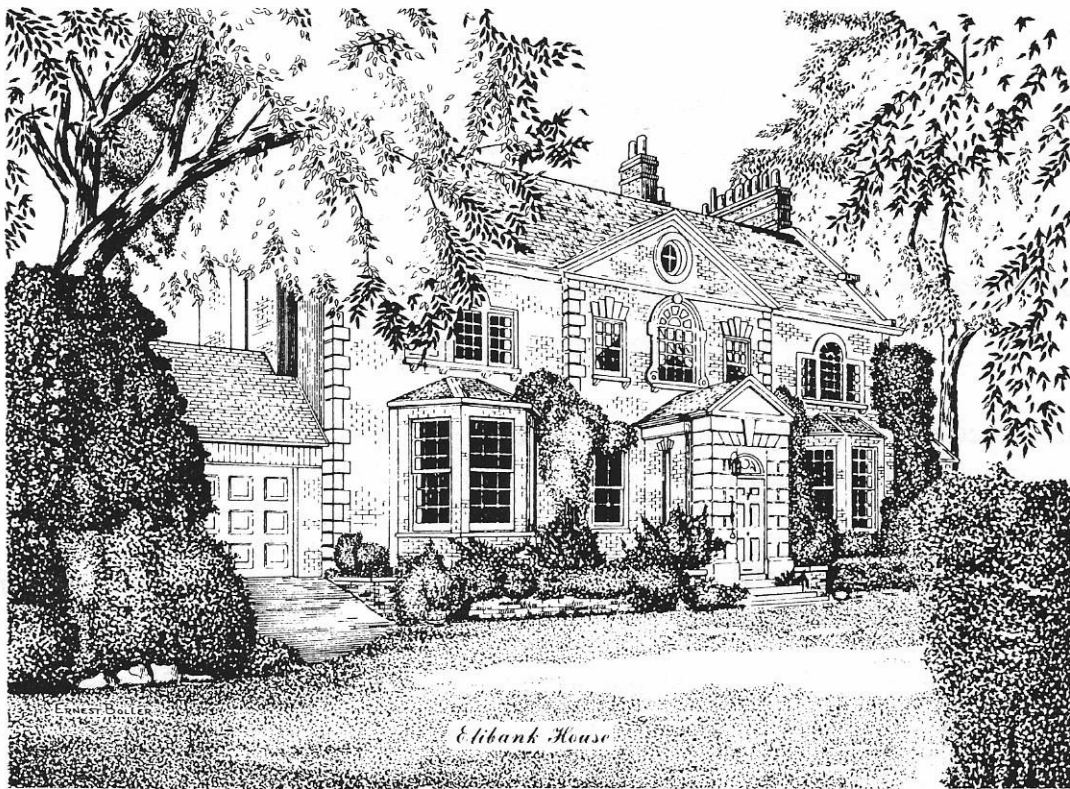


HITCHAM &
TAPLOW
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

No 66 - Spring 1996



Elibank House

*The front elevation of Elibank House, Rectory Road by Ernest Boller
See article on page 5*

HITCHAM AND TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

A Society, formed in 1959, to protect Hitcham, Taplow and the surrounding countryside from being spoilt by bad development or neglect.

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HITCHAM AND TAPLOW PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Officers And Executive Committee Members

President	John Kennedy
Vice Presidents	Louis Freedman CBE, Sheila Horton, Eileen Law, Helen Lee, Anne Milne
Chairman	Eva Lipman , <i>Upper Bumbles, Saxon Gardens, Taplow, SL6 ODD Tel: 01628 24626</i>
Treasurer	Hugh Nixon
Secretary	Sally Sandy 01628 36351
Committee	Liz Anderson, Bill Ball, Maureen Dennis, Michael Goss, Andy McKenzie, Leonard Miall, Barrie Peroni, Sheila Robson, Fred Russell, Derek Walker, Helen Wogan

EDITORIAL

When Danita Pierce unexpectedly left Taplow in the summer of 1991 to return to New York no one could be found to succeed her as Editor of the Newsletter. Dick Nutt, who had already served seventeen years as the Secretary and main driving force of the Preservation Society, had been acting as the Newsletter's publisher. He generously undertook to use his publishing equipment to put together material initiated by her, with much more contributed or gathered by himself, to get out the next Newsletter.

Still no volunteers came forward. Over the next two years Dick Nutt managed to produce five newsletters. He protested in each edition that he was Not the Editor, and appealed for someone to take it on. By the autumn of 1993 his patience had finally run out. At the last Annual General Meeting, in October 1995, it was reported that there had been no Newsletter for the last two years.

My daughter Ginny Felton suggested to me, 'If you gather the material together I'll have a go at producing it for publication.' I thought I had done my stint for the Society, having presided from 1974 to 1991, but Ginny, whose mother was the Society's first Secretary in 1959, persuaded me it was our duty, so here we are.

Leonard Miall
Maryfield Cottage, High Street, Taplow SL6 OEX
Tel: 01628 604195.

POINTS FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 13th October 1995

The retiring Chairman, Bill Ball, reported that decision to go ahead with the Maidenhead Flood Relief Channel had been a great disappointment to those who had put so much effort into preparing the Society's case against it. Vigilance would be needed to ensure that the undertakings and safeguards were observed, and the disruption and inconvenience minimised.

He noted that for the first time in ten years rain had threatened to spoil the 1995 annual Village Green Party. Although numbers were down on previous years, those who braved the elements thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Village Hall, always booked as a standby for this occasion, was used for dancing and worked well. The local charity chosen to run the raffle that year had been the Steeple Repair Fund of St Nicolas'. The Society augmented the raffle proceeds by a gift of £500.00.

An amendment to the rules of the Society limiting the terms of office to three years was adopted, despite complaints to the President, John Kennedy, that the proposal should have been circulated beforehand to allow proper consideration.

There were substantial changes in the officers. Bill Ball relinquished the chairmanship and was succeeded by Eva Lipman. Bob Hanbury who had been chairman 1983-91, and then secretary following Dick Nutt, did not wish to stand again. The Society subsequently presented pictures by Sheila Horton to both Bob Hanbury and Dick Nutt in recognition of the great service they had rendered over long periods.

The new secretary is Sally Sandy. There were six vacancies on the Committee, three of which were subsequently filled by the co-option of Helen Wogan, Leonard Miall and Sheila Robson.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Aircraft Noise. Aircraft are never permitted to take off from Heathrow between 11 pm and 7 am, and may only land between those hours in exceptional conditions. If you are troubled by aircraft noise the Freephone number is 0800 344844.

Litter on the roads. Notify the Cleansing Section of the South Bucks District Council 01753-533333 Ext. 339 (Mr J. Ellis)

Flood Relief Channel. Work is due to start in Berry Hill Garden in September 1996, from 7 am to 6 pm weekdays and 7 am to 1 pm Saturdays. Complaints or queries should be made to the National Rivers Authority's Maidenhead office 8 am to 6 pm weekdays and 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays, Freephone 0800 515086.

DIARY DATES FOR 1996

Village Green Party	Saturday, June 15, 6.00pm - 10.00pm (see back page)
Cliveden Open Air Theatre Festival	The Taming of the Shrew 26-30 June Hamlet 3-7 July.
AGM	Friday, 4th October, 8.00pm at Taplow Village Centre followed by a talk on the English Heritage Protection Programme by the archaeologist David Went.

CLIVEDEN

After the Annual General Meeting an illustrated talk on recent developments in the grounds of Cliveden during the National Trust's Centenary Year was given by the new Property Manager, Timothy Pulverman. He has kindly provided this summary of the work that was being undertaken in the autumn of 1995.

Centenary year is nearly over - and what a success it has been. Apart from Children's Day, we have been blessed with good weather and attendances have reflected this. The Open Air Theatre Gala Performance of a Shakespearean Anthology was sheer delight, and the remainder of the Festival was very well attended and enjoyed by all - even on the first Friday when it rained throughout the evening!

We also had a successful reception for members of the National Gardens Scheme who so generously donated the money to pay for the renovation of the Rose Garden, and our own contribution towards the Centenary - a performance of Dido and Aeneas in the Amphitheatre - was a memorable event.

We have been visited by both Lord Chorley and Sir Angus Stirling, as well as other senior members of the National Trust. All in all it has been a memorable, if exhausting, year.

Repairs to the Clock Tower are on schedule, and repairs to the Chapel have started. Opening the Chapel to the public as an experiment on Thursday and Sunday afternoons, at the same time as the House, has proved an unqualified success and next year it will be opened on a regular basis whenever the House is open.

The combination in 1995 of a wet March and the drought adversely affected the gardens. Cliveden is surprisingly fragile - the exposed position, well drained subsoil and thin topsoil make it a harsh environment and it does appear that we may lose a number of shrubs and trees. Let us hope the rain came in time. The grass paths through the Water Garden and Long Garden were worn bare, and will be reurfed this winter, while more stone slabs will be laid in the Water Garden in the most vulnerable areas (where children feed the fish!).

This year, 1995, we have had 6,000 more visitors than in the same period last year; if this rise in visitor numbers continues we shall have to find a way of absorbing them without harming the Estate. This will be an interesting challenge and we are already thinking what might be done.

LIFE IN 1996 - Lincoln Lee

Down by the bridge, or near the station, I often lose my concentration,
For there on fence or post I see, a notice clearly aimed at me:
'Pine Sale' it says, or 'Golfing Gear; the price is low - there's nothing dear.'
I brake the car to read it better (at speed you can't read every letter).
The sign goes on: 'All Bankrupt Stock'. But still I wish a better lock
Had been upon that door before last week when someone - rotten boor -
Took golfing gear from my old shed while I lay fast asleep in bed.

But wait. This sale was held in June. I didn't read the notice soon
Enough to get the bargain date - was months ago! I'm far too late.
The notice placed to name the date is stale as pine sale, circus, fete
All advertised along the lane, but advertised for me in vain,
For every sign, to save some pence, has stayed for months on tree or fence
So, as I want my gear again, and though it goes against the grain,
After I end this dreary tale, I'll have to visit 'Car Loot Sale.'

ELIBANK HOUSE

Rectory Road, Taplow

Edward V. Wright, who lived at Elibank before the present owners, Alan and Susan Senior, contributes these notes on its history.

The 'extended' Wright family, consisting of Jane and myself with a daughter and four sons, plus Jane's elderly parents and potentially her brother from the Far East, descended on Taplow in 1970. My job moved south from Hull that year and we had to wrench ourselves from the very charming Old Rectory at Walkington, near Beverley, which we had bought from the Church ten years before.

The very first house in the appropriate part of the Home Counties that took our fancy was Elibank House, which was in the right location and had all the accommodation we sought. The older main house would suit ourselves and the already subdivided Victorian extension to the rear provided flats for the grandparents and my brother-in-law. In the basement flat, our son Tim could carry out his researches into owl-pellets! Apart from its garden and immediate good looks, especially from the south, there was plainly some history attached to the place, and the people of Taplow provided the friendliest of receptions.

There was one rumour that the house had originally been designed by Sir John Vanbrugh (1664-1726), which would have been consistent with the obviously early 18th Century appearance of the south front with Venetian windows and a central pediment. However the date 1737 is cast in the rainwater heads and this would have been too late for Vanbrugh. It may have been that Vanbrugh sketched an elevation and someone else later designed the details. The rear part (now The Dower House), the porch, and the ground floor bay windows are Victorian additions.

My first line of investigation was into the name 'Elibank', since the house appeared to have aristocratic connections. A clue soon came from a copy of Burke's Peerage (1970 edition) which identified the title 'Lord Elibank' as having been granted to Sir Patrick Murray Bt in 1643. His father, also Patrick, had been made a Nova Scotia baronet in 1621 and his grandfather, Sir Gideon Murray, a true Border laird but later Treasurer for Scotland, had acquired Elibank in Co. Selkirk in 1594 (or 5). He had had the courtesy title of 'Lord Elibank'; but the grandson, Sir Patrick, was the first formal Lord Elibank. The second baron, also Patrick, joined Montrose in the Civil War and was heavily fined for his pains, Stuart support running through much of the early family history. The title was handed down from father to son through the rest of the 17th century.

The fifth baron, another Patrick Murray, was evidently a man of parts and is a possible candidate for the building of Elibank House. He was born in 1703 and succeeded to the title in 1735 (or 1736). Either he - or one of his brothers who were around London at the time - might have used it as a residence near to town, or to the Court at Windsor. As a lieutenant-colonel Lord Elibank commanded Lord Wynyard's marines on Admiral Vernon's ill-fated 1741 Cartagena expedition in what is now Colombia.

Twenty years later he is referred to several times by James Boswell in the London Journal of 1762-3 as moving in intellectual circles where Samuel Johnson is said to have admired his conversation. He had no children and was succeeded in 1778 by his brother George who had been in the Navy. He had sailed with Anson on his circumnavigation (1740-44) and later also became an admiral. One younger brother, Alexander, an ardent Jacobite, was imprisoned at Newgate by Parliament in 1751 and later went into exile in France, being recalled in 1771.

Another brother, James, was a general in the Army. He commanded Wolfe's left wing at the capture of Quebec in 1759, becoming its governor in that year, and the first British Governor of Canada in 1763. He was later made Governor of Minorca, with an inadequate garrison consisting mainly of invalids. They were besieged by both the French and the Spanish, and finally surrendered with honour in 1782. There were only a few survivors, mostly suffering from scurvy, against an enemy of between twelve and fifteen thousand. Murray was court-martialled but acquitted and came to be known as 'Old Minorca'.

The family seem to have been prominent in the services throughout the mid-18th century, especially in the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-48) and the Seven Years War (1756-63). George, the admiral, died childless in 1785 and the title passed to his nephew Alexander. Thereafter it continued by direct descent to the 12th baron.

The tenth Baron Elibank, Gideon, was born in 1840 and in 1911 became the first Viscount Elibank. There were two more viscounts. The third and last married the Barrie actress Faith Celli, who played Peter Pan in 1918, but they had no children and the viscountcy became extinct on his death in 1962. The barony, however, passed to James, the great-grandson of the 8th baron, whose son had married an Erskine and whose descendants adopted the name Erskine-Murray. The present baron, the 14th Lord Elibank, succeeded his cousin in 1973.

Elibank since 1811

The history of Elibank House after it ceased to belong to the lords Elibank is partly based on information provided by **Tony Packe**, the Burnham archivist who grew up in Taplow, and by **Leonard Miall**, as well as on legal documents in the possession of Alan Senior and of Ted Wright.

In 1811 the then Lord Elibank surrendered the title of the house in Rectory Road, in trust, to Viscount Kirkwall. He was the son of the Earl of Orkney, the owner of Taplow Court, whose crest was a half-sawn oak, hence the Oak and Saw Inn at Taplow. The earls of Orkney had lived at Taplow Court from about 1700 until 1852 when the fifth earl became bankrupt. He sold Taplow Court to Charles Pascoe Grenfell, of Taplow House (now the Taplow House Hotel), the grandfather of Lord Desborough.

The following year, 1853, the Grenfell family also acquired Elibank House from the fifth Lord Orkney as an entailed estate controlled by various independent trustees. In 1870 five members of the Grenfell family became the trustees themselves.

These Grenfells immediately conveyed the title to Elibank in trust to Mrs Anna Matilda Graham of Glasgow, whose daughter Elizabeth had married in 1862 (Charles) Seymour Grenfell, one of the five mentioned above. Mrs Graham then gave back the conveyance in trust to Elizabeth Grenfell as an addition to her marriage settlement.

Seymour and Elizabeth Grenfell had one son, Riversdale Francis John, known as Dick, and three daughters. Mildred, the eldest, married Brigadier-General Henri G. Joly de Lotbinière DSO, of French-Canadian descent. They lived at Elibank for a while. Their elder son, Lt-Colonel Sir Edmond Joly de Lotbinière, had a distinguished career in the Royal Engineers.

His younger brother, Seymour, who had taught Tony Packe to ride a bicycle at Elibank, was called to the Bar and then joined the BBC where he was known as Lobby. He was 6'8" tall. In 1932 he produced King George V's first Christmas broadcast to the Empire from Sandringham. The King told his family afterwards that he wanted them to shake hands with the longest man he had ever seen. Later Lobby was in charge of outside broadcasts for both radio and television and was responsible for the coverage of the 1953 Coronation. The Grenfells' second daughter, Alice, married Lord Mildmay of Flete in Devon, and the third, Cecily, married Lord Charles Cavendish-Bentinck, the brother of the Duke of Portland.

Seymour Grenfell died in 1924 and his wife followed in 1930. Thereupon Dick (Riversdale) Grenfell became the tenant for life. The following year he leased Elibank to George Pleydell Bancroft, the

barrister son of the well-known actor-manager Sir Squire Bancroft and his brilliant actress wife Marie Wilton. In 1934 Dick Grenfell was able to break the entail and convey the freehold of the property to George Bancroft, his tenant. Contrary to local legend, Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft never owned Elibank House.

A character sketch of George Bancroft in his later years appeared in the reminiscences of the late **Sir Geoffrey de Freitas**, *The Slighter Side*. Writing of his early days as a young barrister immediately before the Second World War, Sir Geoffrey recalled:

'The most colourful member of our mess was Bancroft, the clerk of the circuit. Bancroft's father had been a well-known Victorian actor and his son had a carefully cultivated voice of the old school. He was also getting old and was finding it more and more difficult to read or see what was happening in court. One day, having read the commission at the opening of the assizes in Lincoln, he confused that document with the document setting out the charge against the first prisoner. We were all, especially the judge, surprised when Bancroft, a formidable-looking man with a very white wig, glared at the dock and said in a loud voice: "How say you, Roland Gifford Oliver, are you guilty or not guilty?" Naturally the prisoner did not reply because his name had not been mentioned. On the other hand Sir Roland Gifford Oliver did say something. Mr Justice Oliver lent forward from the bench and politely told Bancroft to sit down. The judge then put the correct question to the prisoner.

'At another assizes in Lincoln I had a dock brief. This meant that without notice I was asked to defend a prisoner who could not pay for counsel. I duly went down to the cells to see my client. He was anxious to plead guilty and get it over with. I came up and told Bancroft. The prisoner was brought up from the cells. The Lincoln court was curiously constructed. The dock was behind counsel, so I could not see what happened. It turned out that the prisoner, a timorous man, had fainted when confronted by Bancroft's startlingly white wig and deep theatrical voice. He was caught by a warder who was holding him up. Naturally, Bancroft got no answer from the dock, whereupon the judge, who could see the prisoner over my head, asked me whether the prisoner was fit to plead. I answered confidently, "I talked to him in his cell only a few minutes ago. He is fit to plead, my Lord." There was a titter and I looked round and saw my poor client hanging from the warder's arm like an empty sack. At least I could now see what had happened. Bancroft could not. Facing the judge, he said in his best theatre

voice, with the worst misunderstanding of the problem: "Methinks, Me Lud, the prisoner is not mute by the visitation of God, but is mute of malice."

In 1956, after the death of George Bancroft, his executors, who included Sir Norman Birkett KC, later a war crimes judge at Nuremberg, conveyed Elibank to L.O.Bamber, a Surrey estate agent and developer, who converted the rear part of the house into flats. The following year he sold the main house to Derek Livsey, and the stable-block (now called The Old Coach House) to Brian Horton.

In 1970 Derek Livsey sold Elibank House to Ted Wright, who, two years later, conveyed the derelict lodge with a strip of land to the owners of The Old Coach House to provide it with a separate drive.

Alan and Sue Senior bought Elibank House from Ted Wright in 1979 and sold part of the garden to form Elibank Court, where Ken and Maud Johnson live. The Seniors made extensive alterations to the interior of Elibank House, and also to the Victorian rear wing, reconverting the flats into a single dwelling, now known as The Dower House. It was bought in 1982 by Stephen and Sandra Randall, and then in 1993 by George and Sally Sandy.

An Adolescent View

Joanna Brooking, now of 1 Elm View, adds these personal recollections of Elibank in the Sixties.

I lived in 'Top Flat', Elibank House, with my mother Kate from about 1962 to 1968. We had previously shared a house with my grandparents in North London and knew of Taplow through my godparents, Bush and Joan Bailey, who then lived in Burnham.

The front half of the house was inhabited by our kind landlords, Derek and Peggy Livsey. Their children, Georgie, Julie and Charles still have local contacts. Charles lives at Dorney and his wife Sylvia started the Thames Valley Adventure Playground.

At that time the back of the house was divided into three flats. The top flat had previously been occupied by Peggy Livsey's niece Diana Atkinson, and had spacious rooms where my mother created a beautiful home for us. In the middle flat lived the Hatfields, Johnny, Sybil and her elderly mother, Blanche Cox. Johnny walked with a stick and was colour-blind and they did not often go out, except for weekly shopping trips. Sybil, with very blonde permanently waved hair, was usually bedecked in beads and highly made-up. As I was a teenager during these years, I was strongly discouraged from bouncing around with my friends, or playing the

latest Beatles record too loudly, in case I disturbed the Hatfields!

I was delighted when my mother also decided to take in a homeless cat to share our abode. It was, however, a high class homeless cat, a white pedigree Persian which had been supplied by Harrods' pet department to the advertising agency where my mother worked, to appear in a Sunlight soap television commercial. This special cat, Jezebel Snowcloud, was with us for about five years, but then fell victim to one of the many cars which swept into the Elibank driveways. Derek Livsey used to keep a yellow and black Rolls Royce which caused one or two of my early boy friends to raise an eyebrow!

The basement flat was occupied by Gardener. Astonishingly I never knew his real name, as everyone referred to him as Gardener all the time. I think he had been employed by the Livseys for several years. I never saw the inside of his flat. All three of the flats, however, used the same main entrance, and I was invited to leave my bicycle in the ground floor hall under the stairway. The floor there was tiled. It was dank and dark.

Gardener did a marvellous job at maintaining the extensive, attractive grounds of this very interesting mansion. In recent years at the Oak and Saw pub before old Billy Chandler died he told me that he had known the Elibank gardener for years. I would love to know what Gardener and Billy could have told about Taplow life in the early part of the century.

Although we were allocated our own personal patch of lawn and flower bed beyond the tennis court, we were also able to appreciate the whole garden. I was told then that the plane tree in the central lawn was the largest in England. Although the surface of the hard tennis court at that time was not ideal, I recall many happy afternoons spent with my school friends hitting tennis balls. Beyond this area was the vegetable garden, from which chickens clucked and cocks crowed at 5.00 am.

During this period in Taplow we enjoyed the services of a post office. It was at the back of a useful general shop in the High Street, which would deliver our orders, as would the Rectory Road butcher who sold excellent fresh meat. We did not own a car and our weekly grocery shopping was all done on Saturday in the village. My mother sometimes supplemented this by bringing things back from London on the train during the week.

One incident of note at Elibank was the night of the fire. I think I was about 12 or 13 when my mother woke me in the middle of the night to say there was a fire in the main part of the house and we should evacuate. We used the fire escape which descended from our kitchen window (and which I also frequently used anyway for quick access to the

garden). The fire was not serious enough to affect the flats, but the smoke damage required redecoration later. We took refuge with Brian and Sheila Horton and their three little girls, our neighbours in Elibank Cottage, now The Old Coach

House. Sheila made us all tea at 2.00 am while the fire brigade came to try to save the impressive wood-panelled library. I look back on my years spent living at Elibank as a special time, and feel privileged to have been there.

LOCAL PLANNING

Because of the Newsletter hiatus it is not feasible to record all the planning decisions since October 1993. These are the main developments since December 1995.

Taplow Paper Mill, Mill Lane. Early in 1996 the Society became again concerned at the number of lorries that were being parked overnight and at weekend periods in the lay-by at the Paper Mill, contrary to the planning regulations. Members of the Society monitored the situation for a week, making careful notes of the numbers of lorries illegally parked, together with their license numbers. These were sent to the South Bucks district Council, who took the matter up with the company which runs the Paper Mill. Orders to cease this abuse were immediately issued and since 29th February no lorries have been parked in the Mill Lane lay-by at unauthorised times.

Bishop Centre. The Society also registered its objection to proposals for two externally illuminated pillar mounted signs, and a landscaped water feature with three flag poles at the Bishop Centre. The South Bucks Director of Planning Services has decided to refuse these applications, though the applicants have the right to appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The Minutes of the SBCD Planning & Transportation Committee from 17 January to 16 April 1996 have been studied and extracts are given below

Hill Farm, Hill Farm Road, Taplow (S/950859/FF)
Retention of detached dwelling.

Permission refused

River Court, River Road, Taplow (S/95/0867/FF)
Provision of additional car parking.

Conditional permission

The Dumb Bell Public House, Bath Road, Taplow (S/96/0044/FF)
Provision of children's play area to replace existing equipment.

Conditional permission

(S/96/0110/FF)
Erection of a walk-in cold store and a shed for storage of garden equipment and relocation of boundary fence.

Conditional permission

SUBSCRIPTIONS

*The minimum subscription is £2 per annum. Cheques payable to Hitcham & Taplow Preservation Society should be sent to **Hugh Nixon**, The Coach House, Rectory Road, Taplow, SL6 0ET Tel: 01628 70388 who will gladly provide trouble saving Bankers Order Forms*

HEATHROW TERMINAL 5 PROJECT

DEREK WALKER

An immense amount of material is being written and published for and against the building of a fifth terminal at Heathrow. Indeed the respective lobbies are giving great help to the paper and publishing industries. What follows is, I hope, as balanced a view as is possible at this time, remembering that the whole project is subject to a Public Inquiry. This has been in session for some time and is not expected to reach a decision until 1997.

The case for the project, in terms of retaining business against competition from Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Paris, is very strong, and provided that there are no overwhelming environmental costs and concerns, it is in the national interest that the project should proceed.

The Public Inquiry is looking at the question of need, having regard to the ever increasing number of passenger and aircraft movements. It is scrutinising the solution put forward, paying regard to the many environmental concerns that arise from increasing the size of Heathrow by building a fifth terminal. Questions considered have been: Where is it going to be? Does it mean another runway? What about access roads and the effect on traffic? Noise, particularly at night? Air quality? Aircraft accident risk? Development pressures? Regional planning policy? Impact from the construction on local communities? The economic case?

These questions cannot be dealt with briefly, because they are properly the subject of the Inquiry. All that one can report is described in the British Airports Authority's planning application. The new terminal would occupy a site between the two main runways, where the Perry Oaks sludge ponds are now located - these are already in course of being moved by Thames Water by reason of a separate project.

The terminal would consist of a main building with two satellites on the east side, linked by a tunnel. It would include car parking, a hotel mainly for transit passengers, workshops including engine testing facilities, retail space and the usual handling facilities. Work would be started in 1997. The first phase would become operational in 2002, with the project completed in 2016, depending on circumstances at the time. It is calculated that at the completion of the whole project Heathrow could handle 80 million passengers a year, but only 50 million without it, because it would lack the facilities to handle the next generation of large aircraft coming into service by that time.

Access would be provided partly through a new spur from the M25 and partly from the perimeter road. It is believed that this should reduce pressure on the main entry points from the M4 and the A3113.

On the subject of aircraft noise, it is contended that by 2002 most of the old 'noisy' aircraft will be phased out, and with the new quieter jets, if T5 is built, it is estimated that by 2016 the number of people living inside the Department of Transport noise criterion will be 300,000 (a little over half those affected today). However this compares with 225,000 people projected without the terminal.

The project does not depend on a third runway being built to be viable.

Air pollution is said to be unlikely to exceed current EC Guidelines.

While it is accepted that there would be disruption during construction, there would be a code of construction practice which would have to be followed by the contractors.

An environmental statement prepared by the consultants ERM which deals with all the above points, and more, was attached to the original planning application.

In Hitcham and Taplow we must hope that the issues of noise, and particularly noise at night, are dealt with satisfactorily by the Inquiry, and that proper lasting safeguards will emerge. Equally we should be concerned about air quality and inter alia safeguards against any increase in air pollution. To some extent these would depend on precise aircraft movements dictated by air traffic control.

The flow of traffic in and around the airport and the two motorways is of concern to us. However the estimates given at this time do not show this to be a major problem, particularly in view of the new public transport links to be built right into the new terminal.

In summary, while we should be watchful, and provided the environmental safeguards are there, the case for the project being in the national interest can be made.

OBITUARIES

Leonard Miall

ERIC POPE

Eric Pope died at Wexham Hospital on 3 January 1996, shortly after his 78th birthday. He was a keen and hard-working member of the Preservation Society's Executive Committee in the 1970s. In 1982, after the Annual General Meeting, a most inspiring illustrated talk was given by Mrs Barbara Prior, the Chairman of the Thames Valley Adventure Playground for Handicapped Children. Eric Pope's spontaneous gesture was to propose that we should immediately take a collection to support the Playground's work. He took his own hat round the hall and collected over £70, worth more than twice that amount at today's prices.

Later Eric made great contributions to the Thames Valley Adventure Playground himself, not of money but of his time and musical skill. Over some five years, until Parkinson's disease forced him to stop, he went two or three times a week to soothe and stimulate the handicapped children, who loved both his music and his humour. One boy, who was unable to speak, listened with rapt attention to his performance. As soon as the music stopped the boy would take Eric's hands and firmly place them back onto the keyboard. He was a most versatile musician who loved classical music and played jazz superbly. In his will he bequeathed to the Thames Valley Adventure Playground the Yamaha piano on which he used to entertain the children.

Eric Pope worked for MI6 and was posted at different time to Paris, Singapore, India and Brussels. He and his wife Laura (Lynn) came to live in Queen Anne's House on Berry Hill in 1956 and later moved next door, into Queen Anne's Cottage, which had been the stabling block when Queen Anne's House was a hotel.

CATHERINE MARTINEAU

Catherine Martineau, usually known as 'Cash', died on 22 October 1995 at the age of 84. After she and her late husband John Martineau were bombed out of their London flat in 1940 they moved to Old Lodge, High Street, Taplow. They both played an important part in preserving the amenities of Taplow, well before the Preservation Society was founded.

Readers of the Newsletter may be interested in the origin of the Taplow and Hitcham Recreation Grounds Association and how the land alongside Institute Road was saved from becoming a caravan park and converted into a recreation ground and sports field.

In 1955 Eileen Matthews, (Mrs Law, the chairman and founder of the Taplow Horse Show) was on the Eton Rural District Council. She suddenly learnt there that a bid had been made to buy the disused old gravel pit between Boundary Road and the Women's Institute and convert it into a caravan site. The land had provided gravel for the Great Western Railway embankment early in the nineteenth century. During the Second World War it had been used for the storage of barbed wire and was in a very derelict condition. She alerted a number of public spirited people on the Parish Council and elsewhere, including Cash and Jack Martineau. They approached the owner who said that if they could beat the caravan developer's offer by £50 by the end of the weekend he would sell the land to them.

Frantic activity followed, much of it based at the Martineaus' house, and by combined generous efforts they managed to raise enough pledges of interest-free loans just in time. Cash Martineau not only contributed herself but also witnessed six of the eighteen signatures of the initial subscribers. This led to the creation of the Taplow and Hitcham Recreation Grounds Association, registered as a charity. Its main object was to maintain a recreation ground for the use of the inhabitants of Taplow and Hitcham.

In the early days the Association's funds were very limited but it was able to lay out part of the land for public recreation. In order to obtain some income it also became a company limited by guarantee and was able to let the remaining land to Flexello as a sports field. Jack Martineau arranged that Flexello bore the cost of clearing, levelling and seeding the ground. Later Flexello's lease was taken over by the Phoenix and Claires Court Sports Association.

In 1960, when the Maidenhead by-pass section of the M4 was being built, the Recreation Grounds Association Ltd was able to sell the remaining gravel on the northern part of the field to the contractor, and so place itself on a sound financial footing. It then generously helped the local Scouts and Girl Guides by providing them with land and money towards the building of their huts. The original subscribers to the interest-free loan were repaid, much to the surprise of most of them.

Thanks to this far-sightedness and generosity, led by the Martineaus and Eileen Law, Taplow and Hitcham have been spared an unsightly caravan park, and in its place have acquired both an excellent charitable recreation area with facilities for the Scouts and Guides, and a fine self-supporting sports field.

Catherine Makepeace Thackeray Ritchie Martineau had a formidable literary lineage. Thackeray was her great-grandfather. Her great-great-uncles included Lord Macaulay and George Otto Trevelyan. She worked during the war at the Canadian Red Cross Hospital with Joyce Grenfell, with whom she was on close terms. She was also a friend and patron of the Cookham artists Sir Stanley Spencer and his brother Gilbert, and when the Martineaus left Taplow in February 1964 to move to the family home at Walsham le Willows in Suffolk they offered a house there to Gilbert Spencer. She retained many friends in Taplow.

Unless otherwise stated, the views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society or its Executive Committee.

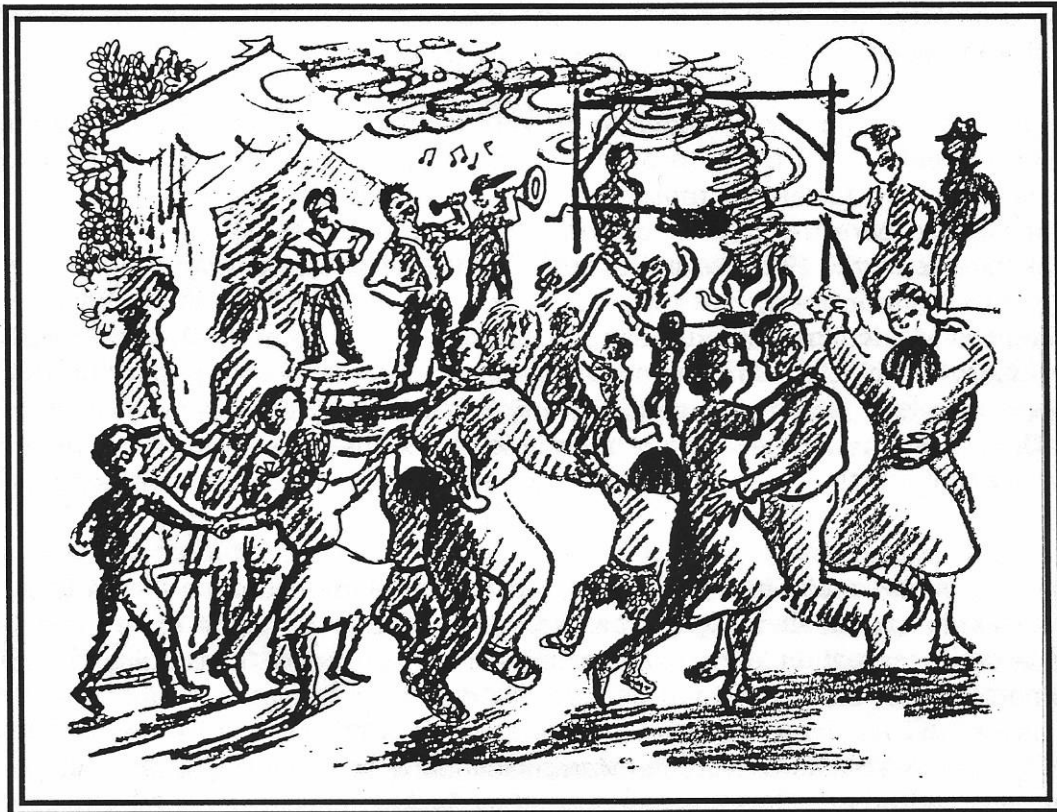
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Village Green Party

Saturday June 15th 1996

6.00pm - 10.00pm

Panision



*Bring the family and friends, your own drinks and picnic -
and enjoy the Hog Roast and barbecue.*

Music and country dancing with
Mike Sanderson and his Musicians

Tickets are available from Cassie Lloyd, St Nicolas House, Rectory Road, Taplow.

Entrance Fee	Members £1.00	Non-members £2.50
Roast Pork	Early purchase £2.50	On the day £3.00
Barbecue	Early purchase £1.50	On the day £2.00

Please use the booking form on the accompanying flier.