

# HITCHAM and TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY



DRINK HORN FROM THE TAPLOW MOUND (Courtesy of British Museum)

No 47.

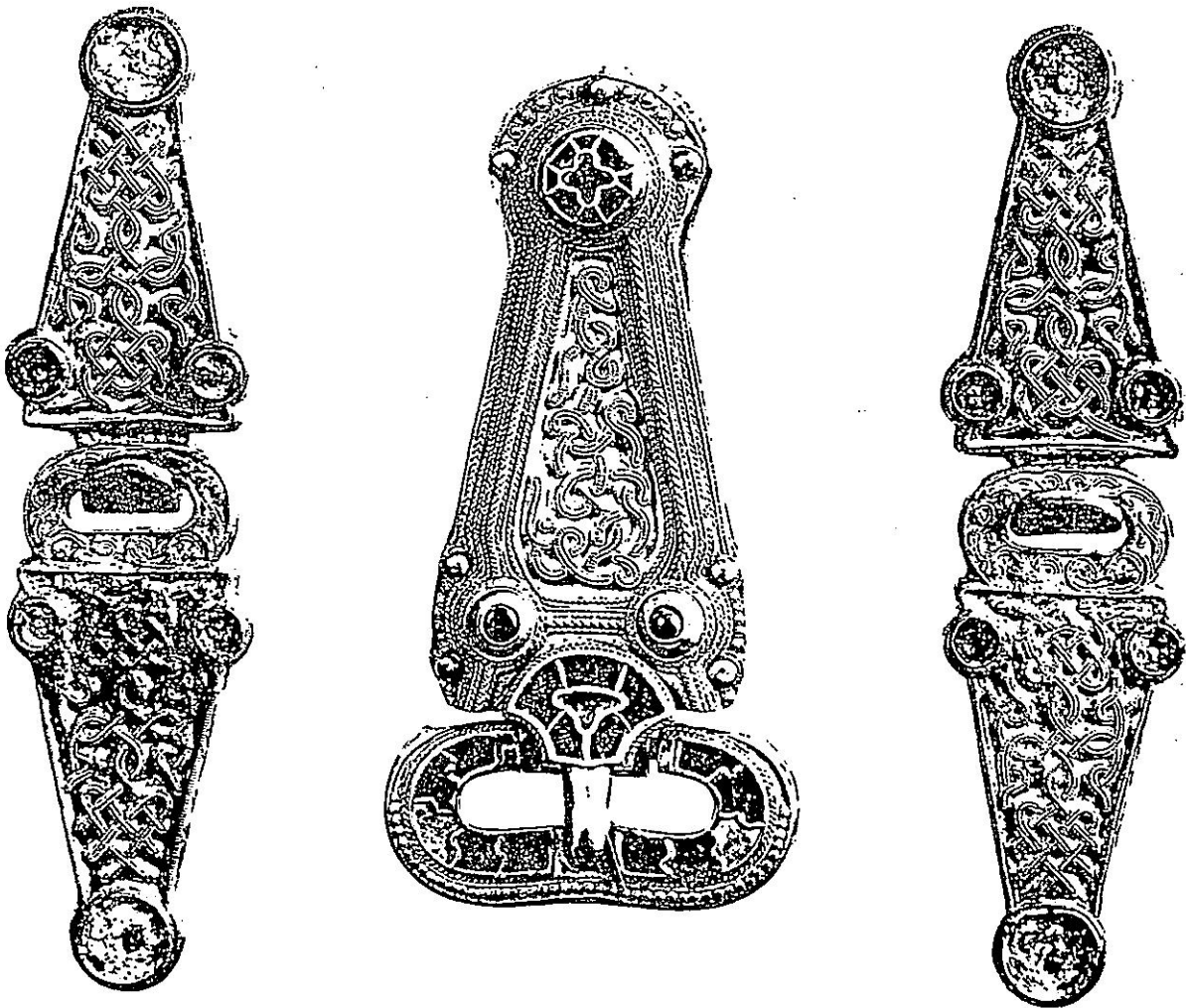
## NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1984.

Hitcham & Taplow Preservation Society.

Officers & Committee Members.

President	Mr Leonard Miall OBE
Vice Presidents	Mrs E Law, Mrs G L Milne, Mr A J C Paines, Mr E F Perkins.
Chairman	R J Hanbury
Vice Chairman	N B R C Peroni
Treasurer	Miss E Ricketts
Secretary	R G R Nutt
Planning	A Hickman
Committee	W Ball, Lt Col S J Dagg, Mrs H Lee, Miss G G Pollock, E Schmitz-Pfeiffer.



DECORATIVE GOLD BUCKLES FROM THE TAPLOW MOUND (Courtesy of British Museum)

## Obituary.

### Claude Ivan Snow 1911-1984

Ivan Snow, of Ellington Road, Taplow, and a former chairman of the Society died on 23rd February from a heart attack. He leaves a widow and two daughters to whom the society extends its sympathy. The interment was at Taplow churchyard and was attended by the Society's president, Mr Leonard Miall, its secretary Dick Nutt and committee member Helen Lee. Ivan joined the committee on his retirement in 1971 and was elected chairman in 1972. At that time some members, knowing something of his successful career as a physicist, were concerned in case he might be too precise and demanding. Their fears were soon dispelled as Ivan proved to be conscientious energetic and logical and yet he showed his human warmth and sense of humour. He continued as chairman until in 1979 advancing years compelled him to resign. He stayed on the committee and still managed to turn up at the working parties especially when the station flower beds were being tended. Ivan is remembered with affection and gratitude as an excellent chairman and a fine gentleman.

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## Editorial.

### Boundary Road Trees.

Members may have noticed that ten trees have been planted on the open verge on the east side of the top end of Boundary Road. Under the chairman's supervision holes were dug in the autumn. After Gwen Pollock had negotiated the purchase and the trees had been delivered a few willing members re-opened the holes, drove in the stakes, and planted the trees. Dick Nutt has already delivered gallons of water. Now we require sponsors who will care for individual trees, providing moisture and mulch to ensure their survival. The verge drains very quickly and in dry weather considerable quantities of water will be required until the roots are well established. If you can help please telephone the Chairman. (Mr Hanbury, Burnham 4622).

### The late Mr Michael Good.

The tree to be designated in memory of Mr Michael Good has not yet been planted. The chosen site at the top of Berry Hill has involved some protracted paper work but we believe little local difficulties will be overcome in the near future.

### Nash Dom.

The media have been publicising India and its British connections. Hitcham has its own link. Sir Edwin Lutyens was the chief planner of New Delhi and in particular of the Viceregal Lodge, now the palace of India's president. Lutyens was the architect of Nash Dom in Hitcham Lane and its architectural quality was a principal factor in establishing his early reputation.

### Hitcham House.

Hitcham House, having served as a nurses' home for some thirty years is now in the hands of several building firms as nine new owners take up their several properties. Some of the prospective homes are conversions and number 9, at the back of the house, has been transformed by Mr Ron Scott. In the centre of the house, Mr Ted Spiers is making good progress with an interesting conversion which includes some new dormer windows. The stable block is to be converted, and at the time of writing, the work has just started. No hidden treasure has come to light apart from a crumpled envelope with a Queen Victoria Penny Red stamp and postmarked 1868. The committee believes that you will be pleased that Hitcham House has been preserved for residential use.

### Aircraft noise.

We have to sound a note of caution. We are assured that on the introduction of the fourth Heathrow terminal aircraft movements will not exceed the present commitment to a 275000 limit. We had looked forward to quieter aircraft but the large jumbos will be unaffected and there are whisperings of a fifth terminal and no doubt more movements both quiet and noisy.

### Forthcoming events.

The Restoration of the Cliveden Hanging woods is of concern to us all. On 5th July we are having our Society's own talk on this topic and the venue will be the New Taplow Paper Mills, which have kindly offered us the use of their marquee.

A trip to the British Museum to see the artifacts from the Taplow mound is due in the late autumn. Earlier prospects have had to be postponed as the reorganised displays would not have been ready.

God's Wonderful Railway came to Taplow a century and a half ago. At our Annual General Meeting to be held on 26th October Mr D.L.Rowell, the Chief Civil Engineer BR(W) and his predecessor, Mr T.Rees, will tell us how Taplow became the railway's first terminus outside London.

### Subscriptions.

If you haven't yet parted with your £1 please let Miss Ricketts have it now. Address: 7 Berry Hill Court, Taplow. Telephone Maidenhead 76562.

### Thames Water Schemes.

There can hardly be a member unaware of the disturbance to the roads caused by extensive pipelaying works. Thames Water are involved in two major schemes in the area which will combine to improve water supplies in the Slough and Windsor distribution network. One of them is to provide a new source in the Dorney Area by sinking two boreholes which ultimately will provide an additional 18000 cubic metres of water per day. This work is on schedule and is 75% complete. The other scheme involves laying a main to transfer water from the new source, as well as from Taplow, to the Stokewood reservoir. This scheme is also on programme and by the time you read this all pipeline laying should be complete. There will remain some ancillary work such as the construction of chambers which will require minor excavations, but both schemes should be complete by midsummer.

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### Hanging woods appeal.

Tony Hickman is Chairman of the National Trust appeal to raise £150,000 to restore the hanging woods. A leaflet is enclosed with this newsletter. The Committee hope that the Society can raise £2500 to replant an acre. If you have already made a donation please pass the leaflet on to a friend who is not a member of the Society or the National Trust. As a supporter of the appeal please also try to encourage non-members to make a gift. Cliveden forms a very important part of the landscape that we all enjoy and our generous support is very necessary.

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### The Taplow Burial Mound.

Exactly one hundred years after the ill-fated opening of the great Saxon burial mound in the grounds of Taplow Court, Mrs Katharine East of the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities at the British Museum recalled the details of the excavation and described the magnificent relics found there that have been housed in the British Museum ever since.

Speaking to a large audience at St Nicolas School after the Annual General Meeting of the Hitcham & Taplow Preservation Society on 21st October 1983, Mrs East recalled that James Rutland, the Honorary Secretary of the Berkshire Archaeological Society, who lived at 'The Gables' Taplow, began the excavation on 15th October 1883. With the approval of the owner of Taplow Court, Mr W.H.Grenfell (later Lord Desborough) and the Rector of Taplow, Mr Whately, Rutland assembled, at his own expense, a band of workmen armed with picks and shovels. He was concerned not to destroy a giant Yew tree which had been growing on the top of the mound for 600 years, nor to disturb the churchyard burials which came right to the base of the mound.

Accordingly he had a six foot wide cutting dug into the mound from the south, four feet above the surrounding ground level. This cutting continued until it was approximately beneath the Yew tree. Then the workmen were told to dig vertically downwards. At the same time a shaft was dug inwards from the north side to meet the main cutting. It was seven foot square and was designed to provide more light for the excavators. A similar seven foot square shaft was dug from the west side for twelve feet but then abandoned.

The idea that moving this enormous amount of earth might upset the stability of the burial mound does not seem to have crossed anyone's mind. On 18th October, three days after the work had begun and when the first shaft had reached a depth of 20 feet below the summit of the barrow the first fall of earth occurred.

The next day a larger mass of earth fell in, and urgent action was needed to save the excavation. Boards were pushed in and the shaft was reinforced with plank and beams. Digging continued apace, and the burial area itself was soon reached. The first object encountered by Rutland and his colleagues Dr Joseph Stevens FSA, Mr W Money FSA and Major Cooper-King FGS was a spearhead protruding through the wall of the cutting. Rutland went to investigate. He was working right underneath the ancient Yew tree, whose roots, it was assumed, would retain the earth from falling into the cutting below. But Rutland was hit by a substantial fall of earth and was disabled for several days.

After he had been extricated more boards were pushed in to hold the crumbling wall. By that time the excavation was a mass of shafts and tunnels, without adequate supports, and during the night the yew tree fell to the bottom of the cutting, splintering and destroying all the supports. As a contemporary report put it "These displacements of large masses of earth may partially account for the broken condition of some of the articles afterwards found."

After the remains of the yew tree had been removed Rutland was able to resume work and to clear the way for the removal of the objects found, which was done on 27th October 1883. These "magnificent objects", as Mrs East termed them, have been in the British Museum ever since. They include a considerable quantity of gold thread, gold clasps and buckles, a sword, bosses from two shields, buckets and large vessels, glasses, drinking cups and drinking horns. There are also gaming pieces and mounts from a lyre, which are now known to have dated from the early seventh century AD, when a number of lavishly equipped and ostentatiously sited burials were in vogue, both in Germany and in England. But with the exception of the Sutton Hoo ship burial near Woodbridge in Suffolk (excavated 1938-9) the burial mound at Taplow was the most furnished, and indeed Taplow outmatched Sutton Hoo in its possession of glass vessels and in the total number of drinking vessels found.

Mrs East showed coloured slides of many of these burial objects. She explained that owing to essential and protracted rebuilding within the British Museum the Taplow treasures had had to be stored away and could not be seen on the anniversary of the excavation. They would not be on view until the late autumn of 1984, when it was

hoped that members of the Preservation Society would have an opportunity of seeing them displayed in a place of honour among the Anglo-Saxon antiquities.

Who was the chieftain buried in the Taplow barrow is uncertain. He was a man not yet converted to Christianity who had died in the early seventh century. He was of high social standing, who commanded a large retinue, and had links with the rich kingdom of Kent. Katharine East concluded: "There is still much research to be done, many intriguing problems to be faced. We have to continue the work done here in this village 100 years ago when James Rutland's excavation team carried up from the earth the host of beautiful objects which had lain there for nearly 1300 years." R.L.M.

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Other matters from the South Bucks District Council Minutes.

1. The Council supported the Parish Council's proposals on the traffic lights at the junction of Berry Hill with Bath Road. It is not known whether or not this matter will be progressed.
2. The Parish Council's representations about the dangerous bend at the junction of Berry Hill with Rectory Road were supported. This item has been included in the draft local plan for South Bucks prepared by the Planning Department.
3. The Environmental Committee resolved on 9 November 1983 that legal proceedings be instituted against traders operating at the Bishop Centre Taplow on Sundays who had been trading in prohibited items on Sunday 30th October.
4. The Policy & Resources Board on 29 November 1983 noted that the Secretary of State had made an order based on the Council's proposals for the County Electoral review. The new electoral division of Taplow, Dorney and Lent Rise would encompass the wards of Burnham Lent Rise, Dorney and Taplow.
5. Taplow Parish Council had suggested that the boundary between Taplow and Dorney should be the M4 with the possibility of a counter suggestion that it should be the A4. The Policy & Resources Board, having regard to the representations made agreed that no change should be made in the boundary.
6. Burnham Parish Council and William Wood & Sons had requested an alteration to the Burnham/Taplow boundary to bring the Bishop Centre wholly within Burnham. The Policy & Resources Board considered the existing boundary was not logical but did not agree with the suggested change. They agreed that the draft scheme be revised to provide for the boundary between Burnham & Taplow from the railway line to the Bath Road be along Hitcham Road.
7. Council meeting 13 December 1983. The chairman of the Policy Board referred to the recent appointment of Mr S R Jobson as Chief Executive designate with effect from 1st July 1984. Mr Jobson is the Planning Officer.

8. Performance Review sub-committee on 9th January 1984 noted that there had been a marked improvement in the time taken to issue Enforcement notices. The average period had been reduced from 6½ months to 6 weeks.

9. A Commons Scheme had been prepared under the Commons Act 1889 which would enable the Council to manage the common land at The Gore, Burnham and enable byelaws for the prevention of nuisance and preservation of order to be made. The Recreation and Amenities Committee recommended approval and that once the formalities were complete authority be delegated to Burnham Parish Council.

10. On 19th January 1984 the Housing Services Committee considered a letter from the Department of the Environment announcing the Government's proposals to extend the homes insulation scheme to grant aid the insulation of dwellings with 25mm or less existing loft insulation, and resolved the revised scheme be implemented with effect from 1st April 1984.

11. Dr E Ward has been appointed as District Medical Officer.

12. The Environmental Control Committee noted on 25th January that a document setting out the future strategy for the development of Health Care within the Oxford Region for the next ten years had been prepared. The Chief Health & Housing Officer was asked to submit details at the next meeting.

13. Slough & South Bucks Sports & Amenity Lottery at Christmas had been most successful and almost sold out. The Resources sub-committee noted that a new lottery manager had been appointed and the first of two spring lotteries was on sale.

14. The Environmental Control Committee had received a letter from the Department of Transport (Civil Aviation Policy Directorate) confirming, in response to their request, that a limit of 275,000 air traffic movements would be imposed on Heathrow airport when the fourth terminal came into operation in late 1985. Helicopter movements would be included in this limit.

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### Planning.

566/83 Riverholme, Marsh Lane. Appeal against enforcement notice following erection of first floor extension. -- Dismissed.

902/83 Pioneer Works, Marsh Lane. Appeal against refusal of consent for erection of additional storage building to replace storage sheds -- Dismissed.

723/83 The Orchard, Bath Road. Formation of secondary access -- Approved.

837/83 Cliveden Stud, Huntswood Lane. Details of one dwelling following outline approval 112/83 -- Approved.

677/83 Lewis Marine Building(former) Mill Lane. Change of use to Light Industrial Class III -- Approved.

678/83 Lewis Marine Building(former) Mill Lane. Continuance of Industrial use without compliance with condition 2 of Planning Permission 1005/49 -- Approved.



778/83 Sheepcote Farm Wooburn Common Road. Installation of new septic tank -- Approved.

872/83 Wingfield Cottage Boundary Road. Single storey rear and side extension -- Approved.

158/83 Lyndis Farm Hitcham Lane. New vehicular access -- Approved.

12th October 1983. Planning Committee resolved that if the shed and caravan situated at Lyndis Farm not removed within 28 days, Enforcement Notices be served under Section 87 of the Town & Country Planning act 1971.

929/83 Bishop Centre Bath Road. Removal of existing fences, timber buildings and portable buildings and part of sales showground. Replacement with permanent landscape frontage together with five small display units for use in display & sales of Home Garden leisure products -- Deferred for legal agreement  
-- Subsequently approved under section 12 agreement.

930/83 The Bishop Centre Bath Road. Extension for garden furniture storage and ancillary display -- Deferred for legal agreement  
-- Subsequently approved under section 12 agreement.

753/83 New Taplow Paper Mill. Effluent treatment plant - Approved.

37/83 Stable Cottage Berry Hill. Appeal against refusal for the erection of a two storey rear extension -- Dismissed.

948/83 Meca Liveries Wooburn Common Road. Formation of new vehicular access -- Deferred for negotiation - subsequently approved.

967/83 Meca Liveries Wooburn Common Road. Siting of mobile home for residential use -- Refused.

983/83 Meca Liveries Wooburn Common Road. Erection of barn with isolation Loose Box and installation of new septic tank.  
-- Deferred for negotiation, then deferred for legal agreement, and subsequently approved.

979/83 Redwood Lodge Mill Lane - detached double garage - Approved.

902/83 Cloverdown House Hitcham Lane. Construction of Hay Barn -- Refused.

5/84 Ditto (revised) -- Approved.

37/84 Cloverdown House Hitcham Lane. Alterations and extensions -- Approved.

576/83 Cliveden Bourne End Road. Listed Building application to demolish glass canopy in Stable yard. Deferred and decision delegated to Planning Officer subject to concurrence of the Department of the Environment being received.  
- Subsequently approved.

961/83 New Taplow Paper Mills, East side of Mill Lane. Construction of water tank and pump room -- Approved.

Sheepcote Farm Wooburn Common Road. The Planning Committee on 18th January resolved that the Council agree to the revocation of a legal agreement to permit the sale or lease of new houses separately from Sheepcote Farmhome. In 1979 planning permission was granted for the use of part of the existing barns for office use purposes by the owner subject to a legal agreement which restricted the office occupancy to the owner also preventing the sale or letting of the barns separately from the dwelling home. In November 1981 planning permission was granted for the conversion of the former theatre, the approved office and barns to form three houses and the legal agreement prevented these houses being sold off separately.

1085/83 Taplow Court Cliveden Road. Retention of temporary building for a period of 12 months to house staff displaced by extension of computer system - renewal of 901/82 -- Approved.

272/83 Hitcham House, Hitcham Lane. Conversion of main house to 9 residential units and conversion of stable block to two residential units, extensions and new access. -- Approved under Section 12.

362/83 Ditto. Listed building application.

1091/83(R) Hill Farm, Hill Farm Road. Conversion of old barns and outbuildings to form four houses. -- Refused.

55/84 Boundary Road Farm Riding & Livery Stables. Continued siting of mobile home - renewal 810/82 -- Approved.

73/84 Jameson Cottage Marsh Lane. First floor rear extension -- Refused.

80/84 Cliveden Gas Yard Cottage. Continued use of dwelling as office accommodation - renewal of 1155/80 -- Approved.

1158/83 Maidenhead Autos Bath Road. Construction of sales kiosk, extension to canopy and modernisation of existing forecourt. -- Approved.

1030/83 Barge Farm Amerden Lane. Outline application for 2 pairs semi detached farm workers cottages -- Refused.

569/83 Rossonny Marsh Lane. Extension to form bed sitter and replacement garage -- Approved under section 12 agreement.

101/84 Losuce Hill Farm Road. Listed Building application for the repositioning of a door and erection of a porch -- Approved.

62/84 South Lodge Berry Hill. Formation of bedroom and bathroom in roof space, installation of dormer windows and raising part of level of roof -- Approved.

125/84 Hitcham House Hitcham Lane. Additional dormer window and alterations Unit 4 of Stable Block -- Approved.

126/84 Ditto Listed Building application -- Approved.

153/84 Unit 1 Marshgate Trading estate Taplow. Change of use from Warehousing to manufacturing of quality metal components -- Approved.

211/84 The Bishop Centre Bath Road. Continuation of use of land as a display area for a maximum of 4 display buildings and swimming pools -- Approved.

113/84 Hitcham House Hitcham Lane. Installation of one new dormer window to the rear of Unit 5 Magnolia House.  
-- Deferred and delegated to the Planning Officer subject to no adverse comments from the County Historic Buildings Officer.

114/84 Ditto. Listed building application.

117/84 Hitcham House Hitcham Lane. Installation of new dormer to the rear of Unit 9, Cortyard Cottage -- Approved.

118/84 Ditto Listed building application.

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The Draft Local Plan for South Bucks is available from the Planning Office, Council Offices Windsor Road Slough SL1 2HN, price £3.50. Comments are required by 11th May 1984.

The Planning and Development Committee on 22 February 1984 considered that the revised draft circular concerning Green Belts now met most of their criticisms levelled at the previous circular and that it also appeared to benefit areas such as South Bucks.