# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



# ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 20th. & SUNDAY 21st. JULY.





## Editorial

With the wettest June ever recorded, perhaps we can look forward to some sunshine for our annual FESTIVAL WEEKEND. Details of events appear elsewhere in this issue but a special plea here to support the excellent efforts of the Youth Club, who will be helping with the house to house collection on the 12th. A plea too for raffle ticket sellers - if y u think you can sell a book or two please ask Bernard at the shop or Doris at the Post Office who will have a supply available.

This is also our first edition to include a photograph, which I hope we will be able to repeat. If y u have any old (or new, come to that) photographs of the village or village people, and would be willing to lend them to the Editor for a day or so I would be very grateful. We are not sure if the group in the Edwardian photograph is a cricket team but suspect that it may be. Any information about the location and the unnamed members of the 'team' would be much appreciated.

My thanks to Bridget Brandon who has agreed to edit our new "PEOPLE" page, in which we hope to bring you news about village people - a gossip column, but one that will be in the 'best possible taste'.

#### Grahm Poure

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE: 20th.JULY,PLEASE.

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

- 1. By telephone to Graham on Aylesbury 681325.
- 2. By dropping a not through his door The Cloisters.
- 3. Use the box in the Village Shop or the Post Office.

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## **ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL**

SATURDAY 20th JULY : SUNDAY 21st JULY

#### WEEKEND PROGRAMME

#### SATURDAY

#### Aston Abbotts Fete

- 2.00 Opening by Peter Knight Stalls and Sideshows on THE GREEN
- 2.30 AMERSHAM TOWN BRASS BAND
- 3.00 Barbeque outside the CHURCH ROOM (until end of Fete)
- 3.30 Stanbridge & Tilsworth Childrens Folk Dance Club
- 4.15 AMERSHAM TOWN BRASS BAND
- 5.30 Raffle Draw

#### **SUNDAY**

#### PATRONAL FESTIVAL

- 11.15 Holy Communion
- 1.00 Festival Buffet Lunch Tickets: £2.50 (adults)£1.15(Children) available from Post Office or Bridget Brandon
- 3.00 Family Sports for the village on the Rec. - Come along and enjoy the fun.
- 6.00 United Service Songs of Praise Service

#### COMPETITIONS

Organised by Eileen Naylor of the Bull & Butcher

- 1. Display of 5 vegetables
- 2. A single rose
- 3. Best Home made wine (no kits!)
- 4. Best Victoria Sandwich (see recipe below) Entries in above competition 20p per entry
- 5. Wild Flower arrangement for children Entry Free.

Judged on the day. Further details from Eileen.

#### **VICTORIA** SANDWICH CAKE

Use this recipe for making the cake for the base of a trifle.

175 g (6 oz) English butter 175 g (6 oz) caster sugar

3 eggs, beaten

175 g (6 oz) self-raising flour

30 ml (2 level tbsp) jam

caster sugar to dredge

1. Butter two 18-cm (7-inch) sandwich tins and line the base of each with a round of buttered greaseproof paper.

2. Beat the butter and sugar together until pale and fluffy. Add the eggs a little at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold in half the flour, using a metal spoon, then fold in the rest.

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP

HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION

FRIDAY 12th JULY

7.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Youth Club members will be touring the village to collect anything you can spare - if you can have a few things ready to drop into their wheelbarrows we would be very grateful. All goods collected will be distributed amongst the various stalls. You may prefer to pass on special items to the stallholders direct.

#### MAIN STALL

Garden Produce: Ray & Peter Dines

Cakes

: Brenda Roff

Books & Bric-a-brac: Nora Little & Betty

Handicrafts

: Mary Watts

Groceries

: Youth Club

Tombola

: Margaret Kent

Brantub

: Anita Parker

#### SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

SINCLAIR C 5: your chance to try one of the more controversial sinclair ideas.

AMERSHAM BRASS BAND will be on the Green from 2.00 - 3.00 and again from 4.15 -5.30.

STANBRIDGE & TILSWORTH CHILDREN Folk Dance Group will be making their third visit to our Fete and will entertain us.

DISPLAY OF FARM IMPLEMENTS

MORE SIDESHOWS THAN EVER BEFORE

BARBEQUE RUNNING FROM 3.00 pm

REFRESHMENTS & TEAS IN THE CHURCH ROOM

FLORAL DISPLAYS IN BOTH CHURCH & CHAPEL

RAFFLE AT 5.30 pm ENDS THE DAY

caster sugar.

3. Place half the mixture in each tin and level with a knife. Bake in the oven at 190°C (375°F) mark 5 for about 20 minutes, until they are well risen, firm to the touch and beginning to shrink away from the sides of the tins. Turn out and cool on a wire rack. 4. When the cakes are cool, sandwich them together with jam and sprinkle the top with



#### NOTICEBOARD

#### ASTON ABBOTTS YOUTH CLUB.

The members and committee of the Youth Club would like to thank Victor Scott for taking us on a most enjoyable walk in the Chilterns on June 8th, and for providing the food for the barbeque that followed. We'll even forgive him for making us walk 8 miles, if he promises to take us again!

There are only two Youth Club meetings in July as we propose to close down for the summer holidays, restarting with renewed vigour and enthusiasm on September 6th; when we will be pleased to see all our old and new members in the Church Room at 7 p.m.

JULY 5th. will be an ordinary meeting - to be held on the rec - weather permitting.

On <u>JULY 12th</u>. however, we have been asked by the Festival Committee to assist in the house-to-house collection for the fete, and all junior "volunteers" should report to the Green at 7 p.m., with wheelbarrows if possible. The Youth Club has agreed to run the grocery stall this year and all contributions from Aston Abbotts residents would be most welcome.

Could we take this opportunity to thank all members who have joined the Youth Club, and we hope very much that they will continue to support this venture in the future.

#### **Ladies Club**

We had a very interesting afternoon at "The Lilies" in Weedon on the 6th. June. One could spend a whole day there without any difficulty and Mr. and Mrs. Eaton made us most welcome.

The outing to Bath was also a great success - I should think we chose the only day this month when the sun shone and we had no rain.

The two meetings in July, on the 4th. and the 18th. are to be the last for this session. We shall have our summer break thereafter until the end of September. On the 4th. the County Archivist is coming to speak to us. The venue for the last meeting has yet to be decided.

#### WINNERS

A WHIST drive was held in Aston Abbotts, with Mr L Scutchings master of ceremonies.

Prizewinners were: Mr Hogg, Mrs Wesley, Mrs C Griffin, Mrs Marsh, Mr Tappin and Mrs E Bennion; special, Mrs Tappin and Mrs Rickard; raffle, Mrs Tappin.

# Outing to The Lilies

MEMBERS of Aston Abbotts and Cublington Ladies Club were given a guided tour around The Lilies at Weedon, the home of Mr Peter Eaton, recently.

On arrival all were given a plan of the house showing where books are stored, priced and devoted to various subjects.

Mr Eaton gave a talk on the history of The Lilies, describing famous tenants and historical connections. He spoke about the pictures and the many collections on show in the house.

He also told members about the restorations being carried out and the beautiful trees in the grounds.

After tea all were able to wander at will to see the house's wonderful collection.

#### **UPDATE**

#### OUR REGULAR NOTES ON PARISH ACTIVITIES

Your correspondent got home late after a particularly testing day, decided to have half an hours rest before attending the Parish Council Meeting; fell asleep and was roused from a pleasant dream world by family returning from a shopping spree in Milton Keynes. The result is no first hand news. However, the grapevine informs me that the council were concerned at the misreporting in the Bucks Herald regarding the Norduck Bridleway (unfortunately compounded by your Editor who included the offending article in last months issue). The offending vehicles were not farm vehicles but private vehicles. The Herald would doubtless apologise if they knew and certainly The Chronicle apologises for repeating the error.

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

In order to deal with planning applications the Parish Council meets just for that purpose between the advertised meetings. In future these meetings will also be announced on the Parish Council notice board and will usually be held in the Church Room. In the nature of these things the notice will perforce sometimes be short.

#### TELEPHONES:

The Chairman of the Parish Council has been engaged in an entertaining exchange of views regarding the quality of his telephone service, the result of which has been a promised rebate because of the poor service since the new exchange was installed. Can we urge those of you who have suffered to write to British Telecom requesting some recompense for the decline in service.

#### REFUSE:

Complaints have been received from many people regarding the 'dustmen'. Which day is it they are supposed to visit the village Thursday or Friday? Even when they do come sacks are often not collected. The Council has put the complaints to the powers that be but again would urge any Parishioner who finds that refuse has not been collected to contact the County Council, explain that the refuse is a health hazard and request its immediate removal. One parishioner did this and a vehicle arrived to remove the rubbish the next day.

The Council is also seeking a private contractor for maintainence and servicing of the street lights and was pleased to report that the Highway Department had agreed to a staged programme of road repairs.

#### WINGRAVE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

#### WEEKEND IN LA BOUEXIERE 18 - 21 OCTOBER 1985

We are taking bookings now for the visit to La Bouexière in October, during which the French half of the official twinning will be celebrated.

We shall have a luxury 54-seater coach, which will leave Wingrave at around 7.30 p.m. on Friday 18th October, to connect with the night ferry leaving Portsmouth at 11 p.m. for Le Havre. Our return crossing is via Cherbourg - Portsmouth, leaving Cherbourg at 5 p.m. on Monday 21st. October, and we hope to be back in Wingrave around midnight.

The cost will be £35 per adult (or less), £25 per child under 14 (or less). For overnight accommodation on the outward journey you may choose between a berth in a 2 or 4-berth cabin at £8 or £8.50 each, or a couchette at £4, or a reclining seat at £2.

Please book as soon as possible by contacting Jean Keighley, The Old Vicarage, Wingrave; telephone 681235. A deposit of £10 per person should be paid by 15th. July. In the event of cancellation, this deposit will only be returned if somebody else takes the place. Cheques to Wingrave Twinning Association please.

# Wing Adult Centre Lifelong Learning

Wing County Secondary School Aylesbury Road, Wing, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 0NY

Head of Centre: Dr Alan Owen

Tel. Aylesbury 688632

Once again next year the adult centre will be offering a rich and varied programme of learning opportunities for adults. In September, you will have the choice of about sixty different courses on 12 different sites throughout the catchment area of the secondary school evening, daytime and weekend. The majority of our courses take place in the evening at Wing County Secondary School; but a quarter of our enrolments are now for daytime courses, and another quarter take place in villages other than Wing.

you have not tried adult education, why not come and see what it is 0 u r free introductory/enrolment week begins Monday o n Phone September. the school or the Centre for a copy of our brochure and then come along to whatever takes your fancy - with no obligation Remember, we are a professional adult education specialising in the needs of adult learners. Our tutors are experts their fields and they are given special training in leading learning as an adult is different from being at school, and whether your memories of school are happy or otherwise, you will find attending adult classes is an entirely new experience.

Phone or write for a brochure, or collect one from your local library or shop in July. If you attended a course last year, your name will be on our mailing list and we hope to see you again in September.

## **Entertaining times**

AN entertaining afternoon was spent by Aston Abbotts Women's Fellowship at a meeting held in the Methodist schoolroom.

Mrs D Heffer handed over the meeting to two ladies from Leighton Buzzard. Mrs Brantom conducted the meeting and gave an interesting talk on lamps, likening ourselves to the lamp and Christ as the light within.

Mrs Brantom also recited and Mrs E Cox sang two well-received solos, accompanied by Mrs Heffer at the piano. Both were warmly thanked before the meeting ended with tea and biscuits.

And on another afternoon Aston Abbotts and Cublington Ladies' Club were hosts to the not-soyoung of the two villages.

# for the villagers

A coach left Aston's green at 2.30 pm, picking up at Cublington and taking the party through leafy lanes and villages. The tour in cluded Whitchurch, Stewkley, Wing, Mentmore, Cheddington and Ivinghoe, going on past Whipsnade and Dunstable Downs and returning through Ledburn and Wingrave to the Church Room.

Here, members of the club were waiting for their guests after preparing an enjoyable tea.

Mrs B Newell, chairman, welcomed everyone and

said grace. All enjoyed the ham salads, trifles and cakes, served on flowerdecked tables.

After tea Mr A Doggett accompanied old time singing.

This was followed by a beetle drive which caused much fun and laughter. Winners were Mrs D Martin, Mrs Knibbs and Mrs Angryk. Winners in the raffle were Mrs Christopher, Miss B Bennett, Mrs Kyle (2) and Mr C Beasley.

Mr M Luxemburg thanked the club on behalf of the guests for all the enjoyment of the day.

Previously, a coffee morning was held at Longmoor Farm, home of Mrs Bellingham. This included a bring-and-buy stall, a game and raffle, which made £55 for club funds.

#### **Practical Information**

FOR

#### FOOTPATH AND BRIDLEWAY WALKING

Following recent complaints regarding various matters on footpaths I thought the following might help us all to enjoy our rights of way:

Footpaths are a public right of way and may be used by people on foot only.

Bridleways are a public right of way and may be used by persons on foot; by horse riders and even pedal cyclists, but not motor bikes or cars.

#### The Country Code

Walkers should abide by the Country Code. Its rules are few and simple, and by observing them rigidly we can all help to preserve the countryside and an atmosphere of trust between town and country dwellers.

Guard against all risk of

Leave no litter

fire

Safeguard water supplies

Fasten all gates

Protect wildlife, plants, and

trees

Keep dogs under control

trees

Keep to rights of way across farmland

Go carefully on country

roade

Avoid damaging fences,

hedges, and walls

Respect the life of the

countryside

#### The Walker and the Law

- You are only entitled to walk on the footpath or bridleway, not on adjacent land. Even in remote country you do not have the right to camp, light fires, pick flowers, or leave rubbish. This applies to fells and moorland, and is especially important in farmland and forests.
- Close all farm gates and keep dogs under control.
- If a marked path passes through a field of corn you are entitled to follow it, but make sure you do as little damage as possible.

#### Safety in the Hills

- Do not walk alone until you are sufficiently experienced and confident. Know your own limitations—and adhere to them.
- Do not go into new terrain unprepared. Plan each expedition adequately with map and compass. Find out the best access and escape routes.
- It is advisable to walk in company. Three is a good number: if an emergency arises, one person can go for help while the other stays with the injured person.
- Err on the side of caution when planning a walk, in terms of both distance and weather conditions. Remember that the weather can change rapidly at high altitudes.
- Always leave word of your destination and intended route before setting out into the hills. If you cannot inform someone at your base, then even a note attached to the windscreen of your car will do.
- Make sure you carry emergency survival gear: extra warm clothing, quick-energy foods (e.g. chocolate), means of making a hot drink, a first-aid kit, whistle, and torch.
- Memorize the recognized distress signal: six long flashes or six long whistle blasts in quick succession, followed by a pause of one minute.
- If you get into a difficult situation, the thing is not to panic. Stop, think, then take appropriate action. Above all, do not rush down the mountain—this could get you into even more trouble. Stay put, find shelter if you can, keep warm, and wait for help to come.

Obstructions such as dangerous animals, barbed wire; misleading signs or harassment are illegal and should be reported to either the County Council (Footpath Officer) or to the Ramblers Association, giving if possible the path number or grid reference. Farmers may plough footpaths that cross their land but must reinstate them within two weeks.

Stiles and footbridges can only be erected with the permission of the highway authority, unless the landowner has always had the right to do so; highway authorities erect footpath signs, which must state whether it is a footpath or bridleway. They may also erect further waymark signs to help people find the correct line of the path.

The Countryside and Wildlife Act 1981 states that it is a punishable offence to keep a bull in a field crossed by a public footpath, but there are certain exceptions. These are: a bull under 11 months or those that do not belong to a recognised dairy breed, so long as they are accompanied by cows or heifers (recognised dairy breeds are: Ayrshire; Guernsey; Jersey; British Friesians or Shorthorn).

COLIN HIGGS.



# People

A new feature about village people, in which we hope to let you know who has been doing what, when and where - and possibly even why!

A gossip coloumn of achievements, congratulations, sympathy and thanks, that we hope will become a record of the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of the people of Aston Abbotts. Sometimes sad, sometimes humorous - maybe, every now and again, heroic - but always, we hope, interesting.

Bridget Brandon has agreed to edit the page so if you have any news you think would fit into the spirit of this new feature please let Bridget know.

#### JULY BIRTHDAYS

1st. John Chesher 14th.

2nd. Arthur Tuplin and Donna Wiggett (12)

6th. Brenda Malin and Margaret Kent.

7th. Rosie Jones who will be 90 and Len Scutchings who will be 65.

13th. Don Hinds and Vic Scott.

24th. Ruth Watts.

27th. Deirdre Whyte.

29th. Lawrence Hinds.

To them all, our very best wishes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KAREN BRANDON FOR HER "STAR LETTER" IN THE 'BEANO' which appears below.

#### THE BRITISH CLASSIC HALF MARATHON

held at Milton Keynes on 9th. June.

Your aging Editor had defeated his younger brother in last years race, a defeat that resulted in a year of dedicated training to ensure revenge, which achieved with ease. Your Editor was reduced to a shambling wreck, crawling home in 836th place out of the 1407 finishers in a time of 1hr. 54mins. However the other Aston Abbotts team members produced impressive performances. ANDREW FORD was 100th. in an excellent time of 1hr.25min. and TERRY DOEL was 402nd. in a time of 1hr.38mins. To them my congratulations.

Good to see Fr. John Heffer returned to the fold after his operation and to see that Les Smith is making such a good recovery following his operation.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANDREW PARKER WHO HAS BEEN SELECTED THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE UNDER 13 CRICKET SQUAD.

Dennis the Menace Fan Club



Dear Dennis, I am just writing to tell you about my art teacher, Miss Crowther, who is a great fan of yours. The other day she came to school wearing a shirt, with a front cover from "The Beano" on it. She told us that she had painted it all with fabric paint to the last detail, and it had taken three days to do! Yours paintingly, Karen Brandon Aylesbury, Bucks.



Dear Karen,
It sounds like a
great shirt. I hope the
"Beano" artist doesn't
take up her idea,
though. If he started
doing his drawings on
shirts The "Beano"
printer would not be at
all pleased.
Yours pressingly,
Dennis.

### **VILLAGE CRICKET**

Cricket is one of the long established games for inter village competition. Teams have always liked to travel in daylight and in those days when the horse dominated transport, the journey itself could take up to two or three hours out of the day. Add to this the fact that cricket requires an unspecified amount of time, as well as good weather, and you can see that a match could only take place in the summer months. Those long summer evenings also allowed the two sides to indulge in the other time honoured pursuits at the local pub and still have time to struggle home before darkness descended.

The spirit of the village game has changed little over the centuries as the report below, from the Bucks Advertiser & Aylesbury News of <a href="5th.August 1854">5th.August 1854</a>, amply testifies.

#### "CRICKET AT QUAINTON"

On Tuesday last the return game was played between eleven of the village of Quainton and eleven of Aston Abbots, Cublington and Wingrave, when the Quainton lads were again victorious in one innings. The following is the score:

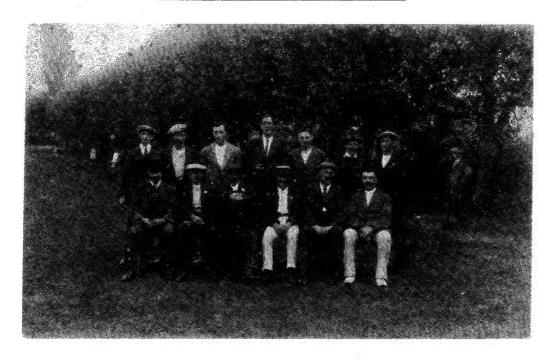
			Quainton	
John Cannon	c.	by	J.Gibbs	12.
Tom Taylor	c.	by	Biggs	16.
John Uff	c.	by	Kent	3.
Cook	c.	by	W.Baker	4.
Simms	c.	by	Hedges	7.
James Antiss	ь.	by	Gibbs	1.
Cooper	c.	by	Baker	0.
H.U66	c.	by	Gibbs	0.
Will Shirley			run out	0.
Burnell	Ь.	by	Baker	0.
James Roads		-	not out	6.
				49.

#### Aston Wingrave Cublington

W.Baker	b. by Uff	1.	not out	3.
Biggs	c. by Antiss	5.	b. by Cook	0.
Hedges	c. by Antiss	0.	b. by Cook	18.
Kent	c. by Roads	0.	b. by Uff	0.
Gibbs	c. by Cannon	0.	st.by Cook	1.
J.Gibbs	Leg b.Wicket	6.	b. by Cook	6.
W.Griffin	b. by Cook	0.	b. by Cook	3.
Chandler	b. by Cook	1.	b. by Cook	1.
J.Griffin	st.by Cook	1.	b. by Cannon	0.
T.Baker	c. by Cooper	1.	b. by Cannon	0.
Payne	not out	1.	b. by Cook	0.
		<u> 16</u> .		32.

After the game, the parties returned to the George Inn where an excellent dinner was provided by the landlady Mrs. Burnell, which was done ample justice to, and the evening was spent in mirth and happiness.

## Edwardian Days



#### ASTON ABBOTTS & CUBLINGTON CRICKET TEAM c. 1909.

The above picture is, we think of Edwardian origin and probably a combined Aston/Cublington cricket team. The photograph is not thought to have been taken in Aston Abbotts but may well be somewhere in Cublington. A young Will Humphreys, father of Doris Scutchings, who kindly lent the original to the Editor, is fifth from the left in the back row. With the help of Mrs. Whinney and Mr. Higgs we have identified the following:

Back Row Left-Right: Unknown; SID SMITH; GEORGE KENT; GEOFF BATTERSBY; WILL HUMPHREYS; Unknown; Unknown.

On the left of the front row is WILLIAM KEMSTER and the second from the right in the front row might be one of the BIGGS brothers from Cublington. The young lad standing behind the group to the right is perhaps PERCY BRAZIER.

Can anyone complete the missing details? If so please mention them to Doris at the Post Office or write to the Editor.

#### VILLAGE CRICKET (continued from previous page)

The report epitomises the spirit of village cricket but for those of you more interested in statistics of the game it presents a few curiosities. Does it mean that Quainton's Tom Taylor was caught by Biggs or was Taylor caught off the bowling of Biggs? The fact that no bowler was mentioned when a batsman was out lbw suggests that what was important in 1854 was not who bowled the wicket taking ball, but how the batsman was out. Cook, of Quainton, seems to have had a good game, not only did he manage to bowl out eight batsmen but he was responsible for two stumpings. Wicketkeeper - batsmen I have heard of, but wicketkeeper - bowler is something not seen today; or could the stumping have been some form of run out (the batsman, having left his crease is 'stumped' by a fielder throwing down the wicket before the batsman can return to his crease)?

If anyone can enlighten your correspondent please write to the Editor.



# The Estone Chronicles

A HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND VILLAGE OF ASTON ABBOTTS
by Shirley Ford

#### PART THREE

After the death of the third Earl of Chesterfield in 1726 the patronage of the Church went to his second son Hon. William Stanhope and remained with him until his death in 1772 childless. The patronage then passed to his brother Philip Earl of Chesterfield. In 1823 George Earl of Chesterfield presented Philip Strong as the vicar. In 1830 a new vicarage was built. A building called the Independent Chapel was built in 1839 to seat 200. The population at this time was about 300.

In October 1843 Sir James Clark Ross married and he and his wife moved into Aston House later that year. Between 1844 - 49 he was away on several expeditions around the world. After his last journey in 1849 he returned home for good and he and his wife continued to live at Aston House and had one girl and three boys. Lady Ross died in January 1857 and Sir James Clark Ross died in April 1862. In June of the same year all the house effects and objects were sold over 4 days and raised over £700. There was at this time a National School a small plain building situated on the village green with between 40 - 50 children attending it. Near the school were 5 ancient cottages which were given rent free to poor persons. Also in 1862 the Primitive Methodist Chapel was built. At this time the women and children were employed in making lace and strawplaiting, mainly strawplaiting and selling these items at Aylesbury and Winslow market. In 1865 the middle part of the church was destroyed by fire. Exactly one year later the church was rededicated by the Bishop of Oxford Samuel The restoration Wilberforce on Whitsun Tuesday May 22nd. 1866. cost £1100. The East Window is dedicated to Sir James Clark Ross and Lady Ross. The vicar at this time was John Thornton who raised the money for the East Window from the Ross family. cost of restoration £1230.3.11d.

In 1874 Lord Overstone was living in the Abbey and he gave the money and land for a new school. The old school and cottages were knocked down because the land they stood on was sold, I believe this was church land.

In 1898 the Church Room was built. The population was 290.

Bric—a—Brac
now at the
Pillage Shop
Aston Abbetts

Your Village Shop
OSBORNS
THE GROCERS
'use it or lose it'

### OUT AND ABOUT

#### STOKE POGES



PORTRAITS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE: No.6. STOKE POGES CHURCH.

Sketch by Frederick Griggs c.1909.

#### The rude forefathers of the hamlet still sleep in elegiac peace in their Buckinghamshire churchyard

The simple little church of St Giles, Stoke Poges, with its stumpy tower, is famous not for itself but because it inspired one of the best-loved poems in the English language, Thomas Gray's 'Elegy in a Country Churchyard'. Gray's mother lived nearby and the poet courted a girl who lived at the Elizabethan manor house near the church.

Today a long path leads through two lychgates to the church, running between rose bushes and tombstones later than Gray's time. Dorothy Gray, the poet's mother, and her unmarried sister, Mary Antrobus, were buried in a brick tomb which stands just outside the eastern wall of the church. Gray himself was laid to rest with them there when his time came, in 1771.

In a field at one side of the churchyard is the Gray

monument (NT), designed by James Wyatt and erected in 1799. A sarcophagus stands on a rather squat pillar, inscribed with melancholy lines from the poem ('the paths of glory lead but to the grave').

At the other side, with a separate entrance at Church Cottage, are the extensive memorial gardens which were laid out in the 1930s, partly to save the land close to the church from ugly development. The architect was Edward White. There are no tombstones, but unobrusive plaques record the names of those buried or remembered here. There are rose gardens, rock gardens, a lake with a little bridge by Humphry Repton, and in a dell bright with daffodils in spring an impressive oak tree thought to be 700 years or more old.

Stoke Poges Buckinghamshire is 3 miles north of Slough, off B416.



Next Parish Council Meeting: FRIDAY AUGUST 9th. 8pm. Church Room.

# The Rothschilds of

# Buckinghamshire

by JOHN CAMP.

#### PART SEVEN: HALTON HOUSE

Just about the time that Anthony Rothschild and his family were settling-in at Aston Clinton Linnel Rothschild, his brother, was buying several hundred acres of land at nearby Halton. Though there was no house on the site (this was not to be built for another thirty years) the result was that the two estates 'marched' side by side (as estate agents term it) so making the first Rothschild residence adjoin the last Rothschild residence.

In 1879 Alfred Charles Rothschild inherited the Halton estate, and in 1881 began the building of his own Halton House, eventually completed in July 1883. This was built in the newly popular French 'chateau' style which had first been seen in the county at Waddesdon a few years earlier. The great housewarming party took place on Saturday 19th. January 1884 and, as a close friend of Alfred at Cambridge and elsewhere, the Prince of Wales himself was the guest of honour. He arrived by Royal train at Tring and the procession took an hour to reach Halton through avenues of men and boys holding lanterns and lighted torches. Half the haut-monde of Europe had been invited and included the Prince of Saxe Coburg-Gotha, the Duchess of Manchester, Lady Warwick and many others.

The design of Halton had been left to an English firm of architects, Cubitts, and was not to everyone's liking. It was less ornate and ostentatious than Waddesdon but with little taste. The Winter Gardens, at the west end, were the last stage to be completed. With two large domes and seven satellite domes the Gardens were to be a special feature of the house. There were plenty of critics of this new and vast mansion. Sir Algernon West (Gladstone's private secretary) described it as 'an exagerrated nightmare of senseless and ill-applied magnificence'. Lady Balfour was even more scathing. She described Halton and its decor as 'a combination of a French chateau and a gambling house. Inside it is badly planned and gaudily decorated ... Eye hath not seen nor pen can write the ghastly coarseness of the sight! In fairness it should be said that much of this venom sprang from the anti-Semitism of the age. Lady Warwick, a close friend of the Prince of Wales, was to say later that Victorian society resented the Jews and resented his Royal Highness's friendship with them, not as individuals but because they had brains and made money. As Lady Warwick remarked, referring to her own social background, "As a class we did not like brains. As for money, our only understanding of it lay in spending of it, not in the making of it."

Nevertheless Halton House received many visitors over the years. Alfred, with his love of music, was attracted to composers and performers and welcomed Dame Nellie Melba on many occasions, as well as the Abbe Liszt in the last year of the composer's life. Locally Mr. Alfred was known for so called 'adoration weekends'. These involved inviting three or four close men friends for the weekend as well as one of the well known beauties of the day. She would 'entertain' the men and leave, on the Monday or Tuesday, with a magnificent gift donated by her grateful admirers. On one occasion the rapacious and miserly Lily Langtry was the 'guest of honour' (though hardly the right phrase) and picked up a Louis XVI snuff-box from a table, announcing that she would take this as her gift. When she left she was reminded of her 'mistake', the snuff-box retrieved and Lily never invited to a Rothschilds house again.

Nb.

Gunnersbury Park Museum

# ROTHSCHILDS AT GUNNERSBURY

# 17th May-1st September 1985

The Rothschild connection with Gunnersbury began 150 years ago in 1835, when Nathan Mayer, founder of the British branch of the famous merchant bank, purchased Gunnersbury Park as a country residence, only seven miles from the family houses in Piccadilly. It was the first of the many great estates which the Rothschilds bought up, particularly in the Aylesbury Vale. By this time the name Rothschild had already become synonymous with wealth. The exhibition explains some of the mystique behind this remarkable family who rose from humble origins in a Frankfurt ghetto to being leading financiers to the British and many foreign governments.

Nathan never survived to enjoy the beauties of Gunnersbury Park, which under the care of his widow and descendants, was greatly developed and enchanted their many visitors, among whom were royalty. The running of the estate itself had considerable influence on local trade and employment. The exhibition will also reflect the family's philanthropic work locally, in the Buckinghamshire estates and especially within the Anglo-Jewish community as a whole, over which they presided for much of the 19th century, endowing synagogues, schools, hospitals. Like a number of other Anglo-Jewish gentry of the time, the Rothschilds worked hard for the emancipation of Jews in England, indeed Nathan's son Lionel was the first Jewish MP, his grandson the first Jewish Peer, entering the House of Lords 100 years ago.

Gunnersbury Park was sold in 1925 and is now owned by the London Boroughs of Ealing and Hounslow. The residue of the estate which had been greatly extended by the Rothschilds was mainly sold for housing. The Museum occupies part of the family finely decorated mansion.

Illustrated lectures on Sundays at 3.00pm

2 June The Rothschilds at Gunnersbury

Ann Balfour Paul

30 June The Rothschilds and Anglo-Jewry

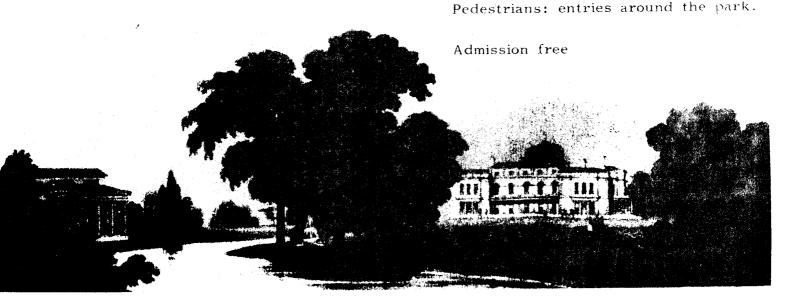
Dr Aubrey Newman

21 July The Rothschilds in Buckinghamshire

John Camp

Open daily Monday-Friday 1-5pm Weekends, Bank holidays 2-6pm Further details: 01 992 1612. Gunnersbury Park Museum. Gunnersbury Park, London W3 8LQ.

Access: by car via Popes Lane
Underground: Acton Town (nearest)
British Rail: Gunnersbury
Bus: E3 (daily), No.7 (Sundays only)



Alfred was one of the few Rothschilds who both made money in large quantities and spent it equally lavishly - usually the Rothschilds conformed to one pattern or the other. Alfred was the first Jewish director of the Bank of England, a director of the Tate Gallery and also the financial 'angel' behind many of the shows at the Gaiety Theatre in London during the palmy Edwardian era of the impresario, George Edwardes. He took an active part in the Rothschild bank (though, in truth, he arrived at the bank at 10 a.m., took lunch from noon to 2 p.m. and went home again at 3 p.m.) though he did not keep his directorship of the Bank of England for long owing to an unpleasant incident over a picture. Alfred used his bank's to buy it. This figure was so much lower than the figure the dealer had told Alfred he had paid for it that Alfred, in a rage, went round London trumpetting the fact that the dealer was a crook. Soon afterwards it was suggested he resigned his directorship.

Weekends at Halton, even if it was not an 'adoration' weekend, were quite strenuous. Dinner was never served before 10 p.m. as Alfred, like all the Rothschilds, was kind and considerate to his staff and insisted that they all had their own evening meal before preparing and serving that of his guests. In the winter, the meal being over about midnigh; the assembled company were ushered into the Winter Gardens where, under the huge dome, Alfred, arrayed in tails and wielding a baton, would conduct his own symphony orchestra until the small hours. In summer it was no better, for at midnight the guests were taken into the famous Halton Woods where, in a large clearing, their host, this time dressed in scarlet tails and carrying a whip, would organise a circus and put various wild beasts through their paces. Many are the tails of the opulence of Halton and the generous treatment of guests. One favourite anecdote relates how a lady of means went to sleep one night with her hand outside the counterpane. When she awoke next morning it had been manicured!

During the first world war the woodlands of Halton were cut down to provide pit props and Alfred gave the land to the War Office as an encampment for troops. Later in the war it was taken over by the Royal Flying Corps (later the RAF) and today, of course, is the largest apprentice training depot of the RAF in the Commonwealth. The house is the officers' mess and closed to the public. Alfred died in 1918 and left (no doubt with some reluctance) £10 million. Half this amount he bequeathed to a lady young enough to be his daughter, Almina, Countess of Carnarvon. Later it was revealed that this lady was, in fact, his illegitimate daughter, the mother being possibly the famous dancer Tilly Losch as the result of an 'adoration' weekend. The Countess's husband, Lord Carnarvon, was an enthusiastic amateur Egyptologist and friend of Howard Carter, the famous professional Egyptologist. Most of this five million pound inheritance went to finance the great expedition to the Valley of Kings in Egypt near Thebes, resulting in the discovery of Tutankamun's fabulous tomb late in 1922. But in February 1923 Lord Carnarvon was struck down by a mysterious respiratory illness and died, so (people said) proving the existence of the Curse of the Pharaohs. This is yet another indication of the good use to which the Rothschild money was put. The present head of the family, Lord Victor Rothschild, is most insistent that those who write or talk about his family should remind those who are interested of the contribution Rothschild money has made to the sciences, to the arts and to history, which it has altered in its time. Today the only Rothschild living in Buckinghamshire is Evelyn at Ascott (though, of course, a Rothschild widow lives at Eythrope). We should be proud that such an illustrious family has lived in our county for well over a century, and grateful to them for the benefits they have brought.

This is the last of JOHN CAMP'S series on 'THE ROTHSCHILDS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'. For those of you interested in the family an extensive exhibition is on show at Gunnersbury House, Acton, and continues until 1st. September. Details on facing page.

#### A LETTER FROM WING

WING COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL

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#### Wing and District Swimming Association

A Steering Committee has been formed and is in the process of:

- (a) designing a Constitution.
- (b) collecting information from possible helpers.
- (c) negotiating a licence with the County.

This organisation takes time but the main immediate need is to make contact with people in the area who hold a current Lifesaving Certificate or a First Aid Certificate and who would be able to give some help in holiday time, evenings or weekends. If there are sufficient trained volunteers it may be able to open the Association on a temporary basis until the final details are worked out.

The Chairman of the Steering Committee is Mr. Roll McNeil, 16, Church Street, Wing and the Secretary is Mrs. June Barrolough. 2, Cheyne Close, Silver Street, Cublington and they would be very pleased to hear from anyone who could help.

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are ever able to attend any of our functions please  $d\alpha$  so. I look forward to meeting as many people from the area as possible. Any ideas you have of developing school and community links will be very gratefully received. Thank you for all the help and support I have received from members of the villages in the school catchment area during my first year as Headmaster.

#### CHURCH NEWS

It was good to have the Rector back with us for our service on June 23rd. He is not yet fully recovered from his operation but is clearly making good progress.

This month's highlight is, of course, the Festival weekend. It is good that the village Festival is arranged to coincide with the Festival of St.James our Patron Saint. We hope that the weekend will be rounded off with a resounding Songs of Praise at 6 p.m. on Sunday 21st July when we can all give

ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON APBOTTS, BUCKS.

thanks to God for our many blessings, not least just living in such a lovely village. Do resolve to come.

You may have noticed that the bells are being rung rather more often and not only by our own increasingly proficient band. We have been pleased to welcome several bands from afield who enjoy visiting different towers and who often ring very well indeed. We were particularly pleased to offer the ringers from Leighton Buzzard the chance to practise one Monday. What a tragedy that fire was and especially to the bell-ringers for they had just rehung their ten bells. We understand that the bells are so badly damaged that they will have to be completely recast. Typically though they are thinking of now making a peal of twelve! There is a lesson for us all there, I suspect, of turning apparent tragedy by a triumphant response. Come to think of it that is just what Christ did.

#### SERVICES IN JULY

7th. July: Family Service with Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.

Readings: Colossians 3(12-17); Luke 15(11-24)

14th. July: Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.

Readings: I Corinthians 13; Matthew 18(21-35)

21st. July : FESTIVAL SUNDAY Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.

Songs of Praise 6 p.m.

Readings: Acts 11(27) - 12(2); Mark 10(35-45)

28th. July: Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.

Readings: 2.Corinthians 3(6-10); Mark 9(14-29)

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Sidesman

Miss.G.Ford

Mr.C.Higgs

Mr.J.Ford

Churchwardens

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



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July 1985

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Tel. Aylesbury 681623

While standing in a queue for refreshments after my Induction in October 1981, two parishioners were overheard discussing me - their new vicar. "He doesn't seem too bad on first sight," said one. "No", replied the other, "but, of course, we would have preferred someone a bit younger."

When this conversation was relayed to me, sometime later, I immediately did some running-on-the-spot, polished my wooden leg, combed out my toupee, and rushed to renew my denture water. Then, reflecting sadly that there was nothing more for me to do, and, hoping that middle-age'ish had its compensations, I set about ignoring the conversation that I should not have heard, anyway. 'Perhaps,' I said to myself,' the folks here might not find me too bad on "second sight"!

Since that time, nearly four years ago, I can safely say that I have felt just as much, or more at home and pastorally accepted, here, than I have in any other of the six parishes in which I have served. And I know this goes for wire, Sheila, as well. Mind you (and this is shere coincidence I can assure you) neither she nor I have ever been so consistently ill and in and out of hospitals since we came to live among you. But in so many different ways you have responded to our need magnificently.

Many of you have referred kindly to my ministry during a recent spell of hospitilisation: but it works BOTH WAYS, you know. So I'm glad this month to offer gratitude for all that has been done, and in so many different ways for us, during a series of 'misfortunes' in the Rectory household. Our undying gratitude to so many willing "chauffeurs".

Several members of Cublington PCC came to our aid after Sheila's illness last year and rescued her garden "welcome bed" at the Rectory gate from returning to nature. These, also, have come to Wingrave this season to keep things tidy. Our next-door-neighbours-but-one have loaned their son from time to time on a sit-on-mower to keep at buy the 'acres' of grass where wild animals might have been lurking. Thus enabling a 'wounded' rector to keep out of the way while his son, in turn, using our non-sit-on-mower kept the lawns to a semi-bowling green appearance. And, by the time you read this the Wingrave Church Fete should have been held in the garden, here... Others, I know, will have helped to make this a possibility. My grateful thanks to them also.

But, to return to my opening theme. For, when Church Councils are asked during a vacancy by the Bishop to say what kind of priest they need, invariably they ask for 'someone young and married' - among other, sometimes, fantastic requests! It's very understandable to ask for 'someone young', as hard-working Church members will be looking for relief from many chores. However, there are two sides to each coin.

When I was a young incumbent, I was often told by older parishioners (not always in so many words) that I was too young and inexperienced to be much help (and sometimes in so many words). Now I am older, inevitably, I'm still not in touch with everybody.

We've been hearing at the festivals from those preparing for ordination. Their job, above all others, will be to ENABLE the Church to be the Church. Young or older, pray for their response to God's call who has been faithto call them and will be faithful to the end. (1 Thessalonians 5(23,24)).

Meanwhile, I don't need a wooden leg, yet, but there are one or two other "aids" which I might not find too unacceptable.

Yours sincerely

#### ASTON ABBOTTS DEDICATION & PATRONAL FESTIVAL

11.15 a.m. The Parish Communion 3 21ST JULY 6.00 p.m. 'Songs of Praise'

During the Evening Festival of Praise —— Philip Dines, who is preparing for ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge, will speak to us about his call to the Church of England Ministry. We are grateful to him, Rob Warner and Colin Marsh for their contribution at our parish festivals, as we have thought and prayed about the Church's Ministry.

SUNDAY LESSONS		(ASB)		
4th August	Pentecost 10	(684)	Philip. 2(1-11)	John 13(1-15)
11th August	Pentecost 11	(689)	2 Cor. 4(1-10)	John $13(31-35)$
18th August	Pentecost 12	(694)	2  Cor.  5(14)-6(2)	John 17(20-26)
25th August	Pentecost 13	(699)	Acts 7(54)-8(1)	John 16(1-11)
1st September	Pentecost 14	(705)	Ephes. $5(25) - 6(4)$	Mark 10(2-16)
8th September	B. V. M.	(797)	Micah $5(2-4)$	Luke 1(39-49)

HOLY BAPTISM Wingrave Parish Church 23rd June:

Michelle Louise, daughter of Pat and Heather KANE

HOLY MATRIMONY Wingrave Parish Church:

15th June Andrew Paul Tilby DEWHURST and Linda Grace FLETCHER

22nd June Andrew Barry NASH and Katherine Louise ALCOCK
David Sidney ARNOLD and Elizabeth Jane ALCOCK

THINKING AHEAD As this particular News Sheet is not published in August, here is a Forward Look at the Harvest Festival dates in the Parish Churches:

Wingrave Parish Church 10 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. (22nd September)
Aston Abbotts Parish Church 11.15 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.(29th September)
Cublington Parish Church 10 Family Service (6th October)

SUNDAY SERVICES The following is a summary of the Church Services during the next months. With one exception, there should be no change from the normal pattern:-

NOTE The one exception to the above on 28th JULY - Services at Cublington and Wingrave only.

#### FAMILY SERVICES for SEPTEMBER

September 1st Cublington at 10 o'clock Aston Abbotts at 11.15 a.m.

FUNERAL 31st May, a Service in Wingrave Parish Church for Freda May HIGGS

and afterwards interment of ashes in the Churchyard.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>please keep this sheet until september\*\*\*

#### INSIDE THE BACK PAGE

#### SCOTT OF THE CHILTERNS

A fine day for a short walk. It was going to be a short walk wasn't it? Yes, of course it was, Vic told us four to five miles. So off we go a cavalcade of cars leave the village and head for Longdown Hill close to Askett. A quick count of heads - 16 children, 8 adults and 3 dogs and we're off. Forty eight wellington boots (the dogs weren't wearing any that day!) step out along the well worn and well signed Pidgeway Path on the first leg towards Coombe Hill. We quickly leave Askett Golf Course behind us and already the leaders are about two miles ahead of the laggers and fast approaching Ellesborough Church. Has anyone seen Neil? someone asks. No, but he's probably popped behind a bush, well he did insist on that extra pint at lunchtime. Onward then towards the monument and the promise of ice cream. assuming of course we can find an Italian. You will appreciate that some of the, well, older members of the party are now lagging well behind and their ice creams will probably have melted by the time they get them, but they struggle on, adjust their surgical stockings and things and are rewarded with an empty though damp cornet. Past the monument then (you'll be pleased to hear it's got its balls back) and follow the sun, on second thoughts we'd better follow Vic. down ito Wendover. We arrive at the Church and lo and behold Neil has arrived before us. We have a quick drink of

Holy water and orange and ready for the off. Trevor has mentioned that he feels sick but we tell him its nonsense. nobody feels sick when they walk with us. Vic has also mentioned that its something over a mile to the finish (if only he had told us how much over a mile). We are well into Halton woods now and stumble across some scouts. Could we show them the way to Wendover? We could yes - but as we're also lost it probably wouldn't benefit them! After what seemed an age we arrived at our destination and although you won't believe it, Neil was there before us. He did let us into his secret though he had done the whole eight mile walk in a Volvo estate (no thats not an up market brand of wellies).

The barbeque was lit (you're not allowed to light fires there but we were desperate, and anyway Vic was in charge). Twelve pounds of baked beans and other goodies were consumed. Neil swore at Margaret for dropping the burgers into the mud. Margaret didn't swear back but placed the burgers into the pan. Trevor was sick, twice. The walk was eight miles long - not four or five and the whole event was a great success. Very many thanks to Vic Scott for his time and for supplying the food and thanks to the 'leaders' of the Youth Club.

How about Everest next year?

Abbottsbury.



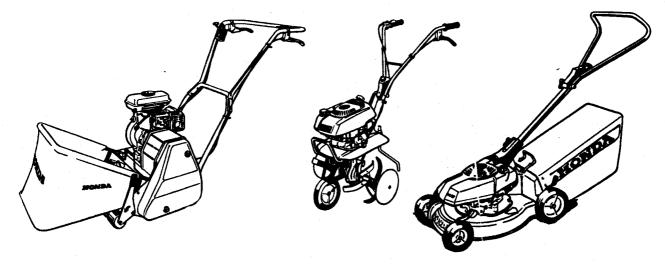
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