



St Edburg's Walk

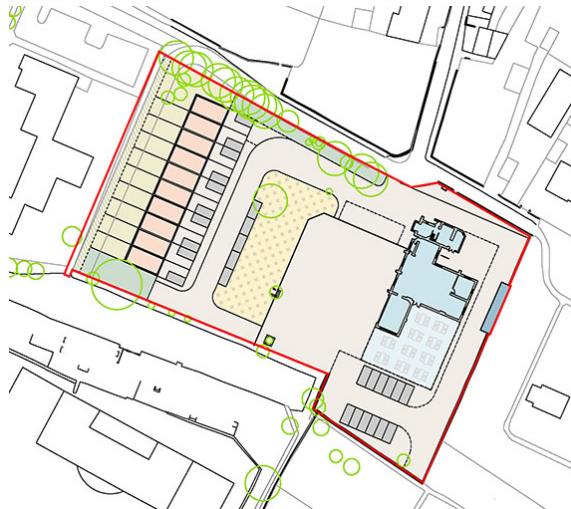
The Bicester Sports Association land on Oxford Road is set to be the site of a new retail and leisure complex called St Edburg's Walk.

The Association is a private trust which was established to manage the land when it was purchased in 1929 and transferred into a trust. They sold part of the land to Tesco, who built the supermarket which has recently been demolished, and then later they sold another portion of the site, mainly waterlogged and unusable pitches and the old shooting range, to Value Retail, who built Bicester Village.

The BSA used the funds from the Bicester Village sale to buy land at Chesterton where it invested in new facilities for cricket, shooting and football. They now plan to expand the facilities in Chesterton with the funds raised from the sale of the Oxford Road grounds and bring all their sports facilities together in one, larger and more modern, place.

But the first stage of the St Edburg's Walk development doesn't involve the sports grounds at all. In fact, it's focussed entirely on the redevelopment of the old St Edburg's School site on Cemetery Lane.

The initial plan, outlined at an exhibition in the old school hall on the 18th March, consists of demolishing the 1960s and 1990s extensions to the school



Site plan

building and converting the remaining original Victorian structure into a restaurant. This will be accompanied by ten, 2/3 storey houses built on the current playing field and a restaurant garden in the centre of the site.

Any scheme that involves preserving the old building instead of demolishing it and building something new has to be praised for its consideration of the sites unique heritage and local importance. But it does seem that the success of any restaurant in that location would depend entirely on the success of the rest of the retail and leisure development. Otherwise it's probably one restaurant too many for a town whose town centre consists mainly of take-aways, restaurants and empty shops.

- Matthew Hathaway



Artist's impression

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Dates For Your Diary

- Roman Pottery Talk
24th April - 7:30pm
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- May Newsletter Submissions
Deadline 28th April
- Watlington Hoard Display
13th May
- In Bicester Library
- Local History Talk
15th May - 7:30pm
see page 5

AVAILABLE NOW!

Our new DVD, **Bicester's Buildings**, is on sale now. See the website for more details.



Village History Merton

The village of Merton lies to the south of Bicester, close to where the M40 crosses the River Ray. The toponym is derived from the Old English for a hamlet, or settlement, by the mere.

Just before the Norman conquest a Dane called Hacun held the manor of Meretone, as well as the nearby manor of Piddington. But the Domesday Book records that by 1086 Countess Judith of Lens, a niece of William the Conqueror, held the manor. Countess Judith was betrothed to Simon de Senlis but refused to marry him and fled England. Then William confiscated her estates and allowed Simon to marry Judith's eldest daughter Maud. Simon then received estates including Merton as the honour of Huntingdon. In 1152 Simon's son Simon II de Senlis, Earl of Huntingdon, gave Merton to the Knights Templar.

In 1185 the manor covered seven hides, making it the Templars' largest estate in Oxfordshire. In 1312 Pope Clement V ordered the Templars' dissolution and their English estates were confiscated by Edward II, who granted Merton to the Knights Hospitaller in 1313. In 1540 the Hospitallers were suppressed in the Dissolution of the Monasteries and surrendered Merton to the Crown, which left it in the possession of the Templars' tenant, William Mablyston of Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire.

In 1554 the Mablystons' lease expired and Robert Doyley, of Chiselhampton, and his son, John, acquired the manor. John died in 1593 and his widow Anne married Sir

James Harington, 1st Baronet, in 1613. In 1640 Sir James Harington, 3rd Baronet, married Katherine, daughter of Sir Edmund Wright, Lord Mayor of London.

Sir James was a Member of Parliament from 1646 until 1655 and during the English Civil War he served as a major-general in the Parliamentarian army. After the English Restoration his baronetcy was forfeited for life in 1661 under the Indemnity and Oblivion Act. Sir James then fled to the European mainland and died in exile.

Sir James' father-in-law had remained a Royalist throughout the Civil War and Commonwealth, which helped Lady Katherine to claim she did not share her husband's politics. In 1662 the Crown granted letters patent placing the estate in trust, and upon Lady Katherine's death in 1675 it passed to her and Sir James' eldest son, Sir Edmund Harington, 4th Baronet.

The Harington baronets owned Merton until Sir James Harington, 6th Baronet, ran up large sporting debts and in 1740 mortgaged Merton to Sir Edward Turner, 2nd Baronet, of the neighbouring parish of Ambrosden. Sir James was a Jacobite who supported the Stuart claim to the United Kingdom. In 1747 he joined Charles Stuart in exile, and in 1749 Sir Edward Turner obtained Merton by foreclosing the mortgage. The Turner (later Page-Turner) baronets then retained Merton until 1930.

The Doyleys built the manor house in the latter part of the 16th century. It is thought to have been L-shaped, but after Sir Edward Turner bought the manor in 1749 he had the south wing demolished and the surviving wing turned into a farmhouse.

In 1838 the house's oak



St Swithun's Church

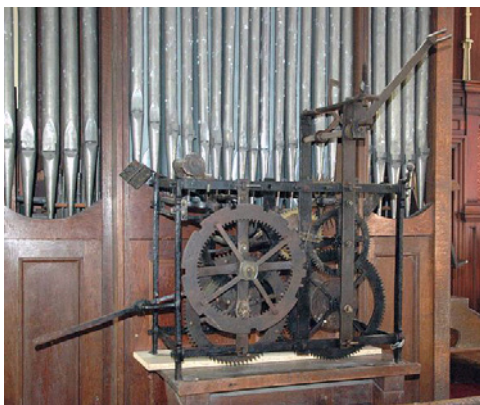
panelling was sold. Then, in 1860, the house was modernised and its Elizabethan porch, gables, stone roof and mullioned windows were all removed. The original kitchen and stone-arched cellar survive, and the cellar includes a well. A dairy wing was added late in the 19th century. The house's 17th century square, two-storeyed dovecote also survives. The house is now a nursing home.

The parish church of Saint Swithun is Decorated Gothic, built early in the 14th century. It has a south aisle, linked with the nave by an arcade of four bays. Late in the 15th century the Perpendicular Gothic clerestory was added to the nave. The chancel windows and one window in the south aisle are also Perpendicular Gothic. The font is much older than the church, dating from late in the 12th century.

At one time the church also had a north aisle, but it was demolished in the 15th or 16th century. Its arcade of three bays was blocked up but remains visible in the north wall of the nave. The tower had a spire but it became unsafe and in 1796 it was removed.

A turret clock was made for the church late in the 17th century. Its original dial had only an hour hand, but in 1867 this was replaced with a new dial that had both hour and minute hands. Some time after 1989 a new turret clock was installed and the 17th century original is now displayed in the nave of the church.

The Gothic Revival architect Charles Buckeridge restored St



17th Century clock mechanism

Swithun's from 1865 until 1872. St Swithun's had been decorated with mediaeval wall paintings, once brightly coloured but by 1823 described as "dim with age". But during the restoration work it was found impossible to remove the layers of whitewash covering them.

A Congregational chapel was built in 1890 and was still in use for worship in 1953.

The Knights Templar established a watermill in the parish. The earliest known record of it is from 1156-66.

West of the parish church is a rubblestone tithe barn that may

have been built in the 15th or early 16th century. It has a queen post roof and was thatched. In the late 20th century it was converted into four homes.

In 1814 one of the earliest National Schools to be established under the auspices of the National Society for Promoting Religious Education was opened in Merton. A new stone-built school building, complete with lodging for the matron, was completed in 1829. Ownership and management of the school were transferred to the vicar and churchwardens in 1870 and the

school was enlarged in 1872 and 1893. The number of pupils then declined and in 1913 the school was closed and 12 pupils were transferred to Ambrosden. In 1930 the house and school were sold and became a private home.

Merton used to have a public house, the Plough Inn, whose building is partly Tudor. In the 2000s the owners closed the pub and applied for planning permission to redevelop the site for housing. Since the Plough's closure the village has held real ale festivals at least once a year in its village hall.

- Matthew Hathaway

Bygone Bicester (Taken from the Bicester Advertiser)

2nd April 1863

THE BICESTER HOUNDS - The concluding run of the season took place on Tuesday last. The meet was at Chesterton Village. There was a very large assemblage.

The Hounds were taken to Gravenhill Wood, where they soon found, and went away at a swinging pace for Ambrosden Ruins. Reynard then turned to the left for Blackthorn Hill, from thence by Smith's, at Wretchwick, across the Turnpike road to Langford, over the rail to the Oxford Road, then away over the road leading for Little Chesterton, when he was turned back across the Oxford Road, again pointing for Merton Meadows.

Here Reynard appeared to change his mind, and made for Wendlebury, and thence to Weston Wood. Here the hounds were some time before they could hit on him, and when they did, they went away for Oddington Grange, where the hounds had another short check, but getting scent again, came back over the meadow and across the rail again, at a merry pace, running to Wendlebury. Reynard tried to reach Weston Wood once more, but being headed back, he made for Middleton Park.

Poor Reynard lingered too long in a spinney, four fields from the road, where he was viewed, and running hard for a little distance, he was pulled down in the open.

Altogether it was a very pretty gallop, such as all sportsmen might enjoy who did not mind the fences, at which there were more falls and scrambles than a day's sport usually affords.

The hounds were afterwards taken to Weston Peat Pitts, and then to Middleton Park, where a vixen was found, but the hounds were whipped off. The pack then went to Faithful Gorse, and afterwards returned home.

21st April 1905

WHERE ARE WE GOING? - The return of pauperism just made by Mr Henry Stevens, poor law inspector of the Local Government Board for the county, is not satisfactory reading in some respects.

One item, trampdom, is much on the increase, the numbers officially relieved in the county of Oxford on January 1st 1895, being 165, but ten years later on the same day they numbered 284.

Another item, lunacy, appears to be terribly on the increase. On January 1st 1895 only three pauper lunatics were chargeable to the Bicester Union, whereas ten years later they numbered 34. No wonder that Littlemore Asylum is being much enlarged, and that poor rate payments increase faster than many people can keep pace with.

According to Mr Stevens' figures the population of our Union has decreased in the ten years by 1,548 persons, so that as time goes on at this rate we shall soon become a very feeble folk, and especially so if pauperism goes on at the same rate - one in 28 on January 1st 1895, but one in 24 on January 1st 1905.

These figures include indoor and outdoor poor, and they are certainly not very reassuring as to our social progress when one considers that every twenty-fourth person is kept at the charge of the Union.

18th April 1947

BICESTER EISTEDDFOD EXHIBITION - Inaugurated in 1945 by the Bicester Methodist Sunday School, the third Eisteddfod Exhibition took place in Wesley Hall on Thursday last week and fully maintained the interest and success of its predecessors. Quoting from the programme: "The aim of the festival is to stimulate Sunday School and Christian Youth life in the district, and to encourage interdenominational friendship and worth-while cultural and leisure-time activities among young people.

Mr S.G. Hedges, superintendent of the Methodist Sunday School, again proved an able organiser, and with the help and co-operation of his staff an enjoyable festival occupied approximately six hours. Entries were received from schools and organisations in Bicester, Brackley, Deddington and Claydon, and totalled 291, which represents an increase of 21 on last year and 91 on the first venture in 1945. Transport difficulties, however, prevented the attendance of members of schools in the district, but the usual contingent from Brackley was able to be present.

In the exhibition there were many most commendable efforts, and the judges again had a difficult task. The

boys showed fine workmanship and craft with their various models, and the efforts of the girls were not one wit behind in skill and art. Each winning competitor received a cash prize and a certificate, and second and third certificates were also awarded.

The following were the winners in each class:

Handcraft (any article for home or personal use in wood, metal or other material, entirely the work of the competitor): judges Mr and Mrs R.A. Evans. Under 9 years of age: 1. John Jeacock; 2. Camilla Hughes. 9 and under 13: 1. Morfa Hughes; 2. Jim Bowman; 3. Keith Pratt. 13 and under 17: 1. John Bowman; 2. Christine West; 3. Maurice Phillips.

Model aircraft and ships: judged by Mr A.W. Castell. Under 13: 1. Peter Tyson. 13 and under 17: 1. Ian Hurlie; 2. Ron Hughes.

Needlework: judged by Mrs A. Robinson and Mrs A. Baggett. Under 9: 1. Jeannette Waine; 2. Jill Curtis, Claydon; 3. Ruth Jones. 9 and under 13: 1. Linda Rhodes, Claydon; 2. Jean Brown; 3. Camilla Hughes. 13 and under 17: 1. Betty Stockwell; 2. Sylvia Smith; 3. Mary Orchard.

Knitting: judged by Miss W. Plant. Under 13: 1. Pat Trowbridge; 2. Morfa Hughes; 3. Wendy Gibson. 13 and under 17: 2. Betty Stockwell.

Handwriting: judged by Mr T.W. Liddington. Under 9: 1. Christine Sammons; 2. Sylvia Warrell; 3. Wendy Gibson. 9 and under 13: 1. David Morgan; 2. Shirley Palmer; 3. Peter Tysoe. 13 and under 17: 1. Nigel Afley; 2. June Barker; 3. Dorothy Tuffrey.

Poetry: judged by Mr W. Knight. Under 17: equal 1. Judith Price and Jennifer Clothier.

Letter writing: judged by Mr W. Knight and Mr Loveridge. Under 13: 1. Susan Clarke; 2. Ann Jones.

Essay: judged by Mr Loveridge. Under 17: 1. Maurice Phillips; 2. Judith Price; 3. Nigel Alley.

Short story: judged by Mr Loveridge. Under 17: 1. Ronald Jerrams; 2. Terence Carpenter; 3. Maurice Phillips.

Pen or pencil drawing: judged by Mrs C.H. Koelz. Under 13: 1. Peter Tysoe; 2. C. Smallwood; 3. Terence Carpenter. 13 and under 17: 1. John Bowman; equal 2. Nigel Alley and June Barker.

Crayon or water colour drawing: judged by Mrs Koelz. Under 9: 1. Camilla Hughes; 2. John Jeacock; 3. Norma Williams. 9 and under 13: 1. Linda Barker; 2. June Dean; 3. Morfa Hughes. 13 and under 17: 1. Maurice Phillips; 2. P. Beesley; 3. June Barker.

Decorative lettering: judged by Mrs G.W. Price. Under 13: 1. David Morgan; 2. June Dean; 3. Morfa Hughes. 13 and under 17: 1. Nigel Alley; 2. June Barker; 3. Ron Hughes.

Collection of pressed leaves: judged by the Rev. C.P. Cowland-Cooper. Under 17: 1. David Morgan; 2. Ron Hughes; 3. Diana Bufton.

The hall was well filled for the evening Eisteddfod, the proceedings being of rather a lengthy character, the time taken in some of the adjudication being rather irksome to the younger children.

Winning short stories, poems, etc, were read during the proceedings by the Misses Mavis Mainwaring, Margaret Dixon, Betty Baughan, Jeannette Redfern and Mr Toni Hedges. Councillor Mrs A.E. Murray distributed the prizes as follows:

Solo singing: judged by Mr W.R. Nicholson. Under 9: 1. Sylvia Warrell; 2. Anne Reynolds; 3. Renee Court. 9 and

under 13: 1. Morfa Hughes; 2. Dorothy Dean; 3. Roberta Trowbridge. 13 and under 17: equal 1. Patricia Taylor and June Dean; 3. Joyce Brown.

Recitation: judged by Mrs E.T. Clothier. Under 9: 1. Anne Reynolds; equal 2. Jeannette Waine and Sylvia Warrell; 3. Barbara Gough. 9 and under 13: 1. June Dean; 2. Morfa Hughes; equal 3. Terry Roberts and Barbara Davis. 13 and under 17: 1. Christine West; 2. Jean Tite.

Sight reading: judged by Mrs E.T. Clothier. Under 9: 1. Jeannette Waine; 2. Anne Reynolds; 3. Frances House. 9 and under 13: 1. Diana Bufton; 2. Morfa Hughes; 3. Michael Trinder. 13 and under 17: equal 1. Jean Site and Maurice Phillips; equal 2. June Barker and Judith Price; 3. Nigel Alley.

Pianoforte: judged by Mr G.W. Crossley. Under 13: equal 1. Eva Koelz and Morfa Hughes; 2. Roberta Trowbridge; 3. Michael Trinder. 13 and under 17: 1. Ron Hughes.

For the third successive year Morfa Hughes won the championship and retained the miniature silver cup presented last year by Miss W. Alford. She also received a medal, as did Judith Price, with the second highest number of marks, and Maurice Phillips with the third.

Mr S.G. Hedges thanked the judges, helpers and competitors for their contributions to a successful Exhibition Eisteddfod.

7th April 1989

CALL FOR TOWN HERITAGE CENTRE - A heritage centre should be set up in Bicester because the town's library is inadequate, town councillors have been told.

The chairman of Bicester Local History Society, Mrs Jill Wishart, told members of the council's parks, cemetery and amenities committee of the need for a centre rather than a museum. She suggested it could be at the council's offices at The Garth.

Mrs Wishart said: "A museum in the strict sense of the word is not the best alternative for Bicester. However, the present library facilities are inadequate to provide a simple study centre. The heritage or study centre would be a local facility where people could get quick access to documents relating to Bicester. Bicester library is too small to provide that facility."

Mrs Wishart said that the proposed centre would include an exhibition area equipped with stands and tables with the ability to allow temporary exhibitions or allow local organisations to display.

The centre would also store published material relating to Bicester for a reference area. The Society also suggests a committee room should be available to other societies for slide shows and lectures.

Local schools would like to have a local historical centre to visit rather than have to travel to the nearest museums at Banbury or Oxford, the society says. It doesn't want to see a museum on the scale of those at Banbury or Woodstock and the accent would be on historical records as much as artefacts.

But some members of the committee gave a cool reception to the idea of the centre. Councillor Mr Charlie Breeze told Mrs Wishart: "You seem to be talking about an arts centre."

The Mayor of Bicester, councillor Mr Ray Bainton, wondered whether the county council could provide an extension to the library which could accommodate the centre but Mrs Wishart said there were no plans to improve the library's facilities.

Oxfordshire History Centre

The Oxfordshire History Centre, located in the old St Luke's Church, in Temple Road, Cowley, was set up when the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, Oxfordshire Records Office and Oxfordshire Health Archives were merged together into one entity.

The reasons for doing it were mainly financial. But the main benefit to the public was having all the collections under one roof.

Now, however, plans are afoot to split the collections once again and move some of it, and most of the staff, to the revamped Westgate Library when it opens in October.

The bulk of the public-facing services, such as the open shelf documents and microfilms, will

move to the library, in the city centre, whilst the artefacts and original documents will remain in the special storage facilities in the current building.

Considering Oxfordshire County Council's lack of funds, and continued reduction in essential public services, this move doesn't really seem to make much sense. Even relocating other council services to St Luke's wouldn't justify the increased staffing and administration costs of running two sites.

But ignoring the financial objections still leaves the impracticality for the public, trying to find what they're looking for. You would need to work out what you will be looking at before you go, and



you need to see the original of a document that is mentioned, or a photograph that is relevant, then you'll have to make a separate trip out to Cowley to do so.

A number of people have already sent letters of protest to Councillor Lindsay-Gale and Andrew Smith MP in the hope that the plan will be reconsidered. But the more objections there are, the greater weight it will carry, so we do encourage any members who feel they will be affected by the change to also speak out.



Artist's impression of the new Westgate Centre from Queens Street

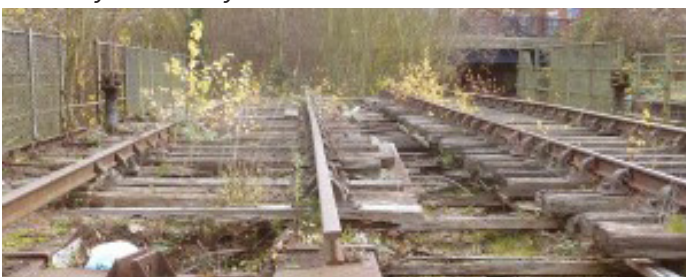
find out where its kept so that you make sure to go to the right place. Also, it won't be an easy matter to cross-check things over different sources. So if you're in the library looking at newspaper articles on microfilm, and

Summer Walks

We have a selection of village and countryside walks planned for the summer. Specific details will be made available nearer the time but the schedule is as follows:

- Sunday 25th June - 2:30pm - Chipping Norton town walk, led by Alan Watkins, a member of Chipping Norton History Society.
- Sunday 2nd July - 2pm - Chipping Norton countryside walk, led by John Roberts.
- Sunday 16th July - 2:30pm - Railways of Oxford walk, led by Liz Woolly.

- Sunday 30th July - 2:30pm - Stanton St John village walk, led by Bob Hessian.
- Sunday 6th August (to be confirmed) - 2pm - Stanton St John countryside walk, led by John Roberts.



Rewley Road Swing Bridge



We are also planning an evening visit to the turf maze at Troy Farm, near Somerton. This will be later in May, either on Monday 22nd or Tuesday 30th, but the date and details will be confirmed shortly.

Roll of Honour

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

Rifleman William Blaby, of Cottisford.

Died: 1st April 1917 Aged: 28 Served in: Royal Irish Rifles

2nd Lieutenant John Christian How, native of Richmond, son of the vicar of Chesterton.

Died: 2nd April 1917 Aged: 19 Served in: Royal West Surrey Regiment

Lance Corporal George William Wyatt, of Somerton.

Died: 2nd April 1917 Aged: 30 Served in: Devonshire Regiment

Private Percy Busby, of Arccott.

Died: 5th April 1917 Aged: 19 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Rifleman Edward Christopher Lamborn, of Charlton-on-Otmoor.

Died: 7th April 1917 Aged: 30 Served in: London Irish Rifles

Sergeant Reginald Gilbert Cox, of Horton-cum-Studley.

Died: 9th April 1917 Aged: 25 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private Albert Andrew Lewis, of Somerton.

Died: 9th April 1917 Aged: 22 Served in: Royal Fusiliers

Lance Corporal Herbert Joseph Stanley, of Manchester Terrace, Bicester.

Died: 9th April 1917 Aged: 29 Served in: Wiltshire Regiment

Private Thomas George Green, of Horton-cum-Studley.

Died: 19th April 1917 Aged: 21 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private John Blaby, of Cottisford.

Died: 23rd April 1917 Aged: 31 Served in: Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

2nd Lieutenant Stewart Lenton Blaxley, of Bicester.

Died: 23rd April 1917 Aged: 31 Served in: Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Private William Smith, of Islip.

Died: 23rd April 1917 Aged: 32 Served in: Machine Gun Corps

Sergeant Caleb Sherwood, of Causeway, Bicester.

Died: 27th April 1917 Aged: 37 Served in: Army Service Corps

Private Thomas William Slatter, of Upper Heyford.

Died: 28th April 1917 Aged: 33 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private Henry Edward Tibbetts, of Spring Gardens, Bicester. Native of Bucknell.

Died: 28th April 1917 Aged: 34 Served in: Ox & Bucks Light Infantry

Private Frederick Henry Swetman, of Souldern.

Died: 30th April 1917 Aged: 36 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 24th April

Dr Christopher Young steps in at the last minute to tell us about **The Roman Pottery Industry in the Oxford Region.**

Monday 15th May

Liz Woolley returns once again to talk to us about **Local History and How to do it.**

Monday 19th June

Carol Anderson gives us her talk about **Glove Making in Oxfordshire.**

Marj's Memories The Headmaster at the Senior School

Mr Price was the Headmaster of Bicester Secondary Modern School (formerly Bicester Church of England School) when I was a pupil there from 1946 to 1950.

He was a strict Welshman, small in stature, who loved music. He didn't teach general subjects, but often stood in when others were teaching; he always taught a music class. He showed how much he appreciated and loved to hear the children sing. I remember him walking into the class and singing, "Oh my sweet girls – how they sing". He taught a lot of songs from Gilbert and Sullivan operas, especially HMS Pinafore; we practically knew the whole opera.

He organised several school concerts; one took place in a building in the Grammar School grounds, the

proceeds were to help fund a school trip to Denmark. Some girls sang solos and several songs such as "Up with the Jolly Roger Boys" and "The Fishermen of England", were sung by the school choir and on the strict pauses the rain could be heard battering down heavily on the roof of the building. A fun item was a boy and girl singing "Soldier, soldier won't you marry me?" and I was the "wife with a baby at home!" coming in, pushing a pram and wearing a fox fur wrap, at the end of the song.

He formed a Girls' Choir and I recall one Easter, when we sang in St Edburg's Church – one lovely song was "This Joyful Eastertide".

- Marjorie Dean MBE

Oxfordshire Castles Talk

For our March talk Trevor Rowley came to visit us again and talked to us about Oxfordshire's many castles.

Few substantial remnants of castles remain in Oxfordshire compared with surrounding counties. Most castle sites are centred along the Thames Valley but their pattern of distribution reflects land ownership during the Middle Ages rather than defensive considerations. Castles tended to be built for private rather than public protection i.e. the safety of the Lord, his family and followers. Some initially used existing Roman walls or Saxon defensive sites as their strong points.

William I established castles in the shire capitals, like Oxford, where taxes could be collected and justice dispensed. The fortifications

protected the new Norman Lords who had replaced Saxon nobility and were used to intimidate the local population.

Wallingford Castle, the best preserved castle site in Oxfordshire, developed from a Saxon Burh site and was where William negotiated the surrender of south east England, including Winchester, where the Treasury was located at that time. The castle was much smaller than at present but still covered a quarter of the town's area.

Deddington Castle was extensive and contained a large bailey. Originally owned by William's half brother, Odo, its size suggests that it might well have been used as an assembly point for troops when required. Situated on the outskirts of the village it is well away from the

central core of the settlement. The castle was destroyed in C13th.

Chipping Norton Castle has an impressive raised enclosure. It was probably fairly important in its time.

Banbury Castle was excavated when the town centre was redeveloped in the 1970's and lies to the north of the Market area.

Witney possesses a fortified palace that was owned by the Bishops of Winchester. Close at hand is the site of Cogges which is a moated site once owned by Rabbard who appears on the Bayeux Tapestry.

Many Oxfordshire castles were redundant by the end of the C12th. Their upkeep was expensive. Moated Manor Houses, like Broughton Castle, later developed, more as a fashion statement rather than for defensive requirements.

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