# Hitcham and Taplow Society

Newsletter 119: Spring 2023 £3.50 to non-members



www.taplowsociety.org.uk

## **Hitcham and Taplow Society**

Protecting and enhancing Hitcham, Taplow, and the surrounding countryside for the local community

President: Eva Lipman
Vice President: Fred Russell
Chairman: vacant
Treasurer: Mike Turner

Secretary: Roger Worthington

Committee: Andrew Findlay, Charlie Greeves, Robert Hanbury, Robert Harrap,

Cat Howard, Rupert Sellers, Jonathan Specktor, Sue Thornton,

Jacqueline Turner, Graham Valentine

Newsletter Editor: The not-the-editor team

Newsletter Production: Andrew Findlay

Contact Address: HTS, Littlemere, River Road, Taplow, SL6 0BB

secretary@taplowsociety.org.uk

07787 556309

Cover picture: The sun sets behind the statue of Pluto and Proserpina at Cliveden (Andrew Findlay)

Photos and articles are by Roger Worthington if not credited individually

#### **Editorial**

We hope that the coronation of King Charles may mark the start of a new phase in British life, leaving Covid and unstable governments behind. In Taplow, while we may be leaving a decade of housing growth, the arrival of the Elizabeth Line is creating new waves of pressure on our streets (article page 10).

We mourn the loss of Joy Marshall, for many years our defender of trees and footpaths but welcome to our committee the new energies of Cat Howard, Sue Thornton, Mike Turner and Graham Valentine. Their impact is already visible in the content of this issue. At the head of this page you may have noticed that we have revised what is often called a "mission statement". The Society was founded essentially to preserve Taplow as it was. This evolved to a more constructive approach of managing development rather than denying it, with a corresponding name change for the Society. Newer pressures include the environment and energy concerns and more recognition and support for what is actually happening today in our community. While we are proud to have been here since 1959 our continued existence depends on current matters rather than just the past.

#### **Abbreviations**

BC Buckinghamshire Council EA Environment Agency EDRA Ellington & District Residents Association TfL Transport for London

#### **Errata**

Our last issue showed Nigel Smales being thanked on behalf of the Ceremonial Wardens by the Prince and Princess of Wales. While Nigel has several hats, he was in fact representing the Royal Borough Ambassadors on this occasion. Apologies.

#### Make contact!

We occasionally send information to members by e-mail. Messages have "[HTS-members]" in the subject line. If you have not received one of these in the past few months please send your preferred e-mail address to:

treasurer@taplowsociety.org.uk

### **War Memorial Names**

We were so pleased that the addition of World War II names to the memorial was completed in time for the Armistice Day service in November. Thank you all for the donations that made it possible, to Nigel Smales for a reliable list of well researched names and of course to Adrian Powell for the carving itself. They can be seen regarding their work with satisfaction and taking well earned refreshment afterwards.







## **Taplow Weir**

Over the winter period the Environment Agency (EA) have been working at Taplow Weir on the Jubilee River. As you probably know the Jubilee River is a hydraulic channel that takes overflow from the Thames above Maidenhead and returns it just downstream of Eton. It was built in the late 90's to alleviate flooding in Maidenhead, Eton and Windsor.

The 3-gate weir on Mill Lane is the primary control mechanism to adjust the flow of water through the channel. Each gate can be independently controlled. The gates and controls need to be routinely maintained. This involves dropping barriers called stop logs into slots before and after each gate, making a waterproof seal. The water can be pumped out and engineers can then access all

parts of the gate and sluice. In the past this has involved employing large cranes and a complicated process due to the very limited access around the weir.

The EA decided to build a permanent gantry across the weir immediately upstream of the gate so that the stop logs can be easily dropped into the channel whenever maintenance is required. The stop logs on the downstream side are still placed using a lorry-mounted jib but this can be done from the bridge and is much simpler. The result is a bit of an eyesore but is a necessary improvement and now has just become part of the scenery (pictures on p6).

Mike Turner



As the intercom tweets (actually tweets like a bird) and I enter the first of the double gates at Skyfall, it is immediately apparent I am a world away from my old Victorian property just up the lane. Since I was last here in the searing heat of summer, Mark and Sam have been very busy planting trees and landscaping the grounds. Any trace of the long build that eventually brought Skyfall to fruition has disappeared and it all looks wonderful, even through the sleet on my windscreen.

The roofs of the house and the garage and the large flower bed outside the front door are now planted with Sedum. As a succulent, Sedum stores water in its leaves making it a drought-tolerant, low maintenance plant that grows well in almost every weather condition. As well as the plants and flowers being very attractive to insects such as butterflies and bees, Sedum roofs are well known for their superior absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> and are also particularly efficient at capturing particulate matter thus improving air quality.

The house itself is impressive, modern and sleek but also understated, blending in beautifully with the landscape around it; it is also 100% carbon neutral to run, a first in Taplow.

Having enjoyed the coolness of the interior back in August, it is even more of a joy to step through the glass door into the warmth of Skyfall now. There is a lot one can do to insulate and save energy in an older house but, for obvious reasons, it would be impossible for most of us living in Hitcham and Taplow to come close to the low cost efficiency of a new property built to such a high spec.

Inside the house is spacious, perfectly proportioned and flooded with natural light. Every door and window is triple glazed with 70% UV protective glass to aid insulation from the heat, as well as from the cold. Skyfall boasts exceptionally high levels of thermal insulation and, in conjunction with this, it uses a 'Seasonal Thermal Energy Storage System' (STES); a cutting edge technology that is relatively new to the UK. This allows the storage of heat or cold (using a large internal water tank) for a period of several months to be used in the opposing season. Hot water is heated directly by 8 solar thermal panels on the flat roof and any excess heat generated by these is stored within the thermal store for use at a later date. This is all done with the help of an air source heat pump which helps charge and discharge the storage directly to the underfloor heating/cooling thus ensuring Sam's beloved pugs are happy in all seasons! The 'engine' room downstairs is impressive and shiny, a little space age for those of us with old gas boilers, creaking radiators and ancient storage tanks in the attic.

Since moving in, Mark and Sam have installed 52 more solar panels along with 3 Tesla storage batteries to ensure that there is enough electricity at all times to charge their cars and keep their two youngest children, now teenagers, fully powered up.

After several coffees I return home, reaching for an extra fleece as I get through the front door. I spend the rest of the day contemplating the millions of older homes, including over 500,000 listed buildings in the UK of which mine is one. I wonder if I will ever even come close to free, environmentally friendly underfloor heating. The cat looks at me wistfully. Conflict between conservation and sustainability should not be inevitable. Preserving heritage and sustainable development are both equally important goals.

Cat Howard

Editor's note

The house cannot be described as fully carbon neutral until the carbon impact of the production of concrete and steel is addressed.



Thanks to Cat Howard, Carols on the Green was back in style. The weather held off and it was wonderful to see so many people of all ages singing their hearts out around the Christmas tree led by Neil Ferguson's excellent piano playing. There was plenty of mulled wine and hot chocolate to wash down all the delicious cakes donated by the kind folk of Taplow. After the festive fun was done, over £400 was raised for the Brett Foundation. Same again next year!







Sat Howard

## Tidy Up Taplow

Despite the rain early morning, we were delighted when families, neighbours, dog walkers and folks from Windsor, Burnham, Maidenhead and Hedgerley started pouring in to start their litter pick routes. All 14 routes were covered and teams either set off on foot or by car to some of the outlying areas. Meanwhile, back at the village hall, cakes were laid out with coffees and teas to nourish the collectors on their return. There was a buoyant atmosphere in the room and Roger and Eva enlisted newcomers to join the society. We were especially pleased to see families with young children joining in. They will be future ambassadors for a 'Clean Britain'.

Thirty two bags of litter were collected which all help to make Taplow a cleaner space and a healthier environment for our wildlife friends. We welcome you to join us in 2024.

Jacqueline Turner







## **Taplow Weird**





The EA is up to something weird and it has been affecting the plans for the restoration of the Jubilee footbridge

## **Taplow4Ukraine**

The suffering and daily struggles of millions of Ukrainians since the Russian invasion might seem to be growing distant and abstract, yet some of the war refugees continue to receive the assistance and generosity of volunteers and host families right here in Taplow. Taplow for Ukraine was formed last year as a satellite support group to Aid for Ukraine Maidenhead, under the auspices of the United Reformed Church, Maidenhead.

Although interest in the project has waned since the early months of Russia's war, the group continues to raise aid in the form of cash donations, food staples, and other basic necessities which are delivered by lorry to support organisations along the Polish border with Ukraine.

Taplow4Ukraine also assists the local refugees in their difficult transition to life far from home, from daily practicalities, to learning English and school places for the children, to support for the overwhelming emotional toll all of these changes encompass. Most importantly, refugee host homes continue to be in demand, as the initial six month period requested runs out

Furthermore, the Ukrainian refugees' ability to communicate in English is central to their local integration and ability to find work. Many are taking advantage of English lessons held at Maidenhead Synagogue and other less local venues. The synagogue has also been distributing donated bicycles to Ukrainians in need of local transportation and, most recently, helped to fill a lorry with pet food that was sent to feed the thousands of pets left behind.

# **Community Choirs**

NL111 trailed a "Songs of Evolution" community choir run by Zoe Hatch. Community choirs are flourishing, with Zoe's latest being one focussed on new mothers to promote their wellbeing and alleviate postnatal depression.

The program is offered by Sound and Song CIC a not-for-profit Community Interest Group supported by the Beeches Community Board. More info at: mums.soundandsong.co.uk



A detailed survey of Ukranians UK experience is at whitestoneinsight.com – click on 'Sanctuary Foundation'

Also among our Taplow guests are a few professional artists who are looking for a suitable space to work in – their art also being part of their healing process. Should you have a spare room, unused garden space, office or similar – even if in need of a bit of TLC – these talented artists would appreciate and benefit from your generosity.

During the May coronation weekend, you can see works by these artists, among others, at the 'All Shall Be Well' community art exhibition at St. Nicholas Church.

For more information contact: taplowforukraine@gmail.com

Jonathan Specktor

Village Green Party 18:00 – 22:30 24th June 2023 On The Village Green

www.taplowsociety.org.uk/vgp

## **Bird Survey**

Middle Thames Bird Conservation Trust was set up in 2019 to bring together local volunteers interested in studying the area's birdlife. We were attracted to Jubilee River at Taplow by the diverse habitats found along river banks.

A small but important reed bed has established itself at Taplow, nestled between the river and willow/shrub. We're particularly interested in Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler and Reed Bunting which breed here though we see many more species and have listed those we ringed in 2022.



Reed Warbler

The Jubilee River is also used by good numbers of Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Long-tailed Tit, Redwing and Willow Warbler. Others include Cetti's Warbler, Firecrest, Kingfisher, Lesser Whitethroat, and Whitethroat.

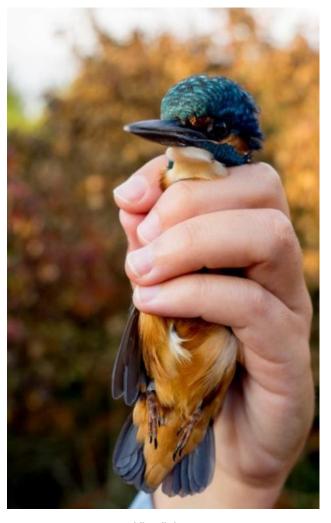
Before bird ringing was a widespread practice, we knew very little about where birds migrated to in winter, or why population sizes change. Over the years, the ringing scheme has revealed, among other information, how long species live, where summer migrants overwinter, and the degree of site fidelity.



Firecrest



Training to ring begins with learning how to hold a bird and fit a metal ring on its leg – each ring has a unique serial number recorded in a database so any subsequent capture can be matched up to the bird's ringing date.



Kingfisher

Training moves on to species identification and learning how to age a bird, as well as recording breeding condition, wing length, weight, other biometrics and plumage notes.

#### 24 bird species ringed

Blackbird

Blackcap

Blue Tit

Cetti's Warbler

Chiffchaff

**Dunnock** AMBER

Firecrest

Garden Warbler

Goldcrest

Goldfinch

Great Spotted Woodpecker

**Great Tit** 

Green Woodpecker

Kingfisher

Long-tailed Tit

RedwingRED

Reed Bunting AMBER

Reed Warbler

Robin

Sedge WarblerAMBER

Song ThrushAMBER

WhitethroatAMBER

Willow Warbler AMBER

WrenAMBER



Reed Bunting

Surveying involves rising before dawn, meeting at sites to set fine mesh nets suspended between tall poles. When a bird flies into a net it's supported by the net and we carefully extract the bird for processing before releasing it.

Training is pretty intensive, taking place over several years and requires a combination of fitness, dexterity, academic interest, enthusiasm and plenty of time!

#### UK declines over 25 years

RED: 50%+ AMBER: 25%+



Green Woodpecker

The Jubilee River has become an incredible resource for birds and we're lucky to have the opportunity to survey it over the coming years to track how its birdlife changes

Carl Hunter-Roach



Young Robin

# **Station Parking**

In a bygone era the most exciting event at Taplow station would have been the arrival of the chairman of the Great Western Railway to catch his Taplow / Paddington express. Things have now become rather busier.

Parking at the station itself is very limited and Station and Institute roads carry the bulk of commuter parking. Passing on Station Road is just possible due to the soft edge of the carriageway. That was not possible on Institute Road and led to frustrations and confrontations. With the development of housing on Institute Road it was yellow lined with a significant reduction in parking availability. So Station Road parking has slowly spread into Boundary Road and Marsh Lane. Boundary Road residents suffer and the Marsh Lane parking creates traffic jams onto the A4. Now desperate commuters are parking on Approach Road and obstructing the much used pavement. (See photo). The police station is applying for some restrictions as their armed response teams can get blocked in!

Looking at which way the cars face, most traffic is coming from the north. Beaconsfield is slated for very significant housing growth, Wilton Park just being the first phase. Commuting to Taplow and the newly opened Elizabeth Line is more attractive to many than arriving at Marylebone via the Chilterns line, so we must expect an ever growing pressure.

What is to be done?

A suggested scheme was to make a one-way loop out of Station, Boundary and Institute roads to allow parking on all of them.

BC brought forward a scheme to permit batches of parking bays on Approach, Station, Institute roads and Marsh Lane with gaps to allow traffic to pass. This was withdrawn but is expected to return. The inclusion of Approach Road clearly would create a range of difficulties.

An earlier plan from Dorney Parish for a set of yellow lines included Marsh Lane but that plan was shelved so Marsh Lane did not benefit.

These schemes blight Taplow roads with no benefit to residents. Would either of them satisfy demand? We have seen people parking in River Road and getting out a folding bicycle to head to the station! A survey of all Taplow residents in 2016 gave a clear signal that improved station parking was high on the list of priorities. Do you actually want more parking? Very convenient at the station itself but it generates more traffic on the Cliveden, Hill Farm and Boundary roads and on the A4.

There is some low grade Green Belt land adjacent to the station, presently a smallholding and car storage. The draft Local Plan for what was South Bucks District Council took this land out of the Green Belt but slated it for office development. That was silly then and even more



so now. However the plan was shelved and we await a new BC Local Plan (2025 26?). BC has made much of the impact of the Elizabeth Line but impact will be limited if commuters can't get to it. Enlarged station parking seems to be obvious but stakeholders – councils and various railway companies – have to date shown little interest. Proximity to a station appears critical for slothful commuters. The new car park in Vicus Way Maidenhead was built explicitly for commuters but is so far almost empty.

The present problems require urgent action to protect Approach and Boundary Roads as there is nothing currently to prevent cars parking all the way down them, creating serious blockages. The new local plan will put a cut-off to options if nothing is agreed earlier as the new plan is still highly likely to take the station land out of the Green Belt.



# 50 Years Ago

Newsletter 26 was mostly taken up with the protests against the newly introduced "Minimum Noise Route" aircraft routing out of Heathrow, which the Society vigorously and effectively opposed.

The use of the name "Minimum Noise Route" is gravely misleading, and the policy of annoying a few grieviously, rather than many slightly, is unjust and cannot be seen to be otherwise. Both should cease.

The issue also recorded the original closing of the Mill Lane / Taplow Court path by Plessey:

Path from Mill Lane to Taplow Court

In an attempt to reduce damage by vandals, Messrs.Plessey who own Taplow Court have placed a door at the entrance to the path from Mill Lane and a notice indicating that it is private. Historical studies by Mrs. R. Ibbetson have shown that the path could be closed by the owners as a result of a decision of the Magistrates in 1853. However, Members have reported that their families have used it more or less continuously since then; an approach has therefore been made to Messrs.Plessey to alter their notice to indicate that the path may be used for walks to and from Bapsey Pond and Taplow Court.

# 25 Years Ago

Spring 1998 was one of the rare times that no Newsletter was produced, which is not to say nothing happened

## **Planning**

BC is struggling to write a new Local Plan as the Government has still not given them a stable set of rules. The National Planning Policy Framework is in draft form again, encouragingly offering councils a little flexibility on their total housing numbers. The various delays may have the beneficial effect that much more recent (and lower) housing numbers may be used. Things are unlikely to stabilise any time soon as, whatever the details, the English Planning system is in dire need of overhaul if the country is to grow economically. The fight, as ever, will be over the clash between that need and the preservation of local accountability.

The unloved TfB has finally been laid to rest and BC has announced its replacement by "Buckinghamshire Highways". Although strictly intended for parish use,

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parish-highways connects to its services.

A critical pressure in our area is the final arrival of the full Elizabeth Line with its offer of direct access through Central London to the City. (See article on page 10 for its effect on local parking). There is now a full scale battle developing for residential construction in our area of the Green Belt, with armies of lawyers searching for planning loopholes exceptional circumstances. We have local sites already in appeal over BC planning refusals and arcane arguments over covenants limiting houses to equine workers only (86 documents!) and the differences between equine and agricultural law applicability.

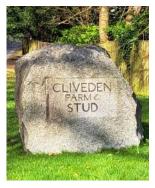
All this of course absorbs a great deal of skilled resource from the council when they are already short-handed, leading to applications taking a long time to decide. At mid-March over half the unresolved applications dated from 2022.



Coach House In appeal



Downlands Barn In appeal



Cliveden Stud 86 documents



Huntswood Lane In appeal

Some good news is that BC has now confirmed the first set of entries on its Local Heritage Asset list. Locally this includes The Hermitage in the Taplow Riverside Conservation Area. Following this an application has been successful at The Hermitage to convert it to six flats (plus a cottage). This is the first application of many at the Hermitage that received support from the Parish Council, EDRA and ourselves. We still, of course, wait to see what will actually happen but it is better than demolition.



#### **River Road Problems**

River Road runs perilously close to the River Thames, in particular the stretch along Gaiety Row. In the mid 1990s it was in danger of collapsing into the river. It was rebuilt and the river bank piled to secure it. As a private road this was sadly at the expense of the Gaiety Row residents.

The road remained stable for 20 years but more recently the volume of heavy lorries servicing house rebuilds and extensions has grown rapidly and the road is showing signs of collapse.

As a temporary expedient an arrangement has been made that on agreed dates, Gaiety Row residents move their cars and the sides of the

road are coned off so that heavy lorries keep away from the river side of the road. A far cry from the leisurely vehicles of bygone times.

Investigations are being made to assess the real state of the road and what repair options are feasible. The road is of course a bridleway and part of the Thames Path so there are many users to consider, not to mention the likely return of the summer season bad behaviour problems

However, in a great advance on the 1990s it looks likely that costs will be fully shared across all residents of the road, not just Gaiety Row.







## **Society Technology**

As agreed at last year's AGM, a working party has been set up to modernise our uses of technology. This is very much still a work in progress, with suggestions being received from a number of members.

To date we have identified a membership database that looks like it can provide the functionality required and is affordable. We are currently testing a prototype and working with the developer on our requirements. It will have the facility for prospective members to enrol online and pay subscriptions directly to our bank. It also has an email facility built in so it will eradicate the duplication and error prone

spreadsheets we currently use. Members will have the facility to update their entry to keep the data up to date.

We have also identified a mobile face to face payment process allowing us to take credit card/ contactless payments at HTS functions e.g. the Village Green Party.

Finally, we are also trialling an online accounting package, that should make the end of year reporting a great deal easier.

We hope to roll out all these technology improvements over the next few months.

Mike Turner

## More Travails at the Village Hall



In NL117 we noted that the Sheila Horton mural in the Village Hall Reading Room had suffered from damp. The problem was identified as coming from the salt bin on the opposite side of the hall wall and defective guttering. This was all sorted and the wall area repointed. In searching for the right expertise to restore the mural the Council was fortunate to have the help of Ernest Riall of the Wooburn Craft School. (Seen on the front of NL 100 restoring the phone box). He in turn identified Claudia Fiocchetti ACR as a specialist in wall painting and stone repair. Her advice was that the repointing had to be undone and poultices applied to the wall daily for a month to suck out all the salt before any restoration could be made. The unenviable task fell to Ernest in some terrible weather. He can (just) be seen here sheltering from the rain while renewing the poultice. This has been successful so the hall now awaits Claudia's return to work on the mural itself. The damage steadily worsened until the poultice work was completed but hopefully has stabilised now. The restoration will cost thousands but the mural is of course priceless.



The hall itself has continued to suffer after its water / electricity problems reported in our last issue. Although the roof to the office room had been replaced two years ago, a tear allowed the winter rains to pour in, damaging desk, files and computer. A simple insurance claim? Well, no again. The agent found that the roof was full of asbestos so promptly sealed the room, leaving Ruth homeless and triggering a long and complex restoration program, happily now complete with Ruth having the arrangements to her liking.

On the bright side however the tired looking internal doors have been replaced and plans are made to renew the toilets during school holidays.

## **Rectory Road Resurfacing**

The announced closure of Rectory Road for resurfacing, apparently in the middle of term time at St Nicolas, together with the arrival of all the heavy machines and cones along the road caused a stir. They then all disappeared. Concern for the school run problems? No, they had been informed that the electricity authorities are planning work in the area so they intend to be back in 2024, doubtless in term time again.

## Joy Marshall 1929 – 2023



Joy's 90th birthday

Joy and her family moved to Ellington Gardens in Taplow nearly 60 years ago, and she lived in the same house until her passing in February 2023. She was born in Eton and spent her childhood years in Datchet. After leaving school in Windsor, she trained to be a secretary and was PA to the director of Horlicks before deciding to be a school teacher. In the 1960s Joy gained a diploma in teaching and child psychology. She became a teacher at Altwood School in Maidenhead, and progressed to Head of Department in Business Studies.

Dedicating much of her life to the wellbeing of the Taplow area, Joy took a keen interest in history and conservation. She was a stalwart of the Ellington & District Residents Association (EDRA) and a long-standing member of the Hitcham & Taplow Society.

Joy was also a hard-working Taplow Parish Councillor with a particular fondness for public footpaths which she cared for throughout her 21 years of service, being appointed as the chair of the Environment Committee. This was a duty she continued for the rest of her life. When she retired from the Parish Council in 2013, George Sandy, who was chairman at the time, commented "Joy is such a fountain of knowledge concerning the history, past and present. She served Taplow parish with diligence and her extensive knowledge has assisted many a debate at times when some of us youngsters didn't quite know or remember."

Most people in the village, who had met Joy, know that she loved walking and talking – It should come as no surprise that she was secretary of the East Berkshire Ramblers Association for eight years. Even in her 94th year, Joy would walk into Maidenhead, chatting to people along the way. She advocated that "walking calms the nerves, refreshes the mind and uplifts the spirit". Aside from long walks, Joy believes her enduring good health was boosted by having a small glass of ginger wine every day.

Joy was a valued member of the community and will be sorely missed.

Rupert Sellers



Joy at 17

## Lincoln's End

Remembering Lincoln Lee

#### **Back Numbers**

Your secretary gets a steady stream of enquiries arising from people across the world who have come across the back numbers section of our website. Some are from ex-Taplovians looking to chase up old memories, some are from researchers seeking information on buildings or significant families, the latest being from Calke Abbey in Derbyshire. Although any one issue may not be so profound, our archive reflects the life and times of Taplow for over sixty years. Try browsing it: https://www.taplowsociety.org.uk/newsletter-2/

#### **Food Bank**

Food banks are perhaps most associated with larger towns and cities. It comes as something of a shock to find that Burnham Care & Share is supporting people from Taplow, the epitome of a comfortably-off parish. It brings home the reality that no matter how prosperous a society may look we may still have neighbours who are desperately struggling to keep going, for a whole variety of reasons.

Burnham Care and Share was set up to cover the gap between the conurbations of Slough and Maidenhead, travel often being very difficult for those in greatest need.

We are pleased that this year our raffle at the Village Green Party will be in support of this important local service.

Get more information on their work from lisa@bhpt.org.uk or see the January minutes of Taplow Parish Council on the web: https://taplowpc.org.uk/

#### **Coronation Teaser**

The Newsletter comes out just before the Coronation weekend so reports will have to await our autumn issue. Celebrations are planned on the village green and south of the A4 on River Road. Photos and stories from the weekend would be welcome please.

#### The Missing Jubilee Footbridge

The Society was concerned about the failure to install the replacement footbridge by the end of 2022. We accordingly wrote to the cabinet member for transport at the County to raise the importance of this work and ask to ensure its completion in 2023. Our letter was supported by our MP Joy Morrissey, Cliveden ward councillor George Sandy and Jamie Barnard, chair of Taplow Parish Council. We are delighted to have a reply that the funding is in place for completion in this financial year. There have been delays due to work that the EA has been carrying out on the Jubilee – see article on page 3. Let us hope it is earlier rather than later.



**Andrew Findlay** 

#### **Taplow Dates for your Diary**

#### Open days at Taplow Court

21st May, 4th June, 2nd July, 6th August, 3rd September, 10th September (National Heritage Day) **Maidenhead Rowing Club** will be holding their Junior Regatta on Sunday 14th May 2023.

#### St Nicolas Church Art Exhibition

"All shall be well" Saturday 6th May 1.30 to 7pm and Sunday 7th May 12 noon to 2pm Cliveden Conservation talk by director Lewis Proudfoot 18th May 7pm, St Nicolas Church Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall 9th May 8pm