# THE GHRONIGLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 231 ~ February 2004



Happy Valentine from the G.N.O.M.E.S.

## Editorial

## The Church Room Again

Two items about the Church Room last month have prompted a further three submissions this time. They have also stirred up some debate in the pub.

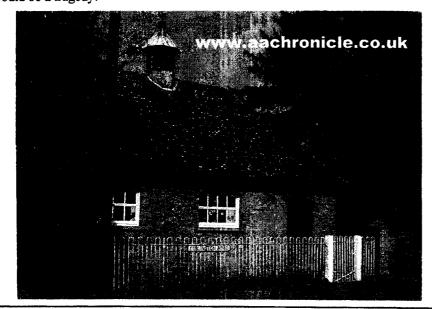
This month Andy Bystra adds his voice to the argument and expresses the frustration that many have been feeling over the delays to this project. In another item Bob Wilmott puts the view from the perspective of the Church Room trustees.

So now we have two ideas running: continue with the currently stalled plan to refurbish the Church Room, or build a new hall *somewhere* in or around the village.

The Church Room refurbishment might still offer the quickest option if the legal delays can be overcome. The village has already raised a substantial sum towards this endeavour. I hear that personnel changes at the ecclesiastical solicitors may now produce some progress, so this project is far from dead.

On the other hand, there are growing calls for a new village hall to be built. Both Cublington and Wingrave have achieved success with similar projects and it is suggested that we could have a bigger and better hall if we go down this route. However there are enormous hurdles regarding location, planning and finance to be overcome.

Frankly, I don't know which is the best idea and, to be honest, in some ways I don't really care. What I do care about is that *something* is achieved before legislation changes force closure of the current Church Room and we are left without a village function room. That would be a tragedy!



In This Issue

In your February Chronicle ~

- Gnaked Gnomes
- The Village Hall Saga
- The Church Room
- The Aston Otter
- · New Year Party Pictures
- Countryside Diary

and much, much more.....

# THE CHRONIGLE Issue 231 February 2004

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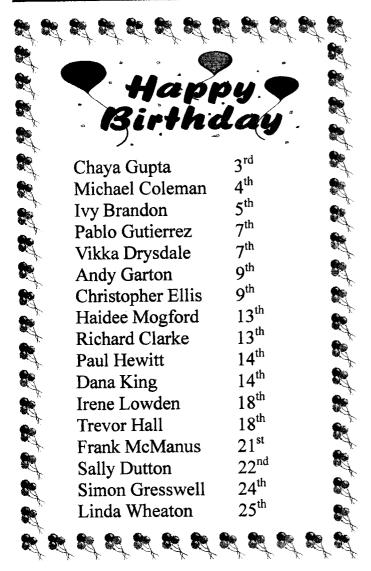
Copy date for the next issue is:

#### Friday 20th February 2004

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.

## Alison's Gossip Column

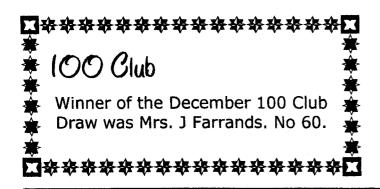


We would like to nominate **Phil Spooner** as February's 'Star of the Month'.

He showed true grit and hard determination when faced with an almost insurmountable challenge. Despite being given a very 'bumpy ride' by a dozen 'garden ornaments', he went bravely where no man had dared venture before, taking many 'snap' decisions along the way.

Bottoms up Phil!

[submitted anonymously]



## BIG BIRTHDAYS

The closing days of January have seen several people celebrating **BIG** birthdays.

First, the Oldies ~

Many Happy Returns to **Dave Lewis** on his 50th birthday. Also **Phil Corrigon** from Nash's Farm has just clocked up his half century as well.

Now for the Bright Young Things ~

Congratulations to **Adam Shorrock** for his 30th birthday on the 17th January, **Anita Parker** for her special day and finally village friend **Sue Rees** who has managed the extraordinary feat of being Phil Corrigan's twin sister, whilst at the same time being at least 20 years younger than him!

Many apologies to **Chloe Oldfield** for not printing her birthday in last months Chronicle. It was in fact on the 30th of January and all the staff on The Chronicle send you best wishes and hope you had a lovely day.

\*\*\*

We are sorry to hear that **Andy Bystra** has been ill with Bronchitis. Glad you are feeling a bit better now Andy.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*

Special thanks to **Tori** and **Gary** at The Oak for allowing their bar to be used as a photographic studio. We'll collect the leftover bits of underwear later...

Valentines Greetings are on page 11



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## In The Village

## **Gnaked Gnomes**

As you may have noticed in last month's Chronicle, the Gnomes were treated to a second, equally hysterical showing of the Calendar Girls item from the Cabaret at their Christmas get together. They immediately decided that they should respond in kind and so, one January Tuesday they slipped out of the Royal Oak one by one for a DRESS REHEARSAL at the Spooner's house.

What hilarity! What non-debauchery! While Phil, the camera man, played on his computer, ten women of assorted ages, shapes and sizes stripped off their tops revealing an assortment of strapless bras to which they pinned large, red, cardboard hearts, at considerable risk to some of their most prized assets. Then they arranged themselves behind the sofa and called Phil in to take some samples - photos that is! Once these had been fed into the computer it became obvious that the idea was going to work and so Stage Two of the operation was planned.

With the kind cooperation of Teri and Gary we "borrowed" the bar of the Royal Oak at ten o'clock one Sunday morning and with our numbers made up to twelve started stripping and pinning again. Once arranged decorously in front of the bar, Phil was called in to work his magic. Quickly he whipped out his tripod, tested his equipment and adjusted the focus. Managing to stop dribbling for a while he made minor, (look no hands), adjustments to our poses and started reeling off the exposures.

Many the merry japes - sadly most of them unsuitable for publication - but if ever a man is elected to be a Gnome, Phil must be first choice for showing great fortitude and remaining calm and good humoured in the face of twelve witty women - well, I thought we were witty.

Two nights later we saw the finished article - were amazed at what a good job Phil had done touching us up - digitally removing all traces of glimpses of underwear, that is. It only remains to apologise to our husbands for all the lies we've told in order to keep it secret - very sorry, won't do it again - PROMISE!

~ Clare Shorrock

Q. What did the caveman give his wife on Valentine's Day?A. Ughs and kisses!

## hopscotch

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## Friends of St. James

firstly, the good news - we have raised exactly £2594.44 since we set up the Friends last spring and only have £155.68 left to pay on the rewiring, which is really amazing and couldn't have been done without all the help and support we've received. The bad news is that we also need to raise money to buy a replacement motor for the clock, which will cost £340.75, and more money to resurface the path up to the Church door. So we are already planning our next few events.

On Saturday March 13th we will be holding a "Sausage and Mash Lunch" in the Church Room from 12.00 until 2.00. Tickets will cost £7.50 for adults, £5.00 for O.A.P.'s and £2.50 for children of 12 or under, and will be available from Clare Shorrock (681260) from the end of February. The sausage and mash will come complete with gravy and onions and will be accompanied by a glass of wine or soft drink.

There will also be a Bring and Buy stall and a cake stall - all contributions gratefully received!

The PCC is planning a Flower Festival for the late May Bank Holiday weekend with gardens open on the Sunday. The Friends will be organising a Plant Stall at Oak Farm House on the Sunday, so if you have any surplus plants - seedlings, cuttings, etc., - please save them for us.

We are also planning to repeat three very successful events from last year, namely the stall on Aylesbury Market, the refreshments at the Firework Display and the Christmas Bazaar, so don't throw away any unwanted gifts or good quality bric-a- brac!

Meanwhile put March the 13th in your diary and don't forget to book your tickets with Clare at the end of February.

~ Clare Shorrock

## Village Hall Saga!

Peter's letter in last month's Chronicle leaves me with the impression that 'The Church' has little interest in assisting Aston Abbotts to bring about the essential improvements so badly needed to keep this important village facility viable. - Hardly a 'Christian' attitude one would have thought!

To retain the existing hall has always been my preferred option, but I can't help feeling now, the apparent arrogance and sloth on the part of the 'Church' indicates we need to pursue alternative solutions with some speed.

The loss of the 'Bull' and the probable closure of 'the hall' in Oct. 2004 suggest we will in any event have nowhere to hold sizeable functions from this date onwards. Furthermore, taking into account the time to complete the legal 'niceties', planning permission, raise funds/grants, plus any building and/or refurbishment times, we are likely to be without a 'function venue' for several years to come.

If there are no 'legal' pitfalls and sufficient support within the village for building a 'hall' on the rec.; put me down for a team member Neil.





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#### The Church Room

was saddened to read two articles about the Church Room in the January issue of the Chronicle. These seemed to be an attack on the work being done by the present Trustees (the only ones who currently have any legal status) and their solicitor to continue to make the Church Room available to the people of Aston Abbotts.

Back in 1990 there was talk of adding a second outside toilet. I have to admit that it was a proposal that did not appeal to me, and I suggested then that any upgrade in facilities would involve a major project that needed to be carefully considered.

It was also clear that there were people in Aston Abbotts who felt that they could organise and manage the Church Room more effectively. Their hope was that the Church Room could be leased to them for use as a Village Hall. I wonder if they had any idea of the amount of research that was necessary into Village history to separate the true facts about the Church Room from "local knowledge". But, those who are the rightful owners are the only ones who could grant the Lease they longed for, and there were questions relating to ownership that needed to be answered before further steps could be taken. Investigating the ownership threw up some other interesting facts. Did you know, for instance, that the Church Room stands on the site of the original Village/Church School - a building that became redundant when the School moved to the "Old Masters" and was subsequently pulled down? (Was it, in fact, the pulling down of the "Old" School that was behind the Villagers antagonism to the building of the Church Room?)

It is documented fact that there was bad feeling in the village when the Church Room was built, and that bad feeling seems to have never gone away. I do not know whether the Revd.

Thomas Martin set about the project badly — or whether he upset people in a way that his predecessor had not done when the Church was rebuilt in 1865. But I do know that there are things that happened in Aston Abbotts that we may regard as unfortunate with the benefit of hindsight. Likewise, there have been things subsequently that have not been handled as they should have been. A considerable amount of Village history has had to be re-visited, and things that should have been done many years ago have needed to be put right before a Lease on the Church Room can be considered by the Trustees. And all this has had to be done before we could even start thinking

about the implications of the 1993 Charity Act.

The Church Room was part of a huge programme of rebuilding that took place in Aston Abbotts in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This was redevelopment that proved necessary largely to bring housing in the village up to standards that were deemed appropriate for their time. There were to be no more "one-up, one down" thatched cottages with earth floors.

Now the Church Room, a century later, is being challenged by further legislation. It will cost a significant amount of money to comply with the regulations about Health and Safety, Environmental Health and Disability Access — to name but a few of the areas in which it is "non-compliant". There have been aspects of the Church Room that have not complied with existing regulations for a very long time — and we know that we have been skating on pretty thin ice.

Sadly, as was said, the Church Room is looking rather sad and down at heel. Yet I wonder whether people realise that this is largely due to the Church Room's share of the money from the annual Village Fete – money that would normally go for the routine maintenance of the Church Room – money which might have been used to bring us nearer to the required standards - being siphoned off for the past few years into the "Church Room Improvement Fund".

It is most certainly not the case that the Trustees are dragging their feet. We are caught in a legal web that is not of our making and that is taking far longer than we should like to untangle. Part of that "tangling web" must be put at the feet of those who have gone before us - who have tried to cut corners, who have gone for quick fix answers. Of one thing I am very sure — and that is that the present Trustees do not want to saddle the people of Aston Abbotts in the future with yet another bungled or dodgy deal.

There does need to be a place where the people who live in Aston Abbotts can meet socially. For the last hundred years the Church Room has tried to the best of its ability to make itself available for that purpose. Sometimes it has not been as successful as it might, but it is hoped that, although the negotiations seem to be taking for ever, the Church Room can continue to be of service to the Village for many years to come.

~ Bob Willmott

## If You Must Take, Give Also

Ome on Aston, get your act together. Over the years you have watched the School go, two Chapels, the Youth Club, the Post Office, the Pub, the Restaurant, and the Shop (almost). They are just the ones that spring to mind.

Now you are going to sit back and watch the Church Room go as well. What will you do then, move to another village?

Let the room go. Let the Church have it back and see how long it is before they apply for planning permission to turn it into a bungalow, and sell it off.

You need a Village Hall, a decent sized village Hall, (the village continues to grow) a new Village Hall, and you need it soon.

Build it on the Recreation Ground, and you will no longer have a Recreation Ground, so that would be something else you have lost for ever. There are too many people in Aston Abbotts who take all they can, but give nothing back in return. Time to call a halt. Ask some of these 'takers' to give something back. Not much, just a big enough piece of land to build a Village Hall on, with room to park a few cars.

If you don't ask you will never know. You might be pleasantly surprised.

~ Concerned (name and address supplied)

So what do you think should happen? Why not drop us a line and put forward your point of view—contact details on page 2. ~ Ed

Q. What do farmers give their wives on Valentine's Day?
A. Hogs and kisses!

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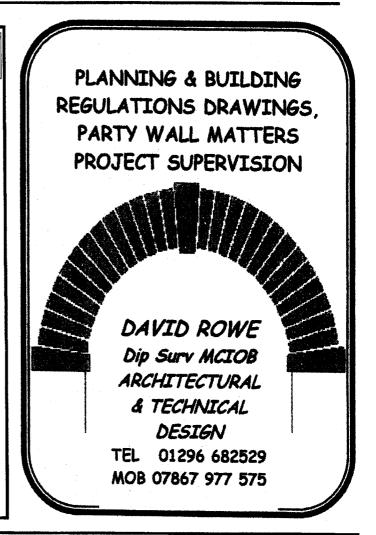
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## **Countryside Diary**

16th January

Mid-February and we haven't had much winter yet, the grass is still looking fresh and green and, despite the recent rain, the fields are remarkably firm for the Land Rover, just the gateways getting a little muddy.

There are a few signs that spring is just around the corner. We have had our first lamb, not planned by us of course but no doubt intended by the ewe in question. Always a bit of a problem, one on its own, the ewe will need feeding "cake" to ensure a good milk supply for the lamb, so she can't be put with ewes not being fed and, on her own, she is very vulnerable now that we, unfortunately, seem to have stray dogs in the village occasionally.

Snowdrops are showing a bit of white in the gardens as does some pussy willow down at Burston and that does seem early. Mid-January and I'm on the lookout for winter aconites which should be flowering soon but no sign of them, to date, in our garden.

There is a touch of spring getting to some wild life these days. I recently saw three hares chasing each other in circles and this morning two cock pheasants were fighting in the lea of a hedge.

At the present I am laying a small length of hedgerow - a very satisfying job to be doing. Without doubt the best way to deal ... SHE IS VERY with an overgrown hedge, but very expensive

in time. Unfortunately the days are long gone when hedges were regularly laid by skilled farm staff who needed the job in winter to keep employed - were they the good old days or the bad old days?

Unfortunately too, whenever a length of hedge is laid nowadays,

it usually needed doing 20 years ago making it a difficult and slightly unsatisfactory job to be working on.

We hear a lot about farmers removing hedges and despoiling the countryside but in my time (35 years) in this Parish no hedges have been removed and four new ones have been planted.

January/February are the months when huge flocks of wood pigeons feed on winter rape in our area. They are also seen in grass fields where they carefully pick out the small clover leaves. In the Chilterns the pigeon flocks are seen feeding on beech mast (nuts) and I was told that the size of the beech mast crop had a direct bearing on the damage done to winter rape - a good beach crop in the Chilterns and less damage to rape in the Vale of Aylesbury.

Whenever I have had

a local pigeon to dress the birds crop has always been packed full with the very best of natural food. "Always eat pigeon, they live on the fat of the Land" - so said Uncle George! VULNERABLE NOW THAT

Talking to various people I hear that sparrowhawks have learnt the same lesson that small birds assimilated years ago. That is "feeders full of peanuts in a village garden are good eating houses". Three people have recently told me that sparrowhawks regularly

DOGS IN THE VILLAGE... frequent their bird tables looking for a meal and a feeder in Aston Abbotts has been deserted and unused thanks to the frequency of a predatory sparrowhawk.

> No doubt the RSPB will tell us it won't affect small bird numbers. Do we know better?

> > Peter Knight

## The Aston Abbotts & Cublington Ladies Club

WE...SEEM TO HAVE STRAY

#### Jan. 8th

20 members were present for our first meeting of 2004. After a short business meeting, the Chairman introduced Vic and Christine Scott who had come along to show us slides of their recent holiday in Australia. Vic began by giving a short talk about the countryside, flowers and animals and then showed us some interesting and beautiful slides. He was thanked by Irene Lowden. Tea Hostesses today were Ivy Brandon and Sheila Read.

#### Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>

22 members were present at today's meeting in the church room. After a short business meeting the Chairman introduced Mrs Pamela Wright and her husband Dudley. The showed us some beautiful slides of the countryside and animals to be found around Cape Town, Pretoria, and Durban. Joan Alexander gave a vote of thanks and June Brine and Kim White served tea and cakes.

~ Shirley Ford



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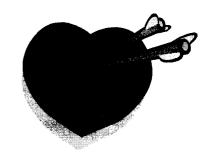
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## **Valentines**

To the one who's seen the worst bits of Me from all angles





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FAOR of face,

LOGHT of my life,

SUNSHONE on a rainy day,

O will always be your valentine,

Of you will promise to be mine.

Happy Valentines Day Z&L XXX



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Roses are red Violets are not If you forget the 14th You will be shot





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#### The 'Aston' Otter!

ast month, the rain having actually stopped for a while, I decided to set off for a nice brisk walk to the stream the other side of Cublington. The wonderful smell of wet earth, jewel like droplets of water adorning every plant, the almost musical sound of water trickling into ditches, all contributed to me beginning to reflect on those wonderful observational pieces written by Peter Knight in the Chronicle. I started to wonder just how he manages to see so much out in the fields? Perhaps I needed to look take a closer interest in the countryside around me during my walk.

I did try! However, not being in Peter's league, all I seemed to 'spot' were various discarded bottles, fast food cartons, Tesco bags by the dozen and bits of cars that seem to have self-destructed whilst endeavouring to cope with our Buckinghamshire roads. Two muddy 'porno' magazines and a 'ladies' black lace suspender belt did admittedly somewhat intrigue me for a while; that is, until I arrived in the region of the Crayfish farm.

There, lying on the verge, seemingly undamaged was an absolutely beautiful otter. The wonderfully sleek coat, handsome whiskers, tail and broad feet confirmed it. A tentative prod verified it was indisputably deceased, although

clearly it had not been dead for long. What to do?

It wasn't difficult finding a large discarded Tesco bag so I decided to take the corpse to show Vic Scott.

After all, there aren't supposed to be any otters in Bucks! Are there? This could be the first. I bet Peter Knight hasn't seen an otter in the village! Who knows, it might get a mention in the Bucks Herald; or even on local television! Perhaps it will be known for years to come as the 'Aston Otter'. Would David Attenborough want to make a programme about it?

All this conjecture made the journey back to Vic's seem very short.

When I opened the bag, Vic just couldn't contain his excitement. Clearly moved, he declared it to be "one of those bl\*\*\*y Canadian Mink!" Damned things kill just about anything, even new born lambs. Didn't think they were around here. Oh well! At least it's dead!"

The loud, hollow thump as it dropped into my empty dustbin just about summed up my spirits. Perhaps I'll leave any future writing about wildlife to Peter!!

## **Aston Abbotts Parish Council**

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 14th January 2004

Present: Cllrs. T.Manning (Chairman), C. Higgs, D.Dicken, M. Kent, J.Farrands, P.Shorrock and Mrs. K.Curry (Clerk). Seven members of the public were present. Apologies were received from Cllrs R.Clarke and P. Cooper.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.

#### **Matters Arising**

The Clerk had received useful advice from a professional re installation of the Skateboard Ramp on the Recreation Ground.

## County Council, District Council And Police Matters

No representatives were present from any of the above organisations.

The Clerk was asked to contact County Cllr Jennings about the continuing poor state of our local roads.

#### Comments From The Floor

The bus shelter at Wingrave Crossroads is in need of repair. The Clerk will contact Wingrave P.C. and find out whether the shelter is insured.

A member of the public complained about the advertising board on the verge at Wingrave Crossroads.

#### To Set The Precept For 2004-5

Resolved to set a precept of £4900

#### Dog Bins

The P.C. discussed a request for more dog bins in the village. The Clerk was asked to investigate the cost of new bins, and to find out whether the existing bins are being well used.

#### Planning

To consider planning applications:

03/03009/APP Norduck House, Moat Lane -

Conservatory. Resolved to make no comment on this application.

- 03/03207/APP Home Farm, 61, The Green -Replacement entrance gates. Resolved to make no comment on this application, provided the gates are erected in the same position as the previous gates.
- 03/03093/APP 71, The Green Insertion of dormer windows and erection of two storey detached garage. Resolved to object to this application on the grounds that the dormer windows and height of the garage would be out of keeping with the surrounding area.
- 03/02527/APP Home Farm, 61, The Green Erection of three houses with detached garages. Resolved to object to this application. Much discussion took place on this subject and the issues are complicated. The P.C. will object to the building of the second garage and challenge the new plans, which still appear to be an inaccurate representation of the actual development.

#### **Highways**

A cherry tree on The Green has been severely pruned, ruining its shape completely. Unfortunately no one has been able to ascertain who did this, so no action can be taken.

#### **Recreation Ground**

Safety check - children's play area: up to date.

#### **Date Of Next Meeting**

Confirmed that the next Meeting of Aston Abbotts Parish Council will be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2004 at 8 pm in the Church Room

Everyone Is Welcome To Come Along

~ Kate Curry, Parish Clerk



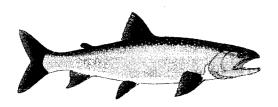
## Wingrave Netball Club

7-9 year olds, 9-10 am every Saturday during term time at WINGRAVE SCHOOL. (£1 per session)

10-13 year olds, 9-10 am every Saturday during term time at WINGRAVE NEWPARK. Contact Sandy (coach) if interested on 688952

14 yrs—adults, 10-11.30 am every Saturday at WINGRAYE NEWPARK (£1.50 per session)

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## **New Year Party**

few familiar faces were absent from this Year's New Year's Eve party, held in the Church Room. It wasn't just people being out of village or on holidays abroad—that happens every year. This year the flu took its toll and, sadly, some people spent the evening in bed.

Even those 'familiar faces' who did make it were not instantly recognisable, however. The theme this year was a Masked Ball and everybody got thoroughly into the spirit of things, with a wide range of different masks being worn.

The girls had gone to a lot of trouble to nicely decorate our rather run down Church Room and



Dave Lewis was prised from his sick bed to come and set-up the disco equipment.

Long before midnight approached most people were dancing and as the old year drew to a close and the clock struck 12 everybody joined in an enthusiastic, if rather unruly, rendition of Auld Land Syne.

Those with enough stamina continued dancing for another hour or two, whilst 'casualties' slowly drifted off into the night. Our commiserations to those who were unable to be there, but there will always be another year (if we have somewhere to hold it).

Thanks to everyone who contributed in making it another great night—and thanks to everybody who came and (hopefully) had a good time.

~ Phil Spooner - Pictures by Anne and John Brancker

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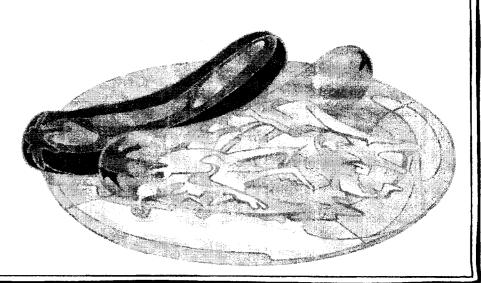
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Andy Ford is running in this year's London Marathon on Sunday April 18th. He is seeking sponsorship to raise money for Cancer Research and the church, so if you would like to sponsor him please fill in this form and drop it into Andy at 2 Ross Road—or if you don't want to cut your Chronicle you can phone him on 01296 681865 to pleage your sponsorship.

| I would lik | e to sponsor Andrew Ford for the total sum |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------|
| of £        | to complete the London Marathon            |
| 2004.       | ·                                          |

| Name    |       |
|---------|-------|
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at state at state at state at state at

very shy guy goes into a pub on Valentine's Day night and sees a beautiful woman sitting alone at the bar. After an hour of gathering up his courage he finally goes over to her and asks tentatively, "Um, would you mind if I brought you a drink?" She responds by yelling, at the top of her lungs, "No, I won't sleep with you tonight!"

Everyone in the pub is now staring at them. Naturally, the guy is hopelessly and completely embarrassed and he slinks back to his table totally red faced.

After a few minutes, the woman walks over to him and apologises. She smiles at him and says, "I'm really sorry if I embarrassed you just then. You see, I'm a graduate student in psychology and I'm studying how people respond to embarrassing situations."

To which he responds, at the top of his lungs, "What do you mean 200 quid!!"

hree old men were talking about life and counting their blessings over a cup of coffee at home. First man: "I'm lucky I have no problems. There is one difficulty that I counter. When I open the refrigerator, I can't remember whether I was going to take out something or put something in."

Second man: "I am really fortunate to be healthy. The only problem I have is that when I get to the base of stairs, I can't remember whether I was going to go up or had just come down."

Third man: "Thank goodness. I have no such problems. Knock wood." He knocked on the table three times and said, "I think there is some one at the door."

young doctor had moved out to a small community to replace a doctor who was retiring. The older gent suggested the young one accompany him on his rounds so the community could become used to a new doctor. At the first house a woman complained, "I've been a little sick to my stomach." The older doctor said, "Well, you've probably been overdoing the fresh fruit. Why not cut back on the amount you've been eating and see if that does the trick?"

As they left the younger man said, "You didn't even examine that woman. How'd you come to your diagnosis so quickly?"

"I didn't have to. You noticed I dropped my stethoscope on the floor in there? When I bent over to pick it up, I noticed a half dozen banana peels in the trash. That was what was probably making her sick."

"Hmmm," the younger doctor said, "Pretty clever. I think I'll try that at the next house."

Arriving at the next house, they spent several minutes talking with an elderly woman. She complained that she just didn't have the energy she once did. "I'm feeling terribly run down lately."

"You've probably been doing too much work for the church, "the younger doctor told her. Perhaps you should cut back a bit and see if that helps."

As they left, the elder doc said, "Your diagnosis is almost certainly correct, but how did you arrive at it?"

"Well, just like you at the last house, I dropped my stethoscope. When I bent down to retrieve it, I noticed the preacher under the bed."



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February 2004





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## **Rectors Report**

"Once you have passed the Shortest Day and the days start to lengthen, does it get lighter in the morning, or does it stay lighter longer in the evening"? That was the discussion that a couple of people were having and having difficulty in remembering which way it happened.

By the time we get to February, it is somewhat academic – because it is lighter in the morning and also in the evening. So maybe the argument needs to move on to that quirk of the Calendar that means that every fourth year we have an extra day in February.

It is a sad sign of progress that we forget all those old rhymes that tell us how these peculiarities are worked out. Even the Church Calendar now tries to persuade us that the Sundays that we grew up calling "Septuagesima, Sexagesima and Quinquagesima" should now be called "Sundays before Lent".

But there again, the Church Calendar has always been a somewhat prosaic area. In the days of long boring sermons, I can remember trying to decipher the tables in the front of the Prayer Book that enabled the date of Easter to be found in any particular year. I remember making many attempts, but never really cracking it. Maybe the sermons were not quite long enough for me to finish – and you could never remember how far you had got so you had to start again from scratch every time. Or I suppose that I may actually have heard the odd snippet of sermon that made me lose my concentration on the task in hand. Yet Easter came every year on the date it was due – so there was not really any point in trying to fathom out the code.

But before we can get to Easter we have to think about Lent — and that always seems to be something of a lead balloon. We have trouble doing "discipline" these days. I suppose it may be because we live in a world where everything is always available. There is never a time when we cannot buy fruits and vegetables that a few years ago were very seasonal. It always seems strange to me that when daffodils are flowering very prolifically (as they frequently are during Lent), that we do not use them in Church — although we might make a somewhat grudging concession for Mothering Sunday.

Of course it all depends on whether the season is early or late this year, and that depends on the weather. And that depends on various other factors – like the amount of daylight there is, the phases of the Moon, and so on. Maybe these are factors that we no longer need to remember - because we know that we can look them up when we need to know them.

As the schoolboy said: "All this rememberin is doin me 'ead in - God knows!"

~ Bob Willmott

## The Weish Film Industry

Now that Catherine Zeta-Jones-Douglas has become firmly established in Hollywood, the Welsh film industry is to receive additional funding to step up production. They are going to remake many well known films, but this time with a Welsh flavour. The following are planned for release ext year...

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- ♦ Trefforest Gump
- ♦ Cwmando
- ♦ The Lost Boyos
- ♦ An American Werewolf in Powys
- ♦ Huw Dares Gwyneth
- ♦ Dai Hard

- ♦ The Wizard of Oswestry
- ♦ Cool Hand Look-you
- Sheepless in Seattle
- ♦ The Eagle has Llandudno
- The Magnificent Severn
- Haverfordwest Was Won
- ♦ Austin Powys
- ♦ The Magic Rhonddabout
- ♦ Independence Dai
- The Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwy rndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch That Time Forgot

### **Church Room Notice**

#### **New Hire Charges**

Following a meeting of the Trustees of the Church Room, we would advise that a revised hire charge will be made from January.

- Hourly rate: £2.50 + metered electricity (village residents)
- Hourly rate: £10 + metered electricity (non-residents)
- Weddings, parties, christenings, etc at £2.50 per hour (village residents) plus an additional one hour charge for preparation time.

All fees must be paid when the key is returned to Doris. The person booking the room will be responsible for the payment. Thank You.

- Q. What did the valentine card say to the stamp?
- A. Stick with me and we'll go places!

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MARGARET KENT

6 The Green ~ 681454

RICHARD CLARKE

Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

**JACKIE FARRANDS** 

1 Norduck Cottages ~ 681182

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6 Wingrave Road ~ 681343

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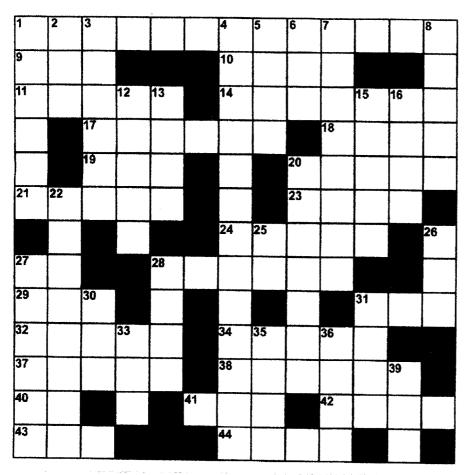
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> Saturday 8 am to 1 pm

## The Chronicle Crossword

## February 2004



#### January solution

Across 1 Printer 6 Silks 10 Eon 11 Awake 13 NW 14 Garbaged 16 Risible 17 AM 19 Bit 21 Gates 24 Tzarina 28 Ode 29 How 31 Lend 32 National Trust 34 Madder 35 Run 36 Nod 37 Round 38 Duly 39 Ado 40 Ness 41 Ends 42 Meet

Down 1 Pentagon 2 Row 3 In 4 Teas 5 Rabbit warrens 6 Sage 7 Ike 8 Led 9 Scot 12 Waltz 14 Give 15 Rib 18 Madam 20 Ends 22 Tetanus 23 Shoddy 25 Altruism 26 Rerun 27 Inundate 30 One 33 Idols 38 Den

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Feeling pity (13)
- 9 Lie down (3)
- 10 Fabric (4)
- 11 --- Welles (5)
- 14 Everlasting (7)
- 17 Make evident (6)
- 18 Mutilate (4)
- 19 Latitude (ab 3)
- 20 Suggests (5)
- 21 Sorts (5)
- 23 --- domini (4)
- 24 Embed (5)
- 27 Higher (2)
- 28 Unravel (6)
- 29 Cut off (3)
- 31 Drink (3)
- 32 Girl's name (5)
- 34 Dwelling (5)
- 37 --- down (5)
- 38 Horn (6)
- 40 -- Hon (ab 2)
- 41 As written (3)
- 42 SIDE (an 4)
- 43 Ocean (3)
- 44 Bog plant (4)

#### DOWN

- 1 Time pieces (6)
- 2 Rowing tool (3)
- 3 Me (6)
- 4 An Eddison invention (8 & 5)
- 5 Speed (4)
- 6 Expert (3)
- 7 End of the route (8)
- 8 Liquid measure (5)
- 12 Egg shaped (5)
- 13 TINS (an 4)
- 15 Child minder (5)
- 16 Car (4)
- 20 Fish (7)
- 22 Rude (8)
- 25 Nay (2)
- 20 Hay (2)
- 26 Jump (3)
- 27 Sores (6)
- 28 RUES (an 4)
- 30 Home (sl 3)
- 31 Desire (4)
- 33 Colour (3)
- 35 CONE (an 4) 36 Slipped (4)
- 39 Agent (3)

Compiled by Don Bellingham

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## St James Church

## **Church Services**

| 1st Feb             | Wingrave      | 10.00 | Parish Communion              |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|-------------------------------|
|                     | Cublington    | 10.00 | Family Service                |
|                     | Aston Abbotts | 11.15 | Parish Communion              |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>     | Cublington    | 08.45 | Parish Communion              |
|                     | Wingrave      | 10.00 | People's Praise               |
|                     | Aston Abbotts | 10.00 | Parish Communion              |
| 15 <sup>th</sup>    | Wingrave      | 10.00 | Parish Communion              |
|                     | Cublington    | 10.00 | Family Service with Communion |
|                     | Aston Abbotts | 11.15 | Parish Communion              |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | Cublington    | 08.45 | Parish Communion              |
|                     | Wingrave      | 10.00 | Parish Communion              |
|                     | Aston Abbotts | 11.15 | Morning Service               |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>    | Wingrave      | 20.00 | Ash Wednesday Service         |
| 29 <sup>th</sup>    | Cublington    | 08.45 | Parish Communion              |
|                     | Wingrave      | 10.00 | Parish Communion              |
|                     | Aston Abbotts | 11.15 | Parish Communion              |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar | Cublington    | 10.00 | Family Service                |
|                     | Wingrave      | 10.00 | Parish Communion              |
|                     | Aston Abbotts | 11.15 | Parish Communion              |



## ST JAMES CHURCH ASTON ABBOTTS

#### PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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



## **Sunday Readings**

|  |                     | •           |                                         |
|--|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------|
|  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb | Epip 4      | 1 Corinthians 13.1-13;<br>Luke 2.22-40  |
|  | 8 <sup>th</sup>     | 3 bef.Lent  | 1 Corinthians 15.1-11;<br>Luke 5.1-11   |
|  | 15 <sup>th</sup>    | 2 bef. Lent | Revelation 4;<br>Luke 8.22-25           |
|  | 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | 1 bef. Lent | 2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2;<br>Luke 9.28-36 |
|  | 29 <sup>th</sup>    | Lent 1      | Romans 10.8-13;<br>Luke 4.1-13          |
|  | 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar | Lent 2      | Philippians 3.17-4.1: Luke 13.31-35     |
|  |                     |             |                                         |

## From The Registers

#### Baptism

4th Jan Rory O'Carroll at Wingrave (RC)

## **Church Flowers**

| 31/Jan/1st Feb. | Mrs S Ford         |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 7/8             | No Service         |
| 14/15           | Mr C Higgs         |
| 21/22           | Donated            |
| 28/29           | No Flowers In Lent |

Anyone who is interested in joining the Church Flower rota – please contact Colin on 681343

## **Church Sidesmen**

| 1 <sup>st</sup> February  | Mr G Kemp    |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 8th February              | No Service.  |
| 15th February             | Mr. C. Higgs |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> February | Mr A Ford    |
| 29th February             | Mr G Kemp    |



## The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

| ı |                        |                             |                |                       |                     |                 |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|   | 100 Club               | Colin Higgs                 | 681343         | LBO Reports           | Colin Higgs         | 681343          |
|   | 630 Club               | Andy Bystra                 | 681690         | Milkman               | Ron Miller Dairies  | 482838          |
| I | A418 Committee         | Tom Manning                 | TBA            | Mobile Library        | Buckingham Library  | 01280 813229    |
|   | Astonbury              | Peter Shorrock              | 681260         | NHS Direct            | 24hr Medical Advice | Line 0845 46 47 |
|   | AVDC                   | Switchboard                 | 585858         | Parish Clerk          | Kate Curry          | 681137          |
|   | Bingo                  | Doris Scutchings            | 681243         | Parish Council Leader | Tom Manning         | TBA             |
|   | Busses                 | Arriva 46                   | 8730 or 423445 | Police                | Aylesbury           | 396000          |
|   | Chronicle Advertising  | Claire Gresswell            | 682949         | Police                | Wing Police Office  | 396163          |
|   | Chronicle Distribution | Andy Bystra                 | 681690         | Railways              | Chiltern            | 0870 516 5165   |
|   | Chronicle Editorial    | Phil Spooner                | 681544         | Rambler's Club        | Colin Higgs         | 681343          |
|   | Church Mowing Rota     | Gordon Kemp                 | 681763         | Rector                | Reverend Bob Willmo | ott 681623      |
|   | Church Room Redevelor  | oment Tom Manning           | TBA            | Refuse Collection     | Enquiries           | 585510          |
|   | Church Room Hire       | Doris Scutchings            | 681243         | Roads & Transport     | Colin Higgs         | 681343          |
|   | Citizens Advice        | Aylesbury                   | 0870 126 4056  | Royal Oak             | Teri & Gary Moult   | 681262          |
|   | Coach Trips            | Colin Higgs                 | 681343         | RSPCA                 | General Enquiries   | 08705 555 999   |
|   | Council                | Aylesbury Vale Distric      | t 585858       | Scouts                | Julia Ellis         | 681118          |
|   | Council                | <b>Bucks County Council</b> | 395000         | Shop (Osborn's)       | Bernard Osborn      | 681233          |
|   | County Councillor      | Brenda Jennings             | 01525 270610   | Toddlers Group        | Claire Greswell     | 682949          |
|   | District Councillor    | Peter Cooper                | 681250         | Wingrave Preschool    | Claire Upton        | 681700          |
|   | Fete Coordinator       | Jackie Farrands             | 681182         | Wingrave Post Office  | (PO only)           | 681011          |
|   | Floral Class           | Colin Higgs                 | 681343         | Wingrave School       | Office              | 681346          |
|   | Friends of St James    | Clare Shorrock              | 681260         | Wingrave Stores       | Andy & Helen Hall   | 681696          |
|   | Hospital               | Stoke Mandeville            | 315000         | Places lature         | an al ann ances     | au aminimus     |
|   | Ladies Club            | Shirley Ford                | 681865         | s veuse vei us Rn     | ow of any errors    | or omissions    |

Andy and Helen Welcome You to

## WINGRAVE POST OFFICE STORES

NEWSAGENT • GENERAL STORE • OFF LICENCE PHOTOCOPYING • VIDEO CLUB DRY CLEANING AGENT • CASH MACHINE





**SHOP** 

Monday - Saturday 6am - 7pm Sunday 6am - 1pm

Tel: 681696

**POST OFFICE** 

Monday - Friday 9am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

Tel: 681011

DAILY VILLAGE NEWSPAPERS DELIVERED IN WINGRAVE AND ASTON ABBOTTS MAGAZINES ORDERED AND SAVED

CONFECTIONARY • ICE-CREAM • GREETINGS CARDS • WRAPPING PAPER FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES • FRESH BREAD & MILK DAILY CASH MACHINE IN THE STORE • FRESH BREAD COOKED ON THE PREMISES

## What's On In February

Sunday 1st Rambling club members meet at Moorlands Rd. Wing 2 pm.

Thursday 5th Ladies club. Church room 2.15 pm

> Whist drive. Church room 7.30 pm. also

Tuesday 10th The Green, Wingrave Road, Oxley farm. Mobile library

> Rambling Club's AGM 13, Moorlands Rd. Wing 8 pm. also

Thursday 12th Bingo Church room 7.30 pm

Tuesday 17th

Floral class Church Room 7 pm.

Thursday 19th Ladies Club Church Room 2.15 pm

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Rambling club members meet at Cublington crossroads 2 pm.

Tuesday 24th

Pancake, coffee morning and race (bus shelter to church room) 50p

entry.

Mobile library (The Green, Wingrave Rd. Oxley farm)

Wednesday 25th (Ash Wednesday) Parish Council Meeting. Church Room 8 pm.

## Classified

Sarah Smith is available for BABYSITTING. Phone 01296 681373

Do you need a BABYSITTER? I am experienced in looking after children of all ages and am willing to offer my services. Contact Nikki on 01296 681413 or 07903 083085.

BABYSITTING—Phone Claire Biddle on (01296) 681102

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle. Phone us on 01296 681544 or email editor@aachronicle.co.uk

## **Book These Dates**

Friends Of St James Sausage and Mash Lunch in the Church Room on Saturday May 13th from 12—2. Funds raised go to the upkeep of St James Church. Admission by ticket only-full details elsewhere in this issue.

Sat/Sun/Mon May 29th/30th/31st. Flower Festival St. James Church Teas On Sat/Sun. 2.30 - 4.30 pm, with a Ploughman's Lunch. On Monday between 11-1.30.

The 2004 Aston Abbotts Festival and Fete weekend is Saturday and Sunday the 24th and 25th of July

Please tell us about your birthdays, anniversaries, etc, so that we can send you a greeting in Alison's Gossip Column



## **MOBILE LIBRARY - 2003**

**ASTON ABBOTTS THE GREEN** 10.25-10.55 **ASTON ABBOTTS WINGRAVE ROAD 11.00-11.15 ASTON ABBOTTS OXLEY FARM** 12.55-13.10

For further information or enquiries, please contact:

**Buckingham Library** Verney Close Buckingham Bucks MK18 1JP

Telephone:

01280 813229

01280 823597

www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries/lima\_lib\_mobiles.stm

Surveys on the Mobile library are being carried out. If you want the service to continue - please use it!

## **NOTICES**

The parish council has been advised, because of LACK OF SUPPORT the mobile library will as from June cease to call at Wingrave Road and Oxley farm stops, and the time at The Green will be reduced. However the parish council have asked that at least half an hour stop is made at The Green

PLEASE USE THE LIBRARY OR LOSE IT ALTOGETHER, it is a service that we pay for in our council tax.

A reminder to dog owners, please keep your dog on a lead when crossing fields with public footpaths and especially sheep. Farmers now shoot straying dogs and you can be fined £1000 if your dog is caught fouling the footpath.

Lastly it is an OFFENCE to cross the footway and park your vehicle on the grass verge, please use your driveways or park on the roadside, and please NOT on BUS STOPS.

~ Colin Higgs

# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS Tel: 01296 682126

