

THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY

newsletter

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Above: Giant Octopus photo MC
Below: Super-sized Jellyfish photo JK



Welcome to Wycombe

NOTHING SAYS “Welcome” quite like the tentacles of a giant octopus, except perhaps a super-sized jellyfish suspended overhead nearby. If you didn’t visit the Eden Centre in August, then you missed them both!

September offers a more staid “Walk Through Wycombe’s Past” with just twelve photos of High Wycombe “through the years”; minimally captioned and nicely reproduced near Patisserie Valerie; they’re unlikely to make much of a lasting impression on busy shoppers though.

I admire the stamina of those at Eden and in HWBidCo who come up with bold new ideas to engage with shoppers each month, and I applaud the attempt to coax people to get to know a little more about our town’s rich history. But the crowds that assembled in Frogmoor listening to Anthony Eden in 1955 cannot compete with last month’s cardboard cut-out of a penguin when it comes to opportunities for selfies.

Planned developments mentioned in this *Newsletter* will potentially bring more visitors and residents to our town centre. So where and

how do we say “Welcome” to newcomers nowadays? The “Tourist Information Centre” on the map in the Guide to Eden is just an unmanned area of the library with too little information about the historic parts of the town to satisfy visitors’ curiosity (see p15). Around the town there are remnants of vintage heritage trails, no longer supported, with leftover confusing signage. Too few people find their way to Wycombe Museum, or get to know about Pann Mill Open Days, or discover one of Willie’s walks; when they do, they are usually both surprised and delighted.

For those of us already immersed in our heritage, there is never any shortage of topics to research. I particularly welcome the articles in this edition of the *Newsletter* from new contributors who have found aspects of our town’s heritage in surprising places. I hope you, too, will enjoy them.

Jackie Kay



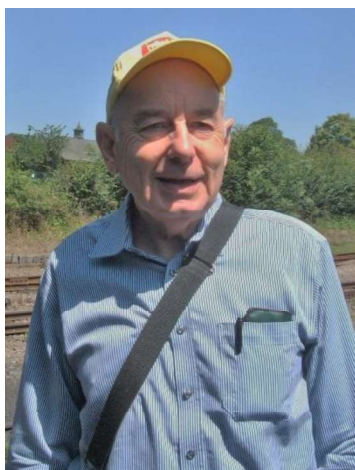
Dandara Homes’ plans for redevelopment of the Chilterns Centre retain the architectural features of buildings fronting Church Street such as the Hen & Chickens and the Primark building.

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

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Chairman's Challenge



I REALLY CAN'T COMPLAIN about falling down a hole when I dug it myself. A couple of years ago when we were searching for a new Chairman (it's been 3 years now since we last had one!), I said rather frustratedly, "If someone will take over as Treasurer, I'll stand as Chairman.". Then a few months ago the phone call came – was the offer still open? So Steve Strutt came forward as Treasurer and my fate was sealed – what else could I do? This may sound like I'm rather reluctant to take on the role, but that isn't the case. I like a challenge, and that's certainly what this is. I know I'm not the best Chairman in the world, but I only have to be better than nothing.

Political parties standing for election have things called manifestos which set out what they plan to do if elected. I didn't have one of those so now I have to think what I would like to see happen while in office (which arguably is also what politicians end up doing anyway). I certainly wouldn't be happy just standing still. Many society activities

have their own momentum, but others have paused due to Covid. So we're trying a couple of in-person meetings in October and November with a view to returning to a more regular programme next year.

It's not just me of course, we now have a total of 12 trustees – the latest addition, Tony Mealing, was co-opted following the AGM – and ideas are flowing from them. In any committee there are two extreme scenarios: everyone sitting around expecting the Chairman to do it all; or the Chairman delegating everything and doing nothing. Naturally I favour the second option but don't imagine it will be achievable. One approach that certainly is not healthy for anyone is for it to be "my" Society and do most of the work myself. So I'm going to be on the look-out for help in various areas. You don't have to be a trustee to volunteer! Our needs are manifold and varied: everything from helping with refreshments to maintaining mill machinery. If you don't know what I look like I now have a pretty badge which I shall wear at Society events so there's no mistake (*and the Editor's photo may help, too!*)

It is an honour and privilege of course to be elected Chairman, even with the lack of competition. While it's a challenge for me, I may well be challenging you before too long.

Colin Hingston

Our speaker on October 14th, Sarah Charlton, began working as an archivist in the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies in 1985. She now works freelance for several estates, including the Carington Estate at Bledlow.



We initially invited Sarah to speak to us in April 2020 following the discovery of a giant scrapbook (1 metre x 60cms) belonging to the 3rd Lord Carrington (who became an Earl in 1895 and later became the Marquis of Lincolnshire). The High Wycombe Society had joined with Lord Carrington to have the scrapbook digitised and made available to local historians.

Sarah's talk will draw on many of the items within it: engravings, posters, newspaper cuttings, letters, maps and ephemera – concerning High Wycombe and its environs – to see what they tell us both about the compiler and the development of our town in the nineteenth century.

Our speaker on November 11th will be David Lane who writes as follows:

I have had an interest in railways all my life. My dad worked as driver/fireman at Aylesbury from 1949-62 and gave me a train set on my first Christmas!

Local railways have always interested me, with the Wycombe Railway history I guess my specialist subject, on which I've researched the early years on and off for the last 25 years. Back in 1998, on finding out the council planned to knock down the original Brunel station at High Wycombe, I submitted a case study to English Heritage resulting in its gaining Grade 2 listing.

Workwise I create drawings for new-build developments – a sort of Architect without the letters after my name. Other hobbies include running, which I do most days, with a half marathon thrown in each month. I also play the ukulele but not at the same time as running!



Planning Matters

IT'S BEEN A VARIED and challenging few months for the Planning Group, whose already low numbers were depleted further by temporary absences and other commitments. Tony Hatton, also the Society's Hon. Secretary, has done a sterling job chairing our regular meetings while Andy Cole produces the weekly lists and Chris Woodman organises the notes and follow-up. The Group have also responded to several opportunities to engage with others: to meet with the curate of All Saints to hear about ambitious plans for improvements to the churchyard; to attend a presentation by Dandara Homes about their designs for the redevelopment of the Chilterns Centre; and most recently to discuss details of a proposal to build film studios at Marlow and consider the impact that might have on our town (see p7). We are still looking for more participants so do get in touch if you are interested. Our work is important and, we like to think, influential. At least this column is read by all the important people!

The Wheatsheaf The restored 14th century former Wheatsheaf Inn, No.2 High Street, now looks superb and reminds us of what medieval High Wycombe must have looked like. This striking restoration could perhaps qualify for one of the Council's Buckinghamshire Design Awards 2022. But sadly, its commercial use as a cocktail bar failed after only a few weeks in operation and so the building is empty again. As part of the conversion, accessibility to the upper floors has been improved. A stairlift is available to the first floor and a lift has been installed between the first and second floor. But the fact that the space is spread-out over three floors makes it a challenging proposition for retail/restaurant use, with plenty of competition now in the High Street and beyond.

At the instigation of Tony Mealing, Society Trustee and Planning Group member, the Group have given some consideration to imaginative alternative uses for the whole building. Its prominent location in the High Street means that it would be ideally placed to provide a traditional Tourist Information service. Encouraged by responses to the Society's recent art exhibition at the Guildhall, it is also thought that the upper floors could perhaps be used to house semi-permanent exhibitions of items related to our heritage, with scope to host visiting school children engaged on town projects and/or meeting space for town groups, including our Society.

While such uses are not directly commercial, we would hope that Buckinghamshire Council could make funds available to sustain such operations. This would perhaps be an appropriate use for some of the Future High Street Fund allocation which the Council received last year.

All Saints Churchyard On 25th July, Rev. Gareth Morley, curate of All Saints Church, showed a few of us around the churchyard to explain the problems there and describe plans to put things right. Chris Woodman, Gemma Shinh and Heather Morley (no relation!) were delighted with what is proposed. (See p5 for details). A recent spate of anti-social behaviour (illegal parking, rough sleeping, drinking, drug-taking, littering, toileting *en plein air* etc) has degraded the area; many town users avoid walking there and several

gravestones have been damaged by being driven over or other misuse. There are also some ugly modern lamp posts, and overgrown plants conceal long-forgotten, abandoned memorials in the far corners of the area. Rev. Morley thinks that enough is enough!

Elsewhere in the High Street The Group was disappointed at the Council's response to our complaint about the repainting of No.1 High Street white instead of its previous discreet and appropriate chocolate brown colour. They said that, although the building is listed Grade II, enforcement action is not appropriate because, if an order were appealed, an inspector would likely judge that no "harm" was done. The Group thought this unsatisfactory, underlining the need for a fresh Planning Guidance policy on shop fronts, which the Council told us last November they would prepare, "resources permitting".

And what do our readers think about No.12 High Street, the former Berry's jewellers? Once again, a listed property is repainted without Listed Building Consent being sought. This time a rather pleasant colour scheme is applied, but what about the flowers? Some Group members thought them inappropriate, but might the public think them rather nice, really?



12 High Street was once part of the Antelope Inn and still retains some eighteenth-century architectural features. Should a shopfront policy encourage or restrain such cheerful embellishments? Photo: Chris Woodman

Chilterns Centre and Frogmoor By now, many readers will hopefully have seen Dandara's exhibition about their proposals to convert the shopping centre into 313 new homes, all for rent

with full Dandara management on-site. The Planning Group have known for some time that Dandara Living had bought the Chilterns Centre and were preparing plans to redevelop it for residential use. We were pleased to be invited to a presentation with an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. Dandara also recognise that the future of Frogmoor is important to the success of their project, although they do not own it and rightly point out that it is for the Council to take the lead on what happens to it. If you have not already done so please help Dandara by responding to their questionnaire which is available online at www.chilterns-hw.info and includes questions about Frogmoor.



The proposed Dandara development will transform the East side of Frogmoor and introduce a new avenue between Frogmoor and Priory Road.

The Group's main challenge may be about whether the development, which Dandara propose should not include "affordable housing" (i.e. for rent or sale by a social landlord), should nevertheless make equivalent provision for housing list nominees.

Procedure for Planning Applications There was consternation recently in Amersham Hill Gardens when an application for sizeable extensions to one of the more substantial properties was approved despite a local councillor, Tony Green, having asked for the case to be "called in" to the Wycombe Area Planning Committee for discussion by councillors. The chairman of the committee, our good friend Cllr Neil Marshall, was within his rights to decide, in consultation with the planning officer, not to call the case in, but should the rules be tightened up? The Group has written to the Cabinet Member for Planning about this.

Reserve Housing Sites – Abbey Barn North The smallest of the reserve housing sites lies below the old ski slope and is allocated 100 homes in the Local Plan. It would be accessed from Abbey Barn Lane which also serves the much larger Abbey Barn South adjacent to Daws Hill Lane. A steep and narrow road, it ends in a single-lane bridge over the former railway line to Bourne End before joining Kingsmead Road at a dangerous junction. Unexpectedly, Buckinghamshire Council has now announced that the proposed road improvements at the bridge and junction are "unaffordable". In the announcement, Council Leader Martin Tett says he "wants to assure

residents that any future plans in this area will be worked up in consultation with the local community.". We remain on the Council's Liaison Group for Abbey Barn North, but those groups, sadly, have been moribund since the Unitary Authority took over.

Gomm Valley and Ashwells We have now submitted our objection to Taylor Wimpey's lamentable application, as follows:

"This application is extremely disappointing. We have seen the comprehensive objections of the Penn and Tylers Green Residents Association, the Chiltern Society and Human Nature Ltd and wholeheartedly support them.

We accept that the WDC Cabinet decided to make Gomm Valley available for housing, but they also endorsed a Planning Brief for the site, and whilst this does not have the status of a Supplementary Planning Document, it represents official policy and we expect Buckinghamshire Council, as Wycombe's successor authority, to insist on compliance with it, which this application fails to do.

The application totally fails to create a sense of place appropriate to the unique surroundings of the Gomm Valley. The design quality of the housing, far from being a landscape-led, high quality distinctive design, is just boring and will degrade a beautiful valley into just another high density development that can be found everywhere. It fails to respond to the geography and topography of the site, and, as the objections by the Woodland Trust and others have pointed out, it would damage the site's existing environmental assets, contravening national policy. It fails in many ways to meet current sustainability standards. As the Chilterns Conservation Board has pointed out, it fails to respond appropriately to its position within the AONB. It fails to maintain the separations to ensure that the High Wycombe developed area does not coalesce with Tylers Green, and the vehicular access arrangements are problematic.

Finally, we do not believe Thames Water's assurance that they can cope with the foul water effluent, given their record of allowing sewage to pass into the River Thames and other locations at a frequency for which they have been heavily fined by the Environment Agency.

This application should be refused. The Council should advise the developers to come up with something that is genuinely appropriate to this unique and demanding site and that conforms to local and national policies, secure in the knowledge that, in doing so, the Council has a very strong case which they can win, if necessary, at appeal."

Terriers Farm This application, by Persimmon and Redrow for 418 dwellings, which we anticipate will have dire consequences for local traffic, seems to be progressing at a snail's pace. We will continue to keep a watchful eye.

Planning Group

All Change for All Saints Church Yard



REV. GARETH MORLEY has described to us several proposed improvements to the churchyard. These may go ahead individually or simultaneously, depending on when funding becomes available, but they are all part of a larger vision to make better use of the whole space surrounding the church.

The first of the changes – the refurbishment of the historic black wrought iron gates that divide the churchyard from Church Square – may have been completed by the time you are reading this. These gates originally came from Wycombe Abbey and will be stunning once properly straightened, painted and re-hung. Funding for this is coming from the High Wycombe Town Committee.

Rev. Morley indicated that the area in front of the western door and the pavement area (where we recently installed an information board) will be re-landscaped to become an outdoor piazza where people can eat and drink al fresco, and where there could be stalls set up for local arts, crafts, performers or local micro businesses. The area around the war memorial would be neatened up and planted with attractive flowers etc, to be more of an aesthetic asset to the town.

Continuing round the church in a clockwise direction, the plan is for there to be a newly active memorial area, where existing stone memorials would be refurbished, and space made for new ones. Bringing this role back to the church yard will make it relevant again to townsfolk, who may wish to volunteer to tend to an area where the ashes of their friends and family may be interred in the future. A creative walkway with lovely planting design will be a welcome addition to the town.

Towards the rear of the churchyard, overgrown shrubs would be trimmed back to reveal some beautiful stone memorials, and there would be

four or five new parking spaces for those on church business. Access to the existing parking area near the south door will be restricted by a new black wrought iron fence with gates for use only by disabled churchgoers and hearses for funerals.

Then, in the southeast corner alongside The Antelope, behind the new fence railings, would be a private garden for use by community groups, such as the playgroup in Oakley Hall (whose children cannot currently enjoy any outside space). This would arguably be the biggest change as it's currently the area most abused by anti-social behaviour. There have been a handful of deaths in this part, mostly connected with drug taking, and it is time for this behaviour to move away from sacred ground. The hope is that it will be replaced by beauty, calm and the sound of happy children.

Readers might be concerned by the restriction of pedestrians through the church yard at certain times of the day, but it is not much further to walk around the church the other way and that will be a pleasant experience once the re-landscaping has happened.

If anyone wishes to contribute towards the cost of this project, or perhaps join a fundraising group, we know that Rev. Morley will be delighted to hear from them! Fundraising is at an early stage, but the more that want to make this project happen over the next few years, the better.

**Heather Morley
Planning Group**

To Wessex we belong

BACK IN 2018, readers may remember, we discovered that over a hundred reels of 16mm film, formerly belonging to the High Wycombe Film Society, were about to be sent to the tip. Stuart King led the rescue effort, raising funds for their digitisation and kindly offering to store the reels themselves “on a temporary basis” whilst they were assessed. The “SOFA” project was born (SOFA, an acronym for Save Our Film Archive). Some things took a bit longer than predicted, what with the pandemic and all, but earlier this year, confident that we now had the digital copies we wanted, we turned our attention to finding a more permanent solution for the storage of the film reels.

The British Film Institute (BFI) helpfully directed us to Hampshire Archives based in Winchester, home to the “Wessex Film and Sound Archive”, a regional facility covering Buckinghamshire.

The “unorthodox route” by which we had become the de facto guardians of the films led to some lengthy correspondence before it was agreed by all relevant parties that we could “deposit” them, and that it made sense to do so.

We were spurred on by Peter Kendrick, a former member of the High Wycombe Film Society, who understood what was required; and we were further encouraged when Tim Smithson, after making some independent enquiries, backed our proposed action.

So, on Wednesday 20th July, Stuart loaded up his car, leaving just enough room for me to travel with him and we set off for Winchester with our precious cargo the next day.

We were warmly welcomed on arrival by archivist Sarah Farley, her curator colleague Zoe Viney, and a copyright expert. The films were swiftly unloaded onto trolleys and taken to a controlled environment to minimise any deterioration in their quality. We were glad that we had managed to arrange our trip before the peak of the heatwave.

As a result of our project work, we were also able to give the archivists a small disc containing

viewable digital copies of the films with a guide to their contents.



*Above: Stuart King starting to unload the car
Below: Films on trolleys in the entrance of their new home at Hampshire Archives.*



After an amicable meeting we were shown some of the latest equipment they have acquired for viewing and editing films. It was quite eerie watching old sprocketed films gliding silently through modern machinery and we were impressed with what we were told about the latest techniques for repairing and enhancing picture quality. Then it was out into the sunshine to enjoy the rest of our day.

Winchester seemed to be buzzing with activity. Tourists and locals mingled together in the pedestrianised areas and we chose to have a sandwich lunch on the paved area outside the Eclipse Inn. I couldn't resist choosing “Chalkstream Trout” from the menu. I thought it was an interesting marketing initiative to promote fish from the Itchen and Test rivers and have only since discovered that Chalkstream is a registered trademark of a company that does just that.

Since our visit, the films have been formally “accessioned”, and they will in due course appear in the indexes accessible by the public on their website. In the meantime, we are now free to consider what next to do with the digital copies. Watch this space!

Jackie Kay

Royal Celebrations

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE earlier this year provided an ideal excuse to show some of the digitised films from the SOFA collection. At Wright's Meadow Centre, where the celebrations included a kind of indoor street-party, arrangements were made by Peter Cartwright and Paula Lee for films to be shown on the large screen to those who chose to stay behind. One of the films called “Royal Day” covered the celebrations on Coronation Day in 1953 in High Wycombe. The star of the film is a young girl who excitedly goes to watch the procession with her mother. Does anybody know who she was/is? We would like to acknowledge her when we show the film again, but it's one of many details that has got lost. **JK**

Where Creativity meets Opportunity?

ASK MANY PEOPLE what they think of High Wycombe, and they are prone to jump onto a bandwagon of doom. Some mention graffiti, drug misuse, illegal begging, and so on; others say that it's an ugly, concrete town, or just that there's nothing interesting there for them. Needless to say in the High Wycombe Society we try to take a more rounded view. Sure, there are issues to do with anti-social behaviour, but these can occur anywhere. So it's time for a more positive approach, and we support the adoption of an upbeat slogan: **High Wycombe: where Creativity meets Opportunity!**

For a town's slogan to work well, it needs to be true, unique to that place, memorable, surprising and a bit sexy. In other words, it must pique your interest and make you want to know more.

So can we call High Wycombe a place of **Creativity**? Of course, we can! For brevity's sake, I'll list some reasons why: Lace making, paper milling, bodgers and chairmaking, live music in pubs, the Jackie Palmer Stage School, the Swan Theatre, Wycombe Sound, Wycombe Arts Centre, DesBox, dozens of independent artists and makers, Bucks New University, Wycombe Museum, I could go on. Names of local creatives who live(d) here are legion: Nancy Mitford, Howard Jones, Jay Blades, Terry Pratchett, Roger Scruton, Eric Gill, James Corden, Heston Blumenthal, to mention just an eclectic handful.

And **Opportunity**? Another list for you: easy travel to London, Oxford, and elsewhere, even worldwide via nearby airports; grammar schools, upper schools, the most famous independent girls' boarding school in the world (Wycombe Abbey), a respected and popular university in BNU, adult education at Millbrook and Cressex

Schools, an historic market town centre, Cressex Business Park with over 400 companies, some of which are major global players. And did you know that Bucks is ranked as the most entrepreneurial county in the UK (with more start-ups than any other)? There is plenty of positive energy to motivate people to strive for success.

There's a lot of work behind the scenes by Buckinghamshire Council, Thames Valley Police, HWBIDCo, local businesses and charities, and the High Wycombe Community Board, to address problem areas. A "zero tolerance" approach to anti-social behaviour is being considered. Anyone wishing to get more involved in solutions rather than bemoaning the problems is encouraged to join the High Wycombe Community Board.

Thanks to their work you will begin to see the slogan: **High Wycombe: where Creativity meets Opportunity** here and there as we try to talk up the town. It's true, unique to this place, memorable, surprising, and a bit sexy!

Heather Morley

A Creative Opportunity on our doorstep?

ON 22nd AUGUST, the Planning Group listened to an interesting talk about the proposed Marlow Film Studios. Did you know that more blockbuster movies are filmed in Buckinghamshire than in Hollywood? If given the go-ahead, the development promises to be architecturally stunning, visually subtle in the wider landscape, and according to its proponents, it will bring employment to over 4000 local people, not just film specialists but ancillary workers such as accountants, plumbers, electricians, marketing executives, etc.

Attendees were impressed by the quality of the presentation and the comprehensive design work in support of the proposals.

The plans also include: a new public service bus linking High Wycombe and the Elizabeth Line at Maidenhead, stopping off at the new Studios; and a training academy to help youngsters of all ages learn the skills to work in this most dynamic and creative industry.

But not everyone is convinced. The scale of development within the Green Belt is a concern. Opponents including the Marlow Society think it

is unlikely that studio staff will use public transport other than taxis and that the whole development will put pressure on the roads and housing supply. They point to the fact that the A404 is already over capacity. There is scepticism, too, about some of the claims of benefits to High Wycombe.

At the heart of the debate are the often-opposing forces of economic growth and eco-sustainability. It's a debate that should take place. How much growth

does High Wycombe need and what can be sustained? Let the Editor know what you think.



Physical Model of Studio Hub Showing Exhibition Atrium

WHEN WILLIAM, Earl of Shelburne served as Prime Minister, his title in the British House of Lords was “Baron Wycombe of Chepping Wycombe”. But, like his father before him, he continued to be known by his Irish title, the “Earl of Shelburne”, at least until 1784 when he became the first “Marquis (or Marquess) of Lansdowne”. It was only then that he acquired the courtesy title of “Earl of Wycombe”, which he bestowed on his elder son, John Henry.

In All Saints Church, High Wycombe, the Carlini sculpture in memory of William’s first wife Sophia includes a depiction of their son, John Henry, in classical dress, then aged six, already destined to inherit his father’s peerage. In 1786, local newspaper coverage relates that there was great rejoicing at his coming of age with 1200 people celebrating at Loakes Manor, but Lord Wycombe, described as a “young nobleman of very promising talents”, was absent on travels abroad at the time. As Lord Wycombe he represented Chepping Wycombe as a Member of Parliament with his seat in the House of Commons (from 1786 to 1802) but he spent much of his time travelling.



Lord Wycombe’s Folly?

BY THE TIME Lord Wycombe became the 2nd Marquess of Lansdowne in 1805, Loakes Manor had been sold and he had little ongoing association with High Wycombe. But neither did he hurry to take up residence at Bowood, where he had inherited his father’s estate, preferring instead to remain where he was living at the time in Southampton. Why did Lord Wycombe have such a close connection with Southampton and choose to build a mock Gothick castle there?

As a boy, Lord Wycombe had a private tutor and, together, they travelled “*about the Kingdom that he may know something of his own country before he goes to others.*” They would have visited Romsey, the birthplace of his ancestor, William Petty, later knighted by Charles II. Sir William was an extremely clever man who, among many interests, designed a double-bottomed boat. Samuel Pepys wrote that it had won a wager of £50 when sailing faster between Dublin and Holyhead than the King’s best ship. This interest in boats must have filtered down to the Marquess.

The pair would also have visited Southampton, then an up-and-coming Spa town. The amenities of the town and its ancient history might not have interested the young boy, but the sight of the different ships and craft busying themselves on the River Itchen and Southampton Water must have excited him. He got to know the seafaring families living at Itchen Ferry and Peartree Green on the eastern bank of the Itchen, learned how to sail and eventually bought a yacht, naming it *Frisk*. Thus began his keen interest in sailing.

It is possible that Lord Wycombe lived in the Peartree area, an attractive location, but no specific house has been identified. He was often away travelling for lengthy periods so perhaps he rented accommodation in the area. However, after 1801 Lord Wycombe acquired a mistress, Maria Arabella Giffard, the widow of Sir Duke Giffard. Like Mrs Bennett in *Pride & Prejudice*, she had five unmarried daughters so a larger establishment was required.

In 1804 Lord Wycombe paid £1800 for the site of the old medieval castle within the walled town (of Southampton). The motte and bailey castle

belonged to the Crown until James I sold it in 1618. The buildings were then re-purposed and others were built in the intervening 200 years. This was not a spacious brownfield site but rather a cramped plot on which to build his castle.



Sketch of Lansdowne castle attributed to W M Cooper, showing the castle as it appeared c 1805.

In 1841 a local historian recalled that:

“The noble owner was accustomed to treat with great good humour the strictures which he occasionally happened to overhear, on his placing so costly a mansion in a situation to which there was no convenient approach in any direction, by pleading the privilege of a ‘hobby’.”

He continues, saying that the building was begun without a definite plan, and “*was*

intended to be on a small scale, till his lordship found too much amusement in extending it." Building such an edifice without a plan was risky and it was not surprising that *"another settlement has lately been discovered in the south wall and that weighty mass of masonry is prevented by props from burying in ruins its beggarly neighbourhood."* On the plus side the castle was *"an ornamental feature of the town as seen at a distance"*; visitors could climb the tower to see the pleasing view of Southampton *"for the trifling sum of three pence."*

An anonymous writer in *Gentleman's Magazine* reported that: *"[the castle] is built with brick, covered in white composition. The round tower and upper apartments command a fine view of the Southampton Estuary, the river Itchen and the surrounding country but it has no ground and the base is entirely blocked up with small houses belonging to the poorer inhabitants."*

Jane Austen and family were perhaps classed as among "the poorer inhabitants" as they were then renting a house in Castle Square from the Marquess. However, Jane said that *"we are envied our House by many people, and that the Garden is the best in town."* At least the Austens had a garden - there was no space for a castle garden. The Marquess planned, and had built, a kitchen garden on Petty land in Romsey.

When the first Marquess died on 7th May 1805, Lord Wycombe became the second Marquess of Lansdowne and, a mere twenty days later, married his mistress, Lady Giffard.

Lady Bessborough described the new Marchioness as "a vulgar Irish woman near fifty". Jane Austen, too, reported on her new neighbour: *"Mr Huskett, Lord Lansdowne's Painter, - domestic Painter I should call him - I suppose whenever the walls want no touching up, he is employed about my lady's face."*

It was expected that the noble family would be an economic asset to the town; the *Hampshire Chronicle* reported in August 1805:

"The vast number of gentry constantly visiting at the Castle, and the spirited conduct of its noble owner, bid fair to be productive of general good to this town."

The Marquess and Marchioness entered into the social life of the town, attending the races on Southampton Common with *"elegant new carriages and liveries"* displaying *"a most brilliant appearance on the race ground."* They entertained at the castle. *"The Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne gave a grand fete.... to a grand assemblage of high life and fashion when the inhabitants were spectators of the grandest illumination that has ever taken place in this town"*. They went to the theatre and *"saw Mr and Mrs Charles Kemble in a very pleasing little piece"* which amused them greatly.

The Marquess retained his interest in all aspects of sailing. Lady Betty Craven, whose house looked out over the water, once witnessed:

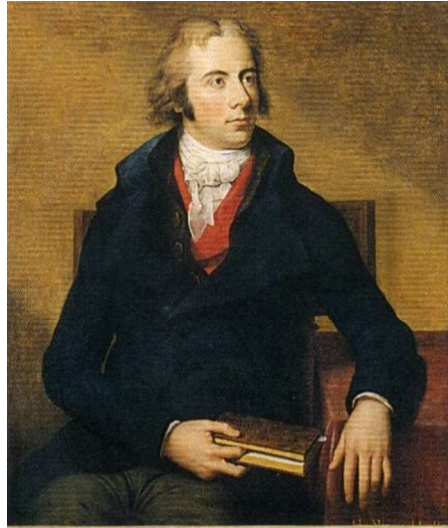
"The Marquis of Lansdowne, who was extremely fond of aquatic excursions and delighted in nautical experiments, had prepared a vessel, which he had built at Southampton His Lordship wished to try how the vessel would sail without ballast, it being double bottomed."

The vessel capsized, the Marquess ended up in the water but fortunately, *"caught hold of the masthead and saved himself from destruction."* An echo of Sir William Petty's experiment?

Sadly, this happy life in Southampton was not to last. In August 1809 the Marquess wrote saying he was ill with a

"Chronic Affliction of the Liver." He died in London on 15th November 1809, just short of his 44th birthday.

The Dowager Marchioness continued to visit Southampton until the castle was put up for sale. It was a white elephant; no-one wanted it, and it was sold for salvage in 1816 and demolished completely by 1818. Today there are some signs of the medieval castle still standing but nothing remains of the mock Gothick folly.



Above Painting of The Marquess by Francois Xavier Fabre c1805. Below: Maria Arabella's portrait by David Wilkie painted at the Castle. These pictures belong to the National Gallery of Ireland and are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license.



However, the Marquess did leave a legacy to the town, writing to the Mayor in August 1809 saying:

“Having been fortunate enough to meet with a figure of the King which bears no mean resemblance of His Majesty, I think I cannot better dispose of it than by requesting it may be placed in the niche presenting itself in the Bar Gate in front of the High Street.”



The statue of George III, attired as the Emperor Hadrian and similar to a statue at Taplow Court, has been looking down from its vantage point on the Bargate for over 200 years.

**Jean Watts
Southampton**

*Photo: Creative Commons Attribution
4.0 International license – Credit:
Ethan Doyle White (Doyle of London)*

Postscript: The title “Earl of Wycombe” remains a subsidiary title associated with the Marquess of Lansdowne, but it is one of many (Earl of Kerry, Earl of Shelburne, Earl of Wycombe, Viscount Clanmaurice, Viscount Fitzmaurice, Viscount Calne and Calston, Baron of Kerry and Lixnaw, Baron Dunkeron and Baron Wycombe of Chipping Wycombe) most of which are no longer used. The Courtesy Title for Lord Lansdowne’s eldest son and heir apparent nowadays alternates between the Earl of Kerry and the Earl of Shelburne.

A Fishy Business

IN MID-VICTORIAN TIMES the “Wycombe Stream” was renowned for the quality of its trout – so much so that trout ova taken from the mill tail at Bridge Mill in High Wycombe were among those sent out to New Zealand to stock their rivers. At the heart of the Wycombe operation was Mr James Thurlow, founder of the Wycombe Angling Association, a well-respected member of the Wycombe Corporation who repeatedly turned down the opportunity to become Mayor of High Wycombe.

Many press reports in the later nineteenth century tell of an uneasy relationship which developed between anglers and millers, as their demands on the river were necessarily at odds with one another. In a war of words, rod fishermen were sometimes disparagingly referred to as “two-legged otters” while the millers stood accused of “disgusting” and “loathsome practices”. It was apparently common practice at that time for millers “to draw the water down once a year”, and allegedly “send in a lot of men and boys to grope for the fish and kick them on the head in the mud”. On 4th December 1875 the *Bucks Herald* highlighted Mr Thurlow’s example as the “bright exception to the poaching squad”.

As the success of the Antipodean experiment became known throughout the 1880s, Mr Thurlow’s reputation grew. *The Fishing Gazette* heralded him as “one of the best anglers living” and a “fly” was named to honour him. His own denial of its invention did nothing to dampen his rise to celebrity status in fishing circles. He was particularly proud of a couple of fish which he caught in the Oxford Road part of the Wycombe Stream, and in keeping with the times, he had them stuffed and mounted so that they could be exhibited.

Commenting on the death of Mr James Thurlow, in 1910, the *South Bucks Standard* lamented that “the erstwhile famous Wycombe trout was now nearly as extinct as the dodo in its native waters” but went on to say that “the noble fish

still thrives through its descendants in the Antipodes”. Locally “the pollution of the river due to the growth of the town and the waste products of the paper mills” was said to have “practically destroyed all the trout.”

A photograph that hung on the wall inside the White Hart Inn in 1910 was said to depict “the last great holocaust of fish ... a pile man-high of the noblest trout that ever graced a stream, all wiped out in one fell swoop by the poisonous debris of the paper mills.” Does anyone know if there are any copies of this photograph still extant?

Despite the sensitive reporting of the above incident, our Edwardian forebears had little time for sentimentality, and they remained resolute in their support for economic progress. The *South Bucks Standard* concluded its obituary for Mr Thurlow with the confident assertion that: “All things considered the paper mills are of more use to the community at large than the trout were.”

Thankfully today’s millers are more appreciative of environmental issues. The decrease in milling activity throughout the twentieth century has helped wildlife (including trout) return to the River Wye. The High Wycombe Society was a founding member of the “Revive the Wye” partnership and we regularly welcome “Friends of the Wye” at Pann Mill Open Days.

Jackie Kay

America's first statue of liberty?

ON A MARBLE PLINTH on a patch of lawn in front of the entrance to the Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, USA, stands a fine statue of one of the great figures in American history, William Penn. Penn was given part of the American colonies in 1681 by King Charles 2nd in lieu of a large debt owed by the king to Penn's father. The acquisition of this colonial land made William Penn the largest landowner in the kingdom, second only to the king himself, and his name is perpetuated in that of the State of Pennsylvania.

A statue such as this would not be remarkable in Britain because statues were erected to most great leaders, but in the 17th and 18th centuries it was not common practice to do so in the colonies. This particular statue has a local connection as its history leads directly back to the then Lord Le Despencer and West Wycombe House.

In 1774 Lord Le Despencer, an admirer of William Penn, built a sawmill at West Wycombe Park. It was a fully operational sawmill but was also used to celebrate Penn's life.

Mounted on the roof were three statues: a haymaker; a haymistress; and between them, at a higher point, a statue of William Penn holding a scroll.

The sawmill was designed by the architect Nicholas Revett and the statue of William Penn was made by the sculptor John Bacon and cast in lead.

The scroll in William Penn's left hand had text chosen by Lord Le Despencer from the "Guarantee of Religious Liberty" within the "Charter of Privileges" of 1701, which Penn had signed, and which granted the citizens of Pennsylvania a number of basic freedoms — in particular, freedom of worship and the right of individuals to speak their mind. This "Charter of Privileges" formed the basis of Pennsylvania's state constitution in 1776 after the War of Independence.

Lord Le Despencer consulted his friend, the American statesman Benjamin Franklin, who suggested there was too much text and that if it was all included the words would be too small to be read from ground level. Benjamin Franklin's advice was taken and the text on the scroll altered so the words could be larger and read from the ground. Unfortunately, there was a misunderstanding with the stonemason and too much was cut out and so it is incomplete.

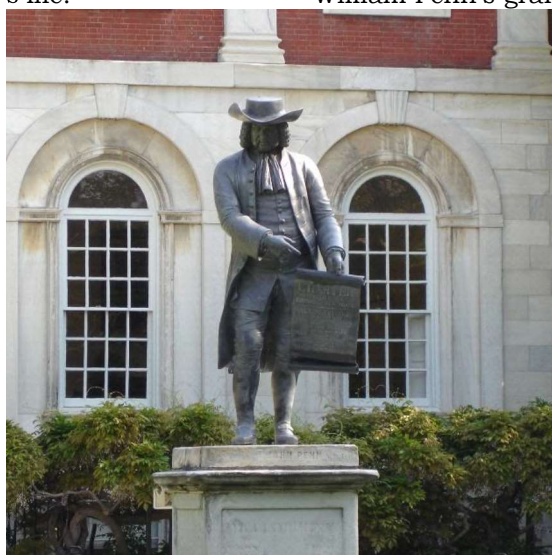
Benjamin Franklin also suggested to the state government in the colony that a copy be produced for the statehouse in Pennsylvania, but unfortunately it was now 1775 and these plans got overtaken by other events. The American War of Independence had started.

When Lord Le Despencer died in 1781, his successor, Sir John Dashwood-King, who for some reason was no admirer of William Penn, didn't like the statue and considered selling it for scrap, but changed his mind and gave it to William Penn's grandson, John Penn, who lived

at Stoke Park House near Stoke Poges.

John Penn initially placed the statue in one of the rooms at Stoke Park but it was out of proportion to its surroundings. When he enlarged the house in the early 1800s he didn't want the statue and wondered what to do with it.

He had been intending to commission a large painting of William Penn to present to the Pennsylvania Hospital but decided to donate the statue to the hospital instead.



Unusual for its time, the statue of William Penn in front of Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, USA

Since they were expecting a painting, the Hospital administration staff were surprised when a statue arrived in September 1804. They held discussions with their architects about a suitable design for a plinth, but though several were offered, no consensus could be found, and a row broke out over payments for this work.

The statue was eventually placed upon a marble plinth on a grass plot inside the Hospital entrance, where it remains to this day. Legend has it that at midnight William Penn climbs down from his plinth and roams the hospital grounds.

When the 11th Baronet decided to restore West Wycombe Park in the 1980s, he had a copy made, to stand atop Sawmill House.

Mick Lewis

John Archdale of Loakes Manor (1642-1717)

IN MY RECENT article about Thomas Archdale ("An Archdale Memorial Uncovered" which appeared in the Summer 2022 *Newsletter*), I said I would return to challenge some widely held assumptions about his father, John Archdale, the Quaker resident of Loakes Manor who served as British Colonial Governor of Carolina in 1695-6. Jackie Kay's article about him in the Autumn 2014 *Newsletter*, includes two statements: "Archdale's first trip to America as a young married man in 1664 was unsuccessful"; and "Shortly after his return, he lost both his wife and a young son."

Most accounts of John's life make similar statements; some name his wife and son as Elizabeth and Thomas respectively, and some mention two daughters, Mary and Ann(e). One goes so far as to assert that John was married in 1659 to Elizabeth Booth of Nottinghamshire, citing the Everton Parish Register. I have taken a close look at the entries within, and they include a baptism of a John Archdall in 1630, with the exact same name used in the later marriage entries; in other words, these are highly unlikely to relate to John Archdale of Wycombe.

I could find no baptism records for the three children, nor burial records for Elizabeth or Thomas, yet in 1688, an Ann Archdale was married at the Quaker Meeting House in High Wycombe and was described as: "one of the daughters of John Archdale of Cheping Wycomb aforesaid, Gent, and of his deceased wife Elizabeth".

Records which exist for John include his baptism at All Saints, on 5th May 1642, where he is the 2nd son of Thomas Archdale and Mary Neville. His older brother died from fever in Aug 1676, so it was John who inherited Loakes Manor, just one month later.

Prior to this, on 3rd December 1673, John had obtained a licence from the Vicar-General of the Archbishop of Canterbury, to marry a widow named Anne Cary of Wickham. What seems rather odd, however, is that John claimed to be a bachelor, rather than a widower.

Does this imply that John and Elizabeth were never actually married? It was not unusual at the time for gentlemen to have mistresses. There is an interesting comment on his character in a book entitled *An Account of The Life and Conversation of the Reverend and Worthy Mr Isaac Milles, Late Rector of Highcleer in Hampshire*. Isaac Milles had also been Vicar of High Wycombe from 1673 until 1681 so would have been well acquainted with John.

The book was written by the son of Isaac Milles, and published in 1720. He wrote: "Whilst Mr Milles was diligently attending the work of the

ministry at Wiccomb, there happened an accident which gave him some trouble, and caused in him no small concern and grief. The chief Gentleman of his Parish, of the name of Archdale, who had led a somewhat loose and careless life, taking up and growing more sober, either by Mr Milles's preaching, or by some accidental event; fell after into some extraordinary and enthusiastical notions and behaviour. This, after it was publickly known, came to Mr Milles's ears, who upon that, visited him more frequently than ever he had visited him before; and still endeavoured by his discourse, to give to his thoughts and actions a regular turn. After some time, he was informed that Mr Archdale had actually turned and declared himself a Quaker, which much amazed and grieved Mr Milles; who making him a visit, soon after he heard this unhappy news, found it to be even so as had been reported, and that the Gentleman was absolutely fixed and settled in the enthusiastical opinions and practices of the people commonly called Quakers."

John and Ann(e) married at St Bartholomew's, Smithfield on 4th December 1673, and had two children: Thomas (the subject of my previous article); and a daughter named

Elizabeth, a descendant of whom is still actively researching John and his family.

In the local Quaker Minute Books covering the period 1669-1690, John's name is first recorded at a meeting on 4th Mar 1679. His two elder daughters, Ann and Mary, also joined the Quakers, but his wife, Anne, and their two children remained in the Church of England.

In 1687, John leased a barn and cottage in Crendon Lane to be used as a Quaker Meeting House (demolished c1930). Although he sold Loakes in 1700, having failed to take his seat in Parliament, John appears to have remained in Wycombe, where he signed his Will on 13th February 1713. He was buried in the family vault at All Saints on 4th July 1717.

Ann Davies



The Crendon Lane cottage leased to John in 1687. Photo courtesy of High Wycombe library: SWOP RHW:47002

The real Miss Astor of 16 St Mary Street

AS PART OF the Woodlanders' Lives and Landscapes project, some time ago I researched the life story of lace dealer Thomas Gilbert of Wycombe and recollections of some of the tambour beaders in the Holmer Green area. More recently I have been attempting to bridge the gap between the end of lace-making around the 1880s and the growth of tambour beading around 1915. During my research I have encountered a colourful character, Mrs Susan Clements Henry of Holmer Green, who became a beading embroidery entrepreneur locally.

Mrs Henry was born in London in 1840, the daughter of a well-known London engraver William Roffe. In 1861 she married Albert Clements Henry, a wealthy stockbroker, son of a West Indies planter. Her husband joined the stock exchange and branched into floristry but by 1882 he'd gone bankrupt, and they had separated. Susan owned a house in Holmer Green called 'The Weathercock'. At that time the village had many well-known beading families, with the women working from home for local agents such as Mr Gilbert.

Mrs Henry launched herself and her children into the beading business via her engraving talents. She started by developing a method for tracing embroidery patterns onto material. This was actually similar to pounce pricking which was used locally for marquetry. The following advertisement appeared in "The Queen" on 26th October 1889:

"MARKING OR TRACING DESIGNS. We have received from Mrs Clements Henry, artiste in embroideries and bead work, Holmer Green, Amersham, Bucks, some samples of traced designs on several materials. The lines are clear, and would be easy to follow either with braid, embroidery, or fancy stitches. Mrs Henry informs us these tracteries are carried out by a medium she has introduced, by which any sort of material can be marked.... Mrs Henry supplies powder and perforations, descriptions, at a moderate cost."

In 1891 she and her daughter Ada were staying with Samuel Bastick, a Wycombe lace manufacturer, probably learning the beaded embroidery business; in her house was a 17 year-old Wycombe girl Alice Jones, described as a French embroidress.

Susan was obviously skilled at marketing; she wrote in a distinctive conversational style in women's magazines and she seems to have invented a Miss Astor of 16 St Mary St,

Wycombe as a suitable cover name for her business. I've not found Miss Astor as a real person and the correspondence often goes to Susan Clements Henry.

In "Truth" on 10th May 1900 we read: *"We have discovered a delightfully cheap place for beaded work and summer hats. Some ladies at High Wycombe work the business, a long-established one, and their prices are marvellously low..."*



Above: The Weathercock, Holmer Green;
Below: Beaded net samples
Images courtesy of Stuart King.



...One can encourage workers at these prices without exercising much self-denial. These ladies also design every kind of bead embroidery to order, write to Miss Astor, 16, St. Mary street, High Wycombe."

By 1902 times were getting tougher. "Truth" on 10th April 1902 included the following: *"You will remember the lovely embroideries you got on my recommendation from Miss Astor, High Wycombe."*

So far, this has been a miserable season for trade, and the 150 embroidresses employed at their own homes in Bucks by Miss Astor have had the worst February and March they ever remember; but now things are beginning to be more sprightly. Send for a box of samples, and give an order, Amy dear. You will be encouraging British industry, and getting such pretty evening gowns.... And then it is so nice to feel that you are helping somebody, and, in particular, the industrious somebodies who long for work — spiders, not moths, according to Ruskin. The address is, c/o Mrs. Clements Henry, High Wycombe."

More details of her business can be found in the Elgin Courant of 11th April 1902: *"the workers employed by Mrs Henry are all English cottagers and they, too, have been feeling the terribly hard times that came with the beginning of the [Boer] war and were intensified by the national mourning for Queen Victoria. But now things look more hopeful, and the fact of the Queen's great admiration of the work should secure plenty of*

orders for the workers. ..."

She continued taking orders for beaded work and sequin, jet and pearl embroideries but it seems that she struggled to make a living. In 1911 she and Ada were living with her son, John Henri, described as an embroidery designer, in Maidenhead. She died in 1915, leaving £500.

Her adverts give insights into the hardship of the women who sustained themselves and their families through beading and her story shows how innovation in engraving techniques spurred her business.

If you have any family recollections of beading in the area, we at the Woodlanders' project would be delighted to hear from you.

Susan Holmes

Susan Holmes can be contacted by email at susan.x.holmes@gmail.com

Further details of the Woodlanders' Lives and Landscapes project can be found on the website for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Beauty (<https://www.chilternsaonb.org/woodlanders-lives.html>)

Of particular interest to High Wycombe residents may be Susan's earlier research into the life of Thomas Gilbert, the lace dealer who succeeded Daniel Hearn with a business in the High Street.

(<https://www.chilternsaonb.org/news/458/19/The-story-of-Thomas-Gilbert-Lace-Dealer-of-Wycombe.html>)

Puzzling "Dump Shop" Details

IN JANUARY 1910 High Wycombe was in the national press for all the wrong reasons. It was General Election time and feelings had been running high in the Country about the effects of Free Trade. Cheap imports were seen by some to be providing unfair competition to British industry. The Tariff Reform League, a thinly veiled movement advocating more protectionism, had set up over 100 shops which were fitted out with cheap foreign goods. These became popularly known as "Dump shops" as it was said their stock was of poor quality and had been "dumped" on the British public. One such shop was in High Wycombe at No.11 Oxford St and it became the focus of local unrest.

On the night of 21st January 1910, the shop was looted by rioters. Goods were taken out into the street and burnt in a bonfire. The rioters also targeted the local offices of the successful Conservative candidate, Sir Charles Cripps. The owners of the dump shop later took the Wycombe authorities to the County Court and were awarded compensation.

In 1914 Sir Charles Cripps was elevated to the House of Lords triggering a by-election. The Free Trade vs Tariff Reform debate was still a hot issue. But a long-running trade dispute had already resulted in a high police presence in the town, and the by-election candidates and authorities were keen to avoid a repetition of the events of 1910. They seem to have minimised hustings in the town and increased their campaign activities in other parts of the South Bucks constituency.

Edward Sweetland, the High Wycombe-based photographer, did portraits of both leading candidates and their wives. These appeared in the local press and copies were offered for

sale. He also took a photograph in February 1914 (available online via SWOP) which until recently was wrongly identified as the same

location as the Dump shop at the centre of the 1910 unrest. Looking closely at the architecture of the building and some of the items for sale in the neighbouring premises, clearly show it to be a different location. But where?

There are six people posing in the 1914 photo which might help establish the location if they could be identified. Could they perhaps include one or more of the electoral candidates? Or other local politicians such as the Wycombe Mayor, who in 1914 was Mr Gomm?

The Conservative candidate in 1914 was William Baring du Pre. He and his wife Mrs Du Pre do look a bit like two of the people in the photo. The Liberal candidate was Tonman Mosley aka 1st Baron Anslow, who would be more likely to favour Free Trade, and so less likely to wish to pose in front of Tariff Reform League hoardings.

Jackie Kay



Above: The Dump Shop at 11 Oxford St after the events of 21st January 1910 SWOP ref. BFP:33511 (Courtesy Bucks Free Press); Below: Photo taken in February 1914 by Edward Sweetland SWOP ref. RHW:33020 (Courtesy High Wycombe library)



Golden Nails

IT SEEMS A long time ago now but around midday on Sunday 10th July at our Open Day, the Mayor of High Wycombe, Councillor Arif Hussein, and Councillor Lesley Clarke took part in a ceremony to mark the completion of two renovation projects at Pann Mill.

The first project was the recladding of the Mill building, which has been carried out over the last two years using timber donated by The Timber Group. The second project was the painting of the delightful mural on the side of the Mill shed by local artist Dan Wilson, following the vandalising of the shed with graffiti.

In recognition of the generosity of the Timber Group, Mr Chris Wilson, the General Manager, was invited to hammer in a golden nail to complete the re-cladding work. Mr Dan Wilson also was invited to hammer in another golden nail in appreciation of his work. Chris was handed his golden nail, with a golden hammer, by the mayor and Dan was handed his golden nail, with the golden hammer, by Councillor Clarke.

The Mill team wish to express their thanks to



Taking part in the ceremony, from left to right, Chris Wilson, the Mayor, William Sprigge, Dan Wilson and Councillor Lesley Clarke OBE

the two Mr Wilsons, who have both acted very generously to benefit the community.

William Sprigge

Where have all the old trails gone?

FROM ANCIENT Borough boundary stones to slate plaques recording notable past residents, from stone memorials to stained glass, and from inscriptions on buildings to modern information boards, fortunately there are many tangible ways in which aspects of our town's heritage are recorded and prominently displayed. But to put them in context usually requires a guide. Guided walks are very popular and self-guided trails, whether published in paper form or online, are also very useful.

There are some commercial "Treasure Trails" which are good as far as they go, but until recently, you could also access several vintages of local trails as paper leaflets in a folder in the "Tourist Information" centre in Eden. Society members have often helped create these in the past, but it would seem they are no longer wanted. When I visited recently, I could not find a single High Wycombe town trail. The only folder I found was used for relatively short-lived flyers featuring upcoming events.

The same folder used to include a flyer for an online "app" that we helped to develop in 2017. The "app" was still operational only a couple of months ago. Short video clips guided phone users around Wycombe as it would have been in WWI, with optional additional information available at the press of a button. The original project, led by Wycombe District Council, involved Bucks New University Wycombe Museum and others (including ourselves); it had Heritage Lottery funding, and was supposed to point the way for future paperless trails. The WWI trail is still advertised in various places online, but anyone trying to use it will find that the links no longer work as it, too, seems to have been summarily removed.

Planning Group recently discussed the possibility of a new Architectural Trail based on Tony Mealing's friezes of the High Street. It's a nice idea but what form should it take? And where/how would it be promoted?

If you would like your own copies of Tony Mealing's High Street friezes, prints can be ordered via email to treasurer@highwycombesociety.org.uk or in person at Society events. Printing costs have recently increased so we are now only able to supply these as complete sets:

*Full-size prints are £50 (The set includes both North (as shown here) and South side) Approx length of each side: 2.6m
Half-size prints are £25 (The set includes both North (as shown here) and South side) Approx length of each side: 1.3m*



Notices

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

John and Sheila Turner
Christopher Tolmie

Obituaries

We regret to inform members of the deaths of:

Francis Dolphin
Martin Blunkell, Chairman of the Marlow Society

The pastime of an Earl: 19th century High Wycombe in a scrapbook

14th October 7.30 pm

The Riverside

Sarah Charlton, archivist for the Carrington Estate at Bledlow will talk about the contents of a giant scrapbook discovered at Bledlow Manor House, the work of the 3rd Lord Carrington who lived at Wycombe Abbey. He became an Earl in 1895 (and later the Marquis of Lincolnshire). The High Wycombe Society joined with Lord Carrington to have this volume digitised.

Our new Treasurer's contact details for subscriptions and other financial queries are:

Steve Strutt,
24 Highworth Close
High Wycombe
HP13 7PJ
Tel. 07710 981523
treasurer@highwycombesociety.org.uk

The Early History of Wycombe Railway (Maidenhead to High Wycombe)

11th November 7.30 pm

The Riverside



An illustrated talk on the early history of The Wycombe Railway from Maidenhead to High Wycombe, with emphasis on the surviving old Brunel station at High Wycombe. Using many primary sources and photographs plus computer-generated images, David Lane will tell the story of the Wycombe Railway, High Wycombe station and its surroundings, including who worked on the railway and where they lived.

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 November 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	
Saturday 1 st October 10 am start (Aylesbury)	BLHN 2022 The Cottage Industries of Buckinghamshire. This is a BAS event. Details on BAS website: BLHN Conference: 1 October 2022
Friday 14 th October 7.30 pm The Riverside	TALK The pastime of an Earl: 19 th century High Wycombe in a scrapbook by Sarah Charlton, archivist of the Carrington Estate. (See p2 and above.)
Tuesday 18 th October 10 am – 12.30 pm Start at Lido car park in Bassetsbury Lane	WALK "Road, Rail, River and Riots." A 2.5 mile two waterways circular walk to Kingsmead and back led by Willie Reid who says: <i>"Find out who was the first English king to 'tweet', view the best preserved mill wheel on the Wye, walk part of the Brunel engineered railway line from Wycombe to Maidenhead, discover the milestone which indicates the midway point between London and Oxford and hear the story of the 1830 machine breakers' riots."</i>
Sunday 30 th October 2 pm – 4 pm Start outside Wycombe Museum	WALK "Rusty, Bodgers, Mosquitoes and more..." A 1.5 mile walk including two short steep climbs and descents led by Willie Reid who says: <i>"Come and hear about the industry that made Wycombe famous throughout the world, learn about Wycombe's serial criminal and why Wycombe Wanderers score in the Guinness Book Records!"</i>
Friday 11 th November 7.30 pm The Riverside	TALK The Early History of Wycombe Railway by David Lane (See p2 and above.)