

The Chronicle.

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine

March 1990

Issue 77



Editorial

We would like to thank the retiring Chronicle Treasurer, Mike Cox, who leaves the village this month, for his contribution to the Chronicle over several years. We wish Mike, Pam and the family the very best in their new house.

The Church Room is one of the village's greatest assets. If it didn't already exist it would certainly have to be built. A small number of people give a considerable amount of time to its organization and maintenance (and that is greatly appreciated); many more villagers contribute to the Room's upkeep through fundraising activities. It is sad, therefore, to learn of the arguments mentioned by 'Village Observations' on p.15. Let us hope that these can be resolved quickly and amicably, so that the Church Room can continue to be effectively run for-and-by-all of those groups that have such a strong interest in its future.

It may seem rather grandiose for a village magazine to have an editorial policy on anonymity, but as this month we publish the first serious anonymous article since we took over, we should probably explain our view. In essence, it is the same as Graham Parker's. In a village of this size it is important for residents to be able to express themselves anonymously if they wish. Otherwise people may feel nervous of putting their views forward at all and that would be a great pity. We do insist, though, that we should know who the authors are, and that the articles are not malicious, and that they do not break any of the laws that restrict any publishing activity (libel, obscenity, etc.).

Caroline Lane

Gordon Smith

Deadline for the April issue: Friday 30th March. Please bring or send articles etc. to us at 2 Church Row (telephone 681373).

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INFO

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

- Thursday 1st: Bingo
Church Room, 7.30 pm
- Sunday 4th: Rambling Club meet
Thornborough Bridge
2. pm
- Monday 5th: Toddlers, Church Room,
2.30-4 pm
- Thursday 8th: Ladies Club Spring
Lunch (see opposite)
- Thursday 8th: Whist Drive
Church Room, 7.30 pm
- Sunday 11th: Coach trip to London
Dep. the Green, 9.45
Fare £3.50 return
Book with Colin
- Wednesdays 14th & 28th: Mobile library
The Green 2-2.30 pm
Longmoor 2.35-50 pm
- Thursday 15th: Bingo, Church Room,
7.30 pm
- Monday 19th: Toddlers, Church Room,
2.30-4 pm
- Thursday 22nd: Ladies Club, Church
Room, 2.45 pm
- Thursday 22nd: Whist Drive,
Church Room, 7.30 pm
- Sunday 25th: Fun Run, Bricstock,
10 am
- Thursday 29th: Bingo, Church Room,
7.30 pm
- Friday 30th: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Church Room, 7.30 pm
Followed by Parish
Council meeting
- Saturday 31st: Litter Blitz
The Green, 10.30 am
- Monday 2nd April: Toddlers,
Church Room, 2.30-4 pm

LADIES CLUB NOTES

8th Feb: a well attended meeting to hear Mrs Kay's talk entitled 'The Song of the Shirt'. On 22nd Feb, Mrs Betty Hill gave a highly amusing talk on Love and Marriage. Future meetings:

8th March: SPRING LUNCH
Church Room, 12 for 12.30 pm
Members £1.50; visitors £2.50;
children £1. Price includes
a glass of wine.

22nd March: Mrs Quigley,
'Handwriting as a mirror of
your personality'. Church
Room, 2.45 pm.

Ramblers walk off the party pud

ASTON Abbotts Rambling Club members held their annual New Year party at the Red Lion, Heath and Reach, choosing an excellent meal from a varied menu.

The party returned to the Linslade home of their photographic member, Bob Green, for coffee and slides of the year's activities, including their weekend in the New Forest, the Whitby week, and Salcey Forest.

Subsequently, 17 members turned out for a Sunday afternoon walk led by Colin Higgs. They began at Cublington and followed Reads Lane, continuing via New Dairy Farm to Littlecote Ford and upfield to St Martin's Church at Dunton. They returned via the Whitchurch Brook and Home Ground.

Mr Higgs was called for the first of the 1990's 'Good Samaritans' Thursday

bingo evenings in the Churchroom at Aston Abbotts.

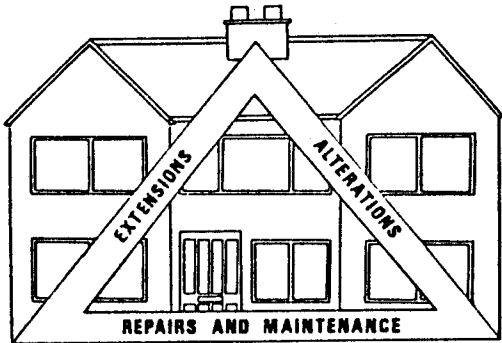
Prizewinners were: (lines) Mrs Fox, Ian Stevens, Mrs G Brandon, Mrs Coleman, Mr W Evans, Mrs Martin, Miss M Fletcher, Mr Scutchings, (houses) Mrs Fox, Mrs Brandon, Mrs D Hinds, Mr Evans and Mrs Coleman, (snowball) Ian Stevens, (special) Steven Hayward, Mrs Fox and Andrew Bosanquet. Raffle winners were Mrs Allan, Mr P Waite, Mrs Turner and Mrs Coleman.

Mrs Scutchings was door steward and recaller for the first of the 1990's 'Good Samaritans' Thursday

LG0 30th Jan 90

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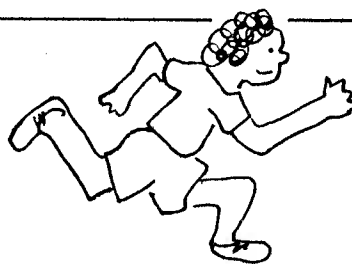
CABARET NIGHT

At the time of writing, tickets for the Cabaret Night on 17th March at 8 pm were pretty well sold out. Such is the demand for this highly entertaining evening of joviality, good humour, and songs that you will be humming in the bath for weeks afterwards. If you still fancy your chances of getting in, you could try phoning John on 681685 for tickets, or the Kit Kar Kid on 681201 for all the other bits. P.S. Did I mention the hot food and the wine?



FUN RUN

A FUN RUN will take place on 25th March (Sunday), leaving Bricstock at 10 am. This is not a race, just a gentle run, and perhaps a chance to meet a few new faces. We will start by heading for Weedon, then passing Hardwick on to Whitchurch, down (and back up) to Cublington, and back to Aston Abbots. The whole circuit is about 10 miles and would take in the region of 1½ hours to complete. The nice part of the run is that there will be a back-up car following behind, and whenever anyone has had enough or gets injured, they can simply hop (no pun intended) into the car and be run home. So, whether you want to run one mile or ten, you will be catered for. We do suggest that any youngsters who would like to take



part ought to be with an adult, as the main road at Whitchurch has to be crossed twice. So, if you would like to join us, just turn up on the day. Who knows, we may even get to have a couple of pints afterwards to talk about it.

.....BUSES.....BUSES.....

From Saturday 31st March there will be an additional bus by Routemaster. Depart Bull & Butcher 8.30 am to Aylesbury. The 3.50 pm from Leighton Buzzard will leave at 4.05 pm, arriving at Aston Abbots at 4.30 pm for the journey to Aylesbury.

Ramblers elect their officers

ASTON Abbots Rambling Club members met at Great Brickhill for a Sunday afternoon walk led by their Chairman, Doug Ward.

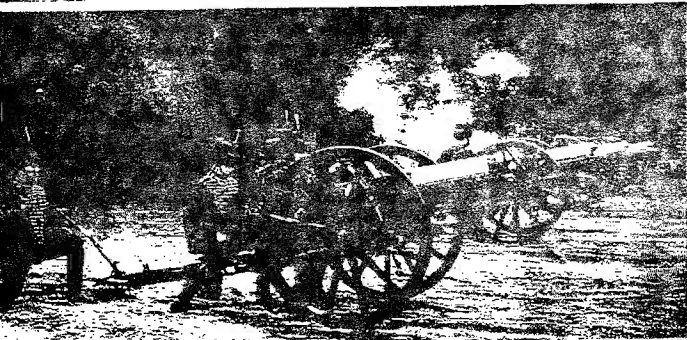
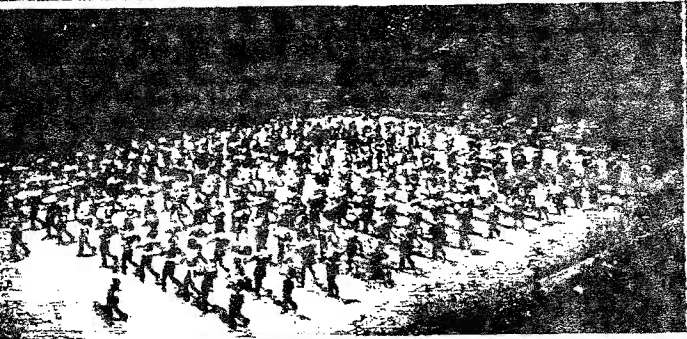
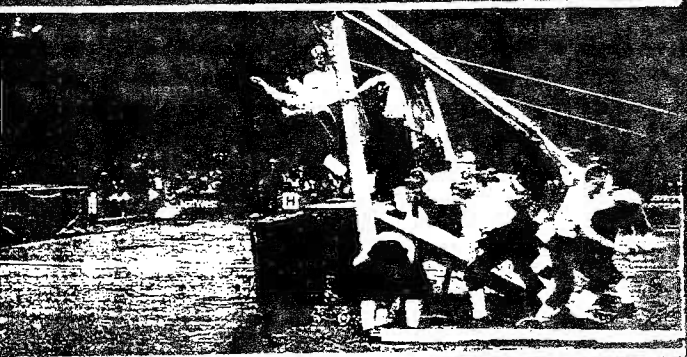
The route began at the Village Hall and followed Cuff Lane to Blackdog Wood and Bragenham, returning via the Three Locks, canal towpath and Paper Mill Farm.

On Tuesday members held their annual meeting, electing the following officers: Chairman and footpath secretary Doug Ward, vice-chairman Len Staples, treasurer Stan Taylor, secretary Bobbie Ward, press secretary Colin Higgs, committee: Geoff Mean, Viv Taylor, Noreen Green, Robert Green,

Alan Bowly, Renee Webster, Jean Staples, Yvonne and John Muller, Jill and Terry Stow.

The treasurer reported a healthy bank balance and it was agreed to keep subscriptions to 50p. A varied spring and summer programme was planned, including evening walks on alternate Tuesdays from May to August and a "spider" walk.

Arrangements were also begun for a weekend in the Cotswolds or Derbyshire Dales and a barn dance in October.



ANYONE INTERESTED
BOOK WITH COLIN.



60

DON'T MISS THE SHOW OF THE CENTURY

This is a very special year for the Royal Tournament because in 1990 we present our one hundredth show! And to make this historic occasion an unforgettable experience we have created the greatest, biggest, most exciting Royal Tournament ever. Featuring the Royal Navy, the story of The Sea Soldier will be the theme - and the massed bands of the Royal Marines will lead us through a show of pageantry, colour and action on a scale that has never been surpassed. Don't miss the show of the century. Book now for the 100th Royal Tournament!

PROGRAMME

Subject to alteration

THE SEA SOLDIER

Formed as The Admiral's Regiment in 1664, the Royal Marines have had a long and glorious history. Against the backdrop of a gigantic Man-of-War, their great story is told by massed drummers and trumpeters in period costumes. With music, cannon and musket fire adding drama to a fascinating tale.

MASSED BANDS OF THE ROYAL MARINES

The world's most famous massed bands - some 250 in number - will give you a performance of precision drumming and musicianship that will leave you breathless!

THE WHITE HELMETS

The fastest moving motorcycle display team in the country will thrill you with high-speed cross-overs demanding deadly accuracy and split second timing. This is the only team in the world to ride their bikes sitting backwards!

METROPOLITAN POLICE DOGS

Making their first appearance at the Royal Tournament, these superb animals will demonstrate the operational skills of the police dog. In their agility races, man-work exercises and group work without handlers, they display astonishing levels of training and temperament.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, we pay tribute to all those who fought in 1940 - the Pilots, the Ground Controllers, the Radar Operators, the Observer Corps, the Fire Brigades and the Police. Against the backdrop of a huge plotting table, and to William Walton's 'Spitfire Prelude', we follow the battle through a series of action cameras. We shall also remember that 1990 sees the 50th anniversary of the George Cross and of the setting up of bomb disposal teams.

ROYAL MARINES ACTION EVENT

Be prepared for a sensational Arctic battle set in an ice landscape - with giddy death slides, a huge ski slope and raw action from the Royal Marines. Abseiling, truck skiing and ski jumping will all be part of this dazzling adventure display.

THE KING'S TROOP, RMA

All the traditional dash and glitter of the glorious King's Troop will once again be on show as teams of horses, pulling gun carriages, perform their internationally renowned musical drive.

THE ROYAL NAVY FIELD GUN COMPETITION

This awe-inspiring contest of strength, timing and sheer daring will once again feature teams from Portsmouth, Devonport and the Fleet Air Arm.

THE KING'S SQUAD

In the Grand Finale, the Marine Corps of the world unite to remember the exploits of their courageous forebears. The US Marine Corps, the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps and the Spanish Marine Corps - the oldest in the world - will join the British Royal Marines. With over a thousand people in the vast arena, music, pyrotechnics and sheer spectacle will bring a glittering show to a glorious end. A finale befitting the 'Show of the Century'!

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL DISPLAYS

British Legion, RN and RAF Association displays (sponsored by William Younger & Company). Tug of War (sponsored by Taylor Wroedrow). Skat at Arms (sponsored by Wilkinson Sword). Resident band sponsored by Jane's Defence Weekly. The record and cassette are sponsored by Vickers Shipbuilding & Engineering Ltd. The Pyrotechnics are sponsored by Astra.

Display Stands

Please come early to visit the exhibition around the arena. All Services will be exhibiting equipment relating to present day life in the Armed Forces. Also, there are amusement and refreshment areas and opportunities for shopping. There is no extra charge for this exhibition and the doors will be open from 12 noon (except Mondays) and 6.00pm.

Photography

We regret that NO PHOTOGRAPHY is allowed at Earls Court.

Facilities for the Disabled

Seats are available for the disabled. Please ask the Box Office for details.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED A BOOKING FORM, PLEASE PASS THIS ONE TO A FRIEND.

EARLS COURT 11-28 JULY 1990

BOX OFFICE 01-373 8141 / 071-373 8141*

* From Spring 1990

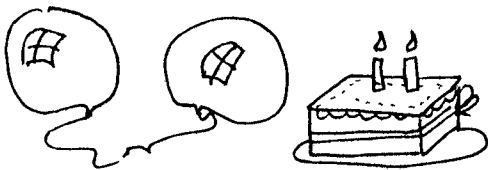
The Royal Tournament is in Aid of Service Charities

People

Our monthly column about village people, edited by BRIDGET BRANDON

BIRTHDAYS

Andy Bystra 8th March
Tracey Fletcher . . . 17th March
George Brandon(79). . 31st March



FAREWELL

At the end of March, Mike and Pam Cox and the children leave the village to start a new life in Weston Underwood. In the twelve years they have lived here, Mike's demanding job has left him very little free time to participate in village activities, but in his quiet way he has contributed a lot to the good of the village and will be missed considerably. We wish the whole family the very best for the future.

GET WELL SOON

Mrs Cross and Mrs Martin, who at the time of writing were both in hospital.

CONGRATULATIONS

And may you spend many happy years together, to Jack and Marie Chandler who were married recently.

REST IN PEACE

Fred Poulter, who died on 11th February at Stoke Mandeville, aged 93.

THANK YOU

Herbert and Philip would like to thank everyone who sent messages of sympathy in their sad loss of Joan, and for donations to Marie Curie Memorial Foundation. The Foundation has written to say:

"Thank you for your letter and donations amounting to £190.50 being in memory of your late wife.

Please accept our sincere condolences on your sad bereavement.

The Foundation is always most grateful for this tangible form of remembrance in support of its work on behalf of cancer sufferers. However, we do so regret the sad occasion that prompted this kind gesture."



WE RECEIVE NO STATE AID

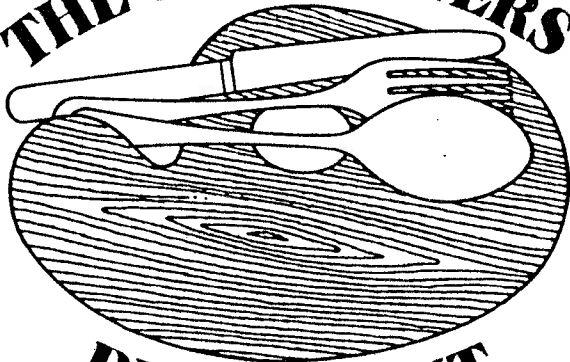
DO YOU CARE ABOUT ANIMALS ?

WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO SPEND A FEW HOURS OF YOUR SPARE TIME HELPING THE RSPCA ?

IF SO PLEASE CONTACT

JANE BARNES ON AYLESBURY 688987

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HELP LINE

Les Smith, 'Gatesgarth', Lines Hill (Tel:681368)
Peter Dines, 87 The Green. (Tel:681459)
Colin Higgs, 6, Wingrave Road. (Tel:681343)
John Whyte, 14 Bricstock. (Tel:681685)

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



LETTERS

Last month we published a letter from Mrs Helen Dowling, one of several residents who have complained to the Parish Council about the new orange lights around the village. Mrs Dowling and the Council have given us permission to publish the council's reply:

Dear Helen Dowling

In reply to your letter in the 'Chronicle' dated 8th January 1990, the Parish Council can only repeat the information given to you personally on at least two occasions by Cllr Colin Higgs.

Firstly, Value Electrics did not supply the new orange lights in the village, they only have a maintenance contract on the lights. Secondly, the lights were supplied and erected by Eastern Electrics who advised the Parish Council that white lights were no longer available.

The Parish Council appreciates that several inhabitants of the village do not like the colour of the new lights, but please be assured that they have received more reports in favour of them than against.

CUBLINGTON GROWERS

DAIRY FARM

CUBLINGTON

LARGE SELECTION OF:

BEDDING PLANTS

PERENNIALS

HANGING BASKETS

AVAILABLE FROM MID MAY

From Margaret Kent

6 The Green

Dear Editor,

During the recent storms many people suffered damage to their properties but hopefully were able to claim from their insurance. Therefore, I was surprised to see an appeal in last month's Chronicle asking for money to pay for the tiles ripped off the Church roof. Surely the Church is highly insured for such eventualities.

VIVIAN HARRIS, MSSCh, MBChA

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PARTIES: FOLK EVENINGS: DANCES: BINGO ETC...

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FURTHER DETAILS FROM DORIS SCUTCHINGS ON
AYLESBURY 681243

COST: £2.50 per hour + metered electricity.
£1.50 per hour + metered electricity
for residents of the parish.

The Chronicle:

Advertisement Rates for 1990

FULL PAGE	: Back	£50 per annum.
	Inside	£25 per annum.
HALF PAGE	: Back	£25 per annum.
	Inside	£12 per annum.
QUARTER PAGE	: Back	£12 per annum.
	Inside	£ 7 per annum.
EIGHTH PAGE	: Back	£ 7 per annum.
	Inside	£ 5 per annum.
ALL OTHER ADS.	: Inside only	£5 per annum.

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Church news

RECTOR'S REPORT

I never get on very well with Lent.

I did once give up smoking cigarettes (many years ago), but consumed a vast quantity of sweets instead. But, surely, that is half the problem. Mention Lent and we begin to feel guilty that we are not very good at giving things up. It is the same kind of feeling that we have on January 2nd when we realise that our New Year's Resolution hasn't lasted very long.

When you think about it, giving things up is a rather negative way of going on - and many of us might get on better if we tried to do something positive instead. For while we are hard at it trying (and failing) to give things up, the world of nature is being very positive. It is transforming the cold, drabness of winter into the dynamic, vibrant beauty of Spring.

Yes, we do often find Lent a difficult time as we remember the sufferings and death of Jesus - I do not for one moment expect that he found things easy. But, we do know that the Cross is linked to Easter. Jesus did actually win the battle against sin and death. As his followers, we too are on the winning side. So let us be different this Lent. Instead of giving up and giving in, let us try to face life with a smile until Easter.

My guess is that we shall find it even harder than trying and failing to give things up - but very much more worthwhile. And don't stop doing things. Instead, how about trying to do a few extra kindnesses for people. Let yourself be Lent upon. Lend yourself to others, and you will probably find that Lent takes on a whole new meaning.

So, please, Don't give up - Keep Smiling.

Bob Willmott

DEANERY EVENSONG This will take place in Wing Church at 6.0pm
on Sunday 25th March. The preacher will be the Ven John Morrison,
our new Archdeacon.



Church news

This month the Family Service will not be on the first Sunday but on Mothering Sunday, 25th March. Some years we wonder if there will be enough flowers for the children's posies; this year we almost wonder if the spring flowers will be over! Whether or not, I am sure there will be plenty of posies and we look forward to seeing many families in church.

At the Annual Church Meeting, Len and I were re-elected as Churchwardens. Unfortunately David Brown resigned as Treasurer because of pressure of work. David has looked after our accounts for three years. We are extremely grateful to him for his wise advice and help during that time. The unaudited Church accounts are as shown. We are delighted to welcome Helen Dowling onto the PCC. The Church Electoral Roll is larger than it has been for some years and this is due to Christine Fox's hard work, for which we thank her. We hope to have the Church Clock overhauled this year, for despite John Ford's care and attention it still stops unpredictably.

Peter Dines

CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

Sidesman

March 4th:	HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 am	Alison Hewitt
Lent 1	Hebrews 4.12-end	Luke 4.1-13	(p.506)
March 11th:	HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 am	John Ford
Lent 2	1 John 3.1-10	Matthew 12.22-32	(p. 511)
March 18th:	HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 am	Colin Higgs
Lent 3	1 Peter 2.19-end	Matthew 16.13-end	(p.515)
March 25th:	MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE		
Lent 4		11.15 am	Alison Ford
	2 Peter 1.16-19	Matthew 17.1-13	(p.520)
April 1st:	HOLY COMMUNION	11.15 am	Michael Hasler
Lent 5	Hebrews 9.11-14	Mark 10.32-45	(p.525)

METHODIST CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH

March 4th:	Mr Ffoulkes	6 pm
March 11th:	Rev Lemmon	6 pm

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.

ASTON ABBOTTS PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1989.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£
Collections	1894.41
Free-Will offerings	118.00
Covenants -Inland Revenue refund	336.67
Urban Fund	32.00
Field Rent	50.00
Allotment Fees	18.00
Wedding Fees	166.00
Parish Council Grants 1988 & 1989	100.00
Burial/Graveyard Fees	129.00
Fund raising activities - proceeds	
-Cheese & Wine	162.00
-Summer Festival	372.00
-Harvest Festival sale/supper	247.70
Consol dividends	0.40
Noteletts	5.00
Interest - CBF Deposit a/c	42.98
Sundries	1.56

3675.72

<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Diocese Quota	1560.00
Rector Fees	101.50
Vicar's Telephone Expenses	20.59
Diocese Rector Fees	24.00
Electricity	141.77
Insurance	197.41
Fire Extinguisher service	19.55
Deanery fees	51.00
Cleaning	52.00
Organ Tuning	39.50
Repairs & Maintenance	734.01
Wafers, candles, communion wine etc.	118.49
Mower repairs/service	128.53
Cheese & Wine supper Licence	10.00
Donations - various charities	311.97
Urban Fund	122.20

3632.52

PROFIT FOR THE YEAR

43.20

Cont'd

Cont'd.

This is represented by:-

Bank balances 01.01.1989.			
- Lloyds Bank, Aylesbury	88.84		
- Central Board of Finance Deposit	314.47		403.31

Bank balances 31.12.1989.			
- Lloyds Bank, Aylesbury	230.76		
- Central Board of Finance Deposit	327.45		

sub-total	558.21		
less cheques not presented	-257.05		
plus cash credits in transit	+145.35		446.51

Central Board of Finance		No.	Orig.Cost
Investment Units 01.01.1989.	240	894.77	
Interest during year	12	86.89	

Sale of Units	-	-	
Investment units 31.12.89	252	981.66	

(The above units, cost £981.66, are valued at £5.5895 each on 01.01.90., i.e. £1408.55)

TOTAL INCREASE IN RESERVES

43.20

The above receipts and payments account has been prepared from the accounts, books and records of the Aston Abbots Parochial Church Council, and have been found to be in order.

Date-----

Parish Council

16th February meeting

At the parish council meeting, chaired by Cllr Colin Higgs, all members were present plus seven members of the public; apologies were received from C/Cllr Reg Keen.

A letter had been sent from the previous meeting to the occupants of Norduck Farm, requesting them to refrain from obstructing people's access along the footpath and bridlepath; no further incidents had been reported. It was noted a planning application for a new farmhouse at Norduck had been deferred, and an extension at 79/81 The Green had been refused. Further investigations were being made regarding an application for West CraftHouse.

New litterbins had now been installed at Wingrave Rd (allotment gate) and the bus shelter opposite the Bull & Butcher. The twice-yearly refuse skip had been at Bricstock the previous weekend.

Cllr Roy Malin and Clerk Margaret Chesher gave reports on meetings they had attended on behalf of the parish.

It was decided that Dog Fouling notices for the recreation ground and a Please do not park on the Green should be ordered under the Environmental Improvement Grant scheme.

A resident had complained about the new yellow lighting but many others around the village and those at the meeting were pleased with them and thought they gave better lighting.

The chairman advised members he would speak to Value Electrics about faulty lights still not attended to since the high winds.

Cllr Higgs was to attend the next Road Safety meeting at Buckingham and would draw the attention of the members to the number of blocked storm drains.

Cllr Roy Malin was still not satisfied that the improved drainage at Wingrave Crossroads would work if the ditches were not cleaned out; this appeared to be the landowner's responsibility, and he asked for this to be brought to the attention of Bucks CC.

D/Cllr Bryan Round reported the errors in the Conservation Plan as listed by the parish council had been noted and filed by AVDC who thanked the council for bringing them to the notice of members.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Friday 30th March, 7.30 pm,
Church Room.

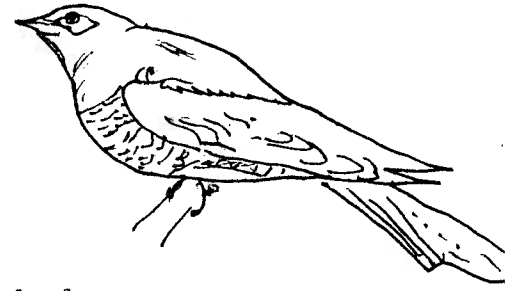
All parishoners are strongly encouraged to attend the Annual Parish Meeting. Any parishoner can raise matters that he or she would like to be discussed. In particular, the Church Room Management Committee and Fête Committees will be elected, there will be a report on the 1989 Fête and distribution of the monies raised by the 1990 Fête will be discussed. The Annual meeting will be followed by the monthly Parish Council meeting.

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

The Cuckoo When you hear it call for the first time in the year, kiss your hand and wave it in the direction of the sound, saying, "Cuckoo, tell me true, when shall I be married?" So many times as the bird shall say "Cuckoo" continuously after this, so many years shall pass ere your wedding day dawns. (Some say "so many months".) If you first hear the cuckoo call when you are in bed, you may expect to be ill. If, when you first see the cuckoo, it is stationary, you will remain in that place. But if it flies away, you, too, will "flit".



Bed It is unlucky to turn a bed on either Friday or Sunday. Put your bed parallel with the planks of the floor, and luck will be with you. It is even more lucky to sleep with your head to the north. If you want to sleep soundly you will do this. On rising put your right foot first out of bed, and a good day shall be yours.

"WISE OLD CUCKOO"

VILLAGE OBSERVATIONS



A village runs on its committees, and probably as elsewhere there are a number of goodhearted people who appear on first this, then that, then another committee. For a village our size the number of people involved is relatively small. People are never keen to volunteer. Committees run everything from the Parish Council, the Christmas Show, the Festival, to the Toddlers' Group. They are essential to raise funds or just to get other people involved in activities.

As an interested observer of village life, I have been fascinated by the passions which have been raised over the running of the Church Room. It appears that there are two sections of villagers both committed to giving the village an excellent service but wishing to run the Room in totally different ways. What a shame

that two lots of talent are being wasted by petty squabbling.

An outsider may regard Aston Abbotts as a tranquil and sleepy village. Underneath rages a cloistered debate. But is this unusual? Probably not. Indeed if you look back in records of the Parish Council kept in Aylesbury library you find that back in 1894 there were obviously similar factions. At that point it appears that the room we now call the Church Room was built as a result of money raised by the village. One of the minutes shows that the proposition was to call it the Parish Hall. Intriguing? Certainly, when you find the current major argument is literally over who owns and therefore who runs the Church Room - sorry - Parish Hall.

Some things never change do they?

(The writer wishes to remain anonymous.)

The following items have been unearthed from the Bucks Herald by John Chesher - thanks, John. The turn of the century Church Room Fund was obviously well supported:

30th July, 1898

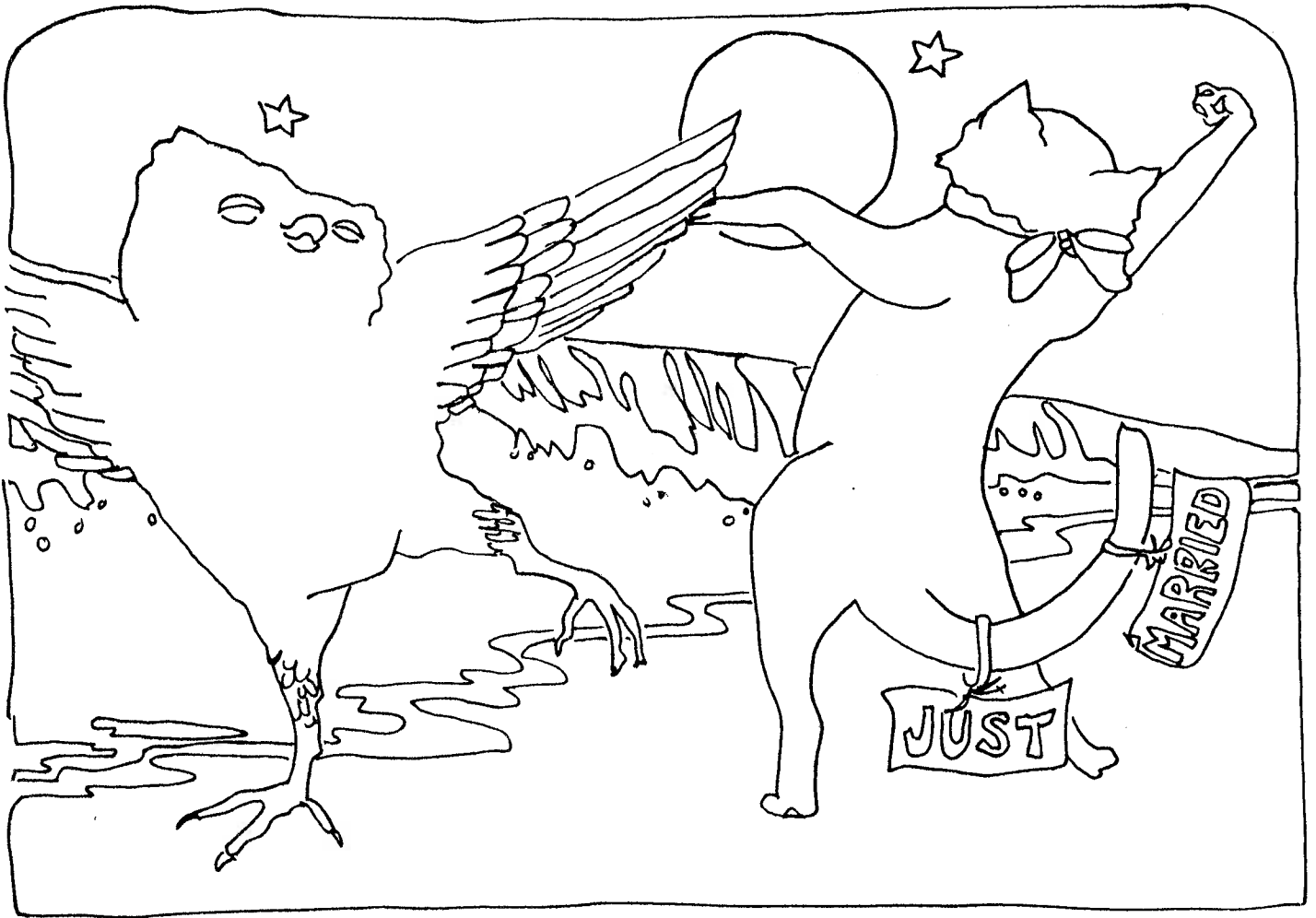
ASTON ABBOTTS.

A Bazaar was held in the grounds of Mr. E. Hart, on Wednesday afternoon, in aid of the building fund of the Church Room, now in course of construction in the village. The proceedings commenced at 2 o'clock, when Dr. Cheeseman, in a few appropriate remarks, declared the Bazaar open. The general stalls, which were laden with a miscellaneous collection of useful and fancy goods (collected by many friends) were kept by- 1, Mrs. Hart and Miss Gates; 2, Mrs. Pargeter; 3, Mrs. and Miss Denchfield; 4, Mrs. W. Elliott; 5, Mrs. Martyn. Book stall, Mr. Seymour; refreshment stall, Miss Felser; flower stall, Miss Hart and Miss K. Walker; advertisement stall, Mrs. D. Walker. A rummage stall, concerts, and rowing on the lake, were other attractions which helped to swell the proceeds. The attendance was very fair, a number of visitors from neighbouring villages being present, amongst whom was Lady Cottesloe. The Vicar was unfortunately ill and unable to attend.

6th August, 1898

ASTON ABBOTTS. Parish Chronicle.- June 1st: Members of Mothers' Meeting class had tea at the vicarage and received presents.- July 5th: Annual flower show service at Church; 170 bunches of flowers. Address given by the Rev. J. C. Piggott, rector of Cublington.- 15th: Diocesan examination of school. The Bishop's prize was gained by Lily How, whose sister, a former scholar of this school, has just passed an examin-

ation of the College of Preceptors. -16th: Funeral of Grenville Robert Shipman, aged 21. Deceased was connected with a band in Aylesbury, and several bandsmen, dressed in their uniform, came over and followed him to the grave.- 26th: the Aston Abbots members of the Girls' Friendly Society attended the festival of the Mursley branch held at Ascott, Wing.- 27th: Bazaar in aid of the Church-room building fund: sum realised about £90. Many thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Hart for giving the use of their pretty grounds, and for their strenuous efforts to make everything pleasant and successful. In addition to the bazaar there were drawing-room concerts boating, &c.- A large number of children and friends from the Aylesbury Primitive Methodist Chapel had a pic-nic in Mrs. Stranks' meadow.- 31st: An anniversary service at the Congregational Chapel.- At Leighton wool fair there were two large sellers from Aston Abbots, Mr. B. J. Gates, 301, and Mr. Roads, 250 fleeces. At Aylesbury Mr. W. Elliott sold 173.- The Technical Education prizes for allotment cultivation in this parish have been awarded as follows:- Ridgeway field: Class 1, half acre of wheat, peas, and potatoes, 15s., Frederick Kent; quarter acre of wheat, 11s., Walter Kent; half acre of wheat, 9s., Joseph Kent; quarter acre of wheat, 5s., Thomas Kent. Class 2, half acre of barley, 15s., James Rickard; half acre of wheat, 11s., Stephen Kent; half acre of potatoes and peas, 9s., Joseph Simmons; half acre of wheat, 5s., Harry Rickard. Noman's field: Ten poles of potatoes, 10s., Joseph Halsey; ten poles of potatoes, 8s., Arthur North; ten poles mixed crop, 6s., Frederick Bennion; ten poles of carrots 5s., Thos. Hedges; ten poles mixed crop, 4s. 6d., Harry Brandon; ten poles mixed crop, 3s. 6d., William Halsey; ten poles of potatoes, 3s., Amos Paxton. Judge, Mr. Hopkins, of Aylesbury.



The Owl and the Pussycat (3)

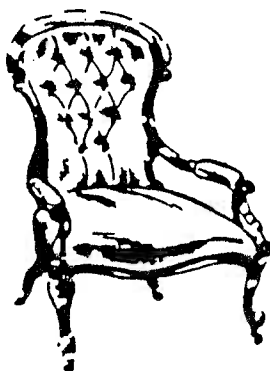
"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will."
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined upon mince and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon,
And hand in hand on the edge of the sand
They danced by the light of the moon,-
The moon, the moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.

Edward Lear

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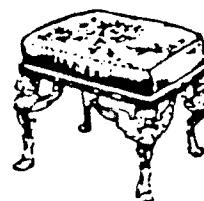
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