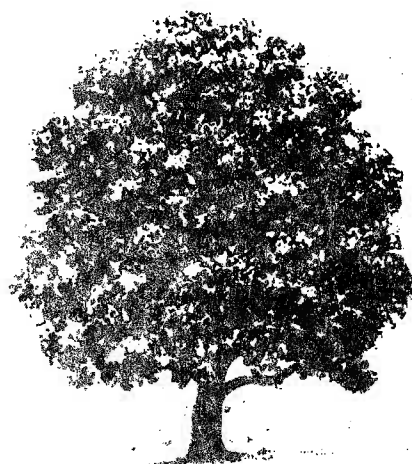


# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



Aston Abbotts

WINS

GURNEY CUP

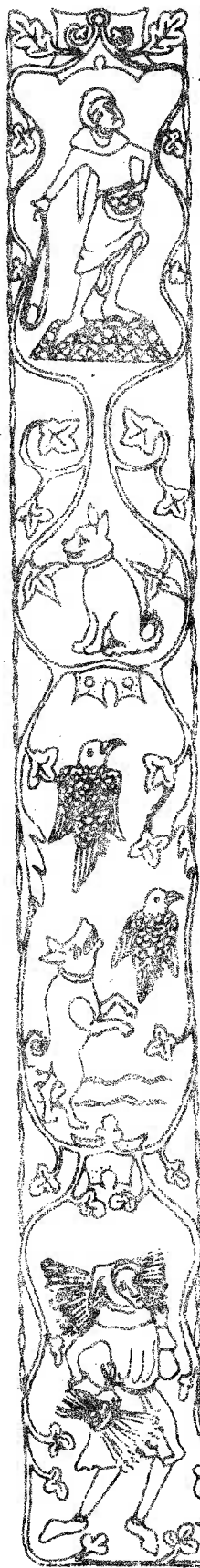
## BEST KEPT VILLAGE

ASTON Abbots is the winner of the Gurney Cup for the best kept village in Bucks with a population under 500.

It was picked from a total of 20 entries in this section of an annual competition run by the Bucks Association of Local Councils.

And Little Missenden collects the Chepping Wycombe Trophy for keeping the most tidy allotments with 20 or fewer tenants.

August '84 No. 12.



# Editorial



## A fitting tribute

Aston Abbotts success in the Best Kept Village competition is a fitting tribute to the people who have tended gardens, clipped hedges and mown grass throughout this and past summers. There are those amongst us who have felt the village to be an unrivalled example of well kept English charm for many years and that official recognition was long overdue, but we are, as our American friends would say 'a little partial'. Details of the results and the judges marking sheet are included in this issue, which also marks the end of THE CHRONICLE's first year in print.

My thanks to everybody for there support and especially to all our regular contributors - Bucket O'Booze returns this month to take his own unique look at the Parish Council - but we do need more. Anything will be welcome - how about tales from your summer; be it spent at home or abroad? If nothing is forthcoming I will be forced to bore you into submission by relating tales of my summers adventures!

*Graham Parker.*

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### SEPTEMBER ISSUE

#### FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE.

The September issue will not appear until the 8th. or 9th. of the month. If you have any material please just drop it through the door as usual.

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Published by Graham Parker for Aston Abbotts Parish Council.

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# Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils

6th July, 1984

## P R E S S            R E L E A S E

### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 1984

#### W I N N E R S

GURNEY CUP                      (Under 500 population)

ASTON ABBOTTS

MORRIS CUP                      (501 - 1500)

\* HEDGERLEY

De FRAINE CUP                      (1501 - 3000)

WOBBURN SANDS

MICHAELIS CUP                      (Over 3,000)

HOLMER GREEN

#### ALLOTMENT TROPHIES :

DASHWOOD TROPHY (Allotment Gardens with 21 or more tenants)

TYLERS GREEN

CHEPPING WYCOMBE (Allotment Gardens with 20 or fewer tenants)  
TROPHY

LITTLE MISSENDEN

- \* The WILKINSON SWORD OF EXCELLENCE for the village gaining the highest marks in the final judging is awarded to

HEDGERLEY.

-----  
Mr R.C. Pushman (Chairman of the Association)

Miss M. Lowe

The Judges were : Mrs M. Martin

Mr G.E. Schoon (County Planning Officer)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION - 1984

ASTON ABBOTTS

JUDGES MARKING SHEET

*Final*

Name of Village \_\_\_\_\_

Competition Class GURNEY CUP

Feature	Max. Marks.	Marks awarded	Remarks as to why marks were deducted. (Please continue overleaf if necessary)
1. The appearance and condition of the places of worship and public buildings, schools, war memorial, village centre, village hall or other community meeting place, churchyard and/or cemetery, playing field, bus shelter, common.	30	29	Excellent.
2. The neatness of appearance of dwelling-houses, workshops and factory premises, shops and inns, tidiness of flower and vegetable gardens, allotment gardens, and neat appearance of outhouses, yards and sheds.	20	19	"
3. General condition of hedges, trees, fences and walls adjacent to and surrounding buildings and gardens, the cleanliness of verges, ditches, ponds and streams.	20	19	"
4. Appearance of signboards and noticeboards, taste and restraint shown in advertisement displays.	5	5	"
5. Bonus marks for general appearance of the village, with special attention to absence of litter.	25	25	"

Date 4th July 1984

Signatures of  
Judges.

97

*[Signature]*  
M. E. Lowe  
*[Signature]*  
E. L. L. L.

# ASTON ABBOTTS

## FESTIVAL

# Saturday 21st JULY

### PROGRAMME

#### 2.00 THE GREEN

Opening by Don Bellingham

#### Sideshows

Brantub	Old Farming Implements
Bric-a-brac	Books
Cakes	Skittles
Garden	Spinning Wheel
Groceries	Tombola
Handicraft	Treasure Hunt

Amersham Brass Band

#### 3.00 THE RECREATION GROUND

Inter-Village Super Teams Competition

Aston Abbots	Wingrave
Cublington	Haydon Hill
Grendon Underwood	Stewkley

4.45

MICROLIGHT AIRCRAFT DISPLAY

5.00      THE GREEN

Sideshows  
Amersham Brass Band  
Stanbridge & Tilsworth  
Childrens Folk Dance Club

5.30                      Grand Draw

6.00      THE ROYAL OAK

Barbeque

NOTE   Available all day, just off The Green

Church Room	-	Refreshments and Teas
Methodist Chapel	-	Floral Display
St.James' Church	-	Flower Festival

---

## DARTS.

Overcoming a dreadful start to the season, THE ROYAL OAK darts team finished a creditable fourth in the darts league.

The form shown since Christmas had been cosistently good but the loss of the first six games way back in September proved too great a hurdle to overcome.

The Pub Championships have also been played and the winners of the Men's Doubles were Dave and Lawrence Hinds. In the final they beat Terry Doel and John Whyte by three legs to one. The Men's Singles winner was Brian Lawton who beat Terry Doel in a very close match. The Mixed Doubles Cup was again a victory for the Hinds family with Dave and Jo Hinds beating John and Deirdre Whyte, again the score was 3 - 1.

On League Finals Night at Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club the play-off for the League title between The Unicorn, Cublington and The Rose and Crown, Wingrave ended with The Unicorn coming out on top. The final was not without controversy however, as one or two of the Unicorn team seemed to be new faces .... a cause of comment throughout the evening!

Here's looking forward to next season .... cheers .... from your sober sports reporter DOUBLE SCOTCH.

---

**And  
now for  
something  
completely  
different...**

## **BUCKET O'BOOZE on the Parish Council**

Never before have I witnessed such a gathering. The Chairman, Jock Blight, spoke with a very strange accent, a cross between Scottish and Birmingham with the odd bit of Bucks thrown in, and proved totally incomprehensible.

I was sure that I couldn't possibly have been the only one unable to understand him and judging by the notice the other councillors took of him, I believe it was the language problem rather than rudeness that caused them to ignore the Chairman's ramblings.

Mind you this whole council seems composed of a very rum lot. There was one wearing glasses, named Crazy Forker, who kept wittering on about conservation areas and how important it was in these conservation areas to have select Italian restaurants. This I didn't understand until after the meeting when I heard someone order four tons of pasta from him. Could this be a little sideline he has going?

Another, who had a "Zapata" moustache, and is I gather named Des Miff, kept a very low profile until the question of chevrons being put, by the County Council, on a bend leading to Lines Hill, was mentioned. An absolute tirade followed from Mr. Miff, making the same point over and over again .. that chevrons were the life blood of Lines Hill and should be given reverence in the scheme of village life.



Is this Crazy Forker?

At this point the Clerk, Daffid Blotts, seemed to fall asleep, along with most of the audience, and I must confess that for about half an hour I too had dropped off. When I awoke Mr. Miff was still rambling on and it was only the desperate action of another councillor in smacking Miff on the chin that brought the meeting back to order.

The councillor who had taken these desperate measures had some very important matters to raise. This chap has taken over the role of a previous Parish councillor, a Mrs Margaret Bent, as the controller of blackberry bushes and holly hedges in the village. Mrs. Bent was famous for her denigration of British Telecom for their failure to control the growth of their blackberry bushes by the village telephone box, and her standard is now being carried by Councillor Corrin Cigs.

Cigs brought the meeting to life with a catalogue of matters, including pot holes and failed light bulbs, that needed immediate attention. His flair for detail was much admired.

Missing from this particular meeting was Councillor Neater Times. Apparently he had had to forego attending due to another pressing engagement. Could it be though that Councillor Times had got wind of my attendance at this meeting and decided that, as an election for Parish Councillors was due within

the next three years, he felt it prudent to stay away to safeguard his chance of re-election. Further enquiries will be made in case my security system has been infiltrated.

This now only leaves me with the Clerk, briefly mentioned earlier. Mr. Blotts seemed to hold sway over the whole proceedings. The fact that he was the man holding the cheque book may have had something to do with this, and I must admit that until I attended this meeting I did not realise that the expenses of running the Parish Council were so high.

Mr. Blotts issued cheques without question to cover Councillor Slight's Barclaycard bill, Councillor Porker's paper bill, Councillor Cigs hairdressing bill, Councillor Times petrol bill and Councillor Miff's doctors bill. Obviously all these items had been incurred solely on Parish Council business but I must admit my eyebrows raised ever so slightly when Mr. Blotts fine for overdue library books was also paid.

All in all an interesting and entertaining evening held before a disappointingly small audience. Can I recommend you give it a try next time? Entertainment of this standard is rarely available and in this case its free as well !

---

## **Book of the Month** **travel books** **for the summer.**

The excitement and exhilaration of travel has been a life long addiction, and when unable to be directly involved the addiction can be partially satiated by a liberal intake of travel books.

At the moment we are fortunate in having a resurgence in the art of travel writing as well as the excellent reprints of the eighteenth century travellers being published by Time Life books. Amongst the modern authors Paul Theroux ranks high. His beautifully written railway journeys are full of fun and adventure, evoking vivid impressions of peoples and places from central Russia to southern Argentina.

While Theroux is a writer passing through

and commentating on the world he sees, the work of Shiva Naipaul lifts the travel book onto another level. His African Journey "North of South" is the work of a man who can empathise with the experiences of the people he meets. Naipaul's travels through Kenya Tanzania and Zambia is a travel documentary, exposing the desperate contradictions and bitter tensions that afflict countries in search of their future. Written at times with a brutal simplicity, Naipaul can be sad and funny, optimistic and cynical on alternate pages, but nobody who reads this book will doubt that it is the work of a rare talent.

The Great Railway Bazaar by Paul Theroux (Penguin £1.95)

The Old Patagonian Express by Paul Theroux (Penguin £1.95)

North of South by Shiva Naipaul (Penguin £1.95)





# The Estone Chronicles

## "ASTON ABBOTTS MEMORABILIA"

This page is reserved for memorabilia, things worth remembering, about Aston Abbots. If you have any stories from yesteryear; of life in Aston when the Abbey flourished; any childhood memories or old newspaper cuttings; tales of village characters or an unresolved mystery, that's just what we need for the ESTONE CHRONICLES.

This month an extract from KELLY'S DIRECTORY for 1925 - at least I think its 1925. In my haste to take a copy while the book was available I carelessly forgot to make a note of the date. Nevertheless I trust it will be of interest.

**ASTON ABBOTS** (or Abbots Aston) is a small village and parish 3½ miles north-west from Marston Gate station on the Aylesbury and Cheddington branch of the London, Midland and Scottish railway and 5½ north-east from Aylesbury, in the Aylesbury division of the county, union and county court district of Aylesbury, hundred of Cottesloe, petty sessional division of Linslade, rural deanery of Mursley, archdeaconry of Buckingham, formerly a peculiar of the Bishop of London, but now transferred to the diocese of Oxford. This place derives its suffix of "Abbots" from the fact that the manor belonged to the Abbey of St. Albans, the abbots of which religious house had a country seat here. The church of St. James is a small building of stone, chiefly of the Decorated period, consisting of chancel, nave, south porch and a western embattled tower with square turret, containing 5 bells and a chiming clock striking the quarters: there is a good piscina in the south wall of the chancel: the south doorway is Early English: in 1890 an organ chamber was built, and an organ added at a cost of £200: the oak screen was erected in 1911 in memory of Mrs. Martyn, wife of a former vicar: the stained east window is a memorial to Rear-Admiral Sir James Clarke Ross Kt. d. 1862, and Lady Ross, d. 1857, both of whom were buried in the churchyard, and there are also windows in memory of Mrs. Hart and Mrs. Martyn: the church was restored and partly rebuilt in 1865-6, at a cost of about £1,230, under the superintendence of G. F. Street esq. B.A.: the tower, which is the only portion of the old church now standing, is of the 14th century, the remainder being of the 15th century: there is an ancient oak chest containing the registers and parish documents: the church furniture was presented by Mrs. Thornton and family from the proceeds of private sales of their own work: there is a cross of grey Cornish granite at the entrance to the churchyard, erected as a memorial to the men connected with this parish who lost their lives in the Great War,

1914-18: there are 140 sittings. The register dates from the year 1559. The living is a vicarage, annexed to that of Cublington, joint net yearly value £400, with residence, in the gift of the Rector and fellows of Lincoln College, Oxford, who have two turns, and the Overstone Trust, which has one turn, and held since 1922 by the Rev. John Escu Pugh B.A. of St. David's College, Lampeter and Lincoln College, Oxford. The Congregational chapel, erected in 1839, will seat 200; the Primitive Methodist chapel, erected in 1862, seats 50, and has a Sunday school attached. A Church Room was erected in 1898, and is used for parochial purposes. The Abbey, the property of Mrs. Spencer, is a mansion of brick and stone, and was anciently a seat of the abbots of St. Albans; it stands pleasantly overlooking the town and vale of Aylesbury, and in the grounds is a sheet of water: it is now the residence of Major Thomas Henry Sebag-Montefiore D.S.O., M.C. Aston is a meeting place for the Whaddon Chase hounds. The land is in the possession of several owners, and practically all the farmers own their farms. The soil is sand and gravel; subsoil, sand. The land is principally in pasture, but wheat is grown. The area is 2,198 acres; rateable value, £3,304; the population in 1911 was 312.

**BURSTON** (or Birdstane), called in Domesday Book "Bristock," and about 1 mile south-west, is in this parish. Major Lionel Nathan de Rothschild O.B.E., J.P. is the sole landowner.

Post & T. Office.—Samuel Thompson, sub-postmaster. Letters through Aylesbury. Wingrave, 1½ miles distant, is the nearest money order & telegraph office. Elementary School (mixed), built in 1874, & enlarged 1895, for 120 children; children of Cublington attend the school here; Miss Kathleen Howell, mistress; Miss Constance Robertson, infants' mistress. Carriers.—Kent, to Aylesbury, daily; Smith, to Aylesbury, wed. & sat. & to Leighton, Tues.

### PRIVATE RESIDENTS.

(Marked thus \* receive letters via Weedon.)

Beak Miss, The Firs  
Farmer Henry John, Aston house  
Fugh Rev. John Escu B.A. (vicar),  
Vicarage  
Sebag-Montefiore Major Thos. Henry  
D.S.O., M.C., R.F.A. The Abbey  
Spencer Mrs. The Abbey cottage  
Steel Mrs. The Firs

### COMMERCIAL.

Brandon Harry, blacksmith.  
\*Denchfield William Henry, farmer,  
Lower Burston  
Elliott & Son, farmers, Oak, Oxley's  
& Waddings farms  
Gates Harry, farmer  
Harris George Hedley, farmer, Long  
Moor farm  
How Luke, cattle dealer  
How Mark, cattle dealer & farmer  
How Percy, smallholder, Red Barn

Humphreys Thos. Bull & Butcher P.H.  
Kent Mary Ann (Mrs.), Royal Oak  
P.H. & carrier  
\*Pargeter Victor, farmer, see Smith  
& Pargeter  
Roads Japh. Symons, farmer, Norduck  
Sinfield Arthur, shopkeeper  
\*Smith & Pargeter, farmers, Upper  
Burston  
Smith Sidney, carrier & dairyman  
Thompson Samuel & Sons, shop-  
keepers, Post office



From a wood engraving by Thomas Bewick.

## Ladies' Club

We had a splendid evening on the 5th. July when Mrs. Hunt from Yardley gave us a demonstration on how to make up. I think we all learned something from the advice she gave - perhaps we will not recognise each other when next we meet! She brought a variety of beauty aids with her and we were encouraged to experiment with them ourselves.

After the tea party at Mrs. Hill's house on 19th. July we shall have our summer break and meet again in September.

## UPDATE

### Restaurant plan for former school

**SCHOOL dinners will take on a fresh meaning following the opening of a new restaurant in Aston Abbotts.**

For the meals will be served in the classroom of the old village school, which ceased to be in educational use years ago and is currently a private residence.

Planning permission for the restaurant development

in Cublington Road was granted last week by Aylesbury Vale District Council.

The application was submitted by Mr. J. J. Gutierrez and car parking will be in the school playground.

The parish council is happy about the development providing it doesn't mushroom.

But 42 local residents

signed a petition objecting.

They pointed out that meals were already served in local pubs and claimed the restaurant would generate noise and traffic problems and was not in keeping with its rural surrounds.

Members of the planning committee restricted opening times to between 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays.

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Tel: Aston Abbotts 565



### Your Village Shop

## OSBORN'S THE GROCERS

'use it or lose it'

ADVERTISE IN THE CHRONICLE.

# CHURCH NEWS

This early edition enables a correction to be made to last months notes - there will not be a service in Aston Abbotts on Sunday July 29th., nor will there be one on Sunday August 19th. This, perhaps, gives us one more reason for filling the church to overflowing this Sunday 22nd. July for our Patronal Festival. Various residents have chosen the hymns for our



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

own Songs of Praise and will tell us in a few words why. Let us all be there and raise the roof. I am sure St. James would be pleased and so would a lot of other people. The church will be full of flowers let us make it full of people. It really is up to you who read this to respond, not with "It's ages since I've been to church whatever will people say", but rather "I know I ought to be there for several good reasons so I'll go along and support them". We are sure you won't regret it. In fact we are very much looking forward to seeing you there. Don't forget:

6.30 SUNDAY EVENING - SONGS OF PRAISE.

What a good way to round off a superb weekend.

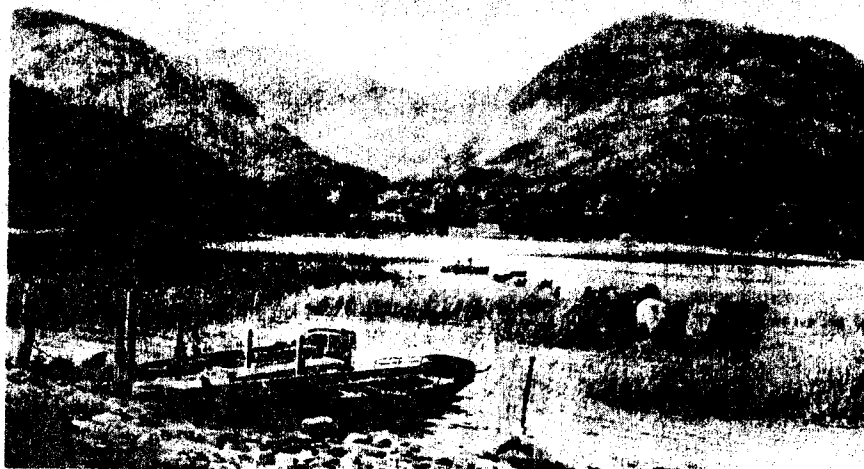
It is good isn't it to have won our section of the best kept village competition? Those of us who mow the churchyard are pleased to have helped but we are not an exclusive band holding our pleasure to ourselves, so if

anyone else would like a nice walk about once every two months being led by a friendly mower which moves under its own power and just needs a steer please let one of the Churchwardens know.

## SERVICES

			<u>Sidesmen</u> Churchwardens
July 22nd.	11.15 a.m.	PATRONAL FESTIVAL Family Service followed by Holy Communion. Readings : Ephesians 4(17-32): Mark 10 (46-52)	
	6.30 p.m.	SONGS OF PRAISE	Churchwardens
July 29th.		NO SERVICE.	
August 5th.	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion Readings : 1 Corinthians 12(4-13); Luke 6(27-38)	Mr. J. Ford.
August 12th.	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion Readings : 2 Corinthians 6(3-10): Mark 9(14-29)	Miss G. Ford.
August 19th.		NO SERVICE.	
August 26th.	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion Readings : Philippians 1(1-11): Matthew 20(1-16)	Mr. C. Higgs.
September 2nd.	11.15 a.m.	Family Service followed by Holy Communion. Readings : Micah 4(1-5): Matthew 5(13-16)	Mr. J. Ford.
September 9th.	11.15 a.m.	Holy Communion Readings : Jeremiah 20(7-11): Matthew 10(16-22).	Miss G. Ford.

# Peter Arnold



*'Bringing back stray cattle across the head of Ullswater'. Watercolour. Thomas Bushby (1861-1918). Signed, dated 1902, inscribed 'Ullswater'. 14ins. x 21ins.*

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