THE GHRONIGLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE 197 JANUARY 2001



The Chronicle online

e mail us at our new address

editor@aston-abbotts-chronicle.co.uk

Editorial

A Hard Act To Follow

It is not without some misgivings that I sit myself down gingerly into the editor's chair to compile my first Chronicle. I first saw The Chronicle on the day that Carol and I moved into Aston Abbotts and we were immediately struck by the breadth of its coverage and its usefulness. Here was a parish magazine that made it abundantly clear that Aston Abbotts is not just a pretty village, it is a *community*.

The Chronicle has gone from strength to strength under Andi Swain's editorship. Now it is my responsibility to ensure that Andi's good work is continued. It is a hard act to follow and I must take this opportunity of proffering, on behalf of the village, a vote of thanks to Andi for his hard work and dedication over the last two years. Thanks Andi!!!

To Inform, Give Voice, and Entertain

These were amongst Graham parker's aims when he started the Chronicle nearly 20 years ago.

To Inform: It is a major function of the Chronicle to tell you about forthcoming events and also to record what has happened in the village. To that end I must rely, in part, upon you the readers to let The Chronicle know about what you are planning, or what you have done. Don't forget to tell us about forthcoming events so they can be included on our What's On page, now to be found in its new regular position inside the back cover.

To Give a Voice: By writing a letter or article for The Chronicle you can tell Aston Abbotts of your views or concerns. Letters are always welcome.

To Entertain: [Your new editor dances in from the left to the sound of the Cancan, while wearing a purple frilly basque with black fishnet stockings, and high-kicking. But that's enough of my yoga class...] OK, not that sort of entertainment, but we can't be serious all of the time and sometimes we will include articles that are not about village matters or are purely for enjoyment.

By sharing information and views between villagers we can come closer together as a community and, hopefully, newcomers will come to learn more about the village and be encouraged to join in.

The Team

Former editor Andy Bystra contributes many articles on village social events (as well as organising the distribution) and Andi Swain has promised to continue with contributions. Behind the scenes Ivan Greenaway handles the advertising that helps to ensure free circulation. Many other people write articles on an *ad hoc* basis and we are grateful to them all for their contributions.

In This Issue

In your Nifty New-year Newspaper ~

- Planning Matters
- 630 Christmas Dinner
- Road Closures
- It's a Dogs Life
- The Hottest Ticket in Town
- Andi Swain Reveals All

and much, much more.....

THE CHRONICLE Issue 197 January 2001

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~0~

A note to all would be advertisers -

More than 198 households receive The Chronicle 11 times a year and with rates from just £10 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines)...

... Can you afford not to be in?

~0~

Copy date for February issue is Friday 26th January 2001 - please pass items to Phil Spooner at The Birches in Wingrave Road or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible.

Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbotts, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

The Peoples Page



Nicholas Oldfield	2nd Jan
Andi Swain	5th
Jane Plested	7th
Sarah Plested	7th
James Clarke	10th
Tony Hinds	13th
Zoe Hinds	25th
David Lewis	28th
Carol Spooner	28th
Richard Plested	29th
Chloe Oldfield	30th

THANK YOU ~ I would like to say thank you to everyone who sent cards, flowers or gifts and their kind wishes to me during my sudden stay in hospital. It was very nice to have so many people being so thoughtful. I have appreciated it. ~ Lyn Clarke

Thanks for your understanding to all our neighbours who have so patiently listened to Anthony Palmer playing his drums over the past six or so years. You will be pleased to learn that it wasn't in vain and that the end is in sight. He has just heard that he has won a place at Trinity Music College in London to undertake a music performance degree starting in October 2001, where his principal study will be Jazz Drums.

George Fox wishes to thank everyone on his paper round for all the cards and gifts he received for Christmas. Thank you - George



WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to Susan Harvey who has moved into no. 3 Bricstock and to Dean (sorry we don't know your surname) who has moved into No. 2 Bricstock. We welcome you to the village and hope you are happy in your new homes.

A race and quiz night hosted by Tori and Gary and The Royal Oak raised nearly £270 for the NSPCC. They hope to hold another race night soon.

The Poppy Appeal 2000. The collections in Aston Abbotts amounted to £555.02. The area total was £1816.86. Many thanks to those who gave and those who collected.

A. Rawlings P.A.O.

Put your Valentines Day message in the 40 Chronicle—see page 7. 636 ړون 4



Our good wishes go out to Kate Curry who was in hospital just before Christmas. We hope the hip operation was successful and we shall see you about soon.

Sheila and Roy Smith raised nearly £200 for the Aylesbury Hospice. See the letter on page 5.

Our good wishes go out to Lyn Clarke who has recently been into hospital just before Christmas. Glad to see you up and about and looking a lot better.

Let TRACEY HINDS know about your news, birthdays, or forthcoming events, or contact The

4

(1)

Congratulations to Anthony Palmer for passing his driving test recently. After three tests cancelled due to examiner illness, too much rain and too much rain again, we did wonder if the fates had conspired against him. Your rockery's should now be safe.

Happy New Year to all Ewe Customers



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The above Rally Event is run by the Game Club Charity, which makes donations to individuals and worthy causes within the Aylesbury area where assistance is not covered by any National Charity. If you know of any one who's in



VILLAGE HALL FORUMS

Thursday 1st February 2001 Ley Hill Memorial Hall 10 - 12.30pm

Friday 2nd February 2001 Longburrow Hall, Stokenchurch 10 - 12.30pm

> Tuesday 6th February 2001 Winslow Public Hall 10 - 12.30pm

An information update for all village hall managers & trustees organised by Buckinghamshire Community Action

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In The Village - 1

Letter To The Editor

ould you please, through The Chronicle, thank everyone who helped to make our Coffee Morning for the Aylesbury Hospice at Florence Nightingale House on Dec 7th such a success. The total amount raised (including the sale of hospice cards and raffle tickets) was £191.52.

Thank you to everyone who attended from the village, Wing, Wingrave and Leighton Linslade - to all who contributed, so generously, gifts for the stalls - and to those, unable to attend, who gave donations in cash.

Special thanks to Carole Bandy, Grace and Frank king, who helped before and on the day. Any unsold items have been taken for sale in the hospice shops.

This is the first time that we have held a Coffee Morning since moving to the village, so the support of everyone is much appreciated. The aim of the fund-raising project was for 100 people to raise £100 from each Coffee Morning, so for us to nearly double that is a great achievement. To all involved, thank you on behalf of Sue Cato (fundraising manager of the hospice) and ourselves.

Yours sincerely,

Sheila and Roy Smith, 7 Bricstock, Aston Abbotts

630 Christmas Dinner

On Saturday 16th December, several members, attempting to reach The Royal Oak for our traditional Christmas gathering were unfortunately 'way-laid' whilst passing the Wilkinson's house. Once inside they were seduced into partaking copious quantities of mulled wine and strong 'foreign' beers. One by one however, they all eventually managed to slip away to the Oak where those who could still stand endeavoured to wash away said noxious liquids with good English ales and fine wines.

Their recovery was nothing short of miraculous and everyone enjoyed the wonderful Christmas dinner provided by all at 'The Oak'. We were given a very warm welcome from the outset and the extensive decorations and log fires created a very festive and friendly atmosphere. Totally inspired was the taped 70/80's music provided by 'The Oak', the perfect excuse for a 'sing along' led as usual by those two 'musical hooligans' Whyte & Lewis.

The 630 lads & lasses would like to thank all at 'The Oak' for the very warm welcome and for ensuring we had an excellent evening.



Christmas Time At The Bull

he Saturday just prior to Christmas can sometimes be a little flat but this year, Frank & Louise laid on an impromptu party at 'The Bull'. The combination of some excellent food (just loved the samosas) and Lol's disco was just about right. The beer wasn't bad either.

Many thanks to Frank and Louise.

Planning Matters

(It Really Does.....)

By the time the Chronicle reaches your doorstep the fate of two planning applications submitted to AVDC in December should have been decided. The first application is for four properties by New Zealand Cottages; planning has previously been refused.

The second is a brand new application and was the subject of a letter distributed locally. This seeks permission to build 5 detached bungalows along Moat Lane, opposite The Abbey and with access to Moat Lane via a service road.

We will keep you posted on 'developments' in next month's Chronicle.

Andi Swain

It's Snow Joke

Just when the pundits had us convinced that global warming had brought about an irreversible change in our climate, Mother Nature decided to remind us that she is as unpredictable as any other woman. Aston Abbotts awoke to a thick covering of snow on the Thursday after Christmas, with the sudden cold snap convincing villagers that, unless absolutely necessary, it was better to stay at home by the fire.

Some people ventured out of course. Many people had to go to work and faced delays caused by the weather conditions. Walking the dogs out in the fields we remembered the old Eskimo proverb "Never eat the yellow snow". And Lol Hinds was spotted, with his children, dragging a sledge back from the direction of Lines Hill. Apparently Lol had spent a happy morning sledging, with his kids watching over him to make sure he didn't come to any harm.

Maybe we don't get winters as long and as hard as we used to, but it looks like Mother Nature is going to insist on having the last word. $\sim Ed$

New Year's Eve Bash

we Year's eve saw many villagers clinking their bags of booze gingerly through the melting snow as they cautiously made their way to the Church Room.

The occasion was a New year's eve party organised by Anne, Clare, Jackie, Francesca, Margaret and Rita. Sadly Rita was unwell and unable to attend - we hope she is much better now.

We partygoers hugely enjoyed the black and white themed event, with lots of tasty grub laid on and a non-stop mix of party sounds from Dave Lewis that had people still dancing in the early hours. Young and not-quite-so-young bopped until they dropped, and sung along with the hits. "Whoa!! We're going to eee-beet-zaa", shrieked the seemingly tireless revellers. We didn't, of course. We slithered our way home through the cold slippery slush and crawled into our warm beds until the New Year dawned with a brilliance, vibrancy and optimism that our thumping heads told us we didn't deserve.

Thanks for the great party girls.

 $\sim Ed$



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In The Village - 2

Stick This In Your Pipe And Smoke It......

Tust when you thought it was safe to venture out on the roads again after the "Great Freeze", our friends at the Water Board are planning to make life on Aston Abbotts' roads very interesting again.

First, the good news: The village's rickety, worn (and more than likely Victorian) water main and service pipes are being replaced by brand new, bright blue modern flexible-looking things; the very pipes that have sat quietly by the side of Wingrave Road for the past few months and are now probably home to all manner of local fauna. Excellent news.

Now the bad news: Modern engineering hasn't yet invented a method of installing such wonderfully efficient piping without causing havoc, mayhem and chaos on the roads (opportunity knocks, Mr Bystra??).

Alas, the main through roads in the village will be closed throughout January and early February to allow the works to be completed. The roads outlined below will be closed to all vehicles except for access to properties. So here we go, the (hopefully) abridged details of what roads are closed and when, and how you can get out of the village.

1. Wingrave Road - Closed from 8th January to 22nd January

Closed from the bend by the allotments (just before the Royal Oak) to the junction with The Green (by the Bull + Butcher). Alternative routes - The best route into Aylesbury and Whitchurch will be down Moat Lane to Lines Hill, through Weedon and on to the A413; for Wing, Leighton Buzzard and Wingrave go via Cublington and Wing, on to the A418.

2. The Green - 'Church Stretch' - Closed from 22nd January to 5th February

Closed from Ross Road to Church Farm on Cublington Road (by the Old Masters).

Alternative routes - There are two possible routes to Cublington, with not much between either in terms of distance or time. Either go down Moat Lane through Weedon and on to the A413 to Whitchurch, turning right for Cublington as you enter Whitchurch; or join the A418 at Wingrave Cross-roads and go via Wing.

3*. The Green - 'Bull Stretch' - Closed from 15th January to 29th January

Closed from The Bull & Butcher to Ross Road.

Alternative route (BCC) - via The Green

4*. The Green - 'Bricstock / Nash's Stretch' - Closed from 18th January to 29th January

Closed from The Bull & Butcher, past Bricstock to Moat Lane.

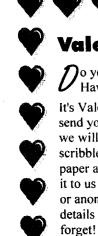
Alternative route (BCC) - via The Green

* Keen eyed-readers will notice that these two stretches provide alternative routes for each other, but are scheduled to be closed at the same time!! We can only assume that BCC has also noticed this, and that the dates are approximate to give Anglian Water flexibility in its scheduling. If not, Bernard could be in for a bumper month (stock up on loo rolls, Bernard....)

Confused? Me too. Give Janet Relfe a ring (head of Legal Services at BCC) 'cos she ok'd it all.

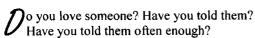
Anyway, look on the bright side - the idiots who speed through the village on their rush-hour rat run will find a permanent alternative route.

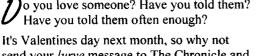
Andi Swain.

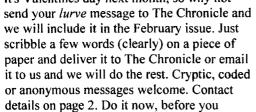


















FETE 2001

est anyone not have noticed—this is the suggestion that became a request then a plea, then a sort of half-choked scream and is now a full-blooded howl. We still need a coordinator for this year's fete.

All of the things I have said before are still true: this is a rewarding job and you get masses of support. But it is a job that needs to be done, and this year I cannot do it. It is also a job that needs to be started soon. I for one find it hard to imagine a summer without a fete - it is always a great day, and it is the village's biggest fundraiser at a time when all those who benefit from the fete - particularly the Church Room and the Church itself - are in real need of support.

PLEASE consider taking on this job.

PLEASE call me on 681373 to find out about what is involved I don't like to think what comes after the howl...

Gordon Smith

Photographs

by Paul Ridgley

A photograph captures a moment in time and can communicate directly with our imagination and emotions to bring back a myriad of memories.

When photographing people my objective is to help them feel relaxed and look 'real' - and preferably in familiar surroundings which say something about their personality.

But whatever the subject the photograph should be imaginative, crisp and, of course, special.

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Vic & Christine's Quiz Night

hese quiz nights have always been popular for the very good reason that they are extremely interesting and entertaining. The one held on Fri 17th Nov. was no exception and was reputed to have been over-subscribed almost as soon as it was advertised.

The slide show this year illustrated one of Chris & Vic's trips to the Holy Land with much emphasis on the surprisingly varied flora, fauna and geology of the area. However, historic and religious sites were included along with many humorous anecdotes.

As interesting and pleasant as this illustrated tour was, the inevitability of 'the quiz' had to be faced up to. I seem to remember it being prefaced with the words - "We have made the questions much easier this time". The first few questions proved otherwise and looking around, it was amusing to see banter replaced by intense debate amongst members of the competing teams (our own included).

Mince pies and tea revived the alcohol soaked grey cells of those who had taken along the odd bottle and the quiz continued. Nobody really excelled and the wining scores were only just above the 50% mark, However, we all had a very pleasant and interesting evening; not entirely without humour! The evening raised a very creditable £150.00 for church funds and finished in time for a pint or two at the pub.

Many thanks to Christine and Vic Scott and please can we have another one?

Vic and Christine have given us some of the questions so that those of you who weren't at the quiz night can have a go too.

- 1. What colour is a live lobster?
- 2. What do Leafcutter Ants feed on?
- 3. a). What is the modern name for the African countries of Zanzibar and Tanganyika?
 - b). What was the old name of Botswana?
 - c). What was the old name of Iceland?
- 4. Which of these US volcanoes is the highest: Cotopaxi, Mt St Helens, Aconcagua?

Answers on page 23

The Ancient Church Of Quarrendon

In 1776 villains broke into Quarrendon Church which was situated just north of Aylesbury town centre and stole the communion plate and linen, a silver cup engraved with the word 'Quarrendon', a napkin, and a breadth of a new surplice in which to wrap them up. Some decades later, this little church which had been dedicated to St. Peter was falling into decay, the process being speeded up by marauders looking for stone and pilferers for monuments they could turn into armaments.

The manorial lands of Quarrendon were then sparsely populated and so this church depended on the nearby mansion, the residence of Sir Henry Lee, champion to the queen. On Sir Henry's resignation from office, the queen paid him a royal visit whereupon she was regaled with gorgeous entertainment and a masque (musical) performed for her.

The mansion was pulled down in the

18th century and in 1856 the question of preserving the chapel ruins was raised by the Archaeological Society. All that was achieved was that warning notices were posted to deter further desecration but these had little effect and soon the south porch was levelled and much of the south wall and nave had fallen. The chancel arch had been picked away for building stone leaving the wall above unsupported and it was feared that if nothing was done, soon there would be little to preserve. Little was done but a piece of stone from the ruins of the old church was in more recent times built into the walls of the church of St. Peter at the nearby Quarrendon estate thus at least preserving a link with the ancient church of Quarrendon. It is now only an ancient ruin which can still be seen and is reached by a footpath clearly marked on Ordinance Survey maps.

Colin Higgs



Whitchurch Surgery

The surgery has a wide catchment area and we are keen that people are aware of the work carried out by the Friends group. We continue to raise funds for equipment to enhance patient care, comfort and treatment. We always consider our purchases in discussion with the doctors and details of previous purchases can be found on our notice board at the surgery.

So far this year more than £4000 has been raised through fund raising and generous donations. Recent purchases have included a Spirometer which measures lung capacity, a wheelchair which can be borrowed from the surgery, a portable ECG machine and equipment for the District Nurse. We have also purchased a 'model' baby for the Health Visitor which is used for education purchases. We are grateful for the support we receive and we are always pleased to learn of any good ideas for fund raising or suggestions for possible purchases. We also find that we are short of helpers at some of our fund raising events and will be delighted to hear from anyone who would be prepared to give a couple of hours occasionally to help out.

Bob Derbyshire, Treasurer. Telephone 641475

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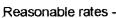
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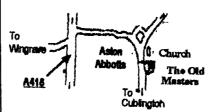
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SLIM YOUR BIN

AVDC want to reduce the amount of waste that they have to dispose of each year, both for environmental reasons and because this costs money that could be spent on other services. Here are some ways in which you can slim your rubbish bin ~

- ♦ Use your own shopping bags rather than new plastic carrier bags.
- Re-use packaging for storage boxes, jam jars, bottles etc.
- ◆ Start a compost heap using garden waste and vegetable peel, leftovers and teabags. Or use a compost bin.
- Return junk mail to the sender.
- Try to avoid heavily packaged goods always buy loose fruit and vegetables.
- Buy recycled goods.
- Use both sides of printer paper.
- Avoid disposable cups, razors and batteries.
- Use real nappies disposable ones take 500 years to decompose.
- Buy longer lasting items and repair where possible.
- Use your local authority recycling scheme for paper, glass, cans and plastics.

It's a Dogs Life

The Chronicle's Canine correspondent sends us this paws for thought ~

Ever since my peculiar looking neighbours, who call themselves Peruvian Alpacas, wrote to the Chronicle, I've been thinking about giving you my view of

I see from the papers my owners read and then use to line my box, that it is Review of the Year time. Unfortunately, my memory isn't good enough for that, so I will stick to Christmas. This started badly for me when my owner rashly volunteered to foster a homeless dog at Christmas. Can you imagine it? I'm sure she'd have had something to say about some down and out invading her bed for a week. Fortunately I was reprieved at the 11th hour when the rescue home rang to say they had no creatures in need of help.

After last year's little indiscretion over those lovely chocolate circles on the tree - well they are so..oo... more-ish, aren't they - Owner put them up really high up on the tree so I couldn't reach AND gave strict instructions I was not to be left alone with them. Never mind, there was plenty of that funny shaped thing they cook once a year. Trouble is the smell of it cooking all morning drove me to distraction and quite disturbed my morning nap.

After all that eating the funny cold white stuff they call snow covered the ground. It was great fun, but the wrong type of snow as it froze in my paws and that was very painful. I was hobbling so badly owner had to carry me part of the way home

were no dogs about to see me.

I had a stocking, of course, which was very nice. I was particularly partial to the Rodeo biscuits but couldn't see the point of the red plastic squeaky toy. I much prefer to get my teeth into the postman. Oh – that reminds me! I think you humans make New Year Resolutions. I suppose after all the trouble I caused defending my territory last year I'd better resolve to be nicer to postmen this year. So Happy New Year to you all – even the postman.

which was very embarrassing, I'm glad there

Your Canine correspondent—I say "No building on my walk please"



A Fractured Christmas Carol

As sung? by Nigel Palmer at the Aston Abbotts Cabaret, December 2000 to the tune of "God rest ve merry gentlemen" - see the Cabaret report on page 13.

The rest-room door said "Gentlemen", so I just walked inside. I took two steps, and realised I'd been taken for a ride. I heard high voices, turned, and found the place was occupied, By three nuns, two old ladies and a nurse. What could be worse? Than three nuns, two old ladies and a nurse.

The rest-room door said "Gentlemen". It must have been a gag. As soon as I walked in there, I ran into some old hag. She sprayed me with a can of Mace, and hit me with her bag. It just wasn't turning out to be my day. What can I say?

It just wasn't turning out to be my day.

The rest-room door said "Gentlemen", and I would like to find, The crummy little creep, who had the nerve to switch the sign. 'cause, I've got two black eyes and one high heel up my behind. Now I'll never sit in comfort and joy. Boy, oh boy! Now I'll never sit in comfort and joy.

Eat, drink and ...

... raise some money for the village hall!

During those gloomy January and February evenings why not go out for a dinner with a difference - have a wandering dinner party. All you need is to get together the same number of couples as courses you are going to have. The idea is that each couple makes one course and serves it in their own home. So you have the starters at one house and then wander on to the next house for the main course and the next for the desert and finally finish up for coffee and liqueurs at the last house.

But how does this raise money, you ask? Well, you each agree to donate a certain amount to the village hall fund, say £10. (Or you could vary the amount according to the course you are making, so those with the most expensive course pay less.) As long as you have fun and support a good cause at the same time that's all that matters.

One group has already arranged their dinner and we hope there will be many

Many thanks to Anne Dicken for the idea.

Donations to the fund should be made payable to Aston Abbotts Parish Hall Fund and given to Nigel Palmer at The Vines, Cublington Road.

If you wish to contact the fund raising committee, the Chairman is Tom Manning (681160), the Secretary is Liz Hall (682078) and the Treasurer is Nigel Palmer (681152). Other members of the committee are Clare and Peter Shorrock, Caroline Lane, Liz Barlow, Dickie Dicken and Roger Bellingham.

Bypass in 2006?

he county council hope that construction of the Wing bypass will commence in 2006, according to the Leighton Buzzard Observer. Completion is not expected until 2008.

Research has shown that without a bypass the traffic through Wing will increase to over 24,000 vehicles a day by 2019, once the Linslade western bypass is open. This will also increase the pressure on the already dangerous A418.

The Wing bypass is expected to cost more than £10million.

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Ring Helen and Simon Dowling for further details

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The Hottest Ticket in Town

Perhaps the village function for which it is most difficult to obtain tickets is the village cabaret. This year we blagged, bullied and bribed the organisers into giving us a ticket and sent our raving reporter, who sends this undercover report.

This years show, titled 'My life With Alison' and based around the love affair of Dave Lewis and his wife, took place on December 9th. The evening promised me moments of extraordinary emotion, exquisite beauty and torrid passion, but I went to the cabaret instead.

I squeezed into the Church Room along with 55 other lucky punters. Around eight o'clock the audience sat back to enjoy what they had come for - the uninhibited and dedicated consumption of alcohol. By nine the liquid refreshments and delicious food provided by Francesca Bean had mellowed the audience considerably.

Suddenly the whole cast took the stage and started to sing in harmony. The audience immediately leapt to their feet, but the doors were locked and they couldn't get out. The rousing opening number was followed by a succession of enthusiastically received songs and sketches by Neil Chesher, Sharon Wilkinson and Anne Brancker. Then John Brancker took the microphone, but after frantic pleading from the rest of the cast he eventually gave it back.

John Whyte announced the results of the Aston Abbotts Sex Survey 2000. The announcements required sensitivity, dignity and restraint - but that didn't stop John. Poll winners included Andy Bystra, Neil Chesher and Alison Lewis, with Ivan Greenaway getting an honourable mention in the Alpaca section.

By now Dave Lewis had fought the new PA system, if not into submission, into a closely contested draw. Donna Wiggit sung Cher's Life After Love and Nigel Palmer sung A Fractured Carol unaccompanied. His singing was beautiful. I listened with tears in my eyes - my moustache hair had caught in the grill of my reporter's recorder.

More excellent songs from John Brancker, Sharon Wilkinson and Bridgit Brandon took us up to the interval. It was now getting a little noisy. The audience were drinking like a fish and having a whale of a time.

At the beginning of the second half MC Andi Swain's announcements were greeted with a genteel barrage of friendly heckling, good-natured cat-calling and part-masticated chicken goujons. Nigel played a piano solo. Tony Rees, formerly from Wimbledon Common and now from Cublington, sang Every Breath You Take, getting a huge response. With one accord the audience rose to its feet, wobbled uncertainly, and hastily sat back down again.

A rip-roaring Sweet Caroline from John Whyte, followed by Tony Hinds, Margaret Kent and Ray Wilkinson

performing a sketch as the Flowerpot Men, during which Bill demonstrated a degree of affection for Weed that raised eyebrows amongst the die-hard Watch With Mother aficionados in the audience.

More music, a ventriloquist sketch from John Brancker and Neil Chesher, and then Tony Rees sung a storming version of With A Little Help From My Friends. Tony's song was followed by yelling, screaming and frantic pleading to do an encore, but we wouldn't let him.

Now came the main spot. Dave Lewis started to tell of his love affair with Alison. The moment demanded solemnity, Dave demanded silence, the audience demanded their money back. He continued and Dave's wife flashed before my eyes. During his affectionate and moving monologue I felt a growing lump at the back of my throat. Perhaps I shouldn't have eaten so many Coronation Chicken vol-au-vents.

All too soon it was all over bar the shouting, which continued for another twenty minutes or so. It was an impressive tour de farce by the hard working cast. The audience had shown so much appreciation they were clapped out. Rising uncertainly to my feet I gazed



Ray Wilkinson - "Flob-a-Dob"

around me. Those bits of the Church Room that swam into focus resembled an inner city branch of Victoria Wine after a ram raid. Volunteers were carrying out empties and casualties. I wobbled woozily out into the cool night air.

An excellent and memorable evening: on the day the elements fell into place, on the evening the performers fell into line, and on the way home I fell into Clare Shorrock's herb garden. More next year, please!

Special thanks are due to Francesca
Bean for the scrumptious food (aided and
abetted by Jackie Coates). Also to our
incredibly talented and hardworking
performers: Bridgit Brandon, John
Whyte, Anne Brancker, John Brancker,
Sharon Wilkinson, Ray Wilkinson, Donna
Wiggit, Margaret Kent, Tony Hinds,
Nigel Palmer, Tony Rees, Dave Lewis
and MC Andi Swain... to the unsung
heroes and stage crew... and especially
to our musical maestro and director - the
Ginger Stallion himself - Neil Chesher.

The Fractured Carol sung so beautifully by Nigel Palmer is reproduced on page 11. The cabaret raised £375 for village funds.

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The Village Interview

This month Nigel Palmer persuades our recently retired editor Andi Swain to reveal all.

Andi Swain, the outgoing Chronicle Editor, arrived in Aston Abbotts almost four years ago by 'pure fluke'. "I saw the houses at Nash's Farm advertised in the Watford local papers and drove over believing that Aston Abbotts was probably close to Abbots Langley because it looked the same sort of name. My family's all in Reading now, although my mother, one of seventeen children, moved up to Greenwich when she married my Dad. I'm a strong West Ham supporter as in those days, the local team, Charlton, were kind of Third Division South and not a particularly good side.

"We fell in love with the house and with the village because it was small and very traditional. The location and the views really did it for us."

It was a few months before Becky moved down from Manchester. He originally met his future wife Becky whilst on holiday six years ago, not in Manchester, but in Porto Rico in Gran

Canaria and got engaged recently when on holiday in Tanzania. "I did the big proposal thing down on one knee by a lake in the middle of the Ngorogora Crater. First of all Becky's reaction was 'You are joking aren't you?'. When I said 'No' and got down on one knee, she said 'Of course I will'.

"I didn't expect to get involved in the village that much at first, but I didn't

really bank on the village being like it is. You don't really have much choice. My very first recollections are of meeting neighbours Liz & Ivan, and before long Ivan was wheeling me down to this weird 630 Club on a Saturday night, making me wear a bowtie and things. I think after that you don't look back from there. Everybody was incredibly friendly and here we are now."

How did he become Chronicle Editor? "Pure blackmail, a certain amount of pleading from Mr Bystra, large amounts of beer in the Bull & Butcher and a succession of people coming up and saying if you don't get involved.... Pretty much the same tactics as I used on Phil Spooner, funnily enough, to get him to take over from me. The traditional method used to find an editor.

"I enjoy writing and at the time I had quite a bit of free time. I thought it would be a good way to get to know more people in the village and get a better handle on village life. Certainly when I first read it I thought 'Wow'. I'm in a small village that has a magazine about the village. I had spent all of my entire life living in very large cities where there is no real sense of community and no feeling of belonging. So to come somewhere and there's this magazine saying things about who people were and what were obviously in-jokes that I didn't have a hope of understanding, why, hey, there's a bit of spirit about this place, a bit of life about the village.

"It is very good for providing people with useful information that the rest of us take for granted; when the dustbins are collected, where Colin's taking people on a walk, when the fish and chip van turns up. But also it truly does give everybody in the village a chance to have their say, as I think has been demonstrated over the last six months or so.

"We've had a couple of issues that people have been able to have that say on. Inevitably there are two sides to every argument, neither side is right neither side is wrong. At least people have a chance to air their views in black and white with everyone else in the village.

"There's going to be a real dilemma - dichotomy - in the village in the next few years where development is concerned. Inevitably there will be a single or dual carriageway bypass built that will encroach on parts of the village, probably in the next ten years or so. I think we shouldn't automatically say that it's a bad thing, because if nothing else it should hopefully put an end to the real terrible things that have happened down on the A418 - the accidents. It's a frightening road. Whether a 70mph straight lane road a la Leighton Buzzard bypass is the right answer, I doubt it. There's a danger that a more improved road could drive a wedge between one side of the A418 and the other. At the moment the A418 is not a huge barrier between

here and Wingrave.

"There are various parts of the village where people have applied for planning permission to develop, been refused, and I am sure that those people will continue to apply. I think it's going to be interesting to see what happens, because even in the last week or so our erstwhile minister for whatever, Mr Prescott, has an-

nounced his new rural plan.

"Inevitably there will be

a single or dual

carriageway bypass built

that will encroach on

parts of the village..."

"If rural development means that there can be affordable housing in the village then I'm all for development. I know back, probably ten years ago now, Lol [Hinds] and a number of others in the village put forward some ideas to the council to have some affordable housing built in the village and for whatever reason those were rejected. Now if development means that for every four bed-roomed detached house with double garage that is built, a two bedroom affordable house needs to be built as well, obviously for a housing association, then that's a trade-off that could probably work in this village. There is just no affordable housing for youngsters or young people trying to move back into the village. Any other development I would probably be against.

"I certainly take a keen interest in the Church Room extension project because it is one of only four places in the village where people can meet. I think it's a shame that it is not utilised maybe as much as it could be, particularly by the youngsters of the village who I've got all the time in the world for. I know Lol's tried to set up some kind of youth club, but for something like that to work for the kids you need quite a good bank of adults to oversee it.

"The Church Room seems to get good use from the older generations with the bingo and the whist. The younger generation have a toddlers club and there are cabarets and quiz nights. Just make sure that everybody dips their hands into their pockets and helps out as much as possible. Everybody in the village has to appreciate that if we don't do these improvements, then

(Continued on page 17)

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The Village Green Signpost

he signpost on the village green, which was broken by vandals last year, should soon be restored to its former glory—perhaps by the time that you read this.

The sign is being reconstructed to the old pattern and it will look like the old one, as near as is possible. The cost of the new sign is being shared between the Parish Council and The Highways Agency

Around the Vale

- Wingrave's oldest resident Sybil Rickard died on Sunday November 19th at the age of 96.
- The trial monthly farmer's market in Aylesbury has been such a success that district councillors have decided that it should continue.
- Local bus company Arriva, who operate a service running through Aston Abbotts, were named bus operator of the year in the Bus Industry Awards, held at London's Hilton Hotel in late November.

Less Building in Bucks

It appears that John Prescott has backed of on his plan to increase the number of homes to be built in Bucks over the next 15 years.

Whilst cynics might suggest that this change of heart has more to do with the forthcoming general election than with a new-found love of countryside preservation on Mr Prescott's part, any move that reduces the pressure to build on green field sites will be welcomed by many.

More Aircraft Over Villages?

The new Luton airport approach route may be re-routed over villages instead of over Leighton Buzzard if the CAA takes up suggestions made by the London Luton Airport Consultative Committee.



Following objections to the current temporary Olney 1B approach route the LLACC are asking the CAA to consider taking the route over rural areas instead of over densely populated towns. This means that the villages surrounding Leighton Buzzard may have to bear the brunt of the noise increase. It is not known if Aston Abbots will be affected by the proposed changes.

The LLACC have decided to hold a three month public consultation period on the new route. This will run from January 1st to March 31st and any comments should be sent to LLACC, c/o Mr B Wardle, South Beds District Council, The District Offices, High Street North, Dunstable, beds, LU6 1LF.

Crossroads Crash

A Ford Sierra ended up on its roof after colliding with a tree at the Wingrave crossroads on the Friday before Christmas.

Despite the car catching fire the fortunate driver escaped with only a cut knee.

Yet another victim for the dangerous A418!



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(Continued from page 15)

we won't have a church room - village hall - whatever, because it will just get closed down. It's not a case of wanting to do it, but having to do it."

We talked about Andi's contribution to entertainment in the village, including his role as AA Cabaret MC. "My favourite one is 'Astonbury'. Some 100 villagers saw the Midsummer Madness as we call it, at Norduck last year. Certainly the venue itself has capacity for more, but I think the numbers were right last year as it was a new venture and we didn't really know, weather aside, whether people would be able to hear or see, or whether the stage would roll off into the pond halfway through the evening or something. As it was, it was just myself who nearly fell in the pond a couple of times. I understand that there was a bit of a book going on that. I hope that I can play a part in that again. That was really, really great fun. Terrific show.

"The village fete would never be the same ever again without the Four Flat Blokes BBQ. It just takes a bit of creative planning. I decided that what with the two fat ladies on TV, maybe we should be the four fat blokes. The burger stall itself needed to become a more central part of the proceedings - i.e. we needed to become a lot louder and get a bit more fun involved - so we dreamt up various burgers. The year before last we had a name your own burger competition and the Brianburger proved popular.

"As for other activities, I played for the first time in the Boxing Day football match last year and so did Becky. Yes, and I tried the tractor pull. As I said in the following Chronicle, never, ever, ever will I do it again. I don't know what possessed me to do it. I just never have been so exhausted in my life and what made me really, really dejected afterwards is that Tom Manning insisted he had it in first gear to help us out, but I don't think he did. At least I can say I've done it - and I know that not many in the village can say that!"

Our thanks to Nigel Palmer for an excellent interview.

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The Chronicle Crossword

January 2001

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Answers to December.

Across: 1 Wing, 5 Leighton, 10 Idiot. 12 Vee, 13 Mood, 14 Oars, 16 Darns, 17 Ornate, 19 Ossify, 21 Lids, 23 Odd, 24 Of, 25 Admit, 26 Squire, 28 Use, 29 Adieu, 32 Low, 33 Narrate, 35 Nouns, 37 Gnomic, 38 Isis, 39 Non, 40 Go, 42 Nth, 43 Eels, 46 Fits, 47 Saddle

DOWN:

1 Wind. 2 Id. 3 Nimrod. 4 Goons. 6 Ivory. 7 Gean. 8 Herald. 9 Nil. 11 Toss. 15 Stimulus. 17 Office. 18 Edison. 20 IOU. 22 Stews. 23 Orange. 25 Aeons. 26 Sermons. 27 Quaint. 30 Don. 31 Iron. 34 TC. 36 Oiled. 38 Ions. 41 All. 44 Ed. 45 SE.

ACROSS:

- 1.. Bucks Town (4&7)
- 10. Nigerian town (4)
- 11. Smell (5)
- 12. Islamic governor (4)
- 13. Arrive; Estate (4)
- 14. Currency (3)
- 15. LATE (anag 4)
- 17. Name (5)
- 18. Wager (3)
- 20. Property (6)
- 23. --- Bevan (3)3
- 25. Come into (5)
- 26. Simple (4)
- 29. Falsehood (3)

- 30. Purpose (3)
- 33. Similar (4)
- 34. IN COAT (anag6)
- 37. Past tense of do (2)
- 38. Scope, range (5)
- 40. Hard as ---- (5)
- 42. Used in fences (5)
- 42 87 4 ... (4)
- 43. Volcano (4)
- 44. Us (2)
- 46. WE NOD (anag 5)
- 48. Unexpected event (8)
- 49. Completed (4)
- DOWN:
- 1. Meat (4)
- 2. To start, set going (8)

- 3. Pierce with horn (4)
- 4. Fence, of brick, stone (4)
- 5. Happy, peaceful (7)
- 6. Queer person/thing (6)
- 7. -- Mowlem (2)
- 8. Male bovine animals (5)
- 9. Gaelic (4)
- 10. Hawk (7)
- 16. Draws, fascinates (8)
- 19. Howled deeply (5)
- 21. Puzzling thing (6)
- 22. French the (2)
- 24. Fish (3)
- 27 Helps (4)
- 28. To travel on snow (3)

- 31. Thing previously named (2)
- 32. Employed in mines (6)
- 34. Be unwell (3)
- 35. A cereal (3)
- 36. Number, Army pill (4)
- 38 Weapons (4)
- 39. Frame for coffin (4)
- 41 See 13 acr.
- 44. NOW (Anag 3)
- 45. Femal sheep (3)
- 47. Present tense of 37 across

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Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Aston Abbotts Parish Council met at 8pm on Wednesday 13th December. No representatives from the County or District Councils were present, though apologies were received from our County Councillor, Brenda Jennings. Three members of the public attended.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and signed, and it was noted that the newly repaired gate to the Recreation Ground has now been hung. A quotation has been accepted for work to repair the fence around the children's play area.

Highways

The Clerk was requested to write to the Highways Department regarding the ineffective road repairs currently being carried out. Potholes reappear almost as soon as they have been filled, which seems a waste of public money.

Planning

Various planning applications were discussed, particularly the one for five new dwellings on land in Moat Lane, to which

strong opposition was voiced. The Clerk will prepare a detailed letter of objection, and the Parish Council urges individuals to do the same.

Comments From The Floor

These included a request for a new streetlight, comments on potholes and road drainage, a complaint about cars **parking** in the bus stop outside the Bull and Butcher and the observation that one of the bungalows in Bricstock has now been empty for 10 weeks. More rubbish appears to have been dumped on the site of the bonfire on the Rec. Phil Spooner (new editor of the Chronicle) took the opportunity to introduce himself.

The Accounts were approved and Correspondence circulated. A report was given on the recent Police Liaison Meeting and dates for future Parish Council meetings agreed. The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Next meeting is on Wednesday 24th January at 8pm in the church room – everyone is welcome to come along.

Kate Curry, Parish Clerk

Rector's Report

One of the laws of physics that I learnt at school was that if there is a force pulling in one direction, there has to be an equal and opposite force pulling in the opposite direction for a state of stability to exist.

As we go into the New Year, and there can now be no doubt that we are definitely in the New Millennium, we are aware of the many forces that seem to be pulling in many varied directions upon our lives. There are the forces that demand that we move forward, and change everything that we have become used to, and there are forces that make us want to avoid any kind of change.

There are those that suggest that the Church should be working flat out to increase the numbers in the congregation because "bigger is better", and those who seem less bothered about quantity and more interested in the quality. Is it better to have one large congregation, or is it more appropriate to have several smaller ones? Do we go all out for the newer Church Services with modern hymns/songs, or are there benefits from sticking with the tried and tested Services and music with which we are familiar?

Each option has advantages and disadvantages that probably balance each other out. So we shall probably have to live in a state of unresolved tension for some time yet.

Yet unresolved tension is not what we want to take with us into the New Year. We should much prefer to be able to see clearly what the future has in store for us. But, who knows what 2001 has in store for any of us? It will probably contain a mixed assortment of joys and sorrows. We shall continue to be surrounded by forces both good and bad, forces that frustrate us and forces that challenge us, forces that excite us and forces that are more calm and tranquil. And, in the midst of those conflicting forces we shall try to retain our composure and sanity. There may be times when we shall find that difficult – but at least we must try not to be blown disastrously off-course.

Whatever problems we must face in this coming year, we shall be more able to cope with them when we have the assurance that:

- a) God is still in control of his world
- b) God holds us in his love
- c) God will not push us past our limits.

It is ultimately God that helps us to remain in balance when we feel that we are being pulled in many and various directions by forces beyond our control. He alone can and will provide us with the stability we need to face all the challenges that will come with this New Year.

My prayer is that the New Year will not prove too turbulent to spoil our happiness and enjoyment.

~Bob Willmott

Burglaries!

At this time of year the most common time for burglaries is between 4 and 6pm, according to local Police. This is when it is dark, but people have not yet returned home to their houses.

One way of making your house less of a target for thieves is to have a light or lights switched on automatically with a time switch. This makes it look like the house is occupied. Time switches are readily available at local DIY stores. However, if you do use one don't put the light in the hall or landing. Thieves know that people don't live in these rooms and so a single light showing in the hall suggests that the house may indeed be unoccupied.

Bypass Anger

Plans for the Wing bypass have angered members of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Most Wing residents welcome the bypass, but senior transport officer from the CPRE, Paul Hamlin, has some major concerns. Whilst recognising the difficulties posed by increased traffic in rural areas he says of the bypass plans, "Simply tarmacing the countryside around every village is not going to tackle the problems. They will fuel traffic growth and take money away from green transport"

The CPRE feels that schemes like the Wing bypass are not in line with the governments transport policies and puts into doubt the governments policy that new roads should be the last resort.

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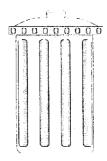
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	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15 Aston Abbotts	Morning Service
14th	08.00 Wingrave	Prayer Book Style Communion
	08.45 Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00 Wingrave	Covenant Service at Methodist Church
	11.15 Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion
21st	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Cublington	Family Communion
	11.15 Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion
28th	08.45 Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15 Aston Abbotts I	Parish Communion
4th Feb	10.00 Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00 Cublington	Family Service
	11.15 Aston Abbotts	Morning Service



Vic and Christine's Quiz

Here are the answers to the quiz on page 9:

4. Aconcagua

changed its name)

c). Bejam (that's the store – the country Iceland has never

p). Betuanaland

3. a). Tanzania

sugun 4 .2

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Dark blue or black

Sunday Readings

	7th Jan	Baptism of Christ	Acts 8.14-17; Luke3.15-17,21-22.
	14th	Epiphany 2	1 Cor 12.1-11; John 2.1-11
	21st	Epiphany 3	1 Cor 12.12-31; Luke 4.14-21
ļ	28th	Epiphany 4	1 Cor 13.1-13; Luke 2.22-40
-	4th Feb	4 before Lent	1 Cor 15.1-11: Luke 5.1-11

From The Registers

Baptism	3rd December	Alexandra Scott at Aston Abbotts
	9th	Nicole Passingham at Wingrave
	10th	James Drysdale at Cublington
Funeral	29th November	Sybil Rickard at Wingrave

ST JAMES CHURCH ASTON ABBOTTS

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rev Bob Willmott	681623
Gordon Kemp	681763
Shirley Ford	681865
Ann Goodman	681763
Andrew Ford	681864

Church Sidesmen

7th	Mr A. Ford		
14th	Mr J Hartnett.		
21st	Mr G. Kemp		
28th	Mr C. Higgs.		

Church Flowers

7th	Donated
14th	Mrs Loader
21st	Mrs Dickens
28th	Mrs Ford



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What's On in January

Monday 1st Blow away that hangover and enjoy a nice walk around our lovely village.

Tuesday 2nd Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm.

Thursday 4th Bingo (in aid of the Whitby lifeboat; Niel Chesher please note!) in

The Church Room 7.30pm

Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room 10.00-12.00

Tuesday 9th Floral class Church Room 7.00 pm.

Thursday 11th Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

Tuesday 16th Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm

Thursday 18th Bingo Church Room 7.30 pm.

Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room 10.00-12.00

Sunday 21st Rambling Club members meet at Caldecote Lake (Windmill)

2.00pm

Thursday 25th Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room 10.00-12.00

Friday 26th Ramblers Quiz & Cheese & Wine Evening. (Everyone welcome;

tickets £2.50 each) The Church Room 7.30pm

Saturday 27th Coffee Morning Church in aid of St. James Church Room 10 -

12.00 Midday

Tuesday 30th Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm



The dark nights are still with us so ensure your cycle lights work and can be seen. Wear light or reflective clothing

The Mobile Library Service

The Mobile Library visits the village on alternate Tuesdays. The dates are always shown in the Chronicle 'What's On' section but here are a reminder of the times:

The Green, Aston Abbotts 10.25am - 10.55am Wingrave Road, Aston Abbotts 11.00am - 11.15am

Oxley Farm 12.55pm - 1.10pm

For further information or enquiries, contact Buckingham Library on 01280 813229

Please use the service or we will lose the facility!

Circuit Training

Calling all male and female 'keep fit' enthusiasts. We need you to keep our classes alive! All levels welcome.

Keep fit whilst having fun.

Cublington Cricket Pavilion

Classes starting again 9th January 2001.

Every Tuesday 7-30 to 8-30. Only £3.00

Please bring a towel and drink For more details ring Kathryn on 682509

Classified Ads

JAGUAR 95M XJ6 4.0 Litre Sport, Manual, FJSH. Turquoise Very High Spec 68K. This car has been lovingly cared for by sole owner. Would consider selling it with its own reserved plate M40 JAG. O.I.R.O. £11,500 without plate. If you are interested please ring John on 681349 for more details.

1966 Morris Minor, very well behaved, usually seen shivering on the Green, needs local dry storage or a garage. If you can help please contact Simon Guy, 3 Church Row, 01296 681319

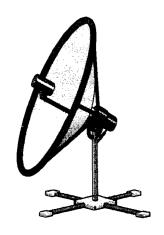
Free Classified Ads. Have you got something to sell? Or maybe something that is too good to throw away, but you would just like to give it to someone who can make use of it. The Chronicle is pleased to print small one-off <u>non-trade</u> Classified Ads free of charge for villagers.

Ads should be 50 words or less. You know the sort of thing: "35 tons of Alpaca manure free to anyone who can use it. Bring your own wheelbarrow. The ability to shovel and hold breath simultaneously an advantage." Don't forget to include your phone number and/or address. Ads will be run once in the next available issue, space permitting.

Either email ads to The Chronicle or write them <u>clearly</u> on a piece of paper and drop them into The Birches in Wingrave Road. Please contact Ivan Greenaway on 682605 for larger, repeating, trade or display ads.

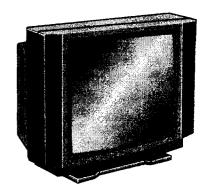
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