## THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine - March 2012



### **Editorial**

Shock horror! - I got two valentine cards - one from Judy and one from a 'secret admirer'. I've never had a secret admirer before. Who ever you are I am eternally grateful.

Judy and I got back from a two week holiday in Cuba on Sunday 26th February - the result is that this month's Chronicle has been produced in a great rush trying to meet the print deadline to ensure you get your copy on time. Apologies now for any errors - the censor has not had the opportunity to wave her wand over the final proof.

Cuba is a fascinating place - I'll tell you more about it next month.

There are events coming up this year that I trust you will be supporting namely the Jubilee celebrations and Astonbury. There are ads in this edition with a some new information. The monthly village Bingo evenings are hoping to attract new members. Please read the article on page 9.

The results of the Village Plan survey have been produced and are shown on page 31.

We should sing the praises of Dave and Alison Lewis for their part in averting a catastrophe. Pam Hewitt's house was subject to an arson attack and the police investigation has led to a successful prosecution (see page 17). It must have been a horrid time for Pam and her family.

It's Mothering Sunday on the 18th - hopefully Judy will get a few bouquets. Our fourth grandchild is due a few days later - I've predicted a boy weighing 7lbs 10oz but I'm secretly hoping for a granddaughter.

John

I am running the London Marathon on April 22nd dressed as Bananaman (just fancied it). I am running for a charity called "MK SNAP"

MK Snap is a Milton Keynes based charity that provides Work and Life Skills training for adults with learning and physical difficulties.

They website is; www.mksnap.org. If you want like to sponsor me to Run 26.2 miles dressed as Bananaman you can at http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Will Thank you! Will Henderson (James's son)

#### LITTER BLITZ

Please take the time and spend an hour helping to keep our village tidy. Meet outside the Church Room on

Saturday 31st March 10am

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- WHAT'S on in MARCH
- COUNTRYSIDE MATTERS
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#### THE CHRONICLE

Issue 319 March 2012

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A note to all would be advertisers— More than 205 households receive The Chronicle 11 times a year and with rates from just £25 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish Magazines). Can you afford not to be in?

## Copy date for the next issue Friday 23rd March

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 Abbotts, our local Doctors' Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

## Alison's Gossip Column

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

#### March 2nd Wendy Bentley 3rd Isabel Hall **8th** Andy Bystra 8th James McManus **Q**th Paul Williams 10th Andrew Dutton Sam Worrall 12th 13<sup>th</sup> Sophie White 15th Lydia Smith 15<sup>th</sup> Ann Goodman 16<sup>th</sup> Abby Louise Bowden 17th Tracey Fletcher 19th Francesca Bean $26^{th}$ Charlotte Ellis 28th Harry Roberts 28th Amber McManus 28th Mary Rust 30th Bob Bean

Kelvin Lovell who lived in the village for many years at 4, The Green, has died at the age of 61. Our condolences to Diane and all his family.

Irene Lowden had a fall and has broken her arm. She says "My grateful thanks to all who helped me after a fall on the ice. Thanks for the cards, flowers, soup and sympathy. Special thanks to Christine, Margaret, John and Liz, not forgetting David of course. The patient is much better now and much wiser!"

The court case re the arson attempt on Church Farm House is now over and Amin Dhalla has been found guilty of 9 out of 10 charges including harassment and possession of offensive weapons. He will be sentenced on April 16<sup>th</sup>. (see also page 17)

I liked the description of our village in some newspapers as "an upmarket village". Will this affect the property values?

Congratulations to Hannah Brandon who has won an all expenses paid trip to the Olympics for 2. Word on the street is that Bridget has precedence over James!

#### DIAMOND JUBILEE

As reported in last month's Chronicle the Parish Council have agreed to offer up to £900 of financial support for a community picnic to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. The Jubilee Festival Committee would like to thank all those who responded to the questionnaire and responded so positively to our house to house enquiries. The overwhelming response was supportive and we were pleased that the Parish Council felt able to offer their support. We are sorry that we did not get round to everyone but house to house surveys are surprisingly time consuming. Please see details of our plans so far and keep the 4<sup>th</sup> June free.

Sally Palmer on behalf of the Jubilee Festival Committee

#### LITTER BLITZ

Please take the time and spend an hour helping to keep our village tidy.

Meet outside the Church Room on

#### Saturday 31st March 10am

sack and picker will be provided - please bring your own gloves.



#### BEETLE DRIVE

An evening of 'retro fun' for all the family in the Church Room.

#### Friday March 9th

Starting at 7.00 pm. Tickets are £7.00 each or £20.00 for a family of two adults and two children.

Entrance includes a hot Sausage & Mash Supper.Bring along your own favourite; tipple'. Tickets from April Curnow tel. 681459

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#### Vic Scott's Diary March

#### Scarcity of British Insects - 1948

After such a remarkable year for insects as was 1947; the comparative scarcity of many species, particularly of butterflies, moths, and various kinds of wasps was most noticeable during the whole of 1948.

The actual cause of these violent seasonal or annular fluctuations is difficult to determine. However, it seems apparent that a winter of great severity (like that of 1946-47) is often followed by a bountiful insect year, whilst a mild, almost frostless winter is likely to be followed by a 'bad', or at any rate only a moderate, insect year.

From my own observations the main reasons for this variation in numbers are as follows.

- During the winter of 1946-47, one of the hardest for many years, there were many weeks of almost unbroken frost, with the temperatures sometimes falling to as low as 5 F, and once or twice still lower. This frost made it quite impossible for the great majority of insect-eating birds to find their normal food, therefore hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of dormant or semi-dormant larvae and chrysalids escaped being eaten by birds.
- In the usual way frost has little effect on dormant insects, and deep snow helps even further to protect them.
- The scarcity of food caused hundreds of thousands of our resident birds, as well as winter-Ш visitors, to die of starvation, and thus greatly reduced the number of some insect-eating birds throughout the whole year.
- The weather conditions of that winter (1946-47) cannot however be responsible for the IV great numbers of immigrant insects that were seen here during the following summer, in any case, not as regards those insects that came from Europe or North Africa: (Painted Lady, Clouded Yellow etc.) My opinion is that the long spells, in spring, summer and autumn, of calm anticyclonic weather allowed great swarms of these insects to cross the Channel and North Sea safely, which in rough weather would never have reached our shores.
- The following winter (1947-48) was one of the mildest on record, therefore the birds had V no difficulty in finding great numbers of dormant larvae and chrysalids as there were very few days on which the ground was frozen.
- The summer of 1948 had few long spells of calm weather, and generally was extremely VI cold and wet, with frequent high winds.

Other reasons might be given, but it appears to me as though the weather conditions are the main controlling factor in insect abundance or scarcity. If my beliefs hold correct, this year, 1949, will be another bad insect year, as this winter, so far (up to 10th March, date of writing), has been even milder than that of last year. However the numbers of migrant insects will be controlled by the weather conditions later in the year.

#### **MUSIC IN QUIET PLACES**

Music lovers will be pleased to know that members of the PCC are making arrangements for this popular event to be held in Aston Abbotts again this year. At present, the date is set for the 27th of May, but keep a 'lookout' in future issues of The Chronicle for further details.

#### FRIENDS OF WHITCHURCH SURGERY

We are raffling a HOT AIR BALLOON RIDE for our funds.

This ride has been donated by someone who won it and is unable to use it.

Tickets are on sale for £1 from Whitchurch Surgery There's nothing quite like a balloon ride in the Spring Please support us

In case you missed it! LITTER BLITZ 31st March 10am meet at Church Room Please come along and help

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#### **Countryside Matters**

People might feel it strange that those in the country that shoot, hunt and fish are also in the forefront of Conservation. I have made no secret that in my teens I hunted regularly until I found it easier to put diesel in a tractor than oats into a horse and cheaper as well and I didn't have to clean it and muck it out! Anyhow, as a keen shooting man conservation is high on my agenda, with the Owl Trust we have now erected one large barn owl box and another one next door on Ascott estate, along with one tawny owl box and two kestrel nesting boxes. I feel the Aylesbury Vale Barn Owl Trust group based in Bucks County Council premises do vital and important work with the help of all their hard working volunteers. The farming community welcome them with open arms and queue up and wait patiently to see if their own sites qualify for a box or two, based on the suitability of their land for owls and whether there is enough habitat for the barn owls to breed and prosper. I hope the owls shall continue and help to keep down the mouse and rat population in the field margins and hedgerows.

Only last week I had to take evasive action when driving down the Leighton road after dark to avoid hitting a beautiful barn owl hunting in the hedgerows. Just think if I had killed it. What a dreadful thought, this is one of the main reasons why barn owls are under threat, as they often become road casualties from passing motorists.

I hope some of you saw the Countyfile program containing a section about "Rose Veal", basically encouraging farmers to fatten bull calves, mainly Holsteins, for veal rather than dispatch them at birth. Veal has always had a bad history of animal welfare, caused mainly by cruel conditions on the continent. Now these animals shall grow to nine months or so and enter the food chain before they get too leggy and bony and start to loose money. They will spend their lives in airy open barns on straw litter, unlike their continental cousins, who still exist in cages on concrete slatted floors. I can't wait to try "Rose Veal", it looks delicious. Another first for British Farming, with better welfare standards, even the R.S.P.C.A. support this scheme.

James Henderson

#### NATURE WATCH

"Spring is here at last, well that is how it feels! But this year, as nearly always, Spring is here at the usual time. We have had the odd few days when it has been really cold and we have had a little snow but over the whole Winter it has been very very dry. Startops Reservoir which is part of the headwater supply for the Grand Union Canal is nearly empty. I wonder if the canal will have to close.

Over the Winter it has been fun watching our garden birds establishing and trying to maintain territories for themselves, and if that was not possible at least a pecking order. Sometimes in the very cold weather they seem to spend most of the time chasing one another away from the food we put out and at other times they seem to feed together quite happily. There are still a few fieldfares about but they seem to be on the move back to their scandinavian summer home or at least to be ready to pack there bags and go. A lot of our resident birds are beginning to pair off and the breeding season is just around the corner.

I don't know if I am wrong, perhaps I notice them more because of frequent visits to the new orchard but there seem to be a lot more moles around this spring than I remember. (Vic probably made some accurate notes on this)! certainly the orchard looks as if it could do with a visit from the mole equivalent of Marie Stopes! Not many people know much about moles for the simple reason that they spend most of their lives underground. They are amazing diggers, digging tunnels which are really traps for their prey. They are totally carnivorous and eat mostly earthworms but also leather jackets and other insect larvae. Very occasionally they will move about on the surface and will eat slugs and snails. They can't walk very well and tend to push themselves along on their bellies with their front legs sticking out sideways but they are very good swimmers and they have also been found as high as 2,700 feet.

Another curious thing about moles is that they can tolerate very high levels of carbon dioxide which must occur sometimes in their underground burrows. However if they are deprived of food for a few hours they simply die of starvation. So acute is this problem that moles build larders in which to store worms. There seems to be two explanations of how they keep the worms fresh. The first, maintains that mole saliva contains a substance which paralyses the worm while keeping it alive, the other that the head of the worm is bitten off so that it stays put. But if the larder was abandoned eventually the head would regenerate and the worm would make a quick getaway!

So if you are a mole the downside seems to be lack of sleep while the upside is that you can eat 24/7. That's a horrid phrase; why can't we just say "all the time"!

Alan Jones

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## Astonbury 2012 - 7th July

Yes, Astonbury has a new team so put **Sat** 7<sup>th</sup> **July** on the calendar and invite your friends. We've been putting together an event that we know will have to go a long way to meet the expectations of the village, but we're pretty confident we can put on a great show. Expect a few nice additions, a great production and a wide variety of great live music.

**Musicians wanted!!!** I've seen lots of you pick up a guitar, ukulele, sing, etc. at parties and BBQ's so we really want to put you all on a stage. Believe me, being on stage with lots of other musicians is far easier than standing up there on your own, so if you ever wanted to be in a band, we can make it happen. Even if you can only play three chords, you're in! If you want to sing your favorite song, tell me it... we will have a house band that will be more than happy to play with you.

If the Chunkee's can do it, SO CAN YOU !!!

Simon

07979 590891

simon.longman@gmail.com

#### BINGO NEWS.....

After serious worries that the weather would put folks off attending the February Village Bingo, the encouraging phone calls from a few of our stalwart regulars persuaded us it should go ahead, so despite the cold conditions outside 15 of us sat down for a cosy, enjoyable evening.

We were hoping to raise money for Florence Nightingale Hospice and our special thanks go to those brave regulars who donated prizes and gave very generously, plus a couple of kind villagers buying raffle tickets despite being unable to attend on the night (they know who they are - thank you) we were able to donate a creditable £60 to the charity.

We are sorry to have to CANCEL the Bingo booked for 8th March, but please make a note in your diaries and join us for a fun evening of Bingo on Thursday, 12 April when the snowball will be standing at £34 in 60 numbers or less.

The Village Bingo has been regularly taking place in Aston Abbotts for over 50 years, but unfortunately the number of people living in Aston

Abbotts who attend the Bingo Evening has dropped in the past few months, as some folk sadly moved away or suffered with ill health.

Without the support of the folk coming over from Wingrave and Aylesbury we could not have kept this long running village institution going.

So please think about giving it your support. Come along and see if this evening out with friendly folk is something which you might find you enjoy.

If you want any information about the Bingo please don't hesitate to contact us.

Pam Dixon (tel: 681626) and Sheila Humphreys (tel: 681649).

#### ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

On Thursday 16th February a talk was given by Keith Jansz to a large group of ladies who thoroughly enjoyed hearing about Mouth and Foot Painting Artists.

Keith himself had been paralised from the neck down after a serious accident in 1995. He told us how he became inspired to paint when he met Tom Wells, an artist who was severely handicapped and painted by using a brush in his mouth, who produced some amazing paintings of landscapes. It took many months of practising before Keith felt able to show any of his paintings but by this time he had become a member of the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. He showed us many of his original works which were in oils and copies of many more which were all really beautifully painted. He also brought along some pencil drawings which were very special and it was really difficult to believe that they had all been painted by mouth. It was good to hear how he managed in his studio with many systems set up for him to be close to all the equipment that he needed to paint.

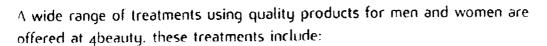
We were under the impression that the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists was a charity but it most definitely is not. In fact the group regularly themselves donate to charities for the disabled. The objectives of the group are many but the main one is to help disabled artists to attain self respect, creative fulfilment and financial security. The artists receive around 40% of the income of the group, UK taxes takes up 24% and the rest of the money is used for printing, mailing and general administration.

Keith was an absolute delight to listen to and I think many of us thought we should never complain about our aches and pains again.

Our next meeting is our Spring Lunch on Thursday 15th March at 12.30pm. April Curnow

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#### ALLOTMENT DIARY

Well, this is going to be the last Allotment Diary for a while. By the time you get to read this, I will have had my hip operation; and, if I can find anything to write about, the next few pieces will be "Not on the Allotment Diaries", since according to the helpful booklet produced by the hospital, gardening is forbidden for three months after the op. The main problem is that the muscles around the hip are weakened by the operation, and for a period of about 3 months, there is a risk of the new, artificial, hip joint dislocating if one bends the hip more than 90°, of if one twists on it, especially if this is done under pressure. Heavy digging and weeding are therefore totally of-limits.

The booklet is very informative about various activities and how soon after the operation one can resume them. Bearing in mind the fact that most people do not have new hip operations until their 50's at the earliest, I was delighted to see that it contained almost as much advice about how soon one could "partake in sexual intercourse" as it did about starting gardening again. I think this may be an interesting reflection on the favourite leisure time activities of the average middle to old-aged Englishman or woman. (For any of you who have postponed hip surgery because of concern about this, I can tell you that sexual relations are OK after 6 weeks, provided one is the passive partner! And, of course, it gives one something to do while one is waiting to get back on the allotment).

Not surprisingly, nothing much has been happening allotment-wise. Some of the more enthusiastic (and able-bodied) allotmenteers have dug over their patches, and dug in manure in readiness for the spring. I have done nothing apart from harvesting some sprouts and leeks.

However, I did see a television programme recently which was fascinating from a gardening point of view. It was called "How to Grow a Planet", and the bit that especially interested me was some research into whether plants can communicate with each other. Prince Charles has long been ridiculed for talking to his plants, but it turns out that plants can communicate! (Whether they respond to royal blandishments, however, remains unproven).

What researchers did was to cut or "wound" the leaves of a plant which was a member of the cabbage family, before sealing it in a chamber with two other plants. The "wounded" plant released a gas, ethyl jasmonate, which was detected by its neighbours – and they in turn released the same gas, so spreading the word among the other plants of the same species. The researchers had genetically modified the plants, so that they were able to film the gas being emitted. Quite what benefit the plants get from this remains unclear: being cabbages, they can't run away, or form themselves into a group for defence, or to fight back. Was the wounded plant warning its friends, letting them know that a cabbage—killer was on the prowl, and that the end was nigh, and if so, why? While cabbages do not have anything they can do, the scientists said that previous experiments with other plants had indicated that some might, having been warned in this way, be able to produce a chemical that was toxic to insect predators. Do cabbages still have the rudiments of this defence mechanism: or more worryingly, are they starting to develop it? Will future generations of cabbage growers have to cut their cabbages very quickly, before word gets round the cabbage patch, and the other cabbages become unsafe to eat? There, if you'll forgive the pun, is food for thought! *Peter Shorrock* 

## Wingrave Croquet Club "May you play on interesting lawns"

The Club in Wingrave has been running for six years and has a lawn (or rather 'court') on the Recreation Ground in the village. We hasten to add that it is not quite full size and has some challenges with a not-totally-even playing area, but nevertheless is great fun. In order that as many players as possible can enjoy each session we play "Golf" croquet — an accepted, regulated and acceptable alternative to the better known "Association" game. The season normally runs from Easter to October but is constrained by the weather conditions and the light (or dark) evenings. We have a wide range of abilities — many of our members had never wielded a mallet before coming along to try, and are now playing friendlies against other Clubs, and League matches throughout the Southern Federation, but this is not compulsory! Sessions take place on Tuesdays from 14.30 (with a second session at 16.00); Thursdays from 16.00; and Saturdays from 10.30, and all continue as late as required by those playing (so there is adequate opportunity for workers to arrive later and have a go too). Members also have the benefit of being able to use the lawn at other times to suit their own timings. To keep ourselves fresh, and the fun continuing, we are happy to welcome visitors — and potential members — from outside the village. Our Annual General Meeting is taking in Wingrave Community Centre at 8pm on Friday 9 March 2012 when the Bar will be open. Our outgoing Chairman has promised to keep her notes and announcements brief, so there is no reason not to come along and find out more. The season this year programmed to begin on Saturday 31 March at 10.30, — do turn up for coffee/tea and cake, as well as a chance to sign up for handicapping, coaching, and Association sessions which may appeal to many.

If you are interested in seeing what we are like, and what we do - you are very welcome to appear and make yourself known at any of our sessions. We are not clitist, snobbish, and do not have to own huge country estates (which is often the mistaken view of croquet players). Please contact the following for further information:

Chris Skidmore (skidmores@tesco.net) Chairman or Richard Keighley (Secretary, 681235)



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#### ASTON ABBOTT BOOK CLUB

The February meet was held at Carolyn Guse's house to discuss "The Gingerbread Woman" by Jennifer Johnston. The book tells the story of a widower who has lost his wife and child to terrorists, and his relationship with a woman who has suffered a disastrous love affair.

However, this was not a book of doom and gloom and everybody agreed that it was "a very easy and quick read", in complete contrast to last month's choice of "The Tale of Two Cities"!

The beginning was magical and swept us all into the story, longing for more. Unfortunately, the ending disappointed some but nearly everybody enjoyed the style of writing.

Nobody had read any previous books by this author dubbed the "quiet woman of Irish literature" and who has been writing since 1972.

In case you might be interested in Jennifer Johnston talking about this book, it's still possible to listen to last year's BBC Book Club programme: http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00zzpl7

March's book, chosen by Christine Scott, is "Behind the Scenes at the Museum" by Kate Atkinson. Meet at her house on Wednesday, 21st March at 8.00 pm.

Carolyn Guse

#### **COLIN'S QUIZ & SUPPER**

Another opportunity to enjoy an entertaining 'team quiz' evening in the Church Room on

#### Friday 20th April

Commencing at 7.00 pm.

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All proceeds to go to much needed Church funds

#### **Community News**

Cheaper Heating Oil, this scheme is available to individuals, commercial users and groups of individuals, all are eligible to join the scheme. In January 2012, Community Impact Bucks achieved a price of **56.45p** per litre. See the AA website or call 0845 3890389 for more information.

Health and Well Being, Buckinghamshire residents will soon be asked for their thoughts on plans to improve their health and well-being. In January the newly formed Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board (SHWB) will put their strategy out for public consultation. The consultation will start towards the end of January and continue to the end of March. It will be available online through the Council's website <a href="https://www.buckscc.go.uk">www.buckscc.go.uk</a>. or by email to <a href="https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/research/hwb\_strategy.page">betterhealthcareinbucks@buckinghamshire.nhs.uk</a> or <a href="https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/research/hwb\_strategy.page">https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/research/hwb\_strategy.page</a>

The Natural Environment, is an initiative with a White paper published last June recognising that partnership working is the best way to achieve effective action for the natural environment set out in the Government's vision for Local Nature Partnerships. The idea being to bring together a diverse group of individuals, business, societies to create a local plan. If you are interested in finding out more then go to this link <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/local-nature-partnerships/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/local-nature-partnerships/</a>

Trading Standards' scam emails warning - Incidents of scam emails being sent from hacked email accounts is on the rise, says Buckinghamshire's Trading Standards team, who are reminding members of the public to be aware. The fake emails, which look like they have been sent from the genuine email address of a friend or a family member, are sent to all addresses in the address book of the hacked email account. The email will usually contain a request for financial help.

Links to all the above and many more initiatives for Buckinghamshire can be found on the AA Website

Bob Carvey

## You deserve the best

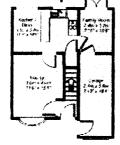
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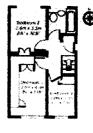
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### Aston Abbotts Parish Council Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012

Present: - Cllrs. C Higgs (Chair), Mrs K Curry, B Carvey, J Perkins and P Bruton (Clerk). One member of the public was in attendance.

Correspondence to note – The Clerk updated the meeting on correspondence received and the following matters were discussed.

Due to the withdrawal of funding by AVDC the Aylesbury Vale South Sports Council had been wound up and we had received our proportion of the distribution of surplus funds on dissolution. We had received a further letter from AVDC on Neighbourhood Planning, as we had previously advised them that we wanted to develop such a plan it was AGREED the Clerk would complete the form and return to Forward Plans at AVDC.

A questionnaire had been received from BCC regarding the Local Area Technicians Service. The document was difficult to comment on given the lack of explanation and was completed accordingly, the Clerk would return to BCC in the envelope provided.

Village Plan – Cllr Perkins reported that the meeting with Sarah Allwood had been successful and we could now proceed with finalising the published document. Final details were being added to the document and it was AGREED that providing the funding was received from Community Impact Bucks we would proceed to publication and print. The Clerk would request the balance of funding and the document would be launched at the Annual Parish meeting scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

Queen's Jubilee – The Clerk had circulated details of the arrangements required for our insurance to cover the event. Council were of the view that it would be more appropriate that the organisers arrange for separate event insurance and the cost could form part of the funding agreed at last month's meeting. The Clerk would notify the organisers.

LAF Meetings – Cllr Curry advised that minutes of the recent LAF meeting would be circulated and that Cllrs Clarke and Carvey would be attending the forthcoming meeting on the Local Area Planning Refresh scheduled for the 28th March.

Abbotts View Farm – A letter had been received from an interested party in relation to Abbotts View Farm. Council were being asked for their opinion on proposed changes to the current planning permission. After discussion it was AGREED that Council could not commit to giving support to the proposals without seeing a formal planning application with supporting documentation. The Clerk would respond to the enquiry accordingly

**Damaged Gate – Lines Hill** – Cllr Clarke had sent in a note updating the meeting on the progress of the picnic benches for the Recreation Ground and the Clerk was asked to discuss with Cllr Clarke the matter of the damaged Gate.

It was confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 7:30pm in the Church Room.

#### SPRING INTO ACTION

As the days become longer and the daffodils flower, the sun shines brightly into our rooms and, oh dear, just look at that dust! Although Quentin Crisp the author is reputed to have said that dust gets no thicker after three years, most of us prefer not to test that theory.

We all have standards we like to maintain but sometimes we just can't physically manage the house and garden like we used to when we were younger. For anyone who wants a bit of extra help at home, you can ring Age UK Bucks and ask about the Help at Home service.

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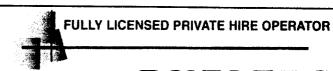
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#### **OVER AT LAST!**

Some of you may remember the events of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of April last year. On the 6<sup>th</sup> the village was mourning the passing of Ray Wilkinson and many a glass was raised to his memory in the Royal Oak. It was therefore perhaps surprising that Simon Guy was alert enough to notice a stranger acting suspiciously on the Green that evening and that he carefully made a mental note of his description. With so many cars parked around the Green this visitor had parked across Peter Knight's gate. Concerned that he might not be able to get out in the morning Peter also took the number plate of the car. These two later became key witnesses in the trial of Al Amin Dhalla which finished on 15<sup>th</sup> February. The trial ended with Mr Dhalla being found guilty of 9 out of the 10 counts including the most serious charge of 'Arson with intent to endanger life'. Those of you who were awoken early on the morning of Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April to find numerous fire engines arranged around Church Farm House may have wondered what sort of acquaintances we had, well now you know. Sentencing will take place on or after 16<sup>th</sup> April awaiting the results of psychiatric tests.

In his summing up the Judge praised the intervention of Dave and Alison Lewis whose 'Prompt and Courageous' action undoubtedly saved the house from burning to the ground. The Judge has recommended Dave and Alison for an award from the High Sheriff of East Sussex. If successful there will be an award ceremony in March. So the Lewis' lounge wall may display yet another trophy that they can be duly proud of. Stand by for further revelations on the back page of the Chronicle!

We can't say the last 18 months have been easy and we are very glad that it all over. We have very much appreciated the support, kindness and discretion of the village in this trying period. We are now looking forward to getting back to some kind of normality as soon as possible.

Our very grateful thanks to you all

Pam & David.

## Mad Summer Ball: astonishing final result £130,000 handed over to two service charities

by Jane Murrell

IT is with great pleasure we can now tell you how much the *Mad Summer Ball 2011* raised and handed over to the service men and women who put their life on the line for us all. After all the accounts were completed we were able to hand over cheques to the charities. We gave a lot of thought as to how we were to divide the money raised, and it was put to a vote at the committee meeting. The committee took into account the knowledge that the 'Help for Heroes' charity had 64 fund-raising events on the same day as the *Mad Summer Ball* while the 'Care for Casualties' charity had only our event. So we decided to give 'Care for Casualties' a greater share of the total raised.

It was with great pride and satisfaction we visited the John Howard Barracks to hand over a cheque for £90,000 to the Regimental Casualty Officer, Lt Col Mike Smith. It was explained to us all on that evening that as soon as any Rifleman is injured Lt Col Mike Smith is informed and is ready to meet them and their family on arrival at the hospital in Birmingham. There he explains what the 'Care for Casualties' charity can offer them. That could be anything from medical care after hospital discharge, counselling helping family of bereaved, to hand bikes so they can help to raise more money for the charity. Another two Riflemen were killed in action in the week before the cheque hand-over. We know that for everyone killed, another five could have life-changing injuries.

So now to hand over a cheque for £40,000 to 'Help for Heroes'. On 22nd December, in the Rose and Crown pub, Wingrave, the cheque was handed over to Squadron Leader Steve Smith. Steve is in charge of Buckinghamshire area for 'Help for Heroes'. At one of our earliest committee meetings he had told us of their work, and we were all in no doubt that we were right to raise money for them. Steve was very pleased to tell us that the cheque for £40,000 brought the Buckinghamshire total to one million pounds raised. This is something that we can all be proud of.

We never thought in our wildest dreams during the two years of planning, letter writing, ticket selling, and even table planning, did we dream we would raise so much! Thank you for your tremendous support! Both the charities will continue to need our support for a very long time to come and for long after the current conflicts end. Whether or not there will be a *Mad 3* in 2013 remains to be seen, but you may be sure that we will give it a great deal of thought and will keep the parishes up to date with developments. One of our committee members is climbing Kilimanjaro in March and would be grateful for any sponsorship, large or small, as it all is going to 'Help for Heroes'. Just go to www.bmycharity.com/helenbarton.



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## Aston Abbotts Website - further updates www.aston-abbotts.co.uk

This is a website for the village and I want it to be useful to villagers as well as to people looking up Aston Abbotts on the internet. If there is something you would like to see on the site then please email me - you will find contact details on the site. I would also be interested in adding more photo galleries, so if you have taken some interesting pictures of Aston Abbotts or village events please get in touch. I would also like to add any pictures of Aston Abbotts in the past and I'd be grateful if I could borrow any for scanning - they will be returned unharmed and very promptly. Thank you.

Phil Spooner



Another of Peter Kent's photos - this time of The Church Room in the 1950's

#### WINGRAVE C of E SCHOOL

What have we been learning? The following questions are all based on recent topics studied at school. If you bring an answer to Mrs Britnell by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March you will be awarded 5 house points for each correct answer.

- 1- Who wrote 'The Iron Giant'?
- 2- When was 'The Iron Giant' first published?
- 3- Who invented the mobile phone?
- 4- How long did King George IV reign for?
- 5- Where was Princess Elizabeth when she heard the news that her father had died?
- 6- When did The Queen's Coronation take place?
- 7- Write down three rules to keep you safe when using electricity.
- 8- What is a battery?
- 9- What are the names of each class?
- 10- Name three jobs carried out by people in a castle?

Community Writing Project. Wingrave C of E School has come together with a number of other local schools to establish a writing project focusing on; 'Special Places'. The outcomes of the project will be published both online and in print and a celebration will be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Local author Claire Steele is supporting the project and running workshops with the children. The project is a fantastic opportunity to draw on the talents of any local writers, bringing the community and school together. Anybody interested in supporting and developing this project further please contact me through the school office.



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The chairman of LLAL, Councillor Robin Harris, said:
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that everyone has the maximum opportunity to understand
our proposals to optimise the airport, create new job
opportunities and attract business to the area and to
express their views, whatever their opinion."

plans will be on display in Luton, Caddington, Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-17011253



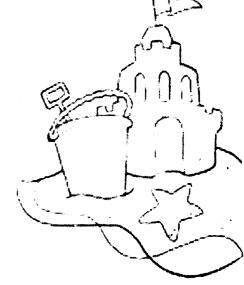
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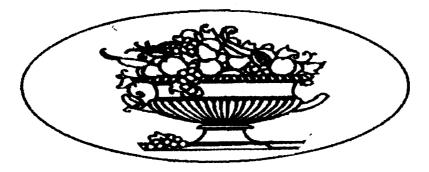
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Paul Bruton (Parish Clerk)

51 The Green - 682322

Colin Higgs (Vice Chairman)

6 Wingrave Road - 681343

Richard Clarke

Maplewood, The Green – 681007

**Judy Hardcastle** 

Marloes, Lines Hill – 688070

**Kate Curry** 

2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane – 681137

James Perkins (co-opted) - 07882 980415

**Bob Carvey** 

12 The Green - 681053

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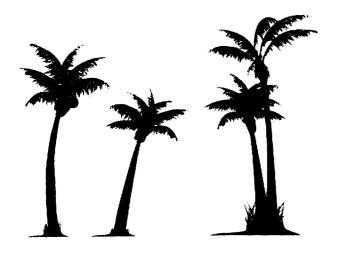
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#### Village Plan Update

Some of you may remember that a questionnaire was published in late 2011 to aid the completion of our village plan. The results from the questionnaire provided further feedback which is being used to confirm the actions that are the "backbone" of the plan. The results are summarised below.

#### The Village Community

- Continue to pursue the lease of the church room building in order to ensure the facility is both enhanced and preserved.
- > Ideas and feedback have been collated for distribution to the Trustees
- Explore ways of improving the use of the village pub as a village facility.
- > Ideas and feedback have been collated for distribution to the Landlord and Lady.

#### **Housing and Development**

- The creation of a village design statement that guides any potential development.
- > 84% said yes to the creation of a village design statement.

#### **Communications**

- To ensure that the village website is kept up to date.
- ➤ 64% agreed with updating the village website. It is noted that much great work has been done to date on the website.

#### **Transport**

- Continue to lobby for the third phase completion of the path way to the Wingrave Crossroads".
   This will ensure that residents will have a link to the more frequent public transport route on the A418.
- > 88% said yes to continue to pursue the third and final phase of the pathway to the A418.
- Parish Council to investigate traffic/speed calming measures for the village.
- > 78% said yes to traffic calming measures within reason.
- Parish Council to investigate parking condition options.
- > 66% said yes to parking condition options.

#### **Education and Facilities**

- Investigate options regarding a shop/post office facility.
- > 72% said yes regarding exploring shopping facilities.
- Ensure that the footpath and bridleway network is maintained and is accessible.
- > 84% said they were aware of the footpath and bridleway network.

#### **Security and Environment**

- Investigate the re-launch of a neighbourhood watch scheme.
- > 80% said yes to the re-launch of neighbourhood watch scheme.
- Investigate options regarding the lighting of the proposed path to "Wingrave Crossroads" and the crossroads itself.
- > 53% said yes to lighting down to the A418.

#### **Parish Council**

- The Parish Council to be responsible for managing the Village Plan. Specifically ensuring that actions are completed and the plan is kept up to date.
- 100% said yes.
- In light of the new "Big Society" strategy introduced by the coalition government the Parish Council should work with it's council partners on delegation of power where it is of benefit to the village.
- > 79% said yes to exploring the delegation of powers.

#### Church

- Explore ways of utilising the Church further as a village facility.
- > 79% of people agreed. Ideas & feedback to be distributed to the Parochial Church Council.

The completion of this consultation means we can now go ahead and print the plan for our village. Once this is done we will be communicating how you can access a copy.

James Perkins

## Spring has arrived!

Spring has arrived and at The Unicorn we are springing into action to offer you a host of events throughout March. A delicious menu will be available to spoil your mum on Mothering Sunday, we will have more live music from John Gordon's band and we will even be hosting a bob-up boutique which will be raising money for Cystic Fibrosis!

March is also host to St Patricks day, when we will be showing all 6 Nations matches including the England vs Ireland match, 5pm.

### What's coming in March

Friday 2nd - Live Music John Gordon's Free electric band

5th - Monday night quiz - 8.30pm

Saturday 10th - 6 Nations Rugby Wales vs Italy 14.30, Ireland vs Scotland 17.00.

Sunday 11th - 6 Nations Rugby France vs England, 15.00

12th - Monday night quiz - 8.30pm

Saturday 17th - St Patricks Day 6 Nations Rugby,

England vs Ireland 17.00

Italy vs Scotland 12.30

Wales vs France 14.45

Sunday 18th - Mothering Sunday

19th - Monday night quiz - 8.30pm

Tuesday 27th - Pop up boutique by Once worn, twice loved

Friday 30th - Dinner and Jazz - 8pm



#### PLUS enjoy these Unicorn Regulars:

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

Coffee & Homemade cake Every morning from 10.30am

Monday Night is Quiz night The Unicorn Quiz 8pm - 10pm Why not bring a team?

Saturday Breakfasts -Start the weekend with the newspapers and a Full English served 9am - 11am

#### Sundays

Best of British Roasts 12pm - 3pm Booking strongly advised

**Bar Snacks** available throughout the day!

Hold your business meetings in our Club Room FREE WiFi internet access! Ask for details

01296 681261 Booking always advisable!

The Unicom, High Street, Cublington, Bucks, LU7 0LQ Please see web site for full details Follw us on Facebook www.theunicornpub.co.uk



## St James Church

| March 4th.  | 10.15am. | Holy Communion.   | Rev. Ian Ogilvie       |
|-------------|----------|-------------------|------------------------|
| March 11th. | 10.15am. | Holy Communion.   | Rev. Peter Binns       |
| March 18th. | 5.30pm.  | Mothering Sunday. | Rev. Philip Derbyshire |
| March 25th. | 10.30am. | Holy Communion.   | Rev. Roger Hale        |

| CHURCH DUTIES |                          |                       |  |  |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| 3rd March     | <i>Cleaners</i><br>Colin | Flowers no flowers in |  |  |
| ord iviaicii  | Caroline L               | Lent                  |  |  |
| 10th          | Ann                      |                       |  |  |
|               | Gordon                   |                       |  |  |
| 17th          | Shirley<br>Andrew        |                       |  |  |
| 24th          | Anita                    |                       |  |  |
|               | April                    |                       |  |  |

From the 1st. March there's a bit of a reorganisation happening with local Anglican Churches. From now on Aston Abbotts, Cheddington with Mentmore, Cublington, Soulbury, Slewkley, Wing with Grove and Wingrave with Rowsham will be The Cottesloe Benefice run by the Cottesloe Ministry Team.

The Clergy Team will be myself as Team Rector and Revds. Derek Witchell and Robert Wright as Team Vicars with Revd. Siv Tunnicliffe as Associate Team Minister, plus a group of very gifted lay people with preaching licenses and help from a pool of very able retired clergy.

So what does that mean? Probably for most people on a daily basis not a great deal, but it does enable greater collaboration and better planning for the future as well as mutual support for Team members who can become extremely isolated in rural ministry. It's about pooling talents, encouraging greater variety for congregations and ministers alike. Above all it is about enabling us to nurture and encourage and challenge one another in our journey of faith exploration as we enter this season of Lent.

I pray you have a very fruitful period of preparation for the wonderful events of Holy Week and Easter. God Bless, *Revd.Philip Derbyshire*.

#### Annual Parochial Church Meeting Tuesday 24 April 2012,

7.45pm and 8pm, Church Room

Anyone living in the parish is very welcome to come along to the annual meeting of St James's Church. There are two separate meetings to the evening: Firstly;-

- the 'annual vestry meeting' to elect two churchwardens (currently April Curnow and Caroline Abel Smith);
- the annual parochial church council meeting

The second meeting will follow immediately at around 8pm and covers:

- Changes in the church electoral roll (which is being revised in March). If you are a regular churchgoer aged 16 or over and not on the roll, this is the time to have your name added
- Annual report on parochial church council activities and the parish generally
- Financial statement for 2011
- Report on fabric of the church buildings
- Report on the Deanery Synod
- Election of six parochial representatives to the PCC
- Other matters of parochial or general church interest

Notices of both meetings will be posted in April at the church; information about the electoral roll will be posted in March.

#### The Aston Abbotts Telephone List

| 100 Club               | Colin Higgs              | 681343         |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| 630 Club               | Andy Bystra              | 681690         |
| AVDC                   | Switchboard              | 585858         |
| Baby& Toddlers Group   | Kim Gayler               | 681123         |
| Bingo                  | Pam Dixon                | 681626         |
| 9-                     | Sheila Humpreys          | 681649         |
| 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     | Gordon Kemp              | 681763         |
| 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 Coordinator       | TBA                      |                |
| 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 Shorrock           | 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                 | Rev Philip Derbyshire    | 01525 240287   |
| Refuse Collection      | Enquiries                | 585510         |
| Royal British Legion   | Alan Jones               | 682366         |
| Royal Oak              | Teri & Gary Moult        | 68 <b>1262</b> |
| 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

#### **Big Day Out**

#### Saturday 10 to Sunday 18 March

To celebrate English Tourism Week, attractions across Buckinghamshire, including Longridge Activity Centre, Stowe and Buckinghamshire County Museum and Roald Dahl Children's Gallery, are offering special offers to Bucks residents during this week. To find out more and download your discount vouchers visit www.visitbuckinghamshire.org or call 01296 330559 for more information.

### The Chronicle

#### Advertising rates per annum

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

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

Send copy and cheque payable to 'The Chronicle' to

#### **Phil Corrigan**

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

## YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM Wing North



**Emma Garside** 





Sergeant Paul Cladingboel



PC Frank Callaghan



PCSO Paula Boston



PCSO Tina Hobson

The neighbourneod policing teem works on issues identified by local recidents and businesses.

To contact them cell

This is a find emergency minder, dismadually, enall from or Wingstongly IF Company very propositional.

## What's On In March

| Thursday 1st  | Coffee Shop 10-12noon                         | Church Room     |
|---------------|---|-----------------|
|               | Whist Drive 7.30pm                            | Church Room     |
| Sunday 4th    | Rambling Club 2pm meet To                     | ottenhoe Knolls |
| Thursday 8th  | Coffee Shop 10-12noon                         | Church Room     |
|               | No Bingo                                      |                 |
| Friday 9th    | Beetle Drive 7pm                              | Church Room     |
| Tuesday 13th  | Mobile Library 10.30am                        | The Green       |
| •             | Ramblers AGM 7.30pm                           | Morlands, Wing  |
| Thursday 15th | Coffee Shop 10-12noon                         | Church Room     |
| •             | Ladies Club Spring Lunch                      | Church Room     |
|               | Whist Drive 7.30pm                            | Church Room     |
| Sunday 18th   | Mothering Sunday 5pm                          | St James Church |
| Thursday 22nd | Coffee Shop 10-12noon                         | Church Room     |
| Saturday 24th | British Summertime - clocks go forward 1 hour |                 |
| Tuesday 27th  | Mobile Library 10.30am                        | The Green       |
| Thurs 29th    | Coffee Shop 10-12noon                         | Church Room     |

Whist Drive 7.30pm

Ramblers 2pm

#### 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

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

#### The Chiltern Camerata Concert

With conductor Sam Laughton come and enjoy an evening of choral masterworks from all around the world including Mozart - Coronation Mass Vaughan Williams - Serenade to Music Vivaldi - Magnificat in G Minor with instrumental works by Elgar and Mozart

All Saints Parish Church The Causeway Marlow Buckinghamshire SL7 2AA 17th March 2012 7:30PM to 9:00PM

Ticket Price £12 (concessions £10) under 14's accompanied by an adult free Enquiries and Booking: 01494 883112 e-mail info@chiltern-camerata.org.uk

### Classified

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle

Phone us on 01296 688191 or email

editor@aachronicle.co.uk

#### LITTER BLITZ

Please take the time and spend an hour helping to keep our village tidy.

Meet outside the Church Room on Saturday 31st March 10am

## MOBILE LIBRARY 13th & 17th The Green 10.30am

Sunday 1st April

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.

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.

#### 1st Wingrave Scout Group - Update

Church Room

meet at Woburn

This term the Cubs are making balsa wood aeroplanes for their DIY badge and participating in a science afternoon. Beavers have been doing quizzes, making 3D models and learning about crocodiles and alligators.



At the end of January both Beavers and Cubs had a visit from the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust, which was very interesting. We found out a lot, including the area covered, the name of the helicopter ('Bob') and how a man, who had fallen into a river, was rescued by the air ambulance service.

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are open to girls and boys aged between 6 and 14. We meet weekly at the Scout Hut in Chiltern Road. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact the Group Scout Leader, Michelle Parker, on 01296 681911, or via email: quaveriw@yahoo.co.uk

#### MOBILE LIBRARY

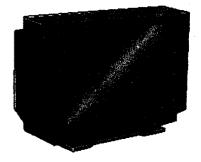
NEEDS YOU!!!!!
'USE IT' don't 'LOOSE IT'

## FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

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- PLASMA
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# FOR SALE

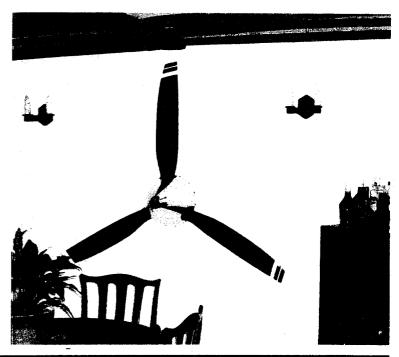
# A Beautiful Dining Room Wall Ornament - hardly used!

This genuine aircraft propeller will add a little je ne sais quoi to any home. Nearly six feet in diameter yet standing a mere 18 inches proud from the wall, this is bound to be the main topic of conversation amongst your dinner guests.

Guys - give that special lady in your life that little bit extra. Imagine the look of pleasure, amazement and surprise on her face when she comes back from a Valentines' visit to Spain (without you) and her eyes fall upon this beautiful new addition to her home!

Legitimate reasons for sale include :

- 1. Unwanted gift
- 2. Impending divorce



FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY