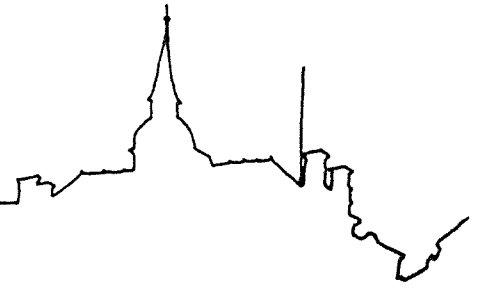


Towcester Town Crier

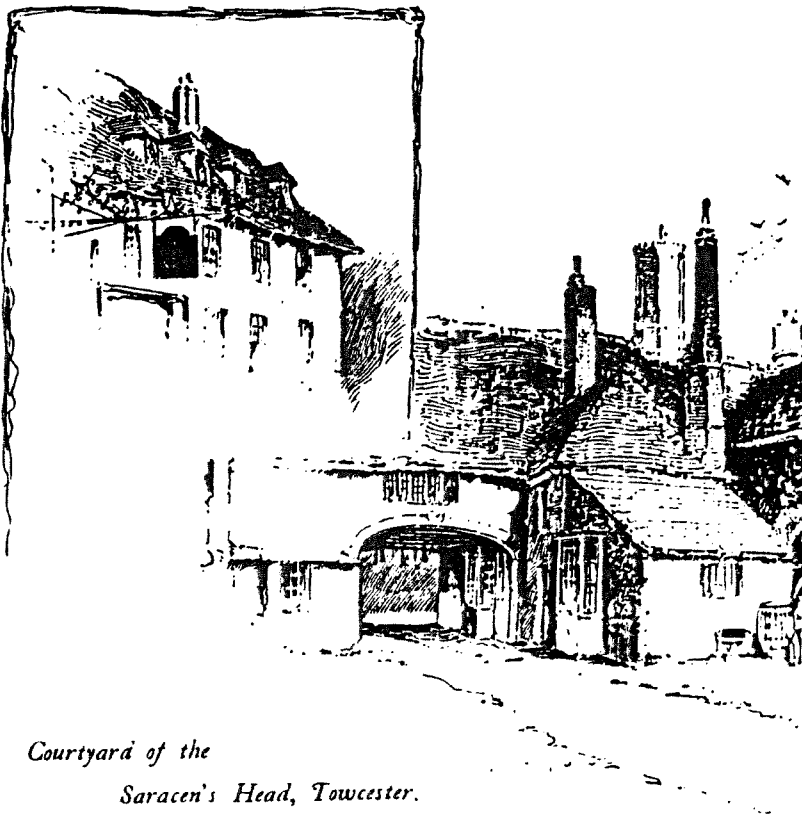


No.22 November 1987 Town Hall, Towcester.

DOES THE PAST HAVE A FUTURE IN TOWCESTER? One of the problems with experts in any field is that they can tend to become so involved with the details and the complications of their specialisation that the only people to understand them are other experts, or at its worst themselves. It is for this reason that people like Alec Clifton Taylor are necessary, otherwise architecture becomes the concern of academics and conservationists when in fact it is, by definition to do with the people who use buildings, in other words, everyone.

Most solutions to the visual appeal of a building are straightforward and logical - and similarly a lot of the harm done is cock-eyed and perverse. For instance, why should Charles Wells want to 'modernise' The Saracens Head to the extent that they fill in the carriageway of a coaching inn, and knock down the outbuildings in order to allow the horseless carriage to park. It must be obvious that the whole frontage onto Watling Street revolves around the opening and its use as an entry to space at the rear. To destroy this, as the proposed plans suggest, would make a nonsense of the whole structure, rather like making shovels without handles.

Towcester is not so consumed with international fame that it can afford to neglect its association with Mr Pickwick and his creator. If Prince Charles can convince people that The National Gallery (an unexceptional building in its own right) deserves special treatment because of its role and its site then surely the same arguments can be applied to the ironstone monument that is The Saracens. I would have thought that in today's commercial world the brewers would have rejoiced in the identity of the coaching tradition and its image of the Roast Beef of Old England and the genial host, but instead they seem to prefer the Crossroads Motel and its prerequisite architectural anonymity.



*Courtyard of the
Saracens Head, Towcester.*

Given that the whole of this part of town is a conservation area, that the building itself is

listed, and that it occupies a prime site in town it should be unthinkable that the development will be allowed to take place. This time I hope our elected representatives recognise the harm that would be done to the town by taking Towcester down the path taken by so many English towns where anything of visual worth or architectural interest has had to be destroyed in favour of, an often mistaken notion of, a fast buck.



Trevor Wardle

THANK YOU, TOWCESTER from the National Children's Home. This years collection in Towcester for the National Children's Home was a record - £689.95 - over £90 more than last year. So, a very big thank you to Towcester for its generosity. And a special thank you to a willing band of helpers who knocked on doors and helped produce this great result. These donations will be a wonderful help to the NCH in its most important work. (We'll be hoping to do even better in 1988.)

A H Taylor, Local Honorary Secretary

THE TOWCESTER MUSIC CENTRE will present 'Messiah from Scratch' (Parts 1/2) at Sponne School on December 5th at 7.30 pm. There will be a rehearsal at 2.30 pm and tea will be available from the Towcester Music Centre Parents and Friends Association. The Orchestra of Parents/Friends is being arranged by Roy Brooks, Head of the Towcester Music Centre and the performance will be conducted by Barry Jones, Musical Director of the Northampton Gilbert and Sullivan Groups. Copies of the music are available at Sponne School and although anyone is welcome to turn up on the day and sing, it would be helpful if you could let Barry Jones or Roy Brooks know beforehand:

- 1 which vocal part you sing,
- 2 whether you need a copy of the music,
- 3 if you require tea.

Admission: Singers £1, non-singers £2.

Towcester Music Centre Parents and Friends Association are holding a Barn Dance with ever popular caller John Harris at St Lawrence Junior School on Friday 27th November at 7.30 pm. Tickets costing £2.50 for adults £1.00 for children including food can be obtained from the Music Centre at St Lawrence Junior School on Saturday mornings.

TOWCESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY. Next meeting: Wednesday, November 18th 1987, 7.45 pm at the Scout Hall, Baden Powell Crescent, speaker: Mr Jason Roberson. A talk entitled '70 years of Towcester History' enriched with photographs to view. Visitors and new members welcome.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF TOWCESTER

TOWCESTER TOWN COUNCIL:

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Deputy Mayor:	Cllr S Watson	Towcester 52040
Cllr P Allen		Towcester 51477
Cllr N Barker		Towcester 51238
Cllr F Borrell		Towcester 50320
Cllr S F Dunkley		Towcester 50593
Cllr Mrs J Herbert		Towcester 51315
Cllr Mrs A Hill		Towcester 51010
Cllr B Jolly		Towcester 51661
Cllr J Lynch		Towcester 50899
Cllr T Minns		Towcester 50861
Cllr G Smith		Towcester 50328
Cllr A Taylor		Towcester 50510
Cllr Mrs C Taylor		Towcester 52812
Cllr D Wesley		Towcester 51101
Town Council Office, Town Hall		Towcester 50995

SOUTH NORTHANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL:

Cllr S F Dunkley	Towcester 50593
Cllr Mrs J Herbert	Towcester 51315
Cllr G Smith	Towcester 50328
District Council Offices, Brackley Road	Towcester 50211

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:

Cllr I Miller	Towcester 52274
County Hall	Northampton 256256

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (Daventry constituency):

Mr T Boswell, MP	The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (Northamptonshire constituency):

Mr A M H Simpson, MEP	Centre Européen, Kirchberg, Luxemburg
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PARISH CHURCH NEWS. Thank you first of all to all those who attended or donated items to the Grand Auction. Without the marquee and the expertise of the Jackson Stops family the event would not have been such a success and we are happy to report a net profit of £2894.54 towards Chantry Funds (for the restoration project). Unfortunately that is not the end of the road and we invite everyone to a CHRISTMAS FAIR on SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER in the Town Hall from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be an opportunity to do some Christmas Shopping and to enjoy yourself (especially if it is a cold, wet day with nowhere to take the children).

Other excitements include the visit of HRH The Princess Margaret to The Church Close on Thursday 3 December for a service of thanksgiving for the restoration of the three church-associated buildings: Church, Chantry and Vicarage. The Bishop of Peterborough (Bishop Bill) will be preaching and it will be undoubtedly an occasion for great joy.

Thinking ahead to Christmas, cards detailing all services will be distributed around the ever-expanding town. The magazine also outlines forthcoming events and this can be picked up in church or from Rushes and Circle K. If you would like it delivered to you at home, telephone 51058.

Recently there has been much in the news about damage to churches whether through deliberate vandalism or terrific storm damage. In Towcester we try to keep the church open during daylight hours, but this is becoming increasingly risky as some folk have decided that the building makes an excellent refuge for illicit smoking. PLEASE help us to keep an eye on the place, by popping in and out and walking round the churchyard. (Have you followed the Church or Churchyard trails?) The more the building is used, the longer we can keep it open as an oasis of calm for private prayer and contemplation. Thank you.

THE MAYOR'S CHARITY APPEAL was 'launched' in June this year and to date has raised approximately £4000 for each of the two charities highlighted this year, ie the Cat Scan Appeal and the Chantry House Appeal. I would like to thank all those who have attended the money-raising events or who have personally raised money through sponsorship and donations.

Although the Cat Span Appeal has now reached its initial target of £600 000 to enable the purchase of the equipment, a further £100 000 is required to cover running costs for the first five years. The Chantry House Appeal target has not yet been reached but the enthusiastic support given so far is more than promising.

There are several events arranged for both appeals which I hope you will continue to support.

POLICE REPORT FROM PC MARK WARD. PC 741 Ward is our new town Community Constable. He has 10 years police service and is married with two young children. He resides in the town and looks forward to working in harmony with the people of Towcester.

With the festive season approaching and the periodic increase in the theft of and from motor vehicles expected, could I remind you to take extra care in removing valuables from your car and placing them in the boot. A minute or so of your time spent in this way can save much time, effort and heartache later.

TOWCESTER TOWN DIARY: Calling all organisers and organisations! A 1988 diary is now available for your use in Towcester Library. Please enter your programmes or individual events into it and use it to check that your plans will not clash with similar functions in the town when fixing future dates. This will only work if it is used, so try to keep it up to date for your organisation and help us to help you!!

TOWCESTER AND DISTRICT LIONS CLUB: Last year Towcester and District Lions Club raised nearly £3500 for local appeals as well as the big National charities. You may have read in the local papers recently about the £1000 cheque we presented to the local Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

We raise money by putting on Barbeques, Race Nights, Pub Raffles, Sponsored Walks and Jumble Sales. In fact anything we can think of that people will enjoy, and can show a profit. All this takes a bit of spare time, a bit of effort, the skills we may have between us and a willingness to help other members of

our community who need support. What we get out of it is a lot of fun and the knowledge that our efforts have gone to make peoples lives that little bit better.

We always welcome new members. If you would like to find out more, or come along to one of our meetings, call Keith Giffen on 50394 (evenings) or Jeff Edwards on 51814 (daytime).

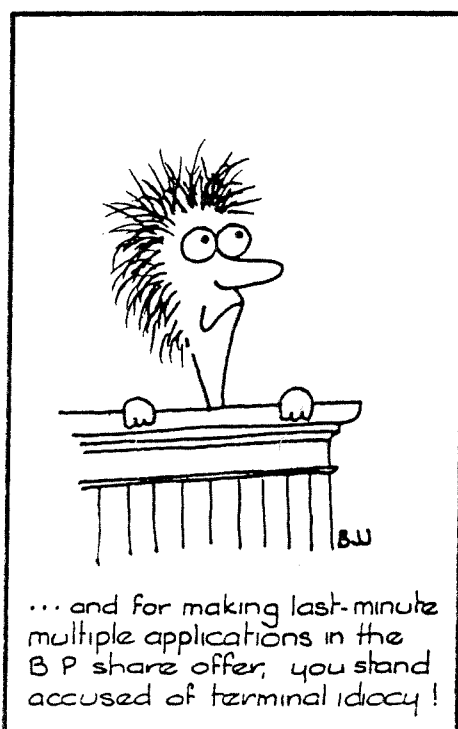
RUGBY. Resulting from the visit to Blain in August of a party from Towcester, a team from the Towcestrians Rugby Club will be returning to Blain for a match with nearby Pontchateau on 19th December. They plan to leave Towcester on Friday 18th December with a party of 20 to 25 people, including the team, and return on Sunday 20th December. Anyone who fancies combining supporting the lads with a bit of Xmas shopping 'a la France' can be guaranteed a memorable weekend. Full details of the trip for those interested can be had by phoning Clive Folwell on Towcester 51163.

TOWCESTER THEATRE GROUP: As 1987 draws to a close, the Theatre Group can, I think, look back on its first two years with a certain degree of satisfaction. Towcester's first, and indeed only, amateur dramatics group was originally formed from the nucleus of the actors who took part in the *Son-et-Lumiere*, specially written and produced to celebrate the Quincentenary of St Lawrence Church.

It could be argued that only five productions in two years is not much of a track record, however, as anyone who has ever been involved in starting a new drama group will tell you, it is not just a matter of attracting the right talent, although that is extremely important, it is much more so a matter of money - Where to get it, how to spend it wisely and what to do when we run out!! When one takes into account the production costs, scenery, costume, hiring of rehearsal premises etc. (hiring the Town Hall alone accounts for 60% of our annual budget), with no financial help from any quarter, it is amazing that we ever got off the ground. However, we did and the good news is that our recent production 'Absent Friends' by Alan Ayckbourn was a howling success (Did you see it?). We also plan to stage 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' by Charles Dickens after Christmas - JANUARY 21, 22 and 23 - followed by an evening of two one act plays in March.

One last word. For those who do not know Mr Dickens' Christmas story, it has a cast of thousands (well, almost forty) which leaves us a bit thin on the ground, so, if you are even vaguely interested in joining us in any capacity - Production, Set Design, Costume, Make-up, even acting? - do contact me on Towcester 53059 or Paul Logan on 53141. You will be made very welcome indeed.

Robert Platts, President, TTG



SATURDAY SHOPPERS! Look out for children from the Towcester Music School who are planning to perform Christmas music in the Spone House shopping precinct on Saturday morning, 5th December. A collection will be taken for the Sir Malcolm Seargent Fund for Children.

DRIVERS Do you have an hour or so to spare between 9.30 - 11.00 am and/or 2.30 - 4.30 pm on Mondays and/or Thursdays? If so, the **DISABLED ACTION CENTRE, ABTHORPE** desperately needs your help to transport members from their homes to the Centre and back again. Travelling expenses are paid at the rate of 20p per mile. If you can help, please telephone Gillian Harris on Towcester 52351 for further details.

We also need someone to drive our ambulance one or two days per week approximately 7 hours per day - Again, telephone Towcester 52351 for details.

ANYONE LIKE BABIES? The Health Visitors at Towcester Health Centre are responsible for opening the Well Baby Clinics held on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. There is an excellent group of voluntary helpers who assist greatly by weighing the babies. More names are needed either to help regularly once a month or to be available as a 'relief'. This pleasant task is not onerous; you would need to be available 1.45 pm to 3.45 pm, including school holidays. If you would like to know more or feel you could help please telephone the Health Centre (Towcester 50182) and ask to speak to any Health Visitor.

TOWN CRIER DISTRIBUTION. We would like more help with the distribution of the Town Crier. We need Distributors for the roads listed below, so if you live in or near any of these and are prepared to deliver the Crier (five issues a year), we would like to hear from you.

Kensington Close
Gilbert Scott Court
Heathencote Cottages, London Road

We are also short of Reserves to take over from Distributors when they are on holiday or ill. Please ring or write to Dianne Isaacs, our Town Clerk or any of the editors.

FOR YOUR DIARY: The next Towcester Town Council meetings will be on the 9th November, 14th December and 11th January. Public question time will be from 7.30 to 7.45 pm.

Events at the Town Hall:

7 November	Lions Club - Jumble sale 9.00 to 1.00
14 November	Guide Dogs for the Blind - Jumble sale 9.00 to 3.00

Enquiries - please contact Mrs Dianne Isaacs, Town Clerk, Town Council Office, Towcester telephone 50995.

The final date for contributions to the February 1988 issue of the Towcester Crier will be 18th January. The Editorial committee welcome all contributions and/or comments. The members are:
 Mr Peter Allen, tel: 51477 Mr Brian Jolly, tel: 51661
 Mrs Joyce Herbert, tel: 51315 Mr Tom Minns, tel: 50861

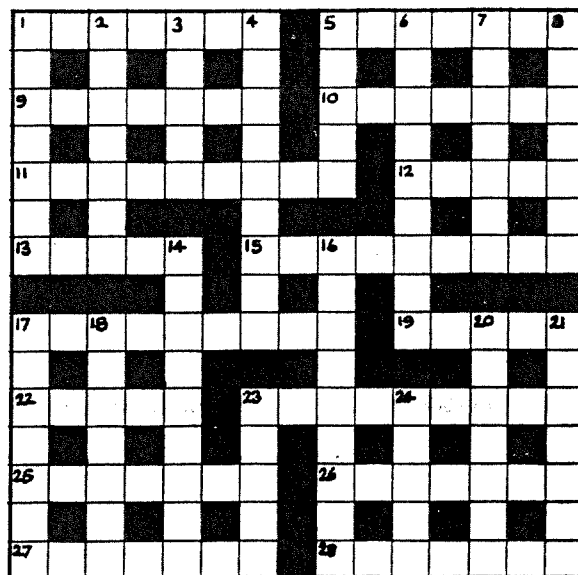
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 One time sheriff here abouts (5,2,9)
- 5 Sly rope in 16 down (7)
- 9 Water of life (7)
- 10 Red dye (7)
- 11 (see 1 across)
- 12 North in Greenland, the file (5)
- 13 Radio detection and ranging (5)
- 15 Examine a cheat for her intentions? (9)
- 17 Said of the last people to see Charles I alive? (9)
- 19 Heath (5)
- 22 About a drop (5)
- 23 A tele song drawn out (9)
- 25 Disgusting (7)
- 26 Without a bottom - very bad (7)
- 27 Determined by the number of its protons (7)
- 28 Estate occupied by its owner (7)

DOWN

- 1 Terrapin type (7)
- 2 Probably stuffed first (7)
- 3 Unstable stars that could be super (5)
- 4 Once given responsibility for (9)
- 5 Somewhere to pin your buttonhole (5)
- 6 Get into jumping about at speed free of deductions(9)
- 7 Single storey (3,4)
- 8 Castrated bull calf (5,2)
- 14 Make up again (9)
- 16 Our leper colony (2,7)
- 17 Africans in Italian city affair (7)
- 18 A non-Mormon (7)
- 20 Where the stately Spanish galleon came from (7)
- 21 Mixed up love after a British Standard set free of guilt (7)
- 23 Is European burocracy mixed up with London transport(5)
- 24 Jewish name for a number of 18 down (5)



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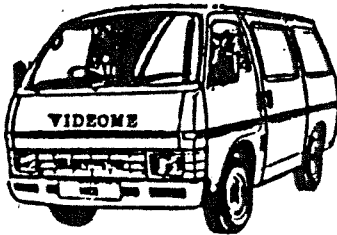
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