

HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY

(Registered with the Civil Trust)

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J. Scruton Esq.,
17 London Road,
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Tel: High Wycombe 25933

NEWSLETTER NO.63 SUMMER 1986

Registered Charity No. 257897

Draft High Wycombe Area Local Plan

The eagerly awaited District Local Plan, covering High Wycombe and the District, has now been published for public consultation, and the Wycombe District Council is hoping that as many organisations and individuals as possible will respond. The full document can be studied in the Planning Department and the Public Library, and copies of the free precis of the contents and response sheet are available in the Council Information Office in Queen Victoria Road and in the Public Library.

Exhibitions of the proposals are being held in various parts of the town. A great deal of effort has gone into the preparation of the Plan, and we hope that affiliated organisations and individual members will make their comments to the District Council. We suggest that affiliated organisations, in particular Residents' Associations and Women's Institutes, would find it beneficial to buy a copy of the full plan (cost £5). This can be obtained from the Planning Dept. on the 2nd Floor of the Council Offices in Queen Victoria Road.

We would welcome copies of any observations made by affiliated organisations. These would be helpful when we submit our own observations. Individual members might like to do the same.

THIS PLAN IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF US. PLEASE RESPOND.

Shell Better Britain Campaign

Shell have launched their Better Britain Campaign with a superb folder of useful information available free to anyone who wishes to carry out an environmental improvement. It is full of ideas, and tips for raising money, including sponsorship money! For your free copy

Name

Address

Send to The Campaign Administrator,
Shell Better Britain Campaign, Nature Conservancy
Council, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.
In Scotland: Shell Better Britain Campaign,
PO Box 191, Aberdeen AB9 8XZ.



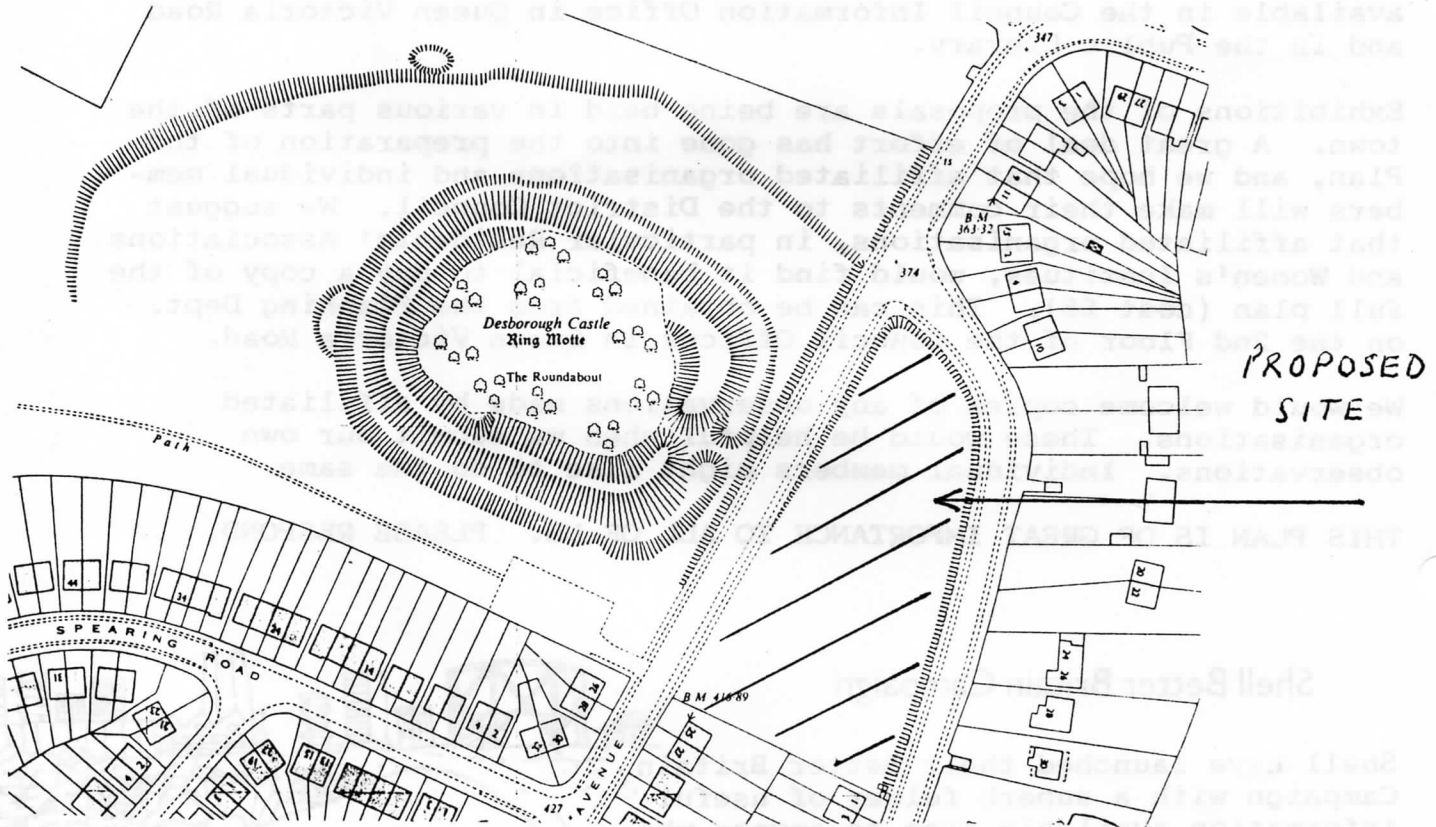


Planning

Rutland Avenue

In their search for land for Old People's dwellings the District Council Housing Committee decided to seek approval to take over the open space against Desborough Castle, and the Leisure and Amenities Committee supported this. Another piece of land which is at present of little use for children's games has been offered in exchange. This is a most serious move and could give rise to further loss of Public Open Space. Another consideration is the unique position of the land at Rutland Avenue, providing an admirable open setting for Desborough Castle, a designated Ancient Monument. It is possible, too, that the land is part of the original Iron Age Fort on which the Med Castle Motte was built.

The application is to go before the whole Council for approval. We are hoping that the land will be spared and a more suitable alternative used for the O.P. dwellings.



Hughenden Golf Course

The application to build a golf course at Church Farm is still causing great concern in many quarters. The latest application was recommended for refusal but the Planning Committee decided to defer a decision because the applicant, G.Suter, claimed that two of the objections were no longer valid.

The main objection that the provision of a golf course would have marked effect on the AONB and would harm quite seriously the quality of the lovely Hughenden Valley still stands and seems to provide sufficient reason for refusal. This is a crucial situation and we feel it is of the greatest importance that this historic valley should be protected.

Loakes Park

The earlier attempts by the developers to take over Loakes Park Football Ground for warehousing met with fierce opposition from the hospital authority, supported by large numbers of the general public. The proposed move of the Wanderers to Green Belt land in Sands also caused great misgivings. The Society opposed both applications.

The developers have now submitted another application for part of the ground and the hospital authority has applied for use of the remainder. This device of making use of the hospital's need to obtain ^{permission} parking for something which we don't need has been opposed by the Society. The brutal assault on use of Green Belt land has also been opposed. We support very strongly the use of Loakes Park for hospital purposes as and when the Wanderers find a suitable new home and we have asked the District Council to refuse the current applications which are serious deviations from the Council's policies.

Jack Scruton

Visit to Sheffield Park Garden

Late summer holiday? Not exactly. We are hoping to schedule a coach trip to Sheffield Park on Saturday 13th September leaving High Wycombe at 9.45 a.m. The coach will call at Sheffield Park Railway Station (for those wishing to spend the day on the Bluebell Railway - a preserved Steam Line operating between Sheffield Park and Horsted Keynes), then continue to Sheffield Park Gardens, an ideal spot for those interested in woodlands, lakes and picturesque scenery. The coach will stay at Sheffield Park until 5.p.m. (or may leave earlier depending on the weather and the desire of those at the Gardens to possibly call in and stay a short time at the Railway Centre) before departing from the Railway Centre at 5.15 approx.

The cost of the coach journey will be £3 per person (adults and children).

Entrance fee to Sheffield Park Gardens will be £1.90 (adults), £1 (children). Cost of Railway Centre dependant on whether one makes a Steam Journey or not, or just plays around the centre itself.

This excursion by coach will only run if we have a firm booking to fill a 53-seat coach. In the event of cancellation, any deposits will be returned.

Enquiries to Derek Woods, 19 Adelaide Road, Tel. H.W. 20284.



SHEFFIELD PARK GARDEN

Nr. Uckfield, East Sussex

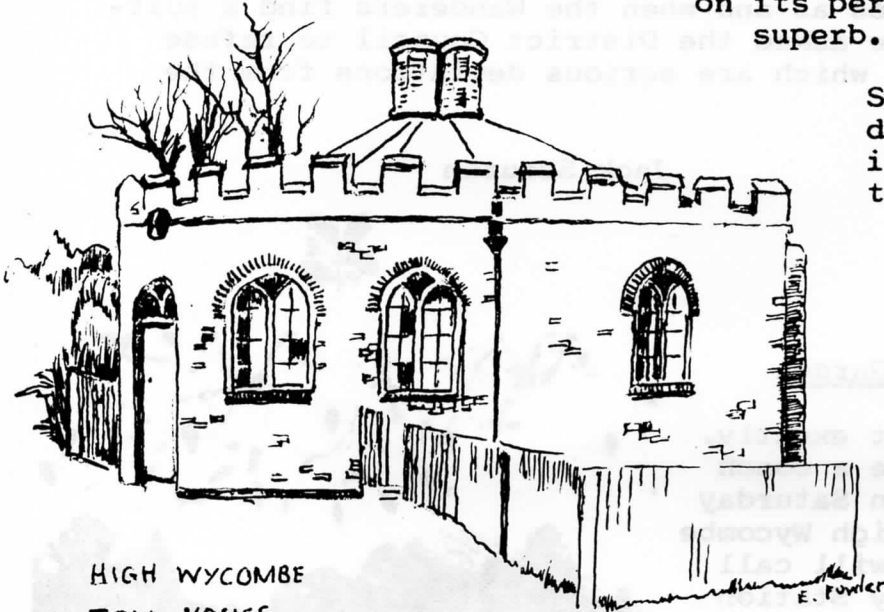
Garden and five lakes on different levels laid out in the 18th century. Carpeted with daffodils and bluebells in spring, followed by magnificent rhododendrons and azaleas, the garden contains many rare trees, shrubs and fine waterlilies and is beautiful all the year round.

National Environment Week

Museum Piece

What would the Society do without Derek Woods? It is he who arranges exciting outings for us. One such outing took place during Environment Week in May when we visited the Chiltern Open Air Museum at Chalfont Park.

Clad in anoraks and macs against a blustery day, we spilled out from the coach eager to catch our first glimpse of the High Wycombe Toll House - and there it was! How proud we were to see the Toll House splendidly reconstructed on its permanent site, looking quite superb.



HIGH WYCOMBE
TOLL HOUSE

amid some of the loveliest countryside in Bucks. Thank you Derek for a most interesting afternoon.

Saved from decay and the bulldozer, were other old buildings, all lovingly reconstructed. Like the Hill Farm Barn, the Forge and a Granary, to name but three. We were filled with admiration for those builders of long ago, who knew a thing or two about combining sheer practicality with good design when constructing these buildings originally.

We found it heart-warming to see the fine old structures restored to their former glory and set

Elsie Fowler

The Town Trail

On Sunday 11th May we were delighted to meet about 25 members and friends, keen to explore High Wycombe following the Town Trail. We assembled outside the Church Porch. There, John Gore started an informative and scholarly guided tour of the Parish Church, ending with details of the current appeal for funds. We are most grateful to John for his very interesting and efficient presentation.

The Bucks Free Press, in publicising the event, had said that the walk would be conducted by "local history experts". We had to begin by apologising that, although enthusiastic, we were not quite in the "expert" class (excepting John Gore and Derek Woods). However we enjoyed conducting the group from the site of Wycombe's first market (behind Church Street) to the Little Market House, Guildhall and along the High Street. Many remembered with affection the buildings that had disappeared.

Walking along one side of the High Street, we were able to study

the roof lines, chimneys, doorways and contrasting styles of the buildings on the opposite side. The light Sunday traffic allowed us to appreciate the beauty of the High Street and imagine how it might be when pedestrianisation comes about. We compared two of Wycombe's oldest shops - now both photographers, Robert's and Keen's. We passed the site of the Hiring Fair and the cattle market.

Paul's Row could well be renamed Memory Lane, as many recollected the different scene from Bridge Mill, looking down St. Mary's St, past the cottages and pubs towards Wycombe Abbey. We continued along Queen Victoria Road and Easton Street finishing at Pann Mill, where refreshments were most welcome.

We do thank all those who came and contributed to our understanding of the town's history. We can confirm that the quickest way to learn about a subject is to offer to tell others about it. We are keen to learn some more! Another walk is planned for the autumn. Join us then!



Annie Woodward and
Barbara Rippington

The Water Trail

On Sunday 11th May the weather was beautiful and the Rye was looking splendid, but I was worried whether anyone would turn up at Pann Mill to follow the Water Trail. I needn't have worried - 33 adults and children arrived and followed our Award winning trail round the Rye, the Dyke and Back Stream, Bassetsbury and the River Wye.

Many members of the group were comparative newcomers to the town and they were surprised by the many attractive features to be seen - the water life, the splendid trees, the historic buildings of Marsh Green and Bassetsbury, and the obvious enjoyment of the very large numbers of people using the area in so many different ways.



From the remarks of those who took part, the trail really does work. It was so worthwhile taking round such appreciative people with their well behaved children. Obviously we must make trail following a regular feature!



HIGH WYCOMBE CRIME PREVENTION PANEL

The High Wycombe Crime Prevention Panel have submitted this message, and we have pleasure in reproducing it as it affects all householders.

A Message from the Thames Valley Police and your Crime Prevention Panel

GOING ON HOLIDAY

That fortnight away, enjoying the sun and sand is costly enough without inadvertently paying for the burglar's holiday too.

He won't be taking a holiday just yet. In his line of business the summer represents the most profitable of all the seasons. There are rich pickings to be made out of the carelessness and forgetfulness of householders.

Despite all the publicity and warnings given for people to honour the crime prevention code, there are still holiday-makers who leave home without cancelling the milk and the newspapers, overlook the open window and the unlocked garage and the garden shed.

All these things are open invitations to the opportunist thief to raid your home while you are away and turn those pleasant holiday memories into a frightening nightmare when you return.

What can you do to ensure that you leave a secure home and arrive back to find it still secure? Fit good locks to outside doors and security catches to windows, particularly those on the ground floor. Deposit valuables at the bank and, for long term security, have your valuables photographed and marked with your personal code so they are easily identified.

A burglar, even if he breaks into your home, is unlikely to take coded goods.

Finally, join forces with your neighbour to fight crime. Entrusted with the key to your home, a neighbour can keep an eye on your property while you are away and, by visiting it from time to time, can give the impression that it is occupied. You can return the favour when next he goes on holiday.

Motto of the High Wycombe Crime Prevention Panel is:

'Take care and together we can beat the criminal'

Help is available from the Panel and from your Crime Prevention Officer based at your local Police Station **BUT** protecting your own home, your goods and your family must be down to **YOU!!**

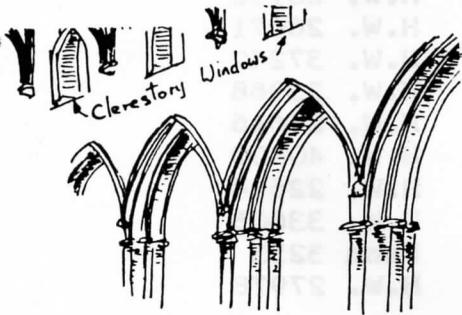
The following article has been sent to us for inclusion in the Newsletter by the Parish Church. We have pleasure in doing so, and wish them every success with their fund-raising.

CATHEDRAL OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

On May 11th many people will have started a walk from the "Cathedral of Buckinghamshire", better known as All Saints Parish Church. For 900 years a church has stood at the centre of High Wycombe to bear witness to the power and love of God. Much care has been lavished on the building over the centuries so that it remains for our worship and enjoyment today. As it has been passed on to us, so we feel a responsibility to preserve its beauty for future generations.



At the time of William the Conqueror, the Bishop of Worcester travelled to court in London, lodging in Wycombe on his way there. He became known as a worker of great miracles (on one occasion he miraculously repaired the roof of a building which was threatening to fall down - we could do with his power today!) and the wealthy Saxon thane who built the church here managed to get permission for Bishop Wulstan to consecrate it.

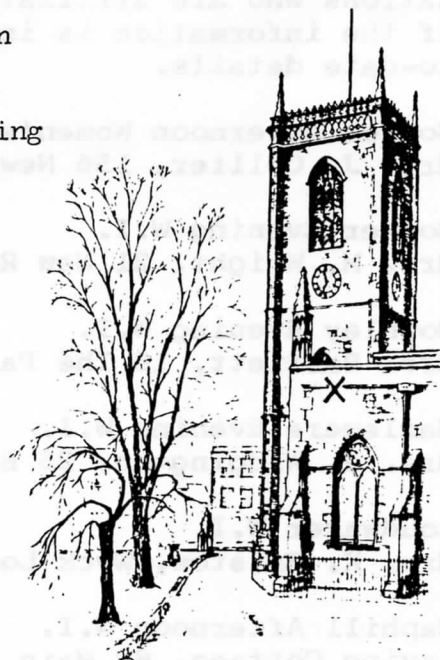


The building was in the shape of a cross with a central tower. In 1275 the nave was widened and the walls of the Norman nave were taken down. 80 years later a chantry chapel was built on the north-west corner of the church. In the middle of the 15th century new nave arcades were built, clerestory windows were added and the chancel and chapels on either side were extended.

Later the central tower was removed as the present arcades would not support it and by about 1523 a new tower had been built at the west end, against the nave wall, and the pinnacles were added in 1755. In 1872 restoration work was started and various parts, which were not in the Gothic style were removed and replaced by Gothic imitations and several new windows were put in.

Much work has been done this century, but we are again faced with restoration work. The roof and guttering leak, exterior and interior stonework is flaking, the plaster needs repairing and washing. Windows are bowing because of rust and all the monuments and stained glass needs cleaning. Finally the whole interior needs freshening up.

An appeal has been launched for restoration work to be carried out on the church. £250,000 is needed to conserve this beautiful building and keep it fit for worship. Further information about the appeal will be found in leaflets in church or from the Church Centre, Oakley Hall, Castle Street.



Annual General Meeting

This was held in the Royal British Legion Hall on Thursday 24th April, and a full account was given to those present of the Society's activities during the year. It was clear from the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports that there has been no decrease in the involvement of the Society in the affairs of the local community, and with ever increasing pressures from planning matters.

The following officers and members of the Committee were elected. Ted Kearney had decided to retire after 12 very active years as our Chairman in view of his recent illness. It was a great pleasure to those present to elect him as our new President.

President:	Mr. E. Kearney	H.W. 447511
Vice-Presidents:	Miss Marjorie Nash	H.W. 28488
	Mrs. Kathleen Peatey	H.W. 31651
Chairman:	Mr. R.J. Lawson	H.W. 28047
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. E. Roe	H.W. 32575
Secretary:	Mr. J. Scruton	H.W. 25933
Treasurer:	Mr. K. Attack	H.W. 442111
Committee:	Mr. C. Adams	H.W. 28996
	Mrs. A. Birks	H.W. 28152
	Mr. J.S. Gore	H.W. 26671
	Mr. B.R. Honess	H.W. 37242
	Mrs. M. King	H.W. 23968
	Mr. R. J. Rippington	H.W. 26616
	Mr. R.L. Sims	H.W. 40800
	Mr. S.J. Spence	H.W. 22624
	Mr. I.D. Stone	H.W. 33605
	Mrs. J. Tully	Penn 3253
	Mrs. A. Woodward	H.W. 27978

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Affiliated Societies and Organisations

In our last Newsletter we published details of affiliated Residents' Associations. The following is a list of other organisations who are affiliated and whose support is much appreciated. If the information is in any way inaccurate we would appreciate up-to-date details.

Booker Afternoon Women's Institute (W.I.)
Mrs. J. Collier, 156 New Road, Booker

Booker Evening W.I.
Mrs. M. Wright, 21 New Road Close, New Road, Booker

Downley Evening W.I.
Mrs. Bartlett, 18 The Pastures, Downley

Hazlemere Evening W.I.
Mrs. J. Widginton, 25 Eastern Dene, Hazlemere

Loudwater W.I.
Mrs. K. Bristow, Wyck Lodge, Keep Hill, High Wycombe

Naphill Afternoon W.I.
Irving Cottage, 89 Main Road, Naphill



Future Programme

Saturday 13th September 1986

Visit to Sheffield Park, near Haywards Heath. Details inside this Newsletter.

Thursday 16th October 1986 in the Royal British Legion Hall, St. Mary St, at 8 p.m.

Richard Bate, Senior Planner of Council for the Protection of Rural England - "Development Pressures in South Bucks".

January or February 1987

Mr. Christopher Swanwick, Wycombe District Council Planning Officer "Planning Problems in High Wycombe and District".

Friday 6th March 1987, in the Oak Room of the Town Hall, Queen Victoria Road at 8 p.m.

Mr. Brian Lymbery, Deputy Director of the Civic Trust - "Urban Environmental Problems". (The Society's contribution to the Wycombe Arts Festival.

April 1987

Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk about Urban Wildlife sites by a representative of BBONT.

October 1987

Mr. John Boyes, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings - "Wind and Water Mills".

We are hoping to arrange a celebration of our 18th Birthday in November. We are also hoping to arrange meetings in the Friends' Meeting House with local speakers dealing with the topics of Trees, Historic Buildings, History of Furniture, and Bucks Dialect.

Please make a note in your diary, and support us by attending.

Musick's Monument

Our quarterly meeting on Saturday 7th June was a concert of Baroque music performed by Musick's Monument, who proved themselves to be a worthy monument to the period. This small group comprising Recorder, Virginals, Oboe and Bass Viol, played with feeling and obvious pleasure music by Purcell, Handel, Loeillet and Humfrey. I am sorry for those who didn't come, you missed a rear treat. The audience was not one deucated in this style of music, but thanks to the clear introduction by Andrew Pinnock, we were informed of its history.

He explained that this music was first performed to fill time between acts in the theatre but gradually became more popular than the theatrical performance, and no wonder, it is delightful. Prose readings and poems on and about music and related matters of the time, dramatically and amusingly read helped to set the music in its context, and vividly portrayed enjoyment, concern, and at times indignation of the writers. This was a rewarding evening.

Barbara Rippington