pm

*Aston Abbots Recreation Ground HP22 4LP*

Friday 5 April 2pm – 4pm

*Bierton Sports Centre and Recreation Ground HP22 5AS*

Tuesday 9 April 10am – 12pm

*Aston Clinton, Aston Park HP22 5HL*

Wednesday 10 April 2pm – 4pm

*Pitstone Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground LU7 9EY*

Friday 12 April 10am – 12pm

*Slapton Recreation Ground LU7 9DS (village hall if wet LU7 9BX).*

Quainton Railway Society Ltd.  
Quainton Road Station  
Quainton, Near Aylesbury, HP22 4BY  
**DIARY OF EVENTS – APRIL**

Fri. 29<sup>th</sup> March to Mon. 1<sup>st</sup> April Day Out With Thomas Santa's steam train will be pulled by Thomas the Tank Engine™, under the watchful eye of Sir Topham Hatt the Fat Controller. This event is an excellent day out for all Thomas fans and there's plenty for the whole family to enjoy. For more information about "Thomas" visit [www.thomasandfriends.com](http://www.thomasandfriends.com)

Wed. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> April School Holiday Steaming

Sun 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April Steaming Day

Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> April Family Fun Day,

Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> April Steaming Day

For further information visit our Website [www.bucksrailcentre.org](http://www.bucksrailcentre.org) Tel. 01296 655450 (recorded info.) or 01296 655720 (weekdays 9.30 > 4.30)

## AYLESBURY VALE TRANSPORT USERS GROUP

At the last meeting of Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group (AVTUG), when I was re-elected as Chairman for the 28th year, I managed to persuade Bucks CC that our 165 bus service does NOT need changing as had been proposed. I have also been able to get agreement that the 07.28 that commences at Wingrave to Leighton Buzzard should start from Aylesbury at 07.10. BUT please make more use of the 09.08 to Leighton Buzzard (returns 11.40) and the 2pm to Aylesbury - they are under used but secure at the moment.

*Colin Higgs*

What cheese do you use to lure a bear down a

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## Election Notice

Notice is hereby given that a conclave to elect the new editor of the Aston Abbots Chronicle will take place shortly. Prior to the formal closed voting session taking place, a series of consultations and discussions will take place over the coming weeks at which it is hoped to identify potential candidates, assess their qualities and qualifications for the position and determine the level of support that each enjoys amongst the community. At the present time consultation sessions are planned to take place on Tuesdays at 8pm and Saturdays at 6:30pm. The only qualification to be a voter is that he or she must be a current resident of the village of Aston Abbots. There is no minimum or maximum age however voters will be required to complete voting slips without receiving any assistance from any other member of the community, which may rule out some.

The formal election will take place in the Royal Oak at a date to be determined. In order to ensure that the process is entirely fair and that total secrecy is maintained, it will be supervised by a person of integrity and high standing, Bob the Tax. The conclave will commence at 7:30 pm on the appointed day, and all persons wishing to vote must be present inside the bar in good time. At 7:30 pm precisely, the adjudicator will signal the commencement of voting by crying out the words "It's my round" and will purchase a drink for every person in the bar. The doors of the Royal Oak will then be locked and no persons will be permitted to enter or leave the premises, even for smoking breaks, until the entire voting process has been concluded. When the round of drinks has been consumed, ballot slips will be handed out by the adjudicator and completed by all those present indicating the name of their favoured candidate. These will be placed in the ballot box (a pint mug). The votes will be counted by the adjudicator and the result declared. To be declared the outright winner a candidate will require over 2/3 of the votes cast. The ballot papers will then be placed in the fireplace and destroyed by burning.

In the event that there is no outright winner on the first round, the person placed last in the poll may remove himself from the next round of voting by shouting out "It's my round" and will order a drink for all those present. When these drinks have all been consumed, the next round of voting will take place and the procedure will be repeated until, no doubt after many rounds of voting, a winner emerges.

In order to conclude the process the winning candidate will be asked one simple question by the adjudicator. "Do you.... do you....., do you agreeeeee t'be the whathisname of the Ashton Abboshtts Chronobysykkle?" When the winning candidate comes to answer this question it is anticipated that he or she will have either misunderstood it or forgotten what the question was and will therefore reply "yessshhhh, mine's a pint". At which point a red signal flare can be lit in the fireplace to indicate to the vast crowd waiting outside that the conclave has been concluded. The doors of the Royal Oak can be unlocked, the new editor will be presented to the cheering masses, and the desperate can fall outside for a fag.

The Election Notice above was sent to the current editor by Nigel Palmer - I trust this novel way of electing a new editor succeeds. If you would like to discuss taking on the role of editor and can't attend the 'lock-in' then please get in touch when I will be pleased to discuss matters over a glass or two. *John Hardcastle*

### **Easter Saturday Egg & Spoon Race with a Difference**

**Have you ever done an egg & spoon race on a space hopper before?**

**Now's your chance to try.**

**Market Square Aylesbury 30/03/2013 11:00AM to 3:00PM**

**Event Contact: 01296 585 880**

***Aylesbury Festival Choir are performing Rossini's Petite Messe Solonelle on 20th April at 7pm in the Methodist Church, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury.***

*The choir will be joined by four accomplished soloists and accompanied by harmonium and piano. Come and enjoy an evening of wonderful music in a welcoming venue.*

***For more information and ticket prices, please contact Barbara Venables - 01296 489988***

What cheese do you need to hide a small horse?

Mascarpone

J W SARGENT HAS CHANGED NAME AND IS TRADING AS

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# ALLOTMENT DIARY

I returned yesterday from a few days in the far north of Sweden – within the Arctic Circle - on a holiday during which I hoped to see the Northern Lights. (And, yes, I did, thank you for asking). We flew by plane from Helsinki to Kitilla, an airport in Finland, just north of the Swedish border, and then were driven by minibus to our hotel. It was apparent from Helsinki northwards that the landscape was totally different from what we were used to seeing in the UK and European countries at our latitude. There were no field patterns where cattle and sheep were grazed, or crops grown: instead there was a constant panorama of snow and trees – either conifers or birch. When we landed, it became even clearer that there was no way that crops or vegetables could be grown in this environment. For 6 months of the year, the temperature rarely gets above 0° Celsius, and snow remains on the ground for 6 months of the year. While I was there, the highest temperature we had was minus 10° (ironically when it became cloudy and snowed), and at night it frequently went down to around -30°. Even though in the summer the temperature can rise to around 17°, there is clearly not enough time for crops to grow and ripen. (I have not checked, but I suspect that the word “allotment” does not exist in Swedish).

This manifested itself in the food we were given to eat. While, like us, the Swedes can now eat food that has been grown in poly-tunnels and/or in hotter parts of the globe, their traditional food is largely based on what they were able to grow or pick in the wild; and the further away from centres like Stockholm, the more likely one is to be offered this traditional food. The most widely spread fruit/vegetable is the lingonberry, a berry which grows wild on a shrub which is a member of the heath family, and which grows prolifically in the Arctic. We seemed to have lingonberries with everything: we had them baked in the bread; as a sauce with reindeer or moose, or with salmon; and then they would often crop up accompanying the pudding. (Readers who frequent Ikea will probably be acquainted with the lingonberry, since a sauce made with lingonberries is served with the meat-balls they sell in their café). While I enjoyed their flavour, I have to say that after 4 days of lingonberries, I was finding the taste a bit monotonous.

The only vegetables that the Swedes could originally grow (and this only in southern Sweden) were root crops like the turnip family – and, as you may guess, the most widely grown was the “rutabaga”, known to us as the “swede”. Nowadays, this has largely been replaced by the potato, which is now grown in the south of the country.

Something that I found very curious, and I will share with you, even though it is not allotment related; is the fact that along the banks of the frozen river (along which we were speeding in snowmobiles) I kept seeing bird-boxes attached to the trunks of trees lining the banks. But these bird-boxes were enormous – about 2 feet high and about 1 foot wide. I asked what birds these were for, and discovered to my astonishment that they were for ducks! And, more extraordinary, from the description it sounded as though these ducks were mallards! It was explained to me that if the ducks nested on the ground, they and their offspring would very quickly become prey to foxes and other predators – and, of course, a wide and fast flowing river would not have any islands to which they could swim to make a nest.

Quite how the ducks were persuaded to use the nesting boxes in the first place, I do not know, but I presume that as the years have gone on, it was the ducks who used the nesting boxes which survived, while their brethren who nested on the ground got eaten – and so the current generation has a gene which encourages them to use the nest boxes which the kindly Swedes provide.

Well, that’s about it. My new seeds have arrived, and when the weather at last becomes better and stops raining, I will have to get back to the allotment and start planting this summer’s crops; and may have some news from it next month, to justify the title my offerings are given.

*Peter Shorrock*

## **Aston Abbots and Cublington Ladies Club**

Seventeen members of the club enjoyed lunch together at the Rose and Crown in Wingrave on Thursday 21st March. This was instead of their fundraising Spring Lunch which is usually held in the Church Room. It was agreed that, just for this year, it would make a nice change to go out and for someone else to cook. The meal was absolutely lovely and how so many different dishes were served up at the same time was amazing. The pub was incredibly full of diners and a lovely buzz of conversation could be heard throughout the meal. A good time was had by all.

The next meeting is on April 18th when Jean Yates will be talking to us about Medieval Dunstable.

We have heard this lady speak before and she has a deal of knowledge about local areas so it is something to look forward to.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. IF YOU THINK YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THIS TALK PLEASE COME ALONG. FOR TWO POUNDS YOU CAN HAVE AN INTERESTING AFTERNOON FOLLOWED BY TEA AND CAKE.

*April Curnow*

Why did the biscuit cry?

Because his Dad had been a wafer so long



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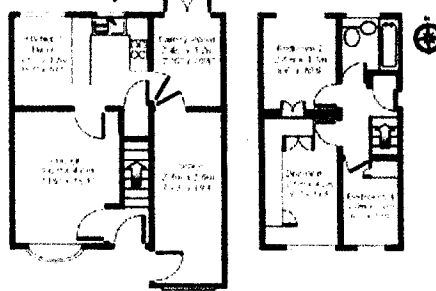
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## PLAY AROUND THE PARISHES

in Aston Abbots on Friday April 5th 2013 10am - 12pm

Come and take part in a morning of FREE kids activities run by ADVC.  
Taking part on the Recreation Ground weather permitting or in the Church Hall if weather is wet!

There will be a variety of play equipment for children aged 4+ including soft play, giant games, play-dough, large construction sets, assorted sports equipment and a bouncy castle (weather permitting).

They will also provide craft activities, face painting and much more.

Under 5s will be offered a suitable craft activity and toys supported by Sure Start and Barnado's Children's Centres. Please come along and join the fun!

*Funded by Aston Abbots Parish Council.*

## Spring 2013 - Flower Fairy Frolics

Suitable for ages 7+

Buckingham Old Gaol Market Hill Buckingham Bucks MK18 1JX

03/04/2013 10:00AM to 3:00PM

£22 or £17 Passport to Leisure

Event Contact: 01296 585301

### Children, Young People

Dust off your wings and come and join us for a magical fairy day, filled with fairycraft. Create a beautiful wooden "Finger Fairy", with sparkling wings and flowery costume. Hand-felt a tiny blossom hat and a soft leaf bed and make a decorated flower wand. Quality craft making with sustainable, natural and magical resources. Dress as your favourite fairy, bring a fairy lunch and be prepared for a few surprises! Supported by kind permission of Buckingham Old Gaol Trust.


Bookings commence 13th March at 10am

- 1 Good Samaritans Bingo donated £60 to the RNLI following the St Patricks Day / Easter bingo session last month
- 2 Every month 12 lucky winners share cash prizes of £52
- 3 All players enjoy 2 free Reverse Bingo games: winners receiving themed prizes
- 4 Opportunity to win the Snowball cash prize - Bingo's equivalent to a Lottery rollover - currently standing at £30
- 5 10 raffle prize winners: sometimes featuring Risk it for a Biscuit
- 6 Nibbles and refreshments for all players



*St George's Day*  
Good Samaritans Bingo  
In Aid of Thames Valley & Chiltern  
Air Ambulance Trust  
*Thursday 11th April*  
Aston Abbots Church Room

7.30pm start  
Fun for all ages!  
Refreshments £1  
Pam Dixon 681626  
Sondra Dickson 682249



All raffle prize  
donations  
gratefully received

*Month of May*  
Good Samaritans Bingo  
*Thursday 9th May*  
Aston Abbots Church Room

7.30pm start  
Fun for all ages!  
Refreshments £1  
Pam Dixon 681626  
Sondra Dickson 682249



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# Aston Abbots Sunflower Competition

**Come to the Vic Scott Memorial Orchard  
on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March (Good Friday) at 11am.**

Fill a pot with compost, plant your seeds and take them home to grow yourself. We'll come and measure your sunflower later in the summer when there will be lots of prizes for the tallest, biggest flowers!



Open to all ages – special prizes for kids.

Don't worry if you can't make it on Good Friday to pot your seeds... just give us a call and you can pop in anytime near Easter to get started. You'll need to start the sunflower inside on a sunny windowsill and plant it outside after about 4-6 weeks in a sunny position where the flower can be supported. The seeds are Russian Giant sunflowers, which can grow to about 3m (10ft.)

Simon and Wendy's little seed company, which will have a display on the day, have donated all pots, seeds and prizes.

Simon and Wendy. Tel: 681926

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Please put Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013 in your diary. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at the Church Room at 8.00pm and we hope to see as many residents there as possible. It is an opportunity to meet your District and County Councillors, be at the launch of the Village Plan, hear news from local groups and to put your own views forward. It is the time to decide how money raised at the Fete will be spent, and even to offer your help if you are inclined to.

### DO JOIN US

If you have any issues you would like to see discussed at this meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Paul Bruton.

I have been asked to write a brief note about the above event and in particular try to answer the question what is the difference between the Annual Parish meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting.

I'm certain some of you already know the answer and some of you may not even care but I'm afraid you won't stop me having a go – I'm going to start by suggesting that in future we re-name the meeting Annual Village Meeting – it is as simple as that and you can now tell the difference.

Seriously, it really is a very important meeting for villagers and I would encourage you to attend. It is the time when those present choose where funds raised at the Village Fete are distributed – it also offers an opportunity to raise any issues you may have in an open forum, catch up with activities being organised, see the long awaited launch of our village plan, give us your views on whether we should develop a Neighbourhood Plan, consider the Community Right to Bid and give your ideas on how to utilise the Church Room.

The Parish Council is only involved from an organisational perspective, our Chairman looks after the proceedings and I have the pleasure of recording the minutes and putting them in a format ready for publishing in The Chronicle – something I am happy to relinquish should one of you be hiding a secret desire.

On the other hand the Annual Parish Council Meeting is a formal meeting of the Parish Council where we formally appoint the Chair, Vice Chair and Parish Councillors to the various sub committees for the year ahead and then discuss the usual Parish Council matters that require attention.

I hope that helps and please contact me if you have any queries.

Paul Bruton – pbruton@pbfs.co - 01296682322



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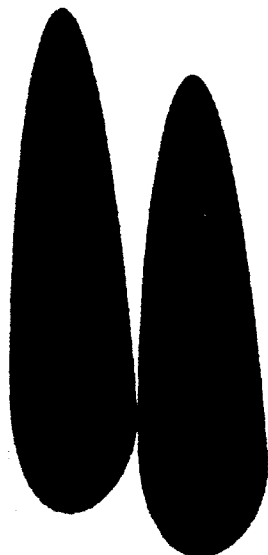
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                         07952 255639

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## The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
AVDC	Switchboard	585858
Baby & Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
	Sondra Dickason	681649
Book Club	John Hardcastle	688070
Bus Enquiries	Travel line	0870 6082608
Buses	L & S	415468
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690
Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763
Church Room Hire	Tracy Hinds	688479
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 1264056
Bucks County Council	Switchboard	395000
County Councillor	Netta Glover	688357
Dial-A-Ride		330088
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250
Doctor	(emergency out of hours)	331511
Fete Coordinator	TBA	
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865
Member of Parliament	John Bercow MP	714240
Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
Mobile Library	Buckingham	01280 813229
NHS Direct	24 hr Advice Line	0845 4647
Parish Clerk	Paul Bruton	682322
Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrock	681260
Police	Emergencies	999 or 112
Police	Non-Emergency	0845 8505505
Police	Wing Police Station	396163/4
Railways	Chiltern Railways	0870 5165165
Ramblers Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Rector	Rev Philip Derbyshire	01525 240287
Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Royal British Legion	Alan Jones	682366
Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulit	681262
RSPCA	Enquiries	08705 555999
Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Wingrave Pre School	Paul Weston	681127
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*please advise of any errors or omissions*

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**101**

This is a non-emergency number. Alternatively, email them on: [WingNorthNHPT@amesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WingNorthNHPT@amesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

Have you heard the one about the rhubarb who robbed a shop?

*He got taken into custody.*

What does Doctor Who eat with his pizza?

*Dalek bread.*

## St James's Church

### electoral roll - apply now

Regular churchgoers will know that the church has an "electoral roll" - a register of Church of England parish residents, or non-residents who come to worship here. Those on the roll have the right to raise matters, attend and vote at the annual meeting and to elect representatives to the parochial church council and the deanery synod.

Every six years everyone already on the roll needs to re-apply; new names can be added only once a year. It's time to do this now.

If you are over 16 (or will turn 16 in the next 12 months), a baptized member of the Church of England and live in the parish, or live outside the parish but attend St James's, do please consider registering. Forms are available in the back of the church or from Caroline Lane, [carolinelane@btinternet.com](mailto:carolinelane@btinternet.com), tel. 681373 - please return to 2 Church Row or any of the current PCC members (see list in the Chronicle) by Easter Sunday 31 March.

(The annual meeting of the PCC is on 17 April.)

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**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7.30 pm**

St Laurence Church, Winslow, Bucks  
Tickets £12 (£6 under 17)

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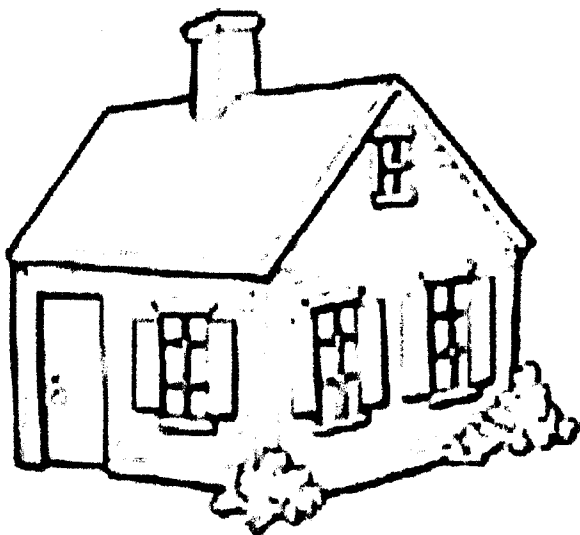
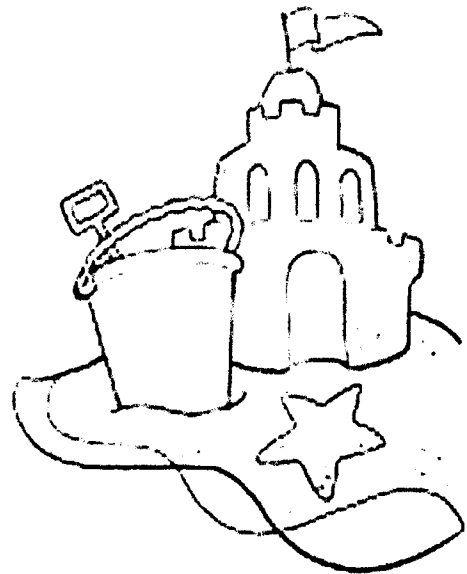
**Annet** - sleeps 4 - a 2 bedroom spacious character cottage with large garden, large living room, separate dining room, ideal for families with children, 3 miles from Padstow. Gas central heating & all mod cons inc dishwasher, washing machine, TV/DVD etc.

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[www.lazy-dog.biz](http://www.lazy-dog.biz)



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# St James Church

31st March 10.30am Easter Sunday Communion Archdeacon Rev. Karen Gorham

7th April	6.00pm.	Evensong.	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
14th April	10.15am.	Communion.	Rev. Peter Binns
21st April	10.00am.	Communion.	Rev. Robert Wright
28th April	10.30am.	Communion.	Rev. Roger Hale
5th May	10.00am.	Team Eucharist at Cheddington.	Rev. Philip Derbyshire

## CHURCH DUTIES

	<i>Cleaners</i>	<i>Flowers</i>	<i>Mowing</i>
6th April	Colin & Caroline L	Easter	Andy Bystra
13th	Ann & Gordon	Donated	Nigel Palmer
20th	Andrew & Shirley	Wedding	Marcus Hall
27th	Anita & April	Wedding	Caroline Lane

The Rev. Karen Gorham, who is the Archdeacon of Buckingham, is coming to take our service on Easter Sunday at 10.30am. Karen has recently returned after a sabbatical when she visited South Africa where she attended a conference and went on safari; later with a friend she drove 2200 miles around New Zealand. She has also walked the Ridgeway National Trail. This was Karen's first sabbatical after 17 years in ordained ministry.

## Dear friends,

It has been great to see the enthusiastic faces of young adults and children on TV and in the press as Pope Francis did his own thing in St Peter's Square and other places in Rome and Archbishop Justin Welby on his tour of Norwich and connecting with all sorts of people. If only there was backing for some of these 'feel good' experiences from within some of the structures of our societies in the west. At best religious education is often just nodded to and religious assemblies are almost non-existent at 11+. So few children receive any encouragement from home because of fears of 'indoctrination' or lack of knowledge/experience on the part of so many parents.

We give our children sex education almost from the day they can walk (with the effect that we have the highest illegitimacy rate in Europe and one of the earliest start dates for sexual activity (14 yrs & 4 mths) and the fastest spread of chlamydia in under 25's. We understand about healthy bodies with a strong emphasis on good eating and exercise/sport and also training the mind for work etc but nobody in public life talks about the spiritual health of our nation and, if it is alluded to in some way, it is frequently ridiculed as irrelevant or unscientific or just the pet hobby horse of people wearing strange shirts.....

I pray that the new leaders of both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Communions have the courage of their beliefs and become real thorns in the side of our increasingly secular establishment before it's too late and we return completely to some kind of pagan moral black hole from which we came.

Rant over!

I pray you enjoy a real Spring this year with no mention of droughts! All best, Philip

Eggs are a forbidden food during Lent, making them a welcome return to the menu on Easter Day. Why do we give eggs at Easter? For Christians the custom of giving eggs at Easter celebrates new life. Christians remember that Jesus, after dying on the cross, rose from the dead. Through his resurrection, Jesus defeated death and sin and offers people the promise of eternal life if they follow his teachings. What were the first Easter eggs like? The first eggs given at Easter were birds eggs. These eggs were painted in bright colours to give them further meaning as a gift. We still paint bird eggs today but usually only chicken eggs. An Anglo-Saxon legend is the Easter bunny and eggs. The legend tells how the Saxon goddess Eostre found a wounded bird and transformed it into a hare, so that it could survive the Winter. The hare found it could lay eggs, so it decorated these each Spring and left them as offering to the goddess.

A few minutes after delivering the Angelus, Pope Francis is reported to have sent his first Tweet as pontiff, writing: "Dear friends, I thank you from my heart and I ask you to continue to pray for me. *Pope Francis.*"

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### WHO WAS ST GEORGE?

St George was born sometime around the year 280 in what is now Turkey. He was a soldier and rose up through the ranks of the Roman army, eventually becoming a personal guard to the Emperor Diocletian. He was executed for being a Christian on April 23, 303, and is buried in the town of Lod in Israel.

St George is most widely known for slaying a dragon. According to legend, the only well in the town of Silene was guarded by a dragon. In order to get water, the inhabitants of the town had to offer a human sacrifice every day to the dragon. The person to be sacrificed was chosen by lots.

On the day that St George was visiting, a princess had been selected to be sacrificed. However, he killed the dragon, saved the princess and gave the people of Silene access to water. In gratitude, they converted to Christianity. It is thought that the dragon represents a certain type of pagan belief that included the sacrifice of human beings.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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**James Perkins (co-opted) - 07882 980415**

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**County Councillor**  
**Netta Glover - 688357**

## Parochial Church Council

**Rev. Philip Derbyshire 01525 240287**

**Caroline Abel Smith 681001 - Churchwarden**

**April Curnow 681459 - Churchwarden**

**Colin Higgs 681343 - Deputy Churchwarden**

**Shirley Ford 681865**

**Andy Bystra 681690**

**Ann Goodman 681763**

**Anita Parker 681325**

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# Plenty in store this April at the award winning Unicorn...

We have all these great events planned for you this month, and more coming in May.

Don't forget May bank holiday beer festival, 3rd-5th May.

To find out more about any of our events, please visit our website [www.theunicornpub.co.uk](http://www.theunicornpub.co.uk) or follow our facebook page.

## April

**1st - Easter Monday night quiz - 8.30pm**

**Saturday 6th**

**Grand National Sweep Stake**

**8th - Monday night quiz - 8.30pm**

**9th Live Folk Music**

**15th - Monday night quiz - 8.30pm**

**18th First TUGS meet of year.**

AVGC Stewkley

**Saturday 20th**

**John Gordon Live Music**

**22nd - Monday night quiz - 8.30pm**

**23rd April St Georges Day**

set Menu and Guest Ales

**26th April Dinner and Jazz**

with Anything Goes

**29th - Monday night quiz - 8.30pm**

*Booking always advisable!*



# 01296 681261



@the\_unicorn\_pub

The Unicorn, High Street, Cublington, Bucks, LU7 0LQ

Please scan or see web site for full event details [www.theunicornpub.co.uk](http://www.theunicornpub.co.uk)



A4

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**Monday Night Is Quiz night**  
The Unicorn Quiz 8pm - 10pm  
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**Saturday Brunch-**  
Start the weekend with the newspapers and a Full English served 10am - 11am

**Sundays**  
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in our Club Room

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# What's On in APRIL

Thursday 4th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room
Friday 5th	Play around the Parish 10-12noon	The Rec
Sunday 7th	Rambling Club 2pm	Dunstable Downs NT car park
Tuesday 9th	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Wednesday 10th	Parish Council 7.30pm	Church Room
Thursday 11th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room
Sunday 14th	Village Footpath Walk 2pm	The Green
Wednesday 17th	PCC (AGM) 7.30pm	Church Room
Thursday 18th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon Ladies Club 2.15pm Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room Church Room Church Room
Tuesday 23rd	Mobile Library 10.30am St George's Day	The Green

## Address

Please note that all submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to  
**John Hardcastle**  
**Marloes, Lines Hill**  
**01296 688070**

Email submissions to:  
**editor@aachronicle.co.uk**

*Please don't forget to tell us of any events that you would like included in the What's On list*

### BOOK THESE DATES

Friday 17th May Quiz Evening  
Saturday 27 & 28th July Festival Weekend

**Baby sitters/dog sitters available.** Reliable 14 year olds available to look after either children, babies or dogs!  
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**6th APRIL**  
meet outside  
Church Room  
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own gloves  
bags and pickers  
provided



## YOUR CHRONICLE NEEDS YOU

The Editor has announced that he will be retiring  
in July 2013

If you would like to discuss taking on the role  
then please contact John Hardcastle  
01296 688070 or johnhardcastle@me.com

### MOBILE LIBRARY

April  
The Green 9th & 23rd 10.30am

**630 Club** - meets every Saturday in the Royal Oak at 6.30 pm. New members very welcome. Contact Andy Bystra if you need an introduction.

**GNOMES** (Girls Night Out Men Excluded Sorry) meet, usually in the Royal Oak, every Tuesday 8 pm onwards - all Ladies very welcome - GNOMES specialises in intelligent conversation over a glass of something.



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