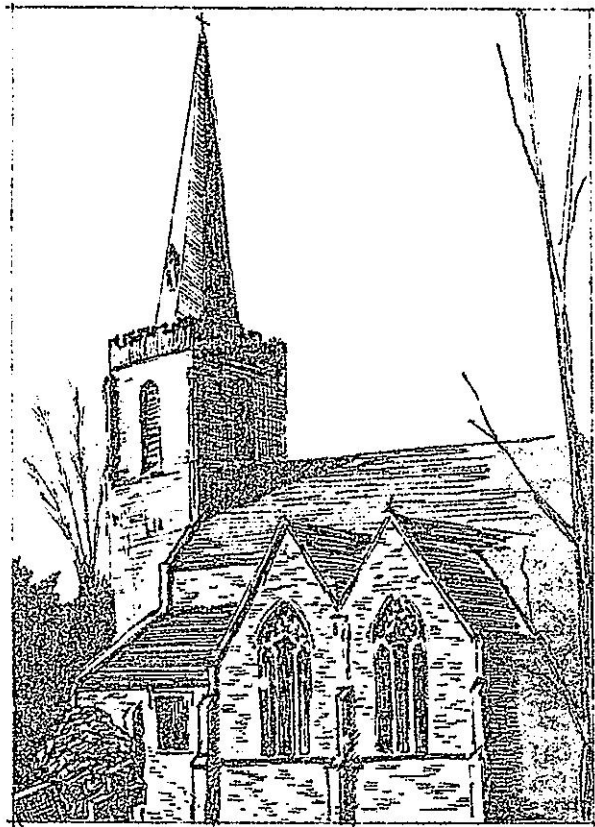
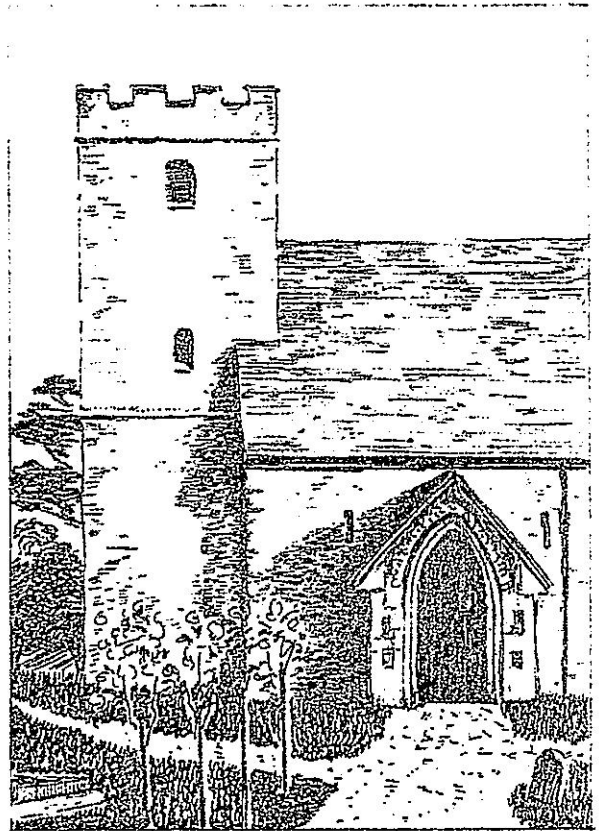


Albert J. Vale

**HITCHAM
AND
TAPLOW
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY**



NEWSLETTER

HITCHAM & TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Officers & Committe Members

President: Mr. Leonard Miall, O.B.E.

Vice Presidents: Mr. G.P. Ashwell
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Mr. A.J.C. Paines
Mr. E.F.J. Perkins

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Riverclose,
Ellington Road,
Taplow.

Secretary: Mr. R.G.R. Butt,
Lea Rigg,
Hitcham Road
Burnham.

Assistant Secretary: Mrs. D.I. Lance,
Cloverdown House,
Hitcham Lane,
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Treasurer Major J. Lance, T.D.
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Burnham.

Committee: Mrs. H. Grellier
Mrs. A. Hanford
Mrs. S.F. Horner
Mrs. E. Huidart
Mr. W.J. Jennett
Mrs. H. Lee
Mr. D. Raeside
Mr. R. Sneyd

Slide Show and A.G.M.

This year the Annual General Meeting of the Society was preceded by an illustrated talk entitled "An illustrated survey of Hitcham and Taplow". Commencing at St. Mary's Church which recently celebrated its 850th Anniversary with a well attended flower festival, the survey showed interesting glimpses of many Historical and Architectural features of the Parishes of Hitcham and Taplow culminating in some excellent shots of Clivedon House and grounds.

The talk was prepared by our own members, Richard Nutt being responsible for the photography, whilst John Lance and Richard Sneyd prepared and delivered the commentary.

The meeting was held at the historic Taplow House Hotel, which itself featured in the survey.

The A.G.M. followed a short interval and both lecture and meeting were very well attended and several new members joined and many others renewed their membership for the ensuing year. (The Minutes will be distributed with the Agenda for the 1977 A.G.M.)

Committee

Mr. E. Lowry and Mr. A. Meats have resigned owing to the pressure on them of other activities. Mr. W.J. Jennett has joined the Committee as the representative of the Cedar Chase Residents' Society. Mrs. Helen Lee has taken the place of Mr. Lincoln Lee who also has had to resign after many years of most valuable service to the Society.

Committee Activities

A Standing Committee has been formed to deal with urgent matters between meetings of the Executive Committee. The Standing Committee is now made up of the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Assistant Secretary with the power to co-opt as necessary.

Boundary Road/Hitcham Lane: Development of Small Plots

Six months have now elapsed during which an Appeal could have been lodged against the refusal of Planning Permission for the development of the field south and east of Hitcham Grange. Much of the field is at present used for a riding school.

Cruciform Dairy Taplow Court

Search is continuing for tiles to replace those no longer available or broken, with a view to using the existing ones on the north face and others on the less obvious south one. Search for suitable tiles has not so far succeeded.

Footpaths and Bridleways

A meeting of interested local organisations was arranged for 7.00 p.m. on Monday 7th February, Reading Room Taplow, to preserve and restore local footpaths and bridleways.

Gravel Pit in Dropmore Grounds

An application was made some years ago by the Society for registration as Common Land of a gravel pit inside the grounds of Dropmore. This measured 1.51 acres and had been allocated under the Enclosures Acts to supply material for the repair of a road which used to run across just south of the lake but had been moved soon after the enclosure had been completed. The Owners' Agent in opposing our application quoted a leading case in which it was ruled that land allocated for a specific use such as gravel extraction thereby ceased to be common land. We were advised that it would be very difficult to win against this and that if we lost we might have to pay costs. Also we had no right of access as the road had been moved. We therefore withdrew our application.

Chain Link Fence along Heathfield Road, Dropmore

Much of the old wooden fence bounding Dropmore along Heathfield Road has been replaced by a plastic coated chain link netting fence on galvanised posts with barbed wire on top. This is taller than the minimum requiring planning permission, so the matter was raised with the Planning Officer as no permission had been applied for. An application has now been made and it is under consideration.

Proposed Sand and Gravel Extraction at Barge Farm

Ten years ago, Wm. Boyer and Son appealed against refusal of Planning Permission to extract sand and gravel over a period of about ten years from 43 acres west of Marsh Lane and south of the existing lake. In his report, the Inspector concluded that the site formed part of a tranquil scene which served a valuable green belt function, and that extraction would cause injury to rural amenities and to the residential amenities of properties in Marsh Lane. He found the urgency of the need for gravel hard to assess and felt that the argument over the 43 acres evenly balanced; but the likelihood that the workings once started would be extended would endanger the whole 330 acres of Barge Farm led to the appeal being rejected.

A very similar Application has now been submitted on the grounds of increased need for sand and gravel. The same risk would arise of extension to the rest of Barge Farm, and if extraction continued at the same rate it would go on for decades. Sixty lorry movements a working day are envisaged along Marsh Lane between the A.4 and the proposed entrance opposite Devils Lane. Plant would be placed south of the existing row of trees and six metre banks erected along the east of the site. Further topsoil would be stored on part of the site until a decision is reached on how to refill the site or to join it to the existing lake.

The objections to extraction are as grave as they were in 1967 and indeed graver as far as road traffic is concerned, particularly at peak times on the A.4.

Recently a Government Committee (The Verney Committee) has reported that the cost of importing aggregates by road to make up for termination of local production would be such that local extraction must continue until available resources are exhausted in 10 - 15 years. They do not show however, why a slow reduction in the rate of granting planning permission could not be balanced by a steady increase in the import of aggregates by rail or from

marine dredging; much of this could go to the eastern parts of the Regions, leaving any road imports to remain in the west where the journeys would be short. Figures in the report show that this would be both practicable and economic. Such imports will have to be made eventually when local resources run out; if a gradual change is initiated now, time will be provided for the industry to adapt.

Your Committee has objected to this Application on the grounds of loss of amenity and questions the validity of the alleged increase in need. There seems to be a slowing down in the rate of constructing motorways, the restoration of old buildings is now preferred to demolition and the construction of concrete blocks; the Government has recently announced that the saving of town centres is to take preference over the building of new towns; and it is now officially admitted that the population of the Southern Region has fallen. For all these reasons it was pointed out that the pressure of future demand is less now than it was, whilst the need for agriculture has increased. The balance towards rejecting this appeal is thus more marked than it was in 1967.

Residents in Marsh Lane have formed a group called TAG to resist the application. The Parish Councils of Taplow, Bray, Burnham and Dorney are opposing it and have formed a Committee with the local Amenity Societies to co-ordinate activities.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Selection of Significant Applications since last Newsletter.

Appeals

River Road, Taplow: One dwelling house

Dr. T.K. Meikleham - Dismissed.

Bath Road, Taplow: Skindles Service Station

5,000 gallon tank, canopy and pump islands

Esso Petroleum Limited - In abeyance.

Applications previously notified

Hitcham Tithe Barn: R.J. Hanbury

Erection of doors to listed building, to close off and give finished appearance. Conditional consent. (Society supported this application).

Odds Farm, Wooburn Common Road: A.J. & A.L. Howse

Erection of garages to caravan site. Conditional permission.

New Applications

Hill Farm Road, Taplow: Erection of brick built garage and conservatory at Ivy Cottage. M. Dux. Conditional permission.

Wooburn Common Road, Taplow: J.C. Bayley. First floor extension and erection of conservatory. Hales Cottage. Conditional permission.

Taplow Cricket Club: Renewal of siting of caravan at Ten Acres, Berry Hill. Conditional permission.

Old Marsh Lane: Conversion of existing garage into study and erection of two storey side extension. Scesaplana. Conditional permission.

Amerden Lane: Erection of single storey building for use as haystore/stable. Summerleaze Gravel Pits. Refused.

Hill Farm Road: Erection of stable block at Cliveden Stud. Conditional permission. (Society opposed application on grounds of infringement of Green Belt and interference of views to and from Conservation Area).

Station Garage, Taplow: Petrofina. Erection of illuminated sign. (Society objected on grounds of sign being unsightly and potentially dangerous). Rejected.

Hitcham Lane: R. McKean and others. Car parking, garaging and turning space. Land rear of Hill Farm Cottages. Conditional permission. (Society objected on grounds of infringement of green belt and access into Hitcham Lane).

Berry Hill: T. Stevens. Erection of single dwelling between White Gables and Redwood. Refused.

Hill Farm Road, Taplow: M.D. Brining. First floor extension Allington Cottage. Conditional permission.

Land adjacent Taplow Station: Change of use to light industrial Mr. A. Hodge. Refused. (Society objected on grounds of introduction of industry into green belt area and additional traffic.)

Lent Rise Road, Burnham: Construction of two additional single person bungalows. M.H.H. Bayley. Refused. (Society objected on grounds of narrowing green belt strip between Burnham and Taplow.)

5 Wellbank, Taplow: Single storey extension. Miss. D. Monk. (Society objected on grounds of marring symmetry of front elevation of terrace, loss of light and loss of amenity to neighbours; degradation of views from the Conservation Area).