THE GHRONIGLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 238 ~ October 2004



Cheers! - Happy 70th Birthday Rita

Editorial

The Village Centre

or some time Neil Chesher has been promoting the idea of building a new Village Centre. The reasons behind his thinking are twofold. Firstly, the plan to renovate the current Church Room has become totally bogged down in a mire of legal wrangling and uncertainties. Secondly, even if renovation should go ahead, the Church Room cannot provide the space and facilities required by a modern expanding community.

A few months ago Neil approached the Parish Council and gained support for a feasibility study. An interim report on the activities of Neil and his team appear on page 5. In the coming months the feasibility study will be completed. Many questions remain, not least how to finance a significant new construction project.

Village facilities like a village hall, pub, shop, and church are part of the glue that holds a community together. As such they can attract support from a number of external organisations and these are some of the possibilities that Neil and his team are exploring.

An essential part of the feasibility study will be allowing the village to have its say and make comments. We hope that we can be of assistance in this. In the meantime Neil is seeking to expand his team with new, younger, blood. I hope everybody will recognise the importance and benefit of what Neil is trying to do and people will be prepared to come forward and help out when the call comes.

In the meantime, it should be recognised that much of the legwork has currently been done by Neil himself and he is to be applauded for his efforts.

Luton Airport

here has been a lot of coverage of Luton Airports flightpath plans in the local press. Yet this has attracted little more than apathy here in Aston Abbotts, despite the fact that we are one of the main villages that could be affected.

Claims that the flightpath changes are needed for safety reasons are a red herring. Are they saying that the current flightpaths are unsafe? Of course not. However, two years ago when we first became fully aware of this issue Luton were claiming to carry five million passengers per annum. Now they claim seven million. That's big increase in two years. That is also the reason for the new flightpath requirement – expansion. A privately owned and run airport like Luton, which is not controlled by the BAA, could run flights through the night to increase their passenger throughput and therefore increase their profits. More passengers means more planes means more noise. More planes need new flightpaths.

PAVAN has done an excellent job of raising awareness of this issue and their latest update appears on page 15. It is very important to write again, even if you wrote a before, as this is now a new flightpath application. Just write a single letter to PAVAN and they will forward copies on to the relevant authorities. The address is on page 15.

In This Issue

In your October Chronicle ~

- The New Village Centre
- Footpath Re-routing in The Grove
- Graffiti in the Recreation Ground
- Countryside Diary
- Your Letters
- A Trip To Iceland

and much, much more.....

THE GHRONIGLE

Issue 238 October 2004

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~0~

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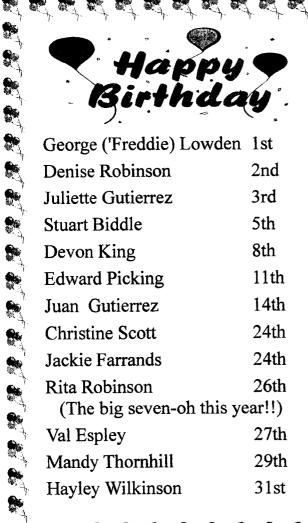
Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 22nd October 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 Colum



George ('Freddie) Lowden	1st
Denise Robinson	2nd
Juliette Gutierrez	3rd
Stuart Biddle	5th
Devon King	8th
Edward Picking	11th
Juan Gutierrez	14th
Christine Scott	24th
Jackie Farrands	24th
Rita Robinson	26th
(The big seven-oh this ye	ear!!)
Val Espley	27th
Mandy Thornhill	29th
Hayley Wilkinson	31st



Many Happy Returns to former People's Page columnist Rife **Robinson** who celebrates her 70th birthday this month. Happy birthday Rita!

Congratulations to **Jill Wenble** who achieved 3rd Prize for her fruit cake at the Bucks Show

Congratulations to Gooff and April Curnow who celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary last month

We are sorry to hear that Michael Mitchell of Wingrave Garage has been unwell following an accident earlier this year. We send our best wishes for a speedy recovery.





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In The Village

Children's Play Area

The skateboard ramp is now covered in graffiti. No one really minds this usually, and the artwork can be quite entertaining to look at. However, lately another type of graffiti has been appearing, this time of a not so welcome nature. It is shocking to think that some of our children know the dreadful language which has been appearing on the ramp and the wheelie bin in recent weeks.

The Parish Council would like to invite the parents of all the children who use the Recreation Ground to pay a visit to the Children's Play Area and read for themselves the obscenities written there.

When you have looked at the graffiti, we would welcome your suggestions on

- a) How to clean up the area
- b) How to prevent this happening again in the future Thank you for your co operation.

~ The Parish Council

Congratulations...

...to the parents of some village kids, for encouraging them in displaying their artistic endeavours in an alfresco way. Apparently their efforts are called 'Skate Art'.

Villagers are invited to attend the permanent exhibition in the Rec and admire the handiwork of the Aston Abbotts younger generation. There is no fee, no queues and no waiting.

There to be admired from dawn to dusk. Two photos are shown to encourage you to make your way to admire the sight [see below]. Apparently, and we have this on good authority, Richard Clarke is willing to hand out prizes, if only the artists could be sure to collect them.

Interesting that the previously owners of this art gallery, the Wingrave sports ground, had failed badly to encourage Wingrave youngsters to demonstrate their artistic skills.

Such is the differences between villages....

~ L. Pride

(Un)fortunately the low printing resolution of The Chronicle meant that the pictures were not going to reproduce at all well. Therefore they have been omitted, but maybe parents would like to visit the rec and view the handiwork, as suggested in the articles above. ~ Ed

S.I.D.

he Parish Council would like to see a return to the village of the Speed Indicator Device (S.I.D) which was used to monitor the speed of traffic in the village last year. The Highways department will lend it to us free of charge for a week - all we need now is a volunteer willing to co-ordinate its use. If you are worried about the speed of traffic locally and would like to help do something about it, please contact the Parish Clerk, Kate Curry on 01296 681137.

~ Kate Curry

The Village Centre

Progress is moving again after the summer doldrums The information phase is being rapidly completed. A series of very positive meetings have been held with the following groups:

- Aylesbury Planning dept: (These are the people that say what we can build and what it should look like)
- The Roads Authority: (These are the people who approve the road access and the type of parking)
- Aylesbury Leisure: (These are the people who have a duty to provide facilities for communities and, in some cases, funds)
- Aylesbury Community Action: (These people supply advice about how to go about the business of building a new village centre and also give advice on how to raise funds)

Each of these bodies has expressed a strong willingness to provide a solution for the new Village Centre

The final part is to discuss the details with an architect. Then it will be your turn to have a say before we finally go back to the Parish Council with the results of the feasibility study.

In the meantime we have been recruiting new team members to provide a more youthful age spread

~ Neil Chesher

Footpath Re-routing

Buckinghamshire County Council have received an application to re-route footpath number 1 (The Grove).

The letter sent to our Parish Council states "The proposal is to divert the route of the path from that marked with the solid black line between points A and B to that shown by the dashed black line A-C. [see the map on the next page ~ Ed] The reason for the diversion is that the existing footpath runs across fields containing livestock and horses, which sometimes intimidate walkers. There are concerns for the safety of walkers and so the new route will be fenced off to keep animals and walkers apart and will be 5 metres wide throughout."

Anybody who wishes to comment upon this application should write to Mrs S Burchill, Rights of Way/GIS Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UY before the 20th October.

~ Phil Spooner

Telecommunications Mast

Prange have filed planning application 04/02445/ATNB to install a second mast at Wingrave Road transmitting station (where World Of Old is located). The application is for the "Installation of 20m telecommunications mast with antennae, dishes and six equipment cabinets.

Contact Kate Curry on 681137 for an appointment if you want to see the plans—or go to the Council planning department. Comments must be made by 6th October to The Planning Department, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP20 1UY before the 6th October.

~ Phil Spooner



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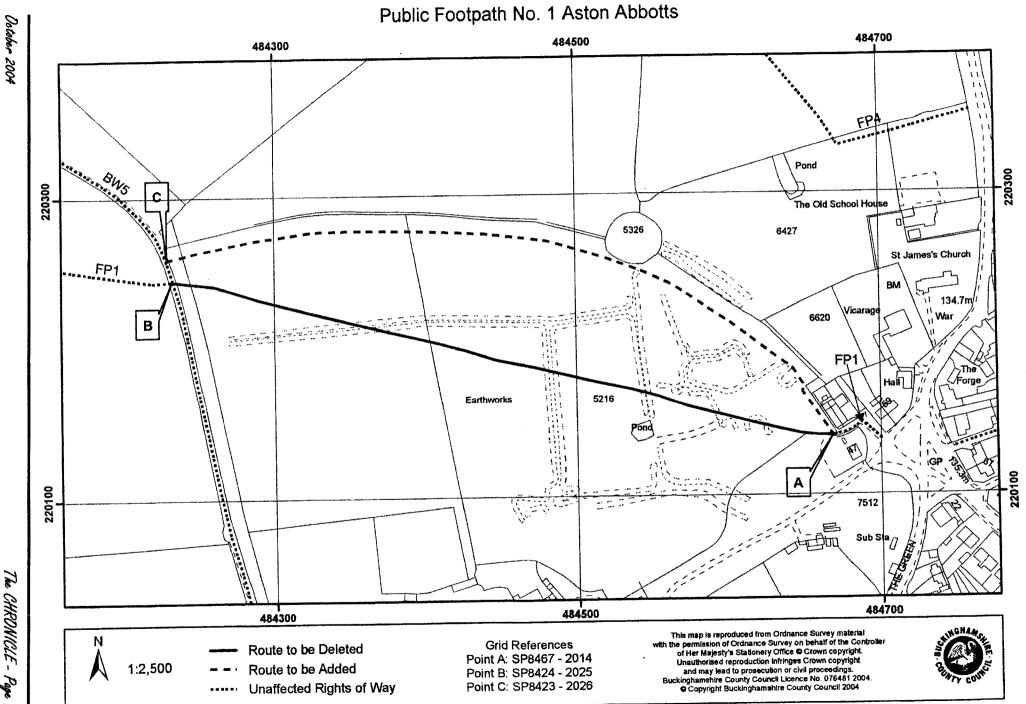
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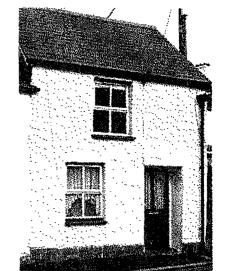
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Thanks to all those who bought tickets for the draw. We ended up with two winners – Mr Rousseau of Aylesbury and our very own Richard Clarke of Aston Abbotts. Congratulations – you each win a week's accommodation in Padstow worth £225!!

Letters To The Editor

Dear Phil.

I have just read the article about the slide having to be taken away in the play area and possibly the swings and climbing frame. The children of Aston Abbotts need these things why should they have to go to Wingrave just to get some play time.

Why was it agreed to give such a high percentage of the fete takings to the church and not more to the recreation ground. At least it would have been a start in trying to raise money for the play area. When you consider how few villagers actually attend the church regularly and how much money is given to it annually and then work out how many children there are in the village and how little is given to the recreation ground it is most unfair. For years now certain villagers have been working hard trying to raise funds for a new village hall something that would benefit everyone, but instead of supporting them in their good cause it was decided to not put any more into the new village hall fund until it was looked into further, the church room will eventually have to go so why take money away form the new village hall fund for that. Isn't it time as a village that we moved on and started supporting the New Village Hall project and started raising funds to update the equipment in the play area so that the children in Aston Abbotts have something they can enjoy, as a child I looked forward to going to the park and playing on the slide, lets not deprive the children of Aston Abbotts of that pleasure.

Thank You

Lyn Clark

Dear Ed

May I take the opportunity to thank you for alerting us to Luton Airport's new proposal for a flightpath right over our village. The public consultation is such a farce that without your efforts many people in the village may not have been aware that such momentous proposals had been made.

When writing my latest letter of objection I see that I penned the last exactly 2 years ago. The airport appears to be using the classic planning tactic of apparent withdrawal and resubmission of an identical plan, hoping that people will be fed up and not bother to object again. If the people of Aston Abbotts do not wish to have this flightpath over them they need to act now. Do not rely on others to object for them.

Sally Palmer

13th September 2004

Dear Editor

I know that a great deal of time, effort and money went into erecting the skateboard ramp on the rec for the youngsters of Aston Abbotts. How disappointing then for those same youngsters to show their gratitude by gradually covering it with graffiti, some of which can only be described as rude, vulgar and offensive. I'm sure some parents if they go and view the handy work would be equally shocked and disappointed, but also embarrassed, for it's not too difficult to work out whom some of the culprits are!

This anti-social behaviour is unacceptable and will eventually deter parents of toddlers from using the neighbouring playground equipment when replaced and put parents of slightly older children with enquiring minds on the spot should they ask what any of it means.

Friends of St. James

There are two events for you diaries for November. Firstly, we plan to repeat last year's popular and financially successful provision of food to accompany the annual firework display on the recreation ground. So make a note not to cook supper that night and let us do the work while you enjoy yourselves. Last year's menu of homemade soup, hot dogs and jacket potatoes with mulled wine seemed popular so we will be serving up similar fare this year.

On November 13th we will again be running a stall on Aylesbury market. Last year we made over £300 thanks to the generosity of people donating items for sale. The things that sold best were cakes, jams, pickles, gifts, toys, and handmade items, but we were also asked if we had any LPs or cassettes. If you can give us any of these we would be most grateful.

For those who are new to Aston Abbotts I should explain that the Friends of St. James are a small group who raise funds for the repair and maintenance of our parish Church. The money we raise is ring-fenced so that none of it goes to the diocese. You don't have to be a church goer to support our efforts - just think that it benefits the community and is also a building worth keeping in good repair.

~ Clare Shorrock

Collecting Tokens for Wingrave School

e would like to thank everyone who donated vouchers to Wingrave School for the various schools promotion schemes throughout the year. As a result we were able to order an Epson projector (for use with interactive whiteboards) using the Tesco vouchers and £58 was raised from the Nestle tokens which went towards developing the courtyard area.

The 2004/05 Nestle scheme is already underway, this time with the school having the option to either order books or receive cash. Wingrave School will also be participating in the Tesco scheme in 2005 and continues to collect Persil Stars and Leighton Buzzard Observer Target Stamps, which can be exchanged for cash for specific items purchased.

Tokens for any of these schemes can be handed in at school, Wingrave Shop or passed to any family who has a child at Wingrave School.

Thank you for your continued support.

~ Caroline Daniels and Sondra Dickason on behalf of Wingrave School

Youngsters please note, in law graffiti is criminal damage and is arrestable. Perhaps a children's working party with paint and brushes would now be appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Sondra Dickason, Abbey Cottages

Another correspondent sent me some photographs of the graffiti. They would not have reproduced well, but I was concerned also about both the four letter words depicted and the identifiable names in the pictures. It will be a great shame if this silly and thoughtless vandalism by a few should result in the removal of the skateboard ramp and its loss to all of the village children ~ Ed



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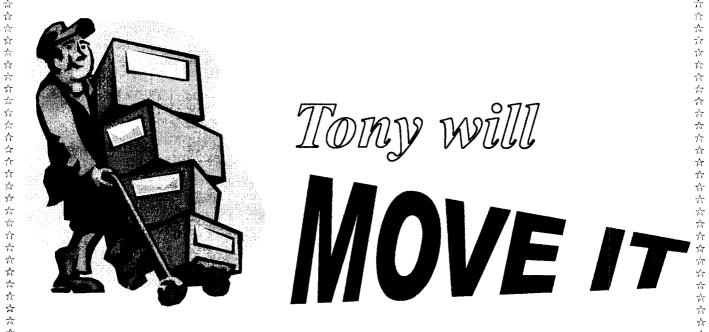
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Countryside Diary

September 12

As I've said before I'm always slightly worried writing something which does not appear until a month later when conditions can be very different. Similarly slight printing errors can make a nonsense of an otherwise reasonable statement. September's Chronicle carried an old farming saying about thistles:

Mow in June and they'll will shoot again soon Mow in July and they are bound to die

Mow not now

On the other hand, perhaps it's time the editor sacked me for my handwriting efforts and my inability to use one of those "computator things".

For the benefit of the two genuine farmers in Aston Abbotts I have now heard a third line to the saying

"Mow in August because you must"

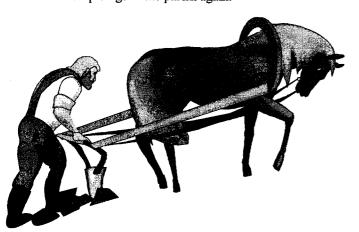
Obviously relevant in Bucks, but in Leicestershire we had mowed all ours by the end of July!

What a godsend the first 12 days of September have been after the wettest August for 50 years. The combines have raced ahead and now harvest is all but over and most of the straw has been cleared.

It's been a poor harvest, both the yield and quality are well down and there is the added expense of drying the wheat out in August. A lot of wheat grown for bread-making will now only be suitable for animal feed which means a considerable price reduction.

It's amazing that, after the wettest August for 50 years, the ditches are still dry and the ponds are very low - there is very little moisture down there in the subsoil. I wonder how the reservoirs are faring?

With the crops removed comes one of the pleasantest tasks in the agricultural year - ploughing. I never met a man who didn't enjoy ploughing and in the old days of cab-less tractors, the smell of the freshly turned soil was a joy. Nowadays ploughing is one big rush to plough, work the soil and sow the next crop. Years ago the approach was much more leisurely as most crops were sown in the spring and not the autumn as is now the case. Years ago our aim was to get ploughing done by Christmas - now it needs to be done by early October. What a change, and the rapid burying of all that stubble removes a great feeding area for some birds, however the turning over of the soil produces opportunities for other species and I was delighted to see a flock of lapwings in the parish again.



The variability of the bird species I see always fascinates me. I've seen very few magpies lately, where are they? I have no doubt we will again be overrun by them in the winter and spring.

I can also now reveal a secret - a buzzard nested in the parish this year. I have no idea how successful they were as I left them well alone to get on with the job

without being disturbed. Nevertheless I am amazed at how rarely I saw the adult birds considering they were feeding young.

There has been a regular Merlin on Lines Hill recently and today I was delighted to see a covey of 12 young English partridges.

Insect life is, as always, interesting. Where did all the wasps go? We were overwhelmed in July and the beginning of August, but when the main plum crop ripened in late August there were very few wasps attacking the fruit. I suspect that the wet August must have destroyed many wasps nests.

Could I also return to hedgehogs? When did you last see a dead hedgehog in the road, let alone a live one? I suspect that hedgehogs are now very rare in this area.

In the gardens we have managed to harvest half the sweet corn crop before the badgers found it, but find it they did! This year they didn't fell the plants but carefully removed the cobs, peeled them like a banana and then neatly ate the corn from the cob, leaving the remains tidily in the middle of the garden paths. 18 cobs in one night, very cleverly done.

On the plus side this year red cabbage, runner beans and outdoor cucumbers have all cropped superbly. The cucumbers being quite amazing in proficiency

One last thought - how do moths fly in heavy rain? We've all seen them in the car headlights at night still flying despite the rain. You'd think that one raindrop hitting one wing and down they would go. Just another amazing thing!

My sincere apologies to Peter for the typographical error in his column last month ~ Ed

Peter Knight

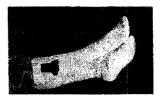
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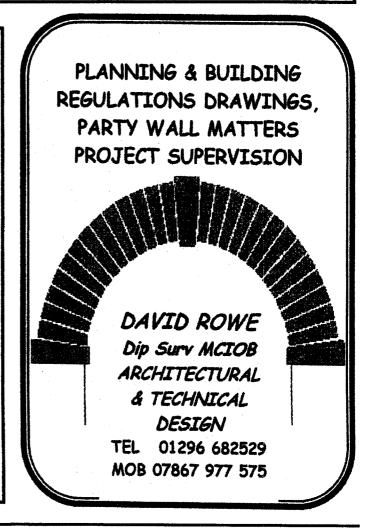


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Rossini - Restaurant Review

1 last minute decision to take dinner out on Sally's xxth birthday posed the usual problem of where to go. A quick look at the Yellow Pages highlighted Rossini, a trendy Italian in Wendover High Street, and to my surprise they came up with a table for two on a Saturday night. But then if they hadn't I wouldn't be writing this review!

The restaurant is a converted oak-beam pub that contains a number of interlinked medium sized rooms, including a comfortable sitting area for pre-dinner drinks. Our table sat nicely in an alcove overlooking the High Street. Lively music

contributed to the vibrant atmosphere. Sally's eyes alighted immediately on the dessert menu - a mistake as she decided that she would have to decline a starter. Undeterred, I selected an excellent seafood salad. This comprised a mixture of prawns, calamari, clams and shellfish dressed in oil on a bed of salad. No sign of the ubiquitous pink cocktail sauce here. There were around a dozen starters to choose from including some interesting looking pasta dishes.

The main courses posed further selection problems. These included such dishes as Tournados Rossini, Pepper steak, Aylesbury duck, scampi in *flambed* in pernod as well as fish alternatives. In the event I chose rack of lamb, which was cooked in a delicious wine, ham and mushroom sauce, whilst Sally selected venison, cooked in a myrtleberry sauce. Sally declared the venison to be the most tender she had ever tasted. Both dishes were accompanied by a selection of fresh vegetables that were nicely cooked.

I surveyed the extensive wine list, which was not confined to the usual Italian culprits, but included an extensive selection of wines from elsewhere. In the event I chose a mellow Spanish Rioja that complemented our meals well. When it came to dessert, I selected a light Raspberry and Mascapone cheesecake, whilst Sally went for a Chocolate Souffle.

To sum up, even though the restaurant was busy - always a good sign - service was excellent. The food was freshly prepared and all the dishes carefully presented. The bill worked out at around £50 for two excluding wine and tips. In short, good value for a full service restaurant meal and we will certainly return.

~ Nigel Palmer

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The Aston Abbotts & Cublington **Ladies Club**

e started our new season on September 23rd with a meeting in The Church room where 14 members were present. After a short business meeting, the chairman introduced our speaker for the afternoon, Mr Michael Boydon of The Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.

He explained that the Trust came into being when the AA donated £40M pounds for the purchase of 14 helicopters. The intention was and is for these to operate for 365 days a year but in practice this cover has to be cut back due to insufficient funding. Running costs are in the region of £980,000 per year and the Trust relies on fund raising to achieve this sum.

During the last year, the TV. And CAA attended 1,672 road accidents, 330 sporting accidents, 528 collapses, 88 farm accidents, 22 fires and 352 hospital transfers. The members of the Ladies Club were amazed to hear these statistics and proposed that they will endeavour to support this charity in the future.

Mr Boydon was thanked. Tea was served with cakes provided by Shirley Ford and April Curnow. Our raffle winner was Siv Tunnicliffe.

~ Shirley Ford

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e believe that every parent deserves the support they need to give their children the best possible start in life.

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With one in four children under the age of five in the UK having a difficult start in life due to family pressures we believe our fully trained volunteers can really help make a difference. Home-Start UK help 60,000 children every year

over 11,500 dedicated volunteers working helping more than 330 local schemes Statistics such as these above have resulted in the development of a scheme in Aylesbury.

Since it is our volunteers who make Home-Start successful, we are looking for people with parenting experience. We should love to hear from people who have recently retired, or whose children have just started school and feel that they can make a difference or would like to give back some of their free time to the community. Whilst developing new friendships, skills and wonderful experience, you will receive support and training to prepare you for all aspects of your role with Home-Start. If anybody having parenting skills feel that they may be able to offer a couple of hours a week to support local families, please call Aylesbury's scheme co-ordinator, Shushana Kendrick on 01296 485615.

The Carpenter's Arms

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Monday 16:30 to 23:00 Tuesday—Friday 12:00 to 15:00

16:30 to 23:00

Saturday

12:00 to 23:00

Sunday

12:00 to 22:30

In Stewkley, on the junction of High Street South, Wing Road, and Dunton Road.

Bar Staff Required 201525 240272

Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Unofficial minutes from the meeting held on 8th September 2004

Present

Cllrs. C. Higgs (Chair), P.Shorrock, R.Clarke, J.Farrands, M. Kent and Mrs. K.Curry (Clerk). Three members of the public attended. Apologies were received from Tom Manning, Dickie Dicken and Peter Cooper.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed, and there were no matters arising.

County Council, District Council & Police Matters

No one was present from any of the above organisations.

Neighbourhood Watch - the Clerk had contacted the coordinators, who all said they were prepared to continue in their roles. It was agreed that more co-ordinators are required, to cover the rest of the village. The Clerk will get further information from the Police.

CPRE Letter

The letter, informing us of the Government's intention to pass legislation which would remove the protection from building development currently available to AALs, was discussed. Resolved to write to the Minister for Housing and Planning to oppose the scheme.

Planning

 04/02181/APP 2, Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane. Field shelter / hay store. Resolved to raise no objection to this application. 04/02246/APP Horseshoe Cottage, Church Row. Fell one Cypress and one Prunus - the application had been changed to include all three cypresses in the garden. Resolved to object to the removal of all three cypresses on the grounds that it would significantly change the character of this part of the village. No objection to felling the prunus.

Highways

No one has volunteered to co-ordinate the S.I.D. device if we borrow it a second time. The Clerk will place an advert in the Chronicle.

Recreation Ground

Safety Check - the slide has now been removed. There is damage to the fencing. The wheelie-bin was missing, and rubbish was scattered around (this has been cleared up by Cllrs Higgs and Clarke). The graffiti has unfortunately now started to include obscenities

Replacement of play equipment - A notice has been placed in the Chronicle asking for volunteers to form a committee to deal with this issue. Several people have already expressed an interest in helping, and the Clerk will call a meeting of volunteers in the near future.

Date Of Next Meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of Aston Abbotts Parish Council will be on Wednesday 20th October 2004 at 8 pm in the Church Room.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME ALONG

~ Kate Curry, Parish Clerk

PAVAN—Is Option 3A Safer Than Current Route?

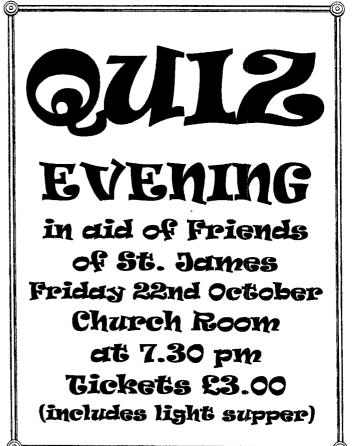
Luton Airport and NATS (air traffic control service) SAY it is, because they think it's a public-relations winner, but that's as far as it goes.

PAVAN (Protect Aylesbury Vale Against Noise), have three strong reasons for doubting Luton's claims: 1. Luton has provided no documentary evidence to support their safety case 2. Several experts from the aviation industry have advised PAVAN that the safety aspect of an airspace change / new flightpath is never straightforward. Even though there may be safety benefits in some sectors of airspace, there are always compromises made in other areas. In the case of Option 3a, it may make things safer south of Luton, but one of those compromises could affect the safety of small craft over the Vale! 3. Option 3a is almost identical to Option 4, which was rejected by the Civil Aviation Authority over four years ago. Why did they reject it if "it's all about safety?"

Luton want to expand to increase profits, and NATS has debts to service. That's why Option 3a is so important to both of them.

If you would like to register your opposition to Option 3a, write / email PAVAN at Blackberry Barn, 4 Lidcote, Dunton, Bucks, MK18 3RY / _rachel@pavan.org.uk_ (mailto: rachel@pavan.org.uk) . Email, or call 01525 240950 for more information.

~ Rachel Webb--PAVAN





WINGRAVE GARAGE

Terry Bracey Wright & Michael Mitchell Telephone 681543

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A Trip To Iceland

Oo you're going to Iceland for your hols. Silly boy. Cold & wet in August isn't it? Pack jumpers, anoraks, fleeces, woolly hats, long-johns, gloves and wellies. Arrive to find a stiff breeze blowing across the airport tarmac. Pick up the hire car and straight off to the Blue Lagoon. Car park half full or half empty depending on how you look at it. Brave the ten yards from the changing room and quickly immerse oneself in open-air hot bath. Plaster silicates on exposed parts to offer a measure of protection as the icy surf whips across the surface blasting eardrums. Well it can't have been too unpleasant as you stayed in the water for at least an hour. Welcome to Iceland.

Drive on close to the coast with the road deteriorating into a rough track as it meets the lava field. Arctic terns nesting on the track reluctantly fly away just in time, usually. So what can you expect to experience over a week in Iceland? Wonderful scenery, plentiful wildlife and birds, wild horses, whale-watching, geysers, volcanic craters, lava fields, permanent icefields and glaciers, siltladen rivers, powerful waterfalls and boiling mud pits for a start. A disturbing lack of people outside Reykjavik, clean streets, a low crime rate and an almost complete disregard for health and safety at "tourist sites". Those boiling mud pits do have a thin rope looped around that seems to say "please don't step over". Back in the 1980's they put up signs suggesting that the erupting lava fields might be dangerous. Everyone ignored them so they just took them down again.

The famous great geyser doesn't erupt very often at the moment, but nearby Strokur does so every five minutes or so. Sally sits on a bench at a safe distance, at least ten yards from the familiar thin rope. Except that it backfires and she receives an unexpected warm shower, well soaking actually.

Most of the island's population lives in the Reykjavik area, which means that there is barely a small town in the rest of the island. Isolated farms are dotted about, very often with a small wooden church nearby, mostly surrounded by what look like oversized golf balls. In reality this is the hay crop, coated in white plastic ready for winter. In Reykjavik we visit the cathedral that dominates the city. Climb to the bell tower for the view – no mean effort as the lift only goes to the 8th floor! We have timed our visit to perfection as a visiting American organist gives a recital

on the magnificent concert organ, including Handel's fireworks music - quite unique.

Icelanders typically live to a good age – something to do with their healthy lifestyle and diet. We visit Olaf's restaurant and dine on succulent lamb and skye (like a very superior thick yoghurt – there would be queues and riots if it ever came to British supermarkets as they could never keep up with demand). Meanwhile the locals are all on eat-as-much-as-you-like pizza and chips!

Iceland has the reputation of being expensive and it is. Most Icelanders are probably millionaires but then you probably would be too with 1,000 kroner worth around £8. Small potatoes cost almost a pound each but most people don't complain. After a while they become immune to such high prices and just work all the hours that the dear lord sends to make ends meet.

As for the weather, well they did say it was changeable. Suddenly there are blue skies and record temperatures - 29 degrees. Even the national papers have the satellite weather map on the front page showing no clouds at all. All the government offices close as they say it is too hot. To be fair the windows are very small and don't open much and there is no air conditioning.

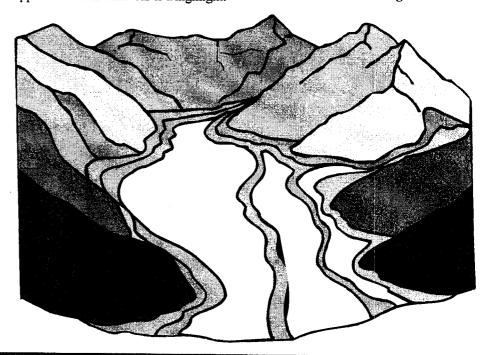
We drive the Kjolur route through the central highlands expecting "extended river crossings" but sadly they have built bridges so the wellies are never used. The main roads are in pretty good condition, and almost empty and the appearance of another car is a highlight.

It is important to concentrate as there are reflector poles just 2 feet away from the driving line and a four-foot embankment down each side. Something to do with keeping the roads open in the winter snows. Where else could you drive through a 2 ½ mile long single track mountain tunnel (with passing places) and only meet five cars coming the other way.

We stayed in comfortable hotels of variable standard, but camping is popular at this time of the year. At one hotel the notice by the tap reads "if cold, allow hot water to run for at least ten minutes". Actually hot water is never a problem as it is often piped up from way underground but watch out for the familiar smell of sulphur. Another hotel is an original building from the 19th century where we stay in the same room as Marlene Dietrich occupied in the 1930's. Breakfast is taken in the kitchen where guests sit in shifts at the single long table and discuss the various colour coded milk cartons on display with the owner. Just as well as otherwise one might put blackberry yoghurt in one's coffee. At a third, our bedroom is on two floors with stairs leading to the gallery and a magnificent view of the fjord through a picture window.

So the million-kroner question — would we go back? The unspoilt countryside was a delight, and there were large areas of the island that we missed despite driving 1,200 miles. So probably one day, even though there are so many places left in the world to see. But this was a gem.

~ Nigel Palmer





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 WINGRAVE NEWPARK (£1.50 per session)

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Ghe Aston [Abbetts Abbetts Fireusches Display

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The Advantages Of Being 60

- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- 3. Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.
- 4. People call at 9 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
- 5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- 6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
- 7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
- 8. You can eat dinner at 4 P.M.
- 9. You can live without sex but not without glasses.
- 10. You enjoy hearing about other people's operations.
- 11. You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
- 12. You have a party and the neighbours don't even realise it.
- 13. You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.

- 14. You quit trying to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.
- 15. You sing along with elevator music.
- 16. Your eyes won't get much worse.
- 17. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
- 18. You can't remember where you first saw this list.

Two guys are in a supermarket when their carts collide.

Bob says, "I'm sorry, I was looking for my wife."

"What a coincidence, so am I, and I'm getting a little desperate," says Joe.

"Well, maybe I can help you. What does your wife look like?" asks Bob.

Joe replies, "She's tall, with long hair, long legs, firm breasts and a magnificent backside. What does your wife look like?"

"Never mind," says Bob, "let's look for yours

WINGRAVE SCHOOL DTA

Bonfire & Spectacular Fireworks Display



Saturday 6th November 2004

On the Knoll, off Church Street, Wingrave

BBQ, steaming hot soup, mulled wine, sparklers, and much more...

Bonfire 6.30pm

Fireworks 7.00pm

TICKETS:

£3.50 adults/£1.50 child - in advance £4.50 adults/£1.50 child - on the night on sale at School Office or Wingrave Shop

<u>Please note</u>: there will be parking restrictions in Church Street to allow for emergency vehicle access. Parking will be available at the school.

Alternative Medical Dictionary

Artery The study of paintings
Bacteria Back door to cafeteria
Barium What doctors do when

patients die

Benign What you be, after you be

eight

Caesarean Section A neighbourhood in

Rome

Catscan Searching for Kitty
Cauterize Made eye contact with her

Colic A sheep dog

Coma A punctuation mark

Dilate To live long Enema Not a friend

Fester Quicker than someone else

Fibula A small lie

Impotent Distinguished, well known
Labour Pain Getting hurt at work
Medical Staff A Doctor's cane

Morbid A higher offer

Nitrates Cheaper than day rates

Node I knew it

Outpatient A person who has fainted Pelvis Second cousin to Elvis Post Operative A letter carrier

Recovery Room Place to do upholstery

Rectum Nearly killed him
Secretion Hiding something
Seizure Roman emperor
Tablet A small table

Terminal Illness Getting sick at the

airport

Tumour One plus one more

Urine Opposite of you're out

Aromatherapy ITEC

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25 Things That Make You Feel Like A Real Man

- 1. OPENING JARS nnng, she's struggling. You take it from her hands, open it effortlessly and pretend she loosened it for you. She didn't. Jars are men's work.
- 2. CALLING SOMEONE 'SON' Especially policeman but even saying it to kids makes you the man.
- DOING A PROPER SLIDE TACKLE Beckham free kicks? Gay. A Stuart Pearce tackle is the pinnacle of the game, simultaneously winning the ball and crippling the man. Magic.
- 4. SHARPENING A PENCIL WITH A STANLEY KNIFE Blunt, is it? Hand it here love. No, I don't need a sharpener, you think I can't whittle.
- GOING TO THE TIP A manly act which combines driving, lifting and - as you thrillingly drop your rubbish into another huge pile of other rubbish - noisy destruction.
- 6. DRINKING UP Specifically, rising from the table, slinging your coat on and downing two thirds of a pint in one fluid movement. Then nodding towards the door, saying, "Let's go" and striding out while everyone else struggles to catch up with you. God, you're hard.
- 7. HAVING A THIN BIT OF WOOD in the shed, solely to stir paint with.
- 8. HAVING A SCAR Ideally it'll be a facial knife wound, but even an iron burn on the wrist is good. "Ooh, did it hurt". "Nah".
- HAVING A HANGOVER AND THICK STUBBLE -When birds have been partying they just whinge. You, on the other hand have physical evidence of your hardness, sprouting from your face. "Big night?" Grr, what does it look like.
- 10. NODDING AT COPPERS A moments eye contact is all it takes for you to share the unspoken bond. "We've not seen eye to eye in the past", it says, "but someone's got to keep the little scrotes in line".
- 11. USING POWER TOOLS slightly more powerful than you need or can safely handle. Pneumatic drilling while smoking a fag? Superb.
- 12. KICKING A FOOTY AGAINST A GARAGE DOOR Clang-g-g-g-g-! Stitch that Becks, I kick so hard I set off car alarms.
- 13. ARRIVING IN A PUB LATE... and everyone cheers you. It doesn't mean you're popular, it just means your mates are p*ssed. However, the rest of the pub doesn't know that.
- 14. NOT WATCHING YOUR WEIGHT fat is a feminist issue, apparently. Brilliant. Pass the pork scratchings.
- 15. CARVING THE ROAST and saying "are you a leg or breast man" to the blokes and "do you want stuffing" to the women. Congratulations, you are now your dad.
- 16. WINKING turns women to putty. Doesn't it?
- 17. TEST SWINGING HAMMERS ideally, B&Q would have little changing rooms with mirrors so you could see how rugged you look with any DIY item. Until then, we'll make do with the aisles.
- 18. TAKING OUT £200 FROM A CASHPOINT okay, so its for paying the plumber later but with that much cash you feel like a mafia don. The only thing better is peeling notes off the roll later.

- 19. PHONE CALLS THAT LAST LESS THAN A MINUTE unlike birds, we get straight to the point. "alright? Yep. Drink? Royal Oak it is then. Seven. See ya."
- 20. PARALLEL PARKING bosh, straight in. first time. Can Schumacher do that? No, because his cars got no reverse gear which, technically, makes you the worlds best driver.
- 21. HAVING EARNED THAT PINT Since the dawn of time, men have toiled in the fields in blistering heat. Why? So, when it's over we can stand there in silence, surveying our work with one hand resting on the beer gut while the other nurses a foaming jug of ale. Aaaah.
- 22. HAVING SOMETHING PROPERLY WRONG WITH YOU especially if you didn't make a fuss. "Why was I off, nothing much, just a brain haemorrhage".
- 23. KNOWING WHICH SCREWDRIVER IS WHICH "a Phillips? For that? Are you mad, bint?"
- 24. TAKING A NEWSPAPER INTO THE LOO a visual code that says that's right, I'm going in there for a huge, long man-sized s***.
- 25. CALLING YOUR MATE A **** and punching him on the shoulder. Just a man's way of saying "you're a good mate; I missed you while you were in hospital".

The Mechanic

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a motorcycle engine when he spotted a well-known heart surgeon in his shop. The surgeon was waiting for the Service Manager to come and take a look at his Harley.

The mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey, doc! Can I ask you a question?"

The surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic working on the motorcycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked,

"So, doc, look at this engine. I open it's heart, take the valves out, smooth 'em or replace them, put 'em back in and when I finish, the heart of this motorcycle is just like new, so how come I get such a small salary and you get all the big bucks when you and I are basically doing the same work?"

The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over and whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it with the engine running!"

Don't forget to tell us about your birthdays, anniversaries, etc, so that we can send you a greeting in Alison's Gossip Column

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for ages $2\frac{1}{2}$ - 5

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KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)

2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane ~ 681137

MARGARET KENT

6 The Green ~ 681454

RICHARD CLARKE

Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

JACKIE FARRANDS

1 Norduck Cottages ~ 681182

PETER SHORROCK

Oak Farm House ~ 681260

DICKIE DICKEN

Norduck House ~ 688577

TOM MANNING

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District Councillor

PETER COOPER

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham ~ 681250

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Clergy Comment

There is a regular pattern that lies behind almost everything that we do.

It is there when we have an idea, and work through that idea until it comes to fruition. We go through the stages of developing the concept and planning how we are going to achieve what we set out to do.

The same pattern exists in nature. We prepare the soil, we sow the seed, we watch for germination, we nurture the growth until it comes to maturity, and then we gather the harvest and prepare for the next cycle.

Human existence also fits the same cycle as we move from our birth, through our life and development, to our final death. Yet, that cycle of growth is characterised by the way in which it interacts with the life of others.

Whilst we have a human life that is limited by our mortality — as we grow older, bits of our body start to wear out — yet we also give life to others. We can pass on our life through our children and grandchildren. But we also share our life by our relationships with others.

Living is about giving. For life is a gift – probably the most precious gift that we can give or receive.

Our problem is that we tend to think more about what we can do with what we have – about working out our own ideas – than thinking about what we have received. We see ourselves as instigators and givers rather than as receivers and consumers.

We take our beautiful world with all its resources for granted. We assume the right to do what we like with the environment in which we live. Just occasionally we have twinges of guilt that we are perhaps being a bit greedy – although frequently our concerns do not trouble us unduly.

Over the last twenty or thirty years we have used almost all the gas that was under the North Sea. Our concern now is that we must import gas from elsewhere (at significantly greater cost) – and we probably will not think about how the gas got there in the first place.

Harvest is a time when we should pause and reflect on our wonderful world. It is a time to give thanks to the God who created and sustains our world. It is a time to think about our responsibility to share in God's creation.

~ Bob Willmot



ADULT EDUCATION IN WINGRAVE

Two new adult education courses run by the WEA will commence in October:

INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY TUESDAYS 7.45 TO 9.45PM, STARTING ON 5 OCTOBER

How do archaeologists study the past? How do we know who lived where, when and even what they were doing up to thousands of years ago? Look at the way archaeologists work and solve some mysteries of your own. The course includes a field visit. Fee £48 for 10 sessions

NORTH AMERICAN FICTION THURSDAYS 10AM TO 12NOON, STARTING ON 14 OCTOBER

Such worthwhile and thought provoking fiction is being written in North America. We shall discuss together the work of three contemporary novelists whose books are highly regarded. Fee £30 for 6 sessions.

Both courses are open to everyone and will be held in the Methodist Church schoolroom. The first session is free, so just come along or for more information contact Roberta Smith on 01296 681219.





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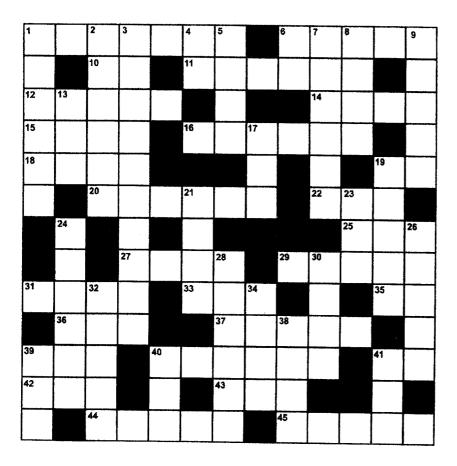
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The Chronicle Crossword

October 2004



September solution

Across 1 Frit 4 Shipper 8 Nous 9 Wish 10 Error 12 Aplomb 15 Sealing 17 Anita 19 Silage 20 Mog 21 Via 23 Gram 25 Sneeze 27 Rase 28 Sir 29 Death 31 Ava 34 Drape 35 Irk 36 Teeth 38 Ear 39 Crews 40 So 41 Odium 42 Ford 43 New 44 Aesop

Down 1 Foreign 2 Rural 3 Isolates 4 Swag 5 Hip 6 Islam 7 Phonograph 8 Ness 11 Rig 13 Migrate 14 BT 16 Never 18 Acme 22 Andrew 24 Ash 25 Sea 26 Zip 30 Eats 32 Via 33 Arrow 34 Deems 36 True 37 Sore 38 Eon 39 CIA 40 So

ACROSS

- Form of transport (7)
- Shatter (5)
- 10 Scottish no (2)
- 11 Seat (6)
- 12 Poem (5)
- 14 Boy's name (4)
- 15 Small island (4)
- 16 Begs (6)
- 18 True (4)
- 19 -- yet (2)
- 20 Ass (6)
- 22 Radiator (ab 2)
- 25 Weir (3)
- 27 Excellent (4)
- 29 Proverb (6)
- 31 Sole (4)
- 33 Boy's name (3)
- 35 For example (2)
- 36 Rod (3)
- 37 Beer (5)
- 39 Corpulent (3)
- 40 Scratched (6)
- 41 Indefinite article (2)
- 42 Skill (3)
- 43 Yes (3)
- 44 Belongs to you (5)

DOWN

- 1 Water courses (6)
- 2 Incursion (6)
- 3 Endure more (4 & 6)
- 4 So far -- (2)
- 5 Shout (4)
- 6 Telecommunications co (2)
- 7 ARE RED (an 6)
- 8 Fish (4)
- 9 Thrills (coll 5)
- 13 Potato seed-bud (3)
- 17 English town (3)
- 19 Old saying (5)
- 21 Tangle (4)
- 23 Girl's name (3)
- 24 Line of equal pressure (6)
- 26 Girl's name (5)
- 28 Hinders (6)
- 30 Expired (4)
- 32 Neat (5)
- 34 Stun (4) 38 Equipment (4)
- 39 Distant (3)
- 40 Antelope (3)
- 41 Imitate (3)

Compiled by Don Bellingham

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Cheddington

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St James Church

Church Services

41101	an aciai	163		
3rd Oct	Wing	08.00	Holy Communion (extension)	
	Wingrave	(At Aston Abbotts 10.0)		
	Wing	10.00	Parish Communion	
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service(Harvest)	
	Aston Abbotts	10.00	Parish Communion	
	Cublington	18.00	Evensong	
10 th	Wingrave	08.00	Holy Communion	
	Cublington	08.45	Parish Communion	
	Wing	10.00	Harvest Parish Communion	
	Wingrave	10.00	People's Praise	
	Aston Abbotts	10.00	Parish Communion	
	Wing	18.00	Harvest Supper	
17 th	Wing	08.00	Holy Communion	
	Wing	10.00	People's Praise	
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion	
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service Communion	
	Aston Abbotts	10.00	Family Communion	
24 th	Cublington		08.45 Parish Communion	
	Wing	10.00	Parish Communion	
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion	
	Aston Abbotts	10.00	Morning Worship	
31 st	Wing	10.00	Parish Communion	
	Wingrave	(At Win	g 10.00)	
	Aston Abbotts	(At Win	g 10.00)	
	Cublington	(At Wing 10.00)		
7 th Nov	Wing	08.00	Holy Communion (extension)	
	Wingrave	10.00	Parish Communion	
	Wing	10.00	Parish Communion	
	Cublington	10.00	Family Service	
	Aston Abbotts	10.00	Parish Communion	

A Prayer Session takes place at 08.00 in Wingrave Church each Monday morning, whilst a Service of Holy Communion takes place at 09.30 at Wing each Thursday morning.

Sunday Readings

3 rd Oct	Trinity 17	2 Timothy 1.1-14; Luke 17.5-10	
10 th	Trinity 18	2 Timothy 2.8-15; Luke 17.11-19	
17 th	Trinity 19	2 Timothy 3.14-4.5; Luke 18.1-8	
24 th	Trinity 20	2 Timothy 4.6-8,16-18; Luke 18.9-14	
31 st	4 Before Advent	Ephesians 1.11-23; Luke 6.20-31	
7 th Nov	3 before Advent	2 Thess. 2.1-5,13-17; Luke 20.27-38	

From The Registers

Baptism

22nd Aug Felix May at Wingrave
29th Aug Freya Lockwood at Wingrave

Marriage

28th Aug Darren Turney & Ruth Kennedy at Wingrave

Funerai

23rd Aug Alfred Parker at Aston Abbotts
25th Aug Bessie Newell at Cublington & Crownhill

Church Flowers

2 nd /3 rd	Mr. C. Higgs
9 th /10 th	Mrs. S. Ford.
16 th /17 th	Donated
23/24 th	Mrs. Bean
30/31 st	Service at Wing
7 th . November	Ann Goodman

Church Sidesmen

ard	
3 rd	Mr.C. Higgs
10 th	Mr. G. Kemp
17 th	Mrs. S. Ford
24 th	Mr. A. Ford
31 st	Service at Wing
7 th November	Mr G Kemp

If you are unable to do sidesman duty on your allocated date please advise next on the list.

The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343			482838
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Mobile Library	Buckingham Library	01280 813229
Astonbury	Peter Shorrock	681260	NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice	
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	Parish Clerk	Kate Curry	681137
Bingo	Doris Scutchings	681243	Parish Council Leader	Colin Higgs	681343
Busses	•	8730 or 423445	Police	Emergencies	999
Chronicle Advertising	Claire Gresswell	682949	Police	Non-emergency	0845 8 505 505
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Police	Aylesbury	396000
Chronicle Editorial	Phil Spooner	681544	Police	Wing Police Office	396163
Church Mowing Rota	Gordon Kemp	681763	Railways	Chiltern	0870 516 5165
Church Room Redevelo	•	07812 525703	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Room Hire	Doris Scutchings	681243	Rector	Reverend Bob Willin	nott 681623
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Coach Trips	Colin Higgs	681343	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Council	Aylesbury Vale Distric	t 585858	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moult	681262
Council	Bucks County Counci		RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
County Councillor	Brenda Jennings	01525 270610	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Shop (Osborn's)	Bernard Osborn	681233
Fete Coordinator	Jackie Farrands	681182	Toddiers Group	Claire Greswell	682949
Floral Class	Colin Higgs	681343	Wingrave Preschool	Claire Upton	681700
Friends of St James	Clare Shorrock	681260	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	681011
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000	Wingrave School	Office	681346
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865	Wingrave Stores	Shop	681696
LBO Reports	Colin Higgs	681343		_	

Ron Miller Dairies

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Slides - Spring Flowers of the Swiss Alps - G Vale Speakers Club - Talk by Penny Dabten

For more information about these events, or to find out about the :Ladies Club, please contact Shirley Ford on 681865. NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS WELCOME



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What's On In October

Tuesday 5th Mobile Library The Green, 11.35 – 11.55 am (note revised time)

Sunday 10th Rambling club members meet at Stockgrove 2 pm

Tuesday 12th Rambling Club, Autumn/Winter programme planning meeting at 13

Moorlands Wing 8 pm

Tuesday 19th Mobile library The Green, 11.35-11.55 am

> also Floral class Church Room 7 pm

Wednesday 13th Friends of St. James meeting. Royal Oak. 8 pm

also Whist Drive. Church Room. 7 pm

Thursday 14th Aylesbury local committee meeting Winslow 6 pm

Tuesday 19th Mobile library The Green, 11.35 11.55 am. also Floral class Church room 7.00 pm

Wednesday 20th Parish Council Meeting Church Room 8 pm

Friday 22nd Ouiz evening in aid of Friends of St. James. Church Room at 7.30

pm. Tickets £3.00 includes light supper. Teams of 4 or 6.

Sunday 24th Village footpath walk. Meet at The Green 2 pm

Tuesday 26th Bingo ~ NOTE CHANGE OF DAY ~ Church Room 7.30 pm

Thursday 28th Whist Drive, Church room 7.30 pm

Saturday 30th Summer time ends, clocks go back 1 hour.

Sunday 31st Rambling Club members meet at Tring Tesco. Tour of old

Aylesbury 2pm.

also Halloween.

Tues 2nd Nov Aylesbury Vale transport meeting. County Hall 7.30 pm. Bus/

train enquiries to Colin.

Friday 5th Aston Abbotts Annual Fireworks Display. See advert elsewhere in

this issue.. Hot food available. 6.30 pm in the Rec

Wingrave School PTA Fireworks and Bonfire. 6.30 for bonfire and Saturday 6th

7 pm for the fireworks. Tickets £4.50 (adult) or £1.50 (child). See

advert elsewhere in this issue for more details.

Book these Dates

Friday 5th November Aston Abbotts Fireworks Display with hot food from The Friends Of St James—see page 19 for more details

Saturday 4th December Christmas shopping trip to Northampton, (book with Colin ~681343)

Notices

Will people tending the graves in the churchyard PLEASE not use jam jars. They are dangerous to the mowers and could cause a serious accident.

Thank you to all our advertisers for your patience regarding the new invoicing process and, of course, for your continued support of the Chronicle.

Please don't forget to tell us of any events that you would like included in the What's On list

Classified

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Please note that the new schedule means that the van now stops only at The Green at 11.35 am.

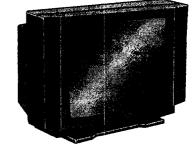
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