

The Chronicle

ASTON ABBOTS PARISH MAGAZINE

October 1990

No. 83



Editorial

This editorial was to have been devoted to the question of the Church Room, but in the end it **needed** a whole page. Suffice it to say here that the redecorated Room looks lovely, but the redecoration has brought to a head once again questions about how the Room is managed, questions which for the good of the village as a whole should not go unanswered. Please write in with your views.

I was rather sorry to see a letter in the local paper from someone living in Ledburn, complaining that all the hedges had been cut back recently so there were no blackberries to be had. I've always enjoyed blackberrying, and there are loads this year around the village. For the first time we've collected sloes and elderberries as well, and Gordon has been trying his hand at cordials, wine, jelly and jam... well it all smells very nice anyway. Whether the wine will rival the Brandon Red remains to be seen!

Caroline Lane

The deadline for the November issue is Friday 19th October. Please send or bring articles, letters and other contributions to us at 2 Church Row, 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

Thanks to Andy Bystra for this month's cover illustration



INFO

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

- Monday 1st: Toddlers
2.30-4pm, Church Room
- Thursday 4th: Whist Drive
7.30pm, Church Room
- Wednesday 10th: Mobile library
Times below
- Wednesday 10th: Wing Association
Parish Councils
7.30pm, Wing Hall
- Thursday 11th: Bingo
7.30 pm, Church Room
- Sunday 14th: Rambling Club meet
2pm, Battlesden
- Monday 15th: Toddlers
2.30-4pm, Church Room
- Tuesday 16th: Rambling Club
programme planning
8pm, Viv and Stan's
- Thursday 18th: Whist Drive
7.30 pm, Church Room
- Friday 19th: Parish Council
8pm, Church Room
- Wednesday 24th: Mobile library
Times below
- Thursday 25th: Bingo
7.30 pm, Church Room
- Saturday 27th: Barn Dance
8-11pm, Church Room
Tickets £2.50 (681343)
- Monday 29th: Toddlers
2.30-4pm, Church Room

REGULARS

- Alternate Wednesdays, library:
The Green, 2-2.30pm
Longmoor, 2.35-50pm (10th, 24th)
- Tuesdays: The Trawler mobile fish
shop, The Green, 1.40-2pm
- Wednesdays: Bin Day

THE LADIES' CLUB

- Thursday 4th: Mr Dorrance, 'Zululand') 2.45 pm,
Thursday 18th: Mrs Jordan, 'Chinese Embroidered Robes') Church Room

BOOK THESE DATES

- Sunday 4th Nov: London-Brighton
Old Crocks Race
Coach departs The Green 8am
Book with Colin (681343)
- Sunday 2nd Dec: Fimmere Market
Bus leaves The Green 9am
Book with Colin (681343)

UNDER 5 YEARS OLD?

Aston Abbotts Toddlers invite parents to bring their children aged 0-5 to the Church Room on alternate Monday afternoons (see left for dates and times). All ages and tastes (well, socially acceptable ones) are catered for - there is a baby play area, sit&ride toys, a farmyard, books, puzzles, crayons, a slide and building bricks. Activities which vary from week to week include painting, glueing, play dough, sand, and a blackboard. There are refreshments for everyone and we round off the afternoon with a singsong.

For more information ring Janet Biddle on 681102 or Deirdre Whyte on 681685.

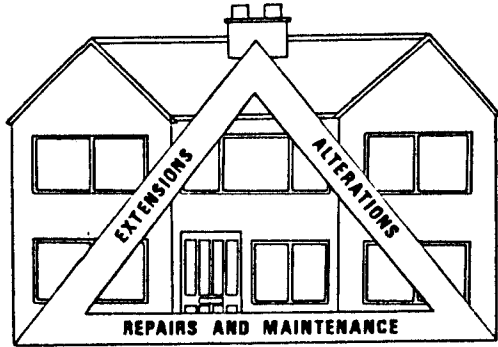
Advance warning! On 12th November we are having an Usborne Books party with a raffle and Bring & Buy; this is an open afternoon so all are welcome with children or without!

THE SUNDAY CLUB

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

CHALLENGER BUILDERS

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UPDATE



THE RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 1990

Important changes to the law on ploughing and cropping of public footpaths came into effect on 13th August. The main points are:

Disturbing paths Paths around the edge of a field must not be disturbed. Those across a field may be ploughed or disturbed if necessary by a farmer provided the surface is restored within 14 days. The line of the path must be apparent, the surface suitable for walkers or riders, and the width 1 metre for footpaths, 2 for bridleways.

Crops (except grass) must not inconvenience walkers or riders. Around the edge of a field, 1.5 metres must be left clear for a footpath, 3m for a bridleway.

Problems Report any problems to the rights of way officer of Bucks (or other) county council. The council has a duty to see that the law is enforced. Tell the officer the date when you found the problem, a map reference or detailed sketch, and the nature of the problem. The council can put it right or take legal action.

More information The Countryside Commission can supply the following free booklets:

- Out in the Country (CCP 186)
(about rights and duties in the country)
- The Rights of Way Act 1990:
Guidance Notes for Farmers (CCP 299)
- The Rights of Way Act 1990:
Guidance Notes for Highway Authorities (CCP 301)

Write for the booklets to:
Countryside Commission Publications
19/23 Albert Road
Manchester M19 2EQ

The British Horse Society works through its voluntary bridleways officers to improve, preserve and increase your bridleways. The Society's address is:

British Horse Society
British Equestrian Centre
Stoneleigh, Kenilworth
Warwickshire CV8 2LR

The Ramblers' Association has for more than half a century pursued its aims of promoting rambling, protecting footpaths, seeking public access to open country and defending the natural beauty of the country. It has 77,000 members and can be contacted at:

The Ramblers' Association
1/5 Wandsworth Road
London SW8 2XX Tel. 071-582 6878

MEALS ON WHEELS

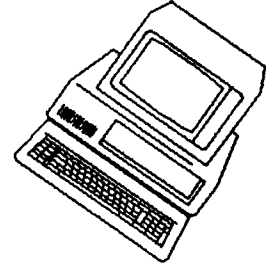
The Parish Council has received a letter from Bucks County Council Social Services Department. They are appealing for volunteers for the WRVS Meals on Wheels service. They explain that they want to improve and extend the service, enabling more meals to be delivered to people who are housebound and depend upon the service.

Further details about duties and how volunteers can help are available from :

The WRVS County Organiser
Mrs Pat Pearson
2 Rickfords Hill
Aylesbury
Telephone 0296 82813

THE SMALL FIRMS COMPUTER ADVISOR

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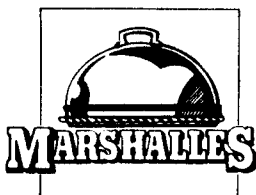


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People

Our monthly column about village people, edited by BRIDGET BRANDON

BIRTHDAYS

Denise Robinson 2nd October
Juliette Gutierrez 3rd October
Edward Picking 11th October
Juan Gutierrez 14th October
Rita Robinson 26th October
Haley Wilkinson 31st October

GET WELL SOON

Mrs Bennion, who had a fall recently, and is presently in hospital with a broken leg.

HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST SPONSORED BIKE RIDE 8th September

With borrowed bikes (thank you, Doris) and a list of ten churches, we set off down Lines Hill (easy bit first) to Weedon and Hardwick. We were welcomed by two very nice ladies who served lemon squash and apologised for the scotch having just run out, and it was still only 11.20 am!

Cycled on to Whitchurch and Cublington. The Unicorn could offer no lunch so we wearily pedalled on to Stewkley. There we were greeted in the churchyard by signers on and shown the Swan 300 yards away, for lunch and a short rest.

Wing beckoned, so with heavy stomachs and light heads we adjusted our tyre pressures and went on our way. The vicar of Wing flashed past us just as we were struggling up the hill (he was smiling broadly, but then he was going down). Freewheeled our way to Wingrave just in time for the wedding. Our own vicar Bob signed our form, while waiting for the bride to arrive.

CHRISTMAS SHOW!

A cast of thousands is already in training for this year's extravaganza

ROBIN HOOD

(he likes his puddings, he likes his beer
But he isn't kind to deer I fear)

meets the

SHERIFF OF CUBLINGTON

(This is a man of whom it's said
He'd strangle teddybears in their bed)

Starring ANDY BYSTRA as Richard, coeur de lion, jambes de grenouille auto de Citroen

Anyone wishing to take part or help behind the scenes, please contact:

Chris Brandon	681425
Neil Cheshier	681201
John Whyte	681685
Tony Hewitt	681390
Gordon Smith	681373

Performance dates to be announced shortly

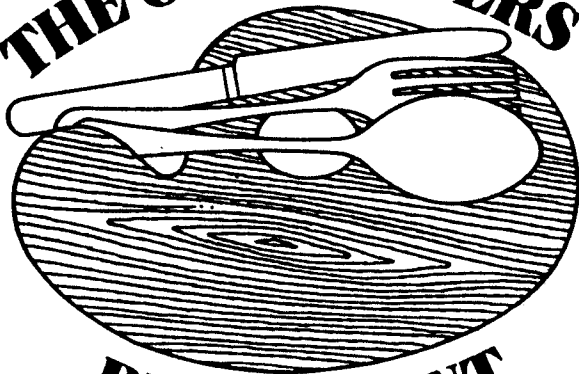
We managed to leave before making a cameo appearance on the Wedding Video.

Survived the crossroads, and made our way uphill to Aston Abbots, where we finally laid our bikes to rest.

Many thanks to all the churches who provided liquid refreshment and biscuits!!

Simon and Helen Dowling

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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).

THE CHURCH ROOM

Uncertainty and bewilderment persist over the management of the Church Room.

Since March 1984, a Church Room Management Committee has existed, elected by and reporting to the Annual Parish Meeting. The Committee, always chaired by the Rector of the day, has had responsibility for maintenance, improvement, and funds raised by bookings or particular events. Its members have represented a variety of groups in the village, many not otherwise connected with St James's Church. There seems to be general agreement that the Committee has done a good job. The Room is in funds: prior to recent redecoration we believe these stood at around £1400.



All this sounds quite a success story, until we come to this year. Such meetings of the Committee as have taken place have been heated, with a majority feeling that there is a desire to take away from the village's representatives the management of its meeting room. The Rector has not called any meetings for several months, despite requests to do so. The Room has recently been redecorated without any reference of the expense to the Committee. At the subsequent Parochial Church Council meeting there were protests, and further calls for a Room Committee meeting. The PCC did not wish to run the Room without the support of the village.

The issue has been muddied by the question of the ownership of the Room. The Rector announced in March that a legal document had been discovered and passed to the Diocesan solicitor. I have heard no more of this since. However interesting this question may be, it seems largely irrelevant in practice. The Church Room is a most important village amenity; the crucial questions are how it is maintained, how funds are raised and how it is used.

The simplest and fairest solution would be for the Committee to be reconvened, with an agreement that all hatchets should be buried, and that the decisions taken by the Committee be respected by all of its members. A proportion of Church Room funds was raised or donated on the clear understanding that this was the way in which they were to be administered and that investment of time, effort and money should be respected.

If, for whatever reason, the Committee is not recalled, then the disposal of the funds for which it is responsible should be referred to the Annual Parish Meeting. This would at least give those who have worked so hard for the Room the opportunity to discuss the distribution of the fruits of their labours.

The Rector has been particularly invited to comment on the current Church Room situation, but has not wished to do so. We should be happy to publish comments, corrections, further information and constructive suggestions from readers.

Gordon Smith

ASTON ABBOTTS CHURCH ROOM

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

MAXIMUM 60 PEOPLE.

FURTHER DETAILS FROM DORIS SCUTCHINGS ON
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£1.50 per hour + metered electricity
for residents of the parish.

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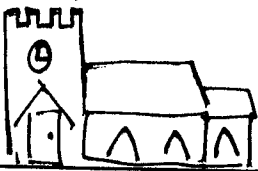
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Church News

CHURCH NOTES

I suppose everyone knows the quotation 'Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things which are God's' which is the basis under which Christians see their duty as supporting the State in its just endeavours by paying taxes and indeed, for most of us, in serving in its armed forces, if called upon, in time of need. It was Archbishop Temple who reminded us that the only justification for the existence of a State is for the good of all its people. 'And what is good?' is of course the question. Well for one thing it is surely good that if a fire breaks out as it has done in the village more than once recently an official fire brigade is on immediate alert and that we all contribute to its cost. What a State it would be if when we called a fire brigade or an ambulance we were first asked 'are you one of our members?'. No, there are certainly many things which properly we all pay or have paid our taxes towards. How civilised it is though to know that if you pay income tax and if you give to a charity, whether it is the church, or the chapel, the RNIB, the RNLI, the Hospice, or whatever, that if you covenant your money the tax you have paid on it can be recovered. Under this scheme the Church has just received a cheque for £364.67 from the Government. It is, of course, 'getting our own back' in a most pleasant way!

Peter Dines

CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Sidesman

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| 7th October | HOLY COMMUNION | 11.15 am | John Ford |
| Pentecost 18 | 1 Peter 4.7-11; Matt 25.14-30 | (p. 727) | |
| 14th October | HOLY COMMUNION | 11.15 am | Michael Hasler |
| Pentecost 19 | Rom. 5.1-11; Luke 19.1-10 | (p. 732) | |
| 21st October | HOLY COMMUNION | 11.15 am | Colin Higgs |
| Last after P. | Rev. 7.2-4, 9-end; Matt 25.1-13 | (p. 748) | |
| 28th October | HOLY COMMUNION | 11.15 am | Alison Ford |
| 9 before Christmas | Gen 1.1-3, 24-31; John 1.1-14 | (p. 398) | |
| 4th November | HOLY COMMUNION | 8.00 am | (Prayer Book) |
| | FAMILY SERVICE | 11.15 am | (Methodist) |
| 8 before Christmas | Gen 4.1-10; Mark 7.14-23 | (p. 403) | |

RECTOR'S REPORT

A couple of months back I received a 'mail-shot' which seemed to have the makings of a good Harvest sermon - so I took note and filed it. No, I didn't lose it! But, when I got it out again and read it through, I couldn't see what the idea was that I was planning to use. However I was very interested in what it said about the way in which rural life has been 'sanitised'. You will probably have heard of the 'rural experience' holiday centres. Basically it is a holiday camp set in the countryside. Accomodation is in pine chalets dotted around the site and there are central facilities. There is the villagey Clubhouse with its Amusements annex and large Car Park. Because the chalets are 'self-catering' there is also a well-stocked supermarket, launderette, swimming pool and sauna. And we'd better have an adventure playground for the children, and a barbecue area for good measure. Oh, and a hairdresser. All the estate has good well-lit roads and only the most minor paths are finished with bark-chippings to complete the authentic rural 'feel'.

It is, of course, all sham. But the trouble is that many of the people who take their holidays there think that that is what living in the countryside is really like. No wild plants, No mud, No barbed wire! I shall probably be severely criticised for even suggesting that our pleasant villages are not as 'rural' as many others - but we need to face the fact that there are very many villages that have far less facilities than those which we take for granted. There is a fairly easily recognisable way in which rural deprivation takes place. An increasingly ageing population means that the village school becomes threatened. The younger people who move in tend to be more mobile than their predecessors, so they don't use the village shop - and so the spiral downwards continues.

I haven't yet had a chance to see the new Church report on life in the countryside, but I suspect that many of its findings will mirror those in the 'Faith in the City' report. I hope that we are not urged to respond to a 'Church Rural Fund' to follow the 'Church Urban Fund'. I say that not because some money would help some rural situations, but because money isn't the answer.

Traditional village life was based on feudalism - and that is what we are finding so hard to live with. But then, stinging nettles will only grow where the soil is extremely good! Democracy may work in towns, we need to find a new feudalism to bring our villages back to life.

Bob Willmott

AYLESBURY and LEIGHTON BUZZARD

SATURDAYS FROM 8 SEPTEMBER 1990

(not Public Holidays)

SERVICE No		5	5A	5	5	5
AYLESBURY BUS STATION (BAY 9)	-----	0900	-----	1200	1500	1700
Elmhurst, Surgery	-----	0905	-----	1205	1505	1705
Bierton, Red Lion	-----	0910	-----	1210	1510	1710
Rowsham	-----	0913	-----	1213	1513	1713
Wingrave, Cross Roads	-----	0915	-----	1215	1515	1715
Wingrave Green	-----	0918	-----	1218	1518	1718
Aston Abbotts	-----	0923	-----	1223	1523	1723
Cublington Cross Roads	-----	0927	-----	1227	1527	1727
Wing, Soulbury Turn/Stewkley Road	-----	0933	1018	1233	1533	-----
Linslade, The Hare/Bunkers Lane	-----	0938	1023	1238	1538	-----
LEIGHTON BUZZARD High Street	-----	0943	1028	1243	1543	-----

SERVICE No		5	5	5A	5	5	5
LEIGHTON BUZZARD High Street	-----	1030	1245	1405	1605	-----	-----
Linslade, The Hare/Bunkers Lane	-----	1035	1250	1410	1610	-----	-----
Wing, Soulbury Turn/Stewkley Road	-----	1040	1255	1415	1615	-----	-----
Cublington Cross Roads	0821	1046	-----	1421	1621	1730	-----
Aston Abbotts	0825	1050	-----	1425	1625	1734	-----
Wingrave Green	0830	1055	-----	1430	--R--	--R--	-----
Wingrave, Cross Roads	0833	1058	-----	1433	1628	1737	-----
Rowsham	0835	1100	-----	1435	1630	1739	-----
Bierton, Red Lion	0838	1103	-----	1438	1633	1742	-----
Elmhurst, Surgery	0843	1108	-----	1443	1638	1747	-----
AYLESBURY BUS STATION (BAY 9)	0848	1113	-----	1448	1643	1752	-----

NOTE:- --R-- ON REQUEST ONLY.

TELEPHONE: Aylesbury 28034
67 Charmfield Road, Aylesbury Bucks HP21 9RQ

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

SCHOOLS QUESTIONNAIRE

Bucks County Council is seeking views from parents, teachers and poll tax payers on plans to change Bucks schools. Changes may be needed to help pupils working on the national curriculum. Should children start in the September before they are five? Should they transfer at seven not eight and at eleven not twelve? Get your copy from schools, libraries or council offices before 23rd November.



QUIZ PAGE

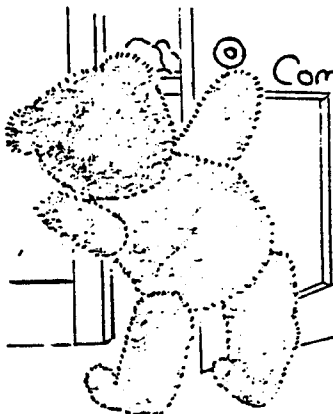
1. What is the name of the stone circle near Marlborough?
2. What is the Barrel of Butter?
3. Where is the Cow and Calf Rock?
4. Which river does the city of Durham stand on?
5. Which is Britain's highest mountain?
6. Which town west of Folkestone is a 'Cinque Port'?
7. Where is the annual International Eisteddfod?
8. Where was the former home of Sir Winston Churchill?
9. Where does the river Thames rise?
10. Where would you find the Dinton Hermit?
11. Which port did the Mayflower sail from in 1620?
12. What is Yoga?
13. What is a yokel?
14. Who was Pharoah?
15. What is a zephyr?
16. Where is the Cowper museum?
17. Who built the Brill tramway?
18. How many arrows are there in the Rothschild coat of arms?
19. Who refused to pay 'ship money'?
20. What was the name of the farm used by the Great Train Robbers?

Answers on p. 17

(Thanks to Colin)

KIDDIES CLOTHES CUPBOARD

Nearly-new clothes for babies & children
bought & sold



Come & take a look inside the cupboard

Thursday 10.00am - 3.00pm

or by appointment:-

Mrs Christine Chapman

Weedon Lodge Farm

East End

Weedon

Aylesbury 641452

Can you bear not to look

CHILTERN RAMBLE

ASTON Abbots
Rambling Club
members met at Great
Kimble for a Sunday
afternoon walk in the
Chilterns.

They were led by
Yvonne and John Ward,
who started from St
Nicholas' Church and
then went uphill to Chè-
quers. The party walked
through the woods to
Great Hampden cross-
roads and then on to
Lady Dodds Cottages
and Ellesborough
church. They finished at
Little Kimble to view
the site of the medieval
settlement.

LBO, 11th Sept

Headteacher

Mr. B.D. McClellan BEd MA

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SCHOOL LIBRARY

As many of you will have noticed our old school library is now being used as a classroom for the Rising-5's and the books and shelving have been moved to the temporary classroom, where they will have to remain until our kitchen area has been converted into a new library/resources area.

It was the teachers themselves who carried out the move in their own time at the end of last term and during the holiday, and I am grateful to them for their efforts.

You will also be aware that the School Association has raised £1500 for the purchase of new library books for the school. As the library has not been updated and catalogued for some considerable time, it was felt that this was an opportunity to do so before the new books are added. Therefore, it is proposed to close the library in the week immediately after half term, 5 - 9 November, so that this can take place. It will be a very time-consuming and labour-intensive task and Mrs. Rice, our school librarian, desperately needs assistance. Parents often express a wish to help the school in any way possible so here is your chance! Ideally we need a working party of six (or more) at any one time - parents, grandparents or friends of the school for as long as they can spare on the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of that week. Hopefully most of this gargantuan task will be completed by then. PLEASE HELP, and, if you can, forward the reply slip below to the Headteacher.

B. D. McClellan

B. D. McClellan
 Headteacher

SCHOOL LIBRARY RE-ORGANISATION

I shall be pleased to assist in the re-organisation of the school library at the following times:

		9 - 10	10 - 11	11 - 12	1 - 2	2 - 3
Monday	5 November					
Tuesday	6 November					
Wednesday	7 November					
Thursday	8 November					
Friday	9 November					

Name: _____

Telephone No: _____

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A MONTHLY LOOK AT FACTS YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW

The average life of a house mouse is six years.

.....

Up and away.

Deimos, the second moon of Mars, is an irregularly shaped lump of rock no more than 15km(9 miles) across. Because of its size, its gravitational pull is so feeble that an astronaut could launch himself into space from it simply by jogging at about 11km/h(7mph)...and jumping into the air.

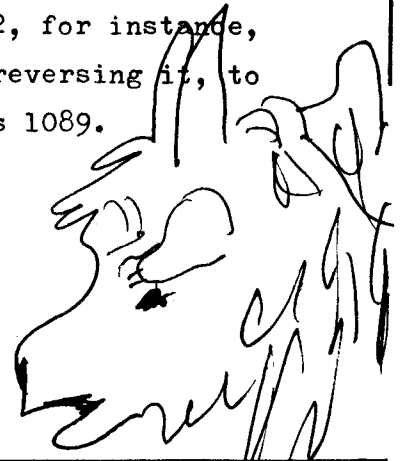
.....

The sum that's always the same.

Take any three-figure number in which the first figure is larger than the last, say 725. Reverse it, making 527, and subtract the smaller from the larger, making 198. Now add the result to the same number reversed, 891. The answer is 1089--and will be 1089 whatever number you start with. Even if the result of the subtraction is two figures rather than three--221 minus 122, for instance, comes to 99--simply put a zero on the front before reversing it, to make the sum 099 plus 990...and the answer again is 1089.

.....

'WISE OLD GOAT'

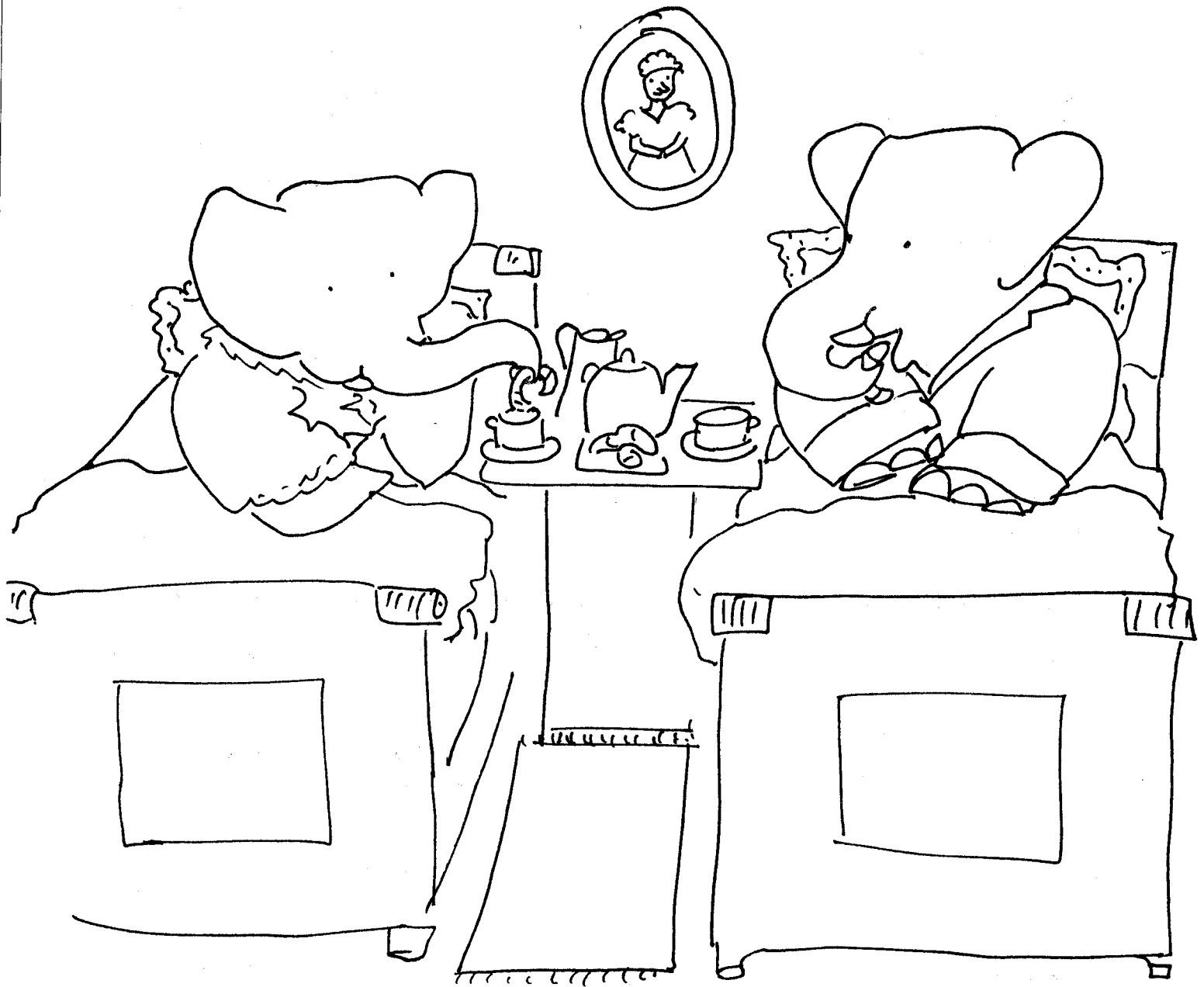


ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------|
| 1. Avebury | 6. Hythe | 11. Plymouth | 16. Olney |
| 2. An island rock off Orkney | 7. Llangollen | 12. Hindu system of meditation | 17. Duke of Buckingham |
| 3. Ilkely Moor | 8. Chartwell | 13. A countryman | 18. Five |
| 4. Wear | 9. SW of Cirencester | 14. Egyptian king | 19. John Hampden |
| 5. Ben Nevis (4408 ft) | 10. A.P. House at Ford | 15. Gentle breeze or fine woollen fabric | 20. Leatherslade |



It's old photograph time again. Top, the School Christmas Party, 1954; bottom, the Ladies' Club Old People's Tea, May 5th, 1949.



In the morning Babar and Celeste had breakfast in bed, for they were still tired after their adventures.

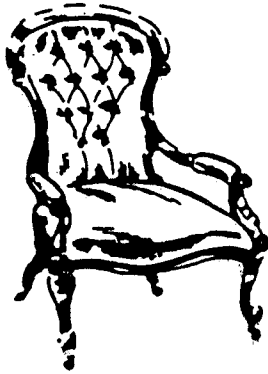
From Babar's Travels by Jean de Brunhoff

A page to colour

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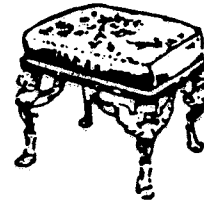
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