



Maidenhead Civic Society NEWS

Issue 3/09

August 2009

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Maidenhead Civic Society website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the URL www.maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk and a menu with links: Home, The Society, News, Planning, Projects & Campaigns, Events, Gallery, Membership, and Contact us. Below the navigation bar is the main heading "Maidenhead Civic Society" followed by the tagline "IMPROVING THE AMENITY OF MAIDENHEAD". A text box states: "Since 1960 the Society has been an effective voice in the community, promoting high standards of planning and architecture in Maidenhead, and working to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the town and surrounding areas." Below this are five sections, each with a heading and a "Click for more ..." link: "Planning" (The core of the Society's activities...), "Amenity & Environment" (The Society is active in campaigning...), "Local Heritage" (The Society works to encourage the preservation...), "Social Events" (Our attractive programme of Events, Talks and Visits), and "CIVIC CLUB PARK" (The park was created by Maidenhead Civic Society in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I 1572).

The new website says it all: an up-to-date notice board as well as an archive of past achievements and events. See more on page 6.

Visit our website! : www.maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Griff Rhys Jones may have not been too kind about Maidenhead as he re-traced the comic journey of Jerome's *Three Men In A Boat* but we shouldn't hold it against him.

As well as his obvious love of life and laughter, the writer, actor and comedian also has a deep affection for architecture and conservation.

Last month he gave his support to a new initiative to give support and a focus to Civic Societies like ours, following the demise of Civic Trust. Maidenhead Civic Society had been affiliated to the Civic Trust since its inception. Sadly, however, the Trust, of which Rhys Jones was president, went into administration, a victim of the recession. As he says: "Never has there been a more urgent time for local spokespeople to have a strong voice." See our story on page 7.

Another recent casualty of the financial crisis was Watchword, the property company which owned the old Taplow Paper Mill and Skindles. As Martin McNamee reports, they had just submitted an outline planning application for the site. So what happens now?

Meanwhile, the Society has been advocating that 22 acres of land near Ockwells Manor in Cox Green should be re-designated Green Belt. The proposal was put forward at Maidenhead Town Forum in response to the Council's request for suggestions in its public consultation on the Green Belt and housing land.

On the social scene, our events team have organised some memorable occasions recently, including a fascinating talk by author Stephen Carr on Africa and a very enjoyable day out to see behind the scenes at Lord's, home of the MCC, and a visit to Kenwood House. And there's more in the offing. These events are for you. Please come a long and bring a friend.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that following a recent health scare, our President John McIntosh is on the mend. I am sure that all members would like to join me in sending him our best wishes.

Bob Dulson - Chairman

PLANNING MATTERS

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Following on from the May edition of the Newsletter there have been developments on two of the major projects – Stiefel Laboratories and the Taplow Mill/Skindles development. The enlargement of the Stiefel Laboratories building at Whitebrook Park on Lower Cookham Road has been refused, primarily on grounds of overdevelopment of the site and the increase in vehicle movements. The proposals for Taplow Mill and Skindles are dealt with below.

Since the last report the Planning Group have considered around 55 applications and have submitted comments on 13 planning proposals to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. We also commented to the South Bucks District Council on the Taplow site – our letter being reproduced below.

BRIDGE AVENUE HOTEL SITE

The main new project within Maidenhead was at 3-6 Bridge Avenue. We believe that the proposed 116-bedroom hotel is too large for the site, which will result from the demolition of four existing office buildings. The outline application is for a six-storey block that will dominate Bridge Avenue and surrounding residential properties. Only 20 parking places are provided which will prove inadequate for the anticipated number of hotel guests – and for people attending functions. Furthermore, the building design itself is absolutely functional with no architectural merit. Although more than 40 objections were received the outline proposals were approved at the Development Control Panel at the end of June. It is argued that the hotel will be a good addition to the town centre, and will bring some vitality to the Bridge Avenue area. It is to be regretted that planners and committees do not seek to exert more influence on the scale and design of such projects.

TAPLOW PAPER MILL & SKINDLES HOTEL

Having attended various briefing meetings, and liaised with both the Hitcham and Taplow Society and the Ellington and District Residents' Association we sent the following letter to SBDC on 22 May 2009:

“Although sited on the Bucks side of the River Thames this is a major landmark site which is the important traditional eastern gateway to Maidenhead. Therefore, there is interest and concern from Maidenhead residents. There is also considerable goodwill in that most Maidonians wish to see the redevelopment of the problematic and deteriorating Skindles site resolved. Our comments are divided into three categories:

Residential Development

We welcome the reduction in the total number of units from the original proposals. However, we remain concerned that the existing footprint is exceeded by the level of development, and that flood related issues have not

been fully considered. Our main objection is to the excessive five storey apartment blocks which are proposed alongside the Jubilee River, on the site of the existing mill sheds/warehouses. We believe that these structures may be above tree height and therefore visible from Ray Mead Road on the Berks bank of the Thames. They will be especially apparent during the winter months when there is no leaf cover. We regard the other residential proposals as reasonable and are pleased that the two large Victorian houses on site are being retained for conversion.

Hotel Development

Whilst we are keen to see the restoration of Skindles Hotel we are very concerned at the scale of the proposals. The application is for a five storey, 150 bedroom hotel which is grossly excessive – and much larger than what was communicated during the consultation process. Not only is the frontage onto the Thames too high, but the elevation along the A4 has been extended eastwards and is a full five storeys high. Furthermore, although these are outline proposals we do not believe that the elevations submitted have the distinctive architectural merit demanded by such a landmark site, which is adjacent to a Conservation Area.

Amenities, Access, Green Belt Etc

There will be considerable traffic generated by the residential development and the hotel. Therefore, we are in favour of the Mill Lane junction being moved further east. However, this junction may require a mini roundabout to permit exit from Mill Lane and this would cause further congestion on the already saturated A4. We believe considerable further analysis is needed regarding traffic flow and volumes generated by this large development.

We understand that SBDC is in favour of the use of the site for open space recreational facilities. Marinas, cafes etc could be included to create diversification. Access should be a shared public amenity and although there are public footpaths through the site we believe that public access is restricted especially to the river frontage. We are particularly disappointed that the footbridge over the Thames to Boulters Lock has been dropped from the proposals. In terms of regenerating the site and the area, we believe that the footbridge would be a major asset. The Thames Path, on the Bucks bank south of the A4 could actually be routed more safely through the site to cross the river over to Boulters Lock. In addition a circular walk could be created. We are convinced that SBDC and RBWM should collaborate on the development of the river as an amenity in general, and the construction of the footbridge in particular.

There are significant areas of Green Belt which should be preserved, and any encroachment on the Green Belt should be kept to a minimum. The Brown Land owned by the gas board is suitable for acquisition and redevelopment. Indeed the gasworks detract from the scheme and it would be an improvement if it was incorporated in the overall project.

Summary

Whilst we are generally in favour of the redevelopment proposals for this site, the specific concerns outlined above are significant, and we ask that they are duly considered.”

The deadline for responses to the proposals was 29th May, but during the following month there have been significant developments. In particular, the owners/developers Watchword Ltd went into administration on 23rd June. They are reported to have paid £30.25m for the site in 2006. The diversity and mixed use of the 45-acre site has been a major impediment in resolving numerous planning issues. The number of dwellings has already been reduced from 400 to 180, and this looks set to be decreased even further as it has been indicated that the five-storey apartment blocks are to be reduced to three storeys. The Skindles Hotel proposals will also be reduced in height and moved back from the A4. Modification to the plans is ongoing – and is being communicated by Hunter Page who *were* planning consultants for Watchword. They had also indicated to re-introduction of the proposed footbridge between the Bucks bank and Boulter’s Lock. However, there is now great uncertainty regarding the entire project. The administrators are BDO Stoy Hayward, who will be looking to maximise return on the investment. It is far from certain whether the existing proposals will continue to be modified, or if a new application will be made. Regretfully, the problems associated with the Skindles site are a long way from being solved.

WATER PRESSURE VERSUS BLOOD PRESSURE!

Many Civic Society members will be aware of the problems associated with low water pressure during the summer months. South East Water are proposing a major scheme to augment the dwindling supplies from College Avenue pumping station. It is proposed to run a new water main supply from south of Bray northwards to the Norfolk Road area. The Civic Society is very concerned about the potential disruption to traffic and residents in the Oldfield Road, Bath Road and Ray Street areas, where it is anticipated that closures and diversions could be in place for two to three months. We are not convinced that alternative routes have been considered. In particular we believe that the existing waterway/flood relief channels could be utilised. These run the majority of the distance in question, and the sinking of the water main in the bed of these channels could be incorporated in preparatory work for the Waterways Group project. The eastern approach roads – which are already heavily congested will become impossible if the current proposed routing is adopted. We believe that the Borough Highways Department is severely underestimating the impact of these works on the commercial access to the town centre. If an alternative route is not adopted then be prepared for weeks of misery in 2010!

Martin McNamee

LATEST FROM PRoM

PRoM has decided, on the advice of its consultants, to produce the Masterplan in the form of an Area Action Plan (AAP). As such the Masterplan will form part of the LDF, making it a policy document and thus giving it more weight. In the run-up to the publication of a draft AAP for the town centre at the end of the year, ProM is working towards a Preferred Options document for consultation in October. In the meantime, an Update will be produced to include feedback on recent Stakeholder Workshops, a few salient questions (e.g. the extent of the AAP area and building heights) and a flavour of what to expect in the Preferred Options paper. Work is also progressing on the Public Realm Strategy. The installation in the High Street of a sample panel of materials and street furniture for public comment will begin in September. With funding from the Advertiser, the plan to brighten the windows of empty shops with illustrated panels is due to go ahead in the next few weeks.

RIVERSIDE TREES

The state of the plane trees and the surrounding ground along the riverside in Ray Mead Road has been raised with the Planning Dept and a local councillor. The tarmac around them had been taken up because the trees were in danger. Local councillors had wanted permeable block paving installed but this had proved too costly. So the current muddy panels in the pavement will shortly be grassed over and, we are promised, well tended and watered. A complaint in the Advertiser that the Civic Society had not shown interest in this issue was responded to by Ann Darracott in a letter which was published.

Bob Dulson

SOCIETY WEBMASTER RETIRES



In the October 2002 Newsletter we reported on the introduction of what was then the Society's re-vamped website, and noted that Tim Goldingham (left) had been the webmaster from the time of the very first website we had, and would carry on. Well, he did - until the end of 2008 when he retired from the post following the implementation of the current site. His splendid contribution to helping promote the Society's activities was recently recognised with the presentation of a gift of book tokens. So having hung up his spurs – or should that be mouse?! – he can look forward to reading plenty of words in a more traditional format.

DEMISE OF THE CIVIC TRUST

GRIFF RHYS JONES LAUNCHES CIVIC SOCIETY INITIATIVE

TV presenter, actor, writer and comedian Griff Rhys Jones was in Hong Kong when news broke in April that the Civic Trust of which he'd recently been made president was to close because of lack of funding.

Founded in 1957 by Duncan Sandys, the Civic Trust had represented 700 Civic Societies in England.

“The absence of the Civic Trust threatened to leave a gaping hole,” said Griff, writing in the Sunday Times. “I was taken aback; others were more direct. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and in particular the National Trust, were deeply unhappy. They all recognised the need for a body to fight for, to look after, to cherish the urban landscape.”

By the time he got home, the Civic Society Initiative had been born. The Initiative is a temporary body set up to find out what response is needed in the wake of such a demise. For more background, see their website: www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk.

A few weeks later at a press conference on June 1st, Griff formally launched the new Initiative, alongside Tony Burton, its new director, Fiona Reynolds (director general of the National Trust), and Laura Sandys (Duncan's daughter).

The purpose of the Civic Society Initiative (CSI) is a simple one – to establish within 12 months the means to ensure provision of a national voice and support for the civic society movement.



Griff Rhys Jones – TV presenter and Civic Society champion

“The phoenix-from-the-ashes proposals of the Civic Society Initiative are modest,” said Griff Rhys Jones. A body to give local organisations a national voice was

needed, he argued, because the worst things that happened to heritage in Britain didn't happen at a local level, they happened as a result of central policies. "Tony Burton and others simply want to get back to a few core values and keep the national spirit of civic pride alive. And, what is more important, our towns and cities need it."

The loss of the Civic Trust has prompted a groundswell of support for the movement. The role of societies and local community action is as important now as it was when the Civic Trust was set up. Over 500 civic societies have already said they want to be kept in touch with the future arrangements for supporting societies and providing a champion for the movement.

The CSI has been established to address four main questions:

- What is the mission of the civic society movement in the 21st century?
- What is needed to achieve this mission by way of an effective network of local groups and a strong national and local presence?
- How is this organised and funded?
- How can we best maintain the existing civic society network and promote its value to itself and externally in the meantime?

The CSI says it intends to be open minded, recognising that the future needs to be rooted in what the societies want and that they need to drive the way forward. To this end it is organising a series of open forums around the country. The nearest to us will be held in High Wycombe on July 25th, another is being planned for Guildford in October. If you'd like to attend, please register using the following link: http://www.civicsocietyinitiative.org.uk/civic_debate.html. An email and web-based survey is also being organised over the summer.

The level of commitment by the CSI's main sponsors demonstrates the importance that they attach to the protection of the Civic Society network.

The National Trust has donated a year's funding for Tony Burton, their former director of Strategy & External Affairs, to lead the Initiative. Prior to joining the Trust in 2001, Burton was deputy director of CPRE. He has more than 20 years experience in community action, land use planning and environmental and heritage politics. Office accommodation and in-kind support is being donated by CPRE in London and RIBA in Liverpool, and the North of England Civic Trust is providing a charitable home and governance.

If you know someone who would be interested in joining the Civic Society, tell them about the new initiative and get them to contact us.

Bob Dulson

SUMMER EVENTS

A TASTE OF AFRICA

In May we were fortunate in having hosted a talk from Stephen Carr MBE, on one of his rare visits to the UK.

He was a riveting speaker with enormous knowledge of his subject. Both Stephen and his wife Ann have worked in Africa for 50 years in the field of agriculture and we learned that they are a redoubtable couple.

Stephen began his talk by saying that those happy smiling faces of the Africans, we often see, are a bad advert for misery. He initially worked at a teacher training college of Agriculture in the Sudan, but felt that though they taught modern skills to the indigenous people and they were happy to carry these out while at the College. On returning home to their villages they very quickly returned to the old traditional ways of working.

He and Ann decided that the only way to understand the methods was to go and live alongside the villagers and so they became southern Sudanese peasant farmers. They began by building their own mud hut and learned about the traditional methods surrounding them. This is just one of the amazing experiences that they have had.

In these early days food was plentiful even though it took intense labour to produce it on small farms. Nowadays food has to be imported.

We learned that the main problem for food production in today's overcrowded world, is the enormous amounts of inorganic fertilizer necessary to feed the vast population. India and China purchase imported fertilizer in order to supply their populations with food. They can do this because they have alternative industries, which fund the subsidies. Africa has no such wealth.

Stephen has worked in many African countries in senior government posts and also with the Africa Region of the World Bank but he is now settled in Malawi. He and Ann continue to work for the welfare of the people around them. They are very involved in birth control advice and work closely with Aids charities, trying to make Africa a better place to live.

Stephen has a fund of wonderful tales to tell, as those who purchased his book "Surprised by Laughter" will have discovered. It is a highly recommended read and does show another side of his life but this was not reflected in his talk, which was making a very serious point about the future of Africa.

Tina Sell

OUTINGS & EVENTS

Lords Cricket Ground was the latest outing, for a behind the scenes visit on Saturday 11th July. We saw the Museum, the Pavilion with the famous Long Room and the Media Centre and were given a most interesting and informative tour.

Our next stop was Kenwood House in Hampstead. Here we had a private tour conducted by a very knowledgeable English Heritage guide. The house and the works of art that it contains were very impressive - the range of old masters and their setting left us all surprised and appreciative.

The next visit takes place on Sunday 11th October to Tyntesfield and Dyrham Park, which are both near Bath.

Tyntesfield (right) is a Victorian Gothic Revival estate near Wraxall, North Somerset, England, in the Vale of Nailsea, seven miles from Bristol. It was acquired by the National Trust in June 2002 after a fund raising campaign to prevent it being sold to private interests and ensure it be opened to the public. It was opened to visitors for the first time just 10 weeks after the acquisition and as more rooms are restored they are added to the tour. The Gibbs family's fortunes originated in the establishment of a trading company by Antony Gibbs (1756–1816). Gibbs dealt mainly with Spain, and eventually took his two oldest sons (William and George) into partnership. After Antony's death, his sons built up a substantial trade in guano from the former Spanish colonies in South America. The firm's profits from this trade were such that William Gibbs became one of the richest men in England, and was able to finance the construction of Tyntesfield as a country home for his family. William Gibbs purchased Tyntes Place, the original Regency-Gothic house that stood on the site, in 1843. In 1863 he began the full-blown rebuilding to create the Gothic Revival extravaganza that now stands at a cost of £70,000.





Dyrham Park is a glorious William and Mary mansion set in a deer park. The house is set in 274 acres (1.1 km²) of gardens and parkland. The west front of 1692 was commissioned from the Huguenot architect, Samuel Hauduroy, and the west (garden) front of 1704 from William Talman, architect of Chatsworth, by William Blathwayt, who was Secretary at War to William III. Dyrham Park is known

for its collection including important examples of Dutch decorative arts and for 18th-century additions, including furniture by Gillow and Linnell. The property is now owned by the National Trust, which took it over from the Government in 1961, who had purchased it from the Blathwayt family in 1956. The mansion has been used as a film location. It is also a National Trust property so those who are members will make a significant saving.

Mike Copeland

A SPICY CREAM TEA

The long hazy lazy days of summer always conjure up the pleasing picture of fresh scones with cream and strawberry jam in the garden while sharing your thoughts and views with your friends and loved ones.



We are going to capture this idyllic scene and therefore invite you and your friends to a “Cream Tea” on Sunday 6th September 2009 at Silvretta, Islet Road, Maidenhead SL6 8LD. In order to make the afternoon special and with a difference, you will be invited to participate in a quiz or two. Listen to some live music and also sample a few spicy creations like samosas. An opportunity to show off your pretty summer dresses!

Shashi Dare

SOME HISTORICAL PLAQUES IN MAIDENHEAD

The Civic Society at odd times and for differing reasons has put up commemorative plaques in Maidenhead (see below). A website has been created (www.openplaques.org) that aims to be an open repository of information on blue plaques (and any other colour). Apparently the Royal Borough is not so far represented so we may send the website the details of “our” plaques.



Brunel's famous "Sounding Arch" is commemorated by the Society's plaque fixed to the left of the arch over the footpath as you look north



How many of you have noticed this plaque near the entrance to the NatWest Bank in the High Street, recording the site of the old Greyhound Inn?



Guards Club Park was created through the efforts of Civic Society members to commemorate the Silver Jubilee in 1977



This plaque set in the pavement in front of the Bear Hotel in the High Street records the site of the Medieval Chapel of SS. Andrew and Mary.



This Blue Plaque was suggested by the Civic Society and we provided the text. It complements the one above.

PROJECTS

MILLENNIUM WALK

Missing Links - recent developments

A lot of wheel spinning has taken place with regard to this project in recent months but I am not going into detail as it would only depress you!

On the plus side we now have new maps of the missing links, again courtesy of Dave Ramm of East Berks Ramblers, and one of them - the Lower Cookham Road to the Thames Path link - we hope will again be walked during Maidenhead Rotary Club's annual Boundary Walk on 4th October. We normally clear the route a couple of weeks beforehand so if you are willing to help do that or marshal on the day, please give me a ring (01628 620280).

THE GREEN WAY

“Windows 2” to go ahead in 2009

As this project has been a resounding success in controlling the reeds and so allowing better water flow, it is to be repeated this year with again the Environment Agency providing most of the funding. This year spraying is to be extended southwards to the stream on Maidenhead (Town) Moor but also to Maidenhead Ditch north of the flood control gate, both areas are heavily congested with reeds. We are grateful to Peter Prior of Summerleaze Gravel for giving permission for the latter work (Summerleaze is the riparian owner).

An unexpected benefit of “Windows” has been the discovery of clumps of the Flowering Rush, described as one of our loveliest waterside plants. You can spot the beautiful pink flowers of this plant in Maidenhead Ditch when walking on Green Way West.

York Stream next to Hines Meadow Car Park

Members may remember photos of the stretch of streambed next to the Green Way that runs from the A4 to near to the Crown Lane steps when it was being reconfigured using Sainsbury's S106 money (see newsletter 3/07 p13).

The planting has now matured nicely, though I still think planting willows was a mistake. Nevertheless the various Primulas, Marsh Marigolds and Flag Irises etc have given the area patches of colour that has been welcomed by walkers on the Green Way. I only hope the weeds can be kept at bay.



The stream section next to Hines Meadow Car Park in July 2007



The same section next in July 2009, showing the maturing vegetation



Flag irises in bloom along the stream bank next to the car park

OCKWELLS PROJECT

The Society raised the matter of protecting the setting of Ockwells Manor at the Maidenhead Town Forum meeting of 2nd June. You may remember the public consultation undertaken recently which, with particular regard to the Green Belt, asked where people would prefer that new houses to meet government targets, should be built. As part of this exercise, the Council has also been looking to extend the Green Belt (and sweeten the pill) and asked for suggestions. We have suggested that the 22 acres of land opposite the famous 15th century manor house, Ockwells Manor, land that is included in the current Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) be re-designated as green belt.

We have been in touch with the National Trust who in the past, with the help of the Cox Green Community Association, has protected the land from development. They have told us that as a statutory consultee, they have already replied to the consultation exercise, to reiterate that they hold restrictive covenants and do not propose relaxing them. Thus, under the various Government tests for the allocation of housing land, this site cannot go forward for development. They also say that they have suggested to the planning authority that the land should be allocated as Green Belt and propose to pursue this at the next stage of the Local Development Framework and have asked for our help. Changing the status to Green Belt would greatly assist Ockwells' position and prevent (or at least reduce) further speculations in the future.



The photo shows the field to the north of the manor house, and the trees planted on Ockwells Road by the developer to screen the manor house

You might be interested in the Inspector's decision resulting from the last time an attempt was made to overturn the covenant. In the last (1992) decision, the president of the Lands Tribunal concluded that he "*was not persuaded..... that the application land has ceased to be part of the setting of the Manor by virtue of the tree planting that has taken place. The setting of a building includes its approach and the northern approach to Ockwells Manor is historically and naturally the principal approach to it...development would be very damaging to the setting and quite incongruous [and finally and very significantly]....the setting of the Manor is not to be judged solely in visual terms*".

In the meantime I have it on good authority that these housing targets will be binned if there is a change of government!!!!

SAVING JESUS HOSPITAL ALMSHOUSES, BRAY

You may have already heard that the Fishmongers Company, owner of the almshouse, want to pass over the trusteeship of the almshouse and adjacent land to Bristol Charities so they can sell it. This was apparently done without consulting residents.



The almshouse is a Grade I listed building that has been home for the local “aged poor” for the last 400 years. Apart from the distress to residents of having to move out, there is the question of what is going to happen to the building. Re-development and “change of use” raises the spectre of modern additions built on the surrounding fields which will affect - yes you’ve guessed it: the setting of the almshouse.

For those of you with access to the internet there is a petition you can sign on www.ipetitions.com/petition/jesushospital or you can email the Windsor MP Adam Afriyie: afriyiea@parliament.uk.

The Society has offered whatever help we can give. Watch this space.

Ann Darracott

IMPORTANT NOTICE - MEMBERSHIP

Annual Membership is from 1st June to 31st May, each year.

May I please remind all members who do NOT subscribe by Standing Order but normally pay by Cheque or cash, that the annual membership subscription is now due. Please send in your dues to Shashi Dare, Silvretta, Islet Road, Maidenhead SL6 8LD.

Thank you for your kind co-operation.

Shashi Dare

HERITAGE CENTRE NEWS

There is always something new happening at the Heritage Centre in Park Street - and often a new recruit to our expanding volunteer team to greet you.

There are three exhibitions to see this summer and autumn. Running until August 31st is "**Lost Buildings of Maidenhead**", which sets new standards of graphics for Heritage Centre exhibitions and looks at much-loved local buildings which have disappeared within living memory: which one would you choose to rebuild? Another new exhibition "**Buried Treasure**" runs from September 8th to October 31st and concentrates on archaeological finds in the Maidenhead area, from the stone age to the Romans, the Saxons and beyond. Finally in November and December we fast-forward to Victorian times for "**The Coming of the Railway**".

Other events

On the second Thursday of every month there is a 30-minute **lunchtime mini-lecture** at Park Street, beginning at 12.45pm. Topics range across the whole range of local history. For instance the September lecture will be the second part of a talk by Keith Parry about Ray Lodge. Subjects announced on our website and in the Advertiser.

Town Centre guided walk - Sunday 13th September, meet at Park Street at 2pm, charge £3.

Quiz Night - with a strong emphasis on the local area! Friday 2nd October at 8pm at the Heritage Centre. Teams of 4, £5 per head in aid of Heritage Centre funds, incl. light refreshments.

Antiques Valuation Day - Wednesday 21st October, 10.30am to 2pm at Park Street, with experts from Bonhams of Henley on hand to value your treasures. Entrance £3, first item free, subsequent items £1.

An Afternoon with the War Poets - Saturday 7th November, 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Poetry both sombre and humorous, by both men and women, with delicious tea and cakes to enjoy during the afternoon.

NEW BOOK FROM LUKE OVER

Luke will be signing copies of his new book "Villages Around Maidenhead" on Saturday 3rd October at the Heritage Centre. The book draws together a collection of Luke's articles written for the Advertiser and will fascinate anybody who is interested in local history.

MAIDENHEAD 2010 CALENDAR

We will be publishing a Maidenhead Calendar for the first time this year, in response to many requests from our visitors. The calendar should be available by mid September, in time for those of you who post Christmas packages to far flung parts of the world.

...AND FINALLY

Don't forget that the Heritage Centre is open on Farmer's Market Sunday, which is the second Sunday of each month.

For further information and bookings, please contact the Heritage Centre:
Telephone 01628 780555 or e-mail: info@maidenheadheritage.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 6th September 2009
Event

Spicy Cream Tea
Silvretta, Islet Road, Maidenhead, 3-5pm

Sunday 11th October 2009
Visit

Tyntesfield House & Dyrham Park, near Bath

Wednesday 21st October 2009
Talk

Title to be advised
Methodist Church Hall, King Street, 8.00 pm

Wednesday 18th November 2009
Talk by Dr Jonathon Jones, followed by **AGM**

“The Local NHS Hospital Trust, From a Medic’s Point of View”
Methodist Church Hall, King Street, 7.45 pm

CIVIC SOCIETY OFFICERS

President of the Trustees	John McIntosh, 26 Harvest Hill Road, SL6 2QQ	633259
Hon. Secretary	June Jorge, 134 Beverley Gardens, SL6 6ST	626616
Hon. Treasurer	Trevor Farnfield, Ditton Meads, Winter Hill Road, SL6 6NS	638142
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Projects Group	Ann Darracott, 6 Medallion Place, SL6 1TF	620280
Communications Group	Brian Darracott, 6 Medallion Place, SL6 1TF	620280
Events Group	Tina Sell, Marlborough, River Road, Taplow, SL6 0BB	628675
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2009

Parish Centre in St. Luke’s Church, at 7.45 pm.

13th January, 10th February, 10th March, 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 8th September, 10th November, 8th December

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS FOR 2009

Parish Centre in St. Luke’s Church, at 7.45 p.m.

14th April, 13th October

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th November 2009 in the Wesley Hall at the Methodist Church at 7.45 pm.

**The closing date for copy for the next issue
of the Newsletter is 16th October 2009.**

News Editor **Brian Darracott**
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