# THE CHRONICLE

ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH MAGAZINE ISSUE 195 NOVEMBER 2000



### The Chronicle online

e mail us at our new address

editor@aston-abbotts-chronicle.co.uk



### **Editorial**

Sunday 29th October 2000

### IMPORTANT INFO - E-MAIL

THE CHRONICLE has a new e-mail service

You can send your e-mails to

editor@aston-abbotts-chronicle.co.uk

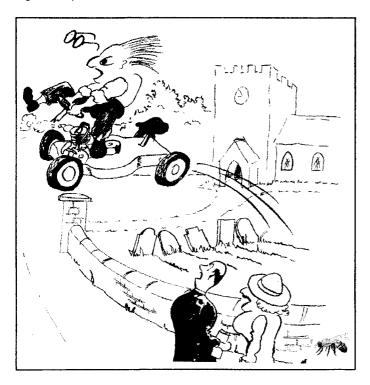
Without further ado, I am delighted to report that we have a new Editor for **THE CHRONICLE** - more on this inside!!!! I have thoroughly enjoyed my 2+ years as Editor (hopefully you have too....) but I'm pleased to be handing over the reigns.

Rest assured, I have no intention of retiring from **THE CHRONICLE** (good news or bad depending on your point of view) and I'm looking forward to returning to my roots as a journalist with some in-depth investigative reporting on the issues concerning our village and the surrounding area.

### **CAPTION COMPETITION**

The big news this month is that we have a new hi-tech sit-on mower to cut the grass at the Church. This will come as a great relief to the stalwarts who volunteer year-in, year-out to keep the grass at an acceptable level. I suspect that with the luxury of a sit-on mower we may well have a few more volunteers - if you are interested, contact Andy Bystra.

In the meantime, my 'sources' have told me about the last time we had a sit-on mower, when certain events led to THE CHRONICLE running the cartoon below (THE CHRONICLE'S first). So as my parting shot as Editor, I invite you all to submit YOUR caption for the cartoon - it could be past or present... answers (not necessarily on a postcard) to THE CHRONICLE!



More on the competition (and its original inspiration) next month!

Anyway, enough of my ranting - enjoy THE CHRONICLE!

### Andi Swain

### IN THIS ISSUE OF THE CHRONICLE

- Fireworks
- 630 and Out
- E-by back
- Hotel Motel
- A Bridge Too Far
- Village Hall Update
- Doing our bit for Charridy
- You're Havin' a Larf Ref....
- TAXI....
- And all of our regular features

Copy date for December issue Is Friday November 24<sup>th</sup> - please pass Items to Andi Swaln at 2 Nash's Farm or to a member of the Production Team as early as possible. Printed at Waddesdon School and distributed free of charge to all Households in Aston Abbotts, our local Doctor's Surgeries and to Wing Police House.

A note to all would be advertisers more than 198 households receive THE CHRONICLE 11
times a year and with rates from just £10 per annum
(far cheaper than some local Parish magazines)

can you afford not to be in?

#### PRODUCTION TEAM CONTACTS

Editorial Andi Swain 2 Nash's Farm - 01296 682651

Distribution Andy Bystra 31 The Green - 01296 681690

Advertising Ivan Greenaway 1 Nash's Farm - 01296 682605

### THE PEOPLE'S PAGE

vears old)



Aston Abbotts wishes a HAPPY BIRTHDAY to everybody celebrating in November, especially

Thomas & Eleanor Farrands	4th (2
Bridget Brandon	8th
John Brancker	7th
Caroline Hall	7th
Anna Mogford	8th
Ray Wilkinson	10th
Jan. Donavan	14th
John Whyte	23rd
Olivia Gresswell	23rd

Also to Percy Humphreys on the 19th AND to Doris Scutchings who will be 80 years young on the 17th!!!



#### SAD LOSS

Many in the village were both shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death, in hospital, of Reg Sctuchings on the 23rd of October. Reg had lived in Aston Abbotts with Len and Doris Scutchings for some eleven years. He regularly attended our local whist drives and on most days could be seen walking their dog, when he always liked to stop for a chat. We will all miss Reg and our sympathy goes out to Len, Doris and his family and friends.

Reg's funeral is due to be held in Aston Abbotts on Friday 3rd November at 1.00pm.

Let TRACEY HINDS know about your news, birthdays, or forthcoming events

### CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations go to Becky Lord and Andi Swain (our Ed.) of Nash's Farm who got engaged during their recent trip to Tanzania. They are planning to marry in the village at the end of next year and we wish them a very happy future together.

### SKIP NEWS...

The village skip is making a return trip to The Bull & Butcher in November - unfortunately we've not been able to find out when, but you won't fail to notice it once it arrives!! Please remember that the skip is for domestic rubbish and MUST NOT be used for commercial tipping.

SLIDE QUIZ.....On Friday 17th November Vic and Christine Scott will be hosting one of their extremely popular slide and quiz evenings at the Church Room. Proceedings start at 7.30pm - tickets, priced £3 including refreshments, can be obtained from Shirley Ford (Ross Road) and Ann Goodman (4 Church Row).

During the morning of Saturday 18th November a working party will be sweeping up the leaves and generally tidying up the Churchyard. VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME!!

WELCOME! Customers and Staff at The Royal Oak would like to welcome Denise and Darren to the workforce - we hope that they both enjoy the time they spend here as much as we enjoy having them with us! Gary and Terri would also like to say how lovely it is to have Pat Daniels working with us during the tough time that is happening for them at the moment. All the best of luck to Brendan and Pat!!

### BABYSITTING

Hayley and Sarah - Reliable Babysitters
Please phone Hayley on 688597
or Sarah on 681740

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### THE CHRONICLE

Advertising rates per annum

FULL PAGE	Back Inside	~
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EIGHTH PAGE	Back Inside	
Front page 1/8 <sup>th</sup> size per mor	£ 5	

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Inside £10

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GEORGE FOX 1 Church Row - tel. 682024

TONY HINDS 6 The Green - tel. 681454

If you would like to join the Help Line please call Andy Bystra on 681690

### YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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**KATE CURRY (Parish Clerk)**2 Norduck Cottages, Moat Lane 681137

**TOM MANNING** 681160

**GWEN KEMPSTER** 

53 The Green 681310

MARGARET KENT 6 The Green 681454

LINDA SUTTON
Sadlers Farm 681413

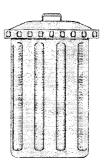
District Councillor
PETER COOPER

Brewhouse Lane, Rowsham 681250

County Councillor BRENDA JENNINGS 2 Cotes Way, Wing 681065

### **LOCAL RECYCLING**

Collection point is available at The Bull & Butcher, Aston Abbotts



GLASS - Please sort into green, brown, and clear glass

PAPER - All Newspaper, magazine, and junk mail (no cardboard or yellow pages)

AVDC PROVIDES PAPER AND TIN /
PLASTIC RECYCLING BASKETS WHICH
ARE COLLECTED FORTNIGHTLY FROM
YOUR HOUSE PLEASE USE THEM!

### IN THE VILLAGE 1.

### RECRUITMENT SUCCESS

After an extensive Executive Research campaign that included Press Advertising (CHRONICLE), Head Hunting, Personal Referral and General Bludgeoning (remember him?), I am delighted to announce that THE CHRONICLE has identified a new editor.

Following an extended series of interviews with the editorial team at **CHRONICLE** Headquarters (front bar of the Bull & Butcher), our long list of candidates (er...1) was put through -

- Psychometric testing including deep, searching personality questions such as "will you do it?"
- Computer Literacy Examination "have you got a PC?"
- Team Building "it's your round"
- Sanity test we decided this test had no particular relevance so we skipped it

And so **THE CHRONICLE** Editorial team (and the current Editor in particular) is delighted to announce that our new Editor, with effect from the December issue (November will be a joint effort) is

### MR PHIL SPOONER

As Editor for the past 2 and a bit years, I wish Phil every success. I know that he will add to the success of the magazine and bring some fresh ideas to our monthly publication. Well done, Phil!!

Ed (for just a bit longer).

#### E-MAIL PLEA

You may remember that last month we reported the demise of astonmag@aol.com due to our web master clearing off to Ireland. Well, in a month of terrific news I am pleased to report that we have a new e-mail address and web master. The new address is:

### editor@aston-abbotts-chronicle.co.uk

and our new web master is .....

### MR PHIL SPOONER

Well done, again, Phil!!

Ed (for just a little, little bit longer).

#### **NEW BLOOD**

Phil has something of a monopoly over volunteering this month, but there is still plenty of room for others to step forward. As we go to press, Aston Abbotts is looking for a villager(s) to co-ordinate next year's fete and **THE CHRONICLE** is always pleased to hear from new contributors. Contact **THE CHRONICLE** at 2 Nash's Farm (for the next month at least!!!) if you would like more information on how you could help.

Ed.

### VILLAGE/PARISH HALL FUND ORGANISING COMMITTEE

For those of you new to the village, the Church Room, which is effectively the Village Hall, urgently needs modernising, so this committee was set up in April to arrange the lease of the hall from the Church and raise funds to do the necessary work, about £35,000 in total. A copy of the plans can be found in last February's CHRONICLE and further notes in the May and July CHRONICLES. This is just a brief note to say how everything is progressing.

The good news is that all the donations to the fund so far add up to just over £5,800! Considering the fund was only started in April that is an incredible amount, so many thanks to everyone who has contributed.

The largest single contributions came from Aston Abbotts History and the Fete, which raised about £3000 between them, and the rest was from sources ranging from the various summer events to people asking their party guests to make a donation to the fund instead of bringing them presents. Very impressive, I'm sure you'll agree.

However, just to dampen down the elation a trifle, we do need to raise roughly twice that amount before we can even start on the foundations, so if anyone has any more fund raising ideas they will be greatly appreciated. We are still following up other avenues of funding and as soon as there is anything positive to report on that front we will let you know.

The arrangement of the lease from the Church, as seems to be the case with all these things, is taking rather longer than originally anticipated. We are also assessing what effect the recent planning application to build a boundary wall at the Old Vicarage will have on the plan for the hall.

If you wish to contact the committee, the Chairman is Tom Manning (681160), the Secretary is Liz Hall (682078) and the Treasurer is Nigel Palmer (681152). Other members of the committee are Clare and Peter Shorrock, Caroline Lane, Liz Barlow, Dickie Dicken and Roger Bellingham.

Any donations to the fund should be made payable to Aston Abbotts Parish Hall Fund and sent to Nigel Palmer at The Vines, Cublington Road.

#### LIZ HALL

I'm sure we agree that this is one cause that should become a priority in our fundraising over the next year. Watch THE CHRONICLE for details of fund-raising events. Ed.

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### IN THE VILLAGE 2.

#### A TALE FOR DARK WINTER NIGHTS....

The following ditty was delivered during a boozy evening some years ago by an American monk of Welsh extraction who had imbibed quite freely as monks are wont to do. Those of a religious bent will immediately see the biblical connection. The piece is offered in the hope that it might amuse one or two readers during the long winter evenings.

Café

#### THE HILTON SAGA

In the beginning there was darkness upon the face of the earth and there was no icéd water. And Hilton said, "let there be icéd water", and then said he, "let there be music". And in every studio, lobby and elevator, there was plenty of cannéd music, pipéd and also tapéd.

And Hilton said, "let the earth bring forth Hiltons yielding fruit after their kind", and the El Paso Hilton begot the Beverley Hilton which begot the Puerto Rico which begot the Nile Hilton which begot the Virgin Isles Hilton. And on the seventh day Hilton rested, but only for a moment.

The messengers came unto him and said, "behold, there is an Anglo Saxon people who dwell in darkness and who know not thy name neither do they drink icéd water". And Hilton took his rod and smote upon the rock in a place that is called Park Laniae. And lo there came forth a pillar of concrete one hundred and thirty thousand cubic feet and the view from the top thereof was thirty miles in any direction. And the view from thirty miles in any direction thereof was the Hilton.



Ye Park Lane Hilton

And there was a great gushing of icéd water and a great puking of pipéd music and a great charge of fifty guineas a day without breakfast. And Hilton said, "behold, I have given unto you the London Hilton containing everything for your needs, yea, a library wherein you may read the Hilton Milton. An one hundred and fifty menservants and maidservants smiling Hilton smiles which they smile without saying cheese as other men, but Hilton Stilton.

But the people were a stiff neckéd people who would not drink of the icéd water, neither would they eat of the Olde English breakfast consisting of ripe melon, All Bran, hot sausage, grits and chocolate. And they cried out, "what is this Olde English breakfast for we know it not neither will we pay seventeen shillings and sixpence for it". And Hilton was exceeding angry and he departed thence with a great gnashing of teeth to begat the Moscow Hilton.

#### Anon.

Thanks to whoever sent in this little contribution. Ed.

### IT'S A GENEROUS VILLAGE......

### **ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH HALL FUND**

You will have read in last month's **CHRONICLE** that Mollie and Fred Poulter recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Rather than receive presents from their party guests, they kindly asked for donations to be made to the Aston Abbotts Parish Hall Fund. Thanks to their wonderful gesture and the generosity of their friends, a further £265 has been added to the fund, bringing the total, at the time of writing, to almost £5,900.

Thank you to Fred and Mollie and all your friends.

### Nigel Palmer

### HARVEST SALE

This annual event took place at The Old Masters Restaurant this year and raised £100.00 for the Church. A further £26.00 was raised by the raffle, and this is being donated to the 'Bowel cancer fund'.

#### THE KIDNEY FUND

The Kidney Research Fund collection raised £28.00. Your generosity is much appreciated.

#### **BULLY BUTCHERS STAR**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October the annual charity darts marathon, organised by the Rotary Club of Aylesbury Hundreds took place at Aylesbury Football Club.

The Bull & Butcher was represented by two teams - The Bulls were Frank, Tony, Margaret and Andy, the Butchers Mark, Adrian and Alan. Each player was sponsored with the money going to local charities.

There were 35 teams taking part in three sessions. Each session lasted an hour of continuos throwing to score as many points as possible. At the end of the final session the totals were announced.

The Bulls had scored nearly 20,000 points and were in about  $6^{th}$  place overall. The Butchers with nearly 25,000 points came out on top, and won the tournament on the night.

Well done to everyone and to add to the Bull & Butcher's success, Frank won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the raffle - a tool box!!! And Adrian won a bottle of bubbly in a separate competition.

#### **TONY HINDS**

We'll let you know how much they raised in next month's **CHRONICLE**. **Ed.** 

# Photographs

### by Paul Ridgley

A photograph captures a moment in time and can communicate directly with our imagination and emotions to bring back a myriad of memories.

When photographing people my objective is to help them feel relaxed and look 'real' - and preferably in familiar surroundings which say something about their personality.

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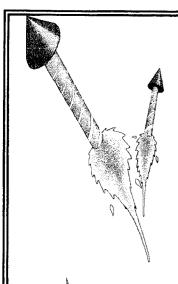
Well... why not spend more time with your guests and less time in the kitchen and let a talented and innovative chef look after you and your friends in your own home?

I can take care of everything from choosing the right menu to clearing up and will even wait on you at the table, leaving you free to enjoy an a la carte meal with your friends.

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### VILLAGE FIREWORK PARTY

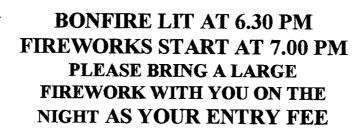


### **ASTON ABBOTTS**

VILLAGE FIREWORK PARTY

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>





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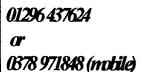


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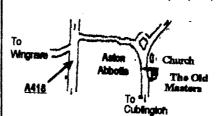
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### IN THE VILLAGE 4.

### **OLD BRIDGES**

by CHRONICLE Historical reporter Colin Higgs
Old bridges are disappearing in increasing numbers as modern traffic renders them too narrow and unable to bear present day loads. So many have been demolished to make way for improved roads that those having structures dating back several hundred years are now uncommon.

The only medieval bridge in Buckinghamshire remains at Thornborough near the Buckingham – Bletchley road. It has three pointed ribbed arches, two plain ones to the east and three breakwaters on the south side. Nearby the site of the Roman crossing has been uncovered and can still be seen.

Old Hardwick bridge over the Creslow Brook on the Aylesbury – Buckingham Road was widened a few years ago and lost it's stone parapets . The Old bridge was built in 1839 at the expense of the trustees of the Wendover to Buckingham turnpike road and the county, thereafter it became a county bridge.



#### WINSLOW BRIDGE

Brick built bridges carrying secondary roads over rivulets have their charm such as the one just south of Winslow on the Aylesbury Road bridging a tributary of the river Ouse. The main road has now been diverted so that the old bridge now forms part of a lay-by among fine trees. In older times bridge repairs in some places were considered almost as important as repairs to churches, the duties and supervision of repairs, as well as the up-keep sometimes being vested in the same bodies. It was not unusual for grants and bequests to have been made to a parish church and a nearby bridge.

Colin Higgs

### WHAT A CRACKER OF A NIGHT.....

Following on from the very successful and entertaining 'ornithological evening', the lads of the 630 club asked Tony (the fixer) to organise something that was a little less educational. He came up 'trumps' yet again, arranging for a comedian to entertain us at the Bull & Butcher on Saturday the 14th October.

Members and invited guests pretty well filled Frank & Louise's back bar enjoying a 'beer or two' and Lol's disco. The comedian was Russ Williams who has appeared on television and is a regular entertainer around the clubs, joined in and as we were to find out later, used the opportunity to gather facts about Aston Abbotts and villagers around which he 'spun' some of his very funny tales. He had an amazing repertoire, telling joke

### WINGRAVE SCHOOL GROUNDS PROJECT

Wild life area

Secret corners

Games

Raised beds

Learning

Chequerboard garden

Logs

Garden club

Mural

Flowers

**Trees** 

For some time, ideas for improving the school grounds to cover both the formal and informal curriculum have been part of the School Development Plan.

Little benches

A small group has been formed to initiate the process of development. The present members of the group are Keith Bell, Jane Muir, Pam Pickering and Jose Ricketts. We hope to increase the size of this group once all the school community have been informed.

We plan to involve the whole school community pupils, staff, parents, governors and members of the wider community in all stages of development, the planning and development. We shall use the tool kit produced by Landscapes for Learning which is a national charity dedicated to helping schools to improve and use their grounds at www.ltl.org.uk.

#### The main stages are

1 Share the concept
2 Set up a management structure
3 Survey your site
4 Establish your school needs
5 Create a vision plan
6 Identify solutions
7 Implement changes
8 Monitor and evaluate

nool needs 8 Monitor and evaluate changes

At the present time we are at stages 1 & 2, and about to move onto stages 3 & 4. If you feel that you could help in any way at all please contact one of the following -

Jane Muir 681513 Pam Pickering 688978

#### Jose Ricketts 681847

The school is very keen to have support and ideas from the whole community for this project, so please contact us.

after joke non stop and in quick succession for about an hour and a half. He was very polished and heckler's were very quickly put in their place or responded to with a wit and immediacy, which was very amusing to everyone else.

The audience was mixed and although some gags were a bit near the mark, nobody took offence; in fact the general consensus was that he, or a similar comedian should be booked again. Many thanks Tony, Frank & Louise for yet another very entertaining evening.

This particular 630 evening raised £200.00; £100.00 being donated to the Village Hall Fund and £100.00 retained to assist in funding further 630 Club events.

How are we going to top that?



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Ring Helen and Simon Dowling for further details 01525 383315

### **WHAT'S ON' IN NOVEMBER 2000**

Wednesday 1st Parish Council Meeting Church Room

8.00pm.

Thursday 2nd

Whist Drive in The Church Room Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room

7.30pm 10.00-12.00

Sunday 5th Quiz Evening Church Room 7.30pm

Also - Guy Fawkes Bonfire & Fireworks The Rec.

7.00pm.

Tuesday 7th Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm.

Thursday 9th Bingo in The Church Room 7.30pm

Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room

10.00-12.00

Saturday 11th Royal British Legion Coffee Morning Church Room

10 - 12.00. Midday

Sunday 12th Remembrance Day

Tuesday 14th Floral class Church Room

Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room

7.00 pm.

Thursday 16th Whist Drive in The Church Room

7.30pm

10.00-12.00

Saturday 18th Royal British Legion Bingo Church Room

7.30 pm.

Sunday 19th

Rambling Club members meet Rowsham

2.00pm

Tuesday 21st Mobile Library The Green / Wingrave Rd / Oxley Farm

Thursday 23rd Toddlers Group in the Church Room

10.00-12.00

Sunday 26th

Village footpath walk. The Green

2.00 pm. 7.30pm

Thursday 30th Whist Drive in The Church Room Also Toddlers Group in the Church Room

10.00-12.00



Now the dark nights are here, ensure your cycle lights work and can be seen. Wear light or reflective clothing



### **BOOK THIS DATE**

SATURDAY 2" DECEMBER

### Christmas shopping trip to **Bristol**

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR NOV.	SIDESMEN FOR NOV.
4/5 <sup>th</sup> Donated 11/12 <sup>th</sup> British Legion 18/19 <sup>th</sup> Mr I Belgrove 25/26 <sup>th</sup> Mrs A Parker	5 <sup>th</sup> Mr A. Ford 12 <sup>th</sup> Mr G. Kemp 19 <sup>th</sup> Mr C. Higgs. 26 <sup>th</sup> Mr J Hartnett



#### THE MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

The Mobile Library visits the village on alternate Tuesdays. The dates are always shown in the Chronicle 'What's On' section but here are a reminder of the times:

The Green, Aston Abbotts

10.25am - 10.55am

Wingrave Road, Aston Abbotts

11.00am - 11.15am

Oxley Farm

12.55pm - 1.10pm

For further information or enquiries, contact Buckingham Library on 01280 813229

Please use the service or we will lose the facility!

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### IN THE VILLAGE 4.

#### PHIL SPOONER'S VILLAGE INTERVIEW

Vic Scott's path in life was set at an early age. "One of the very first memories of anything in my life was my father lifting me up, sitting me up on his shoulder to look into a bird's nest in a hedge up Moat Lane. I'd never seen a bird's nest with eggs in before and I remember that to this day. I remember looking into this bird's nest and from then on, as far as Natural History is concerned, I never looked back.

"My grandfather lived here when I was very small and he was a very keen gardener. My interest in gardening started then. I was very interested in wild flowers and I can remember being given a little tiny plot at the top of the garden so I could put flowers in. I dug up and brought home wild flowers and one of the things I planted was the plant we call Ground Elder and another one was Bindweed! And they're still there to this day despite all the weedkillers and all the things I've used to get rid of them."

Naturally, as a village child he attended the village school. "My days at the village school were some of the happiest days of my life. We had two marvellous teachers. Mrs Brock who was the head Mistress... and we had Miss Childersley. Now she was what today I think we would say was a person with rather Victorian attitudes.

"She was very precise, everything had to be just so - and so you had to be very polite and everything. On St George's Day they always flew the Union Jack from the flag pole in the playground and on one particular St George's Day two or three of we boys got down there earlier than usual. We flew a great big pair of bloomers from the flag pole with the wind blowing and it billowed out like an air sock on an airfield. And poor old Chilly came in that gate and she saw it. I won't say what happened after that!

"We also got up to various pranks. One of the favourites was door knocking or window tapping. Of course the people victimised the most were the people who were upset the most. If we knew somebody would give us a damn good chase we would do it over and over again.

"We let a sow and several pigs out once - that caused a bit of havoc. Just across the road here was a blacksmiths shop and with no piped water they used to rely upon catching the rainwater in a great big water tank. At lunch break we would find a length of hose, get a siphon going, and by the time the blacksmith came back the tank would be empty and the water would be pouring down towards the crossroads."

However, the teachers instilled basic principles of decency into their wayward charges. "Both teachers right from the very start taught us certain things. We must always respect elderly people. We must always respect anybody who has any sort of mental or physical disability - we mustn't make fun of them and if we were ever caught at that we were really told off."

During his school days Vic's love of nature grew. "Well, I'd got a couple of friends, Peter Kent... and his brother Ray. They were my two best friends and they were equally keen. The three of us used to go out looking for nests - watch birds, butterflies and stuff like that.

"In those days even if you were a small kid at school it was totally safe to wander around the fields. You didn't get all the awful things you hear about nowadays. The farmers in general, they were very easy-going. Charlie Brown over on the Lines Hill, he could be a bit funny but he had good reason because we used to go scrumping in his orchard in the autumn. More than once he would come along there on horseback with a horsewhip, crack the whip and if he got near enough you'd have a lash with it.

"In those days there was a village policeman and he caught a couple of us once in the orchard. It wasn't a case of you'll come to court or fill-in a report or anything, he caught you by the shoulders and gave you a knee up the backside. 'Next time,' he said, 'you'll get worse than that'."

"I earned a little bit of money. I used to do a bit of odd things in gardens, mow people's lawns and that. You know what the money was then? To start with, at I suppose 12 years old, two old pennies per hour. Just under 1p an hour! So on a Saturday you work six hours and you'd get 6p. Even in those days I was saving up to buy books on birds and things. The Observer's Book of Birds, which we've still got up there."

Vic left school at 14, although he did pass the 11 Plus. "In those days although you didn't actually pay a fee to go to school you still had to provide all your books and everything. My parents broke up when I was eight and my mother then brought me up my father moved on. My mother used to do a bit of domestic work for Mrs Morton at the Abbey - she used to take in a bit of washing and so on - but it was just enough to live on that was all. I can remember those days, as a small boy, we were desperately poor.

"So I left school at 14 and I was offered a job on a local farm, Longmoor farm actually. I was thrilled when the farmer's wife came down and saw me and saw my mother and said would I like to go and work for them. That was a full-time job then - and my wages were £2 a week!

"I was on that for nearly a year and then Mrs Steele, who lived at the Firs, she came and asked whether I would go and work for them as an under gardener... and I did. To me that was really marvellous because it got me into gardening and actually I stayed with them for the whole of my full-time working life. I finished up there as head gardener and also manager of the farm and I did that right up until the time when Mr Steele died [about 20 years ago].

"When Mr McManus came there he asked me if I would carry on and do his garden and the farm but I declined. It was very kind of him, but I could see he hadn't got the sort of interest the Steeles had in the garden. I had got so used to working with them I regarded Mr Steele more as a friend than the boss. He'd even come out in the morning and ask me 'Have you got a job for me?' I'd say, 'I can't really give you a job Sir, we're going muck carting'. He'd say 'Oh, I'll get my fork and my wellies and I'll come and help you'. He didn't mind what he did. When he died, I then went out as a freelance naturalist and then I was really able to fulfil my ambition of travelling around the world looking at wildlife and other countries, leading groups of people."

To be concluded next month

### S.M. ARMAN.



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### RECTOR'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2000

November always strikes me as a month that urges us to look in two different directions.

At the start, as we celebrate All Saints' Day (what Hallowe'en is really all about) and All Souls' Day, we are looking back to the heroes of the religious past. On Guy Fawkes' Day we are remembering an attempt to overthrow our parliamentary system. Then we come to

the Eleventh when we remember those who fought in the two World Wars.

All of these are things that have happened in the past, and are things that have shaped our history and our culture. They are all very important, and it is right that we should give them the attention that is appropriate to them.

As the month runs its course, our minds are turned from looking back to looking forward towards the things that are still ahead of us. The month has always had the celebration of St. Andrew's Day on the 30th. Andrew, you will remember, was one of Jesus' disciples. The stories that we have about him in the Bible give us the impression that he was very good at bringing people to Jesus. In the Church, the last Sunday in November is now almost invariably celebrated as the Feast of Christ the King. This reminds us of our eternal destiny – God's will is that his people should share in the Kingdom of heaven.

We do not like to be made to think ahead in this way – although, it seems to me, that it is better to focus on the Kingdom of heaven where Christ is King, than to concentrate on Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell - the so-called Four Last Things.

Much of our time is spent thinking about the present. We worry about the things that we have to do NOW. Our concern is how we are going to cope with the events of TODAY. We make plans for the next few days — and, when we are being very bold, we try to devise plans for the next three or five years.

November challenges us to look at the wider picture. To remember and give thanks for the events and people that have shaped our past. To be aware of where our lives are heading – that one day we shall die and what we have done – how we have lived our lives - will be judged.

What do we really mean when we pray "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"? Are we not looking forward to the end of time and our final goal? And with that goal in mind we try to improve the lives of our fellow human beings. Our past and our understanding of our future destiny affect how we live now.

The technical arrangements to introduce a Call Centre will of necessity be quite complex – and yet those arrangements will not need to be known by those who call. People who opt for details of next Sunday's Services will not need to know of the complex computer links between the Call Centre and individual churches, which in the way of things, will need updating almost on a weekly basis.

Yet, whilst a Church Call Centre seems a strange and in some ways a fearsome thing, is it really very different from the way in which we have always related to God? We do not need to know how God works, but we do know that he is there when we call him (and sometimes he puts us on 'hold' before giving us the answer to our prayer). God knows us all. He loves us all — and whilst we may fear the technology, he will always meet our deepest needs.

### **Bob Willmott**

### 1st Wingrave Scout Group

#### Beavers

The Beavers have been busy enjoying the last of the fine weather and dodging the worst of the Autumn rain by thinking about things that fly. We have particularly enjoyed playing indoor and outdoor games around the theme whilst burning off plenty of energy.

After half term our thoughts will turn to celebrating Halloween, Guy Fawkes night and of course the run up to Christmas. The biggest celebration of all will be reserved for when we can join the Cubs and Scouts and have our regular meetings at the new Scout Hut!

#### Cubs

October was an exciting month for the Cubs.

7th October saw the Swimming Gala, a joint District event with the Beavers. District events are very important because they give us the chance to meet other Cubs in our area, but just as importantly they form an essential part of the Cubs badge work. Every Cub who came along will gain a section towards a badge. Every Cub had at least one chance to compete, it was a real team effort and we came a very commendable fifth. We all had a wonderful evening - very loud with all the cheering!

Well done and thank you boys (thanks too to the parents who came and supported the boys). We have also invested Tim George and welcome him to Wingrave Cubs.

Due to the delay over completing the Scout Hut, we have been meeting in the Community Centre - on the first occasion we were there, we borrowed the Beavers new parachute to play lots of games - great fun!

For further information contact Fran Pollard on 625454.

#### **Julia Ellis**

Any News from the Guides or Brownies? Ed.



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All booking must be confirmed in writing or by fax. A £10 non refundable deposit per person is required at the time of booking. Llease may we have your choices 2 weeks prior to your booking. Thank you.

£21.60 inc. v.a.t

#### **NOVEMBER**

### THE CHRONICLE CROSSWORD

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#### Answers to October

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### **ACROSS**

### 1&9 Local town (6&6)

- Chopping ---- (5)
- Peculiarity of language (5) 10
- 11 Crouch down (5)
- 13 Constant grumbler (6)
- 15 Indian language (4)
- 16 Domination by one power within a league
- 17 ---- of roses (5)
- Employ (3) 18
- 20 Dash (4)
- 21 Digs up (8)
- Girl's name (4) 23
- 25 Preposition (2)
- 26 Keep aside (5)
- 28 Esteem (7)
- 31 RAT (anag 3)
- 32 Atmosphere (3)
- Open space (4) 33
- 34 WW2 General USA (5)
- 36 Speak (5)
- 39 Meadow (3)
- 40 Sent a message (5)
- 41 Grime (4)
- 42 LIES (anag 4)
- 43 Valuable possession (5)
- 44 TEA SET (anag 6)

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Look after (4)
- 2 Girl's name (3)
- 3 Illuminations (6)
- 4 United (8)
- 5 Greek letter (5)
- 6 Ignite (4)
- 7 Female (4)
- 8 Operation Training Unit (abbr 3)
- 9 See 1 across
- 12 Estimate (5)
- 14 Replay afilm (5)
- 17 Country (7)
- 18 Spoke (7)
- 19 Surprise (5)
- 22 Straits (7)
- 24 DANE (anag 4)
- 26 Foolish person (3) 27 Freshwater mammals
- 29 SPEARS (anag 6)
- 30 Bald head (4)
- 35 Grain (4)
- 37 Annoy (4)
- 38 Fruit (4)
- 42 Pronoun (2)

### PAGE 18 - THE CHRONICLE

Andy and Helen Welcome You to

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### ST.JAMES CHURCH, ASTON ABBOTTS

CHURCH SERVICES					SUNDAY READINGS			
5th Nov	10.00	Cublington	Family Service	5th Nov	4 before Advent	Hebrews 9.11-14; Mark 12.28-34		
	10.00 11.15	Wingrave Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion  Morning Service	12th	3 before Advent	Hebrews 9.24-28; Mark 1.14-20		
12th	08.45 10.00	Cublington Wingrave	Parish Communion  Parish Communion	19th	2 before Advent	Hebrews 10.11-14, 19-25; Mark 13.1-8		
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion	26th	Christ the King	Revelation 1.4-8; John 18.33-37		
15th	10.00	Aston Abbotts	Franciscan Service	3rd Dec	Advent	1 Thessalonians 3.9-3; Luke 21.25-36		
19th	08.00	Wingrave	Prayer Book Communion			20.00 21.22 20		
	10.00	Cublington	Family Eucharist		FROM THE REGISTERS			
	10.00	Wingrave	Family Service		TROWI THE RE	CIDI LIKO		
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion	Marriage	21st Oct	Ian Wynn &		
22nd	10.00	Rowsham	Franciscan Service			Elizabeth Osborn at Cublington		
26th	08.45	Cublington	Parish Communion					
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion	ST JAMES CHU ASTON ABBO		HURCH		
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Parish Communion			BOTTS		
29th	10.00	Wingrave	Franciscan Service	PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBE  Rev Bob Willmott 681623				
3rd Dec	10.00	Cublington	Family Service		Gordon Kemp	681763		
	10.00	Wingrave	Parish Communion		Shirley Ford	681865		
	11.15	Aston Abbotts	Morning Service		Ann Goodman	681763		
	18.00	Wingrave	Advent Carols with Singers		Andrew Ford	681865		

During the morning of Saturday 18th November a working party will be sweeping up the leaves and generally tidying up the Churchyard. VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME!!



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### REMEMBERANCE DAY SERVICE

Sunday, 12th November 2000

Prayers and the laying of wreaths will be held at LONG MARSTON MEMORIAL at 10.45 am.

Then marching to LONG MARSTON CHURCH for the service at approx. 11.00 am



### COFFEE MORNING AND BRING & BUY

Saturday, 11th November ASTON ABBOTTS CHURCH ROOM



10.00 am 'til 12.00 noon

In aid of the Poppy Appeal

### POPPY BINGO

Saturday, 18th November 7.30pm

ASTON ABBOTTS CHURCH HALL All funds to aid the Poppy Appeal

Refreshments

Raffle

**Lots of Prizes** 

### IN THE VILLAGE 5.

### ASTON ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Unofficial Minutes Of Meeting Held In The Church Room On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2000

To Approve Minutes of Meeting Held On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July And Matters Arising:

Minutes of the last meeting were read and signed.
 There were no matters arising.

### COUNTY COUNCIL / DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

 No representatives from either the County or District Council were present.

### PLANNING

- 1) 00/01918/APP The Old Vicarage, Cublington Road. Proposal to build new brick boundary wall and raise part of existing wall. Concern was expressed that the height of the wall would block light from the Church Room, and that the foundations may interfere with the adjacent yew tree.
- 2) Office development at The Firs, Wingrave Road has been permitted.

### **HIGHWAYS**

- 1) Street sign on The Green quotations have now been obtained, and Highways have agreed to fund half the cost. Resolved to proceed to have the sign repaired/refurbished by The Countryways Vintage Collection.
- 2) Resurfacing Cublington Road the Clerk reported that money has been budgeted for by Highways to resurface Cublington Road in 2001.
- 3) Bucks County Show Traffic concerns were expressed that too much traffic is allowed through the village on Show day. It was generally felt that little could be done about this.
- 4) Proposed 30mph limit in Moat Lone BCC has indicated that the speed limit could be extended to the gate if another street light were to be installed. The Clerk will obtain quotations and report at the next meeting.

### RECREATION GROUND

1) Use of the Recreation Ground after dark - since the new sign went up and the local police become involved the problem with youths abusing the play area seems to have stopped. However, the fences and gates still need repairing.

2) Proposed purchase of mower - various mowers have now been considered.

### CHURCH ROOM

• No new developments to report at present.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

These included a comment that a street light is not working and a report of branches obscuring other street fights. Volunteers have been called for to keep the village tidy by sweeping out the bus shelter from time to time.

#### REPORTS

- 1) Discussion took place regarding the recent burning of *gross* from a field in the village.
- 2) A complaint has been made about the number of signs on the pavement opposite the Bull and Butcher.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1<sup>st</sup> November 2000 at 8pm in the Church Room. Everyone is welcome to come along.

### TAKING A CAB - ARE YOU AT RISK?

When you take a taxi it could either be a Hackney Carriage or a Private Hire Vehicle. They operate differently and, as it is important that you know the differences, AVDC has produced a leaflet explaining them to you.

AVDC Licensing Enforcement Officer Karen Ruby explains, "When you are trying to get from A to B by taxi, the last thing you want to have to worry about is whether you will be safe. AVDC licenses all drivers and vehicles used for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire, as well as the operators. So before you get into a taxi, it's worth taking time to check it is licensed."

You can check this by looking for the official AVDC licence plate, displayed on or near the rear bumper which can be red, white or yellow. Vehicles with yellow plates are Private Hire Vehicles and should not be flagged down or picked up from a rank - if an accident occurs, you may not be insured. If you want to flag a taxi down or take one from a rank, it must be a Hackney Carriage. They have either red or white licence plates.

There are strict conditions which all taxi owners, operators and drivers must comply with. Regular inspections are part of the conditions, but you can help to maintain high standards of service in the Vale by letting us know your views about the taxis you use. It is important that you let us know if you think any of the conditions may have been broken. Of course, we also appreciate feedback when you are happy with the service.

For a copy of the leaflet or to give us your comments you can contact the Licensing Team on (01296) 585502.

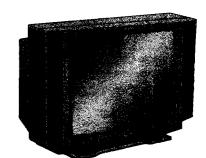
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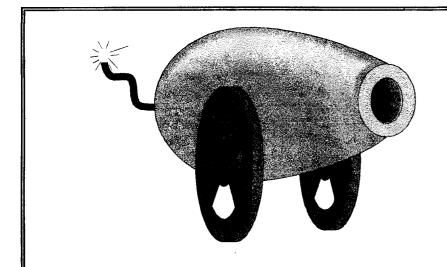


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THE SAME
DAY



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PHONE DAVE LEWIS ON 01296 682126



Dave's method of bowling at the 630 club 10 pin bowling evening falls foul of the house rules at Xscape.

## FRIENDLY SERVICE



BACK PAGE THE CHRONICLE