THECHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE

ISSUE 192 - JULY AND AUGUST 2000

FETE 2000

COME ALONG FOR ALL THE FUN OF THE FETE ON SATURDAY 29TH JULY AT 2.00PM

THE GREEN AND THE GROVE ASTON ABBOTTS

Silver Band

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a



Editorial

Tuesday 27th June 2000

DON'T FORGET - YOU CAN E-MAIL ARTICLES AND LETTERS TO THE CHRONICLE AT



astonmag@aol.com

Ah, summer. And even the weather is behaving relatively well!

After some pretty hectic months lately, THE CHRONICLE is preparing for its annual summer break with hardly a hint of controversy in its pages this month. Well, hardly.

Much of the paper this month seems to centre on things to do for the summer months, with July looking particularly busy in the village, culminating in the festival of St. James and fete.

I know that there is a lot of publicity surrounding the fete and that for those new to the village, there may be a degree of uncertainty as to what it's all about and whether the "hype" is justified. IT IS. Of course, the best way to find out is to come along on the day with everybody else and have a good time.

The burgers will be especially good this year (see advert later) and will include a "drive-through" for those vehicles unlucky enough to be caught-up in Anglian Water's little summer joke (see article later). I have a feeling that this year is going to be the best fete ever with records being shattered all over the place, so come along and support an English success story!!

So lots to do for the summer.

But this is, sadly, the last month that you will be able to read Rita's Peoples Page as Rita is hanging up her quill, putting away her stealth slippers and waving good-bye to her detective-like curiosity (well, probably not the last bit, eh Rite?). It has been a real pleasure working with Rita over the past 2 years (and I'm sure Andy had a similar experience previously) and I would like to say a huge thankyou to her for all of her help and her contribution.

But do not fear, we have a new Peoples Page Editor joining the

ranks in September so you won't escape! We will still know what you are doing.....turn to Rita's page for more details.

Anyway, I'm off on my summer hols so enough of my ranting - enjoy THE CHRONICLE!

Andi Swain

PS I very much look forward to serving your burgers at the fete and to attempting to keep the artists in check at the midsummer madness concert.

IN THIS ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE

- Anglian Water taking the bridge
- Midsummer Millennium Madness party details
- **FETTE 2000**
- The Hall committee replies
- To Dome or Not To Dome
- **Britain's Best Kept Secret**
- 80's Child
- 'Ere John, wanna buy a motor?
- And Loads, Loads more

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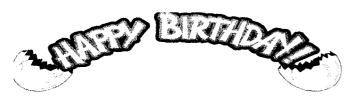
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Pat Donovan - astonmag@aol.com

A note to all would be advertisers more than 198 households receive THE CHRONICLE 11 times a year and with rates from just £10 per annum (far cheaper than some local Parish magazines) can you afford not to be in?

Copy date for September issue is Tuesday August 22nd - please pass items to Andi Swain at 2 Nash's Farm or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible. Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbotts, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

RITA'S PEOPLE PAGE



Aston Abbotts wishes a HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to everybody celebrating in July, especially

George Fox	2nd July	Andrew Plested	19th
Donna Wiggett	2nd	James Hartnett	21st
Margaret Kent	6th	Anne Brancker	24th
Nigel Palmer	6th	Daniel Smith	24th
Len Scutchings	7th	Christy Oldfield	24th
Nicola Lovell	9th	Deirdre Whyte	27th
Vic Scott	13th	Jack Rennie	27th
Gordon Smith	15th	Lawrence Hinds	29th
Diane Lovell	17th	Nora Hartnett	30th
Ellie Williams	19th	Julia King	31st

And in August

Paul Fletcher	4th August	Louise McManus	17th
Liz Barlow	4th	Zoe Williams	19 th
Ivor Belgrove	7th	(Many happy returns	on your
Doris Turner		Andrew Parker	21st
Christine Fox	10th	Zoe Oldfield	24th
Mark Hewitt	11 th	Jenny Howell	27th
Jackie Coates	12th	Dean Wiggett	29^{th}
Dorothy Hinds	s 14th	Poonam Gupta	29^{th}

(So many birthdays in the summer!!!! Ed.)



The Big

Congratulations to Sharon Wilkinson who has just reached this important birthday!! Actually, once you're there it's like any other year except of course, it's a bigger party!! Best wishes Sharon and a very happy birthday from us all.

Let RITA know about your news, birthdays, or forthcoming event...phone Rita on 681690

WELCOME!!

We would all like to welcome Poonam and Avi Gupta and their daughter Chaya, who have recently moved into 51 The Green. We hope they will enjoy living in Aston Abbotts and we look forward to seeing you at the various village functions.



Ta Ever So...

Lol would like to say a huge thank you to the kind villagers who responded to his plea for help in cutting the grass in the Children's Play Area. Many thanks to Caroline Lane, Colin Scott and Ian Hinds. Of course. he could always make room for more volunteers!!



1st birthday)

* NEW RECRUIT!!! *

You may recall that a couple of months ago Rita announced her retirement from CHRONICLE. duty. We are delighted to now introduce our new Peoples Page editor - step forward Tracy Hinds who takes over in September. My personal thanks to Rita for her terrific help with the paper and for keeping us all up to date with what's going on in the village! Ed.



Hayley and Sarah - Reliable Babysitters
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or Sarah on 681740

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THE CHRONICLE

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TONY HINDS 6 The Green - tel. 681454

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KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk) 2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane 681137

TOM MANNING 681160

GWEN KEMPSTER 53 The Green 681310

MARGARET KENT 6 The Green 681454

LINDA SUTTON Sadlers Farm 681413

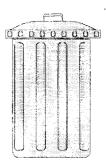
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PETER COOPER

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham 681250

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BRENDA JENNINGS
2 Cotes Way, Wing 681065

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IN THE VILLAGE 1.

YES, IT'S THAT HALL AGAIN!

As a newcomer to the village, I was completely unaware of some people's strength of feeling about the name of the building currently known as the Church Room. Hence, when writing some notes for **THE CHRONICLE** about the first meeting of the group, I just tried to get across the salient points and didn't think anyone would be interested in a full account of the discussions which culminated in the suggestion that "Parish Hall" would be a more appropriate name.

So, here goes. Firstly, we needed a working title so we could set up a bank account, as we knew some funds had already been raised. Initially we did consider calling ourselves "Aston Abbotts Village Hall Fund Organising Committee" but concerns were raised that this gave no recognition to the many years that the building has been owned by the Church and to those people who have looked after the Church Room and whose efforts are greatly appreciated. As a compromise, then, we decided that it would be more appropriate to recognise that connection with the church by calling it the Parish Hall Fund.

Which just goes to show that when you try to come up with a compromise

As there is so much strong feeling about the name of the Hall we will have a referendum or a competition or something when the building is reaching completion, whatever is felt to be most appropriate. In the meantime a bank account has been opened in the name of Aston Abbotts Parish Hall Fund and so that will stay the same.

The committee is, of course, delighted that so many people are concerned enough to have contacted **THE CHRONICLE** and we now hope that attention can be refocused and look forward to receiving lots of fund-raising ideas.

You can contact me on 682078, Tom Manning (Chairman) on 681160 and Nigel Palmer (Treasurer) on 681152.

Many thanks to every group and everyone who has already made a donation to the fund or are arranging events. The bank account currently (June 23rd) stands at £2,240.

Liz Hall (Secretary)

Thanks, Liz, for clearing up the "name" position. THE CHRONICLE looks forward to playing its part in the naming debate by carrying details of the referendum or competition. Until then we will continue to refer to the building as The Hall. Since Liz wrote the article another £1,500 has been earmarked for the fund - let's take up the challenge and make sure that the midsummer madness concert and the fete are tremendous successes and boost the fund even further. It just goes to show though that villagers can influence village matters! Ed.

MORE "NAMING" THOUGHTS

THE CHRONICLE has received another letter which puts yet another twist on the matter...

Dear Sir,

As the saga over the naming of 'The Hall' continues to cause attention in the village, I wonder if you may be interested in the following.

Extract from minutes of Aston Abbotts Parish Meeting, March 23rd 1900 it was resolved that either a letter should be written to Mr. Dickson if I did not see him to enquire whether the room lately built was a Church Room or a Parish Room. The following copy was sent to Mr. Dickson, April 6th 1900.

"Dear Sir,

At a Parish Meeting held in the School Room at Aston Abbotts on Friday March 23rd, it was proposed by Mr. How that I should write to ask if you would let us know whether the room now called a Church Room was granted for building on should be used as a Church Room or for a Parish Room as it was thought at the meeting that the Parish, though a small one, should have a room so that the young men might have books or papers to spend their evenings during the winter season, as an inducement to keep them in the village, instead of going to the public houses or leaving the village to work on the railways, as the labour question is going to become a very serious matter owing to the scarcity of labourers. At the same time we do not wish to deprive the Vicar of any privileges due to him."

Signed, W.Denchfield

Chris Bee

OH NO, HERE WE GO AGAIN

Just when you thought it was safe to venture out onto the footpaths and roads of Aston Abbotts without being confronted by an articulated lorry on a detour, THE CHRONICLE has learned that the nightmare is about to return.

Stewkley Road, Wing – for so long the subject of a weight restriction that drove lorries through our village seeking an alternative route – is to close completely this time! The closure, from its junction at Wing High Street to close to the bridge, takes effect in early July and according to the official notice will last for approximately 6 weeks – RIGHT THE WAY THROUGH THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

AND IT GETS WORSE...

The Winslow highways department of Bucks County Council confirmed that the OFFICIALLY sign posted detour in each direction is **via Aston Abbotts**, Cublington and the A418 – that's all traffic, all day, every day including cars, lorries and busses. But don't bother complaining because the "decree" has already been laid down by BCC in order to allow water main replacement (the plans have *probably* been on display in a Vogon vault on Alpha Centaurai in true "Hitchhiker" style! Ed)

So make sure the kids are extra careful on the village roads this summer...and maybe we can look forward to lots of additional visitors to the fete this year, even if they are only "passing through".

ED.

Note 1 to the Fete Committee: Can we place our burger stand as close to the road as possible? Looking forward to a record year – 4 Fat Blokes. Note 2 to the Fete Committee: How about windscreen washing for Hall funds on fete day, along Cublington Road until the jams die down?



WINGRAVE GARAGE

Terry Bracey Wright & Michael Mitchell Telephone 681543

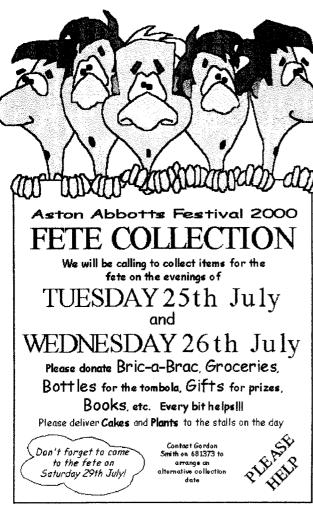
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IN THE VILLAGE 2.



PAST TIMES!!

Andy Bystra writes

Many thanks to George Fox who passed a copy of the Bucks Advertiser he found lining a drawer. It's dated February the 5th 1960; just about the time George and I were doing our National Service. I found it quite interesting so thought our Ed. might like to include a few choice items;-

The headline was 'Parliament to get petition. Quainton Battles To Stop Closure Of Its Station'

Apparently, the village of Quainton was to petition Parliament in a bid to save its century old railway line and station. The residents were partly basing their appeal on a clause in an Act of 1860, which they hoped would deter the Transport Commission from carrying out its threat to close Quainton Road Station. One of the prime movers was Lady Pigott-Brown of Dodders Hall who felt closure would be catastrophic for the village. She knew of 60 families who would have to change their jobs or move home if the station closed.

The Aylesbury LMS station which was situated about where Office World now is, was being demolished during which an uncontrolled fire broke out.

You could buy a semi detached house with 3 beds, bathroom, kitchen and 2 reception rooms, with a good garden, situated in Aylesbury for £2,100.

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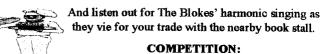
4 FAT BLOKES RETURN

Yes, Yes, Yes! The famous 4 Fat Blokes are back and will be cooking up a stir at the Aston Abbotts Fete.



If you don't do anything else on Saturday the 29th, at least pay a visit to The Blokes' amazingly good Burger and Bacon stand for exceptional value and wholesome grub.

The Cordon Bleu stand is close to the edge of The Green - simply follow your nose to find us!



COMPETITION



Enter the "Name Your Own Burger" competition and you could win the last bit of burger left in the bottom of the grill as we pack away the barbie.

Last year's winning entry was by a man from Wing who named his burger Brian.

MUSIC IN QUIET PLACES

July 2000 heralds the welcome return of the Music in Quiet Places season, which brings professional classical concerts to some of the most beautiful settings in The Vale. For the 2000 season Robert Secret has devised a real treat for music lovers, a programme of classical concerts ideal for a Summer's evening. Each concert is preceded by a walk around the scenic village, led by a local historian.

And this year you can enjoy a concert in Aston Abbotts at St James Church on Tuesday 18th July, beginning at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £5 each and are available from Colin Higgs, 6 Wingrave Road or AVDC leisure at the Civic Centre.

A rented 17" television would set you back 9 shillings & sixpence (about 47P) per week 'reducing'.

The film Expresso Bongo staring Cliff Richard and Yolande Donlan was showing at the Granada cinema. Over at the Odeon you could have see Ronald Shiner & Cecil Parker in 'The Navy Lark'.

Over 800 fans attended crammed into the Grosvenor Ballroom for an all night Jazz Ball.

Most 3-4 year old cars cost around £300.00 but a Morris 12 with no rust, a good engine and re-lined brakes was going for £50.00. An S.S. Jaguar was being sold for £75.00 whilst a BSA motorcycle combination could be had for £15.00 from Stanbridge Motors!!



1960 is also the year from which most of Mr. Bystra's jokes originate (allegedly). **Ed.**

Photographs

by Paul Ridgley

A photograph captures a moment in time and can communicate directly with our imagination and emotions to bring back a myriad of memories.

When photographing people my objective is to help them feel relaxed and look 'real' - and preferably in familiar surroundings which say something about their personality.

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I can take care of everything from choosing the right menu to clearing up and will even wait on you at the table, leaving you free to enjoy an a la carte meal with your friends.

Please ring Tim for further details on

(07971) 936767

IN THE VILLAGE 3.

Millennium Midsummer Madness

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC and Dance the night away under the stars

At Norduck House, off Moat Lane on Saturday 15th July

7.00pm The Fun starts - acts booked include



The Travelling Woolboys

Palmerama

A Guest from Cublington

Ladies Night

And dancing to the sounds of Lol's 20th Century Vox disco!

10.00pm The lights go out a romantic end to the evening as the sun sets backstage over The Vale

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Priced at just £5 each, tickets are available from John Whyte at 14 Bricstock telephone 681685

Proper Loos Clean Grass BYO Booze + Food Wear a glowing band round your wrist if you like

Unfortunately, in the unlikely event of wet weather the concert will not take place.

AND HERE ARE YET MORE WAYS TO ENTERTAIN YOURSELVES ON THESE LONG, HOT SUMMER EVENINGS

The Boulevard, Bourbon Street, Aylesbury.

We recently ate at the Boulevard before going on to the cinema and were most impressed by it. We chose to eat from the set menu with a choice of three different items for each course but there is a full menu as well. The set menu costs £11.50 for two courses, or £14.50 for three and all the choices were very We both chose croissant stuffed with wild tempting. mushrooms (large croissant, masses and masses of mushrooms), then salmon with dill (delicious and the vegetables were good too) and petit pot de chocolat to finish (it came complete with shortbread hat and strawberry and was scrummy). The portions were generous, the cooking excellent, the prices very reasonable, the service efficient but not rushed and the surroundings very pleasant. We thoroughly recommend it.

Clare and Peter Shorrock

Ah! Pizza Perfection -

Pizza Express, Kingsbury Square, Aylesbury At long last we have a restaurant of renown in Town. Quite

simply, you will not find a better Pizza anywhere! As Italian as a Pizza should be, Pizza Express makes a wide range of deliciously thin traditional pizzas - no Ham and Pineapple, Meat Feast, or pork sausage pizza here. There's my absolute favourite American Hot with pepperoni and jalapenos, whilst Becky prefers the Cajun with prawns, onions, peppers and tobasco.

There is a great selection of Italian wine and beers, plenty of other Italian options if you don't fancy Pizza and lots of ice cream! The restaurant is unlike any other in Aylesbury - very airy and light, very clean and modern with plenty of space and a great ambience. YOU REALLY MUST GIVE IT A TRY! (And I think they do take-out as well).

Andi and Becky

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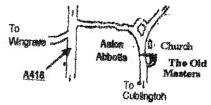
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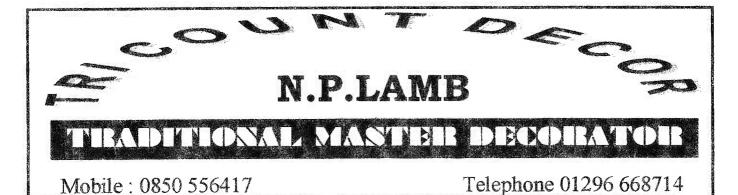
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IN THE VILLAGE 4 - GARDENING!

VILLAGE GARDENS OPEN DAY

Initially I thought that I had the wrong date in the diary for the Village Gardens Open Day - the sun was shining, it was pleasantly warm and there were neither gale force winds or driving rain. Most unusual.

This year we were treated to the re-opening of the gardens at The Abbey - magnificently restored to their former glory by a skilled team of gardeners. It was also a first show for the garden at 2 The Acorns, with everybody then able to pay return visits to some regular favourites of the event at 11 The Green, 10 Wingrave Road, Oak Farm and The Old House. Huge thanks to all of those gardeners who went to such great lengths to prepare their fabulous gardens for us to trample over hopefully we'll see you all again next year.

GARDEN WITH A REAL HISTORY

Judging by the reports and the general melee in the village, record numbers of people took advantage of the (unusually) good weather to pay a visit to the open Village Gardens. Many of you have visited 11 The Green - the home of Vic and Christine Scott's amazing garden. Vic has prepared a written history of the garden and house for visitors - Vic now takes up the story...

Welcome to our garden at 11 The Green. Built in 1854 our-endof-terrace house was built as a farm workers cottage as part of what was in those days a really big development, 22 similar dwellings almost doubling the size of the village at that time.

These houses were a part of the estate of Lord Overstone, a wealthy benevolent landlord with much property in this part of North Bucks, his farms were rented to tenant farmers and the houses were for the families of the farm workers.

Each dwelling was to have sufficient garden land for the families to be virtually self-sufficient, also each house had a pig sty and each terrace block had a shared well and pump situated centrally and also a communal oven for bread making. Each house had brick built outhouses comprising a fuel store / barn and a bucket "privy". In those days there was no piped water, electricity or gas; houses were lit by oil lamps and candles, and heated by wood and coal on open fires.

On the death of Lord Overstone, ownership of the estate passed to his daughter, Lady Wantage and on her eventual death long-standing tenants were given an option to buy their homes. My great-grandfather James Hedges came to live in what is now no. 11 when it was built, and the property has been lived in by my ancestors and family to the present day. It was bought by my aunt, on behalf of her father, in the early 1930s for the sum of £300!

When I first remember the garden as a young boy, all of it was cultivated for vegetables, chiefly potatoes, cabbages, broccoli, onions, carrots, and parsnips. In those days cottagers did not think of elaborate flower gardens!

When the house came into my ownership a start was made with flower beds and a small lawn. Over the years much has changed and the garden which you see today, with various specialised compartments, mixed and herbaceous borders, pond and small bog garden, shaded area, rockery and vegetable plot, together with orchard and a recently acquired wild flower and grassed area with specimen trees has been, and still is, the devoted work and joy of my wife Christine and myself.

Among the 400 species of plants in our garden are a number of rare and unusual plants collected form many parts of the World, a few of these are virtually unknown in cultivation in this country. Of course, not everything is in bloom at this time of year, we try to have something in flower at all seasons.

Among the plants which we have collected abroad are the following, of interest at various times of the year:-

•	Peonia Mlokosowiczii	U.S.S.R. 1989
•	Rhododendron Luteum	U.S.S.R (Armenia) 1989
•	Arum Creticum	Crete 1994
•	Arum Concinatum	Cyprus
•	Arum Pictum	Majorca
•	Arum Italicum	Crete 1997
•	Biarum Arondanum	Andalucia, Spain (Sierra el
		Torcal)
•	Cercis Griffithii	U.S.S.R. Tashkent
•	Geranium Phaeum	Yugoslavia
•	Geranium Dalmaticum	Yugoslavia
•	Dianthus Monspessulanus	Catalunja, Pyrenees
•	Dianthus Carthusianovum	France, Pyrenees
•	Cardamine Raphanifolia	France, Pyrenees
•	Aconitum Vulparia	Switzerland

Vic and Christine Scott

Aston Clinton Herbs

Last week I discovered the most gorgeous haven in the garden of 89 Aston Clinton Road, Aston Clinton (the last house of one of those terraces on the way into Aston Clinton). The garden itself is lovely, lots of nooks and crannies, but it is also the home of Aston Clinton Herbs. Jenny Bloom's business has only been open for a month but deserves to be a great success. She sells all sorts of herbs, not just the usual ones like mint and rosemary, but some you probably wouldn't realise were classified as herbs. I bought a very pretty variegated rue and a santolina with cream flowers which I had been wanting to find for ages. Her plants are bursting with health and her prices are very reasonable. Even if you are not a herb fanatic, do go and look - it's really worth the visit and I would be surprised if you don't come away with something for your garden.

Clare Shorrock

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FETE 2000!

Make sure you come and bring your families and friends on

SATURDAY 29 JULY, 2.00 p.m.

Silver Band Punch & Judy Lions Train Pony Rides
Lace Making Demonstration Teas
Ices Stalls & Games World-famous Barbecue!

The collection around the village for your donations will be in the evenings of Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th. Please have ready books, bottles, bric-a-brac, toys, groceries and anything that could be used for prizes.

Please save plants and home-made produce to bring along on the morning of the fete itself.

Thanks to all those who have come forward to help! We still need a few more volunteers to make this an enjoyable day for everyone who is working on the fete. If you can help, please contact Liz Barlow (682605), Barbara Bellingham (681609), Anne Dicken(688577), Jackie Farrands (681182), Shirley Ford (681865), Chris Fox (682024), Ivan Greenaway (682605), Colin Higgs (681343), Clare Shorrock (681260) or Gordon Smith (681373)

OVER HALF OF FETE PROFITS THIS YEAR WILL GO TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH ROOM - THE FETE ALSO SUPPORTS THE 'CHRONICLE', ST JAMES'S CHURCH AND THE TODDLERS GROUP

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IN THE VILLAGE.

THE VILLAGE INTERVIEW

This month Phil Spooner speaks to Margaret Kent.

Agriculture has been in Margaret Kent's blood since her childhood on a Northamptonshire farm. "I was brought up on my uncle and aunt's farm in the early years of my life. I always got up in the morning to make the Aga up and then go and get the cows in. I learnt to hand milk a cow when I was about eight."

At 11 she left the farm. "I went to a grammar school in Kent and my headmistress was absolutely horrified to think I wanted to go and work on a farm. It was unheard of for a girl to do anything like that. But that's what I wanted to do. The farming bug had sort of got me and I went back to my uncle's farm, then went on to Agriculture College - and then of course had to look for a job.

"So I came to Aston Abbotts... on Major Morton's estate – at Norduck farm. I was looking after the young calves and things at Norduck. I was there in 1954."

"We used to look after the bulls at Norduck as well. They had two bulls - one was Apollo, he wasn't so friendly, but the younger one Rudolf - we used to take him for walks. We used to walk down Norduck Road with him and he was very, very intelligent and you'd say 'Look at the planes Rudolf' and he'd look up to the sky. Eventually he was sent to Major Morton's estate in Norfolk and shortly afterwards he died, and the vet said it was a broken heart."

Whilst working at Norduck Margaret met her late husband Ray Kent. The two were married in 1957. "I left Norduck in 1959, had three children and, as Shirley said in her article, you stayed at home to look after the children in those days. I did work down the village shop for three mornings a week, while my children were at the village school."

Margaret has fond memories of Aston Abbotts life in the fifties. "I thought it was a lovely village, it really was. There was Tommy Humphrey who had the Bull and Butcher and he baked the bread. On the night before Good Friday you hung your bag out on the door handle and he put hot cross buns and everything in it. He would come round with a basket of bread covered in an old flour sack. The bread was gorgeous - well sometimes it was really burnt - crusty bread, hopeless for making sandwiches. A wet fish man used to come round and of course we had the Post Office – and the School.

"When I worked at Norduck we seemed to have much harder winters. I started work at quarter to six in the morning. The snow was just banked up the road." But it wasn't all work. "In the hard winters with the snow we used to go sledging a lot. On Lines Hill and Hollow Ground, but of course all the fields are divided up now, so you couldn't possibly have a clear run now even if you had the snow."

She talks wistfully of more innocent times. "When we used to go to the crossroads to catch the bus we always put our bikes in where the big hedge is... or we would leave them behind the bus shelter at the crossroads. We 'd just leave then there! Years ago in the village it was a much safer place for children, I mean you could let them go off for the day. The children would go

anywhere because we were all country people and we respected the country code. Whereas now there are so many new landowners and a lot of them aren't country people, so you're forever looking over your shoulder to make sure you're on the right footpath.

"I joined the Ladies' Club in 1961. I was secretary for some years. Then I left because I was working full-time, but I belong to it again now. Mrs Steele who lived at the Firs, she started the Ladies' Club over 60 years ago. She lives in London now. Mr Steele used to go up to his club in London and the Ladies' Club used to have a party down there.

The campaign against the Cublington-Wing airport united the villages and the Kent family joined in the fight. "We'd do everything – all fund-raising events. We had a tractor drive through the villages. We had a big sponsored walk in 1969/70. 21½ miles through all the villages, around the perimeter of the airport. We had bonfires lit on all the highest points around and on the night that we heard the airport wasn't coming, John Ford, Shirley's late husband, rang the Church bells.

"In 1971 Paul, my son, he died in an accident in the Lake District and nine years later Ray died after a very short illness. I've got a tree on the Green in his memory and I've got a tree in the recreation ground for Paul.

"Then about three years later I met Tony [Hinds]." She laughs. "He said that I lured him here because I used to make homemade wine - and we've been together 17 years!"

For the last few years Margaret has been on the Parish Council. "I think it's a good thing to have new people on it, but also to have some sort of stability of people who have lived in the village for some time." She agrees that many people are indifferent to the work of the Council. "When the Town Tree was going to be cut down the village hall was packed. The whole village turned out for that, but only issues like that, not run-of-the-mill things"

She still enjoys outdoor pursuits. "I love gardening. Tony does

some of it, he does the digging, but I do all the planting. I go on these diabetic walks almost every year. It's a sponsored thing. We're doing the Cumbrian Traverse this year. I've done all those peaks in a lifetime - but not in a week! We go to the Lake District every year. The year after Paul died I didn't go and then I went back. Tony and I have already been [this year]. He likes the Lake District as well because he likes walking and he likes nature."

Margaret also enjoys travel. "I've been out to New Zealand twice - my sister lives out there. I did a bungee-jump - I've done two out there. The first time I went on my own and I did it and then when Tony and I went about two and-a-half years ago I did it from the highest one they've got."

But she has not lost her love of farming. "The only bit of farming that I ever do now is helping Peter Knight and Alex with the lambing. Every year at the end of February and the beginning of March I have a fortnight off and help them with the lambing, and I have done for about the last eight or nine years. I thoroughly enjoy it. I love animals and that's one of the highlights of my year."

S.M. ARMAN.



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'WHAT'S ON' IN JULY & AUGUST 2000

JULY

Thursday 4th Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm

Leighton Buzzard Transport Meeting. (Bus train queries to Colin please)

Tuesday11th & Wed.12th Church 'spring' cleaning.

Thursday 13th Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

Sunday 16th Rambling Club members meet Linslade 2.00pm

Thursday 18th Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm Music in Quiet Places Concert - St James Church

Thursday 13th Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

Saturday & Sunday 29/30th July Festival weekend – Opens 2.00pm Saturday – Teas in Church room – Church open both days – Songs of praise St James church 6.00pm.

AUGUST

Tuesday 1st Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm

Wednesday 2nd Aylesbury Vale Children's Holiday Fun. Church Room

Parish Council Meeting - Church Room 8.00pm.

Sunday 6th Rambling Club members meet at Brill Windmill 2.00pm

Thursday 10th Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

Saturday 12th Coach outing to Groombridge Park - Book with Colin

Monday 14th & Fri. 18th Church room cleaning.

Tuesday 15th Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm Sunday 20th Village footpath walk – The Green 2.00pm

Thursday 24th Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

Sunday 27th Rambling Club members meet at Toternhoe 2.00pm

Monday 28th Bank Holiday

Tuesday 29th Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm

Thursday 31st Bucks County Show. Weedon Park

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 5th. Aylesbury Vale Transport Meeting. (Bus train queries to Colin please)

Thursday 17th Whist Drive in The Church Room 7.30pm

SUMMER BUS TRIPS

Oxford; Shopping, Museums, Gardens & River trips

High Wycombe; Shopping, Museums, 'Hell Fire' caves.

Leighton Buzzard; Narrow gauge railway, Canal trips.

Olney (Via Milton Keynes);- Cowper Museum, Cosgrove, Flamingo Park. London;- Planetarium, Dome, Museums, parks, Shopping, Open top bus tours, Zoo.

MARKET DAYS

Tuesdays; Thame, Buckingham, Leighton Buzzard.

Wednesdays; - Aylesbury, Oxford.
Thursdays; - Olney, Princes Risboro. & Wendover.

Fridays;- Tring, Aylesbury & Bicester.
Saturdays;- Aylesbury, Hemel Hempstead & H. Wycombe.

Explorer tickets

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Refuse collection will be on Fri. 1^{st} Sept and <u>not</u> on Thursday

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR JULY/AUGUST		SIDESMEN FOR JULY/AUGUST			
JULY 1st Mrs Dogget 8th Mrs S Ford 15th Mrs G Wyer 22nd Wedding 29th Festival	AUGUST 13 th Mrs Bellingham 20 th Mr C Higgs 27 th Miss A Goodman	JULY 2 nd Mr A Ford 6 th At Cublington 9 th Mr J Hartnett 13 th Mr J Hartnett 16 th Mr G. Kemp 20 th Mr G. Kemp. 23 rd Mr C. Higgs. 27 th Mr C. Higgs 30 th Mrs S. Ford & Mr G Kemp			

THE CHRONICLE CROSSWORD

JULY/AUGUST

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			50					51				

Answers to June:

ACROSS: 1 Bristol. 6 Scent. 10 New. 11 Can. 12 Resting 14 Annoy. 16 Etna. 17 Annuls. 18 Tissue. 19 Aid. 20 ET. 22 Rob. 24 Sings. 26 Rations. 29 See. 30 Bat. 31 Sate. 32 Chasten. 35 Tin. 36 Anti. 37 OHMS. 38 Ruin. 40 Oversee. 43 Yr. 44 Dawning. 46 Nay. DOWN 1 47 Essays. Bird. 2 Inset. 3 Setting 4 Twins. 5 Log. 6 Scan. 7 Cannabis. 8 Ennui. 9 Toys. 13 Nash. 15 Olden Times. 17 Aerate. 20 Estuary. 21 Tie. 23 OT 25 NEC. 26 Rations. 27 Oaths. 28 Sense. 30 BST. 33 Handy. 34 An. 37 Orgy. 39 Urn. 41 Vis. 42 Ena. 45 We.

ACROSS.

- 1. Relating to (5)
- 6. Force, vigour (6)
- 11. Sitting space (7)
- 14. Age (3)
- 15. A gossip (7)
- 16. Part of arm (5)
- 18. TONES (anag 5)
- 19. Part of shoe (6)
- 20. A dance (4)
- 22. TINES (anag 5)
- 23. Imitate (3)
- 25. Erase (6)
- 27. Exist, live (2)
- 29. LIED NO (anag 6)

- 31. with ---- breath)5)
- 34. Flightless bird (3)
- 35. Nay (2)
- 36. On the ---- hand
- **(5)**
- 37. A dessert (4)
- 39. In company of (4)
- 41. Muscle (6)
- 45 ALE SIR (Anag 6)
- 48. Change course, abruptly (6)
- 49. Relates to high mountains (6)
- 50. Grandmother (informal 3)
- 51. Tall & thin (4)

DOWN.

- 1. BATS NOT BOATS (anag 5&7)
- 2. Vegetable (4)
- 3. In porridge (4)
- 4. Speak (5)
- 5. Slanted (6)
- 7. WET MINES (anag
- 4,4)
- 8. Wrong (9)
- 9. Used in fencing (5)
- 10. Nevertheless (3)
- 12. Compass point (2)
- 13. Cook (5)
- 17. Going to seed (7)

- 21. Fish (3)
- 24. Used in gardens (4)
- 26. Daughter in Greek tragedy (7)
- 28. Insect (3)
- 30. Scribble, scrawl (6)
- 32. Belonging to thee (5)
- 33. Small doctor (2)
- 38. Once more (5)
- 39. Bird (4)
- 40. Hades, underworld (4)
- 42. Female sheep (3)
- 43. Nurse (abbrev 3)
- 44.Eggs (3)
- 46. Curative spring eg Bath (3)
- 47. Writing fluid (3)

IN THE VILLAGE 7 - SOMETHING TO DO?

TO DOME OR NOT TO DOME?

That really is the question. Peter decided that he wanted to spend his 60th birthday there so, even though it wasn't on a list of "Must Do's" for Adam and me, we went. It wasn't crowded in spite of a great many school parties, so queuing was minimal. However, the layout of many of the zones was such that even though there were relatively few visitors there it was often difficult to stop and study the exhibits. So if the numbers ever rise to the predicted levels it will be virtually impossible to see anything at all.

Our views on what was there were pretty well unanimous. Firstly the truly impressive:-

- The tube station is stupendous. A totally original and daring design - it's difficult to believe this a London station.
- II. The Dome building itself is, as expected, impressive although it is difficult to appreciate the inside fully as it is so full of zones etc., and it still rankles to think it has such a short life span. We particularly liked the clever design details such as the drainage system for rainwater.
- III. The performance in the central arena, again as expected, is fabulous spectacular and totally original.

Next the good (and goodish) zones: -

- I. Self Portrait by Marks and Spencer. A vast spiral walkway lined with photographs and quotes from people from all walks of life about what being British means amusing and thought provoking followed by several huge, brilliantly executed, cartoon sculptures by Gerald Scarfe. It restores your faith in our nation.
- II. Rest. An amazing experience inside an extraordinary structure - a bit like being inside a double ice cream scoop. You sit or lie on the floor while soft music-like sounds and colours of incredible intensity and vibrancy wash over you. Difficult to leave.
- III. Journey by Ford*. Well researched and displayed (in spite of the collapse of part of the structure recently) although part of the layout made it difficult to stop and study the exhibits.
- IV. Learning by Tesco. Initially a bit weak with a rather pathetic film about school but later you pass into a starlit night-time forest which is magical in effect, although the interactive activities were somewhat incongruous in the setting.
- V. Work by Manpower. Another mixture of good and poor, the good being vast tables of interactive games testing various skills and aptitudes, suitable for adults and children to play against one another.
- VI. Skyscape by Sky Television. Nice to meet all our old Blackadder friends again.
- VII.Talk by BT.* Some interesting ideas but even on the day we went there weren't enough terminals for people to try out all the exhibits. It finishes with a truly dire and embarrassing "Live Talk Show".
- VIII.Faith. A multi-faith zone that compares different religions through written quotations from religious texts

and religious and other world leaders. Makes one realise how much the different religions have in common with each other and wonder why they have fought each other so often.

Now for the really bad zones: -

- Money by The City of London. Boring! Two money games to Play that seem to have very little point to them and teach you absolutely nothing.
- II. Home Planet by British Airways. Bad beyond belief! Tackily constructed and you would need to be a somewhat unintelligent 3 year old to gain any enjoyment at all from it.
- III. The Body sponsored by Boots. Actually, I had heard so many terrible reports about this I decided to rest my feet, but Peter and Adam said it lived up to all my predictions. Neither of them is really knowledgeable about anatomy but they realised that the eye didn't belong where it was, and that half the organs were missing entirely.' And this is what all the hype was about!

We really couldn't face any more so we ducked out of "Play", "Shared Ground" (a look inside a garden shed, lounge and teenager's bedroom - been there, done that!) and "living Island" (a typical British Seaside resort). All in all, a very mixed bag. Zones in the good list marked * were let down by poor planning of layout with not enough space, too few terminals for the interactive items for the numbers of people there, and/or by poor quality of construction.

So, was it worth it? Tickets cost £20. Then there is the cost of getting there, not to mention more than two hours by train and tube each way, and food and drink. Personally, I think not although, in our case, it does mean that we will have no difficulty remembering how we spent Peter's 60th especially as we followed it up with dinner in an Italian restaurant we used to frequent when we were first married where younger son Piers surprised his father who thought he was still in Australia. Yes, a memorable day, one way or another!

Clare Shorrock

BRITAIN'S BEST KEPT SECRET

Most of us in Aston Abbotts (though not all!!!) have absolutely no idea about the immense part played in World War II by those working in a top secret building just a few miles from here!

"Station X" at Bletchley Park, Bletchley (close to the railway station / follow the 'brown' tourism signposts) was the home of the code breakers who decyphered the German military cypher machine, ENIGMA. Here also took place one of the world's most important pieces of research and design - the creation of the world's first computer, Colossus. You can see a replica of Colossus as well as an Enigma machine on display in the museum. There is also a huge array of displays, exhibitions and other interesting pieces illustrating WWII activities.

Included in the entry of fee of just £5 each is a 1½ hour tour - hugely interesting and full of amazing facts and stories - you will need the best part of a day to see everything. Open on alternate weekends, from 8th/9th July - telephone 01908 640404. Or visit the web site - www.bletchleypark.org.uk Andi & Becky

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IN THE VILLAGE 8.

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If you are, we suggest you answer ALL of the following questions, calculate the final score and then determine how suspicious YOU should be!!

- Q. Does the advert have a mobile telephone number? (Score 10 for yes)
- Q. Does the advert say call at specific times?

 (Score 10 for ves)
- Q. Does the seller insist that he brings the vehicle to you? (Score 10 for yes)
- Q. Has the seller got the registration document (V5)? (Score 10 for No)
- Q. Does the V5 correctly describe the car (Colour, Model, Engine etc.)?

 (Score 10 for No)
- Q. Does the same key fit all the locks?
 (Score 10 for No)
- Q. If the windows are etched, are they the same numbers as the registration plate?(Score 10 for No)
- Q. Is the VIN number the same on the VIN plate as that on the V5 (or No VIN plate)?

 (Score 10 for No)

- Q. Is the stamped in number clearly readable (or no stamped in number)?
 - (Score 10 for No)
- Q. Is the engine number clearly readable? (Score 10 for No)
- Q. Is the seller familiar with the car? (Score 10 for No.)
- Q. Will the seller accept a cheque (even holding the car until it clears)?(Score 10 for No)
- Q. Is the seller content for you to carry out an HPI check?

 (HPI Tel. 01722 422422 there is a charge for this service)

 (Score 10 for No)

How did you score?

10 - 30 points:

A little suspicious - if you are in doubt as to whether you should be concerned about buying the car contact your local Police Station for advice.

40 - 50 points:

Suspicious - contact your local Police Station for advice.

60 + points:

Very suspicious - contact your local Police Station immediately. Information by Thames Valley Police Crime Reduction Unit.

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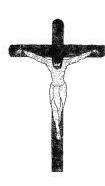
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RECTOR'S REPORT JULY 2000

Two of the three Church buildings for which I am responsible are currently waiting for the workmen to arrive.

In Wingrave we are having some repairs and re-pointing of the stonework done. A similar exercise in Cublington has also been made

possible thanks to the efforts of the recently formed "Friends of St. Nicholas".

We frequently hear of churches having to raise enormous amounts of money for restoration work. We are very fortunate in that all three churches are in a relatively good state of repair – and, by doing the jobs recommended in the five-yearly architect's reports, we hope that they will stay that way. Of course, almost all these jobs are expensive, and we shall continue to need more money for the next jobs that will need doing.

For some jobs, the most expensive part is the hire of the scaffolding necessary to reach the area to be worked on. That is not by reason of complaint – after all, the workmen need to have a safe platform on which to work. It also means that as much work as possible is done whilst the scaffold is there to save having to use it again.

Scaffolding always seems to me to be rather like discipline. It is erected around buildings that need work doing to them — whether they are new buildings that are only partially complete, or ancient buildings in need of repair. It provides a framework within which the necessary changes can be made without danger. It may not look very pretty — but it does its job.

There are times in our life when we need some external discipline whilst we are coping with the tensions and uncertainties and changes that take place in our lives. When we have sorted ourselves out, then we can revert to our normal self-discipline, but in the meantime, it is good to know that there is something that will prevent us from falling and making a fool of ourselves.

There is a story, which is now very politically incorrect, of the sign that greeted the Vicar at his Church Door. It read—"Caution—Men at Work". After thinking about it, he decided that, when the building work was finished, the sign should remain. He felt that his congregation needed to be reminded that they were all involved in God's Work.

We have inherited our Church buildings from those who have been here before us, and we have a duty to pass them on to those who will come after us. We can have little idea of the alterations and changes they will think are necessary in order to worship God. In waiting for the workmen to come we are ensuring that the Church buildings will still be here for many more of God's Workmen in the future.

Rob Willmott

1st WINGRAVE SCOUT GROUP

BEAVERS We have entered the spirit of Euro 2000 and spent an evening on football. Colouring in pictures of players in our favourite Countries' colours (a spot of Euro education slipped in there, unnoticed by the boys!!). We invested Thomas Bunce on 5th June and welcome him to Wingrave Beaver Colony.

The Beavers have been busy preparing their costumes and horses for the parade on 1st July at the village fete. A number of parents have been helping Jan, it is nice for them to be involved in the colony and helps them to understand what we do. Thank you to all involved.

CUBS We have been busy getting our Cubs through awards and we have been delighted to award many of our boys with their next badge. Well done lads. We have been busy preparing our Dragon for the village fete, the Cubs have made a head out of Paper Mache and a body by painting with fabric paints. This was not only great fun but is community involvement and will allow many of the boys to gain Arts and Crafts badges. We even held a couple of extra meetings in order to get it done.

One evening we all went to Wingrave Church, where our vicar Bob talked to the boys about the Church and how old some parts of it are. He explained what all the parts of the Church were and answered dozens of questions on a whole range of subjects from; What is this "cross"? - Which turned out to be Dr Trevor May's "puzzle" Iona Celtic Cross....... To what type of things did the early Church goers leave on the earthen floors? (no Pokemon cards in those days!). We would like to thank Bob again for a super and very interesting evening.

FETE DAY 1st Wingrave Scout Group as a whole are parading together to the fete. We hope lots of parents come and support us and applaud the boys efforts.

FINALLY We would all like to let Sue and Jamie Ascott know that we are thinking of them and that they are in our prayers. We all hope to see more of you soon. Julia Ellis

MUSIC IN A QUIET PLACE.....

Announcing a special evening of classical music at St. James Church on Tuesday 18th July from 7.30pm.

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	<u>CHU</u>	JRCH SER	<u>VICES</u>	SUNDAY READINGS			
2 nd July	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion (Note change)	2nd July	Trinity 2	2 Corinthians 8.7-15; Mark 5.21-43	
	10.00	Wingrave	Patronal Festival Eucharist		Peter & Paul	Acts 12.1-11; Matthew 16.13-19	
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Morning Worship	9 th	Trinity 3	2 Corinthians 12,2-10	
	15.00	Wingrave	Songs of Praise			Mark 6.1-13	
9 th	10.00	Cublington	Family Eucharist (Note change)	16 th	Trinity 4	Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29	
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	23 rd	Trinity 5	Ephesians 2.11-22	
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion			Mark 6.30-34, 53-56	
16 th	08.00	Wingrave	Prayer Book Communion	30 th	Trinity 6	Ephesians 3.14-21 John 6.1-21	
	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	6 th August	Transfiguratio	on 2	
	10.00	Wingrave	Family Service		_	Peter 1.16-19	
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion	a oth		John 12.27-36	
23 rd	08.45 08.45	Cublington Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion Parish Communion	13 th	Trinity 8	Ephesians 4.25-5.2 John 6.35, 41-51	
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	20 th	Trinity 9	Ephesians 5.15-20 John 6.51-58	
30 th	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	27 th	Trinity 10	Ephesians 6, 10-20	
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion			John 5.56-69	
	18.00	Aston Abbotts	Songs of Praise	3 rd September	Trinity 11	James 1.17-27 Mark 7.1-8,14-15,21-23	
6 th August	10.00	Cublington	Three Parish Communion	FT		or c terro e	
13 th	08,45	Cublington	Parish Communion		COM THE R	<u>EGISTERS</u>	
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	Holy Baptism 14 th May	Fish on Files above of Winnessee		
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion	14 May	Ethan Elsenburg at Wingrave Olivia Gresswell at Aston Abbotts		
20 th	10.00	Aston Abbotts	Three Parish Communion	21st May		ell at Wingrave	
27 th	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion	28 th May	•		
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	4 th June	Charles Lyon	ons at Cublington	
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion	Marriage			
3 rd September	10.00		Three Parish Communion	27 th May David Cook & Helen Wa Cublington		& Helen Waite at	
3 September	10.00	Wingrave	THE FALISH COMMUNION	Funeral			
				12 th June Christopher Ascott at Amershar		Ascott at Amersham	

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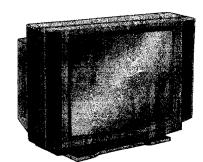
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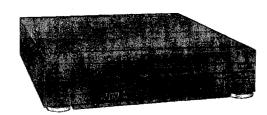


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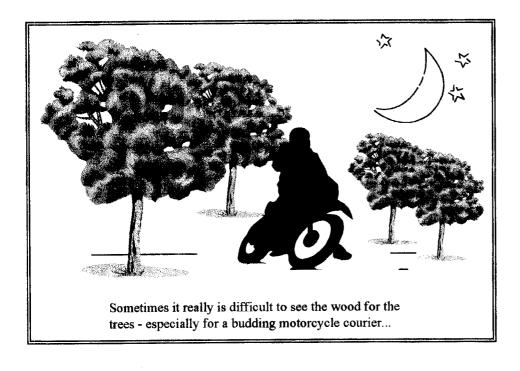


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