

Building Site Treasure Trove

An Anglo-Saxon brooch, and five other historic finds thought to be from a female grave from the 7th century, was uncovered at an undisclosed site on top of a pile of soil.

A treasure inquest earlier this month heard how a member of the public had gone to the already excavated site to metal detect. But while waiting for a friend to arrive he spotted the collection of Anglo-Saxon objects left on the top of a soil heap, having already been dug up from the site.

The discovery was made in 2007 at a site which is now a housing development in Bicester, but its significance was not realised until recently.

The collection comprised of an incomplete hammered sheet copper 'workbox', a silver wire ring with ribbed decoration on the band, two green glass beads, a rectangular piece of copper alloy, and a Kentish Composite Disc Brooch found in 21 pieces (part pictured right).

Oxfordshire County Council Finds Officer, Anni Byard, said the team were particularly interested to discover the brooch. She said: "What is interesting about this type of brooch is they are Kentish Composite Disc brooches and usually turn up in Kent, but we have had a collection appearing in Oxfordshire. This indicates a royal person with a connection between Oxfordshire and Kent in the 7th century."

"The interesting thing about this one is the fact it is in so many pieces, usually they are complete or near complete. But with this one you can see the construction and one of our volunteers, Rod Trevaskus, has done a reconstruction of what we think it could've looked like." (shown below)

The Finds Officer said the Oxfordshire County Council Museum Service would be interested in comparing the brooch with others of its type to look at both similarities and differences.



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Lord Bicester

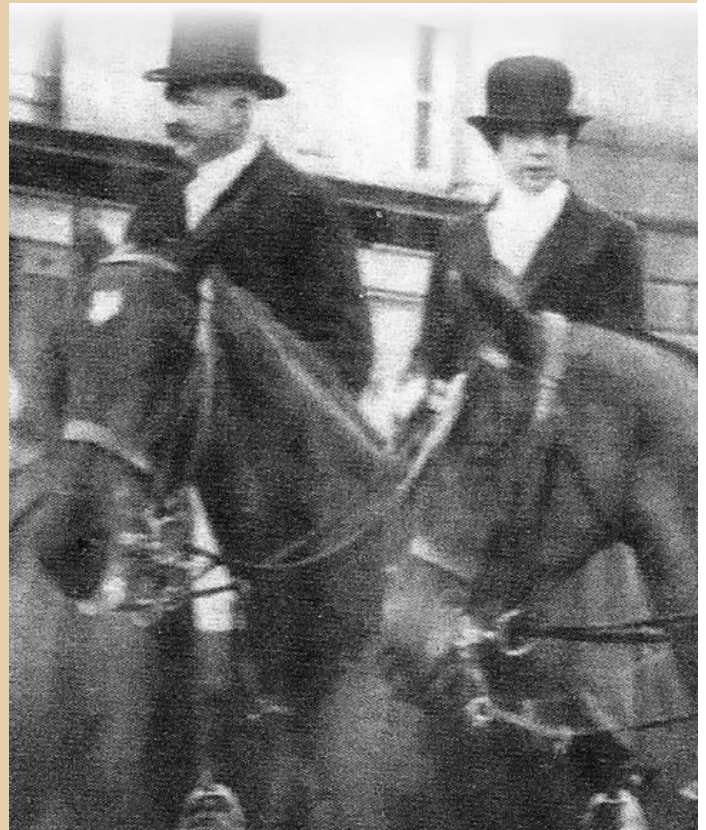
Baron Bicester, of Tusmore in the County of Oxford, is a title that was created on 29th June 1938 for the banker Vivian Hugh Smith (born 1867). As of 2018 the title is held by his great-grandson, the fifth Baron, who succeeded his first cousin once removed in 2016.

Lord Bicester lived in Bicester House (opposite Coker Close) in the nineteen twenties. At that time my mother, who came from Marylebone, London, was a member of the household staff. In 1927 Lord Bicester (then just Mr Smith) moved to live in Tusmore Park, Near Brackley.

He was a man of wealth from banking who, between 1934 and his death in 1956, held the office of Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. He regularly hunted with the Bicester Hounds and for many years was Chairman of the Bicester Hunt.

It was in the post-war years that Lord Bicester had great success as the owner of steeple chasers. In the summer months he had all his horses at home in Tusmore Park. His famous horse "Silver Fame" was remembered by many. He was ridden in most of his races by Dick Francis between 1945 and 1953, and won 26 races from 44 starts; Cheltenham and Sandown Park were his favourite courses. He won a record 10 races at Cheltenham including the Cheltenham Gold Cup of 1951. He won the three-mile Stanley Chase three times at Sandown.

Lord Bicester's "Roimond" was second in the 1949 Grand National; he won the Stanley Chase and several other prestigious races. Dick Francis, recalling his time as jockey to Lord Bicester, once said that of all Lord Bicester's horses, he favoured "Finnure" that had won



Lord Bicester, riding for the hunt with his daughter.

on the flat in Ireland and had come over to England and won five good chases, including the King George VI Chase at Kempton in 1950.

My mother told me that Lord Bicester was one of the nicest men one could ever wish to meet.

- Albert Parker

CEYLINDO TEA 1/10 2/- 2/4 2/8 3/-

Holidays and Jam.

We have two things of importance to say this week: First, if you are going for a holiday, you will find an International branch in every town and village shown on this map; each branch ready to extend to you the same service you are accustomed to when at home. Second, this week is Jam Week at the International. Prices and varieties are quoted below but a trial jar will more forcibly demonstrate the sound value offered.

INTERNATIONAL JAMS.		
Strawberry	8 ^d 1 ^s	1 ^s 2 ^s
„ New Season's	8 ^d 1 ^s	1/4
Raspberry	8 ^d 1 ^s	1/4
Apricot	7 ^d 1 ^s	1/2
Strawb'y & Gooseb'y	7 ^d	1/-
Raspb'y & Gooseb'y	7 ^d	1/-
MARMALADE.		
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INTERNATIONAL CHINA TEA 2/2

“There is this about the Gooseberry—
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BIRD'S CUSTARD.

Every kind of stewed fruit is delicious and more easily digested when served with Bird's Custard, and Bird's adds the nutriment.
Pkts, 1/4d., silvered boxes, 6/4d. & 1/-; tins, 1/3/6

“BIRD'S is a better quality.”

C 934

Bygone Bicester

(Taken from the Bicester Advertiser)

5th May 1893

DAIRY SCHOOL

That latest development in Technical Education, dairying, has at least found its way into Bicester, and a dairy school was formally opened here in connection with the Oxfordshire Agricultural Society, by the society's secretary, Mr James Mallam, in a building especially built and set apart for dairy purposes in the show ground.

The school is supplied by Oxfordshire County Council with an instructress (Miss Search), and a sufficient quantity of dairy utensils for a class of ten pupils. It is satisfactory to know that a sufficient number of ladies, residents of Bicester and the surrounding district, have been forthcoming to form the present class.

Under able tuition we understand the class is working in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, and it is hoped that the opportunity to learn dairying in all its branches will be taken advantage of by a sufficient number of pupils to enable a second class to be formed for instruction after the show has been held. The class meets at 10 o'clock, and we are pleased to inform our readers that should they wish to view the proceedings they are cordially invited to do so.

In addition to the ordinary instruction, a competition will be held on the days of the show, and we understand prizes of a substantial character will be offered and competed for by pupils of the dairy school.

28th May 1926

CAMPANOLOGY

A band of bellringers essayed a peal of 5,040 changes on the Bicester bells on Wit-Monday. They rang for two hours and thirty-three minutes, but then went to rounds after an error was made.

The ringers were: Treble Miss Rowe, 2 C. Elkerton, 3 W. Scarrott, 4 H. Hatfield, 5 F. Neale (conductor), 6 E.A. Clifton, 7 E. Hims, 8 B. Cox.

22nd May 1959

THE PROMISE OF A GOLD CHAIN

When pools winner Mr Albert Taylor collected a fortune earlier this year one of his first acts was to tell Councillor Leach "You can have your Chain of Office."

Mr Taylor's generous act meant a dream come true for Councillor Leach. For years he had urged that Bicester's Chairman of Council should have a badge worthy of the office.

Now the chain is being made and whoever is elected Chairman of Council on Tuesday, to take over from Councillor Leach, will be the first to wear it.

2nd April 1993

TWIN TOWNS IN THREE-CORNERED TOURNAMENT

One of the highlights of annual celebrations involving Bicester and German twin town Neunkirchen-Seelscheid was a football tournament held at the Bicester Town FC ground.

This year the Bicester and German teams were joined by visitors from Bicester's new French twin, Canton des Essarts, which lies between La Rochelle and Nantes.

The Bicester Town under-16 team repeated the success of last year, beating their French and German counterparts in a mini league. Neunkirchen-Seelscheid finished as runners-up.

The trophy was presented by the Gemeinde Direktor of Neunkirchen-Seelscheid, Herr Rolf Stapmann.



■ Mayor of Bicester Mary May with the three teams and officials from Bicester, Neunkirchen-Seelscheid and Canton des Essarts who took part in Saturday's town twinning tournament, which was won by Bicester for the second year running

Talks Update

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

Monday 17th June

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

Monday 15th July

Julie Ann Godson comes to tell us about **Oxfordshire and the Norman Conquest** of 1066.

Monday 16th September

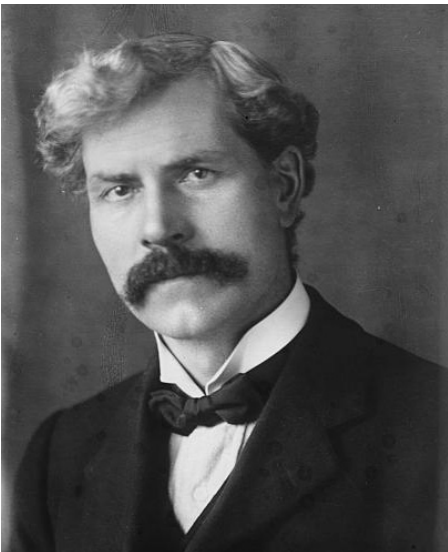
Our **AGM**, followed by a talk by our chairman, Bob Hessian.

The Roaring Twenties Talk

On Monday 15th April fellow BLHS member, Martin Greenwood, talked us through the Roaring 20s.

He started out by explaining that it was a period of great change. In the aftermath of World War One a large section of the population was gone, leaving the older generation to continue running things while the youth developed into a much more influential part of society.

This disparity between the political class and the majority of the population led to a number of large scale changes, such as the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. This had been building up for years, but the liberation of women during the war acted as a catalyst to the movement which led to women over 30 gaining the right to vote in 1918. But the movement continued throughout the next decade until women in their 20s were also given the vote in 1928. This



Ramsay MacDonald, first Labour PM - 1924 & 29



Bicester Market Square - 1928

made 1929 the first election where women were fully able to vote, and consequently it became known as the "Flapper Election".

The decade also saw other political changes. The General Strike of 1926 failed in its attempt to force the government to act to prevent wage reduction and worsening conditions for 1.2 million locked-out coal miners, but it did lead to the Labour Party winning more seats in the 1929 election than any other party. Without a Commons majority the party was reliant on Liberal support to form a minority government. Ramsay MacDonald became Prime Minister for the second time, and went on to appoint Britain's first female cabinet minister, Margaret Bondfield, as Minister of Labour.

Many of the social and technical developments of the decade were reflected locally.

The workhouse was still operating until 1929, the same year as when the

Police Station got its first telephone.

Street lamps were changed from oil to electricity during the decade.

In 1923 Bicester was declared a "distressed area for employment".

The new Methodist Church in Sheep Street was opened in 1927.

The Crown Cinema, opened in Sheep Street in the 1920s, originally showing silent films with musical accompaniment on piano.

The Corn Exchange was a common place for meetings and events, including the annual Hunt Ball. Dances and socials were the most popular pastime among the young population. In many places dancehalls were opened specially, but the craze began to die out by the end of the decade.

Radio consumption increased over the same period, from 0% of houses in 1920 to over 40% of houses by 1930. This may reflect the decline in public dances.

- Matthew Hathaway

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