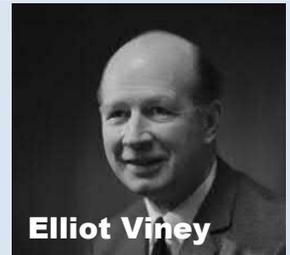
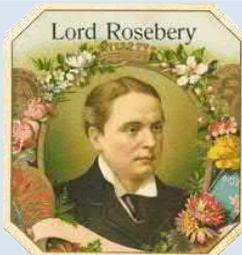
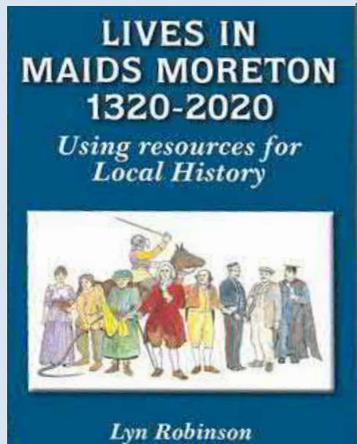


The Newsletter of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society

Spring 2020
First Instalment



Your Newsletter

These are grim times when pestilence ravages the county and our human spirit shrinks in the darkness. But this ordeal comes upon us as spring advances, the season of lengthening days and warming breeze, resurrection, rebirth and hope:

**Now that the winter's gone, the earth hath lost
Her snow-white robes, and now no more the frost
Candies the grass, or casts an icy cream
Upon the silver lake or crystal stream;
But the warm sun thaws the benumbed earth,
And makes it tender; gives a sacred birth
To the dead swallow; wakes in hollow tree
The drowsy cuckoo, and the humble-bee.
Now do a choir of chirping minstrels bring
In triumph to the world the youthful Spring.
The valleys, hills, and woods in rich array
Welcome the coming of the long'd-for May.**

Thomas Carew 1595 - 1640

The menace of the covid19 pandemic has meant that we are unable to send out to members the usual spring copy of the newsletter. But we are not surrendering to the malign force that savages our land and people: we shall be sending out a newsletter in instalments over the next few months for the duration of the pandemic. There will be the usual items of information – financial accounts, dates for meetings, notifications of the dates for the AGM, and so forth. Our hope is to provide items of general interest connected in one way or another with the history, archaeology and natural history of our county. These perhaps will bring some uplift and relief to all of us during the long weeks of our confinement. We hope you find relief and pleasure reading this springtime “Journal of the Plague Year” **BAS Council**

SUMMER OUTINGS PROGRAMME 2020

Saturday 13 June – Hedgerley history walk**HISTORY WALK LED BY JULIAN HUNT**

First to St Mary's Church, designed by Benjamin Ferry and completed in 1852, but on the site of a much older church. Then round the village paying special attention to sites of pottery and brick kilns. Hedgerley clay made superior bricks, used in the construction of Eton College.



Buffet lunch at 1pm. Then a walk to the site of Hedgerley Park, a house built in 1819 for Charles Shard, later the home of Ellen Emily Stevenson. Demolished in 1935, its site was used for gravel extraction and is now part of the gardens of Ivorman Grundon, a supporter of Hedgerley History Society.

The walks will be a couple of miles on easy gradients and good paths.

Own transport: Car-sharing – see Note (2) >>>.

Directions: Hedgerley is south-east of Beaconsfield. Take A355 south, cross the M40 then turn immediately left and left again by the Services; follow lane to T-junction; turn right and after half a mile Hedgerley Village Hall is set back on the right in the centre of the village. We will meet there at 10.30am.

Cost £15 in advance, for buffet lunch in the Village Hall – see Note (1)>>>.

Saturday 4 July – Three Locks, Soulbury**THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE GRAND UNION CANAL,
led by members of the society's Active Archaeology Group.**

First a guided tour of the locks and pumping station where in 2018 the group unexpectedly discovered the steam boiler house, originally of 1816-17,



during work on behalf of the Canals and Rivers Trust. Then an account of the whole Grand Union pumping system, which stretched 15 miles from Berkhamsted to Soulbury to keep the canal operating. After lunch we travel to view the iron aqueduct which resolved the massive water loss from the canal into the River Great Ouse.



Originally, this conference was to have been held at Winslow. Then covid 19 struck, and soon we were all subject to lockdown, and public gatherings were banned. It seemed the conference might have to be postponed, but instead, BAS and HS2 were able to hold the conference via the internet. A link was set up, BAS members contacted, and on Saturday 4th April, images of excavation work by teams of archaeologists, and detailed accounts of what was found beneath the ground were sent electronically through the ether into our homes around the county. Over 250 people signed up to hear the talks, and it was a two-way process, for while the archaeologists were explaining their findings, viewers could send in questions.

The HS2 line runs south to north the length of Bucks from Denham to Turweston, and is effectively a vast excavation trench providing archaeologists with a wealth of information relating to the history and prehistory of the county. The full programme is shown below, and gives some idea of the new discoveries made, that included middle Stone Age and Bronze Age artefacts, Iron Age and Roman settlements and ritual sites, pre-Christian burials, and the Battle of Edgcote in Warwickshire.

CONFERENCE-ON-THE-WEB PROGRAMME AND TIMETABLE

Saturday 4 April 2020, 1pm-5pm

1pm-onwards *Signing on to the Conference website
– Instructions will be circulated in the days before 4 April.*

1.30pm **Introduction**

Peter Marsden, Chair Bucks Archaeological Society.

Progress in 2019, including Stoke Mandeville Old Church

Jay Carver, Lead Archaeologist for Fusion and HS2.

- *There will be an opportunity for questions to each speaker at the end of his/her session.*

1.50pm **From hunter-gatherer to homesteader: archaeology in the Colne Valley**

Iain Williamson

2.35pm **Persistent places: The discovery of a monumental landscape at Wendover's Wellwick Farm**

Rachel Wood

3.20pm **REFRESHMENTS BREAK:**

A chance to visit your own kitchen!

3.35pm **Romans and Saxons in Buckinghamshire: Great Missenden longhouses and Chetwode settlements in the first millennium**

Dan Hounsell

4.20pm **Romano-British archaeology in N'hants and Warwickshire, including finds from the Battle of Edgcote 1469**

Nick Finch

5pm *Final questions, and Conference ends*

LIVES IN MAIDS MORETON 1320-2020

Using resources for
Local History



Lyn Robinson

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writing this and of
the Census, 19
documents, and a
and, in October
documents, and look for being in the present time.

This article entitled *Photographing Lives* was published in 1991. By then Miss Burrows' system in organising and networking had led to her being headhunted by Mrs. Elizabeth Carlin, wife of Walter Carlin MP of Carlisle, north Bucks. Miss Burrows agreed to act as secretary and unpaid to the North Bucks Lace Association, newly formed in Newport Road in April 1997. Mrs Carlin was President, the Hon. Cecil Fremantle was Treasurer, with a working committee of seven.



A few samples made by the North Bucks Lace Association

For five years all went well at the North Bucks Lace Association. The new Division of Buckingham and Bucks had a long list of talent partners, including her step-daughter Barbara Kinton and Lady Borthwick. Mrs Carlin and Miss Burrows worked well together, and lots of lace were held out at public venues such as Oxford Town Hall (attended in 1990 by Prince Louis, Duke of Edinburgh) or in private London houses of the aristocracy. But Miss Burrows did not see the light of the original purpose of the lace-making organisations. In her article I pointed above the way:

Great impulse has been given by the North Bucks Lace Association to our local Buckingham Lace Industry, and the object of collecting funds for the same is to be able to cooperate and contribute to secure every penny for the purpose of justifying production, and many a poverty-stricken village may see, by the help of the lace industry and other home industries, its transformed into a happier and more prosperous one.

I eventually did think I required to meet the lace-making organisations because the cause, and perhaps Miss Burrows, overtook her herself. In February 1992 she asked for a paid annum, and the North Bucks Lace Association agreed that £2 per annum be allocated to it in monthly instalments. However by August the minutes recorded that Miss Kinton had taken over the role of secretary and that Miss Burrows had clearly come to a halt. Miss Burrows was accused of selling her indignation in the Buckingham area, thus breaking a fundamental rule of the association, and she was asked to resign. Socially this was almost how it was. For the past ten years she had dedicated herself, unpaid, to the lace revival and she held a special role in the most successful lace association in the Midlands. Now she was in disgrace.

However, the Buckingham Lace Industry continued because Miss Burrows of Maids Moreton was in London and she organised 'Café' meetings for meeting her parties, she placed an announcement in the *Buckingham Express* on 6th September 1992 announcing that she was still available to employ lacemakers in the Buckingham area. Local newspapers readily championed the cause of the lace revival, and in November it was reported that Queen Alexandra had recently purchased pieces of pillow lace from Miss Burrows, having complimented the lacemakers of the Buckingham Lace Industry on their work.

Who were these local lacemakers?

There was Elizabeth Pogson (1824-1911) who was the widow of a very

children born in Main Street, Maids

Moreton. Her father was a butcher

and her mother was a lacemaker.

Agnet neighbours Elizabeth was and

George Martin, a farm labourer;

there were also two unmarried

children. The 1851 census listed

Elizabeth (owner) as a lacemaker,

living in Wellman, Maids Moreton.

In 1871 the couple were living at

the other end of the village, Duck

Lake, near the Buckingham Free pub.

Berary (she) made excellent lace

because her in 1903 a professional

photograph was taken of her working

at her lace shop. In January 1907 the

Buckingham Advertiser reported that



Mrs Berary Martin at her lace shop

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Spoke

to the

NEW BOOK

Available April 2020

229 x 152mm

Illustrated in full colour

160pp • paperback • £13.99

Lyn Robinson . . . has managed to bring together a staggering amount of information about the village of Maids Moreton and to present it in such a fashion that it is easy to read whilst being meticulously footnoted. Choosing to present her sweep of local history in the form of biographies of Maids Moreton residents past and present, Lyn tricks us into learning things we did not know we were interested in. Any publisher will tell you that biographies outsell history, but here we have a hybrid book which satisfies those who like a good story and those who want the real facts.

Julian Hunt

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LIVES IN MAIDS MORETON 1320-2020

Rector Rate and George junior were asked to be overseers of the will of William Philpott (Philpott) George knew the Philpott family well, for William was a prosperous farmer of Maids Moreton, and John Philpott was grandfather to his brother Mautes.



Part of William Philpott's will written by Rector George Rate



Portrait of Rev. Richard Napier c. 1670

Young George Rate was aware that men, women and children from Maids Moreton sometimes travelled the Stour Stratford road to Great Linford to visit a 'healer'. This was Rev. Richard Napier (1550-1634) who used his academic education alongside astrology to treat sick people. His remedies included religious counselling, herbs, purgation, charms, bleeding and horoscope casting. Over forty years Rev. Napier's reputation grew as did his medical fees: in about 30,000 patients, although these were George Rate's own patients. His mother, Mary, visited the

This book is very well written and accessible, it tells its yarn with zest and economy but supported with a wealth of contextual information drawn from primary sources. I'm sure it will be loved by those born or living in Maids Moreton, scholars of the history of the English countryside, and amateur local historians looking for a help in finding and interpreting primary source material.

Ed Grimdale

Available to purchase from the author: mmbook2020@outlook.com 01280 813014

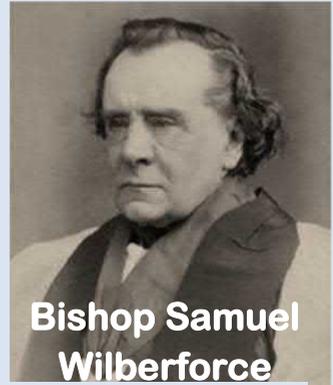
or Museum Shop, The Old Gaol, Market Hill, Buckingham

**THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: BEING AN ACCOUNT OF SOME FORMER
PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY, BY DR RICHARD GEM**

At your AGM in 2008 you did me the honour of electing me as your president and you have done so in ten consecutive years since then. At this AGM I am standing down to give someone else the opportunity of taking on the role, since I believe there should always be a rotation in such offices, so as to bring new strengths and insights. I thought, then, that this might be an appropriate occasion to review the stories of some of our past presidents, which are of interest in themselves, while also illustrating the changing social context within which our Society operates.

Bishop Samuel Wilberforce

I start where it all began, with the first president of the Society, **Bishop Samuel Wilberforce**. No doubt, he was asked to accept the role because the very formation of the Society was an initiative taken among clergy of the Church of England, and Wilberforce as Bishop of Oxford was the most senior churchman in Buckinghamshire.



**Bishop Samuel
Wilberforce**

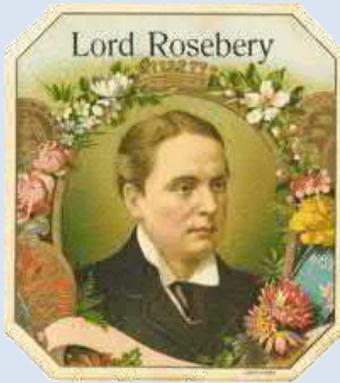
Samuel was born at Clapham in 1805, the third son of the great anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce and his wife Barbara Anne. He was educated privately before going up to Oriel College Oxford in 1823. Following graduation, he was ordained and in 1830 was appointed rector of Brixton on the Isle of Wight, where he began to attract attention as a preacher and writer. After ten years at Brixton, Wilberforce was appointed a chaplain to Prince Albert, but at that time he left Brixton to become rector of Alverstoke, just across the Solent, where his cure included the garrison town of Gosport. Sadly for him, 1841 also saw the death of his wife Caroline, following which he inherited her estate at Lavington in Sussex and entered the ranks of the landed clergy. With his reputation and influence growing, he was appointed sub-almoner to Queen

a few months later was elected to the bishopric of Oxford, while the university conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. Wilberforce was to remain at Oxford for twenty five years at a difficult period for the Church of England. At this time the 'Oxford Movement', led by John Henry Newman and Edward Pusey, was questioning aspects of the Church's doctrine and practice as had been laid down during the 16th century reformation. Only a month before Wilberforce took up office as bishop, Newman sensationally had converted to the Roman Catholic Church; and six years later the same route was followed by the brother-in-law of Wilberforce's late wife, Archdeacon Henry Manning – later to become cardinal archbishop of Westminster. But Wilberforce undertook with clear insight and purpose the administrative and pastoral reform of his diocese, to which the county of Buckingham had been added only in 1837 (being transferred from the Diocese of Lincoln). His activities as bishop included the establishment of diocesan societies for the building of churches, and it was perhaps against this background that he accepted the presidency of the new Buckinghamshire Archaeological and Architectural Society with its strong interest in church buildings.

The second major challenge faced by the Church at this time was the radical re-evaluation of humankind's place in the universe posed by the developing sciences of geology, palaeontology, and natural history. This reached its climax with the work of Charles Darwin, whose *Origin of Species* was published in 1859, leading to the bitter exchange between Wilberforce (himself a Fellow of the Royal Society) and Thomas Huxley at the Oxford meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1860. In the following year Wilberforce first delivered a presidential address to this Society, on which I have already commented in my remarks at the 2009 AGM.

Archibald Philip Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery

Another of our early presidents, who enjoyed a national standing at the turn of the century, was Archibald Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery. Archibald was born in London in 1847, and when his father died in 1851 he inherited the courtesy title of Lord Dalmeny. Educated at Eton and Brighton Colleges, he went up to Christ Church Oxford in 1865. In 1868



on the death of his grandfather he inherited the Scottish earldom of Rosebery and in the same year, while still an undergraduate, he took it upon himself to buy a racehorse, contrary to university regulations; whereupon, rather than give up the horse he left the university to pursue his interests in racing.

His connection with Bucks began

Ten years later on his marriage in 1878 to Hannah, sole daughter and heiress of the wealthy banker, the late Baron Mayer Amschel de Rothschild, builder of the great house and estate of Mentmore. Rosebery perhaps found attractive Hannah's fortune, which she had inherited in 1874, but he was genuinely fond of her and was distraught when she died in 1890 at the age of only 39.

From his mother's family, the Stanhopes, Rosebery inherited a connection with the Liberal interest in politics, and it was he who largely masterminded Gladstone's American-style election campaign in Midlothian in 1879, which saw the grand-



The Grand Hall at Mentmore

old-man returned to parliament and the premiership for the second time. Rosebery himself served as foreign secretary in 1886 and in 1892-94, when he pursued what has been termed a 'liberal-imperialist' policy. When Gladstone finally retired in March 1894, Rosebery became prime minister, but his government lasted only until June the following year. More successful than Rosebery's role as a parliamentarian was that as first chairman of the London County Council, established in 1889, in which he was widely acknowledged as being very successful.

Rosebery's estate at Mentmore provided him with a suitable base for

his political activities near to London, with the railway station at Cheddington providing a direct link to the capital. But he was there able to develop also his horse racing interests and established a stud farm at Crafton. His horse Ladas, bred at Crafton, won the Derby in 1894, and subsequently he had two other Derby winners. The presidency of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society at the turn of the century can never have figured very largely among Rosebery's numerous commitments, and he must be seen as someone whose patronage was regarded by the Society as valuable on account of his social standing.

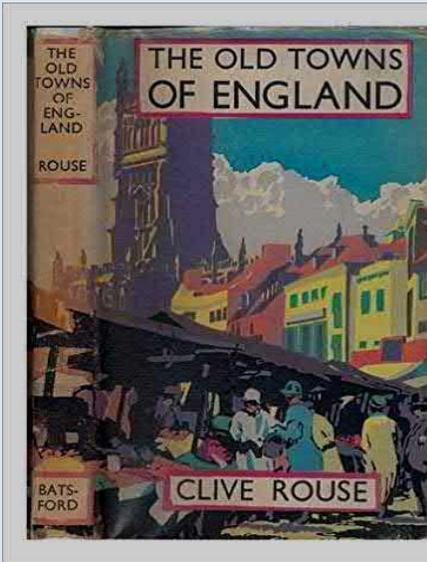
Edward Clive Rouse

Leaving those early years and turning to more recent times, we find that things had changed considerably, with the presidency being accorded to persons with a deep personal interest in the objectives of the Society. Among such was Clive Rouse, our president for ten years in the 1970s, and the first whom I knew personally.

Clive was born in 1901 at Stroud, Gloucestershire, the son of a furniture maker in Acton, Edward F. Rouse, and his wife Frances Sams, from a dairying family. Clive was educated at Gresham's School in Norfolk, before going on to the St Martin's School of Art. He developed an interest in wall paintings, and in this he was encouraged by E.W. Tristram, professor of design at the Royal College of Art, with whom he worked subsequently on the conservation and recording of wall

paintings. During World War II Clive joined the Central Interpretation Unit of the RAF, where his meticulous eye for detail made a significant contribution to the interpretation of air photographs. Following war service he returned to the conservation of wall paintings, but realised that the wax-based methods he had been taught by Tristram were actually damaging to the paintings and he sought to develop alternative lime-based treatments. Apart from his several contributions to *Records*, Clive also published a number of works, including: *The Old Towns of England*



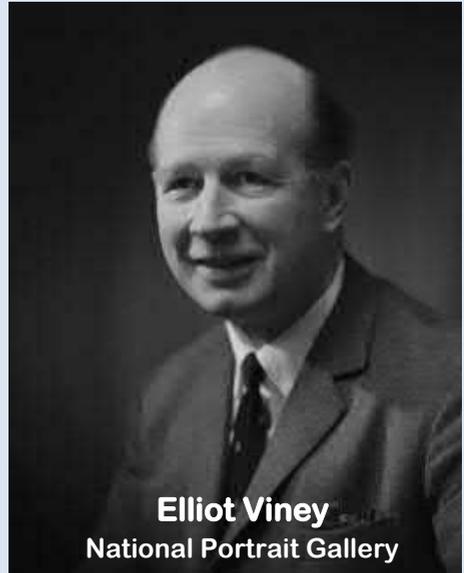


(Batsford 1948); *Discovering Wall Paintings* (Shire Books 1968 and later editions); and also various other studies in local historical topography.

Clive continued living at Gerrards Cross, a very well respected figure, into his mid '90s; while, following his retirement, his work in wall-painting conservation has been continued by those who trained under him and always referred to him affectionately as 'Sir'.

Elliot Meriam Viney

Clive Rouse was succeeded as president by Elliot Viney, who was in origin very much a local man. He was born in 1913 in Walton Street, Aylesbury, the son of Col. Oscar Vaughan Viney (later High Sheriff of Bucks) and his wife Edith Annie. His father was a director and later chairman of Hazell, Watson and Viney, the printing and publishing business that had been operating in Aylesbury since 1839, and was therefore older than our Society. After graduating from University



Elliot Viney
National Portrait Gallery

College Oxford, the young Elliot took up a position in the family firm; he also joined the Aylesbury Company of the Territorial Bucks Battalion, of which his father happened to be in command. With the onset of World War II, Elliot went on active service and in 1940 his battalion was

noted for its role in the rearguard action at Hazebrouck that helped keep open the line of retreat to Dunkirk. Elliot was captured by the Germans and remained a prisoner of war for five years; but at the end of the war he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his role at Hazebrouck.

Returning to civilian life and to the family firm, Elliot continued to make his mark. Within his own professional field he rose to become President of the British Federation of Master Printers. In the public arena he became a magistrate and later chairman of the Aylesbury bench; he was made a deputy Lieutenant of the County, and subsequently, High Sheriff. But alongside this, he also threw himself into a wide range of voluntary activities. In 1957 he became a founder trustee of the Bucks Historic Churches Trust. In 1979, at the same time as he became president of our Society, he also was appointed a member of the Oxford Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches. In 1985 he became chairman of the Bucks Record Society, and in 1991 president of the Bucks branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. It is always said, 'If you want a job done, ask a busy person': this was certainly true in Elliot's case.

Professor William Mead

Elliot Viney was followed two years later as president by Bill Mead. William Richard Mead was born in Buckingham Street Aylesbury in 1915, the son of a grocery and provision merchant William Mead and his wife Catherine Sarah. Catherine died in the 1918 influenza epidemic and, to look after the children, William senior brought in Jenny King, who had also looked after him when his own mother had died. Bill began his education at the



Professor William Mead
University College London

Temple School Aylesbury, before going on to the Grammar School (for which he retained a lifelong affection). From his boyhood Bill had developed a deep love of the countryside, with its soils, plants and animals. After school his initial plan was to train as a school teacher; but then he registered for an external BSc in economics at the University of London, specialising in the economic and regional geography of Europe. He completed his degree in 1937 and then moved on to the London School of Economics for an MSc, the while focussing increasingly on Scandinavian geography. During World War II he joined the RAF in an administrative role that took him to Iceland, Canada, and Wiltshire. After the war he completed a PhD and then joined the staff of Liverpool University, where he complemented his teaching with continuing research on Scandinavia, and Finland in particular. In 1949 he moved together with Professor Clifford Darby from Liverpool to University College, London, where he was to remain for the rest of his career, being promoted to a personal chair in 1961 and the established chair of geography in 1966.

In 1981 Bill retired from UCL and moved from London to Aston Clinton. But his academic involvement remained undiminished. He continued to maintain his wide-ranging international contacts and his list of publications continued to grow. In 2000, at the age of 85, he took on the presidency of our Society, and continued in that role for nine years, during which he was an inspiration to us all. At the end of his life, which came in 2015, he left the Society a generous bequest, which has enabled us to undertake a project for the digitisation of the historic maps in the Society's possession – something we hope will form a worthy tribute to a remarkable man

Looking back over these life stories, I think we can see that the role of the president and of our Society has changed considerably, reflecting the contemporary social context within which we operate. No doubt it will continue to develop into the future, and that is something that we should look forward to.

Richard Gem
President of BAS 2008-2019

The Polecat



Women hunting rabbits with a ferret, 14th century

Whatever one is looking for in a past volume of *Records*, there always seem to be something else interesting that catches the eye. *Records 11*, published between 1920 and 1926 is no exception. Here there are significant reports on excavations in Danesborough and Bulstrode hillforts, at Tickford Priory, and on Roman finds from Radnage, but there are often small details of interest, for instance in parish records. In the late seventeenth- to early eighteenth centuries, Clifton Reynes parishioners were clear about the necessary slaughter of some local enemies and they paid their killers generously.

Foremost in numbers were moles, 'thirteen dozen and four' in 1681; next in number were sparrows – of which 'five dozen' or more were dealt with by a 'sparrow catcher' in 1693; then there were hedgehogs – 'two dozen' in 1705 at 4d each. Foxes, badger and otters only feature as single animals. Perhaps rather unexpectedly twelve polecats were taken in 1690 for though their favourite prey are rabbits, they are known to be particularly skilled at entering hen-houses, The latter expertise may have been why in Elizabeth the First's reign they were declared vermin, which in turn led to monetary reward for their capture and their virtual if not complete extinction in much of England including Buckinghamshire.

Even so, polecats did survive in Buckinghamshire – in their domesticated form as ferrets. Country dwellers have long kept ferrets for use in bolting rabbits from their burrows, sending the ferret down one hole to drive out the rabbits into nets held over the other holes.

Polecats are related to stoats and badgers. There was a time not so long ago when the chance of seeing a polecat in Buckinghamshire would have

The Polecat



been zero, for they had been hunted to virtual extinction through most of England, so that only in Wales, Scotland, and the South West of England were there significant numbers remaining. Now, however, the polecat is a protected species, that has made a comeback in the county. Even so, they are rarely seen during the day, for they are mainly night time hunters, searching out small rodents, frogs, birds and snakes to eat, and more especially rabbits. They nest in lowland woodland, marsh, riverbanks, and sometimes farm buildings. They produce a single litter of five to ten young in a year early in summer.

How may they be recognized? They are small, sleek creatures, 32 to 45 centimetres long, with a tail of 12 to 19 centimetres. Their appearance is much like that of the ferret, which in fact is the polecat's domesticated cousin, bred through the centuries for hunting rabbits. Polecats have dark brown fur and a distinctive dark face with a white muzzle and white tipped rounded ears.

For more information on the species see /www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/mammals/polecat: also don't forget the availability of the excellent indexes to *Records* compiled mainly by Diana Gulland and available on our website.

Mike Farley and Mike Ghirelli

The Sheldon Tapestry Map

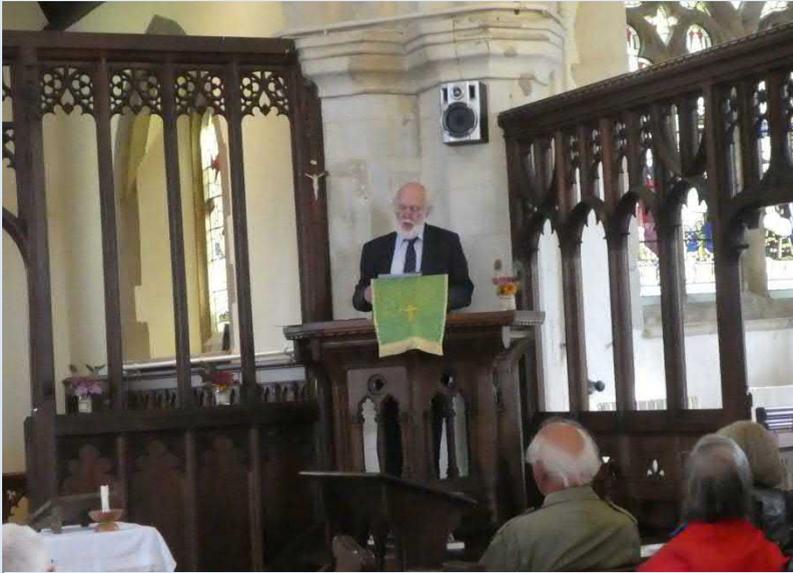


The Sheldon Tapestry Map of Oxfordshire was created around 1590, one of four such tapestry maps commissioned by Ralph Sheldon of Weston House near Long Compton, Warwickshire. The others covered the neighbouring midland counties of Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, and were designed to hang in the great hall. Weston would have appeared on all four tapestries.

The tapestry was woven in wool and silk, and as a concept, these tapestry maps were unique in England. Nothing else of this cartographic nature had been created at the time. The map content of the tapestries is almost certainly derived from the county maps of Christopher Saxton (1574 -79).

Mike Farley

Church Crawl 28th September 2019



Mike Hardy Speaking

For our 2019 Church Crawl we returned to the Milton Keynes area for the first time since 2008. We were quite lucky to have reasonable weather, in these times of extreme weather. That was particularly welcome as I knew that the locations of some of the churches meant we would have to walk further than usual. However our very competent coach driver was very willing to get us as close as possible to the churches we visited.

The first church visited was All Saints at Loughton, a place which surprised many people. The 13th century church is at the highest spot in a village that was absorbed into Milton Keynes but given conservation area status, like 10 other villages. It can only be approached by its three original and very narrow country lanes, certainly not suitable for a large coach, so that gave us our first

walk of the day. However, we were rewarded with coffee in the church's modern extension. The most surprising fact about the church's setting is that is only half a mile away from Milton Keynes station.



All Saints Loughton from South East

Since 2010 the church has a modern feel to its interior, with a new stone floor and flexible seating arrangement. Its medieval character is still clear though, with its 13th century Chancel still having its original small E window, the 14th century nave, and S aisle added in the 15th century using stone from the demolished Little Loughton church. The S porch was cleverly combined with the S aisle, it all looks very impressive with three large S windows, needing 4 large original buttresses to hold up the S wall. The original roof of the aisle has some impressive timber bosses of foliage and arms. The tower also dates from the 15th century and has massive jambs on the tower arch, as the walls are 5 feet thick. There are some interesting monuments, with the earliest from the 16th century, and 5 stained glass windows which

are all from the 20th century, including the E window, unusually given in thankfulness for the church's preservation during the 2nd World War.



St Lawrence, Old Bradwell

We then moved onto another old village church, St Lawrence at Old Bradwell. The church was probably founded just before the middle of the 12th century. Its earliest features are from the period of transition from the Norman to Early English styles, in the form of the 2 short and solid round columns of the S arcade. They date from around 1210, but the western one has more refined detailing. They support 3 plain tall arches that lead into the S Aisle that seems to have been widened just 50 years after being built. The chancel arch has a very unusual inscription trying to tell us when the church was dedicated, but unfortunately the part with the actual date is missing. The first W tower was built around 1380, but was rebuilt after the Dissolution to accommodate more bells, as 4 were brought here from the

dissolved Snelshall Priory. Two of the bells were cast c1300, and remarkably are still rung by full rotation, possibly the oldest in the country to be used in that way. Another of the ex-Priory bells hangs in the S aisle, but is a mere 530 years old. All 16 windows have stained glass, including the tiny clerestory windows. 4 of them (and 2 at Loughton) are made by Harry Stammers who lived at Bradwell for the last years of his life. 5 of the 6 are abstract designs, which are rather disproportionate to the rest of his life's work, as only 8 of 180 were abstract.

Our last church of the morning was St Peter and St Paul's at Newport Pagnell. Its size was described by Samuel Pepys who said it was "like a cathedral". At 146 feet long, it is the second longest medieval church in Buckinghamshire, with High Wycombe being around 30 feet longer. The nave is a wonderfully open space with tall arcades of the 14th century which were topped in the 15th century by clerestory windows, which are still spanned by a Tudor timber roof with massive moulded tie beams across the 24 feet width of the nave. The tie beams have been supported by a series of wooden figures of the apostles for over 500 years. The roof has bosses of foliage and arms, of similar age to those at Loughton, but here they are all gilded. The 2 porches survive from c1355, with the North one carrying an upstairs room, possibly always used for administering the parish, as it is now. As with most large town churches, there are many monuments to be seen. There are 10 large Victorian stained glass windows, including 8 by Alexander Gibbs, most of which show the Apostles.

We started the afternoon at the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Moulsoe. What would have been a simple early 13C church was expanded in the mid 13th century by adding 2 Arcades and Aisles. They were then expanded or

rebuilt in the 14th Century, when the Tower was also built. Work was done in the 18C, from when the fine quarry tiles date. The barrel-vaulted plaster ceiling of the nave could also date from then.



**Carrington Monument
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, Moulsoe**

In the mid 19th Century, Moulsoe became known as the “Carrington church”, after the 2nd Baron Carrington took a lease on Gayhurst House, and purchased much land locally, included

that which made him Patron of Moulsoe Church. He must have wanted a church to house his family monuments, and now had one at Moulsoe. There are many family monuments in the church, and in an elaborate enclosure in the churchyard. We were well looked after at Moulsoe with refreshments being provided.



Saints Leonard and Andrew, Little Linford

Our next church was at Little Linford, unusually dedicated to St Leonard and St Andrew. It had been a chapel-of-ease to Newport Pagnell since the 12th century, now with parts dating from the 13th century. Since 1205 the land around the church had become the centre of a deer park with a manor house that from the 18th century grew into the very large Linford Hall of the Knapp family. The house was demolished and the estate sold off in 1959. The ornamental garden area has now been redeveloped into a number of very different properties. We had to take a fairly long walk around them to get to the church which is now very hidden away. It is a low building with a single roof of

hand-made tiles outside, but inside it is a complete church with an aisle each side of the nave. There is some intriguing carved stonework in the chancel arch, that looks like Norman decoration. There are also some interesting monuments, mainly to members of the Knapp family, with two in the chancel by the sculptor Richard Westmacott Senior. In the late 1870s there was an unusual Vicar of Little Linford, Moses Margoliouth, born to Jewish parents in Poland in 1820. He was the only person to be buried at Little Linford, apart from members of the Knapp family. His wife donated the only stained glass window in the church to his memory.

Our final church was St Mary's at Haversham, where our coach driver reversed very successfully up the narrow lane to the church.

The church has a selection of stained glass, including my favourite Art Nouveau window in the county, the E window by Christopher Whall. (See right).

The church has 2 brasses, and many monuments, the most famous being the late 14th century canopied tomb-chest of Lady Elizabeth Clinton.

We have real evidence from c1170 that this was a Norman church, in the form of the original W window which would have been above the W door, where a tower was added later, probably in two stages. This Norman



evidence was hidden away until discovered in 1857. The Norman church was the length of the current nave. Around 1220 a 2 bay aisle was built on either side, and soon afterwards, the nave was extended and the chancel was built. In different stages, in the 14th century, the chancel arch was rebuilt, the S arcade was rebuilt further S, leaving the chancel arch off-set, and then the north arcade was rebuilt.

I was pleased to end our day at Haversham church, a building where one can really follow how it has gradually developed over 850 years. The day was finally rounded off by the 49 of us being served refreshments.

Four of the churches we visited had never been visited by BAS, and I am always pleased to expand the list of Buckinghamshire churches that BAS has visited since the first visit in 1852, which by my records now stands at 215 churches, of which we have visited 58 for the first time since I got involved 20 years ago.

Michael G Hardy