

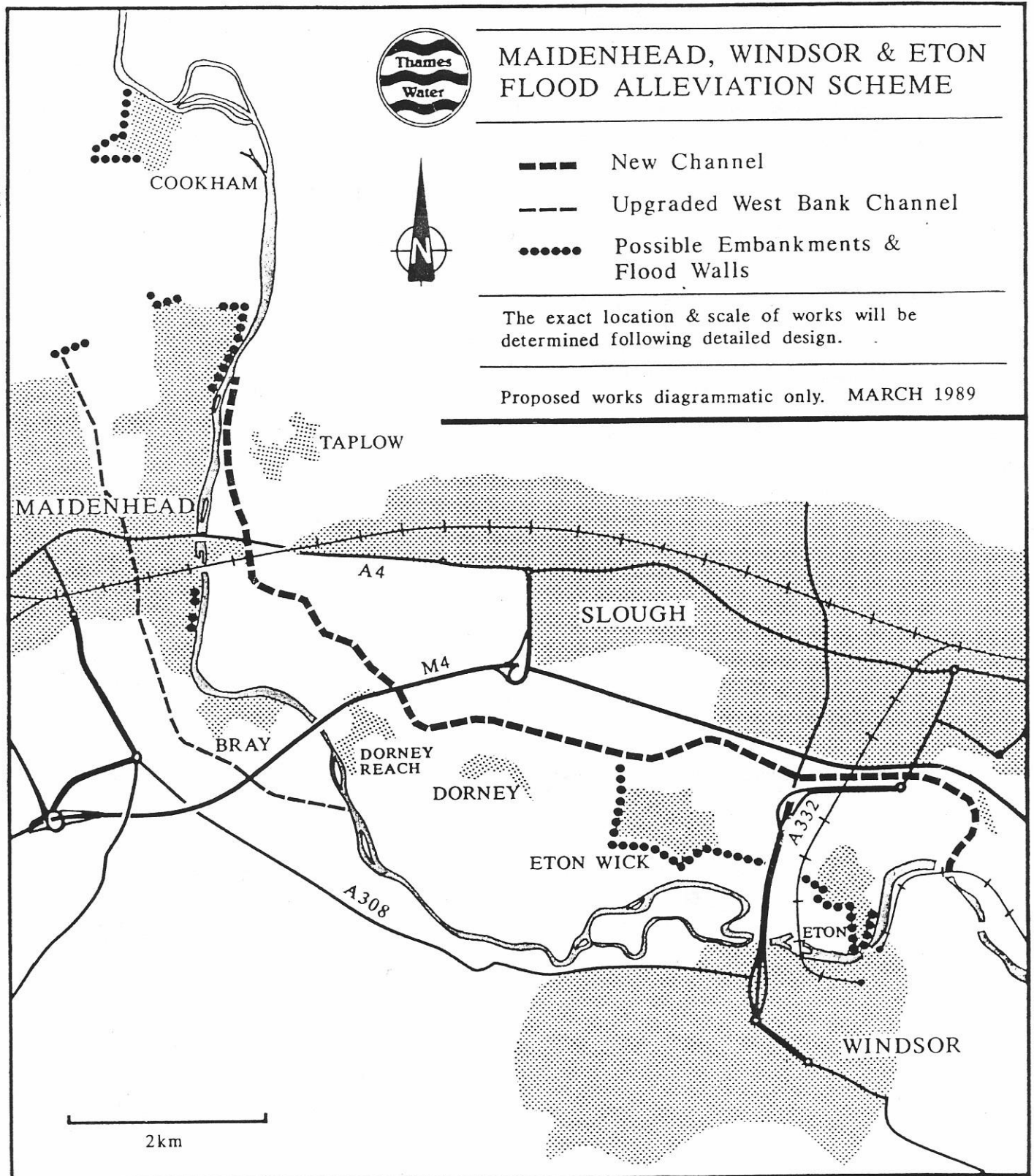
# Hitcham & Taplow Preservation Society

## NEWSLETTER

pg

Summer 1989

No. 56



# Hitcham and Taplow Preservation Society

## Objectives of the Society

The Society was formed in 1959; one of its most important objects is:-

".....securing the protection from disfigurement or injury of the countryside and rural surroundings and amenities of the Parishes of Hitcham and Taplow....."

The Society therefore scrutinises many Planning Applications and Appeals and makes constructive comments when appropriate; it also gives evidence at Local Planning Enquiries.

## Officers and Executive Committee Members

President	Mr Leonard Miall OBE
Vice Presidents	Mrs E Law Mrs GL Milne Mrs AB Horton. Mr Louis Freedman CBE
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# Editorial

In this issue we have featured material concerning not only the preservation of the buildings and open spaces but also the question of preservation of species both human and animal.

In her article "A View from the Tree Tops", Miss Eva Ricketts recalls a fascinating scene as two cow elephants save their young with the co-operation of an elephant herd.

There seems to be a moral message here for us today to set alongside the fearful recurrence of starvation among the native populations of Africa amongst whom Miss Ricketts dedicated her professional life as an expert in nutrition.

Readers may have noticed that, at long last, the government is taking action in an attempt to curb the dreadful slaughter for profit of that noblest and largest of species, the African elephant.

Due to the ivory trade, some 15,000 elephants are being slaughtered every year and the herds of East Africa face extinction unless effective international action is implemented.

In recent issues of the Newsletter, we have tried to bring to members a glimpse, not only of the beauties of Taplow and Hitcham, but also a few of the preservation issues in England, America, Africa and the world at large.

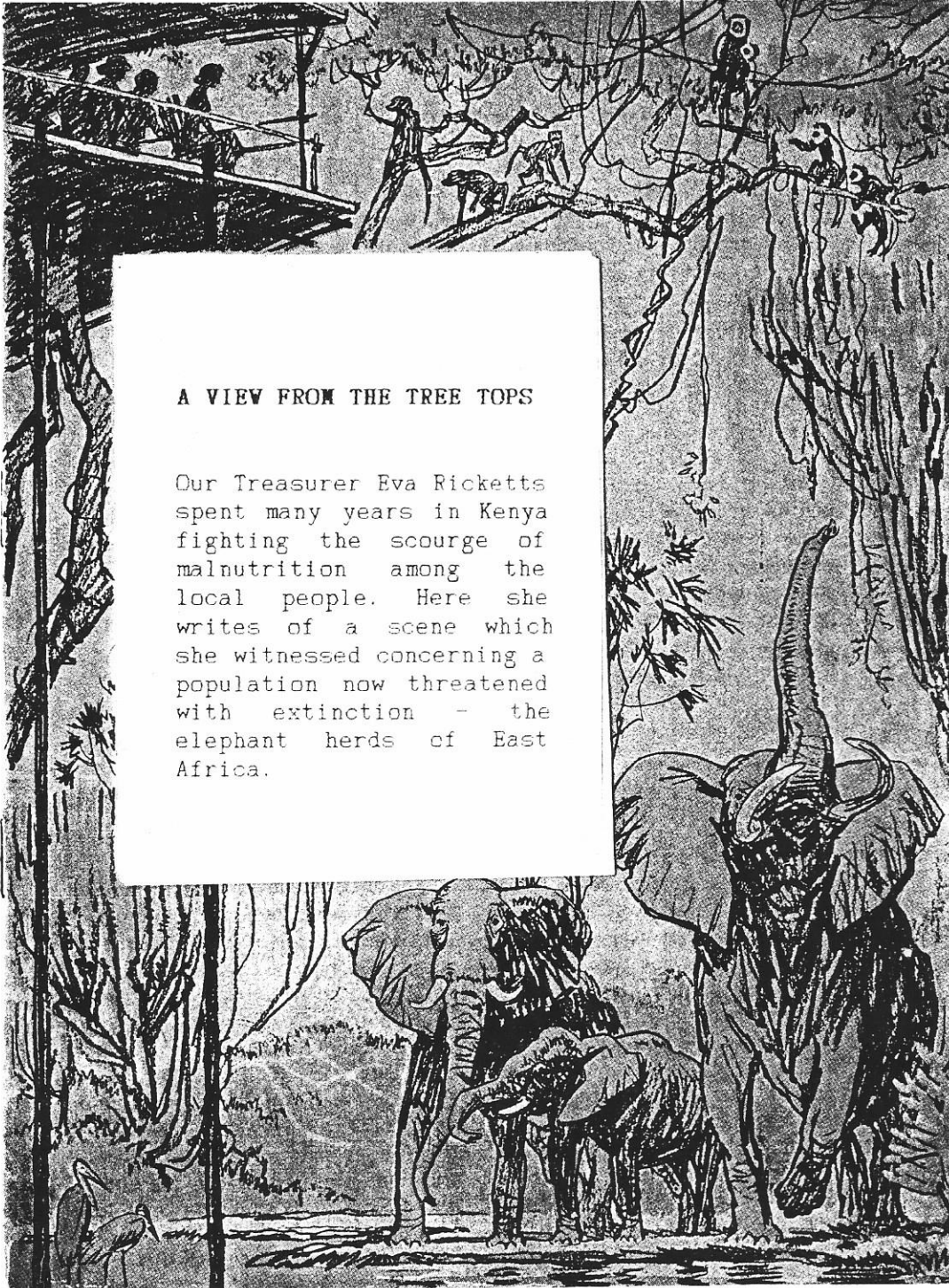
In handing on the torch, after this the last edition which I shall edit, I would like to thank all the contributors and the Committee of the Society for their generosity and help and work which will surely continue apace.

Our world took millions of years to evolve. The open question remains:-  
*Will we destroy it or preserve it?*

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*The Diagram on the front cover illustrates the threat to Taplow posed by the proposed East Bank flood relief channel - see article on page 5.*



#### A VIEW FROM THE TREE TOPS

Our Treasurer Eva Ricketts spent many years in Kenya fighting the scourge of malnutrition among the local people. Here she writes of a scene which she witnessed concerning a population now threatened with extinction - the elephant herds of East Africa.

We stood on the verandah of Treetops and looked down to the salt lick below. It was an expanse of grey mud. Beyond the tops of the trees, the snow-capped peaks of Mount Kenya stood out against the sky.

With me, was my friend and former colleague from Liverpool days, who was in Kenya on a three week visit to the University of East Africa as external examiner. We had joined twelve tourists from Australia, Canada, Sweden, England and Tanzania for a night in the fabulous tree house in the Aberdare forest in the foot hills of Mount Kenya. A landrover had dropped us off where the track left the road. We had followed the game warden carrying a gun in a single, silent file up the track through the bush to the large wooden structure supported by stilts in the branches of the tree. At intervals along the track were ladders firmly fixed to trees, but we did not have to scale them as no buffalo or rhino had appeared.

As the sun went down a herd of buffalo emerged from the bush and squelched around up to their thighs in mud; a lone waterbuck licked the mud at the edge of the pool; a rhino came and went. Then all was quiet as we went inside and sat down at the long polished table to a five course dinner.

Inside it was so civilised, conversation buzzed, the travelling condiment tray went up and down the rail in the centre of the table as people reached for sauce or salt.

Between courses someone got up and went outside, then came back and said in a hushed voice the magic word "elephant". Quietly we crept out and there, moving around below in the pool of artificial moonlight, their grey bodies hardly distinguishable from the mud, was a large herd of elephant. Almost hidden in the medley of legs were two extremely young ones.

## Elephant Herd

The herd moved around, their trunks going back and forth, licking the mud, searching for minerals. When suddenly the two youngsters disappeared under the mud in the middle of the pool. Two cows moved restlessly around the area where they had vanished while the rest of the herd dispersed to the edge and, with heads down, ears flapping drove off rhino and buffalo as they appeared out of the bush. We watched in utter silence, our meal forgotten. It seemed some time before one youngster struggled out and, helped by the cow standing by, was moved to firmer ground. Slowly the other cow put her trunk down into the mud and lifted the tip of the buried youngster's trunk above the surface. We gave a sigh of relief; now, at least, it would not suffocate.

Another lapse of time, then the herd formed a circle with heads towards the centre and stood immobile round the cow anxiously looking at the area where the youngster was still buried. Not a muscle moved, not a sound was heard for what seemed a long time, until the herd dispersed as they searched with their trunks for minerals.

We waited in absolute silence for the next move, puzzled. Time had lost all its meaning. Then the cow, with front legs bent, tusks deep in the mud, trunk on the surface, lifted out the bedraggled youngster and moved to place it on firmer ground. As it tried to stand its legs buckled underneath it.

We all wanted to clap but it is understood that, when watching game, silence is observed. The herd moved off towards the forest in single file, speeding up their usual leisurely gait to almost a trot. Then, and only then, was a sound heard; the cow trumpeted, protesting that the youngster could not keep up. Back came another cow and the youngster, with trunk around the tail of one and supported behind by the other, staggered along at the rear of the vanishing herd.

We returned inside for coffee, strangely moved by what we had seen. What did it all mean? Why the circle? What went on? There was no communication apparent to us. Why had the mother not lifted the babe out before. We will never know but we had been privileged to see something of the community life of one species of the animal kingdom.

## Human Nutrition

That was in 1968, twenty years ago. Is it true that elephants never forget? What does that, now mature, elephant remember when it revisits the pool? This was a unique experience. Nothing so dramatic had occurred on my previous visits. My first visit was in 1957 when Treetops was reopened after the emergency. That year I had been approached by the University and had just been appointed Head of Department. I hoped, by developing courses, to do something to eradicate some of the causes of suffering and malnutrition which been so apparent to me when I visited Kenya in 1950. Then I had seen a country where poverty and hardship abounded alongside plenty, ease and comfort. Changes were needed in the economic and social conditions, but I realised that a lack of knowledge of child care and nutrition contributed to the high rate of infant mortality among the indigenous people. Women who had suffered the pangs of birth and seen child after child die before it reached the age of five, longed for changes.

The University was multiracial and the courses developed applied to the need of people anywhere. The Department was the first of its kind with university status in independent Africa. As Head of Department, I was asked to advise on courses run by the Universities of Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and, later, Malawi. All subsequently established university departments. After fifteen years former students and others were qualified with higher degrees so I decided to resign and handed over to them.

To my amazement, I was approached by the University of Natal in South Africa to set up a department there. Within two years, the Department had enrolled black students and was the first multiracial undergraduate department in a University in South Africa.

# Maidenhead Flood Relief Project

*Budge Francis, as the Society's representative on the relevant committees, contributes this report on the latest moves for and against the Maidenhead, Eton and Windsor flood alleviation scheme.*

Back in 1983, consulting civil engineers specialising in water engineering were appointed by Thames Water to study options for the relief of flooding in Maidenhead. Quite why 1983 started the thinking is not divulged; one can speculate that it was to get something done by 1984, 100 years after 1894, of which more later on.

Subsequently, Rural Planning Services plc were appointed as environmental and planning consultants to assess the environmental impact of the alternative schemes and to identify potential action to enhance areas affected by flood alleviation works.

The consultants reported to Thames Water in September 1986, with three main options - a West\* Bank Channel or an East\* Bank Channel or major river widening and flood banks. **Note.** \* The Thames flows North/South past Maidenhead.

The main groups were subdivided into Options of which Option 10 is Taplow's worry. This option, the East Bank Channel, with subsidiary work on the Thames and the existing West Bank channel ("Maidenhead Ditch") was identified as having clear advantages over the other options considered. In November 1986, the Regional Land Drainage Committee (RLDC) accepted recommendations that the flood study should be progressed to a second stage and that detailed consideration should be given to Option 10.

This Committee, now re-emerging as the National Rivers Authority (NRA), constituted under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1976, consists of members appointed by Thames Water, Local Authorities and The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. They are all persons who have had experience of, and have shown capacity in, or otherwise have special knowledge of, matter relating to land drainage or agriculture.

In January 1988, the RLDC agreed in principle that a scheme should be carried out to alleviate flooding in Maidenhead. It was, however, stipulated that, before a decision would be made, the consultants were required to review the various options. This activity included an alternative plan submitted by Taplow Parish Council Flood Relief Scheme Action Committee which included Philip Cooley (ex engineer with Thames Water and ex Taplow resident) as a member. After the consulting engineers examined this proposal, it was rejected on the grounds that its benefit/cost ratio was not adequate. This rejection is still in the process of being questioned by the Action Committee.

Following the review in January 1989, the RLDC agreed to promote and implement the East Bank option, which is expected to provide a minimum standard of flood protection of the 1 in 65 years case. The plan shown on our Cover outlines the the relief channel. A later decision by the RLDC shows the channel passing North of Eton Wick and Eton.

The 1 in 65 years case derives from the records of floods in the past and the need for a flood relief scheme is based on three main occasions:-

- 1894 - said to be the highest flood in living memory (from oldest inhabitant quoted in Maidenhead Advertiser of 21 November 1894).
- 1947 - flood levels 4" - 6" below those in 1894 but, being more recent, used as a bench mark for comparisons with other floods.
- 1974 - levels above the specified low flood level for 13 days.

Option 10, in outline, consists of:-

a new flood relief channel designed to carry a large proportion of the flood relief flow of more than 200 cubic metres per second (cumecs).  
existing channels through Maidenhead upgraded to increase flow and their appearance under normal conditions improved (supermarket trolleys banned).  
modest flood banks and walls built in particular areas along the Thames.

The shape of the Channel will vary according to the country through which it is passing, but a typical width will be 150ft (46 metres or two and a quarter cricket pitches for those not good at appreciating distances).

It will have low weirs at both ends; these will be used, not only to control flood waters, but also to hold water back from the Channel to maintain the level in the Thames itself during dry conditions. [It is, we understand, a statutory condition that the Thames is kept up to level as far as possible.] The Channel will not be sealed so, except during floods, the level of the water will be that of the water table in the surrounding country. It would seem, therefore, that the Channel will often dry out with, perhaps, patches of stagnant water, and any debris showing.

There will not be enough money to construct bridges where it passes under the Motorway and the railway; the solution is believed to be lots of bored pipes. There will be no possibility of any river traffic passing any of them but, on the other hand, they will cause less disturbance during construction than would bridges.

Arguments against the channel through Taplow include the fact that it is Maidenhead's problem, self-inflicted by their allowing the building of some 2500 dwellings on the flood plain. The 1947 flood was due to a very cold, long winter with the ground so frozen as to prevent the water from the melting snow seeping away and thus overflowing the water courses. The various effects postulated by climatic experts, indicate the opposite of cold winters; [others, however, predict increased rainfall from tropical conditions with, perhaps, monsoons].

The next stage of the project will be to apply for planning permission giving details of the course, engineering works and appearance of the channel. It is expected that the application will be submitted in 1990. Assuming permission is granted, it is expected that the construction work will take about 5 years.

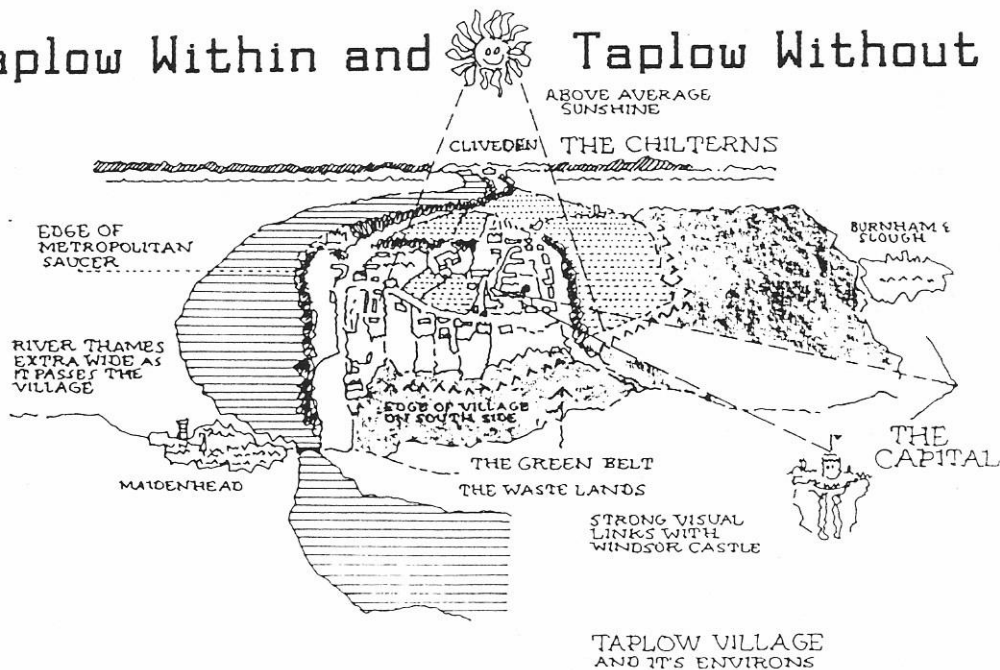
It must be recorded that neither Thames Water nor the RDLC are a lot of faceless bureaucrats planning behind closed doors.

Thames Water formed, in May 1987, an advisory group of members from the parish councils concerned and interested local organisations which included the Society. The RDLC meetings were open to the public and the Society, represented by the author, attended two of the relevant meetings.

The situation now is that we are waiting for the details to be published in the planning application in 1990 before we can lodge formal objections.

This does not mean that all resistance is in suspended animation; there are courses open for preparatory action, remembering that we have to face not only engineering and environmental aspects, but also philosophical ones i.e. Benthamism - 'to promote the greatest happiness of the greatest number'.

# Taplow Within and Taplow Without



*A personal comment by Taplow resident, Anthony Meats RIBA AA Dipl.*

I have spent a large part of my professional life trying to conserve diverse and often exotic cities - Istanbul, Lahore and Damascus to name but a few. Central to the success of each project has been an essential need to understand the true nature of the place. Not just how it usually looks but its "genus loci", the spirit of the place and how it works.

Is it the same with the conservation of Taplow? What is its spirit? What do we feel about the place we live in? What do we want to keep?

The statutory definition of a Conservation Area is an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Conservation implies retaining something from the past - old buildings, a collective atmosphere, a unique environment etc, - and possibly retaining a myth.

Firstly on the question of what is worth retaining in Taplow, it is easier to recognise what is not worth retaining. The village has no overall consistent and unifying urban form with its extensive use of traditional building materials. It does not possess a pattern of clearly defined public spaces and has no special recognisable built form as a Cotswold village or collegiate Oxford has.

The reality is that there are precious few buildings of any real architectural interest or character in the village. These remnants of the past as they exist today have no visual cohesion or relationship with each other; they are scattered about through the village and are often separated by large dollops of speculative builder suburban housing which could as well be in Wembley or Reading.

What we are trying to conserve therefore must be a myth and it is a rather nice concept which I fully support.

Thus the phrase 'Taplow Within and Taplow Without' takes on a special meaning.

The core of this myth is the notion of the village - that special group of buildings surrounding the village green and St Nicolas Church - small and compact with defineable boundaries - Within and Without e.g. a line drawn from halfway down Berry Hill to Boundary Road on the South side.

In this myth the village proper stands high above the valley of the Thames, resting against the backdrop of trees which form the Cliveden ridge safe and secure and hidden from Berkshire. The village forces out towards the metropolis with which it has a special relationship and strong commercial and social ties; for us "town" is not Maidenhead or Slough.

Therefore the local scene is one of a small integrated village, offering communal protection focussing on the green spire of the church sitting on the edge of the metropolitan saucer above the surrounding wastelands. In our minds the encircling open landscape is extremely wide, far wider than what actually exists. Our linkages are noble and we leap with agility over Slough and Maidenhead and the Bath Road as if they didn't exist

The edges of our local environment are clear and, beyond them is to be without. It is this myth or place we are trying to conserve. If one doubts any of this I recommend viewing the village from the tower of St Nicolas Church and listening to banter in the Oak and Saw. One hears comments like 'strengths of the village' and 'a customs post at Hillmead'; silly things perhaps but they contain the essence of deeply held beliefs.

In this context I think that the most important things which we wish to preserve are the sense of being an oasis and our isolation from the urban frontiers which are constantly nibbling away and encroaching upon us.



# Adventure for Children

*This view of the Thames Valley Adventure Playground, which provides much needed help for those who are handicapped, is contributed by Mrs Rosemary Zorza, a local potter and author.*

As you drive towards Maidenhead, at Taplow where the railway bridge crosses the A4, you might not notice a low chalet set back from the road. This is the Thames Valley Adventure Playground for Handicapped Children - TVAP for short. Do try and visit - it's worth it. This place is devoted to the preservation of basic human values, a place of happiness and progress. Don't feel that handicapped children should be avoided, that they are ugly or embarrassing. It's not like that at all; their company is rewarding and great fun.

Of course, children are children and can be mischievous or naughty. There are hiccups but there are enough helpers to keep things running smoothly. With so much to play with and so many projects nobody has time to be bored.

I take clay there once a week. Even children who can't use their hands properly can enjoy bashing a lump of the stuff with a tool or a fist. Clay is versatile and can be used as a cargo for trains or car. It is a good medium for taking imprints of feet or hands and for drawing on as well as making models. It can be bashed, split up, rejoined and used to stimulate the imagination in many ways. Crippled hands can gather strength from its use - even to spend an hour breaking up little pieces and dropping them into a box can make someone very happy.

One little girl used to spend her time bouncing merrily from one place to another unable to settle and concentrate. She would catch people's eyes and call out "Hello, hello," but that was all she said. Now at 13, after years of patient help from school and family, she is able to hold a proper conversation, to read and write and work on maths. Her mother told me what it had meant to have the Playground to fall back on over the years, a place she could leave her little girl in happiness and safety while she had time to catch up with chores. Saturdays and holidays are the time for this.

There's no age limit; all are welcome. Recently an area has been specially adapted for the under-fives and mothers stay with their toddlers. Local schools for the handicapped bring groups. A residential school for the deaf takes their children after school hours so that they have the place to themselves. It's not only children who enjoy the Playground; one day a week is devoted to adults with undeveloped minds.

A Youth Club meets one evening a week and once a month an evening disco for adults is held.

The land was originally given by the Summerleaze Gravel Co, who continue as a tower of strength. Money comes from Bucks and Berks Social Service Departments and local fund-raising by a committee. Generous contributions of equipment and help in many ways come from local businesses, companies, banks, Rotary and Lions Clubs, especially in Windsor. This is a community project that really works.

There 2½ paid workers and the Playground is manned from Tuesday to Saturday from 12 to 4. Employment is often found for special people who would find outside work too difficult. On Saturdays helpers come from YTS and many have taken up this work as a career.

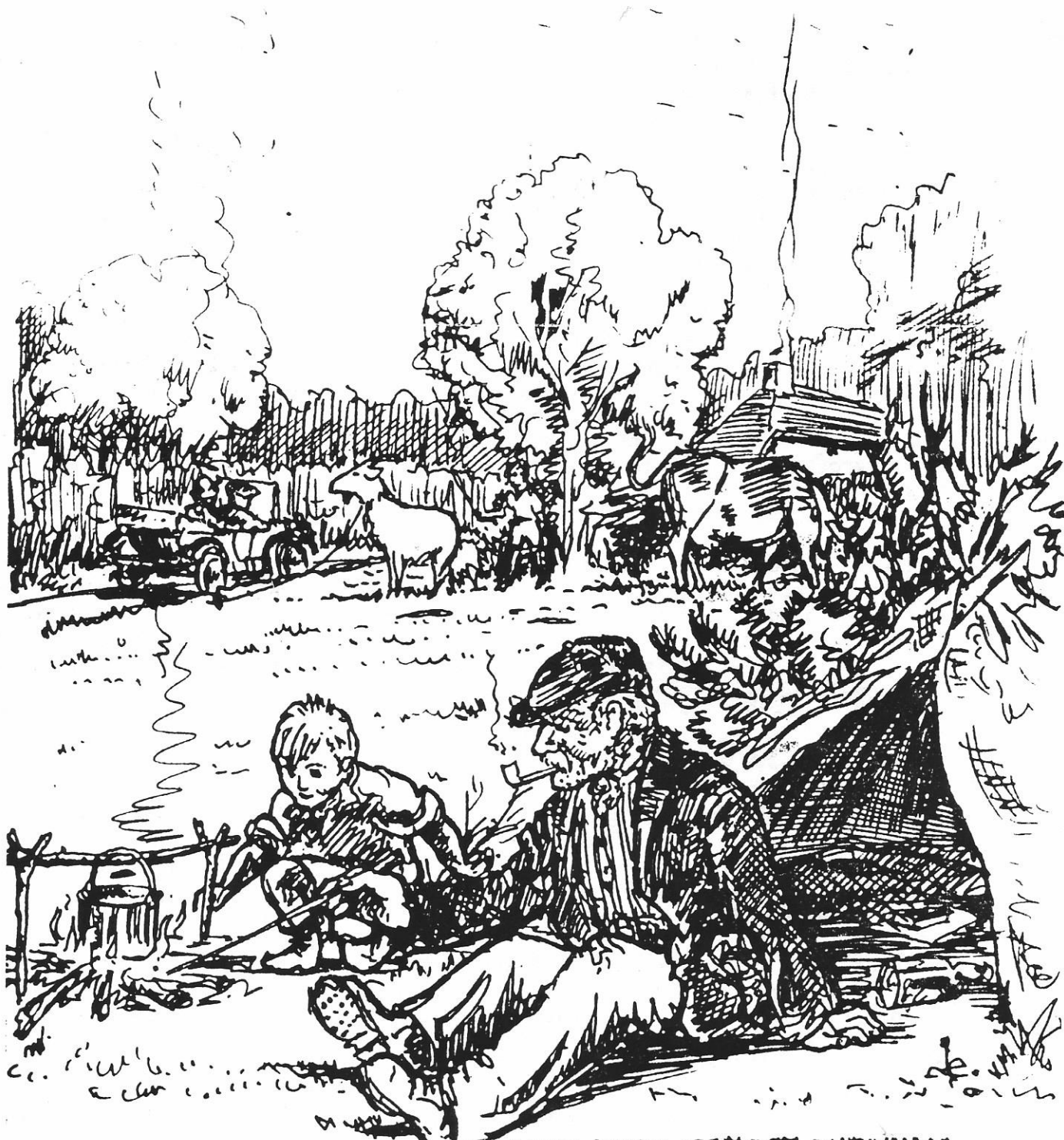
Have you any ideas that might entertain the children? Or would you just like to come and see for yourself? But it would be as well to check first in case it's a busy day. (Maidenhead 28599).

## More Strips from Saxon Times

*Michael Bayley ARIBA contributes the following article about local conditions recounted by his grandfather and his contemporaries as told to them by their grandparents.*

The strip parishes referred to in Newsletter No 55 were certainly in existence in Saxon times but are probably more ancient and extensive than suggested. They result from the ancient Celtic custom of transhumance† which probably started with the first herdsman some millennia B.C. and only ended in about 1940.

*Note: † the seasonal migration of livestock to suitable grazing grounds.*



**THE LAST OF THE SUMMER HERDSMEN AT EAST BURNHAM**

Also the land use suggested is not agriculturally logical. Water meadows were not used for summer grazing. They were flooded purposely in winter which fertilised them and kept the ground warm under the ice so that, when the water drained away in the spring, the herbage grew quicker here than on frozen land and provided stock with their first green food of the year. Come the start of the year at Lady Day, or perhaps Whitsun, the animals were driven up to the high heathland pastures for browsing in the woods for the summer, while the water meadows grew the winter feed of hay. The stock only started returning at Lammas Day, after the hay harvest. Hence Eton's jealously preserved Lammas Lands open to commoner's stock after 1<sup>st</sup> August. Woods, such as those now at Farnham Common, have only grown up since cattle and sheep have been kept off. In the 1920's & 30's it was close cropped grass, with stands of gorse and heather, broom and a few hawthorns and crab apple trees.

Villagers from Chalvey, Cippenham, Burnham and, I think, Eton Wick, Boveney and Dorney took their cattle up to be registered at the pound opposite the Crown, East Burnham before putting them on the Common under the eye of an old herdsman who made a temporary bothy to live in with sacking and turfs under a gorse bush. He was helped by some young boys who camped out with him, while the girls walked there and back twice a day to milk the cattle and return with milk to make butter and cheese back home.

In general it was turf and faggots of fallen wood that were used for fuel, not timber which was wanted for building houses, sheds, boats and fences - hence the pollarding of trees in Burnham Beeches. This was nothing to do with Cromwell's troops.

The main cornlands were the flat brickearth lands between the first and second river terraces where the erect headed barley shown on Classical sculptures was one of the main crops up until the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Hence one of Chalvey's four industries - drinking beer - and Daniel Defoe's comment on the large number of inns in Slough's High Street.

### Riverside Settlements

The largest riverside settlements had the most imposing summer camping sites on the high pastures. Upton or, perhaps, Upton cum Chalvey had the iron age hill fort of Bulstrode Camp, built, according to the Bulstrode family tradition, as the main stronghold of Burnham Hundred by the Bulstrodes and their followers, with the help of the Penn's of Stoke Hundred and the Hampdens of Desborough Hundred, to meet the threat of the Julian invasion. Bulstrode Camp remained a detached part of Upton Parish until Victorian times.

Similarly Hedgerley, with its moated earthworks of Moat Farm, remained as a possession of the Manor of Eton up until the Norman conquest.

As was pointed out, Boveney and Dorney had Boveney and Dorney woods. Wexham had Wexham Wood, Burnham had East Burnham Common and Wooburn had Wooburn Common. Hitcham seems to have shared a camping area with Wooburn and Taplow by Odds Farm on the edge of Wooburn Common.

All these summer camping grounds, the last of which only went out of use when Farnham and East Burnham commons were taken over for stacking munitions during the '39-'45 War, were divided by an East-West track passing by the very denuded earthworks of Seven Ways Plain. From time out of mind until the first quarter of this Century, this was the goal of the summer "treats" for the children of all the surrounding villages. They were taken up there in the wagons of the local farmers and, from Whitsun to Michaelmas, there were swing boats, seesaws and primitive merry-go-rounds set up for them and there was also a maypole for dancing. The donkeys, normally used to transport turves, were set to giving the children rides and races.

Up until the 1930's there two rival tea gardens nearby - Wingroves and Macros's and, for the lower orders, a van for mugs of tea and buns and ices in the Dell.

The curious thing about the earthworks of Seven Ways Plain is that they are not defensive as they have the ditch inside the bank - like Avebury on a smaller scale. This was the meeting place of the herd boys and milkmaids of all the different villages, so it fulfilled the useful function of preventing too much interbreeding in the days when travel away from ones native village was unusual. It would appear to have been a religious centre for the area. The name Seven Ways Plain was nothing to do with seven ways; it is the old British name, probably deriving from something like the Welsh SEVYANS GWARY PLEN that is "the enduring place of the games".

Nearby Pumpkin Hill is named after the road junction; "Pumpling Heol" means "the five roads".

Then we get Windsor Hill at Wooburn and Windsor Lane, Burnham neither of which have anything to do with either New or Old Windsor. They are both WAUN SATHR, that is "the track of the Common pasture". One runs from Wooburn to Wooburn Common and the other from Dorney to Dorney Wood. There are similar Windsor Lanes as far afield as Nettlebed.

### Taplow or Tumulus

According to local traditions, Taplow is the result of some social engineering by the Conqueror who turned all the people out of the original settlement at Hitchambury and settled them in Taplow. But, in most other local traditions such as that of the Bulstrodes of Bulstrodes Camp, the Conqueror means Julius Caesar and NOT William of Normandy. This must apply to Taplow or there would have been no-one there to meet St Berinus. Hitchambury appears to have been another small iron age Hill fort.

Taplow, most people now think, derives its name from the burial mound of a Saxon Chieftain in The Old Churchyard. There is, however, no historical record of a man called Taeppa; this is purely a philologists supposition, having assumed that the second part of the word is "low" meaning "tumulus". If, however, the name was given by the natives who were here when the Saxon Chief arrived, the name would derive from TIR-PEL-IOR that is "the tumulus or mound of the distant lord", which is a good topographical description, whoever the lord was.

If Taplow was established as a river crossing point in Roman times, in accordance with local traditions, it might explain why it was the local witches who were angry at the Grenfells for knocking the church and putting the holy spring by the church into a culvert to Bapsey Pond that they cursed them. The Roman feast of the Faunalia to the horned god Pan (or Faunus) was on 5<sup>th</sup> December, which is also St Berinus' day on the eve of St Nicolas' Day. Doubtless St Berinus followed Pope Gregory's advice to minorities to throw out the image of the pagan god and to rededicate the Holy Place to the Saint whose feast day coincided with the day on which the populace normally brought offerings to the place. That way the Christians could pray to St Nicolas alongside the pagans (that is the countrymen) and witches who prayed to the horned god who still survives in this area as Herne the Hunter. Perhaps that is why the villagers of Hitcham still bow down before the head and horns of a red deer in the centre of the East window of the church as they sing of "the rising of the sun and the running of the deer" at Christmas and walk out of the church on floor tiles showing a hunted deer, a hound and figures in the pagan attitude of prayer before a rising sun.

# Miscellany

## Village Green Party

This Newsletter is being finally put to bed just **before** the Village Green Party of 1989, yet you will not receive your copy until just **after** the Party; this is a quirk of our scheduling!

I hope you all have a grand time at the Party and it now seems that the weather will not be too hot, especially for those seeing to the various forms of cooking.

If you have any comments about this Party, please let us know. This is the fourth year that we have run it:-

Are you bored with it?

Would you like something different?

If you would like us to continue, do you have any comments which would improve it?

## Committee Membership

In the last few months the Committee has lost three members.

Your duties would not be onerous; there are 8 evening meetings plus the AGM each year and you would be asked to help with distribution of the Newsletter twice a year. You would not be expected to have any specialist knowledge of conservation or planning but your talents would probably be used in some way.

We are particularly looking for people who live in the Boundary Road and Marsh Lane areas and someone from the North of the parishes, but you will be welcome wherever you live.

If you would like to serve on the Committee, please let the Secretary - address below - or any other Committee Member, know. You could be co-opted at once and your Membership confirmed by a vote at the AGM in October (this would give you, in effect, a trial period).

## Letters to the Editor

Letters on subjects of interest to Society Members are welcome and should be addressed to the Editor. As stated in the Editorial, Aley Grellier is resigning as Editor, so please send it to:-

The Newsletter Editor,  
c/o Hon Sec, HTPS,  
Lea Rig,  
Hitcham Road,  
BURNHAM,  
SL1 7DX.

# Planning

*Planning Decisions given by the Planning & Development Committee of the South Bucks District Council (SBDC).*

*We publish these extracts because they are another indication of the work that County, District and Parish Councils undertake to preserve the countryside and regulate urban sprawl.*

<u>Land on Berry Hill between Redwood and White Gables (SBD 864/87).</u> Erection of 4 detached houses by Trident Construction Group.	Appeal dismissed
<u>Nashdom Abbey, Burnham (SBD 893/88).</u> Change of use to Residential Health Hydro.	Deferred for Legal Agreement
<u>Bothy wing (Tower House) Cliveden (SBD 950/88).</u> Conversion, extension and alteration to provide indoor swimming pool.	Deferred
<u>Orangery, Cliveden (SBD 1219/88).</u> Construction of detached lavatory building.	Conditional Permission
<u>Orangery Kitchen, Cliveden (SBD 1220/88).</u> Listed Building Application for alterations to kitchen.	Conditional Permission
<u>Land West of Hitcham Park, between Huntswood Lane and Hitcham Lane (SBD 153/88)</u> Change of use to equestrian cross country centre and erection of buildings.	Deferred for Legal Agreement
<u>Bishop Centre, Bath Road (SBD 1230/1/88).</u> Erection of 2 storey office extension and single storey studio; partial redevelopment to provide replacement buildings and extra parking spaces.	Conditional Permission
<u>Six Bus Shelters in Bath Road (SBD 638/88).</u> Illuminated poster panels by Adshel Ltd.	Conditional Permission
<u>Dorney Meadow, Old Marsh Lane.</u> Siting of two temporary caravans.	Appeal lodged
<u>Land at No 684 &amp; 684A, Bath Rd (SBD 478/88).</u> Demolition of existing engineering works and poultry battery units; closure of vehicular access onto Bath Rd and a new access onto Cavendish Close; erection of 30 starter homes with car parking.	Conditional Permission
<u>Cliveden House (SBD 1393/88).</u> Siting of portable building for temporary use as office for NT staff.	Conditional Lodged
<u>Taplow Court, Cliveden Road (SBD 177/88).</u> Change of use to cultural centre and administrative HQ for NSUK, including formation of residential accommodation.	Conditional Permission
<u>Bishop Centre, Bath Road (SBD 1421/88).</u> Refurbishment of existing office building including new roof.	Conditional Permission
<u>Royal Standard Public House, Wooburn Common Road (SBD 1165/88).</u> Six externally illuminated signs including double sided post sign.	Conditional Consent
<u>Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital, Cliveden Rd (SBD 1002/3/88).</u> Demolition of existing redundant hospital and development as a care community incl. nursing home and care centre; additional access onto Cliveden Road.	Deferred for Legal Agreement

<u>Sueberna, Hill Farm Road (SBD 747/88).</u> Extension to basement for additional accommodation plus car port and loft extension.	Deferred for Legal Agreement
<u>Old Lodge, High Street, Taplow (SBD 1309/88).</u> Segregation of property to create two separate dwellings and erection of two additional garages with pitched roof over all.	Deferred for negotiations
<u>Station Garage, Taplow, Station Rd (SBD 1387/88).</u> Rebuilding of car showroom.	Conditional Permission
<u>Dunloe Lodge, Mill Lane (SBD 885/87).</u> Change of use from residential to offices.	Appeal withdrawn
<u>Abbotts Wood mill, Heathfield Road (SBD 299/88).</u> Continued use as a sound recording studio	Appeal dismissed
<u>Station Garage, Taplow, Station Rd (SBD 646/88).</u> Part internally illuminated fascia sign and free standing sign	Conditional Permission

### Planning Newspieces

*A number of items of interest were discussed by Committees of the South Bucks District Council.*

*The extracts below (some of which have been edited) are from the Meeting of the Environmental Control Committee held on 18 Jan 1989.*

It was RESOLVED that the following requests be supported:-

- (a). Additional funding for maintainance of roads and footpaths throughout the District be made available especially:
  - for higher standards of maintainance in Conservation Areas.
  - the improvement for pedestrians at Hitcham Road railway bridge.
  - the provision of a footpath along the northern edge of Stomp Road.
  - measures which improve safety along A4 without increasing capacity.

Boundary Signs. It had been resolved that six signs be provided on prime sites entering the District. The first six signs would be erected this year. Six further signs were to be erected in 1989/90.

Helicopter Noise. The Committee considered a report from LAANC:-

As with all aircraft, there were no specific controls to deal with noise nuisance, other than the specific helicopter routes through the London Control Zone (which covered the District), Planners had advised that could be treated as being comparable to a car when the use was incidental to another use of a premises, unless a structure, such as a helipad was to be incorporated and planning was required for such a structure,

The London Boroughs were seeking to control the ad hoc use of sites for helicopters through a local act. It would require premises used for helicopter movements to be licensed; these licences could be issued subject to conditions, e.g. limiting hours of use or number of movements,