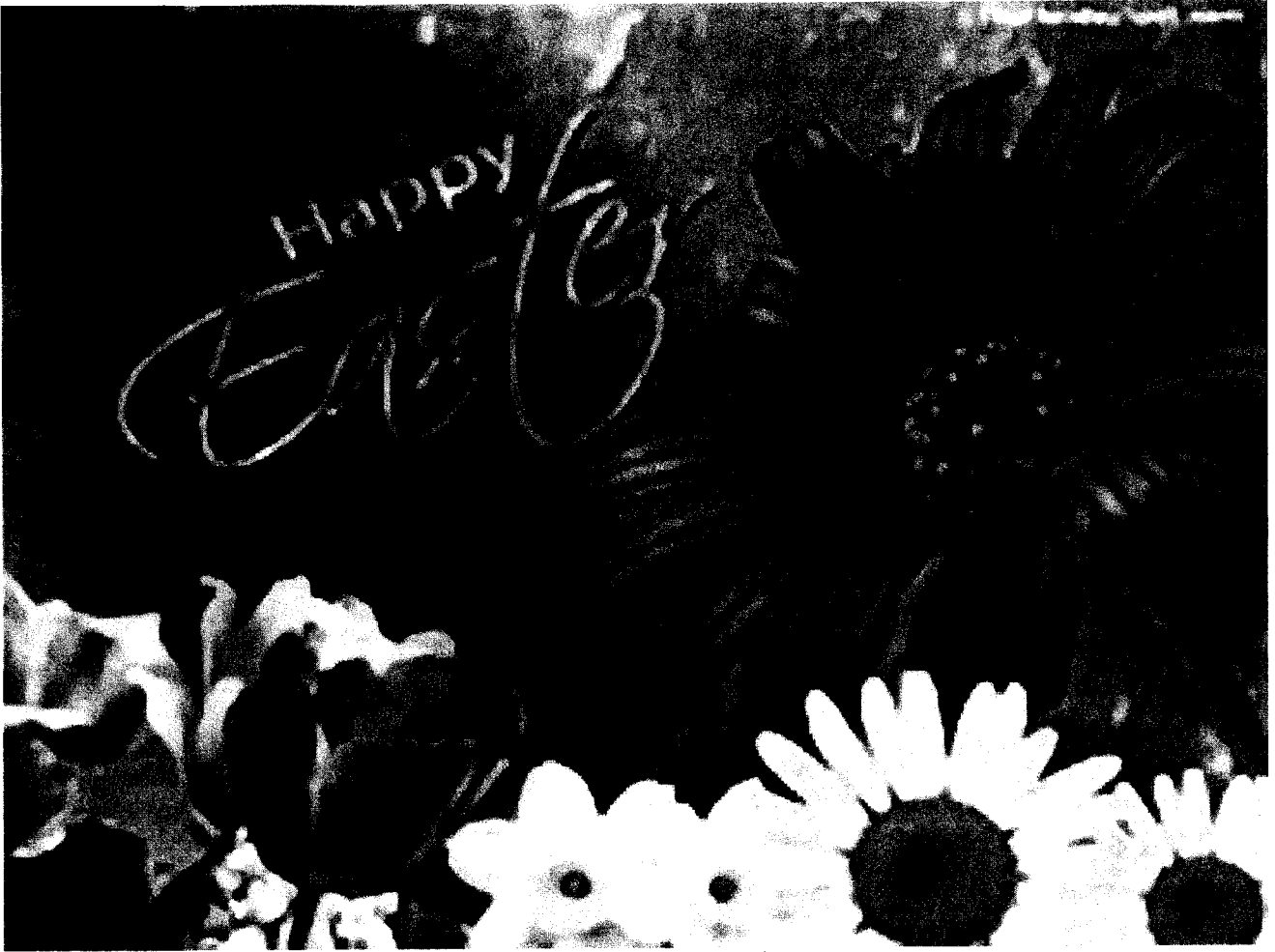


# THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine - April 2011



# Editorial

Census Day was Sunday 27th March. Trust you have completed the questionnaire. We did not receive one initially and I had to phone to get one sent - not sure what data base the Census is using as we are on the electoral role. The census man I spoke to said our address did not exist - if only the Council Tax thought the same!

Steve from Wingrave Post Office and Stores has restarted his visits to the Church Room on Thursday Coffee Mornings.

Aston Abbots has lost two of its oldest and notable inhabitants. Ivy Brandon passed away on 27th February. Vic Scott died at his home on 1st March. Tributes to both are included on pages 13 & 17. Also included is an interview Phil Cooper conducted with Vic in the autumn of 2000 (see pages 21 & 23).

Parish Council Elections are due on 5th May - if you would like to get involved with the decision making process of your community then this is your chance. Details at the foot of page 9.

Many thanks to Colin Higgs and the Parish Clerk for co-ordinating and making arrangements for the Litter Blitz on Saturday 26th March. There was a good turnout of litter pickers. Approximately 20 large bags of rubbish were collected. A sterling effort by all involved.

I've put in a request for tickets for the Olympics next year. The chances of getting one is a lottery. £20.12 for a seat at the opening ceremony seems a bargain. It would be nice just to experience the atmosphere - but my prediction is that I'll be watching on television.

The daffodils on the verge opposite my house are at their very best at the moment. I'm told they were planted by Ruth Bellingham. Spring is certainly upon us and my mower will have to be coaxed out of its shed to do the first cut of the year - planted my spuds a few days ago - probably a little too early - but if the weather stays fair I should get away with it. *John*

## IN THIS ISSUE

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- WHAT'S on in April
- COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS
- ALLOTMENT DIARY
- CHINESE CIRCUS

**THE CHRONICLE**  
**Issue 309**  
**April 2011**

## Contacts

### Editorial / General

John Hardcastle  
Marloes  
Lines Hill  
01296 688070  
[editor@aaachronicle.co.uk](mailto:editor@aaachronicle.co.uk)

### Distribution

Andy Bystra  
31 The Green  
01296 681690  
[oldariel@tesco.net](mailto:oldariel@tesco.net)

### Advertising

Phil Corrigan  
5 Nash's Farm  
01296 688191  
[corrigan@aol.com](mailto:corrigan@aol.com)

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 29th April**

Please pass items to the  
Editor John Hardcastle 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  
Abbots, our local Doctors'  
Surgeries and to Wing Police  
House.

# Alison's Gossip Column

## BIRTHDAYS

### April

Chris Farrands	1 <sup>st</sup>
Katy Bull-Diamond	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Ian Hinds	4 <sup>th</sup>
Caroline Lane	5 <sup>th</sup>
Philip Wheaton	6 <sup>th</sup>
Karen Brandon	7 <sup>th</sup>
Harry Bystra	9 <sup>th</sup>
Adrian Bystra	11 <sup>th</sup>
Laura Whyte	11 <sup>th</sup>
Annie Copping	13 <sup>th</sup>
Anthony Palmer	13 <sup>th</sup>
Geoff Curnow	14 <sup>th</sup>
Jan Rose	17 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Clarke	18 <sup>th</sup>
Sam King	20 <sup>th</sup>
Alison Lewis	20 <sup>th</sup>
April Curnow	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Matthew James	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Abbie Lee	26 <sup>th</sup>
Kate Curry	27 <sup>th</sup>
Diana Picking	28 <sup>th</sup>
Kirsty Peacock	28 <sup>th</sup>
Chris Espley	30 <sup>th</sup>

### MOBILE LIBRARY

12th & 26th March  
10.30am The Green

### REFUSE and RECYCLING COLLECTION DATES

Normal Collection	Revised Collection
Thur 28 April	Sat 30 April
Thur 5 May	Sat 7 May
Thur 12 May	Fri 13 May
Thur 2 June	Fri 3 June

It was very sad to hear of the deaths of two well known residents of Aston Abbotts in one week. Ivy Brandon passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> February at the age of 95. Her funeral was held at Amersham Crematorium and the chapel was filled with family, friends and villagers.

Vic Scott slipped away peacefully on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, aged 83. There weren't enough seats for all the mourners at Vic's funeral in the local Church where he is now buried.

Our condolences to both families.

Les and Val Smith have become grandparents twice over recently. Holly was born in December, 6 weeks early, and then in February Sean was born 11 weeks early. Both babies are doing well although Sean will be in hospital for a few more weeks. Congratulations twice over.

Well Done to Ev Allen who goes out on a daily hike around The Green in order to keep fit. What an inspiration.

A huge 'Thankyou' to all our village friends who helped Vic & I through his final illness.

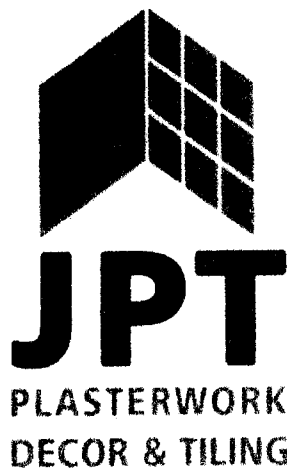
Because of your assistance over Christmas and beyond, he was able to die peacefully in his own home, as we had always hoped.

The visits you made, the flowers and delivery of firewood, and dinners provided, made such a difference, not to mention the miraculous replacement of a faulty fridge on Christmas Eve!

I thank you all so much - *Christine*

Vic was a lovely and very clever man who was very kind to Carol and I. Sometimes he would knock on our door on the way back home from his allotment and deliver some vegetables, some fruit, or occasionally a very generous invitation to go and "pick our own". He was a huge part of Aston Abbotts and he will be greatly missed by his many, many friends. *Phil Spooner*

Very many thanks are due to Peter Knight for correcting the leaning gate posts on Lines Hill/Moat Lane.



Jason Tomlinson  
6 Leaders Close  
Wingrave  
Bucks HP22 4QJ  
01296 681353  
07842 108593

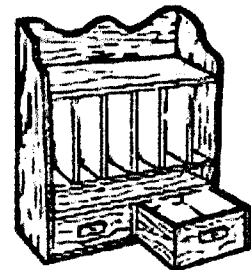
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St George (famous for slaying the dragon) is the patron saint of England. He was a Roman soldier who protested against the Roman torture of Christians, and was killed for his beliefs.

*"Cry God for Harry, England and Saint George!"  
William Shakespeare (Henry V)*

Although it is not a big event or a national holiday, St George's Day is celebrated on 23rd April each year. It's a great excuse to enjoy or learn about some of England's customs and traditions, and also to think about knights and castles and dragons! It's also a good time to think about one of England's most famous men, William Shakespeare, who was not only born on 23rd April 1564 but also died on 23rd April 1616!

**Good Samaritans BINGO**  
at Aston Abbotts Village Hall – 7.30pm start  
**Thursday, 7 April**  
*In support of*  
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**NEW & NEARLY NEW DESIGNER FASHION AND ACCESSORIES SALE-  
Thursday 7 April 6pm**

To be held at Mentmore village hall Tickets in advance £5 (glass of wine included) For tickets or collection of donations please call Sue 01525 372757 or Diane 01296 661141

**1st April - All Fools Day**

below and on other pages are some notable April Fools you might remember

The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest 1957: The respected BBC news show Panorama announced that thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in. Many called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC diplomatically replied, "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best." **APRIL FOOL**

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# Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011

Present: - Cllrs. P Shorrock (Chair), C Higgs, Mrs K Curry, Mrs J Hardcastle, J Perkins and P Bruton (Clerk).  
PCSO Tina Hobson and 6 members of the public were in attendance.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mr R Clarke, County Councillor Mrs N Glover and District Councillor P Cooper.

**Village Bulk Refuse Collection** - The Clerk reported the AVDC Refuse freighter will visit The Green from 12 noon until 3:30pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> May and 15<sup>th</sup> November for household waste items.

**Bucks CC High Speed 2 Summit** – The Clerk advised he had received notification of a summit meeting to discuss the Government's consultation on HS2. This afternoon session is aimed at Parish and Town Councils and representatives from action groups. The date of the summit is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April – 14:00 – 16:00 at the Oculus (AVDC), The Gateway, Gatehouse Road. HP19 8FF.

The Council had received a letter of thanks from ex Councillor Dicken for his card and gift from the members of the Parish Council.

**Energy Waste Facility** – Calvert – The Parish had received notification of a planning application No 11/20000/AWD for an incinerator waste facility, details could be viewed at <http://bucksplanning.buckscc.gov.uk/publicaccesslive/>.

**Parish Council Elections** - The elections for the Parish Council were scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The clerk gave details of the key dates the first of which was the 21<sup>st</sup> March with publication of the Notice of Election. This is followed by the close of nominations. Residents who are interested should contact the Clerk in the first instance.

**Police matters** - PCSO Tina Hobson advised that the police were intending to attend Parish meetings 4 times a year to report on and receive from residents any police related matter. The aim was to give the residents feedback and updates on the issues raised. It was noted that speeding had been reported previously as a problem and PCSO Hobson reported that as a result the local Inspector had requested the Police speed van is positioned in the village. Speedwatch was an option but we would require volunteers to operate the equipment, additionally it was planned to carry out a speed review using the SID equipment. Parking on footpaths was raised as an issue and this would be investigated.

Recently there had been reports of Oil deliveries being targeted and a theft of Gardening equipment from a local Nursery was discussed. It was important that members of the public reported any suspicious incidents by telephoning 0845 8505 505. The dates the Community Police would be attending the following meetings scheduled during the year – 11<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> December. It was hoped that residents who had any issues or queries would attend.

**Village Plan** – Cllr Perkins advised that the questionnaire for using when consulting with residents on the actions identified in the draft Village Plan was nearing completion. He confirmed that before going to print the Plan would be agreed at a future Parish meeting.

*continued on page 9*

Planetary Alignment Decreases Gravity 1976: The British astronomer Patrick Moore announced on BBC Radio 2 that at 9:47 AM a once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event was going to occur that listeners could experience in their very own homes. The planet Pluto would pass behind Jupiter, temporarily causing a gravitational alignment that would counteract and lessen the Earth's own gravity. Moore told his listeners that if they jumped in the air at the exact moment that this planetary alignment occurred, they would experience a strange floating sensation. When 9:47 AM arrived, BBC2 began to receive hundreds of phone calls from listeners claiming to have felt the sensation. One woman even reported that she and her eleven friends had risen from their chairs and floated around the room. **APRIL FOOL**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP/PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

We are working with the Parish Councils for the Wing North villages to hold a Police Matters section to the Parish Council Meeting where we are planning to listen to concerns from parishioners (or from the councillors on your behalf) and use this system to incorporate the Neighbourhood Action Groups. Issues will be listened to and with a multi-agency approach we will look to work on the problems raised and deliver results/findings at the next meeting we attend.

We will be attending the public participation section of the following parish council meetings in ASTON ABBOTTS Parish Hall 7.30pm :

11th May

3rd August

7th December



## HAVE YOUR SAY MEETINGS:

04/04/11 Outside Wing Post Office between 3pm and 4pm

07/04/11 Stewkley Coffee Stop at the Recreation Ground Pavillion between 11am and 12noon.

These meetings are ideal opportunities for local residents to speak to their local Police Officer and PCSOs about any local issues. No appointment is necessary, just turn up and speak to your local officers. Further meetings will be publicised locally and on the force website at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk).

You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form that is available on the Thames Valley Police website. A number of people have already sent their concerns using this method. For you to do that please follow the link:

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n256-hys>

## PLANT SALE MENTMORE GREEN

Our second plant sale will be held  
Mentmore Village Green and in the  
Mentmore Village hall

**On Sunday 17 April 12- 4pm**

There will be a local plant stall (all  
contributions gratefully accepted)  
Several specialist nurseries will be  
taking part

The event will include a barbeque,  
teas, cakes and refreshments

If you have any donations trees,  
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plant stall or can help in any way.

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**Community Contingency Plan** – Cllr's Shorrock and Perkins agreed to review the document regarding the compilation of a Village Contingency Plan once the Village Plan had been finalised.

**Local Area Forum** – Cllr Curry reported that at the recent LAF meeting our application for funding to complete the next phase of the footpath to the Wingrave crossroads had been successful. We owed a vote of thanks to our neighbourhood Parish Councils and District Councillor Peter Cooper who had supported our application. At this time we did not know how much funding we were to receive as we were to receive the balance of funds required to complete a project at Eddlesborough. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact BCA to find out the current position.

**Gate at Lines Hill** – Cllr Curry reported that Peter Knight had kindly made safe the posts that support the Gate and it was RESOLVED that the Council would purchase a new gate for installation.

**Planning Application - 11/00186/AOP** (Land adjacent Windmill Hill Barns, Moat Lane)

Site for pair of semi-detached dwellings with associated access and car ports.

After listening to representations from members of the public the above application was discussed and considered.

It was noted that not all of the letter attached to the application was available for viewing.

It was resolved to OPPOSE the application on the following grounds.

The proposal is for a pair of semi detached dwellings in the countryside, which is not required for the essential purposes of agriculture or forestry, on land that is not allocated for residential development, is outside the village envelope, is contrary Planning Policy Statement 7, and AVDC Local Plan policy RA8.

The Land is designated for Agricultural use and is not an Orchard, no change of use has been sought. Our objections to the previous application have not been addressed and are still relevant.

**Egg production plant** – The Clerk reported he had spoken with Planning enforcement and a final notice had been sent regarding the breach of planning. If no application was received within 14 days formal enforcement proceedings would be commenced.

**Planning Policy AVDC** – The community view to the Vale of Aylesbury Plan was completed based on the responses included in the village plan. An indication to the consultation that we only think very small scale development is likely to be right for our community.

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 at 7:30pm in the Church Room.

## **ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

**Why not apply to join your parish council this year and do something positive for your community?**

**The elections will be on Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are 18, are on the electoral register (or live within 3 miles) you could be eligible.**

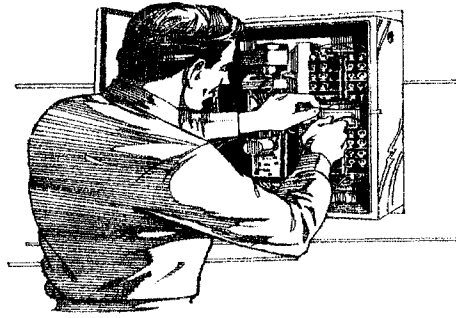
**Your council meets about nine times a year on Wednesday evenings in the Church Room.**

***Simply watch out for more information in the local press or, (from mid-March onwards), contact the Elections Officer or the parish clerk, Paul Bruton, on 01296 682322, for a nomination form.***

**If you want information about the duties of a councillor, contact BALC on 01296 383154 or [balc@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:balc@buckscc.gov.uk)**



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**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

*In the Church Room.*

**Commencing at 7.30**

Come and support our village church  
as individuals, or by getting your teams  
together, for an entertaining & sociable evening.

*Bring your favourite 'tipple'  
But note the quiz will finish in time  
for a pint or two at the 'Oak' afterwards!!!!*

**Tickets at £5.00 each** are available from **Colin on 681343**  
Tickets will also be available 'on the door' but please let us know  
if you're coming to assist us with the catering.

**Price includes a 'Ploughman's Supper' by April & Rita**

*All funds raised will go towards the completion of church repairs so  
please give us your support.*

## **ASTON ABBOTTS VILLAGE FETE 2011**

HELLO ALL, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN WE NEED TO START THINKING ABOUT THE FETE AGAIN.

WE HAVE BEEN SO LUCKY IN THE PAST WITH ALL THE HELP AND SUPPORT EVERYONE HAS GIVEN AND WE ARE HOPING FOR THE SAME RESPONSE THIS YEAR. IF YOU CAN'T MAKE THE DAY WHICH IS THE 23/7, WE COULD ALWAYS USE HELP BEFOREHAND, THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS TO BE DONE BEFORE THE DAY AS WELL AS ON IT.

WITH THAT IN MIND WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO THE FIRST FETE MEETING OF THE YEAR, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN **THE CHURCH ROOM ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL AT 7PM**, PLEASE COME ALONG IF YOU CAN, IT IS PRETTY PAINLESS AND DOESN'T TAKE TOO LONG, AND ITS ALWAYS NICE TO HAVE NEW IDEAS AND INPUT. IF YOU CANT MAKE IT AND WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT US IN ABSOLUTELY ANYWAY AT ALL YOU CAN GIVE MYSELF OR TRACY A CALL.

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR HELP ON THE FOLLOWING STALLS – SKITTLES, WET SPONGE THROW, HORSE RACING GAME, TOMBOLA, TOYS

**SEE YOU THERE!!**

VANESSA AND TRACY. 688429 – 688479.

Metric Time 1975: Australia's This Day Tonight news program revealed that the country would soon be converting to "metric time." Under the new system there would be 100 seconds to the minute, 100 minutes to the hour, and 20-hour days. Furthermore, seconds would become millidays, minutes become centidays, and hours become decidays. The report included an interview with Deputy Premier Des Corcoran who praised the new time system. The Adelaide town hall was even shown sporting a new 10-hour metric clock face. One frustrated viewer wanted to know how he could convert his newly purchased digital clock to metric time. **APRIL FOOL**

# You deserve the best

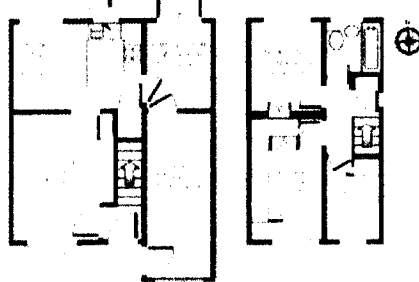
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## **IVY BRANDON 1916-2011**

Our mum Ivy passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> March, aged 95. Whilst her mind was in excellent shape, physically time had taken its toll, and with the pain of arthritis and the heart struggling to do its job efficiently, life eventually ebbed away.

Born and educated in North Marston, with an older brother and younger sister, both of whom passed on some years ago, she met and then married a Weedon lad, George, in 1935. They had been married 74 years when George died a couple of years ago at the grand old age of 98.

They started married life at 8 Aston Abbotts, which is the house now occupied by the Delooze family. Although only a 2 bedroom cottage at that time, all 5 of us children were born there. One of their neighbours at that time was the Ford family, and all these years later, descendents of that same family still live next door in Ross Road.

It was in June 1947 that they were allocated a brand new 3 bed roomed council house in Ross Road where they have lived ever since.

With 5 children to bring up, money was not that plentiful, and to help make ends meet, Mum could be found potato picking at Charlie Brown's farm (Lower Burston), or picking blackcurrants and other fruit up at the Abbey (then owned by the Morton family)

She spent several years cleaning at the Royal Oak (in the days of Bill and Audrey Brookes) and later was a 'dinner lady' at the village school. She loved working with the children, and equally they thought the world of her. That was a very happy time in her life.

The Methodist Chapel was very much a part of her life, and she spent many happy hours there with all her friends. She loved to sing, and probably the highlight of the Methodist year would have been the Anniversary, with everybody in their Sunday best, and singing their hearts out.

The Ladies Club was something she always enjoyed. She was a founder member some 60 years ago, and attended regularly until the last couple of years when she became less mobile.

Aston had a special place in her heart. She enjoyed and helped with the annual village fete, loved going to the coffee mornings and catching up with friends there, and would support everything that went on in the village if she possibly could. She loved the friendships built up over the years, and the caring nature of so many people towards her.

She didn't have a bad bone in her body, and we will miss her.

*Chris Brandon*

### **Thank you**

On behalf of the family, may I say a huge 'thank you' to everybody for their comforting words, letters, cards and flowers after our recent loss.

Ivy would have been very touched by all the kindness.

## **2011 Goodnight Walk to be the biggest 70's party in the Chilterns**

On the night of Saturday 18 June 2011 disco fever will come to Amersham as Iain Rennie Hospice at Home (IRHH) holds its fifth annual Goodnight Walk and the final one in Amersham. This year the event will be staged as the biggest '70's party in the Chilterns. Hundreds of walkers will don their flares, hot pants, wigs and whacky shirts to walk through the night to raise money for the IRHH nursing service.

The overnight Walk will take place in Amersham and will be hosted by BBC Breakfast presenter, Bill Turnbull. To encourage the walkers not just in their challenge but in their dressing-up, prizes will be awarded on the night for the best costumes and organisers expect a fantastic atmosphere.

If you would like to be part of the biggest 70's party in the Chilterns, enter this year's Goodnight Walk.

Please go to [www.gnwalk.com](http://www.gnwalk.com) to download entry forms or contact the IRHH fundraising team on 01442 890222.

**Palm Sunday - 17th April**

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## Chinese Circus

According to the programme, Chinese circus goes back to before the birth of Christ and has traditionally concentrated on human rather than animal acts. This was certainly true of the spectacular show by the Chinese State Circus staged at Aylesbury Theatre in February.

Traditionally circus shows in China were linked together by a theme rather than being a series of random elements as in western circuses. For this show they had gone a stage further and tried to tell the story of Mulan. This Chinese legend is about the daughter of an Emperor who runs away to join the circus and later returns to join her father's army disguised as a man. She is of course extremely successful and is eventually reconciled with her father.

Fortunately the telling of the story by a bizarrely dressed Monkey King and a Pig did not detract too much from the fabulous acts. To get us into the mood the show started with the famous Lion Dance with 2 large and 4 small masked lions leaping around the stage in celebration of Mulan's birth. At one stage two lions- each consisting of 2 people- balanced on a large ball and moved it with their feet over a see-saw. This was followed by 2 men balancing large ceramic pots on their heads and somehow getting them to twist round on their heads. Within ½ hour Mulan had grown up sufficiently to run off to the circus and do various handstands etc on a progressively tall pile of wooden benches supported at the bottom by the feet of another woman. There was an energetic display of flashing knives by the Shaolin warriors with one man spinning on this stomach on the tip of a spear. Up until this point I had suspected the very shiny knives were not a sharp, or strong, as they looked but as the spear could clearly take the weight of a man I was forced to revise that idea. To prove their manliness the Warriors also broke what appeared to be solid metal bars over their heads.

No Chinese circus would be complete without acrobats and in the first half we had a great show from about 8 men leaping, twisting and jumping in a huge variety of ways through an increasingly high series of hoops. The bottom of the top hoop being at least 6 feet off the ground

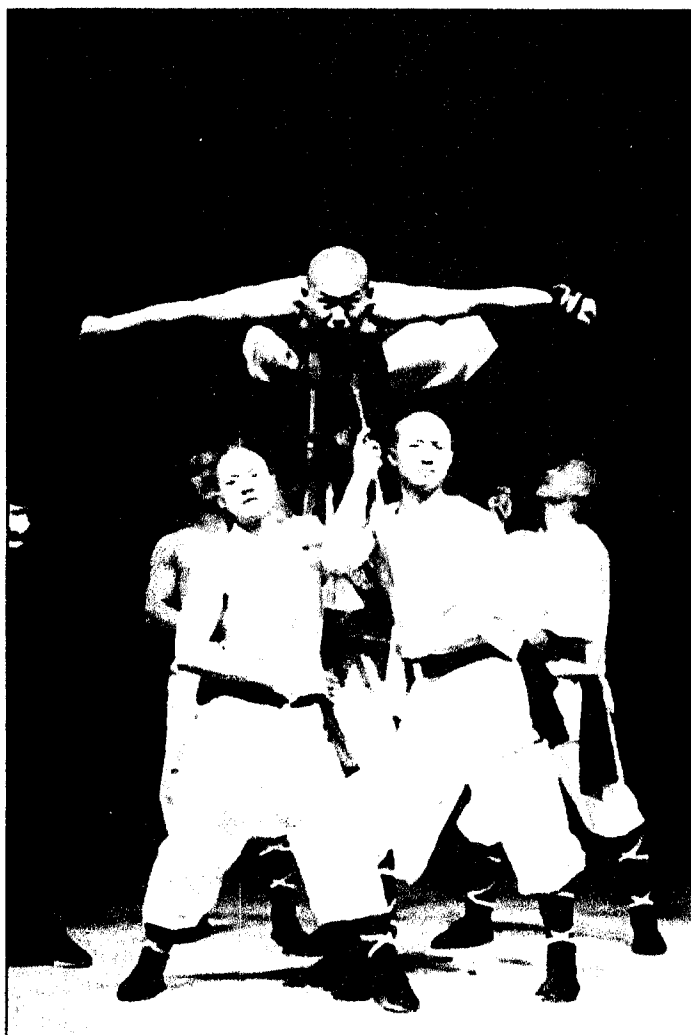
After a well deserved break the acrobats leapt up and down poles before the warriors returned this time with cracking whips and then raised a man up on the tips of 4 spears 2 of which are placed either side of his heart.

Of course, this being a show about feminism, the girls were no slouches either. In the first half they had performed big banner balancing which involved tossing about long thick bamboo poles topped by banners. In the second half 6 of them performed on very high unicycles tossing metal cups about and catching them on their heads. One girl arranged five of these cups on her leg between her foot and knee, while perched on the unicycle, before flicking them up into the air and onto her head. Either deliberately or unintentionally, she did drop one cup on several occasions, each time calmly repeating the trick until she got them all on her head- to predictably thunderous applause.

The 'pièce de résistance' was probably the bench balancing by the rather rotund ceramic pot juggler from the first half. He ended up balancing on his forehead a jumble of solid wooden benches, resembling a scrap-yard challenge aeroplane weighing 38kg, by one leg of the bottom bench.

All in all this was a great piece of entertainment.

*Sally Palmer*





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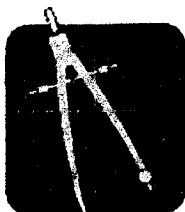
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the  
**Royal Oak,**

at

**7. 00 pm.**

on

**Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> of April**

Discussion will include the timing and rules for this years competition. This will be chaired by Simon Guy who will prepare an agenda to be published in the next issue of The Chronicle.

All welcome!!



## VICTOR SCOTT : A TRIBUTE

Today we say goodbye to a much loved husband, stepfather and friend whose life touched so many people, opened the minds of thousands and changed the course of many people's lives, particularly mine .

I go back many years now to how I became the friend of this remarkable man. I guess it was 1965 or 1966 when England won the World Cup, but obviously like him I was not a football fan. At the time I was just starting out on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and I had as a farmer's son a great love of birds. A master at my school suggested I contact a local naturalist who lived in his village. Living close by, this would be easy, I'd jump on my bike and knock on the door. Little did I know then the effect this was going to have on my own life and on my view of the natural things that surround us.

On knocking on that door I was greeted by a welcoming figure with a rugged, rosy face who invited me into his house. My schoolmaster had obviously paved the way and I did not have too much to explain. We sat down and he tested what I now realise was my rather basic knowledge of birds while he promptly devoured an orange, a banana and packet of crisps, something that I was to find out was a regular event. From that initial evening he offered to help me learn more and so Vic began to take me bird watching, enabling me to see things that I had never hoped to see and we ventured further and further afield. These initial trips led to the New Forest, where I was the day he died, and, among other places, to Wales and Norfolk. My weekends became fully occupied and he began to widen my interest into flowers, animals, fungi, butterflies and insects, although thankfully not spiders which he also was not keen on. Was there no limit to this man's interest and enthusiasm? I was later to discover that Vic was self taught. He even learnt the Latin names. We visited islands off the Welsh coast and made silly trips, like driving to Scotland for the day to photograph wild flowers....photography being yet another thing he taught me. As you can imagine I was inspired.

With his easy way of putting things over, I learnt enough to be able to help with his many courses and talks to all manner of clubs and societies where many others were enthralled by him. This in turn led to my becoming his assistant teacher on his overseas trips which were linked to the classes. From an early age he took me all around Europe and many other places besides.

He was a walking encyclopaedia with a photographic memory; people were inspired by him because of the way he could put his subject over, while encouraging them to look harder, take photos and make notes; from an early age I can remember him writing up his notes each night.

When I first started work he got me a job alongside him at the Firs, one of the big houses of the village. It was only then that I found out he had passed all his horticultural exams first class. There was no way I could keep up but he expanded my knowledge further.

Over the years we spent so many happy hours photographing and exploring. Things did change a bit when his first wife died; he cared little then for his house's interior but outside the study of natural history continued and the garden was always immaculate.

Then one day a big surprise! Vic was seen with another woman! Where had he met her? It wasn't on a trip I was on, but what an effect she had on him!

Christine changed his life. They were made for each other. Her knowledge of birds in particular was incredible; she got Vic tidied up as best she could and the house back in order. Christine won my heart and that of many others too. She was perfect and soon they were married and travelling the world together. Christine kept things in order being his courier and left Vic to teach

the natural history. No matter where they went, he knew where to find the rare and not so rare and the Latin continued to trip off the tongue.

I did no more foreign trips with Vic apart from occasionally filling in if needed if I was in the country. I was always eager to hear what had gone on or view the photos as soon as they got back. Such was his knowledge that there were very few plants left to identify. I can remember on several occasions how he gained a new record for a country or region. On returning he soon sorted them, or we both did... with much discussion over an orange, a banana and the packet of crisps.

I was working on a farm now and had limited spare time but if not working I would see Christine and Vic on a Sunday and over a cup of coffee we would discuss what we had seen and not seen. We also met up at various sites around the country to photograph plants or birds when the opportunity arose. The last such trip was after Vic had had a mild stroke; I took him to see again the purple mountain saxifrage, sorry, in case he is listening: *Saxifraga oppositifolia*. It was difficult for him but he made it up the hill and loved it.

As you can see there are many happy memories and we had many laughs along the way. In the last fortnight before he died Christine and I had to laugh one more time. Each evening when I went to see him he could neither eat nor talk very well, but on this occasion when I walked in, the first words he said were: "Iain, can you get me a bottle of Lambrusco Light?" and, though difficult, he even told me exactly where to find it in Tesco's. There was no point in crying; we laughed and off I went.

It is obvious this man was everything to me. Vic was my friend and my mentor: a father figure, and in my view there will never be anyone like him again. I am not alone in saying he was the greatest field naturalist there has ever been. By the age of 9 he knew the Latin names of all local flowers and at 14 he was showing others the local flora and fauna and was much in demand. His knowledge was well illustrated in a tiny hand written journal found only last weekend. It covered the years 1944 to 1949 while last October, sixty years later he was still giving talks. An article about Vic appeared in the Independent and he has been heard on Radio 4. He always said life dealt him good cards as both his job and his hobby were his passion in life and he passed his knowledge on to so many others, especially me.

Several people have said to me he could have been a wealthy man writing books. To me, with his knowledge, he was rich, the richest man in the world.

Vic will never be forgotten and despite his wonderful teaching I cannot match his level, but I do owe him so much and he can rest in the knowledge that I, along with others, will look after his beloved Christine.

Iain Malin

Victor John Scott 13<sup>th</sup> July 1928 - 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 .

You left this morning, quietly, as the night was broken by a cold grey dawn. We watched you go, and yet, as we sat drinking tea, your absence broken only by the whisper of your stillness next to us, we began rebuilding you. The struggle of the past few weeks already dimming as recollections flooded in.

First meetings, journeys undertaken to foreign parts, nights waiting on badgers, owls, glowworms. Your wonderful garden. Your incredible knowledge, your muddy boots on the carpet.

Day marched on. Phone calls, more and more. Expressions of regret, and love. Tales of boyhood escapes, kindness done, horticultural puzzles solved.

Later, as we followed your footsteps down the garden path, we spotted the overwintering lettuce and newly planted tree. Your touch was everywhere. Soon your parting will fade, but never your love of life. That night, as we climbed the stairs - tripping as always over the rotten boards you never quite mended - we wondered how things will possibly be without you.

There is so much to miss, yet already, we are beginning to understand just how much you've left behind for us.

**'for Vic' 13th July 1928 - 1st March 2011** Gillian Stevens

Dear Villagers  
**News from Wingrave CE Combined School**



We are nearing the end of a busy and very enjoyable Spring term. We break up on 8th April when the whole school will be visiting Wingrave Church for our Easter Service.

I would like to pay tribute to two of our pupils Immy Wright and Lauren McLay. Before half term the girls spent a week selling badges in aid of Cancer Research and raised a total of £400. They also organised a non-uniform day with participants paying for the privilege of wearing their pyjamas to school. The money they raised (£107.75) went towards the purchase of a "Remembrance" bird table in memory of loved family members. The bird table has now arrived and the girls have chosen a quiet spot for it in the school grounds. They plan to plant some bulbs around it to mark this very special spot in our school.

Wingrave also joined in the fun of Red Nose Day in aid of Comic Relief. Children, and staff, came to school with coloured hair, funny hair, a hat or funny headgear for a donation of £1. Red noses were also worn. There was also a cake sale after school.

I am pleased to report that this term three children have joined the school and that there has been a marked increase in parents visiting the school with a view to moving their children here. Welcome to Georgia and Mia in Year 1 and to Tia in Reception Class, all of whom have settled in well.

If you would like to visit the school and see our well behaved and well motivated children as they learn, then please contact the school office to make an appointment on 681436. We would love to show you around.  
*Patricia Gurton Headteacher*

## **GRANDPARENTS and TODDLER GROUP**

The first group for grandparents looking after children under 4 has started in Aylesbury on Tuesday mornings. We are looking for new people to join our presently small group of 7. The group is held at the Sure Start Children's centre next to Elmhurst School, Dunsham Lane, between 10 and 11.45 am and is free. The centre is modern, airy, clean and well equipped. If anyone knows of anybody that might be interested in bringing their grandchildren along to play while they have a chat please let them know.

*Sally Palmer* Tel 01296 681152

## **HS2 latest - from Netta Glover**

The HS2 fighting fund continues to grow as other authorities commit funding. At the moment we have over £250k for 2011/12, with more expected.

HS2 Ltd is proposing a number of two-day consultation events in May (subject to final confirmation).

- **Aylesbury** – 10 and 11 May. Venue - Olympic Lodge Hotel, Stoke Mandeville

There will also be a one-day trailer exhibitions in Waddesdon on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Our overarching campaign message remains *is HS2 the right investment priority for the UK?* I believe the case is far from proven.

For further details, follow the link [http://www.bucksec.gov.uk/sites/bcc/transport/high\\_speed\\_2.page](http://www.bucksec.gov.uk/sites/bcc/transport/high_speed_2.page)

## **WITH APOLOGIES TO TOMMY COOPER**

Statistically, 6 out of 7 dwarves are not happy.

I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.

A mate of mine recently admitted to being addicted to brake fluid. When I quizzed him on it he reckoned he could stop any time....



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Reprinted below is an interview with Vic Scott that Phil Spooner had published in the Chronicle in the autumn of 2000.

It recounts, in Vic's own words, his life in Aston Abbotts. *Ed*

## THE VILLAGE INTERVIEW

Vic Scott's path in life was set at an early age. "One of the very first memories of anything in my life was my father lifting me up, sitting me up on his shoulder to look into a bird's nest in a hedge up Moat Lane. I'd never seen a bird's nest with eggs in before and I remember that to this day. I remember looking into this bird's nest and from then on, as far as Natural History is concerned, I never looked back.

"My grandfather lived here when I was very small and he was a very keen gardener. My interest in gardening started then. I was very interested in wild flowers and I can remember being given a little tiny plot at the top of the garden so I could put flowers in. I dug up and brought home wild flowers and one of the things I planted was the plant we call Ground Elder and another one was Bindweed! And they're still there to this day despite all the weedkillers and all the things I've used to get rid of them."

Naturally, as a village child he attended the village school. "My days at the village school were some of the happiest days of my life. We had two marvellous teachers. Mrs Brock who was the head Mistress... and we had Miss Childersley. Now she was what today I think we would say was a person with rather Victorian attitudes.

"She was very precise, everything had to be just so - and so you had to be very polite and everything. On St George's Day they always flew the Union Jack from the flag pole in the playground and on one particular St George's Day two or three of us boys got down there earlier than usual. We flew a great big pair of bloomers from the flag pole with the wind blowing and it billowed out like an air sock on an airfield. And poor old Chilly came in that gate and she saw it. I won't say what happened after that!

"We also got up to various pranks. One of the favourites was door knocking or window tapping. Of course the people victimised the most were the people who were upset the most. If we knew somebody would give us a damn good chase we would do it over and over again.

"We let a sow and several pigs out once - that caused a bit of havoc. Just across the road here was a blacksmiths shop and with no piped water they used to rely upon catching the rainwater in a great big water tank. At lunch break we would find a length of hose, get a siphon going, and by the time the blacksmith came back the tank would be empty and the water would be pouring down towards the crossroads."

However, the teachers instilled basic principles of decency into their wayward charges. "Both teachers right from the very start taught us certain things. We must always respect elderly people. We must always respect anybody who has any sort of mental or physical disability - we mustn't make fun of them and if we were ever caught at that we were really told off."

During his school days Vic's love of nature grew. "Well, I'd got a couple of friends, Peter Kent... and his brother Ray. They were my two best friends and they were equally keen. The three of us used to go out looking for nests - watch birds, butterflies and stuff like that.

"In those days even if you were a small kid at school it was

totally safe to wander around the fields. You didn't get all the awful things you hear about nowadays. The farmers in general, they were very easy-going. Charlie Brown over on the Lines Hill, he could be a bit funny, but he had good reason because we used to go scrumping in his orchard in the autumn. More than once he would come along there on horseback with a horsewhip, crack the whip and if he got near enough you'd have a lash with it.

"In those days there was a village policeman and he caught a couple of us once in the orchard. It wasn't a case of you'll come to court or fill-in a report or anything, he caught you by the shoulders and gave you a knee up the backside. 'Next time,' he said, 'you'll get worse than that'."

"I earned a little bit of money. I used to do a bit of odd things in gardens, mow people's lawns and that. You know what the money was then? To start with, at I suppose 12 years old, two old pennies per hour. Just under 1p an hour! So on a Saturday you work six hours and you'd get 6p. Even in those days I was saving up to buy books on birds and things. The Observer's Book of Birds, which we've still got up there."

Vic left school at 14, although he did pass the 11 Plus. "In those days although you didn't actually pay a fee to go to school you still had to provide all your books and everything. My parents broke up when I was eight and my mother then brought me up - my father moved on. My mother used to do a bit of domestic work for Mrs Morton at the Abbey - she used to take in a bit of washing and so on - but it was just enough to live on that was all. I can remember those days, as a small boy, we were desperately poor.

"So I left school at 14 and I was offered a job on a local farm, Longmoor farm actually. I was thrilled when the farmer's wife came down and saw me and saw my mother and said would I like to go and work for them. That was a full-time job then - and my wages were £2 a week!

"I was on that for nearly a year and then Mrs Steele, who lived at the Firs, she came and asked whether I would go and work for them as an under gardener... and I did. To me that was really marvellous because it got me into gardening and actually I stayed with them for the whole of my full-time working life. I finished up there as head gardener and also manager of the farm and I did that right up until the time when Mr Steele died [about 20 years ago].

"When Mr McManus came there he asked me if I would carry on and do his garden and the farm but I declined. It was very kind of him, but I could see he hadn't got the sort of interest the Steeles had in the garden. I had got so used to working with them I regarded Mr Steele more as a friend than the boss. He'd even come out in the morning and ask me, 'Have you got a job for me?'. I'd say, 'I can't really give you a job Sir, we're going muck carting'. He'd say, 'Oh, I'll get my fork and my wellies and I'll come and help you'. He didn't mind what he did. When he died, I then went out as a freelance naturalist and then I was really able to fulfil my ambition of travelling around the world looking at wildlife and other countries, leading groups of people."

*Continued on page 23*

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4.00pm

We have created a kitchen garden so we can use freshly picked vegetables and herbs for are  
soups and salads.



## THE VILLAGE INTERVIEW

*Continued from page 19*

Travelling had been an early ambition of Vic Scott's. "You know we had the Czechs in the village during the war and I became quite friendly with President Benes. The following year I went over and I went to the Palace and I was invited in and had dinner with the President and Madam Benes. That was one of the highlights of my early life. After that I never looked back and I've been abroad every year since."

Leading groups of people on naturalist tours became an important part of Vic's freelance work. "I did that up until quite recently. We retired from professional work like that when I had a slight stroke three years ago."

As well as leading natural history tours, Vic teaches and lectures to this day, and met his second wife Christine through work. "We actually met on a Natural History WEA course at Uxbridge. Christine was one of my students." Christine explains further, "He didn't turn up on the first meeting. I wasn't going back but the person organising it said 'Give him another try'". Vic admits, "I got the dates mixed up!"

"I do a lot of work for the WEA - that's the Workers' Education Association - and also do some for local authorities. All based on aspects of natural history or travel. I'm on the official panel of speakers for the National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Royal Horticultural Society. We use colour slides."

Vic had bought a camera soon after he left school. "I started nature photography when I was about 16 or 17. I saved up and bought my first really good 35 mm camera and my first bird photograph that I ever took on that is still one of my best ever wildlife shots that I still use regularly in lectures. That was a picture of a little owl standing on brickwork in an old building. I got into my hide with my camera focused on his bit of brickwork at 8 o'clock on a June evening. I was still in that hide at 2 o'clock in the morning when the Church clock struck two and at that very moment the owl settled on the brickwork and I fired the flash. You can use a mediocre camera, but to get the pictures you've really got to have the patience."

Despite his busy lecturing schedule, Vic spends much of his time in his beloved garden. "We are nearly self-supporting in fruit and vegetables through the year. I love growing things like any sort of fruit. We grow apricots, nectarines, peaches, grapes, all the currants, apples, pears, but I love experimenting with things like sweetcorn, sweet peppers - all those sort of rather unusual newer type of vegetables."

Vic has seen enormous changes take place in the village over the course of his life. "I don't want to see much more. I think the village shouldn't really get any bigger. What I dread is one-day the possibility of a motorway or dual-carriageway cutting through the lower part of the Parish - and then it's not so much the motorway and traffic but all of the ancillary developments that follow on."

"It's tragic at the moment the state that farming is in. I have been associated with the land all my life and to realise that a lot of

farmers today are not taking home at the end of the year as much money as a farm worker would have earned a few years ago... it's terrible... it really is.

"The other thing that has changed since my schooldays, it was almost a self-supporting community. There were so many people who lived in the village who were tradesmen in their own right. We had the village blacksmith who didn't just shoe the horses, he could make the metal rim for a cartwheel, repair an engine, weld, do electrical work - he really was a jack-of-all-trades. We had a village Baker, Tom Humphreys at the Bull and Butcher. On a Friday he would bake a lot of cakes and he would pull these cakes out of the oven, the old chickens will be running around in the bakehouse picking up the crumbs. Nothing about all this nonsense of hygiene and all of that. Pigs out in the yard."

Christine asks, "Wasn't there somebody who took teeth out?" Vic remembers, "Oh that was in Wingrave. That was a chap who actually qualified as a dentist and was then turned out of the dental profession and he then set up as an unlicensed bookmaker. People would drop in to make bets and at the same time people would say 'I've got a dreadful toothache' and he would either fill it or take it out, quite illegally. He used to charge £2 for a filling and £1 for an extraction, in his sitting room in Wingrave."

"We had a village barber. He was actually an under gardener at the Abbey for Mortons and he used to cut hair in his village shed down in the council houses. He used to charge sixpence in old money to cut your hair. There used to be three or four men in there waiting their turn and all the village gossip and all the local news was all talked over in that little garden shed. Before he moved down there he had a workshop in Moat Lane and that was the barber's shop."

"In my young days it was essentially an agricultural community. Nearly everybody either worked directly or was associated with a farm in the village. Now... there are only one or two working farms in the village, but most of the other farmland now is kept for what I call hobby farming. Most working people in the village now commute."

"There was a time of course when I knew the name of everybody in the village. Well now, I wouldn't think I know a quarter of the people. I hope it won't change much more. I think for a small village it's still a fairly close knit community and one thing I'm very, very pleased about is that most of the relative newcomers mix in with other people and join in things to the benefit of the village. It's lovely to see people around at the Nashs Farm development joining in things in the village and becoming very friendly. That is very nice."

"My great-grandfather came into this house when it was built in 1854 and we've been here ever since. A survey was done right back in the early years of the century of the population of the village and what people did - and the report said of us, 'A very respectable family'!"

Vic's life was remembered in The Bucks Herald in the edition published on 16th March under the heading 'Wildlife lecturer and constant gardener will be missed by all'. Vic was very generous to me, giving me cuttings of plants he thought would thrive in my ponds - an especial favourite is a blue flowered flag iris that has multiplied over the last few years - a lasting memory for me of a very kind man. *Ed*

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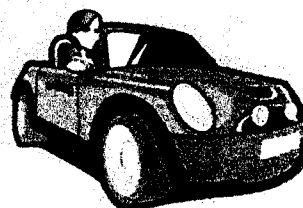
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## The windscreen

I was driving along a main road somewhere on the Sussex borders on a cold damp January morning when I heard the sound of a stone hitting the windscreen. Nothing unusual, but then five minutes later a six inch long line appeared across the glass that the wipers failed to sweep away. Yes, it was a cracked windscreen but at least the crack had turned at right angles and was now heading slowly down. Just a minor inconvenience and so I kept driving.

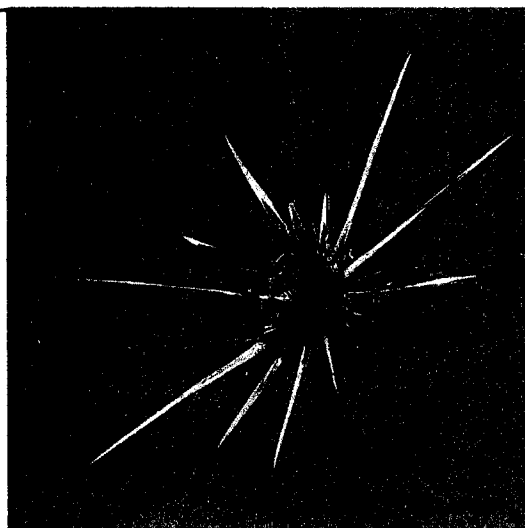
On Monday, I phoned the fleet management support helpline and after answering at least five questions on my telephone key pad the Autowindscreens number started to ring. It was answered by the usual robot which assured me that my call was important. Eventually a real human came on the line and took down details. "What is the car model, does the screen have a coloured band across it, do you have automatic rain sensing wipers, does the instrument display project on to the screen?" Finally we identified the correct screen and start to arrange an appointment. "We are booking for the week after next now so how about Thursday. Would you like between 8 and 12 or between 12 and 4?" I took the later time as the chances of driving 50 miles before 8am around the M25 were remote. "It will take an hour and you will not be able to drive the car for at least 2 hours once the job is completed."

Thursday week eventually arrived and I sat at my office desk awaiting the imminent arrival of the mobile unit. Time passed and no sign of any repair van. So I picked up the phone and got through to the robot who again assured me that my call was important - but not important enough for a human to pick up the line. After 25 minutes of tuneless music interrupted by said robot I hung up. It was too late now even if they did arrive. I found their website which extolled the virtues of their "in touch" service but didn't appear to explain how to get in touch. It probably took another ten minutes to work out an extremely complex e-mail address and so I sent them a message explaining how unimpressed I was with their non-arrival and please get in touch. If I expected a reply I was mistaken. So much for in touch.

The next day I tackled the phone lines again. Back to the tuneless music and robot. At the fourth attempt about 24 hours after my 'appointment' a human answered. She could give no explanation as to why the fitter had not turned up, and could only offer to rebook the appointment. "We are now booking for Wednesday the week after next....."

So ten days later the fitter turned up. It was however raining and his transit wouldn't fit into the underground car park. "I could do it under a gazebo, but it's very risky - after all your car is an estate. I don't even know if I'm going to get paid this month. Only last week their fuel account was stopped and we were told to buy diesel ourselves and claim it back. You're the customer." I took the reluctant decision to rebook. "They will call you" and to my surprise that did indeed happen. It will be in 2 weeks time as we are very busy.

Two days later I heard the news that Autowindscreens had gone into administration. It became obvious that my appointment wouldn't be kept. So I phoned the fleet management company, and, bucking the system by saying I wanted to order a new car, found a real human. "Yes we have a new supplier. I will get them to contact you." Sure enough next day my phone rings. "What is the car model, does the screen have a coloured band across it, do you have automatic rain sensing wipers, does the instrument display project on to the screen? We are exceptionally busy - did you know that Autowindscreens have gone into administration? We could probably fit you in the week after next."



*continued on page 27*

# Astonbury X

## Saturday July 16th

### 7pm at Aston Abbotts Recreation Ground

Come and join us for Aston Abbotts' fun family music festival. Now for the tenth and last time. Once again we will be featuring the best local bands and performers - some you may not have seen before and some familiar faces. Bring a picnic and something to sit upon. Bring the kids (under 16s free). Bring your friends.

Then why not come to party on with us afterwards in The Royal Oak.

### Tickets £10 — Under 16s free

### To book phone 681685



**The Tenth Astonbury** promises to be a very special occasion as the departing organising team say they will go out with a bang. This follows on from the superb night of entertainment from last year with money donated to our chosen charity Help for Heroes.

Already there is a queue of bands and singers, including some new bands asking for slots in the evening. If you are a would be singer or band then contact Neil at [Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk)

If you want to be part of the organising team then contact Dave Lewis at [Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk)

If you want to be the team who run next year's event then contact Simon Longman at [Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk)

If you want to run the web site the contact Phil Spooner at [Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk)

If you would like to sponsor the event Phil Corrigan will take your money at [Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk)

If you want tickets, or to book spaces for gazebos, or to help on the door, then the man is John Whyte at [Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Astonbury-X@hotmail.co.uk)

You probably know that last year's show featured on Youtube, see web site for the link.

We are planning loads of surprises and some great music.

Oh yes... and the Chunkees will be more heavily featured... by popular demand [www.astonbury.biz](http://www.astonbury.biz)

On the appointed day, I get a call to say that the AA has turned up. That's a surprise as I haven't broken down but it appears that they have diversified. It is, of course, raining. But that isn't a problem as the fitter has a van that is only 2.06 metres high – never mind that the underground car park only has a 2.00 metre clearance. So we drive downstairs. "Oh dear" says the fitter. "They sent me out with two different screens but neither is the right one. You need a special screen as you've got lane sensing. I will have to phone the office but there is no chance of me being able to do the job today. They take an age to answer, so I will rebook it for you and leave you a message. Is next week OK?" Sure enough an hour later a message has arrived and the job is booked for Monday next week. Good job it wasn't Tuesday as that's when the car goes for its next service.

Monday arrived and so did the efficient AA fitter with the correct windscreen. Of course it was raining but he still had the van that would squeeze downstairs into the underground car park. So now, at last, over 7 weeks after the original crack appeared, I have a new windscreen. Now every time I see a lorry coming in the other direction, I duck – just in case a stone hits my nice new clean windscreen. Good job it hadn't shattered.

*Nigel Palmer*

## Scaffolding removed.

The final repairs and redecoration of the church have been completed; and thankfully, the last of the scaffolding removed prior to Vic Scott's funeral.

This essential maintenance has only been possible by the generosity of all of you who supported our various fund raising events, assisted by a sizeable grant. Hopefully, our village church should now be better protected from the elements for a good many years to come and enjoyed by future generations. Perhaps the most immediately noticeable result of all this work is the re-decorated interior which is generally far more welcoming than before. The final 'touch' to the interior took place a couple of weeks ago when Lol kindly fitted new carpet around the font. This carpet, which now matches the existing, was kindly donated by Tracy Hinds and fixed in place using special adhesive donated by Lol's company. On behalf of all the PCC and those who use the church we offer Lol & Tracy Hinds our very grateful thanks for this 'finishing touch'.

Of course, further maintenance work will need to be carried out on the church including having all the roof timbers treated to remove an infestation of woodworm. Clearly this will require another round of fund raising as the 'pot' is now empty. Several events are planned and will include a **Car Treasure Hunt** due to take place on the evening of Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. With fuel prices as high as they are, the 'course' will be no more than about 30 or so miles (providing you don't get too lost!!!) and will end at a country pub for a 'noggin' and prize giving. Further details will be published in future issues of the Chronicle but if you are interested, please let

Andy Bystra know (681690)

**Watch this space!!!!!!**



## ASTON ABBOTTS BOOK CLUB

Last month's meeting, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, was held at Anita Parker's house. We discussed her choice 'Dreams from my Father' by Barack Obama. This is an autobiography of his childhood and his early years before he became a politician. It is extremely well written, the recall of conversations and personalities is staggering. Only four of us managed to read the book in time for the discussion but those who hadn't were determined to finish it. Certainly the last part of the memoir when he goes to Kenya to meet his father's side of the family is most revealing. This book has probably provoked the longest discussion the group has had so far.

This month's meeting on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March was at Sally Palmer's house when we discussed Sam Crawley's choice 'False Impressions' by Jeffrey Archer. A book we all agreed we enjoyed and would recommend for a holiday read. We found small faults in the plot but thought the book well researched and found the description of the collapse of the Twin Towers evocative. Next month we will be reading Sally Palmer's choice 'One Day' by David Nicholls, meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April at Sam Crawley's house.

*If you would like to join in the discussion you would be very welcome.*

*John Hardcastle*

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## **ASTON ABBOTTS RESIDENTS INVITED TO JOIN IN GIVING THANKS FOR AIRPORT VICTORY 40 YEARS AGO**

Aston Abbotts was on the very edge of the area designated in the 1970s for the building Britain's biggest airport. Cublington, Littlecote, Stewkley, Soulbury, Dunton and Cresswell would have been razed to the ground and Aston Abbotts left in limbo if the campaign opposing the siting had not been successful.

On the evening of April 26, 1971, many local folk made their way to Stewkley. They wanted to celebrate victory in the two and a half year campaign, and give thanks. After a church service of thanksgiving, Stewkley High Street was described as a river of flame as a torchlight procession made its way to a giant bonfire where fireworks lit up the night sky. The event was broadcast live on BBC television.

On April 26 this year, the Tuesday after Easter Monday, Stewkley is again giving thanks, and Aston Abbotts residents and others from all around are once more invited to join them. A service is being held at St. Michael's Church at 7.30pm, followed by a reception and "faith buffet" in the Village Hall.

The proposal to build the airport here came from the most expensive "think tank" of experts ever called to action on a planning issue in the UK. It was set up by a Labour government, held five public inquiries and spent millions of pounds coming up with its plan to site the airport – as big as Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted put together – at a site it called Wing (Cublington).

Forty years ago the Government of the day announced that instead of siting the airport at Wing, it would build it on reclaimed land off the Essex coast. Ten years later it was decided not to build a giant new airport at all, rather that existing London and regional airports would be expanded.

The service next month will be conducted jointly by the present Acting Priest in Charge of Stewkley Church, the Rev Ian Oglvie, and the Methodist Minister, the Rev. Jim Gorringer.

At Stewkley Village Hall afterwards will be many of the Bucks folk who led and took part in the campaign, plus those who are perhaps more recent arrivals and want to know what it was all about.

A "faith buffet" is designed to bring back memories of the "faith" events held during the campaign – events where food was required. If the organisers had faith, then it would happen! Ladies from all around would turn up with a plate of this, or a plate of that, and in no time at all there was usually a good spread.

On this occasion, contributions of buffet items such as sausage rolls, quiches and small sandwiches would be most welcome and can be dropped off at the Village Hall anytime after 6pm.

Queries to: *John Flewin* 01525240617 [john@flewin.com](mailto:john@flewin.com)

### **Ladies Club**

Tues. 24<sup>th</sup> Feb.

The Club met in the church room Aston Abbotts and 12 members were present. After the minutes were read & signed, members made plans for the Spring lunch due to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April and Summer outing which will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July.

Our speaker today, Mrs. Pam Pearce, told us how she had become a singer with the BBC Symphony Chorus. In addition she explained how she made violins and cellos. She was thanked by June Brine.

Tea Hostesses were April Curnow, Margaret Hinds and Shirley Ford and the raffle was won by Irene Howden.

*Shirley Ford*

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## ALLOTMENT DIARY

Following my piece last month about planting vegetables according to the phases of the moon, I received some feedback from readers (always nice to know that someone reads the stuff I put out each month!)

Dennis Knight told me that he used to know a pigeon breeder who would only mate his pigeons when the moon was waxing, and whether or not this had anything to do with it, Dennis cannot say, but he was a successful breeder, and raised champion birds.

Then Jan Johnson put a note through my door to tell me that planting in accordance with the phases of the moon is just part of an approach to agriculture developed by a German, Rudolph Steiner, during some lectures he gave in 1924; and that the practice is called "Biodynamic Agriculture". She suggested that I Googled it, which I did, and I am now even more amazed. I will begin by quoting to you what Wikipedia has to say on the subject:-

"Biodynamic agriculture is a method of organic farming that treats farms as unified individual organisms, emphasising balancing the holistic development and inter-relationship of the soil, plants and animals as a self-nourishing system without external inputs, insofar as this is possible, given the loss of nutrients due to the export of food. As in other forms of organic agriculture, artificial fertilisers and toxic pesticides are strictly avoided. There are independent agencies for biodynamic products, most of which are members of the international biodynamics group called Demeter International".

In addition to planting & sowing according to a lunar calendar, methods unique to the biodynamic approach include the use of herbal and compost additives and field sprays. Steiner prescribed 9 different preparations to aid fertilisation, numbered from 500 to 508, which he contended transferred supernatural, terrestrial and cosmic forces to the soil. These include the following (and I promise I am not making any of this up):-

500. A humus mixture prepared by filling the horn of a cow with cow manure, and burying this in the ground in the autumn. It would be left there over winter, and then dug up for use in the spring.

501. Crushed powdered quartz prepared by stuffing it into the horn of a cow, and burying it in the ground in the spring, and taking it out in the autumn. It should then be mixed in the ratio of 1 Tsp. of quartz to 250 litres of water, and be sprayed on the crop during the wet season, to prevent fungal disease.

Wikipedia goes on to say that both of the above preparations are used on fields by stirring the contents of a horn in 40/60 litres of water, and whirling in different directions every 2 minutes. However, I am not sure how this fits in with the use of 501 to prevent fungal disease, mentioned above.

502. Yarrow blossoms stuffed into the urinary bladders of red deer and buried in the ground.

503. Chamomile blossoms stuffed into the small intestines of cattle.

504. Whole stinging nettles plants buried in the ground, surrounded by peat.

505. Oak bark cut into small pieces and placed in the skull of a domestic animal, then buried, again surrounded by peat.

How Herr Steiner worked out that one preparation had to be placed in the innards of one animal, while another needed to go in the innards of another (let alone what blossom to use), I cannot imagine! It does seem to have great similarities to homeopathic medicine, in that one seems to be using such a diluted product that one cannot work out how it can be doing any good. Nevertheless, biodynamic agriculture is still going strong, over 80 years after the principles were first promulgated, and there are adherents in over 50 countries, as well as a college which teaches the biodynamic method. It seemed to me, from researching the internet, that it is proving particularly strong in the field of viticulture, and practitioners claim that in blind tasting, wine produced from vineyards using biodynamic methods constantly taste better and last longer than wine produced in accordance with more orthodox farming methods.

Turning to more mundane matters, Liz Barlow has contacted me to say that she will be very happy to supply – on a first come, first served basis – well-rotted alpaca compost and partly rotted alpaca manure, free of charge to anyone in Aston Abbots, which you can use to enrich your soil for the next growing season. You will need to bring your own bags/wheelbarrow, and you should phone her first on 682605 or 07976 671701 – or e-mail her at [liz@livanti-alcas.com](mailto:liz@livanti-alcas.com).

*continued on page 33*

2008: The BBC announced that camera crews filming near the Antarctic for its natural history series *Miracles of Evolution* had captured footage of Adélie penguins taking to the air. It even offered a video clip of these flying penguins, which became one of the most viewed videos on the internet. Presenter Terry Jones explained that, instead of huddling together to endure the Antarctic winter, these penguins took to the air and flew thousands of miles to the rainforests of South America where they "spend the winter basking in the tropical sun." **APRIL FOOL**

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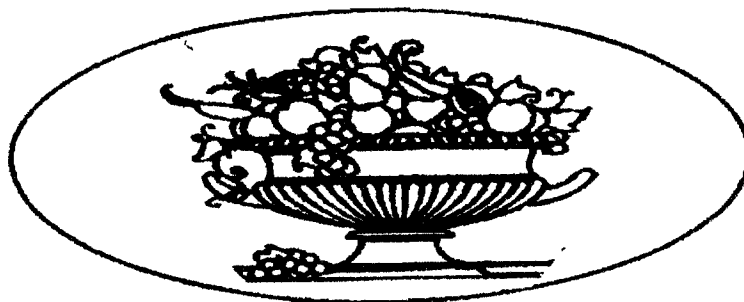
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*continued from page 31* The allotments continue to go upmarket: hot on the heels of Simon & Mike's new shed, Bob Carvey has now erected a painted metal shed for storing his tools etc, to go with the cold frame I mentioned last month. My dilapidated greenhouse is beginning to let the side down! I wait to see what next month will bring: perhaps the allotment's first water feature?

Finally I should like to use the rest of this article to pay tribute to Vic Scott, who died at the beginning of March. I am sure I speak for everyone on the allotments, when I say how much he will be missed. We were already missing him in the year or so that he had given up his allotment, but one could still go round and see him for advice, and it is very sad that we will not be able to do so any more. He was always delighted to answer any gardening questions anyone liked to ask him, and to share his incredible knowledge with us; and I can say from my own experience that he never once showed the slightest impatience at having to deal with what were probably for him very basic and elementary matters. His enthusiasm was always infectious, and I do not remember my ever asking him a question that he could not answer – be it the type of disease that was afflicting a particular vegetable, how to deal with it, whether a particular toadstool could be eaten, what bird/animal / creepy-crawly was attacking my crop, etc.

It was he, two or three years ago, who first indentified the fact that, during a humid and wet summer, our potato crops were being attacked by potato blight, and told us how to deal with it – and thus, in my own case, enabled me to salvage part of my potato crop which would otherwise have been completely ruined.

Until the last year before he gave up his allotment, when it was clearly getting to be too much for him, on top of the enormous garden at his home, it was extraordinary how his plot always seemed to produce enormous crops of whatever he was growing, without him appearing to spend any effort on it. I used to joke with Richard Clarke that he must come down to the allotments during the night, since we never saw him there during the day: but I am sure that the answer was twofold; firstly he knew exactly what he was doing, and did not expend any unnecessary effort; and secondly that he liked to work in short spells. Rather than spending several hours at the allotments, he would put in an hour or two, and then go back home – and then be back for another hour or so a couple of days later. Unless you were there on both occasions, you would only have seen him spend a couple of hours weeding or whatever, and then disappear.

His ability to tell you not only the common name of almost any plant you liked to produce, but also the Latin name (and where the name had changed, as sometimes happened, the former Latin name for good measure), was well-known. He was, I believe, almost equally knowledgeable about wild animals, birds and insects. Attending one of the courses he ran in his house, however, I discovered that his encyclopaedic knowledge extended far beyond this. Whenever he showed slides of plants or birds he had photographed, he would not only tell you the common and Latin names of the plant or bird, he would also mention, in passing, the name of the mountain in the background, or the river that appeared in the picture – where most of us would have said “that's somewhere in Spain”, or “that's in northern Greece” or whatever.

I discovered at his funeral service that because his family was not wealthy, he had to leave school at 14, and begin work farming and later gardening; and was thus was throughout his whole career able to do work which involved his big passion for nature and plants of all descriptions. While with the brain he clearly had, he could, had he stayed at school and passed exams, have ended up in far more affluent circumstances, I personally think he was very lucky that he did not do so, and so spent his whole life doing what he loved to do, and sharing his passion and enthusiasm with everyone with whom he came in contact.

For me it was a privilege and pleasure to have known Vic, and the allotments will always remind me of him.

*Peter Shorrock*

## **MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL**

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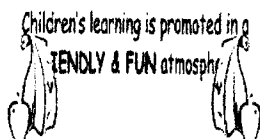
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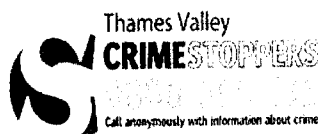
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2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane - 681137

**James Perkins (co-opted) - 07882 980415**

**District Councillor**  
**Peter Cooper**  
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham - 681250

**County Councillor**  
**Netta Glover - 688357**

## Parochial Church Council

(Revd Ian Olgvie 01296 661479)  
**Shirley Ford 681865 - Churchwarden**  
**Colin Higgs 681343 - Churchwarden**  
**Andy Bystra 681690**  
**Ann Goodman 681763**  
**Anita Parker 681325**  
**Gordon Kemp 681763**

**Caroline Abel Smith 681001 - Secretary**  
**John Abel Smith 681001 - Treasurer**

## 100 Club Winners for March

£50 - Mr D Knight

£10 - Mrs C Waite



# WELCOME TO ESPANOL VILLA

A TOP QUALITY PRIVATELY OWNED  
HOUSE AVAILABLE FOR HOLIDAY RENTAL  
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The coast here is dotted with national parks, nature reserves and there's heaps of shopping, culture, golf courses, sports, and spas

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01296 670388 Andi or Becky Swain



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**ZITA PASCOE 07887 770 865 [captpascoe@hotmail.com](mailto:captpascoe@hotmail.com)**



The Wingrave Scouts have a new GSL and have just reopened the Scout section which had closed a couple of years ago.



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NEAR AYLESBURY, BUCKS., HP22 4BY

## Spring news and events for 2011 at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre

### Mothers Day – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Every Mum arriving at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre at Quainton, near Aylesbury, for a Family Roast Lunch on Mother's Day (Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April) will enter a FREE Draw for a beautiful bouquet of flowers to be delivered to her during the following week! Booking for the Lunch is essential – simply telephone the Centre on **01296 655720** (weekdays 9.30 to 4.30) to guarantee your family's table.

### Easter 'Day out with Thomas – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 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! Pay once and stay all day prices are Adult £15 and Child (Over 2) £11.

Call 01296 655720 or visit us at [www.bucksrailcentre.org](http://www.bucksrailcentre.org) for a full list of events and upcoming promotions.

## Aston Abbotts SUMMER BALL

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> July**  
**7:00 until late**

Held in the grounds of the Firs  
opposite the Royal Oak.  
All profits to Village projects.

**Live Music**

**Sumptuous Gourmet Buffet**

**Bar & Charity Auction**



James Perkins 07882 980415

[theasaball@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:theasaball@hotmail.co.uk)

Contact

**Good Friday - 22nd April**

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Kitchens, Bathrooms, Floors,  
Doors, Shelves, Tiling, Fitted  
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0776 966 8672**

# St James Church

Times are as follows:-

**1st Sunday of month Evensong 6pm**

**2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays Holy Communion 10am**

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

**The Church is OPEN every Thursday morning at 9.30 am 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.**

Dates in April	CHURCH SERVICES		
Sun. 3rd	Mothering Sunday 3.30pm	St. James Church	Rev. Ogilvie
Sun 10th	Holy Communion 10.15 am.	St. James Church	Rev Peter Binns
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion 10 am.	St. James Church	Rev. Luke Lea
Fri 22nd	Good Friday 2pm	St. James Church	Rev. Ogilvie
Sun. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Communion 9.30 am.	St. James Church	Rev. Ogilvie
Sun 1st May	Evensong & Annual Church Meeting 5pm	St. James Church	Rev. Ogilvie

	SIDES PERSON	CLEANERS	FLOWERS
3rd	The Children	Colin & Caroline Lane	None during Lent
10th	Gordon	Ann & Gordon	None during Lent
17th	Anita	Andrew & Shirley	None during Lent
24th	Church Wardens	Anita & April	Easter Flowers
1st May	Andrew	Colin & ?	Easter Flowers

## CHURCH MOWING ROTA - APRIL

2nd Geoff Curnow  
9th Gordon  
16th Bob  
23rd Peter Curry  
30th Marcus



The Easter Week in Malaga, Spain has a deeply rooted tradition that goes back to the time of the Catholic Kings and the Reconquista. In Malaga, Easter week is experienced in a very special way.

From the early evening hours until late into the night incense lingers in the air and you hear the beat of the rhythmic drums that accompany the Easter processions. These consist of brotherhoods, which carry the so-called impressive Tronos with Christ or Virgin Mary statues.

The Tronos weigh up to 5,000 kilograms. Thrones with life-size religious statues made of solid wood are carried for hours on the shoulders of a large number of bearers through the city centre of Malaga.

Thus, for example, the shortest procession takes four hours, while the longest is ten hours; the lightest throne needs forty men, while the heaviest is supported by over 250 (you have read correctly). It is then no wonder that among the large number of spectators are heard spontaneous cheers when the carriers lift up the heavy load again after a short break.

**Easter - 24th April**

# Trendz



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SHAMPOO & SET.**

**FULL AND HALF HEAD COLOUR  
CAP HI LITES, FULL HEAD TINT,  
RE-GROWTH TINT,  
FULL and HALF HEAD HI LITES,**

**HAIR EXTENSIONS**

## **BEAUTY TREATMENTS**

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COUTURE SPRAY TAN**

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INCLUDING TRIAL BEFORE AND ON  
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**MANOR FARM  
COURTYARD  
ROWSHAM  
AYLESBURY HP22**





## The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

100 Club	Colin Higgs	681343
630 Club	Andy Bystra	681690
AVDC	Switchboard	585858
Baby & Toddlers Group	Kim Gayler	681123
Book Club	John Hardcastle	688070
Bus Enquiries	Travel line	0870 6082608
Buses	L & S	415468
Chronicle Advertising	Phil Corrigan	688191
Chronicle Distribution	Andy Bystra	681690
Chronicle Editorial	John Hardcastle	688070
Church Mowing Rota	Geoff Curnow	681459
Church Room Hire	Tracy Hinds	688479
Citizens Advice	Aylesbury	0870 1264056
Bucks County Council	Switchboard	395000
County Councillor	Netta Glover	688357
Dial-A-Ride		330088
District Councillor	Peter Cooper	681250
Doctor	(emergency out of hours)	331511
Fete Coordinators	Tracy Hinds	688479
	Vanessa Worrall	688429
G.N.O.M.E.S.	Carol Spooner	681544
Hospital	Stoke Mandeville	315000
Ladies Club	Shirley Ford	681865
Member of Parliament	John Bercow MP	714240
Milkman	Ron Miller Dairies	482838
Mobile Library	Buckingham	01280 813229
NHS Direct	24 hr Advice Line	0845 4647
Parish Clerk	Paul Bruton	682322
Parish Council Leader	Peter Shorrocks	681260
Police	Emergencies	999 or 112
Police	Non-Emergency	0845 8505505
Police	Wing Police Station	396163/4
Railways	Chiltern Railways	0870 5165165
Ramblers Club	Colin Higgs	681343
Rector	TBA	
Refuse Collection	Enquiries	585510
Royal British Legion	Alan Jones	682366
Royal Oak	Teri & Gary Moulton	681262
RSPCA	Enquiries	08705 555999
Scouts	Nikki Reeve	681372
Whist	Colin Higgs	681343
Wingrave Pre School	Paul Weston	681127
Wingrave Post Office	PO Only	682964
Wingrave Post Office	Stores	681696
Wingrave School	Office	681436

*please advise of any errors or omissions*

# The Chronicle

## Advertising rates per annum

FULL PAGE	Back	£100
	Inside	£ 80
HALF PAGE	Inside	£ 40
	Inside	£ 25
QUARTER PAGE	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

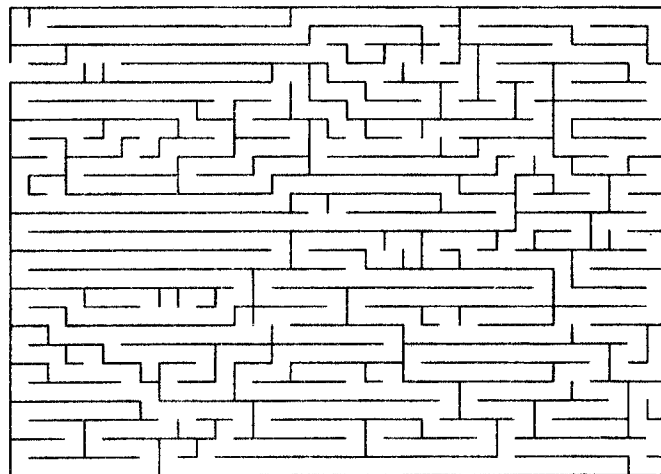
**Phil Corrigan**

5, Nash's Farm, Aston Abbotts, Bucks

01296 688191

corriganpc@aol.com

get from one side to the other



	+		X		56
X		+		X	
	X		+		29
-		-		-	
	/		-		-3
26		3		2	

### What's a math challenge?

A math challenge is a group of numbers formed in a block filled with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Each number 1 to 9 is only used once.

Each row is a math equation. Each column is a math equation. Some of the numbers are missing. You fill in the missing numbers.

Solution on page 43

Three people check into a hotel. They pay £30 to the manager and go to their room. The manager suddenly remembers that the room rate is £25 and gives £5 to the bellboy to return to the people. On the way to the room the bellboy reasons that £5 would be difficult to share among three people so he pockets £2 and gives £1 to each person. Now each person paid £10 and got back £1. So they paid £9 each, totalling £27. The bellboy has £2, totalling £29. Where is the missing £1? *answer on page 43*



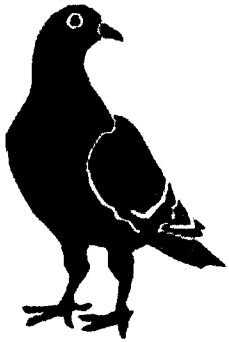
# *Pest Control*

*By the BEE's Knees at MSC Ltd.*

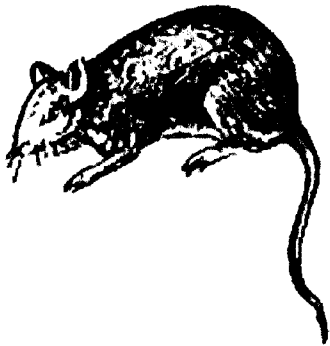
*Environment Agency Certificate Number TWE/673982  
Member of British Institutes of Cleaning Science BICS*



**WASPS £35.00 INCLUSIVE  
GUARANTEED - NO HIDDEN  
CHARGES**



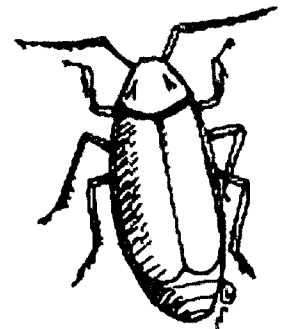
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PROTECTION. MESS REMOVAL AND  
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**RATS/MICE ALL TRAPPED AND  
DISPOSED OF IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH DEFRA AND EA.**



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E: JIM@MTSFC.CO.UK**

## ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Emergency Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th March 2011

**Present:** Cllrs P Shorrock (Chair), J Hardcastle, C Higgs and K Curry

#### Agenda Items:

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllrs R Clarke and J Perkins.
2. There were no declarations of interest on items on the agenda.
3. PAYE Implementation:

**Resolved** to increase the salary for the Clerk to the Parish Council to Spinal Column Point 22 on the pay scale for part-time clerks.

**Resolved** to pay the clerk an allowance of £5 per week for use of his home address as the Parish Council office.

Both the above resolutions to take immediate effect. The meeting closed at 7.35pm

## Countryside Matters

I noticed today Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, that the bees are out all over the Willow trees after the yellow stamens on the catkins, I feel this is comparatively early. Last year they started as soon as the snow cleared and what a marvellous fruit season we had. The Ascott Estate has planted a large acreage of oil seed rape and has also just completed drilling spring beans, so our bees shall be very busy this spring and early summer. The bees produce a lovely cloudy rape honey and then, when they move on to the garden flowers, the pollen makes a darker runnier honey. Without these magnificent creatures we would be much shorter of food worldwide than we already are.

It is with great sadness that I fear the brown hare numbers have been significantly reduced. In the past I used to see up to 10 hares boxing in my grass fields this time of the year, now at the Wingrave end of lower Wingbury Farm and I see very few. I know the reason why, and by now so do most of you. On that subject, in the last few weeks seven Chinese water deer carcasses have been reported found on the footpaths by walkers down the Well Lane area and at the back of Ascott House across to the Wing Park Road. These animals have been dragged down and probably killed by lurchers either during the day or at night. No surprise there then. Also even more disturbing are the reports of badger digging near Cublington; this is a vile activity, to either capture cubs for badger bating or export. I have my views about badgers spreading T.B. in cattle as do most live stock farmers by keeping their numbers under control, but this practise is outrageous, illegal and should be stamped out. A good website to keep country folk in the Thames Valley area alert to "nere do gooders" is [www.dogwatchalert.com](http://www.dogwatchalert.com) Please go on it and join up.

*James Henderson*

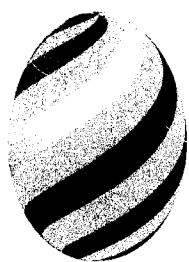
**Viagra for Hamsters** In 2000 The Independent reported that Florida researchers had developed a Viagra-like pill to treat sexually frustrated pets, including hamsters. Veterinarians were said to have greeted the news with derision, but the article pointed out that there are few things as sad as a pet suffering from feelings of sexual inadequacy, noting that "It's not unknown for a guinea pig to sit in its cage thinking, 'I haven't had sex for months. Am I so unattractive?'" Owners were instructed to simply grind the pills up and sprinkle them in the pet's food. Laying some newspaper down on the floor once the pills began to take effect was also advised. The pills were to be marketed under the brand name Feralmone. **APRIL FOOL**

Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.  
If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.  
We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our head.  
That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

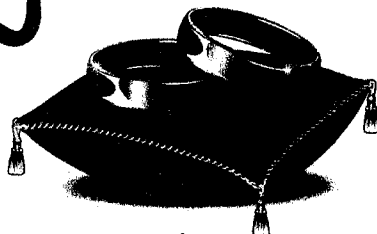


5	+	2	X	8	56
X		+		X	
7	X	4	+	1	29
-		-		-	
9	/	3	-	6	-3
26		3		2	

**Answer to page 41 question:**  
We have to be careful what we are adding together. Originally, they paid £30, they each received back £1, they now have only paid £27. Of this £27, £25 went to the manager for the room and £2 went to the bellboy.



# April - a month to enjoy



THE  
**UNICORN**  
at Cublington

*Award winning pub & restaurant!*

Spring is really in the air at the Unicorn, the garden is looking lovely, the evenings are getting lighter and we have a right Royal action packed month in store for you to go along with all the Bank Holidays!

## What's on in April

### New Spring Menu!

**April 3rd - Mothering Sunday**

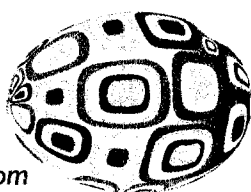
**8th** Soulful Funky Tunes from  
**Leslie and the Speakers** from 8pm

**12th Traditional Folk Music**  
and open Mic night from 8pm

**24th Easter Sunday Roast**  
**with Easter Egg Hunt**  
for the Kids in the Garden from 12pm

**Friday 29th** Come and Watch the  
**Royal Wedding Live** and enjoy a  
**Breakfast fit for a King** from 9am.

**29th Dinner and Jazz**  
with 'Anything Goes' from 8pm



### PLUS enjoy these Unicorn Regulars:

**Shop now open** for milk, butter and other essentials. Pre-orders required for freshly prepared produce.

**Coffee & Cake** Every morning from 10.30am

### Monday Night is Quiz night

The Unicorn Quiz 8pm - 10pm  
Why not bring a team?

**Full English Breakfast** -  
served Saturday 9am - 11am

### Sundays

Best of British Roasts  
12pm - 3pm  
Booking advised

**Bar Snacks**  
available throughout the day!

**We serve food Sunday**  
**evenings 7-9pm** - Booking is essential  
**FREE WiFi internet access**



**01296 681261**

The Unicorn, High Street, Cublington, Bucks, LU7 0LQ  
Please see web site for full details [www.theunicornpub.co.uk](http://www.theunicornpub.co.uk)

# What's On In April

- Mobile Library** Tuesday 12th & 26th The Green 10.30am
- Ladies Club** Thursday 7th *Spring Lunch* 1pm  
& 21st Church Room 2.15 pm.
- Whist Drive** Thursday 14th & 28th Church Room 7.30 pm.
- Bingo** Thursday 7th Church Room 7.30 pm.
- Coffee/shop** Every Thursday 10.00 till 12.00
- Quiz & Ploughman Supper Social**  
Friday 1st Church Room 7.30 pm.
- Rambling Club** Sunday 3rd Meet at Wing 2.00 pm.  
Sunday 10th Meet at Wigginton 2pm
- Mothering Sunday** Service 3rd St James Church 3.30pm  
followed by tea in Church Room served by the chaps
- Palm Sunday** Sunday 17th St James Church 7.30pm
- Good Friday** Friday 22nd Story of the Cross 2pm
- Easter Day** Sunday 24th Easter Communion 9.30am
- Bank Holiday** Monday 25th
- Evensong** Sunday 1st May St James Church 5pm  
followed by Annual Church Meeting

## Address

Please note that all submissions for the Chronicle should be sent to  
**John Hardcastle**  
**Marloes, Lines Hill**  
**01296 688070**

Email submissions to:  
[editor@aachronicle.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:editor@aachronicle.co.uk)

**SUNDAY 1st MAY - Lord Carringtons OPEN GARDENS - Bledlow**  
**SPRING BANK HOLIDAY - Ascot Gardens & Nether Winchendon**

### ASTON ABBOTTS VILLAGE FETE

First Fete Meeting Tuesday 12th April 7pm  
in the Village Hall  
please come along with your ideas and offer of help

### Gala Concert - Bach's St Matthew Passion

The definitive musical experience for Holy Week and Easter. Joint concert with the Great Missenden Choral Society for the performance of one of Bach's finest achievements and one of the pinnacles of sacred choral music.

**Stowe Chapel Buckingham 09/04/2011 7:30PM to 9:00AM**

**Prague Easter Markets 2011** The Prague Easter markets run daily from 09 April-01 May 2011 at the Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square. Over 100 stalls stock a variety of handcrafted products; wooden toys, Czech crystal and glass-ware, jewellery, metal-ware, candles, embroidered cloth, and beautifully dressed puppets and dolls.

The most common sight is brightly coloured, hand-painted Easter eggs, which Czech ladies dressed in traditional costume may even personalise for you, by painting on a name or special message.

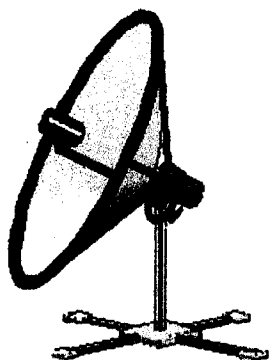
**630 Club** - meets every Saturday in the Royal Oak at 6.30 pm. New members very welcome. Contact Andy Bystra if you need an introduction.

**GNOMES (Girls Night Out Men Excluded Sorry)** meet, usually in the Royal Oak, every Tuesday 8 pm 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**

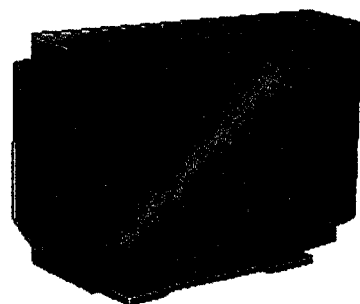
# FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS



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**+ REPAIRS +  
NEW AND  
USED SALES**



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*Well this could be the last time  
This could be the last time  
Maybe the last time  
I don't know. Oh no. Oh no.*

**ASTONBURY X**

**JULY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

## ASTONIANS Chapter 3

3:1 And it happened thus...

3:2 For there was a man known as David who lived in a small village. And David was of good humour and toiled hard to provide for his family.

3:3 And there came a day when the family of David returned home and their eyes fell upon David through the window of his workshop. And he was motionless in his chair. And his head was thrown back and his mouth was open. And all around was still.

3:4 "He is dead," cried the family. And they left David and entered within their house where they busied themselves getting their tea.

3:5 Time did pass. And thence came a white-haired wise old man called John. And he looked for David and

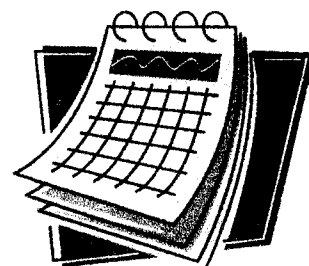
he saw him still. And John did bang upon the window of the workshop with His hand.

3:6 And suddenly David's body was filled with life. He jumped from his chair. And upon his face was the expression of a man who had just discovered he has nine testicles.

3:7 And David cried out to John, "You have given me life". He knelt at John's feet and said, "Henceforth thou shalt be known as Saint John of Whyte OBE". And Saint John's face was that of an angel. And his heart was filled with the gladness of a man who has thrashed Neil Chesher at golf thrice in a fortnight.

3:8 And all around were happy.

3:9 Except for the family who wanted their tea.



### Resolution

In a major effort to keep this New Year's Resolution Dave has vowed to renew it every month throughout 2011. So, is it working? Let's sneak over to Church Farm and listen to Dave renewing it...

JANUARY: I promise not to act so outrageously that I have to sleep in the barn.

FEBRUARY: I promise not to act so outrageously that I have to sleep in the barn.

MARCH: Damn.....

**FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY**