

Hitcham and Taplow Society

Newsletter 110: Autumn 2018
£3.50 to non-members



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.

President: Eva Lipman
Vice President: Fred Russell
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Treasurer: Robert Hanbury
Secretary: Roger Worthington
Committee: Andrew Findlay, Charlie Greeves, Robert Harrap, Alastair Hill, Rupert Sellers, Nigel Smales, Jonathan Spektor, Louise Symons
Newsletter Editor (and photos and maps unless noted): Nigel Smales
Newsletter Production: Andrew Findlay

Contact Address: HTS, Littlemere, River Road, Taplow, SL6 0BB
secretary@taplowsociety.org.uk
07787 556309

Cover picture: St Nicolas' War Memorial (Nigel Smales)
Poppies (Rod Morrod, Maidenhead Camera Club)

Editorial

At the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month – 11am on 11th November 2018 – it will be exactly 100 years since the Armistice ended the Great War in which 52 men of Hitcham and Taplow lost their lives. Two of them – Richard and Charles Harris, sons of Ada and blacksmith Richard – were born in my house, then The Forge in Church Road, Taplow. This Newsletter is proud to mark the Centenary by telling their tales and those of their fallen comrades (Pages 4, 5 & 6) and, courtesy of correspondents in California and Scotland, by sharing the poignant story of one of the nurses who served at Cliveden's HRH Duchess of Connaught Canadian Red Cross Hospital (Pages 7, 8 & 9).

This focus on our heritage is one of the Society's three strands. Our original and primary aim is to do our best to beneficially influence potential changes. It is a pleasure when dreams come true (Page 11). While many of the current

local 'hot topics' have cooled a little (Pages 10, 11 & 12), they remain in focus as we continue to recruit new members and are pleased to welcome to our Committee Jonathan Spektor of Ellington Road. Sincere and grateful thanks to two who have stepped down: Miv Wayland-Smith has over nine years made many valuable contributions ranging from perceptive to practical, notably as a mainstay of the Village Green Party, and Bernard Trevallion is relinquishing his Vice-Presidency of 13 years to take Mary and Anna to a new home near Dorchester.

Thirdly, we reflect and celebrate our community spirit. Taplow Court has been busy (Page 13). A series of events, admirable efforts and your amazing generosity raised funds for all sorts of 'good causes' (Pages 3, 14 & 15). And royalty-to-be made a fleeting appearance to sow a seed that will bloom after our AGM (Page 16).

Acronyms

Annual General Meeting (AGM), Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), HRH Duchess of Connaught Canadian Red Cross Hospital (CRCH), Member of Parliament (MP), Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM), South Bucks District Council (SBDC), Taplow Cricket Club (TCC), Taplow & Hitcham Recreation Grounds Association (THRGA), Taplow Parish Council (TPC), Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Village Green Party (VGP).

They Did Not Grow Old



Remembrance began in Cape Town, South Africa, in April 1918 when the Mayor, Sir Harry Hands, led a two-minute silence to honour loss of life in conflict. On the first anniversary of the Armistice, King George V at Buckingham Palace and all of London stood silent for two minutes. The Manchester Guardian reported: "It was a silence that was almost a pain. And the spirit of memory brooded all over it". Remembrance has for a hundred years been within the soul of our nation. It defines us that, right across the country, people of all ages stand silently in significant numbers every Remembrance Sunday not to celebrate victory but solemnly to pay their respects to all who have given their lives in conflict and to those who have served.

Locally, we have two Great War Memorials commemorating 46 men – 28 of Taplow and 18 of Hitcham – but each has three omissions, so the true cost was 52 lives, almost one fifth of all adult males in our two parishes in 1914. The youngest who died was 17, the oldest 53. Fourteen were officers. Seven



served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment, seven in Guards regiments, six in the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light infantry, five in the Royal Navy and three in the Royal Air Force. Three from elsewhere were buried in St Nicolas' Churchyard after passing away at the CRCH before Cliveden had its own cemetery.

The War Memorial at St Nicolas' Church was first the focus of Remembrance on 11th November 1923. It was funded by public subscription. Everyone from wealthy landowners including the Astors, Grenfells and Whitlows to paupers and widows on frugal pensions contributed as much as they could afford. Now, our community has two reasons to be proud. Not only is the Church packed every Remembrance Sunday (and Chris Newton and friends do a fantastic job leading Guides, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers and Rainbows on parade) but we have also raised £3,362 to refurbish the Memorial, which



was the worse for the wear and tear of 95 years. In response to TPC's initiative of allocating £2,000 from its Legacy Fund, Nigel Smales led a Society appeal for the balance with a most generous donation, one of 26 totalling £1,922. Grateful thanks are also due to Jeannie Beaves, Jessie Cooper, Gill Dean & Stephen Biddlecombe, Caroline Gillies, Robert Hanbury, Bridget Henderson, Brenda Kennedy, Duncan Leftley, Eva Lipman, David Long, Mary Meikle & Roy Jackman, Sheila Peroni, Chris & Steve Phillips, Alex Shephard, Margaret & John Sizer, Louise Symons, Suzanne Thornley, Crispin Turner, Jacqueline Turner, Bruce Whitelaw, Pauline & Roger Worthington, The Oak & Saw, Taplow United Football Club, THRGA and The Hitcham & Taplow Society. Together, they enabled Eva, as our President, to hand a cheque for £1,362 to TPC Chairman Jamie Barnard. Our Secretary Roger Worthington and Churchwarden Phil Taylor arranged for stonemason Adrian Powell to restore St Nicolas' Memorial and to invest the residual £560 in cleaning St Mary's Memorial in time for this year's Remembrance Parades. Our next challenge will be to consider if and how to better commemorate the 21 Taplovians who fell in World War Two.

Our Fallen Fellows

The names engraved on our War Memorials were once sharp reminders of sons, brothers, uncles, fathers and friends who fell in the Great War. Everyone could remember them living in houses now ours and walking, worshipping and chatting in our streets, churches and pubs. Now, they are history. But as local symbols of a national suffering, they are Our History. Although we never knew them, please take a few moments to read their 54 stories – one remains a secret – and picture where they would have been remembered most poignantly.

1 – 1st November 1914 – **Oliver Reed** (28) of Vera, possibly Marsh Lane. Born Maidenhead. House decorator. Wife Gertrude. Royal Navy Able Seaman; *HMS Good Hope*. Killed in action at the Battle of Coronel, off Chile. Hitcham Memorial.

2 – 1st January 1915 – **Henry (Harry) C Johnson** DSO (37) of Portman Square, Westminster. Wife Phyllis. Brevet-Major; King's Royal Rifle Corps. Mentioned in Despatches. Prisoner of War. Died of wounds in Flanders, Belgium. Taplow Memorial (also St Nicolas' Church stained-glass window) despite no evident local roots. Stepfather Major-General WHM Lowe took the surrender of the Easter Rising, Dublin 1916. Stepbrother John Loder was a film actor whose third wife (of five) was actress Hedy Lamarr.

3 – 30th May 1915 – **John Gardiner** (30) of 18 Fair View (now Fairview Road), previously 3 Prospect Place, Bath Road. Nurseryman. Wife Annie. Private; Royal Berkshire Regiment. Died of wounds. Hitcham Memorial (death recorded as 1916, regiment as Army Service Corps).

4 – 19th May 1915 – **Sheldon A Gledstones** (25) of Berry Hill House. Undergraduate son of stockbroker FG Gledstones. Captain; Bedfordshire Regiment. Mentioned in Despatches. Wounded at Zwarteleen, Belgium. Died at Bailleul, France. Taplow Memorial.

5 – 27th May 1915 – **Frederick Whitley Quirk** (29) of Ballaugh, possibly Marsh Lane. Born Ealing. Royal Navy Surgeon; *HMS Princess Irene*. Killed in explosion off Sheerness, Kent. Hitcham Memorial.



Julian

6 – 26th May 1915 – **Julian HF Grenfell** DSO (27) of Taplow Court. Soldier son of Lord Desborough. Brother of Billy (see 8). Captain; 1st (Royal) Dragoons. Served in India and South Africa 1910/14. Twice Mentioned in Despatches. War Poet. Wounded at Ypres, Belgium. Died in Boulogne, France. Taplow Memorial.

7 – 6th June 1915 – **James Evans** (35) of Ipswich. Railway labourer. Son of railway labourer Andrew Evans of 21 Fair View (now Fairview Road). Brother of Walter (see 32) and four others who served but survived. Wife Annie. Acting Petty Officer; Nelson Battalion (Royal Navy Infantry Division). Killed in action at the Battle of Krithia, Gallipoli, Turkey. Hitcham Memorial (death recorded as 1917).



Billy

8 – 30th July 1915 – **Gerald William (Billy) Grenfell** (25) of Taplow Court. Oxford undergraduate son of Lord Desborough. Brother of Julian (see 6). 2nd Lieutenant; Rifle Brigade. Killed in action at Hooge, Belgium. Taplow Memorial.

9 – 31st July 1915 – **William C Buchanan** (25) of Canada. Born Scotland. One of three brothers who played football for Wycombe Wanderers but did not survive the War. Sapper; Canadian Engineers. Injuries in transit and in training led to leg amputation and ultimately death at Cliveden CRCH. Buried in St Nicolas' Churchyard.

10 – 7th August 1915 – **Frederick G Slater** (32) of Wimbourne, Dorset. Gardener son of railway platelayer Edward Slater of 4 Bath Road Cottages. Possibly cousin of FV Slater (see 24). Lance Corporal; Dorsetshire Regiment. Killed in action at the Battle of Chunuk Bair, Gallipoli, Turkey. Omitted from Hitcham Memorial.

11 – 30th August 1915 – **Dennis Theodore-Smith** (18) of Boyn Hill, Maidenhead. Son of solicitor Ernest Theodore-Smith of Springfield House, Berry Hill (rented from Selina Whitlaw of Amerden House). 2nd Lieutenant; Royal Engineers. Killed in action in Flanders, Belgium. Taplow Memorial.

12 – 27th September 1915 – **Alfred CH Portsmouth** (17) of The Old Station Inn, Bath Road. Motor mechanic son of Annie (landlady) and Alfred (motor mechanic). Private; Royal Fusiliers. Killed in action at Gallipoli, Turkey. Taplow Memorial.

13 – 14th October 1915 – **Herbert Wells** (22) of Lower Lodge, Hitcham House (formerly Blythewood). Building labourer son of Henry Wells, bricklayer and step-brother to FE Hurn (see 19). Brother of Edward (see 31). Private; Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Killed in action at Loos, France. Hitcham Memorial (death recorded as 1916).

14 – 19th February 1916 – **Alfred G Wallis** (22) of Henley. Gardener son of gardener Thomas Wallis of The Thatched Cottage (now East & West Bapsey, Berry Hill). Private; Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Died at Ypres, Belgium. Taplow Memorial.

15 – 11th May 1916 – **Albert E Pickett** (24) of Ontario, Canada. Born Redhill, Surrey. Rubber worker. Private; Canadian Infantry. Died of wounds at Cliveden CRCH. Buried in St Nicolas' Churchyard.

16 – 3rd June 1916 – **Gordon Leyster** (30). Auctioneer son of Taplow Grammar School master Walter Leyster of The Nest, Pickle Lane (once Grange Cottage, now Victoria

Cottage, High Street). Wife Bessie, landlady of The Rose & Crown, Chorleywood. Gunner; Royal Field Artillery. Killed in action in the Somme, France. Taplow Memorial.

17 – 22nd June 1916 – **Henry CD Kimber** (22) of Hitcham Place, Taplow Common Road. Oxford undergraduate son of solicitor Sir Henry Kimber. Lieutenant; Royal Field Artillery. Killed in action in Pas-de-Calais, France. Hitcham Memorial.

18 – **Charles Penn** (26). Records confuse bookstall clerk **Charles William Penn**, Rifleman; Queen's Westminster Rifles (died 1st July 1916; Ypres, Belgium) with **William Charles Penn**, Private; Grenadier Guards (killed in action 27th March 1918; Flanders, Belgium). Taplow Memorial, despite no evident local roots except perhaps the latter being a member of Brigade of Guards Boat Club.

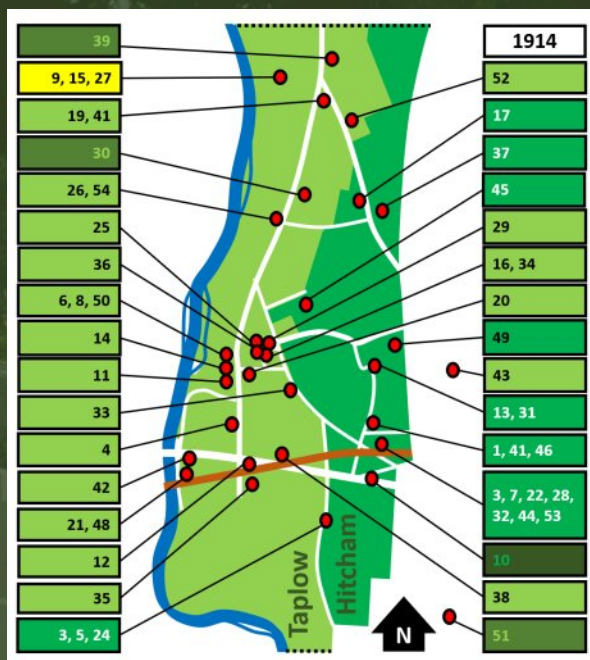
19 – 1st July 1916 – **Frederick Everitt Hurn** MM (53) of 1 Triangle Cottages (near The Feathers). Nightwatchman at Cliveden where his family had worked since before 1788. Step-cousin to Herbert & Edward Wells (see 13 & 31). Sergeant; Royal Berkshire Regiment. Served in Egypt 1892/95. Mentioned in Despatches. Killed in action in the Somme, France. Taplow Memorial. Widow Clara's rent for 2 Elm View paid by Waldorf Astor until her death in 1934.

20 – 15th July 1916 – **George Grantham** (22) of Taplow Hill Cottages. Gardener son of George Grantham, gardener to Oswald Pearce-Serocold of Taplow Hill (now Cedar Chase), director of Bank of England, co-owner of brewer Watney Combe Reid. Once of The Kennels, Common Road (now Cliveden Road). Private; Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action in the Somme, France. Taplow Memorial.

21 – 31st July 1916 – **Richard VC Freeth** (19) of River Dale (now Cherry House), River Road. Undergraduate son of insurer Causton Freeth. Lieutenant; Royal Berkshire Regiment. Killed in action in Pas-de-Calais, France. Taplow Memorial.

22 – 14th August 1916 – **William HF Filbee** (19) of 9 Fair View (now Fairview Road). Cowman son of cowman Algernon Filbee of Elmbank Cottage, Back Lane (now part of Losuce, Hill Farm Road). Private; Royal Berkshire Regiment. Killed in action in the Somme, France. Hitcham Memorial.

23 – 2nd September 1916 – **Francis Harold Harrison** (30) of Yorkshire. Lieutenant; Yorkshire Regiment (attached to Royal Engineers Special Brigade). Killed in action in the Somme, France. Hitcham Memorial (recorded as Harold Francis Harrison) despite no evident local roots.



24 – 5th September 1916 – **Francis V Slater** (21) of Winton Cottage, possibly Bath Road. Possibly cousin of FG Slater (see 10). Lance Corporal; London Regiment. Killed in action in the Somme, France. Omitted from Hitcham Memorial.

25 – 9th September 1916 – **John R Webster** (35) of The Knowle, Pickle Lane (now Maryfield, High Street). Born Hill Farm, Hitcham, home of his grandfather Richard until 1894 then of his uncle Richard. Solicitor son of farmer and brewer George Webster who was informed of his son's death while at a hunt lunch at Rectory Farmhouse, home of Walter Baldwin. Captain; Royal Fusiliers (London Regiment). Killed in action in the Somme, France. Taplow Memorial.

26 – 30th September 1916 – **Edward G Sims** (23) of Canada. Born Abingdon. Farm labourer son of gardener John Sims of Taplow Lodge (now Orkney Court, Cliveden Road). Brother of Thomas (see 54 for original home). Lance Corporal; Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment). Died of wounds in the Somme, France. Taplow Memorial.

27 – 27th October 1916 – **George T Woods** (41) of Southall. Born Uxbridge. Spice labourer in mustard works. Private; Army Service Corps. Died of wounds at Cliveden CRCH. Buried in St Nicolas' Churchyard.

28 – 6th November 1916 – **Richard Harris** (23) of 10 Fair View (now Fairview Road). Gardener son of blacksmith Richard Harris, grandson of blacksmith (TCC co-founder, 1850) David Harris of Taplowhill Cottages (now Cedar Chase). Brother of Charles (see 44). Born at The Forge, Church Road (now The Cottage, Rectory Road). Private; Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Prisoner of War. Died at Basra, Iraq. Hitcham Memorial.

29 – 18th January 1917 – **William Grace** (32) of Langley. Son of greengrocer David Grace of 4 Coldgrove Cottages, Back Lane (now Hill Farm Road). Wife Alice. Private; Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Died of wounds at Rouen, France. Taplow Memorial.

30 – 31st January 1917 – **Walter P Sillence** (37) of Ballarat, Australia. Born Reading, emigrated 1902. Labourer son of coachman Benjamin Sillence of Farm Cottages, Taplow Lodge (now Orkney Court, Cliveden Road). Private; Australian Infantry; served as William Nolan. Died of exposure. Omitted from Taplow Memorial.

31 – 11th March 1917 – **Edward Wells** (20). Labourer at Cliveden. Brother of Herbert (see 13 for home and family detail). Lance Corporal; Royal Berkshire Regiment. Died of wounds in Pas-de-Calais, France. Hitcham Memorial.

32 – 17th March 1917 – **Walter Evans** (31) of 2 Lent Green. Paper sorter at Taplow Mill. Son of railway labourer Andrew Evans of 21 Fair View (now Fairview Road). Brother of James (see 7) and four others who served but survived. Wife Bertha. Royal Navy Signalman; *HMS Mignonette*. Killed in explosion off Ireland. Hitcham Memorial.

33 – 21st March 1917 – **Arthur Hooper** (36). Picture framer son of blacksmith William Hooper of 3 Sidney Cottages, Station Road (now Rose Cottage, Boundary Road), their family home since before 1871. Private; Hampshire Regiment. Died of wounds at Hazebrouck, France. Taplow Memorial.

34 – 2nd June 1917 – **George EA Leake** DSO (29) of The Nest, Pickle Lane (now Victoria Cottage, High Street). Born Sussex. Headmaster, Taplow Elementary School. Captain; London Regiment, Royal Fusiliers. Originally with Artists' Rifles. Died of wounds at Rouen, France. Taplow Memorial.

35 – 13th August 1917 – **Alec C Hipgrave** (25) of West Wycombe. Butcher. Son of fly driver Jesse Hipgrave of Arch Cottages. Apprenticeship with William Rance the Younger at The Hollies, Pikle Lane (now Mulberry House, High Street). Wife Ethel. Private; Army Service Corps. Died at Salonika, Greece. Taplow Memorial.

36 – 28th August 1917 – **John Simmonds** (21). Gardener son of farm labourer George Simmonds of Ye Cottleigh, Pikle Lane (formerly Leigh Cott, now west end of The Old Cottage, High Street), their family home since before 1851. Private; Royal Berkshire Regiment. Died at Ypres, Belgium. Taplow Memorial.

37 – 4th October 1917 – **Charles B Wray** (39) of The Cottage, Nashdom. Son of engineering machinist William Wray of Bedford. Wife Beatrice. Colour Sergeant; York & Lancaster Regiment. Buried in St Mary's Churchyard under headstone indicating regiment as Calcutta Volunteer Rifles. Hitcham Memorial.

38 – 27th October 1917 – **Frederick TJ Malyon** (19) of 1 Railway Cottages, Approach Road. Railway labourer son of railway labourer Frederick Malyon. Private; Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Died at Poperinge, Belgium. Taplow Memorial.

39 – 6th November 1917 – **Henry Easden** (19) of Queen's Lodge, Dropmore (near The Feathers). 'Odd Boy' son of forester Richard Easden. Able Seaman; Hawke Battalion (Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve). Killed in action. Omitted from Taplow Memorial.

40 – 6th November 1917 – **Thomas Wigmore** of Bucklebury, Berkshire. Rifleman; Rifle Brigade. Erroneously recorded as **C Wigmore** of Hitcham New Town, killed in action at Ypres, Belgium, on 10th August 1917. Tom may have been wounded there and then, but he died (probably in 1917, possibly 1918) at 1 Horwood Cottages, Hitcham Road, home of his brother Charles Wigmore, bootmaker (grandfather of current HTS member David Wigmore). Buried in St Mary's Churchyard.

41 – 8th December 1917 – **William R Waugh** MM (24) of Cippenham. Born Pimlico. Assistant to his father, Cliveden electrical engineer Thomas Waugh of 3 Triangle Cottages (near The Feathers). Wife Edith. Sapper; Royal Engineers. Died in Mesopotamia. Buried at Das-es-Salaam, Tanganyika. Taplow Memorial. Brother Walter (also Royal Engineers) recovered from wounds at Cliveden CRCH.

42 – 18th December 1917 – **Guy B Seymour** (42) of Kia Ora (now Bridge Cottage), Bath Road. Born New Zealand. Cold storage engineer. Son of dentist Stanley Seymour of Limerick, Ireland. Wife Mabel; Bourne End. Guardsman; Grenadier Guards. Wounded at Cambrai, France. Died in Birmingham. Taplow Memorial.



St Mary's War Memorial

43 – 12th March 1918 – **Leslie W Wingate** (20) of Gilbert Cottage, Lent Rise. Born Taplow; student son of railway signalman George Wingate. Private; Royal Berkshire Regiment. Died of wounds in the Somme, France. Taplow Memorial.

44 – 17th March 1918 – **Charles E Harris** (23). Blacksmith brother of Richard (see 28 for home and family detail). Private; Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Died of wounds in Shropshire. Hitcham Memorial.

45 – 24th March 1918 – **Charles Selwyn Awdry** DSO (41) of Hitchambury, Hunts Lane. Partner in newsagent WH Smith. Wife Constance. Major; Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry. Served in South Africa 1899/1902. Mentioned in Despatches. Killed in action in the Somme, France. Hitcham Memorial (and at Lord's Cricket Ground).

46 – June 1918 – **Herbert Aldridge** (39) of Meadowcroft, possibly Nearways (now Eastfield Road). Commercial traveller for brewer Truman Hanbury & Buxton (Lionel Hanbury, great-uncle of current HTS Treasurer Robert Hanbury, lived at Hitcham House). Wife Clara. Private; Durham Light Infantry. Discharged 12th November 1917. Died of wounds. Hitcham Memorial.

47 – 24th June 1918 – **Charles C Gray** MM (24). Railway Clerk. Son of farmer Charles Gray of Iver. Lance Corporal; Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Died at Montecchio, Italy. Hitcham Memorial, despite no evident local roots.

48 – 8th July 1918 – **John H Caudell** (21) of Thames Bank, River Road. Son of Mary (daughter of Henry Hoare, once of Skindles) and solicitor John Caudell. Flight Lieutenant; Royal Air Force. Killed in flying accident at Huntingdon. Taplow Memorial.

49 – 2nd September 1918 – **Vincent Poole** (19) of Hitcham Farm Cottages. Son of cowman Thomas, grandson of railway labourer Henry Mosdell of 2 Oxford Road (probably Hitcham Lane). Private; Royal West Kent Regiment, posted to London Regiment. Died in the Somme, France. Hitcham Memorial.

50 – 5th September 1918 – **Herbert B Good** (19) of The Lodge, Taplow Court. Son of Barrett Good, Lord Desborough's butler 1880/1945. Flight Lieutenant; Royal Air Force (one of 92nd Squadron's 'aces'). Killed in action in Pas-de-Calais, France. Taplow Memorial.

51 – 25th October 1918 – **Frederick W Brittain** (27) of Paddington. Nurseryman son of nurseryman Frederick Brittain of Pine Apple Cottage, Lake End. Wife May. Air Mechanic; Royal Air Force. Buried in Paddington Old Cemetery, Kilburn. Omitted from Taplow Memorial.

52 – 31st October 1918 – **Albert C Jeffries** (24) of Rotherham. Motor cleaner son of gardener Albert Jeffries of Taplow Common. Gunner; Royal Field Artillery. Died in Flanders, Belgium. Taplow Memorial (name recorded as Arthur).

53 – 18th November 1918 – **Arthur Beesley** (25) of 14 Fair View (now Fairview Road). Baker at Maypole Dairy, Hitcham Road. Son of Charles Beesley, gardener at Windsor Castle. Wife Ethel. Private; Machine Gun Corps. Died of wounds at home. Buried in St Mary's Churchyard. Hitcham Memorial.

54 – 26th May 1919 – **Thomas S Sims** (32) of The Kennels, Common Road (now Cliveden Road). Manager of Maypole Dairy, Hitcham Road. Brother of Edward (see 26 for family detail). Sergeant; Machine Gun Corps. Died of wounds at Farnborough. Buried in St Nicolas' Churchyard. Taplow Memorial.

55 – **William Cook**. No information. Taplow Memorial, despite no evident local roots.

A Tragic Romance Remembered

Canadians played a vital role in both world wars and deserve to be well-remembered, especially here in Taplow where so many were cared for at Cliveden's Canadian Red Cross Hospital. This Newsletter is pleased to share a poignant story of two Canadian families whose courage, bravery, love and sacrifice a century ago are particularly memorable.

Jane & Tom Parkinson emigrated in 1885 from County Antrim, Ireland, to Whitewood, Saskatchewan, where he became a school teacher and their daughter Jean Scott Parkinson was born. They moved to Carmangay, Alberta, and Jean trained as a nurse in nearby Lethbridge. Her graduation was delayed when she fell seriously ill with typhoid in 1917. She recovered to enlist in February 1918 as a Nursing Sister in the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Aged just 24 and a Lieutenant in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, she followed her brother and fiancée overseas. She was posted to Cliveden where Waldorf Astor had generously gifted his polo field, bowling alley and racquets court for the CEF to establish the CRCH which in September 1917 was renamed No 15 Canadian General Hospital.

Waldorf and Nancy Astor were devoted to the Hospital. For five years, she gave her life, fortune and talents to saving lives. She knew many of the staff and patients intimately. She often helped the nurses or talked with the wounded to raise their spirits. The low death rate at Taplow was attributed to her inspiring personality and presence. It was said she "knew the soul of Canada better than anyone". Patients called her 'The Angel of Cliveden'. When Waldorf



Jean Parkinson

ceded his father's sunken Italian Garden as a cemetery in 1916, she commissioned Sir Bertram MacKenna to create a marble statue of an angel standing with outstretched arms facing west as if guiding home departed souls. Secretly, Nancy was the model for its face.

Jean was one of the youngest nurses there at the time, "a mere slip of a girl". Her daughter Patricia says she was a favourite of Nancy, who in turn inspired Jean. She needed that and much support from her nursing pals during the personal traumas that lay ahead in that fateful summer of 1918.



A Familiar Photograph (Jean far left)

Photos by courtesy of Patricia Murray

Her brother, William (Bill) Parkinson, had joined the cavalry – Lord Strathcona's Horse – in 1914 and crossed the Atlantic with the first Canadian contingent. In France, where his Irish cousins John Scott and Gavin Whitley fought and died, Bill won a battlefield promotion to Sergeant. In October 1917, after a furlough in Belfast to visit his family, he was awarded the much-coveted Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry in the field where he had "displayed boundless energy and fearlessness when he led a bombing party to attack four lines of enemy defences, clearing 600 yards of enemy trench, and bombing 19 dugouts himself". He was later awarded a bar to his DCM for further gallantry.



William Parkinson

On 8th August 1918, the Allies launched their final offensive to drive the Germans out of France and force peace. Bill charged on horseback through the fog at Amiens to capture an enemy machine gun position singlehanded before suffering severe bullet wounds to his head and abdomen. Somehow, he was evacuated to Cliveden only to be left outside the triage tent; they did not expect him to live. Jean was tending to the wounded when – astoundingly, at that critical moment – she recognised her brother despite his injuries. She begged and pleaded with the doctors to treat him. Her strenuous efforts got him an emergency operation, and her personal nursing care ensured Willie survived, though he remained dangerously ill for a month. A fortunate brave man, he was invalided home to Canada in 1919 and lived for another 40 years.

Jean had a sweetheart, Clarence (Clall) Sherlock, to whom she was engaged to be married. The Sherlocks were a well-established and much-respected family in Lethbridge. Clall had been a school teacher and then a reporter and editor with the *Lethbridge Herald* newspaper. He enlisted in 1915, was shipped first to Camp Witley in Surrey then posted in July 1916 to France as a bombardier with the Canadian Field Artillery to serve on the front lines in the Somme Valley and at Arras. He was severely wounded and in 1917 returned to England to convalesce. After several months in hospital, he joined the 57th Training

Depot Squadron of the Royal Naval Air Service to become a flight training instructor. Despite a lucky escape in France when the propeller of his plane 'scalped' the crown of his head, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant.

When Jean arrived at Cliveden in Spring 1918, Clall was based at Cranwell in Lincolnshire. He took ten days leave and travelled to meet his fiancée. They enjoyed romantic walks through the beautiful grounds but, as they stood in silence in the cemetery, he seems to have had a premonition of his own death. After nine months of training others to fly, he had nearly completed his own combat training and was being readied to return to the front line. Although Jean tried to laugh him out of his melancholy, Clall told her that, should anything happen to him, he would like to be buried at Cliveden.



Clarence Sherlock

With its founding on 1st April 1918, Clall's squadron was transferred to the Royal Air Force. Sadly, on 19th August, his aircraft was in mid-air collision with another. Both pilots and a pupil were killed instantly. Jean was told of his death by telephone. Soon afterwards, she received a letter Clall had written after their holiday together with instruction that it only be posted in the event of his death. In it, he hoped she would never have to open the letter. He talked of the future, of being "companied by death for over three years" and how he had never been afraid. "Death might be just around the corner", he wrote, and repeated his desire to be buried at Cliveden.

Photos by courtesy of Patricia Murray

Although the sacrifice of front-line combatants is well-remembered, that of trainee pilots is not. The astounding fact is more pilots [including Taplowian John Caudell; see Page 6] were killed in training than in combat. Such losses were kept strictly secret for a long time so as not to adversely affect morale and recruitment.



Clarence's Burial

Permission was granted for Clall to be buried at Cliveden as he desired. He was given a full military funeral. His grave was covered with flowers: a white bridal-like wreath from his fiancée and further tributes from the medical staff and nurses, from his flying Corps and from the chief surgeon, Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Mewburn, who remembered bringing the boy into the world 23 years previously. Twelve years later, in 1930, Nancy Astor fondly remembered Clarence Sherlock to a reporter who was interviewing her.

Back home in Canada, news did not arrive until 22nd August that Bill had been seriously wounded and, just a few hours later, that Clall had been killed. Jean's mother wrote to her, "My Darling child, if I could only hold you in my arms.... You are alone, yet not alone for Jesus never leaves his people.... We and Clarence's mother are praying God give you strength".

More bad news was to come. Clall's brother Robert Sherlock was a graduate of McGill University in Montreal. Whilst waiting to be shipped overseas from Halifax, Nova Scotia, he fell victim to the terrible 'Spanish Flu' epidemic that raged during 1918/19 killing more people than the Great War. The worldwide spread of the disease was greatly aided by the large camps and troop movements. Robert died of pneumonia on 15th October 1918. His and Clall's deaths were a terrible double blow for their poor widowed mother Christabelle and sister Marjorie.

In July 1919, Jean returned to Canada where she continued to nurse wounded servicemen. Her love for Clall never died though in 1922 she married Fred Alexander, a veteran from Campbelton, New Brunswick. They had three daughters whom she raised with great love and devotion. She had to endure further challenges in her later life, but she met all with her usual courage, positive pioneering outlook, and outpouring of love. She was an inspiring woman deeply loved by many in return. She lived life to the full, eventually passing away in 1987 in Fontana, California, aged 97. As she wished, her remains were taken back to Canada to be buried in St Paul, Alberta, with her dear brother Bill, whose life she had saved. At the graveside, Patricia sang the Red Cross Song that Jean had taught her. Jean's spirit lives on in her family, in those families whose loved ones she saved, and in the minds of her many friends whom she touched.

For me, it has been a tremendous privilege to have known my grandfather's cousin Jean – Old Jane as she was fondly known to us – to learn her poignant story which she rarely talked about and to pen this timely tribute to her, Clall and their families who made such sacrifices so close to the end of that most terrible war.

Trevor Whittle of Edinburgh, with special thanks to Patricia Murray of California

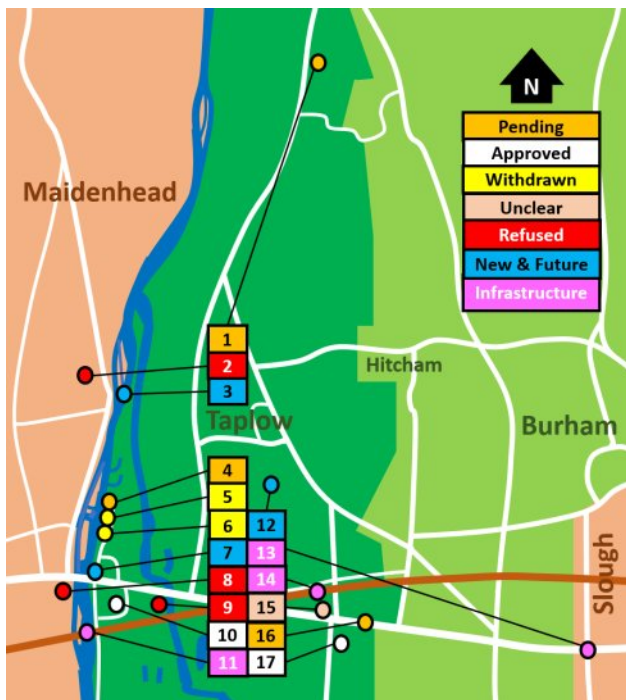


Still in Flux

Newsletter 109 observed that many 'hot topics' were in states of flux. Most still simmer on the back burner where they will come to the boil eventually. Meanwhile, over the past six months, the Society has examined 33 planning applications and commented on four in its endeavour to keep a finger on the pulse and members in touch.

SBDC has deliberated since December whether to release Cliveden Stud cottages (1) from agricultural ties and since March whether Dunloe Lodge (4) should be reconstructed as nine apartments instead of the single dwelling already approved. Concerns are that the first might be the thin end of a wedge aimed at comprehensive redevelopment and the second threatens 'creep' to overdevelopment. Meanwhile, BCC has delayed work on its much-maligned A4 Cycleway (16).

The Society has influenced eight other matters which beg questions despite decisions being made.



After seven months deliberation, SBDC approved a temporary dwelling at Challen's Chicks in Marsh Lane (17) giving the owner three years to demonstrate a successful business and seek permission for a permanent building. Ellington Gardens (10) has seen a new house approved, an application withdrawn to instead build two and approval given for the single house to be re-sited.

The withdrawal of the application for a riverside gastro-pub (6) has the air of something

shelved rather than refused on Green Belt grounds. Could SBDC revive its long-cherished idea of taking all or some of the Mill Lane triangle out of the Green Belt? An application to replace the boathouses (5) with 13 dwellings was also withdrawn to be replaced by a different developer's proposal for eight houses which will be exhibited in the Old Boathouse on 12th November.



The New and Old Boathouses

Has RBWM ended ambitions for the Riviera Hotel (8), declined because its proposed conversion to flats would reduce Maidenhead Riverside's leisure amenity, and for a Hindu community centre off Boulter's Lock car park (2), rejected on appeal due to potential parking overload? Here on the Bucks bank, we share this concern since the new footbridge (3) will enable visitors to the lock and its restaurant to park in Mill Lane, and we have our own ongoing sagas. SBDC has refused two applications on Green Belt grounds but one, a retrospective application to extend the recently converted care home at The Hawthorns (9), has gone to appeal and the other, for an 82-bed care home to replace Roots Garden Centre (15), may be merely postponed since the draft Local Plan proposes to re-designate the site from Green Belt to Employment.

Work has started on Taplow Station's new footbridge (14) but the Elizabeth Line is delayed to nobody knows when, the renovation of Brunel's historic railway bridge (11) could cause service interruptions and floods are back under Station Road bridge. However, our County Councillor Dev Dhillon is seeking ideas to improve parking at and around the station. Any suggestions?

The Bath Road's junction with Huntercombe Lane (13) briefly had an experimental mini-roundabout with poorly designed approaches and sightlines obscured by bollards and notices. Traffic flows didn't improve but, without a proper roundabout and two westbound lanes from the nearby M4 roundabout, was the experiment simply

designed to fail? The Society and TPC are hoping to influence next Spring's restoration of Berry Hill Farm quarry (12), possibly to provide some public access. Any suggestions?

There is little comfort in this detail, with good reason: strategic planning is weak yet over-complex and dogmatically policy-driven. The delay in the new Local Plan could have serious consequences; a government inspector ruled on appeal in favour of an applicant because RBWM's plan was not up-to-date. Even more worryingly, possible changes aren't always aired for public consultation. SBDC keeps potential Green Belt boundary changes very close to its chest yet those seeking to profit from our patch seem to have mysterious levels of knowledge of such things.

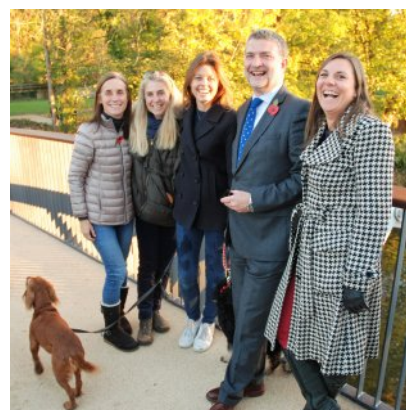
Planning portfolio holder Councillor John Reed claims SBDC is willing to listen but if everybody – including our District Councillor George Sandy – is kept in the dark, who can comment?

At least we're aware BCC aims to reduce costs by closing one or two of its ten household recycling centres (HRCs) or by closing three for two days each week. It is 3.1 miles from Taplow Village Green to our local Burnham HRC, which is at risk on both counts. BCC alternatives Langley and Beaconsfield are 9.7 and 10.6 miles away, so average annual 'rubbish miles' could more than triple. Imagine the ecological benefit of going just 2.5 miles to Braywick HRC. Don't hold your breath. Taplow is Maidenhead only to the Post Office.

River Revival



First Crossings



Martin & Fans

Our reach of the River Thames, once a social whirl, has edged towards a dormitory. Ideas for redeveloping Skindles emerged in the 1960s only to meander for years. By 1991, the whole of Mill Lane was in the mix, suffering heavy commercial traffic and heady ambitions for offices, a hotel and many houses. How might Taplow benefit? An idea emerged for a picnic area with a footbridge across to Ray Mill Island and Boulter's Lock. Prospective developers wriggled but Taplow's lobbying left its mark. Society chairman Heather Fenn allied with Maidenhead Civic Society, George Sandy convinced

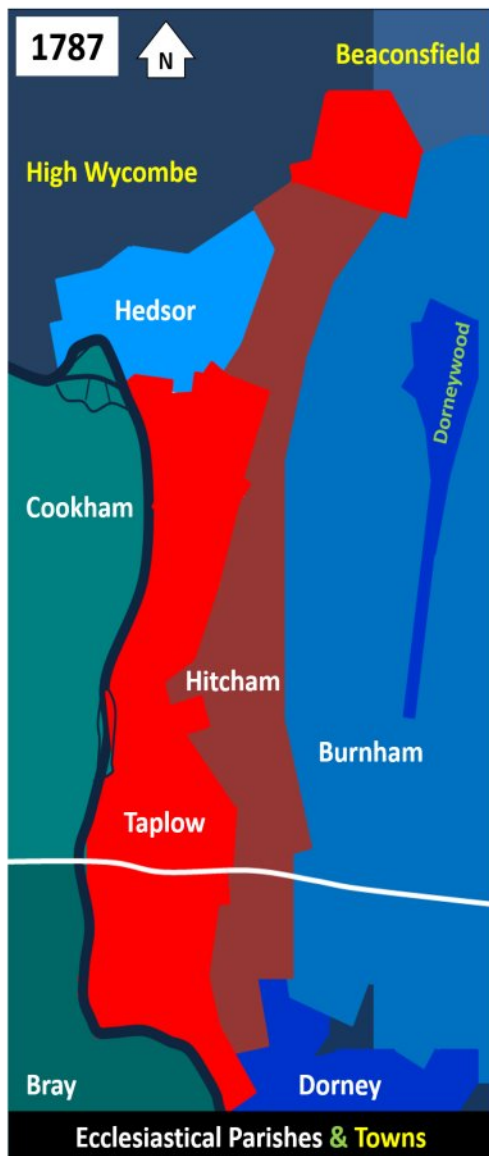
RBWM, nudged decisions and, in 2013, SBDC made the footbridge a planning condition. Berkeley Homes rose to the challenge. Martin Knight's graceful span was floated into place last December and on 2nd November fireworks followed its opening by Prime Minister Theresa May. There will be a competition to name the bridge but no delay enjoying in daylight hours a delightful 1.35-mile round-river walk. And on the circle, another reason to celebrate: four days later – like Dr Who – Skindles regenerated yet again, this time as 'Roux at Skindles', a brasserie combining two iconic names. But what

now? The stronger the Society, the better it can focus on Taplow and Maidenhead uniting in the common cause of making the most of our greatest shared asset: Old Father Thames.



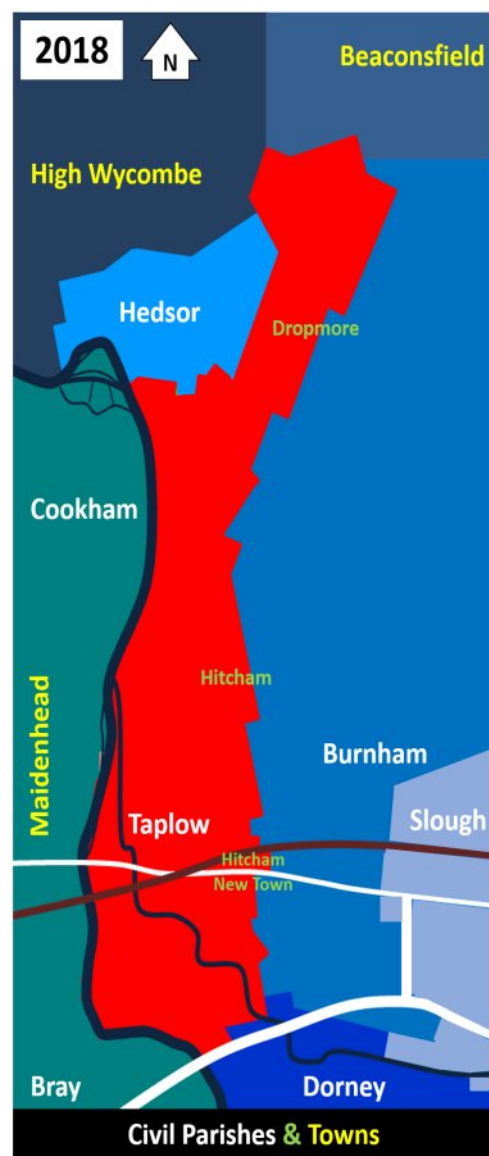
The Doctor

Where's Hitcham?



For those in the know, this might seem a strange question. Not so for a Mill Lane newcomer invited a few months ago to join the Society. This Newsletter sees an opportunity to enlighten...

Hitcham and Taplow both have longer histories than Slough or Maidenhead (first noted by name in 1195 and 1296 respectively). These ancient strip parishes – so called for being long and thin to ensure each community had natural springs, farmland and woods – had been established for centuries before being noted by the Normans in the 1086 Domesday Book as Hucheham (with 11 households) and Thapeslau (with 24). Each evolved to be medieval manors and ecclesiastical parishes, and Taplow acquired a remote northern woodland, although not as distinctively named as Dorney's Dorneywood (isolated in Burnham). The railway arrived in 1838. Populations grew, especially along the Bath Road, Hitcham Road and Nearways (now Eastfield Road), an area known as Hitcham New Town. Both became civil parishes in 1894. Taplow was home to 1,127 people in 1911 and Hitcham to 649. Hitcham was split between Taplow and Burnham in 1934 but remained an ecclesiastical parish, centred on St Mary's Church, and was home in 1959 to those inspired to lead the foundation of the Society with the aim of protecting the primarily rural character of both parishes.



Whither Taplow?

James Brokenshire, the new Secretary of State for Local Government, announced on 1st November that Buckinghamshire's County and District Councils will merge to create a single Unitary Authority (UA). BCC's abysmal lack of 'localism' led the Society to favour two UAs. Our MP Dominic Grieve advised that the alliance of SBDC, Chiltern and High Wycombe was "feasible" but Brokenshire was persuaded Aylesbury Vale has too few residents to stand alone. Is he unaware that the Vale's main towns are to grow by 50% and its overall population by 40% even without the likely encroachment of Milton Keynes, which knows more than most about new town development and

evolution? How can he fail to see the strategic masterstroke of merging the two?

"Local hubs" are proposed but will the Countywide UA be "simpler, more local and better value" as claimed, or will it care less and do less even less well? BCC's idea of devolving various responsibilities to TPC with inadequate funding suggests that much of what Districts do now might also be pushed down. Can parish councils cope? Will precepts rise? And as has long been feared, could Taplow suffer Hitcham's loss of identity by being bundled into a mega-parish with rural Dorney (not so bad) and urban Burnham (not so good)?

Court in the Act

Soka Gakkai International's annual summer reception on 7th June was an opportunity for Director General Robert Harrap to look back at recent activities at Taplow Court. This Newsletter is pleased to summarise his review...



Chulalongkorn

SGI Archive

Throughout the 30 years since SGI established its national headquarters here, we have welcomed students of Buddhism from all over the UK, from around Europe and elsewhere, especially America, India and Japan. However, as an open-minded religious organisation, we also

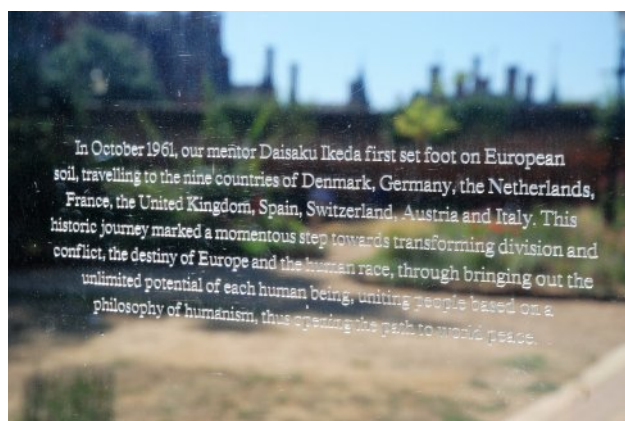
host many other events and interfaith activities around the three main themes of peace, culture and education. We value such opportunities to aid like-minded organisations achieve their worthwhile aims and deeply appreciate the warm friendships that have developed with individuals and organisations in the local community. Here is a flavour of our diary over the past year internationally, nationally and locally...

SGI has since 2007 been involved as a partner with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Having held exhibitions here at Taplow Court and given lectures making suggestions about accelerating the peace process, we were delighted last year when, in July, the United Nations adopted a treaty which will make nuclear weapons illegal under international law, and, in December, ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. July 2017 was also memorable for our pleasure at welcoming the Thai Ambassador, many distinguished Thai guests and the Anglo-Thai Society to a reception which commemorated the 120th anniversary of Lord Desborough renting Taplow Court to King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) of Siam, whose father King Mongkut was portrayed by Yul Brynner in the 1951 musical *The King and I*. We were grateful to St Nicolas' School for the loan of the King of Siam's Cup which Chulalongkorn presented to the school and is still awarded for sports today.

In the field of education, pupils and students from 14 schools and universities came to hear about Buddhism, the history of the house, or both. We recently hosted a conference together with University College London and the Institute of Education looking at Global Citizenship education and Sustainable Development Goals, and our library of oriental philosophy continues to be a resource visited by academics and members of the public alike.

We play an active part in the Windsor and Maidenhead Community Forum, hosting in January the first of the Forum's season's dialogue meetings, and have had fundraising events for charities such as Thames Valley Hospice and many others, including a fashion show in our Ikeda New Century Hall in aid of Slough Refugees. We held concerts from the London Male Voice Choir, Voices Anon and, on 27th April, the now regular fixture of the Rotary organising *Maidenhead's Got Talent!* I was delighted that St Nicolas' School was involved this year in this showcase for primary school children in the afternoon and secondary school children in the evening. And I am pleased that Dorney Horticultural Society and its ilk are recognising that our gardens are worth a special visit thanks to the fantastic work of Phil Rollinson, our head gardener, who with his team of staff and volunteers make the setting of Taplow Court look even more beautiful every year.

Did you see SGI's annual summer exhibition 'Seeds of Hope' which raised awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and celebrated various people around the world tackling ecological issues and making a difference in the environment? The next Newsletter will give the dates of Summer 2019 Open Days when visitors can enjoy exploring Taplow Court, its gardens and next year's exhibition.



Snapshots

Until late last year, people hurried along Boundary Road past Wellbank's bulging eastern wall worrying its collapse could be imminent. What a relief when it was carefully dismantled. Now the curving streetscape has been restored by a new wall built with the old bricks. Well done, Wellbank!



Before

Andrew Findlay

Beware the Knockers! Thames Valley Police are warning that the surreptitious aim of anyone selling household products door-to-door may be to identify those who are elderly, gullible or vulnerable and sell that knowledge to scammers or burglars. Some seek sympathy by claiming to be trying to rebuild their lives after imprisonment. Some offer as identification a Hawker's Certificate. This is bogus. If they don't have a Pedlar's Certificate issued under strict conditions by TVP, say simply "I do not buy goods and services at the door" then firmly but politely close the door. Never answer any questions. Call 101 immediately and give TVP a description of the Knocker and any associated vehicle.



During



After

The Society's 33rd Annual Midsummer Village Green Party on 23rd June was once again a great success, this time with a novel innovation: children had fun being snapped into Dave McNulty's stocks to be splatted with wet sponges. Thanks to all who donated prizes for the raffle, which made £750 for Taplow Cricket Club, and especially to Alastair Hill and his wonderful team who enabled almost 400 people to make merry.



Bogus



Valid

Thames Valley Police

Summer was long and dry. The hot sun parched grass sandy brown and (probably focused by broken bottles) caused it to burst into flame at the Recreation Ground and on Jubilee Meadow. Fortunately, damage was limited to scorched earth and bald patches.



Louise Symons

St Nicolas' Church and School usually have separate summer fetes at the Rectory and on the school field. The Pre-School Playgroup has no similar annual fund-raising event. This year was different. On 30th June, they jointly organised and shared equally the £5,299.39 raised at a fabulous Community Fete on the Browning Green. The Church's third included £276.50 that St Anne's Church, Dropmore, had taken at its tombola stall (and retained) but not the £500 made for its Southside Appeal from tours of the Church and sales of items donated specifically towards the £75,000 target of this roof repair fund. Since then, a 13-hour 'Psalmathon' (the singing of all 150 psalms) raised the roof to the tune of over £3,700, a Coffee Morning took £450, sponsors of Churchwarden Phil Taylor and his daughter Christine - who cycled 45 miles from Buckingham Place via Richmond Park and the Long Walk to Windsor Castle - contributed £599 (and the same to The Prince's Trust), a Bonfire & Bangers Evening added £686 to the kitty and the recipe book 'A Taste of Taplow' is now on sale at £10 each.

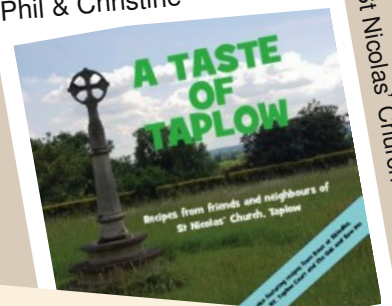


St Nicolas' Church



Rosemary Taylor

Phil & Christine



St Nicolas' Church



Clemency & Sampson



Every dog has its day, but three in two months? That takes the Bonio. The Fete took the lead. Cat Browning, Jules Schindler & Co had

it licked at the Recreation Ground on 9th September when over 200 people at Taplow Dog Show raised sums not to be sniffed at: £300 for THRGA and £700 for Guide Dogs for the Blind. The tail wagged on 30th September when the Royal East Berks Agricultural Association followed the scent to its 165th Ploughing Match and Dog Show at Barge Farm. Paws to consider: has going to the dogs ever been so popular?

All valiant fund-raisers deserve much credit, none more so than two truly magnificent nutcases. Being gluttons for punishment, Chris Ashford and Duncan Leftley decided their rehabilitation from (respectively) a broken neck and hip surgery should be to 'do the DW'. This epic paddle - a 125-mile overnight canoe marathon down the Kennet & Avon Canal and the River Thames from Devizes to Westminster - also involves 77 portages totalling over 13 miles. After months of intensive training, they cast off at 8am on 31st March aiming to shoot Maidenhead Bridge at 11pm and finish mid-morning on 1st April, Easter Sunday. Unfortunately, heavy rain on Good Friday swelled the Thames to danger level. All crews were stopped at Reading to spare them the raging torrent. With the aid of their amazing support crew, they had done 54 miles and 57 portages in good time, raising over £5,000 for the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust. Respect!

Richard Ashford



Hitcham and Taplow Society



Lincoln's End

Remembering Lincoln Lee



Claire Price

The Other Sussex

Taplow was excited on 19th May when the American TV actress Meghan Markle was driven down Berry Hill from her overnight stay at Cliveden to marry Prince Harry in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and become the Duchess of Sussex. The excitement continues with an exclusive opportunity to see behind-the-scenes glimpses of their wedding (see below).

Meghan shares a tenuous Taplow connection with the only other woman to assume her title. Lady Augusta Murray secretly wed Prince Augustus (sixth son of George III) and in 1794 gave birth to his son. The king did not approve. He had the marriage annulled and exiled Augustus to Italy only for the couple to reunite

in 1800 and produce a daughter. George intervened once more, creating Augustus Duke of Sussex in 1801, granting him £12,000 per year and exiling him to Portugal on condition he left Augusta in London. She was penniless but resourcefully styled herself Duchess of Sussex until being granted £4,000 per year for euphemistic "services rendered to the planters of Barbados".

Augusta's Taplow connection? After the annulment of her marriage, she resumed her affair with her distant cousin Lord Archibald Hamilton, the great-great-nephew of George Hamilton, 1st Earl of Orkney, lord of both Cliveden and Taplow Court. Then as now, when not centre-stage, Taplow has a knack of getting cast in a cameo role.



Rosie Sellers

Claire Price

HTS AGM

8pm Friday 7th December, Taplow Village Hall

Afterwards, by special arrangement, the Society will show 'Operation Royal Wedding', a film of Harry & Meghan's Wedding introduced by RBWM Event Manager Wayne Wedgbury (see the Society's website and AGM Notice).

Editor: Nigel Smales

The Cottage, Rectory Road, Taplow. Tel 01628 661636

E-mail: editor@taplowsociety.org.uk

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

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