

THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine



EDITORIAL

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 348

Jan - Feb 2015

Welcome to 2015, I sincerely hope it's a successful peaceful and prosperous year for all.

I wonder what 2015 holds for the village, hopefully those now established village events will carry on, The Ball, Fete and Fireworks and hopefully some type of musical or entertainment event, if I keep mentioning it, it may happen!

No doubt there will be some contention, has the dung heap issue been raised again? See letters page. There may be some planning matters that need to be closely monitored in the forthcoming year.

This edition by necessity and work demands covers both January and February so some village information will be missed, apologies for that.

Given the amount of illness and disease during Xmas, did anybody escape it? Had this been the Middle Ages they would probably have closed the village as I believe they did to the original mediaeval village of Burston (hope I've not mixed up my history periods, more of a geography man) It would be interesting to know some of the stories behind this, any volunteers, Peter?

Also reproduced in this issue an article by Margaret Hinds first published in the Cumbria Magazine about her long association with the lakes.

Phil Corrigan

Snippets & Miscellanea

Royal Oak News

Roast lunches every Sunday,
recommended that you book.

Guest beers:

London Pride

XT Brewery, a range of their excellent
beers from XT1 to a threatened XT 13

Obviously some serious tasting to be
done Ed

I would like to thank everyone who sent flowers,
cards and good wishes to me following my recent
stay in hospital. I am now on the road to recovery.
Sally Clarke.

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

Belated Seasonal Greetings and a Happy New Year to all our friends in Aston
Abbotts.
We don't send local cards but make a donation to Cancer Research and Oxfam.

Best Wishes
Deirdre and John Whyte

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 January

Thurs 8th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
Sun 11 th	Village Footpath walk	The Green	2pm
Wed 14 th	PCC	Village Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 15 th	Coffee Shop Whist Drive	Village Hall	10-12 noon 7.30pm
Tues 20th	Mobile library	The Green	10.30am
Wed 21 st	Parish Council	Village Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 22 nd	Coffee Shop Whist Drive	Village Hall	10-12 noon 7.30pm

At the last Aylesbury Vale Transport meeting we were told that due to government cuts to Council budgets some services will have to be cut, i.e. Library Vans and Bus services.

Please use these services so figures show that we are using them and hopefully save the cuts. Bums on seats count so use the bus.

Colin



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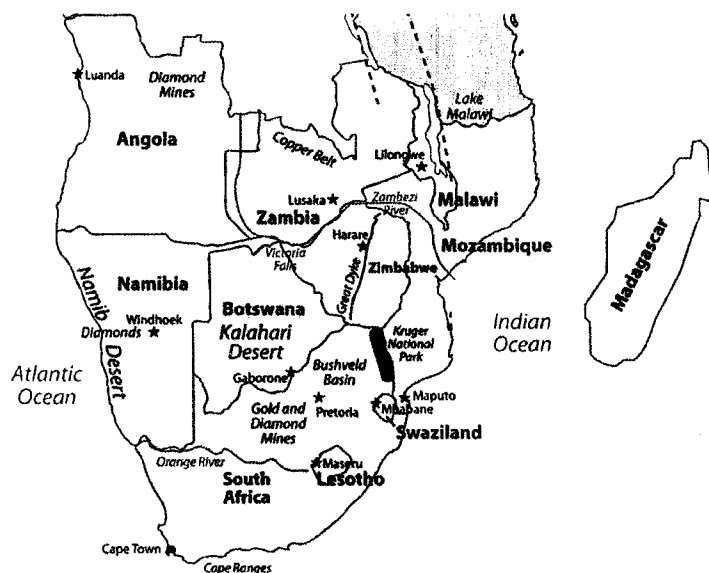
Butchers and Farmers, Beechmoor Farm, Cublington Road,
Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 4LG Tel: 01296 641207

Countryside Matters-from Africa

We have just travelled through a small part of Zambia to the mighty Zambezi crossing point, where four different countries meet at a common border Zambia , Namibia , Botswana and Zimbabwe . As you can imagine it is a bit of an African organized shambles, with an ancient roll on roll off ferry loaded with massive trucks and drags, carrying copper out and fertilizer in together with all manner of other things , including illegal workers under tarpaulins all going into Zambia . Now all the other countries, except Zimbabwe have agreed to build a bridge, but President Mugabe wants paying instead of contributing of course, surprise surprise!! So now the intended bridge must have a half way bend in it, so to avoid Zimbabwe, putting the project on hold for many more years, what a way to run a country.

While in Livingston the week before, we had supper with a local farmers daughter from Mentmore , who was volunteering to teach 4-12 year olds in a charity school 20 minutes outside the town in the bush .The class size was 50 and she found it very challenging , the condition and state of the children was very upsetting , some wearing rags and not washed for weeks , some with cuts and unhealed sores and some very undernourished , most small for their age .We take so much for granted in the UK but in Zambia, one of the poorest countries in Africa , things are very different, some children walking up to 10 miles through the bush just to get to primary school and sometimes in dangerous situations. The pencils, books and paper all supplied by UK based charities and not local government. No fat cat grabbing Mercedes driving spongers here. I do wish the donations and aid that we all give through our government schemes, found its way to worthy causes like these.

James



— *invitation* —

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VILLAGE FETE 25th July 2015

Tradition dictates that the Aston Abbots fete takes place on the
Saturday nearest to the Festival of St. James which is 25th July.
This year the 25th is a Saturday so the 2015 fete day is set.

So now is the time to get those diaries and calendars (paper or
electronic) that Santa so thoughtfully left you for Christmas and make a
note of the date.

If you are inclined to spring clean between now and then please put
those unwanted books or presents and surplus knick-knacks to one side
for us to collect before the fete.

If you can help, either on the day or with distribution of raffle tickets or
collecting stuff for the stalls in the weeks before the fete then give me a
call on 681952 or email ukdavidgray@gmail.com Thanks

ALLOTMENT DIARY As a man who likes the more exotic vegetables, my eye was caught by a recent newspaper article telling me that kale was being supplanted as the latest trendy vegetable to grow and eat. (Especially as I had somehow missed out on discovering that kale had been the “in” vegetable in 2014)! However, so that you can be at the cutting edge of vegetable growing, I can reveal that the vegetable for 2015 is going to be cavolo nero. It is apparently much in demand as a health food, being, and I quote, “*jam-packed with anti-oxidants . . . high in nutrients . . . and it contains active compounds that have been shown to prevent certain cancers*”.

What then, I hear you ask, is cavolo nero? Well, basically, it is a sort of brassica, very similar to kale, and which originated in southern Italy: it is also known as Tuscan kale, or (because it has very dark green leaves), black cabbage. Like kale it is more closely related to wild cabbage than normal domestic varieties. It is now being grown in Lincolnshire, and Waitrose has reported a staggering sales increase of 343% in its sale during 2014!

Some readers may remember my telling you about a vegetable I had been growing called Oca, which came from South America, and which was like small wrinkly potato. It was quite pleasant to eat, with a slight lemony taste, but most of the tubers were very small and fiddly, and it was difficult to peel them or get rid of the earth that caught among the wrinkles, so that I will not be growing them again. I would guess that it has been difficult to sell them under the name “oca” (possibly because of confusion with the better-known oca), since I notice that Thompson & Morgan are now marketing them under their alternative name, “New Zealand yams” – so called because the only other country in which they have been grown commercially is New Zealand, and ignores the fact that they are in no way related to the yam family.

Browsing through the vegetable catalogue, my attention was drawn to a number of new and oddly coloured vegetables. There is a new carrot called “Cosmic Purple”, which has a purple skin, but orange flesh; a chilli pepper called “Pot Black” which is a very dark, almost black, purple; and there are beetroots which are white (“Albina Vereduna”), yellow (“Burpee’s Golden” – what a splendid name: I wonder who Burpee was?), and most peculiarly, alternate rings of white and purple, like a bulls eye (“Chioggia”).

For some years now I have been growing coloured French beans, since I find that it avoids the (very common, in my experience) problem of missing beans amongst the foliage of the plant when one is picking them. I have had great success with a purple bean, Purple Teepee, and a yellow one, Concador: and last year I grew, with even greater success, a climbing purple French bean called “Blauhilde”. There is also one, which I had not yet tried, which comes from Italy, which is pale-green and red streaked, which has the name “Borlotto Lingua di Fuoco”, and which I hope to try this year. Last year I grew a peculiar round cucumber called “Crystal Apple”, but although the crop was prolific. I will not be repeating the experiment: I found the skin very tough (so that one had to cut it off), and the pips rather big.

Finally, another news item that caught my eye: I had known that in West Yorkshire there is an area near Wakefield called the “Rhubarb Triangle” where they grow rhubarb indoors, in order to harvest it early: what I had not known, however, until I read the article in my paper, is that the crop is grown in total darkness – and is even harvested by candle-light, to avoid turning the delicate pink stems green and therefore tough!

May I finally wish those of you who are reading this a Happy New Year, and successful gardening!
Peter Shorrock

The Railway Room at Red Barn Farm will be open for public running sessions;

22nd March, 14th June, 13th September & 13th December.

2.00pm till 5pm. Admission at your discretion (£2) light refreshments available.



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.

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The Astonians Part 5

Police Report on Senior Sex Behind The Aston Arms

Contains some strong content

Astonpete

All characters are fictional and hold no association to anyone

Having a word with the village Police Support Officer, PSO Kylie Jackson, (*The gossip in the village*), I was amazed at her latest story involving Mr and Mrs Cartwright, the old couple from Abbotts Walk. According to PSO Jackson, Mr Cartwright was talking to Mrs Cartwright and asks her, "Do you remember the first time we had sex together over fifty years ago? We went behind the Village pub where you leaned against the back fence and I made love to you."

Yes, she says, "I remember it well." Mr Cartwright then says, "How about taking a stroll around there again and we can do it for old time's sake?" "Oh Bert, you old devil, that sounds like a crazy but good idea!" replies Mrs Cartwright.

Well I'm gobsmacked at this latest bit of gossip coming from a police officer and wondered if Kylie was really in the right job. Anyway she continued.

"I heard it all and having a smile on my face, I thought I've got to see these two old-pensioners having sex against a fence. Just to keep an eye on them so there's no trouble, you understand. So I followed them to the Pub. The old couple walked along leaning on each other for support aided by walking sticks. Well they finally get to the back of the pub and make their way to the fence. Mrs Cartwright lifts her skirt and the old man drops his trousers. As she leans against the fence, the old man moves in. Then suddenly they erupt into the most furious sex that I've ever seen. This goes on for about ten minutes while both are making loud noises and moaning and screaming. Finally they both collapse, panting on the ground. I was shocked. I thought I'd learned something about life and old age that I didn't know. Anyway after about ten minutes of lying on the ground recovering, the old couple struggle to their feet and put their clothes back in order. Well I was still watching and thought to myself, 'this is truly amazing, I've got to ask them what their secret is'.

So as they pass, I said to them, 'Excuse me but that was something else. You must've had a fantastic sex life together. Is there some sort of secret to this?' Shaking, Mr Cartwright was barely able to reply. He said, 'fifty years ago that wasn't an electric fence.'"

Although I laughed my head off, I left PSO Jackson wondering if she ever gossiped to others about me.....

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!

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Date & Start Time	Brief description	Start gridref	Miles Grade	Longer description	Contact
Sun 01/02/2015 10:00	Naphill and surrounding area some hills and mud likely	SU827948	9 M	Meet at free car park (at site of old Garden Centre) in West Wycombe for walk to Hughenden via Bradenham and Naphill. Lunch stop at Hughenden Church House for soup (please let leader know if partaking in advance) or bring own lunch. Stopping at least half an hour.	Vicki 01296 336890
Thu 05/02/2015 10:00	Marsworth Circular Walk Section 2	SP928148	7.5 M	Fairly flat canal & reservoir walk - similar to OAR Section 2 walks 2 & 3. Meet at Red Lion Pub (HP23 4LU) parking in car park for those taking a pub lunch, or in adjacent street.	Peter & Lesley 01296 651653 07432 572534
Sun 08/02/2015 10:00	Whipsnade and Surrounding Area	TL016180	7 M	Meet at Whipsnade Heath Car Park (nearest postcode LU6 2LL for Sat-Nav). Walk covers a variety of terrain to include Dunstable Downs and the Tree Cathedral. Bring Food and drink.	Ros 01296 434714
Tue 10/02/2015 10:30	Easy walk with no stiles from Ashley Green	SP978053	4.5 L	Meet at the Memorial Hall car park (sat nav HP5 3PN) on Two Dells Lane at Ashley Green for varied walk. Optional lunch at Golden Eagle pub. Numbers for lunch in advance please.	Lindsay 01296 613237 07905 484581
Thu 12/02/2015 10:00	A flat walk over open fields in the Dinton/Ford area	SP758108	6.5 M	Park at the Bottle and Glass Gibraltar for a walk towards Aston Sandford and Ford returning via Dinton. May be muddy. Lunch at the pub if you wish.	Ron & Jen 07800 720018 07969 008442
Sun 15/02/2015 10:00	Pitstone Circular Walk OAR Section 3	SP926162	10 M	Meet at Cooks Wharf car park by canal. Heading towards Pitstone, from Marsworth on B489 take 1st left to Cheddington, car park 1km on left. OAR Section 3 walks 4 & 5, fairly flat with slight hills and canals. Bring snacks for 2 stops en-route.	Peter & Lesley 07432 572534 01296 651653
Tue 17/02/2015 10:00	Path Check & Maintenance Walk - Marsh Gibbon	SP642230	6 M	Marsh Gibbon - Meet and park in Bicester Road near bus stops. Spend about 3 hours or so checking and clearing footpaths as you enjoy the countryside in this parish.	Roy Johnson 01296 486350
Thu 19/02/2015 10:00	Some hills, walking north east area of Amersham	SU996981	7.5 M	Park and meet at Westwood Park at end of Chenies Ave, Little Chalfont, on right hand side. Crossing the River Chess and heading for Tyler's Hill returning via Latimer. Woods and nice views en route. Optional pub at end of walk.	John T 07719 936463
Sun 22/02/2015 10:00	Walking in the area east of Chalfont St Giles, some hills	SU991937	8 M	Meet at car park by library off the High Street, Chalfont St Giles. Walking via Philipshill Wood, The Swillet and Bottom Wood. Returning via Chiltern Way. Bring refreshments for a short stop.	John T 07719 936463
Tue 24/02/2015 10:30	Through the Parishes of Weston Turville and Halton	SP853108	4 L	Meet at Chandos Arms PH in Weston Turville. Level walk through the village, across fields and by canal towards Halton village. Optional lunch at pub.	Stephen & Anne P 07443 501615
Thu 26/02/2015 10:00	Hughenden Valley walk with hills and lovely views	SU865955	7 M	Park in car park below church at Hughenden Manor. Varied walk with some good views (and hills!) Taking in Downley Common, Downley and the Disraeli monument. Optional pub lunch at end	Maurice C 07767 787413
Sun 01/03/2015 10:00	Strenuous walk visiting sites of interest around the Ewelme area	SU647912	10 S	Park at Cow Common for a walk of historical interest visiting Ewelme's medieval church, almshouses and school, passing features from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages and a Norman Church.	Brian Bowman 01844 290346
Wed 04/03/2015 19:30	Social Evening Old Millwrights Arms 83 Walton Road Aylesbury P21 7SN H	SP826134	Nil !!!	Join John & Tina for another sociable evening at the Old Millwrights. Situated between the Walton Street gyratory and the Tesco, Tring Road roundabout. Plenty of parking either outside or nearby streets. Drinks to suit all tastes - everybody welcome.	John & Tina 07770 421889
Thu 05/03/2015 10:00	Mostly flat walk around Blenheim Great Park	SP448169	7 M	Park at Woodstock, Hensington Road car park. Circular walk through Blenheim Park with views of the lake and the Palace. Optional lunch in the town.	Penny 07552 628985
Sun 08/03/2015 10:00	Haddenham. Sections of Wychert Way & Outer Aylesbury Ring including gates funded by Aylesbury Ramblers	SP744094	10 or 6.5 M	Haddenham. HP17 8LG. Meet at small green opposite the Haddenham Post Office in Stanbridge Road. Walking to Dinton, Ford, Aston Sandford and Cheersley enjoying the recently installed gates. Option to stop at 6.5 miles.	Jim Robinson 01844 291831 07768 700678
Tue 10/03/2015 10:30	Exploring a quiet stretch of the Thame Valley	SP717107	4.5 L	Meet at The Bell PH in Cheersley for an easy circular walk via Nether Winchendon and Cuddington. One gentle climb and lovely views. Optional lunch at pub.	Stephen & Anne P 07443 501615
Thu 12/03/2015 10:00	Walk from Lower Wolvercote to Oxford	SP485094	7.5 M	Meet at Trout Inn OX2 8PN car park Lower Wolvercote for walk to Oxford via River Thames and return via Oxford Canal. Optional pub lunch at end	John Docherty 01844 201336 07531 814198

MEMORIES OF THE LAKE DISTRICT

MARGARET HINDS

In 1953 I came to live in a small village in Buckinghamshire. I was 19 years old. Over the next few years I met a local lad and in 1956 we were engaged to be married. We married in 1957 and booked a honeymoon in The Lake District travelling by train from Euston to Windermere and then by bus to Keswick. I was absolutely amazed at the scenery. I had never seen mountains before, having been born in Kent and brought up in Northamptonshire.

We stayed at The George Hotel in Keswick and travelled everywhere by local bus or on foot, hiring our boots from George Fisher and buying the appropriate rain wear. In those two weeks we travelled far and wide, climbing mountains, wandering along lake shores and visiting famous places.

My husband started a diary recording the day's events and I have continued to do this to this day.

We were hooked on The Lake District and the following year we went again and in 1959 when our son was 6 months old off we went again, this time hiring a car and stayed in a caravan in the Borrowdale area. In 1961 our second son was born and in 1963 our daughter was born. We still went to the Lakes each year and sometimes twice a year, usually in May or September. By this time we had a car of our own. The journeys took ages in those days – through Warrington, Wigan and Preston. It seemed never ending, but once we got there, it was well worth it.

Sometimes we rented a self-catering cottage and sometimes a caravan. In those days there were no flushing toilets or running water. There was a wash block and a tap to get water from and you emptied the bucket under the caravan when it was full. Everywhere was like this. You just took it for granted and it was good fun.

The years went by and we went to The Lakes every year, sometimes twice. The children were all good fell-walkers equipped with boots, rucksacks containing spare clothing, food and drink. They played by the lakes making bridges, small dams etc. Then in 1971 tragedy struck. We had gone to The Lakes for the autumn half term after a hectic summer. On a beautiful day October 25th we decided to climb Blencathra. We reached the top, had lunch and were on the way down when Paul, our second son aged 9 year accidently slipped on a rock on the path and rolled down the hill side and was dead. Other walkers helped me and the other two children down, while my husband and another walker stayed with our son until the mountain rescue people came. The horror of it all was indescribable.

We gave The Lakes a miss the following year but after that we went back. The children grew up and went their own ways but we continued going to The Lakes. Then in 1980 my husband died after a short illness just before Christmas.

Friends of ours invited my daughter and me to stay with them in The Lakes in Borrowdale, so we went. It was winter, flurries of snow and the first time I had driven on the M6, but somehow we made it!

I was working full time but every spare time I headed for The Lakes booking one or two nights at B&B's in different villages. Walking the fells all day and reading Wainwright in the evening planning the next day's route.

I remember one day parking in Stonethwaite going up Glaramara then on to Broad Crag etc. and to the summit of Scafell Pike and down the corridor route and Sty Head Pass to Seathwaite and back to my car at Stonethwaite. Looking back I must have been mad, but I was only 46 years old and I needed to do it.

I went up to Northumberland to stay with my Aunt and came back to The Lake District early afternoon and climbed Skiddaw from the southern side Hellvellyn at Gable Kentmore, round the Coledale Horseshoe Hunter Fell and many, many more.

A few years later I met a man from our village and we became friends. We have now been together for 30 years and married for 12 years. He had only been through The Lakes on a day trip so of course I took him there.

We now go every year as usual and he has grown to love it as I do and now possibly knows more than I do.

We have stayed all over the place but for the last 20 years or so have tended to stay just north of Keswick in an absolutely fantastic B&B. We have done all the high fells as I did before and many other walks. Now as the years have rolled by we do lower level walks round the lakes and valley walks.

Some years ago on a hot early summer's day we were on the summit of Haystacks looking down at Innominate Tarn when out of the haze appeared the figure of a man dressed as Wainwright, cap, pipe etc. on the path below us. My husband ran down the path but the figure just disappeared and there was no one else around and we both saw it. Was it the ghost of Wainwright? We like to think so.

We have made many friends over the time we have spent in the Lakes and as we leave Keswick and drive towards Braithwaite and go along side Skiddaw and see Calliswell Pike and Guisedale Pike etc. and see the sheep grazing in the meadow it is like coming home and will be until the end of time.

Letters Page

Dear Editor

I would like to bring to your attention an alarming sight what I came across whilst visiting the Aston Abbotts Arboretum (As I like to call it, others refer to it as the "orchard")

I was making my way through the, quite frankly, – untidy - Allotments (unfortunately there is no other way of accessing our splendid display of 'malus domestica' or 'Apple Trees' for those amongst us who didn't do Latin at school) when my path was blocked by what can only be described as a large pile of 'ordure' (from the Old French *ord*, meaning filthy, and from Latin *horridus*, meaning frightful, do keep up)

Incidentally, though the forbidden fruit of Eden in the Book of Genesis is not identified, popular Christian tradition has held that it was an apple what Eve coaxed Adam to share with her. The origin of the popular identification with a fruit unknown in the Middle East in biblical times is found in confusion between the Latin words *mālum* (an apple) and *mālum* (an evil), each of which is normally written *malum*. The tree of the forbidden fruit is called "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" in Genesis 2:17, and the Latin for "good and evil" is *bonum et malum*. But I digress (I thought it worthwhile to try and educate your readers, one must keep trying after all)

I thought we'd sorted this out last year and the dreadfully common people who insist on growing their own vegetables had been put in their place (why they can't use Fortnum & Masons or, in an emergency, Waitrose is quite beyond me)

I trust you will bring this up with our recently appointed Disaster Officer, Mr R G Clarke, as believe me having to walk past such a dreadful heap of farmyard manure (I shudder having to write the word) is a complete disaster as far as I am concerned!

Yours in odium (look it up)

Lady Cynthia Ponsonby Smyth

PS Would you be so kind and ask those gardening types if I can have a bucketful of their 'muck' for my '*Malus Domestica*' - Maiden's Blush – thanks awfully.

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Aston Abbotts Parish Council
Summary of Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 10th December 2014

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

The Clerk handed the Music in Quiet Places to Cllr Higgs in case the Church were interested in hosting an event and Cllr Carvey would advise if there were any volunteers to oversee a Play Around the Parishes in the Village.

Village Refuse Container – The Clerk reported he had been contacted by a resident as they had a number of bulky items that could not be transported to the Recycling centre and wondered whether the service was still available. The service used to be provided free by AVDC but with the recycling targets it had been felt this was not the best approach as the skips went to land fill and the free service was withdrawn in 2012. The Service was available at a cost of £250 plus VAT and at the time it was withdrawn it was decided by Council to judge whether there was a need in the village for the service. As there had been no requests until now Council still felt the cost was prohibitive given the demand. The Clerk would notify the resident accordingly.

County Councillor Mrs. N Glover presented her report that included an announcement that BCC has launched Buckinghamshire Law Plus – to provide cost-effective legal services for the public and not for profit organisations, more details are on the BCC website. Also of note was news of a new scheme of saving energy costs with collective energy switching going under the banner of IChooeR where it anticipated average savings will be up to £112 per annum – again details are on the BCC website. Cllr. Glover had also attended a very informative visit to McAfee highlighting the potential dangers of the internet for school children. The Company is offering free advice sessions that included help on cyber bullying to schools and we can encourage head teachers to take up this offer – the contact details are Joanne_Cowdrey@McAfee.com

District Councillor Cooper reported to the meeting that the survey required in respect of the Cycleway project was scheduled for early in the New Year and the LAF were funding the cost. Also of note was the news that AVDC are in the early stages of updating their website that will work on similar lines to the BCC website, the anticipated launch date is June 2016, AVDC has also earmarked a sum of money for the roll out of super fast broadband across the Vale to areas that remain out of reach of the commercial and funding investment.

Village Plan Action Committee – Cllr. Shorrocks reported no volunteers had come forward and a further article would be placed in the Chronicle. The matter would be discussed in more detail at this years Annual Village/Parish meeting, meanwhile the item would remain on the Agenda.

Website and email – Cllr Spooner reported that the Village post box was currently being tested. The process for villagers to use the system was outlined – it was open to any resident and village organisation and would be a means of communicating articles and items of interest. Articles and notices would be sent to the AA post box and Cllr Spooner would review to ensure they were appropriate before publishing. It was intended that no personal information would be available to 3rd parties – it was hoped to launch early in the New Year.

Speed Awareness Signs & Speed Limit review – The Clerk advised he had received a request for the Council to consider extending the 30mph limit along Cublington Road. Additionally he had currently received 4 responses on the question of Speed awareness signs all in favour. The village speed limit has been reviewed in 2012 and paid for by Highways, the potential cost was approaching £7,000 and the most we would obtain a grant for would be matched funding as a result it was decided not to progress with this project at this time. On the matter of the speed awareness signs Council discussed in details the various advantages and disadvantages of the signs. It was RESOLVED by a majority of 4-2 to go

ahead with installing signs and the Clerk would progress, in the first instance he would approach existing villages that were in the shared scheme to see if we could join their Group to reduce costs, additionally he would see if any grants were available.

Cherry Tree – The Green – Cllr. Clarke reported that he had expected the tree to be pruned by the Electricity Company, however as this had not happened yet he would obtain quotes and resolve the matter.

Devolved Services – It was noted that at this time we would not take on any further services, however given the current cost cutting by County Council it was felt that where possible services would be passed to Parish and Town Councils unless there was a change in Government policy

Neighbourhood Plan – The Clerk had circulated a note on the current progress on arranging a consultant for a Q&A session, the cost would be £275 plus VAT and there followed discussion on the proposal and the best way forward. It was RESOLVED to arrange the meeting and the Clerk would contact Jean Fox to arrange.

Abbotts View Farm – The Clerk had received a note from planning advising that despite the fact the barn had not been built in accordance with the planning permission they would not be taking any further action. It was felt that Council had a responsibility to advise them that the barn was being used for matters other than storing machinery in case there were H&S issues. The Clerk would write accordingly.

Rural Exception Scheme – The recent Survey report had been circulated and had indicated there was a need for affordable housing in the Village. It was RESOLVED to go ahead with the scheme and the Clerk would instruct Jean Fox of CIB, Cllrs Clarke and Hardcastle would represent the Council in any discussions or meetings.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th January 2015 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Although not much travel this month Ed

Book Club

ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB Christmas Celebrations

Val and Les Smith, again, generously hosted our Christmas Party/Quiz. The competition for the trophy and gold medals was fierce. After 6 rounds of questions, interspersed with a magnificent array of dishes and wines, there were only 5 points dividing the four teams.

This year's theme was 'Hats'. Contestants arrived sporting amazing millinery confections coloured red, blue, green or yellow.

Les was the question master. His questions were easy, testing or outright impossible. Thankfully there was the option of guessing with a 33% chance of success.

The Greens just edged out the Yellows by half a point.

Special thanks went to Brigitte Gutierrez who produced dish after dish of excellence and also to Fran Bean and Les and Val for the wonderful feast.

Carriages arrived at midnight. What a splendid evening we'd had!

John Hardcastle

Book review **Stalked, Alison Hewitt**

When I was asked to write a review of Alison Hewitt's book: *Stalked*, I tried to remove what I thought I knew what happened to Alison or the Hewitt family, or any emotion because of the relation to our village.

This book is based on all the events affecting the Hewitt Family, including David Gray when Alison was introduced to Al Dhalla, via an "executive" dating agency. Subsequently, Alison's experience was horrific (an understatement) and things quickly unravel for her, as Al's personality and past quickly appear.

From the first page, this is a vivid journey of what happened to Alison and her family, and it's a real page turner. It's certainly compelling. To that extent, I "enjoyed" it. But not in the way you ordinarily apply the word; that would be to trivialise the Hewitt's despair. I enjoyed it because it was an addictive read – I couldn't put it down! In total, I finished the book in a little over three days. The genre of book I prefer is autobiographical, I find it easier to get into, so "*Stalked*" was right up my street.

Alison's story has been well chronicled, there has been a **documentary produced by Channel 4 and the Daily Mail** have serialised this very book. But when you read this book from cover-to-cover you'll learn and understand the gruesome nature of Al Dhalla's narcissism and infatuation. With an unsavoury past – which he doesn't disclose to Alison – only David and Pam discover this, Alison, Pam and David's lives are put at real risk.

The recollected detail is impressive and adds to the depth of the prose. On a side note, I've always wondered how you remember such information when penning an autobiographical tome. You'll say "write a diary", but in the midst of such a catastrophic event, how will you remember to update your diary? Anyway, we digress.

You really understand the fear that Alison and her family went through in the minutiae held within. It's well written, albeit with some rather irritating and ponderous editing mistakes. These are certainly not Alison's fault – these lie with the publishers – let's hope they are corrected for when the book is reprinted. For example, the insertion of an additional vowel – an "I" – in nosy, suggests Pam was "noisy" and "interfering" at a particularly tense part of the book post when they find out who Al Dhalla really is. I'm sure Pam can be noisy, maybe after a few glasses of something alcoholic, but these silly errors are noticeable throughout the book.

With a nice twist at the end, it doesn't disguise the permanent changes that Alison, Pam and David will have to make when Al Dhalla is released from incarceration. One would hope the Home Office will remove him from our borders, but the family will have to alter their lifestyle regardless. Quite literally, their lives will never be the same again.

As a few pennies short of £4.00 on Amazon (or a few pennies more from other outlets if you avoid Amazon due to their tax arrangements), this book is a no brainer of a read and you have to buy it. As a local interest story it makes the reason the read it all the more essential.

Chris Phillips

Oxford Philomusica Viennese New Year's Concert
 John and I were the
 lucky couple who got the chance to hear the Oxford Philomusica at
 Waterside on Tuesday 6th January.
 The orchestra was conducted by John
 Georgiadis, and performed some beautiful rarely heard compositions
 along with well known classics and the brilliant violinist Anna-Liisa
 Bezrodny kept us entranced. It was a great evening's entertainment.

Thank you. John and Pam Dixon

ASTON ABBOTTS THEATREGOERS

The Waterside Theatre have again kindly offered two Press Tickets for each of the shows listed below. The tickets are free and you will usually also be offered a programme and a voucher for a drink during the interval or a drink at the Press Stand in the foyer.

If you would like tickets for any or all of these shows then let me have an email to johnhardcastle@me.com or a note through my door at Marloes, Lines Hill with a contact telephone number.

The draw for the tickets to each event will take place two weeks before the day of the event.

Show	Date & Time
<i>SONGBIRD: THE MUSIC OF EVA CASSIDY</i>	SAT 21 FEB 7.30PM
<i>BLOOD BROTHERS</i>	MON 23 FEB 7.30PM
<i>DREAMBOATS AND MINISKIRTS</i>	MON 9 MAR 7.30PM
<i>THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME</i>	TUE 17 MAR 7.30PM
<i>ESSENCE OF IRELAND</i>	THU 26 MAR 7.30PM
<i>JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW</i>	FRI 27 MAR 7.30PM
<i>RADIO CLASH & NEVILLE STAPLE BAND</i>	SUN 29 MAR 7.30PM
<i>JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT</i>	TUE 31 MAR 7.30PM
<i>THE SOOTY SHOW</i>	THU 9 APR 11AM
<i>THE RAT PACK VEGAS SPECTACULAR SHOW</i>	SAT 11 APR 7.30PM
<i>SPAMALOT</i>	MON 13 APR 7.30PM

John Hardcastle

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Dish of the month

An (ir)regular column on this month's choice of haute cuisine in our area

December 2014 - The Artichoke, Amersham

Christmas approached and an elder statesman of the family was coming to stay with us for the weekend before the festive season. He'd announced, prior to his arrival, that he wasn't giving presents this year but would like to take us out for lunch instead, "Where would we like to go?" Without hesitation we decided that the Artichoke in Amersham was well worth another visit.

So it was that on the Saturday before Christmas we duly arrived for lunch. We always tend to book a later time rather than early so when we arrived the restaurant was already very busy. The restaurant itself lies at the heart of Old Amersham directly on the Market Square opposite the hotel 'The Crown' (famously used in a scene from *Four Weddings and a Funeral* – Room 101 –with the four poster bed)

The restaurant itself (listed 28th in the Top 50 UK Restaurants Good Food Guide 2015) has been extended since 2010 when it first opened and now features a state of the art open Kitchen with its own dining room and an upstairs Private Room with its own Wine Cellar.

On arrival we were greeted, our coats taken and we were shown to our table (the service was, as before, excellent)

There were a selection of lunch time menus available ranging from the 'Set Lunch' - £28 for 3 courses, through to a la Carte (for example - hop smoked sea trout, malted grains, dill emulsion, beetroot sorbet - £13.50)

We chose the Lunch Tasting menu (£38 per person) which consisted of 5 courses. When choosing this (or the other larger tasting menu) the whole table must choose the same.

We started with an 'Amuse Bouche' (Literally translated as "mouth amuser") This was a small sample of a dish from their larger tasting menu and consisted of roasted salsify, toasted hazelnut soil in a chervil emulsion – very unusual

The first course was pumpkin soup with a nutmeg cream – very tasty and light. Second was a poached fillet of Loch Duart salmon, smoked potato salad, champagne sauce and avruga caviar. The fish was beautifully cooked, slightly pink in the middle (well it would be, its salmon – Ed.)

For the main course it was roasted breast of locally shot pheasant served with a butter braised onion tart, savoy cabbage with peanut fed ham and caramelised apple purée. The 'Grand Fromage' of the family, not being a game bird fan, asked if he could have the Turbot from the a la carte and they duly obliged. Both dishes were excellent.

We decided to have a glass of the recommended wine (especially as it was an Italian red – my favourite) it was called Dolcetto, d'Alba, Vajra, 2013 and it went superbly with the pheasant.

This was followed by the 'pre-dessert' which consisted of a very tasty goat's milk mousse with a sorrel sorbet.

Dessert was either an apple and sultana strudel with salted porter caramel and vanilla ice cream or French and English farmhouse cheeses. I chose the cheese but the word on the strudel was very good. I went 'off piste' with a dessert wine – an Australian Red – recommended by the sommelier who certainly knew his stuff.

All in all a very pleasant repast. We never felt hurried nor were we left waiting too long between courses. There was no pressure for us to leave (one of my pet hates with restaurants) and we duly left feeling as though we could have eaten a little bit more (always a good sign in my opinion).

The menu changes seasonally and I'll certainly be going again when they next change – thoroughly recommended.

<http://www.artichokerestaurant.co.uk/home.htm>

à bientôt mon amies et gros bisous partout partout

Noisy Mug

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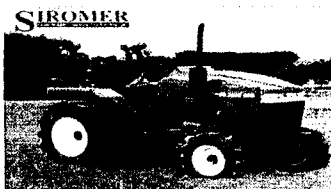
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We are working with iChoosr, the Government's approved organisation for collective switching, to bring you the opportunity to join the scheme for the next auction taking place on 3 February 2015.

The supplier that offers the cheapest tariffs gets to offer everyone who has registered a new contract. You can compare the offer with your current supplier, see how much you'll save, and decide whether to switch. There is no obligation to do so.

- The most recent auction saw average savings of around £200 per year and
- 9 out of 10 people who registered made a saving.

The more people who register, the greater the savings so tell your families and friends about the scheme and get them Switched On to cheaper energy bills.

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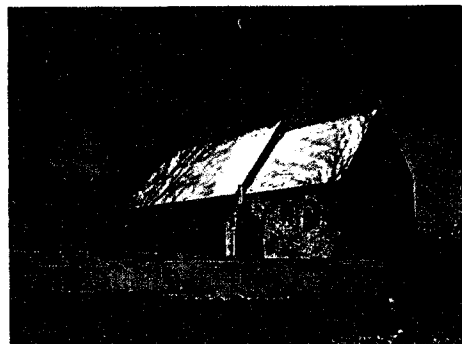
Morning sessions: daily, 9am – noon

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

Packed lunch session: daily, noon – 1pm

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**Services at
Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts
January 2015**

4th January	6.00pm	Evensong	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
11th January	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Peter Binns
18th January	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Siv Tunnicliffe
25th January	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Roger Hales

We look forward to seeing you

100 Club Draw - December

1st Prize, £50

Nigel Palmer

2nd prize, £10

Eve Allen

Church Matters

The diary of St. James's



I reported on the 'Ride and Stride' event in the October Chronicle. The Historic Churches Trust organise the event to raise money for local Churches. We have just received £69 as our share of the sponsorship. So thanks again to those who supported the event and in particular those who embarked on their version of the grand tour.

Natural Law dictates that things go wrong when they are likely to cause maximum disruption. So it was that when the weather turned cold and the timer was set to turn the heating on for the Sunday Service, it failed to activate. Sorry to those who felt the cold on this occasion. We should be getting a new timer fitted this month and in the meantime will set the heating manually.

The Christmas festivities started with the Family Activity morning on 13th December. The Christmas tree was decorated and pictures, on a theme of Christmas Carols, were constructed and displayed on the Church windowsills. The Christingle service followed the next afternoon when the young and young at heart were shown how to make their Christingle (meaning Christ's Light). The tradition started in Germany in the 18th century but was only introduced in this country in 1968.

The orange, representing the earth, is decorated with the candle that Christians take to be Jesus bringing light to the earth. The red ribbon reminding us that Christ died for us and the sweets on four cocktail sticks representing God's gifts to the four corners of the world, North, South, East and West (or perhaps the four seasons).

The Christingle Service raised £80 in cash plus several Gift Aided envelopes for the Children's Society who strive to improve the lives of the 4 million children who, even today, live in poverty in the UK.

The evening of the Friday before Christmas saw the Carol Singers of the village setting out on a clear starlit night to raise money for the Church Housing Trust. The £92 raised will go to help the homeless who are particularly vulnerable at this time of year. Our thanks to all our singers.

Finally the Carol service on the Monday before Christmas and the Christmas Day service were well attended. We must extend a special vote of thanks to our clergy who work hard throughout the year but particularly during the festive period when their services are in great demand.

At the Evensong Service on the first Sunday of January Annie Cooper told us about the story of the Three Wise Men, who appeared after the birth of Jesus. Over Christmas my attention was drawn to a note in a window; it was one of those 'if only' stories. It said "If there had been Three Wise Women; they would have asked directions; turned up on time and helped deliver the baby; brought practical gifts; cleaned the stable; made a casserole and there would have been peace on earth". Food for thought!

Church Duties January

Cleaning

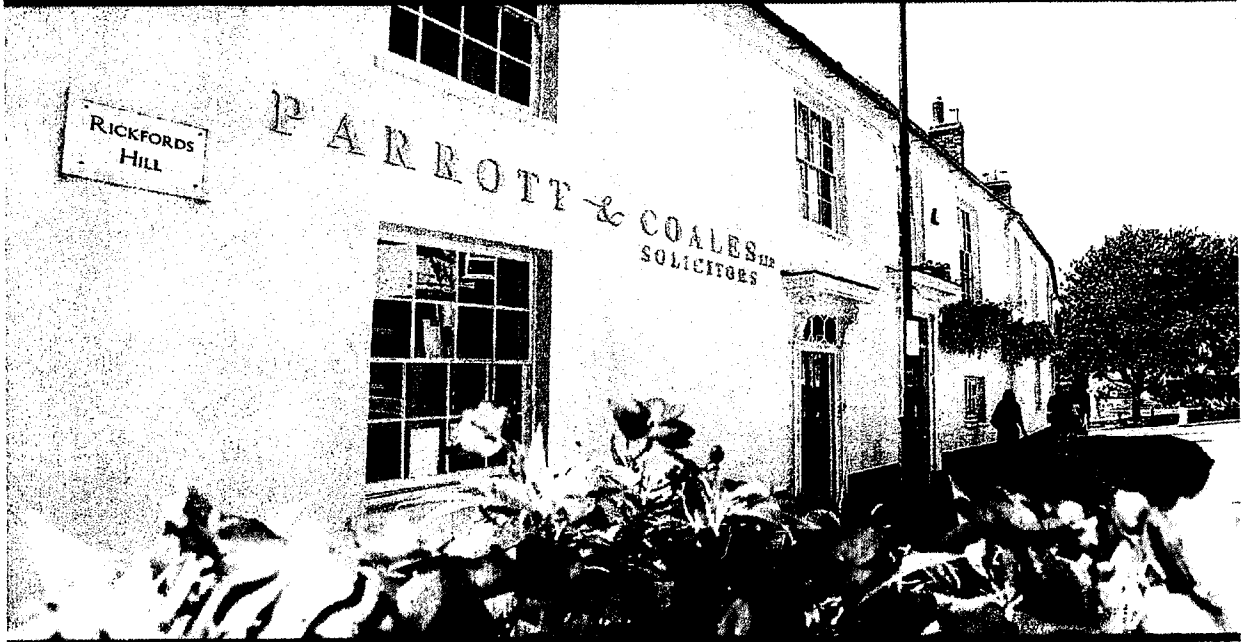
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Jan 17 th	Alex/ Anita
Jan 24 th	Colin/Gay
Jan 31 st	Colin

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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
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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

SHOP 681696 POST OFFICE 682964

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

PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW

CHURCH ROOM Bookings

£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

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Shorrocks (Chairman)
Oak Farm House – 681260

Paul Bruton (Parish Clerk)
51 The Green – 682322

Colin Higgs (Vice Chairman)
6 Wingrave Road – 681343

Richard Clarke
Maplewood, The Green – 681007

Judy Hardcastle
Marloes, Lines Hill – 688070

Kate Curry
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane – 681137

Bob Carvey
12 The Green – 681053

District Councillor
Peter Cooper
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham – 681250

County Councillor
Netta Glover - 688357

Address

Please note that all
Submissions for the
Chronicle should be sent to
Phil Corrigan
5 Nashs Farm, Aston Abbotts

Email submissions to:
editor@aachronicle.co.uk

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

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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

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David Gray

Treasurer & Synod Rep 07935414495

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WATCHTOWER



Dave Lewis is a Barsole

What, you may ask is a "Barsole"? Well... we at The Chronicle would like to know the answer to that as well?

Should you happen across Dave's conscience then we suggest you as her what a "barsole" is, as it is apparently she who coined the term whilst holidaying in Edinburgh over the New Year.

In the meantime, we think it would be rather nice to use this new form of address when greeting Dave. In future instead of yelling "Hello Dave!" or just "Lewis!", please shout, "Hello you old Barsole."

Man Flu - The Facts...

1. Man-Flu is more painful than childbirth. This is an irrefutable scientific fact*.
*(Based on a survey of over 100,000 men.)
2. Man-Flu is not 'just a cold'. It is a condition so severe that the germs from a single Man-Flu sneeze could wipe out entire tribes of people living in the rainforest. And probably loads of monkeys too.
3. Women do not contract Man-Flu. At worst they suffer from what is medically recognised as a 'Mild Girly Sniffle' - which, if a man caught, he would still be able to run, throw a ball, tear the phone book in half and compete in all other kinds of manly activities.
4. Men do not 'moan' when they have Man-Flu. They emit involuntary groans of agony that are entirely in proportion to the unbearable pain they are in.
5. Full recovery from Man-Flu will take place much quicker if their simple requests for care, sympathy and regular cups of tea are met. Is that really so much to ask?
6. More men die each year from MFN (Man-Flu Neglect) than lots and lots of other things. (Like rabbit attacks or choking on toast).
7. Men suffering from Man-Flu want nothing more than to get out of bed and come to work, but they are too selfless to risk spreading this awful condition amongst their friends and colleagues. In this sense, they are the greatest heroes this country has ever known.
8. In 1982 scientists managed to simulate the agonising symptoms of full blown Man-Flu in a female chimp. She became so ill that her head literally fell off.
9. Man-Flu germs are more powerful than Iron Man, Superman and Captain America combined. They are too strong for weak, nasty tasting 'lady medicines' like Lemsip, so don't bother trying to force them on a victim of Man-Flu.
10. While it may seem like a Man-Flu sufferer is just lying around enjoying *Baywatch* re-runs it is a commonly recognised medical fact that the exact pitch and frequency of Pamela Anderson's voice has remarkable soothing powers.

Every minute in this country one man is struck down by Man-Flu. Women, all we ask is that each of you offers them a cup of tea, some kind words and your undivided attention and care. Then maybe, just maybe, we'll beat this monstrous disease together...

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY