

THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY

newsletter

NUMBER 201

WINTER 2021

Happy Christmas!

WITH THE CLOUD of Covid still hovering around us, people I know are hesitant to commit to plans for the coming weeks. Thanks to HWBidCo, the Christmas lights are on in town and the concrete balls in the High Street have undergone their annual transformation into decorative Christmas puddings. The Elf School is set to open in the Eden Centre soon but local preparations for the festive season in general seem a bit subdued. It just doesn't feel "Christmassy" yet, despite the first snow, but maybe it will do by the time you are reading this. The Newsletter is lacking some of its regular "Christmassy" features, but it is still bursting at the seams with varied content, so in these uncertain times I hope you will relax and enjoy reading it. My thanks also to all who have helped produce and distribute it throughout the year.

The next opportunity for all Society members and supporters to get together will be early in the New Year over Zoom, so if you are able, please make a note to join in on 7th January (see back page). It will be a good opportunity to catch up on what everyone is hoping to do in the New Year including the latest plans for our art exhibition in April (see p5).

I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Jackie Kay



Society President Stuart King, who has indicated his wish to retire from his role in the near future, has done it again – with a winning entry into the Worshipful Company of Turners' Wizardry in Wood competition held in October 2021.



A reconstruction of 2/3 High Street as it would have looked when first built in 1399. Drawing by Andrew Faulkner RIBA, AABC, Andrew Faulkner Associates Ltd., based on a measured survey by Ross Cook of ArchaeoDomus and reproduced courtesy of Buckinghamshire Historic Buildings Trust

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

Registered Charity No. 257897

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Planning Matters

HAVING BEGUN AGAIN to hold 'in-person' meetings, the Planning Group has been busy keeping an eye on the built environment in High Wycombe. Chris Woodman has taken on a crucial role on the new High Wycombe Community Board, helping to transform the town. Despite excellent work done by HWBIDCo to put on festivals, celebrations and specialist markets, the town centre still lacks appeal for many to come in and spend their leisure time (and money!) due to persistent anti-social behaviour. In his report below, Chris describes a walking tour to look at shop fronts. What he doesn't mention is the disruptive, seemingly drugged up, ankle-tagged ex-offender that followed us around, interrupting our conversation in the hope we'd give him money. Whilst he needed help, this sort of experience repels many people, and provides quite a challenge for those trying to boost the town's appeal to potential investors.

The High Wycombe Community Board is proving to be a remarkably useful forum for getting things done, involving not only councillors but volunteers (including some from our Society) in the process. The "Recovery & Regeneration Action Group" has done some very impressive work to tackle food poverty and financial insecurity, bringing together a wide range of participants. It has now started to tackle, with the police and many other players, anti-social behaviour which can make the town unattractive to visitors. A tight-knit town centre partnership has had its first meeting, led by Councillor Lesley Clarke. Having already brought the attention of the full Board to the need to open up the River Wye, which has received widespread support, Chris Woodman moved on in the Action Group to the issue of our town centre's "street scene". Why does High Wycombe get called a "tatty town", and how do some other towns do much better than Wycombe in making new developments fit in with their historic frontages? After he circulated a set of photographs of the good and the bad in High Wycombe and corresponding scenes in other towns and cities, a well-attended meeting took place on 5th November with our local Conservation Officer, Sarah Oborn, who proved to be impressively well-informed about the local and national planning rules and about specific buildings in the town centre, including the High Street, White Hart Street and Frogmoor. Following a session in the council offices, we had a "walkabout" in which the participants pointed out a wide range of issues and Sarah made a comprehensive list.

There were two very welcome outcomes. The first, which we had hoped for, was that Sarah and her Team Leader Paul Rhymes (who also had an impressive grasp of the situation at the county level) took away the task of producing an up-to-date Supplementary Planning Document on shopfronts, which, when complete, will

strengthen the hand of planning and enforcement officers in insisting that future changes in the street scene will be better than much that we have seen to date.

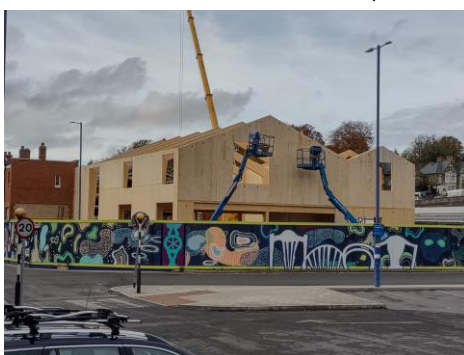
The second, and unexpected, result of the meeting exemplified the effective cross-party working that is taking place in the Community Board. Cllr Julia Wassell said a major issue in the town centre, perhaps more important than ugly signage, is that it is dirty and untidy. With much experience of leading groups of volunteers

to tackle unsightliness in Micklefield and Totteridge, she believed such work is appropriate in the town centre and that a "Town Centre Champion" was needed to coordinate the effort. After the meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Clarke would take on that role, assisted by the energetic Cllr Arif Hussein and Julia herself. It was a rather successful outcome but there are many

parties involved – the council's Transport Department (who are responsible for roads and pavements) as well as Planning and Enforcement – and in Cllr Clarke's experience, it is often difficult to get the responsible parties to take action. Everyone has their "resource limitations", but hopefully, getting Buckinghamshire Council's Community Board on the job will help. And it will certainly mean that, where issues can be effectively tackled by volunteers, they will be.

Brunel Shed update The eastern extension is well underway. The steels (clad in wood) appear to be in situ. The front part of it looks to be mostly glazed. According to the planning documents, the extension is to be clad in metal, which should hopefully weather and mellow over time. This project is a great example of Buckinghamshire Council's investment in heritage and will no doubt be a good first impression of the town to those arriving by train.

The Casino update We are happy to report some positive news from the High Street regarding the 'slot machine' casino. Pressure is being applied



Progress on the eastern extension of the Brunel shed
Photo: Robert Hutton

to the business and enforcement are now involved to ensure that the business is not breaching any of their planning conditions. As a result the balloon arches, loud music, A-board and flashing LEDs have all gone. There are still some window vinyls and advertisements attached to the railings. Following the town centre walkabout with Buckinghamshire Council's Conservation Officer, 39 High Street is most definitely on the radar, and any breaches of their planning conditions will continue to be reported so they can be swiftly dealt with.

Barber Shop Group at 1 High Street have left High Wycombe. Their successors, also a barber shop, have certainly had a big impact since they took over a few weeks ago. Gone is the deep red traditional frontage of the previous business, replaced by a brilliant white gloss and badly painted barbers' poles. Passers-by have observed how unprofessionally it has been done and voiced their concerns. Even the exterior York stone paving is now covered in white paint. We understand that the council's enforcement officers are already involved. Early intervention should ensure that in future the owners and occupiers understand their responsibilities and obligations to look after their Grade II listed building.

Terriers Farm Reserve Site Following the mention in the Autumn 2021 newsletter of the latest planning application for the Terriers Farm reserve site, the planning group have been looking at the proposed development in detail. As previously mentioned, we have grave concerns about foul waste disposal increasing demand for pipeline capacity from the former sewage works in Loudwater to the Little Marlow Sewage Treatment Works; this is also an issue for the other reserve sites in High Wycombe. The planning application does not address this issue; it is Thames Water's responsibility as the utility provider to ensure that capacity is available for the services indicated.

We are very concerned about the placement of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) being next to the boundary alongside the Lady's Mile path and the potential light pollution into the adjoining AONB land and its impact on the wildlife of this area. Also, the parking for the MUGA and adjoining two sports fields does not appear to be sufficient for this facility. Parking allocations for the whole site seem to be inadequate for the number of proposed dwellings, and we can see a

recurrence of the issues that occurred following the Kingshill Grange development regarding the lack of parking.

The designs of the properties within the development appear to have been taken from a set of standard house plans rather than the design brief for the site which called for consideration of properties in the surrounding area. Although some do have a brick and flint finish, we hope that generic and second-rate panels are not used.

Distracting car drivers The Society achieved "Star" status, recently, on the Correspondence

page of the Bucks Free Press, with a letter about the very large electronic advertising board just off the magic roundabout at the bottom of Marlow Hill, standing in the grounds of The Riverside Club, facing the flyover. We had previously opposed plans for its installation considering it an unwelcome addition to our historic market town, but planning permission was eventually granted on appeal and with no objection from the Highway Authority. The focus of our letter, post-installation, was to draw attention to our view that it is distracting for motorists descending the hill and, particularly, for those leaving the roundabouts on the flyover. We asked Bucks Council to consider any means on safety grounds to have the board removed despite the planning permission. The permission will expire in five years by which time perhaps the flyover will also have expired. In the meantime, we urge caution to all in the sincere hope that the council's decision will not cause any avoidable road traffic accidents.

And finally... We are delighted and rather proud to announce that Planning Group member Tony Mealing has been given yet another architectural award. Practically a High Wycombe aristocrat (he can trace his family back multiple generations), Anthony Mealing Dipl Arch RIBA has been given the Chiltern Conservation Board's Award for Best Traditional Building 2020-2021 for his work at Chisbridge Farm where a large linking block has been sensitively inserted between two old and distinguished domestic Chiltern buildings. It's actually the fourth time he has won this award in the last 20 years. Well done, sir!

Planning Group



*Above: insensitive changes to a listed building.
Below: poorly executed painting.*

Photos: Gemma Shinh





"Zeg" is one of the most prolific tags to be found in town:

Photo Julia Wassell

Declaring War on Graffiti

WE HAVE ALL become accustomed in recent times to seeing one another wearing masks. Even so, there's something about this portrait of Society Life Member Cllr Julia Wassell which captures a woman on a mission: to rid our town of unsightly graffiti.

Shortly after Planning Group's walkabout with the Conservation Officer, I received an email from Julia including practical information about the best products she had found for removing tags and stickers, and the best anti-stain paint for avoiding the shadow of tags still showing through. She was systematically working through a list of tasks she had identified she could do and told me that "Zeg" and "Choke" were the most prolific tags to be found in town. She is also liaising with NatWest bank to get the high-level graffiti removed from their building in the High Street (see pictures immediately below). Julia, we salute you!

JK



*Woman on a Mission!
(Self-portrait)*

Photo: Julia Wassell



New Banking Details

DUE TO the planned introduction of bank charges for charity accounts at HSBC, the Society has switched to using Metro Bank. We emailed those members for whom we have email addresses a few weeks ago, and there were some who thought this may have been a scam. This is understandable, and very sensible for people to check. One unforeseen downside of Metro Bank is the fact they are not members of the payee verification scheme which the big banks introduced in the last year or so. This can result in a worrying message when paying us with words to the effect that the payee cannot be verified, and efforts should be made to check identity. Metro Bank have had comments from various customers on this subject and are planning to join the system, but they cannot give any timescale for this.

For standing order or individual subscriptions, the new bank details are:

The High Wycombe Society
Sort code: 23-05-80
Account No. 42783986

Note: if you have a standing order in favour of the High Wycombe Society and have previously supplied the Society's HSBC details to your bank, your next payment is likely to "bounce". Please therefore set up a new standing order with your bank using the above details.

Colin Hingston, Hon Treasurer

Heralding Hannan's Highway

1772-2022

SINCE OUR FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT of the Society's intention to hold an art exhibition in 2022, Trustee Willie Reid has been hard at work on the logistics required to make it happen. The 2-week long event, triggered by the 250-year anniversary of William Hannan's paintings of High Wycombe's High Street, and to be held in the Guildhall, is now scheduled to begin at the Easter Weekend (**earlier than previously planned**) and, assuming all goes according to the new plan, it promises to be a highlight on the town's calendar, so to avoid disappointment, be sure to be in High Wycombe for at least part of that time!

We'd like to thank those of you who have already been in touch one way or another to offer support or suggestions. This includes our friends at the Wycombe Arts Centre and Wycombe Museum as well as several individual Society members.

We were delighted to hear from a near-relative of Jim Cottrell whose artistic contributions in the early days of the Society are legendary, and we wonder if anyone else has examples of Jim Cottrell's work stowed away; we have also heard from a new member who has an impressive collection of historic tokens to display.

Two more related contributions deserve special mention:

- Firstly, the Society has been granted the opportunity to "adopt" the William Hannan picture currently on display at Wycombe Museum. You can expect to hear more about this in the New Year *before* the main exhibition event.
- Secondly, Tony Mealing has generously offered not only to loan his recent paintings of the North side of the High Street, but also to give the Society rights to reproduce them, with any proceeds from sale going to the Society.

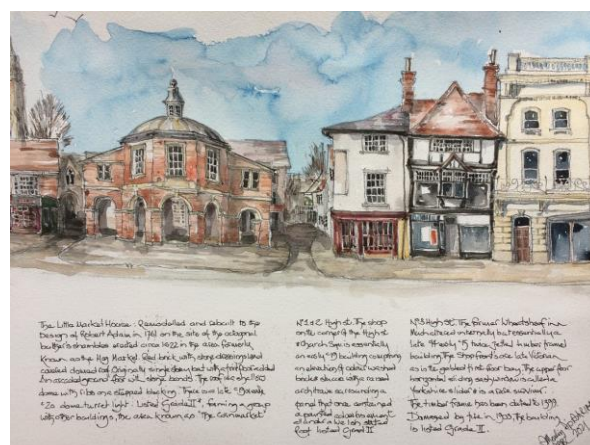
There are a lot more ideas being discussed including a display of some historic maps but we don't want to give away too many "spoilers" for those readers who want to wait to be pleasantly surprised in April 2022.

If you would like to know more sooner, and perhaps influence our plans, then we invite you to get in touch. If you have any past experience of mounting exhibitions so much the better. We would welcome your expertise. This is a unique opportunity to showcase both the Society and our town, so let's make the most of it and make it an event to remember!

Nearer the time, one of the challenges that everyone can help with will be advance publicity. We cannot have too much of it, so we encourage you to talk about our plans with friends, family and acquaintances and stay tuned for further directions!

For the event itself we will need a pool of willing volunteers to help man the Guildhall. So please consider:

Do you have at least 2 hours to spare sometime between 14th and 29th April 2022? Could you manage a welcoming smile and enthuse about our town to visiting members of the public? (Covid conditions hopefully permitting by then) If so, we could use your help.



One of Tony Mealing's paintings. Together they form a frieze- nine-foot long. The accompanying text details architectural features of the buildings.

Attendees at BLHN 2021 – the Buckinghamshire Local History Network's Annual conference held at Wycombe Abbey School in October – are among those who have had a foretaste of part of next year's exhibition. It was an ideal opportunity for Tony Mealing's paintings to make their debut. Newly installed in clip frames with glass to protect them, they were laid out on tables in the recital room and admired by all conference attendees.

The theme for the day was "Shopping in Buckinghamshire: from Medieval Market Places to Modern Retail parks". Several Society members were in the audience and Trustee, Jackie Kay, gave one of the talks. These were delivered to a socially-distanced audience in the auditorium, and simultaneously relayed to remote attendees over Zoom. Jackie's talk focused on shops and shopkeepers of High Wycombe in the late eighteenth century.

No Harking Back for High Wycombe

IF THE RECENT COP26 conference in Glasgow taught us anything, it was that young people are incensed about how we and our forebears have damaged this planet. Greta Thunberg's generation calls out decades of climate change 'blah blah blah'. And what did the elder statesmen of High Wycombe do in the 1960s? In their wisdom they buried the town's river – its lifeblood – in a concrete tunnel. No wonder then that fish no longer swim its dark and lifeless length. If we are to make something of this town's future, we must reinstate this precious chalk stream and landscape it for the enjoyment of the next generation. And I hope that the current generation of elected representatives are inclined to act, rather than regurgitate more 'blah blah blah'. I have faith that they will.

Ah, but this is an expensive folly, is it not? Whether the River Wye is raised for a modest section by the Oxford Road from Aldi to M&S, or for an extended length all the way to the theatre, it's a vanity project that can't possibly pay its way. That's what Charles Brocklehurst argues in his article in the last edition of this newsletter. My response is as follows:

- Concrete is known only to be reliable and safe for around 50 years. Sooner or later the concrete structure of both the underground culverts and the flyover ramps will disintegrate to the extent that they must be rebuilt, patched up every few years or removed altogether. There is no zero-cost solution to this; all options will cost millions and be highly disruptive to businesses. There's no choice to sit back and do nothing.
- Wycombe District Council wisely invested in the Alternative Route a few years ago, which means that removing traffic from the flyover in due course is genuinely possible.
- Car usage is predicted to fall in the next few years as fewer young people now want the hassle and expense of running a car, so we soon may not need the flyover. Lower car usage is a good thing for the planet and we should be encouraging people to walk, cycle, take buses and trains, and use scooters – well done to whoever brought those into town!
- Retail is shrinking. Town centres can no longer rely on the merry-go-round of shops, restaurants, bars, etc opening and closing. Instead, game-changers are needed to attract people into town centres. A unique narrative of interest about the town needs to be supported by plenty of vibrant events and appropriate ongoing actions taken to ensure a safe, attractive, well-tended and clean environment.
- Over time, the number of retail outlets will decline in our town in line with national trends. Look at the empty shops already dotted around Eden. Unless the council intervenes we will have a distended, half-empty retail landscape. It would be far better to condense most of our retail and hospitality into a smaller area – preferably the historic core – leaving

opportunities for flipping retail into residential space – again in line with national trends

- People simply don't want to inhabit or spend leisure time in nature-free spaces, especially if they are as concrete as our townscape currently looks. There is something compelling for us all in flowing water, trees, grass, flowers, birds, butterflies, bees, etc. An artificial rill (a narrow water channel) set into the pavement in front of Sainsbury's, or a New York style 'high line' garden lookalike on the side of the flyover traffic, competing with carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon car emissions simply don't cut it.

- Every other town or city that features a river sees enormous commercial benefits from it – Windsor or London without the Thames, anyone? Did you notice how much Reading invested in its riverside area to draw in new investment? And please visit Maidenhead to see what exciting river frontages are now being created.

Reinstating the river as the central feature of our town is far from being some rose-tinted dollop of genteel nostalgia for ageing pensioners. None of us sees it as that. It's about the future. It's about offering something worthwhile to the next generation and making reparations for poor decisions 50+ years ago when concrete became king in High Wycombe. It's about creating a genuine and lasting experience in the town centre, not just another iteration of shop or restaurant trends. Actually, it's about more than that – it's about the very survival of our town. We cannot afford to not reinstate the river.

Heather Morley

P.S. The above should not in any way detract from my significant admiration for Charles' work of several years to invest in town centre property, refurbish it, and then rent to some excellent tenants whose presence significantly contributes to the vibrancy of the area. Mad Squirrel and Front Room are just two such examples. He is also a champion of cycle routes that will one day link Hughenden with Bourne End, one of the greenest initiatives anyone at the council has ever instigated. He is a true gent and an enormous asset to our town. *H.M.*

The Great Aylesbury Train Robbery

OH DEAR! Wycombe is losing out on North-South rail connections – AGAIN! The latest government announcements make very sad reading.

At the moment, it is possible to get a train from High Wycombe and travel without changing via Princes Risborough, to get to Aylesbury and Aylesbury Parkway, but there the passenger network stops.

The plan was to improve the single line section from Princes Risborough to Aylesbury and to continue restoring passenger services on the existing freight line on to Steeple Claydon, where it would join the new East-West line, already restored from Oxford via Bicester Village and under construction towards Bletchley and Milton Keynes. The construction will then continue to Bedford, all on existing track, and eventually reach Cambridge.

However, the population of the vast area covering High Wycombe and Aylesbury have been cheated out of this. Aylesbury alone has a population of 89,000 and is set to grow considerably – all without significant infrastructure improvements.

The Government in its wisdom has shelved this part of the project, although it has a far better business case than HS2. Of course, they are citing money as the reason, but no doubt because of the obscene cost of HS2.

Also gone is the scheme to make this line part of a freight spine linking container ports, and heaven knows we could do with road freight being relieved. Similarly, electrification has been ruled out, not bad with COP26 still fresh in the headlines.

It is to be hoped that opposition from Buckinghamshire MPs and Buckinghamshire Council can reverse this “delay”.

As a rider, since the idea of connecting High Wycombe with the Thames Valley by re-opening the Marlow Branch from Bourne End to High Wycombe seems to be gathering dust, it has been announced that a “Branch Line Bus” is to be introduced from Bourne End station to High Wycombe station, running every 15 minutes. Personally, since it will be stuck in the traffic like the rest of us, I can’t see it being a raging success.

Nigel Phillips

Editor’s comment: perhaps a key to the future could be found in Tony Mealing’s article on pp12-13. A few more horses are obviously required!

Saffron House

EARLIER THIS YEAR we were approached by the NHS Oxford Health Foundation Trust who were preparing to move their community mental health hub for services in South Buckinghamshire into the building behind the Old Grammar School in Easton Street, which was formerly occupied by Bucks County Council. A major refurbishment was underway to accommodate their 240 staff and we were asked if we could help name the building.

Our suggestions, most of which related to people who had lived in the immediate vicinity of Easton Street in the past, were subjected to rigorous debate by panels including staff and users of the service before a clear favourite emerged and the decision was taken to name the building “Saffron House”.



A plaque just inside the building explains that saffron is obtained from the stamens of crocus flowers and that it symbolises “healing and love”. The chalky north-east slopes of the Wycombe valley were once a saffron-drying district, still acknowledged in other nearby road names Saffron Platt and Saffron Road.

On Tuesday 9th November I was invited to witness Steve Redgrave performing the official opening of the newly refurbished building. Covid precautions limited the opportunity to meet and mingle as the speeches and ceremonial unveiling took place outdoors, but I was also warmly entertained to tea and cake. My thanks to Zoe Moorhouse and Victoria Taylor. I look forward to being able to reciprocate the invitation to tea and cake at a future Pann Mill Open Day.

Jackie Kay

The self-styled 'Citizen' MP for Wycombe (1780-1786)

CHARLES STANHOPE was born on 17th August 1753 at Chevening House in Kent, the family seat of the Earls Stanhope. He was the 2nd son of Philip Stanhope 2nd Earl Stanhope and Lady Grizel Hamilton Stanhope, and a grandson of James Stanhope 1st Earl Stanhope who had been MP for Wendover in 1714 and who effectively served as chief minister from 1717-1721. Charles Stanhope began his education at Eton but soon moved to Geneva in Switzerland where the family remained until 1774. His elder brother Philip died of consumption in 1763, whereupon Stanhope was styled Lord Mahon, the title he would use as an MP, whilst also being heir to the Earldom, destined in due course to become Charles Stanhope 3rd Earl Stanhope (but not until his father's death).

Family life. Shortly after his return to England, in 1774 Stanhope married his first wife, Lady Hester Pitt (1755–1780), daughter of William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham ("Pitt the Elder") Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and the sister of William "Pitt the Younger".

By her he had three daughters: Lady Hester Lucy Stanhope (1776–1839), a traveller and Arabist who died unmarried at the age of 63 in Syria; Lady Griselda Stanhope (1778–1851), wife of John Tekell; and Lady Lucy Rachel Stanhope (1780–1814), who eloped with Thomas Taylor of Sevenoaks, the family apothecary, an act her father never forgave.

In 1781 Stanhope married his second wife, Louisa Grenville (1758–1829), a cousin of his first wife, and daughter and sole heiress of the Hon. Henry Grenville (Governor of Barbados in 1746 and ambassador to the Ottoman Porte in 1762). She survived Stanhope and died in 1829.

By her he had three sons: Philip Henry Stanhope, 4th Earl Stanhope (1781–1855), eldest son and heir, who shared many of his father's scientific tastes; Maj. Hon. Charles Banks Stanhope (1785–1809), aide-de-camp to John Moore, who was killed at the Battle of Corunna; and Lt Col Hon. James Hamilton Stanhope (1788–1825) of the 1st Foot Guards.

Politics Styled as Lord Mahon, Stanhope first entered politics in 1774 as a candidate to become MP for Westminster but he withdrew before the election. From 1780 to 1786 he served as MP for Chepping Wycombe, nominated by Lord Shelburne, then owner of Loakes Manor (better known today as Wycombe Abbey). Lord Shelburne had himself been MP for Chepping Wycombe in 1861 before being elevated to the Lords and would become Prime Minister briefly in 1782-3. Stanhope supported his brother-in-law Pitt during the 1783/84 Parliamentary sessions but later severed political connections with him.

In 1786, upon the death of his father, he inherited the title 3rd Earl Stanhope and entered the House of Lords.

Stanhope called himself 'Citizen' to advertise his socialist beliefs and sympathy for the French Revolution. As a fervent supporter of French republicanism, he became Chairman of the 'Revolution Society' which celebrated the deposing of James II and his replacement by William of Orange, Prince of Holland. The Rev. Jeremiah Joyce (his private secretary and the tutor to his sons) was arrested on 4th May 1794 at Chevening House on a charge of 'treasonable practices.' Owing to his revolutionary sympathies, Stanhope's house in Mansfield Street was also attacked by rioters and set on fire on the night of 11th June 1794.



Charles Stanhope 3rd Earl Stanhope (1753-1816)

Stanhope was a supporter of independence for the American colonies. He was made a member of the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia in 1774 but there is no evidence of him visiting America. He may have been influenced by his family's long-term friendship with Benjamin Franklin.

Stanhope was a renowned scientist and inventor, becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1775. His inventions and

research work undertaken before, during and after his time as MP for Wycombe include the following ...

1773 Lightning conductors The Royal Society was looking for methods to protect Gunpowder Magazines safely following a strike of lightning which caused a powder magazine in Brescia Italy to blow up. Stanhope researched "High pointed conductors" proposed by Benjamin Franklin, the American scientist, and "Round knob type conductors" proposed by Benjamin Wilson, a British painter and amateur scientist. Stanhope wrote a specification in favour of pointed conductors; a design which has since been adopted for conductors all over the world. The King's physician and chairman of the Royal Society resigned in protest because of the adoption of this design.

1783 Steam-powered ships Stanhope consulted with his friends, the renowned steam engineers, James Watt and Mathew Boulton, on the design of a steam-powered ship. He

designed a vessel and then experimented with it on the lake at Chevening House.

To drive it, he chose to use the 'duck's foot' principle in which a flat paddle mounted beneath the craft would be made to oscillate back and forth. On the backward strokes the boat would be propelled forwards, but on the forward strokes the paddle would fold, cutting through the water without appreciably slowing the boat.

The vessel had difficulty moving from stationary, so a rope was attached and Chevening's estate workers pulled it from the far bank of the lake to start it moving. On the first occasion, Stanhope cut the rope without any warning and all estate workers fell backwards in a heap!

He persuaded the Government and Royal Navy to experiment with his propulsion system and build a small ship but it was not very successful, and the design was eventually abandoned.

Calculating machines Two versions of calculating machines were made using drums, screws, wheels and cogs etc. They were constructed by James Bullock a mechanical engineer and weighed around 10lbs.

The original machine was later obtained by Charles Babbage, the scientist considered to be the originator of the principles of the programmable computer, the basis for modern electronic computers 150 years later. Stanhope's machine was given to the Victoria and Albert Museum by a descendant of Babbage.

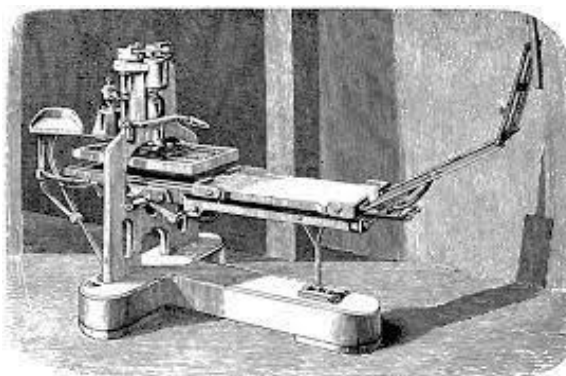
The Stanhope Lens was a very powerful pocket microscope which comprised a cylinder with glass at each end, curved outwards but with one curve less pronounced than the other. Objects to be studied were placed close to the less curved end. It was used to examine crystals and fluids in medical work and fibres in the textile industry.

A modified version was used to look at 'microphotographs' which could be as small as 1mm square. Microphotographs were invented by John Benjamin Dancer and enabled photos to be inserted in personal jewellery such as rings or also in toys, pocketknives and pens etc. Others were used by engineers, scientists and spies to copy pictures, drawings and documents.

The Stanhope Printing Press featured an iron framework making it sturdier than presses of solely wooden construction. Operated by hand

using a special combination of levers with a screw mechanism it gave a powerful and steady pressure on the paper.

Stanhope was tempted into designing this new printing press to help the company printing his own book about physics. The press was also used to print "The Times" newspaper before the invention of steam presses.



The Stanhope printing press

Stanhope insisted that anything printed by his equipment should be composed using the most elegant type available.

His particular wishes were for his Press to be used to keep the price of educational schoolbooks low, not to criticise religion, avoid politics and not be used to attack any individuals.

He appointed an agent in Pennsylvania in an attempt to expand interest in his printing press in the newly independent America but the enterprise came to nothing.

Fire extinguishing Stanhope designed a method of sealing rooms in buildings by using special coatings on walls and ceilings – a mixture of sand and mortar – to prevent the spread of a fire and stop the heat going into the room above. This would mean the fire used up the oxygen and eventually went out.

To prove his point, he built a two-storey building in the grounds of Chevening House and set fire to it while guests including The Lord Mayor of London, The President of the Royal Society, and the former Prime Minister William Pitt sat on the second floor eating ice cream in safety while the fire raged below. The system didn't go into general use but, ironically, some 20 years later Chevening House itself caught fire, suffering considerable damage except for the rooms in which Stanhope had installed his system.

1793 Canals Stanhope acquired a substantial estate in North Devon. Upon hearing that ship owners were very concerned about having to sail from Bristol around the dangerous waters off Lands' End to get to the English Channel and Europe, he made plans for a canal from the North Devon coast at Bude Haven to the River Tamar on the South Devon coast. This was a distance of about 40 miles and passed through his own estate at Holsworthy.

Stanhope surveyed the whole route himself and found height differences in excess of 500ft. He determined that locks as a method of raising and lowering the barges was impractical and so consulted the American Engineer Robert

Fulton. Fulton had designed a way of lifting boats using an inclined plane system where boats or barges were positioned on a frame on rails and pulled uphill. Stanhope proposed an alternative method whereby barges entered cisterns filled with water which, when lowered, were counterbalanced by a similar cistern with another barge in it.

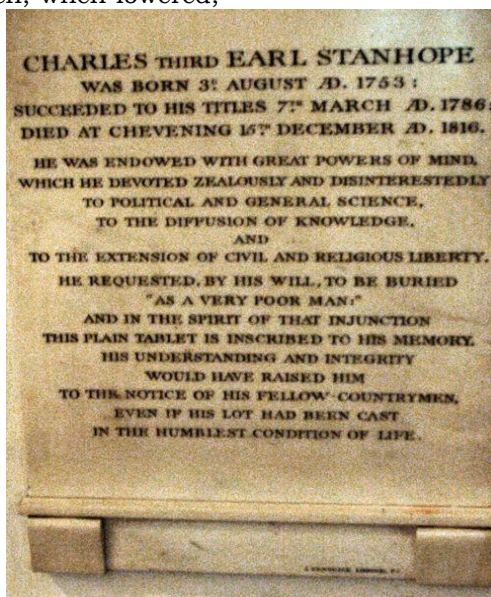
Other inventions included: the design of lime kilns to produce high quality building materials; an artificial roofing material which allowed the installation of flat roofs on buildings; a method of curing wounds in trees; and a method of preventing counterfeiting of gold coins. Various essays and papers written by Stanhope survive including: Structure of a Pendulum; Rights of Juries; and Principles of Electricity.

Most of Stanhope's research and inventions were self-financed and became a severe drain on his finances.

Estrangement and neglect by family
Stanhope was known for being difficult at times, particularly with his family who eventually disowned him. In retaliation,

Stanhope disinherited all his children leaving the bulk of his estate to his mistress, a Mrs Walburgh Lackner, who had originally been engaged as his children's music teacher.

Charles Stanhope 3rd Earl Stanhope died in 1816 at Chevening House.



Memorial tablet in the Stanhope chantry in St Botolph's churchyard at Chevening in Kent

Chevening house was originally built in 1630 but was substantially modified by Stanhope. His modifications included the conversion of the Drawing Room into a workshop. Because his inventions placed such a burden on his finances over the years, by the time Stanhope died the house was in a very poor condition and was described as a neglected ruin standing in a hayfield. It remained in the Stanhope family until a Board of Trustees was set up in 1940 to manage the estate and it was occupied by the 7th Earl Stanhope until his death in 1967, when it was gifted to the government for use of a senior minister chosen by the Prime Minister. (Foreign Secretary at time of writing).

Mick Lewis

So, Who Was Roger de Pannil...?

A GOOD QUESTION to which the Millers really wish they had an answer. Or maybe it wasn't him at all but a Pinel or Pennell. The Victoria History of the County of Buckinghamshire (VCH) says, "...one of the Domesday mills was known as Pannells or Pann Mill, which name is still borne by a mill on the north-west of the Rye. It probably belonged to a family in this parish called Pinel, mentioned in 1185. In 1344 Adam de Martham granted 'Two water-mills under one roof called la Pennell in Wycombe' to Sir Hugh de Neweton".

Some years ago, one of the Mill Team was researching the history of Pann Mill but unfortunately died suddenly and much of his research was lost. We have always understood that the mill was given to Roger by Henry II who was certainly King in 1185 but we have no definitive story.

Do you think that you could help write that story along with the rest of the history of the mill?

We know that a lot of records exist that mention Pann Mill but we really need someone to research and record them and, if possible, obtain copies for future reference. Eventually we would like to have an illustrated timeline to display at open days or on our web site.

The earliest hint of the mill is in the Domesday Book when it is reasonably established that it was one of the six mills in Wycombe (or Wicumbe) in 1086. Archaeological excavations in the mill grounds showed a continuous line back to the 14th century which ties in with the 1344 date. A report of these excavations with other historical notes appeared in Records of Buckinghamshire Volume 39, published by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society in 1999.

If you are interested in doing some historical research and could help us with this project please get in touch via the Newsletter Editor or the Pann Mill web site. Your help would be much appreciated.

Malcolm Connell

High Wycombe in 50 Buildings

THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY gets an honourable mention on p54 of Eddie Brazil's latest book in which Pann Mill appears as Building No. 27. In a short, potted history to accompany a pleasant picture of the mill, Eddie introduces Roger de Panil, mentions his role in the Crusades, veers off to talk about papermaking and the local riots in 1830, and returns to consider how insignificant our town might have been had the power of the river never been harnessed to drive the mills. It's a little bit too meandering even for my grasshopper mind, and I can't help feeling that an uninitiated reader might be led to assume that Pann Mill was a paper mill at some point in its past.

The book begins with good intentions: to showcase our town using 50 buildings to provide evidence of past lives that have left enduring marks in its very fabric. It's an engaging approach and there are some poignant points made along the way. Next time I pass the ruins of St John's hospital I will remember that when it was built "the Kings of England spoke French, the services in the chapel were conducted in Latin, and the people of Wycombe spoke [a form of] English which would be incomprehensible to us today."

But Eddie's style does not easily comply with the constraints of a one-size-fits-all framework, and nor do the buildings themselves. Galloping through the history of the site of Wycombe Abbey school from the Thirteenth Century to the current day is something which few writers would attempt to do in under 500 words, yet Eddie can't resist also making a detour to observe Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire even when this comes at the expense of mentioning the Archdales or the century in which they lived at Loakes Manor.

To be fair it isn't intended to be a comprehensive historical reference; the press information promises an "Architectural Adventure", and in pursuit of this, Eddie

deliberately takes us off to some lesser-known buildings in outlying areas. The hotchpotch of architectural styles to be found in St Peter's church in Loudwater, for example, triggers consideration of changing attitudes to religion over two centuries as "the sermon took precedence over sacrament" in Georgian times and, as fashions changed again, in response to the realities of the industrial revolution.

But pedants like myself will sadly find their enjoyment marred by many inaccuracies at a detailed level. These range from trivial typos, errors in dates and wrongly identified locations on a map, through to peddling of popularly held theories presented as historical facts. These limit its usefulness as a reference book. The impression is of a rush to meet a final deadline, which is a shame.

The book is illustrated with photographs in vibrant colours, mostly taken by Eddie himself. Priced at £15.99 it will be an attractive choice of Christmas purchase and many will be happy to receive it. Amberley Publishing has done a good job presenting most of the material, the exception being the inclusion of a map spread across a double page with a rather predictable problem in the middle.

50 Finds from Buckinghamshire

ARWEN WOOD'S compilation of archaeological finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme follows the same layout as the above book but is very different in its tone. The author is one of 40 Finds Liaison Officers, funded by the British Museum to work with the public to identify and record archaeological objects. The subject-matter seems to lend itself easily to the publisher's formula and the purpose is clearly educative.

From paleolithic hand-axes through to seventeenth century curiosities, via coin hoards, rings, brooches, buckles, and many more obscure items, the finds are presented in roughly chronological order. Professional photographs depict the objects from every angle and accompanying text clearly explains what is known about each object. In many cases this is supplemented by analysis drawing comparisons with other similar finds.

The book has been well constructed to be approachable in different ways. Novice archaeologists will appreciate the informative readable introductions to each archaeological

period, while more experienced readers will find it easy to dive straight into the details of recent finds.

With over 5000 recent finds in Buckinghamshire, my only disappointment was that the author didn't choose any from High Wycombe, but my thirst for more was easily quenched when I realised that the full database was available to interrogate [online](#). So, if, like me, you want to discover what metal detectorists or workmen have unearthed, say, within 2 km of your home, it is easy to supplement your reading.

Jackie Kay

Buses of Yesteryear

BACK IN THE DAYS before any local public transport was readily available, people walked wherever they needed to go. It was commonplace for families to live and work “within walking distance” of one another; but a “ten-mile walk to see grandma” was not considered unusual.

In Wycombe, a carriage builder by the name of Llewellyn Weston saw the potential for a regular horse-drawn bus service as early as 1892. From the town centre he managed a service from ‘the Swan’ in West Wycombe to ‘the White Blackbird’ at Loudwater, with occasional excursions to other places such as Wooburn and Beaconsfield. In his first year of trading, it is estimated that he enabled 60,000 passenger journeys. A decade later he had 50 horses with a small fleet of wagonettes, cabs and other vehicles including three omnibuses, one of which was a large 36-seater.



*An early bus:
SWOP MHW:35360 Image courtesy of Wycombe Museum*

The earliest vehicles he used were copies of the open-topped London double deckers, drawn by four horses, but as his business grew, the normal “ordinary” buses were 24-seaters drawn by only two horses abreast. The 36-seater was used on Saturdays and on particularly busy occasions such as Fair days. It needed three horses abreast. There was a timetable of sorts published in the local newspapers.



*A regular bus service?
SWOP RHW: 35009 Image courtesy of Wycombe Library*

The volume of business prompted the Town Corporation in 1902 to introduce byelaws to govern the running of buses which were required to start and stop at the lamp in the middle of the High Street at the bottom of the

newly created Corporation Street. Around this time Mr Weston sold his service business and its goodwill, retaining only the coach-building activity for himself. A newly formed “Livery and Posting Company” took over the reins of Mr Weston’s previous venture. It was not the best of business handovers. Mr Weston soon found himself in court accused of renegeing on the agreement by providing the means for another individual (allegedly on his behalf) to compete with the Livery Company.

First signs of a more serious long-term challenge to the new company’s business came in 1907 when a Mr Putman from Thame introduced a “motor bus” service, but it was unpopular and short-lived. There were objections to the noise, fumes and disruption to the peace in the High Street.

By 1909 fares for the horse-drawn service had risen to three old pence for a single journey from West Wycombe to the High St or from the High St to Loudwater. The average working man’s wage was only 22/- a week so everyday bus transport was out of his reach; except for special occasions, he kept to walking. As one man wryly observed “six pence a day could be better spent on three good pints of beer!”



Bus drawn by 3 horses abreast: SWOP BFP 04821 Image courtesy of the Bucks Free Press

But the growing middle classes brought increased trade, so much so that at weekends extra buses had to be arranged for treats and excursions, and inevitably it also brought competition. A “pirate” company ran a shadow timetable one minute ahead of that published by the Livery Company. Their fare from West Wycombe to the High St was only a penny. A price war started: the Livery Company dropped their fares and introduced “fast trotting” horses. Soon there were reports of races with cracking whips and bystanders betting on the outcome. There were accidents and lawsuits.

The Livery Company regained its monopoly but it was short-lived as in 1912 the inevitable change to motor buses brought serious competition in the guise of the London and General Omnibus Company. Later, post WWI, with returning men now skilled in driving and motor maintenance, not to mention the availability of cheap second-hand motor buses and lorries returning from the continent, a host of smaller independents started up. These were tolerated as they served smaller villages delivering fare-paying customers to the primary

transport hubs. The system was cheap to use, with good coverage and frequent services.

This all lasted one way or another well into the 1950s when the growth of private small car ownership all but killed off the public bus service. Now with parking problems and cost, not to mention low emission zones, there are renewed calls for the return of affordable buses.

Tony Mealing

I was the Wee Wonder of Wycombe!

THE APPLAUSE in the Wigmore Hall went on and on, and I was pushed back on to the stage several times to acknowledge it. My mother never forgave the recording engineer who faded it out after 15 seconds on the scratchy 78rpm disc that immortalised my first public performance at the age of 3. I had my first piano lesson three months before my third birthday. Seeing the tiny hands of my own children at that age I find it hard to believe, but the recording bears witness to my progress from that time.

I remember asking to learn. My Mum and I used to sit in the room while my elder sister Vanda had her lesson. One day I went up to the piano, plonked some notes and said I wanted to learn too. To humour me, the teacher, Mr Bailey, put a big piece of paper on the music stand bearing two huge staves, and began to point to the notes. I grabbed it from the stand and threw it to the floor: "No – proper music like Vanda's."

So he started to give me the last few minutes of Vanda's lesson until I had progressed enough to have one of my own.

Mr Bailey was the proprietor of the Bucks School of Music at 16 High Street, and the annual pupils' concert was held in the Wigmore Hall in London. I remember the green room, and the steps down to the stage, and I have the recording to this day, mistakes and all. "Sur la glace à Sweet Briar" had cross-over hands – a sure-fire audience pleaser!

The Weekly News dubbed me "The Wee Wonder of Wycombe", and several months later the Paramount Newsreel team came to Wycombe and made an item about the "Wonder Boy Pianist", then 4 years and 9 months old. I played a piece of Mozart and demonstrated my perfect pitch, identifying notes with my back turned to the piano. When the newsreel came to the Odeon in High Wycombe, I had to follow it with a live performance, which included singing a Welsh song, accompanied by my sister. I remember

being lifted on to a chair so that I was high enough to reach the microphone on its stand.



Above: Lifted onto a chair so that I could reach the microphone. Below: Arriving at my music lesson aged 4 in the Paramount Newsreel item "Wonder Boy Pianist"



Fast forward 40 years and imagine my Mum's delight when I found a copy of the newsreel item in a London archive and was able to give it to her on video.

The pupils' concerts moved to Wycombe Town Hall and I, along with several other pupils, then had the amazing experience of playing a piano concerto with an orchestra every year from the ages of 7 to 14. I passed my Grade 8 when I was 11, was broadcast on the radio at 13, and got my ARCM performer's diploma at 16, before going to Oxford to read music. At 14 I had won a scholarship to study in London with the Russian concert pianist Julius Isserlis, grandfather of the cellist Stephen Isserlis. This gave me a new level of insight into music and performance, but I was sorry to leave the gentle hands of Mr Bailey, who had given me so many rare musical opportunities.

Fortunately, such freakish youthful development doesn't necessarily continue, so it's as an amateur that I've enjoyed the piano all my life, and nowadays I play it much like anyone else of my age (75). But when I go to the Wigmore Hall I can still see myself, a tot in short white trousers, being pushed out on to the stage, somewhat bewildered, to face the storm of applause after my public debut.

Clifton Hughes

Wycombe Sauce

ON SATURDAY 28th March 1835 a small notice appeared in the Berkshire Chronicle addressed to “the Nobility, Gentry and the Public” concerning the availability of “The Wycombe Sauce for Fish, Game, Gravies &c. &c”

In the superlative language of the age it was said to be a “delicious and universally esteemed appendage to the dinner table”, which had “attained a degree of celebrity and patronage most unprecedented about eight years ago” and was said to have been “since that time locked up in vexatious law proceedings” now “decided in favour of the original Proprietor, Mr THOMAS ELLSON who most respectfully begged leave to inform his distinguished Patrons and the nobility and Gentry generally that his Agents would again be supplied in about a Month from this time.” The notice ended with a warning “PIRATES BEWARE”.

A little bit of research in the British Newspaper Archive uncovered several advertisements from previous years in which Thomas Ellson claimed to be the sole proprietor and inventor based at the Crown Commercial Inn in High Wycombe. Pigot's Trade Directory for 1823 confirms that Thomas Ellson was at the Crown Inn that year.

An advert in the Windsor and Eton Express the same year explains that “the bottles are of a different shape to any others; the corks are sealed with [the inventor's] name and address; and each label is signed in his own handwriting without which it cannot be genuine”, so it seems he was concerned about imitations at an early date.

He also composed some lengthy advertising doggerel which begins:

“To those who are fond, at the season, of Game
And have not as yet heard of Ellson's great fame,
For his choice “Wycombe Sauce, - at his
warehouse, pray stop!
And try it with Steak a Veal Cutlet or Chop!”

Sadly, there's no indication of what was in the sauce which once bore our town's name.

Jackie Kay

Flagons and Footwarmers

READERS WHO FREQUENT social media sites - and in particular, those who visit the “High Wycombe Now and Then” Facebook page - may have noticed posts in the past by Mike Reeves, who has an impressive collection and knowledge of old bottles with local connections. I first corresponded with him when I was researching Wheeler's Brewery and wanted to know more about their bottles with the classic swan emblem on them.

Mike has recently broadened his interest and has posted pictures of flagons and footwarmers. Seen here are three examples with High Wycombe Connections:



- 1) The large flagon on the left of the picture is clearly labelled “J. White Grocer High Wycombe”. This is the earliest of the three and Mike thinks it could date from as early as c1860. In 1861 there was a retired grocer called John White living on the London Road who might have been the one.
- 2) The slightly smaller flagon to the right is labelled “Housdens Stores Wholesale Grocers High Wycombe” and dates from the early twentieth century. There were two Housden brothers who came to High Wycombe from Hertfordshire. For a long time, their business premises were on Oxford Street.
- 3) The third exhibit shown is from “F.W. George Ltd The Ironmongers High Wycombe.” They had premises in Frogmoor which were not demolished until the 1960s. This footwarmer probably dates from around 1930 or earlier though.

My thanks to Mike for sharing his interests online and taking care to preserve a part of our heritage. **JK**



Letters to the Editor

Royal Female Orphanage Project

St Mary's Church, Beddington has secured a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £209,600 for its project: '*Restoring and Celebrating the Art and Craftsmanship of St Mary's Church, Beddington*', which aims to engage in urgent repairs on the building, and also increase community engagement with the church's rich heritage.

As part of this initiative, St Mary's are conducting the '*Royal Female Orphanage Oral History and Exhibitions Project*' which aims to collect, share and preserve audio recordings of peoples' memories associated with the Royal Female Orphanage, located at Carew Manor in Beddington Park from 1866 – 1939 and 743 London Road, High Wycombe from 1943 until its final closure in 1968. The recordings will provide unique, personal and emotive insight into the history of the orphanage and accessible content for use in exhibitions, research and learning activities, as well as digital engagement. Updates about the project will all be publicised on social media, and also via the church's website: <http://www.stmarysbeddington.org.uk>

If you have any memories or knowledge associated with the *Royal Female Orphanage* which you'd like to share, please get in touch at: heritage@stmarysbeddington.org.uk

Dr Philippa Mesiano (Activity Plan Coordinator)
St Mary's Church, Beddington

The Editor would also like to hear from any readers with memories relating to the orphanage when it was at 743 London Road High Wycombe.



Wycombe's First Tramway proposal

With reference to the article entitled "The Crooked Chimney on the way to Fishguard" in the Autumn 2021 Newsletter. You mentioned the demolition of the Black Boy pub in Church Street.

Prior to the pub's demolition, The Wycombe Borough Electric Light and Power Company had been exploring the possibility of installing a tramway system starting at West Wycombe and running the whole length of the valley to Loudwater.

The problem of the town centre, more specifically the Queens Square, Church St and Guildhall junctions, exercised many minds, taking into consideration the turning arc of a tramcar and the double bends of the existing street plan, especially just outside the Church. Solutions involving single track working and double track working intermingling with normal traffic were both considered, but in the end rejected.

Long after the pub's demolition, and with the tramway proposal fading from memory, L J Mayes referred to this part of the town as "Wycombe's Worst Bottleneck" as late as 1960.

Tony Mealing

Time to Move On

One assumes that Charles Brocklehurst's article in the Autumn Newsletter "Time to move on, there's no going back" was an attempt to alter the Society's support for re-opening the river through the town centre. But it was the writer who was "harking back" to previous schemes, not the Society.

The proposed removal of the flyover ramps is now part of a much broader forward-looking re-imagining of the town centre.*

There are significant costs involved whether or not the proposals are adopted, and we hope that Buckinghamshire Council will not only obtain more detailed costing data but also undertake appropriate analyses of costs and benefits so that meaningful comparisons can be made.

Much has changed since the river was buried to tackle a traffic problem; the completion first, of the M40 (through traffic) and now the Alternative Route (local traffic) mean that the flyover should be redundant, except for the shops beneath it.

We can dream that in future "staycationers" hiring their electric bikes to explore the best southern parts of The Chilterns might decide that High Wycombe is the best place to stay – what a vision!

Tony Hatton

*See also Heather Morley's response on page 6

Notices

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Lynn & Russell Deards
Mark Page
Mike & Anne Dean

Obituaries

We regret to inform members of the death of:

Mr Stan Cole

Frances Dove Way. Society Member Prudence Meek was one of the first to spot the new signs near the entrance to Wycombe Abbey School. "How long have those been there?", she asked, within about 24 hours of their erection. Previously part of Abbey Way, the new name was chosen to honour Dame Frances Dove on the 125th anniversary of the founding of the school.



Lunchtime Concerts at All Saints' church.

David Snoxell has drawn our attention to a series of lunchtime concerts which are free to attend at All Saints' Parish Church on Mondays. The last concert in 2021 has now taken place but there will be a new series for 2022 beginning on Monday 17th January.

Shall we Zoom?

Friday 7 January 2022

A year ago we held a first experimental Zoom "social". Conversation flowed and the general verdict was that we should "do it again sometime". While many of us yearn to return to normal face-to-face meetings and interactions, Zoom and its rivals have a useful ongoing role to play. On what is likely to be a cold, dark wintry evening, we therefore warmly invite you once again to join us for a "social" over Zoom. If you have previously provided the Society with your email address just look out for the invitation in your inbox.

Further details will be included in the email. We look forward to hearing your views on what the Society should be doing during 2022.

Any non-members wishing to attend the above meeting should get in contact via email to be included on the distribution list.

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 2022**

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Put these dates in
your diary **now!!!**

2022	
Friday 7 th January 7.30pm-9.00pm Over Zoom	<i>Shall we Zoom?</i> Start the year with the Society. An email invitation will be sent to all members at the beginning of the year.
Monday 17 th January 1.10pm All Saints' Church	Lunchtime concerts at the Parish Church resume (see above)
Saturday 16 th -28 th April The Guildhall (High Wycombe) NOTE NEW DATES	The High Wycombe Society Art Exhibition, featuring works depicting High Wycombe High Street by William Hannan and others – see article entitled "Heralding Hannan's Highway" on p5.
Sunday 8 th May 11.00-5.00 pm Pann Mill	Pann Mill Open Day to coincide with National Mills weekend
Sunday 10 th July 11.00-5.00 pm Pann Mill	Pann Mill Open Day
Sunday 11 th September 11.00-5.00 pm Pann Mill	Pann Mill Open Day to coincide with Heritage Open Days
Saturday 1 st October Advance notice of day-long conference.	BLHN 2022, the annual Local History Network conference organised by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society will be on the theme of "Education" in 2022. The probable venue will be Aylesbury. It is hoped to involve participating societies before the conference.