The Chronicle



Aston Abbotts Parish Magazine

November 1991

No 95



Editorial

As many of you will know, the Church clock fund is now complete and the repairs and regilding will be going ahead. We'd like to say a public thank you to all those who have worked to raise the money. It's taken a long time and needed a steady stream of fund-raising ideas, not always easy in a village as small as this. Yes, we live in Church Row and yes, we shall be very glad to hear the clock strike again!

We shall also be glad to see the Leighton Buzzard bypass open on November 15th. If you want to walk, run or cycle along it before then, and make some sponsorship money for the Leighton-Linslade Community Trust, why not join the activities on 3rd November? Details from the Citizens' Advice or the Observer offices in Leighton.

Thanks to Wingrave Junior Football Club for their kind donation to Chronicle funds.

Caroline Laure

Govela funt

Please let us have contributions, letters or whatever, for the December issue by Friday 22nd November. Send, deliver or telephone to 2 Church Row, 681373.

Published by Caroline Lane and Gordon Smith Printed by the SQUIRREL PRESS at Waddesdon School Distributed free to all households in the parish of Aston Abbotts

Cover illustration botched up after Gwenda Morgan's Country Calendar



Thursday 31st Oct: Hallowe'en walk, The Green 9.30pm

Bring a torch
Sal 2nd: Finance Reyal Oak
Tuesday 5th: Bonfire Night
Bonfire at the Rec, 6.30pm

Thursday 7th: Bingo Church Room, 7.30pm

Sunday 10th: Rambling Club meet Tring Museum, 2pm

Monday 11th: Toddlers 2.30-4pm, Church Room

Thursday 14th: Ladies Club 'Healing' by Catriona Boyle 2.45pm, Church Room

Thursday 14th: Whist Drive 7.30pm, Church Room

★Wednesday 20th: British Gas exhibition, The Green, 10am - 4pm

Saturday 23rd: British Legion Bingo, Church Room, 7.30pm

Sunday 24th: Rambling Club meet Wing Church, 2pm

Monday 25th: Toddlers 2.30-4pm, Church Room

Thursday 28th: Ladies Club Travel Slides: Mrs Hulbert and BBONT stall

Thursday 28th: Whist Drive Church Room, 7.30pm

Saturday 30th: Peterborough
Christmas Shopping
Coach departs The Green 8.45am
Fare £6 Book with Colin
681343

* Also wednesday 20th: Slide show, methodish Church, 7.30pm - SEE p. 11

REGULARS

Tuesdays: Bin Day

Tuesdays: Wingrave Toddlers Community Centre, 2-4pm

Tuesdays: The Trawler mobile fish shop, The Green, 1.40-2pm

Alternate Wednesdays: mobile library
The Green 2.00-2.30pm
Longmoor, 2.35-2.50pm
November dates: 6th, 20th

Wednesdays: free bus to Tesco (Aylesbury) 10.31 Bull & Butcher Returns 12.45

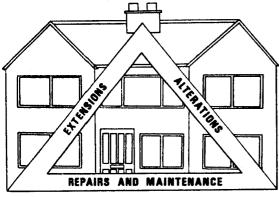
Wednesdays: fish & chip van outside Bull & Butcher, about 8pm

mobile exhibition unit to the Green for a day on 20th Nov - 10am to 4pm. If you are thinking about having gas laid to your house, or about buying a new fire, cooker or whatever, this is an ideal opportunity to find out more.

BICYCLE LIGHTS The police are doing spot checks of bicycle lamps and brakes. Make sure yours are working, front and rear - don't get caught (or hit by a car).

BONFIRE NIGHT There will be a bonfire at the Rec on Tuesday 5th. Please take your burnable items to the usual spot (we'll have the seat on the Rec for a start). Donations of fireworks or money for fireworks to Laurence Hinds at 5 Ross Road (688378). One big firework rather than several small ones for preference; thanks. Bonfire at 6.30, fireworks at 7pm

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Our monthly column about village people, edited by BRIDGET BRANDON

BIRTHDAYS

Tom Brown . . . 3rd Nov
John Brancker . . 7th Nov
Bridget Brandon . 8th Nov
Steve Kent . . 9th Nov
John Whyte . . 23rd Nov
Esther Chesher . 26th Nov

If you would like to broadcast the fact that you, or a member of your family are about to celebrate a birthday, just phone me on 681425, and I will see that it gets into your Chronicle.

Running Club

Since the Oxford Half Marathon on September 29th (when the Club came 674th out of 900 in a personal best time of 1.48.59) they ran the Cispotel (what?) at Windsor on October 5th, followed by the Building Industry, also at Windsor on October 6th, in times of 1.51 and 1.56. This made three Half Marathons in eight days. Are they completely bonkers?

Congratulations

to Janet and Roger Biddle on the birth of their son Stuart Matthew on 5th October.



And to Claire on gaining a brother

Firelighting wood is always available at just £2 a bag from Marc on 681425.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

Tickets are now available from John Whyte on 681685 at £2.50 each; £1.50 for children and OAPs. Price includes a glass of sherry just to help things along and oil your tonsils ready for the audience participation.

Performances Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December at 8pm in the Church Room.

Raffle prizes are most welcome; please give these to Margaret Chesher (20 The Green, 681201) or Rita Robinson (31 The Green, 681690).

VILLAGE APPRAISAL

Are there things in the village you feel strongly about? Such as development, traffic, the recreation ground, housing... the village appraisal is going to collect information about what people who live here think, and put the results in a booklet for local groups and authorities to use. We are drawing up a questionnaire, so if there are subjects you want included please let Caroline Lane, Shirley Ford or Margaret Chesher know. (The questionnaire will be anonymous.)

Our working party is the three above, plus Laurence Hinds, Ray Wilkinson and Lynne DeLooze.

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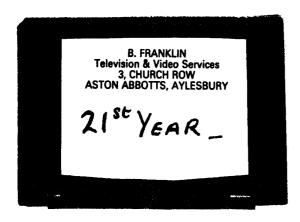
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SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER





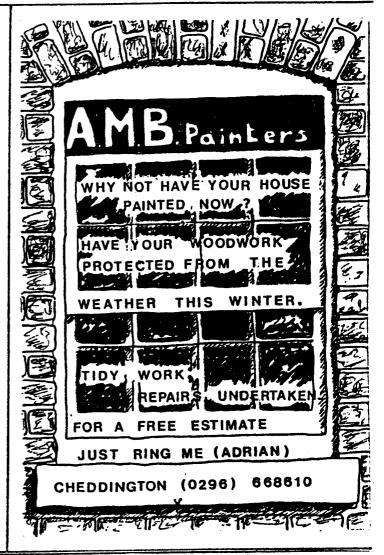
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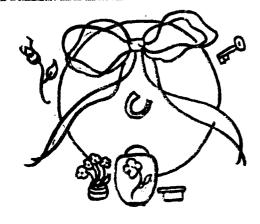
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RECTOR'S REPORT

Remembrance Sunday may seem a little strange this year!

Some may even decide that really needs to be dropped. For with the dramatic changes that we have seen over the last few months - the ending of the Cold War, the easing of international tension (whatever that is), and the proposed reduction in the level of armaments, the idea could be thought somewhat dated. The World suddenly seems to be a more peaceful place than it has been for most of this century.

But the threats are still there. We must not forget in our euphoria that our Forces have seen Active Service in the Gulf (mercifully with very few casualties). Nor must we turn a blind eye to the Civil War in Yugoslavia. And very little progress can yet be seen in Northern Ireland.

It is still too soon to stop remembering!

Although we can rightly enjoy the lessening of tension, we must not forget the price that has been paid in the name of peace this century by men and women. We cannot just take their efforts for granted. Nor must we forget just how easily things can change, and the international temperature rise again to boiling point. Those devastatingly powerful weapons of modern warfare may not be immediately to hand - but the know-how will not be forgotten.

By the laws of Nature there are now few people alive who can actually remember the First World War (and those who can are generally reluctant to tell of its horrors). Before many more years have passed, those who served their Country in the 1939-45 War will similarly have disappeared. But what they did and what they stood for will not be forgotten.

Without them, today's world - the things we so easily take for granted - would be a very different place. We owe to them a deep debt of gratitude. We must still go on remembering.

Bob Willmott

This year's Service of Remembrance will take place at Aston Abbotts at 10.45 on Sunday 10th November.

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The Chronicle

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: Inside £ 7 per annum

EIGHTH PAGE : Back £ 7 per annum

: Inside £ 5 per annum

ALL OTHER ADS : Inside £ 5 per annum

Please send copy and cheque (made payable to 'The Chronicle') to John Whyte, 14 Bricstock, Aston Abbotts, Aylesbury, Bucks. Telephone 0296 681685

HELP LINE

Chris Brandon, 12 Bricstock, 681425

Margaret Chesher, 20 The Green, 681201

John Ford, 2 Ross Road 681865 Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road 681358 John Whyte, 14 Bricstock 681685

+++ HELP IN EMERGENCIES +++

(Driving you to doctor, picking up prescription, and so on)

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Roger Biddle, 1 Firs Cottage, Wingrave Road 681102 John Ford, 2 Roas Road 681865

Caroline Lane, 2 Church Row
681373

Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road 681358 (Chairman)

Victor Scott, 11 The Green 681488

Clerk: Margaret Chesher 20 The Green 681201

District Councillor: Bryan Round 11 Nup End Lane, Wingrave 681621

Church services in November

sidesman

3rd November FAMILY SERVICE 11.15am Methodist Church 8 before Christmas Gen 3.1-15; John 3.13-21 (p.405

10th November REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 10.45am Gillian Ford 7 before Christmas Gen 22.1-18; Luke 20.9-17 (p.410)

17th November HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.15am Alison Ford 6 before Christmas Ex. 6.2-8; Mark 13.5-13 (p.415)

24th November HOLY COMMUNION 11.15am Colin Higgs 5 before Christmas Isa.10.20-23; Mark 13.14-23 (p.420)

lst December FAMILY SERVICE 11.15am Michael Hasler
Advent Isa. 51.4-11; Matt. 25.31-end (p.424)

Methodist Church Services for November

3rd November UNITED FAMILY SERVICE 11.15am

Preacher Mr Simcox

10th November No service

17th November Rev Peter Lemmon

24th November No service

6.00pm

METHODIST CHURCH

Wednesday 20th November, 7.30pm

INDIAN SUMMER SLIDE SHOW by Rev. Peter Lemmon

Refreshments to follow

'All are welcome

LOOK AT P. 13 FIRST

Schoolchildren, left to right:
Michelle Hinds, Alison Ford,
Suzannah McCullough, Daran
Faulkner and Jason McCullough
(and apologies if they have
disappeared completely in
the photocopier!)

ANSWERS TO PAGE 13 PHOTO



ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT

We have received a copy of the booklet Aternative Transport Schemes - gives details of voluntary schemes in Bucks. There's nothing for this village (but see Helpline on p. 10 if you are stuck in an emergency) but there is general information about how to start schemes and about carsharing. Just ask the Chronicle editors if you want to see it.

Last month we printed two reports, dated 1888, of visits made to the Kent and Simmons families. We now think these are land agent's reports.

Mr Herbert Goldney has kindly let us know more about the background. Cottage no. 19, where the Simmons lived, is the present 83 The Green, next to the Bull. It is thought that this terrace formed part of sixteen houses built in the 19th century by Lady Wantage. Joseph Simmons was Mr Goldney's grandfather on his mother's Joseph had three wives, Mr Goldney's mother being a daughter of his first marriage. Mr Goldney's father died when he was four; the family - his mother, his sister Alice and himself - lived at Wingrave, where his mother took in washing. In 1916 the family moved back to Aston Abbotts to look after Joseph at no. 19. Goldney's sister married Fred Hinds; his aunt Alice (in the report) moved to Aylesbury, but we don't know whether she became a nursemaid! Bertie, her brother, worked for Lord Freeman at the Macintyre.

As for George Kent and family at no. 7, this is now part of no. 33 The Green (end of the terrace, where the Branckers now live). Sydney Kent later had a cobbler's shop there.

There were more shops in the village in the 1920s and 1930s - two general stores, one run by Miss Miller at no. 22 (where Mr and Mrs Scutchings live now) and one run by the Sinfields at Bricstock, where Michelle Hinds now lives. This one sold everything from food to bootlaces and paraffin.

There was a dairy at Rose Cottage on the Green, where the Prices live; and Tom Humphries at the Bull not only ran the pub but was a baker and cooked everyone's Christmas turkeys (each carefully labelled) while the owners were in Church. Mr Harris, who lived at Longmoor, used to sell coal in the winter and people would walk up to buy it at 2/- a bag.

In 1888, the time of the land agent's reports, the school was relatively new, the land for it having been given by Lord Overstone in 1875. It replaced an earlier school on the Green. The school closed exactly 100 years later (see newspaper report in this Chronicle).

Many thanks to Mr Goldney and to Shirley Ford for information. More reports on p. K.

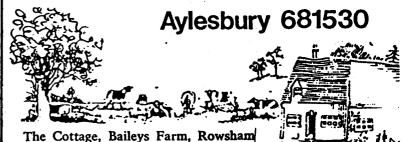
wesh from the same

Christmas Poultry

Turkeys, Cockerels, Geese.

LAMB, PORY FOR YOUR - TREEZER.

Ring John Masters ~



Evening Post Feb. 1970

ADS NACLASSO



PARENTS in a tiny village are just waiting for their county's cost-cutting axe to fall on their children's school.

For they're convinced that when educational budget measures are announced, their small Victorian village school will be top of the list of things to go.

The parents' fears are understandable, as the Church of England assisted school, modernised less than ten years ago, has just one more pupil than staff.

The five youngsters, who are now the only names on the register at the school of Aston Abbotts, Buckinghamshire, are looked after by acting headmistress Miss Joyce Whipps, a dinner helper, a cook and caretaker. The rest of the school's pupils have now moved to a newly built "combined" school at Wingrave, two miles away. The remaining children are expected to join them eventually, travelling each day by school bus.

school bus.

Mrs Gabrielle Fawcett, of Roses Close, Cublington, whose two young sons used to attend the threatened school, claimed the remaining children's parents realised they were fighting losing battle. "The only reason that the school has not closed before now is that it would involve a lengthy process with the church authorities," she said.

Words: PHIL CLEE Picture: TONY MARDELL

"But we were told that it would be closing anyway, and a lot of parents decided it was a waste of time to forestall the closure and sent their children along to Wingrave. The other mothers refuse outright, and their children are the ones still at the school, but who knows for how long?" added Mrs. Fawcett.

According to Brekingbarnship.

According to Buckinghamshire County Council it won't be long before the school closes its doors for the last time.

A spokesman said yesterday discussions have been held with the diocesan authorities about the school and that the county council would shortly be publishing a notice stating their intention to close the school.

This will give anyone who wants to the chance to object during that three months period, he said.

"We are currently carrying out a comprehensive review of other small schools in the county although there isn't another one in Buckinghamshire as far as we know with a population as small as this."

Recognise anybody? Answers on page 11

Wingrave Garage

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VILLAGE OF	COTTAGE No.	VILLAGE OF COTTAGE No.
TENANT WILL	ian Simmons RENT PER WEEK 34	TENANT James Hedges RENT PER WEEK 2/-
DATE OF VISIT	24 March 1888.	DATE OF VISIT 27 Mench 1888
	Milliam Jymonds Large & childrens Mary Ann aged 25. harries 5-28. Milliam 17. Henry 15. harries France George 11. Gothan in service.	OCCUPANTS Sames Hedges. old man: ond morried daughter the husband lock Halsey & their 2 Children Bessie apo 2 yes. La baby. Him. Smalles bed ridden daughte. 4 Hedges.
Mayann " " billiam " " Henry " "	M. Hart at abbey as gordener. hasbeen Parish Clark for 20 years. kelps has nother who lakes in washing. W. Bench field a laboror W. Harwood Seneral cerrant W. Roads Laborer.	TENANT WORKS FOR. Isoph Holiny works for Mr. Denchfield
ACCOMMODATION	Sitzhen tScullery. 2 Bedrooms. Bann thisty. No wash house Copperit techen food farden - Bake House Share of	ACCOMMODATION Same as 11. 12.13. Hedges t bedruidden daughter skeep in one recommends screen. Hedrey a wife t children in other room.
REMARKS	For too crowded. Mary ann going to be minied. Boys must get out to service.	REMARKS roy respectable feefle.

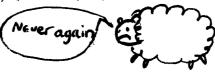
Two more land agent's reports for 1988. Thank you again to Shirley Ford for lending us her copies

A MONTHLY LOOK AT FACTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW

The letters SOS were adopted as an international distress signal in 1912 because the Morse code for them-three dots, three dashes and three dots-was easy to remember. The first ship to send the new call sign was the White Star liner Titanic, which struck an iceberg and sank on her maiden voyage to New York in April of that year. The letters did not stand for anything. 'Save Our Souls' was a catchphrase devised later.

• • • • • • • •

The first living creatures to be transported by air were a sheep, a cock and a duck. The French Montgolfier brothers-whose hot-air balloon made the first manned flight in November 1783-sent the animals up from Versailles under a balloon in September the same year to see if they would be harmed by the rarefied air. They survived unharmed except that one wing of the cock was damaged, probably by a kick from the sheep.



"Wise ad Sheep"

BUCKS HISTORIC CHURCHES

The sponsored bicycle ride on 14th September raised a total of £154.20, divided as follows:

£76.60 to the Bucks Historic Churches Trust

£57.60 to St James's Church

£20.00 to the Methodist Church

Thank you to everyone who took part or sponsored the riders.

HELEN DOWLING

Auction boosts funds

FIFTY people sat down to the annual Aston Abbotts Harvest Supper in the Church Room.

The Rev Bob Willmott said grace and then participants tucked into shepherd's pie and baked beans, followed by apple pie, cream and wine. After supper Mr L Scutchings was the auctioneer for the produce, flowers and fruit, which raised £65.50 for church funds. Winners of the grand raffle were Mr L Scutchings, Mrs M Coltman, Mrs Doggett, Mrs Kemp-

ster, Mrs Dowling, Mrs Bellingham, Mrs Price, Mr J Ford, Miss M Bell, Mrs D Hinds, Mrs Hook and Mrs S Rickard.

The celebrations continued with a family service on the Sunday, with the children bringing gifts for distribution to senior citizens. Mrs DeLooze and Mrs Lovell read the lessons, Mrs Scutchings was organist and the Rev Willmott conducted the service.

The weekend raised £219 altogether towards church expenses.

Shuffling in church rooms

ASTON Abbotts villagers held a whist drive in the Church Rooms with Mr Colin Higgs as MC.

Prize winners were Mrs Faulkner, Mrs H Wesley, Mr Gell, Mrs M Gale, Mrs E Naylor, Miss G Langster and Miss J Saunders.

Raffle winners were Mrs Kempster, Mrs M Banks, Mr L Scutchings, Miss V Saunders, Mrs Norwood, Mr Naylor.

LI30 15.10.91





What are Rupert and Gregory looking at? And what are they sitting in?

F.A.J. Megram

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