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THE BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY  
**ROYAL**  
**BUCKINGHAM**  
NEWSLETTER



## ROYAL BUCKINGHAM A CHRONOLOGY

Created by Ed Grimdale with great help from Charlie Macdonald and Michael Bevington



- 626? St Rumbold, son of King of Northumbria, dies somewhere  
630? St Rumbold's body is translated to Buckingham  
886 **King Alfred names Buckingham as the County Town**  
901 King Edward the Elder builds 2 forts near the river in Buckingham  
934 King Athelstan holds a Council in Buckingham  
1066 Buckingham is already a **Royal Borough** and **Royal Mint**  
1318 King Edward II visits Buckingham  
1338 King Edward III makes Buckingham send men to a National Council  
1415 Buckingham men support King Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt  
1445 King Henry VI creates the first Duke of Buckingham  
1450 King Henry VI awards a **Royal Charter** to "Gilde Sancti Romwold" at Buckingham  
1484 King Richard III pays money to feed his hawks on Castle Hill, Buckingham  
1495 King Henry VII orders Weight and Measure Standards to be kept at Buckingham  
1513 Queen Catherine (of Aragon) stays at Castle House  
1514 The armour of the defeated, late James IV of Scotland is sent to Castle House  
1540 King Henry VIII holds a Council of State in Buckingham  
1541 King Henry VIII orders Buckingham to tidy up its town and to build houses  
1548 King Edward VI (aged 10) endows the Grammar School near Buckingham  
1553 Buckingham is the **2nd English Town** to declare for Queen Mary  
1554 **Queen Mary presents Buckingham with its 1st Royal Charter**  
1568 Queen Elizabeth I visits Buckingham and eats well at The Manor House  
1597 Almshouses, Christ's Hospital, founded by Queen Elizabeth I in Buckingham  
1618 **Scandal:** King James of England and George Villiers become passionate lovers  
1623 King James makes Geo Villiers "Duke of Buckingham"; a fine reward.  
1623 Tom and Jack Smith (aka Villiers and the future King) court the Spanish Infanta  
1626 "Our" Duke supports Charles as he enters the Abbey to be crowned King  
1643 Prince Rupert, grandson of James I, arrives in Buckingham with **royal Soldiers**  
1644 **King Charles I marches into Buckingham with a huge royal troop**  
1644 The future King Charles II visits his father at Castle House  
1673 King Charles II makes the Earl of Mulgrave a gentleman of the Bedchamber  
1673 The Earl of Mulgrave, the future Duke of Buckingham, is nicknamed *Lord Allpride*  
c.1682 **Scandal:** The Earl of Mulgrave makes love to the future Queen Anne  
c.1682 Mulgrave survives when Charles II exiles him to Tangiers in a leaking frigate  
1684 **A Royal Charter is presented to Buckingham by King Charles II**  
1689 Our future Duke carries the Queen Mary's Crown at her joint Coronation  
1737 Frederick, The Prince of Wales, visits Stowe House  
1762 Princess Amelia, daughter of George II, is entertained in great style at Stowe  
1768 Doric Arch at Stowe is dedicated to the memory of Princess Amelia's visits.  
1770 Another visit by Princess Amelia ( she came to Stowe on 7 occasions!)  
1789 An Ox Roast for 2000 guests at Stowe as George III's madness remits  
1789 The Queen's Temple is dedicated to Caroline Sophia, George III's wife  
1808 "Bourbon" Oaks are planted at Stowe by the obese, future King Louis XVIII  
1808 Visit To Stowe by the future King of France, Charles X, more oaks are planted  
1808 Louis-Philippe 1st of France is the third future French leader to plant oaks at Stowe.  
1822 The title "Duke of Buckingham" is revived, once more, by George IV

- 1840 Queen Adelaide, widow of William IV, is honoured in Buckingham and Stowe  
1840 Buckingham feasts its people, royally, in honour of Queen Victoria's marriage  
1842 Prince Albert visits Stowe House  
1843 The King of Hanover, brother of William IV, is entertained at Stowe  
1845 **Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visit Buckingham and Stowe**  
1845 The title of "**Royal**" is conferred on the Bucks Yeomanry Cavalry  
1848 A lock of hair of Mary, Queen of Scots, appears in the 1st great Stowe Sale  
1848 Queen Victoria buys the Marine Venus in Stowe Sale for Prince Albert  
1860 A Buckingham-built steam-car is inspected by Queen Victoria at Windsor  
1863 The Prince of Wales marries Alexandra — causing a Buckingham fun day!  
1878 Napoleon Louis Bonaparte, the French Prince Imperial, visits Stowe  
1887 Queen Victoria's **Golden Jubilee**—sports and fireworks for all in Buckingham  
1890 Dinner in Buckingham for the Comte de Paris en route to Stowe  
1892 Secret visit of Alexandra, Princess of Wales, to Stowe for luncheon  
1894 Comte de Paris dies after long illness & is laid out in Stowe's marble saloon  
1897 The Queen's **Diamond Jubilee**—400 attend a Public Dinner in B.T. Hall  
1898 Edward, Prince of Wales, comes by train to Brookfield and Yeomanry House  
1901 Buckingham Market is moved to Friday in honour of the Queen's funeral  
1902 **Coronation** Festivities in B. —beech trees planted at our Parish Church  
1902 Market moved again to Friday—King Edward VII was **crowned** the next day  
1905 King Edward VII is given a modest luncheon by Lady Kinloss at Stowe  
1908 Buckingham celebrates "Empire Day" for the first, but not the last, time.  
1913 King George V and Queen Mary visits Stowe House.  
1920 Princess Mary, The Princess Royal?\*, visits Stowe House  
c. 1920 Princess Victoria, daughter?\* of King Edward VII, visits Brookfield House  
1924 Prince Arthur of Connaught conveys title deeds of The Avenue to Stowe School  
1927 Queen Mary visits Stowe to lay the foundation stone of Stowe Chapel  
1927 King George V and Queen Mary visit Buckingham the day after a gale  
1929 Prince George opens Stowe's Chapel and uses George III's coronation bible  
1933 Edward, Prince of Wales, is the Guest of Honour at Stowe Speech Day  
1938 The Duke of Gloucester visits Stowe's 15th Anniversary as a School  
1953 **Coronation** of Queen Elizabeth; our Choral Society sings German's "Merrie England"  
1957 Lord Louis Mountbatten inspects Stowe School's CCF  
1963 Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, visits Buckingham, RLS and Stowe  
1966 Queen Elizabeth II arrives in Buckingham on the **Royal Train**  
1973 Duchess of Kent visits Stowe School—50 years, exactly, after its opening  
c.1975 Private dinner visits to Stowe by Princess Margaret & Roddy Llewellyn\*  
1977 Queen Elizabeth II's **Jubilee**—celebrations and street parties in Buckingham  
1977 Lord Louis Mountbatten is the Guest of Honour at Stowe Speech Day  
1978 The Duke of Edinburgh flies to our University by helicopter  
1983 The University of Buckingham receives its **Royal Charter**  
C.1985 Princess Anne, the Princess Royal competes in the Stowe Horse trials  
C.1985 Dr. Chris Brown tells Princess Anne that her husband has fallen from his horse  
1988 The Duke of Gloucester visits Stowe School to honour Roxburgh's centenary  
1995 The Duke of Kent unveils a bust of Leonard Cheshire at Stowe School  
1996 Queen Elizabeth II visits the University of Buckingham and our town  
1998 Prince Andrew visits Stowe School to award prizes at the President's Putter  
2001 Charles, Prince of Wales visits Stowe for the formal start of its restoration.

\* These visits need confirmation, **does any reader know more about them?**



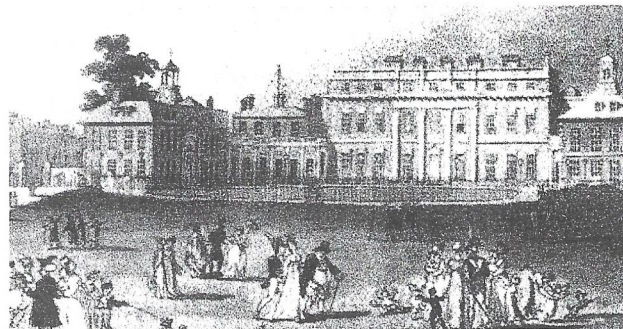


## FROM GORING TO BUCKINGHAM

### An appendix to ROYAL BUCKINGHAM

c.1640 King James I erects **Goring** House near St James Park  
 c.1640 King James creates a mulberry orchard at the house for his silkworms  
 1674 **Goring** House is destroyed by fire  
 1675 Arlington House rises from its ruins  
 c.1700 John Sheffield, Marquess of Normanby, rents Arlington House, London  
 1702 John Sheffield gains permission to buy Arlington House  
 1703 John Sheffield is appointed "Duke of **Buckingham**" by Queen Anne  
 1705 **Our** Duke marries for the 3rd time, the bastard daughter of King James II  
 1705 Duke of **Buckingham** starts to rebuild his house stealing some crown land!  
 1705 "Sic situ laetantur lares" boasts its roof—*Such a situation delights the Household Gods*  
 1706 **Our** Duke's wife makes "**Buck** House" the home to Jacobite intrigue  
 1721 **Buckingham** dies – his widow has him buried with pomp in the Abbey  
 1722 The Duchess of **Buckingham** alters **Buckingham** House  
 1735 **Our** duchess demands to be treated as **ROYAL** when in France and Italy  
 1741 Walpole sees **our** Duchess "en princesse" - dressed in red velvet and ermine  
 1742 Walpole notes, wryly. "Princess **Buckingham** is dead"  
 1742 "Sir Charles Sheffield" **our** duke's son by a Mrs Lambert inherits **Buck** House  
 1755 Sir Charles fails to sell **Buck** House to The British Museum  
 1761 King George III buys **Buck** House in London  
 1763 Queen Charlotte creates a surprise fete for George III as **Buck** House opens  
 1764 Mozart (aged 7) visits **Buck** House and accompanies the Queen on her organ  
 1770's George II and Queen Charlotte live at **Buck** House "like turtle doves"  
 1793 George III rides out of **Buck** House to despatch 2000 men to our longest war  
 1825 King George IV starts to rebuild **Buck** House in lavish style  
 1825 John Nash, architect, gets involved in the new design for **Buck** House  
 1837 The King dies just as the finishing touches are made to **Buck** House  
 1837 Queen Victoria calls her new house "**Buckingham Palace**"  
 1837 Queen Victoria invites **NO** Tories to her 1st Banquet in **Buckingham** Palace  
 1837 Queen Victoria is slightly disappointed to find no bathrooms in her Palace  
 1842 Mendelssohn calls **Buckingham** Palace "the only comfortable English house"  
 1887 Victoria appears in the 1st public balcony scene at **Buckingham** Palace  
 1900 Queen Victoria leaves **Buckingham** Palace for the final time.  
 1901 King Edward finds **Buckingham** Palace to be a mausoleum.  
 1902 The King and Queen move into the restored **Buckingham** Palace  
 1902 The 1st operation in the Palace—Edward VII is given an appendectomy  
 1910 King Edward VII dies at **Buckingham** Palace.  
 1910 King George V moves into the Palace and finds the front crumbling away  
 1910 It is difficult to prise Queen Alexandra from **Buckingham** Palace

1913 A new façade by Sir Aston Webb is added to **Buckingham** Palace  
 1914 A suffragette penetrates the Palace and gets to the feet of the King & Queen  
 1918 A great **royal** Balcony Scene at the Palace marks the end of World War I  
 1928 King George V is ill at **Buckingham** Palace—an X-ray machine is installed.  
 1928 The machine fails the King, but his surgeon finds the abscess by intuition  
 1930 The Soviet Ambassador is reluctantly allowed into **Buckingham** Palace  
 1931 Mahatma Gandhi causes a scandal by entering the Palace in dhoti & sandals  
 1935 King George V's Silver Jubilee at **Buckingham** Palace  
 1935 Mrs Simpson's 3rd visit to **Buckingham** Palace; icy stares from the King  
 1936 King George V dies; he made **Buckingham** Palace a centre for conferences  
 1936 King Edward VIII works in **Buckingham** Palace but hates its musty smell  
 1937 King George VI moves into **Buckingham** Palace after the abdication  
 1940 The King takes **royal** refugees from Europe into **Buckingham** Palace  
 1941 The Queen complains of winds howling through cardboard windows in **B.P.**  
 1939—1945 **Buckingham** Palace survives being hit 9 times by bombs  
 1945 Great **royal** balcony shows at **our** Palace to celebrate VJ and VE days  
 1945 The Princesses return to **Buckingham** Palace from exile at Windsor  
 1947 A bitter winter—still no proper central heating in **Buckingham** Palace!  
 1948 Princes Elizabeth marries the Duke of Edinburgh  
 1948 The new couple start married life living at **Buckingham** Palace  
 1949 The King's leg is operated upon in the Belgian Suite at **Buckingham** Palace  
 1951 A operating theatre is created for the 3rd time in **Buckingham** Palace  
 1951 King George VI has his left lung removed in **Buckingham** Palace  
 1951 The King says goodbye to Princess Elizabeth (off touring) at the Palace  
 1951 The King leaves the palace bound for his death at Sandringham House  
 1952 Queen Elizabeth does a house swap with her mother. Queen Elizabeth  
 C.1955 Gadget-mad Philip installs automated curtains, etc in **Buckingham** Palace  
 1982 Michael Fagan surprises the Queen in bed at **Buckingham** Palace  
 1992 Charles surprises Georg Solti with a birthday party at **Buckingham** Palace  
 1993 The State Rooms of **Buckingham** Palace are 1st opened to the public  
 1997 Garden Party for "Golden Wedding" couples at **Buckingham** Palace



The Queen's House  
 aka  
**Buckingham House.**  
 drawn by Pugin and  
 Rowlandson in 1808

Edna Healey's "**The Queen's House**" was consulted for details about Buckingham Palace.



## BUCKINGHAM'S ROYAL SWAN

Buckingham has mustered under the Swan since the Battle of Agincourt, when the Swan was the emblem of the Duke of Stafford. These days the ubiquity of the swan in matters to do with Buckingham and Bucks is such that it has sometimes become a tired, and perhaps devalued symbol.



### ROYAL SWAN

All swans in England belong to the Queen. Those that live on the Thames have the beaks nicked each year to signify that ownership. The swans on the river Great Ouse are Mute swans. They make little sound with their mouths. That has led to widespread legends about swan-songs—final paeans of music, celebrated in the Madrigal by Orlando Gibbons:

*The silver swan, who, living had no note,  
When death approached unlocked her silent throat.*

But our swans do compose many symphonies. What can compare with the slow, rhythmic thrusts of a swan's wings as she rises majestically out of our river; her feathers rendered pink by the setting sun as she returns from her feeding grounds back to her roost? The whole ensemble could be titled "Symphonies of Wind", if Igor Stravinsky hadn't coined the term first.

Just try saying this line:

swan, swan, SWAN, SWAN, SWAN, SWAN  
Lento (slow); crescendo molto (louden lots)

ff

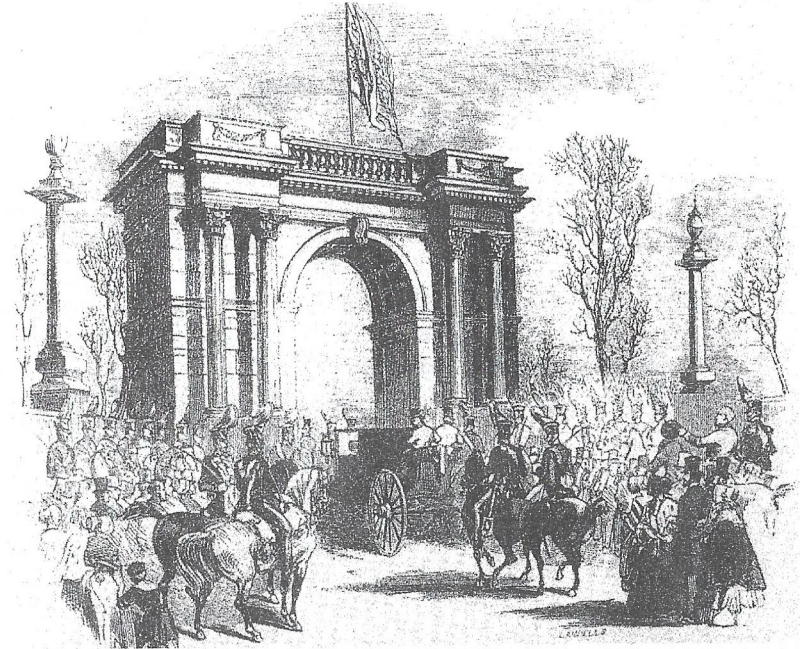
Isn't that the sound of a swan taking flight?

If graciousness is the **royal** virtue then swans are thoroughly **royal**. Compare the ripple-free gliding of a Mute Swan with the plashing, bobbing of a white Aylesbury Duck. Is it fanciful to wonder whether that's why swan-led Buckingham remained loyal when the ducklings of Aylesbury turned to the Commoners? Birds of a feather....

Note the swan's grooming—never a feather out of place..... how very **royal**.

The wrath of a swan can be likened to the anger of a King. Some of us have heard or seen the King Swan of Buckingham culling the off-spring of lesser ranking birds. No doubt such behaviour is a mixture of envy and the imperative of sustainable development. **There is a touch of King Herod in that swan's fearful actions.**

## TWO QUEENS VISIT BUCKINGHAM AND STOWE IN 1840 and 1845



### QUEEN VICTORIA AND PRINCE ALBERT ARE DRIVEN THROUGH THE CORINTHIAN ARCH EARLY IN 1845

The Duke and Duchess of Buckingham loved lavish parties and were prepared to spend beyond their means in order to impress.

The visit of the Dowager Queen to Stowe in August 1840, and the extended party for the Marquis of Chandos a little later, can be seen as trial runs for the ultimate

visit by **Queen Victoria**, herself.

The summer of 1840 was like that of 1976—long and hot. By the time Queen Adelaide, the widow of King William IV, arrived in August, the beautiful lawns at Stowe were scorched brown. She came straight from "Alton Towers". How amazed she would be to see that no-

ble estate in 2002! What a lovely inversion, - in the 18th & 19th centuries Stowe was the theme park of its time.

On the North Front of Stowe House there were tents where the poor of North Bucks dined. Some commentators have argued that this inclusiveness, this treating of retainers and locals distin-



guished England from France, where the rich and royal were exclusive and ignored the poor at their gates; their lack of communication, understanding and care contributed to the French Revolution of 1789.

On the South Front the Queen sat in the Portico by orange trees, accompanied by the host and hostess plus the Archbishop of Canterbury for good measure, with everyone who was anybody from miles around paying her due obeisance. At much the same time in 1840 the municipality of Adelaide, Australia was founded in her honour. Her husband, the original "silly Billy", was remembered solely by the naming of Adelaide's High St.

On the final night of Queen Adelaide's three day visit to Stowe there was a Grand Masked Ball (dubbed "A Failure" by Beaconsfield's M.P. Benjamin Disraeli) in a Marquee. Its erection had cost the Duke £1000 for a one night stand! Meanwhile, down in Buckingham Town, they were having a whale of a time, drinking and making merry surrounded by

specially constructed arches of welcome.

The Duke's son and heir, the Marquis of Chandos, came of age in 1844 and that caused a **SEVEN** day wonder of celebration in Stowe and Buckingham. Not a bed could be found in Buckingham for less than £5 for the week. The Mayor and Corporation of Buckingham, ensured that the citizens rejoiced with the zeal of true-born vassals. They may have been liberated from the status of denizens of a "rotten borough" by the Reform Act of 1832, but Buckingham remained essentially feudal. Incidentally, King William IV and his wife had been loath to see the 1832 Reform Act presented to Parliament—the **Royal** family loved the Shires and despised England's industrial towns with their *nouveaux riches*. Queen Adelaide, herself, had been active in the campaign to stop reform. Just imagine the furore today, if Prince Philip had campaigned against the recent reform of "The House of Lords".

1844 and early 1845 were one long Advent season for North Bucks: "O Come thou long-expected...." Everything was in readiness for a visit by "V&A", their long-standing invitation was fading, but Stowe's grounds and buildings, burnished by a staff of more than 500, were immaculate. Rumours of the impending visitation were rife; when confirmation of the event occurred there was a sense of "Peter and the Wolf".

The visit is remembered through the etching in the London Illustrated News, but what a odd and different sight was on offer in the privacy of Stowe grounds—a rural guard of 500 white-smocked labourers, each holding a Buckingham "green" favour.

The Queen's hosts, her most prodigal subjects, had scoured the world and spared no expense in re-equipping every room with new furniture and fitting such as the newly invented WC that was housed literally in a corner cupboard. The house groaned under the weight of silver and gold. True to the image we have of her the Queen was not amused. Of a fine carpet placed in her bedroom, she remarked: "O Albert, I know this carpet, I have seen it be-

fore—it was offered to me, but I did not like to spend so much money on one carpet." Immediately she despatched a maid to find a druggist to cover the carpet and save it from despoliation. When she appeared for a glittering dinner with local worthies Queen Victoria was dressed in black velvet the severity of which was relieved solely by a sprig of Scottish purple heather in her hair.

The thrifty Queen reigned for another 55 years; during her visit to Stowe, the bailiffs were in residence disguised in the Duke's livery! Within 3 years, Stowe was stripped of its finery and closed for twelve years.

For more than 60 years North Buck had enjoyed spin-offs from party after party thrown by the occupants of Stowe. Now treating the former rotten Borough was at an end. Stowe was closed and only regained its glory in flickering fashion during the years that it was rented out to Louis Philippe, the Comte de Paris. The period from 1850 was a lean time in rural North Bucks. What of the legion that had

worked below stairs and in Stowe's grounds? Doubtless they were unemployed with nice white smocks, green favours and memories of feasts to keep them warm.

The lack of patronage led to a slump in Buckingham. Wander around and note the lack of Victorian dwellings dating from the 1850's and 1860's.

Further Reading:

**George Clarke**—The Journal of Elizabeth George of Dadford

(in "Recollections of 19th Century Buckinghamshire", published by the Bucks. Record Soc.)

**John Beckett**—The Rise and Fall of the Grenvilles (pub. M.U.P.)



A pretty row of stone cottages not a stone's throw from the river Great Ouse. So why is this scene so appropriate to an edition of **ROYAL BUCKINGHAM** ?

The editor thinks there is only one other street in Buckingham that shares similar royal characteristics—can you name it and place it on our map?



# THE LATE QUEEN MOTHER CAME TO BUCKINGHAM (1963)

It was a day of three parts:

1. Stowe School
2. Buckingham Town
3. The Royal Latin School

Each stop was marked by assemblies of dignitaries to be introduced to Queen Elizabeth.

## THE STOWE SCHOOL VISIT

- 40 years on from its foundation

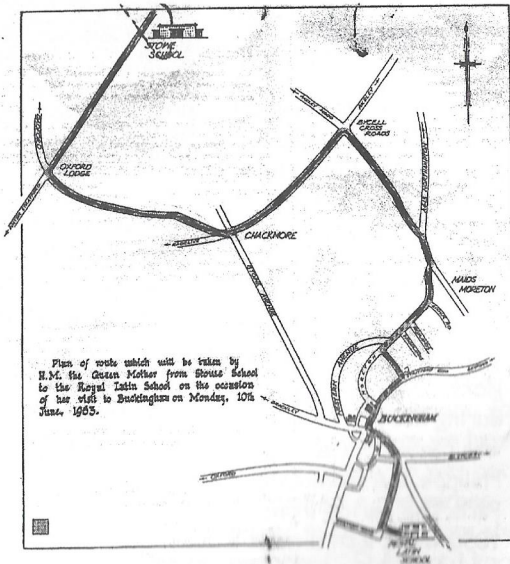
The Queen Mother arrived just before noon. to be received by Brigadier Sir Henry Floyd, Her Majesty's Lieutenant for Bucks. with Stowe School CCF providing the Guard of Honour. A quick visit by car to the School Chapel, (its foundation stone was laid in 1927 during a visit by Queen Mary, the previous Queen Mother), to hear the Chapel Choir, led on to the Temple of Venus that acted as a base from which to view Stowe boys engaging in outdoor activities such as forestry, swimming, sailing and beagling. The Queen Mother joined the action in by planting a liquidambar (gum) tree near the Queen's Temple. One of those present was Lionel May, Engineer, who had



been with the School since its inception.

A short drive took the party to Sherry in the Gothic Library and the chance to meet The Hon. Mrs T. Close Smith, Grand-daughter of the last Duke of Buckingham. Luncheon was taken in the Garter Room accompanied by the School Orchestra.

The Queen Mother took her leave of Stowe School at 2.30pm after signing the Distinguished Visitors' Book.



# IN TOWN, TODAY

June 10th  
1963

The Mayor of Buckingham, Cllr J. Edmonds (now remembered by the dedication of "Edmonds Close" on Page Hill) was on a dais erected near to the Bull Ring to welcome the Queen Mother. The Band of the Black Watch stood by to play The National Anthem and some Scottish Airs, an appropriate tribute to the Queen Mother whose roots lay deep in the Highlands. Master Timothy J. Archdeacon "5 years", as the programme put it, gave Her Majesty a bouquet. He was the son of the well-known Buckingham Town Clerk. Amongst the Councillors presented to the Queen Elizabeth was the father and son duo of Harold and John Cornwall. Harold was well-known for his Butcher's Shop opposite the cattle market in Buckingham. His son, John, then a teacher, who became our town's youngest-ever Mayor, is still active in The Buckingham Society and in organisations such as **Amnesty International**. It was John Cornwall, who supported by the Buckingham Council of Churches, persuaded our local authorities to adopt a Ugandan Asian family, the Sheikhs. They moved in to a cottage in Leckhampstead in the 1970's. Meadow Walk shops link us, today, with Cornwall's Meadow of yesterday

The **Queen Mother** walked from the Bull Ring to the Town Hall where she met the wheelchair-bound Cllr Arthur Marriott, wives of the Councillors and local dignitaries. It is fascinating to note that "Girl Power" did not exist in the

Buckingham of 1963, not one Councillor was female!

There was a small exhibition in the Town Hall consisting of our Town's Ancient **Royal** Charters, with artefacts, such as Roman Coins, that had been found in the Borough by our Archaeological Society.

All local police leave had been cancelled and they were wearing their best bibs and tuckers ("Medals will be worn"). Police Force Orders made every detail clear:

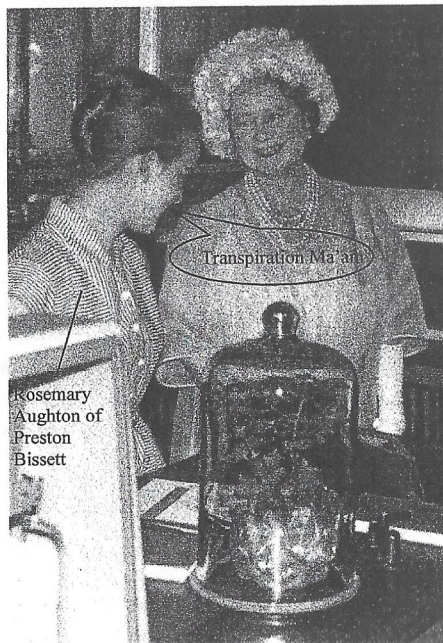
*"As Her Majesty, The Queen Mother, passes, Inspectors and above will salute, Sergeants and Constables will stand to attention unless an exigency of duty makes it impracticable. The Chief Constable will not be saluted unless he speaks to individual men."*

*"Experience has shown that when the Royal car is parked in places to which the public has access, damage to the paintwork can be caused unintentionally by members of the public pressing too closely. Whenever the **Royal** car stops, Police will ensure that no members of the public approach so close to it that such damage can be caused."*



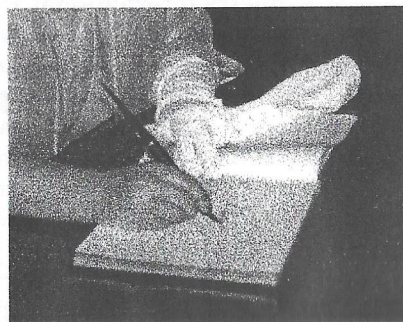


Flower power at RLS starring the Queen Mum, Hyacinth Bucket (aka Edna Embleton), George Embleton and two men for you to identify.



Rosemary Aughton of Preston Bissett

"The eyes and the faces all turned themselves towards me, and guiding myself by them, as by a magical thread, I stepped into the room."  
Sylvia Plath "The Bell Jar" 1963



"The hands that don't do dishes can be soft as your face."  
(Adapted from a TV Advert of the time)

No ended the official proceedings on what is believed to have been the greatest day in the history of this Ancient Foundation - the greatest day for well over 500 years.

Queen Elizabeth's visit had conferred great honour on the Foundation and on all of us connected with it. It had also been the day when our joys were multiplied by this Great Lady's personal charm, kindness and warmth of personality. She had put all of us at our ease the whole time, and her constant graciousness was truly remarkable.

For the Headmaster, it was a day which provided some sort of fulfilment in many ways, not least of this being created by the fact that....."

Part of George Kenneth Embleton's inimitable, hand-written record of the only **ROYAL** visit to RLS.

Mr. G.K. Embleton, MA, JP, was the Headmaster of the school for 30 years until 1978.

George Embleton wrote:

".....So ended the official proceedings on what is believed to have been the greatest day in the history of this Ancient Foundation—the greatest day for well over 500 years.

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The School didn't forget this great day, having enjoyed a cleaning holiday, they were awarded two more occasional days, by the Queen Mum as she took the Head aside for a final, farewell talk.

Some years later a "**COMMEMORATION DINNER**" was held in the school canteen with food provided by Cllr Ricco De Angeli. There were speeches, loyal toasts and many fond anecdotes of the **Queen Mother's visit**. About 53 people connected with the School sat down to the feast which George Embleton recorded as "a resounding success and the Chairman of Governors (Sir Ralph Verney of Claydon House who, sadly, died last year) and his wife (Mary Verney, the distinguished harpsichordist) received hearty, spontaneous applause as they left at 11.30pm (and well did he deserve it—he is a simply magnificent fellow, to whom we owe so much)."



## THE ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL VISIT



George Embleton, had engineered the move of RLS from Chandos Rd to the new site. The new buildings faced with “grey” Leicestershire hand-made bricks had been designed by Fred. Pooley, Bucks County Architect, to blend with the existing Victorian Brookfield House. Today it seems amazing that the contract for a 360 pupil school, 40 bed Boarding House and Headmaster’s accommodation was achieved for less than £157,000. Having Donald Crichton Miller, Headmaster of Stowe, and Major (as he then was styled) Ralph Verney of Claydon House as leading lights on the school’s Governing Body ensured that the Queen Mother was able to tack the Opening onto the end of her “Stowe” visit.

The School had enjoyed a day’s holiday in honour of the coming of the Queen Mother, or, as the Head revealed in his log,” to clean school.” On the great day itself self-discipline and decorum were the orders handed down by George Embleton, RN :

*“ It will be much appreciated, if Guests can dispose themselves evenly about the Hall, whilst Tea proceeds. It would be awkward if there were to be a great press of people to and near the Queen Mother’s table, at any time. If Guests circulate, then movement should be very slow indeed. We would very much desire to avoid pressure or any suggestion of mobbing, and we know we can*

**“DRESS CODE –DARK SUIT WITH WHITE (STIFF) COLLAR”**

*count upon our Guests in these matters.”*

There were no speeches, but plenty of opportunities for the Queen Mother to meet pupils, staff and “Official Guests”. For senior students, such as Head Boy, Raymond Cooper who still lives in the Buckingham area and Head Girl, Sally Pollard (of the ‘Pollard, the Builders’ family), it was a moment of great pride. To juniors, it was a delightful break from the incessant round of stone-picking on the ample, but thinly grassed, new school fields. Their patrols on the great day were taken by 5 Police Constables including P.C. Stone. The Queen Mother was taught about transpiration in the Biology Laboratory. The teacher, Roy Maycock, was fresh from National Service. As the VIP arrived, his heels “clicked” loudly to attention, a fact that Jenny Green (née Ridgway, then of 4B) remembers to this day as being odd. Jenny was in the lab. hidden behind an experiment known colloquially as “Eve’s Washing Line”.

Discipline was maintained. The Queen Mother left promptly at 5pm by “motor-car”. Then there was a rush of staff to be the first to sit on the Queen Mother’s “throne”. **What a cheek!**

*“Special note. Pupils will clap for about 6 seconds when the Queen Mother begins to walk around after Staff are presented.”*

## ROYAL VISITS—Comminations or benisons ? A personal view from Ed Grimsdale

The deaths of Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother have revived the debate: is being born a **royal** a blessing or a curse? According to many accounts, Princess Margaret was a live-wire trammelled by her royal status—yet at the same time she appeared to need the safety net of her “don’t touch me, I’m **royal**” position. The argument will go on for a long time whether or not she led a happy and fulfilled life. The Queen Mother’s doubts before marrying Bertie have been thoroughly explored this Eater

What of **Royal** visits? Do they constitute a benefit, a threat, or an irrelevance in 2002? This article arose from compiling the Chronology of Buckingham. Over its 80 year history **Stowe** School has had many **royal** visits. (the Independent University of Buckingham has benefited, similarly) During its chequered 750 year progress the **ROYAL** Latin School has enjoyed one **royal** appearance, when Her Majesty, The Queen Mother, dropped by after visiting Stowe School in 1963. Buckingham School and the local primary schools have received no **royal** visits, at all.

**Has Stowe benefited from such exposure, and have other schools suffered from neglect, or is it a matter of no importance? What are the causes of such differential treatment?**

**Royal** visits do disrupt the ebb and flow of human affairs. They are a cost to the community due of the feeling that everything must be made pristine, that “We’re on show”. Legend has it that the poor folk of Gotham in Notts, fearing the expense of a **royal** visit from King John, pretended to be a community of madmen. **Royal** messengers found them clapping hands around a

bush trying to prevent a cuckoo from flying off. **King John sojourned elsewhere.** Here, in Buckingham, locals resisted sending representatives to Parliament in King Edward III’s reign, because they knew the high costs involved in keeping representatives in the capital city.

**Why does a Public School such as Stowe, whose average size in its few years of existence has been much the same as that of RLS, get honoured so often compared with its state neighbours?**

It could be construed as another example of the refusal of the class system to lie down and die in Britain. Perhaps, the **Royal** family do feel amongst their own at Stowe. Or is it that Stowe School have more connexions in C.P. Snow’s Corridors of Power? They know / taught / gave a tie to a man “who can fix it”. Maybe, it goes with another country. Stowe parents pay **royally** and expect privileged education. That puts pressure on Headmaster and staff to get a “name” for Speech Day, and a big hitter to open a new Resources Centre. Speech Days in many state schools are dead and buried, or sidelined by political correctness that rules it wrong to celebrate endeavour and excellence without similar indulgence of the indigent and indolent. No big name guest speaker is required since the speaker’s own successes may emphasise unacceptable inequality. Those who don’t ask for a **royal** visit rarely receive one.

Do we not all need to be put to test and forced to show our mettle? Would the class of ‘63 at RLS have received more long term benefit from another day at the chalk face or from the unforgettable **Royal** Visit that caused a day’s academic labour to be lost to the gods of spit and polish?

**How do readers feel about royal visits? Have they had their day, or do we still need and value them. Do tell!**



## THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE BALL AT RLS, 1977

Arch—Royalist and Head of English, Reg. Howard, had persuaded the Town Clerk to part with Buckingham's bunting. It helped that the Head's wife, Edna Embleton, who loved a bit of a **Do**, was the Chairman of AVDC. Head of Cricket, Ed Grimsdale, had done the decent thing and donated the cricket nets. They became a vast aerial store for 1000 balloons that were to be released at midnight. The decorative pièce de résistance was a large swan. The scrumptious buffet had been prepared by Mrs Hamp, a well-known figure in St Bernardine's Church. RLS was saddened that **Her Royal Highness** didn't attend—the report in the School mag. blamed it on "Phil and Charlie", who "couldn't face the journey". The group "Phynnus Fogg" had travelled well—around the world in less than 12 weeks so we're led to believe—just to make the gig. They were decked out in shocking pink suits. The compère was the Head of Sixth Form, Jim "Jock" Robertson, his last stand before preferment took him north to Liverpool College. Anne Grimsdale, RLS Disco Queen, was the Impresario.

**"Which leaves it all, save to say, A wonderful time was had by all, At the Latin School Jubilee Ball."**



## THE ROMANCE OF JUBILEE

*Queen Victoria writes in June 1897 on her Golden Jubilee:*

A never-to-be forgotten day. No one ever, I believe, has met with such an ovation as was given to me, passing through six miles of streets...

The crowds were indescribable and their enthusiasm truly marvellous and deeply touching .....

As we neared St Paul's the procession was often stopped, and the crowds broke out into singing 'God Save the Queen'.

**"Lousy but loyal."**

London East End slogan at George V's Jubilee (1935)

**AND, HOW WILL WE REMEMBER THIS JUBILEE YEAR, 2002 IN BUCKINGHAM?**

## THE BOY WHO PUT THE ROYAL INTO THE ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY



**King Edward VI** reigned from 1547 until 1553. Edward was only 9 years old when he ascended the throne, so Hertford, the "obsessive, vacillating" Duke of Somerset acted as "Protector". A fine mess he made of it, there were riots all over the place as the cost of living rose.

Another Protector took over, Dudley, Duke of Warwick. During Edward's reign the English Reformation was consolidated. Edward seems to have been a religious bigot. Grammar Schools were organised, and many remain that are called "King Edward VI" School. The King died young of tuberculosis.

In the beginning was Thornton Grammar School, a few miles from Buckingham. It was probably established some time in the 1460's. At that time there were other schools in Beachampton, Towcester and Buckingham. The following century saw England, under King Henry VIII, tearing itself away from Rome. Schools tied to religious bequests were at risk of closure. The reign of King Edward VI saw an attempt to regularise the situation. Schools were inspected and either permitted to continue (with **Royal** support and funding) or closed. Our **Buckingham** Grammar School, if it was active at that time, was not visited. But, Thornton School's Headmaster was awarded a **royal** endowment of 10 pounds 8 shillings and a halfpenny, starting in 1548. This annual payment was transferred to **Buckingham's** grammar school in 1597 and paid annually to its funds until 1884.

Thus the **ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL** claims a **ROYAL** connection of over 400 years.



After the Civil War, many thought that grammar schools, particularly those who favoured Greek or **Latin**, were a prime cause of the country's recent evils. Thomas Hobbes wrote in "Leviathan" (1651): 'by reading of these....Latin Authors, men from their childhood have gotten a habit (under a false shew of Liberty,) of favouring tumults, and of licentious controlling of the actions of their Sovereigns; and again of controlling those controllers, with effusion of much blood.' Buckingham had remained loyal through the Civil War—does that mean that The **Royal Latin** School's education had been a failure?

Further Reading:  
Paul Poornan—The Royal Latin School



## THE MAN BORN TO BE KING

### Thoughts on ROYALTY by King James I

(dubbed "The Wisest Fool in Christendom")

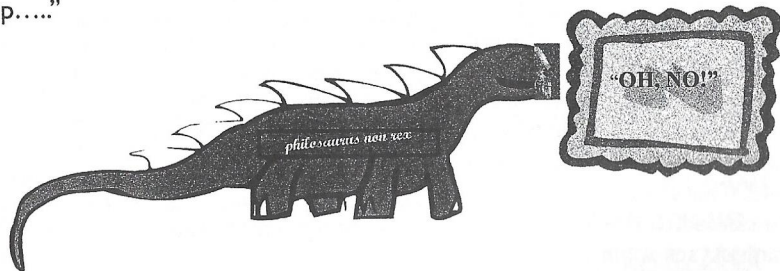
- \* The state of monarchy is the **supremest** thing on earth
- \* Kings are not only God's lieutenants on earth and sit upon God's throne, **but even by God himself they are called gods**
- \* **A King is truly father of his people**
- \* It is a **sedition** in subjects to dispute what a King may do in the height of his power
- \* Just Kings will ever be willing to declare what they will do, if they will not incur the curse of God
- \* I will not be content that my power will be **disputed on**
- \* I shall be willing to make **the reason** appear of all my doings
- \* I shall rule my actions according to **my laws**

James wrote to his doomed son, Charles I:

Therefore (my sonne) first of all things, learne to know and love that God, whom-to ye have a double obligation; first for that he made you a man, and next, for that he made you a little God, to sit on his Throne, and rule other men.....

The Duke of Edinburgh added these thoughts on Monarchy for our more republican times in 1967:

"If the Monarchy is of value, retain it; if not, get rid of it. It exists to be of value. If it isn't.... It is up to us to be valuable. You don't want to be like a brontosaurus..... Stuffed in a museum. That's not the way I want to end up....."



## ALL OUR YESTERDAYS RECOVERED AT AUCTION IN SWINDON, THANKS TO INITIATIVES BY BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY MEMBERS

### THE SOCIETY'S HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

You may have read in the Advertiser that our Society was part of a Community Bid that secured historical papers for our Museum. Our rapid response efforts were master-minded by Dennis Osborne and Rodney Shirley. Virtually overnight, they persuaded 14 members of our Society to underwrite £200 of the costs. Shelagh Lewis and the Heritage Trust arranged for Geoffrey Purefoy to do the telephone bidding. As a result, Tingewick Papers, some related to Grand Central Railway Project, were acquired as well as the Buckingham ones. The final total cost was just under £700, with the major Buckingham cache of papers causing two thirds of the expense.

Once the papers have been catalogued by Shelagh, we shall hold a Society Event to study these priceless relics. **We feel it is right to give all our members the chance to share in this worthwhile activity. To feel part of this rescue act that will add detail to our past .....**

..... do send a small donation to our Treasurer, Kathy Robins, Walnut Yard, Church St, Buckingham. Cheques should be made out to : **Buckingham Society (Archives Appeal)**  
(If we raise excess cash, we shall create a fighting fund to support future bids)



## THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR AND BUCKINGHAM

October 21st 1805  
William III on the throne

A cause for huge rejoicing in Buckingham. Invasion fears had haunted the country for 10 years. Local "civil" defence forces had been set up paid for by local sponsors. Buckingham was protected by its Yeomanry (later to become the **Royal Bucks Hussars** in 1845).

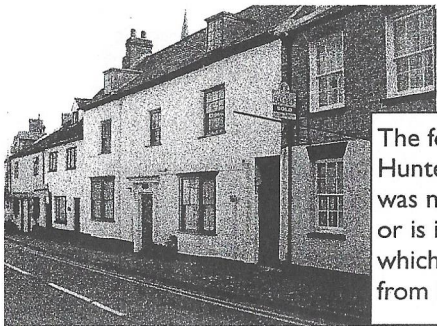
When they heard of the victory at Trafalgar, they celebrated in their Yeomanry House HQ. The graffiti that they inscribed on its interior are still present in the building—now the Library of the University of Buckingham.



How did Buckingham celebrate Nelson's Victory ?

- Red Lion Row, bordering the watery river Great Ouse, was **renamed NELSON STREET**
- The locals had a marvellous time— another example of Buckingham 's penchant for triumphal arches and ox roasts.
- The Admiral Nelson Public House was established in 1808 at 2 Bristle Hill The building still exists as a private dwelling.
- Locals felt that Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated for ever.
- However, around Trafalgar Day in 1859, locals feared invasion from Napoleon III. They responded by setting up the Buckingham Volunteer Rifle Brigade. Fortunately, it never had to shoot in anger.

The former **ROYAL OAK** public house in Hunter Street. Are we right in presuming this was named after a famous series of naval ships, or is it named after the Oak in Scotland under which **King Charles II** is supposed to have hid from his pursuers in the debacle of 1745?



## EMPIRE DAY IN BUCKINGHAM AND BEYOND

**EMPIRE DAY** was celebrated on **May 24<sup>th</sup>, Queen Victoria's Birthday**. The first **Empire Day** was 1902, the year after the death of the Queen. In Buckingham the day was first celebrated in 1908. School children assembled in the Market Square and the Mayor, Mr. Adcock, was escorted to the event by The **Royal Bucks Hussars**. By 1912 the event was so popular that a League of Empire Loyalists had formed. They sent a leaflet to all schools setting out how Empire Day should be celebrated. Older residents will remember buying little Union flags at tobacconists on their way to school. School Assembly would contain improving readings of Kipling, thoughts about a great Empire builder e.g. **Clive of India**, or an institution that aided colonisation such as **The Hudson Bay Company**. The Empire League suggested that such Assemblies should end with **Britannia** (aka the school's **Head Girl**) coming on-stage dressed in all her **royal** Glory.

The British Empire had its roots in the 18th century and earlier, and entrepreneurs such as the Temple / Grenville family of Stowe, Buckingham were instrumental in its expansion. Early visitors to Stowe House were entertained by black musicians and served by black waiters—trophy slaves brought back from wealth crea-

tion forays into foreign parts. Such occurrences make the modern Briton feel queasy, but to Britain's 19th century minds our Empire was the cause of much self congratulation. Their values are preserved in the musical scores of Sir Edward Elgar such as his *Pomp and Circumstance* Marches, *Imperial* March, or his 1911 masque "*The Crown of India*".

King George V's last words on his death bed, "How's the Empire?"

**Our Queen Elizabeth II (as Princess Elizabeth in 1947):**

"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great **Imperial** family to which we all belong."

Our Empire, so long in creation, imploded as fast as a vacuum-filled can crumples when exposed to the pressure of the atmosphere. In 1958 Empire Day was transformed into "**(British) Commonwealth Day**". By the early '60's even the **British Commonwealth** was too imperialist a term and it subsided into *The Commonwealth*. Given the events of 2002 surrounding Zimbabwe, I wonder how long before the Commonwealth is but a memory?



## ROYAL BUCKS HUSSARS

The Buckinghamshire Yeomanry was established in 1795 with the Lord Lieutenant as Commanding Officer and George, Marquess of Buckingham, as a very proud Captain. 6 troops were eventually formed, each of 50 to 80 men (and horses). The fear was invasion by republican Napoleonic forces. The Marquess feared for King, Country, Country Land-Owners, and his homes at Stowe and Wotton Underwood. Hence he built The Barracks, West St in 1801—1802 to house armaments and provide a local base. Remember, the exiled youngest son of Louis XV, the future King Louis XVIII, was a frequent house-guest at Stowe as were other royal French dignitaries.

*Probably 1 in 6 of adult men were under arms in England in the first decade of the 19th century.*

Benefactors, such as our Duke, supplied the following to each volunteer:

- Green coat (later red in colour), faced with black velvet, & gold buttons
- Buff waistcoat
- Hat trimmed with bearskin (Officers had a white plume on their hats)
- Goatskin furniture over saddle
- Good sword
- Pistol
- Pair of holsters
- Ammunition pouch

There was a “mess club” atmosphere. In 1843 if an Officer got married, his “fine” was to treat the rest of the Squadron to 12 bottles of wine

The Marquess ensured that some of the leather goods were:

*“made in Buckingham”.*

Each Volunteer had to provide:

- A Gelding or Mare greater than 14 hands high
- **Leather** saddle
- **Leather** bridle
- **Leather** breeches

The force developed into The **Royal** Bucks Hussars.

The local squadron met regularly at **Yeomanry House**. There would be a yearly duty lasting much of a fortnight, usually ending with a Review in Stowe Park. They were major events in the Buckingham calendar. As late as 1898, HRH The Prince of Wales came to Buckingham by railway. He was met by local dignitaries & a band played as he was taken to a favourite royal hunting haunt of his, Brookfield House (now the **Royal** Latin School’s Library), where he spent the night. During the evening he dined with the RBH. On arrival at Yeomanry House he was received by an honour brigade of 70 dismounted Hussars, all, as the report cites, greater than 6 feet tall, with swords drawn. An impressive sight.

## THE BERNWOOD ROYAL HUNTING FOREST

an initiative of Bucks CC and supported by  
The Buckingham Society  
here described by Jack Steggles

The ancient hunting forest of Bernwood lies just to the south of Buckingham, while Whittlewood is to our north. These are two of the forests in the south midlands brought together by King Henry II. In 1184 the Assize of Woodstock had written Forest Law, a ploy to raise royal income and exploit every resource of the area - human, its fauna and flora. The local people resented this regal oppression but even before the Norman Conquest the area was already a **royal** hunting ground, 'Barne Woode'. Edward the Confessor had chosen Brill to be the site of his hunting lodge. The Normans upgraded it to be the **Royal** Manor.

Just as the Magna Carta was a concession to the nobility so were the **Royal** Forests split up for their benefit, not that of the local populace. Their legal status went finally in 1632.

Bernwood now contains 50 parishes of which only seven are outside our County in neighbouring Oxfordshire.

Its natural boundaries are formed by the river Great Ouse, Padbury Brook, Claydon Brook, and the river Thames. Many medieval features persist. The project aims to conserve and enhance the physical features of the countryside and to identify relics of the medieval landscape. It will also make the Forest better known to local people. It is hoped to encourage development of the rural economy. Future landscape management should result from a better understanding of local characteristics of this historic landscape.

The project will involve the local community and organisations. Local action groups will be established. There is a particular need to improve habitat and conserve species. Several sites of special scientific interest exist within the area.

Work began in November 2001 with searches of archives coupled with

topographic surveys. Funding is being sought from sources outside County coffers. Archaeology is not supported much by the Council. The Senior Archaeologist has only one other member of staff, and has to rely on graduate students to perform active work.

Celebration of the **Jubilee** has been zipped onto the project: a 60-mile long **Jubilee** footpath will circle within the area. Bucks CC is to provide £ 70 000 of our money, without affecting the Rights of Way budget. As a footpath man I sincerely hope that regular paths are not neglected just to score a few regal points.

*If you want more information on this exciting project, do phone Mark Bailey at County Hall*

### DOUGH RE ME

The Austrian Bakery closes after Easter to become a Betting Shop. Good News: its Baker will open a fresh bread outlet next to Jardine’s Chemist; he will use a Unit on the Trading Estate to bake his dough.







## NEWS 2

### PLANNING MATTERS

Carolyn Cumming represented the Society's views on the proposed developments behind the Grand Junction and nearby derelict land in open fora before BTC Meetings. The Society is not opposed to a new Hotel *per se*, nor is it disappointed that extra housing might be provided on the derelict land behind Stratford House. In both cases it was the quality of design in a high profile Town Centre area, coupled with concerns over the integrity of the flood plain, that motivated our criticisms. Carolyn was **horrified** that the putative Hotel developer's agent had not heard of our Town's **Vision and Design Statement** that has been adopted as supplementary planning guidance.



Quality of design matters. How buildings in the heart of our town relate to their surroundings will affect us all for many years to come. Fortunately Buckingham Town Council agreed with our views on both of these critical sites. Carolyn has pressed AVDC to make Developers more aware of Buckingham's supplementary planning guidance. They have responded positively: the Vision and Design Statement will be posted on their Website and copies of the statement are available to purchase from AVDC Offices in Aylesbury, and Buckingham.

### EIRE CHARGES 9p FOR PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS

The Society has joined the campaign for a similar tax in our country. Plastic shopping bags proliferate across our countryside. In winter they are more common than leaves on the trees in our hedgerows, and, being non-biodegradable, they are "ever non green". Because plastic bags are "free", they are used to excess and jettisoned without thought when their immediate utility is fulfilled. A small bag tax, hypothesized in favour of environmental projects, will have fine results:

- ◆ Less waste of finite oil resources
- ◆ A culture based on recycling rather than the throwaway syndrome
- ◆ A reduction in unsightly detritus, therefore improved tourism potential
- ◆ Fewer man-hours devoted to clearing litter
- ◆ A movement of cash from the "ever non green" to the ever-green
- ◆ Large supermarkets could be licensed to retain 1p per bag to be spent on employing litter pickers to work in their car-parks and hinterland.
- ◆ A recrudescence in the "real" bag making industry

People angered by the ambient squalor of our litter-rich town often complain to The Buckingham Society. We believe that people will see the justice of the case that "the polluter must pay."

Una Robinson reports that Oxford Archaeology have carried out an archaeological survey on the burgage plot behind Stratford House, prior to development.

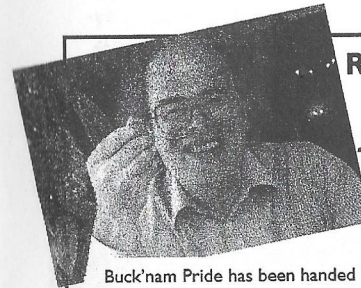
## BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY EXECUTIVE DIARY FOR 2002

All Executive Meetings (X) will be held in the Villiers' Tap Room unless otherwise stated. They are OPEN, please do pop in and air your views.

APRIL  
MAY  
MAY  
JUNE  
JULY  
AUGUST  
SEPTEMBER  
SEPTEMBER  
OCTOBER  
NOVEMBER

event postponed to MAY  
16th—ROYAL WALK—see panel below  
5.30pm X Thursday 23rd  
Queen's Jubilee event tba  
5.30pm X Thursday 25th  
Society's Summer Break  
Heritage Open Days 14th –15th  
5.30pm X Thursday 26th  
event to be arranged.  
5.45pm X Pre-AGM  
7.30pm AGM

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



### ROYAL BUCKINGHAM GUIDED WALK

Join Ed Grimsdale for this unique opportunity based on this ROYAL NEWSLETTER and make a start to your Golden Jubilee Celebrations

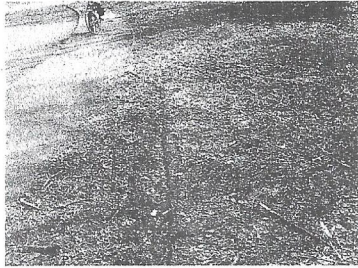
Start from Villiers (Swan and Castle) 5.30pm  
Ending in The Swan and Castle 7.15pm  
**THURSDAY 16th MAY**  
Limit of 25 tickets, so early booking will pay.  
All proceeds will add to **The Society's Funds**  
To reserve a place, please send a minimum donation of £2 to Ed Grimsdale, 15 Glynswood Rd. ☎ 01280 815758

Buck'nam Pride has been handed down to us.  
Buck'nam Pride is a flower that's free.  
Buck'nam Pride means our own dear town to us,  
And our pride it for ever will be.  
(apologies to Noel Coward)

"The royal banner, and all quality,  
Pride, pomp, and circumstance"  
William Shakespeare



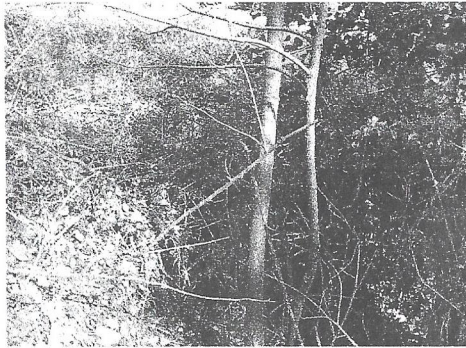
# MORETON AVENUE, A PHOTO STORY



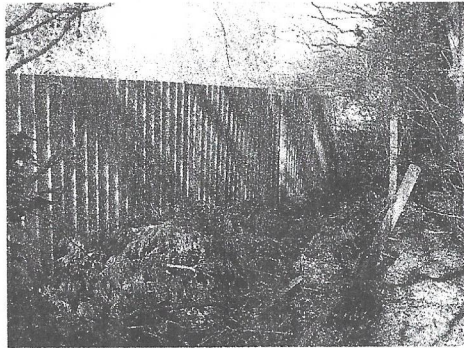
Brown earth: grass verge next to Page Hill Avenue destroyed by winter leaf cover—showing the need for regular sweeping



AVDC Contractors on site, cutting down large trees eg a 22" diameter maple. Can biodiversity and an AVENUE be mutually compatible?



Tree thinnings dumped by the Contractors in the main Avenue drainage ditch.



Near-by inhabitants despoil our Avenue by fly-tipping over their rear boundaries. Elsewhere, there's evidence of encroachment.



The "lost" Avenue- fenced off as a nature reserve for Page Hill Schools—a tree has fallen across the wire fence and not been removed.



The pond area, fouled with bottles and rubbish. How do we feel about this hillocky area being a haven for BMX bikers?

Campaigning for a distinctive town environment with the help of Carolyn Cumming, who sits on the SE Committee of.....



## PLANNING GREEN PAPER

As many Buckingham Society members will be aware, the current rules governing the planning system are complex and remote from "ordinary" folk. Business ..... by which I mean principally national volume developers—has learnt how to turn these rules to their advantage. They can afford to buy expertise. Most of us have to gain it through long and often bitter experience. It cannot be denied therefore that we do need a simpler system that is fairer to all. Unfortunately, the new proposals set out in the Government's Green Paper seem to offer neither simplicity nor transparency. **The balance is still tipped far too firmly towards commercial concerns.** In the interests of speed, necessary safeguards will be bypassed. There are many critical voices being raised against the current proposals. It is essential, however, that we achieve reforms and the good points put forward in the Green Paper should not be overlooked. The Planning Group have sent a detailed response to the Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions, but here is a very brief resume of the points raised. The one is-

sue, which perhaps above all others, that we should press for is **THIRD PARTY RIGHT OF APPEAL.** This would give **objectors** to a scheme the same right to appeal as the **developers** currently hold.

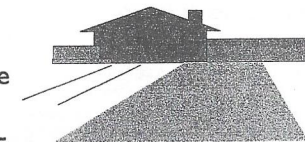
**Do let us have your views and / or write to John Bercow, our Member of Parliament.** The need for good, sustainable development has never been greater. To achieve it, we must make sure that the debate continues!

## The Good, the Bad and the Ugly!

*A very brief resume setting out the salient points*

### General

1. Much greater detail and clarity required.
2. Much could be done to speed up the system without turning the whole system upside down.
3. Maps must be retained within Local Development Frameworks (LDFs).



(cont'd opposite)



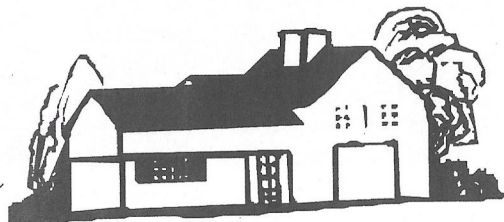
## The Good

1. Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) are a welcome proposal. Real sustainability can only be achieved through local agreements. List of key contacts is a good idea. They should be in addition to (and not replace) statutory consultees.
2. User-friendly check lists
3. Reduce time consent to three years (currently 5) but "token" works (eg digging a trench should be disallowed as part of the agreement).
4. Eliminate "twin tracking" planning applications.
5. Reasons for approval of planning applications to be given in addition to reasons for refusal.
6. Reduce the necessity for multiple planning consents on one building to a single planning consent.
7. Revision of Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPGs).
8. Increased fees and/or heavy fines for retrospective planning applications.

## The Bad

1. There is no reason to abolish county structure plans until **accountable, democratically elected regional government** is in place. Transport must be connected to land-use planning.
2. Payment for pre-application discussions must be totally transparent and fairly balanced between individuals and commercial concerns.
3. The 90% delegation rate is a meaningless target. Performance targets should never be at the expense of **quality of decision**.
4. **Third Party Right of Appeal** is essential for public confidence in the system.
5. Involving the private sector in failing Local Planning Authorities will lead to a conflict of interests and would seriously compromise the effectiveness of the locally elected bodies.
6. Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) are given too much control over development of major sites.
7. Separate rules and removal of normal planning consents from Business Planning Zones would be an appalling retrograde step.
8. Scant regard is given to the protection of the environment.

Carolyn



## OUR MISSION IS.....

### "CAMPAIGNING FOR A BETTER BUCKINGHAM"

suggests Carolyn and Robert Cumming. The Society feels the need for a slogan to crystallise and explain its mission. Your Society is modernising its stationery and appearance. Roger Stotesbury and his team have provided a new letter heading. The Executive are happy with the font (see box, below), but are split over a big issue:

Should we follow **THE CIVIC TRUST'S** lead and have a lean style with no graphic

Or should we retain the **BUCKINGHAM SWAN**

## The Buckingham Society

Charity no. 268503

Campaigning for a better Buckingham

The swan-free new letterhead

We want to hear your views and your slogans.  
Please drop a line to ED, by the end of April..

1. Are you happy with the slogan "Campaigning for a better Buckingham? YES/NO
2. If your answer is NO, please supply your slogan.....
3. Do you want the Society's letterhead to retain a SWAN?
4. If your answer to 3 was YES, do you have views on which swan?

Do please send your ideas along to Ed at 15 Glynswood Rd, MK 18 1JF, ☎ 01280 815758

An alternative vision with a Swan—the Executive did not warm to this swan.



The Buckingham Society

Charity no. 268503 Registered with the Civic Trust

Please reply to:



## MEMBERS' NEWS

### Bernard St Aubyn

Bernard has slaved away in the Society's galley as Secretary, Secretary to Planning SIG and most recently as Editor (galley-slave) of "What's On". The latter is an unremitting monthly labour that Bernard has undertaken with great aplomb. Bernard has decided that it is time to stop tapping diary dates on his keyboard. The April edition of "What's On" will be his last. It is time for us all to salute his labours and say very many thanks for all the unsung work that he has done for the Society over the last decade. At the time of writing this piece his role as Editor of "What's On" is causing the Executive some stress. We have **no** volunteers for the task that probably takes 2/3 days on a computer keyboard each month.

If **you** feel you have the time and the computer access do contact **Ed or Carolyn**.

Our Mayor, Buckingham Society Member, **Chris Strain-Clark**, has responded after we wrote to her about the appalling state of the balustrade on the wooden footbridge adjacent to the Skateboard Park. This is an important route to the town for many of us and concerns have been expressed that the broken railings represent a safety risk and were an eyesore when Buckingham was forming a bid for the **Bucks Best-Kept Village Competition**. We had heard a rumour that replacement railings would cost £5000. Chris has kindly told us what is going on:

- The **estimate** for replacing the broken railings with vandal-proof metal ballustrading is £5000
- AVDC are the responsible owners
- They have put the matter out to tender
- Tenders have been received and are being processed.

Let us hope that AVDC have the funds in their budget for 2002 to 2003, so that this blot on our landscape can become a gleaming new feature.

Our Society suggests that the metal rails be painted in pseudo-hardwood brown or recessive black. **Do we not like** electric "Budgens bridge" blue.

## REVIEW: *Buckingham Town Map*

Published by **Local Authority Publishing Co Ltd** available **FREE** from **The Town Clerk's Office Foyer**

We're reviewing the new 2002 Edition, distinguishable by its green cover featuring a photo of two swans on our river.

The map's costs are covered by advertisements that cover about half of its surface area. This concept for publishing local maps is used by several firms. **The Buckingham Society recommends The Local Publishing Company's maps over similar products** because the maps are more clearly displayed, more accurate and more up to date. One rival map **that is still used by some reputable local institutions** has roads mislabelled or drawn in the wrong place (one road is the wrong side of the Ouse!).

The new edition contains three panels of useful information provided by our Town Council:

- Markets
- Events
- Beautiful Buckingham including references to our Society's "Riverside" and "Town Trail" leaflets.

This section is enlivened by excellent photographs taken by John Credland.

The adverts include a piece of local history, "Coopers", late of Bridge St. The advert for "The Buckingham Bookshop" c/o University of Buckingham reminds us once again of the loss of our premier town centre bookshop. It says

we're all welcome down Hunter St way, but how many of us have gone that extra mile?

What of the main map of Buckingham? "Two Cheers", it maintains the standards set by its "red" predecessor. It is clear and sensibly proportioned. It is good to see our town's few cycleways delineated with broken tramlines and pedestrian paths are drawn as single broken lines. Public Parks are depicted by green areas, and public buildings are labelled in italics.

The map includes the extensions to Mount Pleasant right up to the Charles Church development next to the Railway Scenic Walk. **What could be improved?** The route of the Riverside Walk between Chandos Park, Lord's Bridge and Castle Bridge is quite incorrectly marked. Both the Royal Latin School's and the University's buildings are more extensive than those shown **and the site of St. Rumbold's Well has been completely omitted** — an injustice to the town's latest tourist attraction. The Society is writing to the map-makers, through the Town Council, about these points.

Every map is a vital snapshot of local history. **BUCKINGHAM 2001 AD** is stored well on this map and it's **FREE**.

*Ed Grimsdale and Rodney Shirley*



## BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY ANNUAL LITTERBLITZ

Once again Carol Johnson of AVDC had arranged to lend our Society some of SITA's litter-pickers together with a supply of this year's bright orange litter-bags, sponsored by Municipal Cleaning Services and Shanks and McEwan (Southern) Ltd.



17 bags were collected by our members this year compared with 32 last; a sign that our authorities have been performing better than previously.

Ed had carried out a dawn survey to find areas needing extra litter clearance. His news was most encouraging: all areas were as good, or better than they were on the same day of 2001. Clearly AVDC, prompted by Buckingham Town Council, had been waging a successful campaign to improve the appearance of Buckingham. Cynics suggested that the Annual Town Meeting held two days earlier had impacted on the situation. Two cheers for David Wilson Homes, harried by AVDC Adoptions Officer, Billy Steele, their long overdue three-weekly litter pick on the Heartlands had added greatly to Buckingham's appearance. (KEEP IT UP!)

Our Society's work gang was replete with hardy annuals: Jutta Bethell, Ted Farmer, the Macdonalds, Dennis Osborne, Rodney Shirley, Jack Steggle all under that scourge of litter, Ed Grimsdale.

Jutta and Dennis got stuck into that vandals' paradise: the woods behind Verney Close. They collapsed exhausted, after filling 3 bags very full with every convenience of modern disposable life, including clothes that seem to have been purloined from bags left outside our local charity shops. This wood is a den for youth alternative life-

styles. Both Jutta and Dennis feel the area needs a thorough scouring from a special SITA patrol.

Ted walked the Moreton Rd. He reported that the seat by the wasteland down road of Moreton Rd Police Station had been popular with drinkers who had tossed their empties

over their shoulders into the dense growth behind the seat. Oh, for more police foot patrols to catch such activities as they occur. The Macdonalds sallied forth to the Athletic Football ground whilst Rodney covered the messy Skateboard and Chandos Parks. Jack and Ed covered the central area near Budgens, Ed finding evidence of crime—an empty, wrecked stamp-dispensing machine, possibly snatched from Budgens, rifled and then thrown into the field that has been under threat of becoming an hotel.

**EFFICIENT ENDING: WITHIN 2 HOURS SITA HAD REMOVED OUR BAGS AND COLLECTED THEIR LITTER-PICKERS.**

## Buckingham Canal Society by Athina Beckett

I thought Buckingham Society members might like to know about the work of the Buckingham Canal Society. Our Society exists to promote the restoration of the Old Stratford and Buckingham Arms of the Grand Union Canal, and to promote their fullest use for the public benefit. We also wish to promote public knowledge of the history and use of the canal. The Society is a registered charity, no 1072924

We have developed relations with various local authorities and landowners along the route of the canal to promote the benefits of restoration and to carry out improvements to the canal. Our newsletter, the **Buckingham Navigator** tells of the progress to date and contains items of historical interest.

**History:** The canal arms to Old Stratford and Buckingham were built as part of the Grand

Junction scheme, which had been promoted by a group of businessmen and financiers, including the Marquis of Buckingham in the 1790s. The Grand Junction main line ran from the Oxford Canal at Braunston in Northamptonshire to the River Thames at Brentford. A branch line led from Cosgrove to Old Stratford where goods could be transported to and from the important highway of Watling Street.

The extension of this arm to Buckingham was opened with much ceremony on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1801 and soon proved to be a financial success for its backers and of immense value to the community by allowing cheap transport of coal, stone and manufactured goods to the area. A high level of trade was maintained for almost 50 years, with hay, straw and other agricultural produce being exported mostly to London.

The Bletchley to Banbury Railway, opened in 1850,

soon began to draw some of the trade from the canal. There were also problems with silting at the Buckingham end, partly from detritus carried into the canal from the river, which supplied the canal with water; and partly as a result of Buckingham Corporation dumping the town's sewage in the canal. As a result navigation over the last mile or so became more and more difficult. By 1900 all trade to and from Buckingham had ceased. Trade along the rest of the line, as far as Maids Moreton Mill, continued into the 1930's.

With the loss of the water supply from the river at Buckingham, the silting and increasing Leakage, due to poor maintenance, the arm began to draw water from the main line. In order to protect important wartime trade between London and the Midlands, a 'temporary dam' was bulldozed un-



der the first bridge in 1944, effectively stopping any movement on the branches. This remained in place until 1960, when a report compiled for the nationalised British Transport Commission (now British Waterways), recommended closure of the arms which were officially abandoned in 1964.

Since then, ownership of the line of the canal has passed into private hands, although the former towpath within Buckinghamshire was designated as a public footpath and now forms part of the **Ouse Valley Walk**.

The **Buckingham Canal Society** was formed to protect the whole canal from Cosgrove to Buckingham until it could be restored to navigable condition. This has been done through forging links with local organisations, promoting our cause through local events and carrying out physical restoration work. Awareness is growing of the benefits restoration would bring particularly to the town of Buckingham with the excellent leisure opportunities it would provide for local people.

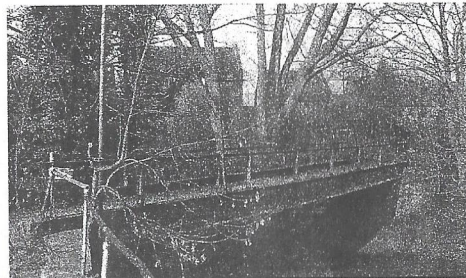
On the social side, the Society holds regular open committee meetings, towpath walks and other activities. An annual waterside event is held in the summer. Three work parties are held each month to carry out restoration work.

If you would like to know more about the society contact the **Secretary Bill Upton on 01908 647317**, or if you would like to help with restoration work contact **Athina Beckett on 01908 661217**.

Note also Canal Society work party dates:

- Wednesday 3rd April**
- Sunday 14th April,**
- Wednesday 17th April**
- Wednesday 1st May**
- Sunday 12th May**
- Wednesday 15th May**
- Wednesday 29th May,**
- Sunday 9th June**
- Wednesday 12th June,**
- Wednesday 26th June**

meeting at 10.00 outside  
**HOME FARM, BOURTON**

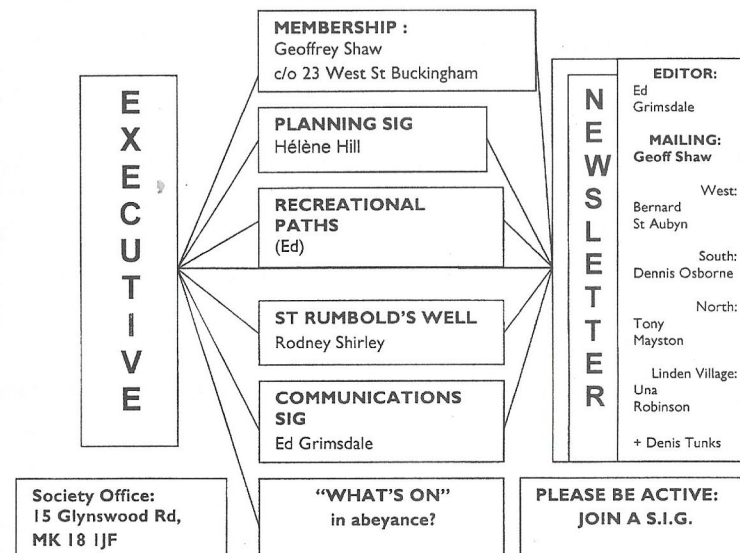
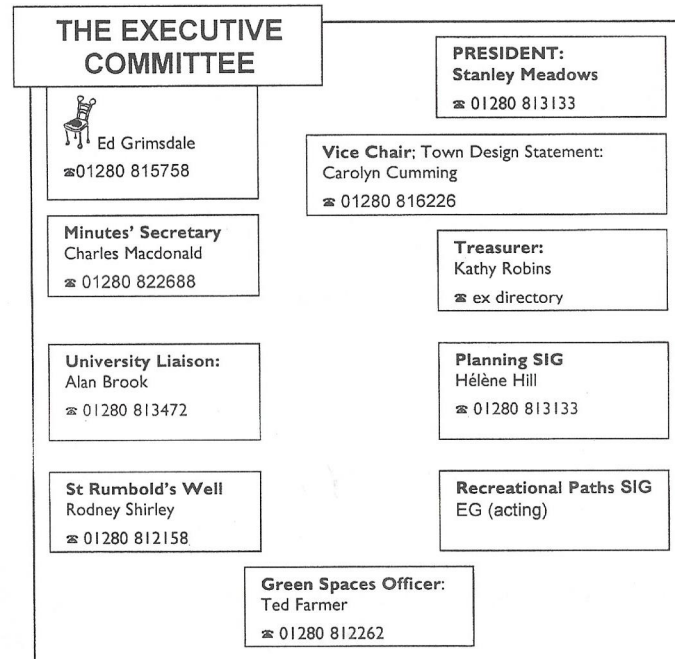


**TROUBLED BRIDGE OVER WATERS**

This relic from Richardson's Paint Factory that stretches across the river Great Ouse to Fishers' Field is a useful route from that fine Crest housing estate to Nelson St avoiding the fumes from cars queuing to cross the weakened road bridge by Cobblers Cottage. BTC want to retain it, so do we (but not for its aesthetic qualities), but AVDC want a full survey and repairs. BS feel that with a lick of paint it will last for years. Dave Marshall's opinion (ie AVDC) is that Crest will demolish it rather than pay.

**TIME FOR ACTION ?**

**STRUCTURES OF BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY**





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If you have enjoyed our magazine and want to be part of an organisation campaigning for a better Buckingham, why not join our Society?

**THE BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY** is one of 900 civic amenity societies in England representing a wealth of local knowledge and expertise. We are represented nationally by **The Civic Trust**, which uses that local knowledge to influence Government policy on environmental issues, particularly in the context of the built environment; e.g. historic town centres.



Every member adds to that influence, both nationally and locally.

In Buckingham, we have a small but active group. We have good relations with **Buckingham Town Council** and, increasingly, **Aylesbury Vale District Council**. We promote what is best in Buckingham by organizing walks and talks and we raise awareness of current issues. We encourage our members to join one or more of our "Special Interest Groups" (or SIG). At present there are three: **Planning** ( monitoring our built environment ) ; **Recreational Paths** ( considering green spaces and access ), and **Communications** ( looking at transport issues ). In addition, one of our members, Rodney Shirley, runs a group developing everything connected with our local child-saint "Rumbold".

Above all, we LOVE Buckingham. It is a great town and just by joining the Buckingham Society **YOU** will help to make the community's voice heard.

Our President  
Stanley  
Meadows  
(portrait by Dennis Os-  
borne)



ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE OUR  
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**FOUR TIMES PER YEAR**

For more information:



Ed Grimsdale  
15 Glynswood Rd.,  
BUCKINGHAM MK 18 1JF  
☎ 01280 815758

## The Buckingham Society

Please return to: **Geoff Shaw**  
Membership Secretary  
23 West St  
Buckingham MK 18 1HE

Phone: 01280 823363  
Fax: 01280 823624

### MEMBERSHIP RATES 2002

Individual	£7
Two persons in the same residence	£10
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Two Pensioners in the residence	£5
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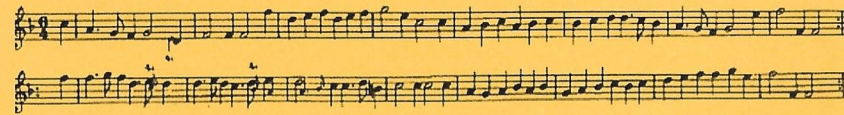
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## NOTES AND QUERIES



**Is this our tune?** It is called "**Buckingham House**" or "Chelsea Reach" and it comes from the second edition of Playford's "The English Dancing Master", that was printed first in **1657** and **1665**. We know that Buckingham Palace was formerly termed Buckingham House ( see Appendix to Royal Chronology), but the present building dates from the early 1700's when John Sheffield was ennobled (1702) as Duke of Buckinghamshire and Normanby. The discovery of this tune suggests that there was an earlier "Buckingham" House situated, possibly, on the riverside in Chelsea. Research suggests, however, that earlier Dukes of Buckingham lived in York House somewhere near the present Somerset House.

**Your help is needed!**

### **VICTORIAN BUCKINGHAM**

This Newsletter is the first to be "themed". Ed proposes to carry on with this idea since it gives opportunities to collate articles on particular aspects of life in Buckingham that could be floated as separate booklets. Since the Newsletter has grown into a form that can be used as a record of Buckingham, the Society is selling extra copies at **75p each for this special edition**. Do give Ed a ring if you want an extra copy .

**The next Newsletter will be called "Victorian Buckingham". At its heart will be the work that Charlie Macdonald has been doing in creating a list of Victorian Buildings in Buckingham. There will be more about Buckingham Hospital, as we hope that the old part will be opened during HODS weekend in September. If you have anything to say or to write about Buckingham in Victorian times ,do contact Ed @ 15 Glynswood Rd., 01280 815758. COPY DEADLINE : 30.06.02**

**John Murray** has written to Ed pointing out that he has joined the oozing ranks of the gutter press by referring to Buckingham's river as the Great River Ouse in the previous Newsletter. Ed stands corrected knee deep in mire.

**THE RIVER GREAT OUSE, IT WAS, IS,  
AND EVER SHALL BE.**