

# Hitcham and Taplow Society

Newsletter 109: Spring 2018  
£3.50 to non-members



[www.taplowsociety.org.uk](http://www.taplowsociety.org.uk)

# Hitcham and Taplow Society

*Formed in 1959 to protect Hitcham, Taplow and the surrounding countryside from being spoilt by bad development and neglect.*

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**Cover picture:** The Graceful Echo, almost there

## Editorial

The Society is pleased to welcome Andrew Findlay to our Committee and to express grateful thanks to two who have stepped down. Zoe Hatch has been a breath of fresh air in the creation of our new website and enabling e-ticketing. Heather Fenn's contribution spans 20 years – three as Chairman – during which she has done her utmost to enhance the amenity of our riverbank and to protect it from neglect or over-development. Her determined diligence while on the Taplow Working Group was vital in ensuring that SBDC's SPD did its best to balance the need to rescue Mill Lane from blight with the realistic need of a developer to profit.

We enclose two insert sheets: one prompts ticket sales for the Village Green Party, the other encourages new and not-so-new locals to join the Society so we remain truly representational as the population of Taplow increases dramatically and its

density and character are threatened. In addition to issues explored in this Newsletter, recent and current challenges include a permitted new vehicle access in Rectory Road which will impair its Berry Hill junction and on-street parking, new gardens creeping down the bank of the Jubilee River, ideas for a care home which jumps the gun on the Local Plan, squeezing two large houses into Ellington Gardens, expanding massively both 3 Saxon Gardens and The Lindens in Rectory Road, and – despite being refused on appeal in 2013 because it conflicted with still valid planning policies – permission granted to demolish the historic Silchester Manor and build a new day nursery and ten flats on an advanced building line. Why the inconsistency? Will 'creep' edge into the rear of this site? Can Norfolk House and Kanellan survive? The wider our membership, the stronger we are to act for our whole community.

## Acronyms

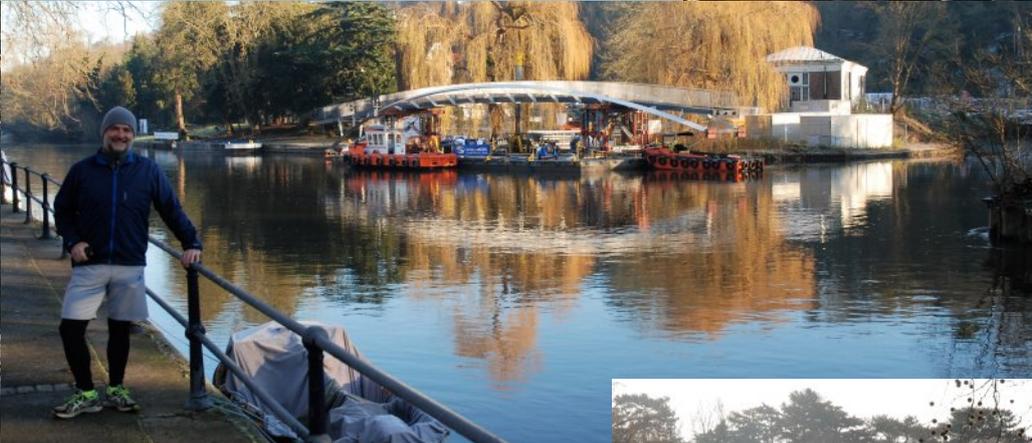
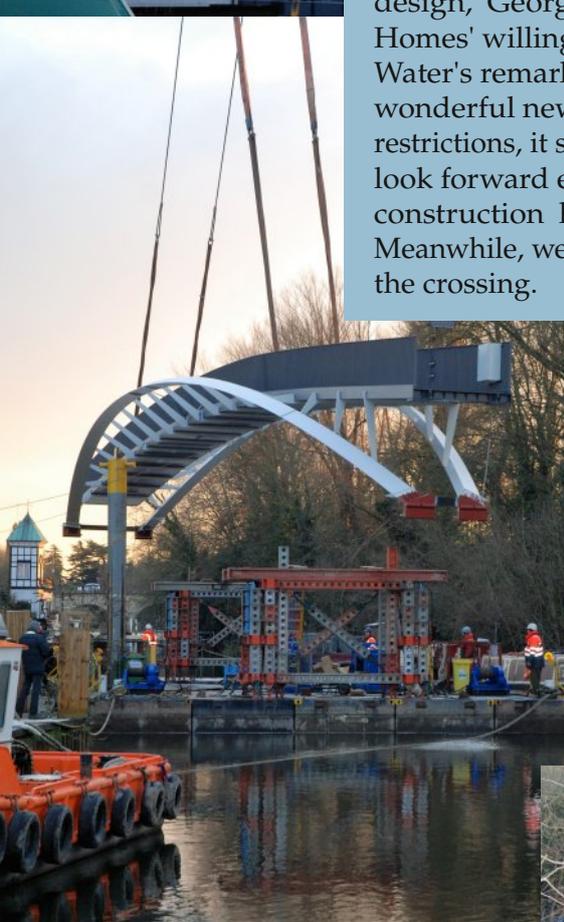
This Newsletter uses acronyms for Berkeley Homes (BH), British Rail (BR), Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), Great Western Railway (GWR), Her Majesty's Government (HMG), Information Technology (IT), Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Maidenhead & Marlow Passengers Association (MMPA), Member of Parliament (MP), Prime Minister (PM), Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), South Bucks District Council (SBDC), Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), Transport for London (TfL), Taplow Parish Council (TPC), Taplow Rail User Group (TRUG) and Wycombe District Council (WDC)



## Locating the Graceful Echo

Newsletter 108 anticipated history happening last December when, over four days of cold but calm-enough weather, Martin Knight's spectacular footbridge – a graceful echo of Brunel's famous bridge downstream – was lifted from its rest on the old riverside gasworks site, loaded onto a pontoon, floated upstream and finally located into position. After 20 years of striving, Heather Fenn's dream and persistence, Martin's imagination and design, George Sandy's influence and persuasion, Berkeley Homes' willing cooperation and funding and contractor Land & Water's remarkable expertise combined to create what will be a wonderful new amenity. Although there will initially be access restrictions, it seems Taplovians, Maidonians and their friends can look forward enjoying lovely round-river walks next year, once construction has progressed enough to make the site safe. Meanwhile, we wait with bated breath as BH ponders what to call the crossing.

Ian Hughes



# States of Flux

Recent Newsletters have highlighted uncertainties about local government shape and strategies. How are things working out?

Excellent news for northern Taplow Riverside: Roux at Skindles should open in October and – as was feared by Newsletter 101 (Spring 2014) – the Sea Cadets will not be getting marching orders because BH has generously given them the freehold of TS *Iron Duke*.

However, Newsletter 108 was right to rue that good intentions for this sensitive area were in flux without a clear future. SBDC's 2013 plan was proactive and carefully balanced but now a flurry of fragmented planning applications (all except one by BH but each submitted separately, some varied, another awaited) threatens 'creep' to overdevelopment. Fearing rational analysis impossible, the Society, TPC and District Councillor George Sandy united to request that no decisions be made until a revised plan is agreed. Instead, SBDC planning officers reacted incrementally to approve two aspects – the office block relocation and the extra car park – driven by a merely mooted idea to add a Hall & Woodhouse gastro-pub. We welcome employment opportunity, but some 200 employees in the new restaurant, offices and pub would be more hereabouts than for decades (and most will drive to work). Consequently, we believe the pub should replace the office block which, if not let, could become



something even less appropriate. Building both will reduce the attractive public amenity of a riverside picnic area to a narrow strip beyond a crowd of cars.

The map above summarises key aspects of these applications. Those pending – one by BH, to recast Dunloe Lodge as nine flats, another by eggHomes, to replace the Old and New Boathouses with 13 homes – would increase total new dwellings by 10%, from 211 to 232. The latter fails to provide vehicular access to the significantly increased number of moorings and, since it was made without her knowledge, it falls well short of fulfilling the landowner's dream to "rejuvenate and evolve this beautiful little piece of Taplow riverside".

As anticipated by recent Newsletters, even greater flux is on the horizon as Buckinghamshire seeks to reduce the cost of local government. Secretary of State Sajid Javid recently revealed he is "minded" to grant BCC's wish to replace Buckinghamshire's district councils by a single county-wide unitary authority. The Society shares the view of

Max Lipman, who confided to our MP Dominic Grieve: "This 'one size fits all' model is quite the worst decision which could have been made. [BCC has] no idea what is needed or wanted by people living in South Bucks and doesn't care!"

The districts have different ideas. SBDC favours two new unitary authorities split naturally by geography and economy – one combining Milton Keynes (a unitary authority since 1997) and Aylesbury Vale (both in South Midlands LEP and the Oxford-Cambridge corridor, an HMG priority area for growth) and the other South Bucks, Chiltern and Wycombe (all in Thames Valley LEP with strong links to London being reinforced by Crossrail). The Society values having the closest connection between constituents and councillors, something BCC fails to provide from its Aylesbury ivory tower (see Pages 6 & 7). Consequently, we have written to Mr Javid <sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk> supporting SBDC's proposed model (see [www.modernisingbucks.org](http://www.modernisingbucks.org)). We encourage you to do the same before the 25th May deadline.

# Let's Get Flights Right



Andi Graf

Roger Worthington and Nigel Smales represented TPC and the Society at a recent exhibition of Heathrow Airport's plans for expansion, which may be summarised as follows: a third runway to the north of the current two; a ban on night flights; predictable periods of daytime noise respite; up to 40,000 new jobs locally; and numerous options for improving air quality, airspace design, consolidation of and access to terminals, M25 and A4 realignment, water management, expansion of support facilities and public transport improvements (including an Elizabeth Line spur from east of Slough enabling direct rail travel to and from Taplow Station).

Certain aspects of the proposals are worrying. Economic and environmental justifications aren't entirely convincing. The Colne Valley will have a less open feel. Where will the new employees live? All important matters but – once more – the Society has decided to focus on an issue – flight path design – where our influence might have beneficial effect.

As recent Newsletters have explained, our patch is in a corridor for two departure routes between neighbouring urban areas. The options are (1) to leave these routes much as they are or to redesign them either (2) to minimise those overflow or (3) to share noise by spreading routes over a wider area. Since Options 1 and 2 both mean we will be overflowed by a gradually increasing number of flights, the Society has responded to Heathrow arguing strongly for Option 3 because we believe that modern satellite navigation can easily vary flight paths precisely to ensure that nobody suffers incessant and debilitating disturbance. In addition, we pressed for a ban on construction traffic travelling to and from Heathrow along the Bath Road over the ancient and much-valued Maidenhead Bridge. For maximum resonance, we encouraged members to make similar submissions. Well done if you did so.

## Look South

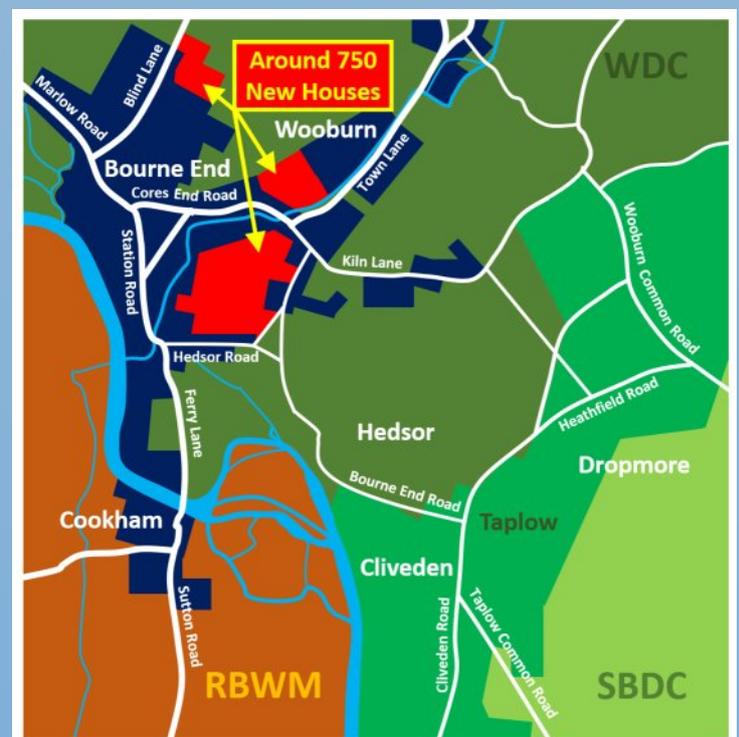


Amerden could tell tales but prefers keeping secrets. Its two privately-owned tracks meet by Bray Lock, both made public bridleways without compensation. One runs east to Old Marsh Lane, the other north to the Jubilee crossing. The public has the right to walk or to ride horses or

cycles along bridleways across private land but not to drive motorised vehicles. All manifestations of 'the State' may ignore this prohibition but Amerdonians value their privacy. A new sign warns others against vehicular transgression from Old Marsh Lane. Meanwhile, having acquired Barge Farm – presumably to eventually extract its gravel, an aspiration of the previous owner, William Boyer & Sons, thwarted on appeal in 1967 and 1980 (see Newsletters 12, 14, 15, 37 and 39) – Summerleaze has the right of vehicular access along its bridleway, but at what cost to the tranquillity of these fields of dreams?

## Look North

WDC's emerging Local Plan includes a proposal to build 750 new homes in Wooburn and Bourne End. The Society has registered concern that this significant increase in population would result in Taplow's relatively narrow roads being congested by hundreds more cars, some intending to park at Taplow Station (see Page 6).



# The Station: All Change, Please

Those who say bring back British Rail forget how – among other failings – it neglected to invest in railway infrastructure. Crossrail (now the Elizabeth Line) would never have happened. Already, quieter electric trains stop at Taplow Station which will soon be renovated and see further service improvements. However, the bigger picture is bereft of joined-up thinking. More and different changes please in three aspects: parking, bridges and bikes...

## Parking

Maidenhead and Burnham Stations are building new car parks. Not Taplow, despite a 5.6% increase in passengers in 2016/17. Its two car parks are small and costly, so commuters park for free in Station Road and Marsh Lane, constricting traffic flow and damaging verges. We have a welcome new well-lit footpath along Station Road (thanks to TPC and County Councillor Dev Dhillon) but no plans for a station car park. The obvious place to put one – currently Roots Garden Centre – will be released from the Green Belt by the emerging SBDC Local Plan and allocated for employment to accommodate offices or, the latest idea, an 82-bed care home. Of the two, the Society would opt for the latter, but our preference is for a car park.

It's a sad story that, despite requests from the Society and TPC, neither SBDC, TfL, BCC nor the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP have articulated any vision beyond the provision of the A4 Cycleway (see Page 7). Can't they see cars coming, such as those of our current and future northern neighbours (see Page 5)? Is their wishful thinking that all but cycling commuters will be discouraged by a lack of improved parking opportunity?



Station Road

Not only could we lose for a generation the opportunity for a car park, but there's something even sadder, a price to pay beyond the cost of a ticket to ride the Elizabeth Line: we have lost a piece of our heritage...

## Bridges

In 1884, 12 years after Taplow Station opened, a new cast iron footbridge spanned two pairs of tracks connecting four platforms. Folklore says these were built long enough for expresses to stop so GWR directors could alight or board. A lovely tale, but research reveals only John Jacob Astor V held such a post, and not until 1929 when his home was Hever Castle in Kent. Perhaps he ensured timetables were convenient for his brother Waldorf of Cliveden, their boyhood home, but the platforms were already in place, the only ones between Paddington and Reading which need no extending for Crossrail, the only part of the station fabric not badly neglected by a plethora of buck-passers.



Once Upon a Bridge (2015)

Our bit of BR became Railtrack and Thames Trains which were reinvented as Network Rail and First Great Western which reverted to being GWR. Nobody except Jon Willmore of TRUG seemed to see the footbridge crumbling until 13 years ago when its rust was glossed over with a lick of paint. Fast-track to 2015: TfL promised the footbridge would be reinforced, enclosed in glass and supplemented by a new bridge with lifts. Then disaster (in the shape of contractors Balfour Beatty) struck (literally) by smashing a crane into the southern span making it unsafe. The current temporary bridge was hastily erected where the new one was planned and, last summer, the old bridge taken away for repair. Doubt that it would be seen again has proved spot on.

In December, tucked away in a contract award to "deliver step-free access and improvements" at four stations including Taplow, TfL confirmed that its ticket hall, waiting rooms and toilets

would be refurbished and a new footbridge installed with two lifts.

Just two? So, no access from the south car park to Platforms 3 and 4? Correct. Things have since gone from bad to worse and even worse.

First, Network Rail advised that its insurance "covers the repair of the bridge" but not "the cost of the temporary footbridge [or] the additional works required to bring the bridge into line with modern health and accessibility standards". Why should the last depend upon an insurance pay-out?

Pressure by the Society, TPC and MMPA has changed minds – the new bridge will span to the south car park – but this good news was tempered in February by Network Rail's conclusion that "Having discussed the matter with our insurers and industry partners, unfortunately the footbridge is unrepairable" (sic). Were the earlier reassurances merely more glossing? Or has the insurer found a loophole and "the industry partners" (Crossrail, TfL or whoever) wriggled off the hook?

The latest plan is to put a new temporary bridge where the 1884 one was then build a new permanent one where the current temporary one is and rip out protected trees nearby for reasons unexplained. Why not put the new bridge where the old one was, in the most convenient place for passengers and keeping costs down?

## Bikes

Despite these difficulties, the potential benefits of Crossrail are clear. Can the same be said for the coming 1.8-mile A4 Cycleway? BCC asserts without evidence that it will "encourage more people to walk or cycle to Taplow Station" but still offers no metrics by which any success might be measured. There are rarely six bikes left at the Station, usually only two or three.

What increased number would constitute benefit? Why spend £1.8m on a cycleway and nothing at all to prepare for the reality that commuters want to (and will) drive and park?

Dev and our District Councillor George Sandy strongly oppose the cycleway. On 1st December, they combined with the Society and TPC to take our MP Dominic Grieve on a tour of the route and to meet Bath Road residents. He declared the scheme "a complete waste of money" and wrote to BCC Leader Martin Tett to register his personal opposition and support requests for BCC to meet locals locally, a cause also taken up by SBDC Leader Nick Naylor, but to no avail. A challenge in January to BCC's overall budget failed to deter its commitment to the scheme, perhaps because virtually all its cost is funded externally – £1,542,000 from HMG plus £188,000 from Land Securities, the Bishop Centre developer. It seems democracy is trumped by the combination of 'free money' and virtue-signalling under the banner of 'sustainability'.



Three Bikes Awaiting.

Drainage along the A4 and under railway bridges has been cleared and (without courtesy notices to those affected) inconvenient foliage has been removed. Cycleway construction and A4 resurfacing will begin this summer and end next spring. The Society is pleased its research and analysis dissuaded BCC from banning right turns into Berry Hill. We doubt that 'Cyclists Dismount' signs will make for safe passage under Dumb Bell Bridge but have suggested that warning signs should be installed where the cycleway crosses residential driveways.



# Cliveden Stud – The Vision



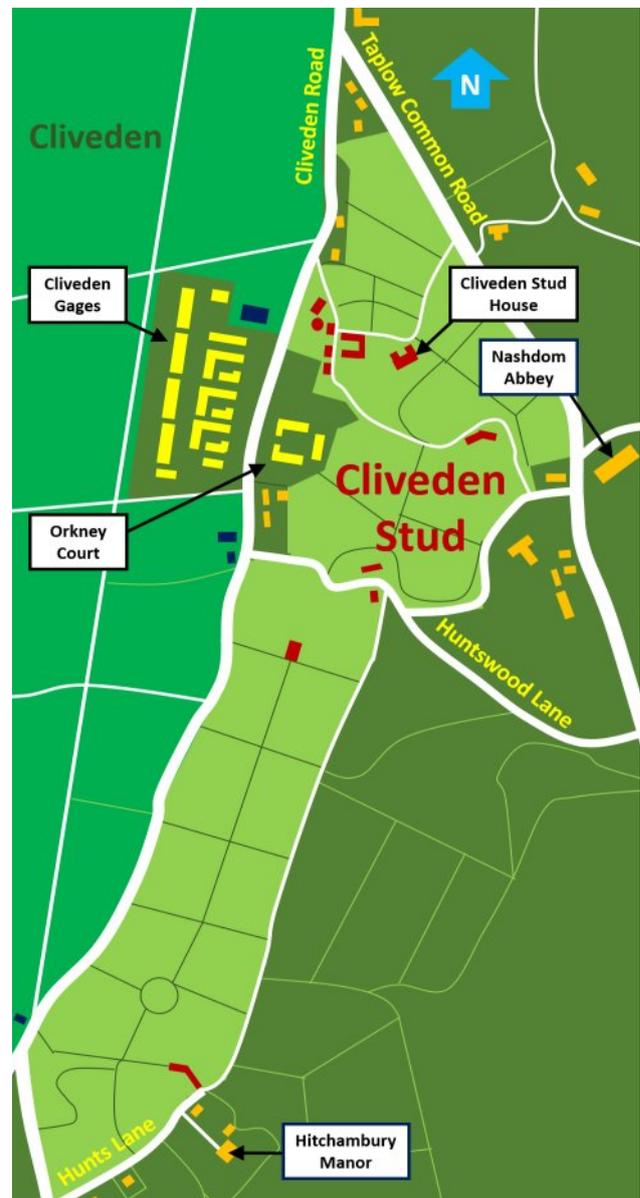
Cliveden Stud has been influential in British racing history since being founded in 1908 by Waldorf Astor, later Lord Astor. His filly Winkipop won eight of her 15 races in 1909/10 and was second in four others, winning what would now be over £6m in prize money. By the time he died in 1952, his horses had won 460 races and been placed 547 times. Louis Freedman and his son Philip continued the success of the Stud for 40 years from 1966, famously producing Reference Point, winner of the Derby, the King George Stakes and the St Leger in 1987. Sadly, subsequent owners have had no equestrian interest and the mansion house, most of the 43 stables and various supporting dwellings, facilities, buildings and 140 acres of grazing have fallen gradually into disrepair.

The cottages are subject to agricultural ties which mean they may only be occupied by people involved with the running of the Stud or related equestrian activities. These ties have been breached repeatedly. The current owner acquired the freehold in 2014 and applied last year to have these agricultural ties removed, claiming that there is no demand for equestrian facilities and therefore no need for workers' accommodation. The facts don't support this assertion. A tenant lived happily in one of the cottages and ran a successful livery and stud from the main stabling area for nine years until being forced out in 2015. Three subsidiary stable blocks are let to individuals running livery businesses. The property has not been offered for sale. Could the owner's interest be entirely financial and their application a precursor to fragmenting the site for development? The application met with numerous objections. SBDC's decision has been awaited since December.

A rich history, but what's the future? In 2011, the former tenant produced an impressive and exciting proposal illustrating a vision for the Stud's future as a world-class equestrian competition, polo, stud and training venue. It is the perfect location: in the Home Counties, a stone's throw from Windsor and London, adjacent to historically important properties such as Cliveden itself, Nashdom Abbey and Hitchambury Manor. The British Show Jumping Association, British Eventing, British Dressage and leading riders all supported the amazing potential and confirmed that, with investment and passion, it is a real possibility that Cliveden Stud could once again take its place in the centre of the equestrian world, providing fantastic

opportunities not only for equestrian enthusiasts but also for local businesses, employment and young people through necessary supporting activities such as hospitality and catering. All this, at the same time as protecting an incredibly important pocket of rural England for future generations.

Is it too much to dream that someone with vision and drive might purchase Cliveden Stud to invest in and utilise it in the amazing manner envisaged? Whether your interest is the equestrian world, rural matters, environmental protection, or the local economy and employment, the value of keeping the Stud with its permitted purpose is enormous. Can we really comprehend the seemingly likely possibility of losing this vital slice of the Green Belt to yet more development?



# Old Friends and Pioneers

This Newsletter is indebted to Robert Hanbury for discovering in his archive two documentary treasures from 1986.

The first is a list of 161 households that were members of the Society 32 years ago. Of the 113 where individuals are noted by name, an amazing 24 remain members after all this time. Liz & Alistair Forsyth have returned to Scotland and Marion Clarke, Bryan Galan, Ann & John Hanford, Dick Nutt, Lesley & Geoff Street and Daphne Walker have moved locally but Mary & John Bentley, Brenda Burns, Jessie Cooper, Joyce & Ron Eastick, Helen & Alleyn Grellier, Gillian & Robert Hanbury, Brenda Hickman, Sheila & Brian Horton, Maud Johnson, Brenda & John Kennedy, Eva & Max Lipman, Joy Marshall, Sarah Meats, Beryl Montague, Julia & Keith Paskins, Sheila Peroni and Morag & Mike Scarlett still live at the same addresses. All merit congratulations and sincere thanks for their stalwart support, as do those in Cedar Chase, Stockwells and Wellbank not personally identified due to their group membership.

Robert's second gem is that summer's action plan for "The Barn Dance". As Chairman (1984/90), he was "In Overall Charge" of this, the Society's very first Village Green Party (VGP), possibly proposed by Gwen Pollock (3 Stockwells), undoubtedly inspired by Cedar Chase's ox roasts and anticipated in Newsletter 51 (Spring 1986) as "the Society's Pic-Nic". There were two sessions of country dancing to "canned music" led by caller Mike Burnham (who charged £85) before and after "a show by the Hitcham Players" (with a cast of 20 adults and 20 children)

directed by Christabel Cumberlege (Redwood, Berry Hill) who sold tickets in advance.

Robert, Bill Ball (3 Cedar Chase), Alistair Forsyth (Old Manor House, Rectory Road) and Society Secretary Dick Nutt (Lea Rig, Poplar Farm) handled permissions, licences, grass-cutting, firepit-digging, fire-lighting, fire-watching, ox-roasting, barbecuing and selling beer provided by Colin Davey of The Oak & Saw and wine "on sale or return" from Alistair. Society Treasurer Eva Ricketts (7 Berry Hill Court) handled insurance and money matters including "on the night" sales of tickets which "must adhere to clothing". Others on the team were Michael Cumberlege, Sidney Dagg (Gully Farm, Hedsor Park), Alleyn Grellier, Tony Hickman, Jeff Ideson (The Cottage, Rectory Road), Raymond Lock (Wickenden), Hugh Nixon (Old Coach House, Rectory Road), Jane Nutt, Sheila & Barrie Peroni, Gwen Pollock and the memorably-monikered Eckhart & Jutta Schmnitz-Peiffer (2 Saxon Gardens) who ran the tombola in aid of St Mary's Church, Hitcham.

These pioneers set standards the Society enshrined. Country dancing remains a feature of the VGP, since 1987 to the music of Mike Sanderson's Band. We have roasted an ox (well, a leg of beef) every year except 1987, when pork "tasted too dry". Both beef and pork were offered during the 'Mad Cow' scare (1996/2001). As ever, everyone gets a free bun filled with slices of meat, burgers or sausages and – while the aim is fun not funds, and ticket prices are set to cover costs – raffles have supported numerous local good causes; this year's is Taplow Cricket Club.

## Village Green Party

23rd June 2018

Tickets available online  
at the Society's website:

[www.taplowsociety.org.uk](http://www.taplowsociety.org.uk)

# Pages from A Family Journal 1888-1915



Bassano

Ethel Grenfell (1913)

*Ethel 'Ettie' Grenfell, Lady Desborough, assembled a 650-page memoir for friends and family in 1916. In this third and final extract, Adam Smith tells of tragedies in the Great War...*

Ettie was in London on 4th August [1914] when the ultimatum to Germany expired at 11pm. "There was a curious sound of the tramping of crowds of people through London all that night – and very early in the morning the heavy Army waggons began to go past!" The Desboroughs' friend Lord Kitchener was made Minister for War and they were in contact with Prime Minister Asquith and Lord Balfour throughout the emergency. The first news of casualties among their sons' friends arrived on 8th September. By the end of 1914, there were 4,000 soldiers billeted in Maidenhead. "A hospital was opened, and seven soldiers' clubs".

On 15th October, Ettie's eldest son Julian, a captain in the 1st Royal Dragoons, wrote from Flanders: "It is all the most wonderful fun... the first time one shoots at a man one has the feeling

of never point a loaded gun at anyone, even in fun, but very soon it gets like shooting a crocodile, only more exciting, because he shoots back at you". Julian's "first day of real close-up fighting was 19th October" when snipers killed his sergeant and two men after a false white-flag surrender at a farmhouse brought his squadron into the open. "I longed to be able to say that I liked it... but it is beastly". On 24th October: "Horses are not much good in this country and in this fighting". Julian and later his brother Billy found telescopic sights much more useful than horses for the job in hand. His regiment abandoned their horses in November, but not before he recorded that a 'Jack Johnson' [6-inch mortar shell] "landed within 10 yards of me the other day, and only knocked me over and my horse. We both got up and looked at each other, and I laughed. It did not even knock the cigarette out of my mouth".

On his own initiative, as a natural extension of his beloved hunting, Julian made forays across no-man's-land to shoot Germans in their trenches at close quarters. "They have made quite a ridiculous fuss about me stalking. All our men have started it now. It is the popular amusement." It earned Julian a DSO, which he wore home for a week's leave, arriving 30th December at Taplow on the 8.30pm train. He returned to the front with three greyhounds, his outbound train from Victoria crossing his sister Monica's inbound one as she returned from the front, where she was a nurse.

Julian would never return to Taplow. In a blood-stained letter dated Friday 14th May 1915,



Unknown

Taplow Court's Norman Hall (1913)

he wrote "We took the Hun trenches yesterday. I stopped a 'Jack Johnson' with my head, and my skull is slightly cracked". Ettie and her husband Willie received news of his injury at 4pm on the Sunday and were at his bedside in Boulogne by 5am next day. An X-ray revealed brain injury and 1½-inch shell splinter. Julian had two operations. Billy passed through that week on his way to the front for the first time, Julian remarking "I am glad there was no gap". He died on 26th May and was buried "in the soldiers' cemetery, on the hill above Boulogne, looking over the battlefields".

Billy was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade. So sure was he that the war would be over in months or even weeks, he did not think to postpone enlisting until after exams he was to have taken in the autumn to embark on postgraduate study at Oxford. "On the evening of 2nd August [1915] the news reached Taplow that Billy had been killed leading his platoon in a charge near Hooze on 30th July". His CO wrote "I am convinced that the boy went forward confidently and proudly to what he knew was almost certain death. Terrific machine gun fire, and most of the leading line were killed or wounded". Two weeks later, a Lance Corporal Lawrence recovered Billy's body from the open ground where he fell and buried him near the 'Fleet Street' trench from which he had emerged under shelling and 'liquid fire', not a mile from where Julian had fallen, between Ypres and Menin. Among the many letters of condolence was one "from the old women at the Maidenhead Workhouse" [now St Mark's Hospital] and another to Billy's little sister Imogen from a seven-year-old girl enclosing a picture of a Fairy Queen.



Maull & Fox

Julian Grenfell (1915)

Ettie wrote "No mourning was ever worn for Julian or Billy". Both had deplored suggestions of safer billets away from the front. As a third surviving son, the army did however keep Ivo more or less out of harm's way during his service with the Grenadier Guards. Beyond the scope of her journal, Ettie's youngest son Ivo would die in a car accident in 1926, making inevitable the end of the Desborough title and the family's departure from Taplow.



### Stop Press

Roux at Skindles will feature a retro montage wall celebrating the history of Skindles. If you are willing to share any of your images for selection, please send them to Alain Roux's Personal Assistant, Mrs Lee Whitlock:  
leewhitlock@waterside-inn.co.uk

# Snapshots

Newsletter 108 was delighted to run a 'Stop Press' congratulating Karen Walsh and Ian Burne on readers of the Maidenhead Advertiser voting



Ian & Karen

The Oak & Saw Best Pub of the Year 2017. After almost 5,000 votes were counted, they had just nine more than the Craufurd Arms. Ian's dad was a publican in Anglesey and two of his brothers followed their father's footsteps. He and Karen met while working in sales management for a photographic company, he based in Swindon, she in her Yorkshire homeland. They became a couple, founded a recruitment company in Bray then had a better idea. Ian had been an Oak & Saw regular since 1981. When its lease came up for sale in 2004, they decided to transform the place into a great community asset – not only a traditional village inn decked with flowers front and back but also (courtesy of chefs Clinton Conway and Tony Jeffrey) a 'destination eatery'. We'll drink to that.

For centuries, there have been natural springs all along the southern edge of the Chilterns. The trickle running down Rectory Road is sourced from underground watercourses beneath Elibank Court and Rectory Farmhouse which meet the impenetrable barrier of the road. When it freezes, the trickle becomes treacherous ice and slush.



Trickle & Pothole

County Councillor Dev Dhillon has agreed to seek a remedy. Best to divert the water safely into a culvert (covered with a metal grill) along the northern gutter of Rectory Road to the gully on the corner of the High Street. Even better, perhaps additional gullies could be installed. However, let's retain the kerb setts by the village green, and hope gullies and culvert are cleared at least once each year after all the leaves have fallen.

News from America: Oonagh Lakings (15) of Denver (Colorado) led fellow High School students in a demonstration of sympathy with those murdered at a school in Florida. Clearly, this granddaughter of Rosaleen & Karl Lawrence is a chip off those old blocks.



Lansdowne Place



SGT 1970

Tony Hickman

Welcome to all the new Taplovians settling into their recently-completed homes. Sorry those in Institute Road were inconvenienced by floods caused by construction detritus blocking drains. You might like to know that Langton Green is named after the brothers Philip and Alan Langton, who for many years ran Station Garage Taplow on this site, and Lansdowne Place recalls their mother's favourite hotel in Hove.



Scarlett & Sasha



Festive Footballers

Two Taplow traditions have once more been great successes. Has a seed been sown for a third? Thanks to Sasha Boden and Scarlett Wayland-Smith for organising Carols on the Green on 21st December, and to Sally & Lauren Sharp for their festive music. Thanks also to Sheila Peroni and Charlie & Toby Greeves for hosting the Society's Easter Egg Hunt on 2nd April. Will next New Year's Eve see another Dads versus Lads football match on the Green?



Sadie Shepherd

Congratulations to Tony Harding of Buffins (third from right) who, along with fellow members of the Bisham Barn Owl Group, was presented with the Points of Light Award by PM Theresa May. The award recognises outstanding individual volunteers. Outstanding? The word defines Tony and his fantastic work at Old Priory Garden.

# Royal Recognition

The excitement must have been too much for Her Majesty. She delegated to Prince William the pleasure of investing Jacqueline de Rojas (Jacqueline Andrews of Maryfield) as Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) "for services to International Trade in the Technology Industry". Some accolade for a career that began by accident when Jacqueline returned from studying in Germany with ambitions to be a BBC newsreader but "fell into technology" because that's where she could make most difference. And what a difference she is making.

Without IT skills but confident at problem-solving, Jacqueline branded herself a business management trouble-shooter. Determined "to be visible" but never "a man in a dress", she focuses on being interested rather than interesting, on asking the right questions, listening carefully, absorbing learning and prioritising, on giving leadership by making people feel heard,



making ideas relevant and meeting needs empathetically but without offering compromise. This potent approach has led to many influential appointments including President of techUK (an IT trade association), Chair of Digital Leaders and non-executive directorships with visionary companies such as Rightmove, Costain and AO.com. She is a member of the Digital Economy Council supporting HMG's Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and seizes every opportunity to promote diversity in business and among decision-makers of every ilk. She is

especially delighted to support the Girlguiding Association for technology transformation and to advise Accelerate-Her in its mission to champion and support women working in technology and to break down barriers that deter women from entering the sector.

Jacqueline is driven by three values: family (or team / community), generosity and integrity, all vital ingredients to her personality, to her professional effectiveness and to how she and her husband Roger enhance our community. Henceforth, shall we call her 'Commander'?



Jacqueline and family at Buckingham Palace

Unknown

## Fond Memories

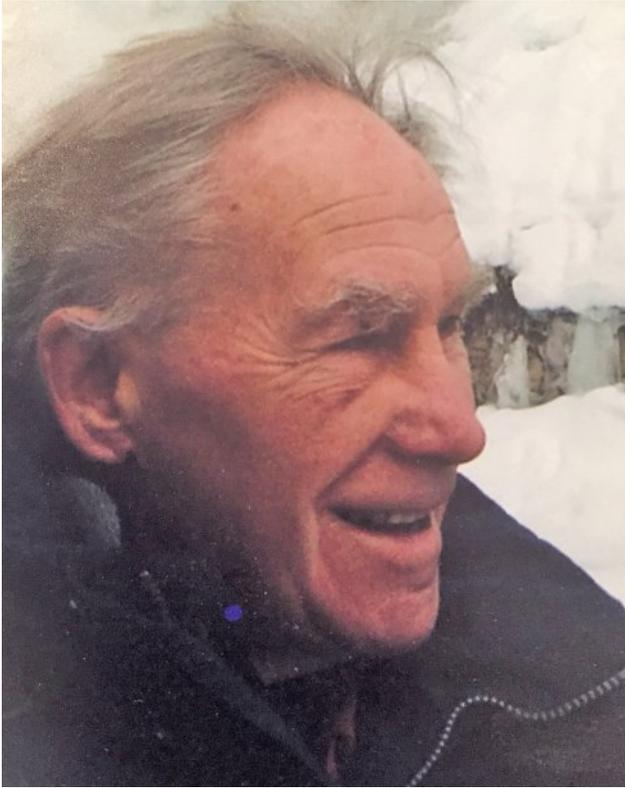
### Jane Nutt

Jane was a rector's daughter from Haughton, Staffordshire, a student at Cheltenham Ladies' College and the Royal Academy of Music, much-travelled during her husband and "best friend" Dick's Army career before they settled in 1973 at Lea Rig, Poplar Farm. His being the Society's Secretary (1976/91) kept them at the heart of its happenings (see Page 13). They continued to worship at St Nicolas' Church after moving in 2006 to Pink Lane, Burnham. Brenda Hickman recalls affectionately a music-loving mother of three children proudly riding Dickory, her Welsh Cob, and always "incredibly stoic" about everything except her name – Monica Naomi – so everyone knew her as Jane.

### Peter Maddocks

Peter practised both privately at the Cardinal Clinic in Windsor and for the National Health Service as a consultant psychiatrist. He was known particularly for his expertise on the diagnosis and treatment of schizophrenia. Professional colleagues admired his sensitive, practical yet humorous lectures which characterised the disorder as 'cancer of the spirit', and patients at Wexham Park Hospital remember him leading its evacuation during a rebel nurse takeover. Socially, he had an enviable reputation for excellence at bridge, partnering his wife Astrid, and at windsurfing on Bray Lake, where he taught their four sons. They lived in Ellington Road for many years and, lately, at Taplow Quays.

# Timothy Anderson 1925-2017



Unknown

As a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist in the Windsor District from 1967 to 1989, many will remember Tim at Cliveden's Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital. His friends knew him as a keen athlete, skier, mountain walker, tennis player, music lover, painter in oils, veteran car enthusiast, Church-goer, gardener and family man.

In 1950 at the British Empire Games in Auckland, New Zealand, he won a pole vault gold medal with a 3.97 metre jump using a bamboo pole. Two years later, he competed in the Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland. He joked that his choice of sport was awkward as in training he needed to travel on public transport with his 15-foot pole.

Tim spent the war years at Malvern College, with the first year at Blenheim Palace, where the school was briefly relocated. He studied Medicine at Clare College, Cambridge, then at St Thomas's Hospital, qualifying in 1951. Called up for National Service, he spent two years with the Royal Army Medical Corps, training troops in first aid, map reading and athletics, and six months on troop ships travelling to and from Aden, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Hong Kong and

Japan during the Korean War. On return, he took various Obstetrics and Gynaecology training jobs before securing his Consultant post in the Windsor District.

Tim was an examiner for the Central Midwives Board, chaired the Oxford Regional O&G committee, and was Vice-Chairman of the O&G section of the Royal Society of Medicine in London. He was an innovator who introduced laparoscopy, hysteroscopy, amniocentesis and cystometry to the Windsor District and researched sport in pregnancy, cancer and infertility due to sperm rejection by cervical immune response.

In 1991, Tim retired to work and teach in the Women's Hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. His wife Liz retired from her GP practice to accompany him to work in a nearby hospital and start an outreach clinic for women sex workers, educating and treating them. Her book about their experiences – *Red Lights and Green Lizards* – details the primitive conditions they faced in Cambodia following the Khmer Rouge atrocities. The pair of them took crash courses in tropical diseases and the Khmer language. Later Tim was evacuated to Bangkok to treat a tropical disease he had contracted, and again in the following year after his efforts to keep fit in the heat and humidity lead to a brain disorder with total loss of memory, happily diagnosed by neurologists and resolving.

All their friends were relieved to have them return safely to Taplow in 1993. They hosted tennis parties for hospital staff on their garden grass court. They also owned an apartment in Courchevel, France, where family holidays were spent in winter and summer. Tim skied in the annual downhill Kandahar race, joking that he won a medal as the only entrant in the over-80s category. He loved open cars, especially his classic Talbot, his TVR and even an old Jeep in Cambodia; the recognisable roar of the TVR engine signalled his arrival or departure. He enjoyed watching Liz playing her violin for the Slough Philharmonic Orchestra.

Liz passed away in 2013, Tim in September last year. They are much missed by the whole Taplow community.

*Brian Smith*

# Anthony Hickman 1931-2017

The Hickmans have history hereabouts dating back before 1550 when Thomas, son of William, was baptised in Chesham. Charles was Rector of Taplow in 1698/1702. Another Thomas married a young lady from Taplow in 1761. The surname scattered across the Chilterns. Tony's ancestors laboured on the land at Prince's Risborough. Some 70 years ago, his cousin John led British Telecommunications Research at Taplow Court and in 1960, like Tom of old, Tony took to a Taplovian.

He met Brenda Passmore (of Crosswinds near Orkney Cottage) at a party only to be slow on the uptake until their chance meeting on a train to Paddington. Romance blossomed. He proposed on Taplow Station forecourt as they sat in his other love, a 1927 Darracq named Nellie. They married in 1962, settled in Southwark, welcomed their children Charlotte and Christopher but, come 1971, found themselves homeless having sold their Islington house and been gazumped in Hackney. Fortune smiled again: Brenda saw 17 Cedar Chase was for sale. One look and they bought it, intending a brief stay. Instead, they help sow the seeds of social vibrancy our community still enjoys today and, ten years later, moved to Allington Cottage to share their love of its garden.

Tony enjoyed the "music in the earth" and indulging in "a nice pudding" but neither smoked nor gambled and drank only ginger wine "for medicinal purposes". His aim "to put something back into the world" saw him "guard the peace" as a magistrate, design the extension to St Mary's Church in Hitcham, serve as Taplow's Church Architect and bless St Nicolas' with what he joked was his crowning architectural achievement – the lobby loo.

The road to this apogee began in 1948 when his mother interviewed Kingston School of Art and deigned it satisfactory to make an architect of him. His dedication and relentless resolve to create or renovate led in 1974 to a partnership with Stevens Scanlan & Partners in Westminster. An "able and practical all-rounder" with an eye for detail, never shy with his opinions yet masterful at taking the heat out of any argument, his passion for historic buildings was exercised most notably at the National Trust's Westminster headquarters, the Blewcoat School in Victoria and, earning Her Majesty's personal thanks, at St



George's School, Windsor Castle. He became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and, as "a pillar" of the Franco-British Union of Architects for 31 years, a *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* but never carried 'a naked sword', a privilege bestowed in 1983 with the Freedom of the City of London.

To colleagues teasing his tardiness, Tony was "the late Mr Hickman" – sadly now all too true, but affection endures. To an appreciative client, he was "Old School in the best possible way, an outstanding professional, adviser and confidante". To his grandson Cooper: "a grateful, loyal and true person, the best Grandpa in the world". To Taplow: a valiant guardian, chairman of the 1980s Cliveden Hanging Woods Appeal and for 38 years a Society stalwart – four years our Chairman, four as President, forever a valued planning expert and, since 2001, an active Vice-President never complaining as Parkinson's took its toll. How we miss his perception and unshaking principles, his persistently persuasive manner and, especially, his heart of oak, wide smile and bow tie to match.

*Nigel Smales*

# Lincoln's End

## *Remembering Lincoln Lee*

I wonder how many of you have seen the bench which has materialised in Old Priory Garden with the inscription *In Memory of Helen and Linc Lee who loved Taplow*? Some of you may not have had the great privilege of knowing Helen and Linc. Max and I were lucky enough to be their next-door neighbours. Kinder, nicer people you have yet to meet. When we moved to Taplow as a young couple in 1968, the first contact we had with them was Linc asking if we wanted to borrow his lawn mower. They knew most people in the village and had regular parties on their lovely terrace which is how we got to know the locals and start to become part of the community. When our children arrived, they took on the role of honorary grandparents enthusiastically. The little ones really loved them and used to trundle off happily to the toy cupboard in their sunny breakfast room.

Helen's deep involvement with the National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Society led to her being instrumental in organising a party in the marquee which was offered to the Society by Taplow Paper Mill – a precursor for a great Taplow tradition, the Village Green Party. She was kindness itself, ever ready to mop and bind up bleeding cuts, give advice, and come to one's aid at the drop of a hat. She was like a second mother to me.

Between them, Helen and Linc served for 35 years on the Society's Committee, and he was our President in 2001/04. We all valued their contributions and their very practical common sense. He had a wonderful sense of humour with a fund of anecdotes and was a great contributor to our Newsletters. The then editor Fred Russell gave him his own slot – Lincoln's Corner – to fill with of all sorts of quirky bits and pieces. Nowadays, this page aspires to follow those worthy footsteps.



Eva thinking kindly

Now to the bench itself. Their three sons took collections at Linc's and Helen's funerals and asked me to use the funds to benefit the village. It took a long time because although I was full of ideas many of them proved impracticable. In the end, with the approval of their family, I opted for an oak bench in OPG. The ever-resourceful Miv Wayland-Smith took delivery of the bench but unfortunately the weather was too inclement to install it and, much to Victoria's dismay, there it stayed taking up rather a lot of space in their garden. When the heavy bench was hauled down to OPG and unpacked, it was discovered that 'Taplow' had somehow become 'Tallow'. Poor Miv had to sort that out with the suppliers. Anyway, all was resolved, and our grateful thanks go to Victoria, Miv and those who assisted in installing it. Perhaps in the future when you sit upon the bench to admire the view, you will reflect on how it came to be there and think kindly thoughts about Helen and Linc.

*Eva Lipman*

### Save These Dates

*Watch the Society's web site for details*

Royal Wedding Garden Party, Taplow Rectory: 20th May

Taplow Court Open Days: 20th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 5th August & 16th September

Village Green Party: 23rd June

Community Summer Fete, Taplow Village Green: 30th June

Taplow Village Dog Show: 9th September

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Unless otherwise stated, the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society or its Committee.

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