

The Chronicle.

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine

OCT 86

ISSUE 38

Editorial

'Time' seems to be an issue in this month's issue! - the Rector attacks the "abusers of time" in his monthly message, while Helen Richardson describes the gradual arrival of the congregation at a church service in Fiji. Having spent some time in Africa I have experienced the frustrations of being on time when everyone else is working to their own concept of time. For that is what time is - a concept. In the dynamic, go-ahead, materialistic world we live in time is important. Time is money after all, and being late is wasting time and money. But being late is also discourteous. We have all experienced the annoyance of waiting to meet someone who is 'late', or perhaps opening a meeting or making a speech that is interrupted by those who are late.

There is, of course, another way of looking at it. Perhaps we should be flattered that, despite what other attractions they had - be it a meal, a good programme on the telly or just an extra half hour in bed - these late-comers have actually made the effort to be at our meeting; risked the glare of the speaker, the embarrassment of having to walk right to the front because that's the only seat left, and suffered those whispered cries of 'shh' that are hissed at them by those who arrived on time.

Why are we so obsessed with time? Why do we become agitated when someone is late? Is it because we have been inconvenienced, because our time has been wasted? Perhaps a leaf out of the Fijian way of life would not be totally amiss. Perhaps if we relax a little, assume there is a good reason for the late arrival, we might at least reduce our own blood pressure. Welcoming the late arrival, rather than moaning at their lateness might also encourage them to come again rather than stay that extra half hour in bed or watch that programme they long wanted to see.

Most people pride themselves on being 'on time', an entirely admirable trait, and one to be encouraged. But that risk as you drove across the crossroads - was it worth it, just to be on time? You got away with it this time ... will you get away with it next time?

Sorry about that ... got carried away. Now for something entirely different. Congratulations to Peter Knight on his 'Farming & Wildlife' award. Congratulations as well to all who helped, contributed or purchased at this year's Harvest Sale at the Bull & Butcher on the 27th. September. Just over £110 was raised.

Finally a comment about the Aston Abbotts Profile that appeared in the Aylesbury Plus [and is reproduced elsewhere in this issue]. A pity that what was basically a good article should have been spoilt by inaccuracies [the Bull & Burden being a spectacularly original error]; misleading statements [I am not aware of the 'guard dogs and security men' at the Abbey], and careless errors [1974 instead of 1874 making one paragraph nonsensical]. Still regular readers of the Chronicle will doubtless have a catalogue of similar errors that I have made ... so perhaps its best I say no more.

Graham Parker

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE: 19th. IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE.

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

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

WHAT'S ON

THURSDAYS 2nd: 16th: & 30th. WHIST DRIVE Church Room 7.30 p.m.

THURSDAY 23rd. October. BINGO Church Room 8.00 p.m.

FRIDAY 3rd. October. PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Church Room 8.00 p.m.

MONDAY 27th. OCTOBER : DEREGULATION OF BUS SERVICES - NEW TIMETABLE COMMENCES TODAY.

LADIES' CLUB

Our second meeting this session is on October 9th., when Mrs. Verney is coming to talk about the work of the life boats, and on the 25th. we are having our Annual General Meeting.

A 50/50 AUCTION

A 50/50 auction will be held in the Church Room on the 31st. October at 7.30 p.m. in aid of Church Room funds. Due to the last one being such a huge success we thought we would repeat it. We can sell almost anything for you, excluding livestock (the mother-in-law auction will be later in the year). So, if you have something you wish to sell, telephone 681243 (Doris) or 681425 (Chris) and we will tell you when to bring it to the Church Room or arrange collection.

PLAYGROUP

The Playgroup at Wingrave Community Centre operates from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon every weekday (excluding normal school holidays) and takes children of 3 years and over. For further information contact Joan Powell on 681241.

SUNDAY PAPERS.

FOR YOUR SUNDAY PAPER REQUIREMENTS PHONE ME, KAREN, ON 681425. DONT STOP ME IN THE STREET BECAUSE I DONT SPEAK TO STRANGLERS. DELIVERY GUARENTEED BEFORE 3 P.M.

FOOTPATHS

If the footpaths around you are unknown or obstructed its because you have not used them. The autumn is a good time to start and improve or explore them, the local ramblers hold frequent walks, why not join them?

Many of the local paths have been public for hundreds of years but may now be overgrown or blocked simply because they are walked too seldom. Autumn is a good time to use the paths. Nettles can be beaten down, overhanging hedges and brambles cut without disturbing birds nests, so secateurs are useful to carry. If a path has illegally been ploughed, regular walking will redefine it. With a modest number of active workers the Ramblers and its affiliated bodies can tackle many of the worst footpath problems, but they need your help. Paths across the Chilterns, the Ridgeway and all the well known long distant paths get well, if not over, used, so keep free from obstruction; but do you use your local footpaths like this?

Why not join the next walk in your village (dogs on leads please), or take a bus ride to the next village and use the footpath to walk back. This will help keep open a part of the environment we inherited from our ancestors and make it more accessible for others, not to mention the fact that the exercise will do you good!

WALKS IN THIS AREA

Sunday 16th November 2.00 p.m. THE GREEN, ASTON ABBOTTS.

Sunday 7th. December 2.00p.m. CUBLINGTON CROSS-ROADS

OR COME ALONG TO THE SLIDE EVENING ON TUESDAY 4th. NOVEMBER IN THE CHURCH ROOM AT 8.00 p.m. ADMISSION 50p.

NOTICEBOARD

HALLOWE'EN SUPPER - AYLESBURY VALE HOSPICE APPEAL

We are hoping to hold a Hallowe'en Supper in the Church Room on 1st November at 7.30 p.m. The object of this is to have a pleasant evening and also to make as much money as possible towards the above worth-while appeal. You may have seen in the Bucks Herald what other villages are doing - can we make this an Aston Abbotts effort?

I am, therefore, looking for donations towards all the food and also for payment to come and eat it! The menu and cost of the tickets have still to be decided but I have already had several offers from ladies willing to make apple pies for the sweet - how about some cream to go with them?

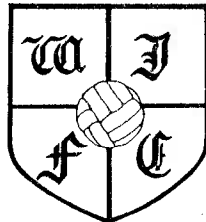
Victor Scott has said he will be willing to show some of his slides after the meal, which is a treat in itself.

I hope the Church Room Committee will waive its usual fee on this occasion and that someone will come forward to decorate the room for us - witches on broomsticks and turnip lanterns?

There will be a raffle, for which we shall need prizes.

Don't wait to be asked - all offers will be gratefully received. May I thank you all in advance? Kay Dines.

WINGRAVE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB



THE START OF A NEW SEASON

The Junior Football Club season starts in October, and both the U.14 and the U.12 squads have been involved in regular training sessions and some pre-season friendly matches during September.

Club subscriptions have been kept at £5 for the year and will be used in part to fund the travelling costs for all squad players who wish to visit La Bouexiere for our annual international match. Both teams will start the season with new strip thanks to £250 in sponsorship from TRY CONSTRUCTION of Uxbridge. In addition Pete Springett of the Bell has generously donated £50 to add to the £40 we raised at the Fete; the £70 profit from a successful race evening at the Bell and the £160 raised as a result of the recent Trad Jazz night at the Community Centre.

The season proper begins on October 5th. with the U12 at home to Cheddington (K.O. 10.30 at the School field), On the 12th Oct. the U14 are at home to Arrows Colts; on the 19th. the U12 are at home to Arrows (K.O. 10.30 on the School field) and on the 26th the U14 are at home to Cheddington.

Aston Abbotts is well represented with Piers Parker captaining the U12 and Dean Wiggett and Dean Sykes playing in the forward line. In their pre-season friendlies the team has beaten B.R.Foxes 2-1 (Dean Sykes scoring one of the goals), and Brooklands 8-1 (both Deans being amongst the scorers). Andrew Parker is a member of the U14 squad, who also began the season well with an exciting 5-4 victory over Arrows in a recent friendly.

THE 1986 CHRISTMAS SHOW

The end of an Era.....

Preparations are well in hand for the Christmas Show. Chris Brandon has got several very damp towels round his head and he is clutching the final flagon of that lethal homemade wine of his to get the inspiration to come up with the odd work or two of genius.

This show being the Tenth and the final one deserves scripts of a high calibre so Chris has bought this rifle....

There is an outline of how the show will run this year and various people have been contacted to appear (This means you ,Stuart)

However if you are keen and talented then there is no place for you in this show. If you want to have a go and become a village star then contact either John, Chris or Neil. We would like to see some of the old faces but also some of the new faces to make this a real Wizzo do.

After all it is the last one !

Doris has agreed to the bookings being the 11, 12 ,and 13 th December and tickets will be on sale by the 1st November from Chris Brandon. Please be sure to book early for this the final appearance of the Christmas Show.

Chris says that the rules are money with order for tickets. No cash-No seat...and he's a mean hombre !

For those of you who are going to volunteer to appear in the show there will be a meeting held in the village hall on 5 October 1986 at 3.00 pm.

It would appear that Andy Ford needs a little persuasion to appear in this years show. It was probably the strain of appearing in last years mad event. So if you see him round the village give him a short round of applause or a cheer just to remind him that his adoring public needs him.

Headmaster: I. Andrew B.Ed.
Telephone: AYLESBURY (0296)
688264 (2 lines)



WING COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL
AYLESBURY ROAD
WING
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
BEDS LU7 0NY

WING SCHOOL NEWS

Examination Results

I am pleased, yet again, to be able to report that the examination results at 'O' Level and C.S.E. continue to improve. When it is remembered that the 'O' Level examination is aimed at the top 25% of pupils and that over 30% attend the Grammar Schools then the pupils and staff of Wing deserve praise. Over 50% of last year's fifth year achieved at least one 'O' Level or C.S.E. Grade 1. Thirteen per cent. achieved four or more 'O' Levels in separate subjects and no pupil left school without achieving something. This compares favourably with other similar schools and in fact with some Comprehensive Schools.

We would like to congratulate Mark Norman and Colin Stamp who left Wing two years ago to attend Aylesbury College. Mark obtained Grade 'A' in his three 'A' Levels and Colin achieved 'A', 'C' and 'D' in his three 'A' Levels. These are excellent results and we are very proud.

P.T.A. Future Events

Tuesday, 7th October at 7:30 p.m.

Any interested parent is invited to a Seminar on Drug Abuse. On this occasion we will be discussing how parents, the school and others can help young people who have this problem.

Saturday, 11th October - 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This is an annual event which goes from strength to strength. Many different forms of craftwork are displayed and there are many interesting gifts available which can solve Christmas present problems. Please come along and see the wide range of unusual gifts.

Burglary

As some of you may be aware there was a break in at the school during the night of the last day of the summer term.

Along with the electrical equipment taken were various notes, class lists, engraved trophies, typewriters and a green mountaineering walking leadership log book of no great intrinsic value, but which are badly missed in the school.

It may be that some or all of these items have been discarded in the village so we would be grateful if any likely-looking objects could be handed in at the School Office.

People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd. Oct. DENISE ROBINSON.
- 3rd. Oct. JULIETTE GUTIERREZ (14th)
- 4th. Oct. TREVOR SEARLE.
- 14th. Oct. JUAN GUTIERREZ (refuses to give his age - but we know he's some where between 40 and 42).
- 26th. Oct. RITA ROBINSON.
- 31st. Oct. HALEY WILKINSON.

CONGRATULATIONS

John & Dee Whyte on the birth of their daughter Fiona on the 6th. September.

THANKS

JOHN & DEIRDRE WHYTE would like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers, gifts, and good wishes received from so many people on the occasion of the birth of their daughter FIONA SIOBHAN on the 6th. Sept. We were very touched by the number of people who thought of us at this time.

BAR CHAT

Here we are and it's September and almost a year since the pub took on a new shape. But it's still amazing the things you see and here going on in the pub.

I heard a very intense conversation going on between Parish Councilors about the article on the funding of the Chronicle. The words I heard were if the money came from the rates then the Councilors would exert Editorial Control. Hello, I thought this is the Red side of Aston Abbotts showing itself and they are on the council! It could be this column that they were meaning, mind you!

So I have come up with this idea of starting the Popular Front for the Liberation of Aston Abbotts. It was interesting seeing old Whytey trying to enter the Guinness book of records as the only person able to drink a pub dry single handed...still its not every day you're 40 and have your first off spring..

*Trouble was that Barry was sneaky and had a brewery lorry standing by in the yard
What a shame it wasn't called ISLA, never mind there's always the next one.....*

See you next time

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M. Talbot

GOOD LUCK

to Mr. & Mrs. Ken Ward who moved from the village down to Exmouth in Devon during September. Having lived in Aston for forty years Ken was a past Parish Councillor, and was a teacher, and later Deputy Head at Wing School. We wish them well.

WELCOME TO BRICSTOCK

Mr. & Mrs. Percy Rickard, After a long wait for a bungalow they have now moved into number two. We hope they enjoy the move and that Mrs. Rickard continues to make a good recovery from her illness.

TOM BRAZIER

We have just heard the sad news of the death of Tom Brazier. Our thoughts are with family and friends.

Portraits of Buckinghamshire

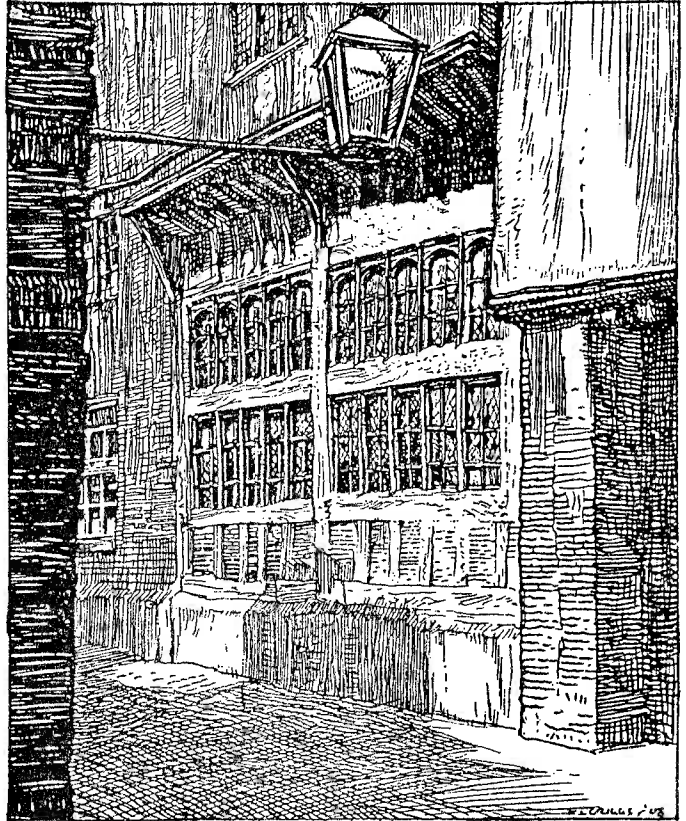
No. 13. THE KING'S HEAD, AYLESBURY.

Extract from Clement Shorter's 'Highways & Byways of Buckinghamshire'. Sketch by Frederick Griggs and dated 1908.

Let our first introduction to the county be from Aylesbury, now reached pleasantly from Marylebone by the Great Central Railway in less than an hour. We find ourselves in a town with some small survival of its ancient picturesqueness, although all too little of its many historical associations is preserved for us to-day. Standing in the centre of the large market square we face the "George" Inn, while our back is to the Corn Exchange. A hundred years ago we should have faced the "King's Head" Inn, now buried in a side street, but worth a visit to see its old Tudor window, one of the few relics of an older Aylesbury.

The "King's Head" is situated at the back of the "George." Here we are in quite an old-world atmosphere—the sign, indeed, only commemorates Henry the Eighth—but the hall of this quaint inn, and its long window, visible from the street, have a much greater antiquity. The heraldic devices that are still to be seen on the window make it clear that it dates from the fifteenth century; and also make it clear that the house had something to do with religion. As a matter of fact, all the original inns of England were kept by religious communities, and were under the control of the monasteries. The "King's Head" has little to show you to-day beyond its fine window, extending across its principal room, now used as a "bar," with heraldry that recalls Margaret, the wife of Henry the Sixth from which it has been inferred that the building was erected

shortly after the marriage of that monarch. In the seventeenth century the "King's Head" issued its own coinage, or tokens,



The King's Head, Aylesbury.

for small payments. This it did in common with mercers and other tradesmen of the town. Instead of doing the work for itself, the Government allowed them here, as elsewhere, to make their own 'necessarie chainge.' One token, dated 1657, bears on one side of it the legend: *At ye King's Head In.*



With the Compliments of
the Regional Information Officer

Department of Health & Social Security,
London South Region,
Sutherland House,
29-37, Brighton Road,
SUTTON, Surrey SM2 5AN
Tel. No. 01-642 6022 Ext.

A FURTHER INFORMATION LEAFLET FROM THE DHSS

ONE PARENT BENEFIT

If you are receiving child benefit and you are bringing up a child on your own you may also be able to get one parent benefit. It is paid weekly and the current rate is £4.55.

You can get one parent benefit if you are single, divorced, legally separated, living apart, a widower or a widow (but not getting extra money for a child with your widow's benefit).

You do not have to be the parent of the child or even a relative. But you must be responsible for looking after the child.

If you would like to know more about this benefit then dial 100 and ask for Freephone DHSS. Our experts are there to advise you.

10.

WINGRAVE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Our twinning link with La Bouëxière has developed so much and now involves so many people - between 150 and 200 people here have already participated in some way - that the committee feels the time has come to create a subscription membership. There are 2 main reasons for this. Firstly, with numbers increasing all the time, administration becomes more difficult, and we are in danger of not passing information to all the people we should. Members would receive

- newsletters,
- advance information on twinning events,
- and therefore priority booking on trips.

Secondly, money has to be raised somehow and subscriptions will help defray the costs of entertaining our French visitors.

Subscriptions will be £2 per person or £5 per family. They will run for a calendar year and payments now will be valid until the end of 1987. Please fill in the form below and return it, with the money, to any committee member;

Julian Humphrey, Mollards Cottage, Nup End Lane,
 Jennifer Armstrong, Pembroke House, Nup End Close,
 Jean Keighley, The Old Vicarage, Leighton Road,
 David Morgan, 8 Anershall,
 Bryan Round, Fernleigh, Nup End Lane.

Cheques should be made out to Wingrave Twinning Association.

We hope that you will always feel that you can tell your committee what you think of their arrangements, and make suggestions for future programmes. Better still, join the committee. We need at least one new member and would welcome volunteers. We work hard but enjoy it. Even the meetings are fun - perhaps it's the alcoholic haze.....

Future Dates

Early in 1987 we shall be organising a Twinning Evening in the Community Centre. Details later. Would you like another "gourmet" evening, or shall we try a different theme?

May 28 - 31, in Wingrave)
 October 24 - 27, in La Bouëxière) Family weekends with a sports-orientated theme.

Exchange - in La Bouëxière at Easter, in Wingrave in July.

Junior Football - the 1987 International Matches will be in La Bouëxière at Easter.

I/We should like to subscribe to the Wingrave Twinning Association and enclose a subscription of

Name of individuals or family

Address

Telephone number

A Letter from Fiji

Steve and Helen are now back from their round the world adventure, and this month's 'letter' tells of their time in Fiji. Next month will be the last in the series and will tell us the last leg of their journey - Africa.

From Australia we flew to Fiji and suffered three weeks of sheer torment on tiny paradise islands; sunbathing; swimming and snorkelling. We were fortunate enough to stay with friends which allowed us the opportunity to pay local prices for everything - approximately half the tourist rates.

The islands were quite beautiful; palm trees; white sandy beaches and crystal blue lagoons in which to swim. The snorkelling was spectacular; but after spotting two sharks swimming where we had snorkelled only hours previously, some of our eagerness wore off.

The Fijians are extremely friendly relaxed people. Their casual attitude to life extends to time keeping, they are renowned for being late for everything. We attended a church service scheduled to start at 10 a.m. At ten, there were half a dozen people in the church. After fifteen minutes the choir joined the congregation and swelled the numbers considerably. The largest body of people, however, arrived after the third hymn - over an hour late.

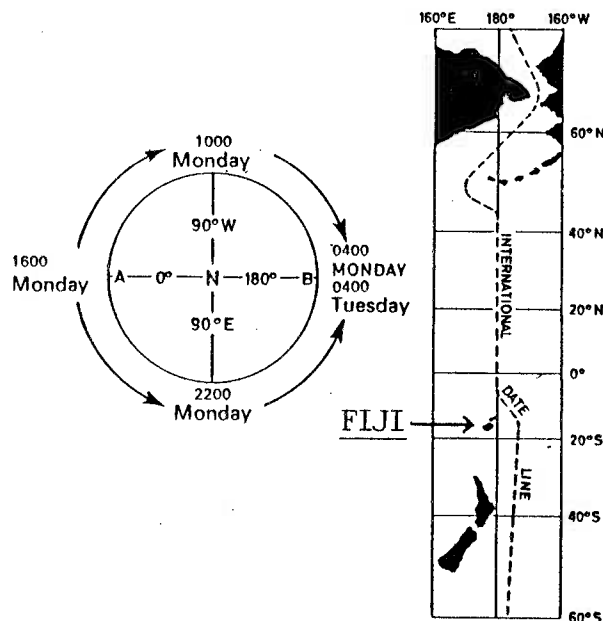
We were advised that if we were offered the local drink of "Yaqona" it would be rude to refuse. Yaqona is made from a root which is ground down and then strained through a piece of muslin (or a pair of old tights). The result is a muddy coloured watery solution. The mixture tasted like the water used to peel potatoes in; it certainly didn't inspire you to ask for a second cup. Feeling rather pleased with ourselves for getting the stuff down our throats we were surprised to find that after five minutes our mouths were totally numb, and our lips felt about four feet wide. Apparently there is no alcoholic content in yaqona, it simply makes the drinker drowsy and numb. It must save on anaesthetic when they visit the dentist! Apparently there are no fights or brawls after an evening supping yaqona as everyone is asleep.

Education in Fiji is not compulsory and has to be paid for. Most families cannot afford to educate their children and consequently there are plenty of youngsters looking for amusement during the day. When we went to the golf course for a quick round one afternoon we were bombarded by twenty boys all wanting to caddy. As Steve was teaching me the real basics of golf it wasn't really appropriate to have a caddy, so we declined their kind offer. Undeterred all twenty boys followed us round the course; applauded wildly when I managed a decent shot, and collapsed into fits of giggles each time I hit a bad shot - not exactly the ideal environment to be taught how to play golf.

Fiji lies on the International Dateline. Although the official dateline bends to avoid passing over land the unofficial dateline [the 180 line of longitude] bisects one of

The Significance of the International Date Line

The diagram on the right shows what happens when two travellers set off at the same time (1600) on a Monday from a place A (long. 0°). One traveller goes westwards and the other eastwards to a place B (long. 180°). The traveller going west calculates the local times at 90°W. and 180° to be 1000 Monday and 0400 Monday respectively. The traveller going east calculates the local times at 90°E. and 180° to be 2200 Monday and 0400 Tuesday respectively.



In theory along meridian 180° it is both 0400 Monday and 0400 Tuesday. When the traveller going west crosses this meridian he finds it is 0400 Tuesday, i.e. he has *lost one day*. When the traveller going east crosses this meridian he finds it is 0400 Monday, i.e. he has *gained one day*. The line at which a day is lost or gained is called the *international date line*. This line follows meridian 180° except where this crosses land surfaces. To avoid confusion to the peoples of these regions the line bends round them so passing over a sea surface.

12.

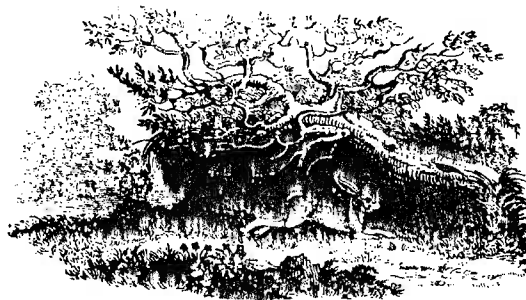
the islands in the Fijian group; and one entrepreneur has built a bar on the unofficial dateline. On one end of the bar he has hung a sign saying "have a drink for today" and at the other end of the bar, on the other side of the dateline "have a drink for tomorrow". Crossing the Dateline led to a considerable ammount of disorientation when we left Fiji. Our plane left Fiji at 11 o'clock in the evening and arrived in Canada at 2 o'clock that same afternoon - nine hours before we had left Fiji !

Vancouver was overrun with Americans, all attending Expo 86, so it was difficult to ascertain whether you were in America or Canada. The culture is extremely Americanised; fast food and big fast cars everywhere. When we asked for a small car to hire to take up to the Rockies we were told that they only rented four cylinder engine cars for driving around town and that these cars were far too small to go out into the country. They were not prepared to rent anything less than a six cylinder engine - ironic when the speed limit is 50 m.p.h.

The countryside around Vancouver was quite beautiful; snowcapped mountains; waterfalls and pine forests. We were encouraged to go camping in the mountains, so we packed a two man tent and headed off to the hills. On our first night we found a spot next to a stream, lit a fire, pitched a very precarious looking tent, and even managed a barbecue of smoked salmon. On the second day our confidence was severely knocked by meeting a grizzly bear and a rattlesnake at close quarters (both of which we had been assured that we would never meet). Undeterred we pitched our tent next to a lake, only to be disturbed by a prowler and a car load of thugs. The result was a very uncomfortable night spent sleeping in the car - not to be recommended for anyone taller than a pygmy !

Expo 86 was in full swing whilst we were in Vancouver. A huge area had been given over to the exhibition. After seeing a small mud huts which the Fijians lived in it was rather hard to grasp that all this sturdy, purpose built accommodation would be demolished at the end of Expo 86. Maybe the developed world does not have all the answers.

From Canada we flew back to England briefly before flying to Africa. We were back on British soil for just 48 jetlagged hours. Despite our lack of sleep we knew we were home; it didn't stop raining all the time we were home !



Did anyone see the streaker on a motorbike
in the early hours of Sunday Morning (21.9.86)?
Maybe it was just me having too much to drink
at the Bull and Butcher.

on the farm

STRIKING the balance between economic farming and the preservation of wildlife is an art and Mr. Peter Knight of Aston Abbots is a past master.

Farm manager Mr. Knight so impressed the judges in the third Bucks Farming and Wildlife competition, that he won the £250 first prize, a trophy and certificate.

The presentation was made at Bucks County Show last Thursday in the Brown and Merry tent. It was made by Mr. Ken Stacey, senior partner of the estate agents who sponsor the competition.

The competition is organised by the Bucks Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group which promote the idea that good farming and conservation can go hand in hand.

Nine farms took part in the competition and the finals were judged by Mr. John Evans, head of department of agriculture and horticulture, Hampden Hall, Stoke Mandeville, Mr. W. Acworth, chairman of Oxon and Berks FWAG, and Mr. N. A. Ajax-Lewis, conservation officer with the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Naturalist's Trust.

POND

What impressed the judges at Lower Burston Farm was the way Mr. Knight and his team had improved existing features, and the way the regard for wildlife generally had been executed with skill and feeling.



Mr. Knight looks after three farms for Mrs. Seed and her mother Mrs. B. N. Morton. In all he farms 1,000 acres at Aston Abbots and 500 acres between Aylesbury and Thame.

He told the Herald: "Everyone connected with the farm from the owners, myself and the people who work on it are interested and very aware of wildlife and conservation."

He added that conservation on the farm had come naturally because everyone concerned did a good job and cared about looking after the countryside. For example, his men are traditionally skilled hedge layers.

They thought the most exciting feature was the development of a three and a half acre wetland area into a triple pond.

Mr. Evans said that farming standards at the farm which Mr. Knight runs for Mrs. Mary Seed, were very high.

"One field looked a bit rubbishy," said Mr. Evans, but this was not a criticism. Mr. Knight had simply decided to leave the field free of all input from fertilisers and other products.

BUTTERFLIES

He added that not just one corner, but the whole of the

300-acre dairy and arable farm was impressive: "The conservation aspect was total," he said.

Useful ponds had been preserved, yet contained cattle drinking places. Corners of fields were protected for wildlife and a four-acre copse contained glades where clouds of butterflies could be found, but it still provided economic forestry, said Mr. Evans.

A Saxon village lies under one pasture which excited the judges by the skilful management of it.

Mr. Knight, who has worked at Aston Abbots for 18 years, said that the wildlife, which includes badgers, Muntjac deer and foxes cause no problems on the farm.

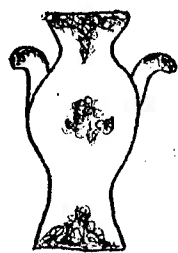
THE BUCKS HERALD, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1986

Bric-a-Brac

now at the

Village Shop

Aston Abbots



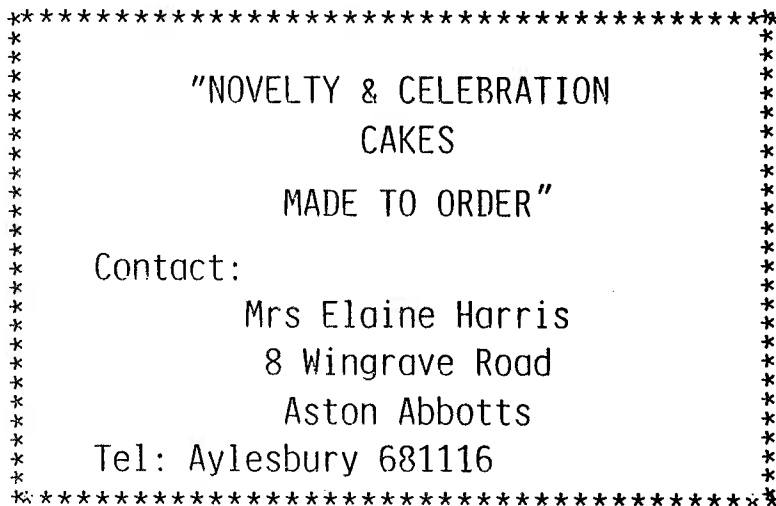
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BEER RAFFLE

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1.30pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

- Oct 18 POSERS NIGHT (Bottle of Champagne for the best dressed poser)
- Oct 31 HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS
- Nov 5 BANGERS AND MASH
- Nov 29 OUR ANNIVERSARY - ONE YEAR

FUTURE ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE POSTED IN THE BAR



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QUIZ PAGE

15.

Last month the year was 1964; this month we move on twenty years and the sayings of 1984. How many can you recognise? Again put the name to the quote. Answers at the bottom of the next page.

1. The world is swimming with coal.
2. What is proposed is a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much loved and elegant friend.
3. Would you ever buy a used car from me?
4. We run our union democratically. If we decide that we want a ballot, we'll have one.
5. Television contracts the imagination and radio expands it.
6. This was the day I was not meant to see.
7. You are safer in a chemical plant than in your own home.
8. I plan to be the Gromyko of the Labour Party for the next thirty years.
9. The Treasury could not, with any marked success, run a fish and chip shop.
10. My cell is like a florist's shop.
11. We have brother against brother, father against son, man against wife.
12. If men had to have babies, they would only ever have one each.

Put the name to the quote: Terry Wogan. Margaret Thatcher. Warren Anderson, Chairman of Union Carbide. Diana, Princess of Wales. Ian MacGregor. Arthur Scargill. Ray Chadburn, President, Nottinghamshire miners. Denis Healey. Sarah Tisdall. Lord Wilson. John De Lorean. Prince Charles.



ASTON ABBOTTS YOUTH CLUB.

The Aston Abbots Youth Club is a victim of its own success!

Yes, its true, from small beginnings the Youth Club attendance now averages over 30 per week and we need help badly. Where do we go from here? The Church Room is really too small to cater for all the children and the age difference, from 9-16, is too great for them all to enjoy the same activities. There are enough children to warrant running two youth clubs - one senior and one junior - but is there anyone willing to run them? At the moment the children of senior school age are allowed out of the Room during Youth Club sessions as they don't want to join in with the juniors, but is this a good idea?

We need your help and we need your advice.

Would you be willing to join a rota to help out once in a while, or to organise an activity for the older children? For example just recently we organised a swimming session at Leighton Buzzard and needed help to transport the youngsters there and back. If you feel you could give us a hand - the odd evening or on a regular basis - then please ring Bridgit Brandon on Aylesbury 681425.

If the Youth Club is to continue to provide organised activities for the children of the village then we need your help.

Thank you,

Margaret Chesher, Secretary to the Youth Club.

The Estone Chronicles

"ASTON ABBOTTS MEMORABILIA"

A page reserved for memorabilia - things worth remembering - about Aston Abbots. If you have any stories from yesteryear of, life in Aston when the Abbey flourished; any childhood memories or old newspaper cuttings; tales of village characters or an unresolved mystery, that's just what we need for the Estones Chronicles.

EXTRACT FROM 'BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS 1867-68'

GENERAL EVIDENCE FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

Nos. 1 to 87 in the Evidence contain the ANSWERS given in the COMMISSIONERS' CIRCULARS to the QUESTION III. 37, asking for a Description of the Cottages; and such other Evidence as is peculiar to each Parish; they contain also Evidence as to the Wages and Earnings of Labourers, and the Evidence given by the Labouring Class themselves.

AYLESBURY UNION.

1. Aston-Abbots, population, 1861, 311; acreage, 2,180.

1a. The *Rev. J. Thornton* says of the cottages, "The cottages in this village may be considered generally as model dwellings, rooms of fair size, 11 ft. square, well ventilated, lighted, and drained, with two lower rooms, and two or three upper rooms and pantry; most of the *groups* have a brick oven, pig-styes, and out-buildings, and *many* of them, and *all* of Lord Overstone's have $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land."

Ownership.—24 cottages belong to Lord Overstone, five to Sir Anthony de Rothschild, 12 to Messrs. J. and P. Roads, farmers; five to Mr. John Gates, cattle dealer; and a few to other proprietors, but all are free from any stipulation as to dealings. The average rent for cottage and land jointly ($\frac{1}{4}$ acre) is 2s. per week.

1b. *State of Education.*—Mr. Thornton told the Assistant Commissioner that he could not find a man who could read to make parish clerk, that he was teaching a man to read under promise of making him clerk if he could read in three months.

COPY of a LETTER from Mr. JOHN BEASLEY, Land Agent, to GEO. CULLEY, Esq., Assistant Commissioner.

DEAR SIR,

27th May 1868.

EIGHT of the cottages you saw at Aston-Abbots cost 800l., including every expense of sinking wells, fencing, &c. The whole of the others cost 150l. each, they are let with 40 poles of land at 2s. per week, and the occupiers are all tenants of Lord Overstone. They

hold them under agreement, and are weekly tenants. In this parish Lord Overstone has 24 cottages, and is the owner of about 1,200 acres of land. In the adjoining parish of Wing, in which Lord Overstone is a large landowner, there are only 12 cottages belonging to his lordship.

The greater number of the cottages belong to small proprietors, and the village is in a bad state.

I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. BEASLEY.

2. ASTON CLINTON, population, 1,108; acreage, 3,640; cultivation, mixed.

For description of cottages, see Mr. James's evidence in Halton.

2a. *Sir Anthony de Rothschild* thinks that "if by legislative interference more children are induced to attend schools, such increased demand for school accommodation and teaching should not be expected from the present voluntary aid, but should be accompanied by a compulsory rate." NOTE.—(Lady de Rothschild has a girls' school, frequented by children from several parishes round).

2b. *Rev. C. W. W. Eyton* informed the Assistant Commissioner that many more public houses had been opened since Sir A. de Rothschild employed more labour; men earning 15s. a week give their wives so much, and spend the rest in drink.

2c. *Mr. Ambrose L. Taylor*, land steward of the rate of wages says, "At Aston Clinton we pay 14 men of the lowest class of labourers we employ 2s. 2d. per day, i.e. 13s. per week."

THE ASTON ABBOTTS COOKBOOK

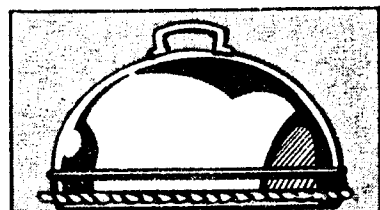
A THANK YOU THIS MONTH TO PAT SIMS FOR THE FIRST OF HER

" FAVOURITE RECIPES FROM THE WEST COUNTRY "

Fruit Cookies

6oz S R Flour
 3oz margarine
 3oz sugar
 3½oz Golden Syrup
 2oz sultanas
 1¼ level teaspoons Bicarbonate of Soda
 ¾ teaspoon Baking Powder

Rub in margarine, flour, Bicarb of Soda and Baking Powder. Add sugar and sultanas. Warm syrup and mix with other ingredients. Flour a board and roll out mixture to about ¼" thickness. Cut out with 2" cutter. Bake at 350°F, 180°C on greased baking sheet (leaving plenty of space for spreading) until golden brown (about 15 mins).



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CHURCH NEWS

Two quite different things to write about this month - a Hallowe'en Supper and Insurance. The supper first. The P.C.C. decided that instead of a Harvest Supper it would like to help with a Hallowe'en Supper all profits from which should go to Aylesbury Hospice Appeal. Kay is writing about this elsewhere [see Noticeboard page 4], sufficient here to say that we hope this will be supported by the whole village, for while there are many, many worthy charitable calls on our time and money there can be none at the moment more worthy. The hospice movement has grown with great advances not just in medical care for the dying but with a great increase in, what is maybe more important, an understanding of the spiritual needs at that time; and in one word that is love.



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, A51ON A280TT5, BUCKS.

Now to a more mundane matter, insurance of the church building. The church of course is not the building, the church is the people and the worship, and as I have said before the Church of England is for all people whether they believe or deny; come often, come rarely or come not at all, hard luck; the church still cares..

No doubt some people would be very upset to discover when the church had been destroyed by fire that it was not insured. Well that is the position. Some years ago the premiums for full cover got so high we just could not afford to pay and instead we took out 'first loss' insurance i.e. the insurance company will pay up to a little over £50,000 to cover 'first loss' up to that amount. Of course, we would like to be 'properly insured and for about an extra £200 a year we could be. So how about it? If you are one of those who would be very sad if the church were gutted and not restored and do not at present give to church funds, just 50p a week, covenanted, if you pay tax, would give us over £36 because we would get over £10 tax refund. If we could find just six such people or others more or less generous, hey presto,

the job would be done and the church building safeguarded.

It is a nice contrast isn't it - raising money for the hospice or insurance. Which is more important?

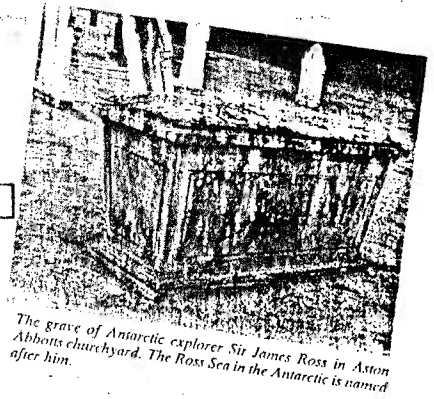
CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER

Sidesman

- 5th. October : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Tony Hewitt.
1 Corinthians 9(19-27) (736) Matthew 7(13-27).
- 12th. October : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Colin Higgs.
1 Peter 1(13-21) (741) John 11(17-27).
- 19th. October : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Tim Fisher.
Revelation 7(9-17) (745) Matthew 25(1-13).
- 26th. October : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Alison Ford.
Genesis 1 (1-3,24-31) (398) John 1(1-140).



THE ASTONS ABBOTTS PROFILE



The grave of Antarctic explorer Sir James Ross in Aston Abbots churchyard. The Ross Sea in the Antarctic is named after him.



Now a private house, the Abbey once ruled over by the Abbots of Aston.

Village was given away as present

THE history of Aston Abbots begins well over 900 years ago when the first recorded facts show that it belonged to Edward the Confessor from 1042 until 1066. Before his death in January 1066 Edward made a gift of this pretty Bucks Village to a Danish chief called Wulf. The village at this time was called Eastun. Wulf then obtained permission from the King to give the village in its entirety to the Abbots of St. Albans.

His generosity had a sly side to it though. It was so that when he died his gift would ensure that he could be buried at St Albans.

In 1068 the Domesday survey took place and early records show that

then the village which had now been renamed Estone had between 5 and 10 people living in it per square mile. The whole Manor of Estone was valued at just £10.

Now the village has just over 500 residents and is one of the most sought after villages in the area situated conveniently for commuters between Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard.

Sketchy

Historical facts about the village until 1291 are sketchy but in records the church is first mentioned in that year. The first vicar was ordained in 1325. The gentleman in question was one Walter de Gratte-worth.

For decades the Ab-

bots of St. Albans continued to live in the village and in 1401 Abbot John V restored the Abbey, which was falling to pieces, and added three new sheep folds.

Marriage

Accurate parish records began in 1550 and show that the first marriage to take place in the village was between Robert Bishop and Joanne Chelenor but no mention is made of where they lived or their professions. That only became a regulation for marriage records in 1591.

In 1539 during Henry the Eighth's purge on monasteries, the Abbey was sold to Lord John Russell, for £1,041 nine shillings and two pence and then given to William Dormer son and heir of Sir William Dormer. At this time there is some confusion as to the village's name. In some records it shows it is referred to as Abbottes Aston and in another Aston Abbots. Whichever is factually correct they both refer to the village East (Aston) of the Abbey. By 1720 the village population had increased to 200.

Aston Abbots continued to thrive and the Abbey, after which the

One of the village's most famous past residents was Antarctic explorer James Clark Ross

village was named and which had been such a vital feature of villagers' lives, eventually passed into private ownership.

In the late 1800s there was a National School, a small plain building on the village green with between 40 and 50 children attending and near to the school there were five ancient cottages which were given rent free to the poor of the village.

The village men mainly earned a living farming and rearing cattle and the women were able to bring a few pennies into the home by straw plaiting and lace making. They used to sell their wares in Aylesbury and Winslow markets.

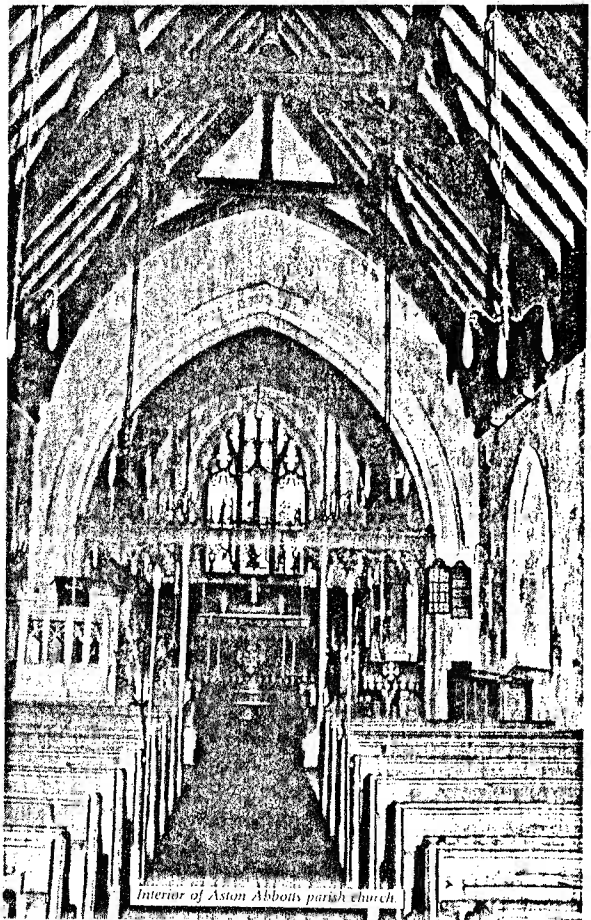
In the middle part of 1865 Aston Abbots church was gutted by fire and the restoration work, which took a year to complete cost £1100.

In 1974, part of village history was destroyed forever when Lord Overston who was living at the Abbey at the time gave the village money for a new school. The old National school and the nearby cottages were pulled down and the land which was owned by the church was sold.

Today the church at Aston Abbots still stands proud on a hill and is thriving. Villages have taken time and thought renovating ancient cottages and the Abbey still stands. It is now occupied and by a reclusive 90-year-old lady who guards her privacy using guard dogs and security men.

The village boasts two pubs The Bull and Burden and the Royal Oak and a delightful old world post office and corner. One of Aston Abbots's most famous past residents was the explorer Sir James Clark Ross who is buried in the village churchyard.

He was born in 1800 and was one of eight



Interior of Aston Abbots parish church

children. He is well known for his research into polar magnetism and his expeditions to Antarctica and Ross's sea is named after him. He moved with his wife to Aston Abbots in 1844 and lived in Aston House where he wrote a book on his Antarctic discoveries. He remained until his death in 1862.

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October 1986

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Tel. Aylesbury 681623

TIME IS A PRECIOUS GIFT FROM GOD. We are stewards of our time, but the way to abuse it is to 'be late'. It's my considered opinion that this generation will go down in history as the "abusers of time". You can't even trust the television to keep to a proper schedule. It is a LATE age. To be on time, apparently, is simply not done.

Of course I'm generalising. Yet, surely it's true that the only excuse for being late is when it is impossible to be on time - or even early. I heard recently of a man who makes it an invariable rule never to leave home (regardless of distance from the venue!) until the clock registers the hour of the function or meeting to which he has been invited.

For this reason I deprecate invitations which request my attendance at functions with the words, e.g., "7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m" I'm told this can mean "Come at 8.45 p.m." Then why not SAY it...?!

Please forgive me for mentioning it, but it seems to me that Church Services should be the last occasion for arriving late, or even just on time. If we were assembling to meet the Sovereign I guess we would be most careful about punctuality; how much more when we gather to meet the King of Kings - Lord and Creator of the precious gift of time.

Ideally, we should aim to reach the church door at least ten minutes before time. I reckon it takes a Christian soul that time at least to acclimatize to the atmosphere of the worshipping Church. A good deal of re-creational power is lost if we rush in to a Service, literally panting for instant results without pausing for preparation.

It is not a 'waste of time' to be early. Not a waste of time afterwards to linger a little to greet those who have shared the act of worship with you. It could be a waste of devotional time to rush out as though we had been shot-out-of-a-gun.

There are, nevertheless, exceptions to any rule. Parents have the roughest edge, gathering their broods of young about them. Housewives trying to squeeze in that last job before leaving the house. But it is still true that the only excuse for being late is when it is quite impossible to be early.

Use then this precious gift of time. Never 'kill it'. Never waste it by deliberately being idle. Remember, idleness is not relaxation, for to be idle is an extremely subtle form of self-indulgence. We cannot properly relax or rest if we are constantly thinking about ourselves - an absorbing occupation, maybe; more often than not a waste of time.

By all means relax, but with purpose. Never put off until tomorrow what CAN be done today. "Today, if you will hear his voice," exhorts the Psalmist: respond now to God's call. Time is precious. 'We know not the day nor the hour.' In a minute, an hour's time, or tomorrow - who knows?

Above all, try not to be late. Remember, the only excuse for being late is when it is quite impossible to be on time - OR EVEN EARLY.

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

You may remember that at the turn of the year we were looking at the worlds natural laws inspired by Murphy. Well in the months since people have passed on their own favourites and I have at last gathered enough to warrant another column. Many of those that follow were taken from office noticeboards that have become a focus for 'facts of life' sayings that are, all too often, painfully true:

"Tomorrow we are going to get organised".

"I work very hard please don't expect me to think as well".

"Be reasonable do it my way".

"Good judgement is usually the result of experience and experience is usually the result of bad judgement".

"Table of Excuses"

- the ultimate handy check list for the busy secretary:

1. That's the way we've always done it.
2. I didn't know you were in a hurry for it.
3. That's not in my department.
4. No one told me to go ahead.
5. I'm waiting for an O.K.
6. That's his job, not mine.
7. Wait till the boss comes back and I'll ask him.
8. I forgot.
9. I didn't think it was very important.
10. I'm so busy I just can't get around to it.
11. I thought I told you.
12. I wasn't hired to do that !

Some contributors stayed with the original idea of exploring those universal laws. They are all good, but I particularly liked the scientific logic of the first one:

" Each person has the characteristic probability of making mistakes - hence a mean period between mistakes.

As this mean period becomes significantly less than the mean time for the solution of the problem in hand, the probability of ever getting the right answer goes exponentially to zero".

Darwin's Observation. Nature will tell you a direct lie if she can.

—Charles Darwin

Ettore's Observation. The other queue moves faster. This applies to all queues—bank, supermarket, toll-booth, customs. If you change queues, then the *other* queue—the one you were in originally—will move faster.

—Barbara Ettore in *Harper's Magazine*

Agnes Allen's Law. Almost anything is easier to get into than out of.

Anderson's Law. I have yet to see any problem, however complicated, which, when you looked at it the right way, did not become still more complicated.

—Paul Anderson

Wolf's Law. Those who don't study the past will repeat its errors. Those who do study it will find other ways to err.

—Charles Wolf

Johnson's First Law of Car Repair. Any tool dropped while repairing a car will roll under the vehicle to the exact geographic centre.

Marshall's Generalized Iceberg Theorem. Seven-eighths of *everything* can't be seen.

Moynihan's Law. If the newspapers of a country are filled with good news, the goals of that country will be filled with good people.

—US Senator Daniel Moynihan

Osborn's Law. Variables won't, constants aren't.

—Don Osborn

Runyon's Law. The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. But that's the way to bet.

—Damon Runyon, quoted by Laurence J. Peter in *Quotations for Our Time* (Souvenir Press)

Thurber's Conclusion. There is no safety in numbers, or in anything else.

—James Thurber, *Fables for Our Time*

Unnamed Law. If it happens, it must be possible.

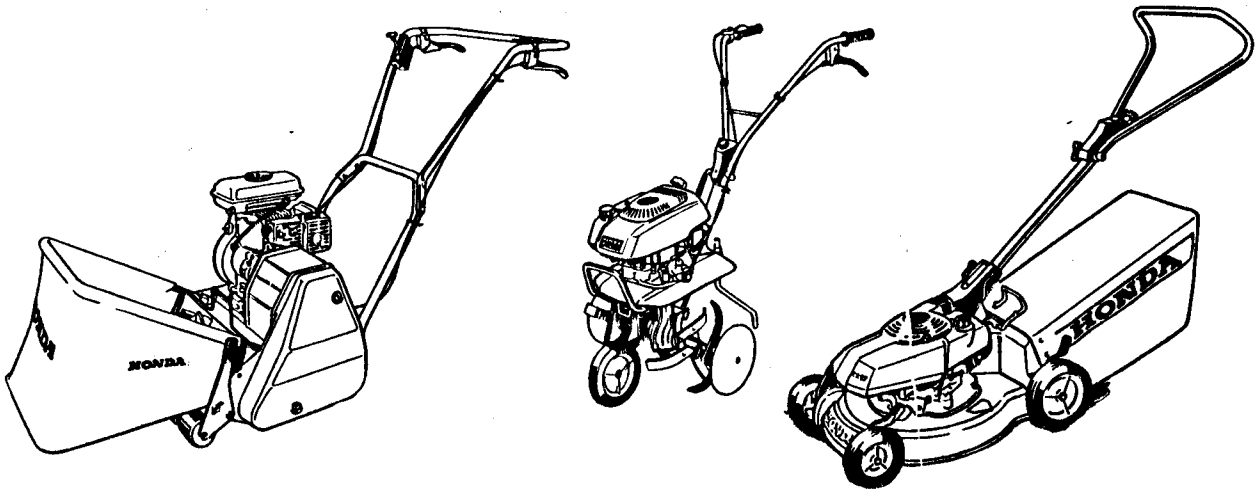
Jones's Law. Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate.

—Thomas Jones

Iron Law of Distribution. Them what has—gets.

Abbottsbury.

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