

The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts





Editorial

The public inquiry into the Wing bypass opens on 30th March in Wing village hall. Since our campaign against the northern route last year, the government and other bodies such as the CBI have become ever more committed to making this part of a BIG road scheme - for which money will be found, no matter what else goes to the bottom of the waiting list. So whatever route the bypass takes, unless there is determined opposition we shall be cursed with what is in effect the outer M25 between us and Wingrave - as well as the A418. That's a lot of road and a lot of traffic. If this bothers you, please come to the Aston Abbotts open meeting on Monday 15th February, 8pm in the Church Room. It's being organized by the action group set up last year and will update everyone on what has happened and try to get a feeling of what should be said for Aston Abbotts at the inquiry. There will be a strong case put by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild for looking again at a northern route for the bypass, so we shall want to put our arguments against it to the inspector. Please come, find out what you can do, and make suggestions.

On a brighter note - if they are not laid waste by frost - please take time to admire all the new spring bulbs around the Green and the Rec, planted last autumn with a grant from Bucks County Council and much spadework by Vic Scott, who made a royal progress around the Rec followed by two women on hands and knees...

Caroline Lane

Please bring your contributions to the March issue to 2 Church Row (681373) by Friday 26th February (due to half term, the March issue will be a little late).

Published by Caroline Lane and Gordon Smith
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distributed free to all households in the parish of Aston Abbotts

Cover illustration from The Booklover's Almanac

MONDAY 15th

Open meeting - Wing Bypass/
A418, Church Room, 8pm

Monday 1st Toddlers
2.30-4pm, Church Room

Sunday 7th Rambling Club
meet Waddesdon 2pm

Thursday 4th Whist Drive
7.30pm, Church Room

Thursday 11th Ladies Club
2.45pm, Church Room
'Painting on China' with
Mrs Karen Scott

Thursday 11th Bingo
7.30pm, Church Room

Sunday 14th Village Footpath
Walk, 2pm The Green
All welcome; strong shoes
or boots; dogs on lead

Monday 15th: Toddlers
2.30-4pm, Church Room

Monday 15th: Rambling Club
AGM, 8pm, 13 Moorlands Rd,
Wing

Tuesday 16th: Bucks CC
Road Safety meeting; any
highway problems to Colin
or Caroline

Thursday 18th: Whist Drive
7.30pm, Church Room

Thursday 25th: Ladies Club
2.45pm, Church Room
'History of English
Furniture' with Mr J.
Turner (slide show)

Thursday 25th: Bingo
7.30pm, Church Room

Sunday 28th: Rambling Club
meet Stewkley 2pm

COMING UP...

Friday 5th March, 7.30pm,
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (see →
Sunday 7th March, sponsored walk
in aid of church funds; meet
The Green 2pm, forms from Colin
681343

Saturday 13th March, Cabaret (p.5)

What's On: February

REGULARS

Tuesdays: Bin Day

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

Tuesdays: mobile library
Wingrave Road, 11.15-11.30 approx
The Green, 11.35-12.10
Oxley's Farm, 12.15 alternate
weeks (2nd etc.)

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

Wednesdays: toddler group in
Wingrave, 10-11.30am,
Methodist Hall, Nup End

Fridays: Tesco bus, depart 10.06am
return Aston 13.40

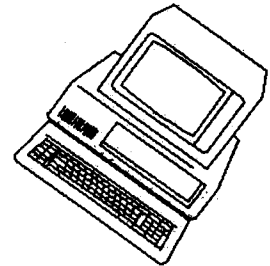
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This open meeting for everyone in the parish will be at 7.30pm on Friday 5th March in the Church Room. It is independent of the parish council, although they share a chairman. Anything affecting the village can be discussed, and it is an opportunity for village groups to let everyone know what they have done in the year. The main business is usually the summer festival: deciding who gets the proceeds and who will be on the committee. If you want a village-wide festival, please come along and volunteer for the committee - it had to be abandoned last year because there were not enough people, after which the Church organized a festival instead.

The agenda will be up on the noticeboard soon - if you want to put something on it please either let Gordon Smith know (681373) or come along on the night and raise your point at the end of the meeting. If your group would like to apply for a share of the festival proceeds, again, please let Gordon know.

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People

Our monthly page about village people, edited by BRIDGET BRANDON

BIRTHDAYS

Michael Coleman 4th Feb
Ivy Brandon 5th Feb
Pablo Gutierrez 7th Feb
Vika Drysdale 7th Feb
Barry White 9th Feb
Haidee Mogford (18) . .13th Feb
Charlie Griffin13th Feb
Richard Clarke13th Feb
Paul Hewitt14th Feb
Tracey Lovell23rd Feb
Linda Wheaton25th Feb
Daniel White25th Feb

BEAVERS

We are starting a Beavers group in Wingrave in March - any 6 or 7-year-old boys wanting to join, or adults who want to help, contact Tracy Judd, 688479.



CABARET

Cabaret night will be on March 13th this year. Tickets, again priced at £6 (to include a glass of wine) will be available from John Whyte on 681685. Be warned. They go very quickly. We understand Ivor Cheek may be there as he enjoyed the Christmas Show so much, so his seat is already reserved.

BLUE PETER EYE APPEAL

Jenny and Anna's sale in Ross Road in December raised over £32 for the Blue Peter eye appeal (for prevention of river blindness). Well done.

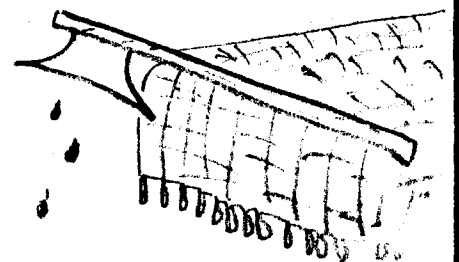
A MONTHLY LOOK AT FACTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW...

Losing your head Many people believe that since the Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act, the death penalty has been totally abolished in the United Kingdom. In fact, capital punishment still applies in cases of treason and piracy on the high seas and, until the Criminal Damage Act 1971, offenders could still be hanged for committing arson in a naval dockyard.

It might come as a surprise, however, to discover that, under a 1592 law never repealed, you could be beheaded for the apparently innocuous action of manufacturing a bedspread.

Using your head Some Mexican tree frogs use their heads to survive - literally. The frogs, known as helmet frogs, have bony crests or bumps on the top of their skulls and use them as doors on their homes. The frogs ensure their survival during droughts by moving into the trunks of trees or into holes in bromeliads - plants of the pineapple family that often grow high up in trees.

Once inside the hole, the frog plugs the entrance with its head and sits out the drought. The helmet loses little water, and the seal ensures that the chamber - and the frog - remain comfortably moist.



'WISE OLD GOAT'

Rector's Report

When groups of children come to visit and explore Wingrave Church, one of the things that seems to fascinate them is the small hole in the wall of the Chancel which may have been (but probably wasn't) a squint or leper's window. It is not very large and is fitted with a small wooden door. A similar architectural feature in a Church at which I used to worship was in a direct line of vision from the Rector's seat to the lounge in the former Rectory - and that made me wonder whether it enabled the domestic staff (which in earlier days the Rectory most certainly had) to keep an eye open so they knew what time to 'put the potatoes on'.

Whatever may have been its original purpose, it certainly allowed those outside to look in - to see what was going on inside without having to commit themselves. To my mind that is a very important function. Many churches are now kept locked except when there are services taking place - so the only way you can see inside is to go to a service. On whatever Sunday of the year you choose, a whole service may not be the most appropriate way of finding out what the Christian faith is all about. If you find the building open and visit during the week you still don't get the feel of worship.

In a way the squint provided a 'shop-window' - you could look in and see what was going on - and if you liked you could then go in and find out more about the Christian faith and about worship. And that facility can be very useful in a society that has become increasingly secularised. What goes on inside the Church is (or should be) a reflection of the community in which the Church is set - and sometimes what we see in a mirror is not quite what we should like.

No church is perfect and therefore some criticism is necessary - but the only people who can change things are the ones who have decided to come in and not those who peep in from the outside.

Bob Willmott

Wing School

by Mrs A. M. Jackson
(Deputy Head)

December was a busy month for Wing.

On 10th and 11th December Mrs Cox and Mr Rennie, with a large cast produced a Musical/Theatrical evening with sketches and songs spanning the 20th Century. Tickets were sold out and the event was a great success. Our thanks to all parents and friends who lent costumes and helped behind the scenes.

On 11th December some of the cast entertained local Senior Citizens to a shortened version of the evening's entertainment accompanied by refreshments.

By kind permission of the Vicar, on the afternoon of 17th we took over the church for our Annual Carol Service. It is a rewarding experience to hold a religious festival in such beautiful surroundings.

The term ended with our usual non-uniform day. Each student pays for the privilege of not wearing a school uniform and instead comes in his or her own uniform of jeans, trainers and assorted tops. The proceeds boost our school funds.

As all parents know the Governing Body has put forward proposals for Grant Maintained Status. The parents voted overwhelmingly for this and we await the decision of the Secretary of State.



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

January is a quiet month in the church's year, but gives us time to prepare for the activities of the year ahead. The first fundraiser is the annual sponsored walk to be held on Sunday 7th March, so do join us, it's great fun.

We shall hopefully be holding another craft fair which proved popular last time, and in June a concert with the Aylesbury December Festival Choir.

John or Len, our churchwardens, will be happy to receive any volunteers to help on the mowing rota, and Doris I'm sure would be happy to add your name to the flower rota.

Don't forget we shall look forward to seeing you at our family service on February 7th.

COLIN HIGGS

ST JAMES'S CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Sidesman

7th February	11.15am	FAMILY SERVICE	Michael Hasler
9 Before Easter	(p.486)	1 Cor 4.8-13; Matt 5.1-12	
14th February	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Colin Higgs
8 Before Easter	(p.491)	James 5.13-16; Mark 2.1-12	
21st February	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Gillian Ford
7 Before Easter	(p.496)	Philemon 1-16; Mark 2.13-17	
28th February	11.15am	HOLY COMMUNION	Alison Ford
Lent 1	(p.505)	Heb 2.14-end; Matt 4.1-11	
7th March	11.15am	FAMILY SERVICE	Methodist Church
Lent 2	(p.509)	1 John 4.1-6; Luke 19.41-end	

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

7th February

Parish Church, 11.15am

21st February

Mr Rixon, 6pm

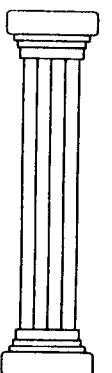
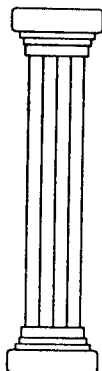
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Parish Council

Unofficial notes from the parish council meeting on 22nd Jan.

Matters arising The plaque had been put up in Wingrave crossroads bus shelter.

Planning applications Above ground slurry store, Red Barn Farm had been approved subject to landscaping.

Accounts Eastern Electricity, £26.74 as usual. The sum of £60 had been received from the Bull & Butcher, proceeds from the festival weekend for the Recreation Ground.

Precept It was decided to keep the precept at £3000 again for the year 1993/4, and to earmark money from what remains this year for possible kerbing of the verge in Wingrave Road by the allotments - awaiting further discussion with Bucks County Council.

Village appraisal The parish council went through the booklet to make sure all matters within its remit were being attended to. Briefly, apart from normal business such as highways and lighting, councillors decided to approach the Post Office again asking for a mobile service (though without much hope of success as this was turned down flat before); noted that as soon as we have a new community police officer the neighbourhood watch should get some publicity (it has not folded); agreed to look into doing a map of footpaths.

Correspondence included a letter from Bucks County Council engineers department pointing out that ditches, maintenance and dispersal of water thereof, are the responsibility of the adjoining landowner, even though ditch is between highway and hedge. This gave us the biggest laugh of the evening as Mr Inman carefully explained that people do not use ditches for transport, therefore they cannot be part of the highway.

AVDC Housing Survey Collected form were handed over to the Clerk - we had a 50% return rate and a few more coming in, which is not bad at all. Many thanks to all who helped with this; AVDC has promised us results, which will eventually find their way into the Chronicle.

AOB It was reported that the Lines Hill Gate was broken and we should try to find out who now owns it. Salt for the roads was requested.

Caroline Lane

Next meeting Friday 5th March, following Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 7.30pm, Church Room

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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
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 Chesher 20 The Green 681201

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

Mr Duncan of the Bucks County Council Engineer's Department has written in response to the village appraisal:

"Your survey makes very interesting reading and I have recently visited the village with PC Foster of Thames Valley Police (Traffic Management) to look at the points raised.

Speeding: PC Foster is arranging for the Speed Enforcement Section to visit the village.

Speed limits: The Department of Transport has set criteria to be met for the installation or extension of a speed limit... the existing limits in Aston are correct bearing in mind the Orders and street lighting and there is no scope to amend the location of the terminal signs (i.e. the 30mph zone cannot be extended along Lines Hill).

Maintenance: referred to Divisional Surveyor.

'Concealed Entrance' sign (at Royal Oak): There are no signs prescribed within the existing Regulations to warn of 'concealed entrances'. As the only signs which can be erected on the public highway must comply with these Regulations, I am unable to pursue this matter. The landlord could provide a sign on private land subject to any necessary planning restraints.

New footway near shop: attempts have been made in the past to acquire land to extend the footway but have failed.

'Please Drive Carefully' signs: can be provided if cost met by a third party, usually the Parish Council - cost about £100. (The parish council thought about this and decided against, since impact would be shortlived and we'd have to buy three)

Traffic calming: I receive a considerable number of requests and it is not possible to respond positively to many of them... Aston is not likely to qualify for any County Council funded traffic calming in the foreseeable future. I would not wish to see the Lines Hill gate removed as this is an excellent traffic calming measure in itself.

General: Many of the traffic signs in the village could do with replacement. I shall ask the Divisional Surveyor to attend to this as soon as possible.

Pantomime

The Toddlers group had a good outing to the pantomime at Leighton Buzzard, where we had ringside seats for Peter Pan. Flying looked easy - come on Chris, Ann, Johns, and the rest, we're sure you can do it next year...

Pump

Work on the Church Row pump is coming along nicely despite the appalling weather. We now have concrete foundations for the handsome new oak post, half a retaining wall, and the lead business bits ready to be put back together again. By the time you read this it could well be looking like a pump again, except that we need more old (weathered) bricks to finish the wall. If you have any to spare, please let George and Chris Fox know (682024), No. 1 Church Row.

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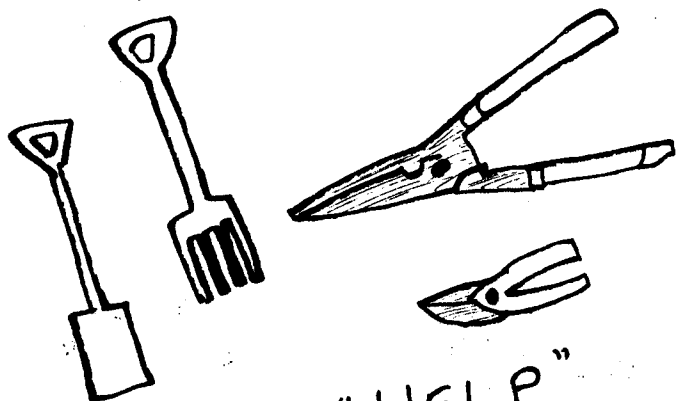
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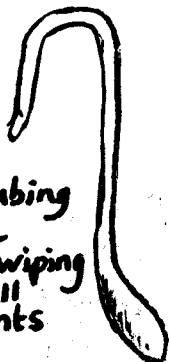
THE OLD VICARAGE
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Ted Briden (junior), who is repairing the Church Row pump, has kindly allowed us to use this story from his work 'The Village Plumber at Chalfont St Peter'. Plumbing could be a dangerous business at the turn of the century:

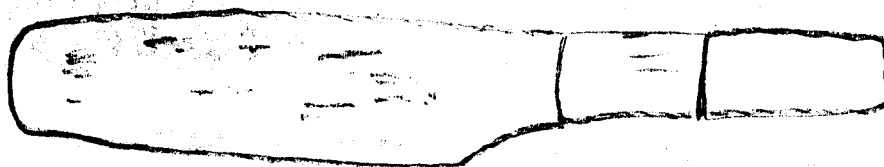
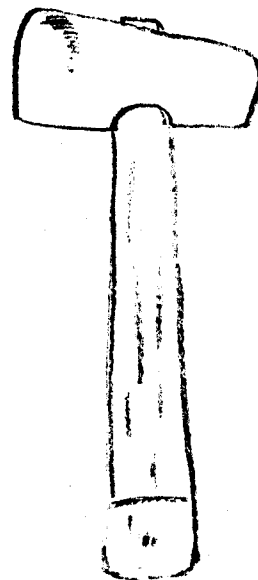
Plumbing
iron
for wiping
small
joints



Grandfather Ted was well-known in this area for his skill with pumps... this once brought him a very gruesome task. There was a farm high up on the hills near Chenies, called Roughwood Farm. Sometime around the end of the 19th century, the house had extensive restoration work done by a London firm. The pumps failed and water was urgently needed for the work. The plumber there was told he would have to go down to the bottom of the well, probably to fit new leathers on the valves. Father said it was over 100ft... the cover was taken off and a windlass rigged up with a long enough rope. On the end of the rope, a short cross-bar was tied. The plumber had to sit on this, holding on to the rope passing up the front of his body, and called 'cockstrodelling'. At the last minute, the plumber lost his nerve and was afraid to go down. Most wells in London were then very shallow, and so he persuaded his mate, an apprentice, to go down... the lad was quite happy... When he got down onto the bottom stage where the pumps were, he lit a candle and called up that he could see the pumps. Then the candle went out and he didn't speak again, as he was suffocating in the foul air. A farm-labourer came by and was told that the boy had fainted. He immediately offered to go down and bring him up. He tied the unconscious boy under the bar and, sitting on it himself, called up for them to be drawn up... Just as they saw his head coming up, the rope broke, and the pair of them crashed to the bottom. Special gear and an air pump were sent from London, and the two bodies were recovered.

The pumps still had to be repaired... Someone told the foreman that Old Teddy Briden might do the job... The foreman offered him double money and plenty of beer! They took their own air pump and made sure first by sending down three candles on a tripod, so that if they burned clear it was safe. They were well aware of foul air accumulating in a deep well that had not been opened for some time. Teddy went down first and then his mate, a grown man who had been with him for years. He got rather squeamish when he saw bits of hair and flesh where the two had crashed. Looking up and seeing the light way above him, he said 'Teddy, if God lets me get back safely, I will never again go down a well'. Needless to say, they did: they both had families to feed. The firm gave the son of the labourer who was killed a free apprenticeship, by way of compensation to the widow.

Right: Hand made Basing Mallet : E. B. Senior



Hand made lead dresser, boxwood : E. B. Senior

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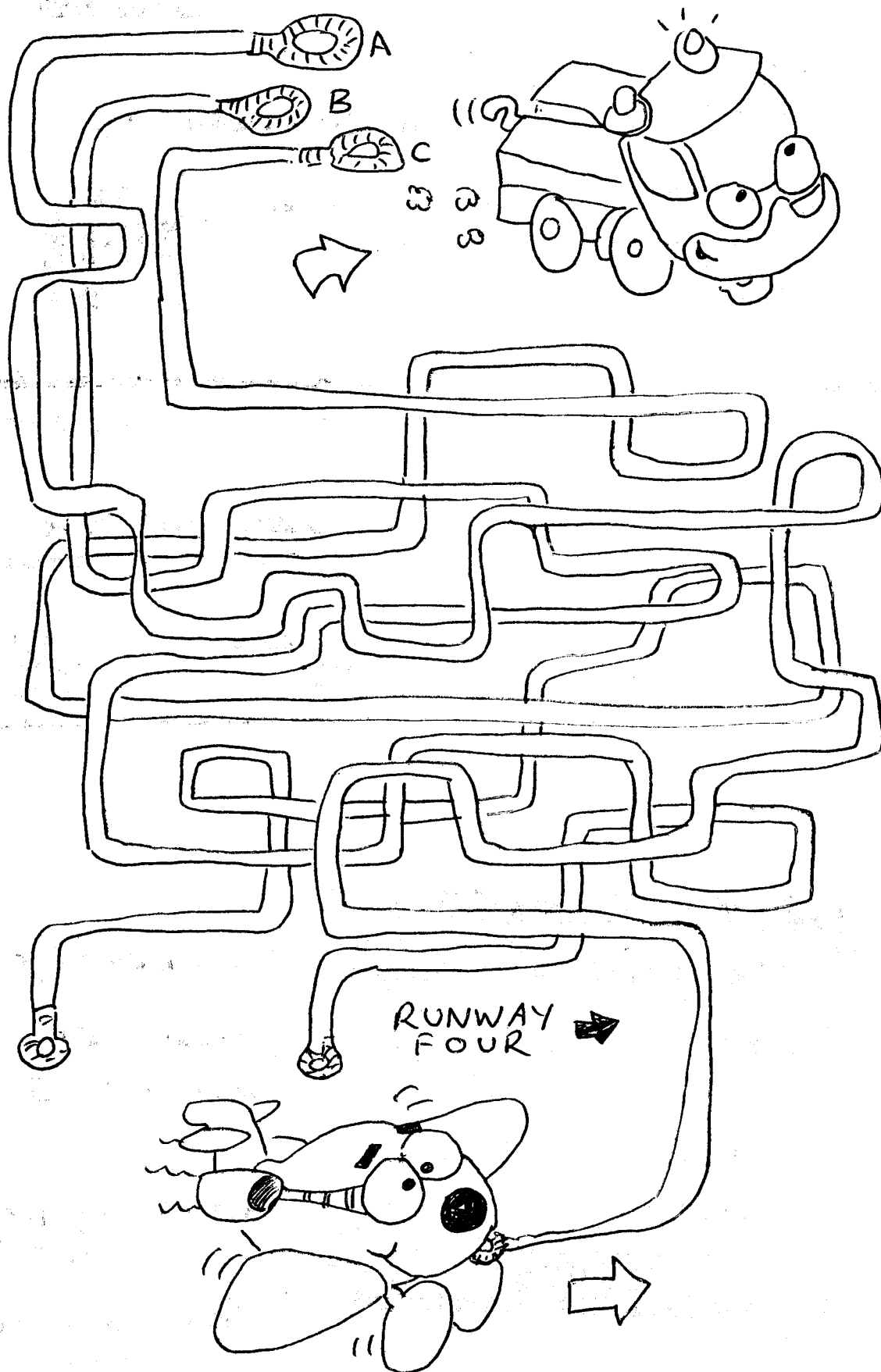
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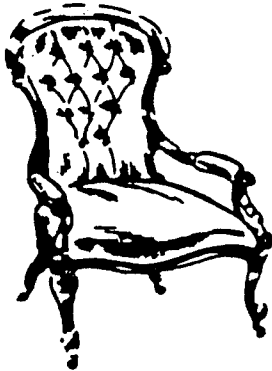
...can you help poor Tommy to decide which towline to use?



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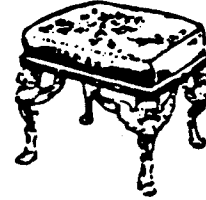
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