

THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY



newsletter



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WINTER 2020



Zippping into 2021

SO IT'S OFFICIAL: the 12 days of Christmas have been reduced to 5! This year Christmas will indeed be "different" from other years, but we wish our readers well whatever their personal plans.



2021 will be different too. The sight of Zipp scooters on streets around town is just the latest pointer to new possibilities. The huge development at Centre Square continues to take shape whilst the removal of hoardings around the erstwhile "Ottakars" premises has revealed a quirky but attractive building in the middle of town. Progress on the Brunel Shed may be slower, but new pictures on the hoardings there offer promise for its future role; while visibly rapid progress on the Rye gives hope to those of us longing for refreshment from the new boathouse in the New Year.



Meanwhile many of us have taken to doing more things online. Not so much Zippping as Zooming. (See p9 for your invitation to an online event on 8th January). A flurry of new social media users has taken our tally of Facebook page "likes" to over 1000 (with another 300+ followers). There will soon be online opportunities to help with the SOFA project too.

If you're seeking a meatier read then turn to pp6-7 where Chris Woodman sets out the complexities of government-led

proposed changes to the planning system; or, if you prefer, join David Snoxell on pp12-13 in his efforts to separate local historical fact from fiction within Civil War propaganda.



On the far horizon, there's the prospect of a 4-day Royal Platinum Anniversary celebration in 2022, which is already giving frustrated event planners something to think about.



Jackie Kay

...caring about our town: past, present and future

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Planning Matters

YOUR PLANNING GROUP has continued to meet monthly, overcoming Covid-19 restrictions by meeting online via “Zoom” which works well. Much of our attention has recently been focused on the town centre. The High Wycombe Community Board is turning out to be an effective body of our local councillors with a standing invitation for a representative of the Society to attend its meetings. Meanwhile the government’s controversial White Paper, “*Planning for the Future*”, has been a challenge to assess, but we were pleased that others got there before us to help. (See Chris Woodman’s report on pp6-7). More routine work has included poring over a few dozen new planning applications, and we are pleased to report progress on a couple of planning enforcement complaints.

Town Centre Things would appear to be looking up: Buckinghamshire Council have begun what they say will be an expensive quality renovation of the surface of the High Street – an indication, perhaps, that despite the new Council being based in Aylesbury, High Wycombe will receive its fair share of attention and expenditure.

We are seeking a meeting with the Conservation Officer to discuss the appearance of the town centre including her need to exercise quality control on contracts for public works for the maintenance of surfaces and other issues.

One of our group, Gemma Shinh, has met the Manager of HWBidCo, the collective voice of businesses in the town centre, and we have refined our approach to unsuitable signs, shopfronts and obscured windows which spoil the area. We aspire to the standards set in Marlow High Street.

We have now attended two meetings of the new **High Wycombe Community Board** (in September and November), and are encouraged by what is happening. (See also p4.) The Group’s main interest was to see if this new body would be willing and able to do something about the tatty state of the town and perhaps even, as they get into their stride, to give their backing to the Society’s aim of getting the River Wye restored to the surface. The Board’s current work is understandably dominated by Covid-19 but it has already been suggested that in the longer term there should be a subgroup devoted to the town centre.

There have been well-informed discussions about the Market and High Street within the work of the Covid-19 subgroup and we have submitted a long list of items and High Street issues needing attention, including a new approach to the parking restrictions. As a result, we understand we will be invited to attend the next meeting of that subgroup.

Another relevant new body, the **High Wycombe Regeneration Board**, was mentioned in Cabinet on 10th November. Its draft terms of reference indicate that it is an advisory body including Cabinet members and representatives of Bucks Business First, the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Town Committee, Community Board and HWBidCo. This should be highly relevant to our interests in getting the River Wye out of the

ground but, sadly, not all Councillors are convinced of the economic merits of the proposal. Some confusing background material for this board included projects from across the old Wycombe District but we have been assured that the intended scope is to provide a focus on the town.

Brunel Shed This listed building at the railway station is now owned by Buckinghamshire Council, which has shared with us a historical report on the building, which makes fascinating reading: members wishing to see it should contact the Secretary. The restoration of the building and its conversion to retail use to enhance the passenger experience, are delayed by the pandemic, and we have raised our concerns with the Council about the risk of leaving it unprotected. In the meantime, new images on the hoarding give a pleasing glimpse of its intended future appearance.

Abbey Barn Park (Reserve site) We were interested to see that Berkeley Homes, whose project for 550 new homes received outline planning consent for the whole site (and full consent for the first phase) in 2019, have again proposed that the employment area in the south-west corner of the site, accessed through Taylor Wimpey’s adjacent Pine Trees development, should be occupied by a 122-flat retirement facility by Extra Care (who already run Hughenden Gardens Village), rather than a freight/storage facility preferred by the Council, which would cause unwelcome heavy goods traffic in Daws Hill Lane and Flackwell Heath. The Council has a duty under the National Planning Policy Framework, to protect employment areas and to cater for the needs of industry, but we do not understand why they did not recognise the employment-



Work has begun at The Ride, parkland adjacent to the proposed Extra Care facility – Photo David Snoxell

generating character of a retirement facility in the first place.

Ashwells (adjoining Gomm Valley Reserve site)

One of the conditions of Outline Planning Permission for this site was that the developer obtain an archaeological survey. That survey has turned up evidence of Roman workings including a hypocaust (underfloor heating) which suggests there was a high-grade building – presumably what we would call a villa – there in those times. It remains to be seen whether this will affect the development but anyway, “The Romans got there first”!

Marlow Hill Care Home Project Keen opposition to this project continues. Local residents remain concerned about additional parking in their area and a ward councillor has expressed strong concern on their behalf and about the loss of family homes and many other issues. Critically, Buckinghamshire Council, in its consideration of transport issues, insists that egress on to Marlow Hill will be dangerous. We have heard reports (not yet confirmed to us) that the developers have been considering an access point from Wordsworth Road, but this would have to cross the small grassy area adjacent to the main road, part of Tom Burt’s Hill, which the Society has always said it would strongly oppose.



Acres of surface carparks on the Cressex Aldi site require robust justification

Cressex Aldi We have now been able to study Aldi’s pre-application graphics for a new store on the old Park & Ride site in Cressex Road (see picture). We are concerned whether these meet the requirements in the Local Plan for the efficient use of planning land, which we persuaded the Planning Inspector at the Public Examination (and WDC itself) to insert in the Plan, requiring proposals for single-storey car parks with nothing above to be “robustly justified”. While the waste of space in the Aldi proposal is less egregious than in the former CostCo proposal, it still looks like something of a test case for that policy which, if accepted, could establish a precedent. We know, of course, that the Council does not consider this site suitable for a housing development, with the M40 not far away, and that retailers consider that open car parks are more attractive to their customers.

Cycling A feasibility study by the Buckinghamshire Council Property Team in High Wycombe is considering a cycle route from Hughenden Gardens Village to the bottom of Abbey Barn Lane via the station and then the railway embankment leading to Bassetsbury Lane. This would form part of the long-term plan

for a pedestrian/cycleway all the way to Bourne End, using much of the old railway route. We wonder what will happen about the stretch from the station to the embankment, which must pass the former G-Plan site, now built upon, and then cross the London Road. We wish the project well but do fear the embankment may end up a bit of a “lost soul” when upgrading is finished early next year.

We expect the cycle route to continue along the old railway route to Bourne End – the subject of another study last year – except where the track bed has been sold off. As we understand it, the Council are slowly buying bits of land needed to get around those places and now await the final design of the realignment of Abbey Barn Lane.

Presumably this is part of the “Buckinghamshire Greenway” which is a grandiose scheme for a future cycle route from Milton Keynes to Heathrow. We shall see!

Enforcement Action During the early days of Lockdown we raised concerns about advertising signage that appeared on 3 Oxford Street in Frogmoor without planning permission. Following our online complaint to the Enforcement Team, a retrospective planning application was made to Buckinghamshire Council in July. The Council have since approved the signage on the Bull Lane side of the property but rejected the three signs covering the first floor windows on the front façade of the property. Although we would have preferred all the signs to have been rejected, as the colours of the signs were considered not in keeping with the area, we are glad that the Council have acted to allow only part of the signage.

Our other area of concern has been the cemetery fencing that was installed, unbelievably without Conservation Officer approval or Planning Permission, in late 2019. So far, the limited remedial works offered, to paint the fencing on the Priory Road side of the cemetery, have not been undertaken. Another sad sign of the lack of sensitivity in installing this fencing is that a plaque in memory of a lost baby was covered by the fencing. However, the new Council’s Planning Enforcement Team Leader (Wycombe Area) has now promised action on both matters as soon as possible. We can only hope that staff at Buckinghamshire Council will be more careful in future to liaise with their planning colleagues and submit planning applications when appropriate. They are not above the law!

Planning Group

Contrasting Views of the New Community Boards

THE HIGH WYCOMBE Community Board is one of sixteen new representative bodies set up by Buckinghamshire Council, its declared purposes to: influence how decisions are made and services delivered; represent the voice of local people; capture thoughts, ideas and suggestions; bring together key community partners and residents; and identify local needs and work to produce creative solutions. All laudable aims.

The Board is made up of Buckinghamshire Councillors for the High Wycombe Town (unparished) area who choose to attend, plus anyone else whom they decide to invite. Its groundwork is undertaken by subgroups created to address identified priority areas, currently:

- “Covid-19, resilience and regeneration” (chair Cllr Matt Knight),
- “Local infrastructure and transport” (chair Cllr Marten Clarke),
- “Community cohesion” (chair Cllr Rafiq Raja),
- “Mental health and community” (chair Cllr Julia Wassell), and
- “Environment and climate change” (chair Cllr Sarfaraz Raja).

Meetings of the Community Board, like those of Buckinghamshire Council itself and its committees, can be viewed online. Papers on the work of the all-important subgroups are however not currently publicly available.

Our Society’s Planning Group were quick off the mark to explore the potential for participation and have so far been encouraged by their reception, noting also that Board members appear to have the necessary interest and commitment and that the Board has useful amounts of funding at its disposal.

Chris Woodman submitted a question to the very first meeting in September; while the Group compiled a wish-list of suggestions for the town centre, which was submitted around the time of the second meeting in November. As a result, they are now expecting an invitation to a subgroup meeting. They are keen to see whether the Board can fulfil the role that might be expected to be filled by a Town Council to look after and improve the town centre.

At the same time, anyone attending a meeting cannot fail to be impressed by the breadth of work being undertaken and discussed in a refreshingly non-partisan way. Julia Wassell’s leadership on mental health issues and Marten Clarke’s command of transport issues were both appreciated.

Also attending the November meeting was Society Trustee Nigel Phillips who was there in his capacity as a representative of the Sands Residents Association. The view from Sands is noticeably more subdued.

Readers may recall that Sands was one of three outlying areas of High Wycombe to raise a petition triggering a Community Governance Review (CGR) with a view to the formation of a

separate parish council. A lot of work fell to the Sands Residents Association, an organisation which has been running for 25 years that would be very happy to hand over their responsibilities to an elected body. As Nigel explains, “We had no intention of worsening the case for a Town Council to look after the centre of High Wycombe, indeed it seemed to us that both should exist...

... but we were disappointed by the wording of the survey carried out as part of the CGR, which did not allow residents of Sands to express this view. Instead it presented the parish council and town council as exclusive alternatives.”

Frustrated by the delays following the CGR, Nigel’s decision to attend the High Wycombe Community Board was based on a less-than-optimistic view of the future. “This might be all we get as far as local representation goes in this Brave New Unitary World”. Having attended, he says, “The jury is out on this. Will it be a venue for bunfights for local funding, just a talking shop, or a body with influence on policies? Only time will tell.”

Meanwhile, across the valley in neighbouring Downley, and already represented by their own locally elected Parish Council, residents now find themselves served by the North West Chilterns Community Board, with its own distinct priorities for 2020/21:

- Crime and Antisocial Behaviour
- Economic Regeneration
- Environmental and Climate Change
- Traffic and Road Issues
- Young people and Older Residents

And Hazlemere and Penn are grouped with Beaconsfield and Chepping Wycombe with their own set of priorities.

Is this all localism working as it should, or a recipe for chaos? – you be the judge!

JK

First heard about from Melanie Williams at the High Wycombe Community Board: this is the corner of a “parklet”, the latest initiative by HWBidCo to enhance the shopping experience in Frogmoor, a seating area with tables surrounded by plants.



SOFA – it's looking good!

THE SOFA project will soon be entering a new phase in which we hope to be able to involve more people. Yes, that could be YOU! If you could spare an hour or two to view a film and discuss what you have seen with fellow viewers, we'd like to hear from you. Lockdown may have scuppered any plans we had for hosting film shows during 2020 but work has been quietly progressing on getting to know the SOFA collection better and understanding its value. We started out with 117 reels of film (known to have been created by the High Wycombe Film Society). These were destined for the tip and would be no more, had we not intervened. They were in a form we could not easily view, each film only minimally documented on the outside of its can. Some were in almost pristine condition, others sadly much the worse for wear with some serious signs of deterioration.

There were inevitably some duplicates, some pleasant surprises as we opened the cans, and a few disappointments. The biggest disappointment was the realisation that many of the soundtracks had been on separate discs and could not be found. Andy at APG videos in Hazlemere helped us get started and has aided us at every step as, using his services, we have gradually built up a collection of digitised versions of the films. Along the way we acquired some related DVD compilations and ephemera, and we would like to thank all who have encouraged our efforts to date. To an outside observer it may seem that we have taken a long time and gone by a circuitous route; and with the benefit of hindsight, we think so too. But as our expertise has been growing and we have occasionally needed to move the goal posts, at no point have we doubted the wisdom of our initial decision to rescue the films.

Our focus of late has been on creating a useful resource for the future and we have only just started scratching the surface of how it might actually be used. Readers of our Autumn newsletter will already have seen that we can now produce still photographs of "moments" from within the films.

We also did this recently to help Wycombe Museum obtain some provenance to accompany a model of the town included in their exhibition at the Eden Centre. A film within our collection showed the Duchess of Kent examining the model on her visit to open the Octagon Centre in 1970.

So what else is in the SOFA collection?

We now have a master set of high-quality digital videos (with appropriate back-up copies). It includes over 80 separate titles (with a total viewing time in the region of 22 hours). Of these, 23 titles (7+ viewing hours) together comprise the set of Wycombe World documentaries, one for each year from 1986 to

2008. Unfortunately, only seven of these have their original soundtracks intact. A further 25 titles (or thereabouts) are factual films featuring Wycombe. These include some well-known films such as "Portrait of High Wycombe 1951" and "The Town that nearly died of Traffic 1970", the latter starring Cliff Michelmore and including interviews with both the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of The High Wycombe Society. Then there are lesser-known films showing how the town celebrated various Royal events (including the Queen's Coronation, Silver and Golden Jubilees), and others taken on special occasions such as the town shows on the Rye or when the circus came to town.



A SOFA moment – the Duchess of Kent is shown a model of the centre of the town of High Wycombe in 1970 during her visit to open the Octagon Centre.

A distinct class of films within the collection contains some of the fictional (or part-fictional) ones which made the High Wycombe Film Society famous. We have about 10 of these. Besides the award-winning spoof trailer "Coming Shortly", perhaps the best known is "Paper Boat", but unfortunately our copy is missing its soundtrack.

Then there are films likely to appeal to a much narrower audience: a handful of short films about Broomwade, for example, or films advertising G-plan furniture. And there are some very short film snippets of historical events which predate the formation of the Film Society. In one of these Lady Terrington can be seen on the Red Lion portico on the occasion of her electoral defeat to Sir A Knox.

So what next for SOFA?

In 2021, we intend to share the SOFA collection more widely but still in a controlled manner. When circumstances permit we hope to host live film shows again. But in the meantime we have another idea. If you could spare an hour or two to watch a film and discuss it with fellow viewers – then please register your interest in helping the SOFA team with the Editor. Initial opportunities will require access to the internet.

SOFA Team

“Planning for the Future”

ON 6th AUGUST the Government issued a lavishly illustrated 84-page “White Paper” proposing a huge shake-up – a revolution indeed – of the planning system. On the same day, they published another document, “Changes to the Current Planning System”, which will apply in the interim and, whilst not revolutionary, will still impose several damaging changes to the current arrangements. The documents were issued for consultation, the deadlines being 29th and 1st October respectively.

The Planning Group did not have the resources to submit returns themselves, but we are glad that national bodies sharing our outlook did. CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) were very quick off the mark, issuing a particularly good 8-minute video about the White Paper’s faults. So were Civic Voice, the National Trust, the Planning Officers Society, the Local Government Association and – to their considerable credit – Buckinghamshire Council (BC), who debated and then submitted incisive comments on both papers. BC’s comments are particularly pertinent, very much in line with our Group’s thinking, and show that the expertise of the former district planning officers lives on in the unitary authority. MPs have also got into the fray and so far have forced one substantial change.

Background: the current system

The new unitary council will need to produce its first plan within 5 years. To date the system of district-level Local Plans every 10 years has worked well – subject to constraints set by government policies (most controversially the guidance on housing numbers and a requirement in the last round that the Green Belt be “reviewed”). The Plan allocates different areas for development – housing, commercial or green space – of each kind (and their capacity) and sets “development management policies” laying down all kinds of design standards – urban design, architectural – in light of local conditions. There is time for ample public consultation on all aspects – which WDC used to do particularly well – and then a full public inquiry by an independent inspector, whose conclusions tend to be very fair given the evidence they have heard.

Then when development proposals come forward they are usually determined, in line with the Plan, easily and promptly by officers or the Planning Committee (occasionally going to appeals if refused). Bigger schemes, such as the plans for our controversial reserve housing sites, deserve and get more scrutiny to achieve the best outcomes.

But Local Plans take much time and resources, and individual planning applications can take a long time to process to decisions – particularly for major schemes. The development industry complains about this (well they would, wouldn’t they!) but in reality they have long known that it is in their interest to build at just the rate that keeps house prices high and maximises their returns. Hence they are slow to come forward

and progress proposals even to develop land that they own – Gomm Valley for example!

The Government accept the system needs to be made quicker and more predictable. They say there are not enough homes in the right places at the right prices, people can’t move when they want and business can’t get the land it needs. They want to “encourage sustainable, beautiful and useful development rather than obstructing it”. They want to make it more difficult for developers to “dodge their duties” on infrastructure, and “give communities a greater say”.

So these are the government’s proposed Changes to the Current Planning System (with CPRE’s sensible views in brackets)

- a new, rigid prescriptive method, designed to achieve 300,000 new homes per year across the country, that councils must use to calculate the housing need in their area – 0.5% of that area’s existing housing stock per year, increased if local house prices are too far ahead of average household earnings. This will cause big changes, up in some areas, down in others. (CPRE: It is likely to lead to greater regional imbalance, exacerbating over-heating in the south whilst reducing build in the north.) Recent press reports say the Secretary of State has now promised protesting MPs that this “rogue algorithm” will be modified to “encourage more of the development in built-up areas.”
- a new emphasis on “First Homes” as part of the Affordable Housing requirement, to be offered by developers at a 30% discount on the market price, but now only applying to sites with more than 40-50 homes. (CPRE: There is no justification for such a high figure and planning authorities need to be able to determine their best mix between homes-to-let and shared ownership.)
- extending the new “Permission in Principle”, to give developers the equivalent of outline planning permission without detailed plans and within 5 weeks, now for sites up to 150 dwellings (it was originally up to 10). (CPRE are particularly critical of this, saying it will not allow planning authorities to assess proposals effectively and will lead to poor outcomes”).

Now, for the more revolutionary proposals ...

The White Paper "Planning for the Future"

Under the White Paper's totally new regime:

- In contrast to the careful and diligent consultation and inquiry process for old-style plans, there will be much smaller, new-style Local Plans, the public being given just one or two 6-week slots to comment on the new plans, each 5 years!
- a new-style Local Plan must divide our area into three types of zone – *Growth* (e.g. urban extensions), *Renewal* (reusing brownfield, or densification of existing sites) or *Protection* (Green Belt, AONB, Conservation Areas). For the first two, approval in principle will be given automatically. Only in Protected Zones will the normal planning process be retained, allowing planning authorities to decide whether to allow development in these areas.
- New-style plans will contain no locally-determined Development Management Policies, which cover many kinds of design guidance. They will be set centrally by Government in a new National Planning Policy Framework. In practice most of those in the WDC plan are not specifically local in nature. Instead, the White Paper gives strong encouragement to authorities to write their own "design codes", with full local consultation. The Government argues these give greater certainty to developers about what is required.
- New "permitted development" rules – originally introduced to allow householders to build conservatories etc without explicit permission – will now allow offices, shops and restaurants to be converted to housing without minimum space standards etc without any consultation. (People who know about these things say the results could be some dreadful "new" housing.)
- Section 106 payments and the locally-set Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which are used for community infrastructure (community centres, sports grounds, new schools etc) would be replaced by a centrally set CIL, and the amounts will tend to favour areas with high land values and to disfavour regeneration areas. And the Government is determined to prioritise subsidised "First Homes" (to buy at 30% below "market value") above the existing Affordable Housing (social rents and shared ownership through social housing).
- While there are warm words about Neighbourhood Plans, in practice the nationally-set policies of the new regime could leave them out-of-date (and having no effect), leaving people like our friends in the

Daws Hill Neighbourhood Forum feeling pretty cynical. And local climate action hardly gets a look-in.

As Buckinghamshire Council pointed out in their response, this all amounts to a massive centralisation of power by Government at the expense of people's local representatives.

In my view, however, there is a more general comment to be made about the whole exercise. It is the degree of self-delusion by the Government of how much they are achieving and how much will change. There is so much in the White Paper for example about how digitising the information in plans and planning applications will make decision-making easier, and will generate more public involvement (via their smartphones, they say!) For developers, the planning application process is already highly digitised. There is so much talk of prioritising good design (for example a "National Model Design Code", "Pattern Books" and "fast-tracking to beauty"), and no doubt much good, new guidance will be issued, but in the end it comes down to how much notice is taken of it by developers and how far Planning Authorities feel they can throw an application out at the detail stage because they don't like the design.

So, how much will really change? We shall see. Planning in the past 20 years has seen a succession of "reforms". In the end, after CPRE and their like have fought against the most egregious changes, the reforms have modified mechanisms, whittled down a plethora of guidance and rules and generally tidied up the bureaucratic processes, but the system we know has largely persisted. And that is because, in the end, there is a kind of balance between what governments need to achieve and what public opinion, supported by Parliament, will accept.

We are indebted to CPRE for many masterful insights.

Chris Woodman



The Government's White Paper "Planning for the Future" is a full-colour lavishly-illustrated document.

Electioneering Mischief in 1876

AMONG THE SCRAPS preserved in Lord Lincolnshire's giant scrapbook (recently digitised and thereby made available to local historians) is a souvenir poster from a local election campaign in 1876. At first sight it appears to be a communication from one of the candidates, George Wheeler[sic], to the Burgesses of the Borough of Chepping Wycombe asking for their votes. But on closer examination, it is clearly a spoof poster produced by the opposition, poking fun at the candidate and other members of the Wheeler family who owned the Brewery on Easton Street. Three members of the Wheeler family served on the Borough Council at the same time: Thomas (referred to here as "Uncle Tom"); George, the candidate in this poster; and his cousin, Francis. The "cousin Tom", also referred to rather unkindly in this poster, had been away at school and had gained entry to Cambridge University. His career subsequently took him to Guatemala where he served as one of Her Britannic Majesty's Consuls. He never returned to Wycombe so the question of whether he should serve on the Council never arose.

The poster is full of mischief. The "galvanized temple in Crendon Street" refers to the iron church which members of the Wheeler family helped establish as the Free Church of England in High Wycombe, the forerunner of the more permanent church building which would later become Christchurch.

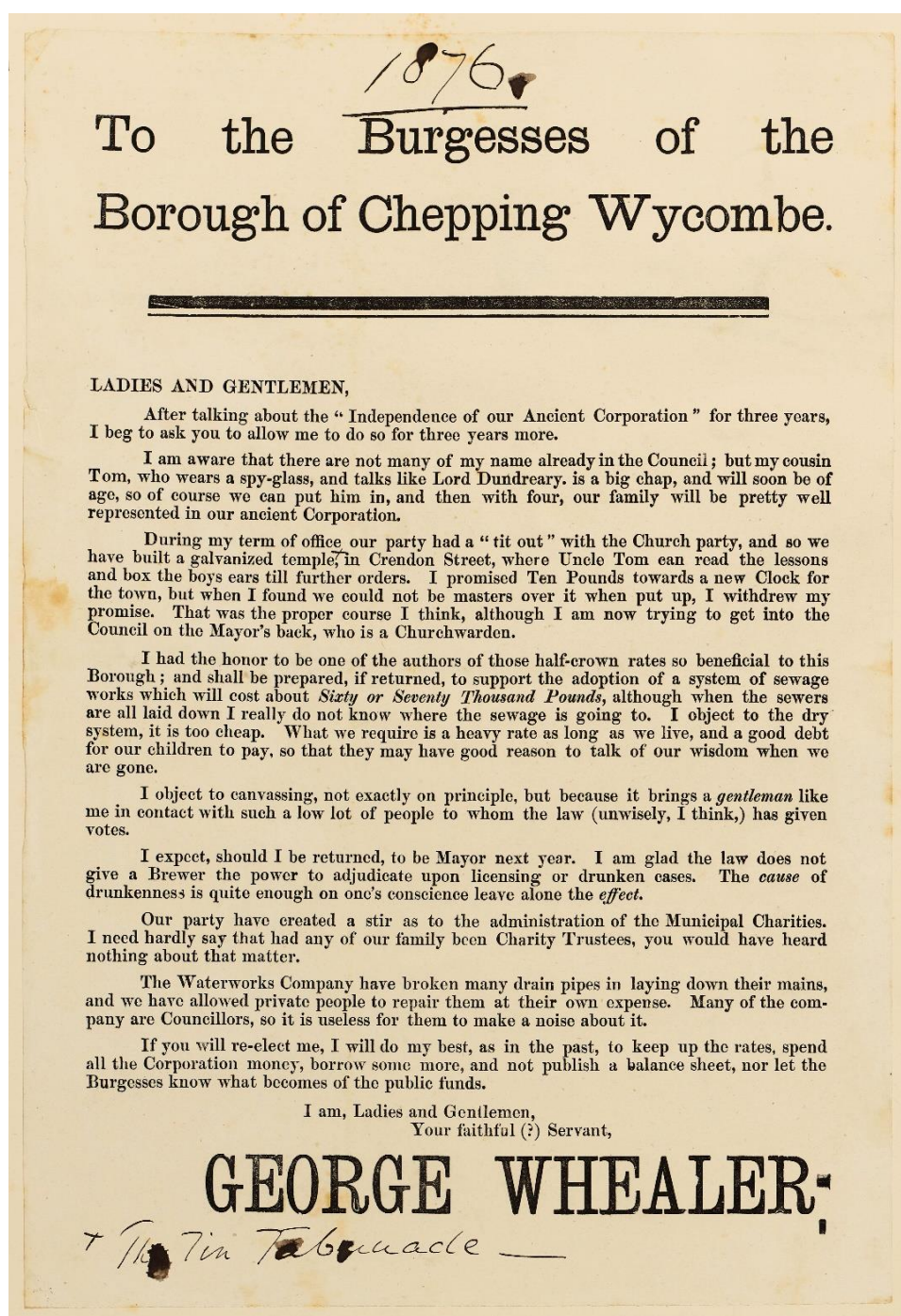
George's grandfather, Robert, had opposed improvements to the sanitation in the town primarily on financial grounds but George's father, Thomas, had the honour of laying the foundation stone for the new sewage works which George is here said to support.

I included this poster on a slide in my recent talk at the Buckinghamshire Local History Network conference which was held online on 24th October.

I hope it caused some amusement. One of the strange things about presenting online is that you don't get the usual audience feedback as you present.

Jackie Kay

Image reproduced by kind permission of Lord Carrington.



Shall we Zoom?

IN THESE UNPREDICTABLE times, making plans for the year ahead is difficult. Even in normal times there are often cold, dark evenings in January when we happily choose to stay within the warmth and comfort of our homes. To bring a little cheer into the start of the New Year, therefore, the High Wycombe Society Trustees invite you to join them on the evening of **Friday 8th January** via Zoom. To take part you will need to register via email – see back page for details – then all we ask is that you plan to be sitting comfortably by **7.30pm** with appropriate refreshments to hand. You may be asked to join in a toast or two on the night. What happens other than that will depend to some extent on you!

This "social" event will be of particular interest to Society members who have not had the usual opportunities to meet with one another at our events during 2020, but it is open to anyone with an interest in the Society and what we might do during 2021. If you wish to make a particular announcement or formal suggestion at this event, or perhaps have an interesting photograph to share, or an idea for a Society activity during 2021 then please let the Editor know before the event so that, if appropriate, a Master of Ceremonies on the evening can call on you. Long speeches, however, will be discouraged in favour of allowing time for spontaneous conversation!

If you've never used Zoom before, please don't be deterred from joining in. Let 8th January be the first occasion on which you give it a try. We are all still learning what it can and cannot do.

So that's who we are

FOR MANY YEARS I walked down Tom Burt's Hill every day on my way to work in High Wycombe. Pausing at the top to look down on the town, in my mind's eye, instead of the jumble of buildings and traffic below, I would see two or three wattle and daub houses with a thin wisp of smoke rising from a hole in their thatch. This small settlement was beside a babbling brook, an important source of drinking water, the single determinant common to any settlers anywhere in the world. This little stream would also provide a source of energy later on. It was enough to power many water-mills which could crush corn or pummel wheat to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Wherever you get a confluence joining two valleys into one, people gather and set up home, especially if there is clean water handy. With a plentiful supply of beech trees on nearby slopes, fertile land and available water, it was almost inevitable that people would settle here. That's how I always saw High Wycombe, not so much defined by the modern factories, office blocks, shopping arcades or the tens of thousands of brick houses forming a suburb of the great conurbation centred just twenty-five miles away, but by those earlier thatched, muddy houses beside the River Wye.

Some older people I meet now, still speak with a distinct Wycombe twang, betraying the local area's longstanding isolation. But for how long? Not long now, it seems, as the London/mid-Atlantic way of speaking overwhelms us all like an oil-slick that pollutes everything in its path. A wave of modernity with a new vocabulary is rapidly sweeping away the traditional speech of the old bodgers. The people of Wycombe will absorb this new way of speaking and subtly change it to make it their own. In fact, they're already doing it.

It is possible to glean from the old folk who still speak with the local twang, what sort of people lived in this valley. For the most part, they seem to be hard-working, fair-minded and amazingly tolerant of other people coming into their area

(though I wonder how tolerant they would be if the area was not so prosperous). And that is what I am, an incomer from a smoky, concrete and brick, urban jungle in the north of England.

This is probably why I appreciate the rolling hills, the fields and the woods around Wycombe, and why I think locals would do well to appreciate the beauty of what is around them. Over the hill from High Wycombe, to the south, and down the other side is the River Thames, passing through great vistas as it flows from Oxford through Marlow, snaking its way on to London. These physical attributes help to make us who we are.

At work in Wycombe, I had an assistant who, despite being over 50, would regularly run the length of the valley, then up to Flackwell Heath, down to Bourne End, along the Thames and finally back to Wycombe down Marlow Hill and she didn't give it a second thought despite having knee and leg injuries to contend with. She was the spirit of High Wycombe—kind and gentle but with a monstrous appetite for physical hard work. Instead of glorifying politicians and celebrities, we should put up statues to people like her, who inspire us far more than anybody else.

John Moore

Frances Alexander (1936-2020)

HIGH WYCOMBE was very lucky when Frances and her husband Eric moved here 50 years ago. Frances loved this town, and she was a font of information about its history. Many will know of her role as one of the 'movers and shakers' in the Lib/Lab coalition that controlled Wycombe District Council at the end of the 1990s. It was under that administration that the High Street was pedestrianised, and I hope you all know – Frances would want to be sure you all know – that the granite balls in the High Street were the contrary!

Frances wanted to make a difference to the world. She stood up for women, and for the environment. She didn't set out to be a role model, but through her achievements – and the way she went about things, by supporting others – she became one. She knew she had achieved a lot, but it didn't make her complacent. She was always looking for ways to make the world a better place. Before Covid we were planning a coach trip to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales, and in the last few weeks she greatly enjoyed word-smithing text for a climate change campaign I was helping to initiate – and making it so much sharper!

You knew where you were with Frances. If things were good, she said so. If they could be better, she said so. She was supportive without being sentimental. She was pragmatic but didn't let that diminish her ambition. And she avoided the epithet 'worthy' through her sharp sense of humour and enjoyment of life.

I first met Frances as a near neighbour almost 10 years ago. Her reputation went before her. I had started working for the Council not long after the end of the Lib/Lab coalition, and she was also very active at the Environment Centre at Holy Well Mead at that time.



Over time I got to know Frances the person, and when Eric died 4 years ago, I was glad to be on hand to pop round for a mix of practical and emotional support. And when my husband, Michael, died, 2 years ago, Frances returned the favour – she gave me supper at the end of that first hateful day saying, 'There is always a meal in the freezer'.

Going round for supper became a pattern, and I would take the odd bottle of pink vermouth or Croft sherry in exchange. That pattern continued when she moved in June of last year to Hughenden Gardens Village, changing to walks in Hughenden Park (she of course in her buggy) during lockdown. It was wonderful that she had a chance to see the Hughenden Stream flowing at full spate again this summer.

I was very lucky to be able to count Frances as a friend. Sometimes people would assume she was my mother because, as she said to me once, 'some people don't believe in friendship across the generations'. She showed what can be achieved through an active life lived in the service of others. She remains an inspiration to me, and, I hope, to the town of High Wycombe.

Penelope Tollitt

THE DEATH OF Frances Alexander is a sad loss to High Wycombe and to the many organisations she founded, supported and with which she was involved. She arrived in High Wycombe shortly after the foundation of the High Wycombe Society, and it is evident from her range of local activities and campaigns that she strongly supported the overall aims of the Society, one of which is to promote an appreciation of the heritage of our town and to introduce people to its rich history.

I got to know Frances and Eric, who were near neighbours in Bassetsbury Lane, soon after Anne and I returned from abroad to High Wycombe in November 2004. Frances' Environment Centre on the Rye was a major achievement and Anne and I were soon visiting it and taking our grandchildren.

Having read history at university, I started researching local history subjects, an activity which brought me into closer contact with Frances and Eric. We had many lively discussions. Frances was always interested in how to make history enjoyable and accessible to local people, especially children. She was less interested in the dry facts and evidence and liked

to take a more romantic approach, centred on anecdotal information and received stories from the past. I remember her once exclaiming to me, "I don't see why you get so het-up with facts. People want to hear about the past and a little embellishment makes it more enjoyable!"

I was pleased to have helped bring to fruition one of Frances' ideas: to restore the historic railings and replace the lost War Office Gates at the Rye entrance to Wycombe Abbey, which Lord Carrington opened on 19th May 2015.

I shall miss Frances' forthright conversation, wealth of knowledge and the pleasure of bumping into her in town on her scooter and having a chat.

David Snoxell

Reminiscences

PETER GOODWIN'S obituary in the Autumn Edition of this newsletter prompted one reader, Elizabeth Porter, to get in touch with memories of his inspirational work as a young and entertaining music teacher at Mill End School, where she remembers he occasionally also stood in for a Geography teacher, holding a full class's attention with stories of far-flung places. He also inspired a group of children by taking them to Sadler's Wells to see an opera, an experience which left lasting memories both of the music and of the "magic" of using bronze coin-in-the-slot opera glasses. Later, in adult life, Elizabeth was able to join in music appreciation classes which Peter ran when he was Head of Music at Wycombe College.

They shall not pass!

DID YOU KNOW that October 24th was World Fish Migration Day? No, me neither, but it seems to have been a big international event. Apparently, the main goal of the day was to improve the public's understanding of the importance of migratory fish and how we can reduce our impact on them. So why should we have been interested? Well, the River Wye is habitat for a number of fish species including brown trout who, if they could, would migrate up the river for spawning in spring and down for space to live and feed. Unfortunately, because of the mills that were on the river and other developments there are many barriers to such migration.

The fish have, of course, adapted to these over the years and young fish can usually be seen in the river below the Pann Mill bridge during the summer. The older fish have either got stuck in this stretch of river or have come down from West Wycombe Park, where they are sometimes released to stock the lakes.



Many of you will be aware that a couple of years ago the Pann Mill Team were approached by Thames Water with a proposal to build a fish pass or ladder to enable fish to swim past the sluices that are used to manage the river when we run the mill. The project was sponsored by the Environment Agency, who were hoping to install such facilities at the other old weirs and sluices along the river. We were happy to agree to the construction of a fish pass so long as it did not affect our ability to run the mill. Off went the contractors to draw up plans and other than a site meeting little was heard for some time. Eventually we were told that the plans had been drawn up and work would be starting soon. We pointed out that since we had not seen the plans we had not agreed them so work would not be starting soon.

The plans were delivered a few days later.

Unfortunately there were a few problems that needed a site meeting, not easy under Covid-19 regulations, when it also came to light that the land owners had not given permission for the work and there was no Conservation Area consent. We also needed agreement from the

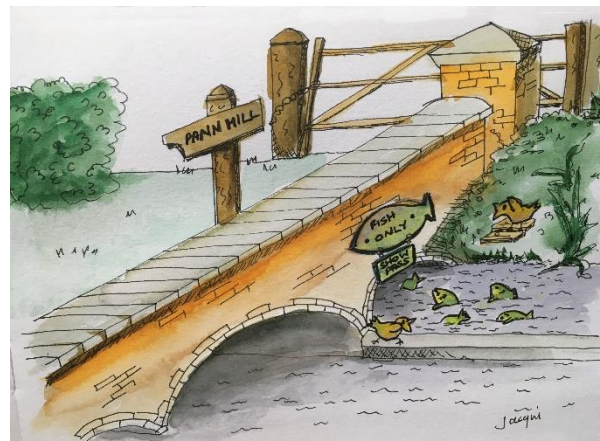
Environment Agency that closing the sluices to run the mill would not result in legal action for interfering with a fish pass, apparently a heinous crime.

That was last August and late in October Thames Water tried again to rush things forward. The "new" plans, we noticed, were exactly the same as the previous set so we could not agree them and there were also other issues that could not be agreed.

Meanwhile we also found an old but extant Act of Parliament that prevented the Agency from interfering with the water supply for a working mill so they are going to have to think about that. Despite there being a mill on the site for over 900 years no fish have ever complained about not being able to pass it. We have no fundamental objection to a fish pass so long as we can still run the mill satisfactorily and are never going to be liable for any costs. We are supported in this by the actual land-owners.

So, while the Environment Agency imitate the fabled Ouslem Bird the trout are still queuing for their pass so that they can get to town.

Malcolm Connell



Trout queuing for town – Cartoon by Jacqui Hogan

Wycombe and the Civil War

IT IS NOT EASY to sort out fact from fiction when getting to grips with the history of High Wycombe. No more so than in the period of the First Civil War 1642 – 1647. Myths, misunderstandings, legends and fake news reports abound as Wycombe's involvement comes to the fore: in 1642 (Battle of Wycombe, 6th December); in 1643 (Prince Rupert's planned raid, 17th June) followed a week later by Colonel Urry's (Royalist) attack on Wycombe; and in 1647 with both the passage of King Charles I through Wycombe and the 'Treaty of Wickham' on 13th July. Transcripts of two pamphlets from this period are to be found on the High Wycombe Society website in a news post headed "Fake News" together with some explanation of their likely propaganda purpose. In this article I will examine the origins of these four events from various published sources.

The **"Battle of Wycombe"** derives from the first of the above-mentioned pamphlets, published in London on 8th December 1642, entitled "A Glorious and Happy Victory". The front cover announces that the unnamed battle was "against the Lord Wentworth, Sonne to the Earl of Strafford, with 8000, Horse and Foot, nere Alesbury and Wickham in Buckinghamshire, December 6 1642". The site of the battle is not specified other than a mention of the "tops of two great hils" and the Parliamentary forces of 4000 set "in two valleys, one the left side of Wickham". Wickham is mentioned 4 times which is probably why the battle was assumed to have been there, rather than at Aylesbury. There are many suspect details in this pamphlet. That the battle was assumed to have been on the Rye is twentieth century conjecture.

The battle does not feature in the First Ledger Book of High Wycombe; in Lipscombe's 1847 "The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckinghamshire"; in Parker's 1878 Early History and Antiquities of Wycombe"; in the 1925 Victoria County History of Buckinghamshire; in L J Ashford's 1960 "History of the Borough of High Wycombe from its origins to 1880"; nor in the 2015 High Wycombe Town Assessment. I have not been able to check Kingston's 1848 "History of Wycombe" but given that Parker used this source and did not mention the "battle" it is a fair assumption that Kingston did not know about it. The above sources are all fairly reliable.

It is likely that the pamphlet only came to the attention of local historians in the late 20th century. The Thomason collection of civil war tracts, held today by the British library, was assembled during and immediately after the Civil War, but it was not until 1908 that a first index was compiled and published by the then Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum. The first published account of the battle clearly based on the pamphlet, would seem to be in Ivan Sparkes' 1975 "High Wycombe as it was". It is well-known that Mayes, former Wycombe museum curator, found two caltrops on the Rye, but caltrops have been used since Roman times and the find does not prove that a battle took place at any date.

The battle also made an appearance in the Society's 1976 booklet on the history of The Rye

entitled "A Priceless Possession" where it was described as "a sharp skirmish on the Rye". Even the Society can fall for fake news. Another even more colourful account (High Wycombe 'Then and Now') was provided by a past member of the Society, entitled "The Rye - A Civil War battlefield." A more recent history, where it appears, is in Martin Andrew's "High Wycombe, A History and Celebration 2005."

Prince Rupert's planned raid in 1643 followed by Colonel Urry's attack a week later are mentioned in several sources, starting with a muddled account by Parker, in which Lord Wentworth seems to have changed sides since the "Battle of Wycombe": "Passing to the time of Charles I we find during the Civil War Prince Rupert at one time made a sally upon Wycombe. It was on the occasion of his acting under the advice of the adventurous Urry when he determined to attack the Parliamentary forces under Lord Wentworth of Bradenham House... It was too late to reach Wycombe... the conflict was too unimportant in character to give it a historical significance or to make it the subject of further observation." More reliable is Ashford's brief description: "Once the fighting began Wycombe became an outpost of the Parliamentary forces against the King's headquarters at Oxford. It was not always well guarded. In June 1643 Prince Rupert made a raid towards the town, only to be headed off by Hampden, who was mortally hurt in the ensuing battle of Chalgrove Field. A week later Colonel Urry, with a detachment of Rupert's horse raided Wycombe and plundered the homes of the main Parliamentary supporters there." The Victoria County History has a "slight skirmish which took place on the Rye with Prince Rupert in 1643" repeated by British History on line, though there is no evidence that Prince Rupert was there or that it took place on the Rye. Martin Andrew observes 'The town saw action in a number of skirmishes and in June 1643 Royalist infantry under Sir John Urry briefly occupied the town.'

King Charles' passage through Wycombe in 1647 has also been the subject of speculation. The First Ledger Book has this entry: "Anno 1647 King Charles marched through the Towne from Cassum (Caversham) toward Woborne in Bedfordshire, Mr James Bigge then beinge Mayor." Parker notes, "We find the king himself

appearing in Wycombe as a prisoner. His sojourn at Holmby House (nr Northampton) was terminated by an order to bring him to the Party headquarters at St Albans, then after to Caversham, where he lodged at Lord Craven's... then through Henley, Marlow, Wycombe to Woburn". No date is given for the King's arrival in Wycombe but it can be narrowed down to between mid-June and August 1647. Charles was taken from Edinburgh to Holdenby (Holmby) in February 1647, from there to Newmarket on 4th June where he stayed a fortnight, he met his children in the Greyhound Inn in Maidenhead on 15th July and in early August he was taken to Hampton Court until he escaped to Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight, on 11th November, remaining there until September 1648. It seems reasonable to suppose that Charles passed through Wycombe after visiting his family in Maidenhead, before continuing to Woburn in Bedfordshire. There is no evidence that he stayed at the Catherine Wheel, though his son Charles II did so with Queen Catherine and Prince Rupert on 30th September 1663. Thus Prince Rupert came to visit Wycombe twenty years later than supposed by some.

'Treaty of Wickham' 13th July 1647. This is the subject of the second propaganda pamphlet accessible as a transcript via the 'Fake News'

post on the Society's website. Its full title is "New Papers from the Armie concerning the Kings Majesties letter to the Duke of York; also the Resolution of their Commissioners at the Treaty at Wickham" and it contains a reference to a purported letter from the king to his son the Duke of York. The main paper is called "The last Newes from the Treaty" and describes discussions between Commissioners appointed by Sir Thomas Fairfax on management of the army and "the peace and safety of this kingdom", in Wickham from 2 July 1647. There is no suggestion that the King or any Royalists were present. Slightly confusingly the entry for this pamphlet in the index to the Thomason Collection at the British Library gives the document the date of 9 July 1647.

The word "treaty" has misled some to think of it as an actual treaty between Parliament and King but its seventeenth century meaning is probably a convention or conference to discuss the issues at stake, in the sense of issues to be treated. There might have been informal contacts with the King who was at that time in the area and marched through Wickham though the most likely explanation is that no such discussions took place here.

David Snoxell

Let there be Colour!

PERIODICALLY OVER the last eight years, your editorial team have toyed with the idea of producing the Newsletter in colour. Colour printing is significantly more costly than monochrome and it would require a rise in membership subscriptions to cover that cost. To those not involved in our deliberations, the solution, at least in the short-term, has always been simple: keep the printed edition as it is - but create an electronic version with colour images.

Having two different editions to manage is a bit of a headache for any Editor, but standard software can now be used to convert colour images into greyscale. So, in theory at least, it is possible to keep a single electronic master in colour and generate a greyscale version just before printing. To understand why it isn't always quite that simple in practice, consider the cartoon on p11. The artist kindly supplied both her original cartoon and a coloured version. For a monochrome printed edition using the original cartoon is far better than a greyscale conversion of a coloured version.

But in Autumn 2020 we set aside our reservations and produced our first colour electronic edition. First to see it were volunteer proof-readers Clifton Hughes and Stephanie Osborn, soon followed by Andy Cole, our Newsletter distributor who handles the email newsletter distribution.

Meanwhile the first semi-automatically generated greyscale edition made its way to our printer, Colin Spooner, a key member of the Newsletter team. As the human face of Oakdale Printing Services (formerly based in High

Wycombe, but now in Bracknell), Colin has been serving the Society reliably since before I joined. He understands the quarterly rhythm of our newsletter production and has seen Editors come and go in his time. Like many small businesses, his work has been hugely disrupted by Covid-19 but he was quick to reassure us that even in these turbulent times he could still supply the paper copies of our Newsletter.

If you are a member of the Society you can opt to receive your Newsletter either as a paper copy delivered to your address, or as a pdf attachment to an email, or both. If you wish to change the way in which you currently receive the newsletter then just drop a note to Andy (by email to cole.andrew@btopenworld.com). Paper copies are mostly delivered by Andy Cole's army of volunteer postmen (although a few of our more isolated members receive their copies by post). Andy is always on the look-out for new recruits so please let him know if you can help.

The colour electronic version of the Newsletter is also made available via our website.

Jackie Kay

Wycombe's own coinage

DID YOU KNOW that Wycombe once had its own coinage? In 1811, James Gomme, a local cabinet-maker and auctioneer, issued a number of silver shillings. They depict the Guildhall (which was then the town hall) with the date in Roman numerals below; and on the reverse a swan, gorged and chained as in the arms of the borough.

Trade tokens in the form of coins came into existence in the seventeenth century following the Civil War. There was an acute shortage of small change for trading. The creation and issue of private tokens was a logical solution to the difficult situation in which traders and poor people found themselves.

Tokens were issued by municipalities, traders and innkeepers, and were essentially a local coin that was legal tender with a particular business or trade, (but usually also exchangeable at others). Most such coins were made of copper or brass and came in three denominations: farthing, halfpenny and penny. The tokens usually bore the name of the issuer, the town, the arms or symbol of his trade and the year of issue. Records show 22 traders issuing tokens in the seventeenth century within High Wycombe alone. Of these, at least 13 had burgess status and seven were innkeepers.

An early token shown below was issued by Robert Whitton "of Great Wickham". From 1661 to 1691 he was the proprietor of the Antelope Inn (which was then in the High Street).



The three initials W R & K stand for Whitton Robert and Katherine, his wife. This was a common convention used on tokens at that time.

Another token, also shown below, was issued by Richard Lucas, proprietor of the Red Lion "in Wickham".



In this case the three initials L R & D lead us to

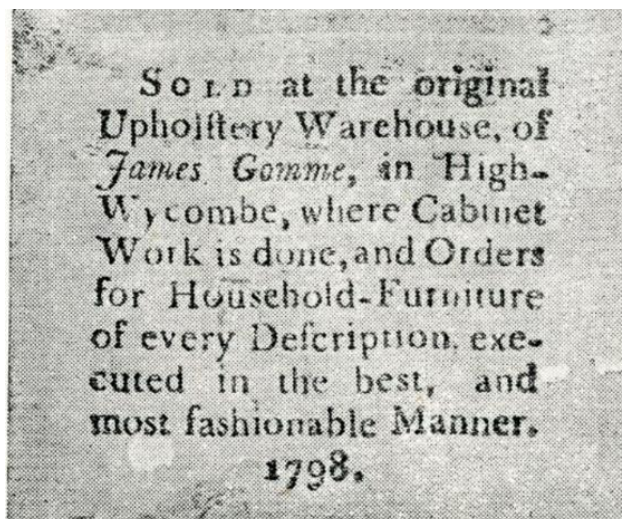
deduce that Richard Lucas's wife's first initial was "D".

Around the end of the eighteenth century there was again a shortage of coinage, which triggered the creation of more tokens including the Gomme silver shilling shown here.



The practice of producing such coins was outlawed a few years later so these tokens have become sought-after collectors' items.

There is a Gomme shilling at the British Museum, and, thanks to a bequest from Ambrose Heal, chairman of Heal's furniture shop on the Tottenham Court Road, the museum also holds an early furniture label relating to James Gomme.

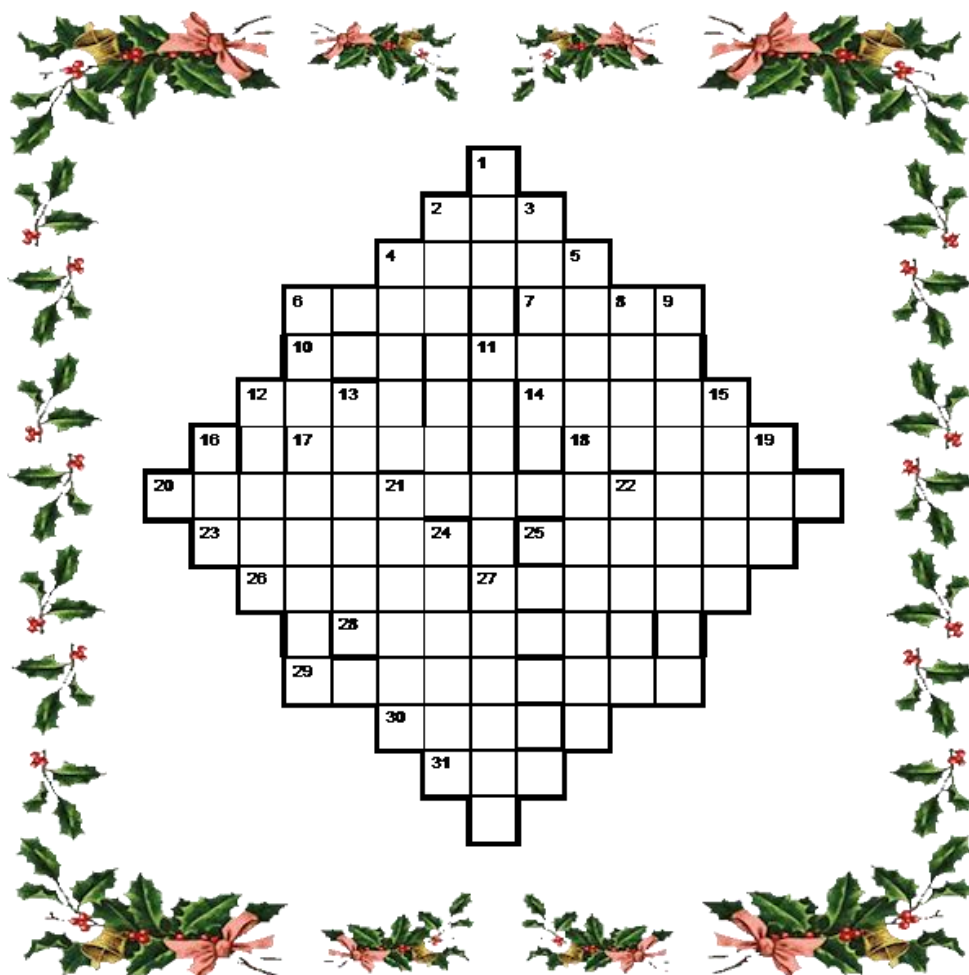


Do you have any pre-decimal coins lying around? – if so, take a closer look - you might just find something of interest!

Mark Page

Mark is a keen photographer and has recently published a book called "High Wycombe through my eyes" that includes many of his photographs.

Christmas Diamond by Clarsach



Across

- 2 Hop upset noodle soup (3)
- 4 At last, quick cordon-bleu teacher grills steak in Russian town.(5)
- 6 Resting place holding a narrow moulding (4)
- 7 Part of this may prove too easy (4)
- 10 Pensioner lost cleaning bar's top (3)
- 11 Source of cricket bat not on in Salon 9? (5)
- 12 A medical man offered first shot (4)
- 14 Mischievous imp trapped in Central Pharmacy (5)
- 17 Cook short kebab, minced (4)
- 18 Duck hiding nothing in arrest (5)
- 20 Spotless, squeaky and shrill? (5,2,1,7)
- 23 Snug'un disturbed by lack of recognition (6)
- 25 Disruptive pairs start uncle's rumbustious lyric (6)
- 26 Chambers discovered in great riad (5)
- 27 Enquire about current gold in convent (6)
- 28 A thousand follow two measures in board (6)
- 29 A familiar side of Wycombe? (9)
- 30 Fasten hair (4)
- 31 Fresh directions (3)

Down

- 1 Seasonal delivery (9,6)
- 2 DS led up swirling, muddy pools (7)
- 3 Wartime spies had vehicle covered in awards (6)
- 4 Stuffing thousands outside a Post Office (5)
- 5 Weapon flourished by Naval Sikh - OK? (11)
- 6 Pompous bimbo cast off (9)
- 8 Garment left in set of parts (4)
- 9 Photos of old models across ancient city (9)
- 12 Collection hides note in sporting venue (5)
- 13 Muck about following well-known team (6)
- 15 Time in sacred enclave disputed thus? (5)
- 16 Influx carried disease (3)
- 19 Leading professor lost your work (3)
- 21 Thin sheet returned for wild resident (6)
- 22 Insincere praise conceals criticism - it's hard! (5)
- 24 Filled basket overturns favourite container (6)

Notices

Obituaries

We regret to inform members of the deaths of:

Frances Alexander (see p10)

David Chapman

Shall we Zoom?

The High Wycombe Society Trustees hereby wish to invite all readers to join them at 7.30pm on the evening of **Friday 8th January** via Zoom. Be ready with appropriate refreshment to hand to raise a glass in a toast or two! What happens other than that will depend to some extent on you! (See p9 for further details).

This "social" event is for Society members and any other readers with an interest in what the Society could do in 2021. To attend you will need to register by sending an email to programme@highwycombesociety.org.uk with "REGISTER" in the subject line. We will then send you the necessary Zoom link and any other details you need a few days before the event.

Early registration will help the organisers assess the level of interest and also ensure that our Zoom licence terms are adequate, but please only register if you intend to attend.

Out and About?

A new children's trail around the Rye "Ramble 'round the Rye" - has been produced by the Chilterns Conservation Board and can be downloaded from the Chalk Cherries and Chairs project pages of their website. It is dedicated to the memory of Frances Alexander. There are teachers' notes to accompany the trail.

Planning Group

Planning Group meet on the fourth Monday of every month and have kept doing so during lockdown via Zoom. If Planning Matters interest you and you think you might like to join them – they say not to worry if it's unfamiliar work, so long as you are interested in our fine town – the Group would be happy to show you what to do!

Help Wanted! - Join a SOFA Panel

Could you spare an hour or two to watch a film and comment on what you see?

Starting in the New Year, the SOFA team will be inviting groups of people to join viewing panels. Be one of the first to see a newly-digitised old film of our town and help us understand its content.

Email the Editor to register your interest and join in the fun. No special expertise required but if you know your way around Wycombe or have memories of how it used to be that would be helpful. Initial opportunities will be via Zoom so you will need access to a computer.

Members Only

Are you up to date with your subscription? Whilst most of our members have set up regular subscription payments (for which we are grateful), 2020 has not provided the usual opportunities to pay in person at our events. Our Treasurer would be very happy to receive any overdue membership subscriptions for 2020-21, preferably via bank transfer – just email treasurer@highwycombesociety.org.uk if you need him to tell you the appropriate codes to use. Alternatively, cheques can be sent to him: **Colin Hingston, 65 Dean Garden Rise, High Wycombe, HP11 1RF.**

Do we have your current email address? If you wish to update any of your details such as your email address, please send an email to membership@highwycombesociety.org.uk and please remember to tell us who you really are if, your email address is not blatantly obvious.

Contributions Please.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue of the Newsletter. Please send material for the next edition addressed to me, Jackie Kay, as The Editor at 19 Hepplewhite Close, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 6BZ (Tel: 01494 534876), or preferably by email to:

newslettereditor@highwycombesociety.org.uk

All contributions to the next edition must be received by **20th February 2021**

You can also get in touch with the Editorial Team via the Society's Facebook page.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Put this date in
your diary **now!!!**

2021	
Friday 8th January 7.30pm-9.00pm Online Event	Shall we Zoom? To bring a little cheer into the start of the New Year, the High Wycombe Society Trustees invite you to join them (see above and p9). To receive the necessary link to take part, register your interest by sending an email with REGISTER in the subject line to: programme@highwycombesociety.org.uk