

# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



April 1995

No 136

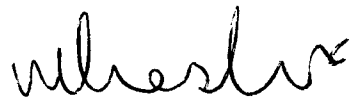
Wecome to the April edition of 'The Chronicle'.

Having spent the past few days 'putting it to bed' I am full of admiration for Caroline and Gordon who undertook the task for 5 years!

I personally feel that we live in one of the best villages in Buckinghamshire and that we probably take for granted the advantages whilst being vociferous about the few disadvantages.

Would the world not be a better place if we were to live more in harmony with our surroundings and neighbours?

I would like to thank all the contributors to this month's issue, especially Oscar Wilde, and wish all the best to next month's Editor - Margaret Kent.



\* \* \* \* \*

Please deliver anything to be included in the May issue to Caroline Lane, 2 Church Row (681373) by Wednesday 19 April.

Published by Margaret Chesher  
Printed by Squirrel Press at  
Waddesdon School.  
Distributed free to all households  
in the Parish of Aston Abbotts.

'What is the difference between literature and journalism?'"  
"Oh! journalism is unreadable, and literature is not read. That is all."

(The Critis as Artist)

### WHAT'S ON

- Sunday 2nd** Rambling Club members meet at Wendover at 2.00 pm
- Wednesday 5th** Leighton/Linslade Transport Meeting -  
bus/train queries to Colin Higgs
- Thursday 6th** Ladies Club meets in Church Room at 2.45 pm  
Mr J Cornwall 'More Glorious Slides to View'
- Saturday 8th** Jumble Sale in Church Room at 2.00 pm
- Thursday 13th** Whist Drive in Church Room at 7.30 pm
- Tuesday 18th** Floral Class in Church Room at 7.00 pm
- Thursday 20th** Ladies Club meets in Church Room at 2.45 pm  
Mrs Rose Miller - talk about Japan  
  
Bingo in Church Room at 7.30 pm
- Sunday 23rd** Rambling Club members meet at Great Brickhill at 2.00 pm
- Thursday 27th** Whist Drive in Church room at 7.30 pm

### REGULARS

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

**Tuesdays & Thursdays** - Butchers van, about 3-4.00 pm.  
Will deliver to door (01296 75220)

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

**Wednesdays** - Toddlers, Church Room, 2-4.00 pm  
Fish & Chip van, Bricstock 8pm -ish  
Bull & Butcher 8.15 -ish

**Thursdays** - Bin Day  
Alternative arrangements for Easter Holidays -  
refuse which should be collected on Thursday, 20 April  
will be collected on Saturday, 22nd April, refuse which  
should be collected on Thursday, 27th April will be collected  
on Friday, 28th April

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

When a man says that he has exhausted Life,  
one knows that life has exhausted him.

(The Picture of Dorian Gray)

# **CABARET REVIEW - 1995**

**Tremendous fun, clever and above all crazy. Yes! Once again, the Cabaret was extremely entertaining, good value and the place to be on a Saturday night (one hesitates to give a bad review on these occasions in case any of 'the stars' decide to emulate Stephen Fry). All the more remarkable really considering only some eighteen hours earlier most of the cast were 'whooping it up' in the Bull until the small hours drinking green beer (yes, that really was it's colour) and generally helping Frank to celebrate his Patron Saint's day. Perhaps it was this over indulgence which caused the odd words to be forgotten and a wrong tape to be played, subsequently causing considerable domestic distress!!!!???**

**The scene for the Cabaret was nicely set by the audience being invited to 'dress posh'. Such is the reputation and standing of the Cabaret that a significant number of the men wore dinner jackets and black tie whilst all the ladies present had clearly 'dressed up to the nines'. In addition, the tables had been nicely laid and decorated, all of which contributed to the creation of a very warm and friendly atmosphere. A very tasty hot meal was provided by the ladies. It always surprises me how they are able to cater for so many with the fairly basic and cramped conditions in the hall. Anyway, we were treated to a very spicy Mexican dish served with salad and French bread. There was plenty for all and this was followed by meringue filled with fruit and 'oozing' cream (quite wicked!).**

**Following some 'high pressure' salesmanship by Gorden (who incidently made an excellent compare for the evening) there was a thunderous 'popping of corks' and the show got off to what I thought was a cracking start. A very suave John Branker announced 'The 'Pubic-air's' in a 1930's radio style (I think he had meant to say Squadronairs) and they (John Branker, Gorden Smith and Bridget Brandon) sung a very polished version of Glen Miller's Moonlight Serenade. In some ways it's a pity that the rest of the show didn't follow this 30,s theme more closely since it fitted in so well with the 'cabaret' atmosphere which had been so well created within the hall. Non-the-less, the remainder of the entertainment was to a high standard and included two old favourites, 'The Bristols' (Anne and Bridget) and those two characters 'Rodney and Bernard', alias Gorden and Chris Brandon who enacted a very cleverly written and produced sketch. Bridget sung 'The Rose' with considerable poignancy and feeling; a great performance which was enjoyed by all. She sung so beautifully that it was difficult to believe it was the same person who appeared later as the 'revolting' though hilarious 'Waynetta' and who, in conjunction with John Whyte as 'Wayne' gave us a very funny sketch. This was one of several good humorous sketches, one of which included Chris as a convincing 'Mystic Meg' who preceded to reveal the secrets of some of our village characters (some of whom were present). Then of course there were those two (or did I see three?) gnomes (Anne and John Branker) who 'spilled the beans' on their neighbour's sexual habits and peccadilloes. They were so convincing that the following morning I relegated our gnomes to a stout box which is now securely locked away in the garage.**

Much of the music was arranged and accompanied by 'Chesh' on his now quite famous 'Wurlitzer' and as usual, all the musical numbers were well written and performed. They included renditions by John Whyte, John Branker and Chris did 'Something stupid' (it's the title of the song!) the choruses of which were directed towards a very embarrassed and 'giggly' (as a newt) Rita. The most refreshing musical act for me though was Jon Chesher who played two guitar pieces; 'Country party' and 'Impressions'. The audience's rapt expressions and total silence whilst Jon was playing, not to mention appreciative applause, demonstrated just how well he was received.

The final act was the appearance of a rather improbable 'Garry Glitter' played by John Whyte. The music and his mime were very exciting and kept the audience clapping and stomping in time with some of 'Garry's' most popular numbers. The overall 'delirium' was greatly influenced by his excellent home made costume as well as the hastily improvised 'laser' lighting courtesy of what appeared to be a front lamp from the Vicar's bicycle. In my opinion, it is a great pity that the show finished abruptly at this point since I felt the audience, who had clearly enjoyed themselves, would have liked to have shown their appreciation during a 'Grand Finale' or similar. Still, at least we all had time for a pint at Frank's.

Musical people are so absurdly unreasonable.  
They always want one to be perfectly dumb  
when one is longing to be absolutely deaf.

(An Ideal Husband)

#### VE-DAY CELEBRATIONS

Wingrave's plans to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Victory in Europe are now well-advanced, with an ambitious weekend of events taking shape. There will be a Grand Parade with the Recreation Ground as its destination. This will be led by the Royal British Legion and joined by the Ambassador to Britain of the Czech Republic. Other planned events include a 3-day Flower Festival at the Parish Church and a concert at the Community Centre, with contributions from the local school, the Drama Group and the Wingrave Singers.

The organisers of Wingrave's VE-Day Celebrations would greatly welcome the participation of people from Aston Abbots in the events being planned. Indeed, the Czech Embassy in London, which is involved in the preparations, has made a particular plea that we should be represented. If you have any ideas about how we could contribute (e.g. by entering an Aston Abbots float in the Grand Parade), or simply want to offer help, Please contact Robert Lee in the first instance on 681558. But remember, time is short!

Unofficial notes from the parish council meeting on 17 March.

Robert Lee, our new Clerk, was welcomed.

Matters arising The Chairman would ask AVDC's recycling officer to visit the village to discuss possible sites for recycling bins. Councillors were not in favour of the Royal Oak because of dangerous corner, but would welcome advice about possible sites at Bricstock. (If this looks possible, residents will be consulted.)

Continuing concern about state of village roads. County engineer Mr Headon had visited with Brenda Jennings (county councillor) and our Chairman and had agreed to a small number of repairs/maintenance, but most could not be done due to lack of finance. Ask if you want more details.

A quote for mowing the Rec was accepted at £18 per cut (about 16 cuts during the season).

Planning applications The PC could go ahead with pruning two trees on the Green (to clear light and wires) after 23 March. (Work may not actually be done until the end of the summer. These trees are in the conservation area, which is why we had to wait for planning permission.)

PC had no comment on plans for extension at Beulah, Wingrave Road; this will be decided by AVDC

AVDC granted permission for conversion of farm buildings at Norduck Farm subject to residency restrictions (i.e. farm workers only).

Alterations at Lower Burston Farm agreed by AVDC.

The application for Nash's Farm would not be granted permission until legal matters relating to donation of a strip of land next to the Rec. were arranged (probably 6 months).

Accounts The VAT refund had been received; electricity, £43; National Association of Local Councils sub, £38; grant to Parochial Church Council £60; Church Room rent, £25; outgoing Clerk's salary and expenses, £370; donation to British Legion £15 (in recognition of VE Weekend).

General Decided to enter Best Kept Village competition again (fee £5, first judging in June). The Waste Local Plan for Bucks would be circulated among councillors for comments. Minutes of the first police/parish councils liaison meeting received (next meeting August) - ask if you want to see them. Although PC happy to put a plaque on the seat on the Green saying given by Betty Bennett, some doubt about whether she wanted this. Chairman would clarify.

New litter bin for Green? Wooden litter bins cost between £130 and £200, which seems a lot. We'll see if we can have a new wooden frame made for existing liner.

Estimate for new sign for gate on play area, £15.50, accepted.

Next skip due at Wingrave Road, weekend of 17 June.

Chairman would contact PC Griggs following complaints about chaos in recent diversion of traffic through village.

Caroline Lane

**NEXT MEETING Friday 5th May, 8pm, Church Room**  
Members of the public welcome

# PEOPLE BY BRIDGET BRANDON.

## BIRTHDAYS

CHRIS FARRANDS . . . . . 1ST APRIL  
CAROLINE LANE. . . . . 5TH APRIL  
KAREN BRANDON. . . . . 7TH APRIL  
LAURA WHYTE. . . . . 11TH APRIL  
ROBERT CLARKE. . . . . 18TH APRIL  
SAM KING . . . . . 20TH APRIL  
ALISON LEWIS . . . . . 20TH APRIL  
JANET BIDDLE . . . . . 25TH APRIL  
KATE CURREY. . . . . 27TH APRIL  
DIANA PICKING. . . . . 28TH APRIL



IRENE CLARK . . . . . 10TH APRIL

Happy 65th birthday Mum. Start to take it easy now.

Love Lyn & Bliss.

LAWRENCE & TRACY HINDS

Who were married recently, not in Aston, but in Florida.

## THE TODDLERS GROUP

The Toddlers Group would welcome new members. It meets on Wednesday afternoons from 2 - 4 pm in the Church Room and anyone with pre-school children is invited. There is a small fee of 75p for one child or £1 for two but adults come go in free provided they are accompanied by at least one paying toddler!

For more information contact Jean Barnett on 688285



## CABARET NIGHT

Congratulations to everyone who took part in this years Cabaret. The grand sum of about £275 (to be confirmed) goes to the Chronicle fund.

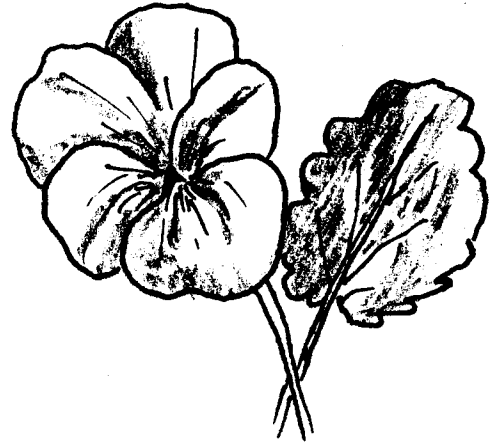


## HELP WANTED FOR WINGRAVE SCHOOL

We would like to provide more musical experience for children at Wingrave School but this is an area where we have limited staff expertise at present. Some help with recorder groups or even possibly developing a small orchestra would be very useful. Lunchtimes between 12.30 and 1.00 pm or Wednesday mornings about 9.00 are possible times. If you think that you might be able to help, please ring the Headteacher, Mr McClellan, on 681436.

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**OVING PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PROJECT**  
 are holding a  
**Vicars and Tarts Dance**  
 on  
 Saturday, April 15th  
 at  
 North Marston Village Hall  
 from  
 8.00 pm - 12.00 pm

Tickets £6.00 a head to  
 include a fish and chip supper  
 Bring your own drink  
**Advance tickets only**  
 Phone 641453 or 641656



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Roger 681102

**WALKS AND EVENTS ORGANISED BY B.C.C.**

21st April - Stewkley Stroll  
 Meet at Chapel Square, Stewkley at 1.00 pm

30th April - Pitstone Green Farm Museum  
 Museum open from 2.30 - 5.00 pm

30th April - Ford End Watermill Ivinghoe  
 Watermill open from 2.30 - 5.30 pm

21 May - Beyond the Urban Fringe  
 Meet at Walton Court Shopping Centre  
 car park at 2.30 pm



Buckinghamshire County Council are recruiting  
 tutors to run children's cycling awareness  
 courses in this area. If you are interested  
 in helping, contact:

Area Road Safety Office  
 Home Farm Depot  
 Sherwood Drive  
 Bletchley  
 Milton Keynes MK3 6JD  
 (0908 649122)

AYLESBURY HOSPICE SHOPS

are still in desperate need of  
 more volunteers. If you can help,  
 contact Shops Manager, Mr Kim Bradford  
 on Aylesbury 433791 or 622311

One should always have something  
 sensational to read in the train.

(The Importance of Being Earnest)



## IVOR REPLY

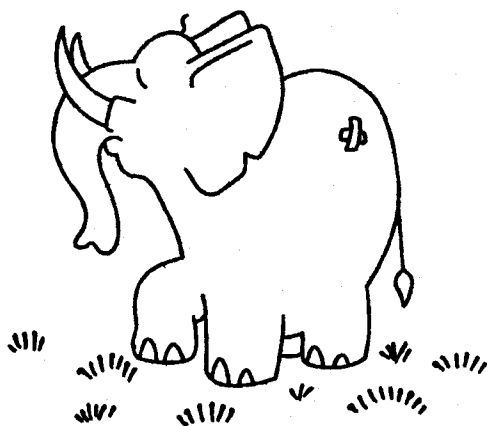
Dear Editor

Following your printed remarks, I thought I'd send you this effort. Obviously my "reader" is not ready for "village show" humour, and needs something light hearted but harmless.

IVOR

### The Morning After

I saw an elephant one day  
Whilst walking in Kew Gardens.  
Hastily I stepped aside  
And said "I beg your pardon."  
I raised my hat and then I smiled  
A silly childish grin  
And asked the gentle pachyderm  
Why had they let him in?  
"Good Lord Above" the beast replied,  
Lookin down his nose at me,  
It's just because my skin is pink  
As you can plainly see.  
Why every year on this one day  
I am allowed to view  
All the funny men like you  
Who walk around at Kew.  
"It's called the 'morning after',"  
He earnestly entreated.  
And hearing that I quickly sat  
And there remained quite seated.  
I felt a little better in the hour or two  
that followed;  
Possibly it was the sun, or just the pills  
I'd swallowed.  
Then I left and took a vow  
That for twelve months I'd leave  
All port and lemon well alone -  
Until next New Year's Eve!!



Education is an admirable thing, but it is as well to remember from time to time, that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.

(A Few Maxims for the Instruction of the Over-Educated)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Church Room, Aston Abbots, Friday 17 March 1995

(the following are draft minutes; please report any errors to Gordon Smith - 681373)

PRESENT Chairman of the Parish Council (Caroline Lane), Clerk to the Annual Parish Meeting (Gordon Smith), 12 members of the Parish, the Rev. Bob Willmott, Brenda Jennings (County Councillor) and Bryan Round (District Councillor). Apologies received from Michael & Hilary Hasler and Clifford Price.

MINUTE 1 The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved by the Meeting, and signed by the Chairman.

MINUTE 2 Matters arising - none.

MINUTE 3 Village fete 1994

Gordon Smith reported that the fete had been a success. Net proceeds for the day totalled £1,307.93, which had been divided as follows: St James's Church £392.48; Church Room £261.59; Methodist Church £261.59; Recreation Ground £196.19; Chronicle £130.79; Toddlers Group £65.39.

MINUTE 4 Village fete 1995

The Village festival would take place over the weekend of 22/23 July, with the fete to take place on Saturday 22 July. It was agreed that, due to the closure of the Methodist Church, the distribution of funds for 1995 would be amended as follows: St James's Church 35%; Church Room 25%; Recreation Ground 20%; Chronicle 15%; Toddlers 5%.

Gordon Smith expressed concern about the lack of people willing to serve on the Fete Committee. Although a number of people had generously volunteered to help on the day, only David Watts, Treasurer to the 1994 Committee, had indicated a willingness to stand again. At the meeting, Miss Lynne Clark volunteered to stand. [Subsequently, Christopher Fox has agreed to stand.] It was felt that there was an urgent need for more Committee members, and for a Chairman for the Committee, if the Fete were to go ahead. It was agreed to publicize the difficulty in The Chronicle.

David Watts had submitted a report to the effect that over £200 existed in a reserve fund to pay for initial expenses.

Gordon Smith reported that after consultation with Shirley Ford, The Great Horwood Silver Band had been booked for the Fete.

MINUTE 5 Church Room Management Committee.

The Rev. Bob Willmott reported that work needed to be done to the Church Room, notably some outside painting and some guttering repairs.

The Rector further commented on the question of an extension. An adviser from Bucks CVS had visited and had commented that unless some changes were made, at some stage the Room would become unlettable. In discussion it was made clear that the changes referred to would be necessary in order to meet Environment and Health regulations. The Rector said that the next stage was to have an architect draw up plans, which would cost about £500. The Rector queried whether it was a good idea

to spend the £500, given that if plans were to be approved, it was likely that actually doing the work would cost in the region of £15,000 - a very large amount for the village to raise. It was suggested that the Church Room Management Committee consider the idea of a Public Meeting to discuss the issue, and find out what support there would be in the village for fundraising, and helping to manage the work.

In the interim, it was felt that essential painting and guttering work should go ahead, although the Rector reported that he was having difficulty securing tradesmen's quotes.

The Committee now consisted of Jean Barnett, Ruth Bellingham, Chris Brandon, Margaret Cheshier, Colin Higgs, John Ford, John Whyte, Doris Scutchings and the Rev Willmott.

MINUTE 6 Recreation Ground

Caroline Lane reported that a dog mess bin had been installed, and that the children's play area had been expanded in order to meet safety regulations. More improvements had been discussed for the play area, but more money was required before they could be implemented, particularly if the area were to meet BSI standards, and thus qualify for grant support.

If the development of Nash's Farm were to proceed, there would be a requirement that the developers provide open space, and the possibility of a strip of land, 20 feet wide and running the length of the Recreation Ground was under discussion.

The Recreation Ground Committee was a Subcommittee of the Parish Council, currently consisting of Vic Scott, Roger Biddle and John Ford for the Council, and Bridget Brandon, Chris Brandon, John Whyte, Lawrence Hinds and Margaret Kent. It was, however, an 'open' committee and anyone wishing to contribute ideas or time would be welcomed with open arms.

MINUTE 7 Chronicle

Caroline & Gordon had ceased to edit every issue from July 1994. Each month's issue was now looked after by a different editor, and this had produced interesting and varied issues. It was still hoped that it would be possible to find a permanent editor. Current funds were low. In the absence of the treasurer, a summary of finances would be published in The Chronicle.

MINUTE 8 VE day

Caroline Lane reported that a meeting to discuss possible commemoration of VE day had been poorly attended. The opinion was voiced that August rather than May would be a more appropriate date for any commemoration. Also, that celebration was inappropriate, and that a Church Memorial Service and possibly a Parish Council donation to the British Legion would be more fitting.

MINUTE 9 AOB - none

The meeting closed at 8.13 p.m.

## VILLAGE FETE 1995

Last year's fete was both extremely enjoyable and a good financial success. The fete is very important to the village, both in money terms and in creating the one day in the year when all different groups can come together. Sadly, we are this year very short of people willing to serve on the Fete Committee. A number of those who worked for the Fete last year (including me) cannot help this year. We have three volunteers for the Committee now, but I think another three are needed and if I understand correctly, we really need someone willing to pick up the Chairman's reins.

There is no shortage of volunteers willing to help on the day, and I do not think anyone need be worried that they would be left unsupported.

If anyone would be interested, please let me know, and I would be happy to try to explain what's involved and to put you in touch with the other Committee members.

Gordon Smith (681373)

### CHRONICLE ACCOUNTS 1994/95

	£		£
Balance carried forward	- 189.37	Expenditure	- 710.07
Income	- 710.18	Balance carried forward	- 189.48
	<u>899.55</u>		<u>899.55</u>

Invoices outstanding - £191.87

Income due, advertising - £240.00 approximately  
cabaret - £300.00 approximately

Each issue of The Chronicle costs just over £80.00. The above income, therefore, will keep it going for 6 more months.

A larger share of the fete proceeds has been requested this year to help the financial position.

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## TRIPS OUT ON THE BUSES DURING THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

**Buses depart from the village at 7.44, 9.32, 10.56, 11.42, 1.42 (1.56 Sat)**

**Buses return from Aylesbury at 11.00, 12.00 (Sat), 1.00, 3.15 (Sat), 4.05, 5.45**

**BERKHAMSTED - Castle, Grand Union Canal/Saturday Street Market**

Buses Depart from Aylesbury 19 and 53 minutes past each hour

Buses return at 29 and 59 minutes past each hour.

**HIGH WYCOMBE - Hell Fire Caves, Chair Museum**

Buses depart from Aylesbury 5 and 35 minutes past each hour

Buses return at 5 and 35 minutes past each hour

Or catch the train to Little Kimble at 9.52 (Sat), 11.48, 1.48,

return at 2.35, 4.35 (Sat), 5.09 (Mon-Fri) for various walks in Chilterns.

**LEIGHTON BUZZARD- Narrow gauge railway, Grand Union Canal, Tuesday/Saturday street market**

Buses depart the village at 7.38, 8.23 (Sat), 9.23, 11.23, 12.23 (Sat), 1.23

Buses return to village at 11.21, 1.21, 1.35 (Sat), 2.45 (Mon-Fri), 3.21 (Sat)

4.11 (Sat), 5.51

**LUTON - Stockwood County Park Museum, shopping in Arndale, Luton airport**

Catch bus to Leighton Buzzard, change to service 69/70.

Depart 15 and 45 minutes past each hour, return from Luton at 15 and 45 minutes past each hour.

**OXFORD - Museums, Botanical Gardens, River/Colleges/Spires of Oxford, shopping**

Depart Aylesbury at 8.35 then hourly. Return at 2.05, 3.15, 4.15.

**TRING - Zoological Museum**

Depart Aylesbury at 8.40, then hourly. Return at 11.53 then 17 and 43 minutes past each hour.

**EXPLORER TICKETS - ADULTS £4.75, CHILD/OAP £3.75  
FAMILY (2 adults/2children) £10.00**

## **ANSWERS TO THE FLORAL PROLIC IN LAST MONTH'S CHRONICLE**

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Fritillary    | 21. Orchid           |
| 2. Mallow        | 22. Speedwell        |
| 3. Carnation     | 23. Primrose         |
| 4. Freesia       | 24. Edelweiss        |
| 5. Lotus         | 25. Penstemon        |
| 6. Daisy         | 26. Arum             |
| 7. Snapdragon    | 27. Narcissus        |
| 8. Azalea        | 28. Pink             |
| 9. Forget-me-not | 29. Clarkia          |
| 10. Mayflower    | 30. Dicentra         |
| 11. Bluebell     | 31. Astilbe          |
| 12. Hyacinth     | 32. Poinsetta        |
| 13. Lilac        | 33. Phlox            |
| 14. Cowslip      | 34. Red-hot Poker    |
| 15. Dog-rose     | 35. Campion          |
| 16. Cyclamen     | 36. Wistaria         |
| 17. Wallflower   | 37. Honeysuckle      |
| 18. Heather      | 38. Chinese lantern  |
| 19. Buttercup    | 39. Broom            |
| 20. Snowdrop     | 40. Love-in-the mist |



## CHURCH SERVICES

WINGRAVE	2nd Apr	10.0	Parish Communion
	9th	10.0	Parish Communion
	(Maunday Thurs) 13th	8.0	Holy Communion
	(Good Friday) 14th	2.0	Devotional Service
		7.30	United Service -WCT
EASTER	16th	10.0	Parish Communion
		6.0	Evensong
	23rd	8.0	Holy Communion (BCP)
		10.0	Family Service
	30th	Benefice Service at Aston Abbots	
ASTON ABBOTTS	2nd Apr	11.15	Morning Service
	9th	11.15	Parish Communion
	(Good Friday) 14th	10.0	Devotional Service
	EASTER 16th	11.15	Parish Communion
	23rd	11.15	Parish Communion
	30th	10.0	Benefice Eucharist
CUBLINGTON	2nd Apr	10.0	Family Communion
	9th	8.45	Parish Communion
	(Good Friday) 14th	12.0	Devotional Service
	EASTER 16th	8.45	Parish Communion
	23rd	8.45	Parish Communion
		30th	Benefice Service at Aston Abbots

Please Note - Details of the Services for VE Bank Holiday Weekend will be announced later.

### SUNDAY READINGS

2nd Apr Lent 5 (p.523) Col 2.8-15; John 12.20-32  
 9th Palm (p.527) Phil 2.5-11; Matt 21.1-11  
 16th EASTER (p.577) Col 3.1-11; John 20.1-10  
 23rd Easter 1 (p.603) 1 Pet 1.3-9; John 20.19-29  
 30th Easter 2 (p.608) Rev 19.6-9); Luke 24.13-35

### FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism 12th March Peter Alexander at Cublington

RECTOR'S REPORT

I was watching the television news on St Patrick's Day. There was an item about Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams being feted in America. The report said that the Americans celebrate St. Patrick's Day even more than the Irish do. A few moments later, it was the Five Nations Cup to be played between England and Scotland.

That set me thinking about National Celebrations, and I felt that we English are a rather reserved lot.

Let's hear it for St. George!

And if we hear it for St. George, let us not be too proud to fly our own flag - St. George's Cross - rather than the Union Flag. I suppose as the English Flag seems to have been supplanted by the Union Flag, sooner or later that too will give way to the European Flag.

The Irish are proud to fly their flag and of their distinctness (even if they are split between Protestant and Catholic, North and South). Go to Scotland and you will find the Scottish very keen to protect their national identity. So too the Welsh with their daffodils and leeks on St. David's Day. But the English - well we don't seem terribly bothered either about our nationality or St. George. Maybe any sense of patriotism was crushed out of us in earlier days, and finally killed by 'Merrie England and Good Queen Bess'. Or can it have been our Imperial past that changed our thinking? And now that we have become a very Multi-Racial, Multi-Cultural society, should we still be thinking in terms of National Pride?

I think that we should fight to preserve our own culture. To remind people who have come here through choice that they should respect our ways. We are English and we should have a pride in our National History and achievements.

St George may be less historically reliable than St Andrew, St David or St Patrick, but his story reminds us of the Victory of Right over Wrong, Good over Evil. It contains a message which has strong links with the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

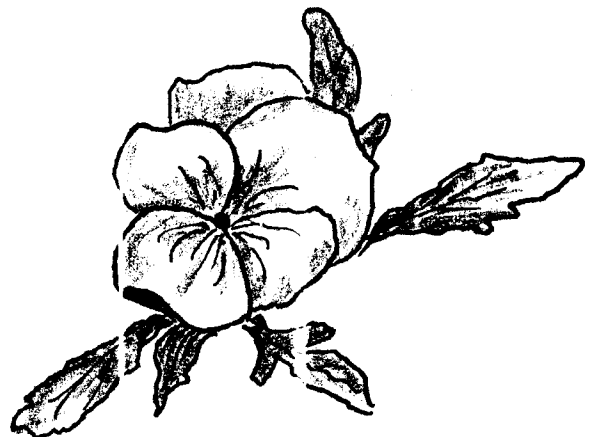
We must keep St George - because he is an easier hero than Christ. He can remind those who find the Easter Story difficult that if you don't stand for something, you are likely to fall for anything!

Bob Willmott

\*\*\*\*\*

Once at least in his life each man  
walks with Christ to Emmaus.

(De Profundis)





## CHURCH NEWS

After many years devoted service to St. James' Church, Len Scutchings decided not to stand as Churchwarden for the coming year. Doris, who has played the organ for us as a stand-in until we could find a new organist, has also decided after about fifteen years, that it is time to stand down. They, together with Colin Higgs, who also decided not to join the Parochial Church Council this year, will be much missed.

We try to keep the grass in the Churchyard tidy each year. If you mow grass you will know that it just keeps on growing. And if it keeps growing you have to keep on mowing. It is a chore that seems to fall on fewer people each year. John Ford would be very pleased to hear from anyone who could offer to help - even if you could only offer an hour or so occasionally.

## CHURCH ROOM DEVELOPMENT

For several years the possibility of building a second toilet for the Church Room has been discussed. Very little has actually happened because it will be, for a relatively small community, a very big project (costing between #15-20,000). Anything that is built now has to comply with the latest regulations, and it may be wise to attempt to improve all our facilities in one go.

An Advisor from Bucks Council for Voluntary Services suggested that the task will have to be put in hand sooner or later - or we shall be no longer able to use the building. She thought the way forward was to engage an Architect to draw up plans and take the project through to the Planning Permission stage. The thought at the moment is to build an extension housing a storage area, two toilets and an entrance vestibule at the end where the existing toilet is. We hope to incorporate a covered porch, and will also upgrade the kitchen and move the existing door to meet Fire Regulations.

We are hoping shortly to call a Public Meeting, before we spend money on an Architect, to ensure that the Project, part of which we hope will be Grant-funded, does have the full support of the Village.



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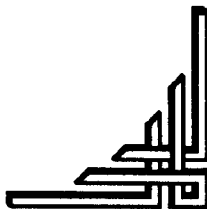
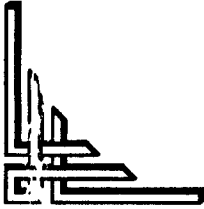
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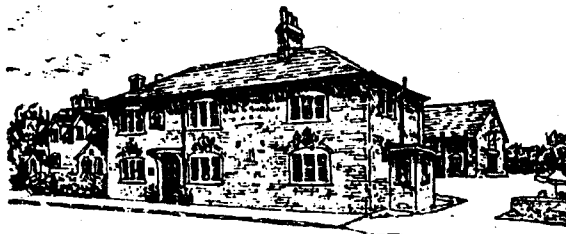
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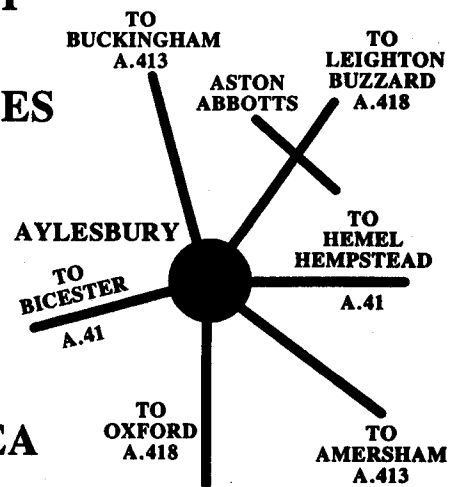




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The old believe everything;  
the middle-aged suspect everything;  
the young know everything.

(Phrases and Philosophies  
for the use of the Young)

## WINGRAVE C.E. COMBINED SCHOOL

### THE BUDGET FOR 1995/96

Parents of children at Wingrave School will be aware of the problems being faced by all local schools due to the savings that Bucks County Councils Education Committee are having to make for the next financial year which begins on April 1st 1995.

These savings mean that budgets for the whole education service, including individual schools such as Wingrave, have been reduced by 3.3%. I thought that parents and other villagers might be interested in knowing how their local school was trying to cope under these difficult circumstances.

The Governors of Wingrave School have met and looked at all aspects of the school's expenditure to see if there were any areas where savings could be made. Expenditure on educational equipment, school maintenance, energy etc is minimal and no further savings could be made in these areas. Staffing costs account for over 80% of the school budget and we were faced with the fact that the only way to be able to set a budget for 1995/96 would be to make a teacher redundant. Preliminary negotiations took place with this end in view.

To reduce the present level of teaching staff from 7 to 6 would be very damaging to the school. At present most children are taught in year groups but a reduction in teaching staff would result in larger classes and mixed year groups throughout the school.

This was a situation which I and the Governors of the school were desperate to avoid and so I devoted a considerable amount of my time to trying to find a solution to the problem. After contacting numerous charitable trusts and explaining to them the dire financial situation that was being faced by a successful school an unexpected turn of events altered the situation, albeit temporarily. Two additional sources of income have materialised which will enable Wingrave School to retain its 7 teaching staff for the coming academic year.

The first source of money is a "one-off" £15,000 gift made to the school by Dame Kathleen Raven from the estate of her late brother John Mason Raven. John Mason Raven used to be a governor of Wingrave School many years ago and Dame Kathleen has remained a friend of the school ever since. This, I think you will agree, was an astonishingly generous donation.

The second source of income is £6,000 raised by the School Association during 1994/95 and which, instead of being used to buy "extras" for the school, will go straight into the budget to enable us to retain our teaching staff. £6,000 is a tremendous sum to be raised by the School Association within such a short space of time and from a relatively small body of parents. Governors and staff are most grateful for their efforts.

May I conclude by saying that I regard Wingrave as being a "good school" both in terms of the academic results achieved and the behaviour and character of the children who emerge. The strength of a school lies largely in the quality of its staff and, thanks to the generosity of Dame Kathleen Raven and the tireless work of the School Association, we will be able to retain our current level of teachers for a further year. Beyond that? We shall see.

B.D. McCLELLAN  
Headteacher

## REVIEW OF SHEERLUCK HOLMES

On Thursday 9th February Classes 6 and 7 from Wingrave C.E Combined School travelled to Cottesloe School to see their production of Sheerluck Holmes. Sheerluck Holmes was based around the character of Sherlock Holmes the famous detective of Conan Doyle's novels. This amusing and mysterious play starts with Sheerluck Holmes and Dr John Watson strolling around the streets of London smoking their pipes and setting the scene of the play.

The first crime happens and Sheerluck Holmes and Dr John Watson are on to the case. The plot involves several crimes and poisonings involving Sui Lin the Chinese criminal. Sheerluck Holmes successfully solves the crimes by sheer luck hence the title of the play.

Sheerluck Holmes was played by Chloe Huelamo who acted the part extremely well and was very convincing to me. She projected her voice well and cleverly spoke to sound posh like a detective in those times.

I found Dr John Watson, acted by Stuart Hamilton, also totally convincing as Sheerluck Holme's companion. His voice sounded identical to the one I think Dr Watson would have used. However his singing could have been better.

Chinese 1st and 2nd played by Jenny Graham and Adigail Hutchinson were an astounding pair. They acted well and brought the audience into the play. Their voices were funny and convincing.

Sui Lin played by Hazel Goodson was true to her role. The solo she sung was extremely well projected and all the notes were perfectly in tune. She was also a great actor.

Greasy Pierre, the butler played by Ross Robinson gave the right sly, funny impression. He had also perfected an Italian accent.

All the acting was of an exceptional standard even though there were some absences among the cast. The play included several songs the music was good but some of the singing was not as good as Sui Lin's. The piano accompaniment was provided by the Head of Music Jack Rennie from Aston Abbotts.

The changing of scenes was very slick and quickly done so there were no boring gaps. All the props and special effects were excellent. The costumes were true to the time and didn't look out of place. One of the few criticisms was the pirates' swords were a bit too modern being of coloured plastic.

The play was outstanding and I enjoyed it greatly and it was worth the trip.

TEN HARMONIOUS YEARS OF TWINNING

The Wingrave Twinning Association has been twinned with La Bouëxière near Rennes in Brittany for ten years this year, and celebrations to mark this will take place in Wingrave May 25-28, when 60 or more French people will be coming here, and again in La Bouëxière August 31-September 3, when a double-decker coachful of us will be going to La Bouexiere.



The celebrations include the exchange of gifts. We are giving La Bouëxière an old-style red telephone box, which will be placed in their Square de Wingrave and connected for use by France Telecom. We are to receive an obelisk in granite, their local stone, with a commemorative plaque on it.

On Saturday evening 27 May, our festivities will be open to all and any of you who wish to come will be most welcome. The programme is likely to be: a gathering at the obelisk (site still under discussion, but you won't be able to miss it!), followed by short speeches and an evening of food and wine in the Community Centre. (Food tickets £5).

Our trip to La Bouexiere, 31 August - 3 September, is already organised. It's an absolute bargain at £45 for adults, £35 for age 13 and under. (Three years ago we charged £48!) Once there we are accommodated in families, whose warmth and hospitality are quite amazing. Newcomers are most welcome to join us. To book please contact Caroline Roberts, 30 Winslow Road, tel 681056, and give her your deposit of £20 per person, or the whole amount if you can do so. Twinners from other villages are very welcome to come too - we have always had members in Aston Abbots, Cublington, Cheddington, Pitstone etc.....

Finally, you might like to know that eight representatives from La Bouexiere will be here for the 50th Anniversary of VE Day. It seemed fitting that they should join us to celebrate peace in Europe.

Any enquiries about twinning to

Jean Keighley (681235)



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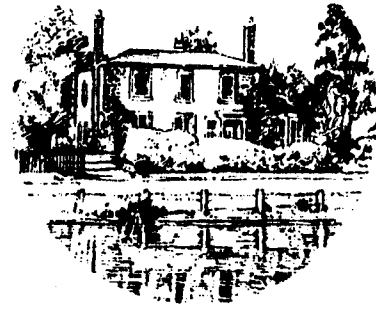
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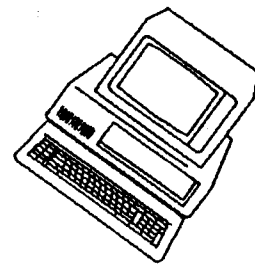
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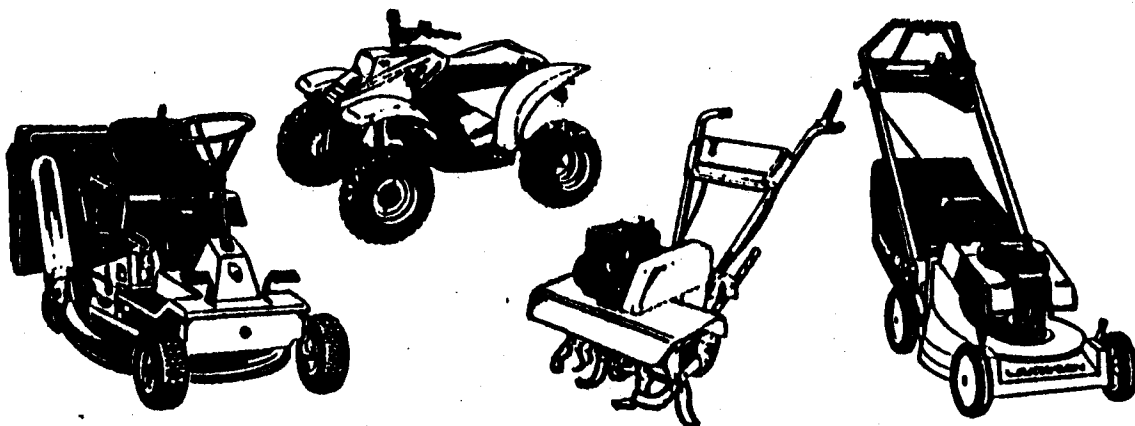
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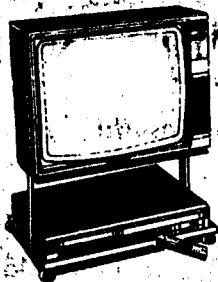
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