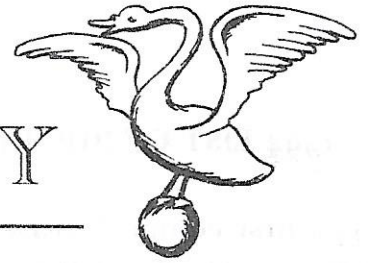


The

BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY



Registered as a Charity No. 268503
Registered with the Civic Trust.

OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1995

Last February representatives of the Society (Hélène Meadows and Bert Whitehead) met Jack Peeters (Aylesbury Vale District Planning Officer) and his colleagues to discuss mainly the Society's concern at the many instances of listed buildings being allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that they were delisted and demolished, the latest example being the Lower Wharf Cottages. The following is a short summary of the discussion:

Conservation Area

Although there were now 70 Conservation Areas and many listed buildings in Aylesbury Vale, AVDC had never had anyone in its planning department with specialist knowledge of conservation. AVDC depended on the advice of the County Historic Buildings Officer, who was not always consulted on Conservation Areas. At present conservation had a low priority in the performance assessment of the Planning Department and was left to about 20 officers, without special training, in the course of their other work; it was very time consuming. It was agreed to put Mr Peeters (District Planning Officer) and Mr Evans (County Historic Buildings Officer) on our mailing list for annual reports and newsletters.

Barham Lodge (The Miller's House, Tingewick Road)

Planning consent had just been given for conversion to flats. English Heritage had objected to the proposed roof-line, which had delayed action. We were satisfied with progress of restoration.

Prebend House, Hunter Street

A case was shortly to be presented to the appropriate committee for permission to issue a repairs order on the owner to undertake the essential repairs and weather and vandal proofing. If necessary, AVDC might undertake the repairs themselves and charge the owner with the cost, as had been done with three similar cases in Aylesbury Vale. Mr Peeters was going to look at the building after the meeting.

Old Town Hall

We expressed grave concern for the safety of the Swan weathervane as well as stressing that AVDC had the necessary powers to enforce the owner to restore it to this Grade II* listed building. We pointed out that the impasse between the Town Council and the present owners was solely concerned with the payment of £4,000 ear-marked towards restoration several years ago. We suggested that AVDC come to an arrangement with the Town Council for the sum to be paid after AVDC were satisfied that the Swan weathervane had been properly restored and reinstated, if necessary after enforcement action. This they agreed and also to inspect the Swan.

Lower Wharf Cottages, Stratford Road

The plan to demolish these and build five houses had been passed the previous day. The site did not include the canal bed. We expressed our dissatisfaction over the way the cottages had

Hélène Meadows has finally decided to relinquish her position of Hon. Secretary to the Society. We thank her for her past services and wish her joy in her marriage to Bob Hill.

But this does mean that the Society desperately needs volunteers to provide secretarial help, inspect plans, and take an active part in committees. If you can make such a contribution, please get in touch with any member of the Executive Committee: Mr B. J.St.Aubyn, Mr J.M.Briggs, Mr and Mrs A.Mayaton, Mr M.A.Osborne, Mrs M.Smith, Mr B.T.Whitehead.

been allowed by AVDC to deteriorate to a state where they merited delisting. We explained that the Society had not been aware of the listed status of the cottages because Stratford Road was not included in either the 1973 or the 1994 list. AVDC were unaware of this omission but in principle welcomed representations at an early stage about neglect of listed buildings.

Mortuary, Buckingham Cemetery

The planning officers were unaware that the Town Council had been given an offer to fund restoration but would check with AVDC Property department. Mr Peeters was going to look at the Mortuary after the meeting.

Shoe Shop in Bridge Street

We were told that the planning application for change of use had been withdrawn. There was a query why 25 and 25A Bridge Street (The Round House) had been delisted and AVDC were to take the matter up with the Department of National Heritage.

Town Centre

Concerning the programme of enhancement of the Town Centre, we pointed out that if the frequently used parking spaces on Market Hill and the Bull Ring were removed, shops in the town centre would suffer even more. Mr Peeters said that the policy was to seek alternative parking before proceeding, but no such sites had yet been determined. An economic study of Buckingham was being carried out with the financial support of the Town Council, the University of Buckingham, and the District and County Councils; it was hoped to make a report in about six months.

Footpaths

We pointed out that some of the footpaths in the town, e.g. Well Street, were in a dreadful state; the Society might do a survey of those most requiring action and refer it to the appropriate department of the County Council. [A considerable stretch of Well Street footpath has since been repaved, but we do not believe we can claim the credit!]

1994 LIST OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST IN BUCKINGHAM AND GAWCOTT

The first comprehensive list of buildings of architectural or historic interest was published in 1973. A new list dated 21 November 1994 has been published by the Department of National Heritage, which gives the following criteria for listing:

- (a) All buildings before 1700 which survive in anything like their original condition.
- (b) Most buildings between 1700 and 1840, though selection is necessary, and
- (c) between 1840 and 1914 only buildings of definite quality and character, the selection being designed to include the principal works of of the principal architects.

Since 1973 many buildings have been so altered or even demolished and rebuilt that they no longer deserve listing. Others have been delisted apparently from a more rigid interpretation of (c) above, though there seems to be some inconsistency. We are trying to arrange for a copy of the new list to be placed in the local library or District Council office so that local residents do not have to go to Aylesbury to inspect it. Meanwhile, here is a summary of the new list (all listed buildings Grade II unless otherwise indicated):

Bourton

Bourton Mill House, Thornborough Bridge, Rose Cottage,
White House Farm Cottage, White House Farmhouse, Hillside
Cottage, Nos. 5-6

Bridge Street

Nos. 4-6, 13-18, 23-24

Bristle Hill

Nos. 1-5, 8-12

Bull Ring

The Upper Shop and the Lower Shop

Castle Street

Villiers Hotel, 4-19, 22-25

Church Hill

Church of St Peter and St Paul II*

Church Street

Nos. 2-4, 11-15, Radcliffe Centre etc, Manor House and Twisted
Chimneys II*, The Vicarage II*, 20 Trinity House II*, 21-23,
various monuments in Old Churchyard incl. stump of Market
Cross.

Elm Street

Nos. 18-20.

High Street

Nos. 1-5, 12-13 Grand Junction, 19, 21, 27-36, 1 Manders Garden

Hunter Street

1 Nortons House, 2-3 Istra House, Prebend House and
outbuildings, Yeomanry House, Hall and Yard, 15, Prebend
Cottage.

Lenborough Road

No. 3

Manor Street

Nos. 1-3

Market Hill

2 White House, Nos. 6-8, 15-20, rear of 18 in Fleece Yard, Old
Latin School II*, St John's House and wall, Old Gaol II*,

Christ's Hospital

Market Square

Nos. 3-10 incl. Pump to rear of 8, 13-19, 1-12 Markhams Court,

Old Town Hall II*, White Hart Hotel.

Meadow Row

No. 10

Mill Lane

Willowbank

Moreton Road

No. 4 Moriah Cottage and outbuilding, Fernleigh, Sandon
House, The Cottage

Nelson Street

Nos. 1-4, 30, 32, 35-37, 39-43, 50-52, 55-60

School Lane

Nos. 1-2, 8, 10, Chandos House

Stowe Avenue

Buckingham Lodges; East and West

The Chewar

No. 2 and Chewar House

Tingewick Road

Castle Mill House

Well Street

Nos. 1AB, 3-14, 22-30, 33-36, 49-56, 58-60, 62, 65

West Street

Nos. 1, 3-8, 10 & 10A, 12, 14, 16, 19-28, 29-30 II*, 31-33, Castle
House incl. outbuildings, wall, statues, and summerhouse.

GAWCOTT WITH LENBOROUGH

Lenborough

Hill Farmhouse, Manor Farmhouse, Spinney Farmhouse

Church Street

Church of Holy Trinity II*, The Laurels

Main Street

Charlotte Cottage, Crown PH, Grig Cottage, Grove Lodge,
Honeysuckle Cottage and Ediecote, Jasmine Cottage, Manor
Farmhouse and outbuildings, Barn, Old Bakery House, Old
Eagles Farmhouse and outbuildings, Sunnyside, The White
House, Thurlby and outbuilding, Westcott House.