

# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts

**Inside :**

**CHURCH NEWS**

**The Estone Chronicles**

*OUT AND ABOUT*

**A LETTER FROM WING.**

**UPDATE**

**INSIDE THE BACK PAGE**

**NOTICEBOARD**

**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

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*The Rothschilds* of  
Buckinghamshire



JUNE '85

No. 22



## Editorial

A little late and somewhat rushed this month I'm afraid, its the exam marking season and that has had to take priority. I hope I have missed nothing vital although I am conscious that there is no mention of this years Festival - a matter that will be put right next month.

For my sins I have recently become involved with the Wingrave Junior Football Club - as secretary! We are anxious to recruit more players at both under 15 level and under 13. If anyone is interested please let me know or ask your child to mention it to Andrew or Piers - better still come along to the Clubs PRESENTATION BARBECUE which is advertised elsewhere in this issue. If you would like to come along to the barbecue could you please let Fred Megram know by ringing Aylesbury 681464.

*Graham Parker.*

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DEADLINE DATE FOR THE JULY ISSUE: 22nd.JUNE, PLEASE.

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

1. By telephone to Graham on Aylesbury 681325.
2. By dropping a note through his door - The Cloisters.
3. Use the box in the Village Shop or Post Office.

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# NOTICEBOARD

HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY TO FRED CROSS ON THE 6th. JUNE.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Graham,

I have just been informed that the village Christian Aid Collection amounted to £61.22, almost the same as last year. Would you include this total in next months Chronicle with my grateful thanks to all who gave.

Yours sincerely,  
Shirley Ford.

## ASTON ABBOTTS YOUTH CLUB.

Thanks to extremely kind offers of both organisation and food from Victor Scott, the highlight of next months meetings must be the ramble and barbeque due to take place on June 8th. We hope to walk from Longdown Hill in the Chilterns to Halton Woods, a distance of 4-5 miles, ending with a barbeque supper of sausages and beans. Aching limbs and blistered feet will at least have the chance of a lie in on the following day, as this event takes place on a Saturday!

Saturday 8th. June : Ramble followed by barbeque.  
Friday 14th. June : General Activities - organised  
Friday 21st. June : games on the rec.(to include  
Friday 28th. June : volleyball) weather permitting.

## **Ladies Club**

We had a very enjoyable afternoon at Mrs. Sinnott's house in Cublington when we saw slides of her visit to New Zealand and Fiji. She also very generously gave us all tea afterwards.

Our coffee morning at Longmoor Farm also went very well. I think everyone who came enjoyed it all including the game of skittles - all skilful stuff!! Our thanks to Mrs. Bellingham for all her hospitality on this occasion. At the time of writing we are looking forward to the "Not so Young" outing and tea party, all fingers crossed that the weather will change.

On June 6th. our meeting will be at The Lilies in Weedon where we shall see the collection of second hand books which are housed there and, as has been mentioned before, our outing to Bath is on June 20th. There are three seats vacant on the coach, I believe, the cost is £5 and the coach will leave The Green at 8.30 a.m.

**ROYAL BRITISH LEGION** coach trip to Southsea/Portsmouth ("Mary Rose" and "Victory")  
Sunday 30th June 1985. Dep. Aston Abbots 7.30 a.m. £5.75 (not including entrance fees) payable on booking. Contact Mr. E. Naylor, Bull & Butcher. Tel. Ayl.681520.  
Next Branch Meeting Monday 3rd June 1985 8.00 p.m. @ Bull & Butcher.

4. WINGRAVE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB.

# GRAND PRESENTATION BARBECUE

~ AT ~  
THE BELL, WINGRAVE.

ALL PLAYERS, PARENTS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE  
TEAM ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CLUB'S PRESENTATION  
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TO : FRED MEGRAM, THATCHED COTTAGE, HUP END.  
TEL. RYLESBURY 681464

## PRESENTATION BARBECUE.

I SHALL / SHALL NOT BE ATTENDING THE BARBECUE AT  
THE BELL, WINGRAVE ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT 6.00 p.m.

NUMBER IN PARTY : ----- (EXCLUDING CHILDREN  
UNDER 5)

IF IT IS NOT CONVENIENT TO RETURN THIS SLIP,  
PLEASE REPLY BY TELEPHONE.

# UPDATE

OUR REGULAR NOTES ON PARISH ACTIVITIES.

## Poor phone service

AT Friday evening's Aston Abbotts Parish Council meeting Cllr. Peter Dines was elected chairman and Cllr. L. Smith vice-chairman.

It was noted that a site meeting is to be arranged with Bucks County Council representatives to discuss repairs to pot holes and kerbing in The Green, The Grove, Ross Road, and Wingrave Road areas of the village.

Aylesbury Vale District Council advised that free skips would be provided for the village, the first in the week ending June 28, for Wingrave Road and New Zealand.

Cllr. C. Higgs requested a new notice board for Wingrave Road end of the village and also asked that a cul-de-sac sign be erected at the entry to Bricstock to avoid through traffic mistaking it for Moat Lane, and Weedon Road.

Cllr. Peter Dines was concerned about the state of

the Ross Tomb and wondered if either the Admiralty or the Ancient Monument Trust could be approached with a view to getting it cleaned up as it was a feature of the village.

Concern was also expressed about the poor telephone services since the new exchange opened in April, and a letter is to be sent to British Telecom regarding this.

Cllr. Colin Higgs was asked to bring this matter up at the next Wing Association of Parish Councils meeting as it was felt Wing subscribers were probably experiencing the same problems.

Cllr. J. Whyte reported he had received complaints of people being forced off the Worduck bridlepath by speeding farm vehicles, and it is hoped a word to the persons concerned, pointing out the dangers of such antics on a public bridle or footpath, will alleviate the problem.

The Bucks Herald article opposite deals with the bulk of the topics that were discussed at the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th. May. Also discussed were:

### VILLAGE VENTURES COMPETITION.

The Parish Council agreed to enter two recent projects for this competition: The Chronicle and the Aston Abbotts Conservation Plan. The entries have been accepted and final submission has to be made before 30th, September.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 1985/6.

The programme of Parish Council Meetings was agreed for the next twelve months. All meetings are on Friday evenings at 8.00 p.m.

21st. JUNE.

9th. AUGUST.

20th. SEPTEMBER.

8th. NOVEMBER.

10th. JANUARY.

14th. MARCH \*

9th. MAY.\*\*

\* This is the date of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING which starts at 7.30 p.m. and is followed by a Parish Council Meeting.

\*\* Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

CHURCH ROOM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - met on the 19th. May and confirmed arrangements for the Festival Lunch and hoped that the first four replacement tables would arrive before the end of next month.

### WINGRAVE - LA BOUEXIERE TWINNING LINK

#### WANTED - HOSPITALITY !

Would any family like to do a good turn to a French family and in so doing earn themselves a summer holiday in France ?

The BOULLE family want to come to the Wingrave area from July 22nd. until August 1st., travelling with the children from La Bouexiere, for an exchange visit. The husband is 28, an electro-mechanical engineer. The wife is at home with two small daughters aged 4 and 2. They speak a little English and will come in their own car. They hope to stay with a similar English family and in return will offer hospitality in La Bouexiere at dates to be fixed later.

Any offers, please, to Jean Keighley, The Old Vicarage, Wingrave. Telephone: Aylesbury 681235.

# A LETTER FROM WING

Headmaster: I. Andrew B.Ed.

Telephone: AYLESBURY (0296)  
688264 (2 lines)



WING COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL  
AYLESBURY ROAD  
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My contribution to your magazine on this occasion must begin with a sincere thank you to all local people who have responded to the requests made in my previous articles. The following facts will help to explain why we are so grateful:-

- (a) A number of volunteers have offered to help to listen to children read or assist in the Library.
- (b) Many books have been donated to the School and this has increased our Library stock.
- (c) The Attic Auction made £600 profit for the School compared with £160 last year.
- (d) The raffle raised £350 profit. The results will be available in early June.
- (e) Over 60 adults have indicated an interest in a Wing and District Swimming Association and a Steering Committee has been formed. If you wish to receive information or wish to join the working party, please leave your name and address at the School (Aylesbury 688264) if you have not already done so.
- (f) Help has been received from two firms who have donated some wood and paper which would have been waste. Quite often items which are not needed by industry would still be very useful for the School.

Interest and support of the kind illustrated above is helping the School to develop and take its place in the community as well as to improve the facilities for the education of the pupils who live in the district.

On Saturday 29th June the Parent Teacher Association is holding a Fun Day. This is a social event and is not primarily a fund raising function, but there is the opportunity for school groups and local organisations to run a stall if they wish. We will be organising an inter-village competition based on the "It's a Knockout" idea. This should provide an interesting afternoon's entertainment and we hope that many spectators will attend. They can also enjoy the chance to browse around stalls, look at books, buy cakes and take part in side-shows. Some stalls may be organised to raise money for the School, but the P.T.A. Committee believes that this is a chance for local organisations to run a stall or side-show to raise money for their own funds. We would seek a small contribution (£3) and will provide tables and a room if the weather was inclement. There will also be the opportunity for a Car Boot Sale if you wish to take part in this - with a charge of £3 per car. Please contact the School if your organisation wishes to book a stall for the afternoon of the 29th June. Prizes that could be used for a School raffle or tombola will be very gratefully accepted.

In the evening there will be a dance from 8.00 p.m. to midnight. Mr. and Mrs. Komenda are organising this for us and they have been very successful in the past. We charge 50p admission and you bring your own drinks and items of food for the buffet. All the parents and friends who have attended in the past have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

I hope that this event is successful because it could be the beginning of joint events that encourage the School and local village organisations to work together for everyone's mutual benefit.

IVAN ANDREW.

# The Estone Chronicles

A HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND VILLAGE OF ASTON ABBOTTS

by Shirley Ford.

## PART TWO

The Parish Records began in 1550. The very first recorded marriage in Aston Abbots took place on the 28th. June 1559 between Robert Bishop and Joanne Chalenor. In the very early records there is no mention of where individuals lived or worked, but from 1591 the place of dwelling was included.

In July 1552 the earliest inventory of church goods was held by Henry Braknell, and Richard Sanders, when the vestments were made of red satin, blue silk, green silk and red say. There was a silver chalice, wooden candlesticks, steeple bells, santus bells and hand bells.

In 1553 Lord Russell gave the Manor of Aston Abbots to William Dormer, son and heir of Sir William Dormer. At a later time the manor passed to Sir William Stanhope after whose death the estate passed to the later Earls of Cheterfield. The population at this time was approximately 180 persons.

The Aston Abbots Parish Accounts began in 1562, with accounts of a sale of Church furniture to several men of the Parish, the sale raising 7s.9d. During the next four years parishioners Robert Green, Robert Vyncher, Henry Bricknell, Richard Allen and a Mr. Solomon donated book, vestments, church linen, a communion table and a silver chalice. In 1622 Antony Stanbridge paid 30s. for a new pulpit.

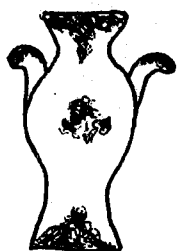
In 1563 church funds had been so low that the church wardens gathered 3d. from every house except from the poor, to pay for bread and wine for the year. They raised 4s.3d. In 1564 the villagers paid 4d. per house and Burston 3s. for an annual total of 10s.4d. Three years later parishioners that owned land paid 2d. and cottagers 1d toward communion bread and wine, raising a total of 2s.11d.

In 1564 the parishioners collected enough money to buy a bull at Buckingham fair which cost 18s. Mr. Solomon Powell looked after the bull for two years and was paid the princely sum of 8s.4d. The bull was sold in 1567 for 30s.

In April 1729 the population was about 200 and a vestry meeting was held at which the Vicar and Churchwardens allocated the pews to different families. It seems they divided the sexes, with the men seated on the south side and the women on the north.

In 1754 we had the first examples of double baptismal names. This was Elizabeth Betty, daughter of Thomas and Ann Myass. From 1778-1781 and in 1791 the names Mary Ann appear. In 1787 Susannah Dutchman Harris was baptised and in 1763 Barran John Harris.

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*Next Parish Council Meeting:*

**FRIDAY JUNE 21st.**

*8pm. Church Room.*

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# OUT AND ABOUT

This month we are suggesting a visit to  
HADDENHAM

**L**YING in the flat, sparsely treed, arable vale between Aylesbury and Thame, Haddenham has laid claim to the title "largest village in England". After an extensive exploration driving about its many roads, some over a mile long, its little lanes, numerous cul-de-sacs, odd corners and passageways, it seems to me a claim well justified.

Haddenham is a place of greens and ponds, of rustic cottages built of the local "wichert" clay with tiled or thatched roofs, of larger houses, some stuccoed, some brick, including modest Georgiana and country Victoriana, of mass modern housing and small "quality" schemes, of some dereliction and much refurbishment, of agriculture and modern industry. And everywhere high, tile-topped, rough textured, straight and curving, walls of wichert (with some new, quite well done "fakes") give some kind of unity to this most diverse and, to the newcomer, muddled of villages.

At heart Haddenham is a truly ancient place with an imposing 13th century church of local limestone overlooking the largest green and duckpond. Once there was a thriving trade in rearing big white Aylesbury ducks, the breeders' families living in modest cottages in Duck Lane, now Flint Lane and made picturesque.

The ducks made Haddenham a noisy and smelly place but they "put it on the map" too. A few ducks have been kept on the pond until recently but during the past two dry summers the pond has dried to cracked mud and on my visit there was not a duck in sight.

Aylesbury, the thrusting county town some five miles away, gave Haddenham its duck industry but its influence during this century has been much greater, benefiting the village in terms of employment and prosperity if not always visually.

A healthy manufacturing industry, plus close proximity to Aylesbury, has led to considerable expansion of housing within Haddenham's expansive boundaries. The former railway

station site is now a mass of small houses and many other open spaces have been filled in. However, many parts of the village still give little hint of such changes.

All remains weathered wichert walls, thatch and tile, small shops, old pubs, farms, well matured trees and colourful gardens. But in a moment one can be in a new world of streets of contemporary housing such as can be found in a thousand other places. And by one of the ponds stands a new parade of shops with a modern library across the busy road.

Haddenham's diversity, its sheer size and network of roads and alleys, its collection of "ends" and many focal points give the impression of a number of small villages loosely joined together. They have their own titles, too, such as Town End, Church End, Fort End, The Croft, Dollicot and Scotsgrove. At least this must help the postman!

Fort End seems like a village centre with its market-square aspect of broad roadway with a long inn on one side and well-stocked hardware stores on the other. Here stands "Old Hadden", a lovely timber-framed house with a variety of brick pattern work and one of many neat, decorative iron fences in

Haddenham. From a narrow corner starts the high street, yet this is scarcely commercial, containing a collection of ancient dwellings (including a cruck cottage) and the formal Wesleyan Chapel and ending in a cul-de-sac!

High Street also has The Bone House, its simple whitened front adorned with knuckle-bone impressions of faces and the tools of the men who used to build with the wichert clay. This is a local earth of great stickiness when wet which, mixed with straw, made an enduring building material. Walls were thick with rounded angles and usually rendered for protection. Boundary walls were either roofed with thatch or tile, including a high proportion of pink pantiles. Some walls are crumbling, letting one see the true texture of wichert.

Church End Green with its big shallow pond is a huge open space, certainly a village in character yet only a part of Haddenham. But it has the fine church and pubs and shops mix with the attractive array of colourful old houses and cottages and a sympathetic new scheme. All lie in a completely open setting with many glimpses of the far away, hazy Chilterns.

## Recommended Hostelry

**Bottle & Glass, Gibraltar.** This delightful thatched pub with its well upholstered interior has a county wide reputation for cold buffet lunches and home-made bread.



Gibraltar is a small hamlet on the main Aylesbury to Thame road about half way between the two towns.

The article is an abridged version of Raymond Lea's "Haddenham - a village of ancient and modern times" that appeared in the October 1984 edition of Bucks Countryside. The sketch of the Bottle & Glass is again by Lorna Cassidy in Cadbury Lamb's "Discovering Buckinghamshire".

# The Chronicle:

## Advertisement Rates for 1985.

FULL PAGE	: Back	£50 per annum.
	Inside	£25 per annum.
HALF PAGE	: Back	£25 per annum.
	Inside	£12 per annum.
QUARTER PAGE	: Back	£12 per annum.
	Inside	£ 7 per annum.
EIGHTH PAGE	: Back	£ 7 per annum.
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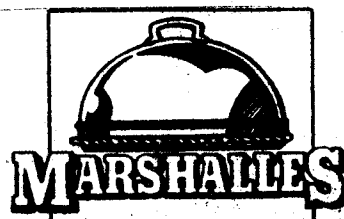
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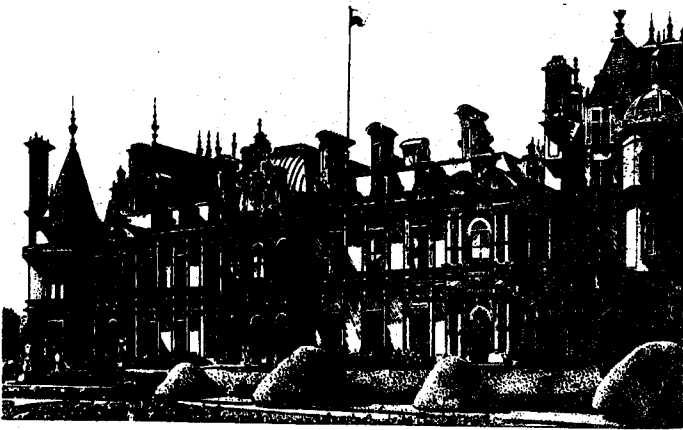
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IT MAY NOT PAY....BUT YOU  
FEEL BETTER !

# *The Rothschilds* of Buckinghamshire

by JOHN CAMP.

## PART SIX: WADDESDON MANOR

In 1865 Ferdinand de Rothschild, son of the head of the Austrian branch of the family and naturalised British, married his English cousin Evelina. The following year she died tragically as the result of a railway accident, and Ferdinand was left to mourn the death of his young wife and the child she was bearing him. His first action, after her death, was to establish in her memory the Evelina Hospital for Sick Children in London (now part of St. Thomas's), the first free hospital for the children of the poor. His second was to go on an immense buying spree all over Europe and into Russia, which lasted several years, during which he acquired an enormous collection of objets-d'art largely of French 17th and 18th-century origin. His third action, as a direct result of this, was to build himself a house in the country large enough to hold all his treasures. In 1873 he bought the village of Waddesdon, some eight miles from Aylesbury, from the Duke of Marlborough, and on Lodge Hill began building, in 1874, one of the most astonishing houses yet to be seen in the Buckinghamshire countryside.



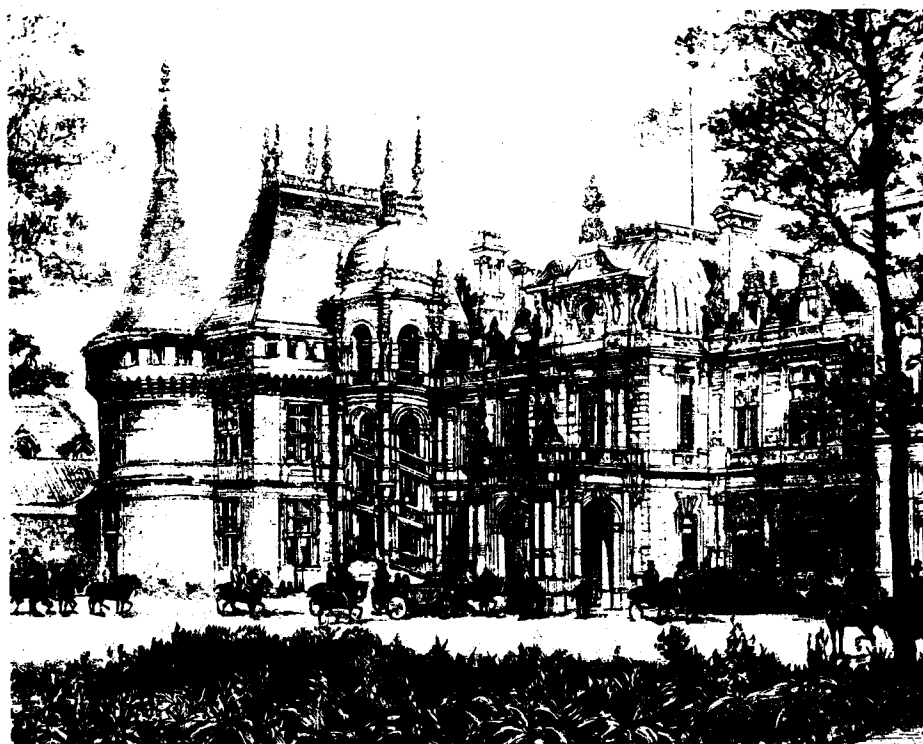
side. As a lover of all things French he commissioned a French architect to design the house, with the brief that he should incorporate into the building most of the finest features of the chateaux of the Loire. It was finished in 1881 (or at least became habitable) with over seventy rooms, enormous kitchens, spiral staircases and, externally, marked by the typical conical towers of the French 'chateau' style. In it he housed his collection of china, porcelain, pictures, furniture, tapestries and carpets, so creating, as one contemporary writer put it 'a

stunning circumvention of cosiness'. (Even worse was to be said later about Halton House.) Here Ferdinand lived in grand style, entertaining most of the famous personages and crowned heads of Europe including, on many occasions, Edward, Prince of Wales. Even his anti-semitic mother, Queen Victoria, was so intrigued by the stories she heard about Waddesdon Manor that she did the house the rare honour of visiting it personally on 14th. May 1890. She planted a tree to mark the occasion (which is still there, as is the spade which she used) and was transported about the grounds in a wheel-chair drawn by a pony. A photograph of this impressive sight may be seen in the house.

Ferdinand died suddenly on his birthday, and in his bath, in 1898. Waddesdon then passed into the hands of his formidable sister, Miss Alice, who had come to England from Vienna to look after her brother when he had lost his wife so tragically over thirty years before. Miss Alice was something of a dragon, though a close friend of Queen Victoria, who was so amused by her domineering manner that she constantly referred to her as 'Alice the All-Powerful', and insisted that she was the most terrifying woman in Europe!

12. Miss Alice was also immensely proud of the fact that she had once been described as 'the ugliest woman in Europe'. Looking at her miniature at Waddesdon (presumably a full size portrait would have been too much to bear!) and noting the typical Rothschild flattened nose, thick lips and bulbous eyes, one can well believe it. Not that she was without humour, for she once said that she would never marry a man who wanted her only for her money, and no man was likely to want her for her looks! She remained single to the end of her days and died in 1922.

The house then passed to her great-nephew, the French-born James Armand de Rothschild, who had married an eighteen year-old English girl called Dorothy Pinto in 1913. Slightly surprised at his legacy, James and his wife soon took up residence at Waddesdon Manor, living and entertaining in some style. He had done many things in his time including working in the Australian outback and in a Sydney hotel, serving in turn in the Canadian, French and British armies during the Great War, raising a Jewish battalion under Allenby in Palestine and winning the DCM in 1915. At home, after the war 'Jimmy' Rothschild's interests were politics (he was Liberal member for the Isle of Ely) and, like so many other members of his family, the Turf and the breeding of race-horses. He also brought to Waddesdon much of the Paris collection of objets d'art inherited



Queen Victoria arriving at Waddesdon.

from his father. On his death in 1957 he left Waddesdon Manor to the National Trust with a bequest of £10 million.

Today Mrs Dorothy Rothschild (90 this year) lives in Miss Alice's old house at Eythrope, near Stone. She has also written a book on Waddesdon Manor which quotes extensively from Ferdinand's account of the building work between 1874 and 1881, and also recounts her own memories of the house from the time of her marriage in 1913. Unfortunately she makes little mention of the many famous visitors from all over the world who are known to have been guests there between 1881 and 1898. Ferdinand's later diaries have never been published, which is a grievous loss, though there is still time for this omission to be rectified.

As stated Waddesdon Manor is a National Trust property. It is open this year between 27th March and 27th October, Wednesdays to Sundays from 2pm to 6pm. The grounds only are open from Wednesdays to Saturdays from 1pm and on Sundays from 11.30am. On Bank Holiday Mondays the house and grounds are open from 11am to 6pm, but are completely closed on the Wednesday following the Bank Holiday. Children under 12 are not admitted to the house but there is a special play area for them. Refreshments are served in the Old Stables.

John Camp will be concluding this series next month.

THE CHURCHES IN WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM, ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON

June 1985

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Tel. Aylesbury 681623

At our Festivals this year, we shall be responding the request by the House of Bishops for parishes to consider the Christian Ministry. And we are fortunate, therefore, to have three ordinands who will be able to speak to us out of their own experience of God's call to them to be Ministers in Christ's Church - on each of these three parish occasions.

Rob Warner, who is studying for the Baptist Ministry (son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. George Liddell) will be at the Cublington Parish Church Festival of Praise (June 9th).

Colin Marsh, who is studying for the URC Ministry will be at the Wingrave Parish Communion (June 30th at 10 a.m.)

Philip Dines, who is studying for the Church of England Ministry, will be with us at the Aston Abbots' Festival of Praise (July 21st at 6.00 p.m.)

This will be an exciting exploration into our understanding of Ministry, and not just of the Church of England either. An important contribution to widening our thinking on ecumenical lines.

Now, Vocation is a big word, so I would not like us to think that our only concern is with the Ordained Ministry. We all have a "Vocation" in life - "God has a work that no other can do"! But Ordination is our main emphasis this time, and I return (see April's edition) to some words of Dr. Coggan, enthronement sermon as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1975:



"One of the greatest and most important, serious needs of the Church at this moment is a steady increase in the number of those coming forward to ordination. Not for a moment must we lower our standards of those who apply for training. To do so would be to court disaster. But for too long the numbers have been declining. Such a decline is like a haemorrhage in the human body.

"Let us engage in forms of ministry. Let us train auxiliary (non-stipendiary) clergy. But let us not delude ourselves into thinking that this will solve our problems. It will not. We must have a steady supply of parish priests who will give themselves wholly to this thing - the awesome ministry of the Sacraments, the thoughtful ministry of the Word, the visiting of the homes of the people, the ceaseless intercession, the equipment of the laity for their witness."

We look forward, therefore, to our Festivals in the parishes with renewed interest as we hear (if briefly), and think, and pray about God's call to those who will be priests and ministers of the future Church.

On these days, a certain amount of literature will be made available for those who would like to consider the matter further - maybe for themselves for their future, or for someone they know.

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

NEWS VIEWS AND EVENTS

WINGRAVE DEDICATION & PATRONAL FESTIVAL

June 30th

10.00 a.m. The Parish Communion  
6.00 p.m. Choral Evensong (The Rector)

During the Parish Communion, Mr. Colin Marsh, who is preparing for ordination in the URC Ministry will speak to us (Junior Church included) about his "Call to the Ministry")

At Wingrave's Festival, we shall continue to listen, think and pray about Ministry.

LENT BOXES RESULT (For Muheza Hospital)

Wingrave	£150
Cublington	25
A.Abbotts	22

SUNDAY LESSONS (ASB)

30th June	(of) S.S. Peter & Paul	(782) 2 Tim. (6-8, 16-18)	Matthew 16 (13-20)
7th July	Pentecost 6	(664) Coloss. 3 (12-17)	Luke 15 (11-24a)
14th July	Pentecost 7	(669) 1 Corinthians. 13	Matthew 18 (21-35)
21st July	(of) S. James	(790) Acts 11 (27)-12 (2)	Mark 10 (35-45)
28th July	Pentecost 9	(682) 2 Cor. 3 (6-10)	Mark 9 (14-29)

ARE YOU FREE TODAY? You may be ... thousands will not be free. If you stand up for your beliefs here in Britain, you may make your self unpopular. You won't be tortured or executed. Yet, there are many countries where speaking your own mind is a punishable offence. Where the most dangerous thing you can do is to hold a religious belief or express a political opinion the Government doesn't like. Where the price is jail, torture, or even death.. One organisation that tries to help is AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. Their campaign often works - we know that letters, cables, cards, protests, and appeals sent out by Amnesty Groups around the world can actually unlock prison doors. IF YOU ARE FREE TODAY, your gratitude could be expressed by responding to this appeal. If you want more information on local groups, you could begin by ringing Aylesbury 681241 or 681652 (both are Wingrave numbers).

Family Services in July      Cublington 10 o'clock )  
   Aston Abbots 11.15    ) The Rector

FUNERAL      After a Service in Wingrave Parish Church, 20th April,  
interment in the Churchyard -

Donald Wilfred Higgins RICKARD

"to us who are alive, Lord, grant forgiveness; and to  
those who have died a place of light and peace."

THE RECTOR SAYS      My grateful thanks to all of you who have been so kind to me during my little "holiday" in S. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy, and for all the thoughts and prayers and many other kindnesses that I have received since.

# CHURCH NEWS

It is good news that the Rector is recovering well from his gall-bladder operation. He hopes to be well enough to take our service on June 9th - we shall see. Meantime we will welcome Mr. Colin Marsh, who is training to be a minister with the United Reform Church, to take our Family Service on June 2nd. We understand that he comes with his family who all help him with the service. It will be good to show our appreciation by having as many families as possible in church that Sunday so please make a special effort to come along.

It is good too to see the church wall repaired so well; the only snag is that it has drawn our attention to the rest of it ! Much of the top three courses and the coping bricks require relaying. We hope to do this ourselves, bit by bit, and of course any help would be most welcome.



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

## SERVICES IN JUNE.

		<u>Sidesman</u>
2nd. June	: Family Service 11.15 a.m. Readings: Isaiah 6(1-8); John 14(8-17)	Mr. J. Ford.
9th. June	: Holy Communion. 11.15 a.m. Readings: 1 Peter 2(1-10); John 15(1-5)	Mr. C. Spike.
16th. June	: Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Readings: Romans 6(3-11); John 15(5-11)	Mr. C. Higgs.
23rd. June	: Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Readings: Deut. 7(6-11); John 15(12-17)	Miss G. Ford.
30th. June	: Holy Communion 11.15 a.m. Readings: See Vicar's Notes.	Mr. J. Ford.

same logic Hamlet would be left out of the 'Great Tragedies' list because Bill had been in the list last year with Taming of the Shrew as one of the 'Great Comedies'. So, Orwell would be in my list. So to would be Deney's Reitz's autobiographic trilogy ('On Commando'; 'Trekking On' and 'No Outspan') which begins as the journal of a youthful Boer who served under Jan Smuts during the Boer War, follows his exile and return to South Africa, before describing the First World War campaign in German East Africa and the authors experiences in France during the last year of the war. I would also be tempted to include David Tinker's 'A Message from the Falklands), an indictment of the Falklands Campaign through the letters and poems of a man who lost his life aboard HMS Glamorgan. It may not stand the test of time as a 'great' book but it makes sobering reading for those who glorify modern war.

But any list would include Joseph Heller's 'Catch 22' and there is no better way to end this piece than an extract from that classic in which Doc Daneeka explains the crucial "Catch".

#### from CATCH-22

It was a horrible joke, but Doc Daneeka didn't laugh until Yossarian came to him one mission later and pleaded again, without any real expectation of success, to be grounded. Doc Daneeka snickered once and was soon immersed in problems of his own, which included Chief White Halfoat, who had been challenging him all that morning to Indian wrestle, and Yossarian, who decided right then and there to go crazy.

'You're wasting your time,' Doc Daneeka was forced to tell him.

'Can't you ground someone who's crazy?'

'Oh, sure. I have to. There's a rule saying I have to ground anyone who's crazy.'

'Then why don't you ground me? I'm crazy. Ask Clevinger.'

'Clevinger? Where is Clevinger? You find Clevinger and I'll ask him.'

'Then ask any of the others. They'll tell you how crazy I am.'

'They're crazy.'

'Then why don't you ground them?'

'Why don't they ask me to ground them?'

'Because they're crazy, that's why.'

'Of course they're crazy,' Doc Daneeka replied. 'I just told you they're crazy, didn't I? And you can't let crazy people decide whether you're crazy or not, can you?'

Yossarian looked at him soberly and tried another approach.

'Is Orr crazy?'

'He sure is,' Doc Daneeka said.

'Can you ground him?'

'I sure can. But first he has to ask me to. That's part of the rule.'

'Then why doesn't he ask you to?'

'Because he's crazy,' Doc Daneeka said. 'He has to be crazy to keep flying combat missions after all the close calls he's had. Sure, I can ground Orr. But first he has to ask me to.'

'That's all he has to do to be grounded?'

'That's all. Let him ask me.'

'And then you can ground him?' Yossarian asked.

'No. Then I can't ground him.'

'You mean there's a catch?'

'Sure there's a catch,' Doc Daneeka replied. 'Catch-22. Anyone who wants to get out of combat duty isn't really crazy.'

There was only one catch and that was Catch-22, which specified that a concern for one's own safety in the face of dangers that were real and immediate was the process of a rational mind. Orr was crazy and could be grounded. All he had to do was ask; and as soon as he did, he would no longer be crazy and would have to fly more missions. Orr would be crazy to fly more missions and sane if he didn't, but if he was sane he had to fly them. If he flew them he was crazy and didn't have to; but if he didn't want to he was sane and had to. Yossarian was moved very deeply by the absolute simplicity of this clause of Catch-22 and let out a respectful whistle.

'That's some catch, that Catch-22,' he observed.

'It's the best there is,' Doc Daneeka agreed.



# INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

This month ABBOTTSBURY takes over one of our regular features to have a look at a topic of particular interest to him.

## THE BOOK OF THE MONTH

Amidst a blaze of publicity in the national press the Book Marketing Council has launched its twenty best war books. Norman Stone, Professor of Modern History at Worcester College, Oxford; Max Hastings and Jill Neville were asked to draw up the list. While few of us would agree with the list in its entirety, most of us would include the bulk of their choice in a list of our own.

As a student of history I remember being captivated by the writing of A.J.P. Taylor and his 'Origins of the Second World War' is in my view the finest history text yet written, its original, authoritative and immensely readable. Evelyn Waugh's 'Sword of Honour' trilogy ('Men at Arms'; 'Officers and Gentlemen'; 'Unconditional Surrender') is the second world war story of Guy Crouchback and thought by many to be the greatest work of fiction to emerge from that war. If you have not yet read it can I urge you to do so. The book ranges from high comedy to tragic farce, from elation to depression and despair. It is irresistibly readable.

## THE TOP TWENTY.

Empire of the Sun (J. G. Ballard)  
 The Heat of the Day (Elizabeth Bowen)  
 The White Guard (Mikhail Bulgakov)  
 My Early Life (Winston Churchill)  
 The Memory of War/Children in Exile (James Fenton)  
 Eleni (Nicholas Gage)  
 Goodbye to All That (Robert Graves)  
 The Quiet American (Graham Greene)  
 The Good Soldier Svejk (Jaroslav Hasek)  
 Catch 22 (Joseph Heller)  
 Strange Meeting (Susan Hill)  
 The Pork Butcher (David Hughes)  
 The Face of Battle (John Keegan)  
 Sagittarius Rising (Cecil Lewis)  
 The Cruel Sea (Nicholas Monsarrat)  
 Love and War in the Apennines (Eric Newby)  
 The Poems of Wilfred Owen  
 The Complete Memoirs of George Sherston (Siegfried Sassoon)  
 The Origins of the Second World War (A. J. P. Taylor)  
 Sword of Honour Trilogy (Evelyn Waugh)

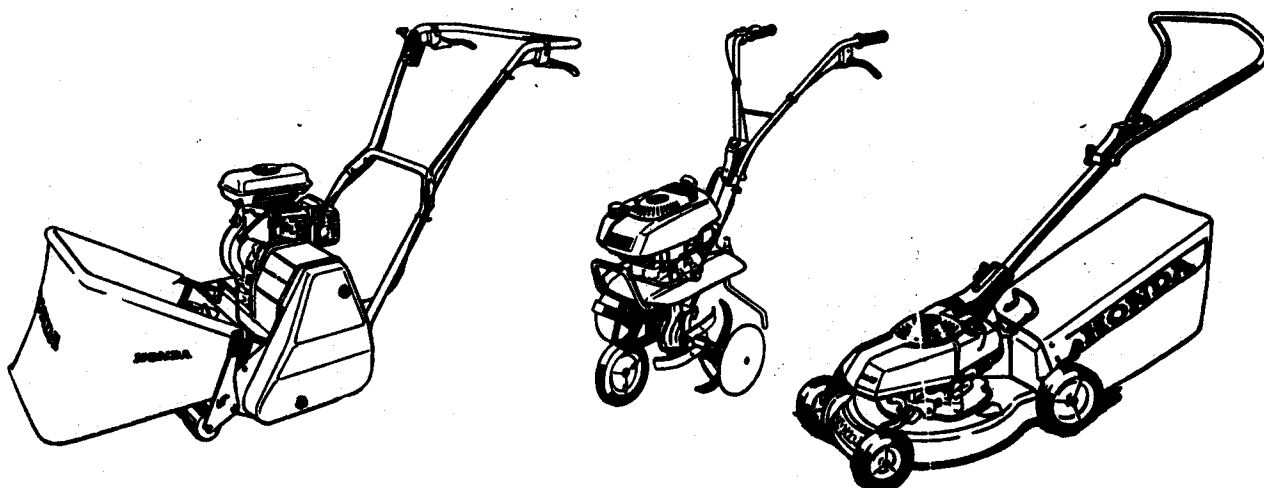
The First World War produced a vast array of classic literature and perhaps foremost amongst the works is that of Siegfried Sassoon. His 'Complete Memoirs of George Sherston' (again a trilogy: 'Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man'; 'Memoirs of an Infantry Officer'; and 'Sherston's Progress') is a marvellously moving story of a man who is horrified by the absurdity of the trench warfare, who then makes an abortive anti-war protest and is consigned to a hospital for the shell-shocked. There he gradually realises that 'going back to the war ... was my only chance of peace'.

The Great War also produced a quality of poetry that remains unsurpassed and while Wilfred Owens 'War Poems' gain entry to the 'top twenty' it would have been fairer to select one of the many First World War anthologies of poetry so that Rosenberg, Thomas and indeed Sassoon's work could be included.

Many on the list would not be in my top twenty - but then again I have not read them all! Of those I have read and think deserve a mention would be Orwell's 'Homage to Catalonia' - omitted from the official list because the Book Marketing Council felt Orwell had had a good run in 1984, presumably on the

(CONTINUED OPPOSITE)

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