

Towcester Town Crier

No.19 April 1987 Town Hall, Towcester.

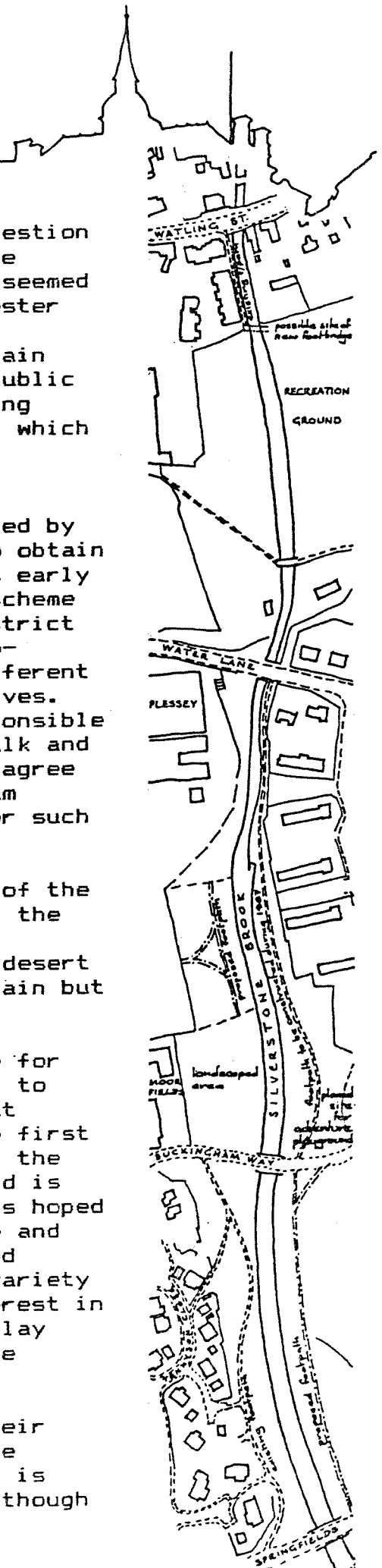
LINEAR WALK, TOWCESTER. Ten years ago the suggestion that the flood plain area, bounding Silverstone Brook, would become an attractive linear walk seemed very much to be an impossible dream. The Towcester District Plan issued in 1981 recommended that development land which lay within the flood plain should be reserved and utilised for a linear public open space and footpath, linking the new housing areas with the town centre and the bridle path which runs from the Wood Burcote Road to the A43.

As the total area involved was not under one ownership and was possibly going to be developed by various private developers it was important to obtain the maximum co-operation from all concerned as early as possible to produce a uniform, compatible scheme for such a large area. The South Northants District Council, being the planning authority, have co-ordinated the many discussions between the different developers, Towcester Town Council and themselves. Towcester Town Council will eventually be responsible for the maintenance of the completed linear walk and have been very aware that it was necessary to agree the best possible scheme, requiring the minimum maintenance, as their own funds are limited for such an extensive landscaping project.

Several years passed without any obvious sign of the dream becoming reality until the completion of the Almshouses site on Buckingham Way when their landscaping materialised like an oasis in the desert - a stark contrast to the rest of the flood plain but nevertheless an encouraging sign.

Colroys (Silston Park Estate) were responsible for developing the largest area and readily agreed to suggestions, for landscaping and footpaths, put forward by the District and Town Councils. The first section of footpath was completed last year on the site opposite the Nicholas Hawksmoor School and is already regularly used by many residents. It is hoped that it will require little future maintenance and will blend with the formal and informal grassed areas. It was agreed by all concerned that a variety of grassed areas would create most visual interest in such a large area. A small raised children's play area has been incorporated in the scheme on the northern side and will be completed this year.

David Wilson Homes are presently developing their site next to the almshouses and discussions are taking place to finalise their scheme which it is hoped will include another small play area, although



the whole linear walk, on both sides of the Brook, is intended for use by all ages.

The opposite side of the Brook, behind Sandyhome Road, is the responsibility of the District Council who have included a sum in their 1987/88 budget to finance the provision of a footpath and some landscaping. The footpath will continue across the adjoining area, opposite Moorfields, where the well trodden mud path at present exists. With this in mind the Town Council has for the past three years been accumulating funds to provide a small adventure playground on this area.

There are no detailed plans drawn up for the flood plain behind the Nicholas Hawksmoor School but it is hoped that these will be discussed in the not too distant future. Also the possibility of providing a footbridge link over the Brook between Richmond Court and the new Resources Centre is being discussed.

After years of speculation, talking and planning it is reassuring to think that within a relatively short time there could be an uninterrupted pedestrian link from Watling Street, through the Resources Centre, across the Recreation Ground and Bickerstaffe Road to the new estates and eventually to join the bridle path.

It is hoped that this scheme when completed will in part compensate for Towcester's lack of a public park. The Town Council do have an ongoing policy to improve recreational areas with their limited budget and welcome any co-operation and contributions by the developer which help to achieve their eventual aims for the benefit of the community.

Cllr. Jacqueline Hart, Deputy Town Mayor.

SAWPITTS GREEN. Many of you will have noticed the new 'Ascot' post & rail fencing around Sawpitts Green and our thanks are due to members of the Rotaract Club of Towcester who installed it. The hard work they put in over two weekends despite being interrupted by this year's short but severe winter, will enable the Town Council's limited budget for such refurbishments to be stretched further than it otherwise would and we are very grateful for their help.

Sawpitts Green is Towcester's last remaining vestige of village green, the name originating from the Middle Ages when timber from the Whittlewood Forest was sawn there, the bark from these operations being stored in barns on what is now the Gateway site for use as tanning, for the local shoe industry.

Since this activity ceased, probably late last century, the green had become rather a backwater but, with the moving of the Library to Richmond Road, it would be nice to think that it could, as one of our few public open spaces, become once again a focus point for the town centre.

Anyone between the ages of 18 and 28 who is interested in the activities or membership of the Rotaract Club can obtain more information by contacting Jane Stott on Towcester 52747.

Cllr. Peter Allen.

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS. The list of local candidates are as follows:

South Northants District Council (Towcester parish - 3 seats):

Ashurst, Keith (Lib)
Davis, Peter Logan (Lab)
Dunkley, Stanley Paul (Con)
Herbert, Joyce Rose (Ind)
Leay, David William (Lab)
Minns, Thomas Mons John (Lab)
Platts, Robert Victor Graham (Lib)
Riches, John Darrell Charles (SDP)
Smith, Geoffrey Vernon (Con)

Towcester Town Council (15 seats):

Allen, F R	Hill, F A	Taylor, A H
Borrell, F C	Jolly, B J	Taylor, C
Dunkley, S F	Lynch, J T	Watson, S W
Hart, J D	Minns, T M J	Wesley, D J
Herbert, J R	Smith, G V	

The District Council election will be held on 7 May. Since there are only 14 Town Council candidates for the 15 seats, there will be no Town Council election.



TOWCESTER YOUNG WIVES: This group is open to all youngish ladies in the town and has no particular affiliations with any other group or church. The programme for this year is as follows:

April 8	Waddesdon House Visit
May 6	Historical Walk
June 10	Barbeque
July 1	Visit to Coton Manor Grounds
July 12	Rockingham Castle Family Day Out
August 12	Visit to Oxford Farm Museum
September	Weekend on the Canal
October	Backstage at the Derngate
November 28	Coombe Abbey Banquet
December	yet to be arranged

Should you wish to attend one of the above functions or are interested in joining Young Wives, please contact: Helma Boot (Towcester 52381) or Lynne Linney (Towcester 52914).

TOWCESTER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: The AGM was held in March and John Sunderland, Liz Powell and Margaret Webb were duly elected

Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

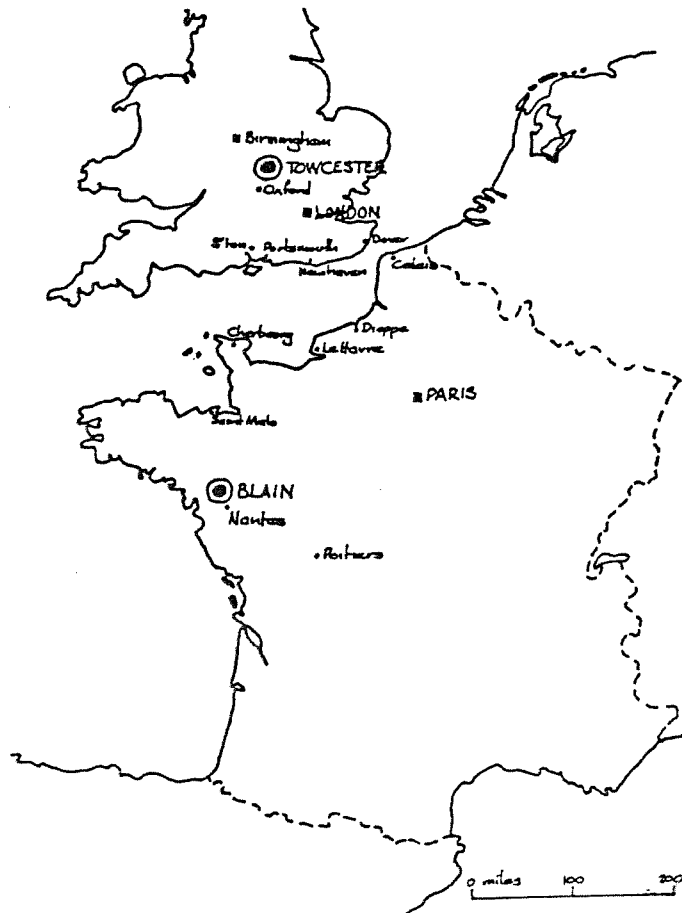
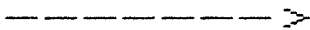
Some Towcestrians may not be aware of the existence of this group of people who are keen to understand and learn more about the town's past, whilst keeping records of today's news which will become part of the history of tomorrow.

At present, meetings take place in the Scout Hall in Baden Powell Crescent on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.45 pm. There are usually very attractive posters around the town advertising the event but for further details please phone Towcester 52711.

TWINNING. At the Annual Meeting of the Town it was agreed that we should go ahead with an informal twinning with BLAIN. The first contacts have been made and we are expecting requests for contacts at Club level from BLAIN soon. These will be passed on to Towcester Clubs who might like to start links with our French friends. The schoolchildren in Blain are keen to have penfriends. If you would like to exchange letters and postcards with a French boy or girl, complete the form and hand it in to the Town Hall.

Now is perhaps the time to start an Official Twinning Association. If you would like more details on this, or about twinning generally, contact Alex Taylor on Towcester 50510.

Where is BLAIN?



TOWCESTRIANS CRICKET CLUB (1934 -) Yes, it's true, there is a cricket club in Towcester and has been for the past fifty three years.

The club began as an 'old boys' club and qualification to play, as written in the rules, was to be an 'old boy', with the exception of two places which were reserved for guests.

Immediately after the war years the club was opened to outsiders, with regular Saturday and midweek evening games being played on the then Towcester Grammar School field. It was not until many years later, 1960 in fact, that the club embarked on Sunday fixtures. Initially only a handful of Sunday games were played and they were all away as the County Education Committee did not allow the use of school facilities on the sabbath.

The early sixties saw an influx of players which resulted in the formation of a Saturday Second XI.

The next major event for the club came in 1968 when amalgamation with the Towcester Rugby Club was realised and three years later (1971) the cricket club moved its base to the current location at the Greens Norton ground. This move further promoted player interest and, as a result, a full Sunday fixture list was possible. Since then the club has fielded three regular senior teams - 1st and 2nds playing on Saturdays and a Sunday XI, all of which enjoyed a high level of 'friendly' competition.

With the increasing trend for clubs to join leagues, the members decided in 1984 that in the interest of fixture preservation it was prevelant that a team should be entered in the Northants County League. A successful application resulted in the first league match being played at Greens Norton Road in May 1985. That season was particularly rewarding with the league team winning the fourth division title and progressing to division three.

As a result of this success and the coincident formation of the Northants Alliance League, the 2nd team was also committed to league cricket for season 1986. A reasonably successful season saw both teams consolidate their positions by finishing mid-table in their respective leagues.

The club is also very committed to the coaching of youngsters and is very proud of its three junior teams. It was with these teams in mind that the installation of an all weather wicket was pursued. With the invaluable help of local council and Sports Council grants we can now boast the availability of such a facility and look forward to the benefits it offers through the coming seasons.

Any budding 'Bothams', senior or junior, interested in joining a successful progressive club can get more details by contacting one of the following: Terry Richards (Towcester 52426); Ray Griffin (Towcester 52178); Tony Glover - juniors (Towcester 51651); Kevin Hawkins (Towcester 52116).

ALL VISITORS WELCOME. The ground is located off the A5, along the Greens Norton Road, in a quiet attractive position and is the perfect place to spend a summer afternoon eating your picnic and observing a relaxing game of cricket.

WHEEL CLAMPING TO COME TO TOWCESTER. In order to ease congestion in the town caused by inconsiderate parking, particularly parking on the pavement, the Town Council at their 1st April meeting unanimously voted to introduce the Wheel Clamp for a six months trial period. Initially, three clamps will be hired from the manufacturers, Stopp-Fits & Whaile Ltd. of Brackley, who are world leaders in the supply of car immobilisation equipment.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH CHURCH: Work continues apace in the Church Close and we are beginning to realize that 1987 will actually see the completion of our major renovation programme. It is an exciting time.

Leaflets with details of the main Easter Services should be delivered to every house in Towcester shortly. (Notices are regularly displayed in the Post Office lobby and outside the West Door of the church too.) We hope to follow a donkey along Watling Street on Palm Sunday and once again all the Family of Churches will be supporting a Procession of Witness on Good Friday. Life is certainly not dull!

Looking ahead, we would like to hold an Art & Craft Exhibition in the Chantry House in September. By charging a moderate viewing fee, serving refreshments and hoping that the artists might care to donate a small percentage of any resulting sales to the Chantry Appeal, we could hopefully promote local talent and benefit the restoration fund at the same time. If you would be interested in taking part in any way, or know someone who might be, please contact either Connie Moody (Towcester 52025) or the parish office (Towcester 50536).

At the end of April we shall be saying goodbye to the Assistant Curate, Steven Smith, as he takes up a new appointment in Northampton. In order to try and get straightened out after the building programme we are having a 'year off' and hope to welcome somebody new this time next year.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SENIOR CITIZENS' TRAVEL CARDS: UNITED COUNTIES are introducing their own senior citizens' half-price travel cards which can be bought for cash or tokens at any United Counties Travel Shop. Take your pension book or other proof of age and a passport size photograph when you apply. With a card you can make as many trips as you like at half the normal adult rate for any journey commencing after 9.00 am starting and/or finishing in Northamptonshire on any United Counties local bus or Coachlinks service. Half-price travel cards cost £3.50 for four weeks, £9 for three months, £15 for six months and £30 for twelve months. For full details, phone Northampton 35661.

EXHIBITION - SOUND INFORMATION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING. The South Northants Council for the Disabled are sponsoring this exhibition concerning the hearing impaired in the Upper School Hall at Sponne School. The opening ceremony will take place at 11 am on Thursday May 28th. The exhibition will be open until 8 pm on that day and from 9 am to 3.30 pm on Friday 29th May. Refreshments will be available.

Many exhibitors and sources of information concerning hearing loss will be present and should be of interest to all ages. However older people (who might find it hard to accept that their hearing is not as good as it was) may find a visit particularly helpful.

1ST TOWCESTER SCOUT GROUP: 'Nothing to do in Towcester' - How many times have you said or heard this?

Towcester Scout Group provides scouting for boys between the ages of 8 and 16, but in order to cater for an expanding Scout Troop we need more adult help. No qualifications or previous experience

are necessary - just 2 or 3 spare hours a week, a willingness to work with youngsters and a sense of humour.

Meetings: Scouts (11-16 years of age)
 Monday 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm
 Cub Scouts (8-11 years of age)
 Tuesday 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm or
 Thursday 6.30 pm - 8.00 pm

Venue: Scout HQ, Baden Powell Crescent, Towcester

Want to find out more? Contact Richard Bell (Towcester 51079) or come to our AGM - 20 May at 7.30 pm, Towcester Scout HQ.

**ADULT
 EDUCATION
 COURSES**



Summer Term 1987

A programme of well over 100 courses is being offered at various centres in and around Towcester.

Most of the courses will start in the week of Monday 27th April.

Full details will be found in the brochures which are now available in Towcester Library, Towcester Post Office, various shops and the Adult Education Office at Sponne School (Towcester 51777).

Courses for the Autumn Term 1987. The major programme of over 250 courses for the Autumn Term will be advertised in a free newspaper which should be delivered to every house in the area during August. If you do not receive a copy or you want any further information about adult education in the area then please contact the Adult Education Office (Towcester 51777).

CROSSWORD

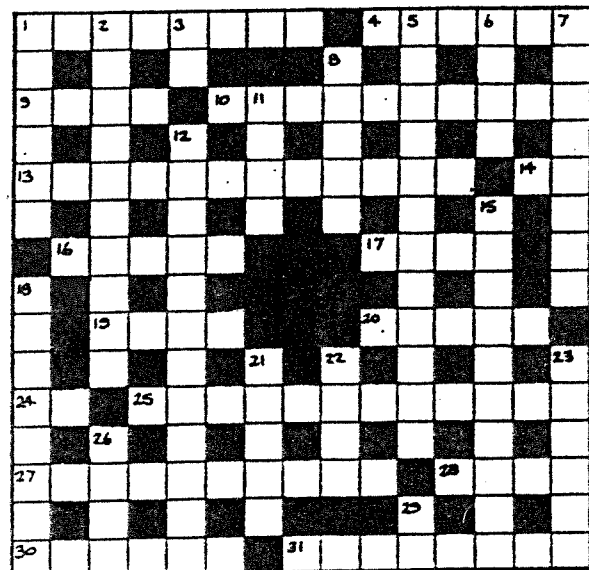
by Peter Davis

ACROSS

- 1 A motley mixture this
- 4 Narcotic
- 9 I fled from Khomeini's patch
- 10 Was this state San Andreas's fault?
- 13 Undiluted
- 14 After the SS perhaps (1,1)
- 16 Sometimes brown but room to learn
- 17 He had a murderous brother
- 19 Windy instrument
- 20 Old and new about Salisbury
- 24 Sailor no doubt (1,1)
- 25 Greek Ecclesiastic
- 27 Not circus artistes - figures!
- 28 Food for heads one supposes
- 30 Heard at sporting occasions
- 31 Could it be annual curiosity?

DOWN

- 1 Pop star or Philip
- 2 Animal country in decay
- 3 If yours is zero give up trying to solve this crossword (1,1)
- 5 Characteristically
- 6 Cockney skin condition - maybe suburb
- 7 Very demanding
- 8 He had a rewarding touch
- 11 Most probably bills or deeds
- 12 Gives undivided attention (5,4,3)
- 15 Decorate
- 18 An Italian twitch? No - idealistic
- 21 Does he lead the monks?
- 22 Mr Murphy presumably
- 23 Camping with a purpose
- 26 Plucky pheasant
- 29 Male ambassador



PUZZLE

Its being built now. If you add its letters to the following, you can then make three proverbs. What is it?

HI, WHEN IN THIS BAND HIT OUT HARD (+7).
THINE INSANE VICTIM (+5).
RAIN TOOTHOSOME HOOKBOLTS (+3).

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN. In 1986 the Towcester Branch of CRC raised over £1000 for valuable cancer research and we hope to better that this year with your help.

We will be holding a CHEESE AND WINE EVENING on Tuesday 5th May from 7.30 pm at Kipling Drive, Towcester. Tickets costing £2.00 will be available from Betty Wadsworth (Towcester 52122), Janet Taylor (Towcester 50510) and Marie Pease (Towcester 51029) from 7th April.

If you would like to know more about CRC or our branch, please speak to Betty on Towcester 52122.

TOWCESTER COMBINED DIVISION ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE. Any ideas about what we do each week? Would you like to know? If you are really keen on learning First Aid then come and join us for a course which starts on Thursday 23rd April. The cost is only £15 for the 9 week course, exam fee and Handbook.

If you want to know more then contact me, Janet Taylor (Divisional Secretary) on Towcester 50510.

ALLOTMENTS There are a number of vacant allotments available. If you are interested, please contact Dianne Isaacs at the Town Council Office in the Town Hall or telephone 50995.

FOR YOUR DIARY: The next Towcester Town Council meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Council on 11th May. Public question time will be from 7.30 to 7.45 pm.

The SNDC election will be held on the 7th May.

Events at the Town Hall:

23/24/25 April	Play - 'Laughter in the Dark' Towcester Theatre Group 8pm
9 May	Bazaar - 10.00 to 12.00 Towcester and District Girl Guides

The final date for contributions to the June issue will be 23rd May. The Editorial committee for the Crier welcome any contributions and/or comments. The members are:
Mr Peter Allen, tel: 51477
Mrs Joyce Herbert, tel: 51315
Mr Brian Jolly, tel: 51661

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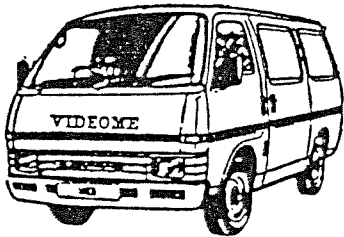
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