

THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine



ASTON ABBOTTS FIREWORKS

**Wednesday 5th November 2014 on The Rec
Bonfire lit at 6.00 pm Fireworks at 6.30 pm
Soup and Hotdogs - Entrance Free**

EDITORIAL

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 345

October 2014

In this issue:

Following the sad death of Bernard Osborne it seemed fitting to reprint an interview with Bernard in the Chronicle from 2000.

As a postscript to his usual allotment diary Peter Shorrock writes about some shenanigans in the allotments, and no it's not about the dung heap, although that time is approaching, will we have a repeat of dung wars this year?

Another thoughtful piece from Simon Guy relating to the World War 1 commemorations.

A strange back page, in truth our back page compiler is struggling as the subject of the back page a certain Mr Dave Lewis has been acting in an Angelic manner of late, still the party season is approaching so I'm sure it will soon be back to normal as the party season gets in full swing.

Sad to say no entries for the caption completion in the previous issue, but then no surprises as I printed the photograph but forgot to mention the competition!

Unfortunately at the time of writing this I have a computer issue and cannot open several e mails, particularly one from John Hardcastle about the village, if I can solve this before this is distributed I will attached it as a supplement.

Phil Corrigan

Snippets & Miscellanea

Royal Oak News

Diary Dates

Pumpkin comp Fri 31st Oct

Will it be the Triple Crown for Tony Hinds

Roast lunches every Sunday,
recommended that you book.

Quote of the month

Nothing worthy this month, feel free to submit any suggestions.

Church Flowers

Oct 4th Harvest fest

Oct 11th "

Oct 18th Donated

Sep 27th Anita

Oct 4th Harvest Decorations

Church Cleaning

Oct 4th Colin/Caroline L

Oct 11th Gordon/Ann

Oct 18th Alex/Anita

Oct 25th Colin/Gay

Nov 1st Colin/Caroline L

Mowing

Adam

Peter Curry

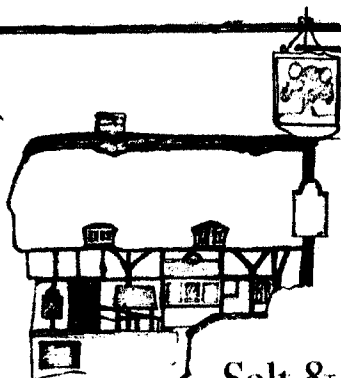
Chris

Bob

Ann/Gordon

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 October

Thurs 2nd	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Whist Drive	Village Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 5 th	Rambling Club meet @ Cublington X roads		2pm
	Harvest Festival Service	St James	5pm
Thurs 9 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Bingo	Village Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 16 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
Sun 19 th	Village footpath walk	The Green	2pm
Thurs 23 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Whist Drive	Village Hall	7.30
Sat 25 th	BST ends clocks go back		
Tues 28 th	Mobile Library (use it or lose it)	The Green	10.30am
Wed 29 th	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 30 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Whist Drive	Village Hall	7.30pm
Fri 31 st	Rambling Club Halloween Walk	The Green	
	Followed by Sausage & Mash supper in Royal Oak		
Sun 2 nd Nov	Coach trip to old crocks race Brighton, coach leaves the Green 7.30 am		
	Fare £19.00 book with Colin		
	Evensong	St James	6pm

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22ND SEPTEMBER 2014

My goodness me - everything in the countryside round our village is dry. There seem to have been heavy showers all around us at varying times but none in Aston Abbots. Last week I had to dig a hole in our garden and found that two feet down the soil was bone dry and subsequently rock hard. Our vegetable garden is suffering quite badly and every afternoon the remaining crops look severely wilted and struggling to survive

However in the fields we rent belonging to Jean Bellingham, the spring fed water supply is as good and reliable as ever. All around the village arable fields have been harvested and now ploughed or cultivated. They now lie baked to a cinder waiting for rain to germinate all the weed seeds so that the next cultivation will kill at least that crop of weeds.

The early harvest makes our village Harvest Festival seem even later than usual. Similarly many of the "official" apple days fall in mid October – this year the crop will be long gone by then.

To my surprise the vast majority of swallows seem to have left our locality on the usual date of about 22nd September - I expected them to linger on in the good weather and feast on the Daddy-longlegs that are now hatching from the grass fields.

The clearing of the fields has a huge impact on some of our wild life – the larger mammals have lost the acres of cover where they could hide and are now easily seen. Deer are the obvious ones; young $\frac{3}{4}$ grown hares have also been forced to move from their haven of cereal fields and I have recently seen several young hares run over on our roads where, no doubt, their first meeting with a motor car proved disastrous.

Many trees are looking decidedly tired – autumn brought on by lack of water but the fields could still freshen up and look strikingly green if we had some good rain – let's hope that when the rain does come it knows when to stop!

This month's star prize – a toss up between the glorious crop of unspoilt black berries – so sweet thanks to the sun, and the front corner of the Smith's garden, visible as I drive along Lines Hill – what a lovely clump of colour.

Peter

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

ORCHARD REPORT - 23rd September

I have very little to report this month as like the farms everything is rather on hold – waiting for a good shower of rain. We need the ground damp to plant two replacement trees and I'd sooner see some more growth before I do the last mowing of the year.

One tree has surprised me – the rather small Black Mulberry which I was sure had died has in fact thrown up a new young shoot and hopefully, it will grow away with vigour next Spring.

I hope you have seen that there is a bench in the orchard – one that also folds into a picnic table and bench. The Committee were miles apart on agreeing to the provision of a bench or benches. In the meantime a generous villager donated the seat – no longer required in his/her garden. Thank you very much – it is doing a great job where it is now.

I have asked the hedge cutter to come and trim the orchard hedges, so soon, with both the grass and hedges cut and the replacement trees planted we will go into the winter ship shape.

P.S. I see from a picture in last month's Chronicle that a certain retired vicar from Nash's Farm is tired of masquerading as Peter Knight and now wishes to hide under a tent and pretend to be John Hardcastle – probably a better choice.

Must admit I had no idea who it was and took a guess Ed.

The Astonians

All characters are fictional and hold no association to anyone. Some strong language.

Slightly tempered Ed.

An Evening of Aston Abbotts Drama. ©Astonpete.

Kirsty and I were off to see the Astonian Players debut play, 'Seven Brides for seven Brothers', starring Mincy Bumgardner; the slut from up the road.

We were dressed and ready to go. We turned on a 'night light', turned the answering machine on, covered our pet budgie and put the cat in the backyard. We phoned the local Taxi company, 'Aston Abbotts Hopefuls' and requested a taxi. To our disbelief the taxi arrived in 30 seconds and we opened the front door to leave the house. As we walked out the door the cat we put out in the garden scooted back into the house. We didn't want the cat shut in the house as she always tries to get at the budgie. Kirsty walked out to the taxi while I went back inside to get the cat. The cat ran upstairs with me in hot pursuit. Waiting in the cab Kirsty didn't want the driver to know that the house would be empty for the night. So he explained to the driver that I would be out soon, "He's just going upstairs to say Goodbye to my mother."

A few minutes later I got into the cab. "Sorry I took so long," I said, as we drove away.

"That stupid bitch was hiding under the bed. I had to poke her a*** with a coat hanger to get her to come out. She tried to take off so I grabbed her by the neck. Then I had to wrap her in a blanket to keep her from scratching me but it worked. I hauled her fat a*** downstairs and threw her out into the back garden!She'd better not **** in the vegetable garden again!"

We came home that night with police surrounding the house searching for something!

ALLOTMENT DIARY

I've never planted any raspberries on my allotment: I inherited the canes planted by a predecessor, and have simply weeded them (occasionally) and pruned them (ruthlessly, following the advice given to me years ago by Vic Scott). The raspberries are in the main autumn-cropping, and exclusively red. You can imagine my surprise, therefore, when I discovered a raspberry cane this year which was producing yellow raspberries! My first thought was that it was the result of a sucker that had come over from Gordon's allotment (he grows raspberries in his patch next-door to mine), but the yellow-fruited cane was about as far from his plants as it was possible to get: and, so far as I can see, looking at his crop, he does not have any yellow raspberries either.

The conclusion I have reached is that it is the result of a bird having breakfasted on a yellow raspberry bush somewhere else in the village, and then, while enjoying lunch on my raspberries, had deposited the result of its breakfast on the ground alongside my plants, and one of the seeds germinated. While I knew the theory that plants were spread in this way, I have rarely seen such a dramatic demonstration of the process.

Life begins, according to a Chinese proverb, the day you start a garden. However, recent research by The Horticultural Trades Association has revealed that less and less people have the means to start one: about 1.5 million fewer people now have a garden or an allotment than in 2007. This is due to several factors: the huge drop in house ownership among those under 35 (and reluctance to spend time and money on a garden which would simply be improving the property for the benefit of the landlord); the number of people who now live in high-rise flats; the paving over of front gardens in order to provide hard-standing areas for cars; and possibly the large number of immigrants from countries where there is no tradition of gardening.

There are indications that either the recent fine summer, or perhaps global warming, may be having an effect on the crops being grown in the UK. Olives are being grown commercially at Tenterden in Kent (and being sold to local restaurants); tea is being grown commercially in Cornwall (and being sold to Harrods); there is now a burgeoning English apricot industry, largely based in Kent, which has done very well this year (and apparently our English climate, with a big change in temperature between night and day helps to give the fruit a red tinge, which customers like); and Scotland's first vintage wine is expected to be bottled in Fife this month. Even more extraordinarily, bananas have appeared on a banana plant in a garden in Somerset! The bananas were, when I read the story in mid-August, still green and only 2" long; but the owner of the garden is hoping that with a spell of hot weather they will ripen, which would be remarkable. Of more traditional English crops, blackberries and sloes are apparently ripening some 2 weeks or so earlier than usual, and the apple harvest has been huge and early.

From my own experience I can report a bumper crop of raspberries and Victoria plums, but the crops of apples and pears are well down on last year. However, I think that this may be due not to any problem with the weather, but due to the fact that fruit trees rarely produce large crops two years running: it's as though after producing a vast crop, they need to recharge their batteries before repeating the effort.

My other big success this year has been a French runner bean, which is purple in colour, called Blauhilde, which I had never grown before. The crop the plants produce was so huge that it snapped one of my bamboo canes in half, and I had to keep added more canes as props in order to prevent the structure from collapsing. And the beans themselves (which lose their purple colour during cooking) were delicious.

Finally, I am happy to report that my carrot-fly exclusion cage has been 100% successful: not one of my carrots has been attacked this year: whereas in all previous years the majority have been affected. If you grow carrots, I strongly recommend the idea to you.

Peter Shorrocks

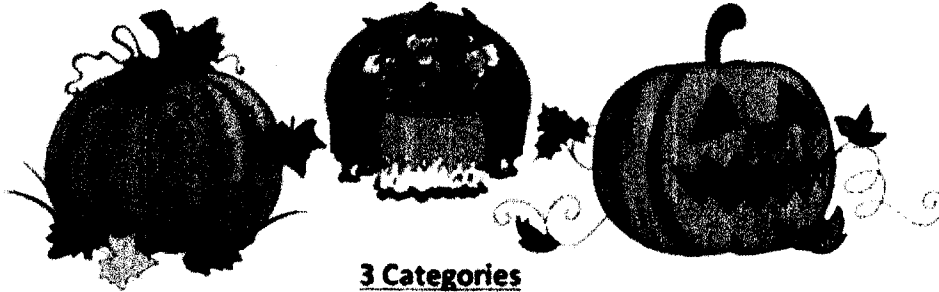
POST SCRIPT

In my article which I sent off to the editor yesterday, I mentioned the problem we had been having with avian thieves nicking much of our sweetcorn. A few days ago, my son, Adam, cut down most of the sweetcorn stems, since either the birds or he had eaten all the corn that had grown on them, leaving about a dozen or so stems with possibly viable cobs on them. He has just come back from the allotment this afternoon, where he had gone in the hope that he could pick some corn for dinner tonight, to find that all the remaining cobs – about 12 to 15 – had been taken. However, this time the culprits were not magpies, or some other bird or animal: the cobs of corn had been taken in their entirety, and this time we are clearly talking about human theft.

I have to say that I am very disappointed: allotment holders have to rely on the goodwill of others, since more often than not the allotments are empty, and there is no-one to keep an eye on the results of our labours; so that theft is very easy. This is only the second time that I can recall anything being taken from an allotment: the last time was several years ago, when Andy Digby had half a dozen garlic plants removed. I hope that this will prove to be an isolated example.

The Royal Oak Pumpkin Competition

Friday 31st October - Judging starts at 7:00 pm
Children welcome to enter
(Covens welcome to attend)



3 Categories

- Heaviest Pumpkin
- Best Looking
- Best Decorated



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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Country Side Matters

It was early on Sunday morning September 7th that I noticed that everything in the yard, garden and grass fields had gone eerily quiet.

They had suddenly gone, all 60 of them, swallows I mean. I had been worried that the numbers were well below the last three years, but three broods were raised, the last ones being fed on the wing and also perched in a perfect straight lines along the gutters, just the evening before.

How on earth these tiny young fledglings are going to make this epic journey to Southern Africa, God alone knows. The Autumn passage is quite leisurely compared with the journey north in the spring when adult swallow, in a hurry to find a mate and nesting site, can complete the flight from South Africa in five weeks.

The majority will have left these shores by the end of the month and head through France and Spain, before crossing to North Africa via the Mediterranean. A small minority stay go no further, while others move down the West African coast or the Nile Valley to avoid crossing the Sahara Desert., but the majority still cross the Sahara through Niger and Chad arriving in the Democratic Republic of Congo by November, and South Africa by Christmas.

Swallows begin their return journey from South Africa in February and the first, now arrive in Southern England in early April, on average a week earlier than they did twenty years ago. Now you can have all the modern gadgets you can muster, Satellite Navigation and the like, but these beautiful, intelligent, wonderful little creatures put science to shame. How on earth do they manage this fantastic arduous journey, year in year out centuries before radar was invented!!

It beats me what pleasure the Maltese and the like get out of trapping and eating our migrating birds on their epic journeys. Anyhow, at least I get my garage back for the rest of the year, to avoid the aerial bombardment of paint stripper!! . James.

James Henderson

Wingbury Courtyard Business Village

Upper Wingbury Farm

Wingrave

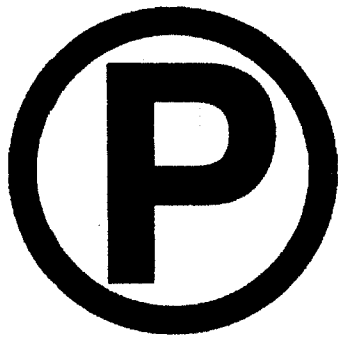
Aylesbury

Bucks

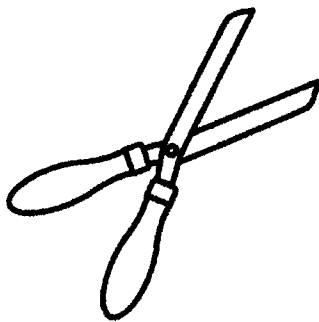
HP22 4LW

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 Dog Show Report

The dog show on Fete day attracted 75 entries in total. Our judge was Jill Fountaine - approved Kennel Club Judge and the results were as follows:

Most Handsome Dog was won by Myra's Hungarian Vizla Max. Second was Tango, a Lurcher owned by Marissa and third was Flynn, a chocolate Labrador owned by Luke.

Prettiest Bitch was won by Marmalade, a Whippet owned by Rachel. Flyte, a Belgium Shepherd owned by Ian was second and Dancer, a Golden Retriever owned by Gill was third.

Golden Oldie was won by Dash, a Belgian Shepherd, owned by Ian. Mia, a Staffie, owned by Karen was second and Marissa's Lurcher Tango was third.

Best Rescue was won by Winnie, an eight year old Cocker Spaniel, owned by Emily. Stella, a German Shepherd owned by Mrs. Parsons was second and Shuckles, a Staffie owned by Ruth was third.

Best Puppy winner was Digger, a 4 month old Jack Russell, owned by Jess. Amber, a 3 month old Shitzu, owned by Rachel was second and Rudi, a 3 month old Jug (Pug crossed with Jack Russell) owned by Nathan was third.

Most Appealing Eyes was won by Moss, a Border Collie owned by Bryony. Anya, a Siberian Husky owned by Denise was second and Lunar, a Lurcher owned by Sophie was third.

Waggiest Tail winner was Chip, a Jack Russell owned by Luke. Bora a Chocolate Labrador handled by Marissa was second and Pickle, a Lurcher owned by Marissa was third.

Fastest Sausage Eater was won by Tara, a Belgium Shepherd owned by Erika. Second was Sky, a Jack Russell handled by Tom and Flyte, a Belgium Shepherd owned by Ian was third.

Sitting Challenge was won by Tara, a Belgium Shepherd owned by Erika. Sky, a Jack Russell owned by Tom was second and Flyte, a Belgium Shepherd owned by Ian was third.

Dog The Judge Would Most like to Take Home was won by Milly, a Golden Retriever owned by Margaret. Flynn a Chocolate Labrador owned by Kirsten was second and Flyte, a Belgium Shepherd owned by Ian was third.

Our Best In Show was Dash the Belgium Shepherd owned by Ian. Reserve Best In Show went to Marmalade, the Lurcher owned by Rachel.

Many thanks to my helpers, Gay, Sondra and Carol. Thanks to Richard for helping to put up the ring and Dave for helping set up the sound system. Thankyou Liz for donating the sausages for the Fastest Sausage Eater Race and thankyou Jeff and Mandy for the loan of the gazebo. I'm also very grateful to Jill for agreeing to judge once more.

Sally Clarke

Community News

Rural Housing Needs Survey: There's information elsewhere in this Chronicle about a survey that is going to take place later this month in AA to see if you have family members who need housing. Perhaps your children have had to leave the village because prices to rent or buy are too high, or perhaps suitable housing for other family members is not available for them to move in to. The survey that will be brought round provides an opportunity to let your views be known.

Why, because if there is an established need there may be a possibility for a few dwellings to be built that will be allocated to those with a housing need with a priority given to those with an AA connection. It is therefore important that you contribute to this survey!

Councillors Clarke and Carvey will try and answer any questions, as will our Village Clerk Paul Bruton – their contact details are in the Chronicle.

Roads: We are advised that "Bucks CC crews continue to work tirelessly on our roads, footways and verges. 182 potholes have been repaired this week (15-19 Sept), with nearly 900 additional defects attended by their jet patching crews" (bc - sorry no idea what a jet patching crew is or does!!) "BCC gully emptying crews have been out clearing drains across the county and the area maintenance gangs have been carrying out minor works such as kerbing, safety fencing and minor footway work."

(the above is a quote from Netta Glover's recent news email to the PC)

Although BCC have missed AA's roads and verges we have seen quite a lot of activity on the A418 and so did the enormous Morrisons juggernaut that tried to turn up Moat Lane about 9.30pm last week, almost taking 33 TG's wall out again!!

App to report all sorts of problems will be available soon, say Bucks CC: In the meantime log on to www.buckscc.gov.uk/telltfb to report problems. As well as reporting pot holes you can report other problems. For instance if you see an overhanging branch that needs attention you can report that. Where is it? You may not know the post code but if you know the name of the road you can type it in – let's say High Street. When you type it in you get a list of all the places where there is a High Street. You can even show where the problem is near. Also use it to report problems on rights of way. Photographs can be uploaded as well. This system will speed up reactions and also save a lot of your tax money. The system also works on any mobile device – it also uses GPS which is handy if the user doesn't know the location or road/footpath name.

Feedback is very important to help refine the system – if there are problems they can be ironed out – saying how well it worked is also appreciated. We want to get it right.

(the above is a quote from Netta Glover's recent news email to the PC)

NB: Netta Glover is a Bucks County Councillor.

Bob Carvey

Bernard Osborn 1927-2014

We were sad to hear that Bernard Osborn passed away on September 18th 2014 at the age of 87. We send our condolences to Francesca, Bob, Elizabeth, Valerie and the rest of the family.

Bernard Osborn was born here and he grew up Aston Abbotts. Although he emigrated to Cublington when he married, he continued to run Osborn's shop in Aston Abbotts until it closed in 2005.

This interview first appeared in the Aston Abbotts Chronicle in Autumn 2000. It gives an insight into how life used to be in Aston Abbotts when Osborn's shop was still open.

“When a village shop or a Post Office closes, it is the end of a village,” says Bernard Osborn, who has worked in the village shop opposite the Bull and Butcher since he first helped his mum and dad as a small boy. “My mother and father started the shop here in Aston when they were married. They moved to the Old Forge, then they moved down here. It would have been 1926.

“My father's family were engineers. They used to do the old steam engines, and he was the odd one out - they wanted him to go in to the engineering business and he rebelled and went into the grocery trade. Mother, she loved the shop. Like a lot of the people years ago, they pottered. They didn't kill themselves with work, but they were going gently all the time. They did things in their own time.”

He grins as he remembers the innocent mischief the village children got up to in those pre-war days. “We used to turn gates upside-down. All these rows of houses had wooden gates and you could lift them off, turn them upside down so when the poor old dears come out in the morning the latch was down the bottom. You know, nothing really bad, but naughty.

“Fireworks night was always a good night... Penny bangers on the doorstep sort of thing... Chased round the village... Of course during the war there were no fireworks, but some bright boy who should be nameless was given some Little Giant powder and some fuse [for blowing up tree stumps] and he made fireworks. They went off with a lovely bang!”

But Miss Childersley, the schoolteacher, had power over her young charges. “Poor old Chilly... she used to walk across the Green and if it she saw us she would say ‘Boys! Boys!’ and we would disappear. That was the way.”

On Sundays there was always chapel for the young Bernard. “First thing in the morning you're all dressed up in your best. Sunday-school in the morning and you were allowed to go for walks afterwards with your suit on. Then there would be afternoon chapel. Then in the evening at 6 o'clock. We used to watch the clock... you know 5 to 7 and you'd think ‘Cor Blimey’ - and some of those preachers would go on to half past! And the old fellows would say ‘Good service tonight’. Things have changed haven't they? It was one continuous stream going up to Church and Chapel. Sunday evenings in the summer when it was warm there'd be no end of people walking along the main road in the evening, all dressed up.”

With the war came inevitable changes in village life. “The early part of the war my father did the Post Office. They hadn't got a postman so the Head Postmaster rang him up and said could he undertake deliveries. For years I delivered the mail round Aston. That was on the carrier bike - a big wheel one. Then we lashed out on a little wheel one with a big basket and I took the lady who used

to live up at Longmoor home in that basket more than once! You had to make sure you were sitting on the saddle before she got in there otherwise you went arse upwards.

“Of course wartime and just after the war, we were very busy here. Village shops were busy - that was the heyday of them - because people could not go in to town and that. We used to sell an awful lot of stuff in those days. During the war we were registered for cooking fat, but a producer at Prestwood produced pigs and we had lard all during the war, which was a rarity.”

After the war Bernard did National Service in the Air Force and laughs as he remembers how he gained rapid promotion. “I did a short time at Bletchley and had a rapid posting from there to Group Headquarters, because there had been an orgy! There was this goings-on in the Signals section, so they had a grand clear out and posted a load of officers from Bletchley to take charge over there.”

Unlike some, Bernard enjoyed his compulsory Service. “I did very well in the Air Force and they wanted me to stop in. They offered me a post straight away in Japan, but my one aim was to come out and that was one of the silliest things I’ve ever done you know, come back here! It was kind of expected of you, wasn’t it, to move back into the family business.”

Not long afterwards Bernard married Valerie, the sweetheart he had written to during his National Service “I think I’d known her since before the war. Her grandmother used to live down the Royal Oak, but her family home is London - Hampstead. We’ve been married 46 years.”

Living in Cublington since his marriage, Bernard has continued to run the shop, seeing the growth of the supermarkets and changes in village lifestyle gradually erode the business. “Things have changed. The amount of deliveries and stuff we used to have in, possibly six boxes of butter a week, things like that. But today... I just can’t sell it within the sell-by date. It’s just had to go like so many other things.

Is he saddened by the decline in trade? “Well yes, to a point. You think you’ve got the right product, the price is right, but people still don’t bother. Then once in a while people come in and they say ‘I didn’t know you stocked so and so’, or ‘You’re cheaper than Tesco’s’ and things like that, but they still won’t use the village shop now. Years ago we used to carry an awful lot more stuff. It’s quantity again. A box of bananas is 28 pounds - I just couldn’t sell it.

“Little shops like this.... It’s things like the rates and so on, which are crippling. You’re penalised for giving a service... Truthfully, money-wise, I’ve propped this up for years.” But Bernard isn’t bitter, he just recognises that the trade for his village shop has gone forever, “Oh no, no. It won’t come back!

“Well I’ve got to the point now where one of these days I shall say ‘Sod it!’ and that’s it. I mean the amount of stock and that I carry.... It’s the old story, the more you sell the more you can stock. So one of these days I shall say enough is enough and sling it in.”

“Truthfully I shouldn’t be here, but it’s become a hobby. It becomes a way of life you know. I come over here at 8 o’clock in the morning and that gets me out in the morning, whereas if I was at home all day long I’d drive Valerie around the twist wouldn’t I?”

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European Language Directive

The European Union Commissioners have announced that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has accepted a five year phased for what will be known as EuroEnglish (Euro for short)

In the first year "s" will be used instead of the soft "c". Certainly, sivil servants will reseive this news with joy. Also, the hard "c" will be replaced with "k". Not only will this klear up confusion, but typewriters kan have one less letter.

There will be growing public enthusiasm in the second year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replaced by "f". This will make words like "fotograf" 20 per sent shorter.

In the third year, public akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters, which have always ben a deterrent to akurate spelling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mess of silent "e"s in the language is disgrasful, and they would go.

By the fourth year, people wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" and "w" by "v"

During ze fifz yer, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropt from vords kontaining "ou" and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.

After zis fifz yer, v evil hav a reli sensibl riten styl.Zer wil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi to understand ech ozer.

Zed rem vil finali kum tru.

Try typing this with spellchecker on!! Ed

Do you have a strong connection to the parish of Aston Abbots? Do you require less expensive homes to be able to remain in the village? What do you think about providing homes for local people?

The Parish Council has asked the Rural Housing Enabler from Community Impact Bucks to conduct a Housing Needs Survey (HNS) in the village. The Parish Council believes local people including families, grown up children and ageing residents may have difficulty finding a home they can afford in Aston Abbots.

The survey will establish whether there is a need for a small development of affordable housing in the village and whether there is support for the Parish Council to pursue the project. Rural affordable housing schemes are built using the **rural exception planning policy** which provides homes, available for **local people only** who cannot afford to rent or buy on the open market. The properties always remain affordable and are protected in perpetuity for local people.

We hope that you will take a few minutes to complete the housing needs form which will be delivered to every household in **October 2014**.

If you are in need of an affordable home in Aston Abbots, or feel that you should support such a project please ensure that you complete **section 2** of the survey. Personal details are used for analysis purposes by CIB. Name and address **only** will be passed to the partner housing association, local authority or Bucks Home Choice to enable them to contact you in the future and advise you where to register, if a scheme does go ahead.

Please return your form in the FREEPOST envelope by 24th October 2014.

For further information on affordable housing in rural areas please see Community Impact Bucks' website: www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk

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Letters Page

Dear Ed

I would like to raise a concern about the village pyromaniacs, while I do enjoy a good bonfire and am looking forward to the Nov 5th bonfire and fireworks, it is irritating when somebody "lights up" a smoky smouldering mess on a still, balmy September evening, necessitating running around closing all windows and doors. With said fire seeming to engulf half the village.

In general I have no issues with fires but would ask for a little more thought and consideration for your fellow villagers. There is good guidance to be had from several government and local authority.

Another consideration is the panic this must be causing our Disaster Co-ordinator Cllr Richard Clarke probably being awoken from his post lunch slumbers thinking he might be needed to jump into action.

Yours

A Kipper Aston Abbotts.

Dear Ed

I read with interest James' report of his encounter with 3 men and their lurchers (or 2 men & a boy) whom he saw illegally hare coursing without permission in various fields off Leighton Road in Wingrave.

Whilst I am in no way defending the actions of these men – their disregard for the law, others' property and animal welfare (and that could apply to both the hare and the lurcher) it has prompted me to write in defence of the lurcher – at least 3 or 4 of which live in Aston Abbotts.

Lurchers are certainly capable of ripping out the stomach of a fallow deer, as James suggests, but then so are German Shepherds, Staffies, Huskies to name a few, although most other breeds would not be able to catch the fallow deer in the first place! All dog owners, of lurchers or other breeds, have a responsibility around livestock to ensure their dogs are under control – a sheep will be as distressed by a terrier as it will by a lurcher

But as with most dogs it is the **owners** that are the problem, rarely the dogs, and lurchers are also known for their loyalty, their good nature (even with young children) and the sheer glory of their turn of speed, and gracefulness. There is nothing quite like watching them on a beach as they reach speeds of up to 40 miles an hour, and then turn on a 5p piece.

Yes, many dogs can kill - they are carnivorous and it is in their nature to do so - but lurchers in particular make the best & gentlest of friends (although if you are considering having a lurcher I would suggest a large sofa) and as with all dogs they want to please - so maybe what we need to remember is that when you call 999 it is for the owners, not the dogs.

Yours truly,

A devoted lurcher owner.

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Nothing received this time or did I miss it, Ed

Theatre

Midsummer Night's Dream

We attended Aylesbury Waterside Theatre on 10 September to see a Midsummer Night's Dream, a classic Shakespeare comedy revolving around 4 young lovers under the influence of various spells. The Globe Theatre must be well known to any Shakespeare fan, but we didn't realise that productions from the Globe have also periodically gone "on tour" since 2007, thus returning to the traditions of travelling theatre of centuries ago. Aylesbury was the last stop before the tour moved East to Asia, touring through China, Taiwan, Russia, Singapore and even Hong Kong.

It was pleasing to see the theatre full to capacity, with an audience spanning the whole age spectrum. There were numerous school children who were presumably studying this as a set text (we both remember this being one of our set texts for GCSE English Literature exams!). The cast delivered a very clever and amusing updated version of the play but using all the original rich language of Shakespeare. All were impressed by the clarity of diction with every word clearly heard, including those from the unusually Geordie-accented Bottom whilst wearing a donkey head!

Another satisfying feature was the musicians who were stationed in the "upstairs gallery" part of the set providing all incidental music and sound effects from a wide range of unusual instruments, including the trombone-like sackbut, the stringed hurdy-gurdy and erhu and a shawm, a reed wind instrument.

We wish the cast every success in their tour and continue to be impressed by the range of high quality performances available at the Waterside Theatre and were very grateful for the opportunity to see this most entertaining of plays.

Elvina and Gavin

Thriller Live

As a fan of Michael Jackson's music back in the day, I was 'thrilled!' to have won the free theatre tickets back in June. The theatre was packed to the rafters for a 2½ hour concert celebrating the music of the King of Pop. With 5 lead singers (including Cleo Higgins, a semi-finalist on The Voice), a full company of singers, dancers and live band, this truly spectacular show had the audience boogieing down to 35 of MJ's greatest and best loved hits. The stage, lighting and dance sequences were simply breath-taking. Moonwalking its way around the world, this show can be seen in the West End at the Lyric theatre and I would thoroughly recommend it.

Sondra Dickason

Time for Bingo



Pop along to the Village Hall for the next bingo session on:

Thurs 9th October, 7.30pm start

Last month £100 was donated to:
Motor Neurone Disease Association



Travel

Guide Swiss Trip 2014- the story continues

Day 4 Tuesday

Bit of a lie in this morning till 8am then it's off to Kandersteg on the other side of the mountains by bus - hooray. Here we go up cable car to the Rondelbahn or dry toboggan run. This proves great fun. The track is quite long and made of metal. The girls have 5 goes each and adults end up having about the same. The little ones went on this too and had a great time. Everyone cheered up now. After this walk down to Oeschinsee Lake and take bracing dip in its glacial waters. After last night I decide I should go in, as expected freezing but strangely invigorating. On way back up to cable car pass strange Asian women wearing widely inappropriate clothes eg wedge sandals and carrying umbrellas. Return via bus to Chalet for tea followed by the surprise that the adult leaders have done well to keep to ourselves. Set off a 7 for what turns out a longer than expected walk to the far side of the village. 2 girls feel sick on route but eventually make it to the travelling Circus Monti. This proves an entertaining evening with a great live band, an incredible female contortionist, tight rope walking, juggling and trapeze act. Quite a few errors with juggling and tight rope man fell off once but very entertaining. Managed to get complimentary bus back to village centre afterwards so only 10 minute walk uphill to finish night at 11pm.

Day 5 Wednesday

Today was a walk to the Woodcarvers not quite sure why as it was a bit disappointing when we eventually got there. The shop was very small and there was no talk or demonstration so might just as well have gone to the shop in the village. Weather raining again and progress slowed by a third bad knee. Went along the pretty Choleran gorge on way back, water here is very wild after all the rain. Squeeze in visit to Segway park which turned out to be the disused tennis courts in the old sports centre. Had fun time on the segways, a bit boring waiting for everyone as only 6 could go at a time. Returned to chalet for last minute Morris Dancing practise in preparation for Swiss Night. Set off at 7.30 to bus station and were taken with some Scouts from the Lake District to the cable car station and back up Sillerenbühl. We were allocated seats in a huge restaurant and had very good buffet meal. In all there were 10 guide and one large scout group there. 290 people in all. After eating we went downstairs and somehow all squeezed into one room. We enjoyed Swiss music on the piano accordion and yodelling as well as some pieces played on the Alpenhorn. After this each group did a short entertainment, the Scouts went first with a great gang show type song IF I WAS NOT A BIG BOY SCOUT A POLICEMAN I WOULD BE ETC with actions that was very well received. Most of the guide groups opted to sing so our Morris dancing was a bit different. We were lucky to be called to leave first and had to go back down cable car in the dark -it's usually closed after dark- lots of screaming as you cannot see when the bumpy sections are coming. Then back on bus with Scouts. I was near the scout who had been dressed up as a ballerina for their show piece. Girls all twittery by the time we got off bus and had trouble keeping them quiet walking back through residential areas. Light out 11.30pm

Day 6 Thursday

Free morning gives all the chance to spend the money burning a hole in their purses, so off to the village. About half group made bee line for the wonderful and expensive Swiss cake shop and sat outside- in the sun!!!!- eating cakes. After shopping had lunch in town square. Many of the girls had bought gifts of chocolate that was melting rapidly in the sun. About 8 people went off to try Paragliding and the rest of us walked to the Adventure Park. This consisted of 3 sets of Zip wires across a gorge, each pair set at different heights. There was also a wobbly wire bridge and the chance to abseil and try a pendulum swing. The Zip wires were great fun but I was too scared to get onto the wobbly bridge and there was no way I was going to jump over the bridge in a harness for the pendulum swing. I did manage to pluck up the courage to climb over the parapet of the bridge and abseil down. Unfortunately the park was not as well supervised for safety as is usual in the UK and several of the girls followed

each other too closely over the highest zip wire resulting in a bloody nose- fortunately not broken. After this the session was ended by a livid leader. Tea was a bit of a disaster tonight as wienerschnitzel was so overcooked it was impossible to cut. I volunteered to go back with the 2nd group for sleeping in straw- at least I got a second supper- fortunately didn't have to walk as the group contained all 3 bad knees so went by taxi.

DAY 6 Friday

Our last day and we're off to Engstligenalp which incidentally was the name of my patrol of 6 girls. Each year approx 350 cows climb the steep path beside the Engstligen waterfall to get to the summer pastures high in the mountains. We went up by cable as most people do. Lots of people about as it was Swiss National Day and it was a beautiful spot, kept looking for Julie Andrews. Our destination, a small farm house, almost totally covered by snow in winter, but is the summer home of one of the local farmers. Here he and his wife milk their 11 cows morning and evening and make cheese daily throughout the summer. The cheeses are stored in the cellar and turned and brushed daily some is sold to visitors but most kept for sale during the winter. While visiting we spotted some marmots that are rodents that look like small beavers. After our trip we returned to the cable car station and played mountain games in the grounds of the restaurant surrounded by grazing cows and goats. The games proved great fun and included rolling a large plastic cheese around a course, throwing balls at cow bells to make them ring and seeing how much milk we could get from the life size model of a cow in 1 minute. Amazingly my team managed to win but my prize, a pair of blue sunglasses, were quickly commandeered by the 6 year old. At least it was sunny! We returned for packing and cleaning. My group's room was awash with rubbish and I spent much of the afternoon running up and down emptying bins and sorting rubbish. That evening rain again affected proceedings and it was decided not to go to the Swiss Day carnival in the village. At about 9pm beacons could be seen dotted around the mountains and small firework displays. At 10pm the village put on a very impressive display to mark their special day and send us off in style. Before this, badges were given out and presents given. Feedback forms were handed out and all the girls seemed positive about their trip.

Day 7 Saturday home

Up at 5.30am and made it to coach on time. Went to airport with another group of 20 guides who had had their outbound plane cancelled due to storms and had had to be put up for 24 hrs in an airport hotel. Then their leader had eaten soup containing mushrooms in error and been ill for 2 days. We stopped at Lake Geneva for a couple of hours very much warmer there so all boiling with too many clothes. Geneva airport much better at handling group and whipped through check in and security in double quick time only to find plane delayed by bad weather at Heathrow! At Heathrow no sign of coach- no one had told us the procedure- anyway eventually found it and got home at 9pm only 1 hour late.

Anyone interested can view videos of Rondelbahn, Trottiland scootering and adventure park Adelboden on You Tube .

And what of the money raised by my Race Night? Well it was spent on snacks to supplement our meagre lunch rations so it went on biscuits, crisps that are unbelievably expensive and one round of ice creams on our last and sunny day.

More travel ...or how we nearly lost our Alan Whicker (Chesh)

Scafell Pike part 2

Last year when I was in the Lakes I scrambled up to what I thought was Scafell. Then the cloud came down and in spite of having maps etc. I came off the mountain down the wrong path and ended up in Langdale rather than Borrowdale. I had to call on my nephew, James to pick me up.

So this year, armed with technology I headed for the kick off point in Seathwaite. I had the OS maps on my iPad complete with a tracking feature so I could see exactly where I was, in real time. There were a lot of people going up to Scafell Pike that day, some better equipped than others. It was a nice warm clear day and I gradually made my way up to Sty Pass, taking breaks whenever necessary.

From there I went over Broad Crag and then the going became really difficult, in that it was a boulder field and you had to stagger over big rocks following a barely discernible path. Then I could see Scafell Pike in front, but to get there I had to drop down a very steep slope and then scrambled up an even steeper slope to get to the top. It was at this point I doubted both my sanity and my ability, so I gritted my teeth and did it in ten meter chunks. I had taken five hours so far.

The top is very rocky with a circular enclosure complete with a plaque that shows it was given to the nation in 1919. All this exertion had caused me to be dehydrated and I was going through the two bottles of water I had taken with me.

On the top I sent text messages to friends and family including one to my nephew James. He's a chef at a hotel and I had arranged to be with him at 7.30pm, so I sent him a text saying I was going to be late. I made my way back down the scree slope and eventually got onto the Corridor Route. This is a very stony awkward path back to Sty Pass. Except at some points it vanishes and you have to scramble up a rock face to try to pick the path up again. All the way I was tracking myself on the iPad and the OS maps, so I knew always where I was. I was also having to refill my bottles from mountain streams, hoping some sheep hadn't done something nasty in it. (There is a joke here but not for a family publication, Ed)

I sent James another text saying I would be really late.

I got back to the car at 8pm so I had been on the mountain 10 hours and I was feeling really exhausted, so I sent one more text to James, apologising and saying I would not be getting to his restaurant. I went back to Keswick where I had a beer and a pint of water then returned to the B&B. I jumped in a bath to ease the aching limbs and was in bed by 9.30pm

At 11.30pm there was a banging on my door and to my surprise there stood a policeman. He confirmed who I was and then said my nephew James had been so concerned when I had failed to turn up at the restaurant and had called the police, declaring I must be lost on the mountain. The police had then alerted Mountain Rescue. The police had then searched Keswick and found my car and then located the B&B where I was staying. I went back to bed embarrassed but also amused. The following day I went to nephew's hotel and found that he had changed his phone, so none of my text messages got through to him.

We had a bit of a laugh and I thanked him for being so caring. It was my sister who put everything in context by her reply text saying 'Well done, but remember you are 72 not 52.'

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Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red

I'm sure many of you would have heard of the display at the Tower of marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Created by ceramic artist Paul Cummins, with setting by stage designer Tom Piper, 888,246 ceramic poppies will progressively fill the Tower's famous moat. Each poppy represents a British military fatality during the war.

Every evening, the Last Post is played at sunset over the Tower moat preceded the names of some of the casualties represented by each poppy.

You can nominate a member of the Commonwealth forces who was killed in the First World War to have their name read out at the Tower at the nightly ceremony.

Accordingly I have nominated the 3 Paxton brothers who lived in Aston Abbotts and are commemorated on our war memorial. Their full names are:

Private A Paxton Grenadier Guards

Corporal W Paxton Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Private E J Paxton Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment)

I have since received notification that all 3 names will be read out as part of the ceremony on Saturday 4th October. The reading commences at 18:25 followed by the playing of the last post.

In response to huge interest they have started to record the Roll of Honour readings which are usually available a few days after the readings themselves.

For more information and a chance to buy one of the poppies please go to:

<https://poppies.hrp.org.uk/>

Aston Abbots Longest Runner Bean Competition 2014.

It was Saturday September 13th 2014 and once again the crowds gathered at the Royal Oak in Aston Abbots for the eagerly anticipated 'Longest Runner Bean Competition.

The holders of the 2013 prize, Simon Guy & Mike Bush (yes I know Cublington!), had spent all afternoon destroying their runner bean crop searching for the elusive 'contender'. Satisfied they had found one they wrapped the precious cargo in a towel and sallied forth to the village hostelry to display their wares.

Other contenders started to arrive to lay out there entrants in the garden of the pub. There were the usual categories:

1. The longest Runner Bean – for the Ray Wilkinson Memorial trophy.
2. The 3 best runner beans
3. Best Cheat

When all had been declared the judges were called. Unfortunately no one had told Jens & Vonnie that they were going to judge that evening so it was with some intrepidation that they hastily agreed.

The contestants hovered nervously as Jens got to grips with Andy Bystra's special runner bean measuring device. Finally the judges had made their minds up and it fell to Simon Guy to announce the winners. With the words sticking in his throat he announced that Tony Hinds had triumphed with a massive 18 and $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Second came Simon & Mike with a creditable 17 and $\frac{3}{4}$.

All in all a great evening. Many thanks to all those who participated and the judges too. Let's hope that next year the competition will be even fiercer with many more entrants.

Watch out for the Pumpkin Competition to be held on Friday 31st October. The categories are:

1. Heaviest
2. Best looking
3. Best Carved

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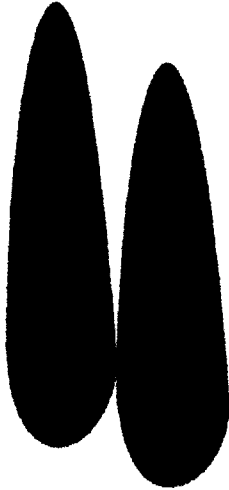
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Dear friends,

As I write this it is still quite warm but very misty looking out of my office window. Very autumnal and definitely past the summer holiday season.....

During the Summer I discovered a great book: "A place of greater safety" by Hilary Mantel (author of "Wolf Hall" which I haven't read yet). It's about the parallel lives of three young Frenchmen---Danton, Desmoulin and Robespierre--- who created the whole ethos of the French Revolution leading to the 'Terror' which took at least 20,000 lives including theirs in their mid-30's.

At nearly 800 pages it's a mega read but incredibly gripping: a great mingling of personal and political stories, of twisted psychology and a desire to hold on to aspects of normal family life whilst trying to change the world. Having done away with the monarchy, created a dictatorship the whole thing then led to Napoleon Bonaparte and an Imperial France alternating with secular republics (the French are on their 5th).

Underlying the whole story is the wrestling over faith and the dispossession of Church property and the temporary 'abolition' of God to be replaced by the cult of the Supreme Being---a philosophy of the mind with no heart or soul. No wonder the majority of people rejected it and waited for better and quieter times!

Today we have people all over the world waiting for the current madness to abate so they can return to their normal lives, trying to get alongside their neighbours of whatever faith and none in mutual respect.

Amongst Jesus' disciples was Simon the Zealot (a rebel against Rome) who Jesus welcomed but expected to renounce violence and hate as a prerequisite to being a follower. Peace is often the much harder path to tread than conflict and violence.

God Bless, Philip.

Reverend Philip Derbyshire
The Vicarage
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Contact: Kelly Targell – Pre-School Manager 01296 682217



ASTON ABBOTTS THEATREGOERS

The Waterside Theatre has again kindly offered a pair of 'press tickets' for each of the shows listed below. The tickets are free and you will usually also be offered a programme and a drink at half time. Tickets to be collected on the day from the box office or the Press Stand in the foyer.

If you would like to enter the draw for all or some of these shows then let me have an email (johnhardcastle@me.com) or a note through my door at Marloes, Lines Hill with a contact telephone number. The draw for each show will take place two weeks prior to the show date. *John Hardcastle*

Show	Date & Time
<i>A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM</i>	WED 10 SEP 7.30PM
<i>BUGLE BOY</i>	SAT 27 SEP 7.30PM
<i>THE SONGS OF SISTER ACT</i>	THU 2 OCT 7.30PM
<i>THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST</i>	MON 6 OCT 7.30PM
<i>THE ILLEGAL EAGLES</i>	THU 16 OCT 7.30PM
<i>ELLEN KENT OPERA: RIGOLETTO</i>	FRI 17 OCT 7.30PM
<i>THE PERFECT MURDER</i>	MON 20 OCT 7.30PM
<i>VAMPIRES ROCK</i>	SAT 1 NOV 7.30PM
<i>MOSCOW CITY BALLET'S THE NUTCRACKER</i>	THU 6 NOV 7.30PM
<i>ALOHA FROM HAWAII</i>	SAT 15 NOV 7.30PM
<i>BOND AND BEYOND</i>	FRI 21 NOV 7.30PM



Church Matters

The diary of St. James's

For this month's historical content my thanks go to Shirley Ford for providing, from her records, this insight into the finances of a PCC who obviously managed a rather ornate Church containing many painted and gilded figures from the Scriptures. I have no date for the Restoration work but the use of pre-decimal currency puts it, at least, before 1968.

Account of a bill for Restoration work for the Church

	£	s	d
1 Corrected the 10 Commandments	5	10	0
2 Embellished Pontius Pilate and put a new ribbon to his bonnet	1	0	0
3 Put new tail on Rooster of St Peter and mended his comb	1	5	0
4 Re-plumed and re-gilded the way of the Guardian Angel	7	15	0
5 Washed the servant of the High Priest and put carmine on his cheeks		10	0
6 Renewed Heaven, adjusted the Stars and thoroughly cleaned the Moon	3	5	0
7 Re-animated the flames of Purgatory and Restored Souls	1	7	6
8 Revived the flames of Hell, put new tail on the Devil, mended his left hoof and did several jobs for the Damned	4	16	6
9 Put new spotted dashes on the Son of Tobias and dressing on his sock	5	6	0
10 Cleaned the ears of Balaam's ass and shod him		14	0
11 Put earrings on the ears of Sarah	1	6	0
12 Put new stone in David's sling, enlarged the head of Goliath and extended his legs	2	5	0
13 Decorated Noah's Ark	3	0	0
14 Mended the shirt of the Prodigal Son and cleaned his nose		15	6
	38	15	6

Our wild area in the Churchyard has been much admired and Phil Spooner's photo on the front cover of last month's Chronicle beautifully portrayed the mixture of poppies and a whole range of wild flowers and grasses that are now established. Thanks to the efforts of the PCC for their cultivation and management skills.

Thanks to our Electricians (E. Sharp of Aston Clinton) we now have a "satisfactory" assessment for the electrical equipment in the Church and Rob O'Connell is due to start work on the restoration of the Boundary Wall and rainwater gullies this month. These two items of essential work, which are funded by the PCC, will cost over £10,000.

Four intrepid lady cyclists from the village participated in the 'Ride & Stride' event last month. When the first group of three left St. James Church around 10.30am they were looking forward to a hearty

breakfast at The Unicorn but I did hear that they also completed circular tour of four or five Churches finishing at Wingrave. Well done ladies, but where were the 'sturdy' men of the Village?

Sadly, for logistical reasons, we will not be holding our usual Harvest Supper and Auction this year but do come along to the Harvest Festival Service at 5pm on Sunday 5th October.

The Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 9th November; assemble at the War Memorial by the Church gate at 10.45am.

We will be holding another of our popular 'Race Nights' in the Village Hall on Friday evening, 28th November. Master of Ceremonies will be John Whyte; please contact Colin Higgs for details.

The Christingle Service will be at 4pm on Sunday 14th December and on the morning of Saturday 13th (10-12 in the Village Hall) there will be a workshop for children and the young at heart to prepare the decorations for Christingle. Carol Singers will be serenading around the village on the evening of Friday 19th and the Carol Service in Church will be on Monday 22nd December.

The Novice



**Services at
Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts
October – November 2014**

5th October	5.00pm	Harvest Festival (*)	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
12th October	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Peter Binns
19th October	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Siv Tunnicliffe
26th October	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Robert Wright
2nd November	6.00pm	Evensong	Annie Cooper
9th November	10.45am	Remembrance	Rev. Philip Derbyshire

(*) Note that the Harvest Supper & Auction will not follow the service this year

We look forward to seeing you

100 Club Draw - September

1st Prize, £50

Caroline McManus

2nd prize, £10

Andrew Ford



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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
Wingrave Post Office	PO Only	682964
Wingrave Post Office	Stores	681696
Wingrave School	Office	681436

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

To contact them call

101

This is a non-emergency number.

Alternatively, email them on:

WingNorthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

WINGRAVE POST OFFICE AND STORES

21 Winslow Road, Wingrave

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Fresh food available to order: Fruit and Vegetables - order by Wednesday, collect on Friday/Saturday Bread baked fresh daily - Large White Split Tin, Small White Farmhouse, Large and Small Wholemeal, French Sticks and Baguettes Pastries on Saturday and Sunday - Croissants, Pain au Chocolat. Pain au Raisin

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(Plus metered electricity - a returnable deposit of £50 at the time of booking is required)

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Please contact Tracy Hinds on 688479 if you wish to book

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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

Bob Carvey
12 The Green – 681053

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Peter Cooper
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham – 681250

County Councillor
Netta Glover - 688357

Parochial Church Council

Rev. Philip Derbyshire 01525 240287

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



ASTON ABBOTTS FIREWORKS

Wednesday 5th November 2014 on The Rec
Bonfire lit at 6.00 pm Fireworks at 6.30 pm
Soup and Hotdogs - Entrance Free

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I've accidentally swallowed some Scrabble tiles. My next visit to the loo could spell disaster.

What did the Mama Cow say to the baby cow? It's pasture bedtime...

Despite the risks to her health, my sister insists on drinking Diet Coke. I guess you could say she's a sodamasochist...

I went to a hypnotist yesterday - he convinced me I was the atomic number 82. I'm easily lead.

Have you heard about the evil group of men who control all the world's cheese? The hallouminati.

Bought the missus a hamster-skin coat last week. Took her to the fair last night, and it took me 3 hours to get her off the Ferris wheel.

A woman accompanied her husband when he went for his annual physical check-up. While the patient was getting dressed after the examination, the doctor came out of the examining room and said to the wife, "I don't like the way he looks." "Neither do I," she said. "But he's handy around the house."

I've been dating a TV weather girl as I thought it'd make a nice change to be with a woman that wasn't right all the time.

My daughter has just put the wife's sister in a hot-air balloon and quickly untied the tether. They're really upping the ante this time.

In 1997 if you asked a woman if you could Google her Wikipedia with your iPad, she would have slapped you.....

My favourite exercise is a cross

between a lunge and a crunch. It's called Lunch.

A young apprentice optometrist recently got careless and got his hand caught in the lens grinder. He wasn't seriously hurt...he just made a spectacle of himself.

My wife told me: 'Sex is better on holiday.' That wasn't a very nice postcard to receive.

Polygamy - the art of parrot-folding.

A man walked into B&Q and picked up a can of fly spray. "Is this good for wasps?" he asks the assistant. "No, it kills them" was the reply.

Chicken Teriyaki - The name of the oldest living Kamikaze pilot.

A female prisoner has told her guard that she will marry him if he helps her to escape. This is an example of using a proposition to end a sentence with.

Now I'm getting older my memory's not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

An Engineer just started his own business in Afghanistan. He's making land mines that look like prayer mats. It's doing well. He says prophets are going through the roof.

I'm the kind of guy who stops the microwave at 1 second just to feel like a bomb disposal expert.

Dentists make money off of people with bad teeth. Why should I trust the toothpaste they recommend?

My vacuum cleaner broke, so I put a Tottenham Hotspurs sticker on it and now it sucks again.

Yawning is your bodies way of saying 20% battery remaining.

Don't you just hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.

You know my father threw a camera at me once. I still have flashbacks.

I saw a guy on his motorcycle and the back of his shirt said "If you can read this the b*tch fell off."

One day while in a bank, an old lady asked if I could help her check her balance... so I pushed her over

I hate Circles, they're pointless

I'm friends with 25 letters in the alphabet. I don't know why.

There was a zoo that had one animal in it. That animal was a dog. It was a shitzu.

I used to live next to a farm and every time I passed the cows in the field I used to inexplicably shout abuse at them. Turns out I'm dairy intolerant.

This bloke said to me: 'I'm going to attack you with the neck of a guitar.' I said: 'Is that a fret?'

I thought Benefits Street was a budget box of chocolates that you could buy at Lidl.

Who remembers when X Factor was just Roman suncream?

Even the word misogyny is misogynistic. It should be ms-ogyny.

The only legitimate reason for smoking an electronic cigarette is if you are a robot that has just had sex with another robot.

My dad said: 'Always leave them wanting more.' Ironically, that's how he lost his job in disaster relief.

If I discovered a new animal I'd call it a Quorn just to mess with vegetarians. I don't believe in sceptics.

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THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine

October 2014

Village Hall Supplement

ASTON ABBOTTS VILLAGE HALL

A planning application has been made by the Parish Council to obtain a detailed planning consent to extend our Village Hall to provide additional floor space, better toilet accommodation and better access for disabled people. The result will make our Village Hall more comfortable for existing users and make it a more attractive proposition for future users. It is hoped to expand the potential market and increase income. You can view the application on AVDC's website. The planning application reference is 14/02748/APP.

The drawing below illustrates how the new extension will look on plan. In the area occupied by two new toilets it will be necessary to take account of existing tree roots from a nearby yew tree. This tree has a Tree Preservation Order. The tree roots are at floor level and are clearly visible. So as not to damage them the new floor level of the hall will need to be half a metre higher throughout so that there are no internal steps.

On the advice of the conservation officer the existing door will be kept for show but sealed shut. The officer is keen that the character of the building should be respected. New entrance doors will be formed at the top of the proposed ramps and stairs.

One of the new toilets will be suitable for use by wheelchair users. An occasional service door from this toilet gives access to the remaining small piece of open ground so that leaves and other debris that may accumulate can be removed.

Our Village Hall is in need of refurbishment. The kitchen is in a poor state. Because of a cracked drain the foundations at one end of the building have been slowly eroded and will need to be underpinned. The electrical wiring needs to be modernised.

Grants may be available to help towards the cost of the extension and the refurbishment. We villagers will need to demonstrate to any funders that we can match the monies we hope to attract. Best estimate at the moment is that the improvements will cost in excess of £125,000. The Trustees are holding approximately £25,000. The target for the village to raise is at least £50,000. The Trustees have lots of ideas about funding and look forward to discussing them with you and hearing your own ideas.

When planning approval is granted an application to Building Control will be made and documents prepared that can be used to go out to tender. The cost of this consultancy work will be taken from the monies held by the Trustees.

It is proposed to hold a meeting in January (date to be announced) in the Village Hall so that these proposals can be displayed and your views can be heard and discussed. It is anticipated that AVDC will make their decision during December.

*John Hardcastle (Chairman), Peter Shorrocks, Nigel Palmer (Treasurer),
Caroline Lane, John Whyte, Liz Hall (Secretary).*

