

# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



## IN THIS MONTHS ISSUE.

UPDATE

BOOK OF THE MONTH

AMATEUR GARDENER

COUNTRY MATTERS

THE ASTON ABBOTTS COOKBOOK

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

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PLEASE REMEMBER:

**ANNUAL PARISH  
MEETINGS**

**9. MARCH. 7.30.**

MARCH 1984

No. 7

# Editorial

A quiet month, probably helped by the continued exile of our theatre critic Mr.O'Booze, following his dubious allegations made in the January issue.

The advertising has increased, but we still need more to ensure the financial independence of your newspaper. If you have any articles or ideas for the CHRONICLE please let me know - this really is your newspaper and I would like it to reflect your interests and concerns.

One cause for concern for all villages is the future of the services available, whether it be bus, postal or shopping. In this months edition there is an article on the problems faced by village shops who have had their trade undermined by the increased mobility of the village population and the competition of the large supermarkets. If we were to lose the facilities offered by the Post Office and the Village Store many would manage with minimal inconvenience but for others it would be a severe blow. The slogan "use it or lose it" does have a certain ominous ring, which perhaps deserves some thought.

*Graham Parker.*

## NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

### APRIL AND MAY EDITIONS OF THE CHRONICLE

The Editor will be out of the country from March 31st. until April 30th. As a result the April edition of the CHRONICLE will on the 24th and 25th of March, printed on the 26th. and hopefully distributed on March 27th or 28th.

Thus the 23rd. is the absolute deadline this month.

The April edition will be late and prepared as soon as I return from America - hopefully on April 1st and 2nd.; with printing on 3rd or 4th. and distribution on 5th or 6th.

Thus correspondents may like to mention early April events in the March issue.

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ASTON ABBOTTS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

FRIDAY 9th. MARCH 1984

CHURCH ROOM 7.30 p.m.

This is an open Parish Meeting - entirely separate from the Parish Council - at which Parishioners can discuss any matter of general concern.

The meeting is now responsible for the election of the Fete Committee and the dispersal of money raised by the Annual Fete. In addition the meeting will this year be responsible for electing the Church Room Management Committee, which operates under the Chairmanship of the Vicar.

Thus the Agenda will read:

1. Minutes of the last meeting.
2. Matters arising.
3. Report by officers of the 1983 Fete Committee.
4. Election of the 1984 Fete Committee.
5. Distribution of Money raised by the 1984 Fete.
6. Election of the Church Room Management Committee.
7. Any Other Business.

If you can spare an hour, then please come along.

If you would like to nominate somebody (or are willing to serve yourself) on one or both of the committees just complete the slip below and drop it through my door or leave it in the Chronicle box at the shop. The meeting will assume that all previous committee members will seek re-election unless they have let me know otherwise.

The meeting will be followed by a Parish Council Meeting.

*Graham Parker.*

Graham Parker  
Clerk to the Annual Parish Meeting.

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: ELECTION OF FETE AND CHURCH ROOM COMMITTEES.

I would like to nominate the following as a member/s of the 1984 Fete Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to nominate the following as member/s of the 1984 Church Room Management Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

When nominating please ensure the individual is prepared to stand.

I would be willing to serve on the Fete Committee and the Church Room Management Committee.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT name alongside signature!

# WHAT'S ON

THURSDAYS 1st., 15th., : BINGO IN THE CHURCH  
and 29th. ROOM at 8.00 p.m.

THURSDAYS 8th. and : WHIST DRIVE IN THE  
22nd. CHURCH ROOM 7.30p.m.

FRIDAY 9th. : ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
CHURCH ROOM 7.30.p.m.

SUNDAY 18th. : FOOTPATH WALK  
MEET AT THE GREEN at  
2.00 p.m.

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Legion will hold its next meet-  
ing on TUESDAY 20th. MARCH at 8.00p.m.  
in the Bull & Butcher, Aston Abbotts.

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## THE TUESDAY CLUB

Loyalty was tested on Tuesday February 14th. when the ladies of the 'Tuesday Club' braved the elements and missed Torville and Dean, to enjoy a creative evening with local artist Gina Ayling. Our imaginations were fired by her unique designs in enamelled jewellery, and we were able to produce original brooches and pendants for ourselves.

Members were saddened to learn of the resignation of Jane Plested from the committee as she had been very active for the club, with which she still hopes to keep in close contact. Pat Sims kindly volunteered to step into the breach.

The next active meeting will be on MARCH 13th. at 8.00 p.m. in the Church Room, when Mrs. Robinson will be encouraging us to keep fit with ease. Tea hostesses on the night will be Tina Searle, Mrs. Hinds and Mrs. Martin.

The Club has arranged for "Phase One", a mobile fashion shop, to come to Aston Abbotts to raise money for its funds. Many famous chain store fashions will be available at bargain prices. The shop will come to the house of Pat Sims at "Cherry Trees", Wingrave Road, on MARCH 14th., from 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. Refreshments will be available.

Please come along and support this fund raising event.

## THE ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON LADIES CLUB

On March 1st. Mrs Montague is coming to talk to us about her work at the Red Cross Handicap Centre in Stoke Mandeville and to answer any questions members may have.

On Wednesday March 14th. we are having a Social Evening. Rod Puddifoot and his folk group will be entertaining us and there will be a buffet supper.

The time will be 7.45 p.m. Entrance £1.00  
Do come along and support us - a good evening is guaranteed. If you would like to bring some wine for your table at supper - feel free!

On Thursday March 29th. we are back to our usual meeting time of 2.45 p.m. and a demonstration of wood carving by Mr. & Mrs. Slack, is on the agenda.

## Memories of Nigeria

**A MEETING of Aston Abbotts Ladies' Club was held in the Church Room last Thursday when Mrs. Newell presided.**

After the business was completed Mrs. K. Dines took members 25 years back in time to Nigeria, where she lived with her husband and children for two years.

Mr. Dines lectured in maths at Enugu, the capital of the eastern province of Nigeria and Mrs. Dines showed slides of the college, their home and the township

She described their way of life and the pictures showed many of the Nigerian people and the buildings near their house.

She also showed pictures of them taking a party of young people to the Cameroons in the northern part of Nigeria. After answering members' questions Mrs. Dines was thanked by Mrs. Newell.

The hyacinths grown for competition were judged by Mrs. Little who awarded first prize to Mrs. P. Rickard and second Mrs. Dines.

Tea was served with cakes made by Mrs. Roff and Mrs. Webster.

The winner of the raffle prize was Mrs. G. Ford.

# Book of the Month

Peter Scott  
TRAVEL DIARIES OF A NATURALIST

Ed. Miranda Weston-Smith.  
Collins £12.95.

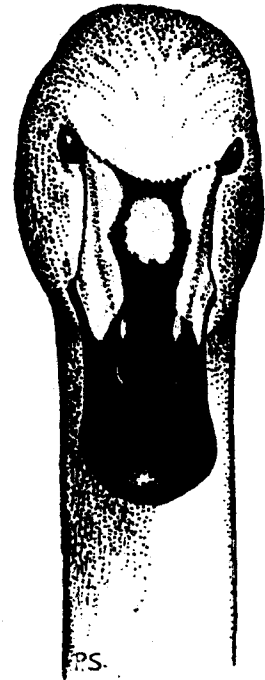
A beautiful book, full of fascinating sketches and enjoyable anecdotes culled from a life time of adventurous travel.

Scott filled his diaries with field sketches using whatever medium came to hand - pen, pencil, ball point felt tip - and added colour by pastel or paint. Every page is a delight; a blaze of colour illustrating the Carmine Bee-eater on one page and the delicate details of the butterflies of the Galapagos Islands on another. Even the page margins (as inadequately illustrated on the right) are full of interesting snippets for the casual browse.

The book covers Scott's travels through Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Africa, The Galapagos Islands, Antarctica and the Falkland Islands, and is graced with a forward by Prince Charles.

An irresistible book, full of people, places and wildlife that have influenced, and been influenced by, this remarkable man. For those of you who are members of one of the WH Smith/Doubleday book clubs then the book is available at the Club price of £8.95 - better still why not order a copy from the County Library.

BOOKMARK.



Bewick's Swan, 'Florin' showing the black and yellow pattern known as a 'Pennyface' - one of the three basic patterns within which there is sufficient variation for every swan to be identified and individually named. (Since 1964 4,500 of these swans, which breed in Arctic USSR and winter in England, have been recorded and named. The coded details are now stored in the Wildfowl Trust's computer.)

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## Gardening

The days are lengthening again, time to put a few seeds in. As a general rule it is safer to sow a bit later than it says on the packet. One or two weeks at this time of the year will not make a lot of difference. If you have a greenhouse with heat, or a heated propagator in a cold greenhouse then there should be no problems.

My geranium seeds that I saved last year are in. I shall sow antirrhinums, lobelia and petunias about the middle of the month.

Make your own compost for seed sowing using brown moss peat rather than blackish sedge peat. All you do is mix together (using a two-gallon bucket):

- 2 buckets of peat;  $\frac{1}{4}$  bucket of coarse sand or grit;
- 1 sachet of fertiliser (chempak seed base or potting base).

AMATEUR GARDENER.

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# UPDATE

## THE CHURCH ROOM

A second meeting of the interim committee was held on Sunday 26th. February in the Church Room.

Chris Brandon reported that an estimate of £260 had been made for the cost of improvements that were to be carried out by the M.S.C. This included replacing some panelling, checking doors and locks, lifting and replacing of parts of the floor, decorating the interior; clearing gutters, repointing the brickwork; replacing broken panes and painting the exterior.

The application for M.S.C. help had been formalised and work was expected to begin in April, after the completion of the M.S.C. project at Wingrave. The insurance of M.S.C. personnel was the committee's responsibility and this would be looked into. Chris would be 'Clerk of Works' !

The cost of installing an electricity meter had been ascertained. While fitting was free it would entail additional standing charges that could amount to £34 a year. The committee felt a detailed breakdown of electricity costs was needed before a final decision could be made.

The new committee, to be elected at the Annual Parish Meeting would have to look into fund raising events and the idea of an 'Events Day' was suggested, involving two or three activities such as a 50/50 sale; a car treasure hunt and perhaps a wine tasting in the evening. The committee agreed to seek as much advice as possible - so if you have any ideas please let a member of the committee know or better still come along to the Annual Parish Meeting and pass on your ideas.

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## IN BRIEF



### The 'Royal Oak', Aston Abbots, Buckinghamshire

Charles II inspired more inn signs than any other monarch. There are hundreds of 'Royal Oaks' up and down the country depicting the occasion when Charles was being hunted by Cromwell's troops and is supposed to have eluded capture by hiding in an oak tree. This particular sign is unusual in that it pictures Charles (right) and Cromwell (left) up the same tree.

An extract from an article on Pub Signs published in the December 1975 issue of In Britain.

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# COUNTRY MATTERS

## Saving those village stores

by MICHAEL DINEEN

THE Development Commission, the rural business aid body due to acquire executive status next April, is considering passing on some of its Government cash to needy village shopkeepers for capital investment and improvements to encourage more profitable trading.

The new status will allow the commission, well aware of the dramatic decline in small shops during recent years, to spend its grant-in-aid money without reference to Whitehall.

And the commission is encouraging its offshoot, the Council for Small Industry in Rural Areas, to discuss the crisis with Co-operative Wholesale Society leaders, many of whose stores serve areas with small and scattered populations.

At a meeting in Manchester last week, the two organisations had 'useful talks' about an expanding role for Co-op shops, many of which are badly in need of a facelift and a more dynamic policy. CoSIRA believe Co-ops could operate in partnership with local authorities on welfare and citizens advice matters as well as moving more into the pharmaceutical and delivery fields because the mechanism to affect these already exists. And one of the Co-op's few dynamic endeavours, its bank, could figure significantly in the funding of independent firms.

Research by CoSIRA's national retail officer, John White, has revealed that last year 11,000 small retailers filed for bankruptcy — while giant supermarket chains, based largely in areas of high popula-

Country Matters this month turns its attention to another blight effecting the villages of England.

The closure of the village stores in Stewkley is further reminder of the growing threat of supermarkets to the viability of the village shop. Unable to compete with the margin cutting of the multi-million pound powerhouses such as Sainsburys and Tesco more and more village shops are closing. How would your life be effected if Bernard was forced to close?

If we value the local amenity that the village shop offers then we must indeed "use it or risk loosing it".

This months article is taken from THE OBSERVER dated 29th. January 1984.

## Your Village Shop

### OSBORN'S

### THE GROCERS

### 'use it or loose it'

tion, turned in huge profits and continued to expand.

CoSIRA is staging weekend courses, and encouraging villages to form their own co-operatives to help preserve the general store as part of village life.

White says that CoSIRA is also encouraging the formation of a National Rural Retailers' Forum and meetings are already arranged in 80 per cent of English counties during the next four months — 'Before it's too late,' White declares.

Shopkeepers in Hampshire will later this month be forming the first union of village shopkeepers under the leadership of Derek Roberts, who keeps a general store and post office in the New Forest.

'We expected that independent traders would do better under this Government, but it

just has not happened,' says Roberts, who thinks the union will spread. 'Now we have to stand up and fight for the store which sells everything from a bluebag to an elephant sandwich. The predictions are that 50 per cent of village general stores will have disappeared within five years. We will be fighting the suppliers to the superstores who allow them the kind of unfair discounts which are putting us out of business.'

'We still have pensioners here who insist on working in old currency, and we even have to act as scribe for a few who cannot write. This kind of service needs much more muscle in the commercial market place and we are urging shopkeepers in other areas to fight rather than give in to the big boys.'

# ASTON ABBOTTS COOKBOOK

The Aston Abbots Cookbook celebrates this month that ancient and much admired culinary skill - the tossing of the pancake. Pancakes have been a Shrovetide speciality for more than 500 years. As they used up eggs and butter not needed when the spartan days of Lent were strictly observed, they featured in many old pre-Lenten frolics such as the much copied Olney Pancake Race, said to have been invented in 1445 by a goodwife who, hearing the Shrivings Bell (summoning the congregation to confession), dashed for the church bearing pan and pancake intact.

Many of you will know Olney well and for those of you who have not



visited the charming market town on the Northants-Bucks border, then you have a treat in store. The town's Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, stands on the banks of the River Ouse in one of the most beautiful situations of any Parish church in England. On the great day a stream of housewives run a race down the street to see who can reach the church first. As they go, they must each toss a pancake at least three times over the 415-yard course. The winners prize is a kiss from the churchwarden!

But to the pancakes themselves. The oldest forms used only water - one sixteenth century writer complained that milk made them 'tough and cloying'. The following featherlight pancakes are made with eggs and cream mixed together first.

**SHROVETIDE PANCAKE:** Beat together two whole eggs and two yolks, mixed with  $\frac{1}{2}$  gill warmed cream. Carefully add  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz melted butter and 3oz plain flour, mixed till smooth. REST. Use thinly, frying in butter on both sides. Serve hot, rolled, dusted with sugar and grated nutmeg or sprinkled with lemon juice if preferred.



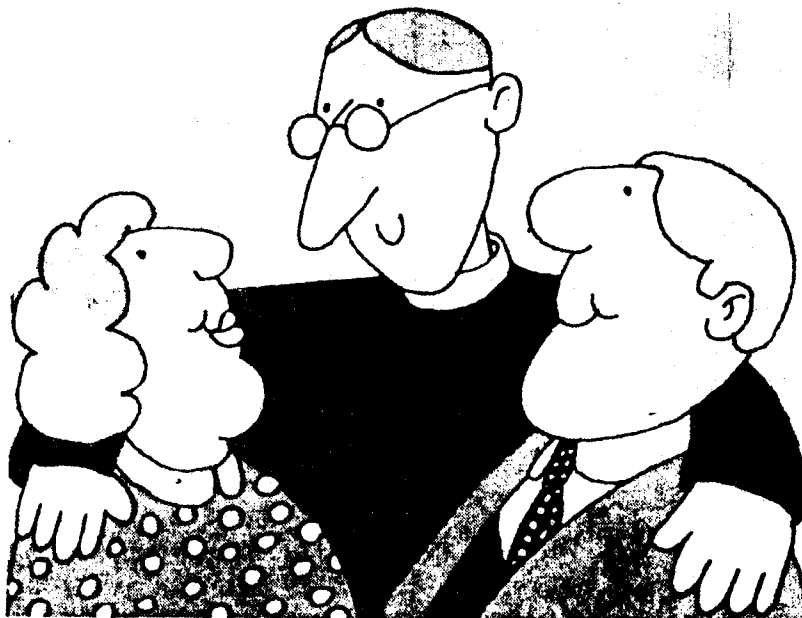
THE CHURCHES IN WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM, ASTON ABBOTTS AND CUBLINGTON

March 1984

THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Tel. A.A.623

The Bishop of Buckingham has asked us this year to consider attitudes to ministry in the rural parishes. But, in the end, whatever our conclusions they must revolve around PARTNERSHIP - as our picture below tries to emphasise. One picture worth a thousand words, they say!



There are four stages towards a fully shared ministry. Where are we on the scale?

1. At the bottom is the parish where the 'Church' equals 'Rector' and perhaps, even 'Rector's Wife'! Here, the ordained man has 'gone into the Church', and in this stage the only recognised ministry is the parish priest.
2. When a number of parishes have been grouped together, and it is understood that the Rector needs some help. But 'ministry' is still his responsibility and the laity lend a hand.
3. The Church begins to realise that the Church doesn't equal the parish priest. Here, the Church equals all the People of God in that place; the ordained man mustn't try to do it all himself. He has an enabling and training role. This spells a major breakthrough in understanding.
4. The parish now recognises, not only the need for a partnership in ministry within the parish but also, a shared ministry across parish ecumenical and secular boundaries for the sake of the Gospel.

If our parishes are to move fully towards stage four, we need to ask ourselves a lot of searching questions. "Do we accept that this view of the Church is not just a response to the shortage of clergy but points to the true nature of the Church?" The first question then must not be, "How can we keep things going as they are in Wingrave with Rowsham, Aston Abbotts and Cublington!" but rather, "If everyone who supports the Church IS the Church, what are we going to do about it?" "Can lay leadership naturally evolve from the parishes, or are we going to leave the ordained ministry to search high and low to find it!"

One thing is clear, EVERY Church member has a general ministry of worship, prayer, stewardship, and service. You and I are partners in this as our picture so expressively shows. Can you spot the likeness!

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

## LOOKING AHEAD: SERVICES AND EVENTS

CUBLINGTON PARISH CHURCH is receiving us all on Ash Wednesday, March 7th at 8.00 p.m. for our United Benefice Eucharist to mark the beginning of Lent. If you are driving a car to Cublington that night for the Service, please try to come into Church Street (Wingrave) at 7.45 p.m. to give a lift to any who have no transport of their own. Aston have their own way of dealing with this!

DEANERY LENT PROGRAMME Every Monday night at 8 o'clock during Lent we shall have the opportunity of visiting different churches in our Deanery for Compline and an Address. If the above procedure for transport could be similarly adopted this would be helpful. It could be arranged for car drivers to pick up outside our three churches at a similar time.

LENT BOXES These will be available in all three churches for those who wish to support the worthy hospital cause mentioned in last month's news letter.

PARISH LENT SERVICE We shall be holding every Thursday in Lent the Service of the 'Stations of the Cross' in Wingrave Parish Church at 12 Noon. The Service lasts for about 20 minutes, and, for those who wish to stay, will be followed by an instruction in a simple form of meditation, and then we shall pray for special needs. This course begins on Thursday, 8th March and continues through to Maundy Thursday: **EVERY THURSDAY AT 12 NOON.**

ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD Sunday, 25th March - a special day in the calendar of the Mothers' Union for our branch at Aston Abbots.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: APRIL 1ST - Family Service at Cublington Parish Church, 10.30 a.m., conducted by the Methodist Minister. The Address at the Family Service in Aston Abbots Parish at 11.15 a.m. will be given by Mr. D.A. Heffer (Headmaster of the Vale School, Aylesbury). The Junior Church stay in the church at Wingrave as the Eucharist that day has a special order applicable to all ages! Posies will be given to the children for their mothers at each of the above Services.

EASTER DAY: APRIL 22ND! The Easter Day evensong will be held in the Parish Church of Wingrave this year - for all three parishes.

### SUNDAY LESSONS (ASB Year 2)

1st April	4th In Lent	2 Peter 1(16-19) &	Matthew 17(1-13)
8th April	Passion Sunday	Jeremiah 31(31-34) &	Mark 10(32-45)
15th April	Palm Sunday	1 Cor.1(18-25) &	Matthew 21(1-13)
22nd April	Easter Day	1 Cor.15(12-20) &	Matthew 28 (1-10)

HOLY BAPTISM Cublington Parish Church, 29th January:  
ZOE REBECCA, daughter of William and Wendy HALLAM

At the Family Service in Aston Abbots Parish Church, 5th February:

TRACEY ANNE and AMANDA JANE, daughters of Kevin and Pauline FLETCHER

0-FIVES meet on the second and fourth Thursday of each month in Wingrave Parish Church at 2 o'clock. Date Check: March 22nd, April 12th & 26th.

SYNOD MEMBERS These elected at our Annual Parochial Church Meetings to serve on the new synod are: Mr. Barry Garland and Mr. David Lewis (Wingrave), Mr. Peter Dines (Aston Abbots) and Mr. David Johnson (Cublington). The first meeting of the new synod is at Wing Parish Church, June 21st.

ECUMENICAL EVENING SERVICE Cublington Parish Church, 1st April at 6 p.m. Preacher: Rev. A. Creber. Singing led by the village choir.

WIVES GROUP: March 15th, 8 p.m., "Knitting Surgery" bring your problems and favourite patterns. Home: 7 Stookslade, Wingrave.

RURAL MINISTRY MEETING Four P.C.C. members from each parish come to the Rectory on Sunday afternoon, 11th March at 3.30 P.M. for an exploratory discussion of the theme of Rural Ministry.

# CHURCH NEWS

With Easter Sunday (April 22nd) almost as late in the year as it can be, Lent does not begin until March 7th., when there will be an Ash Wednesday service at Cublington. As last year the Deanery will be holding Lent Services each Monday at five of the smaller churches. Aston Abbots has been chosen for Monday 26th. of March. If last year is anything to go by, and we hope it is, the church will be full of people, the Green full with cars, the singing will be robust with as many basses as sopranos and the meditation and lovely service of compline will remind us all of our religious duties and responsibilities.

LENT BOXES are in the back of the church. The money collected is to help MUHEZA HOSPITAL at Tanga in Tanzania. I have just read the newsletter from this hospital. They do not have enough money to pay electricity, telephone bills and the like. It is very hot and they have seven refrigerators out of action, needing new parts, including their blood fridge - so no hope for anyone needing a transfusion, which seems a terrible thing. Any amount of money, however small, will help.

## SERVICES FOR MARCH

			<u>Sidesmen</u>
4th.	11.15a.m.	Family Service Followed by Holy Communion.	Miss G. Ford.
7th.	8.00p.m.	Ash Wednesday Service at Cublington Parish Church.	
11th.	11.15a.m.	Holy Communion	Mr. C. Higgs.
12th.	8.00p.m.	Lent Service at Drayton Parslow.	
18th.	11.15a.m.	Holy Communion	Mr. C. Spike.
19th.	8.00p.m.	Lent Service at Marsworth.	
25th.	11.15a.m.	Holy Communion	Mr. J. Ford.
26th.	8.00p.m.	Lent Service at ASTON ABBOTTS.	

## CHEESE AND WINE PARTY

A cheese and wine party was held in the Church Room, Aston Abbots, in aid of St. James' Parish Church. It was organized and conducted by Sheila, Ruth and Barry who invited the audience to join in singing at the end.

A selection of cheeses, pate, fruit and pickles was served as well as several varieties of wine. Entertainment was provided by Sheila, Ruth and Barry who invited the audience to join in singing at the end.

Raffle winners were: Mrs. Fox, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. R. Higgs, Mr. Neave, Mrs. Olive, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Scutchings, Miss Watts and Mrs. Little.

## In aid of church

A whist drive was held on Thursday in the church room, Aston Abbots, when Mr. C. Higgs was M.C. Prizewinners were: 1 Mr. P. Brown, 2 Mrs. P. Kempster, 3 Mrs. P. Rickard, 4 Mrs. L. Scutchings, 5 Mr. G. Green; raffle Mrs. P. Kempster, Mrs. C. Griffin and Mrs. Barker.

Proceeds were for St. James' Church funds.

# Peter Arnold



'Blackheath'. David W. Burley (b.1901). Signed watercolour, dated '43. 10½ ins. x 15 ins.



'Malden from the railway bridge'. Karl Hagedorn (b.1889). Signed, dated '57. 14 ins. x 20 ins.

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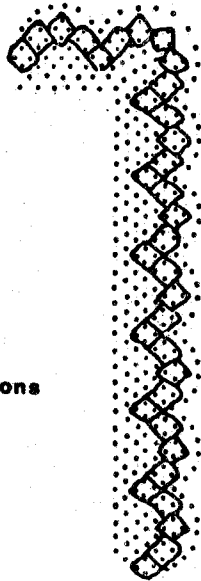
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