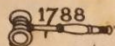


OXFORD TIMES  
Nov 16 1984

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# The Oxford

No. 6,533

Friday, November

## Village plea for bypass founders

Chinnor will not get a bypass until the 21st Century at the earliest despite a major bid by villagers to get a change of mind from Oxfordshire County Council.

And the woman who organised a 1,200-name petition for a relief road for the traffic-hit village said she was very disappointed.

"We have shown local people want a bypass because of the heavy traffic problems we have here, yet nothing will be done," said Mrs Margaret Threlfall, of Lower Road, Chinnor.

by Ian Townsend

The village has even been refused a traffic count.

Chinnor Parish Council heard from county surveyor Mr John Peveril Cooper that a village bypass idea was thrown out nearly ten years ago.

"Chinnor will not get a bypass this century", said Mr Peveril Cooper.

And he told councillors that their request for a traffic count would be passed to the planning department.

But the village will not get one if

the department follows present council policy, he said.

Mrs Threlfall handed in her petition to the parish council.

"It seems a futile effort in some ways because of the county council's attitude.

"But it was worthwhile because it shows that many people are worried about our traffic problems here", she said.

Parish council chairman Mr Pat Whelehan promised it would be sent to the county council, backed by council pleas for serious consideration for the village's traffic problems.

Mrs Doris Tucker said: "A bypass for Chinnor is a hopeless dream."

Councillors are now considering applying for weight and width restrictions on traffic through the village.

Problems have worsened since the opening of the M40 a decade ago because traffic uses village roads as feeder routes.

## Farmers given another chance

Farmers in South Oxfordshire are being given another chance to solve the yearly stubble and straw-burning problems which upset local people.

But while they are doing

He said the main problem was smuts from straw-burning.

Mr Joe Blewitt demanded a complete ban on burning.

He said farming was an industry and any other industry which consistently engulfed the countryside in thick black smoke would be prosecuted under the Public

The council's environmental and technical services committee agreed to wait another year to give farmers a chance to show what could be done.

But it is also urging the Association of District Councils to conduct a survey to discover other ways of getting rid of straw and

## Injured player row

Football officials in Abingdon and Wel



Joanne Withey (1) exhibits at the

## Art and craft display

A small idea to get staff and parents to display the art and craft work they create has snowballed into a full scale crafts exhibition at Lord Williams's School, Thame.

Parents and staff joined — and then so did people from local evening classes and children from primary schools.

And now everything is on display to the public at Lo



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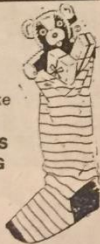


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# Car crashes into shop

By Sophia  
Weston

A MAN had to dive for cover when a car came smashing through the front window of a chemist's shop in Chinnor.

Colin Watts, pharmacist at Anthony Merritt's in Chinnor, was carrying heavy shopping out to a customer's car when the accident occurred at 5.30 pm on Tuesday.

A Vauxhall Cavalier, which had been parked outside, seemed to go out of control and crashed through the window.

Mr Watts said: "I was carrying out a box for an elderly customer when I heard the noise of a car. I saw a blue car shooting backwards, then suddenly it started coming straight towards me."

"I was going through the door at the time, and I had to leap out of the way."

But although Mr Watts was not injured, customer Mrs Doreen Crawley was hurt by flying glass.

She had been holding the door open for him to pass through, and fell to the ground covered in flying glass. Luckily her injuries were not serious.

"Both of us had a narrow escape," she said. "I was transfixed. You don't expect a car to come straight at you like that."

Mr Derek Smith, who works next door to the chemist's, described the scene.

"There was a scream of tyres and the car moved straight forward into the shop."

"There was a colossal amount of smoke from the tyres, and I could see that the front of the car was



● The crash scene pictured by Ivor Mumford

right inside the shop. "One lady was lying on the floor covered in blood, but they were superficial cuts."

"There is nothing left. It demolished the entire front of the shop. It was an incredible sight."

Mr Smith immediately rang the police and then helped to sweep up the glass from the road.

Mrs Denise Howe, who was working in the shop at the time, said: "We heard a screeching then a crash, and the car had come right through the door. I'm still shaking from it."

The accident happened in Church Lane opposite the Vicarage, and vicar's wife Mrs Jill Cartmill was able to bandage Mrs Crawley's cuts, the most serious being to her hands and knee.

The Rev. Ralph Cartmill then drove Mrs Crawley back to her home in Aston Rowant.

Although she declined hospital treatment at the time, Mrs Crawley had her swollen hand X-rayed at Wycombe General Hospital the next day, checking for a break or any slivers of glass.

Speaking of her narrow escape, she thanked all those who had come to her aid. "Everyone in the shop was absolutely marvellous and coped so well," she said.

Mr Watts, who narrowly escaped injury himself, said: "The angels were looking after me. It's a miracle that no-one else was hurt."

Emergency glaziers were immediately called from Princes Risborough, but having to replace the entire shop front took some time.

Edward Horsey from Risborough Glass explained the problem of having to fit a whole shop front. "We didn't finish until nearly 1 am. It was the biggest job we've had to do."

Owner of the shop Mr Anthony Merritt stayed at the scene until after midnight, checking that the new shop front was secure with burglar alarms fitted.

The cost of the damage is not yet known, but Mr Merritt estimated it would be more than £6,000 since stock inside the shop was also destroyed.

The driver of the Vauxhall Cavalier was Mr Henry Tyson who lives at Bledlow.

## Ex-councillor dies in Eire

A MAN who will be remembered for his many years of hard work as a member of Bullingdon Rural District Council, has died in Ireland.

Mr Peter Farrell represented Towersey for 18 years and Tetsworth for three on the council which was the predecessor of South Oxfordshire District Council.

As a mark of the respect in which he was held, Mr Farrell was invited during a visit last year to spend a day as a guest of SODC and was asked to sit in at a meet-



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# Chinnor Review

Issue No.9

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1984

Price 20p

## DOGS — Education not Prosecution

New Parish Councillor, Mr. Brian Fowler, has suggested that the 'dog problem' in Chinnor could be solved by education not prosecution.

The comment came after another letter from the Chinnor Playing Fields Management Committee seeking help to combat the ever increasing problem of dog owners allowing their pets to foul the playing areas on Chinnor Playing Fields.

A call was made for the clerk to investigate the possibility of the Parish Council introducing a byelaw to combat the problem.

Councillor Fowler felt, however, that a policy of education for the offenders was more desirable than prosecution.

As well as agreeing to the idea of looking into the possibility of such a byelaw, the council agreed that Mr. Fowler should prepare a draft leaflet for distribution round the village.

The matter is to be discussed further at the next meeting of the Environmental Committee when, it is hoped, the draft leaflet will be available.

At Monday's full council meeting it was reported that all the dog notices, which had been uprooted in the Playing Fields, had now been replaced and the posts securely concreted in.



shadow

## VILLAGERS FEAR COAL LORRY CONVOYS

# JUGGERNAUTS STORM RISES

STORM clouds are gathering over a possible scheme to route heavy coal 'juggernauts' through country roads around Princes Risborough and Chinnor.

The lorries, laden with 25 tonnes, would be bound for Chinnor's cement works and make up to 20 journeys a day to and from Bolsover Colliery, Notts.

The transport scheme is viewed as an option to refitting railway sidings at Chinnor's Rugby Cement works to cope with new British Rail coal wagons.

If the cement firm does not get an essential

by JONATHAN SALMON

Department of Environment grant for the siding work, coal delivery may be transferred to road.

That could mean 72,000 tonnes of coal a year travelling to Chinnor down the B4009 Icknield Way or through Princes Risborough.

Already, the possible increase in lorry traffic has been attacked as disastrous for roads, towns and villages along the proposed routes.

"I would be appalled at them moving through Risborough, even with the new relief road," said Mrs Doreen Gatensbury, vice-chairman of Princes Risborough Parish Council. "It seems pretty horrific. It really would be quite disastrous."

The lorry scheme will be looked at only if Rugby Cement fails in its request for an, as yet unspecified, grant.

Cement bosses have written to district and county councils and Wycombe District Council has agreed to support the grant plea.

Engineers and planning officials at Bucks County Council are now compiling a report on the possible effects of lorry traffic.

A county spokesman said it was too early to predict its contents, but councillors will see it in late September.

### Uphaval

However, news of the possible move has brought worried reaction throughout Risborough and Chinnor.

Chinnor Parish Council chairman Pat Whelan said: "It would have a hell of an upheaval on the environment."

"I would hope they get their grant. If it is bad for Risborough it would be catastrophic for Chinnor."

Rugby Cement is seeking its grant under Section 8 of the Railways Act 1974. If it fails, haulage contractors would probably move coal south and eventually from Stoke Mandeville to Little Kimble.

From there it would travel along the Icknield Way or through Princes Risborough to Station Road, Chinnor.

Councillors and other groups are already seeking more information in time for meetings after the summer lay-off.

### Policy

"This is certainly something we would not want," said Dr Robert Farmer, secretary of the Mid-Chilterns branch of the Council for Preservation of Rural England.

Rugby Cement company

### INSIDE TODAY

Blast firm  
baled out

Page 25

## DELAYS FEARED IN RAIL SHAKE-UP

TRAIN commuters are set to face more delays when British Rail drastically remodels its track at High Wycombe.

Under a scheme now being considered by London Midland Region, two of the four lanes through Wycombe will be ripped up to reduce overheads.

This will mean all trains will have to use just two tracks and concern has been raised that, should an engine breakdown, lines could be blocked for hours until another is hitched up.

### Reason

Already the fast lines through Gerrards Cross have gone and it means that when Wycombe's tracks go there will be a two-track-only service all the way from Risborough to Rugby.

The main reason for retaining four tracks, say critics of the proposal, is that it provides an opportunity to send fast trains through without being delayed by slow, stopping ones. Breakdowns can also be dealt with much more easily.

And with rolling stock on the doomed Marylebone line more than 20 years old, such breakdowns, especially in the autumn and winter, are not exceptional.

But London Midland's Wycombe line, due to be

taken over by Western Region in two years' time, argues that costs must be cut and by this remodeling scheme, £3,000 annually can be saved.

### Expensive

A BR spokesman said: "We have to balance the odd occasion, and it is an odd occasion, when a diesel unit will break down, against the cost of maintaining expensive tracks and especially points and crossings."

He added that the Marylebone to Bicester line was well under-used in any case with just one train an hour, on average.

Commuter spokesman Michael Seddon was critical of the proposal, especially as London Midland Region was on the way out and therefore could make the cuts without having to worry about the after-effect since it would no longer be in existence.

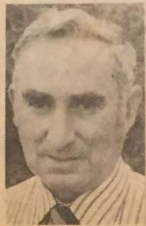
OPPOSITION to the closure of the line is being financially supported by the Wycombe District Council. Members agreed this week to contribute up to £1,200 towards legal costs.

Relson supports protest against station closure: Page 25

## Death-road light



Mrs Doreen Gatensbury: "horrific".



Mr Pat Whelan: "catastrophic".

secretary David Lindop did not want to comment fully until the company's technical manager returned from holiday.

He said the Chinnor rail refit was part of group policy and one of Rugby Cement's six works, Barrington, Cambs, already had new sidings.

He would not speculate on what might happen if the grant application failed, but denied long-term hopes for rail delivery had been spurred by the nationwide miners' dispute.

## Council drops home repairs bombshell

LOCAL authorities in South Bucks stand to lose out in a big way over money spent on repairs to council houses.

Under new Government regulations they will be unable to recoup the cash when a tenant decides to buy.

For Wycombe District Council, with a budget approaching £1.5 million for repairs and maintenance, this could mean a drastic cut back in the number of improvement schemes undertaken.

At present the authority refurbishes up to 100 houses a year and according to housing chairman Peter Cartwright spends an average of £17,000 per house.

Under the new scheme — due to come into operation next week — money spent on repairs can no longer be counted in estimating the minimum selling price.

"It doesn't seem to be a very well thought out scheme," said Mr Cartwright.

He added that perhaps money spent on repair work could in future be better used on providing more new houses for tenants.

The situation is similar for the other district councils in South Bucks. Alan Tate, chairman of Chiltern District Council's housing committee, said that the new regulations could have "very wide implications" which would have to be discussed at a meeting in the near future. Chiltern council has a similar budget to Wycombe.

However, a spokesman for South Bucks claimed that the regulations would not make a great deal of difference for as things stood at present the authority never recouped the investment it had made on repair work.

Wycombe District Council dealt with nearly 27,500 jobs in 1983, some 10,500 of which were repairs.

Other provisions included in the Government legislation include a tenants' charter allowing the right to exchange homes, increasing the maximum discount on selling price to 60 per cent for tenants with tenancies of at least 30 years, cutting the qualifying period for discounts to two years' tenancy and a right to part-buy and part-rent where the landlord does not own the freehold.

### AUSTIN ROVER



The right deal!



PC Gordon, from Chinnor, has been battling to get back to full fitness, and this latest operation has been a cruel set-back. But a Metropolitan police chief gave an

in the dog section in some capacity."

PC Gordon has been returning home from the Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, at weekends to spend some

December 10 across his police her. Sadly, his Queenie had

# 3-YEAR WAIT TO IMPROVE KILLER ROAD

**GOVERNMENT cut-backs could mean that Chinnor folk will have to wait another three years before anything is done about a notorious accident blackspot.**

Villagers are starting to accept accidents at the junction of Station Road and Oakley Road as a way of life

But council chiefs have said nothing can be done until 1986/87.

"We just cannot finance any new schemes until that time," said Mr Brian Johnson, assistant county engineer and surveyor for Oxfordshire County Council.

"We are now proceeding with negotiations for a small roundabout scheme."

The Crown Inn stands on the dangerous corner, and landlady Margaret Broughton said: "There's always accidents happening and more than one person has been killed."

"We're very worried about it ... it's a real danger."

By KATE WATKINS

Margaret has spent hours at the scene of many accidents, supplying blankets and trying to comfort the injured until ambulances arrived.

The pub has been hit, causing structural damage, and four years ago her son's car was written off after a motorist hit it on the rebound from the corner.



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FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1984

No. 7823

## Plans for flower festival

OVER 50 Thame organisations are already getting their ideas together to dream up displays for a flower festival planned for St. Mary's Church, Thame, in early September.

The festival will be held on Saturday, September 8 from 10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. and on Sunday, September 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The festival has switched to September this year from its usual spot in June to coincide with the newly designated St. Mary's Tide, now recognised by the church.

Old parish registers will be on display throughout the flower festival which will be rounded off at 6.30 p.m. on the Sunday with Choral Evensong, sung by the Thame Singers.

## Fire spreads

TWELVE acres of corn were destroyed after an embankment fire on the Haddenham to Risborough railway line spread to neighbouring fields on Monday afternoon.

Firemen from Aylesbury, Princes Risborough, Whitechurch and Bletchley managed to prevent the fire from spreading to a further 60 acres of corn after the blaze broke out just after 2.30 p.m.

Trees and bushes on the side of the railway embankment were badly burned and scorched by the fire which started near the railway bridge over the Kingsey to Haddenham road.

## Pay up, please!

THERE will be no free tickets for Towensey Residents for Saturday and Sunday events at this year's bigger than ever Towensey Festival.

Local people will have to pay 50p because organisers want to earn more cash from the festival. Children will still get in free and senior citizens will also be given free admission, but only if they produce a letter of invitation from the festival committee.

## Cement lorry overturns



Minutes after the accident happened.

A LORRY driver was hurt when his cement mixer overturned on the Thame bypass roundabout on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Ian Avery, aged 24, of Grovelands, Oxford, was taken to John Radcliffe Hospital and was released after treatment.

The Ford HGV mobile cement mixer was badly damaged in the accident which happened at the roundabout junction of the A418 and A 29 just outside of Thame at 10.10 a.m.

No other vehicles were involved.

Photo by Queensway Studio.

## Residents are up in arms

# LORRY THREAT TO VILLAGE

by IAN FLETCHER

THOUSANDS of heavy coal lorries could be thundering through the streets of Chinnor next year to deliver coal to Chinnor Cement Works.

Rugby Portland Cement, who run the Chinnor works, are considering scrapping the coal rail-link and bringing in supplies of coal — some 72,000 tonnes a year — by road.

If that happens 5,760 journeys using 25 tonne lorries would be made through the narrow streets of Chinnor. There could be

even more lorry loads if smaller vehicles are used.

The coal would come by lorry from Bolsover Colliery and be transported along the

A4010 road from Stoke Mandeville. It would go through Kimble and then either along the B4009 Icknield Way or through Princes Risborough on its way to Chinnor Cement Works.

The news is revealed in letters from Rugby Portland to the local authorities in the area — South Oxfordshire

District Council, Wycombe District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Bucks County Council.

In the letters the cement company points out that the coal used to fire the kilns is currently transported almost entirely by rail to sidings at the works. But British Rail is phasing out the mineral wagons used for coal traffic and replacing them with hopper wagons which need new sidings for loading and unloading.

The new sidings will be expensive and the company is applying to central government for cash help. Rugby Portland says: "If finance is not available, the company may be obliged to transfer a substantial part of the coal traffic from rail to road by the end of 1985."

Chinnor residents are angry that the cement company is even considering transporting coal by road. Mr. Patrick Whelehan, Chairman of Chinnor Parish Council, told the Gazette: "To say residents will be worried about this would be a gross understatement, this would be colossal."

"There's a hell of a lot of traffic being generated because of the cement works as it is and an extra 6000 or so lorries would be a huge increase. The parish council will have to monitor the situation very closely but I hope to God they get their sidings."

Vice-chairman of the parish council, Mr. Maurice Pullen said residents had already had a taste of what life would be like in Chinnor if coal was brought in by road.

"Because of the miners' strike coal is being brought in by road at the moment and it's causing problems already, especially at the Bird in Hand corner," he said.

"There are enough lorries already because of the cement works and I know of local people who are complaining about vibrations affecting their houses, especially in Station Road," added Mr. Pullen. "I'd be totally opposed to any attempts to bring any more lorries through Chinnor."

Both South Oxfordshire District Council and Wycombe District Council have decided to support Rugby Portland's application for a grant towards the new railway sidings from the Department of the Environment.

## FIREMEN FIGHT STRAW BLAZE

A ROAD was closed to traffic for over two hours when a trailer full of straw burst into flames last Tuesday.

The blaze happened

on the narrow Chinnor Hill between Chinnor and Bledlow Ridge shortly before 10 a.m. Firemen fought for an hour to prevent the fire spreading to nearby tinder-dry woods after the straw — for no apparent reason — simply ignited.

A valuable tractor was unhitched from the trailer and escaped without damage but about 100 bales of straw and the trailer went up in smoke.

Farm worker Julian Nixey, 16, of nearby Manor Farm, Chinnor Hill, said: "Nothing could be done to save the load of straw, it was well alight."

He was one of the first on the scene and snapped the picture for the Gazette.

"It caused a lot of inconvenience for local people because the road was blocked for so long," said Mr. Nixey, a former pupil of Icknield School.



Festival preview — P4

## Congratulations



They say diamonds are for ever and one couple who would second that are Edith and Pat White of Orchard Close, Thame, who celebrated their diamond wedding last Thursday — with a little help from family and friends.

A telegram from the Queen took pride of place among scores of cards and letters congratulating the Whites on 60 years of wedded bliss.

Mr. and Mrs. White, now both 84, met at work in 1916 in the London offices of the Royal London Insurance Company where Mr. White worked as deputy chief clerk, giving 50 years of loyal service to the firm.

Friends and relatives turned up by the car-load to join in at a surprise party last Thursday and Mrs. White thought the flowers would never stop arriving.

The Whites moved to Thame from Frinton on Sea last year but have already become popular figures in the local community.

"We have had a marvellous life together and we enjoyed a lovely day on our anniversary. I would like to thank all of our neighbours, friends and family for being so kind," said Mrs. White.



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## Moved to morning?

ES Remembrance and service could be moved to the morning of the afternoon.

rs making the suggestions have gone to the Thame and the branch of the Royal Legion.

Vicar, the Rev Chris has responded by holding an early meeting at the churches. Town Council and Union to discuss the plan.

## Carols

an singing for your sup- Thame just before Christmas. Carol-singing the tree outside Town Hall at 7 pm Thursday (December 14) will be followed by a pie.

event is organised by churches of Thame, and welcome.

## Town Hall art

OSALS to display local works of art through Thame Hall brought a flood of mail to the local council, protesting at the idea.

a meeting is to go ahead in the New Year with interested groups and individuals to discuss the idea.

complainant said it was "unthinkable to pay to vandalise the building", while members of the town club, who play in the upper chamber, thought it would distract them during matches.

is Town Mayor Councillor David Dodds made clear as was reported in the Thame Gazette last month idea is to explore the possibility of having high works of local art.

### NO MURALS

need not be permanent and could be placed in any of the Town Hall and moved when necessary. Murals form part of the plan.

illor Dodds told Tuesday's meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the plan was for locally removable local art.

illor Beatrice Dobie said that several residents had expressed concern and dismay and thought that the scheme would harm the dignity of the building.

illor Dodds repeated, however, that the scheme would grace the upper chamber. There were, he said, many examples of fine work by the pupils of the Impden School which deserved a wider audience.

## YM SUCCESS

gymnasts of Lord's School, Thame, triumphant in the second Oxfordshire School Association acrobatics competition.

acted as hosts for the event attended by over 100 from six county teams.

ome team took first in the team event and individual honours were shared between sections of the team.

Sifton and Robert took gold in the girls' section, while Sifton and Joanne

## Chinnor lorry problem

# Noisier than living near Heathrow

LIVING in Oakley Road, Chinnor, is noisier than living at the end of Heathrow runway.

Vibrations from heavy lorries have caused at least one household to Blue-tac pictures to the wall to stop them falling off.

And it is a situation that is going to get worse, Chinnor Parish Council was warned on Monday.

From next month, rail deliveries of coal, etc. to Chinnor Cement Works will cease, and the deliveries will be made by road — an average of one truck every four minutes from 5am to 6pm.

That was the warning from Oakley Road resident Mr Maurice Pullen, who is leading a campaign for a new road to take the lorries out of the village.

The noise of the lorries was already affecting his children, Mr David Mavin, another Oakley Road resident, told councillors.

"They have an early start and late finish to their day because of the noise of the trucks, and it is now having an effect on them," he said.

So bad was the noise last summer, that his young children actually organised a petition off their own bat without any help from anyone.

The noise was not so bad when the lorries were loaded, but when they were empty it was devastating — the number of decibels was as bad as at the end of Heathrow runway in his home, said Mr Mavin.

Cllr Clive Hawkins agreed to ask South Oxfordshire District Council's environmental health officers to monitor the situation.

Complaining about the noise and vibrations from the lorries, Mrs Fiona Drummond, also of Oakley Road, said that in one house vibrations were so bad that they had to Blue-tac pictures to the wall.

Residents and the parish council are fighting for a new road between the works and the B4009 at Crowell, for Rugby Cement to take all the heavy lorries away from the village.

"The question is whether the company is prepared to invest in a new road, or whether the residents are going to have to put up with a poor environment," said Mrs Drummond.

Rugby claimed to have a "good neighbour policy" towards communities such as Chinnor, but this was certainly not borne out by their plans or the increasing levels of dust and pollution from the works, said Mr Pullen.

"Everything to do with the works goes in and out by road," he said. "The answer is obvious — a road through the cement works from the Crowell end to take the lorries out of the village."

Oxfordshire County Council would not consider a by-pass so the company had to be pressed for a road.

And villagers, angry at the disruption caused by the traffic, intend to put pressure on the company to provide one with a massive letter-writing campaign, backed up by a petition.

## Another £1,000 for par

THAME old Christmas party was swollen by £1,000 on Sunday when a cheque handed over at a local pub in Thame Road.

The sum was raised at a darts marathon run over 12 hours by Gordon B. Cleary, Adrian W. Neville Warner, Steve Terry Moore, Jason Doyle and Kevin and by a dance band.

month. The cheque accepted by Mr Les S. Meanwhile, funds for money raised charity shop in which operated for the year, show that was raised for the fund, £1,000 for search, £1,000 for Evergreen Club, £1,000 for the replacement of Thame Town Hall and £1,400 towards of replacing the bronze statue at Thame Memorial.

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