

The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts

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C'est magnifique

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BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Rothschilds of
Buckinghamshire

MAY

No. 21





Editorial

Many thanks to our new advertisers: "MARSHALLES" and "THE OLD MASTERS", and may The Chronicle wish both every success in the future. This month 'Abbotsbury' takes a closer look at The Old Masters in his column 'Inside the Back Page'.

For a small village we must have the finest range of hostelryes possible, each having its own special attraction. The Royal Oak has for long been one of the most popular places to spend an evening; the Bull & Butcher remains the best pub food for many a mile, and now we have a first class restaurant. This is without mentioning the fish and chips on Wednesday evening!

BEST KEPT VILLAGE

We are again taking part in the Best Kept Village competition and preliminary judging of entrants often takes place in May. Naturally the aim this year is to win the 'Sword Of Excellence' to become the best kept of the best kept villages in Bucks. Anything you can do to help would be much appreciated.

VILLAGE FESTIVAL 21st and 22nd. July

Seems only moments since the last Festival but July will soon be here. A report on the committee's thoughts appears on the 'Update' page, but we would appreciate ideas to help make the weekend the success we all want. So if you have any suggestions or would like to get involved just let me or any member of the committee know.

Graham Parker

Graham Parker.

Deadline Date For the JUNE issue : May 25th please; earlier if possible.

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

1. By telephone to Graham on Aylesbury 681325.
2. By dropping a note through his door - The Cloisters.
3. Use the box in the Village Shop or Post Office.

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NOTICEBOARD

WHAT'S ON

SUNDAY 12th. MAY: FOOTPATH RAMBLE
MEET THE GREEN 2.30 p.m.

SAVE OUR BUS SERVICE

The Governments White Paper (Bus Bill), if passed, threatens many rural services and with the county subsidies being cut many villages will see their bus service withdrawn, causing severe hardship to the O. A.P.'s, handicapped and young mothers with children, many of which have NO access to a car.

I have already written to the M.P.'s, Bucks C.C., Aylesbury Vale D.C. and County Councillors, regarding our bus service. Please help me SAVE OUR SERVICE.

More use needs to be made of the following buses from the village:

07.55 and 4.10p.m. to Aylesbury.

10.13 and 4.35p.m. to Wing/Leighton.

STEWKLEY LOST THEIR BUS SERVICE

DON'T LET US LOSE OUR BUS.

Colin Higgs.

The candidates

FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MAY

An election will be held on Thursday 2nd. May in sixteen County Council seats, including the Wing seat. The Councillor elected will serve until May 1989. The declared candidates for the Wing seat are:

WING:

Lib — Peter Carlin, of Star Cottages, Berton, director of a voluntary organisation. Secretary of the area Liberal branch and member of the RAF Regiment Auxillary.

Lab — Martyn Groucutt, teacher at Vandyke Upper School, lives in Overstone Close, Wing, with wife and daughter. He has stood at county and general elections. Member of the National Trust and local Wildlife Trust.

Con — Reg Keen, of Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond, seeking re-election. Parish and district councillor, having taken early retirement to give more time to his council work. Chairman of Wing Secondary School governing board.

Service

515 AYLESBURY · LEIGHTON BUZZARD · HEATH and REACH

516 AYLESBURY · CUBLINGTON · LEIGHTON BUZZARD · HEATH and REACH

Mondays to Saturdays

Service No.	515	516	516	515	516	516	515	515	515	516	516	515
				NS				NS	S			
AYLESBURY, Bus Station	0605	0635	0755		0955	1135	1350	1530	1530	1612	1710	1750
Berton, "Red Lion"	0614	0644	0804		1004	1144	1359	1539	1539	1621	1719	1759
Wingrave, Cross Roads	0620	0650	0810		1010	1150	1405	1545	1545	1627	1725	1805
Wingrave, Green		0653	0813			1153				1630		1808
Aston Abbots, "Bull and Butcher"		0659	0819		1013	1159				1636	1728	
Cublington, Cross Roads		0703	0823		1018	1203				1640	1732	
Wing, Stewkley Road	0626	0711	0831	0935	1026	1211	1411	1551*	1551	1648	1740	1817
Leighton Buzzard, High Street	arr. 0639	0724	0844	0948	1039	1224	1424		1604	1701	1753	1830
	dep. 0642				1042	1227	1427					1830
HEATH AND REACH, Linslade Road		0652			1052	1237	1437					1840

Service No.	515	516	516	515	516	515	516	516	515	516	515	515	515
				NS				NS	S			S	NS
HEATH AND REACH, Linslade Road		0653			1053	1238	1438					1841	1841
Leighton Buzzard, High Street	arr. 0703				1103	1248	1448					1851	1851
	dep. 0703†	0730	0851	0952	1105	1251	1450			1610	1710	1800	1855
Wing, Stewkley Road		0719	0743	0904	1005	1118	1304	1503	1558*	1623	1723	1813	1906
Cublington, Cross Roads			0753	0912			1312		1606	1631		1821	
Aston Abbots, "Bull and Butcher"			0755	0916			1316		1610	1635		1825	
Wingrave, Green		0728	0801	0922			1322		1616	1641		1831	
Wingrave, Cross Roads		0731	0804	0925	1012	1125	1325	1510	1619	1644	1730	1834	1911
Berton, "Red Lion"		0737	0810	0931	1018	1131	1331	1516	1625	1650	1736	1840	1916
AYLESBURY, Bus Station		0746	0819	0940	1027	1140	1340	1525	1634	1659	1745	1849	1925

CODE: *—To and from Wing Secondary School on schooldays.

†—Operates in Leighton Buzzard via Old Road, Station Road, Rail Station and New Road.

NS—Not Saturdays

S—Saturdays only



NOTICEBOARD

Ladies Club

At the time of writing we are looking forward to a talk on April 25th. by Miss Anne French from the Crafts Council and the first meeting in May will be on the 9th. when Mrs Sinnott is going to show us some slides of sunnier climes than ours. Perhaps by then ours will be sunny! She has kindly invited us to see them in her house and to have tea there afterwards. There will be no meeting on the 23rd. May as that is when we shall hold our annual "Not so Young" outing and tea party.

Our outing this year is to be on the 20th. June and is to the city of Bath. It is a beautiful city and has the added bonus of being able to provide lots to see if the weather is wet. Christine Fox is taking names of anyone who would like to go.

QUIZ

APRIL RESULTS.

In the last of our winter series we asked you to identify the six personalities shown in our caricatures. They were:

Top row, left to right: Sir Michael Edwardes (Chairman of Dunlop Holdings but better known for his role at British Leyland); Clive Ponting (of official secrets fame); Rajiv Gandhi (the Prime Minister of India).

Second row, left to right: Lester Piggott (who we all know!); Arthur Scargill (Arthur who?); and the late Lord Louis Mountbatten whose "Official" biography is reviewed in this months 'Book of the Month'.

Youth Club

The general consensus of opinion following the Youth Club disco on 29th. March was that "a good time was had by all," despite veiled references by the disc-jockey to "them old ones at the back!" Definately an event to be repeated in the future.

Meetings for May include:

- May 3rd. - General activities.
- May 8th. - Swimming at Tiddenfoot.
N.B. This is a Wednesday.
- May 17th. - General activities + computers.
- May 24th. - General activities and games - To be held on the rec.; weather permitting.
- May 31st. - General activities and games -

Don't forget, the Youth Club is open to all village children and their friends between the ages of 9 and 16. Meetings are held on a Friday evening in the Church Room from 7-9 p.m.



UPDATE

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - FURTHER REPORT.

My apologies. Looking through last months 'Update' I realise your correspondent omitted the most vital piece of information from the Annual Parish Meeting - namely the division of this years Festival proceeds. There was a good and lengthy discussion with requests for assistance coming from The Chronicle, the recreation ground committee and the Church Room Management committee. The meeting eventually agreed to the following division: 28% to the Church; 28% to the Chapel; 12% to the Chronicle; 12% to the Recreation Ground Committee, with 20% being held for distribution at the discretion of the Festival Committee, which was to anticipate requests from the Church Room committee and the recently re-formed Youth Club.

I should also point out that the meeting recorded a vote of thanks to those who had re-established the Youth Club with such success, and assured them of a sympathetic hearing should they ever be in need of funds.

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

FESTIVAL WEEKEND 21st. - 22nd. JULY.

In his absence the committee elected Chris Brandon to the Chair a tradition that has now become well established, as the two previous Chairman had both been elected in this manner! It was agreed that the inter-village competitions had run their course for the time being and that this years Fete should be centred on The Green. Amongst the attractions this year we hope to include:

the usual range of stalls - we would welcome ideas for new stalls or games that could be included.

The Amersham Town Band that proved so popular last year.

the traditional teas in the Church Room supplemented by a 'running' barbeque throughout the afternoon.

competitions for 'Best Wine'; 'Best Single Rose' and 'Best Display of Five Vegetables' as last year should this be extended ? Ideas welcome.

a village flower festival in the Church and Chapel.

On Sunday we envisage the usual Church service in the morning followed by the village lunch in the Church Room. In the afternoon we would like to hold a village sports for children - of all ages; including anything from a 50m. dash to three legged and egg and spoon races. Perhaps some volleyball and five-a-side football. The intention is to create an enjoyable afternoon for the village.

YOUR views on these plans, and any suggestions, would be much appreciated. If you would like to be involved better still ... the more of us there are the easier the tasks become. Any help much appreciated; just contact one of the committee:

Margaret Kent; Tricia Webb; Chris Brandon; Peter Dines; Graham Parker; Richard Plestead; Vic Scott, David Watts or John Whyte.

More news next month.

CHURCH ROOM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

Thanks were expressed to Len Scutchings for fitting the external light and also for the emergency plumbing carried out during the bad weather. Without Len's timely intervention the committee could have been faced with a substantial bill. Discussion then centred on the improvement programme. Furniture needed replacing and it was agreed to look into the costing of an extension to provide a second toilet and further storage facilities. These were major expenses and would inevitably take some time to meet, but it was agreed to make a start by ordering four new tables. Other minor purchases were agreed including new lampshades and a noticeboard. Work would also be carried out to repair the sunken floor and then sand and reseal the whole surface. The committee also agreed to organise the Festival lunch this year as one of its fund raising projects.



Mountbatten — the man behind the public image

BOOK OF THE MONTH

MOUNTBATTEN. THE OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY, by Philip Ziegler (Collins, £15).

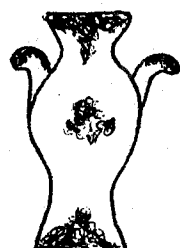
A huge book - 786 pages - about a giant of a man. Nothing about Mountbatten was modest, his achievements; his failures and especially his ego. He was royal, rich, eloquent, internationally celebrated, dynamic and arrogantly self-confident. How could a biographer tell us something we did not already know?

Well, Philip Ziegler had the benefit of Mountbatten's private papers assiduously accumulated at his Broadlands home. Five years later we have this masterful example of the biographers art. The living tragedy of Mountbatten's marriage and the extraordinary achievements of a lifetime.

Mountbatten was a man who could command the loyalty of a ship's crew that he repeatedly led to disaster; for whatever he was, Mountbatten could hardly claim to be amongst the nation's great sailors. Yet Ziegler's comparison of Mountbatten and Nelson is strikingly apt. 'Both men were inordinately vain, loved posturing in medals and decorations. Both had immense courage, moral as well as physical, drive, imagination and leadership. Both were generous in praise, harsh in criticism; both needed not just the respect of their subordinates but their love. Where they differed was in their achievements; Nelson's wholly on the sea, Mountbatten's wholly on the land'.

Philip Ziegler tells the whole story in an immensely readable biography that has already topped the best sellers list for five weeks, despite its £15 price tag. Those amongst you who are members of one of the WH Smith/Doubleday book clubs can obtain a copy for £10.95 + postage; but better still why not order a copy from the County library.

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Aston Abbotts**

Your Village Shop

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THE GROCERS
'use it or lose it'**

The Estone Chronicles

"ASTON ABBOTTS MEMORABILIA"

As mentioned in the March issue Shirley Ford kindly loaned the Editor many documents relating to the village. Amongst the material were several pages of Shirley's first draft of 'A History of the Church and Village of Aston Abbotts'. While the manuscript has not been completed, the story so far will, I think, be of interest to many.

A HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND VILLAGE OF ASTON ABBOTTS

by Shirley Ford.

The history of Aston Abbotts began over 900 years ago. The first recorded facts show that the village belonged to Edward the Confessor from 1042-1066. Before his death in January 1066 he gave the village to a Danish chief called Wulf, and the village at this time was called Eastun. Wulf obtained permission from the King to give the village to the Abbotts of St. Albans, so that when Wulf died he could be buried at St. Albans. Part of Wulf's will is recorded in Sir William Dugdale's 'Monasticum Anglicanum' of 1812, and says: "In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I, Wulf, grant firstly for my soul and for God and St. Alban, the land which is called Eastun, with all things appertaining to it, just as I had it from the King, with his consent, that is to say King Edward, both that land and likewise, I grant to the Holy Church of St. Alban the Martyr, where I wish to die."

In 1068 the Domesday Survey recorded that the Abbott of St. Alban's held ten hides (a hide being a variable unit of land, that was enough for one household to live off) in the village of Estone, as it was now called, providing land for twelve ploughs. In the demesne (the land belonging to the manor house and not let out to tenants) there were six hides, for three ploughs and two more could be added. There were six villeins (feudal serfs) and twelve bordars (a villein who held his hut at his Lord's pleasure) having six ploughs; one servant and pasture for three plough teams. In all the village was valued at ten pounds by the Domesday Survey, with between five and ten people living per square mile.

There is little information about the village from 1068 until 1267, when there were several civil disturbances in the village. Geoffrey de Lucy and others entered the village saying they had permission from the Abbott of St. Albans to take flocks of cattle and goods when no permission existed.

The Church of Aston Abbotts is first mentioned in 1291 when £3 from the tithes was given to the Kitchener of St. Albans Abbey. This amount was dropped to £2 in 1535, when the net value of the vicarage was £6.7s.8d. The first vicar was ordained in 1325, his name was Walter De Gratteworth.

Between 1267 and 1306 the Abbey's privileges were encroached upon by the sheriff, to whom a writ was directed by the King in 1306 ordering him to stop. In 1381 there were further troubles and tenants of Aston, encouraged by rioters at St. Albans, got a Charter of Liberty from the Abbott. Between 1396 and 1401 Abbott John V made several improvements in the manor, restoring the house because it was falling to pieces and making three new sheep folds.

In 1539 Henry VIII proclaimed the dissolution of the Monasteries. After the dissolution of St. Albans Abbey he sold the manor, with the rectory and advowson (the right of patronage), to Lord John Russell for £1,041.9s.2d.

(Continued next month).

A LETTER FROM WING

WING COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL
AYLESBURY ROAD
WING
LEIGHTON BUZZARD
BEDS LU7 0NY

Do you or your children like swimming?

Would you be prepared to help run a Swimming Association during the summer at Wing County Secondary School?

If so, please attend an Open Meeting to consider the formation of a WING AND DISTRICT SWIMMING ASSOCIATION on FRIDAY, 10TH MAY 1985 at 7.45 p.m. in WING COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL.

You do not have to be a swimmer or life saver to be of help - just an interest in developing facilities for the area will do.

Anyone who lives in the wide area of the Wing School Catchment is welcome to attend.

I feel that the facilities should be used if possible and the Governors have asked me to discover if there is a need for an Association of this kind.

It will not just happen - your support is essential. Please come to the meeting.

IVAN ANDREW.

SIXTH YEAR TRIP TO WALES

Early last month I was lucky enough to have the chance to go to Wales with Wing School. We left Wing by minibus at about 11.15 on April 8th. and reached Stay-little, Llanbrynmair in Powys by five o'clock.

During the hectic five days, we took part in a night hike. This included finding our way across a field that was littered with disused mine shafts and crossing a bridge that had slats missing - quite frightening at night when you only have the light of a torch to go by. I also went abseiling, which is when you descend vertically down a cliff by means of a rope. The first time I went down I grazed my knuckles but the second time was much more enjoyable as you got used to the idea. I also went orienteering, which is where you are given a map and compass and you have to find marked posts that are scattered around the countryside. The activity I enjoyed the most was pony trekking. Even a wet and windy day could not dampen my spirits as my horse, Dominoe, carried me up the hills and down into the valleys around Llanbrynmair.

On the Wednesday we went for a tour around central Wales, going to places such as Aberystwyth, Aberdovey, Machynlleth, Newtown and Llanidloes. On two evenings we went to the pubs in Newtown and one night we held a competition which included playing pool, darts and table tennis.

Reluctantly we left Wales on Friday 12th April for the long journey back to Wing. Everybody had had a wonderful time and given the chance would love to go again.

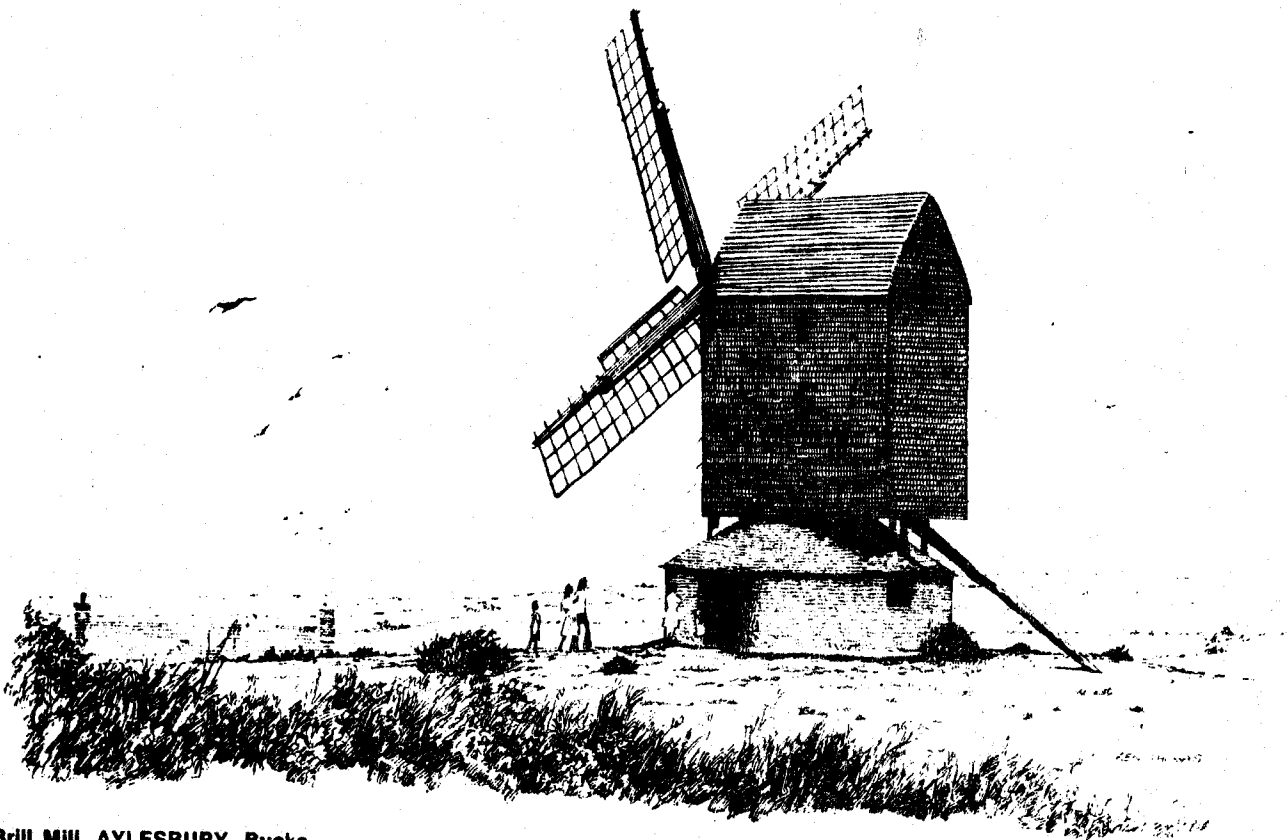
Alison Ford.

OUT AND ABOUT

A new summer series to help fill the summer days or maybe one of those long summer evenings. All the places featured will be within twenty or thirty miles of Aston and each will recommend a hostelry in which to quench your summer thirst.

BRILL WINDMILL

A windmill perched on a blustery common in Buckinghamshire may be the oldest one in England



Brill Mill, AYLESBURY, Bucks

At Brill, on the hill, the wind blows shrill . . . The words of the old nursery rhyme are absolutely true: the wind whips and whistles about this little village, which huddles on top of its steep-sided hill overlooking broad sweeps of Buckinghamshire farmland.

Brill is an ideal place for a windmill. The first was built there in 1286 on the road out east to Thame. Then in 1634 blustery Brill Common, on the west side of the village, was chosen as a better site—that was the year when Charles I ordered the royal forest of Bernwood to be

felled, which opened the western hillside to the buffeting breezes. So Parson's Mill was built, and evidently built well—it survived over 200 years until 1905, when it was struck by lightning.

The common proved to be wonderfully windy and in 1685 a second mill was erected. By the end of the 18th century, Brill had no fewer than three windmills all working side by side on the common.

Today, only one of the mills still stands—300 years old this year, it is possibly the oldest windmill in England. It stopped working commercially in 1916 (the last miller

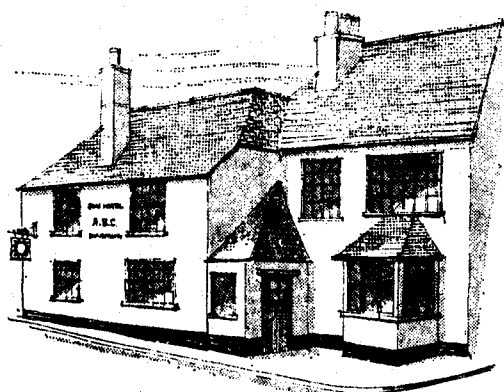
was one Albert Nixey, whose daughter still lives in the village and is married, appropriately, to the local baker). The machinery stayed in good order till 1968, when the wind finally got the better of the mill and threatened to blow the whole thing over. So Bucks County Council braced it and reinforced it with iron stanchions. Today it stands immobile on the edge of the common where sheep graze between loops of bramble and tufts of reeds.

Brill Bucks, is on the B4011, 7 miles northeast of Oxford. Open on Sunday afternoons from April to September.

As the story of the windmills suggests Brill has a long history. The village once contained a palace in which Edward the Confessor frequently resided, in fact one of the many miracles performed by that monarch is said to have taken place there. William the Conqueror probably resided at Brill and certainly King Stephen did. Henry II kept his court there in 1160, and there is a deed signed by him at Brill, to which Thomas a Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, is a witness. King John held court there in 1205 and twenty years later his son Henry III was also at Brill. "The tall banks between the playing field and churchyard are probably the last remains of the royal palace which stood there in the Middle Ages; it might also be the vestiges of a Civil War garrison".* In 1642 Brill was held for the King by Gilbert Gerrard and Parliamentary forces under John Hampden were repulsed. With the Kings headquarters at Oxford the village of Brill, with its commanding views over the surrounding countryside, became a vital strategic position in the early days of the war.

The Sun, Brill.

In the centre
of this pic-
turesque vil-
lage, The
Sun with its



welcoming atmosphere and comfortable interior, runs a buffet
bar full of unusual delicacies for the adventurous traveller.

Those views are best appreciated from the mill, which stands on one of the few remaining areas of common land in Bucks. "The odd landscape of the Common (all the humps and bumps will provide hours of endless fun for the children) is the result of centuries of brick and pottery making in Brill, which lasted from the 1100's up to the early years of this century".* Local farmers still have ancient grazing rights to the Common. So as you stand there gazing westwards at the end of one of those long languid summer evenings, quietly contemplating the magnificent view, don't be surprised if you are joined by a similarly wistful flock of sheep.

*Extracts from Andrew Pike's excellent article 'An Outing' in the April edition of the Cublington Crier. The extract on the previous page is taken from the January 1985 edition of "Out of Town" magazine. The sketch of Brill Mill is by Len Thomas and first appeared in the Oxford Telephone Directory, and the sketch of 'The Sun' public house is taken from "Discovering Buckinghamshire" by Cadbury Lamb and was drawn by Lorna Cassidy.



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The Rothschilds of Buckinghamshire

by JOHN CAMP.

PART FIVE : ASCOTT HOUSE

This, the fourth Rothschild house in this area to be acquired by the family, has two special claims. Firstly, it is by far the oldest of the family residences, having originally been built in 1606 though extensively altered in mid-Victorian times. Secondly, it is the only Rothschild house still lived in by the family, though paradoxically it no longer belongs to them, having been presented to the National Trust in 1949 by Anthony Rothschild. It was built as a hunting-lodge in Jacobean times, enlarged in 1750, and in 1873 purchased by Mayer Rothschild of Mentmore for the same purpose. Mayer died the following year and Ascott House was taken over by his nephew Leopold who, at the time, was living at Gunnersbury Park near Acton.

During the years that followed Leopold virtually rebuilt the house at the same time creating the beautiful gardens with the help and advice of Sir Harry Veitch. It was the latter who commissioned the famous American designer, Waldo Storey, to create the great bronze fountain of Venus that so dominates the gardens. For the redesigning of the house Leopold brought in the eminent Victorian architect George Devey, who gave it the attractive half-timbered appearance it has today. The house is irregular in shape and with a charm that is achieved in no other house belonging to the family.

Ten years after acquiring Ascott House Leopold commissioned Devey to build Charlotte Cottage, up on the main road at Wing. Though the reason for the building of this house is difficult to ascertain, local opinion has it that it was intended as a cottage hospital, or at least a clinic, for the benefit of Wing residents. This would certainly be in keeping with the kindness and generosity the Rothschilds everywhere showed to their tenants and servants. Whatever its origins, Charlotte Cottage has had associations with medicine for many years and has been the home of a succession of Wing practitioners, the last one to live there being Dr. Ronald Watkins who retired recently.

Leopold died in 1917 but Ascott remained the property of his widow until she died in 1937. It was then taken over by their son Anthony who altered the house and built a further extension the following year. It was during Anthony's time that he built a small estate of houses in Wing in memory of his brother Evelyn Achille, killed at the early age of 31 in the First World War. Mention must also be made of the Cricket Field to the north-east of the house laid out by Anthony. In its delightful tree bordered setting it is one of the most beautiful private grounds in the country.

Internally the house is mellow and attractive, with a delightfully lived-in atmosphere reflecting the enthusiasms of the family. It houses the remarkable Ascott collection of paintings, furniture, porcelain and carpets, some belonging to the National Trust but much of it belonging to the family. There is a very unusual collection of Ming porcelain, said to be the finest in England, and a magnificent suite of furniture by Chippendale. But it is the picture collection that is of most interest at Ascott with works by Gainsborough, Romney, Hogarth and Rubens with a magnificent display of 17th. century Dutch artists. There are also several paintings by George Stubbs.

The present occupant of Ascott House is Evelyn Rothschild who lives there with his mother, second wife and family.

As a National Trust property the house is open to the public on certain days.
Opening times are as follows:

House and gardens :- 23 July to 22 September; Tuesdays to Sundays 2-6p.m.
Open Bank Holiday Monday 26th. August 1985, but
closed Tuesday 27th. August.

Gardens only :- April to the end of September, every Thursday and
the last Sunday of each month, 2-6 p.m.

Admission: To House and gardens £2. Gardens only £1.20.

Dogs on leads in car park only. No indoor photography.

Owing to the number of visitors, entry to the house is by timed ticket. Delay in
the summer may be considerable, and in exceptional circumstances entry to the
house may not be possible.



Almshouses at Quainton.

Portraits of Buckinghamshire

No.5. The Almshouses at Quainton.

The almshouses at Quainton, at present undergoing complete renovation, date back to 1687 when Richard Winwood's endowment established these homes "for three poor men, widowers, to be called brothers and three poor women, widows, to be called sisters."

The drawing, as almost all in this series, is by Frederick Griggs, dated 1908, and published in Clement Shorter's 'Highways and Byways of Buckinghamshire' in 1910.



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miscellany

THE WAITING FAMILY

Race Day is here, its time to go,
Weathers O.K., thank God for no snow.
Family and food are packed in the car,
Off we go to places afar.

Mustn't be late, mustn't get lost;
Must get to the venue at any cost.
When we arrive check-in point is found.
Athletes, family and friends abound.

Five minutes to go, they move to the start,
With fear and trepidation in their hearts;
Will they finish well, and not in a state;
Or fall by the wayside and have to wait?

The race gets started and off they run
To all points west and follow the sun.
Now what to do, now they have gone;
Take a walk, have a cuppa and hope they won't be long.

At the halfway point we watch and wait,
Hoping our athlete won't be late.
Here he comes, sprinting along:
"See you at the finish, I'm going strong".

He carries on, disappearing from view,
Leaving us wondering what to do.
We watch other athletes running past,
Some running slowly, some running fast.

Back to the finish we hurry along,
Hoping the winner will not be long.
Here they come, the first men home,
Some come together, and some on their own.

Where is our athlete, where can he be,
Will he be back in time for tea !
Hooray, here he comes, running so fast;
Straight for the finish, he won't be last.

Relief all round, he has finished the race,
The time he ran was a very good pace.
With his tracksuit on, he's had a rub down,
Back to the car and homeward bound.

SHIRLEY FORD.

Next Parish Council Meeting:

FRIDAY MAY 10th.

8pm. Church Room.

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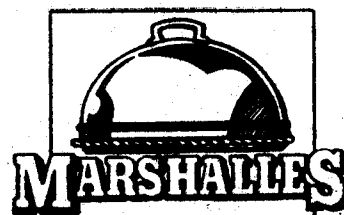
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May 1985

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Tel. Aylesbury 681623

In recent times I have been besieged (if that's the right word) by hopeful agents. The 'phone rings and a voice says something like this: "You won't know me, Mr. Heffer, but my name is Peter Plonk and I would value the opportunity of putting a plan before you for the future."

Now, I've no objection to life insurance. I was an agent myself, once. An attempt at a "cold" sell is very hard and, often frustrating - almost as bad as trying to commend the Christian Church to the 'Don't want to knows' !

Quite rightly we are obliged to insure our cars in the (likely) event of accidents. It is certain that we could be accused of being selfish if we did not try to give some protection to those who will left "in the unfortunate event of our death". But what worries me about life insurance is the feverish desire to be absolutely sure. That having so little faith in the will of God for us we need to be so sure that the future will bring nothing for which we are not fully prepared.

This seems to be part of our spiritual unhappiness. In some ways we cannot be blamed, for we live in a neurotic society which urges us to hold on to everything we've got and, if possible, to get more. The refusal to surrender our lives to any interior (I use the word advisedly) power is part of our neurosis.

Naturally, everyone wants to be happy. And happiness demands security. But there is only one security in this world. It will not be found in successful careers, active social lives, gourmet cooking, gambling, the arts, jogging, politics, to name but a few. Million, of course, search for happiness in alcohol and drugs.

The basic problem is that our bodies constantly thwart our plan for enjoyment, for all such pleasures are relative to our condition. We are subject to our moods for example, the weather, the news, the rudeness or otherwise of our nearest and dearest, or our farthest and worst.

The only insurance worth having is to be in touch with the Infinite, to be able to relate to the world which is beyond our own - the spiritual world. What Jesus called the Kingdom of God that is "within you".

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

THIS SPACE RESERVED IN MOURNING FOR THE BISHOPS

For David Jenkins (sometime Bishop of Durham) for airing in public his personal views on the Resurrection of the Lord's Body.

For John Habgood (sometime Archbishop of York) for expressing in print his doubts that all prayers are answered.

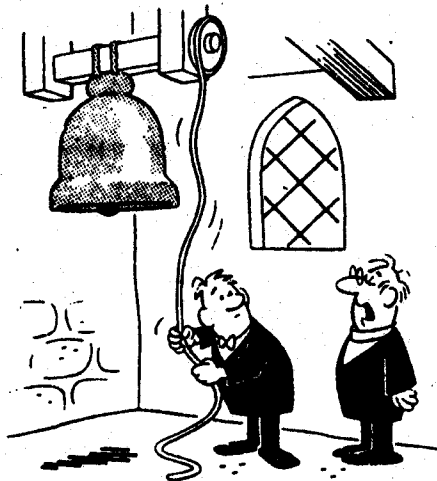
For all the (sometime) Bishops of the good old C. of E. for leaving the inferior clergy 'up the creek without a paddle' over whether to marry divorced persons or not.

"REQUIESCAT IN PACE"

(roughly translated means:)

"LET HIM WHO WILL, RESIGN IN PEACE"





'No, no, Higby. It's ding before
dong except after bong!'

ANNUAL BELLRINGER'S SERVICE
Wingrave Parish Church
Sunday, 19th May: 6.00 p.m.

Choral Evensong

Preacher:

Archdeacon of Buckingham

The Service will be followed
by the Ringer's A.G.M.
("Refreshments" will be served
and taken)

CUBLINGTON DEDICATION & PATRONAL FESTIVAL

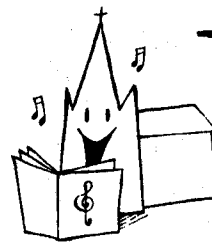
June 8th

8.45 a.m. The Parish Communion

6.00 p.m. "Songs of Praise"

During the Evening Service, Mr. Robert Warner, who is studying for ordination in the Baptist Ministry will speak to us about his "Call to the Ministry". Rob. Warner is the son-in-law of Mr. & Mrs. George Liddell and is presently at Regents Park College in Oxford.

Cublington's Festival will, therefore, begin drawing our thoughts and prayers to the Ordained Ministry, as the Rector's Message indicated last month.



SUNDAY LESSONS (ASB)

2nd June	(641) Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 6(1-8)	John 14(8-17)
9th June	(643) Pentecost 2	1 Peter 2(1-10)	John 15(1-5)
16th June	(648) Pentecost 3	Romans 6(3-11)	John 15(5-11)
23rd June	(653) Pentecost 4	Deuter.7(6-11)	John 15(12-17)

FAMILY SERVICES IN JUNE Cublington, 10 o'clock (Methodist Minister)
ASTON ABBOTTS, 11.15 a.m. (The Rector)

MURSLEY DEANERY EVENSONG Ivinghoe Parish Church - 2nd June
Preacher: Fr. Gregory Roth (a priest of the Orthodox Church)

HOLY MATRIMONY Wingrave Parish Church, 13th April:
Geoffrey Richard WALLIS and Caroline Anne DAVIES

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (13th to 18th May)

The fundraising and publicity for this annual week costs only 10p in the £. The people who make this possible are your neighbours who collect your donations. Please make their voluntary efforts worthwhile. Christian Aid tries to answer the needs of the world's poor not by free handouts but water supplies, better seed, knowledge of better methods so that they can feed themselves and their communities. Encouraging them to stand on their own feet. Training of local health workers, in breadwinning skills and trades for the landless and town-dwellers who have to buy their own food.

CHURCH NEWS

The main news this month is that the Rector is going into hospital on May 7th. to have his gall bladder removed. He will be in St. Luke's Hospital for the Clergy in London (near Euston). We ask that he and his family are especially in your prayers at this time. The Rector's absence means that our services will be taken by other clergy who include the Archdeacon. We do hope that everyone will make considerable efforts to attend at this time and especially come to the family service on May 5th. to wish the Rector well. We have a reputation for being a friendly, happy, caring and welcoming church, let us make sure that that reputation is enhanced during May.



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

Easter was a happy time, as it should be. The church was decorated beautifully. I was going to write 'as usual' but we shouldn't take such concern for granted. We do all appreciate very much the work and skill put in by the ladies and gentlemen who express their love of the church in such a beautiful way. It was sheer joy to have nearly ninety people, including thirty children, at the family service on Good Friday. What a splendid way it was to begin the Easter celebration. It was good news too to learn that the Lent boxes raised £22.00, a very considerable increase on last year. The proceeds of the boxes from all three parishes go to the Muheza Hospital in Tanzania.

SERVICES IN MAY.

5th. May	: Family Service 11.15 a.m.	<u>Sidesman</u> Mr. J. Ford.
	Readings: Revelations 3(14-22); John 21(15-22).	
12th. May	: Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.	Mr. C. Spike.
	Readings: 1 Corinthians 5(21-28); John 16(25-33).	
19th. May	: Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.	Mr. C. Higgs.
	Readings: Ephesians 1(15-23); Luke 24(45-53).	
26th. May	: Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.	Miss. G. Ford.
	Readings: Acts 2(1-11); John 14(15-26).	



C'est magnifique

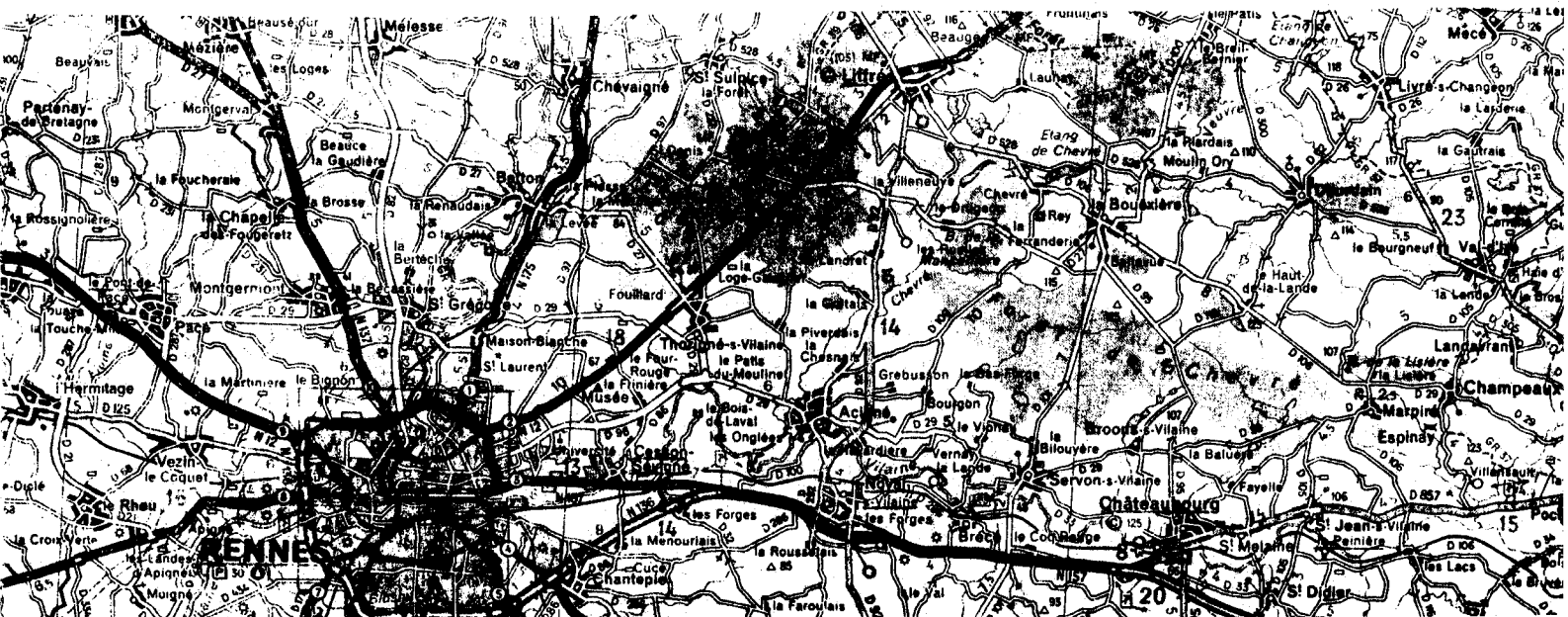
THE LA BOUEXIERE EXCHANGE.

Over the Easter holidays the Wingrave U.12 footballers spent a long weekend in La Bouexiere, playing two exciting games of football and making many friends. On the field they gained revenge for their November defeat by regaining the cup with a narrow, but deserved, 1-0 victory. Later the same day the team again won narrowly 3-2. The hospitality was lavish and all who took part can't wait for the next opportunity to visit France.

In the midst of the confusion and panic at 4.45 a.m. on Good Friday; in the midst of searching for passports; E One Eleven's (or was it F One Elevens); sea sickness pills and the gifts for the French hosts that you had purchased only yesterday, there chirps up that 'laid-back' ten year old with the usual sage comment: "All this ... for a game of football?"

When the footballers left La Bouexiere on Easter Monday fourteen youngsters stayed on for a further seven days exchange. Amongst the fourteen were representatives from Cublington and Aston Abbotts as well as from Wingrave. Despite miserable weather they all returned confirmed Francophiles and when asked what they thought of the exchange could only reply "C'est magnifique".

On behalf of the children who took part could one grateful parent say thank you to Jean Keighley, without whom none of this would have been possible.



Later this month the official twinning ceremony will be held at Wingrave and then in July more adults and youngsters will be visiting us for ten days or so. If there are any other families in Aston who would like to be involved - just as adults or with the childrens exchanges - then please let me know or better still contact Jean Keighley at The Old Vicarage, Leighton Road, Wingrave (Tel: Aylesbury 681235). This really is not a closed shop and everyone is anxious for as many people as possible to become involved - well over sixty families in Wingrave, Rowsham, Cublington and Aston have already taken part in one way or another during the last six months. And you do not have to be able to speak French - over 90% of those so far involved spoke not a word of the language! All that is needed is an open mind and an open heart.

Graham Parker.

INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

Quietly last month "THE OLD MASTERS RESTAURANT" opened its doors to the public, in what was the village school. Many of you, I know, have already been the guests of Juan and Brigitte; some like our 'former pupils' who write below, will have had half remembered memories revived, others will just have the memory of the varied delights of the cuisine.

The range of choice on the menu is impressive made the more so by the fact that the dishes offered are changed every two weeks or so. In addition to the choice of three set menus, ranging in price from £8.95 to £13.95, there is a good selection on the A la Carte menu. The recommended starters include advocado and prawn salad (£2.95) and deep fried camembert, the latter having already proved very popular. The current menu offers you a choice of three fish dishes including trout buttone at £6.20, while the entrees include grilled prime Aberdeen Angus fillet steaks (£7.20) and duck with orange sauce at £6.65.

Among the notable plus points at THE OLD MASTERS are the vegetarian menu (Risotto Piedmontaise at £5.75, for example), the local cream (from Cublington), and truly fresh vegetables. Drinks too are sensibly priced. Another nice touch, which you may like to bear in mind if you are thinking of booking an evening at THE OLD MASTERS, is that Rodney the chef will cook your favourite dish if you explain what you want when you book.

THE CHRONICLE wishes Juan and Brigitte every success in their exciting venture.



THE OLD MASTERS.

An odd name perhaps for a restaurant, certainly different and in this case apt. Having thought of the name

in one of those moments of unexplained inspiration, you soon realise there is more to it than that. The next problem is devising a distinctive logo.

The eventual solution was the artists palette (a neat if rather ho! ho! play on words could be made here with the diners palate - but I wouldn't dare do that), to take advantage of the

artistic element in the name. But this is not an art studio, it is a restaurant, so to prevent total confusion the knife, fork and spoon were added to denote the true nature of THE OLD MASTERS business.

The real 'old masters' are, of course, those who came to the schoolhouse to teach the youth of Aston Abbots in years gone by. The comments below, from a 'Chronicle' correspondent, vividly recall those long lost days of happy, and not so happy, hours spent in what is now a first class restaurant.

BACK TO SCHOOL - TO DINNER

At first we were a little puzzled by the sign 'THE OLD MASTERS'. It is splendid though. The pictures adorning the walls are all in the modern idiom, so much so that one former pupil claimed that he had painted the abstract above the door to the 'Necessarium'.

Whatever would the 'Old Masters' have said about toilets in the Staffroom?

There was a subtle irony about taking our pre-dinner drinks in 'the corner' used more than once for the correction of our misdemeanours.

Gone were the ink stained desks, replaced by tables covered with snow white cloths. The heating stove has been updated, but is still in the same place. Our table was just where we used to sit in the third year, and how appropriate we thought it was that the wine racks are now where the tuck shop used to be, a great improvement on school milk!

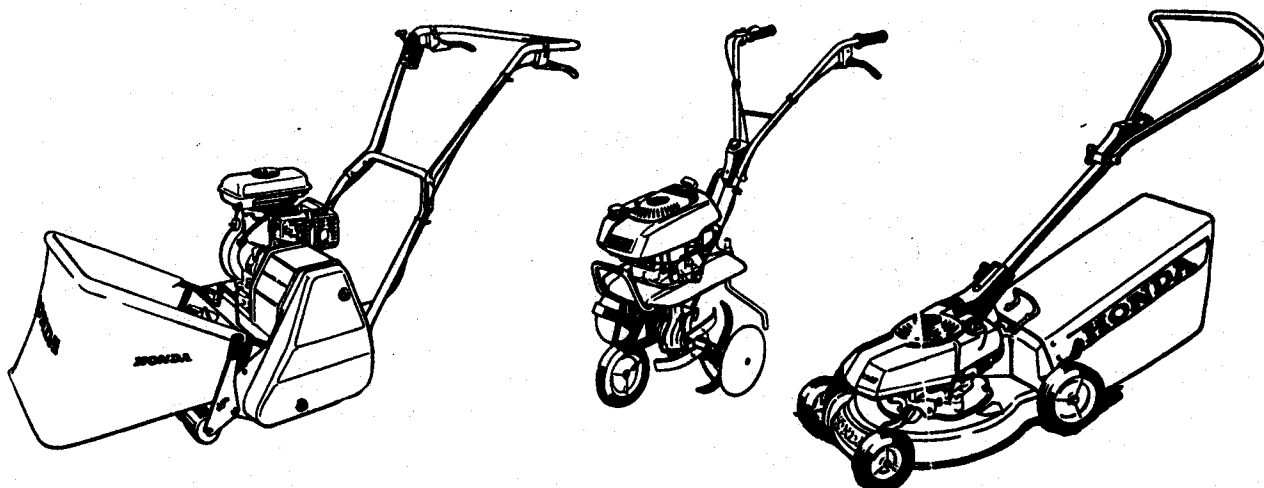
Thanks Juan for a wonderful evening, not only for a superb meal, but for the opportunity to re-live some memories of our old school days; not all good, but at this distance in time, very interesting.

An experience we thoroughly recommend

BACK TO SCHOOL - FOR DINNER.

Abbottsbury.

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