

Bicester Historian

Issue: 13 September 2015

The monthly newsletter for Bicester Local History Society

Back to School



Front view of the school from Queen's Avenue - 1976

Earlier this month saw the opening of The Bicester School, after its official change from Bicester Community College back in August. But this isn't the first time the school has changed its name.

Back in 1924 Bicester Grammar School opened in what was Bicester Hall, on the corner of London Road and Launton Road.

Mr John L. Howson became the first Headmaster. He was succeeded by Mr E. T. Clothier in 1941. Mr Clothier had joined the staff in 1925 as a mathematics teacher. He retired in 1963.

Mr J. N. Davies was appointed as the French Master in 1930. His responsibilities included teaching singing and producing dramatic productions. The staff performed annual plays for public entertainment. Mr Davies retired in 1966. The Woodwork Master Mr L. E. Windsor was appointed in 1934 and retired in 1963.

Miss G. H. Dannatt joined the staff in 1938 as the History Mistress and she later became the Senior Mistress. She was a well-known local historian and a founder member of the Bicester Local History Circle. She retired in 1963.

The Grammar School stayed in London Road until 1963 when it moved into new premises on the present day site, part of

which was already occupied by Highfield Secondary Modern School. Mr S. Percival was appointed Headmaster of both schools.

The two schools shared the site for three years until they were merged in 1966 to form Bicester School. This comprehensive school was later renamed Bicester Community College and stayed as such until this year.

The College gained School Achievement awards in 2001 and 2002 in recognition of the significant improvements in its examination results. In 2006 they achieved membership of the Most Improved Specialist Schools Club after the number of pupils getting five or more A*-C grades at GCSE rose from 40 per cent in 2002 to 50 per cent in 2005. The results dropped in 2006 with only 36 per cent achieving the benchmark five or more GCSE passes at A*-C, but the 2007 results were a significant improvement with 52 per cent gaining five or more GCSE passes at the appropriate grades.

The school was put in special measures in February 2013 following an "inadequate" grading in their 2012 OFSTED inspection. But an inspection in May 2014 rated the school "Good" in all categories and the requirement for special measures was removed.

- Matthew Hathaway



Front view of the school from Queen's Avenue - 2009

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Dates For Your Diary

BLHS AGM

21st September

Industrial Archaeology in Your Shed Talk

21st September - 7:30pm
see page 7

Old Priory Dig

26th September

October Newsletter Submissions Deadline

2nd October

OFHS Family History Fair

3rd October



Oxfordshire FHS Family History Fair

Marlborough School,
Shipton Road,
Woodstock, OX20 1LP

Saturday 3 October 2015 – 10:00 'til 16:00
Free entry and parking

Get help with your research – particularly in the county but also further afield
Explore neighbouring and other local counties with material and experts in their area
Browse and buy books, CDs, maps, postcards and materials from specialist companies

Refreshments available

Visit www.ofhs.org.uk/fair.html for details or contact Angie Trueman fair@ofhs.org.uk or 01488 71714

A visitor last year said: "Brilliant so much information and so much to buy!"

Old Priory Dig

For a third year we have arranged, with grateful thanks to the owner, Rob Parkinson, to undertake an archaeological investigation in the gardens of the Old Priory, Priory Lane.

The dig will take place on the 26th September and

full details can be found on the form included with this edition of the newsletter.

If you wish to attend please complete the form and return it to Bob or Sally so that your place can be reserved. Places are limited.

Village History Bucknell

Bucknell is a small village two miles northwest of Bicester. In 2011 the parish's population was recorded as 260.

After the Norman Conquest of England, William the Conqueror granted the Manor of Bucknell to Robert d'Oyly, but before the conquest it is believed that the manor was part of the possessions of Wigod of Wallingford. In 1300 the Lord of the Manor was Sir Robert d'Amory, father of Roger d'Amory.

Besides Robert d'Oyly's land in Bucknell there were two smaller estates in the lost hamlet of Saxenton in 1086. Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, was lord of both of them and his tenants, Adam and Alfred, held 2 hides and 1.5 hides respectively. In the 13th century these estates were in the possession of the Boffin and De Ivaus families. By 1257 Thomas Boffin had given Chetwode Priory all his land in Nethercot and Steeple Aston, and it is likely that he gave the priory his Saxenton lands at the same time. Chetwode Priory was annexed to Notley Abbey (Bucks.) in 1460 and, at the Dissolution, the abbey was still receiving a rent of 12s per year from its land within the parish.

The present manor house is early 17th century, but was mostly rebuilt

in the 19th century.

The parish church of Saint Peter has a central Norman tower. The nave and chancel were enlarged in the 13th century and are Early English Gothic. In the 15th century the bell stage was added to the bell tower and the Perpendicular Gothic clerestory was added to the nave.

In 1552 St Peter's had three bells plus a Sanctus bell. In 1955 it still had three bells, but the earliest was cast in 1597. The church's turret clock is of unknown date, but appears to be late 17th or early 18th century.

The earliest record of education in the village is when "Goody Poel the school dame" is mentioned in 1708, and by 1738 most of the village children were being taught reading, writing and the catechism by a "poor woman" paid by the lord of the manor. The succeeding lords continued to support a dame school. In 1808 the dame was a Quaker and the children were taught reading and knitting. There were 12 pupils in 1808, 20 in 1854 and 12 in 1869 when the school is last recorded.

A Sunday school was opened in 1802, supported by the parishioners. In 1808 35 children were learning to read and write. 46 children were



The parish church of St Peter

recorded in 1833 when there was also a day school, attended by 30 children. 20 of those 30 were paid for by Mrs T. Tyrwhitt-Drake, wife of the tenant of the manor house. Bucknell Church of England School was built to replace Mrs Tyrwhitt-Drake's school in 1861 by the Revd. William Master. In 1867 they started running evening classes in the winter for adults and the older boys. The school never had more than one teacher. It was reorganised as a junior school in 1926 and closed in 1948.

The Trigger Pond pub dates from the 17th century. The earliest part of the building is from 1637 and the later part has a date stone stating 1693.

Just outside the village to the west is Trow Pool water tower. It was built in 1909 for Major Hunloke, who then held Bucknell Manor. It served the village and the manor estate until the 1950s when mains water reached Bucknell. The M40 motorway was built through the parish and opened in 1991. It passes next to the water tower, which has now become a landmark for motorway traffic.

- Matthew Hathaway



Trow Pool Water Tower

Roll of Honour

These are the local men who died in the Great War, 100 years ago this month.

Private George Cleaver, of Souldern.

Died: 19th September 1915 Aged: 20 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Lance Corporal Cyril Joseph George Adams, of Hardwick Road, Hethe.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 17 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private James Cherry, of Lower Arncott.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 27 Served in: Bedfordshire Regiment

Private James Dean, of Bicester.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 37 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private William Isaac Edgington, of Mill Cottages, Kirtlington.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 22 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Company Sergeant Major Tom Izzard (Hudson), native of Upper Heyford.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 32 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private Harry Lambourne, of South End, Kirtlington.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 23 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Lance Corporal Percy Payne, of King's End, Bicester.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 21 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private Ralph Porter, native of Chesterton.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 25 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private William Arthur Thomas Trafford, of Conygre Farm, Hethe.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 27 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private Albert Tuffrey, of Hillside, Islip.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 34 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Lance Corporal George William Varney, of Middleton Stoney.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 27 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private William Watts, of Somerton.

Died: 25th September 1915 Aged: 25 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private Arthur Charles Benson Golder, of Upper Heyford.

Died: 26th September 1915 Aged: 24 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private William George Lee, native of Bicester.

Died: 29th September 1915 Aged: 20 Served in: Royal West Surrey Regiment

Private William Charles Simons, of St John's Street, Bicester.

Died: 29th September 1915 Aged: 22 Served in: Grenadier Guards



Twelve of the sixteen local men who died in the Great War during September 1915 all died on the same day. Either in the main offensive at the battle of Loos, or during the "distraction" battle at Bellewaarde.

Compared with the small-scale British efforts of spring 1915, the Loos attack of six divisions was a mighty offensive - so much so that it was referred to at the time as "The Big Push".

Taking place on ground not of their choosing, and

before stocks of ammunition and heavy artillery were sufficient, the opening of the battle was noteworthy for the first use of poison gas by the British Army.

Despite heavy casualties, there was considerable success on the first day in breaking into the deep enemy positions near Loos and Hulluch. But the reserves had been held too far from the battle front to be able to exploit the successes and succeeding days bogged down into attritional warfare for relatively minor gains.

Interview with Bob Hessian

Our Chairman, Bob Hessian, celebrates his 70th birthday this month so we thought an interview was appropriate. The Committee and Members thank you for all you have done for B.L.H.S. over its first 30 years, Bob, and look forward to many more. A very Happy Birthday from us all.

I was born in Rugby in 1945, but I also lived in Essex and Yorkshire. I've been married to my wife, Paula, for 48 years and we've lived in Weston-on-the-Green since 1973. I worked in the pharmaceutical industry for over 45 years but am now retired (sort of!)

What is your earliest memory?

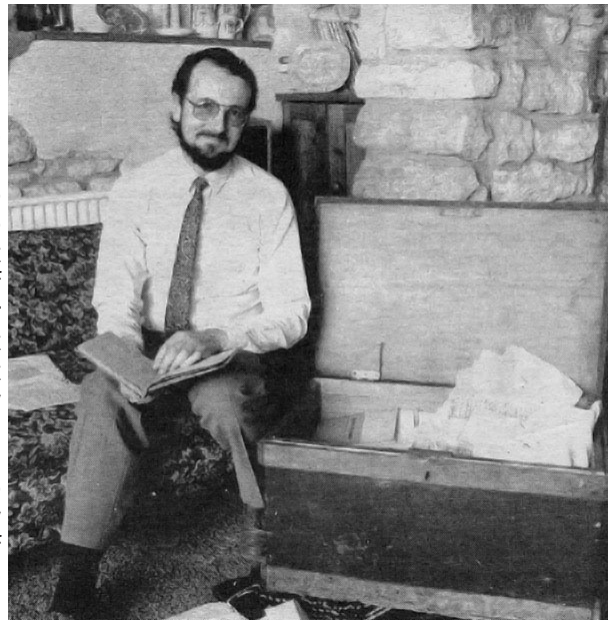
I can recollect my dad clearing snow away from the back door of our bungalow in Rugby where it had drifted up to the roof. I'm assuming that was the 1946/7 winter but I would only have been 15 months old so I'm not sure if you can remember back to then. I also have vague memories of floating in the sea - when I was 2-3 years old I went crawling off somewhere and ended up falling off the groynes at Bournemouth. My mum and dad had not noticed and I had to be pulled out of the sea by a passer by! But we did go on a lot of walks around Rugby and I especially remember the "humpty-dumpty" fields - remnants of ancient ridge and furrow farming although that wasn't explained to me at the ripe old age of 8 years!

What is your most precious memory?

Probably my dad when (after I'd announced that I was getting engaged to Paula) he warned me that getting married was like having a millstone around your neck! I never told my mother that he'd said that!!!

After my parents had died I did regret not talking to them about our family history. My father had mentioned that a member of the family had been an engine driver. I'd spent many hours, even days, collecting train numbers at Rugby, and I'm still interested in railways. When I questioned my aunts about the train driver family link they didn't want to know. Of course that made me more determined to find out more! A trip to the library at Rugby followed and I found an inquest report in the local newspaper explaining his death after falling from the footplate of a locomotive whilst on the turntable. He was in fact my great-grandfather and the obituary in the same paper

described him as a well-respected man, who had driven the Royal Train and had founded a mission for men who worked on the railway. I felt rather proud to have a great-grandfather like that and was somewhat disappointed that none of my father's sisters had ever mentioned him. It wasn't until I cleared out my last remaining aunt's property in Christchurch that I came across a photograph of him on the footplate of a locomotive - the only known photograph of him. That's something I do find precious!



Bob with the chest of Coker family documents he found in 1987.

What prompted your move to Weston-on-the-Green?

I'd met Paula (my wife) whilst working at ICI, Slough. After getting married we ended up living in Langley, Slough, in a 1960s semi-detached house with the London Paddington main-line at the end of the garden. Great if you love trains - but not between the hours of 1.00-5.00am! We both like gardening and wanted something bigger, we also liked the idea of an old-world cottage and when both of our jobs took us to High Wycombe then we started looking for that "cottage in the country". After being unsuccessful at various auctions we ended up finding Weston-on-the-Green in 1973 and have been here ever since.

Are there advantages and disadvantages to living in a small village?

I don't remember ever getting a double-glazing salesman knocking on the door (or any other cold-callers for that matter) so that's a real bonus! We do have a village shop and post-office but most people shop at the larger supermarkets and for that you need transport. We do have a bus service but there is only 4 per day (Oxford/Bicester) and they wouldn't be any good if you wanted to go to the theatre. Milk does get delivered to your door but we lost our bread delivery service several years ago. So a car is a necessity. There's a great community spirit in the village but with a population of less than 550 it quite often rests on the same people to man the bring & buy stalls, do the church flowers, mow the grass, etc. Fighting the Weston-Otmoor Eco-

Town proposals in 2008/9 brought the village together and finding £35,000 to repair the church roof was a daunting task for so small a population, but we did it.

I love the place and will fight tooth and nail to preserve its identity and its relatively unspoilt nature. At the General Election in May, I was the Presiding Officer for the village and I'm pleased to say we had a 75% turnout. And of that 75%, I knew 80% of them by name and they knew me! The difficult part was not really being allowed to engage them in casual conversation. But I did anyway!

How did you first get interested in local history?

I'm slightly embarrassed to say that I didn't particularly like history at school. Maybe I might have shown a bit more interest if we'd learnt about the Egyptians, Romans and Greeks! But it was coming to Weston that triggered the local history interest. We'd bought an 18th century stone and thatched cottage and knew nothing about its history. Various stories about past residents of the cottage existed. But there was no "Village History" book that you could get from the library and learn all about Weston-on-the-Green (apart for the Victoria County History and Bicester's own John Dunkin's history of the Ploughley Hundred). It was a chance comment made in church after Evensong one night in November 1973 that started the ball rolling. We'd been to a number of services where there had been no organist. As a former chorister at Rugby, I found that hard so when

I asked the question “Where is the organist?” I got a “Why do you want to know?” I casually remarked that I could play the piano and I’ve been the volunteer organist ever since (42 yrs)! Being the organist meant I was automatically enlisted on to the Parochial Church Council and at one of those meetings I discovered that the original church records were still in the church (in an unlocked tin trunk kept in the a very damp vestry) dating back to the 1500s. Paula and I started to transcribe the records and from that we learnt much about Weston families and about the people who used to live in our own cottage. And I wanted to learn more, especially about more recent history - early Victorian and later. And it was at a local history course in Bicester that I learned what could be gleaned from studying census returns, along with a few other people such as Sally James, Jill Wishart, Barbara Marsh and Sheila King. When the second course was cancelled due to lack of sufficient “pupils” then we formed our own interest group and called it Bicester Local History Society - and the rest as they say, is history!

What is your particular area of interest?

I do like maps. Not necessarily old ones but ones that have lots of detail on them. I have two complete sets of Ordnance Survey maps for Great Britain and over 40 maps associated with Bicester and the surrounding area. I have a massive collection of

postcards of Bicester and the nearby villages. I especially like ones that have been used postally and have a bit of a story in the text. And of course, I do like clocks but that is an expensive hobby/interest so I just restrain myself to Bicester makers. Pride of place is a 1750 grand-father clock made by Edward Hemins, clockmaker from Bell Lane, Bicester (or Bisiter as it is spelt on the clock-face). And it keeps remarkably good time when I remember to wind it up each day! The William Ball bracket clock (early 1700s) did cost some real money though - but I took it along to the Antiques Roadshow in June and was pleasantly surprised to find I’d got myself a bargain!

You buy a lot of local history ‘stuff’ on ebay. Were you a collector before ebay?

Not like I am now. We were only interested in the history of our house and maybe something to do with the family.

What are your favourite items?

The clocks probably are my favourite ones, although the dog collar is too. Until I can find out a bit more about it - and I’ve got to take it to Leeds Castle where there is this Dog Collar Museum. I couldn’t believe it when I found out about it and then managed to get hold of the curator, who told me lots about these sort of dog collars. Brass was the metal to have of that particular period. She said, do come along and bring it one day and have a look at the rest of the collection. Certainly at the Antiques Roadshow they were pleased to see it. They said, “we don’t get many of these”, and they did put a value on it which was far more than I paid, which was a relief.

You have built up a huge collection of postcards and photographs, some of which you have not identified.

I started collecting them because they were Bicester, that’s how the collection started, although when we cleared out my aunt’s house we came across these two albums of postcards that they themselves had collected. They went to Tenby a lot and round that area. Family postcards they sent home when they were on holiday. I didn’t find them particularly interesting at the time - now I do. I have got this massive collection of postcards of Bicester and the surrounding

area now. I would say probably 95% of them have been ebay purchases and I haven’t dared tot up how much I’ve spent!

You were one of the founder members of BLHS. What do you remember about that?

The course we attended was advertised as being based on the study of census returns. I think at the time we were told you could pick your own village if you wanted to, a particular village, or if you’re all from Bicester, because there is a good mix of trades and everything else, which you wouldn’t get in a village, of course. That’s how it started. The first course we took was based on the 1851 census, which I think was one of the first ones to have real chunky information, and also saying where you were born as well, and obviously trades and age and that sort of stuff as well. So we did that for that first term, then the next term we did 1881 - I think it was a 30-year gap - and the idea was to compare how Bicester had changed in just those 30 years. I think we had about four evenings when we were told we had only got 10 on the course and you had to have 12, so we were told we had to stop. We felt it was such a waste that we had done all this work on the 1851, started on the 1881, so Mary Hodges said why don’t you just get together and finish off the 1881 and then see what you want to do with the results.

So what did you do with the results? Did you write anything up?

We didn’t print or publish them or anything like that. Mary did Thame as one of our first talks, and how they had done something similar there and how it had changed. That’s the sort of thing you could do with Bicester once you’ve finished the 1881, so we went away and finished it, and then one of the first talks we had was a certain Bob Hessian, believe it or not! I put all the results together and illustrated the results as pie charts and histograms that had been generated on my BBC B+ computer! I had to project the acetates using an overhead projector - technology has moved on somewhat since then! The pie charts came out looking like ovals as opposed to circles. I’ve still got them and I’ll use them when I come to do my talk about the history of the Society next April. We did actually get some fairly interesting results of how people and the mix of trades had changed, almost with the coming of the railway, and people moving away from agriculture to more industrial trades. But we never did any more with it. I suppose we



Bob with his Coker chest, dog collar and bracket clock.

could do, it might be worth finishing off and putting it on the web site for information. We used to joke about “those pink slips”. Every entry from the census return was written onto a pink slip. Nowadays you would put it on a database on your computer and press a few buttons and it would be analysed just like that. But then it was like having a card index but on pink slips. If you wanted to find out information you had to thumb your way through these slips. I think the population at that time was about 3,000, so there were 3,000 slips. I’ve ended up with them all. We were working off photocopies – getting photocopies of the census returns from those reels you used to get at the County Record Office. The photocopies left a lot to be desired and we struggled with understanding the writing on quite a few of them, and it wasn’t until you had done about 50 pages of the census returns that you got into the swing of being able to recognise what they were meaning!!

Has the Society evolved as you envisaged at the beginning?

I don’t remember us having any specific “vision” at the time. We just wanted to form a group so that we could continue to look at what we’d discovered about Bicester so far. Jill Wishart was the driving force initially. She was working in the Bodleian at the time, right up in one of the turrets! I did go and see her once, up a spiral staircase. She was working on documents that carried the seal of King John. I think maybe Jill had the visions at the time - I was still learning what local history was all about!!!

As it grew, did you have any kind of purpose for it?

One of the first things we looked at was the need for a museum. We looked at the dovecote – we visited the dovecote. We always had this idea that Bicester needs a museum. But where? That’s the problem.

You went at one point for the Post Office didn’t you?

Yes, that happened at a time when I was working away from home, up in Hull. I actually came off the Committee then as I couldn’t contribute anything to meetings. Obviously I kept in touch with people like Gerry but it was them who put that first book together. I had very little to do with that. I had been Chairman before then. When Jill left to go to Cumbria, I took the Chairmanship over and it stayed with me until I went to Hull.

You have been involved in many aspects of the Society’s work. What have you enjoyed the most?

I enjoyed the exhibitions. I’d like to do another one. People have come to expect it. I get a lot of satisfaction from being involved and talking to people. I can, and will, talk to anybody!

One highlight was the Bryan House dig. It was great to be involved in that. I had the dubious honour of putting my pick-axe through a medieval town drain! It was the day after they found the reliquary.

It was also a great privilege putting the skeleton together for the Anglo-Saxon burial at the Roman Catholic Church. I felt quite proud when Fr. Paul asked if I would do it. It was a big deal for me, and I tried to do it

respectfully. That meant a lot to me.

What are your hopes for the Society for the future?

I am looking forward to our presence in the new library. I can’t get too excited about it yet – I still have this nagging doubt that it might not happen. Until I have got it in black and white from somebody I have to have that nagging doubt. Things could go pear-shaped at the last minute and find it’s not going to happen. I will be bitterly disappointed, but I have just decided I am not going to spend any great efforts at the moment in working out what we are going to do there, until we know for certain that it is going to happen.

It will be a bit of a showcase for the Local History Society, what we can offer, helping people as well. Not so much family history because I think that is so specialised, but if we can help them in some way or another because of our general knowledge of people in Bicester, and families, but not for us to go through census returns for people! So much of it is digitised now that they should be able to do it themselves. Paula and I used to go to St. Catherine’s House in Holborn doing our own family history. They had these large hand-written ledgers that you had to search. Of course it’s all digitised now and much easier.

I hope that we can do something positive with the old Dovecote in Old Place Yard. I have this idea of the whole area being a memorial garden and a display in the Dovecote telling the people the history of the old Priory - that I think would be very appropriate for this part of Bicester.

- Gill King interviewing Bob Hessian

Marj’s Memories Home Shopping Clubs

In the forties and fifties, long before credit cards, home shopping clubs were very popular. It was common for a customer to join and then later, friends and neighbours often followed. My mother ran one at that time and my Saturday morning job was to collect the payments. Customers would look at the catalogue and choose what they needed – yes needed - the orders were often for children’s shoes or clothes for school. The catalogue could have been called a “wishing book” especially for teenagers and young women because it displayed so many desirable outfits.

The club I remember well was J E York which later, in the seventies, became Grattan – still a popular one to this day but, with the internet, much less paperwork involved.

During the war clothes were rationed so the person ordering would accompany the order with the necessary clothing coupons. The terms were “a shilling in the

pound” so if someone ordered an item for £4 they would pay back 4 shillings a week for 20 weeks. Items could be added to the account before the payment was settled but, if it went over the £4, the terms increased. Payment cards were issued to customers. The agent would send the remittance weekly by money order at the post office. Bank accounts were not common in those days.

Home shopping clubs were very popular with young people during the fifties. It was a regular thing for friends to order from each other’s catalogues.

There were different terms for some shopping clubs; one in particular was that when customers joined they would be given a week number (1 to 20). Payment would start on week 1, but depending on how the numbers came out, some customers would have to wait their turn for the goods, some waiting for the full 20 weeks. This way no money was owed to the supplier.

- Marjorie Dean MBE

Talks Update

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

Monday 21st September

Bill King's talk about **Industrial Archaeology in your Shed, Garage or Attic** shows us how artefacts reveal, over a timescale of thousands of years, the development of culture and society through the use of materials and technologies.

Monday 19th October

Stephen Barker tells us about **Oxfordshire on the Home Front 1914-18**. Explaining the impact of the First World War on the county. Focusing on many aspects, from fundraising to munitions production and the influx of Belgian refugees.

Monday 16th November

John Leighfield explains the development of maps from Gough to Google in his talk: **Putting Bicester on the Map**. Covering all the key stages and people from the first Oxfordshire map by Christopher Saxton in 1574 to the present day.

Bygone Bicester

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

8th September 1865

UNION HOUSE — The inmates of the Union House had their usual treat of plum cake, wine and fruit on Thursday last, it being the birthday of Mr Mansell, the governor, and the children presented Mr Mansell with an inkstand, penholder and pen.

17th September 1915

SOLDIERS CONCERT — The Congregational Schoolroom was occupied on Thursday evening at the weekly concert for the troops here. The Rev. T. Smith presided. The following contributions to the programme were given: songs "The Little Hero" and "One Night in Cold November", Mr Malins; song "Braces Dangle", Private Munt; songs "The Blind Boy" and "Little Willie", Private Puce; songs "She Makes Me Walk in Ragtime" and "The Singer was Irish", Corporal Lee; song "I Love to Live in Loveland", Private Mairitz; song in Flemish, "John, the Belgian". The three last named are among the wounded at the local Red Cross Hospital, several others from the hospital being present.

The Chairman announced that at the concert on Tuesday next several old favourites would be repeated by urgent request, including the song composed by himself, "They're the Boys". He also stated that he had heard from several who had left

the town, sending greetings and intimating that they would be glad to return to Bicester.

10th September 1965

STAR ESTATE SHOPS OPENED - Mr S.A. Winterbone MBE, County Councillor and former Chairman of Bicester Urban District Council, performed the opening ceremony at the Star Estate shops on the Bucknell Road on Saturday. On his left is the builder, Mr A.G. Titchener.



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