

# Hitcham and Taplow Society

Newsletter 115: Spring 2021  
£3.50 to non-members



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

# Hitcham and Taplow Society

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

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Cover picture: The Masked Mary and Child.

With its usual services suspended last Christmas, instead St Nicolas' Church celebrated the Nativity in its churchyard. Pride of place went to the Holy Family, played by Rhoanne Hardman & Matthew Sweeney (who will be married in August at St Anne's Church, Dropmore, by curate Rev Suzanne Johnson) and their children Eilidh (as a sheep) and 9-month-old Olivia (starring as Baby Jesus).

## Reflections from the Front Line

*Many in our community have risen selflessly to the challenges of the pandemic, either as volunteers or in their professional capacities. Please excuse this Newsletter's indulgent acknowledgement of a certain Caroline Smales, who delayed her retirement as a senior lecturer at the University of West London to ensure another generation of nurses gained vital infection control qualifications. The saving grace is being privileged to feature Natalie Squire's topical and moving tale of professional achievement and personal courage...*

### A Year in the NHS

Both my husband Stephen and I work at the front-line in the NHS. He is Head of Clinical Engineering for a large acute trust. From the start of the pandemic, Steve was responsible for procuring the vital medical equipment required for additional Intensive Care beds to cope with the super surge of COVID cases, such as ventilators, drug pumps, lab machines and monitors. He became involved in designing simple breathing equipment (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure, or CPAP) with a local

manufacturer to meet the demand. Weekend and late-night working became the norm. Steve was asked to be a consultant Medical Engineer at the Nightingale Hospital in London for a short time too.

I am Critical Care research manager for a heart and lung specialist in London. We are a tertiary hospital, and all the patients were ventilated from referring hospitals. All our non-ventilated patients and paediatrics were moved out, we stopped surgery and the whole hospital

became a 'red zone' where all patients were COVID-19 positive. Suddenly we had to be trained how wear gas-tight masks, learn to recognise, understand and communicate with everyone through claustrophobic PPE. Sometimes it was a bit of a giggle and a warm feeling that we were all in it together.

My role as research manager is to set up and deliver research into intensive care. This usually takes 6-to-8 months. I had two weeks before national research was being demanded. At the start there were only two of us in the team. I needed to work out how to take, deliver, manage and store blood, urine, sputum or lung fluid from so many patients at different time points. Some samples were sent to universities for analysis. Some studies looked at different drugs, other trials were using novel medical equipment. I phoned Next-of-Kin to ask permission to allow their poorly relative to participate in the research. There were times when we were the first people that relative had spoken to since their loved ones had been admitted. This was incredibly challenging on both sides. Some relatives were so supportive. Some didn't speak English. Some just cried. We had over ten studies, all looking at different aspects, but all with the same goal of understanding, preventing, treating and learning about COVID-19 in severely ill patients.

I cannot explain how scary it was dropping the children at school and walking back over the Green dreading what lay ahead for the day. I would go to work in 'civvies', get changed and spend the day in and out of ITU, taking blood, speaking to relatives and medics, collecting data, managing my team, then come home exhausted and be afraid to hug our children because of the virulence of the disease. I am not afraid to say there were times when I would hide in a corridor in tears.

When arrangements were made to install temporary morgues it became very sobering and each day we would get the depressing figures of new patients admitted. The tempo was intense, but the adrenaline helped to keep concentration and efforts going. The increase in patient numbers was overwhelming, but the sense of camaraderie kept us going, particularly in the spring last year. Then we both caught COVID at the end of April and became very unwell for good few weeks.

The children worried about what would happen and managing our homelife was extremely challenging. It took a couple of



R Cevera-Jackson

Natalie: The Masked Medic

months for us to fully function properly, and we would often get bouts of foggy exhaustion or COVID symptoms which made everyday tasks so difficult. By winter, we were worn out, also feeling the effects of lockdown and lack of socialising. Family life has been extremely limited, but I am proud to have been a part of this. When our children got upset, I encouraged them by explaining that we will help the world get better. I would like to thank the Meats, the McNultys, Claire Wicks, Justine Shah, John Murray and Cath Knight for their help and support over this year, as well St Nicolas' School which looked after the children so well during the lockdowns.

Our research has already paid off. We are part of several national studies, many of which have been in The News. There have been treatments discovered, methods improved, data analysed, and much has changed clinically since the onset last year.

It has been phenomenally hard, frightening and extremely challenging, but certainly something that we can look back on in the future and learn from, and our children will be excited to be part of this history. Hopefully, the summer will bring happier times, freedom and return to normality with our friends in the village.

*Natalie Squire, Hill Farm Road*

# HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh 1921-2021

Her Majesty's "strength and stay" for 73 years  
Rest in Peace



# Editorial

Appreciation and hearty congratulations to Eva Lipman – a Committee member since 1991, Chairman 1996-99 and 2002-03, President since 2005, Acting Chairman 2017-20 and now only the fourth person to have served the Society for three decades. The others were Tony Hickman (37 years), Barrie Peroni (36) and Eileen Law (32). Another seven have served two decades or more yet, over its 61-and-a-half years, the Society has at times relied upon just a few willing to do the necessary. Nobody lamented this with greater passion than former Secretary Dick Nutt (see Page 19).

We are lucky to have a one of these few on the Committee now. In his nine years (to date) as our Secretary, Roger Worthington has led the Society's analyses and critiques of every planning application and government consultation with such impressive perception and diligence that Taplow Parish Council poached him to be its Planning Chairman. This is not ideal. It is vital that the Society retains its independence to hold decision-makers to account. However, Roger is not the first with the integrity to wear two hats. He has now succeeded Eva as Acting Chairman, a title which signals our need for someone to take on the challenge of Chairmanship, accepted and respected by members and others as a representative community leader. Other Committee members are stepping up to share his load but, as always, we need new blood. If you care about the present and future of Hitcham and



Eva

Taplow, or about celebrating their past, please volunteer to join the Committee and do your bit.

Now, at last, some good news. We have advised members by e-mail that the Village Green Party has been deferred from 19th June to 3rd July, subject to the pandemic lockdown being lifted as planned on 21st June. Our website and a further e-mail will advise when and how to purchase tickets. Alternatively, check with Roger after 18th May. Meanwhile, please let Rupert Sellers know if you're willing to help.

## Vanity Fair

Ready for another ride on the carousel of changes imagined, real or rejected? Here we headline just a few. For full lists, see Taplow parish Council e-newsletter (11 March) or check <https://pa.chilternsouthbucks.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Challen's Chick Farm (formerly, a paddock) in Marsh Lane leads Little Karoo Farm (historically, a field called Great Coldgrove) in Hill Farm Road as sites in search of a future with incessant applications for incremental changes. Challen's quest for a quail barn has been approved on appeal. Will it now appeal against refusal of a permanent dwelling? Karoo claims to be bigger (to avoid the need for various permissions) as it ponders growing lavender or welcoming weddings, glamping or

sandwich-seekers while becoming an eyesore of scattered vehicles, goats, sheep, pigs, poultry, beehives, shelters, temporary buildings and a refrigerated container for carcasses.

Meanwhile, Cliveden Stud is offering its southern paddocks for sale (potentially compromising its viability as an equestrian facility) and Odds Farm has permission for a mini-golf course. In Mill Lane, still no sign of the riverside pub (approved June 2019) but Maidenhead Sea Cadets can rebuild their headquarters and, after two years, permission has been granted to renovate Driftwood Cottage, to lift and renovate the Old Boathouse to create two dwellings and to build six new houses.




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**3RD - 24TH DECEMBER 2020**

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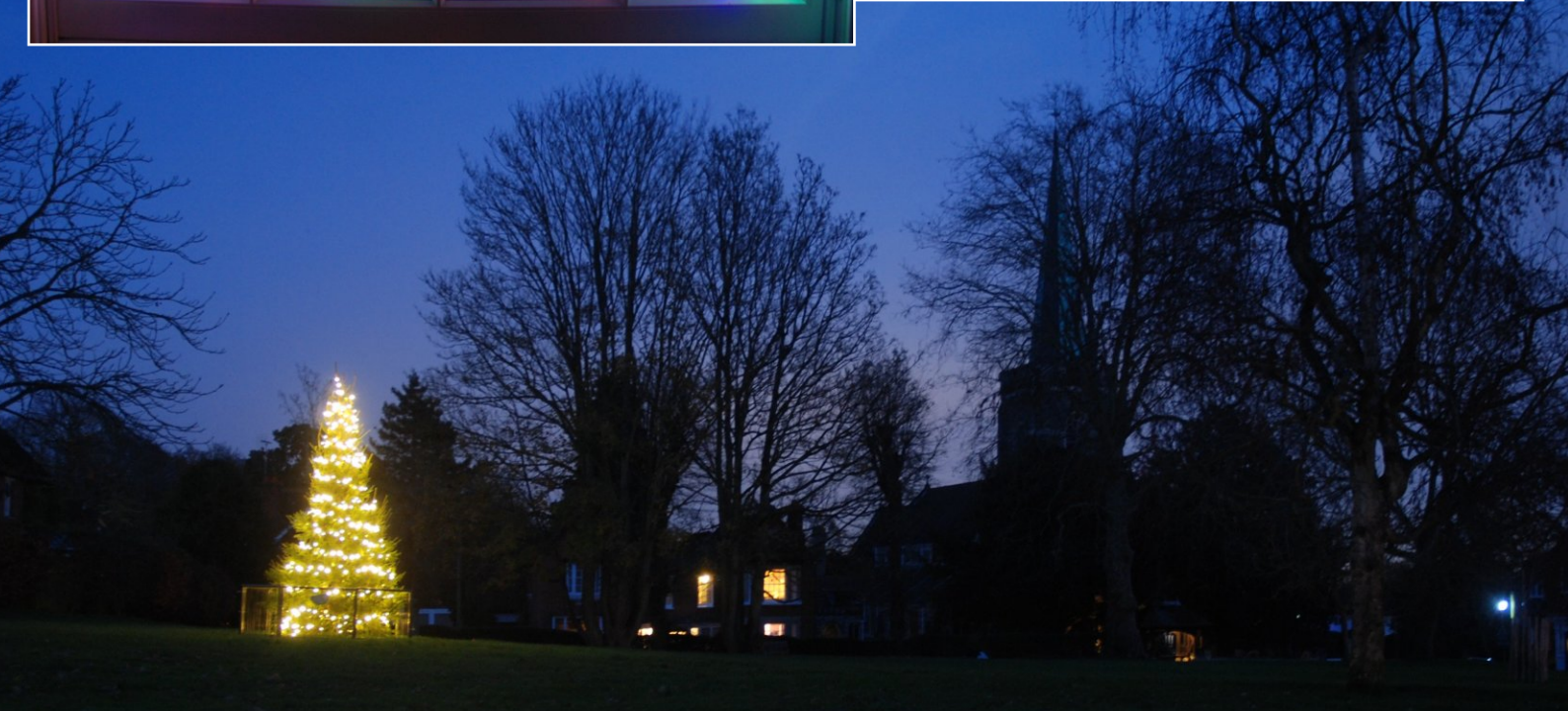
PLEASE MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALL TIMES



Barry Davis repairing one of the Rosenkranz windows in St Nicolas' Church



On Christmas Eve, the sheep were auditioned. A lucky pair were selected to star at the St Nicolas Nativity with Janet & Mark Appleton: The Masked Shepherds.





Chris Sullivan

Glen Island House 2014



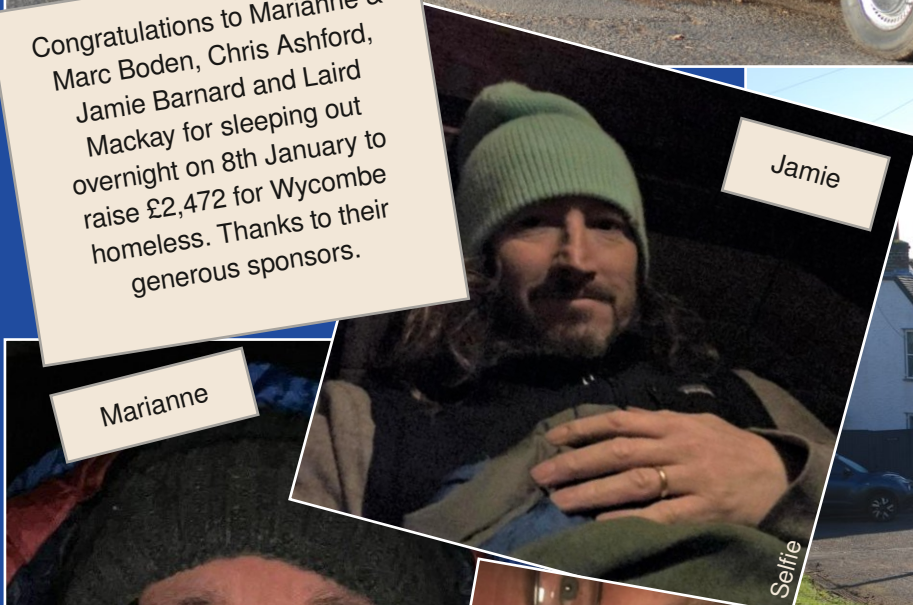
Andrew Finlay

Taplow featured on TV series *Midsomer Murders* (2002, 2009 and 2012), *Lewis* (2007), *Foyle's War* (2008) and Season 2 of *Endeavour* (2014) which had sets built in Taplow Mill and starred Glen Island House and The New Rectory (see Newsletter 101). And for four days in April, *Endeavour* returned to film at St Nicolas' Church, Mulberry House and Cedar Chase for a Season 8 episode.



The High Street horse chestnut, conkered and stumped

Congratulations to Marianne & Marc Boden, Chris Ashford, Jamie Barnard and Laird Mackay for sleeping out overnight on 8th January to raise £2,472 for Wycombe homeless. Thanks to their generous sponsors.



Jamie

Selfie



Marianne

Marc Boden



Laird

Selfie



# Decision Time

The pandemic put paid to the plan for a new unitary Buckinghamshire Council (BC) to be elected on 7th May 2020. Consequently, BC began as an unelected rump of former County and District Councillors. That's about to change. On 6th May 2021, constituents in each of 49 electoral wards will have the opportunity to elect three BC Councillors, 147 in all. Our Cliveden Ward is a not entirely comfortable aggregation of larger, mainly rural Taplow and Dorney with smaller Lent Rise carved out of urban Burnham to balance constituent numbers across BC wards.

As ever, the Society is apolitically interested in the policies, plans and performance of our local authority because they shape our future. We were



often disappointed that it felt like Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) was imposing edicts onto our remote corner of its domain with little or no appreciation about real issues and needs down here. Former BCC Leader Martin Tett now leads BC which, worryingly, could be even worse. It has already recommended that



Martin Tett

developers can 'buy out' their obligations to conserve biodiversity, thus encouraging construction on greenfield sites in return for funds to 'invest' in its flavour of the month. And its 'Statement of Community Involvement' indicates it *will* reveal plans and *may* engage communities in the planning – or by implication, maybe not. This is wrong. If we are to trust Powers-That-Be, our involvement should be mandatory, not discretionary. Local Plans (LPs) will determine our built and natural environment; how can a Buckinghamshire LP be accepted as locally appropriate if locals have no say? Consultations should be meaningful dialogues, not merely vents for hot air.

Consequently, we encourage everyone to cast their votes for whichever candidates they believe have the courage and integrity to resist the top-down push from either Her Majesty's Government (HMG) or the Aylesbury ivory tower and instead prioritise strong bottom-up representation of their ward constituents. The following pages aim to assist your judgement by exploring some of the interconnected matters we believe need resolution and by framing questions to which we should look to our elected BC councillors to find answers.

## Candidates

### Buckinghamshire Council: Cliveden Ward

Kirsten Ashman (Conservative), Ciaran Ferguson (Labour), Zoe Hatch (Green), Paul Kelly (Conservative), George Sandy (Conservative) and Chris Tucker (Labour).

### Taplow Parish Council

As there were only ten nominations for eleven vacancies, there will be no election. Jamie Barnard, Zoe Hatch, Rachel Horton-Kitchlew, Spencer Norton, Gerry O'Riordan, Val Pridmore, George Sandy, Louise Symonds, Karen Walsh and Roger Worthington are confirmed as our Parish Councillors. They may be joined by another co-opted to the vacant seat.



# Question Time

## National Planning Policy

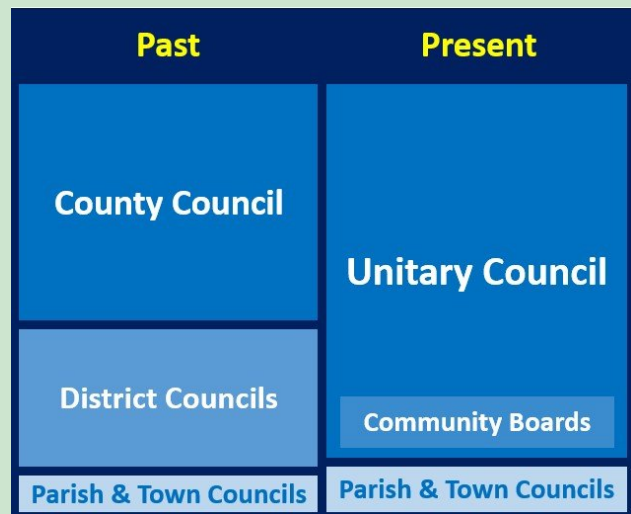
It is not often that our wee Society can claim success in influencing Government policy. Clearly, Newsletter 114's criticism tipped the balance to convince HMG to dump its controversial "mutant" planning algorithm amid fears it would lead to a surge of house building in the Green Belt.

What's that? Not convinced of our power of persuasion? Oh, alright. Maybe we are getting over-excited. It's true ours was merely one among many responses which led to a change of tack. But if we didn't call the tune, we increased its resonance just a tad. And we welcome HMG's switch to prioritise building in urban areas in need of development with "an updated formula weighted to focus on developing family homes in 20 of England's largest cities and making the most of vacant buildings and underused land". However, it's tough enough now keeping pace with the tenuous public participation permitted by cascades of often disconnected consultations, and the Society shares the concern of many that proposed HMG and BC planning reforms will further dilute local democratic accountability, obstruct local involvement in decision-making and encourage rushed and insensitive development and infill.

- **Do you agree that locals should retain a definitive say over the future of their locality?**
- **What will you do to ensure this happens?**

## Local Government Structure

Buckinghamshire has centralised local government and elevated it beyond the reach (almost beyond the sight) of its electorate. Planning applications are no longer referred for public Planning Committee scrutiny by weight of local objection but *only* at the discretion of BC Councillors. The Parish Council Charter casts Parish and Town Councils as powerless consultees to which greater responsibilities may be delegated without appropriate funding. Like all Community Boards (CBs), the Beeches CB is



part 'talking shop' and part 'star chamber' as the *only* conduit for BC Councillors to hear and assess against a nominal budget the needs of Taplow, Dorney, Burnham, Stoke Poges and Farnham Parish Councils. No transparency: no accountability?

- **Will you ensure BC clarifies relative roles, responsibilities and process?**

## Buckinghamshire Housing Needs

In preparing their LPs, the four Buckinghamshire Districts reached a provisional agreement to share HMG's imposed requirement for new housing, with Aylesbury Vale taking the greater load. It is expected that Wycombe's LP (adopted 2019) and Aylesbury Vale's draft LP will be incorporated into the BC LP by its lead officer Ian Manktelow (formerly a Wycombe planner) but (as reported by Newsletter 114) the withdrawal of the Chiltern & South Bucks (C&SB) LP leaves our district at risk of incursion by Slough, maybe Maidenhead and possibly even Hillingdon and Hounslow.

- **Do you support our urban neighbours being allowed to expand into south Buckinghamshire (including Cliveden Ward)?**
- **Under the new regime, would a Neighbourhood Plan have any resonance?**

## Local Housing Needs

Having analysed the C&SB LP requirement for new houses in Taplow, the Society was confident of demonstrating that recent developments at Cliveden Gages, Institute Road and Mill Lane plus approvals elsewhere combined to provide all but 12 or 15 homes required by 2036.

- Will you rely upon the C&SB LP assessment and support the Society's analysis, or do you favour a complete (and potentially onerous) recalculation of housing need in Cliveden Ward?

## Look North

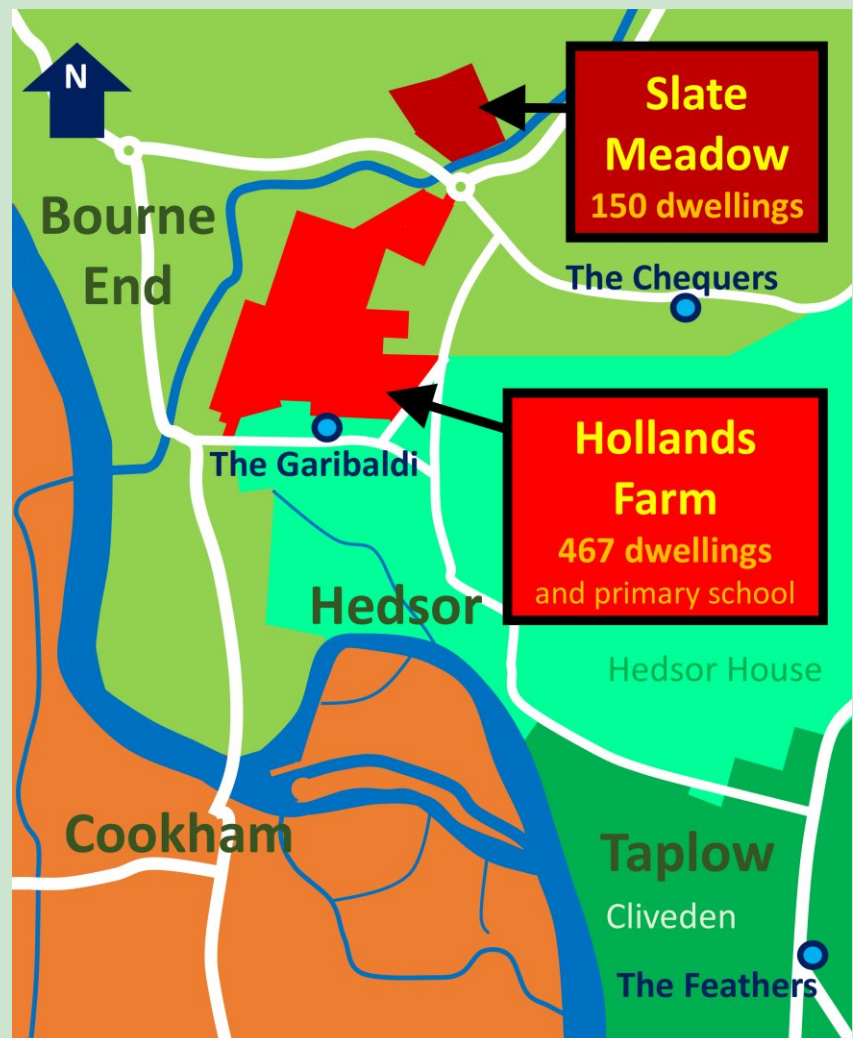
Newsletter 109 (Spring 2018) highlighted Wycombe's plan to build 750 new dwellings on three sites in Bourne End and Wooburn. Recently, BC consulted on proposals for the largest, Hollands Farm, to have 467 new homes (and a primary school, on a flood plain) which alone will increase the population of Bourne End by 35%. Hedsor has complained about the lack of "community engagement" (Taplow is not alone!) and is worried that this and the nearby Slate Meadow development (another 150 homes) will cause significant detriment to its rural character.

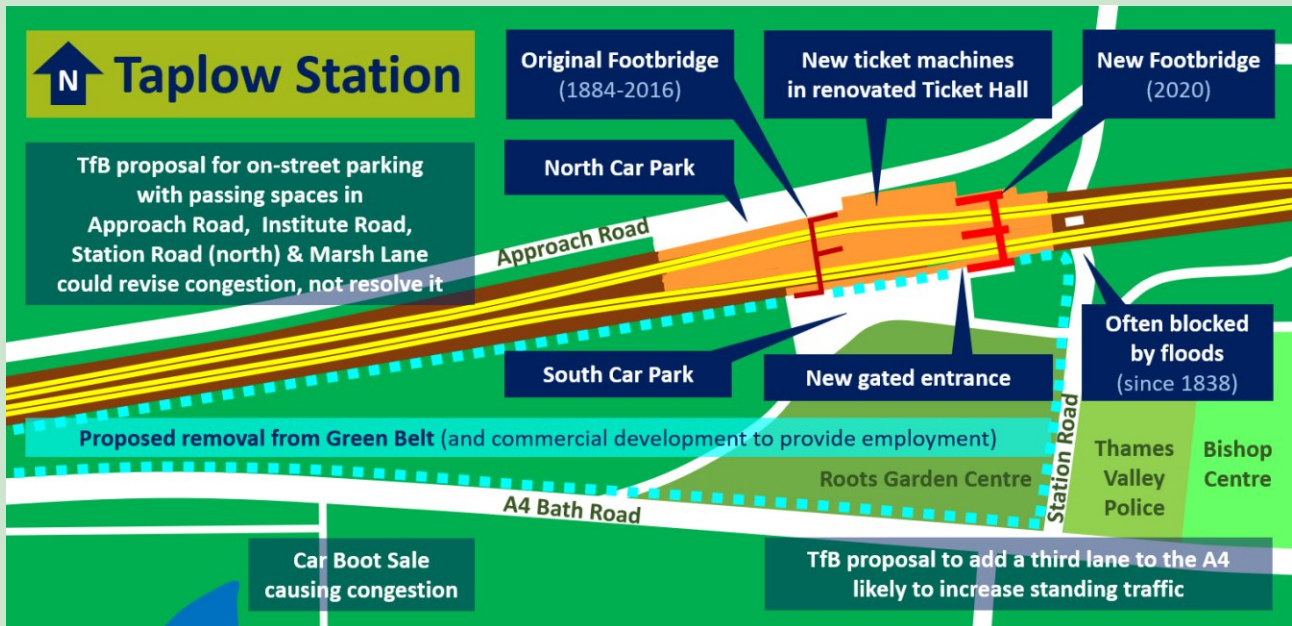
In parallel, HMG consulted on yet another revision to the deplorable National Planning Policy Framework which precisely specifies housing requirements by locality yet persistently refers only vaguely to infrastructure implications. Consequently, large developments in adjacent areas could be approved without appreciation of traffic generated by either. Taplow



also shares with Hedsor the concern that the Bourne End developments could result in hundreds of additional vehicles on our narrow and winding roads, many perhaps attracted by the Elizabeth Line to park at Taplow Station (see Page 11).

- Will you ensure BC and HMG apply the NPPF to Buckinghamshire with joined-up-thinking?
- Will you press for Transport for Bucks (TfB) to urgently conduct a comprehensive transport study into the traffic implications of these developments and recommend a detailed strategy and a funded implementation plan to minimise the detrimental impact on both Hedsor and Taplow?





## Taplow Station & Thereabouts

Those who have been 'working from home' may not be keeping track of the 'modernisation' of Taplow Station, a small element of the Crossrail project being implemented by Transport for London (TfL) to create the new Elizabeth Line, now forecast for completion in 2022. TfL's cursory responses to queries by Geoff Herbert of the Marlow-Maidenhead Passenger Association beg questions. Will ticket gates sell tickets or merely read them, cards or passes? On the southside, how will the 'new gated entrance' work? Will passengers be able to buy tickets there or must they walk under the Station Road bridge to the northside ticket office? What about historic free access across the footbridge which since 1884 has enabled pedestrians to avoid the deep puddles under the bridge?



And how can TfL justify ignoring the station's desperately inadequate car parking which results in nearby roads being constricted, congested and damaged, a problem that will get worse if Elizabeth attracts more passengers from further afield (such as feared on Page 10)? Will TfB's

vague idea of on-street parking with passing places on four roads merely revise congestion, not reduce it? And while most locals would be happy to be rid of the car boot sale, with Dumb Bell Bridge an immutable two-lane constriction, wouldn't another unconvincing TfB 'solution' – adding a third lane to this stretch of the A4 – simply result in an extra stationary queue of polluting peak-hour traffic?



Southside Entrance

The C&SB LP proposed to remove from the Green Belt the extended triangle immediately south of the station. Does an office development here make sense when central Maidenhead has plenty of vacant offices? And how much demand will there be for office space in the post-pandemic era? Wouldn't a care home be a better bet? Or the Society's favourite: a car park?

- **How do you believe these matters can be resolved in a satisfactory manner?**
- **Will you seek a future for the station triangle which serves local needs not a developer's ambition?**



# Conservation Areas

## Village

Proposed removal from Green Belt

### LISTED BUILDINGS & SCHEDULED FEATURES

- A = Church Cottages; B = Losuce & Elmbank; C = The Old Cottage;
- D = Wee Cott, Rose Cott & The Porches; E = St Nicolas Church;
- F = Telephone Kiosk; G = The Cottage & Farm View;
- H = The Old Rectory, Stables & Walls; I = Rectory Farmhouse;
- J = Elibank House, Gate & Walls; K = Hill House & Walls;
- L = Taplow Court, Estate Office, Statue, Cruciform Dairy & Walls;
- M = Old Churchyard, Tæppa's Mound, Gate & Walls;
- N = Taplow House Hotel & Walls; O = South Lodge Pit SSSI;
- P = Glen Island House; Q = Maidenhead Bridges
- R = Dumb Bell Bridge

## Riverside

### SIGNIFICANT UNLISTED BUILDINGS & FEATURES

- a = Riverside Tranquillity (including Harefield & Fairview);
- b = Orkney Cottage, White Place, Eastbank & Walls; c = Gaiety Row;
- d = Edwardian Ellingtonia (including The Hermitage & Redroofs);
- e = The Old Boathouse; f = Mill House & Mill Cottage;
- g = Taplow Bridge; h = Thatched Cottage, Well Cottage & White Gables;
- i = Upper Lodge; j = South Lodge; k = Springfield Cottage;
- l = E&W Bapsey & Walls; m = Queen Anne House;
- n = Taplow Court Lodge; o = Taplow Cricket Club & Wickenden;
- p = Cedar Chase; q = Barn;
- r = Mysteria, Old Manor House, The Oak & Saw & St Nicolas House;
- s = Mulberry House, Rozel, Number Three & Old Lodge;
- t = Maryfield & Garden; u = Coldgrove Cottages; v = Victoria Cottage;
- w = Wellbank Cottage; x = Hitcham Grange & Cottages

## Green Belt & Conservation Areas

Most of Taplow enjoys Green Belt protection. It also has two Conservation Areas (CAs) and 76 Listed Buildings (LBs), 28 of them in the Taplow Village CA (established 1975, extended 2007). As a long term Taplow fan remarks on Page 16, it continues to be successful in retaining the eclectic character of the Village and its history.

The original Taplow Riverside CA (established 1999) had greater contiguity. This compact Edwardian patch was extended in 2007 to encompass its neighbouring flats, the tranquil riverbank downstream and the decaying upstream strip then threatened by the spectre of over-development. This CA gave locals leverage to scupper such ambitions and influence the 2013 Supplementary Planning Document that led to the renovation of various historic buildings (including the listed Glen Island House) and informed the design of the Berkeley Homes scheme which – despite an unwelcome 5% creep up to 221 dwellings – won a bronze medal at the 2020 *What House?* Awards, the 'Oscars' of British housebuilding, for its "superbly designed, well executed" development.

The map opposite illustrates the extent of both CAs and the locations of LBs within and nearby. Early work for the Neighbourhood Plan has identified for discussion various 'Significant



Brian Foreman

Stockwells

Unlisted Buildings & Features'. Please contribute to this debate. It is remarkable how many walls and gates feature in both lists. Congratulations to Queen Anne's House for rebuilding its fallen wall. Elibank Court is signalling similar intentions. As anticipated in Newsletter 114, the collapse at Stockwells means it has the chance to follow suit.

Sadly, despite being proclaimed in the 2011 LP, the strength of the CAs seems to be eroding, exemplified by the defunct 2020 C&SB LP proposing to remove from the Green Belt the triangle defined by the Thames, the Jubilee and the railway, including most of the Riverside CA. It is hard to see how the bureaucratic convenience of this area having clearly defined boundaries outweighs the risk that unrestricted, inconsiderate infill would increase the density and damage the valued 'feel' of the CA.

- **Will you press for the retention of the riverside triangle within the Green Belt and for the continued protection of both CAs and all LBs?**



Andrew Findlay

Queen Anne's House



Elibank Court



Old Rectory

# A Pair of Parish Clerks

In 2014, the Society suggested the new Mill Lane development should have a waterwheel making 'green' electricity. No, said the Environment Agency, belying its name by pouring cold water on the idea. Too dangerous. Really? Oh well, at least Jubilee Mill's static waterwheel is an impressive visual reminder of a millennium of mills.

In 2016, the Society suggested new road names. Let's recall the ancient name of the former pasture in the elbow of Mill Lane: Leychequers. No, said the District Council. Too confusing. What? It'd be unique. Who'd be confused? No, must have a suffix: Road, Street, Drive, whatever. Really? So unnecessary. So urban. How about something pastoral: Laychequers Meadow? Sorted.

Taplow Parish Council supported these initiatives and the naming of Rutland Close. The inspiration wasn't England's smallest county but Thomas Rutland and his son James, successive Parish Clerks for half-a-century (1857-1907) administering matters ecclesiastical and parochial from the extension and repair of St Nicholas' Church (as it was then spelled) to acting as landlord of Church Cottages (built 1853) and managing charities which supplied food, clothing and coal to needy parishioners.

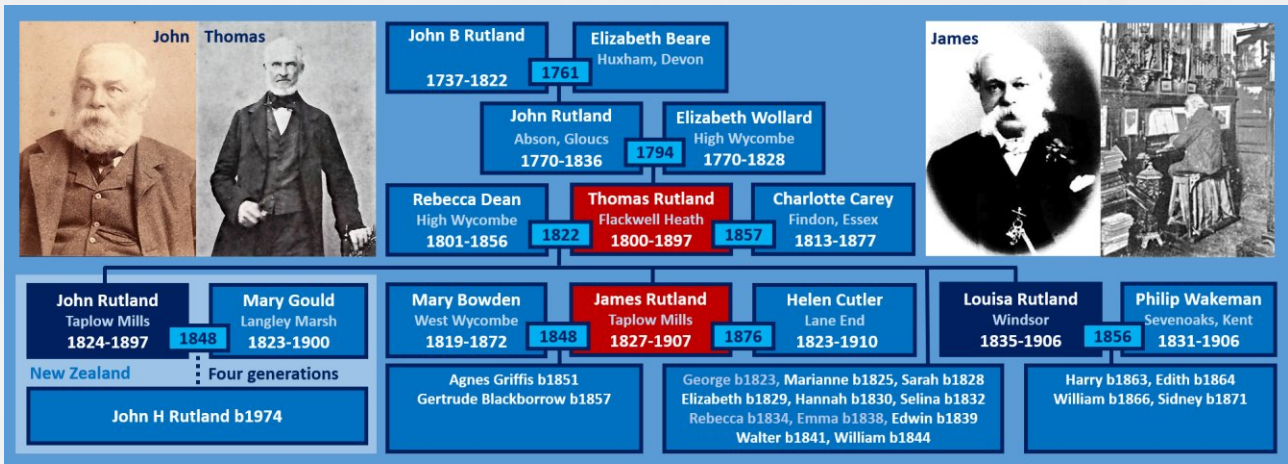
Tom's ancestral roots seem to have been in the West Country but by 1798 his grandfather, father and uncle were papermakers in Chepping Wycombe (on the River Wye at Loudwater). Perhaps he began to learn the trade there or at Wooburn. By 1823, he was making and maintaining handmade paper frames at Taplow Mill. Tom and Rebecca had 13 children, three of whom died as infants. Five were born in Taplow before 1830, four in Windsor and four more in Taplow after 1837. Their eldest surviving son John branched out to be a builder and undertaker in Taplow, perhaps using carpentry skills learned at the mill to make coffins. In 1850, he set a family trend by departing for New Zealand. Three younger brothers also emigrated – Edwin and Walter to New Zealand, William to Pennsylvania, USA. Only one of his sisters remained in Taplow: Louisa married carpenter Philip Wakeman and

lived at 6 Elmbank Cottages, the southern section of Elmbank Cottage (until recently, Neighbours), Hill Farm Road.

When Charles Venables mechanised Taplow's papermills in 1840, Tom was perhaps living in a "dilapidated cottage" replaced in the 1870s by the recently renovated Mill Cottage. After Rebecca died, he married Charlotte, began a new career as Taplow Parish Clerk and moved to what is now The Cottage, Rectory Road, to which James added a rear extension with Victorian mod cons – a privy draining to a new cess pit. Luxury! Like his brother, James evolved from carpentry to construction, initially specialising in cess pits and pioneering the domestic use of concrete. He was an acquired taste – ever ready to ruffle feathers to get his way – and an energetic jack-of-all-trades who eventually styled himself as an architect despite a lack of formal training. He extended his home on The Pikel (later Pikel Lane, now the High Street) using stonework rescued from the ruins of the old church (demolished 1855), lined it with oak panels from either there or St Mary's Church, Hitcham, and made its western solar his wife Mary's stationery and drapery shop. In 1871, he built in the adjacent orchard a house known as The Ruins, later Old Lodge. After Mary died, he married Helen and called his home Ye Gables, later The Gables. When Old Lodge was demolished in 1941, The Gables took its name. It is now three dwellings.

In the early-1870s, James built a large boathouse for Jonathan Bond (possibly one of the first reinforced concrete buildings in Britain, now replaced by Maidenhead Rowing Club) but succeeding his father as Parish Clerk in 1874 distracted him from neither his business nor his passions. The perk of never being absent once in 50 years as organist at St Nicholas' Church was that its old organ found a new home in his home (1866). He raised public subscriptions for a new stained-glass window in the Church (1891) and the construction of the Reading Room (1894), now the Village Hall. And his interest-cum-infatuation with antiquities led to his famously enthusiastic but amateurish excavation of Tæppa's Mound (1883).

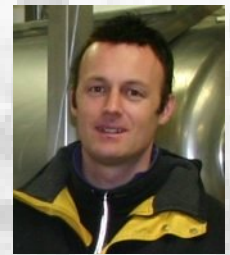




Although the work took place under the watchful eyes of proper archaeologists, the Mound suffered three collapses. The second buried James and, after he was extricated with difficulty, the dead 600-year-old yew on the crest of the Mound fell into the shaft, damaging the archaeological integrity of the dig. However, Tæppa's treasures (now in the care of the British Museum) were a revelation. His pagan burial (since dated to around AD 610) was then the richest discovery of Anglo-Saxon England. It has been surpassed only twice. While his method can justly be criticised, James deserves credit for his ambition and determination to secure permission for the excavation despite insistent objections by the influential rector Rev Charles Whately. Nobody knew if Tæppa was a Viking, the Saxon Ælle of Sussex, the Angle Ælle of Northumbria, a Kentish prince exiled from the Christian court of King Æthelberht, a thegn of Rædwald of East Anglia, a Saxon son of Sæberht of Essex or simply the chap who built the Mound not the body beneath it. But with his reputation enhanced, James was soon a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society and, by 1891, honorary secretary to three societies which thrived due to his being a past master with an extensive collection of historic artefacts found in the Thames or beneath Mill Lane, Hedsor Wharf, Maidenhead's Castle Hill and Robin Hood's Arbour in Maidenhead Thicket.

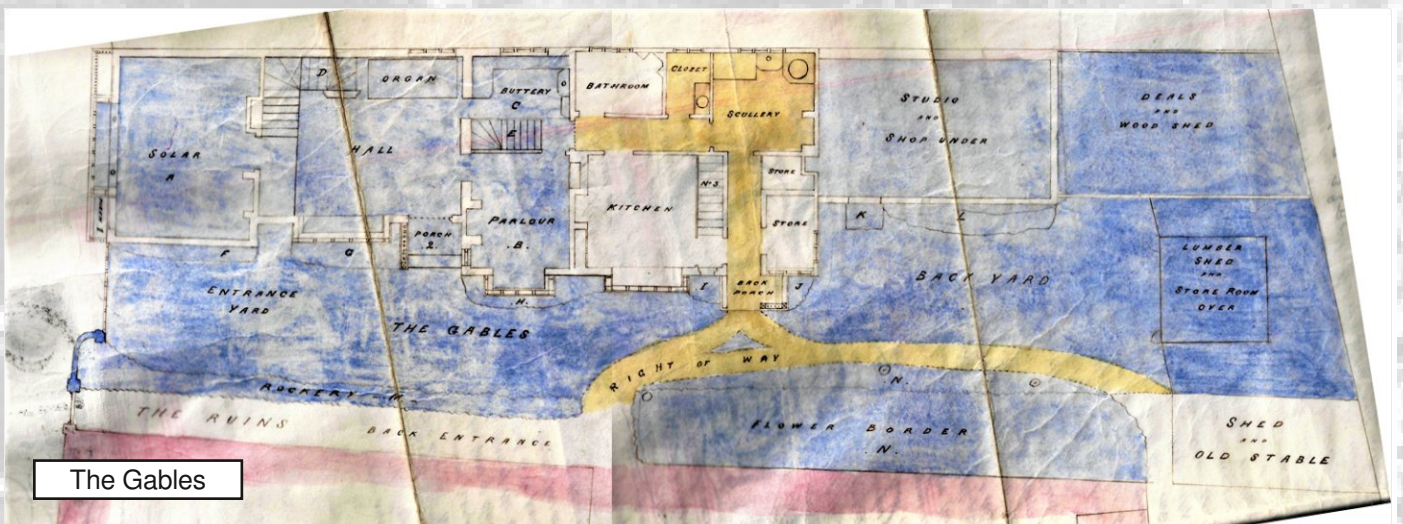
Tom and James were a new breed of Victorian gentlemen – perhaps peripheral to the elite social whirls at Taplow Court and Cliveden but nevertheless respected pillars of the community who left a legacy of physical and social footprints that merit them being remembered in a street name.

Newsletter 112 (Autumn 2019) featured the visit to Taplow of Tom's great-great-great-grandson, another John Rutland, to whom this Newsletter is indebted for his diligent research and photographs. His website –



Modern John

<http://www.notrescapade.com/genealogy/> – begs questions by revealing Tom and his emigrant sons John, Walter and William as Wesleyan Methodists. Was Tom a founder member of the congregation at Taplow's Wesleyan Chapel, which stood opposite James' home until around 1896? Was his becoming Parish Clerk conditional upon him conforming to the Church of England? And did James also conform so he could tinkle St Nicholas' organ? This Newsletter suspects these remarkable Rutlands would have enjoyed enlightening us.



The Gables

# A Couple of Diamonds

The Hetheringtons



My wife Valerie and I look back very fondly and nostalgically to Taplow where she was evacuated as a baby in 1941. Hitler's bombs had destroyed her street in West

Ham so her whole family came too. She and her parents Annie & Ernie Jasper lived in 6 Church Cottages, her mum's parents Alice & Joe Crowther in Stockwells Lodge on Berry Hill (Stockwells was derelict, a playground for youngsters) and her Aunt Alice and Uncle Vic Sheaf and their boys Vic and Colin in Elibank Lodge on Rectory Road. The Jaspers later moved to Buffins where Nan Crowther also had a flat.

Val and I met in 1957. She was working at a Burnham hairdresser. I was a junior surveyor in Gerrards Cross. Getting from my home in Wexham to Taplow and back was the most awkwardly imaginable, badly-connected journey of five choices – by buses, bus and rail, bus and thumbing a lift, later an unreliable BSA 250cc motorbike or (thankfully only once) walking all the way home.

We would often spend evenings in The Oak & Saw, then run by Mr & Mrs Williams. It had three bars, colourful characters and, with beer about a shilling a pint, I would nurture a couple for ages. The front left bar had comfortable settees and an upright piano played occasionally by an old chap whose small audience (just us) and lack of fingertips didn't dampen his enthusiasm. If he were deaf, as was likely, he never knew how convulsed we were at his puffing and blowing whilst playing. Little Billy Chandler of Hill Farm Road practically lived in the pub – a welly-booted, five-foot farm worker, totally personable, ruddy faced, a portrait painter's delight always ready to accept an offer of a drink. He'd stand like a heron swallowing a fish and empty his glass, no matter how full. It was like watching a storm drain in monsoon season.

Our engagement party squashed into the rear left bar of pub in 1959 and, on 18th March 1961, we married at St Nicolas' Church. Mr Talbot of Boundary Road took us in his taxi to the reception in the Women's Institute, where Val's

Nan ran the whist drive. Afterwards, we shared the train to Paignton with lots of other honeymooners. A kind old lady gave us a present, so it must have been obvious.

We lived in Langley, Wokingham and since 1976 in Finchampstead but return to Taplow every year to visit Val's parents' grave in St Nicolas' Churchyard. The village has changed – Mr Roadknight and his Budgen's, the butcher's shop, Elibank and Stockwell Lodges, all long gone – but not to spoil or greatly alter its character. About five years ago when having lunch at The Oak & Saw, we saw the photograph of the 1945 VE Day Party in the High Street. Val realised she was there, just five years old. Landlord Ian Burne has recently obliged by sending us a copy of the photo. Val is hidden by other children but has enjoyed searching for her cousin Colin and friends Phyllis Clarke, Susan Pithers and the Judge sisters, Rosemary and Christine.



The Oak & Saw

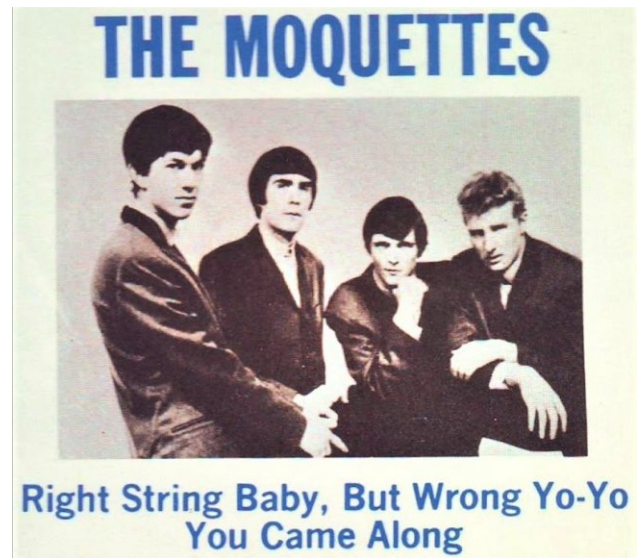
It would have been lovely to raise our glasses in The Oak & Saw to celebrate our Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Maybe sometime soon?

*David Hetherington, Finchampstead*



# Mr Tambourine Man

Thanks to Bob Austin of Buffins for this tale of Valerie Hetherington's cousin Colin Sheaf, who was brought up in Taplow and eventually settled in Cookham. In the early-1960s, Colin was a drummer for The Moquettes, a Reading-based beat and R&B quartet with Ray Whitworth on guitar and organ, Tago Byers on bass and Keith Neville on harmonica. They were signed by Mickie Most for EMI Columbia but released only one single, a cover of Piano Red's *Right String Baby But Wrong Yo-Yo* (1964), which failed to chart. Late in 1963, they played an all-night gig in Tottenham, two sets either side of one by the Rolling Stones for which Charlie Watts borrowed Colin's drums. Colin had to play the second set by hand after Stones fans nicked his drumsticks. No problem. Except weeks later, The Moquettes discovered something else had been nicked: their idea of playing Buddy Holly's *Not Fade Away* with a tambourine rhythm



Colin (right)

instead of the original deep drumbeat. In February 1964, the Stones released their version with the same tambourine percussion. It was their first UK Top Ten hit, reaching Number 3, and their first US single. Colin wasn't credited.

EMI Columbia

# A Trio Departed

## Pamela Bentley – 1929-2020

I was sad to hear that my longstanding friend Pamela died just before Christmas, aged 91, in a nursing home in Bexhill-on-Sea. She left a son and a daughter.

Pamela was a very formal lady who liked to have everything 'just so'. She was always carefully coiffed, and smartly dressed. Lapsang tea was served in fine bone china – none of your thicker crockery for her – and her tea trays always had pretty cloths. She was a particularly good bridge player – we were partners for many years with some success – and an enthusiastic golfer. When she retired from playing at Temple Golf Club, she presented a cup for a knockout competition and was delighted to hear I won it last year.

She lived for 50 years from 1967 at The Old Cottage in the High Street, often boasting it was the oldest house in Taplow. Always a 'Pillar of the Community' dedicated to the public good, she was active in the local Conservative Party and served for 15 years as a Parish Councillor (two as Chairman), 11 as a District Councillor and eight as a County Councillor. We can thank her for the narrows at Ship Hill on Littleworth Common to the north of Taplow which prevent oversized



Gaye & Andrew Jones

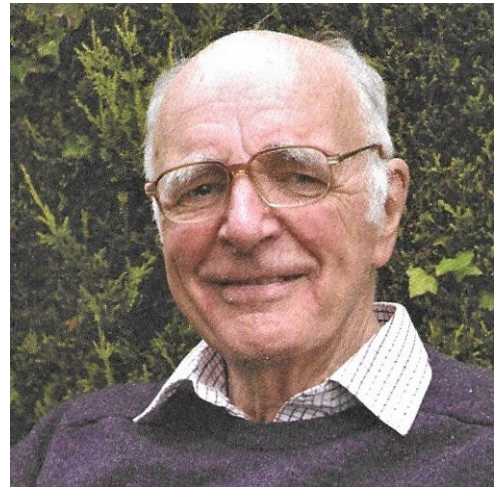
vehicles trundling between the M40 and the A4 along our narrow, winding lanes. St Nicolas' Church benefitted from her serving on its Parochial Church Council, leading intercessions, acting as a sidesman, organising the flower roster and making many beautiful, sweet-smelling flower arrangements. She also found time to be a governor of Burnham Upper School and to organise the Poppy Collection for the local Royal British Legion. I know what a lot of work that was.

Pamela's passing reminds one of the loss of many of 'the old guard' over the last few years leaving very few of us who remember her varied and valuable contributions, but we can all be grateful that she lived amongst us.

*Eva Lipman*

## Dr Bev Daily – 1936-2020

Bev was just 25 in 1961 when he left Charing Cross Hospital to go into General Practice in Burnham. Longstanding locals will remember him as an outstanding family doctor with excellent clinical skills and knowledge, a founder partner at Burnham Health Centre in Minnicroft Road where his son Simon has succeeded him. Bev was an inspirational mentor to young GPs, a gifted writer for medical magazines and a sociable friend always keen on a game of tennis, a round of golf or sharing humorous anecdotes in convivial conversation or after-dinner speeches. After his retirement in 1999, he became a trustee and chairman of the Burnham Health Promotion Trust and was awarded an MBE in 2013.



Out & About

## Richard Nutt 1924-2020



James Nutt

Dick never stood a chance. In 1973, Maurice Rogers (known as MAT, for his initials), co-founder of the Hitcham & Taplow Recreation Grounds Association (1956) and founder of the Society (1959), sold Dick and his wife Jane not only his home – Lea Rig at Poplar Farm – but the Society. Months later, he began 19 years on our Committee including 15 as Secretary (1976-91) and two as 'Not the Editor' of Newsletters 61-65 (1991-93).

Newsletter 97 (Spring 2012) told of his military career with the Royal Engineers (1942-65). He served in Libya, the Korean War, Australia, Germany (where he was promoted Major), Singapore, Borneo and Malaya (as Officer Commanding, 75 Malayan Field Squadron) building bridges, camps, roads and runways, making things going bang, making sure other

things didn't go bang, training in deep-sea diving, parachuting and speaking Malay as Jane gave birth to David, Elisabeth and James. Thereafter, construction company George Wimpey made him a training officer because he "knew how to run things" and he built a miniature steam railway for children to enjoy riding around Lea Rig's garden.

No wonder MAT saw this imaginative, determined, practical and pragmatic fellow as just the man to help keep the Society ticking. Leonard Miall (President 1975-91) regarded him as its "main driving force" alongside successive chairmen Ivan Snow, Tony Hickman, Bob Hanbury and Bill Ball. His influence and energy were instrumental in organising numerous social events, launching the Village Green Party and initiating illustrated talks after Annual General Meetings. He was involved in restorative projects at Bapsey Pond, the Old Churchyard, Cliveden, Taplow Station and Boundary Road, and in Mill Lane's South Lodge Pit being declared a Site of Special Scientific Interest. His diligent research and eloquent

submissions or presentations (invariably illustrated with excellent photographs) were significant in contesting or moderating ambitions for gravel extraction, local plans, county boundary changes and the redevelopment of Taplow Riverside. And he helped to ensure the Jubilee River didn't become the feared concrete culvert, not least during the 1993 Public Enquiry when he forensically discredited evidence tabled by the National Rivers Authority.

In 1995, the Society recognised Dick's great service over many years by presenting him with a painting by Sheila Horton. After moving in 2006 to Pink Lane, he added yet another dimension to his reputation by fearlessly zipping about Burnham on a moped. He lost Elisabeth in 1996 and Jane in 2018.



# Nutt the Editor

Dick never stood a chance. Once he had set such high standards by using his new-fangled desktop publishing software to produce Newsletters 56-60 for editors Alleyn Grellier and Danita Pierce, he was left 'holding the baby' in Summer 1991 when she had to rush home to New York. He styled himself 'Not the Editor' of five Newsletters to signal the vacancy required filling. No volunteers came forward. Although the Society went about its business as usual, it published no Newsletters between Autumn 1993 and Spring 1996 when Leonard Miall was persuaded to reawaken his journalistic flair.

Joshua Reynolds 1767 (NPG)

Typically, Dick's editorials were blunt and provocative. He recalled our Beaconsfield neighbour and iconic statesman Edmund Burke (1729-97) observing "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing" in the hope that it would encourage individuals to take personal responsibility to do something, anything, to protect our fragile world or – at the very least – the fabric and feeling of our corner of it. This Newsletter makes no apology for paraphrasing his perceptive pleas. They still resonate 28-and-more years later.



Edmund Burke

*"I don't like growing old. But in one respect, I am glad. I don't want to live long enough to see the whole planet come to grief due to pollution and global warming. You might think preventing this is beyond our own powers. I disagree. If everyone did their little bit, there would be less of a problem. Simply reduce your consumption of energy. It will save you money too. Set your thermostat lower. Heat only one room.*



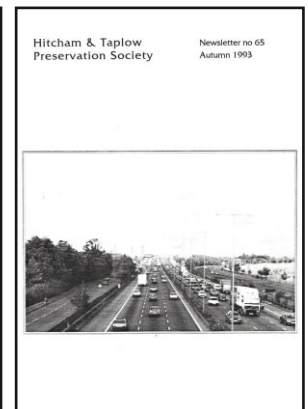
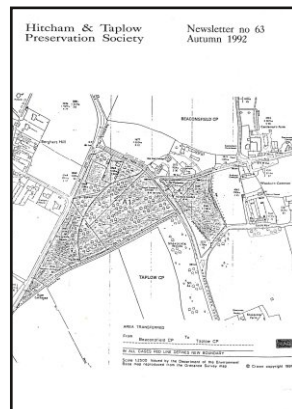
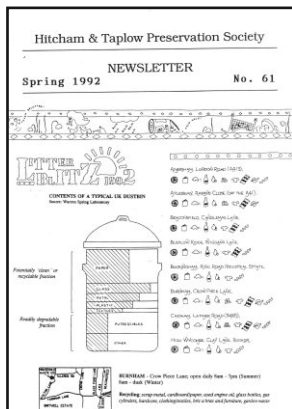
Lea Rig

*Wear a heavier pullover. Try not to use electricity. Use low energy bulbs. Don't travel. Or at least, not by car because catalytic converters turn exhaust gases into carbon dioxide."*

*"While the Burke quotation is a little strong, especially the word 'evil', it is such a shame that so many will do nothing unless their 'own back yard' is threatened. People have joined the Society's Committee only to leave once their perceived threat is resolved, often without even saying 'Goodbye'. Very few appear to want to work for the common good. Only two members attended the Public Enquiry into the Flood Relief Channel to support speakers representing the Society and Taplow Parish Council. It really wasn't worth going to the trouble of telling you about it."*

*"If this does not apply to you, fine. But how about proving it? Say what you think about Newsletters or offer to contribute to them. Even better, volunteer to join the Committee. Do something positive to help the environment. Or perhaps someone could tell me why nobody seems to care and what can be done about it."*

And with that, Dick ceased his invaluable efforts on behalf of our community. It seems too many thought he would go on forever, challenging decision-makers so they didn't need to bother. Too few threw off their apathy. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.* Here endeth the lesson.



# Lincoln's End

Remembering Lincoln Lee

## Still a Crazy World

Remember the story in Newsletter 114 of a Taplow streetlamp with a switch? A tall tale, right? Wrong. Greig Early discovered that, on 6th August 1990 under the heading 'Saucy Switch', *Reading Evening Post* reported "Courting couples can look forward to switching off before turning on in Lover's Lane. Understanding councillors at Taplow have decided to fit a

switch to one of the streetlamps in an effort to stamp out vandalism. Lovers in cars had been blamed for smashing the lamp to give themselves a little more privacy". This snippet shed a little light but didn't reveal the location of the lamp. Now a new mystery emerges from Ellington Road of another: a bedside lamp which turns itself

on in the middle of the night. The sound of footsteps on the stairs. A usually calm dog trembling then running scared down the street in the wee, small hours and, on another occasion, transfixed by something only he could see. All very peculiar. The house in question isn't yet 20 years old, so could there be some curious legacy of the bungalow



Greig: The Masked Magi

it replaced? Or that the new owners moved in on the eve of last Halloween? The truth is out there.

## More Crazy Words

Remember the musings in Newsletters 113 and 114 about 'Coronaspeak'? Park instantly recognisable personalities like Captain Tom and the human manifestations of The Science (Whitty, Vallance and Van-Tam). Ignore the unprecedented use of 'Unprecedented'. Ponder this preponderance...

Airborne Transmission. Airbridge. Antibody. Anti-Vaxxer. Armchair Expert. Barnard Castle.

Bubble. Circuit Breaker. Clap for Carers. Clot Rot. Cluster. COBRA. Contact Tracing. Coronaspiracy. Covidiot. Covid Marshal. Cummings Going. Curtain Twitcher. Data not Dates. Eat Out to Help Out. Elbow Bump. Epidemiology. Excess Deaths. Face Coverings. Flatten the Curve. Follow the Science. Furlough. Furlough Merlot. Game Changer. Hand Sanny. Hands, Face, Space. Herd Immunity. Home Schooling. Jab Grab. Keep Your Distance. Key Worker. Lateral Flow Test. Lives versus Livelihoods. Locktail Hour. Maskulinity. New Normal. Nightingale Hospital. Non-Essential Shops. No Jab, No Job. Pangolin. Quarantine Hotel. Road Map. Rule of Six. SAGE. Save the NHS. Scotch Egg. Self-Isolation. Shielding. Social Distancing. Spike. Squash the Sombrero. Statutory Instrument. Staycation. Stay Home. Stir Crazy. Substantial Meal. Super Spreader. Test & Trace. Tiers of Lockdown. Two-Metre Rule. Underlying Condition. Vaccination Passport. Variants (Kent, Brazilian, South African). Ventilator. Virological Mutation. Virtual. Vulnerable. Sing while you Wash Your Hands. Wet Market. Wet Pubs. Working from Home. Wuhan. Zoom.



James Gillray 1802

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