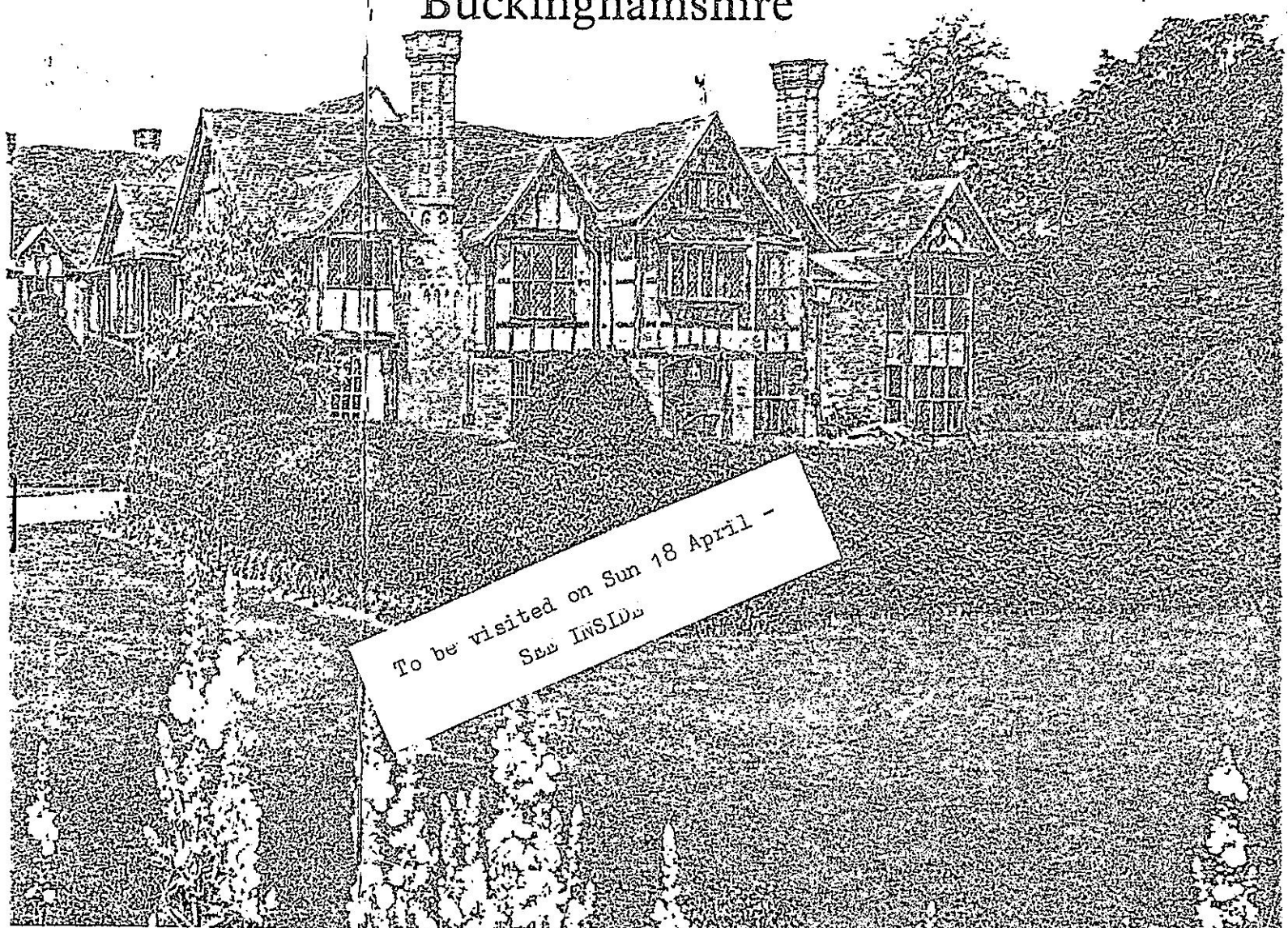


# HITCHAM and TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY



## Dorney Court Buckinghamshire



To be visited on Sun 18 April -  
See INSIDE

# NEWSLETTER

HITCHAM & TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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Vice Chairman	Mrs H. Lee, Berinus, 7 Saxon Gardens, Taplow.
Secretary	Mr R.G.R. Nutt, Lea Rig, Hitcham Road, Burnham.
Treasurer & Planning Representative	Mr P. Cooley, 16 Cedar Chase, Taplow.
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## INFILLING - TWO POINTS OF VIEW

In the Community Newspaper 'Round & About' of October/November 81, there was an article by Philip Cooley; by kind permission of the Editor it is reproduced below:-

CURIOUS place, Taplow, I thought when we came to live here five years ago - in the words of the Sussex sage, "It ain't like Newick and it ain't like Chailey". There's River Taplow, Station Taplow, Amerden north and south as you might say, down on the plains, village Taplow, Hitchambury, the Cliveden collection, half of Dropmore (very quiet there) and then Sheepcote in the far north. I speak of the main centres of population. And I learnt that a detached piece of woodland at Dipple Wood finally strayed ... the parish hasn't the need for firewood now.

A strip parish! What's that then? - no, not an emergency landing place when days are foggy at Heathrow; nor am I referring to Taplow's old popularity with stage folk. There it is - five miles long and half to one mile wide; a bit of everything: meadowland by the river (it can be quiet there too), woodland in the north, once common rough land. No pigs rooting there now. The common quadruped in Taplow is now the horse: the thoroughbreds in the fields, the hacks in the thoroughfares, singly or in solemn files they pace the roads, delivering free fertiliser and stamping out the paths. Even Brunel rode on horseback, but these seem not to be used for transport, they go on wheels in a horse-box. And Taplow does well for transport: there is the common carrier the Bath Road; for the competent there is the motorway; the compulsive travellers drone overhead. A splendid railway howls through. Taplow was a terminus in 1837, standing in for Bristol for a year or two. If all else fails, there is the river as of yore.

I wonder if Brunel had any idea how his rural stations would send commuters over a century later. Could he have foreseen the growth and crowding of London which has caused many of us to find homes amid green fields - after the welcome by dahlias and roses in the station - it is a daily renewal on the way home. No wonder the green belt is so supported, but sometimes I think to unreason when infilling is vetoed. Better expectations and pressure on land must bring smaller plots, however much we might like it to be elsewhere and hope unreasonably for a kind of segregation. Taplow has seen its super-segregationists; Lord Grenville was one, nearly two hundred years ago, who built the fine house, gardens and woods at Dropmore, closed roads and evicted cottagers as well as their rooting pigs. Was it a good thing or a bad? Are we now making Taplow too hygienic? It still has a village school, two post offices and one real shop in the parish (but not in the village), not counting of course the specialised stores at the Bishop Centre, which draw from a wider clientele. If the village has a thriving school, why can it not support a shop? How shall I manage to shop when I am wobbly on my bicycle? Could the green belt accept, for example, a new-built shop? I welcome even the paper mills (just wish they were less smelly), the hospital, the university, Plessey and other establishments and works. Should not Taplow stay broadly based, cross-fertilised, still able to let its hair down for a bit of song and dance? It has its barbecue and bonfire when occasion arises, and Taeppa (if that really was his name) must have been pleased to hear Taeppa's Tump, the Morris Dancers, tapping their dainty feet on his mound this summer.

The Editor of the Newsletter received a reply from Lincoln Lee which is shown below:

I was interested to read in Round and About the personal opinion of one who considers it unreasonable when infilling in Taplow is vetoed.

But, as I am sure he realises, a great deal of infilling has not been vetoed. If we take the village area (Buffins down to Maidenhead Autos) I believe that in the last 20 years the number of residences has trebled. Of course some of this has been achieved by turning large houses into flats, or replacing them with smaller ones, but it has nearly all been a kind of infilling.

Now as far as I am concerned, one of the best aspects of Taplow, as with most villages, is that its relatively small size gives me a sense of identity. I know that when I go for a walk I will recognize many of the people I meet. Taplow does not have the cold facelessness of a large town. And I am certainly not worried about "hoping unwisely for a kind of segregation" because I know that any time I want to I can up-sticks and move into Slough or some even larger town.

Looking ahead, twenty years is not very long, and probably most of the Society's members will still be in the area in 2002. I believe that most of them feel that trebling in population over 20 years is growing fast enough, even perhaps too fast, and that this is essentially why the Society exists, and why it is well supported.

#### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

##### Visit to Dorney Court

Dorney Court is the subject of this Newsletter's cover. This 500 year old Tudor Manor House was opened to the public only last year and members will remember the very interesting talk given by the owner, Mr Peregrine Palmer, at the last A.G.M.

A visit to the Court for members of the Society has been arranged for

Sunday 18th April

at 2.30 pm. The charge will be at the reduced 'party rate' of £1.20 each. Will those who want to go, please tell our Social Secretary, Miss Gwen Pollock (Maidenhead 26366) and foregather in the car park at Dorney Court before 2.30 pm.

##### Farnham Society Walk round Taplow

The Farnham Society are organising a short walk, with commentary round Taplow on Sunday 25th April starting from the village car park at 2.30 pm.

Members of the Society are invited to join the party but would they please let Philip Cooley know beforehand (tel. Maidenhead 31246).

##### Memorial Gardens, Stoke Poges

These Gardens, owned by the South Bucks District Council, adjoin the famous church of St Giles at Stoke Poges and are renowned for their outstanding beauty and unique design.

They are not attached to a crematorium or cemetery but there are many individual private gardens which commemorate the dead and bring solace to

the bereaved; they are non-denominational and available for sale to anyone.

The Gardens cover 30 acres and consist of a sweeping lawn with stately trees leading to a pool with fountains. In the Spring, this lawn presents a lovely picture with thousands of daffodils and narcissi in bloom. Beyond the central pool, the main avenue leads to the colonnade with its water channels, magnolia trees and flower beds. The grounds also include a natural lake fringed by weeping willows.

There is a small Penn/Gray Museum at The Cottage, which can be visited when the office is open.

The Gardens are open to the public from 9 am to 5 pm from Sunday to Friday; the admission charge is 40p (20p for OAPs).

### RECENT PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS

The List below gives items of particular interest to the Society, arising since the last Newsletter:-

Berry Hill Farm. Access for gravel working (SBD 258/79 & 35/80). Time limit for putting new access into use struck out on appeal. Working hours for Boundary Road access under negotiation.

Taplow House Hotel. Three storey extension (SBD 308/80). Appeal unsuccessful.

Taplow Court. Workshop etc and tank for stand-by fuel (Thames Water) (SBD 583/80 & 408/81). Appeal lodged against refusal.

Lamont House, River Road. Additional house on land (SBD 145/81). Appeal lodged against refusal.

Pioneer Works, Marsh Lane. Extension of storage area (SBD 307/81). Appeal lodged against refusal.

Anchorage, River Road. Two storey and one storey rear extension (SBD 696/81). Conditional permission.

Sheepcote Farm. Conversion of former theatre etc to 3 houses (SBD 857/81). Conditional permission.

Wickenden, Cliveden Road. First floor front extension (SBD 872/81). Conditional permission.

We have just heard that William Woods' appeal against the District Council's refusal to grant planning permission to sell kitchen utensils with related china & glass and household linens, amounting to a General Class 1 use has been allowed and planning permission granted. Time will tell what the final outcome will be!