

The Chronicle.

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE.

MAY '89

ISSUE 68



Editorial

MY THANKS to all at the BULL & BUTCHER for the magnificent £25 raised at the Easter Egg Raffle.

Congratulations to James Dixon, Mark Hewitt and James Perkins who all represented Wingrave Junior Football Club in the Under 12 Cup Final on the 23rd April, and to Piers Parker, who represented the Under 14 side in their Cup Final. Sadly, as you will read elsewhere both teams went down to narrow defeats, but Aston Abbots can be proud of its contribution to two outstanding games. Well done lads.

Help has been given to mow the recreation ground on a regular basis any volunteers to help with the other areas of mowing around the village? If so let one of your Parish councillors know.

Talking of volunteers how about The Chronicle ? Two more issues and that's it unless someone comes forward to take over.

Graham Parker.

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE IS SATURDAY 27th MAY PLEASE

WANT TO PUT SOMETHING IN THE CHRONICLE ? THEN YOU CAN DO THIS BY TELEPHONE TO GRAHAM ON 681325 OR BY DROPPING A NOTE THROUGH HIS DOOR AT THE CLOISTERS, CHURCH ROW.

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Distributed free to all households in the Parish of Aston Abbots. If you would like extra copies please inform the Editor.



INFO

WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- TUESDAY 16th : RAMBLING CLUB MEMBERS MEET
CUBLINGTON X-ROADS 7.15p.m.
- THURSDAY 4th : COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.
CHURCH ROOM.
- THIRSDAY 11th & 25th : WHIST DRIVE 7.30p.m.
CHURCH ROOM.
- WEDNESDAY 17th :*** BINGO *** NOTE CHANGE OF
DAY - CHURCH ROOM 7.30p.m.
- FRIDAY 26th : ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
CHURCH ROOM 8.00p.m.

RSPCA APPEAL

The RSPCA re-homing service run by Jan Ainsley (681874) has been operating in this area since September. We re-home all domestic pets and urgently need foster homes for dogs, cats and puppies. These animals are sometimes badly treated or abandoned and desperately need a kind and calm environment to rehabilitate before a permanent home can be found.

Sometimes, in an emergency, we need overnight stops - people we can call on for immediate help. If you think you could help please contact us, we are self-funding and can pay expenses incurred. To raise funds we are holding an RSPCA Family Fun Day at Weston Turville Equestrian Centre on May 1st (Monday). This will include a dog show, stalls and sideshows and hot air balloon rides (weather permitting). For children there is a Magic Show, Bouncing Castle and a Best Hat Competition (animal theme). We need help to make this day a success. If you could donate a bottle for our tombola, a cake for our stall (day before please), a raffle prize or something to sell on a stall - arts or crafts, plants etc., we would be very grateful. Please help and leave any donation with:

Jan Ainsley, Cublington Cottage, Cublington.
Tracy Judd, 69 The Green, Aston Abbots.
Sheila Featherstone, Laneside Cottage,
Cublington.

Thank you very much - and don't forget to come on May 1st.

LADIES CLUB NOTES

6th. April - 22 members were present for a slide show given by Mrs Peggy O'Dell of a holiday in New Zealand, Hawaii, Fiji, Tonga and the Cook Islands.

The Spring Lunch held on the 9th March raised £95 for Club funds.

20th. April - Once again 22 members were present for a cookery demonstration given by Mrs Smith who taught at Hampden Hall until retirement. She demonstrated the decorating of Victoria sponges. The cakes were then raffled.

MAY MEETINGS

4th MAY: A Light Hearted Look at Nursing - a talk given by Mrs E. Roberts.

18th MAY: Not so Young Tea and Outing.

CUBLINGTON GROWERS

DAIRY FARM

CUBLINGTON

LARGE SELECTION OF:

BEDDING PLANTS

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John Whyte, 14 Bricstock. Tel:681685.

John Ford, 2 Ross Road. Tel:681865.

Richard Speakman, 79 The Green. Tel:681042.

Bryan Round, 11 Nup End Lane, Wingrave,

Tel: 681621.

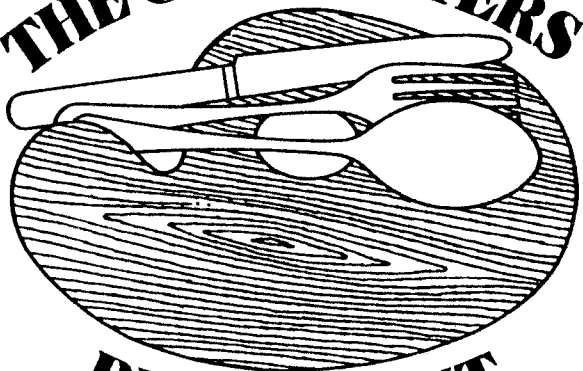
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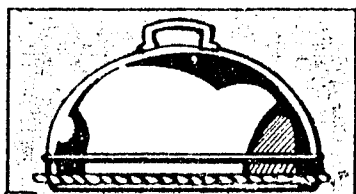
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HELP LINE

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)
Rosemary Franklin, 3 Church Row. (681319).

People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

BIRTHDAYS

ARKLE O'SULLIVAN	4th MAY.
ROSINA WEBB.....	11th MAY.
PERCE RICKARD	11th MAY.
CHRIS BRANDON	11th MAY.
HANNAH BRANDON (7th.)	12th MAY.
TOM MANNING	22nd MAY.
NEIL CHESHER (53rd)	26th MAY.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Dee and John Whyte on the birth of their second daughter Laura on the 11th April.

BE WARNED

WATCH OUT WATCH OUT
OLD SLASHERS ABOUT !

More reports of tyres being slashed in the village - have you seen anything suspicious ? If so tell your Neighbourhood Watch officers and get them to do something !

THE SUNDAY CLUB

The Sunday Club is held at the Methodist Chapel at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We are also involved in a Family service in the Church once a month. The Sunday Club is for children aged 3 upwards, all are welcome.

FIRE AT CHURCH ROW

CAROLINE, GORDON & SARAH would like to thank all of their friends and neighbours in and around Church Row for their kindness, hospitality, clothes, washing and offers of further help following the fire at No.2 on the 5th April. Thanks in particular to Paul and David Hewitt for the birthday cake and for making at least fourteen cups of tea that morning ! Hope to be back in residence by the time you read this. We hear that sales of smoke detectors have rocketed

Last month we mentioned the success of Jeremy Round's book 'The Independent Cook'. Well, this month he has won the Restaurant Writer of the Year Award.

His father, district councillor Bryan Round, of Nup End Lane, said they were very proud of his achievement.

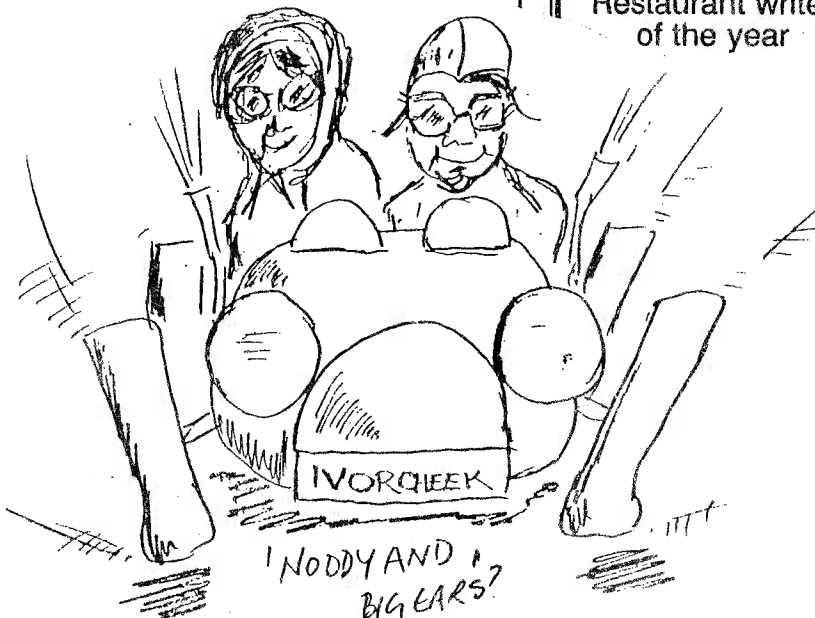
Winning the Glen-siddich Trophy came as a complete surprise to Jeremy, who had hoped he might pick up one of the category awards. Friends who had been let in on the secret managed to get him to wear a suit instead of jeans for the event.

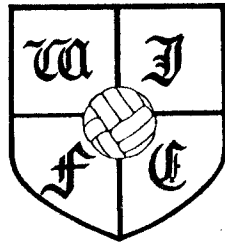
He said they fixed it very carefully, without giving him a hint of what was planned.

Jeremy, who formerly lived in Wingrave but now lives in London, admitted that food had always been one of his "main hobbies and passions". He worked for the Good Food Guide, ending up as assistant editor before joining The Independent when the paper was started in 1986.



Restaurant writer of the year





MITA COPIERS JUNIOR LEAGUE

No luck for villagers

WINGRAVE Junior football Club, having battled through to the finals of both the Under-12 and Under-15 cups in the Mita Copiers Leighton Junior League suffered a double disappointment on Sunday on the league big showpiece day.

In the morning the Under-12 team were beaten 2-0 by Wing in that final and in the afternoon the Under-14s went down by the only goal of the game to Aylesbury side Stocklake Lions.

The morning game was settled by a goal in each half for Wing with Russell Noble striking home a good shot in the fifth minute and John Osbourne putting in the second after another good piece of Noble play midway through the second period. It was a game that was well-balanced throughout with plenty of good football from both sides on the big open spaces of the Bell Close pitch.

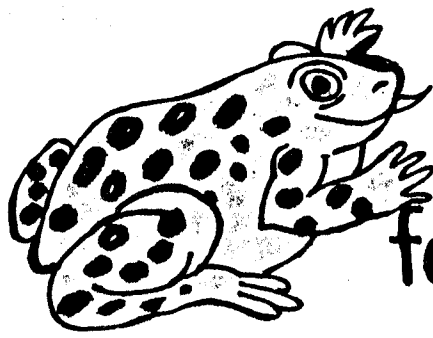
The Under-14 match also saw two teams that were well-matched and it was one of those matches that might have had a hatful of goals and gone either way.

Darren Paxton gave Lions a first half lead and they were forced to hold on grimly at times as the Wingrave side played some attractive football. There were goal-line clearances at both ends in a second half packed with tension and the Stocklake keeper Faisal Butt had plenty to do as the village boys searched in vain for the leveller.

Although Wingrave had to make do with runners-up medals on both occasions they won much admiration for their fighting qualities and some classy football.

The players observed a minute's silence at the start of the day in memory of the Sheffield disaster victims.

●Cup final photo special next week.



R. S. P. C. A.



NATIONAL PET WEEK
family fun day

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animal theme

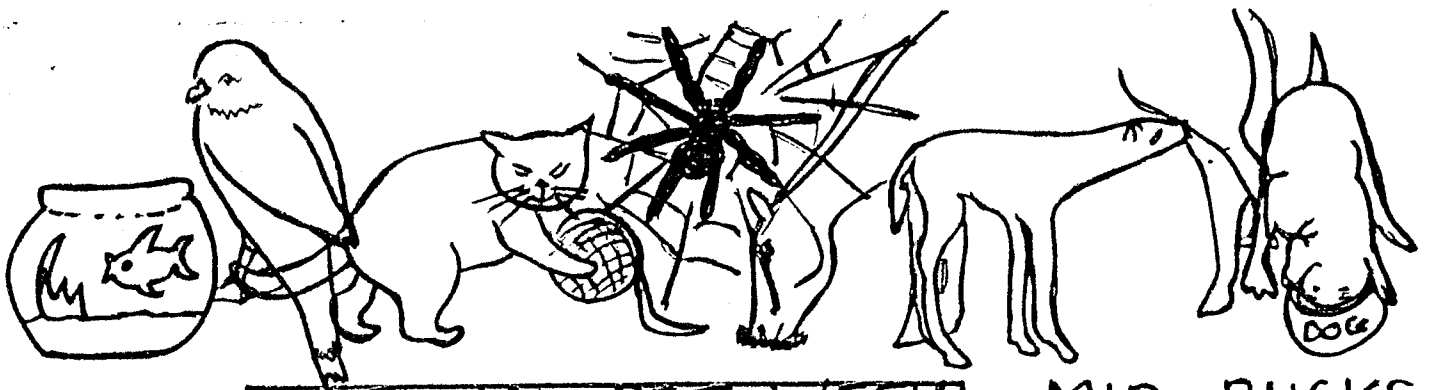


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DURING NATIONAL PET WEEK MID-BUCKS
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OAKFIELD ROAD, AYLESBURY.

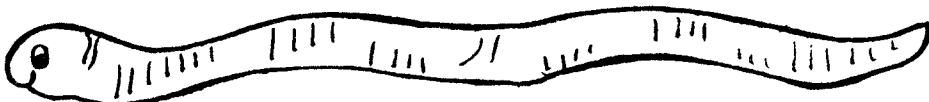
THE EVENING BEGINS WITH SLIDE SHOWS AND SHORT TALKS AND
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THE EVENING WILL END WITH A RAFFLE. PLEASE SUPPORT US AND SO

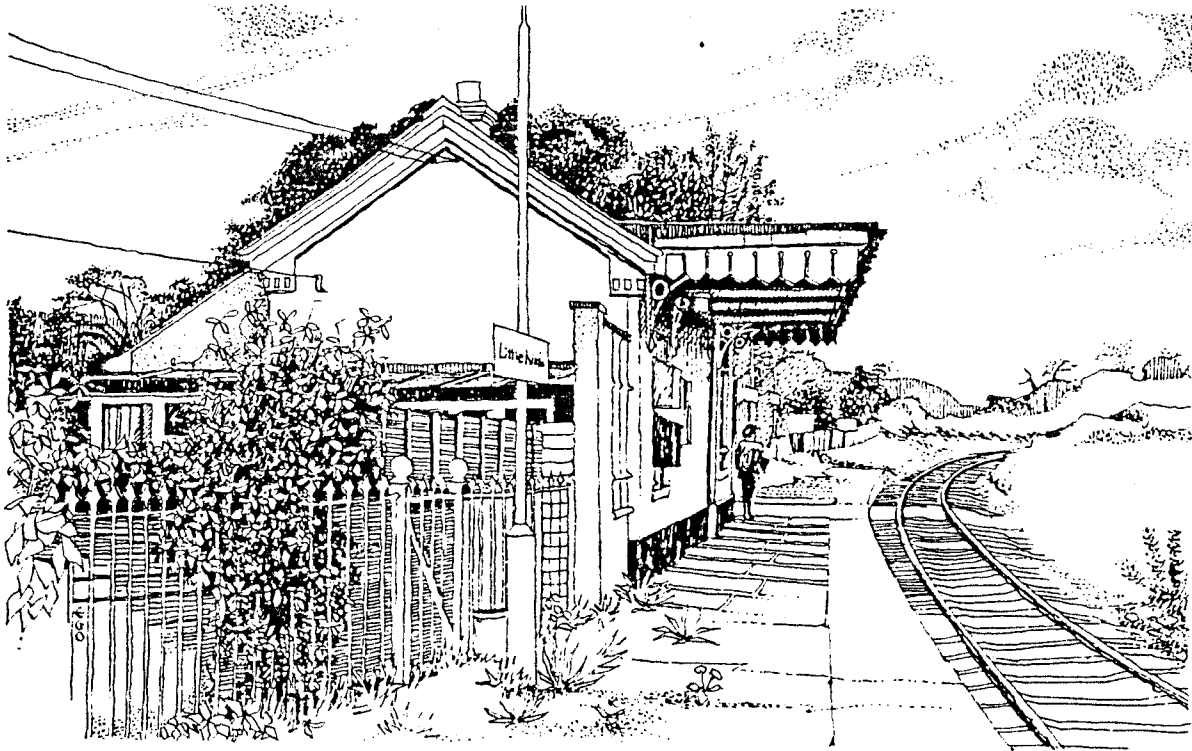
HELP US TO SUPPORT ANIMALS IN BUCKS





Portraits of Buckinghamshire

No. 36. THE HALT at LITTLE KIMBLE



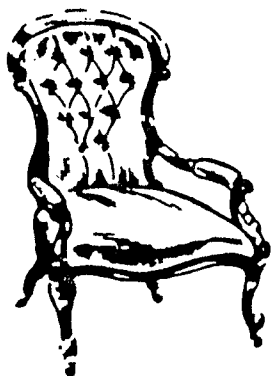
The halt at Little Kimble. This ticket office is now a private residence; only the platform and the typical railway roof serve the passengers.

F.A.J. Megram

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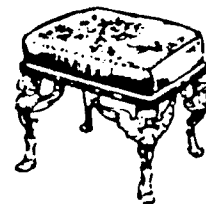
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CHURCH NEWS

When attending a conference in Durham recently I was in the Cathedral for evensong and once again realised what a wonderful heritage we have not only in such buildings (Durham is probably one of the finest medieval buildings in the whole of Europe) but in the music. What was doubly thought provoking was that the choir, singing in impeccable English, came from a village in Holland! Now there's a thought - when will a choir from an English village be able to reciprocate and sing evensong in a Dutch cathedral in Dutch? To cap this a recent visitor

from the Cameroons pointed out that, although all the children have one of a hundred African languages as their mother tongue, instruction is in either English or French, at the choice of the teacher, and the pupils may reply in French or English as they choose! I reckon its time we woke up to the potential in all of us to speak several languages fluently. A far cry from Church business? Not at all, for if we do not try to understand each other in the languages we each understand how can we possibly, truly, love one another? Speaking of which our family service this month on May 7th is in the Methodist Chapel, so when the church bells ring come to the chapel!

I wrote last month of the double baptism - what a great service it was, the church once again full almost to overflowing and with people of all ages welcoming the babies and revelling in the imagery of the occasion. It was good to be there.

Peter Dines.



HATHERLEIGH, Devonshire:
Church of John the Baptist,
noted for its 9th-c. Saxon font.

Members of the Methodist Chapel

would like to thank everyone who supported them when the Aylesbury Salvation Army gave a very enjoyable concert in the Chapel. The magnificent sum of £200.00 was raised for Asthma Research - we could hardly believe it when we counted the money! A cheque will be sent to the Asthma Research Council at Upper Street, London N1. If anyone would like any leaflets on how to cope with asthma please get in touch with Brenda Roff at Redbarn Farm (681413).

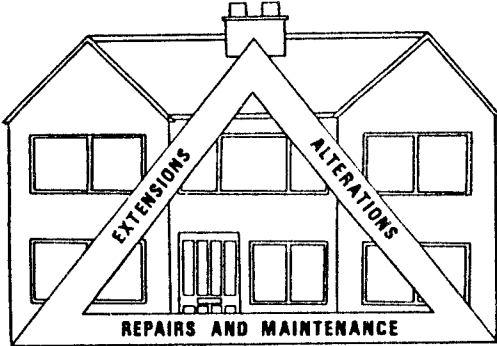
Brenda Roff.

CHURCH & CHAPEL SERVICES FOR MAY

		<u>Sidesman</u>
30th APRIL	HOLY COMMUNION 11.15a.m. Easter 5 1 Cor 5(21-28) 623 John 16(25-end). CHAPEL 6.00 p.m. Rev. Alan Triffitt.	John Ford.
7th MAY	FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 a.m. at the CHAPEL.	
14th MAY	HOLY COMMUNION 11.15a.m. Whit Sunday Acts 2(1-11) 636 John 20(19-23) CHAPEL 6.00 p.m. Mr. Basil Rixon.	Alison Ford.
21st MAY	HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Trinity Sunday Ephesians 1(3-14) 641 John 14(8-17) CHAPEL 3.00p.m. at WEEDON.	Colin Higgs.
28th MAY	HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Pentecost 2 1Peter 2(1-10) 644 John 15(1-5) CHAPEL 6.00p.m. Rev. Peter Lemmon.	Tony Hewitt.
4th JUNE	FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 a.m. Pentecost 3 Romans 6(3-11) 649 John 15(5-11).	Alison Hewitt.

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Charles Clover reflects on the accelerating erosion of our rural institutions

England needs the parson to preserve the country life

NOT long ago the new residents of a Midlands village successfully resisted a planning application to build a blacksmith's forge. It was one of many signs that something worrying is happening to the basic tribal unit of British country life, the village.

Retiring to a village, or commuting from one, is an ambition which really only took hold in the second third of the 20th century. It is ironic that this particular social trend has coincided with an accelerating erosion of the ancient certainties which used to characterise rural life. As villages have emptied of the rural working class, due to the mechanisation of agriculture, the traditional hierarchy has been breaking down. The landowner formed an important part of that hierarchy. So did the parson.

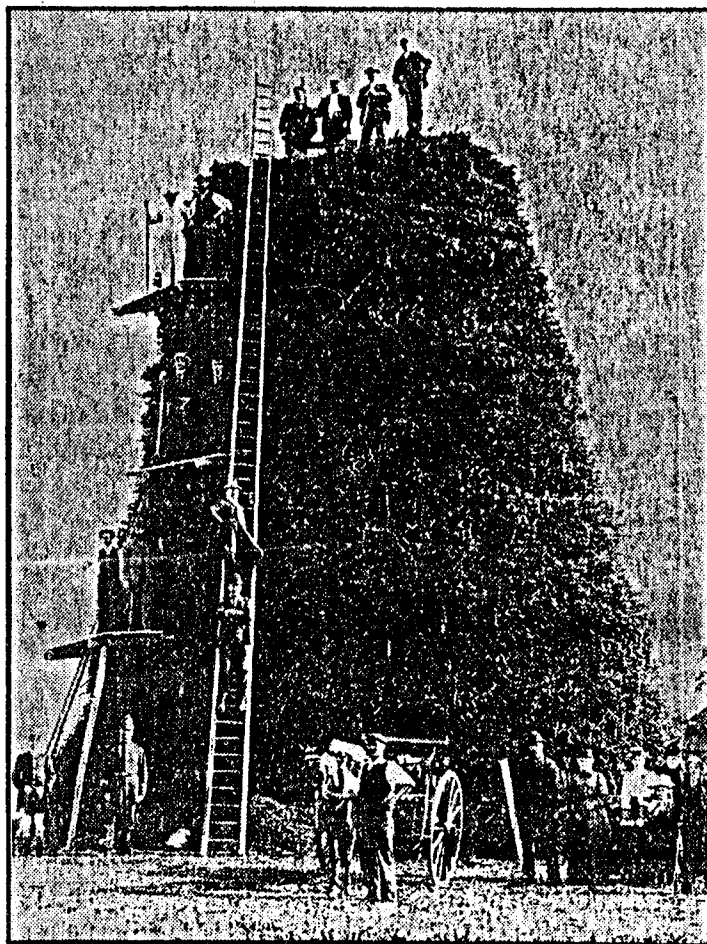
Landowners, in many villages within even the widest reach of cities, often find themselves now outnumbered by new insurgents. And the Church of England's feeble response to decline in congregations in its natural heartland has been to make local incumbents cover for as many as 10 parishes. The Church seems preoccupied with the cities, where its influence was always least.

It is reassuring to find amid the flood of books on flora, fauna and "green" issues, a book which deals with the village as a social institution. For it was the triumvirate of agriculture, rural ownership and the Church that formed the countryside which survives today. Not surprisingly "The Country Parish" is by an Anglican clergyman, Anthony Russell. This is no bad thing, since the growing interest in the rural idyll undoubtedly has a spiritual dimension.

When British society is in the process of some turbulent change, argues Russell, it seeks to reaffirm its rural origins. Wordsworth started it all at the time of the industrial revolution, and when the post-war urban dream began to fall apart in the 1960s it began to happen again. The turbulent change which Russell is suggesting has caused all this? National decline, perhaps, post-industrial malaise and the decay and violence of urban life.

Today the enjoyment of nature has become almost a substitute for worship itself. And for the average Englishman, Russell says, "The word village is like a telegram in code; at its mention his mind is flooded with a series of pictures, impressions and beliefs which have

"The Country Parish", By Anthony Russell; SPCK paperback, £9.50.



Signal change: Villagers prepare a beacon to celebrate the 1897 Diamond Jubilee at Crowborough, Sussex. Traditional rural hierarchies have since been breaking down

been reinforced in every generation by, among other things, the idealistic way in which the countryside and its people are treated in children's books. The village has become, in contemporary Britain, a symbol of that lost community and lost sense of belonging that disappeared when society became more sophisticated and affluent."

The trouble is that rural reality is rather different, and always has been, as the elderly retired and lonely housewives have found out.

Historically, the country has been far from an idyll. "Pagan" originally meant literally "dweller in the countryside". Rural ale houses were centres of vice and violence well into the 18th century. The 19th saw acute rural poverty, and injustice in the shape of the Game Laws, which provoked violence on a scale which rivalled the urban unrest of the years

after Waterloo. Forty-two gamekeepers were killed in battles with poachers between 1833 and 1844. At a time when a labourer's family lived on a shilling a day a pheasant would sell for five shillings on the open market.

The early years of the 19th century saw huge migrations to the cities provoked by the agricultural revolution, and the last quarter was beset by agricultural recession. Rents which had been 39s. in 1813 fell to 11s. in 1844. There was another agricultural recession in the 1930s, which reduced many farmers to what they could do with dog and stick. Many now fear that something of the kind is about to happen again.

The same chequered history applies to the Church, the institution around which villages were built. Though the Anglican ideal of rural ministry is George Herbert, who

renounced his promising court career to minister to a village of 300 souls, by the 18th century—the heyday of the hunting parson—pastoral work was not done or looked for. Only by about 1830 would rural people look askance again at a parson betting at the races. The days when the Church could afford a rector for each small parish are long gone. Many villagers do not even recognise their vicar.

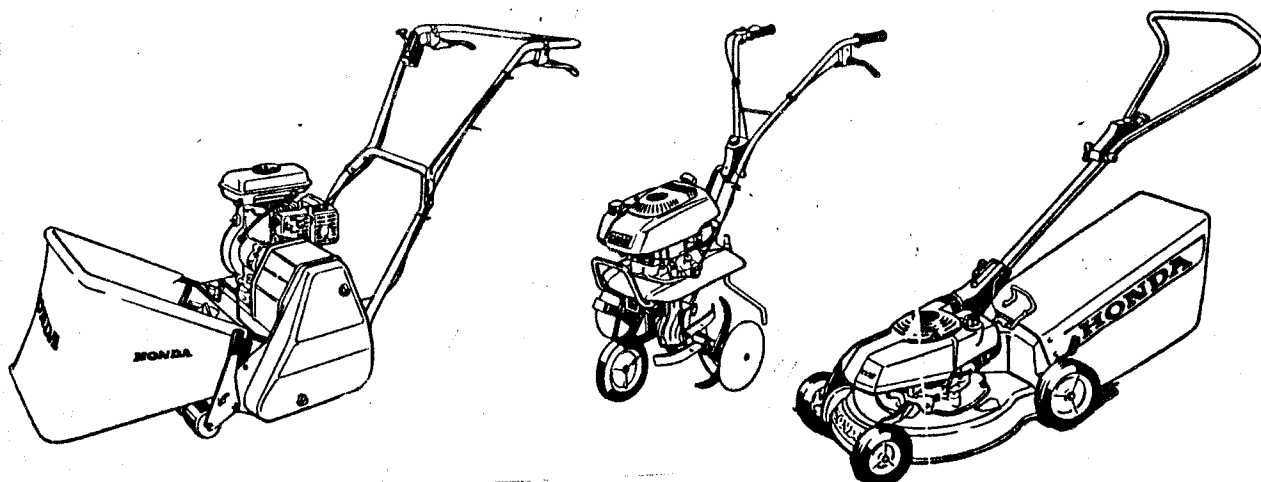
Mr Russell ably paints a picture of the village as a social unit made up of living, and in some places dying, institutions. But his book is inadequate, to say the least, at drawing the strands together as to what needs to be done.

Planning laws that were drawn up to protect the countryside should not be used by insurgents from the cities to hamstring rural existence. Only small-scale development can preserve village life. There is now an opportunity, in the course of reducing the food mountains of the EEC, to encourage more labour-intensive forms of agriculture, such as forestry. Local employment is essential if villages are not to be turned into middle class ghettos or, in remoter areas, denuded altogether. The same goes for transport and schools. More battles loom on the closure of village schools. Public transport is still at issue, and may have been a factor in the Conservatives' by-election defeat at Ryedale.

When it comes to the Church, Mr Russell seems dutifully bound by the current progressive orthodoxy. As he observes, it is almost impossible for the rural clergyman in charge of several parishes to satisfy former expectations of pastoral care. He argues that the rural Church will just have to rely on non-stipendiary ministers and the local community. The "care of souls" ministry practised by George Herbert is now impossible. This seems a make-do-and-mend conclusion, to be worked against. Unless the Church attempts to perform its former role of pastoral care, visiting the sick and providing a clergyman who is known to the whole community, then it is surely admitting defeat in its rural heartland.

It may well be that many of the trends that have conspired against the English village will be reversed in the next century with the advent of fibre optical communications. More and more people should be able to work from home. Village life undoubtedly survives, in the remoter areas, despite depopulation and Radio One in the tractor cab. But if parish life is to survive in any recognisable form, as millions obviously wish it to, there is a lot to be done.

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