

ASTON ABBOTTS

CHRONICLE

Issue 367 – November 2016

In This Issue:

- **The Allotmenteer in Ecuador**
- **Your Letters**
- **Astonians**
- **And much, much more ...**



From the Editor

I would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and prayers following a serious accident which has caused all sorts of complications.

Phil Spooner has kindly confirmed that he will sort this month's Chronicle of which I'm very thankful for.

Thanks to Big bad Bob for doing the Royal Oak Quiz Night. Hopefully I'll be back to do the Christmas Quiz and to edit the December Chronicle. 'Til then take care and keep an eye on any vulnerable neighbours.

Pete

I'm sure everybody will join me in sending our thoughts and very best wishes to Pete. We hope he sees some improvement soon and we very much hope he will be out of hospital and come home to do next month's Chronicle

I can only access content that has been sent to the editor@aachronicle email address. Anything posted though Pete's letter box will be missed out in this issue I am afraid.

I also don't have access to the latest Chronicle files, so my apologies (again) to any advertisers who may be missed out in this issue.

Again, I would just like to say ...

GET WELL SOON PETE!

Phil

Your Letters

Sir,

While I admire and am grateful to anyone who takes on the onerous job of producing the Chronicle, I hope that you are sufficiently well balanced to take more criticism.

There are a significant number of us that think smutty, poor taste jokes should not be included in a Parish Magazine. It is bad enough reading those jokes the first time, but when they are recycled after 6 months things are pretty desperate.

Surely if you have to publish teenage jokes (I first heard the last one at school) once is enough. Please don't bring them out for a second airing.

Peter Knight

Dear Editor,

I read with some amusement last month's gripe from David Gray regarding the not-so broadband internet service that is provided by BT to our village. Added to this, the three to four month battle with BT to acknowledge and fix a cable fault that was affecting both of our services which they eventually came and fixed not more than 200m from our home was ironically the same fault that had been affecting us all this time.

Despite this long awaited fix, the quality of the internet connection can only be described as third world. Typically, download never exceeds 7 Mbps and upload is a pitiful 200-400 Kbps. My wife and I like to listen to our community radio station on a Friday evening and we use a good quality internet radio however we often give up as the connection is constantly dropping out. Why...because the bandwidth for audio is so low...

The biggest gripe of all, and one not mentioned by David, is that BT expect us to pay the same amount for our broadband service as someone who is receiving a good service. This seems hardly fair as it is not fit for purpose.

If our broadband was purchased in a shop, this would attract the interest of the Trading Standards Office.

If anything, rural communities deserve better broadband as so many goods and services can be obtained via a PC or laptop; especially important for more of our elderly residents where travelling to Aylesbury for shopping is not such an easy option.

Don't get me started on the poor mobile reception!

Martin Clarke

Hi Pete

Thought it might be nice for the villagers to know what we have planned in the Autumn and Winter Months at the farm - maybe you could add them to the calendar or what's on page?

On 27th November and 11th December we have our Winter Walks with Mulled Wine and Minced pies - these alpaca walks start at 1pm, with details and booking on our website www.abbottsviewalpacas.co.uk/alpaca-walks

We also have a few crafty sessions planned: Needlefelting sessions on Saturday 12th November and Saturday 3rd December. Two sessions each day - details on our website www.abbottsviewalpacas.co.uk/xmas-needlefelting. Suitable for beginners and children aged 10+

Thanks,

Jo - www.abbottsviewalpacas.co.uk

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Allotment Diary

Your Allotment Diaryist has spent most of the last 4 weeks out of the country, latterly in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Ecuador is a small country, but has a vast range of climates, with many of the larger towns and much of the country being situated at over 2,500 metres, being part of the Andes; and the rest being split into a wide plain at sea level to the west; and the Amazon forest to the east. As a result, it produces a wide range of crops.

In the Andes we saw fields of the latest trendy “super-food”, quinoa, growing, which had been a staple food for the indigenous people there for hundreds of years.

Moving down to sea level there were cacao (or cocoa) trees growing. The fruit from which the cocoa beans come is about the size of a mango, and it is a hard pod with between 20 -60 seeds (commonly called beans) in each pod, surrounded by a sweet juicy pulp. The beans themselves are hard and very bitter, and to be

made into the chocolate we know, they must be roasted and mashed up, and have a lot of sugar added. Later we saw coffee bushes, with coffee cherries growing directly on the stem. The coffee “bean” is in fact the stone in the middle of the coffee cherry, and is no more a bean than that of the cacao plant. Again it has to be roasted to be used to make coffee as we know it.

We also saw a large number of trees growing with strange fruits on them, and frequently ate them or drank them, having been turned into juice; papaya, babaco, pitahaya or dragon-fruit, cherimoya or custard apple, guava, ovito, narancilla (like a small orange), tamarillo or tree tomato, amarilla (a yellow plum), granadilla or passion-fruit, grosella or star gooseberry and guanabana or soursop. They were all delicious, and why they are not exported to Britain I do not know. Perhaps they don't travel well, or go bad too quickly.

Banana plantations were also numerous, with all the hands of bananas growing (as I had previously seen in Australia) in blue polythene bags! I understand that this is both to keep pests out, and also to enable the fruit to ripen quickly. I was told by our guide that there were over 30 different varieties of banana grown in Ecuador, including the plantain, which is grown for use as a vegetable.

In the vegetable markets, we saw a prodigious number of potatoes being sold: our guide said there were more than 300 varieties grown there. One we ate at dinner one evening had flesh which was a banana–yellow colour, which I have never seen in a British potato.

The climate is apparently also ideal for growing broccoli, and this is widely grown, much of it for export. We also discovered acres of land in the Andes, near Quito, covered with polytunnels, in which they were growing . . . roses! Astonishingly, roses are now

Ecuador's third most important export (after oil and bananas). Apparently they grow particularly well in the bright sun-light that is available at the equator; and having been round a rose-producing centre, I can vouch for the excellence of the roses grown there. Picking and packing them is of course labour-intensive, but I imagine there are not too many other jobs available in the Andes countryside, and wages are probably low, which makes the production cost-effective.

While the Galapagos Islands were probably the high spot of the holiday, because of the wildlife there, I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Ecuador, and would recommend the country to you, if you ever consider a South American holiday. Nothing to report on the allotment front, save to say that in my absence, my plot is busy reverting to its wild state. I hope to have started taming it before my next allotment musings.

Peter Shorrock

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Orchard Report

17th October, 2016

One of the difficulties of writing for any magazine is the time lag between writing – in this case 17th October and publication – early November.

The Orchard at present is fine. Hopefully. I have cut the grass for the last time this year and anyone who has been to look can see that I have begun preparing planting sites for November (the best time for planting trees). Four trees need replacing, two Plums and two Pears. The two Pears insisted on growing from below the graft with no energy going into the Pear itself growing above the graft. A six foot bare rooted Pear that we planted last November has done so well that the latter two will be replaced with similar stock.

The Plums are more worrying, both trees died from this mystery virus which kills well grown, seemingly healthy trees in a few years. All we can do is source these

replacements from a different nursery and hope against hope that they are not infected – so far this is working with two earlier replacements. Trees that fail are, of course, replaced free of charge.

A black Mulberry is to be replaced – a little bit more of a problem as well grown specimens of Mulberry are hard to find – let's hope we are lucky. No expense will be spared – we want that lovely child born into the village this summer to be able to watch her tree grow.

Please remember, if you have any queries about the Orchard or your tree ring Peter or Alex, and we will do our best to answer.

Congratulations to the chap who rang up about his family tree, which was missing (I thought I'd get the replacement planted before he noticed the old one had gone). It is good to know someone goes and has a look around. He was amazingly polite as well!

Peter

Autumn opening hours are now as follows:

Mon - Thurs 12-3pm, 5-11pm Fri 10.30am-12 midnight

Sat 9.30am-12 midnight, Sunday 12pm-7pm



November at the

Monday 30th Oct- Friday 4th Kitchen closed for essential works

Saturday 5th - Breakfasts served from 9.30-11.00am + **Bonfire Night**

Sunday 6th Lunch – booking always advisable

Monday 7th - The Unicorn Quiz from 8.30pm Quizzers meals from £5.95

Tuesday 8th - Live folk music

Thursday 10th - Steak Night - 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

Friday 11th - Coffee and Cake from 10.30am, **Live Music with 3 Bar Fire** 8.30pm

Saturday 12th Breakfasts served from 9.30am – 11.00am

Sunday 13th Lunch – booking always advisable

Monday 14th - The Unicorn Quiz from 8.30pm Quizzers meals from £5.95

Thursday 17th - Steak Night - 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

Friday 18th - Coffee and Cake from 10.30am,

Saturday 19th Breakfasts served from 9.30am – 11.00am

Sunday 20th Lunch – booking always advisable

Monday 21st - The Unicorn Quiz from 8.30pm Quizzers meals from £5.95

Thursday 24th - Steak Night with Jazz- 2 steaks and a bottle of house wine for £40

Friday 25th - Coffee and Cake from 10.30am,

Saturday 26th Breakfasts served from 9.30am - 11.00am, **Live Music with the Undercovers** 8.30pm

Sunday 27th Lunch – booking always advisable

Monday 28th - The Unicorn Quiz from 8.30pm Quizzers meals from £5.95

Coming soon...

The Boomerang Bonus... watch out for more details

Wednesday 14th December 7.30pm - The Unicorn Sloe Gin Competition £1 per entry

Friday 16th December The Spokes Christmas Special

Have you booked your festive celebration?



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Aston Abbotts Village Hall news – November 2016

The works

R K Construction are now on site and everything is looking... well awful. The first job is digging around the foundations at the south end. Seven pits in all need to be dug and filled with concrete to support the end wall and prevent further subsidence. This task is now well under way. They have also taken out the old floor and removed the old kitchen units. Work is expected to take 12-14 weeks. Please let Tracy know if you want to make a provisional booking for February onwards.

Volunteers

There's going to be some painting to do (and very little money!) at the end of the project, so if you're able to help please let us know.

Funding

This week, we were delighted to hear that St James PCC have kindly agreed to donate £1,000 towards the Village Hall refurbishment fund. We still have a funding shortfall, so any donations are very welcome. Look out for any special notices on the Postie. If you can help, please contact our Treasurer Nigel Palmer at The Vines, Cublington Road, or email us (below).

Vale Lottery

Please buy your tickets from our page. We will get 50% of the value of tickets that you buy so here's that link again:

www.valelottery.co.uk/support/aston-abbotts-village-hall-trust

Village History book still available!

Aston Abbotts 1000-2000: A village history is back in print at £10 per copy, proceeds to the village hall. If you'd like one please email us or give me a ring on 681373.

Caroline Lane – Aston Abbotts Village Hall trustees

Aston Abbotts Village Hall Trustees group: Caroline Lane (Chair), Liz Hall (Secretary), Nigel Palmer (Treasurer), Peter Shorrocks, John Whyte, Kevin Copping. Email: astonabbottsvillagehall@yahoo.com



ASTON ABBOTTS

1000 — 2000

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The Village Hall restoration project
(Thanks to authors Aston Abbotts History Group)

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Church Matters



The diary of St. James's

The Church runs a number of courses for Parishioners and last month I attended a First Aid course which amongst other things involved the demonstration and use of a defibrillator like the one that the Parish Council had installed outside the Village Hall. For those who are not familiar with them a defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart through the chest wall to someone who is in cardiac arrest. They can save lives by restoring normal heart function in the critical minutes before the First response team or ambulance arrives. My discussions with other villagers have indicated that most people do not have the faintest idea how to use them. The first thing is DON'T PANIC. The box on the railings outside the Hall is opened with a key attached to the outside. This will set off an alarm (as Peter Shorrocks discovered to his

horror a few weeks ago). Remove the Defibrillator from the box and take it to the casualty. Open the defibrillator box and press the 'ON' button. A voice recording aided by diagrams in the lid give the operator easy to follow instructions. It is a 'piece of cake' – provided someone has ensured that the battery in the unit has not gone flat (like the one demonstrated on my course).

In late November, after most of the leaves and the beech nuts have fallen, we clear the gutters and gullies of debris so that the winter rains do not cause any damp problems in the roof and walls of the Church. It is a job Colin has done since he was a lad but we are both reaching an age where climbing ladders in the cold and wet of the late autumn is not good for us. So if any fit fellas can give us a hand we will be very grateful. See

elsewhere in this month's Chronicle for dates.

Much 'behind the scenes' work goes on to keep the Church and the Churchyard looking their best. Once a week the main Church is cleaned by two volunteers. This mostly involves vacuuming the carpet and pews. There is always

room on the cleaning rota for willing hands and in particular every three months there are 5 rather than the usual four weekends when someone does an extra shift. If you feel like helping out even if only four times a year then Colin Higgs would like to hear from you.

The Novice



Saint James Aston Abbotts.

More Church Matters

I thought readers might be interested in some further information about this parish following last month's article. In the substantial reorganisation of the parishes locally some five years ago, St James' Church, Aston Abbots became part of the new Cottesloe Benefice, which is a Team Ministry consisting of 7 parishes, but 8 churches. They are: Aston Abbots, Cublington, Cheddington with Mentmore, Soulbury, Stewkley, Wing with Grove and Wingrave with Rowsham.

We have a Team Rector, the Revd Philip Derbyshire, who lives at Stewkley Vicarage and has overall responsibility for the 7 parishes and currently particular pastoral responsibility for Aston Abbots, Cublington, Soulbury and Stewkley. The Revd Helen Barnes is a Team Vicar who has pastoral responsibility for Wing and Wingrave. They are both what is called 'stipendiary' priests i.e. they receive a salary which comes from the Diocese of Oxford. The Revd Gill Rowell, is known as a House for Duty Team Vicar, as she is part time, but has pastoral responsibility for Cheddington with Mentmore. She does not receive a stipend but her remuneration is in the form of a church house to live in.

The Revd Roger Hale and the Revd Peter Binns, who take services here regularly, are Associate Team Ministers but they do not receive stipends. They obviously can charge certain expenses but generously do not always do so. Annie Cooper is a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) – in other words she is a lay person trained and licensed to preach, teach and lead worship at certain services but is not a fully ordained priest so is not permitted to officiate at Holy Communion, for example.

So there you have it. The church never makes things very easy to comprehend!

Caroline Abel Smith

Churchwarden

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Sunny Afternoon

We were lucky enough to win the raffle for tickets to go and see Sunny Afternoon, the musical based on the story of The Kinks (thank you Judy). There was a real buzz when we arrived at the Waterside Theatre, and a feeling that this was to be a special night out – and we were not to be disappointed.

The Kinks started out with the British R&B movement, although their breakthrough hit in 1964, You Really Got Me, definitely had a flash of heavy metal. This is the story of how the brothers Ray and Dave Davies, ordinary lads from Muswell Hill, came to form one of the defining bands of the sixties. We really enjoyed watching a cast who could play their instruments like pro's, with only two extra on-stage musicians required to turn the theatre into a cauldron of electrifying sound. We loved the clever set of wall to wall speakers, with a cat-walk shooting out into the stalls. The music was superb – the best part of the evening in my opinion – with hits such as Dedicated Follower of Fashion, Waterloo Sunset, A well-respected Man, Lola, Tired of Waiting for You, and of course Sunny Afternoon. All in all, a great night out.

Kate & Peter



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10.30am -12pm

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AVON – would you like to see an Avon brochure, either on a regular basis or just for Christmas? Avon don't just sell cosmetics – there is a range of jewellery, scarves, pyjamas, gifts, home, kitchenware and more. Free gift for all customers ordering in November.

Please contact Jackie – 07968 672707 or email jackie@jackiesreps.com



The Astonians Part 8

Yossell's willy and the Pickle slicer

Contains some strong language

Astonpete

Doing my bit for the older generation, I went to see Mrs Speigleberger in Aston Rise, only to be told another yarn concerning her late husband and his friend Yossel Zelkovitz.

"Many years ago Yossel worked in a Polish pickle factory," She said.

"For many years he had a powerful, almost uncontrollable desire to put his willy in the pickle slicer already. Unable to stand it any longer he finally sought professional help from the factory counsellor.

After six weeks of intense therapy however, the frustrated counsellor gave up. Frustrated he told Yossel to go ahead and do it; otherwise he would probably never have any peace of mind. So the next day Yossel came home from work very early. His wife, Sacha, became alarmed and wanted to know what had happened."

(I was subconsciously holding myself in the cradle of my hand whilst listening to this gruesome story.)

She continued, "For the first time, Yossel tearfully confessed to her his tormenting desire to put his willy in the pickle slicer. He went on to explain that he finally went ahead and did it and he was immediately dismissed.

Sacha gasped and ran over to her husband. She quickly yanked his pants down only to find a normal, completely intact willy. She looked up and said, 'I don't understand Yossel. What about the pickle slicer already?'

Yossel replied, "I think she got the sack too!

Oh how we laughed. Mrs Speigleberger is so full of bullshit about her late husband.

Astonpete

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Two Interesting Years

1981

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe.
3. Australia lost the Ashes.
4. The Pope died.

2005

1. Prince Charles got married.
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe.
3. Australia lost the Ashes.
4. The Pope died.

Lesson to be learned:

The next time Charles gets married, someone should warn the Pope.



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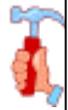
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Church Duties - November

	Cleaning	Flowers
5/11	Caroline L & Colin	Donated
12/11	Ann & Gordon	Remembrance (poppies)
19/11	Anita & Alex	Remembrance (poppies)
26/11	Gay & Colin	No Flowers (Advent)

Some Dates For Your Diary

Sunday 20th November

Breakfast and informal All Age Service in church from 9.30am.

(In October we had a record attendance - 30 adults and 14 children)

Saturday 10th December

Workshop to decorate the window ledges for Christmas in church 10 – 12 noon.

All ages welcome to come and help. There will be refreshments.

Sunday 18th December

Christingle Service – details and time to be confirmed.

There is a suggestion that we hold this in the afternoon by candlelight and perhaps have tea before/after? It sounds a lovely idea to me, but if you have any views on it, and the timing, please do let any PCC member know.

Caroline Abel Smith
Churchwarden
01296 681001



Stewkley Singers

Music and Mince Pies!

Annual Christmas Concert

Saturday 10 December 2016 at 7.30pm

Stewkley Village Hall

Tickets £8 adults and £4 children

Tickets: 01525 240671 or 01525 240570

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Fete Coordinator	David Gray	681952
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000
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Police	Wing Police Station	396163/4
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The neighbourhood policing team works on issues identified by local residents and businesses.

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101

This is a non-emergency number.

Alternatively, email them on:

WingNorthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

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21 Winslow Road, Wingrave

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Fresh food available to order: Fruit and Vegetables - order by Wednesday, collect on Friday/Saturday Bread baked fresh daily - Large White Split Tin, Small White Farmhouse, Large and Small Wholemeal, French Sticks and Baguettes Pastries on Saturday and Sunday - Croissants, Pain au Chocolat. Pain au Raisin

PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW



**Services at
Saint James Church - Aston Abbotts
November 2016**

6th Nov.	6.00pm	Evensong	Revd. Philip Derbyshire
13th Nov.	10.50am	Service of Remembrance Starting at the War Memorial	Revd. Peter Binns
20th Nov.	9.30am	Breakfast in Church followed By All Ages Service	
27th Nov.	10.30am	Parish Communion	Revd. Roger Hale

We look forward to seeing you

100 Club Draw October 2016

1st Prize, £50 Kirsty Peacock

2nd prize, £10 Caroline Guse

Village Hall Bookings

£6 per hour for residents

(Plus metered electricity)

£20 per hour for non-residents

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

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

Weddings and Christenings -

a fixed charge of £50.

Please contact Tracy Hinds on 688479 if you wish to book

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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Kate Curry (Chair)

2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane – 681137

Mrs Zandy Ayres (Parish Clerk)

astonabbotsclerk@gmail.com

682419

Richard Clarke

Maplewood, The Green – 681007

Judy Hardcastle

Marloes, Lines Hill – 688070

Peter Shorrock

Oak Farm House – 681260

Phil Spooner

The Birches - 681544

Bob Carvey

12 The Green – 681053

Colin Higgs (Vice Chairman)

6 Wingrave Rd - 681343

District Councillor

Peter Cooper

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham – 681250

County Councillor

Netta Glover - 688357

Parochial Church Council

Rev. Philip Derbyshire 01525 240287

Caroline Abel Smith

Churchwarden 681001

Elvina Chu 07709607171

Ann Goodman 681763

Anita Parker 681325

Gordon Kemp 681763

Caroline Lane Sec 681373

David Gray 681952

Treasurer & Synod Rep 07935414495

Gay Walker 688632

April Curnow 707833

What's On in November

Wed 2nd	Parish Council	St James Church	7.30 pm
Thurs 3rd	Coffee Shop	St James Church	10 am to 12 noon
Fri 4th	Fireworks	Recreation Ground	6 pm
	Whist Drive	Royal Oak	7.30 pm
Sun 6th	Rambling Club	Meet Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury	2 pm
	Evensong	St James Church	6 pm
Thurs 10th	Churchyard leaf clearing		11 am
Sat 12th	Needlefelting	Abbotts View	<i>see page 4</i>
Sun 13th	Remembrance Service	St James Church	10.45 am
Thurs 17th	Coffee Shop	St James Church	10 am to 12 noon
	Whist Drive	Royal Oak	7.30 pm
Sun 20th	Village footpath walk	The Green	2 pm
Sun 27th	Winter Alpaca Walk	Abbotts View	<i>see page 4</i>
Tues 22nd	Mobile Library	The Green	10.30 am

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