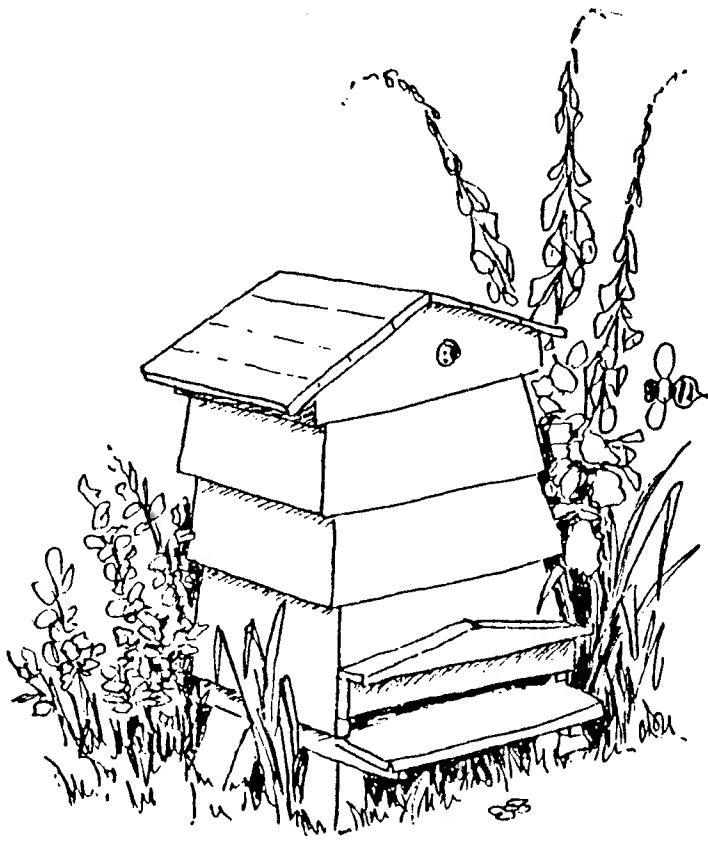


The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



February 88

No. 53.



Editorial

Once again my apologies for the late arrival of your magazine, this is entirely due to my shortcomings. Last month we raised a few eyebrows and a lively debate followed at the Parish Council meeting. In defence, indeed in support, of that august body [of which I was once a part], I must say that the problem [see 'Update'] of the gated entrance to Lines Hill has been with us for some time. The Council has done all that it can, and the only additions are, perhaps, traffic priority signs either side of the gate. Other than that any efforts to make it safer, opening up the corner, lowering hedges, would, I believe, make it more dangerous as a quick glance across would be followed by foot down ! Perhaps a separate 'pedestrian gate' would be an added safety measure for those who are at greatest risk.

As to the 'Parish Council we deserve', well, the nature of democracy is that we always get the elected representatives we deserve, and there is a 'vacancy' on the Council. Bryan Round is a co-opted member and would, I know, stand down if a village representative could be found.

My thanks to the very generous member of the 'Friends of the Chronicle' who has donated £100 to the magazine, claiming that this represents four years backdated contributions. What can you say, other than thank you very much.

I would also like to thank Win Holmes for her lovely letter about her 'Mum', Margaret Umpleby, who died peacefully in her sleep on the 29th January [see 'People' page]. Not only did Win talk of her mother but

[Continued on page 4]

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE : 27th. JANUARY, EARLIER IF POSSIBLE.

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.

Published by Graham Parker.

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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.

INFO

WHATS ON IN FEBRUARY

- THURSDAY 4th. & 18th. : WHIST DRIVE, CHURCH ROOM, 7.30 p.m.
THURSDAY 11th. & 25th. : BINGO, CHURCH ROOM, 7.30 p.m.
FRIDAY 19th. : PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, CHURCH ROOM, 8.00 p.m.
SUNDAY 7th. : RAMBLING CLUB MEMBERS, MEET GREAT BRICKHILL V.H. 2.00 p.m.
SUNDAY 14th. : FOOTPATH WALK, MEET THE GREEN, 2.00 p.m.
TUESDAY 1st. MARCH : BBONT EVENING AT MURSLEY VILLAGE HALL 8.00 p.m.
SPEAKER MARTHA WOODFORD OF THE " ARCHERS ".

VILLAGE SKIP

THERE WILL BE A SKIP ON THE GREEN FROM
FRIDAY 5th - MONDAY 8th. FEBRUARY.

ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

We met on January 14th to share with Ruth Bellingham her 'Flying Memories'. She took us through the history of aviation from the first powered flights with the Wright brothers in 1903 to the development of the metal bodied plane and the beginning of World War Two.

Ruth Bellingham, as the wife of a war time RAF pilot and later a civilian airplane pilot, was able to impart a lot of information and personal memories of those momentous years which heralded the dramatic advancement of aviation. She feels we are privileged to live in this era.

Imagine airports like Heathrow and Northolt in the early 1950's; some still had prefabricated buildings and visitors took tea on the grass while awaiting their flight. Every passenger was a VIP, a far cry from Terminal Four today

Miss Cuthbert joined us again on January 28 for another of her interesting talks. She told us the story of a gypsy who, while remaining true to his Romany blood used his many talents to become a trusted, respected and well loved member of the community.

Our next meeting will be on February 11th, when Joan Ward will tell us about 'Buttons and their History'. Looking ahead our Spring Lunch is on March 10th. Visitors will be welcome, so why not come along and meet us? The cost, to non-members is £2.50, children £1, the time 12.30 p.m. in the Church Room.

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF UNDER FIVES

WINGRAVE SCHOOL is now taking children the term before they are five. So if your child is five years old before the 1st. September 1988 he or she may commence school on the 18th April 1988. If this applies to your child please contact Wingrave School.

MOUNT PLEASANT
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MILK AND EGGS



OPENING TIMES

WED - SUN. 10am. - 6pm.

Closed for LUNCH 1pm til 2pm

EDITORIAL CONTINUED

also passed on news of life in Norfolk. Win puts it so much better than I could:

" As you know, we lived in Aston for nigh on 24 years and Mum lived with Stan and I for 22½ of those years, and she was pretty well known - although sad to say, quite a few of her old friends had either died or moved away from the village it self Mum was 94 and had she lived until the 14th March, she would have been 95. Not bad eh, to say that she was still up and about, although a great deal slower and more frail than she used to be."

"Glad to say Stan and I are quite enjoying our retirement in Norfolk and it goes without saying that anyone from the village of Aston Abbotts will be quite welcome if they are ever in the vicinity."

" Our village [Sedgeford] put on quite a good panto in January and like Aston Abbotts, there is plenty of talent - one bloke wrote the script and made the scenery, both of which were exceedingly good. Our village hall is not far off the same size as yours, but isn't quite as convenient for putting on plays, as the kitchen is at the opposite end and quite long and narrow therefore no good at all to be used as a changing room. However they do erect a temporary stage, which greatly improves viewing.

We are gradually getting to know people and I an now a member of the W.I., and on the committee for my sins. Stan is hoping to take up bowling in the summer, so that should not only keep him occupied, but also give a good laugh.

Our bungalow backs on to the village playing field, which is quite large, so we have a good view of the local football and cricket matches. From the front we look over undulating hills and fields, which makes life very pleasant indeed. Everyone told us Norfolk was flat - if it is (which it isn't), we are living on top of the only hill !"

Thanks Win for the letter and thank you too for the more than generous donation to the Chronicle.

Finally, thanks to Pat Sims for her urging, and to Betty Bennett for her success, in persuading her friend of long standing, Kathleen Lawson, to write her article on her experiences as a landgirl in Aston Abbotts. I am only sorry I could not find some better illustrations, but thank you Kathleen, very much. Could you be persuaded to do another article ? What really was the story about that red rose ?

Well, this was only going to be a couple of lines - no wonder the damn magazine is late.

Graham Parker

People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

BIRTHDAYS

IVY BRANDON 5th. February.
PABLO GUTIERREZ 7th. February.
VIKA DRYSDALE 7th. February.
CHARLIE GRIFFIN 13th. February.
SAIN WEBB 21st. February.
DIANA KENT 22nd. February.
TRACY LOVELL 23rd. February.
LINDA WHEATON 25th. February.

SPONSORED SWIM : 26th FEBRUARY

JULIE BALL of 4 Ross Road will be attempting fifty lengths on Friday 26th February to raise money for GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL. Julie has a nephew who is being treated for a heart condition at the hospital and is anxious to raise as much money as possible. If you would like to contribute why not ring Julie on 681558 or complete the sponsor form overleaf and return it to 4 Ross Road.

LONDON MARATHON

ANDREW FORD has again been offered a place in the London Marathon. This year he will be running to raise money for THE LONDON HOSPITAL CHILDREN'S UNIT APPEAL. Again if you would like to contribute please complete the sponsor form overleaf and return it to 2 Ross Road.

DEATHS

It is with great regret that we announce the death of MARGARET UMPLEBY, who would have been 95 in March. Mrs. Umpleby died peacefully in her sleep last Friday morning [29th. January], after twenty three years in the village. Her daughter Wyn, and her husband Stan, had arrived in the village the year before and Mrs. Umpleby moved down to join them from Huddersfield. The funeral of Aston's only (?) great, great grandmother will be held on February 3rd in Sedgford, a small village a few miles north of Sandringham in Norfolk.

AMB Painters

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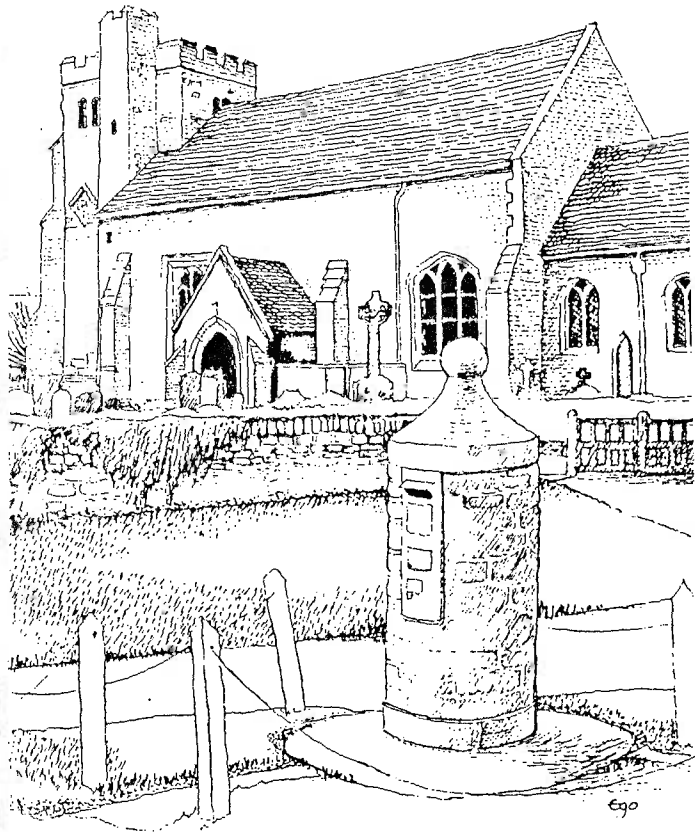
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Portraits of Buckinghamshire

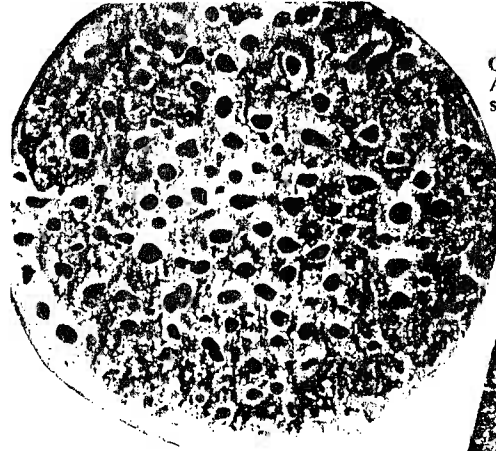
No. 27. THE ILLARBOX, NETHER WINCHENDON,
with St. Nicholas' Church.



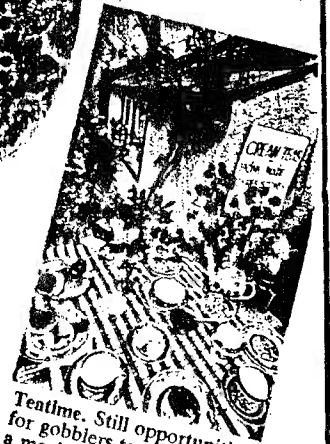
Sketch by Elizabeth Ogan in Elizabeth Cull's 'A Picture of Buckinghamshire'.

THE BEST OF BRITISH

FIVE MORE THINGS THAT ARE
'ESSENTIALLY BRITISH'



Crumpets. A fireside staple for two centuries



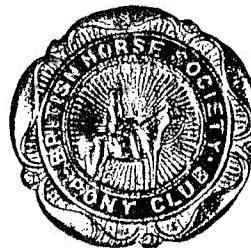
Teatime. Still opportunities for gobblers to make a meal of it



Loch Ness monster. Even a floating log is assured of air time



Georgian architecture. Gracious squares and terraces cribbed from Greece and Rome



Pony Club. Training ground for those growing up into thoroughbreds

SPONSORED SWIM
IN AID OF
GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL

Participants Name:

Name	where to contact	Amount

Total: _____

THE LONDON HOSPITAL
AIM APPEAL
CHILDREN'S UNIT APPEAL
LONDON MARATHON 1988

Participants Name:

Name	where to contact	Amount per mile

Total: _____

DOG BYELAWS

The Home Office sent a letter dated 27 October 1987 (Ref. BYE/87 31/19/39) to the Association of District Councils on the subject of dog byelaws, drawing attention to several points of procedure and policy which have arisen since the publication of Home Office Circular 21/1987 in April this year (see DIS issue 149 item 2967):-

Co-operation between district and parish councils

"A. Adopting a recommendation in the report of the Home Office pilot project, Circular 21/1987 recommended that district councils should work with town, parish and community councils in the preparation of their byelaw proposals and the policies for implementing them. In this connection it is relevant that section 16 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 facilitates the financing of arrangements of this kind and section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 may usefully be invoked to provide an administrative framework for jointly discharging any functions.

B. There is nothing in the statutory procedures which would prevent a district council from assisting the parishes in the preparation of the byelaws, submitting them to the Home Office as a joint application for provisional approval, preparing a composite advertisement and finally submitting them a batch for confirmation. In addition to any economies of scale this would ensure that the byelaws came into operation simultaneously.

We hope soon to have available as a model a composite set of byelaws which will combine the "poop-scoop" byelaws together with those for the dog ban and the associated dog on leads provisions. In the meantime if any district or borough councils wish to receive a copy of these model byelaws it would be helpful if they would write to us to register their interest and to describe their proposals in outline."

Enquiries:

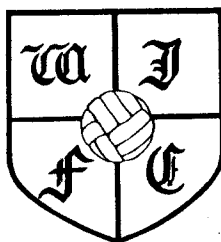
Any enquiries should be addressed to the Home Office, E Division, room 215, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT. Telephone numbers : 01 213 4024, 213 5346, or 01 213 7117.

PRESERVING RED TELEPHONE BOXES

The original K2 red telephone box is now substantially protected but the K6 of which there are around 50,000 is under urgent threat of modernisation. English Heritage is now identifying those K6 boxes which should be preserved. The aim is to safeguard about 500 according to two criteria (i) they must be intact (including glazing bars) and (ii) they must be in an attractive town or country setting, perhaps next to a listed building. Please write giving details of nominations to Peter White, English Heritage, Room 205, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE.

Based on item in Habitat, October 1987, published by the Council for Environmental Conservation.

A page taken from the BCVS (Buckinghamshire Council for Voluntary Services) newsletter an excellent compendium of information for all people concerned with local councils. This months extracts deal with two topics that have been raised in recent issues of The Chronicle.



THE BUCKS HERALD, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1988

WINGRAVE PULL OFF A MIRACLE RESULT

JANUARY RESULTS

Despite the wettest January for at least forty years the Under 16's managed to complete four out of their five fixtures, beginning the new year with sensational headlines after their shock victory over Bedgrove Dynamos.

UNDER 16's

- 3rd. JANUARY : Wingrave 2 Bedgrove Dynamos 1.
Nick Porter 2.
- 10th. JANUARY : Wingrave 1 Wing 4.
o.g. (Cup match played at Wing
as our ground was unfit).
- 17th. JANUARY : Chiltern Athletic 5 Wingrave 1
Neil Ferguson.
- 24th. JANUARY : v. Tring Tornados (Postponed).
- 31st. JANUARY : Wingrave 1 Thame 7.
Andy Holbrook (Played at Thame
as our ground was unfit).



UNDER 14's

No match on the 3rd., and games on the 10th., 24th., and 31st. were postponed because of water logged pitches.

- 17th. JANUARY : Arrows 2 Wingrave 2
Anthony Bishop 2.

UNDER 12's

Matches on the 3rd., 24th., and 31st. were postponed because of waterlogged pitches.

- 10th. JANUARY : Wingrave 2 All Saints 1.
Greg Sorace, Darren Springett.
- 17th. JANUARY : Corinthians 6 Wingrave 0.

LEAGUE HONOURS

During January four of the clubs players represented the Leighton Junior League in matches against Bedford League at Newham Stadium, Bedford. GREG SORACE played in an historic first ever victory for an under 12 leighton League team; while BILLY BARRACLOUGH, ANTHONY BISHOP and PIERS PARKER represented the under 14's, who were beaten by a much bigger and stronger Bedford side.

Also of note last month was the performance of Andrew Parker, who now plays most of his football with Aylesbury United Under 15's, in equaling the Aylesbury clubs goal scoring record when he put seven past the Booker Youth (High Wycombe) goalkeeper in a recent League Cup match.

Wingrave shock second placed Bedgrove

WINGRAVE under 16s pulled off probably their result of the season in the TRW United Carr Aylesbury Junior League when they pipped second placed Bedgrove 2-1 in Sunday's first match of 1988.

The villagers were a goal down after five minutes but led 2-1 at the break through two goals from Nick Porter and then held on in the second period thanks to a superb display by 'keeper James Greenhill, which

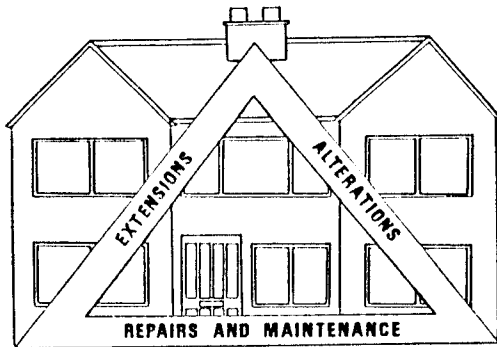
kept the Dynamos at bay. Wycombe Star League

Aylesbury United Juniors' under 15s cruised comfortably into the second round of the Star

League Cup when they put 15 goals past Booker Youth on Sunday. Andrew Parker led the rout with seven goals

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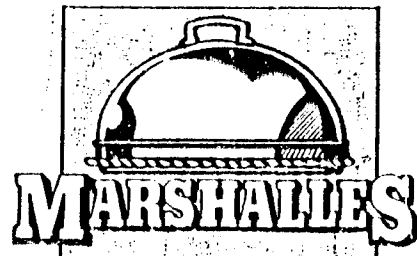
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HELP LINE

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)
Rosemary Franklin, 3 Church Row. (681319).



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CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH ROOF FALLS IN

I wonder what your reaction would be if it was the outer rather than the inner roof which had fallen in? Would you be indifferent? Would you blame the worshippers who had not dipped deeply enough into their pockets to maintain the building they loved? Would you rally round and help THE CHURCH RESTORATION FUND set up by the Aston Abbots Emergency Appeal Committee? Whatever your reaction would be, the fact is that we have to find £750 to pay for having the chancel roof relined. For us it is really a great chunk out of our income but we do not want to launch an emergency appeal, because it is not an emergency, just the sort of

money which year after year must be found if we are to keep the building so many of us love in good nick. How much do you really care? Every villager has the right to be buried in the churchyard. Do you want it to be the peaceful, restful place it is, looked after by an active congregation? If so what are you going to do about it? By far the best way is regular weekly giving through the envelope scheme, but a monthly or annual banker's order especially if covenanted is also an excellent method which ensures you are playing your part in the upkeep of one of the finest buildings in the village



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTS, BUCKS.



CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

7th. February	: FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 a.m. 2 Corinthians 12(1-10) 493 Mark 7(24-37)	<u>Sidesman</u> Alison Ford
14th. February	: HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Colossians 1 (18-23) 497 John 8 (2-11)	Tony Hewitt
21st. February	: HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Hebrews 4 (12-16) 506 Luke 4 (1-13)	Colin Higgs
28th. February	: HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. See Rector's pages	Gillian Ford



UPDATE

OUR OCCASIONAL COLUMN ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Council point out neglect

PARISH councillors at Aston Abbots are hoping some of the more urgent road repairs in the village will be carried out, as a result of a walk around the village by their Chairman Colin Higgs and a representative of Bucks County Council's Highways Department.

Cllr Higgs pointed out the positions of blocked storm drains, pot holes, kerb problems and erosion of verges.

At the council's January meeting Cllr John Ford expressed concern about a sunken drain in Ross Road and this would also be drawn to the county council's attention.

The meeting noted that county had now included the road through Aston Abbots from Wingrave crossroads on the A418 to Cublington crossroads on its list of

priority winter gritting routes.

Cllr John Whyte asked if extending the foot-path in Wingrave Road had been considered now that new development was taking place there, but the meeting believed this was a private matter for the landowner.

Concern was expressed about whether the new-type telephone kiosk soon to be installed in Aston Abbots would take coins or phonecards. Cllr Whyte asked the parish council to press for a coin machine.

Members discussed a planning application for an agricultural dwelling at Oxley Farm and advised Aylesbury Vale District Council to give permission, providing suitable roofing materials are used to blend in with the area.

In addition to the details reported in the Bucks & Beds Observer (left), the Parish Council also noted that planning permission at Longmoor Farm rick yard for conversion to light industrial use had been deferred. The Council through Bryan Round has been trying to establish what is meant by light industrial use before giving its blessing to any development.

Concern was also expressed at the granting of permission, albeit for a temporary period, for a mobile home at 'Willow Brook' (nee Badgers Brook) Farm on the road between Cublington and Whitchurch.

Complaints regarding school buses seemed to have disappeared and it was assumed the problems had been overcome. [Unfortunately at the first sign of bad weather sometime after the Parish Council meeting the bus again failed to get Aston children to Wing School - in days gone by, I can hear some people saying we had to walk that distance to school every day ! Just shows you how times change.]

The reference to the Parish Council in last month's 'View from the Corner of the Green' led to a further discussion on the gated entrance to Lines Hill. The Council felt that it had done all it could to improve safety and suggested that the greatest improvement would come about by cutting

back the hedge that blocked the motorists and pedestrians view across the corner.

The village conservation proposals, first put to the District Council four years ago, are to be resubmitted and the Council agreed to write to George Walden to seek his support.

The proposed closure of the fire station at Whitchurch also caused some discussion. This was the nearest station to Aston Abbots and invariably the Whitchurch lads were first on the scene at any incident in the village. The Council agreed to protest at the closure and assure Whitchurch Parish Council of our support in any campaign they might launch in defence of their firemen.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: FRIDAY 19th. FEBRUARY 8.00 p.m. in the CHURCH ROOM.

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.



PUZZLE PAGE

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

What Every 15-year-old Should Know!

The Institute of British Geographers is the body to which most university and polytechnic geography lecturers and researchers belong. We asked the Secretary of the I.B.G., himself a Professor of Geography, to set some questions which he would expect a well-educated 15 year-old to answer. And here's what he expects. . .

1. How has an ox-bow lake been formed?
2. Where is the Sahel and what has happened there in recent years?
3. According to the rank-size rule, if the population of the largest city in the country is 500,000 people, what should be the size of the fourth largest city?
4. What is an urban heat island?
5. What have Crawley, Stevenage, Skelmersdale and Cumbernauld in common?
6. What weather characteristic would you expect in an area which had a lot of isobars shown close together on a weather map?
7. Why do areas of chalk have fewer surface streams than areas of clay?
8. To the nearest 10%, what proportion of the globe's surface is water?
9. If a plane flew round the world at the Equator, how far would it travel?
10. What is the main characteristic of shifting cultivation?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS QUIZ.

Explorers and Travellers

1. David Livingstone 2. Antarctica (by Sir Vivian Fuchs' expedition) 3. Godwin-Austen (or K2), Kanchenjunga, Annapurna, Makalu, Dhaulagiri, Nanga Parbat 4. The South Pole 5. Australia 6. Prevailing winds assisted fliers West to East 7. Reputedly the year that Columbus discovered America 8. Sir Francis Chichester 9. From one pole to another 10. Hawaii

Cabaret Time

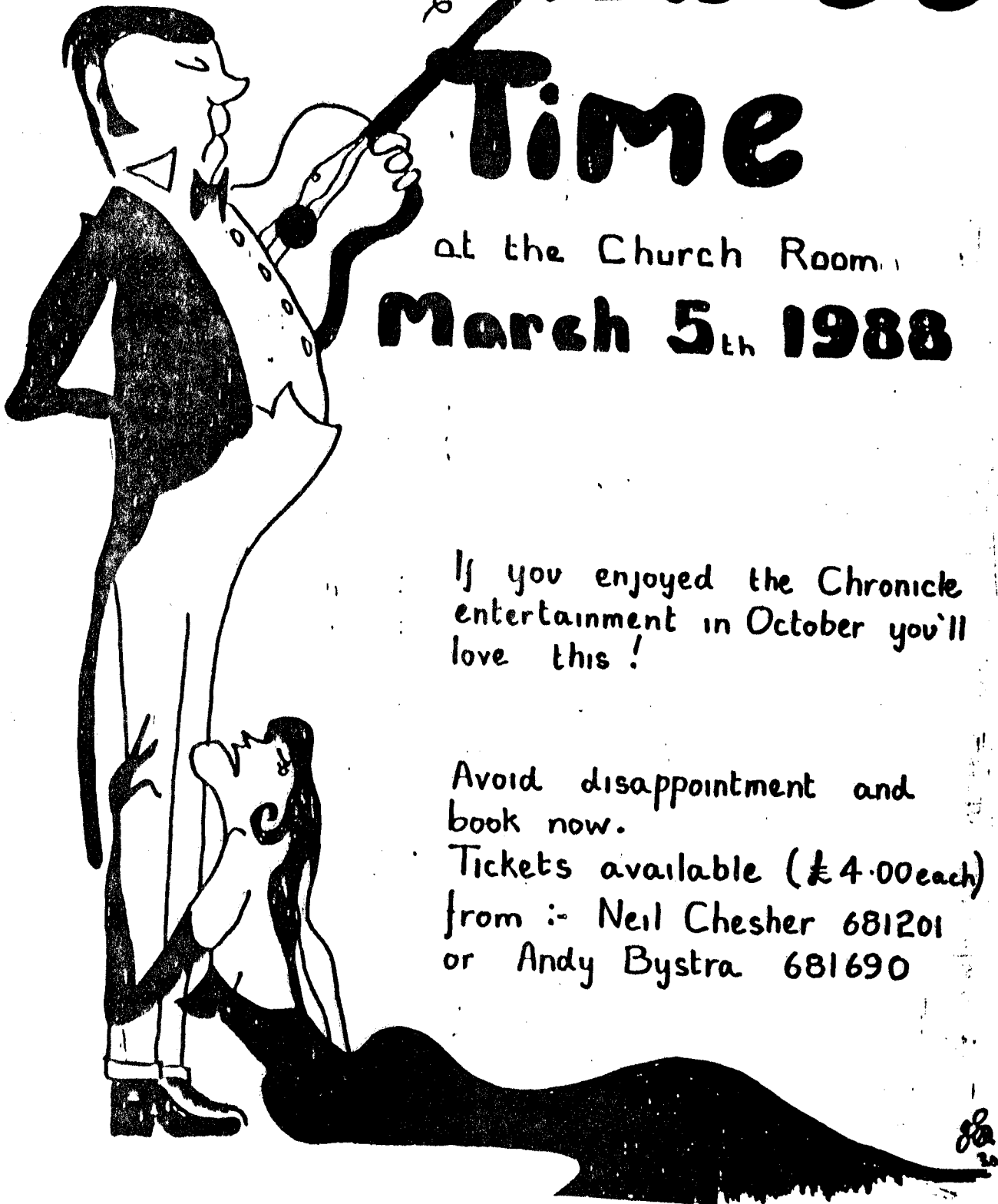
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23

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EIGHTH PAGE	: Back	£ 7 per annum.
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ALL OTHER ADS.	: Inside only	£5 per annum.

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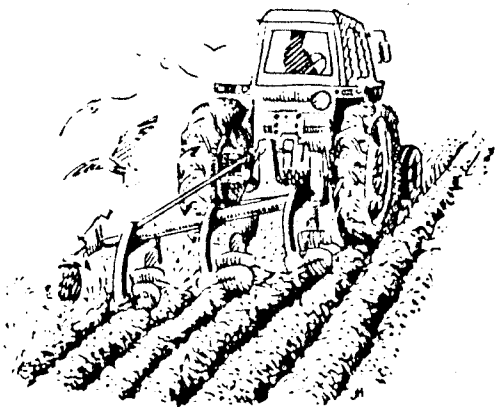
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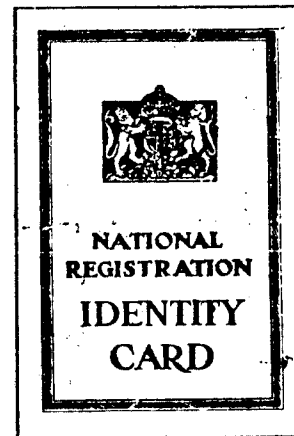
A LANDGIRL IN ASTON ABBOTTS

I came to Aston Abbotts in 1943. I was engaged as a tractor driver at the Abbey Farm. That was about forty five years ago, and from that time the only things that interested me are still remembered, very personal, vivid memories. I can't chronicle Aston Abbotts as it was then, nor really give an account of village life at that time, although I well remember the Whist Drives and the Ladies Club - congratulations to the Club on its fiftieth anniversary - because my boss's wife was its treasurer. I am not going to mention names (better not!), but there are two I will mention. One was this treasurer, who stays in my memory so vividly; so kind, so sweet and gentle, so serene. Mrs. Sharp. or "Missus" as we used to call her, opened her home, first on the Green, and then at the Old House, to the two landgirls billeted with her, without reservation. The other was her husband or 'Sharpy'. Years later, when I had a farm of my own and used to come across 'predicaments' and awkward situations I would think "Now what would Sharpy do?". He was shrewd, but fair a taskmaster, yet ready with praise where it was due. He could do anything that the men did, only better, and they knew it. Alas I shall not see either of them again.



Sometimes I almost felt guilty that my part in the war effort was such an enjoyable one for I was really happy. I used to do quite a bit of ploughing and when my old Fordson was droning away so sweetly along the furrows I used to sing at the top of my voice, often to rhymes of my own making. 'Sweet Sue' I called my tractor, and she provided the perfect bag-pipe like accompaniment! To be out in the open air all day, watching the morning become afternoon, and the little things happening in one's field - I wanted nothing more! When the war effort

and one's own puny contribution directly coincided it was stupendous. I am thinking of the time when France was in peril, and grain, OUR grain, was shipped straight there from our drying plant. I was part of the shuttle service taking the grain from the combine harvester to the plant. The hours could be very long, sometimes till nearly midnight, but how marvellous it was! I learnt to back the loaded trailer up to the hopper after much travail, but in the end my turn-around was swift, because Sharpy had set aside time for me to practice. When that combine harvester first arrived it was the first anywhere around, and the two landgirls from the other farm at Norduck were sent as outriders from the station along the narrow roads, which it almost filled. What excitement! Its driver



HBML 297.2		Hogarty	
CLASS CODE		Mony	
RESIDENT'S ADDRESS		30 Hillside Road Abbey Road Bradford	
RESIDENT'S SIGNATURE		Mary Hogarty	
ISSUED ON		28 APR 1945	
EXPIRES ON		28 APR 1945	
ISSUED TO		30 Undercliffe Street Bradford	

Wartime food rations for one person per week in 1944 were 2 oz. butter, 5 oz. margarine, 2 oz. cooking fat, 2 oz. cheese, 2 oz. tea, 8 oz. sugar, 4 oz. jam, 3 oz. sweets and 4 oz. bacon. Each person was allowed meat worth 1s. 2d. per week and 31 eggs per year

was so keyed up that he was sick! And no wonder, for the first acquaintance with this red, tremendously humming monster was prodigious.

Hundreds of memories come like the vast clouds of starlings that used to funnel down into the covert on a winter's evening. As I said, it is of the fields that I think, and the life in them. Of course, there were the Czech guards at the Abbey, because President Benes was living there. We sang carols to him and his family at Christmas. Once there there was a red rose on my bicycle saddle at the Abbey cowshed, for of course there was a heart-throb or two. But mostly the Czechs kept separate lives.

I had my follies: once I entered a hayfield with my tractor and trailer, wearing a wide brimmed peasant hat I had acquired in France. There were wolf whistles and cat calls from the men as I turned round to give them the full effect, and then, suddenly the most awful crack. I had hit the one and only telegraph pole in the field! That took some living down. Yet I remember Sharpy was very forbearing although not a few dents had to be ironed out of the radiator. Once he decided to enter C....., B..... and myself in a ploughing match at Wing. We had an expert coach brought in, for Sharpy was determined we should do the farm credit. We had road bands on our spade lugged tractor wheels, so it all took time. But once there (C's road bands fell off at one point) I covered myself in glory. I was the Champion! It has to be added that I took the longest time. I loved my little Ransome two-furrow match plough, and stood on the draw-bar the better to control it. I set very high standards for myself when ploughing; as perfect openings and finishes as I could get and as straight furrows. Silly really, because the harrows came along and destroyed it all.

In the mornings there were the five or six Guernsey cows to milk at the Abbey, and there was a great deal of 'mucking out' to do at the Barns at winters end, but we were all comrades together. And there were the harvest suppers. They were held at the Old House and everyone foregathered, and there was a goose and a loaded table and high spirits. I suppose there would be fifteen or more round that table.

There was threshing. We used to thresh our own corn and then went to a farmer in Wingrave to do his place for him. The surprising fact is that I loved threshing - dirty, covered in dust, working flat out, one was part of a team once more. It was as if the threshing machine, shaking all over, emitting clouds of dust, was a great animal and we were its members. If one of us lagged, the whole suffered. Occasionally I cut the bands, and letting the sheaves slide like a smooth waterfall into the drum required skill. Done well, the machine purred on, done badly it gave an alarming hiccough. Even my usual job, bagging chaff, covered in dust, had its satisfactions. Everthing had to be kept clear and tidy. You had to be on top of your work. The pile of chaff never stopped growing.

It is surprising to think that when I first went to the Abbey farm there were work horses in the stable, and a horseman, whose job it was to look after them.

When the war ended and I was 'demobbed', I was very sad. A way of life was ending. But I was let down lightly. Not long after I got home Sharpy sent for me again. It was harvest time and he needed a tractor driver. How gladly did i comply! How lovely it was to be back in Great Ground again at Norduck, a vital cog in a well oiled machine. How good it was to see the red familiar faces and how delightful were the teasings of the men. They seemed pleased to see me in my brief return.

KATHLEAN LAWSON (nee DOBSON).



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Special worship services are held throughout Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY - 17th February

Wingrave Parish Church 7.30 p.m.

Imposition of Ashes, Holy Communion, Hymns and Sermon.

WEDNESDAY LUNCH-TIME SERVICES in Wingrave Parish Church.

1 o'clock SIMPLE LUNCH at a very reasonable price! If you require transport and/or other details, please contact Mrs. Audrey Fletcher on 681409 or the Rector on 681623. The Service follows at approx. 1.45 p.m. with hymns and a short address on the theme: "They Met at the Cross" Begins Wednesday, 24th February

DEANERY LENT

Services held in parish churches on Wednesdays will begin at 8 p.m. with an Address given by different speakers, followed by the Office of Compline. Dates, subjects, and venues as follows:

FEBRUARY 24th - LINSLADE: The Revd. Paul King (parish priest) "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

MARCH 2nd - IVINGHOE: The Revd. David Crawley (hospital chaplain) "Blessed are those who weep."

MARCH 9th - MURSLEY: Mr. Frank Green (bank manager) "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after justice."

MARCH 16th - WINGRAVE: Mr. Harold Prior (deputy prison governor) "Blessed are the merciful."

MARCH 23rd - CHEDDINGTON "The peacemakers"

PURPOSE

Lenten services help Christians:

renew and strengthen their faith

share insights about the meaning and relevance of Christ's suffering

clarify thoughts and ideas about their faith.

Lent prepares us so we may experience more fully the joyful Easter message.

SUNDAY LESSONS

(ASB)

28th February	Lent 2	(508)	Genesis 7(17-24)	Matthew 12(22-32)
6th March	Lent 3	(512)	1 Peter 2(19-25)	Matthew 16(13-28)

MOTHERING SUNDAY 13th March. Family Services will be held on that Sunday at Aston Abbots (11.15 a.m. the Rector) and Cublington (10 a.m. the Methodist Minister). No Family Services on 6th March.

FUNERALS

Cublington Parish Church - 4th January

Alice Mary BIGGS

Wingrave Interment of ashes in the churchyard

12th January: Dora Mary NOAKES (née Goldney)

"Rest in peace"

LENT BOXES These will be available on 14th February in all three churches. The money raised for the Muheza Hospital project.

Be loving toward others
and open to God's will.



February 1988

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Aylesbury 681623

What is
LENT
?

"Lent" is derived from the Middle English "Lente" which means "Springtime."



**IT'S THE
40-DAY PERIOD
PRECEDING EASTER**

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday.



WHY
is it
IMPORTANT
?

Lent gives us an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the Easter story.

- Christ lived and died to redeem the world from sin.
- Because of Christ's death and resurrection, our lives can be renewed.
- Our sins can be forgiven and we can begin to live for God.

ACTIVITIES
encourage
inner change.

TRADITIONAL LENTEN PRACTICES HELP MAKE LENT MORE MEANINGFUL.

SOME HINTS for observing Lent effectively:

SELF-DENIAL strengthens self-control and helps to give meaning and direction to life. **HOW-ABOUT** giving up a social event or watching less television to increase time for Lenten activities?

GOOD DEEDS consisting of self-sacrifice to serve and benefit others. **HOW-ABOUT** giving time and/or money to ease poverty and suffering in the world, looking for ways to help a housebound neighbour?

FASTING helps to concentrate the mind as it cleanses the body and encourages meditation and reflection. **HOW-ABOUT** giving up one big meal a week and donating the money saved to charity?

PRAYER AND REFLECTION means speaking with God in spiritual communion and examining our lives thoughtfully. **HOW-ABOUT** making or increasing time for quiet when interruptions are unlikely?

CHURCH ACTIVITIES that involve the Christian Community producing a sense of joy, unity and hope. **HOW-ABOUT** actively participating in worship Services each Sunday, weekdays: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday?

DEVELOPING HELPFUL ATTITUDES by approaching Lent joyfully. **HOW-ABOUT** thinking of it as a time of opportunity rather than sacrifice?

INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

Hard winters and a welcome spring

By Ralph Whitlock

THE thermometer at the time recording 12° Fahrenheit, my latest encounter with my long-deceased great-grandfather under the old apple-tree down the orchard, where his cider-press used to stand, was understandably brief.

I had gone down with a wheelbarrow for a load of logs, and there he was — oblivious to the cold for, of course, he now lives in a realm where temperatures have no meaning. He remembered what it was like, though, to live through Arctic winters in England and immediately started reminiscing about some of them.

"I mind the winter of '36/37," he told me, (meaning, of course, 1836, not 1936), "when the snow started on Christmas Day and by December 27 we had drifts 50 feet deep and even the stage coaches couldn't get through. Then there was another snow-storm in '81, which they reckoned was the worst in the whole century. Started on January 18 and piled up in drifts level with the tops of houses. We spent days digging the sheep out, but lambing hadn't started, so we lost only two ewes. That was the time when we found old Henry Fry friz to death over in Long Bottom. On his way home from Wilcester, and took the short cut over the fields, I spose. Poor old chap."

Wilcester is our market town — six miles away by road, four-and-a-half by the short cut.

"I suppose the road over the downs used to get blocked pretty frequently then?" I ventured.

"Oh, aye. Wilcester was often cut off. Carrier couldn't get through."

It was the town that was "cut off", it will be noted — not our village!

"You managed all right?"

"Of course. We had to, often enough. And why not? Mother baked her own bread; we always had a side of bacon in the racks in the kitchen; Friday was butter-making day; there were swedes and taties in the barn; plenty of wood for fuel; and the stock-pot was always simmering. There was no call for us to go short. 'Sides,

you could see where the rabbits was, by their tracks in the snow. We and the dogs did have good sport when snow was lying.

"I reckon it must have been '45 when I was laid up for most of the winter," he continued. "Stuck a prong through my foot around Christmastime, and blood poisoning set in. There was I, in bed till nigh on Easter, — and I mind we had lots of snow that winter and all I could do was look out of the window at it. I didn't like that, nar bit."

"It sounds as though you like snow!" I laughed at him.

"Why not?" he countered. "This all part of life. What's winter without snow? And what's spring without a winter first?"

Oh, how right he is! I remember spending the greater part of one winter in Africa and travelling home by way of Spain in early April. As one of our daughters was then living at Malaga we broke our journey there for a fortnight. Song-birds were carolling in the olive and acacia trees; swallows were winging in purposefully across the Straits; exploring the waste ground on the cliff-tops above our villa I found amid the profusion of wild flowers a veritable garden of spider orchids. A warm sun beamed down benignly from a sky of deepening blue.

Arrival back in England was an anti-climax. Here we were met by grey skies and a chilly wind. The first primroses were tentatively opening their petals, and the first violets could be found on sheltered hedge-banks, by the expedient of brushing aside their protecting leaves. Thrushes and blackbirds were singing but no warblers, and the first swallows had not yet arrived. Our family and neighbours professed delight at seeing the early signs of spring, but for us it was a step back into winter.

To appreciate an English spring it is necessary first to experience an English winter.

During the recent cold spell



television news bulletins featured elderly citizens who, in increasing numbers, take flight to southern Spain, where, at no greater cost than staying at home, they can enjoy virtually eternal summer and escape the problems and ills of winter in their native land.

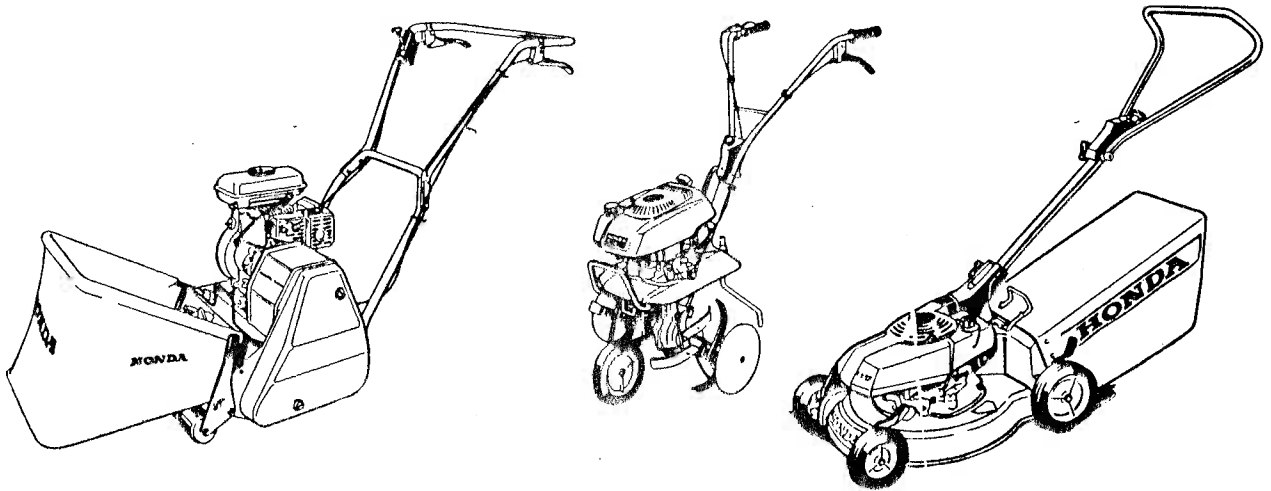
It sounds idyllic, and at times I have been inclined to envy or even emulate them. But, on reflection, I have decided it would not be for me. Apart from the fact that I would not appreciate the thought of being ill or dying (events which every senior citizen must take into account) in a foreign land, I doubt whether I would really enjoy an unrelieved regime of sunshine. I would, in short, be bored.

On the occasion of our last very severe winter, in the first few months of 1963, a young farmer of my acquaintance had gone to visit members of his family in Texas. There he was, basking in subtropical heat, while back home on the farm his father and brother were grappling with snow-drifts, frozen pipes, stranded milk lorries, shivering lambs and all the other similar ordeals of a polar winter. When he came home and heard all about it he exclaimed, "I wouldn't have gone if I'd known! I wouldn't have missed it for anything!"

It is now more than forty years since the war ended, which leaves anyone under the age of about forty-five with no memories of life in wartime Britain. And when these men in their forties question me, from time to time, about details of life in those days I detect a kind of wistfulness in their attitude. They don't hanker after another conflict, but they are aware of an element of stimulation, of adventure, which appeals to them.

Understandably. The good life is a blend of sunshine and shadows. A life of all sunshine is no more to be desired than a life of all shadows. A hard winter is a part of an acceptable pattern.

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