

The Chronicle

Aston Abbot's Parish Magazine

January 1993

ISSUE 108



Editorial

Delivered with this Chronicle you will find Aylesbury Vale's housing needs survey form. AVDC have received a copy of our own village survey including housing questions, which they appreciate, but their own is going to all villages in the Vale and they need the information in their own format so that they can make comparisons properly. This is important - so please take the time to fill it in. It will be collected by one of our parish councillors around the weekend of 15th/16th Jan. If you miss the collection please leave your envelope at the shop or at 2 Church Row by Friday 22nd. Thanks.

It has been an eventful Christmas holiday in the village, for us at least - the parties, the shows, even the weather. We have just invented the Chronicle Heckler of the Year Award, which our son Daniel hereby wins (by a short head from John Ford - see Christmas Show review) for his fine performances at the Christmas Show ('That's my daddy!'), the Methodist carol service ('I love you mummy...I need to be in my bed') and St James's on Christmas morning ('I'm the king of the castle').

Happy New Year.

Caroline Lane

Gordon Smith

'Aga Louts'

Please let us have copy for the February issue by Friday, 22nd January - 2 Church Row, 681373.

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

Recycled cover illustration by Andy Bystra



What's on: January

REGULARS

- Thursday 14th: Bingo
Church Room, 7.30pm
- Thursday 14th: Ladies Club
Church Room, 2.45pm
- Saturday 16th: Rambling Club
meet Battlesden Church, 2pm
- Monday 18th: Toddlers
Church Room, 2.30-4pm
- Thursday 21st: Whist Drive
Church Room, 7.30pm
- Friday 22nd: Parish Council
Church Room, 8pm
To discuss village survey
- Tuesday 26th: Parochial
Church Council AGM
Church Room, 7.30pm
- Thursday 28th: Ladies Club
2.45pm, Church Room
- Saturday 30th: Wingrave JFC
Quiz Night (see p. 9)

Friday 29th - Monday 1st
SKIP
on The Green

LADIES CLUB NOTES

The Club had a good meeting on December 3rd when Mrs Vincent of Milton Keynes gave a demonstration of how to make Christmas decorations. The annual carol service was on 17th, in St James's, and was well attended by members, husbands and friends. Rev Bob Willmott took the service, which was followed by a delicious Christmas tea in the Church Room, provided by Aston Abbots members.

Jan 14th: Embroidery through the ages, speaker Mrs Lane

Tuesdays: Bin Day

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

Tuesdays: mobile library
The Green, 11.20-12.10
(see below)

Oxleys Farm, alternate weeks 12.15

Wednesdays: fish & chip van
outside Bull & Butcher, approx. 8pm
(rings bell around the Green first)

Wednesdays: toddler group in Wingrave
10.00-11.30am, Methodist Hall, Nup End

Fridays: Tesco bus, depart 10.06
return arriving Aston 13.40

MOBILE LIBRARY

We have been borrowing so many books that we are going to have a weekly visit in future: Tuesdays at 11.20. A stop in Wingrave Road has been requested and it is hoped that the library staff will be able to do this, probably at the end of its time on The Green. The van will continue to call every fortnight at Oxley's Farm, starting on 5th.

BUS FARES

People have complained about being charged different fares. Correct:

Aston - Aylesbury £1.30 single, £2.10 rtn
Child/OAP 65p sing. £1.05 rtn

Aston - Leighton £1.15 sing., £1.80 rtn
Child/OAP 60p sing. 90p rtn

Aston - Cublington 77p, child/OAP 40p

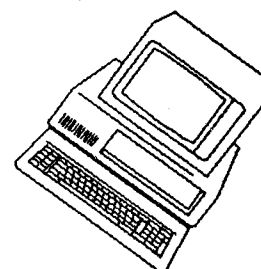
Aston - Wing 87p sing., £1.50 rtn
Child/OAP 65p, 75p rtn

Routemaster Saturday bus cheaper still!

Jan 28th: Have Fun with Sugar Paste,
speaker Mrs Thorndycraft

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Church News

December has been a busy month in the Church's year, the build up to Christmas, the carol service and the popular Christmas Day family service - the two services were both well supported with over 100 in church. The hist club donated the screen behind the door out of the profits from their whist drives over the year; this now completes the tapestry programme of kneelers and seat cushions, and will hopefully add to the comfort of the congregation.

We had a good year on fundraisers so thank you to everyone who supported us, either by taking part, donating prizes or refreshments, and for spending your money, we look forward to your continued support for our 1993 events, which I am working on now.

Members of the church council already know we have to repair/rebuild the churchyard wall, and resurface the path. We will also require a new mower for next season's mowing.

On behalf of the church council may I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year, and let us thank God for all our many blessings.

COLIN HIGGS

ST JAMES'S CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

Sidesman

10th January	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Colin Higgs
Epiphany 1		Acts 10.34-38; Matt 3.13-end (p.464)	
17th January	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Gillian Ford
Epiphany 2		Acts 26.1, 9-20; Matt 1.14-20 (p.467)	
24th January	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Alison Ford
Epiphany 3		1 John 1.1-7; John 2.1-11 (p.473)	
31st January		Benefice Eucharist at Cublington, 10.00a m	
Epiphany 4		1 Cor 3.10-17; John 2.13-22 (p.477)	

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY

17th January 6.00pm Preacher Mr Prior

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The appeal for Wingrave, Long Marston and Aston Abbotts raised £876.65. May I thank everyone for their help and hard work.

D. E. WAITE
Organizer

Alison J. Whittaker, B.A. Hons. Music
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RECTOR'S REPORT

Firstly, Many thanks for all the cards and good wishes we received at Christmas.

I wonder if I was meant to rise to the bait? No doubt there will be those who will still be unhappy if I do, together with those who wish I hadn't.

But the recent Aston Abbotts Village Appraisal indicates that some people cannot see the point of my monthly Report. I imagine that most people realise that the same article appears in the Wingrave Communique, the Aston Abbotts Chronicle and the Cublington Crier. This is for the very simple reason that the production of three distinct reports would be extremely time consuming. There are times when topics specific to only one village need writing about - but I can usually cope with these.

The comment in Aston Abbotts seems to assume that there is (or should be) some commonly accepted 'point' about which I should be writing. Maybe I am expected to write a page of good, straight, old-fashioned 'religion'. But that only gives other people the opportunity to dismiss it as 'pious clap-trap'. The fact is that people are all very different. What one person loves, another hates. Our tastes in music, art, literature and entertainment are all different - and they vary. Things that we usually find very funny can irritate us at other times. The only danger comes from thinking that we are always right, that everything that we like is good - so everybody else is wrong and what they like is bad (or worse)!

Now about this Report! Each month I try to find a subject about which I can think 'theologically'. Sometimes I don't succeed. Then I try to condense my thoughts onto one side of paper. There are months when the ideas don't work out. There are times when I get to the bottom of the page before I get to the punch-line. On some occasions I run short of time. But thanks for the criticism - I'll try to make it more 'thought-ful' in future.

Bob Willmott

Replies have been received from several bodies to whom we sent copies of the village survey:

Aylesbury Vale District Council (comments on planning, development and housing)

'...the planning system has tended to avoid imposing strict design constraints which would stifle...originality. However, within conservation areas or in the vicinity of listed buildings the rule is that new building must fit in with the old.

Infilling within existing frontages has long been acceptable in general but backland development is not....

On the question of housing types, the Government's normal rules are that the market should determine what is built...the Council is now not able to build new houses and, if the tenant wants to...must sell its existing stock. New housing must therefore be built by the private sector or by housing associations. However, there is some scope for the Council to intervene at the margin. We have incorporated in the Rural Areas Local Plan provision to enable affordable housing to be built where we can show evidence that it is needed...granting planning permission where the Council would not normally do so (or seeking) that a proportion of new housing will be affordable; however, this second approach is likely (only in) large developments...inappropriate in the smaller settlements.

Finally, in reading the appraisal, it was interesting to note that the issues of most concern are those which are addressed in the Council's Rural Areas local plan.

M.A. White, Head of Forward Plans

Anglian Water

I am very concerned that you find Anglian Water unhelpful and would like to know exactly what the problems are...

Anglian Water's prices for water and sewerage services are high but the topography, climatic conditions and population growth do have a major impact on our costs. We are investing millions of pounds to further improve water quality by new treatment processes and replacement of the iron pipework which can cause problems in rural areas. Nitrates are well within EC limits...fluoride is not added.

Richard Medd, District Manager
(Water), Milton Keynes

N.B. If you have a particular complaint about Anglian Water being unhelpful please contact Mr Medd direct: Anglian Water, North Street, Oundle PE8 4AS (tel. 0832 276000).

British Gas

You will appreciate that we have to ask for a contribution towards the provision of gas, so that the probable income from gas plus the contribution ensures that the project breaks even. We offer the lowest price which we can to attract as many customers as possible... It is unlikely that there will be any change in the contribution charge until at least 1994.

R. L. Nuttall, Domestic Sales
Manager

Eastern Electricity

Your electricity is derived via high voltage overhead lines, most economical for rural areas...by their nature these lines are subjected to extremes of weather conditions, and recently we have had a number of thunderstorms...Usually...supplies are restored within a few seconds by automatic switching. However, when permanent damage (to equipment) does occur, the faulty section has to be located and isolated by manual switching. Until then it is difficult to give an accurate estimation of time before power is restored... We have installed indicators on selected switching points to help identify locations of permanent damage. Although we regularly maintain our overhead networks...it is not possible to guarantee a 24 hour supply owing to...influences beyond our control (vermin, vandalism, windborne material, lightning, third party damage etc.).

We rely very much on customer calls to identify areas of power failure, and I am concerned that there are problems contacting the office (0582 498888). (Dedicated direct line numbers are proposed, details to come with bills) Outside working hours, calls are re-routed to our emergency service (and) placed in a queue. If customers ring off and call again, they will automatically go to the back of the queue. The conversation with the operator should be kept to a minimum in case someone else is trying to contact us with details which will help speed up restoration (e.g. tree in the line). This helps us to help you.

Eastern Electricity is reviewing its policy on estimated bills, introduced to make cost savings, which are ultimately passed on to the customer. However, customers can request a meter reading by appointment if they so wish.

(Readers are welcome to contact the writer, R. J. Adams, Depot Engineer, Aylesbury if they want further information: Eastern Electricity, Chilterns Area, P.O. Box 3, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 9AD, tel. 0582 498888).

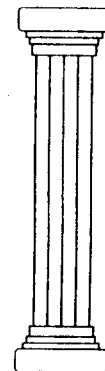
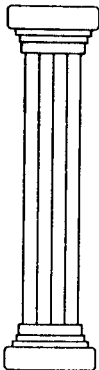
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BIRTHDAYS

Jane Plested.....7th Jan
 Sarah Plested.....7th Jan
 James Clarke.....10th Jan
 Tony Hinds.....13th Jan
 Ben Price.....13th Jan
 Zoe Judd.....25th Jan
 Clifford Price...28th Jan
 Richard Plested..29th Jan

CONGRATULATIONS

To the CABARET CLOWNS, who performed at their first 'gig' in Linslade recently, and who were in a state of shock for some time afterwards as they actually got paid for performing.

Brian Barton-Smith and Pauline Dixon

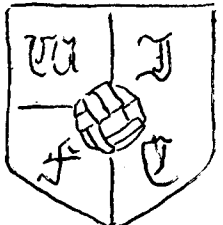


BRIAN Barton-Smith and Pauline Dixon were married at St James Church, Aston Abbots by Rev. Bob Willmott.
 The bride, a receptionist from Lines Hill Cottages, Aston Abbots, is the daughter of John and Pamela Dixon, of the same
Herald, 10.12.92

address, and the groom, a mechanic from Milton Keynes, is the son of David and Margaret Smith, of Spinney Crescent, Dunstable.
 Given away by her father the bride wore an ivory shantung dress with a three tier veil and carried a bouquet of lilac freesias, peach roses and pink carnations.
 Her bridesmaids were Liz Whitcomb, wearing a ballet length lilac shantung dress, Stacey Denison and Marie Whitcomb who wore ballet length lilac flowered dresses. The ushers were Adrian and James Dixon.
 Best man was Tony Whitcomb.
 The couple held their reception at The Old Masters Restaurant, Aston Abbots, followed by a disco at The Royal Oak in the village.

LOST A WATCH?
 Zoe Hallam has found a watch on The Green.
 Ring 681670.

WINGRAVE J.F.C.
 QUIZ NIGHT
 7.30pm for 8.00pm
 Sat 30th January
 in the
 COMMUNITY CENTRE
 Tickets £5
 including food
 BAR
 RAFFLE
 Tickets from Wingrave
 Garage



BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL WALKS

Wed 13th Jan, 2pm (for 2hr)
 Meet Kingsbridge picnic site, Cublington to see plantation, spinney and farm improvements.

Thurs 21st Jan, 7.30am (that's what it says - you need to book on 625825 so check) - talk on Operation Butterfly and butterflies of the Chilterns. Cost £1. Forest District Office, Aston Clinton (on Wendover Rd)

Sat 23rd Jan, 2pm (for 1½hr)
 Guided walk around Stockgrove Country Park, Heath & Reach - meet at visitors' centre.



Taken from 'Discovering Bucks Countryside' leaflet, winter 1992/3

Beware ...

Aga louts, who often have finely-tuned social consciences, buy the best properties, which locals cannot afford, stick an Aga in the kitchen and take over the parish councils where they make bossy speeches about the decline of rural life.

(Independent, Dec 1992)

ASTON ABBOTTS CHURCH ROOM

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£1.50 per hour + metered electricity
for residents of the parish.

The Chronicle

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

HELP LINE

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

Chris Brandon, 12 Bricstock, 681425
Margaret Cheshier, 20 The Green, 681201
John Ford, 2 Ross Road, 681865
Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road, 681358
John Whyte, 14 Bricstock, 681685
George Fox, 1 Church Row, 682024

HELP IN EMERGENCIES

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Roger Biddle, 1 Firs Cottage, Wingrave Road 681102
John Ford, 2 Ross Road 681865
Caroline Lane, 2 Church Row (Chairman) 681373
Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road 681358
Victor Scott, 11 The Green 681488
Clerk: Margaret Cheshier 20 The Green 681201

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

THE ASTON ABBOTTS CHRISTMAS SHOW 1992

The 92 Show was an extravaganza of entertainment from a talented troupe of players who blended humour with harmonious voice in a varied range of performances which surpassed all previous achievements - THE BEST SHOW YET!

The excellent script was written by the improving talent of Gordan Smith, and the Dracula theme was well co-ordinated throughout, and easily encompassed many individual performances. Andy Bysta's talents were in evidence again with some sinister scenery to provide an appropriate backdrop to the story as it unfolded before an eager and appreciative audience. The retiring Neil Chesher provided the musical accompaniments, and was also responsible for the ~~murdering~~ interpretation of many a fine song.

John Whyte was a natural as the compere for the evening and also gave a convincing performance as a bible bashing preacher, watch out for the next local vacancy John!

Each and every one of the caste made a memorable contribution to the success of the show. In chorus line, they were all in tune and harmony with each other, which was, I am sure the result of long hours of dedicated rehearsals into the depths of the night! Lynne Manning made her debut with a fine rendition of "As Long As He Needs Me", and her performance really made Tom's eyes pop out, I've only seen him look like that as he leaves the Bull & Butcher late on Friday nights. It was also good to see Alison and Andy Ford on stage again, but it was John Ford who proved to be the real comic with his poignant quips from the audience.

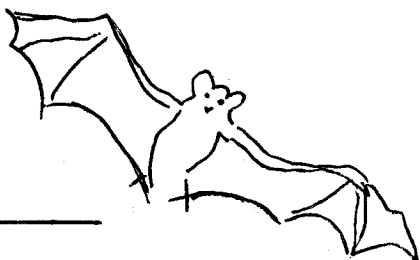
Les Smith played the indomitable hero trying to outwit the evil Dracula played with panache by John Brancker, and they were well supported by Ann Brancker and Chris Brandon who provided some entertaining performances. John Chesher and Tom Manning also provided hilarious support, and Margaret Kent brought the house to it's knees with her Martini adverts. The Normans made a welcome return, although the "oldies" should watch out for the talented younger members of the family. Paul Turnham's performance as the delectable "bimbo" with the beautiful big ---eyes has certainly lost me my role as the Nora Batty dame - what have you been hiding under your bushel all these years Paul?

The professional magic of Steve Burton received rapturous applause from the audience for a thoroughly enjoyable act, but the real show stealers must be Hannah Brandon and Lucy Bush for their very polished performances. Mind you, when they first started with, "The boy stood on the burning deck", I thought Chris Brandon's pen had really done it this time!

The show cannot of course succeed without the help of the many people who work behind the scenes. Margaret and Rita worked tirelessly behind the curtains, and also organized the raffle. The show this year made a profit of £300 - thanks to the hard work of all involved.

WELL DONE EVERYONE - We shall all look forward to next year's offering.

TONY HEWITT



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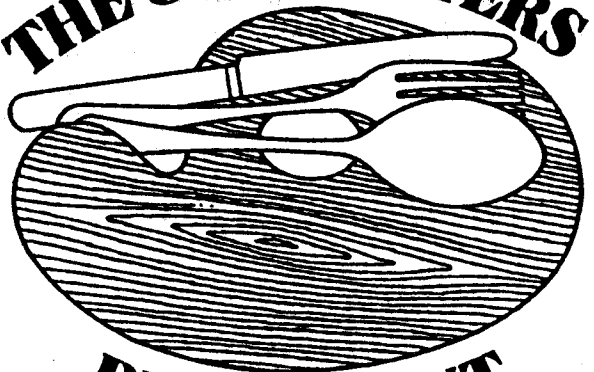
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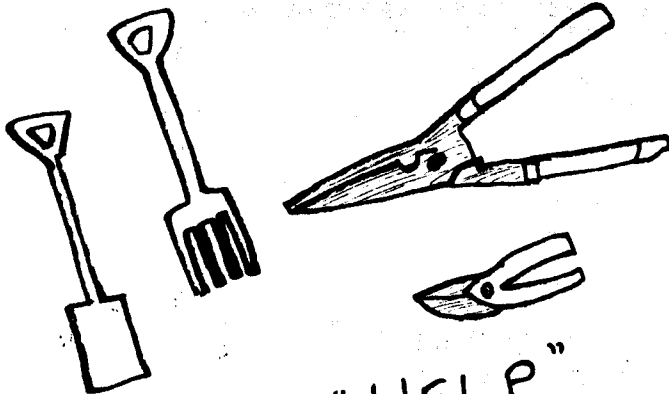
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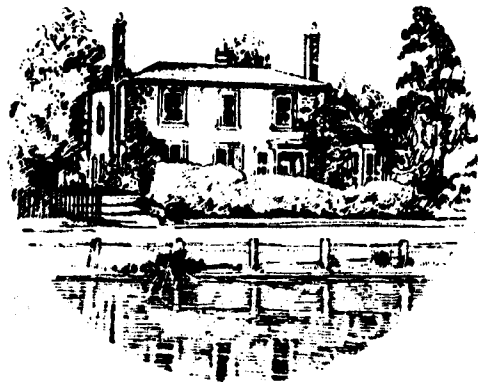
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Informal notes from the meeting on 5th December.

Matters arising

The Village Appraisal was to be looked at in detail at the next meeting on 22nd January.

Thames Valley Police had written to say that they do not favour regular police officers using the mini-quip radar device to check traffic speed as they do not have the resources or the proper training (we had asked whether our officer could have one). Our police officer, Gareth Blaken, has been moved to another area and we will have a replacement in the New Year. We will ask the new officer to hold a meeting about Neighbourhood Watch.

Street lights: we have been quoted £640 for moving the light on the Green (the white one) nearer to the gates of the Abbey, to light Grove corner better. We have also been told it would cost £896 to put a light by the bungalows by the Rec. Both these seemed out of the question, as we only have £3000 to spend over the year.

The Village Fund/Christmas Show Fund has agreed to pay for a second seat on the Rec and this is to be ordered.

Planning applications

Dwelling at Willowbrook Farm: the District Planning Officer was to decide this one. Field shelter, Weedon Road: granted by AVDC. Oxleys Farm, application to move site of approved bungalow, no comment from us, will go to AVDC; Bull & Butcher, making a games room with bedrooms over out of the rear buildings occasioned a site visit, and we were broadly in favour of this as long as access problems are not caused; industrial units at Lower Burston Farm, converted from old barns - we were concerned about access by the gate onto the Weedon Road, and that tree planting should be native species. AVDC will now decide.

Please remember that anyone can look at planning applications, and you don't have to go to Aylesbury - Margaret Chesher has them at 20 The Green.

Accounts

Bucks County Council for mowing the Rec (16 cuts) £396

Street lights: £62.31 and £20.42 for repairing two lights; £98 for extending the arm of light in Moat Lane

Three new swing seats for the Rec: £95

£7.29 for the mountain ash (stolen from near the bus shelter soon after planting)

£200 as agreed for restoration of the bus shelter at Wingrave Crossroads, and £30 offered by us towards the cost (£88) of a plaque to be put there

Other matters Agreed to buy two POLICE SPEED CHECK signs jointly with Wingrave and hopefully Cublington, cost £33 or £50; police will then do periodic checks.

Agreed to replace stolen tree from grass verge on the Green and to write to owner of car parked there following further complaints.

Parochial church council request for contribution to cost of new mower for churchyard; decided to offer to share existing parish council hover mower if appropriate for churchyard.

Wingrave Garage

Terry Bracey Wright & Michael Mitchell

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Creche facilities

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Aylesbury, Bucks.

RELATE

14

Wingrave CE Combined School School Association

NEWS UPDATE

Christmas Bazaar: Clearly the news about the school Christmas Bazaar on December 5th reached you all in good time. The event was a huge success, raising over £1,000 for the children. Well done and thank you to all of you who helped by offering your time, donations and general support towards raising this magnificent sum of money.

Christmas Disco: For those people with still some energy left after working all day at the school the Christmas Disco was a welcome chance to relax, unwind and let their hair down. The atmosphere was friendly and spirits high as we danced the night away - happy in the knowledge that the morning's event had been such a success.

FUTURE EVENTS

Family Barn Dance: Unfortunately we have had to postpone the barn dance due to take place on January 3rd. The event will now take place on March 20th - details in next month's report.

However, do not despair! We are planning an alternative event for Saturday 6th February. Keep your eyes peeled for posters around the villages.

Hope you all had a happy Christmas and do have a peaceful and happy New Year.

SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Wing School Miscellanea

The students and staff have been busy this month. All Year 9 have made visits to Ivinghoe Environmental Centre where they took part in an intensive course of Soil Studies.

A group of Year 10 students went with Miss Withers to the Cotswolds, where they spent a cold, wet, but rewarding weekend camping and walking as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The 6th Form visited the Leighton Buzzard branch of Barclays Bank and the District Service Centre of Midland Bank in Hemel Hempstead as part of their BTEC: Business and Finance Course. Mrs Holder took the same group to Perrys in Aylesbury as part of the same course in Customer Care.

The Friends of Wing School held a Disco in the School Hall on 14th November in aid of School Funds. The verdict - a most enjoyable evening.

The School held the Annual Speech Day on 18th November with Mr Robertson-Smith of Wipac as guest speaker. The hall was, as usual, packed with parents and friends of the School, who were entertained by music, singing and the presentation of cups and prizes. The evening ended with fruit-cup in the Library.

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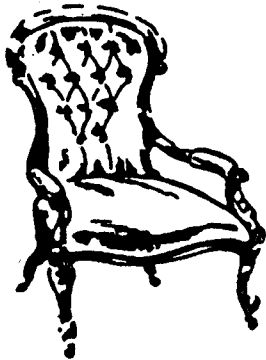
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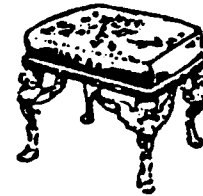
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