

The Chronicle.

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine.

JULY 87

ISSUE 47



Editorial

Once again my apologies for the late arrival of the Chronicle. So certain am I that time will prevent the preparation of an August issue I must reluctantly inform you that we will instead have a bumper September issue!

This will, of course, saves money ... which brings me to another point that needs a mention - Chronicle funds are running low, any contributions or money raising ideas to Michael Cox please.

Summer seems to have arrived at last lets hope it can last until the Festival weekend please give generously to the various stalls , come along on the day, bring friends and family and encourage them to spend as much they can. It should be a great day.

Graham Parker

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: August 23rd please.

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 Village Shop or at the Post Office.

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Distributed free to all households in the Parish of Aston Abbotts. If you would like extra copies please inform the Editor.



From a wood engraving by Thomas Bewick.

NOTICEBOARD

THE LADIES CLUB

We met on June 4th. to greet Mrs. Pat Foot who came to tell us about Tri Chem Embroidery. Tri Chem is the name of a kind of paint in a tube with a ball point nozzle. It was invented quite a long time ago by three chemists in America, hence the name. Basically it is just filling in the outline like colouring a painting book. Carried a few steps further one can transfer patterns onto household linen, childrens clothes, leisure wear the list and scope is endless. The result is bright and cheerful and will withstand the rigours of the washing machine as long as the gramment lasts. Our members spent a happy hour colouring in such things as lilies and sweet peas.

On June 18th. our theme was the Ambulance Service. Mr. Burbidge, Station Officer of Chalfont St. Giles gave a very interesting account of the Service and a lively question and answer session followed. Unfortunately a number of members were unable to be present and missed hearing about this vital part of our Health Service.

Next month we hope to have Mrs. Myrtle Hill returning to the club to demonstrate flower arranging, and the end of session Tea Party will be held on JULY 16th at the home of Mrs. Bellingham.

UNDER FIVES

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE UNDER FIVES WILL BE ON MONDAY 27th. JULY at 10.30 a.m. in the CHURCH ROOM.

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

- TUESDAY 7th. : FOOTPATH EVENING WALK
The Green 7 p.m.
- TUESDAY 14th. : PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Church Room 8 p.m.
- THURSDAY 9th & 23rd. : WHIST DRIVE
Church Room 7.30 p.m.
- FRIDAY 11th. : ROYAL TOURNAMENT
Coach departs The Green
at 4.50 p.m.
- SATURDAY 25th / SUNDAY 26th.

FESTIVAL WEEKEND

- TUESDAY 4th. AUGUST : AYLESBURY VALE
HOLIDAY WALK. Everyone is
welcome to join us - depart
The Green at 7 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY 5th. AUGUST : CHILDRENS HOLIDAY
ENTERTAINMENT in the Church
Room - Watch for posters.

CAN YOU HELP ?

I would be most grateful for any information anyone can give me regarding President Eduard Benes' habitation of Aston House during World War 2.

Contact Richard Johnson (Wingrave) on 681389.

FESTIVAL RAFFLE

HAVE YOU SOLD YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS ? IF SO
MORE ARE AVAILABLE FROM PETER DINES !

SOME IDEAS FOR HOLIDAY VISITS

HIGH WYCOMBE : CHAIR MUSEUM with a visit (see details in this issue); plus the HELL FIRE CAVES at WEST WYCOMBE. Travel on the new train service from Aylesbury or catch the bus.

TRING : MUSEUM then the RESERVOIR NATURE TRAIL at MARSWORTH.

WENDOVER WOODS - COOMBE HILL - THE RIDGEWAY PATH for walking & picnics.

WOBURN : THE ABBEY & PARK

BUSES: ASTON ABBOTTS - AYLESBURY

Depart Aston Abbots at: 7.48, 9.30, 11.30(Tuesdays), 2.00.
Return at : 12.38, 4.50, 5.50.

ASTON ABBOTTS - LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Depart Aston Abbots at: 8.35, 10.35, 1.00

(Leighton Buzzard - Woburn Depart 11.55 : Return 5.10)

Return to Aston Abbots depart Leighton Buzzard 5.40.

YOUTH CLUB

Even though Youth Club has closed for the summer, there are two events in the near future we hope you will be interested in.

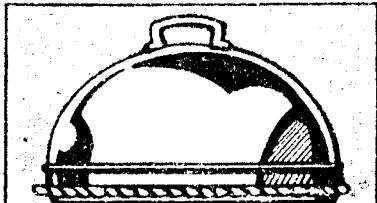
Firstly, the R.Y.B.Y. group are organising a Summer Spectacular Disco and Bar-B-Que in the barn at Cold Harbour Farm on the Cublington Road. This is to take place on July 3rd from 7.30-10.00pm and the entrance cost of 60p also includes a hot-dog. The Disco is for junior members only, i.e. those aged from 9 up to senior school age.

Secondly, for senior children aged over 14, there will be a night walk, called "Moonlighting", on Friday 17th July. You will need to be in groups of four for this walk, so start to get yourselves organised.

For further details of either of these events contact Margaret or Rita.

Now to more serious matters! The Youth Club desperately needs more adult helpers. If there is no help forthcoming, Margaret and Rita are prepared to run the Club on a fortnightly basis, but only until next April. The children really look forward to their social evening at the Club, so come on parents, don't let them down and force us to close.

Youth Club re-opens on September 4th in the Church Room from 7.30-9.00 pm.



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ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL

A last reminder about the Festival and as always its a request for firm offers of help to man stalls and sideshows on the big day. You will also remember the request in the last edition for contributions for the bric a brac, handicraft, grocery, cake, home, and garden produce stalls. Committeemembers and volunteers will call around the village on Monday the 20th July to collect donations. Please help if you can, every little helps and remember the profits go to the various organisations in the village to support their work. The main raffle prizes have been purchased and others have been donated, others would also be welcome.

We also have a special request for garden tables and chairs to help seat people partaking of the renowned Aston Abbotts Festival Tea. If you can help with any of these items please bring them to the Church Rooms on the morning of the Festival or let me know and I will arrange collection.

Last but not least dont forget the various competitions- the victoria sponge, home made wine, the single rose, the photographic section, and the childrens painting. Lets have a lot of entries to make them good competitions.

There is still time for last minute ideas so please give me a ring on 681390.

Many thanks in anticipation of your help and support.

Tony Hewitt
Festival Committee Chairman

RAFFLE TICKETS

THE RAFFLE AT THE FETE HAS USUALLY BEEN THE LARGEST MONEY SPINNER, OBVIOUSLY THE MORE TICKETS WE CAN SELL THE MORE THIS WILL BE SO. IT IS UP TO EACH ONE OF US NOT ONLY TO BUY TICKETS BUT TO SELL THEM TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIONS. HOW ABOUT SETTING A TARGET OF AT LEAST £5 WORTH PER FAMILY? IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT YOUR TICKETS TO SELL YET KAY & PETER DINES WILL BE VERY HAPPY TO LET YOU HAVE SOME SALE OR RETURN.



MAINS GAS

To date 44 people have expressed interest in a mains gas supply. I have communicated this to British Gas with the result that they seemed quite positive about arranging a public meeting. A meeting early in July was suggested as appropriate but I am still waiting for a specific date from British Gas. As soon as this is forthcoming David Brown and I will let you know.

Tony Hewitt and David Brown.

A LETTER FROM WING.

To Village Newsletters:

ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Head of Adult Education (Wing Area): Dr Alan Owen

Dr Owen (or answering machine) - tel Aylesbury 688632

Daytime Secretary: Sheila Dickens - tel. Aylesbury 688264/215

Evening Secretary: Eileen Collier - tel. Aylesbury 688632

A varied programme of learning opportunities for adults will, as usual, be offered in the Wing Area starting in September. These will include not only evening and daytime classes at Wing County Secondary School but also classes in some of the smaller villages.

Among some of the new developments in the Wing area programme, we are now able to offer a course in the very useful as well as beautiful art of Calligraphy, while another course has the intriguing title "The Crafts That Grandma Knew". Businessmen and would-be tycoons might learn a thing or two from our course on "Successful Selling", while any of us might need the kind of tips we could pick up from the new course on Self-Defence. Wing Centre will also be offering courses in four modern languages at beginners' level (French, German, Spanish and Greek) and in French and German at improvers' level.

Another new development is that, in September, there will be just one brochure containing details of all adult education courses being offered in Aylesbury Vale. This means that if the subject or level you require is not being offered in the Wing area, you might find it slightly further afield, in Aylesbury or Winslow, for example. These brochures will be available from village libraries, post offices and shops or directly from the Centre by phoning or writing to us.

If you are interested in any of the courses organised by Wing Centre, you should send in the enrolment form from the brochure (or a duplicate), but do not send any money. This will reserve you a place in the event of the course being oversubscribed, but you are not committed to enrolling. You should then attend at the place and time stated for the course during the introductory/enrolment week beginning 14th September. This will give you a chance to meet the tutor and see if you like the course before you have to part with any money. You can then enrol if you are sure that the course is what you want. The courses themselves will start two weeks later, during the week beginning 28th September.



People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

BIRTHDAYS

JOHN CHESHER 1st. July.
ARTHUR TUPLIN 2nd. July.
DONNA WIGGETT 2nd. July.
GINGER 4th. July.
BRENDA MALIN 6th. July.
MARGARET KENT 6th. July.
LEN SCUTCHINGS 7th. July.
NICOLA LOVELL 9th. July.
DON HINDS 13th. July.
VIC SCOTT 13th. July.
DIANE LOVELL 17th. July.
ANDREW PLESTED 19th. July.
RUTH WATTS 24th. July.
DEE WHYTE 27th. July.
LAWRENCE HINDS 29th. July.

BELATED BIRTHDAY

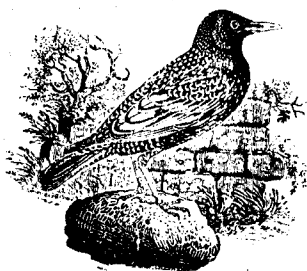
SHARON WIGGETT 26th. June.

WELL DONE

to everyone who took part in the sponsored walk on May Day for Wingrave Playgroup. We now know that £870 was raised of which £50 was given by our own Recreation Ground fund.

GET WELL SOON

to JOAN GOLDNEY who is presently in hospital having an operation.



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	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 'The Chronicle'] to Michael Cox, The Old House, Aston Abbots, Aylesbury, Bucks.



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OUT AND ABOUT

Noises Off

Walk 12 | 8½ miles

O.S. 1:25,000 maps SP91,92

CHEDDINGTON STATION – HORTON WHARF – SLAPTON – GROVE – LEDBURN – MENTMORE. 8½ miles (SHORT CUT BACK FROM SLAPTON GIVES 5½ mile WALK)

Starting point. Cheddington Station (Grid ref. 922185)

The sound which you will remember after this ramble is that of the remarkably frequent passing of electric trains on the London-Glasgow main line. Although the trains are out of sight for most of the walk their metallic roar carries clearly across the fields and when the walker is on some of the remoter parts of the ramble it seems to come almost from a different era.

A section of the long version of this walk crosses land in the vicinity of Mentmore where ploughing up of pasture land and rearranging of field boundaries has made it impossible to follow the exact line of the public footpath with any certainty, due to the absence of landmarks with which to navigate across large fields. The following notes accordingly guide the walker along the nearest practical alternatives to the legal route, and the accompanying map shows the extent of the detours.

Travel

Cars may be parked for a small fee in the car park adjoining Cheddington Station

Cheddington Station is on the main line from Euston via Harrow, Watford, Bletchley, and Northampton to Rugby. Local trains call once an hour at Cheddington on weekdays, but on Sundays the station is closed.

Cheddington is poorly served by buses. The village (just over half a mile from the station) can be reached on United Counties services 74, 75 (Aylesbury - Cheddington) on weekdays, but the service is very infrequent. There is no Sunday service.

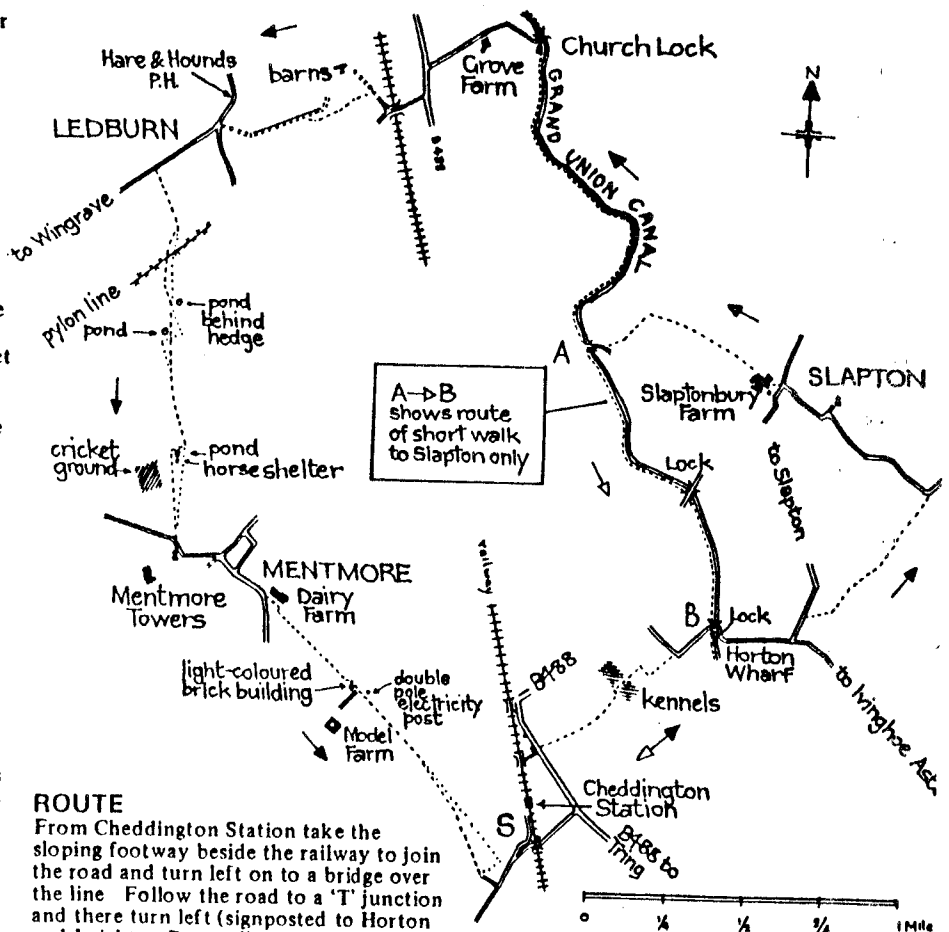
Refreshments

At Cheddington Station the Rosebery Arms Hotel serves snacks.

At Slapton is the Carpenter's Arms public house; the Post Office (nearby) is the village shop.

At Ledburn the Hare and Hounds public house, on the road to Linslade, provides snacks.

At Mentmore there is a village shop (facing the village green) and The Stag public house, which has a restaurant and provides snacks.



ROUTE

From Cheddington Station take the sloping footway beside the railway to join the road and turn left on to a bridge over the line. Follow the road to a 'T' junction and there turn left (signposted to Horton and Leighton Buzzard) to continue along the road for another 400 yards after which, just before reaching the first cottages on the left, turn right through a gateway into a field. Now set off at a right angle to the road beside the left-hand ditch along the edge of two fields and over an intervening footbridge; at the end of the second field ignore the metal gate on the left and go over the footbridge and ensuing stile in the hedge ahead into Horton boarding kennels. Once over the stile cross the track beyond it, going very slightly to the left, and pass through a wire gate to follow a footpath across the kennels. At the end of the path enter an orchard by crossing a ditch and stile. Continue ahead in the same direction through the trees to reach the opposite hedge and then turn right to walk beside it to the corner of the orchard. Turn left in the corner to cross a footbridge and stile and then follow the hedge along the right-hand side of a field. At the end of the field pass through a gap in the hedge ahead and turn right on a green lane; follow this as it immediately turns

left to head for the canal bridge at Horton Wharf. Stay on the lane as it crosses the Grand Union Canal, then twists past a farm on the right and then continues (now with a metalled surface) down to join a road.

Turn left to walk along the road for 200 yards. Go through the next gate on the right, (90 yards before the road bends left) cross the field to the left-hand hedge (aiming roughly at 11 o'clock), and climb a stile 100 yards away in the hedge*. Now change direction and go straight across the next field at a right angle to the hedge to climb a piece of fence set in the hedge ahead; continue over the field beyond, bearing very slightly right, to reach a stile in the hedge ahead. Cross the stile and follow the left-hand hedge along the side of two fields to go through a gate leading onto a road on the left, (located 200 yards short of the end of the second field).

* Footbridge missing in 1978.

Turn left to walk along the road towards the church tower in the village of Slapton, and continue through the village to a 'T' junction, on one corner of which stands the Carpenter's Arms public house.

Cross Horton Road by the Carpenter's Arms and go through the gate in front of you. Then continue across the field

on a track, go through a gate on the left into a farmyard and immediately bear right to follow the concrete track just inside the complex of farm buildings. The track emerges from the farm into the very extensive field beyond, whereupon continue ahead beside the left-hand hedge for over ¼ mile, and then pass through two gates** in line with each other but about 100 yards apart. Turn half left after the second gate and cross the field diagonally, aiming at between 10 and 11 o'clock to a small wooden fence filling a gap in the hedge ahead (seen almost directly in front of a telegraph line pole). Climb this fence* and cross the next field, passing close by the above telegraph pole to reach the canal bridge. Go over the bridge and if following the short walk, set off along the towpath on the left. *turn to the end of this chapter to find the continuation of the route* If following the full walk set off along the towpath on the right to walk beside the canal for over a mile, as far as the first lock in this direction (called Church Lock)

Grand Union Canal

For notes on the canal see walk no 7 'The Grand Union'.

Grove

The tiny parish of Grove, which had a population of only 15 in 1974, is probably the smallest in Bucks, at its widest point it barely measures a mile in each direction, and for most of its extent it is less than half a mile wide. It is not surprising that the little church on the left of the lock is now disused.

Leave the canal at Church Lock and turn left along the road to reach a 'T' junction. Turn left at the junction and after about 120 yards leave the road and turn right on to a metalled farm track which soon crosses the railway.

400 yards south of this bridge is the site of Sears Crossing where, at 3.15 a.m. on the 8th August 1962, the Great Train Robbery took place; a mail train was ambushed by a gang using a false danger signal and £2½ millions were stolen.

Just beyond the railway bridge take the right-hand fork of the track. Fifty yards after the track has returned to ground level turn left off it opposite a yellow concrete hydrant post. Now cross the field at a right angle to the track, going over the summit of a low hill, and passing beside another hydrant post in mid-field. At the hedge ahead turn right to rejoin and turn left along the farm track which you were on a short while ago. Continue along the track until a 3-pronged road junction is reached by a tiny Baptist Chapel on the edge of the hamlet of Ledburn.

Ledburn

At the north-eastern end of the hamlet, just beyond the minute Baptist Chapel (built in 1840), stands the 'Hare and Hounds' public house. When Lord Rosebery erected the present building on the site of the former village inn in 1902 he took the opportunity to provide additional stabling for horse training.

Set off along the middle road out of the road junction (signposted to Wingrave and Aylesbury). 100 yards beyond a telephone box and immediately after the last house on the left (called 'Beacon View') turn left over a stile into a field. Cross the field at a right angle to the road to the gap in the hedge seen directly ahead and go over the footbridge immediately in front of the hedge. Go through the gap and on across the next field aiming very slightly left towards the left-hand group of houses on the skyline ahead. After about 150 yards this course converges on an unfenced ditch and, on reaching this, change direction slightly to the right to walk beside it (which must be on your left), as it passes beneath a pylon line and curves on to the corner of the field. In the corner cross the hedge ahead by going a little to the right to cross a footbridge and go through a gate, then return to the left-hand hedge and resume your previous course beside it in the next field until the ditch on the left turns sharp right across your path. Turn right with the ditch and walk beside it, passing between it and a pond surrounded by a clump of trees. Just beyond the pond turn left and cross the ditch on a grassy bridge into a large field which slopes very gently uphill towards Mentmore.

Continue towards Mentmore up the side of this field walking beside the right-hand ditch to reach a copse containing a small pond situated in front of the fence

which stretches across your route. Go through the gate in this fence to enter a large field which rises ahead to the village. Now bear very slightly right and slowly diverge from the fence on the left as you walk uphill to reach the road at the gate immediately on the right of the dark stone house at the highest point in the field (seen in front of the church tower). Turn left up the road and at the road junction at the top of the hill, on the corner of the village green, turn right towards Cheddington and Tring.

Mentmore

A small village at the gates of Mentmore Park. Inside the Park the magnificent Mentmore Towers was built in 1852-54 for Baron Meyer de Rothschild. The house, whose design was inspired by Wollaton Hall in Nottinghamshire, was remarkable in its time by being built with hot-water heating and artificial ventilation; its towers and pinnacles are a romantic feature on the skyline and are visible from many places within and beyond the Park.

Mentmore Towers passed by marriage into the hands of the Rosebery family, whose members dominated the British Turf for years. In the Park (just visible through the entrance gates from Mentmore village) stands a magnificent statue of King Tom, sire of many of the Rothschild winners, and near to this lie buried many famous horses which carried the Rosebery colours. Following the death of the sixth Earl of Rosebery the house was disposed of and its contents sold in a memorable series of auctions conducted in 1977 by Sothebys.

The village and church were largely rebuilt after the building of Mentmore Towers - the 'R' plaques on many buildings bear witness to this. The green, with its excellent views, is an ideal place for a picnic.

Go past The Stag public house and on down the hill; just after the first bend in the road bear left through a pedestrian gate and walk down the left-hand side of a very small triangular field. Cross a farm access track to join the track opposite and continue in the previous direction past a farm (on the left). As the track turns left into the farm buildings maintain your course across the farmyard and out of its end through a kiss gate. Now carry on downhill beside the right-hand fence of the field. (At this point Cheddington can

be seen ahead with the railway station perched high on an embankment) When the fence turns away to the right leave it and head downhill across the field to reach the left-hand side of the light-coloured brick building in a small clump of trees (you will pass beside the twin-posted telegraph posts just beyond this building). Pass beside the brick building, cross the end of a farm track, and continue ahead, now beneath an overhead electricity line which goes ahead from the twin-poled post. When the overhead line changes direction to the right, leave it and maintain your course straight ahead to reach the fence at the back of a row of houses. Turn right to follow the garden boundaries along the edge of the field with views on the right up to Mentmore Towers. After 150 yards, where the garden fence turns sharp left and a wooden gate appears in it, go through it on to the lane which runs between gardens up to Station Road, Cheddington. Now turn left along the road to return to Cheddington Station.

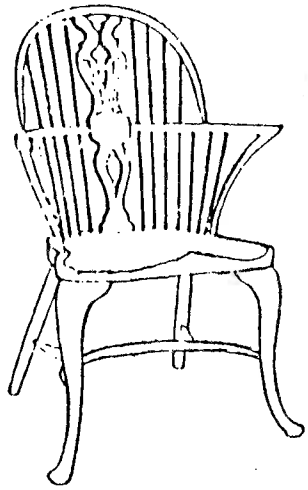
The short walk

Follow the canal southwards for one mile, passing one lock, and leaving the canal at the second (Horton Lock), at which point set off along the lane on the right. The lane runs straight for 220 yards and then turns sharp right. Ten yards beyond the corner, turn left through a gap in the hedge and continue along the left-hand side of a field towards an orchard. In the corner of the field go over a stile and footbridge and turn right to walk along the edge of the orchard past nine rows of trees. After passing the ninth row turn left and walk through the trees to a stile. Climb the stile and continue ahead along a fenced path through the boarding kennels until it ends at a gate. Now bear left across the track running down the side of the kennels and climb the stile opposite to enter the field beyond. Once in the field, ignore the gate on right and go straight ahead beside the hedge on the right. Go over the footbridge in the corner and continue along the right-hand side of the next field (with the railway visible ahead) to come on to the road through the gateway opposite an arch beneath the railway).

Turn left along the road for 400 yards, then turn right on to a side road to return to Cheddington Station.

** in 1978 the laying of a pipeline had temporarily (?) removed one gate and replaced it with a stile.

* footbridge missing in 1978



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Chairmaking in the Chilterns

The craft of making chairs in the Chilterns dates back before 1700, with a reference to a "turner" in the Parish Registers of High Wycombe in the 1680's. Daniel Defoe, author of "Robinson Crusoe", had noticed in 1725 that there was "a vast quantity of Beechwood which grows

the woods of Buckinghamshire more plentifully than in any other part of England". He also added that this timber was used for "beech quarters for divers uses, particularly chairmaking and turnery wares".

The earliest references to Windsor chairs themselves are also about this date, for in the Church Records of West Wycombe for 17th December, 1732, is the mention of the purchase of a chair "Wins. chair ordered by the Vestry", and this surely is a reference to a Windsor chair. When a list of craftsmen was drawn sixty years later in 1798 of men over 16 years of age and under 60 years of age (for military service), over fifty chair-makers were recorded as living in the Borough and Parish of High Wycombe and in the Parish of West Wycombe, with many more in the villages around. At this time it would seem that the chair legs and other turned parts which were made in the woods were sent up to London to be made up into chairs. Later a local farmer decided to make available premises in Wycombe to enable this work to be completed in the town itself.

Among the early chairmakers were the families of Treacher and Widdington, and a billhead of the 1790's bears the printed heading "William Treacher, dyed and fancy chairs", indicating an active business at that time. A furniture label has also survived of another firm, that of James Gomme, which states that the furniture was "Sold at the original Upholstery Warehouse of James Gomme, in High Wycombe, where Cabinet Work is done, and Orders for Household Furniture of every description executed in the best and most fashionable manner 1798".

Between the years 1800-1860 the number of factories grew from one or two to one hundred and fifty, and by 1870 their total output had risen to an estimated number of 4,700 chairs per day—a truly outstanding figure. Very large commissions were taken; in 1873 an order for 19,200

chairs for a Moody and Sankey evangelical meeting was completed in a few weeks and despatched to London. Another time 8,000 chairs were required for Crystal Palace, while in 1874 the firm of Walter Skull made 4,000 rush-seated chairs for St. Paul's Cathedral.

Chairmaking firms such as Hutchison's, Birch's, Janes', North's and Glenisters began in the 1860's to make quality furniture, not just chairs, and were often commissioned to design and produce presentation furniture for important clients. Some such commissions included chairs for the Wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales (later Edward VII and Queen Alexandra) and for the Duke of York and Princess Mary (later George V and Queen Mary). When Royalty or any other important person visited the town of High Wycombe, a great arch of chairs would be built in the High Street between the Guildhall and the houses opposite. By this time also many of the chairmaking firms were exhibiting, sending furniture to the great International Exhibitions and Trade Fairs all over the world.

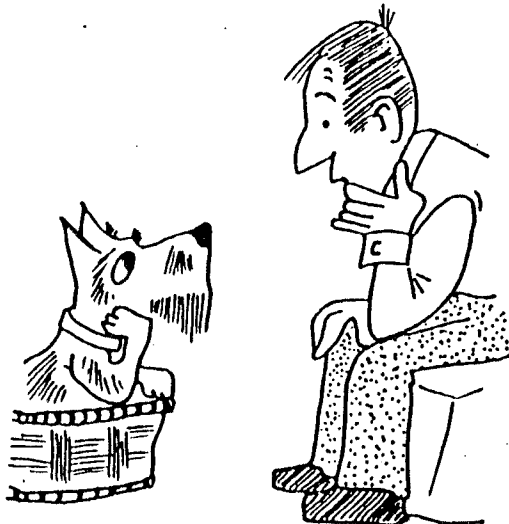
For many years the cottage industry existed alongside the factory system, with the bodgers still making the legs and stretchers in woods, and the women on the caning and rushing of chair seats in their homes. With the introduction of machinery, production soared and the local industry extended the range of its products to include the designs of the 18th-century masters, producing many fine reproduction pieces in the styles of Chippendale, Sheraton and Hepplewhite. Not to be considered too traditional, the firm of Birch, at the turn of the century, included many designs in the modern Art Nouveau Style which were very popular on the Continent.

In the First World War (1914-18) the chair manufacturers turned to the production of wooden war materials, and made such items as wooden rifles for the training of Kitchener's army, gunwheel parts, ammunition boxes and aircraft wings... tasks which were also undertaken during the Second World War (1939-45).

Designs towards the end of the war and immediately after were strongly influenced by the "Utility" standards, and later, when these were no longer in force, a whole change came about in some of the types of furniture produced. Chairmakers such as Gomme introduced the G-Plan system, which enables a customer to choose from a range of matched pieces the actual suite or group of furniture they require. The firm of Ercol did much to re-vitalise the Windsor chair, adding the spindle and ladder-back, also to a range of furniture which matched in well with modern surroundings.

At the same time the traditional furniture is still being made in the area by such well-established firms as Glenisters, while in the field of upholstery and fireside chairs, Parker-Knoll have held an important place in the industry since the 19th century. Once again the machinery has been modernised, no longer does a long overhead with its endless belts run a series of machines from a steam engine below, the original concept of electricity running the machines has also been modified, for in the future, computer tapes and electronic devices will help to guide modern machinery into cutting, shaving or drilling the required shapes.

You ... and your Dog



Every year the Environmental Health Division receive numerous complaints concerning the fouling of footpaths and recreational areas by dog excreta, therefore it is most important that dog owners take a responsible attitude by not allowing this to happen.

Following the three simple rules will help to alleviate this problem:-

- 1) Dog owners should not allow their pets out on their own.
- 2) When out with your dog do not allow it to foul footpaths, verges, or recreational land which the public use and on which children play.
- 3) Train your dog to use the roadside gutter in which to defecate or train it to use your own garden where the responsibility for cleaning it up rests with you.

You are probably aware that dogs can carry infection which although may not affect the animal can transmit serious illness particularly to children.

One of the most dangerous infections which can be carried by dogs is TOXOCARIASIS, this has been known to be the cause of the loss of sight in humans and is due to the ova of a small worm being ingested, the emerging larva subsequently burrow their way through the intestine, into the bloodstream and are then transmitted throughout the body causing damage.

Apart from being a possible means of spreading disease the mere sight of a fouled footpath is sufficient to cause indignation to the non dog owning public. Therefore may I stress upon every dog owner the need to consider these three simple rules and to ensure that any children in the house are familiar with them also.

CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER
AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ASTON ABBOTTS COOKBOOK

Mackerel with Cucumber (Serves 4)

This dish can be served hot or cold.

- 4 mackerel
- 3oz butter
- 1 small cucumber
- salt & black pepper
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar or white wine

Gut & clean mackerel, cut off heads & tails and remove backbone. Wash fish carefully and pat dry on absorbent paper. Grease a large, shallow oven-proof dish with 1oz of the butter. Wash & dry cucumber and slice thinly. Put a layer of cucumber slices all over the base of dish, place the fish on top and cover with remaining slices of cucumber. Season well with salt & pepper. Sprinkle vinegar or white wine over top and dot with 1oz of butter. Cover dish with lid or foil and bake in pre-heated oven at 400° F (200° C) for 30 minutes.

Remove dish from oven and transfer fish & cucumber to a serving dish. (keep it warm if mackerel is to be served hot) Strain juices left in dish through a seive into a saucepan. Bring to boil and continue to boil briskly, adding remaining 1oz of butter in bits, stirring until liquid has reduced by about half. Pour over mackerel & serve at once (or leave to cool as desired)

For a hot course, serve with potatoes tossed in butter and peas, or serve cold with a green salad and crusty wholemeal bread.

Portraits of Buckinghamshire

No. 21. VILLAGE SEAT AT BOTOLPH CLAYDON

The 'Claydons' - Steeple, Middle, East and Botolph occupy the rolling farmland that divides the Thames and Ouse drainage basins.

There is no village to Middle Claydon, just Claydon House and the church, a large rectory and a row of almshouses. Of the other Claydons, little Botolph, tacked on to the end of East Claydon, is the only one not marred by injudicious post-war expansion. East Claydon and Steeple Claydon both have rows and closes of unsympathetic modern houses poked in, but at Botolph the infilling has been done with more circumspection. East Claydon has a number of thatched brick and timber cottages once associated with the Verney farm, but the present farmhouse is undistinguished and is surrounded by yellow-brick boxes.

[From Elizabeth Cull and Elizabeth Ogan's 'A Picture of Buckinghamshire'.]



Ego.

This seat at Botolph Claydon has been built around a living oak, and the roof has been skilfully thatched up into the branches. It can only have been a labour of love.



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

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE - VOUCHER SCHEME FOR GLASSES

On 1 July a new way of getting help with the cost of glasses began. Instead of special national health glasses those entitled to help will get a voucher from the optician to use where they like.

If you are in receipt of Supplementary Benefit, Family Income Supplement, Housing Benefit Supplement and those getting free milk, vitamins and prescriptions automatically entitled to a voucher. This may meet the cost of your glasses, but if you decide to have more expensive glasses you will have to pay something towards them.

When you have your eyes tested (this is always a free test) the optician will issue a prescription and a voucher.

For those people who are on a low income but not receiving any of the benefits listed above you will have to apply for help from your local DHSS.

First you have your eyes tested, ask your optician for a prescription, a voucher and the form F1.

Complete the F1 and send it to your local DHSS who will send you a form F3(0) this shows you how much you will have to pay towards your glasses.

Please remember the £3,000 capital limit still applies.

If you need any further information why not dial 100 and ask for DHSS Freephone they will be able to answer any more questions and send you the appropriate leaflet G11.

B.D.Round,
11 Nup End Lane,
Wingrave,
Aylesbury,
Bucks. HP224PX

18th June, 1987.

Mr. Graham Parker,
The Editor,
Aston Ab botts Chronicle,
Church Row,
Aston Abbotts.

Dear Graham,

May I use your columns to thank the good folk of Aston Abbotts who supported me in the local elections for Aylesbury Vale District Council on 7th May.

I am sorry about not writing sooner, and can only plead pressure of work - much of it council work!

I look forward to continuing to serve the community in whatever way I can over the next four years.

It doesn't really matter whether strictly speaking it is county, district, parish, or even central government business, I will assist individuals and the community with any problems or queries to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,

Bryan Runna

District Councillor,
Wingrave Ward.

The Estone Chronicles

PART SIX of our series of extracts taken from the Victoria County History of Buckinghamshire, Vol.3. This month is our final extract and features the opening section, of a very substantial entry, on Wingrave. Detailed references have been omitted.

WINGRAVE

Withungrave, Witungrave (xi cent.). For Rowsham :—Rolleston (xii, xix cent.).

Wingrave is a parish of 2,884 acres, including 507 acres of arable land and 2,255 acres of permanent grass, but no woodlands.¹ The slope of the land above the ordnance datum varies from 256 ft. in the south of the parish to 428 ft. in the village. The soil is clay and gravel. The village is situated on a hill in the centre of the parish overlooking the town of Aylesbury. The church stands in the middle of the village. The ancient custom of strewing it with grass on the first Sunday after St. Peter's Day (29 June) is still observed. To the north-east of the church is the vicarage, and to the south-east are the school and Wingrave Old Manor House, the residence of Mrs. Stewart-Freeman, a 17th-century brick house with tiled roof, which has been modernized in recent years. Slight remains of a moat can be seen. There are a few other 17th-century buildings, but all have been much altered. In this part of the village there are also a recreation ground, an infants' school, and Independent and Primitive Methodist chapels.

Windmill Hill Farm, lying to the south-east of the church, is a timber-framed house dating probably from the 16th century. It is now entirely covered with plaster externally and has 19th-century additions, but retains the base of an original brick chimney stack. Mitchel Leys Farm to the south of the church is a red brick house of late 17th-century date. The front has three gables, the centre one bearing the date 1668. The original windows are now blocked, and modern ones have been inserted. Church Farm, to the south of the village, is an ancient building of two stories, altered in the 16th century and again in the 18th century. Maltby's Farm, to the south-east of the village, is another 17th-century house of brick and timber altered in the following century. Floyds and Straws Hadley are other farms on the outskirts of the village. The greater number of the cottages are at Niep End, on the road leading north-west past the disused corn-mill.

The large hamlet of Rowsham lies in a valley about a mile south-west by footpath from Wingrave on the road between Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard. There are some good residential houses and one or two 17th-century cottages of brick and timber and tiled roofs, a Congregational chapel, a brewery, and Mercers' Farm, part of the endowment of St. Paul's School, of which the Mercers' Company are trustees. Burbage Manor House, which stood nearly in the centre of the hamlet, was taken down in the early 18th century.²

In 1759 Susanna Hannokes, an elderly woman of Wingrave, was accused of bewitching a neighbour's spinning-wheel. She was weighed against the church Bible, but outweighing it was honourably acquitted of the charge.³

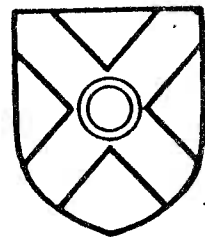
This parish was inclosed in 1797.⁴

The following place-names have been found: Aycroft, Ballwey, Dudwell, Galowes Laves, Hykstrede Jeffrey, Long and Short Madythe, Merewaterlayes, Netvn Hill. Long and Short Rede, Spyrewell, Wooland,

Wotebrache, Younderkynchyll⁵ (xvi cent.).

Before the Conquest Brictric, a man of *MANORS* Queen Edith, held, and could sell, *WINGRAVE MANOR*, and in 1086 it was assessed at 5 hides, and belonged to Miles Crispin.⁶ In the 13th century it was held as a knight's fee of the honour of Wallingford.⁷ Wingrave remained part of this honour for the next three centuries,⁸ and was later transferred to the honour of Ewelme.⁹ Its last mention in this connexion occurs in 1720.¹⁰

In 1086 Wingrave Manor was held under Miles Crispin by Niel,¹¹ probably the ancestor of William and Robert Pipard, who held respectively in 1166 six fees and one fee of the honour of Wallingford.¹² William Pipard was holding in Wingrave in 1235¹³ and 1236.¹⁴ He died about 1267 and his son and heir Edmund¹⁵ in 1272.¹⁶ He was succeeded by his brother Thomas,¹⁷ who died in 1283.¹⁸ His son and heir William was still a minor at his death in 1301.¹⁹ John Pipard, his uncle, was next in the succession,²⁰ and was still holding in 1316.²¹ His namesake had succeeded before 1346.²² William son of this John Pipard²³ was jointly enfeoffed with his wife Margery, who held Wingrave Manor at her death in 1364.²⁴ It passed to their daughter and co-heir Margaret, wife of Sir Warin Lisle.²⁵ He died seised in 1382,²⁶ when his heir was his daughter Margaret, wife of Sir Thomas de Berkeley,²⁷ fourth Lord Berkeley,²⁸ and to them Wingrave Manor was shortly afterwards conveyed.²⁹ He died in 1417, his wife having predeceased him, and the manor passed to their daughter and heir Elizabeth, wife of Richard Earl of Warwick.³⁰ It was conveyed to their daughter Elizabeth and her husband Sir George Nevill,³¹ afterwards Lord Latimer,³² in 1444.³³ He died in 1469³⁴ and she in 1481, when Wingrave Manor passed to her grandson Richard Lord Latimer.³⁵ His death occurred in 1530, and his son



NEVILL, Lord Latimer. Gules a saltire argent (with the difference of a ring sable).

John Lord Latimer³⁶ sold this manor in 1538 to Thomas Lord Cromwell,³⁷ who immediately transferred it to John,³⁸ afterwards Sir John, Gostwick, kt.³⁹ He sold it in 1544 to John Rock,⁴⁰ who died seised in 1547 in the minority of his son and heir John.⁴¹ The widow, Joan Rock, married George Eton, who acted as her son's guardian.⁴² John Rock obtained livery of his father's estates in 1567⁴³ and licence to alienate Wingrave Manor to Thomas Hyde in 1569,⁴⁴ the transfer taking place in the same year.⁴⁵ In 1570 Thomas Hyde was succeeded by his son George,⁴⁶ and he in 1580 by his brother Robert,⁴⁷ who owned this manor in 1582.⁴⁸ It was evidently sold by Robert Hyde before his death in 1607⁴⁹ to Sir Robert Dormer, and follows the same descent as Wing Manor⁵⁰ (q.v.) until after 1826. Before 1862 it had been transferred to Baron Anthony de Rothschild,⁵¹ at whose death in 1876 it descended to his nephew and heir Baron Nathan de Rothschild, the present owner.



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

OUT OF WORK?

When you have just become unemployed your first real worry is naturally "How will I manage?"

To help you at this worrying time the DHSS have 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 you lose your job, 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, keeping 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, write or call at your local Social Security office or ring Freefone - just dial 100 and ask for Freefone DHSS.

HELP LINE

In an emergency (a prescription needs collecting; hospital visit has to be made; form needs filling; a pipe has burst or whatever) please ring any of the following numbers for help:

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)

Can we add your name to our Help Line list? If so just contact any of the above.

Entente cordiale

At 1.25 am, in the small hours of Friday 29 May, Wingrave Green was absolutely silent. Only a light burning in Frank Watkins' studio, and perhaps more lit houses than one might expect at that time of night, indicated that anything unusual was afoot. Seconds later two large French coaches swung round the corner, bringing 81 weekend visitors from La Bouëxière. Within 5 minutes more than 200 people (warned by an ingenious system of free 'phone calls - sorry, you BT shareholders!) were milling around, greeting the known guests, sorting out the unknown, and fitting hosts to visitors.



Thus began an amazingly successful and happy twinning weekend. Because the theme this time was sport, a large number of new young French visitors came to us, members of the football and volleyball teams. The Friday was spent in London. Saturday was multisports day, during which ramblers rambled and cyclists cycled most of the day, we won at table-tennis, they won at volleyball, and the football match was a 0-0 draw. How's that for diplomacy?! The weekend ended with a great party and disco in the Community Centre, attended by 300 or more people.

We return to La Bouëxière in the autumn, Saturday 24 - Tuesday 27 October. We have already booked 2 coaches on the ferries and they are filling up fast. This will be both a sporting weekend, with return fixtures, and a family visit. Please book with Julian Humphrey (581341). All welcome.

Finally, a word of thanks to residents and users of the Green, for putting up with the French coaches parked there. We had arranged to park them elsewhere but they were too big to fit!

The Bull & Butcher

Berry and Marilyn Sykes
85 THE GREEN, ASTON ABBOTS, AYLESBURY, BUCKS. HP22 4LY
Telephone 0296 681520

FESTIVAL WEEK-END

LIVE MUSIC

FEATURING:

"THE MOLES"

SATURDAY 25/7/87 - 2.00 P.M.

SMOKEY AND THE BANPIT

SUNDAY LUNCH - TIME

12.00 NOON.



WINGRAVE SCHOOL SUMMER PLAYScheme

27th - 31st July 1987 10a.m.-12.30

We will be holding a Playscheme again this summer holiday for the children.

So that we can offer as many activities as possible and in order to keep the cost at 50p we would appreciate your help with any of the following list:-

yoghurt pots	elastic bands	hardboard	paper
wax crayons	s.r. flour	sugar	jam
peanut butter	old make up	wooden spoons	needles
pipe cleaners	old tights	chip board	wool
materials (all sorts)	comics, magazines	jam jars	glue
plaster of paris	panel pins	penqils	felt
small polysterene balls	marmite	kitchen towels	paint

If you are able to donate any of these items please deliver to:-
(or ring and we will collect)

Cublington:- Jan Ainsley
Cublington Cottage,
Wing Road,
Cublington.
tel: Ayl. 681874

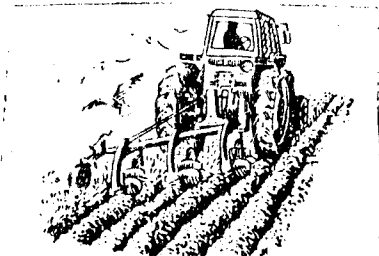
Wingrave:- Judy Kennedy
The Hollies,
27, Leighton Rd.,
Wingrave.
tel: Ayl 681627

Mentmore:- Jane Bush
Old School House,
Mentmore.
tel: Ayl. 662082

Aston Abbotts:- Les Smith
Gatesgarth,
Lines Hill,
Aston Abbotts.
tel: Ayl. 681368

It is not necessary to have children at the school in order to take part in the Playscheme. We also have a creche in operation so that mothers with younger children may also help.

Booking Forms will be available from Wingrave School, the shop and the post office, or from the above addresses.



THE CHURCHES IN WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM, ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON

July/August 1987

THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Aylesbury 681623

The election is over. You are heartily sick of it? So am I! Yet, there is one more word - MAGNANIMITY.

At 11 o'clock on the 11th November 1918, Winston Churchill was thinking about the consequences of the war with Germany that had ended. When he joined the other members of the British Cabinet, he pointed out to them that the battered enemy was close to starvation. So he suggested sending quickly 'a dozen great ships crammed with provisions' to Hamburg, but his Magnanimous proposal was rejected by his less merciful colleagues.

At that precise moment a German corporal, temporarily blinded by a gas attack a month earlier, sat in hospital contemplating the plight of his country. "I knew that all was lost," he wrote later. "Only fools, liars and criminals could hope for mercy from the enemy. In these nights hatred grew in me...I resolved to enter politics."

That soldier's name was ADOLF HITLER.

Let us suppose that Winston Churchill's magnanimity had influenced his colleagues. That the food ships had been rushed to Hamburg. The whole course of history might have been different.

What, then, has this to do with the 1987 British Election?

Simply this. Any government in power with a large majority needs to be more than sensitive to those who lost. History shows over and over again, that an act of magnanimity could have stopped a greater tragedy. It is clear now that the principle cause of the rise of Nazism was the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

What is very worrying in our country at this time is the obvious 'divide' between the North and the South. There is considerable bitterness which could lead, if not to civil war, to riots such as we have not seen in our lifetime. So we must pray for an increase of Magnanimity in human affairs - the largeness of heart that S. Paul encourages in chapter 13 of his first letter to the Corinthians. A generosity of spirit which can turn political enemies into friends.

For at the end of all our striving, success will never be measured on how right we were but the spirit in which we fought.

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

SERVICES AND EVENTS (July/August)

ASTON ABBOTTS DEDICATION & PATRONAL FESTIVAL

26 TH JULY

11.15 a.m. The Parish Communion

6.00 p.m. 'Songs of Praise' (Preacher: Rev. Peter Lemon)

25th July The Aston Abbots Village Fest (See local publicity)

CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION A final total of £385.57 was raised from the parishes as follows: Wingrave: £210.84; Rowsham: £25.96; Aston Abbots: £58.84; Cublington: £89.93. Many thanks to all collectors and all who gave.

HARVESTS IN THE CHURCHES Sept. 13th: Aston Methodist & Wingrave URC.

20th September: Wingrave Parish Church

27th September: Aston Parish Church & Wingrave Methodist

4th October: Cublington Parish Church

(Rowsham ? 6th September ?)

CONFIRMATION Those wishing to be confirmed this year should give their names to the Rector as soon as possible so that a mutually suitable day and time can be arranged for a preliminary meeting.

SERVICES EACH SUNDAY

Cublington Parish Church...The Parish Communion 8.45 a.m. (No Service Aug 2)

Wingrave Parish Church...The Parish Communion 10.00 a.m.

Aston Abbots Parish Church...The Parish Communion 11.15 a.m.

NOTE Family Services will be held at Aston Abbots, August 2nd and September 6th at 11.15 a.m. Also, at Cublington, September 6th at 10. am.

SUNDAY LESSONS

(ASB)

2nd August	Pentecost 8	{673}	Galations 5(16-25)	John 15(16-27)
9th August	Pentecost 9	{678}	Ephesians 6(10-20)	John 17(11-19)
16th August	Pentecost 10	{683}	Philippians 2(1-11)	John 13(1-15)
23rd August	Pentecost 11	{688}	2Corinthians 4(1-10)	John 13(31-35)
30th August	Pentecost 12	{693}	2Corinth. 5(14)-6(2)	John 17(20-26)
6th September	Pentecost 13	{698}	Acts 7(54)-8(1)	John 16(1-11)
13th September	Pentecost 14	{703}	Ephes. 5(25)-6(4)	Mark 10(2-16)

HOLY BAPTISM At the Aston Abbots Family Service, 7th June:

WILLIAM DAVID, son of Michael & Pamela COX

At the Cublington Family Service, 7th June:

DAVID GORDON, son of Roy & Sylvia FERGUSON

FUNERAL 8th June: Bert HARWOOD (Wingrave)

Please keep this sheet until September (it is not published in August) and you may need the information on it.

CHURCH NEWS

July 26th and 27th. is, of course, our FESTIVAL weekend which finishes with Songs of Praise at 6p.m. on the Sunday. Please come to this service which is always joyful and a chance to worship together by singing some of our favourite hymns. This invitation is addressed particularly to newcomers to the village but of course

really to all let us raise the roof - it has recently been repaired so should be safe!



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

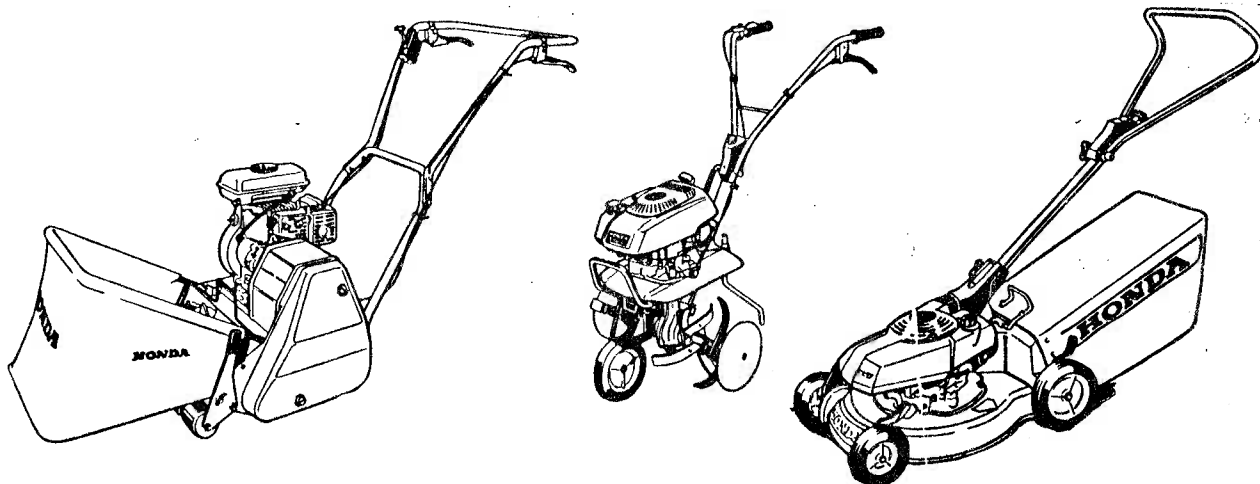
At our June P.C.C. meeting, having paid our bills for the repair of the church roof and other upkeep we were able to send £100 to Christian Aid for the relief of suffering in Mozambique. As I write that I realise that we had things in the wrong order. It is obviously absolutely a Christian duty to help anyone in need anywhere in the world whereas to keep in order a building, however lovely and treasured, should take second place. Our Lord's teaching is quite clear on this, 'do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where it grows rusty and moth-eaten, and thieves break in to steal it. Store up treasure in heaven, where there is no moth and no rust to spoil it, no thieves to break in and steal. For where your

wealth is. there will your heart be also.' People matter more than things. But back to Mozambique and people in need. Do give as generously as you can whenever you are asked to help. We are enormously rich and blessed in this country in comparison with almost anywhere else in the world. Surely we should share this wealth and blessing with others less fortunate.

CHURCH SERVICES IN JULY

5th.	July	: FAMILY SERVICE	11.15 a.m.	Sidesmen. Alison Hewitt.
		2 Tim.4(6-8:16-18)	782 Matthew 16(13-20).	
12th.	July	: HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 a.m.	Tony Hewitt.
		Ephesians 5(1-10)	658 Matthew 19(16-26).	
19th.	July	: HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 a.m.	Colin Higgs.
		Colossians 3(12-17)	663 Luke 15(11-32).	
26th.	July	: PATRONAL FESTIVAL : HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 a.m.	John Ford.
		Acts 11(27)-12(2)	790 Mark 10(35-45)	
		SONGS OF PRAISE	6.00 p.m.	Churchwardens.

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Lower St. Quainton. (Tel:Qu. 555/6)

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Reservations now being taken on
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Aylesbury 681542

Aylesbury 681425

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12 BRICSTOCK
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AYLESBURY

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THE VILLAGE SHOP

WE STOCK LOCAL

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

Elizabeth Osborn
Antiques