

Aston Abbots Parish Magazine



RA Franklin

# The Chronicle

September 1990

No. 32



# Editorial

It seems a long time ago now, but very well done to the organisers of this year's Festival. Unfortunately we weren't here for the Sunday, but the Fête on Saturday was most enjoyable. The organisers were here there and everywhere, working very hard and probably getting very hot - it was warm enough just standing in the children's area or watching the Morris dancers. So from all of the rest of us, thank you very much!

We'll be doing the Chronicle a week earlier this month, in an effort to build in more time for it to be distributed by the beginning of the month. Sorry all you regular contributors - after a month off, we need you to get writing again quite soon!

*Caroline Lane*

*Gordon Smith*

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The deadline for October's issue will be Friday 21st September. Please bring or send your material to us at 2 Church Row, Aston Abbots (telephone 681373).

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Thank you to Rosemary Franklin for this month's cover illustration, as well as for the chimney pots inside.



# INFO

## WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- Friday 7th: Parish Council meeting  
Church Room 8pm
- Saturday 8th: Sponsored ride around  
Bucks churches (see ad)
- Wednesday 12th: mobile library  
(times below)
- Monday 17th: Toddlers  
Church Room, 2.30-4 pm
- Thursday 20th: Whist Drive  
Church Room, 7.30 pm
- Sunday 23rd: Rambling Club meets  
Hardwicke Church 2pm
- Wednesday 26th: mobile library  
(times below)
- Sunday 30th: Woburn Park bus rally  
11 am - 5 pm  
Harvest Festival  
St James's Church
- Monday 1st Oct: Toddlers  
2.30-4pm, Church Room
- Saturday 29th: Harvest Buffet & Sale  
Church Room, 7.30 pm

## REGULARS

- Alternate Wednesdays, mobile library:  
The Green 2 - 2.30 pm  
Longmoor 2.35 - 50 pm  
(12th & 26th)
- Tuesdays: The Trawler mobile fish shop  
The Green, 1.40-2 pm
- Wednesdays: Fish & chip van, outside  
Bull & Butcher, about 8 pm
- Wednesdays: Bin Day
- Wednesdays: 10.30 free bus to Tesco  
(advise check with store as  
this may be discontinued soon)

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

## BUS CHANGES

Revised ROUTEMASTER timetable  
i.e. SATURDAYS ONLY

Depart  
Aylesbury 9.00 12.00 3.00 5.00  
Aston 9.23 12.23 3.23 5.23  
Leighton 9.43 12.43 3.43 - -

Depart  
Leighton 10.35 2.05 4.05 - -  
Aston 8.25 10.55 2.25 4.25 5.36  
Aylesbury 8.49 11.13 2.43 4.43 5.54

Note 11.05 ex Leighton Buzzard  
will now leave at 10.35 and  
operate 30 minutes earlier

Additional bus 5 pm ex Aylesbury  
to Cublington; 5.31 ex Cublington  
to Aylesbury

The 4.05 journey ex Leighton will  
not serve WINGRAVE.

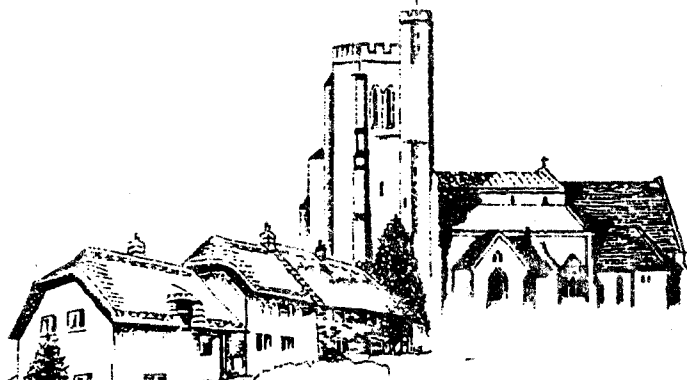


## SPONSORED BIKE OR HORSE RIDE

Saturday 8th September  
10 am - 6 pm

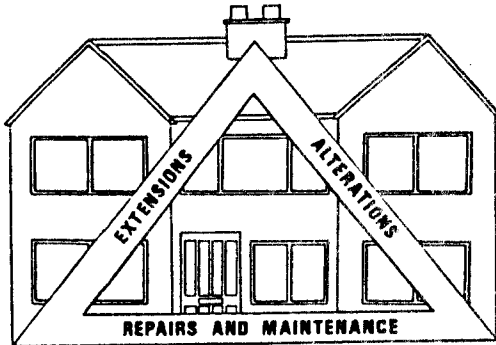
This is a ride around as many  
Bucks churches as you can  
manage. Half the sponsorship  
money goes to the Historic  
Churches Trust (Bucks) and  
half to your village's church  
or chapel.

Further details and sponsor-  
ship forms from Helen Dowling,  
5 The Green.



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# People

Our monthly column about village people, edited by BRIDGET BRANDON

## BIRTHDAYS

Piers Parker . . . . 4th Sept  
Christopher Fox . . . 6th Sept  
Fiona Whyte . . . . 6th Sept  
Sarah Smith . . . . 8th Sept  
James Dixon . . . . 10th Sept  
Halisi Drysdale . . . 22nd Sept  
Anna Picking . . . . 24th Sept  
Adrian Dixon . . . . 30th Sept



## WELCOME

John and Anne Brancker  
33 The Green

Isa and Andy Adams and their  
son Christopher (3)  
Horseshoe Cottage (next to  
the Cloisters)

The von Simpson family (sorry  
I don't know all your names)  
The Abbey

Chris and Pam Watson, new  
managers at the Bull & Butcher

## LOOKING BACK

Most of the members of the Youth Club in the 1950s (see last issue) are keeping fairly quiet about their activities. However, George Fox has bravely admitted that he was the disc jockey and used to take his gramophone and 78s across for members' entertainment. He used to cycle to other village youth clubs too. They had games of rounders in one of Mr Chapman's fields. He has a question. Does anyone know who Christine, listed as a member in the 1955/6 session, is? (No no, not Christine Fox.)

FOR SALE Electric organ. Suitable for child or beginner. Nice piece of furniture. Recently serviced. £75 for very quick sale. Telephone Tring 5767 or 4954.



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



# Church news

## FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism 26th August Rebecca Ann & Simon David Kent at Aston Abbotts  
Marriage 7th July Julian Bailey & Amanda Fox at Aston Abbotts  
11th August Richard Upton & Claire Atkins at Aston Abbotts

## RECTOR'S REPORT

As you can see from the above I have been having a fairly enjoyable time. It is strange how hard it seems to have to write a report after having a month off. There were several ideas I had for filling this space.

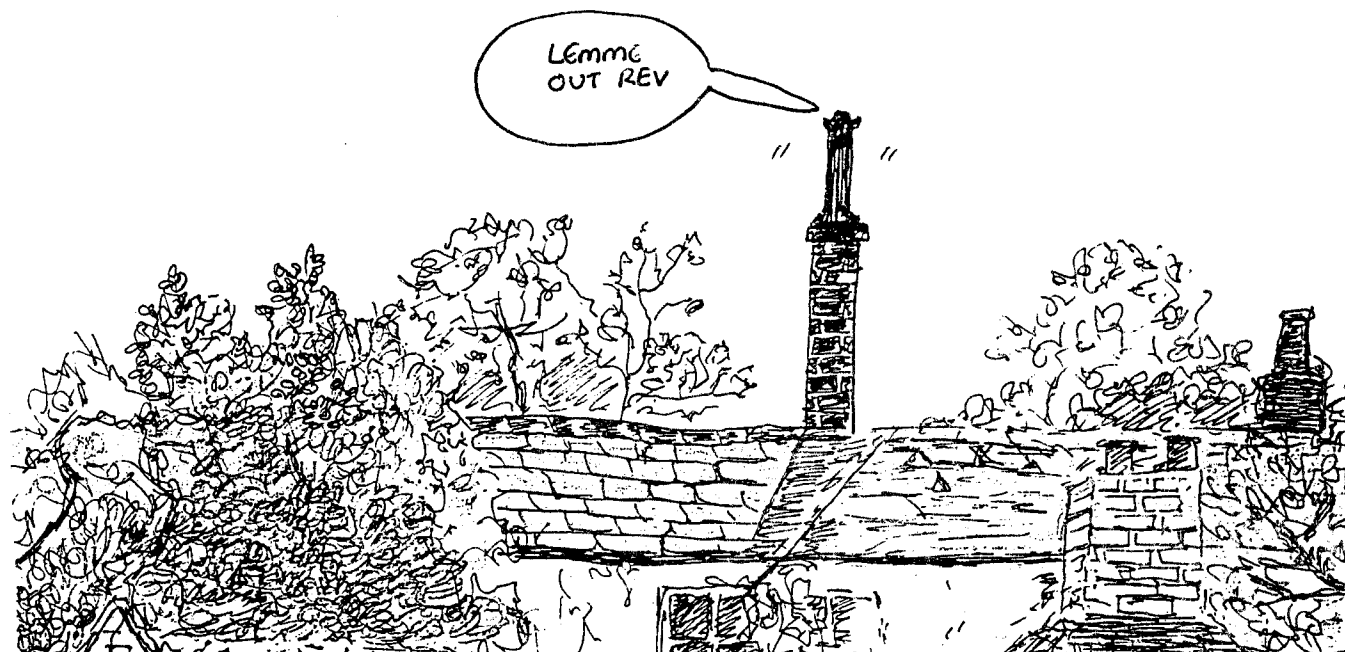
I could have written about my holiday - 'Went to the Seaside, walked a bit, read a bit, slept a lot. Big surprise - it didn't rain!' Then I thought that wasn't really on. So I thought of writing about the long hot dry summer. I dismissed that too, because thankfully it is now a 'Phew' degrees cooler and whilst we still need much more rain (preferably at night) our villages are not looking quite as parched as they did.

Being my first summer in Wingrave, it did strike me that it may be a local tradition that starlings have a fascination for coming down chimneys. Excluding the boiler, in our last house we had eight chimneys, and I don't even remember any trouble. Now we have only one open fireplace and several sooty starlings flapping around waiting to be released. It has probably got something to do with the diameter of the chimney pot and the angle at which it is possible for a starling to take off. Maybe having the chimney swept will solve the problem - at least they should be less sooty and make less of a mess.

No doubt in previous generations a starling down the chimney was held to be a sign - an omen, and it would not surprise me much if someone told me what it meant before the end of the month. I have spent some time during the summer looking into the history of Aston Abbotts - the sort of thing that is quite important to answer some of the questions that I get asked. Aston Abbotts proved fairly easy, because all the papers were easy to get hold of. I am told Wingrave has hoards of documents in the County Archives, and Cublington probably has too.

Now, what was I going to write about?

Bob Willmott





# Church news

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## CHURCH NOTES

September is here again, the season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' which the Church has celebrated with its Harvest Festivals ever since there has been a Church. Ours this year is over the weekend of 29th and 30th September. We start with the HARVEST BUFFET SUPPER and SALE at 7.30 pm on Saturday 29th. We shall provide a feast of good things to eat and drink (wine, beer, cider, the first glass included in the price of £4.00 a head); there will be a raffle, and we shall move on to a sale of produce when, if past sales are anything to go by, we or rather Len (in his inimitable style) will be auctioning bread and honey, cakes and jam, home-made wine and home-grown vegetables, and much else. Do come and enjoy a village evening.

On Sunday at 11.15 am we shall have the HARVEST FESTIVAL FAMILY SERVICE when harvest gifts will be brought to the Rector for later distribution to any in need of them. The flowers decorating the Church, which are usually magnificent, are also distributed in the same way. So please help in one or more of the following ways:

- Give generously to the Saturday Sale, gifts received any time by Len or me, or at the Church Room between 2 pm and 4 pm on Saturday afternoon;
- Come to the Buffet;
- Come to the Family Service;
- Let us know of anyone who would appreciate a harvest gift of flowers or fruit.

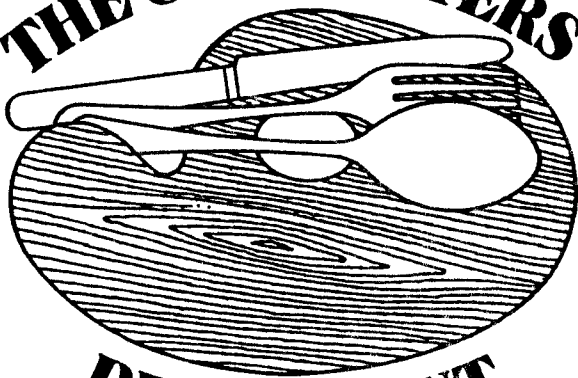
Peter Dines

## CHURCH SERVICES

	<u>Sidesman</u>
9th Sept HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 am Pentecost 14 Eph 3.14-end Luke 11.1-13 (p.707)	Alison Ford
16th Sept HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 am Pentecost 15 1 Tim 2.1-7 Matt 14.1-12 (p.712)	Colin Higgs
23rd Sept HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 am Pentecost 16 1 Jn 4.15-end Luke 16.19-end (p.715)	Michael Hasler
30th Sept HARVEST FESTIVAL FAMILY SERVICE 11.15 am Pentecost 17 (Gal 2.15-3.9 Luke 7.1-10, p.720) HARVEST READINGS 1 Tim 6.6-10 Luke 12.16-31	Churchwardens
7th Oct HOLY COMMUNION 11.15 am Pentecost 18 1 Pet 4.7-11 Matt 25.14-30 (p.727)	

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# THE OLD MASTERS



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0296 681319 9am-10pm

## 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).



# Parish Council

COMPLAINTS about parked vehicles on the grass verges outside the Church Room were reported to last Friday's meeting of Aston Abbotts Parish Council by Cllr John Ford.

He thought the NO WAITING restrictions should be extended to that part of the village, but after discussion and advice from County Cllr Reg Keen it was decided to monitor the situation before making a final decision on erecting signs.

It was noted that white lines and SLOW signs had been reinstated following recent road surfacing work in Aston Abbotts, and the new NO PARKING notices for the Green had been received and were due to be put up soon.

The Rambling Club would be erecting a sleeper bridge on the Old Masters/Longmoor footpath on their maintenance evening on Tuesday.

Aylesbury Vale's school holiday entertainment would be held in the village in the first week of August.

Cllr Roy Malin asked if any response had been received from people previously written to about dilapidated and unsightly property in the Conservation Area, but so far no replies had been received.

It was also decided to approach Benskins Brewery again about the poor state of the roof on the outbuildings at the Bull and Butcher, requesting that loose tiles be secured.

## YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Colin Higgs (Chairman)  
6 Wingrave Road 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 Cheshier  
20 The Green 681201

Next parish council meetings:  
7th Sept and 19th Oct, 8 pm

LBO, 7th August



As many of you will already know, Doris Scutchings is giving up the Post Office at the end of September. She has run the Post Office for 43 years, so will be very much missed. Our good wishes to her for the future.

Out of curiosity I rang the head office in Oxford to find out what plans are for Aston. They are looking for someone to take it over on a part-time basis. The post-mistress would be an agent, not an employee, of the PO, and would get an annual fee of £936 for opening for a maximum of 20 hours per week (negotiable up to this amount). If anyone is interested (I'm not) further details can be had from Sub Office Services, The Post Office, Oxford Counters District Office, 102/4 St Aldates, Oxford OX1 1ZZ.

Nobody had applied when I rang. This is sad, but not really

## Bid to save village shops

THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Council for Voluntary Service has launched a campaign to save village shops and local post offices.

The "Use it or Lose it" campaign started this week, and has been prompted by the closure of shops in the county over the last couple of months.

The council says shops and post offices are being put up for sale because they are no longer viable, and that this worrying trend is set to speed up as shop keepers and post masters and mistresses face the problem of the new uniform business rate combined with the poll tax for those who live on the premises.

The Field Officer at the BCVS Catherine Hinton said: "Altered shopping habits and the growth of superstores have all affected village shops and post offices over the past decade.

"The continuing effort by central government to have benefits and pensions paid directly into bank accounts hasn't helped either, and now district councils encourage people to pay the community charge by direct debit not at the post office."

She added: "1990/91 will be a crunch year for village shops. When I make rural visits, what the shop keepers are really worried about is rises of up to 200 per cent in their business rate. Small shops which already don't make much profit will not be able to survive, and the people who suffer in the villages without a shop or post office are the most vulnerable — the elderly, mothers with young children, the disabled and the young."

The campaign has the backing of Age Concern and the Pre-School Playgroups Association.

surprising - life is getting increasingly difficult for village shops and post offices, as the above cutting from the Advertiser/Gazette makes clear. The post office is a focal point of daytime life in the village and it would be a shame to lose it, so do find out more if you think you can help.

Caroline Lane

# ASTON ABBOTTS CHURCH ROOM

AVAILABLE FOR WEDDING RECEPTIONS: BIRTHDAY  
PARTIES: FOLK EVENINGS: DANCES: BINGO ETC...

MAXIMUM 60 PEOPLE.

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.

Please send copy and cheque [made payable to 'The Chronicle'] to **John Whyte**, 14 Bricstock, Aston Abbotts, Aylesbury, Bucks.

**S & N BRACKLEY**  
**117 WINSLOW ROAD**  
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*M. Talbot*

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# Festival

The Aston Abbots Village Fête Committee wishes to thank everyone who helped or gave to this year's Fête. Our special thanks to Mr Seager of Weedon for our First Prize in the raffle, the Hot Air Balloon Flight. Our thanks to the Old Masters restaurant for the second prize, and to Mr Dave Lewis for our third prize, a flying lesson (see elsewhere in this magazine for a report!). Thank you to Marshall and Trish for the barbecue, and to Colin Higgs for the Teddy Bear competition prizes. Finally, thanks to all the people who gave raffle prizes.

Shirley Ford

In the local press were there many photographs, but all those I saw published were of the horse (to be fair, Holly was one of the major attractions!). Luckily we had our own ace photographer there (well, Gordon). Unluckily, the camera wasn't really up to it, so our page of mugshots may well be too muddy for anyone to be identified. If you can work it out, send us your guesses for the Christmas show!

Caroline Lane

## BIGGLES TAKES TO THE AIR

It was the evening of July 31st, the moment I had been waiting for had finally arrived when I would take to the skies and into the unknown with David Lewis (Pilot Extraordinaire) of FLACKWELL ELECTRONICS, Church Farm, Aston Abbots, who kindly donated this magnificent prize at this year's fête.

To be honest I didn't actually win this prize but was kindly offered it by Ray and Sharon who after telling my niece Hayley she had won third prize of a flying lesson met with the response 'I don't have to do it do I dad?' at which Ray who can't stand flying and Sharon who bottled out at the mere thought of it gave it to me.

Apart from David and myself, Sam Husson who's mad on aeroplanes and my sister Michelle jumped at the chance of an experience not to be missed.

Booker Airfield, High Wycombe, was our destination as we set off on our journey to board the Piper Warrior which was waiting for us. As David started the engine it was amazing how noisy it was in the cockpit of a small four seater aircraft and a good job we had headphones for communication otherwise we would have found it difficult to speak to one another.

As we hurtled down the runway  
(please turn over)



Here's the Chronicle horse picture!

**AT ASTON ABBOTS** the village green played host to a traditional summer fête.

The many stalls did brisk business underneath the welcome shade of chestnut, oak and sycamore trees.

Fête treasurer David Watts said the event had raised about £950.

The cash will be divided between funds for the upkeep of the village's Methodist Chapel, the playing field, the church room, the parish magazine and St. James' Church.

Mr. Watts said: "The fête certainly proved very popular. The weather was very much on our side."

And he added: "We try and get as many villagers involved in the fête as possible. There was a very happy atmosphere."

Among the many attractions was Mike Marsden of Hardwick with horse, Holly.

The duo delighted young and old alike with horse and carriage rides around the village.

Mike's carriage — a Phaeton — may look old but it is in fact only 15 years old.

He said

ASTON ABBOTTS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

VILLAGE FETE 21 JULY 1990

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1989</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS		
Draw	351.60	459.36
Refreshments	86.35	100.50
Stalls	535.63	569.16
Sideshowes	53.40	93.41
Pony trap rides	52.60	-
Sponsorship and donations	250.00	380.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1329.58	1602.43
TOTAL EXPENSES	389.17	363.07
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET PROCEEDS	<u>£940.41</u>	<u>£1239.36</u>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

In accordance with the resolution passed at the Annual Parish Meeting in March 1990, the net proceeds are allocated as follows:-

St. James' Church	30%	282.00
Aston Abbotts Methodist Church	25%	235.00
"    "    Church Room	10%	94.00
"    "    Recreation Ground	20%	188.00
"    "    Chronicle	10%	94.00
Toddlers Group	5%	47.00
		<hr/>
		£940.00
		<hr/> <hr/>

The Committee wishes to thank the sponsors and donors who so generously gave money or draw prizes, in particular the following:

Welch Allyn Ltd	Waitrose (Leighton)
Mr & Mrs Bellingham	Tesco (Aylesbury)
Mr & Mrs Dines	Marks & Spencer
Dr Roberts	(Aylesbury)
"The Old Masters" Restaurant	



BIGGLES continues...

Dave asked me to take the controls ready for takeoff at which I thought 'thank goodness I never had a curry last night'. He told me to just gently pull back the column and we would be airborne, to my surprise we were up and over Chinnor before I had a chance to take it all in. We banked round to the right and headed towards Aylesbury which only took five to ten minutes. After spotting various landmarks we flew to Aston and our first port of call - flying directly over the top of Badgers Oak Farm where Sam lives for photographs.

Next we headed for the village to wave to family and friends. I was so engrossed with all the waving and photographs I forgot I was supposed to be flying the plane, so it was a good job Dave never shirked his responsibilities or we could have made front page headlines.

The journey back to High Wycombe seemed to go so quick, but there was one last surprise. Dave wanted me to have a go at landing, but by the look on Sam and Michelle's faces I don't think I was too popular a choice; but what the hell. Under Dave's expert guidance I actually managed to bring it down

bumpily but safely. So we swiftly took off to come round and have another go. This time was a little better much to the delight of the passengers.

Once down after securing the plane we headed straight for the bar for a much needed drink. I will never forget that night as long as I live, and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank David Lewis for a fantastic evening and hope we can do it again some day. I know the same goes for Sam and Michelle. Once again Dave THANKS.

Lawrence Hinds

LBC, 31st July

## Happy turn-out at the festival

BRILLIANT sunshine helped bring out a large crowd for Aston Abbotts Annual Village Festival, held on the Green.

Stalls laden with goods did a brisk trade in groceries, plants and garden produce, books, cakes, bric-a-brac, jumble, handicrafts, knitwear, ices and soft drinks.

Sideshowes including a tombola, pick-a-straw, video games, darts and bowling all kept busy, as were the tea ladies in the Church Room.

Floral displays in the church welcomed crowds of visitors and a barrel organ provided good background music.

Pony and trap rides around the Green were very popular and there were long queues for this activity through most of the afternoon.

A competition for the best-dressed teddy bear was won by David Hewitt as the Wizard, Esther Chesher (tops and tails) and Lorra Whyte (the bride).

Prizewinners in the mammoth raffle were

Mr K. Biddel, Mrs Boothman, Hayley Wilkinson, P. Bufland, G. Blackmore, V. Simmons and Miss Benniett.

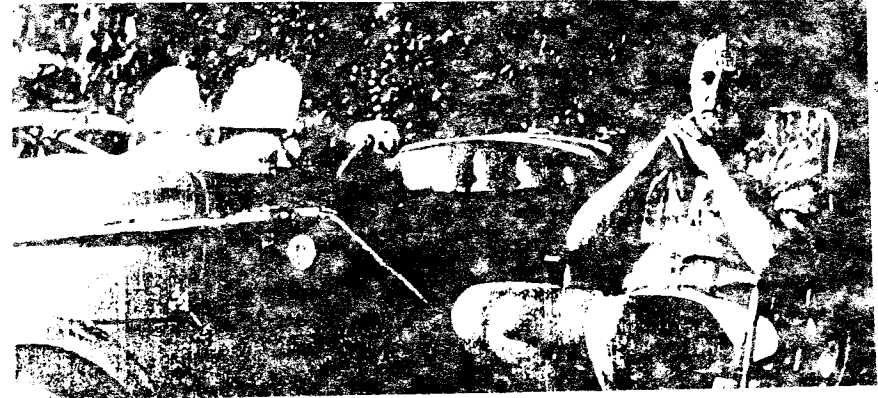
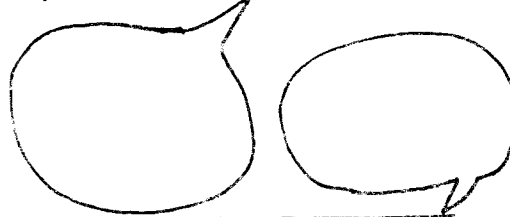
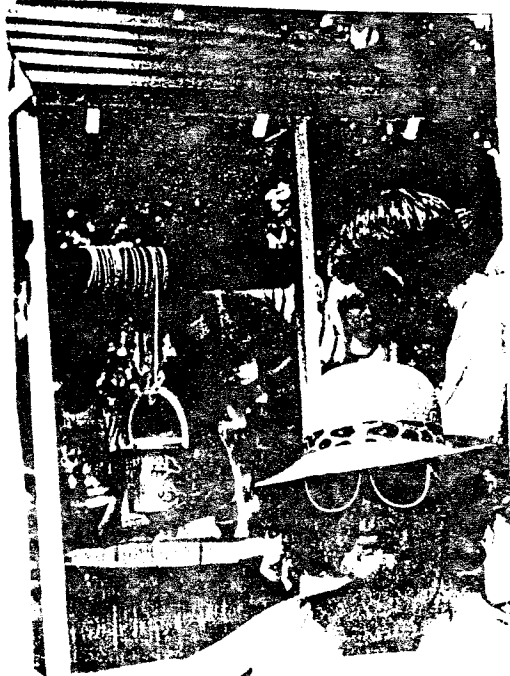
Saturday's events were brought to a close with a barbecue at The Royal Oak.

The weekend's activities continued with a village treasure hunt on the Sunday afternoon, which was won by Christopher and Gareth Brown.

Winners in the bowling were (gents) Mr C. Brandon, (ladies) Esther Chesher, (Juniors) Simon Williams.

A songs of praise service was held in the evening, conducted by the Rev Bob Wilmott. Various people in the village chose hymns, Arthur Roff and Colin Higgs read the Lessons, and Methodist Minister the Rev Lemmon gave the sermon. Mrs Scutchings was the organist.

**Pony rides and best-dressed teds**



- Come and ask if you'd like to see the originals. Some are actually quite good! -

## THE SWARM

I am sure many of you will be aware that this summer there have been more swarms of bees around the village than usual. Certainly if you pass my cottage regularly, or live around the Green you are almost bound to have seen swarms flying or hanging in trees. In fact on one occasion, and much to Percy's and other peoples amusement they settled on my garden chair for several days. Most people, particularly the youngsters, seeing these swarms, showed considerable interest, and if I was about, invariably stopped to ask questions. From these 'chats' over the garden gate it became very clear that bees are viewed with a mixture of facination and terror, particularly when they swarm, and therefore I thought I ought to put pen to paper in the hope of stimulating interest and dispelling fear of these useful little creatures.

The main reason they swarm is to increase their numbers. There are on average some 60,000 bees in a colony, this being the maximum number which can be controlled by the queen. She does this by exuding a perfume which not only 'bonds' the bees of each colony together but also by subtly changing this scent, she can to some extent control their activities. However, as the colony increases so this scent becomes more dilute untill it reaches a point where the workers are no longer under her control and the swarming instinct is triggered. At this point the workers increase the rate at which they work, building up large stores of honey and building special cells in which to raise new queens. These cells can easily be recognised by the beekeeper because they are large and instead of being horizontal, they hang down rather untidily on the outside of the comb. When these are finished the queen lays one egg into each. These are then fed with royal jelly which has the somewhat mystical property of ensuring the resulting larvae turn into queens. As soon as the larvae reach a certain size, they are sealed into their cells and left for that metomorphosis to take place which turns them into young queen bees.

Just before these queens start to hatch, 50-60% of the mature bees prepare to swarm. Advanced warning of this is given to the beekeeper by increased activity around the entrance to the hive. This builds to a crescendo and as soon as the old queen joins them, they fly to a nearby resting place, not too far from the hive. At first the air everywhere seems equally full of flying insects, but after a few minutes a 'lump' will appear on the under-side of a nearby branch. It is a gradual process, but in five or ten minutes there is hardly a bee in the air, while from the branch hangs a great pear shaped cluster sometimes weighing the branch down close to breaking point. This great mass of bees is frequently the first most people see of a swarm because the first flight is usually over fairly quickly. They will often stay in this temporary position for several days while the scout bees search for a more permanent home. These search initially as individuals, returning to make their recommendations to the remainder. The information is disseminated and seemingly a short list of suitable sites agreed. Groups of scouts then visit these sites and the process repeated until there is a general concensus as to where they want to live.

On agreeing their new home, they take to the air, circling around and around, gaining height in a whirling, confusing, roaring, magnificently terrifying mass, towards their new home. It is this mass exodus which strikes fear in the stoutest hearts. In reality however, there are few grounds for this because the bees are far less likely to sting whilst swarming, as their sole objective being to get to the shelter afforded by their new found home, build comb and fill it with honey so that the queen can raise the next generation. But thats another story!!!!

## Wingrave Garage

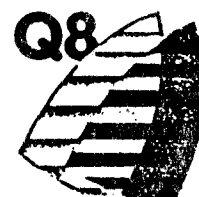
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# Wing Adult Centre Lifelong Learning

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Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 0NY

Telephone: Aylesbury 688632

We have received a leaflet from Wing Adult Centre listing all the daytime and evening courses offered this year; classes start week beginning 24th September. They offer a very wide variety of classes for all ages. The leaflet is too long to reproduce here, but if you are interested come and look at ours or give them a ring and they will send you one.

These are the kinds of classes on offer:

Keep Fit; Dancercise; Drawing and Painting; Spinning and Weaving; Lacemaking; Flower Arranging; Upholstery; Furniture Restoration; Fly-Tying; Yoga; Classical Guitar workshops; Indian Cooking; Chinese Cooking; Cake Decoration; Acting Skills; Practical Chairmanship; Public Speaking; Back to Work (for women); Your pre-school Child; Your child at School; Handwriting Analysis; Introduction to Counselling Skills; Modern Greek; French; French for Business; Spanish; German; German for Business; and Bridge for Beginners.

A number of classes are held during the day and especially designed for retired people.

Fees vary but as a guide, expect about £47 for a 20-week course, £26 for 10 weeks. There are reduced fees for OAPs and those receiving means-tested Social Security Benefits and under-18s. Discretionary grants are also available in special cases of hardship.

By the time you read this it will be too late for the first round of postal applications, but there are consultation and enrolment sessions during the week beginning 10th September; ring Aylesbury 688632 Monday to Friday between 9.00 and 12.30 for details. You can still join a class after 24th September if there is a place - ring the same number to find out. After 24th there will be someone there between 7 and 8.15 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays as well. Most classes are held in Wing.

## VILLAGE APPRAISALS

Catherine Hinton of the Bucks Council for Voluntary Service has sent us a circular encouraging Aston Abbotts to do a village appraisal. It would take stock of good points, problems, assets and needs, and collect the views of everyone who lives here in order to plan for the future. Village appraisals are usually in the form of a questionnaire delivered to every household. Catherine will come and talk to any interested group - parish

council, Ladies Club or other - and can show a video and give examples of other appraisals done in Bucks. If you would be interested in finding out more about the village as a whole, contact Catherine at:

Bucks Council for Voluntary  
Service  
Walton House, Walton St,  
Aylesbury HP21 7QQ  
Telephone 0296 21036

## THE MORRIS

Having enjoyed a wonderful (and considerably alcoholic) Sunday lunchtime outside The Half Moon over at Wilstone, watching seven 'sides' of Morris Men, I felt inspired to ask Gordon if he would publish their programme for the remainder of the season, as well as a few notes about their history I scrounged from one of the Whitchurch Morris Men.

The Morris Dance is apparently one of the oldest customs of rural England. Its origin is unknown but there is evidence that it is pre-Christian and it was certainly widespread in the Middle Ages. With the passage of time, the pagan characteristics have faded and the Morris Dance become firmly a part of the English scene. (The name 'Morris', possibly a corruption of 'Moorish', was given to the dance in the Middle Ages) The dance does, however, still retain its ceremonial nature and this distinguishes it from the social country dance.

It is acknowledged that Morris Men owe a lot to the work of Cecil Sharp who, early this century, learned the steps and figures from the old dancers and passed them on to a new generation. This in turn encouraged the traditional teams (that is those who learned the dances from their own fathers and grandfathers), many of which are still flourishing. Now both old and new clubs meet under the aegis of the Morris Ring and thus the continuity of the tradition is assured.

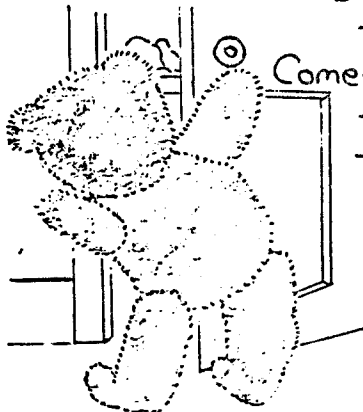
The programme for the rest of this season is as follows;

Sun.	Sept. the 9th	12.30 pm	Grand Junction Bulbourne	"
"	" "	2.30 pm	Pitstone Green Farm Museum	"
Tues.	" " 18th	8.00 pm	The Bell Stoke Mandeville	"
Wed.	" " 30th	12.30 pm	The Red Lion/ Little missenden	"

PS. Any one wishing to form an Aston Abbotts Morris 'side', please contact John at 33 The Green. *John*

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## GOLF AT WEST PARK?

Encouraged in the 1960s and 1970s to produce as much food as possible, farmers like Richard Manning at West Park Farm, Wing, did just that.

The result was butter, mountains and huge stockpiles of grain, followed by calls on farmers to take land out of food production.

West Park has been owned by the Manning family since 1868 and Mr. Manning wants this to continue. A golf course on his land is an acceptable alternative to bankruptcy he says.

"High borrowing rates and the fact that people do not now need so much food is forcing farmers to

diversify," he said.

"Nearly every farmer is living on a massive overdraft.

"The public seem to have this picture of rich, gentlemen farmers riding around in Range Rovers.

"It could not be further from the truth.

"We are struggling to survive."

Joining the EEC, Mr. Manning admitted, was better than British isolation but there were drawbacks.

"We have to do what they say and that is not always good for English farmers.

"And there has been unfair action against us, like the time the French refused to accept our lamb."

To entice farmers to halt their food output the government has devised the set-aside scheme whereby farmers are paid

£80 an acre to cease cultivating 20 per cent of their arable land for five years.

This scheme has been in existence for two years now, and one of the results has been farmers looking for alternative uses for the land which is no longer farmed.

The golf course development, which will take up about half of West Park Farm, has been given the go-ahead by Aylesbury Vale district council.

It is located at the northern side of the farm and will not interfere in the running of the remaining 50 per cent.

"A golf course is an acceptable diversification," commented Mr. Manning.

"It is environmentally friendly and does not carve up the countryside."

Mr. Manning has opted not to develop the golf course himself, and is now looking for a buyer.

When the costs are considered his decision is understandable.

The cost of building a golf course on farmland is anything from £250,000 to £1,250,000.

"A lot of planning applications are going through at quite a speed but how many will actually come to fruition?" asked Paul Baxter.

"When faced with such high capital costs, some farmers will not be able to put the money up front."



Farmer Richard Manning: Golf course acceptable alternative to bankruptcy

VIVIAN HARRIS, M S S Ch, M B Ch A

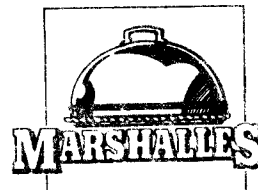
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A MONTHLY LOOK AT FACTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW

What is the average depth of sand in the deserts of Egypt?

It is impossible to form a correct estimate of the depth of sand covering the Egyptian desert, as it is constantly shifting, and where the bare rock appears one day, there may be a mound 300 ft. high the next. The best authorities have averaged the depth of sand at from 20 ft. to 30 ft. but they admit that all such estimates must be purely conjectural.

.....

LARGEST, SLOWEST, SAFEST.

The Crawler, the huge transporter which took the Space Shuttle to its launch pad, was the worlds largest and slowest vehicle. It weighed 3000 tonnes and its top speed was 2 M.P.H. Nevertheless, in the interests of safety, the driver was ordered to wear a seat belt.

.....

What village receives its heat for about one sixth of the year through a hole in a mountain?

The little village of Elm in the Canton of Glaris (Switzerland), although situated 3300 ft. above the level of the sea, is so encompassed by mountains 8000 ft. high, that during six months of the year it is an entire stranger to the rays of the sun. One of these mountains has an aperture pierced through it near the top, called "St. Martin's Hole."

Through this hole the sun shines upon the village, for four weeks together, about the time of the equinox every spring and autumn, as through a natural telescope.

"WISE OLD GOAT"

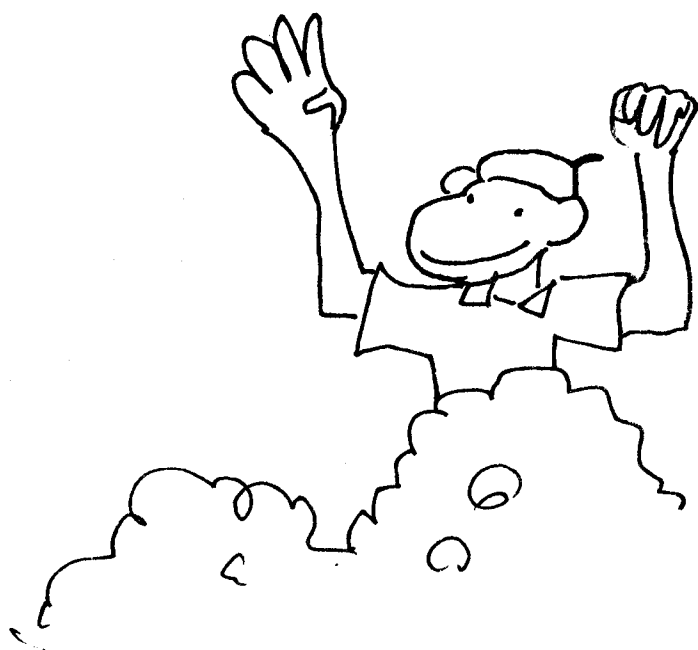


Counting parrots



Zephir counts 4 parrots

(from Babar's Counting Book  
by Laurent de Brunhoff)

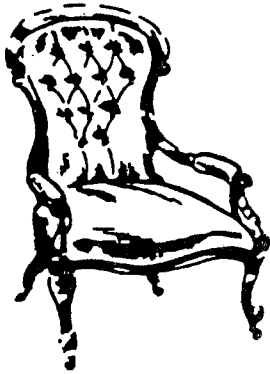


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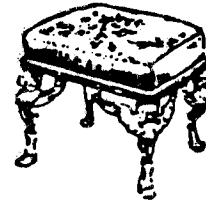
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