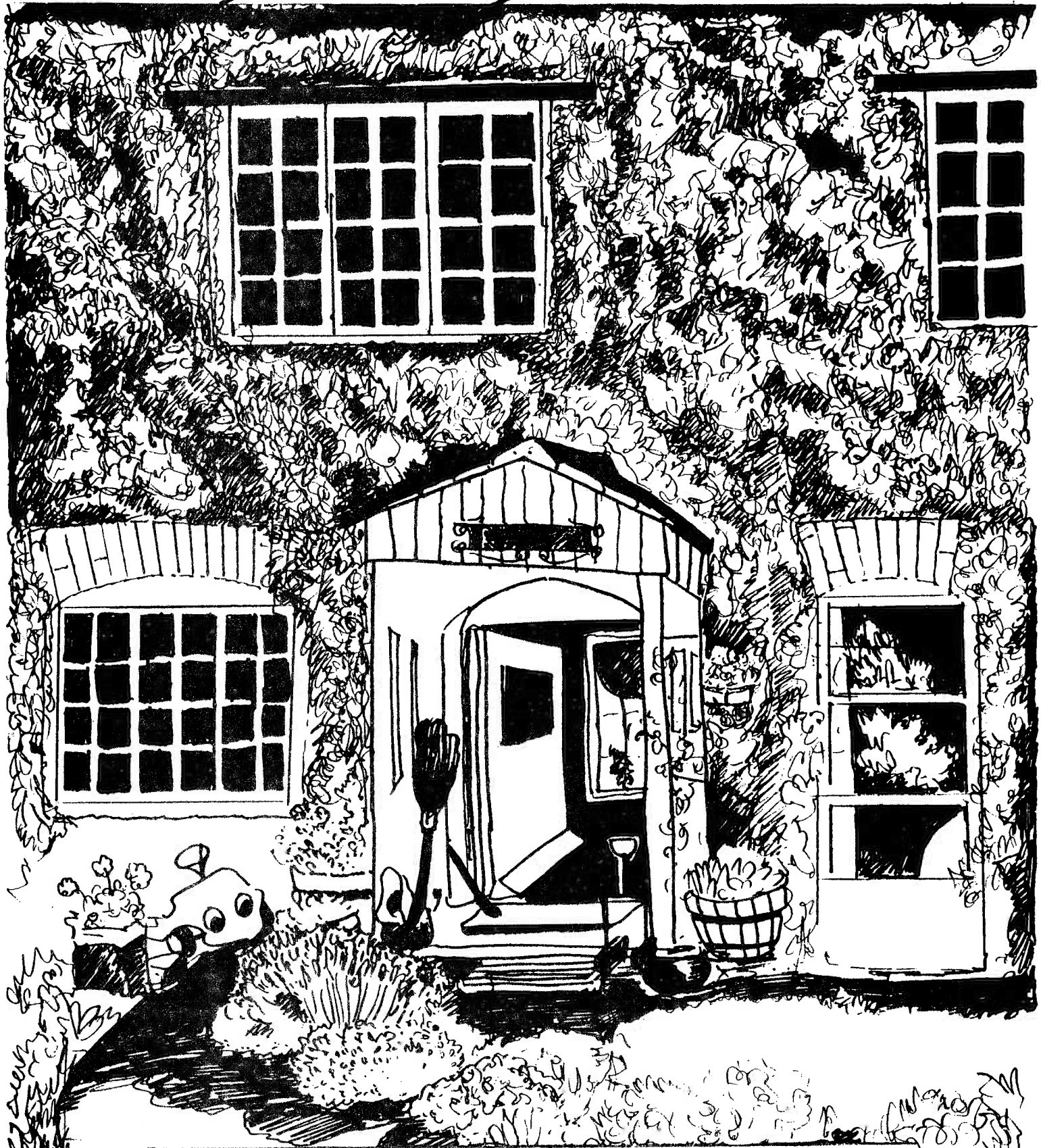


# The Chronicle



Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts

No. 104

September 92



# Editorial

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The fête, the A418, the break-ins and the Czech bus shelter between them gave Aston Abbots a lot of coverage in the local press in July and August. Perhaps the most interesting was the interview with Vic Scott in the Bucks Herald about the Czechs who were stationed in Aston Abbots and Wingrave during the war. There were a couple of good photographs of the Abbey and of Vic with the lime tree planted by Eduard Benes. We have this article if anyone missed it and would like to see it.

We found ourselves 'testing' the aforementioned bus shelter in a rainstorm a couple of weeks ago and very grateful we were, too. We're pleased that there is going to be a commemorative plaque at last - and if anything ever happens to the A418 we **know** the shelter will be preserved.

September, and it's back to school - or, in our case, starting for the first time. Good luck to anyone starting or leaving school this term.

*Caroline Lane*

*Gordon Smith*

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Deadline for the October issue is Friday, 25th September. Please bring, send or telephone your contributions 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 Abbots

The cover shows 2 Church Row (again) by Rosemary Franklin. A spell has been cast on the climbing plants (but the broomstick is real).



## What's On: September

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### REGULARS

Tuesdays: Bin Day

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

Wednesdays: fish & chip van outside Bull & Butcher about 8pm (rings bell first)

Alternate Wednesdays: library van The Green 2.00-2.30pm Longmoor 2.35-2.50pm

September 9th, 23rd

Fridays: Free bus to Tesco (Aylesbury) 10.06 arrive 11am Leaves Tesco 12.45 (don't know what time it gets back) NB the day has changed from Wednesday and the journey now takes longer.

Nobody has seen R & J's mobile shop for a few weeks - we think they must have gone out of business.

### BOOK THIS DATE

Sunday 1st November, Brighton Old Crocks Race. Departs the Green (coach, that is) 8am. Book with Colin, 681343

### BUS CHANGE

Due to redevelopment of Aylesbury bus station our departure bays will be changed (probably bay 5 outside the cafe) but watch for details in press and on buses.

Sunday 6th: Rambling Club meet Marsworth 2pm

Sunday 6th: Coach outing to Eastbourne. Book 681243

Monday 7th: Toddlers 2.30-4pm, Church Room

Saturday 12th: Sponsored cycle ride in aid of Bucks churches Forms from Helen Dowling 5 The Green

Thursday 17th: Whist Drive 7.30pm, Church Room

Friday 18th: Parish Council 8pm, Church Room

Saturday 19th: Danny La Rue at Civic Centre 5pm Seats £8 or £7 Box office 86009

Monday 21st: Toddlers 2.30-4pm, Church Room

Sunday 27th: HARVEST FESTIVAL St James's Church service 11.15am Lunch 12.30, Church Room - tickets from PCC members Methodist Church service 6pm Tea 5pm

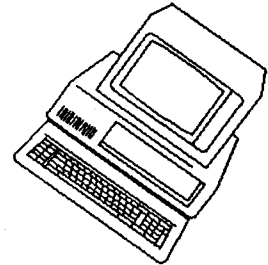
Thursday 1st October: Whist Drive, 7.30pm, Church Room

### LADIES CLUB

The Aston Abbotts and Cublington Ladies Club will be starting their new season on 8th October with a talk about Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. We have an excellent programme of speakers, slide shows and demonstrations covering a wide variety of subjects, including slides of New Zealand, History of English Furniture, Amersham in the Last Century. Demonstrations cover Christmas Decorations, Embroidery, Painting on China, and Decorating Eggs. Ladies Club meetings are held in the Church Room at 2.45pm; the dates are always in the Chronicle and any age group is welcome. If you see a subject you are interested in please do come, you will be very welcome.

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# PEOPLE

Our monthly page about village people, edited by BRIDGET BRANDON

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## Birthdays

Piers Parker . . . . . 4th Sept  
Christine Fox . . . . . 6th Sept  
Fiona Whyte . . . . . 6th Sept  
Sarah Smith . . . . . 8th Sept  
James Dixon . . . . . 10th Sept  
Halisi Drysdale . . . . 22nd Sept  
Anna Picking . . . . . 24th Sept  
Adrian Dixon . . . . . 30th Sept

## Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Bob and Elsie Higgs who celebrate their Golden Wedding on 5th September.

## Congratulations

to Diane Lovell for passing her driving test.

## Better

We're very glad to see Shirley Ford and George Brandon up and about again after their respective illness and operation.

## Goodbye

from Dennis Judd, who has moved to Wing. He has asked us to say thank you to everyone in the village, where he has stored up over twenty-five years of good memories. He intends to keep in touch though, so we hope to see him singing in the Christmas Show and Cabaret at the very least.

## WING SCHOOL REUNION

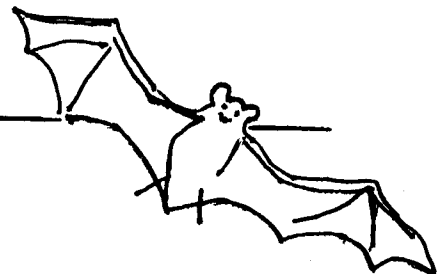
There will be a reunion for years 1967-72 on 2nd October at 8pm. For details, please ring Ros Rolls, 0525 261588.

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# Christmas Show

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The Christmas Show this year will be on 11th and 12th December (NB the Parish Council know what's good for them and have changed their meeting from 11th to 4th). If you would like to take part, please contact Neil Chesher (681201), Chris Brandon (681425) or Gordon Smith (681373). ANYONE (but particularly recently-arrived female C & W singers with Scottish accents) is very welcome to join in. We're not sure about the audiences, but this is always an enjoyable affair for the performers. So, if you would like to write or perform a sketch, or sing, help with scenery, or take part in this year's epic drama (loose theme: Australian bats) please let us know soon.



# CRIME FACTS

Burglaries, domestic and commercial,  
now take place at a rate of 3000 per day,  
one every 20 seconds.

Crimes against property  
have increased by 25% on average  
during the past year.

On a lifetime average every home  
will be burgled three times.

85% of break-ins are by opportunists,  
usually young offenders

97% of break-ins happen  
through the ground floor.

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**INSTANT PROTECTION NO WIRING NO INSTALLATION GUARANTEED**

If you are interested in earning extra income or looking for the chance to start afresh in a new  
career we are also looking for agents/distributors in all areas.

# Police

In the early hours of Friday 14th August a series of burglaries (six in total) occurred in the village, the attacked premises being on the Green and the Cublington Road.

The offences were committed by people who knew what they wanted, and they have stolen power tools and gardening equipment to a value in excess of £3000.

The offenders would have had to park at various vantage points in the village to load the stolen property but from house to house enquiries so far carried out, we have not been able to establish where.

If you have any information that you feel may help us in our enquiries - if you saw someone or something suspicious, or you see cheap power tools for sale, please contact me, PC Gareth Blaken, on (0296) 668218, or DS Ken Williams at Aylesbury CID on (0296 396000). Any information will be treated in confidence.

Thank you  
PC Gareth Blaken

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In the villages that I cover, the major crime problem seems to be car crime (thefts from and of motor vehicles) and thefts from sheds, garages, outhouses etc. The crime rate is not high (usually) but we should still take basic preventative measures to keep it down; be vigilant.

The neighbourhood watch scheme was set up some time ago in Aston Abbotts so that you could take an active part in attempting to reduce crime in your area. It seems that there is still interest in keeping the scheme going so I will be sorting out a meeting with the local community liaison officer in due course.

Unfortunately some areas of the village are not covered by a co-ordinator. If there is anyone who feels they would like to co-ordinate and would like to know what it entails, please contact me, PC Gareth Blaken, on (0296) 668218.

The areas uncovered in Aston Abbotts are the Green, Wingrave Road and Ross Road. The co-ordinators we already have are:

Cublington Road - Tony Hewitt; Church Row - Rosemary Franklin;  
Bricstock - John Whyte; Lines Hill -

And please remember, if you see anything suspicious, report it. Even the smallest piece of information could be vital.

PC Gareth Blaken

## RECTOR'S REPORT

Sometime in the next twelve months I could be enjoying a week's free holiday in Spain, Portugal or the Canary Islands. I don't think I need to go into how I obtained it - other than to say that I sat through a sales promotion.

If there is no such thing as a free lunch, the same is certainly true of a free holiday.

Given the choice, I think I would opt for the Estoril Coast of Portugal - and there are some weeks in the next twelve months that I can identify as being 'convenient'. Sadly, though, if I take up this offer I have to go where I am told and when I am told. If I want to make any alteration I have to start paying. To be honest there are places where, quite frankly, I have no wish to go - even if they are free. Still, I suppose it could be a very interesting experience - "all part of life's rich tapestry" as the saying goes.

I have a pretty shrewd suspicion that, in order to give these free holidays, what is on offer may be somewhere between basic and awful. Since it is costing me nothing, how can I complain? And, of course, even if I have to pay part of the costs, the standards will be the same.

Actually the holiday is not free from the outset. You have to pay a registration fee - which is of course non-returnable. By paying somewhat more it is possible to select three departure dates from two airports. Or any departure date provided that you pay the air fares. True there are discounts on air fares. But how can you know what you are saving if you don't know the fare or where you are going? By the time you have added all these little extras to the registration fee, it would probably have been cheaper to have gone to the travel agent and booked a 'late bargain'.

So, I think I will forego my free holiday and sit in the garden instead. The weather may not be quite as nice, but I know what I am getting, and there is no hassle. It is bound to be much more 'free' than my free holiday. If only I could organise the 'Duty-frees'.

Bob Willmott.



# Church News

July was a busy month for us with the fête being held on a glorious sunny afternoon and drawing a large crowd as usual.

The stalls and sideshows did brisk trade and Dave Roddick (the stiltman) and the ever-popular Great Horwood Band added to the afternoon entertainment, and teas were as popular as usual.

Floral displays in St James's Church and the taped organ music drew the crowds and proved of interest to the many visitors, who also commented on our very well kept churchyard. My thanks to everyone who supported the fête either by helping on stalls, sideshows, teas, car parking, donating prizes, arranging the flowers or mowing the grass. Thanks as well to the vicar who chose the theme (easier than the Ross Festival), to Peter Binns for opening the fête, and to St James's Church Bierton who joined with us on Sunday for Songs of Praise. Our final total raised was £1215.83, a great effort.

August has not been quite so hectic with people on holiday and not so much activity, but our next event will be Harvest Festival on the weekend of 27th. This year we are holding a lunch after the morning service, with the sale of produce afterwards. We look forward to seeing you, and will welcome you to any of our services.

COLIN HIGGS

## St James's Church Services in September

		<u>Sidesman</u>
6th Sept 11.15am	FAMILY SERVICE	Methodist Church
Pentecost 13	Acts 20.17-35; Matt 10.16-22	(p.701)
13th Sept 11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Alison Ford
Pentecost 14	Eph 3.14-end; Luke 11.1-13	
20th Sept 11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Michael Hasler
Pentecost 15	1 Tim 2.1-7; Matt 14.1-12	
27th Sept 11.15am	HARVEST FESTIVAL & lunch	Churchwardens
Pentecost 16	1 John 4.15-end; Lk 16.19-end	(p.715)
4th Oct 11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Colin Higgs
Pentecost 17	Gal 2.15-3.9; Luke 7.1-10	(p.720)

## Methodist Church Services

6th Sept 11.15am	FAMILY SERVICE	Preacher Rev Willmott
13th and 20th,	no service	
27th Sept 6.00pm	HARVEST FESTIVAL	Preacher Rev Peter Lemmon
5.00pm	HARVEST TEA	

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## The Chronicle

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	: Inside	£ 8 per annum
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ALL OTHER ADS	: Inside	£ 6 per annum

Please send copy and cheque (made payable to 'The Chronicle') to John Whyte, 14 Bricstock, Aston Abbots, 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

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#### YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Roger Biddle, 1 Firs Cottage, Wingrave Road 681102  
John Ford, 2 Roas Road 681865  
Caroline Lane, 2 Church Row (Chairman) 681373  
Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road 681358

Victor Scott, 11 The Green 681488

Clerk: Margaret Chesher  
20 The Green 681201

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

# Parish Council 11

Some unofficial notes from the parish council meeting held on 7th August (if anyone wants to see full minutes, ask the Clerk, Margaret Chesher, at 20 The Green).

1. Bus shelter, Wingrave Crossroads: agreed to contribute to cost of putting up a plaque saying the shelter was built with money donated by Eduard Benes. Wingrave Environmental Group to get estimates.
2. Church Row pump: a plumber able to repair it has been found and estimate for materials received. We are applying to the Shell Better Britain Campaign for a grant. The well under the pump has been found and water samples taken for analysis.
3. Planning applications

Two approved by AVDC: side extension to 5 The Green; agricultural building at Red Barn Farm.

The appeal against AVDC's decision not to allow rendering over of decorative brickwork at the Abbey had been dismissed.

Two new applications: agricultural building at Willowbrook Farm; removal of agricultural occupancy condition at Red Barn Farm.

No comment made by Parish Council on either; they now go to AVDC.

4. Accounts: £26.74 electricity; £98.70 accountants.
5. Recreation Ground: stolen mower has been replaced by a mower (smaller one, as main mowing now done by Bucks County Council) and a strimmer. Chris Brandon is in charge of them. The play equipment had been inspected free by a manufacturer and report awaited.
5. Any other business:

A skip had been requested for Lines Hill. If a free one was available (sometimes other parishes do not use their 'quota') this would be provided. (It was.)

It was noted that trees on the Green were growing too close to the light and electric wires and that one near the bus shelter was being walloped by buses. Because they are in a conservation area we have to photograph them and get approval from Bucks County Council before trimming them.

Complaints had been received once more about parking on grass verges in the village. Residents are requested not to do this.

Next meeting: Friday 18th September, 8pm, Church Room  
EVERYONE WELCOME

## ASTON ABBOTTS TODDLERS

The Toddlers group had a summer outing to Berkhamsted Castle in August. We took a train from Leighton (which was probably more exciting than the picnic!) and spent a happy couple of hours at the Castle.

We meet on alternate Mondays in the Church Room - all children aged 0 to 5 very welcome.

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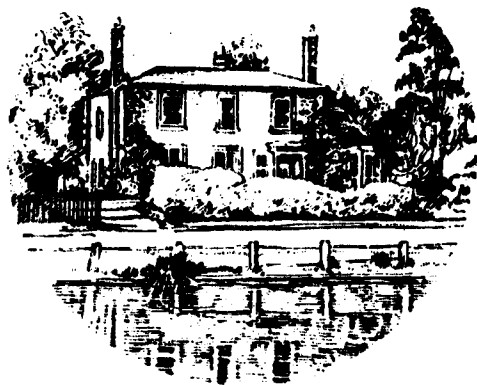
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# Lots of attractions at Aston festival

A STILT walker and a brass band helped Aston Abbotts villagers to raise £1,216 for church funds at a weekend fete and flower festival.

The Aston Abbotts Festival was held on the village green and opened by the curate of St James' Church, the Rev Peter Binns.

On Saturday the green was packed with stalls and games, the Great Horwood Band and a stilt walker as tatted attractions to draw the crowds.

Stalls sold everything from groceries, cakes and handicrafts to dried flowers, produce and bric a brac.

Among the games on offer were bowling, darts and hoopla. Pony rides also proved very popular.

Throughout the weekend the church was open for visitors to view the floral displays on the theme All Things Bright and Beautiful. The arrangements were made by Mrs Scutchings, Mr and Mrs Waite, the ladies of the Flower Club and Mr Colin Higgs. On Saturday there was music in the church from Mr Neil Col-



It's all a bit bewildering when you're small, but a good opportunity to wear one's best bonnet.

ington, Wingrave, Rowsham and the Methodist Church.

A Songs Of Praise was held in the church on Sunday evening with the congregation and choir of St James' Church in Berton joining with Aston Abbotts villagers and members from Cub-

ington, Wingrave, Rowsham and the Methodist Church.

The Rev Bob Willmott conducted the service and the Rev M Whalley from Berton led the prayers. Organists were Mrs Scutchings and Mrs Bruster.

← Observer; 4.8.92  
Herald, 30.7.92

At Aston Abbotts the parish church is more than £1,000 richer, following another successful village fete on Saturday.

Stilt walker Dave Roddick, who entertained youngsters with circus tricks, had the best view of the many traditional stalls and games

The fete had usual media attention, but this year we had pictures of people as well as horses! This is Clare Barnett in her 'best bonnet'.

Ben King won the under 5s vehicle race, which was so successful that the children had two more.

The bouncy castle at the Bull & Butcher proved popular with the village children; the raffle in the evening raised £60 for the Recreation Ground.

such as skittles.

As usual villagers took over the green and shut off the Aston Abbotts to Weedon road to make it a memorable day for the hundreds of visitors.

The fete was opened by curate, the Rev Peter Binns. There were pony rides and, in the village hall, the Ford family had laid on a delicious home-made spread.

Great Horwood Silver Band provided the music.

The church of St James was open during the day and was filled with flowers for the weekend.

On Sunday there was a Songs of Praise style service and the collection from that boosted church funds, which have dwindled since £1,000 was spent repairing the clocktower roof earlier this year.

The Bull and Butcher pub in Aston Abbotts staged its own mini-fun day on Saturday raising £60 for the village recreation ground. There was a bouncy castle and, in the evening, a pig roast. Music was provided by folk band The Whole Shebang.

## Plaque in memory of Czechs

A HISTORICAL link between Czechoslovakia, Wingrave and Aston Abbotts is set to be marked after 50 years.

During World War Two the exiled Czech government was based at the two villages.

Now Wingrave Environmental Group wants a plaque remembering this link mounted in a bus shelter built with money left by the foreign guests.

As reported in last week's Bucks Herald, president Eduard Benes stayed at The Abbey, in Aston Abbotts, while the remainder of his cabinet was housed in Wingrave Manor, now the McIntyre School.

From this Bucks base the Czechs organised intelligence networks and planned the assassination of their invaded country's Nazi Protector.

Herald

When the Czechs returned home at the end of the war, their parting gifts included money to build the bus shelter between the two villages on the A418.

And earlier this year a group of volunteers, led by Wingrave Environmental Group member Simon Jones, started restoration work on the shelter.

With a grant of £400 from Wingrave and Aston Abbotts parish councils, the shelter was repainted, tiles and guttering were replaced, brickwork repointed and a new wooden bench fitted.

Work was completed in June, and at last month's Wingrave parish council meeting the environmental group suggested a plaque be put in the newly restored shelter.

Quotes for the memorial are now being sought.

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LBO, 14.7.92

A418

## Bypass route would be 'disastrous mistake'

THE residents of Aston Abbots gathered on their village green on Friday to emphasise their opposition to one of the possible routes for Wing bypass.

They handed a petition against the so-called 'Rothschild outer northern' route to Bill Chapple of Bucks County Council.

The signatures were collected by the Aston Abbots Action Group — AAAG. The group is also against the idea of a trunk road and says rural villages need bypasses and not major routes on their doorsteps.

The action group was formed after a public meeting at which the Aston Abbots villagers supported the idea of a single carriageway bypass to take through traffic away from the villages of Bierton, Rowsham and Wing.

"It is quite clear to us that the A418 project is seen by the DoT as a relief road for the M25 and it is our understanding that designs currently in preparation are for a four-lane dual carriageway with ground work and bridges designed to upgrade to six lane motorway standard," says AAAG. "We feel this will be a

disastrous mistake for Bucks and we call on the county council to follow the lead of Oxfordshire County Council and oppose the upgrading of the A418 to trunk road status."

The group says the route proposed by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild will have a "devastating effect" on the countryside between Wing and Aston Abbots. It will make two small farms, West Park and Oxley's Farm, unviable, cut across seven well used footpaths, cross an ancient watercourse, pass close to a site of archaeological interest, destroy important hedges and trees and "inflict untold damage" on wildlife.

The protest group has won backing from the Council For the Protection of Rural England and Oxfordshire County Council.

As many of you will know, the Wing bypass is going to be the subject of a public inquiry. No details are available yet. Bucks County Council's official view is in favour of the southern route, but the inquiry could change that. Our action group is to write to the secretary of state for the environment to ask that the inquiry discuss wider issues, **i.e.** overall plans for the A418 and the need for a new trunk road in the area. A simple argument about routes will be a waste of time and money. We have had a letter of support and information from Alarm UK, an anti-motorway pressure group who are campaigning against an outer M25 (the A418 might be part of it) and hope to give evidence at the inquiry. More news when we know the date of the inquiry.

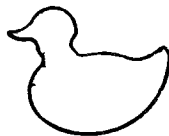
Caroline Lane

This is by an anonymous bard, requote from  
The Pleasures of the Table by George H. Ellwanger.

We all look on with anxious eyes  
When father carves the duck,  
And mother almost always sighs  
When father carves the duck.  
Then all of us prepare to rise  
And hold our bibs before our eyes  
And be prepared for some surprise  
When father carves the duck.



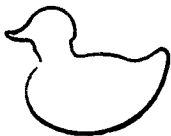
He braces up and grabs a fork  
Whene'er he carves a duck  
And won't allow a soul to talk  
Until he's carved the duck.  
The fork is jabbed into the sides,  
Across the breast the knife he slides,  
And every careful person hides  
From flying chips of duck.



The platter always seems to slip  
When father carves a duck,  
And how it makes the dishes skip.  
Potatoes fly amock—  
The squash and cabbage leap in space,  
We get some gravy on our face,  
And father mutters Hindu grace  
Whene'er he carves a duck.



We thus have learned to walk around  
The dining-room and pluck  
From off the window-sills and walls  
Our share of father's duck:  
While father growls and blows and jaws,  
And swears the knife was full of flaws,  
And mother jaws at him because  
He couldn't carve a duck.



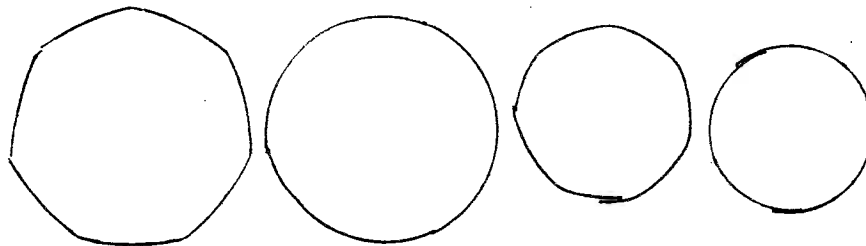
A MONTHLY LOOK AT FACTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW

How coins are graded

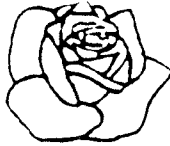
Coin collectors have a language of their own. They use, for instance, a series of precise definitions to describe the condition of coins and medals.

'Fair' means that a coin can just about be identified. 'Good' means very worn, but the outline of the design is still visible. 'Very good' means the design shows clearly, but the detail is worn away. 'Fine' shows signs of wear.

'Very fine' shows slight wear. 'Extra fine' is almost perfect. 'Uncirculated' is in mint condition, apart from marks caused by coins rubbing together. 'Proof' coins, the highest grade of all, have a mirror-like finish and are struck especially for collectors from polished dies. As a rough guide, the condition of contemporary coins is usually 'extra fine', but any coin from more than 50 years ago is generally no better than 'fine'.



(Thanks to Shirley Ford)



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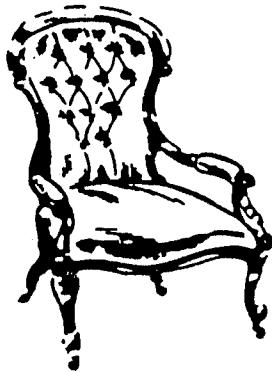
"Stroke me, please,  
Because I'm furry,  
Pet me, please,  
Because I'm purry.  
You won't hear a single mew,  
But all day long I'll purr for you!  
Purrr-urr-urr,  
Purrrr-RRRRR!"

(Enid Blyton, of course)

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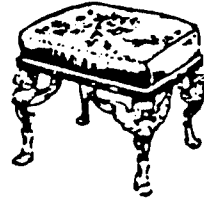
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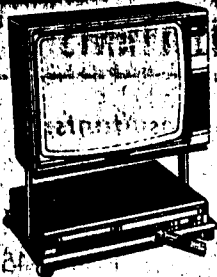
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