

# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



No 160

IT'S HALLOE'EN!

**“October** is drawn in a garment of yellow and carnation; upon his head a garland of oak leaves, in his right hand the sign of Scorpio, and in his left a basket of services, medlars and other fruits that ripen late.”

*(Beeton's Shilling Gardening, 1874.)*



After the warm days of summer, October is the month when we come to realise that the winter is just around the corner. (How many shopping days to Christmas?) The trouble with having a particularly good summer as we did this year is that the onset of winter feels all the more depressing. But we shouldn't be too gloomy as there are compensations...just can't think of any at the moment.

As you can tell by the cover Halloween is at the end of the month (see page 4)

Thanks to Chris and Bridget for an informative and interesting September Chronicle.

One thing that has struck me whilst digging around for bits and pieces for this issue is that I am convinced there is a whole hoard of interesting material lying around in peoples homes that they have perhaps have forgotten is there or do not think it interesting or relevant.

We've tried to put as much in as possible and keep it as varied as possible (sorry, no pictures of Prince Charles in the Royal buff) and have enjoyed doing it, but it can be time consuming. After all the role of the editor is to edit and not have to write it, so it needs contributions from you, the village. Chris Brandon gave you a comprehensive list of topics to write about in the September issue, so get to it.

Don't forget to put your clocks back one hour on Sunday 23rd October.

Edited by Simon & Helen Dowling

Printed by the SQUIRREL PRESS at Waddesdon School.

Distributed free to all households in the parish of Aston Abbots

Could you please deliver anything to be included in the November issue to 2 Church Row by Friday 21st October.

Good luck to Barbara and David for Novembers issue.



# What's on

**Monday 3rd**  
Rambling Club Programme  
Planning Meeting - Doug's 8pm

**Tuesday 4th**  
Parochial Church Council Meeting  
Doris & Len's 8pm

**Sunday 9th**  
St James' Church Harvest Festival

**Tuesday 11th**  
Bucks Road Safety Meeting at Buckingham  
(Road Safety Items) to Colin/Caroline

**Thursday 13th/20th**  
Whist Drive Church Room 7.30pm

**Sunday 16th**  
Rambling Club Members meet  
Thornborough Bridge 2pm

**Tuesday 18th**  
Floral Class Church Room 7pm

## BOOK THIS DATE

**Saturday 3rd December**  
Coach Trip Cheltenham Shopper  
Depart The Green 8.30am. Fare £7 return (£6  
OAPs/Children

## ASTON ABBOTTS BONFIRE.

### SATURDAY 5th November.

**Bonfire - 6.30pm**

**Fireworks - 7pm**

Please donate fireworks or money to buy them to Lawrence Hinds, 5 Ross Road, 688378. If buying, remember one big one is better than two or three small ones. (Sound advice!) Please take any burnable rubbish (but not tyres) to the usual corner of the Rec.

### Oving Playground Equipment Project

#### Fireworks display and Bonfire

Oving Recreation Ground  
Saturday 5th November 1994  
6.30pm BBQ Tickets £2.50 + £1.50  
(On the night £3 & £2)  
Telephone 641656 or 641453

# Regulars

**Tuesdays**  
Trawler wet fish shop,  
The Green, 1.40 - 2.00pm

Mobile Library,  
Wingrave Road, 9.30 -  
9.45am  
The Green, 9.50 - 10.20am

**Tuesdays, Thursdays**  
Butchers van,  
about 3-4pm. Will deliver to  
door. (0296 75220)

**Wednesdays**  
Bin Day  
Toddlers, Church Room  
2-4pm.  
Fish & Chip van

**Bricstock 8pm -ish**  
**Bull & Butcher 8.15 -ish**

#### Fridays

Free bus to Tesco in  
Aylesbury, depart from The  
Green 10.06am, arrives Tesco  
11.01am and back to Aston  
Abbotts at about 1.40pm.

# Thank You

To "the friends of the Chronicle" who organised the rather splendid "surprise" party in the Church Room.

We both had a very good afternoon, even if our memories of the event are somewhat hazy!

Thank you as well to John Whyte, who has been Treasurer as long as we have been editors, and who I completely forgot to mention at the time (he's not usually easy to overlook. He's the one that stands menacingly by the door asking HAVE YOU PAID? and warning NO REFUNDS.).

Our certificate of ~~Insanity~~ Merit is on the wall, the rose is in the garden, the glasses are in the cupboard, and the bottle of wine is no more. We're (almost) looking forward to our turn coming round to edit the Chronicle.

Thanks again.

Gordon & Caroline

# HALLOWE'EN

## FRIGHTENING FUN?

---

*Hallowe'en is on  
31st October.  
Do you know why  
we do what we do?  
And do you let  
your children dress  
up in horrid masks  
and witches  
costumes and  
frighten  
themselves silly?*

---

**D**o you scare your children out of their wits at Hallowe'en? Not any more than usual you may say, but there is a school of thought that feels that the little darlings should be protected from the onslaught of ghosts and ghoulies and the night should be celebrated with things such as "clown parties or saints and sausages". All the fun should be there but without the grotesqueness.

But surely children like to be scared providing it's not taken to extremes and they are able to cope.

We all remember being told ghost stories when we were young and although we felt frightened it was actually reassuring and reinforced our sense of security.

I remember going to a few Hallowe'en parties as a child and having to walk a short distance in the dark to a friends house and feeling the hairs stand up on the back of my neck expecting to be whisked off by some ugly witch. There is a pleasure in this as there is when, as adults, we watch horror movies. After making sure Freddy Kreuger is not in our wardrobe we climb wooden

hill safe in the knowledge that the only thing likely to attack us in our bed is a reminder of the Indian take-away we had earlier.

So, where does Hallowe'en come from? Not from the USA for a start as many people believe. It is one of the two great pre-Christian Celtic fire festivals that marked the turning of the year. It was the time when "the souls of the departed were supposed to revisit their old home in order to warm themselves by the fire and to comfort themselves with the good cheer provided for them in the kitchen or parlour by their affectionate kinsfolk."

Trick or treating originated as food offering for the wandering dead.



Although the traditional bonfires, lit to keep the witches and evil spirits from polluting the ground and spoiling the next years crops, were later moved to Guy Fawkes Night there is an old custom that continues in Hinton St, George in Somerset called Punkie Night which could be the

survival of a fire rite. It takes place on the last Thursday of October and is believed to be associated with Hallowe'en.

Village children call at homes asking for candles which they light in Punkies or lanterns made by scooping out the middle of man-golds. Sometimes these



were cut to resemble faces and are carried on a short pole draped with a sheet or table cloth.

The games played on this night also have their roots in early superstitions. Nuts and apples, wholesome

fruits of the earth, were brought into the house as protection against witches and warlocks. Fortune telling, a great obsession of our ancestors used also used apples and nuts. It was believed that if a man or a woman stood in front of a mirror and ate an apple the face of the person he or she would marry would be reflected there. (I remember trying this and actually seeing my wife's face reflected there next to mine, but that was probably because she came into the bathroom at that moment.)

Ducking for apples was also once supposed to throw light upon the future of those taking part.. The bigger the apple they captured the rosier their future or, more likely, the bigger their mouth.

---

Bring the holy crust of  
bread  
Lay it underneath the  
head  
'Tis a certain charm to  
keep  
Hags away while children  
sleep

---

*Sound Medieval Advice*

In the meantime, if you intend to have a party with your children, throw in a few ghosts and ghouls. If it's not scary it's not Hallowe'en.

*Information taken from The Guardian 30.10.92 and Everyman's Book of Superstitions by Christine Chaundler. Illustration by Ivan Allen*

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2 Ross Road, 681865

**ROY MALIN**  
3 Ross Road, 681358

**JOHN WHYTE**  
14 Bricstock, 681685

**GEORGE FOX**  
1 Church Row, 682024

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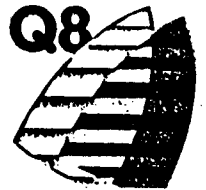
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## *Now is the season of mists and mellow fruits...*

...or perhaps more realistically fog and rotten apples.

If you have the odd apple tree in your garden then you should by now have a box of bruised and maggoty apples and are wondering what to do with them. Well now is your chance, or rather the apples chance, to step into the limelight as the humble pomme now has it's own day.

# Happy Apple Day

is on the 21st October according to Common Ground of Covent Garden.

The idea is to give a gift of an apple to a friend to wish them good health and at the

same time to bring to peoples attention how many different types of apples we grow in this country.

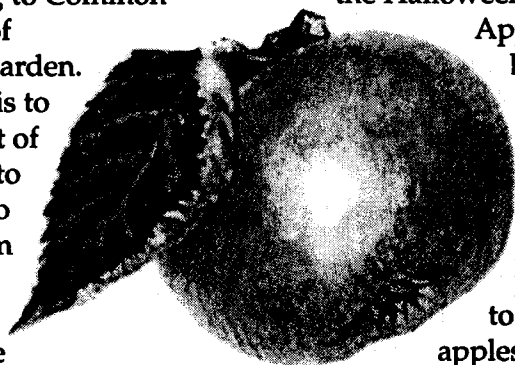
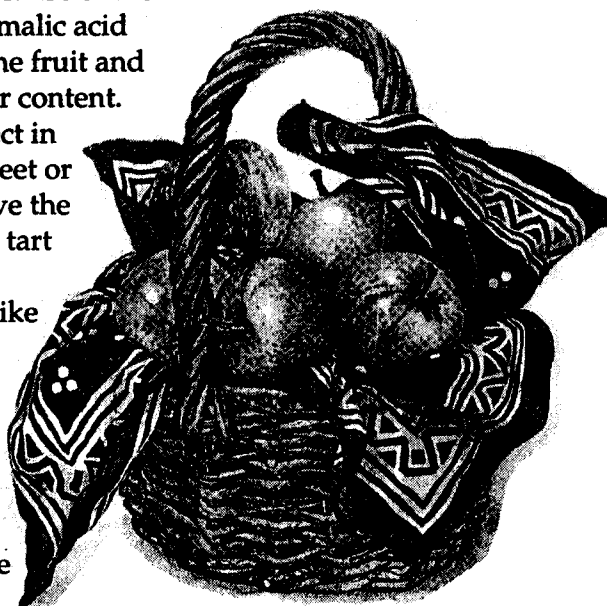
Common Ground also campaigns to save old orchards and promotes the planting of new ones.

For more details contact Common Ground 41 Shelton Street London WC2H 9HJ.

Research by Reading University has found that Bramley apples are the best for cooking, because of the high levels of malic acid contained in the fruit and their low sugar content.

They are perfect in any recipe, sweet or savoury to give the dish an added tart flavour.

If you would like some new ideas for using these lovely apples, get in touch with the Bramley Apple Info. Service, 126 Cromwell Rd. London SW7 4ET.



As mentioned already on the Halloween Page, Apple

Bobbing is the traditional game played when people try to pick

apples up by using their mouths with their hands tied behind their backs. Apple on the Mound is another game which is played by placing a small apple on a mound of flour. Players take it in turns to remove the flour without dislodging the apple. the

*by Helen Dowling*

first person to let the apple drop from the mound then has to pick it up from the flour in his or her mouth. Have fun!

These games and others are to be found in *Apple Games and Customs* by Beatrice Mayfield.

Illustrations are by Val Archer, *A Basket of Apples* (Pavilion Books).





DO YOU NEED  
WITH YOUR GARDEN?

"HELP"

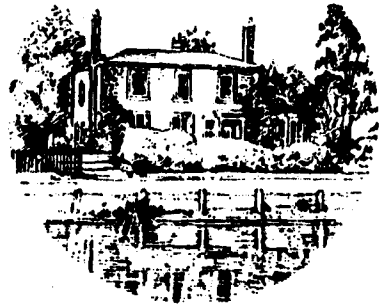
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# LADIES CLUB

## NOTES FOR OCTOBER

The A.A. and Cublington Ladies Club start their new season on the 6th October with a talk about Windsor Castle. We have a wide ranging programme, with talks, films and demonstrations on subjects ranging from Emergency First Aid, Work of the R.S.P.C.A., Inland Waterways, Hidden Bucks, the country of Japan, slides of the Cascade Mountains, Washington State, U.S.A. and a talk about St. Annes Dolls hospital and Museum.

We meet in the Church Room at 2.45pm, Ladies Club afternoons.

The Ladies Club would be pleased to welcome some new faces. Would anyone interested in joining ring Shirley Ford on 681865.

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.... "Let food be your medicine," (Hippocrates)

\*\*\*\*\* WEEKLY ORDERS TAKEN FOR FRUIT & VEGETABLES \*\*\*\*\*

For further details contact either,

Sheila Featherstone, 0296 681292 or

Rita Jones, 0296 681850

# Rectors Report

**C**harity, so the saying goes, begins at home. But these days Charity is restricted by various Acts of Parliament.

In very many villages up and down the country these are charities large and small. Some have long histories, some have only been around for about a hundred years. All of them, whether civil or Ecclesiastical have had to be registered with the Charity Commission, who also monitor them to ensure that the trustees are not misusing funds for which they are responsible.

Some were designed to provide clothing for the poor, others the supply of bread or coal. Others again represent sums of money left to pay towards the cost of educating children. Charities to pay for the upkeep of clocks, churches and so on and so on and so on.

The Official Custodian for Charities held all the investments and paid the interest to the Trustees so that it could be distributed in accordance with the rules of the Charity concerned. It all sounds very nice, doesn't it?

But the Charities Act of 1992 has been a very bitter pill for all the smaller Charities and some of the larger ones too. The Official Custodian is no longer permitted to hold the investments - the Trustees must make their own arrangements with approved investment agencies. Money that the Official Custodian has held for about a hundred years has not been reinvested to produce a realistic income for the Charity concerned. If there was five hundred pounds invested in 1900 in what was then a good fund, it stayed there until 1994. It was then sold and the proceeds returned to the Trustees. Yet even that doesn't sound bad.

Because the money had been 'held' and not 'managed' one Wingrave Charity which had started with 700 pounds in 1867 received just over 200 pounds from the Charity Commission in 1994. Now 700 pounds in 1867 was about half of the cost of completely rebuilding Aston Abbots Church - and we know what 200 pounds will buy today. In cash terms we have got back about a third of what we started with - but it is frightening to think what has actually been lost in real terms.

As a Charity Trustee I feel very bitter - even though that does sound rather un-Christian.

Bob Willmott

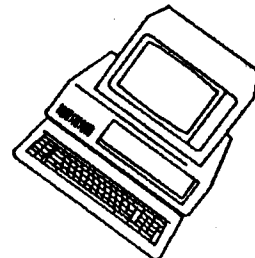
## HARVEST

*There will be no Harvest supper this year but a Harvest tea which will take place after the evening service on October 9th. The service starts at 3pm. The tea, followed by a Harvest Sale will commence at approximately 4pm.*

*For further information, contact Colin Higgs on 681343.*

# ***THE SMALL FIRMS COMPUTER ADVISOR***

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## CHURCH SERVICES

WINGRAVE	2nd Oct	10.0	Parish Communion
	9th	10.0	Parish Communion
	16th	10.0	Parish Communion
		6.0	Evensong (Singers)
	23rd	8.0	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.0	Family Service
	30th		Communion at Cublington
6th Nov	10.0	Parish Communion	
ASTON ABBOTTS	2nd Oct	11.15	Family Service with Baptism
	9th	3.0	Harvest Festival
	16th	11.15	Parish Communion
	23rd	11.15	Parish Communion
	30th		Communion at Cublington
	6th Nov	11.15	Family Service (Methodist)
CUBLINGTON	2nd Oct	10.0	Harvest Festival
		6.0	Evensong
	9th	8.45	Parish Communion
	16th	8.45	Parish Communion
	23rd	8.45	Parish Communion
	30th	10.0	Benefice Communion
	6th Nov	10.0	Family Service

## SUNDAY READINGS

2nd Oct	Pentecost 19	(p.732)	Rom 5.1-11; Lk 19.1-10
9th		20 (p.736)	1 Cor 9.19-end; Matt 7.13-27
16th	Last Pent	(p.748)	Rev 7.2-4,9-end; Matt 25.1-13
23rd	9 before X	(p.398)	Gen 1.1-3,24-31; John 1.1-14
30th	8 b. Chr.	(p.403)	Gen 4.1-10; Mark 7.14-23
6th Nov	7 b. Chr.	(p.408)	Gen 12.1-9; John 8.51-end

## FROM THE REGISTERS

MARRIAGE	27th Aug	Ian Spooner & Becky Wittham
FUNERALS	23rd Aug	Brian Barton-Smith at Aston Abbotts
	13th Sep	Jason Day at Amersham

# ON THE BUSES

Due to problems on the buses  
Helen Dowling was prompted to write the  
following letter to Mrs Brenda Jennings of  
County Hall on 12th September.

Dear Brenda Jennings

I read in the September issue of The Chronicle (monthly newsletter of Aston Abbots) that you were concerned about school buses speeding in 30mph zones.

I travel to Aylesbury on the No. 75 school bus departing from Aston Abbots at 8.05am. When I board this "Hopper" style bus there are already about five children standing and have been from as far back as Stewkley.

Bearing in mind the length of time these children stand on what must be a ten mile journey of around 40 minutes into school along the busy A418 is this not a potentially dangerous situation and also somewhat topical due to recent discussions regarding seat belts in buses and coaches?

I did in fact write to Mr. Slavin, Transport officer at County, last year along with another resident in the village with regard to this matter, but was informed that children 14 and under can sit three to a seat! There is hardly enough room for two children and their bags.

On the afternoon return journey as many as nine stand from the Grange school.

This bus is supposed to be available to the public and I would like to see a regular single decker bus on this route. I understand a double decker is out of the question due to narrow lanes at Great Brickill where the bus begins and ends it's journey.

I look forward to hearing your comments.

Yours sincerely  
Helen Dowling

On the 15 September  
Brenda Jennings telephoned  
us to say that the matter  
had been taken up  
with officers at County Hall  
that lunchtime. They will be

looking into it and contact-  
ing her in the near future.  
She went on to say that it  
apparently will be the new  
policy of the County as and  
when new contracts go out

for school transport, the  
allocation will be two chil-  
dren to a seat and not  
three so we could look for-  
ward to an improvement on  
that side of things in due  
course.

It may take some time for  
the contracts to come up  
for renewal.

Passengers having to  
stand and the speed prob-  
lem are being looked into.

Two days later only three of  
the four people waiting in  
the pouring rain to board  
the morning bus were  
allowed on. One school girl  
was left behind and had to  
return home. Apparently  
five other school children  
had been left behind at  
Stewkley.

In the past some older  
members of the village  
have not been allowed on  
the 75 afternoon bus  
returning to Aston Abbots  
from Aylesbury Bus  
Station.

Meanwhile Colin Higgs had  
been making his own com-  
plaints about the bus prob-  
lems.

"Following complaints  
received by me regarding  
overcrowding on the early  
buses from the village, I  
have spoken to both Bucks  
C.C. and the manager of  
Aylesbury Bus and am  
assured the 08.05 (service  
75) from the village has  
now been changed to a big  
bus, so should now relieve  
the situation. ANY fare pay-  
ing passenger may use this  
service and it will of course  
ease the loadings on the  
07.44 (service 65) likewise  
on the afternoon journeys  
15.45 from Aylesbury (75)  
and the 16.05 (65)."

# PEOPLE

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## **BIRTHDAYS**

Denise Robinson . . . . . 2nd October  
Juliette Gutierrez . . . . . 3rd October  
Stuart Biddle (3) . . . . . 5th October  
Edward Pickering . . . . . 11th October  
Juan Gutierrez . . . . . 14th October  
Rita Robinson \*\*\*\*\* 26th October  
Haley Wilkinson . . . . . 31st October

\*\*\*Yes, it's a very special day for Rita. Because it is so special she would like to share it with you. That's why the 26th is open house at 31 The Green. From 6am until 11pm you are very welcome to pop in with your present and have a cup of tea (or a drop of scotch) and a slice of cake. She looks forward to seeing you.

(P.S. Bridget didn't write this)

## **18th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SHOW**

The show is on the 9th and 10th December. The tickets are yet again priced at £2.50 and £1.50 for children and senior citizens. They are available from Chris at 12 Bricstock (681425). They go extremely quickly, so please get your order in soon. **MONEY WITH ORDER** is the only way you get them. None are reserved. Anyone wishing to get involved in the show is very welcome and should contact Chesh at 20 The Green (681201).

## **WELCOME TO**

Sue and Davis Taylor and children Sarah, John and Timothy who have moved into The Acorns.

## **GOOD LUCK**

to those going on to further education:

Alison Hewitt - Leeds University

Sarah Lovell - Worthing

Tracy Lovell - Northampton

## **CONGRATS (belated)**

Mark Hewitt who came in the top five - nationwide - in his computer Science A-Level exam.

Christopher Brown on his splendid A-Level results.

Good luck in his studies at Reading University.



Packing 'em in at the Church Rooms  
Does anyone know the date?





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*by the original director of*

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**THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER**

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18



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---

*After much negotiation our Autumn Schedule commences with a bumbuster from the people who brought you CURRY NIGHT I / II / III we present :-*

**CURRY NIGHT IV**

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 13th  
7pm ONWARDS**

*Where we bring out of retirement the original director of CURRY NIGHT I & II*

**BOOKING ADVISABLE**

**£ 5.50 / HEAD**

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**FOLK EVENING**

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 20 th.**

**INTRODUCING "BADGERS SET" LIVE 8.00 pm**

*Out you come all you closet folkies, for some jolly good foot stomping fun !!!*

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**FREE PUDS**

*Once again we are silly enough to give away a free homemade pud of the day with every main meal (over £5) purchased on Monday Evenings during October.*

*As well as our own WEEDON SCRATCHINS (the p.b.'s.)  
We can now give you WEEDON HONEY (the B.B.'s)  
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