

THE CHRONICLE

332

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine - May 2013



Editorial

Over the Easter weekend Judy and I took one of our grandchildren to a lambing day at Watergate Farm near Hockliffe, hence the front cover. It was a cold day and many of the lambs and their mothers were in pens, some with warming lamps.

As yet no one has expressed interest in taking over as editor. I do hope you are out there. There has been no response to Andy Bystra's call for someone to take over the distribution of the Chronicle (see back page). Both of us sincerely hope that new brooms are ready to continue where we leave off.

Congratulations to Colin Higgs's small army of villagers who cleared our road verges of litter. The first date set for the Litter Blitz had to be rearranged because of a covering of snow. Sixteen + bags of rubbish were collected. It was good to see some new faces and new villagers helping out. The Annual Parish Meeting is being held on 8th May. Paul Bruton, the Parish Clerk, explains on page 5 the significance of this meeting. I trust you can find the time to attend.

You'll see that a new season of free 'pairs of theatre tickets' are up for grabs (see page 9).

The temperature is rising - my ragged lawn has had its first cut and it looks a lot better for it. Have planted a few vegetables and am trying to do some major weeding. I'm nurturing a collection of sunflowers on behalf of my grandchildren. Hope they grow to a great height and win prizes.

A pair of Canada geese have taken up residence on one of my ponds - they come every year. They are not my favourite residents but I tolerate them and their usual brood of four or five goslings. No barn owls as yet; jackdaws are now filling the owl box with twigs so I'll have to try and dissuade them from nesting.

Breaking News - our fifth grandchild due sometime in October.

Please note the unusual date I've set for the June Chronicle deadline namely **Tuesday** 14th May. I'll send out the usual reminder nearer the time.

John

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THE CHRONICLE

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A note to all would be advertisers--
More than 205 households receive
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cheaper than some local Parish
Magazines). Can you afford not to be in?

Copy date for the next issue

Tuesday 14th May

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
Abbotts, our local Doctors'
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House.

Alison's Gossip Column

BIRTHDAYS

May

Mervyn King	2 nd
Charlie Bystra	3 rd
Hannah Brandon	12 th
Jeff Banister	17 th
Callum Hilton	21 st
Tom Manning	22 nd
Benjamin King	22 nd
Milani Drysdale	23 rd
Mark White	23 rd
Carol Bates	24 th
Neil Chesher	26 th

Swallows appeared over my garden on April 12th. Amazingly, they arrived on exactly the same date last year. They'll be disappointed that the field shelters have disappeared but hopefully they will find suitable accommodation elsewhere.

Get Well to Sheila Humphreys who's been suffering with a broken arm and is awaiting surgery on the other arm.

spotted this letter in The Telegraph on Saturday 6th April. *Ed*
BUS, BAR, BEER, BLISS

Sir - Katie Ashbrook, of the Open Spaces Society (report, April 5), bemoans the lack of old-fashioned pubs in the Chilterns.

May I suggest the 300 bus route between Aylesbury and High Wycombe, where there are excellent watering holes, with flagstone floors, reasonably priced meals, roaring fires, good beer. What more could one ask?

I organise an annual bus-pass-crawl through the Chilterns via bus stops right outside the pubs. Cheers!

Geoffrey Aldridge, Wingrave, Buckinghamshire.

I'd like to thank all my sponsors who helped me raise £140 for two charities; Alexander Devine Childrens Cancer Hospice at Windsor and Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance. when we did the annual charity drive by Windsor Park Equestrian Club at the end of March. The grand total raised was over £6000.

Jeff Bannister

Astonbury We're sorry to say there will be a break for Astonbury this year, but we are thinking about a smaller and slightly more discreet live music event before the end of the summer. We'll keep you informed via these pages...

Simon and Ian



'Thanks – You're a Star'

Customers applauded April Curnow who stood down after organising the Coffee Mornings in the Church Hall every Thursday for the last 8 years. Thanks also to her team of helpers who will continue to provide tea, coffee, biscuits, cakes, etc. under the new management of Tracy Hinds. April will need some of that boundless energy to arrange her new home in Cublington but she will still be helping out every few weeks at the Coffee Morning. If you are new to the village and want to meet some of the residents or an old hand and want to keep up with friends and neighbours then do come along between 10am and noon any Thursday morning.

A HUGE 'THANKYOU'

To all the lovely people who come to the Coffee Morning in the Church Room on a Thursday morning may I say a huge thankyou for the card and the wonderful bouquet of flowers that was given to me on my last morning as organiser. I have thoroughly enjoyed these get togethers and I am so glad that they will continue on into the future. I look forward to having more opportunity to chat to everyone.

April

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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 9th 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. Neighbourhood Plan Report
8. Village Activity Reports
9. Church Room
10. The Chronicle – Its Future is in your hands.
11. Fete 2012 and 2013 – Distribution of profits.
12. A.O.B.

last years APM minutes
are on the AA website

THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED TO CELEBRATE
THE PUBLISHING OF OUR VILLAGE PLAN.
WE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN US.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Please put Wednesday 8th 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. (contact details below)

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', being held on 22nd May, 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 - 01296 682322



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Elsie Higgs 1920 – 2013

Brian, Gill and family wish to sincerely thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their messages of sympathy on the loss of Elsie.

Elsie was born in 1920 at Long Marston; one of seven children. She attended the local school until leaving age when she went to work as a machinist at a coat factory in Berkhamsted. She married Bob in 1942 and they moved to Bedgrove, at which time it consisted of just four house in the middle of a field! In 1949 they moved to Stoke Mandeville, moving to Aston Abbotts after Bob's mother died. Elsie became a member of the Methodist Chapel in Aston Abbotts; attending afternoon and evening services on a regular basis. She also became a regular member of the Ladies Club for many years. About this time, Elsie took a part time job at the Abbey as a cleaner; working there until the owner died.

After sixty seven years of marriage, Bob (her husband) died and Elsie never really got over the loss. She passed away at Chilton Court Care Home on March the 18th 2013 and her funeral service, attended by family, friends and villagers, was held at Weedon Methodist church on the 26th March. Elsie was afterwards laid to rest in St James churchyard.



ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

Next Book Club will be on Wednesday April 24th 8pm at Sally Clarke's house to discuss "The Diary of a Nobody" by George & Weedon Grossmith.

May's Book Club will be hosted by David Gray on Wednesday 22nd - his choice is "The Hundred Year Old Man who climbed out of the window and Disappeared" by Jonas Jonasson.

John Hardcastle

Wingrave Singers

invite you to

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

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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: *Sunsion 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.

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MEETS ON THE 1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7.30 PM
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SPEAKERS FOR OUR NEXT MEETING IS
1ST MAY - Paul Heslop - Murderous Women

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

Congratulations to Lol Hinds who was runner-up in a golf match at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club organised by The Unicorn in Cublington. More congratulations to Lol and his team mates Adrian Bystra and John Whyte who came third in the team competition. After the match, played in very strong winds, it was reported that a tall Parish Councillor has been struck down by a recurrence of SPE (Storm Porch Entrapment) a real problem in these extreme climatic conditions. *Ed*

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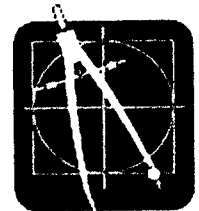
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also - Bell ringers, Cabaret stars, 630 members, Church goers, 'Allotmenters', GNOMES, Royal Oak regulars and anyone else who would like to come along as individuals or as a team to support the ever popular - Colin's Quiz.

A cheese platter supper will be included and you're invited to bring along your favourite 'tippie' to 'oil' the grey cells.

Tickets will be available from Colin Higgs (681343).

The price is £5.00 each and includes lots of riotous fun (especially as Colin's answers are often 'negotiable') !!!

All proceeds to go to church funds so please come along and support us.

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 or all 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*

BIRDS OF A FEATHER	TUE 14 MAY 7.30PM
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Show	Date & Time
REFLECTIONS OF A ROCK & ROLL TOUR (Limited tickets)	FRI 10 MAY 7.30PM
NICOLA BENEDETTI – OXFORD PHILOMUSICA (Limited tickets)	FRI 24 MAY 7.30PM
THAT'LL BE THE DAY (Limited tickets)	TUE 4 JUN 7.30PM
RAINY DAYS AND MONDAYS (Limited tickets)	FRI 21 JUN 7.30PM
SHAOLIN WARRIORS (Limited tickets)	SAT 22 JUNE 7.30PM
LESS THAN KIND	MON 24 JUN 7.30PM
SOFIA NATIONAL BALLET – DON QUIXOTE	MON 8 JUL 7.30PM
ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS (Limited tickets)	FRI 12 JUL 7.30PM
MICKEY'S ROCKIN' ROADSHOW	TUE 6 AUG 4.30PM
SAVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME	MON 26 AUG 7.30PM

Tuesday 12th March, and courtesy of The Chronicle, we had tickets for the opening night of '**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**'

at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury. Expecting to be almost the only audience, our suspicions were aroused when it was really quite difficult to find a car parking place. On arrival at the theatre it was immediately apparent that Joseph was not the outdated 'has been' we thought it may be – the Waterside was thronging with people of all ages, and we were told that the show was sold out for the whole week!

Joseph was Andrew Lloyd Webber's second musical, and was followed by iconic shows such as Jesus Christ Superstar, Evita, Cats, Starlight Express and Phantom of the Opera, to name but a few. The lyrics are by Tim Rice, and this production was directed by Bill Kenwright and starred Keith Jack. Keith Jack appeared on the BBC 1 show Any Dream Will Do, coming in second place, and is currently ably playing the part of Joseph on this tour.

After collecting our tickets from the press stand (thank you Ed.) we took our seats in the stalls, and settled down for a thoroughly enjoyable experience. This show appeals to all; it has withstood the test of time, and although we had the definite feeling that we were watching a rather professional school production (there was a choir of young children on stage throughout), it was just as enjoyable as when I first saw it many years ago as a schoolgirl.

Many thanks for the tickets. *Kate and Peter Curry*

The Chinese State Circus was fantastic, we were mesmerised from the beginning. We held our breath as they climbed poles, jumped between them, hung upside down on them then slid back down them so fast we were sure they would crack their heads on the stage floor. My hands ached from the continuous clapping for one amazing act after another. These guys and girls all have so much strength, dexterity and co-ordination, I wish I could do half of what they're capable of; from plate spinning, hat juggling and juggling drums, parasols and other performers using their feet, to somersaulting through hoops and ropes and not forgetting the diablo performers and the Shaolin Warriors with their lightning quick movements; my eyes could hardly keep up with them. A thoroughly entertaining evening courtesy of The Chronicle.

Mel and Shirl.

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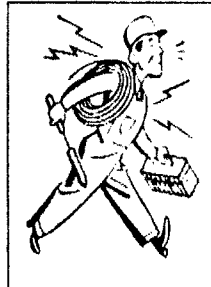


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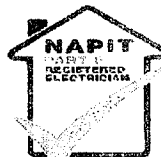
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Goodnight Mr Tom

Nigel and I very much enjoyed this production at the Waterside Theatre Aylesbury representing the Aston Abbotts press.

Like Warhorse, this play was based on an award winning book for children that I had not read. William Beech is just one of thousands of children evacuated from London just before the start of World War 2. Desperate to find places for all the children, the billeting officer persuades an initially reluctant widower, Tom Oakley, to take William who initially appears traumatised by the evacuation process. Anyway it soon becomes apparent that William is suffering from more than homesickness. He is far behind the other children at school and is immediately targeted by the local children who begin to bully him. It becomes apparent that William's mother has not looked after him well. The kindly Tom Oakley however and his adorable dog Sam – a life size puppet in the play- help William to overcome his problems. He is also befriended by a precocious Jewish evacuee Zach. Tom's dead wife had been a painter and a talent to drawing is uncovered in William. Then, like many children at the time, William is sent for by his mother. His mother has had another baby that she is unable to care for and William does his best to look after his baby sister. Tom has come to love the boy as his own son and decides to go to London to see if William is alright. He eventually finds him buried in the rubble of his bombed out house with the baby. Taken to hospital he is so traumatised that the psychiatrist wants to send him to a special hospital. Tom objects saying that he was doing very well before his return to London. A bombing raid offers him the chance to take William back to the village. Back with Tom, William makes a rapid recovery, by the time the authorities come to see him he is very happy and desperate to stay with Mr Tom as he calls him. With the support of the sympathetic village doctor Tom is allowed to adopt William.

I think you could say this is a real tear jerking story that examines both the positive and negative effects of the mass evacuation of young children in 1939. I believe some of the Chronicle readers may have experienced evacuation themselves- hopefully this was not so traumatic as William's experiences. I was unable to find out if children were actually placed with single men, I am sure they would not be today. In 1939, just like in the play, not everyone was keen to take the often scruffy children and billeting officers often had trouble placing all the children that had arrived. Ultimately some children would have been placed with people who at best did not want them and at worse actually abused them.

All in all a very worthwhile theatre experience.

Sally Palmer

The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie

I was taken to see this play by an Aunt - I was probably in my early teens - so this second viewing was some 50 years later. Judy and I went on a Monday and we were pleased to see how full the theatre was.

The Mousetrap was first performed in November 1952 at Theatre Royal Nottingham. Richard Attenborough and his wife Sheila Sim were in the original cast.

I am sworn to secrecy and can't reveal 'whodunnit' - there was a pivotal moment in the play when, even after a 50 year gap, I remembered the outcome. It was a very well produce play. For my part it was sad that the best actress was bumped off at the interval. Elizabeth Power as the 'impossible' Mrs Boyle was excellent.

John Hardcastle

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April Curnow snapped this 'Last of the Summer Wine' group at Coffee Morning on Thursday 28th March. You may be able to spot the silver Easter Bunnies on the table being shared by Peter Shorrocks, David Gray, Andy Bystra and Revd. Philip Derbyshire

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Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Summary of Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 10th April 2013

Present: Cllrs. P Shorrock (Chair), C Higgs, R Clarke, Mrs K Curry, Mrs J Hardcastle, B Carvey, P Bruton (Clerk), County Cllr. Mrs N Glover, District Cllr. P Cooper and PCSO J Dobson.

Apologies: Received from Cllr J Perkins.

The Clerk advised there was a Parish Liaison Meeting on the 17th April at County Hall at which the BCC budget would be discussed. We had received a request for financial support from Victim Support and it was AGREED that we would continue with our policy of not making donations to such charities at this time. The Clerk would obtain details of the AVDC Village Pub competition so that details could be given to the Royal Oak as Council would like to recommend they apply and would support their application if they wished to enter. A note had been received from AVALC regarding their funding for next year and it was RESOLVED to continue with our contribution of £10 as it was felt they represented our interests and provided value.

County Council: County Councillor Glover presented her monthly report that included information regarding the news that Bucks CC had been given responsibility for Public Health and details of their plans were on the website. The Superfast Broadband tender process for the laying of cables was due to close by the 19th April and progress on the upgrades could then be rolled out across the County. It was also noted that Colleges were now able to offer Business skills courses and training linked to apprenticeships particularly in Engineering and Technicians and again details were available on the BCC website.

District Council: District Councillor Cooper added his comments on the Broadband situation in particular his hope that Aylesbury Vale North would be at the forefront when the roll out programme was agreed, it was expected the programme would be confirmed in May 2013 and would take up to 3 years to complete. He advised that the Vale Plan for development was on going and gave details of current large planning applications of up to 10,000 homes being referred to the Secretary of State for decision during the void between the new plan and the now redundant South East Plan. Current proposals were for 13,500 houses in the district over the next 25 years.

Cllr Cooper also advised that the No. 100 Bus Service Route that serviced the area was being withdrawn, however some extra services of the No 150 Route were being provided during peak hours.

Police matters: PCSO J Dobson gave a summary of recent crime in the area and details of the recent increase in theft from vehicles in the North of the Area, an increase in Rural theft of Tractors and farm vehicle. Also presented were the statistics for last year's crime in Aston Abbotts and this showed a reduction from 21 crimes for the year to 31st March 2012 to 7 crimes in 2013. It was also noted that they had received a good response to their winter burglary campaign and they would encourage residents to go on to the internet and sign up for Thames Valley Alerts and other crime alert sites such as Dog watch that provided up to the date information on crimes in our area and advice to residents on prevention. They were also working much closer with other police areas and a Cross boundary partnership with Hertfordshire was proving beneficial.

Village Plan – Cllr Perkins reported that following the meeting with Sarah Alwood the changes recommended were to amend the format of the action plan and remove the paragraph on the Right to Bid included within the plan. This has been passed to the publisher along with some updated photography. We should then be in a position to meet the target date of the Annual Parish Meeting.

Refuse Bin location concerns: Cllr's Curry and Hardcastle expressed concerns to the meeting over the large number of Refuse collection bins along Moat Lane by the entrance to Norduck Farm. All agreed they were unsightly and with the increase in vehicle movement they were often being disturbed with the contents spilling out. Contact had been made with AVDC and they indicated that with the land owner's permission it may be possible for the collection vehicles to use the private road way and collect from the residences. District Councillor Cooper advised he would discuss the matter with the relevant department in an effort to progress matters.

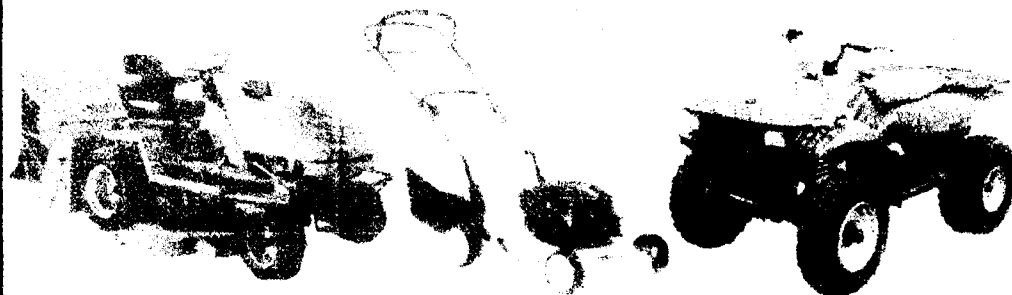
Changes to the Scheme of officer delegated powers: A letter had been received from AVDC and circulated regarding changes to the planning application process that indicated a reduction in the amount of weight attached to Parish Council views when considering planning applications. It was now required that when opposing applications the Parish Council would have to confirm it would attend and speak at any development meeting that the application was considered. Council believed this decision to be undemocratic in that it effectively diluted the Parish Council powers and put the power to decide on our Parish planning into the hands of AVDC. District Cllr Cooper advised that the policy was due for review in September and it could be challenged at that time. AVALC were coordinating a response on behalf of Parish Councils. Council were AGREED that we would support their challenge. It was noted that in future we should email Cllr Cooper when we wish an application to be referred to Development Control Committee.

It was noted that the Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd May 2013 at 7:30pm in the Church Room.

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ALLOTMENT DIARY

Some years Winter merges seamlessly into Spring: this year it has been different: Winter has fought Spring every inch of the way. As I write this piece in the middle of April. Spring has still not arrived for certain, although there are signs that we are witnessing the final skirmishes of the battle between the two seasons. The temperature has risen, snowdrops and daffodils are beginning to flower, and the flurries of snow have given way to spring showers. The forecast is for warmer weather next week, and by the time you read this you will know if it has been a false dawn, or if spring has sprung.

Always anxious to find any silver lining that may be around, I am delighted to tell you that I have discovered one behind the cloud of this extended winter. It is the fact that the sub-Arctic winds and cold weather we have experienced this year have delayed the appearance of blossom on fruit trees; which means that when the blossom does appear, it is unlikely that it will be blighted by frost, and that the bees which are necessary to pollinate the flowers will be active and able to do their job. We should therefore get massive crops of fruit in the autumn. (Last year, apple, pear and plum orchards blossomed early last year, but when the warm spell that produced this blossom subsided, sharp frosts and rain prevented fruit forming on the trees, and as a result, we had very low crops. In some areas, the harvest was down by 90%.)

I know little about growing flowers, but I see that the Royal Horticultural Society said that plants which are vulnerable to late frosts, such as hydrangeas and magnolias, will also benefit.

In the last few days my son, Adam, has Rotavated the allotment, and I have planted my first early and second early potatoes – although “first early” is going to be a bit of a misnomer this year – they are going to be “first late”. Talking to other allotmenters, I gather that, like me, they have only just planted their first potatoes, in the middle of April, rather than March. (On this topic, there has been some correspondence in my paper recently about when to plant early potatoes. A number of readers said that they were traditionally planted on Good Friday. Others suggested out that this was a strange thing to do, since of course Easter is a moveable feast, and the date can vary by as much as 3 weeks or so. However, it was then pointed out that during the first part of the last Century, for many working men, Good Friday was the first date when they were able to get time off work to do the planting!)

My onion sets have not yet arrived; but they and carrots will have to be planted fairly soon. We have also planted seeds in the greenhouse: sweetcorn, courgettes, cucumbers and aubergine. I doubt whether the aubergines will produce any fruit this year: I don't think we will have enough hot months for the crop to ripen. I have also sewn in the greenhouse a new vegetable which has only become available this year. It is called “Oca”, and is a member of the oxalis family. Thompson & Morgan say that oca are second only to potatoes in importance in the Andes, and that the vegetable does not appear to be susceptible to blight or any pests, during their trials in the UK during the last two years. The tubers can be eaten cooked like a potato, or eaten raw: and one can even eat the leaves! Why such a paragon of a vegetable has remained unknown for so long, I cannot imagine: perhaps the proof of the pudding will be in the eating. I will let you know in September.

I was talking to my fellow allotmenteer, Bob Carvey, today about the fact that every year I have grown carrots, a large number of them have been decimated by carrot fly. He was able to give me a tip which I shall try to put into effect this year: this is the fact that the carrot fly is a very poor flyer, and rarely flies more than 2 or 3 feet above the ground. Consequently if one erects a barrier that high alongside the crop, the flies should not be able to gain access to the crop to lay their eggs (which produce the grubs, which feed on ones carrots). Last year he grew some carrots inside a polytunnel, and others outside it. Those inside the polytunnel were free of carrot-fly: those outside it were attacked as usual.

Peter Shorrocks

Aston Abbotts Sunflower Competition

Thank you to everyone who braved the cold wind on Good Friday to pot your sunflower seeds. We also had many in the village call on us to pot seeds well into April. The current count is over 50 competitors and over half are children. We hope to see sunflowers pop over fences all over the village in the coming months.

Some contestants have already cried foul play as my personal pot germinated and sprouted in about 36 hours and reached 20cm in the first 2 weeks, with multiple leaves and required re-potting! Others were only just appearing...

As the weather is now milder, pots should be spending their days outside to acclimatise to a British summer and should by the time you read this require a bigger pot or planting out. You won't be too late if you still want to grow a sunflower and get started in May. Call us ASAP if you want to join in. We also have a couple of spare seeds potted up for late comers.

There is not a fixed date for measuring. Remember to contact us when you think it's stopped growing and Wendy or I will pop round to measure up!!!

Simon (and Wendy) Tel: 681926





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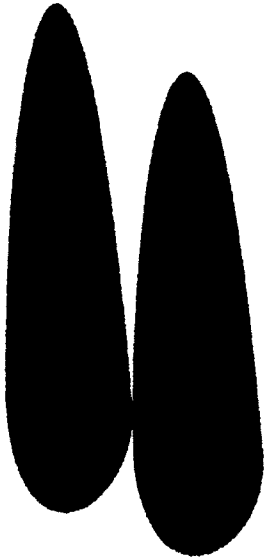
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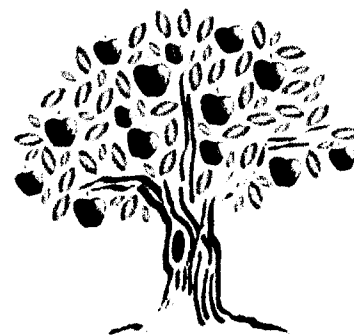
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ORCHARD REPORT

The weather has at last changed and there are the very first signs of real Spring arriving - the grass is now looking as if it will grow after all that long winter.

So what is new in the Orchard? Nothing other than that two more very interesting trees have been planted. The two new trees are both pears and both Aston Abbott natives - born and bred. Hopefully now safe for the next hundred years in our orchard.



The first tree is named Blaze. The original tree stood in the old orchard of Holme Farm (Dickie Chapman's). Several years ago Gordon Smith became interested in the tree and went to the trouble of trying to find out what was its variety. The conclusion by the experts was that the tree was an 'as yet an unnamed variety' and would Gordon like to suggest a name. Gordon called the pear 'Blaze' after the horse that used to live in the old orchard. The nurseryman who has propagated Blaze tells me that his first attempts to propagate were failures and that Blaze is a 'delicate' individual. The nurseryman has supplied us with the best of his second attempts - it looks strong and well. Gordon and I intend to keep a close eye on it and we feel confident that, back home in Aston Abbots, Blaze will thrive.

The second new pear is, as yet, unnamed - again originating here in Aston Abbots. The original is a magnificent tree standing down below Norduck Farm between Great and Little Ground (two fields). It is a perry pear ie a pear grown to make cider or Perry as pear cider is known. Surprisingly it was not me who brought it to the attention of the nurseryman, although I have known the tree for 40 years, but a tree surgeon who noticed the tree while working at Norduck a few years ago. The nurseryman took a few cuttings and it is one of these that is now back in Aston Abbots in our orchard - and we have been asked to suggest a name for it. 'Norduck something or other' - any ideas?

Two minor disasters of this long winter to report. I look after 3 colonies of bees (semi wild ones) - all three were healthy and flying during a warm spell in February but one colony obviously did not have enough honey in store to last right through to April and has died as a result. Frogs too have had a disastrous Spring. Our pond had only one frog turn up to breed this year and ponds in Wingrave have only one bunch of frogspawn instead of the usual 20 or so. Frogs have been having a hard time these last few years - a far cry from the days when Moat Lane was hopping with frogs and toads when hundreds crossed the road to get to the Moat as the Abbey Lake is called. It's a changing world!

Peter Knight

I spotted a 'Greek Proverb' in an old edition of the RSPB monthly magazine -
A civilisation flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit. *Ed*

Countryside Matters

Have you ever see the countryside look worse in spring, this awful winter probably one of the worst in living memory still lingers on into mid-April. The dreadful biting east wind has a wind chill factor that cuts you in half. Give some thought to those young lambs that are forced out of the lambing shed to make way for the next batch of new arrivals. There is absolutely no doubt they are very hardy little beggars and are much tougher than the children's' books tell. The one thing they don't like is freezing wet weather, cold and dry they can handle and we've had plenty of that. How I feel for those upland farmers who have moved their lambing ewes to more sheltered lowland pastures off the fells but did not bargain for nearly two meters of snow. Thousands shall have been buried in snow drifts whilst sheltering beneath hedges and stone walls. Half those dead ewes and lambs shall never be found to satisfy those stupid rules on incineration of fallen stock. These regulations should be lifted to help hill farmers in crisis, they must dig a hole and bury the hundreds of carcasses, they only have until April 15th but most of the stock has still not been found. Once more we are witnessing daft regulations from that citadel of stupidity in Brussels.

The arable crops look worse than I can remember, look out the window and see the crops that have been re-drilled and grass that has not grown an inch in nearly 4 months. Bring on the sunshine; we must be due for a good one, aren't we??

James Henderson

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NORDUCK BRIDLEWAY

Several villagers who use the bridleway are concerned that cars/lorries/ deliveries etc now using the drive seem oblivious of the status of the bridleway and the respect they should show to equestrians, dog walkers and their dogs, (with or without the need for leads), people walking and also other car users.

The Rights of Way Officer at AVDC was asked to comment on the useage rights of the bridleway and his reply (dated 15th April 2013) is printed below.

Dogs

These are regarded as a normal accompaniment to walkers and riders on a public right of way. There is no law that specifically requires dogs to be kept on a lead, however dogs should be kept under close control at all times and they must not stray off of the public right of way. It is a reasonable request for landowners to ask that dogs be kept on a lead when in the vicinity of livestock and for the public to comply with such a request. It is a criminal offence to allow a dog to be at large in a field or enclosure in which there are sheep containing sheep. It is also an offence to allow a dog to attack or chase livestock. It is also an offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 to allow a dog to foul land on designated land. This normally includes public rights of way.

Private vehicle access

Persons who have a legitimate private right to take a motorised vehicle on a public right of way to access their property for example, may do so, however in exercising their private right they must do so with due consideration for other users of the public right of way.

The same rules apply to the taking of private vehicles on a public bridleway or footpath (both are public highways) as on the public road. The vehicle must be taxed and mot'd the driver must be insured and drivers must take due care and consideration for other lawful users (on a public bridleway - walkers cyclists and horse riders) The Road Traffic Act applies in these situations and the police may seek a prosecution against anyone found to be in breach of this legislation whilst driving motorised vehicle on a public footpath, bridleway or byeway open to al traffic.

The maintenance of the surface to a standard for it's use by private vehicles rests with those persons taking the private vehicle access, not the highway authority.

Phil Turner

Rights of Way Officer

Seven Classical Concerts are coming to your doorstep this May and June

Some of the UK's finest musicians will be performing in the rural venues across the district this May and June.

Tickets are now on sale for Aylesbury Vale District Council's Music in Quiet Places programme, a series of quality classical performances held in some of the most idyllic local settings.


The varied programme has been put together by artistic director Robert Secret, who is currently the conductor of Stowe Opera and has recently been given a High Sheriff award for his outstanding work. Churches in Chetwode, Cuddington, Dunton, Haddenham, Radclive and Padbury and the Windmill Hill building in the Waddesdon Manor Estate will all be hosting concerts.

Before each performance there'll be a free guided walk at 6.30pm where anyone, not just ticket holders can learn about the local history of the village.

Full details of the concert programme are available on the AVDC website:

www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/arts



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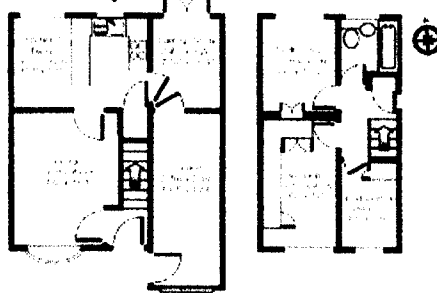
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Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690
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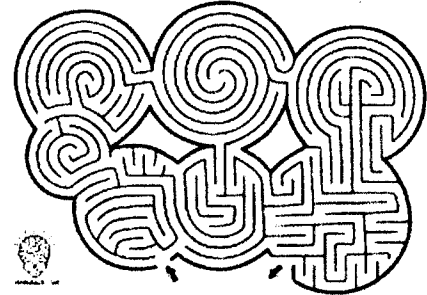
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Items arising from the April PCC

A Diocesan ruling was tabled stipulating that plastic flowers are not allowed in churchyards/cemeteries and people are asked to remove any they might have already placed on graves.

Our church in Aston Abbots needs more volunteers to help keep the church clean. It involves light cleaning of the interior once a month, usually as one of a pair, on a date to suit yourselves. If you would like to help, please contact one of the PCC members listed in these pages.



Dear Friends, For some reason (lighter days, better weather?) May is often called merry. Either way in the past it was associated with feasting, new clothes, new schemes etc. Certainly animal and plant life are completely reinvigorated and everything seems generally busy!

Last year May was not very merry. In fact it began a whole series of months which were 'the wettest on record'. What cheered us up was the Queen's Jubilee in June and then the Olympics/Paralympics with all their glitz and talent. Even they were pretty wet and windy but nevertheless uplifting.

People looked to 2013 with some trepidation and rightly so. The world is in a huge recession and billions are suffering as a result. It's very easy to just blame bankers and politicians but we've all been a bit involved in the 'micky mouse' economics of the end of the 20th century. We have as my mother used to put it got ourselves in a 'bit of a pickle' and there seems no painless way out. We definitely need some hope as well as some strategies for dealing with things. We can no longer believe in the 'urban myth' of perpetual growth so we have to look for deeper more satisfying ways of being. We are, after all, more than just flesh and blood; we are spirit also.

Maybe if we can get back to some of those nurturing concepts of family, community and society we can begin to deal with the external difficulties more creatively. As Schumacher put it (in economic terms) often Small is Beautiful. Have as merry a May as you can.

God Bless. *Philip*

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New Carpet for our Church

It's been planned to replace all the carpet in the church for some time, as most of the original is now worn and badly stained. However, some of the wear has been caused by 'misplaced' Victorian tiles cutting through in places and so quotes had to be sought to repair part of the floor first.

When the affected tiles were removed, and the area beneath excavated, it was clear they had previously been disturbed to lay an electrical cable between the choir stalls. Unfortunately, it had been routed in a stout steel pipe, itself laid just an inch or so below the tiles, and over the intervening years, this had corroded badly pushing up the tiles above. Rectifying the situation was made considerably more difficult since an extremely strong cement, instead of a lime mix had been used, causing a high percentage of tiles and substrate to bind together in large 'lumps'. Before work commenced, photos were taken to ensure the correct pattern would be maintained, and during excavation, as tiles were removed, they were laid loosely in the same pattern and marked to maintain their original orientation. The lime base was further excavated just below the pipe into which it was then 'persuaded'. Removal of the two inches or so of concrete 'substrate' from the base of tiles proved to be far more time consuming than had been anticipated. It couldn't be chiselled off since these very old tiles are quite brittle and the cement bond extremely strong, creating considerable risk of breakage. In the end, it was decided to cut it off, by hand, using a diamond cutter (and lots of patience).

Cement adhering to the edges of tiles was removed by machine to maintain the straight edges necessary to ensure they looked correct when re-laid.

With the floor tiles once more level, the new carpet was laid during March, considerably enhancing the attractiveness of the churches interior. Why not 'pop in' and see for yourself?





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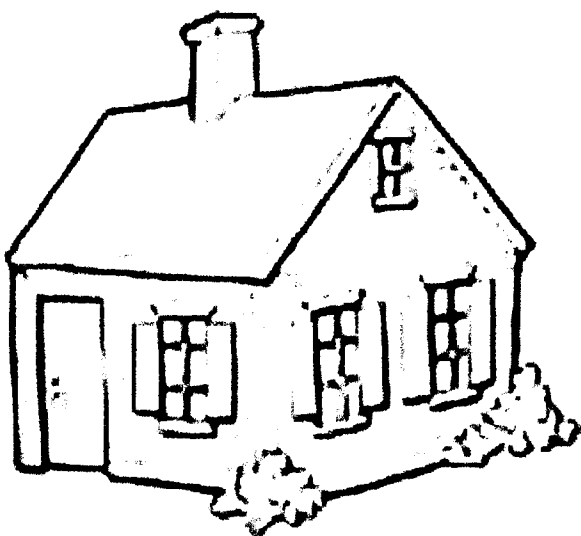
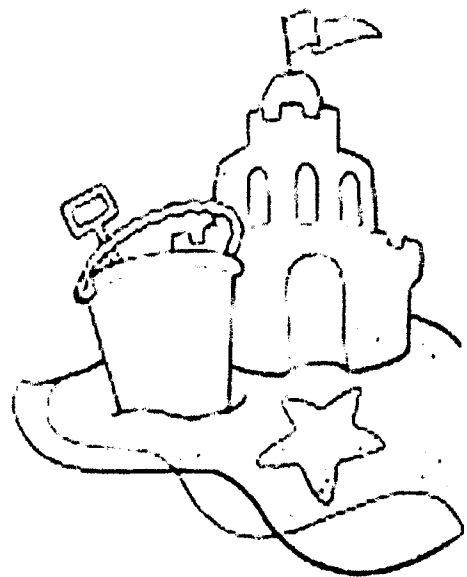
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(plus metered electricity - a returnable deposit of
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Please note that an additional hour over and above the period
of the event must be booked to cover setting up and clearing
away.

Weddings and Christenings -
a fixed charge of £50.

Please contact Tracy Hinds on
688479 if you wish to book

The Chronicle

Annual Advertising rates (11 issues)

Full Page	Back	£100
	Inside	£90
Half Page	Inside	£50
Quarter Page	Inside	£35
One Offs	Full	£20
	Half	£15
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'The Chronicle'

to Phil Corrigan,

5, Nash's Farm, Aston Abbots, Bucks.

01296 688191

corriganpc@aol.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Shorrocks (Chairman)
Oak Farm House - 681260

Paul Bruton (Parish Clerk)
51 The Green - 682322

Colin Higgs (Vice Chairman)
6 Wingrave Road - 681343

Richard Clarke
Maplewood, The Green - 681007

Judy Hardcastle
Marloes, Lines Hill - 688070

Kate Curry
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane - 681137

James Perkins (co-opted) - 07882 980415

Bob Carvey
12 The Green - 681053

District Councillor
Peter Cooper
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham - 681250

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

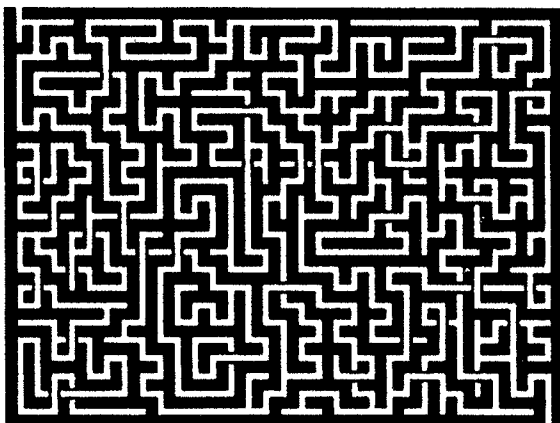
Ann Goodman 681763

Anita Parker 681325

Gordon Kemp 681763

Caroline Lane 681373 - Secretary

David Gray 07935414495 - Treasurer



100 Club Winners for

April

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A French theme to events at the Unicorn this May

French Jazz and French evenings are a feature of events at the Unicorn this May and with the warmer lighter evenings we welcome back the cricket season and the BBQs in the garden.

May _____

3rd 4th 5th Beer Festival

4th Beer and Sausage festival

Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th

we welcome from France Philippe Casternane and Bertrand Mahe who form the Jazz Ticklers.

'The Jazz Ticklers have a new concept called "Rent Party" performing a set based on standards from the Twenties and the Thirties. The programme features the projection of silent movies from the rent party era, in sync with the performance'

Friday 10th May John Gordon live music

Tuesday 14th May live folk music

Wed 15th & 29th May

French speaking evening with French Set Menu Improve your French before heading to the continent this summer or brush up before your French GCSE in June. Hosted by our very own French Restaurant Manager Gregory.

Your food can only be ordered in French!!

Saturday 25th First BBQ of the Year

Friday 31st Dinner and Jazz

To find out more about any of our events, please visit our website www.theunicornpub.co.uk or follow our facebook page.

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



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Aylesbury Vale Pub of the Year 2012-13

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Coffee & Homemade cake
Every morning from 10.30am

Afternoon Teas Please preorder served between 3 and 5pm

Monday Night is Quiz night
The Unicorn Quiz 8pm - 10pm
Why not bring a team?

Saturday Brunch -
Start the weekend with the newspapers and a Full English served 9am - 11am

Sundays
Best of British Roasts
12pm - 3pm Booking strongly advised

Bar Snacks available throughout the day!

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Ask for details

Open for food Sunday evenings from 6.30pm - 8.30pm.



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What's On in MAY

Wednesday 1st	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Thursday 2nd	Polling Day 7am-10pm	Church Room
Sunday 5th	Rambling Club 2pm meet at Ashridge Monument	
	Team Eucharist 10am	Cheddington
Monday 6th	Spring Bank Holiday	
Tuesday 7th	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Wednesday 8th	Annual Village Meeting 7.30pm	Church Room
Thursday 9th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room
Friday 17th	Quiz Evening 7.30pm	Church Room
Sunday 19th	Whit Sunday	
Tuesday 21st	Mobile Library 10.30am	The Green
Wednesday 22nd	Annual Parish Council Meeting	Church Room
Thursday 23rd	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
Monday 27th	Bank Holiday	
Thursday 30th	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room

BOOK THESE DATES

Friday 17th May Colin's Quiz Night
Saturday 27 & 28th July Festival Weekend

Baby sitters/dog sitters available. Reliable 14 year olds available to look after either children, babies or dogs!
Contact Ellie and Tom Farrands - 681182.

AVON - Great products - skincare, fragrance, jewelry, handbags, lingerie, kids, mens, home - all at great prices.
If anybody would like to see an Avon brochure (no obligation to buy), please contact me Jackie 681182
or email jackie@jackiesreps.com

CHRONICLE PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION

Having arranged the printing and bulk distribution of the Chronicle for the past 12 years, I would now like to 'retire' from this task.

I plan to continue until the July/Aug. issue this year and so we need someone to take on the activity from September onwards. It involves taking the Editors 'copy' to Waddesdon school (with the exception of August) for printing and then collect the printed copies a few days later. These are then passed to our distributors for delivery to individual households.

Nobody has yet come forward. However if you are interested please contact me, Andy Bystra, on 681690 and I'll be pleased to give you further details.

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

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

Classified

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle

Phone us on 01296 688191
or email

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

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.

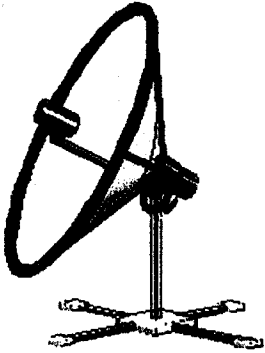
MOBILE LIBRARY

7th & 21st May

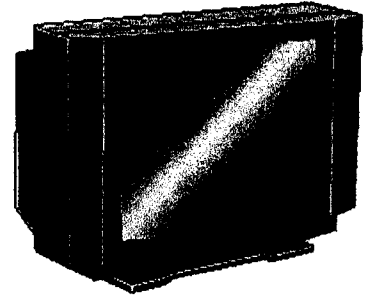
The Green 10.30am

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

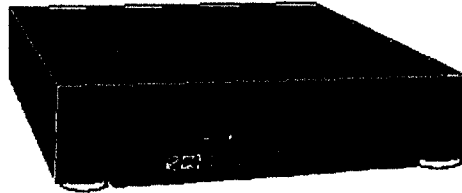


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