



Maidenhead Civic Society NEWS



Issue 3/18

August 2018



***Who's keeping an eye on the Green Way?
Find out on pages 14-17***

Visit our website: www.maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk

The Chairman's Page

Our thanks to everyone who completed our Members' Survey in May. The results were at once encouraging and challenging.

Encouraging in that a good majority (85%) think the Society is on the right track; but challenging because we clearly represent an ageing demographic which we need, quite urgently, to address if the Society is to fulfil its obligations as well in the future as it has in the past. (A report on the Survey results can be seen on the next couple of pages).

The response forms also included many good suggestions which the executive committee is considering.

The weekend after the first tranche of public hearings on the emerging Borough Local Plan (BLP), I bumped into council leader, Simon Dudley. He was bullish. "It will be alright," he insisted. "We'll be fine."

I felt bound to say it hadn't looked too good for them from where I was sitting. The council's officers and their QC appeared to be on the back foot much of the time. Under the keen eye of the government's planning inspector for three days they fended off accusations of inadequacies in the preparation of the Plan, including two demands by legal representatives to halt the proceedings pending further work.

The main bones of contention were the council's duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities, its consultation and engagement with residents and its attitude to the Green Belt. Weighing in were representatives of South Bucks and Slough councils, 13 local neighbourhood plan and residents' groups and a dozen or so landowners and developers.

The Civic Society's primary concern, which we submitted in writing is that, as planned, the 10,000 new homes earmarked for Maidenhead – a 45% increase in people and cars – threaten to adversely affect the character and appeal of the area and need to be redrawn if they are to align with the Spatial Vision's objectives for a safe, healthy and sustainable environment with minimal impact on the floodplain.

The public examination of the BLP will continue in the autumn when the hearings are expected to focus on specific sites. If the new plan is found unsound, the old 1999 Plan remains in force while either the council goes back to the drawing board or the government steps in and takes over the process. But in either scenario the house-building targets would almost certainly rise again.

Bob Dulson

Ticks, Crosses and a Question Mark

Among the positive and not-so-positive results of our members' survey undertaken in May, a big question has emerged: How can the Society become more relevant?

It's a question that the executive committee plan to consider at a special meeting later this month.

While the majority of our members believe the Society performs well and chooses the right issues on which to campaign, an increasing number feel that the Society is less important and relevant than it was.

A salient factor is the average age of the membership. In 2006, 68% were aged 65 or over. Today, that figure is 92%, with corresponding falls in younger age groups.

So the need to raise our profile and attract new members clearly has to be an objective.

Several members highlighted this in the list of more than 50 suggestions we received in reply to the survey and the executive committee will consider them all.

The response rate was encouraging. 127 forms were returned, representing 56% of the membership.

The Results

A majority – 79.5% - thought the Society fulfilled its purpose “well” or “very well” and 85% felt that it chose the right issues.

It is clear that the dominant concern of our members is the lack of adequate parking in the town, and the impending traffic and infrastructure limitations that will only get worse as a result of the growth in new block of flats. Suggestions for other issues/activities ranged from writing regular letters to the Advertiser to campaigning for the replacement of Maidenhead Bridge.

Asked about the public perception of the Society, a majority of 67.7% felt it was seen as “moderately or fairly” important and relevant in today's society. However, 15% thought it was not seen as important or relevant at all, outnumbering those who felt it was really quite important (9.9%). One commented that most people had never heard of the Society. Another said: “The Society needs to become better known and the awareness of its aims increased.”

Respondents to the survey appear to like and appreciate the Newsletter very much. 96.7% say they read at least “most of it”, with more than half of those claiming to read it from “cover to cover”.

Planning Matters are most likely to attract the reader's interest (90.0%), followed by News (77.7%), Chairman's page and Projects (66.9% each).

We asked if members would be interested in attending more social events, e.g. afternoon tea or informal drinks, where we could meet to discuss matters of mutual interest. 81% indicated an interest, although it was a definite "maybe" for more than half of them.

One respondent requested open meetings to discuss progress on issues. It's worth noting that our regular committee meetings on the second Tuesday of each month are, of course, open to all members (see more on this below).

The replies received to the question about how many members you could introduce suggest there's the potential to attract at least 50, which is very encouraging, and these will be followed up.

There was a similarly positive response to volunteering with 25% saying they are willing to help. Again, these people will be contacted.

Finally, details of the 2018 age profile are (with 2006 in brackets):

16-25: 0% (2%); 26-45: 0.8% (2%); 46-65: 7.4% (29%); 65+: 92% (68%).

Bob Dulson

Committee Meetings are Open to All!

Our survey revealed that some members are unaware of how the Society arrives at its positions on matters of concern that we campaign about. Well, at our regular committee meetings we talk – sometimes at length! – about the key issues facing the various developments in the town centre, and other items, and try to reach a consensus that we then put forward.

There's nothing secret about this and apart from our elected committee we have some regular non-committee members who join us – and join in. Our committee meetings are open to all and any member is more than welcome to come along and contribute opinions and viewpoints. In fact, we wish you would, as only in this way can we really reflect our membership's collective position on important matters. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month (with no meeting in August) though at the moment we don't have a permanent meeting place. So, put a note in your diaries and keep a look out at the Diary page on our website for the latest details of time and venue.

We hope to see some of you there next time!

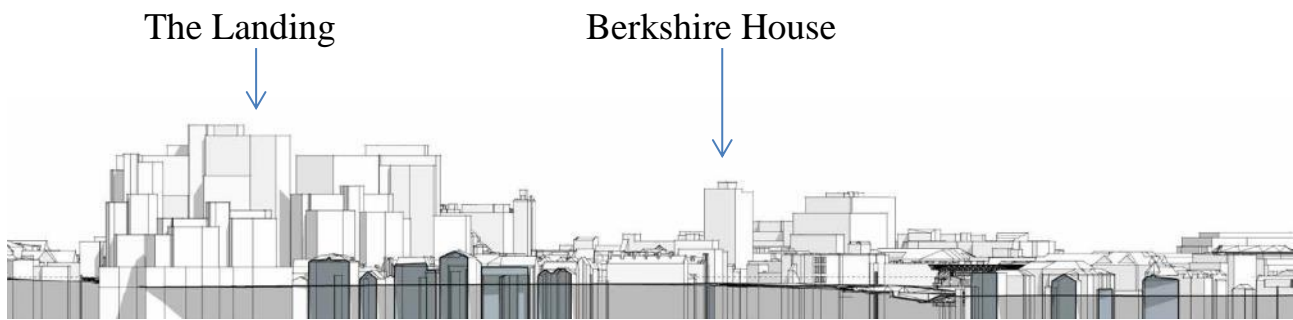
Planning Matters

You will be aware from our Chairman's comments that the Borough Local Plan is going through its protracted passage with a recent examination before a Planning Inspector. One of the most contentious issues is the failure of the Royal Borough to establish an effective buildings' height policy. Consequently, we are now faced with the prospect of three nineteen-storey apartment blocks within the "hybrid" application for **The Landing** redevelopment on the King Street/Broadway/Queen Street triangle site. These tower blocks are going to change the character and skyline of Maidenhead Town Centre irreversibly. You are probably aware that "outline" permission was granted more than two years ago for a couple of office blocks with a maximum height of fourteen storeys in the northwest corner of the scheme. There has been a change of developer and the balance of the scheme has been switched from office to residential. Because the required headroom in residential dwellings is less than in offices, the previously permitted fourteen storeys of office has been translated to nineteen storeys of residential, within the same overall building height. One must wonder just how much a permitted application can be changed, without having to reapply. The permitted outline scheme for The Landing is so different that we believe conveniently converting the maximum building height from offices to residential should have required a new application. Of all the planning issues surrounding the regeneration of Maidenhead the height of The Landing surpasses all. Within the Design and Access Statement for The Landing there is an illustrative cross section which highlights this excess (see below).



This schematic shows the sheer scale of the proposed tower block in The Landing

As a result Berkshire House and the maximum nine storey blocks of the York Road scheme look modest:-



Section through Maidenhead town centre looking north shows The Landing in relationship to Berkshire House

The following bullet points highlight our main concerns and obligations:

- The overall height, bulk and mass of the scheme is excessive for a town of Maidenhead's size. The outline planning permission previously granted reflects the Boroughs failure to establish a building height policy. To the best of our knowledge there are no buildings of comparable height in our county town of Reading.
- Although excessive in height, the visual enormity of the main residential block has been improved by being broken up into separate blocks with space and daylight in between.
- The raised garden amenity areas between the main residential blocks with parking underneath is a positive feature.
- Whilst we support the change in balance from offices to residential, this will generate a greater demand for residential parking. The proposed parking ratio per dwelling is inadequate. More spaces than 175 are required for 450 dwellings.
- The existing Borough guidelines for parking space provision for residential development in proximity to the railway station are inadequate. This scheme does not even achieve this unsatisfactory ratio.
- In addition to parking requirements for residential occupants, there is the need for drop off spaces with ease of access for the wider public wishing to use the restaurant/bar/leisure units within the scheme. With King Street pedestrianised, drop off and taxi spaces are required in Broadway and/or Queen St. These are not provided.
- It is assumed that the proposed office accommodation will be dependent on the increased parking capacity generated by the extension and refurbishment of Nicholson's Car Park.
- There is a significant shortfall in the provision of affordable housing. Only 16.7% of the 450 dwellings are designated "affordable." There is no reason why a scheme of this magnitude should not deliver the target of 30%.
- We continue to be disappointed at the lack of permeability caused by the decision to remove a pedestrian link through the scheme to connect with Nicholson's Centre. Pedestrians to and from the railway station will have to

use King Street or Queen St, with a consequent loss of footfall in the central leisure orientated area of the scheme.

- We are pleased to see soft landscaping being proposed for the central garden square rather than hard stone surfaces. Nevertheless, responsibility for the long term maintenance of this area should be established at the outset. A poorly maintained or neglected square would be detrimental. The choice of plant/tree species will need to reflect limited sunlight etc.
- Although the number of residential units across Maidenhead town centre are expected to exceed 2000, there is a risk that there will be an oversupply of bars, restaurants coffee shops etc. Such units also feature prominently in the Chapel Arches development and the York Stream/York Road development. These are all in addition to existing outlets.
- Some architectural design/features reflect local history and heritage and this is a positive feature which is appreciated.

The other major redevelopment scheme is the **York Road Opportunity Area (YROA)**, which is the first of the four Joint Venture projects being undertaken by Countryside and the RBWM. This is the area covered by St Ives Road, York Road, Park Street and Grove Road. This will generate 229 dwellings and 1930 sq.m of commercial/community space with a new civic square. Significantly, the maximum building height is eight storeys, which is significantly less than was being mooted in the early stages of public consultation. Although there will be a Town Square focal point to the south of the Library, we feel that there are opportunities for other civic/cultural features, such as an art gallery. The scheme will include an enlarged and re-housed Heritage Centre. There has been an increase in the initial level of car parking provision for the occupants of the new residential dwellings, but the ratio is still inadequate. Furthermore, there is a reduction in on-street parking and no indication of the level of disabled parking to be provided. As with The Landing, there is a requirement for a defined set down/pick up area.

In addition to the six- to eight-storey blocks, variety has been introduced by including four storey mews style/town houses in the Grove Road section of the scheme. Another positive is that the scheme delivers the required target of 30% “affordable” dwellings. Although the wharf/warehouse architectural styling alongside York Stream is an attractive feature, elsewhere the design is uninspiring and over-reliant on brick faced elevations with amenity space limited to balconies. The area of public amenity space (except for the Town Square) is limited to a few so called “pocket parks”. It will be important for a clearly defined and properly managed use of the Town Square facility.

It is to be hoped that there will not be an overprovision of bars/restaurants/coffee shops throughout the town. Of course, the total number of town centre dwellers will increase dramatically over the years with the number of dwellings being proposed. However, Chapel Arches, The Landing and York Road all feature a large element of restaurants and bars on the ground floor level of the schemes. Just how many can the town support?

As previously reported, Shanly has had a refusal of an application to redevelop the **Desborough Bowling Club** site on York Road into three blocks totalling 154 flats. The blocks are a maximum of eight storeys high. The refusal, was largely because the YROA proposals were not yet on stream. Although the refusal is going to appeal, a new application has been submitted concurrent with the YROA application. We prefer the original application because the three blocks have been joined together in the latest scheme and are much more visually intrusive and will create more shadow. Both schemes provide adequate car parking with around 176 parking spaces – some underground. However, neither scheme includes “affordable” accommodation.

In several past editions of the newsletter we commented on the demolition of **Green Trees** in Widbrook Road. This is an example of a substantial house of character being demolished to be replaced by a block of 12 apartments. Regretfully, permission was granted.



*The former “Green Trees” (left) and the new scheme under construction (right).
Both views from approximately the same position*

The scale, bulk and mass of the scheme completely dominate nearby houses in Sheephouse and Widbrook Roads. This is exactly what is not wanted in Riverside – or elsewhere outside the town centre. A new application is for **157 Grenfell Road** – to be demolished and replaced with 12 x 2-bed and 3 x 1-bed flats. Again, the proposal represents gross overdevelopment, and does not provide any “affordable” housing. It is no good the RBWM targeting an overall figure of 30% affordable units if schemes of this size provide none. Another example of similar scale is at **17 Castle Hill**, where a previous application has been refused and dismissed on appeal. There is now a further application in hand reducing the number of dwellings to 10 apartments. Even at this reduced level the bulk, mass and sub-standard design are unacceptable in a Conservation Area. These three locations are all examples of the ongoing Shoppenhangers effect, which will continue to deliver a volume of small dwelling units, while adversely impacting the character of a neighbourhood.

Martin McNamee and Bob Dulson

Remembering the Guards Club

Our article in the previous edition of the News reminded one of our members that an elderly acquaintance used to work at the Guards Club many years ago, and she encouraged him to record his memories. Here is his story:

“Hello. My name is Leonard Taylor and I used to work at the Guards Club Maidenhead and thought you may like to hear about my time spent working there. I was born in Maidenhead on the 14th April 1926, one week before Queen Elizabeth II. At the grand old age of fourteen my formal education finished and I became a “working man”. It hadn't occurred to me as I left school that I would need to work. My neighbour in Laggan Square, Mr Vickery, a gardener at the Guards Club informed my mother Elsie May that they were looking for a “lad” to help out. Mr Vickery arranged for me to start work on the condition that Mum bought me my first pair of long trousers. They were made for me out of heavy grey flannel and felt hot and itchy on my legs. I was ready for work, even if I was just four feet tall and could fit under my Mum’s chin as she brushed my hair!



Len as a young lad. The only image is this photo of it used on a birthday cake! The original is now sadly lost.

The working day started with a bicycle ride to the Guards Club, arriving about 8 am. My main duty was to fire up the furnace in the boiler room after cleaning out the clinkers from the day before. Every week half a ton of coke coal was delivered outside the Guards Club. I would have to shovel the coke, by hand down to the boiler room, ready to use. The furnace became red hot after half an hour so I would spend the rest of the day doing whatever jobs were needed.

I also had to cycle into Maidenhead to get fresh fish for the cook, balancing the box on my handlebars on the way back. The cook had a soft spot for me and would occasionally invite me to share a duff (steamed pudding) eaten at the table in the servants’ room. Other jobs included helping the gardener saw up old trees for the winter. Using a long cross saw, one person on each end, it was hard manual work, but I was strong even though I was small.

Most of the time I spent in one of the two huts on the central island with my boss the “Old Boy” Dick Groom. From our hut we would hire out Canadian canoes and punts to the officers for the day. The “Old Boy” would finish work at 7pm but I had to wait until all the boats were returned. The last boat could be as late as 11 or 12 o'clock

midnight. It was a very long day. We would be in charge of cleaning and maintaining the wooden boats. Varnishing and painting the boats in the winter months huddled around a pot-bellied stove in the boathouse. The “Old Boy” would bake potatoes for our lunch at the base of the stove.



Punts and Canadian Canoes, similar to the ones Len manned

Other duties included punting the officers across the river to the opposite bank from the Guards Club to the “Gaiety Girls” – respectable, pretty, chorus singers and dancers who performed in musical theatre and lodged in the row of houses opposite the Guards Club. Ladies were only allowed to visit the club when they had a ball. The little footbridge connecting the bank to the island would be festooned with coloured jam jars with tea lights. It looked wonderful with the coloured lights and the ladies in their finery.

I only had half a day a week off, working the rest of the six and a half days including Christmas Day – all this for the princely sum of five bob a week (25p) and I gave half of that to my Mum! But working at the Guards Club was one of the best jobs I ever had.



Len today, aged 92

25 Years of Maidenhead Heritage Centre

Maidenhead Heritage Centre was founded 25 years ago by the Civic Society and the Archaeological and Historical Society (MAHS), because the former saw the value of a heritage centre in ‘educating’ the public in the broadest sense about their town and its history while the latter had got fed up with waiting for the council to provide a museum for Maidenhead.

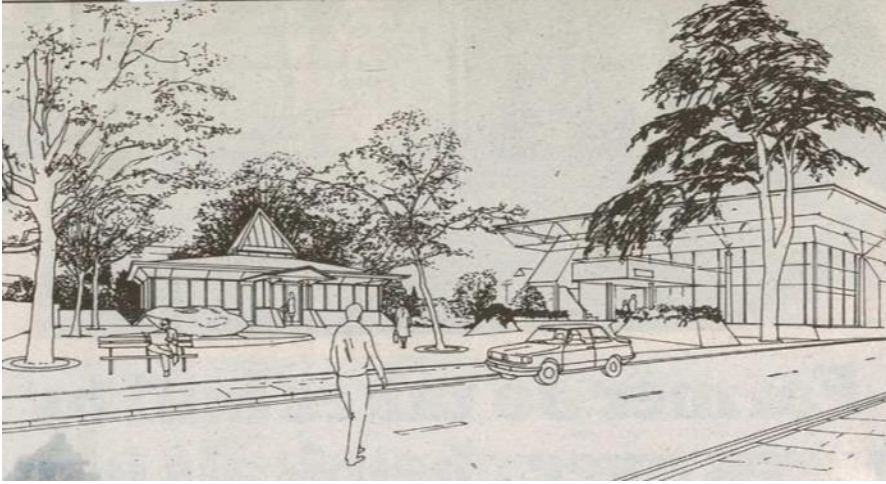
There was a recession on in 1992/93 and Hugh Raybould and John McIntosh persuaded the owner of 13 Bridge Street, on the traffic lights diagonally opposite Waitrose (right), to grant a 6-month rent free lease to the new venture. So on 13 April 1993 the new Heritage Centre was opened by the Mayor of the day. It was run entirely by volunteers and opened five days



a week, including Sunday afternoons. The entrance charge was £1. There was a tiny shop and a tea room – and the only objects on display were MAHS’s archaeological finds, mainly from Cox Green Roman Villa. And since you can’t call yourself a museum without a collection, the name had to be Maidenhead Heritage Centre.

The first 6 months were such a success that the owner was persuaded to extend the lease for another year. A collection began to form. The council was impressed with the new centre, and made several suggestions for a permanent home – including a basement underneath the original Magnet swimming pool!

From early 1995 the Centre was homeless, and when a local developer offered a new building as part of a riverside development, the Civic Society’s planning role was at odds with its heritage role. So the independent Maidenhead Heritage Trust was formed in 1995. The new trust was very active as it commissioned a design for a brand new building next to the library, where the amphitheatre is now. The council gave planning permission for the 500 sq.m building with a copper roof, and we applied for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, later withdrawn as HLF felt we were trying to run before we could walk.



*This could have been
our permanent home!*

A short term rent-free lease on a tiny unit in the new Queens Mall in the Nicholson Centre was arranged by the council. Later in 1996 we moved to a bigger unit near Tesco and finally in 1997 to a unit in the Broadway Mall which is now Poppies Gift Shop. The lease was short term (though extended more than once) which made it risky to spend money on specialist lighting and displays. As it happens we were there for 5 years and we did spend money on improved displays. This location was the most successful of all the Centre's seven homes in terms of visitor numbers: on Saturdays it was something of a Man Creche!

Home number 5 (right) involved a move out of the central area to the former Green Dragon pub in Moorbridge Road, which is a listed building.



For the first time we paid a commercial rent, with some help from the council. From 2002 we also employed an administrator for the first time, thanks to a grant from Sir John Smith's Manifold Trust. Frances Edwards is the third person to hold the post and has been with us since 2003, though she is leaving this summer. The Green Dragon years were happy and successful, apart from a flood in the store room. New exhibitions were put on, Julius the Roman skeleton was displayed for the first time, and though the visitor numbers fell the visitors stayed for much longer. In due course a planning application for the surrounding area was approved and with the likelihood of being the centre of a building site the Heritage Centre moved back to King Street, taking

over the tiny unit vacated by Foxy Lady hairdressers as home number 6. At least it gave us a public presence in the town.

Come 2006 and the Michael Chell shop next to the Bear Hotel went on sale for around £800,000. The shop had a large room at the rear which would have made a gallery, and rooms suitable for offices upstairs. The trustees, with the knowledge that a generous legacy from founding member Ted Sammes (right) was sitting in the bank, decided to appeal to the public for help – hoping that a rich individual might come forward to pay for the building in exchange for his name on the front! No such person did emerge, but the campaign was a huge success, largely thanks to the support of the *Advertiser*. However the owner, seeing how well we were doing, put the price up by £200k. We walked away, and it took him another two years to sell the building.



On the rebound, as it were, we put in a bid to buy the Cricketers Arms in Park Street (left), and the deal was closed just before Christmas 2006. More fund-raising followed to convert and fit out the building which opened to the public in July 2008 – a Heritage Centre for the people of Maidenhead bought by the people of Maidenhead. At last we were our own masters and over the years we have added a lobby (thanks to a Biffa award) and the ATA gallery

and Spitfire simulator on the first floor (thanks to an HLF grant and a lot more fund-raising). We also employed a professional curator and education officer in early moves to reduce our dependence on volunteers.

Now there is a possibility of a bigger, better Heritage Centre as part of the York Road redevelopment, where we can do full justice to the fascinating story of Maidenhead and its people. The Heritage Centre is an established part of Maidenhead life, and we hope that the Civic Society and MAHS will continue to support us as we approach a critical moment in our history.

Richard Poad - Maidenhead Heritage Centre

Projects

OCKWELLS MANOR SETTING - THRIFT WOOD FARM APPEAL

You may remember this photo from the Aug 2017 newsletter (p20) in an article about attempts to protect the setting of Ockwells Manor. The owner of the farm buildings had applied to build seven residential units on the site which was refused by the Royal Borough and then sent to appeal.

The appeal was refused: however neither the Royal Borough nor the appeal Inspector made any mention of the covenant the National Trust hold that says their previous written consent is required before any building can take place. Apparently planning guidelines take no notice of covenants as these

are regarded as a civil matter between the parties! This means that the National Trust have to scour the planning lists to see if their covenants are likely to be threatened or hope that local interested persons alert them as happened in this case.



The rest of Thrift Wood Farm was sold to the Royal Borough to create the new extension to Ockwells Park; the Society had a guided walk round it earlier this year. Also acquired was access through to Ockwells Road right through the proposed housing site. This could prove useful depending of the future development of this whole area e.g. as a heritage/countryside park. But guess what: there is now a new planning application to build two large houses on the site; does the Trust know!*?.

“GUARDIANS OF THE GREEN WAY”

The Green Way is a streamside walk from Cookham through Maidenhead to Bray, the brainchild of the Civic Society and East Berks Ramblers. We published the first Green Way leaflet in 1985, now in its fourth edition. A fifth edition will be published by the Royal Borough after the completion of changes to the Green Way in the town centre following the regeneration of the town and construction linked to the Waterways project. It will also feature the locations of art work.

In 2012 the Landscape Department of the Royal Borough commissioned artist Nick Garnett to create a series of eight wooden sculptures identified as *Guardians of the Green Way*. These are located along the Green Way from just north of Ray Mill Road West to Braywick Park. Three cast iron plaques bearing the legend “The Green

Way” were also installed in the ground; two are located at the start of the sculpture trail near Ray Mill Road West and the third at southern end.



One of the Guardians of the Green Way commissioned in 2012 by the Royal Borough, and a close up of its metal label



One of the cast iron ground plaques marking the Green Way

The larger sculptures are undamaged but the smaller ones have been eroded by the weather allowing nature to take its course.



Compare the state of this sculpture in 2013 (left) with it in 2018 (right)

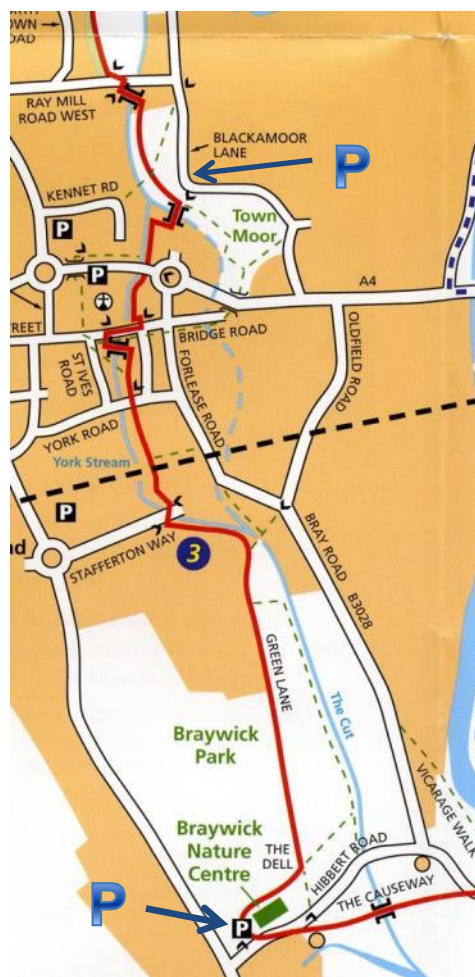


Keeping an eye on you as you walk!

“Guardians of the Green Way” Walk – Sunday 30th September 2018

We thought our members and the public may be interested to see the *Guardians*. In addition to the sculptures, as we walk through the town centre we will be able to see the current state of the Chapel Arches development (the Colonnade is already history), and south of Stafferton Way we should also be able to see the weir being put in. This aims to raise the water level in the town centre for the Waterways project. It may be possible to see the newly opened bridge over the Cut in Braywick Park which is to be named in memory of former Rambler and Civic Society member Margaret Bowdery MBE.

This is a linear walk, on fairly level ground, starting at Ray Mill West and walking south along the Green Way through the town centre to Braywick Nature Centre where refreshments will be available. The most efficient way of organising this is to share cars from Braywick Nature Centre car park, off Hibbert Road, and drive to the car park on Town Moor, off Blackamoor Lane (both marked with a blue ‘P’ on the map). It is then a short walk along Blackamoor Lane to Ray Mill Road West where the Green Way crosses. The first cars can then be retrieved after the walk is over.



You should arrive at Braywick Nature Centre car park at 1.30pm, for a departure for Town Moor car park at 1.45pm. The walk proper will start at 2.00pm. We expect the walk to take about 2 hours so we should be back at Braywick Nature Centre for tea at 4pm. Why not bring a friend who might be interested in joining us and can drive!

No charge is being made for this event, though refreshments (tea/coffee & cake) will be available in the Nature Centre, **payable on the day**. **As we plan to make the walk open to the public it would be helpful if you could let us know if you wish to participate by contacting Joyce DeLaSalle on 01628 637342 or email joyce@delasalle.me.uk by the middle of September indicating whether you would like refreshments.**

Note: A new school is being built on the old Winbury School site so works connected with this may still be in progress though the Nature Centre will be open for business as usual.

Ann Darracott

Forthcoming Events

The Civic Society will be busy with a presence at a number of events throughout the summer in order to publicise the Society and the work we do. These will include:

- Monday 27th August at the Littlewick Show to be held at Knowl Hill,
- and Saturday 20th October the “*Maidenhead & Me*” Prize Presentation which will be held in the Town Centre.

And we look forward to seeing all those members who will be joining us for our “Picnic in the Park” on Sunday 19th August, when we will be giving ourselves a pat on the back to celebrate 40 years of Guards Club Park. We will have a little display which describes the enormous efforts made by the Civic Society to establish this key Maidenhead leisure resource.

Advance Notice: Wednesday 21st November 2018, 7.45pm for 8.00pm. AGM at St Luke’s Community Centre and presentation by architect Martin Knight:

Martin will talk about his career and his design philosophy. You will recall that he featured in our February 2018 Newsletter as the designer of the new bridge across the Thames, linking Boulton Island and the Taplow side of the river. The bridge is expected to be opened in spring 2019, when the Mill Lane Development final phase is complete.

--ooOoo--

Society members may also be interested in the following talks organised by local history and archaeology groups:

Maidenhead Archaeological & Historical Society (MAHS)

(Talks held at Maidenhead Community Centre (formerly York Hall), 42 York Road, Maidenhead SL6 1SH; 7.30 for 8pm; visitors £3; contact 01628 630924 for talks, and 01628 629614 for outings)

Wednesday 26th September: Lecture by John Harrison *Japan, Ancient and Modern*.

Wednesday 31st October: Lecture by Roger Askew *Windsor Great Park*.

We also have an outing: Saturday 8th September to St Albans, with conducted tour of medieval city, Abbey and on to newly updated RAF Museum at Hendon. Details of this from 01628 630924.

Marlow Archaeology (MAS)

(Talks held at the Liston Hall, Marlow, SL7 1DD; £4 non-members; contact 01628 523896)

Thursday 20th September, 2018, 8pm: *The Boxford Mosaic*, talk by Dr Steve Clark (jointly with AiM).

Thursday 4th October 2018, 8pm: *Monumental Activity at Riding Court Farm, Datchet*, talk by John Powell.

Thursday 8th November 2018, 8pm: *Buckinghamshire's Saxon Prince: the burial at Taplow*, talk by Leslie Webster.

Archaeology in Marlow (AiM)

(Talks held at the Liston Hall, Marlow, SL7 1DD; £4 non-members; contact 01628 485961)

Thursday 20th September, 2018, 8pm: *The Boxford Mosaic*, talk by Dr Steve Clark (jointly with MAS)

News from the Heritage Centre

Spitfire Summer – an exhibition to mark the 80th anniversary of the Spitfire entering RAF service. The full story of the iconic fighter of World War II, which was ferried over 57,000 times by ATA pilots. Over 30 scale models, scores of photos, comments from RAF, Luftwaffe and ATA pilots – all with the chance to fly the fabulous Spitfire simulator in the ATA gallery. Exhibition runs until Battle of Britain Sunday (September 16th).

Maidenhead's Listed Buildings – an exhibition; 8th June to 15th September 2018.

Vanwall Winning for Britain – an exhibition celebrating the very first Motor Manufacturers Championship in 1958. 19th September to 13th October 2018.

Lest We Forget – exhibition to mark the centenary of the 1918 armistice. 18th October to 11th November (Remembrance Sunday).

Toys of Yesteryear – Toy exhibition to cover the run-up to Christmas – and post-Christmas. 17th November 2018 to 3rd January 2019.

Thames Cruises – This year our ever-popular River Thames cruises with live commentary will take place on Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th September 2018. Tickets are unchanged at £23. Download a booking form from our website (see below).

As always, full news and information about the Heritage Centre is available on our website www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 19th August 2018

40th Anniversary of Guards Club Park
Picnic in the Park

Wednesday 21st November 2018

Civic Society AGM, preceded by a talk by local architect
Martin Knight.
St Luke's Community Hall, Norfolk Rd. 7.45 for 8.00pm.

CIVIC SOCIETY – KEY CONTACTS

Executive Chairman	Bob Dulson, Bryher, Islet Road, SL6 8HT	627130
Hon. Secretary	Eileen Goford, 6 Laxton Green, SL6 3HW	638238
Hon. Treasurer	Peter Child, 34 College Road, SL6 6AT	632300
Planning Group	Martin McNamee, 14 Lower Cookham Road, SL6 8JT	623203
Projects	Ann Darracott, 6 Medallion Place, SL6 1TF	620280
Communications	Brian Darracott, 6 Medallion Place, SL6 1TF	620280
Events	Tina Sell, Marlborough, River Road, Taplow, SL6 0BB	628675
Outings Organiser	Mike Copeland, 14 Laburnham Road, SL6 4DB	634181
Membership Sec.	Joyce Delasalle, 7 Laxton Green, SL6 3HW	637342
Newsletter Distribution	Sue Ross, 3 The Chantry, 21 Boyn Hill Avenue, SL6 4EY	626849

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2018

Venues to be confirmed nearer the dates

9th January, 13th February, 13th March, 3rd April, 8th May, 12th June, 3rd July, 11th September, 9th October,
13th November, 11th December

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 8.00 pm, venue to be announced

**The closing date for copy for the next issue
of the Newsletter is 12th October 2018**

News Editor **Brian Darracott**
6 Medallion Place, Maidenhead, SL6 1TF (01628 620280)
editor@maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk

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