

The Chronicle.

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE.

MAY 87

ISSUE 45



Editorial

April's issue was not only late but included copy that, had I thought again, I might not have found space for. I'll leave you to work out what it was; everyone will probably have their own particular piece. To those who did complain, thank you for doing so in such a pleasant manner.

Last month's article by Abbotsbury suffered from a lack of proof reading, so that we had 'Ideal thoughts' instead of 'Idle thoughts'; 'Whit-church' instead of 'White Wheels' and 'self prophecy' should have read 'self fulfilling prophecy'. These errors did not help the flow of the article and my apologies to the author. [There is perhaps an assumption that Abbotsbury is always the Editor. This is not so. Please remember anyone can submit an article for the Abbotsbury column or even just a paragraph.]

If you haven't yet sponsored Andrew Ford for the London Marathon on Sunday 10th May, why not fill in the form on page 8 NOW. Thanks.

Thanks too must go to MARY HELEN CRAFTS who have been one of the Chronicles staunchest supporters since our launch nearly four years ago. The back page will never look the same again.

April also saw the end of the six months 'mystery' sponsorship arranged by Neil Chesher that has paid all our printing costs in that time. Our thanks to Neil can we do a similar deal for another six months ?

Finally a reminder that MAY 7th. is election day. The candidates who wish to represent you at the DISTRICT COUNCIL are:

BRADBURY, Denise Nancy Iris.

CLARKE, Edward Gordon (Conservative).

ROUND, Bryan David (Independent).

PLEASE VOTE TAKE YOUR POLL CARD ALONG TO THE CHURCH ROOM ANYTIME BETWEEN 8 a.m. AND 9 p.m. ON 7th. MAY 1987.

Graham Parker.

JUNE ISSUE WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED UNTIL JUNE 8th/9th. The Editor is on holiday; it would speed production if as much copy as is possible came already typed. Many thanks.

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. Leave a note in the box in the Village Shop or at the Post Office.

Published by Graham Parker.

Printed by THE SQUIRREL PRESS, Waddesdon School, Waddesdon.

Distributed free to all households in the Parish - if you fail to obtain a copy please contact the Editor.

PARISH COUNCIL CRISIS

ONLY TWO CANDIDATES THREATENS COUNCIL'S SURVIVAL

As David Watts points out in his letter on page 5, the Parish Council is virtually powerless with only two members; indeed its very future is called into question. If we cannot fill the three vacancies then we shall lose the right to our own Parish Council. Every

Every civil parish (usually, but surprisingly not always, the same as the church or ecclesiastical parish) has, by law, to have a Parish Meeting once a year, which every elector is entitled to attend and where all can have their say on local matters. If more than two hundred electors live in a parish then the parish must also have a Parish Council. In Aston Abbotts we do not have two hundred electors, thus do not have an automatic right to a Parish Council.

In the 7,800 or so parishes where councils exist grass roots support is poor. In many cases people cannot be blamed for failing to attend the Parish Meeting or taking an interest in the Parish Council when the advertisements for meetings are placed where there is no danger of anyone seeing them or the Councils proceedings are never reported. In Aston Abbotts this is not the case. The recent Annual Parish Meeting was well attended and the Council's activities are regularly reported in the local press and the Chronicle.

So, the interest seems to be there and the Parish Council has proved that it can get things done. So why is there so little interest amongst parishioners in standing for election?

Well, few of us really realised that elections were upon us, despite the continual mention of May 7th. in the national media. Standing for the council needs thinking about, and people needed warning months ahead. Others may have felt that the whole thing was a closed shop, so there was no point in standing - two candidates shows this is not true! And some of those on the Council felt, I think, that they had 'done their bit' and others should be encouraged to take over the reins. Whatever the reasons the crisis remains - so if you are interested or could suggest the name of somebody who could be approached to stand for the Parish Council, please contact David Watts at 'White Wheels' or telephone 681376.

[Extract on right from Brian Redhead's article in the May 1987 edition of 'Country Living'.]

Precisely because the Parish Council is the most local of local councils, it is the best placed to keep an eye on its own patch. It can see what needs to be done; it can make known what needs to be done; and in some instances it can achieve what needs to be done. But it can do that only if it can demonstrate that it has the active support of the local people. If they ignore it, they can scarcely complain if the upper tiers of local government ignore it. However, there is a greater argument. People owe it to themselves to take an interest in local democracy. The Ancient Greeks, and for that matter the people of modern small-town America, would despise a citizen who failed to turn up at the annual Parish Meeting. He has a vote and a voice, they would say, and should use them both.

The grass-roots democracy, which is frequently invoked here but seldom heeded, cannot be left to party politicians and even less to public opinion polls. A mature democracy is not one which watches Parliament on television, but one which applies itself to the matters that concern it most; and the locality is the immediate concern of most people.

Conservationists who once were concerned principally with the rare, the exceptional, the spectacular, or the grand have come to understand that people value most what they are in contact with every day, their own place - the village, the small town, the suburb.

The countryside in particular is under increasing threat from house-building, conifer planting, tourist developments, and rural industry - all the things I have written about here in recent months.

The rejection of the undesirable (and the admission of the desirable) in every locality can best be articulated by the Parish Council, if the people of the parish so choose. More of them will have to attend and speak at the annual Parish Meeting. More will have to stand for and sit on the Parish Council, or at least sit in on its meetings. And almost everyone will have to make the effort to attend the democratic half-hour which regularly precedes most Parish Council meetings.

Then when we read the headline "Parish Council Says No" we shall see it as a clear signal that a folly has been averted.

NOTICEBOARD

WHATS ON IN MAY

- Thursday 7th. : DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION
CHURCH ROOM.
PARISH COUNCIL BY-ELECTION IN JUNE.
- Friday 8th. : CHAPEL CONCERT 7.30 p.m.
- Sunday 10th. : RAMBLING CLUB MEMBERS MEET NORTH MARSTON 2 p.m.
- Monday 13th. : ADDITIONAL BUSES BY LUKES TRAVEL
- | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|------|---|---|
| Dep. Aylesbury | 10.17 | 12.17 | 5.30 | } | IN ADDITION
TO EXISTING
SERVICES. |
| Aston Abbots | 10.32 | 12.40 | 5.50 | | |
| Leighton Buzzard | 10.51 | 1.00 | 6.08 | | |
| Leighton Buzzard | 11.05* | 11.35+ | 4.40 | | |
| Aston Abbots | 11.26 | 11.56 | 5.06 | | |
| Aylesbury | 11.49 | 12.17 | 5.28 | | |
- * Not Tuesday or Sat. + Tuesday.
- Tuesday 9th. : RAMBLING CLUB MEMBERS MEET CUBLINGTON CROSSROADS
FOR EVENING WALK AT 7.p.m.
- Thursdays 14 & 28th. : WHIST DRIVE CHURCH ROOM 7.30 p.m.
- Thursday 21st. : WING ASSOCIATION of PARISH COUNCILS
GROUP MEETING - CHAPEL SCHOOL ROOM 7.15 p.m.
- Friday 22nd. : PARISH COUNCIL MEETING CHURCH ROOM 8.p.m.
- Thursday 21st. : COACH FOR CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW
Fare Adult : £4.50 OAP £4.00 Child £3.00
FIVE or more must go for an Aston Abbots pick up at 9 a.m.
For details phone Aylesbury 24664 or 23445

WATCH THE JUNE CHRONICLE FOR NEW BUS SERVICE TO MILTON KEYNES VIA ASTON ABBOTTS.
WE ARE AGAIN ENTERING THE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION - PLEASE HELP PICK UP ANY
LITTER.

LADIES CLUB

On March 26th. we welcomed a return visit by Mr. Mayes when he brought to life the era of some 'Crafts and Trades in Bucks'. He vividly portrayed lace makers and straw platters in their environments. His knowledge and wit were much appreciated.

April 9th. was the only meeting of the month owing to the Easter break. Jill Brown brought her attractive slides and told us about Poole Pottery. It appears there is more to Poole Pottery than just pots. It has a long history and is famous for tiles and some monuments, so a visit to the pottery should prove quite rewarding.

We reassemble on May 7th. in the Chapel, kindly loaned to us, as the Church Room will be in use for the local election.

The Coffee Morning on April 11th, though poorly supported, raised £35.75 for the 'Not so Young' summer outing.



Aston Abbotts Parish Council

Clerk Mr. D. J. Watts F.C.A.
"White Wheels"
Aston Abbotts
Aylesbury Bucks.
Tel. Aston Abbotts 376

To the Editor of the Chronicle

20.4.87

Dear Graham,

Where are all the public-spirited people of Aston Abbotts ?

Although I had handed out several sets of nomination papers for the Parish Council elections, I was horrified to receive official notification (a copy is on the notice board) that only two nominations have been submitted ! It was unfortunate that the Chronicle was too late for your appeal to be effective, but even so, I have had no enquiries.

This means that it will be necessary to hold a bye-election to fill the remaining three seats on the Parish Council, the cost of which will be a charge on the parish rates. Details of the arrangements for this are not yet to hand, and I do not expect to have them until after 7th May, but may I use your columns NOW to appeal to Aston Abbotts residents to make sure that there are at least three, and preferably more candidates nominated when the time comes. Details will be posted on the notice board, and if the timing permits, published in the Chronicle.

With only two members, the Parish Council can only deal with routine matters, and cannot pass any resolutions. This state of affairs would not be allowed to continue for long, and it would be a disaster if we were to lose our status as a Parish Council. The powers of the Parish Council are limited, but it has been instrumental in achieving many benefits for the village over the past eighteen years. Not the least of these have been the provision of the recreation ground, the bus shelter, and additional street lighting, and many of our observations on planning matters have been implemented. The District and County Councils do take note of most of the representations made by the Parish Council, and if our requests are not always dealt with as fully or as quickly as we would like, they are not ignored.

I would say to the people of Aston Abbotts - you need a Parish Council : make sure it continues, either by accepting nomination yourself or by ensuring that your chosen representative is nominated.

Yours sincerely

David J. Watts

David J. Watts
Clerk to the Parish Council

THE ASTON ABBOTTS COOKBOOK

Try this tea-time treat!

LEMON LOAF

3 ozs marg.
6 ozs sugar
6 ozs plain flour
2 beaten eggs
½ pint milk
rind of 1 lemon
2 ozs chopped walnuts

Topping: 3 ozs sugar dissolved in
juice of 1 lemon

* * * * *

Cream the marg and sugar until light in colour, gradually add the beaten egg with a little of the flour to prevent curdling. Mix in the rest of the flour with the milk. Fold in the finely grated lemon rind and then add walnuts. Bake in a greased and lined 2 lb loaf tin at 325° F (160° C) for 1 hour. Remove from oven and whilst loaf is still warm, pour over the topping mixture. Leave to cool and serve sliced, spread with butter. Delicious!!

QUIZ PAGE

TREASURES OF BRITAIN by COLIN HIGGS

1. Which city on the Dee is still within walls ?
2. Which town of nursery rhyme fame is in Oxfordshire ?
3. Which Derbyshire town is famous for its tarts ?
4. Where is the largest stone circle in England ?
5. Which town in Kent is famous for its oysters ?
6. Which Northumbrian town lies on the Tweed ?
7. Where was Edward III murdered ?
8. Name the Cinque Ports.
9. Where was Sir Winston Churchill buried ?
10. In which city do the swans ring the bell ?
11. In which cathedral is Katherine of Aragon buried ?
12. Which city is the home for the National Museum of Wales ?
13. Where was Sir Winston Churchill's former country home ?
14. Where is the Gulbenkian Oriental Art Museum ?
15. Which city is known as the 'Capital of the Fens' ?
16. Where is the Lord Leycester Hospital ?
17. Where in Cornwall would you see the Royal Albert Bridge ?
18. Which river does the bridge cross ?
19. Where did Charles Dickens write David Copperfield ?
20. Which Leicestershire town is famous for its pies ?

People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

BIRTHDAYS

- 4th. May ARKLE O'SULLIVAN.
 11th. May ROSINA WEBB.
 11th. May PERCE RICKARD.
 12th. May HANNAH BRANDON (5th.)
 22nd. May TOM MANNING.
 26th. May NEIL CHESHER (51st.)
 27th. May MARALYN SYKES.

THANK YOU

Don Waite and Len Scutchings for organising collecting and distributing the butter and cheese (courtesy of the Community) to the pensioners of the village.

FOR SALE

Four one way air tickets from Paris to Heathrow. Must be used before 5th April 1987. Any offer over five pence secures. Apply Andy Bystra.

DO YOU

Like excitement, adventure, a challenge, fresh air and a constant buzz in your ear - then why not help John & Chris mow the Recreation Ground. Its no fun really, its dead boring actually, you wouldn't get a penny for it, and you certainly wouldn't get any thanks; in fact you would probably be talked about for leaving 'bits'. Having said that, its a job that has got to be done and two more genuine, reliable helpers would mean each of us need only mow once a month. Any offers? Phone John on 681685 or Chris on 681425.

UNDER FIVES

ARE YOU UNDER 5 AND LIVE IN ASTON ?
 WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET TO KNOW OTHER CHILDREN FROM THE VILLAGE ?

If so bring your Mum and 50 pence along to the CHURCH ROOM on MONDAY 18th. MAY at 10.30 a.m. and spend the morning enjoying yourselves whilst your mum also makes new friends.

If the response is good who knows this could become a regular event.

Squash / Coffee included.
 Dads welcome!

Lynne & Jane 8 & 10 Wingrave Rd. Cottages.
 Tel: Aylesbury 681773 or 681740.

Cleans up awards

SINCE Aylesbury Vale District Council first introduced their own Clean Food award scheme — the only scheme of its kind in the country — Mr. Patrick Larkin and his family have regularly been among the prize-winners.

This year was no exception.

But when Mr. Larkin, who with his wife Christine runs Ford's Fish and Chip shop in Banks Parade, Haddenham, went along to the Civic Centre in Aylesbury last week, he did not realise he was among the award winners yet again.

"The list of winners is kept guarded secret," he said, "but I had no idea I had won."

On three previous occasions he has been awarded a highly commended certificate!



CONGRATULATIONS TO JUAN & THE OLD MASTERS
 GROUP WINNERS 1987

Other group winners were: Staff restaurant — Marks and Spencer plc, High Street, Aylesbury. Restaurant and cafe — The Old Masters Restaurant, Cublington Road, Aston Abbotts; The Plough, Tring Road, Aylesbury. Supermarket — Budgens Stores Ltd., Meadow Walk, Buckingham. General store/grocer — "A Little Bite on the Side," Blecken Road, Long Crendon. Take-away — Ford's Fish and Chip Shop, Haddenham, and McDonalds Hamburgers Ltd., High Street, Aylesbury. Butcher — Brill Butchers, Temple Street, Brill.

Wingrave CE Combined School School Association

We are planning a Summer Fete on 13 June. Side shows and some fun sport for ALL (No obligation)
 Keep the date free and come and support us.
 Help with Tombola prizes greatly appreciated.

THE MARATHON MAN

SPONSORSHIP FOR ANDREW FORD IN THE LONDON MARATHON

If you would like to help Andrew Ford raise money for either of his nominated charities please complete one (or both!) of the forms below and return it to Andrew; the Chronicle, or leave it at the Post Office or the Village Stores.

STRUTH'S sponsored participation



**In the MATHS
LONDON MARATHON
for HEART RESEARCH**
Registered Charity Trust No. 282280

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

I agree to sponsor Andrew Ford for _____ for the above charity on completion of the London Marathon.
Signed _____



Aylesbury Vale Hospice Appeal.

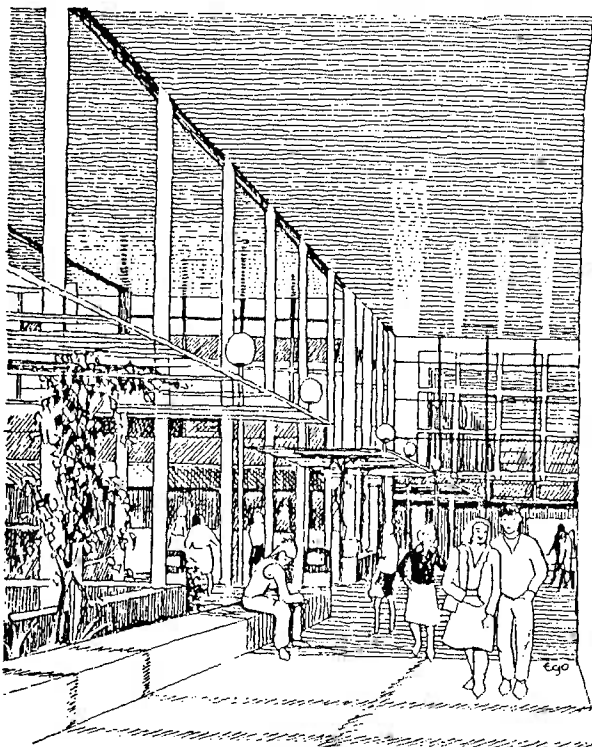
Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 8AL.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

I agree to sponsor Andrew Ford for _____ for the above charity on completion of the London Marathon.
Signed _____

Portraits of Buckinghamshire

No.20. MILTON KEYNES SHOPPING CENTRE.
Sketch by Elizabeth Ogan in Elizabeth Cull's 'A Picture of Buckinghamshire'.



Part of the under-cover shopping centre at Milton Keynes, one of the largest shopping complexes in Europe.

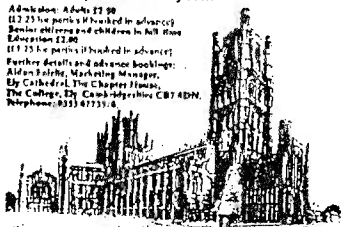
Ely Cathedral of Festival of Flowers

Friday to Sunday, 10 to 12 July 1987
9.00 am to 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday 11.30 am to 6.00 pm on Sunday
East Anglia's most ambitious flower arrangement festival
A mammoth undertaking in one of Europe's most beautiful buildings by more than 350 flower arrangers of the East of England Branch of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies of Great Britain
Themes will be based on river - city and fenland - twin towns - vestments - music - university - agriculture - horticulture - hospital - church - and communications.

Cellnet

Ely is one of the loveliest riverside mediaeval cities in the world. It has more than adequate car and coach parking, excellent rail links, and a wide variety of refreshment facilities. Why not make a day of it?

Admission: Adults £3.50
112 25 for parties if booked in advance
Banks, children and children in full time
Education £2.00
112 25 for parties if booked in advance
Further details and advance bookings:
Aidan Salter, Marketing Manager,
Ely Cathedral, The Chapter House,
The College, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4DN.
Telephone: (0323) 47351.



IF SUFFICIENT INTEREST I WILL ARRANGE
A COACH PARTY FOR SATURDAY 11th JULY

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Chester. 2. Banbury. 3. Bakewell. 4. Avebury, Wiltshire. 5. Whitstable.
6. Berwick. 7. Berkeley Castle, Glouc. 8. Sandwich; Deal; Dover; Rye; Hastings.
9. Bladon. 10. Wells. 11. Peterborough. 12. Cardiff. 13. Chartwell. 14. Durham.
15. Ely. 16. Warwick. 17. Saltash. 18. Tamar. 19. Bleak House, Broadstairs.
20. Melton Mowbray.

ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL

At the meeting of the 3rd. April, the Festival Committee decided to stage the event over the weekend of July 25/26th. The intention is to follow a similar programme to last year but new ideas would be appreciated.

The next Committee Meeting is to be held on the 15th. May in the Chapel School Room at 8p.m. and anyone with ideas, or willing to help stage the event, would be most welcome to come along.

Peter Dines has offered to organize the raffle this year. The raffle raised over half of total receipts last year and we therefore need a big effort both in selling tickets and in donation of prizes to make it a good draw. If everyone sold £5 of tickets we would achieve record breaking receipts which would be of benefit to all the village as we have decided to make equal donations to the beneficiary organizations.

The success of the Festival will depend upon your support so 'come on down' and do your bit for Aston Abbotts.

Tony Hewitt

Festival Committee Chairman

MAINS SUPPLY OF GAS

Anyone interested in a mains gas supply to Aston Abbotts?

Soulbury has recently been connected to the main grid following an initiative by a group of residents whose enquiries indicated that it would be a good economic proposition. Winter fuel bills have confirmed the wisdom of their efforts particularly for those previously reliant upon LPG fuel.

I already know of a number of people in the village who are interested in following Soulbury's example but I would like to make a more formal survey of the village to establish the real extent of interest. Myself and David Brown will therefore be calling to every household over the next few weeks to find out how many people would like to pursue the matter further.

Tony Hewitt

CLIENT NAME

ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

SCHEDULE NO.

SUBJECT

SUMMARY OF FETE ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTING PERIOD

19th JULY 1986 REVIEWED BY

1986

1985

TOTAL RECEIPTS

Draw	479 30	316 23
Stalls	385 33	420 41
Refreshments and barbecue	104 35	150 78
Sideshow, competitions and games	110 23	117 53
Car boot sale	42 -	-
Other receipts	22 -	21 -
	1143 21	1025 95

LESS EXPENSES (see note below) 284 34 311 46

£ 858 87 £ 714 49

Note: Expenses include £47.72 for balloons and inflator; it is suggested that a proportion of the cost be carried forward (say £32)

This leaves £890.87 (say £890) available for distribution in accordance with the resolution passed at the Annual Parish Meeting in March 1986, as follows:

Aston Abbotts P.C.C.	20%	178.00
" " Methodist Church	20%	178.00
" " Church Room	25%	222.50
" " Chronicle	25%	222.50
" " P.C. - Recreation Ground	10%	89.00

£ 890.00

What a day!

The Joy and Sorrow of the Cup Victory Follows Defeat

Not every Junior Football Club takes its sides away to the continent in the build up to a cup final. But over Easter both junior sides played in La Bouexiere - the U12's going down 0 - 3 and the U14's being narrowly beaten 2 - 1 in an exciting match. The long journey back was subdued but the teams had little time to dwell on defeat. The U12 were in action on the Thursday when they defeated Corinthians 6 - 3 and the U14 defeated Wing 8 - 3 to win themselves a play-off game with Water Eaton for the runners up position in the League.

CLUB HISTORY

All this was by way of a prelude to the greatest day in the Clubs history on Sunday 26th April, when Bell Close, the home of Leighton Town Football Club hosted the Junior League cup finals. Never before had Wingrave reached the semi finals, now here we were in the finals of both competitions.

UNDER 12's FINAL

A large contingent of supporters from Wingrave, Aston Abbots and Cublington began to fill the ground at 10.00 a.m. Blue and yellow dominated the scene as the team managers led out the sides behind the match officials. The sun broke through the lingering mist for the team photo's and the match kicked off at 10.30. It was soon clear that Woodside were the better team but a magnificent performance in goal by Ellis Kitchener and all out effort by the defence kept the score 0 - 0 at half time. The break through came halfway through the second half when a speculative Woodside boot hit the ball into the air to lob just under the bar for an unsatisfactory match winning goal. Try as they undoubtedly did Wingrave could not get back into the match but won themselves many friends and admirers for the battling spirit in which they conducted themselves throughout the match. A 1 - 0 defeat was no disgrace and the warm applause that greeted the team as they collected their runners up trophies had been well earned.

UNDER 14's FINAL

If the morning had been a disappointment, the afternoon many thought would be a disaster. The Arrows team had defeated us 5 - 2, 5 - 2, and 9 - 0 this season and the presence of bottles of champagne in the Arrows dressing room before the match suggested they were confident of victory.

Again a large crowd and a superb atmosphere greeted the two sides as they walked onto the pitch for the pre-match photographs. Once the game started it was clear that the strong Wingrave support was inspiring the team, who dominated the first fifteen minutes but then found themselves one down following a break away goal. Those of us who have followed the U14's this season accepted this philosophically, the side is dedicated to attacking football and in several matches recently we had come from behind to win. Shortly before half time we were level when Mark Brown was put through to score a magnificent goal.

Optimism abounded amongst the Wingrave support at halftime - the impossible seemed suddenly to be distinctly possible.

As the second half started it was clear both sides had been urged to even greater efforts by the managers, but gradually confidence grew in the ability of the

WINGRAVE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Wingrave back four, Humphrey, Parker, Neve and Brackley to out tackle the Arrows attack. In midfield Meagram and Scott began to have time to hold the ball and look for the penetrating pass, and it was a Meagram ball inside the fullback that gave Ward the chance to cross for Brown to score his second goal. Within minutes Wingrave went further ahead. Ward's free kick from just inside the opposition half was superbly controlled by Parker bursting through Arrows static defence.

In what appeared almost one movement he then volleyed it fiercely passed a desperately diving goalkeeper for a magnificent goal. The cheering Wingrave contingent were immediately silenced by the award of a penalty to Arrows which Greenhill almost saved. Three - two was decidedly unnerving; the teams confidence seemed to hesitate before attacking moves began to flow again. When Scott latched on to another Ward cross to restore the two goal lead it was no more than Wingrave deserved, Meagram, Hickson and Brown all had further chances and when the final whistle went Arrows must have felt fortunate to have lost by only two goals.

This really was a magnificent performance and both the League officials and the Arrows team were generous in their praise of our lads. The celebration bar-b-que at the Bell that evening rounded off a memorable day.

UNDER 12 FINAL

WOODSIDE (0) 1 WINGRAVE (0) 0

Wingrave team: Kitchener; Parker.P.; Dixon, Arnold. D., Pope, Bracey-Wright; Banks, Bishop; Wiggett, Sykes and Arnold.C.

Subs: Pretty, Springett, C.Lambourne.
Greg Sorace, perhaps the most improved player of the year and a vital part of our defence, missed the final following his sudden Hospitalisation.

UNDER 14 FINAL

ARROWS (1) 2 WINGRAVE (1) 4
M.Brown 2, A.Parker, D.Scott.

Wingrave team: Greenhill; Humphrey, Neve, Parker, Brackley; Watkins, Meagram, Scott; Ward, Hickson, Brown.

Subs: Keighley; Greenan and Knock.

OTHER RECENT RESULTS

U.12. 10th April Cheddington 0 Wingrave 3 (Bishop 2, Sykes)
16th April Wingrave B R Foxes (O.G.)
18th April La Bouxiere 3 Wingrave 0

[To play League match v Woodside]

U.14. 18th April La Bouxiere 2 Wingrave 1 (Hickson)
22nd April Wingrave 8 Wing 3
S.Meagram 3, D.Scott, Brown 2, Hickson 2.

28th April LEAGUE RUNNERS-UP PLAY OFF

Wingrave (3) 6 Water Eaton (1) 3 after extra time
Score at full time 3 - 3

M.Brown 3 A.Parker 2
S.Ward

Another exciting game before a good crowd to round off the season. Leading comfortably 3 - 1 at half time, Wingrave controlled most of the second half, but over confidence was punished twice to bring the teams level. Then it was all Water Eaton until the second half of extra time when Andy Parker strode forward to hit his second goal of the night from the edge of the area. Seconds later Mark Brown completed a deserved hat-trick following a Steven Ward cross and the game was won when Ward completed the scoring with speculative shot from well outside the area.

Cup winners and runners-up in the League - not a bad season!

Ridge and Furrow

Walk 11	5½ miles
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O.S. 1:25,000 maps SP81, 82

WINGRAVE — ASTON ABBOTTS — ROWSHAM

Starting point: Wingrave village green. (Grid. ref. 869190)

This pleasantly undulating walk, which enjoys particularly good views from the hill between Aston Abbots and Rowsham, crosses a number of fields whose surfaces are corrugated by 'ridge and furrow'.

These wave-like patterns were created by the mediaeval method of horse-ploughing using single share ploughs. Each ridge formed a separate, unfenced holding in the open fields, and one peasant might farm a dozen or more such ridges, or 'strips', scattered all over the parish.

Travel

Cars should be parked in the car park on the edge of Wingrave village green, just south-east of the church.

Wingrave can be reached infrequently by bus on United Counties service 65 (Aylesbury - Wingrave - Aston Abbots - Cublington) on weekday afternoons only. Bus travellers will find it more convenient to start and finish the walk at Rowsham, which is served hourly on weekdays and ~~every two hours on Sundays~~ by United Counties service 115 (Aylesbury - Leighton Buzzard - Bedford).

Refreshments

At Wingrave the Rose and Crown public house, near the car park, serves morning coffee, snacks and lunches; there is a general shop in Winslow Road.

At Aston Abbots there are two pubs and a village shop but Rowsham has no refreshment facilities.

ROUTE

Wingrave

A pleasant village with an attractive centre focussed on a pond and village green. About 30 of the houses in the village are of a uniform appearance having been built in 1876, together with the school, by Hannah de Rothschild (of nearby Mentmore House) for villagers who were employed on the Rothschild estate. Quite a number of these mock half-timbered houses with their Rothschild plaque can be seen flanking the recreation ground adjoining the village green, and others stand along Winslow Road (on the route of this walk).

On the Leighton Buzzard road (off the route of this walk) are the imposing iron gates at the entrance to Mount Tabor House. This Victorian house, now a school for handicapped children, was the headquarters of the Czech Government during its refuge in Britain during the Second World War.

Start from the car park on Wingrave village green and bear left to set off along Winslow Road, first passing the pond on the right, then the church on the left (ignore the right turn at the pond to Leighton Buzzard). Immediately after

passing The Bell public house, the road bends to the left, at which point, at the beginning of the bend, climb the stile into the field on the right (beside no.42 Winslow Road).

With your back to the stile aim half left across this large field (crossing pronounced 'ridge and furrow') to reach the diagonally opposite corner and, on arriving there, go through the gap in the right-hand hedge 8 yards short of the corner. Once through the gap turn sharp left and walk downhill beside the hedge to go through the gateway in the hedge across the bottom of the field. Now continue straight ahead, (keeping parallel with the hedge on right and 100 yards out from it), going up and over the low summit before dropping downhill to a gate onto a main road (the gate appears in front of the buildings of Westpark Farm).

Cross the road and go over the stile in the hedge opposite. Once in the field head diagonally right to a point on the far side (just right of the farm buildings) where the wooden fencing gives way to a hedge. Cross the stream at this point* and then head half right across the next field, passing diagonally beneath an overhead electricity line, towards the summit of the further (right hand) of the two low hills in this enormous field. However, before reaching the summit, at the point where you converge on the stumpy remains** of an old hedge which climbs the hillside on your right (about 100 yards before reaching the top hedgerow) you reach one of those odd features of the public footpath network — a completely invisible crossing of two paths well inside a field. Abandon the course you have been following, turn left, and walk parallel with the top hedge (about 100 yards from it), soon passing close beside a copse which projects into the field on your right. Beyond the copse continue downhill, cross the hedge ahead*** and make for the section of fencing visible in the field boundary ahead some 25 yards to the left of the right hand corner of the field.

Cross the stream in front of the fencing* and walk ahead in the ensuing field beside the right-hand hedge to a gate in the next corner. Go through the gate and continue in the same direction, beside the hedge on the right along the side of another large field. At the end of this field (with Aston

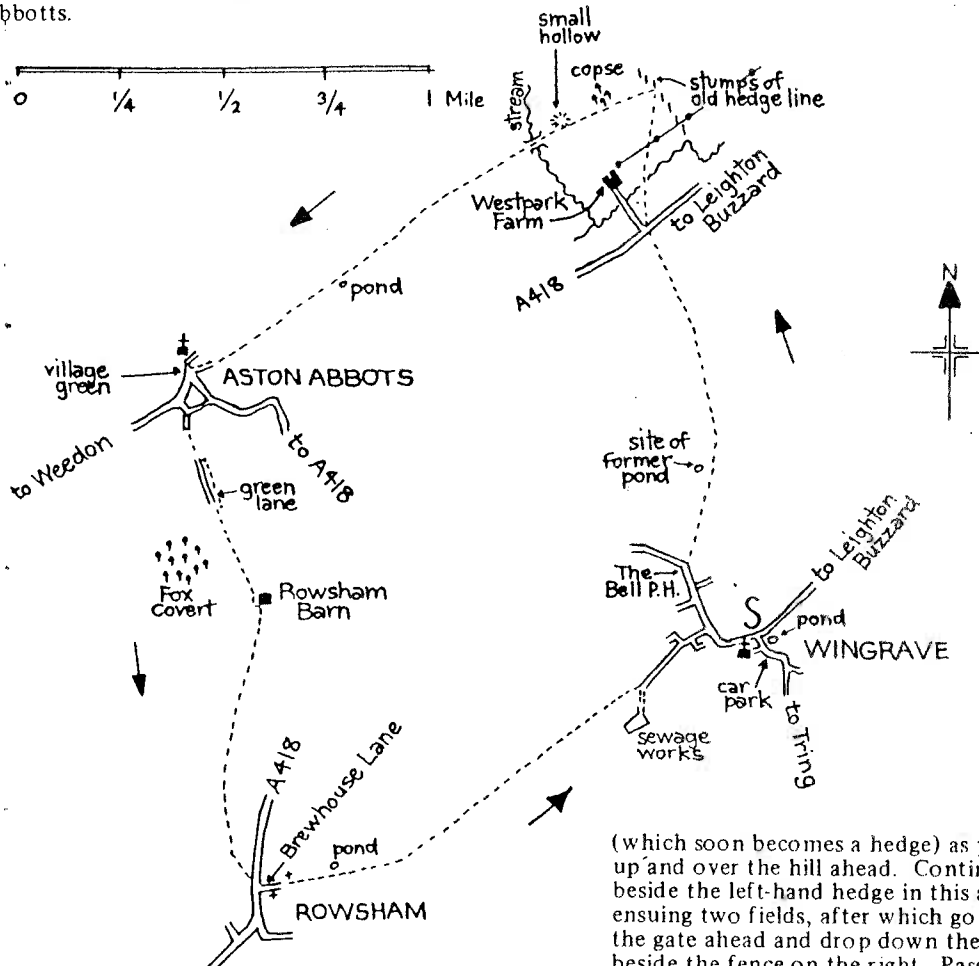
* Footbridge missing in 1977

** Looking along the overhead electricity line, the fifth pole from the West Park Farm buildings stands in the line of this former hedgerow.

*** In order to cross this hedge it may be necessary to deviate slightly to the right over a piece of fencing in the corner of the field.

Abbotts now in sight ahead) go straight on through two gates (which help to enclose a small area giving access to four fields) and maintain the same course, now following the left-hand hedge of the next field. At the far end of the field continue through the gate in the hedge ahead which is situated 40 yards to the right of the field corner. From this gate cross the following field and leave it through a gate opposite which is situated between houses on the left and a farmyard on the right. Once through the gate carry on along the side of the farmyard and through another gate to reach the village green at Aston Abbots.

Go through the gate, then turn immediately through the small gate on the left, after which turn right to walk down the side of the field and leave it through the gate at the end of it. Beyond the gate carry straight on uphill beside the right-hand hedge of the next field to reach the lonely complex of farm buildings called Rowsham Barn. Climb the fence across your path 30 yards to the right of the barns, and cross the small field beside them to a gate. Once through this bear left to gain the fence on the left-hand side of the field beyond then resume the previous course, now beside this fence,



Aston Abbots

In the Middle Ages the Abbots of St. Albans had a country house here and it is from this house that the parish derives its distinctive name. Nothing remains of the original Abbots' House, the present house called "The Abbey" (its iron entrance gates lead off from the green) is Victorian and once belonged to Sir James Clark Ross, discoverer of the Magnetic Pole in 1831, whose tomb is in the churchyard.

Although, at first sight, Aston Abbots may appear to be a typical English village with cottages surviving from many centuries, it is interesting to note how many of the village houses were built in the nineteenth century and, in particular, in 1854.

Cross the green and take the road signposted to Weedon. Do not go down Moat Lane on the right but bear left down the road called The Green. Where it bends sharp left turn right into Bricstock and leave the road through the gate directly ahead (between nos. 1 and 4 Bricstock) to emerge in a small field. Cross the field to a gate in the middle of the opposite hedge-row which leads into a hedged green lane.

(which soon becomes a hedge) as you go up and over the hill ahead. Continue beside the left-hand hedge in this and the ensuing two fields, after which go through the gate ahead and drop down the hill beside the fence on the right. Pass through the gate to the right of the nearest house in Rowsham. Immediately beyond the house cross the fence on the left and go diagonally across a small paddock to climb the stile in the far corner; beyond is the main Aylesbury-Leighton Buzzard road, and opposite is Brewhouse Lane.

Rowsham

In the nineteenth century most small towns had at least one brewery, and, before that, many inns brewed their own beer. Although only a hamlet, Rowsham had a brewery which continued in operation until the Second World War, and several of its buildings are still standing. The old malthouse stands at the head of Manor Lane, and, on the corner of Brewhouse Lane and the main road, the house called The Old Brewhouse is a skilful conversion from the old brewery.

Set off from Rowsham down Brewhouse Lane and at the end of it climb over a stile. From the stile go straight ahead to join the left-hand fence near a pond and then continue beside this fence to the far left-hand corner of the field. Go over the

Cont. at foot of next page.

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EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL DISPLAYS

Tug of War (sponsored by Taylor Woodrow). British Legion, RN Association and RAF Association displays (sponsored by William Younger and Company). Mounted Skill at Arms (sponsored by Wilkinson Sword). Show Jumping (sponsored by Wilson Hogg Robinson). Side saddle display (sponsored by Project Office Furniture). Kakakamewa Band sponsored by British Caledonian.

Resident Band, record and cassette are sponsored by Royal Ordnance.

The Royal Tournament Brigade is sponsored by Action Games and Toys. The Souvenir Programme is sponsored by Mirror Group Newspapers. The Preview Parade at Bristol on Sunday, 12th July is sponsored by THORN EMI Electronics.

Continued from previous page.

stile in the hedge ahead and continue along the left-hand side of the next two fields. From the stile in the far left-hand corner of the second field go straight ahead across the following field to a gap visible in the hedge ahead (about 20 yards to the right of the left-hand corner) which turns out to have a stile. Climb this and maintain the same course across the field beyond to the gate in the hedge ahead and in the next field aim slightly to the left of Wingrave church. Pass through the gate in the next hedge and then head for

the upper left-hand corner of the field. Join the track coming in from the village sewage works and follow it through the gate and on as it becomes a village street in Wingrave.

On reaching the main road through the village, walkers who started from Rowsham turn left along the road towards The Bell public house, while those who started from Wingrave turn right and return past the church and pond to the car park on the green.

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Route X16L Leighton Buzzard-Wing-Wingrave Cross Roads-Rowsham-Bierton-Aylesbury
Route 656L Leighton Buzzard-Wing-Cublington-Aston Abbotts-Wingrave Green-Wingrave
Cross Roads-Rowsham-Bierton-Aylesbury.

X16L stops at points shown plus the following: Ascott House, The Dove, Hulcott Turn,
Bierton Post Office.

656L stops at points shown plus the following: Ascott House, Soulbury Turn,
Bierton Post Office.

Mondays to Saturdays

Route No.	N.TU				
	X16L MF	X16L	656L MF	656L TU	656L MF
Leighton Buzzard, High Street	06.45	09.35	11.05	11.35	16.45
Linslade, Church Road	06.47	09.37	11.07	11.37	16.47
Wing, Village Hall	06.54	09.44	—	—	—
The Dove	06.55	09.45	—	—	—
Soulbury Turn	—	—	11.14	11.44	16.54
Cublington, Cross Roads	—	—	11.22	11.52	17.02
Aston Abbotts, Bull & Butcher	—	—	11.26	11.56	17.06
Wingrave, Green	—	—	11.32	12.02	17.12
Wingrave, Cross Roads	06.59	09.49	11.35	12.05	17.15
Rowsham	07.02	09.52	11.38	12.08	17.18
Bierton, Red Lion	07.05	09.55	11.41	12.11	17.21
Aylesbury, Bus Station	07.13	10.03	11.49	12.18	17.28

Notes.

MF. Mondays to
Fridays only

N.TU. Not Tuesdays
TU. Tuesdays only

Mondays to Saturdays

Route No.	N.TU				
	X16L MF	656L N.TU	656L TU	656L MF	656L MF
Aylesbury, Bus Station	07.15	10.17	10.35	12.20	17.30
Bierton, Red Lion	07.22	10.24	10.42	12.27	17.37
Rowsham	07.25	10.27	10.45	12.30	17.40
Wingrave, Cross Roads	07.28	10.30	10.48	12.33	17.43
Wingrave, Green	—	—	10.51	12.36	17.46
Aston Abbotts, Bull & Butcher	—	10.32	10.56	12.41	17.51
Cublington, Cross Roads	—	10.36	11.00	12.45	17.55
Wing, The Dove	07.32	—	—	—	—
Village Hall	07.33	10.42	11.06	12.51	17.59
Soulbury Turn	—	—	—	—	—
Linslade, Church Road	07.40	10.49	11.13	12.58	18.06
Leighton Buzzard, High Street	07.42	10.51	11.15	13.00	18.08

Notes.

MF. Mondays to
Fridays only

N.TU. Not Tuesdays
TU. Tuesdays only

A FLIGHT OF FANCY

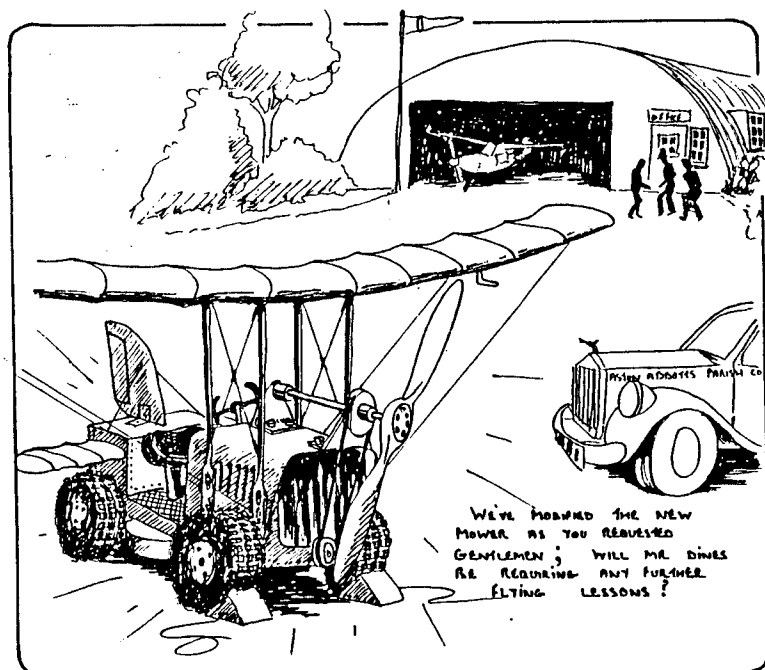
Newcomers to the village have been seen scratching their heads over last months cartoon depicting the new recreation ground mower equipped with wings with the caption '..... will Mr.Dines be requiring any further flying lessons?' What lay behind the bee's sting?

Well Peter was trapped by a newcomer in his fifth coach seat on the 18.15 out of Euston and just as Peter was dozing off he was asked for an explanation.

'Well," said Peter, "it goes back really to 1951 when I was an education officer at R.A.F. Halton and very envious of those wings most of the other officers wore. Then there's my brother who flew for the R.A.F. and British Airways, but my eyesight is none too good. So, two years ago, when I borrowed the old recreation ground mower to cut the churchyard, just as I finished, I don't know quite what happened but I tried to take off, the churchyard wall got in the way and instead I crashed four feet onto the pavement. Most people think it funny, so do I now, but you should have seen my leg!"

He then continued with the story of how that very night he limped on to the sleeper at Milton Keynes bound for Glasgow - on to Oban and Tobermory and by Monday afternoon was climbing 'a wee hill in Barra.'

If you ask my opinion it's just a flight of fancy on Peter's part.



HELP LINE

In an emergency (a prescription needs collecting: hospital visit has to be made: form needs filling: a pipe has burst or whatever) please ring any of the following numbers for help:

Les Smith, 'Gatesgarth', Lines Hill (Tel:681368)
 Peter Dines, 87 The Green. (Tel:681459)
 Colin Higgs, 6, Wingrave Road. (Tel:681343)
 John Whyte, 14 Bricstock. (Tel:681685)
 Graham Parker, The Cloisters, Church Row (681325)
 David Watts, 'White Wheels' (681376)

Can we add your name to our Help Line list? If so just contact any of the above.

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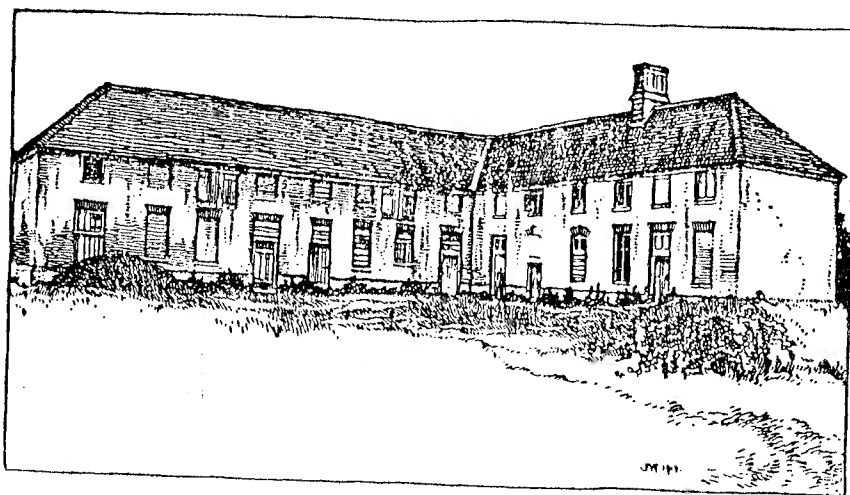
PART FOUR of our series of extracts taken from the Victoria County History of Buckinghamshire, Vol.3. This month we feature Cublington. The sketch is dated 1913 and the text was written in 1914, but not published until 1925. Detailed references have been omitted.

CUBLINGTON

☐ Coblincote (xi cent.); Cobelintone, Colblyngton (xiv cent.).

The parish of Cublington contains 1,223 acres,

ing east from Whitchurch shortly before its junction with that coming north from Aston Abbots. It contains several buildings of the 16th and 17th centuries, and Niel's farm, about half a mile to the north-east, is also of this period. All of them have been considerably altered in the 18th and 19th centuries.



NIEL'S FARM, CUBLINGTON

comprising 117 acres of arable land, the rest being laid down in permanent grass.¹ The soil is of loam with a subsoil of Portland Beds and Kimmeridge Clay, producing crops of wheat, barley and oats. The land reaches a height of 456 ft. above the ordnance datum in the east of the parish. It is watered by a branch of the River Thame, which also forms the parish boundary on the north and west.

The village is situated about the centre of the parish and is built along both sides of the road lead-

A messuage called Shepherd's House,⁴ and fields called The Hillground or The Home⁵ and the Town Meadow are mentioned in the 17th century.⁶

Before the Conquest **CUBLINGTON MANOR** was held of Edward the Confessor as two manors of 8 hides and 2 hides respectively by Torchil and Godmin.⁷ By 1086 these 10 hides were held of the king by Gozelin the Breton,⁸ but by 1283 they formed part of the honour of Gloucester,⁹ to which they were still appurtenant in 1615.¹⁰

Gozelin the Breton was succeeded by his son Hugh,¹¹ on whose death Cublington descended to his son Walter, who bore the surname of de Chesney.¹² Walter de Chesney appears to have been at first succeeded by his daughter Mabel, the wife of Aumary le Despencer,¹³ with whom she is mentioned in connexion with the church of Cublington in 1186.¹⁴ The Despenchers seem, however, to have conveyed their interest to Maud, another daughter of Walter de Chesney.¹⁵ Maud's daughter Juliana is mentioned in 1218 as the wife of Geoffrey Lucy,¹⁶ and Cublington was held by their descendants for many generations. It was probably their son, another Geoffrey, who joined the barons against Henry III and therefore forfeited the manor.¹⁷ It had been restored to him by 1276, when he claimed to have a gallows, assize of bread and ale and view of frank-

pledge in Cublington, and was accused of obstructing the king's bailiffs in the performance of their duties.¹⁸ He died in 1284, leaving a widow Ellen, who was living as late as 1317,¹⁹ and a son Geoffrey Lucy, aged sixteen,²⁰ who settled Cublington on himself and his wife Desirée, with remainder to their son and heir Geoffrey, aged seventeen at his father's death in 1305.²¹ Desirée Lucy died some time after 1323,²² when the manor passed to her son Geoffrey, who held it until his death in 1346.²³ His son, another Geoffrey,²⁴ in 1363 made a false claim in respect of the manor against the feoffee of his grandfather,²⁵ and died in 1400 leaving a son Reynold,²⁶ on whose death in 1437 Cublington descended to his son Walter.²⁷ Walter died in 1444, leaving a son and heir William,²⁸ who died in 1460,²⁹ when his lands passed to his niece Elizabeth, wife of Roger Corbet,



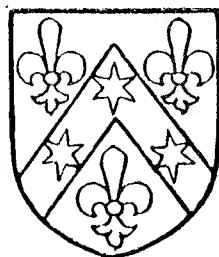
LUCY. *Gules three lucas or.*



CORBET. *Or a raven sable.*

and his nephew William Vaux,³⁰ afterwards Sir William Vaux, kt. Sir William Vaux was attainted in 1461,³¹ whereupon his moiety of the manor was granted by the king in fee simple to Ralph Hastings, squire of the body, as a reward for good service.³² This grant was confirmed to Ralph Hastings and his heirs in 1483,³³ but they do not seem to have held the moiety of the manor for long, Hastings probably forfeiting it in 1485. The other moiety of the manor, upon the death of Elizabeth in 1498, passed to her grandson Robert,³⁴ afterwards Sir Robert Corbet, kt., his father Sir Richard Corbet,³⁵ son of Elizabeth, having already died.³⁶ In 1500 an action was brought by Sir Nicholas Vaux, son of the attainted Sir William Vaux, against Sir Robert Corbet for refusing to divide the manor of Cublington, half of which Nicholas claimed by inheritance.³⁷ The Corbets had doubtless acquired this half at the time of Ralph Hastings' attainder and now obtained a quitclaim from Vaux in a new division of the Lucy inheritance. Sir Robert Corbet died seised of the whole manor in 1513.³⁸ He was succeeded by his son Roger, who in 1525 settled the manor on himself and wife Anne³⁹ and died in 1538, leaving a son Andrew, afterwards Sir Andrew Corbet.⁴⁰ In 1584 Sir Robert Corbet, the son of Sir Andrew,⁴¹ died childless seised of the manor. His brother Richard succeeded him.⁴² In 1590 Richard Corbet conveyed the manor to John Rotherham,⁴³ whose nephew Sir William Willoughby, kt.,⁴⁴ died seised of the manor in 1615.⁴⁵ His son Sir Rotherham Willoughby had died two years earlier,⁴⁶ when two-thirds of the manor had been settled for life on Ann, his widow.⁴⁷ William, son of Sir Rotherham, succeeded his grandfather and died in 1630.⁴⁸ His son and heir, another William,⁴⁹ conveyed the manor in 1658 to Richard Carter,⁵⁰ as a preliminary to its alienation to Bernard Tourney in the same year.⁵¹

Bernard Tourney died in 1681,⁵² and his son and heir Bernard died a few months later.⁵³ It descended in the family, as a certain Bernard Tourney left it to his grandson Thomas Sheppard, who owned it in 1776.⁵⁴ Thomas Sheppard, who was afterwards made a baronet,⁵⁵ married Elizabeth Cotton,⁵⁶ the heiress of Thornton (q.v.), which became the chief seat of the Sheppard family,⁵⁷ and with which Cublington descended.⁵⁸ About the beginning of this century it was conveyed by Mr. Henry Sheppard Hart Cavendish to the Hon. Lionel Nathan de Rothschild, M.P., of Ascott, Wing, the present owner.



SHEPPARD of Thornton, baronet. *Azure a chevron or between three fleurs de lis argent with three molets of six points sable on the chevron.*

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Adopt a footpath scheme

I read with interest the letter from V M Litten (*Autumn 1986*, p 40) regarding the "Adopt a footpath scheme" operated by Chartham Parish Council.

I had just been reading an oldish book, *Country walks in Huntingdonshire*, and the following extract from the book well illustrates the merits of this type of scheme:

"I have been quite unable to find any suitable round tours in this area of the County. Every footpath seems to have been ploughed out and many green lanes and bridleways are in danger of the same fate. So please keep walking the few that remain."

In some parts of the country the local clergy maintain an ancient custom of "beating the bounds", which I assume is a method of marking out parochial boundaries.

It would seem to me a good way of preserving our footpaths and bridleways if all parish councils would follow the "adopt a footpath scheme" and possibly hold an annual "walk the footpaths week". Where a parish is fortunate enough to have miles and miles of footpaths, only the rarely used ones need be walked.

I think a well-deserved bouquet is earned by my neighbouring parish of Chatteris, under chairman Alan Melton who, with three colleagues, Geoff Brinton, Pete Murphy and Clive Benney, took a day off work to walk the footpaths and bridleways around Chatteris with a view to promoting their use, finding suitable sites for signposts and identifying areas where tree planting could be carried out. Congratulations, Chatteris!

M CAPPER

Vice Chairman, Benwick Parish Council, 24B Doddington Road, Benwick, March, Cambridgeshire

Rural telephone kiosks

In the Autumn 1984 issue (pp 104-5) you published my article suggesting that a lot of the talk about "loss-making" telephone kiosks in rural areas was unsubstantiated. Rather surprisingly, there was no response to the article, which I felt had to mean that no-one connected with parish councils disagreed with what I had said.

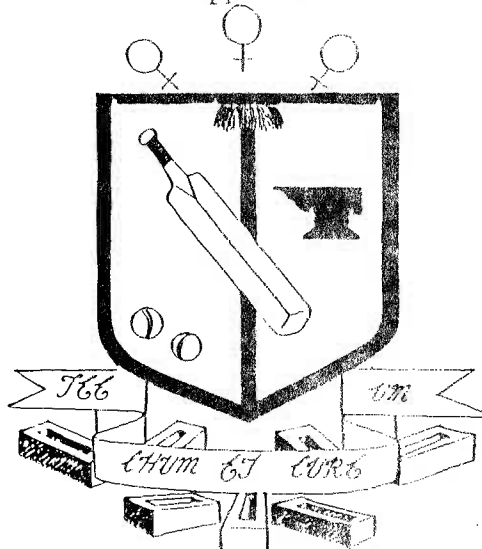
Now we have another interesting development. Lo and behold, British Telecom has found not a little money, but a lot, with which not only to fit new equipment into telephone kiosks everywhere, but also to set about the wholesale replacement of telephone kiosks with new ones of many styles and sizes. British Telecom propose that no more than a mere 200 of the old-style kiosks shall remain after the modernisation is finished, so what has happened to bring about this change in the fortunes of BT?

I believe that this development can mean only one thing: that the earlier figures that disclosed a so-called loss on the rural telephone kiosk service were not only unsubstantiated but incapable of substantiation.

Notwithstanding the exposure of its figures, BT is still threatening to remove rural kiosks taking less than £185 a year in call charges. One would be interested to learn whether any parish council has paid up in order to have this threat removed. If not, is the threat as baseless as the earlier figures on "loss-making" seem to have been?

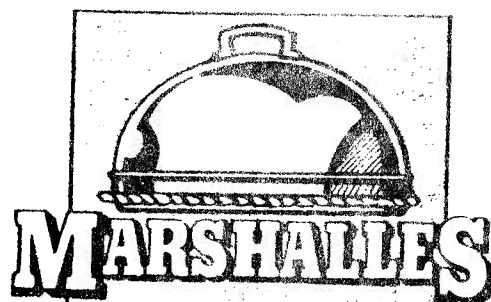
Whose Arms?

An occasional series in which we ask you to guess whose coat of arms they could be. Answers not supplied.



"Two balls seamed; cricket bat pendant; anvil with tash rampant; all set amid rubble."

[Thanks I.C. - great idea. Ed.]



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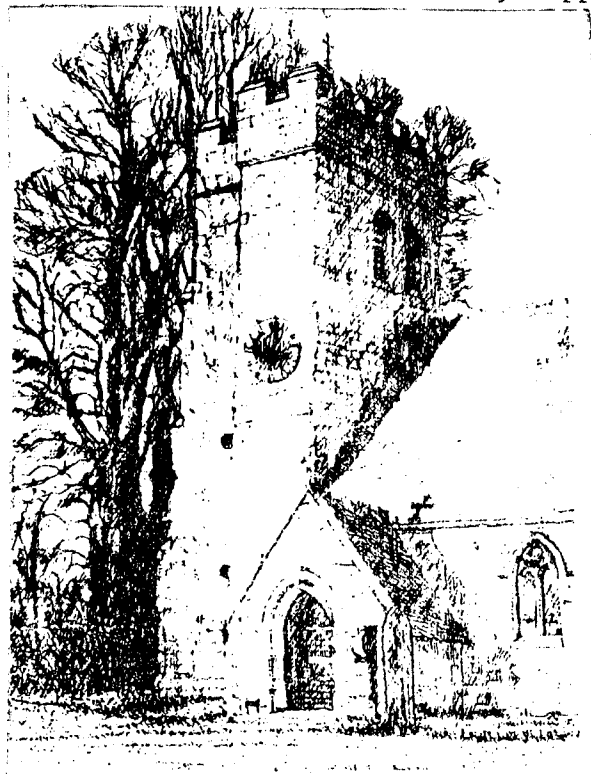
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CHURCH NEWS

Once again our Eastertide services were very well attended. The Good Friday Family Service saw not only most of the Aston Abbots families who usually come to Family Service but they were able to welcome families from Wingrave and Cublington as well as further afield. It was a very happy occasion when we were able to remind ourselves



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTTS, BUCKS.

that through that first terrible, but wonderful, Friday so much revelation came, and comes to us. Easter Sunday saw the church once again dressed overall and many visitors remarked how beautifully all the flowers looked. It really has been a superb spring and the opportunity was not missed. The occasion was enhanced by the story of the Rector's egg. In shortened form it runs thus: the egg featured in his sermon at Cublington and part of that at Wingrave but the Rector is no juggler and the stone floor at Wingrave so we had to do without at Aston Abbots. I knew the one about the Curate's egg but this was something different.

Now to something else. I hear that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is going well. This seems very good and I have no doubt that keeping an eye on our neighbours property is a good thing to do, but I believe behind it, in Aston Abbots anyway, is a proper concern for our neighbours themselves. I have always believed this to be so and the success of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme here is the latest evidence.

SERVICES FOR MAY

Sidesman

3rd. May	: FAMILY SERVICE with BAPTISM	11.15 a.m.	Alison Hewitt.
	Revelation 19(6-9) (607)	Luke 24(13-35).	
10th. May	: HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 a.m.	Tony Hewitt.
	1 Corinthians 15(1-11) (612)	John 21(1-14)	
17th. May	: HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 a.m.	Colin Higgs.
	Revelation 3(14-22) (617)	John 21(15-22)	
24th. May	: HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 a.m.	Alison Ford.
	1 Corinthians 15(21-28) (622)	John 16(25-33)	
31st. May	: HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 a.m.	Stephen Richardson.
	Ephesians 1(15-23) (629)	Luke 24(45-53)	
7th. June	: FAMILY SERVICE	11.15 a.m.	Sarah Lovell
	Acts 2(1-11) (634)	John 14(15-26)	

ASTON ABBOTTS CHAPEL 125th ANNIVERSARY.

Special Service 3rd May 6 p.m.

Preacher: Rev. Peter Lemmon.

Anniversary Concert 8th May 7.30 p.m.

by Aylesbury Methodist Church Choir.

May 1987

Tel. Aylesbury 681623

A MESSAGE FROM WINGRAVE RECTORY

It is unwise to send your children to Church. It will almost certainly lead to trouble later on. No, please don't "send" them - BRING them.

The main Service of the first day of the week rightly belongs to the whole Christian Family. The Parish Communion at Wingrave caters for children of all ages where there is action, movement and drama. Cublington and Aston Abbots now offer other alternatives on the first Sunday of each month. But wherever you live and worship, there are opportunities for children and their parents to come to Church together and young children are welcome.

Just as there are noisy movements and scuffles round the breakfast table at home, so there may be similar disturbances round the Lord's Table in his House. Most people disturbed by childish high spirits in Church are the parents, not the congregation. Anyway, here are some suggestions to parents who bring young children:

1. Please don't expect him to sit twiddling his thumbs for an hour. Bring his toys, preferably the soft variety! For the letting off a toy space rocket may disturb even the peace of the belfry bats.
 2. Bring a few little sweets.
 3. Put slippers on his feet rather than iron-tipped-heavy-duty shoes. If he then persists in drumming his feet on the pews it will sound more like the low rumbling of the organ trombone stop rather than the rapid fire of a sub-machine gun.
 4. Remember, your child goes through phases of behaviour. Sometimes he will be "good", sometimes he will exasperate. It is only perseverance that will win the day. For all the time he is in Church he is absorbing the atmosphere of worship. He is learning the habit of Churchmanship. He is being trained for heaven - though he won't always show it!
 5. A child cannot be expected to sit perfectly still on the first few occasions that you bring him. Unlikely to be overawed, more likely to be fascinated by the sound of his own voice yodelling round the rafters.
 6. Yet, if he gets right out of control, TAKE HIM OUT for a breather and TRY AGAIN. You will have offered to God one of your most precious gifts - your child. You will have also offered your time. You will never regret it. Nothing given to God is ever wasted.
- "The family that prays together, stays together". And there's a lot of truth in that. So whether you come to one Service or another, bring your children if you possibly can. Encourage others to do so. Act as "adoptive" parents to children who have come on their own.
- If you come together as a family, regularly, when the inevitable question comes (as come it will), "Why must I go to Church?" your reply is easy: "Because, my dear, we ALL go!"

Yours sincerely,

FR. JOHN HEFFER

P.S. At Aston Abbots Annual Parish Meeting last month, County Councillor Reg Keen was thanked for his work to improve safety at the Wingrave Crossroads. The Chronicle reported that he had said that he hoped eventually for a ROUNDABOUT. Do you know, I didn't think anybody ever took any notice of what I said...Well done, Reg, you literally took the words right out of my mouth! Well done the Demonstrators 'for those who were abed must curse the day they were not there' (apologies to 'Henry V')

SERVICES AND EVENTS

24 HOUR FAMINE RESULT A total so far of £133 was raised from the three parishes as follows:

Wingrave £95

Aston Abbotts £32

Cublington £6

Achievement certificates will be issued in due course as have the badges already to those who starved themselves for a day to provide clean water for others.

ASCENSION DAY (28th May)

Holy Eucharist in Wingrave Parish Church 8.00 p.m.

NEW VICAR FOR WING The Induction of the Revd. Michael Smith will take place on Monday 1st June. Our prayers for him and his family as he takes up this new position.

CUBLINGTON FESTIVAL

Saturday 20th June the Cublington Fete

Sunday 21st June the Festival of the Dedication in
Parish Church:

Songs of Praise at 6.00 p.m.

NEW BISHOP OF OXFORD

The consecration of the Revd. Richard Harries on Thursday, 28th May in S. Paul's Cathedral at 11 a.m. No tickets necessary.

The Enthronement on Tuesday, 30th June at 7.30 p.m. in Christ Church Cathedral. Representatives from a cross-section of the Diocese will be invited - admission by ticket only.

Sunday September 13th, when the whole diocese is invited to greet our new Bishop at an open air Eucharist in Broad Street, Oxford, being the climax of the Pilgrim Festival (See posters in our churches)

SUNDAY LESSONS

(ASB)

24th May	Easter 5	(622)	1 Corinth. 15(21-28)	John 16(25-33)
31st May	Ascension 1	(629)	Ephesians 1(15-23)	Luke 24(45-53)
7th June	Pentecost			
	(Whitsunday)	(634)	Acts 2(1-11)	John 14(15-26)
14th June	Trinity Sunday	(640)	Isaiah 6(1-8)	John 14(8-17)
21st June	Pentecost 2	(643)	1 Peter 2(1-10)	John 15(1-5)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (11th to 18th May)

Please support our local Organisers and House-to-house Collectors in this very important work, for Christian Aid tries to "build for tomorrow".

LONG MARSTON

The Parish Church of Long Marston is planning a week of fund raising for a new heating system, beginning 5th June. Look out for further publicity.

ASTON ABBOTTS CHAPEL

125th ANNIVERSARY.

ASTON ABBOTTS.

NEW PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—A neat, comfortable, and substantial sanctuary, in connexion with the above denomination, has been erected in this place. It is in the clear 28 by 20 feet, and 13 feet high, lighted by six windows. The door and the two front windows are circular, headed with neat projecting arches of white bricks. The inside has a modern appearance; the pews and rostrum are stained, and the building is an improvement and ornament to the village. The opening services were commenced on Sunday, the 2nd inst, when the Rev. S. Turner preached in the morning and afternoon in the new chapel, and in the evening, the congregation being so large, the Independent Chapel (kindly offered for the occasion) was filled, and a sermon was preached by the Rev. G. Moore. These services were continued on the Sunday following, and three sermons were preached by the Rev. E. Bishop, of Bedford. The next day (Monday) a tea meeting was held, when about one hundred and forty sat down to tea in the old Primitive Methodist Chapel, after which a public meeting was held in the Independent Chapel, presided over by the Rev. S. Turner, and addressed by the Revs. G. Moore, E. Bishop, and J. Nevill. The collections and donations realised about £60.

THE EMERGENCE OF METHODISM

The extract [left] from an 1862 copy of the Bucks Advertiser & Aylesbury News records the opening of a new Primitive Methodist Chapel at Aston Abbotts.

A 'new' chapel suggests that there must have been an old one, and indeed the Primitive Methodists used to meet in the old Congregational Chapel made vacant when a new Congregational (or Independent) Chapel was erected in 1839. This building still stands tucked away in a corner off The Green but some time ago was converted into accommodation.

As indicated in the newspaper the new Congregational Chapel was a substantial building, being used to accommodate the large congregation that wanted to attend the opening. Even the 'old' Congregational Chapel must have been a fair size as it was

used to seat a 'tea meeting', on the Monday following the opening, of a hundred and forty. Indeed one wonders why the Primitive Methodists insisted on a new building of their own when a substantial structure already existed. [What happened to the old chapel? Where was it situated? Why did the Methodists build a new Chapel? Any answers much appreciated.] While the 'new' Methodist Chapel could seat 50, the 1839 Congregational Chapel could seat 200, a huge capacity for such a small village, suggesting that support for the evangelical revival of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries must have been strong in this area. In fact, the surge of interest in dissenting denominations was never as strong in rural areas as it was in the emergent cities. There the Church of England had been slow to sub-divide existing parishes and so had few churches and even fewer rectors to provide a ministry for the ever increasing numbers. This void in the cities was filled by the dissenting churches.

The dissenting tradition had long been established in England; the Pilgrim Fathers of 1620 are probably the best known but throughout the seventeenth century congregations of Presbyterians, Independents (or Congregationalists), Baptists and Quakers could be found in Aylesbury. Support however had never been strong in the Vale and membership, if anything, was declining as the nineteenth century approached. Even the new evangelical urgency inspired by the work of John Wesley (1703-91) took a long time to seep into this area of rural England.

Wesley's father had been rector of Epworth in Lincolnshire and his son followed the traditional career through Oxford University to ordination as an Anglican priest. John Wesley preached in many churches in the Oxford area, including Fleet Marston and Upper Winchendon in October 1725; indeed many believe Fleet Marston witnessed Wesley's first service after ordination. While at Oxford John Wesley and his brother Charles had gathered around themselves a small group of serious minded students known as the 'Holy Club' and later were given the nickname of 'methodist' because of the 'regularity of their lives as well as their studies'.

Wesley believed that the Church of England had lost its way; that it was no longer meeting the spiritual needs of the people, nor teaching and preaching the message of Christianity as it should. There is no doubting that the Church had found a complacent niche in English life. Parsons 'intoned their weekly sermons with correct diction, married couples, baptized their children, and buried the dead. This may have been all they did, but few parishioners expected them to be evangelists They were thought none the worse for not believing that faith was something you wrestled with'. Indeed 'if a rector

ASTON ABBOTTS

Methodist Sunday School Anniversary services held in the Methodist Church on Sunday were well attended. There was special singing by the choir and Sunday School scholars, accompanied by Mr. Hedley How. Recitations were pleasingly given by the scholars. The special preacher for the day was Mr. Kingsley Cannon, of Whitchurch, whose eloquent discourses were much appreciated. The collections were taken up by scholars for the Sunday School funds. The services were continued on Monday, when the annual tea and public meeting took place, the Rev. E. R. Bishop (Circuit Minister) addressing a large congregation. Mr. G. Bliss, of Stewkley, presided, and gave a bright and inspiring address. He afterwards presented the prizes to the scholars. Mr. Kingsley Cannon and the Rev. E. R. Bishop each gave appropriate speeches, which were much enjoyed. Mr. E. Smith (Sunday School Superintendent) gave an encouraging report. Mr. S. Smith also spoke on the work of the School and thanked the many helpers who had made the services a success. Recitations and the singing of special hymns by the scholars helped to make the service bright and interesting. Collections were taken for Sunday School funds.

METHODIST CIRCUIT RALLY

Enthusiastic gatherings savouring of old-time Methodism took place at the pretty little village chapel at Aston Abbotts on Thursday. Representatives in large numbers attended from Aylesbury, Oving, North Marston, Quainton, Wingrave, Whitchurch, Stewkley, Drayton Parslow and other places, so that the chapel premises were full to overflowing.

The special preacher was the Rev. B. Aquila Barber, the Methodist Connexional Editor, a man well known in the literary world and a very gifted preacher and lecturer. His sermon in the afternoon was based on the text "He took a towel and girded himself." "Service" was the keynote of his discourse, and in a remarkably clear and definite way he proved the dignity and grace which beautifies life's common duties.

A public tea kept the Aston Abbotts friends very busy and anxious to find accommodation for such a big gathering. It was followed by a short interval, during which visitors enjoyed the beauty spots and quiet lanes for which the district is noted.

The chapel was filled to overflowing long before the time for the evening session, and the hearty singing of good old Methodist hymns could be heard for a long distance. Mr. Crisp, Circuit Steward, of Aylesbury, presided over the evening meeting, Mr. E. E. Page being prevented by ill-health.

Miss Joan Bignell, L.L.C.M., of Wingrave, was the soloist, and sang delightfully the solos "If I can live" and "Just for to-day." The Rev. B. A. Barber gave his popular lecture "What's in a face?" He delineated in a very delightful way feature by feature the possibilities and control of the individual over his facial expression. The

Rev. F. N. Greenwell (Stewkley) offered prayer, and the Rev. E. R. Bishop gave a very pleasing speech, in which he gave a financial report.

The societies, he said, had been asked to raise certain monies for the Circuit funds and the sum of £22 would be to hand as a result.

The Rev. Bishop is now in the sixth year of his ministry at Aylesbury, and this loyal response speaks volumes for the esteem of his members throughout the Circuit.

The Rev. Aquila Barber testified to the inspiration and uplift which he had received from the hearty singing and the enthusiasm which characterised the gatherings that day. The singing of "Come Rhondda" to the well-known "Guide me Oh Thou Great Jehovah" will long remain in the memories of all present. The Doxology was a fitting finale for these inspiring and deeply spiritual services.

performed the service on a Sunday, and visited the sick - when asked to do so - it was thought quite sufficient.

Wesley had a different view. A true-blue Anglican who detested dissent, Wesley's itinerant preaching was to fire thousands with a new belief in the cleansing qualities of salvation. But salvation did not come cheap. 'Wesley taught resignation and obedience: 'He who plays when he is a child, will play when he is a man'; 'avoid all lightness as you would avoid hell fire.' On children he said 'break his will now and his soul shall live, and he will probably bless you to all eternity.'

This harsh message conveyed in mesmerizing sermons and passionate hymns won over the hardbitten and oppressed in the emerging industrial heartlands of England and Wales. Wesley's message did not have the same appeal in the relative calm prosperity of the rich lowlands of rural England. Here life had gone on virtually unchanged for centuries. Wesley's brand of revivalist preaching had, for the moment, little response.

The timing of the growth in support for Wesley's teachings ties in with the great structural changes that took place in the British economy. After thirty years of preaching up and down the country, covering on horseback some 5,000 miles a year in what has been called 'the most amazing record of human exertion ever penned by man', Wesley had only about 24,000 followers of his 'methodist' teachings. In the next thirty years before his death in 1791 numbers were to increase rapidly as the industrial revolution gained pace and the enclosure movement brought uncertainty and hardship to rural backwaters such as the Vale of Aylesbury.

The first solid evidence of Methodism in the Vale was the successful request in 1772, at the Bucks Quarter Sessions that the house of John Seamons of Weedon be licensed as a place of public worship. This was followed by similar licences being granted to premises in Waddesdon (1774), Aylesbury (1781), Bierton and Whitchurch in 1786 and North Marston in 1788. In each case it was the enthusiasm and dedication of an individual that led to the establishment of a Methodist group. In many instances they had to face ridicule from Anglicans and

¹ Extracts from 'English Society in the Eighteenth Century' by Roy Porter, published by Penguin in 1982.

Below: Extract from the Bucks Advertiser of June 1896.

Left: Extract from the Bucks Advertiser of 8th. June 1934.

[Many thanks to Ruth Watts for hunting down and photocopying all the extracts used in this article.]

ASTON ABBOTTS.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.—On Sunday the anniversary services of this School were held, when three appropriate sermons were preached by the Rev. B. Fletcher. Mr. H. Rickard presided at the harmonium, and the hymns were rendered in excellent style. There were many old scholars present, and the Chapel and Schoolroom were packed at night. —On Monday the scholars enjoyed themselves in a field kindly lent by Mr. Elliott. The public tea was well attended, and in the evening the annual meeting was held, presided over by Mr. Stranks, who for forty years has been an active worker and superintendent of the School. Suitable addresses were given by the Rev. R. Fletcher, Mr. A. Sinfield, and Mr. J. Rickard. The financial result was the most satisfactory attained for many years.

often a local squire or parson would incite mobs to pelt visiting preachers, while others would dismiss workers who attended Methodist meetings. While this was not uncommon nationally, local instances were rare; indeed it appears that local gentry and clergy encouraged rather than discouraged Methodist. The revivalist influence Wesley had wanted to exert on the Church of England seems to have been successful in the Vale.

This is well illustrated through the Toogood family at Whitchurch. They were substantial landowners and pillars of the Church, having served as churchwardens for at least three generations. When the first of Weley's travelling preachers visited Whitchurch, John Toogood decided to hear for himself. 'He found his strict moral rectitude and loyal churchmanship transformed by a message of inward, spiritual religion. It was all in the Prayer book he had used, but it was submerged by the usual preaching. He accepted what he heard from the Methodist preachers, set out on the path of experimental religion, and when he died, six years later, he died 'triumphing in the Lord''.²

The local clergy also welcome the Methodists. Most Methodists, as Wesley's preachers encouraged, attended normal Church services and received the sacraments from their parish clergy, before going to their own 'chapel' [usually somebodies back room] for morning 'fellowship'.

While Methodist societies flourished at Bierton and Whitchurch, Aston Abbotts seems to have been content with expressing its dissent through the Independent or Congregational movement. However a Mid-Bucks Circuit for itinerent Methodist preachers was established in 1810, based on six 'societies' but it was not until the Primitive³ Methodist Mission to the area in 1836 and succeeding years that there was another surge in support for Methodism.

As I mentioned earlier, in 1839 the old Congregational Chapel in Aston Abbotts was replaced by a better building. A year later the Primitive Methodists formed a society here and secured the former Congregational Chapel for their services. This was to be used until the 'new' Primitive Methodist Chapel was opened in 1862, the 125th. anniversary which we celebrate this month.

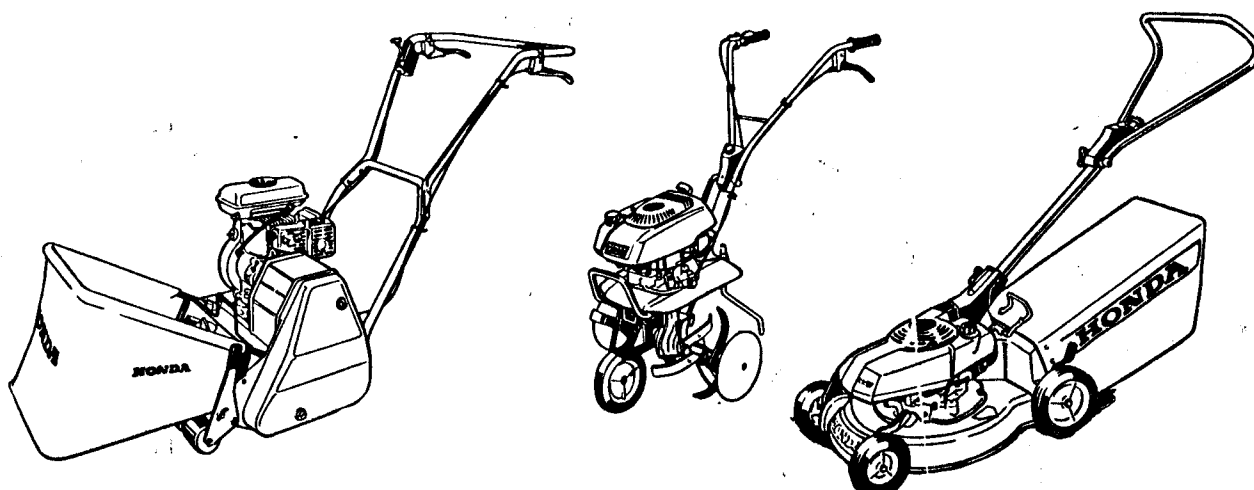
² Extract from 'The Rise of Methodism in the Vale of Aylesbury 1772-1791' written and published by Ralph Bates in 1972.

³ When Wesley died in 1791, the followers of Methodism became increasingly seen as a separate christian denomination; but the Methodist movement itself, later began to diverge into three strands: the Primitive Methodists, founded in 1810, the Wesleyan Methodists and the United Methodists, who all eventually were reunited in 1932.

[The Chapel's anniversary has given me the opportunity to indulge my own curiosity in the history of early Methodism in this area. Given the time I would like to continue the story looking at events in the history of Aston Abbotts' Primitive Methodist and Congregational Chapels. If anyone is able and willing to pass on the odd anecdote of the past or can answer any of the questions on the opening page of this article, or has documents, photographs or papers recording the Chapel's history, please let me know. I would dearly like to find out more. Just give me a ring or drop a note through my door and let me know when your free and I'll pop round for a chat. Thanks Graham Parker.]



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