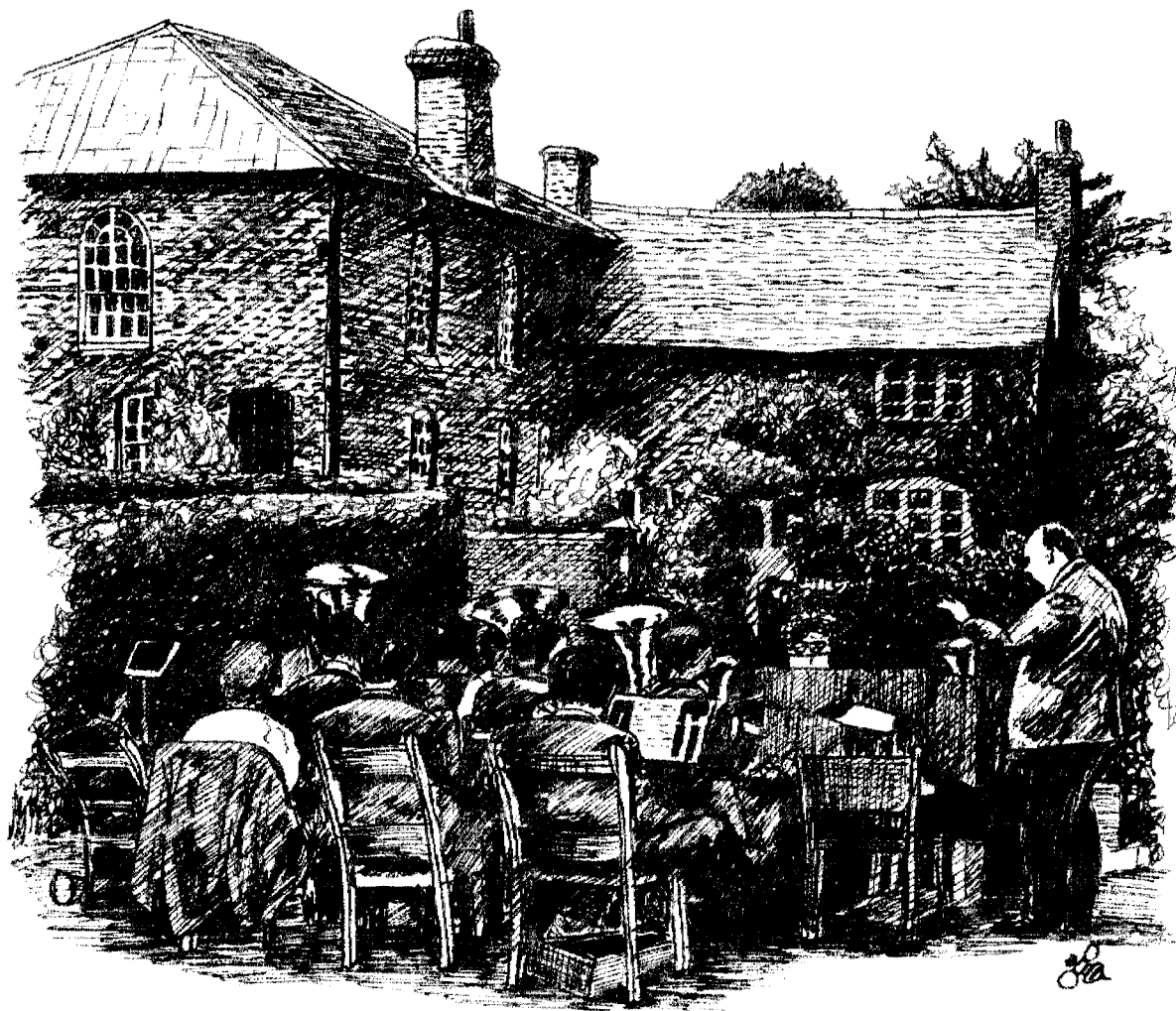


THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE
ISSUE 193 SEPTEMBER 2000



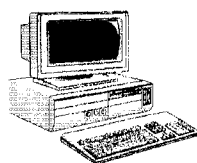
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Editorial

Thursday 31st August 2000

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So that was summer, not too bad really. After all, the fete was sunny again, it stayed dry for the Midsummer Madness concert, and we managed to have at least three barbecues.

As ever, this first edition of the approaching autumn carries lots of stories about the village's summer events and trips. If you forgot to drop in details of what you did, don't panic - there will be plenty of room for more stories in the October **CHRONICLE** so get writing.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT - PLEASE READ ON....

Straight to business, then. You may recall that Gordon Smith very kindly stepped in to fill the void left when Barbara and David retired from running the fete committee. He and the team did a great job - more of which you can read about in this month's magazine. It's now time to find a new coordinator for the team as Gordon's stint was only for the year; Gordon and the rest of the committee will be there to support the new coordinator(s) so it's "volunteer time", please. You'll find more details on page 4.

FRESH BLOOD NEEDED

No, not an advert for local vampires! I am now into my third year as Editor of this wonderful magazine and the time has come for me to hand the Editor's cap to somebody new - **maybe you?** Alas, an ever increasing work-load (you all know who to blame) has somewhat forced the issue and so a new editor is needed rather urgently.

The wonders of modern technology mean that with the help of a PC and the support of a fabulous editorial team (of which I hope to remain a member), the job of pulling the magazine together each month is quite painless. Advertising, Print, Distribution, Accounts and many of the regular features are all handled by the team

leaving the Editor free to make judgements about content (you'll get the odd nice bribe, here) and to contribute the odd article or two. Quite straightforward really, and of course I will be happy to offer any guidance and support during hand-over. But the magazine could really do with an injection of fresh Editorial ideas and new views on village life.

If you would like to take on the role or have some questions about the job, please call me on 01296 682651 or drop round to 2, Nash's Farm at any time.

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

Andi Swain

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE

- Record Breakers
- Long Hot Summer of Music
- **FETE 2000 REPORTS**
- Eye, Eye.....
- Up on the wings of a bird
- I Hate Tractors....
- A New Hut at Last
- All of our regular features
- And Loads, Loads more

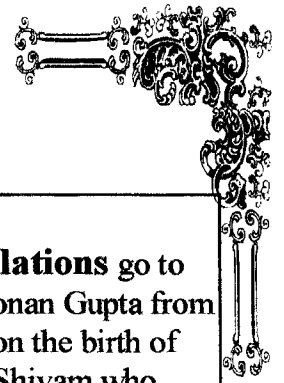
PRODUCTION TEAM CONTACTS

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| Advertising | Ivan Greenaway 1 Nash's Farm - 01296 682605 |


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Copy date for October issue is Friday September 22nd - 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 Abbots, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

THE PEOPLE'S PAGE



Aston Abbotts wishes a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to everybody celebrating in September, especially



Congratulations go to Avi and Poonan Gupta from The Green on the birth of their baby, Shivam who weighed in at 5lb 14oz.

| | | | |
|------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| Minnie Doggett | 3rd | Louise Palmer | 20th |
| Piers Parker | 4th | Jane Ellis | 20th |
| Christopher Fox | 6th | Halisi Drysdale | 22nd |
| Fiona Whyte | 6th | Stephen Oldfield | 22nd |
| Sarah Smith | 8th | Anna Picking | 24th |
| William Evans | 8th | Alex Dutton | 25th |
| Alf Parker | 9th | Liz. Hall | 25th |
| Claire Gresswell | 14th | Lyn Manning | 26th |
| Sally Palmer | 18th | Adrian Dixon | 30 th |

WELCOME!!

It's a huge hello and welcome to Christine and Peter who are moving into Nash's Farm. We all look forward to meeting you and seeing you at the village social events!



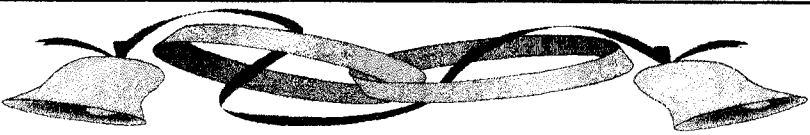
CONGRATULATIONS
Very many congratulations go to Mollie and Fred Poulter who are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary - although how such a nice lady like Mollie could have put up with a 'rogue' like Fred for so long will remain a mystery to most of us!

Just to let you know that.....

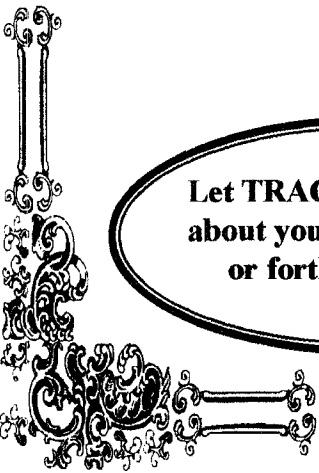
Dolly Hinds is home from hospital and making great improvement.

John Dixon has not been too well of late but after a short stay in hospital he is now home and recovering well.

Everybody in the village wishes you both well.




Wedding bells are in the air..... our very best wishes go to Tracey Lovell and Ian Burch who are getting married on the 16th of September in Swanage, then Honeymooning in France.



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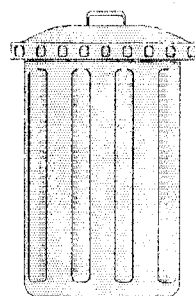
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IN THE VILLAGE 1.

FETE 2000 - IT'S A RECORD YEAR!!

24 hours before the opening of this year's fete the rain was belting down and the weather forecast was dramatically bleak. In the event, the sun shone until late afternoon, and the village saw another highly enjoyable and successful fete. After District Councillor Peter Cooper opened proceedings (the first opener to provide his own amplification system) the Lions train thundered

round the Grove all afternoon, teas were served at the rate of about a cup every 20 seconds, the band played, the skittles toppled, and never once did the volume from the traders on the barbecue falter.

There were a lot of 'more's: we had more people than ever before (bringing more cars); the village collection produced more goods to be sorted and sold than ever before; more cash was taken and more profit made than ever before.

The full financial report is produced elsewhere in 'THE CHRONICLE'. A number of stalls saw a record year. The barbecue saw a huge increase in takings from c.£100 in 1999 to over £200, as well as raising the tone of the occasion. The stalls dealing only in goods collected during the week before the fete (tombola, groceries, bric-a-brac, gifts, books, children's) made over £900; when you add to this the takings from other stalls for goods donated on the day (gardens, cakes) it is clear just how generous people in the village were.

More people helped, either on stalls, setting up, taking down, sorting the collection, or in serving teas than ever before. I would like to thank all those who made donations, either in cash or kind, everyone who lent a hand collecting and sorting goods, or on the

**Millennium Fete Makes
Record £2,593.78 Profit -
Up £100 on Previous Best**

day itself, and everyone who helped prepare The Green, The Grove and the Church. Without all of this help, the fete, if it worked at all, would not be nearly so enjoyable or profitable. As a result of all of this work we have been able to make donations of over £900 to the Church, over £1,350 to the development of the Church Room, over £250 to THE CHRONICLE, and over £60 to the Toddlers. (And I'm sure everyone who worked in the sweat shop that the Church Room became during the afternoon will agree that the redevelopment can't come a moment too soon.)

We have had two reports of missing pairs of prescription sunglasses after the

fete, one in a red case. If anyone knows any news of these could they please let me know. Oddly we also have one table missing - one of the low level ones from the Church Room.

I shall not act as 'co-ordinator' for the fete next year, and we are therefore in need of a volunteer, or volunteers. I will happily explain what is involved to anyone who is interested, and help with next year, if wanted. I know it seems very early to be thinking about this, but there are one or two things that need sorting out before the end of the year. And I can assure anyone who is interested that they will have the support of an amazingly hard-working and helpful group of people in getting the show on the road.

Gordon Smith (681373)

There are lots of 'Fete' stories in this month's CHRONICLE - the P+L is on page 14. If you would like to play a more active part in next year's fete, call Gordon ASAP. Ed.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

'Criminal damage' are the words being used to describe the mess in the children's play area within the Recreation Ground, caused one imagines by mindless vandals with no respect for the village or for the younger children who play there during daylight.

Think I'm being a bit strong? Then go take a look for yourself.

Over recent weeks parts of the fencing has been ripped out or broken down, and yet again the Rec. gate has been broken. Amongst other things, the fencing stops dogs and other animals fouling the play area (especially dangerous to young children) and stops the youngest children wandering off. Some parts of the fence are now quite dangerous and will need to be replaced - with the cost being met from village funds; village funds which might otherwise be used to improve facilities.

And the play area has been used in the late evening and at night as an alternative to the pub, presumably by those not old enough to be served at The Bull or Oak. The ground is often littered with lager cans (bought by the case) as those responsible can't even be bothered to use the litter bin. The cans cause cuts and are often left half-full, potentially for youngsters to drink the next day, leaving parents and other civic-minded villagers to clear up the mess before youngsters play.

THE CHRONICLE has heard from people all over the village about this problem; people who ordinarily are sympathetic to the plight of teenagers with little to do; indeed, people with children of their own.

But quite simply, there is no excuse for the behavior of those who are vandalising the Rec.

People are fed up with the damage and abuse of village property, and with the total lack of respect shown by those concerned. Remember, the play area was built by villagers who had young children with nowhere to play.

This article is not about "naming and shaming" but is to highlight the damage that has been done; damage that you may not be aware of; damage that may have been caused by your kids or that may harm your youngsters.

This article is to ask those concerned to stop. And if you know who the guilty ones are, don't let them carry on. Few people have a problem with you enjoying yourselves but if you act like vandals you can't expect to be treated with respect by other villagers.

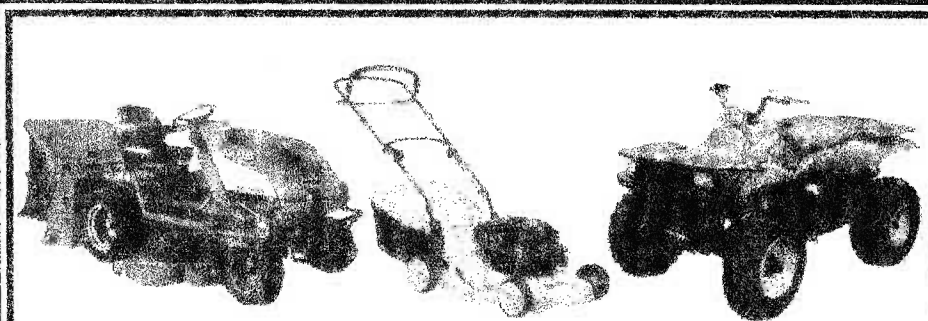
As ever, I would welcome any constructive comments.

Ed.

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IN THE VILLAGE 2 - FETE REPORTS.

4 FAT BLOKES' TRIUMPH AGAIN

Many of you reading this will have experienced the 'joy' of a Fat Bloke Burger at this year's fete - I can say this with absolute confidence judging by the amount we sold.

The Fat Blokes - Ray Coates, Paul Madden (Wingravian), Andy Stefanczyk (Duntonian) and your very own Ed, were kept busy from 1.15pm right through to the close at 5.00pm, when the rains came down and drove away the few remaining fete-goers.

It certainly was a case of more choice creating more interest (or hunger) as we sold out of everything - plain burgers and hot dogs, bacon burgers, cheeseburgers and our biggest hit of all - **The Brian Burger** (double burger, double bacon, sausage, cheese and onions).

Strangely, this year our Veggie Burgers were all but ignored, leading to suggestions that the 1999 marketing figures had somehow been exaggerated or even manipulated! Surely not.

And the result? **A WHOPPING £225** contribution to the fete - more than double last year!! I estimate that we sold in the region of 180 Fat Bloke Meals on the day.

A huge **thank you** to Frank & Louise from The Bull & Butcher for lending us their mega-Bar-B-Q (again!); to Tony Hinds for giving us a great deal on the meat; to our gals for slicing onions, baps and keeping us supplied with opened bottles of beer.

And major thanks to Mr Darren Cook, the Mancunian who somehow managed to get his photo in the AA2000 History Book, but more amazingly did some invaluable product-placement by eating 2 (yes, TWO) Brian Burgers, a Bacon Burger and a Cheeseburger.

Thanks also to my compadres, the other three Fat Blokes; but most of all to you lot out there who just can't say no to a good burger!

For 2001 we are preparing some new dishes for you - perhaps a son of Brian, a Gladys, even dormer kebabs...you'll have to wait and see!

SEE YOU ALL AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

Ed. (AKA Weirido Fat Bloke)



Weirido

**Brian Burger
proved most
popular choice**

THE 2000 VILLAGE RAFFLE

This year ticket sales were **£1,110. 65**. Having taken into account this year's expenditure on prizes and the estimated cost for printing the tickets, our net profits were in the region of £900. Both this years sales and profits figures are a little down on last year but it is still our second best ever year.

May I offer my thanks to:

- Those of you who were persuaded to distribute tickets and collect monies
- Every household for selling and buying tickets

This year, **local people** won most of the major prizes. The winners were:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 st | £200 | Eve, Kidd Rapinet Solicitors Aylesbury |
| 2 nd | Meal at the Old Masters | P.T. Humphreys 2 The Green |
| 3 rd | Hand made quilted cushion | Brigitti, The Old Masters |
| 4 th | Food Hamper | Irene, 12 Chiltern Rd, Wingrave |
| 5 th | Large Tigger | Bridget Brandon, 12 Bricstock |
| 6 th | Bottle of Wine | Hockridge, 5 Bricstock |
| 7 th | Box of Chocolates | Joan Freeman, 19 Gowers Field Aylesbury |

For those of you who did not attend the draw, 2nd Prize was actually won by The Old Masters. This seemed a bit silly so an 'executive decision' was made to give the winner third prize, the Quilted Cushion. So, the draw for the second prize took place again. You guessed it, 2nd prize was again won by The Old Masters. By now Juan had made an appearance and prevented serious embarrassment to us all by asking for it to be drawn again. So, it was 'third time lucky' for P T Humphreys, 2 The Green.

Finally, I would like to thank all those people who donated prizes and helped to increase our profit margins. I would especially like to thank:

- The person or persons who provided the anonymous donation of £100 towards 1st Prize
- Juan for the meal at The Old Masters
- Clare Shorock for making the quilted cushion
- Chris Fox for providing the large Tigger.

Thank you all for your tremendous support. Best regards.

Ivan.

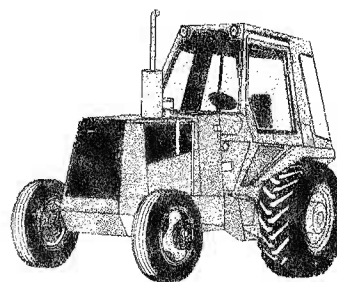
ED'S TIPS

An occasional column by your editor. This month, transportation.

On absolutely no account, never, never, never, never, not even briefly, not even momentarily, never, never, never, ever, ever even consider.....

Pulling a Tractor

Trust me on this one. **Ed.**



Photographs

by Paul Ridgley

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IN THE VILLAGE 3.

A LONG HOT SUMMER OF MUSIC...

For anyone in Aston Abbots who enjoys live music, this summer has presented rather more than the usual opportunities for listening to quite a wide range of extremely well presented 'recitals'.

'MUSIC IN QUIET PLACES'

This was an initiative taken by Aylesbury Vale Leisure resulting in a series of concerts being staged in selected churches in villages around Aylesbury. In the main, these musical soirées comprised programmes of classical pieces performed by various trios and quartets.

Aston Abbots (St James the Great) was one such venue and we were fortunate enough on the evening of 18th July to have English Serenata come along and play for us. They are a trio comprising Gabriella Byam-Grounds on flute, Rowena Bass - harp and Robert Secret - viola and had put together a selection of eleven pieces as diverse as Syrinx by Debussy and Variations on a theme of Mozart by Glinka.

It was clearly a popular event with the church being about three quarters full, of which nearly a half appeared to be 'village folk'. A few of the pieces played in the first half were, I have to say, a little 'academic' for my taste but a brief interval in which the ubiquitous but none the less welcome tea and biscuits were served was an opportunity to ease 'the bones' from the excesses of church pews and chat to the musicians.

The second half was rather more entertaining though this might have been due in part to Gabriella's flute threatening to fall apart at any minute and emergency 'surgery' having to be performed with sellotape etc. Despite this minor setback their professionalism shone through and so none of this prevented them from giving a very polished performance. I always enjoy harp music and came away feeling I had had a thoroughly good evening.

JAZZ AT 'THE BULL'

During July and August jazz bands such as 'The Fenny Stompers', 'New Orleans Five', & the 'Eagle Jazz Band' have provided excellent entertainment at The Bull & Butcher on alternate Friday evenings. The beer's pretty good too!

STOWE

The venue for open air concerts previously held at Mentmore appears to have been changed to Stowe School. This was certainly the case this year and I have to say the event was all the better for it with cavalry demonstrations and other entertainments prior to the actual concert. Of course everyone came along with elaborate picnics tables, chairs and in many instances in full evening dress and candelabra on the tables. The music was the usual blend of popular classics with several military pieces 'thrown in' as an excuse to fire the eight or so 25 pounder field guns and let off the fireworks throughout the later part of the evening and not just at the end. Absolutely fabulous afternoon and evening and we will certainly be there again next year.

MIDSUMMER MILLENNIUM MADNESS AKA ASTONBURY 2000

It was 'touch and go' as to whether this open air event would actually take place since the weather had been dreadful. However, just in time, the threat of rain disappeared and as guests arrived, a sunny though chilly evening presented itself.

There was a great sigh of relief all round because as well as the performers, 'the lads' - in particular Dave Lewis, Tom Manning, Ray Wilkinson and Alan Kempster - had been 'beavering away' for most of the day transporting and setting up a very attractive looking stage on Ann and Dicky Dicken's equally attractive lawn. At this stage, it has to be said that without their very generous offer and encouragement the entire event may not have taken place. Not only that, but their lawn dropped away to form an almost natural auditorium and with miles of beautiful countryside beyond the stage had better scenery than even I could paint!

Most of the extensive audience arrived in plenty of time to 'bag' the best positions; as far as possible out of the wind. Nearly everyone had bought along picnic tables and chairs, hampers of food and judging from the clinking of bottles and popping of corks, more than sufficient liquid refreshment. All this contributed to the creation of a very jolly 'atmosphere'; very reminiscent of concerts at Mentmore Towers.

Although music had been provided by Lol for 'pre-show' amusement, much entertainment was provided by Dave Lewis's last minute efforts to 'tweak' the sound system to achieve the high level of perfection he always demands. Rumour had it that during the course of the day he had virtually rebuilt the sound system several times!

We are fortunate in Aston Abbots in having people of all ages who have considerable musical talent and this year it was very evident that in particular we have more than our fair share of up and coming youngsters. The first half was largely devoted to the young folk and the show opened with MC Andi Swain (yes the very same!) introducing 'The Bowling Trolls' (Anthony Palmer and friends Ed & Tim) who played a couple of their own (very up beat) compositions; one with very amusing lyrics. Anthony also went on to play both Drum and classical cello solos. The lads didn't have it all their own way though as Haley Wilkinson accompanied by Neil Chesher gave a cracking rendition of 'Jolene' whilst Christina Tomlin impressed by singing 'Something So Right' unaccompanied.

John's Whyte & Brancker along with Nigel Palmer & Neil ('Jerry & the Hattricks') opened the second half which included Anne Branker & Sharon Wilkinson with 'Then he kissed me'. It was particularly nice to have Bridget Brandon back in the cast (singing My Guy) and a 'secret weapon' in the guise of Tony Reece from Cublington who's powerful and 'gravelly' voice was used to great effect with numbers such as 'Summer time' and 'It's a heartache'.

The evening ended with dancing to Lol's disco amid the illuminated flower beds. Truly a great evening; the culmination of Neil's long held dream to organise an outdoor 'entertainment' event and lots of hard work by all concerned. It also raised about £450.00 for the Village Hall. Please can we have another one next year???



You'll all be pleased to hear that Astonbury 2001 is on the cards. Ed.

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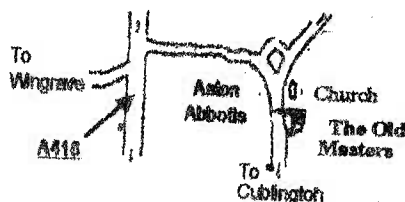
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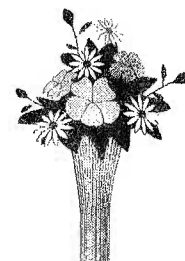
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IN THE VILLAGE 4.

GLIDING OVER DUNSTABLE DOWN

Those of you who attended the Midsummer Madness Concert at Norduck Farm will remember that a trial Gliding lesson was auctioned that evening. I successfully bid for this, and so on a lovely Friday afternoon set out for the London Gliding Club, which is located off the A489 just outside Dunstable.

I arrived as two club members rang in to request a pick up after landing in a field near Aylesbury. Having dealt with this apparently routine event, the receptionist made me complete a simple form and read some basic safety rules, such as 'do not walk in front of moving gliders!' I was then directed to drive around the edge of the airfield to rendezvous with Rupert at 'The Tower'.

The road proved rather bumpy and the intermittent rattling that had been going on under my car for a while suddenly got worse. This was followed by a loud clunk as a piece of metal fell off. I retrieved it and was pleased to discover that the car still drove and was quiet (I still have not discovered what the bit was).

I arrived at the mobile tower to find Rupert was out gliding on his own. However, I had arrived early so I watched a young man make his first solo flight after only 35 training flights, apparently a very short time. Just after he took off Rupert appeared and gave me and another man some instructions about the controls and what to do if we had to parachute out of the glider. The other man then went up for his flight, which took about 30 minutes, while I chatted to various club members who were helping bring the gliders in after landing.

Usually two would go out in a buggy, one would use the buggy to tow the glider while the other, together with the pilot, would hold the wings off the ground and direct the glider while it was towed. Most of the single gliders were using the winch to get airborne. When the pilot was ready, the tower would radio to the other end of the airfield and the winch was pulled in, the attached glider was pulled along and up into the air. The rope is jettisoned fairly quickly.

Finally Rupert returned for my flight, my seat was adjusted so that I could get my feet onto 2 pedals (the rudder) at the front of the glider. The canopy was closed over my head and Rupert climbed into his seat behind. A tow rope was attached to the front of the glider and we were off, bumping over the ground behind a small but sturdy aircraft. As we picked up speed we lifted into the air and although we were still behind the plane we were above it. We travelled along for some time picking up speed and climbing higher until Rupert jettisoned the tow rope at 2,000 feet, our speed was 90 nautical miles per hour about 100mph.

Immediately Rupert began searching for clouds. The aim is to get under these because they are more likely to have thermals (hot air rising) to lift the glider. He headed towards a tiny, wispy, apology of a cloud while I studied the instrument showing if you are going up or down (no, it is not that easy to tell) and how fast. We were, of course, going down.

Surprisingly, the Wisp did indeed have a thin thermal under it and so the instrument gauge and my stomach went in

opposite directions as we soared up. Rupert then banked so we turned slowly round in the thermal.

I had a chance to admire the British countryside laid out in its familiar patchwork below us. But not for long! It was my turn to try some flying and to discover the importance to gentle movements. First manoeuvre - bank to the left - move the stick between your legs to the left, return to centre and ease back. I rather overdid the easing back and we shot upwards creating the negative G-force which makes you think you are falling - rather unnerving! However, after several tries I was able to go on to level the wings after banking.

Then it was time to steer left and right which involves using the stick and rudder together. This proved to be a bit trickier to master. We had now reached 3,000 feet and spent some time flying about enjoying the scenery. It was a lovely evening with mainly blue sky and sun. We could see people hang gliding from the hill behind the airfield, taking advantage of the ideal conditions created by the Downs for generating thermals.

After about 40 minutes it was time to come down. Rupert dropped down quite quickly in tight circles and I began to feel rather queasy. Fortunately I was able to recover when we levelled off ready for landing. The landing was slightly bumpy as there is no definite landing strip, the whole airfield is just mowed quite short. All together I had been up for 47 minutes and enjoyed the experience tremendously.

Sally Palmer

Thanks Sally for telling us about your adventure, and especially for your fabulous bid at the auction which helped to make "Astonbury 2000" such a huge success. Thanks also to Juliet Hodgkinson who very kindly donated the Gliding lesson.
Ed.

ASTONBURY 2000.....

A view from the bloke behind the stage jumping up and down and waving his arms about like a complete maniac whilst trying not to fall into the pond....

It seems so long ago, but I for one will remember Astonbury for a very long time to come. The acts were brilliant, the setting breathtaking, the weather good but what really made the whole show fantastic was YOU! More than 100 of you parted with your 'hard earned' for our musical 'experiment' and raised more than £500 for the Village Hall improvements.

I was loosely described as MC, with Chesh telling me to "keep the show going however you can if all hell breaks lose, but remember there are kids here too". No need to worry, though, as you made my job very easy - boy were you determined to enjoy yourself! Everybody sang along to the popular hits and most had a dance at the end of the night.

And me? I had a whale of a time (in case you didn't notice) and I'm hoping that I get invited back next year. I look forward to seeing you all again at Astonbury 2001!

Ed.

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IN THE VILLAGE 5.

THE VILLAGE INTERVIEW by Phil Spooner

Most of the villagers interviewed on this page in previous months have either been born in Aston Abbots, or lived here for the greater part of their lives. Not so this month's victims... err... interviewees – Liz and Patrick Clarke.

Although Liz and Patrick have lived in Aston Abbots for just three years, many villagers will have met them when their garden in The Acorns was included in this spring's Open Gardens.

So how did they come to Aston Abbots? Liz takes up the story. "We lived in Southampton for quite a long time. My job moved to Hemel Hempstead, so I was offered the chance to relocate. I actually grew up in Amersham so it was quite a nice opportunity to move back this way.

"We didn't really know of Aston Abbots. We were looking for a village type location and we cast the net quite wide really as there wasn't a lot of property in any single place. We tried estate agents in Wendover and picked up the details of here, saw it from the outside and thought it looked really nice. I actually viewed the property with my mother in the evening and Patrick had to wait till the weekend to come up." Patrick remembers, "I received a phone call to say we found this wonderful piece of property and I virtually said if you like it that much, say yes."

Liz recalls their first impression. "We were just thrilled by the countryside. We approached through Weedon, and we realised that we had open the fields at the back of this house and that was one of the key factors that made us think that this was the right one for us." Patrick agrees, "I think it was the field really - at the back - that really decided it."

The Chronicle helped them learn about the village. "We were given a copy of The Chronicle by the previous owners of this house so we learnt a little bit more about the village by reading it in the few months before we actually moved in."

I asked Liz how they had become involved in the Open Gardens? "We'd both been round the Open Gardens in previous years. We thought it would be a good chance to have a look round and meet a few people. We read the Chronicle quite a bit and we realised that so many people in the village do a lot for the village. We know we don't have as much time as some, but we thought we'd like to contribute in some way and we thought that it might be something we could do." So they volunteered themselves? "We did. We wrote a note to the Chronicle after having gone around last year in the pouring rain!"

On the day, it didn't start quite as expected. "It was quiet at the beginning - for about the first 45 minutes nobody came. We wondered what we had done! Then Colin came running along through the village and he said 'Oh don't worry there's about 300 people down at the Abbey', and we thought 'Oh my goodness I hope they don't all come at once because we'll never fit them in'."

Patrick is honest when asked who was responsible for the flowers and plants on show. "Well, I think Liz is the gardener. I

have an allotment in the next village - in Wingrave. I'm the fruit and veg, dare I say it, 'expert'. Liz is into the gardening side." So why didn't he take an allotment in Aston Abbots? "Well the main reason for that was that there was no water supply and that was really what decided it."

His allotment is not Patrick's only outside activity. "Well I'm a fitness fanatic really - a keen runner. I do a bit of cycling. I tend to go into Aylesbury and meet up with the local running club so you don't often see me running around the village. Every now and again I cycle to work [in Westcott]." He laughs when asked about his first cycling encounter with Lines Hill, "The first time I tried that hill I was rolling backwards!"

Recently Liz has been able to achieve a long-held ambition to own a dog. "We started thinking that we had to be not working, but discovered some people successfully managed to have dogs in their lives, and happy dogs as well, and we thought there must be a way. We've been extremely lucky. We have two wonderful dog-walkers found in the village - we advertised through The Chronicle.

"We thought we would like rescue dogs. We got them both from Chiltern Dog Rescue last November. We originally thought of just having one and we actually picked Misty. One day when they were overflowing at the kennels we took Jester on. It was supposed initially to be for just two days but we rather fell in love with him. Jester is a collie cross and Misty is a border collie."

They now help with fund raising for the rescue society and Patrick has suggested a sponsored event later this year. "The idea was to do a charity parachute jump for the Chiltern Dog Rescue and see how much money I could raise. I've never done anything like it before but I have always wanted to. There can be no going back now as it's been mentioned at the dog rescue place, so I have got to do it!"

This year's village fete saw Liz and Patrick helping for the first time, as Liz explains. "We did yes, we manned the gift stall. We were asked by Clare if we would man a stall. It was a lovely day. It was a bit nerve-racking at the start... because people were trying to buy things about half-an-hour before it was open." Patrick laughs, "It reminded me of my first car boot sale, which was quite an experience. They almost pounce on you don't they?"

How do they feel about recent Chronicle stories regarding development? Patrick: "Well that's the main worry isn't it?" Liz: "Yes, I really hope it doesn't change too much and from a very selfish point of view I particularly hope they don't put anything too near the back of us, with rumours of a bypass going around Wing."

So, are they planning to stay in Aston Abbots? Liz has little doubt, "Oh I hope so, I hope so. There's a lot more community spirit here than anywhere that we've been before. I mean, we're happy aren't we? The main thing being if the road goes too near." Patrick is in full agreement, "The only reason we will move will be further developments. We love the village."

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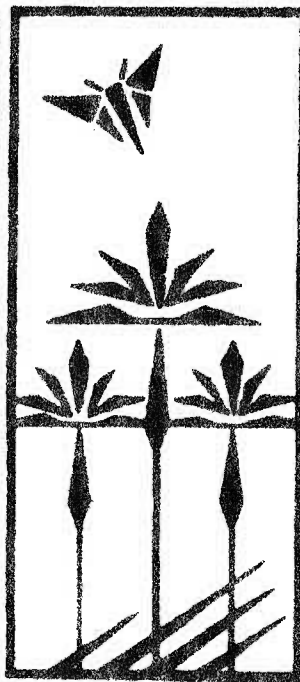
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VILLAGE FETE 29 JULY 2000

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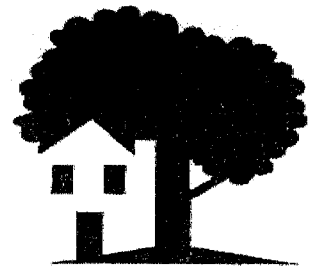
| | | £ | | £ |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------|----------------|
| DRAW | | | 1110.65 | |
| TEAS | | | 266.10 | |
| STALLS | Tombola | 188.30 | | |
| | Cakes etc | 90.05 | | |
| | Gardens | 184.00 | | |
| | Groceries | 28.60 | | |
| | Bric-a-brac | 259.05 | | |
| | Ice Cream | 83.00 | | |
| | Gifts | 156.20 | | |
| | Books | 140.33 | | |
| | Childrens | <u>160.00</u> | | |
| | | | 1289.53 | |
| SIDESHOWS | Coconut shy | 62.00 | | |
| & COMPETITIONS | Skittles | 58.70 | | |
| | Pony rides | 15.75 | | |
| | Lions | 25.00 | | |
| | Marshall Rose (swings) | <u>22.20</u> | | |
| | Sale of greenhouse | <u>20.00</u> | | |
| | | | 203.65 | |
| BARBECUE | | | 224.88 | |
| DONATIONS | | | 110.00 | |
| CHURCH COLLECTING BOX | | | 21.86 | |
| <u>GROSS PROCEEDS</u> | | | | 3226.67 |

| | | £ | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | Band | 105.00 | | |
| | Punch & Judy | 55.00 | | |
| | Draw tickets & licence | 99.64 | | |
| | Draw prizes | 220.64 | | |
| | Mechanical Organ | 40.00 | | |
| | Advertising | 57.83 | | |
| | Polythene sheet | 34.78 | | |
| | Retained Profit | 20.00 | | |
| | | | 632.89 | |
| <u>NET PROCEEDS</u> | | | | <u>632.89</u> |
| | | | | <u>2593.78</u> |

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IN THE VILLAGE 6.

A DAY OUT IN LONDON

Having read the recent **CHRONICLE** article about the Millennium Dome, I rather rashly promised Ed that I would report on our trip to that other new attraction, the London Eye.

Arranged months in advance for the only possible date when the four of us could actually go somewhere together, things started to fall apart the night before in the Bull and Butcher when we were informed by someone, rather more aware of current events, that the Eye was closed due to a technical problem. (A section had allegedly fallen into the Thames).

Against my better judgement, I turned down an additional pint of Frank's Amber Nectar and retired to the Internet Web site to seek out further information. The help-line informed us that repairs were continuing all night and that an expert was being flown in from Holland! Great!

The morning came and went and I returned home from a swift nine holes to find one teenager in the shower, the other still comatose, 'er indoors wondering what to do about the prospective chilly picnic and if it was worth going at all, and the help-line indecisive.

However, the 12:15pm update advised that the Eye had now reopened and so all hell let loose. We made the 12:38pm train from Aylesbury with all of 30 seconds to spare and arrived, via Bakerloo line tube to Waterloo, on the South Bank at around 2:00pm.

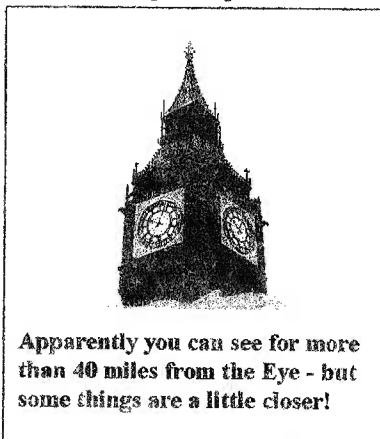
Despite the earlier technical problems and the consequent crowds, we spent no more than 20 minutes queuing – a tribute to the efficiency of the organisation. The structure itself is reassuringly strong, much more so than I had imagined, even though it looks distinctly like a bicycle wheel from a distance.

I have to say that the flight on the Eye, which takes some 30 minutes in all, was most impressive, reaching a height of around 400 feet above river level.

The sun even came out and the views were magnificent, familiar and less familiar landmarks being pointed out by our accompanying hostess. This was definitely a worthwhile trip that we would recommend to all (Adult Flight now £8.50 for the round trip).

Returning to earth at 3pm (in fact, our booked take-off slot!), we decided to walk

along the South Bank towards two more of London's newest attractions. The Millennium Trampoline (sorry bridge) was closed to jumpers and so we were unable to practice our recently



Apparently you can see for more than 40 miles from the Eye - but some things are a little closer!

perfected silly walks.

We turned instead to the magnificent Tate Modern housed in the old Bankside Power Station (Entrance free, personal audio guide £1). There is something about putting an art museum in a converted industrial building. The renovated Gare d'Orsay in Paris, a converted railway station, full of impressionist paintings was, well, impressive and the sheer size of this building impressed too.

The first exhibit that hits your eye is a giant sculpture of a spider that dominates the Turbine Hall. There are three floors of themed galleries and exhibitions so, given somewhat limited time, we decided to concentrate on the section entitled History / Memory / Society.

But first we repaired to the East room on the 7th floor that was serving drinks and snacks and were rewarded with impressive views of the Millennium Bridge, St Paul's Cathedral and the renovated Globe Theatre next door.

What were our impressions of the exhibits, a mixture of paintings, sculptures and cinematic art? You cannot even begin to convey an impression of the sheer variety in a short article such as this.

Certainly thought provoking, some paintings were so simple that they were well within even my limited capabilities. The strength is in the power of the interpretation of each work, carefully noted against each major exhibit. I did paint a bedroom wall blue once but never began to appreciate the complex hidden meaning of my work.

I came across the highly controversial work by Carl André "Equivalent VIII" purchased at great expense back in the sixties, consisting of 120 fire bricks arranged in a pattern, ten long by six across by two deep. They could also have been arranged eight by five by three, but then that was another major work.

There was an igloo constructed out of slate, air and glass, a red slate circle (of course, lumps of red slate arranged in a circle on the floor), and posters depicting the Leyland (remember them?) advertising slogan, also from the sixties, "Nothing can stop us now".

Afterwards, an inspired Anthony couldn't stop talking about the works he had seen. We will certainly return again at a future date and thoroughly recommend that you visit too. A meal at Topo Gigio's, a very reasonable Italian West End restaurant in Brewer Street that never fails to please, followed by a show, rounded off a wonderful day.

Nigel Palmer

Thanks for the article, Nigel - so much for rash promises! If you've been to a famous (or not so famous) sight over the holidays, tell **THE CHRONICLE** and let the village know if it's worth a visit! Ed.

THE CHRONICLE CROSSWORD

SEPTEMBER

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 41 | | | | 42 | | | | | 43 | | | |
| 44 | | | 45 | | 46 | | | | 47 | | | |
| 48 | | | | | | | | | | 49 | | |

Answers to July/August

ACROSS: 1 About. 6 Energy. 11 Seating. 14 Era. 15 Tattler. 16 Wrist. 18 Onset. 19 Insole. 20 Reel. 22 Inset. 23 Ape. 25 Delete. 27 Be. 25 Leonid. 39 Bated. 34 Emu. 35 No. 36 Other. 37 Sago. 39 With. 41 Tensor. 45 Resall. 48 Swerve. 49 Alpine. 50 Nan. 51 Lank.

DOWN: 1 Aston Abbotts. 2 Bean. 3 Oats. 4 Utter. 5 Titled. 7 News Item. 8 Erroneous. 9 Rails. 10 Yet. 12 NE. 13 Grill. 17 Seeding. 21 Eel. 24 Peat. 26 Electra. 28 Bee. 30 Doodle. 32 Thine. 33 Dr. 38 Again. 39 Wren. 40 Hell. 42 Ewe. 44 Ova. 46 Spa. 47 Ink.

- ACROSS:** 1 Ask for (7)
 7. Dwellings (5)
 12. USA TEN (an 6)
 14. Flagpole (4)
 15. Where you keep your money (1&4)
 17. Documents (6)
 19. SEAM (anag 4)
 20. Quickly (informal 6)
 21. Irony, sarcasm (6)
 25. Made peace (6)
 26. Spoor (5)
 30. Free of (3)

31. Girl's name (5)
 32. Small cavity (3)
 33. Small advert (2)
 34. Bored (7)
 37. Oblivion; W Indian dance (5)
 41. Noise. (3)
 42. Way out (4)
 43. Foolish person (4)
 44. Large deer (4)
 46. That is (2)
 47. Want (4)
 48. Impoverished (9)
 49. Territorial decoration

- DOWN:** 1. 20 quires (4)
 2. Starlike object (6)
 3. Not normal (9)
 4. Cumbrian river (3)
 5. Compass point (2)
 6. Knocked (6)
 8. A sign (4)
 9. Warlike (7)
 10. Brand of petrol (4)
 11. Small saint (2)
 13. Road material (3)
 16. Finest (4)
 18. Used in fences (5)

22. Ice, hanging (6)
 23. Colour (3)
 24. Thin boarding (3)
 27. Artist (2)
 28. Badly brought up 7
 29. Married (6)
 32. Subsides (5)
 33. Goodbye (5)
 35. Annoy (4)
 36. Another 42 ac. (4)
 38. Hotel (3)
 39. Encounter (4)
 40. Strange (3)
 45. Street (abb 2)

'WHAT'S ON' IN SEPTEMBER 2000

- Tuesday 5th** Aylesbury Vale Transport Meeting. (Bus train queries to Colin please)
- Thursday 7th** Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm
- Saturday 9th** Bucks. Historic Churches 'Sponsored Bike Ride'; Support your church – **Sponsorship Forms from Anne 681763**
- Tuesday 12th** Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm
- Wednesday 13th** Parish Council meeting Church Room 8.00pm
- Sunday 17th** Rambling Club members meet Halton Village 2.00pm
- Tuesday 19th** Floral class Church Room 7.30 pm.
- Thursday 21st** Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm
- Sunday 24th** Village footpath walk - The Green 2.00pm
- Tuesday 26th** Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm

LOCAL MARKET DAYS

- Tuesday** Thame, Buckingham, Leighton Buzzard
- Wednesday** Aylesbury, Oxford
- Thursday** Olney, Princes Risborough, Wendover.
- Friday** Tring, Aylesbury, Bicester.
- Saturday** Aylesbury, Hemel Hempstead, High Wycombe.

REFUSE COLLECTION IN THE VILLAGE

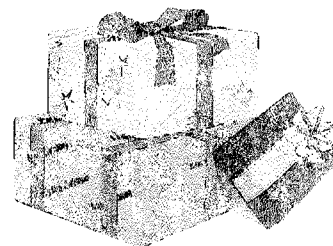
Wheellie Bin Day is Thursday - please also do your bit for the environment by re-cycling paper and cans / plastics using the baskets provided by AVDC. These are collected every other Thursday, beginning 14th September.

BOOK THESE DATES

Sunday 8th October
**Harvest Festival plus
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 Old Masters 7.00 pm.**



Saturday 2nd December
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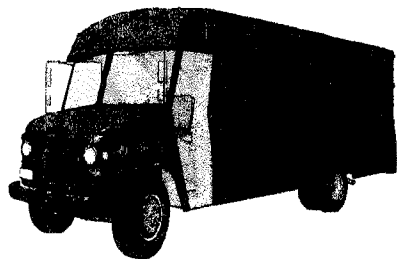


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The Mobile Library visits the village on alternate Tuesdays. The dates are always shown in the Chronicle 'What's On' section but here are a reminder of the times:

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

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|------------------|------------|-------------|---|-------------|------------|
| £150 | £280 | £330 | £ 520 | £330 | £200 |

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IN THE VILLAGE 8.

1st Wingrave Guides

There is always so much to do and never enough evenings during the summer term. Even so the Guides have managed to fit in a wide variety of activities this term. There have been several sessions on campfire cooking and we were delighted to entertain members of the village at our open meeting during the Millennium week. Cups of tea were provided for the mature visitors and jam dampers were cooked by the young. We also enjoyed having our Florence Nightingale float in the parade.

As well as the evening meetings the Guides have also managed to fit in a weekend camp, a day canoeing on the Thames, a day sailing at Caldecott lake and an evening climbing at Green Park. We finished the term by inviting local Guide groups to our camp fire.

Next term is going to present some interesting challenges as there are major changes to the Guide programme in order to bring it up to date with the needs of the young today. We shall be working on the changes together within the unit.

If there is any girl in the village, aged 10,11 or 12 and not at present in Brownies, who would be interested in joining Guides please give me a ring.

Finally, best wishes to our three senior Guides who are planning and running their own patrol camp in September at Green Park.

Jane Muir 681513

1st Wingrave Scout Group (July Report)

Beavers

All of the Beavers who came along on Fete day had a lovely time, they looked super on their horses! It was nice for the Beavers and Cubs to join together for the Parade and helps to generate a feeling of belonging to the whole group. We also entered the WARGAS show, making space stations from junk modelling. All the boys really enjoyed making them, they worked hard and the models looked very good. Everyone is looking forward to the summer, we will welcome all the Beavers back after the school holidays. Hope you have a good time.

Cubs

We were very proud of our Cubs at the parade, they looked wonderful in their Dragon and all the Cubs had a chance to be inside. St George and his fair lady really looked the part too! Well done everyone. We have had a successful end to the term and have awarded Artist and Crafts badges to all the Cubs. Our last two meetings were partly spent printing T-Shirts with a design to follow our deserted island theme for this summers camp. We are off on 24th July to Milton Bryon, which should be great fun and the Cubs will have the chance to gain their campers badges. David Hedley was invested as a Cub, we welcome him to 1st Wingrave Scout Group and hope he enjoys his time with us. The WARGAS show was a great success and our Cubs entered the Pokemon made out of fruit and vegetables, they were very successful, coming 2nd and 3rd and a number of stars! Well done boys. Lets go for the trophy next year. We have a new helper, Kaa (Nikki Reeve) whom we are

delighted to welcome to the Pack. We have to take particular care of her until after the birth of little Kaa later this year.

Scouts

Earlier this month one of the Patrols took part in a Patrol camp, designed to let the boys have much more responsibility for their own camp. They worked hard in organising and preparing for the camp, circumstances during the camp tested the boys, who will have come away with a greater understanding of what is involved over the whole camp. Mid July saw most of the Troop off to Wales for a non-stop action weekend, including Horse Riding, Swimming and Canoeing! Luckily the weather held for them and they were able to carry out the full programme. The new Duck House is now fully complete and is ready to be floated (?) on the pond.

Replacement Scout Hut

Since breaking up for the summer holiday, we have been fortunate to obtain a replacement building for our Scout Hut. The specifications of the building are excellent and we are certain the building will be a superb meeting place for the Group.

Details of Building:

The building is a modern modular unit and had been in place at Margate Hospital for approximately 10 years as a patient recovery ward. Inside, the building is fully finished with insulated ceilings, walls and floors and is finished to hospital grade standards including fireproof requirements. There is complete mains outlet trunking and electrical sockets, overhead lighting, hot water radiators, full interior plasterboard and vinyl flooring.

Status:

The old hut has been completely cleared and our equipment is in storage. The contractor responsible for erecting the new building will dismantle the hut. The new building is presently in storage and we are waiting for confirmation of the date of delivery etc. from the contractor. The work is likely to take approximately three days and we are hopeful of minimal, if any, disruption to our meetings.

It is possible that by the time this goes to press it will be fait accompli!

Much work has been done over the last few years in our efforts to secure a better Scout Hut. Sue Ascott (assisted by Mick Jeffery) has tackled our Lottery application, sadly unsuccessfully. Many other avenues have also been investigated, a time consuming process which has proved disappointing. Our very grateful thanks go to Keith Macmahon who found the new hut and negotiated the deal, to Andy Hall who helped with the Planning Application and to Jeff Pollard who has co-ordinated the final details. Many other people have also helped - I won't mention names so I don't leave anyone out. Of course to make things challenging, we had to decide and organise everything within a week, at a time when many of the committee were trying to prepare for their own holidays!

Julia Ellis

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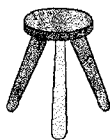


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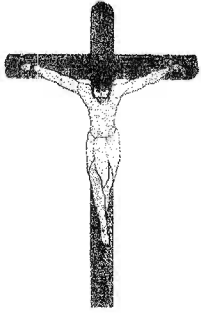
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RECTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2000

Some time ago I was chatting to a visitor in Wingrave Church. He was, he told me an organ builder, and he told me a story which I have little doubt is true.

Because a new Shopping Precinct was to be built in the town centre, the local Baptist

Church that we both knew needed to relocate. It decided that, since music was very important to its life, it would take its organ to its new premises.

This was a very costly exercise, as the organ had to be dismantled, overhauled and transported before it could be rebuilt into the new building. The opportunity was also taken to add one or two refinements to the instrument.

Everything went very well and everyone was very pleased. Then, after a couple of years it was decided that the music needed to be a bit more lively – and some of the new songs that they wanted to sing did not really work very well with an organ accompaniment. So they started a small Music Group to accompany the new songs. As time went on they sang more new songs and less old ones, until, eventually they stopped using the organ altogether.

A change that they had not expected had happened, and they realised that they had made rather an expensive mistake in trying to cling on to something that belonged to their past.

September is the month when the children go back to School. It reminds us that there are always new horizons for us to explore, new things for us to learn.

As children at school we are led through various areas. We learn how to read and to write. We learn how to apply the basic rules of mathematics. We learn more about the world in which we live, and how things and people relate to each other. We learn how to evaluate information and how to solve problems, and so on. Yet there are still times when we are confused and cannot see the wood for the trees. The way ahead is often shrouded in mist and uncertainty.

We need to learn that there is a difference between the rather humdrum hand- to-mouth existence that characterises much of our life and the ability to take advantage of all the opportunities that present themselves to us. It is fairly easy to make a five-year plan on the basis that things will remain fairly constant, it is far more challenging to try to guess what will have changed over that period and to devise a plan that will allow for some of the possible changes.

Two ideas that we have to work with are:

- a) The cycle of nature continues
- b) History never repeats itself.

We have to work out the relationship between the circle and the straight line and whether we want to hold back or hang on!

Bob Willmott

JOTTINGS FROM THE CHALK FACE

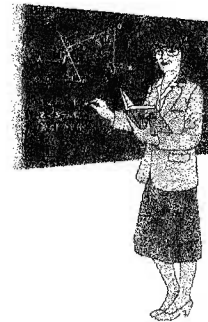
Many of you will be aware that the Government is now providing teachers at the top of their pay range with the opportunity to earn a further £2,000 per year. To qualify for this additional payment they have to provide evidence to their Head Teacher and an external assessor to prove that they had a direct effect in raising the level of attainment of the children that they teach.

The whole process is called Threshold Assessment and teachers may or may not choose to try to go through the threshold this year. Most, I suspect, will try, as there is a potential £2,000 to gain and nothing to lose.

However, there is much about the whole business that troubles me. A teacher applying to go through the threshold must satisfy the Head and the External Assessor that they have achieved the required degree of competence in five key areas. These are Knowledge and Understanding, Teaching and Assessment, Pupil Progress, Wider Professional Effectiveness and Professional Characteristics.

Now I hope and expect my teachers to be rather more than just good classroom practitioners. I expect them to be involved in running an extra curricular activity, provide help and support for a much valued School Association and show at least some interest in the

community life of the village.



None of these areas are addressed when a teacher applies to go through the threshold as the whole emphasis is on raising standards in the classroom. Teachers receive no financial reward for their contribution to any of the wider aspects of the school as outlined but they will reap a reward if children in

Too much emphasis on the classroom?

the classroom achieve progressively higher levels of attainment.

Understandably teachers will focus even more of their energy on what they do in the classroom and will feel that time spent at the School Association Disco could be more profitably spent analysing test marks and grades and preparing lessons.

The teacher will teach and that's it. Little else will be required or expected of a teacher. Perhaps this is the way forward. It leaves me feeling distinctly uneasy

Baird McClellan

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CHURCH SERVICES

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3rd Sep | 10.00 Wingrave | Three Parish Communion |
| 10th | 08.45 Cublington | Parish Communion |
| | 10.00 Wingrave | Parish Communion |
| | 11.15 Aston Abbots | Parish Communion |
| 13th | 10.00 Aston Abbots | Franciscan Service |
| 17th | 08.00 Wingrave | Prayer Book Communion |
| | 10.00 Cublington | Family Eucharist |
| | 10.00 Wingrave | Family Service at Methodist Church |
| | 11.15 Aston Abbots | Parish Communion |
| 20th | 10.00 Rowsham | Franciscan Service |
| 24th | 08.45 Cublington | Parish Communion |
| | 10.00 Wingrave | Parish Communion (Harvest) |
| | 11.15 Aston Abbots | Parish Communion |
| 27th | 10.00 Wingrave | Franciscan Service |
| 1st October | 10.00 Cublington | Family Service (Harvest) |
| | 10.00 Wingrave | Parish Communion |
| | 11.15 Aston Abbots | Morning Service |
| | 18.00 Cublington | Evensong |

SUNDAY READINGS

| | | |
|----------|------------|--|
| 3rd Sept | Trinity 11 | James 1.17-27; Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23 |
| 10th | Trinity 12 | James 2.1-10,14-17; Mark 7.24-37 |
| 17th | Trinity 13 | James 3.1-12; Mark 8.27-38 |
| 24th | Trinity 14 | James 3.13-4.3,7-8; Mark 9.30-37 |
| 1st Oct | Trinity 15 | James 5.13-20; Mark 9.38-50 |

FROM THE REGISTERS

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| Holy Baptism | 25th June | Zoe Williams at Aston Abbots |
| | 16th July | Edward Harding at Wingrave |
| | 30 th July | Ioni & Yvonne Wiggins at Wingrave |
| | 20th Aug | Benjamin Watson at Wingrave |
| Marriage | 22nd July | Steven Rolfe & Tracy Slade at Aston Abbots |
| Funerals | 26th June | Jane Higgs at Cublington |
| | 11th Aug | Robert Roger at Cublington |

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Rev Bob Willmott | 681623 |
| Gordon Kemp | 681763 |
| Shirley Ford | 681865 |
| Ann Goodman | 681763 |
| Andrew Ford | 681865 |

IN THE VILLAGE 8 - COMMUNITY ISSUES

NEWS ABOUT VALE VOLUNTEERS

Some people reading this article will be rushed off their feet, struggling to find time to meet the demands of job, family and housework. Others will have time on their hands, perhaps because the children have left home, or because they are no longer working, or if they are one of the ever increasing number of people who live alone,

Sitting watching daytime TV is fine for some, but for most it can become mind numbingly tedious - and there are alternatives! Across Aylesbury Vale there are hundreds of charities and voluntary groups which are desperate to find additional helpers, and there are quite a number of possibilities in all but the smallest hamlets.

Many primary schools are keen to find volunteers to help with the literacy and numeracy initiatives, or with craft lessons or in the garden area- The Scout and Guide movements need leaders and committee members- Age Concern Buckinghamshire is looking for many more volunteer visitors in the villages, and drivers to deliver lunches to house bound residents are also needed.

Vale Volunteers is the local agency which supports and promotes volunteering. They can send you details of what's available in your village, and, without obligation, can help you to find an enjoyable and worthwhile way of filling as much time as you wish- There is no upper age limit to volunteering, and most group- will pay expenses and offer training and support. You'll meet new people, learn new skills and gain self-confidence and self-esteem.

To find out more get in touch with Vale Volunteers on 01296 337456, email on valevols@bucksnet.co.uk or call into the office at Chiltern House, Oxford Road, Aylesbury.

Time is just too precious to waste on Jerry Springer!

St John Ambulance New sitting service

With the aid of a grant St John have set up a new sitting service providing short term respite care, daytime or evening to enable a carer to have a few hours break away from a caring role.

A carer can be anyone who devotes a considerable amount of their time caring for someone, they do not need to be related or live in the same house, there is no age limit. Our sitters are all required to undertake training so they are equipped to deal with emergencies as well as provide general care whilst they are with their client. They are paid from the grant, but there is no charge to the client or carer for this service.

Prospective clients and carers will be visited by the co-ordinator to assess the level of service required and to complete a care package form. Any information is in complete confidence and does not affect any supplementary care or benefits the carer or client may receive.

If you are a carer and have an engagement you would like to keep, or want to go out to the shops, or just need some time to yourself, why not give me a call to discuss the possibilities.

Chrissie Rawlings co-ordinator Tel 01296 336484

HELP FOR PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM STRESS

Life in the Country is not Always a Bed of Roses - in rural areas people do not have access to facilities people in towns take for granted like shops and frequent public transport. This lack of facilities in rural areas is leaving vulnerable people like the elderly and those reliant on public transport increasingly isolated.

In recognition of this problem the Buckinghamshire Rural Stress group has developed an advice card that contains contact telephone numbers of organisations who are able to offer practical help and advice to people suffering from stress and isolation.

These cards along with posters have been sent to all parish councils (ask your parish council where they have placed these cards)- If you know of someone who may need a little help please pick up a card for them.

FARMERS MARKETS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

In recent years the food we eat has become the focus of increasing concern. Locally produced food is important in that it can help support the rural economy and at the same time give people easy access to good quality local produce. Farmers markets are one way in which local producers can sell their produce direct to the consumer. The recent successes of the Thame, Leighton Buzzard and Bicester Farmers Markets in neighbouring counties have focused the attention of local food producers in Buckinghamshire. Farmers Markets have now been established in the following areas. If you would like to sell your produce through a farmers market please contact the people below.

- **Aylesbury** Telephone Aylesbury Vale District Council 01296 585 858 for details of next market
- **Buckingham** 1st Tuesday of each month Contact Buckingham Town Council 01280 816426
- **Wycombe** 3rd Tuesday of each month. Wycombe District Council has offered stalls to local farmers and crafts people to sell their produce as part of the general market. Contact Chris Mansfield Wycombe District Council 01494 461000
- **Milton Keynes** Every Sunday Contact Darren Roe 01908 678940
- **Cbesbam** Contact Chiltern District Council for details of next market 01494 729 000
- **Tbame** 2nd Tuesday of each month Contact Laura Davis South Oxfordshire DC 01491 823497
- **Henley** Contact Laura Davis South Oxfordshire DC 01491 823497.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FARMERS BY BUYING THEIR PRODUCE DIRECT - VISIT THE FARM SHOPS OR THE FARMERS MARKETS

IN THE VILLAGE 9.

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Unofficial Minutes Of Meeting Held In The Church Room On Wednesday 21st June 2000

To Approve Minutes of Meeting Held On Wednesday 17th May And Matters Arising:

- Tug-o-war rope - this has been purchased. Thanks were recorded to AVDC for their grant of £50 towards the cost.
- Road sign on the Green - the Clerk reported that a company has been found who could repair/refurbish the sign. Agreed to approach our insurance company.

County Council And District Council Matters

- D/Cllr Cooper reported that Wingrave Park now has the 'go-ahead' from the Sports Council. There will be an all weather surface / tennis courts as well as the pavilion.

Planning

- Land at Oxleys Farm, Aylesbury Road, Aston Abbots. Installation of telecommunications equipment including a 15m steel pole with dish. **The P.C. had no comments to make on this proposal.**

Highways

- Aylesbury Vale Local Committee - the merits of attending this new committee, which has replaced the Highways Consultative Committee, were discussed.
- Verges - resolved to write to BCC regarding the dreadful state of the verges outside the village.

Recreation Ground

- Proposed purchase of ride-on mower - this was agreed in principle. Cllr Sansome will follow up certain aspects (eg storage, second quote).
- It was noted that there is graffiti on the slide.
- Grass mowing - this is not being done satisfactorily. Resolved to speak to our contractors.

Reports

- Gardens Open - concern was expressed that no-one seems to know where the profit was to go.
- Parking - re refuse collection - Refuse was not collected from several houses on The Green due to inconsiderate parking which made access impossible for the bin men.

(DATE OF NEXT MEETING)

(Wednesday July 26th - NOT August 2nd as previously agreed).

(Everyone is welcome to come along.)

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Unofficial Minutes Of Meeting Held In The Church Room On Wednesday 26th July

To Approve Minutes Of Meeting Held On Wednesday 17th May And Matters Arising

- Proposed purchase of ride-on mower - agreed in principle, but further quotes not yet obtained. Will be put on agenda for next meeting.
- Mowing of Recreation Ground - contractors have been contacted re quality of mowing.

Planning

- Land at Oxleys Farm, Aylesbury Road, Aston Abbots. Installation of telecommunications equipment including a 15m steel pole with dish. **APPROVED**
- 00100287/APP, 00100362/APP, 00100364/APP - Badgers Oak Farm. **REFUSAL**

Highways

- A letter from Wingrave P.C. regarding the proposed Wing by-pass was read out. Resolved to write to BCC requesting full consultation with all parishes affected by the proposed development.
- Now that so much extra traffic is using the Cublington Road, it was decided to approach Highways regarding the poor state of repair of the road.

Comments From The Floor

- It was noted that there is an uncovered inspection hatch in Moat Lane which constitutes a hazard.

Accounts

- Presentation of accounts for Y/E March 2000 - resolved to accept the accounts as presented by the Clerk.

Correspondence

- A letter regarding the consultation process undertaken by Luton Airport was read out.
- A discussion took place about the effectiveness of road signs on speeding motorists.

Reports

- The swing in the children's play area has not been replaced.
- Cllr Manning gave a brief update on progress with the Church Room extension.

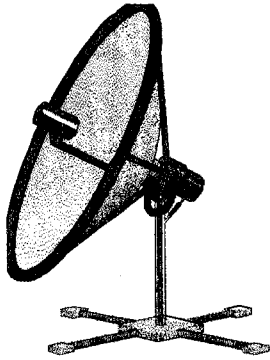
DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13th September 2000 at 8pm in the Church Room.

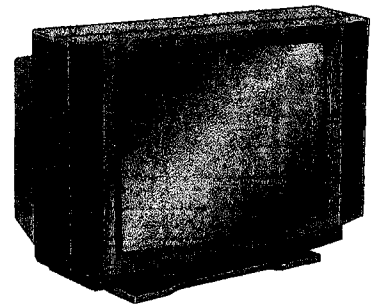
Everyone is welcome to come along.

FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS

OF CHURCH FARM, ASTON ABBOTTS

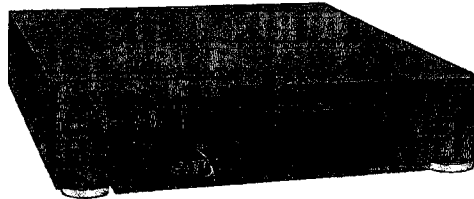


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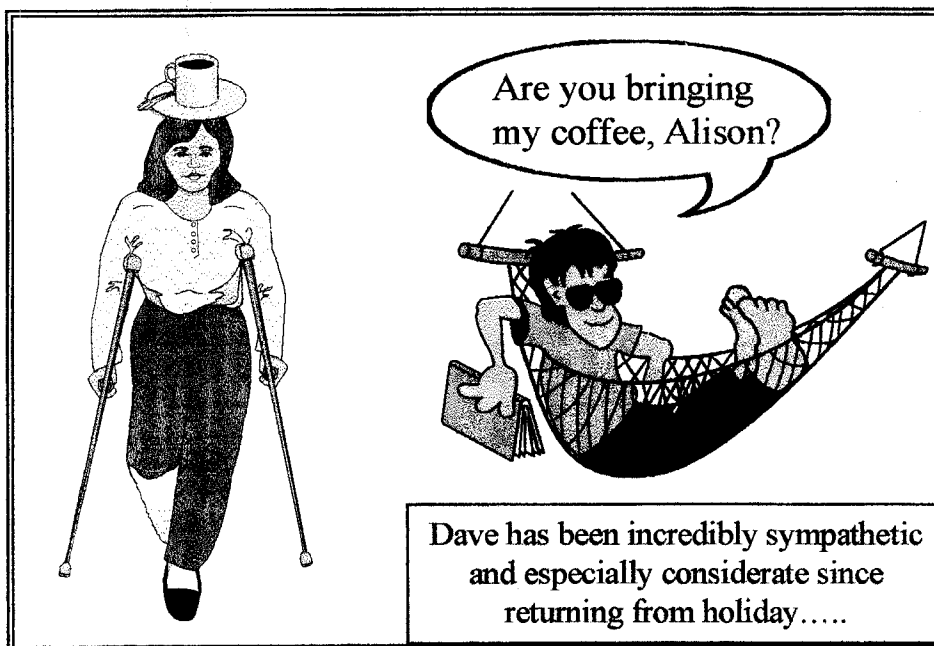
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