

# THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine



**“In Flanders Fields the Poppies blow”**

# EDITORIAL

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 346

November 2014

In this issue as we approach remembrance Sunday

An article titled “My first taste of action” I have no idea who wrote it, it appeared through my door in handwritten form but seems particularly appropriate at this time of year. I do hope that I have transcribed it correctly and apologies for any errors especially with regard to ranks. Thank you to whoever took the time to write this.

From Simon Guy a link to the Roll of Honour at the Tower of London where the names of the village dead can be heard. I have mentioned it before but would recommend that you make the trip to see the poppies at the Tower of London.

One or two things have been moved around in this edition but they’re in there somewhere, trying to group all church items together.

Thanks somewhat in advance to Kevin Copping and his crew for what I am sure will be another fabulous firework display. Please go along and support it.

Unfortunately just realised that due to half term holidays this may not get to you as early as I’d hoped.

Again thanks to all contributors, and Phil Spooner for the tech help; if for any reason I’ve left anything out, apologies.

Phil Corrigan

## Snippets & Miscellanea

### Royal Oak News

#### Diary Dates

**Pumpkin comp Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Oct**

**Will it be the Triple Crown for Tony Hinds**

Roast lunches every Sunday,  
recommended that you book.

### Quote of the month

“I’d like to see you dressed all in fur”

Cllr R Clarke to Simon Guy

Ellie & tom (16 years old) are available for babysitting, dog sitting and walking, looking after all animals from horses to hamsters, plus lawn mowing and odd jobs. Phone 681182

Francesca, Elizabeth, Nicholas, Victoria and Valerie would wish to extend heartfelt thanks to those who sent cards, flowers and kind thoughts on the death of Bernard.

What would we have done without ‘Les Girls’ helping to prepare huge amounts of sandwiches? The ‘Tea Lady’ who surely was an ex W.V.S stalwart.

To David (master electrician, “General Factotum”) for his expertise in setting up ‘Dad’s Army’.

How fortunate we are to be given such care, love and support from all “Astonians”.

# 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 November

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rambling Club	no details given contact Colin	
	Evensong	St James	6 pm
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	Rambling Club Planning Meeting	13 Moorlands Wing	2 pm
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bonfire / Fireworks	The Rec	6.30 pm
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Whist Drive	Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Service	War Memorial	10.50 am
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Bingo	Village Hall	7.30 pm
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	Village footpath walk	The Green	2 pm
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Whist Drive	Village Hall	7.30 pm
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mobile Library	The Green	10.30 am
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	St Andrews Day		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent		

NB it is regretted that the race night is cancelled.

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## ALLOTMENT DIARY

I was casually listening to programme called “The Museum of Curiosities” on the radio last Monday, when one of the guests started talking about vegetables which are commonly eaten, but which are poisonous when raw. She alleged that there was type of bean that had to be cooked twice, one week apart, or it remained poisonous! I did some research on Google, and could not find any mention of this particular bean; but I did discover that kidney beans MUST be cooked for at least 10 minutes, since they contain a toxin called phytohaemagglutinin, and the cooking is necessary to remove this. Eating the beans uncooked will cause severe digestive problems, and has even been known to kill. Even more remarkably the root called cassava, (from which tapioca is made), which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest source of carbohydrates in the tropics, contains cyanide, and must be well cooked to remove this. Failure to do so can cause intoxication, or ataxia or partial paralysis, and has in occasional cases been known to kill.

One has to wonder how many cooks were hurt – or even died - in the discovery of the necessity to cook the vegetables concerned: and who decided it was worthwhile persevering with the vegetable, despite the mortality rate!

Finally on this topic, I had always been told that when potatoes are exposed to light because they grow too close to the surface, so that part is green in colour, the green part is poisonous. I had suspected that this was an old wives’ tale, but have discovered that, sure enough, it is true. The green flesh contains a poison called solanine, which can also cause grave digestive problems, and even death. There was no suggestion that this chemical can be removed by cooking, and so it is best to throw the green part away – which you probably do anyway.

Interestingly the person to whom I was listening on the radio said that when potatoes were first introduced into Europe, they were viewed with great suspicion, and the whole tuber was believed to be poisonous, not just the bits which were a green colour. She said that in France it was not until someone planted a field of potatoes and placed guards round the field, that the local peasants thought they might after all be worth eating: with the result that inevitably some of the potatoes were stolen and then planted by locals; and thus the plant became accepted and established!

As you may have gathered from this diversion, not much is happening on the allotments at the moment: everyone is winding down for winter. Other allotment holders have confirmed to me that their sweet-corn crops have suffered at the hands (or rather, beaks) of magpies, and like me are bereft of ideas about how to deal with the problem. Unless you only grow a handful of plants, netting is not the answer, since the expense would be prohibitive. We can’t arrange for shots to be fired at regular intervals, or for a radio to come on, because of the proximity of New Zealand Cottages. I have not yet tried a scarecrow, but doubt if this would be successful for long. Poison is not appropriate (quite apart from the morality of using poison to kill wild birds) because of the risk of dogs or cats eating it. If any reader, (or allotment holder to whom I have not spoken) has any ideas, I should be glad to hear them.

You may finally remember that in my attempt to remove one of the muck heaps from the orchard, which was causing acrimonious correspondence earlier this year, I spread large quantities of it on my allotment. One of my fellow allotmenters, Paul Bruton, pointed out to me recently that this was why my plot was now displaying an extremely luxuriant carpet of weeds: what was good for my veg, was even better for my weeds! And he thinks that both of us have acquired some new weeds this year which have almost certainly come from the manure! It’s a case of every silver lining having a cloud!

Peter Shorrocks

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& apple, garlic saute potatoes & cider jus  
Beer battered cod, hand cut chips & minted mushy peas  
served with homemade tartare sauce

**PHONE : 01296 681 262**



## First experience of Action

I remember, as dawn broke, seeing from my weapon pit on a little hill, 6 enemy tanks and some of their crew.

We opened fire but soon realised that a Bren gun is no match for a 17 pounder on a German Tiger tank.

Completely isolated and without food and water I eventually decided that we must go in search of friendly troops. We set out after dark carrying (as taught) arms and ammunition only. Our first obstacle was a barbed wire fence and minefield. I lifted the mines so that the platoon could file through and after about a mile came to a farm. A corporal and I approached it with anxiety and were very relieved to hear "Halt! Who goes there?"

The farm was occupied by a company of a county regiment and we were put into trenches in front of the position.

The enemy attacked at dawn and we returned fire so that the enemy went to ground. We sniped at the slightest movement and used our 2 inch mortar and mid – morning a white piece of cloth was raised followed by a soldier with arms up and then others.

I went out to meet them and we sent about 30 back to Company HQ.

The next morning a group of the enemy rushed our rear and occupied some of our fellow defenders trenches. I was told that one of my Lance Corporals from his trench found himself looking, face to face, at a steel helmeted German who said "you surrender". Apparently the L/Corporal said "xxxx you" and fired his Bren gun.

From a safe position, in basic German the Company Commander called on the enemy to give themselves up. This they did and they were seated under guard at the rear of the farmhouse.

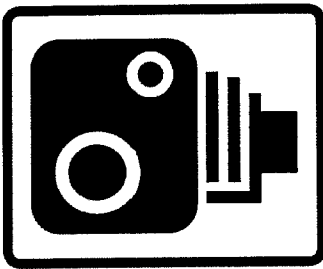
Weeks later I attended a lecture by an artillery officer who recounted how he'd seen these Germans at the farm so "opened fire with the whole divisional artillery" Learning they were P.O.Ws he thought it very funny. I took the opportunity to notify him that it wasn't funny being on the receiving end.

Two of my fellows were missing for a while and I asked them why. They said "coming by the pit where the reserve ammunition is we saw smoke coming from it. So we lifted all the ammunition out, put out the fire, and put it all back "

Command decided that a "battle group" should patrol in front of our position accompanied by my platoon. I went to hear the orders including "the withdrawal signal will be a green Verrey light. I passed on the orders to the platoon but deliberately omitted this information.

After a while there was a bit of a do, we were halted, up went the green Verrey light and everyone disappeared except my platoon. It was a lovely evening and after a while we got up and patrolled right across our front with no troubles at all.

After about 10 days we were returned to the remnants of our own Battalion. Many had been lost – but I still remember them. Anon



# Speeding in Aston Abbotts

The police have informed Aston Abbotts parish council that, due to resourcing issues, they can no longer attend to investigate unsubstantiated complaints about speeding within the villages.

They have recently been a number of complaints by villagers about cars speeding through the village, but without evidence the police will not now investigate any further. Therefore the onus is upon the village to obtain this evidence.

This leaves the village with two options:

The purchase (or loan) and use of a SID – a Speed Indicator Device. You may have seen these in other villages. They indicate the speed of cars as they approach, sometimes accompanied by a smiling or frowning face. The device also records some data as to the number of motorists that are exceeding the limit. This might require the Parish Council to spend some money on the speed indicator device, but will definitely require the installation of permanent approved mounting posts at various locations in the village. These cost several hundred pounds each.

The second option is to gain evidence by having temporary manned speed measuring traps in the village from time to time. You may have seen these and other villages, with a couple of people in yellow jackets recording the speed of cars as they pass. This provides more accurate data, but it requires volunteers to man the devices, usually for around two hours at a time.

Aston Abbotts Parish Council would like an indication of what villagers would like to do. If you are concerned about speeding the in village then please answer the two questions below and put your responses through the door of any parish councillor or through the door of the parish clerk, Paul Bruton, which is 53 The Green (the house next to the entrance to The Grove).

Do you agree that the parish council should spend some of its precept money (the parish council portion of your council tax) on speed indicator device(s) and mounting posts? **YES / NO**

If the parish council were able to obtain the loan of a radar speed measuring device would you be prepared to volunteer to man it for a couple of hours (training will be given)? **YES / NO**

If YES, Name: ..... Phone Number:.....

Thank you for your time. Your responses will be used to assist the parish council in deciding what action to take about speeding complaints in the future.

## **In Flanders Fields**

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The Larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We Lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from falling hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

John McCrea  
May 1915

Thank you for your submission for the Roll of Honour at the Tower of London.

As you may be aware, due to public demand we began filming the ceremonies on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August. The archive site with the videos is now live and the video of 4<sup>th</sup> October Roll of Honour is now ready to view. You can watch the recording at: <http://poppies.hrp.org.uk/roll-of-honour/4th-october/>

Thank you for your support and your participation in this project to remember those lost in the First World War. To read more about this amazing installation please visit: <http://poppies.hrp.org.uk/>

Kind regards,

Kate Pritchard

Roll of Honour Team - Historic Royal Palaces

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Autumn is definitely with us – especially to-day, the day of the gales. Even before the gales, the leaves and berries were being blown off the hedgerows. Sheep love the hedgerow fruits, particularly the ash keys and crab apples. In Bellinghams fields we are grazing young breeding sheep and they seem to be thoroughly fed up with the stale grass and are spending their days burrowing into the hedges and, as a result, are occasionally caught up in the brambles.

The weather is basically still very mild and now we have had rain many of the fields have been sown and those beautiful fresh green shoots will soon be emerging. Incidentally we have had another year without any mushrooms from the fields – perhaps I don't get up early enough now in my dotage!

One of the things we have too many of at present is squirrels, or tree rats as a friend of mine calls the grey pests. I have to admit the grey squirrels do work hard, so hard that they have successfully stripped our pear tree of its half grown fruit back in July. Next it was the turn of our figs and then our sweet chestnuts. Now they are busy burying conkers in the now soft grass fields. A friend had planted several really nice spinneys on his farm about 15 years ago – mostly oak and ash, and several other species as well, and he is hoping for some nice stands of oak for his grandchildren. This year squirrels stripped the bark from the tops of 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the oaks, so ruining them as good timber producers. We used to be paid a bounty for shooting grey squirrels; 2 shillings/tail, I seem to remember, but even that incentive seemed to have little effect in controlling the infestation. Eventually we shall have to take some serious measures as commercial forestry is suffering dreadfully from squirrel damage.

It is amazing that here in mid October in a gale I have seen a red admiral butterfly on some garden flowers. Dragon flies are still about and bumble bees are still working hard on Michaelmas Daisies. However another true autumn sign, a flock of long tailed tits visited our garden last week, hunting in the plum and holly trees for insect food.

So, on to this month's star prize – again difficult to decide; either (1) In the middle of a lovely fresh grass field a perfect dandelion flower with a honey bee busy at work on it – neither should have been out but it was perfection. (2) The small golden tree in the front garden of Rose Cottage with the morning sun shining through it. The tree seemed alight with a wonderful glow of pure gold. Will there be anything beautiful left for the end of November? Of course there will be, even if it is only a fiery sun – set from Lines Hill – there's always beauty in our special Parish

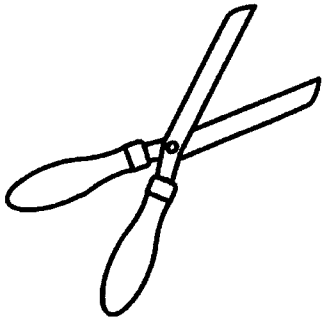
Peter

## 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 Abbotts. Police tell us that checks in other villages have shown that a significant number of the offenders are often local residents themselves!

**THANK YOU**

# *The Astonians Part 3*

On a bitterly cold winter's morning Julie Brantten, the gorgeous but slightly slow blonde at No3, was having breakfast with her husband listening to Aston Abbots Radio during breakfast. They heard the announcer say, "We are going to have 8 to 10 inches of snow today in Aston Abbots. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street so the Snow ploughs can get through". So Julie went out and moved her car as instructed.

A week later while they are eating breakfast again, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 10 to 12 inches of snow today in Aston Abbots. You must park your car on the odd-numbered side of the street, so the snow ploughs can get through". Julie went out and moved her car again.

The next week they are again having breakfast when the radio announcer says, "We are expecting 12 to 14 inches of snow today in Aston Abbots. You must park....." Then the power went off as it typically does in this village. Julie was very upset and with a worried look on her face she said, "I don't know what to do. Which side of the street do I need to park on so the snow ploughs can get through?"

Then, with all the love and understanding in his voice for his troubled blond wife, her husband, John Brantten replied "Why don't you just leave the bloody car in the garage today?"

<p>Town Farm</p>	<p>Paintings, Illustration Ceramics, Glass, Woodcraft Woodcarving, Stonecarving Printed Textiles, Jewellery <a href="http://www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com">www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com</a></p>
<p>ART SHOW</p>	<p>Festive art show in Cheddington: hand-crafted, high quality Christmas gifts plus mulled wine, Christmas cake &amp; Belgian waffles</p> <p><b>ONE WEEKEND ONLY</b> Friday 28 ~ Sunday 30 November 10am ~ 5pm</p> <p>6 Town Farm, Cheddington, Nr Tring, LU7 OTT PLEASE PARK ON HIGH STREET ~ NOT IN TOWN FARM</p> <p>Free entry - Donations for refreshments in aid of Rennie Grove Hospice Care</p>



## 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.


The shop has quirky handmade gifts and scents for your home and all occasion jewellery, handbags and scarves for you.

We'll apply a 10% discount on all purchases until the end of June 2014. Just mention that you've seen our advert.

To have a mooch around, come and visit us at:

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Website: [www.holycowhome.co.uk](http://www.holycowhome.co.uk)

 [www.facebook.com/holycowhome](http://www.facebook.com/holycowhome)



# Aston Abbotts Parish Council

## Summary of Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014

**Present:** - Cllr's C Higgs (Chair), Mrs J Hardcastle, Mrs K Curry, P Spooner, R Clarke, B Carvey, P Bruton (Clerk), County Cllr. N Glover, District Cllr P Cooper.

**County Councillor Glover** County Councillor presented her report that included an update of the problems involved with the introduction of free school meals for infant schools caused by under funding by Government. Transport were continuing to work tirelessly on the roads, gully teams had been out clearing drains across the County. A new App was being developed for reporting problems but in the meantime continue to log into [www.buckscc.gov.uk/telltfb](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/telltfb) to report problems. Finally it was noted that District Council meetings were now being shown on Webcast so log in at [www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk).

**District Councillor Cooper** reported to Council that the Wing Exchange was scheduled for a broadband upgrade during the first quarter of next year. We had unfortunately missed the deadline for submitting the application for the cycleway, however the feasibility study would be completed and the LAF had agreed to contribute £4,000 to cover the anticipated cost of this. Cllr. Carvey expressed some concern that given a potential reduction the available funding next year that there would not be sufficient funds available for the project and therefore the study would be lost money. Aston Abbotts exposure was potentially 25% of any shortfall between the actual cost of the study and the £4,000 estimate covered by the LAF contribution. Finally Cllr Cooper brought to the attention of Councillors that a number of locations in the District were considering planning applications for Solar Farms and these included Wing Airfield, Berton and Ledburn.

**Neighbouring Parish Liaison** – Cllr Carvey raised the matter of liaising with Neighbouring Parishes as it appeared we sat between two active groups of smaller parishes. As a result we may be missing out on opportunities particularly given BCC were looking to devolve services to Town and Parish Councils. He felt that unless we joined these groups then as our Precept and electoral register was small we would not benefit from any potential improvement in services that local groups may be able to provide. There followed considerable discussion on the areas and practicalities involved. We did work with Wingrave and Rowsham and tended to join in on an as and when required basis and as we had not identified any areas we wished to explore we had not formally joined forces with neighbouring parishes. It was agreed that Councillors would consider the opportunities and areas we may wish to develop and discuss further at future meetings.

**Speed watch** – The Clerk had circulated various information and costs in respect of this subject and after discussion it was agreed that Cllr Spooner would prepare a note for the Chronicle to obtain residents opinions on the value of investing in the equipment and whether they were prepared to volunteer to form a Road Safety Group.

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**PM.**

Referrals welcome

**Neighbourhood Plan** – It was noted that the Vale of Aylesbury Plan was not due for completion until 2017 and the current advice from AVDC was to carefully consider undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan at this time. In addition we had received from Community Impact Bucks a note advising that for a cost of £10,000 we could produce an plan ready for submission in an 18 week period. There followed discussion on the value of adopting an NP at this time and also the cost and benefit to the village. It was noted that a number of neighbouring parishes were in the process of or already had Plans in place. It was AGREED that more information was required before committing to such a large expense and this would be circulated and investigated before the next meeting at which it would be decided whether we were going to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.

**Devolved Services** – The impact of this policy would be considered when developing the budget for next year's precept. The Clerk would update the accounts and distribute for next month's meeting.

**Community Right to Bid** – The Clerk was authorised to approach the Land Registry to ascertain the owners of the properties identified as important to our Community.

**Planning Application Village Hall** – The Clerk confirmed the application had been submitted and a copy of the application was in the circulation folder.

**Rural Exception Scheme** – Cllr Carvey circulated the draft letter received from Community Impact Bucks that was being distributed to Parishioners and it was AGREED to approve the letter. The revised timetable was also reported that showed the results being sent to us by the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Make sure you book in your festive celebration early... and be rewarded too!



Our new Festive Menu is now available on the website and bookings are now being taken by the Unicorn team. Make sure you book in early to avoid any disappointment. Remember we also have a private dining room for hire for up to 30 diners, so why not hold your company celebration at the award winning Unicorn?

## *This October*

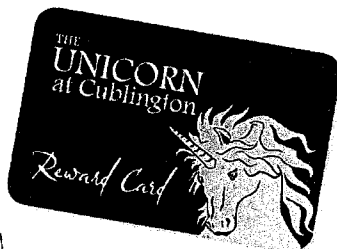
Friday 10th – Three Bar Fire  
 Tuesday 14th – Folk Music  
 Friday 31st – Dinner & Jazz

## *in December...*

1st Festive Menu starts - see website for details  
 Tuesday 9th – Folk Music  
 Wednesday 10th – *Sloe Gin Competition*  
 Saturday 13th Live music with 3 Bar Fire  
 Friday 19th – The Spokes Christmas Special  
**Book your tables now!**

Got yours yet?

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- Present your card every time you buy something from The Unicorn.
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*Aylesbury Vale Family Pub of the Year!*

## PLUS enjoy these Unicorn Regulars:

**Shop open** for milk, butter and other essentials. Pre-orders required for freshly prepared produce.

**Coffee & Homemade cake**  
 Friday & Saturday morning from 10.30am

**Afternoon Tea**  
 Pre-book a rather special English afternoon tea on any weekday between 3 and 5pm at The Unicorn.

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

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

**Sundays - Best of British Roasts**  
 12pm - 4pm Booking strongly advised

**Bar Snacks** available always!

**Hold your business meetings** in our private Club Room

**FREE WiFi internet access!**  
 Ask for details



@the\_unicorn\_pub



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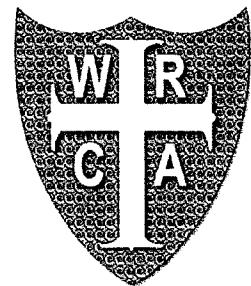
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## Letters Page

Dear Sir,

What is the influx of reflective markers about on Moat Lane? What an eyesore! One can only presume it is to guide the already speeding traffic round the corner safely! I am very disappointed, I thought we lived in a village not the M25!

Jane

Dear Sirs, (there's only me Ed.)

On Sunday, 5th October 2014 there was a power cut in the village and since there has been a large generator adjacent to the Green.

Frankly the noise it produced was excruciating. This was torment for the many villagers living nearby, especially with young children we're trying to get (and keep) to sleep. At time of writing, still no communication has been received from any party regarding the length this inconvenience will carry on for. Quelle surprise, the electricity company has erected a wall of silence. As a village in future can we have a commission set up to communicate when something like this happens? Letter through the door, email out (I remember giving my email address at the summer fete), text message etc.

We are fortunate enough to earn from the fete, etc. Can't a small proportion be diverted to communication methods with villagers in the event of the requirement of widespread communication such as this?

Maybe the Parish Council would like to be involved in this as it will make our lives easier and better.

I await your response.

Anon (but somewhere near the generator methinks Ed)

**In the event of future power cuts if you text Power and your postcode to 80876 you will get regular text updates from UK Power. Ed**

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# SHUTS



*Every little shop*

Every little helps.... Dave Lewis!

I'm sure you'll all join me in congratulating our resident pilot, engineer and philanthropist Dave Lewis in taking over the hotseat at behemoth super market chain, Tesco.

As we all know, nothing fazes "our Dave" and I'm sure he will turn the current corporate laughing stock into a corporation that reflects his integrity and passion (calm down, everyone). He's got a job on his hands though - where on earth will he be able to park the corporate jet?

As I read down the current stocks and shares, Tesco has taken another dive. First job on Dave's to-do list was looking down the back of the sofa to cover for the overstatement of Tesco's profits by £263m (originally stated as £250m). Sadly this only brought 87p and a half eaten Mars bar. In the meantime, this meant more gloom for keyboard warriors and our 'honest-as-the-day-is-long-guv' traders in the City.

Hey, things could be worse. You could be Nick Clegg!!

Ha, ha.

Best of luck Dave,

Yours,

W.M. Morrison.

J W SARGENT HAS CHANGED NAME AND IS TRADING AS

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## The Arty Bits .....Books.....Music....Theatre & Travel

### Book Club

Ah, there was a September review; the reviewer had the audacity to try and blame me for its omission. Ed

The Book Club met at my house in September to discuss 'One Hundred Years of Solitude' by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Marquez, a Columbian, who died last April, won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1982, and his novels and short stories have sold over 30 million copies.

Well... this book certainly provoked a lot of debate. Several members found it unreadable. Those that persevered certainly found it a difficult read, chronicling one hundred years in the lives of a Columbian family, the Buendia's. Confusingly, the Buendia's chose to give each generation of first and second born males the same forenames. This, and the the uncertain timeline certainly added to the challenge of understanding what was happening, when, and to whom. Although some parts were based on real events that had occurred in Columbia, there was also a large element of fantasy to the story, with some very weird and interesting characters.

If anyone is interested in reading this novel, I am sure there are several members of Book Club who will be only too glad to pass on their copy.

Personally, I intend to re-read the book at some time as I'm hoping I'll make more sense of it the second time round. Mind you, I'm always full of good intentions.

Deirdre Whyte

## **A MIGHTY HEART by Mariane Pearl**

The *Wall Street Journal* reporter, Daniel Pearl, was kidnapped and beheaded by a group of terrorists in Pakistan in 2002. *A Mighty Heart* is an account of the events leading up to and including Danny's kidnapping and murder as experienced by Mariane, Danny's wife, who was pregnant at the time.

Mariane gives us all the details of her ordeal as she and her close friend Asra, an Indian –born Muslim raised in America, together strive to trace the people involved in Danny's disappearance.

Danny was on an assignment to interview Sheikh Gilani, a Muslim cleric suspected of having Al Qaeda connections, when he disappeared. It was later established that Danny's kidnap was planned and orchestrated by Omar Sheikh, a onetime London School of Economics student turned Islam militant with a propensity for kidnapping Westerners.

Mariane comes over as a highly intelligent, accomplished and determined person as she and Asra pick through Danny's computer and gradually build up a chart linking events and people with Danny's assignment.

Enter 'Captain' (chief of the Pakistan CID antiterrorist unit), Randall Benett (security officer at the US Consulate in Karachi) and John Bussey (Danny's boss at the *Wall Street Journal*). Mariane and Asra gain the respect and deep affection of these three men who lead the investigation.

The reader gets to know Captain very well. He is a highly moral, compassionate and intelligent man and Mariane values his friendship greatly. We also get to know Asra and John Bussey well but we don't really get to know Mariane and, although she gives us a good idea of Danny's character in the first few chapters, by the end of the book we don't feel that we really know him either.

The book was an interesting and compelling read but it managed to disappoint most of us in the book club. By choosing the book, I thought we may obtain a better insight into the minds of fundamental terrorists but the book failed in this respect. It did however give us a better understanding of the reasons why journalists put themselves into uncertain and dangerous situations in the pursuit of truth.

Gay Walker

## **ASTON ABBOTTS THEATREGOERS**

The Waterside Theatre has continued to make available tickets to see shows and events. Since the end of April this year the following villagers took advantage of this kind offer:-

Sally Turnham, Bob Carvey, Sondra Dickason, Carol Bates, Pete Lucas, Judy Hardcastle, Kate Newsham, Sue Wheatley, Sally Palmer, Gavin Winston, David Gray, June Cox, Carolyn Guse.

If you would like to enter the draw for a free pair of tickets then look out for the next batch of shows that hopefully will appear in the Chronicle in the New Year.

*John Hardcastle*

## Theatre

### Ellen Kent's Rigoletto at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Firstly, a note from the programme on line:

*"Ellen Kent's Opera & Ballet International presents an Ellen Kent Production Verdi Rigoletto, the masterpiece they tried to ban featuring a magnificent golden eagle with a seven-foot wingspan. The celebrated Chisinau National Opera and Philharmonic return after their critically acclaimed tour of Aida, Nabucco and La Boheme. A stunning traditional production recapturing the decadence of Renaissance Italy with lavish sets and opulent costumes, Verdi's masterpiece Rigoletto is a dramatic tale of the jester's daughter whose heart is stolen by a charming but unreliable ruler – and how her father's attempts to prevent the love affair lead to tragedy. The opera was almost banned because it exposed the licentious behaviour of the powers-that-be at court."*

Might I suggest that they ban this particular production! This is not based on disappointment that the live eagle didn't demonstrate his seven-foot wingspan, or the amazement that there were three completely nude women on stage for some considerable time in very bright lights! The fact that there were only ten in the chorus, two of whom didn't sing, is another clue that this just couldn't be Verdi at its best! It was very much a 'stand and bark' production with the dramaturgy often being ridiculous. My main criticism, however, is that the singers, with the exception of the soprano who sang Gilda and the bass who sang Sparuficile, just weren't up to the job in hand. I could forgive them if they couldn't act but they just couldn't sing that well! Everything was belted out with the same force and expression, like some marathon-shouting event.

Having said all of this, the audience mostly loved it – lots of clapping and applause at the end. When the aria "La Donna è Mobile" was sung, there was a sigh of recognition from the audience who then wildly applauded.

Ellen Kent herself came on to the stage at the end. I thought perhaps to apologise but it was to ask for donations to a Save a Greyhound charity, there being two greyhounds in the opening scene – much overlooked due to the cavorting naked maidens, I fear.

In case I sound less than grateful, I would like to thank John Hardcastle very much for giving me the opportunity to have another go at experiencing an Ellen Kent production. Kate Curry and I both saw Nabucco last year and thought maybe it was just an extremely difficult opera to stage. In Ellen Kent's defence, she is tireless in her desire to bring opera to the nation and patrols up and down the country year after year with varying operas, all of which boast in the publicity the extravagance of the production. Personally, I feel that successful opera should grip you emotionally and the only way it can succeed is through beautiful voices, not through greyhounds or eagles!

Carolyn Guse

## The Importance of Being Earnest

I am the lucky Aston Abbotts resident who won the raffle for the Press Tickets to see this fabulously updated version of Oscar Wilde's well loved, all-time-favourite classic, performed at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. The play arrived fresh from London's West End with the most impressive, star studded cast including Nigel Havers, Martin Jarvis, Sian Phillips, Rosalind Ayres and Cherie Lunghi to name but a few.

Described as a trivial comedy for serious people, the play famously mocks the hypocrisies of Victorian society. Two single men, John Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, have invented fictitious characters and scenarios to assist them in their aim to woo and marry the two female love interests, Gwendoline Fairfax and Cecily Cardew respectively; whilst all the time trying to win the approval and blessing of the formidable but loveable, Lady Bracknell. Their antics are hilarious.

With a new take on an old script the mighty cast presented themselves to us, the audience, as an Amateur Dramatic Group calling themselves The Bunbury Company of Players. The curtain opens on the group rehearsing their performance of The Importance of Being Earnest. A play within a play if you like.

So for example, Sian Phillips plays Lavinia Spelman, co-founder of the Bunbury Company of Players who is cast as Lady Bracknell...'she who has to be obeyed' in the play, so to speak.

Nigel Havers plays AmDram actor and notorious womaniser, Richard 'Dicky' Oldfield, playing Algernon Moncrieff, who is thus portrayed even more playfully as the upper class playboy of the plot.

The other eligible bachelor, John Worthing, is played by Martin Jarvis presenting himself as Anthony Scottney - a long serving member of the Bunbury Company of Players, with considerable acting credits under his thespian belt. You get the drift.

The result is delightful and very pleasing. Of course, it gives the opportunity for these mature actors to take on the roles of much younger characters. And they did so gleefully. Their joy was infectious. The audience lapped it up. Their wealth of experience spoke volumes.

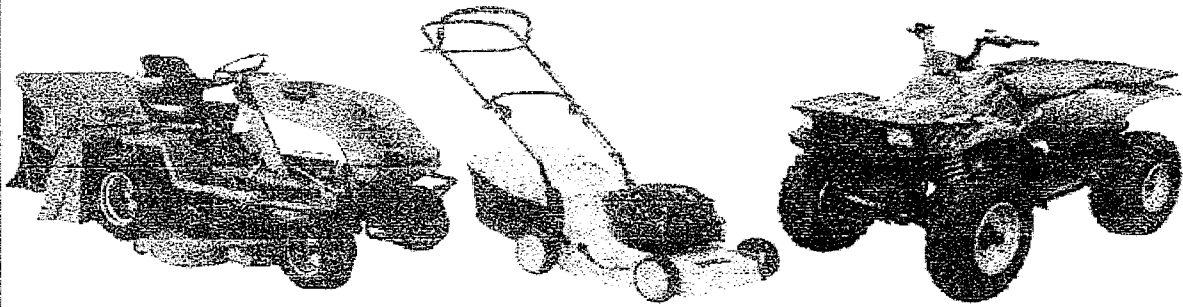
The Production is directed by Lucy Bailey with the new material written by Simon Brett. It was over too soon and left us wanting more. Yet another top quality London show performed in our very own, unique, local theatre. Wonderful! With thanks to John Hardcastle for organising the complimentary tickets. It's a free draw but you have to be in it to win it!

June Cox

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## Travel ...

I think Alan (Chesh) Wicker is still recovering from his last ordeal up a mountain! If it was a Welsh mountain I could make more tasteless jokes.

Thankfully another intrepid Aston Abbotts traveller .....

## A trip to Russia

The reaction of most people on hearing that we were visiting Russia for our holidays was 'Why?' Having been there we can now safely answer 'Why would you not go!!' Yes, there were some minor local difficulties, but the strong impression we gained was of a vibrant country swiftly recovering its confidence.

Our impressions were gained from a 2 night stay in Moscow, a 3 night stay in St Petersburg and a 6 night river cruise between these two cities. But first there was the question of visas and border control. The visa application process would put many off – one of the easier questions being list out all the countries that you have visited in the last 10 years. Armed with the relevant documents we approached border control. I got the smart inscrutable lady who asked no questions. Sally was asked where she was staying, the magic password, given at the second attempt, being '*Volga Dream*'.

Having checked into our hotel we wandered out into the streets in search of a restaurant. The Russian alphabet is a challenge but fortunately all decent restaurants provided menus in English. Fed and watered we decided to take a walk around the Kremlin. This turned out to take rather longer than anticipated as we had arrived on Moscow's 867<sup>th</sup> birthday and Red Square was occupied by the equivalent of the Edinburgh tattoo. We eventually came across a big screen and observed for free the last half hour of the spectacular show, the accompanying light show and fireworks.

The highlights of our extensive sightseeing included the following:

- An impromptu performance from a visiting choir from Crimea in a Kremlin Cathedral, the control and quality of the singing was breath taking.
- An extensive tour of the *Kremlin* and its many gold coated onion shaped towers, and a close up view of St Basil's Cathedral (the one with the multi-coloured ceramic onion shaped towers).
- *The Armoury Museum*. Think Faberge eggs, rooms full of gold, silver and crystal items, intricate dresses (one female Tsar never wore the same dress twice) and fabulous horse drawn coaches. But even this display of the Tsar's wealth was completely overshadowed when we came to visit the palaces in St Petersburg.
- *Christ the Saviour Cathedral* which was totally demolished by the Soviets, on the grounds that the people should worship Lenin and Stalin. The proposed replacement 'Palace of the Soviets' was never built and Nikita Krushchev built a swimming pool instead. The rebuilding of the Cathedral, which took 8 years, was finished in the year 2000 complete with icons, frescos, and crypt. No expense spared.
- A tour of the *Moscow Metro*. The stations we saw contained, fantastic murals, statues, lighting and the trains were pretty efficient too.

All was fine, until we discovered that almost all the exits from the Metro were closed and our party of 20 ended on the opposite side of the square to our coach. The army were guarding the barriers and were under strict instructions not to allow any unauthorised stray tourists to pass. Our guide argued more and more vociferously with them for at least 20 minutes but was met by an abrupt *nyet*. We went on a few yards to the next entry point, when after only 5 minutes of gentle persuasion the guard began to allow our party into the square. Unfortunately, another officer noticed that the fence was being breached and moved quickly to restore order leaving four of our party on the wrong side. A further ten minutes of intense argument ensued, until finally a yet more senior officer decided to allow the rest of our party through. No doubt the junior officer would be on bread and water that night. We made our way through the square, passed through the exit barriers and boarded our coach which reached the *Volga Dream* just 15 minutes before it was due to sail.

The *Volga Dream* had been totally refurbished and remained in excellent condition and carried just 110 passengers in 50 cabins on 4 decks. The Russian crew clearly enjoyed working together and did everything they could to make our trip comfortable. Nothing was too much trouble. They did get a little upset at the safety briefing when some passengers were amused by the statement that if the waves got above 2 meters high we would not be allowed to proceed. We were on a river which was as calm as a millpond. What hadn't been appreciated was that the lakes we were crossing were extremely large and deep and that waves of that magnitude do occur on a regular basis. In fact only the previous week, the trip across said lake had been cancelled, but there were blue skies and not a drop of rain throughout our entire holiday.

*To be continued* - Nigel Palmer

## **SPONSORED WALK FOR MS SOCIETY**

Thank you to those people who sponsored me to walk 20 km in aid of research into Multiple Sclerosis. The walk was on a lovely day at the end of September. I had to be at the Cutty Sark to register by 9.30 so it was an early start (for a Sunday morning) to get there on time. At Oxford Circus I spotted 2 other women in bright orange MS T-shirts and got chatting to one as we travelled on the Dockland Light Railway to Greenwich. I had never travelled on this line before so it was quite interesting seeing all the tall glass buildings. On arrival we registered and then we all set out together at 10am. Our route was very easy to follow as it followed the Thames Pathway that runs more or less along the south bank of the Thames. At Tower Bridge we met up with other walkers doing the 10km walk, these included children and people who suffer from MS. The section from Tower Bridge to Westminster Bridge was very busy with many people out enjoying the lovely weather and street entertainers. I was interested to come across the Clink Prison Museum marked by a shrunken dead body in a cage attached to the wall. This notorious medieval prison is actually located very near to another grand medieval palace used by the Bishops of Winchester. The remains of this building are now being developed into a sunken garden. After Westminster Bridge we were forced to take a diversion around St Thomas' hospital away from the River because filming was taking place. The security man refused to tell me if anyone famous was involved but I later found out it was Tom Cruise. We crossed to the North side at Vauxhall Bridge to admire a large hippo made of wood in the River, no one knew why it was there, and then crossed back over the next bridge to Battersea Park and our final destination the Duke of Cambridgeshire pub just outside the park. I had been chatting to a couple who had put their friend on a bus after he was unable to continue walking. Unfortunately as we approached the pub we came upon the man being helped by other walkers as he struggled along the road. He had got off the bus at the wrong side of Battersea Park and had tried to walk the last bit. With a supreme effort and lots of encouraging talk of pints of beer he finally made it. It was clear reminder of the terribly debilitating effects of Multiple Sclerosis on its victims

In all it took 5 hours to complete the walk and I raised £370.

Sally Palmer



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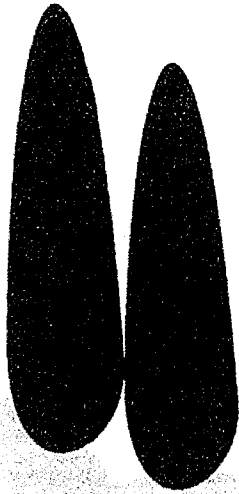
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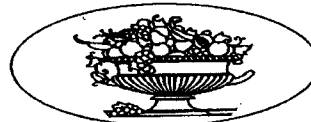
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Dear friends,

Great experiences at Harvest this year---service in a barn, family workshop on 'produce, scarecrows and angels'(a good mix!) and the famous Cublington Traffic Light Soup as well as Harvest bring and share lunches and sit-down suppers. What a wonderful time for good memories for us, whatever age, to look back on

November is traditionally the month for remembering---All Saints/Souls, Guy Fawkes (ask your parents/grandparents) and Armistice Day when we remember the end of World War I and the hope that all war might end.....

Memory is a really important thing for we humans---we all make jokes about 'senior moments' when we temporarily forget a name or piece of information. But of course there is a very serious and sad side to this which many of us have seen or lived with in a loved one.

I remember visiting my maternal Gran in hospital where she lived and eventually died in a locked ward (only 30 years' ago).It was tragic that she knew none of us and she was also potentially very aggressive. It struck me particularly as I had lived with her for two years when I was a child and my Mum was in hospital seriously ill and my Dad was overseas with the Royal Marines.

These are bitter-sweet memories of someone very loving, kind and gentle somehow lost in a dark wood with no secure way through.The one thing she clung to the end was the view out of the ward of the cross on the chapel roof which she would occasionally point to and smile as though the love of God in Christ broke through just momentarily.

November is a good time before the mayhem of Christmas to review memories and give thanks for that gift, however mixed.

God Bless, Philip.

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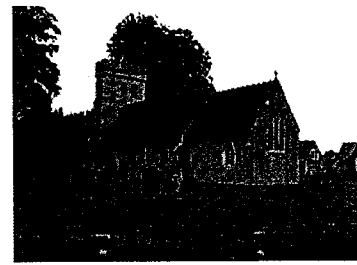
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# Church Matters

## The diary of St. James's



Whilst clearing out some old files I came across an Allotment Rent Book for 1945 to 1986. In 1945 there was land for 46 Allotments, each plot covering an area of 10 square poles. One pole (also called a Rod or Perch) is 5½yards so a square pole is 30¼ square yards, and of course 40 square poles = 1 rood and 4 roods = 1 acre. The size of each plot has not changed but in 1945 the annual rent was just 22½p (4/6d in old money). The rent was paid in two instalments of 2/3d in March and September each year.

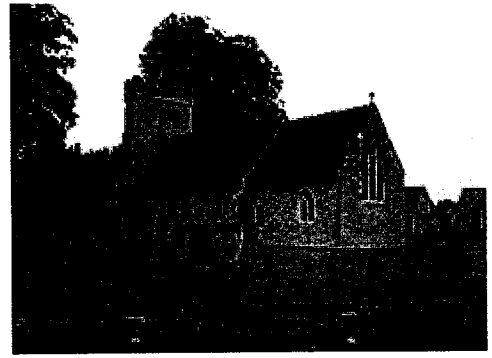
There are some well-known family names amongst the tenants (Colin's Father and Grandfather, F and H Higgs, F.J and P.J Clarke, F and T Hinds and T Humphreys) who were joined in 1947 by G. Brandon in 1949 by W Ford and in 1953 by a certain V Scott. Although 46 plots were marked out there were only 34 tenants in 1945 and there was a steady decline in usage so that there were only a dozen tenants by 1963 and just six in 1968. By this time the area which is now the orchard was rented out for pasture to Mr W Steel and that is how it stayed until the orchard was established in 2011 when the number of Allotments was increased by 6. It is good to see that demand for allotments has increased since the low point in 1968 and today there are 18 Allotment Holders who cultivate 15 plots (some are shared) and I have a waiting list when plots become available.

Our wild area in the Churchyard still has a few flowers but our management plan requires the area to be strimmed this month. Hopefully the plants have distributed their seeds and we will have another display next year.

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

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**

**November 2014**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b>	<b>Rev. Philip Derbyshire</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Remembrance</b>	<b>Rev. Philip Derbyshire</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Rev. Robert Wright</b>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Team Eucharist at Stewkley</b>	<b>Rev. Philip Derbyshire</b>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Rev. Roger Hales</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b>	<b>Rev. Philip Derbyshire</b>

**We look forward to seeing you**

**100 Club Draw - October**

**1st Prize, £50**

**Bridget Brandon**

**2nd prize, £10**

**Jackie Oliver**

# **FAMILY CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY MORNING**

**SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.00am to 12 noon in the Village Hall**

**Calling all families in Aston Abbotts.**

Please come and help us make Christmas decorations for the Church. Our theme this year is '*Christmas Carols*' and we will be making decorations for the Church windows and for the Christmas tree. Refreshments will be available for all.

Put this date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there. (Contact Caroline Abel Smith on 681001 or Gay Walker on 688632 for more information.)

# **ST JAMES CHURCH CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> December 4.00 pm**

Everyone is invited to come and help make a christingle and to join us singing carols by the light of the christingle candles.

# **ST JAMES CHURCH CAROL SERVICE**

**MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> December 6.00 pm**

Come and join us as we celebrate the coming of Christmas with carols, readings and poems by candle light. Our Church will be decorated for the occasion by the children in the village. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

## Church Duties November

	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Flowers</b>
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Caroline L/ Colin	Donated
Nov 8 <sup>th</sup>	?	Remembrance
Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	Alex/Anita	Colin
Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Colin/Gay	Colin
Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	Colin	No Flowers Advent



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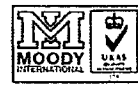
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## Aston Abbotts Telephone List

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.

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SHOP 681696 POST OFFICE 682964

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PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW

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£6 per hour for residents

(Plus metered electricity)

£20 per hour for non-residents

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

Please note that an additional hour over and above the period of the event must be booked to cover setting up and clearing away.

Weddings and Christenings -  
a fixed charge of £50.

Please contact Tracy Hinds on 688479 if you wish to book

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corriganpc@aol.com

## **YOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

Peter Shorroek (Chairman)  
Oak Farm House – 681260

Paul Bruton (Parish Clerk)  
51 The Green – 682322

Colin Higgs (Vice Chairman)  
6 Wingrave Road – 681343

Richard Clarke  
Maplewood, The Green – 681007

Judy Hardcastle  
Marloes, Lines Hill – 688070

Kate Curry  
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane – 681137

Bob Carvey  
12 The Green – 681053

District Councillor  
Peter Cooper  
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham – 681250

County Councillor  
Netta Glover - 688357

## **Parochial Church Council**

Rev. Philip Derbyshire 01525 240287

Caroline Abel Smith

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

April Curnow 707833



Make sure you book in your  
festive celebration early...  
and be rewarded too!



Our new Festive Menu is now available on the website and bookings are now being taken by the Unicorn team. Make sure you book in early to avoid any disappointment. Remember we also have a private dining room for hire for up to 30 diners, so why not hold your company celebration at the award winning Unicorn?

## *This October*

Friday 10th – Three Bar Fire

Tuesday 14th – Folk Music

Friday 31st – Dinner & Jazz

## *in December...*

1st Festive Menu starts - see website for details

Tuesday 9th – Folk Music

Wednesday 10th – *Sloe Gin Competition*

Saturday 13th Live music with 3 Bar Fire

Friday 19th – The Spokes Christmas Special

**Book your tables now!**

Got yours yet?

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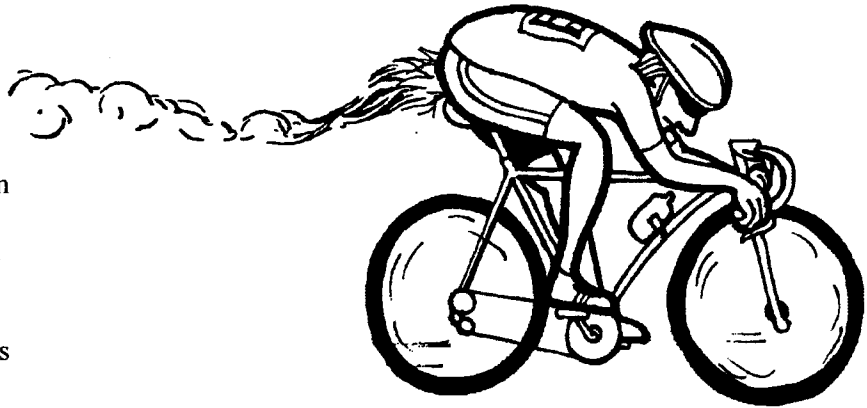
## ASTON ABBOTTS WATCHTOWER

### Goodness Gracious...

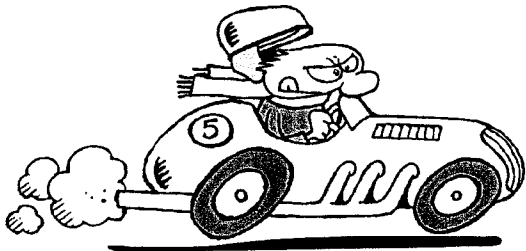
...Great Balls of Fire!

Congratulations to Dave Lewis for cycling 58 miles for charity.

However, we question his wisdom in buying a new bike just days before the event. After cycling for miles on the hard saddle of the gleaming new hybrid he was seen hobbling around the village with bowed legs and tears streaming down his face!



### Is it a Bird? Is it a Plane?



*"He must have been doing over eighty when he entered the village!" "He was still doing sixty when he went round the corner by my house!"*

Who were they talking about? Just a barely glimpsed streak of blue with loud cursing emanating from the sun roof. Who was it? We demand to know!

### Fiddler on the Hoof

We hear that John Whyte has run off from the Tring production of Fiddler. His official reason is that he had too many golf engagements booked, but we suspect that he was actually rather jealous that he could not grow a beard as spectacular as Nigel Palmer's.

### Moving On

Someone has contacted the Chronicle to ask if the 'House For Sale' sign that has appeared outside the



house of a long-term

single lady resident has any connection with the spurious marriage proposal mentioned on the Back Page two months ago? We would like to know too!

### New Partner Sought

Dave Lewis has expressed disappointment that his Partner In Life failed to support and accompany him on his recent two visits to the cinema. The first day consisted of a series of presentations on The Art Of Gerry Anderson and the second was a back-to-back showing of five episodes of Thunderbirds.

Dave cannot understand how any girl can fail to be wowed by such wonderful outings and he would like to hear from any ladies who share his interests. He warns that there may be a delay in replying, as he works through the anticipated deluge of responses.

**FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY**