

# The Chronicle.

ASTON ABBOTS PARISH MAGAZINE

ISSUE 57

JUNE 88



# Editorial

As one of our correspondents notes elsewhere in this issue The Chronicle always seems to be late. True ! Mind you there are some months when its lucky to be out at all, and this is one of them.

Last months issue evoked a considerable response. Several of you took the trouble to write and those who did not mind being in print, appear on pages nine and eleven. Many more of you took the opportunity to have a word and I am grateful to everyone for their support.

Amongst the many names that went unacknowledged, in last months catalogue of those who play their part in village life, was that of John Whyte - Councillor, parks manager [as Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee], entertainments officer [ as the singing star of many a village entertainment] not to mention his undoubted skills as a darts player. Is there no end to this man's talents ?

The Parish Council is in the process of updating its 'Welcome to Aston Abbotts' booklet. If you run or organise any activity in the village please give details to any member of the Parish Council.

To those of you who managed to gossip about the good in people last month, keep it up, it really does make a difference.

*Graham Parker*

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DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE : SATURDAY 25th JUNE PLEASE.

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

1. By telephone to Graham on Aylesbury 681325.
2. By dropping a note through his door - The Cloisters.
3. Leave a note in the Village Shop or at the Post Office.

Published by Graham Parker.

Printed by THE SQUIRREL PRESS, Waddesdon School, WADDESDON.

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

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YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Colin Higgs, [Chairman & Acting Clerk]  
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, 11 Nup End Lane, Wingrave,  
Tel: 681621.

# INFO

## WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- SUNDAY 5th. : SPONSORED WALK FOR THE RECREATION GROUND FUND  
START AT THE GREEN 10.30 a.m. SHARP !
- SUNDAY 19th. : RAMBLING CLUB MEMBERS MEET MARSWORTH 2 p.m.
- TUESDAY 7th. : RAMBLING CLUB MEMBERS MEET SLAPTON (ELIZABETH  
GRIFFIN HALL) 7.15 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY 8th & 22nd. : MOBILE LIBRARY. THE GREEN 2 p.m. LONGMOOR 2.35 p.m.
- THURSDAY 9th & 23rd. : WHIST DRIVE, CHURCH ROOM 7.30 p.m.
- THURSDAY 16th. : BINGO, CHURCH ROOM 7.30 p.m.
- WEEKEND 17th - 20th : REFUSE SKIP, WINGRAVE ROAD.
- MOWING ROTA : WEEK ENDING 11th - Cllr John Whyte; 18th - Cllr John Ford;  
25th - Cllr Richard Speakman; 2nd July - Cllr John Whyte.

## ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

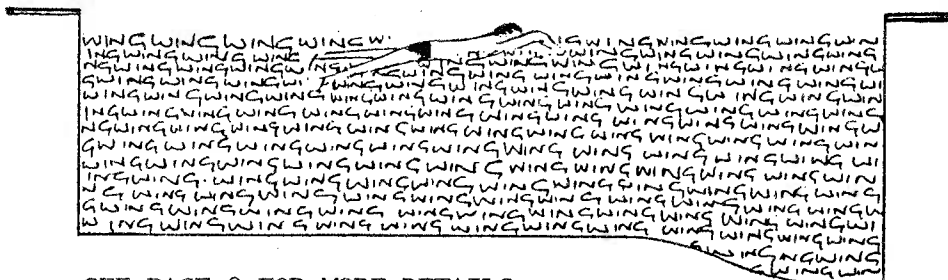
On May 5th Mrs E.A.Longford came to tell us about 'Childhood Under Occupation', in fact her own childhood under German occupation. Mrs Longford had a Dutch father and an English mother, and from her mother's diaries we learned of the hardship and heroism of the Dutch nation, and their deep gratitude to the Allies for their freedom.

May 19th was once again our 'Not so Young' outing. We were blessed with fine weather for the drive into the countryside, clothed in May, and a delight to us all. The members provided an exceedingly good meal, as usual, which was much appreciated. The day ended happily with entertainment of song and dance from Mr Podbury and group. Members and guests especially enjoyed the childrens contribution.

The two meetings in June will be the members outing to Warwick Castle, and then we depart from our routine and have an evening meeting on Wednesday 15th June at 7.00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Anthony Roberts and he will tell us about "Birds". This is an open meeting, everyone welcome, refreshments will be available and a 25p charge will be made to guests.

# SWIMMING

SWIM IN WING \* SWIM IN WING



SEE PAGE 8 FOR MORE DETAILS



Thames  
Valley  
Police

NOTES FROM: P.C. NEIL LEGGETT.

**HOW SECURE IS YOUR HOME?**

In the next two minutes as you read this page, three homes will be burgled somewhere in this country. On average there are 900,000 burglaries each year - one burglary for every 25 homes.

You can help prevent many of these burglaries. Eight out of ten are not committed by professional criminals. In three burglaries out of ten, the thief doesn't even have to use force to get in - the householder has left a door or window open.

Burglars like easy opportunities. If they have to make a lot of noise, spend a lot of time or risk being seen, the chances are they won't bother.

They don't like locked windows because breaking glass attracts attention. If a window is secured with a window lock, they won't be able to open it after breaking in, which means they have to climb past broken glass. Nor do they like doors with security deadlocks. These can only be opened with a key, so if a burglar gets in through a window, he has to leave by a window because he cannot open the door from the inside.

If you need advice on home security, I am willing to attend your home and offer free advice in an effort to beat the burglar. You can contact me at AYLESBURY POLICE STATION on AYLESBURY 395010, leave a message and I will attend in due course.

CHURCH ROOM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE : NOTES

1. We are thinking of improving the facilities at the Church Room, Has anyone ideas as to what is needed, what they would like to see done? Is there anyone out there who can draw up some plans if required. If so please contact Michael Cox at the Old House on the Green (Tel: 6816890)
2. One of the projects will be to improve the kitchen ... has anyone in the village any old kitchen units ? Again contact Michael.
3. Early warning of a proposed CAR BOOT SALE on the 4th. September.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING : TUESDAY 26th JULY 8.00 p.m. in the CHURCH ROOM. ANYBODY & EVERYBODY WELCOME.



**STOP!**

**Have you locked  
your doors  
and windows?**



## CHURCH ROOM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman : Rev J. Heffer.

Secretary: Michael Cox.

Treasurer: Doris Scutchings.

Warden . Colin Higgs.

Other members of the committee are Betty Bennett, John Ford, Chris Brandon, John Whyte, Margaret Chesher and Brenda Roff.

At a committee meeting held on Monday 23rd May the following was agreed:

Fees are unchanged but must be paid in full when booking the room. No fee - no booking. Strict rulings on bookings will be adhered to i.e. teenage parties must have proper adult supervision; licences must be obtained for the sale of alcoholic drinks; persons booking the room will be responsible for vacating the room at the end of the booking period (note 11.45 p.m. on Saturdays).

Inspection will be made after each letting by the newly appointed warden, any damage found will have to be paid for, or a refusal may result for the next booking. We ask for co-operation on these matters.

DORIS SCUTCHINGS

[Booking Clerk for the CRMC.]

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Friday 20th May.

This was the annual Parish Council meeting and the following were elected for the next twelve months:

Chairman & Clerk : Cllr. Colin Higgs.

Vice Chairman : Cllr. Richard Speakman.

Wing Association Representatives : Cllr's Colin Higgs, Richard Speakman and District Cllr Bryan Round.

Aylesbury Vale Association Representatives: Cllr's Colin Higgs and Richard Speakman.

Street Lighting Officer : Cllr. Richard Speakman.

Rural Transport : Cllr. Colin Higgs.

Bucks Road safety : Cllr. John Ford.

Recreation Ground Committee Representatives Cllr's John Whyte, John Ford and Richard Speakman.

The Chairman thanked all members for their help during the year and especially County Cllr Reg Keen, District Cllr Bryan Round and P.C.Leggett.

At the Parish Council Meeting that followed the elections the question of Borough status was discussed and it was agreed this was an unnecessary burden on the rates and the Parish Council voted against the proposal.

Aylesbury Vale D.C. had informed the Council that the public footpath next to the Old Masters was to be diverted to run along side the bottom of the field instead of diagonally across the field, no objections were raised.

The Commissioner of Oaths had advised the Chairman that the Bull & Butcher was to exchange landlords on the 7th July.

It was decided to re-order a new Neighbourhood Watch sign to replace the one stolen [!!!!] in the Cublington Road, and also to order the ASTON ABBOTTS [ENSTONE] Doomsday Sign for the Green.

Aylesbury Vale DC had advised that the SKIP would again be provided on the weekend 17-20th JUNE in Wingrave Road.

Aston Abbots PC agreed to support Cublington PC in opposing the planning application for an 'Easy Rider' course on the grounds of noise, extra traffic and a general nuisance and intrusion in a rural area.

COLIN HIGGS

THE CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION organised by

Alison Ford, raised £47.02. This was a little less than last year, but many thanks to those that gave.

LONDON MARATHON

ANDREW FORD finished 5 784th in this years race in a time of 3hrs 30min 42sec. and raised the very impressive sum of £408 for the Christopher Dobbs Leukaemia Appeal.

A letter of thanks from Christopher to Andrew can be seen on the next page.



# CHRISTOPHER DOBBS LEUKAEMIA APPEAL

IN AID OF

London Hospital  
Leukaemia Appeal



Appeal 1 Primrose Cottages  
Address: Otham  
Maidstone  
KENT

Tel: 0622-861879

20th May 1988

Dear Andrew,

Very many congratulations on your run - and your fundraising. I think three and a half hours is brilliant - certainly 40 minutes better than me but just 3 minutes faster than our number two in this year's run - Paul Jolleyman. You are very clever to have been able to pace yourself so exactly to your expected time. I don't know how you can do that and I imagine it took a while to get to the staff. To add all the fundraising to your run makes it even more brilliant. I acknowledge receipt of the cheque to the value of £408 which is a great deal of money. Please convey all our thanks to your friends who have been so very generous.

Dr Newlands at the London Hospital is very pleased with how the appeal is going and wants to hold a small reception at the Hospital sometime. Naturally I will keep you informed if anything happens about this but do tell me straight away if you think any particular time of the day or day of the week is preferable. I imagine it might be a bit difficult coming from Aylesbury but we shall try to give plenty of warning.

Many thanks again for your superb fund-raising efforts.

Congratulations and best wishes,

*Christopher Dobbs*

b.



# **ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL**

SATURDAY JULY 23rd & SUNDAY JULY 24th.

Planning for the Festival is going well and a number of people have given firm offers of help to run stalls etc. on the day. More volunteers would be welcome however, to provide relief cover so that all helpers have an opportunity to enjoy the afternoons attractions.

The committee is arranging a COLLECTION for donations to stalls and raffle prizes ON THE EVENING of JULY 19th [ that's the Tuesday before the Festival weekend]; any items of grocery, bric-a-brac, cakes, home and garden produce would be most welcome. Small items for the childrens bran tub would also be appreciated and don't forget the "Best Decorated Wheelbarrow" competition. Why not dress the attendants as well !

TONY HEWITT [ Festival Committee Chairman, Telephone 681390 ]

## SUNDAY PAPERS

Now that we are into the holiday season would you please let me know of cancellations of Sunday papers by Tuesday evening prior to the weekend of delivery. As newspapers are ordered specifically to meet cutomers weekly requirements, late notice of cancellations will, unfortunately, still have to be charged.

Thanks for your co-operation. TONY HEWITT.

# **GARDEN MACHINERY SERVICE**

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Aston Abbots

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Aylesbury 681286

WING AND DISTRICT SWIMMING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP:                    £3.00 Parents and all children under 18 years at date of application.  
ADULT SINGLE MEMBERSHIP:           £1.50 18 years or over at date of application.  
JUNIOR SINGLE MEMBERSHIP:         £0.75 Between the ages of 9 and 18 years at date of application.  
SENIOR CITIZENS:                    £0.75

---

Type of Membership required: .....  
Name: .....  
Address: .....  
.....

FULL NAMES OF FAMILY IF FAMILY MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

Name:	Age:
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

I would be prepared to assist occasionally as follows:

Committee    Y/N    Helper    Y/N    Lifeguard    Y/N    Firstaider    Y/N

(Delete as applicable).

Telephone Number .....

**MEMBERSHIP FEE MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.**

Please return to The Secretary, Wing & District Swimming Association, Wing County Secondary School.

Cheques should be payable to Wing & District Swimming Association.

I AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES OF THE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Signature of Applicant: ..... Date: .....

---

Name: ..... Type of Membership: .....  
Address: .....  
.....

Received the sum of £ ..... as being payment for membership to the Wing & District Swimming Association.

Signed: .....





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Graham,

Pot-holes in British Rail car parks, Terry Wogan's ego, and now The Chronicle in Aston Abbots. All these have prompted me into writing action so I feel that 'Abbottsbury' has aroused me to say "what a marvellous response" to the Vicar's letter in the April edition.

My feelings exactly - as a small contributor to some village activities, and knowing the amount of work put in by many 'new comers' in the village, it seemed totally out of context to use the word 'apathy' when talking about life in Aston Abbots. True it is an idyllic village, and true house prices go on rocketing up, but I feel that gives more incentive to care for ones surroundings and help keep the village community together.

So many thanks again for an excellent reply. Oh, by the way, I had success with the pot-holes at Cheddington Station, but Terry Wogan's ego hasn't improved !

Yours sincerely,

TRISH WEBB, Holly Cottage, The Green.

Dear Graham,

Thanks and congratulations to Andy Bystra, our artist of the Chronicle covers. The pictures are a delight, and a joy to look forward to each month. I have collected all the drawings of our village, and intend to put them together into book form, by placing them in a photographic album.

RUTH BELLINGHAM, Marloes, Lines Hill.

Dear Harum,

Can you imagine the indignation you stirred up last month. I for one got extremely annoyed by you allowing yourself so much of the magazine to publish your views. I only hope that you get a wave of protest from other readers and that you resist further attempts to stir things up. You really must allow us to be as reticent as we want to be.

Yours

[Name and address supplied]

Dear Graham,

You are bound to get a lot of silly replies after your recent blitz on Messers Dines and Heffer.

However I must agree to some extent with our rarely visible parson.

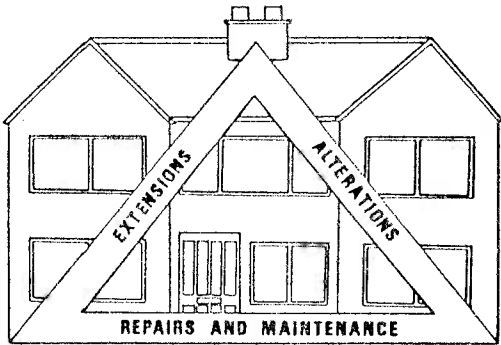
Although you put up a list of people who 'Do things' the unfortunate thing is that you tend to get the same crowd doing those things and taking on the responsibility.

Not only that, but when something is organised such as the village show, it is hells own job to get people along. In fact this year we had to cut the show down to two nights.

Although these events such as the show are put on to raise money they are also there to bring a little cheer on a dark winters night. It is meant to be a village event for the villagers but I would bet that less than 25% of the village has actually been to a show in the last five years and that was probably the same 25% ! So I agree, apathy is widespread in the village but through all people in the village and not just the newcomers.

Neil Chesher [5½ years in the village - a newcomer]

# CHALLENGER BUILDERS



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AYLESBURY 688910

MARSWORTH  
CHEDDINGTON 661219

S. & H. BRACKLEY  
117 WINSLOW ROAD  
WINGRAVE

VEGETABLE & FLOWER PLANTS.  
CUT FLOWERS MAY - NOVEMBER.  
PRESENTATION BOUQUETS & FLOWAL  
TRIBUTES TO ORDER.

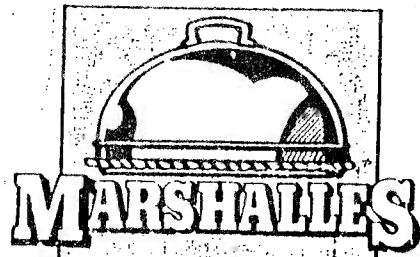
GARDEN SUPPLIES, POTTING COMPOSTS,  
PEAT, POTTING SAND, FERTILIZERS.

CHEMPAK SOILLESS COMPOST COMPOUNDS  
& SPECIAL FERTILIZER STOCKISTS.

ALL ENQUIRIES WELCOME - TELEPHONE  
AYLESBURY 681384.

## 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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MORE -

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

You seem to have got very hot under the collar about some innocent remarks.

One of the joys about your (sorry..our) magazine is that it is no po faced journal that examines navels but reflects many of the aspects of the village.

Some of those aspects are serious and concern is shown such as the Conservation Policy document.

Some are pure joy and I feel that it is good to have some one reflecting what has happened at an event and to reflect some of the natural goodhumour that abounds in the village.

I actually look forward to some of the more irreverent bits because they can be so enjoyable and your magazine is neutered without them.

I still smile about that mini series you ran of Radar and the Gnomes.

Far from trying to censor these things I think you should give them greater encouragement .

Probably the apathy thing is that not enough people write articles.

[Name and address supplied]

Dear Mr Parker,

At long last you have come out of the closet!

A clear statement of editorial policy is always welcome.

I must say that this attempt to gag the press is beyond what us long time residents of Aston Abbotts expect and I think you are right to make your policy clear at this time.

Your monthly magazine, whilst always seeming to be late, is a cosy way of keeping in touch with what is going on in the village.

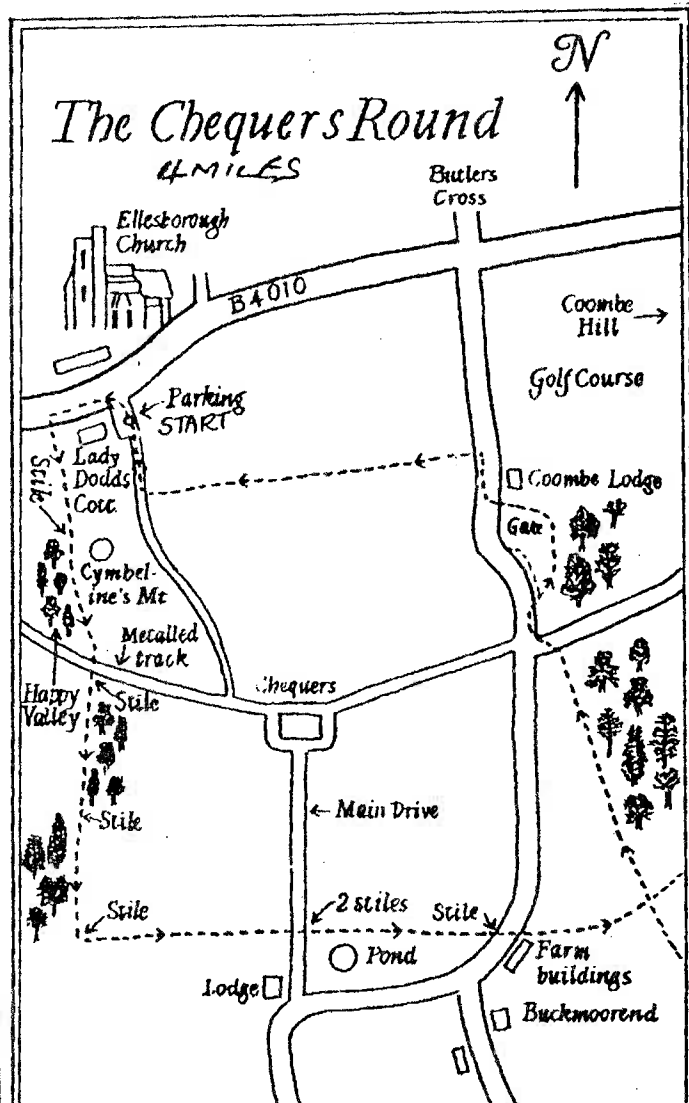
I've no idea what goes on in the pubs but the gossip that comes from your magazine seems to reflect the friendship that must be around those who go there.

Keep it going.

[Name and address supplied]



## OUT AND ABOUT



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

FROM MICHAEL COX, The Old House.

I would like to thank and congratulate Graham for his worthy and fair defence of our so-called village inertia. He is another example of village effort and it is typical of him to defend our reputation with such pride. I must say that I too was surprised by the misunderstanding in the original article, which showed such a lack of appreciation of the depth and variation of individual contributions to the village.

When Pam and I first arrived here in 1978, the village was held together by the major efforts of very few and this remained so for several more years. In the early 1980's, when village finances were extremely tight, the burden of this effort began to spread amongst many other villagers. Their aim was to improve the lot of the village community, and there are many visible examples of success. Our current committee members are greater than ever before and probably three times those of the early 1980's. The Parish Council, who so unselfishly protect our interests with the outside world, can, in consequence, appoint various committees to provide for our village needs. Nowadays they can do this with confidence.

Thus, I believe, our village spirit has flourished. There are more people putting in effort and there is a greater response from the village in consequence. The combination seems to be succeeding and so our village is thriving.

However, we must not be complacent, perhaps John Heffer has spotted something. Our village finances have never been stronger and show large and growing surpluses almost everywhere - further tangible proof of the recent success. Strangely, this might lead to a reversal if we are not careful. When we have had a cause to support the efforts have often been magnificent, but if we have surpluses we have no need of those efforts - nor, inadvertently, any need of the village support and spirit.

Also, the success of the individual committees and their projects has unintentionally moved us away from any 'All Village' project. I hope something comes along - any ideas? Maybe a committee has needs beyond its means; if so, I know that all the village groups would come together in support and that again would prove our village spirit.

---

Dear Graham,

As much as we the undersigned enjoy reading the Chronicle and most of the articles therein, we do, on this occasion have to agree with the comments made in last months issue regarding the use of pseudonyms.

We feel that if people write articles which they expect to be printed, they should at least be honest and decent enough to sign them with their real names, and if necessary their addresses as well, so that any hate mail can go directly to them without involving a third party (in the Chronicles case, yourself). You can rest assured that if we feel a need or desire to write an article for your magazine in the future, it will contain our name, address and anything else we feel may prove our authenticity.

With best wishes,

Don Gaster

Will E. Bethere

Steven Age

Win Grave

Carl S. Berg

Peter Borough

R.U. Kidding

Lynn Kings

Ed Inborough.

# People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE  
Edited by Bridget Brandon.

## BIRTHDAYS

SHELLEY SYKES ..... 5th.June.  
FRED CROSS ..... 6th.June.  
JULIAN BAILEY ..... 9th.June.  
KATE OAKES ..... 10th.June.  
SARAH LOVELL ..... 25th.June.  
SHARON WIGGETT ..... 26th.June.  
KIM PICKING ..... 27th.June.  
DAVE WHEATON ..... 21st.June.  
PAUL DRYSDALE ..... 21st.June.

## CONGRATULATIONS

to LINDA and DAVE WHEATON who celebrate their wedding anniversary on 1st. June.

## CONGRATULATIONS

to JAMES DIXON on being awarded the trophy for the most improved player of the 1987-8 season in the Wingrave Junior Football Club's Under 12's.

## CONGRATULATIONS

to ANDREW PARKER on being selected to play for Buckinghamshire Cricket Associations Under 16 team against Surrey at the County Ground, Guildford on 1st June.

## GARDENING PROBLEMS ?

THEN CONSULT NORMAN PAPPING,  
14 MILL LANE, WINGRAVE TO  
REMOVE WEEDS FROM YOUR GARDEN!

A BARGAIN AT £1 PER HOUR.

## RETIREMENT OF THE HEADTEACHER AT WINGRAVE SCHOOL

Sadly, our popular Headteacher, Mr. Brian Ellis, retires at the end of this term. To show our appreciation of his twenty-two years' service to the School and to the Community, we are holding a farewell party on Tuesday, 19th July, from 8 p.m. until 9.30 p.m. for adults only.

If you would like to be associated with a presentation to him and/or would like to come to the party, would you please fill in the slip below and send it to the School Secretary by 1st July.

John Heffer  
Chairman of Governors

To: The School Secretary, Wingrave C. E. Combined School

## RETIREMENT OF HEADTEACHER

I would like to contribute towards the presentation to Brian Ellis on his retirement and enclose my cheque/cash\*.

I/We shall be able to come on Tuesday, 19th July. There will be \_\_\_\_\_ adult(s) in my party.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please make cheques payable to Wingrave C. E. Combined School Fund.

# PUZZLE PAGE

Again taken from the Geographical Association's Worldwide Quizbook. Answers next month. Last months answers appear beneath this months questions.

## Yes, but where's the other one? - 2

1. Columbus is a town in Ohio; where is Colombo?
2. Georgia is an American state; where elsewhere is it a region?
3. Cape St. Vincent is on the coast of Spain; where is the *island* of St. Vincent?
4. Birmingham is a UK/Midland city; where is another city of the same name?
5. The Pennines are a range of hills down the centre of England; where are the *Apennines*?
6. Grenada was a West Indian island in the news in 1983; but where is Granada? (not the motorway services stations!)
7. Tripoli is a town involved in the recent fighting in Lebanon; but where's the one which famously figured in the fighting in World War II?
8. London, England; where is there another London?
9. Sao Paolo is a large Brazilian city; where's another city called St Paul?
10. Christchurch - an Oxford college, a Hampshire town - but where is it a major city?

## LAST MONTHS ANSWERS

### Yes, But Where's the Other One? - 1

1. Italy (site of steel works) 2. Senegal (West Africa) 3. Jamaica 4. West Germany 5. Nova Scotia, Canada 6. USA 7. Greece 8. South West Ireland 9. Arabia (bordering Persian Gulf) 10. Canada

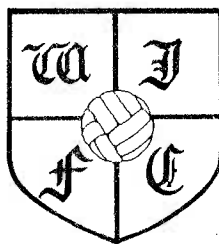


From a wood engraving by Thomas Bewick.

# WINGRAVE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

## UNDER 16 SQUAD VOTED

"MOST SPORTING TEAM IN THE  
AYLESBURY LEAGUE"



## UNDER 14 SQUAD VOTED

"MOST SPORTING TEAM IN THE  
LEIGHTON LEAGUE"

## SIX-A-SIDE SUCCESS ENDS SEASON

The 1987-8 season ended with a six-a-side tournament at the school pitch on the 15th May, followed by a presentation barbeque at the Bell in the evening. The weather proved kind for once and an afternoon of frenetic activity began just after 1.00 p.m. Each six-a-side team contained boys from each age group, with one or two dads filling in the gaps left by players unable to attend. With over thirty matches played the result hinged on the final game with Parkers Passers failing to score the additional goal that would have tied the championship. Neaves Nasties, unbeaten throughout took the title on goal difference. A great afternoon, and our thanks go to: RICHARD BISHOP, whose idea it was and whose hard work made it a reality; to all who provided refreshments and refereed the matches, and a special thank you to BRIAN ELLIS for his permission to use the school facilities. The final table was:

	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Goal Diff.</u>
NEAVES NASTIES	6	4	2	0	12	4	10	+ 8
PARKERS PASSERS	6	5	0	1	12	5	10	+ 7
COOKS CASUALS	6	2	1	3	6	6	5	0
HARRIS HOTSHOTS	6	2	1	3	7	9	5	- 2
MEAGRAMS MONSTERS	6	2	1	3	8	12	5	- 4
HICKSONS HACKERS	6	1	2	3	7	11	4	- 4
WATKINS WONDERS	6	1	1	4	5	10	3	- 5

## WELCOME GUESTS

The weather held for the evening barbeque at the Bell, although the popularity of the barbeque itself as a place to loiter did suggest a growing chill in the air. However, all were fed and the presentations began with the Under 12's, who had been the club's most successful side of the year.

We were very pleased to welcome Richard 'CHALKY' WHITE from the senior club to present the under 12 awards. Chalky has been a regular touchline supporter and his enthusiasm and encouragement are an excellent example of the close links that the senior and junior clubs have developed. To confirm this JACK KIDD, that doyen of the senior team, presented the under 14's awards. Our final guest who presented the under 16's awards was TERRY BRACEY-WRIGHT, whose financial support had kitted out the team; but Terry's support went beyond sponsorship, for he was invariably on the touchline to lend his voice to 'his' teams efforts in fair weather and foul, whether at Wingrave, Wing or Bierton. His support has been much appreciated. The Club awards went to:

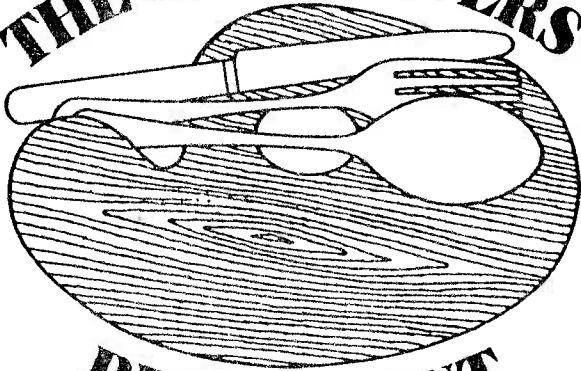
UNDER 12 : PLAYER OF THE YEAR: GREG SORACE.

MOST IMPROVED PLAYER: JAMES DIXON

UNDER 14 : PLAYER OF THE YEAR: BILLY BARROWCLOUGH. CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR: ELLIS KITCHENER.

UNDER 16 : PLAYER OF THE YEAR: CONRAD WATKINS. CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR: ANDREW HUMPHRIES

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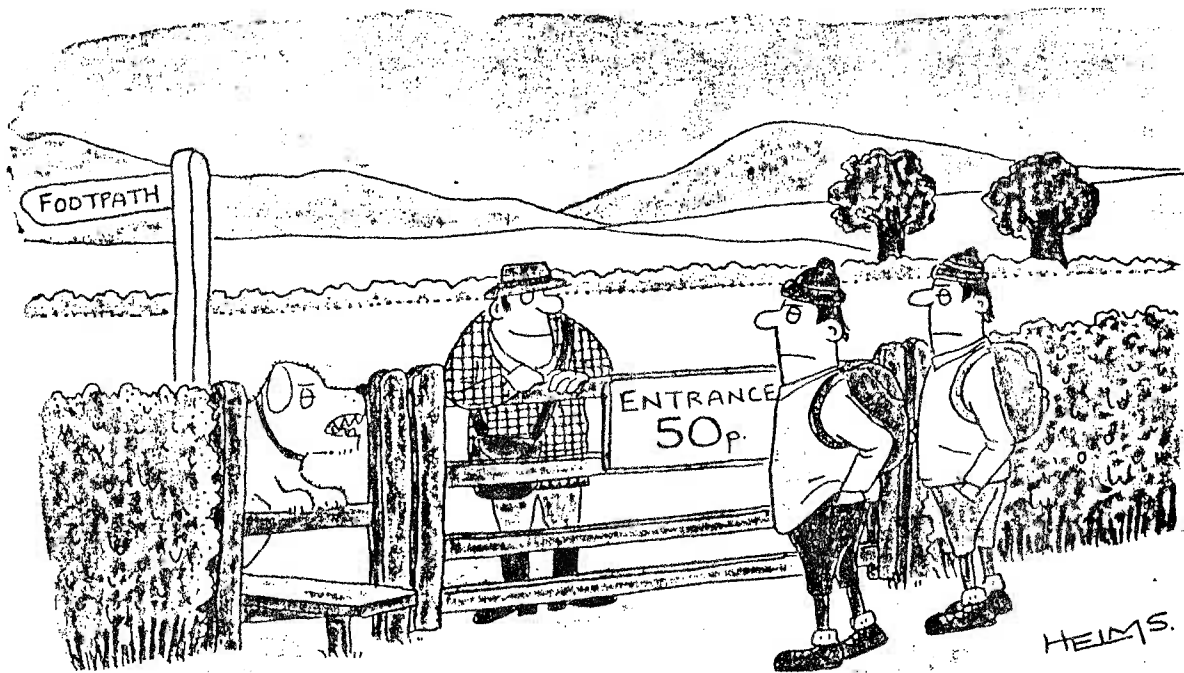
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Walton Parish Hall, Walton Street,  
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# Your Rights Of Passage

*Stan Pawson looks at the complex  
business of walkers' rights  
in the countryside*

**A**LONG WITH many walkers who live in primarily agricultural districts, I have experienced problems in finding rights of way that are clearly marked on the Ordnance Survey map. Often there is no indication of their existence, or indeed that they ever existed at all.

Along with the destruction of hedgerows to reduce tractor turning time and squeeze every last grain of cereal from the land to go into EEC storage silos, footpaths have also been obliterated.

Sometimes this has happened unthinkingly; sometimes it has been a deliberately considered act by a landowner or tenant to deter, or even intimidate the public from using their lawful rights of passage over ground which does not belong to them.

Perhaps of all possessions, the ownership of land is the most emotive. Proof of ownership is

virtually always well documented, so that apart from things like compulsory purchase orders it cannot easily be taken from its owner.

Likewise, the enjoyment of land is zealously guarded, and any encroachment vigorously resisted by its owner. Even today, the nation's largest landowner, the Forestry Commission, although itself in public ownership, restricts the use by the public of land which is logically theirs.

Water authorities follow a similar policy of restricting access and many of us have experienced being excluded from some of the most scenic and walkable countryside by the Ministry of Defence.

Given this attitude by public bodies, it is not altogether surprising to find that private landowners are reluctant to share with the public. Fortunately, the public does have rights of passage over land in both private and public ownership. These

rights go back to common law, but more recently are enshrined in statute law.

So many things which, on the surface, seem simple and straightforward, become complex when touched by the law. As a layman, I have attempted to find out something about my rights as a walker under the law.

In their book *Rights of Way: A Guide to Law and Practice*, Clayden and Trevelyan quote over 30 Acts of Parliament, along with five "Statutory Instruments" affecting the use of paths. Of these, the following are perhaps the most relevant.

- (1) *The Countryside Act, 1968.*
- (2) *The Town and Country Planning Act, 1971.*
- (3) *The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979.*
- (4) *The New Towns Act, 1981.*

(5) *The Highways Act, 1980: a consolidating act which replaced the Highways Acts of 1835 and 1959 (The 1959 act was itself amended in 1961 and 1971). This act also replaced the Rights of Way Act of 1932.*

(6) *The National Parks and Access to Countryside Act, 1949. A very important act insofar as it prescribed the drawing up of maps defining rights of way. These rights of way are now shown on both 1:50,000 and 1:25,000 scale maps published by the Ordnance Survey.*

*This act also allowed the establishment of our officially designated long-distance footpaths, the first and most famous of which was the Pennine Way.*

(7) *The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. This act, amongst other things, deals with the rights of farmers to graze bulls where there is a public footpath; ploughing up and reinstatement of paths and signposting. It is subject to review every five years.*

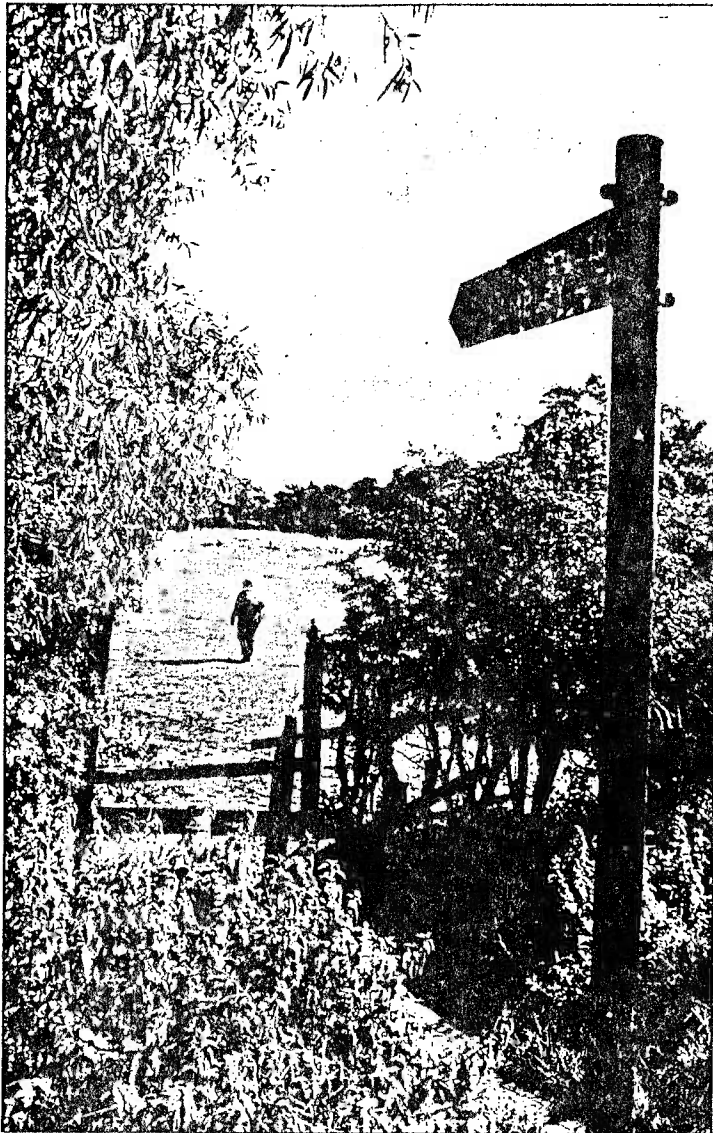
As well as statute law, rights of way are subject to the provisions of Statutory Instruments such as the Town and Country Planning (Public Path) Regulations of 1969.

## **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE**

Plenty of case law exists from as far back as 1626 which can provide precedents where a dispute arises over a right of way.

# Your Rights Of Passage

A typical footpath sign indicating a right of way across a field (John Woodhouse).



Rights of way are of two sorts: *Public*, where the right is common to all subjects of the Queen, and *Private*, where the right may be enjoyed only by certain individuals and not the public at large.

Private rights may include detailed restrictions, for example, access allowed only at stated times of the year or times of day. Public rights of way may be created either by statute or dedication when a landowner grants a right of way over his property.

A right of way is just that: the right by the public to pass and re-pass on their lawful occasions. No flower picking, no camping and no playing of games. A person may travel from A to B and, if he needs to, return from B to A.

The rights of way we use go under various and sometimes intriguing names, including the following: cart-ways, causeways, footways, horse-ways and pavements. Other varieties are bridleways, which are open to all on foot or horseback or

leading a horse. Cyclists may also use them, providing they give way to pedestrian and horse traffic.

Carriageways are for wheeled traffic and drove roads were for the purpose of driving cattle from one place to another. Byeways are open to all pedestrian and vehicular traffic, while the horse still has

priority over the pedestrian along canal towpaths.

Case law can have a bearing on the types of path we use. Where, as is sometimes the case, a Church of England is situated on a private estate, the churchway to it exists only for the benefit of the parishioners. This principle was determined in *Shurry v Piggott* in 1626.

Coffin roads (so named because corpses were carried along them to their burial) are not necessarily rights of way. *Belton v Nicholas*, 1935, refutes the "popular fallacy embodied in the saying that the passage of a corpse establishes a public right of way".

## LOST PATHS

All our rights of way are protected and cannot be taken away simply because they are used only infrequently, or not at all. A way, once dedicated to the public, is a public way forever (apart from subsequent statutory proceedings to close it). This point was made in *Jones v Bates*, 1938, when Lord Justice Scott said: "No genuine public footpath should be lost without statutory action to close it."

A right of way can be lost to us where it physically ceases to exist, as when a cliff is completely eroded away, and this can be seen with particular effect along the Cleveland Way. However, the Highway Authority does have powers to create new paths where necessary.

Owners of land over which a right of way passes have a number of legal obligations to the users of those ways. The law lays a duty on the owner of the land to maintain in a safe condition and state of repair any stile, gate or similar structure across a footpath or bridleway, in order to prevent unreasonable interference with the rights of those using it.

A ploughed up footpath must be reinstated, signposts must not be pulled down or obliterated, neither must false or misleading signs be erected.

A landowner may divert a path for a period not exceeding three months, and the diversion must be clearly indicated. In doing this, the landowner is responsible for administration fees, which amount to several hundred pounds.

The erection and maintenance of signposts is the duty of the Highway Authority, who must put up a sign at every point where a footpath or bridleway leaves a metalled road, except where they are not considered necessary. It is worth noting that parish councils can be very influential in deciding what is considered necessary.

As well as signposts off metalled roads, the Highway Authority has an unlimited duty to erect such signposts or waymarks as may, in its opinion, be needed to help people unfamiliar with the area to follow the route of a footpath or bridleway.

Indeed, the authority has an express duty to assert and protect the public's right to use and enjoy any highway for which the authority is responsible.

## TAKING ACTION

Many walkers tend to be timid and are easily turned away from what are their legitimate rights of way by an obstruction or a notice that, while not illegal, is certainly ambiguous.

Perhaps the best known of these is the "Private Road" sign. The road may well be closed to wheeled or horse traffic but not to the pedestrian — the notice just omits to mention this.

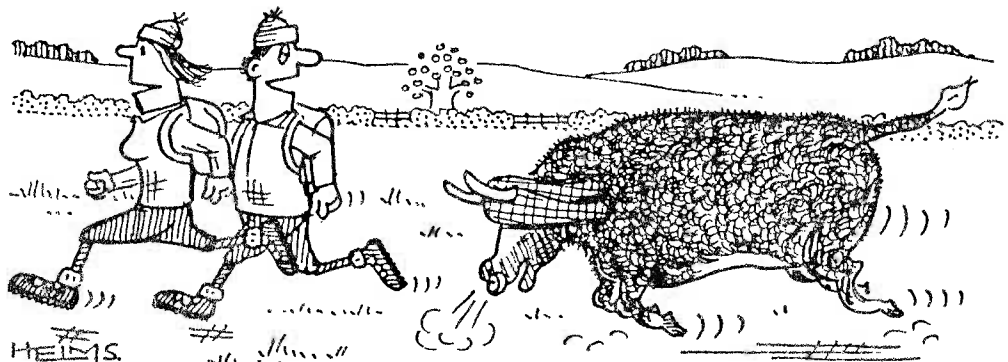
So what can a walker who feels he has a justifiable grievance do about it, and what constitutes a justifiable grievance?

Grievances are caused mainly either by an obstruction or a nuisance, neither of which are defined in statute law, although case law may help.

In very general terms, the replacement of a stile by a fence, hedge or locked gate could be construed as an obstruction; an overgrown path or one made exceedingly muddy by the passage of cattle merely a nuisance.

Legitimate complaints may also arise where animals known to be dangerous are kept in fields crossed by a public path; if someone discharges firearms in the proximity of a public path; if there is intimidation by the landowner or his tenant or employee; if there are fierce, unchained dogs; if barbed wire is laid where it may cause injury and if misleading or false notices are erected.

Where any of these situations arise, are of a permanent nature,

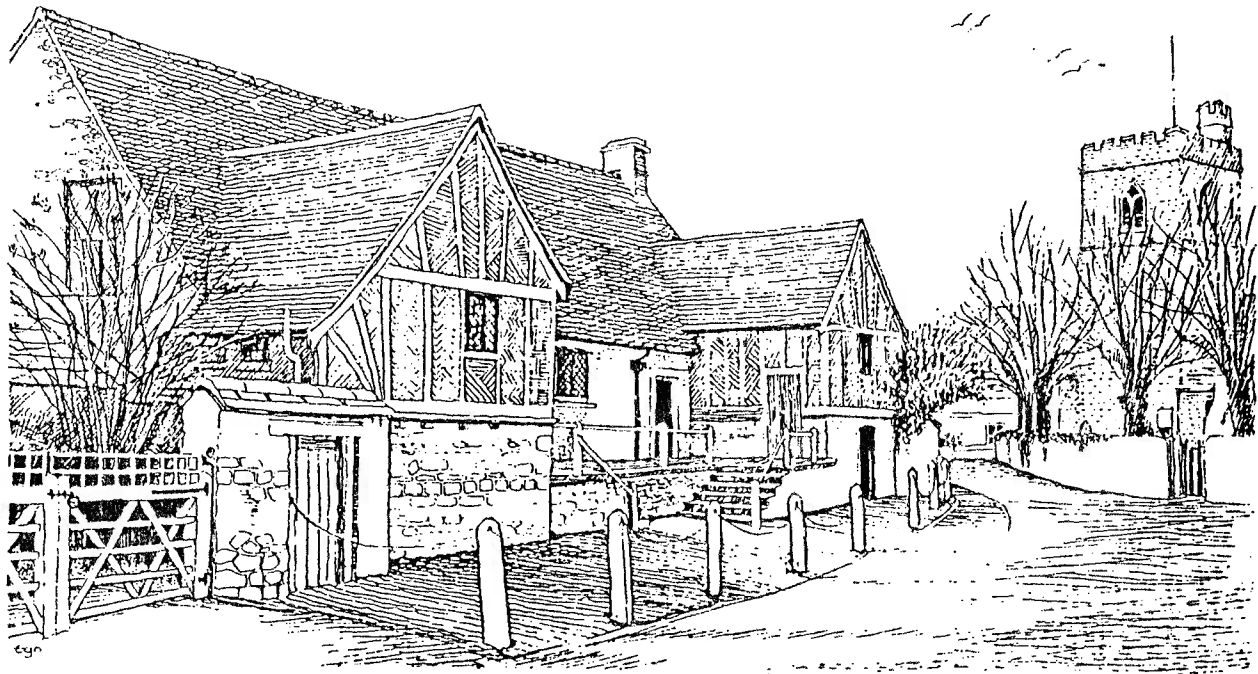


"Norman must have been this way, I recognised his trousers."

# Portraits of Buckinghamshire

No. 29. THE BERNARD HALL AND St. NICHOLAS'  
CHURCH, CUDDINGTON.

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



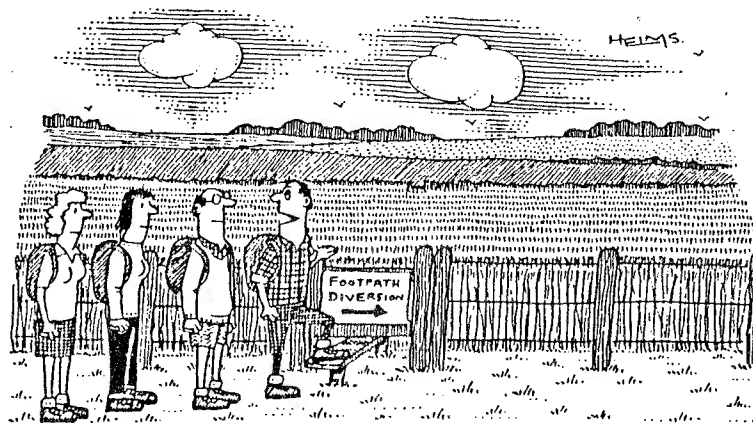
and thus hinder the free passage of travellers, they have redress against those at fault.

Firstly, where possible and practicable, the matter should be brought to the attention of the owner, who may be unaware of the problem and will seek to remedy it.

Where this is not possible, or the owner is unco-operative, the complaint should be made to the appropriate local authority. If the path about which the complaint is being made is on the definitive map, it is the District Council which is likely to have responsibility of enforcement. Parish Councils have certain discretionary powers, too.

If the path is not defined on the map then the complaint should be addressed to the County Council. The complaint should contain the following details:

- (1) Type of path, e.g. bridleway.
- (2) Map reference of site of complaint. A photocopy of the relevant section of the map, showing the location of the complaint is helpful.
- (3) Nature of the complaint, preferably illustrated by a photograph.
- (4) Date and time cause of complaint was encountered.
- (5) If you were challenged as to your right of passage then the name and status of the challenger should be obtained, together with a photograph for positive identification.



*"On the other hand, we could go straight across the middle and help to reduce the over-production of wheat."*

Local authorities are bureaucratic by nature and can take an inordinate length of time in taking action against a landowner who has failed to meet his obligations.

Where this is the case, it is open to the individual to take the matter before local magistrates and ask for an order requiring the authority to perform its statutory duties. Of course, this would only be done where persuasion had failed.

Alternatively, the complainant may bring an action directly against the offender through the civil courts should he feel competent to do so.

In making a complaint to either a landowner or a local authority, it is essential to be factual and unemotional. It is particularly im-

portant to keep your tongue and temper under careful control!

It is vital that complaints are made, otherwise nothing will be done to alleviate their cause. As well as complaining to the local authority, the local branch of the Ramblers' Association and Footpath Protection Society (if there is one) should be informed so that they can monitor the situation in their area.

Perhaps even more fundamental is that paths should be used. Walkers can hardly expect a landowner to maintain a footpath that is rarely, if ever, used.

Rather, it is the deliberate attempt to deter the use of a path that must be brought to the attention of the local authority for action; and don't forget to pester and keep pestering

them if they fail to do anything about your complaint after a reasonable length of time.

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*Rights of Way: A Guide to Law and Practice.* Clayden and Trevelyan, published by Open Spaces Society and Ramblers' Association.

*Out in the Country: where you can go and what you can do,* published by the Countryside Commission.

*Paths for People, The Powers of Local Councils,* published by the Ramblers' Association.

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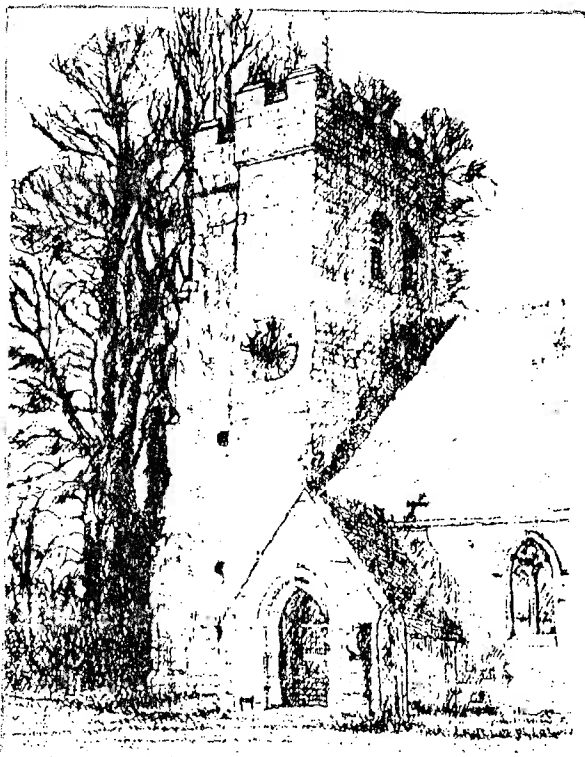
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*M. Talbot*

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# CHURCH NEWS

These notes were written in IOWA CITY in the U.S.A. where I was attending an educational conference. So you will not be surprised to read that on Whitsunday, or Pentecost Sunday as it is called in the U.S.A., I worshipped in an unfamiliar church. It was in fact called the First Methodist Church. Somewhat to my surprise the singing



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTS, BUCKS.

was not as vigorous as I expected, certainly not as hearty as that at the Resident Methodist Schools Conference which nearly raised the roof of Westminster College Chapel in Oxford a few weeks ago. However, the point of mentioning all this is really to emphasise the worldwide fellowship of the churches and to ask you, if you have not done so already, to read the Archbishop's letter to us all which is printed elsewhere in this issue. In it the Archbishops' are saying two important things, first that the Church of England, whether we like it or not, whether we care or not, is concerned with everyone in England, members or not, black or white, old or young, male or female, no one can escape its concern. Second that

this means that all of us should be concerned for each other and in particular for those in our inner cities who so clearly need help in so many ways. This may be spurned by some but they will never be spurned by the Church. In fact the Church has decided to make an especial effort to help and is going to raise a huge fund in order to do so. It has therefore asked every church member to contribute £16 over the next two years. This is only 16p a week! Certainly St James's Church will do this. Will you help us ?

## CHURCH SERVICES IN JUNE

12th June : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m.  
Acts 4(8-12) 648 Luke 8(41-56)

19th June : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m.  
Acts 8(26-38) 652 Luke 15(1-10)

26th June : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m.  
Acts 11(4-18) 658 Luke 10(1-12)

3rd July : FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 a.m.  
[Service to be taken by Rev. P. Creber]

## Sidesman

Alison Ford.

Colin Higgs.

Tony Hewitt.

Sarah Lovell.

PETER DINES.

THE CHURCHES OF WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM, ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON

June 1988

THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Aylesbury 681623

The Pastoral Letter from the Archbishops is quite enough for one month! Please read carefully. No doubt individual parishes will respond in different ways.

FR. JOHN HEFFER

---

SERVICES AND EVENTS

USPG LENT BOXES A final total of £333 was raised for the Muheza Hospital. Well up on last year. Many thanks to all who gave.

Wingrave £210      Cublington £87      Aston Abbots £36

SERVICE OF PRAYER & HEALING Aston Abbots Church      June 20th      8.00 p.m.

CUBLINGTON FESTIVAL      18/19th June      See local publicity

WINGRAVE FLOWER FESTIVAL      26th June      }

WINGRAVE FESTIVAL      2/3 July      }

See local publicity

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SUNDAY LESSONS

3rd July      as of: SS. Peter & Paul      2 Timothy 4(6-18)      Matthew 16(13-20)  
10th July      Pentecost 7      1 Corinthians 12(27)-13(13)      Mark 2(28-34)  
17th July      Pentecost 8      1 Corinthians 12(4-13)      Luke 6(27-38)  
24th July      Eve of S. James      Jeremiah 45      Mark 10(35-45)  
31st July      Pentecost 10      Galations 6(1-10)      Luke 7(36-50)

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FROM THE REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM      Wingrave Parish Church

29th May      CLAIRE LOUISE, daughter of Paul & Susan REYNOLDS

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE      Wingrave Parish Church

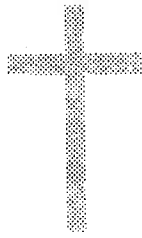
23rd April      David LIGHTFOOT and Lorraine Elizabeth PECKHAM  
30th April      Kevin Anthony WISE and Lisa Rose PEDLEY  
21st May      Adrian Arnold MANCHA and Kathryn Tracey WELLS

FUNERALS      Wingrave

15th April      Helene RICHARDS  
28th April      Iris TOMPKINS  
3rd May      George HORWOOD  
10th May      Helen JACKSON

"We pray to the Father that he will welcome into his kingdom all our faithful departed brothers and sisters and all who have been the friends of God."

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PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOPS  
OF CANTERBURY AND YORK TO BE READ IN ALL CHURCHES  
ON SUNDAY 24 APRIL 1988

*Greetings in the name of Christ.*

*We are fellow members of the Church of England and that very name declares our responsibility not just to parts of England but to the whole of it.*

*So when parts are in need we cannot ignore them. That is the situation now. The report "Faith in the City" diagnosed the urgent and serious needs of our inner cities and urban priority areas.*

*The Church of England is there in those areas and has been from the beginning. We cannot and will not withdraw from them. Already there are heroic examples to inspire us. It is on this foundation we shall advance in evangelism, pastoral care and community action. A new future is possible.*

*The Church Urban Fund, launched last Wednesday, is a response of hope, faith and love. It is an initiative which has the support of fellow Christians with whom, in these urban areas, we are working together as closely as anywhere in the country. It is a step which has won all round political support. It is a move which will enable the local Church to meet the needs which they know best of all.*

*Together we are to create a Fund sufficiently large to enable many projects to go ahead and workers to be financed for years to come. We owe this to the dedicated clergy and lay people living in areas of physical decay, financial hardship and high unemployment but often sustained by a faith, a resilience and a spirituality that is an example to us all. The Fund will stand with them and support them.*

*The investment of money in the Fund is an investment for Our Lord and His mission, with the dividend being found in the lives of people and the transformation of communities. We ask all Church members, wherever they are, to share with us in this venture with vision, prayer and generosity.*

*We believe this Fund to be a cause which will renew our confidence in the unity of our Church as we work with all those who long for a sense of one nation within this land. "Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ."*

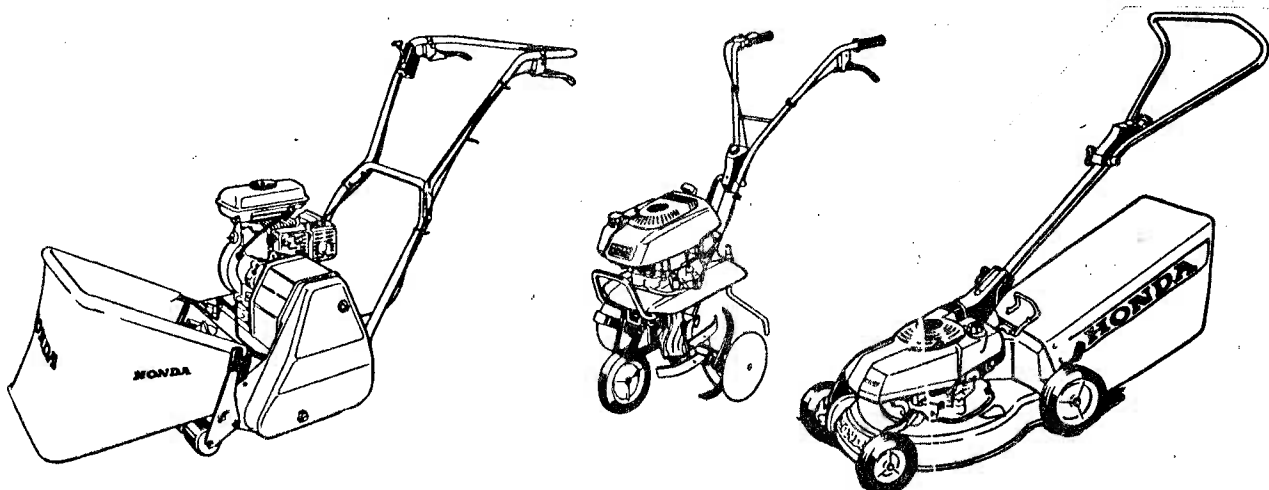
*May God bless our endeavours and be with you all.*

ROBERT CANTUAR

JOHN EBOR

24 April 1988

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