

THE
BUCKINGHAM
SOCIETY



Registered as a Charity No. 268503

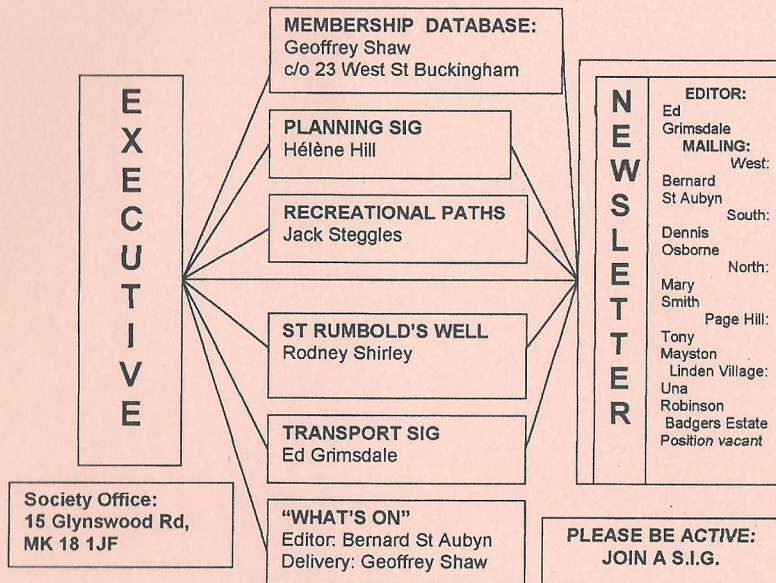
NEWSLETTER



Number 2001/3

STRUCTURES OF BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		PRESIDENT: Stanley Meadows ☎ 01280 813133
Chair: Ed Grimsdale ☎ 01280 815758	Vice Chair; Town Design Statement: Carolyn Cumming ☎ 01280 816226	
Secretariat: Charles Macdonald ☎ 01280 822688	Treasurer: position vacant	
University Liaison: Alan Brook ☎ 01280 813472	John Townsend ☎ 01280 815372	
St Rumbold's Well Rodney Shirley ☎ 01280 812158	:Planning SIG Hélène Hill ☎ 01280 813133	
Planning Consultant: Tony Parker ☎ 01280 813084	Recreational Paths SIG Jack Steggles Ex directory	
	Heartlands Case Officer: Ted Farmer ☎ 01280 812262	



NEWS

It is disappointing that our newly elected Mayor, Christine Strain Clark, has not waited for the results of the Aylesbury Vale Deposit Plan Inquiry but has declared (of the track to Newman's Field):

"In the longer term when the road becomes the access road to the new development, then"

Verney Close Pavements

The new wider pavement at the entrance to Verney Close created by B.C.C. is a boon to pedestrians. Is it time to remove the exceptionally narrow pavement by the side of The White House? Recently, Angela Jones damaged her wrist as she slipped from the kerb. Maybe, pedestrians should be persuaded to use the alternative wider pavement through removal or by surfacing with a pedestrian unfriendly surface such as cobble stones.

THERE'S AN AMENITY THIEF ABOUT!



"Where's our Post-Box?"



say the folk on the Tudor Meadows Estate



The Answer given to activist, **Des Bonner**, by the Post Office, or should it be Consignia?, is **"We've run out of Post-Boxes!"**



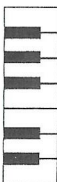
Beware of entrances to Estates

David Wilson Homes provided a most enticing entrance when Tudor Meadows was built. The gateway to Mallard Drive from Bourton Rd was beautifully laid out with shrubs. Now, further development in Treefields is bringing the project to conclusion and DWH propose to rip out the shrubs, allowing the shoe-horning of another property into the gateway. Buckingham Society Planning SIG fear that home will be out of character, that it will shout at its neighbours.

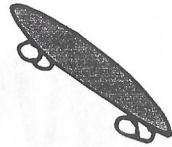
They've protested.

Further down Mallard Drive at number 15, distinguished musician Paul Harris suffers bad vibrations from work to the rear of his property being accessed by lorries through a narrow gap alongside Paul's house left by DWH in case Treefields became available for development.

Watch out if DWH owns a strip next to your house!



IT IS HERE
 IT IS VERY POPULAR
 IT HAS BEEN COVERED WITH GRAFFITI
 IT HAS CAUSED SEVERAL BROKEN BONES
 IT CAUSES SLEEPLESS NIGHTS FOR RESIDENTS AS THE BEAT GOES ON



SKATEBOARD PARK

AVDC

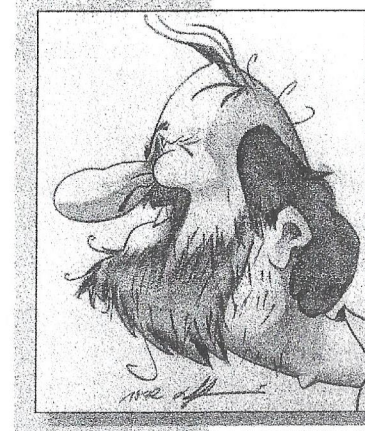


- Will ambulance-chasing Lawyers make a killing?
- Is there sufficient public liability?
- Is the park a haven for drugs and drug dealers?

Questions were asked at the Town Council's open session in June. Andy Cooper talked on behalf of residents in the Bourton Rd area who are annoyed late at night by noise so loud that it vibrates window panes. That issue arises from cars parked on the access road to the skateboard park. These cars often have doors wide open and

ghetto blasters running at full volume. Police and Environmental Health have not been very proactive. The Town Council are considering closing the barrier across the access road. Our Society endorsed Andy Cooper's comments and raised concerns over public liability

The Buckingham Society wants youth facilities, such as Project Street Life and the Skateboard Park, to succeed. Youngsters' thirst for "something to do" is evident and Buckingham isolates those without mechanised transport. However, the Society recognises that provisions need to be monitored and policed so that benefits both to young people and the whole community outweigh disadvantages.



John Credland LBIPP

Freelance Photographer

8 Western Avenue

Buckingham MK18 1LE

01280 813641

New!

mobile: 07932 165842

www.buckingham-index.co.uk

100523.760@compuserve.com

TO FORTIFY YOU

So, it is "Arrivederci" to "*Da Martino*" in West St and a warm welcome to "**The Indian Fort**".



Although some readers found *Da Martino* a little expensive for a

Trattoria in Buckingham, most were won over by the warmth of the Sicilian welcome.

The **Buckingham Fort** faces Castle House across the former Horse Fair. It adds extra



protection to local strongholds. Over the last Millennium, the following have

presided over our town:

- 2 Saxon Burghs
- One Norman Castle
- A Castle House
- An Old Gaol
- One Salvation Army Citadel

- One Yeomanry House
- The Barracks of West St.
- And now, an Indian Fort!

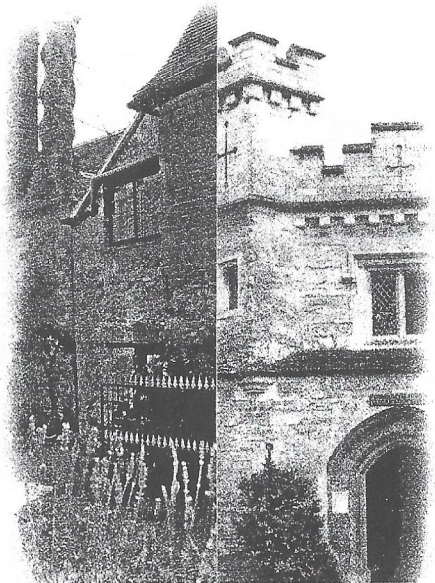
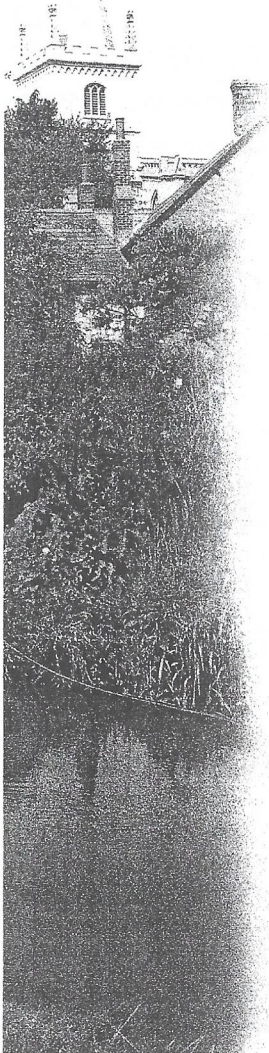
But, there is a quibble. Red appears black under blue lighting. Red bricks absorb blue and reflect red, that's why bricks are red. **The Buckingham Fort's** ramparts are a 1930's Georgian revival red-brick building.

THE SHINING

Shining down on all three facades are the most deep blue, the most powerfully blue floodlights you have ever seen. Night upon night the hungry red bricks greedily feast upon the proffered blue photons. To walk on the west side of town, along West St, is to walk on the wild side and to enter the twilight world of an unnerving phantasmagoric nightmare.

Buckingham

Vision and Design Statement 2001



This marvellous study that forms part of the supplementary planning guidance for new buildings in Buckingham has finally been published. It has been recognised by national bodies as a model production. Lavishly illustrated and beautifully designed it is available now from :

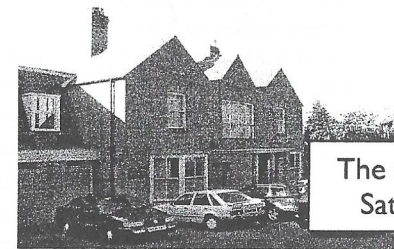
✉ Carolyn Cumming ☎ 01280 816226

The Old Mill House
Maids Moreton, MK 18 7AR

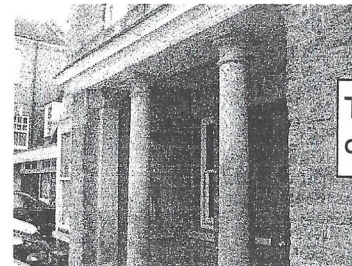
price £5

MARBLE HOUSE

- in Chandos Rd
- Buckingham "forest marble"
- Built by Buckingham Quarry
- Owner:
 - Captain John Hooker
 - Originally named "The Firs"
 - The Marble Quarry was next door under what is the University's Chandos Rd building
- Built in Victorian times
- Unusual architecture for that period
- Triple gabled facade
- Severe, simple style
- Dove grey colour
- Contains embedded oyster shells
- Now the Friary of St Bernadine's Church



The façade during
Saturday Mass



The impressive
classical portico

lure sit gloriatus marmoream se relinquere, quam latericiam accepisset.

(He could boast that he inherited it brick and left it marble.)

A suitable epitaph for Captain John Hooker

"I dreamed that I dwelt in marble halls, with vassals and serfs at my side."

The Bohemian Girl popular 19th Century Opera, once produced in Buckingham.

BERNARDINES WAY



St Bernard trod the hard path, observing strict Franciscan discipline in times of moral laxity, lawlessness and strife. His life was exemplary and he was a teacher as well as a priest. Thus, it was natural to name the Franciscan College and its associated Church in Buckingham: St Bernardine's of Siena. Part of Verney Park based on the former St Bernardine's School is being developed by Prowting to offer 40+ luxury (what else?) homes. There is a road to serve this new estate:

BERNARDINES WAY (SIC)

Generations of boarders at St Bernardine's College were forced to learn the genitive

form; grammar ruled. More recently, the site has belonged to The University of Buckingham. The new development is next to The Royal Latin School's premier rugby pitch and it faces Buckingham School's buildings. These houses are surrounded by the very groves of academe in our town. Yet they want us to call it **Bernardines Way**. We are being forced to be apostates, to renounce our belief in the possessive case. Possession they say is 9/10 of the law. What has possessed the great and the good of Buckingham and AVDC to deny English Grammar? Is this the thin end of the wedge, will they be asking us to give up the pound? The whole point of St Ber-

nardino's life was the refusal to be an apostate. He believed in rigour. Now his name is associated with debasement. A shame on all your houses.

To be fair, there was time for consultation, but we have missed the deadline for the naming was not widely advertised.

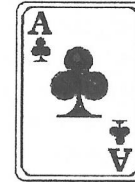
Do we need a campaign to restore the apostrophe to the streets of Buckingham?



BERNARDINE'S WAY

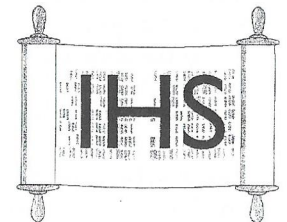
The Italian form of his name is San Benardino. He was born 1380 in Massa Marittima, Siena, and died in 1444 in L'Aquila. Catholicism was at a low ebb in San Bernardino's youth. By 1409 no fewer than 3 popes were on the earth, plotting against each other; one raising money for his interecine struggle through the sale of papal indulgences. It ended in the final great medieval gathering in 1414 some 70 000 people attending a Great Council at the very southern tip of Germany in the city of Constance. It was like a present day Pop Festival. Mobile bread ovens were humped across Europe to feed the multitude, there being no local miracle workers. One of the

existing popes was accused of simony (ie selling religious favours), sodomy and murder. There being no way to forge unity a new pope emerged from the smoke, fast-tracked from the laity



San Bernardino raged against sloppiness whether moral or financial. He declared war on playing cards, hairpieces, lottery tickets and musical instruments. He argued for strict interpretations of moral guidance, for a bonfire of vanities. San Bernardino was a great preacher tailoring immense four hour long sermons to local

conditions and using simple, clear language sometimes employing dialect. Like modern teachers, he used aids to improve communication including what is now known as a "flash" card. Frequently San Bernardino's placard simply declared IHS, the Greek acronym for Jesus. His ability to communicate the truth in simple, accurate language was the quality that caused Pope Pius XII to name San Bernardino in 1956 the patron saint of advertising.



BUCKINGHAM AND RACE IN 2001

Ed Grimsdale

Where do we stand post Oldham, Aylesbury and Burnley?

Is it complacency – the type that said in Burnley “We’ve had good race relations until now” – that makes me feel that Buckingham is an oasis of calm?

Stuart Adams’ book on the history of Well St School shows that local rural youth culture did not accept easily the influx of evacuees from inner London during the second World War. Buckingham was homogeneous and white. I came to the Royal Latin School 33 years ago. We were the grammar school of rural north Bucks. Our contact with the wider world was through two Boarding Houses. They were dominated by the sons and daughters of middle-ranking service families, almost entirely white, widely travelled children. Their horizons had been

narrowed by confinement to “the Base”; they had been enveloped in Little England with the guard-house keeping the hordes of Midian at bay. Their attitude was racist – the racism of colonialism; of “us,” the superior rulers and “them”, whom we had graciously agreed to improve.

Buckingham has changed as has the Latin School. Our Town’s windows on the world have been flung open; on the one hand by the rise of the University of Buckingham; on the other by RLS becoming, in the eyes of some, “Milton Keynes Grammar School”.

The University created a two-fold effect. Firstly, being private and independent, it has scoured the world for parents with excess disposable income to pay for tuition fees. Thus, the racial mix of our Campus has been a barometer of where the hot money was in the world. The polyglot as-

sembly has ebbed and flowed in ethnic composition but has remained constant as an affluent minority spending in our isolated market town.



HEY, Big Spender!

That isolation has engendered the second effect. Communication has long been a problem in Buckingham with its threadbare public transport infrastructure. University students have demanded the bright lights, such as London’s West End. To supply their needs a thriving taxicab industry has grown up. The majority of the drivers are of Asian origin, mainly Urdu speaking Muslims from the Kashmir valley in Pakistan. Such minorities have formed the heart of ghetto communities in Oldham, Burnley and Bradford. To some extent they do

that in Bucks. Curiously, almost to a man they reside in tightly knit groups in Aylesbury. They prefer to drive the 17 miles to and from Aylesbury for the pickings are richer in Buckingham, the people, friendlier and the incidence of violence from passengers apparently lower. These drivers show the successful absorption of immigrants into multiracial Britain. I was delighted to hear that at least two of them were standing for election in Aylesbury Town during the recent contest.

The Royal Latin School has doubled in size in the last 8 years. A time there was when its ethnic minority was invisible. There were a few Belgians during the first World War and in the 1960’s and 1970’s there were a considerable number of children of Polish, Yugoslavian and Czechoslovakian origin; progeny of the war-time displaced persons camp at Water Stratford. Almost the first non-white students were one or two Ugandan Asians ex-

pelled in 1972 by President Idi Amin. A decade later a few families of Vietnamese boat people broke the RLS monoculture. Now in 2001 over 5% of the school population has **English** as a second language. The school is delighted with the way they integrate. Like taximen, such RLS students don’t live in Buckingham – the majority come from Milton Keynes. There is little doubt that ethnic minority parents opt to send their sons and daughters to RLS attracted not only by high academic standards but by the absence of racial tensions (all schools hold official files of racist incidents, the RLS one is empty).

Problems in other towns often emerge in ghetto areas with high rates of unemployment, areas inhabited by an underclass. Buckingham enjoys all the advantages of a multicultural society with few of the risk factors. Unemployment locally is virtually zero. We have no sink estates. Our poor are largely white rural poor. Desperately poor but

dispersed into isolated invisibility. They drag their feet through clay; incapable of marching to a different drummer. Most of our ethnic minority come to Buckingham to learn or to earn. They are transient. Most bring wealth and create opportunities for all. The welcome is genuine. There is no feeling of threat or fear of being swamped; there is joy from increased cultural diversity and richness.

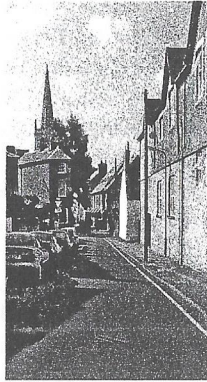
○ Lucky Buckingham.

So, how should we help those areas where things are not so rosy - some estates in Aylesbury, our County Town, for instance?

heritage open days

Exciting news for people in North Buckinghamshire is that Heritage Open Days are bigger and better in Buckingham this Autumn and scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7th-9th September.

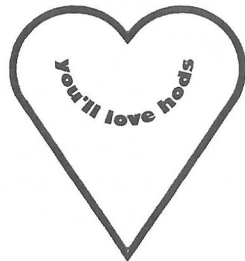
A number of buildings will be open in our town including Castle House and Stowe House. There will be walks and free events throughout the centre of Buckingham all the weekend. **Carolyn Cumming**, Vice Chairman of The Buckingham Society, led the group that has worked to expand this year's programme.



PLEASE TAKE THE
YELLOW FLYER
OUT OF THE CENTRE
OF THIS NEWS-
LETTER.

TO GET THE BEST EFFECT:

- Make Two folds
- Either side of Sunday
- Bring the outer leaves together
- Buckingham and HODS 2001 should form the front panels.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- **BECOME A REAR GUNNER**

They help House Guides by tidying up the stragglers and protecting the family's silver.

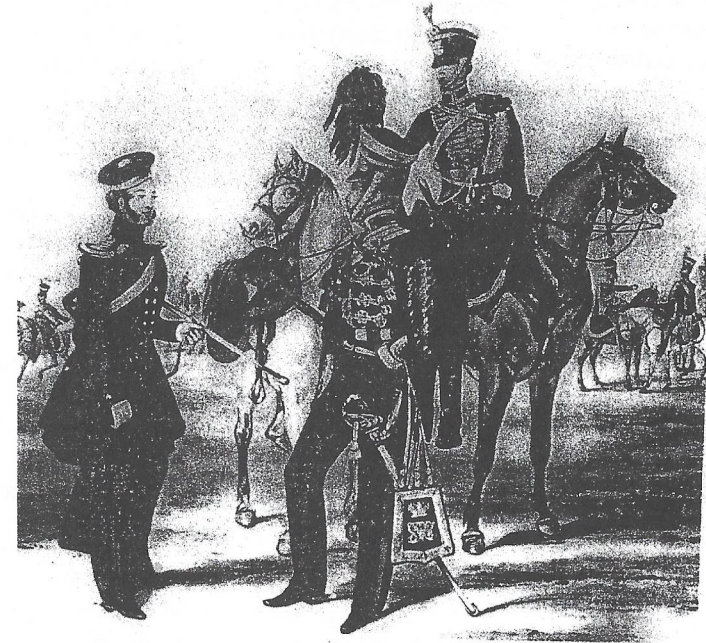
- **MAN THE CHANTRY CHAPEL**

The Chantry Chapel is our main Exhibition and the chance for Societies such as The Buckingham Society to connect with possible new members |

- **TAKE PEOPLE FROM THE MEETING POINT TO THE EVENTS**
- **COME**

- **SEE**
- **BE CONQUERED!**

Military Buckingham will be a theme of Heritage Open Days (Friday to Sunday ,7-9th September). Military graffiti in the University's Library will be explained during a guided tour by the University's Estates' Bursar, Tom Merrick



TYPICAL BUCKS HUSSARS UNIFORM FROM ABOUT 1840

The Bucks Yeomanry were self-styled as Bucks Hussars. Queen Victoria's visit to Stowe in 1845 resulted in the name "Royal Bucks Hussars". The uniform developed slightly, but the Regiment happily waged War in the 19th Century dressed to attract the attention of our enemies. The uniform worn by the Officer on the left would have been used at the many glorious mess dinners in Yeomanry House, Hunter St.

the
civic
trust

Introducing a New Look for The Civic Trust

What does it do?

The Civic Trust has a new chief executive, **Martin Bacon**, and it is therefore an appropriate moment to re-introduce itself to member Civic Societies. It occurred to me that, although our own Society literature proclaims "Registered with the Civic Trust", we only have a vague idea as to what the Civic Trust is and, perhaps more importantly, what it does.

What is the Civic Trust?

It is the national voice for approximately 900 civic societies across the country and acts as the interactive face between the grass root civic societies and governmental bodies. It is this network of energetic and concerned people which makes the Trust unique and effective.

The front cover of the Trust's new brochure states "promoting a renaissance in local environments for everyone". The fundamental objectives are to:

- empower individuals and communities, enabling them to have an influence over their local surroundings
- create innovative partnerships between government, business and communities
- set high standards of design, sustainability and community involvement

which The Civic Trust has translated into action by setting up:

1. The leading UK **Regeneration Unit**, which has delivered - and is developing - practical schemes and solutions to improve the quality of urban life in

market towns and cities.

2. Training Courses to inspire '**Civic Champions**'. The part-residential course helps people to gain the skills and confidence needed to undertake specific projects in their locality.

3. **The Civic Trust Awards**, rewarding excellence in architecture and the built environment. The booklet illustrating and listing the Awards for 2001 (copies available at the **Buckingham Society's office**, or ring me) demonstrate what high standards can be achieved. This is the more remarkable because the schemes show that good design is not necessarily compromised by the need to adhere to tight budgets or building regulations.

4. **A Green Flag Award** to recognise similarly high standards

in the design and maintenance of the green spaces in our towns has recently been introduced.

5. **Heritage Open Days (HODS)**. If you don't know about this scheme, you can read all about it in this edition of the newsletter!

If this sounds all rather far removed from you, may I stress that there are many ways in which individuals can contribute.

- You could become a **Civic Champion**
- You could nominate a **scheme for an award** (see page in this newsletter)
- You could **help with HODS**
- You could join a **Special Interest Group**, enroll a new member, write an article for this newsletter!
- You can find out more by logging on to the Civic Trust

website: www.civictrust.org.uk

- **The Buckingham Vision & Design Statement** is one successful result of co-ordination between a local Society and HQ.

Following on from this, **The Buckingham Partnership** is to forge new links with the **Regeneration Unit** to ensure that we maximise the opportunities for improvement in new development.

At a national level, **The Civic Trust** have been invited to continue the work of the **Urban Task Force**.

All of which highlights the increasing importance of raising the quality of design and management in the built environment. As a garden designer, I am naturally enthused by this emphasis on "**quality design**". It is my firm belief that whether it is the cup you drink your coffee out of, the knife you eat with or the

street you live in, the quality of the design has the power to lift the spirit. Just think about those miserable polystyrene cups we are forced to endure at fast food outlets, or the unrelieved brick facades of shopping mall exteriors. At best they are thoughtless, at worst debilitating.

the
civic
trust

The **Civic Society** movement is not just about celebrating and preserving our heritage. It is about ensuring that the new layers each successive generation adds to that heritage will be worthy of celebration in the future.

Carolyn Cumming

READY TO DROP ON ME?

Three cheers for **Lloyds Bank** that wears its new net as proudly as **Ena Sharples**. However, the casual flocks of pigeons have cried aloud.



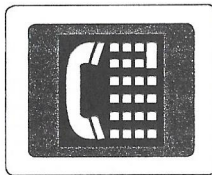
civic trust news

A new initiative has been launched by the **Civic Trust** and the **House Builders Federation**. They want your help to find housing developments which **you** think deserve recognition. To nominate a scheme for judging by experts please fill in the form opposite.

Criteria include:

- Efficient layout
- Flexible design
- Ease of access to public transport
- Appropriate densities
- Local characteristics
- Adherence to environmental standards
- Designed with those with disabilities and reduced mobility in mind

The **Regeneration Unit**, soon to start work in Buckingham, is presently working at Peterborough. This is the first time the public realm in the city has been looked at since Gordon Cullen's pioneering work in the 1960's. Cathedral Square, the entrance to Peterborough's magnificent Cathedral, presents a first class opportunity to create a first-class public square in the heart of the city. At the end of the day it will be the people of Peterborough who will choose the features to be incorporated in the new design. The **RU** is also working in the Black Country, blighted by the shadow cast by the huge Merry Hill Shopping Centre.



The **Civic Trust** are leading a campaign to inhibit advertisements on phone boxes. They fear a nationwide spread of phone kiosks as hoarding sites. The DTLR is holding a public consultation (see www.dtlr.gov.uk). To register your views put pen to paper and send your views to the DTLR.



Martin Bacon, the new Chief Executive, is keen to preserve **GREEN BELTS** around settlements. He sees increased urban renaissance as a means to stem development pressure on **Green Belts**. The **Buckingham Society** approves of schemes to increase the population density in the heart of Buckingham as a means to avoid sprawl and to inhibit the loss of pleasant green fields to new housing estates. To that end Planning SIG keep a count of **Planning Gains**

HOUSING DESIGN RECORD SHEET

NAME	ORGANISATION	POSITION
TELEPHONE NO.	ADDRESS	
LOCATION/ADDRESS OF RECOMMENDED HOUSING SITE		
REGION		
NAME OF DEVELOPER		
NO. OF HOUSES IN DEVELOPMENT		
REASONS FOR NOMINATION OF SITE		
PHOTO ATTACHED	YES	NO

Please complete and return to Liz Wrigley, CTRU, 17 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5AW

Tel: 01280 812262.

Mr. David Brown,
Director, Civil Engineering,
G.F. Tomlinson & Sons Ltd.,
18, City Road,
Derby, DE1 3RQ.

This note of thanks from our Society's Bridge Officer was well deserved. Amenity Societies are thought to be bands of whingers. The Buckingham Society recognises a job well done.

1st July 2001.

Dear Mr. Brown,

With the enthusiastic approval of our Chairman, I am very pleased to compliment your Company on completion of the removal of the concrete bridge in Buckingham. This is a most welcome and long-awaited improvement to a very accessible and visible stretch of the River Great Ouse, close to the town centre.

I am well aware that you experienced unanticipated substantial and costly difficulties which greatly extended the duration of the contract. I have called in on Keith Davies on numerous occasions and twice met Nick Lane, and they have readily explained the problems and the progress. It is to the credit of your Company and sub-contractors that the problems in no way detracted from the diligence with which the job has been completed. All it needs now is some rain to settle the top soil and set the grass growing - a little ironic as extensive flooding delayed the start of the job.

I enclose photocopies of a front page report in the Buckingham & Winslow Advertiser of 22nd June and an anonymous compliment in the 29th June issue. I have heard several other pleasing comments in the last few days.

You may be aware that the removal of the ugly bridge was just one of many promised but long-overdue improvements for public benefit associated with development in the Buckingham Heartlands. As the Society's nominated Case Officer for these matters, I do hope this very significant event marks the start of real progress to resolving all the other problems still outstanding.

It is very gratifying to recognise a job well done and I trust that the pains of the problems will quickly ease.

Yours truly,

red farmer.

The Saga of this Concrete Bridge has lasted many years and occupied many verses. Even now when it is no more the place remains accursed. A Buckingham student who fell from his raft into the river at this point recently seems to have contracted the unpleasant Weil's disease.

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FOUNDERS' DAY AT THE ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL

Thanks to **Paul Poornan's** recent book on RLS, we know more of its history and benefactors than for very many years. The original foundation developed from an endowment given by the Archdeacon of Buckingham in 1268. That established a Chantry Chapel that still exists today and is the oldest building in Buckingham. Although the building has been much altered over the centuries, it retains a glorious Norman stone doorway. Chantry Chapels were bases for priests paid to say Mass in the hope of saving the soul of the departed founder. Priests were amongst the better-educated people in medieval towns. It was natural for them to share their wisdom. That's how the Chantry Chapel became our local school some 730 years ago. Much is still buried in history, but The Royal Latin School is venerable and it is proper that each year the school visits the Parish Church to show its

respect to the congregation of Founders, Benefactors, Staff and Students who forged the successful school that affects lives in Buckingham so much today.

Paul Poornan writes that the identity of the School's Founders and Benefactors is a subject for learned discussion. He backs the following as having strong claims:

Matthew Stratton (11xx-1268) Archdeacon of Buckingham, then part of the second richest church living in England.

Brother Robert of Wappenham, the Hermit

The Knights of St Thomas of Acon (aka Thomas of Acre)

John Ruding (14xx - 1482) Lawyer and priest. Ruding's bible still exists in our Parish Church. John Ruding restored the Par-

ish Church and Chantry chapel in the last ten years of his life. His designs included the head of St John the Baptist on a charger supported by angels. His motto "**All may God Amende**" became the school's.

John Barton (Senior) (13xx-1432) Vicar, lawyer, Recorder of the City of London, and landowner. He lived in Buckingham at Castle House. He founded Barton's hospital for sick people.

John Barton (Junior) (14th/15th century) Son of the above. Again, he was an eminent lawyer, an MP and property magnate.

Isobel Barton (?? - 1457) Born of a rich Oxfordshire family, Isobel Wilcotes married John.

Richard Fowler (15th century) Much Barton money was left to Richard's fa-

ther in trust to do good in North Bucks. It was Richard who discharged that duty after his father had sat on the cash. Richard became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

John Fortescue (151?-1607) Chancellor of the Exchequer and privy councillor. Our local MP.

William Abbott (15th century) Chantry priest and teacher at Thornton Grammar School. His pension of £10 8s 0.5d became the annual salary of the teacher at RLS for 336 years.

Alexander Denton Alexander Denton rebuilt the schoolmaster's house in Buckingham.

Thomas Cockram Headmaster 1871-1891 Thomas Cockram had the school rebuilt and extended to include provision for boy boarders **AT HIS OWN EXPENSE!** The school's number on roll doubled to 54 boys within months of his improvements.

THE OLD ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL SONG

ALLE MAY GOD AMENDE

Rob Tucker (RLS Head of Music) has been working on **The Old School Song**. It was sung each School Founders' Day throughout the 1950's. St John's Royal Latin School holds its Founders' Day in Buckingham Parish Church on or near its saint day in June. More recently, all copies of the Old School Song have vanished from the school's archives. This June the words were revived for the first time in the memory of all present in church that day, including old lags such as Deputy Heads Ed Grimdsdale and Andy Cooper, who between them have served nearly 200 terms at the RLS chalkface. When Margaret E Rose wrote the words in the late 1940's, 400 years of history was all that the school knew about; today we believe the school's chequered history dates back to the building of the Chantry Chapel in 1268. Chantry Chapels were bases for priests paid to say Mass in the hope of saving the soul of the departed founder,

in this case that of Matthew Stratton, Archdeacon of Buckingham. In the 13th century the Buckingham and King's Sutton living was the second best endowed in England. Priests were amongst the better-educated people in medieval towns. It was natural for them to share their wisdom. That's how the Chantry Chapel became a school some 730 years ago.

In Margaret's time the school was very small and housed in the Chandos Rd buildings that now constitute the heart of Grenville School. Small schools demand versatile teachers. Margaret Rose taught History and English (ideal qualities for an author of the School Song), but she also helped in Geography and PE. She left RLS in 1948 to further her career in Shropshire. I wonder if any reader knows what became of her? The words capture the essence of RLS history.

One reference intrigues - that to "the scent of beans in summer". Do spill the beans - was old Buckingham famous for its beans?

The School Song fits Sir Arthur Sullivan's famous tune to "Onward Christian Soldiers". Was that the melody used 50 years ago? Probably not, for I have a Speech Day programme from the 1950's that suggests that Harold Nutt set the words to music. Does anyone own a copy? Rob Tucker decided that Sullivan's tune with its insistent bass rhythm was too military for such a pastoral idyll of leafy Bucks. So Rob Tucker composed a new tune for the revival. 2001 would have been the 100th birthday of the fine English song composer Gerald Finzi (often celebrated as the instigator of the English "cowpat" school of composition). Some listeners on Founders' Day de-

tected the ghost of Finzi's pastoral spirit wandering through Rob's tune. It is quite memorable.

EG

"Alle may God amende"

1) Above the willow'd river
A green hillside sloped down;
The mason's ringing hammer
Sounds through the sleeping town.
Great porch and vault and carving
He fashions bold and clear,
Raising in simple beauty
A Chantry chapel here.

*While, without strain or hurry
Serenely winding on,
The Ouse flows softly seaward
Crested by silver swan.*

2) Image and chalice glimmer
In amber candlelight;
Hushed choristers hymn faintly
Requiems through the night
While, set beneath the altar,
A living need to tend,
Shines Rudyng's blazoned
scutcheon,
His "Alle may God amende."

3) John Barton from his manor
His fine estates bestowed;
The gentlefolk of Hillesden
The tiny school endowed.
While thriftless squires squandered
Their wealth on wine and wars,
These rendered back their riches
To serve the scholar's cause.

*While, without strain or hurry
Serenely winding on,
The Ouse flows softly seaward
Crested by silver swan.*

4) A host of unknown children
Have lingered here at play,
Have laughed and dreamed and
studied
Four hundred years away.
The best go unrecorded
Who, seeking no renown,
Discovered quiet virtues
To grace a quiet town.

5) They learned to value labour,
Its healthfulness to share;
To watch the swinging seasons
With senses more aware;
When scent of beans in summer
Drifts through a drowsy land,
Or deep in autumn waters
The patient willows stand.

*While, without strain or hurry
Serenely winding on,
The Ouse flows softly seaward
Crested by silver swan.*

6) Beyond the change of seasons
Our benefactors rest;
And we who now inherit
Their tenure and their quest,
Would have, like them the vision
To leave the past behind,
And build anew with courage
And independent mind.

Margaret E Rose

This month's cover picture:

Coachhouse and Stables
Castle Hill Buckingham
Built 1875

Designed by Edmund Swinfen Harris (1841 – 1924)

Illustrated by Dennis G Osborne

Edmund Swinfen Harris was an enthusiastic member of the Aesthetic Movement. This movement, the progenitor of The Arts and Craft Movement (William Morris), started in the 1860's and was the first in Britain to appreciate the value of decorating everyday objects. Its chief motif was the Sunflower: do look for them on our Coach House. Swinfen Harris was a magpie. Wherever he roved in Europe, the sponge that was his brain absorbed a new influence. Do visit the Coach House and identify a few of his sources. By the way, good aesthetics did not equate with good design. Pretty – maybe, functional – no! Cupboard doors often did not open fully. It is said that our Coach House could not be used for its designed purpose!

Swinfen Harris lived in Stony Stratford and there are many examples of his work in his home town. Dennis Osborne has visited Stony Statford to research the architect's life and work with the world's foremost Swinfen Harris expert. Dennis reckons that a pair of semi-detached houses in Lenborough Lane was designed by Swinfen Harris. Ed

heritage
open days

the
civic
trust

friday 7th september



LAUNCH
DAY

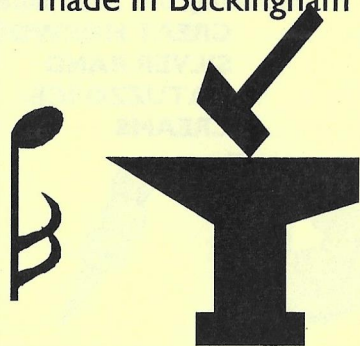


CHANGING FACES



PHOTOGRAPHIC
EXHIBITION
With
Video Presentation
in the Chantry Chapel
2pm—4pm

“made in Buckingham”



in words and song

A RECEPTION AND SHORT CONCERT

A light-hearted look at
Buckingham's Heritage

THE PHOENIX SINGERS



7pm—9pm

THE RADCLIFFE
CENTRE

HODS MEETING POINT AND INFORMATION DESK:
THE CHANTRY CHAPEL

saturday 8th september

SPECIAL CONDUCTED TOURS

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | University Campus* A | 10.00 am |
| 2. | University Campus * B | 11.15 am |
| 3. | Castle House * A | 11.00 am |
| 4. | Castle House * B | 12.15 pm |
| 5. | St Rumbold's Ramble* A | 11.15 am |
| 6. | Town Trail * A | 2.00 pm |
| 7. | Stowe House (Interior,45min) A | 11.30 am |
| 8. | Stowe House (Interior,45 min) B | 2.00 pm |
| 9. | Stowe House (Interior, 45 min) C | 3.00 pm |
| 10. | Stowe Gardens (1.5h.) A | 2.30 pm |
| 11. | Stowe Gardens (1.5h.) B | 3.30 pm |

* Tour lasts 45 min

All tours are **free**, but numbers are strictly limited, so do collect a reservation ticket from **The Tourist Information Centre** in the **Old Gaol**.

FREE ENTRANCE TODAY:

1. Stowe Landscape Gardens (10 am— 5 pm)
2. Thornton College and Church (10 am to 4 pm)

TALK

“Changing Faces” by **Angus Davison** at 12.15 pm in the **University's Chandos Rd Lecture Theatre**. Angus will illustrate changes to Buckingham's townscape using pictures from Buckingham's past and present.



CHANGING



FACES

Photographic
Exhibition

CHANTRY CHAPEL
10.00 am—4.00 pm

HODS 2001

This year the theme of **Heritage Open Days** or **HODS** is **"CIVIC PRIDE"**.

This is about celebrating towns through looking afresh at buildings and structures.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

- Buildings normally closed to the public will be **OPEN**



- All HODS events are **FREE**

To find out more about Heritage Open Days across Britain, visit the Civic Trust Website: www.civictrust.org.uk

PROVISIONAL LEAFLET:
TIMES AND VENUES MAY ALTER



sunday september 9th

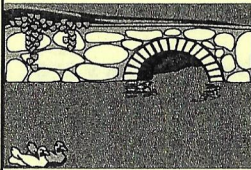
Buckingham

CONDUCTED TOURS

1.	Castle House	C	11.00 am
2.	Castle House	D	12.15 pm
3.	St Rumbold's Ramble	B	12.15 pm
4.	Town Trail	B	11.00 am
5.	Town Trail	C	12.15 pm
6.	Stowe House	D 45min	11.30 am
7.	Stowe House	E 45 min	2.00 pm
8.	Stowe House	F 45 min	3.00 pm
9.	Stowe Gardens	C (1.5 hours)	2.30 pm
10.	Stowe Gardens	D (1.5 hours)	3.30 pm

All tours are **free**, but numbers are strictly limited, so do collect a reservation ticket from

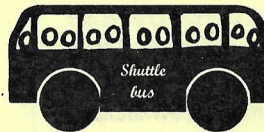
The Tourist Information Centre in the Old Gaol. Most tours last for one hour.



The **Canal Society's**

Canal Walk walk starts at 11 am and ends either at

Leckhampstead Wharf (12.30 pm) or Thornton Church (1 pm). At either destination you will be picked up by bus and brought back to Buckingham.



Market Sq. =>
Stowe =>
Thornton Church =>
Market Sq.

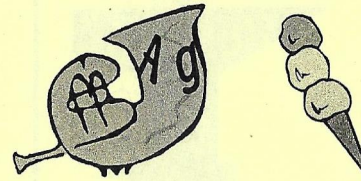
Times at The Bull Ring:
1.00 pm ; 1.45 pm ; 2.30 pm ;
3.15 pm ; 4.00 pm



ENGLISH HERITAGE

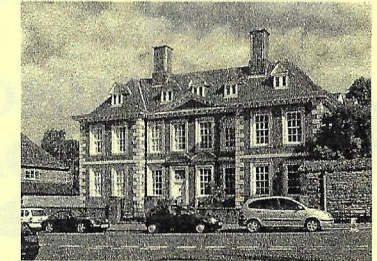
MARKET EVENTS

10.45 am **TOWN CRIER**
11 am — 4 pm **THE ADVERTISER ROADSHOW**
including old newspapers
1.00 pm **GREAT HORWOOD SILVER BAND**
All day **MATUZZO ICE-CREAMS**



OTHER FREE EVENTS TODAY

- Buckingham Sandpit (10 am to noon)
- Thornton College and Church are open (10 am to 4 pm)
- The Old Gaol with its special Exhibition on "The Boer War" is **FREE** today. (2pm -4pm)
- "Changing Faces" at the Chantry Chapel (10 am—4 pm)



SPECIAL HERITAGE BREW

ON SALE ALL WEEKEND IN THE NEW INN, THE WHEATSHEAF & THE SWAN AND CASTLE



Pick up a free Heritage Prize Quiz

HODS MEETING POINT AND INFORMATION DESK:
THE CHANTRY CHAPEL

produced in association with...

The **BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY**



Aylesbury Vale leisure
AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

