

# The Chronicle

Aston Abbott's Parish Magazine

MARCH 87

ISSUE 43



# Editorial

Apologies this month to everybody for last month's issue which was riddled with 'trying' errors, and especially to David Brown for the headline which did its best to ruin his article - sorry.

[I understand that despite these errors there are certain special editions of last months issue that are changing hands for astronomical sums].

\*\*\*\*\*

March sees the Annual Parish Meeting which elects the Fete and the Church Room committees for the next twelve months [ see page 13]. Also at this meeting our community police officer will be there to explain the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme [see pages 10 and 11 for more details]. So please come along to the Church Room on Friday 27th. March at 7.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Can I also Draw your attention to pages 7 and 8, and the story of Andrew Ford's participation in this years London Marathon. Andrew will running to raise money for two charities - if you would like to help either worthy cause please turn to page 8 and complete the form.

\*\*\*\*\*

Finally a mention of the bi-annual Village Ventures competition [see page 17], which is designed to support and encourage voluntary initiatives in rural communities. The Chronicle won an award in the last competition; what can we put forward this time? The Youth Club perhaps or the planned Help Line [see page 14] scheme for the village. Entry forms are available from your Parish councillors.

*Graham Parker*  
Graham Parker.

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DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL EDITION: 21st March 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. Leave a note in the box in the Village Shop or at the Post Office.

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# NOTICEBOARD

## WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

Thursdays 5th. & 19th. : WHIST DRIVE in the Church Room at 7.30 p.m.  
 Thursdays 12th. & 26th. : BINGO in the Church Room at 8.00 p.m.  
 FRIDAY 27th. : ANNUAL PARISH MEETING at 7.30 p.m. followed by  
 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.  
 Sunday 8th. : FOOTPATH WALK, depart from the Green at 2.00 p.m.

## LADIES CLUB

Owing to the Arctic weather our January 15th. meeting had to be cancelled. We look forward to having Mrs. Bellingham with her 'Flying Memories' at a later date.

At our meeting on the 29th. January Mr. Killingley came to give us an illustrated talk on badgers - their life style and habitat. It was a detailed and fascinating account of these attractive mammals. We welcomed two guests, husbands of members on this occasion and extend our invitation to family and friends to future meetings if the subject is of particular interest to them.

Our thanks to Len Scutchings for ensuring us running water after the bi freeze.

## MARCH MEETINGS

On the 12th we have our Social Lunch, non members are very welcome to join us. The cost is £2.50 and the time is 12.30 p.m. Further information or to reserve a place please ring 681763. We look forward to having Mr. Mayes on the 26th. to tell us about 'Crafts & Trades in Bucks'.

Looking ahead we have arranged a Coffee Morning with various stalls and Bring & Buy to take place on Saturday 11th. April 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon in the Church Room.

## WINGRAVE PLAYGROUP

If you have considered sending a child to playgroup, or if you would like to see how such a group 'ticks' why not visit our OPEN MORNING on MARCH 19th. from 10 a.m. to 11.45 a.m. at Wingrave Community Centre.

\*\*\*\*\*

## COFFEE MORNING in the CHURCH ROOM

SATURDAY 7th. MARCH 10.30 to 12.30. Proceeds for Church Choir Funds. Various stalls include white elephant; jumble plus raffle. Admission & Coffee 25p.

ARE YOU SPRING CLEANING ? Any unwanted items would be gratefully accepted - please ring 681763 or leave at the Post Office.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Bingo evening**

ANOTHER Good Samaritan bingo evening was held in the Church Room in Aston Abbots, with Colin Higgs as the caller and Mrs L. Scutchings the door steward.

Refreshments were sewed by the committee in the interval. **Winners were: Lines:** Mr M. Luxemburg, Mrs D. Waite, Mrs G. Fox, Mr P. Humphreys, Mrs Angryk, Mr Hayward; **Houses:** Mrs K. Kelliher, Mr W. Evans, Mrs Cenamo, Mrs L. Scutchings, Mrs Rickard, Mrs D. Master, Mr Luxemburg; **Special:** Mrs Evans, Mrs D Hinds; **Raffle:** Mrs L. Scutchings, Mrs M. Coleman, Mr W. Evans; **Football Poon:** Mrs P. Dixon. The snowball was unmelted.

Get well wishes were sent to Mr H. Goldney in hospital.

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# NOTICEBOARD

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## DARTS

Dear Graham,

Could I ask that the formal thanks of the Recreation Ground Committee be offered, through the pages of the Chronicle to the benefactors who have made possible the purchase of a new ride-on mower for the playing field.

In the report, in the January edition of your magazine, on this year's Christmas Show a comment was made that the proceeds were to go towards a new mower. This point was picked up by Owen and Elizabeth McManus who made enquiries through Richard Clarke to find out the financial position of the Committee.

Richard Clarke used his good offices to offer a virtually brand new machine at a very reduced price. Even with this discount there was still a substantial shortfall which I am very pleased to report Owen and Elizabeth agreed to fund.

As well as formally recording the response of the Recreation Ground Committee as Chairman, I would like to offer my personal thanks to Owen, Elizabeth and Richard for their generosity.

John Whyte.

At the mid-season point I can report that the position of the Royal Oak in the Leighton Buzzard Darts League is a respectable second place - only a few points behind The Unicorn. Unfortunately the Bull & Butcher have not performed quite so well but it is their first season and it usually takes a time to find your form. Hopefully the second half of the season will produce a good run for both pubs. It's cheaper when you win, you don't have to buy the beer!

DOUBLE SCOTCH.

### WINGRAVE PLAYGROUP JUMBLE SALE

Yes, another of those 'Spring Cleans'..... PLEASE try to look out some jumble - it might give you more room and help us to obtain some much needed funds. We shall be calling personally, but if you have items you would like collected call Les Smith on 681368. The sale will be held at Wingrave Community Centre on SATURDAY 7th. MARCH

## YOUTH CLUB

Youth Club meeting for March are as follows:

March 6th - Vextrex and Modelling Box

March 13th - General

March 20th - Fabric Painting

March 25th - Swimming at Leighton Buzzard (Note- this is a Wednesday)

March 27th - Senior disco at Witchurch

# People

HAPPY MOTHER'S 5.



Day



Mummy

From

Hannah



OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BIRTHDAYS

8th. March ANDY BYSTRA

14th. March Mrs. MARGARET UMPLEBY who will be 94.

17th. March TRACY FLETCHER.

31st. March GEORGE BRANDON.

## BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO

Mrs. MORTON who was 92 on January 30th.;

IAIN WEBB for 21st of February;

DIANA KENT for the 22nd of February and

LINDA WHEATON for the 25th of February.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

STEVE & TRACEY JUDD on the birth of their daughter ZOE on the 25th of January.

## MORE BELATED BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO

TRACY LOVELL for 23rd of February.

BEST WISHES TO PAUL FLETCHER who has been in hospital and to HERBERT GOLDNEY who is recovering from his recent operation.



## AN ODE TO HOOTER BRANDON

I read your tale of Hooter Brandon  
Though rhyme and metre seemed at random,  
But poems in praise of ugly snouts  
Are not so common hereabouts,  
So heres an effort not too meek  
Its written, friend, by Ivor Cheek.

Now one who's away having nasal improvement  
Has to be careful with sniffing type movements,  
For down the left nostril he never should blow  
The right ones the safe one - the doctor should know.  
To combat this problem but one tubes in action  
The others bunged up with a cork in compaction.  
The danger that lurks in this problem I'm sure  
Is to sneeze and propell the damp cork to the floor.

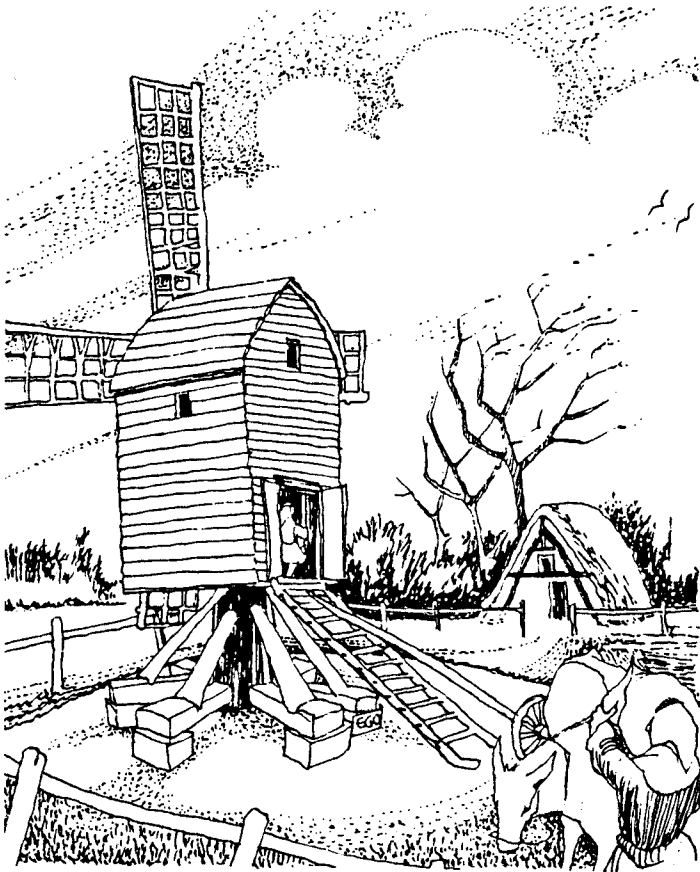
At night when at home in positions of pleasure  
A cork flying about could add spice for good measure.  
The thought of a cork flying around in the night  
Conjurs up pictures of terror and fright  
And a feeling of horror it brought to my mind  
If the cork should get stuck not in front but behind!

Enough of this dreaming; I'm sure that the nose  
Will be mended and once again small like a rose.  
It's the colour that bugs me for what will it be  
As red as a billiard ball; green as a pea?  
Or even with luck an incredible prize  
A hooter that flashes and lights up the skies.  
I could carry on though I'd be but a bore  
Lets hope that the honker in question can snore.

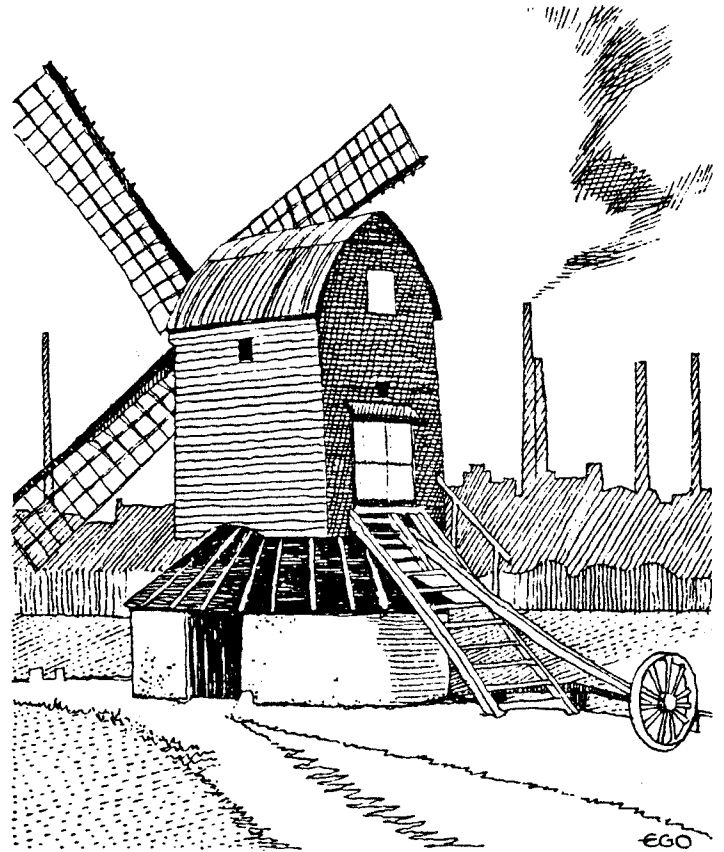
# Portraits of Buckinghamshire

## No.18. PITSTONE WINDMILL.

As it is and as it may have been. Sketch  
by Elizabeth Ogan in Elizabeth Cull's  
'A Picture of Buckinghamshire'.



*Pitstone windmill as it may have looked. When working, the sails revolve roughly fifteen times per minute, turning the grindstones thirteen to fourteen times with each revolution.*



*Pitstone windmill, today the chimneys of the Tunnel Cement Co. dominate the scene, but when this old mill was built in 1627, it would have been very different. The mill was working until 1902, when it was damaged in a freak storm. National Trust volunteers restored it in the 1960s.*

## SUNDAY PAPERS.

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



From a wood engraving by Thomas Bewick.

# THE MARATHON MAN

**O**n Sunday 10th. May, Andrew Ford will take part in what has become one of the world's great events: The London Marathon. Along with over ten thousand other people he will take on one of the classic athletic challenges; twenty six miles, three hundred and eighty five yards of unremitting agony.



The event takes its name from the small Greek town of Marathon, which was about three miles from the battlefield where the Athenians defeated the Persians in 490 B.C. After the battle a messenger named Pheidippides is said to have run the 26 miles to Athens without stopping. On arrival, he gasped out, 'Rejoice, we conquer!' and then dropped dead, probably from heat stroke. A wet Sunday in May should at least spare the participants in the London race from that fate, but 26 miles cannot be approached in too cavalier a fashion and, as our correspondents letter (see below) testifies, Andrew has been pounding the local highways and byways training for the big day. At the moment he is gradually building up his distance work from 40 miles a week to the 70 or 80 he expects to be doing this month and through April before easing back to about 15 miles the week before the race. Andrew has been running for five years now, and has a best half marathon time of 1hr.25mins.58sec., and a full marathon best of 3hrs.23mins.

Sir, LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Following the recent Chronicle articles expressing concern about the public transport situation, I feel I should publicise the problems that can occur in Aston Abbotts.

One morning I needed to travel to Aylesbury by bus - a daunting task to all but the determined! While studying the timetables thoughtfully placed outside the pub and wondering what course to pursue I was lucky enough to espy a figure obviously running for a bus. Right, I thought, follow that man! Dressed in a blue and red bobble hat this erstwhile passenger with a strained facial expression ran on by me. 'Have you missed the bus,' I shout-

ed after him. Judging by the signal he made I deduced he had, in fact, missed two!

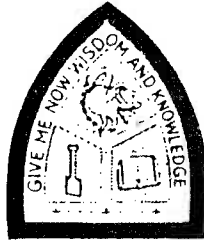
Undaunted I set off after this obvious local in the certain hope that he would lead me to an Aylesbury bus. Imagine my surprise when it became apparent that the nearest bus stop was on Lines Hill; but wait, surely not, the trotting tormentor trotted on. He was going to Weedon for public transport! Breathlessly I struggled after him, watching him get further and further away towards Weedon. I'll never get there in time I thought.

Imagine my horror when in the distance I saw him turn and run back towards me. After all that effort we had both missed the bus.

Yours, weaker but wiser, I.C.

The London Marathon is seen as a great opportunity to raise funds for charity and Andrew has chosen the St. THOMAS' RESEARCH UNIT FOR THE TICKING HEART (STRUTH) which supports the Rayne Institute Heart Research Team, the only full time independent heart research team in Britain; and the AYLESBURY VALE HOSPICE APPEAL. If you would like to sponsor Andrew please complete one of the forms on the next page and return it to Andrew; The Chronicle or hand it in at the Post Office or the village Stores. PLEASE GIVE AS GENEROUSLY AS YOU CAN ..... THANKS.

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



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

## A LETTER FROM WING.

Over the past three years the P.T.A. have been saving for a replacement minibus as well as helping the school with many other purchases. It now appears that we are on the verge of reaching the target. Prices are being sought for a bus and we hope to be able to purchase as soon as a suitable one is found. Many people have assisted in raising the money and recent events have included a Whist Drive (£35), New Year's Eve Dance (£160) and Jumble Sale (£260). A final push is now beginning and a bumper Attic Auction on 4th April would be a tremendous boost. Look out items you do not use and we will sell them for you. We do this on a 50/50 basis, but do not have any reserve price. Some items sell well but others often go cheaply. This makes the Auction well worth attending. Please send your items to us, or ring school and we will collect, but do attend on the day. The Auction begins at 11:00 a.m. with viewing from 9:00 a.m.

I read with great interest the annual examination statistics. It appears that just over 20% of all school leavers have five or more 'O' Levels at A, B or C grades or C.S.E. grade one. At Wing last year we had over 10% at this level and that is with over 30% going to Selective Schools. Nearly 12% of pupils leave school without any graded results at all, but last year we had no-one in this category. I think that these figures, with all their imperfections do show how hard the pupils and staff work to achieve these good results. I hope that the new G.C.S.E. helps to widen the experience of young people and also to increase the standards. The present indications are that these aims should be achieved.

IVAN ANDREW  
 16/02/87

### SPONSORSHIP FOR ANDREW FORD IN THE LONDON MARATHON

If you would like to help Andrew Ford raise money for either of his nominated charities please complete one (or both!) of the forms below and return it to Andrew; the Chronicle, or leave it at the Post Office or the Village Stores.

**STRUTH'S** sponsored participation  
 in the **MARS**  
**LONDON MARATHON**  
 for **HEART RESEARCH**  
Registered Charity Trust No. 282280



NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to sponsor Andrew Ford for  
 \_\_\_\_\_ for the above charity on completion of the London Marathon.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Aylesbury Vale Hospice Appeal,

Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 8AL.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to sponsor Andrew Ford for  
 \_\_\_\_\_ for the above charity on completion of the London Marathon.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



# The Estone Chronicles

PART TWO of our series of extracts taken from the Victoria County History of Buckinghamshire, Vol.3. This extract contains the opening paragraph on Aston Abbots and then continues with the detailed account of the hamlet of Burston. This section was completed in 1914 but not published until 1925. Detailed references have been omitted.

## ASTON ABBOTS

Estuna, Eastun, Estone (xi cent.); Abbodes Aston, Aston Abbatis (xiii cent.).

The parish of Aston Abbots, containing the village of the same name and hamlet of Burston, covers an area of 2,198 acres, of which 263 acres are arable land producing crops of wheat, 1,814 acres are laid down in grass, and there are 17 acres of woods and plantations.<sup>1</sup> The soil is of sand and gravel, with a subsoil of sand.

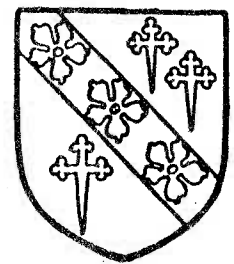
In the time of Edward the Confessor 2 hides of land in *BURSTON* (Bricstoch, xi cent.; Bridelesthon, xiii cent.; Briddestorn, Brydesthorne, xiv cent.; Birstorn, Brudesthorne, xvi cent.; Berdesthorne, xvii cent.) were held by three thegns, of whom 'one was a man of Earl Lewin, the second a man of Goduin Cilt, Abbot of Westminster, the third a man of Alverad of Withunga (Wing).'<sup>18</sup> In the same place one virgate of land was held by Siward, 'a man of Earl Harold.' In 1086 all this land belonged to the Count of Mortain, the 2 hides being held of him by Alan and the virgate by Almaer. Burston remained attached to the 'small fee of Mortain,' known in this district as the honour of Berkhamstead,<sup>19</sup> but by 1487 was held of the king in chief,<sup>20</sup> and afterwards as of his honour of Ewelme,<sup>21</sup> the overlordship being last mentioned in 1611.<sup>22</sup>

By 1284 the ownership in fee of the manor was vested in William de Lyngyure,<sup>23</sup> but had passed before the end of the reign of Edward I to Adam de Welton.<sup>24</sup> He, or his successor John de Welton, subinfeudated the manor for the service of one clove gillyflower, but the intermediary lordship so created lapsed after 1328.<sup>25</sup>

In 1302 Walter Wallop and his tenants held Burston in fee, but Walter died some time before 1314, in which year his widow Philippa, then wife of Thomas Gorges, claimed a third of the manor in dower against Margaret Blacket and her husband John Blacket.<sup>26</sup> Margaret declared that she held the manor for life as the widow of Martin de Rokele, and that the reversion belonged to his brother and heir Humphrey de Rokele.<sup>27</sup> John Blacket, for an annual pension of 20 marks, conveyed his interest in the manor to Peter Carbonel,<sup>28</sup> against whom Philippa brought an action in 1323<sup>29</sup> and 1324,<sup>30</sup> without success, however, as Peter Carbonel died seised of Burston about 1328.<sup>31</sup> His son John was in possession in 1346,<sup>32</sup> but shortly afterwards the Carbonel family appears to have ended in three female heirs. Of these, Alice, who was probably a daughter of the last male Carbonel, married Nicholas Barun, to whom she brought the reversion of a moiety of the manor,

then held for life by Alice wife of John Kentwood, and doubtless the mother of Alice Barun.<sup>33</sup> In 1364 the Baruns granted the reversion of the manor to John Kentwood for life for the rent of a rose,<sup>34</sup> and in 1375 Alice Barun, then a widow, conveyed the remainder to William Barton.<sup>35</sup> Four years later William Barton quitclaimed his interest in Burston to John and Alice Kentwood and their heirs.<sup>36</sup>

The second moiety of the manor had been divided between Joan and Isabella, the wives respectively of Roger Smale and Henry Marston,<sup>37</sup> and probably granddaughters of the last Carbonel. In 1368 the Smales conveyed their quarter of Burston to John and Alice Kentwood, and the Marstons similarly dealt with their share in 1376,<sup>38</sup> so that the Kentwoods thus acquired the whole manor in fee. John Kentwood appears to have died shortly after 1392,<sup>39</sup> but Alice Kentwood was still in possession in 1404,<sup>40</sup> and in 1422 and 1436 Reynold Kentwood is mentioned.<sup>41</sup> He appears to have been succeeded by Nicholas Kentwood and his wife Maud, daughter of Thomas Sackville.<sup>42</sup> Their son Robert having predeceased them, Burston passed to his son and heir John, who died in 1487, when a claim to the manor was put in by Thomas Rokes as cousin and heir male.<sup>43</sup> John Kentwood, however, had left two daughters, Elizabeth wife of John Swafield and Frideswide wife of Richard Fettiplace, who were successful in enforcing their right against Thomas Rokes in 1492.<sup>44</sup> The Swafields alienated their moiety of the manor to Thomas Cartwright in 1508,<sup>45</sup> who settled it on himself and wife Joan, but on his death without issue it passed to his brother and heir, John Cartwright,<sup>46</sup> from whom it was purchased in 1516 by Robert Lee.<sup>47</sup>



KENTWOOD. *Argent a bend between three crosslets fitchy sable with three cinquefoils or on the bend.*

The moiety of the manor belonging to Richard Fettiplace had passed by 1508 to William Fettiplace,<sup>48</sup> in possession in 1516,<sup>49</sup> and was alienated by him in 1524 to Robert Lee,<sup>50</sup> who thus acquired the whole of Burston. Lee's trustees, acting on his behalf, in 1526 received the royal licence to impark lands in the manor of Burston and to have free warren and a several fishing in all the water.<sup>51</sup>

On the death of Sir Robert Lee in 1539,<sup>52</sup> his widow Lettice wrote to Thomas Cromwell in view of his great goodness to her husband and children, asking

for his protection if anyone should wrong her, and reminding him that Sir Robert had made him master of the game at Burston. She sent with the letter 'as a token £10 to buy an ambling nag to hunt with in summer.'<sup>53</sup>

The Lees held Quarrendon Manor (q.v.), at which place they resided and with which Burston was held until Viscount Dillon sold Burston House to William Leader in 1802.<sup>54</sup> William Leader was succeeded by his son John Temple Leader, M.P. for Westminster, who was in possession in 1847 and 1862.<sup>55</sup> Burston has since passed to Mr. Lionel de Rothschild, the present owner.

In 1373 Edmund Mordaunt of Turvey held rent in Burston of Sir John Kentwood.<sup>56</sup> His great-grandson Sir John Mordaunt is mentioned in connexion with Burston in 1500,<sup>57</sup> and on his death in 1504 was succeeded by his son William, who died without issue shortly afterwards, leaving as heir his brother John, afterwards Lord Mordaunt.<sup>58</sup> Lord

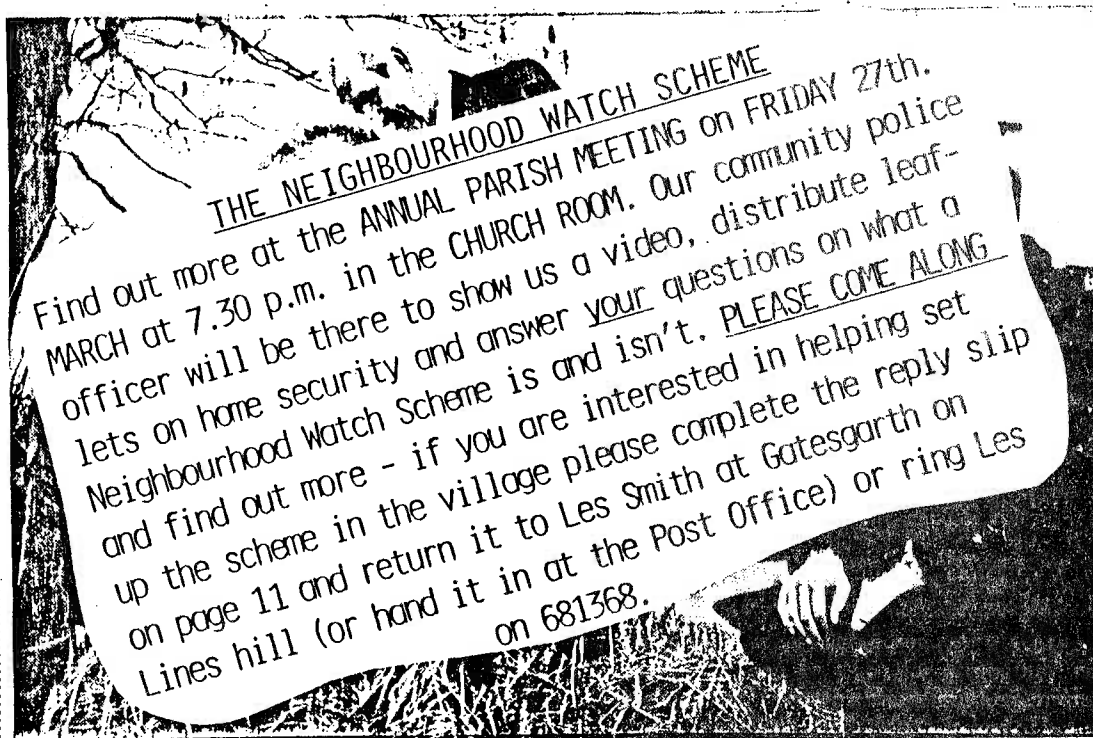
Mordaunt was seized of two closes in Burston, one called 'The Manor Place,' which he let to Sir Robert

Lee, against whose grandson Sir Henry Lee he brought an action in 1559 for wrongfully detaining the premises.<sup>59</sup> No mention of the Mordaunts in Burston is found after 1608, when Henry Lord Mordaunt held land here.<sup>60</sup>

Before the Conquest Osulf, 'a man of Brictric,' held 3 virgates of land in Burston.<sup>61</sup> In 1086 this was held of Miles Crispin, whose lands afterwards became known as the honour of Wallingford,<sup>62</sup> to which this property in Burston was still attached in 1300.<sup>63</sup> The under-tenant in 1086 was William,<sup>64</sup> and in the 13th century Adam de Welton was in possession,<sup>65</sup> but the holding has not been traced later.

Other lands in Burston amounting to one hide, held in the reign of Edward the Confessor by a certain woman under Siward, by 1086 formed part of the fief of Walter Giffard, of whom they were held by Turstin.<sup>66</sup>

## Villagers beating burglars



## Crime-fighters are good neighbours

A WARNING to potential wrong-doers goes up in Slapton where the Neighbourhood Watch scheme is helping the fight against crime.

Parish Cllrs Alan Westlake and Eric Gough were joined by Constable Michael Buckle of Aylesbury Police last Saturday, to put up six Neighbourhood Watch signs. They are the first in the area and needed special permission from Bucks County Council.

"The signs are to let under-streables know that there is a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in action, and when they see them, hopefully they'll go away," explained Pc Buckle.

The six signs were erected at Slapton, Grove and Hor-

ton, where nearly 200 homes are involved in the scheme which started in October 1985.

And the scheme in just over a year — the first in the Leighton area — has proved its value to local people.

Pc Buckle commented: "We have had some successes. Some men who were going to tile an old lady's roof were stopped because of Neighbourhood Watch," he said. "And there have been no burglaries in the area recently."

"It can't stop all the crime, but it is effective. It provides extra eyes, because the police can't be everywhere."

He added: "It makes people stop and think if a neighbour is away and they see a removal van next door for example, whereas before they were likely to think it had nothing to do with them. It makes people more security conscious."

Every road involved in the scheme has a warden who hands out forms. These can be filled in with details of anything suspicious, or descriptions of suspects, and are collected by the police regularly.

• PICTURE by Peter Nunn.



Neighbourhood Watch Scheme  
C/O \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Neighbour

You may have heard of the 'Neighbourhood Watch Scheme' which is currently receiving a great deal of interest and is already operating in many places. As a number of people from our immediate area have made enquiries about setting up their own Scheme I am hoping to establish the extent of support in our Neighbourhood.

The Scheme involves:-

1. Encouraging a community spirit; being observant; keeping an eye on neighbour's property when they are out or away; reporting to Police anything suspicious or out of the ordinary - but NOT patrolling the streets.
2. Marking your own valuables with the Post Code and house number, using ultra violet pens. Guidance would be given by the Police.
3. Obtaining security advice to safeguard your own homes against burglary.
4. Receiving newsletters about local crime, with additional items of interest supplied by ourselves.

It must be stressed that this would be a residents' Scheme and whilst the Police will help to establish it by addressing us at meetings and showing films, the onus is very much on the community to make it a success. If sufficient interest is shown, a first meeting will be arranged and you will be invited along to have matters fully explained and questions answered.

If you are interested in joining the Scheme, would you kindly complete the tear-off slip below and return it to:

.....L.E.S.....SMITH.....

.....GATESGARTH.....AINES.....HILL.....

OR telephone .....681.368.....

BEFORE ..20.4..MARCH.. please

Yours sincerely

L. E. S.

NAME ..... OF ADDRESS .....  
..... WOULD BE INTERESTED IN JOINING  
THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME.

Issued by your Local Crime Prevention Panel.

# The Chronicle:

## Advertisement Rates for 1987

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.
	Inside	£ 5 per annum.
ALL OTHER ADS.	: Inside only	£5 per annum.

Please send copy and cheque, made payable to  
Bucks County Council to the Editor, The Cloisters,  
Aston Abbots, Aylesbury, Bucks.

## ASTON ABBOTTS CHURCH ROOM

AVAILABLE FOR WEDDING RECEPTIONS: BIRTHDAY  
PARTIES: FOLK EVENINGS: DANCES: BINGO ETC...

MAXIMUM 60 PEOPLE.

FURTHER DETAILS FROM DORIS SCUTCHINGS ON  
AYLESBURY 681243 .

COST: £2.50 per hour + metered electricity.  
£1.50 per hour + metered electricity  
for residents of the parish.

## OSBORN'S

### THE VILLAGE SHOP

### WE STOCK LOCAL

COOKED HAMS    MUSTARD  
SAUSAGES    PIES    YOGHURTS  
EGGS    BREAD    MINERAL WATER  
SQUASHES    LEMONADE  
PLUS MORE . . . .

*Elizabeth Osborn*  
**Antiques**

ADVERTISE IN THE CHRONICLE  
IT MAY NOT PAY....BUT YOU  
FEEL BETTER !

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## 7.30p.m. Church Room

### FRIDAY MARCH 27th.

This is an open Parish Meeting - entirely separate from the Parish Council - at which parishioners can discuss any matter of general concern. The meeting is also responsible for the election of the Fete Committee and the dispersal of money raised by the annual fete. In addition the meeting has the responsibility of electing the members of the Church Room Management Committee, which operates under the chairmanship of the Vicar. As indicated elsewhere in this issue the meeting will also discuss the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Thus the AGENDA will read:

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Matters arising.
3. Report by officers of the 1986 Fete Committee.
4. Election of the 1987 Fete Committee.
5. Distribution of the money raised by the 1987 Fete.
6. Report by officers of the Church Room Management Committee.
7. Election of the Church Room Management Committee.
8. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
9. Any Other Business.

If you can spare an hour, then please come along.

If you would like to nominate somebody, or are willing to serve yourself, on one or both of the committees just complete the slip below and drop it through my door or leave it in the Chronicle box in the Village Stores. The meeting will assume that last years committee will seek re-election unless they have let me know otherwise. If you would like a particular topic discussed at the meeting but are unable to attend, just let me know and I will put the topic [and your views if you wish] to the meeting.

The meeting will be followed by a Parish Council Meeting.

*Graham Parker.*

Graham Parker.  
Clerk to the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING : ELECTION OF FETE AND CHURCH ROOM COMMITTEES.

I would like to nominate the following a member/s of the 1987 Fete Committee :

I would like to nominate the following a member/s of the Church Room Management Committee : \_\_\_\_\_

[When nominating please ensure the individual is prepared to stand]

I would be willing to serve on the Fete /Church Room Management Committee/s

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_

[Please PRINT name alongside signature - thank you]

## Villagers seek parking answer

RESIDENTS of Aston Abbots are to urge Bucks County Council to look at the possibility of providing parking bays at various places throughout the picturesque village.

Cllr Colin Higgs called for such a step to be taken at the recent Aston Abbots Parish Council meeting when it was suggested that parking bays could overcome problems of shortage of parking spaces and erosion of grass verges by parked cars.

The council chairman Mr Les Smith confirmed that he had contacted neighbouring Wingrave Parish Council about repairs to the bus shelter at the crossroads between the two villages.

### Help scheme

Cllr John Whyte outlined proposals for a community help scheme which could involve such jobs as hospital and doctors visits, essential shopping for the elderly and perhaps even snow

clearance. Details will be outlined in the village newsletter "Chronicle."

Planning applications discussed included an amended scheme for a house adjoining the shop, and development of old farm buildings at Longmoor into a generator store.

It was agreed that the new development at Church Farm should be given the name of St James Close.

Pc Ray will attend the March meeting to discuss the neighbourhood watch scheme. Cllr Graham Parker agreed to include more details in the March issue of Chronicle.

## HELP LINE

The recent spell of bad weather has highlighted the fact that some of our community have problems. It was brought to the attention of the Parish Council by one of our public spirited members that a list of people able to help out in times of difficulty would be helpful.

In an emergency:

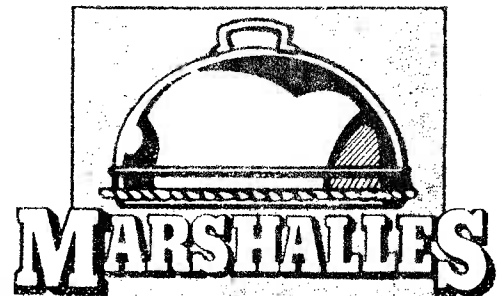
- a prescription needs collecting.
- a visit needs to be made to a hospital.
- you are finding difficulty with filling in forms, for supplementary heating allowance for example.
- a pipe has burst or the electricity goes off.

CAN YOU HELP ?

Of course you should feel you can call any member of the Parish Council whose phone numbers appear on this month's 'UPDATE' page. But if YOU think you can help out

- you have a car that you could use
- you have skills that may be useful
- you would be willing to help out in an emergency .....

then please contact any member of the Parish Council so that an emergency list can be published.



HOLLY COTTAGE · THE GREEN  
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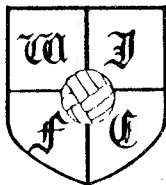
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### WHO ARE YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS ?

Les Smith, 'Gatesgarth', Lines Hill (Tel:681368)  
Peter Dines, 87 The Green. (Tel:681459)  
Colin Higgs, 6, Wingrave Road. (Tel:681343)  
John Whyte, 14 Bricstock. (Tel:681685)  
Graham Parker, The Cloisters, Church Row (681325)  
David Watts, 'White Wheels' (681376) is the Clerk.



### CUP HOPES STILL ALIVE

Almost a full month of football for both junior teams, but it was a month when injuries robbed them of key players and the opposition, in the form of Arrows (U.14) and Wing (U.12), showed touches of real class. However, cup hopes are not dead; the U.14's could still reach the final if they can win the remaining matches in their section, while a victory on March 1st. for the U.12's would put them into the semi-final.

#### FEBRUARY RESULTS. UNDER 14's

1st. February : WINGRAVE 1 WOODSIDE 1  
D.Scott.

8th. February : WINGRAVE 4 WATER EATON 6  
o.g.; M.Brown; D.Scott; S.Meagram.

15th. February : ARROWS 9 WINGRAVE 0 [CUP MATCH]

22nd. February : v. Cheddington (Postponed).

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SUNDAY 2nd.MARCH

"RACE EVENING" 7.30p.m. at  
THE BELL - all profits to  
the Junior Football Club.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### UNDER 12's

1st. February : v. Arrows (Postponed).

8th. February : 999 4 WINGRAVE 3  
D.Sykes; A.Bishop; and an o.g.

15th. February : WINGRAVE 4 CHEDDINGTON 1  
C.Arnold; A.Bishop;  
D.Wiggett; E.Kitchener.

22nd. February : WINGRAVE 0 WING 9.

#### MARCH FIXTURES

#### UNDER 12's

#### UNDER 14's

1st. March : v. ARROWS (H) 10.30 K.O. at  
the School [CUP MATCH].

v. BROOKLANDS (H) CUP MATCH K.O. 2.15.

8th. March : v. WOODSIDE (A) 2.15 K.O.

v. CHEDDINGTON (A) CUP MATCH K.O. 2.15.

15th. March : v. B.R. FOXES (A) 10.30 K.O.

CUP SEMI-FINALS.

22nd. March : v. B.R. FOXES (H) 10.30 K.O.

v. WING (H) League K.O. 2.15.

29th. March : CUP SEMI-FINAL.

v. WATER EATON (A) Friendly.

### REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

Anthony Bishop and Piers Parker both played well for the League Representative side against the Chiltern League at LUTON TOWN F.C. on the 14th. February. Both teams received a tremendous ovation from several thousand spectators when the game finished; several commenting later that it had been better entertainment than the match that followed.

# What a day!

A day to remember — that was the best way to describe the marvellous experience enjoyed by the boys who were picked for the Leighton and District Junior League squad to play the Chiltern Youth League on the controversial pitch at Luton Town's Kenilworth Road recently.

The 16-boy squad enjoyed the thrills of playing on a first division pitch, revelled in the atmosphere, showed how that artificial surface can be used to good effect, and provided loads of entertainment for a crowd that grew to between two or three thousand by the end of a great little match.

Leighton lost the game 5-2, but were far from disgraced against a team that was basically a year older — a big dif-

ference at that stage in a young footballer's career.

And the Leighton boys also had the satisfaction of playing the more entertaining football, with little Daniel Jones of Wing hitting the last and best goal of the day and winning a big cheer from the fans who were by that time gathering by their thousand ready for the Luton v Aston Villa game that was to follow.

The grins on the boys' faces as they left the pitch at the end of the game — wending their way through Luton and Aston Villa stars in the tunnel — told its own story.

For the record Luton scored first, against the run of play, but Wing quickly replied with a Ryan Gould goal after a scramble in the Chiltern League

goalmouth.

The Luton side regained the lead before the break and went 5-1 up in the second half, before the Leighton lads came up with an exciting spell of attacking football which resulted in that splendid goal from Jones.

The Leighton squad was: Steve Brimble of 999, David Ford, Ben Garrad and Michael White of Woodside, Piers Parker and Anthony Bishop of Wingrave, Ryan Gould, Ian Hollas, Ian Shackleton, Adrian Keeper and Daniel Jones of Wing, Simon Griffiths, Richard Griffin and Shane Gibbins of BR Foxes, Paul Ellison of Arrows and the outstanding player in the match Ben Digger of Wing.

# QUIZ

1. Name the Cinque Ports.
2. Where is the largest henge monument?
3. Which Bucks M.P. refused to pay Ship Money ?
4. Where is the National Motor Museum?
5. Which Archbishop was murdered in his Cathedral ?
6. Which town is associated with Bunyan?
7. Which poet and hymn writer was born at Berkhamsted ?
8. How high is Ben Nevis ?
9. Where was Mary Queen of Scots born ?
10. Where is the International Eisteddford held annually?
11. Name the Bronte sisters.
12. When was the Great Fire of London ?
13. Which Leicestershire town is noted for pies ?
14. Which Cheshire town is famous for its Brine Springs?
15. Where could you see Nelson's flagship?
16. Where would you find the Whispering Knights ?
17. Where is the famous tulip parade held?
18. Where was Grey's Elegy written?
19. Which Oxfordshire town is famous for its blankets?
20. Where is the National Railway Museum?

[My thanks, once again to Colin Higgs. The page that is partly upside down contains the answers!]



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.

## REDUNDANCY?

The news of being made redundant is naturally a shock and the first thought that comes into your mind is "How will I manage?"

The DHSS has produced a leaflet which tells you something about the help that you may be able to get. It advises on what you should do as soon as your job finishes, which benefits are available, when to claim benefit and how much you can get.

The leaflet also has information on what happens if you fall ill while unemployed and receiving benefit. How you keep up your National Insurance contributions, how voluntary or part time work affects your benefit and other useful information.

If you would like a leaflet (FB9) just ring Freefone, dial 100 and ask the operator to put you through to DHSS Freefone.



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*M. Talbot*



# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE VILLAGE VENTURES COMPETITION

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE VILLAGE VENTURES COMPETITION

The Competition is designed to support and encourage new voluntary initiatives in the rural areas of Buckinghamshire. Cash prizes totalling over £1500 can be won by the most enterprising projects.

### Who can enter?

The competition is open to any group of people working on a voluntary project for the benefit of their village.

The project must be a new one, ie started since the closing date of the last competition (31st August 1985), but need not be completed.

Each village can enter more than once, and a scheme involving several villages would also be eligible.

Since the purpose of the competition is to encourage voluntary action in rural areas entries will not be accepted from communities with a population over 6000.

### What kind of venture?

Some of the projects entered in previous competitions have included:

- Starting** - a youth club
  - a lunch club for the elderly
  - a mother and toddler group
  - a voluntary transport scheme
- Building** - a BMX track
  - an adventure playground
  - a Scout/Guide HQ
- Writing** - a village newsletter
  - a local history
  - a set of information leaflets
  - a village appraisal or plan

- Clearing** - the village pond
    - a derelict area
  - Creating** - a nature reserve
    - a garden for the disabled
  - Raising** - the money to buy a playing field or to re-roof the church
- There are only a few ideas. You can enter any sort of voluntary work which gives lasting benefit to the community.

### VILLAGE HALLS

This year there is a special section of the competition, with its own cash prizes, for projects connected with village halls. Entries in this section might include building a new hall, or improving an existing one through structural alterations, refurbishment or new facilities.

### How to enter

Fill in the attached form, and return it to:

Bucks Council for Voluntary Service  
Walton House, Walton Street,  
Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QQ

The closing date is 31st August 1987.

### Judging

A more detailed report about your project will be required by 12th September 1987. Guidelines for preparing this will be sent to entrants. Judges will also arrange to visit all projects during Sept/Oct 1987. They will be looking for:

- Imaginative use of resources
- Quality of work
- Community involvement and voluntary effort
- Lasting benefit

There are separate sections for large and small villages, with cash prizes in each.

### ENTRY FORM

VILLAGE .....

POPULATION (Please tick)

Under 500	2000 - 2500	4000 - 4500
500 - 1000	2500 - 3000	4500 - 5000
1000 - 1500	3000 - 3500	5000 - 5500
1500 - 2000	3500 - 4000	5500 - 6000

ORGANISATION ENTERING (if any) .....

NAME, ADDRESS AND TEL NO OF CONTACT .....

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT .....

VILLAGE HALLS SECTION YES/NO

Any voluntary work can be entered which brings lasting benefit to your village.

Entry forms obtainable from libraries or from the organisers:  
Buckinghamshire Council for Voluntary Service, Walton House,  
Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QQ. (Tel: Aylesbury 21036)



Sponsored by SHELL UK LTD  
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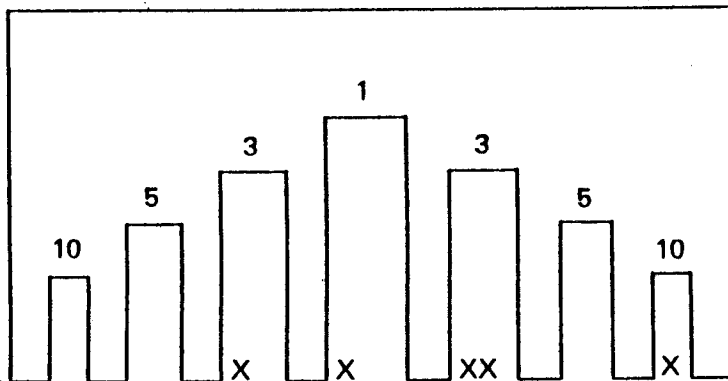
# PUZZLE PAGE

## Cannonball

Cannonball is the front-room version of a popular fair-ground game. Points are gained by rolling marbles through different sized archways. Top score wins.

**Number of players** 2 upwards

**Materials** Good-sized cardboard box  
Marbles or table-tennis balls  
Paper and pencil for scoring



From one side of the cardboard box cut out seven rectangular holes, as shown in the diagram. The height of the doorways is not too important, but they do get narrower as they move from the middle to the edge of the box. The outside doorways should be only just wide enough to let the marble or table-tennis ball pass through.

Over the doorways mark points scores of 1, 3, 5 and 10, as shown in the diagram.

When the box is ready, a pitching line is marked on the floor about 3 metres from the front of the arches.

### Play

There is no advantage in going first, so players may compete in any order.

The first player rolls five marbles, one at a time, at the box. He notes the doorways that the marbles pass through and adds up his score. In our picture, the player scored

$$3 + 1 + 3 + 3 + 10 = 20$$

After ten rounds, the person who has the highest total score wins. (Any marbles that do not pass through an archway score zero.)

1. Deal, Dover, Sandwich, Rye, Hastings.
2. Avebury.
3. John Hampden.
4. Beaulieu.
5. Sir Thomas Beckett.
6. Bedford.
7. William Cowper.
8. 4,406 ft.
9. Linlithgo Palace.
10. Liangollen.
11. Charlotte, Emily and Jane.
12. 1666.
13. Melton Mowbray.
14. Nantwich.
15. Forstsmouth.
16. Rollright Stones, Oxfordshire.
17. Spalding.
18. Stoke Poges.
19. Witney.
20. York.

# THE ASTON ABBOTTS COOKBOOK

Here's a tasty and economical recipe using minced cooked meat.

KROMESKIES

- 1 oz marg
- 1 oz flour
- ¼ pint of stock
- 6 ozs finely minced cooked meat
- salt & pepper
- small pinch of your favourite herbs
- several thin rashers of bacon

Melt marg in a saucepan, stir in flour, add stock and stir quickly until sauce is smooth and thick. Remove from heat and add meat and seasoning to taste. Turn mixture onto a plate to cool, then shape into small rolls using a little flour.

Remove as much fat as possible from bacon rashers then wrap each meat roll in a piece of bacon.

Make a coating batter using :-

- 4 ozs flour
- 1 egg
- ¼ pint of milk
- pinch salt

Dip each meat roll into batter and fry in deep fat until golden brown and crisp. Drain rolls on kitchen paper and serve with salad or vegetables.

\*\*\*\*\*

HANDY HOUSEHOLD HINT

Is oven cleaning your least favourite chore?

After you have cleaned your oven put some bicarbonate of soda in a saucer, dab a damp cloth on top and wipe over the inside of your clean oven. You'll find that grease won't stick or burn so much and your oven will stay clean longer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Recipes etc. to Pat Sims, Cherry Trees, Wingrave Road. Tel:681311

MOUNT PLEASANT  
FARM SHOP

DUNTON ROAD, STEWKLEY

---

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CAKES · PET FOODS ·  ·  
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---

OPENING TIMES

WED - SUN. 10am. - 6pm.  
Closed for LUNCH 1pm til 2pm

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ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

Roman Catholic who said that at the next Vatican Council the Bishops would be bringing their wives along with them, and at the one after, the Pope would be bringing her husband. A remark like that gives a proper sense of proportion. Perhaps you feel religion should not be joked about. In fact it needs to be joked about more than anything in the world." He finished his talk with the prayer 'O God, grant us to take only you with unreserved seriousness. Give us humility to laugh at the absurdity of our petty varieties, and the wit to deflate the pretensions of others.' I'm glad such a man is to be our Bishop.

## CHURCH NEWS

There are two Family Services this month, the usual one on the first Sunday and another on the 29th. March because that is Mothering Sunday when, as has become our custom, there will be posies of flowers for the children to give to their mothers. It would be good to think that every child in the village would be in church that morning because there can be no doubt that every mother deserves a posy! Anyway let us look forward to a good congregation and a good spring day.

I expect most readers will know that the Reverend RICHARD HARRIES is to become the Bishop of Oxford and I expect most will also have heard his frequent broadcasts on Radio 4. I quote from one:

"The Churches are at present debating whether women should be ordained. One man wrote recently that if our Church were to do this "It would cease to be Christian and would never at any time be able to unite with the Church of Rome". Well what can one say to that kind of twaddle? A joke is the only possible response. I like the remark of a

### CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH

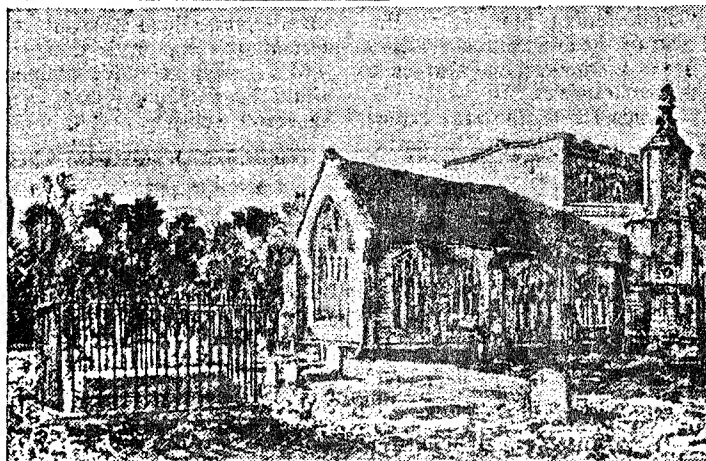
			Sidesman
1st. March	: FAMILY SERVICE	11.15 a.m.	Alison Hewitt.
	Hosea 14(1-7)	495	Mark 2(13-17).
8th. March	: HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 a.m.	Tony Hewitt.
	Genesis 2(7-9),3(1-7)	503	Matthew 4(1-11).
15th. March	: HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 a.m.	Colin Higgs.
	Genesis 6(11-22)	508	Luke 19(41-48).
22nd. March	: HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 a.m.	Gillian Ford.
	Genesis 22(1-13)	512	Luke 9(18-27).
29th. March	: MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE	11.15a.m.	Sarah Lovell.
	Exodus 34(29-35)	517	Luke 9(28-36).

## Constable drawing fetches record

A CONSTABLE drawing was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £62,700, an auction record price for a drawing or watercolour by the nineteenth century English landscape painter. The previous record for a Constable watercolour was £61,600, a view of *Stan Way Mill* which was sold at Sotheby's last July.

*East Bergholt Church, Suffolk, a*

poignant pencil drawing, dates from 1818, when Constable visited that part of the country to settle the sale of his father's house. Sotheby's had estimated a sale price of £25,000-£35,000; yesterday's buyer was Agnew's, the London dealer, which acquired the drawing after fierce bidding in the packed Bond Street sale-room.



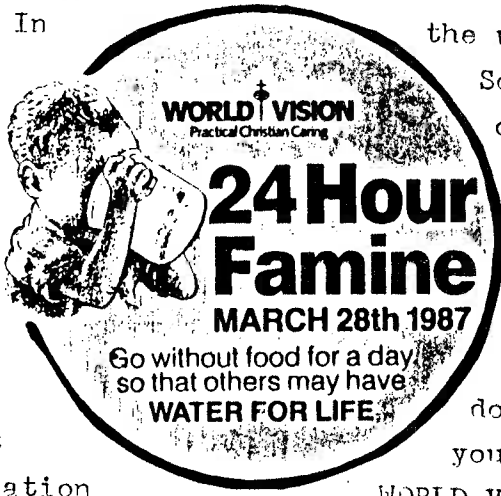
*Constable's East Bergholt Church, Suffolk,*

March 1987

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Tel. Aylesbury 681623

Jesus fasted two days short of six weeks. Lent often is associated with his fast. Why not! We need to take stock of ourselves (our "intake") whether we are unfortunate to suffer from the disadvantage of easily putting on the flab! In eat too much, anyway. an opportunity to get under control - for a dieted in the desert clear-headed to take which lay ahead of



the western world most of us So why not make this Lent our(little) tummies under mere 24 hours? Our Lord for a good cause: to be on the enormous task him - Salvation for you.

Here, then, is a good 24 hours only. (No up your own mind about Lent) But the organisation twenty-four hour fast for Saturday, 28th March. Go without food on that Saturday for 24 hours. Tell your friends about it. Get them to sponsor your fast, perhaps. Forms should be available soon; even badges, I'm told. Do this that others may have some of life's water.

cause (in his name) for doubt you will have made your own commitments for WORLD VISION suggests a simple Go without food on that Saturday for 24 hours. Tell your friends about it. Get them to sponsor your fast, perhaps. Forms should be available soon; even badges, I'm told. Do this that others may have some of life's water.

If this could damage your health, please don't opt out. But meticulously (we should all do this) count the money you would have spent on food and drink. Bring what you can afford - appropriately enough - to the Service on Mothering Sunday the following day, or to other centres I will suggest nearer the time.

You will be interested to know that last year's 24 hour "famine" (the 1st of its kind) was held on May 10th, and some 25,000 people participated, sponsored in turn by no less than 250,000 friends. Over £300,000 was raised by World Vision, and some 31 wells have now been dug in rural Ghana. Each provides CLEAN WATER for about 400 people. In areas where 2 in 5 children die before the age of One (primarily because of bad water related diseases) the effect has been to take over 12,000 people off the danger list.

No record that Jesus was thirsty in the desert. He knew what it was like though (John 4, v.9 & 19, v.28). He hates to see his world-wide family hungry, let alone thirsty. So don't forget, please, SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH; say, 11.00 p.m. Friday night until 11.00 p.m. Saturday night!

Yours sincerely,

MR. JOHN HEETER

SERVICES & EVENTS: PROGRAMME FOR LENT & EASTER

ASH WEDNESDAY (4th March) Lent begins with Holy Communion in Cublington Parish Church (Imposition of Ashes) 8.00 p.m.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Wingrave Methodist Church at 7.30 p.m. (6th March)  
Speaker: Mrs. Joan Gregory (Leighton Buzzard)

LENT BOXES Available in each of the Parish Churches for our support of the Mbeza Hospital in the Province of Tanzania

DEANERY LENT Services held in different parish churches each WEDNESDAY at 8.00 p.m., beginning 11th March - S.Mary, Whaddon. Also, S.James, Aston Abbots: 18th March.

PARISH LENT Wingrave Parish Church, every Wednesday, beginning 11th March 2.00 p.m. 40 minute Service based on USPG publication: "At the Foot of the Cross". Refreshments afterwards.

28th March for twenty-four hours. See the Rector's Message. "Go without food for a day so that others may have WATER FOR LIFE". The lives of thousands of African people will depend on the 24 Hour Famine being a big success.

Services at Cublington (10 a.m.), Aston Abbots (11.15 a.m.) conducted by the Rector. Wingrave Parish Communion (10 a.m.) celebrant and preacher: The Rev. Canon Ron Wilson.

PALM SUNDAY 12th April. Distribution of Palms at all Services.

HOLY WEEK Window Posters (INRI) available on Palm Sunday.

MAUNDY THURSDAY Maundy Eucharist in Wingrave Parish Church, 8.00 p.m. followed by Solemn Stripping of the Altar.

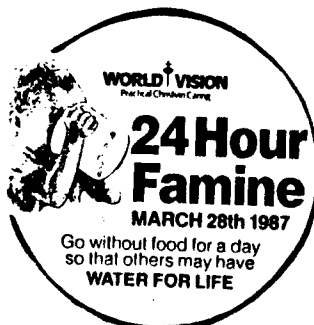
GOOD FRIDAY 17th April. Family Service at Aston Abbots, 11 o'clock, followed by refreshments and Hot Cross Buns.  
12 Noon "An Hour Before the Cross" at Cublington.  
2 p.m. "An Hour Before the Cross" at Wingrave.

<u>SUNDAY LESSONS</u>		(ASB)
28th March	Nothing Sunday: Exodus 34(29-35)	Luke 9(28-36) (517)
5th April	Passion Sunday: 2 Corinth, 5(17-21) **	John 12(20-32) (521)
12th April	Palm Sunday: Philippians 2(5-11)	Matthew 21(1-13) (526)

(\*\*Alternative Lectionary)

FUNERALS 4th February: Lionel HOODRUFF (Wingrave Church & Churchyard)  
13th February: Joan HUNTON (Memorial Service, 2nd March, 2.30 p.m.)  
"May they rest in Peace"

PRAYER PLATE Some of us are linked together by telephone, so if you would like us to pray for someone or something please place your 'intention' (anonymous if you like) in the box at the west end of the church or ring 681208/681623.



NOTHING SUNDAY  
29th MARCH

PALM SUNDAY

HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY

GOOD FRIDAY



## INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

# Echoing green versus deserted village.

"THIS morning I received a letter which I've been waiting for for twenty-nine years," my colleague told me. It was the official notification that his mortgage was at last paid off and the house was his.

In his village sixty years ago that would have been impossible. For one thing, the village was on a rural estate, where the squire owned almost all the houses. For another, no bank, building society, solicitor or anyone else would have given a mortgage on a house in that remote settlement, which got by without piped water, electricity, telephone or other modern amenities.

Now all has changed in rural England. My native village of Nadderbourne possessed in those days an asset which it has long since forfeited. It was unknown to the taxman! This situation arose from the fact that it was almost exclusively an agricultural village. Farmers were assessed on what I believe was called Schedule D, which assumed that their income was equivalent to their annual rental. And as no-one paid more than £100 a year in rent, the tax office was not interested.

Now the land alone is worth around £2 million, and I suppose the 100 or so houses would average at least £50,000 each, so, without prying into my neighbours' business, it would be safe to assume that Nadderbourne now contributes a sizeable sum annually to the Exchequer. From being a village of poor peasants and labourers, Nadderbourne has become a pretty affluent community.

That has been the pattern of development for countless villages throughout England. Life in them is probably as pleasant as ever it was and certainly a lot easier. But, by and large, a new set of problems is emerging which give rise to some concern about the future.

Buying a house is probably the biggest investment most men make in their lives. Mortgages are now so freely available that it is easy to make a start. So long as a man and his family are content to live there, and he doesn't get made redundant or otherwise falls on evil times, all is well. But more and more house-owners are realising that their property can provide an extra source of income.

Many village houses have large gardens, deriving from the days when a cottager normally helped out the household budget by growing his own vegetables and keeping a pig. The recognised ploy now is for the man who buys or inherits such a property to split the garden in half and sell the surplus half as a building plot. It fits in well with the official policy of "in-filling".

By Ralph Whitlock

One result is that villages are tending to become more and more concentrated, even congested, and new houses are crammed on handkerchief-sized plots of land with views only of the neighbour's backdoor. But, then, many of the newcomers are retired couples with no hankering after a large garden, so perhaps no great harm is done, though, to my mind, the essence of living in the country is ample space.

The new property-owner is also quick to appreciate that improvements and additions to his property can produce a cash profit. A common sequence of events is for a man to buy a three-bedroomed house, add, after securing the necessary planning permission, a fourth bedroom, and then quickly sell it as a four-bedroomed house. Not all alterations qualify, as swimming-pools, for instance, are not an amenity that everyone covets and so can prove a waste of money. But bedrooms and garages are usually safe enough.

All this would seem commendable and is doubtless thoroughly approved by a Government committed to the ideal of a property-owning democracy, but in the context of the countryside it has one or two worrying effects. One is that a section of the village population is becoming increasingly fluid. Families purchase their properties, make their improvements, sell up and are gone. They are in residence for too short a time to be absorbed or even involved in village life.

The other is that their over-riding preoccupation, even obsession, is with property values. Anything which may have an

adverse effect on property values must be vigorously opposed. And that includes anything commercial.

Arable farming is acceptable; livestock farming less so, especially pigs and poultry. Existing smithies must be tolerated, but let any enterprising young craftsman seek to set up a workshop for making objects of wrought iron and he will speedily learn what opposition means. Or if, with a haulage business, he wants to erect a diesel tank or repair shed in his back yard. The message is that this village is residential, and anything to do with commerce will be detrimental to the value of the houses.

The Government has aggravated the situation by its policy of selling off council houses to their occupants at reduced prices. Council house tenants are quick to appreciate that they too can make a quick profit, by selling their houses at the market price. True, they have to find other accommodation, but, if the inducements are sufficient, it is worth while moving into the back streets of a town. And for the new purchasers, there is no stigma about a council house. Put in a new imitation-Tudor door, add another bedroom, and it becomes a very desirable residence, that can be sold at a profit.

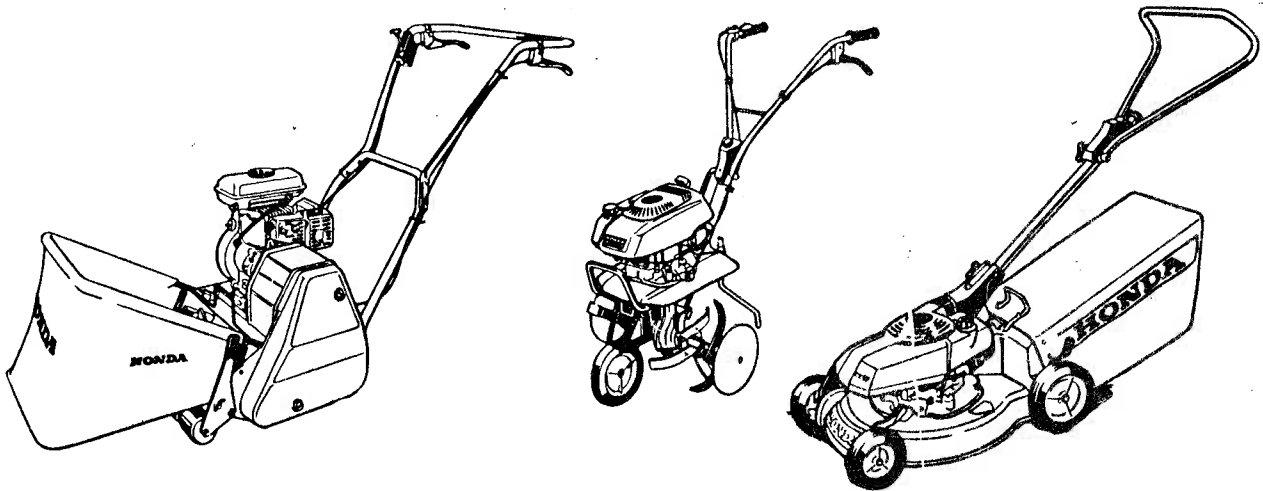
From being commercial units, where every resident lived there because he gained his living locally, usually from the land, villages are far advanced along the road to being residential suburbs, populated largely by middle-class, middle-aged or elderly people. Buses take the decreasing numbers of children to central schools, miles away. No cows foul the macadamised lanes, no clanging hammers testify to energetic human activity, no cock-crows greet the dawn. All is quiet, placid and peaceful. As peaceful as the churchyard.

This month I had intended to write at length on the Government's plans for farming and the countryside, but time saved you from that! Ralph Whitlock's article (*Guardian Weekly* December 7th '86) does however set the scene for the undoubted struggles that are to come.

The Government plans to spend £25 million on land diversification, allowing marginal and surplus agricultural land to be turned over to other uses, such as housing, light industry, forestry and leisure. Prime agricultural land classified as grade 1 or grade 2 will be unaffected, but this is only 17% of Britain's total area. Will we be able to stem the tremendous pressure to develop any available land in the profitable south east? Will we be able to control what development does take place? Do we want to? Do we care? More on this next month; meanwhile if any of our readers would like to express their views on this (or any other) topic why not write an article for the *Chronicle* ..... please!

*Abbottsbury.*

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