

Not Bicester's First 'Civic Centre'

After years of planning, work has finally started at Franklin's Yard car park to make way for the new Civic Centre. Although the Town Council is no longer planning to move into the building themselves, only Cherwell District Council, it is unfortunate that the new building runs short of being an actual Town Hall, as that is something that Bicester has lacked for many years.

The Town Council's current home, the Garth, was originally built in the 1870s. Then called the Poplars, it was the second largest private residence in the town. In 1878 it was sold by Mrs Elizabeth Palmer to Baron Deichmann who renamed it the Garth and used it as a hunting box whenever he was in the country. During this time, the house had many distinguished visitors including Sir Thomas Peyton, the Earl of Cork, the Duke of Beaufort and the King of Saxony. It was later sold to the Keith-Falconer family in 1891 and they remained in ownership until Mrs Williamina Keith-Falconer died in 1945. Major Villiers, Lord Bicester, Major Fleming and Major Keith-Falconer bought the house and grounds in 1946 for £7000 and gave it to the town; the gardens for a pleasure park and the house became the offices of the Urban District Council. Following a local government reorganisation in 1974 Bicester Urban District Council became Bicester Town Council and it is still based at the Garth today.

Maybe the reason we don't have a Town Hall is that the Council just don't trust us after what happened to the last one! It stood in the middle of the Market Square, adjoining the Shambles. The Shambles



was a long range of open buildings built to accommodate the town's butchers. In its early days it was crowded with a row of butchers' stalls on each side, as well as those in the Shambles itself. But, as the butchers started setting themselves up in shops, the Shambles was used less and less, and by the early 19th century it was barely used at all.

The Town House, pictured below, was erected in 1622 but bore the date of 1686. The ground floor was let to some of the inhabitants and partly used as a dwelling. The upper floor was used by the townsmen and officers for their parochial business. The upper floor also housed the charity school in the 1760s. The building's eastern end was surmounted by a turret, which housed the bell, and a clock. The building was eventually pulled down by a mob in 1826. After which the clock was relocated to St Edburg's Church and the bell eventually found its way to the Workhouse.

The bell now hangs outside the Garth but is no longer used for its original purpose of summoning the councillors to meetings!

- Matthew Hathaway



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Dates For Your Diary

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

March Newsletter Submissions Deadline
 27th February

History of the English Parish Talk
 16th March - 7:30pm

Eat and enjoy our Fried Fish
GRIMSBY FISH BAR
NORTH STREET
Times of opening:
 TUESDAY: 4.30—11 p.m.
 WEDNESDAY: 11.30 a.m.—2 p.m.
 4.30—11 p.m.
 THURSDAY: 11 a.m.—2 p.m.
 4.30—11 p.m.
 FRIDAY: 11.30 a.m.—2 p.m.
 4.30—11 p.m.
 SATURDAY: 11.30 a.m.—2 p.m.
 5.30—11 p.m.
 Phone 3280

Advert taken from
 Bicester Church News - 1971

Bygone Bicester

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

2nd February 1865

On Saturday last about five o'clock in the afternoon, a most daring robbery was committed in the booking office at the Bicester Railway Station.

The clerk went home to tea about five o'clock, and on his return half-an-hour afterwards, he discovered that the cash drawer had been forced open, and £8 15s. abstracted in gold, silver and copper. Four of five shillings worth of coppers were left behind. The drawer seems to have been forced open by using a sharp chisel, and pushing down the bolt of the lock.

The police were at once on the alert, and have taken into custody, on suspicion, a man named Morton. He was brought before Captain Style, on Monday, and was remanded till the petty sessions on Friday next.

19th February 1915

(Pictured) A group of Belgian Refugees at Hethe House who are being maintained by donations from the surrounding villages and friends in the neighbourhood. One of the refugees is an iron worker and has proved his worth, having just completed a pair of wrought-iron gates for Mrs Gosling, of Stratton Audley Park. Another is a cabinet maker, and a third works in the gardens at Shelswell Park. The women are busy making socks and shirts for Belgian soldiers.



12th February 1965

An obsolete street lamp in the garden of 85 Bucknell Road, Bicester, has been completely disregarded for years and years. Mr Benjamin, employed by the County Council at their Bicester Depot, is interested in old street lamps.

He decided to ask Bicester Urban Council to sell him this obsolete lamp. His application for the purchase of the lamp was considered at a meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Bicester Council on Monday.

And the reaction was: "This ought to be put up for auction. Everyone ought to be given a chance to tender for it."

The sale of the lamp will be advertised.

Marj's Memories Molly Jackson's Sweet Shop

Molly Jackson's sweetshop was in St John's Street, where part of Fane House now stands. The sweet shop was a delight for all Bicester children and it was easy for children from Highfield to run across Bell Field, cross the road by the school and go to get sweets or some other treat from the shop. The Crockwell School playground was much wider and the road was narrow and, of

course, there wasn't much traffic.

She was an old lady, who wore a man's cap and she smoked a clay pipe. The shop was decked with rows of sweet jars, liquorice shoe laces and pipes, sherbet dabs, lemonade powder and the like. The favourite sweets were Gob Stoppers or Bull's Eyes. The bull's eyes were large round hard sweets that, when sucked, changed colour. Children would inspect them during the process to see what colour they were changing. At the end, in the centre, when all had nearly gone, there was a small aniseed pip.

She sold fireworks called "Jumping Jacks" that made a cracking noise as they jumped along, also caps for the boys' cap guns. It was a regular thing for boys to have a cap gun; the caps were in strips with pink dots.

When the trigger was pulled the pink dot was hammered, which made a cracking sound.

An old story, my mother used to tell, was about a boy asking for an 'apeth (halfpenny worth) of Bull's Eyes. They were on the top shelf and Molly got her steps and climbed up to get the jar. When she was up there she said to the next boy, "Do you want an 'apeth of Bull's Eyes too?" to which he replied "No". She climbed down and put back the steps, then asked the second boy, "What do you want?" to which he replied "A penoth (penny worth) of Bull's Eyes"!

My great aunt worked for her and long after the shop had closed, when we visited her, we had pickled onions from jars that were originally in Molly Jackson's sweet shop.



Outside Molly's shop - c.1920

- Marjorie Dean MBE

Chairman's Ramblings

Sorry about the following but it really is a bit of a ramble this time!

A couple of weeks ago I was helping my neighbour who was contracted to work on the 12 megawatt solar farm currently (no pun intended) being built near Wendlebury. Somebody digging a trench hit a large, (and what appeared to be cylindrical) rusty metal object. The guy operating the digger wasn't prepared to expose any more of it especially after I mentioned that RAF Weston on the Green airfield (less than a mile away) was the most heavily bombed airfield in Oxfordshire (WW2)! As there was a team of German engineers installing some of the solar farm electrical equipment it was suggested that as the supposed unexploded bomb was probably one of theirs, then they should remove it! The police were called and the bomb disposal people but before they had time to materialise another operator

took his and our own lives in his hands and dug up a large piece of round looking rock – maybe it was a meteorite?! Anyway, it caused a certain amount of merriment for the rest of the day and a similar amount of relief because if it had exploded you wouldn't be reading this as I wouldn't be around to write it!

But it brings me on to a strange link between Weston on the Green airfield, H.G.Wells and The Lord of the Rings! When the airfield closed after WW1, the local wheelwright, Henry Boddington, purchased some redundant fuselage frames from Bristol F2b Fighters that had been stored on the airfield. He used these as roof trusses for his workshop roof. Wings were



Bristol Fighter airframe in-situ in roof of Mr Boddington's workshop, Weston on the Green



Bristol Fighter restored using one of the airframes

also purchased and adapted to make the workshop doors. The trusses remained until 1965 when a team of RAF Cadets removed them and they were taken to RAF Bicester for storage before being sent to RAF museum at Henlow. What the fuselages were doing at Weston on the Green is a bit of a mystery as there is no record of Bristol Fighters ever having flown from Weston. Maybe they were to be assembled there? As an aside, the airfield had it's own railway link to the Bicester-Oxford line, running between

Little Chesterton and (Great) Chesterton and then running parallel with Akeman Street to the airfield. It doesn't appear on any maps and you'd struggle now to find any trace that it ever existed. The airfield closed in 1921 but the hanger buildings, or at least the uprights to them remained and in 1935 they formed the backdrop to a scene from the film "Things to Come" starring Raymond Massey and Ralph Richardson – the film being based on the H.G. Wells book – "The Shape of Things to Come". Several years ago I spoke to some villagers who could remember being paid five shillings (25p) a day for being an "extra" on the set! As for the roof trusses / fuselage frames – at least one was used and eventually restored and put on display at the RAF museum. Others got distributed elsewhere with

at least two ending up in New Zealand where Peter Jackson used them for a Bristol Fighter restoration project. Peter Jackson? He is the Producer of the Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit films.

The Christmas 1944 Edition of the Bicester Garrison Newsletter (The Bicastrian) has an interesting centre page "advert" about Alchester. I can only assume the errors present were done deliberately to fool the enemy!

- Bob Hessian



A.D. 44

BICESTER

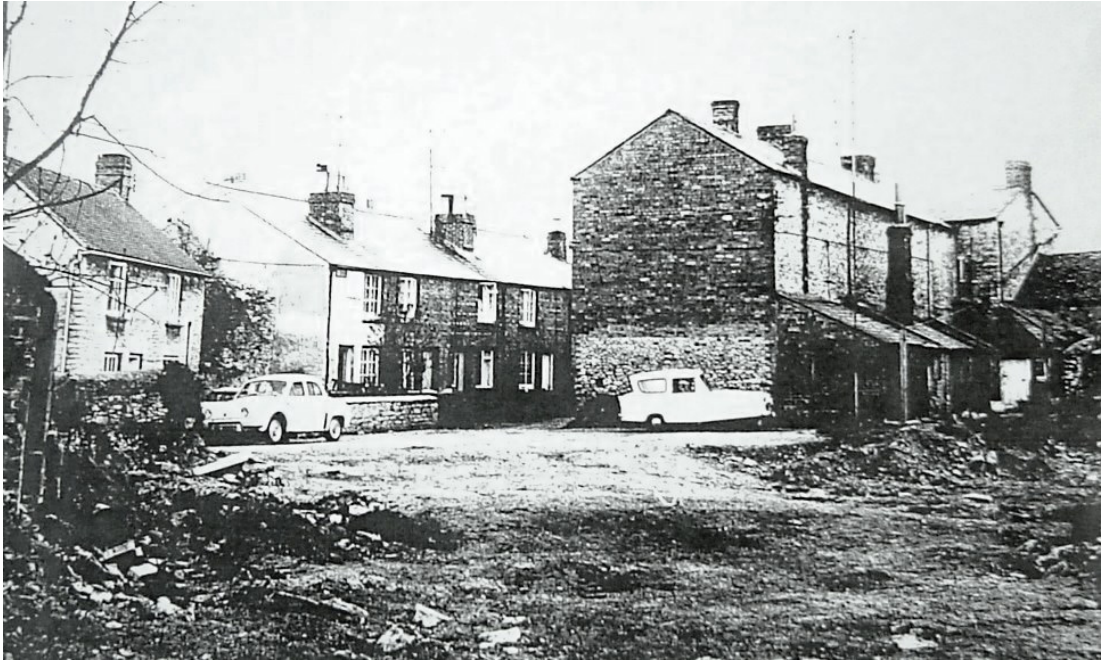
A.D. 1944

Central Ordnance Depot, Bicester, is on the same site as a Roman Camp called Alchester, built under the orders of the Consul Aulus Plautius in A.D. 44, exactly 1900 years ago this year. The original camp was at the northern corner of its successor and the name Bicester is derived from it.

A Rich Heritage from a Poor Town

Back in 1993 Esme Timms, a fellow BLHS member, wrote a piece for the Bicester Advertiser detailing her memories of the town she's known all her life. This is that article:

All of Mrs Esme Timms' life has been lived in Bicester. Now at Home Tree House, she worked as a telephonist at Bicester Ordnance Depot for many years and her husband, Don, was a postman until he retired. She writes of the town she knew...

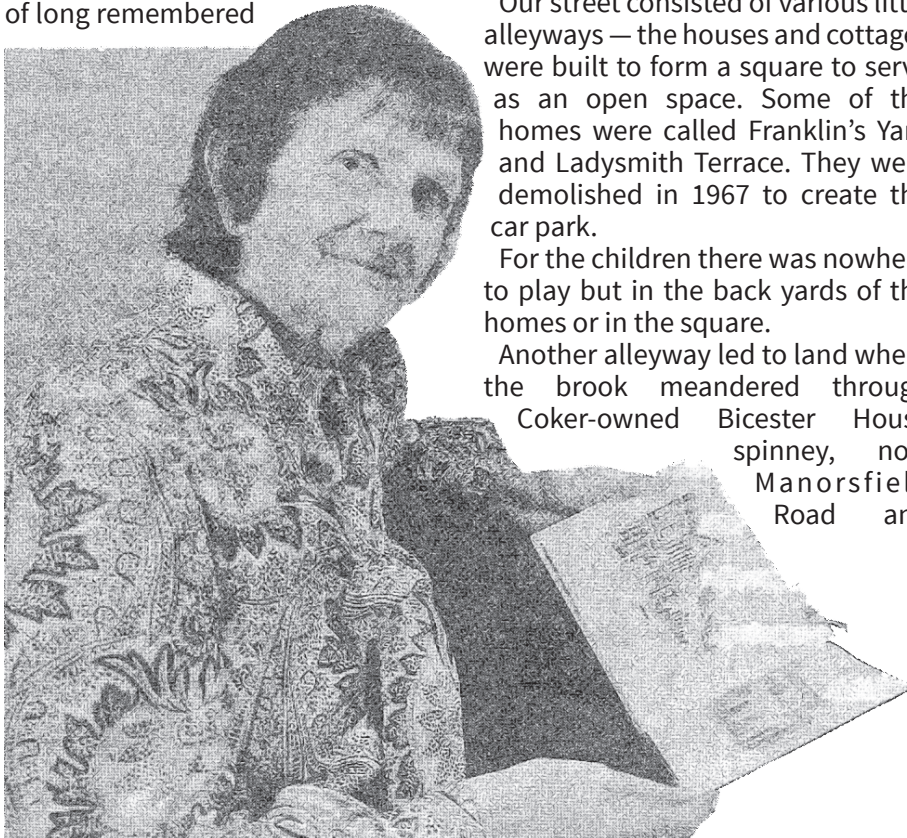


Ladysmith Terrace from Franklins Yard - 1967

Bicester was never a wealthy town. Nor were there rich benefactors or any industry.

The 1920s and 1930s were hard times for the majority of working people and for some there was grinding poverty — although Bicester must have been typical of rural market towns at the time. Families seemed to help and support each other in times of need.

Wealth does not always mean money. There is a wealth of long remembered



Bicester characters, who were the brave entrepreneurs of their day.

And it is of them I like to recall and of the area known as Crock'ull (Crockwell). St John's Street was always its proper name, but it was called Crockwell after the well at the far end.

The street once boasted a pub, The Star Inn, the landlord being my father, Mr Harry Clifton, and stood on the site of what is now Franklin's Yard car park.

Our street consisted of various little alleyways — the houses and cottages were built to form a square to serve as an open space. Some of the homes were called Franklin's Yard and Ladysmith Terrace. They were demolished in 1967 to create the car park.

For the children there was nowhere to play but in the back yards of the homes or in the square.

Another alleyway led to land where the brook meandered through Coker-owned Bicester House spinney, now Manorsfield Road and

Bure Place.

The water came from a natural spring (Crockwell) in Bell field, now Queen's Avenue. This was known as Spring Close.

There was always a carnival in the summer and I remember the 1936 Jubilee Celebrations of King George V and Queen Mary when a party was held in the old brewery tun room down The Causeway. The brewery was demolished along with other properties in the late 1960s. The site is now occupied by the National Westminster Bank and other shops.

There were mounds of sandwiches and plenty of lemonade and jelly. There was an orange and a balloon for each child — and a Punch and Judy show.

School was Crockwell infants on the corner of Queen's Avenue and Bucknell Road. It is now private dwellings, with the little bell tower still in place.

We started our schooling at the age of five and stayed until we took the "scholarship" at the age of 11 - that determined our future education.

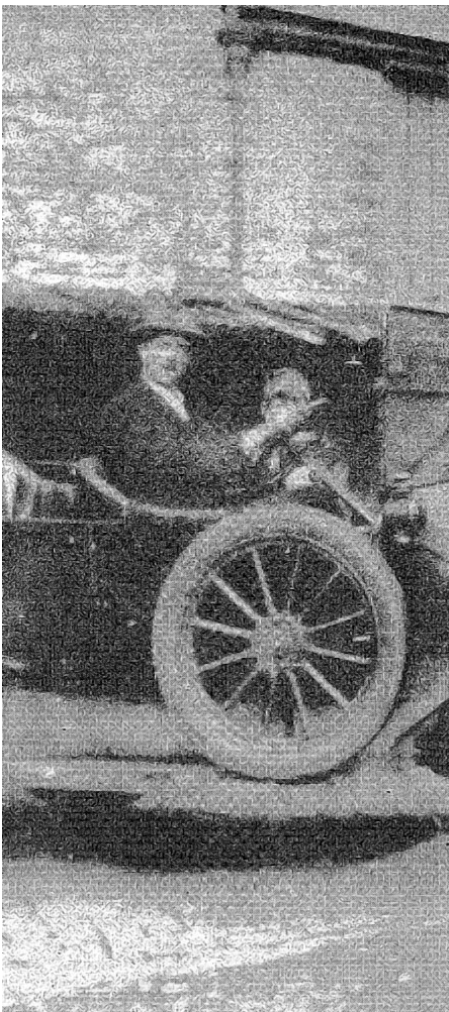
Looking back there were long sunny days and we always found something to amuse ourselves with. Can the present generation imagine life without television?

For us there was an old garage at our pub and we would dress up and perform our own concerts. We had seen Shirley Temple at the Crown cinema and tried to copy her.

We learned to tap dance and we all thought we could sing. We charged a penny at the door with a promise that the show would include some of mother's ice cream.

She made the ice cream in a kind of milk churn with custard powder and a block of ice from the fishmonger. What price hygiene, one wonders? But no harm came to us and the ice cream was popular.

We are lucky today that photography is so easy and I often wish we had more old photographs of bygone days. A camera would have been a luxury.



But how fortunate that someone was there to snap my father with my elder brother Cecil sitting beside him in what must have been my father's first car. The year I believe was 1930-31 and in the background is the garage where we held our childhood concerts.

The town had two cinemas, the Regal in London Road where we enjoyed Saturday morning films (entrance fee tuppence) and where serials were shown such as Rin-Tin-Tin (a dog), The Clutching Hand (spooky) and Tom Mix, our Western



The Crown Hotel, Sheep Street

hero.

A couple named Smith managed the cinema and they must have dreaded Saturdays, we were such a rowdy lot.

The other cinema was at the back of the lovely 16th century Crown Hotel which stood at what is now the Sheep Street entrance of Crown Walk. The hotel was among the buildings demolished in the name of progress.

In the event of needing medical care, we went to see doctors "Monty" Montgomery and House, whose surgery was where Messenger's auction sale rooms are now.

The four bakers made their own bread and cakes. Lane's was where a travel agents is now; Baughan's is now a barber's shop; Morley Smith was where the British Heart Foundation shop stands, and then there was George Cannon in North Street.

At Christmas Mr Cannon would open up his bakehouse ovens to the neighbourhood to cook their dinners, pies and puddings for a penny per item.

There were plenty of sweet shops in the town where we could spend our "Saturday penny".

Mrs Godfrey, Mrs Jackson, Miss Broad and Millie Bourton's — the latter being on the corner of Bell Lane, almost exactly where the two telephone kiosks are today.

Little front parlours were used as shops (no need for planning permission in those days) and what an appropriate name little Mrs Cherry chose for her shop The Handy Stores — now a bigger store and still run by members of her family.

Other establishments included Norman Prentice and his "superior furniture and pictures" shop where Boots the chemist is now.

Next to that was Mrs Shurmer's Wheatsheaf Cafe/bed and breakfast where a lovely smell of toast filled the nostrils.

Further down Sheep Street was Stanford's fruit shop, which is now occupied by Foster's menswear. We could make a little pocket money if we liked to pick blackberries and sell him the fruit.

Down on Market Square was Miss Scrivener in her wool and toy shop, which had a trap door in the floor leading to her store room. When she went down into the cellar for anything we waited with bated breath, wondering if she was ever coming up again. She always did!

Walt Dagley at the Dorset Dairy supplied the town with fresh milk for many years and the business was subsequently carried on by his son Herbie.

I also recall the brisk and dapper Mr Wheeler, the manager of the International Stores, a site now occupied by the Lemon Plaice fish and chip shop/restaurant. His daughter Verity was our Sunday School teacher.

The Second World War brought many changes. The Ordnance Depot came and servicemen and women from all over the world were stationed here.

What could they know or care about our funny little town or its past.

Where we walked "over the fields" were now housing estates such as King's End and the town prospered.

Archive Update

One of the important ways to preserve the history of the town is through old photographs and postcards. These can be fascinating, sometimes bringing back special memories, and other times puzzling us as we struggle to remember how things once were. It is a joy when these are donated to our archive, and particularly so when non-members think of us. This photograph was donated by Ian Haynes, who took it from upstairs in what was then the Co-Op in Sheep Street, just after the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception had been built. It is nice to be reminded of how green that area used to be before Manorsfield Road and Hanover Gardens existed. It is easy nowadays to scan or copy such items so



if anyone has any they would be willing to share with us, please do get in touch. We are interested in people and events as well as places.

- Gill King

Regal Movie Quiz

Can you match these film listings to the following years?

(Answers at the bottom of the page)

- A. 1939
- B. 1944
- C. 1945
- D. 1965

1 REGAL BICESTER 169 MANAGED BY ABC

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10th.—Three Days. CONTINUOUS FROM 2.15 p.m.

Claudette Colbert .: *Jennifer Jones*
Joseph Cotten

in
"SINCE YOU WENT AWAY"
2.25, 5.10 and 7.55 p.m. (c)

FULL SUPPORTING PROGRAMME. 2.15, 5 and 7.50.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13th.—Three Days CONTINUOUS FROM 2.15 p.m.

Joan Fontaine .: *George Brent*
Dennis O'Keefe

in
"THE AFFAIRS OF SUSAN"
3.5, 5.45 and 8.25 (A)

FULL SUPPORTING PROGRAMME. 2.15, 4.55 and 7.30

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16th Doors Open 2 p.m. Continuous from 2.30 p.m.

LENA HORNE & BILL ROBINSON in
"STORMY WEATHER"

Boris Karloff and Getrude Hoffman in "THE APE" (A)

2 REGAL BICESTER TEL 169 MANAGED BY ABC

To-day and To-morrow:—"I STAND ACCUSED" (A) showing at 6.55 and 9.25 p.m.. Sat. Mat., 3.35 p.m., also "THE STAR REPORTER" (A) Showing at 5.30 and 8 p.m., Sat. Mat. 2.30 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11th. For 3 Days

RALPH RICHARDSON, JOHN CLEMENTS and JUNE DUPREZ in
"THE FOUR FEATHERS" (A)

(IN TECHNICOLOR)
Showing at 6.10 and 8.25 p.m.

ALSO FULL SUPPORTING PROGRAMME, showing at 5.30 and 8.5 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14th For 3 Days,

VICTOR McLAGLEN, BRIAN AHERNE and JUNE LANG in
CAPTAIN FURY (A)

Showing at 6.25 and 9.10 p.m. and at Saturday's Matinee at 3.25 p.m.

Also Rosella Towne and William Gargan in "THE ADVENTURES OF JANE ARDEN" (A)
Showing at 6.15 and 7.55 p.m. Saturday's Matinee at 2.15 p.m.

EACH PROGRAMME SUPPORTED BY THE PATHE SUPER SOUND GAZETTE
Programmes next week—First three days 5.30 p.m. Rest of week 5.15 p.m. Sat's Mat. at 2.15 p.m.

3 REGAL BICESTER 169 MANAGED BY ABC

To-day and To-morrow: "ROSE MARIE" (c). 2.30, 5.30 and 8.40 p.m.
"Let's Have Fun" (c). 4.10 and 7.20 p.m.

Matinee: Sunday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.
Doors Open—Mon., Wed. and Thurs. at 5.15. Commencing 5.20.
Tues., Fri and Sat. at 2.15. Commencing 2.30

MONDAY, 26th DECEMBER 3 days

JOEL MCCREA — MAUREEN O'HARA — LINDA DARNELL
in
BUFFALO BILL
5.30 and 8.20. Tues. Mat. 2.20. (c)

Clive Brook and Anna Lee in "Return to Yesterday" (c). 7 p.m. once only. Tues. Mat. 4.5

THURSDAY, 29th DECEMBER. 3 days

HUMPHREY BOGART — CLAUDE RAINS
SIDNEY GREENSTREET
in
PASSAGE TO MARSEILLE
Thurs. 5.20 and 8.40. Fri. and Sat. Mat. 2.20. (A)

Richard Arlen and Mary Beth Hughes in "Timber Queen" (A). 7.15 once only. Fri. and Sat. Mat. 4.5

SUNDAY, 31st DECEMBER—Doors Open 2.15. Commencing 2.30.

ROLAND YOUNG & BILLIE BURKE in
TOPPER TAKES A TRIP (v)
8.30, 6.5 and 8.40

Richard Arlen and Andy Devine in "Men of the Timberland" (A). 2.30, 5 and 7.55 p.m.

4 ABC REGAL BICESTER Tel 169

Today and Tomorrow—
Sean Connery . FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE (A)

MONDAY, 11th JANUARY FOR 3 DAYS
Doors Open 4.55 Last Complete Show 7.00
PETER CUSHING . CHRISTOPHER LEE
THE GORGON
(X) Technicolor 5.30 8.45

TERENCE MORGAN . RONALD HOWARD
THE CURSE of the MUMMY'S TOMB
(X) Technicolor 7.00

THURSDAY, 14th JANUARY FOR 3 DAYS
Doors Open Thurs. and Fri. 4.45 Sat. 1.45
Last Complete Show 7.00

RICHARD HARRISON . MICHELE MERCIER
EXECUTIONER ON THE SEAS
(A) Colour
Thurs. and Fri. 5.25 8.40 Sat. 2.05 5.25 8.40

ROCK HUDSON . STEVE COCHRAN
BACK TO GOD'S COUNTRY
(A) Technicolor
Thurs. and Fri. 7.00 Sat. 3.40 7.00

Answers: A=2, B=3, C=1, D=4

Village History Ardley

From early times the parish of Ardley was traversed by an important highway - the road from Oxford into Northamptonshire. Known as the Oxford Way in 1679 it was made a turnpike in 1757. The village of Ardley lies on the point where branch roads to Fritwell and Bucknell meet the main road.

The village seems never to have been very large, or rich. In 1662 only eleven houses, most of which were humble dwellings, were listed for the hearth tax. Twenty houses were recorded in 1768 and thirty-five in 1821.

Ardley Castle was a motte and bailey structure. Believed to have been built in the early 12th century, during the civil war between King Stephen and Empress Matilda. It was demolished by order of Henry II sometime after 1154 and now exists only as an earthwork, an oval enclosure, some 100 yards in diameter, with a shallow ditch. In 1823 the existence of subterranean passages was recorded on the site, though these were believed to relate to a medieval manor house.

The church of St Mary dates back to at least 1074, when a grant of its tithes was made, though the original church was demolished and completely rebuilt in the late 12th century. The present nave was built in 1793 but the chancel and bell tower still contain some re-used Norman stonework.

A village school was built in 1861, at the expense of the Duke of Marlborough, with accommodation for 60 children, but an education of sorts was available



before that. In 1808 a few children were looked after and instructed by a 'poor woman'. And in 1815 twenty one children attended a school supported by the Rector where they were taught the principles of religion, at their parents' expense. The village school eventually closed in 1914, when the children were moved to Middleton Stoney School.

The Great Western Railway completed their new main line from London to Birmingham in 1910 and, as it passed only a few hundred yards from the village, a station was opened on the main road just to the south of the village. Ardley Station remained in use until its closure in 1963.

- Matthew Hathaway

Roll of Honour

Bicester Man Missing.



The above is a reproduction of a photograph taken of Pte. Edgar Golder, of the 2nd Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry, whilst on service in India some years ago. Pte. Golder, who was unofficially reported wounded on October 31st, has been heard nothing of since that date, and the War Office has stated that they have no information concerning him. Letters from the headquarters at Warwick, however, say that he has not been placed on the official missing or casualty lists. It is the hope of all that good news concerning him will be forthcoming

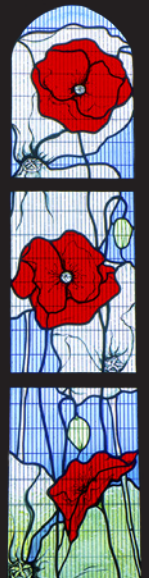
February 1915 was the only month during the whole conflict where no one from this area died. This is good news. But it does mean that we have no Roll of Honour for this month.

However, the Bicester Advertiser did run this piece on the 12th February 1915.

It states that Private Golder was wounded on the 31st October 1914 and that nothing has been heard since.

The official records actually list him as having died on that date. And since he is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial, in France, it seems that he actually went missing in action and his body was never found.

How long after this piece was published the family were actually told of his fate we don't know. But three months is a long time to live in hope.



Talks Update

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

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.

Monday 20th April

Dr Rowena Archer discusses **Travelling in the Middle Ages**. How much people travelled and where they went during the mediaeval period. It includes some material on the logistics (roads and bridges etc) and some stories of great journeys.

Apples!

At the January talk Tim Healey explained that apples have deep cultural roots, being depicted in renaissance art; mentioned favourably in the Bible (although not in the story of Adam & Eve) and in Greek Mythology. Similar themes occur in Celtic myths (Avalon – the Isle of Apples), Norse myths (Iduna) and modern storytelling (Snow White).

The earliest apples date from 8000 BC and originated in Almaty, Kazakhstan; all other varieties derive from these.

There were various rites surround apples, including: Wassailing - 1682 wassail bowl which would have contained spicy beer & apples, and apple-bobbing - Daniel Maclise's painting Snap-Apple Night (1832) shows this activity and Halloween cards sometimes showed apple-bobbing.

Tim outlined a number of examples of apples from the world of work. Including the first English recipe for apple pie being published in 1381 and toffee apples being invented in 1908 by William Kolb.

The part that apples have played in Oxfordshire's history was also outlined:

- Appleton – part of the manor of Abingdon and a



centre for orchards.

- Ralph Austen – horticulturist and Puritan, published *A Treatise on Fruit Trees* (1653). He also set up the first cider-making factory in Oxfordshire (17th century)
- Wolvercote Community Orchard encourages the growth of local varieties.

This year, Bicester's first Community Orchard at Langford is grafting local apples. Please contact Pam Roberts (Bic. 245313) if you have a special tree.

- Sally James

Committee & Contacts

Editor:

Matthew Hathaway
mathat298@gmail.com
01869 246530

Assistant Editor:

Gill King

Website:

www.blhs.org.uk

Committee Members:

Bob Hessian (*Chairman*)
info@blhs.org.uk
01869 350662

Sally James (*Treasurer*)
01869 243804

Sally Dexter (*Minutes Secretary*)

Peter Crook

Matthew Hathaway

Gill King (*Archivist*)

John Roberts (*Membership Officer*)

Meetings Address:

The Clifton Centre
Ashdene Road
Bicester
OX26 2BH

Postal Address:

BLHS c/o Sally James
14 George Street
Bicester
OX26 2EG