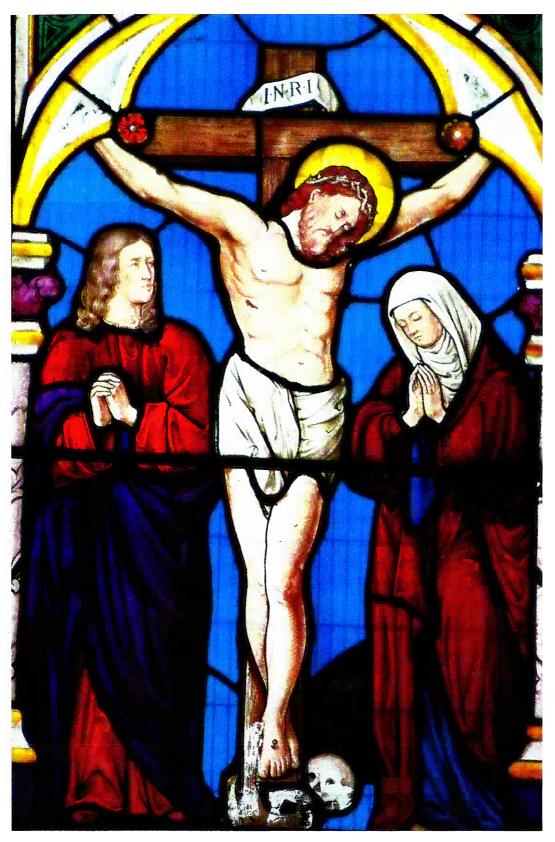
THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE Issue 288 - April 2009



'Easter Sunday 12th April'

Email: editor@aachronicle.co.uk

Editorial

Next month's Chronicle is being edited by Jo Perkins and her son Alex. Please send your articles and notices to her home at 1 Wingrave Road or via her email address perkijo@hotmail.com. Alex is running in this year's marathon (see page 15). Hopefully Jo will be able to hold the front page to announce how well Alex did.

This month's front cover (and last month's) is kindly sponsored by Janice Issett who paid £10 per issue for the printing costs. Jo is going to do the same for the May edition.

There are no frogs in my ponds and each year I put out a request for frog spawn. Andy Bystra very generously remembered my request when on a visit to Bristol and managed to transport a large flower pot full of frog spawn back to Aston Abbotts - if they successfully hatch out I wonder if they will croak with a Bristol drawl? I'm told that the Abbey ponds used to be alive with toads and that residents would patrol Moat Lane collecting them up and moving them to safety.

Geoff Curnow lent me his copy of the Aston Abbotts Village Survey that was carried out in 1992. The section dealing with response regarding The Chronicle concluded 'there were no clear problems as most comments come from single people. 'One-sided opinion' versus 'lost it's bite' 'not enough gossip' versus 'too much gossip'; 'incrowd features'; innuendo; Rector's page not sufficiently to the point; tatty layout, late delivery, not enough content (by which is meant articles, stories, input from villagers). Most people want it to continue monthly'.

When the results of the latest Village Survey are produced it will be interesting to compare the results. I like to think that the legacy Phil Spooner (the last editor) gave me/us has been continued.

Enjoy the Easter break - looks like Spring has arrived!

.John

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- COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS
- GUEST EDITOR DETAILS
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THE CHRONICLE

Issue 288 April 2009

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A note to all would be advertisers— More than 205 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 Friday 24th April

Please pass items to Jo Perkins at 1 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.

<u> Alison's Gossip Column</u>

Chris Farrands Katy Bull-Diamond Ian Hinds Caroline Lane Philip Wheaton Karen Brandon Harry Bystra Adrian Bystra Laura Whyte Annie Copping Anthony Palmer Geoff Curnow Jan Rose Robert Clarke Sam King Alison Lewis Thomas Stefancyzk April Curnow Matthew James Abbie Lee Kate Curry Diana Picking 1st 4th Cth Ath Ath Ath Ath Ath Ath Ath Ath Ath A				
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The Gnomes all went down to The Old Swan, Cheddington, for their annual dinner and a good time was had by all. Thank you to Carol Spooner for organising everything. Another delightful evening was spent with Gnomes at Francesca's and it was lovely to see Sheila Humphreys back socialising.

I don't know whether anyone else caught the interview on Three Counties radio on Feb. 26th with Liz Barlow but it was very interesting. Sounded a bit like the Archers with all the countryside background noises and rattling buckets! Unfortunately, they didn't mention Aston Abbotts but said that Liz farmed in Aylesbury Vale!

LITTER BLITZ! - Saturday 4th April.

Meet 10.30am outside Church Room

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 21st APRIL - 8pm Church Room

Please note that next month's Chronicle is being guest-edited by Jo Perkins and her son Alex. Please give Jo your full support and deluge her with your gossip and articles - I'm looking forward to reading the May edition. *Ed* You can contact Jo by sending her your articles to her home at 1 Wingrave Road

or by email to perkijo@hotmail.com

Get your articles and gossip to Jo 24th April at the latest - sooner if possible!

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53 The Green Aston Abbots

The Church Room

For some years now the village has tried to obtain a lease for the Church Room from the church solicitors and this is an update on progress and future development.

The Church is keen that the village should have the lease and we are now in the final stages of achieving this. In the meantime, the church solicitors have applied for the registration of title with the Land Registry. Once all this is agreed, the solicitors will then prepare and issue a certificate required by the charities commission and from then on the responsibility for managing the Church Room will pass to the Church Room Trustees (Messrs Dicken, Shorrock, Hardcastle, Palmer and Ms Lane,). In order to complete the transaction, the Trust Fund will have to foot the church solicitor's bill in the region of £1200.

A survey of the building has been completed and this reveals a number of faults largely of a minor maintenance nature, but nevertheless will demand cash payable from the Trust Fund. In addition, the Trustees will be responsible for obtaining and paying for an Energy Performance Certificate, an Asbestos Certificate and a Fire Risk Assessment Certificate. However, it is possible that we might be able to reduce costs by submitting an Asbestos Management Plan that will list any asbestos that is in the building and proposing how we should manage it.

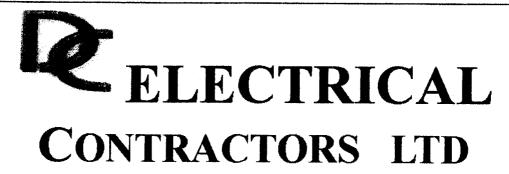
Items that will require more immediate action are the treatment of the roof timbers to prevent beetle damage, improved overhead lighting, ceiling insulation and constructing an access into the loft space from the kitchen area. We hope that monies left over from the Planning Obligation Agreement from the Bull and Butcher development will pay for these items – you will recall that a major part of these monies was spent last year on new crockery and cutlery for the Church Room kitchen.

Future plans involve an extension on the north side of the building to accommodate two toilets (one for the disabled), additional storage, electrical rewiring, kitchen refurbishment and a ramp instead of the steps at the entry to the Room. These plans will involve a large capital expenditure and although we raised funds from the Fete in previous years for these works, the cash in the Trust account will be insufficient to cover all the planned expenditure. We have therefore explored the possibility of obtaining a grant and we are quietly optimistic that we shall receive one.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Kate Curry has managed to get Aston Abbotts included in the 'Music in Quiet Places' series this summer. The concert will be on **Sat 20th June at 7.30pm** in the Church. There will be a 'village walk' before it (6.30pm) and refreshments will be served in the Church Room during the interval.

Publicity material will be provided by AVDC nearer the time. In the meantime please put this date in your diary. Kate will be the ticket agent.



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New Standard Operating Procedures released today please learn BBQ RULES

We are about to enter the BBQ season. Therefore it is important to refresh your memory on the etiquette of this sublime outdoor cooking activity

When a man volunteers to do the BBQ the following chain of events are put into motion:

Routine...

- (1) The woman buys the food.
- (2) The woman makes the salad, prepares the vegetables, and makes dessert.
- (3) The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils and sauces, and takes it to the man who is lounging beside the grill - beer in hand.
- (4) The woman remains outside the compulsory three meter exclusion zone where the exuberance of testosterone and other manly bonding activities can take place without the interference of the woman. Here comes the important part:
- (5) THE MAN PLACES THE MEAT ON THE GRILL. More routine...
- (6) The woman goes inside to organise the plates and cutlery.
- (7) The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is looking great. He thanks her and asks if she will bring another beer while he flips the meat Important again:
- (8) THE MAN TAKES THE MEAT OFF THE GRILL AND HANDS IT TO THE WOMAN. More routine...
- (9) The woman prepares the plates, salad, bread, utensils, napkins, sauces, and brings them to the table.
- (10) After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes. And most important of all:
- (11) Everyone PRAISES the MAN and THANKS HIM for his cooking efforts.
- (12) The man asks the woman how she enjoyed 'her night off', and, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women.



Aston Abbotts Church Room Featuring James "STRETCH" Perkins as quiz master £5 per person entry with complimentary drink (Max number of 4 per team)

£40 prize for WINNING team Raffle and Bar

Contact Hannah Brandon for tickets and information: 07751 870482

All proceeds go towards sponsoring Alex Perkins who is running this year's London Marathon for the Motor Neuron Disease Association

ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

There are currently seven members of the Book Club. First choice of book is down to me and I have played pretty safe by selecting last year's Man Booker Prize Winner 'The White Tiger' by Aravind Adiga. We will be discussing the book over a glass of something in early May.

If you would like to join in the discussion/fun then please let me know.

There's room for a few more. Ed

Sally Turnham wonders whether Aston Abbott mums and dads with babies/toddlers would like to have a regular get together? Sally is happy to do the first one at her house. Suggested time is 10.30 am - 12.30 on Wednesday 23rd April for tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat at The Chapel, 73 The Green. email sallyturnham@hotmail.com or call/text on 0775 272 6229

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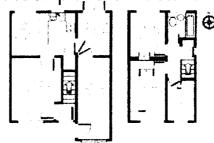
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COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS

Red Alert

A recent example of man's interference to save one species from another involves UK squirrels. As well as driving reds to near extinction, by passing on a pox virus, grey squirrels damage trees by stripping bark and have reduced wild bird populations by eating eggs and young in nests. Ironically man created the problem in the first place as he introduced the grey squirrel to Britain in the 19th Century!

In a desperate attempt to save our native reds, grey squirrel control is underway. By 2008 13,000 greys had been killed in Northumberland and Durham to protect the dwindling number of red strong holds, with the intention to push the front line ever further south.

The contentious case of squirrel versus squirrel is certainly set to run and run. Indeed, most people in the southern part of the UK at least, now know only greys and see them as cute, oblivious to the damage they are causing to song bird populations. Others, more concerned with protecting our native wildlife and forests, hate them with a vengeance. Hypocritically, many people who have no hesitation in killing rats, for example, are amongst the first to oppose culling an apparently cuddly creature.

Other culling is so wide spread and entrenched in our way of life that it is very rare to hear dissent. For example, both native woodpigeon and the introduced rabbit are killed in millions every year, but there is no strong objection as most people acknowledge that these two species are our greatest agricultural pests, causing enormous economic loss. They also appreciate that their populations are not in the least threatened, and as a bonus both species make excellent eating. Culled deer also provide good food, but they are killed for the good of the species as well as to protect crops. And so it goes on, with endless debate over well-known issues such as culling badgers, to lesser know issues such as culling or moving hedgehogs from the Hebridean island of Uist, where they were decimating the population of terns by eating their eggs.

One thing is certain now: we cannot turn the clock back and leave nature to sort it's self out. Dog walkers beware of the resurgence of our 'friends' who are back hare coursing behind the allotments, down to the lay-by on the A418. Coursing has happened 2 or 3 times in March. The advice is, always call the police and do not approach these dangerous people and always carry a mobile phone.

James Henderson

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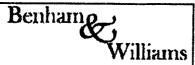
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ALLOTMENT DIARY

A lot of authors talk about "writer's block", and the panic that comes over them when they put a blank sheet of paper in the printer, type the heading, and then gaze in vain at the paper seeking inspiration. I hope some comes soon: our editor, as always, has kindly told me what my deadline is to produce some copy for him, and it is imminent!

(I'm sure that other contributors to the Chronicle will identify only too well with this problem!)

Well, for the first time for some months, I can talk about the allotments. Spring is sprung (at the moment anyway) and the grass is riz [see page 29]; and there are already signs of great activity all around me. The carpeting has largely been removed. Most of my fellow allotmenteers - being more diligent than me - have already manured and dug much of their allotments, and have planted their first early potatoes. I am lagging behind, but I have weeded or weed-killed a good bit of my patch, and hope to do the rest in the next few days, and then to spread compost on it. It will then be down to my son Adam to rotovate the land, and I can start my own planting. I have already experienced the pleasure of choosing what vegetables to buy, pouring over the enticing sites on the internet: and, as always, am full of confidence that my vegs, when they arrive, will look like those in the pictures on the internet, or on the seed packets. The saying about "Travelling hopefully" is very true of gardeners!

Yet again the usual spring miracle has occurred with most of the seeds that I have planted in propagators in the greenhouse. I can't speak for the economy, but the first green shoots have already appeared of my cabbages, Brussels sprouts, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, green & yellow courgettes and aubergines. The only ones still to make an appearance are the red peppers and my broccoli – but on looking again at the packets, I have discovered that the broccoli seeds should have been planted by summer 2008. If no shoots appear in the next few days, I will have to buy some more seeds. (It's not just that I'm mean: one of the problems is that most packets of seeds contain many more seeds than any gardener can possibly need, so that one is always saving some in the packet for the following year – and sometimes one does not notice that the packet started life 2 or 3 years before!)

I shall be growing one usual vegetable this year: while I was selling lifeboat flags recently, Dennis Knight kindly gave me a seed of a South African squash called "Little Gem" for me to try, which he tells me tastes just like a sweet melon. I shall look forward to making its acquaintance.

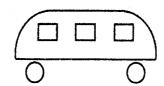
As always, I have been trawling the newspapers for vegetable related news items which might amuse or interest you; and have found one slightly odd one. Ken Livingstone is quoted as having said

"I'm growing potatoes. As London collapses into barbarism under Boris Johnson, we've got to secure our food supply"

While I'm sure that growing potatoes is a good thing for Ken to do, I cannot understand why he believes that Boris's plans for London will lead us back into barbarism. (Incidentally, did you know that the word "barbarism" comes from the Latin word for "beard"? The Romans were clean shaven (or as clean shaven as you could be 2,000 years ago), whereas the barbarians were a shaggy bearded lot. And the Romans therefore coined the word "barbari" for them, derived from their word for a beard, "barba". This etymology is of course of particular interest to me at the moment, as those of

Can't make up your mind? Look carefully at the picture again.

ΙΙ



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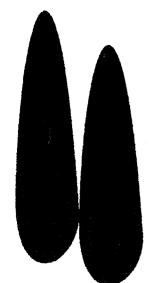
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Astonbury 2009

Back by Popular Demand

The show they all talk about

Put this in your diary and let's make it bigger and better.

This will be the eighth Astonbury and will take place on the recreation ground at 7.30pm on 18th July 2009. This year it will be bigger and better featuring local singers and musicians. Some of our more famous artistes have decided to hang up their tonsils so there are opportunities.

It is a chance for talent to shine, so as always, there is an invite from anyone from the village or associated with someone in the village to come forward. If you play an instrument, sing or are in a band then just give Nigel (681152), Neil (681201) or John (681685) a ring to fix a time for a chat.

If you want to be part of the organising team then you will be most welcome. Just call any one above or see us when we are in the pub.

The one thing you can be sure of is a lot of fun.

Tickets will be available from John (681685) 6 weeks before the show.

The stage will be in a different position this year in the far right corner of the rec.

This gives us more room for Gazebos and car parking.

A great night is promised ... and yes! The Chunkies will be making a return appearance.

Watch for more details in the Chronicle.

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Call Sally on 0775 272 6229

The road is long, in fact its 26 miles:

Hello all readers of the Aston Abbotts Chronicle, my name is Alex Perkins, I live at No.1 Wingrave Road and this year I am going to run the London Marathon.

I am running the marathon for the Motor Neurone Disease association because MND is a nasty disease (like most I imagine) and my DAD, (ex-Aston Abbott resident) died from it, so the marathon is a quest that's close to my heart.

I have never done anything like this before so am quite nervous, scared and worried but also a little excited. The challenge is also a little more real for me as I have asthma which is triggered from sporting activities and is something that really does not like me running. Some of you may have seen me running through the village, usually covered in sweat breathing heavily and sometimes escorted by my brother's dog Bart.

A friend of mine from Wingrave is also running the marathon and I intend to beat him. I suppose you could look at it as a Wingrave vs Aston Abbotts competition. Don't worry I'm not going to let the side down!

This is just a short note to try and raise awareness for my run and also direct any interested eyes to my marathon website – www.runginger.co.uk.

On the site you can get some more information about my run and also find my training blog which gives an insight into what's involved in getting your body ready to run 26 miles. I could REALLY do with any help that I can muster so please feel free to spread the word www.runginger.co.uk and also feel free to shout and throw stuff when you see me passing.

My very nice Brother James Perkins and the even nicer Hannah Brandon are going to be organising some charity events in aid of my quest so please watch this space and check www.runginger.co.uk for more information on this.

Cheers,

Alex Perkins

TENNIS

Ladies - is your tennis rusty?

perhaps you haven't played for a while.

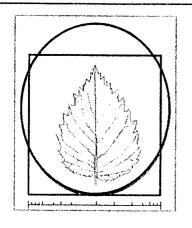
COME and JOIN US (all ages)

at the WINGRAVE SPORTS CENTRE

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Ladies Club - Thurs, 18th Feb.

14 members were present at today's meeting in the church room, Aston Abbotts. The Chairman welcomed everybody and the minutes were read, approved and signed.

Plans were discussed for s spring lunch to be held on the 19th March in the church room.

Our speaker for today was Mrs. Audrey Tompkins and she gave a talk entitled 'Readings and Anecdotes'. It proved to be an hour of absolute hilarity and she was afterwards thanked by Joan Alexander.

Our tea hostesses were Margaret Hinds and Jill Scott.

Shirley Ford

Ladies Club - Thurs. 5th March

14 members were present at today's meeting in the church room. After welcoming our members and guests, the Chairman, Joan Alexander, 'chaired' a short meeting to finalise plans for the Spring Lunch, due to be held on the 19th March.

Our speaker today was Mrs. Jill Carey who gave an illustrated talk entitled 'From Petra to the Pyramids'. She proved to be a very knowledgeable speaker and this coupled with the beautiful slides she had bought along made for a very interesting afternoon. She was thanked by Irene Lowden.

Tea hostesses were Shirley Ford and April Curnow and the raffle winner Carol Morris.

Shirley Ford

Ladies Club - 'Spring Lunch' - Thurs 19th March

30 members and friends were welcomed by Joan Alexander who remarked on what a lovely spring day we had 'chosen'. Everyone helped themselves to a delicious cold lunch followed by a 'mouthwatering' selection of puddings and rounded off with coffee or tea. The meal had been provided by members.

The day ended with a raffle in which most of those present won a prize.

Shirley Ford

VIC SCOTTS SLIDE & QUIZ EVENING

(With Cheese and wine supper by 'April')

Fri. 17th April
In the church room.
Commencing at 7.30.

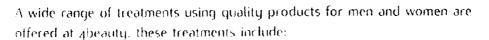
Come along and be entertained by another of 'Vic's' legendary illustrated talks followed by a 'challenging' quiz!!

Tickets £7.50 each are available from Colin on 681343 Or on the door.

All funds raised will go to outstanding church repairs.

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Thursday 9:00am - 6:00pm
Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday CLOSED



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AVDC VILLAGE BULK REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Aylesbury Vale District Council's refuse freighter will visit THE GREEN, ASTON ABBOTTS from 12 noon until 3.30pm

Tuesday 12th May and Tuesday 17th November 2009

This service is for household waste only. If you have bulky items that you cannot transport to our collection site, we can collect from your home for a fee. See our website or call the number below for details.

AVDC are sorry but the village refuse freighter cannot accept:

Any electrical items clinical waste, e.g. syringes, used dressings car parts including tyres, exhausts, batteries, oil hazardous waste, e.g. asbestos commercial or industrial waste building rubble paints, liquids, or garden chemicals

For advice about disposing of these materials, details of refuse and recycling collections or the home bulky items collection service:

call 01296 585510, or

see the council's website: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/refuse Rubbish left on the site before the freighter visits will be regarded as fly-tipping and offenders may be prosecuted. If the freighter is unable to visit on any of the dates listed above, we will notify the parish clerk



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ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY

If you were passing The Gables in Lines Hill recently, you might have noticed a man crawling around the garden with a large camera and tripod. Painstakingly he filmed his way round the garden, pursuing the perfect shot. Once achieved, he lugged his impedimenta a few inches further on to an almost identical spot, and filmed virtually the same thing all over again.

At this point I'm tempted to mislead you into believing there's a new film being shot called "Carry on up Lines Hill". Or, that since The Gables is up for sale, we've resorted to the money-spinning wheeze of letting the place to a dubious film company shooting "Confessions of an estate agent".

But no, it was Auntie BBC descending on us to film "Escape to the country". If you've ever put your house up for sale, you'll know the continuous effort it takes to keep the place neat and tidy. But when it's going to be seen by the nation, you make an extra effort. And yes, I am house-trained. I always vacuum the carpets once a year, whether they need it or not.

It was all the estate agent's idea. Perhaps they felt we were feeling neglected and needed some visitors, in a "quiet" market as they euphemistically call the global financial meltdown. Certainly it led to a thorough spring clean - and there was I thinking the place already looked immaculate. Anyway, further de-cluttering made the rooms appear double the size, and I wondered why I'd never done it before, and even why I wanted to move. Well, we probably wouldn't have bothered to make the effort otherwise – or so said Sue, mopping the kitchen floor at five o'clock on Monday morning.

The producer arrived, and after a couple of hours deemed The Gables suitable for the programme. They were looking for equestrian properties and liked the adjacent paddock with its own drive. Being the only horseless person hereabouts, I had to feign knowledge of our four-legged friends. But, truth to tell, my experience of matters equestrian is limited to bifteck de cheval avec frites in Belgium.

The cameraman spent all the next morning filming house and garden. The weather was superb all week, which helped because the hedges were not yet in leaf, and Peter's flock of mobile lawn mowers had not yet arrived in the paddock.

The following morning the entire crew arrived, with the buyers. Yesterday's shots would be mixed in with today's, so I'd been asked not to move anything. I was tempted to nip out and get a grandfather clock for the hall, just to undermine their continuity, but refrained.

They were all very nice people, and the presenter, Alastair Appleton, seemed a pleasant sort of cove. I recalled seeing him recently showing a house in Totternoe, and he was a refreshing change from the usual inverface and over-the-top "personality" presenter. But please don't think I spend all day watching property, cookery and antiques on TV. Though I do quite fancy one of those stair lifts they advertise, providing there's an express version, in case you forget on the way up what it was that you wanted upstairs.

Well, the people from Auntie don't want owners hanging around, and in the nicest possible way they asked me to get lost while they were filming. So I adjourned for coffee at Norduck with Dicky and Ann. Four hours (!) later they were finished.

On they went to another three houses in the shire, and the programme will be shown in summer – date to be advised. Nowadays one has to make an extra effort to market a house. Perhaps Knight Frank could organise a jousting event? Meanwhile the house looks terrific – just like a film studio in fact. Ah! It could be a nice little earner in these recessionary times. The Gables is not exactly Cliveden, but how about an adult movie set in Aston Abbotts? "A Romp in the Country"? Or some goings on at The Abbey? "When the Abbess met the Abbotts" No, let it be a realistic kitchen sink drama about housework, and mopping floors. Called "Shire Hell".

Jeremy Bale

Will keep you posted as and when the programme is due to be broadcast. Ed



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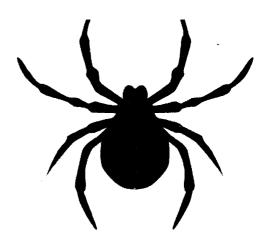


THE SPIDER WALK

You are invited to come along and join with friends to become a 'leg' of the 'spider' - walking towards the 'body', All Saints Church Wing where tea will be served on arrival, (cost £1)

We meet at St James Church – Aston Abbotts on Sunday afternoon 26^{th} April: leaving at 2.00pm

Come and join us for a convivial, healthy afternoon.





THANK YOU

Very many thanks to all those kind friends who have visited, phoned or sent 'Get well' cards following my motorcycle accident. The plethora of advice given concerning the future of my motorcycling is receiving serious consideration and engineering proposals are currently being drawn up for the design and fitment of 'stabilizers'!!!

Where does the name 'Easter' come from?

Pagan traditions give us the English word "Easter" which comes from the word "Eostre". The Anglo-Saxon word for April was "Eostre-monath" (the month of openings). However, it should be remembered that Christians celebrated the resurrection of Christ long before the word "Easter" was used, and the word they used for the celebration was "Pascha", which is derived from and linked to the Jewish festival of Passover.

According to <u>Bede</u>, the English monastic historian, the English word Easter comes from the <u>Anglo-Saxon</u> name for the month of <u>April</u>, which was known as "Eostremonath" in the Anglo-Saxon tongue and since Pascha was most often celebrated in Eostremonath, the English Christians began calling it "Easter". Bede also notes that the month was named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess Esostre.

Rituals related to the goddess Eostre focus on new beginnings, symbolized by the Easter egg, and fertility, which is symbolized by the hare (or Easter bunny).

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REVISED DATE!!!

Please put <u>Tuesday 21st April 2009</u> in your diary. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place at the Church Room at 8.00pm and we hope to see as many residents there as possible. It is an opportunity to meet your District and County Councillors, hear news from local groups and to put your own views forward. It is the time to decide how money raised at the Fete will be spent, and even to offer your help if you are inclined to! **Do join us!**

If you have any issues you would like to see discussed at this meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Paul Bruton.

FREE SWIMS IF YOU'RE 60 or over

Swimming is one of the best exercises that older people can do to keep fit. It doesn't place any undue strain on joints and it exercises the whole body. And the even better news is that people aged 60 or over can swim free at Aylesbury Vale's two pools, Aqua Vale and Swan Pool, from 1st April this year.

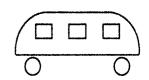
To claim your first free swim, bring along proof of your age and identity, such as a bus pass, driving licence, passport, birth certificate or benefit book. You will then be issued with a card to show each time you visit the pool.

The government has provided funds to councils across the country for the free swimming scheme for the next two years. the scheme may extend beyond 2011 if the government makes funds available. if you have any questions, call Aqua Vale on 01296 488555 or Swan Pool on 01280 817500

Still don't know?

Pre-schoolers all over U.K. were shown this picture asked the same question.
90% of the pre-schoolers gave this answer.

"The bus is travelling to the right."



When asked, "Why do you think the bus is travelling to the right?"

They answered: "Because you can't see the door to get on the bus."

How do you feel now??? I know, me too.

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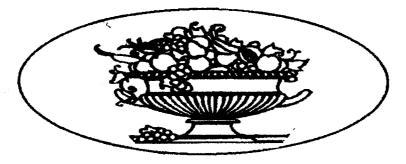
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RACE FOR LIFE

Myself, Helen Carless and Jane Hall (we all live in Aston Abbotts!) are sending out a hearfelt plea to our friends and neighbours to ask you all to support us by pledging as little or as much as you can for sponsorship for the Race for Life. We are running (well probably jogging - but definitely not walking!) in this year's Race for Life on Sunday 10th May 2009 at Waddesdon Manor, to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

Many of us, whether ourselves, or family and friends, have been affected by cancer in some way and if we are able to support the fantastic work of the scientists, doctors and nurses then more and more people will continue to survive this disease.

We really hope you are able to support this cause, every single pound really, really does make a difference.

If you are able to show your support, any donation, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated and you are able to do so using the following links:

www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/janecopping

www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/helencarless

www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/janehall2

Thank you.

27

Jane Copping Home Farm Aston Abbotts jane.copping@talk21.com



LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

It takes your food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.

One human hair can support 3 kg (6.6 lb). Human thighbones are stronger than concrete

A woman's heart beats faster than a man's. There are about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet. Women blink twice as often as men. The average person's skin weighs twice as much as the brain. Your body uses 300 muscles to balance itself when you are standing still.

If saliva cannot dissolve something, you cannot taste it. WELL I NEVER

So much fun, one visit is never enough!

Rediscover the magic of Steam this Spring at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre. We are kicking off the season with exciting activities for all the family. Don't miss out on our great offers and events. Our price-busting promotions make us an excellent choice for a family day out.

Need a meeting venue with a difference or a beautiful location for a wedding? Use our facilities for an experience you won't forget. Visit our website for more information.

Easter 'Day out with Thomas - 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th April

Thomas and his friends pull up for an Easter steaming; this is always a hugely popular family event, so be sure to put it in your calendar! Double Savings offer! Save once, book before 13 March and, with each adult ticket, you'll receive a £1 voucher to use in our Rewley Road shop or café on the day of your visit. Save twice, book in advance for Day out with Thomas and save £2 per ticket. We recommend that you pre-book for Thomas events. 01296 655720

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WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM YOUTH CENTRE

AGM

Will be held on Thursday April 23rd at 8 pm at the Community Centre (there will be no Youth Club that night)

All parents and helpers are welcome. Please come along and meet the Youth Centre Committee and enjoy cheese and biscuits and a free glass of wine with them.

Nominations are invited for the various Officers

Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, If you wish to nominate anyone for the above roles, please fill in the slip and return it to Alison Marchant at 18 Mill Lane, Wingrave before the 23rd April 2009 (681673)

I wish to nominate	for the post of
On the committee of Wingrave with Ro	
Nominated bys	econded by

Mentmore is to hold its first Arts Festival in St Mary's Church, the Village Hall and on The Green in aid of Mentmore Church Restoration Fund and local Charities – with local artists exhibiting their work for you to view and buy.

24th-26th May Bank Holiday



ALLOTMENT DIARY ADDENDUM - In case you wondered what 'riz' was

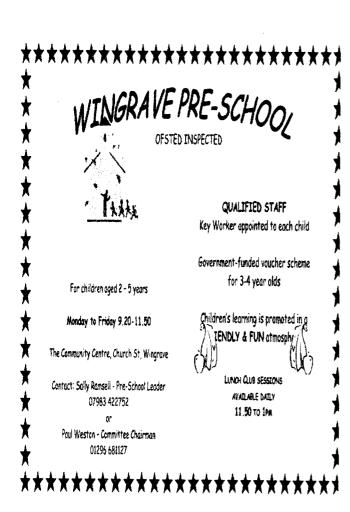
"Riz" is of course short for "risen". I am sure everyone knows "Spring is sprung", but the rest maybe less well-known. Peter Shorrock

Spring is sprung, de grass is riz. I wonder where de boidies is? They say de boid is on the wing; But dat's absoid; De wing is on de boid.

IF YOU ONLY EVER GO TO ONE FLOWER ARRANGING DEMONSTRATION, MAKE IT THIS ONE!

On Monday 27th April at 8.00pm Neil Gurney will present an evening of expert flower arranging in his own inimitable and amusing style at Marsworth Millennium Hall, Vicarage Road, Marsworth HP23 4LR. The flower arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening.

Tickets are £8 to include tea and cake and are available from Annette Botting, 01296 662007 and Ken Longhurst, 01296 660711.





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0845 8 505 505

the single non-emergency number for Thames Valley Police

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





CHURCH ROOM Bookings

The Trustees of Aston Abbotts Church Room advise that due to the increase in electricity and water charges, and increased insurance premiums, hire charges from 1st March 2009 will be as follows:-

£6 per hour for residents (plus metered electricity)

£20 per hour for non residents (plus metered electricity - a returnable deposit of £50 at the time of booking is required)

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

Weddings and Christenings - a fixed charge of £50.

Please contact Colin Higgs on 681343 if you wish to book

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

OUINTIN INGS-CHAMBERS

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 March £50 - Mrs K Curry £10- Mr G Brown

SUMMER NEEDN'T END JET AWAY TO THE SUN TODAY



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High season £ 350.00 / week (€ 550)

1st July - 15th September 2007

Mid season £ 300.00 / week (€ 450)

20th - 27th October 2006

20th December 2006 – 5th January 2007

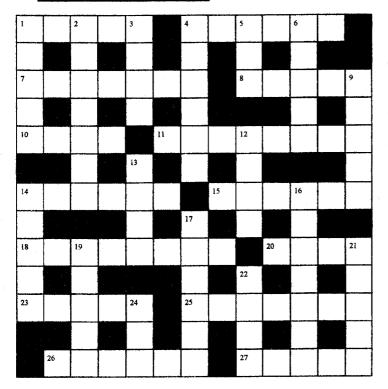
5th April 2007 - 30th June 2007

16th September – 28th 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

The Chronicle Crossword

APRIL 2009



ACROSS
1 Sales 4 Camera 7 Alpacas
8 Power 10 Prow
11 Conveyor 14 Joyous
15 Enroll 18 Computer
20 Flop 23 Bunch
25 Alaskan 26 Change
27 Tonic

DOWN

1 Stamp 2 Leprosy 3 Sack 4 Custom 5 Map 6 Rowdy 9 Rural 12 Vine 13 Guru 14 Jacob 16 Oilskin 17 Deface 17 Munch 21 Panic 22 Bait 24 Hen

ACROSS

- 1 German painter (5)
- 4 Help (6)
- 7 Good with puds (7)
- 8 Better than being late (5)
- 10 Childs game (4)
- 11 Board game (8)
- 14 Cook with fat (6)
- 15 Not closed (6)
- 18 Translate (8)
- 20 Lacks funds (4)
- 23 Stopped (5)
- 25 Axe (7)
- 26 Maker of beer (6)
- 27 Southeast Asian ox (5)

DOWN

- 1 To surpass other (5)
- 2 Bouquet (7)
- 3 Water animal (4)
- 4 Take away (6)
- 5 Female (3)
- 6 Clean (5)
- 9 Give way (5)
- 12 European mountain range (4)
- 13 Break (4)
- 14 Type of sweet (5)
- 16 Not good (7)
- 17 Tie up (6)
- 19 Type of tree (5)
- 21 Petrol company (5)
- 22 Men only party (4)
- 24 Early morning moisture (3)

Compiled by Rod Rothero

DO YOU VISIT FRANCE OR SPAIN?

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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?

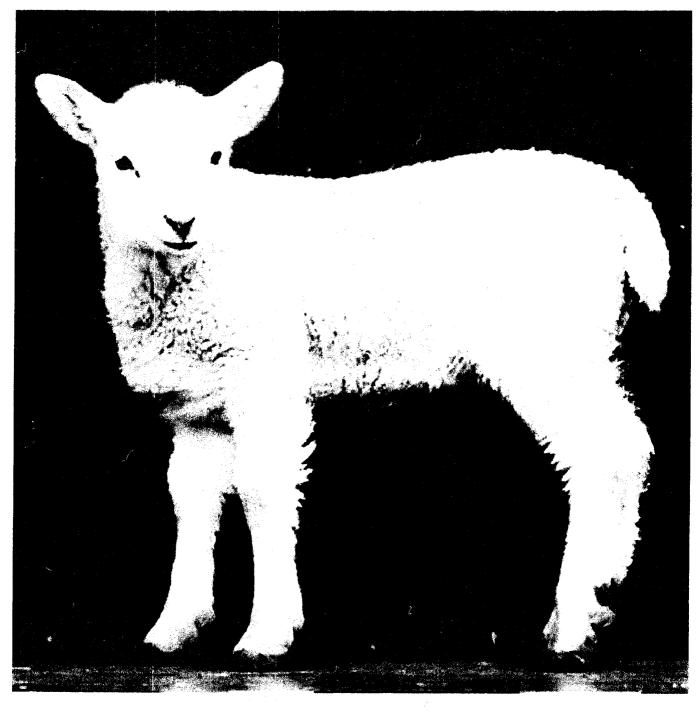
Not enough time?

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





Spring Lamb - photograph by Janice Issett

MESSAGE FROM THE AMBULANCE SERVICE

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence this 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be

contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency). The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognised name for this purpose.

In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as 'ICE'.

It really could put a loved one's mind at rest.

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc.

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 4 put up....£30.00

\$hampoo & set....£15.00

<u>Mens</u>

Cut & finish.....£14.00

Wet Cut.....£10.00

Cap hi lites£15.00

Colour

Full head tint....£31.00

Regrowth tint....£27.50

Full head hi lites....£40.00

Half head hi lites...£27.50

Hair extensions

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

Bridat hair£90.00

Bridal make up....£60.00

Including trial before and on wedding

Call for a free consultation

St James Church

Times are as follows:-

Ist Sunday of month Evensong 6pm 2nd & 4th Sundays Holy Communion 10am 3rd Sunday Said Communion 8am

5th Sunday Benefice AA/Cub./Soul./Stew. in rotation

this month at Stewkley

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 prayer. Please come along.

5 April - 6pm Evensong

10 April - Good Friday - 2pm Story of the Cross

12 April - Easter Day - 10am Holy Communion (Peter Binns)

19 April - 8am Holy Communion (Visiting priest)

26 April - 10am Holy Communion

	Sidesman	Flowers	Cleaners	Readers	Mowers
5th	Andrew		Anita/Caroline L	Fred/Kate	4th Gordon
10th				Shirley/Anita	
12th	Church Wardens	as requested	Ann/Gordon	April/Shirley	11th Bob
19th	Gordon		Shirley/Andrew	Caroline AS/Priest	18th Ray
26th	April	Colin	April/Colin	Andy/Caroline L	25th Andy Stefanczk
					2nd May Phil

GOD CREATED CHILDREN

(AND IN THE PROCESS GRANDCHILDREN)

To those of us who have children in our lives, whether they are our own, grandchildren, nicces, nephews, or students... here is something to make you chuckle.

Whenever your children are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to His own children.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was 'DON'T!'

'Don't what?' Adam replied.

'Don't eat the forbidden fruit.' God said.

'Forbidden fruit? We have forbidden fruit? Hey Eve..we have forbidden fruit!'

'Do NOT eat the fruit!' said God.

'Why?'

'Because I am your Father and I said so!' God replied, wondering why He hadn't stopped creation after making the elephants A few minutes later, God saw His children having an apple break and He was angry! 'Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?' God asked.

'Uh huh,' Adam replied.

'Then why did you?' said the Father.

'I don't know,' said Eve. 'She started it! 'Adam said.

'Did not!' 'Did too!' 'DID NOT!'

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus the pattern was set and it has never changed. If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give children wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble raising children,

what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

- 1. You spend the first two years of their life teaching them to walk and talk. Then you spend the next sixteen telling them to sit down and shut up.
- 2. Grandchildren are God's reward for not killing your own children.
- 3. Mothers of teens now know why some animals eat their young. 4 Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word

what you shouldn't have said

5. The main purpose of holding children's parties is to remind yourself that there are children more awful than your own 6. We childproofed our homes, but they are still getting in.

ADVICE FOR THE DAY: Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home one day AND FINALLY:

IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF TENSION AND YOU GET A HEADACHE,
DO WHAT IT SAYS ON THE ASPIRIN BOTTLE:
'TAKE TWO ASPIRIN' AND 'KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN'!!!!!



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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	Buckingham Library	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	TraveLine	0870 608 2608	Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrock	681260
Buses	L&S	415468	Police	Emergencies	999 ог 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	Aylesbury	0870 126 4056	Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Council	Aylesbury Vale District	585858	Roads & Transport	Colin Higgs	681343
Council	Bucks County Council	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	Planes let us hu	ALL A CHUL ANNAN A	amissians.
Member of Parliament	John Bercow MP	714240	Flease let us know of any errors or omissions		viidoluito

The Chronicle

Advertising rates per annum

FULL PAGE	Back Inside	£100 £80
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Send copy and cheque payable to 'The Chronicle' to

Phil Corrigan

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

0794 653 2294 Mobile 01296 680 464 Home

Aston Abbotts

When you work here, you can name your own salary. I named mine, "Fred".

After the success of the French Fortnight, we introduce a range of new menus in February, so to come and relax and enjoy a lunch or evening at The Unicorn.

Special events for February/March 2009

February

2nd Quiz

6th Band - Under The Influence

9th

14th Valentines evening dinner

16th

23rd Quiz

27th Fine Dining with Jazz from 'Anything Goes'

March

İst St Davids Day - lunch and dinner with a

Welsh flavour

Quiz 2nd

6/7th Steak Special

9th Quiz

16th Quiz

17th St Patricks Day - lunch and dinner with an

Irish flavour

23rd

27th Fine Dining with Jazz from anything goes

30th

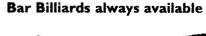
Unicorn Regulars:

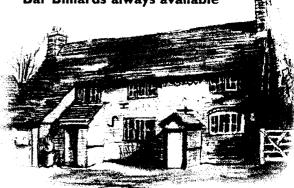
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Monday Nights is the Famous Unicorn Quiz night - with quizmaster John Barnett testing your knowledge and tantalising your memory, Monday evenings have become a favourite - teams of up to six people, £1 entry per person and a jackpot round each week - 8pm

at Cublington

Friday morning coffee and cakes - each Friday we serve coffee (bottomless pot) and cakes and have a charity raffle. Come and meet with friends or meet some new ones





Aylesbury Vale Pub of the Year 2009!

If you plan to eat at The Unicorn we strongly suggest booking in advance. Please contact Sharon or Derek on 01296 681261

The Unicom, High Street, Cublington, Bucks, LU7 OLQ

www.theunicornpub.co.uk

What's On In April

Thursday 2nd	Coffee Shop Ladies Club	Church Room 10-12noon Church Room 2.15pm	Address
	Bingo	Church Room 7.30pm	Please note that all
Sunday 5th	Rambling Club	Dunsmore 2pm	submissions for the
	Evensong	St James Church 6pm	Chronicle should be sent to
Wednesday 8th	Parish Council	Church Room 8pm	John Hardcastle, Marloes,
Thursday 9th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon	Lines Hill, Aston Abbotts,
	Whist Drive	Church Room 7.30pm	Bucks, HP22 4NG
Friday 10th	•	St James Church 10-12noon	Jo Perkins for May
	Quiz evening to suppor		Email submissions to:
	on London Marathon	Church Room 7.30pm	
Sunday 12th	Holy Communion	St James Church 10am	<u>editor@aachronicle.co.uk</u>
Monday 13th	Bank Holiday		<u>perkijo@hotmail.com</u>
Thursday 16th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon	Please don't forget to tell us of any
	Ladies Club Coffee Morning Audrey Stephenson's		events that you would like included
Friday 17th	Cheese & Wine/Slide Show Church Room 7.30pm		in the What's On list
Tuesday 21st	Aylesbury Vale Transpo	ort Meeting Civic Centre 2pm	in the What S Of this
Thursday 23rd	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon	- A
	Whist Drive	Church Room 7.30pm	Classified
Sunday 26th	Walk to Wing Church ((teas) The Green 2pm	CLASSIFIED ADS ARE
Thursday 30th	Coffee Shop	Church Room 10-12noon	
	Ladies Club	Church Room 2.15pm	FREE in The Chronicle
Sunday 3rd May	Rambling Clubs Annua	-	Phone us on 01296 688191
•	Tea in Church Room	· ·	or email
	Evensong	St James Church 6pm	editor@aachronicle.co.uk

VILLAGE BULK REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Tuesday 12th May 2009 (see page 19) **The Green 12 - 3.30pm**

Last minute - one week's self catering at Easter in our holiday cottage in Padstow - £350 - sleeps 4 - w/c 4 April and w/c 11 April avail at time of going to press. Call Sally on 0775 272 6229

FOR SALE Gas fire - Valor Fusion 4190, brass/black, vgc £100 (marble panel, hearth & white mantel surround inc free).
Call Sally on 0775 272 6229

ST GEORGE'S DAY - 23rd APRIL

There's a Fun Day & Parade in Kingsbury, Aylesbury on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April. Details 01296 425678

LITTER BLITZ

Saturday

4th April

meet

Church

Room

10.30 am

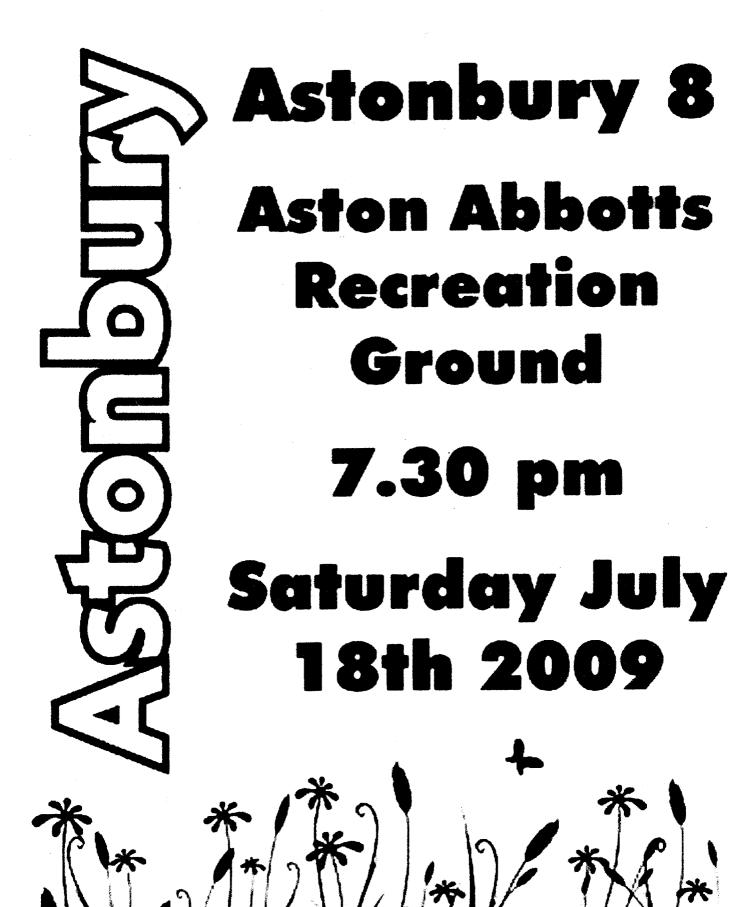
630 Club - meets every Saturday in the Royal Oak at 6.30pm. New members very welcome. Contact Andy Bystra if you need an introduction.

GNOMES (Girls

Night Out Men Excluded Sorry) meet, usually in the Royal Oak, every Tuesday 8pm onwards - all Ladies very welcome -GNOMES specialises in intelligent conversation over a glass of something.

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

REFUSE COLLECTIONS OVER EASTER
Thursday 16th - revised date Friday 17th April



Flackwell Electronics - Purveyors of Plasma Screens to the Gentry