



Buried treasure: Alan Hutchinson with the photographs unearthed at the 11th hour at the condemned Loakes Park

A SECRET hoard of historic photographs of past Wycombe Wanderers teams has been found under a football stand soon to be demolished.

Prints of the aged pictures will now take pride of place at the club's new ground at Adams Park, Sands.

The remarkable discovery was made by club officials as they prepared to move out of Loakes Park last week.

Secretary Alan Hutchinson was taking a final stroll around the ground with chairman Ivor Beeks when they spotted a small entrance to a hidden store in a partition wall under the stand.

"So we got a hammer and we opened it up," said Mr Hutchinson.

There were about a dozen photographs in all, some taken as long ago as the 1890s.

One picture shows a team posing at the Wanderers' old ground in Spring Meadow, near what is now Spring Garden. The club played there from 1889 to 1894.

"There is another marvellous shot of the team taken on the pitch at Loakes Park. In the background there is just Marlow Hill going up behind them with the abbey in full view, no hospital or anything," said Mr Hutchinson.

Another picture, taken in 1921, features player

Arthur Wethered, who is the club's oldest surviving player, now 85.

Mr Hutchinson believes the photographs were possibly stored there before the First World War, with others being added between the wars.

The photographs have been cleaned up and are now being rephotographed.

"The originals will be put into the archives. They will fade if we display them but we are having very high quality copies taken," explained Mr Hutchinson.

It is hoped an exhibition of the pictures will be ready by the start of next season at the club's new home in Sands.