

Historical Note

The group of buildings now known as the Cosener's House takes its name from the site on which the old Cuisinier's (Kitchener's) House stood in the 12th Century. The Kitchener was a senior monk (or obediitary) in charge of provisioning an Abbey.

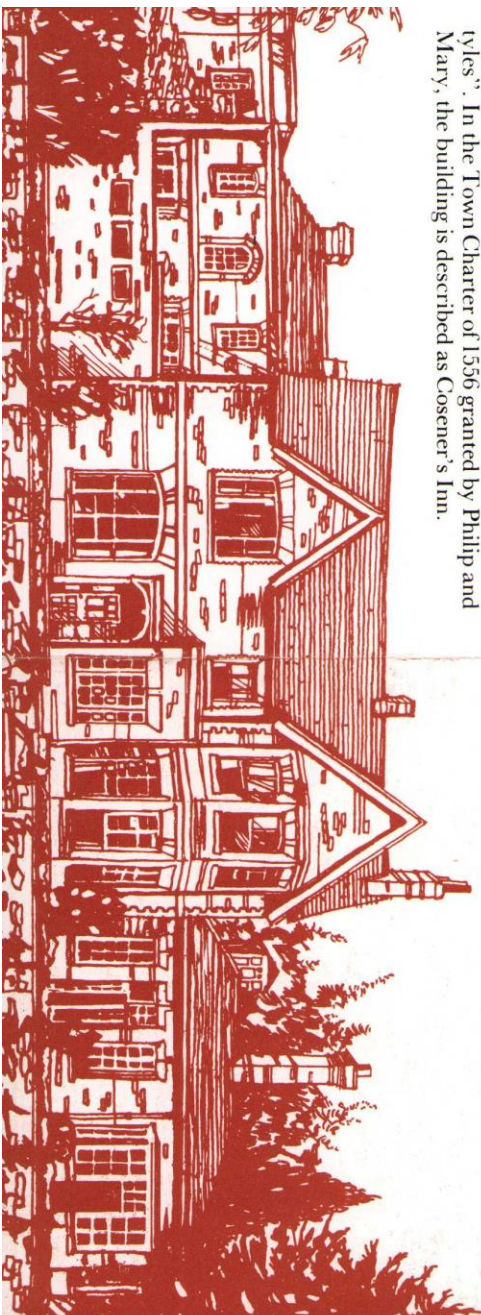
The history of the Abbey of St Mary, Abingdon, dates back to 675 when a Saxon nobleman, Hearn, was granted the present site. Here he built, in a walled enclosure, a church, refectory and cells for 12 monks. This first small Abbey was damaged in 772 in the border skirmishes between King Offa's Mercians and Wessex, and then sacked in the Danish raids of 866 and 871. Hearn's Abbey remained derelict until 955 when King Eadred, anxious to restore the abbey's in his realm, made Aethelwold its Abbot. A new church was built, together with various domestic buildings, but more important to the future Cosener's House was the re-digging of the mill stream and the re-furbishing of the mill. The Abbey prospered until the Conquest in 1066, then suffered a difficult period until Faritius became Abbot in 1100.

Faritius' Kitchener and his successors administered much of the Abbey estates and soon became powerful enough to build their own house, on the island across the mill stream from the Abbey precinct, with its own gardens, dovecote, gatehouse and bridge. The house survived the dissolution of the Abbey in 1538, and in the 1554 Town Survey was described as "built of freestone, covered with slates and tyles". In the Town Charter of 1556 granted by Philip and Mary, the building is described as Cosener's Inn.

The Cosener's House

In 1553 the Abbey precinct was sold by the Crown to William Blackrall, a miller who already held a lease on the mills. From that time until the late 18th Century, Cosener's Inn together with the corn mills and the range of buildings on the opposite side of the stream, now known as the Checker and Long Gallery, were let to a succession of brewers.

The old Cosener's Inn was demolished and replaced by a private residence in the early 1800s. The west wing was built first, followed by the central block and probably a conservatory to the east. Later a lean-to kitchen, a new east wing, bay window and garden terrace were added. The house continued in private occupation until bought by the Ministry of Supply in 1948 as a hostel for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and finally acquired by the Science Research Council in 1961 as a hostel and conference centre. In 1964 bedroom and kitchen extensions were added and in 1978 the old Edwardian stable block was converted into eight study-bedrooms in the original style.



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The
Cosener's
House

The Cosener's House

Welcome to the Cosener's House

If you have not stayed here before, the following information may be helpful:

Meal Times

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Mon-Fri	7.30-8.45	12.00	18.15
Sat, Sun	8.30-9.30		18.15

There is a meal book in the dining room and visitors are asked to complete this each morning showing their requirements. Those working on night shift may have sandwiches if they ask in advance. Coffee is available in the Hall each evening.

If, for medical or religious reasons, visitors are on a special diet, they should let the Manageress know at the time of booking. Visitors should also indicate if they are going to be away for the night during their stay.

Medical Information

There are medical and dental facilities at Harwell for visitors to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

In an emergency, a local Doctor can be contacted by telephone (Abingdon 23126).

Transport

The Harwell bus service, which serves the Chilton site, leaves from near the County Hall at 8.00 a.m. each weekday morning, returning from Bay 23 at night. Timetables for local services are displayed on the Notice Board adjacent to the visitors' telephone.

Laundry

Long term visitors may use the laundry room for drying clothes and for ironing. There is a public laundry along the Oxford Road.

Payment of Bills

Visitors are asked to pay their bill the evening before departure, between 18.30 and 19.30 or the morning of departure. Claims forms for those whose accounts are to be charged to SERC may be found on the reception desk.

Telephone

The Manageress' telephone number is Abingdon 23198 and the visitors' telephone number is Abingdon 21799.

**Science and Engineering Research Council
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory**

Chilton, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 0QX.
Telephone: Abingdon (0235) 21900

Abingdon

A delightful riverside market town, Abingdon grew up at the gates of the Abbey, founded AD 675. Once the County Town of Berkshire, Abingdon boasts a County Hall designed by Wren, medieval domestic

buildings of the Abbey, an unusual Parish Church and its own Saint, Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury. Early closing day - Thursday; Market day - Monday.

