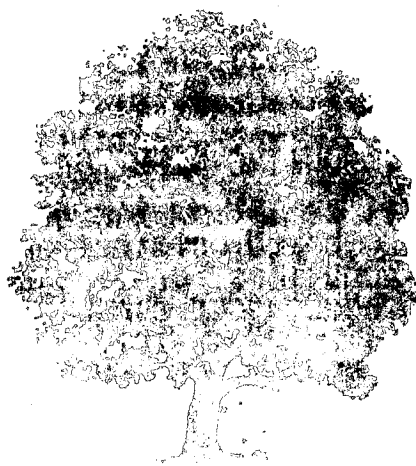


# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



People

**Inside :**

CHURCH NEWS

The Aston Chronicles

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Education in Aston Abbotts

YOUTH CLUB

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A LETTER FROM WING

November 1985 No. 27



# Editorial

Inside the back page this month is an Andy Bystra cartoon dedicated to Eileen and Ernie who are leaving the Bull & Butcher. I know everyone would like to wish them both all the very best for the future.

\*\*\*\*\*

DON'T FORGET BONFIRE NIGHT ON TUESDAY 5TH. NOV.

The fire will be lit on the recreation ground at 7.00p.m. Soup, baked potatoes and sausages will be served. Any donations for fireworks would be gratefully accepted. Contact John Whyte or Bridget Brandon.

\*\*\*\*\*

This month we have our second photograph; this time of Aston Abbotts School in about 1910. If anyone can recognise any of the beaming faces please let me know. I would like a few more articles on the 'old school', so if you have any school photo's that you would be willing to lend (for just a day or so) it would be much appreciated. Even more appreciated would be reminiscences of school days - descriptions of a typical school day; the classrooms or stories of the pranks that you must have got up to !

Finally I must report that we have not been selected as one of the winners of the Village Ventures Competition.

*Graham Parker*

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DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE: NOVEMBER 23rd. PLEASE

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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 the Post Office.

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Published by Graham Parker for Aston Abbotts Parish Council.  
Printed by THE SQUIRREL PRESS, Waddesdon School, Waddesdon.

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# NOTICEBOARD

A SURVEY WILL BE CARRIED OUT DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF NOVEMBER TO RECORD PASSENGER USAGE, WHICH WILL DECIDE ON OUR BUS SERVICE FOR THE FUTURE, ONCE THE BUS COMPANIES ARE DENATIONALISED.

USE YOUR BUS OR LOSE IT - THINK OF ASTON ABBOTTS WITHOUT A BUS.

MORE USE IS NEEDED ON THE FOLLOWING JOURNEYS: 8 a.m. to AYLESBURY  
8.19 & 12.00 to WING & L/BUZZARD.

## 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
Bierton, "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	515	516	515	516	516	515	516	515	515	515
				NS				NS	S			S	NS	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	1540	1610	1710	1800	1855		1905
Wing, Stewkley Road	0719	0743	0904	1005	1118	1304	1503	1603	1623	1723	1813	1906		1916
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		1614	1641		1831			
Wingrave, Cross Roads	0731	0804	0925	1012	1125	1325	1510	1619	1644	1730	1834	1911		1921
Bierton, "Red Lion"	0737	0810	0931	1018	1131	1331	1516	1625	1650	1736	1840	1916		1926
AYLESBURY, Bus Station	0746	0819	0940	1027	1140	1340	1525	1634	1659	1745	1849	1925		1935

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

## WHATS ON

THURSDAYS 7th & 21st. BINGO Church Room 8 p.m.  
FRIDAY 8th. PARISH COUNCIL Church Room 8 p.m.  
SUNDAY 17th. FOOTPATH WALK Meet the Green 2 p.m.

## LADIES CLUB

On October 10th. we had an interesting talk from the Branch Manager of Thomas Cook in aylesbury. Mrs. Sinnott entertained us once more with slides of her travels - this time in South Africa.

Our November meeting in the Hall as usual is on the 7th. and will be the A.G.M. and a Bring & Buy Sale.

The annual shopping trip is on the 21st. and this year the venue is Oxford. Seats on the coach are £2.50 & the coach leaves The Green at 9.30 a.m.

1st WINGRAVE SCOUTS \*\*\*\*\* GRAND BAZAAR \*\*\*\*\* COMMUNITY CENTRE, WINGRAVE

2.00 P.M. SATURDAY 23rd. NOVEMBER

# YOUTH CLUB

May I first of all offer a very big vote of thanks to all those who supported us so well at the Jumble Sale on October 19th. We managed to raise a grand sum of £34.16 which will go towards buying some much needed equipment for the children.

Once again, many thanks to all of you.

November starts off with a Hallowe'en Disco on the 1st, open to all members and their friends, from 7.30 - midnight. Tickets will be 50p each and refreshments will be available. Come in fancy dress if you wish!

The remainder of November is as follows:

6th General Meeting  
22nd Film Show

15th Cooking  
29th Christmas Crafts

---

## HELP WANTED ???

If your car needs washing we, of the JON & JAMES CAR WASH COMPANY would be delighted to oblige you of our services at a very reasonable rate:

1. For just a wash and rinse the cost is 50p.
2. For the inside cleaned the cost is 50p.
3. For a waxed car the cost is 50p.
4. As a special offer all three will be done for a very reasonable price £1.

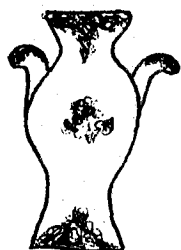
So, if your car needs cleaning in any of these three ways call for the JON & JAMES CAR CLEANING SERVICE.

Contact us by dropping a line on paper to: 20, The Green, Aston Abbotts.

We hope to here from you soon - no Friday appointments please!

---

**Bric-a-Brac**



**now at the  
Village Shop  
Aston Abbotts**

---

# People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE  
AND EVENTS. Edited by Bridget Brandon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BIRTHDAYS

8th. NOV. Bridget Brandon.  
9th. NOV. Steve Kent.  
10th. NOV. Ray Wilkinson.  
23rd. NOV. John Whyte.

## DEATHS

Our sympathy to the family and friends  
of ROSIE JONES - she will be greatly  
missed.

## BEST WISHES

to ERNIE and EILEEN NAYLOR who are  
leaving the Bull & Butcher, and to  
BARRY and MARILYN SYKES who will be  
taking over.

## THANK YOU

MR. & MRS. J. BRAZIER would like to  
thank Doris and Len Scutchings and  
Kath and Don Waite for all their help  
in moving them into the bungalow, and  
also thank them for all their help  
over the last four difficult years.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOTICE

AT STUD: ONE NEAR BLACK LABRADOR  
PLACE: Almost anywhere in the village.  
PEDIGREE: As long as your toe.  
FEE: Free, does it for pleasure.  
KENNEL NAME: RA D AR (Ancient Tibetan)  
OWNERS RIGHTS: You keep them all.  
Please ring 681425 to apportion blame!

## VILLAGE CHRISTMAS SHOW

Well, after the initial rush we are still looking for some top line volunteers  
to star in this years extravaganza. We know you will be able to contain your  
excitement when the news escapes that we have already booked to entertain you:

GARGLING JOHN WHITE

MYSTICAL ALISON FORD

LEAPING CHRIS BRANDON

DEVILISH DENISE ROBINSON.

The sad news is that as yet we have been unable to persuade Andrew Ford to  
participate. Come on Andy, stop playing hard to get, lets see more from the  
two infamous puppets. I can hardly wait.

Tickets for this night(s) of joy will be available as from the 1st. November  
and Chris Brandon has accepted the task of ensuring we fill the Hall every night.  
If you have not been before then break a golden rule and come and have a laugh,  
but only one. If you have been before then you will know what to expect so it's  
your own fault for buying a ticket ! It really is a jolly good night of family  
fun of a local flavour.

This year the show is on the 12th., 13th., and 14th. of December, starting at  
8.00 p.m. Any raffle prizes will be gratefully accepted.

Don't forget Chris Brandon is the man with the tickets so please ring anytime  
day or night on 681425.

TERRY BILL CHIC.

## Bookshelf

Last months attempt to spot the Booker shortlist fell somewhat short of perfection. Two out of six is a pretty poor performance, but when trying to anticipate the thoughts of such diverse characters as Norman St John Stevas, J.W. Lambert, Nina Bawden, Maria Warner and Joanna Lumley, perhaps two out of six is not that bad. At least my tip to lift the £15,000 prize on October 31st. - Doris Lessing's "The Good Terrorist" - was amongst those selected.

The list is truly international with Australian Peter Carey's "Illywhacker" and New Zealand's Keri Hulme with her haunting and disturbing book "The Bone People", joining Doris Lessing, who was born in Persia of British parents who moved when she was five to a farm in Zimbabwe. and Iris Murdoch (whose "The Good Apprentice" was the only other title on my list to reach the last six) from Ireland. Completing the line up are J.L. Carr ("The Battle of Pollocks Crossing") and Jan Morris ("Last Letters from Hav") who are both English.

Professional pundits suggest that despite being a previous winner Doris Lessing might again be named, which would be just reward for one of the most prolific and gifted of post war talents. However heavy betting is also being taken on Peter Carey. By the time you read this we should know.

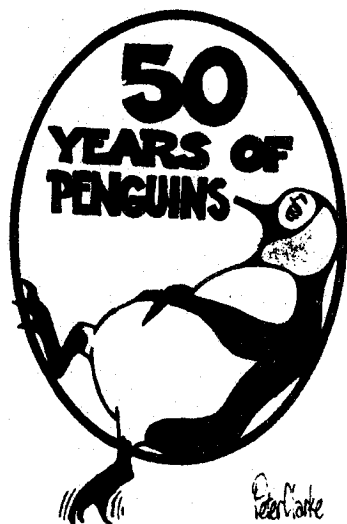
### NEW PAPERBACKS

A year after the hardback has been published the paperback edition of a successful book hits the bookshops. Amongst those now available are:

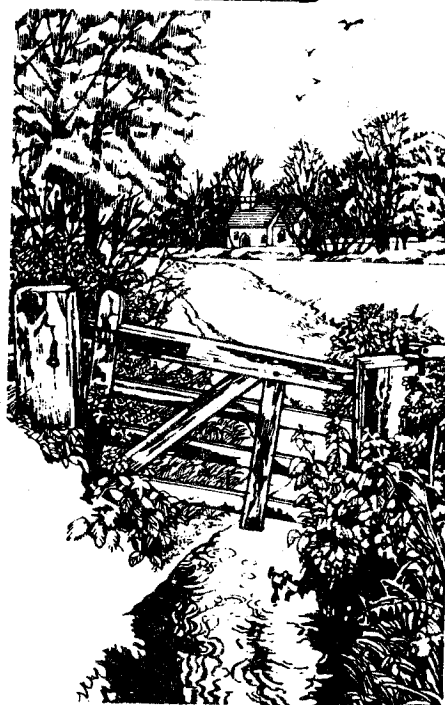
● **Hotel du Lac** by Anita Brookner (Triad Granada £1.95 pp184). Edith Hope (cruelly appropriate name for a Brookner heroine), a writer of romantic fiction, is sojourning at a Swiss lakeside, escaping a mysterious affair and observing fellow guests with a cool eye. A fourth fine novel from Brookner, and winner of last year's Booker prize.

● **Empire of the Sun** by J.G. Ballard (Granada £2.50 pp351). This view of the second world war through the eyes of a young boy in a corner of the Far East is not only Ballard's outstanding novel to date but may well come to be seen as the major British novel about the war. A remarkable achievement.

● **Stars and Bars** by William Boyd (Penguin £2.95 pp348). The theme of the innocent Englishman on the loose in the United States may seem a weary one, but Boyd's tale of Henderson Dore's pilgrimage through the wilds of New York and the Deep South reaching what reviewers call an "explosive climax" gives it a deft twist.



The fifty years of Penguins is being celebrated in a variety of ways but presentation packs seem to be the favourite method of the moment. The game of picking the ten greatest ever published by Penguin has begun and W.H. Smith's selection is probably as good as any, ranging as it does from the readable Lucky Jim to the almost unreadable - I'm sorry, heathen that I am, I have never found Tolstoy a joy!



The 13th-century church of All Saints at Ulting in Essex lies beside the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. This is one of the many drawings by David Chesworth illustrating *Towpaths of England* by Brian Bearshaw (Hale. £8.95), which extols the pleasures of canalside walking.

# A LETTER FROM WING.

## A MESSAGE FROM WING SCHOOL

1986 is Industry Year. I hope that we are able to develop the liaison between school and local industry so that we can improve the education offered to our pupils. We already have contacts with many local industrialists who assist with visits and work experience places but there never seems time to delve more deeply into how schools, industry and commerce can understand each other more and, therefore, develop curriculum initiatives which would prepare our young people for the world of tomorrow. We often hear about how schools are failing to educate young people to satisfactory standards for industry or how industrialists are expecting schools to produce young people who are "factory fodder" but we often forget that the young person is an individual who needs to learn from people who have a sensitive understanding of the world as it is and as it might be.

I would like to see Wing School use Industry Year in a positive attempt to gain insights into Industry and Commerce which will provide staff and pupils with new ideas and understanding.

I would like to see Industry and Commerce use Industry Year in a positive attempt to find out what actually does go on in schools so that they are more aware of what modern day education is about.

How can this happen? What can you do?

Everyone in the area could offer something if they really wanted to. Some people in a Management position could perhaps offer more. I will suggest some ideas, you may have others.

- (1) Brief biographies of how you have progressed since leaving school up to attaining your present position.
- (2) A detailed description of your job.
- (3) A breakdown of the structure of your firm or organisation showing the importance of all the workers in the organisation.
- (4) A detailed description of the processes involved in your organisation from raw material to finished product.
- (5) A joint study between a teacher and an industrialist with similar subject backgrounds to look at similarities and differences between Education and Industry and to try to find ways in which they can help each other.
- (6) Some twinning arrangements between the school and industrialists that will allow the school to understand the needs of Industrial Society and allow the Industrialists to gain an understanding of what schools are about.

Close interaction on a personal basis between staff, pupils, Industrial and Commercial Management and workers can only result in an increased understanding of what we are all trying to do. At the present moment many of our thoughts are based on rumour and fantasy rather than on fact.

On a personal basis I would welcome the opportunity to meet with a Manager from Industry or Commerce and share ideas and experiences of our roles to see if we can learn from each other.

Various schemes are available on a County or National Scale but I am interested in developing something locally. Please contact me if you are interested in discussing how we can make Industry year relevant to people in the area covered by Wing Secondary School.

# QUIZ

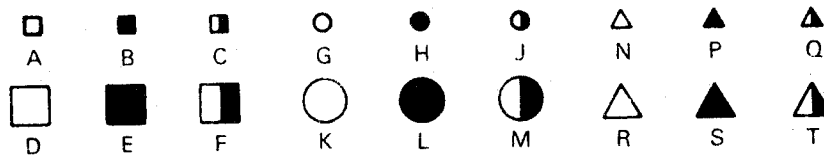
## THE FIRST OF OUR NEW WINNER SERIES

This month a logical reasoning test taken from "Test Your Own Aptitude" by James Barrett and Geoffrey Williams, published by Kogan Page Ltd, and copyright of The Readers Digest Ass.

**Instructions :** Each question has a string of shapes. There are three different shapes and each shape can be in one or two sizes and white, black or black and white. You can see all the possible answers (marked A to T) at the top of the test. Each string of shapes follows a pattern and you try to find the next TWO shapes in the pattern. Time limit: 20 minutes.

Answers on page

### TESTING LOGICAL REASONING





12.  $\triangle-\triangle-\triangle-\bigcirc-\bullet-\bigcirc-\square-\triangle-\triangle-\triangle-\bigcirc-\bullet-$  - -

13.  $\square-\triangle-\triangle-\triangle-\bigcirc-\square-\triangle-\triangle-\triangle-\bigcirc-\square-\triangle-\triangle-\triangle-$  - -

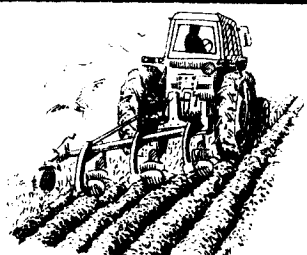
14.  $\bullet-\bullet-\square-\bigcirc-\bullet-\bullet-\square-\bigcirc-\bigcirc-\bullet-\square-\bullet-$  - -

15.  $\square-\triangle-\triangle-\triangle-\bullet-\bigcirc-\square-\triangle-\triangle-\triangle-\bigcirc-\bigcirc-$  - -

16.  $\bullet-\triangle-\square-\square-\square-\bigcirc-\bigcirc-\triangle-\square-\square-\square-\bullet-$  - -

17.  $\square-\square-\bigcirc-\triangle-\square-\square-\bullet-\triangle-\square-\square-\bullet-\triangle-$  - -

18.  $\bullet-\bullet-\bullet-\square-\triangle-\bullet-\bullet-\bullet-\square-\triangle-\bigcirc-\bullet-\bullet-$  - -



### SCHOOL REUNION

Mrs. Helen Underwood (nee Puchalska) of 11, Abbotts Way, Wingrave is interested in tracing anyone who started at Wing School in 1966. She would like to hold a reunion next Autumn. In discussing this excellent idea we wondered if other ex-pupils or ex-staff who were at Wing around the mid 1960's would like to be included. Contacting people will be the biggest problem and if you want to be included or know the name and address of someone who might like to be included, please let Helen or myself know.

If you are prepared to help Helen organise such an event please contact her as soon as possible.

-----

**CAR BOOT SALE**  
**WING SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**Sunday 3rd November**  
**10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**£3.00 a Pitch**

**IVAN ANDREW**  
**Headmaster**

## down on the farm

Once again we welcome a new advertiser: MOUNT PLEASANT FARM SHOP.

David and Dorothy Body have lived and worked on the 120 acre dairy farm, on the Dunton Road, Stewkley, for some sixteen years; but like milk producers throughout the country they were not helped by the reduced milk quotas.

In an effort to diversify Dorothy decided to open the farm shop. A disused calf shed was converted into the shop and the shelves stocked with home made jams, preserves, marmalades, fresh laid eggs, home baked cakes, pies and scones, and even their own home produced butter, using milk from the farm, and home made sausages - from herb to pork and apple!



As well as selling their own fresh milk in two pint containers the Body's also sell goats milk although this is not produced on the farm. "I buy it in and keep it frozen. It is good for children who suffer from milk allergies," she said.

Dorothy also sells herbs and fresh chickens. All her preserves are made when fruits are in season. "I usually go to pick your own farms and then if I have enough in stock I freeze the fruit and use it when I need it," she said.

The Body's are a far cry from the stereotyped complaining farmer: "We feel we are very lucky to live in the countryside, working for ourselves, and we like to share it with other people whenever possible. We often have groups of school-children visiting us and the local girl guides camp here every year. It is our ideal world".

A visit to Mount Pleasant is a pleasure, and if you haven't yet discovered the farm shop that is virtually on your doorstep why not drop in next weekend. Children are made particularly

welcome and can enjoy the freedom of the farmyard where there are chickens, rabbits, calves, geese and a collie dog called Snoopy. So why not go along and support a venture that is daft enough to support The Chronicle.



# Inland Trawlers Ltd.



Specialists in the Supply of Fresh Fish

EVERY TUESDAY 1.30 - 2.00 p.m.

Head Office: Vandyke Road, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 8HH Tel: Leighton Buzzard 376300 Aylesbury (0296) 83838

### LOGICAL REASONING ANSWERS:

- |        |        |         |         |         |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. G M | 5. A Q | 9. D N  | 13. L B | 17. E D |
| 2. B G | 6. F J | 10. G R | 14. K K | 18. B Q |
| 3. A L | 7. C T | 11. R J | 15. D N |         |
| 4. P M | 8. A D | 12. F R | 16. J R |         |

SCORES: 0 - 7 Below average. 8 - 13 Average. 14 - 18 Above average.

# Education in Aston Abbotts

Formal education in Aston Abbotts did not begin, so far as we know, until 1851 - although a Sunday School almost certainly existed before that date - any information would be much appreciated. Education remained the privilege of the few until well into the nineteenth century. The industrial revolution initiated the change, with its increasingly complex machinery housed in vast factories and centred in rapidly expanding towns.

## " EDWARDIAN SCHOOLDAYS "



ASTON ABBOTTS SCHOOL c.1910

(Photograph lent by Mrs. Vera White of Wingrave)

The earliest attempts at providing education for the poor were the Sunday Schools, founded by Robert Raikes in Gloucester in 1783; but the reason was not so much for the benefit of the poor as to prevent the hooliganism which broke out in the streets on the one day that the factories were closed. Above all Raikes and his imitators wanted to teach the children 'a sense of subordination and due respect for their superiors', as well as some knowledge of the Bible.

The new industrial cities brought unparalleled social change. The old ties of squire and church that had been typical of the small agricultural communities were gone. The pastoral role of the church had been weakened or destroyed by the changes and the church had few footholds in the new industrial centres. In an effort to meet this challenge the churches launched into a vast effort to educate the children of the new cities. Andrew Bell founded the Church of England's National Society in 1811 and Joseph Lancaster established the largely nonconformist British Society in 1814.

# ASTON ABBOTTS DAY & SUNDAY SCHOOLS, 1851.

1. That a Committee be formed, to consist of the Treasurer and Subscribers to the School.
2. That a Meeting of Subscribers to inspect the Accounts, and to investigate the state of the School, take place at the School-room on the First Monday in July, and the Third Monday in December, at Twelve o'Clock at noon.
3. That no Child can be admitted without a recommendation from a Subscriber, stating its Name, Age, Parish, Parents' Names, and Father's Occupation.
4. That Children may be admitted on the First Monday in every month at Eleven o'Clock, when one or more of the Committee will attend to receive their names.
5. That all Scholars appear at School *cleanly and neatly dressed*.
6. That all Scholars be provided with Books, free of expence; but any Scholar losing, injuring, or destroying them, will be required to purchase new ones; and that no books be taken from the School without leave.
7. That the School-hours in the Forenoon be from a Quarter before Nine till Twelve; and in the Afternoon from Two till Five, between the 25th of March and the 25th of October; and from One till Four during the rest of the Year.
8. That Rewards be given annually to the most deserving Scholars.
9. That any Scholar who has attended the School regularly, and borne a good Character for a period of not less than Five Years, will on leaving be presented with a Bible and Prayer Book; if for a less period than Four Years, a Bible; if for a period of not less than Three Years, a Prayer Book, or Small Bible.
10. That Annual Subscriptions become due on the first day of January, and be deposited by the Treasurer in a Savings' Bank.
11. That the scale of Payments be as follows:—Farmers' Children, Five Shillings, Quarterly; Tradesmens' Children, Three Shillings, Quarterly; Labourers' Children, Two-pence, Weekly.
12. That all Payments must be punctually made, or Children will not be allowed to attend.
13. That Parents be desired to give a month's notice to the Committee previous to the removal of a Child from the School.
14. That the Subscribers, and all Ladies residing in the Parish, be particularly requested to visit the School whenever able to do so.
15. That the School-hours on Sundays be a Quarter before Nine and One o'Clock; and that all Scholars be expected to attend Divine Service, and those having a Prayer Book, are desired to repeat the Responses after the Clerk in an audible voice; and all behaving in an irreverent or unbecoming manner, will be deprived of any Rewards, and if persevered in will be dismissed from the School.
16. That the Girls be employed in Platting every Afternoon (if requested by their Parents,) except on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when they will be taught Needle-work and Knitting.
17. That the Holidays be one Week at Christmas; every Saturday; and a Fortnight at Harvest.

## ADDRESS TO PARENTS.

THE intention of this School is to train up Children in the habits of industry, obedience, and cleanliness, and to teach them the principles of morality and religion, that they may be prepared to fill the duties of any station of life in which they may hereafter be placed. In this good design you are earnestly and affectionately treated to concur; for it is in vain to give instruction at school, if it be not seconded by your endeavours at home. Wholesome advice kindly given, will do more good than angry words or blows; and never forget that your own example, whether it be good or bad, will have more effect upon your children than either advice or punishment. Impress upon the minds of your children the great necessity of "remembering the Sabbath Day to keep it holy, as well as of remembering their Creator in the days of their youth. Train them in the way in which they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it. Urge them to read their Bible, for it will point out to them the only true source of peace—a peace which the world cannot give, and which will follow them through life, and not forsake them at the hour of death. By such a system of constant attention at home, and regular attendance of your children at school, it is hoped that they, through the blessing of Almighty God, may grow up to be happy in themselves, dutiful to you, and useful members of Society, and in due time be prepared for a better world above, when it shall please God to call them hence.

J. H. Marshall, Printer, Aylesbury.

Both were dedicated to raising money to build day schools in the industrial areas. By 1830 the National Society alone had founded 3,000 schools with 330,000 'poor children receiving education'. But the education "had the sole object of communicating to the poor such knowledge and habits as are sufficient to guide them through life in their proper stations, especially to teach the doctrines of religion and to train them to the performance of their religious duties by early discipline." The teaching was almost entirely by rote learning; so much so that when questions were rearranged the replies received would often be in the original order. While these 'developments' were taking place in the industrial towns, little changed in the rural areas. Education of the rural poor seemed pointless and even in the 1850's the vast mass of the rural population of England could not read or write. However, the growing prosperity of Victorian England and the sudden mobility given to the poor by the rapid spread of railways, brought the social changes into the countryside. The establishment of the Aston Abbots Day and Sunday School in 1851 is typical of the delayed development of education in rural areas, but as you can see in the address to parents the intention remained to "train children in the habits of industry, obedience, and cleanliness, and to teach them the principles of morality and religion." Would that schools did that now I hear you cry ! In 1867 the Parliamentary Reform Act extended the right to vote to working class households for the first time and as Robert Lowe put it: "it will be absolutely necessary to compel our new masters to learn their letters." The result was the 1870 Education Act which aimed to make elementary education available to every child in the country. Where provision was insufficient local school boards were to be elected by rate payers with the power to build and run schools. Five years later the RT.Hon. Samuel Overstone "freely and voluntarily, and without valuable consideration", made a grant of a portion of land next to the churchyard as a site for the building of a new school in Aston Abbots. The school was to be for the "education of children and adults or children only of the labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes in the Parish of Aston Abbots." Thus it was that a Voluntary Church of England School was established at Aston Abbots, supported by the church and local subscribers.

A.J.Balfour who introduced the 1902 Education Act which brought schools under the control of new Local Education Authorities. This included the church schools, which had, up to then, relied on subscriptions. In return for a share of the rates church schools had to allow the L.E.A. to choose one third of the school managers (governors).



A. J. Balfour

In 1903 the school was reconstituted under the 1902 Education Act, keeping its voluntary, Church of England, status but gaining additional state funding and facilities. The photograph below of Aston Abbots School, with its thirty two pupils, is we think from the period 1910 - 12, but we are anxious to be as accurate as possible. The schoolmaster was, we believe, Mr. Harrison, but we would be grateful for any information on other individuals in the photograph. We would also be grateful for any other photographs of the school and any anecdotal stories that individuals may be able to recall, so that we can build a complete story of the history of education in the village. If you have anything that you think might be useful please contact the Editor.

# **The Chronicle:**

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THE CHURCHES IN WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM, ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON

November 1985

THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Tel. Aylesbury 681623

It is the nature of most parish magazines that a good deal of what is to be printed must needs be thought out in good time before the printing date. It so happens that I write to you now just before the "Festival of Faith". So, I must write "in faith"! that all will be well and that it will be a highly successful venture.

Well, we've prayed about it, and many of us have worked hard. We are immensely grateful to those evangelists from Oxford who have come here at their own expense, full of the joy of their friendship with Jesus Christ to share with us what that "friendship" means to them.

No doubt there are many different reactions. There will be many different ideas floating about which will result in follow-up meetings. One of the interesting facts about Church membership that I learned recently was that NO LESS than 1/3 of all the people Confirmed in this Archdeaconry last year were ADULTS.

More and more older folk are coming forward, wanting to know more about Christianity, and this could be - you. We are fortunate that next May, for the Benefice, we have our own Confirmation Service. So I propose to come to each of the parishes on SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST (easy date to remember) at special times to meet all those who would like to be prepared for Confirmation....would like to investigate the possibilities...would like to take part in a Refresher Course.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST CUBLINGTON 10.00 a.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST ASTON ABBOTTS 10.30 a.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST WINGRAVE 11.00 a.m.

Depending on the number of people who turn up to these preliminary meetings, or show in some other way that they wished to be involved, we shall work out together how the classes can be arranged to suit us all. There will be JUNIOR Groups and SENIOR Groups. No one is too old. In one of my previous parishes, a lady of ninety was Confirmed (although the Bishop had to go to her home, and was only too delighted to do so).

At the other end of the scale, 12 upwards is a good guide, UNLESS the child has been coming with parents consistently — then, a good Church worship background would make 10 not too young. As you can see, there are no hard and fast rules.

Which brings me to another matter which has concerned me for some time - "godparents". They really can have an important part to play in a Baptism (or Christening, as some like to call it). That is why we always ask that at least one godparent should have been Confirmed. They make promises to bring the child to Confirmation. Difficult if you've never been Confirmed yourself!

And where, Oh where does this idea come from that the chief duty of a godparent is to be responsible for the physical well-being of the child if something 'happens' to the parents? They have no moral, let alone legal responsibility to do so. Other provision should be made for that kind of insurance. It does not fall within the terms of Christian Baptism.

As you know, we issue a card to all godparents, outlining their obligations. I will list these sometime when I've got more space.

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY November 10th)

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE ASTON ABBOTTS 11.00 A.M.  
(Parade and Assembly 10.45 a.m.)

CUBLINGTON 8.45 a.m. The Parish Communion (Wreath Laying)

WINGRAVE 9.45 a.m. The Parish Communion (a meditation for "remembrance")

Those who are accustomed to lay wreaths on a Memorial where the official Remembrance Day Service for that district is NOT taking place should do so before they attend, or at some other time. All the Uniformed Organisations are asked to be on parade for the Service in their own district.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE WHITCHURCH 11.00 A.M.  
(Parade and Assembly 10.40 a.m.)

SUNDAY LESSONS

(ASB)

24th November	5th before Ch'mas	(417)	"The Remnant of Israel"
	Isaiah 10(20-23)		Mark 13(14-23)
1st December	Advent Sunday	(422)	"The Advent Hope"
	Romans 13(8-14)		Matthew 25(31-46)
8th December	Advent 2	(426)	"The Word of God in the O.T."
	Isaiah 64(1-7)		Luke 4(14-21)
15th December	Advent 3	(432)	"The Forerunner - John Baptist"
	Philippians 4(4-9)		Matthew 11(2-15)
22nd December	Advent 4	(436)	"The Annunciation of our Lord"
	Zechariah 2(10-13)		Matthew 1(18-23)

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE Sunday, 24th November at 6 o'clock in Wingrave Parish Church. The Service will include the well-known Advent Hymns, a candlelight procession, and music by the Wingrave Singers.

CHRISTINGLE AND CAROL SERVICE This will be held before the end of the school term...Sunday, 15th December at 6.00 p.m.

CONFIRMATION 1986 Wingrave Parish Church, Wednesday May 21st at 7.30 p.m. See the Rector's Message for details of preparation and refresher groups.

HOLY BAPTISM Aston Abbots Parish Church, at the Family Service-  
29th September: SARAH JANE, daughter of Richard & Jane PLESTED

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE Cublington Parish Church - 12th October:  
Michael Paul LIGHTFOOT and Carolyn Jane READ

FUNERALS After a Service in the URC Wingrave Church, 3rd October for Leonard STEVENS, interment in Aston Abbots' Churchyard.

After a Service in Aston Abbots Methodist Church, 18th October for Rose JONES, interment in Leighton Buzzard Cemetery.

HOLY BAPTISM Aston Abbots Parish Church, at the Family Service -  
27th October: PHILIP DAVID, son of David and Linda Wheaton

O-FIVE CLUB meets THURSDAYS, 14th & 28th November in Wingrave Parish Church at 2.15 p.m. - for all mothers with their young children.



# The Estone Chronicles

The fourth and final extract from George Lipscomb's "History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham", this time dealing with 'Burstone or Birdstane'.

## BURSTONE, or BIRDSTANE,

although only a Hamlet to Aston Abbats, was separately surveyed in Domesday Book, being in the hands of several proprietors, of whom the Earl of Morton was the chief; and Alan held two hides. There was land for two ploughs; in the demesne, one was kept; and three villeins, with one bordar, had one plough, and two carucates of pasture. It was worth thirty shillings; when he first held it, ten shillings; and in the time of King Edward, forty shillings. This land had been then holden by three Thanes; of whom, one was a man of Earl Lewin; another, a man of Godwin *Cilt*, Abbat of Westminster; the third, a man of Alured of Wingrave; all of whom could sell their lands: and in the same vill, Almarus held of the same Earl one virgate; and there were belonging to it two villeins. It was, and had always been, estimated at five shillings. This land Siward, a man of Earl Harold, formerly held, and could sell it.<sup>2</sup>

Walter Gifard was also one of the possessors here; and in *Briestock*, Turstin held of Walter one hide; there was land for one plough; and one was employed, with two bordars, one servant, and one carucate of pasture; valued, altogether, at twenty shillings; when he first held it, at ten shillings; in the time of King Edward, at twenty shillings. This had been holden by Aluuen, a certain female, under Siuuardo, and she could alienate it.<sup>2</sup>

Milo Crispin held likewise part of *Briestock*; and William, under him, four virgates. There was land for one plough and three villeins, pasture for one team, valued, and so had formerly been, at fifteen shillings; and in King Edward's time, at twenty shillings. This land Osulf, a man of Brictric, held anciently, and could sell it.<sup>1</sup>

Leland describes, in his Itinerary, the Park and Lordship of *Bridestane*, as standing "somewhat highe, and countyd to be the mydle part of the Vale of Ailesbure."<sup>2</sup> This ancient Topographer mentions "Mr. Leigh's goodly house, with Orchardes and a Park." The old Mansion was nearly rebuilt by Sir Henry Lee, K.G. in the reign of Elizabeth, being one of those "four goodly Mansions" with which he ornamented the county, but of which every one has fallen into the condition of a mean farm-house. Sir Anthony Lee, father of Sir Henry, resided here. He had married into the family of Wyatt of Allington, Co. Kent; and the mutilated remains of a splendid monument, erected to his memory in Quarendon Chapel, in the vicinity, have been already described. He had a younger son, named Cromwell Lee, who was celebrated as a writer, and became the compiler of an Italian Dictionary, left in MS. in the Library of St. John's College, Oxon. of which he was a member, but with which, though very large, he had proceeded no farther than the word *Tralingato*. It was the size of a Church-Bible, and transcribed by Thomas Potticary, A.M. of the same College.<sup>3</sup>

## BURSTON-HOUSE

was conveyed, by the late Lord Viscount Dillon, in 1802, about the same time that James Duprè, Esq. of Wilton Park, near Beaconsfield, became the purchaser of the principal Manor and Estate of Quarendon,<sup>4</sup> to the late William Leader, Esq. at whose decease, it descended to his only surviving son, John Temple Leader, Esq. M.P. for Westminster, who is the present possessor.

The house is situated near the middle of the Vale of Aylesbury, on the road between Aston Abbats and Weedon, and, together with the lands belonging to it, seems, ever since the time of the Lees, to have been inhabited by farmers. It was unquestionably the residence of the ancestors of Sir Henry Lee, K.G. and was described by Leland, in his peregrinations through the county, as the seat of Mr. Anthony Leigh (father of Sir Henry), and one of those *goodly Mansions* which is mentioned in the monumental inscription for the latter in the now ruinous chapel at Quarendon.<sup>5</sup> Mr. Taylor (since deceased), who was its occupier before it came into the tenure of the respectable yeomanry family of Denchfield, and who have been its occupants many years, described the building, as in his time, to have contained one very large room, which indicated its having been part of the original building in the time of the Lees; and the lands belonging to the estate, comprising a farm near the entrance into the village of Aston Abbats, and others, in the hands of Mr. Augustus Lines, &c. are presumed to have been included in Mr. Leader's purchase.

# CHURCH NEWS

The Harvest Festival Family Service was very well attended with over eighty people in church. It was good to see so many and that so many children brought gifts to be distributed around the village. Sarah Plested was baptised during the service. The distribution in the afternoon went very well especially as we had plenty of volunteers, including children, to help divide up the flowers and the food and to deliver each package. It really was a most joyful occasion all round. The previous evening we had an excellent Harvest Sale in the Bull & Butcher. Everyone had been most generous in their giving and we did have bread, wine and honey as well as almost every other crop. Len Scutchings was in particularly good form as the auctioneer and the proceeds amounted to £104 - well done everyone. As this, sadly must be the last Harvest Sale at which Eileen & Ernie will be 'mine hosts' we must record how much the church has appreciated their readiness to offer their premises, not only for this annual sale but, once a fortnight, for our Whist Drives. They will be much missed.

Looking ahead the plans are all laid for the Hallowe'en Barn Dance, most tickets have already been sold and we have little doubt they all will be. It should be a good evening, we hope to see you there.



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

## SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 3rd. Nov.  | : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.<br>Readings: Genesis 3(1-15); John 3(13-21)          |
| 10th. Nov  | : Service of Remembrance 11.00 a.m.<br>Readings: Genesis 22(1-18); Luke 20(5-17) |
| 17th. Nov. | : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.<br>Readings: Exodus 6(2-8); Mark 13(5-13)            |
| 24th. Nov. | : Family Service followed by Holy Communion<br>Readings: See Rector's Notes.     |

## Sidesman

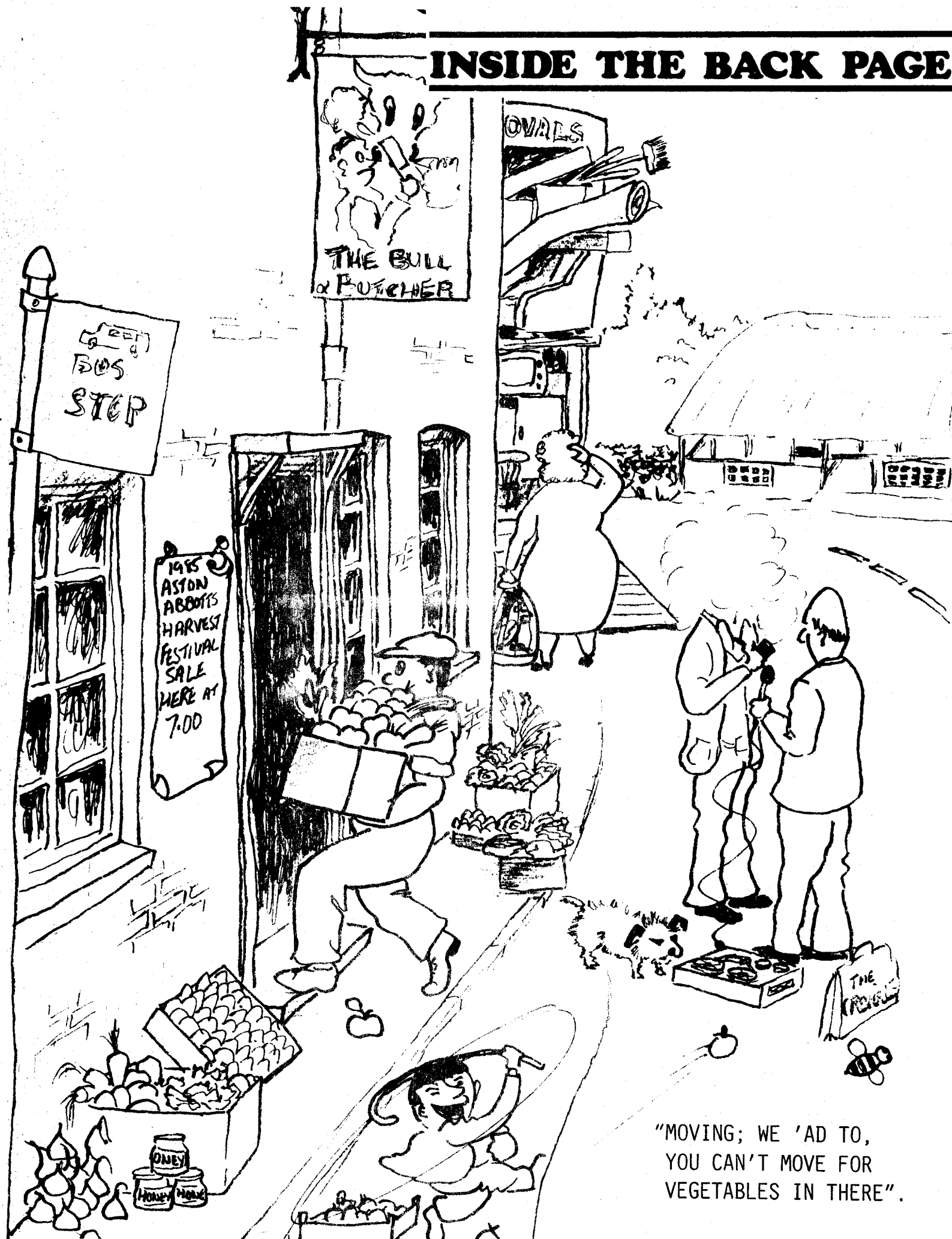
Miss G.Ford.

British Legion.

Mr.C.Higgs.

Mr.C.Spike.

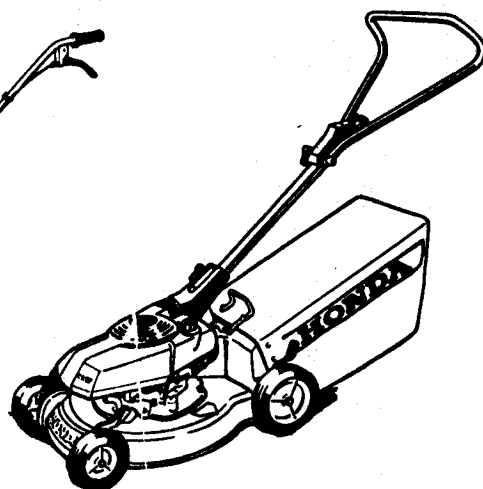
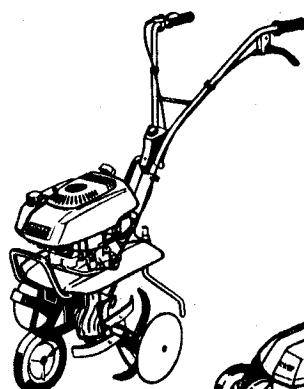
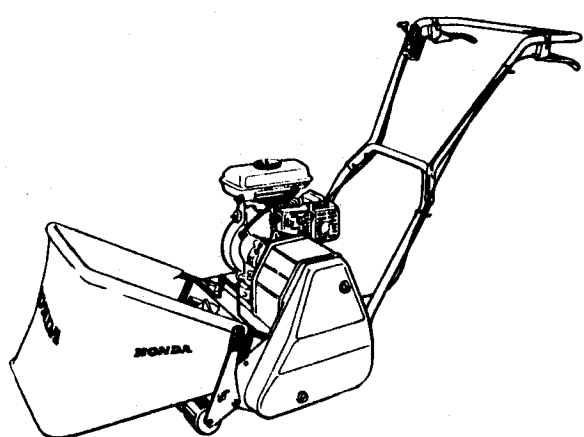
# INSIDE THE BACK PAGE



"MOVING; WE 'AD TO,  
YOU CAN'T MOVE FOR  
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