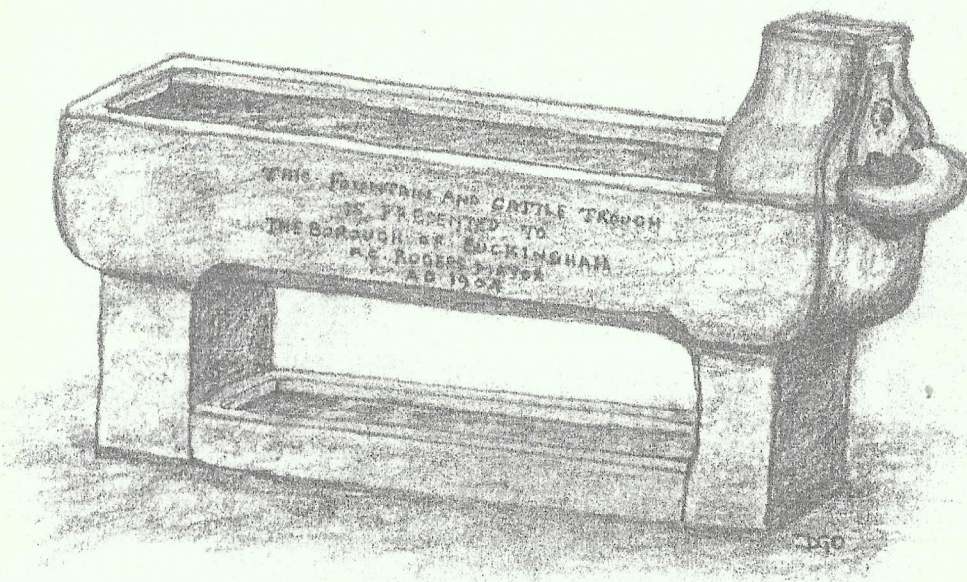


THE
BUCKINGHAM
SOCIETY

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EDWARDIAN
BUCKINGHAM MAGAZINE



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the
civic
trust

has awarded
the buckingham society
pathfinder status

EDWARDIAN TIMES IN BUCKINGHAM (1901-1911 and the extension until World War I)



What stands out in Buckingham that is typically **Edwardian**?

The **Edwardian's** War was the Boer War.

It was brutal and one of the last conflicts in which the horse played a vital role. The suffering of horses in that War touched female hearts at home and led to a plethora of horse troughs across England. There are several lovely granite examples in the centre of Buckingham.

The spirit of **Edwardian** times was lighter and less earnest than the Victorian one. In Buckingham the Reading Room in The Town Hall that had afforded cheap education to several generations, was changed to a "Billiards Room".

A Victorian hero, Lord Salisbury, in power for his 3rd premiership since 1895, retired from politics in 1902. He had struck a chord in conservative Buckingham. We have at least three tributes to his memory: Salisbury Cottage in Bath Lane, and Salisbury House in Well St. Had Lord Salisbury called on those living in "his" villas, there would have been no more meeting of minds than occurred when our present Queen memorably took "Tea for One" in an ordinary dwelling in Glasgow. Lord Salisbury was an aristocrat, a member of the upper crust; men who worked for a living were as foreign to him as Russian peasants were to the Romanovs. There had been a marked lack of social legislation under Lord Salisbury. Social stratification would have been seen in our Parish Church: at the front: big-wigs and farming gentry; in the middle, the mid-

dle classes—Buckingham Shopkeepers; to the rear the untouchables—Buckingham labourers. As now, the Vicar would greet parishioners as they left his church, but there would be no hand-shake for the lower classes. At a time when servants were becoming a dying breed, hands stretched out to grasp pale hands but not pail-hands.

The distribution of wealth was skewed more in **Edwardian** times than at any other time in British history. In 1911, of the country's 19 million earners, over 16 million earned less than £100 per annum, whilst only 180 000 people acquired more than £5000 in a year. One suspects that the figures for Buckingham might be even more stark with perhaps 2700 of the population eking an existence from less than a £100 per year. An income of £1000 would allow sufficient "spare cash" to employ a servant. But, in these years before WWI, a number of factors combined to decimate the number of households employing servants:

♦ Wage inflation

♦ Four inventions:

- ◇ the **bathroom**
- ◇ the **water heater**
- ◇ the **washing machine**
- ◇ the **vacuum cleaner**

"Man the Provider" had chased women from the fields into the home during Victorian times, now running water and electrically powered gadgets were beginning to replace hired hands as her main support

What was this novelty—the "bathroom"? It started as a status symbol in the 1880's, but by 1901 most provincial homes with more than 3 bedrooms included one. The

bathroom was literally a room much more spacious than the majority of today's bathroom for it was a bedroom converted to a new use through the installation of one or two sanitary facilities. The typical washstand would have cost £3-£5. A shower or bath would have been more expensive at £25. Toilets had not penetrated the bathroom. If they were indoors, they would have been housed in a separate room. We would be confused for the **Edwardian** name for washstands was lavatories (ie from the Latin: lavoro, I wash). Why did Mr Pooter think he was bleeding to death in his bath? Answer: the first commonly available baths were of cast iron, they needed constant repainting to inhibit rusting, for hot water caused their original paint to peel. Poor Mr Pooter climbed into a bath whose red lead paint was not dry.

The **Edwardian** middle classes established our common concept of the standard family home: 2 storeys with 3 bedrooms, inside toilet and bathroom, lit by electricity with a telephone for communication, occupied by a single family with a private garden to the rear of the house.

What have we retained that the **Edwardians** first introduced in their homes in Buckingham?

- ♦ Borders to wallpaper
- ♦ Stencilling on walls
- ♦ Rugs on wooden floors
- ♦ D.I.Y.

The small homes or cottages of workers in Buckingham contained little more than a kitchen, a bedroom and a main downstairs room known locally as "The House". The cost of furnishing a 2-roomed home a century ago is estimated at £12.60. Were a family to move, it is likely that all their belongings could be carried by one carrier and his cart. In 2002, an ordinary family's belongings would occupy upwards of 20 cartloads. Working class family income may have been around £1 a week—barely enough to feed a family of four. Most people in Buckingham couldn't afford newly invented labour-saving inventions such as vacuum cleaners. To buy a small model cost £35 in 1906. Even middle class families found ownership of vacuum cleaners to be beyond their means, so the devices were mounted on carts and hired for the day with the hoses being passed through the front windows of dwellings.

The **Edwardians** in Buckingham were possibly more prudish over sex and probably practised it less frequently than their Victorian forbears. Mechanical contraception was associated with prostitution. At home, they believed what an eminent doctor had written in 1890: "Using contraceptives would lead to a mania leading to suicide amongst women". Recommended contraceptive practice after intercourse included:

- ♥ **Coughing**
- ♥ **Jumping up and down**
- ♥ **Violent exercise.**

(With such advice, it is surprising that it took 60 years for popular music to invent the "**Twist and Shake**".) World War I shook **Edwardians** out of their sexual complacency: Marie Stopes' revolutionary views were first published in 1918.

In the absence of contraception babies arrived, despite 20% of the female population being lifelong spinsters. Going to hospital for the birth was not the preferred option, since doctors cost three times the rate for midwives and people knew that hospitals were dangerous places full of infectious diseases (what has changed?). Back in 1880 statistics showed that 1 in 29 of hospital births resulted in death of the mother, whereas the rate for home births was 1 in 212. Such statistics exaggerate the risk of going to hospital since only a known risk of complications could induce most pregnant women to have their baby in a hospital, even one as good as Buckingham's Nursing Home which had an enviably good record thanks to the joint influence of Florence Nightingale, and Dr George De'Ath. The death of the latter at the very inception of the Edwardian era was a tragedy for Buckingham. It may be thought that Dr. De'Ath laid down his life so that the people of Buckingham might lead longer, healthier ones.

There were few leisure activities in Buckingham outside the male resort of choice—the Public House. Pipe-smoking was a popular Edwardian recreation and public house licensees in our town used it as a loss-leader. Come to *The Royal Oak*, drink your beer at 2d a pint and enjoy a **free** pipe of baccy. The ploy was similar to today's offer of a free salted peanuts or olives on the bar. Edwardian pipe tobacco was a fierce mixture. It calmed nerves, but it inflamed and dried the throat causing a continuing need for a second and third glass of porter.

It is difficult to imagine in these days of the global economy that 100 years ago, there were £5 and

£10 banknotes in circulation headed "Bucks and Oxon Union Bank". They were issued from the building we know as "Lloyd's Bank" in Buckingham. It is a century now since Lloyds absorbed our local bank. Then, the Bank Manager was an immensely powerful figure in local Society, now he's a minion, less powerful, perhaps, than the bank's call centre staff who are more likely to be found in Bombay than Buckingham.

The decline in Buckingham's population that started in Victorian times continued at much the same rate though the **Edwardian** era. **Edwardian** Britain was the most urbanised and the third wealthiest in the world (after the USA and Australia) but Buckingham, still an agricultural community, suffered from the vast quantities of cheap imported meat and wheat. Dairy products, many sent by railway to London including the processed products of the Thew, Gilbey and Hooker, peptonised milk factory in Chandos Rd, propped up our community.

Buckingham people built little in **Edwardian** times to mark the shift from the Victorian spirit—a spirit that we that we can identify as part-formed in Gawcott by Sir George Gilbert Scott, King of the Goths. One public building, RLS in Chandos Rd, captured the new age and something from the *Arts and Crafts* movement; it may be typified as Richard Norman Shaw and water.

Edwardian Buckingham slept; a quiet backwater served by an ever-silting canal.

PETER CONROY: ONE OF BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY'S EDWARDIAN MEMBERS

Peter Conroy was born in 1911 at the end of the **Edwardian** era in County Kildare. One of 7 boys in a family of 11 children, Peter emigrated to England to join the forces. Whilst in the Army he won the Old Goldsmiths' Boxing Cup as Heavyweight Champion in 1931. Peter recollects travelling on a bus after his feat, in a dizzy, dazed condition, fearful that he might be arrested by the police for appearing to be drunk. In World War II, Peter was a Grenadier Guard. Peter's main profession was in the police force. If you were one of the horde lining Oxford St for the Coronation of George VI in 1937, you may have been marshalled by Peter.

Peter has always possessed a talent for drawing and the police used that talent, not only through using his cartoons in *The Police Review*, but also employing him to record "Scenes of Crime". One of his more gruesome tasks was to map the scene of a lady murdered by her husband; the force of his blow to her jaw sent her false teeth down her throat. The murderer disposed of the body in the river great Ouse near to Castle Bridge in Buckingham.

Peter found night duties in Buckingham to be sleepy affairs; not once did he catch a burglar in the act despite his active patrolling. In the morning he'd feel guilty as colleagues remarked "How did you miss X in Y St last night, Peter?" However, he was able to do one old lady some good. It might have been "Past three o'clock on a cold and frosty morning" when he saw the poor soul, dressed only in a thin nightie, wandering up Bridge St. Peter gave chase and caught up with the lady in West St. No doubt, in the curiously stilted language that policeman used in those days (the memory of which still causes Peter to chuckle), Peter would have invited the woman to, "Please proceed home with me." Thus, the lost lady was

found, and rescued from a freezing, frightful fate.

Peter used to keep warm on long winter nights by popping in to get a cup of tea from the Night Watchman of the United Dairies Milk Factory at the end of Chandos Rd.

Whilst in our police force, Peter cornered a rabbit in Bridge St near Ganderton's Garage and arrested it. He, also, remembers a hen pheasant successfully rearing a brood of chicks in Verney Close.

Once Peter was called out by a local Doctor. "I'm having trouble with a Doctor (a locum)," the Doctor said. Apparently, the locum was staying at the house of the Buckingham Doctor. That day the locum had arrived late for tea, and our Doctor's wife refused to serve him. The locum attacked the wife. Our Doctor defended his wife and fisticuffs ensued. It was Peter's job to sort out the mess. Acting like a true Wild West Marshal, Peter ordered the locum to "pack your bags and get out of town" and then escorted him, rather bathetically, to the nearest bus-stop. "Couldn't do that, these days," Peter muses.

There were Prisoners of War stationed around Buckingham particularly in the Water Stratford Camp after 1945. Peter feels he missed a trick when a German POW escaped Peter's clutches whilst chicken rustling in Buckingham. Peter feels he should have hotfooted it to the Camp gates to arrest the POW on as he returned with his booty. On another occasion, Peter was told to escort ex-King Peter of Yugoslavia who had come from London to make an official visit to the Camp. Peter was astounded that the Camp's Yugoslavian inmates cold-shouldered their King—they preferred to carry on working! After Peter retired in 1966 from the Police, he worked for a time for the Diplomatic Radio Service;



CrimeWatch

"PLEASE HELP US TO IDENTIFY THIS MAN",

says
Inspector Wootton

THE DENNING
LAW LIBRARY

Peter Conroy became an unofficial cartoonist to the University of Buckingham. He produced many sketches for their publications including Max Beloff and Alan Peacock. Those of you who remember the early days will soon put a name to this dapper figure, even before you notice the helpful tag. Peter has time for his sketching because he never watches television.

John Femberton, University Librarian

Television? The word is half Latin and half Greek. No good can come of it. Well, who made that remark?

C.P. Scott, Editor of *The Guardian*

one of his tasks for them was to man a relay station in Botswana for three months when troubles broke out in Rhodesia.

Peter and his wife were active members of The Buckingham Action Society and he remembers Stanley Meadows and his wife with affection. "Stanley has a good business sense, who had the knack of pleasing everybody."

Peter and his wife, Catherine, who, sadly, died last year, had a large family of their own. The couple returned to Buckingham in 1966 when two of their sons joining St. Bernardine's College. Peter lives almost next door at number 23 London Rd. Peter's children are now spread far and wide. Paul, remembered by those at RLS as a brilliant rugby player, emigrated to Australia. Whilst there, his rugby career was brutally cut short by a freak accident caused by a pot-hole in a rugby pitch. Paul and his wife have two children. Many of you will know another son, Mark Conroy as the unflappable Jeffs' Bus Driver and tireless cyclist. John was called to be a missionary in The Cameroons after once passing out of Sandhurst College as an Army Captain whilst Kay (Kathleen) became a teacher at Thornton College and later in London. Ed works in a factory in Milton Keynes and is researching Buckingham in the 1881 Census. Tragically, Leon, a Parish Priest in Lynton, Devon, died young from cancer.

Sadly, Peter Conroy is now house-bound. No longer will teachers arriving at RLS, as the writer, Ed Grimsdale, used to do at 7.50 am, see Peter striding down Dark Alley to Mass at St Bernardine's in Chandos Rd. It is good news to hear that Peter is still drawing cartoons. His figures seem to derive much from the leprechauns and characters of the Old Ireland of Peter's youth coupled to the ebullience and swank



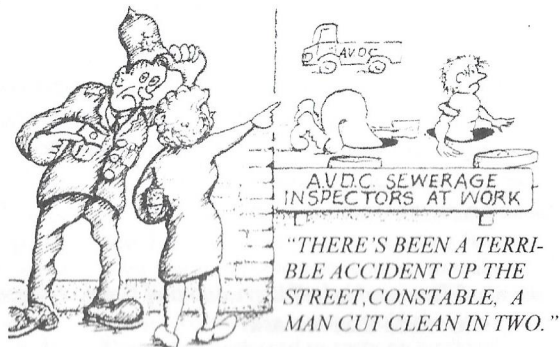
of the Edwardian "Burlington Bertie". We salute Peter and thank him for making Buckingham a safer and better-humoured place.



I'm Burlington Bertie

I rise at ten thirty and saunter along like a toff,
I walk down the Strand with my gloves on my hand,
Then I walk down again with them off.

"Burlington Bertie from Bow"
(Edwardian song from 1915)

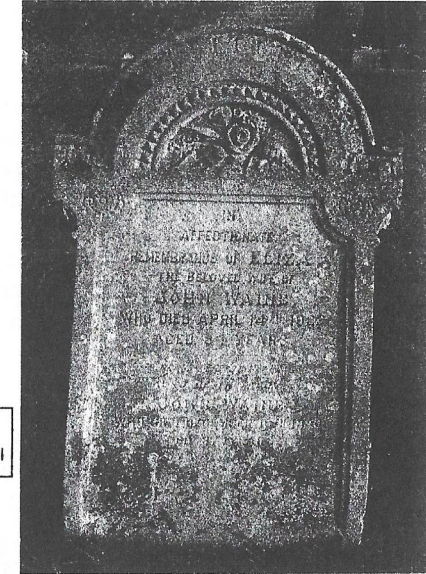


JOHN WAINE OF MITRE STREET, BUCKINGHAM'S LEADING EDWARDIAN STONEMASON

John Waine was cousin to Flora Thompson of "Lark Rise to Candleford" fame. John was the leading stonemason of Henry Harrison's firm. During John's lifetime, that firm had premises in Buckingham's Cow Fair, High St, Ford St and, finally, Hunter St. You will have noticed one of his specialities—a celtic cross—many times whilst entering Buckingham via London Rd from Tesco. It surmounts the bell-cote on the gable end of the "Chapel" of St Bernardine's.



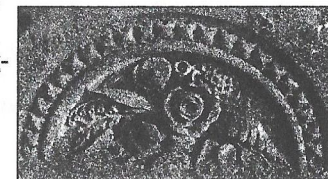
Celtic Cross
best seen from the Swan Pool



John's superb work adorns many Victorian and Edwardian buildings and monuments in North Bucks and the surrounding area. Our Brackley Rd Cemetery contains a plethora of his pieces including the gravestone that John carved during his 80's to be a memorial to his wife, Eliza. It is typical of his designs which are notable for their patterns of intertwined flowers.

John had a prickly, "artistic" temperament. Possibly that developed as a result of living with his father (also called John) who is reputed to have been an alcoholic. John, junior, liked his own company and set himself the task of walking around Buckingham four times a day, and followed that with a yomp to Launton (22 miles-there and back) each Sunday to visit his brother, Thomas, who was a wheelwright.

During our Year of the River, we must remember the waste land between Markham's Court and the river—Uncle Recab's orchard in "Lark Rise to Candleford".



A detail from the headstone of Eliza and John Waine

Of Thomas Hearne, Stonemason:
"He had in his day been a first-class workman with experience, skill and that something which is beyond skill which is a compound of taste and imagination. His firm valued his service. When there had been a difficult or delicate job to be done, it had been given to him as a matter of course. Specimens of his workmanship stood and must still be standing all over the countryside, in the renovated stonework of restored churches, the arches of bridges, stone piers at entrance gates, and on the facades of mansions."

Flora Thompson "Still Glides the Stream" (1926), her final book.

EDWARDIAN TIMES WERE MOMENTOUS FOR OUR ROYAL LATIN SCHOOL

St John's Royal Latin School had not enjoyed great prosperity in Victorian times. Its building, the Chantry Chapel, had needed almost constant attention and was unsuitable for "modern" schooling. One Headmaster, Thomas Cockram, had to dip into his own pocket to build the classroom block that still stands behind The Old Latin House. The final act of repair to the school's Chantry Chapel was at the start of the **Edwardian** era when a new concrete floor laid by the local firm of Tombs and Sons in August 1902.

Edwardian times were exciting ones in Education. The spur to advances at RLS was the 1902 Education Act that spawned the term "Local Education Authority" or LEA. For the first time the County Council of Buckinghamshire became responsible for the grammar school in Buckingham. They realised that St John's Royal Latin School needed to move from its cramped site opposite the butchers' shambles in the middle of Buckingham to one with space for playgrounds, girls and future expansion. A two acre field in Chandos Rd was set aside for a new Latin School in October 1904. Governors, Bucks County Council and the local community worked hard to create their new school that was to teach both boys and girls for the first time.

Until 1907, RLS had admitted boys of whatever age at whatever time in the school year that they had been presented by their parents. Evidently, there was quite a tussle between Walter Matthew Cox, Headmaster, and his Governors before the latter agreed to impose a minimum age of entry of 9 years old for boys and 10 for girls. One of the issues that worried the Governors was loss of income. The School was not full and every "lost" boy was worth 6 guineas a year.

The "New School" in Chandos Rd was officially opened on 16th October 1907. The original buildings look small until it is realised that the school's roll totalled 77 pupils with 5 Pupil Teachers, 18 girls and 59 boys. Almost half of the latter (25) were Boarders, living with the Headmaster in The Old Latin House.

What to do with the Chantry Chapel, the Old Latin School House and its outbuildings, the latter specifically created for school use? Initially, boys used The Chantry Chapel as a "diner". It is possible that the heavy trestle tables that are there today are the ones bought by the school in 1907, so that boys had somewhere to place their sandwiches after their lunch-time trek from Chandos Road. Once cleared of crumbs, the building was used as a changing room before football. What sacrilege!

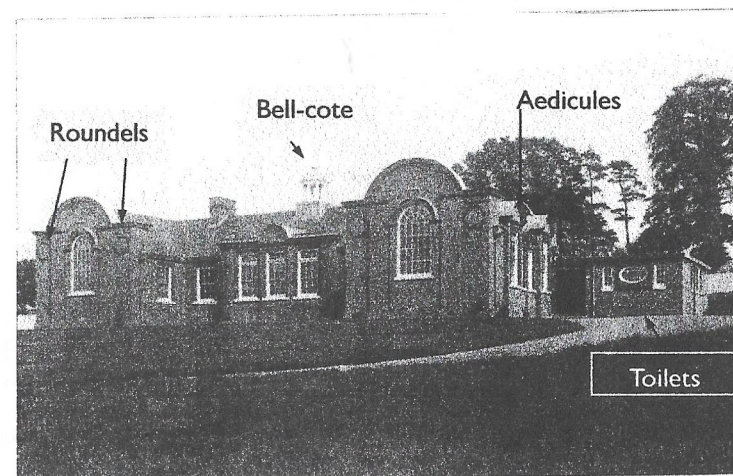
The Headmaster, Mr Cox, was adamant that the buildings should be retained. Part of his reasoning was the protection of his own salary, much of which was in kind (rent-free accommodation) or dependent on him looking after Boarders. But, the Governors were facing financial crisis as the anticipated cost of the new school rose during its construction. They had been empowered by the 1902 Act, before that the Head was the ultimate authority in all corporate matters. A fight to the death ensued with Walter Matthew Cox threatening to resign if the Governors sold either the roof over his head or the Chantry Chapel. The Governors' resolve stiffened, they called his bluff, and Walter Matthew Cox had to go at the end of the first school year in the new premises.

The National Trust had been established in

1895 and it paid £200 to acquire The Chantry Chapel with the Old Latin House being knocked down to Mr Bennett, leading local burgher. The school was ungenerous; it stripped the Chapel of most of its fittings. The bell from Gilbert Scott's 1875 bell-cote, that daily tolled across our town centre to announce the start of morning or afternoon school, was taken to the new school. I wonder what happened to it; there being no sign of it when George Capel (Thornborough) was an RLS pupil in the 1930's?).

On balance, RLS was lucky to lose Matthew Cox, for his replacement, William Fuller, was an able Chemist and an enthusiast for sport. Fuller expanded pupil numbers by a half during his 23 years in charge.

At the end of the **Edwardian Era** at the outbreak of war, "the girls turned their attention to the knitting of socks and belts for the soldiers, and the boys have voluntarily and without prompting, offered to bear the expense of materials from their pocket money", - practical lessons in the division of labour!



Royal Latin School, Buckingham

The new Royal Latin School (1907– 1963), dimly reproduced from the brochure published at its opening. Note the central, elegant Grecian bell-cote, possibly of white painted wood, that must have held *The Chantry Chapel's* bell. Later pictures do not show this feature— when was it removed— did it rot, or was made of stone that was too heavy for the supporting structure? The novelty flat roof on the toilet block soon leaked. Every **Edwardian** year, the Headmaster had to ask the Governors to get it fixed!

The original building has a clean, simple, Queen Anne or Jacobean elegance. It is definitely "**Edwardian**" and neither Gothic nor "Victorian". Its ornamentation is spare but the terracota roundels on its façade are typical of Queen Anne revival. It was designed by W.G. Wilson, FRIBA. Elizabeth Williamson, in revising Nicholas Pevsner, made a confusing mess of commenting about RLS (see page 196 the 1994 Penguin Edition), but rightly compliments the bold Vanbrughian aedicules.

Surely, this is the finest Edwardian structure in our Town?

WASH DAY BLUES

An exploration of developments in detergent technology since Edwardian Days by Ed, one of BS's many chemists!

Edwardian polite society was the first in Britain to suffer from the increasing cost and lack of availability of servants. In a small way, middle class society started to "do its own smalls". It needed all the help it could get for the Monday Wash was back-breaking before wringers and washing machines were easily available. One additional issue was in maintaining the whiteness of cotton. Father expected a fresh white, starched (detachable) collar each day, even when made do with the same shirt. His shirt was probably made from cloth made in Bolton. Despite all the mechanical pummeling in a "Dolly Tub", the yellowing of stain and age couldn't be removed. In fact, the more cotton was heated and boiled, the more its chemical structure collapsed releasing elemental carbon—the prime cause of yellowing.

Like the cotton, a solution to the problem came from Lancashire in the form of "Dolly Blue" bags. **Are you old enough to remember them?** "Dolly Blue" was not primarily a bleach despite William Edge founding his business in 1875 to exploit "Bleachers' Blue". In early days, his chemists would have added potassium ferrocyanide solution (now known by an even more horrendous name) to a solution of ferric chloride. The result was a powder "Prussian Blue" whose particles were so fine that it was

almost impossible to separate them from the accompanying solution by filtration. Note the name – in the late 19th century Germans (Prussians) and Britons dominated Industrial Chemistry. Actually, a British Chemist developed an identical compound to "Prussian Blue" by a different chemical route. We call that powder "Turnbull's Blue".

Once the blue powder is in a suitable bag (that is the clever bit), it can be added to the weekly wash where the small particles escape coating Mother's yellowing bloomers with a blue film. Just like a filter on a camera, the blue layer blots out the yellow light being reflected by the bloomers, but allows cool blue colours to come through. Light blue makes the garment appear to be white. **Dolly Blue** was a godsend to the Edwardian washer-woman and to her successors.

Incidentally, the same blue compound was responsible for "blueprints", so beloved or architects and draughts men from Edwardian times, onwards until rendered obsolete by photocopiers and computers. Where specially treated paper was exposed to light, blue dye appeared. We no longer use this process, but the word "blueprint" remains a fixture in our language and describes a detailed plan of action.

When the first detergents were marketed in the 1950's, the action of "Dolly Blue" was repeated by adding similar compounds to some detergents – readers will remember the first impact of detergents and the even better "Blue Daz". But chemists were hot on the trail of a neater solution – "Fluorescers". Fluorescers absorb light, but change its wavelength, particularly of UV light – thus the cloth reflects extra blue. Fluorescent chemicals were soon added to detergent powders, which were advertised as "whiter than white" – which they certainly were. Disco (remember them?) managers soon realised that if they installed ultra-violet lights, dancers' shirts would glow a ghastly blue.

Fluorescers, pre-mixed with the detergents, disguise the yellows of age and stain, but they are superior and easier to use than the old "Dolly Blue" bags. So a successful industry and part of Bolton's heritage died. William Edge and Sons Ltd had been a world-beater. *The Book of Bolton* (1930) proudly announced the firm's presence in "Bolton, London and Paris" and William Edge was Bolton's MP from 1916 to 1923.

You can date clothes by exposing them to ultra violet light. Older clothes that have never been washed in detergents containing fluorescers—say those used before 1970, do not fluoresce, whereas "modern" clothes appear a ghostly blue.

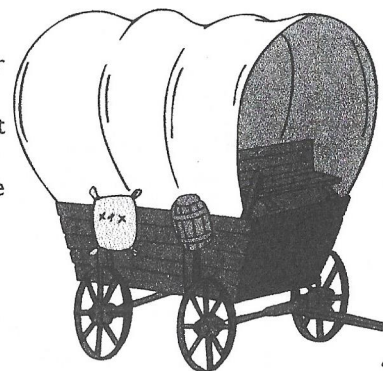
INNS—THE FREIGHT TERMINI OF EDWARDIAN BUCKINGHAM

These days we take "Cash and Carry" for granted. Most families have access to a car that will transfer many bulky goods from point of sale to home. But what happened before the rise and rise of the motor vehicle? People on foot or even on horseback had limited carrying capacity. The **CARRIER** and his **CART** was their choice for big items. Sometimes, trusted Carriers would be sent to pick up items from shops for busy farmers and their wives. Such messages, as **Stanley Meadows** remembers, would be verbal, for few carriers could read or write even though a good memory was an absolute necessity.

The cart would probably have been a modest four-wheeled affair. Across the front the carter would have sat on a bench seat with room either side for occasional passengers. Wooden hoops might support an oil-skin to keep rain off the packages.

Carriers, their carts and horses needed known areas where they could load or off-load goods, give their horses their nosebags; a place that was equipped with a supply of fresh water. What better place than the yards of inns and hostleries? Both the carrier and the public could wait for each other in the bar over a tankard of porter and the Inn's stablemen, known as **OSTLERS**, would be used to dealing with the needs of horses made tired and fractious by a long haul across the claggy lanes of North Bucks.

If you visit **THE WHITE HART** you may still see the sign inviting you to ring the bell for their Ostler. The tradition of being able to



hand responsibility for one's vehicle over at the front door of Hotels is still perpetuated by the doormen in their smart uniforms and top hats at today's "best" hotels.

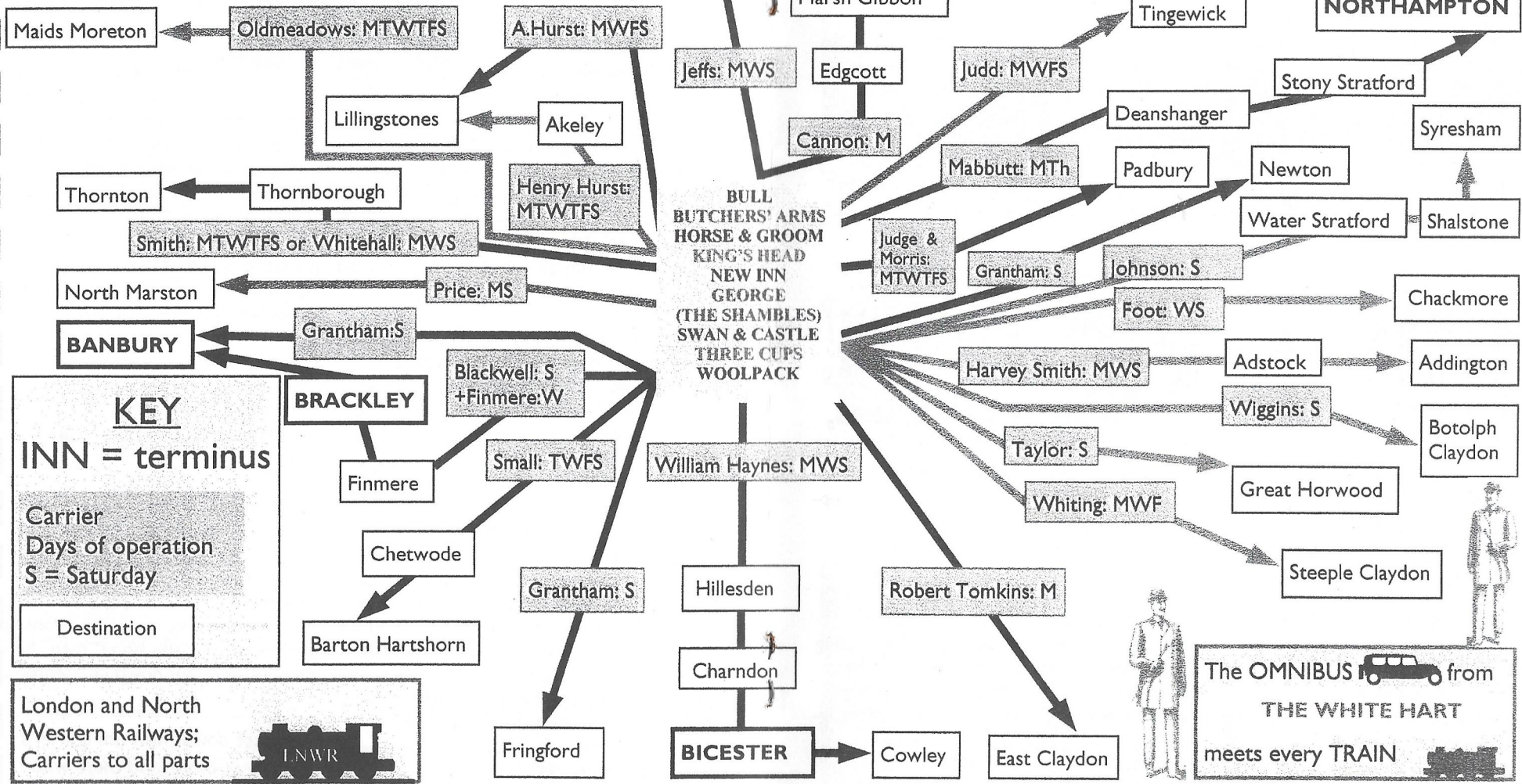
Being a freight terminus meant good steady trade for Inns. There was brisk competition to ensure that carriers operated from a particular Inn. If you look at the map on the next pages, you'll notice that most routes ended at the first major Inn that the carrier came to when travelling from the respective town or village. Other routes show origins centuries back when Buckingham was a smaller and different town. Hence, the importance of **The Woolpack** that stood for centuries at the river crossing and ford from Buckingham to Winslow and Aylesbury.

Edwardian times were the best of times for carriers, their carts and their horses. By the 1920's, trade changed under the impact of the internal combustion engine. In Britain, the new transport was given a new Edwardian name—the **lorry**, whereas in the USA the terms wagon and truck continued to be good enough. After the second World War, most of us can remember some deliveries arriving by horse-drawn vehicle—maybe those best driven at a steady pace (eg beer). For the most part, horses and carts meant tinkers, gypsies or "Rag and Bone" men. Finally, all the carriers were put down in "Steptoe and Son".

I was set down from the carrier's cart at the age of three; and there with a sense of bewilderment and terror my life in the village began.
Laurie Lee Cider with Rosie (1959)

DELIVERIES IN EDWARDIAN DAYS: CARRIERS OPERATING FROM BUCKINGHAM DURING 1903

MARKET SQUARE SERVICES:
Fred Miller to Tingewick: MTWTFS
Mrs Cox to Preston Bissett:



KEY
INN = terminus
Carrier
Days of operation
S = Saturday
Destination

London and North Western Railways; Carriers to all parts

The OMNIBUS from THE WHITE HART meets every TRAIN

SHOPPING IN EDWARDIAN BUCKINGHAM

Original bills have been supplied through the kindness of Barbara Shirley

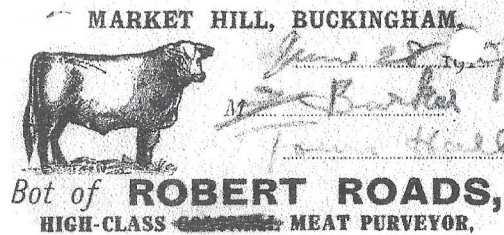
Edwardian shoppers in Buckingham would have enjoyed two large stores that are no longer available to us: **Albert Vyle's** Castle Street Department Store (that closed in the 1960's) and **E. H. Laurence** for glass, china and household furniture. The latter store, established in the late 19th century, occupied the fine twin-fronted properties that graced our Woolworth site until they were demolished in the worst act of vandalism to occur to our Town during the dreadful 1960's.

man in Edwardian England ever held a shopping bag and he did not assist in any way in household matters. Incidentally, **Card's** later became **Howkins**, and above is a barrel vaulted room with original Elizabethan plasterwork including rosettes. Was its decoration connected with Queen Elizabeth I's famous visit to Buckingham?

Father may have called at **The Grand Junction PH**, for a well-earned drink after a Satur-

the 1970's, though, by those times, the firm's letterhead no longer featured the dashing Edwardian gentlemen pictured below.

Robert Roads was selling High Class meat from his site in Buckingham's original "Shambles". Have a close look at his bill heading below, and beware of his fierce heffer! The word "COLONIAL"



The two properties were referred to as York House and Commerce House. The derivation of those names is unclear, although it is known that Dukes of Buckingham once lived in "York House" in London.

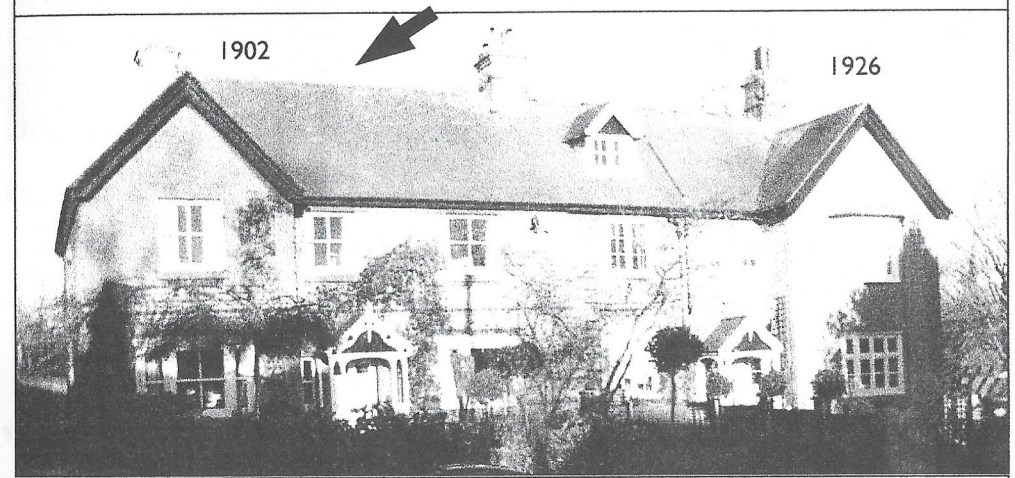
Down in nearby 30 West St, mothers would have visited **E. Card** (formerly **G. Cole**) for general drapery, perhaps to pick up some warm sheets for winter since **Mr Card** was proud of his "Flannelettes". What is certain is that father would not have done the shopping. No self-respecting

day spin on his safety bicycle, for The Grand Junction was HQ to the Cyclist Touring Club and a good place to meet like-minded men. If father was a gentleman he might have bought a car. **Phillips and Sons**, who today still trade from the same works in Ford St, probably supplied his vehicle and adapted the bodywork to the owner's tastes.

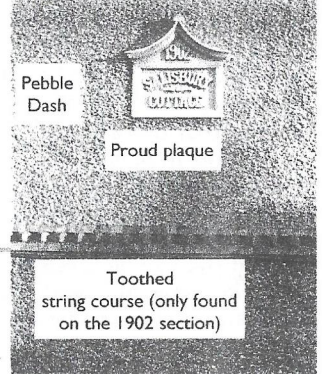
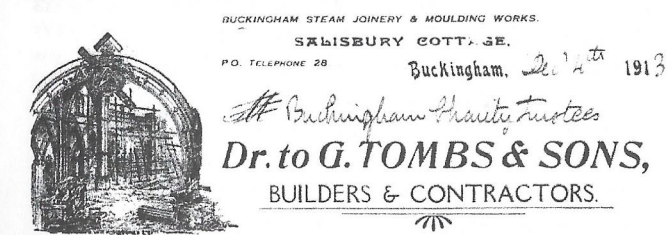
Adcock and Son said "Suits you, Sir" for most of the 20th century. They were still supplying Boarders of RLS with "their regulation" charcoal grey suits in

has been carefully scored out. The bill, for meat supplied to The Town Hall seems to have been raised in 1919. Much meat had flooded into England from the USA and our "colonies" during the last quarter of the 19th century following the introduction of refrigerated ships in about 1870. All that had been disrupted by the first World War. I wonder how that affected sheep farmers in New Zealand?

THE ACME OF EDWARDIAN HOUSE BUILDING IN BUCKINGHAM



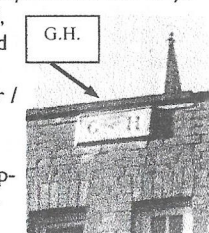
SALISBURY COTTAGES, Bath Lane, built by BUCKINGHAM'S PREMIER EDWARDIAN BUILDER, **GEORGE TOMBS** for himself and, it is believed, his daughter. The twin homes were originally connected by an internal corridor.



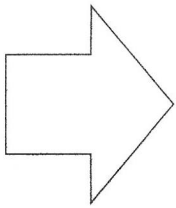
1912
 Dec 3 1914
Shaw's time relaying glass in skylight & putting in same at Mrs Graves to do wood work



A rather severe-looking terrace of cottages in Well St dated 1908 that replaced some old thatched homes. It is interesting that several other properties near to our Parish Church, all built in Edwardian times, have flat roofs. The builder has been identified by Pat Armstead (a new member of our Society, and former Boys' Matron at Brookfield, RLS, who once dwelt in the end home) & Des. Bonner as **George Holland**, builder / coal merchant of Church St. Note the **toothed string course**, clearly copied from the original Salisbury Cottage.



What's new at:



24-hour party people

Martin Bacon asked Societies to contact their MP re The Civic Trust's national campaign criticising the Government White Paper "Time for Reform" that flags intentions to relax licensing laws and make Britain more of a 24/7 society. We have done so and, as usual have received a prompt, thoughtful reply from John Ber- cow. He has written to the Minis- ter to let him know our views and has offered to make official representations on our behalf.

John Ber- cow explained his own position to us: "I believe that there is a need for reform of licensing hours and increased flexibility—especially to end disorder at 'chucking out time'. I hope that this can be taken forward in partnership with the industry, police and local communities."

Our Society encourages people to live in the centre of Bucking- ham and feels that the spread of "Saturday Night Fever" to more nights, all night, with fewer con- trols over the position and nature of bars, is unfair to residents and will drive them out to the slum- bering suburbs. At the very least, polluters (Bars) must be made to pay for the litter and mess that inevitably follow those whose in- hibitions have been loosened by alcohol and/or drugs,

agm

Ed attended this The Civic Trust meeting. The Trust is moving ahead rapidly under the visionary leadership of Martin Bacon. It is becom- ing much sharper in pre- senting its views and "our views" - the sublimation of the thoughts of all English Civic Societies.

As a "Pathfinder Society", our thoughts are being fast- tracked to the team at HQ. To be able to act on our behalf, The Civic Trust needs more resources. We must budget for a hike in our af- filiation fee. It will be money well-spent, for it is futile to be a lone, sane voice in the wilderness. Never before has the na- ture and quality of life in the South East of England been under such sustained attack. Only by identifying with the greater "WE" will we be able to live the life that we wish to do.

civicfocus

The Civic Trust's quarterly magazine has been given a face and content lift. It is an engaging read that identifies with our concerns and provides a na- tional context. Ed has a copy. Ring 815758 to have a peek

hods

Good news for this massive na- tional programme of openings. The Civic Trust has engineered a Heritage Lottery grant of £335 000, spread over three years to increase the appeal of these days to families and chil- dren. We shall tie our Bucking- ham event to "2003- The Year of the River". We hope to provide an interactive planning event and the first BUCKINGHAM SOCI- ETY

green pennant awards
Last year The Civic Trust awarded 125 Green Flags to parks and green spaces across England in the 6th year of its highly successful programme that has provided the breathe of life for parks that had col- lapsed under the tragic local authority neglect prevalent in late 20th century England.

Now, they have launched the **green pennant award for green spaces run by commu- nity or voluntary groups. By the end of 2003, 11 pennants had been awarded. Qualifying spaces must be welcoming, safe, healthy and well- maintained through in- volving the local commu- nity.**
JUST WHAT WE ARE AIM- ING TO DO IN "2003:THE YEAR OF THE RIVER"

NOTES AND QUERIES

How about a "Westbury Trip"? It has been sug- gested by Una Robinson. Westbury has 1.5 mile trail, marked by wooden locally-sculpted pieces illustrating history of Westbury. Thence to *The Reindeer*? Should we create a similar artistic trail in Buckingham, possibly as part of our "2003—The Year of The River"?

Charlie Macdonald has reminded us that when The Society suggested railings at the bottom of "Jardine's slope", after a near accident with a run- away wheelchair, the Society was told that "Barriers are not policy". Barriers stood accused of causing crush accidents. Now, we are presented with the gift-horse barrier at the top of Bridge St. When was policy changed?

When writing about **The Oddfellows' Hall** in Well St, Ed did not realise that the Oddfellows were still operating a thriving group in Buckingham. Desmond Bonner has set that matter straight. Tom Hudson has delved into his memory on the lack of a gentleman's toilet in the original design. Tom used to live in deepest Wiltshire and he relates that Village Halls were similarly badly equipped be- cause it wasn't considered necessary to provide a gents for they could mind their p's and queue out- side. Tom has also amusingly told us that one Wiltshire Public House was refused a licence to sell spirits until it had provided a "Ladies". There it was he opposite effect—a men-only "beer hall" turning into a ladies' gin palace!

Graham Collis, former Senior Teacher and Head of PE at RLS, who has retired to Bournemouth, has added more detail about the use of *The Oddfellows' Hall* in the 1960's. Well St Junior School used it when their own hall was unavailable and it acted as The Royal Latin School's Gymnasium before that school's 1963 move to Brookfield. Graham tells of the culture shock when he arrived at a school where PE lessons consisted largely of "walking to, and from 'The Oddfellows', Buckingham Cricket Club or the Town Swimming Pool (now our Skateboard Park). He was so relieved by the fresh start when the new school opened, and with it a

splendid open-sided gymnasium. Being open to the elements, one presumes that the Governors planned to coalesce the teaching of PE and Chemistry!

Graham tells us that Ros Maslen, for many years a teacher in Well St School and elder sister of the late Kaye Maslen (Deputy Head, RLS), died early in No- vember in a Nursing Home in Somerset. Ros was a latecomer to motoring, and Buckingham Society member Kay Baker, a great friend and neighbour to the Maslen sisters, remembers helping Ros to practise her driving down Stowe Avenue. Kay said "You will remember there's a main road at the bottom, won't you?". With that the car accelerated round the cor- ner into West St! Ros reached the grand old age of 94.

Fireman Meadows tells the story of the first fire at Richardson's Paint Factory. Stanley and the other Buckingham Firefighters heard a bang and thought "That can't be a bomb, the War's ended". They speculated on what site in Buckingham could cause such a thing. Their answer was "Richardson's Paint Factory". So Stanley phoned the Factory and the bi- zarre phone conversation went something like:

"Do you have a fire?"

"Yes, but how do you know?"

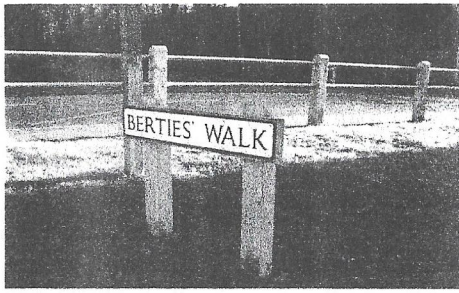
"We've heard it and seen the smoke"

"We didn't know what to do so we've phoned the Aylesbury Brigade"

"Don't worry, we're on our way".

With that, the Buckingham Force roared to the scene, where water had mixed with hot spirits and caused a blow-out of highly inflammable gas. Soon our brave men had the fire under their control. That was the cue for *The Aylesbury Fire Brigade* to arrive with their bell clattering away.

We are indebted to new members, Anne and Greg- ory Andrews, for supplying details of Salisbury Cot- tages. Greg. believes that the Tombs clan: George, George Alfred & John Philip lived in the Victorian Bath Lane Cottages before Salisbury Cottage was built on land they bought from Rev. William Eyre in 1898. That 3/4 rod plot had been called Land's Meadow (1803) and Garden Field (1847). Greg. An- drews wonders whether we know more of either Rev. Eyre or the Tombs family? He is intrigued by the tombs of Richard Tombs (d.1780, aged 84) and Fran- ces Tombs (d.1807, aged 95!) in Buckingham's Old Churchyard.



Buckingham Town Council has responded to Joyce Stearn's request that the riverside walk between Hunter St and Bath Lane be named after her father Bert Williams and his friend Bert who had allotments on the slopes up to the Railway line. How nice to see our Council remembering that injunction "Education, Education, Education", by putting an ultimate apostrophe that may cause generations of youngsters to stop and pause for thought.

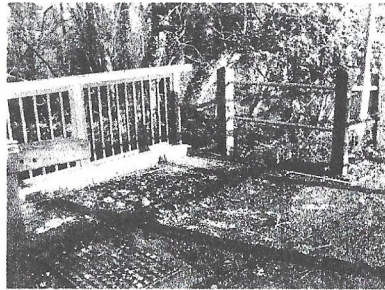
Bert Williams used to row across the River Great Ouse to his allotment which produced much fine produce. He and the other staff at our station ensured that Buckingham Station frequently won first prize for the best planted station in the region. Possibly their finest effort was reserved for our Queen's Coronation Year.

Perhaps, putting up an explanatory storyboard, mending the rustic benches, removing the nettle-beds, pruning the fruit trees and adding to the stocks of white narcissi in Bert and Bert's allotments may be good aims for our RIVER PROJECT along this potentially most attractive link? We'll talk to Rodney Shirley who has been taking a special interest in this area and has already done some spadework with the authorities at AVDC.

It is good to see that Tom Merrick (Estates Manager, University of Buckingham) has organised severe pollarding of the willows on the bank opposite to BERTIES 'WALK.

WELL DONE, EVERYBODY!

"WOT, NO SEAT?"



The long awaited removal of the seat by the bridge at the end of the Skateboard Park has been effected by Buckingham Town Council. Clearly, the unpleasant souls who congregated there, leering and foul-mouthing those who passed by, have been annoyed and have made the site unsightly through spreading white emulsion paint. That will fade, as will the memories of intimidation. It's good to have unfettered access to this important pedestrian link to Budgen's. The Buckingham Society must put their thinking caps on and decide how to make this spot more beautiful as part of our Year of the River.

A new Buckingham lamp-post repair record was set by David Wilson Homes. Vandals made lamp-post number 6 lean at a drunk angle. Buckingham Society reported the problem to our Town Clerk, Paula Heath. Within a week, the lamp-post was lambent and erect. Goodness, gracious me!

THERE'S STILL MORE WORK TO BE DONE

SHUT THAT DOOR!

We thought that Buckingham under the sensible leadership of our Mayor, Cllr Christine Strain-Clark, would set a good example in ensuring fine access for the physically challenged to its public buildings.

Try opening the swanky new doors to our Community Centre. Heavy, aren't they, and what about that nasty three inch step up, just inside?

Fit for purpose, or fit for the fit?



MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD

It must be Buckingham's Traffic Warden day, for there are no second-hand cars waiting to be sold on this AVDC plot in North End Square.

ACCESS FOR ALL ARTICULATED LORRIES!

You'll recognise the site of Hollis' Garage on Stratford Rd— where property developers want to erect a set of flats. MOH properties have been kind enough to show us their plans. Our concern is access for vehicles and pedestrians. We think a "deal" with AVDC, owners of land adjacent to Mary McManus Drive, may be the answer. At present, the front (the sole poor pedestrian route to Town from Sandpit Farm) is the site for "Artics" doing the splits on their way in and out of Buildbase.

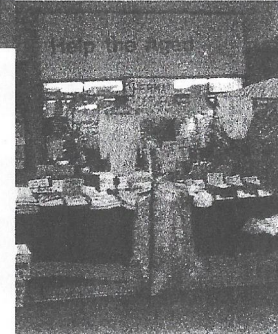
Some members have expressed their dismay that the old cottages on the right of the picture are not protected. The matter has been investigated in the past, but these humble dwellings were not thought to be sufficiently important or consistent in style to merit "listing". The Society's planning group are studying how to get the maximum benefit from listing for our conservation area. Without extra ring-fencing, mere listing is a porous policy.



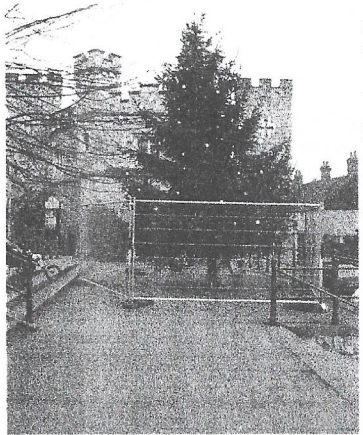
"HELP THE AGED", shouts a charitable shop.

The Tuesday Market squats on the dropped kerb that could have helped them.

We hear that Cllr Pauline Stevens, Buckingham's Market Czar, is on the case.



BUCKINGHAM BACKS BARRIERS



Bigger, blacker, bolstered by a bollard, the barriers are back blighting Bridge Street's conservation area. Will this blind corner become the Buckingham accident black-spot that Buckingham Society fears?

Did we overhear this conversation in front of The Old Gaol this Christmas, just metres away from our new police presence?

The Mayor of Bethlehem: "Being in Buckingham at Christmas is just like being at home in Bethlehem."

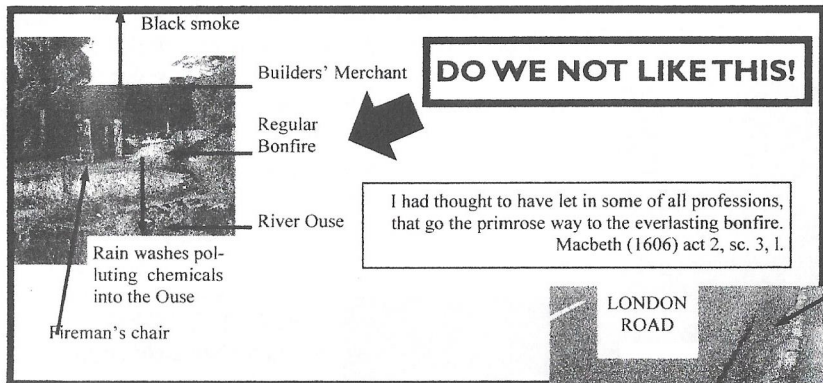
The Mayor of Buckingham: "Yes, we have so much in common. You guard your sites against terrorists and we must protect Buckingham from our little terrorists."

(Other visitors have not been so kind, although they have loved our lights)

NEWYEAR, NEW BARRIERS!

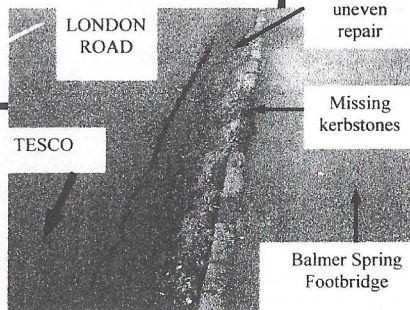


The Buckingham Society is left wondering why no barrier is provided at the bottom of "Jardine's" slope, where people and prams have spilled out of control onto the busy roadway.



WATCH OUT: IT'S THE RUTTING SEASON; A CONDITION DIFFICULT TO CHANGE.

B.C.C. has done Buckingham proud with their lovely summer resurfacing of London Rd and West St. Here is one area of concern: Balmer Spring Bridge. The road has been narrowed to create the new "Tesco" footpath, pushing bikes into appalling ruts where the substrate is subsiding.



BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY— 2003 TRIPS PROGRAMME

1. GREAT SCOTT MYSTERY TOUR

The Story of **Sir George Gilbert Scott**, born to an amateur architect clergyman in Gawcott who became the disputed **King of the Goths**, his architect sons, John Oldrid and George Gilbert and their progeny: Charles Marriott Oldrid Scott and Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. We shall visit the source of Sir George's inspiration, sites of his early work, buildings from his maturity, and buildings on which the family worked together.

Date: Thursday 3rd April
Meeting Point: Buckingham Parish Church at 2.00 pm.

The tour will finish at 6 pm.

Cost: £2.00
(£1.50 for Members, pensioners and the unwaged)

The tour will be in two parts: **Part I** will be a walking tour of Buckingham lasting one hour; then we invite participants to follow a **car-trail** that will cover approximately 45 miles in total. (We shall act to help the car-less to find a car-share.)

Guide: Ed.

2. RIVER GREAT OUSE HALF DAY COACH TRIP

From the source of the **River Great Ouse between Brackley and Sulgrave (Wellies may be a help)** to the broad expanses of boating waters in Bedford, via **Newport Pagnell, Sharnbrook and Olney. Three literary figures will mark our progress: W.B. Grahame, the Sharnbrook poet, & William Cowper, a frequent visitor to Gawcott when he lived at Weston Underwood near Olney and John Bunyan.**

Date: Thursday 12th June
Departure at 1.30 pm
From Buckingham Bus Station (Jeffs Coach)
Return to Buckingham: 7.00pm

Cost: £7.00
(£6.00 for Members, pensioners and the unwaged)
Guides: Ed and, possibly, a representative from a local Civic Trust Society.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, OR TO MAKE A BOOKING, PLEASE RING ED ON 01280 815758, OR CHARLIE ON 01280 822688

3. RIVER GREAT OUSE WHOLE DAY COACH TRIP

This trip examines our river from where the half-day trip ends. We shall visit the small towns of St Neots, Godmanchester, Huntingdon (Samuel Pepys and Oliver Cromwell) and St Ives. St Ives, also, has deep connections to Oliver Cromwell & possesses a fine 15th century bridge surmounted by one of only 3 "bridge chapels" to survive in England. We shall end at Earith, the start of the Fens, rich agricultural land almost at sea level from where the Great Ouse flows so slowly to the sea that it needs the help of humans.

Date: Thursday 9th Oct.
Departure at 09.30 am
From Buckingham Bus Station (Jeffs Coach)

Return: 7.30pm
Cost: £12.00
(£10.00 for Members, pensioners and the unwaged)
Guides: Ed and members of Civic Trusts in one or two of the towns visited. The lunch break will be held in Huntingdon, please bring sandwiches or be prepared to buy a Pub Lunch.

Most Civic Societies hold regular trips for their members. Such activities bring local people together and provide a splendid opportunity to compare the "home" town with what has been achieved in other places. Usually they make a small surplus that can be used to support the Society's activities. We shall use any income that we make to support our

"Pathfinder Project - 2003 THE YEAR OF THE RIVER GREAT OUSE".

All 3 trips are open to all, but we reserve the right to cancel them (all monies are refundable), if there is insufficient support to cover our costs.

BRIEFING

Buckingham is defined by its river that throws a lucky horseshoe around our historic centre. Its waters supported and defended life in our ancient town and brought trade and visitors. Some callers were pilgrims coming to drink and receive mental sustenance at the shrine and wells of St Rumbold. For centuries many visitors entered our Town by the Ford or Bridge near The Woolpack Inn. Today that approach is a reproach; a challenge to our Society.

Our mission is to increase the beauty and amenity of our river corridor. Several sites are about to be redeveloped or to change ownership or use. Coordination can raise standards and restore our river to its rightful place at the heart of our community and its activities.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITIES: THE BIG SIX

- ◆ COOPERS' YARD
- ◆ PART OF THE WHITE HART CAR PARK
- ◆ THE STRIP OF WOODLAND BETWEEN THIS CAR PARK AND THE GREAT OUSE PLUS THE WOODLAND BEHIND VERNEY CLOSE
- ◆ BERTIES' WALK
- ◆ THE GRAND JUNCTION SITE
- ◆ THE STRATFORD ROAD SITE

OUR RESPONSE: A DESIGN BRIEF FOR "THE RIVER CORRIDOR" PLUS RIVER HYGIENE PROJECTS:

- OUR SOCIETY'S LITTERPICK BY THE BANKS OF THE OUSE (APRIL)
- BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL'S RIVER RINSE (SEPTEMBER)
- GREENING THE OLD FORD ROUTE (YEAR-LONG PROJECT)
- WILD FLOWERS AND WILDLIFE BY THE OUSE (YEAR LONG PROJECT)
- REPLACING THE MILLENNIUM TREES AND RIVERSIDE WALKS (HODS 2003)
- RIVER GREAT OUSE EXHIBITION (2004)
- THE OUSE NEWSLETTER (2003/2)
- A NIGHT WITH THE OUSE (MAY)



POSSIBLE PARTNERS:

- AVDC
- BTC
- BCC
- BUCKINGHAM & GAWCOTT CHARITABLE TRUST
- BUCKINGHAM ADVERTISER
- LOCAL BUSINESSES
- BUCKINGHAM'S SCHOOLS
- UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM
- BUCKINGHAM CANAL SOCIETY
- THE OLD GAOL
- AND MANY OTHERS

The Society thanks John Townsend, Tony Parker, Una Robinson and Tom Hudson who shared their ideas and crystallised this focus for our Society's Pathfinder Project.

BUCKINGHAM SOCIETY DIARY FOR 2003
campaigning for a better Buckingham

JANUARY	Mid month			EDWARDIAN NEWSLETTER
	Thursday 23rd	5.30pm	Villiers' Tap Room	Executive Meeting (EXECUTIVES ARE OPEN)
	Thursday 30th	6.00pm	Villiers' Tap Room	LAUNCH of "2003-THE YEAR OF THE RIVER"
PLEASE HELP US ON OUR STALL FOR 1 HOUR - RING ED ON 815758				
FEBRUARY	Friday-Saturday 21-22nd	5pm to FRIDAY	5pm Tesco Forecourt SATURDAY	MAJOR SOCIETY RIVER FUND-RAISING EVENT
	MARCH	Thursday 27th	5.30pm	Villiers' Tap Room
APRIL	Thursday 3rd	2pm - 6pm	Buckingham Parish Church	GREAT SCOTT TOUR
	Thursday 24th	10am - noon	Budgens Car Park	Society Litterpick River Hygiene
	Thursday 24th	5.30pm	Villiers' Tap Room	Executive Meeting
	Late in the Month			RIVER OUSE NEWSLETTER
MAY	Thursday 22nd	5.30pm	Villiers' Tap Room	Executive Meeting
JUNE	Thursday 12th	1.30pm-7pm	Buckingham Bus Station	River Great Ouse Half Day Trip
	Thursday 26th	5.30pm	Villiers' Tap Room	Executive Meeting
JULY	Thursday 24th	5.30pm	Villiers' Tap Room	Executive Meeting
	Mid month			BETWEEN THE WARS (1918-1939) NEWSLETTER
AUGUST	SOCIETY		SUMMER BREAK	
	Friday 12th Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th		HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2003 HODS	MAJOR FESTIVAL including REGATTA; RIVER RINSE, RIVER WALKS, OPENINGS & RIVER PLANNING EXERCISE
SEPTEMBER	Thursday 25th	5.30pm	Villiers' Tap Room	Executive Meeting
OCTOBER	Thursday 9th	9.30am	Buckingham Bus Station	Whole Day River Ouse Trip
	Thursday 23rd	5.30pm	Villiers' Tap Room	Executive Meeting
NOVEMBER	Early in the month			REVIEW OF 2003 - THE YEAR OF THE RIVER NEWSLETTER
	Thursday 27th Thursday 27th	5.30pm 7.00pm	Villiers' Tap Room University of Buckingham	Pre-AGM Executive AGM



WATCH OUT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE MEDIA & VIA OUR NEWSLETTER OF OTHER "2003- THE YEAR OF THE RIVER OUSE" EVENTS THAT WE ASK YOU TO SUPPORT

PLEASE SEND ALL NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS TO:
ED. THE EDITOR,
15, GLYNSWOOD RD
or RING BUCKINGHAM 815758

The Manor & the Prebend of Buckingham with Gainscott,
IN THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

G. F. MARSH, PRINTER, BUCKINGHAM.

No. 1.
Received, the 11th day of Nov^r 1904, of
The Trustees of Adams' Charity the Sum of 4/11
Dunt Rent due to THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MARY
BARONESS KINLOSS, LADY of the said Manor, the 11th day of October, 1904
L S D.
One Year's Rent..... 4 : 11 :
Arrears : :
HENRY SMALL
Steward of the said Manor.

TO THE MANOR OWED!

A hundred year's ago in Edwardian days 4 widows were supported in accommodation in Prebend End by Adkins' Charity. A mere 4/11 or less than 25p in decimal currency kept a roof over their heads. These days the rent would probably be more than £500 per month, or 72 000 times as much.

The Society thanks Barbara Shirley for the loan of Edwardian rental documents.

THE SOCIETY FOUNDED A NEW CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP
AT THE AGM IN NOVEMBER: **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP**

We are please to announce that our **FIRST CORPORATE MEMBER** is **CASTLE COURT PROPERTIES LTD (John Tearle)** that is heavily involved in the regeneration of land behind West Street. The Society's Planning Group has been extensively consulted on this possible major development of homes for older people.

The Front Cover shows the Cattle Market "Edwardian" Cattle Trough in a specially commissioned drawing by Dennis Osborne. This granite trough was commissioned as a tribute to Queen Victoria after her death-early in 1901. Another piece of Edwardian street furniture, a horse trough, was moved from the former Railway Station to near the Community Centre when that was first built. Do note the new Buckingham Society "Swan" logo on the top right of the cover!

RESERVED FOR THE ADDRESS LABEL