

THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine – July/August

Aston Abbots Fete



Saturday 26th July

1pm on The Green

Fun Dog Show 1.15pm in The Grove

July/August

2014

The Chronicle

Page 1

EDITORIAL

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 343

July/August 2014

Well that's the first year done and dusted, now a nice break before the September issue although no doubt it'll be here before I know it and I'll be running around in the usual panic.

Thanks to all those regular and occasional contributors and those that entered into the spirit of the "muckheap" and the "anonymous" or dubious letter writers, even I don't know who some of these people are. Over the summer I'll be working on a few people in the village who may have a talent and are opinionated enough to submit the odd article or contentious views that hopefully will demand a reaction. You know who you are so expect my tap on the shoulder in the Royal Oak, where you will of course be bribed with alcohol.

Coming up in July the Village Ball followed by the Fete, both of which I am sure based on previous experiences will be great successes.

If there is anything you would like to see in The Chronicle or have any ideas do let me know.

Enjoy the summer, we'll be back in September.

Phil Corrigan

Snippets & Miscellanea

Royal Oak News

July Guest beers

London Pride

Doom

Trelawney

Roast lunches every Sunday,
recommended that you book.

Royal British Legion

Wingrave & District Branch

There will be a branch meeting at the Rose &
Crown Wingrave at 8.00pm on 9th July

Church Flowers

July 5th Colin

July 12th Donated

July 19th Wedding

July 26th Festival

Aug 2nd Wedding

Aug 9th Wedding

Aug 16th, 23rd & 31st TBA

Church Cleaning

July 5th Caroline L & Colin

July 12th Ann & Gordon

July 19th Alex & Anita

July 26th Gay & Colin

Aug 2nd Gay & Colin

Aug 9th Gordon & Ann

Aug 16th Alex & Anita

Aug 23rd Gay & Colin

Aug 30th TBA

Mowing

Nigel

Marcus

Peter

Adam

Chris

Bob

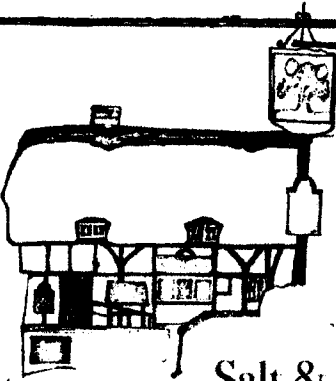
?

Gordon

Andy

THE ROYAL OAK ASTON ABBOTTS

17th Century Thatched Inn



COME AND TRY THE NEW MENU

STARTERS

Salt & Petter chilli squid & dressed leaves

Smoked Haddock & spring onion fishcakes & homemade
tartare sauce

Goats cheese & caramelised onion tart

Feta & Olive salad

Field mushroom stuffed with goats cheese on garlic toast

Homemade soup of the day with crusty bread

MAINS

Ribeye steak garni

1kg Moules mariniere on wholegrain mustard mash with
pancetta & onion gravy

Oven roasted lamb rump served with dauphinoise
potatoes, mint jus

Tagliatelle with olives, sun dried tomatoes, pesto &
mozzarella served with garlic ciabatta

Pan roasted Gressingham duck breast, braised red cabbage
& apple, garlic saute potatoes & cider jus

Beer battered cod, hand cut chips & minted mushy peas
served with homemade tartare sauce

PHONE : 01296 681 262

What's on in July-August

Wed 2nd	Parish Council	Village Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 3 rd	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Whist Drive	Village Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 6th	Rambling Club	College Lake	2.pm
Tues 8 th	Mobile Library	The Green	10.30 am
Thursday 10 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12
	Bingo	Village Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 12 th	Aston Abbotts Summer Ball		
Tuesday 15 th	Village Footpath Walk	The Green	7pm
Thursday 17 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12
	Whist Drive	Village Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 24 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12
Sat 26 th	Village Fete	The Green	1pm
Sun 27 th	Songs of Praise	St James Church	10.30 am
	Church open in afternoon		
Thurs 31 st	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Whist Drive	Village Hall	7.30pm

No whist or bingo during August

Local Gardens open in June:

Sunday 6th July Ellesborough (Tea at the Church)

Sunday 25th Nether Winchendon (Tea at the Church)

July/August

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Service's



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SUNDAY 22ND JUNE 2014-06-23

Here we are in high summer, hot and dry but with sufficient moisture deep in the soil to keep plants, trees and particularly grass growing. What a wonderful haymaking time it has been for the last two weeks. Years ago a good hay harvest was most important to a farmer, but nowadays, he has the options of silage and haylage which can spread the risk of failure for his winter livestock feed. Somehow though there is nothing quite like dry, sweet smelling June hay - open a bale on a cold winters day and out pops sunshine and wellbeing to both man and beast.

Talking of which, I've seen the ultimate in grass control. We were fortunate to be able to tour a group of big estates on the Marlborough Downs - what wonderful country. The farming was first class with vast fields of high promise clean crops stretching across the Downs. Lovely grass too, but, hang on, what is that over there - cages as big as our sitting room each with a horse in it. I have never seen horses in grazing cages before - a very strange sight. These of course, were race horses and everything has to play second fiddle to race horses. The estate was even trying to grow less rape as some horses get "Hay Fever". Whatever next!

Our visit to Marlborough was spent with a group of farmers and, as usual, the conversations are of great interest. Our friend from Stonor - perfect Cuckoo country, can't remember when he last heard a Cuckoo. I told him to write about the lack o Cuckoos in his Parish Magazine and one would be sure to turn up. Aston Abbots really has been blessed this year. The big talking point was the dramatic fall in cereal prices and how the bottom had dropped out of the beef market. Don't get excited bread and beef will get no cheaper for us at home. Just like all essential commodities, the market is controlled by dealers and brokers buying "futures". Parasites I call them.

Back here at home the great growth in grass has brought its own problems with more mowing and topping needed than in other years. 'Get more horses and alpacas' I hear you cry. No - actually both these hardly eat any grass compared with a cow or a sheep.

Now the debate for this month's star prize. A strong contender was the crop of spring sown beans on Lines Hill, a first class seed bed produced an excellent germination and a great crop came up. Wonder of wonders Tony Hind is sure a Lapwing nested in the young beans - I had seen no Lapwing nests in the Parish for about 35 years. This was mainly due to lack of spring sown crops. The beans are now in full flower but they look as if they could do with a good rain.

Roses are at their best just now as are Honeysuckles - judge by the scent - why grow something beautiful when you could grow something that looks beautiful and smells heavenly. Despite the flowers, this month's star prize goes to a herd of Limousin cattle at Rowsham - pity it's not a native breed. Cattle look at their best just now - sleek summer coats, lashings of good quality grass, all lying down in the sun - beautiful. It is a pity we can't see our Parish dairy herd, all hidden behind hedges, but I bet they looked pretty good too.

Peter

July/August

3 great reasons to visit The Unicorn this summer

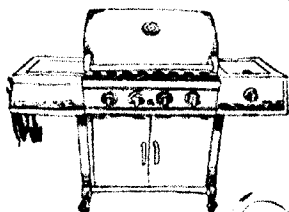
1. Breakfast is, arguably, the most important meal of the day. So, from 9.30 till 11.30am on Saturdays, we kick off the weekend with a fabulous new Breakfast menu. (see website for full menus)

2. Saturday BBQs What could be better than basking in glorious sunshine in the charming Unicorn garden with a family BBQ and maybe a Pimms or two for Mum and Dad? Our new BBQ menu is designed for large and small appetites to suit everyone's taste and budget. Available between 5-9pm every Saturday from May till September. (see website for full menus)

3. Afternoon Tea Not many people know that you can pre-book for a rather special English afternoon tea on any weekday between 3-5pm at The Unicorn. So do come and try the delicious homemade, sandwiches, scones and cakes that our chefs prepare. As a special treat, during Wimbledon, (23 June-4 July) we will be serving Afternoon tea in the Unicorn clubroom and screening the tennis, each weekday...no need to book just turn up with friends and enjoy!

June

- Monday 2nd - Quiz
- Friday 6th - Three Bar Fire
- Saturday 7th - BBQ 5-9pm
- Monday 9th - Quiz
- Tuesday 10th - Folk Music
TUGS meeting AVGC
- Saturday 14th - BBQ 5-9pm
- Sunday 15th - Fathers Day
- Monday 16th - Quiz
- Saturday 21st - BBQ 5-9pm
- Monday 23rd - Quiz
Wimbledon/Cream Tea starts
- Friday 27th - Dinner & Jazz
- Saturday 28th - BBQ 5-9pm
- Monday 30th - Quiz



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

Wednesday Night is Bridge Night
Beginners welcome.

Saturday Breakfast -
Start the weekend right - served from 9.30-11.30am

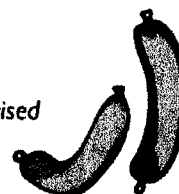
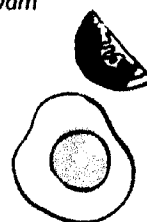
Saturday BBQ 6-9pm

Sundays - Best of British Roasts
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ORCHARD REPORT

This month my orchard report ranges from very good to very bad but as always the majority being a very pleasing average.

We have 11 trees fruiting – this is not necessarily a good thing but it is of great interest. Two cherries bear fruit – “May Duke” looks comfortable with 2 or 3 but “Morello” is overburdened and already suffered from birds landing on it looking at the fruit. I probably ought to strip off the fruit and let the tree get on and grow. Two plums also show fruit – the splendid early cropping “Czar” has several promising plums, as has “Old Greengage”. This however looks rather short of leaves – I hope it is O.K. and not suffering from the problem affecting one dead greengage, but more of that later.

Five apples bear fruit: “Brownlees Russet”; “Bazeley” which is looking very good; Neil Chesher’s “Laxton Superb” is, rather like its sponsor, busy and full of life; “Beisley Codling” with one good apple; “Reverend Wilks” with one very splendid fruit.

There is one pear in the orchard on “Williams Bon Chretien”, and most rewardingly several Medlars on “Medlar Senac” – full of Anglo-Saxon heritage and well looked after by its sponsor – I love this tree.

Now for the problems. One black mulberry is dead and will have to be replaced and we have a virus affecting Greengages and a few plums. One plum seemed to die in the spring but has bounced back with fresh powerful shoots from lower down the stem. One Old Greengage looked very well and then seemed to die in two weeks of May. I have spoken to the Royal Horticultural Society about this greengage – they were most helpful and as a result, we have sent samples of the tree off to them for analysis. Hopefully an answer to the problem will be forthcoming. Before contacting the R.H.S. I had phoned a local expert – he tried his best over the phone and I asked him to come and look at our orchard, but, I’m sorry to say he can’t seem to find the time.

I am gradually mowing the whole orchard – hopefully leaving patches to flower and seed in order to keep our great variety of herbage.

It used to be said that the best fertilizer on a farm was the farmer’s boots. I’m certain that the best fertilizer for our orchard is villagers walking round. When did you last go? Remember if there is yet no bench, there are chairs in the shed for your use. Why not go down and have a private pic-nic.

Peter

July/August

2014



The Jewellery Lady

Dear Astonians,

'Holy Cow!! Home' are physical now! As well as being online, we have moved into rear of The Jewellery Lady shop.

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July/August

2014

ALLOTMENT DIARY

This year has seen a plague of the weed I have known as goose grass, both in my garden, and also among the raspberry canes on my allotment. Its official English name is “Cleavers”, because it “cleaves” or sticks to you. I was amused to find from a Scottish friend who was staying with me recently, that north of the border they call it “Sticky Willy” – which is closer to the proper English name, and much more expressive. (And why is it called goose grass anyway? Do they eat it? It seems unlikely).

Meanwhile, as predicted in my last article, the year is still going well, allotment-wise. My first early potatoes are now ready, and everything seems to be coming along nicely – although much of my carrot seed is stubbornly refusing to germinate; which is particularly irritating, since I heave this year bought some proper anti-carrot fly netting, and built a very sturdy open-topped cage to keep the little blighters out. However, as I write, I see that my newspaper is predicting a drought, which could take the gilt off the ginger-bread, if it is right – and lessen the chances of my carrot seed ever germinating.

Another newspaper item which caught my attention was one concerning the homing instincts of garden snails, conducted by the Royal Horticultural Society. Scientists threw snails over a garden wall (which apparently 1 in 5 gardeners admit to doing), and found that with 416 snails, they had to do this 1,385 times, because the snails kept returning! One snail returned 17 times! However, they discovered that this ability to return diminished the further away the snails were thrown; if one throws the snails 20 metres or more away, they will not return. It did occur to me that the further one throws a snail, the more likely it is that the force of the impact will break the shell, so that the snail dies, and cannot return: but no matter, unless you are sensitive to the welfare of snails, the methodology seems to be sound.

I have also read that a garlic producer has discovered, and is making use of, a 4,000 year-old Korean recipe for preserving garlic. It involves subjecting the bulbs to heat and humidity over a period of 40 days, which turns them black, and sweet and sticky. They have the texture of dried apricots, but are so soft they can be spread with a knife, and taste a bit like balsamic vinegar. His first experiments involved him putting the bulbs in a biscuit tin an Aga, and leaving them there for a month, but he now has a purpose-built curing room, and sells his black garlic to top restaurants like The Ritz and The Ivy.

I would finally like to send my sympathy and best wishes for a speedy recovery to my fellow allotmenteer, Gordon Kemp. He recently underwent a hip operation similar to mine, and was nicely on the mend when he suffered a totally unconnected duodenal problem, and had to be admitted to a different hospital to be treated for this. His allotment is showing signs of his enforced absence, and I hope he will soon be back to deal with it.

Peter Shorrock

July/August

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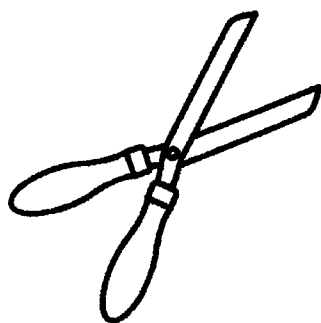
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ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

These are some concerns recently voiced to the Parish Council by residents



Not everybody has the luxury of off-street parking, but please be considerate to others if you need to park on the road. Parking close to corners and bends creates a safety hazard, parking on the pavement forces pedestrians into the road, and parking on grass verges damages them.



If you have a hedge or tree that encroaches upon the footpath it creates a safety hazard as people have to walk in the road. This can be dangerous, especially along the main village roads. This hazard is particularly difficult for mothers with push-chairs and the elderly. Please keep hedges by footpaths well trimmed.



The majority of dog-owners pick up their dog's poo, but a few leave it for someone else to pick up. This is not fair. If your dog messes on the verge or pavement outside of a house, or outside of the Church or the Village Hall—*please* pick it up.



Cars speeding through the village upset many parishioners. Representations have been made to the police, who have agreed to carry out random checks in Aston Abbots. Police tell us that checks in other villages have shown that a significant number of the offenders are often local residents themselves!

THANK YOU

ASTON ABBOTTS

FABULOUSLY BRITISH

SUMMER BALL

IN AID OF
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

SATURDAY 12th JULY 2014

ENTERTAINMENT BY

Huggy Flares

(BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND)

PIMMS ON ARRIVAL

SUMMER BUFFET

BAR

CHARITY AUCTION

BLACK TIE

6:30 PM START

1:00 AM CARRIAGES

*THE FIRS FIELD
WINGRAVE ROAD
ASTON ABBOTTS*

TICKETS £55

CONTACT

FRANK MCMANUS 07771 882412

JOHN WHYTE 07988 001834

Countryside Matters

While walking through thick undergrowth to one of the entrance routes to The Mad Summer Ball in July, we stumbled across a partridge nest, the hen was sat very still and tried to bluff us totally motionless, eventually she slopped off feigning injury, dragging a wing and limping off. This was to distract us from a clutch of 10 perfect eggs beautifully arranged and all similar in size, we reckon they were nearly due to hatch, it has to be said that red leg partridge or French partridge as they are often called, are not renowned for their motherhood, often laying eggs in bizarre places, for instance in our flower and plant boarders amongst the strongest scenting flowers and shrubs. This on the face of it ,sounds a cunning plan , but alas not accounting for four cocker spaniels who have 40 times the scenting ability of humans, so occasionally a hen partridge ,still alive and in perfect condition , is presented to the kitchen table, then to be moved or returned to the nest.

Spaniels and Labradors, with their soft mouths can do this, and off course this is bred into them over hundreds of years, a reprimand is unnecessary and totally useless. Sometimes this happens the next day as well, on another bird or even the same bird from a totally different area. That's the joy of spaniels for you. The next morning I returned, vey early to the same site, woken by the dawn chorus and after walking round the sheep, I noticed a magnificent Tawny Owl sat on the gate post next to the nest, yes the worst had happened the owl had stolen the eggs to feed its own brood and not even a smashed shell was to be seen, maybe the chicks had hatched , maybe she had moved the eggs to a different location, I fear the worst .

On a lighter note, the first brood of swallows have hatched and are now on the wing, what magnificent flyers, here is hoping for the second hatching and yet another brood to strip the paint off the cars!!!

James

July/August

2014

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Letters Page (a couple have trickled in)

Dear Sir

I witnessed a very strange event which I thought should be shared with the Village.

At 6.45 pm on Friday 13th June a strange hush descended over the Royal Oak garden interrupting the early evening banter. People were looking at their feet to hide their embarrassment and avoid eye contact, you could hear the odd nervous cough, I'm sure some people left the garden, and the birds in the aviary fell silent, even Terri Daniels was seen to be silent for several minutes! (I find that hard to believe Ed.)

What caused this incident? It appears that somebody asked a well-known allotmenteer and occasional radio personality, and fount of all knowledge a question, moreover a gardening question that he couldn't answer! However normal service was soon resumed and he could be heard pontificating on the situation in the Middle East!

Yours

A Mole

Phil

Just a quick note to say that following my research in recent years I am hoping to publish and distribute throughout the village a small publication that gives details of all the "lads" from the village who gave their lives in the Great War to tie in with the Centenary of the first world war.

Yours

Simon Guy

July/August

Traditional

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FUN DOG SHOW



Saturday 26th July



Aston Abbots Fête

Fête opens 1pm, Dog Show starts 1.15pm

DOG CLASSES

£1 entry per class



MOST HANDSOME MALE DOG

PRETTIEST FEMALE DOG

GOLDEN OLDIE (8 years and over)

BEST RESCUE DOG

BEST PUPPY (under 1 year)

MOST APPEALING EYES

WAGGIEST TAIL

FASTEST SAUSAGE EATER

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when whistle blows leaves the ring)**

DOG THE JUDGE WOULD MOST LIKE TO TAKE HOME

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Aston Abbots Traditional Village Fete

Saturday 26th July

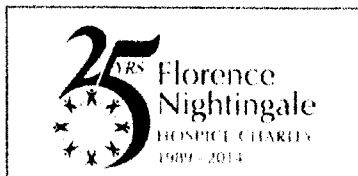
The Church Room will be serving Cream Teas.

There will be a delectable selection of freshly baked cakes and mouth -watering scones.

I shall be calling on the lovely folk of Aston Abbots to please leave cakes at 12 Bricstock or drop them off on the morning of the fete.

Don't just let them eat cake let them eat Excellent cake!

YOUR VILLAGE BINGO UPDATE



The Good Samaritan's Bingo held on the 12th June was dedicated to raising funds for Florence Nightingale Hospice. Although our numbers were slightly down, thanks to the wonderful support of the friends and families of regular members, we have been able to give an acceptable -

£200 donation to Florence Nightingale Hospice

The theme for your next Bingo evening is

'About Britain' Come along and give it a try -

relax and enjoy a bit of a laugh in good company finding out about ... *Risking it for a Biscuit* in the Raffle and in a special 'free game' learn about other types of Bingo such as *'The Reverse'* and *'The American'*.

The Snowball is currently running at £40 at Aston Abbots Village Hall on **Thursday, 10th July at 7.30pm**

After the July Bingo evening we will take a break for the Summer Holiday season and our Bingo evenings will start again in September.

For more information contact Pam 681626 or Sondra 682249



July/August

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FUN DOG SHOW



Saturday 26th July



Aston Abbotts Fête

Fête opens 1pm, Dog Show starts 1.15pm

DOG CLASSES

£1 entry per class



MOST HANDSOME MALE DOG

PRETTIEST FEMALE DOG



GOLDEN OLDIE (8 years and over)

BEST RESCUE DOG

BEST PUPPY (under 1 year)

MOST APPEALING EYES

WAGGIEST TAIL



FASTEST SAUSAGE EATER

**SIT CHALLENGE (last one to sit
when whistle blows leaves the ring)**



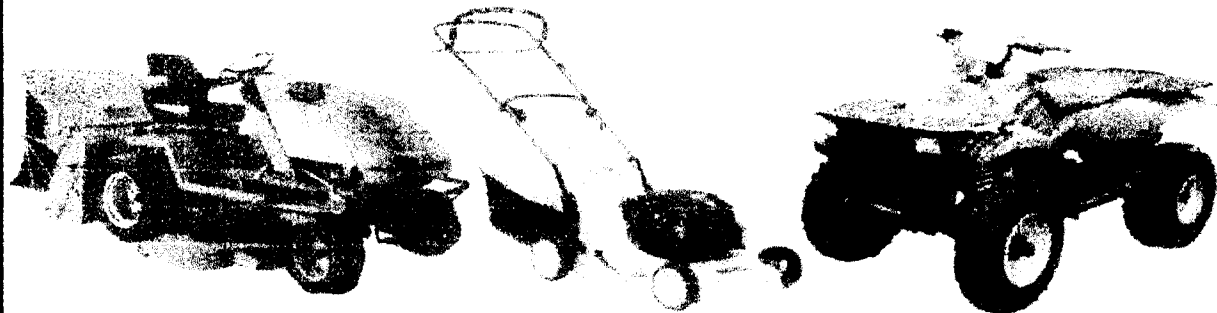
DOG THE JUDGE WOULD MOST LIKE TO TAKE HOME

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The Arty BitsBooks.....Music....Theatre & Travel

Aston Abbots Book Club

Welcome to the Aston Abbots Book Club The Fifth Child by Doris Lessing

This is a gothic horror story, centred on the birth of a baby who seems less than human. Harriet and David have created an idyll of domestic bliss with 4 perfect children. But the arrival of the fifth child changes everything. Ben is “goblin-like” in appearance, insatiably hungry, abnormally strong and violent. Harriet cannot love him, David cannot touch him and the 4 siblings are afraid of him. Their world starts to fall apart. Even the author found pain in writing it. She created the perfect family and then set about destroying it. This book generated a lot of discussion. Some were shocked by the content. Not many actually liked the book but most found it a “cracking read.”

Alison Lewis

Theatre Follows

July/August



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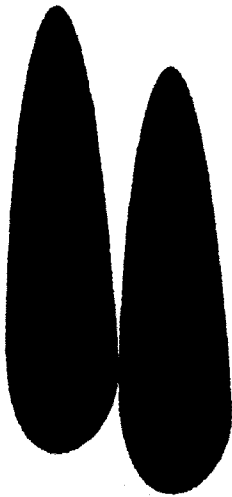
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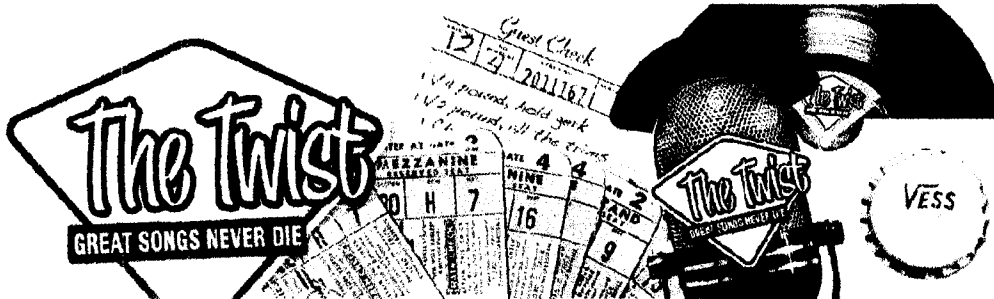
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THE TWIST

I suspect for the majority of the audience at the 50's and 60's rock 'n' roll variety show The Twist, it was a nostalgic trip down memory lane. Not so for me, a bit before my time, but nonetheless the cast and house band, the Twisters, wowed us with a show packed full of authentic tributes featuring a medley of songs each from Connie Francis, Elvis, Sandie Shaw, Dusty Springfield, Buddy, Petula Clark, Tom Jones, Lulu and The Beatles. There were far too many songs to list but, surprisingly, not one I didn't recognise. The stage was set as an authentic American 50's diner and "Big" Tony, the extremely vibrant compere for the evening, also gave us a taste of 50's humour. The stars of the show were no doubt Suzie Madin (no stranger to the West End) and husband Chris Madin (Strictly Come Dancing singer). A thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment with much dancing in the aisles!

Sondra Dickason



Now to travel (& yes, Chesh our roving travel correspondent is back Ed.)

July/August

2014



Wingrave Pre-School offers sessional care for 2 -5 year olds.

We operate from our own purpose built, state of the art setting, with one large main room and a spacious outside area, adjoining Wingrave C. E. Combined School. Wingrave Pre-School offers sessional care for 2-5 year olds.

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We take new children at any point in the school year, just call or come and see us for more information!

Session Times:

Morning sessions: daily, 9am – noon

Afternoon sessions: Tues, Wed and Thurs, noon – 3pm or 1pm – 3pm

Packed lunch session: daily, noon – 1pm

Contact: Kelly Targell – Pre-School Manager 01296 682217



July/August

2014

A Trip on the Buses (well it's almost travel! Ed.)

I remember with affection the Beatles Magical Mystery Tour in the 60's and it has taken some fifty years for the National Trust to get in on the act with a series of London tours by bus. So on an overcast Saturday in June they treated us to a mystery tour of North London Culture by Routemaster coach. London Transport originally commissioned 2,217 Routemaster buses (before they introduced the long wheel base version with an extra eight seats). These included RMC 1594, now lovingly restored, one of the fleet of fifty such buses specially designed to operate long distance coach services from London to places such as Aylesbury. It was basically a standard London bus, coloured racing green rather than bright red, sporting doors to keep out the draughts in winter!! They never really caught on and proper coaches were soon reintroduced.

We knew it was an auspicious day as we were first treated to a flypast by military aircraft followed by the Red Arrows. It seems that this low level display was not entirely for our benefit but was a birthday treat for an elderly lady who lives close by. Our guide, journalist Tanya Gold, informed us that North London was her favourite area of London where the artists, writers and hypocrites lived. Those living in West London weren't hypocrites but were rich. The poor lived in East London and did all the work whilst South London was populated by drinkers and the criminal classes. We progressed through Camden Town to Regents Park taking in the zoo car park. Our first stop involved a quick jaunt up Primrose Hill, to take in the panoramic view of central London skyscrapers and other landmarks.

Rejoining the bus we sailed onwards towards St John's Wood, passing the liberal synagogue which has a special service to pray for gay pride every year and shock horror a female rabbi!! We were warned not to visit the basement Oslo Court restaurant, where the diners were mostly rich Jews, which, according to our guide, served the most expensive and worst food in London. Checking later I found a positive review from Jay Rayner, the Observer food critic who appears regularly on Masterchef, so it seems that she had simply rebelled against huge rich portions where everything comes with cream, the lack of salad, menus with no prices for ladies and napkins in any colour as long as it is salmon pink. Here Diane is the name of a steak, not a waitress.

We passed on to Swiss Cottage and along Abbey Road, looking out for stray Beatles on the zebra crossings. Sadly *the* crossing has been relocated as it was worn out by tourists and caused long traffic jams. Next we continued on to Hampstead Heath and finally to a stop at Fenton House, a property now owned, surprise, surprise, by the National Trust.

This oasis of calm featured well stocked gardens and an orchard, with herbs in pots hanging from the branches of the trees. The house itself contained a number of collections, portraits of former and current local residents, artwork and many vintage musical instruments. These included a number of harpsichords, including two double keyboard examples, a harp, spinets and virginals. Fascinating though there was sadly not enough time to hear them sound. As it was a mystery tour no-one had thought to tell the team looking after the house that a coach tour of 50 NT members was arriving, so the vintage 1930's Citroen camper van cafe quickly ran out of cakes.

We rejoined the bus and passed along millionaire's row which has seen better days, the real millionaires having moved to Kensington Gardens. Many houses now featured only the original facades, the properties behind being totally reconstructed.

On the way back to our final destination, Victoria, we passed a large crowd at Hyde Park Corner. This turned out to be the conclusion of a naked bike ride through the streets of London which had caused traffic chaos. The sight of mainly male cyclists standing around absolutely starkers was both unexpected and somewhat disconcerting to passengers and our NT guides alike.

Nigel

July/August

2014

Mycenae

For the past seventeen years I have been sailing with a bunch of chaps I refer to as the 'Geriatric Hooligans'. They are a mixed bunch of very interesting people from all walks of life. I only ever see eight of these people once a year, some once every 3 or 4 years and some are newcomers, but the great thing is that it works. This year we chartered two 50 ft Bavarias out of Kalamaki Marina near Athens and went sailing in the Peloponnese, with 8 on each boat. Each night we try to get to a harbour where we can either tie up or anchor off and take the dingy ashore. It is the usual mixture of exciting sailing, camaraderie, schoolboy humour and fascinating places to visit. Usually it works out as a real adventure.

Alan, the lead skipper has been doing this for 30 years and has a keen interest in History and is always pleased to take us to historic sites to 'improve our education'. In the past we have been all over the Mediterranean from Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey. One of the best of these was Herculaneum, where the uncovered buildings and streets were nothing short of sensational.

This year we headed for Navplion, a seaport town in the Peloponnese in Greece that has expanded up the hillsides near the north end of the Argolic Gulf. The town was an important seaport held under a succession of royal houses in the Middle Ages and was the capital of the First Hellenic Republic.

It is heavily fortified with ramparts going right up the mountain side and along the shore line.

But for all that, the harbour stank to high heaven and we were glad we were not staying there the night.

Our target was the citadel of Mycenae, a 30 minute taxi ride away. In the second millennium BC, Mycenae was one of the major centres of Greek civilization, a military stronghold which dominated much of southern Greece. Its position commands the entire coastal plain out to the sea.

The approach to the citadel is dominated by the Lion Gate, which was the main entrance of the Bronze Age citadel of Mycenae. It was erected during the 13th century BC in the northwest side of the acropolis and is named after the relief sculpture of two lionesses in a heraldic pose that stands above the entrance. The Lion Gate is the sole surviving monumental piece of Mycenaean sculpture, as well as the largest sculpture in the prehistoric Aegean. The lions sit on top of enormous blocks of stone, weighing between 20 and 100 tonnes.

The remains cover the whole of the hillside indicating that many people must have lived within the walls. Significant was a large, deep water cistern or reservoir created out of rocks which stored water for the whole population. This was an enormous undertaking. Alongside the ruins was an excellent museum which many artefacts taken from the site including pots and weapons. But most dazzling was a gold face mask of ancient Mycenaean king. The man in charge of the archaeological dig, Schliemann, was supposed to have said when he found the mask with a human skull beneath, "Behold, I gaze on the face of Agamemnon"

A further site close by led us through ceremonial entrance to a huge underground building.

Once inside you realised that the internal shape was a perfect old fashioned beehive shape soaring upwards. The stone blocks in the construction fitted very tightly and the whole thing was a gem of engineering. It was reputed to have been the King's Treasury, or the Tomb of Agamemnon. He was interred there when he died along with 12 of his warrior guards. They were buried alive with him.

It was quite an experience to go to Mycenae and well worth the time and on reflection I would have liked to have spent more time there, especially in the museum. However, the sailing called and we had to get away from this stinky harbour.

For more references on this citadel try the following web sites

<http://www.archaeology.co.uk/cwa/world-news/treasury-of-atreus-at-mycenae.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mycenaean_Greece

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mycenae>

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/941>

July/August

ASTON ABBOTTS THEATREGOERS

The Waterside Theatre has kindly offered Press Tickets for the shows listed below. The pairs of tickets are free. You may also be offered a programme and a drink during the interval.

If you would like to enter the draw for tickets then email me at johnhardcastle@me.com or put a note through my door at Marloes, Lines Hill. The draw will take place two weeks prior to the performance. If you wish you can send the editor a short review to editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Show	Date & Time
ROCK OF AGES	MON 30 JUN 7.30PM
ROY ORBISON AND FRIENDS	FRI 11 JUL 7.30PM
EVITA	MON 14 JUL 7.30PM
ANNIE GET YOUR GUN	TUE 22 JUL 7.30PM
APRIL IN PARIS	TUE 5 AUG 7.30PM
ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS	MON 11 AUG 7.30PM
WHAT THE LADYBIRD HEARD	TUE 26 AUG 2PM
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM	WED 10 SEP 7.30PM
BUGLE BOY	SAT 27 SEP 7.30PM

Church Matters

The diary of St. James's



The Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend weather was typical but the Flower Festival and Open Gardens event still managed to make £330. Our thanks to Colin and his team of flower arrangers for their work which produced several beautiful displays in the Church and to John and Judy Hardcastle, Val and Les Smith and Peter Knight and Alex who opened their gardens to an inquisitive public and to you intrepid souls who braved the weather to support the event.

Our grateful thanks also to those who have subscribed to the 100 Club for 2014/5. The first draw will take place in the second week of July so you had better be quick if you still want to join but have not yet submitted your form to the Treasurer at Church Farm House.

The warm and wet weather has encouraged both the grass and the weeds to grow at a prodigious rate in the Churchyard. With Gordon Kemp in hospital, initially for a hip replacement and then subsequently an ulcer, the mowing team (and particularly Andy Bystra) have put in extra hours to keep the Churchyard at its best. We have a wedding on 19th July so everything needs to be shipshape for the occasion.

The Church Electrics were examined and tested and we now have some remedial work to do to meet current regulations. The next big task is the extensive refurbishment of the boundary wall and improvements to the rainwater disposal which should start in September.

The historical element to this month's diary goes back to the rebuilding of the body of the Church in 1865-6. This provided the opportunity to commemorate the most famous resident of Aston Abbots. James Clarke Ross was born in 1800 and at the tender age of 12 sailed with his uncle John Ross who was famous for not finding the North West Passage. James Clarke developed to be an accomplished sailor and explorer of the Arctic and Antarctic. He and his wife Anne moved to the Abbey in Aston Abbots in 1845. The by now Rear Admiral, Sir James Clarks Ross interrupted his very happy family life only once to undertake a final voyage in May 1848. He had apparently promised his wife that "he would go no more a roving" but probably talked her round on the grounds that he was going in search of a fellow explorer lost in the arctic. The voyage was unsuccessful and he returned to his wife and four children in October 1849. A contemporary journalist wrote of his life at home as "a most perfect state of married felicity". Sadly this happiness was to be short lived for in 1857, at the age of just forty, his wife died of pleural pneumonia and her broken hearted husband deteriorated and died in 1862. They are buried together in the Churchyard.

At the PCC on 24th June we extended the programme of events for the year including:

The Harvest Festival, meal and auction – Sunday 5th Oct. & Remembrance Service – Sunday 9th Nov.

Details of other events can be found elsewhere in this month's Chronicle.

The Novice

July/August



Ride and Stride 2014

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2014

10am – 6pm

CYCLE, RIDE OR WALK AROUND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE -
RAISE MONEY FOR THE CHURCH OR CHAPEL OF YOUR CHOICE

and for the
Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust

The Historic Churches annual Sponsored Cycle Ride (Ride and Stride) is open to walkers as well as horse-riders and cyclists. It raises money for the repair and restoration of churches and chapels of any Christian denomination. Half the money raised goes to the church or chapel of your choice, and the other half to the Bucks Historic Churches Trust.

You'll get a list of churches and can plan whatever route you want. Visit as many or as few as you feel like on the day. Many churches are open and serving refreshments. A great way to see the county and its many interesting churches, get some exercise and benefit St James's here in Aston Abbots or a favourite Church elsewhere.

Forms and more details from Caroline Lane, carolinelane@btinternet.com, tel. 681373
I've done this loads of times with children and on my own – I'd be very pleased to have company on the day!

Can't ride or stride? You can still help. Sponsor me! Or come and sit in our church for an hour or so to greet visitors and sign their forms.

<http://www.bucks-historic-churches.org/ride-stride.html>

Church of England Oxford Diocese event

Say Farewell to Bishop John at the Diocese of Oxford's

Grand Day Out!

Saturday 20th September 2014: 10.00 – 17.00

Oxford City Centre

Come to Oxford to bid farewell to Bishop John and enjoy a Grand Day Out! We don't often get together – but on Saturday 20 September we're inviting our whole diocesan family to gather in the centre of Oxford, to give thanks for Bishop John's ministry among us, and to think about our onward journey. There'll be prayer and worship, a feast of different activities and the chance to join in a massive picnic on Christ Church Meadow. We'll end with a huge open-air Eucharist. Everyone is invited; young, old, lay, ordained, families, single people, life-long Anglicans and people new to church. Everyone is welcome!

The programme for the day is being added to all the time. For more information and to register for further information and updates please go to www.oxford.anglican.org/granddayout.

All events at the Grand Day Out are free. But you do need to book to attend sessions.

July/August

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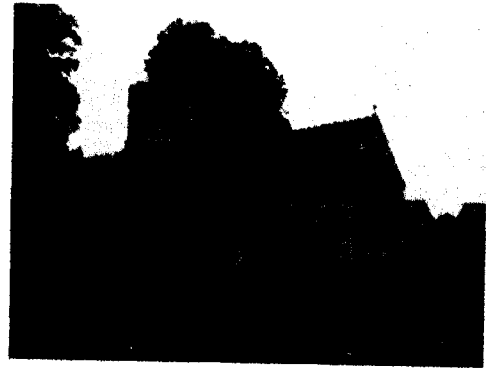
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**Services at
Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts**

July – August 2014

29th June	10.30am	At Stewkley	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
6th July	10.30am	Team Eucharist (at AA)	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
13th July	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Roger Hale
20th July	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Bob Willmott
27th July	10.30am	Festival Songs of Praise	Rev. Roger Hale
3rd August	6.00pm	Evensong	Annie Cooper
10th August	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Peter Binns
17th August	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Luke Lee
24th August	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Roger Hale

We look forward to seeing you

100 Club Draw June 2014

1st Prize, £50: Caroline Guse

2nd prize, £10: Simon Smith

Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	David Gray	07935 414495
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
AVDC	Switchboard	585858
Baby & Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
	Sondra Dickason	682249
Book Club	John Hardcastle	688070
Bus Enquiries	Travel line	0870 6082608
Buses	L & S	415468
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191
Chronicle Distribution	Marisa Abel Smith	681411
	Zandy Ayres	682419
Chronicle Editorial	Phil Corrigan	688191
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	Deirdre Whyte	681685
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 Shorrocks	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 Moulton	681262
RSPCA	Enquiries	08705 555999
Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Wingrave Pre School	Kelly Targell	681127
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Wingrave Post Office	Stores	681696
Wingrave School	Office	681436

The neighbourhood policing team works on issues identified by local residents and businesses.

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WingNorthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

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Judy Hardcastle
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Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham - 681250

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Netta Glover - 688357

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Caroline Abel Smith

Churchwarden 681001

Colin Higgs

Deputy Churchwarden 681343

Ann Goodman 681763

Anita Parker 681325

Gordon Kemp 681763

Caroline Lane Sec 681373

David Gray

Treasurer & Synod Rep 07935414495

Gay Walker 688632

Some dates for the diary

July 26th/27th Village Fete & Festival weekend

July 12th Summer Ball

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Contact Ellie and Tom Farrands - 681182

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 specialise in intelligent conversation over a glass of something.

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Tragedy in Aston Abbotts was narrowly averted when a member of the 630 Club became trapped in his own front porch.

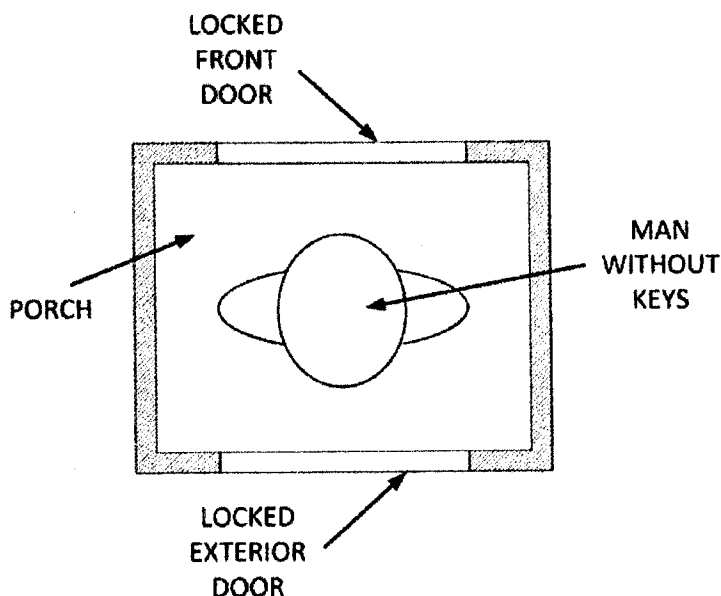
The man could have been stuck in there for days, but by chance a passing Irishman heard the man's desperate cries for help and, after he had finished laughing, carried out a life-saving rescue.

We are unable to name the man for legal reasons, but we understand he is considering rewarding his rescuer by presenting him with a second-hand OBE.

Deputy Prime Minister

We have been told that Chronicle editor Phil Corrigan recently attended a question and answer session with Nick Clegg, the deputy prime minister.

A number of difficult questions regarding UKIP and Nigel Farrage were posed, but unfortunately Mr Corrigan couldn't answer any of them!



Bad Decisions

On his instrument flying course Mr David Lewis apparently flew his plane straight down through an important marker called the 'decision height', not once, but twice!!! Those are very serious errors!

As a result of his furious reaction upon being told of his mistakes he was sent on an Anger Management Course, but he stormed out of it!

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY