

# LUKE & LEARN

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## CHINNOR & DISTRICT HISTORY DAY

Would you like to discover more about the history of Chinnor and the surrounding area, or your family history?

You are welcome to attend

**The Chinnor History Open Day on Thursday 3 November.  
The event is taking place at Chinnor Library from 2-7pm**

Experts from the County Council's Museum Service, the Oxfordshire Record Office, Oxfordshire Studies and the Library Service will be on hand to offer advice. Local people with enthusiasm for the history of the Chinnor area will also be available to share their knowledge.

The idea is that people who are interested in finding out about the history of their house, village or locality, or the history of their family can come along and have their questions answered. People can also bring along old documents or objects and get advice on how best to look after them.

Among the items that visitors will be able to look at are

- Old photographs of the area
- Maps and surveys of property holders of Aston Rowant and Kingston in 1835 and Chinnor in 1910,
- Baptism and marriage registers,
- School records from the Victorian period.

For further information, please contact Oxfordshire Record Office on 01865 398200 or Chinnor Library on 01844 351721. (or see inside)

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## Chinnor Schools

A nonconformist (British) school was first established next to the Congregational Chapel in 1841. It closed in 1893 apparently from inadequate accommodation especially for the infant classes and declining numbers. The pupils and buildings were transferred to the National (Anglican) School, which was built in 1857-61 with endowments from Magdalen College amongst others. It was designed by the famous Victorian architect and church restorer, George Edmund Street and opened in 1861. The old British school buildings were later used for cookery classes. The National School later became a voluntary school under the control of the County Council's Education Department

### **Deed of Declaration of Trust, 1857 (Ta V/iv/3)**

The declaration was made by the Church Wardens, William Hatton & Henry Douglas, and Parish Overseers, William Allnut & Joseph Brazill, and comes from a large collection of records of the Chinnor Estate which was purchased by Thomas Taylor in 1876. The deed records that the Chinnor Inclosure Award of 2 Sep 1854 allotted land ("containing 3 roods & 8 perches numbered 93 in the map") to be held in trust by the church wardens and overseers for a school to educate the poorer children of the parish in the principles of the Established Church. A parish vestry meeting, held on 11 Jun 1857, decided that the school should be built. The deed established a Committee of Management and laid down rules for its composition, including the parish minister and churchwardens and other members contributing at least 20 shillings per annum to its costs

### **Chinnor National School plans, 1858 (S/063/2/Y/1)**

This is a set of 5 sealed & coloured plans and elevations of the new school buildings. Each plan is signed and dated by G E Street, Architect of Montague Place, London.

The plans and elevations show the boys' and girls' parts of the school and the seating arrangements in the main school-room. They also show the internal and external features and decorations of the building in a characteristic traditional or neo-Gothic style. The plans refer to an accompanying contract which was signed on 17 May 1859 and witnessed by the Minister, Francis Buttanshaw. The plans can be compared with the later plans and photographs in the Macclesfield House Collection.

### **Macclesfield House records: Chinnor School (No 49)**

This is a set of cards produced by the Education Department of Oxfordshire County Council and used (approximately) between 1903 and 1932. The Education Department was created in 1903 when responsibility for the county's elementary (primary) schools was transferred to the County Council under the 1902 Education Act.

The cards include plans, photographs and information about the school and its buildings. The following details from a medical inspector's report of 27 Nov 1908 are very revealing:

"The surroundings of the School are good – gardens & Road. Ventilation, Warming & equipment good – Lighting – good. Semiopaque frosted glass. Better clear glass for sunlight. The Bucket Earth closets in good condition. The Urinals, tile & cemented floor not good. No lavatories. Water for washing & drinking supplies from School house – Children – poor & anaemic - abnormal amounts of heart disease amongst children. Parents the same. Ought to be enquired into."

The situation hadn't changed much ten years later as the School Health Visitor reported on 1 Oct 1917.

The plans and photographs can be compared with Street's original architectural plans of 1858 (see above) to identify changes in the buildings. In particular, the photos (taken between 1905-1911) are extremely clear and provide a vivid record.

### **Chinnor British School logbook, 1867-1893 (S/063/1/A/1)**

Unlike the other documents, which relate mainly to the National or Anglican School, this logbook records daily events at the British (Nonconformist) School from its first inspection in June 1867 until its closure in 1893. As with all logbooks of this period there are frequent references to absences caused by inclement weather and domestic or farming requirements. The annual inspector's reports are written up verbatim or summarized. An interesting feature is the different writing styles of successive head teachers, perhaps the most interesting being that of John Horswill, head teacher from Christmas 1875 until June 1879. His writing is flamboyant and provides detailed notes on his lessons and the responses of the children. Clearly, a rigorous and determined teacher, he frequently bemoans the inadequacies of both the material resources and children

### GILES MORRIS

Giles was an Archivist at Oxfordshire Record Office for many years. He was tragically killed in a car crash on 30th July 2005

He'd come strolling into my office wearing a flapping waistcoat, a mop of black, curly hair, and a quizzical expression. "Could I have a word, guv?" I shall miss being called guv, but no one else could do it and make it sound so inevitable.

The word was always pertinent; it must have been those years in a solicitor's office which meant everything he said was carefully thought through. I hated it when he disagreed with some point of policy or proposal, because he'd always thought his arguments out in detail, and "Because I say so" wasn't going to cut much ice.



He probably changed the direction of the Office more often than he knew, simply by showing a side to the issue which hadn't been considered.

It was all of a piece with his love of tradition and the environment around him. He pushed the Office into composting organic waste (does *any* other record office do that?), stood up for real ale against fizzy keg, and wasn't only called Morris – he could dance it, which believe me requires muscles most of us haven't got. And never happier than on his allotment.... well, no actually. He was happier when he was with his family.

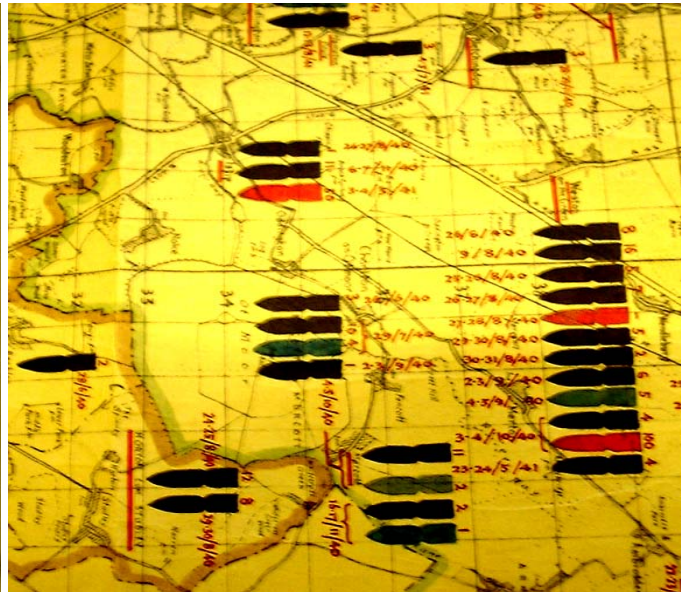
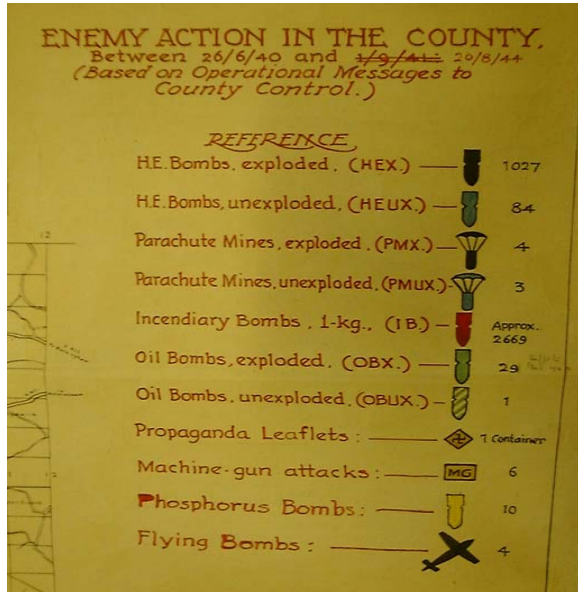
"Are you sure about this?" I asked him, when his wife Maria was up for the post of Archive Assistant in the Record Office. "Won't it make things... difficult?" He had no idea was I was on about. I'd thought work together, home together, they'll drive one another mad. Somehow it didn't seem to happen that way. They just belonged together. No irritating lovey-dovey behaviour, nothing which affected their work in any way, just the feeling of two people simply happy to be in one another's company. I was beginning to think we'd have to sign up their kids, Alfie and Ned; we were obviously on to a winner here.

Because they were really good at their jobs. Giles had taken over responsibility for Data Protection, and was part way through planning a major exhibition. He'd never wanted to get tied up in administration and management, but aspects of it were flowing his way. Pretty well the last time I saw him, he dumped a pile of notes from a conference on Lottery funding he'd been to on my desk; we were going to talk them through the next week. I haven't had the heart to look at them yet.

In a way, it's his sense of humour which makes it so hard to believe he's gone. It's got to be one of his jokes; any minute now he's going to walk in with the punchline. He was only 36 – what else might he have achieved? Not County Archivist, not Chief Executive; that wasn't his style – he'd have run a mile. An even better archivist? Probably, but that's not all that important. What Giles was really good at was the thing many of us find seriously hard work: being a worthwhile human being.

The one with the most toys when he dies, still dies. Giles wasn't interested in the toys which seem to obsess so many people. What he had when he died was far more valuable.

**DOCUMENT OF THE QUARTER**



**Ref: CH.CXXVIII/1**

Map recording enemy action during the Second World War in Oxfordshire.

Ordnance Survey map, on which is recorded enemy action between 26/6/1940 and 20/8/1944, based on operational messages to County Council. Records High Explosive bombs, parachute mines, incendiary bombs, flying bombs, oil bombs, phosphorus bombs, propaganda leaflets and machine gun attacks. Also records dates and numbers of these incidents. Plotted on a 1 inch Ordnance Survey map.

**Publication of the Quarter**

‘Cowley Road’ – A History by Annie Skinner

Cowley Road today is known for its restaurants, music and nightlife. A cultural melting-pot of churches and mosques, food and retail with a multi-ethnic community. Have you ever wondered how it developed into the place it is now? How it survived the political ferment? Do you know the Zodiac?

Find out the untold history, for just £5.99

**ORO Top Ten July—September 2005**

Family History	509
Local History	103
Parish Records	34
Transcription	28
Rights of Way	28
Wills	25
Enclosure	13
House History	11
Church History	10
Oxford Castle	9

**DID YOU KNOW**

Which shop has the parish boundary of St Michael, St Aldates’s and St Ebbe’s Churches in the ladies department on the ground floor? A stone marking the site, was moved from its original position in 1976, to a glass niche in the wall of the shop, and a cross now marks the actual position where the three parishes meet. The stone bears the inscription ‘ HUNC LAPIDEM SACRUM, JOHANNIS EDWARDUS CAMMELL POSUIT, MCMLII’ - John Edward Cammell laid this sacred stone in 1952. (It is in Marks & Spencer in Queen St. Oxford.)

**FUTURE EXHIBITIONS AT ORO**

**The Thomas Photo Collection — April to June 2006**  
 POSSIBLE EXHIBITIONS STILL BEING PLANNED -  
 Black History Month  
 History of St Luke’s  
**Please note dates are subject to change please check before a visit**