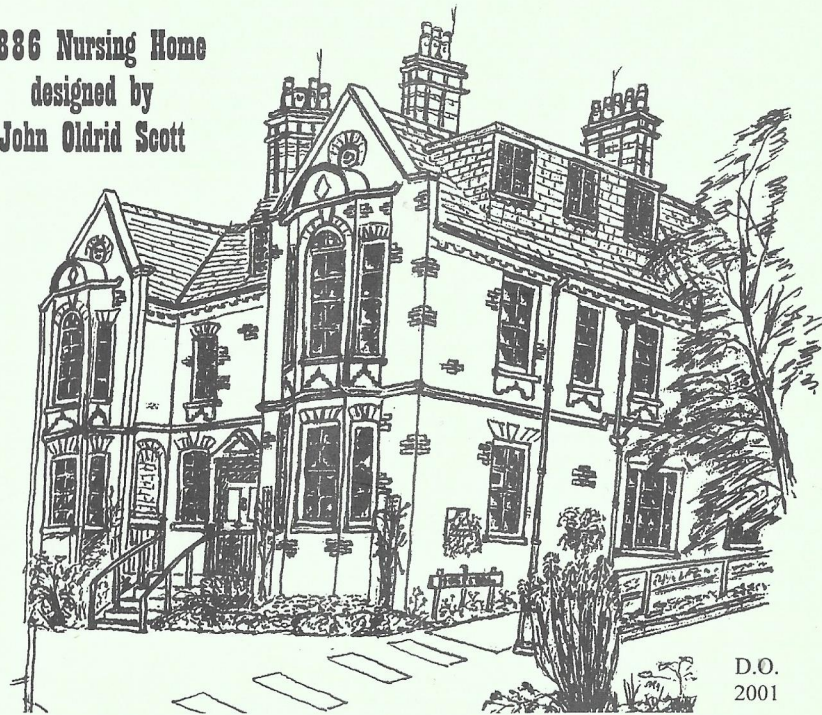


THE BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 2002 ISSUE NO3

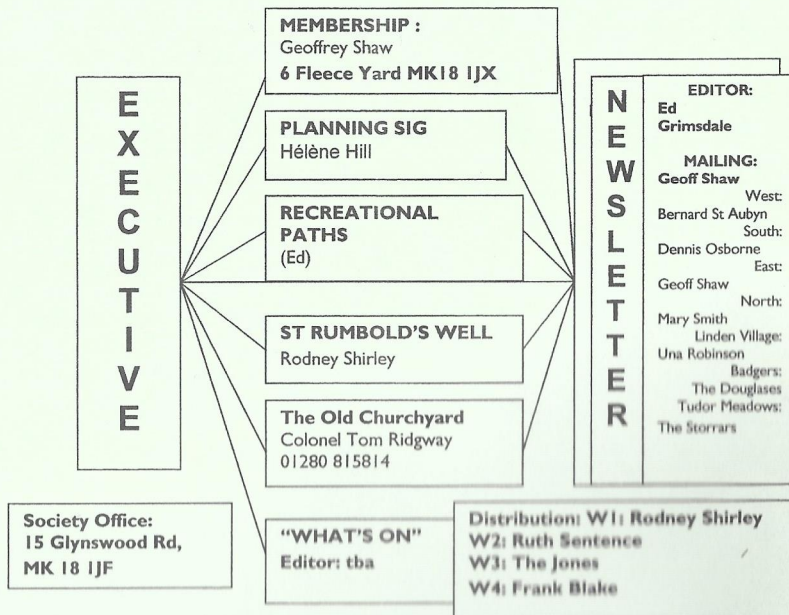
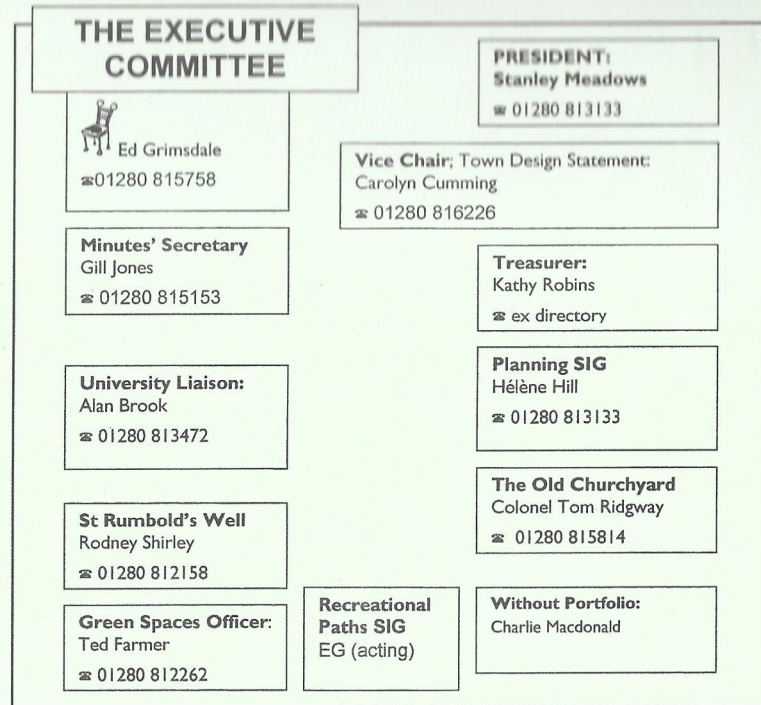
1886 Nursing Home
designed by
John Oldrid Scott



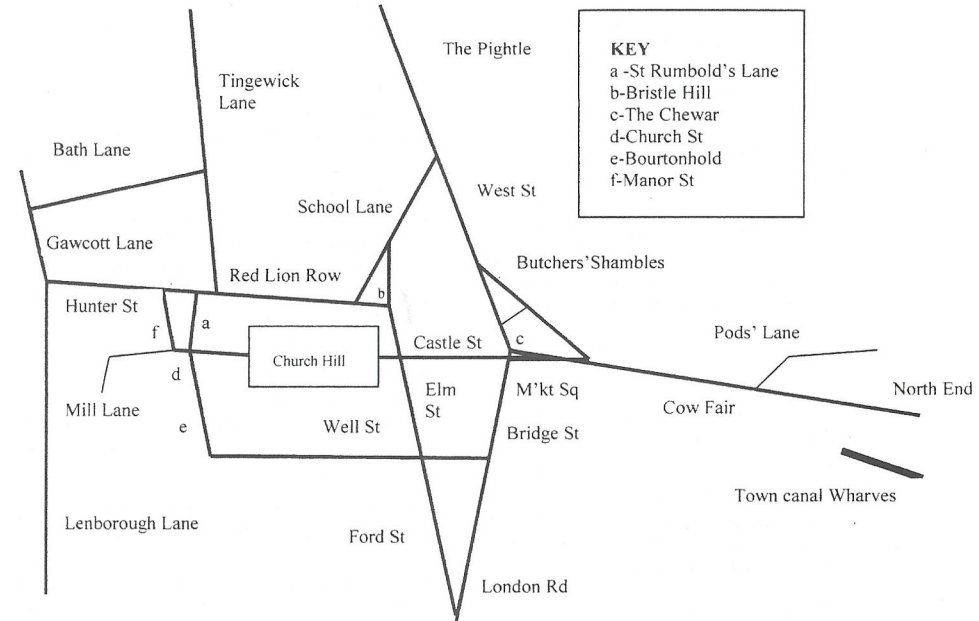
VICTORIAN BUCKINGHAM

50p

STRUCTURES OF BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY



Buckingham in 1837 : "To regularity or uniformity in its streets, however, the place can lay small claim, the dwellings being scattered without order over a large extent of ground."



The quotation from *Pigot's Directory* (1842) tells us the nature of early Victorian Buckingham: a small market town, clustered around remarkably few streets, as the map above shows. The Town was still in recovery from the great fire that had caused so much devastation a century earlier. There had been a plan back in 1831 to drive the first Birmingham to London railway through Buckingham, but our Duke, who owned most of the land from Stowe to Wotton exercised his personal veto, shunting Buckingham into a siding.

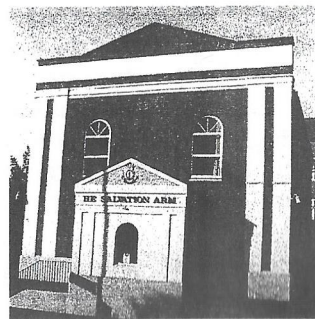
However, the decade from 1831 to 1841 was a more prosperous with a population expansion of over 10% to more than 4000. Stowe House was at its peak and benefited Buckingham. The last, major pre-Victorian public building was a Union Workhouse (1835) on the Stony Stratford Rd, an early design of G. Gilbert Scott, a Gawcott lad.

The Town had ceased to be a "rotten borough" after the 1832 Reform Act that enfranchised "£10" voters. They were few in impoverished Buckingham and were readily treated. The Council had been revised in line with the 1835 Corporation Act and consisted of a Mayor, 4 Aldermen and 12 Councillors, all, of course, men.

From 1837

EVENTS IN BUCKINGHAM

1838 The Buckingham Conservative Association is formed by 3 busy pastors, and Benjamin D'Israeli (sic) attends its dinner.
 1839 Anderson's Hotel (**The Whale**) is the first significant "Victorian" building in Buckingham.
 Rounded **Gaoler's House** added to the back (now front) of the Old Gaol. Designer: G. Gilbert Scott.
Buckingham's New Inn opens for business.
 1840 Queen Victoria introduces the Christmas Tree to Britain
 1842 Baptist Chapel is built in Pods Lane
 The draper, Henry Pittam, dies and leaves Christmas money for poor church-going widows.
Ebenezer Chapel is established in Moreton Rd.,
 1843 The First Christmas Cards are produced.
 1844 Our Market Cross is taken to Preston Bissett
 Alexandre Dumas publishes "The 3 Musketeers".
Well St Chapel becomes The British School
 1845 The **Queen's** Visit to the Town and Stowe
 1846 Lord's Bridge is rebuilt and the river Ouse is realigned to allow the coming of the railway.
 Repeal of the Corn Laws (allowing cheap imports)
 1848 **The Buckingham Assizes** move to Aylesbury.
Stowe House is closed by huge family debts.



The Salvation Army Citadel was built in 1842 as a Baptist Chapel. The style is typical of such buildings. There are several similar examples in Oxfordshire.

To 1850

For **Alexandre Dumas** writing was as natural as breathing. He was born in 1802 and received little education. In the 1840's after a string of successful plays, he turned his mind to novels inspired by the historical yarns of the prolific Walter Scott. Dumas wrote, earned and squandered. To write 650 plays and novels is a prodigious feat (Charles Dickens, Dumas' near contemporary, managed just 14 novels), even if Dumas had a little helper in Auguste Maquet who provided Alexandre with historical research and roughed-out plots.

What is the connection between Alexandre Dumas and Buckingham? As far as we can establish Dumas never visited Buckingham. The title of Chapter 12 of *The Three Musketeers* provides the link: "**George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham**" An excerpt is printed in the column to the right. Much of the text is pure romantic fiction, loosely based on a documented passion between Geo Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham, and Anne of Austria. Look though at the highlighted paragraph. Wow! Can anybody distil the spirit of George Villiers more powerfully in a few graphic words?

Once our George gets into Alexandre's mind he becomes pervasive. All Europe clamoured for sequels to *Les Trois Mousquetaires*; Alexandre loved his audience, so along came "The Vicomte de Bragelonne" with walk on parts for Geo and his son, our 2nd Duke of Buckingham.

To read more tales of derring-do by our Dukes, why not look up Dumas's Musketeer novels, available in the Oxford World Classics series of paperbacks?

.....and pushed the duke into an apartment lighted only by a lamp, saying, "Remain here, my Lord Duke; someone will come." She then went out by the same door, which she locked, so that the duke found himself literally a prisoner.

Nevertheless, isolated as he was, we must say that the **Duke of Buckingham** did not experience an instant of fear. One feature of his character was the thirst for adventure and a love of romance. Brave, rash, and enterprising, this was not the first time he had risked his life in such attempts. He had learned that the pretended message from Anne of Austria, upon the faith of which he had come to Paris, was a snare; but instead of regaining England, he had, abusing the position in which he had been placed, declared to the queen that he would not depart without seeing her. The queen had at first positively refused; but at length became afraid that the duke, if exasperated, would commit some folly. She had already decided upon seeing him and urging his immediate departure, when, on the very evening of coming to this decision, Mme. Bonacieux, who was charged with going to fetch the duke and conducting him to the Louvre, was abducted. For two days no one knew what had become other, and everything remained in suspense; but once free, and placed in communication with Laporte, matters resumed their course, and she accomplished the perilous enterprise which, but for her arrest, would have been executed three days earlier.

Buckingham, left alone, walked toward a mirror. His Musketeer's uniform became him marvellously.

At thirty-five, which was then his age, he passed, with just title, for the handsomest gentleman and the most elegant cavalier of France or England.

The favourite of two kings, immensely rich, all-powerful in a kingdom which he disordered at his fancy and calmed again at his caprice, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, had lived one of those fabulous existences which survive, in the course of centuries, to astonish posterity.

The Old Gaol, Buckingham (1748- 2002)

The building stirs and when all's still,
 Recorded in the crystals of its ancient floors and walls,
 The ghostly playback starts to fill
 The rooms with pasts pale echoes great and small,
 Pronouncing all is well.

And once again the eerie presence
 Of a long dead gaoler walks the cells;
 The sound of keys and curses fills the air,
 Competing with the sound of distant bells,
 Announcing all is well.

As fortunes in the county start to wane,
 And Aylesbury wins top status in our stead,
 Its prospects change, its usage now mundane and cheap,
 The once proud building seems to bow its head
 And everything looks moribund and down at heel.

An air raid siren faintly wails its warning cry,
 A fire engine's bell clangs past and fades away,
 The 'all clear' rings to tell us danger's passed,
 Permitting us to live another day,
 Providing all is well.

Then even, for a while, the sound of ball and chain and bell
 Gives way to knife and fork and spoon;
 Two phantom diners, recorded in the ancient stone,
 Enjoy a brief, informal 'Old Gaol' tour
 And then enjoy their meal.

In modern times, new lease of life is bought
 By dedicated people of the town and gown; ;
 The Heritage Trust is formed and lays its plans:
 The building lives again, its status grown,
 Ensuring once again that all is well.

Now academia also treads where villains oft times lay,
 And many threaded cultures mix and swirl:
 The sound of happy voices echoes once again,
 As fairground engines roar and church bells peal,
 To herald all is well.

Frail flowers die, their seeds perpetuate the line:
 Man also dies, his bones and blood and sinews
 Turn to individual dust, forgotten over time,
 But buildings like our ancient Gaol continue,
 Confirming to us, as they do, that all is well.

Tony Webster 2002

The Society thanks Tony for allowing us to publish his new poem. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) is running a competition in which Tony has entered this piece. We wish him every success.

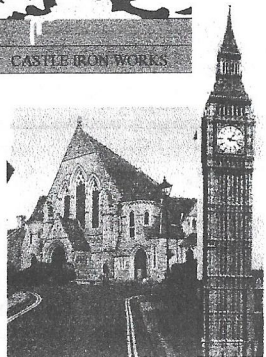
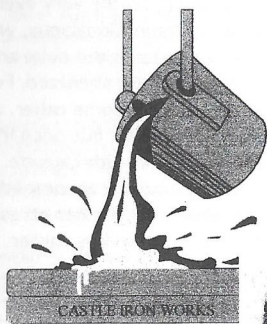
From 1850



To 1860

THE RAILWAYS

The tentacles of the railways spread fast in all directions from London: veins supplying the oxygen of trade and investment. Entrepreneurs were quick to seize the opportunities offered by the first bloom of rail creation before 1850. Reluctant railway towns, such as Buckingham, were more damaged than enhanced by the bi-directional impact of the iron way. Railways could provide inward investment, but they could also vacuum up assets and jobs. The new fast exit track for raw materials caused "value-added" jobs in Buckingham to be railroaded away. Woolstapling ceased—raw wool was taken straight to efficient Yorkshire mills. The need to process milk into dairy products and other derivatives with longer shelf lives ceased when milk could be transported in hours to the parched denizens of London.



EVENTS

- 1850 The Bletchley-Banbury Railway opens in Buckingham.
- Henry Holland's shoe factory is built with imported yellow bricks (It is now called Markham's Court)
- 1851 Buckingham's temporary **Station** is built in the middle of fields. It is quite a strain to catch the train!
- A Buckingham baker, **Mr. Town**, gains the franchise to supply the Great Exhibition with pork pies.
- Repeal of the Window Tax (to pay for the Napoleonic Wars)—no further blanked windows in Buckingham.
- 1852 **Castle Mill Bridge** is rebuilt
- 1853 **Chandos Rd** is laid and the 1st 2 pairs of Chandos Rd Villas are built.
- The **Royal Engineer P.H.** (now The Britannia) rises at the bottom of Gawcott Hill
- The Buckingham Advertiser's first editions are printed.
- 1854 **Wycliffe House Academy** (private secondary school) is established in the old house in Well St.
- The **Vicarage** (now Walnut Yard) is extended.
- 1855 (?) **The Mount** aka **Brookfield** is built.
- 1856 The Brackley Rd **Cemetery** is opened.
- The National School is re-erected in School Lane
- The **Cobham Arms** closes in West St, victim of the closure of Stowe.
- 1857 **Congregational Church**, now the Radcliffe Centre, is built over one of the Rumbold wells.
- Villa Cottage is built in Tingewick Rd
- Castle Iron Works** is created opposite the Station to make Steam Carriages for road use.
- 1858 The **Market Cross** is returned from Preston Bissett to the Vicarage Garden.
- 1859 A second gas-holder is built at the Gasworks.
- Work is done on the boundaries of the Church site on Castle Hill including erecting the iron railings.
- A volunteer Rifle Corps is created in response to fears that Napoleon III might invade Britain..

Henry Broadhurst was the mason who shaped the stones from Cosgrove and Bath that make up the front of **The Radcliffe Centre**. He also created the Clock Tower that houses "Big Ben", where his mallet and chisels are still retained. From humble beginnings in Buckingham, he rose to become successively a Trade Union leader, an MP and finally Under-Secretary in the Home Department.

STRAW-PLAITING

Straw-plaiting was still a major rural cottage industry through the 1850's. The 1853 *Musson and Craven Directory* confidently predicted a rosy future for the trade, stating "The making of straw plait is carried out in Buckingham and the surrounding villages and is **expected to increase**". Much of the product became the raw material for the Luton and Dunstable millinery industry. Women bought good quality lengths of straw from dealers. A tool was used to split the straw into 4 parts lengthwise. Fingers and the softening effect of spittle did the rest. The going rate was 10d to 1s 4d for a score (20 yards). 7.5 score made a week's work, bringing home about 8/-, useful money when the farm-labouring husband could manage about 10s. With a little help from the tiny hands of her nimble children, Mother could be the major bread-winner. In 1851 nearly half the female population of North Bucks were involved in straw-plaiting and related trades. The "Bo-Peep" new Easter Bonnet was still "de rigueur". But the first successful American sewing machines had been produced in 1846. The next decade saw a world-wide explosion in their use. Material hats machined in Luton were *à la mode* rendering straw bonnets *passé*. Improved communications meant that inferior Chinese plaits at 3d a score knocked a hole in the Buckingham trade by 1870, and fine Japanese plait arriving in 1891 sounded the death knell of the industry. Compulsory elementary schooling from 1870 didn't help as it bit into the workforce, although many girls took their straw to school ("Play attention, Ursula, major, put your straw away."), and absenteeism was rife. Census records for Buckinghamshire from 1871 reveal 1 in 9 schoolgirls were professional plaiters. By the end of Victoria's reign this local handicraft joined lace-making as a former source of employment. **Tradition remained in force at the Latin School, however, which retained straw boaters as girls' summer uniform until 1970.**

THE PARISH CHURCH SINKS IN 1860

Ominous cracks appeared at the west end of our Parish Church. Excavations revealed the problem: the church had feet of clay, its foundations rested on a thin layer of rock, four feet below the surface, but that rock hid a layer of boulder clay below it. Over the following years public appeals went out for money to erect the series of buttresses that we see at regular intervals around the nave. Each rests on bedrock fourteen feet under the surface of Castle Hill. For good measure, the Duke of Buckingham paid for the Chancel to be erected which effectively shored up the east end. Inside, the Church was not "freed" of high, private oak stalls until 1883. I wonder what became of all that fine timber after it was stripped out?

From 1860

Crime was not a serious issue in Victorian Buckingham. The streets were safe and the Lock-Up was usually devoid of guests of her Majesty. One Buckingham man, named **Stevens**, was hanged at Aylesbury in August 1864 for the murder of a young girl named **Annie Leeson**. There was a "Hangman's Tree" at what is now the junction of Western Avenue and Moreton Rd, but it is difficult to discover if it was ever used in anger.

The Latin Grammar School, although the most ancient school in Bucks, did not prosper through most of Victoria's reign. During the 1860's a typical number for boys on roll was less than thirty, with a small handful being Boarders. Perhaps, the nadir of the school's fortunes in the 19th century came in 1869, when the Headmaster, Tom Owain Jones, was taken to Court for failing to pay £21 for his meat bill. Within a week Mr Owain Jones had resigned. The School ended this decade appealing for funds because the school and the attached Latin House were severely dilapidated, an event that happened regularly during Victoria's reign. Is it not amazing that today there are more students reporting to RLS each day than attended the Old Latin School through the whole of the 19th century?

1860 A **Public Bathing Place** is excavated near to Brackley Rd.

1861 Belatedly, **Station Rd** is built to connect Chandos Rd, the new Railway Station and the lane to Gawcott, but it is not adopted.

Prince Albert dies—Victoria goes into mourning.

The Tan-Yard closes—local employment is lost.

1862 The **Market Cross** is placed in The Old Churchyard to mark the main doorway of our former Parish Church.

1863 The **Infants' School** (now a private dwelling) opens in School Lane.

1864 The Rev. Roundell, the leading Victorian historian of Buckingham, dies on St Stephen's Day

A pretty iron footbridge is erected across the river by the side of the Woolpack PH.

1865 A Chapel is built on **Bone Hill**, designed in stone by a leading Victorian church architect, GE Street.

The Chancel is added to the **Parish Church** Buckingham gets a 2nd paper "**The Express**"

Thomas Ricketts dies; his Iron foundry closes.

c.1865 More pairs of **Chandos Rd** villas are built

c.1865 Henry Thorpe builds his "Artificial Manure" plant at **The Town Wharf**.

1866 **The Red Buildings**, basic emergency housing built after Buckingham's awful 1725 fire, are razed.

The 2nd Duke of Buckingham, of modern times, dies.

1868 The 3rd Duke of Buckingham is appointed Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire.

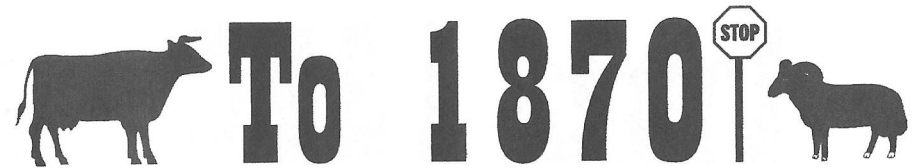
1869 Buckingham's curate, Louis Borissow, arranges Christmas treats at the National (C of E) School.

1869 London and County Bank is built in Bridge St on the site of The Two Swans PH (now a Charity Shop)

No man, not even a doctor, ever gives any other definition of what a nurse should be than this—*devoted and obedient*. This definition would do just as well for a porter. It might even do for a horse.

It would not do for a policeman.

Florence Nightingale—*Notes on Nursing* (1860)



THE RURAL EXPERIENCE

Why is there a Welsh Lane leading into Buckingham from the West ?

In Victorian times the question would have been rhetorical, for the activities on this lane would have been daily and known to all and sundry. Huw, and many other Welsh drovers, had spent their whole lifetimes spread over many centuries driving sheep from the Welsh hills through the West to Banbury, Buckingham, Leighton Buzzard, Markyate St, Redbourn and forward to their goal: Smithfield Market in London. En route, the drovers needed wide, sheltered routes (holloways), occasional expansive commons for grazing, accompanied by more enclosed areas for night-time stops. It was helpful if there were to be an Inn nearby to feed Huw, himself. Coming to Buckingham the Welshman might anticipate a Bucks Clanger—a hearty steamed suet roly-poly pudding with a minced meat savoury filling at one end complemented by a jam dessert at the other end.

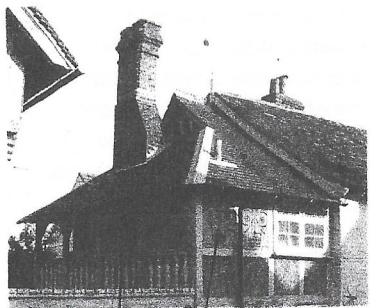
By mid-Victorian times, the voracious foraging that kept London well fed was changing. Why spend weeks out in all weathers driving reluctant livestock when the animals could be slaughtered, butchered and the best joints and pickings sent by rail to London, possibly in less time than the same journey would take way in the future in 2002? Other factors accelerated change. The drovers were blamed for spreading foot and mouth disease from Wales to Essex in a devastating outbreak in the late 1860's.

The government responded by issuing movement restrictions. When you think about it the drovers were responsible for amazing animal movements that paralleled so many facets of the issues we've faced in Britain during the last two years. Then and now a way of life and the countryside that supported it were changed for ever. Out went commons, and Wayside Inns marked with 3 Scotch Pines. Locals in North Bucks were no longer entertained over a clay-pipe in the evenings by tales full of Celtic charm. Welsh Lane became a half-forgotten footnote.

Buckingham was still an active market town in Victorian times. More accurately it was a Markets' town, for it contained dedicated areas and special times of the year, organised around particular farming goods, ranging from milkmaids through horses to sheep and wool.

Drainage of land by means of buried clay pipes was a new phenomenon in Victorian times. Most farms were still drained by nature. Much of North Bucks was covered with oozing clay, denser than a Bucks clanger and far more gut-wrenching! Arable farming was heavy and difficult work, and it was a toss-up whether it was easier when wet or when baked to crazy pavement by summer sun. Much of the land around Buckingham was termed "3 horse", through the need to shackle several horses to the plough if reasonable progress were to be made. Such difficulties caused the creation of the Stowe Steam Plough, a locally invented solution to an age-old problem.

From 1870



11, Castle St. veranda and sgraffiti by Swinfen Harris

Strictly speaking 'graffito' (or 'sgraffito') describes any design scratched through a layer of paint or other material, to reveal a different ground beneath.

(Robert Cumming A.R.T 2001)

(The prefix "s" in Italian intensifies the noun that follows. Anne Grimsdale)

FOR WHOM THE TOLLS RING

For half of Victoria's reign, Buckingham was surrounded by toll-gates. All the main thoroughfares : west to Banbury and Oxford, east to Newport Pagnell, South to Aylesbury had been turnpiked. Better quality roads that could support wagons, but not free roads. **Just imagine not being able to drive more than a mile or two out of Buckingham without paying a fee.** Even in Victorian times, travel was a fraught affair. On Sundays all prayed in church for travellers, whom they joined in litany with prisoners and women undergoing child-birth!

1878 marked the end of most of England's toll-roads. Perhaps, 2002 will see their resurrection with Ken Livingstone's London leading the attack on road congestion through road-charging.

1870 It is so cold on Boxing Day that one could skate the Canal through to Stony Stratford.

1871 New Headmaster, Thomas Cockram, pays out of his own pocket to renovate the **Latin School.**

The White Hart's rear coaching entrance is replaced by the Italianate portico at the front.

Villiers' yellow-brick Castle St frontage is erected.

1872 The **National School** in School Lane is extended by the construction of a brick first floor.

Cow Fair is landscaped with trees.

1875 October 10th - dreadful flooding in town, the worst in Victorian times.

The Coach House, designed by the Swinfen Harris of the Aesthetic movement, is built in Castle St. who adds a veranda and extension to 11 Castle St

1876 The Congregationalists start to raise a Sunday School in St Rumbold's Lane.

Bicycle dinner for those with 54" wheels!

A **Board School** is established in the former Methodist Chapel in Moreton Rd.

Flora Thompson (née Timms) born at Juniper Hill 1878 West St turnpike gate is removed.

1879 The **Chantry Chapel** is restored with controversial windows and Bell-Cote designed by Sir G. Gilbert Scott.

The **Board School** rises in Well St to designs by EH Linger Baker.

By 1880: The slow growth of building on the town side of Chandos Rd continues until all the 4 storey villas and Rutland House are completed.

THE GREAT AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION

The 1870's were difficult times for agriculture in Britain. Demand for products fell as cheaper imports proliferated. The decline in Buckingham and its Markets was exacerbated by low level of activity at Stowe. Labourers moved away from Buckingham; some of them emigrated. Those in the USA sent back corn. A vicious circle.

**Ill fares the land, hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay;
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade,
A breath can make them, as breath has made:
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroy'd, can never be supplied.**

Oliver Goldsmith—The Deserted Village (1770)

To 1880

WALKING

King Charles II race-walked from Whitehall to Hampton Court in the 1600's.

"The sum of the whole is this: walk and be happy; walk and be healthy. The best way to lengthen out our days is to walk steadily and with a purpose."

(Charles Dickens)

"I am a slow walker, but I never walk backwards"
(Abraham Lincoln)

"Walking would teach people the quality that youngsters find so hard to learn—patience"
(Edward Payson Weston)

"If you want to know if your brain is flabby, feel your legs" (Bruce Barton)

"We must walk before we run" (George Borrow, et al.)

Is Ian Botham, with his great sponsored Charity Walks, the Edward Payson Weston of our times?

"Weston", the "sdrawkcaB" pedestrian

passed through Buckingham on 26th February 1879, adding a footnote to our history. Probably the last, major building that he saw in our town was Holland's yellow-brick boot and shoe factory.

Who was Weston?

Why was he was walking backwards ?

The 1860's were the start of **The Pedestrian Age**. Long distance walking became a major professional sport in the USA and Europe. Wagers would bring winners of races the equivalent of 100 years of the salary of the day making the returns for today's marathon runners seem paltry.

Edward Payson Weston was "the father of modern pedestrianism". Weston was a reporter on the New York Herald. He got into a fix through betting that President Lincoln would lose the 1860 Election. Edward's master-stroke was to walk away from his debts. For a wager he walked from Boston to the President's inauguration in Washington, DC. Being a reporter helped his publicity, Weston prospered, and the "Golden Age" of Pedestrianism was launched. In 1867, Weston walked 1136 miles from Portland, Maine to Chicago in thirty days to win a \$10 000 dollar prize, and many side-bets. Soon, he needed a new market so he went international, hence his Buckingham visit.

The attention span of 19th century papers were little longer than our own. Soon further angles were required. Women strode out, shocked Victorian morality, and provided the page three legs of their day. Mary Marshall walked 50 miles in 12 hours in 1877, became a symbol of female emancipation, and, simultaneously, titillated male erotic fantasies. Poor, rich Edward Payson Weston walked men **backwards** into history through **Buckingham**.

From 1880

1880 4 Manor (aka Church) St is created in the Arts and Crafts style, possibly for a retired Admiral.

1881 Swinfen Harris restyles The Great Parlour in **Castle House**

The Duke of Buckingham is received at Buckingham Station with pomp on his return from a spell as Governor of Madras.

1883 A big Civic Dinner is held in honour of Harry Verney—the town's long-serving M.P.

1884 Gallery of Parish Church designed by JO Scott

Fire Station moved to The Od Gaol

1885 "The Bakery" opens in West St.

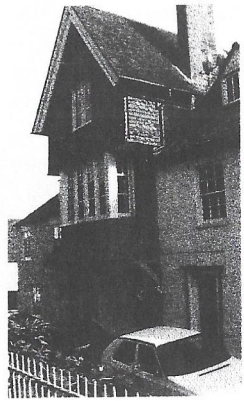
1886 **Bourton Mill** is set on fire by the Flower Show's fireworks.

RBH buy **Yeomanry Hall** from Bartlett family

1887 The **Post Office** moves into West St to the premises built as **The Cobham Arms**

A Buckingham Branch of **The Salvation Army** is formed

1888 **Electric Light Works** created at the Town Mill.



4, Church St - Arts and Crafts Style
c.f. Christ's Hospital, Market Hill

VYLE'S DEPARTMENT STORE

Vyles's store in prestigious Castle St was the sole department store to trade in Buckingham. It opened in 1889 in a property that is now split into several units including Ginnys'. The world of the department store had started in 1865 with "Bon Marché" in Paris. Such stores, concentrating on women's apparel but branching into a wide range of goods, depended both for their stocks and their custom on good transportation. Fine goods were despatched to Buckingham mainly by railway, which, although created in 1850, was isolated for a decade by the lack of a proper Station and roads to service it. Do have a look at 18/19 Castle St today. You will see that the façade still carries a monogram derived from A and V (so similar to Albert and Victoria's!). The foundation date on the façade is beginning to perish—two characters have been lost. Notice the pretension

in Albert Vyle's advert. The carriages in Castle St are not to scale so the store looms as a large, imposing mass! Vyle's served a small town's population. It could not grow to become a major store. It carried on its business until forced to close in 1962.

Albert Vyle,
18 & 19, Castle St.,
BUCKINGHAM.

Dressmaking,
Dresses,
Calicoes, Shirtings, Carpets,
Linen, Flannels,
Gent.'s Outfitting,
Silks, Mantles, Jackets,
Furs, Gloves, Laces,
Hosiery, Umbrellas.



Every requisite for Family and Complimentary Mourning.

To 1890

THE NURSING HOME 1886

Locals have long recorded that the new nursing home was designed by Sir G. Gilbert Scott to replace the temporary one created by the Parish Church opposite Trolley Hall in 1868. The newer building is one of the more distinguished Victorian properties in Buckingham. Charlie Macdonald pointed out when compiling his listing of Victorian buildings in Buckingham, that if Sir George Gilbert Scott designed it, then it was a posthumous effort since building work began in 1885, and Sir George died in 1878! Research has revealed that it was another member of the Scott dynasty of architects, **John Oldrid Scott**, who prepared the designs for our Nursing Home. John Oldrid Scott was Sir George's second son. Our "hospital" (as Florence Nightingale termed it (pace Dr Chris Brown)) was built by the local firm of funeral directors, Marshall & Boyse, whose sideline, in the fashion of Victorian morticians, was a little building.

It is a pity that the old Mortuary (on the left as you walk up the path to today's Hospital) spoils the view of this marvellously sited stack. Unfortunately, the Mortuary contains asbestos and its removal would be prohibitively expensive. So the Mortuary is accursed; it has life beyond death; it is in limbo wrapped like a Mummy.

The Nursing Home was endowed by the town's MP and "Samaritan" (*Buckingham Express*), the Rt Hon. J.G Hubbard (later the 1st Lord Addington), after the recovery from an accident of his son, Egerton. Poor Egerton—some ten years earlier he was found in the road near Benthill Farm, stunned after being thrown from his horse, and taken to Castle St Nursing Home, which helped him to recover quickly. 1886 was a good year for Egerton—he became the MP for North Bucks beating Capt Verney of Steeple Claydon by 71 votes.

North End Square was remodelled in honour of the opening of the new facility and renamed: **HUBBARD BOULEVARD.**

It is a shame that name is now forgotten. Looking at the pollarded trees and apparent "Parc à boules" there is nothing so French in the whole of our Town. Such a name would act, also, as a tribute to the ill-fated Comte de Paris and his residence at Stowe House and remind us that Buckingham has been twinned, firstly with Joinville and more recently with Mouvaux.

THE "TIMES" - LADD and SON have a Copy of the "Times" which they can supply from 10a.m. to 6.30p.m.—Ladd and Son, "Advertiser" Office, Buckingham (Advertisement in *The Buckingham Advertiser*, 1885)

HOLY SALVATION 1887

When The Salvation Army was forming in Buckingham, Capt Archer and Lieutenant Ralph Morris decided to bang their drum in Nelson St. The locals were incensed and had the pair arrested. They were interned in the lock-up at "The Old Gaol". Protests ensued that caused the authorities to fear that the redoubt might be taken by storm. The two drummers were spirited out of the back and taken to Aylesbury.

The men's return to Buckingham after a short period of servitude caused a great convergence of Salvationists on Buckingham Station. Rail excursions had been laid on from stations all over the region. Archer and Morris received a standing ovation and a chorus from a Victorian favourite: "Home, Sweet Home".

They established a Brass Band which Salvation Army records suggest was initially more noisome than their original big bass drum.

HALLELUJAH!

From 1890



The nightingale depicted looking after the sick was, of course, Florence Nightingale who was the sister in law of local MP Harry Verney, of Claydon House. Florence sojourned in Claydon most summers and she took a deep interest in rural health. She corresponded with our active Medical Officer of Health, George D'Ath. Here is an excerpt from a

Perhaps I'm afraid there is nothing doing about the training of lower Steeple Claydon. [Did you send a Draft for Sir Harry & write to the authorities?] & nothing doing about Easton Closets. Could you give us a simple wholesome remedy for Cottage Insolation to stop up the gaping chinks between boards of floor?

Like George De'Ath, Florence worried about open middens and the proximity of sewage to the kitchens of cottages. With Florence's encouragement, De'Ath created a team of visiting rural health visitors. Miss Bartlett, freed from crinolines by increased female emancipation, climbed aboard her safety bike, and sallied forth from her home in West St to all points in North Bucks. Dr De'ath's measures cut the death rate from 21.5 per 1000 in '88-'89 to 14.5 per 1000 in the following year.

1890 The Town Council rents out **The Old Gaol** after voting down its demolition.

The powers of Aspirin are discovered.

The **Masonic Hall** is built in North End.

1891 **Oddfellows' Hall** rises on Well St.

1892 The **Police Station** in Moreton Rd is erected.

1893 Mains water arrives in Buckingham pumped from the Moreton reservoir

Hamilton House is built on West St for Dr. De'Ath.

1894 St Bernardine of Siena's **Franciscan College** is erected on the London Rd.

1895 The Canal Company sues the Corporation over sewerage that it had diverted into the Canal.

1897 **Christ's Hospital** is rebuilt in "Arts and Crafts" style to honour Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

Castle Mill is rebuilt (it was lost to fire in 1964)

Electricity generation is moved to the "Bark Barn" in the Tanyard in Hunter St. (Bark had provided the dye for tanning leather).

1898 **Buckingham Cemetery** is extended—the 1st internment is **Mrs Buckingham!**

Vagrancy and Fever Wards and a Boardroom are added to the Work House in **North End**

1899 The Imperial Yeomanry parade on Market Hill before their departure to fight in the Boer War.

1901 **George De'Ath**, Buckingham's distinguished Medical Officer of Health, dies aged 39, possibly of overwork.

Queen Victoria dies
and the Victorian Age closes.

"You have a very sweet tooth, Sir"

William Everett ran a Bakery and Confectionery shop in Castle St during the last decade of the 19th century. These days we know that "candy causes caries". Perhaps, William knew that, too, because on Saturdays, Eskells, the dentists, operated in his Cake Shop!

To 1901

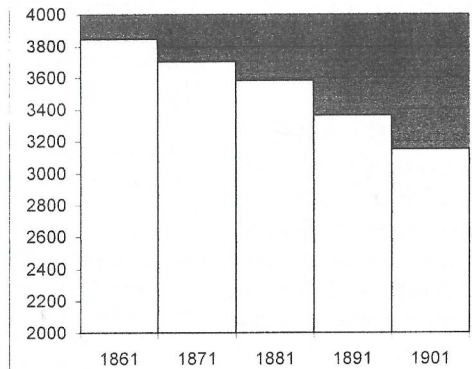
Where the Railways COUNTED Population

Aylesbury	6000 (1851)	7000 (1871)
Wolverton	400 (1831)	2000 (1851)
High Wycombe	5000 (1871)	20 000 (1911)



Aylesbury benefited through its 1839 branch line to Cheddington, the first branch line in Britain. It opened up a route from Aylesbury to Euston and London. It's the reason for that oddly situated Cheddington Station on the MK to Euston line.

Buckingham Population



The Town's decline continued in the 20th century

We each day dig our graves with our teeth. (Samuel Smiles 1880)

Once children had been forced to attend school by the 1870 Education Act, the poor health of the younger generation became evident. Part of the trouble was malnutrition. City children benefited from Charities set up to provide a mid-day meal for youngsters. Out in the Shires there was a little less need and much less provision. Health issues were addressed during the last decades of Victoria's reign. School Medical Inspections established the facts, but it was recorded that only 1 in 4 children were able to afford a visit to a Doctor.

In 1910, of all children: 10% had serious vision defects; 5% deficient hearing; 3% suppurating ears; 3% enlarged glands; **50% injurious tooth decay**; 10% were unclean in body; 2% had tuberculosis; 1% had a heart defect and 1% had ringworm.

Victorian times were poor ones for Buckingham. The benefits of the railways were spurned, the Canal link was filled with silt from the town's new sewers. The Industrial Revolution came with Holland's Shoe Factory and Mr Ricketts Steam Car plant, but neither took root. The town lost its Assizes, its richest landowner over-reached himself and in 1901, sadly, the Town Centre seemed preserved in 1837 aspect. Better connexions had exported people and their jobs. For a time the Town's sturdy connections with the Bourbon Kings of France looked as if they might revive the region. The Comte de Paris' stay at Stowe was popular and the Buckingham pound was fattened with his French francs. Amazingly, bi-lingual signs appeared at Buckingham Station! Unfortunately, the Comte died comparatively young of cancer leaving Baroness Kinloss, surviving heir of the Dukes of Buckingham, with a huge house, much local respect, but with little disposable income.

MEMBERS' NEWS



Buckingham Society Members are activists who busy themselves in a wide range of community work. This column will record a little of their enterprise.

FRANK BLAKE

Frank has lived in Buckingham for half a decade. with his wife, Eileen. Frank's confident voice has been a boon for Buckingham Choral Society (very much a choir on the upgrade under their talented local conductor, Michael Ridley) and Frank has become the choir's *de facto* leading tenor. Joining that choir has propelled Frank into local history. He has distilled a massive amount of research into a study of Choral Music in Buckingham, establishing en route a 130 year history for our largest Choral body. When he showed Ed Grimsdale work in progress, there were 21 pages of close-typed information covering the period to the early 1980's. Much of Frank's excellent research has concentrated on the files of The Buckingham Advertiser. The later section will depend on tales from those who sang in or heard recent concerts.

We shall feature Frank's volume when it is published. I can reveal that it adds substantially to the record of our Town.

Mark Pattison

"In research the horizon recedes as we advance, and is no nearer at sixty than it was at twenty. As the power of endurance weakens with age, the urgency of the pursuit grows more intense....And research is always incomplete." Isaac Casaubon(1875) ch 10

Frank Blake is an interesting character. He was one of the pioneers of digital computing, working with that giant of British Computing—Alan Turing, before the famous days at Bletchley Park. Frank is ready at the drop of a pixel to give talks on the history of computing.

Una Robinson, Buckingham Tree Warden, has been busy monitoring the environmental consequences of the savage slaughter of trees on the

Stratford Rd Sandpit Farm site. She reports that many nesting birds have been deprived of their homes. A colony of squirrels has crossed the Stratford Rd and is rampaging amongst the nesting sites along the banks of the Ouse behind Una and John's home in Wharfside Place. That raises concerns about the survival of our Kingfishers, since squirrels' favourite springtime diet is freshly laid eggs. Una says that part of the Ouse is a habitual nesting site for kingfishers. Many members have expressed horror at the ravages wrought at Sandpit Farm. Let us hope that it won't be too long before the attractively-designed new homes cover the desecration.

Una has also been active in ensuring the clearing up of the illegal under-age drinking den behind the Town toilets near to the Salvation Army HQ. The local police have done a marvelous job of moving the youngsters onwards, and Una has activated others to remove the fearful detritus of bottles and cans. Good work.

Una is active on the Access group. She notes, with disappointment that the AVDC "York-Stone Work, Phase II" does not include changes to the slope outside Jardine's that is so treacherous to the handicapped.

Pat Brook has been busy exploring **Buckingham's Victorians** for The Old Gaol Museum. She has published a News from The Old Gaol for Schools (no 3) encouraging teachers to take their pupils along to T.O.G. to obtain hands-on experiences with **Victorian** artefacts. She is convinced that the doctor referred to in "Lark Rise to Candleford" is the younger **De'Ath**. **Frank Blake** has found newspaper cuttings that paint a imposing picture of him riding around Buckingham on a large, black stallion. **George De'Ath** used to chair meetings of a local debating society. Apart from being a convincing speaker he was said to be a fine writer of English prose. He was a busy man who burned himself out. It would be very exciting were we to unearth any of **George De'Ath's** non-professional writing.

News from the Old Gaol
For Schools 3

July 2002

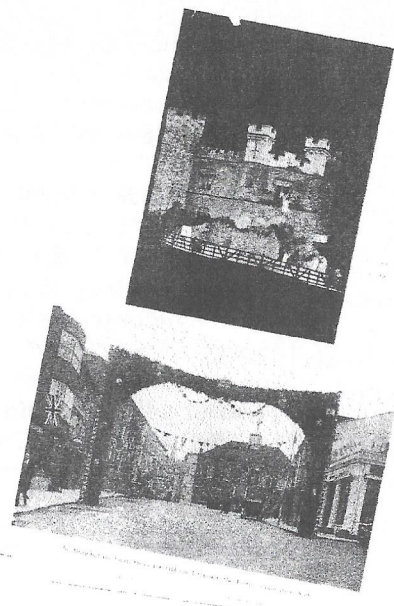
Planning the Victorians next term?
Come and see what we have to offer!



Florence Nightingale's tin trunk.
This old tin trunk holds a mass of interesting objects, books and information about Florence. There's a Turkish lantern, a nurse's out-fitter and a soldier's uniform, bandages and old medicine bottles and more. There are 11 sheets put together by Annie Wilkes, (tel 8152680) a practising teacher. Come to the Old Gaol and have a look and talk to us about how we could use this resource. The key to the trunk is in the TIC Office

SEE THE FILE OF WORKSHEETS IN THE TIC
For quick reference for teachers, a file is kept in the TIC Office. It holds books and museum worksheets written so far:
1. *Introducing Buckingham*
2. *Buckingham in Victorian Times* which contains KS2 worksheets on
Agriculture,
Stores & Markets
Victorian Buckingham
Transport
These worksheets are meant to be used with the displays

3. *For KS1 Heraldry and Old Gaol Building*
4. *Lark Rise*
VICTORIAN HANDS-ON OBJECTS
My favourite is the white handkerchief bonnet from the 1890s. There is one exhibit on the cover of the Penguin "Lark Rise to Candleford". My thanks to the purchaser at the car boot sale who, after she had bought it, said, "The Museum can have it!"
Other Victorian things for washday are large and small posers, glass-ribbed washboards, wooden tongues for the boiling wash and 7 old wooden pegs.
But the object the boys like best is the prisoner's ball and chain from about 1850. You can choose objects before your visit and we'll have them ready.
Pat Brook



Stanley Meadows, President and doyen of our Society, responded to **The Royal Newsletter** by unearthing fascinating memorabilia from his 70 years of royal watching in Buckingham. These have been digitised for future reference. To the left are two pictures of Buckingham in Coronation mood in 1937. **The Old Gaol** was floodlit for the occasion—it is interesting to see the railings in front of the building. The lower picture is typical of old Buckingham "en fête" yet another of the triumphal arches were erected with great frequency over the last two hundred years. These days Health and Safety would



Society Officers are always ready to mount a walk through Buckingham. Ed has led two different groups in the last couple of months. An evening **"ROYAL TOUR"** took a dozen RLS staff on a walk to show our town's long connections with monarchy.

On a terribly wet day, the one when England beat Argentina in the World Cup, a traditional tour based on the Society's Town Trail was laid on for a Local History group from Aylesbury U3A.

Do give Ed a ring (815758), if you hear of a group that needs a shepherd. The next scheduled walks are on HODS weekend in September (please see the special insert).

Incidentally, our supplies of the popular Town Trail are almost exhausted. It is imperative that we revise it and find publishing co-partners. Anybody willing to volunteer to join a group to do this, please contact Ed.

The Society is very pleased that **Gill Jones**, inevitably of Church St, has volunteered to become Minutes Secretary. Her work started with the July Meeting. Just in time to give **Charlie Macdonald** a much-needed break. Charlie needed to join the back-benchers to devote a little more time to his wife **Gillian** who is undergoing therapy following an operation. We wish **Gillian** a complete and speedy recovery. Charlie has been a tower of strength within the Society not only through his impeccable minutes but

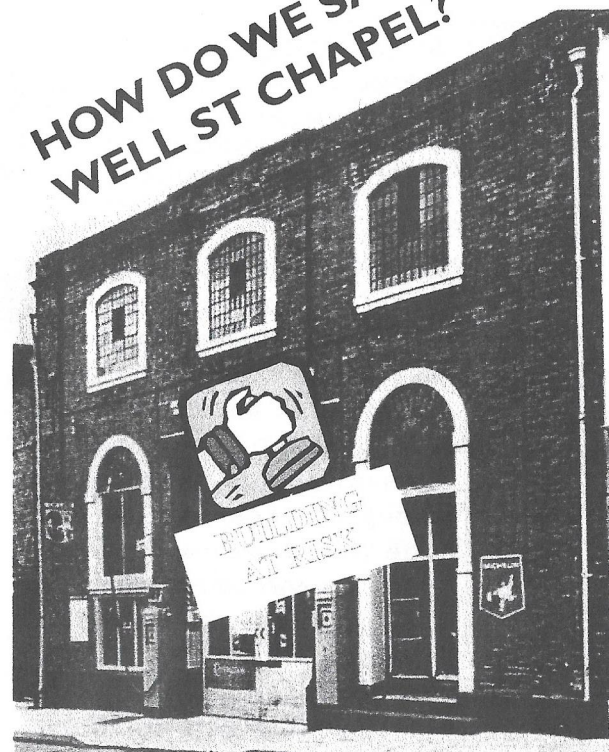
through his great fund of knowledge deployed by a razor-sharp brain that is tempered by great humanity and kindness. The Chairman, whose brain is a "general mess of imprecision of feeling", has 1001 reasons to thank **Charlie**.

Members will know of the tremendous recovery that our Membership Secretary **Geoff Shaw** has made following a severe heart attack. He played a very active and typically trenchant part in our recent Executive, despite having spent that day moving his Office to Fleece Yard. Please don't overdo things, **Geoff**.

Just before **Geoff's** illness, his wife suffered a detached retina. We're glad to see that she has mended well and is back behind the wheel of life.

A lady resident in Mitre St has offered to edit the "What's On" leaflet. We shall be working to assemble a handover and a support package. It is the unanimous wish of the Executive that we do not publish without secure sponsorship.

HOW DO WE SAVE WELL ST CHAPEL?



The Buckingham Society's Planning SIG is concerned about this charming example of early non-conformist architecture in Well St. Frankly, the building is a blot on the landscape. Its last transmogrification into a commercial garage leaves it sadly scarred and down at the heel. We fear its skin is not water-proof and that decay may take place that will render this potential jewel too expensive to restore. The owners are, apparently, willing to sell it, but who wants it, and what activity would be best suited to this open-plan building in its land-locked site that has no parking?


The Buckingham Society is ready to lead a campaign to raise funds to rescue this Chapel, but that must wait upon finding an owner or partner who is willing to risk his capital, a cunning plan that will leave this stack in plan and encourage its community use. All ideas and plans..... Ed

FACT FILE

- Built 1726
- Similar roof to Bicester Chapel of 1728
- Presbyterian Chapel
- Later Independent
- Extended 1809
- Enlarged 1816
- Expanded 1839
- Brick front is early 19th century
- Converted to a school c.1850
- Becomes a Brethren's Assembly
- Changes to a Commercial Premises
- Floor lowered in 1930's
- Last use: a Garage
- Owned by Davey Bros.
- The roof has been restored with the aid of a grant

THE WORK OF OUR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS OR SIGs (Why not join one?)

PLANNING



Planning decisions shape our town. The group's work is guided by the town's "Vision and Design Statement". That lays down parameters based on extensive local consultation. Planning SIG use it and Government documents called PPGs to say what is good, what may be improved and what is execrable. AVDC's Planning Bulletins list all the proposals. Many extensions can be passed "on the nod", but when a large development is proposed, it is "all hands to the deck". Letters are penned to AVDC, and representations are made in person both at AVDC Development Committee and BTC.


Comments from Carolyn Cumming helped the Town Council to reject the downmarket Hotel proposals for the land behind "The Grand Junction". This month we have been busy arguing the case for quality, high-density development on Newman's Field*.

Planning also covers conservation, and "listing" to protect buildings at risk. Currently, the group, or individuals within the group are actively interested in:

- James Smith's restoration of The Barracks and its conversion into two splendid dwellings
- The Police Station
- Grenville Cottage, RLS
- The Cemetery Railings, Brackley Rd
- The former Chapel in Well St *
- An old house in Lenborough Rd

* for more details see the special article.

ST RUMBOLD'S SIG



This special group is Rodney Shirley's brain-child. Their project is almost complete: to put St Rumbold's Well-Head in High Acre field back on the Tourist Map. Watch out for details of the official opening in the Autumn.

OLD CHURCHYARD SIG



What Rodney is to St Rumbold, Tom Ridgway is to The Old Churchyard. We are delighted to announce that Tom has agreed to join the Society's Executive. Tom has gathered a group of people who live near The Old Churchyard and who share an enthusiasm for protecting its ancient relics. This SIG works closely with Dave Marshall of AVDC to improve the appearance of this important green space, the site of our former and greater Parish Church.

COMMUNICATIONS SIG

Communications has been largely incommunicado, silenced by a lack of leadership.

RECREATIONAL PATHS



This is our Green Forum dedicated to getting you out and about on foot and bike on the by-ways of North Bucks. For 17 years they have fought to extend and complete the Riverside Walk. They underpinned the successful Parish Paths map.

BUSTLING LECKHAMPSTEAD

updates from Jack Steggles

Field workers were active again on the 4th January helping the Whittlewood Project (see Bags of Swag, Newsletter 2001/4).

Dr Richard Jones, the research fellow in charge of the groundwork, showed us the preliminary results of our Autumn work. Leckhampstead was well settled in the middle ages. Our finds of pottery showed that between 1100 and 1400 there were areas of common field and three settlements at Middle End, Barrats End, and Weatherhed Farm. The common land lay between Akeley and Leckhampstead.

Looking at the plots on the map one wonders at how repeated ploughing over six or more centuries has not dispersed the finds more thoroughly. Where settlement was concentrated, as many as 48 sherds of medieval pottery were found on a single stint measuring 20 x 1.5m.

An academic paper should be published soon.

In April the people of Lillingstone Lovell

might have wondered whether the **Time Team** had come to the meadow close by their church. But there were no bulldozers, no actor gasping his last, and no comely Fellow of Corpus Christi. Instead they saw just three people using some very modern equipment.

The terrain is undulating in the way that encourages the term 'earthworks' to be applied to maps. The project leader, Dr Richard Jones, showed me an impressive chart of his topographic survey. This had been conducted using a smart theodolite. It can be linked to a satellite positioning system and the data collected and passed immediately to the Ordnance Survey digitised map.

He explained that the chart gave him a hypothesis to work to; that a manor was once sited there, and that fishponds

had been positioned around one side. These, he thought, would have been fed by a stream that still exists.

To check this idea a young graduate student was learning how to measure and plot resistivity. She did this by striding forward and pressing the electrodes of the equipment into the grass. The process was repeated until the whole area was completed. Her results were plotted electronically.

They intended to use magnetometry for the next step, this to decide where stonework ran beneath the grassy surface.

Dr Jones is keen to recruit helpers with a dig to take place during the first two weeks in July. If you would like to know more, and even join in the work, hit the website: www.le.ac.uk/elh/whittlewood/index.htm or 'phone Dr Richard Jones on 07855 006492



Introduction of A SPECIAL PARKING AREA

in Aylesbury Vale District



SPA STATUS FOR BUCKINGHAM AND THE VALE?

BUCKINGHAM SPA 8 miles
Drop in & drink from St Rambold's Well

BCC and AVDC need to know what we think about the creation of a **SPA** (Special Parking Area) across the Vale.

We publish their introduction to this scheme in the pages that follow. Your Society's Executive will debate the issue at their next Meeting towards the end of July and will pen a joint response. We hope that you too will exercise your consultative right and tell our authorities what you think.

We know that Society members are most concerned about parking issues in Buckingham. Responses indicate support for keeping the "Budgens" car park **free at the point of use** through BTC subsidy. Many members complain about thoughtless parking on pavements that is inconvenient and dangerous to pedestrians. However, we know that this practice is often **LEGAL!** (Incidentally, members

will welcome action that is being taken to recover pavements from cyclists—errant cyclists may have their bicycles impounded in the future).

Yellow lines are ignored in Buckingham despite their recent repainting . One example is cars parked on the yellow lines outside the Video Shop in West St that cause a nuisance to those leaving the Town Hall mini roundabout by the West St exit. Such issues reflect poor levels of enforcement caused by insufficient funding that lead to people thinking "Chill out, we shall get away with it".

Initially, the SPA scheme does **NOT** propose Residents Parking Areas in Buckingham. That scheme attempts to inhibit commuters parking outside residential housing, as opposed to within proper car parks. Effectively, the process imposes an annual tax of £50 to park outside one's own home, hypothecated in favour of local enforcement. Many residents see such public spaces as

part of their private "rights", and many a neighbourly dispute originates from unwelcome intrusion into a favourite on-road parking space. Such attitudes forget that many folk have no such space or are restricted through yellow lines and are forced to park elsewhere.

Whatever, we feel - **doing nothing is not an option** for we can be confident that:

- Buckingham's population will grow
- More businesses will open in central Buckingham
- The number of cars per household will increase

Therefore, incipient issues will grow into severe problems that will reduce amenity and convenience. There are no free lunches or free car-parking lots in life, although, when in Spain, Charlie Macdonald saw a vision of salvation for pedestrians paved with pomegranate posts.

THE PARKING PROBLEM

This exhibition is intended to help people understand and comment on the changes proposed for parking control and enforcement within Aylesbury Vale.

In recent years, as more and more of us own cars, their use has increased beyond the capacity of the roads to cope in the peak period.

This brings problems of congestion, safety and impact on residents resulting from parked cars.

The adverse effects are likely to continue to grow unless efforts to tackle the problems are made.

Buckinghamshire County Council with Aylesbury Vale District Council have been working together to achieve a Transport Strategy for Aylesbury which, among other issues, addresses parking.

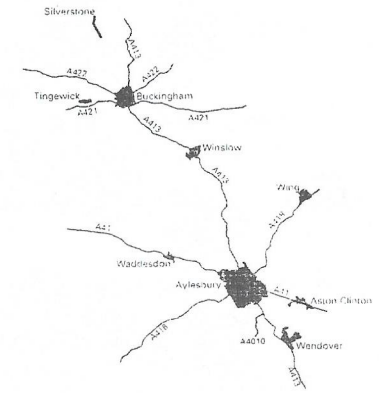
In order to manage the situation and deal with the problems that parked cars can bring BCC/AVDC are looking at new ways of enforcement. Many people seek to park on-street even when there are spaces in existing off-street car parks. This is not using valuable County and District assets to the full.

The County Council has used its power to impose restrictions on where and when people can park on the roads. However it has been dependent upon the police for enforcement.

Unfortunately the fines imposed by Traffic Wardens do not come back to the Chief Constable to support the level of enforcement necessary to achieve compliance with the yellow lines.

Throughout Aylesbury Vale lack of compliance with the yellow lines is growing with no sign of it ending.

However Government has provided a way to overcome the problem by allowing Highway Authorities, such as the County Council, to apply for authority to enforce yellow lines within an area called a **Special Parking Area (SPA)**. Once this occurs enforcement can be undertaken by the Highway Authorities by the issue of **Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)**.



Existing on-street parking restrictions in Aylesbury Vale

The County Council then has to use the income from PCNs to support the enforcement.

The County Council has decided, together with the District Council, to apply, this Autumn, for parking offences throughout Aylesbury Vale to be enforced under a SPA from Spring 2003. This has to apply to on- and off-street parking.

THE REALITY OF THE INTRODUCTION OF A SPECIAL PARKING AREA

The objectives of introducing a Special Parking Area (SPA) are threefold.

- to achieve high levels of compliance with waiting and loading restrictions to meet their intent of improving safety, reducing congestion and improving amenity.
- to maximise the use of the County Council's highway and the District Council's parking assets.
- to reduce crime.

Implementing better enforcement within an area known as a Special Parking Area (SPA) is the only proven way of improving on the levels of enforcement currently provided by the Police.

Both Councils have accepted the reality that a SPA is the right way forward for Aylesbury Vale.

Central Government requires that both on- and off-street parking be included in the SPA at the same time and it must cover the whole of the District. The application to Government by both Councils will need to be made by the end of September in order to bring about the change of enforcement regime in Spring 2003.

Both Councils are agreed that the District Council should undertake all operational aspects of enforcement on behalf of both authorities. This will be achieved by an extension of the current in-house District Council Parking Services used in public off-street parking enforcement.

The enforcement regime will be firm but fair. Someone who parks wrongly, e.g. on a yellow line, will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN). There will be an opportunity for anyone to challenge the Notice if they feel they have been unfairly treated. Representations Officers will be required to be fair in their treatment of individual cases.

An important protection will exist for people receiving PCNs. It will allow hearings by an independent adjudicator, at the request of the person who received the ticket, on six specific grounds defined by law, if there can be no agreement reached on a particular case.

Following a detailed financial appraisal, it is likely that the income from PCNs can match the expenditure on enforcing the regulations so only those who break parking rules will be paying for the enforcement.

Initially, with the exception of Aylesbury, enforcement will take place on the basis of the existing waiting and loading restrictions. However there will need to be continuing consideration of the effects of more enforcement to see if the regulations need modification in the light of experience.

RESIDENTS PARKING AREAS

Both councils have agreed to introduce residents parking areas in Aylesbury only. Other locations in the District will be considered at a later date.

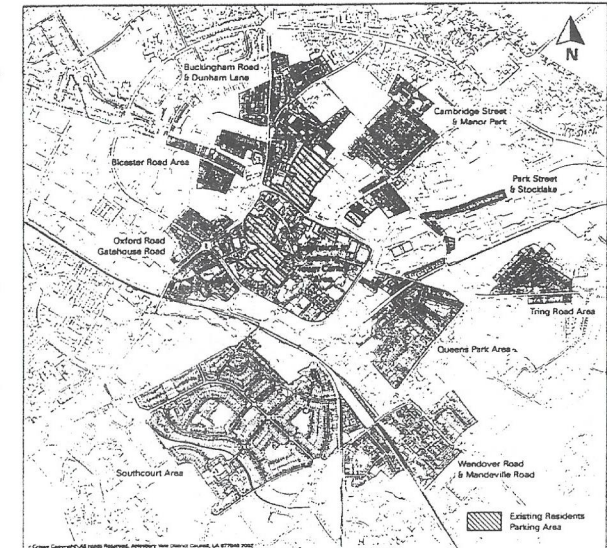
There are currently four residents parking areas in Aylesbury and it is proposed to introduce a further ten. The boundaries of the proposed areas are shown on the plan. You may wish to see if your house is included in any of these areas.

The purpose of introducing the residents parking areas is to ensure the highway outside your house is available for people in your area to park. Of course, if there are other restrictions like double yellow lines outside your house, you will not be able to park.

We are aware that at present there are some commuters who park in residential streets instead of using the public car parks. There is a potential for this to increase if the areas are not implemented.

There is a cost involved in administering and enforcing residents parking schemes. Each permit will cost £50 per year. Visitors' permits will be available at low cost.

If you would like to comment on the boundaries of the residents parking schemes or any other matter, please use the attached comment form.



Special Parking Area Comments Form

Questions you may have

Why do this in the whole of the Vale now?

Problems are not confined to Aylesbury Town and are likely to worsen in coming years. Central Government is not willing to consider anything less than the whole district including both on- and off-street parking.

This is purely a money raising exercise.

Don't I pay enough taxes already?

Compliance with parking regulations is a worsening problem. Better enforcement is needed. This has to be funded. The Special Parking Area allows funding to be generated by income, mainly derived, in Aylesbury Vale, from those who break the regulations. The County Council would not wish to charge the council tax payers as a whole for the cost of taking on the added responsibility.

Why should I have to pay for a residents' permit?

The ownership of a residents' permit enables enforcement action to be taken against those without one. There is a cost to the issue of permits and subsequent enforcement attention which the £50 permit cost would go some way to meeting.

If I get a ticket what will it cost me?

The face value of a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) is £60. However, payment of £30 within 14 days will end the matter.

If I challenge a PCN what happens?

The circumstances surrounding the issue will be investigated, initially by the issuing section. If an error in procedure is apparent, the ticket will be cancelled. If the ticket was correctly issued, and still judged valid, then you may make further representations to special Representation Officers. Their task is to look critically at all the issues brought to their attention. They will ensure all circumstances surrounding the issue of the ticket have been properly considered. They may then either cancel the PCN or confirm that it still stands. Beyond them lies the possibility of appeal to an independent adjudicator for a binding decision.

How do I find out more?

If you have any queries please write to the FREEPOST ADDRESS.

If you would like to make your views known please use the attached comments form and return it to the FREEPOST address. Please return by 12th August 2002

Parking Services
Aylesbury Vale District Council
FREEPOST
Aylesbury
Bucks HP20 3BR

Name:

Address:

.....

.....

Please return this form to:

Parking Services
Aylesbury Vale District Council
FREEPOST
Aylesbury
Bucks HP20 3BR

Please return by 12th August 2002

What the Bishop of Buckingham, Mike Hill, had to say in his sermon during the Thanksgiving Service:

Mike showed his love of heritage and the need for an historical perspective. He told a story of two American lads, (Mike is 50% American) who were amazed by a visit to Windsor Castle, but asked each other why the Queen had built so noble a stack right next to Heathrow Airport? He believes in conservation, but accepts that change is necessary where needs and values alter.

Buildings reflect the age and values that created them. The sacred space that Victorian theology demanded is not continuous with the building that today's theology and attitudes demand. If a church cannot change, it will atrophy, for it will be irrelevant to the needs of its congregation who will go elsewhere.

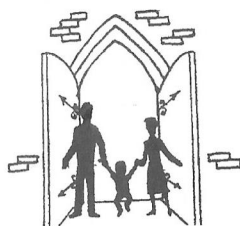
The Open Door Project is about inclusion and accessibility. The need for community, for company, is emphasised early in the Book of Genesis, Adam needed, and was given, company. Contrast the old philosophy: belief plus behave yourself leads to belonging (being granted admittance); with Open Doors which offers acceptance; if accepted, people grow to belong; those who belong, God will inspire with belief in Him.

Open Door is the midwife who delivers Community.



**ST. PETER &
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,
BUCKINGHAM.**

**THANKSGIVING SERVICE
FOR THE
"OPEN DOOR
PROJECT"**



Saturday

29th June 2002

3.00 p.m.

Buckingham Society's Membership Secretary, Geoff Shaw, was remembered by the Vicar in his homily after the Service. Initially, Geoff had opposed the Project, but had told the Vicar from his hospital bed, where he was recuperating after his operation to have a defibrillator fitted to control his heart, that he was pleased that the work had happened, and delighted that the rift that he, Geoff, had feared between the plan's proponents and opponents had not occurred.

It was good to hear Richard Winter, back from serious illness, singing a strong tenor line in Stanford's **high Victorian** "Jubilate in C". Richard has been a vital member of Buckingham choirs for a quarter of a century. A humble man of great integrity, he is about to take early retirement from his job as BCC County Architect. We wish Richard and his wife a happy and long retirement.

A past Vicar, Reverend Jeffery Bell was present with his musical wife, Linda, and daughter Cate. Also, in the Congregation were former Organist, and now Vicar of Parishes near Bishop Stortford, Tony Raven, with his wife, Dot, who seemed not a day older than when she left Buckingham years ago.

118 years after the Victorian architect, JO Scott, completed the west end and gallery of our Parish Church, it has been transformed through the enlightened Parish Council, architect Bo McGuire (and Co.), Basil Wyatt (Principal Contractors), Davidson Masonry and many others.

Our Church has lacked support facilities. It has been a sacred space, priests' vestry and little else—even the Choir has been huddled together in a draughty space under the tower. Nor has there been room to expand: outside lies a BCC right of way, and Castle Hill itself, belongs to our Town Council.

Any change to the building was bound to be invasive and tread on the toes of more than **The Victorian Society**. The easy path was to do nothing. God inspired David Meara, Project Leader, Judith Bundock, and the risk-takers on the P.C. to do the non-PC thing.

In a way they have fitted a 3-up, 3-down home into the back of the House of God. Upstairs there are two "bedrooms" with the original wooden panelled ceilings, beautifully lit by the original gothic windows that now come down to floor level. These will be marvellous flexible spaces to house practices, youth groups, early-learning sessions, all manner of Community gatherings that had no place in the "old" church. Between, there is access to the bell-ringing vestry to the rear and an open, raked balcony or gallery with views over the nave, half the width of the old gallery, but far more comfortable with subtle uplighters making one forget its lack of windows.

Downstairs, in the centre of the "house" is central circulation space with attractive metal stairs to the upper floor, to left and right are a large kitchen, a Parish Office, interview room, support facilities for floral work, a unisex toilet and what was formerly so lacking—storage facilities.

Has the Church been wrecked? Absolutely not. Effectively, the forbiddingly dark space that stretched below the gallery has been extended into a smart cloistered corridor. As you enter the Church, you can look right through a screen of horizontal leaded lights to the high altar, but you are encouraged to proceed straight ahead along an ambulatory space. The upper floor of the "house" is supported by a colonnade surmounted by stone ogives that echo the main arch that supports the roof of the facing chancel. Quality stone materials ensure a perfect blend between original and new. One portion of the sacred space has been removed, the nave is more square, but ample with little feeling of loss. Rarely, have I seen a change that seems so natural and so right. Within minutes one feels it was ever thus.

Looking towards the "house" from the Chancel steps one sees two blind arches as the rear upper walls of the aisles. Uplighters lift the spirit. Decorations are unfinished. One expects, hopes for, some decoration. There is talk of old tablets containing The 10 Commandments being given pride of place. The back wall of the balcony gallery will be enhanced when the copy of Raphael's "Transfiguration" is put back.

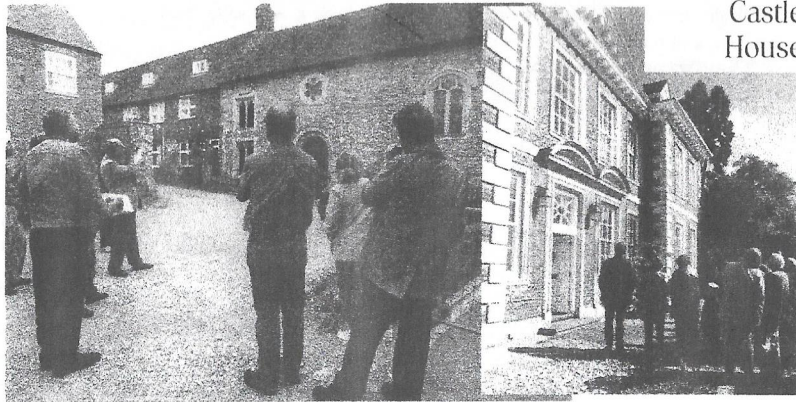
The House of God has gained a community apartment. At a time when the Church struggles to fill its seats on a regular basis, room has been set aside to restore our Parish Church to its former place as the heart (and soul) of our community. **The transfiguration is a triumph.** The harmony of the blend of new wine in an old vessel is astonishing. Modern facilities have been provided without resort either to deadening architectural pastiche, or a brutal conjunction with the "in yer face" new dwelling yelling "I'm right, I am the only way" at its stony faced elder.

Do visit this new place. Do plan how you, your group, your organisation, can make good use of the facilities, and, thereby, increase community and togetherness in our town of Buckingham.

Ed Grimsdale
talking to a
town tour
group outside
THE OLD
GAOL



Look up to
Castle
House



Ed explaining how the Chantry Chapel represents the early years of RLS, whilst the Latin House next door, dates from 1684, following the burning down of original master's house, possibly following a careless fire caused by a cigarette after the Head went to bed with Mary Pix, the daughter of one of his teachers. Mary became one of the first female playwrights in England.

heritage opendays 2001

We print the critique prepared by Carolyn Cumming (and the Planning Sig) about proposals to extend the David Wilson Homes Heartlands' developments through Newmans Field because of the importance of the site to all residents of Buckingham. It shows our Society taking the lead by insisting that high standards of design laid down in national guidance are adhered to in our locality. It further shows the amount of homework that our Officers do to ensure that our voice is well supported by evidence. Both Carolyn and Ed made short presentations to Buckingham Town Council before that body considered their reaction to the plan. Both felt that a positive impact had been made. The Society hopes to speak to AVDC Development Control Committee before they make the final decision.

Land at Portfields off Moorhen Way (Newman's Field)

We should like to make the following comments:

Taken as a whole, the history of the development of The Portfields (sometimes known as The Heartlands) has been a series of mistakes and missed opportunities. It presents a classic example of the errors and the frustrations that are caused by the lack of a proper long-term plan.

This latest application appears to compound the problems. It demonstrates:

1. No regard for recent planning guidance
2. A failure to apply the Design Guidelines in Buckingham's Vision & Design Statement
3. How the lack of a clear-sighted policy has led to very serious access problems

1. Recent Planning Policy Guidance

It must be emphasised that this site is :

- a. an historic one, being inextricably linked to the agricultural, market traditions of the town
- b. adjacent to the Conservation Area and sits alongside and within the riverside amenity walks
- c. within ten minutes walk of:
 - the centre of town/library/museum/doctors' surgery
 - the bus station
 - the secondary schools and at least one primary school

- the community centre
- the shops, including the town supermarket
- d. and within ten minutes cycle ride of:
 - the industrial parks
 - the ringroad supermarket
 - plus all of the above

I should be regarded as an ideal opportunity to espouse the criteria set forth in Para 56 of PPG3,

- ♥ “ create places and spaces with the needs of people in mind, which are attractive, have their own distinctive identity but respect and enhance local character;
- ♥ Promote designs and layouts which are safe and take account of public health, crime prevention and community safety considerations;
- ♥ Focus on the quality of the places and living environments being created and give priority to the needs of pedestrians rather than the movement and parking of vehicles;
- ♥ Avoid inflexible planning standards and reduce road widths, traffic speeds and promote safer environments for pedestrians
- ♥ And promote the energy efficiency of new housing where possible.”

The government has made it clear in PPG3 that the keys to the successful integration of new developments are:

- ✓ Quality of Design
- ✓ Building in Context
- ✓ Shared Vision with Local Communities

PPG3, Para 54, Designing for Quality

"Good design and layout of new development can help to achieve the Government's objectives of making the best use of previously-developed land and improving the quality and attractiveness of residential areas. In seeking to achieve these objectives, local planning authorities and developers should think imaginatively about designs and layouts which make more efficient use of land without compromising the quality of the environment"

Para 55

"Local planning authorities should develop a shared vision with their local communities of the types of residential environments they wish to see in their area....."

Para 56

"New housing development of whatever scale should not be viewed in isolation. Considerations of design and layout must be informed by the wider context, having regard not just to any immediate neighbouring buildings but the townscape and landscape of the wider locality .The local pattern of streets and spaces, building traditions, materials and ecology should all help to determine the character and identity of a development, recognising that new building technologies are capable of delivering acceptable built forms and may be more efficient... "

The government wishes to avoid the inefficient and profligate use of land.

PPG 3, Para 57, Making the best use of land

" Local planning authorities should therefore examine critically the standards they apply to new development, particularly with regard to roads, layouts and car parking, to avoid the profligate use of land."

At approximately 16 dwellings per hectare, the density of housing proposed in this applica-

tion falls ar short of the recommended minimum.

PPG3 Para 58

"Local planning authorities should therefore:

- Avoid developments which make inefficient use of land (those of less than 30 dwellings per hectare net)
- Encourage housing development which makes more efficient use of land (between 30 and 50 dwellings per hectare net)
-

In view of the above guidance, we believe that higher densities could be achieved **without** loss of character or quality, by the inclusion of more 2 and 3 bedroom properties. There are many examples in the town where the mixed use of flats and three storey accommodation have made a positive contribution to the townscape. (We would, of course, be very happy to identify these for all concerned).

2. Buckingham Vision & Design Statement

The guidelines, which have been adopted as supplementary planning guidance, go very much in hand with recent Government policy **in setting new development in context.**

We have referred above to the importance PPG3 gives to character and identity .PPG 1 gives further and specific weight to design issues, in particular:

PPG11 Para.13 Design

..The appearance of proposed development and its relationship to its surroundings are therefore material considerations in determining planning applications and appeals."

PPG1, Para.17

"Local planning authorities should reject poor designs, particularly where their decisions are supported by clear plan policies or supplementary design guidance which has been subjected to public consultation and adopted by the local planning authority. Poor designs may include those inappropriate to their context, for example those clearly out of scale or incompatible with their surroundings"

We would point out that houses facing **away** from the river are entirely inappropriate on the north and west of this site. Turning towards the river and the town would not only present a more attractive face but also increases safety and security for residents .

PPG 1 Annex A, Para A1

"Policies should be based on a proper assessment of the character of the surrounding built and natural environment, and should take account of the defining characteristics of each local areaThe fact that a design or layout is appropriate for one area does not mean it is appropriate everywhere. ..."

We consider that this application has **failed** to take account of the "defining characteristics", which are set out in the **Vision & Design Statement.**

- X There is no mention of detailed materials
- X The house designs are clearly "types", which are repeated everywhere.
- X The layout bears no relation to the town's traditional pattern of streets and yards .
- X There is no recognition of the views over the river and into the town ' -

× The roofline is static.

We refer in particular to the following guidelines:

Layout	Materials	Scale	Landscape	Detail	Elevation
1	1		4	1	1
3	3		6	2	2
5	4			5	3
6	6				5
					6

3. Problems of Access

The Buckingham Society has consistently opposed a vehicular access road from Bridge Street to Portfields alongside the recreational riverside area.

We therefore welcome the proposal which seeks to provide emergency access only. However, in the absence of detailed plans outlining the exact nature of these proposals, we are concerned that the construction of an access designed for emergency use only might lead to more general traffic access. This would pose an unacceptable danger to both the flow of traffic along Bridge Street and to pedestrians and cyclists along the riverside.

We would like to see specific safeguards and limitations applied to the construction of this route so that traffic (other than pedestrian and cycle) remains restricted to emergency use. We are also concerned that existing traffic to and from Moorhen Way will use the route through Newmans Field and Treefields to the Mallard Drive exit / entrance. We suggest that appropriate traffic calming measures are introduced at junctions between Newmans Field/Treefields/Mallard Drive.

We understand that the sole vehicular access poses a dilemma. However, if stricter car parking standards are applied and the dwellings are designed for smaller one-car (or no car) households, the problems can be solved.

We would also like to ensure that the opportunities to encourage cycling and walking are maximised. The current application shows no dedicated cycleway. There should at the very least be a clearly delineated link to existing cycleways and a new link to the bridge between the skateboard park and Comwalls Meadow.

We urge the Council- and all concerned -to adopt a far-sighted, long term, imaginative view with this site. As stated above, it is a rare opportunity to create a residential development where town centre services are readily accessible by means other than the car. This factor must be capitalised on. If we fail to grasp the opportunity when it arises to create genuinely sustainable developments, then we not only fail our communities, but we are in breach of the new guidance and the new objectives issued by National and European Governments to promote sustainable patterns of development.

This application is badly thought out, it has not taken account of recent planning policy guidelines and it does not reflect the adopted supplementary planning guidance for Buckingham. It should be rejected.

updates from:

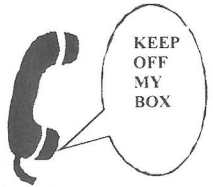
pathfinder programme

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** has applied to be a member of this programme, although it is clear that demand will exceed supply!

third-party right of appeal

The Civic Trust have represented our view on this matter: **it is wrong that developers have the right of appeal against the refusal of planning permission but members of the public have no right of appeal against the grant of permission, no matter how strong their case.** Let us hope that government, that listens so acutely to big business, also hears the pleas from their constituents.

the
civic
trust



better news on telephone boxes

Planning Minister, Sally Keeble, has announced, in response to lobbying, by **the civic trust**, that special permission must be sought before advertisements are placed on telephone boxes in conservation areas. Councils must prepare policies to deal with applications. The Trust asks us to write to our local planning department informing them of the new rules and asking them to prepare a policy to reject all applications for phone box adverts. **We have written to Norman Skedge.**

The Buckingham Society is ready for the challenge of change and is applying to become a **pathfinder civic society**. The Civic Trust is looking for 40 progressive societies across England and will train them to become even better. With this help we expect to increase our membership, widen our range of activities and deepen our influence. If our application is successful, our delegates will attend three 3-day conferences led by experts that will cover **leadership, civic design, and project development**. We shall know by the middle of August whether we have been selected for pathfinder status.

civicrofocus, the quarterly magazine of The Civic Trust, includes a number of articles relevant to regeneration of buildings at risk. These should provide ideas and support as our Society grapples with buildings in our conservation area. It may be, for instance, that we can involve the Architectural Heritage Fund in our effort to examine the future for **Well St Chapel** (see our special article).

NOTES AND QUERIES

Joyce Stearn wrote to Ed pointing out an error over the location of **The Royal Oak P.H.** in the last Newsletter. She points out that it is 32 Hunter St, not Nelson St, and that Hunter St starts at Norton House. Joyce records that she was born at 36 Nelson St in 1925 and remembers that there was a name plate attached to The Old Churchyard wall opposite Norton House that read "Hunter St". **It would be nice to have that roadplate replaced.**

Denis Tunks, our Area Representative for the Fair Ground Association, also, pointed out the Editor's ignorance about Hunter St., that he points out is in an area once known as Prebend End.

ST RUMBOLD'S SPELL

Denis also feels that St Rumbold's Lane is wrongly spelled on its

road signs, that it should be St Rumwold's Lane. He traces the error back to the Victorians. Rodney Shirley, however, states that St Rumbald has enjoyed many spellings for a millennium, or longer.

Resident Buckingham Society sage, **Tom Hudson**, adds more corrective information on the name "**The Royal Oak**", such pubs are named after the Oak in which King Charles II hid as a fugitive following his defeat at the Battle of Worcester. The Inns are marked by signs showing his crowned head in the tree.

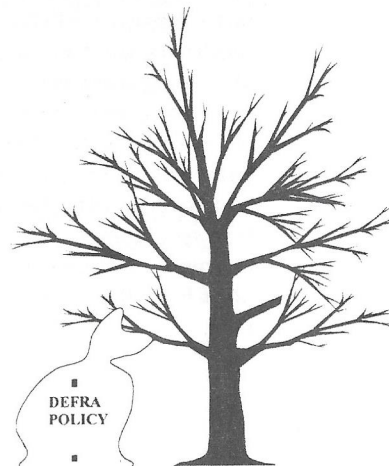
Nena Ververoglou, Assistant Policy Adviser to Margaret Beckett, wrote on her behalf on the "Charging for Plastic Bags" issue stating:

"It is an interesting approach, and we will be keen to hear of any assessment the Irish Government undertake of the success of this scheme in a few months time, particularly to see, for example, whether it has any

effect on litter and waste minimisation".

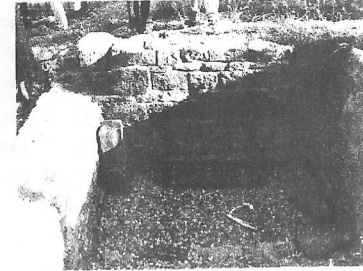
John Bercow, also responded and revealed that, true to form, he had asked government about their position.

It is fascinating that within days Michael Meacher had announced a policy change: a plastic bag charge would be imposed in Britain. Unfortunately, Michael does not seem to have consulted with the great tax Guru, Gordon Brown, who is said to be furious. I fear that Michael's initiative will be lost—you'll probably find the details blown by the wind in a plastic bag dangling from a hedgerow near you.



NEWS

ST RUMBOLD'S WELL-HEAD PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION ON HIGH ACRE FARM'S FIELD

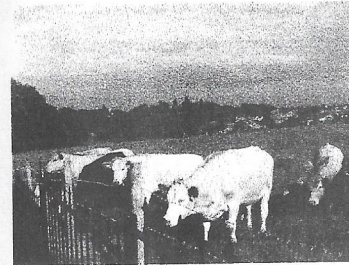


MIKE FARLEY'S EXCAVATION IS COMPLETE

The excavation reveals the extent of the ruins and has astonished Conduit experts, such as Rodney and Barbara Shirley, by revealing that the entrance faced the railway cutting. Note the recent, mysterious appearance of a celtic harp.



KEVIN ASHBY, VICAR OF BUCKINGHAM, BLESSES THE SITE DURING "ST RUMBOLD'S REVELS" HELD IN LATE JUNE.



The cows, who for generations have sought water from the spring in the Conduit House, bow their heads in veneration of Buckingham's child saint.

RIVERSIDE WALK SIGNAGE

Years of prompting from our Recreational Paths group has caused action from AVDC. Ian Brearley has confirmed to our Recreational SIG that AVDC has spent over £3000 replacing the damaged and destroyed finger pointers on the attractive signs that mark the course of our Riverside Walk. Much of the surveying work on the project has been done by **Jack Steggles, Rodney Shirley, Dennis Osborne and Charlie Macdonald**. You will have noticed the increasing tendency for signs of all shapes and sizes to be damaged or uprooted by our minority element of vandals.

Please don't put up with this wanton destruction, do phone our local police and report any incidents that you see.



Tom Ridgway's Old Churchyard group has persuaded Dave Marshall & AVDC to give the place a health and safety haircut. Tom & Co have also raised half the money necessary to have the railings painted. **Well done, everybody!**

FISHERS FIELD BRIDGE

This useful bridge that acts as a pedestrian shortcut to Barham Lodge seems to be doomed. We have written to Billy Steele at AVDC and he quickly phoned back to say that, whilst he wanted the bridge to remain, there was no funding available from AVDC or BTC and there were still difficulties with access since the owners of Barham Lodge flats did not want to cede a right of way over their land. Crest Homes, who own at least half of the bridge, prefer to demolish the bridge to spending their money on rendering it safe. They have spent no cash on maintenance for the last dozen years. Jack Steggles has taken professional advice and it appears that it would cost about £2000 to gain a professional engineer's report into what needs to be done to restore the bridge. The Buckingham Society has supported the campaign by some of the Fishers' Field residents, including appearing at a photo-opportunity. However, without proper access on the Barham Lodge side, there seems no likelihood of a positive outcome. What a shame!

Billy Steele, Adoptions Officer at AVDC, has been working like fury to correct many of the outstanding bugbears on the Heartlands. He been in receipt of advice from Ted Farmer and Ed Grimdsdale. Issues that have lain dormant for years have been unearthed. Both Ted and Ed have been impressed.

CASTLE BRIDGE

Castle Bridge is being repaired. BCC estimate the cost will be £240 000 and that it will take Miletree Construction 13 weeks until the end of September to complete the work. It is time to say "Well Done" to those who installed the temporary traffic lights that have responded so promptly to each vehicle during the years that the bridge has suffered from restricted loads and half-duplex operation.

We shall need to monitor traffic once full duplex, 40 tonne weight, facilities are restored. Will the Tingewick Rd become a rat-run entrance to our town and will HGV's take a shortcut through our winding, historic streets as they shy away from the by-pass? During these last years the quiet Tingewick Rd approach to town has been a real joy with the rolling field belonging to High Acre Farm to the right and a lovely view of our Parish Church straight ahead. The future may hold an estate of 400 houses despoiling the green field and lorries belching in front of you. **You have been warned!**

buckinghamsummerfestival2002

This week-long event has grown; this year there were 18 concerts, making it as important to Buckingham as the BBC PROMS are to London. Alan Brook, (Buckingham Society Executive Member), remains the *éminence grise* and his house is the Festival Office.

I was sorry to hear only one Concert. I heard the Maurizi Ensemble on Friday Evening playing two substantial chamber works: Schubert's Sextet and Schumann's Piano Quintet. Generously, the Maurizi repeated the first movement exposition in the Dvorak. Frankly, I could have done without the reprise for the work is unfinished Dvorak, the real Dvorak flickers, but this is work in progress, a musician learning the tricks of his trade by doing. Dvorak was no Schubert, he was not even a Schumann in terms of his speed of learning. This Sextet is fluent, but prolix, the inspiration is spread

too thinly; the longueurs reminded the audience of the Radcliffe's hard seats (one stalwart blurted that he suffered from "one-hour buttocks"). The performance was sound, with real intensity from Robert Secret's viola, but otherwise lacked complete conviction.

The Interval revealed another Radcliffe problem as a Festival venue: drinks. The Foyer is tiny and the access from the Hall is singular; resulting in a slow-moving queue and inadequate room to meet and greet.

It was worth waiting for the Schumann; a brilliant work, played with real fire and panache, with Helen Davies (piano, wife of the 1st violinist) showing real rhythmic fervour from the outset. The string quartet caught her mood and the work's essence. The Radcliffe Centre redeemed itself through its marvellous acoustics. Great Stuff!

Sadly, I felt out of place. One week before retirement, yet almost the youngest member of the audience! Yet, I know RLS students were bombarded with brochures. **What's to be done, - schools workshop? This Festival puts Buckingham on the musical map. Its future depends on attracting a youthful crowd.**

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Ed



WANTED

THE BUCKINGHAM
SOCIETY IS CHARITY
NUMBER 268503 and is
affiliated to
THE CIVIC TRUST

Articles, poems and jottings whether serious, frivolous or speculative looking at the state of Buckingham today in 2002 or at the future of our town in a local, national or worldwide context.

**How will John Prescott's bid to concrete over
Greater Milton Keynes alter our Town?**

How will new communications corridors, such as the East-West Rail link, change our lifestyle?

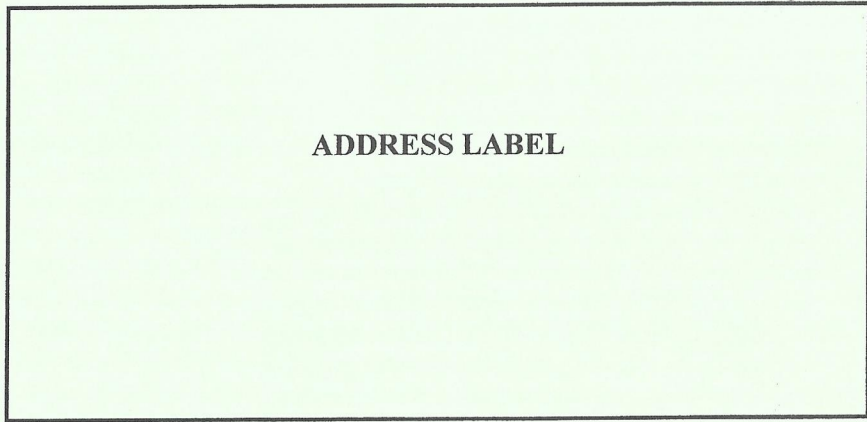
**How many extra houses do we expect in Buckingham
and where should they be placed?**

Whither culture in Buckingham?

What parts of our heritage do we need to preserve for posterity?

Please send your contribution, or idea, to **Ed** by the start of September.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER:
"BUCKINGHAM'S EXCITING FUTURE"**



ADDRESS LABEL