



KEY TO BUILDINGS NUMBERED ON

THE 25" O.S. MAPS

Number above each photograph represents the number on the map. Numbers below represent the road numbers.



BEDFORD CREST

HOUSES APPROACHING CHENIES FROM THE A 404 -

GREENSTREET LANE

THE COUNTESS OF WARWICK'S ALMSHOUSES

Extract from the  
"History and topography of the County of Buckingham." J.J.Sheahan. 1862.

The Almshouse was erected near the village in 1605, and consists of ten distinct tenements of two rooms each, forming three sides of a square. The building, which is two storeys in height, is in the tudor style, the centre, and both ends presenting ornamental gables, in each of which is an oriel window.

The three gables are surmounted with stone crosses, and in the centre of the palisading which connects the ends, is an ornamental doorway to the area in front of the hospital."

The Countess of Warwick, daughter to the second Earl of Bedford, built the almshouses in 1603 to house ten old people. The places were allocated as follows:-

<u>Chenies</u> .....	Two men and two women
<u>Wootton</u>	
<u>Underwood</u> (Glos))	
<u>Cuffley</u> and	) Six persons
<u>Northaw</u> (Herts )	

In time, the old people from Gloucestershire and Northaw and Cuffley did not wish to be transported away from their homes, and sub-let their places in the almshouse many times, so that by 1830 no less than 72 people were living there. Eventually the Duke of Bedford pulled them down in 1888 to avoid further abuse.

The ground was subsequently used for allotments, but has now reverted to a meadow.

A group of two or three dwellings once stood on the corner of Greenstreet next to the Almshouse site. They had a succession of owners and were finally purchased by the Duke of Bedford in 1737. They were recorded in the Tithe Survey, but were subsequently pulled down.



FIELD NO.      ON THE A 404 WHERE THE  
COUNTESS OF WARWICK'S ALMSHOUSES STOOD



MAP NO. 1

ROAD NO. 59.    NAME "Shep Whites".    OWNER Mr. Adams

DATE 1858.

SPECIAL FEATURES A 'Bedford' house dated on the outside, and with the Bedford crest and cut-brick chimneys typical of the estate houses built in the time of Lord Wroithesley Russell.

Slightly larger than the pairs of cottages built for estate workers, this was built for the farm bailiff of the estate. He had his office here, as well as living quarters, and had about ten men working under him, to check up on the property, and keep it in good order. Farmers paid their rent to him, but this was brought to a room in the Bedford Arms.

The 1735 map shows the site of this house to be a field called Great Almshouse Pightle, so it appears that "Shep Whites" was the first house on the site.

MAP NO. 2.

ROAD NO. 58.    NAME "Chess Croft"    OWNER Mr. Cooper

DATE 1907

SPECIAL FEATURES A 'Bedford' house, dated, with Bedford crest, and cut-brick chimneys. Like No. 1, this is larger than the remaining estate cottages of this period.

It was built as the village bake house, and still retains one of the original ovens inside. Garages and a new wing have been added.

Mr. Alfred Salmon was the last baker, who lived here from the time it was built, until 1972. He served teas in summer in the front room of the house, and in the garden. The bread and jam were home-made, and he grew lettuces, and had his own eggs. Delivery of bread was by pony and trap.

The Bakery closed about 1945.

This house replaced one listed in the 1735 survey as a timber framed farmhouse and outbuildings. By the 19th century it had been divided into two or three dwellings, one inhabited by a baker, Mr. Austin.

In 1735 Josiah Simpson was the tenant, and it had been in The Cheynl Manor since the 15th century. Originally called Wyburns, and then Grace's Farm. There are some photos of the old farmhouse in the village.

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59

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58



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One of the village ponds. The others are in field 110 opposite the old Rectory, and at the cross roads, opposite Claypit Cottages. This was originally much larger, and horses could walk into it, and drink.

MAP NO. 3.

ROAD NUMBERS 8, 9, 10, 11. OWNER

DATE Four Bedford Cottages dated 1867.

Originally build for estate workers, now lived in by:-

8  
10 Tom Jones, working for the waterworks.  
9  
11

SPECIAL FEATURES Cut-brick chimneys.

Bedford 'B', coronet and date.

Most of the Bedford estate cottages of this period were built in pairs. This is one of the exceptions. They were the last estate workers' cottages to be built on the estate, and replaced a group of timber framed tenement buildings shown on the 1735 map. Until 1655 they were part of the Well's family property. From them it passed via marriage to the Wyatts and then to the Simpsons. The Duke of Bedford acquired it piecemeal between 1833 and 1835.



4

Field  
No. 114

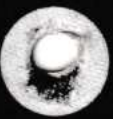


5



7

6



MAP NO: 6

ROAD NO.      NAME "The Manse"      OWNER The Baptist Church.      OCCUPIER Rev.  
Barry Kempson

DATE      At least before 1775. John Davis bought both these cottages in 1746, plus the land on which the Chapel now stands. His son William, gave this land for the Chapel. He lived in No. 6 himself, "where he spent the rest of his days". Now No. 6 is the minister's house.

SPECIAL FEATURES The pitch of the roof shows that this was not originally tiled or thatched, but if it is pre 1775 the slate roof must have been a very early one.

Some of the windows facing the road have been altered from the original, and the "awning" obviously added later.

MAP NO. 7

ROAD NO.      NAME "Kingscote"      OWNER Mrs. Malin (holds a key to the Chapel)

DATE      As No. 6 above, or possibly older. According to old records this house was given to the Baptist Church by William Davis for a Minister's house.

SPECIAL FEATURES As for No. 6, the roof was obviously never thatched. The windows are much better proportioned than No. 6, and are probably the originals. The centre one upstairs is blocked, and if this is window tax, the blocking would have reduced the number of windows below the 10-19 on which a 'supertax' of 4/- was imposed. (Window taxing was started in 1696, and finally repealed in 1850.)

MAP NO. 8

ROAD NO. 57    NAME The Red Lion Inn    OWNERS Ind Coope    PROPRIETOR Mr. Gee

DATE Post 1735

SPECIAL FEATURES The side fronting the road is a relatively modern facing to an older wing. It is set at right angles to the road. It is possible that the whole of this wing was built in the original coachyard, part of which still persists in front of "Banner Rest" (8a).

The older wing lies back from the road, marked (a) in the photograph now a private house. It is owned by Anne and Jean Mackie, and is attached, but obviously older than the present Red Lion, probably dating back to before 1735, as a building is marked here on the survey of that date. It was a general store before being converted into a private house in the 20th century, closing about 1932. It was run by Clara Kentish and her mother, and kept groceries, haberdashery, oil for lamps, etc. Before this it was probably part of an older inn.

*Banner rest*

The Red Lion is one of the few buildings which was never part of the Cheyne or Russell Manor.

It was a meeting place for the Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Mr. Westell, the landlord ran a station pony trap to fetch his visitors.

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8a



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MAP NO. 12A Not numbered, but the old Post Office is marked P.O.  
ROAD NO. - a) In 1960's a post office and antique shop. Now closed.  
OWNER Mr. Fry.  
b) Old butcher's shop. Present use for storage.  
OWNER Mrs. Buck  
NAME c) "Home Close". OWNER Mrs. Buck  
DATE 19th Century. Probably one of the early Bedford houses, although not marked as such.

SPECIAL FEATURES Home Close was the home of the butcher Mr. Hughes, who owned the shop in the early 20th century. Before him in the late 19th century Mr. Wallington was the butcher. Mr. Hughes ran a farm in conjunction with the shop, and the farm is still carried on. In addition to buildings behind the house there are barns in fields nos. 116 and 119 opposite. There was a herd of dairy Shorthorns, and they served the village with milk. The butchers was one of the last shops in Chenies. The house does not appear to have replaced an earlier building. There are none recorded here in 1735.

MAP NO. 13.

ROAD NO. 49 NAME "Field Cottage" OWNER Mr. Mackie  
DATE Left-hand cottage 1845, right-hand 1846.

SPECIAL FEATURES A 'Bedford' cottage, possibly originally two, with cut-brick chimneys. Outbuildings behind. These 19th century cottages replaced an earlier building, described as a "new brick house" in 1735, with a timber and thatch woodhouse. One of the few occasions where thatch is mentioned as a roofing material.

At that time Jeremiah Puddefoots apparently owned the land, and his tenant, John Shrimpton, paid £3.5s.0d. rent per annum.

Possibly this building was pulled down when the Duke of Bedford acquired it, otherwise it would seem rather soon for it to have deteriorated. It was used as an Infants School in the late 19th century and Mr. Fred Smith's mother attended between 1865 and 1870. The children played in a shed at the side, now demolished. It was also one of the Post Office sites.

12B

12A



b

a

c

13



49

14



15



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31

MAP NO.14

ROAD NO.- NAME The Bedford Arms. Owners. Thistle Inn. Proprietor Mr. Freybourger

DATE 20th Century (copy of an older style)

SPECIAL FEATURES

This building gives the impression of a much older origin, and some of the outbuildings pre-date the house. This is a mixture of styles, - roofs both tile and slate, windows upstairs, casement, and downstairs sash. A fire destroyed part of the upper storey in 1972, which accounts for the change in colours of the roof tiles. The site was previously occupied by a farmhouse, farmed successively by the families of Harding, Shepherd, and Puddephalt. The Puddephalts were the tenant farmers in 1735, previous to this the farm was called 'Shepherds Farm'. It had been part of the original Cheyne Manor. Did not become the "Bedford Arms" until 1820-30. In the early 20th Century it supplied milk to the village (Mr. Goodson was the landlord). Rooms were always reserved for the Duke of Bedford's guests in the fishing season when they went down to the mill stream on the Chess. The Berkeley Coach drawn by four horses stopped at the "Bedford" on its way from Croxley and Rickmansworth to Amersham. The single storey building at the side used to be the stables and coach house where there were broughams, victorias and waggonettes. The old tap room (now the darts room) used to be frequented by the casual labourers who could not go home to lunch. They could cook their food on the fire; on wet days at harvest time they congregated in the tap room as there was nowhere else to go out of the rain. As casual labourers were often paid daily they would ask for a sub, because those who spent all their pay the evening before at the Bedford Arms would have nothing on the wet days for food or drink.

MAP NO. 15

Road NO's 30 & 31 No.30 occupied by Mr. Benbnon of the Bedford Arms.  
No.31 owned by Mrs.Allen.

DATE 1829

SPECIAL FEATURES

No.30 was once the village post office, and the mark still shows where the post box was built into the wall, on the left hand side of the front door. The post office was run by the Misses Glenisters, who also had a little shop and sold dress lengths. They also sold sweets, soft drinks and some groceries and haberdashery. Miss Glenister who ran it often did not get up very early in the morning and on such occasions the maid would serve the children with sweets on the way to school when they received very good weight - she would tip up the jar to fill the bag - a good farthingsworth of "dolly mixtures"! Later it was taken over by three sisters by the name of Grace, and closed in 1910, when the post office moved to the house near Home Close.

This is an early pair of Bedford cottages, dated, but not with crest or cut-brick chimneys.

MAP NO. 16

ROAD NO's 28 & 29. 29 owned by Mr. Jackman. 28 NAME 'Whiteways' Owner Mr. Pickton

DATE Pre-record house therefore at least 450 years old. Could date back to the last John Cheyne.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Timber and brick construction, probably originally thatch by the pitch of the roof. The timbers used are ships timbers, because new timbers could not be used for building apart from ships(?) Landowners cut timber on their estates, carted it down to the docks, sold it for shipbuilding, and bought timber from the breakers yards for building houses. The timbers in "Whiteways" are fairly close, suggesting a construction date before timber grew scarce. Probably early 16th century.

The recent addition to No. 29 was made about 8 years ago (1962)

The porches are obviously more recent additions, and also the cut-brick chimneys, which are balanced incongruously on the top of much older stacks, and are much too high in proportion to the house. They were probably added by the Duke of Bedford to mark them as his property.

Whiteways was reputed to have been a pub at one time, and had a bar inside. It was traditionally the home of the blacksmith and John Beeson was the smith in 1802. Mr. Howell (or Owl?) was the last to work here. He was shoeing horses up till the 1920's and his forge was the building behind, now an electricity sub station (see photo overleaf). He also doubled as the gravedigger.

No. 29 was the home of a blind basket maker Polly Palmer, at the beginning of the 20th century. She had her baskets hanging outside to display for sale.

The cottages were part of the Cheyne Manor before 1533. In 1735 the tenants were Thomas Pluckrose and Thomas Mayo.

BACK LANE This photograph shows the road leading to Mountwood Farm known as Back Lane, beside "Whiteways". The old smithy is on the right (see photo overleaf) and Bedford Estate Cottages numbers 25-27 on the left. These are dated 1849. A modern 20th century bungalow has been built further up the lane on the left hand side called Pinders Lodge. Owner(occupier) Mr. Lightbody.

16



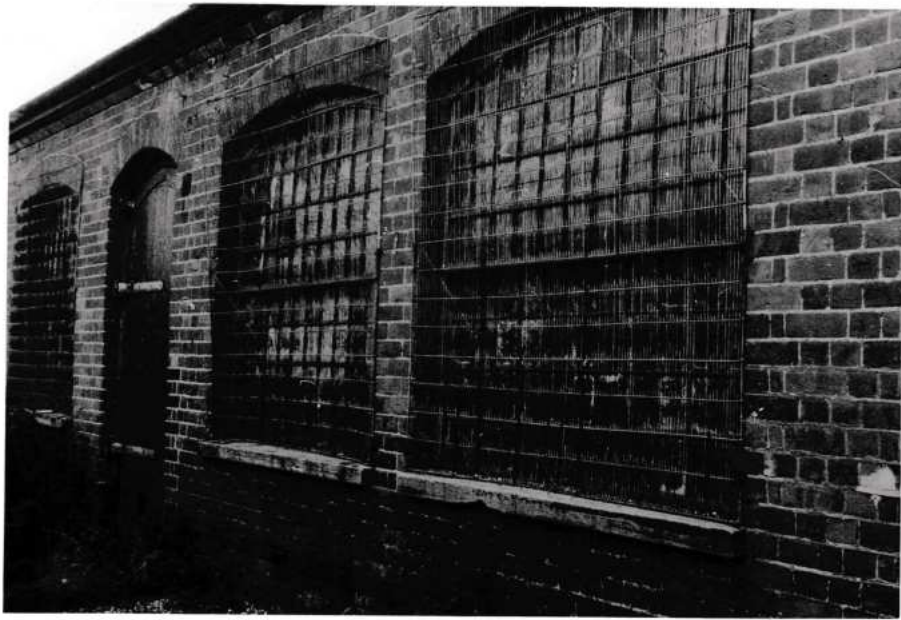
25

26

28

29

Alley



17

17a

16



23

28

24

25

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27

MAP NO. - Lying behind Whiteways on the right hand side of Back Lane.

ROAD NO. - Electricity sub-station

DATE 19th century

SPECIAL FEATURES

This was the old Smithy of the village. It is marked as such on the 1878 6" map, the only other smithy in the parish to be marked was at Dell Farm, the one at The Old Rectory, probably ceasing when the Wyatt family died out. John Beeson was the Smith in 1802. Last used as a smithy in the early 20th century. Mr. Howell was the last blacksmith, and he combined the job with that of sexton. Thought to have closed about 1920.

MAP NO 17 & 17a

ROAD NO.s. 23, 24, 25, Three Bedford Cottages.

26, 27 A pair of Bedford Cottages separate from 17, (Marked 17a) on photograph) which open on to Back Lane.

DATE 17 1849. 17a 1849.

	<u>Occupied</u> at present by	<u>Owned</u> by
23	Mr. Pearce (wife a teacher at Westfield Sch.)	Mr. Pearce
24	Mr. Adcock	Mr. Adcock
25	Mrs. Darke	Mrs. Darke
26	Mrs. Hawkes	Mrs. Hawkes
27	Mr. Kayne (works at Bedford Arms	Lady Spearman

SPECIAL FEATURES

Although otherwise typically 'Bedford' with Crest and date, this set of cottages seems to have escaped the cut-brick chimneys. Together with map no. 18, they replaced a set of five timber-framed dwellings, part of the Cheyne Manor, and in 1735 were occupied by a baker (Nicholas Groom), a carpenter (Arthur Briant) a husbandman (John Timberlake), John Evans, and Joseph Parker, The rent was £2 per annum.

at. No. 23

**Murder charge  
remanded**

Mrs. Joan Wilkinson, who is accused of murdering her husband Lynn Carter Wilkinson at their Chenies home on Easter Sunday, was remanded in custody for a further week at Chesham court on Wednesday.

APRIL 17th, 1970

MAP NO. 18

ROAD NO.s 20. Owned and occupied by Mr. Surey.  
21. Owned and occupied by Mr. S. Piper.  
22. Owned and occupied by Mr. Clancy.

DATE. 1849

SPECIAL FEATURES

Three Bedford estate cottages, created, dated, but without cut-brick chimney.

MAP NO. 19

NAME Hillside Cottage

ROAD NO. 18. Owner and occupier Mr. Le Neve Foster.

DATE Pre-record house - about the same age as Whiteways. Early 16th century? One of the earliest in the Village, and one of the few not stamped with the cut brick chimneys.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Timber and brick (whitewashed over) not all timbers original. Window gables also later - probably added when the porch was constructed.

This was traditionally a farmhouse, farming land now belonging to Mountwood Farm. It was part of the original Cheyne Manor.

In 1670's it belonged to the Port family who held it until 1728, During this time it was known as 'Ports Farm'. The Wells family had held it prior to this. When Thomas Reed took over the tenancy from the Ports in 1728, it changed to 'Reeds Farm', but by the time of the Tithe survey in 1840, Mountwood farm had been built and taken over the land.

In the present century, it was the home of the water bailiff Mr. Hutchings until his retirement to Hurstleigh in 1972.

Both cottages have now been combined under the name Hillside Cottage.

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MAP NO. 22. NAME Whitehill Cottage

ROAD NO. 33                    OWNER/OCCUPIER Mr. Ridout

DATE Pre-record. 450 + years

SPECIAL FEATURES

Originally two cottages, with separate cupboard staircases, with a third tacked on at the back, which has now been pulled down. Externally seems to have undergone less alteration than other old houses in the village, except for the change in roofing, and a new top to the chimney, (back chimney added later).

Part of the original Cheyne Manor, and had no land attached, although after 1735 it acquired some land down Holloway Lane. In the 1600's the holding was for many years in the hands of the Arnold family when it was called Arnolds. They were traditionally the village tailors. Daniel Arnold later became landlord of the 'Goat' Inn in 1678. In 1735 John Newton, a Yeoman, was the tenant. Later it became known as 'Baldwins', after a 19th century owner, and only lately has become 'Whitehill Cottage'.

MAP NO. 23            NAME The Lodge                    OWNER/OCCUPIER Mr. Ince

DATE 1857

SPECIAL FEATURES

Bedford House with date mark and crest, and cut brick chimneys. The Duke of Bedford lived here during the 1939-45 war. 124 1713

The house was built for the bailiff of the Duke's Estate, and has decorative 'fish scale' tiles. It is detached, - one of the few 19th century houses in the village to be so - was obviously more spacious than the labourers' cottages. It acted as the Gatehouse or Lodge to the Manor House, and replaced an old brick and timber house, with 'tyled' roof, stable, hayhouse and barn, all brick and timber. There were two additional small cottages behind. This was the Old Goat Inn, the goat being the Duke of Bedford's crest. The Barfotes are the first known landlords in 1613, and it was during their tenancy that the plague decimated the household. In 1678 it passed to the Arnold family, who were still holding it in 1735. It was largely rebuilt in 1688, and eventually pulled down in the 19th century to make room for the lodge, when the 'Bedford Arms' became the Dukes' Inn.

MAP NO. 24

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

SPECIAL FEATURES

Standing on the site of an older church, the existing church was almost entirely rebuilt in the 15th century, probably in the days of the last John Cheyne.

In 1556 the Bedford Chapel and Mausoleum were built by the widow of John Russell, first Earl of Bedford, "in pursuance of his Will", and this occupies the North side of the church. It has been rebuilt and added to in decoration since this date, and the whole church was renovated between 1861 and 1887.

The Outside walls are of flint, with stone dressings, and roofed with tiles. The tower is turreted, and has a ring of six bells. The style is predominantly Perpendicular.

INSIDE

The church consists of a Nave, and lower Chancel, and a South Aisle with late Perpendicular four-light windows without tracery. The aisle has a pier of four shafts and four hollows, carrying four-centred arches.

The Chancel arch and the roof are Victorian.

The Font is Norman, from the earlier church, cupshaped, with the lower half fluted, above a band of wavy trails framing regular almond-shaped medallions. Inside these are symmetrical leaf motifs.

BRASSES

On the west wall brasses to:- Agnes, wife of John Cheyne, (died 1494).  
Edmund Molyneux, second husband to Agnes (died 1484).  
Anne, widow of Sir David Philip, (died 1510).  
This is the figure holding her heart, from which scrolls issue. She was niece to Agnes, Lady Cheyne. Her grand daughter Anne Sapcote married twice, (1) John Broughton (daughter Elizabeth)  
(2) John Russell, first Earl of Bedford.

On the west wall of the Nave:- Agnes Johnson (died 1511).  
Elizabeth Broughton (died 1524).  
Richard Newland, Rector (died 1494), in clerical robes. The inscription to this figure is inverted.

On the west wall of the Porch: Figures of John Walliston (died 1469) and of Isobel and Joan, his wives.

INSCRIPTIONS ETC.

On the west wall of the inner porch:- To Sir Nicholas Smythe, late parson of Latimer, (died 1517).

On the north wall of the South Aisle:-

An oil painting of the interior of the church before 1861, recently hung, but was stolen in 1980.

On the south wall of the South Aisle:-

A memorial to Sir Wroithesley Russell, Rector of Chenies from 1829-1885, in recognition of his reforms in the village. It reads:-  
"Presented to Lord Wroithesley Russell, Rector of Chenies and Canon of Windsor in 1879 by the parishioners." It commemorated 50 years of his ministry. It is carved from the wood taken from St. Georges Chapel, Windsor, and has 6 paintings of the village. It is signed by everyone in the village, who could write. Those who could not made an 'X'. (Children included - some were too young even

UPPER PHOTOGRAPH

St. Michael's Church, South View, showing the Tower, South Aisle,  
South porch, and part of the Chancel.

LOWER PHOTOGRAPH

St. Michael's Church North View, showing the Bedford Chapel.  
The crest is on the west end.

These are the stained glass windows mentioned in the section on  
the details of the Bedford Chapel, at the end of this book.

Access only by special permit from Mr. Sword, Bedford Settled  
Estates, Montague Street, London.

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UPPER PHOTOGRAPH

ROAD NO. - Chenies House. Owner/Occupier Mr. Ensor.

DATE Post war (1950's)

SPECIAL FEATURES

This replaces the old Chenies Place, which was the original rectory before the 'Old Rectory' (map no. 4) was acquired and which was pulled down in 1944.

The present Chenies House was built in its garden, and retains the old garden layout.

The old Chenies Place ceased to be a rectory sometime in the 19th century, probably when the Rev. Shann became Rector in 1886. He had lived in 'The Old Rectory' (Map No. 4) as a curate, and probably stayed on there.

Lipscombe writes:-

"The Rectory was always appendant to the Manor, and valued in the King's Books (?) at £12.10s.0<sup>1</sup>d, paying yearly £1.5s.7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. tenths, and 10/7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d archidiaconals. In 1826 glebe land stated to be about 28 acres, 20 arable, the remainder pasture."

Since the living was in the gift of the Duke of Bedford, and a member of the family was sometimes appointed, the house was obviously an important one in the village. In 1735 the following details are given.

"The ground room, above mentioned floored with earth, the Brewhouse paved with brick, ye stable pitcht with stone. The rooms below stairs contained within the 5 bays of the dwelling house; 2 cellars, 1 kitchen and a pantry, all paved with brick. An Hall, a Parlour and a room beyond it, floored all with oak. The rooms above stairs, within the 5 bays and 3 bays above mentioned - 3 chambers floored with oak, and 5 with deal, with 2 garretts both floored in oak and an outroom at the west end of the house built with brick, covered with tile, and floored with Deal. The whole house built mostly of oak, but the walls chiefly loam, but partly brick, the entrance at the east end of the house paled in with oak."

In 1745 a terrier gave less detail, but there was no apparent change. By 1756 the house had been rebuilt in brick.

LOWER PHOTOGRAPH

THE PRESENT RECTORY

Owner The Anglican Church

Occupier The Rev. Stapleton

This was built in 1968, and first occupied in October of that year. The present Rector Mr. Stapleton - Tel: 4433. Entrance through the church yard.

This is the most recently built home in the village, and one of the few 20th century examples.

## THE VILLAGE GREEN

This is still retained by the Duke of Bedford together with the road leading to the Church, and the Bedford Chapel. The elms shown in the photograph succumbed to Dutch Elm disease, and were felled in the year 1975. Limes have been planted to replace them.

The story goes that the Duke's agent used to hide behind the elms when the school came out, and pounce on the children if they crossed the green to their homes which was forbidden.

The well and pump no longer work, but are a decorative addition to the scene. The functional amenities are seats, a bus stop, telephone kiosk and litter bins.

In 1735 there were cottages on the lower point of the triangle at the bottom of the green. They were held by Jacob Dell, a descendent of the Dells of Dell Farm (Now Latimer Park Farm). He had a general store and in an account of January 11th, 1711, the Duke paid him 13/- for nails, baskets, brooms and candles. These had been pulled down by 1837, and were never replaced.

## LOWER PHOTOGRAPH

The well, before the pump was reinstalled. A pipeline from the Manor connected to this well, and the water was thought to originate from the Pumphouse. At one time the Duke of Bedford had a fountain here, which used to be turned up when visitors came.



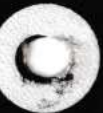
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COTTAGE BEHIND THE MANOR

ROAD NO. 37, 38, 39. "The Platt"

Owned by Greathouse Farm (The executors of Col. Marston)

Occupiers 37. Mrs. Witwer.  
38.  
39. Mr. Forwood (grandson of Mrs. Marston)

DATE 1840

SPECIAL FEATURES

Bedford Cottages, dated, with cut brick chimneys. This was built for orphans, housing boys only. In the late 19th Century, the rations were said to be very poor, a good meal only being laid on when the Duke came to visit. The education was good, and jobs were found for all.

ROAD NO. - GREATHOUSE FARM, also in some maps and records 'Manor Farm'.

DATE 1860 Present Farm buildings. Owners: executors of Col. Marston.  
Occupier: Mrs. Marston.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Now quite separate from the Manor, this was originally the Home Farm. The building is now owned by the executors of Col. Marston, Farm Manager, Mr. Wittwer, but the land has been bought by Peter Simpson of Mountwood Farm. The building in the foreground is the well house which covers the well originally supplying water to the village. (Also called the Pump House). The water was raised by horse power the horse pushing a long arm round and round the well. (Windows and wooden infill were added later.) The well was thought to have been sunk in the time of the first Earl of Bedford. An old pipeline exists connecting the Manor with the well on the village green, and the water probably came originally from the Well House, so that it supplied the whole village. The present Well House itself was built over the well in 1820 when the house was repaired. It was excavated in 1974 (see newspaper extract) and the artefacts were on display inside. Now the building and adjoining field have been opened as a herb and physic garden.

1974  
**Divers to probe secrets  
of 500-year-old well**

**THE DEPTHS** of an ancient fifteenth century well in Chenies, Bucks, are to be explored by a team of sub-aqua divers.

The well, which is situated in the grounds of Chenies Manor, the former seat of the Russell family — the Dukes of Bedford — has been in disuse for nearly a century.

It was once part of the water supply in the picturesque village, but when the mains were

connected in 1875, the well, believed to be at least 180 feet deep, was closed down.

Chenies Manor is now occupied by Lt Col and Mrs Alistair McLeod Matthews, who have agreed to allow Watford Underwater Club to explore the well.

It will be the third such project that the club has undertaken. In 1958, they excavated a third century Roman well at the Priory, Dunstable, and two

years ago successfully dug out quantities of rubble 220 feet to the bottom of a thirteenth century well at Ashridge House, Little Gaddesden.

Work on the new well project will start this weekend when club members will begin by transporting excavation equipment and safety gear to the site.

The divers expect to be engaged on the project in the evenings and weekends for about three months.

The farm buildings show behind it on the left hand side, and the ruined nursery block of the Bedford House (1533) on the right hand side.

The farm weathervane is late 17th century.

CHENIES MANOR

MAP NO. 25

NAME OR ROAD NO. Chenies Manor House sometimes referred to as 'The Greathouse'  
Owner/occupier Col. & Mrs. McCloud Matthews.  
The manor is early tudor, untouched by renaissance influence.  
There is a core of an earlier building, covered by later brick-  
work, thought to date from the mid 15th century.

UPPER PHOTOGRAPH This shows the south elevation of the south wing.  
Built between 1523 and 1526 by the first Earl of Bedford,  
it houses the old armoury on the top floor, which stretched  
the length of the wing (see following photograph).  
The chimneys are ornamented, all different and are thought  
to equal or surpass those of Hampton Court. They were  
probably built by the same workmen.  
The walls, blank except for the west end, disguise secret  
rooms built behind the fireplaces of each room.  
One of these housed a priest hole in the floor (see  
following photograph). A barn is shown in the 19th  
century running southwards from this wing, in the position  
of the present graveyard, but it was demolished before 1886.  
The walls show the 'Old English' brick bonding pattern,  
and consist of small hand made bricks.

LOWER PHOTOGRAPH The west elevation is in three planes; the result of  
reconstruction in 1530. This shows better in the next  
photograph overleaf.  
In the early 19th Century all the walls on this side were  
encased in modern flemish bonded brick because the old  
brickwork had become porous. The end of the south wing  
is on the right hand side of the photograph, showing the  
window of the armoury at the top of the gable. The other  
windows were extensively restored at the time of  
renovation (about 1815).

1920

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CHENIES MANOR (contd)

UPPER PHOTOGRAPH A further view of the west elevation showing outhouses (stable block and orangery) on the left hand side. These replaced the old brewhouse and single storey detached block in the 19th century. The relationship with the church can be seen, and the sunken garden in the foreground. These gardens shown were known as the 'little gardens'. Beneath the gardens, a network of bricked passages ascribed to the the 15th century, lead into surrounding woods. These may well have been part of the drainage system, but also were effective secret passages. The entrance is at the end of the lime walk just out of the picture on the right hand side (see following photograph). The 'Great Gardens' were in the position of the present orchard.

LOWER PHOTOGRAPH The ruins of a tudor building in the gardens, thought to be the remains of a tudor nursery block, built about 1526. The end of the sunken garden in the foreground shows its relationship to the house, on the west side of the 'little gardens'. It can also be seen in the background of the previous photograph of the Pump House or Well House. Queen Elizabeth 1's elder statesman Lord Cecil was accommodated in the nursery block on one state visit, "for your quieter lodging". Presumably no children were in residence at the time!

## DETAILS OF THE MANOR

### PHOTOGRAPHS 1 & 3.

The entrance to the "CRYPT", shored up to prevent subsidence, situated at the north end of the west wing, and now entirely underground. This is thought to be the cellars of a 13th or 14th century house. There are two chambers built of Totternhoe Stone, and the inner room was fitted with a stout door, of which the hinges remain. It may have been used as a prison or hideout in the Wars of the Roses - lamentations are scratched in the soft stone walls.

### PHOTOGRAPH 2

An inside view of the armoury in the south wing. The far window is that looking out over the gardens, so this view is from east to west.

### PHOTOGRAPH 4

One of the 'secret' rooms behind the fireplaces of the south wing. They were very narrow, and one had a 'priest hole' in the floor. For reasons of concealment there were no windows, but each room had an airbrick on the outside wall.

### PHOTOGRAPH 5

The underground passage in the garden. This shows the brickwork - including the floor. It is taken where the passage takes a right angled bend to the right, so that what appears to be a door at the end, is in reality the wall of this bend.

The 'tail' hanging from the roof is modern, to lend a spookey atmosphere when brushing your face in the dark!

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CHENIES MANOR (contd.)

UPPER PHOTOGRAPH The front, or east elevation, showing the "crowsfoot" gabled end of the 16th century tudor south wing on the left, with decorated chimneys, and upper window of the armoury. In a different plane is the west wing with its semi-octagonal battle-marked tower standing between two crowsfoot gables, at the far side of the inner court. The main entrance is at the base of the tower. The lawn in the foreground was originally part of the "outer court".

The north end of the inner court was originally bounded by a single storey wing completing the Elizabethan 'E', but this fell into disrepair, and was demolished about 1750. It probably housed laundry, offices and servants rooms, now a brick wall bounds the court on this side, but the adjoining field is still called "The Drying Ground".

The tower is thought to be part of the core of an older house of the Cheyne family, dating from 1460. Pock marks in its brickwork are said to date from a siege of the Manor by Cavaliers in the Civil Wars.

LOWER PHOTOGRAPH The north elevation of the south wing, is a good example of tudor English bonded brickwork, and lattice diamond paned windows. The gable in the top storey is another window of the armoury running the full length of this wing in the top storey.

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CHENIES MANOR (Contd.)

UPPER PHOTOGRAPH - The south wing, with the single storeyed building of Great House Farm on the left.

MAP NO. 26

ROAD NO. - NAME CHENIES VILLAGE SCHOOL OWNER Bucks. County Council.  
Present Head: Mr. Reeves

DATE Built in 1846, with addition in the 1960s of extra classrooms.

SPECIAL FEATURES

The school is in the typical Bedford style. It incorporates a school house with cut brick chimneys and a weather vane with the Bedford 'B'. It draws children from Latimer and Little Chalfont as well as the village itself - about 200 on the role. Extension buildings were added in 1950s and 1970s.

MAP NO. 27

ROAD NO. 41      OWNER Executors of the Estate of Col. Marston.  
OCCUPIER Miss Barbara Ruston.

DATE 1780

SPECIAL FEATURES Built before the Wroithesley Russell era, this house had an iron foundry attached, and 17 years ago the old foundry building still existed. Now the only sign of it is a wall running from the house up the gardens.  
In 1735 it was "The Malthouse holding" tenant Henry Blyth. It included a farmhouse, granaries, kilns, stables and "maulting". In 1831 it was converted for the first village school. When the new school was built in 1846, it was taken over by Worrell the Millwright, and he moved his iron foundry up from Woodside House, where he had been in 1793. (He got rid of this lease in 1822). Later Lord Russell established it as a school.

MAP NO. 28

ROAD NO. 42/43.      NAME The Old Wellhouse      OWNER/OCCUPIER Dr. Leach

DATE Pre-record 16th century?

SPECIAL FEATURES This is one of the oldest houses in the village, (possibly pre-dating the Russel era) of timber and brick (white-washed over) the cut brick Bedford chimneys were added later, and are out of scale with the rest of the building.  
Rights of way existed behind all this block, through the gardens, and out the other side.  
In 1735 this was probably occupied by Thomas Johnson a shoemaker.  
The house was completely dismantled except for the timber frame in the 1970s and rebuilt around the frame, so that the brickwork is not original. The photograph shows it beford this was done, and the door has now been altered, with a solid porch substituted for that shown, with a side entrance.

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MAP NO. 28a

ROAD NO.'S 44, 45, 46.      OWNERS/OCCUPIERS 44 Mrs, Moodie  
45 Miss Allen  
46 Mr. Bruton

DATE This house is difficult to date, but was in the 1735 survey.

SPECIAL FEATURES A block of houses where the Bedford cut brick chimneys have been added later, and are out of proportion with the rest of the building. It is obviously older than its chimneys. The dog on the roof of No. 44 dates from the time the house was occupied by Jack Diamond, Labour politician, in the 1970's. In 1735 three buildings were shown here, but do not appear to have been connected up as they are now. Certainly the roof tiles change as if there is a difference in period, but this probably happened later. The 1735 survey records the buildings as 'brick and timber with tiled roofs'. Since they are now rendered and whitewashed, it is not possible to see timbers externally, but none are 'evident internally', and the likelihood is that these houses replaced those shown on the 1735 map, probably in the late 18th or early 19th century.

MAP NO. 29

ROAD NO.'S 47, 48      OWNERS/OCCUPIERS 47 Mrs. Pickering  
48

DATE 1828

SPECIAL FEATURES This is an early 'Bedford' house, without the characteristic features, the date being stamped without the coronet. The embrasures on each gable are empty. It may have replaced an earlier cottage recorded as "newbuilt in 1735 of brick and tile". The tenant then was a butcher, Ralph Skidmore, who absconded to London in 1740, leaving his wife and children on the parish. Later she followed him, and the children were brought up by the next door neighbour, John Richardson.

ROAD NOS. 1 - 15.

NAME Bedford Close

OWNER Bucks County Council

DATE 1950's

The only group of council houses in Chenies. Built on land given by the Duke of Bedford in the late 1940's. There are 15 semi-detached dwellings in all, grouped as follows from left hand to right-hand side of the Close when viewed from the road - 2, 4, 2, 3, 2, 2. Mrs. Atkins, Keeper and Keyholder of the Bedford Chapel, lives in No. 1 (other occupiers no specified).

THREE 20th CENTURY HOUSES lie between No. 41 and the Bedford Close.

These are as follows: "Forge End" Date 1957. Owner/Occupier Mr. Skilbeck.

"Cherry Trees" Date 1957. Owner/Occupier Mr. Ansell.

"The Pightle" Date 1955. Owner/Occupier Mr. Life.

These were built following the sale of the estate by the Duke of Bedford in 1954.

(not on map)

ROAD NOS. 61-64

NAME Claypits Cottages

Owner/Occupier 61 Dr. Tomkins (Head of St. Clement Danes School.)  
62 Mr. Lilley  
63  
64 Mr. Jackson.

At one time also known as "Halfway House" because of its position half way between Amersham and Watford, this block was built as a workhouse to replace the original site in the 8 cottages along Holloway Lane, held by the parish officers.

In 1833 the Duke of Bedford took these over, and built Claypits Cottages in exchange.

The workhouse was divided into two parts, half for men and half for women, but its use as such was short lived because Amersham Workhouse (now the hospital) opened, and by 1841 Claypits was used as dwelling houses, four semi-detached cottages in all.

The roof material is slate - one of the few in the village, and the central door and window were blocked, perhaps at the time of change in use. The name 'Claypits' probably refers to Clay extraction from the adjacent ponds.

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HOUSES GOING DOWN WHITEHILL TO THE RIVER CHESH  
AND ON THE CHESHAM ROAD

ENTRANCE TO HOLLOWAY LANE

This lane led down to Sarratt Bottom Ford and was originally called Holywell Lane, because of the springs at the bottom, which were alleged to have healing properties. They were certainly rich in iron. Now hedged all the way, this originally led to a piece of common land grazed by sheep, and which extended across the Chesham Road, including the Whitehill footpath. This is shown in the 1735 map, but is already reduced in the Tithe map.

There are no buildings down Holloway Lane now but 8 cottages were described as "newbuilt" in 1802, of brick and tile, of two rooms each. They were owned by the parish to house the poor, but were conveyed to the Duke of Bedford in 1833, to cover the cost of the parish contributions to the new workhouse he was building. (Claypits Cottages).

One of the cottages was the Pesthouse, and a painting of it exists in Aylesbury Museum, it was called by this name in the 1851 survey, and there is evidence of smallpox cases being nursed here. The cottages were pulled down in the late 19th century. One little house is shown above the lane in the 1735 survey.

The drainage system for the village lies just below the Holloway Lane entrance. Not all houses are on this main drainage.

MAP NO. -

Road NO. -      NAME Woodside Cottage

DATE 1902      Owner/Occupier Mrs. Leach

One of the few 20th century houses in the village. The name 'Woodside' was taken from a house built as a girls school called Woodside House, which forms part of the present Chenies Place down the hill. Woodside Cottage was built for the butler at Chenies Place.





20



MAP NO. -

ROAD NO. -      NAME The Courthouse      OWNER/OCCUPIER Mr. Rimer

DATE 1894

SPECIAL FEATURES This house was created from the converted stable block of the old Woodside House (see below). It lies back from the road, so features are not easy to see, but apart from cut-brick chimneys, it lacks many of the 'Bedford' characteristics. The date is plain, without 'B' or coronet, and the windows are sash. Because of its origins, there is no history of past ownership, as this was originally common land, and had no buildings on it in 1736.

MAP NO. 20

<u>ROAD NO.</u> -	<u>NAMES</u>	<u>OWNER/OCCUPIERS</u>
	Chenies place	Mrs. Edwards
	Woodside House	Mr. Arnold
	The Cottage	Mr. Williams
	Gardeners Cottage	Mr. Haddock

DATE 1896

Originally called Chenies House, it took the name of Chenies Place when the house of that name, near the church ceased to be the rectory. So the two houses exchanged names, since the modern house on the site of the old Chenies Place is now called Chenies House! This makes for confusion in the records.

The 18th century building was opened originally as a girls' boarding school 'for daughters of gentlefolk', when it was called 'Woodside House'. In 1896 it was enlarged to form the Dower House to the Manor, for the widow of the 10th Duke of Bedford, so that its appearance is 19th century in the 'Bedford' style.

MAP NO. -

ROAD NO. 1    NAME Keepers Cottage    OWNER/OCCUPIER Mr. & Mrs. Davies  
(both vets.)

DATE 1868

A 'Bedford' cottage sometimes referred to as 'The House in the wood'. It was the gamekeepers cottage. No earlier house is shown on the site.

As presumably the gamekeeper on the Bedford estate was a person of some importance, he had a detached house. In 1967 a tractor ran out of control down the hill behind and landed up in the bathroom.

On the door is a metal plaque, with this message inscribed -

"Take notice that from this date poachers will be shot on sight, and if practicable, questioned afterwards"

signed The Duke of Grumby. Nov.1st 1868.

MAP NO. -

ROAD NO.s. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. (not in order) OWNER/OCCUPIERS  
see photo.    2 Mr. Coster  
3 Mr. Nunn & Mr. Saunders  
4 Mr. Osler  
5. Mr. Thomas  
6 Mr. Nelson  
7

DATE 1852 and 1853

The two blocks of cottages were extended towards each other in the 1970's, so this is now an historic photograph! The extensions do not meet, so the blocks are still separate, and no date has been placed on the additions.

These Bedford estate cottages replaced an earlier group standing back nearer the river, recorded in the 1735 survey as timber framed brick cottages, with tiled roofs. It was mentioned in two late 17th century leases as 'The Doghouse' and the tenant in 1735 was Nathaniel Grover. This was presumably in the Chenies Manor at that time.



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MAP NO. 21

ROAD NO. - NAME Chenies Mill, Dodds Mill

DATE At least 18th century, probably parts are earlier (see below)

OWNER Mr. Trafford Boughton

SPECIAL FEATURES The mill is the historic industrial site of the village. As such it was altered and added to in different periods so that dating is difficult. Timber framing can be seen on the end walls in the photograph, but much of the brickwork is obviously later, and a major rebuilding took place in 1811.

A 1678 lease mentions it as a fulling mill, but before 1740 it was making paper and continued to do so until 1851, when it became a flour mill. Flour milling stopped in 1915, but the mill ground animal foodstuffs until 1933. A mill was recorded at Isenhamstead in a record of the early 13th century but the siting is not known. It was working up to 1933, but closed permanently in the 1939-45 War, and has now been converted to a private house. The overshot water wheel is in one of the original sites, and provides power for the greenhouse lighting and heating, and some of the mill stones are set in the house surrounds.

The Tenants

Although the mill was always part of the Cheyne and Bedford Manor, it came to be known by the name of the family of Dodd who took a 99 year lease from the Duke of Bedford some time around 1736.

Previous tenants were, in 1665 a widow named Farrow, and in 1736 a William Dyer.

The Dodd family continued to work the mill until the lease passed to a nephew, John Boughton in the latter half of the 19th century, in whose family it still remains.

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APPENDICES

- 1.....Facing page. The excavation of the Pump House.
- 2.....1735-6 Map of Chenies Village.
- 3.....1735 Survey.
- 4.....Notes on the Bedford Chapel.
- 5.....Leaflet - The Surrounds of Chenies Manor House.
- 6.....Leaflet - Chenies Manor - Historical & Architectural description.
- 7.....Chenies Manor - Leyland's impressions.
- 8.....List of scheduled buildings in Chenies.
- 9.....Notes on window tax.
- 10....Conservation document.