

Battle of the Sexes

The term "glass ceiling" refers to the invisible barrier to success that many women and minority groups come up against in their careers. Management consultant Marilyn Loden coined the phrase 40 years ago, and looking at the advert below it isn't difficult to see why.

This advert, printed in the pages of the comprehensive school's *Cornbrash*

magazine, is meant to inspire the young students towards a career in the bank. But it also clearly shows the attitude towards women in the workplace that was prevalent back in the 1960s.

Whilst men can look forward to good salaries and managerial prospects, "girls" receive a gratuity when they get married.

- Matthew Hathaway

MIDLAND BANK

"That's where I'm going to work"

"Me too"

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MEN

are exceptionally good. A high proportion will reach managerial status—many in their thirties—at commencing salaries of not less than £1,925 per annum. Managers' salaries are progressive at each level of responsibility and the opportunities for promotion in this field can lead to salaries of £4,500 a year—and more. There are many other positions carrying even higher salaries and these are open in free competition to all. Basic salaries (for those who do not receive appointments) are excellent and progressive. The work is not only important and confidential but varied and satisfying.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS

Many girls make a worthwhile career in the Midland Bank. Work is interesting, pay is good with regular increases and opportunities for promotion to positions carrying higher rewards. Marriage after five years' service or more qualifies for a useful gratuity. Holidays are good and there are non-contributory pension schemes for both men and women.

Interviews can be arranged at centres throughout the country. If you are interested, please write to:

THE STAFF MANAGER

MIDLAND BANK LIMITED

Taken from *Cornbrash*, the comprehensive school's school magazine - 1965.

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3rd March 1893

DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD - On Thursday morning, sixpenny loaves were distributed in the Parish Church to forty of the poorest widows in the parish.

The charity providing for this arises from land in the parish of Brill, and was bequeathed by the late Mrs Mary Carlton, whose remains are interred in Bicester Church.

The other gifts connected with the charity are £1 to the Vicar for preaching a sermon annually, which was done on this occasion, and 2s 6d to the Parish Clerk for cleaning the monument to the memory of the benefactress.

26th March 1926

NEW BRIGADE NEEDED? - A very serious conflagration, involving the loss of the farmhouse and buildings, broke out at Lord's Farm about 10:15 on Monday morning. The fire was discovered by Mr W.V. Malins, the occupier, the roof of a small portion of the farm building adjoining the road being well alight. Mr Malins at once cycled to Bicester to inform the Fire Brigade.

Meanwhile the thatched roof burned against the wind and the strong north-easterly wind soon carried the fire over the whole block until the farmhouse was reached.

People who had seen the flames rushed to the scene and helped Mrs Malins and family to remove some of the furniture from the homestead. But, alas, the smoke became unbearable, and the rescue work had to be abandoned. The livestock were driven into an adjoining field, including two horses driven out of their stable. However, whilst attention was being focussed in removing furniture from the back of the house, the mare must have returned to her stable, for some hours later she was found burnt to death. A spaniel dog, too, which had been released, returned to its kennel and was burnt.

The Bicester Fire Brigade arrived, and the hose was connected with the waterworks. The water was thrown on to a room on the first floor, and eventually the window was smashed in and the flames somewhat subdued. Then unfortunately the water gave out. The tanks at the waterworks were being cleaned out, and there was only two feet of water in a tank.

"Princess May" was stationed at the brook. First of all there was insufficient hose, and then when the length from the waterworks had been shortened by being taken across the fields, and the other length added to, there was some difficulty with regard to a burst hose.

It was evening before the fire was thoroughly got under control, the Brigade leaving about 7:30.

The suggestion thrown out as the cause of the fire was that a spark from a steam engine, which had just previously passed along the road, had ignited the thatch.

The Bicester Fire Brigade was called out again the following morning to a fire at Weston-on-the-Green. They turned out promptly, but at the Fox Corner the horses, engine, and firemen nearly came to grief. The horses slipped on the tarmacadam, and it was some little time before a move could be made.

A thatched cottage and washhouse was found to be involved, and there was no hope of saving anything. A plentiful supply of water was obtained from a brook near by, and water was soon thrown on by two branches. In a couple of hours the Brigade had subdued the outbreak.

The cottage was occupied by Mr and Mrs Pearson, who were packing up at the time of the outbreak ready for moving. The fire started in the roof at the road end of the cottage. It was quickly seen, and neighbours went up ladders and poured water on the roof without success. There was, however, ample time to remove all the remaining furniture and belongings.

It seems time that some of the members of the Bicester Fire Brigade sent in their resignations. A younger and more active brigade is required. It was the time taken in running out the hose that rather offended the onlookers at the Lord's Farm fire on Monday. Additionally, the accident which occurred to the engine at Fox Corner shows the advisability of having a motor engine, or having some attachment to the present engine so that it can be drawn by motor power.

20th March 1959

"THIRTEEN IS MY LUCKY NUMBER" - The dream of millions of football pool fans up and down the country came true for Bicester coach proprietor Mr Albert Taylor this week when he won £140,154 on Littlewoods treble chance pool. This fortune cost him 10s 8d and a 3d stamp.

Mr Taylor, who is 41, is the proprietor of Taylors Motor Coaches and owner of the Carlton Restaurant, Market Square, which opened twelve months ago this week. He lives at 18 London Road.



News that he had won a fortune came to Mr Taylor on Monday. The following morning - St Patrick's Day - he left Bicester with a representative of the pools firm for a reception at Grosvenor House Hotel, London, where he received the cheque.

Number thirteen played a big part in Mr Taylor's success. He posted the winning coupon on Friday, March 13th, from his business premises at 13 Sheep Street. The thirteenth line on the coupon was the one which won him the fortune. "Thirteen is my lucky number!" he said on Tuesday.

Mr Taylor owns the coach and taxi business which his father, the late Mr Richard Taylor, of the Angel Inn, Sheep Street, started 30 years ago. The firm now has a fleet of thirty coaches and buses. Mr Taylor has been connected with the business for 20 years, and took over when his father died eight years ago.

He has been doing the football pools since the end of the war. Only once before has he won anything on the pools. That was about four years ago when he received 10s.

It was business as usual for Mr Taylor after his trip to London to collect the winning cheque. He was busy in his shirt-sleeves at the Carlton Restaurant on Wednesday afternoon preparing for the annual dinner of the Bicester

branch of the National Union of Teachers, which was held at the Carlton on Wednesday night.

The last big pools winner at Bicester was Mr Harry Harrison, who now lives in Sheffield. He won just over £26,000 two years ago.

5th March 1993

DISTRICT GIVE PRECINCT GREEN LIGHT - Cherwell district councillors have given their own green light for a £715,000 pedestrian precinct in Bicester town centre.

Last week Cherwell's environment committee agreed the project for Sheep Street should go ahead without a public inquiry, despite two councillors supporting a plea for a public inquiry from Bicester and District Chamber of Commerce. And on Monday Cherwell District Council accepted the committee's recommendation.

Both Mr Roger Marriner and Mr John Brown asked for the precinct to be put before an inquiry. Mr Marriner suggested the precinct would create a ghost town with more shops closing down. They also considered, as did Bicester Town Councillors, that the scheme should be delayed until after the ring road had been completed.

Council leader, Mr Douglas Spencer, acknowledged that the existing partial pedestrianisation installed by Oxfordshire County Council had caused confusion and difficulties, but thought that the new scheme would be



popular with shoppers and shopkeepers.

Cherwell will now get on with the scheme and work could start as early as June if the Environment Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine, approves of the necessary traffic order for the precinct by then. If not, work will not begin until early 1994 to prevent disruption during the Christmas shopping period.

The precinct, between Market Square and Bell Lane, will be partly on two levels with ramps for the disabled. Trees will be planted in one section. Buses will be transferred to a special bay in Crown car park. Traffic calming measures will be installed in Bell Lane, Withington Road, Linden Road and Victoria Road to slow down diverted vehicles.

Oxfordshire Mills Talk

Windmills are an important part of our culture as evidenced by the number of mill-based idioms in general use. Examples include 'grist to the mill', 'rule of thumb' - testing the quality of the flour, 'fair to middling' - indicating the quality of the ground flour, 'show your mettle (metal)' - shows experience of the miller, as much sharpening of millstones results in tiny fragments of metal embedded in the miller's hands, and many more.

On 18th February Elaine Steane aimed to introduce us to the many windmills, watermills and steam mills in Oxfordshire and in adjacent counties.

Ardington Mill (near Wantage) - a water mill, the dairy contains art deco painted tiles.

Ascot Water Mill - remains of leet.

Brill - post mill.

Chinnor Windmill - historic flour mill built in 1789. Demolished in 1967 for housing but rebuilt from stored parts by volunteers.

Coleshill Watermill (National Trust) - estate mill.

Combe Water & Steam Mill - Blenheim Park Estate.

Charney Watermill - water now diverted because of a risk of flooding.

Crofton Steam Mill - two working

beam engines by the Kennet & Avon Canal.

East Hanney Mill - first Archimedes screw - hydro-electric power from a small chalk steam. Used to make silk parachutes.

Ford End Watermill - recorded in 1616 but very much older, was in use until 1963. Restored by volunteers, and now maintained and run by Ford End Watermill Society, it is the only remaining working watermill in Buckinghamshire with original machinery.

Lacey Green Windmill - a smock mill.

Mapledurham Mill - the only working mill in the Thames valley, powering 400 houses in Caversham.

Pitstone Windmill (National Trust) - near Ivinghoe. A post mill - machinery damaged in a storm. One of the oldest post mills in Britain.

Stadhampton Watermill - an overshot mill - most efficient.

Turville Windmill - also known as Cobstone Windmill. It is a smock mill that replaced the original mill that had stood there since the 16th century.



The post mill at Brill.

Tysoe Windmill - sails recently restored - part of Compton Wynyates Estate.

Wantage Watermill - run by Clarkes of Wantage from 1908.

West Hendred Water Mill - an undershot mill and granary.

Wheatley Windmill - ground ochre for paint.

Along with her beautiful photographs, which will encourage members to visit these interesting sites, Elaine provided other fascinating snippets of mill history and legend. Many millstones came originally from the Peak District. It is considered bad luck to break a millstone. Sails on windmills are secured in an "X" format. If they are found to be displayed as a "+" then it denotes a significant event such as an invasion or the death of the miller.

- Sally James

Talks Update

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

Monday 15th April

Martin Greenwood tells us about **The Roaring 20s**.

Monday 18th May

We learn about **Recent Archaeological Investigations in the Bicester Area** from Bob Hessian.

Monday 17th June

Janice Kinory explores old photos of the city in her **Oxford Past & Present** talk.

St Peter's Church, Bucknell

The parish church of Bucknell, dedicated to St Peter, consists of a Norman tower between a nave and chancel that were both remodelled in the Early English Gothic style and enlarged in the 13th century. The clerestory was added to the nave in the 15th century when the bell stage was added to the tower. A vestry was added to the south side of the tower in the 19th century and the whole building was restored in 1893. The low level windows in the nave are Victorian stained glass but the figure of St Peter in the west window (shown opposite) was made in 1918 by A.K. Nicholson.

The earliest evidence for the existence of a church in Bucknell dates from 1074 when Robert d'Oilly granted two-thirds of the demesne tithes of Bucknell, along with those of some 70 other manors, to the

church of St. George in Oxford castle. The first recorded presentation to the rectory was in 1243 when the advowson was held by the local manor. In 1348 Sir Richard Damory sold the advowson to the vicar, William Peek, for £66 6s. 8d. In 1350 Peek transferred it to Osenev Abbey who held it until its dissolution in 1539. The abbey sold the right of presentation at least twice and once was guilty of simony.

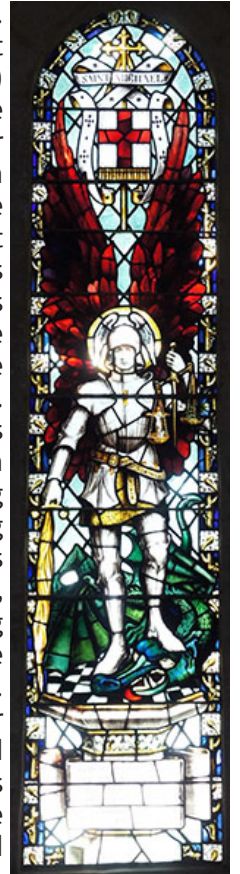
By 1552 the advowson was in the hands of Richard Weston. In 1574 Jeremiah Weston of Essex sold it to Mrs. Alice Ball of Lichfield, who, in 1578, gave it to her son Robert, a Fellow of New College, Oxford. He gave it to his college in 1611 on condition that it always presented a scholar of the college, and preferably one of his own relatives. New College is still the patron today.

Some of the medieval vicars were distinguished men. John de Cheam (1243–64) was also papal chaplain and Archdeacon of Bath. In 1259 he became Bishop of Glasgow but continued to hold the living in Bucknell.

Others were not so

distinguished. Ichel de Kerwent (1291–1335) disrupted the life of the parish for several years. In his first year the tax assessment on the church was raised from £6 13s 1d to £10 and he refused to pay the clerical subsidy. The church was put under an interdict, banning them from holding any services except funerals, and his living was put into the hands of trustees. Seven years later he gave in and the interdict was revoked but the trustees refused to give the church back. The bishop eventually excommunicated them and Ichel was reinstated. He remained in office until his death in 1335.

- M. Hathaway



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