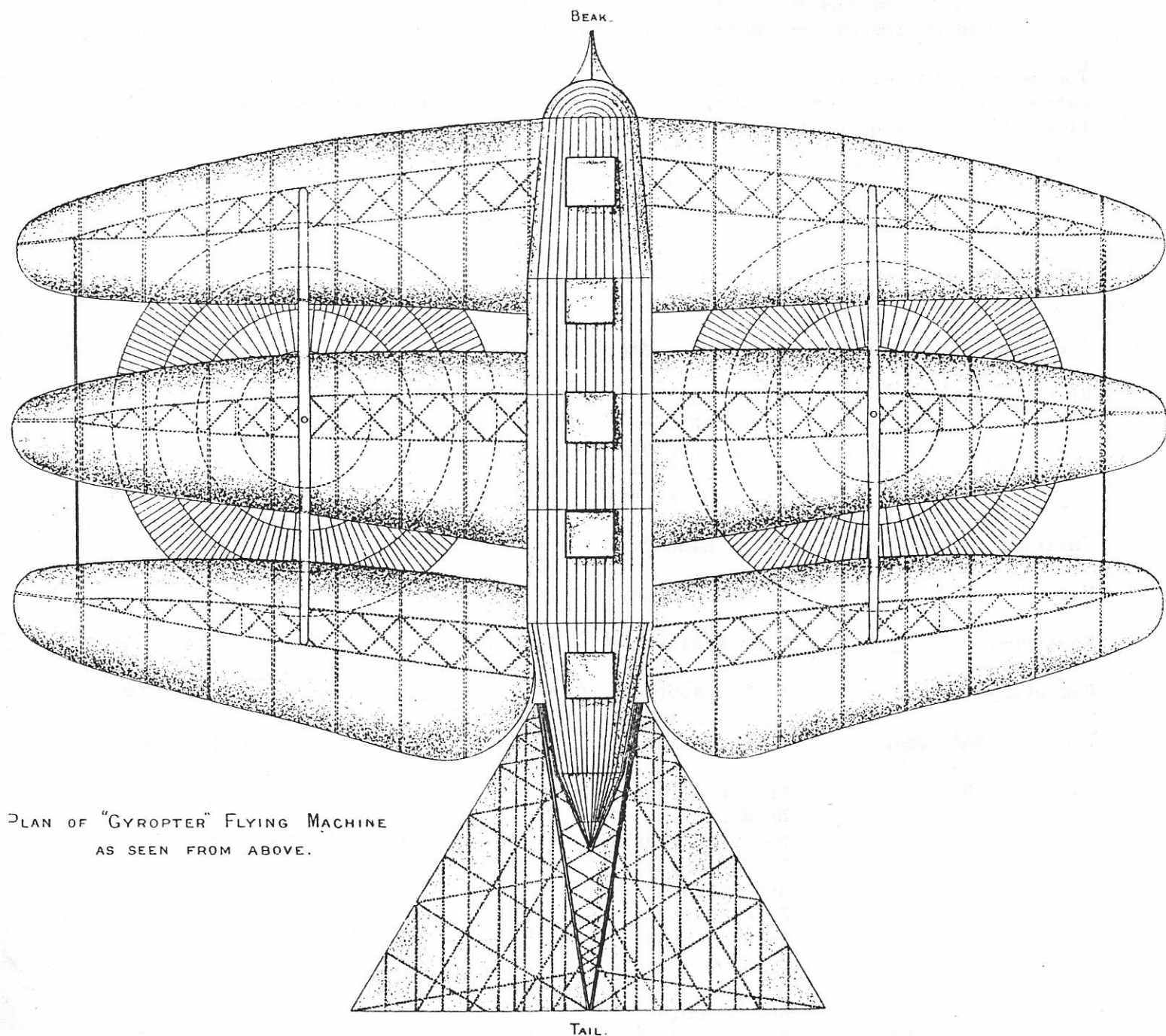


Hitcham & Taplow Preservation Society

NEWSLETTER

Summer 1990

No. 58



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 Dr John Kennedy
Chairman	Mr RJ Hanbury
Vice-Chairman	Mr NBRC Peroni
Treasurer	Miss E Ricketts
Secretary	Mr RGR Nutt
Planning Watchman	Mr A Hickman
Committee Members	Mr D Aldridge Mr W Ball Major KB Francis Mr KIR Grant Mrs H Lee Mr A McKenzie Mr HC Nixon Miss GG Pollock Mr E Schmitz-Peiffer Mrs S Senior. (co-opted) Mrs D Pierce, Newsletter Editor.

Editorial

In this issue we have included the histories of two local homes - Queen Anne's House and Maryfield & Maryfield Cottage. Our feature article is about Taplow's place in aviation history!

I would like to thank Mrs Laura Pope and our President, Mr Leonard Miall for their respective contributions and a special thanks to Mr Lincoln Lee for the feature article and other interesting tidbits.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas for future newsletters. For instance, I would like to extend these articles to a whole series on local houses. How about yours? It doesn't have to be old or large or even special - just to be in Hitcham or Taplow is enough. Please let me know what you want to write about; we can arrange for photographs to be taken at no cost!

Any correspondence, please, to:-

Mrs Danita Pierce,
Elibank Court
Rectory Road
Taplow.
Telephone: Maidenhead 781727

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The drawing on the front cover is of Davidson's Flying Machine; see Article on page 2 for the Taplow connection.

Taplow's Place in Aviation's Hall of Fame

Taplow is so close to the "world's busiest international airport" that it would be remarkable if it didn't have some connection with aviation. Well before Heathrow came into use 45 years ago, some of the aircraft designers who were associated with White Waltham lived in the village. That was why, in those happy days when we still had the Post Office in Rectory Road, customers could sit comfortably in an old aircraft seat. That was why, in those happy days when we still had the Post Office in Rectory Road, customers could sit comfortably in an old aircraft seat. It was also why, soon after WW2, the President of the Society was able to obtain a scoop for the BBC. When asked how he had obtained his information, he was able to say, with his inimitable turn of phrase: "Well, we've got Faireys at the bottom of our garden".

Taplow's association with aviation goes back much further than that. More than 80 years ago an aircraft was under construction at Amerden Bank under the direction of its designer, Mr G O Davidson.

Davidson was a Scot with an enthusiasm for aviation. In 1898, well before the Wright Brothers had made history at Kitty Hawk, he lectured the Royal Aeronautical Society on the flying machine of the future. Later, far from being convinced that the type of aircraft demonstrated by the Wrights and Santos Dumont had the best potential, he designed a gyropter, a rotary winged flying machine. He had built one of these in Colorado but in 1908 he came to Taplow and, by 1910 he had a staff of 16 working on the construction of another one in a hangar at Amerden Bank (near Bray weir).

He claimed that 27 years study had convinced him that, although the monoplane and biplane were "marvels of ingenuity", they would not be as successful as his Flying Machine which had mechanical rotary wings which would do the same work "as the reciprocal (sic) wings of birds". By 1910, having spent £12,500 (£2 million by today's values?) on his gyropter, he was appealing for investors.

However his venture was being rapidly overtaken by events; it was in the years 1908-1910 that names like de Havilland, Rolls, Moore-Brabazon and Bleriot became famous in Britain and they were all associated with the mainstream of development. With adequate finance, Davidson might have got his gyropter airborne besides the Thames, but it is unlikely that its performance would have been remotely as good as he claimed.

Nevertheless, if he could come back today, he might have pointed to the numerous helicopters buzzing over Taplow and Hitcham and said:

"I told you so".

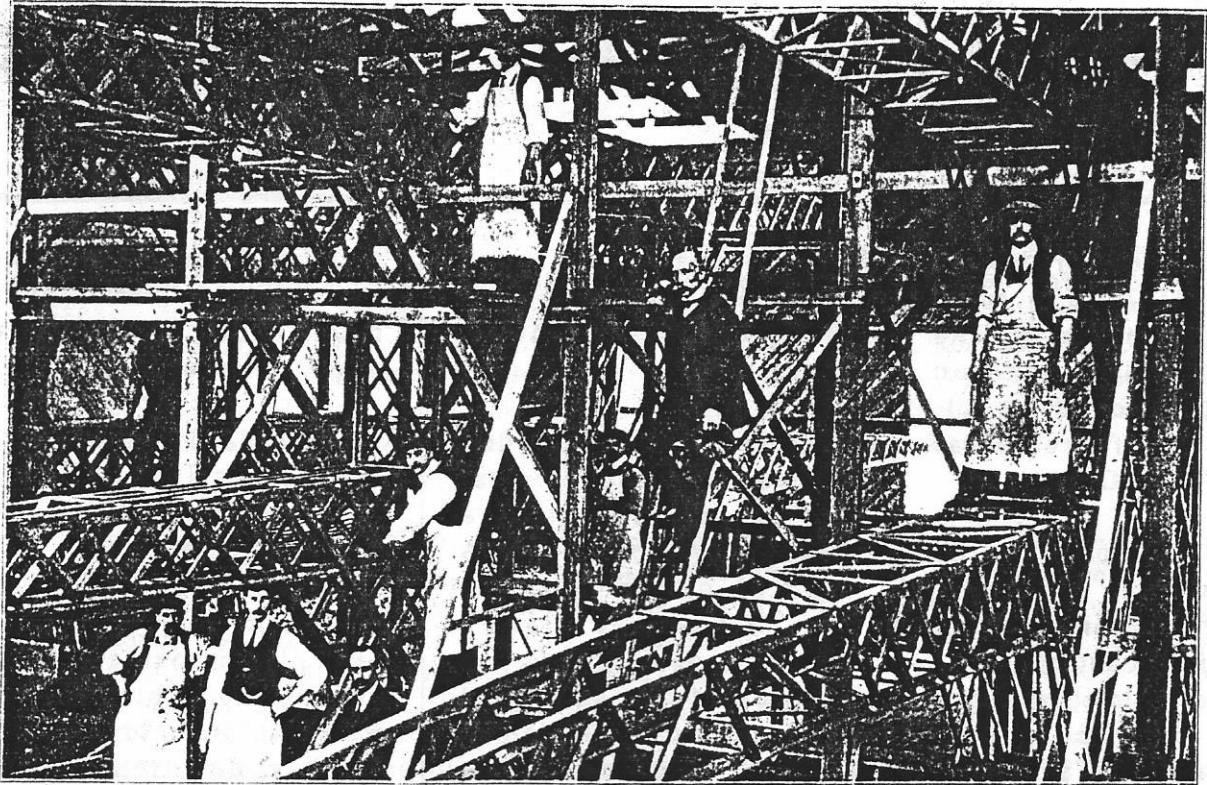
Lincoln Lee

Have your own Bottle Bank

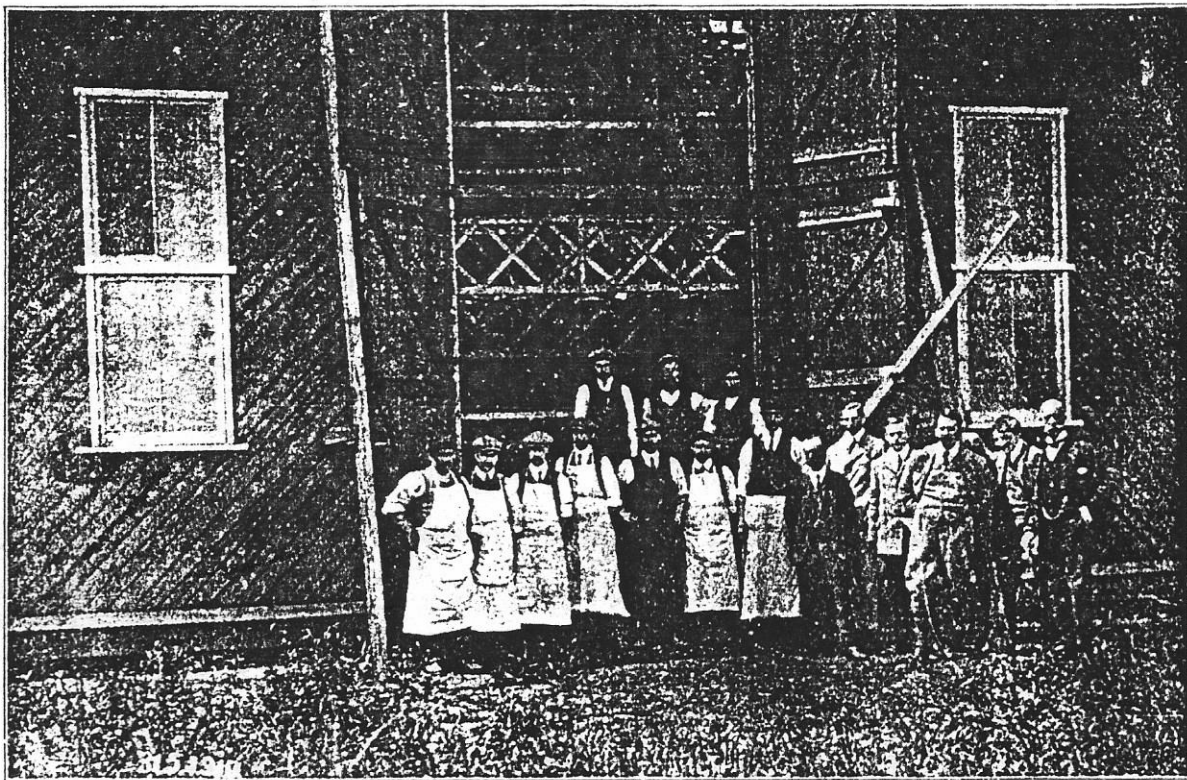
If you have got the room for two plastic tubs, 970mm (38") high and 1580mm (62") round the middle, you can have your own bottle bank.

Ring Slough 76991 and speak to Nigel Rushby of "Going Green" and he will arrange to deliver the tubs to you. When they are full ring up again and they will be exchanged for empty ones. A free GREEN Service!

Budge Francis



Inside the shed at Taplow. Showing the main girders of the fixed wings.



Mr. Davidson and the staff employed by him in the construction of the Flying Machine at Taplow.

WOT NO BONES? by Lincoln Lee

Early on the morning of Sunday, 24 June, a small team of archaeologists and anthropologists made an inspection of Site A1, sometimes referred to as Taplow Village Green.

It was at once clear to the team that some great folk festival had taken place on the site in recent history - perhaps associated with the Summer Solstice. Well over a hundred artifacts were recovered and these made it clear that both adults and children had partaken of a feast - indeed, there were still smouldering embers where perhaps a sacrifice had been made.

The involvement of children was indicated by papers which had contained various concoctions made from gum or from the root known as potato. Adult participation was indicated by paper tissues, small metal rings, and numerous bio-degradable ends of what are known as

cigarettes, plus many numbered tickets which suggested some game of chance.

Several aspects intrigued the team: no broken glass was found, suggesting a wish to protect the children of the villagers; but in several places beakers made of plastic had been carefully shredded and scattered, as though in offering. No coins were found, suggesting a frugal community. But some unbroken glass was found, including a bottle--the label of which indicated that it and its contents had been made in Mexico. Could this suggest an association with the Aztecs? Finally, no bones were found.

Make no bones about it, the Village Green Party was a great success! Congratulations to the organizers, workers, the

weather-man, and to the band. There wasn't even much rubbish! But how much money was made?

Well, at the time of writing, the accounts had not been finalized, but of the total expenditure about 40% was on beef and the other meats, and about 30% on the band. In approximate order of magnitude other costs were insurance, bread rolls, relishes, donations to the Police and to St. John's (their attendance was voluntary), the fee for access to the hall, napkins and paper tablecloths, cups, and ticket-printing, which altogether came to about 30%. Just as long as the organizers don't charge for phone calls, firewood, car mileage, or their time, the party may have made a small profit! But of course the objective is not to make money for the society, (the aim of which is to help maintain our environment) but to have a successful village occasion.

Typographical Design of Newsletter

The Newsletter is typed with Prottext wordprocessor on an Amstrad 8512 computer and printed on a Star LC 24-10 printer. Now, however, Micro Design 2, a desk top publisher, is available; this allows access to a variety of type fonts with columns, boxes, rules etc.

So far only the piece above has being composed using Micro Design 2.

Is there anyone with the necessary knowledge and experience of page design who would be prepared help? Please contact the Editor or the Secretary. Knowledge of computers is not necessary.

History of Taplow Houses

Maryfield and Maryfield Cottage

Maryfield, overlooking Taplow Village from behind the school, dates from the end of the nineteenth century. It was originally called The Knowle House and was built for George Webster, a Maidenhead coal merchant. He also owned the coalyard at Taplow Station which provided fuel for many of the local houses. Mr Webster bought the site, which was then glebe land, from the Rector of Taplow (the Reverend W. G. Sawyer), the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and the Bishop of Oxford, in 1891. The house was built by Coopers, a leading construction firm in St Luke's Road, Maidenhead, who around the same time also built Hitcham Lodge and Hitcham Close, as well as St Nicolas House, originally known as The Red Cottage.

Mr Webster died in May 1926. The following year the Knowle House was bought by Lady Beatrice Pole-Carew, the widow of Lt-Gen. Sir Reginald Pole-Carew who had died in 1924. Lady Beatrice was Irish, the eldest daughter of the third Marquess of Ormonde and a granddaughter of the first Duke of Westminster. She had been a Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Mary and was a friend of Lord and Lady Astor at Cliveden and their niece Joyce Grenfell

Lady Beatrice changed the name of the house to Maryfield. In 1927 and 1929 she enlarged the garden by buying strips of land to the north, west and south of the house from Lord Desborough. She also bought from him Old Cottage, on the bend of High Street, and added a servants' wing to the northeast side of Maryfield.

Lady Beatrice was a keen gardener. She imported large snowdrops from her family home, Shambally Castle in Tipperary, planted lilacs of many different hues and made certain that the new large windows she had installed in Maryfield drawing room should open onto sweet-scented plants such as lemon verbena and nicotiana. In her garden she had a dovecote and, before the Dutch elm disease struck, there were five huge elms at the top of which rooks nested. Lady Beatrice used to say that if the rooks ever left Taplow the luck would go too. A culvert ran from Taplow Court across the cricket field and then through Maryfield garden to provide the village with drinking water from Lord Desborough's supply at Taplow Court. There are several underground springs in the garden, and one underneath the house itself which gets active when the water table rises.

In World War II Lady Beatrice moved into Old Cottage. For a short period in 1940 Maryfield became the headquarters of the Dutch General Staff in exile. After the Germans overran her country, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands lived briefly in Maidenhead and the military leaders who had escaped with her needed to be quartered nearby. The Dutch generals left Maryfield after their Queen moved to Bath. From then on it was let to the Canadian Red Cross Hospital at Cliveden for use as a nurses' home.

Maryfield Cottage, halfway up the drive to Maryfield, was where the gardener, Arthur Sims, lived with his wife and son George. He had tended Maryfield garden all his working life and as a youth had helped plant the large yew hedge. He had a small sitting room and kitchen, and three bedrooms, two of them over a coach house which was sandwiched between the cottage and a large barn. Maryfield Cottage and the barn are considerably older than Maryfield itself. According to unverified local legend the heavy chestnut beams across the top of the barn were timbers on their way from London to Stratfield Saye, the stately home south of Reading which was being refurbished for the Duke of Wellington after the Battle of Waterloo. They are said to have fallen off the back of a wagon in Taplow. One of the beams

bears the name RUBICON painted in large letters. Was it, I wonder, the name of a boat from which the timbers originally came?

Lady Beatrice Pole-Carew, who since the war had been living alone in Old Cottage, died in 1952. (She had said to friends: "You'll know when I am dead, as I'll start to stink!"). Arthur Sims the elderly gardener retired to one of the Desborough Cottages, the old age pensioners' bungalows in Hill Farm Road. One of Lady Beatrice's daughters, Miss Marye Pole-Carew, installed herself in Old Cottage, garaging her car in the coach house.

She and her sister, Mrs Victoria Du Cane, had jointly inherited Maryfield. They tried unsuccessfully to sell the house, together with the gardener's cottage and some three acres of land, as a single property but an auction sale failed to meet their reserve price. The whole estate was too large a responsibility for those austere times and both Maryfield and its cottage remained empty and untended for about a year. Finally the sisters decided to divide the property and sell the halves separately.

I had returned from the BBC office in Washington at the end of 1953 and was looking for a permanent home. I and my late wife Lorna were living temporarily in the Red Cottage (St Nicolas House) opposite the church. It was then a furnished students' hostel for the Bible College that stood where Cedar Chase now is. We bought Maryfield in May 1954 and the following October the gardener's cottage was sold to Lt. Col. Burnard Morton JP who had previously been living at Rookwood in Marsh Lane. Burnard Morton (who really did spell his first name that way with a u) added a new kitchen and a bathroom to Maryfield Cottage and made the coach house into a dining room.

When Marye Pole-Carew had to give up the coach house where she had been keeping her car, she decided to retain the patch of land diagonally opposite Old Cottage facing down the High Street and built a double garage there. She also insisted on keeping a small corner of land on the west side of Maryfield drive, in case, she told me, she should ever want to bring her car from the new garage right up to the door of Old Cottage. How she thought she would be able to make a drive across the public footpath I have no idea, but that wedge of land belonging to Old Cottage, on what appears to be part of Maryfield's garden, has caused headaches for the conveyancing lawyers every time the property has changed hands.

Maryfield, which then had eleven bedrooms and six bathrooms, was much bigger than we needed for ourselves and four children. So we converted the servants' wing into a separate dwelling, Maryfield Orchard, and let it to a succession of Staff Sergeants from the American Air Force who were then working on a secret radar operation based at Hedsor Park where International Computers Ltd now have their offices. The airmen had to keep irregular hours and it suited them to live close to their work, rather than on the American base at High Wycombe.

Arthur Sims, the old retired gardener, was saddened by the state of Maryfield garden after a year's neglect. He turned up one day and asked me if he might come back to help restore what had been his life's work. He remained a marvellously efficient and courteous gardener until his death several years later.

After Burnard Morton left Taplow in 1972 Maryfield Cottage was owned for a few months by Margot Gibbons of Maidenhead, the sister of Sir John Page, and then sold in February 1972 to Jeremy Richards, who completely remodelled it. He was the new manager of the Windsor branch of what was then the Westminster Bank. For several months he drove the long daily return journey between his home in the New Forest and Windsor, while a major conversion of



Maryfield



Maryfield Cottage

the buildings took place. The barn was incorporated into the rest of the house as dwelling space, providing more bedrooms and a large upstairs living room in what originally had been the hayloft.

Unfortunately for the Richards family, shortly after this conversion was completed the Westminster and the National Provincial Banks were merged. There had been a branch of each on opposite sides of Windsor High Street. One of them clearly had to close - it was the Westminster. The luckless Jeremy Richards was transferred back again to the New Forest just as he was at long last beginning to enjoy the new home he had created in Taplow.

His successor was Frederick Arthur George Burgess, always known as Sandy, the publisher of a Windsor newspaper. He and his wife Rosalind and their six children had previously been living at Knotty Green near Beaconsfield. In 1979 they decided to move to Windsor and Sandy Burgess sold Maryfield Cottage to me. I in turn sold Maryfield to Alltransport, the multinational freight company based in South Africa whose British office is at Staines. They wanted a base that was conveniently close to Heathrow and Staines for the periodic use of visiting directors. Alltransport made substantial changes to the interior of Maryfield and installed a caretaker in Maryfield Orchard. The main house remained empty for much of the time.

In 1983 Maryfield was bought from Alltransport by Ali Mubarak Alqaisi of Bahrain but he normally only used it for a few weeks in the summer, when his family needed to escape from the Middle Eastern heat. The present owners, Jeremiah and Jane Burley, formerly of Bray, bought it from Mr Alqaisi in 1987 and took possession in January 1988. They have made substantial improvements, especially to the garden, and Maryfield is once again a full-time family home, only for the fourth time in its century of existence.

Leonard Miall

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Queen Anne's House

Queen Anne's House stands four-square on the crest of Berry* Hill and on the first spur of the Chilterns. Like Bapsy, opposite, it started life as a thatch and plaster cottage in the XVth century or origins may have been earlier. Remains of it can still be seen within the shell encasing the present building. When we converted the stabling block into a cottage thebuilders found so many flint stones and shards in the foundations, they weresure a Roman villa had once stood there.

Later on it became a bit grander and was turned into a coaching inn called "The Queen's Head". The sign can be seen on old etchings of the house and and "Public Bar" was still on the back door when we came here thirty six years ago. It is said the coaches stopped here on their way to Bath. Cheaper, I suppose, than Skindles.

Excerpt "From Our Files" of the Maidenhead Advertiser,
May 8, 1989 - 100 Years Ago - "Queen's Head Hotel, Taplow,
proprietor W. Sargent. Pleasant apartments to let. Borders
taken from 5s. to 10s. per week. Horses, carriages, dog
carts or pony traps for hire."

Later on still it became even grander when Lord Desborough became rather bored with the sight of drunks stretched out on the green of a Saturday



night and decided to turn it into a private dwelling. This he did and the noblesse were spared this unseemly sight as they drove into the gates of Taplow Court opposite, in their fine carriages.

Well, I am often asked why the house is so named. I will tell you what I heard on good authority long ago. Queen Anne was a regular visitor at Taplow Court. (Incidentally, so was Queen Bess when it was a State Prison and her sister had her confined there. An old oak bench, since removed, was said to be where she sat.) The mansion had not the facilities to accommodate the whole of Queen Anne's retinue and staff, so the ladies-in-waiting were put up here and that is how 'Queen Anne's House' originated.

Other points of interest may be an old bench mark on the southwest corner of the house to mark land subsidence; an old powder or wig closet, which today makes a good walk-in wardrobe; a secret passage, or priest hole. Though the latter is open to doubt.

My husband is fond of telling guests "Frankenstein lived here". Perfectly true, though not Mary Shelley's monster but the then Austrian ambassador, a previous owner whose unfortunate name was Frankenstein. An old gardener told me that in his day, Princess Louise, a grandchild of Queen Victoria, often visited the house. That was in Taplow's heyday when it was known to the tradesmen of Maidenhead, Reading, Wycombe, and Windsor as PROUD, LORDY, and SAUCY!

Mrs Laura Pope

* a corruption of 'Barrow Hill', so called in the old days because it led to the Saxon barrow in the precincts of Manor House, as Taplow Court was then named.

Planning Applications

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

<u>Redwood, Berry Hill, Taplow (SBD 0001/90).</u> Two storey side extension.	Conditional Permission
<u>Joe's Folly Kennels, Amerden Close, Taplow (SBD 1303/89).</u> Continued siting of residential caravan (SBI) 908/86).	Conditional Permission
<u>Harbinger, Hill Farm Road, Taplow (SBD 1322/89).</u> Erection of one detached house.	REFUSED
<u>Taplow Service Station, Bath Road, Taplow.</u> Erection of car wash building (SBD 1115/89). Single storey extension and alterations (SBD 22/90).	Conditional Permission
<u>Taplow Service Station, Bath Road, Taplow (SBD 1330/89 & 33/90).</u> Erection of signs.	Deferred
<u>Boundary Road Farm and Livery Stables, Taplow (SBD 1033/89).</u> Erection of riding school, horse hospital and car parking with other extensions and changes of use	REFUSED
<u>Little Barns Wood & Wymers Wood, Nashdom Lane, Taplow (SBD 719/89).</u> Boundary Road and Gates.	REFUSED
<u>Poplar Farm, Hitcham Road, Taplow (SBD 33/90).</u> Controlled tipping to raise ground level for agricultural purposes.	REFUSED
<u>Land adjacent to 1 Stockwells, Taplow (SBD 1347/89).</u> Erection of semi-detached bungalow.	Appeal Lodged
<u>Maidenhead Autos, Bath Road (south side), Taplow (SBD 407/89).</u> Erection of new petrol filling station with canopy, sales building and car wash and use of land for display and sale of cars. (Sec 52 Agreement)	Conditional Permission
<u>Cliveden, Cliveden Road, Taplow (SBD 950/88).</u> Conversions, extensions and alterations to Bothey Wing (Tower House)	Conditional Permission
<u>The Horse and Groom Public House, Bath Road, Taplow.</u> Some demolition to parts of Listed Building (SBD 221/90) Change of use-to staff accommodation and offices (SBD 220/90)	Non-Determination Appeal Lodged
<u>Wickenden, Cliveden Road, Taplow (SBD 1351/89).</u> Construction of replacement recreation building.	REFUSED
<u>Taplow Court, Cliveden Road, Taplow (SBD 420/90).</u> Retention of close boarded fence on cliveden Road boundary.	Granted
<u>Heatherdale, Marsh Lane, Taplow (SBD 209/90).</u> Erection of double garage with playroom above.	Conditional Permission

Planning Newspieces

The Minutes of the various Committees of the District Council have been studied and extracts (shown within quotation marks) or precis are given below. Dates indicate when the Committee met.

Recreation and Amenities Committee (6 March 1990)

Possible Event at Cliveden. Sponsorship of £850 had been approved for a performance of a Winter's Tale as part of the Cliveden Festival 1990.

Environmental Control Committee (14 March 1990)

Extracts from the Address by Mr Roland Morriss, Divisional Highways Surveyor of Bucks County Council.

"With regard to litter, Mr Morriss stated that he felt that the situation had worsened considerably over the past few weeks due to the recent storms. It was hoped that the situation would soon be improved and the Committee were informed that a new contractor had recently been appointed for street sweeping.

"Mr Morriss indicated the enormous problem facing the County Council on damage caused to roads and the huge task of repairing potholes in the road. The County Council recognized that highways formed a substantial part of the environment and as Divisional Surveyor for South Bucks he had 550 miles of roads to administer which involved having a scheme of priority for repairs and resurfacing. Mr. Morriss indicated that much of the damage caused to roads was caused by lorry traffic but that much of this lorry movement was beyond the control of the County Council. Mr. Morriss also stated that the County Council were very aware of the damage caused to kerbs and grass verges by the parking of cars and lorries parked on the verges.

"Mr Morriss emphasised the progress being made in ventures between the County Council and this Council for improvements to the local environment and drew attention to the scheme to improve Burnham High Street and more recently the provision of a Town Square in front of the Council Hall at Beaconsfield.

Maidenhead Transportation Study - Consultation Document.

"RESOLVED that the following comments be forwarded to the Berkshire County Council:-

- "(1) As this study was concerned with transportation issues in Maidenhead, its analysis should be confined to that area and should not attempt to deal with or make comments about the situation on the A4 within South Bucks District, and that any study regarding that section of the A4 should be undertaken jointly by Buckinghamshire County Council and South Bucks District Council;
- "(2) The study ought to take account of the commitment contained in the 10 year programme for trunk road improvements announced by the Secretary of State in May 1989, to improvements including widening of the M4 between the M25 and Reading and the provision of free flow links at junction 8/9 (Maidenhead), since there could be little doubt that such improvements would draw some movements onto the motorway network which would otherwise have used the A4 between Maidenhead and Slough;

"(3) It was considered that the proposals for the A4 between Maidenhead Bridge and Maidenhead town centre would increase the capacity of that stretch of the A4 and given that stretch of road was one of the constrictions which caused westbound traffic to queue on the Taplow section of the A4, such proposals should be welcomed."

Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme.

"Members were reminded that following the last meeting arrangements had been made for the National Rivers Authority to visit the Council Offices to make a presentation to all members of the Council prior to the meeting of the Policy and Resources Board on the 10th April, 1990 commencing at 2:15 p.m. The Committee were informed that the NRA hoped to receive preliminary comments from the Council during the presentation, and an advance copy of the plan on which the Council would be invited to comment was displayed for Members' consideration.

"Members were also informed that a permanent exhibition and display of the proposals was open to the public during weekday working hours at the NRA office at Taplow House, Clivemont Road, Maidenhead. Noted."

Local Authorities' Aircraft Noise Council.

"The Chief Health and Housing Officer reported that following the Committee's decision at its last meeting to withdraw membership of the Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council (LAANC) a letter had been received from them asking the Committee to reconsider their decision to withdraw from membership.

"After discussion it was

"RESOLVED that the Chief Health and Housing Officer inform the Local Authorities Aircraft Noise Council that the Committee wished to adhere to its previous decision."

Housing Services Committee (15 March 1990)

Homelessness: Additional Funding Request.

"...£300,000 to the James Butcher Housing Association for a shared ownership scheme of small houses and flats in Taplow...."

Planning and Development Committee (21 February 1990)

Land at Barge Farm, Amerden Lane, Taplow. "Consideration was given to a report by the District Secretary together with reasons for expediency, in respect of the unauthorised change of use of the main farmhouse at Barge Farm from a single dwelling house to three separate residential flats. Land and buildings at Barge Farm were also being used for the storage of vehicles, caravans, vehicle bodies and trailers.

"RESOLVED that Enforcement Notices be issued under Section 87 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 in respect of the above, and if necessary, legal proceedings be instituted to secure the cessation.

Tree Preservation Orders.

"RESOLVED that Tree Preservation Orders be made in respect of the following:-

"a red oak tree at Old Lodge, High Street, Taplow, to ensure its

retention as a feature of Taplow High Street, in the interest of local visual amenity in this part of the Taplow Conservation Area."

Planning and Development Committee (18 April 1990)

Replacement Minerals Local Plan.

"RESOLVED that:-

"(1) the Committee reaffirms its objection in principle to the Plan on the grounds raised in relation to the draft version of the Plan in 1989, and in particular that:-

"(a) 1.3 million tonnes per annum extraction requirement was inappropriate for Buckinghamshire;

"(b) the Plan ought not to cover the period beyond 2005/2006, including the ten year landbank;

"(c) a 30% wastage figure was too high;

"(d) the Plan should include an appropriate windfall allowance for sites from the remainder of the County.

"(2) the Chairman of the Council be requested to write to selected prominent local residents inviting them to be briefed on the issues of sand and gravel extraction in South Bucks, with a view to heightening the campaign of opposition and enhancing media coverage of it.

"(3) the Chairman of the Council to write a letter to all County Council members reiterating this Council's objections to the Plan.

"(4) The Chief Planning Officer be instructed to prepare a map indicating the mineral sites worked previously, those currently being worked together with those which were proposed and that aerial photographs be used where these were readily available. A copy of the completed map to be sent to each of the parish councils in time for their annual meetings, with a copy also being sent to the South Bucks Association of Local Councils and copies to the press.

"(5) a letter be sent to the parish councils reiterating the importance of letters of objection being sent to the County Council and that they also be supplied with a copy of the fact sheet and a copy of the standard letter of objection to which residents should be asked to add their own comments."

A4 Maidenhead to Slough Improvement Scheme.

"RESOLVED that the County Council be informed of this Council's disappointment:-

"(1) that the scheme for improvements on the length of A4 west of Slough to the Taplow Railway Bridge had been approved;"

Tree Preservation Orders.

"RESOLVED that site visits be made by the Trees Panel on Tuesday, 8th May 1990 at the following:-

"(a) South Bucks District Council (No. 20) Tree Preservation Order 1989 - Trees at Lansdowne House and The Hermitage, Bath Road, Taplow."

Planning and Development Committee (16 May 1990)

Policy for the Control of Development on the Flood Plain of the River Thames 1990.

"Consideration was given to a report by the Chief Planning Officer from which it was noted that the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's existing Flood Policy was in need of review due to new information regarding future flood events which had been provided by the National Rivers Authority.

"The creation of two new flood envelopes made the policy more far reaching than previously and the proposed policy effectively meant that, whilst there was formerly a presumption in favour of development within the 1947 Flood plain Area, there was now a presumption against new development in that area.

"The current policy related to residential development only, whilst the new proposals would relate to all forms of development in the flood plain area and would cover a significantly larger area and would entail a stricter level of control.

"RESOLVED that the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead be thanked for allowing this District the opportunity to comment on its Policy for Control of Development in the Flood Plain of the River Thames 1990 and that the report be welcomed and strong support be expressed for stricter controls on development and the implementation of these controls."

Tree Preservation Orders.

(1) Opposed Orders

"RESOLVED that SBDC (No 20) Tree Preservation Order 1989 - Trees at Lansdowne House and The Hermitage, Bath road, Taplow be confirmed."

(2) Unopposed Orders

"RESOLVED that SBDC (No 4) Tree Preservation Order 1990 - Red oak tree at Old lodge, High Street Taplow be confirmed as an unopposed order."

Planning and Development Committee (13 June 1990)

Planning Application for Maidenhead Flood alleviation Scheme

"..... The Committee was strongly of the view that the construction of the flood relief channel should be a District Matter and it was imperative that there should be absolutely no uncertainty on this issue.

RESOLVED to seek Counsel's opinion as to whether it should be a County or a District matter..

Environmental control Committee (6 June 1990)

Maidenhead Flood Alleviation Scheme - Financial Arrangements.

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"The Committee considered that it was inequitable to impose the cost on the Community Chargepayer when there was little benefit to be derived from the scheme for residents of SBD.....

RESOLVED that appropriate representations be made to the County Council and the M.P.

At the meeting of the Resources Sub-Committee on 26 June 1990, it was noted that Mr Tim Smith, MP had replied to these representations saying that he totally sympathised with the Council's views and that he felt that there was considerable doubt about the financial justification for such a scheme..... He had passed a copy of the Council's letter to the DoE as he agreed that the Community chargepayers of Windsor and Maidenhead should pay the bill for the scheme".

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Getting away from Taplow

In February we had a holiday.

We flew to Harare in Zimbabwe and then travelled some 150 miles east to Nyanga on the border of Mozambique (for older readers, substitute:- Southern Rhodesia; Salisbury; Inyanga; Portuguese East Africa).

In Nyanga we went shopping in Farouk's Kashmir Trading Company Store. Like many stores in remote places, half of this shop offered oil-cans and ploughs, while the other half displayed elastic and lingerie. Somewhere in the middle was a small stand of books. There were only about twenty titles and most of them did not appeal to us, being either Mills and Boon or novels of "stark terror and gut-twisting suspense".

Then I noticed the name Wilfred Greatorix; sure enough two of the books were by this well-known author and TV script writer who lives in Taplow village. On a lower shelf was a biography of the lady from the big house, Nancy Astor, written by Maurice Colls, who lived near the Thames Hotel, but who was often in Taplow.

Near to it was another book - "Joyce Grenfell by herself". The Joyce Grenfell, who lived in Taplow for most of her life and was a member and good supporter of The Society.

Ours may be only a small village, but if twenty per cent of the books in far-away Nyanga have Taplow connections.....

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Satellite Television Aerials - Planning Control

We thought that Members might find it useful to have some guidance on whether or not planning consent is necessary to erect a satellite dish. We therefore approached the Planning Department of South Bucks District Council who produced some very useful notes and a flow chart from a planning authority in East Sussex; this is reproduced opposite.

The Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988 (as amended) permits the installation of one satellite dish anywhere within the curtilage of a dwelling house, providing that the size of the antenna, including its mountings but excluding any feed element, does not exceed 90cm in any dimension; and that no part of the antenna exceeds the highest part of the roof of the dwelling house on which it is installed.

While that may appear straightforward, it is not necessarily so. A block of flats or a maisonette are regarded, for the purpose of this Section, as one house and therefore only one dish would be permitted. Irrespective of the type of property, planning permission will always be required for the installation of a subsequent dish.

Any proposed installation upon a listed building of special, architectural or historic interest will require listed building consent in addition to any requirement for planning consent.

Should planning consent be required, the application would be considered on its merits with the visual impact of the installation of major importance. If it is unduly obtrusive and likely to detract from visual amenities, consent might be refused. The size, position and colour of the installation would all be relevant factors in assessing the acceptability of the proposal. Within a conservation area where there is a requirement to enhance as well as preserve the character of the area and where the setting of a listed building would be affected, particular care will need to be taken.

There are enforcement powers available to a planning authority to secure the removal of any unauthorised installation. Therefore - if in any doubt, ASK!

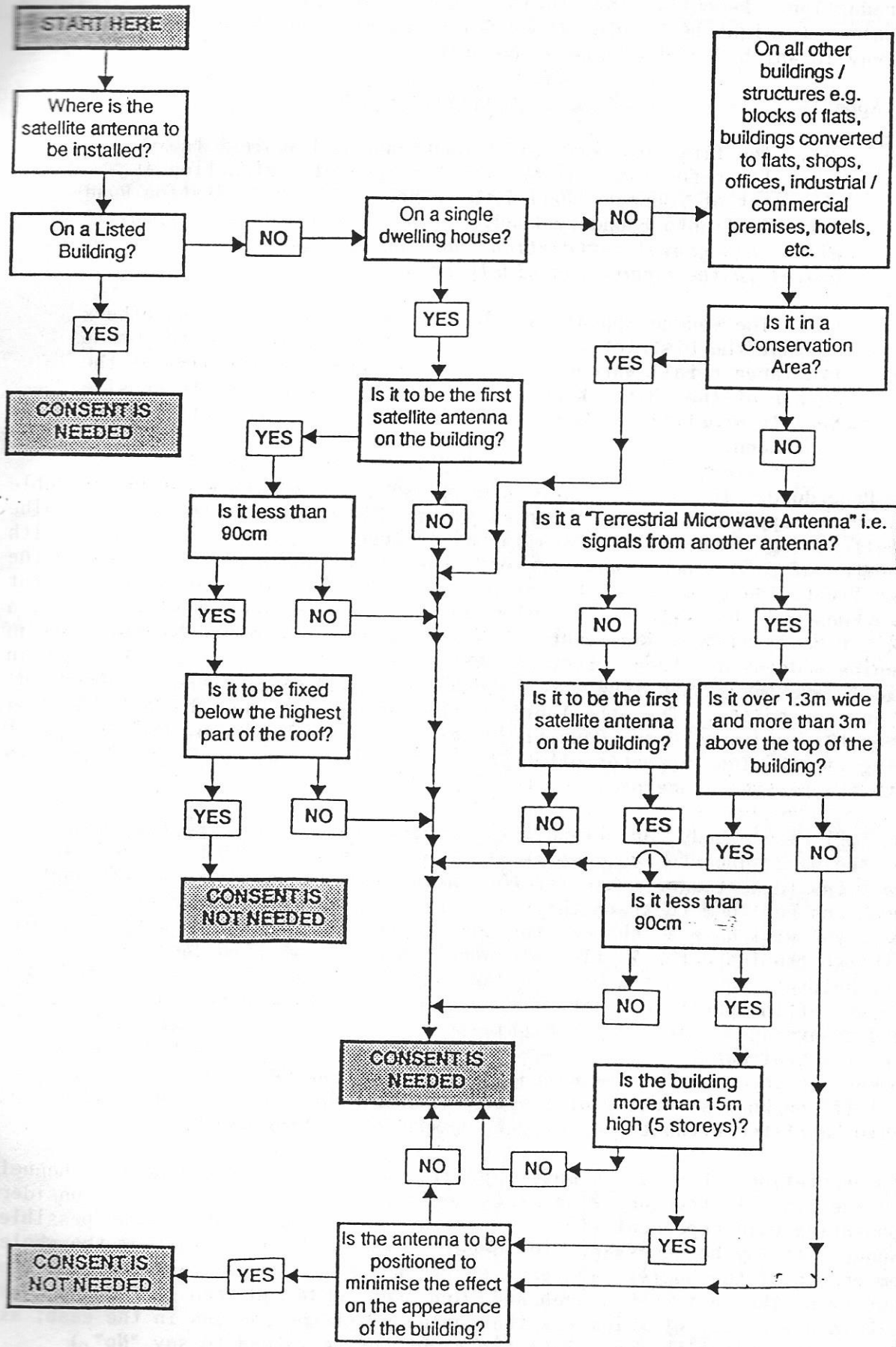
When you ask, we suggest you give the following information:-

1. A block plan of the dwelling house showing the road and the adjoining houses. Mark in red the approximate position of the proposed antenna.
2. A photograph or a drawing of the house giving the position of the antenna, and the height of it and the house.
3. The status of the dwelling - eg. flat within a block etc.
4. Whether it is within a conservation area.
5. Whether it or its neighbours are listed.
6. The type of the proposed antenna and its colour.
7. The maximum dimension including all fixings.
8. Whether there is an antenna on the dwelling house already.
9. Your own assessment of how obtrusive it will be from any direction.

The promoters, we are told, need to sell 3-5 million receivers in the initial stage to stay in business. That is of epidemic proportions.

We hope these notes will be of some use and we are grateful to the Planning Department for their assistance. The check list above is of our own making; the Planning Department may ask for further information.

Tony Hickman



Planning Appeals

Introduction. Recently the Society has been involved in two Planning Appeals. It might be helpful if we described the procedure at an Appeal and the way in which Society Members can help.

The Appeals.

(a). The first one was by Summerleaze Ltd against the County Council's refusal to allow further gravel extraction at the site west of Boundary Road with a new access onto Station Road instead of onto Boundary Road. *(The result of this appeal to allow this gravel extraction on the grounds of 'need' for gravel in the County was widely reported in the local press.)*

(b). The second appeal was by Sainsbury Home Base and others against the District Council's refusal to allow them to put up two large retail warehouses and a restaurant on the site at the corner of the Bath Road and Lake End Road and to re-site Neville & Griffin's Dairy. The result of this has not yet been announced.

The Procedure. The hearing is before a highly experienced and knowledgeable Inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment. The Appellant (eg. Summerleaze) usually has a large team from their Company with a number of paid experts who present the Appellant's point of view in the best light. The team is led by a barrister who is invariably competent but sometimes rude to witnesses. The Respondent (eg County Council) has a smaller team led by a Barrister. As in a law court, each side makes an opening address and then produces witnesses who give their 'evidence in chief', are 'cross examined' by the other side and finally are 're-examined' on any new points. The Appellant's team goes first then the Respondent's. After the evidence, each Council makes a closing address, the Respondent going first. The Inspector often asks questions and will visit the site with the parties concerned.

The Public. Anybody can attend the hearing and it is important that they do. We were supported by Members of the Society at both hearings. At the start the Inspector will ask for the name and address of those who want to speak and get them to state their interest in the matter. If you give your name, you will have a chance to ask questions of all the witnesses and, although the Inspector is flexible about the time when you are to speak and very helpful, you don't have to speak after all if you don't want to. All members of the public are asked to record their presence on each day (2 - 4 days is average). At the Summerleaze Appeal, Tony Hickman and Alistair Forsyth, Chairman T.P.C., spoke; at Sainsbury's, Tony Hickman and myself spoke. As you are cross examined by the Respondent's barrister, it is as well if you know something of the case and are able to stand up to attack by their barrister without losing your temper or getting caught out!

Representation. For future major appeals, such as the Flood Relief Channel and the Mineral Structure Plan, the Society will have seriously to consider appointing paid representatives to present our views in the best possible manner. It may be necessary to develop some way of consulting the whole membership of the Society at very short notice. (I was asked if **all** the Members of the Society had seen and approved what had been written down as my evidence a copy of which was then held by all the parties in the case; as I had written it with Tony, late the night before, I had to say "No".)

Dick Nutt