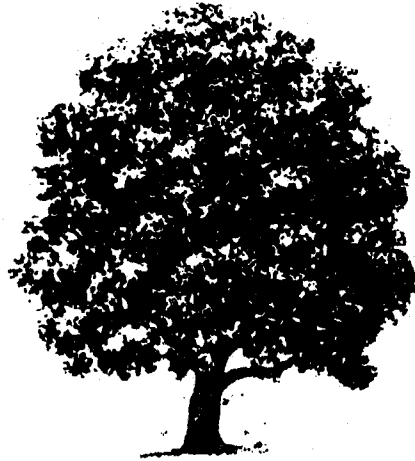


# The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



**Inside :**

**CHURCH NEWS**  
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**A LETTER FROM WING.**  
**NOTICEBOARD**  
**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

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*AUGUST 85.*

*No. 24.*



# Editorial

What a weekend - the downpour appears to have made the day even more memorable rather than to have been the disaster they often are. May I add my thanks to those of Kay Dines to everyone who made the Festival Lunch such a success and to those who organised the afternoon frolics on the recreation ground

My thanks also to the Royal British Legion who have kindly donated towards the Chronicles costs.

Advance warning regarding the September issue which may well be a week late.

*Graham Parker.*

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DEADLINE DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE: 24th AUGUST, PLEASE.

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HOW TO PASS ON ARTICLES/INFORMATION FOR "THE CHRONICLE"

1. By telephone to Graham on Aylesbury 681325.
2. By dropping a note through his door - The Cloisters.
3. Use the box in the Village Shop or the Post Office.

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# NOTICEBOARD

To The Editor,

May I ask you to publish a few words to those ladies who worked so hard to make our Festival Lunch such a marvellous success. In saying this I'm sure I am not just speaking for Peter and myself but for everyone who attended.

Kay Dines.

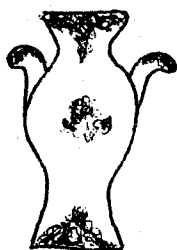
## Ladies Club

Our two July meetings went very well - especially the last one when we had our "end of term" party at Longmoor Farm. Once again we must say a big 'thank you' to Mrs. Bellingham for her hospitality especially since it was the last occasion on which we shall (as a club) be visiting her in that home. We now have a break for the summer and begin our next session on September 26th.

NEXT MEETING OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
7th. AUGUST AT 8 P.M. AT THE BULL & BUTCHER.

*Next Parish Council Meeting:*  
**FRIDAY AUGUST 9th.**  
*8pm. Church Room.*

**Bric-a-Brac**



now at the  
**Village Shop**  
**Aston Abbotts**

# The Estone Chronicles

George Lipscomb's "History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham" published in 1847, is probably the most detailed history of the county that has yet been produced. Below is the first of several extracts dealing with 'Aston Abbats'.

## ASTON ABBATS.

ASTON ABBATS, so called to distinguish it from the other Astons, or Estons, (i. e. *east towns*), in this County, and marked by that addition, in consequence of this Parish being part of the ancient demesnes of the Church of St. Alban's, is situated on elevated ground, on the northern verge of the Vale of Aylesbury, about five miles from that town. It is bounded, on the North, by Cublington; on the East, by Wing; on the South, by Wingrave; and on the West, by Whitchurch.

### THE MANOR.

At the Domesday Survey, the Abbat of St. Alban's held Estone at ten hides. There was land for twelve ploughs. In the demesne six hides; and there were three ploughs; and two more might be added. There were six villeins, with twelve bordars having six ploughs; one servant; and pasture for three plough teams; worth ten pounds. When he received possession, six pounds. In King Edward's time, ten pounds.<sup>1</sup>

In 1163, Matthew Paris relates,<sup>2</sup> that the Bishop of Lincoln gave the Abbat of St. Alban's jurisdiction over fifteen churches in this diocese, (which subsequently belonged to the Abbats,) in exchange for the Manor of Thinghurst:<sup>3</sup> and in 1224, (8 Hen. III.) it appears, by the Testa de Nevil, that the Abbat of St. Alban's held Aston in eleemosynage: that William Talbot held one fee of the Honour of Earl Warren; and Roger Wymbervill held one fee here of Geoffrey de Lucy. In 1268, (53 Hen. III.) the Abbat of St. Alban's impleaded Geoffrey de Lucy, Walter le Mareschall, and others, in respect to certain rights claimed by the said Geoffrey and others, in the Manor of the aforesaid Abbat, in Aston, with divers rights and privileges, &c. to the value of twenty marks.<sup>4</sup>

The Abbats of St. Alban's were successively Lords of this Manor until the general Dissolution, in the reign of King Henry VIII.; and in 1539, (31 Hen. VIII.) the King, in consideration of 104*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* granted to John Lord Russell, the Manor of Aston Abbats, with the Rectory and Advowson of the Vicarage, (parcel of the late Monastery of St. Alban's,) at the annual rent of 4*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* to the said John Lord Russell, his heirs and assigns for ever, *in capite*, by the tenth part of a Knight's fee.<sup>5</sup> John Lord Russell conveyed it, in 1553, to William Dormer, son and heir of Sir William Dormer, Knt. who was found, by an Inquisition, to have died 2 July, 1553, seised of the Manor of Wing, Grove cum Broughton, Rowlesham, Hogston, Ilmer, Hughendon, Abbats Aston, Ashendon, and Eythorpe Manors.<sup>6</sup> The Manor afterwards came to Sir William Stanhope, K.B. second son of Philip, third Earl of Chesterfield; and grandson of Philip, second Earl, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter and heir of Charles Earl of Carnarvon;<sup>7</sup> after whose death, s. p. the estate passed to the later Earls of Chesterfield, with the family estate at Eythorpe

The Advowson of the Church, with the Manor, was advertised for sale 26 August 1834, when a new-built parsonage-house, with 96 acres of land, and a money payment, (altogether about 200*l.* per ann.) were stated to be the net income of the estate, subject to the life of the Incumbent, then about sixty years of age.

<sup>1</sup> Terra Sci Albani. In Coteslai Hvnd'. ∞ Ipse abb ten' Estone. p' x. hid se defd. Tra'. ē. xii. cař. In dño. vi. hidæ. et ibi sunt. iii. cař. et adhuc duæ poss fieri. Ibi. vii. uilli cū. xii. bord' hnt. vi. cař. Ibi un' seruus. P'tū. iii. cař. Val. x. lib. Qdo recep'. vi. lib. T.R.E. x. lib. Hoc ∞ jacuit et jacet in dño ecclæ S. Albani. [Lib. Censual, 1 fol. 145, b.]

<sup>2</sup> Ed. Watts, p. 98, 99.

<sup>3</sup> See also p. 80, 81; and in the Lives of the Abbats.

<sup>4</sup> Placit. Abbrev. 53 Hen. III. p. 171.

<sup>5</sup> Rot. Pat. 31 Hen. VIII. Test. 24 May.

<sup>6</sup> Vol. i. p. 485.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. p. 480.

# A LETTER FROM WING.

## A COMMUNITY SCHOOL

In my previous contributions to the village magazines and newsletters, I have mentioned developing community use of the premises providing it falls within the guidelines issued by the County Council. There have been many developments along these lines in the past twelve months, the most noticeable being the formation of the Wing and District Swimming Association. Further details and application forms for membership can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. J. Barrowclough, 2 Cheyney Close, Silver Street, Cublington.

There are other areas where the development has not yet occurred. I have been amazed recently at the number of Wing young people who wish to play tennis. There are probably a number of adults in this category as well. Unfortunately, I have had to turn many people off the premises because they are not an organised group and yet I can see that they only wish to enjoy themselves by playing tennis. It would not be impossible to form a Tennis Club providing there were adults prepared to act as organisers and supervisors. There would be far less problems in this area than with the Swimming Association because the safety problems are not as great and no use of school buildings would be required.

However, a Community School is for more than just allowing the premises to be used by adults as well as pupils. To develop correctly it needs to allow the members of the local community to feel that they have a voice in the future development of the school and its work. It should become central in the minds of all of us and not just be a building in which a legal obligation is performed by teachers on pupils.

This means first of all that there needs to be a constant dialogue between parents, pupils and teachers. Too often in the past I have heard it said that "it's up to the parents" or "that's the school's responsibility" when I feel that education is the responsibility of parents, pupils, schools and community and not the full prerogative of any one. We as teachers do play our part within the school situation and pupils from Wing have been very successful in their careers after leaving school, but this would be even more certain if we were all working very closely together to the same ends.

There are many members of the Community who have a lot they can offer to the pupils of the school. We already use local employers in our Work Experience Scheme and local playgroups and homes in our Community Care Course, but we are not exploiting the wealth of experience available to the full. I am not talking about local people teaching large groups of pupils but of you sharing your interests, thoughts and experiences with one or two interested young people. It could be teaching lace making at lunch time, as already happens, or a local parishoner or parish council member taking pupils on a walk round the village explaining what the problems are and how the Parish Council try to help. You could think of many other areas which we should cover but don't or perhaps can't.

Working towards this kind of involvement with and in the Community is a development I would like to see at Wing. The staff visits to the villages, my visits to Parish Council meetings, the development of local use of school facilities and regular contributions to village magazines are a beginning to this process. It has continued recently with some local people being asked questions by pupils. The Domesday Survey has encouraged this tremendously.

If you feel you would like to be involved in a small way please come and chat to me. There will be something that you can offer which will be beneficial for some pupils. As I discover areas in the school where we have needs I will raise them in future magazine articles. Please do not hesitate to offer your help. It will assist Wing School to develop even further its education of our future generation.

IVAN ANDREW - Headmaster

# REPORTS

Many of you will have received reports recently ... but what do they really mean? Philip Jenkinson of the Guardian offers some guidance in decoding the information.

## It's not what you say...

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Satisfactory progress .....                          | I can't think of a single interesting thing about him/her.                |
| A born leader .....                                  | Runs a protection racket.   |
| Easy going .....                                     | Bone idle.  |
| Lively .....   | Thoroughly disruptive.  |
| Good progress .....                                  | If you think his/her work is bad now, you should have seen it a year ago. |
| A sensitive child .....                              | Never stops whining.  |
| Helpful .....  | Creep.  |
| Reliable .....                                       | Grasses on his mates.   |
| Adventurous .....                                    | Will break his neck before the year's out.                                |
| Has difficulty in forming stable relationships ..... | I can't stand him either.   |
| Expresses himself confidently .....                  | Cheeky little bastard.  |
| Enjoys all P.E. activities .....                     | Thug.   |
| Has had a lot of minor illnesses .....               | Truants regularly.  |
| Friendly .....                                       | Never shuts up.   |
| Easily distracted .....                              | Hasn't produced a single piece of good work all year.                     |
| Works better in a small group .....                  | Daren't take my eyes off him/her for a second.                            |
| Imaginative .....                                    | Lies and cheats regularly.  |
| Needs praise and encouragement .....                 | Thick as two short planks.  |
| Expresses himself clearly .....                      | Foul mouthed.   |
| Keen to do well .....                                | Egotistical.  |
| All his work is of a high standard .....             | He/she has ambitious middle-class parents.                                |
| Does not accept authority easily .....               | Dad's doing time.   |
| Is easily upset .....                                | Spoilt rotten   |
| Often appears tired .....                            | Stays up till all hours watching horror movies or is into glue sniffing.  |
| Works better at practical activities .....           | Totally illiterate.   |
| Good with his hands .....                            | Light fingered.   |
| A rather solitary child .....                        | Smells or has nits.   |
| Independent-minded .....                             | Totally obstinate.  |
| Enjoys extra-curricular activities .....             | Flogs cigarettes.   |
| Determined .....                                     | Completely lacking all scruples.  |
| Inclined to day-dream .....                          | In one ear and out the other.   |
| A good sense of humour .....                         | Teases other kids unmercifully.   |
| Reads well aloud .....                               | In love with his/her own voice.   |
| A quiet child .....                                  | Lacking any individuality whatsoever.                                     |
| Easily influenced .....                              | The form fall-guy.  |
| Popular at Play Centre .....                         | Sells pornography.  |
| A vivid imagination .....                            | Never short of an excuse.   |
| A very inquisitive mind .....                        | Often caught playing Doctors and Nurses.                                  |
| Does not give classes his full attention .....       | Smokes in the lavatories.   |
| Often needs guidance .....                           | Never out of the Head's study.  |
| Chooses his friends carefully .....                  | National Front.   |

**AYLESBURY**

**VALE**

**HOLIDAY WALKS**

SATURDAY 3RD AUGUST

ASTON ABBOTTS GREEN

12 Noon at Aston Abbots Green. A 5 mile walk leaving The Green and continuing towards Wing, viewing Whipsnade/Mentmore Towers/Pitstone and then onto Wingrave. Return will be via Rowsham finishing at approximately 3.00 p.m.

Leader - Mr. C. H. Higgs, Aston Abbots and District Ramblers (Aston Abbots 343).

Please bring Picnic Lunch. United Counties Bus 516 (Bay 9) leaves Aylesbury Bus Station at 11.35 a.m. Alight Aston Abbots (Bull and Butcher Public House). Return Bus 3.16 p.m. Shop in village.

# CHURCH NEWS

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These notes are being written straight after our splendid Festival weekend. It really has become a wonderful village occasion. The excellent spirit was quite clear when everything picked up so well after the hailstorm. We understand some people returned from Weedon they were enjoying themselves so much! St. James, our Patron Saint,



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTS, BUCKS.

was one of the Sons of Thunder (but I don't think we can blame him) although those of us with quick tempers can be reassured that Our Lord has a job for us, as for everyone else, since Saint James' quick temper is almost certainly the reason for his nickname. Several visitors mentioned how splendid the church and churchyard looked, and this too is a village matter.

I know we all treasure our beautiful church and are ready to dip into our pockets and our time to make sure it is always there for our use, and what splendid use eighty of us made of the church on Sunday evening. Songs of Praise indeed, with most interesting introductions from eight parishioners.

Many have relatives buried in the churchyard and many of us, no doubt, like to think that that is where our bones will rest in due time. Let us hope that succeeding generations will keep it at least as beautiful as it is now. By far the best way of giving money to help is by the weekly

envelope scheme and especially if the giving is covenanted for four years. If you would like to do this please let one of the Churchwardens know.

Do make note of the Hallowe'en Barn Dance on Saturday 2nd. November. Tickets will be available from Peter Dines and Doris Scutchings and the numbers will be limited so they will be sold on a first come first served basis.

## CHURCH SERVICES

|                |  | Sidesman      |
|----------------|--|---------------|
| 4th. August    | : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.                        | Mr. C. Spike. |
|                | Readings: Philippians 2(1-11) John 13(1-15).       |               |
| 11th. August   | : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.                        | Mr. C. Higgs. |
|                | Readings: 2 Corinthians 4(1-10) John 13(31-35).    |               |
| 18th. August   | : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.                        | Mr. J. Ford.  |
|                | Readings: 2 Corinthians 5(14)-6(2) John 17(20-26). |               |
| 25th. August   | : Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.                        | Miss G. Ford. |
|                | Readings: Acts 7(54)-8(1) John 16(1-11).           |               |
| 1st. September | : FAMILY SERVICE with Holy Communion 11.15 a.m.    |               |
|                | Readings: Ephesians 5(25)-6(4) Mark 10(2-16).      | Mr. C. Spike. |

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A NEW SERIES PUBLISHED BY THE DHSS.

#### WHICH BENEFIT?

Did you know that there are about 60 different cash benefits available to help you in times of need? If you think you may be entitled to one of them but do not know what to do or where to go for advice then ring our information service. Just dial 100 and ask the operator for Freefone DHSS.

There is a free booklet which explains all the things which are available. It is called "Which Benefit?" (FB2) and is available from any social security office or our Freefone service. Keep the booklet handy - there may be a day when you or someone you know will need it. It explains who can get help with prescription charges, fares to hospital, help with school meals, school uniform, legal aid, road tax exemption and what to do if you are injured by crime.

This booklet is now produced in several languages other than English. They are Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi and Chinese.

Just ask for a copy of "Which Benefit?".

#### FREEPHONE

Nearly everyone has a need at some time in their lives for information on some aspect of social security. In order to help people get this information the Department of Health and Social Security have a free information and advice service that is completely confidential, quick and easy to use and is manned by experienced DHSS staff.

All you need do to get advice on the complexities of the social security system or to get guidance on a particular benefit is to dial 100 and ask the operator for Freefone DHSS.

The operators can answer all aspects of your questions no matter what your situation. If you are worried about what happens to your pension when you go into hospital, if you are sick or disabled or a single parent and want to know what help is available then just give them a ring. They can also send you any literature, leaflets or claim forms you may need.

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# BOOK OF THE MONTH

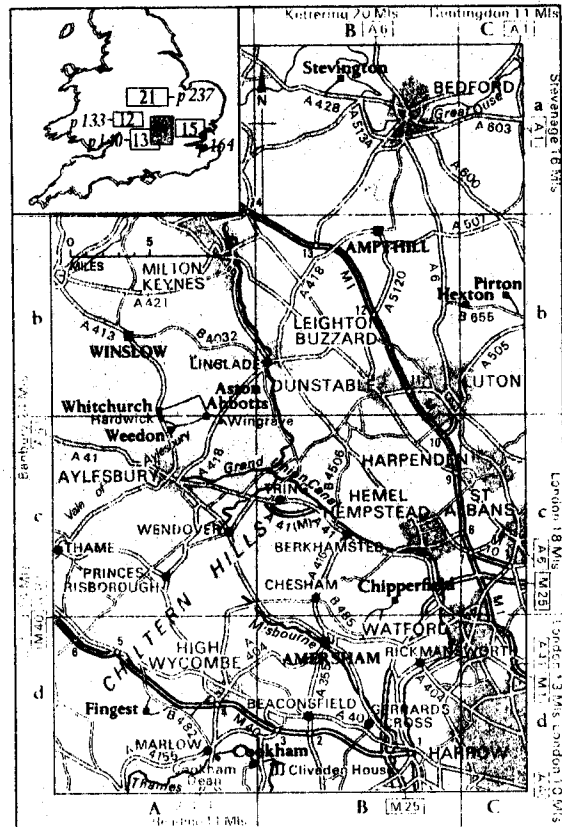
THE AA ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO  
COUNTRY TOWNS AND VILLAGES OF BRITAIN.

## THE CHILTERN AND THAMES VALLEY

Since prehistoric times man has roamed through the green vales and russet beechwoods of the Chiltern Hills—the chalk ridge that sweeps dramatically through the lower part of Buckinghamshire. Today, people can still travel along the ancient track of the Icknield Way, as our ancestors did more than 4000 years ago. In the Chilterns, expect to find the unexpected . . . the only country hall by Sir Christopher Wren that remains as he built it . . . the village where the much-loved Mrs Miniver lived. And in the lush Thames Valley, a visitor may follow in the wake of the *Three Men in a Boat*—not forgetting the dog, Montmorency.

MAP 14: NEIGHBOURING AREAS—MAPS 12, 13, 15, 21

|              |            |              |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| AMERSHAM     | AMPTHILL   | WINSLOW      |
| Chipperfield | Hexton     | Aston Abbots |
| Cookham      | Pirton     | Weedon       |
| Fingest      | Stevington | Whitchurch   |



As you would expect this is a beautifully presented book, full of magnificent photographs and a concise, informative text.

The format is, perhaps, becoming a little dated and one hopes that the next AA Book of Whatever will be a little more imaginative in layout.

The choice of towns and villages is obviously a personal one but the inclusion of Whitchurch, Weedon, and Aston Abbots establishes the good taste of the editors.

### Aston Abbots BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

10 miles south-east of Winslow (PAGE 155 Ab/c)

Aston Abbots was a seat of government during the Second World War. Dr Eduard Beneš, former President of Czechoslovakia and leader of its government-in-exile, found refuge in this village deep in the green and rolling Buckinghamshire countryside.

Here, and in neighbouring Wingrave, he and his fellow exiles stayed for most of the war. Finally, in 1945, they returned home to establish a government which Beneš led until 1948.

Just outside Aston Abbots, a bus-shelter at the Wingrave crossroads bears testimony to the warm relations that grew between the Czech exiles and their English hosts. The shelter was a parting gift from Dr Beneš himself, for the comfort of the villagers he used to see waiting in all weathers for a bus.

# The Chronicle:

## Advertisement Rates for 1985.

|                |               |                |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| FULL PAGE      | : Back        | £50 per annum. |
|                | Inside        | £25 per annum. |
| HALF PAGE      | : Back        | £25 per annum. |
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●  
HAMPERS FOR PICNICS

●  
WEDDINGS AND CHRISTENINGS A  
SPECIALITY

●  
SUMMER BARBEQUES  
AYLESBURY 681778

His home in those years was The Abbey, which has a fine tree-lined drive, wrought-iron gates and a thatched white lodge overlooking the spacious, well-shaded village green. The house stands on the site of a country retreat of the Abbots of St Albans, and the present, mostly 19th-century mansion probably incorporates some of the original building. Its grounds go down to a lake which has two small islands and was once part of a moat.

The 19th-century navigator and discoverer of the magnetic pole, Rear-Admiral Sir James Clark Ross, once lived at The Abbey and lies buried in the village churchyard. He named the two lake islands Erebus and Terror, after the two ships he took on a voyage of exploration to the Antarctic between 1839 and 1843.

From the green, the Wingrave road leads past 19th-century brick cottages to a long row of timber-framed buildings that includes the general stores and the thatched Royal Oak Inn. A gated road leads from the south-west corner of the green past The Abbey's grounds to Line's Hill, from which there are fine views of the Vale of Aylesbury and the Chiltern Hills beyond. This is also the best point from which to see the outlines of the lost medieval village of Burston, in a field immediately below. Burston flourished until the early 16th century, when the villagers were summarily evicted and the houses demolished by the lord of the manor. He had decided to raise sheep on land which the villagers had always cultivated in common. The land has probably never been ploughed since then, so the foundations of houses and walls are clearly visible as humps in the ground—especially when the sun is low. The Science Museum in London has a model of the Burston remains, to show how oblique lighting can reveal sites of archaeological interest.

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## Weedon BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

7 miles south of Winslow (PAGE 155 Ac)

The view south from Weedon's Methodist church, over sheep-filled fields to the Vale of Aylesbury, is like looking into a pastoral painting of the 18th century. On the far horizon rise the rolling Chiltern Hills. Immediately to the east the timber-framed Chestnuts Farmhouse stands among trees. Colourful cottage gardens lie just below the churchyard to the west and the red-brick 19th-century church itself rises attractively on the slope behind.

Weedon, which won the county's Best Kept Village award in 1976, stands on a rise on the edge of the Vale of Aylesbury. Its centre, just below the Methodist church—Weedon has never had an Anglican church—is a crossroads with a green in the middle. This tiny green is overlooked by the Five Elms Inn and a cottage called The Royal George, both of which, in common with many of the cottages and farmhouses here, are thatched and have timber frames with the brick infilling known as herringbone nogging.

East of the crossroads, on rising ground, is the part of the village called East End, where Lambsquay House has a fine gabled brick windowhead and East Gate House has exceptionally good herringbone nogging. Set back from the road is the imposing late 18th-century Weedon Lodge.

One of the oldest houses is the 17th-century Manor Farmhouse in the High Street, which runs north of the crossroads. The street also passes Tumbling Acre and the former Wheatsheaf pub—both thatched and timber-framed—and The Lilies.

This red-brick mansion was built in 1870 on the site of the home of Lord Nugent, a 19th-century antiquarian. The superb grounds, planted with fine spreading cedar trees, still have Lord Nugent's 'Circle of Friends'. This is a circle of stone seats, each dedicated to one of his distinguished friends, who included the novelist Charles Dickens, and W. Harrison Ainsworth, author of *The Tower of London*. Sadly, the stone believed to have been dedicated to Dickens has been stolen.

Opposite the entrance to The Lilies, a footpath leads across the fields to Hardwick—a mile north-west—where Weedon's Anglican villagers have to go for their church. Noteworthy in Hardwick, which spreads out around two large triangular greens, are Hardwicke Place, parts of which may date from the 16th century, although the front is 18th century; the early 17th-century Manor Farm House; and the delightful St Mary's Cottage beside the church. The Church of St Mary has a Saxon north wall in its nave.

A large tomb under the south side of the church tower is said to contain the bodies of 247 soldiers of the British Civil War—Royalists and Parliamentarians alike. They were found in a communal grave near the site of a Civil War skirmish at Holman's Bridge, near Aylesbury, and reburied here in the 19th century by Lord Nugent. Recent scholarship, however, has concluded that they could equally well be victims of the plague or even of an 8th-century tribal skirmish.

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## Whitchurch BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

6 miles south-east of Winslow (PAGE 155 Ab)

Whitchurch, with its many outstanding old buildings and rural tranquillity, provided the inspiration behind a film classic, *Mrs Miniver*. A patriotic portrayal of English middle-class country life at the beginning of the Second World War, the film became one of the war's great box-office successes, winning an Oscar award for itself and its star, Greer Garson. The collection of sketches, from which the story of the film was taken, was written by the poet and novelist Jan Struther, who grew up in Whitchurch and based her sketches on the village life around her.

Jan Struther and her family—her real name was Joyce Anstruther—had the good fortune to live in one of the village's most outstanding houses. This is the 15th-century Priory, probably the oldest building in Whitchurch. The Priory—which was a courthouse rather than a priory, and is now a hotel—still stands prominently in the High Street, built, like many of the village's old houses, of timber, brick and stone. Near by in the street are a number of other fine houses, including the timber-framed cottage at No. 28; and the early 17th-century Kempson House—one of the large village's two manor houses. Behind a high hedge, near by, is The Old House, parts of which probably date from the 15th century, although the fine front was greatly extended in the 1950s.

Opposite The Old House is Market Hill, and halfway up the hill, Castle Lane forks off to run past a mound which is all that now remains of the 11th-century Bolebec Castle, near which the village grew.



Both Market Hill and Castle Lane are lined with a number of delightful thatched cottages and houses. The Fairings, in Castle Lane, has a particularly fine gabled brick doorhead.

At the top of the slope, Market Hill joins the King Road, and near by stands Bolebec House, home of the 20th-century artist Rex Whistler, who painted the murals in the restaurant of the Tate Gallery in London. The 17th-century Whitchurch House, which was also once a home of Jan Struther's family, stands across the street. Its fine front, with an imposing coat of arms over the door, is 18th century.

The Church of St John the Evangelist, in whose graveyard Jan Struther is buried under her married name of Jan Plachzek, has a memorial to John Westcar,

a local farmer who died in 1833. Westcar took advantage of the Grand Union Canal, which ends at Aylesbury 5 miles south, to ship his livestock directly to Smithfield Market in London. He also founded the Smithfield Cattle and Sheep Society and won several prizes at the Smithfield Shows. His memorial shows him with one of his prize oxen and some sheep.

His home was the imposing Creslow Manor, at the end of a private road a mile north-east of Whitchurch. It is the oldest inhabited manor house in Buckinghamshire, dating in part from the 14th century and added to in the mid-17th by Cornelius Holland, one of the men who signed Charles I's death warrant. Its farm buildings include the remains of a church probably built by the Knights Templar.

## WINSLOW

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

10 miles north of Aylesbury (PAGE 155 Ab)

Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1723) was the chief designer of stately Winslow Hall, the jewel of this tiny market town. It is the only country house of Wren's not to have been 'improved' over the years, and it retains its dignified, red-brick front, high narrow windows, and four tall chimneys in line.

The hall was built between 1698 and 1702 as a manor house for Sir William Lowndes, Secretary of the Treasury to William III. The tree-studded grounds were laid out by the king's gardeners, and the royal carpenter and joiner did all the woodwork and panelling in the house.

For more than 230 years the hall remained a private home. Then, during the Second World War, it became the headquarters of a Royal Air Force bomber group. Today it is once again privately owned. Rising majestically from behind low creeper-clad walls, Winslow Hall is open to the public from the beginning of July until the middle of September. It contains early 18th-century English furniture and several outstanding examples of Chinese art - particularly of the Tang dynasty (AD 618-906). Among the magnificent rooms on show are the oak-panelled Morning Room and a

bedroom - the ornately decorated Painted Room.

Life in Winslow revolves around its small, attractive Market Square, which has two charming old-world pubs - The George and The Bell. Built in the 18th century, The George has an ornate wrought-iron balcony which once graced a local private house.

Many of the town's red-brick houses are Victorian, and they lend an air of solidity and well-being. The broad and busy High Street runs through the middle of Winslow, and has the parish church of St Laurence at one end. Built mainly in the 14th century, the church has a richly carved Jacobean pulpit and some 15th-century wall paintings showing the murder of Archbishop Becket at Canterbury in 1170.

The High Street is surrounded by a warren of narrow, twisting lanes lined with timbered houses and thatched and red-roofed cottages. In one of these lanes, Bell Alley, is a tiny, 17th-century Baptist chapel called Keach's Meeting House. It was founded in 1695 by a Baptist preacher named Keach, who upset the London Baptist Association by introducing community hymn singing. The association thought that the idea of people standing up and raising their voices - even in praise of God - was unseemly.

● Parking Market Square; Greyhound Lane (both car parks) ● Early closing Thursday ● Market days Monday, Thursday ● Event Winslow Show (August) ● AA 24 hour service TEL. Luton 419549.



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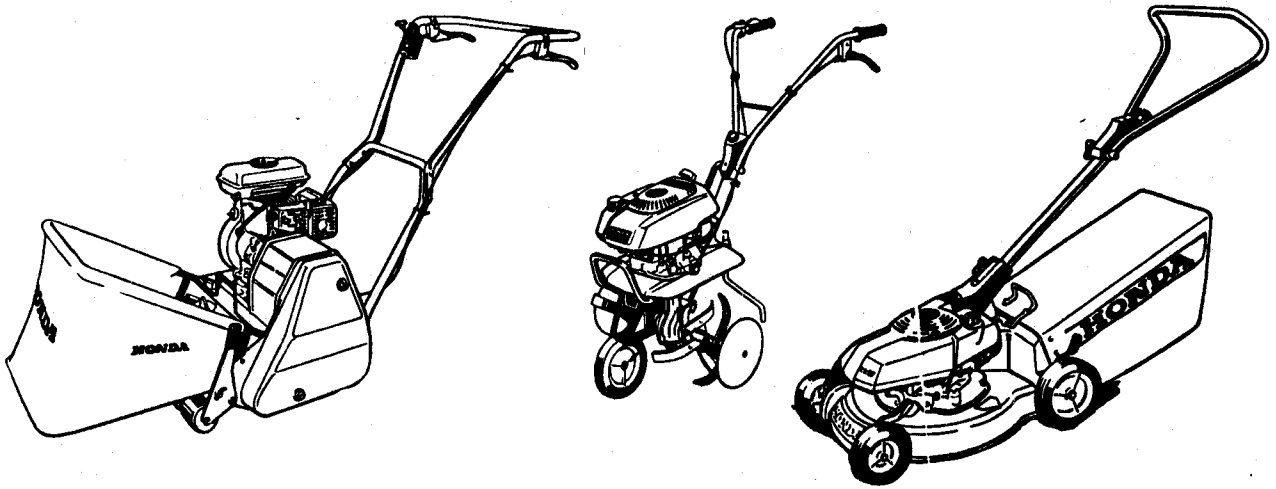
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