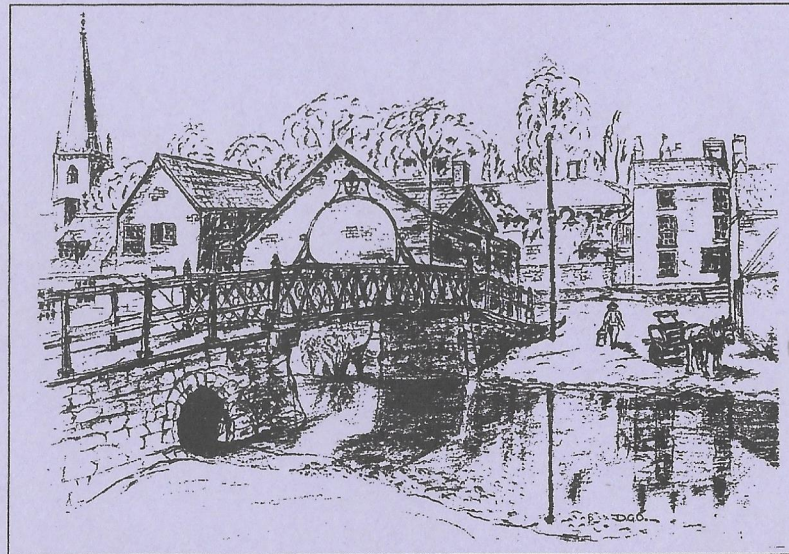


THE  
BUCKINGHAM  
SOCIETY



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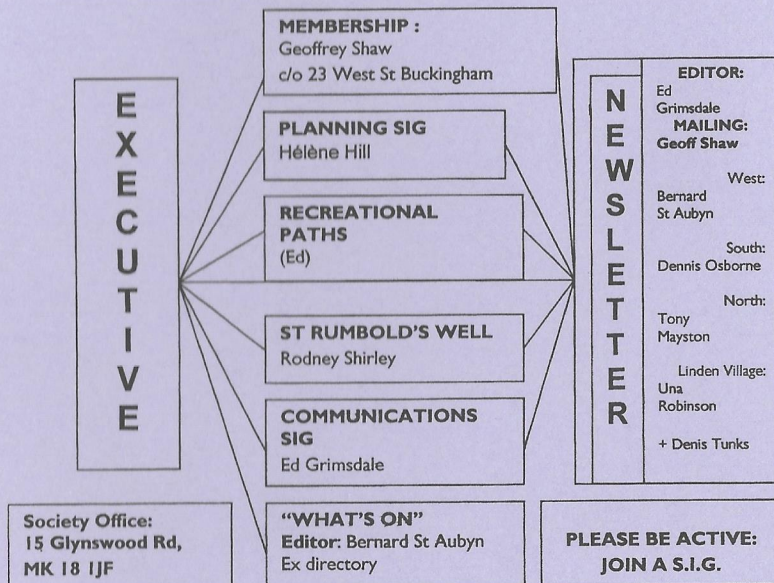
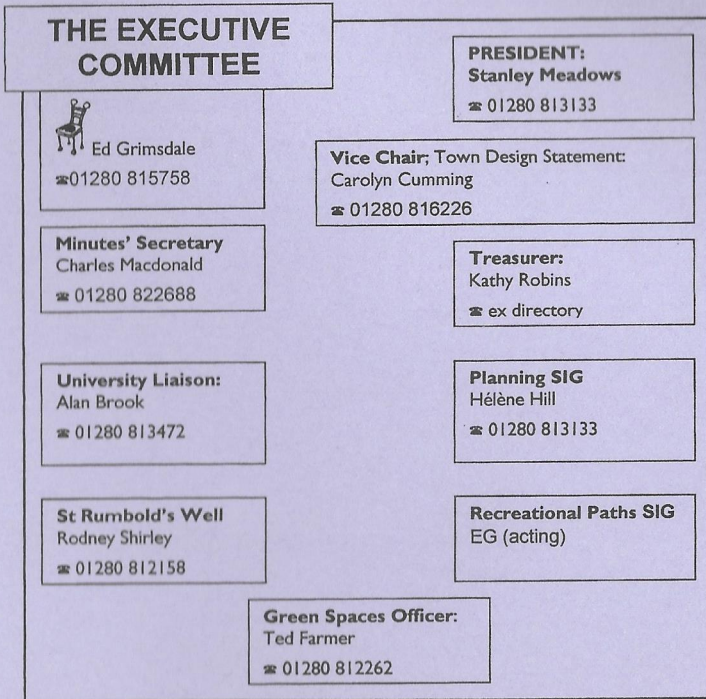
NEWSLETTER



Number 2002/1



## STRUCTURES OF BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY



# NEWS

## BEST-KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

Buckingham is considering a bid to take part in the 2002 competition. The Bucks competition has a section for small towns. The process started at a poorly attended public meeting held in the Community Centre during November. Cllr Pauline Brooks led the well-organised meeting. The judges take a number of criteria into consideration such as:

- Places of Worship and other public buildings
- War Memorials
- Parks and Playing Fields
- Areas around Public Houses
- Bus shelters and kiosks
- Noticeboards
- Main shopping centres
- Hedgerows near main routes in to the town
- Wildlife and Conservation areas.

The competition run by the Bucks Association of Local Councils measures how individuals have co-operated together to take a pride in their town. It is not about the prettiest town or village, but is about value-added. Buckingham receives 40 000 visitors a year. By making more of what we have we can add to their number and the quality of their experience. Each one of our 11 000 inhabitants will gain if, for example, we create a climate of opinion that inhibits the dropping of litter that has become such a scourge in parts of our town. A good start has been made with The Buckingham Partnership's Audit of central Buckingham, a database of neglected features and aspects capable of facile improvement.

A organising group will be formed in the New Year. **The Buckingham Society** will be at the heart of the group. Making a

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
**Our Town has got them all.**

better Buckingham is central to our mission. The bid will be submitted in April and judging will take place in June and July. We shall let you know how you can help. The Society does not see this as a one-off stunt, but as the start of a continuous cycle of critical observation, target-setting, maintenance and self-improvement.

The omens are good for another link in the Riverside Walk. We're looking again at the "Balmer Spring" link between London Road and the Railway Walk.



## NEWS 2



### THE RAILWAY WALK

Over the last three years the **British Trust for Conservation Volunteers** has helped to create, improve and protect a number of wildlife habitats along this walk. They have cut pockets out of the woodland to increase the diversity of flora and fauna. One year after treatment mosses have subsided and have been replaced by grasses, violets, goldilocks, butter-cups, primroses, cowslips and oxeye daisies. The new flora provides woodland edge habitats supporting birds and insects.

Their programme continues in 2002 and they need **YOUR HELP**. They will meet you at Chandos Rd. car park, provide you with tools, training, tea and coffee. Activities will include Woodlands' Management, Coppicing, and Pond Clearance.



**DATES** (all are SUNDAYS)

January 13th	11.00 - 15.00
February 24th	13.00 - 15.00
March 10th	11.00 - 15.00
March 24th	11.00 - 13.00

### Pedestrian Crossings

The Town Council have put their weight behind two bids. One came from the Buckingham Society's "Meetings Secretary" Charlie Macdonald who suggested the Startford Road needed on for access to Wharfside Close. BTC are backing also one across the London Rd in front of Buckingham Upper School.

From the Marlow Society's Newsletter:

#### Pavement Car Parking

We hear that the High Court has ruled that a car may be parked on a pavement without fear of prosecution for obstruction, as long as pedestrians can find a way around it - even if the latter involves stepping off the pavement on to the roadway. This must be reassuring news for the elderly, all wheelchair users and mothers with small children.



**Whose pavement is it, anyway?**



**VICTORY** Des Bonner has won a Post-Box for Tudor Meadows.

**Well Done** to Buckingham Town Council for another year of fine Christmas lights including a timely return of "Merry Christmas 2001" on The Old Gaol.



## BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY EXECUTIVE DIARY FOR 2002

All Executive Meetings will be held in the **Villiers' Tap Room\*** unless otherwise stated. They are **OPEN**, please do pop in and air your views. \*Thanks to the generosity of Henry Scrase.

JANUARY	5.30pm	Thursday 24th
FEBRUARY		Society's Winter Break
MARCH	5.30pm	Thursday 21st
APRIL		event to be arranged
MAY	5.30pm	Thursday 23rd
JUNE	5.30pm	Queen's Jubilee Event t.b.a.
JULY	5.30pm	Thursday 25th
AUGUST		Society's Summer Break
SEPTEMBER	5.30pm	Thursday 26th
OCTOBER		Event to be arranged.
NOVEMBER	5.45pm	Pre-AGM Executive
	8.00pm	AGM

(Both of these Meetings will take place in the Chandos Rd Buildings of the University of Buckingham.)

NOVEMBER	5.30pm	Thursday 28th
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This year we shall try to meet the demand for daylight meetings. Amongst the ideas we are toying with is a Public Meeting to air views and solutions to Graffiti and Vandalism in Buckingham, particularly in the area between the skateboard park and the Buckingham Athletic Football ground. This area is inaccessible to vehicles and, as a result, poses difficulties for policing.

## Hear the voice of the Bard! Who present, past, and future, sees. (William Blake)

Rodney Shirley, who is a member of our Society, is giving a talk called "The Strange Tale of St. Rumbold of Buckingham" to the Buckingham Archaeological and Historical Society (BAHS) at 7.30pm on Wednesday January 30th, 2002.

The BAHS have said that they would be very pleased to invite collectively to this meeting any members of The Buckingham Society who would like to attend. There is a customary guest fee of £1.

The BAHS meeting starts at 7.30pm with coffee (25p) from 7.00pm onwards. Meetings are held in the ground-floor lecture room MBI of the University. This is situated just behind Yeomanry House, the reception block in Hunter St; the first turning to the right after the House coming from Buckingham. The entrance for car parking is the turning on the right just before Yeomanry House.



Recent news of planning permission gained for a development at Sandpit Farm on the Stratford Road reminds us once again of how little Buckingham is using a great asset: **the last ICE AGE stopped HERE.**

AVDC has started the job by putting wooden steps and walkways into the main Sandpit at the bottom of Maids Moreton Avenue, but the place is scarcely advertised and it lurks unheralded and virtually inaccessible behind its unwelcoming, rusting gate. With the Queen's Jubilee coming soon should we not push to gain further inward investment that would allow this Jurassic jewel to be a major tourist attraction?

**Should we have a geological trail, incorporating Buckingham clay, sand and marble?**

## PARISH PATHS

We expect to send a **free copy** of this useful map with this newsletter.

Our Society's Recreational Paths group was the impulsion behind this publication. In particular, many thanks must go to Jack Steggles who provided the text and coordinated the publication and, also, to Dennis Osborne who produced the line drawings.

The attractive product is a fine addition to the growing list of Parish Paths Partnership local maps. None of these leaflets would have been possible without the financial involvement of various local authorities. The Buckingham footpaths map has been subsidised by **Buckinghamshire County Council** and our **Town Council**.

**We hope that you agree that their money has been well spent.**

## PLANNING SIG

The group has continued to take an interest in the marvellous work that James Smith is doing on the 200 year old "Barracks" in West St. Internal restoration is now in progress and readers will be delighted with the external appearance of not only the buildings but also the landscaping of the formerly forlorn gardens. Do note the box hedge behind the restored iron railings at the bottom of Stowe Avenue. James responded to a suggestion from the Meadows (father and daughter) that box would be more appropriate than privet.

Dennis Osborne has taken the lead in investigating possible listed building status for 12 Lenborough Rd, a building that has an interesting history and appearance

Michael Coombs has been working on similar status for the Moreton Rd Police station. That work does not have the Society's support, for

there is strong interest in releasing the land behind the Police Station for housing purposes.

The group are now considering the status of Grenville Cottage which has been put up for sale by BCC on behalf of The Royal Latin School. The building is one of the first "yellow" brick residences in Buckingham, erected with bricks imported into Buckingham after the railway arrived 150 years ago. The building still retains a number of interesting Victorian features.

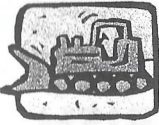
Incidentally, Charlie Macdonald is busy compiling a list of interesting Victorian features in Buckingham. The 19th century saw a number of fine additions to Buckingham's stock of buildings, not least the marvellous Cottage Hospital. If you know of a hidden jewel, please tell Charlie.

The planning group's watchdog work carries on; they bark, Tony Barker of AVDC hears; AVDC bites (or not)!





## PLANNING GREEN PAPER

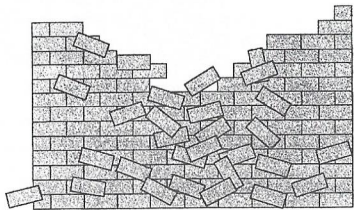


This looks forward to a land in which:

- County Councils cannot determine how many homes should be built in their locality
- The number of houses to be erected will be decided by non-elected regional bodies
- Buckingham will be at the very edge of a vast region
- There will be no third party RIGHT of appeal for local amenity Societies to voice concerns about developments that go against the local plan
- Decisions will arrive quickly
- Developers may rule, **OK?**



## BUCKTOPIA



## BRICKTOPIA

## From UTOPIA

Sir Thomas More (1516):

Oves inquam vestrae, quae tam mites esse, tamque exiguo solent ali, nunc (uti fertur) tam edaces atque indomitae esse coeperunt ut homines devorarent ipsos.

Your sheep, that were wont to be so meek and tame, and so small eaters, now, as I hear say, be become so great devourers, and so wild, that they eat up and swallow down the very men themselves.

**William Wordsworth (1850)**

Not in Utopia, subterranean fields,  
Or some secreted island, Heaven knows where!

But in the very world, which is the world  
Of all of us, the place where in the end  
We find our happiness, or not at all!

**Ian Nairn (1955)**

If what is called development is allowed to multiply at the present rate, then by the end of the century Great Britain will consist of isolated oases of preserved monuments in a desert of wire, concrete roads, cosy plots and bungalows. Upon this new Britain the Review (*Architectural*) bestows a name in the hope that it will stick.

## SUBTOPIA.

## GOOD, BAD OR MIDLING?

J.S. Steggles

Observers of local government may have missed the very short news item of 8 December, that major local authorities are to be classified according to their performance. Each will be listed under one of four categories:

- **Failing**
- **Coasting**
- **Striving**
- **High-Performing**

For many years the variable quality of local government has failed to satisfy successive governments. John Major set up the **Audit Commission** in 1995. The second Blair Administration went further by instituting the **Office for Public Sector Reform**. Sited close to Downing Street this includes a few former chief executives whose authorities were exemplars. The new classification system stems from their work.

Assessments of local authorities are made by Best Value Inspectors who are often independent consultants with successful careers in local government behind them. Their detailed reports are available to members of the public who know where

to look. The problem is to integrate and compare them. Soon the public will be able to read crisp judgements.

Those authorities judged after inspection to be the most successful will not henceforth have to suffer such frequent inspection, and will be given a greater degree of autonomy. **During 2002 we expect to hear how Buckinghamshire County Council has been classified.**

Altogether over 100 authorities should be covered between April and September. These will include unitary authorities and London Boroughs as well as County Councils

**Is it not ironic that central bureaucracy has to clear up the failure of elected representatives to do their duty? And what does this say about democracy at the local level?**

Alexander Pope:

For forms of government let fools contest;  
Whate'er is best administered is best:

*An Essay on Man  
Epistle 3 (1733) l. 303*

FAILING ?



COASTING?



STRIVING?



HIGH-PERFORMING ?







## NOTES AND QUERIES

### Trolley Hall Revisited

#### Trolley 1:

Corruption of trollope.

#### Trolley 2:

Derived from Flemish lace-making terminology.

**Stanley Meadows** adds:

#### Trolley 3

Stanley has always understood that Trolley derived from a term used in the old English Game of Bowls. Dictionaries refer to troll-madam or troll-my-dames as an old English game of bagatelle called pigeon-holes or nine-holes.

This explanation with its connection to the bowling green that existed on Castle Hill seems just as plausible as the other two derivations.

**More information, please!**

**All the Fun of the Fair** Denis Tunks, Buckingham's premier link to the touring fair folk, has pointed out that the roving WC left after the Fair was stolen from **The White Hart**.

### BERNARDINE'S WAY

John Credland, professional printer, has contacted us. He makes the powerful point that it has been the practice of printers to omit apostrophes when setting words in uppercase (cf similar treatment of French accents). Our street names are majuscule.

Alan Nelson, who has just moved from Buckingham to Hertfordshire, records that Swedes add an "s" to form the genitive, but they deploy no apostrophe. Alan feels that the apostrophe is redundant, a device of pedants who use its abuse as a reason to inflict pain on their students. Alan was formally a Geography master.

### Case for the apostrophe dismissed?



Many correspondents have noted the omission of "The Royal Oak" in Hunter St from our listing of 19th century public houses. The double-fronted building still survives in a good state of repair. The Royal Oak closed as a public house in 1963. Older readers remember visiting it; it was very old-fashioned with a beer barrel laying on a table ready for gravity feed to the beer glasses. Mr Howkins, a Buckingham Society member who lives in Chandos Rd, remembers locals challenging each other to do the round of Buckingham hostelrys, drinking a half pint at each stop. That feat is much less arduous than formerly.

## THE PATRON SAINT OF LACE MAKING

### Is the PATRON SAINT of lace making .....

- St Luke
- St Anne
- St Catherine :
- of Bologna
- of Sweden
- of Siena
- of Prato
- of Alexandria ?

Apart from the claims of St Luke and St Anne (the mother of the B.V.M.), references abound to St Catherine as Patron Saint of lace-making. Few writers are clear which Catherine has the finest claim. The question may be important for Buckingham. **Buckingham was at the heart of bobbin lace-making in Britain.** Browne Willis claimed that an aisle (?) in the old Parish Church was dedicated to St Catherine. There was reputed to be an ancient Chapel of St Catherine in Gawcott.

St Catherine of Bologna lived from 1413 to 1463 and was a "Poor

Clare". She was the Patron Saint of painters, craft persons and artists. Is lace-making a subset of crafts?

St Catherine of Sweden lived in the 14th century and was not, as far as I can ascertain, formally canonised. Her claim seems to be a tenuous one.

St Catherine of Siena is the Patron Saint of Italy and also lived in the 14th century.

St Catherine of Prato remains a mystery to be further explored.

St Catherine of Alexandria's claim is strengthened by her connexion to wheels. She was condemned to die on a wheel, but the instrument was destroyed through her supernatural powers. Thus, she met her end by being beheaded. We remember St Catherine of Alexandria every time we light a "Catherine

Wheel" on Guy Fawkes' Night. Wheelwrights and mechanics adopted this Catherine as their patron saint.

One lace pattern was known as "**Cat's Stitch**".—**St Catherine's or Catherine of Aragon's** (the latter was a popular visitor to Buckingham)?

Bobbin lace-making is thought to have originated in Venice in the 15th century. It was regarded as a guild secret and assassins were hired to snuff out anyone thought to have leaked the secret. However, the technique reached Flanders by 1500 and England by 1560.

**Was it Catherine of Aragon or Huguenot migrants from Lille and the low countries who started bobbin lace-making in Buckingham ?**

**We need to know!**



updates from:



### pathfinder programme

This initiative is designed to train key personnel in local amenity societies, such as our own, to make them and their work more effective. **The Buckingham Society** is keen to be a member of this programme, although it is clear that demand will exceed supply!

### green flag awards

These recognise the work of local communities to improve public parks and open spaces. The civic trust is combating the years of neglect that have turned one of Britain's greatest features into shaming areas of dreariness and lack of investment. None of the winners of the green flag is close to Buckingham. No doubt, dereliction and decay have been more obvious in sites further north. However, the criteria for success can be used by Buckingham Society members

wishing to grade our local efforts. Buckingham has its Green Spaces group chaired by Cllr Ruth Newell. Ted Farmer will be representing your interests on that group. **Should Buckingham be looking for a green flag? How should we start?**



- **A park or green space should look positive and inviting and should appeal to a wide range of the community.**
- **It must be safe and secure with drinking water, first aid, lavatories, public telephones and emergency equipment where appropriate.**
- **Grounds, buildings and other features should be well-maintained with no litter or graffiti.**
- **Sustainable management of resources is encouraged including energy conservation, pollution reduction, minimal use of pesticides and elimination of horticultural peat.**
- **Community involvement in the management and development of the facility should be demonstrated.**
- **There should be effective marketing and management strategies**

## REVIEW: Buckingham At War



by Pip Brimson

£12.99

Published by

The Book Castle

Available from our Tourist Information Office

Pip Brimson moved to Buckingham with her parents just before the outbreak of WWII. She was 16 years old and ready to record her experiences of Buckingham and life in the WAAF.

The present book has strengths and weaknesses typical of local history volumes. It is based on personal reminiscences; that material dominates the narrative and trite observations elbow out insights that thorough research would expose. For example, I was fascinated to learn that The National Heart Hospital was evacuated from London to Maids Moreton during the War, but that's the end of the matter.

The book mainly follows the story in chronological fashion with chapters devoted to particular topics such as soldiers' stories. The book is better written than many compilations with plenty of connecting

prose. However, one does feel that a firm Editor with a sharp pruning knife would have helped improve the pace by cutting lists of no importance. Yet, mentioning a legion by name sells local books.

Mistakes in such books are inevitable. Two that I have spotted involve The Royal Latin School. The ATC was formed by Tom Allitt. The picture of the squad on page 54 is taken in front of houses on Chandos Rd, opposite the Latin School's premises 1907-1963 not "outside original Old Latin School" as captioned. Names, such as Sir Malcolm Sargent are not Pip's forte.

The content and style is redolent of its period. The values of women's magazines of my post-War youth seep from its pages like carrot juice from a Lord Wooltton economy pie.

Well-known local raconteurs such as our Society's President, **Stanley Meadows**, and that stalwart of "Buckingham Voices", Des Tunks, make welcome guest appearances.

The book recaptures the spirit of Buckingham as a rural place ruled by the rhythm of the seasons and acquainted with floods. Evacuees, service people and POWs may have brought town values to our streets but the Buckingham that had existed for one thousand years survived the War. It was to be another 20 or 30 years before farming declined in importance. The book sighs for lost souls, lost community spirit and a lost lifestyle.

The book ends in Bletchley Park- so heavily chronicled in the 1990's. A pity, I'd have appreciated the author's thoughts looking back, 50 years on, from 2002.



# IS A.R.T A BRA. ?

## Robert Cumming's new book is reviewed by Ed



"Art is not a brassière. At least, not in the English sense. But do not forget that brassière is the French for life-jacket."

(Julian Barnes)

Robert writes in a laconic, adjectival style that owes something to text messaging on mobiles. Nearly 500 pages of attractively laid out small print are insufficient to contain the distilled essence of a life spent in Art. A.R.T is bursting at the seams of its size AA brassiere. A.R.T. a hip-flask of best malt whisky; the essence is there but a dash of water is needed to bring out its full flavour.

For whom is Robert's book a life-jacket? Certainly for this reviewer, who is a pseud. and only half-ashamed to admit to being better read in works of criticism than in the objects considered. If your need is for snappy

one-liners then A.R.T is a treasure trove.

The subtitle ("A nonsense guide to art and artists") heralds Robert straightforward approach. His language is direct and his views are unambiguous. His eye is sharp and his opinions are neither hushed by reverence in the face of Old Masters, nor awed by haloes painted on establishment artists by the acolytes and groupies of the art scene. To read A.R.T is to hear Robert's own voice speaking to you in confidence. Critics are useful when they open eyes to reveal what has been ignored, misunderstood or forgotten. Enthusiasm is infectious. I had forgotten Alexander Calder, but Robert's simple introduction: "The man who gave the world the mobile, thus making it a better and happier place" entices his

reader both to read on and to share Robert's joy through experiencing some mobiles and stabiles at first-hand.

Initially I thought Robert's idea of including prices was a foolish misjudgement. Prices on an Internet Site can be kept up-to-date but those in a book quickly become uninteresting historical figures. I have since recanted. What is useful is the range of prices commanded by first-rate artists. Art is affordable. If one per cent of Robert's readers are encouraged to go and buy a real work of art then he will have made a difference to their lives.

**Quotation, Quotation, Quotation** Robert is no one-man show. He has been stimulated by the thoughts of others and

he shows that in an unusual but helpful manner: at the top of each page is a reference stripe replete with wisdom. My favourite is from Wyndham Lewis: "If you want to know what is actually occurring, art is a truer guide than politics."

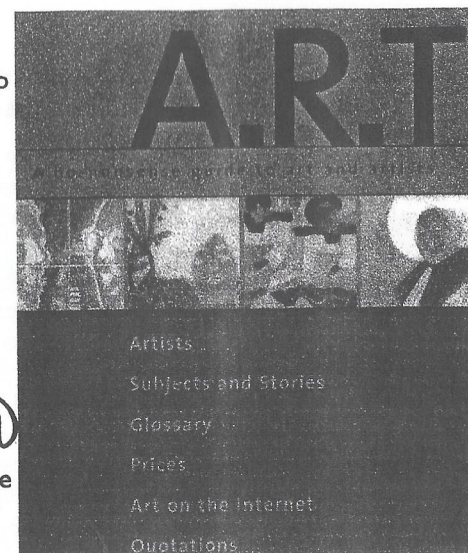


This is A.R.T

If you have any interest in fine art, or feel the urge to know more about the subject do buy this unique, accessible guide by Robert Cumming. I have found it to be a fascinating and challenging read. Robert is never elliptical, he wears his erudition not as a heavy cloak to bamboozle but as a light bra to support those who drop boobs.

*I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go: and I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding: whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, lest they fall upon thee.*

Psalm 32



**NORMAL PRICE £15.99**

## THE DEAL :

**EXCLUSIVE TO MEMBERS OF THE BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY**

send a cheque for **£12.99** (drawn in favour of Robert Cumming) to :

**ROBERT CUMMING,**  
THE OLD MILL HOUSE,  
MAIDS MORETON,  
BUCKINGHAM, MK 18 7AR

and you will receive your special copy, **SIGNED** and **HAND-DELIVERED** by **ROBERT!**

'A wonderful compact reference guide. I use it all the time to check on dates and to judge prices quoted by the experts on programmes such as "The Antiques Roadshow".' Dennis Osborne, 2001



## North Bucks Artists' for Charity Christmas Art Show and Sale (Ed)

What marvellous events these twice-yearly shows are. They take place in the BUCKINGHAM-MAGISTRATES' COURT, a light, airy under-used space that converts so well to an Art Gallery.

I visited the Exhibition on a dreary Sunday morning and was delighted to have popped in. The atmosphere was friendly and the Show was packed by locals examining the canvasses in minute detail and discussing their likes and dislikes.

This Charity, founded in 1999, has been remarkably successful at raising money for good causes. Each exhibition is dedicated to a different end. Most raise over one thousand pounds. November's display was in aid of Buckingham and District Mencap. What a suitable choice; are there occupations more likely to induce improved mental health than painting or viewing pictures?

I was pleased to see the wide range of genre on

show. At the heart of matters lay landscapes with North Bucks and Venice pre-eminent - the latter seemingly the favourite summer watering-hole for our local water colourists. Venice formed a bridge to the marine a "wild call and a clear call that may not be denied" by those living at the heart of English dry soil.

What a good idea it was to sponsor a competitive exhibition of works by students from local schools. Each visitor was asked to list their preference. Mine was a self-portrait, chosen partly because good, close studies of people were largely absent from the main exhibition.

There was a greater range of styles in this exhibition than in earlier ones. From fine craftsmanship, displayed in an ash dressing table unit, to advanced photo-montage by John Credland, his camera and his computer. His panoramic views of the Town Centre, Tanlaw Mill and the Parish Church appealed to me

greatly. These works had truly burst the barrier between photography and art. Your critic wondered how Tristan Much's Mondrianesque Delphiniums would strike his wife. Much of the work displayed was of sunny, quaint countryside, a land of lost content! This genre clearly appeals to the burghers of Buckingham who like to doze in the deep duck down of their divans, their minds settled by a picture of pasteurised pastures.

The organising committee led by Chairman Robin Hall used every device to ensure that the event raised as much money for charity. There was a raffle and a marvellous refreshment bar stuffed with homemade goodies.

**WELL DONE!**

  
**DON'T MISS THE  
NEXT SHOW:  
11-14th MAY 2002**



Mayor's

St Valentine's

Charity Dance!

with Hotline Duo

Date: Saturday 16th February 2001

Time: 8 pm Buffet Dinner from 8.30pm

Place: Buckingham Community Centre

Licensed Bar ~ Dancing to Midnight ~ Raffle in aid of Mayor's Charities  
Fancy Dress (optional) ~ Famous Couples from History or Fiction  
Tickets £19.50 from Town Clerk, Buckingham Town Council Offices,  
Cornwall's Meadow, Buckingham, MK18 1RP

Christine's chosen charities are:

**Buckingham League of Hospital Friends  
Buckingham St John's Ambulance Medical Comforts  
Buckingham ToCH**

If you're not a dancer, why not send her a raffle prize?



## MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Our accounts for our financial year 2000-2001 show our Society to be at risk. At the year-end our assets scarcely covered our commitments.

During the year the financial position worsened partly due to hiring consultants to gild the Society's case at the important Inquiry into the AVDC Draft Development Plan.

Over the last year the Executive Committee have reduced the cost to the Society's members of publishing the monthly "What's On" leaflet by recruiting more sponsors such as The Buckingham Lions Club. With help from Buckingham Town Council and the veterinary surgeons, Nixon and Marshalls the next few months are already secured.

As a Society we are examining our aims and how we can make our finances more stable.

We now have a new

**Treasurer: Kathy Robins.** She needs the help of all of us to ensure that our Society's work continues.

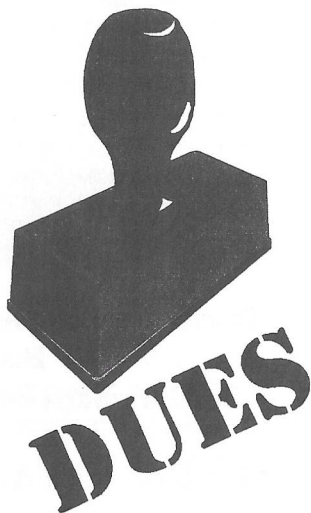
**Members can help by paying the annual subscription, now due for the year 2001-2002, as promptly as possible.**

A table of rates is shown in the adjacent column. The easiest way to pay your subscription is to drop a cheque in to the Society's mailbox at **23 West St.**, the Offices of **Geoff Shaw** our **Membership Secretary.**

**If you know of friends, neighbours or colleagues who may be interested in becoming members of our Society, please let one of the Executive Committee know so that we may contact them.**

### MEMBERSHIP RATES 2001-2002

Individual	£7
Two persons in the same residence	£10
Pensioner	£3
Two Pensioners in the Residence	£6
Unwaged	£3
Student	£3
Life	£50



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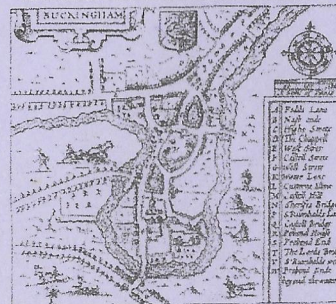
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**OUR FRONT COVER PICTURE DEPICTS THE FORMER WOOLPACK IRON FOOTBRIDGE WAS DRAWN BY ONE OF THE SOCIETY'S RESIDENT ARTISTS - DENNIS OSBORNE**

The route across the Great River Ouse near the ancient Woolpack Inn was the main way to Buckingham from Aylesbury for many years. Buckingham Town's pitch is called "Ford Meadow" and reminds us that the river was once widened at this point to provide a ford for carts in the 19th century, after the iron pedestrians bridge, recalled by Dennis, was erected in 1864 Note the elegant light that illumined the route. Our new "blue-green" pedestrian bridge to the Heartlands possesses no lights on the bridge itself, just ones on the approaches. Pedestrians on that modern bridge carry torches in the evenings! **Vorsprung durch Technik.**

The Woolpack pedestrian bridge replaced the stone "Sheriff's Bridge" shown in Speed's 1610 map of Buckingham that was mentioned as having six arches in Samuel Pepys' Diary. After that stone bridge fell into disrepair it was replaced by our present, elegant London Rd bridge and the road to Aylesbury was realigned. Incidentally, the finer side of that London Rd bridge has not been readily visible for some years. It is the fervent hope of The Buckingham Society that the problem can be remedied by a new section of riverside walk on either the Buckingham Colourpress site or the Cooper's site when redevelopment takes place.

THE FAMOUS SPEED MAP



Sheriff's Bridge (1610)  
(magnified view)

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