

# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



## NEW FEATURES

TWO NEW FEATURES BEGIN THIS MONTH:

COUNTRY MATTERS AND  
BOOK OF THE MONTH

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

LIBEL SCORE FOR OUR THEATRE CRITIC  
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS  
THE CHURCH ROOM  
CHURCH NEWS  
AMATEUR GARDENER  
ASTON ABBOTTS COOKBOOK

FEBRUARY 1984

No. 6

# Editorial

The recent flight abroad of our theatre critic following various libel actions taken against him is another example of the threat we face to press freedom in this country. The Editorial Staff of this newspaper have assured Mr. O'Booze that we will defend with all our might his right to make completely unsubstantiated accusations.

Any libel actions will undoubtedly put great strains upon this young papers financial resources, thus we would ask all of you who value press freedom to look to your consciences and see if you cannot afford a fiver to advertise in, and thus save, THE CHRONICLE !

To more important matters !

## THE CHURCH ROOM

The Editor is delighted to report that following an initiative by Fr. John Heffer a meeting was held on the 8th. January to establish an interim committee to manage the Church Room up to the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th. March.

An Interim Committee was duly established with Fr. John Heffer as Chairman; Chris Brandon as Vice-Chairman; Michael Cox as Secretary; Betty Bennett and Doris Scutchings as joint Treasurers and Les Smith as Caretaker. Other committee members are John Ford, Margaret Kent, Graham Parker, Brenda Roff, Don Waite David Watts, Owen McManus, John Whyte and Ivy Brandon.

The Committee agreed that Chris would formalise the application to the Manpower Services to carry out repair work on the room, and I am pleased to be able to report that work is expected to begin in April. This has been made possible by the generous offer to Fr. John, of an interest free loan of £200.

The Committee also agreed to investigate the cost of installing an electricity meter; agreed that charges should remain as they are pending a complete overhaul, and agreed that Doris should remain in charge of bookings.

All in all, a very constructive meeting.

*Graham Parker.*

## HOW TO PASS ON ARTICLES/INFORMATION FOR "THE CHRONICLE"

1. By telephone to Graham on Aston Abbotts 325.
2. A note through his door - The Cloisters, Church Row.
3. Use the box in the Village Shop.

## DATES FOR PRINTING

The 22nd. of each month will be the last day for delivery of material you wish included in the next issue.

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# WHAT'S ON

THURSDAYS 2nd. : BINGO IN THE CHURCH  
and 16th. ROOM at 8.00 p.m.

THURSDAYS 9th. : WHIST DRIVE IN THE  
and 23rd. CHURCH ROOM 7.30 p.m.

SUNDAY 12th. : FOOTPATH WALK  
MEET AT THE GREEN at  
2.00 p.m.

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## WANTED

GOOD CLEAN ELECTRIC COOKER. TEL: A.A. 763

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## TUESDAY CLUB NEWS

A jewel(!) of an evening was enjoyed by the Tuesday Club last month despite the absence of our speaker on gemstones. Forced to fall back on our own resources, sparkling performances were given in an hilarious version of 'Give us a Clue' and other popular parlour games.

Mr. Levitt has sent his apologies to everyone who attended the meeting and hopes to meet you all when he guarantees to attend the April meeting.

At our next meeting on 14th. February we are assured there will be a demonstration on the 'Art of Enamelling' by local artist Mrs. Gina Ayling. This will be another chance to use our artistic skills when she lets us all have a go!

Refreshments are being provided by Hayley Simms, Ruth Watts and Helen Watts.

If you have not yet attended the Tuesday Club you are missing a good evening and it only costs 50 pence - so why not come along - everyone welcome.

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WANTED : COF AND MATTRESS. .... CHRISTINE FOX.

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## Ladies' club

### ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

ASTON Abbots and Cublinton Ladies' Club members met in the Church Room last Thursday.

After the short business session a talk and demonstration on fabric printing was given by Mrs. Etherly Gutteridge, a club member.

Mrs. Gutteridge spoke of the history of fabric printing and how, before cloth was made, people painted their bodies.

She showed pictures taken in India, showing work being done in factories there and gave details about obtaining materials required.

Mrs. Little provided the raffle prize which was won by Mrs. Sinnott.

Mrs. Etherly Gutteridge gave us a very interesting talk about fabric printing last month and encouraged us all to have a go.

The February meetings are on: 2nd. and :16th.

On the 2nd. Mrs Kay Dines is going to tell us about life in Nigeria before Independence.

On the 16th. we have a talk by Mrs. Jenny Montague on drying flowers.

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## Whist for church

A whist drive was held in the Church Room, Aston Abbots, to benefit St. James Church.

Mr. C. Higgs was M.C. and the prizewinners were Miss V. Saunders, Mr. G. Gill, Mr. L. Scutchings, Mr. D. Waite, Mr. C. Higgs and Mrs. Wesley.

## Eyes down

The first Good Samaritan bingo evening of the year was held last week in the Church Room, Aston Abbots, with Mr. C. Higgs as caller and Mrs. L. Scutchings door steward.

## Whist aids parish church

Mr. C. Higgs was M.C. for Thursday's whist drive in the Church Room, Aston Abbots.

Prizewinners were Mrs. C. Griffin, Mr. E. Baker, Mr. Tapping, Mr. D. Waite, Mr. Hogg, Mrs. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. L. Scutchings; raffle — Mrs. Wesley, Mrs. Brackley and Mr. P. Dines.

As a result of the whist drives £177.91 profit was made during the year and will be given to St. James Church.

## Carol service

Aston Abbots and Cublinton Ladies' Club were joined by members of the Women's Fellowship and Mothers' Union for the annual carol service which this year was held in St. Nicholas Church, Cublinton.

The service was conducted by the Rev. J. Heffer and the organist was Mr. G. Liddell.

Carols chosen by members of the club were sung and lessons were read by Mrs. J. Ford, Mrs. Hills, Mrs. J. Smith and Mrs. Newell.

Mrs. Heffer and Tom Heffer read poems about Christmas.

The collection which amounted to £13 will go to the Children's Society.

# UPDATE

## OUR REGULAR NOTES ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES.

Among the topics discussed at the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th. of January were:

### LINES HILL

Concern was again expressed about the traffic problems, now made worse by the activities of the Water Board. Agreed that the Board be approached and reminded of their legal obligation to keep the road clear of mud. Further inquiries were also requested regarding the promised chevron signs.

### VILLAGE LIGHTS

The meeting agreed that lighting in certain areas of the village - around the Green and at Bricstock - was inadequate. The possibility of the County Council treating the Bricstock light in the 'special needs' category was to be investigated.

### VILLAGE PRECEPT 1984/5

The County Council had requested that Parish Councils keep within the guidelines and restrict increases to 4% of last years budget.

During discussion it was agreed that the maintenance of the recreation ground should be left, for the moment, to the Recreation Ground Committee, and the money saved set aside for additional lighting. The Council had agreed in the past that priority be given to a light between the village shop and the telephone exchange, and now that priority would be honoured. The Council then agreed that details of proposed expenditure should be published and these are indicated below for 1983/4 and 1984/5:

### SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE

	1983/4	1984/5
Street lighting	£ 500	£ 430
Additional light		£ 200
Recreation Ground Maintenance	£ 100	
Administration and Insurance	£ 155	£ 170
Subscriptions and Donations	£ 20	£ 20
Repairs and Sundries	£ 50	£ 50
Grant to Parochial Church Council	£ 75	£ 50
Payment for use of Church Room		£ 25
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 900</b>	<b>£ 945</b>
Estimated balance in hand	£ 50	£ 45
Precept requested	£ 850	£ 900

### OTHER TOPICS

The meeting also received a report that a Church Room Management Committee had been established. Other topics discussed are mentioned in the Bucks Herald article at the top right of this page.

## **More street lighting**

ASTON Abbots parish council last week agreed to include in this year's estimates the installation of an additional street lamp for the section of road from the village store to the telephone exchange.

It will also make enquiries for an additional lamp for Bricstock.

Cllr. L. Smith expressed his concern over the state of Lines Hill, caused by heavy vehicles on the pipe line construction.

The chairman, Cllr. C. Higgs, referred to the pot holes around the Green and the state of the footpath in Wingrave Road.

The clerk was asked to write to Bucks County Council on these matters.

Cllr. John Whyte also requested that the county council be asked to ensure the village road was gritted when the weather was bad.

Cllr. Peter Dines agreed to ensure the repair and maintenance of the mowing machines in readiness for the grass cutting season.

As soon as weather conditions permit trees around the Green will be lopped.

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**FRIDAY 9th MARCH 7.30 p.m. CHURCH ROOM**

**FOLLOWED BY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.**

# COUNTRY MATTERS

Another occasional series which we hope will be of interest to our readers. We are all aware of the devastation wrought on the Buckinghamshire landscape by the Dutch Elm Disease, in this article Simon Tisdall of the Guardian (3 Dec 83) reports on a stinging acorn disaster.

## Hurts of oak

THE British oak could follow the elm into ecological eclipse unless prompt action is taken to repulse a three-pronged threat to its well-being, organisers of a Save the British Oak campaign say.

The campaign, launched in London this week, is backed by the World Wildlife Fund and the Woodlands Trust. It hopes to raise money to purchase or manage remaining areas of oak woodland, some of which may date back to Saxon times, and is inviting the public to sponsor individual oak trees.

The most recently identified threat to the various native species of the genus *Quercus* is the Turkish wasp, *Andricus quercuscalicis*. The wasp inhabits the Turkey oak which was imported into the British Isles in the early 18th century from southern Europe.

Each summer, the female wasp decamps to British oaks, laying its eggs, cuckoo-like, where the acorns are forming. The result is a sticky gall, and no acorn. Elizabeth Hamilton, deputy director of the Woodlands Trust, estimates that nearly all this year's acorn crop was affected.

Although the activities of the Turkish wasp have been known to naturalists since its arrival in the 1960s, the warm summer of 1983 seems greatly to have encouraged it. It has no known natural predators, and the use of the pesticides is discounted as

impractical as well as undesirable.

Mature oaks are not affected by the wasp, but the dangers inherent in the despoilation of the acorn crop are self-evident. George Medley, director of the World Wildlife Fund, suggested that if allowed to go on unchecked, the wasps' depredations could destroy Britain's oakwoods within 80 years.

While research has begun into ways to counter the threat posed by the Turkish wasp the British oak is under attack from other quarters. The impact of continuing woodland and hedgerow clearance is potentially just as serious.

A census published last month by the Forestry Commission noted that perhaps as much as 60,000 hectares of oak woodland have been lost in England in the past 30 years. Although planning has continued at high levels, such artificially-induced regeneration is no substitute for the disappearance of generations-old self-renewing woods.

The World Wildlife Fund's involvement stems from a concern for the natural habitats at risk. Sixty per cent of the fund's resources go towards the protection of such habitats in which insect, plant, and animal life thrive. Whereas a single oak may support over 300 different kinds of insect, a conifer confers such favours on a mere handful.

The reduction of oakwoods intimately and adversely affects birds such as the tawny owl, redstart, wood warbler, the purple emperor butterfly, roe deer, and wild flowers. Birds and insects do not associate so closely with introduced trees

The Woodlands Trust has raised £4 million in the past two years and now protects more than 80 woodland areas. But Britain already has a lower proportion of woodland than almost any other European country, and the uprooting of privately-owned woods and the relentless spread of conifer plantations continues apace.

A third problem confronts Britain's native oakwoods, neither wasp nor man-induced. It is sheep. Some of the best remaining areas of upland oak—the original wildwoods—in Snowdonia, the Lake District, the Brecon Beacons, and Dartmoor are threatened by the uncontained munching that destroys the buds, bark and leaves of oak saplings.

Despite their designation as national parks, woods in such areas other than those specifically managed with conservation in mind remain unfenced and unprotected. In Snowdonia, it is estimated that 80 per cent of the woodland area lacks saplings to replace the mature trees. The cost of fencing such woods, with the consequent loss of grazing and shelter for livestock, is often prohibitive for the private landowner, despite current grant schemes.

The Save the British Oak campaign is seeking to draw attention to what is seen as an increasingly urgent problem. The example of the elm, when action came too late, is a chilling one. It is also uncomfortably apposite. Oak wilt, endemic in the United States and similar in its effect to Dutch elm disease, has not yet spread to Britain. Despite strict controls on oakwood imports, it might.

And that could be the last nail in the oak coffin.

## Book of the Month

*A Social History of England*  
by Asa Briggs  
Weidenfeld £11.95

Another idea that we hope might appeal ... if you would like to contribute please just drop a note through the Editors door.

We begin with a book that is destined to be one of the classics of popular historical writing.

This is a book that attempts the impossible and succeeds. In 200 pages Briggs spans the centuries with an elegance and deep historical knowledge you would expect from a master of his craft. You will be entertained by the carefully selected illustrations, and astounded by the often abrupt comparisons of history:

'Between 1754 and 1954 prices rose six times, between 1956 and 1976 they trebled'.

At last we have a book that equals G.M. Trevelyan's classic ... buy it and enjoy!

## AMATEUR GARDENER

February is the month when I think the basic plans for the garden are laid.

In the vegetable garden it is simply a case of moving everything up one - potatoes where you had your cabbages last year etc.

Plant shallots as soon as weather permits.

Chrysanthemum cuttings are ready now on most plants if you have a cold frame or greenhouse.

Try a few cabbage seeds in a tray. They make a good stand-in against Spring cabbage failure.

### "FEBRUARY MORNING"

from Peter Goodfellow's book for children 'Shakespeare's Birds.'



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## THE ASTON ABBOTTS COOKBOOK

### A BEDFORDSHIRE CLANGER

Bedfordshire's famous clanger is one of those satisfying pudding meals, once the mainstay of many working households.

This is a two-course, meal-in-one rolypoly -- savoury filling at one end, fruit or jam at the other. Hefty slices cut with a shuck knife from this fourteen inch long cold suet pudding made many a Bedfordshire farmhand's midday meal taken in the shelter of the muckheap.

It is still a perfect plug for hunger on a blustery February day, but a family sized Clanger needs a really large saucepan; if more convenient, cheat a little and bake it, in buttered foil, for about an hour in a moderate oven.

CLANGER (for two): 12 oz. suet crust, rolled out 12"x8".

Savoury filling: chop small onion and saute in little fat with 6 - 8 oz. minced raw beef, liver, pork or bacon. Season.

Sweet filling: 2 medium apples, peeled, diced and sugared OR 3 tablespoons of jam.

Spread each filling on half pastry, leaving good half-inch all round each. Roll lengthwise and seal well. Lay on flour-ed cloth and secure along side and each end.

Boil gently for 2 - 3 hours (3 if using pork), or pressure cook.

This month's recipe was taken from the February copy of a relatively new monthly magazine devoted to country matters called "Out of Town". The magazine is full of superb colour photographs and a wide variety of articles including a regular "News from the National Trust" section.



## LOOKING AHEAD: SERVICES & EVENTS

**"THINKING DAY"** Guides and Brownie Guides in this district have their own special Service for "Thinking Day" on Sunday, February 19th at 3.00 p.m., in Wingrave Parish Church. The form of worship is arranged by them and will be followed by refreshments in the Community Centre.

**FAMILY SERVICES** Cublington Parish Church (with Holy Baptism), 10.30 am. Aston Abbots Parish Church, 11.15 am: SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH.

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Friday, March 2nd. Details of the times and Services will be announced nearer the day.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** March 7th, which of course marks the beginning of Lent. We shall be holding our usual Service for the United Benefice in CUBLINGTON PARISH CHURCH at 8.00 P.M. This includes the ancient custom of the Imposition of Ashes (hence the name of the day!), Holy Communion with hymns and a meditation as an introduction to the Lent programme - see below.

**LENT PROGRAMME** Due to the popularity and good support given to the week-day Lent Services for the Mursley Deanery last year, the Synod has asked for them to be repeated and held in different churches this year. So try and keep Monday nights free. The theme of the addresses will be the "I AM" saying of Jesus, followed on each occasion with the lovely Service of Compline. The churches and days:— 12th March, Drayton Parslow; 19th March, Marsworth; 26th March, Aston Abbots; 2nd April, Little Horwood; 9th April, Stoke Hammond.

**EXCHANGE** The Revd. Paul Drake comes to our parishes on Sunday, March 18th, while the Rector takes Service at Drayton Parslow, Stewkley, and Soulbury.

**LENT BOXES** The three parishes all now support the United Society for Propagation of the Gospel, which is one of the main overseas Missionary Societies of the Church of England. The three parish representatives are: Mrs. Jean Bracey-Wright (Organiser) for Wingrave; Mrs. Kay Dines for Aston Abbots, and Mrs. Valerie Osborn for Cublington. Our special project is the Muheza Hospital in the Province of Tanzania. If there was ever a good cause this is one, where the standard of health care depends on donations from this Society, and, therefore from the parishes. Lent Boxes will be available in the churches from Ash Wednesday. Please take and use one.

### SUNDAY LESSONS (Alternative Service Book: Year 2)

4th March	7 Before Easter	Colossians 1(18-23)	John 8 (2-11)
11th March	1st In Lent	Hebrews 4(12-16)	Luke 4(1-13)
18th March	2nd in Lent	1John 3(1-10)	Matt.12(22-32)
25th March	3rd in Lent	1Peter 2(19-25)	Matt.16(21-28)

**Note** Please keep this sheet as the lessons are usually one month ahead. They can be used as part of our preparation for Holy Communion the following day.

**O-FIVES** now meet at 2.00 p.m. (not 2.15) on two Thursday afternoons in the month in the Parish Church of Wingrave. All children up to the age of five years are welcome to come with their mothers or any other supporting "cast"! Date check: February 23rd, March 8th & 22nd.

**DEANERY YOUTH WEEKEND** From May 5th to May 7th, young people of 13 years and upwards will be camping in the grounds surrounding S.Mary's Old Linslade. All who went last year agreed that they had had a fabulous time. We were privileged to see some of the "results" at the Deanery Evensong at Wingrave in May. There are details in the churches on a blue form, or ask the Rector if you think you might like to go.

This is not about money for the Church; it is about money, though! To be accurate, Christian Giving. For Jesus had a good deal to say about money. Either directly or indirectly, he referred to the subject much more than the casual reader might think.

He has a lot to say about rich people too. Then, most of us are rich. Compared with the inhabitants of the, so called Third World, we are all very rich - even if we live on Social Security.

If you study the life of Jesus Christ in the Gospels, you will see how often he refers to money. And he has a special word for the likes of you and me - "rich" people. Something about a camel and the eye of a needle, I seem to remember! Indeed, he begins his most famous sermon (on the mount) - which many non-churchgoers purport to live by - with a congratulatory word for the "poor" just for being poor.

The parables are laced with references to the world of commerce. He suggests counting the cost before building a house. Discusses the payment of wages for the vineyard workers. There's the parable of the golden coins and the commendation of the srewd steward. Not forgetting the rich man with the poor man at his gate.

There are the situations, too, in the life of Christ. His confrontation with the tax-man, Zacchaeus, whose dishonesty was changed into generosity. He watched people putting their money into the collection plate and spotted the Widow's Mite. He attempted to get a rich young man to give away all, not merely to ease poverty but, to save the poverty of his own soul.

It is often suggested that a commitment to Christ will automatically include a financial commitment to the Christian cause. Sadly, very sadly, this is not by any means always true. The god of mammon is the most subtle of all the gods. In my long experience as a parish priest, I have known many sincere Christians who were generous to a fault in everything but cash. It was not unknown in the experience of the early Church (Philippians 4:15).

I've heard it said that the most sensitive nerve in a man's body is his pocket....Presumably, the female counterpart is a touchy handbag! The most provocative discussions can usually be anticipated over the right use of money, whether it's where to keep it, or where and when to give it away. And, incidentally, I doubt if what I saw of the television film "The Thorn Birds" has done the reputation of the Church a lot of good: I can only hope that the ambitious Fr. Ralph is not seen as typical of all parsons - he shouldn't have kept that money for the Church, you know; among other things he shouldn't have done!

Excuses can be made for not giving our money away to outside causes. How easily 'charity begins at home' can trip off the tongue. Of course it does, and charity is supposed to SPREAD OUT from the home, not be locked in just for the benefit of family comforts.

I am sure that we ought to be consistent in our giving. The odd few pence given away on the spur of the moment can be just a form of tipping. What could be worse than tipping the Almighty, especially if it's less than you'd leave the waiter!

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER



# CHURCH NEWS

## Showed toys to Vicar

The family service held in St. James Church, Aston Abbots, on Christmas Day was attended by 80 people.

Children took their toys to show to the Vicar, the Rev. J. Heffer, who conducted the service.

Lessons were read by the church wardens, Mr. Peter Dines and Mr L. Scutchings.

Mrs. Scutchings accompanied the singing of carols at the organ.

### IN MEMORIAM

Anyone who would like to provide a flower arrangement for the Church in memory of someone would be most welcome and should contact Mrs. Scutchings.

### SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

5th. 11.15 a.m. Family Service followed by Holy Communion.  
12th. 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.  
19th. 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.  
26th. 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion.

Altar flowers for the month: Mr.C.Higgs.

### METHODIST CHURCH

February 5th. Mr. Windle.  
February 12th. Mr.Pape.  
February 19th. Rev.Barrie Heafford.  
February 26th. Mrs.Mann.  
March 4th. Rev.Barrie Heafford.  
March 11th. Mrs.Green.  
March 18th. Mr.Robbins.  
March 25th. Mr.Lane.

The Cheese and Wine Party on 21st.January was a most successful evening in all ways. Firstly the sixty or so folk enjoyed themselves immensely and some newcomers began to feel the warmth and friendship which Aston Abbots offers. Secondly the entertainment was first-rate, rarely can three people working in such a confined space have gripped and amused an audience so well and so quickly. Thirdly over £100 was raised for Church Funds. The raffle winners were: Mrs.B.Higgs;Mr.P.Hill;Mr.D.Neave; Mrs.D.Scutchings;Mr.L.Smith;Mrs.C.Fox;Ms.H.Watts; and Mrs.N.Little.

February begins, as each month does, with our Family Service. We are delighted at the support this service has and we look forward to another excellent congregation on February 5th. Do come and join us.

On MONDAY 6th. FEBRUARY is the ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING in the CHURCH ROOM at 8.00 p.m.

All the officers of the Church are elected at this meeting and it gives an opportunity for anyone to raise any matters of concern.

### Sidesmen

Miss.G.Ford.  
Mr.C.Higgs.  
Mr.C.Spike.  
Mr.J.Ford.

## UNITED IN SONG

A united carol service was held in Aston Abbots Methodist Chapel on Sunday evening when friends from the parish church were welcomed by Mr. A. Roff. The service was conducted by Mr. D. Neville of Aylesbury with Mr. K. Rumens at the organ. Readers of lessons were Mrs. I. Fox, Mrs. M.

Bowell and Mr. Neville.

Well loved carols were sung. Mr. and Mrs. Roff, Mrs. K. Rumens and Mrs. G. Brandon joined in a quartet and Mr. Roff and Mrs. Brandon sang a duet.

Mr. Neville played recordings from Handel's Messiah and of carols sung by a cathedral choir.

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE to be held on March 2nd. at St.James Church.

The Service will commence at 2.45 p.m. and the speaker will be Mrs.Barff from Oving. Women of any denomination are welcome. Refreshments after in the Church Room.

# Peter Arnold



'EXETER - from the canal' Arthur Shelly (1841-1902), watercolour.  
signed & dated 1891, 14ins. x 20½ ins.

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## **ADVERTISE IN THE CHRONICLE**

We need your help to secure the financial future of THE CHRONICLE. This is the style of page we hope to produce; it will appear inside the news letter and your advert would be in each monthly issue for a year.

**COST** : Minimum £5 - but you could give more!  
The aim is to raise at least £100 from a two sided page.

**HOW TO ADVERTISE** : Send completed art work or just the details you wish entered, along with your £5, to Graham Parker, The Cloisters, Aston Abbots.  
**FURTHER INFORMATION** : Ring Aston Abbots 325.

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