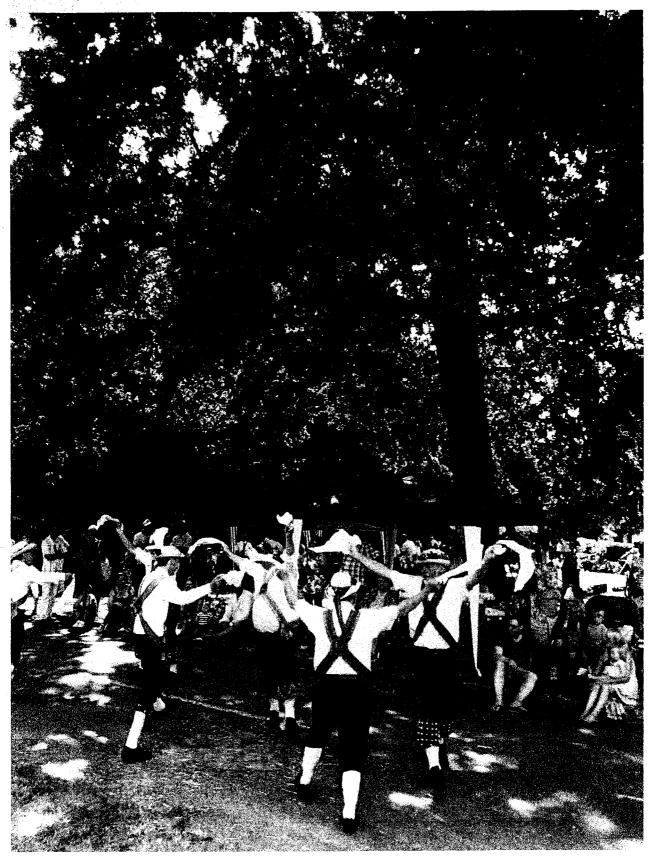
THE CHRONICLE

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine - September 2013



EDITORIAL

Contrary to any rumours you may have heard I am pleased to say that the Chronicle is to carry on. Perhaps this should be called the "Phoenix Edition"

Myself and James Perkins (and hopefully others) will keep it going until a more permanent Editor volunteers, or is bribed or blackmailed.

Firstly thanks to John Hardcastle for his second stint as Editor. If there were a village honours system I am sure he would be in line for a gong. Now there's a thought for later in the year! Perhaps awards for good deeds or misdemeanours throughout the year. Although in the case of the misdemeanours I'd better seek advice from our community "Brief" in the Oak on Friday, he prefers to be anonymous and operates under the pseudonym of "Redlegs"

Also thanks to Phil Spooner and his technical wizardry that enables a luddite like me to put this together.

For myself, although I didn't move to the village until 2003, I have been reading the Chronicle since 1990 during frequent visits to John & Anne Brancker when they lived on the Green before decamping to sunnier climes.

This, my first Editorial (and possibly last if somebody else steps in) reminds me of when I was elected to Chair an association of Shopping Centre Managers throughout London and South East England. Having spent years partying and drinking with these people, at our first meeting I looked out at a sea of faces and realised they expected me to impart some sensible relevant pearls of wisdom......this feels remarkably similar.

Summer is coming to an end, "the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" approaches, the village has hosted another very successful fete and summer ball, more on both inside. No Astonbury this year, but who knows come 2014, I have heard rumours (I think I started them)

We will do our best to keep you informed, entertained, amused and, possibly outraged on occasions.

Will there be any changes? Early talks were leading to a Viz / Private Eye hybrid but that may have been fuelled by Johns generous hosting skills.

All and any feedback is welcomed, especially if accompanied by a pint in the Oak.

Phil Corrigan

Over to James for the October issue (unless he sneaks off on his travels).

In this issue:

- The Fete
- The Summer Ball
- Lots of theatre reviews

THE CHRONICLE Issue 335

September 2013

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A note to all would be advertisers - More than 202 households receive The Chronicle 11 times a year and with rates from just £10 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines)...

... Can you afford not to be in?

Copy date for the next issue is:

Friday 22nd September 2013

Please pass items to the editor or a member of the Production Team as early as possible.

Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbotts, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

Alison's Gossip Column

BIRTHDAYS

A slight technical hitch with the birthday list, if you have a birthday in September we wish you a fantastic day.

Get well to our mega music talent Anthony Palmer who has just had a kidney transplant at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge. Anthony only recently married his Austrian wife, Martine, here on 29th June and I'm sure we all wish them Good Luck for the future.

I overheard some chattering school children about the "topless granny" they often see sunbathing when they're on the way home on the school bus. Who could this possibly be?!!

(all suggestions to be submitted) Ed

Found – gold coloured ear ring with amber looking stone, at the end of the church wall in Cublington road. Please contact me if you are the owner, 682004.

" more breaks that a snooker tournament"

Get well to Liz Barlow who broke her wrist when she fell 10ft from a ladder....and June Cox who broke her shoulder following the ball. B Barber

Can B Barber, or anyone who knows, or has sold fete ticket to B Barber please contact me as I have good news! Thankyou. Deirdre Whyte

deirdeawhyte@hotmail.co.uk

George & Christine Fox" would like to say a big thank you to all of the people who gave donations to the special care baby unit at Stoke Mandeville which raised a fantastic £525"

A prelude to all the fete news

"A Village Affair"

I'm sure the sky appeared bluer that day

Tents and stalls were assembled by dawn,

A bustle took over the village

And in their own unique way

All manner of games, raffles and prizes

Appeared for this the Annual Village Fete.

"Teeny tots with sparkling eyes As all around delights they spy Laughing faces full of joy Gleeful girls and skipping boys Little children with winning toys Raffles and tombola stand Bouncy castles and a splendid band! Sunlight streams through covering trees A Village Affair for you and me Jars of jams and chutney to buy Balls to throw and win a prize Just to be in the summer glow And watch this village come and go. Fifty pence will bring a chance To win the lotto in a glance Pretty dresses, summer hats Throw the balls and make a crash!

Time to sit for a cup of tea

Cakes to choose, now let's see?

Strawberries and cream on scrumptious scones

No coffee walnut will be the one!

Nothing less that I can see

A Village Affair for you and me..."

© Susie Hemingway Susiehemingway.com

Aston Abbotts Fete 2013

Well, another year, another Fete. And what a good one! The sun shone, the people came, the purses were open and George Elliot gave what must be the longest opening speech ever in the entire history of the Fete.

The day started well though, with lots of willing(?) volunteers turning up at The Green to set up tables, chairs and gazebos. Phil Corrigan was seen to lift at least one chair from one side of a gazebo to another. Unaided. Without gloves. Amazing.(not too far from the truth Ed)

The public started to assemble from twelve thirty, eyeing up the Bric-a-brac and cakes. There was a moment's panic when they were told that the Fete wouldn't open until after the opening speech - but that wouldn't take long - surely? Well, George Elliot did a grand job. We were told his life history and memories of schooling in Aston Abbotts, with Bernard Osborne among others. I had been forewarned by his daughter that he may perhaps "go on a bit" and that I was to "grab him by his tie and drag him off" when I felt we'd heard enough. Thankfully I didn't have to do this and he eventually handed the microphone over to James Perkins, our new Fetemaster of Ceremonies. This role is vital to the fete and has, of course been carried out so well for many years by Peter Knight. James did an excellent job however and managed to follow Peter in finding that difficult balance between fact and humour. (Fact: John Whyte can be soaked for only £1.00. Humour: John Whyte should be soaked for no charge at all. Sorry James, I just made that bit up).

Great Horwood Silver Band provided the traditional musical background and

Aldbury Morris Men gave their customary performance of Old English madness. The increasingly popular Dog Show was very well attended and drew the crowds to The Grove area which also included vintage tractors, a thrashing machine and a wide range of children's attractions.

Refreshments did particularly well this year, no doubt helped by the weather that had been pre booked by Colin. Very few locals were spotted without a pint of Pimms in one hand - cleverly leaving the other for a gourmet burger. Church Room Teas did a brilliant job in keeping up with the constant cry for tea and scones. They made their first sale at half ten when two cyclists agreed to pay £10.00 for an early cuppa! The stalls proved as popular as ever, gradually selling out of bargains and leaving the usual remains to be sold either at knockdown prices or eventually, given away free to innocent bystanders.

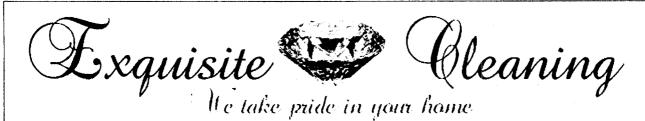
The Fete ended as always with the Raffle Draw at 4.00 and the rain didn't start until nearer five! Thank you Colin.

As always there are many people to thank and I apologise in advance for any I forget to mention. Here goes:

Raffle prizes - kindly sourced by Hannah Brandon and donated by: Kings Head Ivinghoe, Royal Oak, Unicorn, Parrotts Butchers, Liscombe Park Gym, Bridget Brandon, Meera and Steve, Waddesdon Manor, Irene Lowden, Laura Hill, Café Zera and many more.

Stalls & attractions: Liz Clarke & team; Pam, Dave & Terri; Fran, Brigitte & Anne; Simonne & Mike; Tony, Margaret, Steve & Sharon; John, Alan & British Legion; Alex, Caroline & Peter; Dave & John; Juan & Liz; Fiona & Bridget; Ian & Lesley; Peter, Alan & team; Rob Hunter, Alison & Guy Bond (Sponsored by The Royal Oak); Sally, Richard, Sondra & Gay.

Refreshments: Louise, Stella & Frank; Lol, Ade, Dan, Kevin, Jane & team; Tracy & Ness; Nigel, Simon & Pete; Anita & Ian. (cont'd)



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Floating helpers: April & Jo

All round help and support: Peter Knight and all villagers who donated, came and gave freely of their precious time and hard earned cash.

We now need a new co-ordinator for next year so please get in touch and I can talk you through it all. If I can do it anyone can, so give me a ring and we can talk. No obligation and in complete confidence!

Deirdre Whyte

681685

deirdreawhyte@hotmail.co.uk

More Fete news..

Number Crunching at the Fete

- The amount of people Liz allowed to walk past the Skittles without playing.
- 1 Sacrificial virgin (as requested by the Morris Men naturally)
- 2 3 Coins in a fountain
- 3 16 Beef burgers consumed by James (once they'd reached half price)
- 4 31 Wobbly tables for various stalls
- 5 127 Gifts purchased (free) for Grannies by loving grandsons (George H)
- 6 497 Lollies given away to cute children who didn't win one at the ball game.(BB)
- 7 1798 Pints of Pimms sold
- 8 2007 Sell by date on a jar of beetroot
- 9 4,250 The number of £'s raised*

These facts and figures may not all be entirely accurate and have been massaged to protect the innocent.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Please come and join the Café regulars as we take part in the

Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning on Thursday 26 September from 9.30 to 12.00.

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Deirdre Whyte

^{*} True

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Aston Abbotts Dog Show

The dog show on Fete day was well supported. We had 99 entries in total and the results were as follows:

Most Handsome Dog had 10 entries and was won by Adam's Flat Coat Retriever Delta. Second was Benjy owned by Miss Shaw and third was Harry, a Springer Spaniel owned by Angie Thomas.

Prettiest Bitch had 13 entries and was won by Tara, a Pug Cross owned by Chris.

Golden Oldie had 7 entries and the winner was Jill's 13 year old Black Labrador Shadow.

Best Rescue had 5 entries and was won by Gillian's Staffordshire Bull Terrier Shackles. Mr. Newen's Storm was second and Helen's Charlie was third.

Best Puppy had 6 entries. The winner was Dexter, a white Boxer owned by Jane.

Most Appealing Eyes had 14 entries and was won by Millie's Black Labrador Darcy.

Waggiest Tail attracted 6 entries. The winner was Chris Oliver's Black Cocker Spaniel Bertie.

Fastest Sausage Eater came next and attracted 15 entries. It was run in three heats and the winner was Tiff, a Jack Russell Terrier, handled by Tom.

Sitting Challenge had 10 entries and was won by Flyn, a Shetland Sheepdog, owned by Carol Spooner.

Dog The Judge Would Most Like to Take Home attracted 13 entries and was won by Cassey, a Dalmatian, owned by Harriet.

Our Best In Show was won by Cassey, the Dalmation. Reserve Best In Show went to Delta, the Flatcoat Retriever.

Our Judge was Jill Fountain a Kennel Club Judge.

Thanks to my team of Helpers - Gay, Liz and Sondra.

Sally Clarke

Aston Abbotts Book Club

In August we discussed "After Long Silence" by Helen Fremont. This is a book that deals with the horrors of the Holocaust and the Gulags tracing the amazing survival of two people who against all odds meet again and marry immediately after the war. To preserve their own family from any further ordeals they hide the truth of their origins and faith. Their children unravel the story of their survival despite being asked not to enquire. This book provoked a lot of discussion. It left the story unfinished and raised many questions. For all the horrors recounted this was still a good and thoughtful read.

The next Book Club will take place on Wednesday 25th September at Brigitte's house when we will review her choice of Victoria Hislop's book "The Thread".

The book for October, chosen by Sally Palmer, is 'To Kill a Mocking Bird' by Harper Lee.

John Hardcastle

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Theatrical reviews

Sofia National Ballet, Don Quixote

We had the good fortune of winning tickets to see the Sofia National Ballet perform Don Quixote at the Waterside Theatre. The opening was set in a Spanish village although the first set of costumes looked more Bulgarian than Spanish! Don Quixote himself is an old knight and did nothing more than walk around the stage and make dramatic gestures but this role was brilliantly executed. The ballet was technically demanding of the dancers but both the lead male and female roles appeared to dance in an effortless manner pirouetting wildly across the stage with apparent ease. With a strong Spanish theme, it was interesting to see the entire corps de ballet change style of dance and costume with a click of their castanets. Act 2 is a dream sequence and the dry ice effects and staging were truly dreamlike. The dancing was exquisite and we especially enjoyed the paso doble in act 3 as well as the other solo dances.

We were surprised and delighted to see that an entire orchestra had travelled across from Bulgaria with the dance troupe as too often a pre-recorded audio tape can not quite meet the timing of a live dancer. Unfortunately their skill was not quite as great as the dancers. Although the music is not as dramatic and exciting as that of Tchaikovsky, we really enjoyed this performance which was full of energy and drama. The Sofia National Ballet deserves to be highly recommended.

Gavin & Elvina

Shaolin Warriors - Return of the Master

On the 22nd June I was fortunate enough to be the beneficiary of the Chronicle's complimentary Waterside Theatre tickets for the above mentioned show and what an amazing experience it was!

Described as an international theatrical martial arts show, it contained breathtaking feats, performed by 22 Kung Fu masters - two of whom were just children. Words can hardly describe the visual feast enjoyed by an audience of all ages. The beautifully choreographed fight scenes demonstrated remarkable discipline, agility, grace and poise. A wide range of weapons were used including knives, choppers, spears, whips and sticks - to name but a few - all with great dexterity and precision timing.

All of the acts performed required incredible strength, concentration and stamina. This together with the music, colours and scenery, created a spellbinding and energetic display. Everything was made to look easy but it was very apparent that it was not to be tried at home! To give just a couple of examples, and without giving too much away, we witnessed a concrete block being smashed with a sledgehammer on the stomach of one warrior who was lying on top of another concrete block which itself had been placed on a second warrior who was lying one the ground! Another warrior performed a handstand balanced only on his index fingertips!

Children from the audience were invited to participate on stage and over fifty youngsters took full advantage and thoroughly enjoyed copying the moves and making the corresponding noises to accompany them. All in all a very uplifting experience.

A big thank you to the Editor for facilitating such an enjoyable evening.

June Cox

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Pan roasted Gressingham duck breast, braised red cabbage & apple, garlic saute potatoes & cider jus

Beer battered cod, hand cut chips & minted mushy peas served with homemade tartare sauce

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More theatrical Reviews

(it's getting more like the Sunday Times Culture Section)

Roy Orbison and friends

My first visit to the Waterside Theatre courtesy of Hotshot Hardcastle, the esteemed editor of the Chronicle, to see Roy Orbison and friends.

The theatre was about two thirds full but it was obvious that this crowd knew what to expect. Apparently this show has appeared at this theatre previously and has built up a good following.

The start of the show was interesting in that they used a screen to set the scene as far as the era was concerned. The first film they ran was an old Shell advert which must have come out late 50's. Some of you may remember it. We're going well, we're going Shell, you can be sure of Shell, Shell – sung by a certain Bing Crosby, how much did he get paid for that.

The first Roy Orbison song was Claudette, a big hit for the Everly Brothers, but written by The Big O as a tribute to his wife. We then moved through the years with a succession of Roy Orbison hits, including It's Over, written by Roy following his breakup with Claudette. She ran off with their architect apparently. Is there a life lesson for all of us here? Are all architects the same? Can they be trusted with women, even if they are retired? We should be told. Johnny Cash was the first of Roy's friends to appear. He was a revelation. Roy Orbison songs tend to be of a certain tempo. Johnny Cash came on with a bang. Full on up tempo numbers which got the audience fully involved. Following on closely the second friend was Elvis Presley. He sang to a backdrop of news footage of Elvis joining the army and some of his time in Germany. The songs reflected that period, all very early Elvis. Again very upbeat with good appreciation from those watching.

Roy kept changing his clothes and hairstyle as the evening progressed and as the songs moved through the years, although the pace of delivery from the guy playing Roy stayed very much the same.Roy's two friends made a further appearance in the second half and to me they gave the show a better balance, with again up tempo numbers to contrast with the mainly slower Roy Orbison songs.

That said the finale blew the audience away with, without a doubt, Roy Orbison's biggest hit, Pretty Woman. The build - up to this song was excellent and the audience were determined to join in. A good end to a good show.

Rainy Days & Mondays: The Carpenters Greatest Hits Live

Elvina and I attended this tribute to the Carpenters and their music. Although the Carpenters first rose to fame before either of us were born, Elvina had learned all their hits in her childhood from repeatedly listening to a tape that she had found in a drawer at home, which turned out to be all the Carpenter's hits recorded onto an unlabelled cassette by her mum.

The singer Claire Furley had a very warm voice very similar to Karen Carpenter. After the free refreshment in the interval, the crowd really came alive with audience participation in the second half. Even the lighting engineer seemed to wake up in the second half remembering to shine the spotlight during the instrumental solos.

The band had four members - keyboard/director, guitar, drums and a very talented fourth member who deserves special mention. Not only did he play a vast array of instruments including wind (flute, clarinet, alto and tenor sax, recorder) and percussion (tambourine, triangle, chimes, vibraslap), but sometimes he played two simultaneously (one with each hand) and gave some amazing saxophone solos (he previous worked with Westlife and Amy Winehouse).

The performance was very enjoyable and showed how the music lives on despite Karen's tragically early death. In the words of Phil Aldridge (keyboard), this was music from when pop songs had a tune (now, I'm feeling old). Gavin



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Aston Abbotts Summer Ball 2013

"Voted Hottest Summer Ball Ever*"

You never quite know what cards Mother Nature is going to deal you in the summer. As anyone putting an event on in the open will know it's simply something you have to put to the back of your mind. In 2013 the Summer Ball was given the "Royal Flush" from her in charge of the weather department. It was wall to wall sunshine making our life (Well Franks as I don't do a lot anymore) pretty easy(ish).

Preparations for the event went well. A lot of people through the course of the run up helped. Too many to name but you know who you are and I really hope Frank brought you a drink. If he hasn't please go round his house and ask for one. Then the day was upon us. To be honest it really did go quite smoothly. Up to the point where the refrigeration van stopped working!!! Grant our chef is really good but if you've worked with chefs they like things working or they tend to get errrr aggressive. So we had the great D.Lewis on top of this van in +90 degree heat looking to dismantle a refrigeration van. Fortunately we worked out the technical issue quickly and all was resolved. You see you don't get to see these things at front of house.

Everyone started to arrive and the atmosphere was magic. We are blessed to live amongst some amazing countryside and the setting therefore I think creates something special (anyone got a tear in their eye yet?). The Pimms were on free flow and with the heat everyone was getting into the mood for a party. We do try every year to introduce something a little different at the Ball and this year it was the photo booth. Jamie Scott was our photographer and did a wonderful job in getting people to either dress up or take the more classic pose for a memento of the evening. For anyone that hasn't seen the results the pictures were amazing and a great record of the night. Those wishing to gain copies please contact Frank (or me).

Although the main reason for the Ball is to celebrate errrr just celebrate. We do like to raise a bit for charity. It always surprises me (it shouldn't after four years) how generous people can be. This year was no exception. With the auction raising over £2500 for Macmillan Nurses. Macmillan are a fantastic charity that do some amazing work and were proud to be able to give them a little something to be able help them continue. All that contributed should feel great about that.

Finally the night was finished by some well earned dancing. A thoroughly great evening and thank you to everyone who was involved. Franks already talking about next year. I hope it continues because it really is a great night.

Cheers		
James (Stretch)		

"never miss a party it's good for the nerves... like celery".

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Fete Finances

ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVA	L COMMITTEE	FETE 2013		
RECEIPTS	Draw	£1,140		
	Donations	£130		
	Teas	£400		
Stalls	PIMMS	£494		
	TOMBOLA	£485		
	CAKES	£205		
	PLANTS	£160		
	BRIC-A-BRAC	£395		
	ICE CREAM	£140		
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At the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2013 it was agreed to distribute the funds from the Fete as follows: £500 to The Chronicle and the remainder shared equally between the Church Hall, the Recreation Ground and St. James Church.

Chronicle	£500
Church Room	£1,250
Recreation Ground	£1,250
Church	£1,250
	£4,249

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Community News

Renewable Energy - If you are interested in knowing more about how renewable home energy could benefit you in the future, a number of free drop in sessions are being held around the county to help you make an informed decision the venues are:

- Brill Memorial Hall on September 9th
- Buckingham Community Centre on September 10th
- Hambleden Village Hall on September 11th

All events run from 5-8pm, with a presentation starting at 6.30pm

Oil Buying Scheme: Community Impact Bucks has set up a scheme (as part of a wider scheme in England) in Buckinghamshire and Rural Milton Keynes to help purchasers of central heating oil to make savings by buying collectively in bulk (your purchase can be under 1000ltrs). Monthly bulk oil price for August 2013 was per litre= 56.75p

Further information: Telephone: 01844 348832

E-mail: communitybuying@communityimpactbucks.org.uk

Do you care about Aston Abbotts? Then why not come along to the Parish Council meetings? Whilst you may read the Minutes as published in The Chronicle, as all minutes these outline the key points and do not give the full discussion, the passion and arguments and indeed the problems/situations that have to be faced. Virtually all our meetings are attended by your County and AVDC councillors and the police. The meeting dates and agenda are posted on the notice board outside the Church Room. You can join in discussions (via the Chairman) and you can ask the Clerk or a Parish Councillor to have items put on the Agenda (this must be 7 days in advance of the meeting). Please give it a go, meetings usually last less than 90 minutes – see you on the 25th September.

Are you interested in the County's Demographics? a new report has just been issued and makes for surprising reading. The short report and similar reports can be found at Bucks Business First website www.bbf.uk.com/research-and-reports

The Vale of Aylesbury Plan (VAP): the outcome of this plan just submitted to government by AVDC affects the need for a Neighbour Plan to set out what Aston Abbots wants to see (and what it doesn't want to see) in its village and immediate surrounds for the next 5-20 years. AVDC are expecting the government response to them by March, 2014. AA's response will then be coordinated by the Parish Council, but has to be put to the village as a whole for completion as a great many "inputs" will be required to produce the Plan.

Bob Carvey



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Aston Abbotts version of Bleak House....the Church Room saga

CHURCH ROOM - from the new Village Hall trustees

Let there be rejoicing in the village: let the welkin ring and trumpets sound! We have the lease, and responsibility for the upkeep of the Church Room has passed from St James's churchwardens to the village hall trustees group. So we can at last start spending money raised by the village on the building.

First things first: clear out the surface water drains at the end of the hall which have become blocked, and which have been causing damage to part of the foundations at that end. Thereafter we will have a small part of the foundations rebuilt, and attend to some courses of bricks which have slipped slightly.

With this essential work done, we will put the remainder of the money to work to get further grants to improve access and facilities. If we can get enough money, we propose to extend the hall at the end nearest the entrance door, and to install new lavatories, and a ramp to assist disabled people.

No change to the bookings and day-to-day management - thanks Tracy for agreeing to continue to manage these.

Watch this space!

Peter Shorrock and Caroline Lane

Possibly a bit Stalinist but after all the hard work all references to the Church Room have been expunged, henceforth the Village Hall. Ed

Another literary link....

Aston Abbotts Book Club

In July we discussed 'Felicia's Journey' by William Trevor, chosen by Deirdre Whyte. This is a sad and disturbing story of an Irish girl who falls pregnant and searches for her boyfriend who has gone to England. Here she chances into 'friendship' with Mr Hilditch, a man you distrust from the outset. This is a very well written book that won the 1994 Whitbread Book of the Year Award. The plot twists and turns keeping you guessing as to the eventual outcome of this sinister tale.

Our next book is Gaynor's choice 'After Long Silence' by Helen Fremont.

John Hardcastle

"Always read something that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it"

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A star is born (The Simon Guy Page)

"I'm a star" Simon suddenly announced to a startled group of us enjoying a Sunday afternoon pint in the Oak. On enquiring what had elevated him to the "A" list, apparently he had addressed the nation via The Danny Baker Show (BBC Radio 5) about some his family history, or at least that which can be discussed in polite society.

The theme of the show being Victoriana he told of his Great Grandfather, Byron Martin, a drapers assistant who traversed the flatlands of Lincolnshire on his Penny farthing, and other aspects of Victorian Life. I heard the broadcast but certainly didn't recognise Simon's "Radio" voice, think the queens Xmas message with a Lincolnshire lilt!

As the feature was entitled Victorians I have met, he must be older than he looks!

"Everyman can tell how many sheep he possesses, but not how many friends"......Cicero

Simon has also asked me to remind you of several events coming up:

Runner Bean competition

The annual runner bean competition in the Royal Oak on Saturday Sep 14th As Simon says "this is a perfect example of English village life where you will see outrageous acts of skulduggery, dishonourable behaviour and just plain cheating" Which has started already, Simons dastardly plan to stop three time winner Tony Hinds taking the trophy again has been thwarted by Tony changing his holiday dates.

Pumpkin Competition

This is followed on 26th October by the pumpkin competition, the usual location; I understand there is a good chance of a different winner this year with a strongly tipped entry from the Southern Hemisphere.

The Royal Oak Runner Bean Competition

Saturday 14th September Judging starts at 7:00 pm

3 Categories

Longest Runner Bean The 'Ray Wilkinson Trophy'

> Best Cheat
The 'Bystra Shield'

> 3 Best Runner Beans



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Orchard Report

This August Orchard Report, having missed two months, in effect covers the summer of 2013. The early summer was very good, warm temperatures damp soil good growth on the trees and at least 16 trees blossoming. There was, also, great growth of grass, this resulted in the orchard looking like a hay field after its first mowing. I was keen to mow while the soil was still damp. My topper had to slice through so many mole hills that I wanted to do this before they dried out and hardened.

The growth on the trees was very encouraging but then we had a setback, several trees had their growing shoots broken off. Now there were several very windy days in early summer and at first I thought the wind had broken the young shoots. Two or three weeks later I decided that birds, most probably Jackdaws, had snapped the tops off the trees.

The solid posts we put in to support the trees made ideal perches for birds, this was obvious from the amount of bird droppings on the tree tops. I suspect that jackdaws had perched on the posts and "playfully" snapped the growing shoot out of some of the trees.

The most obvious damage was to the local pear tree Blaze which was planted this spring. We were told that the propagator had difficulty establishing Blaze. Ours grew with real vigour, put up 6 inches of good new growth and then had that shoot snapped off. What a disappointment.

We then ran into severely hot days and a drought.

Fortunately all the trees planted last year had obviously established a good root system and could take the tropical weather. The trees planted this spring were probably going to struggle and a few of them nearly died. We regularly watered the struggling trees and we know that several other people went to the orchard and watered their trees – Well Done!

It was while watering them that I mulled over the problem of the Jackdaws and decided that a nail knocked into the top of each post could possibly cure the problem, so that's why the nails are there, let's hope they work.

Most of the flagging trees revived and freshened up with a watering and look much better for the recent rain even the rain has hardly dampened the ground.

At the time of "going to press" we have fruit in our orchard the Laxton Superb Apple donated by Neil Chesher in manfully struggling trying to fatten and ripen (bit like Neil really Ed) four young apples and a Medlar tree has two medlars, lovely mediaeval fruit.

The two big walnut trees that I always expected to struggle in drought are, in fact, looking well. We have, however, lost our first tree, a Victoria Plum, it looked very well in the spring and then almost overnight it's full crop of leaves turned brown and died, I wish I knew why. We will, of course, replace the tree this autumn.

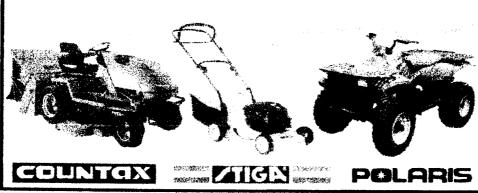
I think that the "sickest tree" is the one sponsored by me, Apple American Mother, in memory of Charlie Griffin an old villager, it might survive but it only has one green leaf at present.

The orchard is looking good; take your visitors there for a walk. There's water in the tank and buckets in the shed water your favourite tree. As one of the labels says, "it's a nice place to be.

Peter Knight.

"a sure cure for sea sickness is to sit under a tree"





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Allotment Diary

More musings from Peter Shorrock

The seasons have been very strange this year. It was the coldest spring for 51 years, and early summer was cool and wet. Then came July, and our first proper heatwave for seven years. It was the hottest and driest July since 2006, and my newspaper told me that it was the first month for a year with higher than average temperatures. The rain that did fall mainly did so at the end of the month, when the blazing temperatures gave way to thunderstorms.

This clearly had an effect on plants and vegetables: there were winners and losers. The big loser so far as I was concerned was my dwarf bean crop: none of my plants came up. I thought at first that I had planted seed which was out of date, but have now spoken to 3 other vegetable gardeners in the village, and found they had a similar experience. One, Bob Carvey, a fellow allotmenteer said that his first crop having failed, he then planted his remaining beans later than he should have done, and these have germinated, and have just (at the beginning of August) started flowering. It remains to be seen if they will produce any viable beans. Clearly the temperatures in May and June were not high enough to encourage the seeds to germinate. The other crop that has clearly been affected is my sweetcorn: the plants are very spindly, and not anything like as far advanced as they were at the same time last year.

The winners, so far as I am concerned, have been my cherry and plum trees at home. The cherry tree was laden, and it is the first year in about ten when I have got more than one or two cherries off the tree. Normally there is so little fruit that the birds strip the tree before the cherries are ripe, and I go empty-handed. I read in my paper today that I am not alone: professional cherry growers reckon their crop will be three times larger than last year's crop. My Victoria plum tree is also laden with fruit, after a very lean year last year. Clearly there was no late frost or heavy rain to damage the blossom this year, which is what decimated the yields in 2012, and the trees were able to cope with the cool spring/early summer temperatures.

My first and second early potatoes have been disappointing; but I think my problems have been self-inflicted. In the first place, as readers may remember me mentioning, this year I decided in the main to keep and use my own potatoes for sewing this year, rather than buying potatoes from a seed merchant. Secondly, I went away for about 4 weeks from mid-May until mid-June. When I got back, the weeds were higher than any of the growing vegetables — including the potatoes. It took a week or so of hard work to remove all the weeds. Many of the potato plants were therefore smothered by weeds for up to 5 weeks, and I don't think the early potatoes ever fully recovered from this. As a result of one of — or perhaps both of — these causes, my early potato crop is well down this year. It will be interesting to see how the maincrop potatoes do: here I will be able to compare my own potatoes against some that I bought in from Thompson & Morgan (when I got cold feet about whether my potatoes were going to perform). But unless my own maincrop potatoes perform well, I think that I will probably buy from a seed merchant again next year

I am sorry to say that my carrot-fly net got torn to shreds by the wind around the end of June. I reckon it should have kept the first wave of carrot fly at bay, but my plants are now at risk from the second wave about now (early August). I notice that another allotmenteer, Richard Clarke has built a similar structure to mine, but he has used net curtain material, which is surviving well. I shall have to find some of this for next year.

"I think I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree"



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Countryside Matters

Last Friday I was lucky enough to be invited to Waltham Place, home of the Oppenheimer family famous for naturalistic gardens, organic and bio dynamic farming. As an added attraction, my favourite author Robin Page (one man and his dog, sacked by the left wing BBC for attending the first countryside rally in London) was speaking. He is the Chairman of The Countryside Restoration Trust and was talking about the achievements of the Trust after 20 years.

Due to the generosity of the general public and especially Daily Telegraph readers, they now farm at least 8 farms and growing yearly. The theme being sustaining farming, wildlife and the countryside. The farm that we visited had an organic Jersey herd, and supplies the farm shop and conference centre with delicious jersey cream, milk and cheese. But as Robin Page pointed out, that the farm consist of 400 acres with 20 staff and volunteers, and failed to see how organic farming could sustain this country with an expected 72 million mouths by 2025. A valid point to which the farm manager side stepped rather unconvincingly. Later the excellent Richard Benyon MP and minister for the Environment and Fisheries (and you don't often hear me praise a minister) spoke about the clash in his own government, were some MPs want to build immediately on 150 square miles of prime Green farm land, and ask the farmers to produce more food, on what would be 4% less of the total arable producing land. So how on earth can this be achieved? You cannot produce more from less with or without GM crops. But more of that later in the year.

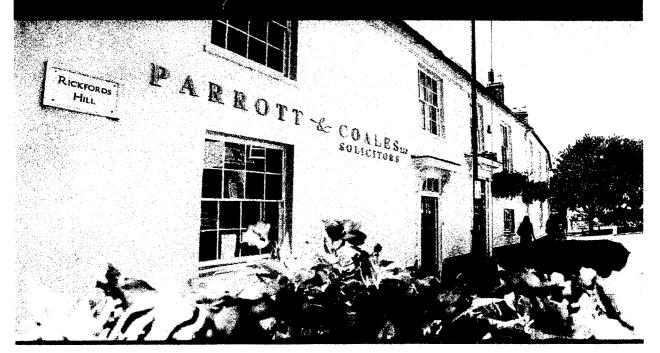
While I sit in my office trying to write something vaguely interesting, I can see a local contractor, forage harvesting the 4 fields of Rye that was planted in a disastrous Spring season, for the Ascott Estate, instead of what the farming fraternity call cuckoo barley, which due to the late planting, would have been very low yielding. Rye was planted instead, and shall yield about 20-25 tons per acre of green silage that is being transported to the Bio digester on the A5 just short of Dunstable. Now this material is fed, together with other waste material, into a huge sealed silo. The break down is anaerobic, with lack of oxygen and produces Methane, which is draw into a vast engine which drives a generator, that produces electricity that is fed directly into the national grid. This sound a very green pastime, and I am envious, even with my photovoltaic panels, but I cannot see how it all adds up, all that expensive machinery, burning huge amounts of diesel, hauling at least 15 miles round trip to the digester with all the labour and overtime. I need to do some urgent research, and see just how much green energy grant goes towards the final cost. Are we all getting drawn into this frenzy (me included) for renewable energy at too higher cost, when we should be producing more food from less land?

James Henderson





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St James Church

Dear friends,

I wonder how you spent the Summer---resting ,travelling ,planning, worrying?

This past few weeks I've been privileged to conduct several weddings in various Churches, Baptised several small people and prepared some much bigger and older people for Confirmation as well as spending time alongside those who have lost a loved one.

These are called 'The occasional offices' of the Church which is odd really because they occur quite often really! I've been Ordained over 31 years now and I have met thousands of individuals and families/groups of friends in these differing circumstances. Each time it's special and heart-warming to be allowed to enter into these times of joy ,anguish, even humour.

When cynics speak of there being no God or nothing 'out there' I often feel it is because they have not felt that privilege of being alongside someone in a moment of great vulnerability and cannot imagine anything beyond their immediate circumstances or experience.

When Moses encountered the divine in the burning bush he shook off his sandals because he was on 'holy ground' and I believe this is what we encounter when we enter into someone else's unique experience. What's more this doesn't have to happen in a special religious building or using weird specialist words but in the everyday ordinary circumstances of life.

As Autumn approaches why not find a place of quiet, a place in nature or even on a busy street and try to sense the 'otherness' of life and not just the mundane and obvious. Happy hunting!

God Bless, Philip.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE, SUPPER & AUCTION

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER

The Harvest Festival Service at St. James will commence at 5.00pm followed by the Harvest Supper in the Church Room

After supper we will hold our famous auction of locally grown produce

Tickets for the supper and auction are available from David Gray (07965 414495) priced at £12 for Adults or £7 for youngsters under 14

We recommend you book early as ticket numbers are restricted

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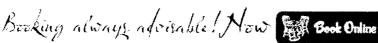
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An intercessory prayer group will meet in St James Church in the village every Thursday between 9 and 10 am, starting from 12th September. Anyone wishing to join the group on a regular or irregular basis will be more than welcome. Just turn up at the Church at 9.00 am.

A post box has been placed in the porch of the Church to receive requests from everyone in the village who would like prayers to be said for family or friends.

And finally

I hope you've enjoyed reading this issue, apologies if anything submitted has been left out but I did succeed deleting ALL of my e mails as I started putting this together. The keen eyed among you may have noticed some (unaccredited) literary references throughout the Chronicle, there are 7 in all. First correct entry received by any method of communication that identifies the authors will win a meal for two at the Royal Oak.

If you have any complaints or I have upset anybody please address all comments to the next editor James Perkins

Phil

CHURCH DUTIES- September			
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100 CLUB

A big thank you to the many of you who have already subscribed to the 100 club for 2013/14.

For those of you who are meaning to but have not got around to it, then if you hurry and get your money to me by the end of June, I can include you in the first of 12 monthly draws that start in July. Thank you for your support.

David Gray (PCC Treasurer)

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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

District Councillor
Peter Cooper
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham – 681250

County Councillor Netta Glover - 688357

Parochial Church Council

Rev. Philip Derbyshire	01525 240287	
Caroline Abel Smith	681001	
-Churchwarden		
April Curnow	707833	
- Churchwarden		
Colin Higgs	681343	
Ann Goodman	681763	
Anita Parker	681325	
Gordon Kemp	681763	
Caroline Lane Sec	681373	
David Gray	07935414495	
- Treasurer		
Gay Walker	688632	

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The Royal Oak Runner Bean Competition

Saturday 14th September Judging starts at 7:00 pm

3 Categories

➤ Longest Runner Bean
The 'Ray Wilkinson
Trophy'

➤ Best Cheat
The 'Bystra Shield'

> 3 Best Runner Beans



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Mobile: 07776 180781

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Based in Stewkley

What's On In September

Tuesday 10th & 24th

Mobile Library 10.30am The Green

Thursday 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th Coffee Shop 10-12 Village Hall

Thursday 12th

Bingo 7.30 pm

Village Hall

Saturday 14th

Rambling Club Celebration Walk (40yrs)

Meet 11am on the Green, walk to Cublington
and back, followed by lunch at the Royal Oak

Thursday 19th

Whist Drive Village Hall 7.30 pm, now been going 75 years (way to go yet Rambling Club

Ed) New players welcomed

Remember 26TH is the Macmillan Coffee Morning

Address

Please note that all
Submissions for the
Chronicle should be sent to
Phil Corrigan
5 Nashs Farm, Aston Abbotts

Email submissions to: editor@aachronicle.co.uk

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

Classified

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE in The Chronicle Phone us on 01296 688191

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 6th October

Harvest Festival 5pm - St James Church

Sunday 25th October

Quiz Evening 7.30pm – Village Hall - Tickets £5 including cheese platter, teams of 6 only, tickets from Colin.

Baby sitters/dog sitters available

Reliable 14 year olds available to look after either children, babies or dogs!

Contact Ellie and Tom Farrands - 681182

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 specialise in
intelligent conversation over a
glass of something.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Tuesday 10th & 24th

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

Ddve

The Daily Mail reported on August 13th that Buckingham MP John Bercow will step down bunch of boss-eved, in 2016, and prospective Tory leader Boris Johnson will be shoe-horned into our safe **Buckingham seat**

Here at The Chronicle we are privy to a further secret, BORIS JOHNSON AND DAVE LEWIS ARE THE SAME PERSON! Here we present the evidence. First, lets look at what Boris/Dave says.

Boris on Tony Blair: "It is just flipping unbelievable. He is a mixture of Harry Houdini and a greased piglet. He is barely human in his elusiveness. Nailing Blair is like trying to pin jelly to a wall." Is that Boris speaking... or does it sound like Dave?

Boris Johnson on Channel 5: "I don't see why people are so snooty about Channel 5. It has some respectable documentaries about the Second World War, It also devotes considerable airtime to investigations into lap -dancing, and other related and vital subjects". Is that Boris speaking... surely it sounds like Dave?

Boris Johnson on UKIP: "I can hardly



Boris Johnson

condemn UKIP as a foam-flecked Euro hysterics, when I have been sometimes not far short of bosseved, foam-flecked

Invsteria myself." Is that Boris speaking... No. that has got to be Dave!

Boris Johnson on how to vote: "Voting Tory will cause your wife to have bigger breasts and increase your chances of owning a BAIW M3." Is that Boris speaking... No - obviously that is Dave!

Boris on Liberal Democrats: "The Lib Dems are not just empty. They are a void within a vacuum surrounded by a vast inanition." Is that really Boris speaking... or is it just Dave armed with a dictionary?

Now the photographic evidence. Look at the pictures of Boris and Dave below. Do you see the uncanny resemblance?

Finally, ask yourself this; have you ever seen Boris and Dave together in the same room at the same time? No? WE REST OUR CASE!



Dave Lewis

01296 682126



Tax Dodgy

Dear Sirs.

I wish to complain in the strongest possible terms about villagers spreading scurrilous rumours that Dave is attempting to spend more than six months out of the UK in 2013, just in order to avoid paving UK Income Tax

This is untrue - everybody should pay taxes and we have always been pleased to make our contribution to the government.

If I catch anybody else spreading these rumours they will be fined £25 with a £10 victim surcharge and they will be given three points on their driving license.

Yours angrily.

Name and occasional UK address supplied, c o Paraiso Fiscal Praia, Portugal

Editor's Note:

The John Bercow story and the Boris Johnson quotes have been sourced from the Daily Mail website - so they must be true!

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS — PURVEYORS OF PLASMA SCREENS TO THE GENTRY

e sent as a single picture which is just dropped onto the page here