The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts





Editorial

There can't be many people out there who don't know about the proposals to build a new trunk road alongside the A418 to carry national traffic from the M40 to the east coast. There has been (at last) a lot of coverage in the Bucks Herald, so we won't go into all of it now. However - even if you did manage to catch the high-speed exhibition in Aylesbury, please try to come to the joint parish meeting we are having with Wingrave on 6th October. This is not meant to be a protest meeting, but an opportunity to say what you think and to ask questions of Bucks County Council, the Department of Transport, and (we hope) local MPs. If you can't come and haven't seen the Dtp's glossy leaflet and questionnaire, please ask us for one.

The festival weekend in July was a credit to everyone involved, and an excellent profit was achieved in the face of dismal weather on the day. Many thanks to all for the Chronicle's share of the proceeds.

The Black Hole of Aston Abbotts threatens to become a county landmark. Fifteen feet down, we understand, and likely to travel further along the Green as the unfortunate contractors try to find the next break in the sewer pipe, struggling against "boiling sand" and worse. Traffic calming? Traffic stunning more like.

Carda Lintl

Caroline Lane

Please let us have material for the October issue by Friday 24th September. Bring, send or telephone to 2 Church Row (681373).

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Thanks to Rosemary Franklin for this month's cover



What's On: Sept

REGULARS

Tuesdays: Bin Day

Tuesdays: The Trawler mobile fish shop, The Green, 1140-2pm

Tuesdays: mobile library Wingrave Road, 11.15-30am The Green, 11.35-12.10 Oxley's Farm, alternate weeks (14th etc.) 12.15

Wednesdays: fish & chip van outside Bull & Butcher, about 8pm; rings bell first, can be up to 30 mins later

Fridays: free bus to Tesco, Aylesbury; depart The Green, 10.06am, gets back 1.40pm

SPONSORED WALK

There will be a walk to raise funds for the children's play area on the Rec. on Sunday 10th October. We plan to have two routes, one 5 miles and one 10 miles, starting about 10am with a suitable refreshment halt. Details to be arranged, but contact John Whyte (681685), Roger Biddle (681102) or any other member of the Rec. committee for sponsorship forms.

HARDWICK PLAYGROUP

This lively, fun group meets Mondays, Weds & Fris 9.30-11.45am. We have a wide range of activities on offer for 3-5 year olds - sand, playdough, painting, puzzles, glueing, dressing up, and more. Plus rising 5s, storytimes, singing and music and cooking on a regular basis. Details or to book one of the 4 remaining places for Sept: Chris Chapman, 641452 Sally Parrott, 641472

Wednesday 1st: Aylesbury Vale Transport Meeting Any bus/train queries to Colin 681343

Thursdays 2nd, 16th, 30th: Whist Drive, Church Room, 7.30pm

Sunday 5th: Coach outing
Kew Gardens. Dep. The Green
12.20pm. Fare £4.50
Book with Colin, 681343
Note time change

Mondays 13th and 27th: Aston Abbotts Toddlers 2.30-4pm, Church Room

Tuesday 14th: Parochial Church Council meeting Doris/Len's, 8pm

Friday 17th: items for Highways & Safety meeting to Caroline for October meeting of Bucks County Council committee 681373

Sunday 26th: Rambling Club meets Great Brickhill 2pm

COMING UP

Sunday 3rd October: Harvest Festival at St James's

Wednesday 6th October:
parish meeting jointly with
Wingrave, to discuss A418
Look out for leaflets and
posters

Friday 3rd Dec: Cheese & Wine, Church Room

Sunday 5th Dec: Salvation Army Band concert in St James's, 3pm, more details later

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ASTON ABBOTTS VILLAGE FETE

24 JULY 1993

The Aston Abbots Fete Committee would like to thank all those who contributed to a slightly soggy but ultimately successful day - and in particular all those who helped on the day, and our very generous sponsors. Two hours before the fete started a number of very wet individuals on the Green would not have cared to bet that the fete would get underway at all, let alone complete with extremely complicated coconut shy. In the end, however, the elements were kind enough to allow for a enjoyable day, and as soon as the skies had cleared a good number of brave souls ventured out to support the occasion. I am sure that those who did will in particular remember the extremely talented jugglers, The Diabolos. A financial summary for the day follows.

TOTAL RECEIPTS		
Raffle	£478.40	
Refreshments		
	66.60	
Stalls	448.51	
Sideshows and pony rides	106.08	
Sponsorship & donations	280.00	
		£1379.59
TOTAL EXPENSES		
Raffle prizes,		
printing & licence	£190.36	
Tombola prizes,		
ice cream, etc.	38.65	
Entertainments	185.00	
Advertising	35.00	
		£ 449.01
NET PROCEEDS		£ 930.58

In accordance with resolution passed at the Annual Parish Meeting on 5 March 1993, the net proceeds are allocated as follows:

St. James' Church	30%	£279.17
Church Room	20%	186.12
Methodist Church	20%	186.12
Recreation Ground	15%	139.58
Chronicle	10%	93.06
Toddlers Group	5%	46.53

£ 930.58

Answers to bird question on p. 17:

- 1. House martin
- 2. Swallow - should have red throat
- 3. Swift

RECTOR'S REPORT

The middle-aged American, dressed in shorts, shirt and flipflops arrived at my door unannounced. He was calling on me, he said, because someone had loaned him a bike and he had a good pair of legs.

'What was I, personally, doing', he wanted to know, 'about the terminal decline in the Church of England that everyone had been telling him about?'

Not the easiest question to attempt in the middle of the afternoon - particularly since every statement was challenged. It got worse when he asked about the financing of the Church of England. There was little chance I could manage that from scratch: Historic Endowments, Income from Investments, Glebe Income, the effects of the

I was not exactly sorry when he left - even though I felt exhausted!

recession, and the recent loss of £600 million.

In 1992 the Church Commissioners provided less than half of the cost of the full-time clergy - the remainder being raised by the local churches. Is it right that so much of the cost. of the Church should fall on those people who comprise the regular congregations?

It could be argued that the Church building is really part of the infrastructure, and that the cost of its upkeep should be shared by all those who live in the village. Maybe they should also contribute something towards the cost of having a clergyman available if and when they need one (or not!). That would leave the 'running costs' for those who use the building regularly - things like heating & lighting.

It may be that the Church of England actually is in terminal decline - certainly the Church of England as we know it. Perhaps in Twenty years time many of our village Churches will be used very infrequently (or closed altogether) - only time will tell.

The question posed by the American actually goes much deeper than at first sight. What are we, individually, going to do about the terminal decline (future) of the Church of England? I suspect that if we do nothing the problem will not disappear - but the Church might!

Bob Willmott

Welcome back, and hope you have all enjoyed your summer break.

July was a busy month for St James's; we held the annual festival which was as popular as ever, with lots of visitors to church and joining with friends on one or other of the afternoons during the festival for tea in the Church Room.

We then had the wedding blessing of Sharon and Ray, again a happy occasion. In August Gillian and Andrew were married and had a brilliant afternoon weather-wise following a dismal overcast week, and some of us who were invited to the service or reception were fortunate to meet old school friends.

The 100 Club got off the ground as from July and the following people were the lucky winners:

July: 1. Mr R. Scutchings

2. Mr M. Hasler

3. Mr J. Ford

August: 1. Mr L. Scutchings (who kindly donated his prize to St James's Church Funds)

2. Mrs C. Murray

3. Mr R. Prouting

Remember the draw takes place on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the Church Room after morning service.

COLIN HIGGS

St James's Church Services in September	Sidesman
5th Sept FAMILY SERVICE 11.15am Pentecost 14 Eph 5.25-6.4; Mark 10.2-16 (p.705)	Alison Ford
12th Sept HOLY COMMUNION 11.15am Pentecost 15 Rom 13.1-7; Natt 22.15-22 (p.710)	Michael Hasler
19th Sept HOLY COMMUNION 11.15am Pentecost 16 Rom 12.9-end; Luke 10.25-37 (p.714)	Colin Higgs
26th Sept HOLY COMMUNION 9.30am (note changed time) Pentecost 17 James 1.16-end; Luke 17.11-19 (p.718)	Gillian Wyer
3rd Oct HARVEST FESTIVAL 11.15am Pentecost 18 2 Cor 8.1-9; Matt 5.17-26 (p.722)	Church wardens

From the Registers

Funeral: Enid Bennion, 9th July at Aston Abbotts

Methodist Church Services in September

5th, join parish church; 26th, HARVEST FESTIVAL, 6.00pm. Preacher Rev. Ireland. HARVEST TEA, 5.00pm.

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BIRTHDAYS

Piers Parker.....4th Sept Christine Fox....6th Sept Fiona Whyte....6th Sept Sarah Smith....8th Sept Alf Parker....9th Sept James Dixon....10th Sept Halisi Drysdale...22nd Sept Anna Picking....24th Sept Adrian Dixon....30th Sept

WELCOME

Dorothy and Sefus, who have recently moved into Bricstock.

Quentin, Kate and baby Thomas, to Horseshoe Cottage, Church Row.

WE WERE SORRY to hear of the death of Mrs Bennion, whose funeral took place in July. Our sympathy to her family and friends.

REUNION

ASTON ABBOTTS SCHOOL 1940-1947
Would all those who attended our school between 1940 and 1947 please contact either John Ford or myself with a view to holding a reunion, probably the first Friday of March 1994.
Please let us know if you are interested, we do the rest.

JOHN 681865 COLIN 681343

Our sympathy too to Jill Mogford, whose cat was run over recently. Jill has written this poem:

Who killed my cat, my beloved friend,
One sunny Wednesday morn?
Who killed my cat, by going too fast in motorised form?
Do they not care? - it's my friend who died,
To say they didn't realise, is nowt but a lie,
To drive on and push it to the back of one's mind
will leave a scar,
Next time it could be somebody you love, to be hit by a car.

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WING SCHOOL REUNION

Were you at Wing School between 1966 and 1972? There is to be a reunion on Friday 1st Oct at Wing village hall, 7pm to midnight. For more details contact Jane, 0582 582940 Rosalind, 0525 261598 or Maggie, 0296 688627

The Editor, The Chronicle, 2 Church Row, Aston Abbotts 81 The Green Aston Abbotts

4 July 1993

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the continuing saga of the parking on the grass and the trees. Well I suppose it livens up a dull magazine and here at last is a letter from the "man" who parks his two cars on the grass. Perhaps, unlike the letter published without a name in the last issue, I can introduce myself - Neil Collier. I used to live in Tring where I had a garage, and where if I did park in the road my car could be unlocked all night without fear of it being entered. I now live in Aston Abbotts and have done for a year and a half. My cars are parked on the grass because no garage or proper space is available. They are also parked there due to a safety factor, in that cars on the road making crossing difficult and due to the bend make head on collisions inevitable. When my car will be the recipiant of the latter, I have to look to protect it the best I

My cars cannot be seen by householders behind the hedge. The only sufferers are Len and Doris Scutchings, Bob Prouting and myself. As the former do not mind and Bob himself now parks for the same reasons on the grass, I do not think my action is "bad mannered" as suggested in the bigoted letter in the last edition of the Chronicle.

Perhaps I might suggest that instead of constantly complaining and moaning about the situation, with tittle tattle rife and a bored housewife calling the police to my door (who incidentally were not interested) the situation is dealt with by putting in a lay-by which will mean that every thing is kept neat and tidy and that cars are kept off the road. This has successfully been achieved in Wingrave). Perhaps at this point I can squash the rumours that I prowle about at night cutting and killing the trees - I really have better things to do Mrs Lane.

Since living in this village I have had my cars broken into three times - the last causing £800 worth of damage. Well instead of offering £25 to find the phantom tree killer, I'll put up a reward of £50 to anybody who can tell me who might be responsible and another £50 for anybody who can find me a garage within walking distance of my house!

Finally perhaps I can put in a plea to some people in the village to be more friendly - a smile costs nothing and any pleasantry after that - very little. Quite often it doesn't seem to happen here as I notice when walking my dog - and oh yes I do use a poop-scoop!

Yours sincerely

Neil V.R.Collier

This correspondence is now closed. Eds

BUS SERVICES

It is hoped that the new bus station in Aylesbury will be open mid Sept (watch local papers). All our services through the village will depart from Bay 10. The Upper Hundreds bus stop into town will also be reinstated.

There are now additional Saturday evening services from Milton Keynes/Leighton Buzzard:

MK 21.45 23.15 LB 23.15 --Wingrave 23.30 23.55 Crossroads

(Service X15/73 Motts)

PRIVATE FORESTS?

A reader has passed on to us an article from the IPMS Bulletin which highlights fears about the future of the Forestry Commission. A government committee is looking into whether and how it should be privatized; its report is due at the end of the year. The Forestry Commission allows public access to forests nearly all the time, and groups such as the Ramblers Association and the RSPB fear that privatization may change that dramatically. Ramblers Association are having a protest walk at Wendover Woods on Sunday Sept 26, starting 10am from Wendover station.

You can write to the Forestry Review Group at Room 6/61, New St Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3TG; or ask Chronicle editors if you would like to see the article.

ITS MY BELIEF

We have been asked to include the following notice of a talk by the Bishop of Buckingham:

Bishop Simon Burrows will be giving a talk entitled "It's My Belief". The format will be very simple - a statement of his own personal faith, followed by questions. will not be a service. purpose is to address the agnostic, the seeking, the interested or the unconvinced, by encouraging church people to bring their friends, as their own personal contribution in the Decade of Evangelism. talk will be held on Monday October 18th at 8pm in Holy Trinity Church, Aylesbury. It is open to anyone; there will be some invitation cards issued, but it is not necessary to have one in order to attend.

PLEASE COME.

TODDLER ALERT

Aston Abbotts Toddlers have had an eventful summer holiday with three outings: the first an extended picnic at the Cublington picnic site, where it proved hard to get the juniors out of the stream. The second was a swimming trip to Bletchley - bravery award to Janet Biddle for going down the water slide. At the time of writing we are getting ready for a visit to Woodside Farm near Luton. We have had a welcome boost to funds from the festival, for which many Our next meeting is thanks. on 13th Sept (see What's On) and all children 0-5 plus parent are welcome.

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A MONTHLY LOOK AT FACTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW

BULL BAITING

Until 1823, a curious and cruel ritual took place every year on December 21 in the Berkshire town of Wokingham. To comply with the will of George Staverton, who died in 1661, a full grown bull was "baited" - that is, chased and maddened by dogs - then killed.

In his will, Staverton left an annual sum of £6 to be spent on buying a bull for the poor people of Wokingham to bait. He laid down also that the carcase of the animal was to be sold for its hide and offal and the proceeds to be devoted to buying shoes and stockings for the poor children of the parish.

In 1823 the Corporation of Wokingham decided to stop the annual bull baitings.



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POLICE CONSTABLE 3194

MICHAEL GRIGGS

Dear Readers,

Since February 1993 I have been the Area Beat Officer for Wingrave, Rowsham, Aston Abbotts and Cublington. Before joining the Ivinghoe Police Team I was the Local Police Officer for Aylesbury Town Centre for two years, and before then a Patrol Police Officer for about two years.

As a police officer my main concerns are the safety and wellbeing of members of the public like yourselves.

I try and visit the four villages as much as possible when I am working, but at the same time I am also required to attend emergencies around the Ivinghoe Police Area, which covers from Dagnal up to Wing and down to Edlesborough, so you can see a large area, that is why I work mainly in a police vehicle.

This does not mean however that I do not know what the local problems and needs are in my own villages.

Over the past few weeks I have worked on a high profile basis, commitments permitting, and this has included working until very early in the morning and walking around the villages when possible.

As a Police Officer I would urge that if you see anything you believe to be suspicious or in need of Police attention you contact me at the Ivinghoe Police Station on the following number: 0296 668218, or Aylesbury Police Station on: 0296 396000, and, for emergencies: 999.

If you see me or any of the Police Officers driving through or around the village, please feel free to stop us if you need advice or help.

PARISH COUNCIL 20 August 1993

Brief notes from the last meeting (present: Roger Biddle, John Ford, Victor Scott, Margaret Chesher, with 8 members of the public)

Matters arising Bucks County Council had confirmed that it had been unable to come to an agreement with the owners for purchase of land to extend the footpath alongside the shop. After discussion the parish council did not think there was anything further it could do. The PC were to investigate improving lighting along there.

<u>Planning applications</u> There were no new applications. Extension of garage at Maplewood had been refused by AVDC.

Recreation Ground A specialist report on the condition of the children's play area was discussed. New chains and fixings to be ordered for the swings. A sponsored walk to be held in October.

A418 It was decided to call a joint parish meeting with Wingrave to allow the public to discuss the trunk road proposals with the county council and local politicians. Now that the deadline for comments had been extended to 22 October by the Dtp, the parish council would discuss the road at its next meeting on...

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Margaret Chesher, 20 The Green, 681201

John Ford, 2 Ross Road, 681865

Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road, 681358

John Whyte, 14 Bricstock, 681865

George Fox, 1 Church Row, 682024

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Roger Biddle, 1 Firs Cottage, Wingrave Road, 681102

John Ford, 2 Ross Road, 681865

Caroline Lane (Chairman), 2 Church Row, 681373

Roy Malin, 3 Ross Road, 681358

Victor Scott, 11 The Green, 681488

Clerk: Margaret Chesher, 20, The Green, 681201

District Councillor: Bryan Round, 11 Nup End, Wingrave, 681621 Going soon... can you tell & which bit shows which is the swift, the swallow and the house martin? Answers on p.5

& which bit should be red?



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