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January Sales 1965 Style



BEGINS TODAY (FRIDAY, 8th January)

<p>MEN'S OVERCOATS Grey or Check. Check Back. All size 38 75/-</p> <p>MEN'S CAR COATS Camel, with furry collar 70/- Grey, nearly all small men's 59/6</p> <p>MEN'S BLACK P.V.C. JACKETS Zip. Fleecy Lined. Knitted Collar 65/-</p> <p>CHECK WORKING SHIRTS 12/-</p> <p>DONKEY JACKETS Navy Melton Cloth. 38 to 46 £2</p> <p>FLANNEL TROUSERS Oddments to clear 20/- 25/-</p> <p>MEN'S SUITS Odd sizes in Thomproofs £6 Worsteds £8 £10</p> <p>SHIRTS Oddments in poplins 20/- White/White Cottons 14/11 White Cotton C.A. 12/-</p> <p>WINCEYETTE PYJAMAS Empire 14/11 Better quality 25/-</p> <p>KNITWEAR Patterned PULLOVERS 52/6 WOOL CARDIGANS 35/- BOYS' PULLOVERS. Mainly 28, 30 16/6 MEN'S PLAIN RIB SLIPOVERS 15/-</p> <p>SPORTS JACKETS All reduced during SALE. SPECIAL VALUE LOT at £3/10/- SEE OUR WINDOWS FOR SPECIAL BARGAINS</p>	<p>LADIES' COATS Oddments to clear £3 £4 £5</p> <p>LADIES' SKIRTS Discontinued patterns £1</p> <p>NYLONS Perfects, not seconds. 15 Denier Sheer 2/-</p> <p>MACINTOSHES Patent Finish P.V.C. by Fiesta. Black, White or Red £2</p> <p>COURTELLE SUITS Oddments to clear £2</p> <p>BLOUSES Oddments. Some less than 1/2 price 12/6</p> <p>DRESSES. Winter. Outsizes to clear £1 £2 £3</p> <p>BUSHED NYLON NIGHTDRESSES Shorty style 21/-</p> <p>WINCEYETTE PYJAMAS Long. Floral Pattern 17/11 Better quality 1/2 length 20/-</p> <p>DUTCH APRONS Regular 5/6 quality 3/11</p> <p>BAIRNSWEAR KNITWEAR Fully Fashioned JUMPERS 25/- CARDIGANS and LUMBER JACKETS. Courtelle. F.F. Wool. NYLON. Slightly Imperfect. All 26/9</p> <p>IN OUR FURNITURE DEPT. PILE SLIP MATS. 6 Colours 3/8 STUDIO COUCH 1 only. Blue £22/10/-</p> <p>ODDMENTS IN DIVANS and MATTRESSES at very low SALE PRICES to clear</p>	<p>DORMY BLANKETS Slightly Imperfect. Pastel Colours 70 x 90 37/6 90 x 100 52/6 ea.</p> <p>WHITE SHEETS Guaranteed 5 years. 70 x 100 32/6 pr. 90 x 100 42/- pr.</p> <p>CREAM FLANNELETTE SHEETS 68 x 88 25/6 pair 75 x 95 30/- pair 90 x 100 38/6 pair</p> <p>CANDLEWICK BEDSPREADS Multicoloured pattern on Rose, Blue, Green, White, Turq. S.B. 27/6 Gold, Old Rose, Flame, Olive. D.B. 35/-</p> <p>CURTAINING. COTTON 48". Good quality. Floral design 4/11</p> <p>TOWELS. Indian. White 3/3 Pastels 3/6</p> <p>TEA TOWELS Check Honeycomb Cotton 2/-</p> <p>TOWELS. Fancy. Super quality. Werc 9/11 6/11</p> <p>QUILTS. Paisley. Feather Filled. Double Bed 50/-</p> <p>PILLOW CASES Floral pattern on White 2/6 DORCAS White. Regular 4/6 3/6 Candy Stripe Cotton 2/6</p>	<p>LADYBIRD FOR CHILDREN Imperfects at 33% off. VESTS. White Interlock. Larger Sizes 24 3/8 26 4/4 28 4/8</p> <p>BRIEFS. White Interlock 10" 12" 1/11 14" 2/2 16" 2/4 20" 2/10</p> <p>FLEECY COTTON SLEEPERS with foot for ages 1, 2, 3 years 10/4 11/2 12/-</p> <p>FLEECY COTTON PYJAMAS for ages 2, 4, 6 11/- 12/4 13/3</p> <p>GIRLS' COATS Oddments to clear. Some with fur collars. Up to 36" £2 £3 38", 40" £4</p> <p>GIRLS' STRETCH NYLON 3 SOX Fawn, White, Red 2/11 pr.</p> <p>IN OUR FOOTWEAR DEPT. BLACK SUEDETTE BOOTIES 12/6 ODDMENTS IN P.V.C. CASUALS 11/9 BOOTIES. Check lined. Black or Red P.V.C. 20/- MEN'S CHROME WORKING BOOTS. Moulded Soles 37/6 MOCK CROC MULE SLIPPERS 2/11 MEN'S EMPIRE WELLINGTONS 1 or Knee Length 20/-</p> <p>ALL ODDMENTS AT VERY LOW PRICES TO CLEAR</p>
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SALE ENDS JANUARY 16th

Dates For Your Diary
 Apples! Talk
 19th January - 7:30pm
 see page 7

February Newsletter
 Submissions Deadline
 30th January

Bricks and Building
 Materials Talk
 16th February - 7:30pm

HENRY'S OF BICESTER

**SALE AHOY!
 THERE'S NO BOOTY—
 BUT THERE'S "BARGAINS GALORE"
 (Apologies to Pussy)**

<p>THERE'S</p> <p>LUVISCA NYLON SHIRTS Usually 57/6 Sale 35/-</p> <p>TUNIC SHIRTS (Rochester) Usually 45/- Sale 32/6</p> <p>WOLSEY X FRONTS Usually 7/6 Sale 5/- Slightly Imperfect</p> <p>2-PIECE SUITS Usually 14 gns. to 21 gns. Sale £10/9/6 to £12/19/6</p> <p>HARRIS TWEED JACKETS Were 59/9/- Sale £7/10/-</p> <p>1st QUALITY HARRIS SHEEPSKIN COATS Reduced £5 each coat</p>	<p>BONSOIR Poplin PYJAMAS Usually 47/6 Sale 32/6</p> <p>ARROW SHIRTS Discontinued Lines Usually 39/6 to 59/6 Sale 27/6</p> <p>WOLSEY NYLON SOX Slightly imperfect Usually 6/6 and 7/6 Sale 3/6 and 4/6</p> <p>SOLID WORSTED GABERDINE TROUSERS Sizes 38 to 44 waist Usual Price £6/6/- Sale 59/6</p> <p>OVERCOATS End of Season Oddments Sale from £6/19/6</p> <p>SPECIAL MEASURE SUITS from all Wool Oddments During Sale Reduced £2/2/- per Suit</p>
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MANY ODDMENTS IN MEN'S AND BOYS HEAVILY REDUCED

42 SHEEP ST., BICESTER. Tel. 213

H. J. PREECE LTD.
 SHEEP STREET, BICESTER

Sale commences Friday, January 8th 9 a.m.

OUTSTANDING BARGAINS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS

<p>BLANKETS "EARLYWARM" WITNEY BLANKETS Slightly Imperfect</p> <p>Union</p> <p>70 x 90 55/6. Sale Price 39/11 90 x 100 79/11. Sale Price 59/11</p> <p>All Wool</p> <p>70 x 90 79/6. Sale Price 63/- 90 x 100 £5/19/6. Sale Price 95/-</p> <p>Merino</p> <p>90 x 100 £7/15/0. Sale Price £26/6/0</p> <p>Printed Floral</p> <p>70 x 90 79/11. Sale Price 59/6 90 x 100 £5/5/0. Sale Price 89/11</p> <p>Candy</p> <p>60 x 80 55/-. Sale Price 39/6 70 x 90 69/6. Sale Price 49/11 Limited Quantity of Wool Pieces for the early shopper</p> <p>FLANNELETTE SHEETS "Duro" Unbleached</p> <p>68 x 88 16/11 each 80 x 100 21/- each 68 x 100 17/11 each 90 x 100 23/11 each</p> <p>"Dorma" Coloured</p> <p>70 x 100 42/11 pair 90 x 100 55/9 pair Multi-Striped</p> <p>70 x 100 49/11 pair 90 x 100 59/11 pair</p> <p>SHEETS "Dorma" Coloured—Slightly Imperfect 70 x 100 27/11. Sale Price 18/11 90 x 100 35/9. Sale Price 23/6</p> <p>"Duro" Bleached White—Plain Hem 70 x 100 37/11 pair 90 x 100 45/9 pair</p> <p>Various Odd Pairs and Sets at Greatly Reduced Prices to Clear</p>	<p>PILLOW CASES White—2 Row Cord, Coloured Ends 2/11 each</p> <p>White—Embroidered Ends 4/11 and 5/11</p> <p>Multi-Stripe 2/6 each</p> <p>TOWELS Discontinued and Slightly Imperfect Hand and Bath Towels at Reduced Prices</p> <p>Examples—</p> <p>21 x 40 8/11 Sale Price 6/11 30 x 51 22/6 Sale Price 14/11 45 x 70 42/6 Sale Price 30/-</p> <p>FURNISHING FABRICS Various Discontinued Designs at Reduced Prices.</p> <p>Examples—</p> <p>Reversible Printed Cottons 48"—7/11 yd. Sale Price 5/11 yd.</p> <p>Reversible Antique Satin 48"—11/9 yd. Sale Price 7/11 yd.</p> <p>DAVID WHITEHEAD Contemporary and Traditional Designs Slightly Imperfect 48"—10/11 yd. Sale Price 6/11 yd.</p> <p>TEA TOWELS Unrepeatable Offers in Cotton Union and Linen</p> <p>2/- 2/11 3/11 4/6</p>
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BUTLER'S SALE

STARTS TODAY (Friday, Jan. 22nd)

Many Bargains in All Departments

<p>1 ONLY. 3-PIECE SUITE with 3 Seater Settee. Normally £99/19/6 To clear at £69/10/0 SAVE £20/0/0</p> <p>DINING ROOM SUITE with Cocktail Cabinet. Was £58/13/6 Reduced to £49/19/6 SAVE £8/14/0</p> <p>BEDROOM SUITE comprising Lady's Wardrobe, Gent's Wardrobe and Attractive Dressing Table. Was £54/19/6 Reduced to £44/19/6 SAVE £10/0/0</p>	<p>3rd DIVAN SETS complete with Washable Headboards. ONLY £18/19/6 each. 4th. 6th. SPRING INTERIOR MATTRESSES From £8/19/6 All Guaranteed 5 Years</p> <p>SPECIAL OFFER LOUNGE SUITE Today's Value £65/0/0 Our Price £58/10/0 Includes 3 Seater Settee with Foam Cushions. All covered in good quality Moquette</p> <p>REMNANTS IN LINO, MARLEY, CARPETS AND CURTAINING to be cleared at Greatly Reduced Prices</p>	<p>KITCHEN TABLE AND 4 CHAIRS Normally £15/19/6 Sale Price £14/7/6 Special Offer of 2ft. 6in. KITCHEN CABINETS ONLY £12/7/6 each</p> <p>FIRESIDE CHAIRS at only 5 gns.</p> <p>BEDROOM QUALITY CARPET at only 17/6 sq. yd. Example 3 x 21 16/5/0</p> <p>EASY TERMS AVAILABLE ON ALL SALE GOODS</p> <p>SEE OUR WINDOWS FOR MANY MORE BARGAINS</p>
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L. J. BUTLER

30 SHEEP ST., BICESTER. Phone 413

Booth's Garages Ltd

FORD DEALERS USED CARS

1962 AUSTIN MINI COUNTRYMAN (with timber). Green.	£380
1964 FORD CORTINA 2 DOOR SUPER. Green/White.	£585
1962 (Dec.) FORD CORTINA. White.	£455
1963 FORD ANGLIA DE-LUXE. Windsor Grey.	£400
1960 FORD ANGLIA SALOON. Blue.	£275
1960 (Nov.) FORD POPULAR SALOON. Grey.	£220
1957 FORD CONSUL SALOON. Black.	£220
1954 FORD POPULAR. Fawn.	£65
1953 FORD PREFECT.	£65
1948 FORD ANGLIA SALOON. Beige.	£35
1962 MORRIS 1000 TRAVELLER. White.	£425
1957 MORRIS MINOR 1000 SALOON. Black.	£190
1962 HILLMAN MINX DE-LUXE 1600 SALOON.	£430
1959 STANDARD 8 SALOON. Blue.	£200
1957 STANDARD 8 SALOON. Green.	£150
1961 TRIUMPH HERALD 1200 SALOON. Blue/White.	£385
1961 VAUXHALL VICTOR SALOON. Grey.	£350
1962 AUSTIN A.35 VAN. Grey, rear seat.	£235
1962 COMMER COB VAN. Clean, low mileage.	£295
1961 AUSTIN A.35 VAN. Green, rear seat.	£180
1961 THAMES 5-CWT. VAN.	£185
1960 THAMES 5 CWT. VAN. Grey.	£125
1956 THAMES 5 CWT. VAN.	£80
1955 THAMES VAN. Side windows.	£80
MINI CARAVAN. Used once only, accommodates 2 adults and one child.	£77

OXFORD RD. BICESTER.
 Tel. 606

Bygone Bicester

(Taken from the Bicester Advertiser & Mid-Oxon Chronicle)

5th January 1865

The Annual Dinner for Old Poor People took place on Monday last at the Black Boy Assembly Room. 132 old folks sat down to an excellent dinner of boiled beef and mutton and plum pudding. Grace was said by the vicar.

Dinner having been done ample justice to, and the cloth being cleared, the old folks enjoyed themselves in drinking the health of their wealthy neighbours, and spent a pleasant afternoon.

29th January 1915

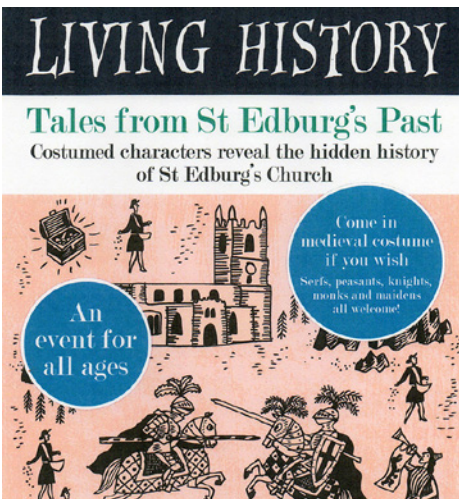
On Wednesday evening the following ladies and gentlemen gave the first of a series of concerts to the wounded soldiers at the local Hospital: Miss

K. Bennett, Miss Dorothy George, Miss Ethel King, Miss D. Mountain, and Messrs. E.G. Colby, W.H. Grimsley ARCO, M. Jaunotte and A.E. Stanley. A lengthy programme was greatly appreciated and the soldiers ended the concert by their ditty, "Little wet home in the trench", and suggesting that the party should give a concert every night.

1st January 1965

At St. Edburg's Sunday evening service the Major Fane Cup, for the boy making the most progress in the choir, was presented by the donor to Robert Heal. Mr. C. Smith, organist, also presented his prizes, hymn books, to Jeremy Anderson and Kenneth Buckley.

Archive Update



Andy Taylor has recently donated some posters he has collected from a variety of venues and events around Bicester, from advertising for the circus, to the Penny Black pub menu. These are very welcome to help us to build up an archive for the future and we are grateful to him for all the time and effort he puts into collecting them for us.

We are not only looking for

items from the past, wonderful as those are, we are also collecting current publications, such as flyers, timetables, magazines, programmes – anything really relating to the town and surrounding area. You never know what will be of interest to the local historians of the future. If anyone has any such items we would love to hear from you.

- Gill King

Marj's Memories The Winter of 1946/7

The severe snowfall of 1947 began in January and lasted for months. It caused a lot of problems for the country with roads and railways blocked. The Bicester children of my years had never seen anything like it. There were snowdrifts that looked like tall, white walls, one in particular was on the Bucknell Road just past the George Street junction as you turn towards the bridge. It was so high with virgin snow – no-one had even tried to get through.

What a hassle for adults! What fun for the children! There was ice

everywhere. Children were ice skating on the ponds and playing ice hockey on the roads and there were slides on the pavements.

Just over the level crossing on both sides of the London Road always flooded; I think it was called "The Mops". Children made their way down there to skate, whilst up Highfield, we had the field and pond, opposite the last row of houses – it was like a winter wonderland. Homemade sledges were sliding down the railway bank and the other steep hills in that field, which had once been a quarry so there were deep

inclines all round. There would be about 10 children going down on a sheet of galvanised tin which had been turned up at the front.

In the back field between Bucknell Road and George Street, the older boys rolled snowballs until they were very big then made igloos – even carved out the centres so that children could go inside.

We did feel the cold, and periodically would go inside to take off the wet gloves, thaw out our hands and suffer the hot ache that followed.

- Marjorie Dean MBE

Chairman's Ramblings

One of my recent eBay purchases has been a postcard photograph of Sirett's Cycle Shop in Market Square. Sirett's originally had premises in the Causeway but moved to Market Square in 1901. You can just make out the entrance to what is now Oliver Court on the right of the photograph.



On looking at the photo closely, what intrigued me was the bicycle on the right which appeared to have some sort of engine or dynamo fitted.

The Veteran-Cycle Club of Great Britain and the power of the internet came up with the answer. There were thousands of powered two wheeler experiments carried out at the turn of the last century. A lot of manufacturers followed the same idea in mounting an engine in front of the steering head and employing a round belt to drive the front wheel. Sadly they all suffered the same problem with the dreaded side slip. There was just too much weight at the wrong height. On poorly surfaced roads, made much worse by mud and horse droppings, the front wheel would slide from under the machine and rider, depositing the whole lot on the ground. It took a few fertile brains to sort out the problem. A Mr Werner had the idea to mount the engine low down in the main frame, around the bottom bracket, but a Joah Phelon had discovered the answer before him in mounting the engine in such a position that it became the front down tube of the frame. Mr Humber soon got hold of Joah's patent and produced thousands of superb machines in that configuration.

And for the technically minded – the engine appears to be a Werner engine of the 1899 - 1900 period. 62mm bore, 72mm stroke and 217cc capacity. Mechanical exhaust valve by a half-time cam with an extension of the camshaft to drive the cam of the ignition contact maker. The ignition coil is clipped to the seat tube. The inlet valve is automatically operated and fed from a fuel tank which must be behind the rider and clipped to the top tube of the cycle. Lubrication is by squirting a quantity of oil every 10 miles or so into the top front crankcase lubricator. So now you know!

Whizz=Bang - a World War One term used widely by Allied servicemen to describe any form of German field artillery shells, although the 'whizz-bang' was originally attributed to the noise made by shells from German 77mm field guns. In all cases however the name was derived from the fact that shells fired from light or field artillery travelled faster than the speed of sound, so soldiers heard the typical "whizz" noise of a travelling shell before the "bang" issued by the gun itself. The word was later applied to anything that was conspicuously effective, successful, skilful, excellent or first rate.



So when I came across a bundle of newsletters from Bicester Red Cross Hospital entitled "Whizz-Bang!" it did make me wonder if the resident patients were the result of whizz-bang explosions, or was the suggestion of producing a newsletter simply a whizz-bang idea!

Bicester Hall (now Hometree House) was requisitioned and opened as Bicester Red Cross Hospital on the 5th November 1914. Initially having 42 beds, this was later increased in 1916 when "the Hut" was built at the rear.

The first edition of Whizz=Bang came out in September 1916. It was seven pages long and also reported on the Brackley V.A.D. Hospital. Later editions also included information about Banbury Red Cross Hospital, by which time it was regularly 14 pages long. Each edition would list the names of the patients in the hospital and those discharged the previous month. The patients weren't necessarily local, so the list shows a mix of regiments, such as the 2nd Gordon Highlanders, 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers and 8th Devons.

In 1916 the Matron was a Miss E Newton. She organised a small fête in the hospital grounds to raise money for the Hospital Outings Fund. This would allow some patients to have a day out somewhere, quite often to Middleton Park where they were entertained by the local vicar, the Rev. Draper and his wife (their daughter, Miss Draper, was a nurse at the hospital and was Editor of the newsletter). Leyton's Garage would lend a car for such outings as did Viscountess Gort. Captain Fane lent his field for cricket or football and also gave permission to all patients and nurses in uniform to go and sit in his garden whenever they liked. Mrs Shuttleworth from Chetwode Manor also took six patients for weekly drives in her motor until her chauffeur was called up!

- Bob Hessian

Gavray Meadows and the Cherwell Local Plan

Following the publication in August of the proposed modifications to the Cherwell Local Plan, a letter was submitted by the BLHS Committee objecting to Bicester 13 – Gavray Drive being allocated as a strategic housing site. The area of Gavray Meadows (part of the proposed site) has many historical features with traces of ridge and furrow and ancient hedgerows. Field names and ownership have been traced back to the 1600s and a comparison of the field patterns from maps of that period with the current map of the area shows that the field boundaries have not changed.

The Independent Examination of the Local Plan resumed in December 2014. As BLHS had submitted an objection we were given an opportunity of speaking at the hearing. Bob Hessian represented the views of the Committee and the many members of BLHS who had signed Pam Robert's petition at the hearing, emphasising the point that such a site, relatively close to the centre of the town, is almost a unique situation and a strong argument that the area should be kept for its great historic value both for the community and also as an education resource. Further background information on this is available on the BLHS website.

Shopping in Bicester An Oral History Discussion

The following is a collection of excerpts from transcripts of BLHS's various Oral History discussions relating to shopping in the town centre.

Contributors:

Don Barker (DB), Margaret Barker (MB), Joyce Barlow (JB), Ron Barlow (RB), Caroline Carpenter (CC), Phyllis Casemore (PhC), Peter Chivers (PCC), Brian Clifton (BC), Jean Crook (JC), Peter Crook (PC), Phil Croxford (PCr), Marjorie Dean (MD), John Harris (JH), Meg Haynes-Latham (ML), David Hemmings (DH), Bob Hessian (BH), Mary Hodgeson (MH), Sue Hodgeson (SH), Sally James (SJ), Brennan Johns (BJ), Jackie Johns (JJ), Miriam Layman (ML), Stafford Nash (SN), Tony Neal (TN), Esme Nicholson (EN), Marguerite Palmer (MP), David Pearse (DP), Pat Pearse (PP), Terri Louise Pilgrim (TP), John Roberts (JR), Pam Roberts (PR), John Savins (JS), Megan Savins (MS), Robin Smith (RS), Audrey Speller (AS), Esme Timms (ET), Mick Wall (MW), Wendy Wall (WW), Wendy Wright (WWR) & Jean Yeadon (JY).



Sheep Street - 1970s

the fire it was an old fashioned shop, on the right-hand side were lots of little drawers where small items were kept. Mr Tyrrell, who worked in there, was always very smartly dressed in a suit. (MW) John Tyrrell worked there for years and so did Leo Hurst.

(WW) I think that the owners were coming up to retirement age and their girls weren't interested in running the business. Pat hadn't been married and didn't have a family. Mary's children weren't interested in going into the business so that's why it folded. (DH) I was told it was expensive to get the shop in order because it had an asbestos roof which was leaking. To get it repaired would have cost a fortune so that was the final straw.

(BC) When it finally closed the workmen put a notice in the window saying that it was going to become a lap-dancing club. Quite a lot of people took it seriously and got very upset.



(WW) They pulled down Mountain's the chemist in the late 1960s. The shop closed when Miss Mountain and her sister retired. Her other sister, Helen Underwood, taught French in a school in Malvern. (WWR) I think they sold out to Woolworth's and they were responsible for pulling down the old shop. (DP) If you took your prescription there you had to go back several hours later. They would never do anything right away. It shook

them up a bit when Boots Chemist came to the Market Square. You could go to Boots and get your prescription right away.

(WWR) We used to collect rose hips for Miss Mountain to make rose hip syrup. This was when we were at school. We picked the rose hips in the surrounding countryside. We took them to her because my parents were friends of hers. Her father used to go rifle shooting and shot at Bisley. Apparently, the distance from the building to the wall along Victoria Road was the distance he used to shoot in competition. They had archways all the way along and a target put up at the far end wall. He used to lie in the dispensary and practise his shooting from there. (WW) He was blind in one eye. (DH) Mr Mountain was a photographer. He took photographs that were used on Bicester postcards. You often see his name on the older views of Bicester. He would have been able to process his own photographs.

(DP) Lloyds Bank owned the ground in front of their property and once a year it used to be staked and roped off and you weren't allowed to go across it for the day, to make the point that you didn't have a right-of-way. It was roped off nearly to the road and it was done on a bank holiday and Ben Jackson used to do the roping off. (DP) It's always been a bank as far as we can remember. It was Lloyds Bank in the 1930s. The manager lived above the bank.

(WW) Jack Taylor, the family grocer, was next door to Mountain's and slightly back from it. (PP) It was painted cream and red and had a double-fronted window. (ET) After Taylor's it became Freshgro, and then Elridge's. (ET) Mt Taylor was a tall, dapper man. (PP) He always wore a Trilby hat. (MD) There was a daughter called Joyce too. (SN) The metal crosses on the front of the building were used



(WW) There were a number of generations that ran Ashmore's shop. Roland's father, Robin, was the owner. They had a son who was killed in World War II. When Roland came out of the services he went into the business and took over from his father. He married Jean Ralph. They were a local family and I went to school with her. (MD) I knew the family; she had a younger sister called Betty. I remember Jean and Roland's wedding, because I was one of the bell ringers when they married in St Edburg's.

(DH) They had a catastrophic fire there in 1969 which started in a boiler at the back. It spilt oil into the premises, which ignited. The fire brigade laid their hoses all the way back to the open-air swimming pool. (MS) I was at Market Square at the time. I could see the fire out of the window. (ET) It went up like a furnace. (MS) The floors were absolutely soaked with the paraffin. (DP) They were the agents for Calor Gas. The shop was full of gas containers which were positioned all the way through the shop. (WWR) The sound of explosions woke us up in Church Street. My brother went down to have a look.

(ET) The shop was rebuilt pretty quickly. (DP) Prior to the fire it had been a very long shop. You went down a slope and nails were at the back. (MD) Before



Sheep Street - 1970s

to help tie the building together. There were others at the back and a rod right through the building.

(DP) 24 Sheep Street was Preece's before it became Sambrook's. (ET) Mr Preece was a stalwart of the town, being a councillor and church warden. (DP) They sold haberdashery. (ET) There was a ladies' department upstairs. (WW) Materials and fabrics were sold downstairs. (DP) Nellie Allum worked there. (DH) I remember it was a bit up market. (WW) It was a good quality shop selling better quality goods than Evans's. (ET) Miss Harris ran the ladies' department upstairs for donkey's years. (WWr) When they were closing down they were selling a lot of stuff with the old utility mark on it. They still had that kind of stuff in the shop. (ET) Sambrook's moved from the shop on the corner of the Market Square after Preece's closed down. Sambrook's closed at the end of 1998.

(DP) When Preece's sold up to Sambrook's Miss Harris ran a boutique where Beans shop (86 Sheep Street) is now. (PP) She was in partnership with Mrs Frost. (DP) It was called Harris and Frost. Miss Harris's family lived near the railway bridge on the Banbury Road. Her father was a railwayman. He retired when he was 65 and died the next day.

(ET) Evans was one of the first department stores in Bicester. There were different sections selling different things. There was a ladies' department, a men's department and a shoe department. (DP) The men's department was at the front of the store on the left. You walked through there to get to the boots and shoes department. At the back there was a toy department selling Dinky toys, Hornby and Meccano amongst other things. (DP) The right-hand side sold haberdashery. (PP) The stairs were at the back of the shop and the ladies' department was upstairs. (ET) You went into a sort of arcade that was all lit up at Christmas time and decorated

beautifully. (WW) I remember when they had that arcade put in. They had one because Preece's had one. It was at the front, like a central display island.

(MS) They had a van that went around the villages to pick up orders and deliver them the next week. It was very handy. You could get your overalls from there. They had stuff in the van for sale. (JS) It was good for the villages.

(WW) The shop was run by three generations of the family, the grandfather, father and son (Alf, John and Henry). They originally started across the road, where Evans Yard is now. (ET) And they owned Emlyn House. (WWr) Henry ran a women's lingerie shop where Chol's Sandwich Bar is now. He had a menswear shop where Connells Estate Agents is. The lingerie shop did not last for very long though. (BC) Alf used to play the cello in one of the upstairs rooms and when it was a quiet evening you could hear the cello in Sheep Street. (SN) Alf Evans's son, John, ran the shop after Alf died in 1956. John died in 1971. He was a dapper little man. (MS) The other brother had a farm at Poundon. His son, Martin, runs the Launton Players.

(DP) Mr Walker, the church warden from North Street, worked in Evans's and ran the shoe department. (ET) John Blencowe and Stan Naylor were in the men's department. (WW) Blanche Naylor was in the ladies' department. She was Stan Naylor's sister. (DP) She married Ken Blowfield. (ET) She died quite young. (WW) Some of the Blowfield family worked in Evans's as well. (BC) A man called Humphrey Richardson used to work in there, in the shoe department.

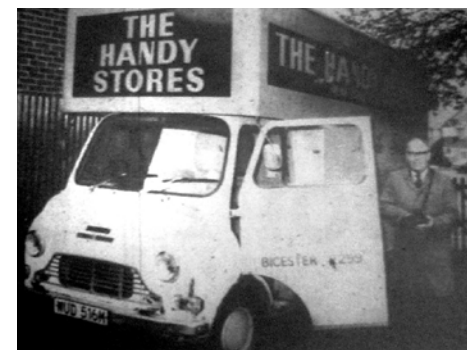
(WW) George, the tailor, was at 42 Sheep Street before Henry's. (ET) Henry was another Evans, but he wasn't related to the Evans at the department store. He used his first name for the business.

(MW) Prentice's was a fairly high class shoe shop. (ET) They sold all the well-known makes of shoes. (PP) My mum used to work there when she first moved

to Bicester. That was in the 1930s. I always had my shoes from there. One side was the ladies' shoes and the other side was the men's shoes. (ET) Mr and Mrs Prentice lived upstairs. Mr Prentice also had an antiques business the other side of the road, about where Boots is now. That was a very high class shop.

(WW) Herring's was a high class grocer's. They ran up and down for you and fetched things as well. Mr Hillsden worked there (PP) on the bacon machine. The staff wore white coats. (ET) They gave a proper service. (DP) My mother worked there for years. (ET) There were chairs where you could sit down whilst they took your order and ran about for you. (DP) I've got a photograph of the staff in there. Nobody touched the bacon machine except Mr Hillsden. The shop went right through to Victoria Road at the back. Downstairs were the cellars where the cheese was kept. Out the back there were store houses. There was a big area with a bench down the middle where you could put all the delivery orders up for all around the area. When the van driver went on holiday I had to drive the van for them and went around to all the farms and big houses.

(SN) Herring's became Crystal. Our family took it over when Herring's closed. (WW) A lovely china shop. Joan Pankhurst worked in there for years. Hadleigh's came after Crystal. They both sold glassware. (SN) My brothers bought the business and altered it into a gift shop, chinaware, etc. One of my other brothers took over the first floor and set up a ladies' hairdressers. That was called Helena Gail.



(WW) Handy Stores was started by the Cherrys. They started off in their front room and then extended it. Then they bought Diamond Villa. It just started off as a hardware shop. (DP) They used to run vans around the villages and sell paraffin. (MW) Ron Naylor drove the van. (WW) And Basil Cherry. It was a real family concern.

(ET) Diamond Villa previously belonged to Mr Grimsley. (WW) An Italian called Roccotenchio, who was a clock and watchmaker, lived in Diamond Villa. If you stood looking in his shop window so nobody else could look there, he would come out and say, "If you want to buy a watch, buy a watch. If you don't want to buy a watch get your nose away from my window".

Christmas Tree Festival

For the last two years we have participated in the St Edburg's Christmas Tree Festival.

With 2014 being the centenary of the start of World War One, we based our theme on that. Using the image of a "Dead Man's Penny" – a memorial plaque issued to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war, we created smaller replica "medallions". Each medallion was individually subscribed with the name of one of the 120 Bicester service men who died as a result of the war.

Our display received many favourable comments and although the festival only lasts three days, our tree was left in the church for the remainder of the Christmas period.

The "star" was made out of barbed wire and the base of the tree was laid out with ivy scattered with British Legion poppies along with a rusty shell case salvaged from the Somme battlefields of France.

- Bob Hessian



Christmas Quiz Answers

- Q1.** Which nation gives us the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square each year?
Norway
- Q2.** What year were the first UK Christmas cards sent?
1843
- Q3.** How many presents are given in total in 'The 12 Days of Christmas'?
364
- Q4.** Which year was the coldest Christmas on record in the UK?
2010
- Q5.** Which monarch broadcast the first Christmas Message?
King George V
- Q6.** Which year did parliament ban Christmas?
1647
- Q7.** Which country did the Christmas tree tradition come from?
Germany
- Q8.** What colour are Mistletoe berries?
White
- Q9.** Which year did the Post Office stop delivering on Christmas Day?
1960
- Q10.** Which country did Hong Kong surrender to on Christmas Day 1941?
Japan
- Q11.** Which carol was sung by the German soldiers in the trenches in 1914, which began the Christmas Day truce?
Silent Night
- Q12.** Who were popularly called robins because of their red uniforms?
Postmen
- Q13.** What did Tom Smith, a London confectioner, invent in 1847?
Christmas crackers
- Q14.** Which monarch was crowned on Christmas Day in Westminster Abbey?
King William I
- Q15.** What did Santa Claus win in 1964?
The Epsom Derby

Village History Ambrosden

Like many other villages, Ambrosden's history can be traced back to Saxon times. Although some people believe that Ambrosden was named after Ambrosius Aurelianus, a 5th century British-Roman military leader who supposedly encamped close to the present site of Ambrosden to help the neighbouring military garrison at Alchester in conflicts with the Anglo-Saxons, historians believe the name actually came from the Old English for "Ambre's hill".

The course of Akeman Street, a Roman road which linked Watling Street with the Fosse Way, passes through the parish just to the north of the village. Roman pottery has been found in the area and, when the scholar and antiquarian White Kennett was Vicar of Ambrosden (1685-1708), ancient Danish remains were found in the area too.

The parish church of St. Mary the Virgin has been refurbished many times over the centuries. Although the door dates from Norman times the west tower is Early English Gothic and the remainder of the church was rebuilt in the 14th century in the Decorated Gothic style.

Near St. Mary's are remnants of the older village, but much of Ambrosden now consists of MOD housing built in the 1950s for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps' Central Ordnance Depot at Graven Hill and St George's Barracks at Arncoth. The depot's internal railway system, known as the Bicester Military Railway, passes Ambrosden and links the Graven Hill depot with other depot sites at Arncoth and Piddington.

During the reign of King Edward the Confessor a lady called Elviva held the manor of Ambrosden. The Domesday Book then records that by 1086 she had been replaced by Hugh d'Ivry, butler of William the Conqueror and brother of Roger d'Ivry, who owned several manors in Oxfordshire.

In 1729 the manor was bought by Edward Turner, who

had already bought one of the manors of Bicester from Sir Stephen Glyne in 1728. In 1733 Turner was made the first of the Turner and Page-Turner baronets of Ambrosden. In around 1740 Sir Edward Turner, 2nd Baronet (pictured in 1762), replaced the Glynnes' manor house with a large square house of eleven bays. The architect was Sanderson Miller, who also designed



ornamental buildings in the grounds. A landscaped park with lakes and statues was laid out around the house and the drive to the house was along an avenue of trees.

Sir Edward died in 1766 and Sir Gregory Page-Turner, 3rd Baronet, considered the house too large. So, in 1768, he had the entire house demolished.

Ambrosden Old Park, where Ambrosden House had been demolished, was sometimes used for horse-racing. In 1829 Jackson's Oxford Journal complained that a race meeting in the park attracted a thousand "idlers" characterized by "dullness and stupidity" and was marred by "brutal and disgraceful fighting" despite the presence of several members of the gentry.

Ambrosden remained with the Page-Turner baronets until 1874 when Sir Edward Henry Page-Turner, 6th Baronet, died childless. He left all his estates to his nephew, Frederick Augustus Blaydes. The Blaydes took the Page-Turner name and coat of arms in 1903, but eventually sold the estate in 1930.

- Matthew Hathaway

REGAL

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BICESTER
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To-day and To-morrow: "PIN UP GIRL" (c). 3.35, 6.10 and 8.50 p.m.
also "Boxie Hart" (s). 8.85, 6.5 and 8.40

MONDAY, 4th DECEMBER, for 8 DAYS.
Doors open 1.30 p.m. Continuous from 2 p.m.
Showing Twice Daily at 2.20 and 6.30
PRICES OF ADMISSION—1/9 2/3 2/9 8/6

CLARK GABLE

VIVIEN LEIGH

LESLIE HOWARD

Olivia de HAVILLAND

GONE with the WIND

DAVID O. SELZNICK'S
WORLD RECORD BREAKING
MASTERPIECE! An EPIC in TECHNICOLOR!

SUNDAY, 10th DEC.
Doors open 2.15
Commences 2.30

Mickey Rooney
Ian Hunter
in
A Yank at Eton (v)
(2.15, 5.45, 8.15)

William Tracy in
"HAT FOOT" (v)
(2.30, 5.0, 7.30)

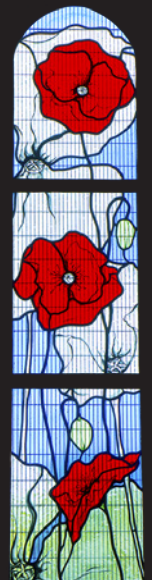
Taken from the Bicester Advertiser - December 1944

Roll of Honour

This is the local man who died in the Great War, 100 years ago this month.

Private Wallace Jethro Whyton,
of Bletchingdon.

Died: 14th January 1915 Aged: 20
Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry



Talks Update

Over the next few months we have a varied itinerary of talks that we hope will prove very interesting.

Monday 19th January

In the new year Tim Healey talks to us about **Apples! The Myth & Magic of England's Favourite Fruit**. We explore the stories and lore of the apple, from ancient mysteries of the Sacred Fruit to the rites of Wassailing and Apple-bobbing.

Monday 16th February

For the second talk of the year Society member Pat Snelson tells us about **Bricks & Building Materials in Bicester's Buildings**. Where the vernacular architecture of Bicester will be traced through its limestone, brick and stucco façades.

Monday 16th March

Chris Day talks to us about **A History of the English Parish**. Emerging in the early Middle Ages as an ecclesiastical unit, in England it later became a unit of local government as well. This talk outlines how very different it used to be to be a parishioner.

Bicester's Public Houses

Our speaker for the December talk, Bob Hessian, remembered that when he had done a town walk back in 2004 he had made the comment that he'd identified over 22 pub names for Bicester. Now, some 10 years later, the list has 46 names and that didn't include the more modern ones that have been built on the new housing estates in the area. The whereabouts of 26 of them are known, even if there's nothing to show for it now, but establishments such as the Blue Man, Half Moon, Pole Axe and Seven Stars have yet to be identified.

Bicester was an important market town and needed such establishments to provide sustenance and accommodation for traders and visitors. Bob

queried the idea that the main route into town from London was via Chapel Street. The presence of three coaching houses adjacent to one another in London Road (King's Head, Nag's Head & King's Arms) would indicate that this was actually the main route in.

A number of pubs that existed until fairly recently claimed to be the "oldest" in Bicester. The Rose & Crown (Causeway), The White Lion (Sheep St) and The Cross-Keys (Market Sq) are examples. The problem in determining the facts is that premises have changed their

name. The Angel (Sheep St) had previously been the Plaisterer's Arms and before that the Blue Man. It was also the last pub in Bicester to brew its own beer.

There may be far less pubs in Bicester now than there used to be, but those that remain still have a fascinating history to tell.

- Bob Hessian



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