



THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY

newsletter

NUMBER 90

WINTER 1993/94

A TOWN COUNCIL? PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION!

Local government is about to be reformed. Not again, you may be thinking, but it is. Next year the Local Government Commission will be looking at Buckinghamshire and, whatever they decide, it is likely that High Wycombe will be incorporated into a new 'unitary' district. This will be larger than the present Wycombe District, and the town will finish up with fewer District Councillors to look after its interests.

At present, every town and village in Wycombe District except the area of the old Borough of High Wycombe has either an elected Council or a Parish Council. These councils

are consulted about important matters in their area, such as planning. Many people in High Wycombe, including the Mayor, our District Councillors and members of the High Wycombe Society, think it is high time we too had a Town Council. If enough people petition the Local Government Commissioners about it, we may be able to have one.

Please sign the petition form enclosed with this Newsletter and send it to the Town Clerk. Even if you cannot make the 14th December deadline, please send it anyway. It will help to show how much we care about our town!

John Gore

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Have you renewed your subscription yet, the one that runs from March 1993 until the end of February 1994? If not, it would be of great help to the Society if you would pay as soon as possible, please. Please send any outstanding subscriptions to our Membership Secretary, Mrs Annie Woodward, 20 Coningsby Road, High Wycombe HP13 6UR. The current rates are:

Individual £4=50; Family £6=50; Retirement Pensioner £2=00; Affiliated Societies £5 for first 50 members or part thereof, £2 for each subsequent 50 members up to a maximum of £15=00. If you are not sure if you are up to date, Annie would be pleased to let you know; her number is HW527978. Also, would you kindly let her know if you change your address.



...caring about our town and heritage

Registered Charity No. 257897

Honorary Secretary, John Gore, 30 Wordsworth Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 2UR. Tel: (0494) 526671

WYCOMBE DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN PUBLIC INQUIRY

It was back in mid-June that the Public Inquiry on the Wycombe District Local Plan started, and hearings continued until the beginning of October, apart from a break in August. The Inspector, Mr Ian Macpherson, Chartered Engineer, from the Department of the Environment, heard literally dozens of objections ranging from those made by individuals concerned about the effect of the plan on their own properties through to those from multinational oil companies, represented by counsel, keen on pushing through their schemes for motorway service areas (MSAs) in the District.

The Inquiry was well organised and tightly scheduled so that objectors were not kept nervously waiting their turn as at some similar hearings. Mr Macpherson put all objectors at their ease and demonstrated his grasp of an enormous amount of material; now he has the unenviable task of assimilating all the points made, reaching conclusions and making recommendations to Wycombe District Council for possible amendments to the Plan.

The Society made three appearances at the Inquiry to put our objections, and we also made some written objections.

○ Our first objection concerned Policy L3 Green Space. Whilst we agree with the main object of this policy which is to protect urban green spaces against development, we were concerned that the Council had inserted a clause which would allow indoor recreational facilities to be built if the Council considered there was a need for them, overriding their value as open areas for recreation, amenity or nature conservation. We acknowledge the need for leisure

facilities but think this clause could lead to loss of irreplaceable green space in built-up areas, so we asked for it to be removed.

○ Policy C3 Areas of Special Restraint (ASRs) These areas, including Gomm Valley, Grange and Terriers Farms, land on the Lane End Road at Sands and at Abbey Barn, are being held in reserve for possible future housing development, but for the time being they are treated as if they were in the Green Belt, that is, protected against development.

We asked for them to be permanently included in the Green Belt for the following reasons:

- (1) that the population of Wycombe District is more or less stable and any small necessary increase in housing should be contained within the existing boundaries;
- (2) that development of these areas would lead to the merging of the villages of Tylers Green, Hazlemere etc with High Wycombe to form a massive and undesirable urban sprawl; and
- (3) that development of these large out-of-town areas would lead to many more car journeys being made, adding to pressure on the road system and causing increased pollution.

At the inquiry, the Council said that ASRs would not need to be developed this century, but in the last few days Bucks County Council have announced that it wants some 1500 more houses in High Wycombe perhaps before 2001, which poses a real threat to these areas.

○ Policy HW2 Town Centre Action Area This policy covers development of the large area

once known as 'The Western Desert' centred on the Bridge Street car park. The Council want mainly commercial and retail development in this area, with some leisure facilities, a new bus station and public library, and deculverting of the River Wye. They also have in mind a few residential units along the Desborough Road frontage. This has disappointed us. We think the opportunity should be taken to build more housing on this site to bring back life to the town centre in the evenings and, at the same time, reduce pressure for housing on green-field sites such as ASRs. Furthermore, if people live near shops and

workplaces, they will not need to make so many car journeys, which is to the benefit of us all.

One of our written objections was to the continued inclusion in the Local Plan of the Northern Relief Road and the A404 diversion from Hazlemere to Temple End, both of which would cause enormous environmental damage. A decision on these roads will await the outcome of the Wycombe Transportation Study, due soon.

We look forward to publication of the Inspector's findings some time in early-1994

John Gore

WHAT ARE DEVELOPMENT PLANS?

In non-metropolitan areas, like our own, development plans comprise Structure Plans (in which County Councils set out key strategic policies as a framework for local planning) and Local Plans (in which District Councils set out more detailed policies to guide development in their areas, including proposals for specific sites). These plans must have regard to national policies and regional guidance issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The currently adopted Bucks

Structure Plan covers the years up to 2001, but a new draft Structure Plan covering the years up to 2011 was published earlier this year for public consultation. The current High Wycombe Area Local Plan was adopted in 1989. It, and the local plans for Marlow and the rural areas are to be superseded by the Wycombe District District Local Plan, which covers the whole District up to the year 2001. This plan which is based on the adopted Bucks Structure Plan 2001 is currently in the public inquiry stage.

THE JACK SCRUTON HERITAGE AWARD

Wycombe District Council has instituted a new Heritage Award to recognise outstanding achievement in heritage conservation work in the District. Very appropriately, the award has been named after the late Jack Scruton MBE, the Society's founding Honorary Secretary, who worked tirelessly to retain and conserve our local heritage at a

time when the cause was not as popular as it is today.

The Jack Scruton Heritage Award will run alongside the Malcolm Dean Design Award, which is for achievement in architectural design in the District. The Society submitted nominations for both awards. The results for 1993 are expected to be announced shortly.

M40 JUNCTION 4 - PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

Many of our members will have been along to see the exhibition presented successively at Flackwell Heath, Cressex School and the Octagon by the Department of Transport showing their proposals for 'improving' the Handy Cross interchange - M40 Jcn 4. The scale models of the countryside south of High Wycombe illustrating the two proposals, on-line and off-line, were much admired.

The on-line proposal leaves the motorway on its existing course (except that it is to be widened from three lanes to four all the way from Loudwater to Handy Cross), but a number of slip roads etc would be added to segregate local traffic and traffic to and from the motorway. (At present all traffic has to sort itself out on the main roundabout, with lengthy delays at peak times.) This option would take land from the Sports Centre and from Handy Cross farm.

The off-line proposal would shift the course of the motorway and place the new junction about 600 metres south of the existing one, along with its Spaghetti-junction type network of slip roads and underpasses. About three miles of existing motorway would be returned to 'nature'. The listed buildings of Handy Cross would be overshadowed and many acres of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty would be swallowed up.

Both options would cost about £58M. The on-line option would provide adequate capacity until 2013, while the off-line option should last a little longer.

The Society's Transport Group considers that neither option is acceptable. Both are environmentally undesirable, the off-line in particular. Spoliation

of the South Bucks' countryside on this scale would be unthinkable for any other development, so why allow this? Moreover, both options only provide a temporary solution at huge cost. The £58M which the Department of Transport has to spend would be better employed developing alternative transport systems to reduce the number of vehicles on the road. The Handy Cross interchange was adequate a few years ago when there was less traffic, so it would be OK again if the traffic could be reduced! Why should Britain accept without question the doubling of traffic by 2025? It need not happen, if only sustainable policies were to be adopted.

As we have learned from the M25 experience, road improvements tend to attract more traffic, and this would apply to Handy Cross as well, with the result that congestion would move elsewhere: for example, down Marlow Hill and along John Hall Way.

The Society's Transport Group is convinced that there are better environmentally-friendly alternatives to the damaging schemes now on offer, and will be working with other bodies interested in sustainable transport policies to suggest better options. We hope there will be a public inquiry so that all options can be debated.

If you have any comments about the proposals, please send them to: Motorway Widening Unit, Department of Transport, Friars House, Manor House Drive, Coventry CV1 2TD. Write to this address, too, to ask for porous asphalt to be used on the Loudwater to Handy Cross section of the M40 to reduce traffic noise. The more requests the better!

TRANSPORT

THE TRANSPORT GROUP REPORTS

Local bus operations

The group met the managing director of Wycombe Bus Company on September 17th. He admitted the poor past management of the company and its low levels of service, and summarised the present management's aspirations.

The company's objections to a bus-free High Street in High Wycombe were stated, and we agreed to differ on this point.

We intend to keep in contact with the Wycombe Bus Company, which appreciates our support for public transport.

M40 widening and Handy Cross junction proposals

These proposals by the Department of Transport were exhibited at Cressex School from 23rd to 25th September. They have prompted a call to all Society members, and the public, to help our group to formulate a third (or more) alternative strategy to the Handy Cross plans, as detailed by the DoT's consultant engineers, for 'off line' and 'on line' M40 models.

The off line proposal is primarily unwelcome to

conservationists because of the motorway's planned intrusion into an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Elsa Woodward represented the High Wycombe Society at a meeting called by Anthony Wethered (the area representative and coordinator for societies affiliated to the Civic Trust) to establish a consensus of local opinion on the proposals. Elsa called for alternatives to be pursued.

Wycombe Transport Study

The group has encouraged all Society members (and the public!) to respond to the Transport Study exhibition staged in the Octagon by Halcrow Fox, Bucks County Council and Wycombe District Council. We feel that the 'Environmental strategy' is wrongly titled, and have strongly supported the 'Positive public transport' policy.

'Ringrail' around London - alongside the M25

Elsa Woodward has organized a meeting at which S.B. Tietz and Partners will present their proposals for Ringrail to Bucks County Council and Wycombe District Council.

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mr J M Coakes, Holtspur Top Lane, Beaconsfield
Mr J E Francis, London Road, High Wycombe
Ms M Hobson, Links Road, Flackwell Heath
Mr S A Roberts, Boundary Road, Wooburn Green
Mr & Mrs J Wright, White Close, High Wycombe

We look forward to meeting our new members at the next Quarterly Meeting. Please introduce yourself!

WYCOMBE SHOW 1993

To stage a two-day event such as the Wycombe Show is, indeed, quite a mammoth task! Particularly is it so **now**, with people (especially young people) expecting more and more, having been rather spoilt by television, video and the cinema!

I must confess that I have been guilty of making the comment "Why go **this** year? It's always the same old thing; we've seen it all before!" This year I've had to eat my words and admit that my wife and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit.

We went on the Sunday afternoon. Although the weather appeared doubtful, the sun came out and, yes, it turned out to be a lovely warm September day.

An annual show can never stand still: although new attractions and innovations **are** important, it is nevertheless essential to retain some of the more traditional aspects of a local show, and to get the balance just right. This year I feel the organisers did exactly that - congratulations to all concerned!

It goes without saying that the setting of the Rye is ideal for an annual show: small children (and some adults!) were mesmerised by the sheep and goats - even an owl appeared quite agreeable to having its head caressed by numerous people! Craft demonstrations were plentiful and quite fascinating - sights such as the bodger turning

wood on a very primitive lathe, and the art of decoupage, held everybody's interest.

During the course of our visit we sat on the grass and partook of a delicious crepe - ham and cheese to be precise. It was hot in the sun, and with the brass band behind us playing the 'Floral Dance' the atmosphere evoked the era of Thomas Hardy: we were certainly never far from the madding crowd!

We then made our way slowly to the main display area, where we were captivated by the superb riding display of the Lusitano Stallions Display Team. The lady riders were not only charming but very talented, dressed in 17th century Portuguese court dress with plumed headgear. The horses 'played' to the music of Handel's 'Entry of the Queen of Sheba' - truly a memorable experience!

Then there was a display of falconry - an ideal item for a show. Full marks are due not only to the falconer himself and his commentary, but to the birds themselves, who also appeared to be playing to a captivated audience.

Regrettably, space does not permit me to mention all the exhibits and events. But it is certainly true to describe the Show (as in one of the leaflets) as being "packed with over six hours of continuous entertainment on both days"!

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the message from the chairman of the Show, Bruce James, in the opening pages of the programme. He asked people to tell any committee member

what they would like to see for **next** year's Show. I would say, without hesitation, "The mixture as before. Repeat your 1993 success!"

S.J. Spence

ON SHOW AT WYCOMBE SHOW

On Sunday 5th September I spent an hour working voluntarily for the High Wycombe Society on its stand at the 45th annual Wycombe Show. If you are ever asked, why not try it? Although initially filled with trepidation, I found it a very enjoyable experience; it was both informative and gave one the opportunity to meet other like-minded people from the Society.

The stall was well placed at the entrance of the Conservation marquee, surrounded by associations and societies of the same type - the Bucks Barn Owl Group, Wycombe Woodlands, and Friends of the Earth were a few of the wide variety of stands covering all aspects of conservation. All pitches in the marquee were free, thanks to the generosity of the Wycombe Show Committee. Most of these stands were manned entirely by volunteers, and the High Wycombe Society stand was no different. Although none of these helpers had much experience, if any, they, like my partner and I, were more than adequately prepared for the job.

After I had greeted the other volunteer with whom I was to work, we were instructed on the management of the stand and then left to preside over a well organised stall dispensing, among other things, Society Christmas cards, books

about Wycombe and, most importantly, information about the work of the Society. We eager volunteers had also been presented with a sheet to read and inwardly digest, covering answers to questions which might be posed by the general public. Most important was the need to recruit more members (with their subscriptions) for the Society. No "Join now, pay later"!

My hour fled by, enlivened - or should I say alarmed? - by the total and inexplicable collapse of the display. Happily, no damage was done and the stand, when hastily reassembled, looked as good as new for the rest of the Show. Apart from this small incident everything went smoothly until, somewhat reluctantly, I had to hand over to the next volunteer.

You could not miss our stand, or any of the others, as you entered the Conservation Marquee. Members of the public were in for a treat. Why? Because they were met with information, enthusiasm, and a smile from volunteers who were doing their bit for the Society and thoroughly enjoying themselves. So, as I said at the beginning of this article, if you are ever asked, go on, have a go!

Elizabeth Frazer

NEW GROUP FORMED TO GUARD THE RYE

A new group has formed which is concerned with the Rye. Wycombe District Council, under its 'Open Spaces' policy, is proposing to 'improve' the Rye in various ways, and it was felt that the High Wycombe Society has a part to play in providing feedback to the Council on behalf of the public who use this open space.

The first meeting of the group was held in the Friends' Meeting House on October 6th, when Mr Oliver Kelly, WDC's Landscape Development Officer, explained to 14 Society members the Council's Open Spaces strategy. Its underlying objective is:

"...to provide a platform from which to embark upon improvements to the design and management of these areas in order to make adequate provision for the needs and aspirations of existing and potential users, both now and in the future."

Forty open spaces were studied, including of course such well known sites as the Rye, Kingsmead and Hughenden Park. Amongst other open spaces studied were Chairborough Road, the Prestwood picnic site, the Local History and Chair Museum gardens, the recreation grounds at Desborough, Hazlemere and Booker, and open spaces at Gilletts Lane Garden, Baring Road, Hillary Road, Youens Road and Melbourne Road.

Eleven recommendations were made, including one of particular importance to the Society:

"Encourage the community to become involved in the planning and management of open spaces."

The strategy has been adopted by the Council, whose Leisure Group is now preparing specific site proposals.

Pann Mill entrance to the Rye

Mr Kelly's assistant, Kate Brown, showed a sketch of a proposed 'new look' from London Road which sought to balance the formal lawns and flower beds on the east side with an open lawn in front of the Pann Mill building. The proposals were generally welcomed by the meeting, although some changes were suggested. In particular the meeting put forward an alternative design for the entrance sign, and emphasised the need to enclose the front of the Pann Mill building with suitable fencing rather than leave it open.

Written comments were required by October 31st in order for the plans to be finalised and the work done early in 1994.

The Dyke waterfall

Opinions were sought on a project to 'improve' the waterfall and the marshy

ground at its foot. Discussions centred on its appearance in times past, and offers of old photographs were welcomed by the speakers. Certainly any thought of 'developing' the area was felt to be inappropriate.

Other Rye matters

Mr Kelly answered questions on numerous aspects of the Rye, including a proposed cycle path along Wendover Way, the potential danger of football goalpost holes, the quality of grass and the use of weedkiller, wrong positioning of the ice-cream van, and the poor state of the Health Centre front garden.

Mrs Evelyn Roe, acting as chairman, thanked the WDC speakers and noted the welcome change from the old days when the 'them' and 'us' attitude prevailed. The group had quickly established a firm and

friendly link with the WDC Leisure Department.

The group

The objective of this group is to keep an eye on the Rye, to consider, and support if appropriate, proposals designed to enhance its value to the public and protect it from unwelcome alterations, but generally to maintain its present treasured status as an open space for all to use at all times.

Members wishing to join the group are asked to contact the Society's Secretary, John Gore. Or come along to our next meeting on Wednesday 19 January at the Friends' Meeting House, London Road, starting at 7.30pm. Anyone with the wellbeing of the Rye at heart is welcome to join our group.

Peter Hazzard.

THE CHARITY STALL

Saturday 19th September, 8 am, in the Market...sounds early; but this was not the beginning of the endeavours, because many people had already taken goods to Olive Scruton and she and Joan Johnson had sorted and priced everything, all before the early stall holders arrived - and their clients.

Business was brisk, although it tailed off later in the morning as the goods on offer became fewer. By the end of

the morning £140 was delivered to our bank. And then more! Further items were sold after the money had been banked and while we were packing things away. The total now stands at £166.06.

A very worthwhile day, financially, and a chance to meet friends and tell people about the Society.

Ann Simone

**COME TO OUR NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING ON
20 JANUARY AND FIND OUT WHO CARES ABOUT
EARTHWORKS. *See back page for details***

RESTORING CHALK DOWNLAND

Sheep, properly managed, are the best guardians of our dwindling reserve of chalk downland. This was the brunt of the message given by Howard Horne, the guest speaker at the High Wycombe Society's Quarterly Meeting on October 14th.

Howard works for the National Trust, combining the tasks of shepherd, warden, conservationist and experimenter. He started his talk by outlining the history of the Trust, one of whose founders, Octavia Hill, saw the beautiful landscape of the Chilterns and North Downs as an essential 'lung' for the deprived children of London. Since those turn-of-the-century days the Trust's emphasis has switched to stately homes and other buildings; but now the pendulum is swinging back to a concern with preserving the best of the English countryside.

The National Trust owns something like 20 000 acres of land in the Thames/Chilterns area, of which only about 1000 acres is open to the public. Much of this is chalk downland, characterised by stretches of short springy turf and isolated bushes or trees rather than continuous woodland. Downland is extremely popular with visitors, whose activities range from walking, picnicking and kite flying to more controversial pastimes such as cross-country motorcycling and hang gliding. On a pleasant summer day as many as 100 000 people may be visiting the downs.

The pressure of people

Such enormous popularity raises problems. In the more

frequented places the sheer wear and tear of feet can kill any plant growth and allow erosion to set in. Less popular parts of the downs, if left to themselves, would soon be overrun with scrub and become virtually impenetrable. This may have some merit in terms of ecological diversity, but the Trust aims to make the land available for enjoyment by all the people of this densely inhabited corner of England. Thus some degree of management of even the most 'natural' countryside is essential.

A trial-and-error approach

There is no obvious, clear-cut way of preserving downland. There is not even general agreement among the various interested parties on how it should be preserved. Howard Horne has been involved in a good many schemes; some have proved successful, others less so. However, there is one particular regime which he has instituted at Coombe Hill and elsewhere which does seem to be proving its worth.

Howard hit upon the idea of pasturing sheep on the downland in winter, but not in summer. This seems like a reversal of usual farming practice, but the logic is that flocks of sheep and crowds of visitors do not mix well, so the visitors roam the land during the summer while the sheep have it to themselves in the winter. But they have to be hardy sheep! Coombe Hill in winter is too bleak for the typical

Chiltern animal, so Howard has had to import stock from Swaledale in Yorkshire. About 2000 of these beasts thrive on Coombe Hill.

Sheep are preferable to cattle on downland because they nibble the vegetation without tearing at the roots, and their feet are too light to churn up the ground. In course of time they level anthills and stop scrub taking hold.

Problems - and solutions

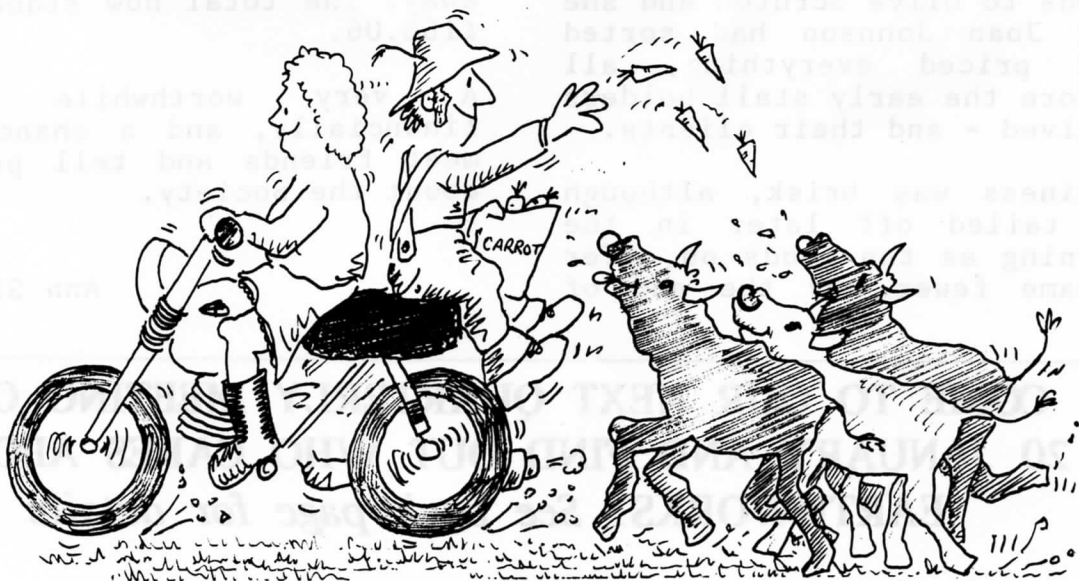
Problems make Howard's life interesting. The National Trust is a victim of its own success in keeping the open spaces so attractive. Every day cars are dumped, fires are started, dogs run wild; people cut themselves on barbed wire and blame the Trust. Some of these problems demand imaginative and unconventional solutions, as was the case with Pulpit Wood.

Pulpit Wood is a National Trust property near Chequers. Two things detracted from its amenity value: the land needed heavy grazing to tame the undergrowth, and walkers who ventured into the wood were having their peace disturbed by gangs of motorcyclists.

Howard Horne's solution for both these problems was to give the land over to a small herd of frisky young bullocks; but, before doing so, he trained them to chase motorbikes. He did this by riding pillion on a motorcycle (his wife was driving), offering a carrot to any animal curious enough to follow him. Before long he had them racing down the field whenever his bike appeared. He then let them loose in the wood.

Motorcycles are no longer a problem in Pulpit Wood!

Ian Guy



Picture by Gary Chase

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT PANN MILL

Many members of the Society will be aware that a series of archaeological excavations have taken place at Pann Mill this year. Their purpose was to see what, if anything survives on the site which could provide clues as to its earlier history and to provide information in advance of work on the site to improve the functioning of the wheel. A preliminary report on the work was given at the AGM. The following notes will bring members of the Society up to date though much work remains to be carried out on the many finds before the full story can be told.

In March this year the excavations revealed part of the foundations of the mill and the mill house. At the junction of the mill and the house was a brick lined culvert which had been rebuilt at least once. The house was built over the culverts in about 1850-60 which coincides with the siting of the existing wheel to the rear of the mill and diversion of the mill stream to its current course. The culverts were filled with rubble from the recent demolition of the buildings on the site.

In July a trench was cleared within the culvert to check its date and history. We were surprised to discover timbers at the bottom of the culvert indicating that this was the location of a former wheel pit. Planks had been laid on the bottom of the pit and held in place by bolts fixed into squared timbers laid at right angles to the planks. The pit certainly predates the construction of the house and was partly filled with clean chalk rubble, probably from the date of the house construction. The pit remained partly open allowing a fine black silt to build up on the chalk. The Victorian house builders clearly recognised a potential damp problem and inserted an air vent in the side of the culvert connecting to the house.

It is now clear that the culvert area is the site of the mill wheel before 1850 and this would be consistent with the line of the stream running straight through the site rather than making the rather odd turn it does currently. Evidence to support this conclusion was provided from the excavation in the bed of the current stream alignment. The excavations showed that the southern bank of the stream was made up with chalk, flints, broken bricks and tiles, and held in place by a planking revetment (timber survived) and vertical stakes (post-holes and surviving timbers). The alignment and dating of this bank were consistent with the conclusions on the culverts.

The stream bed proved to be the source of considerable finds of broken pottery, clay pipes, bricks, tiles and ironwork from the last 250 years. Four wooden condiment spoons were recovered in near perfect condition and we hope they will be preserved for future display. In one part of the excavation substantial remains of oak timbers were noted. They measured approximately 8 inches thick and there were a number of associated post on a different alignment to the pre-1850 mill stream. The material above these timbers was later 17th century in date and so they may represent an earlier mill, say circa 1600.

Periods of inactivity in the mill stream were indicated by the

build up of a fine clay silt, mostly devoid of finds. Underneath the earliest of these periods of inactivity were successive flint and chalk, and chalk floors. The lowest of the chalk floors had been rammed down giving a surface that only yielded to vigorous work with the pickaxe. The chalk had been rammed tightly against two substantial wooden posts, one of which survived to height of at least 1m. These posts and other smaller ones were clearly older than the chalk floor and on the basis of associated pottery appear to date to the early years of the 14th century. They may be part of the mill referred to in 1344 as belonging to Walter de Pannell.

The various remains on the site have been covered in plastic and the holes back-filled to preserve the remaining woodwork. We hope to prepare a display of the work and some of the finds to coincide with Wycombe show. The excavations have provided us with a comprehensive history of the site and quite a few surprises. We are particularly grateful to the Society members and others who helped with the work and we hope that they enjoyed the experience as much as we did.

Stanley and Pauline Cauvain

**WITH ALL GOOD WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS
AND THE NEW YEAR**

*to all our readers from the Chairman
and Executive Committee*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 20 January 1994 8pm
Reggie Goves Centre

Quarterly Meeting: *Who cares about Earthworks?*
Illustrated talk by Helen Paterson, Regional Field
Monument Warden, English Heritage

Thursday 14 April 1994 7.45pm
Reggie Goves Centre
(Please note earlier time)

Annual General Meeting plus speaker on
inland waterways

Saturday 4 June 1994
8am - 12noon Lt Market House

Charity Market Stall

Wednesday 15 June 1994 8pm
Reggie Goves Centre

Wycombe Arts Festival: speaker on the design
of street furniture

Saturday 2 July 1994
Details of departure time, place
and price later

Society coach outing with trip on horse-drawn
barge on Kennet & Avon Canal: Kintbury to
Hungerford and return. Book now with Ron Sims
Tel: 0494 440800. Limited number of places.

Thursday 13 October 1994 8pm
Reggie Goves Centre

Quarterly Meeting: speaker from Landmark Trust