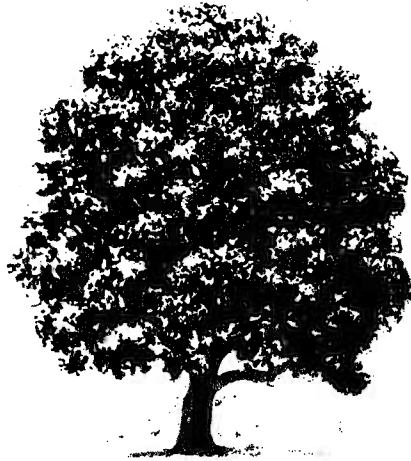


# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



*Inside:*

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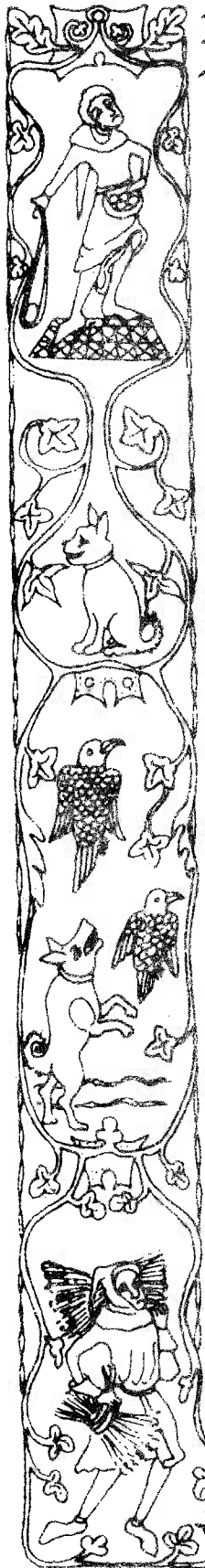
**The Estone Chronicles**

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**miscellany**

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October 1984

No. 14



## Editorial

The Parish Council was very pleased to meet Ivan Andrew, the new headmaster of Wing Secondary School at the recent Council meeting. Mr. Andrew was anxious that parents should feel free to contact him at school to discuss their child's progress, pass on any grumbles or air problems. "The school", he insisted, "is your school. If there is anyway in which you feel we can help, please do not hesitate to ask". Such an open, positive approach to community relations was most impressive. If you have not had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Andrew, and you have children at Wingrave School, why not go along to the School Associations A.G.M. next Wednesday (Oct. 3rd), when Mr. Andrew will be the guest speaker.

\*\*\*\*\*

My thanks to Mary-Helen Crafts for the forthcoming coffee morning and Craft Party which will include a raffle for the CHRONICLE - can I commend this to others!

\*\*\*\*\*

In the August editorial I threatened that if more articles were not forthcoming I would be forced to bore you into submission. The threat was obviously not taken seriously, hence the new free-wheeling essay section "INSIDE THE BACK PAGE" written by our new recruit "ABBOTTSBURY". If you have anything you would like to write about or express a view upon it can always appear under Abbotsbury's name. Your views on the miners strike or the Common Market; politics or education, in fact anything, would be much appreciated. Local issues like Council housing or conservation could be covered; an article on an interest or hobby - all would be welcome.

*Graham Parker.*

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### HOW TO PASS ON ARTICLES/INFORMATION FOR THE "CHRONICLE"

1. By telephone to Graham on Aston Abbots 325.
2. By dropping a note through his door - The Cloisters.
3. Use the box in the Village Shop.

### DEADLINE DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE

By the 20th. of October please.

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# NOTICEBOARD

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## Events for your diary:

Saturday, 29th. September : CUBS & SCOUTS JUMBLE SALE

2.30 p.m. at THE SCOUT HUT, CHILTERN ROAD, WINGRAVE. If you are unable to attend why not make a contribution? Please deliver Jumble to the Scout Hut on Friday evening (7 - 9 p.m.) or contact Betty Carter(456), Janet Arnold (568) or Roberta Smith (219) for collection.

Saturday, 6th. October : HARVEST SALE

8.00 p.m. at the Bull & Butcher - see Church Notes for further details.

Saturday, 13th. October : WING CRAFT FAIR

11.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. at Wing Secondary School. Admission 20p. Accompanied children free. Refreshments available. Over thirty stalls.

Sunday, 28th. October : FOOTPATH RAMBLE

Meet at The Green at 2.00 p.m.

Friday, 2nd. November : COFFEE MORNING & CRAFT PARTY

MARY - HELEN invite you to a Coffee morning and Craft Party at "White Wheels" on Friday 2nd. Nov. at 10.30 a.m. Coffee and biscuits 25p., and a raffle for CHRONICLE funds.

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## Tuesday Club

The first meeting of the TUESDAY CLUB, after the extended summer break, will be held in the Church Room on 9th. October at 8.00 p.m. We look forward to getting together with old and new members, to decide the future of the Club. There will be no charge for either entrance or refreshments at this meeting, and we shall have a raffle.

## Ladies Club

We have two meetings in October:

On the 11th. Mrs. Kettleborough is coming to us again. This time she will show us slides and talk about Saudi Arabia itself.

On the 25th. Mr. Lawrence is going to talk to us about the art of candlemaking. His products will be on sale afterwards - candles make good Christmas presents!

As we have mentioned before, all new members will be very welcome. All meetings are in the Church Room and begin at 2.45 p.m.

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## Advanced notice:

NOVEMBER 24th. WINGRAVE CUBS & SCOUTS BAZAAR

2.00 p.m. Wingrave Community Centre.

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**Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils**

## **PRESENTATION OF THE GURNEY CUP**

### **Proud of their village**



**ASTON Abbotts was proud to be presented with the Gurney Cup for the Best Kept Village with a population of under 500 on Saturday, and wanted to display it for all to see.**

So the Parish Council decided the cup should be displayed for six months each at the two village pubs, The Bull and Butcher and The Royal Oak.

The cup and a plaque were presented to chairman of the parish council Cllr. John Whyte, by chairman of the Bucks Association of Local Councils, Mr. Richard Pushman.

#### **PLAQUE**

The plaque will go on show in the Church Room.

The ceremony, watched by councillors and

other villagers, took place on the village green rather than the Church Room as planned, because it was such a pleasant afternoon.

Guests included the vice-chairman of Aylesbury Vale District Council, Cllr. E. R. McLean and Mrs. McLean, and chief executive, Mr. J. L. Guest, and other district and county councillors.

Mr. Pushman emphasised that the cup was for the best kept village

rather than the most beautiful.

"But we're lucky in that we've got both," said parish council clerk Mr. D. J. Watts.

Mr. Watts said that one of the reasons Aston Abbotts was awarded the cup was because it is so clean.

"We are fortunate in that we are not on a main road and everybody in the village co-operates with keeping it clean and tidy,

which is wonderful," he said.

Parish councillors take it in turns to mow and clip hedges and verges and Mr. Don Waite voluntarily mows the green. He was thanked by the council chairman on Saturday.

The final judging was done by Mr. R. Pushman; Cllr. Miss M. Lowe, former vice-chairman of the BALC; Mrs. M. Martin, The Chiltern Society and Mr. G. E. Schoon, county planning officer.

#### **LATE NEWS**

**ORDERS ARE STILL BEING TAKEN FOR THE CHURCH PLATES AND PICTURES**

**ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS : CONTACT DORIS SCUTCHINGS (A.A. 243).**

**FIRST BINGO : THURSDAY 25th. OCTOBER 8.00 p.m. CHURCH ROOM.**

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# UPDATE

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## OUR REGULAR NOTES ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

For the first time in my memory there were no parishioners at a Parish Council meeting. However we were pleased to meet and welcome the recently appointed Headmaster of Wing Secondary School, Mr. Ivan Andrew, and our County Councillor Reg Keen. Among the topics discussed at the meeting, held on 21st. of September were:

**STREET LIGHTING** - a replacement light for opposite the Bull & Butcher was awaited and instructions had been given, by the Council, for the installation of a bracket mounted lamp at The Green, between the Old Cottage Stores and the telephone kiosk.

**PLANNING APPLICATION** - outline planning permission had been approved by the District Council for three houses (the application had been for four) in Wingrave Road adjacent to the Royal Oak, subject to the conditions suggested by the Parish Council. The roof line of the three 'cottage style' dwellings would not be allowed to exceed in height either the Royal Oak or Oak Farm House. The site would have to be excavated to ensure that the slab level (top of the foundations) was also the same as the neighbouring properties. The hedge would be removed (to improve access vision), but must be 'replaced' further back. The District Council had attempted to support the Parish Councils wish to 'preserve the village atmosphere'.

**LINES HILL** - further grumbles from the Parish Council that, despite promises nothing had been done. Les Smith reported that three accidents had occurred over the last month or so and everyone was concerned that a serious injury was a real possibility. The Clerk was asked to write to the County Council expressing our concern and requesting action. County Councillor Reg Keen agreed to lend his weight to our request.

**SKIP** - a skip had arrived on the afternoon of the Parish Council meeting and had been filled in minutes! This was our one free skip that we are allowed for the year but it was recognised that we needed a more frequent visitation. The Council did not have the finances at the moment and it was suggested that the Festival committee be approached to fund a second skip.

**CONSERVATION** - the change of County planning officer was put forward as the reason for the delay in processing our application. The Clerk was asked to remind the new incumbent!

**COUNCIL HOUSING** - following a recent meeting of local Parish Council leaders the District Council had agreed that Parish Councils can now nominate people for Council housing through their District Councillor, but it must be appreciated that the detailed reasons for allocation could not be divulged as this always involved detailed family history.

**WINGRAVE ROAD** - Reg Keen assured the meeting that our long standing request to raise the kerbing along Wingrave Road and extend the footpath to New Zealand cottages, was on the list of work to be done, but the County had a huge backlog of such work and we could expect to wait 'some time' before the work is undertaken.

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*Next Parish Council Meeting:*

*Friday November 16th.*

*8pm. Church Room.*

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# 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.

Another extract from Kelly's Directory - not strictly Aston Abbots memorabilia but many of you may recognise familiar names from our near neighbours.

### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

**CUBLINGTON** is a village and parish on rising ground and commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country, 6 miles south-west from Leighton Buzzard and 7 miles south-east from Winslow station on the London, Midland and Scottish railway and 7 north-north-east from Aylesbury, in the Aylesbury division of the county, hundred of Cottesloe, petty sessional division of Linslade, union and county court district of Aylesbury, rural deanery of Mursley, archdeaconry of Buckingham and diocese of Oxford. The church of St. Nicholas is an edifice of stone in the Perpendicular style, consisting of chancel, nave, with west gallery, south porch and an embattled western tower containing 2 bells, and was partly restored in 1861: in the church is a copy of "Foxe's Book of Martyrs," which was formerly chained to the desk on which it was placed in 1568: the church, partly restored in 1861, was repaired externally and furnished with a new tiled roof during the year 1887, the cost being defrayed by public subscription; on the north wall is a marble tablet bearing the names of those men of the parish who lost their lives in the Great War, 1914-18: the church has 120 sittings. The register dates from the year 1556. The living is a vicarage, united to that of Aston Abbots, joint net yearly value £400, with residence, in the gift of the Rector and Fellows of Lincoln College, Oxford (a turn) and the Overstone Trust (one turn), and held

since 1922 by the Rev. John Esau Pugh B.A. of St. David's College, Lampeter, and Lincoln College, Oxford, who resides at Aston Abbots. The Wesleyan chapel, built in 1850, will seat 80 persons. J. Westcar esq. of the adjoining parish of Oreslow, by his will, dated 1832, left £500 in trust, the interest to be given away in clothes to the most necessitous and deserving poor, the distribution to be made by the resident clergyman and the occupier of Oreslow jointly. In a field at the west end of the village is the site of the ancient village and church, marked now by a large "moot-hill" and traces of foundations. Major Lionel Nathan de Rothschild O.B.E., M.P., J.P. is lord of the manor and chief landowner. The soil is loam; subsoil, clay. The land is chiefly pasture; some wheat, barley and oats are grown. The area is 1,223 acres; rateable value, £2,053; the population in 1911 was 178.

Sexton, William Kempster.

Post Office.—Mrs. Elizabeth Whitaker, sub-postmistress. Letters through Leighton Buzzard. Whitechurch, 3 miles distant, is the nearest money order & telegraph office.

The children attend Aston Abbots school, 1½ miles distant.

Conveyance.—A motor omnibus is run by J. Heley, from Stewkley, through to Aylesbury, on sat

Collins Thomas  
Ellis John Correll William, The Old Rectory

#### COMMERCIAL.

Marked thus ° farm 150 acres or over.  
° Biggs Joseph & Sons, farmers, Manor farm

Carter Albert, grazier  
Gibbs Fras. Josph. frmr. Old Manor fm  
Holes Albert, Unicorn inn  
Langley Arthur, baker  
Mortimer Charles Thomas, farmer

° Read Albert Ernest, farmer, Neales farm  
Stonhill William, smallholder  
Whitaker Elizabeth (Mrs.), shop-keeper, & post office

## LEAVE YOUR HOME IN SAFE HANDS

Homeminders will take care of your home, property and pets, while you're away.

■ Daily checks, routine chores, all part of a dependable, affordable keyholding service.

■ Ease the worries of going away with Homeminders!

6, Vicarage Lane, Wing,  
Leighton Buzzard,  
Beds., LU7 0NU Tel: Wing 546

## HOMEMINDERS

Yew Tree Cottage, Church Street,  
Wingrave,  
Aylesbury, Bucks.  
Tel: Aston Abbots 565



## Your Village Shop

**OSBORN'S**  
**THE GROCERS**  
**'use it or lose it'**

ADVERTISE IN THE CHRONICLE.

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# BOOK OF THE MONTH

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A chance to introduce you to the Kylin Press of Waddesdon. A small concern masterminded by Gerry Tomlinson, the Kylin Press has unearthed some publishing gems from little known authors whose books are always interesting and often very important contributions to the arts and sciences.

The two best selling titles reviewed below are available at £7.95 from Weatherheads in Aylesbury or direct from the publishers: The Kylin Press  
Darbonne House  
Waddesdon  
Buckinghamshire.



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## *Aylesbury Town Yesterdays*

The late HAYWARD PARROTT

THIS memorial tribute is an anthology which highlights many rare and unusual items of the town's roots. We read of the Battle of Aylesbury, the birth of the Aylesbury Protection Society and two of its M.P.'s — valiant libertarians familiar the world over. The first, John Hampden, flourished in the 17th Century and the second, John Wilkes, a hundred years later. A fine statue was unveiled to the former in 1912 in the market square, but unfortunately no memorial exists in Aylesbury to Wilkes.

DID YOU KNOW that Aylesbury was a well-known horse racing centre nearly 300 years ago? The post office even used a special post mark for telegrams from the course! Read about 'an interesting feat of horsemanship' and a Royal Visit to the town by Queen Victoria. Meet, perhaps for the first time, Thomas Dell — an early Aylesbury astronomer — characters long since gone like 'Peewit' and 'Pigeon', as well as the much loved personality, 'Ducky-Weston'.

LEARN ABOUT 'mine host' at the White Hart, the first factories, Old Aylesbury charities, the famous Aylesbury 'Duck', our well-known Clock and Watchmakers and the vanished local craft of basket making. Explore the fascinating history of the town's Market Square and of some of its early buildings: Agriculture House, Ceely House, St. Osyth's, the Corn Exchange, the Old George Hotel and the Bull. What about . . . but enough — it's all in AYLESBURY TOWN YESTERDAYS.

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## *Aylesbury Vale Yesterdays*

The late HAYWARD PARROTT

WRITTEN in the form of a miscellany of articles about aspects of Buckinghamshire life, the Author's keen observation highlights dozens of little-known facts about the Vale's past. He takes us back into the 16th Century, with fascinating glimpses of personalities; from John Hampden to little known 'Characters' like the Reverend John Mason of Water Stratford, a religious zealot who had visions of the destruction of the world and John Camden Neild, the miser who begrudged pennies but left £250,000 to Queen Victoria, who graciously multiplied by ten his other legacies, which were mean. We meet the Dinton Hermit, and Corbet, the murderer from Tring who foolishly left his pet dog shut in with the corpse of his victim, thus ending on the gallows where his remains were left hanging on a gibbet in Bierton for twenty years.

WE READ of castles and manors; churches and farms; watermills and inns as they were through hundreds of years. Industry is touched on in accounts of the Silk Weavers who used to flourish in Tring, Whitchurch and Waddesdon; the abortive attempt to commercialise the mineral springs at Dorton; the myriad of local breweries when beer *was* beer. Early customs, the establishment of almshouses and even pioneer motoring are brought to light for our pleasure. What is the secret of the Ancient Stones at Haddenham? Did you know that Whitchurch had a Monday Market as long ago as 1245? Hayward Parrott raises many diverse questions . . . and goes on to answer many!

# Who's who update for BCVS

Hope this might  
be of use .....  
continued next  
month.

President	Major J. D. Young, Lord Lieut. of Buckinghamshire	Chairman	Mrs. M. Thackray
Vice-Presidents	Sir Ralph Verney, Bt., KBE., DL. Mr. J. T. Ireland, D.L. Mrs. L. E. Grimedell	Vice-Chairman	Mrs. J. Spencer
		Hon. Treasurer	John Eagles
		General Secretary	A. J. K. Smith, Walton House, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP21 7QQ. Tel. 21036
	(C) = Countryside	(W) = Welfare	

ABBEYFIELD SOCIETY LTD. (W) Ipingwood, Doggetts Wood Lane, Chalfont St. Giles, L. Chalfont 2670	J. Hill,
AGE CONCERN - BUCKS (W) Pebble Lane, Aylesbury. Aylesbury 31127	Mrs. J. Lee,
ASSOCIATION TO COMBAT HUNTINGDON'S CHOREA 50 Ritcroft Street, Adeyfield, Hemel Hempstead. Hemel Hempstead 50594	Mrs. B. Atkinson,
AYLESBURY VALE COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL (W) 14 Temple Square, Aylesbury. Aylesbury 83222	Hampden Buildings,
AYLESBURY AND DISTRICT MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL (W) Aylesbury 27973	23a Walton Street, Aylesbury.
BERKS, BUCKS & OXON NATURALISTS TRUST (C) 3 Church Cowley Road, Oxford. Oxford 775476	R.C.S. Low,
BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION (Aylesbury Branch) (W) 87 Narbeth Drive, Aylesbury. Aylesbury 89187	Miss C. Becker,
BRITISH HORSE SOCIETY - COUNTY BRANCH (C) Overton, Maids Moreton, Buckingham. Buckingham 3258	P. S. Hastie, MRCVS
BRITISH PARAPLEGIC SPORTS SOCIETY (W) Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Harvey Road, Aylesbury. Aylesbury 84848	P. King,
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY (W) 123 London Road, High Wycombe, High Wycombe 25361/25748	County H.Q.,
BRITISH SPORTS ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISABLED (W) Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Harvey Road, Aylesbury. Aylesbury 84848	H. A. Papps,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (W) c/o County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury.	Max Davies,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH (W) Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury. Aylesbury 84111 ext. 4039	Mrs. J. Darby,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND (W) Pebble Lane, Aylesbury. Aylesbury 87558	Mrs. L. Hobday,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES (W). 4 Chiltern View, Saunderton, High Wycombe.	Conduit (Chairman),
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (C) Walton House, Walton Street, Aylesbury HP21 7QQ. Aylesbury 21036	A. J. K. Smith,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BRANCH OF THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Royal Latin School, Buckingham, MK18 1AX. Buckingham 813063	M. C. Daniels,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES The Coach House, Green Park T.C., Aston Clinton. Aylesbury 630239	Mrs. A. Slater,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS A 11 Denham Close, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 7TJ.	Mrs. J. C. Leach,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (W) 74 London Road, Slough. Slough 21515	F. J. Whiteman,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS 243/245 Botley Road, Ley Hill, Chesham. Chesham 771440	Mrs. D. Mason,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION (C) Walton House, Walton Street, Aylesbury HP21 7QQ. Aylesbury 21036	A. J. K. Smith,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WAR PENSIONS COMMITTEE 36 Duke Street, Aspley Guise, Woburn Sands. Milton Keynes 582050	Major F. G. Smith (Chairman)
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF OFFENDERS 12 Malvern Road, Aylesbury. Aylesbury 24989	W. J. Hughes,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FEDERATION OF WOMENS INSTITUTES (C/W) Stuart Lodge, Stuart Road, High Wycombe. High Wycombe 26685	County Secretary,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GOLDEN AGE ASSOCIATION 27 High Street, Winslow, Winslow 2227	Mrs. G. Keeble,
BURNHAM COMMUNITY ACTION CALIBRE Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury. 06286 62151	Mrs. M. C. McMullen,
CHILTERN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (C/W) "Roamhaven", The Chase, Wooburn Green, Bourne End 20745	Mrs. K. M. Wilson,



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# CHURCH NEWS

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The rewiring of the church has begun and we are pleased to think that the fire risk from that source will be minimised. The only problem that remains is meeting the bill! A chance to help us occurs on Saturday 6th. October at 8.00p.m., when we will be holding our annual HARVEST SALE. This year it is in the Bull & Butcher at Eileen and Ernie's invitation. We look forward to a good crowd to enjoy the occasion.



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

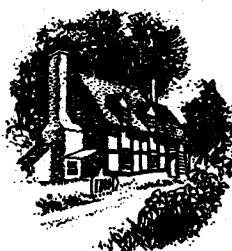
You can help in two ways: first by coming along and entering into the spirit of the auction; second by giving gifts of fruit, vegetables, home made jam, wine or bread (or anything else, come to that), in gratitude for our good fortune in having enough to eat and drink, in such marked contrast say, to the people of Ethiopia. Gifts should be given either direct to Eileen or to Doris Scutchings or Kay Dines, or why not bring them along when you come, because you will come won't you? We are sure you will enjoy yourself.

Our HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES are on Sunday 7th. October with a Family Service at 11.15 a.m. and a United Evening Service at 6.00 p.m. - again please come along.

Finally the Parochial Church Council will consider at its meeting whether to have a Harvest Supper this year. I hope they will decide to go ahead, if so we look forward to a good crowd.

## SERVICES

September 30th.	11.15 a.m. Holy Communion Readings: 1 John 4(15-21) : Luke 16(19-31).	<u>Sidesmen</u> Mr. J. Ford
October 7th.	HARVEST FESTIVAL 11.15 a.m. Family Service Readings : Genesis 1(1-3,24-31) : John 6(27-35). 6.00 p.m. United Service.	Churchwardens.
October 14th.	11.15 a.m. Holy Communion Readings : 1 Peter 4(7-11) : Matthew 25(14-30).	Miss G. Ford.
October 21st.	11.15 a.m. Holy Communion Readings : Revelations 7(2-4,9-17) : Matthew 25(1-13).	Mr. C. Higgs.
October 28th.	11.15 a.m. Holy Communion Readings to be announced.	Mr. C. Spike.



# miscellany

Another extract from Bucks & Beds "lifestyle" magazine, this time from issue number three of Summer 1984.

## Village history

### Famous sailor leaves his stamp on village

THE MEMORY of Sir James Ross still lingers in Aston Abbots nearly a century and a quarter after his death.

A road has been named after him and one of his descendants makes occasional visits to the village.

Esther Ross, Sir James' great-great-great grand-daughter visits the Boothmans when she is in the area.

Frank and Emma Boothman moved to Aston Abbots 27 years ago when he joined the council's town planning department in Aylesbury.

A trained architect, Frank Boothman obviously takes great interest and pride in their home, a love he shares with his wife.

Walking around Oak Farm House, they point out the interesting features of the old house which had belonged to one family for hundreds of years until it was sold in 1957.

A prolific and talented artist, Frank painted A Synthesis of James Ross at Aston Abbots in 1977.

Starting with a rubbing taken from Ross's tomb in the churchyard, he created a montage of portraits, maps, land and seascapes to show the story of the man he described as "an autocrat".

The link which joins Ross with the Boothmans was committed to paper in the last century.

"Been to Oak Farm House to collect pheasants", noted Sir James one day in his diary.



### Most handsome man in the navy

■ The 3p stamp which was struck to mark the achievements of Sir James Ross.

SIR JAMES Clark Ross Kt, FRS obviously developed a taste for the cold when he sailed with his uncle, Sir John Ross, to the Arctic in 1818.

He certainly had ample opportunity to acclimatise himself, for the expedition to find the north-west passage around Canada became ice-locked and was held in a relentless grip for four years.

Not a man to waste time, James Ross explored his open-air prison and finally located the north magnetic pole.

Magnetism had a strong attraction to the young man for, on his return to Britain, he set about making a complete

magnetic survey of the British Isles.

The experience he had gained in the north was put to good use by the Admiralty when he was ordered to the Antarctic in 1839.

For four years he and his ships, Erebus and Terror, traced the continent along a stretch of 700 miles, discovering on their way the 12,000 ft volcano which Ross fittingly named Mount Erebus.

The sailor who was called "the handsomest man in the Navy" retired to Aston Abbots in 1845, having reached the rank of Rear-Admiral. He died there in 1862 and was buried in the nearby churchyard.

### THE PUB WITH NO PEER?

THE IDEA of retiring to run a country pub is one which appeals to far more people than actually make that dream a reality.

John Howe is one of the fortunate few, and he has presided over the bar of The Royal Oak at Aston Abbots for the past eight years, after

spending 30 years in the Royal Engineers.

It is a pub with real character; a building which has changed with the times without being sacrificed to the demands of modernisation.

"I have read that it dates from 1426, though not everyone agrees," said John.

"It was originally built just as four walls and a roof, then the internal walls were added to make three cottages."

No-one knows for sure when the cottages became a hostelry, though John says that the indications are that it was during the 17th century.

Nowadays the Royal Oak is a listed building and the living embodiment of what everyone means by "a country pub".



■ The Royal Oak: everyone's idea of a country pub.

October 1984

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Tel. A.A. 623

A small boy told me recently that he had been making gingerbread men at his school. He was obviously fascinated by the currants acting as buttons and asked, "Isn't it funny to have buttons on your trousers?" "Oh", I replied without thinking, "we used to have buttons on our trousers." He gave me a sad and sympathetic smile "You must be very old", he said.

We live in the age of ZIP. I dare not tell my little friend about buttoned braces for fear of being branded as old as Methuselah. Nor of the secret places in my wardrobe where buttons are rampant - waiting, with trouser turn-ups, to come into fashion again when zips have had their day.

So many changes. A world of change, transition since the dawn of history. After their eviction from the Garden of Eden, Adam might have shrugged his shoulders and said to Eve: "Never mind, my dear, we live in an age of transition". One of the oldest bits of writing in the world is on a papyrus which begins "Alas, times are not what they used to be." The natural world depends on change for its very existence. We are imperceptibly changing every day.

Who likes changes? Particularly sudden ones, when they appear to challenge our security; not much. Yet, the meaning of Christian conversion is transition from one kind of life to another. We need to be prepared to accept change, although it's very hard, especially as we get older and less - zippier.

So, what of our modern language Services, for example? Are they all just part of the age of zip! Have we got rid of the truth as well as much of the Elizabethan language? Of course not. The unchangeable truths are there in the heart of our worship, now more easily understood and accepted.

No matter what happens in this world of transition. Whether or not life gets better or just zippier, our faith is secure because it is based on the God who never changes. Christian security is born of a deep-down certainty: the security of faith. A security which will never change and must be safeguarded, not based on words but on attitudes. S. Paul got it right when he wrote to a young friend, "Guard the truth that has been entrusted to you" (2 Timothy 1, v.14). That "truth" is the Fatherhood of God, Jesus Christ our Saviour, and the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives.

This truth is to be safeguarded through an intelligent reading of the Scriptures, regular time set aside as a priority for worship every Sunday, and for daily private prayers, active service for the kingdom of God, and friendship with other Christians as we discover and re-discover those truths that are unchangeable.

But I'm still worried about my buttons...Do you think they will come back into fashion again? Not, I somehow think, if I lived to be as old as Methuselah. Goodness knows what people will be wearing that far ahead. Of one thing I am sure, however, they will not be using many of the "old-fashioned" words of Holy Communion Rite A - so much will have changed!

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

## SERVICES AND EVENTS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

SCHOOL HARVEST SERVICE on Thursday, 4th October in Wingrave Parish Church at 9.30 a.m. Parents and friends are very welcome to attend.

### ASTON ABBOTTS HARVEST

October 6th: Harvest Service & Sale, 'Bull & Butcher' at 8.00 p.m.

October 7th: The Family Service 11.15 a.m.

The Parish Communion 11.45 a.m.

6.00 p.m. United Evening Service (Preacher: Revd. B. Heafford  
Methodist Minister)

### SUNDAY LESSONS (Year 1 ASB page 398)

28th October	9th before Christmas	Coloss. 1(15-20)	John 1(1-14)
4th November	8th before Christmas	Genesis 4(1-10)	Mark 7(14-23)
11th November	7th before Christmas	Genesis 12(1-9)	John 8(51-59)
18th November	6th before Christmas	Exodus 3(7-15)	John 6(25-35)

HOLY BAPTISM At the Parish Communion SS. Peter & Paul, Wingrave:

September 9th MARK ROBERT, son of Peter and Ann COOPER

HOLY MATRIMONY Wingrave Parish Church:

15th September Tony James BRINDED and Diane Elizabeth MASON

22nd September Alistair William HENLEY and Rebecca Ann WATKINS

FUNERALS After a Service in Wingrave Methodist Church, 6th September, interment in the Churchyard: Edith KIRBY.

After a Service in Aston Abbots Methodist Church, 20th September, interment in the Churchyard: Horace OSBORN.

CONFIRMATION The preliminary meeting for those who are considering confirmation this year will be held in the Rectory on Wednesday, 10th October at 7.30 p.m. Future classes, not necessarily on that day each week, can then be arranged.

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (November 11th)

WINGRAVE The Parish Communion 9.45 a.m. (will include a Meditation of Remembrance replacing the sermon)

CUBLINGTON The Parish Communion 8.45 a.m. (includes Wreath Ceremony)

Parade & Service of Remembrance in the Parish Church of Hardwick 10.40 approx.

No Service at Aston Abbots Parish Church.

All uniformed organisations within the district of Wingrave Royal British Legion are encouraged to attend the Remembrance Service at Long Marston this year. Cublington have their British Legion Service at Hardwick (which our Rector will attend). It is important that the young as well as the old are given the chance to commemorate the 'fallen' at a Service of respect. Naturally those of us who see the Holy Communion as the Act of Remembrance will make it our priority. Those who are accustomed to lay wreaths on a Memorial where the Service of Remembrance is not taking place should do so before they go to the Service, or at some other convenient time.

O-FIVES for all children with their mothers, whatever denomination or none, meet in Wingrave Parish Church every other Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock - 11th & 18th October, 8th November.

NOTE Some of the information on this sheet each month is often well in advance. This is simply because the three parish newspapers are printed at different times in the month.

# INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

The trouble with a long holiday is all the bills that are waiting to be paid upon your return. Even a visit to the newsagents proves a pocket emptying exercise as you collect all the magazines you forgot to cancel, and at the Post Office, Doris has the packs of mint postage stamps that have been issued during your absence.

Stamp collecting has been one of those casual hobbies of youth that has somehow survived the test of time. Not that I collect in any serious or organised way but the commemorative issues of British stamps are often quite spectacularly attractive.

The August issue of 'Royal Mail' stamps being a case in point. The superb engravings of coaching scenes, created by Czeslaw Slania, were produced to celebrate the bicentenary of the first Mail Coach Service in 1784.

The service began on 2 August 1784, with a trial run from Bristol to London to test a claim by John Palmer, manager of theatres in Bristol and Bath, that the use of fast, armed coaches would transform the speed and security of the Royal Mail. Then it was still being carried in the age-old way on horseback or in carts, and the unarmed Post-Boys were easy targets for highwaymen.

Following the success of the experiment Mail coaches were introduced to other routes, running on the new hard surfaced turnpike roads that had made travel so much more reliable.

The journey from Aylesbury to London had occupied a whole day until in 1820 local coach owners Dale and Tollet, with their coachman Thomas Wootton, attempted a one day round trip. The coach left the George Inn, Aylesbury at six in the morning for the Old Bell Inn in Holborn. A large crowd gathered in the evening to see if the attempt would

be successful. Many could not believe their eyes when the coach came into view - to London and back in a day, it seemed impossible. Thomas Wootton was cheered to the echo, with celebrations lasting deep into the night.

Men like Thomas Wootton were the megaheros of the day. Very few people could claim such experience of travel and none were their equal in horse lore.



The best known of the local coach drivers was James Wyatt, who used to be in charge of the "Dispatch" running to London and back. As Robert Gibbs recounts in his 'History of Aylesbury', Wyatt had a reputation for his punctuality: "In the villages through which it travels people set their clocks by the Dispatch, and old women put their swimmers into the pot when it passed their dwelling. So long as Mr. Wyatt held the reins even the most nervous old lady felt every confidence".

The days of the stage coach did not last long. The arrival of the railways destroyed an industry that, at its peak in the 1820's, had employed tens of thousands of men, women and children, working as ostlers, stable boys, shoe-blacks or in the coaching inns as cooks or maids.

The 'Royal Mail' commemorative issue (shown below) brilliantly recalls the trials and tribulations of travel in Georgian England, and were well worth the modest sum Doris requested.

*Abbottsbury.*



THE Original BATH Mail Coach of 1784



AN Attack on the EXETER Mail in 1816

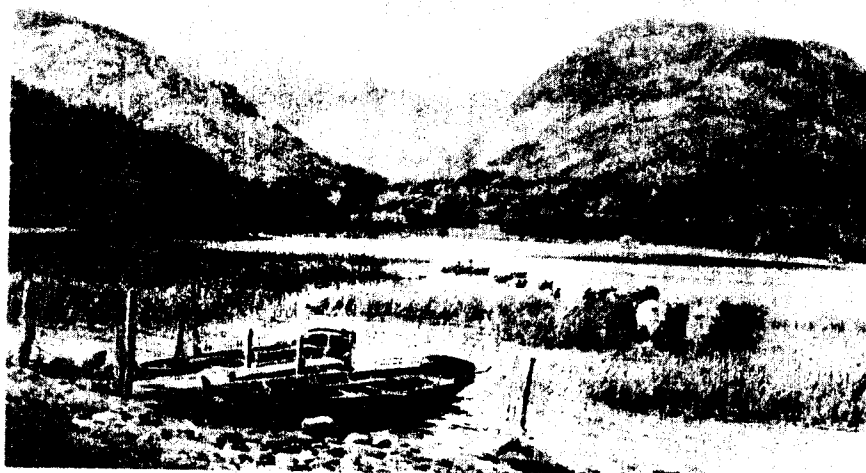


THE NORWICH Mail in a Thunder Storm 1827



THE HOLYHEAD & LIVERPOOL Mails 1828

# 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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