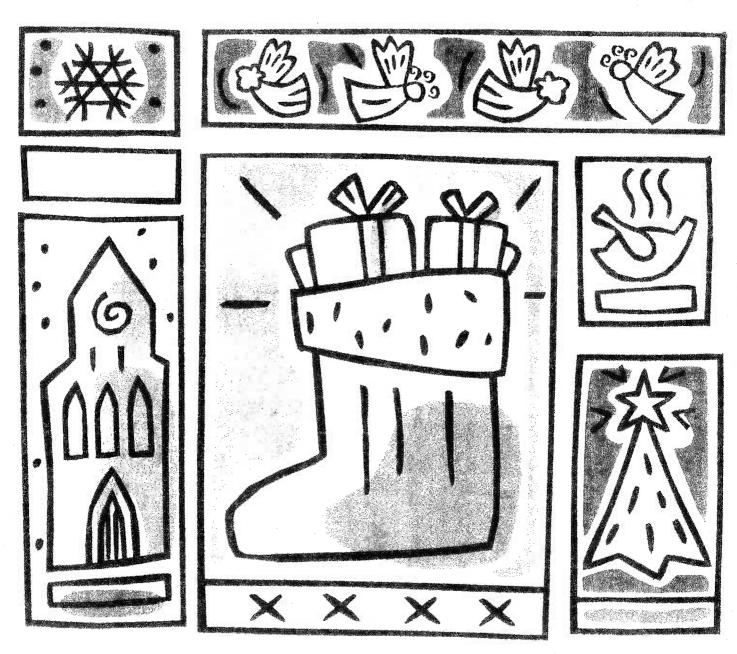
# THE GHRONIGLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ~ Issue 284 ~ December 2008



WE WISH ALL OUR READERS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Email: editor@aachronicle.co.uk

#### Editorial

Because of the schools' half term at the end of last month the November Chronicle deadline had to be advanced so that it could be printed and distributed in time for Bonfire Night and Remembrance Sunday. It's down to the magnificent efforts of Andy Bystra, the printer and Andy's team of distributors that the November issue was delivered to your door in good time. My thanks to you all.

Indeed it's time to thank all those regular contributors to the Chronicle for their sterling efforts over the past year. Special thanks also to Phil Corrigan for looking after the advertising content of the Chronicle - a vital service ensuring income for the production costs. These are also augmented by the Fete Committee that kindly agrees to contribute monies for these costs. Finally thanks are due to John Whyte who quietly administers the Chronicle coffers.

It took the first cold snap with a dusting of snow to cause an overnight power cut for our village and others. Found myself stumbling around looking for a box of matches and some candles at about 9.30pm. I'm better prepared now. It does demonstrate to me how reliant I am on electricity for a lot of my essentials in life.

I've planted a Wollemi Pine in my wild garden. It was found in a remote valley in Australia in the early 1990's and was previously thought to be extinct. 'The discovery of the Wollemi Pine is the equivalent of finding a small dinosaur still alive on earth'. If the rabbits or deer don't find it tasty then I'll be interested to see if it survives in its new surroundings. The label says the tree will tolerate temperatures down to -5C. If that occurs and we have another power cut I guess I might be using it for firewood.

I hope you all have a good time over Christmas and enjoy a happy and prosperous New Year.





# In This Issue

#### **Allotment Diary**

- Crossword
- What's on in December
- Countryside Matters

If you have a photo of our village you'd like to submit for the front cover then please let the Ed have a copy.

Contrasty photos are best - our printing facilities are limited.

#### THE CHRONICLE

Issue 284 December 2008

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~0~

A note to all would be advertisers - More than 202 households receive The Chronicle 11 times a year and with rates from just £25 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines)...

... Can you afford not to be in?

Copy date for the next issue is:

#### Friday 19th December 2008

Please pass items to John Hardcastle at Marloes on Lines Hill 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.

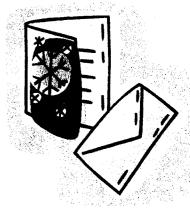
## Alison's Gossip Column



Get well soon Christine Scott who is suffering from a fractured wrist. I'm sure Vic is a very good Carer!

Congratulations to Zoe Judd on her engagement to a young man from Leighton, Ross Brookes.

Christmas Greetings to all friends in the village from April & Geoff Curnow, Rita Robinson & Andy Bystra, Carole & Phil Spooner, Margaret & Tony Hinds, Francesca & Robert Bean, Deirdre & John Whyte, Sally



& Nigel Palmer, Bridget Brandon, Liz & Ivan Greenaway, Brigitte & Juan Gutierrez, Peter Shorrock, Ann Goodman and Gordon Kemp, and Alison & David Lewis. Donations to charity will be made in lieu of Christmas cards.

A few of us "girls" went to Wycombe to see Linda Bellingham in "Calendar Girls". We all enjoyed it enormously and, of course, Linda was excellent. Do go and see it if you can when it reaches the West End next year. Linda promises a backstage pass!

Kate and Peter Curry would like to say thank you to the many people who offered condolences and who helped us in practical ways following our recent family bereavement.

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

#### **December**

#### Letter from Simon Guy

Firstly I'd like to express my thanks to all those who came to the Remembrance Day service. I counted 60+ in attendance and it was great that many of them stayed behind afterwards to read the research. One poignant moment was when the Vicar read the name out of Frank Whitaker from Cublington. I reckon that's the first time in 90 years he's been remembered as I still can't find any mention of him and the people from Cublington, who were there, have asked for a copy of the research.

Secondly I've managed to get some of the research onto the web!

http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Buckinghamshire/AstonAbbotts.html

Previously they had no record of Aston Abbotts so I sent them a precis of the research and it's now been published.

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53 The Green Aston Abbots

#### In memorial...

You will all be saddened to hear of the unexpected death of one of our most active villagers, 'Someone Else'.

Someone Else's passing has created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration and results.

When there was a job to do, a meeting to attend, we all knew that Someone Else would do it.

Someone Else often appeared to be superhuman, but even a someone such as this can only do so much.

Were the truth known, we all expected too much of Someone Else. Now this wonderful person is gone, so who is to do all these things?





"Gradad!! - Grandma says, would you like another mince pie before the fire brigade arrive????"

#### Boxes

A huge 'thank you' to all who responded to the request in an earlier issue, to donate shoe boxes filled with gifts for Rumanian families. Your response was great and resulted in 21 boxes being sent directly to those in need. As many of you have said, its nice to know that donating gifts in this way ensures a high probability they will be received by those who need them since there is no 'middle man' or 'top heavy' organization taking a 'percentage'. Further more, many of you felt this activity was in the true spirit of Christmas.

I'm sure there will be an opportunity to do the same next year when perhaps we will be able to send even more. Thanks again for your generosity.



Last month's competition to win tickets for Santa's Steamings on the Quainton Railway was not won. No one entered. Ed

#### HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!

Andy & Rita wish all their friends in
Aston Abbotts
a very happy Christmas and 2009

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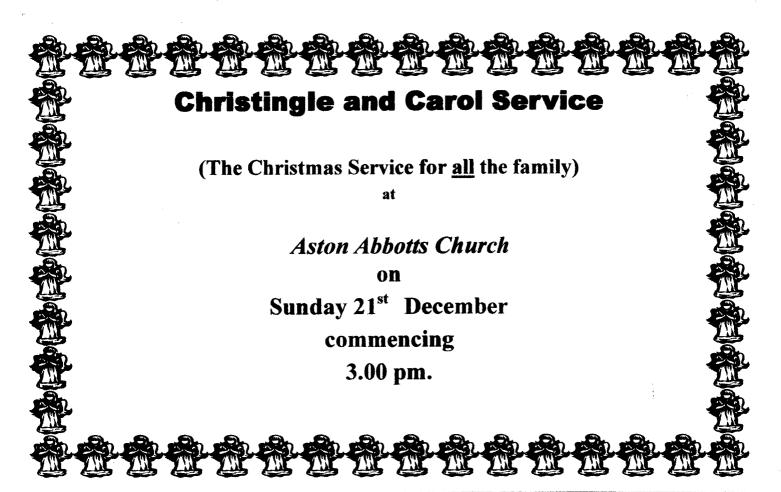
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# COLIN'S QUIZ NIGHT In The Church Room On Friday Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> At 7.00 for 7.30 Come along as a team' and try to beat the 'Ladies Club' (who rather tend to cheat !!!!!). 'Nibbles will be provided but bring your favourite 'tipple' & glass. Tickets available on the night - £4.00

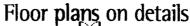
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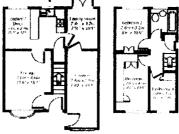
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#### The following is the first page of a letter acknowledging a retirement card sent to a friend:-

Thank you so much for your card expressing best wishes for my impending retirement. I intend that tomorrow shall be my final day at the office after a working life of just a few months short of sixty years.

Mick and I left school aged fifteen. Mick was needed to assist grandfather Amos in the butchers shop, and I was dispatched to Hillfoot farm to work to work for Alf Clarke. My hours were set at forty nine and a half during the week, with overtime on Sundays and I received a wage of thirty nine shillings less the cost of my insurance stamp. Mick, I understand, was working for even less! My first few weeks were spent mowing thistles with a scythe, a necessary task on grazing land before selective weed killers were developed. This, being August, was considered the right time for the job, a well known rhyme being 'Mow in June, be up soon, Mow in July, sure to die, Mow in August, die they must.

Working on a mixed farm of over two hundred acres proved a good apprenticeship although many of the skills required were soon to die out. This was 1949, and seed was still broadcast by hand, heavy horses outnumbered tractors, and corn was cut with a binder to be stacked and thatched. Threshing was done in the winter with a steam powered engine. Sacks of wheat weighed eighteen stone, and by the time I was sixteen I was expected to carry these up a flight of steps into the granary.

In those days we did most of the tasks now requiring a vet, and sheep shearing, hedge layering, and milking by hand were normal requirements. I must be one of the few people locally who can claim to have ploughed with a team of Shire horses in the process of earning a living, rather than for the fun of it.

With my siblings at the Grammar School, and being determined not to miss out, I spent many evenings after work cycling into the Tech in Hinckley to catch up in French, English, and other neglected subjects.

My first real opportunity to escape from the farm came when the Urban District Council advertised for a keeper to manage the Burbage Common and Woods complex. My application for the post was successful, and I spent four wonderful years developing the site into a country park in the company of my Springer spaniel Jess. The Council decided to send me on a block release course to Pershore Horticultural College to study arboriculture, that led a few years afterwards to my appointment as manager of Parks and Cemeteries, and finally Manager of Leisure services.

Having never lost my enthusiasm for tree culture I was able to produce landscape schemes for the Architects department and to advise the Planning department on environmental matters, which following official retirement at sixty five, caused me to be retained for a further nine years as a consultant within the Planning department. During all these years I have been fortunate only to have had one day sick away from work which was caused by my tripping over my dog and spraining an ankle.

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR REFUSE & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS

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Thursday 25th December

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Monday 29th December

Monday 5th January

Saturday 10th January

Friday 16th January

Normal Collections resume Monday 19th January





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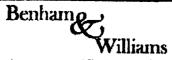
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#### ALLOTMENT DIARY

Does Boris Johnson read the Chronicle? Within days of my article being published, reporting on the way that cities in France were making use of waste ground, by allowing residents of flats to use it as allotments, when my daily paper carried the following news item:

"Swathes of unused space in London, including flat roofs, are to be converted into vegetable gardens in an initiative that gives a new meaning to the slogan 'Dig for Victory'. Roof gardens, disused railway yards, housing estates and school gardens will be transformed in a push for sustainability by Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London"

The aim is to produce more food within the city in time to help feed athletes and spectators at the 2012 Olympics. (In view of the way in which private backers for the Games are dying up, any economy is to be welcomed!)

Incredibly, the article said that flat roofs in London have an area roughly 24 times the size of Richmond Park, and the Mayor's aides have been trawling the city to try to locate them: and that owners will be offered incentives to start growing vegetables on their roofs, including being given tools and compost. I must say, however, that while I applaud the initiative, I am a bit concerned by the prospect of flat roofs, which have only been designed to take the weight of the covering needed to keep the weather out, suddenly being used to support the extra weight of the soil needed to grow vegetables – not to mention the additional risk of damp penetration which will be caused by the roofs being permanently covered in wet earth! Owners of roof allotments may find the vegetables on their dining room tables (along with their ceiling) a lot quicker than they thought possible!

I am far happier about waste land of different types being used. It was also suggested that because plants take up water from the soil, this would reduce the amount of water in the ground, and so reduce the risk of flooding; while at the same time the plants would take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, and so reduce pollution. Apart from my misgivings about the use of flat roofs, if it happens, it would therefore seem to be a "win/win" situation.

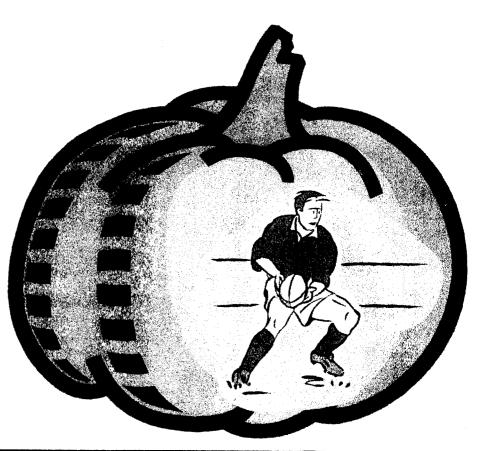
Another item of gardening news that you may have missed: in late October, a gentleman from Oregon unveiled the most massive pumpkin in the history of the universe: an immense vegetable shattering the scales at 109 stone or 1,526lbs — which is roughly equivalent to 6 Martin Johnsons!

Finally, when Dame Helen Mirren was asked what advice she had about how to cope with the credit crunch, she said:

"Get gardening. Go out to the allotment or back garden, and remember that nature is consistent and true, and doesn't betray you".

It's funny, whenever I've watched her on the telly, I've never thought of her as a fellow gardener...

May I finally wish a very happy Christmas to all my readers. Peter Shorrock





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#### WINGRAVE C E COMBINED SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Carers 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008

Here is the latest news from the governors to keep you updated. As I'm sure you are aware, our biggest job this term is the recruitment of the new Head Teacher – more on that below. As you can imagine, this is a time consuming process and we are all very keen to ensure we appoint only the right person for the role. Also, of course, the process to move the school out of special measures continues and this term there will be more information on your children's targets and progress – again, ensuring you are kept well informed. I'm sure you will find all this information useful but do please let us have any feedback. I wish you all a relaxing half term break.

Lynne Roxbee Cox - Chair of Governors

Ofsted Review We are all still working hard to address the issues raised and believe we are making significant progress. The HMI inspectors will be back before the end of the Autumn term to check on progress being made and we will, obviously keep you updated.

Head Teacher We have recently advertised for a permanent Head Teacher. The closing date for applications is 3<sup>rd</sup> November, with provisional dates for interviews set for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November, dependant on the number of applications received. We will obviously keep you updated on this process, but due to resignation periods possibly being very lengthy, it may be that the successful candidate will be unable to join us until after the Easter holidays next year. We are very pleased to confirm that Mrs McClellan will be with us until a new Head Teacher is available to start.

Staffing You may be aware that the school have not had a permanent Finance Officer for sometime. A Finance Officer from county, who is very experienced in managing school finances, is currently carrying out this job. We have now been able to advertise for a new post of Office Manager and have had a good response. We have shortlisted candidates and will be interviewing after half term. The Office Manager will be responsible for dealing with the school finances and also overseeing the day to day running of the school office.

**SATS Results - Year 6** We have been waiting for the results to be validated before publishing them, but have recently found out that the results will not now be validated until March 2009! We have, therefore, decided that we will publish a summary of the unvalidated results as below.

We are pleased to have at least met all our set Targets for 2008 in Science, Maths and English.

In Science we exceeded our Target by 27%, in that all pupils achieved a Level 4+.

In Maths we exceeded our Target of pupils achieving Level 5 by 9%.

Whilst we recognise that we still have some way to go before we are satisfied with the standards being achieved, we believe that these results and our ongoing analysis point to the school moving in the right direction.

School Website and Prospectus We are very pleased that, after a lot of hard work by Steve Gaylor (one of the Governors), we now have a brand new, very impressive website and school prospectus. If you have not yet seen the website please take a few minutes to look at <a href="https://www.wingrave.bucks.sch.uk">www.wingrave.bucks.sch.uk</a>. Remember, you can also email the

governors at wingravegovernor@gmail.com.

Open Day An Open Day has been arranged for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>

November commencing at 9.15am. Please take the opportunity of seeing how good our school now looks.

Governors Awards We are pleased to announce that the first Governor Award for progress across KS1 was awarded to Abbie Lee. Well done Abbie.

Premises The majority of classrooms now have new tables and chairs. We are just awaiting delivery of some small chairs which should be with us soon. The decoration of the school should also be complete by the end of the half term holiday. I'm sure you will agree that it is great to see the school looking well cared for again.

Class/Individual Targets It is assessment week in school this week. Once results are known a letter will be sent home after half term to all KS1 and KS2 parents/carers advising of class and individual pupil targets in both Numeracy and Literacy.

Governors We are pleased to advise that the school now has a full compliment of 15 governors to assist the school in moving forward (not an easy achievement!!)

Events The recent Grandparents' day proved to be a very enjoyable and successful day. Harvest Festival was also very well attended. Unfortunately the maths workshop evening for parents was not so well attended, but it was a fun and very informative evening.

Finally The school is being supported by so many in Wingrave and surrounding villages. We are also hoping that the school will be represented at the Church Remembrance Day service and also the Christmas Carol service. It is nice to see the school once again taking its position at the centre of village life. Thank you to everyone for their hard work.







HO...HO..HO..! IT'S THE..... WINGRAVE C of E SCHOOL

#### **CHRISTMAS FAIR 2008**

Saturday 6th December From 1.30pm—4.00pm At the school (just off Twelve Leys)

Please bring family and friends with you. We will be serving refreshments and there will be plenty of lovely Christmas gift ideas and fun craft activities and games for the children and of course... Santa and his lovely elves!

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WE'VE GOT CHRISTMAS ALL WRAPPED UP!



Jackie Farrands - Vice Chair of Governors

THINKING ABOUT YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAY THIS YEAR, BUT FEELING THE PINCH, WHAT WITH THE BILLS GOING UP AT HOME, AND A HOLIDAY ABROAD WILL COST EVEN MORE WITH THE DIRE EURO EXCHANGE RATE......

THEN WHY NOT, HOLIDAY IN CORNWALL THIS YEAR... THE WEATHER IS EX-PECTED TO BE ONE OF THE HOTTEST... AND JUDGING BY MAY'S SUNSHINE, THE FORECAST COULD WELL BE RIGHT!

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Is there anyone reading this who would be interested in joining and taking an active role in Wingrave & District Branch of The Royal British Legion?

We are sad to report that our Branch of the Royal British Legion is in imminent danger of folding.

Unfortunately our local Branch is suffering from the problem of a declining membership, which resulted in our inability to fill two essential posts in the Branch at our recent Annual General Meeting.

Primarily this is due to a variety of pressures, which include age, health, time and a reduced number of active members covering more roles.

It has been reported that a similar problem has already resulted in the closure of a number of other small branches in the County this year.

We do not want our branch to add to the number, and will not give up without a struggle.

However, time is of the essence.

The branch cannot continue for long as it is, and members feel we have possibly until April 09 to try to recruit the posts and find new members.

If anyone feels they may be interested in helping they can contact either Alan Rawlings (Tel:01296 681594) or John Dixon (Tel:01296 681626), who will be happy to discuss what is involved.

#### WINGRAVE CE COMBINED SCHOOL

Dear villagers

I am delighted to be able to share with you the good news that a new Headteacher has been appointed to Wingrave School. Her name is Mrs P Gurton and she is presently Deputy Headteacher at Bearbrook School in Aylesbury and will be taking up her position in/after the Spring Break. The full letter from the Chair of Governors will be posted on our web site, please view.

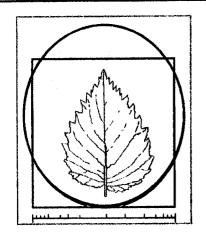
The positive atmosphere continues at Wingrave School with everyone showing strong commitment to our village school once more.

There have been several enjoyable events since my last letter, including "Open Day" when the school was available for visitors and Bonfire Evening organised by the ever supportive PTFA. I was also proud to be able to represent the school at the Remembrance Day Service accompanied by several pupils.

We have been continuing with our facelift and we can see a big difference in our environment both indoors and outside. It is surprising what a lick of paint and new furniture can do! The "Outdoor Classroom" funded by the PTFA is becoming a well-used feature of the school and we have planned to hold an official opening by John Bercow on Friday 12th December.

It is a very exciting time with so many of the "jigsaw pieces" coming together. We will continue to keep you up-to-date.

Denise McClellan Acting Headteacher



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#### **Countryside Matters**

The shooting season is upon us and I have just got my hands on the sister to our black cocker spaniel bitch. She is liver coloured and called 'Fudge' what else?? She is a coiled spring like all spaniels, fully trained when you get them and half trained when they leave you. Why cockers are not called Springer's I do not know, a much more appropriate name. Anyhow, I have had her for 5 weeks and she has already got, at times, selective hearing to the whistle. I had a lesson on picking up partridge last week, she had two rollickings and I had 7!! Much to the amusement of some friends, who think she shall shortly be on the sofa at night watching Panorama. This is not the case, she is a working dog and lives in her outside warm and dry kennel with her sister but she is beautiful, and I must not weaken!!

The recent study of 450 nests of radio tagged hen pheasants over a 15 year period, provided a fascinating insight into the effects of predation on nest sites. The pheasant is currently the most abundant and widespread game bird in Europe. It is now proven, that as well as many other ground nesting birds such as lapwings, skylarks, corn buntings and yellowhammers, they suffer from high levels of nest predation. The study found that 34% of pheasant clutches hatched successfully, 43% were lost to corvids, mainly carrion crows and foxes, 10% were abandoned, 5% lost to faming operations and the remainder due to causes like flooding. The study found that survival rates doubled where predation control by gamekeepers was undertaken.

So DEFRA's 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign stated that, "all councils were judged to have fly-tipping and graffiti under control", what utter nonsense, they must have missed the burnt out van on Batmead corner near Mentmore and the abandoned washing machine on the Leighton road this week. God help us when the digital television takes over!! What planet are they from. James Henderson



#### THE CHRISTMAS TREES **Baby Boomer Song Titles**

lt was fun being a baby boomer... until now. Some of the artists of the 60's are revising their hits with new lyrics to accommodate aging baby boomers:

Herman's Hermits --- Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely

Ringo Starr --- I Get By With a Little Help From Depends Roberta Flack --- The First Time Ever I Forgot Your Face Johnny Nash --- I Can't See Clearly Now!

The Commodores --- Once, Twice, Three Times to the Bathroom

Marvin Gaye --- Heard It Through the Grape Nuts

Procol Harem --- A Whiter Shade of Hair

Leo Sayer--- You Make Me Feel Like Napping

Abba --- Denture Queen!

Leslie Gore --- It's My Procedure, and I'll Cry If I Want To!

And my favourite: Willie Nelson --- On the Commode Again

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, . ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness.

In the Northern hemisphere, the shortest day and longest night of the year falls on December 21 or December 22 and is called the winter solstice. Many ancient people believed that the sun was a god and that winter came every year because the sun god had become sick and weak. They celebrated the solstice because it meant that at last the sun god would begin to get well. Evergreen boughs reminded them of all the green plants that would grow again when the sun god was strong and summer would return.

Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th cen-trees into their homes. Some built Christmas

pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles, if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

# We are offering a full range of Christmas Gift ideas at 4-Beauty.

Everything from gorgeous stocking fillers to bath & body gift sets, plus bespoke skin care sets from Decleor and delicious gift boxes from Guinot.

We also have Gift Vouchers available and fabulous treatment packages for that extra special pampering pressie.

#### A small note to all Gents....

Especially to those who have partners that are well known to us.... We've probably got a very good idea on what your lovely lady would really like for Christmas, so save yourselves the bother and stress of last minute panic buying on Christmas Evel Come in and see us. we'll even help you wrap it up!

#### Seasonal Opening Hours:

22nd Dec - 09:00-18:00 30th Dec - 09:00-20:00 23rd Dec - 09:00-20:00 31St Dec - 09:00-15:00 24th Dec - 09:00-12:00 15t Jan - CLOSED 25th Dec - CLOSED and. Jan - CLOSED 26th Dec - CLOSED 3rd Jan - CLOSED 27th Dec - 09:00-18:00 4th Jan CLOSED

28th Dec - CLOSED

29th Dec - 09:00-18:00

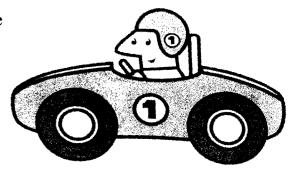


and Bully Sid. 36 (High Street Millius) inch. Buckinghamsbire, HP22 aJS To Nikoti 546644 www.a-beautigapa

# AWARENESS OF SPEED OF TRAFFIC THROUGH ASTON ABBOTTS

The Parish Council is seeking volunteers to help monitor the speed of traffic through our village.

In many rural communities it is felt that traffic speeds through their villages. In order to help combat speeding the police and the county council have initiated *Community Speedwatch* which is managed and run by community volunteers.



If you have time and would like to volunteer in the gathering of information then please contact a member of the Parish Council or the Parish Clerk. Volunteers could be issued with speed monitoring equipment (radar) and receive training in its use. They would record the speed of passing traffic and the registration number. Motorists caught exceeding the speed limit receive a warning letter from the police. If the level of speeding recorded by the volunteers continues to remain high, police detection units may visit the area and issue speeding tickets. The cost for setting up the scheme and buying the equipment is £1,195; parish councils and community groups can share to reduce the costs.

Kate Curry attended a meeting when speeding, and other matters, was discussed with representatives of local villages. Aston Abbotts, Weedon, Wing, Southbury, Drayton Parslow, Brickhill and others attended. She has advised the Parish Council that instead of the option mentioned above we may be able to have a Speed Indicator Device (SID) device, operated by a police officer with the help of someone local, to monitor traffic at the times the children go to/come home from school. Another option was to have a trevello strip (£200 per week). This would give data about number of cars and the speed they are travelling at. Weedon has used one before and thought it provided very good data.

To help the Parish Council make a decision it needs to know how many volunteers would be willing to spend some time operating the equipment and gathering information. Please contact a Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk to express your interest.

#### **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

#### become a volunteer to help older people

You could help by being a befriending volunteer who spends an hour a week visiting a lonely, housebound older person. Or you could be trained to help older people claim the welfare benefits to which they are entitled, which could make the difference between them having a warm home this winter or staying in bed wrapped in blankets.

If you are a problem solver and able to speak up for other people, you could be ideal as an volunteer advocate, supporting older people through a tangle of bureaucracy, or organisations just not listening to them.

Whether you are ready to use your existing skills or learn new ones ring us at 01296 431911 Email ach@ageconcernbucks.org.uk.

Age Concern Buckinghamshire, 145 Meadowcroft, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 9HH Registered Charity No. 204798





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#### **CAROL SINGING**

# Village carol singers will be out and about around 6.00pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

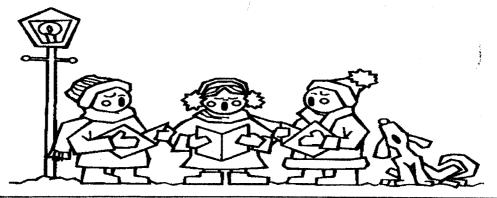
(Starting from The Green)

in the hope of bringing a little 'Christmas Cheer' to you, and at the same time raising a few pounds towards the much needed and expensive church repairs.

If you would like to come along and sing, please ring April Curnow on 681459.

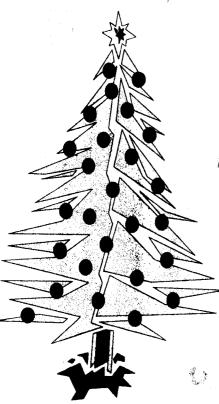
Arrangements have been made to end up by singing a few carols in the pub where mince pies/nibbles will be served.

Please support us by coming along and singing or giving a donation on the night.





#### CHRISTMAS TREES IN CHURCH.

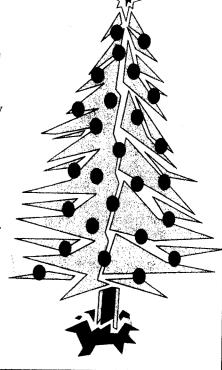


It has been suggested that this year, it might be nice to decorate the church windows with 'themed' Christmas trees instead of flowers. These would need to be small enough to fit into the windows but might include themes such as 'a child's view', war time or the modern style of Christmas's. Why not discuss your ideas with friends and 'have a go'?

Individual, family or 'club' decorations would all be very welcome.

They would need to be in church on or before Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> December (in readiness for the Christingle/carol service).

If you would like to contribute to the village's festivities in this way, please contact Shirley Ford or Colin Higgs for more details.



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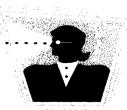






#### ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

The Aston Abbotts and Cublington Ladies Club meets twice a month in the Church Room, Aston Abbotts. All ladies from Aston Abbotts and Cublington are very welcome. Please contact Shirley Ford



#### 16th Oct.

The 16 members present at today's meeting were welcomed by our Chairman who reminded members that our next meeting would be the AGM. and 'bring buy' stall.. After the minutes were read and signed, our speaker, Liz Barlow was introduced She gave a very interesting and entertaining talk on her holiday with husband Ivan, in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. This fascinating talk was illustrated with many pictures showing scenes of temples, rivers and the beautiful countryside and plants they had seen. She was thanked by April Curnow.

Our tea hostess were Joan Alexander and Mary Morris and the raffle won by Christine Scott.

#### 30th Oct

15 members were present when we met today in the Church Room for our Annual General Meeting.

The meeting commenced with the minutes of last years meeting being read, agreed and signed. There followed the Chairman's report in which she thanked all the members, committee and Officers for another successful year. The Treasurers report showed our funds are in a 'healthy state'. This was followed the social and Program Secretaries report reports.

It was proposed by Etherie Gutteridge that the existing Officers and Committee be voted back, 'en bloc' for the ensuing year. This was seconded by Ivy Brandon.

The business being completed, a 'bring & buy stall was held to raise funds for the club.

Our tea hostesses were April Curnow and Margaret Hinds.

#### 13th Nov.

14 of us were present and apologies received from 3 members when we met today in the Church Room The minutes were read, agreed and signed.

Our speaker today was Mr Derek Westcott from Amersham. He spoke about a group of people who got together in 2000 to perform a Passion play in St Marys church, Amersham. This is presented every two years with additional plays on Martydom and the Passion, often to 'sell out' audiences. Any profit they make is donated to local charities.

Shirley Ford gave a vote of thanks to Mr. Wescott.

Tea hostesses were Sheila Read and Margaret Hinds.

Shirley Ford

During World War I, on and around Christmas Day 1914, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front in favour of holiday celebrations in the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies.

Starting on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.

At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer. Some soldiers used this short-lived ceasefire for a more sombre task: the retrieval of the bodies of fellow combatants who had fallen within the no-man's land between the lines.

The so-called Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated—future attempts at holiday ceasefires were quashed by officers' threats of disciplinary action—but it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers' essential humanity endured.

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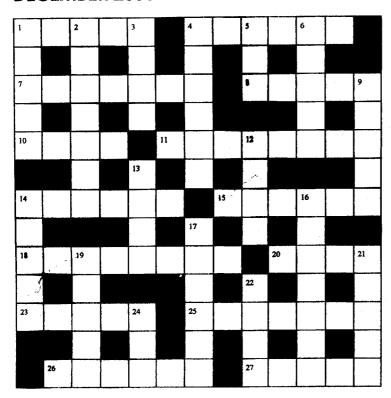
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#### The Chronicle Crossword

#### **DECEMBER 2008**



NOVEMBER ANSWERS ACROSS

1 Frost 4 Rested 7 Bonfire 8 Night 10 Elbe 11 Smidgeon 14 Abseil 15 Studio 18 Demolish 20 Away

23 Tesco 25 Burglar 26 Angler 27 Burns

DOWN

1 Fable 2 Omnibus 3 Trim

4 Rheims 5 Sen 6 Eagle

9 Tango 12 Data 13 Dill

14 Audit 16 Dawdler

17 Isobar 19 Mason 21 Ypres

22 Grab 24 Owl

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Run.away (5)
- 4 Grab (6)
- 7 French city (7)
- 8 Special way of doing it (5)
- 10 Just round the corner (4)
- 11 Expose to danger (8)
- 14 Used in sewing (6)
- 15 Heavy jacket (6)
- 18 Part of a sailing ship (8)
- 20 Leave out (4)
- 23 Finished (5)
- 25 Side by side (7)
- 26 Out of the sun (6)
- 27 Goes round (5)



Compiled by Rod Rothero

#### **DOWN**

- 1 North American Indian (5)
- 2 Liberate (7)
- 3 Chinese dynasty (4)
- 4 Seaside county (6)
- 5 Request (3)
- 6 To sit on (5)
- 9 Small canoe (5)
- 12 Bucks town (4)
- 13 Collapse (4)
- 14 Lordly (5)
- 16 Search (7)
- 17 Magician (6)
- 19 Measure side to side (5)
- 21 Whole amount (5)
- 22 Ships staff (4)
- 24 Used for recording TV (1-1-1

A HAPPY XMAS TO ALL

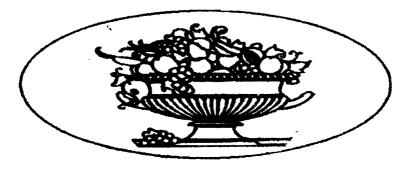


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#### BookingLine Now Open for Santa Steamings at Buckinghamshire Railway Centre

The Buckinghamshire Railway Centre offers a series of "Santa's Special Steamings" over the weekends of November 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> - with "Thomas the Tank Engine" pulling Santa's Train the first THREE weekends under the control of Sir Topham Hatt the Fat Controller! Booking Lines are open now!

On Santa's Magic Steamings Father Christmas brings a gift (age and gender suitable) for every child during their Steam Train ride, followed by complimentary seasonal refreshments for adults, with squash and biscuits for children.

Free entertainment at the 25-minute Childrens' Magic Show follows, and with a Miniature Railway ride on the old station platform before leaving it's a really special outing for all the family.

Trains run every 40 minutes throughout the day from 10.25 am until 4.00 pm, and booking is essential.

Visitors should arrive in good time, and allow at least two hours for their visit.

Hot & cold food and drink in the Visitor Centre Licenced Refreshment Rooms, free car parking, and disabled facilities are all available. The Gift Shop sells reasonably priced, quality railway and non-railway gifts, videos and souvenirs, and there are usually one or two additional seasonal sales outlets for those last-minute gift purchases.

Tickets are available from £11.00 for standard tickets, from £13 for "Thomas" weekends, and from £60 for a private compartment including six tickets (any combination of adults/children). Babes in arms are charged at only £2, including a small gift from Santa.

Details of prices and times available can be obtained by telephoning the Centre on 01296 655720 (weekdays, 9.30>4.30) which is also the number for Debit or Credit card bookings. Details are also on our website <a href="www.bucksrailcentre.org">www.bucksrailcentre.org</a>.

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or log on to the website at www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org





#### SAVE ON YOUR FUEL BILLS! BUY A BOOK!

Some years ago I was told that books can act as simple storage heaters by absorbing and storing warmth. Of course one book is no good – you need lots. I do not know if this is true, but ever since I have been acquiring as many books as possible in the hope of saving money on fuel bills. As a result, moving around our house is becoming increasingly difficult, and some bedroom ceilings are at risk due to literary insulation in the loft.

I shall therefore attempt to sell some books at the WING BOOK FAIR on Sunday 7 December. This event takes place on (nearly) every first Sunday of the month in Wing Village Hall, from 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. 'Book Fair' may suggest to you antiquarian, specialist and expensive, but the Wing Book Fair is not like that. There are usually some specialists—particularly natural history and military—but there are normally about a dozen or so dealers with a very wide range of good quality general, well cared for, second-hand books from £2 upwards. Generally I think prices are very reasonable. The event takes place in Wing Village Hall. Entrance is 50p. There is a small car park in front of the hall, though this is often full, and another about 200 yards away on the other side of the road (watch out for craters).

So, come and have an enjoyable browse, and if you take some weight off our rafters I shall be very grateful.

Gordon Smith

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

#### PETER SHORROCK (Chairman)

Oak Farm House ~ 681260

#### PAUL BRUTON (Parish Clerk)

51 The Green - 682322

COLIN HIGGS

6 Wingrave Road ~ 681343

#### RICHARD CLARKE

Maplewood, The Green ~ 681286

#### DICKIE DICKEN

Norduck House ~ 688577

#### JUDY HARDCASTLE

Marloes, Lines Hill ~ 688070

#### ANDY STEFANCZYK

73 The Green ~ 0774 2957684 (Street Lighting Officer)

#### KATE CURRY

2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane - 681137

District Councillor

#### PETER COOPER

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham ~ 681250

**County Councillor** 

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Rates are as follows:

#### For Villagers:

£5 per hour (plus metered electricity) and £50 Booking Deposit (Returnable)

#### For Non-Villagers:

£15 per hour (plus electricity)

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Parochial Church Council**

Revd. Michelle Morton 01525 240287

Ann Goodman 681763

**April Curnow 681459** 

Shirley Ford 681865 - Churchwarden

Caroline Lane 681373

Colin Higgs 681343 - Churchwarden

Caroline Abel Smith - Secretary

John Abel Smith - Treasurer

Andy Bystra, Gordon Kemp and Colin Smart also attend meetings.

100 Club Winners for November £50 - Mr A Dutton £10 - Mr I Greenway



\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



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EVENING NUMBER		
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We responded to a leaflet distributed in the post by the Fire Brigade. They made an appointment to come and view our house's fire alarms. They installed two new one's free (the batteries have a ten year life). The Fire Brigade turned up team handed in a fire engine. Pretty impressive. Ed



## Friday 11th December - 4th January CINDERELLA

W W W W W W W W W W W W W W

At the Civic Centre



10 am Saturday, 31st January 2009

ä

WHITCHURCH SURGERY, OVING ROAD, WHITCHURCH

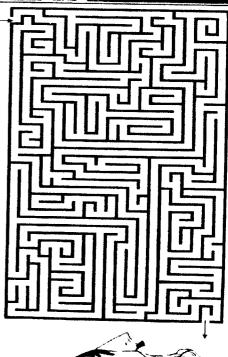
Everyone welcome - please come along, enjoy a cup of coffee

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Get the driver back to his snowmobile





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#### Available Half Term, Winter and Christmas 2006 and throughout 2007

Low Season £ 260.00 / week (€ 400) 28<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> December2006 6<sup>th</sup> January – 4<sup>th</sup> April 2007 High season £ 350.00 / week (€ 550)

**High season** £ 350.00 / week (€ 550) 1<sup>st</sup> July – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2007 Mid season £ 300.00 / week (€ 450) 20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> October 2006 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006 - 5<sup>th</sup> January 2007 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007 - 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007 16<sup>th</sup> September - 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007

For more information or to book call Andi or Becky Swain on 01296 670388 or visit our web site at www.espanolvilla.com



#### **Get The Whole Job Done**

No more juggling workmen...
I can do the lot (and juggle too!)

Kitchens, Bathrooms, Floors, Doors, Shelves, Tiling, Fitted wardrobes, Plumbing, Maintenance, Small Building Work.

Anything considered.

Just ask for a free estimate call

Chris Dowell (01525) 270701



#### Winslow

Beautiful plants for discerning gardeners Wide range of unusual & well known plants. Seeds, bulbs, compost, pots, friendly advice.

Open Weds to Sat 9-5, Sunday 10-4, March to end Sept. Winter by apptmt. 300m outside Winslow, on the road towards Aylesbury.
Call Alexia on 07963 747305
www.bmplants.co.uk





DO YOU SUFFER FROM

#### FLAT PACK PHOBIA?

Are you terrified by the thought of assembling flat pack furniture from the likes of Argos or IKEA?

Can't cope with the instructions?

Not enough time?

#### Not a problem

Buy what you like
Then call me to assemble it for you
Very reasonable hourly rates
Assembled in your own home
Single units to Suites and I also do small DIY jobs

Telephone Bob on 01296 688305 (Wing)
Mobile 0770 799 4178
or Email bob.ren55@virgin.net



# Trendz Unisex hair salon Call for appointment on 01296 681282 Or 07766656411

#### Price list

Styling

Cut & finish....£20.00
Wet cut....£15.00
Blow dry (short hair)....£10.00
Blow dry (long hair)....£14.00
Basic hair up.....£20.00
Shampoo, set & put up....£30.00

Shampoo 4 set....£15.00

#### Mens

Cut & finish.....£14.00
Wet cut.....£10.00
Cap hi lites....£15.00

#### Colour

Full head tint....£32.00
Regrowth tint....£27.50
Full head hi lites...£40.00
Half head hi lites...£27.50

#### Hair excensions

European human hair
Half head from.....£190.00
Full head from....£290.00
Above prices include one colour for a second colour extra....£50.00
Re-fix.....£30.00
Removal of hair extensions...£40.00

#### Manicures and pedicures

File 4 paint...£8.50
Full manicure....£20.00
Pedicure....£25.00

#### **Bridal services**

Bridal hair ......£90.00
Bridal make up....£60.00
Including trial before and on wedding

Call for a free consultation

#### St James Church

With effect from January service times are slightly altered as follows:-

1st Sunday of month

2nd & 4th Sundays

**3rd Sunday** 5th Sunday

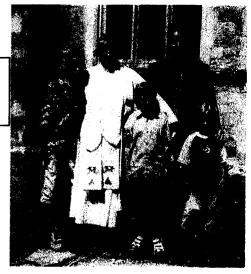
**Evensong 6pm** 

**Holy Communion 10am** 

2nd Sunday Rev Peter Binns

Said Communion 8pm

Benifice AA/Cub./Soul./Stew. in rotation



THE CHURCH IS OPEN every Thursday

morning at 9.30am for anyone who wishes to reflect, meditate or pray for a few minutes or longer.

It is anticipated that the Church will be open for around half an hour or so and people may come and go as they wish. Usually Shirley Ford will be present to start with a

religious reading or a prayer. Please come along.







Mowers

none till spring

Sidesperson

Andrew

April

Readers

Peter

Caroline A/S

Ann/Gordon

**Flowers** Advent

Cleaners

Caroline L

Anita

Shirley/Andrew

21st Gordon/Caroline L TBA Christmas Tree April/Colin

Festival

25th

7th

14th

Churchwardens

Shirley

Caroline L

4th Jan Andrew

Ann/Gordon

#### **Christmas**

by Peter Marshall

We yearn, our Father, for the simple beauty of Christmas - for all the old familiar melodies and words that remind us of that great miracle when He who had made all things was one night to come as a babe, to lie in the crook of a woman's arm.

Before such mystery we kneel, as we follow the shepherds and Wise Men to bring Thee the gift of our love -- a love we confess has not always been as warm or sincere or real as it should have been. But now, on this Christmas Day, that love would find its Beloved, and from Thee receive the grace to make it pure again, warm and real.

We bring Thee our gratitude for every token of Thy love, for all the ways Thou hast heaped blessings upon us during the years that have gone.

And we do pray, Lord Jesus, that as we celebrate Thy birthday, we may do it in a manner well pleasing to Thee. May all we do and say, every tribute of our hearts, bring honour to Thy name, that we, Thy people, may remember Thy birth and feel Thy presence among us even yet.

May the loving kindness of Christmas not only creep into our hearts, but there abide, so that not even the return to earthly cares and responsibilities, not all the festivities of our own devising may cause it to creep away weeping. May the joy and spirit of Christmas stay with us now and forever.

In the name of Jesus, who came to save His people from their sins, even in that lovely name we pray. Amen."



# Pest Control

#### By the BEE's Knees at MSC Ltd

Environment Agency Certificate Number TWE/673982 Member of British Institutes of Cleaning Science BiCS



# Wasps £35.00 Inclusive Guaranteed, No Hidden Charges



Pigeon netting and pointing protection. Mess removal and disposal in accordance with DEFRA and EA. Certificates of disposal supplied.



Rats/mice all trapped and disposed of in accordance with DEFRA and EA.



Woodworm, Cockroaches, Insects, Flies, Squirrels.

T: 01296 424284 M: 07950 379250 E: jím@mtsfc.co.uk

#### The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343	Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690	Mobile Library	<b>Buckingham Library</b>	01280 813229
AVDC	Switchboard	585858	NHS Direct	24hr Medical Advice Lir	ne 0845 46 47
Baby & Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123	Parish Clerk	Paul Bruton	682322
Bus Enquiries	•	870 608 2608	Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrock	681260
Buses	L&S	415468	Police	Emergencies	999 or 112
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191	Police	Non-emergency	0845 8 505 505
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690	Police	Wing Police Station	396163/4
Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070	Railways	Chiltern Railways	0870 516 5165
Church Mowing Rota	Geoff Curnow	681459	Rambler's Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Church Room Hire	Colin Higgs	681343	Rector	Revd Michelle Morton	01525 240287
Citizens Advice		0870 126 4056	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Council	<b>Bucks County Council</b>	395000	Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moult	681262
County Councillor	Quinton Ings-Chamber	688431	RSPCA	General Enquiries	08705 555 999
Dial-A-Ride	_	330088	Scouts	Julia Ellis	681118
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250	Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Doctor (emergency out of	of hours)	331511	Wingrave Preschool	Paul Weston	681127
Fete Coordinator	April Curnow	681459	Wingrave Post Office	(PO only)	682964
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544	Wingrave Post Office	(Stores)	681696
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000	Wingrave School	Office	681436
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865	Plagas latus Bu		amissians.
Member of Parliament	John Bercow MP	714240	Flease let us know of any errors or omissions		

#### The Chronicle

#### Advertising rates per annum

FULL PAGE	Back Inside	£100 £80
HALF PAGE	Inside	£ 40
QUARTER PAGE	Inside	£ 25
ONE OFFS	Full	£ 20
	Half	£ 15
	Quarter	£ 10

#### Seasonal and short term ads are also accepted at these rates

Send copy and cheque payable to 'The Chronicle' to

#### **Phil Corrigan**

5, Nash's Farm, Aston Abbotts, Bucks 01296 688191 corriganpc@aol.com

#### **DO YOU VISIT FRANCE OR SPAIN?**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS?

## French or Spanish lessons

<u>Customised Classes available</u> <u>at a venue of your choice</u>

Phone (01525) 221413







a warm welcome at the Unicorn this festive season ...

- Choose from 2 seasonal menus when booking a Christmas Party (available 1st November December 24th)
- Fine Dining on 21st November with Jazz
- Open on Christmas Day with traditional festive menu...(early booking essential)
- New Years Eve Party call for details
- French Fortnight 9th-19th January. Eric Arnaud and his team from Provence bring a flavour of French cuisine to the Unicorn for a very special 10 days...

as well as our popular, regular events:

- Friday morning coffee & cakes (with Bring & Buy charity sale)
- · Saturday morning bacon rolls, tea & newspapers
- The famous Monday night Unicorn Quiz

To book a table or to talk through your requirements, phone Sharon or Derek on 01296 681261

The Unicorn, High Street, Cublington, Nr. Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 OLQ TEL: 01296 681261

#### What's On In December

Wednesday 3rd	Parish Council 8pm	Church Room	
Thursday 4th	Prayers 9am	St James Church	
	Coffee Shop 10-12 noon	Church Room	
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room	
Sunday 7th	Rambling Club 2pm	meet at Wolverton	
	Evensong 6pm	St James Church	
Tuesday 9th	Mobile Library 10.45am	The Green	
Thursday 11th	Prayers 9.30am	St James Church	
	Coffee/Shop 10-12noon	Church Room	
	Ladies Club Carols 2.15pm	St James Church	
	Bingo 7.30pm	Church Room	
Friday 12th	Rambling Club Dinner 7pm Que	ens Head Wing	
Thursday 18th	Prayers 9.30am	St James Church	
	Coffee Shop 10-12noon	Church Room	
	Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room	
Saturday 20th	Xmas Whist Drive 7.30pm	Church Room	
Sunday 21st	Christmas Tree Festival 3pm	St James Church	
	Christingle Service with Rowsham Band		
Monday 22nd	Carol Singing round the village 6pm	The Green	
Tuesday 23rd	Mobile Library 10.45am	The Green	
Thursday 25th	Holy Communion 10am	St James Church	
Sunday 28th	Benefice Service 10am St N	icholas Cublington	
Thursday 1st January	New Years Day		
Sunday 4th January	Evensong 6pm	St James Church	
Tuesday 6th	Mobile Library 10,45am	The Green	

#### **Address**

Please note that all submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to John Hardcastle, Marloes, Lines Hill, Aston Abbotts, Bucks. HP22 4NG

Email submissions to:

#### editor@aachronicle.co.uk

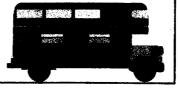
Please don't forget to tell us of any events that you would like included in the What's On list

#### Classified

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle. Phone us on 01296 688191 or email editor@aachronicle.co.uk

#### **NO BUS SERVICES**

on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day



Guinea pigs - approx 1 year old. Used to being handled. Free to good homes. Tel 01296 681137

#### **EMMA'S IRONING SERVICE**

Reliable with references

Local Collect and Return - All enquiries welcome Phone Emma home 01908 561493 .mobile 07733 275122

#### 630 Club

Meets every Saturday in The Royal Oak at 6.30pm.

New members very welcome.
Contact
Andy Bystra if you need an introduction.





For December a turkey will be secreted on an Ad in the Chronicle.

Can you spot the turkey?

Last month's was on page 24 sitting on an RGC quad bike

MOBILE LIBRARY
ON THE GREEN
10.50am - 11.05am
December 9th & 23rd
NEW TIME!



FISH & CHIP VAN every Wednesday on The Green approx 9pm



# ALISON & MAVE

WISH YOU ALL A

MERRY CHRUSTMAS

& A HAPPY NEW XEAR

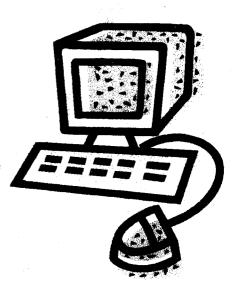


01296 682126 — Flackwell Electronics — 01296 682126

# ! DANGER!

KIDS—PRACTICE SAFE SURFING WITH DAVE!

Kids—be safe on the internet! Remember—when your friends send you those funny files by email—you know, the hilarious pictures of the Australian Beach Volleyball team who can only afford half of their costumes, or that funny video with that nice Pamela Anderson lady—do not, I repeat DO NOT, save them to a desktop folder with an obvious name that attracts attention. If you do that—the wicked witch is bound to get you!!!



# ! DANGER!

Flackwell Electronics - Purveyors of Plasma Screens to the Gentry

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December 2008