

THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine



**EVERYBODY IN ASTON ABBOTTS GOES TO THE FETE !
SATURDAY JULY 25TH 1PM ON THE VILLAGE GREEN**

EDITORIAL

THE CHRONICLE

Issue 353

July/August 2015

I saw a sign today outside a pub, “Hello Summer” yes it seems to have finally arrived, let’s hope it’s here for a while and stays for the Village Ball and Fete, both important for raising funds for charity and village causes, especially the Chronicle but I am biased. Due to my tardiness and that fact that this is a two month issue some events detailed in this issue may have passed.

I can’t believe it was at the Fete in 2013 that I said to John Hardcastle that I was prepared to help out to keep the Chronicle going, it’s largely been fun but in truth sometimes a chore when the day job gets in the way, so a few deadlines missed occasionally. Sincere thanks to all of those that contribute to and distribute the Chronicle, I regularly check other village magazines and our ratio of articles to advertising is much better, so thanks to all of our regular and occasional contributors, and given the percentage of the village that attended Glastonbury we could probably add a music correspondent.

One of our distributors, Ian of Nashs Farm, has recently move out of the village, so we are calling out for a volunteer to take over his “round” which I understand is 25 copies, so if the idea of a gentle stroll once a month appeals please get in touch.

Talking of volunteers, there is a call to arms in the Chronicle for volunteers to help on Fete Day, I would love to volunteer but am out of the country, wish I was two years ago!

So this is the last Chronicle until September, yes I get a month off, so back with you in a couple of months and look out for some major changes to your favourite village magazine.

Phil Corrigan

What's on in July & August

July

Sat 11 th	Summer Ball	Firs Field Wingrave Rd
Thurs 16 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall 10 – 12 noon
	Whist Drive	7.30pm
Sun 19 th	Village Footpath walk	The Green 2pm
Thurs 23 rd	Coffee Shop	Village Hall 10 – 12 noon
Sat 25 th	Village Fete	The Green / The Grove 1pm

Stalls, Sideshows, Dog Show, Teas, Floral Displays.

Sun 26 th	Church open for floral Displays	
Thurs 30 th	Coffee Shop	Village Hall 10 – 12 pm
	Whist Drive	7.30 pm

August

Sun 2 nd	Rambling Club	view Cheddington Gardens
	Evensong	St James Church 6pm
Thurs 27 th	Bucks County Show	Weedon Park

No whist or bingo during August.



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23RD JUNE 2015

What a strange spring this has been – windy with hot sunshine but cold evenings and nights – not many barbeques have been used yet this year. The good news is that we have, at last, had a good rain – badly needed on farms, gardens and not least in our village orchard. We could do with another dose next week, preferably at night.

The insect world seems a bit topsy-turvy this year. My broad beans are smothered in black fly but there is not a sign of their main predator the good old Ladybird beetle – not one! They were about early in the year and I suspect they came out of hibernation in March and April on those warm days but could find nothing to eat and died. Possibly something similar happened with Butterflies, we had butterflies aplenty in our garden early on but none now. A friend monitors the moth population in Wingrave and she is concerned about the lack of moths. This means no food for the bats and possibly the Swifts. Unless there is soon a bonanza of flying insects I suspect bats will have a very hard year.

Nature has a wonderful way of bouncing back – what few Rabbits there were about have certainly been doing what Rabbits do – young rabbits are a common sight at present. To my surprise Jackdaws seem to have bred well this spring. Rooks and Jackdaws struggle a bit in early summer if the ground is hard and dry and they can't dig into it. Well the ground has been hard and dry but there seems to be, dare I say, "a plague" of Jackdaws around the village – too many for my liking.

It's nice to know that some people actually read my monthly attempt at writing. I have been asked what criteria are needed to qualify for the monthly star prize. The answer is simple – the prize goes to something that is eye catchingly beautiful and is available for anyone to see. This month there are three contenders: One is the Honeysuckle on the front of Andy Bystra and Rita's house – a lovely dark colour. Another contender is the path up to the front of 25 the Green, easily seen from the road, an old fashioned garden path with eye catching well tended plants either side. The winner, however, is our Churchyard – ablaze with colour – white and red, poppies and dog daisies – simple but beautiful – a pity it's behind the Church and not easier to see at the front.

One of the most beautiful sights to me is quite rare nowadays – a sleek fat contented cattle lying at ease in a field of rich summer grass. Any cattle would do, but for preference dark red Sussex, a rare breed or lovely Black Angus. Oh, for the good old day!

Peter Knight

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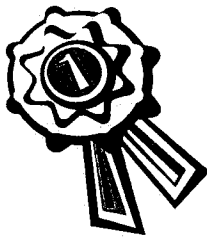
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-  Sit Challenge
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Fête Opens 1pm, Dog Show Starts 1.15pm

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Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust

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

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

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

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

<http://www.rideandstrideuk.org/counties/buckinghamshire/>

SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
FOR
OUR NEXT ASTON ABBOTTS
BREAKFAST SERVICE
9.30am in the Village Hall

followed by a short, joyful and informal service in Church.

**There were 41 of us, including 11 children, in June,
so we very much hope you will join us on 6th September.**

For further information do contact Caroline Abel Smith on 681001



HELP NEEDED

**Do You Have A Few Hours To Spare In
October/November ?**

**Please join our team of Royal British Legion Poppy
Appeal Volunteers to collect around CUBLINGTON
between 25th October – 9th November 2015**

**Please help us to collect vital funds needed for the Royal British
Legion so they can continue to help give advice and support to
serving members of the armed forces, veterans of all ages and
their families.**

Please contact Amanda Tofield – 640100 if you are able to help.

**It's great fun, you get to have a bit of exercise, meet new people, have a
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Go on - do your bit and phone me today!!!



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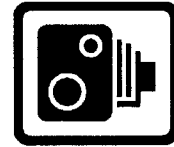
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HGVs and TRAFFIC



As you will be aware there has been a real increase in the number of HGVs and cars using Aston Abbots as a short cut since the opening of the new link road at Buckingham Park. There are several possible options for how to slow down or dissuade drivers using Aston Abbots as a cut through but these are very costly. In order to put pressure on the County Council to do something about this problem we need to gather evidence. Evidence can be written or photographic. To help with this we would appreciate if you would:

- 1) **REPORT:** If you have been involved in or witnessed an incident, over the past couple of years, involving an HGV or speeding vehicle through the village please keep a record of it and pass it to the Parish Clerk. This can be a major or minor incident, clearly if it is a major incident the police should be informed too. Incidents might include, for example, having to take evasive action to avoid a collision when driving, being forced onto the verge when walking or seeing a vehicle cause damage to property. Please try and include as much information about the offending vehicle and where and when the incident occurred.
- 2) **RECORD:** Keep a record or take a photo of HGVs travelling through Aston Abbots. There are a number of vehicles that have to travel through the village to neighbouring farms. But there are also an increasing number who are being directed here by their SAT-NAV devices. We need to demonstrate that the vast number of HGVs travel through the village unnecessarily. Again please include as much information about the vehicle as possible, with the date, time and location it was seen.
- 3) **FEEDBACK/ SUGGEST:** If you live in Nash's Farm, Bricstock or around the 'inner' Green (from Osborn's round to Moat Lane) we need your ideas. You will have noticed that this section of the village is used as a cut through and is especially busy during the rush hour. It has been suggested that it could be made one way (either completely or partially), there could be speed bumps or a pinch point – narrowing the road half way round. What do you think would help? Please send in your suggestions and views on these possible solutions or any other ideas you can think of.
- 4) **VOLUNTEER:** The Parish council are looking into borrowing a Speed Indicator Device (SID) for a couple of days, to gather data, but need volunteers to man it for up to two hours at a time. Please let the Parish Clerk know if you would be happy to help with this.

Please post any information, photos or ideas to the Parish Clerk:
Mrs Zandy Ayres, 15 The Green or email astonabbotsclerk@gmail.com

Thank you for your time. This is an issue that affects all of us and your help on this matter could make a real difference.

Letters Page

Dear Ed

A Countryside View or Sound

Having lived in this village for many years I have grown to appreciate most of its fabulous views and its fine residents. The long summer evenings when the wind is light one can sit outside and enjoy the peace of the sun going down perhaps with a small drink.

However in recent weeks I have found this peace has been constantly disturbed by yapping dogs.

I find the noises of the countryside no issue at all, Farm Tractors, grazing animals even the church bells present no problem in disturbing this peace, but the constant yapping of a hound that has nothing at all to bark at but keeps on barking anyway becomes very tiresome. Perhaps the owner is unaware or does not care or just does not want the hound yapping in the house, but leaving it outside to disturb others is unreasonable.

If you are a dog owner please bear this in mind, indeed you may not even know that it's out there yapping anyway.

Here's to some more lovely evenings.

Name and address supplied

**"Royal British Legion"
Wingrave and District branch**

Most of you will know by now that the local branch of the RBL is closing down. At the last AGM there were no volunteers to take over the vacant posts of branch officers and sadly closure became inevitable.

We would like to thank all of you for your help in supporting this great charity over many years. In the future should you want to help, need information or an ex service person needs help please go to the "Pop in" Centre in the High Street Aylesbury or use the national help line: free phone 0808 802 8080.

We hope that the laying of the standard will take place during evensong in Aston Abbott's Parish Church on Sunday 2nd August.

Best wishes
Alan Jones

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COME AND TRY THE NEW MENU

STARTERS

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- 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

Dear Ed

To the dog walkers of Aston Abbotts

Far be it from me to moan BUT like many others I get frustrated with dog walkers who allow their dog to foul the highway and the footpaths within the fields. I own a large dog and so am mindful of where he poos. He is trained never to foul the pavement or footpaths but I'm still loaded with my XXL poop bags for when and if he poos in the fields.

This note is really to the residents who let their dog/s foul the pavement and footpaths without picking it up and disposing of it correctly.

Only today I was climbing over a stile only to tread in a large dog turd on the other side. If my dog dumped in such an area I would clear it up immediately after giving him a 'kick up the butt' for doing it where people step. Why let your dog crap where people walk?

I know the majority of dog owners are responsible but to the dog slob who foul where we step. STOP IT.

Name and address supplied

VILLAGE FETE 25th July 2015

Your local coordinators will be in touch early in the month to arrange collections in the week before the Fete for the following:

1. Raffle tickets
2. Books. Fiction, Non-Fiction or Children's books for the bookstall. Now is the time to clear out those shelves.
3. Bric-a-brac. This ever popular stall, sells china and glass, ornaments, small items of furniture, toys, pictures, collectables, almost anything except electricals.
4. Cakes. We are famous for our Cake stall, which is always the first to sell out, so all contributions gratefully received. Please label the cake(s) with type.
5. Bottles. Clear out those dark cupboards of anything drinkable that can be won on the bottle tombola.
6. Plants. The plant stall will benefit if you can pot up and label some plants.

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

Men of Aston Abbotts



Your village Fete needs you....to help put up tables, signs, etc on the morning of the Fete, Saturday 25th July from 10am and then help put everything away at 4pm. If you can give an hour or so of your time it will help everything to go smoothly and will be very much appreciated.

.....Thanks. David Gray

invitation

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‘Thank you for the Music’

We were lucky enough to win tickets to Thank You for the Music, the show that is billed as the ‘ultimate tribute to Abba and the Bee Gees’. We arrived at a fairly sparsely populated Waterside Theatre and wondered what the evening was going to hold for us. Sadly the auditorium was barely half full, and we began to fear the worst.

The first half was, predictably, devoted to the Bee Gees. Although we both enjoy listening to the hits of the Bee Gees, we weren’t sure a whether whole set of their music would be a bit too much – however, their renditions of their smash hits, including Stayin’ Alive, Tragedy, Saturday Night Fever, More than a Woman and How Deep is Your Love were certainly spectacular, and had the audience on their feet very quickly. Suddenly the theatre didn’t seem quite so empty after all.

After the interval two of the Bee Gees were miraculously transformed into Benny and Bjorn, and were joined on stage by Agnehta and Frida, to deliver a set to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Abba’s Eurovision triumph with Waterloo. All the usual Abba hits were there, and I have to say that musically the group were great, with the audience once again dancing enthusiastically. I have to admit I find it hard these days to listen to Abba without picturing scenes from the film Mama Mia in my head, and our overall impression of the show was that although it was musically enjoyable, it somehow seemed to lack spontaneity and pace – but maybe we’ve just heard these tunes a bit too often now to take them at face value.

Thank you once again to John Hardcastle for making the tickets available.

Kate & Peter

Illegal Eagles

When you see a versatile six piece band singing multiple harmonies it is a special time.

Formed some 19 years ago, after two of the members went to see the Hell Freezes Over tour of the real Eagles , this band was excellent . They swapped instrumental roles and lead singing duties with ease and aplomb. All the well-known numbers of Peaceful Easy Feeling, Desperado, and Take it Easy plus many others were covered with excellent singing and really good musicianship. It was a relief that they did not need lighting effects and visual projections to cover inadequacies. They just stood there and played and sang to the delight of the audience.

When they got to the encore they played Hotel California and we were reminded that the iconic guitar ending was actually a duet played with precision by the two guitarists, who on completion shook hands

as a sign of a job well done.

A great night and if you get the chance to see them take it , even if you don't get free tickets.

Neil

EAST IS EAST

I saw this play at the Waterside Theatre on 23rd June, compliments of the Chronicle. The play was first performed in 1996 though it began life in 1982 when its writer, Ayub Khan Din, went to drama school. His original draft was adapted in the 1990s and subsequently became an award winning play later adapted as a film. The play is therefore based in the 1980s and it examines the tensions within a mixed raced family at that time. The family is made up of a Pakistani immigrant who has married an English woman, Ella (excellently portrayed by Pauline McLynn), and their 7 children (though one son has already left home because of differences of opinion). There is only one daughter but her life is not the main theme of the play. The family run a restaurant that sells fish and chips. Mr Khan expects his children to follow Pakistani convention and help with the family business.

The family live together in Salford and Mr Khan is busy trying to arrange marriages for his 2 eldest sons who are still at home. The children are resistant to their father's controlling nature wishing to make their own decisions. However the eldest, Abdul, feels he has to accept and expresses resentment at his situation. He feels unable to fit with his British contemporaries because of his Pakistani upbringing and feels he has little choice but to accept his father's wishes or he will be a total outsider. One son is secretly studying art while his father believes he is studying engineering. For the most part these tensions are presented in a comic way though at times they result in physical violence including Mr Khan hitting his wife. The opening scenes in which Mr Khan has discovered his youngest son, (a teenager) has not been circumcised offers the chance for some comedy but more seriously shows his ignorance of the real state of affairs in his house. I found this an interesting point given the current situation in Britain with apparently dutiful children leaving their families to join terrorist organisations. The play reaches its climax when the parents of the intended brides arrive for a meeting to discuss the marriages.

The interesting thing about this play is that the conflict is largely about nationality, Mr Khan wants his family to behave as Pakistanis but the children want to behave like their British contemporaries. The differences in religious belief seem far less important to this family than they might perhaps today. All in all this was an enjoyable and thought provoking evening the only problem being, once again at this theatre, it was difficult to hear some of the actors. The set successfully portrayed the family's home in a rather grey old back to back house in an old Northern industrial town.

Sally Palmer

The Chuckles of Oz

We attended "The Chuckles of Oz" for its single matinee performance at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre on 13 June as part of a national tour. This is an unusual combination of the retelling of the Wizard of Oz story alternately interspersed with scenes from the Chuckle Brothers. The two parts seemed rather disparate until the finale when they were eventually brought together.

The

Wizard of Oz story was retold fairly faithfully to the original content, but the music had been replaced with modern songs with altered lyrics. The wicked witch was indeed a source of fear, leading to one child leaving in tears. However for us the fear was for potential damage to our eardrums as the volume of this (and other parts) was set to be immensely and unnecessarily loud. We were sat at the back of the stalls, but the majority of a sadly very small audience were seated in the front rows next to the (very) loudspeakers!

The scenes from the

Chuckle Brothers were generally funny, with jokes for the adults and children in the audience alike. The scenes were very much in the style of what we remember from ChuckleVision as children, albeit with one of the pair having developed rather more of a waistline than what we can recall. We didn't realise that the same duo of Barry and Paul are still performing together in the same role and in fact ChuckleVision only ended in 2009 after 22 years! Some of the scenes were interactive and audience engagement improved as the performance went on. At one point, giant supersoakers were used to drench the audience seated in the front rows.

Overall the performance was entertaining, even if the combination was bizarre. The children that it was primarily aimed at seemed to greatly enjoy it, but it was disappointing that a single Saturday matinee didn't attract a more substantial audience with the auditorium largely empty.

Gavin and Elvina

Madame Butterfly with Perpetuum Mobile

Having seen only classical ballets such as the Nutcracker, Swan Lake and Coppelia and just one opera, La Boheme, we were curious to see what Northern Ballet would offer up for Madame Butterfly. We were to wait however as the evening started with a twenty minute masterclass. There were no back drops or costumes for this; just a troupe of 9 dancers demonstrating strength and agility with largely synchronised movements with the orchestra's strings as an accompaniment.

After a short break, the curtain rose to the sound of oriental music, a backdrop and some simple scenery. Acrobatic sailors incorporating marches and salutes contrasted with the twirling parasols and gracefulness of fluttering geisha girls. The performance continued with minimal scene changes and clever ambient lighting not allowing us to lose focus of the skill and control of the dancers.

The story was a simple one; an American sailor falls in love and marries a geisha then goes to sea only to return years later with his new wife. All the while, his first love has waited for him with their child an outcast in her homeland after converting to Christianity. She gives up this child to the newlyweds and takes her own life with her father's samurai sword.

Having a live orchestra enhances any ballet and the small band of musicians of the Northern Ballet Sinfonia created a soundtrack which echoed the feelings of the characters through changes in tempo and the subtlety of light and shade. Personally, the return of the oriental music for the final scene was somewhat protracted however the audience showed their appreciation of her performance and that of her child whose appearances almost eclipsed those of the tragic heroine Madame Butterfly.

Heather Harrison and Martin Clarke

Food

Unfortunately our Village Gourmand, "Noisy Mug" is still lying low, rumours abound that he has drastically reduced his Alcohol intake, perhaps taking heed of the letter in the last edition from AB Stainer, although there are also rumours he has been free loading around the village offering a review for food! I understand normal service will soon be resumed. Ed

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Another report from our foreign correspondent, Jens Martin.

From the front or near it – Part 2

By the time you read this, the mission being over, I shall be picking up that first pint from the bar in the RO – hopefully paid for by one of the frequent imbibers pleased to see this correspondent safely returned if not a little scarred. It will taste like nectar after 9 weeks without any alcohol at all.

Added before press: It was and it did.

I am writing this from the peaceful quietness of my digs in a hamlet nearby.

Since last writing I can't honestly say that international relations have improved in the Persian Gulf, the left hand side still dislike and mistrust the right hand side and the right hand side still distrust and dislike the left hand side but somehow they co-exist just so long as someone somewhere is making money. I am not sure how to quickly calculate Iranian Rials to Pounds but there is something like 45,000 of them. Two years ago there was a serious devaluation, prior to that there were 20,000. Thank goodness we don't have a labour government! or Imams mumbling in the background.

Environmentally the whole country is covered by a very fine sand dust and if you are outside in the 48 C temperature for long, first you perspire just standing still and second you accumulate your share of dust - everywhere.

Anyway just as an aside, I have all my life followed my Fathers advice and carried a pocket knife. The current knife is an Opinel with a thin blade, after so much sharpening. On the way back to semi civilisation from where I was working to enhance Entente Cordial plus other aspects of rule and regulation, more perceived rather than written in stone I hitched a ride for 8 hours on an old dhow the crew of which were piratical and surly. Eying my small bag and no doubt my pockets. Lying on the deck in the shade I had nodded off and I awoke because I sensed movement, and my hand whipped out of my pocket knife at the ready just in time to stop one of Alibaba's mates fingering my bag.

Anyway at the end of this part of my return to civilisation I arrived back in Dayyer only to be confronted by officious emigration men who obviously thought that I had been involved in something dodgy. (That's I was wasn't something I was going to declare) I patiently, for I have loads of it, explained that I was just an ordinary bloke totally innocent of everything bad they could think of and after TWO MUMMIFYING HOURS in a non air conditioned office with the temperature at 44 outside (There was a thermometer outside the one window) my New Zealand passport was returned to me.

In the back of my mind was the night time trips in an unlighted dhow across the sea border from Iranian waters to Qatar waters to put a small CPT (Core Penetration Technology) on the seabed near a couple of Qatar gas platforms to test the structure of the seabed. Having done this a couple of times future adventures of this nature I left to the surveyors. The sea border is quite closely guarded by both countries with fast RIB's with quite efficient weaponry mounted in the bows hence the unlighted dhow. All this snooping to help the oil and gas industry.

The reverse journey from Dayyer through Assaluyeh to Tehran wasn't as smooth as it might have been but suffice to say I got to the Royal Oak and the Editors pint.

Iranians certainly do not consider themselves Arab. It is apparent that a majority of people preferred the country run by the Shah (even with his feared secret police force) as opposed to the current regime.

The produce we were supplied with was on the whole excellent. Apricots and Greengages so tasty unlike the produce you buy here. Feta cheese and yoghurt are consumed by the ton, and good stuff it is. Now Iranian bread, eaten with all meals and snacks. It looks like a sheet of bubble wrap; I am not joking measuring 18" x 18" about 2mm thick and tastes like cardboard. One is supposed to wrap everything in it.

As for the current international status of Iran, sanctions from Europe and USA still control the economy to an extent. However this is all about to change when they sign the non proliferation treaty.

The signing will immediately release all the funds frozen by European and America banks. This amounts to approximately US\$180 billion in cash, the effect this and the expected huge amount of investment from outside Iran will totally transform Iran in, I should imagine 5 years. The oil and gas industries will obviously be the first beneficiaries.

Two places of historical interest are Shiraz (2000 year old town) and Isfahan of similar age. Spectacular ruins in both places.

Anyway this is the end of this assignment. Now for some rest and recuperation.

Another time Vietnam, Taiwan and how I nearly got expelled from Borneo! And a slow boat to China.

Jihadi Jens

Look forward to your next posting Ed

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.

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

ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

'The Grapes of Wrath' by John Steinbeck recounts the progress of the Joad family who have been forced off their land in Oklahoma and travel west to California looking for work and a better future.

It is a polemic against the ruling elite who use the 'lower' classes as slave labour and make no concessions to their wellbeing.

The book was first published in 1939 and its message is as true now as it was then.

At first it's a awkward read – you need to get in tune with the dialect, but when the journey south begins I found it a difficult book to put down.

It made a great impression on me when I first read it some 50 years ago and although I'd forgotten why it left a memory as a 'good book' I'm very pleased I've read it again.

Our book for July, chosen by Kate Curry, is 'The Night Circus' by Erin Morgenstern. Alison Lewis has selected 'The Rosie Project' by Graeme Simsion for our August book.

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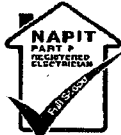
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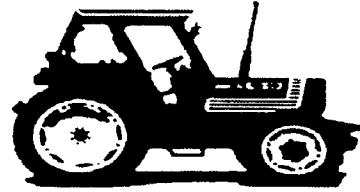
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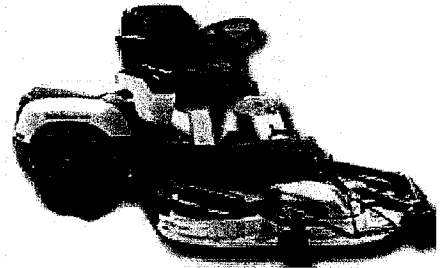
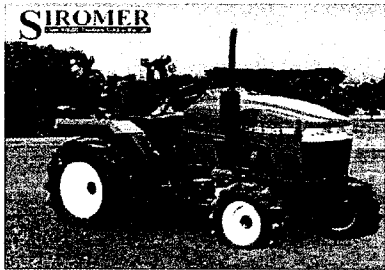


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Book Club

FRANKIE AND STANKIE by Barbara Trapido

This book is semi-autobiographical. Barbara Trapido was born in Cape Town, South Africa in 1941, but moved to Durban when her father was appointed as a lecturer at the university. The book tells the story of Dinah de Bondt (Barbara herself) growing up in the 1950s and 60s in Durban against a backdrop of Apartheid South Africa

Dinah, has a sister Lisa, who is sensible and strong but has a malformed right arm, which Dinah refers to as "Born Arm" as a defence against observers who think she was probably attacked by a shark. Dinah, is on the other hand weedy and arty and suffers severe asthmatic attacks. Mother and father were born in Germany and Holland respectively and are academic and liberal in outlook in a country defined by racial divisions.

The book is comic and cruel. Dinah's father plays tennis once a week with an Indian lawyer, a fact that Dinah is frightened will come to the attention of her classmates. When eating her packed lunch at school, a friend asks whether she would rather have her sandwiches made by a "native girl or a koelie", an odd question as Dinah's father always made them. One of Dinah's classmates, Aletta, was classified as "white", although everyone knew she was "coloured" and got taunted as a result. After the 1948 election, the Afrikaner Nationalists tightened the race laws and Aletta was no longer in class, she had obviously failed the pencil test (a pencil when placed in the hair failed to fall out when the head was shaken). The only subject Dinah enjoyed was Art. Miss Cleary opened her eyes to international art and artists. Dinah's admiration was dashed when Miss Cleary related with relish the sight of a bushman in a cage, as a fairground attraction.

Dinah and Lisa's family lived a privileged existence during the Apartheid years in South Africa, where the colour of ones skin dictated the chances in life. In her late teens, Dinah witnessed the effect of the Pass laws and subsequently the Sharpeville Massacre. After meeting a fellow student, Sam, an anti-apartheid activist, they marry and escape from the hounding he was getting from the authorities and travel to London to live. Ironically in London, in a green grocer's shop Dinah says that she doesn't want the apples if they are from South Africa, the green grocer responds that he understands ..." those black hands touching the fruit that you are going to eat "Dinah and Sam thought they had left racism behind!

The book is very funny, some of the group said they laughed out loud at the situations and the details that Barbara Trapido portrayed about this period of separate development in South Africa. Some felt there was too much detail and not enough about the sisters, Frankie and Stankie. Some concept of Boer thinking, "as the chosen people of the Old Testament", might lead to a fuller understanding of the humour in the book.

Anita Parker



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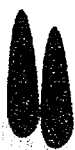
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Church Matters



The diary of St. James's

Thank you to all those who have subscribed to the 100 Club for 2015/6. The 100 members will now be entered in the draw with a £50 first prize and £10 second prize each month. So over the next year we will return £720 of the £1,500 taken in subscriptions. As well as providing a £780 donation to St. James Church it makes an invaluable contribution to our cash-flow allowing us to pay a first instalment to the Diocese this month to meet our Parish Share covering clergy salaries, pensions and administration.

The wildflower area is living up to its name with a splash of colour. The poppies have seeded themselves and reappeared in this the second year of the 1st World War centenary. The churchyard in general is looking very 'cared for' thanks to the hard work of Gordon Kemp and his mowing team.

The second family service on 21st June saw folks of all ages gathered in the village hall for breakfast followed by an informal service in the Church. We hope this will see an increase in the congregation particularly of the younger members of the village in whose hands the future of the Church resides.

Don't forget to have a look at the flower displays in the Church over the Festival weekend 25/26th July.

The Novice

Church Duties	Cleaning	Flowers	Mowing
July 4 th	Colin/ Caroline	Whist Club	Caroline L
July 11 th	Gordon/ Ann	Whist Club	Andy
July 18 th	Alex / Anita	TBA	Gordon
July 25 th	Colin/Gay	Festival	Adam
Aug 1 st	Colin/Caroline	Festival	Mark
Aug 8 th	Gordon/Ann	TBA	Nigel
Aug 15 th	Alex/Anita	TBA	Phil
Aug 22 nd	Colin/Gay	TBA	Gordon



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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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	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	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
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Railways	Chiltern Railways	0870 5165165
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Rector	Rev Philip Derbyshire	01525 240287
Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
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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

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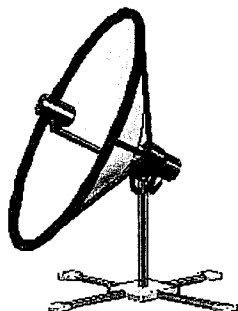
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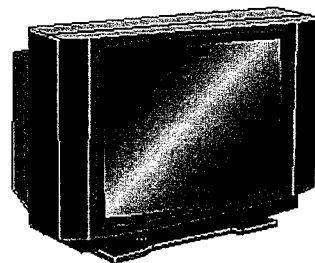
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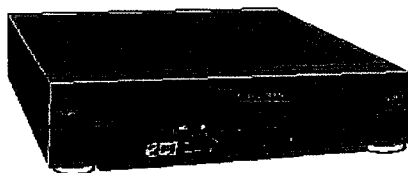


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Jack Ryan was visiting the village and was left in the company of Neil Chesher... in the pub (obviously a very bad move). He hasn't been seen since.

There has been a rumoured sighting of him on the windowsill of a house in Bricstock. Please contact The Chronicle if you have information on his whereabouts.

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