

ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 23 AND SUNDAY 24 JULY OPENS 2 PM ON 23RD

The Chronicle.

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE

JULY & AUGUST 1989

ISSUE 70.



Editorial

Seventy issues and we are obviously still being read ... the response to last months mischievous article on the 'village' of mobile homes has brought a veritable flood of letters from those involved. Thanks very much to everyone who took the trouble to write. I hope the debate will continue. Elsewhere in this issue I have taken the liberty of expressing my views on the matter.

As this is my last Chronicle I must thank everyone for their support and encouragement over the past six years, and especially those 'Friends of the Chronicle' who have ensured that the money required has been found. Without them, and your support for their fund raising efforts, this paper would have ceased circulation long ago.

Doubtless everyone will have their views about the Chronicle; many I know deride and dismiss "that rag" while others eagerly await its (often late) arrival. I could have edited a bland news sheet merely listing and reporting events, but I have tried to provide (not always successfully) a magazine that is interesting and informative, pleasant but at times provocative, as well as being homely and humourous. Whether or not I have succeeded only you can judge.

In September the Chronicle will embark upon a new era under the guidance of CAROLINE and GORDON who live at 2 Church Row. I know that you will all give them every support and encouragement in what is an enjoyable but at times irksome undertaking. Whenever you get the chance please thank them for their efforts because I know how valuable a thank you can be when you are feeling that the whole thing is a thankless task.

To everyone thank you and good luck in the future.

Graham Parker

DEADLINE DATE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE WILL BE the 18th AUGUST. THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE WILL BE PRINTED IN THE FIRST WORKING SCHOOL WEEK OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR AND DISTRIBUTED ON OR BEFORE THE 9th.

HOW TO PASS ON ARTICLES/INFORMATION FOR THE CHRONICLE

1. By telephone to Caroline or Gordon on Aylesbury 681373.
 2. By dropping a note through the door of 2 Church Row.
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This months issue published by Graham Parker.

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Distributed free to all households in the Parish of Aston Abbotts.



INFO

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

- SUNDAY 16th JULY: Rambling Club members meet Brill Windmill 2p.m. bring picnic tea.
- SUNDAY 23rd JULY: FLORAL DISPLAYS St James' Church and in the Chapel from 2 - 5 p.m. Songs of Praise at 6.00 p.m. in the Church.
- TUESDAY 4th JULY: Rambling Club members meet Soulbury Green 7.15 p.m.
- TUESDAY 25th JULY : Vale of Aylesbury Holiday Walk starting from the Green at 7.15 p.m. Everyone welcome; dogs on leads please.
- THURSDAYS 6th & 20th JULY: Whist Drive Church Room 7.30 p.m.
- FRIDAY 14th JULY : PARISH COUNCIL MEET Church Room 8.00 p.m.
- SATURDAY 22nd JULY: VILLAGE FESTIVAL 2.00 p.m. on the Green - stalls sideshows, competitions, teas, floral displays, silver band and Morris dancing.

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

- WEDNESDAY 2nd AUGUST: CHILDRENS HOLIDAY FUN - Watch Bucks Herald for details.
- FRIDAY 18th AUGUST : PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ,Church Room 8.00 p.m.

DAYS OUT ON THE BUS

WYCOMBE CAVES/CHAIR MUSEUM

9.30(11.30 Tuesdays) Aston - Aylesbury
10.15 or 12.15 Aylesbury - High Wycombe,
alight at West Wycombe for caves.
Return from High wycombe 2.45 or 4.45
Return from Aylesbury 4p.m. or 5.50.

MARSWORTH RESERVOIRS/TRING MUSEUM

9.30(11.30 Tuesdays) or 2p.m. to Aylesbury
10.40: 12.40 or 2.40 Aylesbury - Ivinghoe-
Luton, alight Tring or Marsworth.
Return Marsworth 1.40 or 4.54; Tring 3.20,
4.50 Then Aylesbury - Aston 4 or 5.50

WOBURN ABBEY

1.00p.m. Aston Abbots - Leighton Buzzard
2.30p.m. L/Buzzard to Woburn. Return 5.20
ask driver to connect with Aylesbury bus
at 5.40.

MILTON KEYNES

9.15 Aston - Leighton, connects on Tues for
MK>Returns from MK 1.50 then 2.30 from L/B.

JULY AT THE ROYAL OAK

6th. JULY

ALBURY MORRIS MEN at 8.00p.m.

15th. JULY

JOHN BREEZE : FOLK MUSIC AND
BARBECUE £4.50 a ticket (£4
for villagers).

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Beds and Bucks Observer, June 6, 1989

Pet owners still letting their dogs foul rec

A REPORT from the Recreation Ground Committee that certain people were still allowing their dogs to foul Aston Abbots' Recreation Ground caused concern at the Annual Meeting of the village's parish council. Members agreed a more strict vigil would have to be kept to, hopefully, alleviate this problem.

The meeting, held in the Church Room, also heard that installation of mains gas in the area was making good progress, but several complaints were made about uneven road surfaces. Councillors were told that time must be allowed for subsidence before this could be put right.

Cllr C Higgs was elected chairman, rural transport officer and representative on the Bucks County Council Road Safety and A418 Action Group. Cllr R Speakman was appointed vice-chairman, street lighting officer and representative on the Recreation Ground Committee with Cllr J Ford and on Aylesbury Vale Association of District Councils, along with clerk Mrs M Cheshire.

Cllrs B Round, Higgs and Ford are on the Wing Association of Local Councils.

The chairman thanked councillors and other residents for their support, including County Cllr Reg Keen and Police Constables Leggett and G Wray.

It was noted that most of the council's comments on the village conservation area had been accepted by higher authorities, and that Aylesbury Vale District Council will be providing a children's holiday entertainment in August.

The holiday footpath walk is planned for Tuesday July 25, starting from the Green at 7.15pm.

No mention in this report of discussions that have sparked the flood of letters to this month's Chronicle.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

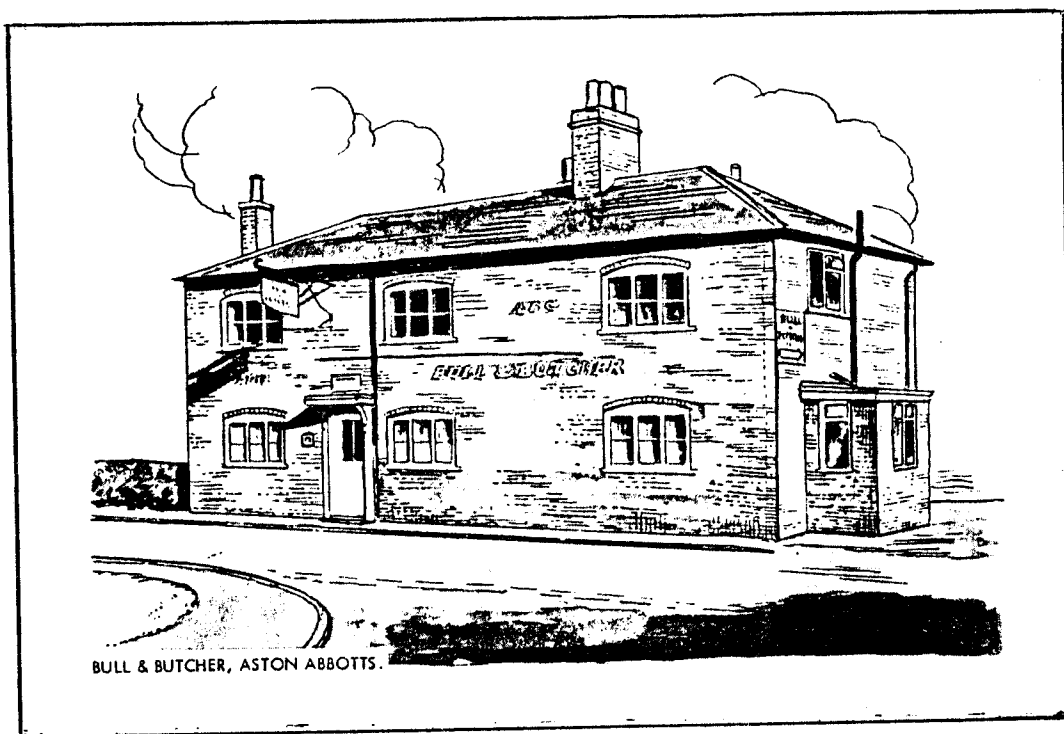
Colin Higgs(Chairman) 6,Wingrave Rd.681343.
John Ford,2 Ross Road. Tel:681865.
Richard Speakman, 79 The Green. 681042.
Bryan Round, 11 Nup End Lane, Wingrave
Tel:681621.

VACANCY (Following the resignation of John Whyte).

CLERK : Margaret Chesher, 20 The Green,
Tel: 681201.

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.



*Bull x Butcher
Aston Abbots*

A Traditional Village Pub

- Pub Games ◦ Car Park*
- Large Garden with Childrens Area*
- Bar Snacks - Lunchtimes & Evenings*

Thursdays to Mondays.

July 22 (FESTIVAL) 1989

B.B.Q. 4-30 to 7-30pm

*Dance under the stars to your local
"Hit group" THE SHY LEDS.*

Finishing at 11pm.

People

OUR MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT VILLAGE PEOPLE

Edited by Bridget Brandon.

BIRTHDAYS

JOHN CHESHER.....	1st JULY
DONNA WIGGETT	2nd JULY
GEORGE FOX	2nd JULY
GINGER	4th JULY
BRENDA MALIN	6th JULY
MARGARET KENT	6th JULY
LEN SCUTCHINGS	7th JULY
NICOLA LOVELL	9th JULY
VIC SCOTT	13th JULY
DIANE LOVELL	17th JULY
ANDREW PLESTED	19th JULY
DEE WHYTE	27th JULY
LAWRENCE HINDS	29th JULY
ALEXANDER OWEN	3rd AUG
PAUL FLETCHER	4th AUG
MARK HEWITT	11th AUG
JOANNA OWEN	12th AUG
ANDREW PARKER	21st AUG
DEAN WIGGETT.....	25th AUG

WE WERE

- we were sad to hear of the death of BILL BROOKS recently. Many will remember Bill as he was landlord of the Royal Oak for twenty six years, before retiring to Cornwall about twelve or thirteen years ago.

WE ARE

- hoping that Bob Hoggs is recovering well after a spell in hospital.

WANTED

A PIANO or ORGAN PLAYER FOR CHAPEL ON SUNDAY EVENINGS PLEASE HELP.....
PHONE 681042.

CUBLINGTON GROWERS

DAIRY FARM

CUBLINGTON

LARGE SELECTION OF:

BEDDING PLANTS

PERENNIALS

HANGING BASKETS

AVAILABLE FROM MID MAY

INTRODUCING YOU NEW EDITORS

CAROLINE LANE and GORDON SMITH and their daughter Sarah (nearly two) moved to 2 Church Row at the end of last summer. They lived in Leighton Buzzard before that, Gordon for four years and Caroline since they were married in Leighton three years ago. At the time of writing they are expecting another baby any day. Both work in book publishing. Their main claim to fame is waking the village at 6.30 a.m. in April by getting the fire engines out to No. 2. They are now renting a house in Aylesbury while the builders repair the damage, and hope to be back in early August.

We are looking forward to editing the Chronicle, albeit with some nervousness, being newcomers, and hope you will bear with the inevitable blunders. Until the end of July please send any contributions to 35 Limes Ave, Aylesbury (Tel 88498). We hope to be back in our own house in early August, so anything after July can be safely posted through our cat-flap (or telephone 681373). Deadline for the September issue - 18th August please.

Caroline & Gordon.



Portraits of Buckinghamshire

No. 37. HIGH STREET, WENDOVER

Sketch by F.D. Bedford from E.S. Roscoe's "Buckinghamshire" (1903)



HIGH STREET, WENDOVER

STRIDING OUT

Classical treats of temples

Buckingham is an attractive market town, predominantly Georgian in appearance. North-west of the town lies Stowe, one of the most important and complete 18th-century landscape parks in Europe, created by the Temple family whose apt motto "*Templa quam dilecta*" translates as "How delightful are thy temples". In the Easter and summer holidays, the whole park is accessible (Stowe is a public school). This walk can be taken all year, but going in April or later in the summer means you can more fully savour this quite outstanding segment of Georgian history.

Start in Buckingham; head along West Street, past the Queen Anne façade of Castle House, turning right into Stowe Avenue, where suburbs

WEEKEND WALK

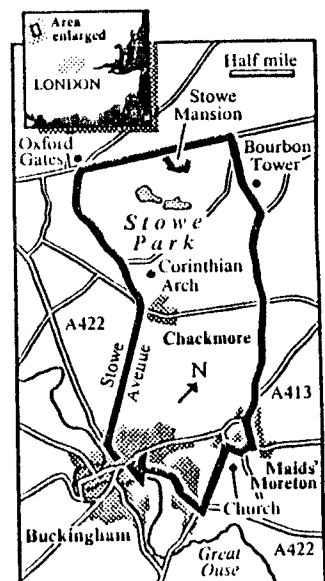
stop at two Stowe Lodges. Past the lodges, walk arrow-straight along the avenue for 1½ miles, getting glimpses of the triumphal Corinthian Arch beyond which is Stowe Park. At Chackmore, turn left to follow the road skirting the park. This passes the main entrance to Stowe; turn right through the gateway screen, cross Oxford Water and pass between the Boycott Pavilions. The drive follows the line of a Roman road.

Glimpses south-east reveal much of the west part of the park. The drive passes the north front of Stowe mansion with its giant portico and quadrant colonnades, then along the back of the Grecian

Valley. Immediately past the woods, turn right and head south-east, passing on your left the Bourbon Tower, a romantic ruin built as a game-keeper's lodge.

On reaching the road, follow it south past Stowe Castle, a farmhouse given a battlemented back wall. Over the crossroads, continue south to Maids Moreton, briefly on to the A413, then straight on into the village and to the church which was endowed in the 15th century by the Peover sisters, the maids of the village name. Go west along Church Street and left at the end down a holloway track south to the Stratford Road. Turn right and walk back into Buckingham.

Martin Andrew



ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL



SATURDAY 23 AND SUNDAY 24 JULY OPENS 2 PM ON 23RD

ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE MORRIS DANCERS SILVER BAND AND THE FESTIVAL
BARBECUE AT THE BULL & BUTCHER AT 4.00 p.m.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP ?

SPONSOR ONE OF THE DAYS ACTIVITIES (from £5 to £50 !)

HELP ON THE DAY - If you can help on the day can you ring John Whyte (681685) - even if you only want to turn up for an hour, it all helps.

PICNIC TABLES - Can you let us borrow your picnic table for use outside the Church Room for teas - if so ring Shirley Ford (681865).

PLANTS, FLOWERS, VEGETABLES - URGENT : URGENT : URGENT
Donations required during the week of the festival. Contact Janet Biddle (681102) if you can help.

ANY OTHER VILLAGE ORGANISATION wishing to have a stall please ring John Whyte 681685.

VILLAGE COLLECTION : There will be the usual door by door collection of groceries, bric-a-brac or anything else you care to give on the 17th JULY - PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

RAFFLE PRIZES - if you want to donate a raffle prize
DON'T JUST THINK ABOUT IT DO IT NOW
Ring John Whyte 681685.

RAFFLE TICKETS BUY BUY BUY

BUT ABOVE ALL BE THERE ON THE DAY FETE OPENS AT 2.00 p.m.

COLLECTION FOR ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL WEEKEND IN JULY

Somebody will be calling on Monday 17th July in the early evening to see if you have any items for the following stalls.

Home Produce

Bran Tub

Groceries

Handicrafts

Bric-a-Brac

Please help to make this years festival a special event.

UNKNOWN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The eleven o'clock sung Eucharist in St. Martin's, Fenny Stratford, was an impressive service. The Silence was kept with the celebrant and his servers before the altar, and the procession followed. A moving sermon spoke of the significance of the Armistice being signed on St. Martin's Day—doubly significant to the worshippers in St. Martin's church.

I have made a small note of one of the curious mortars to be fired on St. Martin's Day. There are six of them, of wrought iron, and they are popularly known as "poppers". Poppy Day is always "Poppers' Day" in Fenny Stratford. The firing of these "poppers" was carried out on Monday, November 12th, this year, as St. Martin's Day fell on a Sunday.

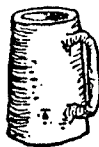
I have sketched the scene in the field by the canal. The "poppers" were loaded with black powder and touched off with a long iron rod (made red-hot at the end with a brazier) by various parishioners in turn. Everyone insisted that the vicar should fire the first shot. And so I watched the extraordinary coincidence of Peace Day being celebrated with a church's artillery.

The two towns of the respective Street Fords, Fenny Stratford and Stony Stratford, are made by the two rivers the Ousel and the Ouse which meet at Newport Pagnell. If you will look again at the map on page 80 you will see that there is a triangle formed by the two rivers with Newport Pagnell at the apex and the Watling Street forming the base.

At both rivers the Roman engineers had to negotiate very marshy and difficult land and their troubles are reflected in the names of these two towns. The low levels of the Ousel could be described as of the Fen or Fenny and the river margins of the Ouse had to be built up into a stone causeway and so the road here is known as Stony.

I have sketched below one of the wrought-iron poppers of Fenny Stratford. I do not think, however, that they were the original artillery used on St. Martin's Day. An old resident of the town told me that on one occasion some real cannon were used for this annual ceremony with most disastrous results. Many windows were broken by the concussion and a panic set in. Some of the inhabitants imagined that a real bombardment had begun. The experiment was never repeated.

EXTRACT FROM "UNKNOWN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE"
BY DONALD MAXWELL (THE BODLEY HEAD).



*This is one of the "poppers".
It is made of wrought
iron & is about a foot
in height. Note the "touch
hole" for firing.*

Observer planning register

new village site
MPs worried by homes plan for village
OR 15 IDENTICAL SAY NO TO ANY MORE BUILDING
MPs George David
housing in ylesbury
application of public opinion against

NOT IN MY BACKYARD

DEVELOPMENT v. PRESERVATION
 COUNTRYSIDE or HOUSING

 A personal view on the current debate about low cost housing by Graham Parker.

THE PROBLEM

Over the last ten years, around half a million people have left the city to sink new roots in the countryside. Most have ended up in red brick estates that circle or 'in-fill' existing villages. Aston Abbots has, up to now, avoided the worst of the village estate developments that have supplied homes for the new rich, fleeing the cities, but we have not escaped the spiralling house prices that are a consequence of the growing pressure on the countryside. The price rises have meant that village property is beyond the reach of the 'real' villagers. They have seen what was, fifteen years ago, still a village built and living off its agricultural roots, change into an extension of commuter land. The resentment felt is understandable, particularly as these 'in-comers', having found their ideal English village, want to do all they can to prevent change. They don't mind development, realising that it is necessary but they don't want it in their back yard ... they have ruined Wingrave already so let the development take place there!

The situation is made worse by the abandonment of any council house building and the selling off of council properties that has reduced the available rented stock to virtually nothing. Expectations have also changed. When I started work I didn't expect to become a part of the property owning classes; today things are rightly very different. Everyone expects to own their home

At the heart of the matter is land, green and pleasant but in short supply. There is no easy solution to the conflict between housing and the countryside. To develop green field sites is to some people the loss of an amenity, the desecration of something that is aesthetically pleasing; to others that argument is absolute cobblers, what they want, what they need is a living, a home, an opportunity to improve their lives. Is it possible to please both sides?

"A COMMUNITY OF STATIC HOMES"

In the present social climate of individual responsibility the weakest generally go to the wall, unless they can band together to fight for their corner of the green and pleasant land. Understandably that is what is happening in Aston Abbots, and who can blame them? The plan to develop a 'village' of twenty static homes around the pond at the top of Longmoor Farm hill is at least imaginative, but is this the right way forward? In my view it is not. To create another focus of settlement between Aston Abbots and Cublington is beginning the process that would inevitably (and before the end of the next decade) result in one linear village. A rural environment will have been changed into a semi-urban, suburban sprawl. Others may see that as progress, I don't. So, is it possible to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the 'Aston Abbots Low Cost Housing Association' without a 'Omar Homes' style development? Well, I believe it is.

THE WAY AHEAD

This is not just an Aston Abbots problem, it's a national problem and mechanisms are

[Continued over page]

in place to tackle the problem. There is advice available from national organisations that detail the steps that need to be taken to build houses for genuine village people who would otherwise be forced to leave. The governments Article 42 has put pressure on local authorities to do all they can to facilitate low cost rural housing by relaxing planning controls on definitions of village boundaries and what does and does not constitute in-fill. I would like to see the Parish Council take the initiative here, work with those already interested and set up a housing association, affiliated to the national organisation, to push for low cost housing units within the village. The sites are there; advice on financial seeding, planning and legal matters is available. All that is needed is the will. There is at the moment a window of opportunity, the relaxation of long held planning principles on village boundaries is there, but only for carefully thought through cases. One hint of speculative adventurism and the old rules will be seen to still apply.

There is another answer of course and that would be compulsory purchase and the building of council houses again, but we don't want to go back to the bad old days, do we ! For all progress there is a cost. To my mind the 'village of static homes' concept is an unnecessary cost, creating a precedent that would lead to cavalier development. Be certain of that; drive a coach and horses through planning regulations on one occasion and it will be done again. The result would be virtual open house speculation, some would be winners, others would invest in their future and find they had lost it all. That is the way of speculative ventures. What is also certain is that open countryside between Aston and Cublington would disappear under a sprawl of development. Maybe it already is maybe the control has already been lost and we should let it all go. I'm not disposed to that view. I hope that those who genuinely want to provide low cost housing for those in need (ie without a home or the means to purchase a home) will join with the Parish Council in working to that end.

LETTERS

Dear Sir

The Association feel it must respond to the vociferous and inaccurate article in the last edition of 'The Chronicle'.

The Association have no intention of forming a Gypsy Site with all the implications that title infers to those who are members of the Association. If the individual in question used local amenities such as the local Village Shop, Post Office, and limited Bus Service, they would have seen that at all these locations there were clearly displayed objectives of the Association and contacts where further information regarding the Association could be obtained.

One of the key objectives amongst the Association's rules is that the environment should be preserved and indeed improved wherever possible, demonstrated by the substantial sum of money being put aside within the terms of our application for outline planning for inter-structure tree planting and landscaping.

Many of those involved within the Association are second and third generation inhabitants of the Village and require no lessons in preserving the character of the Village or the surrounding countryside.

We have intentionally endeavoured to be constructive in our correspondence but it should not hide the considerable anger felt at both the tone and yet again the need for anonymity - if it is worth saying then stand up and say it, but be factual and constructive.

Yours faithfully

ASTON ABBOTS LOW COST
Housing Association



LETTERS

From Roy Edwin Brian Malin
3 Ross Road.

Having read the June issue of the Chronicle regarding 'The Blight of the Countryside' I would like to put things right.

Firstly, whoever wrote the article is incorrect in saying that they was an 'observer' at the May Parish Council meeting. I was the only observer at that meeting and at no time have I written or spoken on this subject. Secondly I must only assume that someone - ie. a member of the Parish council - has put this matter to the so called 'observer'. If this is correct why does this observer not come to the monthly meetings then he or she will get their information direct.

From Denise Ward
Bull & Butcher.

With reference to the article in the June edition regarding a 'Mobile Home' site. I feel it was harsh in its assumption that the site would be occupied by 'gypsy type' residents. Having visited a few 'residential' sites I have found that if properly managed they can be an asset and provide much needed lower priced and manageable accommodation for young and retired couples alike. Correct planning for required facilities and the engaging of an estate manager ensures that standards first set are maintained over the years, such as gardens, accesses, maintenance of the outside of homes etc. Smaller and low cost housing must be provided in all areas but especially in a village, to ensure the continuence of smaller community life, the very element which attract outsiders such as myself. With the lack of Council property available for rent and the escalation in house prices the young of the area have to look outside the village for accommodation. Also when retiring many people find their house too large and look for a move to a more modest plot. Surely these people should be catered for within their own area. If a "Residential Home Village" is the only way then it must be given some consideration BEFORE condemnation. Of course I also sympathise with the problems of preserving the area but if there is nowhere provided for the young to stay, the village may fade away and the closeness which should be maintained will give way to yet another high priced commuter belt area. Furthermore the term ('gypsy encampment' generally seems to carry with it the stigma of dirtyness and litter, which I am sure the majority of real travelling people would take great exception too. A sweeping generalisation on this point should be carefully considered before being expressed.

From L. Hinds
5 Ross Road.

Well, well, well, the anonymous letter rears its ugly head again. I thought this type of letter was over and done with ages ago. Well this time they've gone too far. If the person who wrote the article 'The Blight on our Countryside' had given an ounce of thought as to who they were aiming these cruel remarks to, then I think they might just have been a little kinder. If anonymous had come to myself or Ray Wilkinson and asked us about this project instead of listening to malicious gossip and rumours, they would realise that we are trying to help the locals of Aston Abbotts, Cublington and Wingrave to remain in or near to their relatives and loved ones in these villages. With the price of houses in this village we see so very often rich businessmen and women coming in then selling up making a quick profit never to be seen again - so much for community spirit.

Well, I have lived here all my life and I don't see why I should be shoved out by some rich person trying to make a fast buck at the expense of people like myself. I can assure you that from the huge amount of people who are interested in these types of home not one of them is a gypsy, nor do they ever intend to be one, so that knocks that theory on the head. As for conservation, the area proposed for this project has been especially chosen for its landscaping potential, with the old pond being completely cleaned up, lots and lots of trees being planted and numerous other ways of making the countryside that little bit nicer for us all to enjoy. S please if there were any of you out there taken in by that O.T.T. letter then please spare a thought for people who genuinely want to remain part of this community.

From D.Hinds.

Regarding the article in the June issue 'The Blight on the Countryside'. I would suggest the writer gets his or her facts correct. These Omar Homes are not gypsy caravans, nor are they mobile homes. These are static homes. I think there is a real need for them as my son and daughter had to move out of the village. I fail to see how it will effect the villagers of Aston Abbotts or Cublington.

MORE LETTERS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES



LETTERS

From C. Bandy.

With respect to your article in the Chronicle, we strongly object to being labelled gypsies.

We are all normal hard working citizens, who pay our rates and taxes on time and are looking forward to buying the Omar Homes for a secure future, now and during the retirement years.

So we suggest you get all your facts together before handing out accusations.

From Julie Noble

6 The Green.

I have lived in Aston Abbots sixteen years now. I was born here, but had to move away when I was a young teenager. I loved the village so much I vowed I would one day return. But only am I able to do this by lodging, because for me and most people its impossible to buy a house with the high prices and mortgages.

So I think it is nice to see that some people have taken the time and thought of a way of solving the problem, so that young and old people who have spent a long time in the village they love and call their home, are able to stay, because of these nice homes, which are cheap and very well self-contained.

I think it's unfair to say it would look like a gypsy camp. I've looked at the brochures and spoken to some of the people who are hoping the plans will go ahead. I also hope they do, as I wish them happiness and luck in the village they love.

From Margaret Kent

6 The Green.

If I were one of the people hoping to be able to buy a home in the new plan now being investigated I would feel very insulted to have it referred to as a 'gypsy encampment'. These people are our friends and neighbours in this village and close surroundings and their only hope of being able to afford to set up home in the village they were either born in or have close connections with is to have the chance to buy one of these homes which in actual fact are not mobile at all but static homes. Where I live was once an orchard but the council built our houses here which later on we were lucky enough to be able to purchase. I don't remember a hue and cry when these went up, people realised that young people had a right to stay in the village if they wished. Ours were the last to be built and since then only executive type houses have gone up and so have the prices.

Our young people have no chance of ever being able to afford these and why should they have to leave as so many have had to do? There are certain aspects which would not be desirable but if it is kept to a limited number and for local people I hope it goes ahead and I wish them luck.

From Alan Kempster.

OMAR HOMES

After reading in last months Chronicle about mobile homes and gypsies I think the word mobile is inappropriate because they are not caravans but static homes. After living in the village all my life I think there is a great need for low cost housing, because the price of houses in the village is well out of the reach for many villagers who want to remain part of the village. Such people are being forced to look elsewhere for cheaper homes.

From Linda and David Wheaton.

Dear Anonymous,

Just a short note in reply to your sad, uneducated article in last months Chronicle. We wonder how you could sit down and write about a subject upon which you obviously haven't taken the time to study properly. We would certainly appreciate you coming forward and being shown exactly what is being proposed and finding out that this project is a million miles away from being like a gypsy camp and that it will enable villagers to stay in the village whereas they could not otherwise afford to do so. You are obviously in a position to be able to afford to live quite comfortably in the village but you haven't given very much thought to those who were born here, want to stay here but can't afford to buy property here. Well, here's their chance!

From Miss J. Kempster.

In reply to the 'Blight on our Countryside' article in last months edition; I would be interested to know if the person who wrote it had lived here in the village, as I have, all my life and seen many village people move away to towns because they could not afford the price of houses in the village. I want to stay in Aston Abbots, but where are the houses that I and others like me can afford? In short, there are none. So I may well be taking the advice of the anonymous writer and write to my M.P. and ask him to support this plan for static homes so that I may be able to live where I have always lived, here in Aston Abbots.

STRAW AND STUBBLE BURNING

AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STRAW AND STUBBLE BURNING BYELAWS, 1984

EXTENT OF BYELAWS

1. These byelaws shall extend to all parts of the area of the Aylesbury Vale District Council.

RESTRICTIONS ON BURNING

2. No person shall, on agricultural land, commence to burn any straw or stubble remaining on such land after the harvesting of any cereal crop which has been grown thereon, or knowingly cause or permit the commencement of burning of such straw or stubble at any time -

- (a) during the period beginning one hour before sunset and ending at sunrise; or
- (b) on any Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday.

3. No person shall commence to burn or knowingly cause or permit the commencement of burning of such straw or stubble unless the area in which it is intended to burn such straw or stubble is more than 150 metres from any other area where such straw or stubble is being burned.

4. (1) No person shall commence to burn or knowingly cause or permit the commencement of burning of any area of such straw or stubble unless that area -

- (a) does not exceed 10 hectares; and
- (b) is bounded on all sides and at every place where the area to be burned must be distanced from any point or object in accordance with sub-paragraphs (c) and (d) below by a firebreak not less than 5 metres in width; and
- (c) is not less than 15 metres from -
 - (i) the trunk of any tree;
 - (ii) any hedgerow;
 - (iii) any fence not belonging to the occupier of land upon which the straw or stubble is to be burned the greater part of which is constructed of combustible material;
 - (iv) any pole which is or may be used to carry telegraph wires; and
- (d) is not less than 25 metres from -
 - (i) any residential building;
 - (ii) any structure having a thatched roof;
 - (iii) any building, structure, fixed plant or machinery the greater part of which is constructed of combustible material or glass or both;
 - (iv) any scheduled monument the greater part of which is constructed of combustible material;
 - (v) any stack of hay or straw;
 - (vi) any accumulation of combustible material other than straw removed in the construction of a firebreak;
 - (vii) any standing cereal, oil seed or pulse crop;
 - (viii) any woodland or nature reserve.

(2) Any straw which is -

- (a) between any object from which the area to be burned must be distanced in accordance with sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph (1) above and any firebreak; and
- (b) within 15 metres of the area to be burned

shall so far as is reasonably practicable be removed to a distance of not less than 25 metres from such object or incorporated into the soil prior to the commencement of burning.

(3) Any straw which is -

- (a) between any object from which the area to be burned must be distanced in accordance with sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph (1) above and any firebreak; and
- (b) within 25 metres of the area to be burned.

shall so far as is reasonably practicable be removed or incorporated into the soil prior to the commencement of burning.

5. (1) No person who has commenced to burn or knowingly caused or permitted the commencement of burning of such straw or stubble shall without reasonable excuse cause or permit (whether knowingly or not) a fire to cross a firebreak to any area where burning has not otherwise been commenced.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the words "reasonable excuse" within paragraph (1) above, it shall be a reasonable excuse within that paragraph if a person shows that the construction of the firebreak was such that he could not reasonably have foreseen that the fire would travel across it.

6. No person shall burn or knowingly cause or permit the burning of any area of such straw or stubble unless during the whole time the material is burning the operation is under the supervision of at least two responsible persons present at the burning of that area, of whom one is in charge of the operation and is experienced in the burning of straw and stubble.

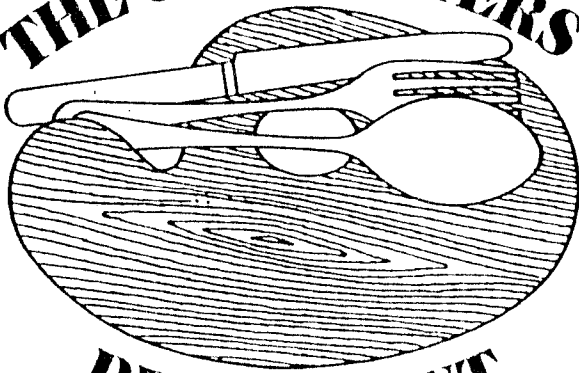
7. No person shall commence to burn or knowingly cause or permit the commencement of burning of such straw or stubble on any day unless not less than one hour's notice has been given on that day to, if available, such Officer of the Aylesbury Vale District as the Council may appoint for the purpose of receiving such notice.

8. No person shall, without reasonable excuse, burn or knowingly cause or permit the burning of any area of such straw or stubble unless during the whole of the time the material is burning the following means for fighting fire are available at the burning of that area, that is to say -

- (a) not less than 500 litres of water in one or more mobile containers together with a means of dispensing the water for firefighting purposes; and
- (b) not less than five implements suitable for use for firebeating purposes.

9. The occupier of the land on which such straw or stubble has been burned shall not, without reasonable excuse, permit any ash or carbonised residues, not incorporated into the soil of the land, to remain for a period of more than 36 hours after the commencement of the burning on an area on which straw or stubble has been burned.

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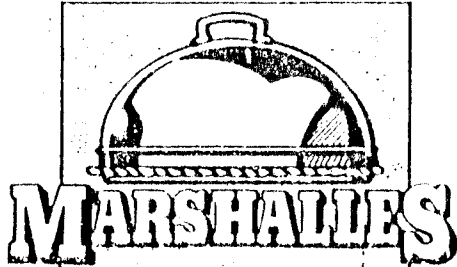
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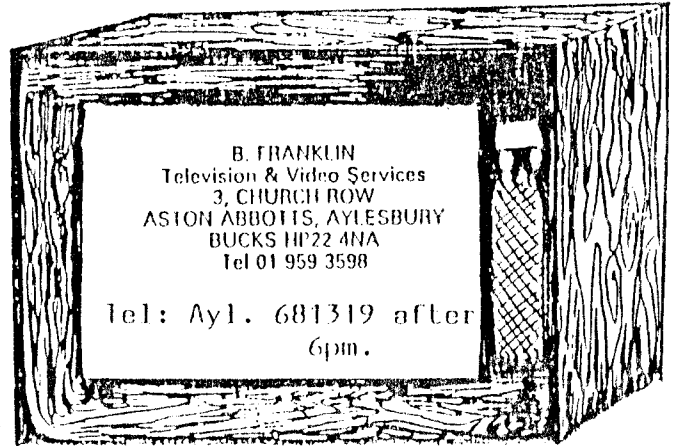


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Famous sailor leaves his stamp on village

Antarctic explorer, discoverer of the North Magnetic Pole. Born in London 15th April 1800, died in Aston Abbotts 1862.



Most handsome man in the navy

■ The 3p stamp which was struck to mark the achievements of Sir James Ross.

JAMES CLARK ROSS

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Ross was one of those lucky people, 'born with a silver spoon in his mouth', who seemed to have everything; wealth, ability and good looks.

One of eight children he entered the navy at the age of 12 under the patronage of his uncle Capt. (later Sir) John Ross and accompanied him on his first arctic voyage in search of the North-West Passage in 1818. Between 1819 and 1827 James Ross sailed with Parry on his four arctic expeditions before again joining his uncle in the polar expedition that was privately sponsored by Sir Felix Booth. At one stage this expedition was given up for lost but eventually returned in triumph, Ross finding his place in history by being the man to plant the British flag on the North Magnetic Pole in 1831. "Guided by scientific skill, and insensible to the appalling fatigue and privations by the way, he conducted his gallant party to that point where they saw the needle deflected downwards right into the bosom of the earth. Playful as was the record mirthfully 'sung out' on the occasion, it was sufficient to fix an immortal name on -

Sir James Clark Ross, the first whose sole
Stood upon the North magnetic Pole!"

While at home in 1834, after the hardships of his exploits in the Arctic, Ross met and fell in love with the then 17 year old Ann Coulman. Forbidden to see her Ross returned to sea and spent the next four years making a magnetic survey of Britain and Ireland. Then on the 8th April 1839 he was appointed to the command of an expedition that was to study the earth's magnetic field in the Southern Ocean.

For this he was given first class war-ships, the *Erebus* and *Terror*, specially strengthened for work in the ice. He was also given first class equipment and stores, and hand-picked crews. Indeed it would be hard to imagine a better-found expedition than that which sailed from the Medway in Kent in the autumn of 1839.

Ross had been in the Southern Ocean almost a year when he heard that French and American expeditions in the same area were investigating reports that land had been sighted beyond the Antarctic Circle. He decided that his orders were sufficiently flexible for him to investigate too. In the Arctic Ross had often sought advice from the people who had local knowledge: the Eskimos. Now in the Antarctic he did the same. He listened to the gossip of sealers, who told him that round about longitude 180° a lagoonlike strip of water was believed to exist beyond the pack-ice. Ross decided, with his specially strengthened ships, to try to break through the pack and explore this open water beyond.

Uncle John was a man of no mean achievement himself as this extract from the Britannica shows:

ROSS, SIR JOHN (1777-1856), Scottish rear admiral and arctic explorer, whose second arctic expedition in search of a northwest passage made important contributions to oceanography, was born on June 24, 1777, at Balsarroch near Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Scot. He entered the Royal Navy in 1786 and fought in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, during which he captained the Swedish fleet. In 1818 he made his first arctic expedition on which he failed to discover much that was new; but in 1829-33 he made a second, surveying Boothia peninsula, King William Land and the Gulf of Boothia, and achieved important results. In 1850 he undertook a third voyage in unsuccessful search of Sir John Franklin and in 1851 he became a rear admiral. Ross died in London on Aug. 30, 1856.

As *Erebus* and *Terror* headed into what is now known as the Ross Sea, the feeling of their crew was summed up by the flagship's doctor, Robert McCormick: "Our future promises to be full of interest, for we may soon make great discoveries in a region of our globe fresh as at creation's dawn." But on January 2nd, 1841, the ships were brought up short by pack-ice.

It stretched in front of them as far as the eye could see: a field of white, solid at the edge but with occasional leads of open water inside it. The ships sailed back and forth, searching for somewhere to enter; but there seemed to be no gap in the ice. Ross took a chance. He ran full-tilt at the ice. Again and again the bow of the *Erebus* smashed into the edge of the pack-ice. An ordinary ship would have been stove-in; but after about an hour's hard thumping the *Erebus* and *Terror* managed to force their way into some small patches of open water. "From here," wrote Ross, "we pursued our way through the pack, choosing the clearest 'leads' and forcing the interposing barriers, at times sustaining violent shocks which only ships specially strengthened could have endured." By nightfall they had penetrated many kilometres into the ice.

Antarctica, however, was not to yield its secrets easily.

Next day the ice closed up and thickened, and *Erebus* and *Terror* became frozen in. Then the weather worsened; the swell steepened and widened, the wind increased to a full hurricane, the pack split up, and great waves thick with solid blocks of ice came sweeping down on the imprisoned ships. Again and again miniature icebergs weighing many tonnes crashed into the storm-tossed vessels. *Erebus*'s rudder was split, and the sheathing was ripped from the ship's hull. *Terror* lost its rudder completely, and almost sank. Ross thought their last moment had come. But the storm was too violent to last; after twelve hours of terror the wind dropped, and the damaged vessels were able to limp for shelter behind a line of icebergs. As soon as they had made some much-needed repairs, they renewed their progress through the ice, which had been broken-up by the storm. On January 8th they became the first ships in history to break through the pack-ice into the open water beyond. The way to the continent lay open.

Robert McCormick wrote: "Monday, January 11th. At 2.30 a.m. land was reported from the crow's nest. It appeared at first indistinctly through haze and light cloud . . . but by 9 a.m. the coast was sufficiently well defined for me to get a sketch. It extended from S.E. to S.W., very high and enveloped in snow. The upper part appeared to be a glaciation, relieved at intervals by the apex (summit) of some dark peak. It soon became clear that we had discovered a new land so extensive and attaining such altitude as to justify the appellation (name) of a Great New Southern Continent."

It was indeed a great new continent which now unfolded in front of Ross's eyes. All day he sailed towards it, marvelling at the grandeur of the mountains, the dazzling white of the snow, the brilliance of the light, and the silence that hung over his advancing ships. Next morning he made a landing.

It was an incongruous ceremony. The officers were in full dress uniform. The boats

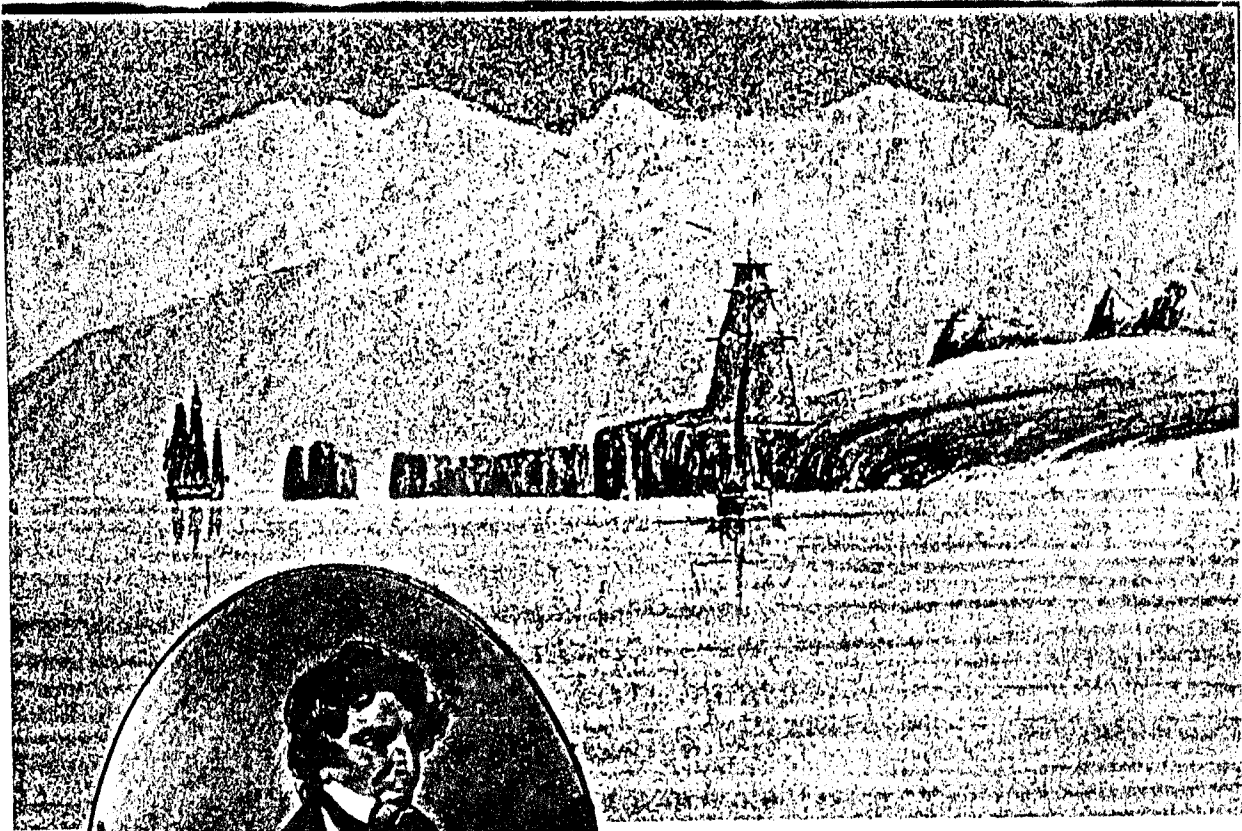
almost capsized in the heavy swell. Penguins "opposed the landing with raucause cries". Eventually, however, the British flag was raised, and Ross took possession of the newly discovered continent. This was the first fully documented landing on Antarctica.

For several weeks *Erebus* and *Terror* followed the coastline south, from a distance of only five or six hundred metres. All previous explorers had seen Antarctica only from a distance, from *outside* the pack-ice. Ross and his crew were the first people to be able to appreciate the continent's splendour at close range, from *inside* the pack. And on 15th January they were greeted by a scene of the utmost grandeur: a great chain of mountains, many of them over 3,000 metres high, stretching south in an unbroken sweep from sea to sky.

Ross's next discovery was even more spectacular. "January 28th," (writes McCormick) "we were startled to see a stupendous volcanic mountain in a high state of activity. At 10 a.m., upon going on deck, my attention was arrested by what appeared to be a fine snowdrift, driving from the summit of a lofty crater-shaped peak. As we made a nearer approach, however, this apparent snowdrift resolved itself into a dense column of smoke, intermingled with flashes of red flame, emerging from a magnificent volcanic vent, in the very centre of a mountain range encased in eternal ice and snow. This peak, which rises to an altitude of 12,400 feet, (3,780 metres) was named after our ship, Mount Erebus."

The following day Ross made another great discovery. To the south-east of Mount Erebus his path was blocked not by a coastline, but by a perpendicular wall of solid ice: a barrier smooth as marble, apparently unending, and three times the height of the ship's mast. "It presented an extraordinary appearance (writes Ross) seeming gradually to increase in height as we got nearer, and proving to be a perpendicular cliff of ice, about 200 feet (60 metres) high, perfectly flat at the top and without any fissures or promontories on its seaward face. What lay beyond it we could not imagine . . . but we knew we might as well try to sail through the cliffs of Dover as penetrate such a mass." He had discovered one of the eight natural wonders of the world: the ice-barrier which bears his name.

Ross followed the Ice Shelf east for 400 kilometres, searching for somewhere to spend the winter. However, it grew loftier and, if possible, even more forbidding. There was no flaw in its defences, no gap into which his ships could squeeze. Eventually, with fresh ice beginning to form on the sea, Ross was obliged to haul away to the north, and to try once again to force his way through the pack. He had a dangerous passage, at one point nearly being dashed to pieces against a chain of icebergs; but eventually he fought his way clear, and set course for Tasmania.

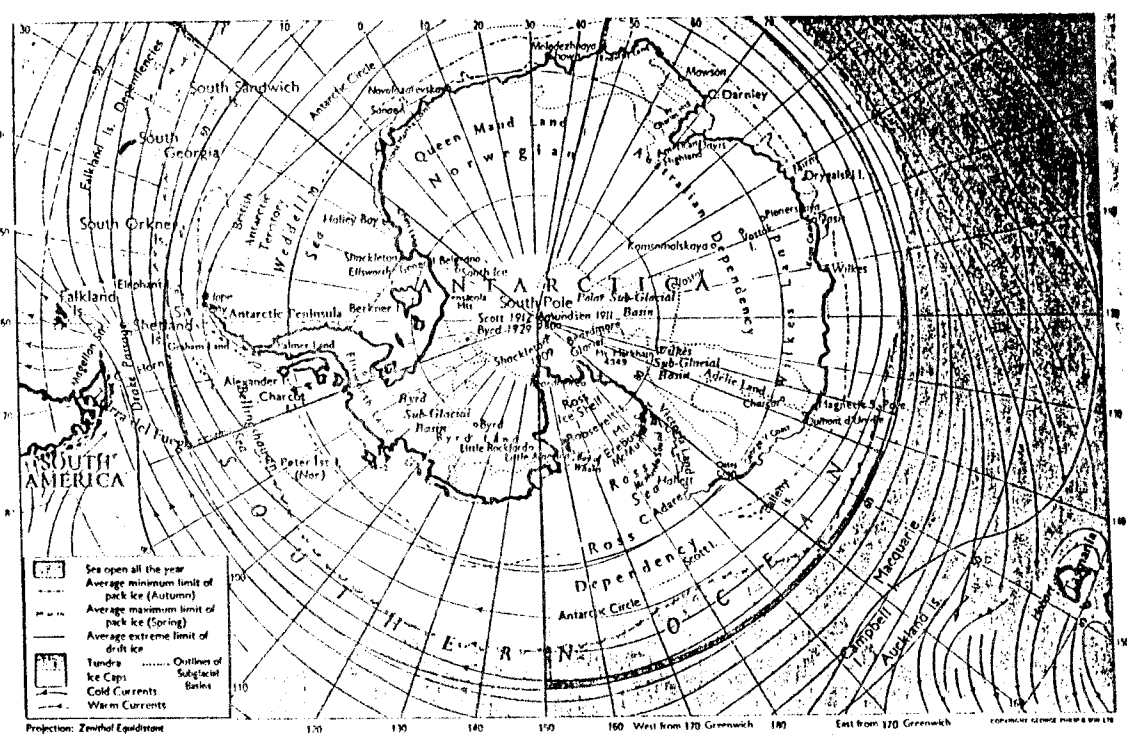


Left: the British explorer James Clark Ross. Above: a painting by J. E. Davis of the first sighting of the Ice Shelf by Ross's ships Erebus and Terror.

Not till the autumn of 1843 did *Erebus* and *Terror* return to England, having been away for 4 years and 5 months. This was one of the longest and most successful expeditions in the history of the Royal Navy.

Ross's achievements are, deservedly, well-known. Seas, ice shelves, capes and mountains are named after him.

[Extract from: Exploring Antarctica by Ian Cameron: Longmans 1984.]



[Continued over page]

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Upon his return to England Ross fulfilled a long cherished ambition - on October 18th 1843, at Wadworth Parish Church, he married Ann Coulman, the girl he had been forbidden to see nearly a decade earlier. They first went to live in Blackheath, but then set up home at Aston House (now the Abbey) in Aston Abbotts. The couple were devoted to one another and in the years that followed they had four children, a girl and three boys. Living quietly at Aston, Ross devoted his time to writing his book about his antarctic discoveries. Now and again this rural idyll would be disturbed by friends and relatives dropping by and in May 1846 Ann's parents Thomas and 'J' Coulman came for a brief visit. What follows are extracts from the diary kept by Thomas Coulman during his stay at Aston House.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20th 1846

J and I left home taking the rails at Swinton, first to Derby where we lunched, then to Rugby, where I had some difficulty in getting the Station Master to allow the train ... to stop at Leighton, the station to get to Aston House, where Capt. Ross and Anne have now lived for about twelve months. A carriage was waiting for us there, and we reached Aston by 7 O'clock, just a quarter of an hour after they have got down to dinner. Captain Bird, an old shipmate of Ross's ... was visiting them at that time.

MAY 22nd ASTON

The surrounding country is extremely beautiful and productive ... Today we took a drive into the town of Aylesbury by way of Weedon

SATURDAY MAY 23rd

In the afternoon we took a drive through Wing to Stewkley, the Church at the latter place is very ancient with Saxon arches and a large solid square tower, but greatly disfigured by what appears to be universal in the villages in this part of the country, by white or yellow wash. From there we drove to Dunton, Hoggston and Cublington. Small villages where there is nothing worth seeing. The country was pretty, but not so rich as what we saw yesterday. Neither yesterday or today have we passed a single country gentlemen's seat, nor are any to be seen in any of the numerous fine views we have had both yesterday and today, good society therefore must be chiefly confined to the clergy.

SUNDAY MAY 24th

We were all at Aston Abbotts Church this morning which like the others we have seen is very small, having no side aisles, and is also spoiled by plaster and colour washing on the outside. The Service consisted only of prayer in the morning with full duty in the afternoon and was very nicely done by the Vicar, the Revd. Mr. Strong. It was quite delightful to see every pew occupied in the afternoon.

MAY 25th

After lunch we took a drive by Hardwick to Whitchurch, Ovin, Pitchcote, and Quainton and home by Cublington. The drive was not only as beautiful as either of the other two we have taken, but had this novelty, that we passed the Lillies, the seat of Lord Nugent, a cousin of the Duke of Buckingham and at Ovin the seat of Sir Thomas Aubrey, where Captain Ross made a call.

TUESDAY MAY 26th

After breakfast an hour earlier than usual, we along with Ross, Bird and Beverley [Rector of Hardwick], started for Wootton, a seat of the Duke of Buckingham, a distance of 17 miles. Ann did not accompany us, thinking the fatigue would be too great for her, in her present situation.... The grounds (at Wootton) are very extensive and thickly wooded with some magnificent timber, one old oak, in particular exceeds. I think anything even at Welbeck and from spanning it, I think it will be nearly 20 feet

in circumference at 5ft from the ground. The walks in the grounds exceed in extent any I can remember having seen, nor do I know any place where there are finer sheets of water.

Whilst we two were exploring as far as J could manage to walk, the other three were enjoying excellent sport in pike fishing they caught nine very fine fish of 3 or 4 lbs weight each, being what the head keeper (a very dandyish sort of consequential personage) said he had never before seen done. The grounds are full of game as the ponds are of fish, for we saw pheasants, hares and partridges in abundance. Under nets beyond the flower garden were the now very scarce bird the Caperkailzie or Cock of the Wood, whose plumage was most beautiful particularly when he spread his tail, and the Canada goose, a beautiful specimen. On the lakes and ponds are a great many trumpet swan, ducks and other wild fowl.....

MAY 27th

Ross, Bird and I walked over to Wingrave this morning, a village about 1½ miles from Aston.....

MAY 28th

Ross being engaged in correcting some proof sheets of his long delayed works of his Antarctic voyages, Capt. Bird and I took a walk both morning and afternoon in the fields, in order to avoid the heat and dust of the roads and looked into two large stable, one of which was a sad forlorn looking place, built of wood and thatched, as most of them appear to be, the other being built of brick and slated and the best looking I have seen. Three men were milking 35 cows and we were told they have some times as many as 70, all for butter which is sent to the London market, where the Aylesbury butter commands a better price than any other. This is quite a dairy country, apparently scarcely growing corn sufficient to supply them with straw for bedding and thatching. the fields are very large and the herbage excellent, twenty, thirty, forty and fifty cows are frequently in the possession of a farmer here - they have a mixed breed - short horns - Herefords and others. The hay harvest is just beginning.

MAY 29th and 30th

Nothing new explored, the weather being too hot to walk any distance.

MAY 31st

Being Whit Sunday we went to church with James and Ann ... a Mr Gall, the Curate, did the duty and after dined with us.

This quiet rural life of the Ross' was disrupted a few years later by a request for Capt Ross to command an expedition to search for Sir John Franklin who had taken Ross's 'Erebus' and 'Terror' to find the North-West Passage. Ross refused as he had promised Ann that his expedition days were over, but eventually he relented and during 1849-9 he joined the search for Franklin.

He returned to Aston House and continued with his writing, but was devastated by the death of his wife on the 25th January 1857. Ross fell into repeated depressions making only partial efforts to shake off the despondency for the sake of his children. He tried to find relief in renewal of his scientific interests and even went out to join the Ordnance Survey, but he soon returned to his desolate home, became ill and died at the age of 62, being buried beside his wife in Aston Abbots church yard.

After his death Aston House was sold but much remains in the village to keep his memory alive; not only his tomb in the churchyard but Ross Road and the two islands in the lake at the Abbey named after the ships Ross took to the Antarctic 'Erebus' and 'Terror'. In addition the east window of the Church is dedicated to the memory of Sir James Clark Ross , one of the nations greatest sons.

Graham Parker.

CHURCH NEWS

I expect most people already know that the Reverend ROBERT WILLMOTT, at present Vicar of Tingewick, is to be our new Rector. When I met him I was struck by a man who immediately understood how we feel sometimes, that we haven't really 'got' a rector. He suggested that it was important to walk about the village so, hopefully, this autumn after his installation (which will probably be in mid-September) we will see him and have the chance to chat and get to know our spiritual leader. [The Rev. Willmott introduces himself to you all on the next page].



ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ASTON ABBOTIS, BUCKS.

Last month I wrote about the gate (now fitted) and window guards (now fitted) and the wall (soon to be done). We also now have a seat in the churchyard. Thank you to everyone involved but particularly to my fellow Churchwarden Len, who is untiring in his so-called retirement in giving time and energy to the Church in so many ways.

Don't forget
SONGS OF PRAISE JULY 23rd at 6 p.m.
Peter Dines.
Sidesman.

CHURCH & CHAPEL SERVICES FOR JULY

- JULY 2nd. : FAMILY SERVICE IN THE METHODIST CHAPEL.
- JULY 9th. : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. John Ford.
Pentecost 7: 1 Corinthians 12.27-13end 669 Matthew 18.21-end.
CHAPEL 6.00p.m. Mrs Joy Wadsworth.
- JULY 16th. : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Colin Higgs.
Pentecost 8: Galatians 5(16-25) 674 John 15.16-end.
CHAPEL 6.00p.m. at Weedon David Neville.
- JULY 23rd. : SONGS OF PRAISE 6.00 p.m. Churchwardens.
- JULY 30th. : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Alison Ford.
Pentecost 10: Philippians 2(1-11) 685 John 13.1-15.

CHURCH & CHAPEL SERVICES FOR AUGUST ON NEXT PAGE.



LETTERS

From Sharon Wiggett.

To Whom it may concern,
 Regarding your article in the June issue 'The Blight on our Countryside', I for one know only too well how hard it is to get a council house in the village you were born in and lived in all your life. I had to move out of the village, like so many others that would have liked to stay, because they couldn't afford a mortgage, or there wasn't a council house available. There were ten of us in my parents house, we slept on the floor, my baby in a pram, before we were allocated a council house. Where are the new council houses being built in Aston Abbotts for the next generation of young people that would like to stay in the village they grew up in? Yes, I say there is a need for Omar Homes in this village for people who can't afford mortgages. I am very much afraid its another case of 'I'm all right Jack'. Further to you regarding Omar Homes as a gypsy encampment I would suggest you take a look at the brochure or better still see the real thing.

From Michelle Hinds
 Ross Road.

After reading the article in the June issue about the blight on the countryside, I felt I just had to write and express my views on this subject.
 I have lived in the village all my life and as a young mother I think the idea of a community of static homes is the best chance I'll ever have of owning my own home. I

" NEIGHBOURLY CHRONICLE "

Maybe delivered in haste
 Still a chronicle of taste
 Portraits, reviews and views,
 Ads and Church News.

If a chronicle is a summary
 Of events in time order
 Why does it make such good fodder
 For parkrays, agas, skips and
 Mrs Mangle's cackle in the B & B.

They say Soulbury has no soul
 Yet Aston Abbotts boasts no Abbott
 But more news from afar

Of Mrs Mangle's ghost driving across
 the Green in a car
 Such manifestations of antipodean soap
 With the dilema we all must daily face
 Well neighbours can you cope?
 Why did they build Aston Abbotts on
 top of a slope?

Chorus

Beware the village larker
 On sultry nights the loudest barker
 Around every corner a nosey parker.

Andy Soly

have been on the council housing list for the last year and I have been told that it will be at least another two years before I'm even considered as a candidate for a house.

I really love this village and don't ever want to move away. So this is an ideal opportunity for me to stay living in this wonderful village. I

CHURCH & CHAPEL SERVICES FOR AUGUST

	<u>Sidesman</u>
6th. AUGUST : FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 a.m. Pentecost 13: Acts 7(54-Acts 8. 1) John 16 (1-11) CHAPEL : FAMILY SERVICE at Parish Church.	Sarah Lovell
13th. AUGUST : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Pentecost 14: Ephesians 5(25-64) Mark 10(2-16) CHAPEL : 6.00 p.m. with Mrs F. Mann.	John Ford.
20th. AUGUST : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Pentecost 15: Romans 13(1-7) Matthew 22(15-22) CHAPEL : 6.00 p.m. at Weedon.	Colin Higgs.
27th. AUGUST : HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 a.m. Pentecost 16: Romans 12 (9-end) Luke 10(25-37) CHAPEL : 6.00 p.m. at Oving.	Alison Ford.

OUR NEW RECTOR INTRODUCES HIMSELF

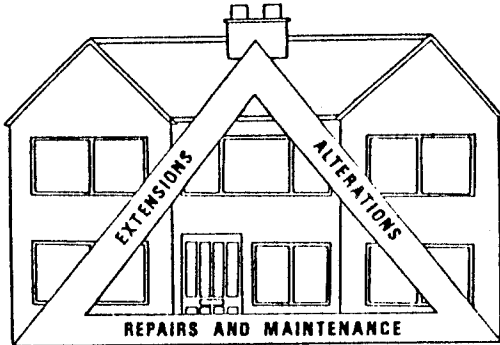
So now you know that I am to be your new Rector - and I expect you are wondering what I am like.

I am in my late 40's. I am married to Penny, and we have four children. Nigel, the eldest, will be 21 this summer. He has recently finished an engineering apprenticeship and lives with a friend in Buckingham. Sue is 19. She is working as a nursery nurse with a family in London at the moment, but comes home most weekends. Ruth, our middle girl, is 17 and "musical". Studying for her A-levels at Bloxham, she hopes eventually to be a music teacher. Jane, last but not least, will be 16 at Christmas. She will be sitting her GCSE exams at the Royal Latin School, Buckingham next Summer. Penny works for Wedgewood and was, until the disastrous fire earlier this year, Manageress of the Waterford Wedgewood Room in Dickins and Jones, Milton Keynes. At present she is acting as Relief Manageress - in Reading for the time being. I was educated at Tiffin Boys School, Kingston on Thames, and before studying for the Ministry at Lichfield Theological College worked as a draughtsman in the Signal Department of British Railways (Southern Region). I was ordained in 1968 and served my first Curacy at St. George's, Perry Hill (near Catford on the S. Circular Road). In 1971 I came to Bucks to serve a a second Curacy at Denham. I have been in Tingewick since 1976. I look after three parishes: one large (Tingewick) and two small (Radclive cum Chackmore and Water Stratford). These are part of the Buckingham Group Ministry - one of only a very few Group Ministries in the country that cover a whole Deanery.

There! That should be enough to be going on with. After all, if I tell you everything, you will have nothing to find out for yourselves!

BOB WILLMOTT.

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With Thanks

There are so many people to thank that it is difficult to know where to start. What keeps a village magazine alive is the willingness of people to contribute, in one way or another. Looking back over past issues I have tried to identify everyone who has in some contributed to The Chronicle by providing an article, sketch, letter, advert or whatever. The list is impressive:

Ruth & Don Bellingham.
Betty Bennett.
Peter Knight.
John & Dee Whyte.
David, Helen & Ruth Watts.
Bryan Round.
Reg Keen.
Jean Keighley.
Terry Doel.
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the Green
View From The Corner of
the Bar

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Colin Higgs & Peter Dines,
who have never missed an
issue.

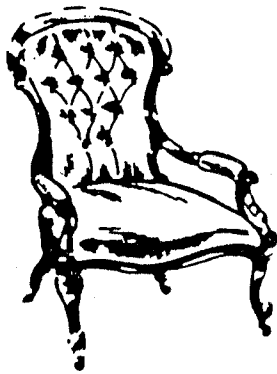
Bridget & Chris Brandon,
who have contributed to
almost every issue
Andy Bystra for his covers.

TO YOU ALL MY THANKS,

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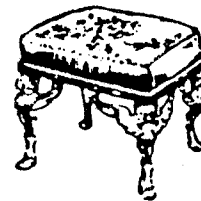
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