

Hitcham and Taplow Society

Newsletter 124: Autumn 2025
£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

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Cover picture: The re-opened Long Garden at Cliveden (Roger Worthington)

All material by Roger Worthington unless indicated.

Editorial

So no new town in Taplow! In its place the draft Local Plan has surfaced and our first impressions are in this issue. Although the threat of a new town has gone, the plan contains the potential for serious impact on Taplow. The Grey Belt survey releases land from the Green Belt and the report has not yet been published to know how threatened we may be. (Surely opportunities?).

The devastations around the Cliveden Stud areas continue. It is rather like Whack-a-Mole, as fast as one gets dealt with another pops up.

The second appearance of the Screen on the Green is encouraging although as subject to the weather as the Village Green Party earlier in the year.

As a volunteer society we suffer from the same problems as most. How to attract younger members. Your committee has lost the long experience of Robert Hanbury and Taplow has lost the equal experience of George Sandy at county level. Committee work need not take up unreasonable amounts of time – fresh ideas don't take long to produce. To function effectively as possible we need input from all generations.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
County	Buckinghamshire Unitary Authority
EA	Environment Agency
HTS	Ourselves
TPC	Taplow Parish Council

HTS AGM

Weds 15th April 2026
Taplow Village Centre

Followed by a talk by Dr Helen Read, recently retired Conservation Officer at Burnham Beeches. This year she was awarded an MBE for services to conservation and to arboriculture in HM The King's Birthday Honours.

Village News

Politics

Our previous issue just missed the County elections. Taplow is now part of the new realigned Burnham Ward despite our earlier pressures to be aligned with more rural local areas. We can report that Kirsten Ashman and Paul Kelly retained their seats as Conservatives. George Sandy stood down and has been replaced by Cole Caesar of the Reform Party.



George



Cole

George Sandy has been fighting for Taplow for many years. Rather than writing an appreciation of his efforts he has the next page in his own words.

In July the Parish Council was absorbed into the great government machinery – no more taplowpc.org.uk and private emails, the website is now taplow-pc.gov.uk and councillors are to be addressed as e.g.

roger.worthington@taplow-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council has now been joined by Michael Barnes from Orkney Court who has been a leader in driving objections to the unacceptable activities at Cliveden Stud. Welcome Michael! This leaves one vacancy which should be filled shortly.



Michael

The Mural

I yet again was too optimistic about calm at the Hall in the last issue. The original trouble with the mural has literally resurfaced. Although the original source of the trouble (the external salt bin) has been fixed there is still too much salt in

the wall and the paint is lifting off again. The council is taking advice on the best course but it will take quite some time to properly resolve. You can just about see that the damage covers a wider area than previously.



Paint bubbling under the mural

CIL

The Parish Council now has an interesting new area that it is developing a policy for. When developments used to take place of any scale, the planning authorities required a contribution towards the infrastructure costs that the development would give rise to. This was an individual agreement and was enshrined in what is called a Section 106 agreement. The County has now adopted in effect a fixed tax on the scale of development. This is CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy. The relevance to the Parish is that 10% of any CIL is given to the parish in which the development occurs with a wide brief as to what it can be spent on. For example the development at The Hermitage produced £12,000 for Taplow Parish. There is a requirement that the money is returned to County if unspent after five years. This income stream is obviously erratic but over time will provide the parish with far more discretionary funds that it has had historically. The grant seekers will be circulating!

**Back-issues of this Newsletter
can be found on our website:**

www.taplowsociety.org.uk

George Sandy in his own words



Taplow has a grand history. A special village, once the richest in Britain. Close enough to London to enjoy its pleasures, and in delightful rural surroundings. Today it retains a strong sense of community with a friendly atmosphere where we have enjoyed a pleasant lifestyle.

We moved into Cedar Chase Taplow in 1971, and as chairman of the residents society I joined the parish council in 1976. I was a member from 1976-1983 & 2003-2021.

In the 2001 Local Govt. Election I stood for Taplow & Dorney, won the seat, and served on SBDC for 19 years after which I stood for the newly formed Buckinghamshire Unitary and was elected to represent Burnham, Dorney & Taplow. I didn't stand for re-election this May as I reckoned, after 24 years, it was time to hang up my boots.

For 20 years I'd been a member of the council's planning committees during which time countless issues were raised by residents, mostly concerning new build developments, and neighbour disputes which one would try to ameliorate. Too many to recall, but three worthy of mention were:

The planning committee aimed to protect the Green Belt and the Conservation Areas. The National Trust had applied to redevelop the Canadian Memorial Hospital site, originally a polo pitch gifted by Lord Astor to treat Canadian casualties from WW1.. In effect Lord Astor covenanted "if the site ceased to be used as a hospital it should be restored to its original status". In Y2001 there was huge shock, even nationally, when the NT was granted permission for 135 dwellings. The developer, as they do, applied to increase this to 195 units. When refused by the planning committee our decision went to Appeal. Fortunately, at massive public hearing the Inspector concluded that our local objections were valid and dismissed the application.

The Taplow Paper Mill changed ownership in 2006. RBWM councillors thought its redevelopment might affect properties on their side of the river and invited me to discuss. At the start the atmosphere was cool, but knowing that RBWM owned Ray Mill Island I suggested that a footbridge from Taplow to

Boulters Lock Inn would enhance its rental value. That idea appealed, so the following day I was able to let the architect know to include a footbridge and his plans would be supported. The footbridge was included in SBDC's Special Development Plan. Later, when Berkeley Homes acquired the site their MD Andrew Saunders-Davies informed that a design competition was to be set-up for architects with a prize for the winner. Knowing there was an internationally acclaimed bridge designer living in the parish and suggested they meet. That happened and the result is a fantastic Thames crossing. The Taplow Bridge designed by Martin Knight.



George with Prime Minister Theresa May and MP Dominic Grieve

In 2011, much to the alarm of Burnham's retailers, Land Securities had acquired The Bishop Centre to create a shopping centre. Taplow & Burnham parish councils decided to oppose the development, but were surprised to later learn Burnham had negotiated compensation to ameliorate retail concerns. I suggested Taplow seek similar, but was out-voted by members who argued it would weaken our objection. I disagreed, and insisted we discuss it with LS. I also ensured I was accompanied by our planning chairman to witness the meeting. We successfully agreed a contribution of £100k to support environmental and community projects in Taplow. Had that meeting not occurred the parish would have lost out because later, the LS application was approved by SBDC.

In total I've been a member of the parish council for 25 years, 5 years as chairman.. In many ways a continuous battle but in closing I am confident that today's chair Karen Walsh, and her present council will carry on the fight to protect Taplow & Hitcham from unacceptable over-development.

Adieu... It has been fun and an honour to serve you.

George Sandy

Asbestos

Roger Worthington

The asbestos problem and high recovery costs faced by St Nicolas are now fairly well known. The good news is that sufficient loans and donations have been made (including our own £750 and £5,000 from the Parish Council) that work could be started. It is a demanding and rather dangerous task unless properly kitted out as you can see.

It is sad that all this money so generously given leaves St Nicolas no materially better off than before. It may not be generally recognised that the church is entirely locally funded. It is not paid for at all by the Church of England. If you would still like to make a donation use the QR code here or see the church website. There are many loans that need to be repaid.



To Boldly Go...

Cedar Chase

Photos by Andrew Findlay

When Cedar Chase was built in 1966 it was one of the finest examples of the Span building approach, very up-to-date if controversial at the time. Its covenants have preserved it very much as built – almost unchanged after sixty years. However residents have found ways to move with the times and are now installing electric car charging points to its central car park, very much on a self-help basis.

Seen hard at work are your secretary Jane Curry and magazine producer Andrew Findlay.



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The Planning World

No New Town for Taplow but already other things are stirring. The long awaited and many times delayed Local Plan for Buckinghamshire has finally surfaced as a draft and a consultation process.

The objections to a Taplow New Town were duly delivered to the Task Force in May and can be read on the Society web site. A major contribution to the preparation of the report came from the extensive use of AI tools, principally Claude AI. Introduced to the team by Bill Dax it made light work of organising, suggesting better layouts and structures and providing extensive research references support, some of which proved to have been invented!

The efforts came from Bill Dax and myself as authors, extensive contributions from Karen Walsh, Marie Hammon, Jill Dax and Carol Linton and thoughts and suggestions from many others. All helped to show not only that Taplow is wildly unsuitable for a new town but helped us draw a portrait of a truly remarkable (and complex) place that is a joy to live in.

Local Plan

The Local Plan Draft and Consultation are large and detailed documents. We have until the end of October to make comments. The intention is that the full Local Plan will be submitted to the Government by the end of 2026. Interestingly the draft covered the possibility of three New Town sites in Buckinghamshire but none of these made the short list, much to the relief of our planners.

First impressions:

The government imposed methodology for calculating housing needs gives Buckinghamshire a requirement for some 95,000 new homes over the plan period to 2045 – twenty years of building 4,750 houses each year. Regardless of views as to how many of these will actually be built, the county still has to allocate the land on which they *can* be built. Land will be removed



from the Green Belt and classified Grey Belt. Developers will of course select the finest areas first.

The Plan offers a number of approaches for housing supply and number six catches our eye:

*Approach 6: Limited expansion of villages
13,000-15,000 homes*

This is the category most likely to affect Taplow and our surrounding areas, being some 15% of the total requirement.

There is intention to promote data centre growth, perhaps particularly in the south to connect with Slough. Although not a problem peculiar to Buckinghamshire there must be questions as to whether the energy and water supplies will be adequate quickly enough – *The Economist* stated (April 9th 2025) that a fifth of all electricity used in Ireland is spent powering the country's data centres – to be supplied and then cooled off.

Closer to home

Smaller scale developments continue and the vandalism at Cliveden Stud shows little sign yet of abating.

Joes Folly

This 16 house development at Amerden Close has begun. The access road from the A4 is being opened out – see photo – we hope that its proximity to the Approach Road junction will not lead to any fender-benders. Sadly the agreements have been made using the old S106 funding arrangement so the parish will not benefit under CIL. (see Village news on Page 3)



Roger Worthington

Access to Amerden Close from the A4

The Hermitage

The original agreement for this development included a stand-alone house as well as the development and extension of the main house and was supported by us and the parish council as being the best option for preserving the house. Further development of the site was restricted by the presence of the protected Wellingtonia tree – large and long lived. However this tree has suddenly died, with the result that the developers have submitted a further application for a small house at the south of the site. Ellingtonia is not amused.

Stop press – this has been refused on bad Conservation Area effects.

Appeals

Although three appeals are still outstanding in the Cliveden Stud area (and also two appeals against Enforcements), the good news is that two appeals have been heard and refused. The site at Huntswood Lane has been given seven months to remove all the vans and make good the site. Given the snails pace progress in clearing at the similar Orchard Herbs site (Lake End Road by the M4) we may have quite a time to wait.

Public footpaths

We reported in the last issue that the Rights of Way team at County has taken up the fencing concern on footpath 13 with the land owner but there is not yet any resolution.

Moorings



Hitcham and Taplow Society

Station parking

Progress is still being made on the new parking arrangements. The full detailed plans (where to put notices etc.) are now agreed and County has started the public consultation. It started on 25th September and completes 17th October, so this issue just misses any results. As the parish council has already conducted surveys and meetings with affected residents this should hopefully not throw up too many surprises. The new yellow lines should be more effectively laid out than the temporary ones, which still lead to occasional head-ons, although total available spaces will be a little less than at present.



Approach Road seen from the A4

Roger Worthington

Some good news. Several years of approaches to the County and the EA to do something about the unmonitored River Thames moorings came to nothing. Boats had taken up residence and were even being moored there for sale. This left no space for regular river cruisers to moor overnight and produced unsightly rubbish on the river bank. The Parish Council took advantage of the new County administration to reach the new Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure Peter Brazier. He has

responded with a solution, basically a phone app for the bookings and enforcement handed to Parking division. Fees etc. are awaiting agreement. The new parking system due to arrive round the station includes paid-for parking bays so Parking should have a vested interest in both these areas, which should overcome the "it's too far from Aylesbury" problem.

The photo is from a rare day with few boats as they had obligingly moved for the Maidenhead Regatta day.

Japanese Relay



The Thames Path in Taplow sees many and varied travellers. Dog walkers, hikers, bikers, charity walks galore. June 20th however saw a rather more unusual event – the UK Ekiden relay race.

The race first took place last year to mark the 100th anniversary of the Japanese Hakone Ekiden race and the State Visit by the Emperor and Empress of Japan to the UK

The run was from Brocas Field in Eton to King's Meadow in Reading and back – 114km with runners passing the tasuki sash that represents teamwork, endurance and collective effort. Maidenhead Rowing Club was the first marshal point after the Eton start.

There were 31 teams. 15 UK universities, one Japanese – Ritsumeikan – and 15 companies/charities sponsored by the FT and Nikkei and including Japanese companies.

Interestingly there was also a non-competing party from Kagoshima marking the 160th anniversary of a visit by five students to the UK to study the Industrial Revolution and



having to come in secret as foreign travel was banned at that time.

The race winner was Ritsumeikan University, upholding Japanese honour against the UK's finest.

Roger Worthington,



Graveyard

The sad recent death of Terry Stevens brought to light the reality that the graveyard at St Nicolas is full with no space remaining for new interments. Terry had lived at Berry Hill Farm since 1953 and his passing reminded George Sandy of something that they were both, with others, aware of:

Before his death on 20th October 1957 Edward Hugh Bowring Skimming of Taplow House Berry Hill Taplow gifted an area of land opposite the east end of Rectory Road to St Nicolas church to serve as an extension to the churchyard which was nearing full capacity. The plot of land lies at the south end of The Grange (now Hitcham Grange) and as can be seen comprises a greater area than that surrounding the church. The adjacent fields are where Boundary Road Stables is situated. Residents living in Taplow in the '70s may remember those fields being divided and sold as potential building plots (circa 200 sold @ £500ea).

The section of plan below with the solid dividing line between BRS and the extension cemetery has an existing gateway onto Hill Farm and Boundary Roads opposite Rectory Road. All is verifiable on plans attached to the sale of the land before it was split into building plots. Note:

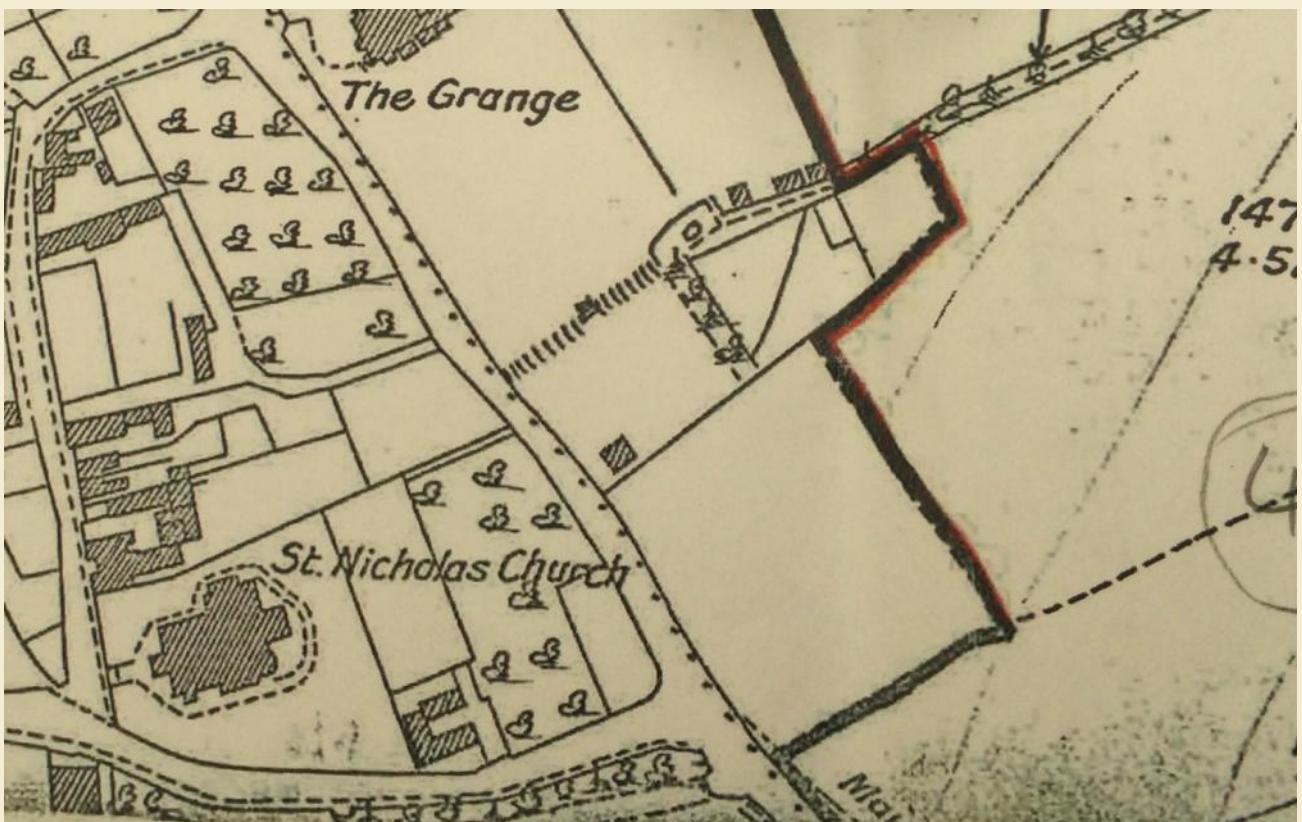
the multiple owners were refused development permission by South Bucks District Council and subsequently went to appeal which was also refused by the Planning Inspectorate.

However, trying today to track down documentation in proof of this is proving elusive. The Parish Council has been searching wills and Land Registry documents with no positive results yet. Investigation continues.

Should proof be forthcoming there may still be obstacles. The Church Council reviewed the matter at its July meeting and raised various matters. There are reports of a badger sett on the land, especially with the possibility of an albino, which could well be a show stopper. Badgers are not popular neighbours for graveyards with their burrowing habits. The land would need clearing and adapting for practical use and checking on safe road access etc.

All of this will cost significantly. The church is entirely self-supporting and we all know the recent huge expenses they have carried with the asbestos problem and the earlier replacement of the heating systems. So another benevolent patron would be needed.

George Sandy and Roger Worthington



Bless This House

An updated version of an article first published in Newsletter 92 (Autumn 2009) including additional pictures

Taplow used to be a much thirstier place. In the late 1800s, its 1,000 souls could find refreshment in ten hostelries without staggering from the parish. Strangely, the more we've multiplied, the less thirsty we are. Now there are 2,390 of us with four pubs, two of them really restaurants. What can we do but drown our sorrows on a pub crawl, circa 1891?

We start on Wooburn Common Road in The Compasses and next door in The Standard. Fortified by these first two bevies, we wend southward to the gates of Cliveden, the country seat of Hugh Grosvenor, Duke of Westminster, into what was once The New Inn (1780), briefly The Prince of Wales Feathers (1847) – a nod to the ill-fated Prince Frederick, son of King George II, who lived at Cliveden (1739/1751) – then quickly abbreviated to The Feathers (1850).



The Compasses c1920



The Royal Standard 2012

Further south to the gates of Taplow Court, home of William Grenfell. The Queen's Head is Taplow's oldest inn, named to recall the



The Feathers 2009

residence of Queen Anne's retinue during her stay at Taplow Court (1705). Once famed as a coaching inn, now for drunks sleeping off their Saturday nights on Bapsey Green.

A short walk eastward along Church Lane (now Rectory Road) to The Oak & Saw, the only pub in the country with that name. Its sign hints why. The oak tree, ship and saw reflect devices in the coat of arms of George Hamilton, Earl of Orkney, who after acquiring Taplow (c1700) arranged for damaged ships to be towed upriver and broken up for salvage. His heirs continued the tradition. Ships' timbers were used to build The Cottage and Farm View (1756) and a row of five cottages nearby (c1770). Three were converted to be The Oak & Saw (c1867). As we sink our pints, we admire wooden beams which maybe saw service in the capture of Gibraltar (1704), the War of Jenkins' Ear (1739) or some other thrilling maritime adventure. Next, a few paces east to The Old Friend, originally The Oak (c1840), a beer shop which grew up to be a proper pub renamed to distinguish it from its upstart neighbour.

With three-quarters of a gallon on board, we wander merrily down the footpath to the bottom of Town Lane (now Berry Hill) and a tricky decision. To The Dumb Bell first? A grand coaching inn (1780s) reincarnated as The Bell & Crown (1834), Cleare's Hotel (1852) and its original name (1874)? Or across the Bath Road to The Old Station Inn? A workaday hostelry which replaced The Old Tin Shanty (1830s), a shack where Great Western Railway navvies recovered from their labours.



The Dumb Bell c1935

Naturally, we sample the delights of both before staggering valiantly west along the Bath Road to our final destination by Maidenhead Bridge. The Orkney Arms qualifies as three pubs. So, three more pints. One at the original coaching inn (1743), an elite destination since William Skindle the Elder became its landlord (1825). Two more at public bars opened by his enterprising son William (1865). Next door to the north, The Hotel Tap. And then across The Causeway (now Mill Lane) to Skindle's, a converted riverside cottage.

Having supped light, pale, mild, dark and old ales, porter and stout made by Weller (Amersham), ABC (Aylesbury), Brakspear (Henley), Wethered (Marlow), Jenner (Southwark), Young (Wandsworth), Little (Chippenham), Brown & Terry (Burnham) and Bell, Nicolson and Langton (all Maidenhead), we doze off wondering if someone spiked



The Orkney Arms c1883

these final pints. How else to explain the flash of foresight that Skindle's would expand into the adjacent Brigade of Guards Boat Club (1904) to become an iconic hotel famed for exclusivity, indulgence and notorious naughtiness before evolving into a casino (1966) then a nightclub (1968)?

We awake in the 21st Century to a whole new world. Pub grub, foreign wines and lagers alongside English ales. Three surviving pubs – The Standard, now The Royal Standard (1932), The Feathers, now a restaurant, and The Oak & Saw – joined by Hall & Woodhouse, a new riverside "restaurant and bar" (2023). The Queen's Head (1906), now Queen Anne's House, and The Compasses (1950) are private residences, as was The Old Friend (1916) until its demolition (1960s). Skindle's closed (1995) and decayed until being replaced by residences and a restaurant, Roux at Skindles (2018). On the Bath Road, car sales proliferate. The Sir Percy Flanagan (formerly The Hotel Tap) and The Orkney Arms succumbed (1970). Then The Old Station Inn (1997). And The Dumb Bell was nudged eastward to be reincarnated as a restaurant (Harvester 2001) then erased (Miller & Carter 2016).

Where did it all go wrong? Anyone fancy one for the road?

Nigel Smales

Below: The Dumb Bell 1899





VGP

The weather was definitely on our side this year and the forecast, long before the event, showed no hint of rain which thankfully helped drive early ticket sales. Always helpful when trying to estimate how many mouths to feed!

We had a gathering of nearly 350 villagers on the night, and we were delighted to welcome a few others from further afield. There was one couple from London, who happened to visit Taplow a few weeks prior to the event. They saw one of the publicity posters and they were intrigued by the thought of traditional country dancing on a pretty village green. Judging from their comments on the night, they weren't disappointed!

This year, we chose Thames Valley Adventure Playground to run the raffle. The TVAP organisers were thrilled with the money they raised on the night for their very worthy local charity.

A huge thank you to all the helpers (set up/clear up teams, ox spit turners, cooks, carvers, servers etc) without whom this fabulous Taplow tradition would not be possible. Looking forward to seeing you at next year's Village Green Party, its 40th anniversary! Save the date: Saturday 20th June 2026.

Rupert Sellers

Photos by Jacqueline Turner, Roger Worthington, Andrew Findlay, Lucie Grange



Henry Worthington (9)



Thames Valley Adventure Playground



We held our Funday on the 26th July. It turned into a mighty popular one, with over 700 people joining us. To get that many people through the gate and see a glimpse of what our charity does was fantastic. I have attached a few photos from various posts we have been tagged in and of some of the volunteers who made it possible. We raised in the region of £4000, which is amazing for us and it goes straight into core costs to help keep the playground running smoothly. Thank you for the local support.

Lucie Grange
Lucie@tvap.co.uk



**supporting
children & adults
with special needs
and their families**



50 Years Ago

1. Conservation Area Meeting, April 23rd, 1975

The results of the meeting were set out in the letter sent to Members in May. Since then, the Beaconsfield District Council Planning Committee have designated Taplow as a Conservation Area and at their request the Planning Officer has written thanking the Society for its useful comments.

4. Bapsey Pond and Cruciform Dairy, Taplow Court

At the meeting in April, it was recommended that these should be included in the proposed Taplow Conservation Area in view of their historical and architectural interest. Both require some restoration and the Committee has been seeking means of achieving this.

The pond lies about half way down the path from Taplow Court to Mill Lane. (This path can be used by Members of the Society by kind permission of Plessey, the owners of Taplow Court). It is about seventy feet across with a hard floor; water flows in through a brick conduit from a spring somewhere above and out across the field to the west. The original drain appears to have run down the path, but is now blocked.

Taplow Court stands on a site which has been occupied for many centuries. In the earliest years it was fortified; traces of an Iron Age entrenchment lie across the field immediately south of the mound in the old churchyard. This mound is said to have given the village its name as the burial mound - "low" of a Saxon chieftan "Tappa". Over a hundred fine Anglo-Saxon relics were extracted from it in 1883 and deposited in the British Museum.

1975 saw the emergence of the Conservation Areas for Taplow and a policy for roads in our southern area that has certainly come true! The year also presaged the work that the Society would undertake for the restoration of Bapsey Pond. The pond is now no longer generally accessible to the public. This is sadly part of a very general trend to enclose and fence off, driven by safety, liability, growing population density and a loss of local identity that fuels a general sense of unease.

Scouts

It's been another incredible year for the 1st Lent Rise and Dorney Scout Group, packed with fun, adventure, and learning for local children. From weekly meetings at our Taplow HQ to exciting day trips, sleepovers, camps, and even an international jamboree, our young members have had a truly memorable time.

Our Beavers (ages 6–8) explored the Story Museum in Oxford, enjoyed a sleepover at HQ, and took part in a summer adventure camp in Chalfont. Alongside the fun, they developed essential skills in safety, pioneering, map reading, and navigation.

Our Cubs (ages 8–10½) had their own sleepover and a swashbuckling pirate-themed camp. They also welcomed guest experts—including beekeepers—and visited a local fire station to learn about community safety.

Our Scouts (ages 10½–14) capped off a year of outdoor adventures with a trip to the Kent International Jamboree. Their journey included survival camps and many nights away, building resilience and teamwork.

We've also been proud to support our local community—taking part in the Taplow Remembrance Parade, organising litter picks, and collecting for food banks.

This year marked the 60th anniversary of our HQ on Institute Road, and we've made exciting upgrades including a new outdoor cooking area and fire pits. Looking ahead, we're preparing to celebrate 75 years since the



Isy Hall

founding of 1st Lent Rise Scouts next June. As part of this milestone, we're planning a Group Camp to bring all sections together and launching a brand-new Squirrel Scout Drey for children aged 4–6, starting on 8th October. Interested families can get in touch at lrdquirrels@gmail.com.

We're always looking for new volunteers to help us continue offering amazing experiences. Whether you'd like to assist with weekly meetings, help out on trips and camps, or support behind the scenes as a Trustee, we'd love to hear from you. We're especially keen to welcome a new Treasurer and Secretary, but there are also general Trustee roles available for those who want to make a difference with a more flexible commitment.

If you're passionate about supporting young people and being part of a vibrant, community-focused group, come and join us!

Isy Hall



St Nicolas Playgroup

St Nicolas Playgroup will be opening a second preschool in a new setting at Dorney Village Hall after their grant finally came through at the end of September. Renovation work on the hall will start in October, and all being well, they plan to open in January with a refitted hall and a new private garden area.

Details as follows:

- Age range: Children from 9 months to 2 years.
- Opening hours: 8.30 – 3.30 daily (we may have to work up to these hours over time as we recruit more children).

- Funding: We will be taking government funded and fee-paying children.

Please contact St. Nicolas Playgroup for more information:
<https://stnicolasplaygroup.co.uk/>

Catherine Howard



Rugby

As we head into autumn, the new rugby season down for Phoenix Rugby club kicks back into swing.

A contingent from the junior division of the Club, the Fireflies, got off to a cracking start making a flying visit to Bristol at the start of September, not for rugby, but chicken wings. Wingfest – the world's largest chicken wing festival – chose the Fireflies as one of its winners of a national competition to secure sports team sponsorship earlier this year. Our irreverent and winging winning entry securing much needed and welcome funds for the next season.

Based on Institute Road, the junior division train on Sunday mornings. It is a friendly and inclusive club, accepting players from 4.5 years and above. Active in local tournaments, we compete against well-established teams such as Beaconsfield and Marlow. Whilst a small club, our junior teams are going from strength to strength and holding our own against long-established teams from the local area. New players are always welcome, and any children interested can come along for a free taster session to try it out.

Last year, Club set up its own women's team, the Phoenix Flames as part of a wider RFU grassroots initiative to get women involved in rugby. This



WingfestUK

Richard Thacker, founder of WingFest presenting Phoenix RFC on stage at Bristol on September 6th

season the Phoenix Flames will be participating in the Allianz Inner Warrior league. For many of the players this is the first time that they had played rugby. They have been welcomed by longer-established teams from around Bucks and the Chilterns area. One Taplovian mum, Zoe Hill (known to many of us from the cricket club and St Nics School PTA), is somewhat surprised to be finding herself taking up a new sport at this point of her life but can report that it is huge amounts of fun and she is loving it. If anyone fancies given it a go, the Flames continue to welcome new players to join their ranks. They train on a Thursday evening. Check out social media for more details on Instagram – @phoenixwomen_rfc

Caroline Worthington

At Cliveden

The sheer volume of visitors to Cliveden (500,000+ pa) has given difficulties in the Long Walk. The original narrow grass walk couldn't cope with the traffic and was too narrow for wheelchairs to pass each other. After a short interlude with Astroturf (the last in the National Trust according to Robert Miles) the path has been officially re-opened on the 9th September – widened and laid with stone with excellent results. See our front cover and the NT website entry for Cliveden.



Roger Worthington

Lincoln's End

Remembering Lincoln Lee

When visiting the Cedar Avenue on one of the Taplow Court open days I passed this plaque at the weeping cedar planted by Winston Churchill. Reflecting on what is written perhaps it is time to plant another one??



Roger Worthington



Martin Knight



Lyra Browning

Screen on the Green

On 12th September Taplow village green was once again transformed into an open-air cinema for The Greatest Showman. The evening was full of the smell of popcorn and freshly brewed coffee thanks to Dan and Mintu of Split Bean in their beautifully restored 'voltswagen'. While Hugh Jackman may have stolen the show on screen, the real star was the wonderful community spirit as thanks to everyone's generosity, we managed to raise a fantastic £190 for St Nicolas Church's 'Great Asbestos Challenge'. We can't wait for next year!

Jennifer Thomson



Jane Barnard

The Voltswagen

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