



Maidenhead Civic Society NEWS



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August 2013



Oldfield Primary School: should it move from the present site in Chiltern Road to a new greenfield site? See the Society's opinion on page 3.

Visit our website: www.maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk

Chairman's Foreword

Councillors on the Maidenhead Development Control Panel were right to refuse the ING King's Triangle application when it came to them a second time in April.

Although the vote was of the narrowest margin, six to five, it was plain to most informed observers that the revised plans were still a big disappointment.

ING had presented their plans to the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead (PRoM) on four or five occasions over the period but they never really took on board any of the comments and suggestions made to them. It seemed they were prepared to go only so far.

Consequently the scheme fell short of expectations – and failed to meet the requirements of PRoM's Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) and the aspirations of residents for a high quality, appealing development at the key southern gateway to the town.

A primary aim of the AAP is that town centre regeneration should adopt a holistic, integrated approach. Being so compact, its different areas need to flow naturally one to another, by creating and improving links. The main criticism of the ING scheme was that it failed to do this. It was introspective, insular, bulky and dense. The proposed traffic movements were poor and the parking provision was merely self-serving.

The ING scheme was also retail led and, in the light of changes in the retail market, it was likely that the mix would need to be re-assessed in the full application. Online shopping is having a major effect on high street trading and store-owners are having to think creatively. Experts tell us that high streets will become much more leisure led.

But some things remain constant: in a planning workshop recently a group of Claire's Court pupils were asked what single thing would transform the town centre. Their answer? – a department store!

Bob Dulson

Planning Matters

The routine monthly meetings of the Planning Group reviewed some 35 applications since last reporting, and commented on ten.

The most significant – and controversial – application is for the proposed new location for an extended **Oldfield Primary School**. The site is just south of Chalgrove Close on Bray Road, and we are not convinced that all possible alternatives have been diligently considered. Our letter of objection is reproduced below: we believe that the existing site is large enough for the enlarged school – especially when it is considered that some of the site is “sub-let” to the Montessori Nursery. Of course, it is more disruptive and complicated to build alongside a functioning school; it is easier to build on a greenfield site away from the existing establishment. However, building on the green belt buffer between Maidenhead and Bray should be the absolute last resort. We are not convinced that this is the case.

“We fully accept the pressure on the Local Authority to provide additional primary school places within the Royal Borough generally – and specifically for Oldfield which is heavily oversubscribed. However, in the drive to deliver more school places it is very important that due process and planning policy is properly observed. Any decision to build on the Green Belt should be the absolute last resort.

We are not convinced that the full evaluation of alternative locations has been undertaken. Firstly, it is understood that the old Winbury School site in Hibbert Road is deemed unsuitable. Yet, this is now proposed to be the location for a new free school. The short term inconvenience for existing parents to have to “re-locate” would be only temporary and will be forgotten in due course. Secondly, the Braywick alternative to the west of Maidenhead Cut would similarly result in the “inconvenience” of longer journeys by foot and by car. As a third option, the existing site is deemed too small for the required extension, but we especially believe this decision should be revisited.

The “only” suitable site for the construction of a new school is deemed to be the proposed Bray Road site, which, very conveniently, is understood to be owned by the Royal Borough. We will not go into the detail of the unsuitability of this location, which is well documented by opponents to the scheme. There is the fact that it is important Green Belt, and next to a site of scientific interest to the south. It is also situated on land designated liable to flooding. It is located on a narrow and busy road on which the impact of the proposed Stafferton Way/Oldfield Road southern loop is unknown.

We understand that the staff/governors/parents of Oldfield Primary School are very excited at the prospect of a brand new and enlarged school. We believe that the design of the school is to be commended, and the access and parking proposals are a good attempt to overcome the potential traffic problems.

However, we think that the more satisfactory option is for the enlarged school to be constructed within the current site.

We recommend an alternative proposal to extend the existing school within the current site boundary (which includes the surplus land currently sublet to the Montessori School). The loss of playground/exercise space could be offset by using the Bray Road site exclusively for playing fields and other recreational use. This would involve a five minute walk for teachers and children between the two sites. Changing facilities and toilets could be provided at the playing fields – but these would be much less detrimental than the proposed new school. The increased vehicular movement and access related to the enlarged school can be managed and retained in the quieter and safer environment of Chiltern Road. Obviously the Montessori School will have to be relocated, but this could be achieved without the detrimental impact of this application.”

The **‘Golden Harp’/Tesco Express** in Furze Platt saga continues to exercise the action group set up to fight the proposals. The progress of this battle appears virtually every week in the Maidenhead Advertiser, and any comment here will be out of date by the time this Newsletter has been distributed.

Two applications which have been refused are now going to appeal. The former **‘Marblecraft’** business property on Portlock Road (*photo below*) is a viable brownfield site for residential development, but the proposals are too high density and un-neighbourly to existing residential properties adjoining the site. Likewise, the proposed re-development of 19 Bridle Road has been refused, and is also going to appeal.



The former “Marblecraft” business premises in Portlock Road

The old ‘**Chef Peking**’ site on Ray Mead Road has now been granted permission for a development of eight flats, subject to conditions. We believe that this is the most satisfactory outcome, and are relieved that an alternative proposal for a Sainsbury’s Local will not come to fruition.

Another proposal for yet more apartments on Shoppenhangers Road has been refused for a site called **Rousbury**. It is an irony that the proposals were felt to be un-neighbourly – even to previously permitted Shoppenhangers apartment blocks which are adjacent to the site. Modified proposals are awaited.

One remaining application is worthy of comment. The ‘**Masters Arms**’ is a disused pub in North Town Road. Fortunately, it has escaped the attention of Tesco and Sainsbury. A modest proposal was approved in 2009 for conversion to three terraced dwellings. The decision is pending on the current application for the site, which comprises a block of eight flats with a third storey added to provide a total of fourteen bedrooms within the development. The front elevation is overbearing, and there is inadequate provision of parking and amenity space.

The new planning regime for Permitted Development is now in operation and our concerns remain regarding the potential loss of control on un-neighbourly conservatories and extensions. The earliest indications are that there is a significant drop-off in the number of applications being registered. There was no noticeable decline in applications during the depth of the recession but it is concerning that there is a likelihood that many domestic projects will not go through the established planning process. We will be monitoring the situation during the coming months.

TROUBLE AT T’ MILL OVER HOUSING NUMBERS

An 11th hour row has broken out between our colleagues in the Hitcham & Taplow Society (HTS) and South Bucks District Council over plans for the re-development of Mill Lane, Taplow.

The Taplow Society complain that the Development Brief for the site, which was formally adopted by the Council’s Cabinet on July 15, contained no limit for the number of dwellings to be built on the site of the former Paper Mill.

The HTS believes the number of homes should be capped at 100. In their Core Strategy the Council stated that “around 100” would be appropriate, though they insist this was only indicative and have since suggested that “up to 200” could be acceptable. Meanwhile Barratt Homes, the contracted purchaser who helped draw up the development brief, have previously proposed as many as 300.

Mill Lane is identified as an Opportunity Site in the South Bucks Core Strategy. The development brief will provide guidance for developers and illustrate what the council is looking for in its “conservation-led” approach and what is appropriate.

The sensitivities associated with the site – it's in the Green Belt, the flood plain, the setting of the Thames and next to an SSSI – compound its viability. This was obviously a key factor when councillors on the South Bucks planning policy advisory group met to consider the Development Brief before it went to the cabinet for adoption. In a 45-minute discussion their debate centred on the importance of design and density in delivering sustainable results rather than numbers.

Clearly the council doesn't want to scare off its preferred developer or any other potential investor and is content to leave the number to be determined at the planning stage. They believe that the guidance and conditions in the Core Strategy and the development brief on issues like footprint, heights and Green Belt as well as the revised flood maps will ensure a sustainable figure.

That may be the case but in the community's interests we support our Taplow friends in wanting to see a sensible limit published.

Note: SBDC's Principal Planning Policy Officer, Jane Griffin, will be the guest speaker at our postponed Civic Society Luncheon at Boulters Restaurant which has been re-arranged for October (see page 18 for details).

STAFFERTON WAY LINK – ONE PIECE IN THE PUZZLE

News that the funding had been found for the £3.75m link between Stafferton Way and Oldfield Road to ease congestion in the town centre drew minimal response when it was announced in June.



The railway bridge over Oldfield Road; a second archway to be opened? Note the boundary marker in the lower right corner, near the street name

It's a project that's been on the cards for decades, of course, so it could just be indifference – "I'll believe it when I see it." Or maybe people are waiting to see details of the plan before assessing its impact on other areas and roads.

The scheme will see Stafferton Way extended to join with Oldfield and Forlease Roads, an extra archway will be opened to traffic under the railway on Oldfield Road and a roundabout will be

constructed at the junction with the A4 Bridge Road. The scheme will need planning permission but we're told the designs have already been drawn up and could be presented in the next couple of months.



Detail of the boundary marker

One likely casualty of the construction of the Southern Relief Road is the boundary marker near to the junction of Chauntry Road and Oldfield Road (see photo). On it is a date MDCCCXC (1890); the initials "A" and "S" and the remains of a crest, apparently a heron. It marks the boundary of the Fishery Estate of Mrs Annie Smith, a rich and evidently a merry widow, whose purchase of *The Fishery* (then the only building on Bray Reach) and involvement with certain men of property led to the building of the Fishery Estate. See Tom Middleton's book *Yesterday's Town*, p43 for the full details.

Another key issue that will need to be addressed will be the parking of cars in Oldfield Road, which is already creating a driving hazard (see below).



Looking north along Oldfield Road towards the junction with the A4

TRANSPORTATION TOPIC GROUP

A questionnaire is currently being circulated by the Transport Topic Group as part of the Maidenhead and Cox Green Neighbourhood Plan (see below).

The Neighbourhood Planning process is struggling to attract public interest – possibly as a result of consultation fatigue – but several Civic Society members are involved.

The Transport Topic Group is also seeking views on the station as a transport hub – an idea suggested by the Civic Society in 2004 as part of its Strategic Review, which is now council policy in the Town Centre Area Action Plan.

Following the Great Debate on the future of Maidenhead in 2006, we ran a survey with the Advertiser seeking reactions to a number of statements and questions. On the question of parking – which is the subject of a current review and a couple of questions in the Topic Groups questionnaire – 51% agreed that “most cars driving in town are looking for parking spaces”. If true today, this might suggest that making the first hour free on the car parks – the same as on-street parking – would help alleviate congestion and encourage more people to come in to town.

The Great Debate survey also asked where in Maidenhead should our short-term and long-term car parks be sited and the findings were as follows:

<i>Where</i>	<i>Maidonians</i>	<i>Non-Maidonians</i>	<i>All</i>
	%	%	%
Town Centre	89.0	72.7	76.4
Edge of town	15.3	22.7	16.4
Park & Ride	5.9	13.6	7.1

For more information about the Neighbourhood Plan, visit the website www.maidenheadplan.com where you are invited to register and/or log on and complete the online questionnaire. Click on the “Transport” tab and then on “Feedback”. We urge Society members to do this so that the final tally of answers is as representative as possible. To encourage you, here is a summary of the questions and some food for thought:

Are the prices for shopper parking and availability acceptable?

The current pricing for public car parking is very competitive with other towns in the area. Several car parks are free on Sunday. Should we push for cheaper parking or free parking for the first hour to encourage more shoppers? Should the local authority install signs showing parking space availability by car park? Should parking be “pay at exit” to enable motorists to stay longer if they wish?

Are there sufficient secure bicycle parking spaces in town?

The cycle parking spaces at the station is usually full during weekdays and there is very limited in town. Should we ask for more secure accessible parking spaces to be made available?

Should extra parking for Maidenhead Station be provided for Crossrail?

It is anticipated that the arrival of Crossrail will place more demands on parking. We are losing the parking at Silco Drive as this is being used for maintenance of the Crossrail fleet. There is space next to the current multi-storey car park in Stafferton way but this uses up a valuable potential office development. Alternatively there is a large site on the way to the dump which is owned by Southern Water. It was used during the Olympics.

Should Maidenhead Station become the towns transport hub for taxis and buses?

Currently the forecourt of Maidenhead Station is very congested with inadequate parking for taxis and very limited drop-off and collection for private cars. With extra car parking it would be possible to ban all day car-parking on the forecourt and to relocate the bus terminus to this site. It worked well for the Olympics. This would provide a single location for all transport services.

Should the bicycle lane network be extended?

We currently have a limited cycle lane network in Maidenhead, but this could be extended to other major roads and some regularly used commuter routes. Are you in favour of more cycle lanes using shared pavements and dedicated cycle routes on the roads?

Should the local authority revise its policy on car-park spaces per employee for office developments?

Currently the number of parking spaces required to be provided for new office developments does not match employee numbers and their parking requirements. This causes major problems for residential owners because both office employees and commuters park in roads adjacent to the town centre. New housing developments also have inadequate parking spaces per dwelling. More than one space for each dwelling is often needed.

Should there be more on street parking available in town?

There is currently a reasonable amount of street parking in town but mostly restricted to a one-hour stay. There is space to extend availability in various roads in town. Would you like to see an extension of the current street parking to encourage quick shopping visits?

Should we press for the Maidenhead to High Wycombe line to be reinstated?

Many years ago the Maidenhead to High Wycombe line was dismantled. Restoring this line would provide a cross country connection and increase access to Crossrail to

a new audience in the Midlands. It would also reduce the road traffic between Wycombe and Maidenhead. It also provides an alternative London destination.

Southern Relief Road

It is proposed that a Southern Relief Road is constructed from the Braywick roundabout using Stafferton Way passing Homebase to exit at Oldfield Road. There will be a roundabout and an extra arch under the railway will be opened. There will another roundabout to join the Bath Road. This scheme will ease congestion in the town's one-way system and ease the traffic flow on the Braywick Road at peak hours.

When Crossrail arrives should we press for a fast service to Paddington provided by Crossrail or FGW?

When Crossrail arrives it is said to be a stopping service to Heathrow and Paddington and beyond. This could mean that we lose our fast services to Paddington. Should we push FGW or their successor to continue a fast service – at least in the rush?

Martin McNamee and Bob Dulson

ROYAL BOROUGH “BRIGHT IDEA £20,000 CHALLENGE PRIZE 2013”

Do you have a bright idea to improve life in the Royal Borough? Society Members will be interested in this new initiative supported by the Maidenhead Advertiser and Windsor Express and launched by chat show host Sir Michael Parkinson. The Royal Borough is reaching out to all residents, businesses, entrepreneurs and inventors living or working in the borough to seek an innovative solution to a problem that will benefit as many residents as possible. The First Prize is £800 with two runners-up receiving £400 and £250 respectively. The rest of the £20,000 pot will be used to create and implement the winning ideas. Entries will be assessed against these criteria:

- Supporting children and young people
- Encouraging healthy people and lifestyles
- Improving the environment, economy and transport
- Working for safer and stronger communities

The judging panel will select the winner/winners who have put forward the issue that, in their opinion, would be of most benefit having regard to whether the *Big Society Bright Idea* gives the chance to identify a problem or issue that, when solved, would make a positive difference to the lives of local residents; and whether the solution, although directly applicable to Royal Borough residents, would potentially also benefit people/communities in other parts of the country where a similar issue may have been identified.

For further details and to enter, you will need to complete (by midnight Monday 2 September 2013) the Challenge Prize online form at:

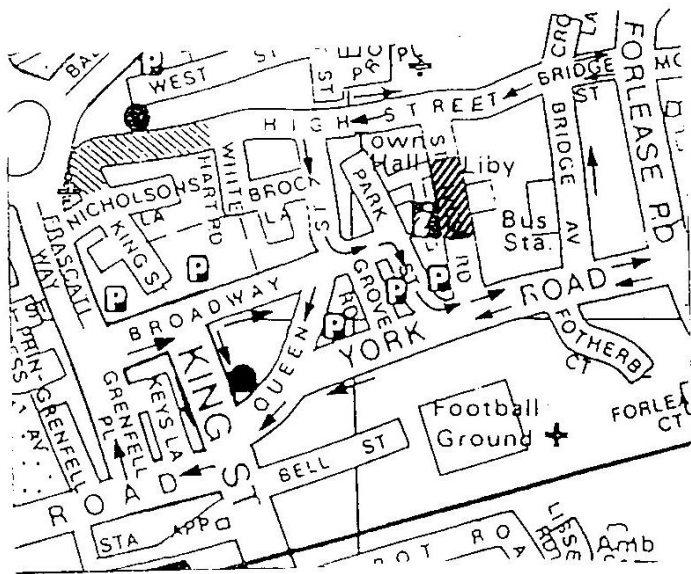
www.rbwm.gov.uk/forms/AF3/an/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=JfiHMkmmWXS.

On This Day.....

The Society has produced and distributed a Newsletter since the early days after its foundation fifty years ago. Sadly, our archive only has a complete run of back issues from 1993 onwards, though we do also have copies of some of the earlier issues dating further back to November 1982. As a new occasional item in the Newsletter we will be featuring some of the articles that appeared in the past. As well as giving an insight into what was thought important at the time, you'll hopefully be able to see how much has changed – or not, as the case may be!

The article below is reproduced from the edition of **August 1989**, nearly 25 years ago, and you can see that the issues raised then are still taxing our minds today (see previous item on transportation).

MAIDENHEAD TRANSPORTATION STUDY



Possible changes to the town centre one-way system, which would permit St. Ives Road to be closed to create a 'town square': comments please!

Berkshire County Council has promised to hold public meetings and consultations towards the end of the year. Faced with a 30% increase in traffic in the 10 years to 1996, the study has two parts. The first includes traffic management ideas, ranging from traffic lights at Maidenhead Bridge to speed bumps and throats in Ray Mill Road West and Grenfell Road, various mini-roundabouts and sundry junction improvements. Stage two proposals would cost £5.7m and involve dualling Bridge Road to Maidenhead Bridge, completing a ring of relief roads by extending Stafferton Way to Oldfield Road and joining the southern end of Blackmoor Lane to the A4 at the police station and the northern end near the gravel pit to the Cookham Road at Spencers Bridge. In a masterpiece of understatement, the document admits that there would be significant environmental disbenefits to residents of Blackmoor Lane and Oldfield Road.

You may be assured that the Transportation Study will be considered at length by the Civic Society. Please let us know your views, so that we can reflect accurately the opinions of our members.

Projects

The Green Way – Town Moor

The Society and East Berks Ramblers have been asked to comment on various proposals for the development of Town Moor. These include transforming the existing car park into a picnic area, the site of the old Ray Mill Social Club becoming the new car park, hopefully accessed from the existing entrance on Blackamoor Lane. A new surfaced path has already been provided from opposite Boulters Park and an existing public right of way, that crosses from Blackamoor Lane, is about to be transformed into a cycle path, without being identified as such in the plan.

The Civic Society and East Berks Ramblers have already commented on what improvements should be instituted on Town Moor including putting gravel down on the desire line at the north end of the dry flood ditch; removing the barriers on the bridge; and planting trees on the west bank of the stream near to the bridge (the shade inhibits reed growth). We have also been pressing for repeated herbicide treatment of the reeds that regularly spread over almost all of the stream bed north of the bridge.

Responsibility for Maintaining Flow in York Stream

Members will remember that York Stream in the town centre dried out in 1988 and again in 2002, due variously to environmental conditions (dry winters) and lack of adequate management upstream. The Green Way Working Group, founded in 1989, meets twice a year and attempts to manage both the Green Way path and the stream system. The committee includes the amenity societies, officers of the Royal Borough who deal with public rights of way and, crucially, the Environment Agency. The Group initiated the “Windows” project funded by the EA that treated sections of the stream to control the reeds/sedges that were obstructing flow. This, combined with several years of dredging upstream also funded by the EA, has kept the stream flowing even in the drought of 2006.

Most recently, the GWWG suggested a trial to physically remove the vegetation from an area north of the Evenlode Bridge on Town Moor. After consultation with the Environment Agency, we arranged for a volunteer, Tony Ward, from the conservation group *Make Space for Life*, to see how easily reeds could be pulled out. This proved successful, though a number of such volunteers would be needed to make much of an impact and everyone would need waders.

It was evident in November that the vegetation had been treated with herbicide and this seems to have had a beneficial effect as by July 2013 there was more open water. However, we will have to wait and see how far it spreads over the warmer months.

The EA have always said they only undertake maintenance for flood control purposes, not amenity. The Chapel Arches scheme, currently going through planning, involves demolishing most of the Colonnade and building blocks of flats on both banks north and south of the new opening. The publicity for the scheme

assumes that the Waterways project to create a ring of water round Maidenhead, is going to be implemented. Maintenance costs money – currently in short supply – so will the Environment Agency be responsible, as the stream is main river drainage, to ensure that water continues to arrive in Maidenhead? What will be the responsibility of the Royal Borough as riparian owner of Town Moor and other land adjacent to the stream and new waterway? If no-one takes responsibility it can reasonably be predicted that there will be a problem obtaining sufficient flow into the ring, thus ensuring an environmental disaster.



Tony Ward in the trial to remove reeds in the stream - November 2012



Left: the stream in November 2012, showing the effect of herbicide treatment on vegetation near to the east bank; and right: as it today (July 2013)

Ann Darracott

Bisham and North Wales

Visit of the Flintshire Historical Society, 9-10th July

Our Society arranged for a group from the Flintshire Historical Society, led by David Rowe, to visit Bisham Abbey. We are grateful to our MP Theresa May and their own MP, David Hanson, for their help in securing access and to Steve Nelson, Serco's manager at Bisham, for making the visit so pleasant. The group also visited All Saints Church, Bisham and St Mary's, Hurley, where they were very kindly given the use of the parish room. We worked closely with Jeff Griffiths of the Marlow Society to make their visit memorable.



Details of the connection between North Wales and Bisham were explained in the last Newsletter (May, p8-11). William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury held Bisham and was also Steward of Hawarden & Chester and Lord of Mold. The visitors were able to see the remaining side of a two-storey cloister added to the end of the Knights Templar Hall at Bisham by Montacute, in the C14th. The first floor was originally a long room open to the timbers but it was divided into two rooms in the C16th by Thomas Hoby who put ceilings in (these are now called the Elizabethan Room and the Henry VIII Room). Many were able to clamber up the narrow stairs to see the roof timbers that retained moulding and wooden pegs. They all saw the squint that allowed a view into the Templar's Hall.

Of particular interest was the C14th armorial glass (also described in the May Newsletter) for William Montacute and his wife Katherine Grandison (reputedly the lady who dropped her garter inspiring the motto of the Order of the Garter). Her father and uncle, both from Vaud, now in Switzerland, played leading roles in bringing Master James of St George to England to build castles for Edward I. When I

referred to these as his Welsh Castles I was firmly told that they should be referred to as “English Castles in Wales”!

The Grandison family were involved in building and embellishing a number of buildings in Ireland, England, Wales and what is now Switzerland. This has formed the subject of a recent Society project for which we were recently awarded a grant from the Royal Borough to cover publication costs.

Sir Philip Hoby, Bisham Abbey and Plas Mawr, Conwy

The visit of the Flintshire Group revealed a surprising new link between Bisham and North Wales. Our visitors recognised the name Philip Hoby and said he had a connection with the magnificent Elizabethan mansion in Conwy, Plas Mawr. Sir Philip Hoby (who died in 1558) obtained Bisham Abbey from Anne of Cleves in 1552 and is credited with the construction of the south front of the Abbey building onto the side of the C13th Knights Templar Hall, infilling between their entrance porch and the C14th addition, on the end of the hall, put up by William Montacute.

Hoby was a diplomat who was very familiar with the Low Countries. He accompanied Hans Holbein the Younger to the Low Countries in 1538 to obtain portraits of potential wives for Henry VIII. He probably arranged the marriage of Anne of Cleves to Henry in 1540 as he was ambassador in the Cleves court in 1539. After Henry's death his son Edward VI sent Hoby as resident Ambassador to the Holy Roman Emperor whose court moved between the Low Countries and parts of Germany. Prior to Hoby acquiring Bisham in 1552 he had had a residency in Brussels until November 1550. His building at Bisham reflects the Low Countries influence, particularly the crow stepped gables.



*Photo of Drawing of Philip Hoby
by Hans Holbein the younger*



South front of Bisham built by Sir Philip Hoby showing pedimented windows and crow stepped gables with pinnacle of look-out tower just visible (thought to be added by his brother Sir Thomas Hoby who inherited after Philip's death in 1558)



Plas Mawr, Conwy, showing pedimented windows and crow stepped gables.

The link with Plas Mawr in Conwy, built by Robert Wynn (d.1598) in stages from 1570 repeats several of the architectural features seen at Bisham, such as the gables, pedimented windows, and a lookout tower – apparently a popular feature of the time. It is suggested that Wynn may have known Hoby as they were both present at the siege of Boulogne in 1544, but it is not known whether he had a role in Hoby's household. The similarity of architectural style of the two buildings has suggested a connection.



*Richard Clough, ca 1550.
Unkown artist.
Courtesy ODNB*

However, my money is on one Richard Clough (d.1570) being the connection. He would have known Philip Hoby as both went to the Low Countries in 1552 in company with the newly appointed royal agent, Sir Thomas Gresham, and this is where Clough resided for most of his subsequent career as a merchant and spy for Sir William Cecil (also connected to the Hoby family). Clough built Plas Clough, Denbigh, completed 1567; its features include the earliest use of the crow-stepped gable in Wales, later used to great effect at Plas Mawr.

Did you know.....?

Over the years I have written about many famous characters who have had connections with Ockwells Manor, Bisham Abbey, Shottesbrooke and other places and buildings. You may not know that you can find out a lot more about their lives and times through their entries in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB). If you are a subscriber to Windsor and Maidenhead libraries you can get free access to this wealth of information simply by visiting the ODNB website at www.oxforddnb.com/auth/login.jsp?url=%2Fsubscribed%2F and entering your 14-digit library card number into the box "Library Card Login" and once logged-on, select "Windsor and Maidenhead Libraries", and 60,000 biographies are yours for the reading!

This and many other online reference resources can also be accessed via the Royal Borough's website at www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/libraries_e-library.htm. After selecting the required item in the list, you can gain access by then entering your library card number in the appropriate box.

Ann Darracott

Future Events

JAZZ BY THE RIVERSIDE Saturday 14 September 2013

Don't forget – We're planning another evening of traditional jazz with Cookham's *Fabulous Shirtlifters* at Maidenhead Rowing Club on Saturday 14 September.

Last time it was a sell-out and this year we're holding it about a month earlier to take advantage of the lighter nights. As before, you're invited to make the most of a jolly cabaret-style evening by bringing your own supper (but no drinks please, there is a full licensed bar). Tables and chairs will be provided.

Doors open at 7.30 and the evening begins at 7.45 with a final bow at 11.00 pm. As promised, we're pegging the price at £12 per person – the same as 2011. Make a note of the date, ring your friends and contact Mike Copeland on 01628 634181 **by Friday 30th August at the latest** to reserve your places. Cheques should be made payable to "Maidenhead Civic Society" and sent to Mike at 14, Laburnham Road, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 4DB.

CIVIC SOCIETY LUNCHEON - A VIEW OF THE FUTURE FOR SKINDLES Friday 18 October 2013

In the next couple of months South Bucks District Council (SBDC) are expected to determine the way forward for the land formerly owned by Taplow Paper Mill, including Skindles, by approving detailed guidelines for the regeneration of the 45-acre site.

So what does the future hold for Mill Lane, Taplow? Well, you can hear first-hand what the council is planning at our next Civic Society Lunch on **Friday 18 October** when our guest speaker is Jane Griffin, Principal Planner in SBDC's planning policy team. In this role Jane has responsibility for the drafting of the Development Brief, which sets out the guiding principles for the redevelopment of the Mill Lane Opportunity Site. Jane will outline what the council expects to see as a result of the regeneration and she has agreed to take questions after her talk.

Our venue is the Boulders Riverside Brasserie, the smart ground floor restaurant at Boulders Lock, with its splendid views of the river – and the Mill land itself. It's the perfect location and makes this an occasion not to be missed.

Boulders' chef is putting together a delightful three-course meal, with chicken as the main (there'll be a vegetarian option), and the price includes a glass of bubbly on arrival; £30 pp for members, £32 for non-members. Please reserve your place by returning the booking form at the end of this Newsletter.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY (HODS) AT SHOTTESBROOKE

Saturday 14th September 2013, 10am-4pm

Those of you who haven't visited St John the Baptist Church at Shottesbrooke, the finest C14th church in Berkshire, have another opportunity. With the support of the church, the Landmark Trust and the Shottesbrooke Estate the church is participating in HODS and entry is free; the entrance gate will be open during the open day. Refreshments will be available in the Garden Cottage next door and guides will be in the church. Our two publications, the new "*A History Trail of St John the Baptist Church, Shottesbrooke*" and the detailed account of the armorial glass once in the church, will be for sale.

Some of the armorial glass is still there, though little compared to those coats seen by Elias Ashmole in C17th. However, most of the memorials he saw are there. These are some you will be able to see. Many memorials have been added since the C17th put there in memory of successive owners of the Shottesbrooke Estate including the present owners, the Smith family.



*Tomb of Sir William Trussell, founder of Shottesbrooke Collegiate Church,
and his second wife*



Tomb of John Bradwell, Warden of College (left), and William Frith, a London fishmonger who established a chantry at Shottesbrooke. The Warden's vestment are decorated with swastikas (early crosses)



Brass for Thomas Noke Esq. (d.1567) of Henry VIII, Yeoman of the Crown. Note the crown on his left shoulder which is the characteristic insignia



Ann Darracott

Other Local Societies

Members may be interested in these talk and walks which have been organised by other local groups, but which feature subjects and places close to Maidenhead.

MARLOW SOCIETY LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

- Sunday 18th August, 2.30pm - **A Guided Walk of Victorian Marlow**
Meet outside Liston Hall
- Sunday 15th September 10am - 4pm - **Heritage Open Day (see below)**
- Monday 16th September, 7.30pm - **Local photos** presented by Barrie Lea
Garden Room Workshop, Liston Hall
- Sunday 22nd September, 2.30pm - **A Guided Walk of Marlow Town**
Meet outside Liston Hall
- Sunday 6th October, 2.30pm - **A Guided Walk of Forgotten Marlow**
Meet outside Liston Hall
- Tuesday 8th October - **Visit to Hardwick House**
Contact Peter Bailey on 01628 476610
- Monday 21st October, 7.30pm - **Medieval Marlow**, presented by Andy Ford
Garden Room Workshop, Liston Hall
- Tuesday 29th October, 7.30pm - **Memories of Medmenham and Women of Intelligence**. A talk by Mike Mockford
Main Hall, Liston Hall

Walks: £2.50 adults, children free. Garden Room Workshops: £1.50 Members, £3 non Members. 29th October Lecture: £2.50 Members, £4 non-Members.

Heritage Open Day (overseen by English Heritage) has four venues in Marlow this year - all free, between 10am and 4pm.

1. Holy Trinity Primary School. It was originally The Marlow Boys School and celebrates its centenary this year.
2. Old Trinity Church, opposite the school and now deconsecrated. Beautifully restored it is now used as an office. It's a listed Gothic Revival church designed by Gilbert Scott and opened in 1852. All stained glass, mosaics and stonework remain perfect and there will be a historical photographic display.
3. Just round the corner in Rookery Gardens, the Marlow Archaeological Society will have guided tours of their current excavations revealing the 18th C farmhouse foundations.
4. Marlow Town Cemetery and pretty Edwardian chapel. The committee organising next year's WW1 commemorations will be putting on an exhibition of research and preparations in progress.

MARLOW ARCHAEOLOGY (MAS)

Thursday 12th September 2013 - The Archaeology & History of Taplow Court

Talk by Elias Kupfermann

The site of Taplow Court has been occupied continuously from Prehistoric times to the present day. This talk will highlight its archaeological and architectural history, the latter in relation to its many distinguished occupants.

Thursday 16th January 2014 - A Virtual Tour of Ockwells Manor, Bray

Illustrated talk by Ann Darracott (of Maidenhead Civic Society!)

According to Nikolaus Pevsner, this mid-C15 house “is the most refined and the most sophisticated timber-framed mansion in England”. This is a rare opportunity for a glimpse of a very important, local medieval house which is a private dwelling.

These talks listed below will be held in the Garden Room, Liston Hall, Marlow SL7 1DD. Entrance £3.50 Members £2.50. For all enquiries please contact Joy Blake on 01628 523896.

News from the Heritage Centre

Speaking at a 20th anniversary dinner held by the Heritage Centre in May, Theresa May MP paid tribute to the Civic Society’s John McIntosh, who led the project team which established the very first Heritage Centre in Bridge Street in 1993. 20 years later, the centre owns its own building in Park Street and welcomes visitors from far and wide, many of them attracted by the fantastic Spitfire simulator in the Air Transport Auxiliary exhibition on the first floor. The simulator has been flown by people aged from 9 to 90, so why not come along and have a fly?

Exhibitions and events:

1st August – 21st September - **SUMMER ON THE RIVER**

A temporary exhibition in the Sammes Gallery

Thursday 12th September at 12.45pm - **WILLIAM MORRIS, LORD NUFFIELD.**

Lunchtime talk by John McGuinness, who is a volunteer at Nuffield Place. The founder of the Morris Motor Co. designed the ‘bullnose’ Morris in 1912.

Sunday September 15th at 2.30pm - **TOWN CENTRE GUIDED WALK**

Join our curator Brian Boulter for a guided walk leaving the Heritage Centre at 2.30pm, and discover some of the hidden history of central Maidenhead.

25th September – 30th November - **MAIDENHEAD’S LISTED BUILDINGS**

There’s over 70 of them. Who says there is no heritage left in Maidenhead?! Come and be surprised by this temporary exhibition

Announcements

CIVIC SOCIETY AGM – Advanced Notice Wednesday 20th November 2013

What's it like to be at the helm of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead? The Society has extended an invitation to council boss Mike McGaughrin to be the guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting in November by when he will have been managing director at RBWM for almost 12 months. More details in the next Newsletter.

Booking Form

Civic Society Luncheon

Please reserve for meplaces at £30 *and / or* places at £32 for the ***Civic Society Luncheon*** on **Friday 18 October 2013** at Boulters Restaurant.

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to Maidenhead Civic Society.

NAME..... (PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

ADDRESS.....

POSTCODE.....TELEPHONE No.....

EMAIL.....

Please send your completed form to Mike Copeland, 14 Laburnham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 4DB to arrive no later than **1st October 2013**.
Phone: 01628 634181; email: mike@mjcconsulting.demon.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 14th September 2013
Heritage Open Day

Shottesbrooke Church, White Waltham
10am-4pm; guided tours and teas

Saturday 14th September 2013
Social Event

“Jazz by the Riverside” with the *Fabulous Shirtlifters*
Maidenhead Rowing Club, 7.30pm

Friday 18th October 2013
Social Event

The Civic Society Luncheon
“Plans for the Taplow Paper Mill site – incl Skindles”
Talk by Jane Griffin, SBDC.
Boulter’s Restaurant, 12.30pm

Wednesday 20th November 2013
**Talk by Mike McGaughrin
followed by the AGM**

“Title to be advised in next Newsletter”
Methodist Church Hall, King Street, 8.00pm

CIVIC SOCIETY OFFICERS

President of the Trustees	John McIntosh, 26 Harvest Hill Road, SL6 2QQ	633259
Hon. Secretary	Eileen Goford, 6 Laxton Green, SL6 3HW	638238
Hon. Treasurer	Mike Emmerson, 15 Twynham Road, SL6 5AT	628006
Executive Chairman	Bob Dulson, Bryher, Islet Road, SL6 8HT	627130
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Membership Sec.	Joyce Delasalle, 7 Laxton Green, SL6 3HW	637342
Newsletter Distribution	Sue Ross, Castle Hill Lodge, St Marks Road, SL6 6DG	626849

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2013

Parish Centre in St. Luke’s Church, at 7.45 pm.
8th January, 12th February, 12th June, 9th July, 10th September, 12th November, 10th December

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS FOR 2013

Parish Centre in St. Luke’s Church, at 7.45 p.m.
9th April, 8th October

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 20th November 2013 in the Wesley Hall at the Methodist Church at 8.00 pm.

**The closing date for copy for the next issue
of the Newsletter is 11 October 2013**

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