

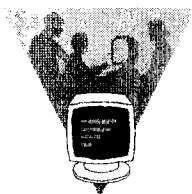
THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE

£ 2461

BUT IS IT A RECORD ??

ISSUE 171 - SEPTEMBER 1998
15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ISSUE



Editorial -

Friday 28th August 1998:

Many of you will recall that in the July / August issue of **THE CHRONICLE** Andy Bystra announced that he would be stepping down as our Editor after three hugely successful years at the helm.

I know that I speak for the entire Village when saying a massive "thank you" to Andy for his sterling work developing our magazine to such a high standard. As a relative new comer to the Village myself **THE CHRONICLE** has been invaluable for information, updates on Village issues, and of course as an insight into the characters and traditions of Aston Abbots.

So what does the future hold for **THE CHRONICLE**? As Andy hinted in the last issue it was agreed at the meeting on July 17th that a "Team" effort would ensure the continued publication of the magazine on a timely basis. After much discussion and just a little "badgering" a **CHRONICLE** Production Team was formed. I am delighted to report that both Andy Bystra and John Whyte will continue to play a major part - the full Production Team is:

Andi Swain - Editor

Andy Bystra - Features / Distribution

Ivan Greenaway / Liz Barlow - Advertising

John Whyte - Finance / Funding

You will be pleased to hear that Rita confirmed at the meeting that her "People Page" would remain a feature and as you read this issue you will see that our other regular contributions, including the Crossword, Church details, What's on, Parish Council report and Rector's report, continue to form the backbone of the magazine. Thank you to all of the regular contributors without whom **THE CHRONICLE** would not be possible. Whilst on the subject of the People Page, please let Rita know of any special events and achievements to be recorded for posterity, as well as any birthdays not on her list. And so without further ado let's move onto this month's "bumper" issue of **THE CHRONICLE**.

Celebrating 15 years of **THE CHRONICLE**

As well as a new production team, this issue sees another land mark for **THE CHRONICLE** - its 15th birthday. The first issue hit the streets of Aston Abbots in September 1983 and to celebrate I've delved into the archives to launch a new feature - "That was the Issue that was".

Of course, as Editor it *could* be very tempting to reproduce entire back issues thus greatly reducing the need for new material! But I have shown restraint and only summarised some of the articles included in Issue No. 1. Perhaps the most interesting comparison between 1983 and 1998 is the result of the Aston Abbots Festival / Fete. Fifteen years ago the not insignificant sum of £969.17 was raised (after expenses) - to find out how much we raised this year you will have to read on (although there may be a clue or two dotted around !!).

SOME OTHER FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE

- A new look for the Church Room ?
- Parish Council response to Nash's Farm Plans
- Aston Abbots' fete - reports
- Special article - Vic & Christine Scott

Finally, **THE CHRONICLE** is your magazine and its content depends very much on what you want to see. Over the past 18 months I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the various "ad-hoc" articles that make **THE CHRONICLE** such an interesting read - there is plenty of space available each month for **YOUR** thoughts on Village life, events, memories, concerns, experiences, or just about anything else you care to write about! Or perhaps you would like to become a regular contributor? Whatever the case, I will be delighted to talk about your ideas or help to produce the finished item - call me on 682651. *Your Production Team is counting on you!!*

Well, enough of my deliberations. On behalf of the new Production Team, we hope that you will continue to enjoy reading **THE CHRONICLE**.

Andi Swain

PRODUCTION TEAM CONTACTS

Editorial / General	Andi Swain 2 Nash's Farm - 01296 682651
Distribution	Andy Bystra 31 The Green - 01296 682125
Advertising	Ivan & Liz 1 Nash's Farm - 01296 682605

GREAT OPPORTUNITY - URGENTLY NEEDED PARISH CLERK FOR ASTON ABBOTTS

An unexpected vacancy has arisen for a new Parish Clerk - some minor administrative work involved - a prestigious, interesting role of great direct benefit to the Village. Interested? Call Tom Manning on 682115

Copy date for October issue is Friday 25th September. Please pass items to Andi Swain at 2 Nash's Farm or to a member of the Production Team. Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbots.

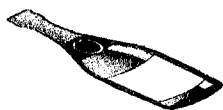
RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE



Aston Abbotts wishes a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

to everybody celebrating in **September**, especially

Minnie Doggett	3rd	Halisi Drysdale	22nd
Piers Parker	4th	Anna Picking	24th
Christopher Fox	6th	Alex Dutton	25th
Fiona Whyte	6th	Lyn Manning	26th
Sarah Smith	8th	Adrian Dixon	30th
Alf Parker	9th		
Sally Palmer	18th		
Louise Palmer	20th		



IT'S GOODBYE....

to Brenda and Roy Malin who moved away from Aston Abbotts on 11th Aug after 32 years. They probably saw many changes within the village during that time. If anyone wants to get in touch, their new address is;- "Eastcombe"

Porlock Rd, Woodcombe,
Minehead, Somerset. TA24 8RY
Tel 01643 708114

We would like to wish them many happy years in their new home.



AND IT'S HELLO & WELCOME

to Helen and Andrew Peacock who are moving into 3 Ross Rd. Andrew is a manager at Sainsbury in Hemel Hempstead and Helen works for BT in London.

And also to Denise, Sally, and Symon Dean who have recently moved in to No.3 Wingrave Road.

We hope you will all enjoy living in Aston Abbotts!

BABYSITTING

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NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Another new school year has started, so for those of you who are going for the first time we hope you make lots of friends and enjoy all the different things you do. Good luck to all who have progressed to senior school and to those who are doing their GCSE's this year. Well done to those of you who are going on to University or other higher education. It's a lot of hard work but we're quite sure you will make the grades you want.



Dickie Neave

Many of us in the Village will remember Dickie Neave who sadly passed away recently. Dickie was one-time Butler / Chauffeur to Mrs. Morton. He was well known around the Village and enjoyed the company and a drink at The Bull & Butcher. Unfortunately he had been ill for some time and never fully recovered from major surgery. His funeral took place at our Village Church on Wednesday September 2nd. We extend our sympathy to his family at their sad loss.

Congratulations Colin

For those who didn't read about it in The Bucks Herald, on Wed. the 29th of July, Aylesbury's Mayoress Freda Roberts presented Colin Higgs with a trophy for being voted the Top Parish Volunteer within the Aylesbury area.

Anyone can submit a nomination. A judging panel which includes three District Councillors and a member of the Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils choose the winners after looking at information such as the kind of work the nominee does for the community, how much time they spend doing it each week, how long they have been doing it, and how useful the work they do is to the local community. The judges look in particular for people who work off their own initiative.

The winner and two runners up are presented with an award at a special ceremony. There are no age restrictions on who can be nominated or on who can do the nominating. District Councillors - who are not eligible to be nominated for the awards themselves - are asked by the judges to comment on nominations from their wards.

Colin had been nominated by Valerie Osborne and declared the winner out of many other nominees submitted by each of the other 108 parishes in Aylesbury Vale. The award was made in recognition of the unstinting work he has done for this parish over many years which I am sure most of us can bear witness to.

The presentation took place in the Royal Oak with Colin's friends and many villagers present. Following the award being made to Colin and the two runner's-up, photographs were taken by the Buck's Herald after which we all tucked in to the wonderful buffet comprising hot and cold dishes prepared by Terry and Gary at The Royal Oak.

THE CHRONICLE

Advertising rates for 1998
All rates quoted are per annum

FULL PAGE	Back £ 65 Inside £ 33
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QUARTER PAGE	Back £ 16 Inside £ 9
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TONY HINDS
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YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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682115

SHONA MACGREGOR (Parish Clerk)
3 Nash's Farm 682381

GWEN KEMPSTER
53 The Green 681310

MARGARET KENT
6 The Green 681454

LINDA SUTTON
Sadlers Farm 681413

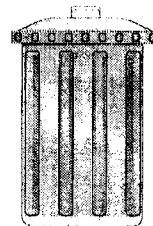
JOHN SANSOME
Longmore Farm 681010

District Councillor
BRYAN ROUND
11 Nup End, Wingrave 681621

County Councillor
BRENDA JENNINGS
2 Cotes Way, Wing 681065

LOCAL RECYCLING

Collection points are available at
The Bull & Butcher, Aston Abbots
and The Macintyre Home, Wingrave



GLASS - Please sort into green, brown, and clear glass

CANS - All types accepted including aluminium and steel
food and drink cans (please crush cans)

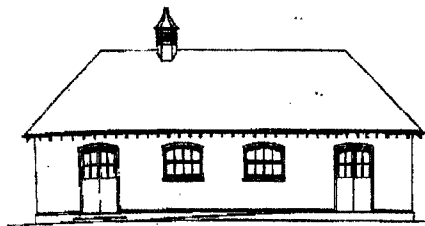
PAPER - All Newspaper, magazine, and junk mail
(no cardboard or yellow pages)

The Macintyre Centre can also take textiles
(clothes, rags, blankets, sheets etc)
Open 8.30am - 6.30pm Monday to Saturday

IN THE VILLAGE.

IMPROVED CHURCH ROOM FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM ?

This architect's impression could herald a new look for Aston Abbotts' Church Room.



PROPOSED FRONT ELEVATION

A specially convened meeting on August 6th considered plans for improvements to the Church Room, drawn up by local architect Roger Bellingham. The proposals include

- New wheelchair entry gate and access ramp
- New front Lobby area partitioned off from main meeting room
- New Ladies, Gents, and Disabled lavatories
- Improved kitchen facilities
- New fire escape

A scaled down version of the proposed interior layout is shown over the page.

All Villagers present agreed that the design represented a great improvement to the facilities which would give Aston Abbotts a more modern, functional meeting room whilst retaining the original architectural look of the building. Further discussions will take place within the Village before consideration is given to applying for planning permission. If you would like to see the plans in full please contact Tom Manning or Andi Swain.

NEW PLANNING APPLICATION...

Banner Homes' revised plans for the site at Nash's Farm were discussed at a meeting in the Church Room on July 14th. The Villagers compared the proposal for 2 detached and 2 semi-detached properties with previous applications.

Despite a reduction in the number of houses, it was agreed that the new design still amounted to an over-development of the site and significant traffic and parking problems would be created. Accordingly, the Parish Council wrote a detailed letter to the AVDC Planning Officer, Mr Denman, objecting to the application.

More updates when available...

Ryder - Cheshire Volunteers

The Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers (Reg Charity No 285746) Leisure Activities Project links physically disabled people living in your community with a volunteer to share a hobby or leisure activity.

Are You Interested in Photography ?

Could you spare a few hours to advise a lady on the best type of camera to purchase and tips on how to take good photographs?

Enjoy Fishing ?

Could you assist a young man who is passionate about fishing? (Help needed to carry equipment)

Can you play the Clarinet ?

Visually impaired lady musician would like to improve her Clarinet playing

A few hours of your time can make a huge difference

To discuss these items and others contact
Christine Hodgetts on 01296 714407

SUMMER GARDENING TIPS FROM THE THAMES VALLEY POLICE

No, not advice on where to position your Delphinium or when to prune the Rose! With the recent heat wave and reports of local burglaries here is a timely reminder from The TVP; 85% of thefts are committed by opportunist burglars often using garden tools taken from outbuildings, in particular ladders, forks, and spades, to break into houses. So, remember to

- Put all tools / equipment away and lock sheds and outbuildings when not in use
- Use good quality locks on gates, garages, doors, windows
- Check doors and frames are in good condition
- Cement garden ornaments into the ground
- When in the rear garden secure front doors and windows
- Put children's bikes and toys away at night

And you'll enjoy the Summer months even more !!! Ed.

You can get the "Good Gardener's Security Guide" from Aylesbury Police Station (01296 396078)

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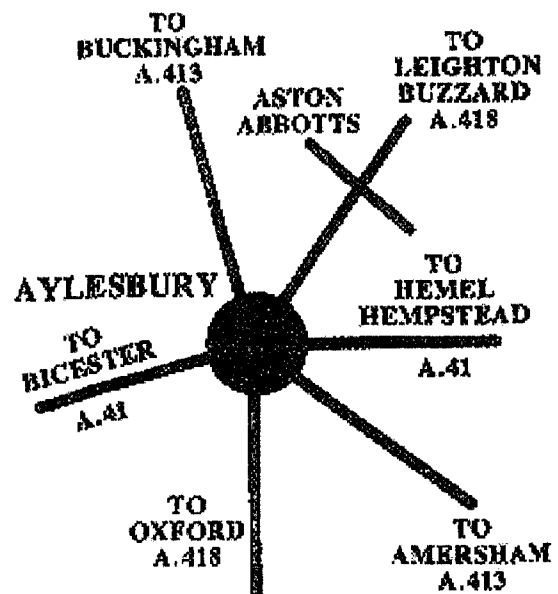
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WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 1st** Aylesbury Vale Transport meeting
(Bus - Train queries to Colin)
- Thursday 3rd** **BUCKS COUNTY SHOW** Weedon Park
- Sunday 6th** Rambling Club Members meet Caldecote
2.00pm
- Tuesday 8th** Mobile Library at The Green / Wingrave Rd.
- Thursday 10th** Whist drive at The Church Room
7.30pm
- Saturday 12th** Coach trip to Vale of Evesham (Plum Time)
12.50pm Depart Bull & Butcher 12.50 cost £7
Book with Colin - 681343
- Sunday 13th** 2.00 - 5.00pm **VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN**
6.00pm **EVENSONG**
- Tuesday 22nd** Mobile Library at The Green / Wingrave Rd.
- Thursday 24th** Whist drive at The Church Room
7.30pm
- Sunday 27th** Rambling Club Members meet at Coombe Hill
2.00pm

OCTOBER'S EARLY EVENTS...

- Thursday 1st** Bingo in The Church Room
7.30pm
- Saturday 3rd** COACH TRIP to see Southend Lights
12.50pm Depart Bull & Butcher 12.50 cost £9.50
Book with Colin - 681343

LOOK OUT FOR THESE HIGHLIGHTS

Aston Abbotts' **VILLAGE GARDENS** will be open on Sunday 13th September from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

Come along to The Vicarage, Barbara & David's (The Old House), Vic & Christine Scott's (11 The Green), Oak Farm, Ray & Jackie Coates' (87 The Green), and Jane & Richard Plested's (10 Wingrave Rd.). You can marvel at the fascinating varieties of flowers and garden design (and perhaps get a few new ideas for your own back yard).

Teas will be served in The Church Room from 3.00pm - 5.00pm (donations of cakes for teas would be appreciated) and there will be an "Old Aston Abbotts" exhibition in The Church. And don't forget Janet's popular plant stall.



*"Oh I do like to be beside the seaside,
oh I do like to be beside the sea....."*

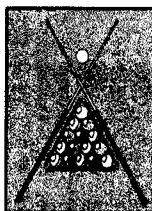


Fancy an afternoon and evening at the Seaside, taking in the spectacular lights and perhaps a traditional Fish and Chip meal??? Colin is organising a trip to Southend to see the lights on Saturday 3rd October.

The coach leaves The Bull & Butcher at 12.50pm and tickets cost £9.50 each (book with Colin on 681343) - but you'll have to buy your own fish and chips!!

TONY'S SPORTS COLUMN

The Pool season will soon be here again and I will then be writing my usual column. In the meantime Andi has asked me to write something just to fill up some space in his first Chronicle! All I have to report on is progress so far in The Bull & Butcher Open Pool competition. We are now at the quarter final stage which contains many familiar faces - Lol, Dean, Mark, Jack, and Adrian - so who knows who will get through to the next round?



On a slightly different note, I have been approached to enter a darts team for The Round Table annual darts competition. Any interested darts players please contact me on 681454 - sponsorship forms will be available.



Thanks - Tony

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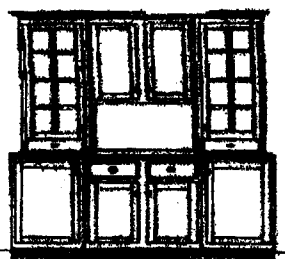
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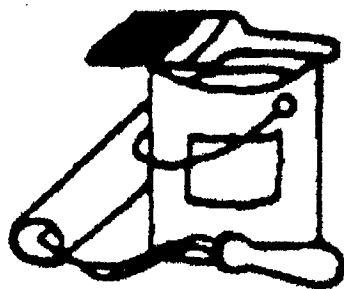
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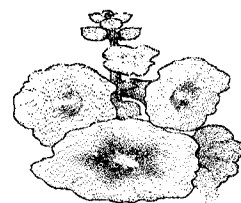
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NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR VIC & CHRISTINE SCOTT

Vic and Christine Scott's great knowledge and love of plant and bird life is well known in Aston Abbots and throughout Buckinghamshire and beyond. But they have truly "arrived" now with a double page article about Vic's life recently appearing in *The Independent* along with a wonderful colour photo of Vic and Christine in their garden. The article is reproduced below for all of you who missed it:



As August wears on, an air of tension hangs over British households. The imminent announcement of public examination results plays havoc with the even tenor of family ways. Success in examinations has become synonymous with a good education.

It was not always so. In private service gardening, for example, examinations once meant very little but experience almost everything. Intelligent men "worked themselves up" from garden boy to journeyman improver, then foreman, and, if they were very good and very lucky, to head gardener. Their knowledge was prodigious. Though there are still men about who spent their working lives in private service, their ranks are thinning fast. Victor Scott is one of those at the end of a proud tradition. He is 70 and has lived all his life in the pretty village of Aston Abbots, near Aylesbury. He is a charming man, courteous, friendly and seemingly at ease. He is happy to talk, in engaging and fluent manner, and in a soothing Buckinghamshire burr, of what he knows. And he knows a very great deal. He is a countryman and a gifted and hardworking gardener; but he is also a botanist and naturalist and largely self-taught.

His earliest memory is of being lifted up on to his father's shoulders to look into a bird's nest. By the age of nine, he knew the Latin names of all the local flowers and birds. By the time he left school at 14, in the middle of the Second World War, he was already in demand to show people the wild flowers of Buckinghamshire. In his youth, he cycled as far away as the Lake District and Cornwall looking for, and photographing, British native flowers. After a year on a local farm, he entered "private service" going to work as a garden boy for the owners of one of the big houses in the village. In time he became head gardener in charge of extensive herbaceous borders, ornamental shrubs and trees, and the kitchen garden. Whilst there, he attended night school to study botany, zoology and geography and he also took the Royal Horticultural Society's General Certificate, for which he received the highest marks in his year. So he passed some examinations in the end.

Because of his interest in natural history, Victor's reputation grew beyond the boundaries of the village. During the brilliant, and successful, campaign to prevent the building of London's third airport at nearby Cublington, he gave evidence to the public inquiry on the likely impact of an airport on local birds and, in particular, the largest starling roost (some two million strong) in the country. "No Airport Here" can still be seen on the house where his family has lived since 1854.

About 20 years ago, the house where he

worked changed hands; somewhat out of sympathy with the new owners' idea of what a garden should be, he took his leave. As he was already a part-time lecturer on botany and natural history for the Workers' Educational Association and had conducted study groups abroad, he decided to take his chance as a freelance naturalist. He was assisted by his wife, Christine, a retired teacher whom he met on one of his first study tours, to Cyprus. On trips abroad she acted as courier and bird expert while Victor concentrated on flowers. Among other destinations, they went to Eastern Europe, Soviet Central Asia, Uzbekistan, India, Canada, Australia, and Costa Rica.

They always took care to do their research beforehand, so that they might have an answer to any question fired at them, and Victor is certainly full of information. I never knew, for example, that there are many common plants of the Canadian Rockies, such as the one flower wintergreen and the calypso orchid, which grow as great rarities in north-east Scotland and Scandinavia.

Unfortunately, a mild stroke has recently forced Victor to retire from leading tours abroad. But there is always the garden. As well as an allotment, he cares for about an acre surrounding the house. At first sight it appears to be a charming and natural country garden, but closer examination reveals many plants that you will not come by every day.

There are no fewer than 40 plants collected by Victor abroad (with the appropriate plant permits, of course). Here there is *Arum creticum*, which he brought back from Crete; there is *Paeonia Mlokosewitschii* ('Molly the Witch') from the Caucasus; elsewhere I found *Geranium dalmaticum*, collected in southern Yugoslavia. A wander with Victor around his garden is a tour of the world's temperate flora. Most impressive is the coastal redwood, *Sequoiadenron sempvirens*, which has grown into a handsome tree from seed. In fact, most of the ornamental plants are from seed, including some fine silver birches and Western red cedars.

There are peaches, 'Lord Napier' nectarines and 'Moor Park' apricots, growing in a home-made cold greenhouse; plums and cherries on a warm wall; a pond and bog garden; a rockery; and, of course, neat rows of vegetables. The

continued on page 12

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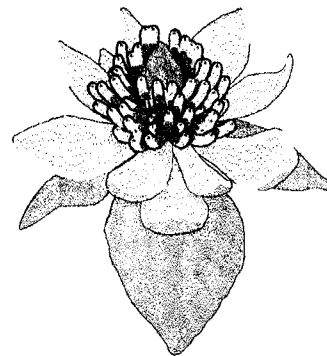
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VIC & CHRISTINE SCOTT CONTINUED

Scotts can boast that they are self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables. Further from the house, Victor has made a wild flower meadow, and has planted a hedge of native trees and an orchard.

Although his wings have now been clipped, Victor still conducts local naturalists' groups and gives talks in the area. He is on the panel of lecturers for the National Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society and the Royal Society for the protection of Birds, and has a collection of more than 20,000 slides. For a modest fee, any organisation in Buckinghamshire and the surrounding counties may engage him to give an illustrated talk. I should say it was money well spent, for listening to Victor is an education in itself.



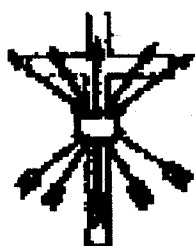
Well done, Vic & Christine ! Ed.



**"Come on, only another
4 miles to the bus !!"**

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Margaret Kent annually takes part in a week long sponsored walk in aid of Diabetes Charities. Margaret describes this year's walk for us.

THE SHROPSHIRE PEAKS

On August 1st, a party of diabetics and medical staff set off from the Diabetes Centre for this year's expedition. This time it was the Shropshire Peaks and we were based at Craven Arms.

We arrived about lunch time at our accommodation, which was a luxurious converted barn, and in the afternoon set off on a "limbering up" walk in pouring rain! Our aim was to do 80 miles of the Shropshire way in a week with Wednesday as a day off. Next day the sun was shining as we set off at 8 a.m. We carried our food and drink for the day as well as wet weather gear. The mini bus met us at strategic points and at the end of the day, after about 15 miles, took us back to base. After a good meal and a chat we were ready for bed.

The next day the mini bus took us to where we left off the night before, and on we went again up hill and down dale. The highest point was 1,703ft and it got hotter and hotter, and several people needed treatment by the two podiatrists and frequent stops to quench the thirst. The route is clearly marked and we had some good map readers, but some paths led us through fields of bullocks and cows (some people were convinced they were bulls!), and I think I saw more sheep in Shropshire than I did in New Zealand! Mayfields and cornfields, bracken, heather and bilberry bushes, and many, many stiles - we encountered them all.

Wednesday was our day off, some of us went into Shrewsbury and on the river, and then went to Wroxeter and had a tour round the ancient Roman Baths. The site is adjacent to Watling Street, which of course was built in Roman times. As the week went on the weather got hotter, but by Friday night we had completed 80 miles and we go back in October for a reunion weekend and to complete the 100 miles.

It was great fun and was nice meeting new people and catching up with old friends who had been on previous years' expeditions. People came from all walks of life, and all ages - two school boys, an Israeli University Lecturer in London, a Marketing Manager, a retired nurse, a homeopathic consultant, but all with one thing in common - diabetes - so it is nice to get together and discuss various problems as no two cases are identical. This was the fourth time I had been invited to go and I enjoyed every minute of it.

Margaret Kent

I happen to know that because of her work for the Aston Abbots fete Margaret wasn't able to collect as many sponsors as she would like this year. I'm sure any ad hoc donations or post-walk sponsors would be welcomed! Ed.



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PAGE 13 THE CHRONICLE

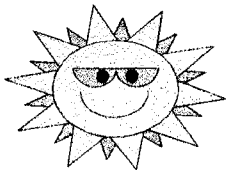
THE 1998 ASTON ABBOTTS FETE

REPORT BY ANDY BYSTRA

I first realised the fete was not too far off when Barbara asked me to advertise a 'fete meeting' in the Chronicle, back in May. Under the 'chairmanship' of Barbara and Dave that first meeting identified most of the attractions needing to be 'organised' as well as who was going to do what. It focused my own thoughts to the fact that I would need to make a set of 'posts' to hold the coconuts (we had borrowed these in previous years) and a few repairs were needed before the coconut stall would be ready. Would I be able to find all the signs we usually set up on the main roads and all the other paraphernalia?

Entertainment's were booked, and the 'well oiled machinery' of the fete swung into play with everybody getting on with their own jobs with the minimum of fuss. There were a couple more meetings to keep the momentum going but suddenly with only two more weeks to go, there was only just enough time to hastily paint the new dates on the signs and put them out on the three main roads. This was done one evening and all seemed to go well until the following morning when, on the way into Aylesbury to do the 'weekly shop', we spotted that two of the signs had been uprooted and were now on top of the bus shelter roof.

Anyway, the great day dawned and much to everyone's



relief it was fine and sunny. Helpers arrived sharp at 10 o'clock and stalls, games and other entertainment's were set up with the minimum of fuss; hardly surprising though, since most people there had done it many times before. However, it was particularly nice to see quite a few of the youngsters and several people who have

not been in the village long, pitching in, making the setting up far less of a chore than it might have been.

The Fete was opened almost at the stroke of two o'clock (well, according to the church clock) by yours truly. The Great Horwood silver band started to play and this coupled with the smell of burgers which had been gently cooking away for



the last half hour or so, gave the proceedings a festive and jolly feel. The 1998 Aston Abbotts fete was well and truly under way.

Attractions were numerous and it is fair to say that most stalls were piled high with 'goodies' to sell or win and these were well patronised from the start. The most popular stalls must have been the one selling cakes and jam because it had sold out within some twenty minutes of opening (despite having 'reserves' tucked away under the table). This robbed me of my annual pot of homemade marmalade. Furthermore, by the time I got around to have a go on the Tombola, not too long after the opening, there were only a few prizes left there (not that I managed to win one despite heavy investment!).

The entire Green was a hive of activity where Morris Dancers performed noisily under the pleasant shade of the trees and there was the good selection of games and stalls. Tombola, Cake and Garden sales, Car and Pony rides, Groceries, Barbecue, Bric-a-brac, Gifts, and Book sales were all much in



evidence. To the obvious pleasure of the children (and I dare say quite a few of the adults) a fully crewed fire engine made an appearance. It was nice to see the firemen join in many of the games. Replica yellow hats were sold and many took advantage of the offer to be shown around the engine. The fireman even started up one of their pieces of hydraulic equipment, normally used to cut open cars etc. and proceeded to demonstrate its sensitivity by gently cracking open the coconuts they had won at the fete. Rides in Don's 'ancient T' Ford seemed popular despite it having developed a bit of a 'speed wobble'.

The improvised tea room set up in the Church room was extremely popular right from the time the fete opened and whenever I passed by there seemed to be a steady stream of people waiting to get in, or sitting outside at the tables which always seemed to be fully occupied. Certainly when I eventually dropped in for a cup of tea, all the best cakes and sandwiches had been sold. Still, the cuppa was very welcome!

The Grove catered mostly for the youngsters with train rides, children's tombola, swings, animals, roundabouts, toys, several games and a very interesting handmade organ. Cleverly positioned at the entrance to



the Grove was the ice cream and cold drink stall which thanks to the warm weather did a steady trade.

The church was splendidly decorated inside with many beautiful flower arrangements depicting people in the Bible. It also provided a very welcome cool and tranquil place in which to spend a moment or two

Andy Bystra's fete report
continues on page 16....

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recuperating from the hurly-burly outside. A lovely afternoon ending with the draw and traditional tug-of-war and tractor pull.

This was probably the most profitable Fete held in Aston Abbotts with total receipts topping **£2781.79**. Taking into account the quite frugal out goings of just **£319.90**, the final amount

made was **£2461.89** of which the raffle made an extremely creditable **£925.15**.

Distribution of profits was as follows:

ST JAMES' CHURCH	(35%)	£861.66
CHURCH ROOM	(30%)	£738.57
RECREATION GROUND	(30%)	£738.57
TODDLERS' GROUP	(5%)	£123.09

Finally, very many thanks go to

Barbara and Dave who once again took the 'lions share' of the organisation; also to all those who 'pitched in' and did so much to make this such a successful fete. A special mention must of course be made of Ivan and 'the lads & lasses' who assisted him in breaking all records for the sale of raffle tickets.

Andy Bystra

The 1998 Village Raffle - The Most Successful EVER

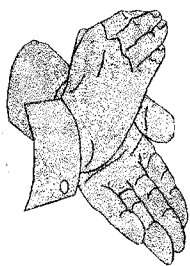
I would quite simply like to say thank you to all of those people who helped to make this year's raffle a tremendous success. For the first time ever we broke the £500 barrier and this year's ticket sales reached an amazing **£ 934.15**. I am not sure where the 15 pence came from but it's all welcome.

Because most of the prizes were donated, our profit on the raffle was **£ 821.99**. So, may I offer my very special thanks to all those people who so kindly donated prizes. I would also like to say thank you to those villagers who were persuaded or embarrassed (or inebriated) into taking tickets and selling them on behalf of the raffle. Special thanks to:-



We would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to the Bottle Tombola at the recent fete and supported us so well on the day. A record sum of £266 was taken.

Thank you.
Margaret & Diane
Kent



- Chris Fox who personally sold 109 books (£109) and collected additional prizes from The Country Store, Shadow Ram and Old Country Cycles in Duck Farm Court, Station Way, Aylesbury.
- Margaret Kent and Simon Dowling for helping to distribute tickets and collect the receipts.
- The 6:30 and 6:50 Clubs for 'starting the ball rolling' and selling tickets up to and on the day of the village fete.
- The Bull and Butcher, Royal Oak and The Old Masters for selling or allowing us to sell tickets on their premises and donating prizes.

This years winners (apart from the village!) were :

- **1st £100 Cash** Tony Creswell, Mortgage Express, Barnet
- **2nd Meal at The Old Masters** M Pinkney, The Green, Aston Abbotts
- **3rd Waitrose Food Hamper** Ian Buckton, Fancott, Toddington

and lots of other people who won one of the many other prizes. Thanks again to you all.

Ivan Greenaway.

***Unclaimed prizes - R.Auty (no.1898) & Chris Rogers (no.3249) call Ivan NOW on 682605 to claim your raffle prizes (or he'll drink them!!)**

OFFICIAL -FETE BREAKS RECORD

Andy Bystra stated (in true drinks advert fashion) that this year's fete was "probably" the most successful ever. Well, I can confirm it! According to **THE CHRONICLE's** records - which date back to the 1982 fete - the previous best net result was last year's figure of **£ 1663** (although there are a couple of gaps where fete results have not been shown).

By my reckoning (Nigel please Confirm) we have outstripped the record by some **£799**, an improvement of nearly **50% !**

A great result - thanks to everybody who parted with their cash.

Ed.

PS - having read a few previous fete reports, it seems that this year we may also have broken the sunshine record ! Most mention "*unseasonal*" rain and wind - how refreshing to at last get some "*seasonal*" weather !

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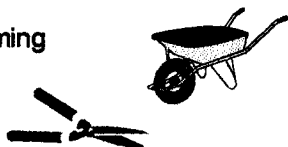
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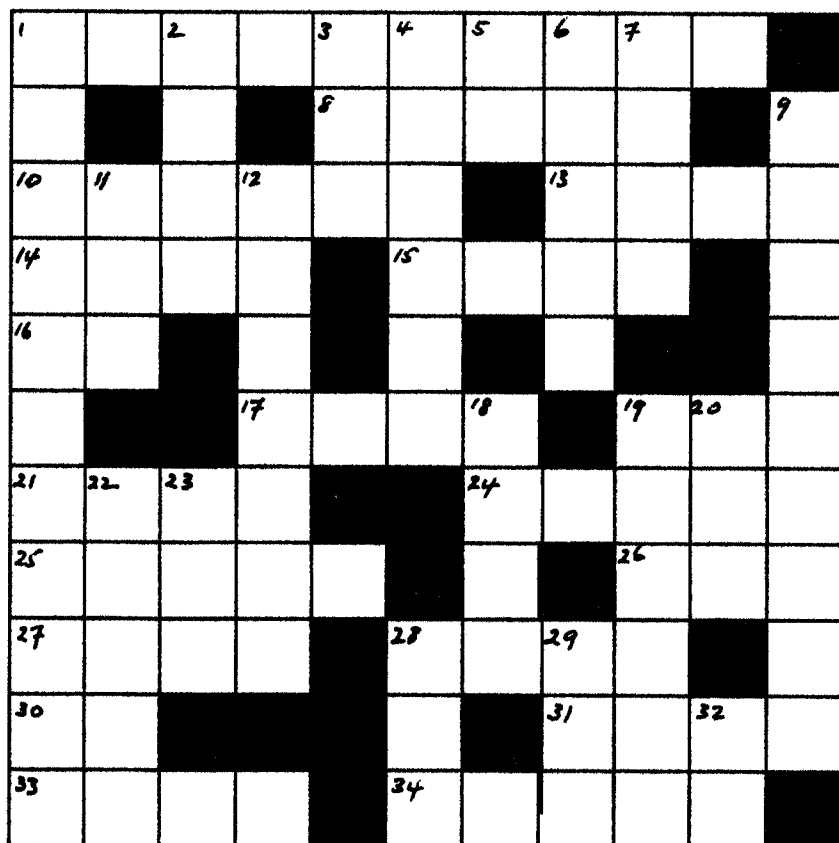
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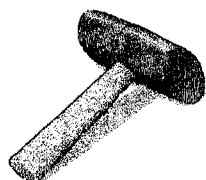
ACROSS

1. Thoroughfare of lesser importance(10)
8. Type of duck (5)
10. Struck hard blow (6)
13. Akin to 1 acr. (4)
14. Fish (4)
15. Flower
16. Else (2)
17. Dessert; loose woman (4)
19. Eatable; worn at back of head (3)
21. Scorch (4)
24. Bring pressure to bear (5)
25. Captured (5)
26. Animal (3)
27. Exam, not written (4)
28. Refuse of ores; another 17 acr. (4)
30. Compass direction (2)
31. The ---- is up (4)
33. To amend (4)
34. Unit of heat (5)

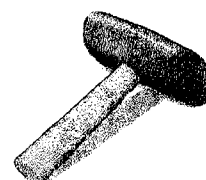
DOWN

1. Local Village (11)
2. Male bird (4)
3. Observe (3)
4. RIDE IT (anag 6)
5. Not good on cheques (2)
6. Gloomy, strange (5)
7. God of love (4)
9. Escapade (9)
11. Useful in a boat (3)
12. Bird (7)
18. To relate (4)
19. Poor person (6)
20. Large vessel (3)
22. A REED (anag 5)
23. Also known as (3)
28. Jellies do it (3)
29. Period (3)
32. Army decoration (2)

Answers to July/August - Across: 1&10 Stoke Hammond. 5 Semi. 9 Hat 13 Ants. 15 Rail. 16 Electrics. 17 Rare. 18 At. 19 Snide. 20 IOU. 22 Co. 24 Erred. 26 Knee. 28 Uses. 29 Croydon. 33 Yen. 34 Eating. 37 Ersatz. 38 Cook
Down: 1 Shamrock. 2 Tan. 3 Otters. 4 Eh. 5 Smatter. 6 Emir. 7 Mollifies. 8 In. 11 Arcade. 12 DOS. 14 Slender. 21 Ode. 23 Oncer. 25 Runic. 27 Eons. 30 Yet. 31 Daz. 32 OT. 33 Ye. 35 No. 36 Go.



HARVEST FESTIVAL AUCTION



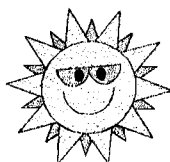
This year, the ever popular
Harvest Festival Auction

is to be held at

The Bull & Butcher on

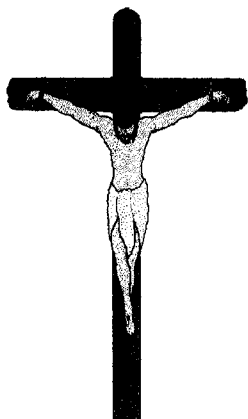
Sun. 11th October 98

Commencing 6.45pm



It's always a 'fun event' with lots of bargains on offer. All proceeds go to the Church and the Macmillan Nurses so please give us your fullest support by coming along and / or donating vegetables, flowers, fruits, preserves, and raffle prizes.

If you can't bring along items you wish to donate on the night, Andy Bystra will be pleased to collect. Tel 681690



RECTOR'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 1998

It is nearly twenty-five years since the three parishes of Wingrave with Rowsham, Aston Abbots and Cublington were linked together in a united benefice, and we are now looking to see what the next twenty-five years has in store for us.

Some people think that the united benefice was a way of coping with a reduced number of clergy - by spreading them more thinly. They see the future as stage 2 of the same process, with the clergy being reduced still further and possibly some of

the village churches being closed down.

"They" (it is always "they") want "us" to pay more and get less in return. Yet, with fewer full-time clergy to pay (together with the costs of training, housing and pensions) the indications are that, in the long-term, the cost should be reduced. Add to this the increasing number of part-time, unpaid clergy (many of whom will be locally generated and trained) and maybe we shall discover that we are paying less whilst being given more.

The future for the Church seems to me to be looking very good

and especially so in these three parishes. At the beginning of October, Siv Tunnicliffe will be ordained priest. She will then be qualified to conduct a full range of services in the three parish churches.

September sees a nation-wide Alpha initiative by Holy Trinity Church, Brompton. Alpha is a course in Christian basics which is run by local groups. We had an Alpha course in Cublington earlier this year and there

will be another starting in Wing at the end of this month. There is a parallel course called "Emmaus" and it is possible that we may become involved in running that too. Another venture that is in the pipeline is the setting up of a formal partnership between the Methodist, United Reformed and Church of England congregations in Wingrave. As talks on this are still at an early stage, it has not yet been decided whether this will include Cublington and Aston Abbots.

Yet, I am sure that there will be those who will still insist that these are changes that are being imposed on the Church here by "those in authority". It is

hardly fair to say that things are imposed when we have had the opportunity to have our say - and the consultation process in Church matters is usually lengthy. But why can't "they" just leave "us" alone? Why do we have to keep facing changes that we don't want?

The answer to that is simple - (and it will happen pretty rapidly) - "last one out, lock the door!" No change is not an option.

Bob Willmott

CHURCH MOWING ROTA - 1998

5 September	Paul Williams
12 September	Vic Scott
19 September	Adam Shorrocks
26 September	Andrew Ford
10 October	Michael Hasler
24 October	Gordon Kemp

Thanks to each of you !

ST JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rev. R Willmott	Tel 681623
Shirley Ford	681865
Christine Fox	682024
Michael Hasler	681877
Hilary Hasler	681877
Ann Goodman	681763
Gordon Kemp	681763

SUNDAY TEA

Teas were served in the Church Room on the afternoon of Sunday 24th August to raise funds for the Church. Although poorly supported it provided a pleasant interlude which hopefully raised a few coppers for Church funds.



The following letter was received from
Bill Evans and is reproduced in full:

I would like to thank our friends and neighbours for the kindness shown to me during the sudden illness and consequent death of my dear wife, Daphne. Thanks also for all who attended the Church Service, kindly conducted by the Reverend Cotton of Stewkley, and for the donations of money sent to the Intensive Therapy Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

W.J. EVANS - 7th July 1998
The Green, Aston Abbots

It is with sadness
that we recently
learned of the
death of Stuart
Davis who lived
in the village until
a few years ago

ASTON ABBOTTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Colin Higgs is preparing an exhibition to be held in the Church of photos and memorabilia depicting life in Aston Abbots through the years. If you have anything which you would like to lend to Colin please contact him on 01296 681643

CHURCH SERVICES

6.9.98	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Morning Service
13.9.98	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	10.00	Cublington	Harvest Festival
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
	18.00	Cublington	Harvest Evensong
	18.00	Aston Abbots	Evensong
20.9.98	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Harvest Family Comm'n
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
27.9.98	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion
	11.15	Aston Abbots	Parish Communion
4.10.98	18.00	Wingrave	3 Parish Communion

FROM THE REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

31.5.98 Alice Lightfoot at Wingrave
28.6.98 George Murrell at Wingrave
12.7.98 James Woodward at Wingrave
26.7.98 Lucas Wiggins at Wingrave

Marriage

11.7.98 Jason Lawrence & Catherine Paradine
at Aston Abbots
8.8.98 Liam & Yvette La-Plain at Wingrave (blessing)
15.8.98 Ben Wareing & Caroline Watson at Wingrave
22.8.98 Stuart Bone & Kirsten Aitken at Wingrave

Funerals

3.7.98 Daphne Evans at Aston Abbots
24.7.98 Elly Angryk at Cublington
24.8.98 John Goodwin at Wingrave

SUNDAY READINGS

6.9.98 Trinity 13 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14, 25-33
13.9.98 Trinity 14 1 Tim. 1, 12-17 Luke 15, 1-10
20.9.98 Trinity 15 1 Tim. 2, 1-7 Luke 16, 1-13

SUNDAY READINGS

27.9.98 Trinity 16 1 Tim. 6, 6-19 Luke 16, 19-31
4.10.98 Trinity 17 2 Tim. 1, 1-14 Luke 17, 5-10

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

News from your Parish Council meeting, held on 26th August 1998 :

• MILLENNIUM PROJECTS

If you have any ideas please contact Tom Manning on 682115 or speak to a Parish Council member. It was felt that this would provide an ideal opportunity to have an event that the whole Village could take part in.

• RECREATION GROUND

The Parish Council has been advised by its Insurer that no vehicles should be allowed on to the Recreation Ground as they would not pay out in the event of an accident. The Parish Council is keen for the annual Bonfire party to continue so all alternatives are being investigated.

• HEDGES

Some hedges in and around the Village are in need of trimming. The owners are reminded that they are liable if any damage occurs due to overgrown hedges.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in The Church Room on the 7th of October at 8pm. Everybody is welcome to come along.

And finally, if you are interested in becoming the new Aston Abbots Parish Clerk please contact Tom Manning on 681125.

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DLT

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and er.. the 60's (1981 might be OK as well).**

**Go on - ask me! I know who recorded "itsy bitsy
teeny weeny yellow polka dot bikini" - so ask me
another look out for my travelling music
podium in the Village**

**Dave Lewis Travesty (DLT)
the Aston Abbotts Music Maestro**

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