



Maidenhead Civic Society NEWS



Issue 1/18

February 2018



Goodbye to an old friend!

Last view of the Colonnade that will soon be demolished

Visit our website: www.maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk

The Chairman's Page

I have little doubt that in due course the Council will report an overwhelmingly positive public response to the latest plans for the York Road Opportunity Area, published for consultation last month. In many respects what is proposed is certainly better than the dreary prospect that currently meets those leaving the Town Hall or the library.

Martin McNamee looks at some of the detail in Planning Matters in this edition. In my view York Road has the most potential of all the opportunity areas. A blank canvas alongside the town hall and library, visible from the railway: ideal for creating a bold statement about the character of a regenerated Maidenhead in a distinctive civic and cultural quarter.

The Area Action Plan, adopted in 2011, envisaged community, cultural, entertainment and leisure facilities in this area as well as residential and office developments. This would take time, of course, requiring lots of debate and engagement with residents and stakeholders to determine the appropriate mix but, capitalising on Maidenhead's unparalleled accessibility, it could have provided a significant cultural venue with concert, conference, exhibition, gallery and performance space. In an ideal world, Norden Farm would have been enticed to come into the town centre to be at the heart of such a facility, alongside the library and a new enlarged heritage centre.

Unfortunately, patience is not a strong suit in the current administration and they pushed York Road to the top of the list because it can deliver a quick housing win. So, instead, we have what is now on offer: a pavilion of unspecified purpose, a redecorated Desborough Suite and a row of pop-up shops for rent along the waterfront. The height of the buildings has been reduced but they still stand at 7-9 storeys. And, other than a few on-street spaces, the civic and cultural quarter, a focal point for the community, will contain no public parking.

It's not obvious either how the proposals will integrate with any development to the south of York Road or to Queen Street and The Landing to the west but the height of the apartment blocks will no doubt mask the view. In fairness, there are some welcome touches, like the inclusion of mews-style and town houses in the Grove Road area, a functioning town square and attractive landscaping. But Countryside are clearly focused on fulfilling the Council's brief to deliver the housing numbers. As an equal partner in the joint venture, I would like to see them exert their creative influence and push for something more imaginative.

As their display boards at the public event in Nicholsons said, this is a "once in a lifetime opportunity". They're right. Personally, I feel that Maidenhead could have – and deserves – much better.

Bob Dulson

Planning Matters

Things are getting increasingly fluid in the planning sphere. The RBWM joint venture with Countryside is taking shape with more detailed proposals being put forward for the **York Road Opportunity Area (YROA)**. There have been a number of consultations, most recently at the end January, and our overview is as follows:

The much anticipated “civic space” which will create a focus for the town is primarily restricted to what is called the “Town Square” which occupies the area to the south of the existing Library, bounded by York Stream to the east and St Ives Road to the west. The Town Square will also feature a Pavilion building situated on the north of the square alongside the Library. The purpose of the Pavilion is to house exhibitions and other public displays, while the Town Square will feature markets, public performances and other events such as an open air cinema. How this relates to the performance amphitheatre to the north of the Library is unclear. St Ives Road will continue to have one way through traffic, although the surface will be raised and specially surfaced to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists. We are unsure how this will work out.



The YROA scheme, looking towards the southwest

There is a total of 280 new homes included in the scheme. It is intended to provide 30% of affordable homes, which is a requirement from RBWM for all the four town centre JV development sites. 40% of the total will be one-bed dwellings, 50% two-bed and 10% three-bed. The majority are flats, although there will also be some mews style. Having previously indicated no provision of parking, we are pleased to see the introduction of limited spaces for residential occupiers. The indicated rate of 0.5 spaces per dwelling is unsatisfactory – presumably providing 140 spaces – but it

is better than nothing as previously proposed. The total footage of office space is not clear and there is no indication of any parking provision for office staff.

To the south of the Town Square there are two blocks of mainly residential properties alongside York Stream, either side of York Road. Both blocks will introduce wharf style architecture to reflect the location. The northern block will have waterside restaurants, pop-up shops etc. on the lowest level facing eastwards to York Stream. These blocks will be 7 to 9 storeys high, which is more than the rejected Shanly scheme for the old Bowling Club, which is referred to later.

On the site of the current Town Hall car park is a 5 to 9-storey block of mixed use – retail, commercial, office and residential. To the north of this block is a low-rise two-storey structure which faces the south elevation of the Town Hall. This is designated as “Civic and Cultural” offering spaces for “the public to enjoy”. This will be the location of the rehoused Maidenhead Heritage Centre and a number of restaurants; it is of course north facing. Running westwards from Park St. and over the Grove Road car park will be what is best described as three smaller residential blocks, 4 to 5 storeys high. These will include the mews type dwellings. This area will include some demolished buildings between Queen Street and Park Street on the southern side of Broadway. It does not include the so-called “death row” of properties on the north side of York Road.....surprisingly, these do not form part of the YROA.

Throughout the scheme an increased area of landscaped open spaces will be provided. This will include an upgraded landscaped area behind the Town Hall, with improved access to a refurbished Desborough Theatre. This is one of the few gestures towards the cultural expectations of a scheme that is intended to provide a civic focus for Maidenhead. Furthermore, it is unclear how much of these landscaped areas are open public space and how much is residential amenity space for flat dwellers.

In summary our views are ones of disappointment with inadequate parking – both residential and office; poor civic space; shortage of cultural facilities; a lack of information about total office space; three monolithic blocks etc. A planning application is expected in the Spring. If you wish to look at the presentation on line please visit www.rbdevelopmentpartnership.co.uk.

In addition there has been a “scoping exercise” for the **Landing** development in the King Street/Broadway/Queen Street triangle. In our response we said:

There is increasing evidence that town centre residential dwellings require parking spaces. The permitted outline application included 150 spaces for residents, which was perceived as a positive. This scoping exercise has no such parking provision which is a major negative. The number of residential units has been increased from 225 to 550, which is understandable bearing in mind the pressure to deliver housing targets. However, the failure to provide any parking is a major concern. Regrettably, all these units will be yet more flats.

The office space has been reduced from 34,500 sqm to 15,000 sqm but at the same time the maximum height of office blocks has been increased from 14 storeys in the permitted outline application to an unacceptable 19 storeys in this scoping exercise! Office parking is assumed to be made available in the extended and refurbished Nicholson's Car Park – which will have to accommodate vehicles belonging to residents of the scheme in addition to office employees.

Retail and Leisure space has been increased from 5,000 sqm in the approved scheme to 6,000 sqm in the scoping exercise. It is not clear what has happened to the originally proposed parking provision for these businesses.

There are some positives, including an improved pedestrian link to Nicholson's Centre, but on balance when it comes to a further planning application we will be objecting to many of these changes, especially the failure to provide parking and the increased building heights.



The Landing: proposed scheme looking north

Both the YROA and the Landing suffer from an inadequacy of parking provision for the residential and office development that is proposed. Whilst the Nicholson's Centre Car Park is demolished, modernised and extended there is going to be a short term shortage of parking spaces in the town centre. Although things will improve when the new Nicholson's Car Park is on stream the medium to long term provision of parking will remain an issue. There is still a fallacy that if a residence is within 800 metres of Maidenhead Station there is no need for parking provision. This is patently nonsense. People do not only commute east/west, but they also have a work, leisure and social life which requires travel to Windsor, Ascot, Bracknell, Wycombe and further afield. These destinations require travel by car. The Kings Quarter development on the corner of Bridge Road and Oldfield Road was constructed with inadequate parking facilities more than ten years ago. Consequently, surrounding roads such as The Farthingales have had to introduce residents permit parking and the car park beside Barclays Bank on Bridge Road is full of long term parking of Kings Quarter cars. Furthermore, there remains a shortfall in the long term projection of parking spaces for Maidenhead and the potential impact of the opening of Crossrail remains unknown. With the failure of Network Rail to provide additional station parking it will be necessary to increase the capacity of the existing Stafferton Way

car park by adding extra storeys, and the now vacant site beside Lidl could provide further capacity. Although these will provide additional commuter parking south of the railway line, there will remain a shortfall for residential and office parking within the town centre. It is an established fact that office accommodation is difficult to let without adequate parking provision. You can see more details at www.hubgroup.co.uk/projects/the-landing.

In our monthly Planning Group meetings there has been an increasing number of applications to develop residential accommodation above retail units in the High Street. In fact the old **Post Office** is being developed into 19 dwellings under Permitted Development rights. The good news is that the yard to the rear is being retained for residents parking – one space per dwelling. Conversely, at **72 to 74 High Street** (New Look) there is a proposal to build 12 apartments above the retail space and then add a six storey block of 20 flats to the rear – fronting on to West Street – by building on the current staff parking space. This proposal has no facility at the rear for shop delivery vehicles or a residential drop off as the frontage is directly onto the West Street pavement. There are several other “above shop” residential development proposals.....all without parking!

Another trend is the introduction of a “granny annexe” at the bottom of the garden. Originally, garden rooms might have electricity but no plumbing or drainage. Then there was a spate of “gyms”, which of course required a shower and w/c. Now it is straight to a residential “granny annexe” and three have been approved in recent months. There is a long-term issue regarding the quality of residential housing stock, and the nature of occupancy of such units. Furthermore, such dwellings can have an impact on the rights of neighbours to enjoy adjacent back gardens. If they are to be freely permitted then the policy should be made clear by the planners and we can spare our efforts to resist such proposals.

We have commented previously on the Shanly proposals to construct three blocks of flats on the **York Road** site of the relocated **Bowling Club**. We feel that the application is premature, with the outcome of the YROA redevelopment unresolved. However, it has to be admitted that the scheme for a total of 154 flats up to seven storeys high is little different from what will ultimately be proposed for nearby blocks in the Countryside scheme. At least the Shanly application includes the provision of 176 parking spaces, many of them underground. As the Newsletter goes to press it is understood that the application has been refused for a second time.

The application for the relocation of the **Magnet Leisure Centre** to Braywick Park is in the pipeline. In our submitted comments we did raise concerns about the principle of taking such a facility away from the town centre. The new complex is remote and poorly served by bus services. With an auditorium capacity of 650 it requires a large car park and facilities for coach parties etc. After major events there will be a requirement for traffic marshalling to exit the site onto Braywick Road. The Borough are convinced that whilst an exceptional case can be made for developing a leisure centre on the Green Belt of Braywick Park, the same location could not be considered for residential use. We have been subsequently informed that to modernise and

refurbish the existing site would cost around £23 million, there would be a period of up to two years with no leisure centre in the town and the resultant outcome would be significantly below the standard of the Braywick offer. So the move is going to happen. The new facility is of innovative design, offering a multi-purpose venue (right) which it is hoped will encourage people to spend more time on site. We understand that the acoustics and sound proofing of the performance auditorium is of the highest standard.

We have commented in earlier newsletters on the proposals for **Claire's Court School** to develop a single campus on Green Belt land up at Ridgeway off Cannon Lane. This is a potentially contentious proposal that has been omitted from the latest version of the Borough Local Plan. Our Planning Group has not yet commented on the application, but we believe that there is a case both for and against the scheme. More than 120 dwellings would be built by Berkeley Homes up at Ridgeway to partially fund the scheme; this has increased from 75 previously. Currently the school operates over three sites – Ray Mill Road East and College Avenue in addition to Ridgeway. This multi-site operation generates much cross-town bus and car traffic as children are shuttled between locations. No evidence of journeys made has been seen, but this would be an opportunity to actually reduce traffic. The Ray Mill Road East and College Avenue sites would be converted to residential use. We are aware of strong local opposition in the Cannon Lane area to the likely increase in traffic volumes as a result of this proposal, but traffic volume alone has rarely prevented residential development. With more than 700 new houses per year targeted in the Royal Borough increased traffic congestion will be an unavoidable fact of life. A bigger issue is the protection of the Green Belt – is this an exceptional case? We will report in more detail on this proposed scheme when we have formally submitted our comments.

Finally, an update on the plans by the Hindu Society of Maidenhead to construct a Place of Worship and Community Centre at **Boulton's Lock Car Park**. You will recall that this proposal was refused back in the summer of last year. It was clearly established that the site would generate a level of vehicular traffic that would not be accommodated by the limited number of parking spaces on site. Consequently, vehicles from the centre would use spaces in the public car park, which is already under pressure, especially on summer weekends. The Royal Borough had previously championed the proposal with a lease being arranged in favour of the Hindu Society. Although the Borough have withdrawn their support, the applicants are appealing against the decision to refuse. This is disappointing because the proposed site is landlocked, surrounded on three sides by residential back gardens, with the only access over and through the public car park. Any community centre is completely out of character with the residential, riverside location. With the ongoing development of leisure activity at Maidenhead Riverside, including the new footbridge to the Taplow picnic area, there is an ever increasing need for more parking – which was the original use of the now disused site. It is hoped that the appeal will be held in public rather than by written submission.

Martin McNamee and Bob Dulson

Riverside Developments

THE CARNIVAL RETURNS

A carnival-style event with music, stalls and other attractions looks set to return to Riverside early this summer.

Maidenhead town manager, Steph James, outlined the plan at a meeting with Riverside residents at the end of January. She is hoping that the event which is pencilled in for Saturday 23rd June will include a floating stage for musicians and a host of other attractions. The event would be an addition to the Maidenhead calendar and not affect the Maidenhead Festival scheduled as usual for Kidwells Park in July.

The move comes about as a result of the *Making the Most of Maidenhead Riverside* initiative, inspired by the Civic Society. A council/residents' working group is exploring opportunities for improving the amenities in Riverside. Among the ideas being considered are more frequent regular passenger boat trips from Maidenhead Promenade and the revival of small boats for hire.



Other events planned for this year include the Lions Club annual *Duck Derby* on May 19th, when an outdoor cinema screen will relay the Royal Wedding and/or the FA Cup Final; and in Guards Club Park on July 1st a repeat of the highly successful *Gin In The Park*, first held last year (photo above). To coincide with this the Society will be preparing a display to mark the 40th anniversary of the renovation of the Edwardian Guards Club footbridge which it completed in 1978.

A GRACEFUL ECHO

Architect Martin Knight (right) is about to bless Taplow and Maidenhead Riverside with a graceful legacy – a new footbridge across the Thames.

The new bridge linking Boulters Island and the Taplow side of the river was finally recently put into place and we thought members would be interested to know how the design came about. We're grateful to the Hitcham & Taplow Society for allowing us to use the text of an article by Nigel Smales which first appeared in their Autumn 2017 Newsletter and which

Martin's early work includes museums in Swansea and Portsmouth as well as developments at King's Cross, Hull and Guangzhou. His first notable venture into bridge design was the prizewinning Gateshead Millennium Bridge in 2001. Thereafter, before founding his own practice in 2006, he was responsible for extraordinary bridges including the Royal Ballet School's Bridge of Aspiration over Floral Street in London and Gatwick Airport's Pier 6 Airbridge.



Knight Architects has won numerous competitions and accolades. Its award-winning bridges across the world include extended links in Helsinki and from Hong Kong to Macau; the Mersey Gateway and crossings in London's Olympic

Park, Yorkshire, Cumbria, Wales and Bath; a landmark bridge in New Zealand inspired by a Maori fish hook motif; and a footbridge at Merchant's Square, Paddington, which raises in segments like a Japanese fan. With ongoing projects in Bermuda, Budapest and Stockholm, the studio has just been appointed to design bridges for the new A27 Arundel Bypass.

He seems a laid-back kind of guy, but ask Martin about his design philosophy. Light shines. Bridge design is about telling a story that works not only for those who appreciate form and function but also for everyday people who experience the physical and sensual reality of seeing bridges and of crossing and seeing from them. Bridges have a powerful 'sense of place'. Never forget to balance cost and legacy value.

Martin and his family settled in Taplow in 2003 and quickly fell in love with our community and he with our bridges. Taylor's road bridge and Brunel's railway bridge over the Thames are beautiful, iconic glimpses of 1777 and 1839 still functioning admirably in 2017. How's that for legacy? Martin was inspired to set expectations for the rescue of our riverside. The river isn't an edge, he argued, it's an entity, a destination. Both sides should be on the same side, intent on place-making. Any new residential development should be permeable, part of the community, not isolated by the closure of Mill Lane. In his spare time, he sketched a design to prove a footbridge from Glen Island to Ray Mill Island and Boulter's Lock was both feasible and viable. He found common purpose with Heather Fenn, who had allied with Bob Dulson of Maidenhead Civic Society to further her long-cherished vision of making our riverside "a magical amenity". Events unfolded. Convinced by Martin's perception and logic, South Bucks District Council cherry-picked from Heather's dream to require the provision of a footbridge. Who better for Berkeley Homes to ask to design it than Taplow's very own expert?



The shallow and slender span of Martin's 35m bridge echoes that of Brunel's bridge, said to have "the widest and flattest brick arches in the world". He hopes his new creation will be open before too long when Taplovians, Maidonians and their visitors will be able during daylight hours to enjoy lovely mile-and-a-quarter round-river walks. Another layer to the legacy!

What will the new footbridge be called? "Knight's Bridge" might be populist and catchy but Berkeley Homes, who are funding the new crossing, will decide the official name in due course. "Taplow Bridge" could tell a cracking tale. The late architect and local historian Michael Bayley (a founding member of Maidenhead Civic Society) believed the original river crossing hereabouts, an ancient *briva* (a porous brushwood causeway) where the weir is now, was succeeded by an Iron Age *briva* on the line of the new bridge, and that this crossing – which he called Taplow Bridge to differentiate it from the first Maidenhead Bridge (built 1280) – survived until being destroyed during the Epiphany Rising of 1400 that failed to restore King Richard II to the throne. The skirmish is history, the *briva* Michael's theory, but such a good yarn surely deserves its place in lore.

Projects

The Green Way – recent developments

This streamside walk from Cookham through Maidenhead to Bray, a project we began with East Berks Ramblers in 1985, has had bits of it closed off in recent years due to the construction of the waterway through the town centre. Newly opened sections show a spacious Green Way path, a new bridge across the stream near to the library and a ramp from the High Street to the path.



The Green Way path in the town centre with the new “library” bridge

The section from Crown Lane steps to Chapel Arches is still closed off to allow the construction of blocks of flats and the widening of the stream to create a basin. This will involve the demolition of the Colonnade. Once all this has happened the Green Way will return to its streamside location.

There are still problems. The dam that was holding back the stream at Town Moor has been removed so that York Stream now flows through the town centre again, whilst the 1960s flood relief channel into which the stream had been diverted is mostly dry. Unfortunately, as of 17th January, water was also flowing onto the Green Way where it runs under the A4.

This section of the Green Way was in the past liable to flooding when levels were high. As permanently high levels are required for the waterways scheme, a barrier to

separate path from stream was designed – evidently not very well. Hopefully the barrier will be extended northwards.



Flooding of Green Way under the A4 (January 2018)

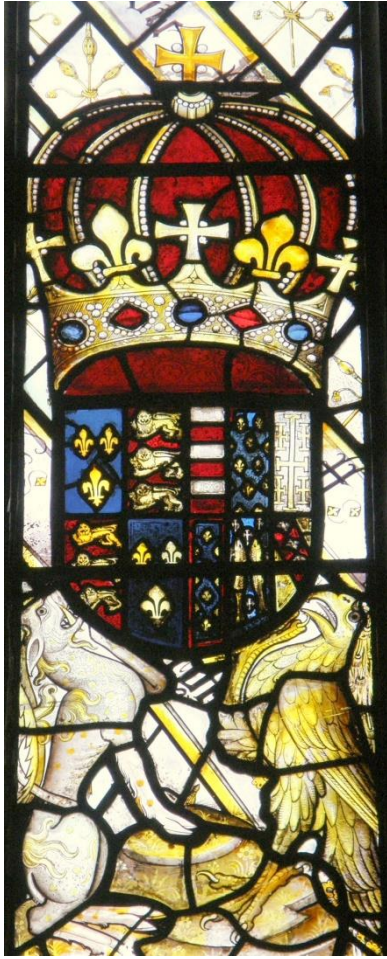
When all the changes are completed the Green Way leaflet, first published by the Society in 1985, will be revised; if we are not all too decrepit by then maybe we should also have another walk from Cookham through Maidenhead to Bray.

Ockwells Armorial Glass: C15th and later copies

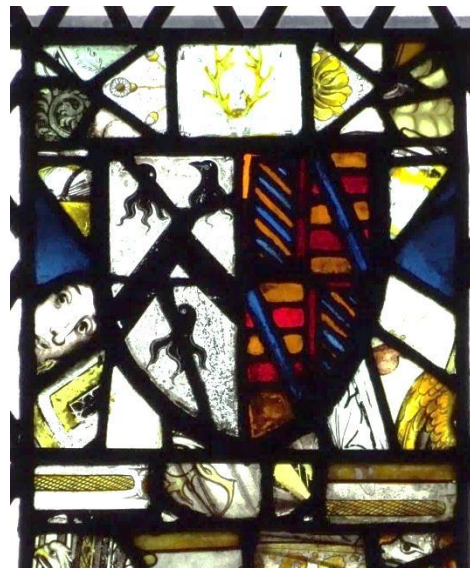
In past Newsletters we have noted occasions when coats of arms found at Ockwells are also found elsewhere. In December 2000, we pointed out that C15th armorials for Margaret of Anjou, and John Norreys Esq and his first wife, Alice Merbrooke, existed in the Galilee Chapel in Durham Cathedral.

In Feb/Mar & May 1998 editions of the News the front cover featured *Spot the Fake* where the Ockwells armorial was compared with a copy. As all the photos in these newsletters were in black and white and as I have recently acquired new and better photos of the C15th armorials from Durham cathedral I thought it would be interesting to show these in colour together with copies of the Ockwells glass found elsewhere.

Galilee Chapel, Durham Cathedral



*The armorial of Margaret of Anjou, Queen of Henry VI.
Left: Ockwells; right: Galilee Chapel*



*The armorial of John Norreys Esq and his first wife Alice Merbrooke.
Left: Ockwells; right: Galilee Chapel*

Why there? Henry VI visited Durham in September 1448 when he was entertained by the then Bishop of Durham, Robert Neville, brother of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, who had Bisham Abbey and had also helped escort Margaret of Anjou to England in 1445. Norreys was an Esquire to the Body of the King and Alice was Lady in Waiting to the Queen, so they both probably accompanied them to Durham. I am hoping to find out whether the shields in the Galilee Chapel could once have been in the Exchequer building on Durham's Palace Green, built by Robert Neville, perhaps with help from donors whose armorials he put up. I believe these shields are the remnants of a larger scheme.

Stan Hywet, Akron, Ohio, USA



*The armorial of Henry Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick.
Left: Ockwells; right: Stan Hywet*

Stan Hywet also has copies of seven other Ockwells armorials: photos courtesy of Stan Hywet House & Gardens



Ockwells copies at Stan Hywet. Left to right: Abingdon Abbey; Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset; William Bulstrode; Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury.



Ockwells copies at Stan Hywet. Left to right Henry Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick; John Norreys and his second wife, Eleanor Clitheroe; Margaret of Anjou; John Pury.

Why there: Stan Hywet was built by the founder of Goodyear Tyres, Mr F A Sieberling, as a stately home modelled on those he had visited in England: it's great hall is said to be modelled on Ockwells. Mr & Mrs Sieberling stayed with Sir Edward Barry at Ockwells in 1915 and expressed an interest in buying the armorial glass. Fortunately Sir Edward didn't sell. Copies were made for Sieberling by the firm of Heinigke & Bowen of New York City, who on 26th November 1915 were trying to find glass painters with the necessary feeling and ability to make the Ockwells windows and by 20th December were preparing to ship four of the armorials to Stan Hywet.

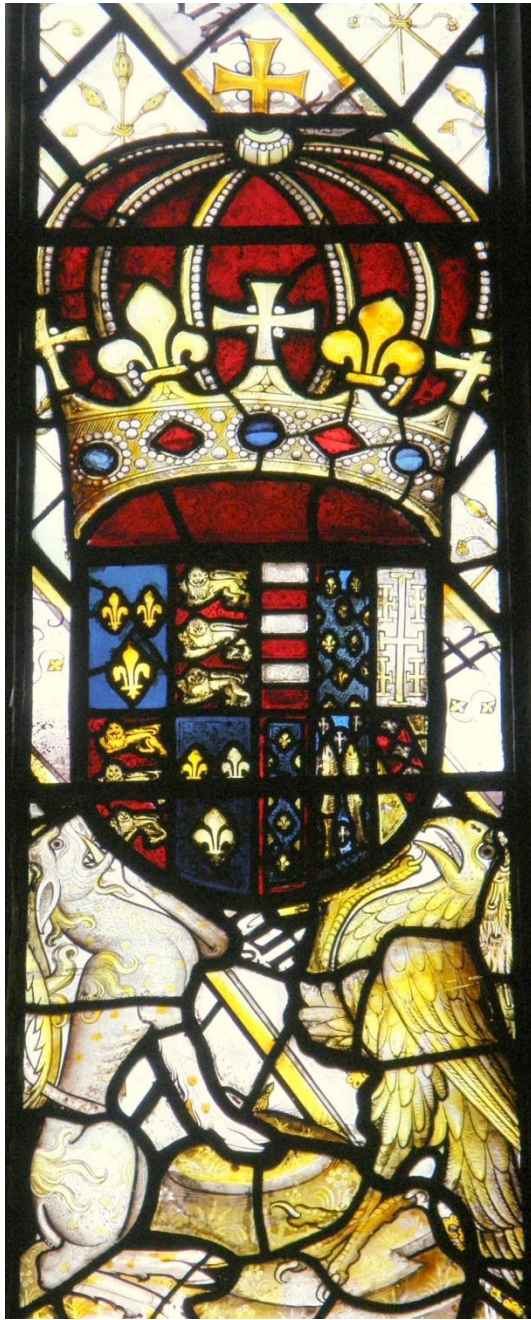
St James the Great Church, Radley



The armorial of Henry VI. Left: Ockwells; right St James the Great, Radley

Why there: Thomas Willement, glass painter to George IV and Queen Victoria made drawings of the Ockwells glass in 1838. In 1839 Willement glazed windows in the Radley church to the order of George Bowyer Esq whose coat and badge also occurs in the windows. The glazing includes achievements for several kings of England including two of Henry VI, obvious copies of that at Ockwells, though a past Vicar told me he thought the heraldic antelopes were spaniels! Willement also put up a mitre at Radley based on those at Ockwells.

The Stained Glass Museum, Ely Cathedral



The armorial of Margaret of Anjou. Left: Ockwells; right: in the Stained Glass Museum in Ely Cathedral.

Why there: Thomas Willement is credited with this armorial done c.1840 which was originally in Crockerton Church, Wiltshire. It was a gift of the Church Commissioners to the Museum in 1974

We are incredibly lucky to still have the armorial glass in the great hall of Ockwells Manor, important both aesthetically and historically; glass that has evidently inspired later glaziers.

Ann Darracott

Annual Dinner a Success

Our annual dinner at Moor Hall on Friday 25th January attracted some 54 guests who enjoyed a good meal followed by a spirited and inspiring talk by Joan Humble, Chair of Civic Voice – a veritable Conservation Conversation! She urged us to consider the following questions and to have a discussion locally:

- Is it ever appropriate for the character of developments in a Conservation Area to be significantly different from the style and materials of existing structures?
- If so, what criteria should be applied in approving such developments?
- If all or part of a Conservation Area has become derelict or in generally poor condition, should different criteria be applied in considering its redevelopment?
- Under what circumstances would it be appropriate to support the withdrawal of Conservation Area status?
- Are there examples in your district where designation as a Conservation Area has encouraged significantly better building and public realm maintenance?
- Are there examples in your district where designation as a Conservation Area has hindered property improvements or prevented developments that would have benefited the local community?

Communities across the country need to come together and say “My Conservation Area Matters”. So let’s get involved!

Our New Hon. Treasurer

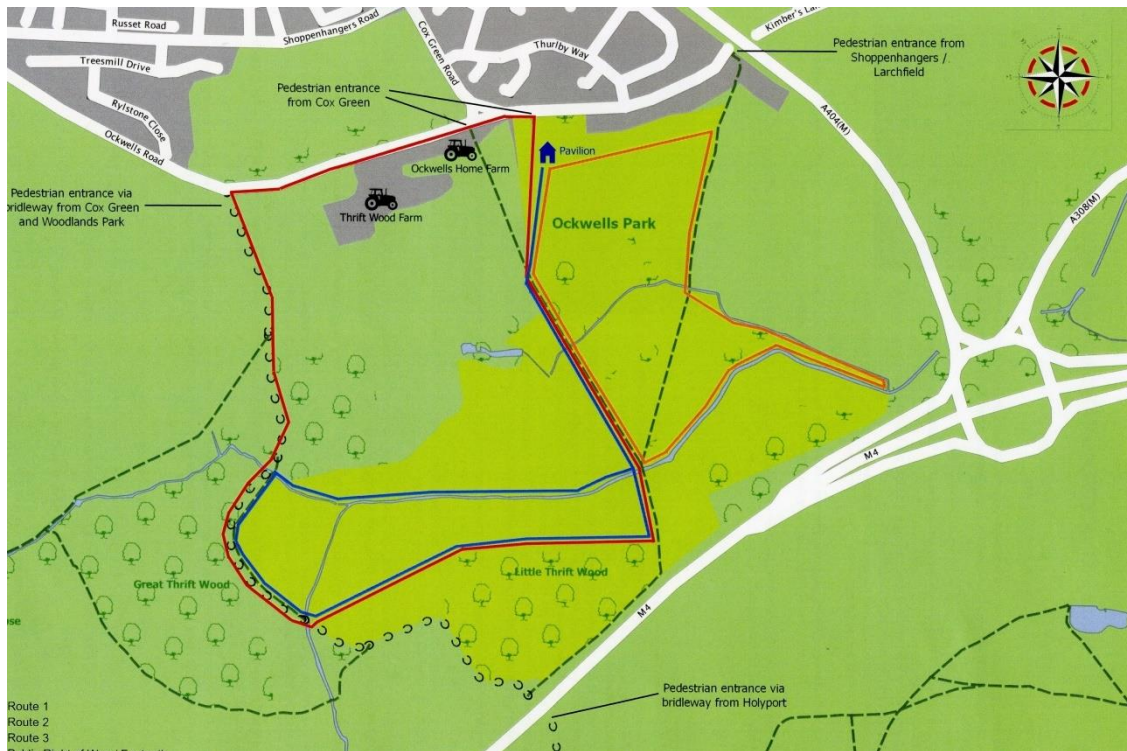
As announced at our AGM in November, Mike Emmerson has decided to stand down after six efficient and unruffled years as the Society’s Hon. Treasurer. With his wife, Janet, he has gone to start a new life in retirement in Devon. We offer him our warmest thanks and best wishes.

In Mike’s place we are delighted that Peter Child (right) has volunteered to take over the reins. Peter is a former accountant who, along with his wife Ann, has been a member of the Society for 30 years. Ann herself was Society Treasurer for nine years until 1997.



Forthcoming Events

Visit to the new extension to Ockwells Park Tuesday 24th April 2018



In 2017 the Royal Borough purchased 86 acres, part of Thrift Wood Farm, for £725,000 as an extension to Ockwells Park and has designated it as public open space in the emerging Borough Local Plan. The land acquired was once part of Ockwells farm. More recently it was used to train greyhounds; vestiges of the dog track still exist. The green space includes a series of new walkways through parkland and woods offering routes taking from 30 minutes to an hour.

The visit will include a guided tour by Jason Mills, Countryside Ranger based at Braywick Nature Centre, who is on the steering group that plans to develop the new acquisition to improve the ecological value of the area by creating wetland. He will explain what is planned; currently they are putting in a bluebell walk. Following the tour we will have a light sandwich lunch in the café in Ockwells Park. The walk is over flat ground, but it would be advisable to wear stout shoes, or even wellies, as the ground could be damp or muddy in places!

Please assemble at 10.45am at the car park in Ockwells Road, Cox Green for an 11.00am start to the tour, which will last 1 to 1.5 hours. There is no charge for the tour itself, but if you would like lunch, this can be pre-booked at a cost £6, or £7 for non-members. Please ring Mike Copeland on 01628 634181 to book a place, not later than Tuesday 10th April, and if you want lunch send a cheque payable to MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY to Mike at 14, Laburnham Road, Maidenhead SL6 4DB.

Enjoy A Steamy Day Out! Wednesday 13th June 2018

We are organising a 2-centre trip on Wednesday 13th June. Firstly, we will visit Didcot Railway Centre then proceed to The Steam Museum in Swindon.

Didcot Railway Centre covers a large area and is run by the Great Western Trust. Its aim is to record the huge impact the arrival of the railway had on the population. It covers the period from 1833 to 1977. On display are locomotives and carriages from this period. There is also an engine shed and recreations of stations. Brunel's wide gauge track is also there. The centre also has an extensive photographic collection.



We will then travel to Swindon Steam Museum (right), the museum of the Great Western Railway. This is housed in one of the largest railway engineering complexes in the UK. On exhibit are many trains that were built at these workshops, and displays recording the history of the GWR.

There will be time for lunch in Swindon and the Museum is located next to the famous Designer Outlet shopping centre.



The cost will be £36 for members and £38 for non-members. Pick up is 09.15 at Bridge Avenue and 09.30 from Braywick Park carpark; return to Maidenhead will be about 18.30. Please complete the booking form towards the end of the News and return to Mike Copeland by 17th May.

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

Maidenhead Archaeological & Historical Society (MAHS)

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

Wednesday 28th February: Talk by David Hunt *National Trust's Industrial Heritage*.

Wednesday 28th March: Talk by Mike Whitehouse *Stories from the Cockpit*.

Wednesday 25th April: AGM followed by short talk by member Derek Salter *What the Helka! European Volcanic Impacts*.

Marlow Archaeology (MAS)

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

Thursday 22nd February, 8pm: *Keeping the Grand Junction Canal Afloat*, talk by Doug Stuckey, Bucks Archaeological Society.

Thursday 15th March 2018, 8pm: *Mapledurham Mill*, talk by Corry Starling, Miller of Mapledurham.

Thursday 26th April 2018, 8pm: *Buckinghamshire in the Civil Wars*, talk by Prof Ian Bennett, Hon. Professor of Military History, University of Kent (jointly with AiM).

Archaeology in Marlow (AiM)

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

Thursday 15th February, 8pm: *Risborough Origins of our Settlement*, talk by Paul Green.

Thursday 22nd March, 8pm: *Adventures in Experimental Archaeology*, talk by Dr Jennifer Foster.

Thursday 26th April 2018, 8pm: *Buckinghamshire in the Civil Wars*, talk by Prof Ian Bennett (jointly with MAS).

Thursday 17th May 2018, 8pm: *King Alfred*, talk by Katie Tucker.

Royal County of Berkshire Churches Trust

Tuesday 27th February 2018 at 7.00 pm in the Long Gallery, Englefield House RG7 5EN: an illustrated lecture *Brasses, Bells and Smells: Victorian and Edwardian Clergy and their Memorials* by the Ven. David Meara, FSA, formerly Archdeacon of London. Tickets £12.50 (to include a glass of wine) from: Mrs Liz Betteridge, 2 Bramber Cottages, Terrace Road North Binfield, Bracknell, Berks. RG42 5JH, before February 20th, or thereafter email liz.betteridge@ntlworld.com and pay at the door (Please make cheques payable to Berkshire Churches Trust).

Booking Form

Didcot Railway Centre & GWR Steam Museum

Wednesday 13th June 2018

Please cut out and send this completed form,
together with your cheque/postal order,
payable to "MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY", to reach
Mike Copeland, 14 Laburnham Road, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 4DB

not later than Thursday 17th May 2018

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....POSTCODE

TELEPHONE No.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

(Please include this if you have one)

I wish to book

.....places on the visit for Civic Society members @ £36.00: = £.....

.....places on the visit for non-members @ £38.00: = £.....

This price includes drivers tip

Please treat any profit on this outing as a Gift Aid Donation (please tick).....

(You must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donation)

Please circle pick-up point

Bridge Avenue

Braywick Sports Gnd.

09.15

09.30

(Please note that parking at Braywick now costs £5 for the day)

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News from the Heritage Centre

2018 is the 25th Anniversary Year of the Heritage Centre, co-founded by the Civic Society and the Historical & Archaeological Society in April 1993. Various events are being arranged for the summer, including a Gala Dinner on 29th June and a lunchtime lecture about the Heritage Centre's first 25 years. The next few years look equally interesting! The council wants the Park Street site of the current Heritage Centre in the redevelopment around the Town Hall but as this Newsletter goes to press there is no agreement on the replacement floorspace. Clearly there is little incentive to move unless more space is provided to enable large objects to be displayed (e.g. Bray's 18th century fire engine and GWK cars built in Maidenhead in the 1920s), to enable large groups to be welcomed or income-generating corporate events to be held. Discussions with the Borough and its development partner are continuing. If a satisfactory agreement can be reached the new Heritage Centre could occupy about half the ground floor of an apartment block to be built on the present Town Hall car park, and open to the public in 2021. In the meantime, it is business as usual in Park Street, with the following exhibitions and events planned for the first half of 2018.

All Aboard! Travel Posters of the GWR

14th February to 21st April 2018

Maidenhead in Fine Art – Lunchtime Talk at MHC at 12.45pm

Weds 21st February

Maidenhead's Royal Charters – Lunchtime Talk at MHC at 12.45pm; Weds 21st March

25 years of Maidenhead Heritage Centre – Lunchtime Talk at MHC at 12.45pm. Tues 17th April

Maidenhead's Royal Connections - an exhibition to celebrate Prince Harry's wedding on 19th May, 24th April to 19th May 2018

Maidenhead's Royal Connections – fund-raising lecture by Richard Poad

Tues 24th April at 7.30pm at the Heritage Centre. Tickets £10 (MHC members £8)

Spitfire Summer – an exhibition to mark the 80th anniversary of the Spitfire entering RAF service. 26th May to 22nd September 2018

Maidenhead Week: Sat 23rd – Sat 30th June 2018, including 25th **Anniversary Gala Dinner** on Friday 29th June

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

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 24th April 2018

Walk & Guided Tour

Walk & Guided Tour of Ockwells Park extension

10.45 for 11.00 am

Wednesday 13th June 2018

Outing

Visit Didcot Railway Centre & Swindon Steam Museum

09.15 at Bridge Ave.; 09.30 at Braywick carpark

Saturday 21st - Sunday 22nd July 2018

Maidenhead Festival

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

At the Maidenhead Advertiser Offices, Bell Street

9th January, 13th February, 13th March, 10th 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 20th April 2018**

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Printed by: **Denwal Press, Unit 1, Maidenhead Trade Park, Prior's Way, Maidenhead, SL6 2GQ**
www.denwalpress.co.uk