

The Chronicle

Aston Abbotts Magazine

Issue 365 - September 2016



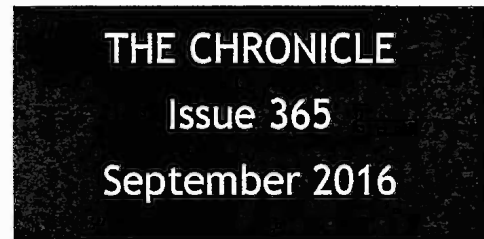
Fatal Crash Aston Abbott

A man has died after his car hit a tree in the early hours of yesterday morning (Monday). At around 5.30am a black Mercedes ML55 was travelling on the Cublington Road from Aston Abbotts towards Cublington when it left the road and hit a tree. A 21-year-old man who was in the car died at the scene while two other occupants of the vehicle, two men aged 23, sustained injuries and were taken to Stoke Mandeville Hospital where they are currently being treated. The road was closed for just under five hours while officers investigated the circumstances of the crash. Two 23-year-old men from Aylesbury have been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. Police would like to speak to anyone who saw the collision, saw the vehicle prior to the collision or has any information about the incident. Contact investigating officer PC Alan Turnbull from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit in Bicester via the police enquiry centre on 101 quoting RN 271 29/8.



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From the Editor



Hello from me, the present editor. Phil Corrigan has very much improved the Chronicle during his time as Editor and I know we are grateful to him for his hard work and dedication. We must also thank all the contributors and the distributors who all work voluntarily.

I hope to take The Chronicle to the next level. To give it a new look, to make it easier to navigate your way around, to make it more relevant, interesting and a fun read. Also to get it through your letter boxes earlier from the October edition. I may not get the balance right every time but my intension is to include something for every villager.

Included in this edition is:

Horticultural Autumn Show

What's on in September?

The Astonians

Aston Abbotts as it was

And all the usual news and views.

Hope it works.

Pete

Email: pete10lucas@aol.com

What's on in September?

Saturday 10 th	Ride and Stride. Sponsored cycle ride
Sunday 11 th	Quiz Night Royal Oak, 7.30pm. Cash Prize and Quiz Master's Lucky Dip Dinner for Two
Wednesday 14 th	Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 17 th	Horticultural Show. Village Hall. Staging 9.30 – 11.00. Opens 12.30pm
Sunday 18 th	Breakfast Service and Harvest Festival. 9.30am followed by Church Service
Monday 19 th	Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce. Venue to be confirmed
Tuesday 27 th	Mobile Library. The Green. 10.30am. (Need more people to use it or we lose it)



Ride and Stride

A sponsored cycle ride takes place on Saturday 10th September. The village needs more cyclists to represent Aston Abbotts. For details and forms, please contact Caroline Lane on 01296 681373.

Royal Oak London Pride Promotion.



Get your London Pride loyalty card. Collect 6 stamps; get the next pint free.

The Astonians

Fete Frolics by astonpete

*All characters are fictional and
hold no association to anyone*

I was looking forward to Village fete but saw the Morris dancers nearly get mowed down by Hugo First, the village Gobshite, when he spotted them ringing their ankle bells. The day's activities on the village green included the Astonians mini market.

Mrs Brocklebank-Fowler asked me to take over her plant stall whilst she had a butchers' at the second hand Mills & Boone on sale across the green.

Mrs KirkPatrick, the whacky widow from Warwickshire, now a resident of Aston Abbots, came up to the plants stall and pointed to a tray of plants asking what they were. Well, not having much of an education in horticulture I thought best to baffle my way through the answer. I said,

"That Mrs KirkPatrick, is the lesser spotted Snifferelium, very partial to attracting the 'Snot Gobbling Bibbalonga Bird from Hackney Wick' to your garden!"

She replied, "I'll take half a dozen please". Kirching!

And on another note

At the end of the village, I stopped to pick up two hitch-hikers on the road and was a little concerned when a third man appeared with an object in his hand. My fears were allayed by their story. After their vehicle ran out of fuel, they had got a lift to town, bought a can of petrol and were trudging back.

I drove them to their car amid effusive thanks and then proceeded feeling very much the Good Samaritan. Next morning, I found the can of petrol still on the back floor of my car.

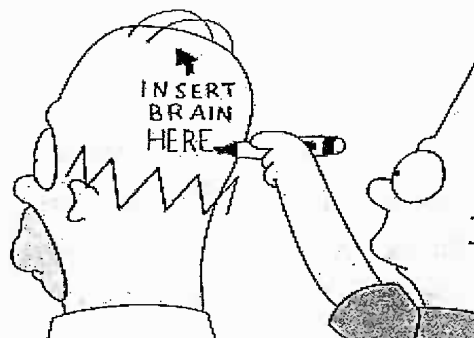
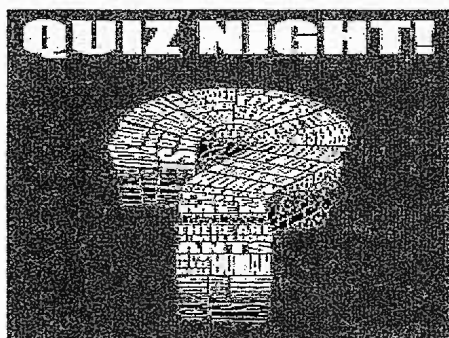
ASTON ABBOTTS THEATREGOERS

I'm pleased to advise that The Waterside Theatre has continued its offer of a pair of tickets for each of the following shows. If you would like to be included in the raffle for these tickets then please email me or drop a note through my judyhardcastle@me.com or at Marloes, Lines Hill. The draws will take place two weeks prior to the day of each show. *Judy*

Show	Date & Time
CHINESE STATE CIRCUS Tickets limited	FRI 9 SEP 7.30PM
<i>LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS</i>	TUE 13 SEP 7.30PM
<i>DIRTY DANCING</i>	MON 19 SEP 7.30PM
<i>SUNNY AFTERNOON</i>	TUE 27 SEP 7.30PM
<i>RSC CYMBELINE.</i> ENCORE SCREENING	WED 28 SEP. 7PM
<i>BAY CITY ROLLERS</i>	SUN 2 OCT. 7.30PM
<i>S AVE THE LAST DANCE FOR ME</i>	MON 3 OCT 7.30PM
<i>ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS.</i> Tickets limited	SAT 15 OCT 7.30PM
<i>NINA CONTI.</i> Tickets limited	TUE 18 OCT 7.30PM
<i>WHITNEY QUEEN OF THE NIGHT</i>	SUN 23 OCT 7.30PM
<i>THE WOMAN IN BLACK</i>	TUE 29 NOV 7.30PM
<i>ALADDIN.</i> (Max 4 tickets available)	MON 12 DEC 7PM

The Royal Oak Quiz Night

Sunday 11th September 7.30pm



**Get a team together or join one for a night of fun
and frolics. Just £2 per player**

**Cash Prize for winning team plus a dinner for 2
from the Quiz Master's Lucky Dip**

Supporting the Church & Village Hall restoration funds

Food Available

Join us at the Royal Oak for the Real Sunday Roast



**Plus Full lunch and dinner menu Monday
to Saturday**

ALLOTMENT DIARY

Well, by and large, it has been a good summer on my allotment. My potatoes and onions have thrived, as they always do: they really are the most reliable vegetables to grow. In more than 15 years growing potatoes, I have only had one poor crop, which was the wet summer a few years ago when all the potatoes on the allotments were affected by potato blight; and I have never had a poor crop of onions. And when you consider that both are vegetables which one can store successfully for many months, they are in a class of their own.

Two disappointments have been carrots and leeks. In both cases, this year I tried growing pelleted seeds on strips. Less than 10% of the carrots germinated, and none of the leeks survived being swamped by weeds. Next year I will go back to using ordinary seed, and planting the leeks in trays in the greenhouse, and only putting them in the allotment when they are big enough.

Two of my three courgette plants were attacked by slugs or snails, and killed – despite my putting a ring of anti-slug pellets round them. However, the surviving plant is producing more than enough courgettes for my needs. My

July 2016

French beans – a variety called “Blauhilde” – have been magnificent, and I have twice had to re-tie and strengthen the bean canes because of the weight of the beans.

One of the sweet-corn varieties I am growing this year is one called “Bloody Butcher”, which was a present from my younger son. I assume it is going to produce reddish kernels. However, at the moment it is notable for its size: the plants are now 10 feet high! Unfortunately a number of the plants do not seem to be producing cobs of corn. I hope they will start soon, or they will not have time to ripen.

You may perhaps remember me writing last year about a new weed which had arrived on my allotment, which has the common name “**Gallant Soldier**”. This year it is even more prolific. I would guess that 80% or 90% of the weeds on my patch are gallant soldiers. They grow incredibly fast, and, like nettles, they like disturbed soil. (There is a plot near mine which has not been dug this year, and there is not a gallant soldier in sight).

Silver Lining

However, I have realised that there is a silver lining. They are replacing other weeds which are even more of a pest – like nettles. Gallant soldiers do not sting, and they can easily be hoed up when small or pulled up by hand, without the need to wear gloves. So, while I would prefer to have no weeds; since that is a totally unobtainable target, perhaps gallant soldiers are the least bad weed to have.

In other gardening news

I have read – and can confirm from the cultivated blackberries in my garden – that blackberries are late ripening this year – apparently because of the cold weather in March and April. Another article informed me that Monsanto, the American agricultural biochemical firm has filed a patent application for a technique that muffles the DNA responsible for producing ethylene, the gas that ripens fruit, and rots flower petals. So far it has only been tested on flowers, to try to extend their life, but if this works, then it will be a boon not only to florists, but also green grocers since their stock will have a far longer shelf-life.

Worse news is that large and voracious Spanish “super-slugs” have arrived on our shores, probably on food imports, and are mating with local slugs – so producing a hybrid slug which is bigger than the native slug, but perfectly adapted to the British climate. They are already causing havoc for gardeners in Germany, where they are known as the “plague slug”. The Spanish slug is large and orange in colour, and produces many more eggs than its British cousins – several hundred a year – and so can suddenly appear in large numbers. The article I read said that the best way to control these slugs (and bog-standard British slugs), is to apply nematode worms (which are the natural predators of slugs) as a drench with a watering can every 6 weeks through the growing season. These nematodes can be bought from any gardening centre. Alternatively, if you acquire some ducks, and persuade them to stay awake at night, they are very partial to eating slugs!

Peter Shorrocks

Apple Eyes on the Orchard

We are just coming into a really hot spell of weather, something which is not good for young trees, but until now it has been a very good year for growth everywhere - grass, vegetables and trees. So far this year I have only done 3 watering trips to the orchard, watering those trees planted last winter and one or two particularly vulnerable individuals.

A1 Treatment

Anything planted now gets the A.1 treatment:- The patch is dug over and kept free of grass and weeds. Muck or compost is dug into the soil and a new product which includes micorrhiza is added round the roots as the planting takes place. Micorrhiza is basically a fungus which lives on and with tree roots, thereby nearly doubling the roots capacity to absorb nutrients and water and my goodness it seems to work. Every tree planted last winter looks darker green and more vigorous than the others. Pears have been difficult to grow but one tall pear planted last winter with very poor roots is thriving and growing really well.

There are still individual problems. One replacement plum tree was too big to plant in a tube - if you put a twizzler round the 'trunk' that is usually the normal solution to the problem. Some devilish creature managed to force the plastic apart and gnaw the bark. A young replacement pear tree was attacked by caterpillars which ate every single leaf completely it has however, staged a great comeback with a fresh covering of leaves and hopefully will be OK. Several good growing shoots were broken off by Jackdaws landing on them and many of the apples were also vigorously pecked by those birds. Three plum trees need replacing this winter and we have requests for two other trees - let's hope the A.1 treatments work well for them as well as last year's plantings. It is easy to dwell of the failures and those trees that struggle but our Orchard picnic day was made by two ladies saying to me "The orchard is beginning to look lovely" – I could have hugged them.

Peter



Buckland Landscapes

Nursery Tree sales Planting Moving Landscape supplies

Rooted in more than 20 years of landscape design, construction and maintenance experience, Buckland Landscapes Ltd can bring creativity and expertise as well as long term maintenance solutions to your landscapes.

In addition, we have our own 50 acre open grown tree nursery based in Bushmead Road, Cublington, Nr Aylesbury.

Our website is comprehensive and very user friendly. Please take a look to see the full range of services we are able to offer.

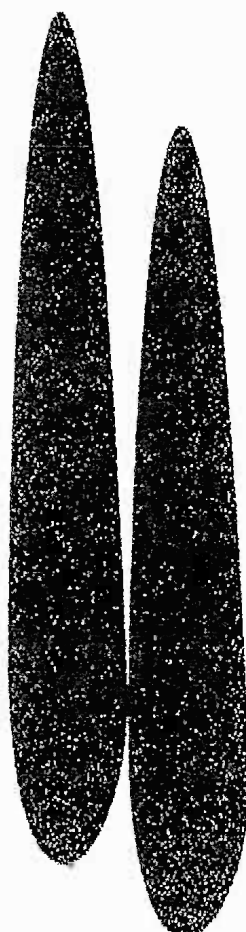
Whether you require garden design, hard or soft landscaping, or garden maintenance, please do not hesitate to contact our office to arrange a consultation on: 01296 680350 or email: info@buckland-landscapes.co.uk.

01296 680350

info@buckland-landscapes.co.uk

www.buckland-landscapes.co.uk

Home Farm, 61 The Green, Aston Abbots, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 4LY



WING SURGERY

SEASONAL FLU VACCINATIONS 16/17

Our main clinics will be held on two Saturdays

in the autumn

SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER

8.00am-12noon

No appointment necessary

If you are unable to attend please contact us and we can
book you into a mid-week clinic

Please note children eligible for an influenza vaccine will be
contacted separately

Fete News 2016

and now beyond. We need
you



I have now been treasurer for the Fete for 5 years and overall co-ordinator for the last two. Having reached the tender age of three score years and ten (70) I feel it is time to step down. There is therefore an opportunity for someone (or preferably a small group of people) to take over the running of the Fete. The new management needs to be in place by the end of this year to take some strategic decisions, book attractions and pay licences for next year. Should the new co-ordinator(s) want me to, I am prepared to stay on as treasurer and offer advice if asked. A big thank you to all those who helped with this year's Fete. To Neil Rees who opened the Fete, the team of local collectors, the 'heavy gang' who moved tables and chairs and erected signs and gazebos, the Stall holders and those who provided and served teas for the Band and in the Village Hall, Sally and her team for organising the Dog Show, Paul who

managed the parking and many others who helped with the smooth running of activities. Particular thanks to our compeer Peter Knight who not only provides a running commentary during the afternoon but cuts the grass on The Green and in The Grove before the event and delivers and collects dozens of straw bales on the day.

Finally my thanks to all those who bought raffle tickets and donated cakes, books, plants, bottles and an astonishing range of bric-a-brac and everyone who came along on the day to make our Fete a success.



Your efforts netted an amazing £4,060 which has been distributed between the good causes as decided during the Annual Parish meeting earlier this year (see separate detailed account in this month's Chronicle).

Thanks also to our sponsors who generously donated raffle prizes this year: The Kings Head, Ivinghoe, Liscombe Park Health and Fitness Club, The Unicorn, Cublington, Morrisons Supermarket and M&S. Also to Taylors Estate Agents who helped to advertise the Fete this year.

David Gray

Detailed accounts for the Aston Abbotts Village Fete 2016

Income		Net Proceeds
	Books	£134
	Bottle Tombola	£179
	Gifts	£70
	Bric-a-Brac	£242
	Cakes	£200
	Charity Stall	£20
	Plants	£146
	PIMMS	£425
	BBQ	£464
	Face Painting	£40
	Raffle	£2,086
	Children's Rides	£60
	Coconut Shy	£80
	Dog Show	£21
	Ice Creams	£259
	Skittles	£75
	Village Hall Teas	£324
	Donations	£250
	Total	£5,075
 Expenditure		
	Morris Men	£120
	Great Horwood Silver Band	£160
	Raffle Prizes	£255
	Coconuts	£38
	Gaming and Drinks License	£41
	Public Address System	£70
	Raffle Ticket Production	£105
	Advertising (Bucks Herald	£227
	Total	£1,016
	Net Proceeds	£4,060
Amount	Recipient	

£500	The Chronicle
£200	Recreation Ground
£1,960	Village Hall (Village Hall Trust)
£1,400	St. James Church (PCC Aston Abbotts)
£4,060	

Vale Lottery - buy tickets and support our Village Hall



Support the village hall and get a chance to win up to £25,000!

The Vale Lottery raises money for good causes - 50% of ticket sales to the individual charity you choose to support

This week one person won £250

This week four people won £25

It costs £1 a week for a ticket (note this is by monthly direct debit, or

one-off payments for 3/6/12 months) and the chances of winning are much better than the national lottery. We have five supporters at the moment, giving us a small but regular income which is very welcome, especially while the building work is going on and we have no lettings income.

If you are over 16 and fancy your chances, click here to find out more, and search for Aston Abbotts Village Hall to find our page:

<https://www.valelottery.co.uk/>

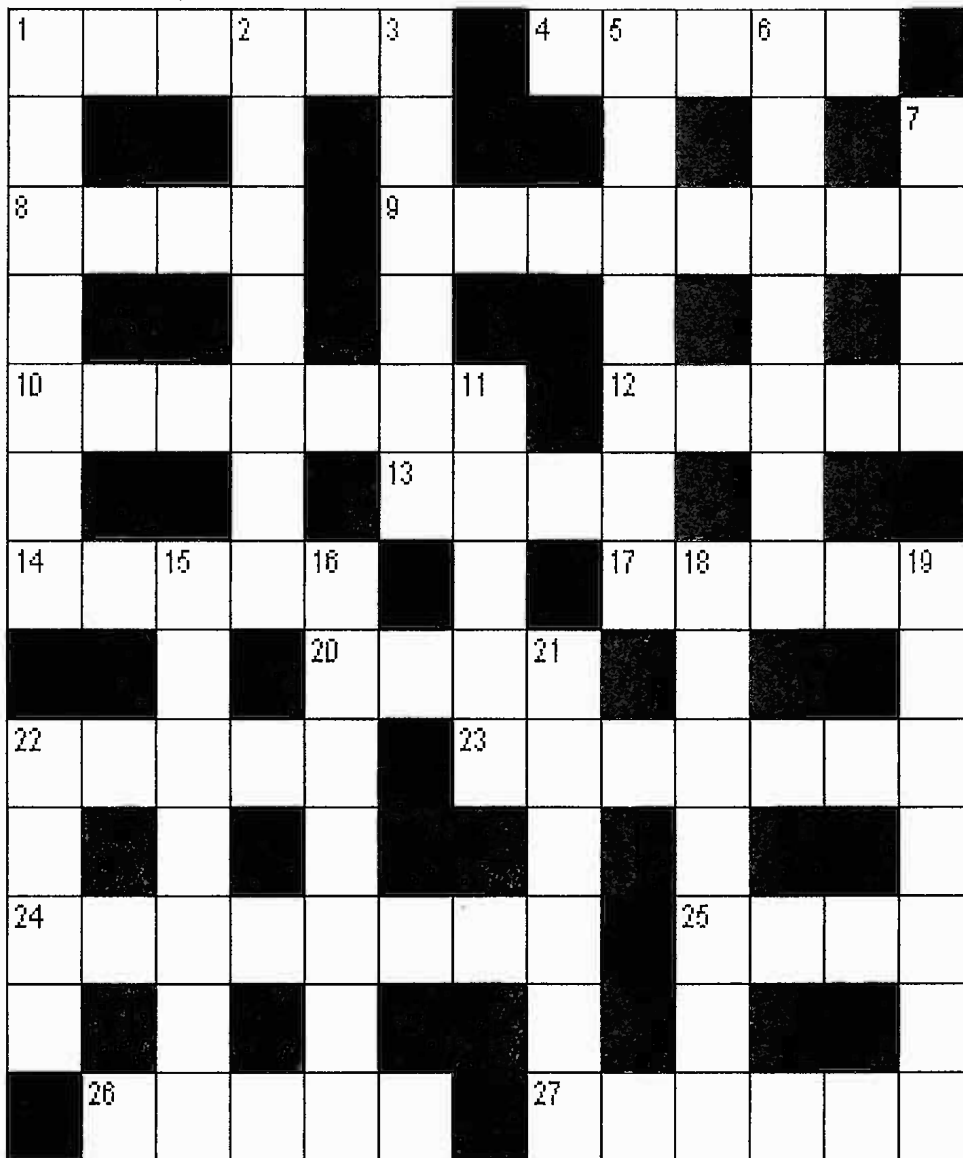
Caroline Lane

Aston Abbotts Village Hall Trust

astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com

Thank you!

Crossword



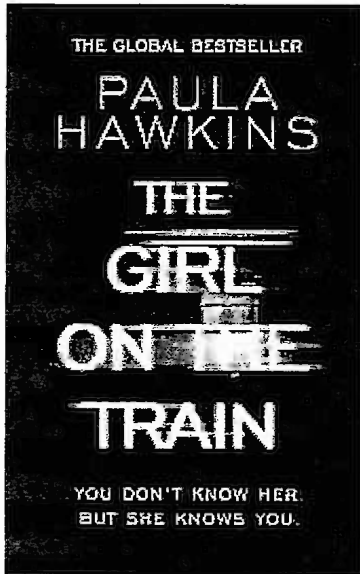
Across

1. Located (6) 4. Flatulent (5) 8. Score (4) 9. Doorway (8) 10. Wither (7)
 12. Prevail (5) 13. Gammy (4) 14. Locations (5) 17. Earnings (5) 20. Bottom of
 ship's hull (4) 22. Succulent (5) 23. Having all tickets sold (4,3) 24. Province in
 E China (8) 25. Oxidize (4) 26. Having an edge (5) 27. Pertaining to scenery
 (6)

Down

1. Winged horse (7) 2. Crash (7) 3. Fuel oil (6) 5. Crew of an aircraft (7)
 6. Submerging (7) 7. Sharp (4) 11. Bodies of water (5) 15. Final part (4,3)
 16. Horizon (7) 18. Loud enough to be heard (7) 19. Diabolical (7) 21. Lives in
 rented rooms (6) 22. New Orleans music (4)

July Book Club



The book this month was a psychological thriller entitled 'The Girl on the Train' by Paula Hawkins. This is a gripping novel which has held the top spot for many weeks both in the US and UK and has also been made into a film starring Emily Blunt.

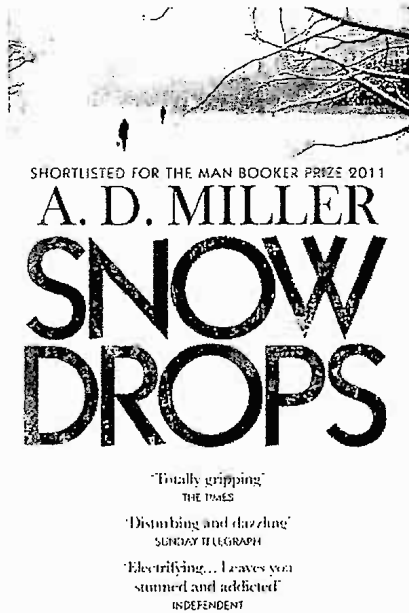
Rachel is the main narrator in the story and she is obsessed with a couple whom she sees through the window of the train on her daily commute to and from London. This couple live on the same street and only a few houses away from where Rachel used to live before her marriage broke up. To Rachel this couple represent the 'perfect relationship' and she fantasises that they have everything she used

to have before her own relationship ended.

However the situation changes very suddenly when Rachel discovers that Megan, the female in the 'perfect relationship' has mysteriously disappeared and is subject to a major police hunt. On learning about Megan's disappearance, Rachel considers she can provide useful background information and gets herself involved in the investigation into Megan's disappearance.

There are many twists to this story and consequently the outcome was not predictable until the last few pages!

There was consensus within the group that this book constituted a 'good read' although some were uncertain as to the precise reasons why it had achieved 'best seller' status for such a record number of weeks. It was also recognised that whilst the story is quite a 'page turner', there is a necessity to read it over a relatively short period of time in order to make full sense of and appreciate all the various twists and turns. Pam Hewitt.



The choice for the August book club was Snowdrops by A.D. Miller selected by Anita Parker.

The author worked as a correspondent for the Economist in Moscow from 2004-7. The novel takes the form of a confessional letter to his wife-to-be by the narrator Nicholas Platt. Nicholas is an expatriate lawyer, working on behalf of foreign banks who want to lend money to Russian businesses, the job involves "smearing lipstick on a pig", in other words sanitising dodgy deals. One day travelling home on the Metro, Nick encounters the glamorous Masha and her sister Katya. The three of them spend time in expensive restaurants and exotic venues. Nick thinks he is in love with Masha. The two females however have a different

agenda. They use Nick to plot the removal of their so-called aunt from her grace and favour residence and promise her an apartment near her childhood home. All the investments that Nick oversees come to nothing and the Russian entrepreneurs disappear.

Every member of the Book Club.....all femalecould not believe Nick could be so naive in his relationship with Masha, completely swept along by her beauty and overlooking her manipulative behaviour. Rational thought and common sense disappeared. The issue of corruption was present throughout the novel but Nick seemed not to notice it. The question of corruption in any society was discussed by the group and some wondered if the book was reinforcing stereotypes and prejudices about Putin's Russia. It was a slow burn novel, some of the group expected more action but on the whole, most felt it was a good read. Snowdrops is the Moscow slang for a corpse concealed by snow, revealed when the thaw comes.

A Blast from the past.

Attached is a poem from a long past Chronicle. Christine Scott found it after the "frogs in Moat Lane" had been the subject of a conversation at the last coffee morning. I thought it would bring back memories for some residents.

THE SAGA OF MOAT LANE

Curses be upon me
I've killed the magic frog.
I think the time
was half past nine.
He sat right where I trod.

Out rushed Haidee Mogford
With shovel in her hand.
With any luck
She'll scrape him up
But no doubt I'll be banned.

Along came Chippy Brandon
Just going for a run
I saw him frown
As he looked down
"My God, what have you done?"

Victor Scott was next along
(The naturalist so wise)
"When they're that flat

They'll make a mat."He said to
my surprise.

Vera Towell was standing there
She lives right in Moat Lane.
She'd heard him "pop"
Now he'll not hop
Along this road again.

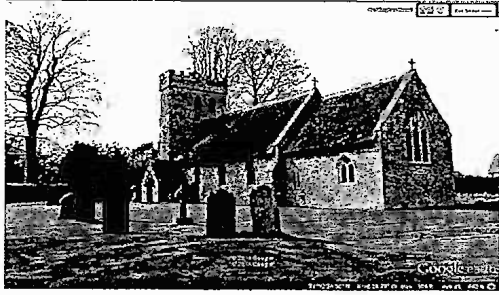
I said "It wasn't really me
Who caused this mess and fuss"
Then past us roared
Young Andy Ford
Off running in his truss.

The rest of them just gathered
round
And viewed me with disdain.
Then in one voice
Gave me no choice
"Don't come down here again."

I went back home just thinking
And the idea made me wince
If Margaret Chesher kissed it
Would it turn into a prince?

But serve the blighter right I
thought
I'd do the same again.
It certainly deserved its fate
For mating in Moat Lane.

IVOR CREEK



Church Matters

Let's celebrate the harvest.

Dear friends,
 We are in the midst of the harvest season (traditionally August to October) which in former years was absolutely huge, especially in rural areas. We still mark this important event in our villages but hardly at all in towns which is a bit sad really as we all benefit from the hard work of farmers, fisherman, retailers, haulage companies, research chemists and so many more.

Great hymns were written and sung with gusto such as 'Come ye thankful people come', 'We plough the fields and scatter', 'God whose

farm is all creation' and so many more. They remind us of our dependence on God, not just for our own skills and abilities which are considerable but also for the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping and future needs in earth's safe-keeping. Thanks be to God. God Bless you now and always.

Philip.

Church Duties

Date	Flowers	Mowing	Cleaning
0309	April	Adam	Colin Caroline
1009	April	Mark	Gordon Ann
1709	Harvest	Phil	Alex Anita
2409	Harvest	Peter	Colin Gay
0110	Donated	Caroline	Colin Caroline

**Aston Abbotts Horticultural Society
Autumn Show**

Saturday 17th September, 2016

Village Hall, Aston Abbotts

**Staging of exhibits between 10.00 and
11.30 am**

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

SECTION 1 – Classes 1 – 7

1. Beans, Runner – 4 pods
2. Beetroot – 3, with 7.5 cm tops
4. Tomatoes – 4 with stalks
5. Carrots – 4, with 7.5 cm tops
6. Potatoes – 4 any variety
7. Collection of Vegetables – 4 different kinds in a tray 2 of each kind

SECTION 2 – DOMESTIC CLASSES

8. Signature Challenge - 4 Plain scones
9. Technical Challenge - Ginger Fruit Cake (made according to Colin's recipe overleaf)
10. Showstopper - A decorated Chocolate Cake - own recipe
11. Floral arrangement "Autumn Beauty" in a vase
12. A Jar of Jam/Jelly or Marmalade (labelled with fruit used)
13. A Photograph - "Aston Abbotts"

SECTION 3 – JUNIOR CLASSES up to age 14

(Age up to 8 for classes 14 & 15 must be given on entry form)

14. An animal made out of vegetables
15. A painting of a flower
16. 3 small decorated cakes
17. "A garden on a plate"

AWARDS

Aston Abbots Coupe de Légumes – Most points in Vegetable Section – Classes 1-7

The Great Aston Abbots Bake Off Trophy – Most points in Domestic Section – Classes 8 - 10

Rosettes for Winners and Runners-up in each section

REGULATIONS FOR SHOWING

1. All classes are open to all persons.
2. All exhibits, unless provided in the additional regulations, must have been grown or made by the exhibitor.
3. Only one entry per person per class.
4. There will be an entry fee charge for sections 1 & 2 of £1 per class.
5. Entries must be staged between **10.00 and 11.30 am** on the day of the Show.
6. Exhibitors should collect Show Cards from the Show Secretary. Cards to be placed face downwards in front of the exhibit. It is helpful if varieties are labelled.
7. No exhibitor is permitted to move another exhibitor's entry. A show steward must be contacted.
8. Exhibitors should consult members of the Committee present at the staging of exhibits on any queries as to the correct class for particular exhibits.
9. Property is displayed at the exhibitor's risk.
10. Judging will take place between 11.45 am and 12.30pm.

11. Points will be awarded: 1st – 3 points, 2nd – 2 points, 3rd – 1 point.
12. There will be monetary prizes for Junior Entries only: 1st - 50p, 2nd – 40p, 3rd -30p. Prize money may be collected from the Show Secretary from 3.00pm onwards.
13. Any disputes will be settled by Colin – you have been warned.
19. Members of the public will be admitted from 12.30pm. Entry will be free. Donations accepted towards costs.
20. Trophies, medals & certificates – presented at 3.30pm.
21. Exhibits must not be removed until 4.00pm.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

1. Exhibits in class 11 and Junior Class 14 need not have been grown by the exhibitor.
2. Class 11 – accessories will be permitted. Exhibits to depict the title.

RECIPE

Ginger Fruit Cake

285 gms self-raising flour
 170 gms butter, softened
 170 gms caster sugar
 2 Medium eggs beaten
 Pinch of salt
 4-5 tbsp. semi-skimmed milk
 115 gms sultanas
 115 gms crystallised ginger
 2 level tbsp. ground ginger

Preheat oven to 180°C/ Fan 160°/Gas mark 4

Butter and line with parchment paper a 2 lb loaf tin

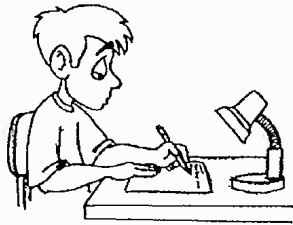
Tip the flour into a bowl and add the creamed butter & sugar, beaten eggs, fruit, ginger and milk.

Beat until the mixture is light and fluffy. Spoon the cake mixture into the tin.

Bake for 1 – 1¼ hrs until firm to the touch.

Leave to stand in the tin for 10 mins, then remove and cool completely on a wire rack.

Your Letters



There is to be a Supper and a talk by William French, who is a Royal butler and has been butler to film stars, on 18th November in the Biggs Pavilion in Cublington. The reason it is in Cublington is because the village hall in AA will then be out of use. Because of this we are going to raise funds for both the Church in AA and the one in Cublington. I know from experience that it is good to give people prior warning of events. More details and Tickets will be available from me nearer the time and I will do a proper advert to go in October and November.

Good luck with your editorship.
April Curnow.
(01296 707833)

Dear Editor,

Break in

We thought you should be aware that our neighbours at Saddlers Farm in Cublington Road had a break in on Saturday night or early Sunday morning (20th or 21st).

A number of outbuildings were broken into and some items were stolen.

We thought we should share this as a reminder to secure all sheds and garages etc. in case there are thieves operating in our area.

Please can you circulate?

Best regards,

Marti & Heather

A Blast from the past.

Attached is a poem from a long past Chronicle. Christine Scott found it after the "frogs in Moat Lane" had been the subject of a conversation at the last coffee morning. I thought it would bring back memories for some residents.

THE SAGA OF MOAT LANE

Curses be upon me
I've killed the magic frog.
I think the time
was half past nine.
He sat right where I trod.

Out rushed Haidee Mogford
With shovel in her hand.
With any luck
She'll scrape him up
But no doubt I'll be banned.

Along came Chippy Brandon
Just going for a run
I saw him frown
As he looked down
"My God, what have you done?"

Victor Scott was next along
(The naturalist so wise)
"When they're that flat

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They'll make a mat."
He said to my surprise.

Vera Towell was standing there
She lives right in Moat Lane.
She'd heard him "pop"
Now he'll not hop
Along this road again.

I said "It wasn't really me
Who caused this mess and fuss"
Then past us roared
Young Andy Ford
Off running in his truss.

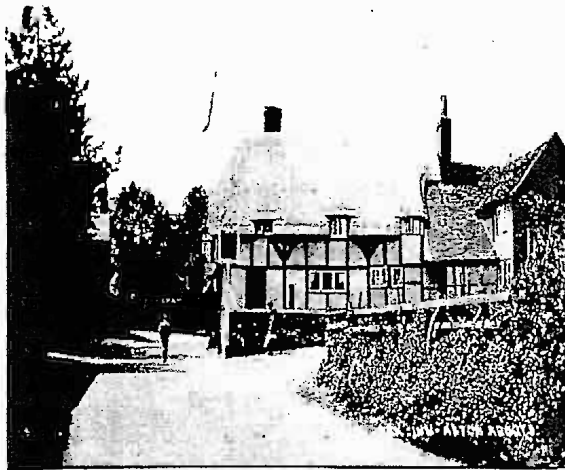
The rest of them just gathered
round
And viewed me with disdain.
Then in one voice
Gave me no choice
"Don't come down here again."

I went back home just thinking
And the idea made me wince
If Margaret Chesher kissed it
Would it turn into a prince?

But serve the blighter right I
thought
I'd do the same again.
It certainly deserved its fate
For mating in Moat Lane.

IVOR CREEK

Aston Abbots as it was



- 1901 The census shows 290 residents
- 1919 Landowner Lady Wantage sells off several farms
- 1919 The village applies for a telephone license
- 1919 The village cricket club is formed
- 1931 Mains electricity come to the village, but not all households are connected
- 1933 Electric lighting installed in St James Church
- 1937 Mains electricity is connected to the school
- 1939 Piped water supplies arrive in the village
- 1945 A recreation ground is built
- 1959 Street lighting is installed in the main part of the village
- 1959 The village gets a main sewage system
- 1960 Mains electricity reaches Oxley's Farm
- 1964 The village cricket club is dissolved
- 1969 First Parish Council elections are held
- 1969 Village loses its resident vicar as local parishes become a group benefice
- 1971 Cublington (Wing) airport proposal defeated
- 1972 Major Morton, landowner and owner of The Abbey, dies
- 1975 The vicarage is sold to a private owner
- 1978 The village school closes
- 1983 A survey shows 280 villagers and 120 houses
- 1983 The village magazine 'The Chronicle' is launched
- 1984 Aston Abbots wins best kept village in Bucks competition
- 1989 A plan to build affordable housing on the village outskirts is turned down
- 1989 Parts of Aston Abbots are designated a Conservation Area
- 1990 The village Post Office closes
- 1991 The census shows 396 residents
- 1993 The Primitive Methodist Chapel closes
- 1994 Mains gas arrives in the village
- 1996 Nash's Farm is demolished to make way for twelve houses
- 1998 Mrs Tunnicliffe becomes the parish's first woman priest
- 2001 Home Farm is sold. Some of its land is sold for housing development
- 2003 The Bull and Butcher public house closes and the site is redeveloped as 10 dwellings
- 2005 Osborn's shop closes
- 2011 Vic Scott, well-known local naturalist and life-long resident of Aston Abbots passes away
- 2011 The 2011 census records 366 inhabitants in 167 households

The Dinton Hermit

An historical article by Colin Higgs

A few years ago all the locals had heard of the Dinton Hermit, even if they did not know that his name was John Biggs, whose picture adorns the iron signs of the Dinton Hermit at Ford, a village one and a half miles from Dinton.

A pair of his shoes survive, one of them was kept at Dinton Hall and another sent to the Ashmellow Museum Oxford.

John Biggs believed to be a native of Dinton was born on 22nd April 1629 and on his death on 4th April 1696 was buried at Dinton.

He was employed as a clerk by Simon Mayne who owned Dinton Hall and was related to many chief families that adopted the cause of Parliament. Mayne was elected as MP for Aylesbury and was one of the judges to have signed Charles 1st's death warrant. It was said that whilst living at Dinton Hall Simon Mayne for time eluded the Royalists by taking refuge in a secret hiding place under the roof gables and gained access by tunnel lined with cloth; the 3 lower steps

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of a staircase lifted up to give entrance to the tunnel through which he crawled.

Simon Mayne yielded himself to the authorities in 1660 and later stood trial at the Old Bailey where he died of deteriorated health on 13th April 1661.



JOHN BIGGS.
The Dinton Hermit.

His body was handed over to his Widow for the burial at Dinton.

After his master's downfall and the subsequent restoration of the Royal line John Biggs (the Hermit), although a fair scholar, took himself to a cave in the grounds of Dinton Hall where he lived the life of a hermit.

His clothes – trousers, coat and a hooded cloak – he kept going, like his shoes by continuous patching.

His shoes were composed of countless small patches of leather, in parts 6 – 10 layers thick.

The Ashmellow shoe measured at the bottom was 13" long by 6" across and weighed 4lb 5oz in its dry state.

He live for about 35 years in the cave known as the Biggs' cave and emerged in the summer in usual garb frightening children as he went to the woods. But in spite of his terrifying appearance and bad reputation, prompted by curiosity, people came from all parts to give him food, milk and ale; he carried the liquid refreshment in 3 bottles (probably made of leather) suspended from his waist.

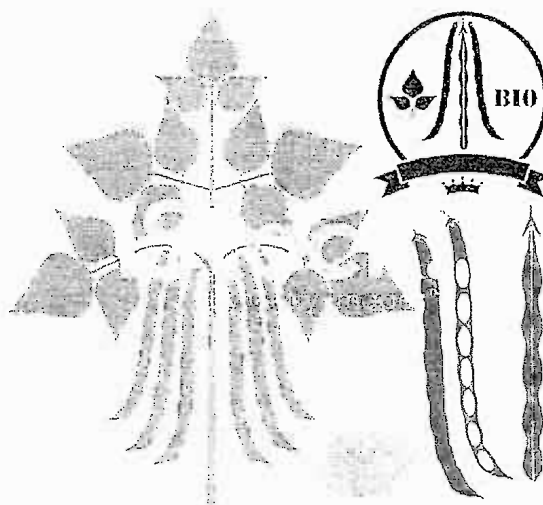
Sir John VanHatten who acquired Dinton Hall at a later date had the ground at the site of Biggs' cave dug over but nothing was found.

Today if anyone asks the way to the Dinton Hermit they are probably seeking refreshment at the pub of that name in Ford!

Colin Higgs

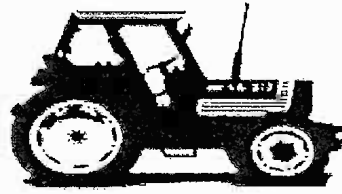
Stop Press

Runner Bean Competition at the Royal Oak



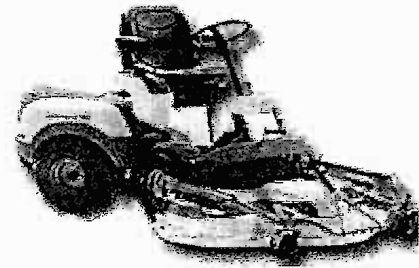
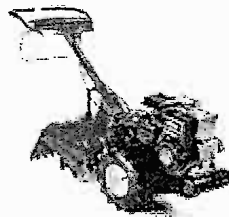
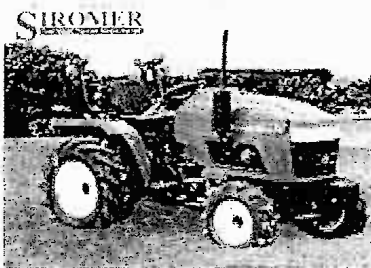
Don't forget the Runner Bean Competition at the Royal Oak Sunday 11th September at 6.30pm, just one hour before the Quiz Night.

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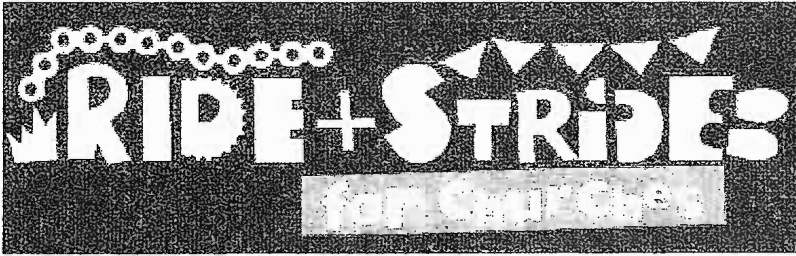
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Ride+Stride is on Saturday 10 September, 10am-6pm to raise money for the repair and restoration of churches and chapels of any Christian denomination.

Half the money raised goes to the church or chapel of the participant's choice, and the other half to a general fund administered by the Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust.

St James's Aston Abbots will be open, as will the churches in most local villages (with refreshments). If you would like to join in on a bike, a horse or your feet and visit a few of our lovely local churches I can let you have a sponsorship form, or follow links online at

www.bucks-historic-churches.org for forms and a list of churches open

Missed it? There's still time to sponsor me for our own St James's in Aston Abbots, any contributions online or in person most welcome. Thank you!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/C-LANE1>

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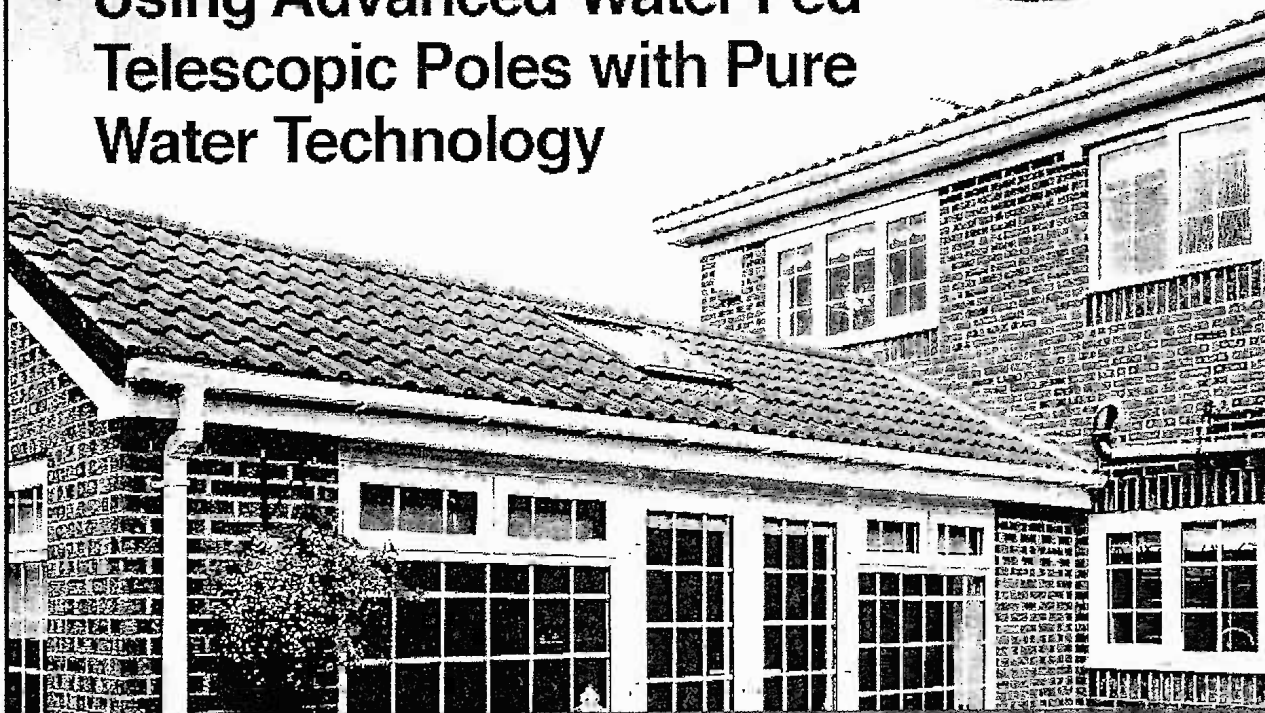
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Sport Commentator Mishaps



With so much sport on TV recently, I Thought this might raise a smile.
Things That Sound crude but Aren't in TV Sports Commentary.

Harry Carpenter BBC commentator at the Cambridge - Oxford rowing competition

"The wife of the Cambridge President is kissing the cox of the Oxford crew"

Ted Walsh, TV commentator at the Preakness

"This is really a lovely horse. I once rode her mother"

David Coleman at the Montreal Olympics watching the great Cuban runner

"There goes Juantorena down the back straight, opening his legs, showing his class"

Cubs announcer Harry Carey, on some fans.

"He was kissing her on the strikes. She was kissing him on the balls"

Ron Atkinson, NBA TV commentator

"He dribbles a lot and the players don't like it. You can see it on their faces"

US TV commentator watching Arnold Palmer playing golf

"One of the reasons Arnie is playing so well is that before each tee-shot, his wife takes out his balls and washes them"

Burglary Prevention

Please take a moment to have a look at our top tips for keeping your property secure over the summer;

- Always close and lock your windows and doors when leaving your property – even a small open window could entice a burglar
- If you're in your garden make sure the windows and doors at the front of your property are secure
- Do not leave valuables on display through windows
- Any car or house keys should be out of sight and some distance from a window or door
- Ensure that any side entrance is secure, locked and not easy to climb over, even when you're at home.
- If you want to leave windows open while you sleep, fit window restrictors so they cannot be fully opened
- Consider installing a visible security light or alarm to deter criminals
- If you're going on holiday make arrangements to make sure your house appears occupied whilst you're away. Put your lights on a timer or ask a neighbour to come and pick up your mail and draw your curtains. Don't advertise the fact you're on holiday on social media.

We would also encourage you to register your high end valuables such as bikes, mobile phones, laptops etc. on the online property database [Immobilise](#). It's free to do so, only takes a couple of minutes and could help us reunite you with your property should it be stolen.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously please call the police either on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

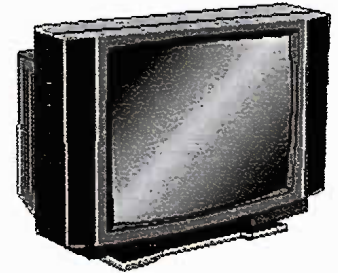
If you don't want to speak directly to the police you can contact the independent charity [Crimestoppers](#) anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online.

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*Congratulations to Dave
and Alison on their 30th
Wedding Anniversary*

Happy
Anniversary



When a newly married man looks happy we know why. But when a thirty-year married man looks happy - we wonder why?

Spouse: someone who'll stand by you through all the trouble you wouldn't have had if you'd stayed single.

A perfect wife is one who helps the husband with the dishes.

When a married man says "I'll think

about it", What he really means is that he doesn't know his wife's opinion yet..

Dave is boasting to his mates that he's taking his wife to Italy for their 30th wedding anniversary.

"Well, what will you do for your 40th?" Whytey asks.

Dave: "I'll go and fetch her back."

A good wife always forgives her husband when she's wrong.—Milton Berle

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