



# The Chronicle

Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine.

wishes you all a

# Happy New Year.

JAN. 88

ISSUE 52



# Editorial

Happy New Year to one and all.

While typing this months issue last Saturday afternoon I had the pleasure of listening to the 40 th. anniversary of Sports Report on Radio 2. It remains one of those essential pillars of British life and as a young lad I well remember rushing home from playing or watching a match to hear the last reading of the football results at about ten to six. Happy days still resurrected each Saturday afternoon by the magical music of Sports Report. It was interesting to note that the teams that led the four English divisions at the end of the first Saturday of 1988 were all stalwarts of the first division forty years ago - Liverpool, Aston Villa, Sunderland and Wolverhampton Wanderers; and Wimbledon could not have dreamt that in 1988 they would not only be a member of the Football League but would be lying seventh in the first division. Would that we could all be here for the 80th anniversary of Sports Report in 2028 Aylesbury United heading the first division. Don't laugh, Wimbledon were in a much more unlikely position forty years ago.

In the forlorn hope that sportsmanship will again return to sport in 1988 may I again wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

*Graham Parker*

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY EDITION : SATURDAY 23rd. JANUARY.  
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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# INFO

## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

- THURSDAY 7th. & 21st. : WHIST DRIVE, CHURCH ROOM, 7.30 p.m.  
THURSDAY 14th. & 28th. : BINGO, CHURCH ROOM. 7.30 p.m.  
FRIDAY 8th. : PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
CHURCH ROOM, 8.00 p.m.  
SUNDAY 10th. : FOOTPATH WALK, MEET THE GREEN 2.00 p.m.  
EVERYONE WELCOME.  
SUNDAY 17th. : RAMBLING CLUB MEMBERS MEET BRIDGEWATER  
MONUMENT, ASHRIDGE 2.00 p.m.

## Ladies Club

Our Carol Service on December 10th hosted by Cublington was an enjoyable occasion. The collection of £17 was donated to the Ethiopian Famine Appeal. Following the Service Mrs. Jo Dudmesh, with the help of Cublington members, provided a delicious tea in her home, much appreciated by everyone.

After our very successful and enjoyable Golden Celebration we met again on November 26th to greet Mrs Susan Cowdy widely known for her interest and expertise in Wildlife. On this occasion however she came to tell us about her family the Liberty's and the lovely old Chiltern village The Lee.

Mrs Cowdy's family have been in the Aylesbury area for many, many generations and she has close connections with Prebendal House and Hardwicke Village, the home of the late Miss Phyllis Stewart Liberty.

She illustrated her talk with wonderful old slides and entertained us with humorous anecdotes of life at the Manor House, The Lee, in the time of Sir Arthur and Lady Liberty, where as a child she and her mother visited and spent many happy hours.

Her Great, Great Grandfather owned a drapers shop in Chesham and from that has sprung the legendary Liberty's of London, one of the few great emporiums still controlled by a family.

We meet again on January 14th for 'Flying Memories' by Ruth Bellingham.

The Marathon Man ANDREW FORD is once again running in the London Marathon and will be raising money for the London Hospital Leukaemia Appeal. Please give generously.

### YOUTH CLUB

As Aston Abbots Youth Club is now closed, we would like to invite any 9 - 13 year olds to go to Whitchurch Youth Club on a Thursday from 7 - 9 p.m. Please contact Bob Still on Aylesbury 641618 or Sue Payne on Winslow 4625 for further information.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Graham,  
Could you please ask if anyone can help Terry Daniels (of Abbots Way, Wingrave) who is doing a project on Australia for her Guiding "Commonwealth Badge". This is part of Terry's efforts to obtain the highest award in Guiding - The Baden Powell Trefoil. So, have any of your readers been to Australia or have relations living there? Terry needs to find out about everyday life; what is essentially Australian about living 'down under'. If you can help please contact Elaine Harris at 8 Wingrave Road or telephone 681116.

Many thanks,  
Elaine Harris.

### THE CHRISTMAS SHOW

Many thanks to all ( too numerous to mention by name ) who assisted in whatever way with the " Christmas Show ". Your support was much appreciated and contributed to a successful outcome after many arduous seconds of planning and rehearsals.

Thanks also to the audiences on the two evenings who demonstrated rugged perseverance and good humour in enduring our efforts to entertain.

The show raised net proceeds of £200 with £100 going to the Playing Field Fund, £50 to The Chronicle, and the balance towards staging for next years show.

Yes folks, it looks like a revival!

Bent Withon To You All For 1988.

The Troupe.

THE CHRISTMAS SHOW - OR NOT, AS THE CASE MAY BE

By the Aston Abbotts Theatre Critic

N.O Fliesonne

It was fortunate that I was given a complimentary ticket otherwise I would have missed this extravaganza.

For those of you who missed it it was your bad luck, but for those of you were there will have realised what a pleasant night could be had from a band of village players.

A new departure was to have a real Pantomime with apparently real words. The theme was Cinderella, but because this crowd cannot do anything normal it turned out to be CINDERALFRED.

Les Smith was the hero, who, teamed together with John Whyte, appearing as Zipper, demonstrated remarkable singing voices. (Ouch!)

Chris Brandon had a snorter of an evening and is an object lesson in turning a small part into something much bigger! (Ask Brigitte)

Chris seemed to have a running battle with the audience, which was not helped by the amazing timing of cruel Step Mama, Tony Hewitt. It seemed to be the case of the amazing undergarments!

Then suddenly the whole stage was brought alive by the Hairy God Father, Andy Bystra. If only he could be stopped drinking he would be a real asset. Then just as suddenly the whole stage vanished in a pall of smoke which we all had to promise not to talk about.

So the story went on its way. There was Ruin well played by Gwyneth Price. The King and Queen played by Jon Chesher and Donna Wigett who had a most amusing confrontation with two Porta Pottis

Dandino and her footman were rhythmically played by Karen Brandon and Alison Ford.

Esther Chesher appeared as a leggy Chancellor.

The final starring part went to Margaret Kent, as Princess Pearl, a convincing performance.

The whole thing was kept together by Neil Chesher, who seems to have less hair everytime he does this.

In between the scenes we had the travelling players of Ray Wilkison, Maralyn Sykes and Dave (I've got a Hernia) Wheaton. I must say that, for her age, Maralyn is in somewhat better shape than old Wilkinson.

There was a nice professional touch from Fred Meagram. He brought a ray of sunshine.

If they do a pantomime again I reckon they should have a childrens evening because the kids that were there and one in particular called Price seemed to have a whale of a time.

The quality of the Raffle is also well known so a thanks to all the prize donors and to the organisers, one very famous Mrs Robinson and a certain Mrs Chesher.

An excellent evenings fun and entertainment.

# People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BIRTHDAYS

JANE PLESTED ..... 7th. January.

SARAH PLESTED ..... 7th. January.

JAMES CLARKE ..... 10th. January.

TONY HINDS ..... 13th. January.

[This is the BIG one; yes our Tone is 40 and still playing football.]

FRED POULTER Snr ..... 18th. January.

CLIFFORD PRICE ..... 28th. January.

[Another BIG one. Cliff is also 40, but how did we find out ?]

RICHARD PLESTED ..... 29th. January.

## CRYPTIC

Well done STEVE. Good luck with the decorating.

## TEA TOWELS

Could anyone who has removed tea towels from the Church Room please return them.

## CHRISTMAS SHOW (R.I.P.)

Well done to Tony Hewitt and friends for keeping up the annual fun with the "Not the Christmas Show Show".

## FOR SALE

Double bed (no jokes, please). Phone 681425.

## VIEW FROM THE CORNER OF THE GREEN

It is almost a year since the 'View from the Corner of the Bar' vanished from this this organ, but, by popular demand this new view will try to continue in the same spirit even though it now has a new author.

The Green is very bare with all the leaves gone off the trees and it tends to expose things. For instance, those thoughtful people who park their cars up on the grass. Percy's old house looks a bit forlorn having lain empty for months. Such a shame after what was a nicely looked after house with a garden to rival the best in the land.

People told me that the reason the pavement had been dug up going down to the Firs was the fault of the new bungalow, but I was surprised to find out that it was something to do with burying the electric power lines. Let us hope they do the same thing for the rest of the village and it is not a case of favouritism.

The Royal Oak seems to have gone through a remarkable transformation from unspoilt to brassydom. Is it a sign of how the village is about to change? [See 'Inside the Back Page'.]

I wonder how many people have almost come to grief at the roadway gate at the end of Moat Lane. It can't all be the fault of the chickens. Perhaps we have got a Parish Council that can do something about it before there is a really serious accident ... or maybe we have got the Parish Council we deserve.

See you next month.

## LANDLORD RINGS IN NEW YEAR

Extraordinary scenes were witnessed in the Bull & Butcher on New Years Eve. The landlord, in one of his more relaxed and playful moods, decided to hold a one man cabaret amid the hubbub of revellers intent on consuming liquid uplifters. This ding dong battle went on for some time and to gain attention he felt compelled to strike the brass bell above the bar. This left revellers with a ringing in the ears.

He tried to persuade the thronging masses, first of all to move to the car park and then, in desperation, to go to the other pub.

[All that was missing was the 'Eight Bells and the Parrot on the shoulder routine.] Fortunately his customers had enough good sense to remain where they were.

All the excitement finally took its toll and five minutes before the New Year the bar was closed ....

Yes, The chimes they are a changing !!!

## CONGRATULATIONS

to Piers Parker who was selected to play for the Leighton Linlade & District Under 14 representative side in a match at Bedford in the week after Christmas. Piers has another year in the age group as does fellow Wingrave team-mate Anthony Bishop.



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

MARRIED WOMEN'S PENSION RIGHTS

Although the DHSS normally invite people who are entitled to some pension to claim, married women often slip through the net, often because contributions were paid in their maiden name or they have moved address and cannot be traced.

Recent changes in legislation have made it easier for married women to qualify for a retirement pension. Any married woman aged at least 60 who does not receive a pension because of the additional test a married woman had to satisfy should make enquiries about her entitlement at her local DHSS office.

If you have reached 60 you only need to have paid for a total of 10 years sometime during your working life to get some pension. Sometimes periods when you paid before 1948 can count in this total of 10 years. Even if you only worked during the war years it may still be worth enquiring.

So if you think you may be entitled to a small pension write to the Pensions Sections at your local social security office and ask them to look at your records. Or if you want to discuss it with the Freephone advisors just dial 100 and ask the operator for Freephone DHSS.



From a wood engraving by Thomas Bewick.

# Calabaret Time

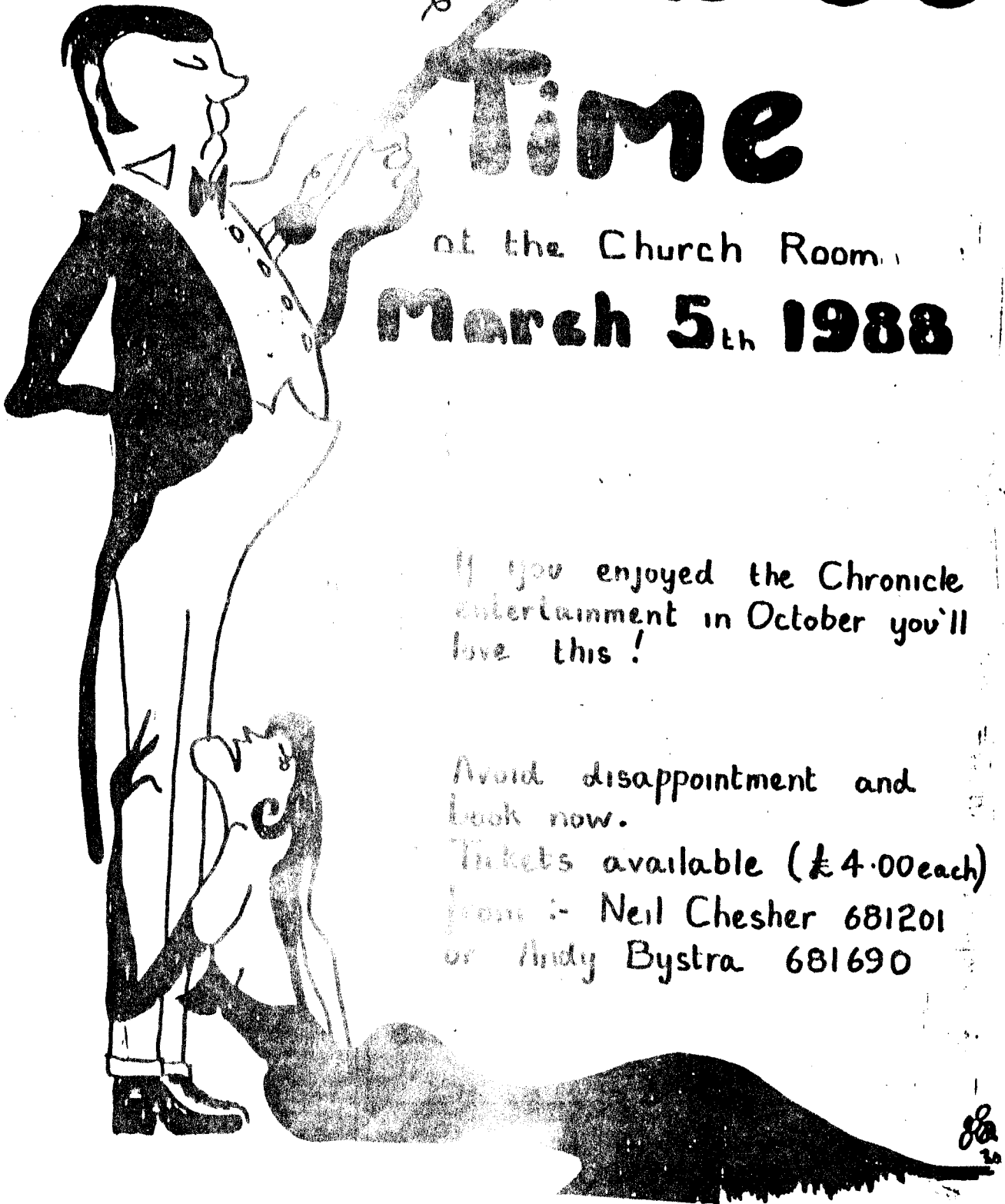
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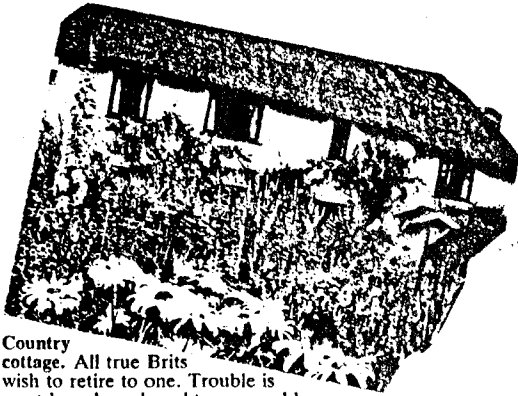
Dogs. Nearly six million live here, eat over 500,000 tonnes of petfood and excrete similar quantities on pavements



Penguin Books. Allen Lane's flightless bird took off to mass-produce paperbound reprints in the Thirties



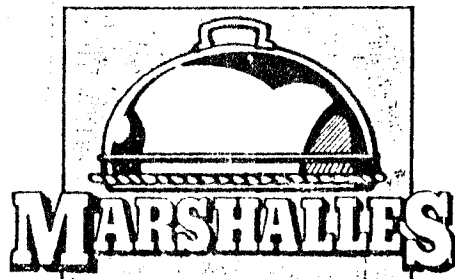
Woodbines. Forbidden first behind the gymnasium



Country cottage. All true Brits wish to retire to one. Trouble is most have been bought as second homes



Lollipop lady. Human, all-weather version of the zebra and panda crossing; good with children



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## THE GREAT PUB COMPETITION

### A CHALLENGE FROM BARRY AND MARALYN.

The Bull and Butcher is about to undergo some major internal renovations, paid for by ABC Breweries.

To ensure that the pub remains a true village pub Barry and Maralyn are offering a prize of £25 to the best design submitted before 31st March 1988.

The competition is open to anybody from the village whether a regular at the pub or not.

The conditions of the competition are as follows:

1. The external walls are the boundaries of the design.
2. There is to be no hint of yuppieness
3. There has to be a quiet place for the landlord to lie down
4. All designs to be submitted by March 1st 1988
5. Percy's chair stays!
6. The landlords decision is final and his wife has told him to say that.

There will be a gala night in the pub to announce the winning scheme and a presentation will be made. Date to be confirmed.

You will be pleased to know that there have already been some entries.

Andreas Eystra has submitted one design which wetted the appetite of the Brewery.

Peter Dines has requested an extension to the outdoor theatre area and for just a little extra soundproofing for the walls.

There was a story about the new post office being incorporated in the design but that ran into a wall of opposition.

Wilkinson wanted a pipe line built in to his new house to save him the nightly walk.

Better hurry before the Friends of Aylebury Vale place a preservation order on the place.

Watch for further announcements.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Colin Higgs, [Chairman], 6 Wingrave Road. Tel: 681343.

John Whyte, 14 Bricstock. Tel: 681685.

John Ford, 2 Ross Road. Tel: 681865.

Richard Speakman, 79 The Green. Tel: 681042.

Bryan Round, [Co-opted], 11 Nup End Lane, Wingrave.  
Tel: 681621.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: FRIDAY 8th. JANUARY 1988.

# AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL



## AYLESBURY VALE STAYING PUT

### WHAT IS STAYING PUT?

As they get older many home owners find it increasingly difficult to repair or improve their homes and as a consequence they live in uncomfortable and inconvenient conditions. Some are able to move to something smaller in order to make life more comfortable, but this is not suitable for all. Many would prefer to stay in their own homes in familiar surroundings, near friends and relatives.

"Staying Put" can help those who would prefer to stay in their own home. "Staying Put" is a service offered to elderly home owners to help them to carry out improvements, alterations and repairs needed to make their homes more comfortable, safe and secure.

### WHAT DOES "STAYING PUT" OFFER THE CLIENT?

- A comprehensive advice service on "Staying Put" and other housing alternatives.
- Advice and help in arranging repairs or building work, including advice on surveys, estimates and other associated matters.
- Advice and help with Local Authority grant applications.
- Advice and help with applications for other forms of finance from Building Societies and Banks.
- Advice and help with applications to the Department of Health and Social Security (D.H.S.S.) for extra help with repair or building costs.
- General support and help whilst building work is carried out.

### THE BENEFITS OF "STAYING PUT"

Surveys have shown that most older properties in poor repair are owned by retired people. The aim of "Staying Put" is to assist older home owners to tackle repair problems and carry out improvements thus enabling them to remain in their own homes if that is what they would prefer.

For further information regarding "Staying Put" please contact the project manager:-

Miss Julie Gale  
Aylesbury Vale District Council,  
84 Walton Street,  
AYLESBURY,  
Buckinghamshire.  
HP21 7QT

Tel: Aylesbury 395900 Ext.518

# PUZZLE PAGE

The set of questions that follow are taken from the WORLDWISE QUIZ book published by the Geographical Association. Answers next month.

## Explorers and Travellers

The Finals of the Worldwise Quiz are held at the Royal Geographical Society in London. The R.G.S. has sponsored many geographical expeditions in the past and is full of mementoes from exploration. So here's a round about explorers and travellers - some of the geographers who are famous from the past.

1. A famous Scottish explorer and missionary travelled extensively in Africa and was the first white man to find the River Zambesi. Near the end of his life he had a meeting with the journalist H. M. Stanley in Africa. Who was he?
2. The first crossing of one continent was not achieved until 1955. Which one?
3. Hillary and Tensing climbed Everest in 1953 - the highest mountain in the world and in the Himalayas. The next half-dozen highest mountains in the world are also in the Himalayas. Can you name any of them?
4. Captain R. F. Scott led a famous expedition in HMS Discovery. Where was he aiming for?
5. Which continental interior did the explorer J. M. Stuart explore?
6. Why were all the early air crossings of the Atlantic from west to east, and none from east to west?
7. 1066 is a famous date in history; why is 1492 a famous date in geography?
8. A famous British explorer was renowned as a pioneer flyer in his early days and then late in life he sailed round the world single-handed in a small boat called the Gypsy Moth IV (now at the National Maritime Museum). Who was he?
9. In 1983 the expedition of Sir Ranulf Fiennes (pronounced Fines) received a lot of publicity. He was the first person to journey from where to where?
10. James Cook was killed in the Sandwich Islands in the Pacific. Since that time they have changed their name. What are the Sandwich Islands called today?

### EXPLANATION OF LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE:

This was an exercise in logic and is often misunderstood even by the sharpest of brains. Only by turning over cards  $\boxed{0}$  and  $\boxed{5}$  will the rule be tested ..... let me explain:

- (i) If card  $\boxed{0}$  is turned over and an even number is on the other side then this substantiates the rule. If an odd number is on the other side then this goes counter to the rule. Card  $\boxed{0}$  helps to test the rule.
- (ii) If card  $\boxed{\Delta}$  is turned over then this provides no evidence to either support or go counter to the rule. The rule says nothing about a  $\boxed{\Delta}$  card but only refers to  $\boxed{0}$ . A  $\boxed{\Delta}$  card can have an odd or even number on its reverse side.
- (iii) If card  $\boxed{6}$  is turned over and a circle is on the other side then this appears to substantiate the rule. If, however, a triangle is there then this in no way contradicts the rule. As mentioned in (ii) a  $\boxed{\Delta}$  card can have odd or even numbers on its reverse side. Turning over  $\boxed{6}$  provides no test for the rule.
- (iv) If card  $\boxed{5}$  is turned over and a  $\boxed{\Delta}$  is seen then this supports the rule since a  $\boxed{0}$  should not be observed. If a  $\boxed{0}$  is seen then this goes counter to the rule. Turning over  $\boxed{5}$  helps to test the rule.

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# STRIDING OUT

No. 3. ERIC NEWBY

## HIS PICNICS HOLD THEIR HORRORS

*Travellers:  
A profile of Eric Newby,  
brilliant survivor of mishaps*

IF, INSTEAD of finding ourselves in our usual seat on the Clapham omnibus, we armchair travellers were to be placed upon yaks riding into the Karakoram with a Hunza porter, two months' provisions, and instructions to make for Yarkand, no companion upon a neighbouring yak would be greeted with more delighted relief than the stalwart and eager figure of Eric Newby. 'Everyman, I will go with thee and be thy guide': to no travel writer's works is the epigraph of the Everyman Library a better fit.

For there is nothing in Eric Newby (as he projects his personality in his books) of that lonely, craggy singularity which is the repellent, if awe-inspiring, characteristic of 'the great traveller'. Newby will not, we feel, keep striding ahead to reconnoitre mountain-tops, keep pushing us beyond our limit, keep pointing sternly to a further horizon for today's march than we can hope to attain. He seems to possess no specialised skills. Tough as he must be, it appears to be the kind of resilience which enables him to recover from mishap, rather than the horniness of carapace which is impervious to the ill-usage of hard travel. If he drinks water from a Persian brook, he is as ill as the rest of us would be, his toughness not preserving him from harm but enabling him to stagger onwards, though seriously harmed. The impression we have of a journey made in his company is not of an expedition, but of a picnic overtaken by misfortune. It is this expectation he has of enjoying himself — the vigorous good-humour of his voice as we hear it in his narrative — his evident good-fellowship — which makes him a companion to be chosen above any traveller, past or present, if a real journey were to be made with any writer of books of travel.

The two books that first made his name, *The Last Grain Race* and *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush* — one the account of a voyage in a square-rigger undertaken at 19,

the other a journey into Nuristan made at 37 — are the narratives of two remarkable adventures. Still, there have been adventures equally stirring recorded in books of travel: Newby's genius, above other travellers, is to select and delineate both his incidents and his *dramatis personae* so



that each character and each event shapes and advances his narrative in so artistic a fashion that the satisfactory symmetry of fiction seems to be added to the vigour of truth. Take Hugh Carless, his companion in the Hindu Kush. Mr Carless is the very man a novelist might hope to invent to inflict upon Mr Newby in wild lands if an amusing book were to result. His precision, his experience, his wariness, his

preparations, all contrast wonderfully with Newby's slapdash methods. No caricature out of *Stiff Upper Lip*, he is yet very easily recognisable by Everyman as a diplomat, which enables us to flesh him out in our own minds, and imagine his responses even when they are not recorded. Dialogue between Carless and Newby never fails to distinguish the character of each more clearly, so that the contrasts and frictions of their relationship develop alongside the narrative. Newby asks: "What's a kro?" Carless: "One kro equals half an Iranian farsak." It was some time before I was able to pluck up courage to ask what an Iranian farsak was. "The distance a man travels over flat ground in an hour. And, quite frankly, I think you should have made more progress with your Persian by now."

The dialogue — the art — is faultless. Or take an exchange in a cave in the Apennines between Newby and another escaped PoW, which refers to Newby's cough. "You should try to control yourself," he said severely one day when he was thoroughly exasperated. "I do try," I said. "Do you think I enjoy it?" "I don't know," he said, and I felt like striking him.' It is scenes so human as these, where the landscape and the circumstances have squeezed the people together, which are a rarity in books of travel.

Dialogue in a book of travels (unless the writer has the total recall which Mr Newby specifically disclaims) must surely be art. With equal art Mr Newby makes sure that his actors — the fo'c'sle full of seamen in *The Last Grain Race* for example — do not outgrow the role required of them by dramatic narrative. He creates no Frankenstein's monster which will hog the stage. The Captain of the *Moshulu*, like the seamen, is all he should be — all we half-remember from reading Marryat or Dana — but neither he nor anyone else in Mr Newby's books is so excessively original a 'character' as to unbalance the narrative or to distract our attention from our chief interest in it, which is to listen to Mr Newby's account of his adventures and to watch our hero's character displayed in action. For it is always Newby we want more of — Newby we sympathise with — Newby's cough, or feet, or dashed hopes, with which we suffer. Without one word of vanity in all his books, he emerges effortlessly as the hero of them all.

As leading lady his wife, Wanda, plays a beautifully orchestrated part too. An individual of magnetism and resolution from her first appearance in *Love and War in the Apennines*, her progress towards a co-starring role is steady throughout successive books: in *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush* taken only as far as Tehran, she completes the voyage (though constantly threatening to 'go back to my country and my people') in *Slowly Down the Ganges*, and is, in *On the Shores of the Mediterranean*, the writer's indispensable companion, their inseparability understood and admired by us quite as if we knew them as a 'devoted

THE SPECTATOR 21 September 1985

## 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)

couple' of our acquaintance.

This, of course, we do not. To make us believe, through his books, that we have the privilege of his friendship — that he, who has stood 150 feet above the deck of a square-rigger in a full gale in the Southern Ocean, is here sitting by us on the sofa — is the illusion produced by the charm of his writing. The style, the exuberantly humorous tone, is wonderfully beguiling. But literary art which includes only what is relevant to the narrative of a journey must exclude as irrelevancies all the traveller leaves behind him at home. Of day-to-day life *chez* Newby we know nothing. Of the hopes and fears, even of the spirit behind that handsome, full-blooded face turned eagerly towards adventure we know little. The traveller's life, driven by restlessness, is fitful and episodic. 'Prayer' (he decided during the war) 'is at most . . . a reminder that there has been a past and might be a future.' What we must wish for, in short, is that the episodes be linked. *A Traveller's Life*, which might not be thought his 'best' or 'most amusing' book, does however convey by its very faults the impression of an episodic and restless existence, and so perhaps tells us, more truly than does the narrative of a single journey, what inroads of uncertainty and fragmentation a passion for travel and adventure may make in a man's life.

Certainly the war, coming when he was 20, would have drawn him into adventures, but nothing is more bizarre than the

inspiration of his travels according to his own account of it. 'Diving in Starehole Bay, I saw what remained of the 4-masted Finnish sailing barque . . . which had crashed into the Ham Stone with a cargo of grain . . . the way back to London . . . I wrote a letter to the owner . . . asking him for a place in one of his grain ships.'

A wrecked ship is a dark reason for going to sea, yet connection might be made between his diver's view of the foundered sailing ship, which inspired him to take a place in one like her, and his view of 19th-century Constantinople, as it appeared to him in the depths of Bartlett and Allom's dream-like engravings, and inspired in him a craving to travel into that vanished Eastern world. The gusto with which he dwells upon the horrors of bowstring and sack in old Stamboul might be linked to the attractions which the doomed ship held for him. The true traveller is not content without dangers and terrors, however lightheartedly he may afterwards relate them. We realise with alarm that our picnicking friend Mr Newby has more about him after all of that grim, fierce spirit of the old travellers than he allows to appear. As he lets fall at the end of a chapter describing 19th-century Constantinople, 'I was born 100 years too late.'

Perhaps it is fear of being 'too late' which is the mainspring of the traveller's energy. When he is young, the vanished world which beguiles him — City of the

Sultan or sunken barque — appears to be just within grasp, if he goes at once, this minute, in quest of it. Hence *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush* and *The Last Grain Race*, those two spirited forays into the 19th century. Later in life it seems that the desired world withdraws beyond reach, and, when the traveller can persuade himself that what he wanted of it has gone forever, he may retire. Ending *A Traveller's Life* Newby seems to say that he is tired of travelling in a world spoiled by 'tourism'. Perhaps he meant that eight years as travel editor of the *Observer* had satiated his meaner desires as a traveller — the desire merely to rush about and see places with minimum trouble and no expense — or perhaps he meant, more gravely, that he could no longer find the energy or appetite for turning back the clock with sufficient force to overcome the mishap of being born 100 years too late.

Eric Newby now lives in a manor house on the Isle of Purbeck, its large garden well-stocked with statues and obelisks, the spare elegance of its rooms ready to welcome his two children and his grandchildren. The size of the place — its permanence — the obduracy of such a possession — does not weigh him down. He and Wanda live there, as they do everything, for the fun of the thing. Asked (by a country neighbour) who would look after the garden while they were away for some months in Italy, he turns to Wanda with genuine surprise: 'Yes, who *will* look after the garden when we're away?' Will the many trees he has planted, as well as the weight of the statues and obelisks he has erected, anchor him at last to the spot? Dorset neighbours would be amazingly fortunate if he 'settled down'. For everyone acquainted with the man, in person or through his books, will have reflected, when reading the famous story of his meeting with Wilfrid Thesiger in the Hindu Kush, on an unrecorded aspect of the encounter: what a stroke of luck for Thesiger to run into Eric Newby, of all Englishmen, on an Afghan slope at dusk.

If he doesn't recover the energy to push back the clock and resume his adventures, remaining instead in his Dorset manor, he may yet please his readers in another form. In the preface to *Love and War in the Apennines* he lists the inadequacies of his experiences as an escaped POW and comments: 'Scarcely a help in producing an exciting book. I let the whole thing drop.' He let it drop from 1945 until 1971. Those 25 years of reflection turned what might only have been 'an exciting book' into (some would say) his masterpiece to date. The elapse of time, too, must have encouraged him to take those liberties with exact truth also mentioned in his preface — 'It is not true/And if it were it would not do' — which are the liberties of the novelist. Having entertained us with journeys as vividly recounted as any of James Morier's, Mr Newby alone of modern travel writers is equipped to rival Morier's feat in producing a novel as entertaining as *Haji Baba*.

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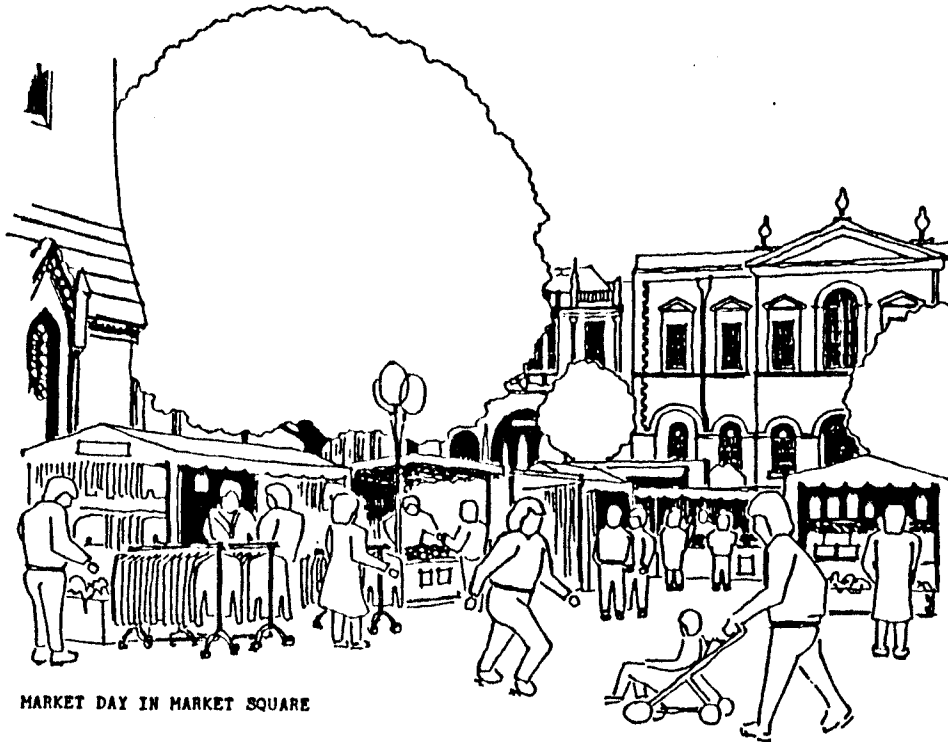
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# AYLESBURY OPEN MARKET

Should it go back on the cobbles?



MARKET DAY IN MARKET SQUARE

In 1984, a study was commissioned to seek views on the future of shopping in Aylesbury. One of the recommendations of the Study was that the layout and environment of Friars Square should be improved. To move the open market may help this to come about, as the space vacated could be used to make more of Friars Square.

The District Council has looked at available sites in the town centre to see where the market could go were it to move, and all but one were found to be either too small or too remote from the shops. The one exception was Market Square from where the open market operated about twenty years ago. It is a good central position and, with changes to the roads, would be big enough to hold the full market.

The District Council has now carried out a further study to look in detail at the implications of moving the open market to Market Square. Before making any decisions on the study's findings, the Council is interested to know what local people, local shopkeepers and the traders themselves think about such a move.

This leaflet aims to describe the report's main ideas and proposals and gives you the chance to send in your own views.

## The present market

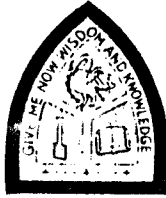
The present market suffers from a number of practical problems, particularly from poor access for unloading and loading of market vehicles. This has to be done from Bourbon Street because the walkways around the sunken market area are not strong enough to support vehicles. The change of level also makes it hard for the market traders to get their goods to the stalls.

Because of these problems, the market has not operated as well as it might.





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



WING COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL  
 AYLESBURY ROAD  
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 LEIGHTON BUZZARD  
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## A LETTER FROM WING. December, 1987

In recent months there has been a very high coverage of Education in the media. This has been instigated by the publication, first of all of six consultation papers, and then of a new Education Bill by the Secretary of State for Education, Kenneth Baker. No matter which "side" you may be on in the present debate the one thing that is certain is that Education is in for a long period of change. Much of this may be for the good, but other changes, I believe, will lead to consequences far greater than have been realined.

My fear is that there is "too much, too quickly". There is no time to settle down and consolidate the changes made in the introduction of G.C.S.E. before we are being asked to:

- (a) test pupils at 7, 11, 14 and 16.
- (b) develop a core curriculum for all pupils.
- (c) give more control over the running of schools to Governors and Headteachers.
- (d) consider whether to 'opt out' of the system and run our school separate from the Local Authority.
- (e) give more choice to parents.

This is only a small selection from the massive Education Bill, but can give an idea of how unsettled the next five years will be within Education.

I am not against change. There have been a number of positive developments at Wing over the past 3½ years, but we never seem able to consolidate one set of changes before others are prescribed. There is also a resource implication which never seems to be met or a consequence to pupils which has not been envisaged.

Extra funding and staffing was allocated for G.C.S.E., but even with an "enhancement" from County it is very difficult to develop the courses as they are envisaged. I am allowed an extra teacher for three days a week and this has been very helpful in keeping groups small and allowing a little extra preparation and marking time for staff, but it does not help at examination time when pupils have to be examined individually or in small groups for oral, practical and course work purposes.

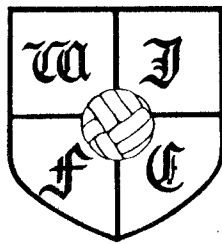
When this is added to Staff Training, the problem increases. We are all impressed by the response to teachers needs for in-service training. Recent developments have allowed money for this to take place, but it does mean that the teacher going on a course is replaced by a supply teacher, if one can be found. Over a year this can build up into a large number of lessons that a class does not have with a regular teacher. When this is added to the fact that the regular teachers will also not be available when they are conducting oral exams and practicals the extent of my concern can be seen.

I hope that parents, employers and all interested community people will find out what the proposed changes will actually mean. It is only a knowledgeable and interested group of people who will be able to make sure that any change actually improves education and raises standards. So far in the last two months I have visited three Middle/Combined Schools to talk to parents about Wing and changes in Education. The response, if measured by attendance, has been poor, but has been good if measured by the interest of those attending. I must wonder, however, if parents are prepared to give the commitment to Education on which many of these proposed changes depend.

If any of you have questions about Education please do not hesitate to contact me.

IVAN ANDREW

# WINGRAVE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB



## DECEMBER RESULTS

### UNDER 16's

13th. December : Wingrave 0 Wing 6.  
Only nine lads put up a commendable fight against one of the League's better teams. There were no other games in December.

### UNDER 14's

6th. December : Brooklands 0 Wingrave 2.  
Danny Scott 2.

13th. December : Water Eaton 3 Wingrave 1  
Michael Cheval.

### UNDER 12's

6th. December : Brooklands 1 Wingrave 6.  
Darren Springett 2, Kevin Pretty , Alistair Duncan + 2 o.g's.

13th. December : Arrows 3 Wingrave 3.  
Kevin Pretty, Darren Springett, Lee Bracey-Wright.

20th. December : Wingrave 2 B.R.Foxes 1  
Darren Springett + o.g.

## DAD'S v. LAD'S NEW YEAR CLASSIC

On a mild, but damp, New Years Day a large crowd of barely sober adults gathered to participate in this annual ritual. Both under 12 and under 14 teams played two matches of 20 minutes each half and one parent Peter Arnold managed to keep going through all four 'halves' and score several memorable goals. Two of these goals were notable for an interesting new ploy that is being closely studied on video by the England management. The deliberate miss kick when the chance was offered caused the defence to collapse in fits of barely controlled laughter resulting in an easy tap-in second chance. Such skills brought the under 14 Dads a convincing victory, but Peter was unable to reproduce those skills when hustled and harried by swarms of red shirted juniors who bubbled and buzzed to a deserved victory over their Dads. The fortified coffee and mincepies that followed, rounded off a very enjoyable morning and once again made a memorable introduction to the New Year.

## MATCHES FOR JANUARY

|           | <u>Under 16's.</u>                         | <u>Under 14's.</u>                        | <u>Under 12's.</u>                       |
|-----------|--|---|--|
| 3rd. Jan  | : v.Bedgrove Dynamos(H)                    | No Match                                  | v.Pitstone(H)                            |
| 10th. Jan | : 1st. Round of League Cup.                | v.Corinthians (A)                         | v.All Saints (H)                         |
| 17th. Jan | : v.Chiltern Athletic(A)                   | v.Arrows (A)                              | v.Corinthians (A)                        |
| 24th. Jan | : v.Tring Tornadoes (H)                    | v.Woodside (H)                            | v.Woodside (H)                           |
| 31st. Jan | : v.Thame (H)                              | v.Brooklands (H)                          | v.999 (H)                                |
|           | [Home games at the Rec.<br>K.O. 2.30 p.m.] | [Home games at the Rec<br>K.O. 2.15 p.m.] | [Home games at the<br>School K.O. 10.30] |

# Portraits of Buckinghamshire

No. 26. LONG CRENDON MANOR.

The first foundations to Long Crendon Manor were laid in or about the year 1350. This vast, uneven, stone-hewn, lattice-windowed, oaken-gated, Tudor-chimneyed, part timber-framed building, set around a stone-paved courtyard, really does take the breath away.



*Long Crendon Manor, Frogmore Lane.*

Sketch by Elizabeth Ogan in Elizabeth Cull's 'A Picture of Buckinghamshire, published by Robert Hale in 1985.

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## The Wingrave Singers

A happy new year to you all!

If you attend the monthly service of Evensong at the Church of SS Peter & Paul, Wingrave you will probably have noticed a new face conducting the Wingrave Singers.

My name is Malcolm Bury - I live in Aston Clinton - and my musical interests stem from a long association with church choirs including twelve years as a Lay Clerk in St. Alban's Cathedral Choir. In addition, during a five-year work assignment in New Zealand, I directed two choirs and two orchestras.

My aim with the Singers is to further the appreciation and acceptance of the musical parts of our services by ensuring that they are, where possible, related to the scriptures of the day.

Certain changes in our approach to some services are now occurring, the inclusion of the Junior Choir in the Advent Service and the restoration of the General Confession at Evening Prayer to mention but two. During the next couple of months we shall be ringing the changes with some new, but equally singable, chants for the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis and some different Responses. It is important that participation in musical parts of the services is earnest and meaningful.

Looking to Epiphany, we will be singing Evensong on January 24 when the Intoit, "When to the Temple Mary went" by Eccard, will reflect the presentation of Christ in the Temple. The anthem, "Bethlehem of Noblest City" by Peter Hurford (recently Master of the Music at St Alban's Cathedral) is an arrangement of the Epiphany Hymn (A&MNS No 48) of the same text.

Regrettably Evensong is a service that appears to be attracting few parishoners not, I believe, because of any inherent unpopularity in the service itself but mainly because more people prefer to attend the family service to make their Communion. However, the traditional service has a relevance of its own and provides a further and alternative way of practising our faith. The Wingrave Singers have a particular love for this service and we want to share our music with you; please come and help us make our offerings a little more special.

MGB.

### WINGRAVE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

On Saturday 30 January at 8 pm in Wingrave Community Centre, the association will be holding an Open Meeting, followed by Cheese, Wine and a sociable get-together. Everyone is most welcome, those who are already involved in the twinning, those who would like to get involved, and those naturally curious to know what we get up to! Please come and join us. We shall be discussing our 1988 programme and any other twinning matters people wish to bring up. 1988 membership subscriptions can also be paid that evening.



The first Twinning Association Newsletter of 1988 will be out in early January. It will be delivered to all present members of the association and to people known to be interested. Spare copies will be available free to anyone who would like one. Please contact Jean Keighley (681235).

# CHURCH NEWS

How splendid our two special Christmas services were. First the Carol Service, led by Rev. Jim Woodward, the Bishop's Chaplain, when the congregation count gave us 84. Those who were there will certainly remember the service in many different ways. The readings were a delightful mixture of the old and the new, the familiar and the unfamiliar, and the address on 'Gifts' reminded us that, as in so many things, it's the motive which really matters. Last but not least Jim Woodward had time, in what must be a very busy life, to stay and mingle amongst us whilst we enjoyed the tea and mincepies, once again provided by our splendid team of helpers.



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

Second was our Christmas Day Family Service, where over one hundred and twenty people crowded our little church. It seemed to me that the service itself reached new heights this year and that takes some doing! The delightful mixture of formality and informality really fused. It was very good to see so many complete families in church ranging often through three generations. What a way to begin the day! If you weren't moved by the fellowship, as we once again heard of the beginnings of our faith, you must be a very hard nut indeed. The Rector reminded us all that the church has managed to hold, for some years now, to its intention that 10% of its gross income should be given to charities. This year is no exception and as well as £100 given earlier in the year to the Mozambique Fund, the P.C.C. decided to support

the following: Crisis at Christmas £50; Christian Aid £50; Great Ormond Street Hospital £50. An impressive and worthy list I think you'll agree. We could give more next year if you will help.

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR JANUARY

10th. January : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m.  
Ephesians 2(1-10) 465 John 1(29-34)

17th. January : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m.  
1 Samuel 3(1-10) 469 John 1(35-51)

24th. January : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m.  
Philippians 4(10-20) 471 John 6(1-14)

31st. January : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m.  
1 Corinthians 2(1-10) Luke 8(4-15).

## Sidesman

Tony Hewitt.

Colin Higgs.

Alison Hewitt.

Gillian Ford.





LOOK DAD! A MIRACLE; THE VICARS  
... MAKING IT FLY

WITH APOLOGIES TO THE (REVEREND) HELPER FOR WHAT  
WAS AFTER ALL ONLY A MIND SLIP.

January 1988

THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Aylesbury 681623

The old man with the scythe approaches. Another year has passed as we change the date to 1988. And I ask the question:

"Can you find the time?"

We might almost expect the answer "No". Whether it is to come to Church, to visit a hospital, to collect for charity, or to do some extra weeknight job..."I'm sorry, I haven't the time!"

Yet we are always trying to save time. The advertisements scream at us to purchase all sorts of different time-saving appliances. But we don't seem to have necessarily any time in reserve at the end.

A foreign student was being shown over London. His English friend took him on the Underground, and as they were tramping along the endless subterranean passages, the sudden draught indicated that a train was approaching. Immediately the Englishman seized the visitor's arm and dragged him at break-neck speed, just managing to hurl themselves through the train's closing doors. When he had recovered his breath he exclaimed proudly, "There! that saved us five minutes."

"Good," replied the student, "and now what shall we do with them?"

Someone has said that the definition of a gentleman is somebody who can listen to you without looking at his watch all the time. Life can become too much the slave of the time-table. On the other hand, keeping to time and planning is important. Yesterday, last year, is dead beyond hope of resurrection, so never talk idly of "killing time". You cannot afford such senseless murder.

We live in a world full of needs. There must always be time for others. We can "find the time". If fire broke out in your home, you wouldn't say, "I haven't time to ring the fire brigade just now."

It is vital that we find time to be alone, time for prayer, time to think things out, to sort out tangled motives, desires and ambitions. To hear the 'still small voice' that comes only when other voices are silent.

So make your appointments. Keep them faithfully with God and with others, and with yourself. And may you discover the true pattern for the use of time - this year and always.

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

S E R V I C E S   A N D   E V E N T S

CHRISTMAS GIFTS The Church of England Children's Society received £155 as a result of the Christingle held in Wingrave Parish Church on Sunday December 13th. Gifts of toys and parcels were collected at the Cublington Carol Service and the 'Nativity Scenes' at Wingrave on Sunday 20th December and given to the MacIntyre School.

SUNDAY LESSONS (ASB)

|               |                  |                        |               |
|---------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| 24th January  | Epiphany 3 (471) | Philippians 4(10-20)   | John 6(1-14)  |
| 31st January  | 9 before Easter  | 1 Corinthians 2(1-10)  | Luke 8(4-15)  |
| 7th February  | 8 before Easter  | 2 Corinthians 12(1-10) | Mark 7(24-37) |
| 14th February | 7 before Easter  | Colossians 1(18-23)    | John 8(2-11)  |
| 21st February | Lent 1 (503)     | Hebrews 4(12-16)       | Luke 4(1-13)  |

PARISHES LENT Ash Wednesday is on 17th February and we shall be holding our Eucharist at Wingrave this year. We also plan to hold a lunch at 1 p.m. each Wednesday in Wingrave Parish Church followed by a short Service of devotion with hymns. Transport for those who need it.

DEANERY LENT As usual there will be an evening Service in some of the churches in the Deanery. This will consist of Compline with addresses each week by special preachers. These will also be on Wednesdays, beginning 24th February.

CONFIRMATION The following were confirmed by the Bishop of Buckingham at S. Barnabas, Linlade on Wednesday, 25th November:

Mark Cooper, Thomas Eadie, Ellis Kitchener, Neil Gurney  
Elisabeth Meddows (Baptised 22nd November), Rosemary Meddows,  
Caroline Missen, Kim Perkins.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER DEFEND, O LORD, these your servants with your heavenly grace that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until they come to your everlasting kingdom.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETINGS

These meetings are important to those who believe that the Church has a significant contribution to make to individuals and to the life of the community. So we try to hold them when we think the most can come together. They begin with the election of Churchwardens, review the year's work, and conclude with a short meeting of the newly elected PCC to appoint officers and to deal with any urgent matters.

Aston Abbots...Monday, 15th February at 7.30 p.m.

Cublington.....Sunday, 28th February at 3.00 p.m.

Wingrave.....Sunday, 6th March at 3.00 p.m.



## Hands off our villidges

Inner-city blight has mesmerized us all to such an extent that we have failed to notice an equally sinister development: inner-village blight.

Yes, throughout this country once fine villages have been struck down by a creeping disease which is not so much like blight as paralysis. Thousands and thousands of them. It may have affected only the inner 40 yards or so, but in a small village that's a large area.

The main signs of inner-village blight are:

- Antique shops full of dressers, bed-warmers and horse brasses, with the prices marked in a language that only the owner can understand.
- Pubs with menus outside, in French.
- Pubs with signs in the window: "We're in the Good Pub Guide 1979."
- Pubs full of dressers, bed-warmers and horse brasses — little more than antique shops with a drinking licence.
- Food shops that sell taramasalata but not baked beans, camembert but not cheddar, bottles of wine but not bottles of local cider.
- Locked churches.
- Churches that are open, but only as brass-rubbing centres.
- Craft shops full of things that can serve only as decoration and never be used.
- A small hotel offering bargain breaks.
- Parking meters.
- A Best-Kept Village award.

Inner-village blight is what happens, in fact, when a village becomes known as a nice village to go to, whether as a Sunday drinking place or a tourist stop. The centre of the village becomes a place to visit but not to live in, all cosmetics and no flesh underneath.

Walking though the centre is like walking through a museum

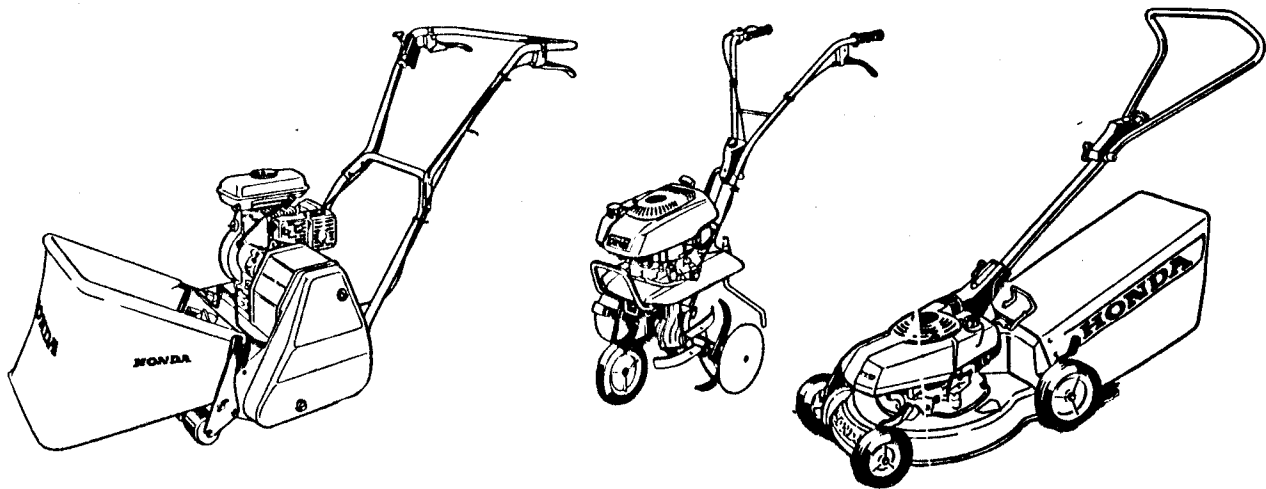
— indeed, in the most blighted village centres you will find a museum housed in an old mill or village hall. The Wheelwright Heritage Museum, perhaps, or the Rural Industry Centre with coffee bar and gift-shop.

What the government has to do immediately is make grants available to villages that want to restore the vital, basic amenities of true British village life. The most important are:

- A bus-stop with a timetable behind glass, made illegible by rain.
  - An old-fashioned pub with jukebox and Space Invaders machine.
  - A weed-choked pond.
  - Ample parking space for the local Hell's Angel motorbike gang.
  - A late-opening video shop.
  - An old-fashioned village shop that sells white bread, not brown, and tinned tomatoes, not fresh.
  - A paper shop selling last week's local paper and postcards showing Big Ben and Piccadilly Circus.
  - A filling station which is always closed for lunch.
  - A stream full of old cans.
  - At least two cars that have obviously been parked there for five years, at least judging by the fact that they no longer have wheels.
  - A church that is always open and always empty.
  - A house with two notices in the window: one saying "Bed and Breakfast" and the other "No Vacancies".
  - A bus shelter inscribed anonymously "Sex and Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll".
  - A tree in the middle of the village of which only one branch is still alive.
- This is what real British village life is all about. We say to the government: Stop inner-village blight now. Say no to the blighters!

Miles Kington

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