

THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine



EDITORIAL

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 352

June 2016

As ever this is being finished in a rush, so the usual apologies for any omissions. Apparently the first day of summer but hard to believe looking at the scene from my office window at the moment. Some people somewhat unkindly and erroneously may comment that you cannot see daylight from the bar!

A thinner than usual edition this time as some of our usual correspondents are lying low. No doubt they will resurface in July, with tales of their travels and in some cases food and alcoholic overindulgence! Mentioning no names.

Interesting tales from Teheran, or somewhere in the region from Jens who we have dubbed as our foreign correspondent. At least while he's in that region.

A couple of the more important events in the village are approaching, the Summer Ball and Village Fete. Both of which raise important funds. Macmillan Nurses in the case of the Ball, and Village causes from the fete proceeds. The Chronicle is one of the beneficiaries from the Fete and I'm pleased to say that following the recent village meeting will receive a greater, and if I may say, fairer share of the funds. But obviously I am biased in this matter!

Both of these events are important to the village and I would urge you to support them. Also if new to the village a good way to meet your new neighbours. To those newer arrivals we are quite normal and usually friendly, ok there might be some with two heads and three thumbs but very much in the minority.

Finally, a big thanks to Gill at Waddesdon School, who has been printing and putting the Chronicle together for us for ages and has recently retired, thank you Gill.

Phil Corrigan

June 2015

The Chronicle

Page 2

What's on in June

Tues 2nd	Aylesbury Vale Transport Mtg Methodist church 2pm		
	Train/Bus queries to Colin		
Thurs 4 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Whist Drive		7.30pm
Sun 7 th	Rambling Club meet at Studham		2pm
	Evensong	St James	6pm
Tues 9 th	Mobile Library	The Green	10.30
Thurs 11 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Bingo		7.30 pm
Thurs 18 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon
	Whist Drive		7.30pm
Sun 21 st	Village Footpath Walk	The Green	2pm
	Family Service	Village Hall	9.30am
	Breakfast followed by short church service		
Thurs 25 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall	10-12 noon

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19th May 2015

Despite the joys of spring we have suffered the hard side of nature this month. We had a mid-day fox raid on our chickens recently which left 4 dead and 2 alive but rather shaken. Now I have a certain sympathy for a vixen rearing cubs. During the first half of May those cubs, and there could be four, all need weaning from mother's milk onto adult food i.e. MEAT. What a job to supply 4 cubs with meat especially when there are very few rabbits about. So if the raiding fox had taken one fat chicken I could have a little understanding. However, a fox is a killer and our raider had to kill four, take a big bite out of one and leave the four carcasses for us to deal with. Two hens were lucky to escape.

Incidentally I have seen a few young rabbits about recently, mostly on the top of Lines Hill where they were being hunted by Kites and Buzzards – it's a tough world out there.

The Bees that we give home to have also given cause for concern. We had three active hives – each with a good store of food. Two of these colonies just disappeared in March leaving empty hives, no dead bees and a plentiful supply of honey. This is a new and worrying phenomenon. The third hive has been very active – bringing back loads of pollen and honey and invading the empty hives for their honey. Everything in the bee garden was lovely – well no. There bees seem to have turned rather nasty and have attacked and stung both of us when we have been 10 or more yards from the hive – they have to go as we cannot have friends round and enjoy our garden if there is any danger of those visitors being stung. What a great shame.

On another problem – moles – I was called over to a friend's house to get rid of the moles devastating his garden. As always I am impressed by the work moles do and by their strength. They must need a lot of oxygen to push up that soil into mole hills. Moles have no obvious air inlets into their burrows – have they got special ultra effective lungs? Another query – moles all seem to be the same size – I have never seen a half grown Mole – why not?

The recent rain has brought on the grass growth, May or Hawthorn blossom is nearly at its best and we have seen some beautiful Crab Apple trees in full bloom along our hedgerows. Even the Wotton Costard in the village orchard has looked a treat, just a tad late I suggest!

This month's star prize should probably be the Cow Parsley or Keck, as we used to call it, all along the road verges from Aston to Weedon. However, the Keck got the prize last year so this May? How about the Wisteria in front of Abbey Cottages – it is truly magnificent. BUT, also how about the beautiful dark Lilac behind that Wisteria in the Dickason's garden, what a combination and picture the two make.

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Countryside Matters

I am still hoping to see the swallows return in greater numbers but watching only five pairs at present flying and nesting when last year we had double that number, I am worried that it is already too late. The weather has been cold and the spring quite late, where have they all gone? Did they not survive their long journey from Southern Africa? Who knows?

Early on Saturday morning I walked to check the sheep and cattle and was shocked to find the body of a large four month old lamb, it was dead lying against the fence. Most of its body had been eaten, intestine, lungs and liver, the legs had also gone and the rib cage split open and nearly all the ribs missing. The eyes of course had been removed by crows or magpies. I could not understand why, a perfectly healthy and quite large lamb the night before was now a dead animal. I know most sheep have a death wish from the time they are born but this one remained a mystery. The culprit, due to the evidence of its paw prints and claw marks and the sheering of the bones in half, was not a fox but definitely a badger. The shepherd arrived and confirmed my suspicions. A few years ago they were losing a lamb a week due to badgers. Another discovery I made on the same day was a perfectly camouflaged leveret, it was just crouching in the gravel and it shot off into the hedge at the very last second, where no doubt its mother will visit to suckle it a dusk. It was only a couple of days old and would have fitted into the palm of one hand. I hope the red kites don't find it, they have a voracious appetite and for a great range of live prey such as voles, frogs, leverets and the chicks of ground nesting birds including the lapwings, skylarks, partridge and pheasant.

The countryside is a very hard place to grow up, I hope the poor old hedgehog can make a comeback from the edge of extinction but to do this we might have to control the predators, both the four legged ones and those others with wide wing spans; this could possibly be done by removing their eggs. The overriding problem is that when you give one species endless protective status it will always eventually lead to the serious demise of others.

James

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ALLOTMENT DIARY

So far, everything I have planted on the allotment seems to be doing well, but I am having mixed fortunes with the plants I have been trying to propagate in my greenhouse. Most of my brassicas (cauliflowers, broccoli and cabbages) have done well, as have my beans; but none of my peppers or cucumbers sprouted, only two out of eight courgettes, and only a small percentage of my leeks. I was in some cases using seed that I had bought last year – but the packets all indicated that the seed was still good for planting up to a date later on this year. My neighbour reckons that the problem may be that I have used my own compost, rather than using commercially produced stuff; and this may be too rich for the seeds.

Despite the depredation by some unknown animal or bird last year (but the finger of suspicion points at magpies), Adam and I have again planted a large crop of sweet corn. I will probably try to create and erect a scarecrow, in the hope that this will discourage them: we grow too many to net the crop.

I have written before about the attempt by the government to control the spread of unwelcome foreign plant invaders like Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam, which apparently costs the UK around £1.7bn each year; and I have read recently of some interesting new developments.

In the case of Japanese knotweed, there are two hopes of controlling it: the first is an insect called the Japanese knotweed psyllid, which makes the plant produce smaller leaves, thus reducing its ability to grow. Initial results from research by CABI, an inter-governmental research organisation have been encouraging. The second is a bug known as *aphalara itadori*, which has been discovered by CABI researchers in Japan, and which only eats knotweed. It was released 4 years ago, and is being monitored to see if it can release the plant's spread. It is of course important to make sure that the introduced insect, animal or bug does not itself produce a problem as big as the one it was introduced to eradicate. (A well-known example of this is the cane toad, which was introduced into Australia to control pest beetles in the sugar cane crop: there are now hundreds of thousands of them across northern Australia, where they are supplanting native species, largely because they are poisonous to Australian predators).

To attack Himalayan Balsam (which is an invasive plant which has no natural enemies in the UK, grows 7 feet high, and is gradually choking our ponds and waterways), scientists are releasing a deadly Asian fungus, after years of trials to make sure it will not attack any of our native species. It is being released in 5 UK regions, with 4 sites in each region, and with 10 plants infected with the fungus at each site, so that monitoring can continue. Importing plant diseases is highly controversial: two years ago scientists discovered that Britain's woodlands faced slow devastation from an Asian fungus called *chalara* which was accidentally imported by plant nurseries, and which could do to Britain's ash trees what Dutch elm disease did for elms.

Finally, a news item that will interest Bob Carvey, who grows some dahlias on his allotment: a Swiss plant company called Lubera is introducing an edible dahlia! The tubers are said to taste like a cross between a carrot, and a potato, with a hint of celery or asparagus. The tubers are harvested in the autumn after the flowers have died. A spokesman for Lubera said that when the plant was originally introduced into Europe from central America 200 years ago, it was sold as being edible (having been eaten by the Aztecs)– but gardeners concentrated on producing plants that produced beautiful blooms, and the edible nature of the tubers was forgotten.

Peter Shorrocks



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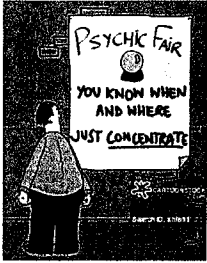
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The Astonians Part 9

Aston Abbotts Psychic Madness



Contains some strong language

Astonpete

All characters are fictional and hold no association to anyone

I'm not into this kind of thing but living in a sleepy village I thought I would go to the latest village hall event to raise money for the hall upkeep; The Village 'Psychic Experience'.

Well, some experience it turned out to be. The young Psychic host, looking more like something from a Trekkie convention, opened the meeting asking for hands up to those who have seen a ghost. Half of the audience put their hands up which included, 'Drunk Donald', the 'small holding' farmer who has seen most things after he's left the Aston Abbotts Arms blind drunk. The Psychic Trekkie then asked for hands up to those who have felt a ghost. Only a few raised their hands this time, including Drunk Donald. I started to smile when I saw Mincy Bumgardner raise her hand. I don't like to judge but she's a slut who's probably felt most things sensual. Anyway Psychic Spook then pushes the boundaries, in my opinion, and asks for hands to anyone who has had sex with a ghost. First looking discretely at Mincy, we all suddenly turned our attention to Drunk Donald who was the only person in the hall to have his hand up.

The pervy psychic asked Donald, "Can you tell us sir what it was like to have sex with a ghost?" To that, Drunk Donald replied, "Oh a ghost? I thought you were talking about goats!"

My next door neighbour and I nearly wet ourselves when we saw the reporter from The Bucks Herald flash his camera around the room.

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VILLAGE FETE 25th July 2015

This year we have divided the village into zones each comprising around 15 to 20 houses and I am getting local co-ordinators to distribute raffle tickets and assist with collections in the week before the Fete in these areas. I am currently short of people to cover The Green, so get in touch.

For one or two of the stalls I am also trying to operate two shifts with a hand-over half way through the afternoon. This would allow everyone to have time to go round the Fete as well as helping out on a stall. But it depends on the number of volunteers we can get. If you would like to help as a local co-ordinator or stallholder please let me know. Newcomers will be most welcome and I will make sure you are briefed.

Even if you cannot join the team please remember to put aside those books, unwanted presents, bottles of drink (for the tombola) and bric-a-brac that are surplus to requirements so that we can collect them for the Fete stalls in July. Also if you could produce a cake for Fran Osbourne's Stall or for Louise McManus to use at the Village Hall then please let me know.

Finally do come along with all the family on the day.

Thanks - David Gray Tel: 681952 or email ukdavidgray@gmail.com

PROCEEDS FROM THE FETE

For those of you who are new to the village and may wonder what happens to the proceeds of the Fete, here is a little of the history.

Originally this was the Church Fete and village stalwarts like Shirley Ford and Colin Higgs who sat on the PCC (the Parochial Church Council) ran the Fete with the help of many other villagers.

In recent years, recognising that other village amenities should also be supported, the proceeds have been split between the Chronicle, the Recreation Ground, the Village Hall and the Church. Each year the precise distribution is decided at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

So please support the Fete and thereby these worthy causes so that the life of the village remains as vibrant and welcoming as it is today.

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Letters Page

I just want to say how angry I am that for the next six months those of us living in the bungalows in Bricstock have to endure the bonfire sight being piled up 6ft high with pile of tree hedge and bush cuttings, I don't really care that they had been cutting down over the recreation ground and had nowhere else to put the cuttings. Take them to the tip. It's bad enough that after the annual bonfire the organisers never bother to clear the remains the ash etc. is just left there in the recreation ground, still they don't live there so they don't have to look out on it so I don't suppose they care. One of the neighbours had kindly planted some wild flower seeds on the bonfire site to try and make it a little nicer to look out on, they were just starting to come through but of course now they have been smothered.

Would other people like it if we piled up all tree hedge and bush cuttings up in front of their homes I do hope that this doesn't now mean that the general public are going to be able to fill this site with rubbish 12 months of the year.

It's totally thoughtless and selfish. Anyone who thinks that we should enter the best kept village with this hideous pile must be mad.

Lyn Clark

This was subject to a lively discussion at the Village meeting, and reasons why these cuttings were temporarily stored here, hopefully all ended amicably. Ed

Dear Sir

With reference to the article in the May Chronicle from your regular Gourmand Noisy Mug, "3 Go mad (and overindulge) at Quaglinos" given the well documented alcohol intake at this lunch I would suggest that a review of The Priory rehabilitation clinic is on the cards.

Yours

A B Stainer

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AYLESBURY WATERSIDE THEATRE - SUMMER 2015

Aylesbury Waterside Theatre has kindly offered a pair of Press Tickets for each of the shows listed below.

The tickets are free and you will usually be offered a programme and a drink during the interval. If you would like to enter the draw for any or all of the shows listed then either send me an email to

johnhardcastle@me.com

or post a note through my door at Marloes, Lines Hill.

The draw for each show takes place two weeks prior to the show date.

Show	Date & Time
THE CHICAGO BLUES BROTHERS	THU 11 JUN 7.30PM
THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC	FRI 12 JUN 7.30PM
CHUCKLES OF OZ	SAT 13 JUN 2PM
NORTHERN BALLET <i>Madam Butterfly with Perpetuum Mobile</i>	FRI 19 JUN 7.30pm
EAST IS EAST Starring Pauline McLynn	TUE 23 JUN 7.30PM
AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING	THU 16 JUL 7.30PM
BASIL BRUSH	THU 13 AUG 2.30PM
VINCENT & FLAVIA World Premiere	THU 17 SEP 7.30PM
JERSEY BOYS	WED 23 SEP 7.30PM

John Hardcastle

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

OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR; THE MUSICAL

I have always been a great fan of Joan Littlewood's "Oh What a Lovely War". I saw the original show in 1963, bought the LP record, saw the film in 1969 with that amazing cast which included Dirk Bogarde, John Gielgud, John Mills, Kenneth More, Laurence Olivier and Jack Hawkins! If there had been a t-shirt, I would probably have worn it!

I was worried that I might be disappointed by the current production at Aylesbury Theatre since I had such vivid memories of the original but I was not. There were no famous celebrated actors taking part – the only one I knew out of a cast of twelve was Wendi Peters (better known as Cilla Battersby from Coronation Street). There was another face that looked familiar but I was not sure why. (On checking the programme notes, I think it might have been Alex Giannini who appeared in the 50th anniversary production of this show at The Theatre Royal Stratford). . But there was nothing to fear: once again I was swept away by the originality of tackling such a tragic subject by means of a vaudeville Pierrot Show. The cast was brilliant – full of energy and life.

All the songs were there from "Belgium Put the Kibosh on the Kaiser" to "Keep the Home Fires Burning". The show moved at a fast pace, with one "turn" after the next tumbling on to the stage. Our audience seemed to be swept away by the "fun" element. However, in the background, the reality and the horrors of war were depicted through original black and white photographs and a crooked, electronic ticker-tape informing us of the millions who were killed, wounded and reported missing and how very little, if any, progress on moving the front line took place. The war propaganda machine continued to roll, the folks back home remained loyal and ever hopeful and the soldiers continued to be slaughtered.

Two cross young girls left in the interval, saying loudly that it wasn't what they thought they were going to see and how much they didn't like it. Perhaps it is a show that hasn't universal appeal but I certainly loved it and had tears in my eyes at the end as the cast silently gave tribute to those brave young men who had died so needlessly.

I should like to thank both John Hardcastle for the tickets and Aylesbury Waterside Theatre for their hospitality and for giving me the opportunity of seeing this show once more after a gap of so many years. The magic and pathos were still very much alive and it is a show that I would recommend everybody to see at least once in their lifetime.

Carolyn Guse

Here's our review for Sex in Suburbia.

Sarah and I were delighted to win tickets to see Sex in Suburbia, starring Claire Sweeney. The chance of winning tickets and having a date night precluded us researching anything about the performance before we arrived, but there wasn't any trepidation.

A brief overview of the plot, Claire Sweeney is a guest on a Radio show discussing the sex lives of those ringing in. Joined by a producer, Carl Patrick, and an occasional walk-on part from a cleaner, the cast list is small but perfectly formed.

Claire Sweeney, her co-host Linzi Germain and Carl, then take turns to act out the phone calls.

It's incredibly camp, but very good fun. Sponsored by Anne Summers, you're right in assuming a number of their adult-themed products do get thrust upon the audience. Brings a whole new meaning to product placement!

The audience was equally mixed between male and female, and the age range again equally mixed from young adult and throughout the ages. With sex more in our consciousness and discussed openly, the show wasn't at all crude, just a bit of a giggle. With audience participation at the end where they discussed bad dates, it was all good fun.

Chris Philips

Absent Friends – by Alan Ayckbourn

This was a very well-acted bitter sweet challenge to the social etiquette that existed at the end of the 1950's. The set was the 'beautiful' home of Diana who was in a loveless marriage. Her front room, where all the action takes place, was furnished with expensive but uncomfortable leather sofas. There were fluffy rugs – it was necessary to put your shoes on small mats so that dust wouldn't get into the deep pile.

Diana's husband was an unfit squash player who avoided his wife by always having office work to attend to.

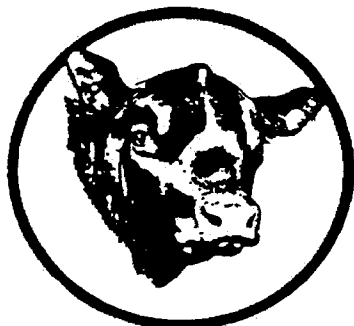
It's been arranged for a long-time friend to come and have tea. You could make out a pineapple and cheese hedgehog amongst the sandwiches.

This was an archetypal Ayckbourn play that made you laugh and cringe all at the same time.

To date he has written 79 plays; the first was staged in 1959. Looking down the list the ones I recognized were The Norman Conquests, Season's Greetings and A Chorus of Disapproval.

John Hardcastle

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No travel this time but an occasional report from our foreign correspondent, Jens Martin.

From your foreign correspondent at the front or in this case somewhere further back – but still in charge.

The glass, emptied and returned to the bar in the Royal Oak and with a sigh of having to accept the inevitable left, assigned to explore the coasts of newish Persian Empire.

The adventure began when I was dropped at Terminal 3, Heathrow. I was to travel by a little known airline (This was to be an economical assignment, one of Pasha's cheap travel plans) Nameless Air – it reminds me of the days of BOAC (Better on a Camel) anyway some time was spent wandering the halls of T3 searching for the check in desk which I eventually found tucked into a dark corner and manned by what I took to be the airlines Miss Nowhere 19—something with the help of a lot of pasty make up and very strong deodorant. Anyway – stamp – stamp and go and wait. Two hours later we were led by the same harridan, bits of makeup flaking off, setting a trail for us to follow. So onto a very second hand plane and not very clean, we sat for what seemed hours, obviously until someone woke up the crew after they had faced Mecca and exhausted themselves.

Tehran. Imam Khomeini Airport. Yup you got it. Pictures everywhere of a head with long grey beard and a black bandage round the head.

By the way Imam Khomeini Airport was voted one of the ten worst in the world. I got though it only a little scarred but sweating and then found my driver was possibly no older than 17 or 18 and I think his name was Akbah Amil Fangio because the 100 kilometers from this aeronautical mayhem to the hotel (quite reasonable and comfortable) was done at lightning speed along the 10 lane specially built motorway. I said the hotel was comfortable but I only sampled it's delights between 0200 and 0800 before being collected, this time by a better driver to drive 35 minutes to Mehrabad Airport (Domestic, old International airport) and the last the letters of the name says a lot!. One hour and a half later I arrived in Assaloyeh

! Don't ask just Google it

Driving in Iran, Tehran in particular is OK if you are Iranian and understand that the white lines on the road are to drive along, a bit like the police drinking test in UK only this is in cars and not on foot.

It reminded me of past assignments on the front in Taipei some years ago and again in Hanoi a couple of years later. I wasn't reporting at that time for the Aston Abbotts Morning star or Evening Star for that matter. More of these episodes in this reporter's career another time if Pasha demands.

One common theme in all these places is that no matter how dense the traffic there are always elderly women or old men stepping out into the traffic with besoms to sweep the road. How the hell they have lived so long amazes me.

Oh! I forgot in amongst all this, on these wide city eight lane boulevards there are ancient donkeys driven by even more ancient men plodding along mostly in the inside lane but sometimes in the second lane. I have a soft spot for donkeys (I was once a member of the Donkey Club (organized by the Swift comic) “Jesus where is this bloke coming from” you ask. Well for your education The Swift was the Junior version of The Eagle – so there. Anyway back to the point. Turning round to look out of the back window when passing the donkeys you could see that they have that look of inevitability in their eyes knowing that they have no say on where they going and completely trusting their owners not to get a ten ton truck up their backside.

Assaloyeh. Then literally about another hour and a half to a sort of Iranian equivalent of something between a poor quality B&B and a squat one would find in the dodgy parts of Birmingham. Don’t ask how I know but I heard it in the RO.

Nearing the front I hope (no sounds of gun or mortar fire) I dosed down until 0600 and had Iranian bread and sort of vegetable curry stuff before being whisked away in a rattle trap. 20 minutes out the driver who spent most of his time behind the wheel smoking, texting and talking on his phone or staring out of the window (side window). I guess the white line kept his attention for about 10 seconds out of every minute. At the 20 minute mark another phone call (bear in mind we are rattling along a motorway (2 lanes each side, fortunately with a central barrier, ask me about Hanoi later) and the driver pulls over puts on his hazard lights and proceeds to BACK along the B---motorway !!!! until we reach a place where he can drive across in front of on-coming traffic through a gap in the central barrier (obviously as a result a serious crash) and drive all the way back to the squat to be given a small box-----I immediately knew this was some ones ashes, I didn’t know for sure but I felt it was the ashes of his last passenger !

At the end of the journey we arrived in a light sand storm in a place called Dayyar. Yeah – you are right Google it. This was at the northern end of an oil refinery which I kid you not we had been driving past and through for at least 30 minutes at high speed.

Anyway I was let out into the dust storm at this stage to wait for a speed boat to evacuate me out of Iran to my command. Eventually after 40 minutes of a very bumpy ride, suitable for repositioning hemorrhoids. The dust storm had been upgraded again to a sand storm. We arrived and the Phillipino crew grabbed my bag and I set foot on something solid.

I blew my nose and deposited a small sand dune in my handkerchief.

A second episode may follow if requested and if I manage to keep out of the grips of this ships storekeeper cum security. He is as big as David’s opponent, wonky right eye and a sabre scar down the right side of his face carries a knife the size of a crusaders two handed sword, resides in the darkest bowel of the ship and only appears for food once a night. He is called “Sir” I think.

If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain. We could do with some here. Temps are running to 48 C

Jihadi Jens

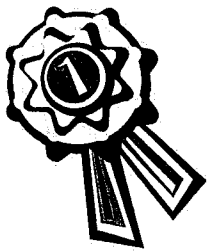
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25th July



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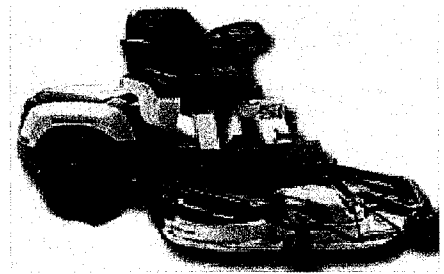
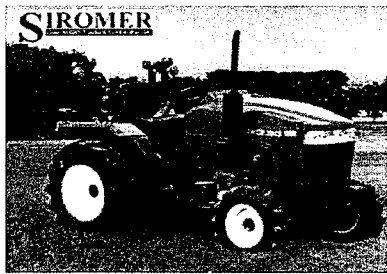
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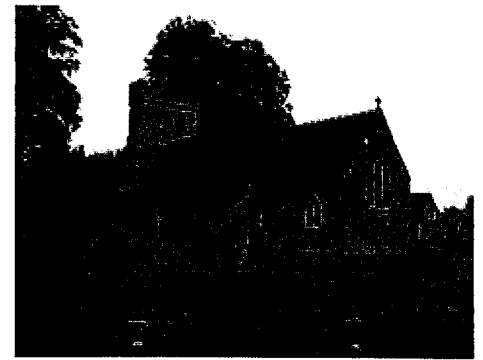
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**Services at
Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts
June 2015**

7th June	6.00pm	Evensong	Rev. Philip Derbyshire
14th June	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Peter Binns
21st June	9.30am	Breakfast in the Village Hall followed by a short Service	
28th June	10.30am	Communion	Rev. Roger Hale

We look forward to seeing you

100 Club Draw May 2015

1st Prize, £50: Liz Clarke

2nd prize, £10: Sondra Dickason



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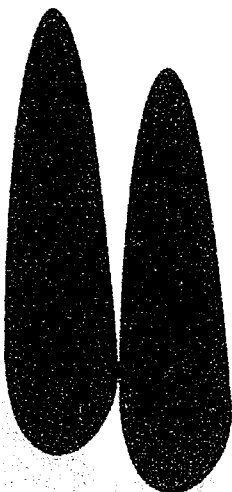
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Church Matters



The diary of St. James's

We held our first 'Breakfast Service' at St. James on Sunday 17th May. It was a great success with families young and old starting with croissants with jam and pain au chocolat with tea, coffee or soft drinks in the Village Hall. Then during a short informal service in the Church with Nigel swapping the Church Organ for a keyboard, we were entertained by the two Peter Knights and Nigel acting out a modern version of a scene from the early days of the Church with Simon Peter being quizzed by the local fuzzi. Audience participation was encouraged and the junior percussion group added extra verve to the final song. We intend to hold these breakfasts monthly and the next service is on Sunday 21st June (preceded by breakfast in the Village Hall at 9.30am). Thanks to everyone who helped to provide the breakfast and to Peter and Ro for their huge contribution to the success of this new venture.

You will have read in the May Chronicle Peter Knight's article "Church Bells". I thought I would tell you more of the background to the mysterious appearance of teams of bell ringers at Aston Abbots.

On Bank Holiday Monday (4th May) the Church Bells rang out for an hour with numerous peels. This happens several times a year as members of the Oxford Diocese Guild of Bell ringers (formed in 1881) strive to tick another tower of their list.

There are 15 branches in the guild and Aston Abbots is in the Central Bucks Branch which stretches from Great Horwood in the North to Haddenham in the South, Wing in the East to Marsh Gibbon in the West. There are 41 Church Towers in the area with between 3 and 10 bells each. On this day half the towers in the area were open, offering 6 and 8 bells and even one 12 bell tower (at All Saints Leighton Buzzard) for ambidextrous ringers! These occasional visits allow bell ringers to visit and experience other towers and meet like-minded people.

The ringers each pay £1 per tower into the Oxford Diocesan Bell fund which supports the repair and renewal of church bells in the Oxford Diocese. For more information and competition results see <http://odg.org.uk/index.php>

We make the final draw in the 2014/5 series of the 100 Club lottery this month. The winners for May are shown at the foot of the list of Services. If you are a member and wish to renew for 2015/6 please keep a look out for the application form that will be delivered this month. If you are new to the area and would like to join the lottery and thus help maintain our village Church then please complete the form and get it to the organisers this month (see supplication for details). Thanks

The Novice

Dear friends,

Summer, Sun, Birthday, Fathers' Day---that's the up side. Down maybe exams, preparing to leave or change school?

As a June baby I've always felt more at home in this section of the year. It's somehow more energizing, more hopeful. But then I know people who feel the same about say October or November. I guess it's all a state of mind: half full/half empty; can do/can't do etc etc. And who knows exactly what predisposes us to be one or the other? It's like the nature/nurture debate---what about the third element which is peculiarly 'us' and nothing to do with genes or our social environment, poor or rich, law-abiding or criminal.

Belief systems are quite generally under assault in our western world, being replaced by 'brave new world' secularism and yet the basic human material doesn't seem to change with high expectations. To quote the old Beach Boys' song we still have the heroes and villains all around us and young people in particular have to navigate very difficult waters to lead a decent life: bombarded on all sides by fast moving ideas and images and often not based on a solid base of any sort.

Although not brought up in a Christian home my parents had a very clear code which they lived by and passed to me: it was a very solid nest in which my own faith was able to be nurtured when (in the words of a good friend) I 'opted for God in Christ' in whom there is life and love, hope and joy. To deliberately misquote John Lennon for a moment: 'Imagine I took Jesus seriously, look at what a world there would be: one in which we wouldn't need to fight, starve or feel let down or put down'. Maybe the feelgood factor could be with us all the time.....

Have a great June (or look forward to a wonderful October/November!
God bless, Philip.

Reverend Philip Derbyshire
The Vicarage
2 High Street North
Stewkley
Leighton Buzzard
Lu7 OHH

Church Duties	Cleaning	Flowers	Mowing
June 6th	Colin/ Caroline Lane	April	Nigel
June 13th	Gordon/ Ann	April	Mark
June 20th	Alex / Anita	Caroline A/S	Gordon
June 27 th	Colin/Gay	Caroline A/S	Peter

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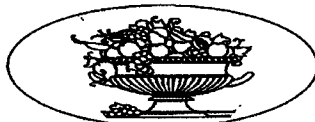
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Baby & Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Bingo	Pam Dixon	681626
	Sondra Dickason	682249
Book Club	John Hardcastle	688070
Bus Enquiries	Travel line	0870 6082608
Buses	L & S	415468
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Chronicle Editorial	Phil Corrigan	688191
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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	David Gray	681952
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

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To contact them call

101

This is a non-emergency number.

Alternatively, email them on:

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- One kilo of Corsican sausages
- One third of a bottle of Peter Shorrock's very best sweet Corsican desert wine

Method

Place the ingredients in Peter Shorrock's best non-stick pan Fry until everything has gone black

Prior to serving, ensure all sugar in the wine is converted to dangerous carcinogens

To serve

Carefully prise the sausages free from the sticky black glutinous mess in the pan
Serve accompanied with life-threatening quantities of white bread and cheese

Warning

Carefully dispose of the now-unusable non-stick pan in the hazardous waste section of the local tip

Did You Hear ...

Did you hear the one about 6 Aston Abbotts blokes who went into a Corsican supermarket to buy bread? Within two minutes their trolley was filled with 15 bottles of wine, 26 bottles of beer, 11 different cheeses and one pack of octopus in oil and herbs

It's a true story!

Religion

Many people may be stunned to hear that on the recent Aston Abbotts cultural excursion to Corsica John Whyte was spotted inside a church not once, but **twice!**

However, we wish to reassure you that the Red Sea was not parted, no Damascene conversion has taken place, and God still does not believe in John Whyte.

(Old) Men Behaving Badly

The guys from Aston Abbotts decided to grow beards whilst in Corsica. Of course there are many different types of beard. For example:

The Goatee

Style: Small beard surrounding the mouth and chin

Maintenance: Keep cheeks clean shaven

The Curtain

Style: Hangs from the lower chin only

Maintenance: Keep cheeks and upper lip clean shaven

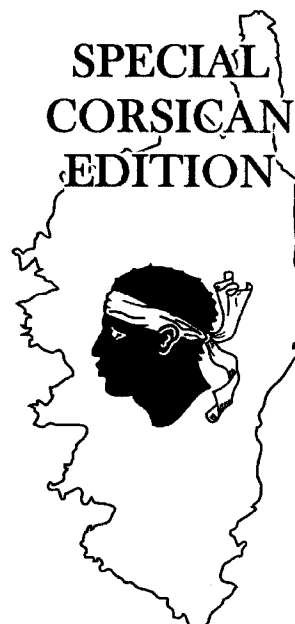
...and now...

The Corsican Stubble

Style: Short and grey

Maintenance: Forcibly removed by angry spouse upon arrival home.

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