

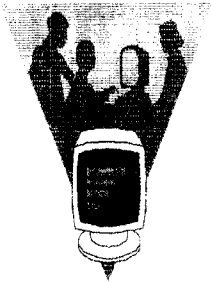
THE CHRONICLE

ISSUE 187 – FEBRUARY 2000

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE



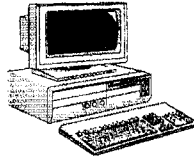
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e mail us at
astonmag@aol.com



Editorial

Saturday January 29th

**DON'T FORGET - YOU CAN E-MAIL
ARTICLES AND LETTERS TO THE CHRONICLE AT**



astonmag@aol.com

Sorry, but I am going to revisit an old Chestnut this month -

WE NEED YOUR HELP

I guess it's a case of Millennium hang-over but very little seems to have happened this month. So next month, please put your pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard for e-mailers) and tell **THE CHRONICLE** what's going on, what's gone on, or even what you would like to go on. Tell us about your hobby, sport, or interest; comment on a topical issue; be creative and dream up a spoof story - whatever, we would love to hear from you.

This month's post bag certainly proved that **THE CHRONICLE** is well read. One particular letter in last month's paper certainly got villagers debating! This month we print several responses to the letter about the village children. A shame, then, that the Recreation Ground Committee meeting in January attracted so little support from *anybody* in the village (not even from parents of the very children who would most benefit from improved facilities) that the team is seriously considering disbanding for good.

On a positive note, we welcome a new member to the editorial team this month. Phil Spooner will be helping with various regular sections of the paper and reporting on local issues. Phil has some good ideas for interesting features for future months so keep an eye open (and perhaps wait for a knock on the door....).

Talking of regular features, we have quite a substantial report this month on the latest plans for improvements to our Village Hall. After a few recent set-backs, it seems that things are now ready to move - so it's crunch time for help! Please, please, please read the article on Page 4 and seriously consider how you might be able to help. It probably seems to many that we are constantly seeking

volunteers (Rec Committee, Fete, Village Hall, **CHRONICLE**, etc etc) - quite so! For a small village we do achieve a great deal but this can only continue with your assistance.

So whether you can help with typing, fund raising, organising or investigating options for ANY of the village activities or good causes, please don't be bashful - volunteer. If you are unsure who to contact or what is needed, call **THE CHRONICLE** (Andi Swain on 682651), ask a member of the Parish Council or look through this issue for more details.

Anyway, enough of my ranting - enjoy **THE CHRONICLE!**

Andi Swain

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE

- American Adventure part 4
- New Design for The Church Room
- Millennium Party report
- The Village Kids - Your Letters
- The Rector's Message
- Jottings From the Chalk Face
- Crossword
- What's on in the village this month
- All of our regular sections and more !

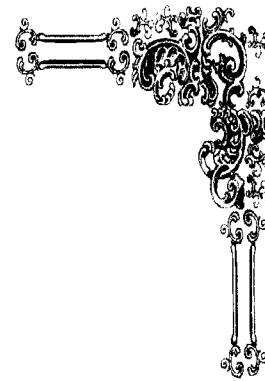
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A note to all would be advertisers - more than 196 households receive **THE CHRONICLE** 11 times a year and with rates from just £10 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines)
can you afford not to be in?

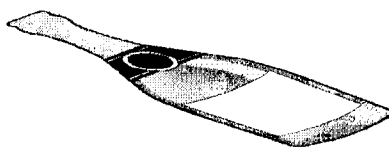
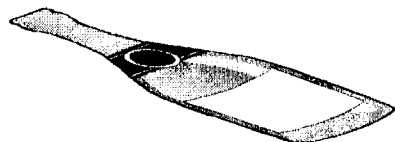
Copy date for the March issue is Sunday 20th February - please pass items to Andi Swain at 2 Nash's Farm or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible. Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbotts.

RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE



Aston Abbots wishes a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to everybody celebrating in February, especially

Michael Coleman	4th	Roxanne White	16th
Ivy Brandon	5th	Irene Lowden	18th
Pablo Gutierrez	7th	Trevor Hall	18th
Vikka Drysdale	7th	Frank McManus	21st
Andy Garton	9th	Sally Dutton	22nd
Christopher Ellis	9th	Simon Gresswell	24th
Barry White	9th	Tracey Lovell	23rd
Haidee Mogford	13th	Linda Wheaton	25th
Richard Clarke	13th	Daniel White	25th
Paul Hewitt	14th	Anita Parker	26th
Dana King	14th		



ASTON ABBOTTS FETE COMMITTEE

Following an earlier appeal 2 more volunteers have stepped forward to join the fete organising committee- thanks to, Liz Barlow and Ivan Greenaway!

HOWEVER - we are looking for an individual (or two) to co-ordinate the team's efforts this year. The fete is a well-oiled machine, requiring only minimal direction of the band of keen volunteers. If you are interested in co-ordinating the fete effort please contact: last year's co-ordinators Barbara or David on 681689; or **THE CHRONICLE** on 682651; or chat to a member of the Parish Council.

Let RITA know about your news, birthdays, or forthcoming event...phone Rita on 681690



CONGRATULATIONS!

To Steve and Shona McGregor on the birth of their new (yet to be named) daughter, a sister for Ross. She was born on 28th January and weighed 8lbs. Steve and Shona lived in the village until moving to Sweden a year or so ago.

29

Don't forget - it's a leap year so there are 29 days this month.

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THE CHRONICLE

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GEORGE FOX
1 Church Row - tel. 682024

TONY HINDS
6 The Green - tel. 681454

If you would like to join the Help Line
please call Andy Bystra on 681690

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

TOM MANNING (Chairman)
682115

KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)
2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane 681137

GWEN KEMPSTER
53 The Green 681310

MARGARET KENT
6 The Green 681454

LINDA SUTTON
Sadlers Farm 681413

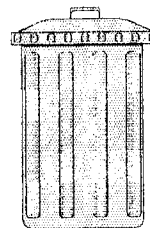
JOHN SANSOME
Longmore Farm 681010

District Councillor
PETER COOPER
Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham 681250

County Councillor
BRENDA JENNINGS
2 Cotes Way, Wing 681065

LOCAL RECYCLING

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and The Macintyre Home, Wingrave



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CANS - All types accepted including aluminium and steel
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PAPER - All Newspaper, magazine, and junk mail
(no cardboard or yellow pages)

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(clothes, rags, blankets, sheets etc)
Open 8.30am - 6.30pm Monday to Saturday

IN THE VILLAGE 1.

NEW PLANS FOR THE CHURCH ROOM

Last month we reported that the fate of The Church Room - effectively our Village Hall - was in the balance. Tom Manning called a village meeting to discuss the issue and judging by the numbers that attended, interest is running high.

Before I go into detail about what was discussed there are some stark facts that you need to bear firmly in the front of your mind whilst reading this article.

1. This Village Hall is the ONLY place where we can meet on a regular basis; the one place where ALL villagers can mix.
2. It is regularly used by all age groups - there is the Play Group, Bingo, Bridge, The Cabaret, Quiz Nights, Coffee mornings, Jumble Sales, Exhibitions, Flower Arranging Classes, and all manner of things going on during the Festival Weekend, at Christmas, and on Gardens Open Day.
3. In short, practically everybody in the village uses the facility at least once a year - it is a vital part of the village.
4. The Hall is in need of urgent modernisation.
5. **IF WE DO NOT ACT NOW, THE CHURCH ROOM / VILLAGE HALL WILL BE CLOSED.**
6. It will probably be demolished and the land sold for development (possibly even to our old friends Banner Homes - enough said?).

HERE IS THE REPORT FROM THE MEETING:

Background Details: Planning Approval for an extension and improvements to the Aston Abbots Church Room was granted in November 1999 based on a design submitted in the Spring of that year. The extension was to be built partly on land donated to the Parish by the owner of The Old Vicarage, however two problems subsequently arose - AVDC placed a preservation order on trees that needed to be felled to avoid roots damaging the building and The Old Vicarage passed to a new owner who unfortunately was not advised of the donation.

Current Position: The good news is that the new owner of The Old Vicarage has very kindly agreed to donate the land for an extension, albeit a marginally smaller one than originally envisaged. And by using a "raft" foundation we can overcome the problem of tree roots.

The bad news is that early estimates put the cost of the improvements, the extension and refurbishment at somewhere between £25,000 and £35,000. Phew! Still, remember those stark facts from earlier - no improvements, NO Village Hall. The choice is a simple one.

The New Design: Roger Bellingham of R B Developments has kindly provided a revised plan which is shown on page 6 overleaf. In case this has not reprinted clearly, the plan is pretty much as per the original save for a reduction of approximately 3' x 26' to the size of the extension. The Village meeting concluded that the new plan still very much served our needs.

The Next Steps: The Parish Council is to take over responsibility for The Church Room - now to be our Village Hall - from the Church by way of a 99 Year Lease. A Gift of the land will be made before we go further and any restrictive covenants will need to be lifted, although our solicitors see no problem with this. We will then put the various elements of the refurbishment and building work out to tender, with non-structural work (plumbing, plastering, wiring) grouped as a single project. It is possible that re-decorating can be carried out by volunteers to help reduce costs. The project will probably need to be carried out in two stages - the extension first followed by the refurbishment - as to do all at once is likely to be beyond even our fund raising capabilities.

Immediate Funding: So far all costs incurred have been met by the Parish and by private donation - we now need to raise funds for the legal fees for transferring the lease, the land and for building regulations; more than £1,200 is needed for these areas. AAH will have some funds that can be used although the amount is not known. The rest will be up to us!

Running the Project: Tom Manning, chair of the Parish Council, has volunteered to head-up a Project Committee which will ultimately report to the Parish Council (whose responsibility the Village Hall will become). Needless to say, he will need the help of many volunteers over the course of the project. At this stage there are two essential requirements and volunteers for the posts are asked to contact Tom on 681160 before 10th February:-

- 1) **Grants Co-ordinator** - to research opportunities for grants and other funding from bodies including the National Lottery, Millennium Commission, AVDC, Bucks CC, and so on. Ideally, we need the help of a person who knows their way around these areas to gain maximum assistance.
- 2) **Committee Administrator / Clerk** - we urgently need the help of an individual with a word processor / PC who can type letters, minutes, etc on behalf of the other committee members.

Of course, please also let Tom know if you are willing and able to help in any other areas.

We will report updates in **THE CHRONICLE** on a monthly basis and let you know how else you can help - please feel free to write to the Editor if you wish to express your own thoughts or ideas on how we can save this (only) meeting facility for the village.

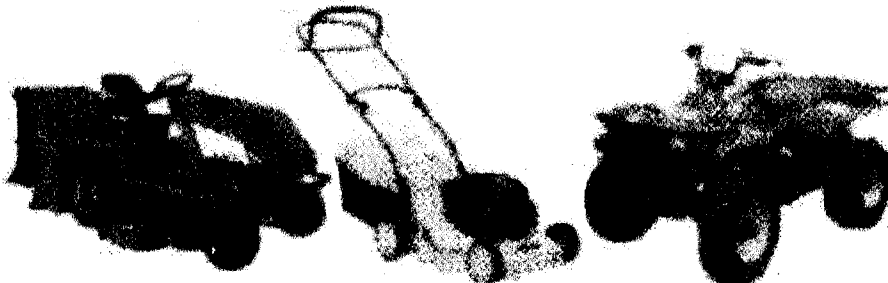
Ed. Notes courtesy of Liz Barlow.

**VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED -
CONTACT TOM MANNING ON 01296 681160
BY 10TH FEBRUARY IF YOU CAN HELP
ESPECIALLY FOR GRANTS CO-ORDINATOR
AND ADMIN / CLERK ROLES.**

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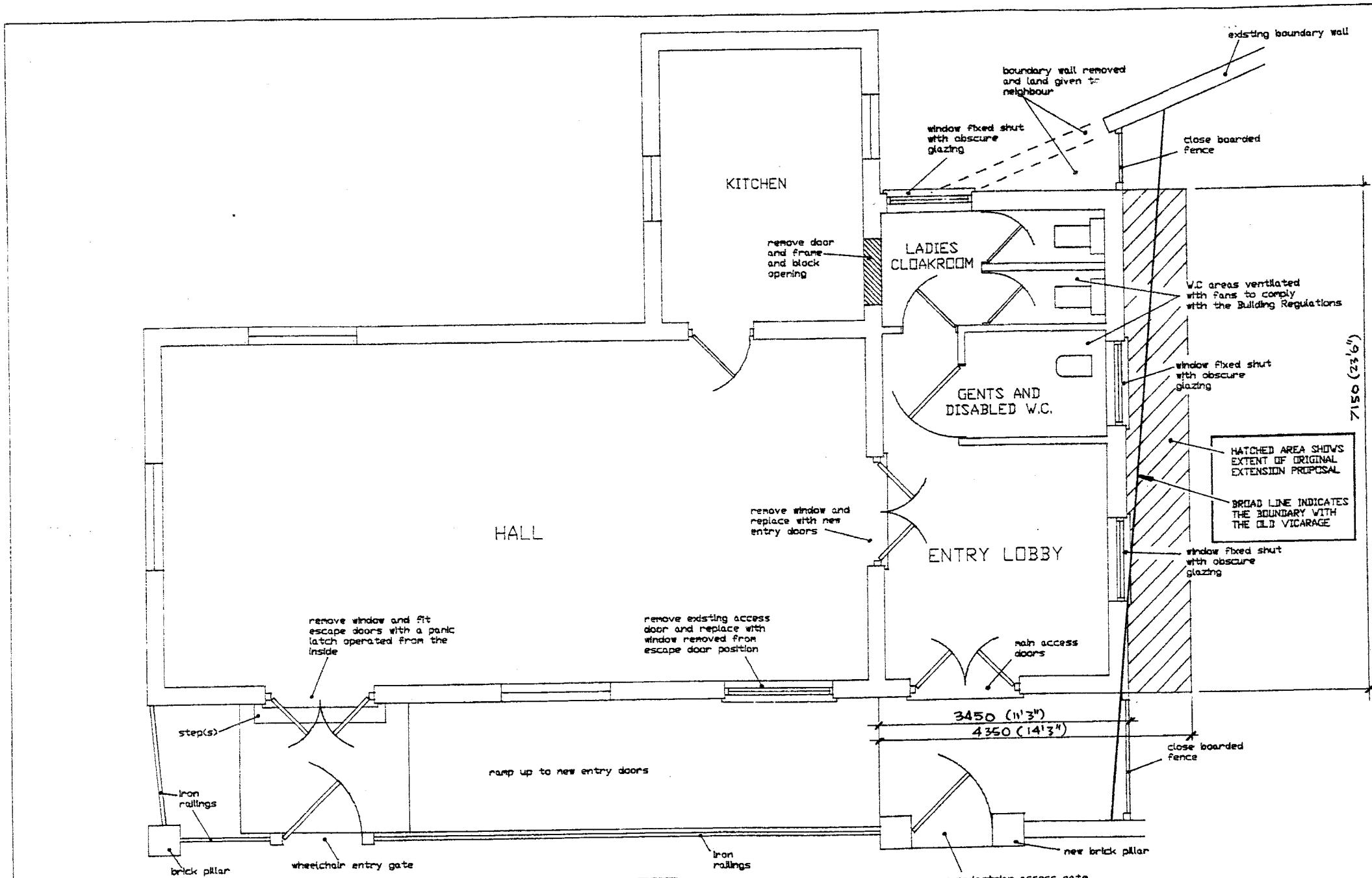
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IN THE VILLAGE 2.

MILLENNIUM MATTERS THE MILLENNIUM PARTY

The Millennium Do!!

Back in early 99, it was decided by those of us interested in organising a Millennium Party that whatever else, it should be a 'good-un'.

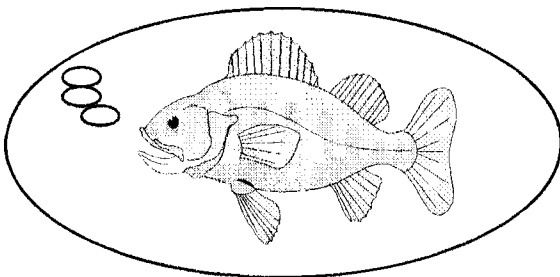
The inevitable 'committee' was formed, bank account opened and midnight oil burned estimating costs to arrive at eventual ticket prices which would ensure expenditure (some £7000.00) would be recovered without making a surplus. This done, an open invitation was published in **THE CHRONICLE** resulting in a rapid initial response indicating there was sufficient interest to ensure all 120 tickets would be sold.

The cost of a band and the marquee alone was to take up nearly £4000.00 and so Champagne, wines and beers were all purchased from wherever they could be found at advantageous prices but without compromising on quality. Frequent meetings at the Bull & Butcher kept actions and budgets on track and all too soon there were only a few days to go the 'big event'.

The marquee which Peter and Clare Shorrock had very sportingly agreed to allow to be erected at Oak Farm looked huge when first put up. They had also agreed to the use of their newly renovated house so one of the first jobs was for volunteers to move their best furniture to places of 'safe keeping'.

On the day, the scene in the village was reminiscent of 'Whisky Galore' with cases of wine, beer & champagne being collected from sheds, garages and assorted out buildings around the village where it had been in store. Many of the ladies worked very hard throughout the day preparing the food, much of which although having been bought, still needed to be presented attractively and other dishes prepared.

Whilst all this was going on, amid a certain amount of secrecy, the marquee was being decorated.



TURN TO PAGES 12 AND 14 FOR
SOME MORE INFO ABOUT THE PARTY

PARTY, PARTY

Arriving on the night and seeing the marquee fully decorated for the first time was amazing.

Tables had been very attractively laid in a black & white with silver trimmings, complemented by matching crockery kindly loaned from Stowe School. Each table even had several bowls with live goldfish in as additional decoration.

With its chandeliers, statues and generous floral decoration it could have been a scene from a 'Bond' movie. Music supplied by Lol's Disco and a glass or two of champagne got the evening off to a good start.



Our rather expensive band (and an unknown quantity so far as we were concerned) provided the music during the main part of the evening and turned out to be extremely popular, playing a range of tunes which encouraged most people to dance the night away.

The food was available as a 'help yourself' buffet - and what a sight it was. The selection and presentation was inspired and it became a victim of its own success because as soon as people saw it they made a 'bee line' for it causing quite a queue. However, it was certainly worth the wait.

Dancing continued until just before 12.00 midnight when some of our 'Cabaret' team performed the delightful song written especially for the event and which appeared in last month's **CHRONICLE**. Glasses were again charged with champagne and at the stroke of twelve (as confirmed by an enormous television screen) the new millennium was toasted amid much emotion and good humoured banter.

Of course, all this had to be cleared up the following morning and it was equally impressive how many people turned up to help. It was exceptionally nice to be able to celebrate this once in a lifetime event in such a stylish and pleasant way. What made it particularly nice was being able to do so with so many of our family, friends and fellow villagers.

A huge vote of thanks must go to Peter and Clare as well as all who worked so hard throughout the year and at the new year to make this the huge success it was.

Andy Bystra



Of course, technically the New Millennium doesn't start until 2001, so perhaps we could have another party??!! Ed.

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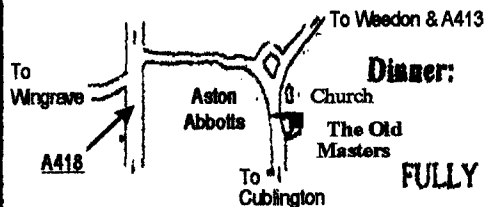
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'WHAT'S ON' IN FEBRUARY 2000

Tuesday 1st	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm
Thursday 3rd 7.30pm	Bingo in The Church Room in aid of Lifeboat Appeal
Sunday 6th 2.00pm	Rambling Club members meet at Tesco, Leighton Buzzard
Monday 7th 8.00pm	Rambling Club members AGM - 13 Moorlands, Wing
Thursday 10th 7.30pm	Whist Drive in The Church Room
Sunday 13th 2.00pm 6.00pm	Village Footpath walk, The Green Corrymela Service, St James Church
Tuesday 15th	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm
Sunday 20th 2.00pm	Rambling Club members meet Wilstone Reservoir
Thursday 24th 7.30pm	Whist Drive in The Church Room
Friday 25th 7.30pm	Quiz Evening in The Church Room - tickets from Shirley Ford cost £ 2.50 (includes refreshments)
Tuesday 29th 7.00pm	Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm Floral Class in The Church Room
Wednesday 1st March 8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting in The Church Room
Thursday 2nd 7.30pm	Bingo in The Church Room



QUIZ SHOW

Test your skills and your knowledge at The Aston Abbotts

Village Quiz

Friday 25th February

7.30pm at The Church Room

Tickets costing £2.50 including refreshments are available from Shirley Ford on 681865

Friends of Whitchurch Surgery

Annual General Meeting

on Saturday 12th February at The Church Hall, Whitchurch at

12.00 Noon PROMPT

All are Welcomel

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

5 th	Mrs Dickens	19 th	Mrs Bellingham
12 th	Mrs Loader	26 th	Mrs Davies

SIDESMEN FOR FEBRUARY

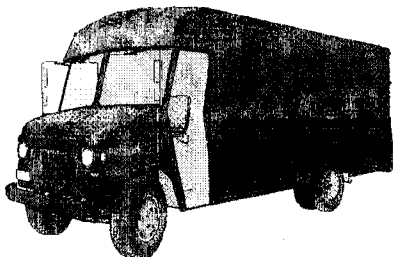
6 th	Mr A Ford	20 th	Mr G Kemp
13 th	Mr Hartnett	27 th	Mr C Higgs

THE CHURCH ROOMS COMMITTEE

THINGS ARE HOTTING UP ON THE PLANS FOR AN EXTENDED AND IMPROVED CHURCH ROOM

(SEE REPORT ON PAGE 4)

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP RESEARCH FUNDING AND TAKE CARE OF ADMIN - CALL TOM MANNING ON 682115 BEFORE 10TH FEBRUARY IF YOU CAN HELP



THE MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The Mobile Library visits the village on alternate Tuesdays. The dates are always shown in **THE CHRONICLE** 'What's On' section but here are a reminder of the times:

- The Green, Aston Abbotts 10.25am - 10.55am
- Wingrave Road, Aston Abbotts 11.00am - 11.15am
- Oxley Farm 12.55pm - 1.10pm

For further information or enquiries, contact Buckingham Library on 01280 813229

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IN THE VILLAGE 3.

FUN QUIZ ANSWERS

HERE ARE THE ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ -
HOW MANY DID YOU STRUGGLE WITH?

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. 3 BM | 3 Blind Mice |
| 2. 24 HFT | 24 Hours from Tulsa |
| 3. 88 TFL | 88 Two fat Ladies |
| 4. 3 CITF | 3 Coins in the fountain |
| 5. 1966 EWTWC | 1966 - England wins the World Cup |
| 6. 12 DOC | 12 Days of Christmas |
| 7. 10 GBHOTW | 10 Green bottles hanging on the wall |
| 8. 1969 FMOTM | 1969 First man on the moon |
| 9. 3 WM | 3 Wise Men |
| 10. 30 DHSAJAN | 10 days have September, April, June and November |
| 11. 1901 DOQV | 1901 Death of Queen Victoria |
| 12. 76 TITBP | 76 Trombones in the big parade |
| 13. 11 PIAFT | 11 Players in a football team |
| 14. 57 HV | 57 Heinz Varieties |
| 15. 54321 TAG | 54321 Thunderbirds are go! |
| 16. 29 DIFIALY | 29 days in February in a Leap Year |
| 17. 39 S | 39 Steps |
| 18. 7 DS | 7 Deadly sins |
| 19. 22 TLD | 22 Two Little Ducks |
| 20. 13 BD | 13 Bakers Dozen |
| 21. 12 SOTZ | 12 Signs of the Zodiac |
| 22. 1066 BOH | 1066 Battle of Hastings |
| 23. 101 D | 101 Dalmatians |
| 24. 12 MIA Y | 12 Months in a Year |
| 25. 3 MIAB | 3 Men in a boat |
| 26. 8 GIAB | 8 Gallons in a bushel |

Perhaps there will be another Fun Quiz later in the year - if you wish to be challenged!

ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

On January 5th, the Club went to the Appollo Theatre, Oxford to see "Annie". It was a very enjoyable afternoon. On Thursday, January 13th, we all enjoyed a talk given by Mrs. Munn on the Iver Heath National Study Centre.

For the last meeting of January Mr. Sutton is telling us about the raising and conservation of the Mary Rose.

February events:

Thursday, 10th ... Mr. Victor Scott will be talking about the Bucks Countryside and its Wildlife.
Thursday 24th ... Mrs. V. Beadle tells us of "the work of the Reference Library"

**As always, we welcome visitors
to our events**

PARTY LEFTOVERS.....

The following items were found at Oak Farm House following the Millennium Party....

- 3 Tea Towels
- 2 Ties
- 1 Child's cardigan (white with a pink pattern)

The following items are missing following the Millennium Party....

- 2 Kitchen knives with brown handles

Please contact Clare Shorrocks on 681260 if you can solve any of these mysteries

1st WINGRAVE SCOUT GROUP

BEAVERS

Back after the Christmas and New Year break the Beavers are full of energy! The boys have decided to spend the next few weeks thinking about boats and after coming up with a long list of different types of boats, ships and other floating vessels I think they have provided enough material for a whole year's programme! We will be looking at a range of topics from the Vikings to warships and from the earliest forms of boats through to hovercraft and hydrofoils. If you would like any more information about Beavers please contact Sue Ascott 681878 or Jan Antiesowicz 681430

CUBS

The term started and we were joined by a number of Beavers, who are getting ready to move up to Cubs. The first weeks are

spent in preparation for their investment. We also invested Sam Smith who has been coming to Cubs for a number of weeks. These first meetings are being run by the Cubs themselves, working in their Sixes. The programmes were planned out at the end of last year by the Cubs (with help from the leaders during the planning and execution of the programmes). Our first meeting was very enjoyable and a credit to the boys. Contacts: Fran and Jeff Pollard 625454, Julia Ellis 681118

SCOUTS

The boys have been tidying up the Scout hut and sorting goods for a forthcoming jumble sale. They have also been planning a weekend camp at Pochards - a venue they hiked to over the Christmas holidays. The camp should be enjoyable, a green field site and plenty of conservation work is planned during the camp. Contact Andy Hall 681696.

Julia Ellis

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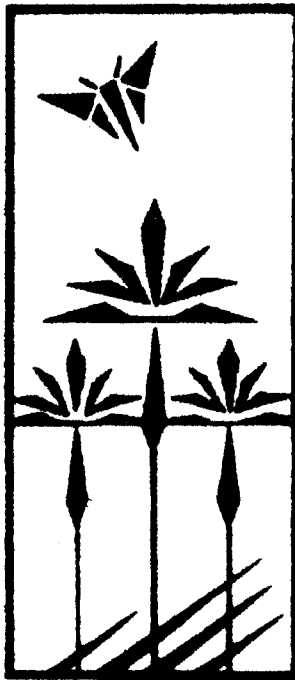
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IN THE VILLAGE 4.

MILLENNIUM MATTERS THE MILLENNIUM PARTY

Just when you thought it was all over!

The party still goes on and I would like to thank everyone who helped to make it a success, especially Clare and Peter Shorrocks for their tremendous hospitality and hard work.

Now that the party is almost over, the organising committee needs to meet and agree what to do with the remaining funds. Why do we have remaining funds, I hear you ask? Well, we were such good guests and caused so little damage that we did not need to spend money on cleaning or paying the excess on the insurance policy. We also saved money because not all the drink was consumed and this excess was sold at cost the next day.

With one bill still outstanding, about £640 remains in the AA2000 bank account. If anyone who attended the party wants to express a view as to what the committee should do with the remaining money then please call Ivan on

01296 682605

What do I think we should do with the money? Retain some for future events and distribute the remainder amongst the village's 'good causes' such as:

The Village Hall
THE CHRONICLE

The Recreation Ground
The Mothers and Tots Club

What we actually do with the money needs to be agreed by the committee and a meeting will be held on

Tuesday 15th February 2000 at 8.00pm in The Bull and Butcher.

Ivan Greenaway
AA2000 Chairman.

MILLENNIUM PARTY LETTER

It was great to meet some new faces at the Millennium Party - people from local (and not so local) places who chose to spend the big night with friends here in Aston Abbots. Linda and Tony Chapple from Waddesdon were amongst the guests and they write

Dear Organising Committee

After having at last recovered from an exceptional Millennium New Year's Eve, I would like to thank all the people concerned for the effort and obvious hard work that went into this event.

One could not fault any part of the evening from the standard of the music, food or drink that was provided. All members of our party had an evening that we will remember for many years. Please also convey our appreciation to the owner of the farmhouse.

Once again, many thanks to you all.
Yours Sincerely,

Linda and Tony Chapple 11/01/00

(Ed.)

JOTTINGS FROM THE CHALK FACE

Well the last week of term has been and gone and it has been pleasant to reflect on events over the Christmas break.

The First School's "Elves and the Shoemaker" went off very well and was enjoyed by children and parents alike. I was initially a little worried when I heard that the Middle School event was focused on the story of "The Little Match Girl" because it's such a sad story - so sad that even though I have a copy I've never actually read it to the children. I didn't need to worry. The version put on by the children wasn't sad at all, was performed very well indeed and was enjoyed by everybody.

With two days to go to the end of term we still had "Thank yous" for parent helpers, members of the School Association, the School Disco, staff meal and end of term film for the children to come. I was particularly struck on the Thursday by the number of parents who do help us in so many ways, not just on a regular semi-official basis but also in response to our needs. Many parents were in school on the Thursday and Friday tidying up, washing up and generally helping out wherever needed. Thank you one and all.

Middle School planned to show a film to classes 3, 4, 5 and 6 on the last day of term. The film had been brought in by a child and had a PG rating so, just in case, we duly informed all parents so that if they had any objections their child could be withdrawn. Only one parent asked for their child not to be allowed to see the film. Yes, you've guessed it - the parents of the child who had brought in the video in the first place!

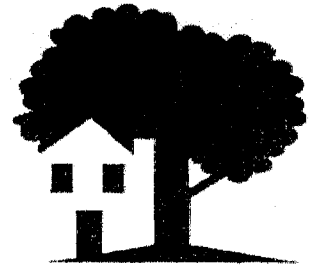
You can't be too careful of course. I remember when teaching in a small secondary school some thirty years ago that the film chosen was "One Million Years BC" which featured Raquel Welch in a fur bikini cavorting amidst numerous dinosaurs. Now the Headmaster of the school, a Yorkshire man, had got wind of the fact that Miss Welch removes the top of her bikini at one point and swims across a lake! All in soft focus and at a long distance and in the best possible taste. This of course was before videos had been invented and necessitated the Head spending much time alone in a darkened room until he found the offending snippet so that he could blank it out with masking tape! They sometimes repeat "One Million Years BC" at Christmas time, but I have never yet managed to catch a glimpse of this edited portion having blinked at the wrong time. Maybe next year.

Thank you all for your support - a very Happy Millennium to you all.

Baird McClellan

Baird is Head of Wingrave School

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IN THE VILLAGE 5.

LETTERS PAGE ...LETTERS PAGE...LETTERS PAGE... LETTERS PAGE....

Yes - a LETTERS Page! THE CHRONICLE post bag was almost overflowing this month with your letters. Last month's letter from David and Linda Wheaton about the village kids has certainly stirred up some reaction from other villagers. I have re-printed the three letters received as they provide a good cross section of views generally held. Ed.

Firstly, Margaret Kent from The Green writes

"I am writing in support of Linda and Dave Wheaton's letter last month. I think the youngsters in this village are a good bunch - there's no malicious damage, only high spirits. Most of them must be bored, there isn't much for them to do, and kicking a ball about seems harmless.

I have known Daniel and Phillip Wheaton since they were small boys and have always found them extremely polite and always willing to have a chat. I think if youngsters are respected, they will respect you."

Margaret Kent.

Clare Shorrock (of Oak Farm House) and Paul Ridgley (of The Green) have also commented ...

"Having read the article by Dave and Linda Wheaton Clare and I want to add our voices to the groundswell of support that exists for the young people of our village community.

From the time we moved to Aston Abbotts we have both been aware of the pleasant, friendly and open manner of children and young adults in the village.

It is also a fact that Aston Abbotts is an unusually trouble free community and the young people certainly do not deserve the abuse and lack of respect that a minority of the inhabitants show towards them.

There have been attempts to provide better facilities for them. The latest one has apparently just collapsed due to lack of support. Sadly there was even insufficient support from the families whose offspring are affected by the present situation.

If we all, as a community - those with children, those without children but with sympathy towards them, AND those negative souls who criticise them unjustly - were to actually create something for the young people, then we would all gain. **Why let apathy rule?"**

Clare Shorrock and Paul Ridgley

And Jane and Michael Ellis from Bricstock have written in..

"In response to the letter in THE CHRONICLE about 'children' bouncing a ball... we are new comers having been here only 5 minutes but our definition of bouncing a ball differs greatly, especially when it hits the walls, the windows, and to date has broken one of the tubs in the back garden; and despite being asked numerous times not to, trespassing to retrieve it.

Aston Abbotts is a lovely village and we look forward to living here - we do have a "life" but would prefer a peaceful one."

Jane & Michael Ellis

The Editor writes.....

I mentioned last month that I prefer to observe rather than cast opinion on issues such as these. However it strikes me that there is a common theme running through all of the letters received and the comments made.

Our children and younger adults need places to play and meet - by nature they are resourceful individuals and will find their own substitutes if no such places exist. If we can provide these then I suspect that the adventure of kicking a ball back and forth across a road, or the thrill of sitting for hours chatting in a damp, draughty bus shelter, will soon be forgotten.

I recall in the not-too-distant past a posse of adults and kids traipsing across the Rec, plotting how to spend the Rec funds and dreaming up all sorts of useful facilities. Alas, Clare and Paul are correct in their thinking that the Rec committee (now much depleted in size from those heady days) has all but disbanded through lack of support.

The funds do however remain, so perhaps there is still a chance to see some progress.

We have now seen a good cross-section of villagers' thoughts in the letters printed. Going forward, I will be very happy to print any ideas for new facilities and offers of assistance. And if you are interested in helping the committee you should contact Ivan Greenaway or John Whyte before it's too late.

Ed.

Letter to the Editor....

THE MILLENNIUM EXHIBITION AND BOOK

"Well done and a huge thank you to all the members of Aston Abbotts History Group.

The 1000 years exhibition and book are wonderful. As a relative 'new comer' to the village it has been fascinating to see and read about the history of the village and its people. I know from the comments I've heard that the hundreds (yes hundreds) who visited the exhibition from around the area agree with me.

The project has been a lot of hard work for those involved but it has certainly been worth it.

Many thanks."

Liz Barlow

I for one agree wholeheartedly with Liz. Why not write and tell THE CHRONICLE what YOU thought? Ed.

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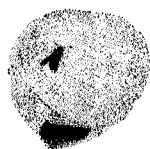
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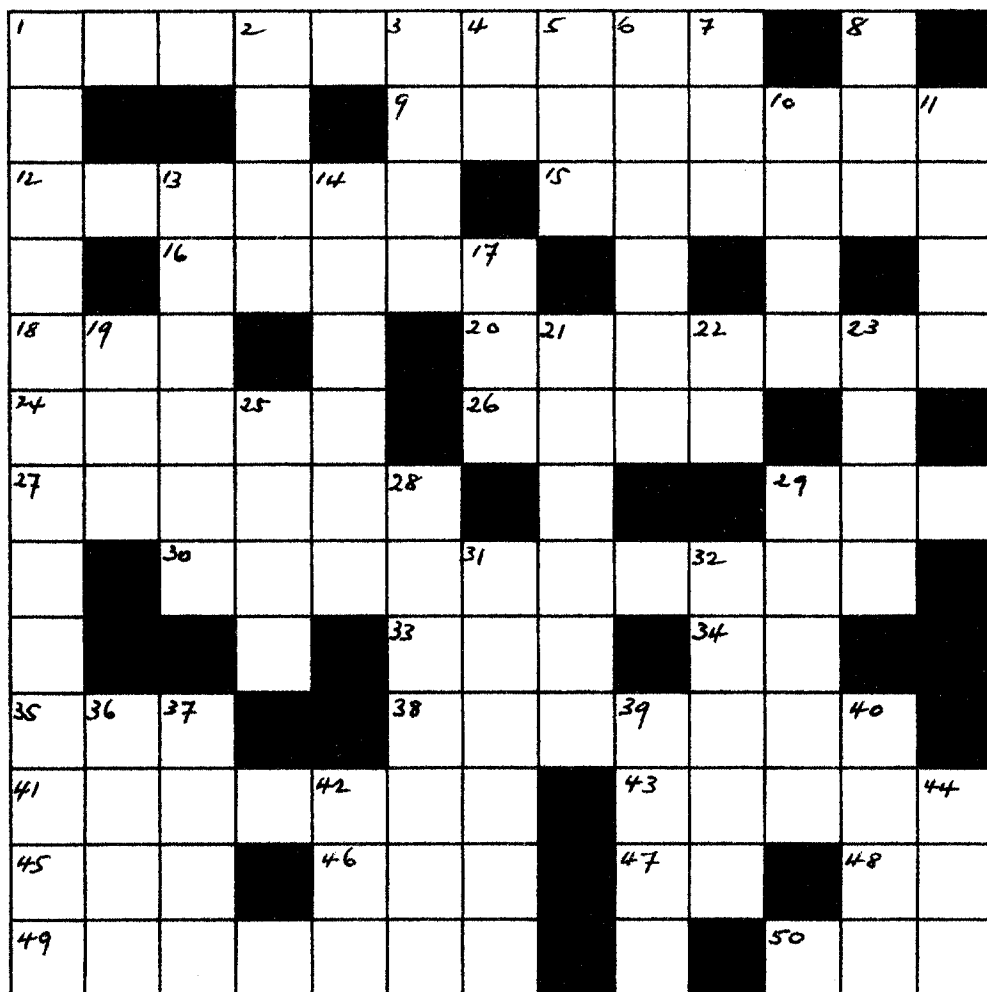
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THE CHRONICLE CROSSWORD

FEBRUARY



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Across: 1 Wendover. 2 Rely. 9 Axe. 10 VE. 11 Ain. 12 Netherlands. 16 Dr. 17 Ersatz. 18 Ups.

20 Ema. 21 Eat. 22 Lived. 25 Hock. 27 Sated. 29 Usual. 31 Reciting. 32 KO. 34 Educud. 35 Horrid. 36 RD. 37 Twit. 38 Some. 41 Lo. 43 Ale. 45 Ouse. 46 Eft. 48 ER. 49 NT. 50 LA. 51 Toadies

Down: 1 Wand. 2 Exercise. 3 Net 4 Over. 5 Verse. 6 Rid. 7 Ensue. 8 Yeast. 11 Anzacs. 13 Heretic 14 Lath. 15 At nought. 19 Pail. 23 Vacuums. 24 Deter. 26 Kukri 28 Diddle. 30 Aorta.. 31 Reason. 33 Adders 36 Owl. 40 Out. 41 Eel. 43 Oft. 45 Lee. 48 To.

ACROSS:

- 1. English city (10)
- 9. SO I DEALT (anag 8)
- 12. Horn (6)
- 15. Business house (6)
- 16. Tree (5)
- 18. Rested (3)
- 20. General pardon (7)
- 24. Young bird of prey (5)
- 26. Bulk (4)
- 27. Required (6)
- 29. Winged mammal (3)
- 30. Sent on again (10)
- 33. Health service (3)
- 34. Exclamation (2)

- 35. Part of face (3)
- 38. NOT NIGH (anag 7)
- 41. Built (7)
- 43. Follow (5)
- 45. Boy's name (3)
- 46. Mineral (3)
- 47. For example (2)
- 48. Senior service (2)
- 49. SEND SAS (anag 7)
- 50. Slime (3)

DOWN:

- 1. O SHE MEANS WELL (anag 5, 2 & 6)
- 2. Visit (4)
- 3. Country (4)
- 4. Hitler's henchmen (2)

- 5. Also (3)
- 6. Imaginary folk (6)
- 7. One of the services (3)
- 8. Common market (3)
- 10. Worn around the neck (4)
- 11. To gainsay (4)
- 13. A magazine (6)
- 14. Checked, amended (6)
- 17. Male sheep (3)
- 19. Dread (3)
- 21. Unassuming (6)
- 22. Science fiction being (2)
- 23. Amphibian (4)
- 25. Paradise (4)
- 28. Meals (7)
- 29. Vegetable (5)
- 31. Mediterranean Island (6)
- 32. Object, article (5)
- 36. Parcel of land, measurement (4)
- 37. To tear (4)
- 39. To take notice (4)
- 40. Teacher (Indian) 4
- 42. Limb extremity (3)
- 44. Finish (3)

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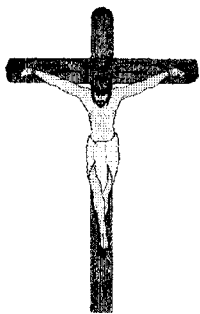
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RECTOR'S REPORT - FEBRUARY 2000

It seemed rather strange reading the Mursley Deanery Magazine for January 1948. It was one of the exhibits in the Cublington Millennium Exhibition, and showed how much and how little things have changed.

Edited by the Vicar of Aston Abbots, it contained snippets of

information from all the parishes in the Mursley Deanery – which, at the time did not seem to include Wingrave. Maybe Wingrave was in the Deanery, but being larger produced a magazine of its own – only those who were here fifty or so years ago would know that. Yet the Deanery Magazine was quite an impressive production, and an enterprising one for an age when small rural villages could not afford the luxury of a magazine of their own.

I think that the thing which fascinated me most was that – even in those far off days – the readers were being told that the Church would not be able to have as many clergy in the future. Who knows, maybe that joint magazine was an attempt to persuade parishes that they needed to work more closely together.

Fifty years on the message is much the same. The Church is in another period of transition, and we know that the numbers of full-time paid clergy cannot be sustained. What was appropriate in the 1950's does not fit in the 2000's. In those days most of the rural clergy relied on bicycles to get around their scattered villages. Most of them were probably on the telephone. Today the car is an indispensable piece of equipment. The telephone now is supplemented by an answerphone and a fax (although I haven't got either of these yet!). The old manual typewriter has given way to the word processor and more recently the computer. We now can send messages from computer to computer down the phone lines (if you must, you can E-mail me on wingravebob@yahoo.com).

All the time things are moving onwards. The family who recently spent three months living a lifestyle of the 1900s on television found that it was incredibly hard. There were so many things that they had come to take for granted about modern life but people are the same! I am certain that I would not want to go back to the days of needing heavily starched linen vestments and the old ways of washing them – thank heaven for wash and wear fabrics!

Later this year we shall be seeing more new Services. It seems odd that as more of these new Services come out, people are increasingly asking for even older services than the ones we have been using for the last generation. Often the excuse is the love of the "old language". They sometimes don't bother too much about what is being said – so long as it sounds old-fashioned.

But God is not old-fashioned. Our forefathers used the idioms of their age - and we must find God in this generation. God is here where we are. He wants us to discover him in all the richness of his glory in the midst of this peculiar age in which we live. Maybe we shall find that easier if there are less professional clergy trying to tell us what we should be doing to see God!

Bob Willmott

Autumn in America 4 – by Shirley Ford

After our all too short stay at the Ramada Inn, Lake Placid, we had an early breakfast and were away on the coach by 8.30 with a journey of 250 miles ahead of us. We had a coffee stop at Lake George where we could admire the scenery; then onto a huge shopping Centre called Cross gates at Albany in New York State.

After shopping and lunch, back in the coach at 2.00 for a long drive to the Holiday Inn at Springfield Massachusetts, arriving just after 4.00. We got settled in and changed to go back out at 5.15 for an evening meal at the Salem Crofs Restaurant some 45 minutes away. This



The Salem Crofs Inn, West Brookfield, Massachusetts

Restaurant grew all it's own organic fruit and vegetables and beef cattle. We had a superb meal of home made vegetable soup and the tenderest beef I have ever eaten, followed by home made apple and cinnamon pie with fresh cream. The helpings were huge. After our meal we toured the rest of the building including a look at antique kitchen and farming tools. We returned to our hotel at 9.00pm.

Once again the next morning we were woken up, breakfasted and were on our way at 8.30 with another long drive of 240 miles to Cape Cod. We had our lunch stop at Newport, Rhode Island. Rhode Island is the smallest State in America; only 30 by 40 miles in size. The State flower is a Violet, and State bird a chicken. Surprise! Surprise! Newport is a huge sailing area where the Americas Cup is competed for.

It's a very rich area with lots of beautiful mansions which are the seaside homes of the rich. Our group was shown around the 'Marble House' which was built in 1892 for Mr & Mrs Vanderbiult, taking some 4 years to complete. The marble used in its construction came from all over the world. It is a very grand house with a Chinese tea house in the garden.

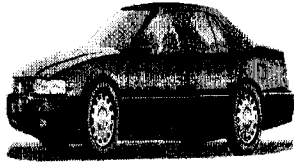
After lunch at a local restaurant, more shopping then back on the coach at 3.30 for the drive to Hyanni's Port arriving at our hotel for 6.30. Unpacked since we were due to stay for 2 nights. After catching up with some letter writing it was time to have an evening meal in the hotel and turn in readiness for another busy day tomorrow.

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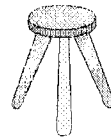
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6th Feb.	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service
	18.00	Cublington	Evensong
9th Feb. Wednesday	10.00	Aston Abbots	Franciscan Service
	13th Feb.	08.45	Cublington
13th Feb.	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	18.00	Aston Abbots	Iona Style Service
	16th Feb. Wednesday	10.00	Rowsham
20th Feb.	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Family Service
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	23rd Feb. Wednesday	10.00	Wingrave
27th Feb.	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	* 08.45	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
			* Note Changed Time
5th March	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00	Cublington	Family Service
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service
	15.00	Wingrave	Annual Church Meeting

SUNDAY READINGS

6 th February	5 Before Lent	1 Corinthians 9.16-23 Mark 1.29 - 39
13 th February	4 Before Lent	1 Corinthians 9.24-27 Mark 1.40 - 45
20 th February	3 Before Lent	2 Corinthians 1.18 -22 Mark 2.1 - 12
27 th February	2 Before Lent	Colossians 1.15 - 20 John 1.1 - 14
5 th March	1 Before Lent	2 Corinthians 4.3 - 6 Mark 9.2 - 9

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Ann Goodman	681763
Andrew Ford	681865

LENT 2000

Preparations are being made for this year's five week Lent Course, which will start on **Tuesday 14th March**.

Subject to demand, the Course may be repeated at other times.

We shall be "Exploring the Journey of Faith in Words and Music" using the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland Course entitled "All Together Now".

This is based around five themes of

- **Beginnings**
- **Following**
- **Challenging**
- **Believing**
- **Dying**

More details next month.

IMPORTANT EVENTS AT THE CHURCH

Look out for these special events at The Church over the coming weeks....

- ◆ On February 13th we have the Corrymeela Service - a Celtic style worship starting at 6.00pm in St James
- ◆ On February 25th there is one of our ever popular Quiz nights with all proceeds going to Church funds
- ◆ Lenten Course of Words and Music (see opposite) - every Tuesday until April 11th - more details next month
- ◆ On March 25th there is a table top sale from 10.00am to 12.00 noon with coffee - all proceeds to Church Funds
- ◆ On April 29th there will be a Jumble Sale at 2.00pm in the Church Room - all proceeds to Church funds
- ◆ See 'What's On' for full details of events in the village

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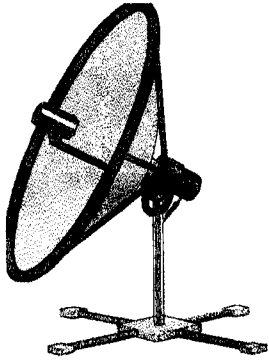
£20.00 EACH



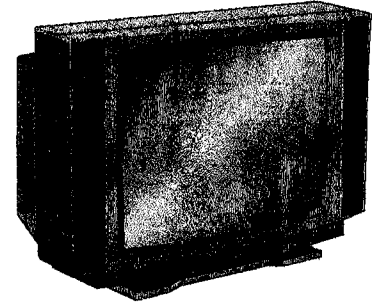
**TICKETS ON SALE FROM
14TH JANUARY
LIMITED NUMBERS ONLY
NO RESERVED TICKETS
FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED**

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

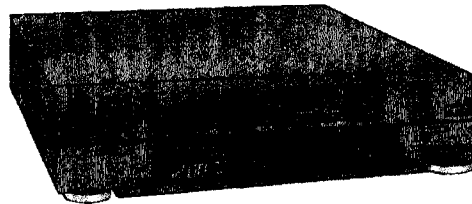


T.V. VIDEO AND
SATELLITE
SERVICING AND
GENERAL REPAIR



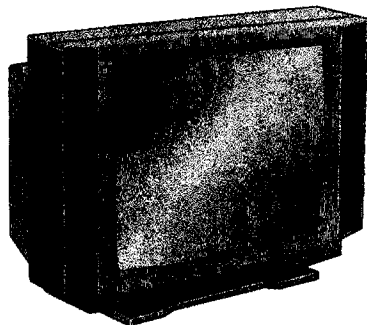
RENTALS, NEW
AND USED SALES

MOST MAKES
REPAIRED
THE SAME
DAY



NO CALL OUT
FEE WITHIN
ASTON
ABBOTTS

PHONE DAVE LEWIS
ON 01296 682126



The famous 55" TV

Dave's whopper is gaining celebrity status as it makes yet another guest appearance - this time at The AAH Exhibition. At this rate it won't be long before somebody tries to buy it...

FRIENDLY
SERVICE

DLT



The Aston Abbotts
Music Maestro

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