

# THE PARISH OF ABBOTS LANGLEY (HERTS)

## Comprising

ABBOTS LANGLEY  
BEDMOND  
HUNTON BRIDGE  
LANGLEYBURY  
LEAVESDEN  
NASH MILLS  
HAMLET OF PIMLICO

# Official Guide

*Authorised by:*

Abbots Langley  
Parish Council

**Compiled by**

Mrs. M. I. Hibberd (Clerk to the Council)  
Mrs. M. Humphrey

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**St. Lawrence Parish Church**

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## INTRODUCTION

by  
Councillor R. C. CHILD

This is the second edition published in recent years of a guide to the Parish of Abbots Langley primarily produced for the benefit of the existing parishioners, visitors, and newcomers to this large village community. It is hoped that it will provide a useful reference to its historical background, yet at the same time stimulate interest in its shopping and commercial centres, in its many social, welfare, and cultural organisations which endeavour to assist in the progressive development of this rapidly expanding community.

Difficulty was experienced in interesting a commercial advertising agency to undertake the production of this edition without expense to the ratepayers, and we are indebted to the public spiritedness of Mrs. M. I. Hibberd and Mrs. M. Humphrey for their very kind offer to tackle this project for us.

I take this opportunity of thanking them on behalf of the Parish Council, and indeed on behalf of you all, trusting that you will find this booklet both useful and interesting.

### Shopping Area

*Photo by Bernard Mitchell*



## ABBOTS LANGLEY

Abbots Langley is a large thriving village, offering considerable amenities and facilities to its inhabitants. It is unique in that, while keeping pace with progress and residential expansion, it has retained its natural character and the friendly atmosphere necessary to village life. Careful and jealous planning has ensured that pleasant residential estates built around the village centre over the years have become absorbed and are now part of it, while green spaces and the retention of ancient trees edging outwards to blend with the natural countryside and farmland, have helped to preserve this image. The village High Street is a boon to busy housewives, who can buy practically everything they need from a wide variety of shops, and their immediate needs can be well catered for by small shopping parades and friendly "corner shops". While this in itself would seem to be enough, Abbots Langley has still further things to offer its people: good modern schools; a Youth Centre; Playing Fields; individual clubs for young and old, catering to a wide variety of interests; social and welfare services; all of which are dealt with in greater detail further on in this Guide.

The name of the village derives from 1045 when, it is recorded, Ethelwine the Black and his wife Wynfelda gave the village to the Abbot and monks of the monastery of St. Albans, who for several hundred years played an important part in the affairs of Abbots Langley ("long ley" or "long land"). They administered legal matters, collection of dues and fines and appointed the vicar of the parish—a very important personage in those times; the new incumbent, for a time, being obliged to provide a pension for his predecessor. Revenues were small as it is recorded that one Abbot of St. Albans used them to buy cheese for the monks.

Abbots Langley has known strife and upheaval down the centuries, from the time in 1387 when local men joined the Peasants' Revolt, led by Wat Tyler, and forced a charter of Liberty from the Abbot, which was revoked on failure of the revolt. Later Henry VIII sold the manor to Richard Lee who had been with him as military engineer during the wars with the French, and the patronage of the living of St. Lawrence, together with its revenues was sold to a William Igrave. In the 14th century, plague, famine and the Black Death stalked the village, taking heavy toll. During the Civil War Hertfordshire supported the Parliamentarians and St. Albans, together with the surrounding villages was brought to a state of near starvation. An independent state of mind was shown by Abbots Langley people who did not like the strict Puritan regime forbidding cock-fighting and dancing round the maypole, which was resumed with the restoration of the monarchy in Charles II. Despite all this civil turbulence, it is interesting to note that the parish registers were kept up to date.

At the end of the 18th century, a canal was cut through the parish and in 1811, a Mr. John Dickinson started to manufacture paper at Nash Mill, later taken over by his nephew, John Evans (to become Sir John Evans), also greatly reputed as an archaeologist and antiquarian.

The only Englishman ever to become the Pope of Rome (Pope Adrian IV) was born at the end of the 11th century at Bedmond. Nicholas Breakspear, left without support when his father entered the monastery of St. Albans, made his way to the monastery of St. Rufus near Avignon in France, where in time he became Abbot. His strictness and zeal for reform led to his being reported to Pope Eugenius. However, the Pope, realising his great ability, made him a cardinal bishop and sent him as legate to Scandinavia where he became known as "The Apostle of the North". He was elected Pope in 1154 and his reign was beset by many difficulties and threats to his authority. One of his Papal Acts was to permit Henry II to conquer Ireland and bring that country into the sphere of the Roman Church.

He died in 1159. It is possible that he was baptised and made his first communion in the Church of St. Lawrence where there is a memorial tablet to him. Many of the roads in the Parish are also named in his memory, as is the Roman Catholic Breakspear College.

The ancient Church of St. Lawrence the Martyr still stands as the central point of the parish, although partially destroyed by fire on 14th February, 1969; the total damage being estimated at a fraction less than £44,000. The roof of the chancel was severely damaged, the roof of the nave slightly less so, and the organ was a total loss. The re-building, which also included alterations to the interior of the church, was carried out by a local firm, Messrs. E. J. Waterhouse & Sons Ltd., of Chipperfield, under the direction of Mr. J. R. Glanfield, A.R.I.B.A., of Messrs. Riley & Glanfield of Gray's Inn. The Lord Bishop of Saint Albans (The Right Reverend R. A. K. Runcie, M.C., M.A.) re-hallowed the parish church after its restoration, and celebrated the first Eucharist, on Thursday, 18th February, 1971, at 8.00 p.m. Originally, it was a huge churchyard which has been a Christian burial ground for over a thousand years and still contains some gravestones dating back to the 17th century. The main fabric of the church is of Totternhoe stone and flint, and some parts of the church are as old as Nicholas Breakspear. The tower, added in the 13th century, is supported by two massive unequal 15th century diagonal buttresses and the windows on the east side also date from the 15th century. Inside, the oldest parts of the church are the north and south arcades of the two bays (about 1150). Other additions and alterations to the church have been made over the centuries. Among the many

features of interest is the font dating from 1400; this was renovated and re-leaded in 1950. The Corpus Christi Chapel is probably older than the church itself, and was once a separate building. The chancel, it is thought, may be on the oldest part of the consecrated ground.

There are also a Baptist Church, a Catholic Church, and a Methodist Church, in Abbots Langley, and the Church of the Ascension at Bedmond.

Abbots Langley and Kings Langley were once a single community, but in 1366 the then Abbot of St. Albans had an argument with the king about the King's right to have a royal pensioner kept at the expense of the monastery of St. Albans. He settled this argument by giving part of the manor to the King, since known as King's Langley. Coming right up to date, a part of Hemel Hempstead New Town lies within the parish.

There are many pleasant footpaths to be walked in the local countryside and one can meander for miles alongside the canal with its peaceful locks and old stone bridges, bordered by fields, overhanging trees and gently sloping gardens. Occasionally, a gaily painted narrow boat can be seen amongst the other craft, reminding one of the time when the canal was used to transport goods to the midlands.

The Abbots Langley Youth Centre today meets a wide variety of needs for people of all ages in the community. The weekly programme shown further on in this Guide indicates the range of facilities and activities. It is envisaged that this programme will be extended even further to cater for a wider section of the community.

Leavesden Hospital: Built in 1870 by the Metropolitan Asylum Board to accommodate sufferers from all forms of mental disorder. The hospital was taken over by the London County Council in 1930 and thenceforth admitted mentally handicapped adults from anywhere in the Greater London Area. At about the same time the hospital took over the former St. Pancras Schools, on the south side of College Road, the buildings now being known as Leavesden Annexe. In 1948, the hospital became part of the National Health Service and has since admitted mentally handicapped patients of all ages. Since 1965, its catchment area has consisted of the London Boroughs of Harrow, Brent, Ealing, Hounslow, Hillingdon, part of Hammersmith and part of Kensington and Chelsea.

Abbots Langley Hospital: Built during the second world war as an Emergency Medical Service Hospital, and used for a time by the Canadian Army, the hospital was reinstated in 1951 as a geriatric hospital and now has 202 beds for elderly people from a small local catchment area and from the Watford and Mid-Herts areas. It stands within the same curtilage as Leavesden Annexe.

The two hospitals are administered by a Hospital Management Committee appointed by the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

The world-famed Ovaltine Farm and Factory have been established in the parish for over fifty years, and provide employment for a large number of local residents.

This also is the case with the Rolls-Royce Company's Small Engine Division situated within Leavesden Airfield, which caters for small aircraft and from which a light charter air service operates daily.

Within the parish are no less than six playing fields or recreation grounds that are either owned or leased by the Abbots Langley Parish Council and maintained by the council's own ground staff. There are tennis courts on the Manor House Grounds and a roller-skating rink at Bedmond. Children's playground equipment is to be found on all the grounds and during the long summer holiday a Play Leadership Scheme is operated by the Parish Council on the playing fields in the area and supervised by an experienced Play Leader and his Staff. A horse-ride has been instituted on a part of the Manor House Grounds.

Sport plays a large part in the life of Abbots Langley; there are a number of Football Clubs (including Sunday League Clubs) and three cricket clubs. Clubs also cater for junior footballers. For those interested in archery or bowls, there are clubs for them also. Golfers can get in a "round" or two on one of the nearby courses, several of which are public.

Cultural activities can be found in the list of Clubs and Associations. Details of evening classes can be obtained from the local library.

An Arts Council has recently been formed in Abbots Langley to encourage further pursuit of the arts generally. Details can be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. B. Wilsher, "Square Two", Hart Hall Lane, Hemel Hempstead. Tel. Kings Langley 65333.

## GENERAL LOCAL INFORMATION

**Early Closing Day**  
Tuesday.

### Local Authority Information

Parish is in Watford Rural District Council area, administered by Abbots Langley Parish Council. Rateable Value: £1,171,370 for 1971/72. Product of 1p Rate is £11,416.

### Banks

Barclays Bank Limited, Lloyds Bank Limited; High Street.

### Emergency Services

*Fire and Ambulance:* Garston 74243 or 999 in emergency (Garston Code—82).

*Police:* Garston 74141 or 999 in emergency.

### Registrar

*Births, Deaths and Marriages:* 36 Clarendon Road, Watford (Watford 31302) (Code No. 9).

### Crematorium

High Elms Lane, Garston (Garston 73285).

### Customs and Excise

40 Clarendon Road, Watford (Watford 21813).

### Churches

St. Lawrence (Parish Church), Abbots Langley.

St. Paul's, Langleybury.

St. Saviour's, The Crescent, Abbots Langley (R.C.).

Seventh Day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Garston.

Salvation Army, The Citadel, Hemel Hempstead.

Methodist Church, Langley Road, Abbots Langley.

Church of the Ascension, Bedmond.

Evangelical Chapel, High Street, Bedmond.

Baptist Church, School Mead, Abbots Langley.

### Dental Surgeons

2 Abbots Road, Abbots Langley. Tel. Kings Langley 62220.

### Doctors' Surgeries

Group Practice: High Street, Abbots Langley. Tel. Kings Langley 62363 and 63632.

4 School Mead, Abbots Langley. Tel. Kings Langley 62443.

### District Nurses

Nurse Abbott, 8 Follett Drive (Garston 75728).

Nurse Crosby, 44 Hamilton Road (62053).

Nurse James, 92 Hazelwood Lane (62635).

Nurse Warwick, 180 Coates Way, Garston (Garston 73334).

Nurse Keith Whitton, 9 Follett Drive (Garston 74449).

### Electricity

Eastern Electricity. *Office:* Ash Hill Drive, Pinner. Tel. 01-868 4455; *Shop:* The Parade, Watford. Tel. Watford 36660; EMERGENCY SERVICE—Tel. 01-868 4455.

### Employment Exchange

Water Lane, Watford. Tel. 26041.

### Gas

Eastern Gas Board, The Parade, Watford (Watford 42855). EMERGENCY SERVICE: Hemel Hempstead 3233 (days); Potters Bar 51234 (night, Sundays and Bank Holidays).

**Herts County Council Health Centre and Clinic**

Popes Road, Abbots Langley (Kings Langley 64639).  
Regular Dental and Welfare, Family Planning, and Cervical Smear Clinics. Enquiries in respect of these to the above address.

**Hospitals**

Abbots Langley Hospital (Garston 74211), Annexe (Garston 76567).  
Leavesden Hospital (Garston 72222).  
The Peace Memorial Hospital (Watford 25611).  
Shrodells Hospital (Watford 44366).  
Holywell Hospital (Watford 24476).  
Garston Manor Rehabilitation Centre (Garston 73061).  
Hemel Hempstead Hospital—St. Paul's Wing (Hemel Hempstead 54151).  
Hemel Hempstead Hospital—West Herts Wing (Hemel Hempstead 3141).

**Village and Church Halls (Bookings)**

Henderson Memorial Hall, High Street, Abbots Langley (Mr. D. B. Auty, Tel. Watford 24454); St. Lawrence Church Hall (Miss M. Halsall, Tel. Kings Langley 63334); Bedmond Village Hall (Mr. K. A. Seabrook, Tel. Kings Langley 64275); Nash Mills Village Hall (Hemel Hempstead 54095); Hillside Hall (Mr. D. B. Auty, Tel. Watford 24454); Methodist Church Hall (Mr. B. A. Flint, Tel. Kings Langley 62139); St. Saviour's Church Hall (Tel. Kings Langley 65622).

**Inland Revenue**

*Collector of Taxes*, 40 Clarendon Road, Watford. Tel. Watford 44288.  
*H.M. Inspector of Taxes*: 40 Clarendon Road, Watford. Tel. Watford 44288.  
*District Valuer and Valuation Officers*: 53 Clarendon Road, Watford. Tel. Watford 26663.

**Library**

Branch Herts County Library, Old Manor House, Abbots Langley. Tel. Kings Langley 63611.

**Local Government**

Watford Rural District Council: Mr. K. A. Gosney, Clerk to the Council, and Mr. W. Christopher, Engineer and Surveyor, Council Offices, "Wynyard House", 99 Langley Road, Watford, Herts (Tel. Watford 27737); Mr. F. Reeve, Chief Public Health Inspector, Council Offices, 21 Upton Road, Watford (Tel. Watford 31616).

Abbots Langley Parish Council: Clerk—Mrs. M. I. Hibberd, 51 Breakspere Road, Abbots Langley. Tel. Kings Langley 65139).

**Ministry of Social Security**

40 Clarendon Road, Watford. Tel. Watford 44288.

**Newspapers**

*Evening Echo* (daily); *Watford Observer* (weekly); *Kings Langley & Abbots Langley Gazette* (weekly).

**Opticians**

18 High Street, Abbots Langley (Kings Langley 64986).  
72 High Street, Abbots Langley (Kings Langley 63792).

**Parliamentary**

The Parish is within the S.W. Herts Constituency, the present member for which is Gilbert Longden, Esq., M.B.E.

**Water**

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company, Batchworth, Rickmansworth (Tel. Rickmansworth 73122).

**Youth Employment**

36 Clarendon Road, Watford (Tel. Watford 31132).

**Youth Centre**

Also used for the following community activities:—

Monday: a.m.	From 10 a.m. is the Day Club for the elderly of the area, at which lunch is served to them.
Monday: p.m.	Art Group hold regular Monday evening meetings with a programme of lectures, slide shows, etc.
Tuesday: p.m.	Open Youth Club—films, discotheque, etc.
Wednesday: p.m.	Judo—7.00 p.m. (Juniors). 8.00 p.m. (Senior Group).
Thursday: a.m.	Day Club for elderly at which lunch is again served.
Thursday: p.m.	Football training until Spring, other arrangements to be made.
Friday: p.m.	Animal club for children from 6.00-7.00 p.m.; 7.30 General Open Youth Club social evening.
Saturday: a.m.	Speech and Drama classes held from 9.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.
Saturday: p.m.	Classes in Highland and Scottish Country Dancing, 2.00-4.00 p.m.



Sunday: p.m. Friends of Leavesden Hospital provide a Hospital visitors' and patients' Tea Service at the Centre in the afternoon. The Management and running of the Centre is carried out by the Area Youth and Community Worker, Mr. P. Sage-Passant, to whom any enquiries should be made. Phone: Kings Langley 65476.

## SOCIAL AND WELFARE SERVICES

### Pre-School Play Groups

The Clinic, Popes Road, Abbots Langley. Organiser: Mrs. J. Cox, Manor House Gardens, Abbots Langley. Tel. K.L. 64285.

Hillside Hall, School Mead, Abbots Langley. Organiser: Mrs. A. Chantree, 15 Kindersley Way, Abbots Langley, Tel. K.L. 63887.

St. Lawrence Church Hall, Abbots Langley. Organiser: Mrs. Lloyd. Tel. K.L. 64093.

### Day Nursery

Broomfield Day Nursery, The Divine Saviour Convent, 74 Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley. Tel. Kings Langley 62402.

**Baby Sitting Group.** Organiser: Mrs. J. Sly. Tel. K.L. 62069.

**Red Cross Meals on Wheels Service.** Organiser: Mrs. M. A. I. Kitchingman. Tel. Kings Langley 62231.

**Citizens' Advice Bureau.** Central Library, Hempstead Road, Watford, Tel. Watford 34949.

**Marriage Guidance Council.** Central Library, Hempstead Road, Watford. Tel. Watford 41803.

**N.S.P.C.C.** 357 Bushey Mill Lane, Bushey. Tel. Watford 29617.

**The Samaritans.** 41 The Parade, High Street, Watford. Tel. Watford 22444.

### Schools

#### Infants and Juniors

Abbots Langley J.M.I., High Street, Abbots Langley.

Hillside J.M. School, Hazelwood Lane, Abbots Langley.

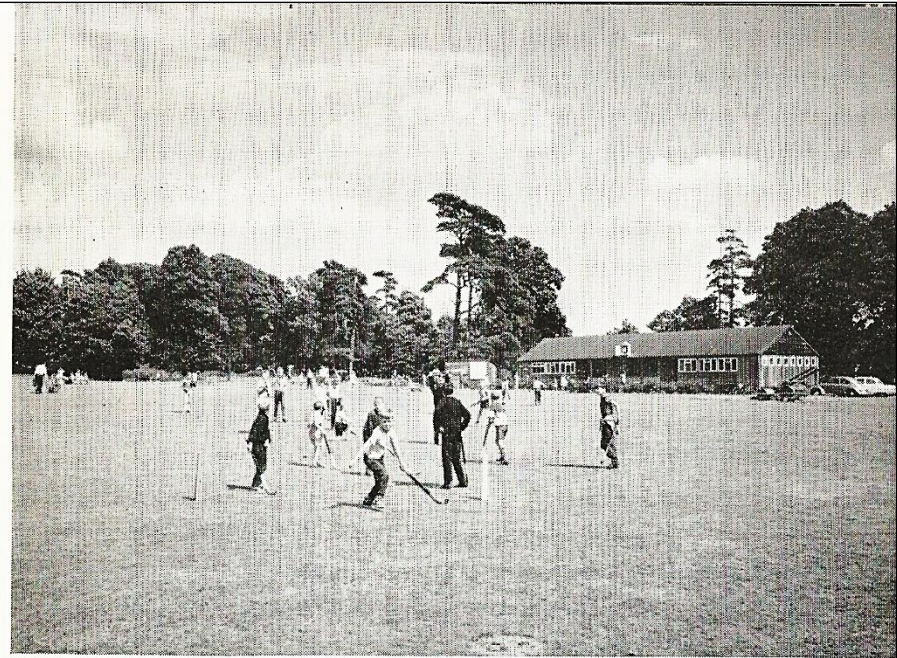
Hazelwood County Primary, Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley.

Bedmond J.M.I., Toms Lane, Bedmond.

Abbots Langley R.C. School, Broomfield Rise, Abbots Langley.

St. Paul's Primary, Hunton Bridge, Kings Langley.

Nash Mills J.M.I. School, Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead.



### Play Leadership on Manor House Grounds

*Photograph by kind permission of the British Publishing Co. Ltd.*

### Secondary and Grammar Schools

Langleybury School, Langleybury Lane, Langleybury (Comprehensive).

Francis Combe Lower School, Horseshoe Lane, Watford (Comprehensive).

Francis Combe Upper School, High Elms Lane, Watford (Comprehensive).

Watford Grammar School for Boys, Rickmansworth Road, Watford.

Watford Grammar School for Girls, The Crescent, Watford.

George Stephenson College of Further Education (Watford Technical Grammar School), Water Lane, Bushey, and William Street, Bushey.

Longdean School, Bennetts End.

St. Michael's R.C. School, High Elms Lane, Garston.

Cavendish Grammar/Technical School, Warner End Road, Hemel Hempstead.

*Higher Education*

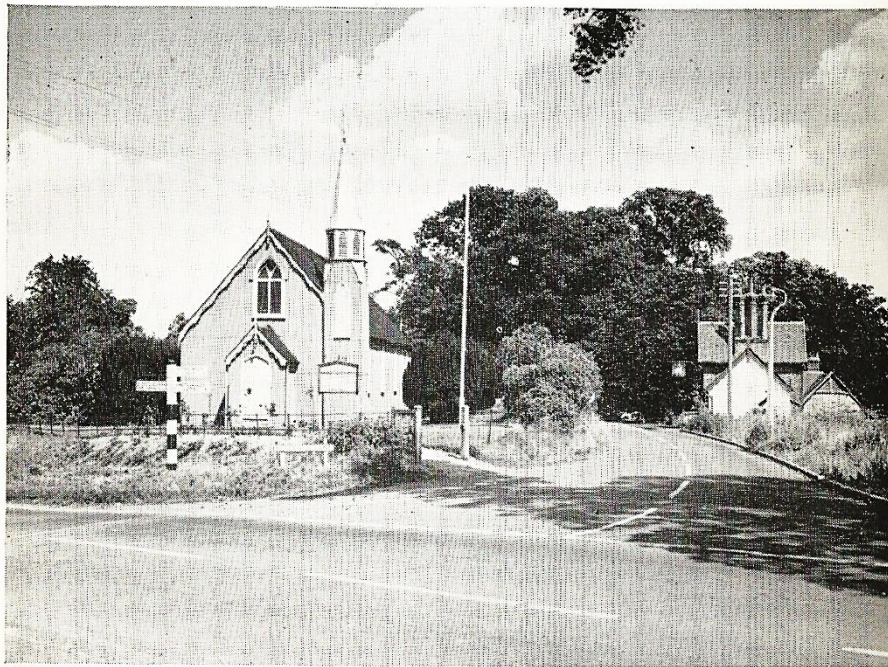
Watford College of Technology, Hempstead Road, Watford.

Dacorum College of Further Education, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead.

Cassio College of Further Education, Langley Road, Watford.

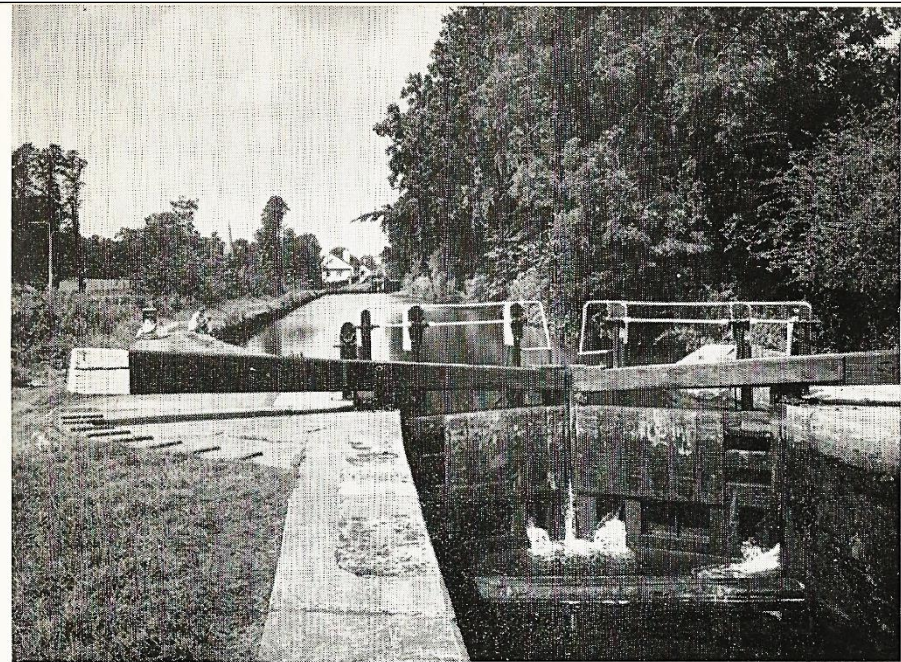
Extra Mural Studies for mature students are held in many local schools during the evenings; also at Cassio College. The W.E.A. also offers courses and external university studies both during the day and evening. Details of all these may be obtained from the local library.

**Private Education.** There are a number of Day and Boarding Schools in the area.



**Bedmond Village**

*Photograph by kind permission of the British Publishing Co. Ltd.*



**Grand Union Canal, Hunton Bridge**

*Photograph by kind permission of the British Publishing Co. Ltd.*

**TRANSPORT**

**Rail.** London Midland Region—Kings Langley to Euston, via Watford Junction. Electric trains from Watford Junction and Watford High Street stations to Euston every 15 minutes, increased during peak travel hours. Certain peak hour trains also run to or from Broad Street instead of Euston. Kings Langley Station (which serves Abbots Langley) is on the line from Watford to Bletchley and the north and is served by electric trains every hour on weekdays only to Watford Junction, Harrow and Euston, and to all stations via Berkhamsted to Bletchley. Increased services at peak hours. Sunday service to Watford Junction, Harrow and Euston, June to September only, with trains running every hour, and to stations to Rugby via Bletchley and Northampton. The normal journey from Kings Langley to Euston can be made in less than thirty minutes.

Metropolitan Line trains can be boarded at Watford Metropolitan Station.

*British Rail Stations:*

Kings Langley and Abbots Langley Station (Kings Langley 62376).

Watford High Street (Passenger) (Watford 44311).

Watford Junction (All Depts.) (Watford 44311).

Watford Passenger Train Service Information (Watford 34131).

Watford West, Train Service Information (Watford 34131).

**London Country Bus Services**

318—Abbots Langley—Watford—Croxley Green—Sarratt (daily).

318a—Abbots Langley—Watford—Croxley Green—Bucks Hill (daily).

322—Watford—Hunton Bridge—Kings Langley Station—Hemel Hempstead (daily).

319—Watford—Abbots Langley—Kings Langley—Chipperfield (not Sundays).

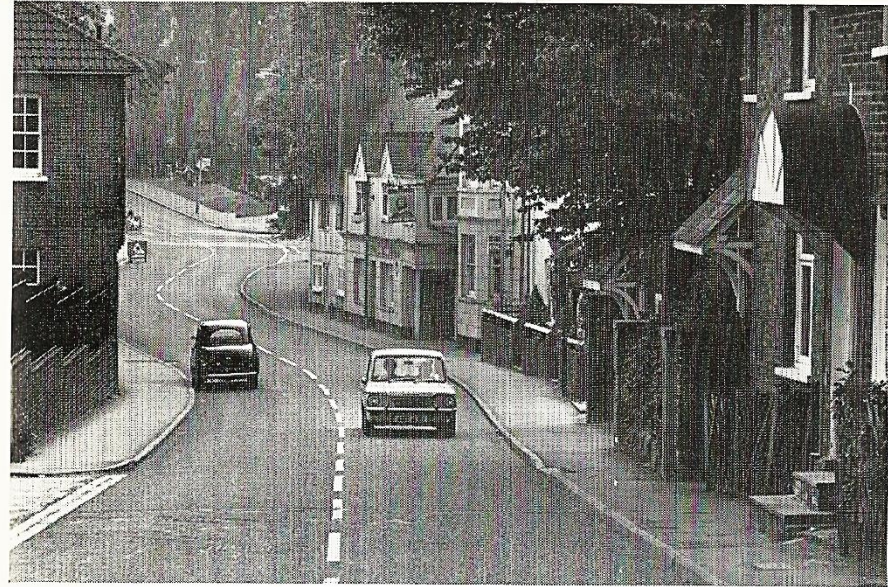
347—Hemel Hempstead—Abbots Langley—Watford—Uxbridge (daily). (Sundays only Uxbridge—Abbots Langley).

**London Transport Green Line Buses**

719—Hemel Hempstead—Watford—London (Victoria)—(throughout the week).

**Kitters Green**

*Photo by Bernard Mitchell*



**Hunton Bridge Village**

*Photo by Bernard Mitchell*

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## ABBOT'S HILL

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*Telephone:* Hemel Hempstead 55898

Founded 1912

Recognised by the Department of Education and Science

*President:*

The Dowager Viscountess Davidson, D.B.E. (Baroness Northchurch)

*Principal:* Mrs. R. Anderson

Abbot's Hill is a public boarding school for girls aged 11 to 18. The grounds extend to 70 acres which include tennis courts, lacrosse grounds and a heated swimming pool. There is accommodation for about 100 pupils and in addition there are 20 day girls.

The girls are prepared for the General Certificate of Education and University Entrance examinations. The school aims to awaken the interest of the girls in study for its own sake and to train them to accept responsibility. The girls attend the services of the Church of England. The school has its own Chapel adjoining the main school building.

FEES: £240 per term. Day girls, £120 per term

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### Langleybury Cricket Club

D. C. Honess, 81 Courtlands Drive, Watford (Watford 20682).

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*Manager:* K. I. Knight, 45 Liverpool Road, Watford (Watford 35726).

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*B.P. Guild—County Secretary:* Lou Pickering, 59 Tibbs Hill Road, Abbots Langley.

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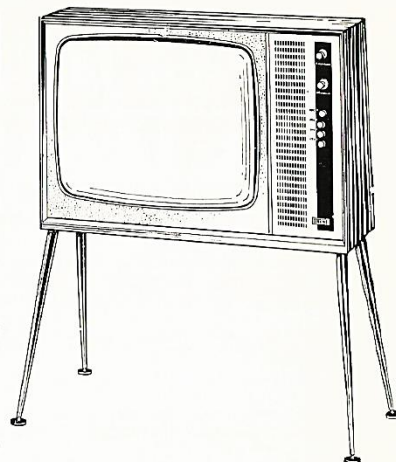
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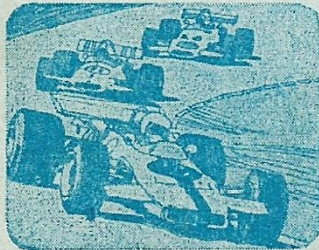
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