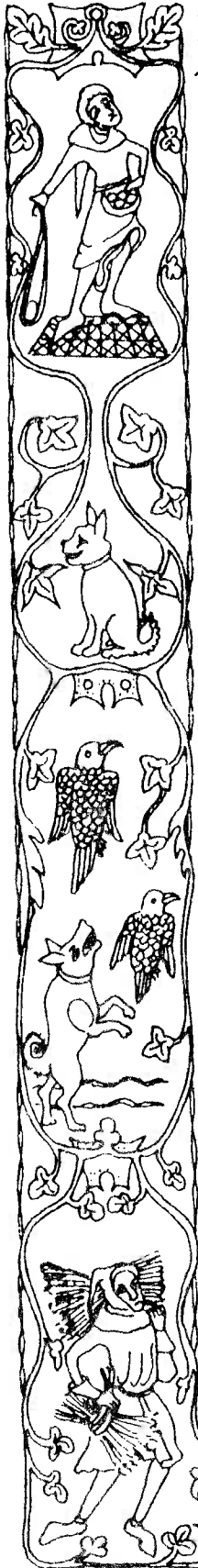


The Chronicle

Parish Magazine for Aston Abbotts



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



December No. 74



Editorial

Someone told me recently that the News of the World had described Aston Abbotts as a 'sleepy little Bucks village'. Or was it 'leafy'? I forget. Anyway, leafy it may be, sleepy it isn't - it's felt like Piccadilly Circus this month, what with wall-to-wall Volvos and BMWs for the Abbey sale, followed by helicopters and punch-ups. The attempted sabotage of the Old Berk(e)ley Beagles put Aston on the front page of two local papers and even made the nationals. Selection included. I missed it all, but it sounds like there were some ugly and frightening scenes. I must confess to sitting on the fence over blood sports. Year after year in Yorkshire I watched the happy chaos of the Bilsdale Hunt meet in our village, secure in the knowledge that the foxes nearly always got away. Now I'm not so sure. What do other people think?

It was rather a surprise to hear that the Abbey is back on the market again, together with some of the estate houses. I see that Mr Rotherham has assured the Press that only the untenanted houses are to be sold. Some reassurance amid a lot of uncertainty.

Last but not least - Happy Christmas to all!

Caroline Lane

The January issue will be available around the 7th. Please let us have items for it by Friday 29th Dec - earlier if possible! Please bring or send articles, letters, and information to us at 2 Church Row, or telephone 681373.

Published by Caroline Lane and Gordon Smith
Printed by the SQUIRREL PRESS at Waddesdon School
Distributed free to all households in the Parish of Aston Abbotts



INFO

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- Sunday 3rd: Rambling Club members meet at Whipsnade, 2 pm
- Monday 4th: Aston Abbots Toddlers, Church Room, 10.30 am - 12
- Wednesdays 6th & 20th: Mobile library, The Green 2-2.30 pm
Longmoor 2.35-2.50 pm
- Thursday 7th: Bingo, Church Room, 7.30 pm
- Thursday 14th: Ladies' Club Carol Service, Cublington, 2.45pm
- Friday 15th: Parish Council Meeting, Church Room, 8 pm
- Saturday 16th: Christmas Bingo, Church Room, 7.30 pm
- Thursdays^{14th &} 21st: Whist Drive, Church Room, 7.30 pm
- Monday 18th: Toddlers' Christmas Party, Church Room, 11.30 am - 1pm
- Wednesdays, 8 pm: Fish & Chip van, opposite Bull & Butcher

JANUARY

- Friday 5th Parish Council Meeting, Church Room, 8 pm
- Monday 8th Aston Abbots Toddlers, Church Room, 2.30 - 4 pm (please note new time)
- Thursday 11th: Whist Drive, Church Room, 7.30 pm

ASTON ABBOTS TODDLERS

We have had two successful fundraising events: a social evening and an Usborne Books party, raising over £40 between them. Thanks to all who helped and spent! Sorry about driving you away to the Bull & Butcher, John. As from January we shall be meeting on alternate Monday afternoons, instead of mornings (see above).

CHRISTMAS SHOW

At the time of writing there were still a handful of tickets left for Friday (8th Dec). Enquiries to John on 681685.

THANKS

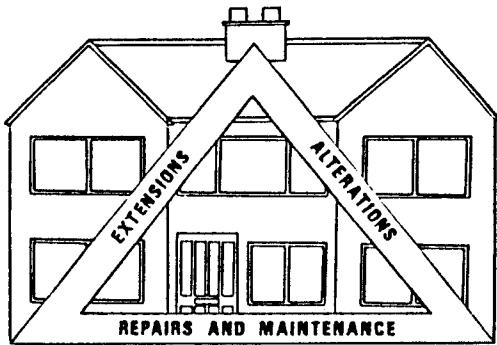
to John Ford and Tony Hewitt for organising the Bonfire and fireworks; also to those who did the food and contributed items to the display. A good warm blaze!

SUNDAY STROLL

ASTON Abbots Rambling Club met at their Village Green for a Sunday afternoon autumn stroll, led by the press secretary Colin Higgs.

The route was via The Grove and the bridlepath to Badgers Brook, then along the Whitchurch road, returning via Norduck Farm for tea in the Church Room.

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UPDATE



Whist helps church

ST James' Parish Church at Aston Abbots benefited from a Friday whist drive held in Cheddington Village Hall.

Eleven tables were in play at this successful event and Eric Keable was M.C.

Winners were: 1 Mr. Eric Shardlow, 2 Mr. G. Butler, 3 Mrs. D. Gomme, 4 Mr. W. Hogg, 5 Mr. J. Gell, 6 Mr. D. Waite, 7 Mrs. M. MacTaggart, mystery prizes Mrs. R. Butler and Mrs. Dimmock.

Raffle winners were:- Mr. C. Higgs, Mr. P. Badrick, Mrs. R. Barber, Mrs. V. Sanders, Mr. R. Smith, Mrs. D. Evans, Mr. J. Barber, Mrs. J. Budge, Mrs. Dimmock and Mrs. D. Gomme.

Gloomy warning on Bucks poll tax

THE community charge for Buckinghamshire people will not be known until January, a county council chief has said.

But Cllr Henry Powell-Shedden says the latest government poll tax estimates fall short of the true picture.

Chairman of the county council Policy and Resources Committee, Cllr Powell-Shedden says that the council, this year, is spending just over one per cent above the level of the government's assumptions.

He says the latest government figures are "many millions of pounds less" than the government assessment of the council's need.

The government figures also do not take into account loss on collection, the safety net arrangements or the 7.5 per cent pay increase for teachers — the largest proportion of the Bucks workforce.

Mr Powell-Shedden said: "The council is fully alive to the concerns of Buckinghamshire people about the level of the community charge and will endeavour to maintain a reasonable balance between the standard of services which Buckinghamshire people want us to provide and their ability to pay for them."

You may have seen recent Government estimates of poll tax - suggesting £240 for people in Aylesbury Vale. However....

SORRY

to Neil & Margaret Chesher and Roy Malin for mixing up the telephone numbers in last month's Parish Council list.

Problems with the drains and dustmen

THE dustmen have not been calling regularly in Aston Abbots and the village's parish council has complained about it.

Problems were raised at the November meeting by Cllrs John Ford and Roy Malin, who said the irregular refuse collection inconvenienced householders who had to put their rubbish sacks out before going to work. They asked for the specific day and time to be made known

Councillors noted the flooding problem at the A418 junction had now

been attend to and storm gulleys had been reinstated in Wingrave Road.

But road and footpath surfaces were still awaiting repairs following the laying of gas mains, and Clerk Mrs Margaret Chesher was asked to write to Bucks County Council, requesting storm drains be cleared of fallen leaves.

Improved street lighting around the Green had been well received, with only three residents dissatisfied about the new orange-type lights. Cllr Richard Speakman was asked to contact Value Electrics to get all lamps working on the same periods.

Chairman Colin Higgs reported that timekeeping of local buses has now improved on certain journeys which had often operated late. And another firm had also introduced additional Saturday journeys to Aylesbury and Leighton Buzzard.

I also complained - a bit late - about the orange lights. Margaret explained that white ones are no longer being made. CL

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Colin Higgs (Chairman)
6 Wingrave Rd 681343
John Ford 2 Ross Rd 681865
Richard Speakman
79 The Green 681042
Bryan Round 11 Nup End Lane,
Wingrave 681621
Roy Malin 3 Ross Rd 681358

CLERK: Margaret Chesher
20 The Green 681201

Cash help for village projects

IF YOUR village is keen to start a new project, it could be helped by an initial grant of up to £100.

Cash is offered by Bucks Council for Voluntary Service's Village Projects Fund to help communities of 6,000 inhabitants or less with schemes varying from community transport to environmental work, from village newsletters to facilities for the old and young.

The fund has recently handed over grants to four Bucks villages to help with a football club, village newsletter, parish council and the production of a village appraisal.

The panel meets again in January, so if you think your village project justifies some cash help with a new project, contact Catherine Hinton at BCVS, Walton House, Walton Street, Aylesbury on Aylesbury 21036.



BUSES

Commencing Saturday 9th December additional buses will operate as under.

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS

			*	*		
Aylesbury	7.11	8.17	8.50	12.38	4.00	5.50
A. Abbotts	7.35	8.35	9.12	1.02	4.24	6.14
L. Buzzard	7.57	9.00	9.43	1.27	4.49	6.39
M. Keynes			10.20	2.13		

			Through bus		*	Through bus
M. Keynes			10.35		1.25	4.50
L. Buzzard	7.28	9.05	11.15	1.35	2.30	5.40
A. Abbotts	7.48	9.30	11.40	2.00	3.00	6.00
Aylesbury	8.12	9.54	12.04	2.24	3.24	6.23

* Change at Leighton Buzzard.

SATURDAYS

			* RM	RM	*	RM		
Aylesbury	7.11	8.17	9.00	12.00	12.38	3.00	4.00	5.50
A. Abbotts	7.35	8.35	9.22	12.22	1.02	3.22	4.24	6.14
L. Buzzard	7.57	9.00	9.43	12.43	1.27	3.43	4.49	6.39
M. Keynes			10.20		2.13			

			RM		* RM	RM		
M. Keynes					1.25			
L. Buzzard	7.28	9.05	11.05	1.35	2.05	3.50	5.40	
A. Abbotts	7.48	9.30	11.30	2.00	2.30	4.13	6.14	
Aylesbury	8.12	9.54	11.54	2.24	2.54	4.35	6.39	

* Change at Leighton Buzzard.

RM Operated by Routemaster Travel. Tickets not transferable.

Note: The 10.35 Tuesday only bus will no longer operate. But by using the 9.12 you may return from Leighton Buzzard at 11.15 daily (11.05 Saturdays).





POPPY APPEAL

Wingrave and District Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal raised £858.50 this year. May I thank everyone for their help and generosity.

D. E. Waite
Hon. Organiser

House to House

	£
Wingrave	262.50
Aston Abbotts	110.58
Long Marston	168.75
Rowsham	43.00
Church collections	104.19
Wreath & sprays	41.30
Donations	35.14
Bingo	98.00

Right:
Bucks Herald
6th Dec 1963

THE LADIES' CLUB

2nd November: a well-attended AGM plus a White Elephant stall for Club funds.

16th November: Once again a well-attended meeting to see a Microwave Cookery demonstration given by the Electricity Board.

Future meetings

30th November: Christmas decorations made by members

14th December: Carol service, Cublington, 2.45pm

Aston Abbotts

Ladies' Club donations to charities

MEMBERS of the Aston Abbotts Ladies' Club agreed at their meeting last Thursday to donate five guineas to Dr. Barnardo's Homes and to the Church of England Children's Society. A further donation of £2 2s. each was made to a fund for blind babies and the paraplegics at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Mrs. Sharp, who presided over the meeting, was auctioneer at a Christmas bazaar for the club funds.

A competition for the prettiest Christmas card costing not more than sixpence was won by Mrs. Kelleher. A prize given by Mrs. Beeson was also won by Mrs. Kelleher.

Tea was served by the committee with cakes made by Mrs. Coleman and Mrs. Higgs.

Methodist Guild

A meeting of the Methodist Guild was held in the schoolroom, Aston Abbotts, last week. Mr. V. Scott gave an interesting talk on a recent visit to Hungary.

He showed some pottery which he brought back from his trip, and slides taken on the visit were projected by Mrs. Scott.

Mr. Rumens was the organist and refreshments were served at the end of the evening.

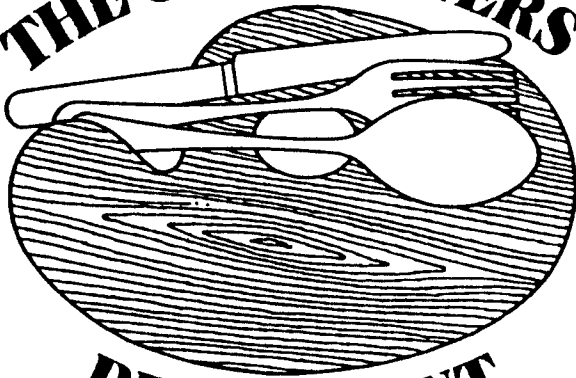
Whist drive

Prizewinners at last Thursday's whist drive held in the Church Room, Aston Abbotts, were: Ladies—1 Mrs. Caney, 2 Miss B. Bennett, consolation Mrs. L. Scutchings. Gent's—1 Mrs. Holmes, 2 Mr. Caney, consolation Master David Hines.

Below: Ladies' Club Social 1954; Mrs Robinson cutting cake



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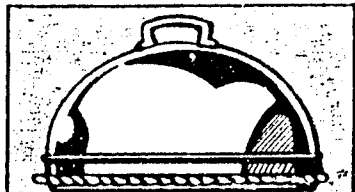
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6pm.

HELP LINE

Les Smith, 'Gatesgarth', Lines Hill (Tel:681368)
Peter Dines, 37 The Green. (Tel:681459)
Colin Higgs, 6, Wingrave Road. (Tel:681343)
John Whyte, 14 Bricstock. (Tel:681685)

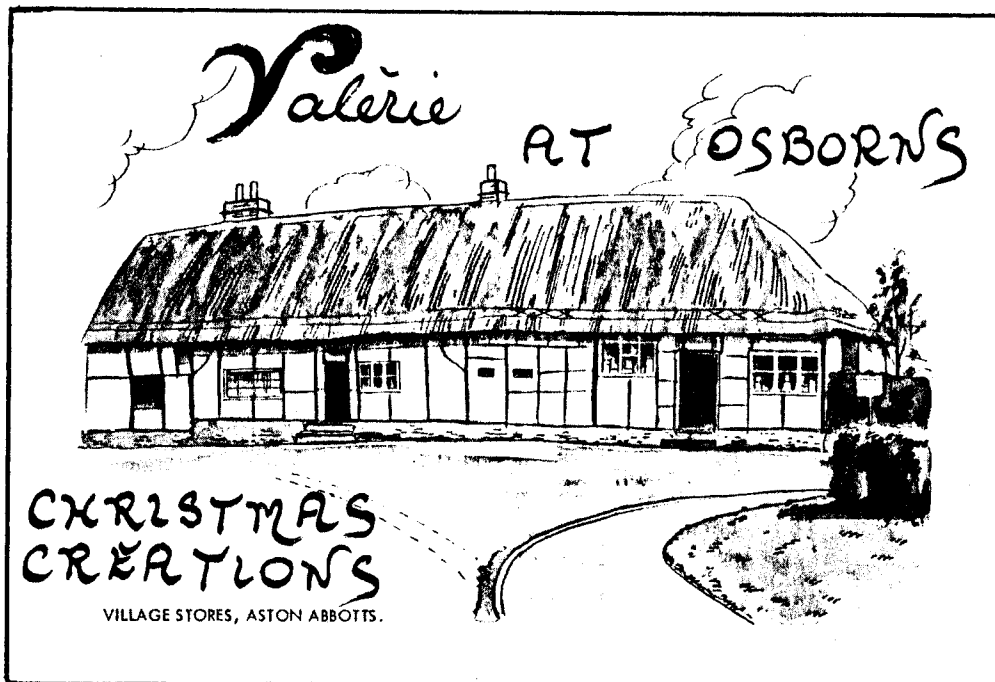
David Watts, 'White Wheels' (681376)
Rosemary Franklin, 3 Church Row. (681319).

"Dreams Eye View" from
The Village Shop

Three delightful "smalls" two girls and a boy - buying sweets. After delving deep into tightly zipped purses - completed their purchases with mammoth bubble-gum balls - better known as "Block-Busters". The small boy unable to wait to sample the confection popped one into his mouth there and then - but the Block-Buster won - shooting across the floor. One of the girls gallantly retrieved the fast disappearing "object" and replacing "it" in his mouth - "never mind we will wash it when we go home" - quoth she.

No names as I would be loath to embarrass three such charmingly mannered children.

Valerie O.



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QUIZ PAGE

DO YOU KNOW THE BIBLE?

What Hebrew word is used at the end of a prayer?

Which city in the Bible had milk and honey blest?

How many apostles were there?

What musical instrument did David play?

Who were the fishermen who fished with Jesus?

Who was Israel's famous king?

Who had a coat of many colours?

Who sang the Magnificat?

Who built the Ark?

Who was Martha?

What was the name of Abraham's nephew?

What was Judas?

What was Gabriel?

Who was the first man?

Who was Barabbas?

Who was Abel's brother?

Name the first book in the Old Testament.

How many Psalms are there?

Who was found in the bullrushes?

Who wrote the Psalms?

Answers on page 13

* STOP PRESS *

About eighteen TREES are left over from the village tree planting. Cherries, limes, and rowans. They are for sale at £1.50 each. Contact Colin Higgs (681343).

SOLVE THE CLUES TO NAME OUR VILLAGES

Bloodless, plant organ

Bird or insect limb

Demand for payment, 20 cwt

Strike with open hand, heavyweight

Roman god of war, with merit

Spirit inter

Baby fox, heather, great weight

Small, college tutor

Guided, Scottish stream

Proceed slowly, six cricket balls

Stop. Power connected

Quarrel, imitate

Turbot-like sea fish

Difficult, candle thread

A swamp

Place to cross water by wading

Clergyman, a gem

Loss of blood, not tall

Graceful bird, realm

Trudge along, conceal

Answers on page 12

Thanks to Colin.

People

Our monthly column about village people, edited by BRIDGET BRANDON

BIRTHDAYS

ALISON HEWITT. 11th Dec
 DENNIS (SHAKING) JUDD. . 14th Dec
 JACK TURNER. 15th Dec
 PAULINE DIXON. 16th Dec
 MARGARET CHESHER.18th Dec
 ANDREW LOVELL. 25th Dec
 NICHOLAS OSBORN. 25th Dec
 VAL SMITH25th Dec
 PAUL TURNHAM.31st Dec

WELCOME

To Josh and Kay, who have recently taken over the Bull & Butcher.

Arthur and Brenda Roff would like to thank their friends in Aston and Cublington for all the cards and kind messages received while Arthur was in hospital.

We were very sad to learn of the death of Helga Davies recently. Our thoughts go out to her family. A very brave lady.

IT WAS NICE TO SEE

Stan and Win Holmes in the village recently. Stan had recently celebrated his 70th birthday and was showing the photographs around. Very interesting they were too.

ANSWERS TO VILLAGES QUIZ

Whiteleaf; Wing; Dunton;
 Slapton; Marsworth;
 Soulbury; Cublington;
 Weedon; Ledburn; Wendover;
 Halton; Rowsham; Brill;
 Hardwick; Marsh; Ford;
 Bishopstone; Bledlow;
 Swanbourne; Padbury.

ORDER YOUR KNITWEAR



FOR CHRISTMAS EARLY

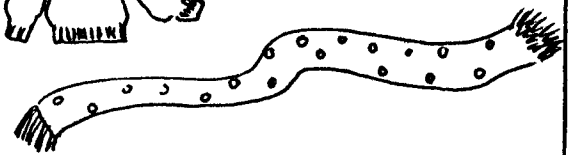
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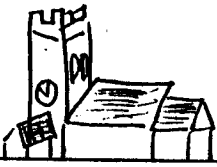
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Church news

RECTOR'S REPORT

What do you want for Christmas?

A terrifying prospect - not just because we have to think what we might like, but also the thought that Christmas will soon be upon us again.

I always find it very hard to know what to ask for - and it sounds so ungrateful to say: 'There is really nothing I need.' I've worked my way steadily through the Argos catalogue - surely there must be something that I can ask for in there, even if it is only an idea. But, once again I have drawn a blank - it will just have to be socks again!

Perhaps you share my lack of imagination (if that is what it is) - for haven't we somehow let Christmas get totally out of hand? We cannot imagine Christmas without all the razmatazz - the 'Jingle Tills' syndrome, where we must 'Spend, spend, spend because it is Christmas!' It is not that I want to be like Ebenezer Scrooge and dismiss Christmas as Humbug, but I suspect that I am not alone in feeling that somewhere along the line the joy of Christmas has been hijacked.

The birth of the Saviour of the World is not something that should make our hearts sink, but rather it should make us glad. So where have we gone wrong?

I can still enjoy the eating and drinking (including the preparation and washing up). I still enjoy the extra Services. I still enjoy the more relaxed and sociable atmosphere. And, yes, I have to admit, I am looking forward to opening my 'stocking' on Christmas morning - and watching the rest of the family unwrapping the assortment of trash and trivia that makes Christmas Day fun.

I wonder what it is that gives us that sinking feeling - unless it is working out what on earth we can buy for those who can't think what they want for Christmas!

BOB

SERVICES AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

3rd Dec	Family Service	11.15 am
	Preacher Mr Ffoulkes	
10th Dec	Mr Pope	6.00 pm
17th Dec	Weedon	3.00 pm
24th Dec	Carol Service	6.00 pm
	Rev. Peter Lemmon	

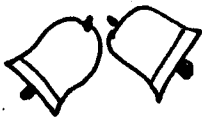
THE SUNDAY CLUB

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

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUIZ



Amen; Jerusalem; twelve;
 Andrew, James, and John;
 Solomon; Abraham; The
 Blessed Virgin Mary;
 Noah; Sister of Mary;
 Lot; One of the Apostles;
 God's special messenger;
 Adam; A robber and a
 murderer; Cain;
 Genesis; One hundred
 and fifty; Moses;
 David.



Church news

CHURCH NOTES

This month, of course, we concentrate on our arrangements for celebrating Christmas. What a marvellous time of the year it is with the reunion of families, the Christmas cards from friends and acquaintances and the exchange of presents. Amidst all this it is good that so many enjoy the Carol Service and the Christmas Day family service, clearly recognizing that Christ's coming into the world with his message of love and hope is so important to us all.

This year our Carol Service is on Sunday 17th December at 3 pm followed by tea and mince pies. On Christmas Day the Family Service will be at 10 am. Children are welcome to bring one of their presents to show the Rector. Both services will be taken by the Rector; let us present him with a full church on each occasion which would be good for him and good for us. There will be no service in our Church on either Christmas Eve or the following Sunday. There will, however, be services on both days at Wingrave.

As has become our custom the PCC decided at a recent meeting to give ten per cent of our gross income to some of those who need our help. This year we gave £100 to Christian Aid, £100 to the Church Urban Fund, £50 to the Star and Garter Home and £25 to Florence Nightingale House.

Finally you will have seen that the church wall is repaired. A very pleasing thing to end on.

PETER DINES

CHURCH SERVICES

		<u>Sidesman</u>
December 3rd: Advent	FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 am METHODIST CHAPEL Isaiah 51, 4-11; Matthew 25, 31-end	
December 10th: Advent 2	HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 am Isaiah 64, 1-7; Luke 4, 14-21	Colin Higgs
December 17th: Advent 3	CAROL SERVICE Malachi 3, 1-5; Matthew 11, 2-15	John Ford Michael Hasler
December 24th:	NO SERVICE (Wingrave 10 am Mattins, 6 pm Blessing the Crib, 11 pm Midnight Eucharist)	
December 25th: Christmas	FAMILY SERVICE followed by HOLY COMMUNION 10 am Hebrews 1, 1-5; John 1, 1-14	Churchwardens
December 31st:	NO SERVICE (Wingrave 10 am Holy Communion)	
January 7th: Epiphany 1	FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 am Ephesians 2, 1-10; John 1, 29-34	Alison Hewitt
January 14th:	HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 am	Alison Ford

From the Registers

Funerals: 3rd November at Aston Abbots, Helga Davies (Cremation)

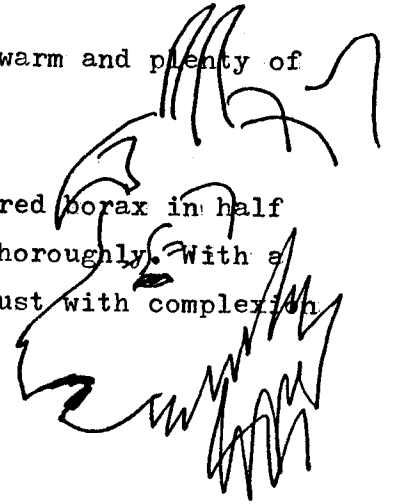
A MONTHLY LOOK AT FACTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW.**A Red Nose.**

A red nose is generally due to either indigestion or a poor circulation. If the former, attention should be paid to diet; all foods that tend to disagree omitted from the daily menu and a charcoal biscuit eaten after meals, or a soda mint tablet allowed to dissolve slowly in the mouth about 15 minutes after finishing the meal.

When due to poor circulation the feet and hands should be kept warm and plenty of exercise taken.

A lotion to disguise Red Nose.

To disguise the redness of the nose dissolve 2 drachms of powdered borax in half a pint of camphor water. Add 4 drachms of glycerine and shake thoroughly. With a pad of cotton-wool pat the mixture into the skin and when dry dust with complexion powder.



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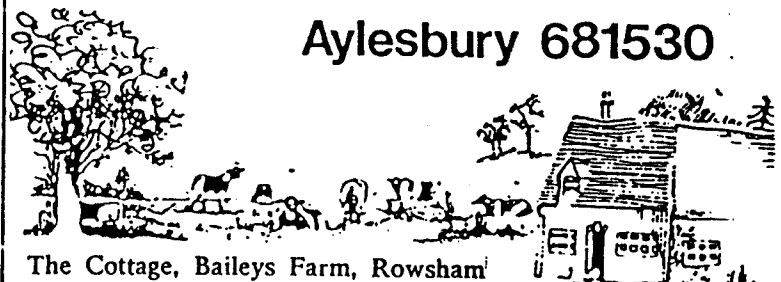
Fresh from the Farm

Christmas Poultry

Turkeys, Cockerels, Geese

Ring John Masters ~

Aylesbury 681530



The Cottage, Baileys Farm, Rowsham

Police thwart hunt saboteurs

A MASSIVE police operation involving helicopters, dog handlers and 50 police officers, stamped out a protest by hunt saboteurs at a hunt meeting on Saturday.

Over 35 members of the West London Hunt Saboteurs Association were trying to disrupt a meeting of The Old Berkeley Beagles at Aston Abbots.

The hunt, which started at 1pm near the Royal Oak, was disrupted for about an hour. Police had dealt with the incident by 2.30pm, allowing the hunt to continue.

But angry saboteurs this week claimed the police used "excessive force" to clamp down on the protest. One demonstrator said: "They were like a well organised mob."

Saboteur Anne Llewellyn, from Heathrow, an active anti-blood sport protester for ten years, said she was terrified by the police operation.

"I have been stopped from exercising my right to demonstrate before, but I have never been as frightened as I was on Saturday," she said.

Anne said all the saboteurs would make

by ANTHONY BARNES

official complaints about the operation and specific officers to the Police Complaints Authority.

And she added that the hunt saboteurs nationwide recognise Aylesbury police as one of the toughest in the country for dealing with them.

But Insp. John Griffin of Aylesbury Police said: "If we have a reputation, it's only for doing the job properly."

He said: "A uniformed police officer was called to the scene first and was confronted by four or five saboteurs wearing combat gear and ballaclavas, and wielding cudgels."

The officer called for support, and within minutes the massive operation was launched, involving police drafted in from High Wycombe and Milton Keynes.

Insp. Griffin said: "It's not illegal to protest in this country, but when you get behaviour which is likely to cause a breach of the peace, the police have to act, and they did so in a responsible manner."

John Robinson, joint master of the Old Berkeley Beagles, who have been hunting in Aylesbury Vale since 1908, praised the police for doing a good job in rounding up the protesters.

"Hunting is a legal sport. We are all from the country and know about its ways, but you get these urban types who don't understand the countryside, coming out and spoiling things and making a nuisance of themselves," said Mr Robinson.

On Monday a man, charged with assault, was remanded on conditional bail by Aylesbury magistrates.

Woman 'trapped' as police swoop

HUNT ARREST DRAMA

Left: Advertiser/
Gazette,
17th November

Right:
Leighton Buzzard
Observer,
front page,
14th November

A WOMAN became a prisoner in her own home when hunt protestors resorted to sabotage on Saturday.

Alexandre Norman returned to the family home at Norduck Farm in Aston Abbots to find it "crawling with police" who told her it was dangerous for her to be outside.

She told the LBO: "I came home at about 3pm and there were police all around. They had sniffer dogs out and a helicopter was flying about."

She went on: "They told me the men were dangerous and I was not safe outside."

Inspector Richard Maskell of Thames Valley Police told the Observer that a huge operation had been launched after trouble was reported in the village at about 1.30pm.

An officer sent to investigate found himself confronted by six men wearing combat gear and wielding large sticks. The officer called for reinforcements.

About 50 police were

By Lee
Bearton

sent to Aston Abbots and converged on the farm and nearby Weedon.

Miss Norman, a 24-year-old veterinary nurse, said she had seen police escorting men in camouflage clothing to police vans as she approached her home.

Her mother, Audrey Norman, had been out for the day but returned to find a shocked Alexandre.

She said: "Alexandre was frightened and tried to escape at one point, but found the drive completely blocked off by police."

Nineteen saboteurs

from the organised West London Hunt Sabotage group were arrested and reported for a breach of the peace.

And Jerome Gibson Esterly, a 54 year-old Saboteur from the United States was charged with assault

Police used a helicopter to keep an eye on the annual Old Berkeley Beagles hunt as it progressed around the local fields.

Royal Oak landlord Grayburn Owen said the hunters had met in his pub at about midday and there was no trouble until the hunt started.

It was then that the protestors began spraying chemicals to put the dogs off the scent

Hunt disrupted

Twenty-one hunt saboteurs from west London were arrested for alleged assault and breach of the peace yesterday after they disrupted a meeting of the Old Berkeley Beagles at Aston Abbots, near Aylesbury, Bucks.

Right:
Daily Telegraph,
13th November

SABOTAGE!

Right: Bucks Herald,
front page,
16th November 1989

A POLICE helicopter backed by 50 officers and their dogs swooped on hunt saboteurs as they tried to halt the Old Berkeley Beagles hunt at Aston Abbots on Saturday afternoon.

Nineteen anti-hunters were arrested for a breach of the peace and one was charged with assault.

The incident happened at 2.30pm, two hours after the hunt began at the village's Royal Oak pub.

The group of 30 west London saboteurs, part of a national organisation opposed to blood sports, arrived in the tiny village, six miles outside Aylesbury, to protest against the day's activities.

But the presence of the saboteurs, some dressed in combat gear, wearing balaclavas and wielding cudgels, sent a wave of fear through hunt supporters who called the police.

Joint master of the Beagles John Robinson told The Bucks Herald: "The saboteurs' language and attitude was threatening and abusive."

"We had no choice but to call the police. These sort of people are not interested in animals, they're only interested in causing a disturbance."

One police officer arrived but after reviewing the situation he called for assistance.

Within minutes officers and dogs from Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, High Wycombe and Kidlington were being ferried to the scene in a helicopter.

As the helicopter hovered just feet from the ground, the officers jumped out and chased the fleeing saboteurs.

While the police action brought shouts of congratulations from the hunt supporters, the saboteurs, angry at their treatment, are making an official complaint to the police authorities.

National tactical officer for the saboteurs, Aubrey Thomas, from Uxbridge, said: "We were treated appallingly."

"There was no trouble at all until the police arrived like a swooping army with the helicopter hovering just feet above our heads."

"As soon as the police were on the scene the hunters felt safe and became very vociferous and abusive against us, pushing their weight around and willing us to attack them."

"It was very much strong arm tactics. One of us could have been killed, the police were so violent. The Aylesbury police have always treated us badly."

But Mr. Robinson commended the police behaviour and said: "The officers acted fairly and sensibly throughout."

"They were called because there was trouble; four of the hunt supporters had been hit by a cudgel before the police arrived."

"All they want to do is disrupt a legal activity on land where they are trespassing."

Police inspector John Griffin said: "It's not illegal to hunt in this country and it is not illegal to protest peacefully. But where violence occurs and there's likely to be a breach of the peace the police step in and do their duty."

"We had to get officers to the scene as quickly as we could and that was by using the helicopter."

ADVERTISER/GAZETTE, NOVEMBER 24, 1989

Parole councillor may lose job over assault incident

HUNT saboteur, American Jerome Esterly, stands to lose his job as a parole councillor and his pension following the incident involving police at Aston Abbots earlier this month.

For during a momentary loss of control, he lashed out and punched a man in the face and chest.

His actions led to an appearance before Aylesbury Magistrates' Court on Monday, where he pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm.

He was fined £100, ordered to pay £75 compensation to his victim, Thomas Brocklebank and court costs of £25.

Esterly, a 54-year-old resident of Washington, U.S.A., — currently staying in Kentish Town, London — has been "profoundly embarrassed"

both personally and professionally. The incident had caused considerable disruption in his life, claimed his solicitor Steven Bevan. "It is something he will never forget."

The parole councillor — equivalent to our probation officer, but with more power — became involved in a tussle with Mr Brocklebank on the morning of Sunday November 11. Police had swooped in with helicopters and dog handlers to stamp out the protest by the West London Hunt Saboteurs Association.

Esterly got into a conversation with a senior member of the hunt who asked him to leave, said Mr Bevan. He became parted from his saboteur friends and lost his bearings and was approached by Mr Brocklebank who was

"somewhat aggressive."

"He began pushing and shoving Mr Esterly. He retaliated by striking him with the flat of his hand. It was a momentary loss of control. He is very very upset indeed that he did that," said Mr Bevan.

Esterly, who has reverted to a basic parole councillor from a more senior position in his run-up to retirement, is heavily involved in counselling young men who are violent.

"How can he ask these people to respect him now?" said Mr Bevan. "This incident is something which may well put his job in jeopardy and his pension. It is a very considerable burden for a man in Mr Esterly's position."

His client had already paid heavily for his

moment's loss of temper. He had spent two days in custody and been forced to stay on in Britain for the court hearing whilst his brother was seriously ill in America.

Imposing the fines, bench chairman John Pateron, said: "You must fully realise that this sort of behaviour cannot be condoned nor do doubt you regret those actions very much."

Earlier, prosecutor Laurie Kelleher told the hearing that Esterly had acted without provocation. Mr Brocklebank had been knocked to the ground, hit in the chest and in the left eye which caused swelling and tenderness.

It happened during an altercation between hunts people and saboteurs who were using hunting horns and false scents to distract the hounds, said Mr Kelleher.

Experts surprised by prices at sale of contents

Abbey treasures fetch over £1½m

by VICTORIA HOPKIRK

THE treasures of Aston Abbots Abbey doubled experts' estimates when they fetched over £1½m at last week's auction.

Aston Abbots Abbey, a Grade II Georgian house, which was recently sold to developers by the family of the late owner Mrs Beatrice Morton, was filled with valuable antiques.

And thousands of people turned up for the three day sale described by Phillips as their most important house sale for many years.

The most impressive lot was a marble table which trebled its estimated price of between £40-£60,000 by fetching a staggering £170,500.

A rare water-powered clock made of the Duke of Gordon was expected to fetch £3-4,000 and sold for £5,500.

The 1,350 lot sale included fine 18th century furniture, much of which came from The Glenfiddich Estate in Scotland which was sold to the Duke of Richmond and then to the late owners of the Abbey, Major and Mrs Harold Morton.

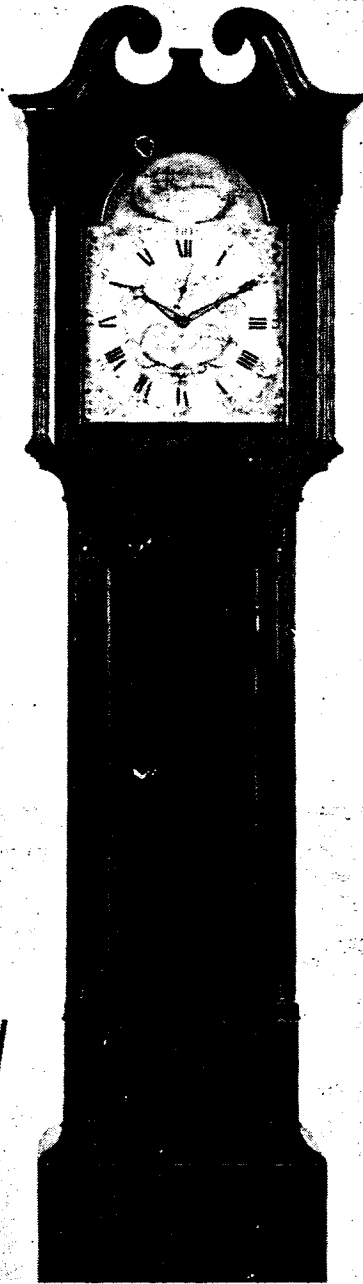
Auctioneer Paul Viney said the sale attracted thousands of people.

"There was a good contents covering all aspects and they haven't come on the market for 50 years," he said.

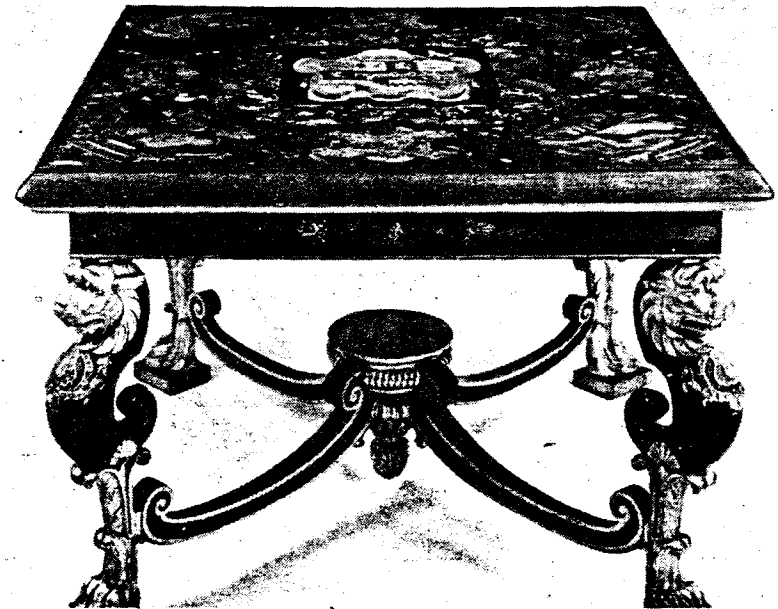
Many locals turned up to get a viewing of the historic house which has been in private ownership for hundreds of years.

Members of the late owner's family also attended the sale and bought some of their family treasures including a beautiful portrait of Mrs Morton.

Chairman of Christie's, Lord Carrington, turned up for the viewing and comedy actor David Tomlinson also visited.



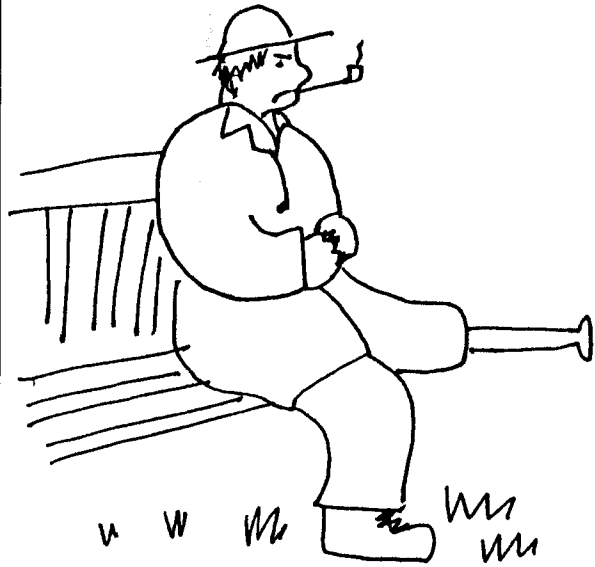
● A most unusual water powered longcase regulator, signed Robert Shand, and in the arch 'made for His Grace The Duke of Gordon,' designed to be powered by rainwater gathered in a tank



● The marble table which trebled its estimated price



● Chi-Chi and Pooh, two stuffed Pekinese, which were included in the sale of contents



"Here I sit, Old Crustie, at the bottom of the Moat Lane ditch, watching the world go by.

On account of the time of year I been asked to contribute some seasonal thoughts. Being largely of the Bah Humbug school of thinking might I be so bold as to offer the following: frost turning your toenails black; snivelling squirts we wishing you a merry Christmas and getting lost on the second line of Away in a Mangie; incontinent bells; frost again; do-they-know-it's-Christmas time-no-they-don't-being-heathen; Old Spice aftershave.

This last bein' a reference to Boxing Day circa 1971 when having been mercilessly trampled by a pack of mad dogs chasin' a fox that knew a thing or two they didn't; having subsequently been kicked halfway to the Wrekin by vicious horseshoes; having in consequence taken to a warm ditch to ease me aches through the kind offices of a quarter of best Jamaican; with what should I be assailed but a bottle of said Old Spice, accompanied as it were by a mumbled 'That's the last time we ask Auntie Agnes for Christmas lunch and I don't care how much she's got in the bank'. The missile being propelled with some venom burst into an odoriferous shower all over your humble correspondent, having en route met with an awkwardly placed gatepost.

It is a little-known fact that smells attaching to incorporeal persons (in vulgar parlance, ghosties) may only be perceived by those enjoying a similar degree of fleshlessness. My old friend the Abbott wouldn't come near me for weeks which I took as a bit rich, he wafting behind him the poignancy of several centuries' decomposition and festering. More seriously for my social life Mad Mark the Drunken Blacksmith, who claims to have been up the oak with Charles II and to have been on blushing terms with Nell Gwynne said that he begged hiccup to be excused hiccup from ever basking in that spicy presence again. I believe he emigrated and presumably has had to adjust his tall stories to take in Ned Kelly.

The postbag has bulged this month largely with one letter from a person with a brain made of balsa wood who believes that the Chinese are about to invade and that as a precautionary measure the gates on the Weedon Road should be closed.

May I wish you as merry a Christmas as you dare and humbly request that unwanted gifts are disposed of with care (all spirits welcome)."

"Old Crustie"

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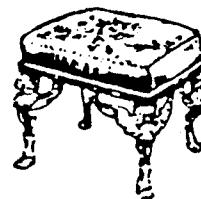
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