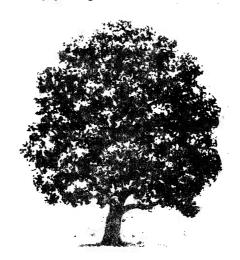
# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



We wish all our readers a happy and peaceful New Year



## **Editorial**

A somewhat rushed issue but hopefully still containing something of interest.

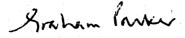
My thanks to everyone for the magnificent fund raising efforts on The Chronicles behalf. In the last two months £95 has been donated which has gone a long way toward keeping our printers quiet. Details of the finances appear elsewhere in this issue but could I thank here The Ladies Club for their £5 donation; the P.C.C. for their £10.00 contribution; the Recreation Ground Committee who kindly gave £20.00 of the Christmas Show's profits, and finally the carol singers organised by Christine Fox who raised a superb £34.40. To everyone my thanks and especially to the team of carol singers Tina, Trevor and Christopher Searle, Donna and Dean Wiggett, Karen and Mark Brandon, Sarah and Tracy Lovell and Mandy and Christine Fox.

This issue carries a special editorial in the later pages on a subject about which I feel strongly. The experience of being able to touch the suffering in southern Africa in the summer allied to the Ethiopian disaster we have all witnessed is responsible for the outbreak of frenzied typing. I know that many of you will feel that charity begins at home (and indeed we do have problems that require our help and support) but what is happening in Africa is on an entirely different scale. How can we ever become indifferent to such suffering?

Welcome this monthe to John Camp, from Wingrave who has kindly offered to write a series of articles on the Rothschilds in Buckinghamshire. Many of you will know John, many more will have read his book "Portrait of Buckinghamshire" and everyone will I am sure, enjoy his article written especially for The Chronicle.

Finally my thanks to those who have supported the Quiz - entries do not close until the next Parish Council Meeting so there is still time to have a go (at last months or this months).

A happy and peaceful (prosperous might be too much to hope for) new year to everyone.



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

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

#### DEADLINE DATE FOR FEBRUARY ISSUE

By the 26th January please.

Published by Graham Parker for Aston Abbotts Parish Council. Printed by THE SQUIRREL PRESS, Waddesdon School, Waddesdon. Newspaper cuttings reproduced by kind permission of the Bucks Herald and the Bucks and Beds Observer.

### MEDICAL MAYHEM

A cast of twenty five; an audience of one hundred and forty five took part in the eighth annual 'Christmas Show'. The theme this year was 'medical. With the wit of compere John Whyte and the musical expertise of Neil Chesher, the other twenty three entertained (?) with a mixture of song, dance, magic and occasional comedy, I still cannot understand why some people laughed more at the singing than the comedy. However, on with the report.

The clapometer, which unbeknown to the audience, was hidden in the orchestra pit, showed once again that the most popular act, though not a Classic, was nevertheless a Ford. Which Ford? Well, lets just say that this Ford looked as though it had been in a serious accident.

For the first time we had dogs nearly performing on stage. Painstakingly trained by John Davis, this pair of crossbreeds (James Hinds and Lawrence Knight) left so many deposits on stage they could have opened accounts at Barclays.

One rather unsavoury sketch posed the question 'Why Victor Scott ?'. We are still trying to fathom that one out, but our researchers are working on it.

Takings at the bar, provided by the Royal Oak, rose considerably at the end of the strippers act. Its a pity she walked off into the night at the end of her stint arm in arm with another female.

Fishnet tights, chamber pots, soggy Shredded Wheat, and Robert and Helen all helped complete another successful show. It was nice to see new faces both sides of the curtain. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way. Something in excess of £200 was raised.

### Ladies Club

On the 6th. December Mrs.Rickard gave us a mouth watering display of Christmas goodies, which were consumed afterwards with a glass of sherry before the customary cup of tea. All present voted it a marvellous spread and our thanks went to Mrs.Rickard for all her hard work.

The second half of our session begins on January 17th. when Mrs.Sinnott is going to transport us, with the help of slides, from the dreary depths of winter to the sunshine of other climes. On the 31st. Mrs.Humphreys is coming to give away some of her secrets about doll making.

## ASTON ABBOTTS

## CHURCH ROOM

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MAXIMUM 60 PEOPLE.

FURTHER DETAILS FROM DORIS SCUTCHINGS ON ASTON ABBOTTS 243.

COST: £2.50 per hour + metered electricity. £1.50 per hour + metered electricity for residents of the parish.



QUIZ OF THE YEAR: All questions taken from 1984 issues of The Chronicle.No prize this time, other than the satisfaction of knowing you were right. Answers in next edition.

1. Who's fig leaf was so much bigger than anyone elses?

2. Who do we thank for 'A Cricket Match' and 'Boulogne Harbour'?

3. What is Andricus Quercuscalicis?

4. Who is Vice Chairman of the Church Room Management Committee?

5. Why are pancakes a Shrovetide speciality?

6. In which Bucks town does the Church of St. Peter & St. Paul stand on the banks of the River Ouse?

7. Where do you find Charles and Cromwell up the same tree?

8. What is CoSIRA?

9. What has a "Pennyface"?

10. Who taught maths in Enugu, Nigeria?

11. Whose tankard was engraved?

- 12. Who were 'Wild Boar'Wilkie, 'Chopington Chicken' and 'Jumbo' Giles?
- 13. Who was the Manager of the team that suffered a "Crushing Loss"?

14. Who admitted not voting for Mrs.T.?

15. Whose Dip Stick was replaced?

16. Who said Aston Abbotts Church ".. is of no interest"?

17. Why will School Meals take on a new meaning?

18. In 1925 who was the Aston Abbotts blacksmith?

19. Who sports a 'Zapata' moustache?

20. Who contested the Singles Final of the Royal Oak's Darts Champs.?

21. Who "hedged" us out?

22. Name the Parish magazines of Cublington and Wingrave.

- 23. Who was "not really surprised" at Aston Abbotts winning the Gurney Cup?
- 24. Who was the most handsome man in the navy?

25. Who took 6 for 34?

Many thanks for the entries to last months competition; don't forget there is still time to have a go - please send entries direct to the Editor or via the Village Shop or the Post Office.

I've had second thoughts ... a mystery prize will be awarded to the first all correct entry to the above quiz pulled out of the hat at the next Parish Council Meeting on Friday 18th.January.Entries as for last months quiz.



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Inside £25 per annum.

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QUARTER PAGE : Back £12 per annum.

Inside £ 7 per annum.

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Advertisements for the back page are dealt with on a first come first served basis .. i.e the

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH MAGAZINE ..... PLEASE!

#### DESIGN

Income

The design is up to you, if however you do not have a prepared layout just send the information you would like to appear and we will do the rest.

#### SIZE

We would like all advertisements to fit into one of the sizes indicated on this page.

The shapes can be rearranged e.g. the area below can be vertical as can these eigth page areas.

#### THE CHRONICLE'S BALANCE SHEET TO CHRISTMAS 1984

TICORE		Expenditure
Advertisements.	£55.00	
Donations	6.00	Each issue costs £20.40 to produce, this is
Tuesday Club.	11.00	cost of paper only. The pre-launch issue
Ladies Club	5.00	was free Thus issues 1 - 17 (Sept 1983 -
Festival Funds	25.00	January 1985) have cost £346.80.
Christmas Show	20.00	We have been promised another £25 from
P.C.C,	10.00	the 1984 Festival, but as you can see our
Mary-Helen Coffee Morn	20.00	printers are still substantially out of
Carol singers	_34.40	pocket!
	186.40	
	· ·	

## Portraits of Buckinghamshire

The first of a new series. Sketches illustrating the Buckinghamshire of 1907.



The Forge, Dinton.

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John Masefield's much-loved classic *The Box of Delights* is reissued in abridged form (Heinemann £7.95) to coincide with the television adaptation Faith Jaques has contributed new magical illustrations, some drawings

MONTH

BOOK

OF THE

## Demise of the Dialect

The advance of radio and television has driven many of the nations dialects into oblivion. In the eighteenth century the regional dialects dominated the spoken language of Britain; James Brindley, the graet canal engineer, spoke and wrote in a broad Derbyshire accent that bore only a passing resemblance to English. A man from Cornwall would find it difficult to understand a Geordie, a Cockney would be barely intelligible to a Lancastrian, but today we have to actively encourage the survival of the regional dialect.

Where the population has been reasonably stable, with a strong regional identity dialects have survived, but in those areas that have been radically altered by population movements the local dialect has all but disappeared. Sadly the latter is true of Buckinghamshire, where few now speak in the authentic tongue. The expansion of the county's market towns to accommodate London overspill, the submermergence of much of the north of the county beneath Milton Keynes and the gradual encroachment of 'outsiders' into what were relatively isolated rural communities, have all helped to overwhelm the Bucks dialect.

Some of you may recall its characteristic double vowel sounds - "Go home", becomes "Goo-an hoo-am" - indeed some of you may still be able to speak in this way, but alas it is fast disappearing. To recapture the sounds of a Buckinghamshire dialect you will need to refer to Harman's "Buckinghamshire Dialect" first published in 1929 and reprinted in 1970. Harman tried to record, in the days before the tape recorder, the actual speech of the people of Buckinghamshire. The book is full of tales and tittle-tattle, and gives a fascinating insight into, not only the dialect, but the social history of Buckinghamshire as far back as the 1850's. Below is a conversation taken down by Harman in Cublington, with local residents talking of the 'Cublington Feast'. The conversation must have taken place sometime in the 1920's.

#### **CUBLINGTON**

#### The Feast

A. "Ah! Cubbeltun Feeast aint what it used to be. We did a some good uns yeeurs agoo—we did a some feeastes then. It took us all the waik to ett ivverything up. In th' ole days waiks afuur it come we writ fur subscriptions to the gentry all around, and in ur lehhur we allus invited em to dinnur, an tis wonderful what we got. A coourse we didnt want em to come to dinnur, fur some an us woont a knowed how to goo an at the teeable if they'd a bin thaiur. Any reeate, we allus got plenty a money to git plenty a mait and ivverything else we wanted. We had the big faid the fust day and kep an ivvery day artur till it was all finished. They were some times then! Peepul come from all ovur the wurruld to Cubbeltun feeast afuur the war; the pleeace was filled. In ivvery yard carts and waggonettes wur stored, besides ivverywhere else wheer one could be put. That was afuur the war, but now things be down and thaiur aint th' interest took in it as thaiur was then; but still, it aint a bad un this yeeur."

crowd comes up. We can have a table togither fur a little while; if we dooant, we shant git in fur the peepul when the band stops a-playin.' comer) "Hullo! how be ye a-gittin an? What do ye think a the feeast?"

c. "Well, taint a bad un, but we a had behher

feeastes in Cubbelton yeeurs agoo."

B. "We did; but taint a bad un this yeeur, an I be glad an it. I dooant like to see the ole feeast goo down. A ye heeurd the band?" c. "Yis."

B. "I rickun tis a jolly good band. I rickun they play well. We had the Old Un this arurnoon."

c. "What old un?"

B. "Why, the reeal old un uv all—'The Farmer's Boy.' They played it arly in the arurnoon, and some an us as were standin by a-listenin to it did give it bains. We did let hur have it. Talk about music, did ye ivver heeur sich music? Thaiur nivver was sich music. Thaiur's moour music in 'The Farmer's Boy' than in all the music as a ivver bin played put togither. We ull all goo down and ask fur it to be B. "Cam an! let's git up to th' Unicorn afuur the played agen, that we wull! and we ull all sing it togither. We ull ask fur it to be played by special request."

## Entente cordiale

#### THE WINGRAVE - LA BOUEXIERE TWINNING LINK

- Now is <u>your</u> chance to become involved! 1985 promises to be very eventful for the twinning link with the "Official" Cermonies taking place in both countries, as well as the return visit by the footballers and the first childrens exchange. A diary of the activities follows.
- Feb 21 24 Wingrave Junior Football Club goes to La Bouexiere for their return match.
- Apl 5 15 A party of children from the three villages visit La Bouexiere. \*
- May 24 27 Between 45 and 50 people from La Bouexiere, mostly families, will come to Wingrave. The programme is not yet fixed but seems likely to include a day in London for sightseeing and shopping; a barbecue, and the "Official Twinning Ceremony". \*\*
- Jul 22 A.1 A party of children from La Bouexiere will be hosted by families in Wingrave, Aston Abbotts and Cublington.\*
- Oct 1985

  The annual fun weekend in La Bouexiere for anyone who is interested. This was originally conceived as a Ramblers Weekend, walking in the area around La Bouexiere. Indeed it is still a Ramblers Weekend. However, the Official Twinning Ceremony apparently has to be performed on both sides of the Channel, so the weekend will now be for ramblers and non-ramblers, and it will include The Twinning Ceremony Part 2:
- \* A few places are still available ... if you are interested please contact Jean Keighley on Aston Abbotts 235, before December 31st.
- \*\* This is really your chance to become involved. Those who have already visited France will be hosting but more host families will be needed. If you think you can host one or two adults during that time please ring Jean Keighley on Aston Abbotts 235.

The Wingrave twinning committee hope that enthusiasts can find something to their taste in these plans and that those of you who are wondering whether to become involved will now decide to take the plunge!

If you have any queries, any doubts that can be removed, please just give Jean a ring or phone me on Aston Abbotts 325.

Graham Parker.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Friday JANUARY 18 th. 8pm. Church Room.

## The Rothschilds of

## Buckinghamshire

by JOHN CAMP.

When in 1801 old Meier Rothschild of Frankfurt sent his son, Nathan, to England to establish a branch of the finance house he had founded, he set in motion a series of events that was to have a marked effect both on the history of this country and of Europe as a whole. Meier Rothschild had been born and raised in the Frankfurt ghetto and there not only had he started the firm that bore his name but also brought up a family of ten children, five boys and five girls. In the years that followed, and because of Nathan's success in London, he decided to send his other sons abroad as well. One stayed at home with him, while others went to Paris, Naples and Vienna, after Nathan had become established in London.

Just how established in London Nathan had become can be gauged by the fact that after only a year or two he had founded the banking-house of N.M.Rothschild & Co. in the City of London, become a member of the Stock Exchange and got himself appointed as Paymaster to the Duke of Wellington during the Peninsular War in Portugal. No wonder that very soon he was being described as 'the most powerful man in England today'. In 1847 the family made a loan of £8 millon to the Government to aid the famine in Ireland. In 1854 the Rothschild's financed the major part of the Crimean War with a loan of £16 millon. In 1875, during dinner with Disraeli, Leopold Rothschild offered him a loan of £4 millon with which to buy the shares of the Suez Canal a vital artery in Britain's trade with the Far East and also a blow for the French who wanted the Canal, but could not raise the money.

Nathan, the founder of the firm in this country, was an odd-looking little man with the typical Rothschild flattened nose, pendulous lower lip and prominent ears. He was certainly no oil painting, and the financiers of the day must have marvelled that this strange looking young man (he was only 21 in 1801) could possibly organise loans running into several thousand pounds. That he was able to do this (as, indeed, all his brothers could) was because of the intense family feeling existing between the father and each of the brothers. Before they had left home old Meier had impressed on his sons that no matter what country they found themselves in, they were Jews and Rothschilds first and foremost and citizens of their country of adoption only as a secondary consideration. Despite this, Nathan's sons and grandsons eventually became English country gentlemen with vast estates in the Vale of Aylesbury. How this came about will be related in future articles.

(JOHN Camp is a JP and professional writer, contributing to a wide variety of newspapers and journals from The Guardian and Observer to Country Life and Good Housekeeping. He is perhaps best known for his book 'Portrait of Buckinghamshire'. John has lived in Buckinghamshire for nearly forty years and has recently joined the team editing The Communique, our sister magazine at Wingrave.)

## CHURCH NEWS

At the December meeting of the P.C.C. we turned our minds to our charitable giving. It is important that we now only think about all those less fortunate than ourselves but actually do something about it. I once heard a sermon where the preacher spoke of money as 'portable service', in other words a way of sending real help. We have been very generously supported by you all this year not only through the envelope scheme but through the Festival, the Harvest Sale and the Cheese and Wine Parties. This meant that we could respond positively to a letter from Dr. Elizabeth Hills writing from her hospital in MUHEZA,



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

Tanzania. Extracts from her letter appear elsewhere in this issue. The need is great and our £100 is not much, but the supporting charity called 'Medicines for Muheza' will make good use of it. We also sent £25 to the Bucks Clergy Fund and £25 to the Bucks Historic Churches Fund.

This is written just before Christmastide so we are looking forward to our Christmas services in anticipation of large congregations, making a very happy Christmas for us all.



From a wood engraving by Thomas Bewick.

Sidesman

#### SERVICES

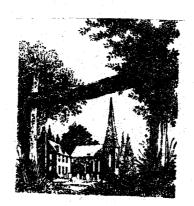
December 30th. : NO SERVICE.

January 6th. : 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion Miss. G. Ford. Readings: Ephesians 3(1-12); Matthew 2(1-12).

January 13th.: 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion Mr. C. Higgs. Readings: Acts 10(34-38); Matthew 3(13-17).

January 20th.: 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion Mr. C. Spike. Readings: Acts 26(1,9-20); Mark 1(14-20).

January 27th.: 11.15 a.m. Holy Communion Mr. J. Ford.



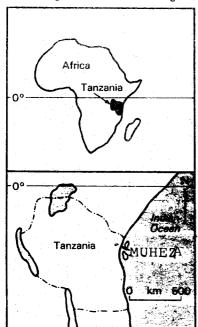
### Letter from Muheza

(ELIZABETH HILLS is a missionary doctor working at Hospital Teule near Muheza in the Tanga Region of Tanzania. For several years St. James's Church has helped support the work of Dr. Hills and as you will read in the Church News has recently agreed to send a further donation of £100. What follows are extracts from Dr. Hills most recent letter.)

Dear Friends,

....There has not been too much timefor accounts as the wards are fuller than ever. One day this month we hit an all time record of 262 patients on one day, and one day this week there were 56 patients in Imani ward, designed for 28 patients....

It's difficult to describe why the wards are so full. But the measles has reared its head again after being quiet for more than two years. I had hoped that the immunization programme was taking effect and it had slipped down from top cause of death in this hospital to third or fourth. We had got into the habit of having the children's isolation ward for overflow male surgical cases and occasionally medical patients. But now the 'dirty' surgery is back on the floor in Wallace although we had hoped to stop having floor cases because of the risk of tetanus. I was amazed one Sunday to open the



The location of Muheza.

door to side B and find it full of floor patients. And yet Eddy tries to keep up the rate of turnover by increasing the frequency of dressings to twice or three times a day, but of course this puts up our use of dressings and bandages and we can scarcely keep up with it. Today Sister came to me with a long face and said 'The price of gauze has gone up again. 20 rolls Sh. 18,000 and something'. We can't do without it, so have to buy and hope that money will come from somewhere. Not from the Ministry. They have put up our grant for running costs by 2.7% compared with last year and inflation is up by about 25%.

Adult isolation is fuller than ever before; there have been a fair number of cases of cholera and these keep the staff busy as they may be so seriously dehydrated. But there are also so many patients with TB that we have a row of men lying on the floor in half of the small section kept for women....

We had an unlucky month with three burst wounds. This is partly and to the appalling state of nutrition and the inadequate diet we provide here. We know that post-operative patients need a good diet with high calories and high protein but are helpless to provide it on the funds we receive...,

I've had a lot of patients with pneumonia and within the last two months, two patients with lukaemia, not a common problem here..... What is more upsetting is that we are having difficulty getting treatment for schitosomiasis these days and if that is not treated it has long-term lethal effects.

Dr.Hills went on to talk about the "moderate problem" with malaria

the tireless efforts of the hospital staff and her attempts to bring the Lutheran and Anglican congregations together. She ends her letter:

With very best wishes to you all and thank you for your prayers which are the hidden powerhouse of this hospital. When we wonder how people cope and we carry on, that is the answer. And thank you all for the various treasures you find us. Please send me any paper which is useable for duplicating or for patient notes.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Hills.

## **Editorial**

The problem of giving to the Third World is that the donor feels so remote from the receiver. Hence the popularity amongst donors of the 'Sponsor a Child' scheme which is, however, heavily criticised by many aid workers. The emotive tragedy of Ethiopia releases the purse strings of a generous nation and we can



all see how that money is being spent. But what happens in the new year? The television cameras may move on to other disasters but the tragedy of Ethiopia will remain. What can we do? How can we feel more involved? Well you can support one of the major charities by a monthly donation - say 1% of your income, or perhaps we as a village could support a particular project such as the work of Elizabeth Hills in Tanzania. This is on a scale where our contributions could have an impact. Your views would be much appreciated on this matter. But whatwer you think give a thought this Christmas to those in Africa who will die because they did not have enough to eat.

### INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

## The scope and the reality of African starvation

Christmas is rightly a time of celebration; a time of bright faces reddened by the winter chill; carol singers at the door; children's excited anticipation, and that pure pleasure of giving and receiving. For Christians its the glorious celebration of that prophetic birth. Christmas is a time for kindness and togetherness; a time to renew ones faith in humanity. That renewal of faith has been enhanced this year by the outpouring of sympathy that has flooded the country since those images of starvation in Ethiopia overwhelmed our television screens in late October.

Much has been written about this human catastrophy, but it was the inevitability of it all that should disturb us. Once again famine has become the reality for millions of people living in Africa. Its causes are known and in many cases foreseeable - prolonged

MAURITANIA ETHIOPIA SOMALIA NIGER CHAD SUDAN BURKINA GUINEA KENYA ZAIRE RWANDA BURUNDE Countries suffering from TANZANIA widespread famine as a result of drought, ANGOLA lack of transport facilities, and wars Countries suffering from MOZAMBIQUE serious food shortages which have requested outside aid BOTSWANA LESOTHO Countries suffering drought and likely to need food soon

Where the danger spots lie

drought, war, destruction of the environment, poor management and so on.

While in southern Africa during the summer we saw the devastation of three years of drought in Bots-wana and southern Zimbabwe. Acres of maize that had not produced a single grain, pastures that had turned to dust; bedraggled, depressed, desperate people hoping for a miracle; Their plight was horrific enough to me but it was not on a scale to warrant a mention in Britain.

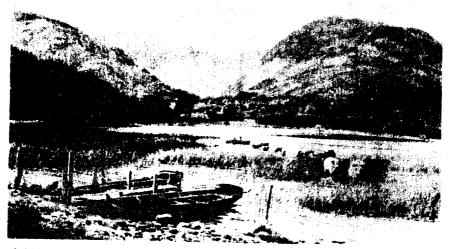
It took those pictures from Ethiopia, showing human beings in rags dying along roadsides or at food distribution centres, for world opinion to be shaken and a major effort mounted to save those who

could still be saved. The response of the western world has been an extraordinary outpouring of individual sympathy and generosity.

But the fact remains that the aid is late and that it attempts to deal with the effects rather than the causes. What will happen if this pre-Christmas upsurge of sympathy fades into post-Christmas indifference? The result will be catastrophic, nullifying all the sympathy that has gone before. Those kept alive by the present aid will die in the new year. They will have had a miserable life extended for a few more miserable months. The countries bordering the Sahara will not have another harvest until next autumn, even assuming the rains come in '85. Until then they need our help to keep them alive; our help to give them energy to once again plough land that has failed them so often; our help to provide the seeds to plant for the new harvest; our help to give them hope. While we spend millions storing our record agricultural outputs other millions suffer chronic malnutrition and a lingering death.

Abbottsbury.

## Peter Arnold



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

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