



Maidenhead Civic Society NEWS



Issue 1/20

February 2020



The inaugural outing along the Millennium Walk, 13th May 2000

*Join us for the 20th anniversary celebration of this event
See page 14 for more details*

Visit our website: www.maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk

The Chairman's Page

A new year. What will it hold for the Society? Well, as many of you know, the Society was formed at the behest of the council who thought it would be sensible, back in 1960, to involve the people of Maidenhead in ... the proposed redevelopment of the town centre. So, alongside our Anniversary Dinner in May, it seems we're set to celebrate our 60th in the same way as our inauguration!

The difference is that although there are now frequent and much wider opportunities for amenity groups, stakeholders and the public at large to comment on emerging schemes and proposals, we sometimes wonder if there's anyone in the town hall actually listening.

The council, of course, is under extreme pressure to deliver housing numbers; we accept that. But, as an example, the powers that be are advocating schemes of 16 and 25 storeys for The Landing and the Nicholsons Centre, despite opposition from many who feel such buildings would be far better-suited to Slough or Reading than a small town like Maidenhead.

Maybe we're in a minority? We have an article in this edition by Steph James, Maidenhead's town centre manager, which implies we are. But I don't believe so. That's why we lobbied hard for a visioning exercise to consider the effect of current developments and take a holistic view of the town centre to give people a vision of what Maidenhead would look and feel like in 10 – 15 years' time.

We applauded the council's decision to appoint JTP to do the work, one of the country's leading experts in placemaking, but we never saw the brief they were given which I suspect dictated significant elements of the resulting Vision and Charter published last month. At the time of going to Press, the Society has not yet responded to the draft but "Motherhood and apple pie" was how I heard a couple of folk describe it.

There's much that is good: for example the assessment of the town centre's current strengths and weaknesses; and there's a welcome emphasis on the need for more "greening" to reflect its Thames Valley setting with more trees and planting, which was an overriding theme in the community sessions. But some of the proposals, like slowing traffic on the ring-road to allow pedestrian access, and making "active travel" (i.e. walk, cycle or bus) the first rational choice, seem more idealistic than practical. And where was the council's support on the night? Having funded it, one might have expected to see them be the first to sign up to The Charter, or at least claim ownership; but no. However, we hope that the exercise will lead to further work, including formal strategies for Transport and Parking, Arts and leisure, Placemaking and, importantly, Community Engagement.

Steph James stresses that her piece is a personal view. What she envisages is a sea-change for Maidenhead. It's a perspective that could well have an appeal among a younger generation. But is it the right way forward?

You can see our report on page 6 where there's also a link to the full Vision & Charter document on JTP's website. Steph James's idea of 'Maidenhead of The Future' can be found on page 7.

Planning Matters

One of the most significant planning refusals in recent months was for the 10 or 11 storey standalone office building to be known as **St Cloud Gate**. The site is located on the northeast quadrant of the Market Street/Cookham Road/St Cloud Way roundabout.

Located to the north of the “ring road” this block would be visually very intrusive as it is not set amongst other high rise buildings. It was refused because of the height, bulk and mass of the proposal and the detrimental impact on the setting of the listed buildings to the north. It is hoped that this application

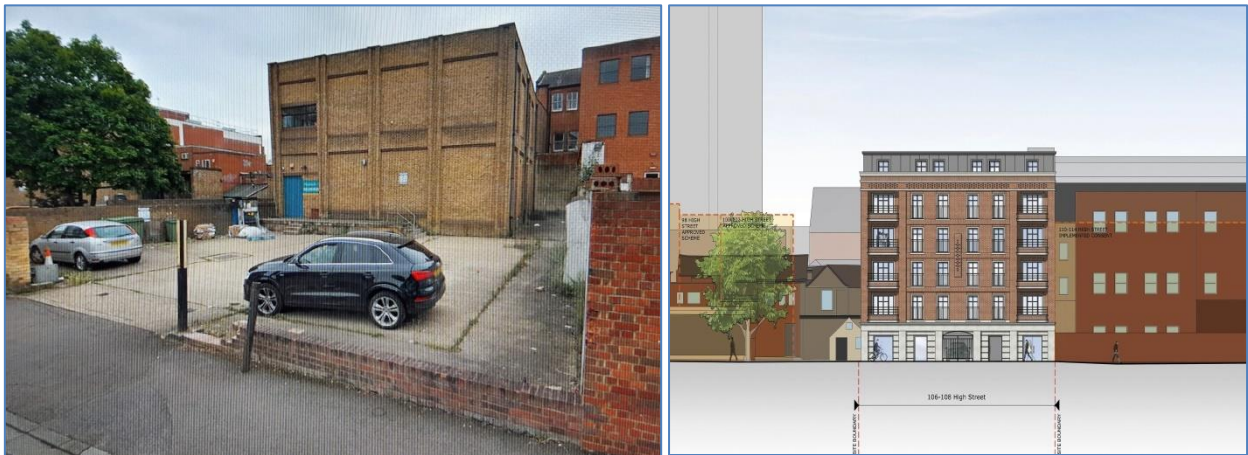


will not go to appeal – there are more than enough proposed high buildings in the town. There should be an accepted median height of 7 or 8 storeys, as with the Countryside development on the site of the Town Hall car park and Shanly Homes proposals for the site of the old Bowling Club. Regretfully, the Landing has been approved for 19 residential storeys and the consultation for Nicholson's redevelopment is offering the “option” of a 25 storey landmark tower. The unsuitability of living conditions in such high rise residential dwellings – especially for families – has been long established and must surely represent an unsatisfactory social scenario in future years.

Back in September 2019 there was another refusal for a block of 9 apartments at **33A The Crescent**. This site is a large garden plot which is heavily planted and wooded. The proposed development was deemed to be too dense and out of character with the streetscape. The current application in the pipeline is to be lauded, with two substantial detached houses in mock Victorian style with adequate parking and garden amenity space. It is heartening to see what can be delivered when the number of dwelling units is not the driving factor.

Another positive application is for the construction of a 6 storey residential block on the land to the rear of **106 /108 High Street** – the retail site currently occupied by Poundland. The block of 14 apartments will front West Street, which, as you are probably aware, is designated as an Opportunity Area. A town-centre development will not usually have any parking provision, but in this case one space per apartment is provided in an undercroft car park at ground level. Retail deliveries will in future be made to the front of the shop outside the hours of pedestrianisation. An earlier

approval of a larger development of 22 flats at 70/72 High Street offered no car parking, or even a pull-in/drop off facility. With the ongoing development of similar sites with West Street frontage it is to be hoped that similar undercroft parking will be included.



Left: The rear of 106/8 High Street today, and right: as it could look

Outside of the town centre the most significant application is for 160 dwellings on the site of **Summerleaze Gravel Pit**. Although there is likely to be significant local opposition to the scheme, we believe that it represents a genuine opportunity to deliver some of the new dwellings required. The site is previously developed Green Belt and after decades of gravel extraction and processing has the appearance of a moonscape. The site was identified for residential development in 2014.



The proposed housing density is modest, with a maximum height of 3 storeys in a mix of architectural styles and house types, including 30% affordable housing. There is adequate parking throughout the development, which is well landscaped offering open aspects through existing trees to the lake, with significant areas of public open space. There may well be issues with some increase in vehicular traffic, but half a mile to the south a similar and larger scheme has been delivered. Badnells Pit had been decontaminated and made good to deliver Boulters Meadow and any increase in traffic has been less of a problem than on street parking on Blackamoor Lane. Wider infrastructure issues – medical centres, schools, etc. – apply to all developments. The one valid concern is

that the site lies within Flood Zone 2 and Protected Flood Zone 3, but remedial action such as raising ground floor levels is proposed.

Another site with the same flood-plain issues is **Hitachi, Whitebrook Park** on Lower Cookham Road. This large office building is proposed for change of use to residential under Permitted Development and will generate 97 apartments. Unlike all the previous applications across town for offices to be converted into residential this proposal does deliver dwellings that conform to the minimum size requirements adopted nationally. The 1-bed flats are indeed 50 sq mts and 2-bed flats come in at 70 sq mts, and this is to be welcomed. Whilst the footprint of the building remains unchanged there is a significant reduction in the number of car parking spaces which will be reduced from 291 to 148. It is to be hoped that the residual area will be landscaped for permeability, and indeed that all the remaining parking spaces will be permeable in nature.

In our last Newsletter we referred to the upcoming appeal regarding **Thames Riviera Hotel**. The application to convert the existing hotel and outbuildings, and to demolish the stand alone bedroom block for rebuilding to deliver a total of 28 apartments had been refused. We have submitted a further letter of objection, and we await news of the date of the appeal hearing.

Maidenhead Neighbourhood Forum is at a key stage in the delivery of a Neighbourhood Plan. As you are aware it was formed during last summer and has several Civic Society representatives amongst its members. It is currently awaiting “Designation” by the RBWM who have to approve the forum as the right and proper organisation to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan. The Borough must also agree that the geographical area of seven unparished wards with a population of more than 50,000 is suitable for a Neighbourhood Plan. It should be noted that this is one of the largest areas in the country to be designated - but is a logical area which is difficult to subdivide. After a six week period of consultation a decision on designation is expected in late February. Central government is very committed to the Neighbourhood Plan process and it would be unsatisfactory if a town such as Maidenhead – with such great development expected in the next decade – did not have the community input that a Neighbourhood Plan facilitates.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter we consider the draft Vision Charter drawn up for the town centre. Suffice to say that if developers, stakeholders and individuals are expected to “sign up” to The Charter it would be good to know the Borough's response to the very ambitious aspirations required to Make Maidenhead a special place in the future.

We were pleased to welcome Judith Littlewood as a member of the Planning Group in January 2020. Judith is also a member of MNF and was formerly chief research officer at the old Ministry of Housing. She has recently completed a personal assessment of using tall buildings for housing. This will be available on the MNF website in mid-February. We look forward to that and wish her many months and years of meetings ahead. The routine meetings of the Planning Group continued on a

monthly basis with 35 applications being reviewed in the last three months and comments being submitted on 12 applications.

TOWN CENTRE VISION: GREENER AND BIGGER

Greener, bigger, more beautiful and better connected. That's what Maidenhead town centre will be, according to the council-sponsored draft 'vision charter' published last month.



Well over 100 residents and stakeholders joined a handful of council officers and members in St Mary's Church to hear JTP partners Charles Campion and Marcus Adams present the results on January 14th. Architects and placemaking experts, JTP, drew on ideas and comments gleaned from

a series of workshops and events, including the community planning day held in Nicholsons in November, to produce the document.

Key actions include:

- A Strategy for the ring road – to reduce car dominance, increase pedestrian access and reconnect the town to the centre
- Greening Maidenhead – new trees and planting, and creating a town that is good for nature
- Maximise the asset of the Waterways – with enhanced green connections, sensitively designed mixed use building frontages and activity on the water
- Southern Expansion Masterplan – embracing the opportunity for growth to provide high quality, well-connected living, leisure and working environments north and south of the railway line
- Movement Strategy – create an environment where active travel (walk, cycle, bus) is the first choice

In addition, there's a commitment to enhancing local distinctiveness and restoring local pride and also:

- Diversifying and extending what the town centre has to offer
- Seeking the highest design quality in new buildings
- Championing the delivery of an attractive, animated public realm
- Supporting local, independent businesses
- Recognising the importance of the Arts
- Making Maidenhead a beacon for sustainable development, with net zero carbon on town centre new builds

As a Vision the document purports to set out the public's aspirations for the town centre to inform developers. It also indicates a number of future areas of work, including a transport and parking strategy and public realm design standards. As a Charter it seeks a collaborative approach to all the commitments by the council and all stakeholders, as outlined in the following vision statement:

“Maidenhead, as the heart of the Royal Borough, will be a green and thriving Thames-side town: a vibrant place to live, work and visit. The community, businesses and the council will work collaboratively to revitalise Maidenhead and make it a sustainable, locally distinctive and well-connected destination for everyone – with safe, high-quality public spaces and a wide variety of amenities and attractions to restore civic pride in the town centre.”

Stakeholder groups, developers and others are being invited to sign up to this commitment. The full Vision-Charter along with its themes and actions were made available online at www.jtp.co.uk/projects/visionmaidenhead. Following further comments JTP will refine the document and offer it for final public consultation in February before submitting it to RBWM, where it is expected to be adopted in March.

NB: When this Newsletter went to Press, the Society had not yet written its response to the draft but we have a number of reservations. For example, we remain unconvinced that the 16 and 25 storey buildings proposed for The Landing and the Nicholsons redevelopment are appropriate for a town the size of Maidenhead.

Martin McNamee & Bob Dulson

MAIDENHEAD OF THE FUTURE – A PERSONAL VIEW

By Steph James, Maidenhead Town Manager



The question that keeps coming up is this: What type of place will Maidenhead be once all the development takes place? There have been numerous consultations and engagement events over the years where the local community have been asked their views on what they would like the town to become, yet it appears that people on the street were still unclear about what can be expected as a result of the many cranes and building sites dotted around the town.

The Area Action Plan (AAP), BLPSV (Borough Local Plan Submission Version) and the JTP Vision and Charter work recently undertaken seek to show the wider vision for the town. Then there are the four main developers bringing forward large sites in the town centre: Countryside Limited (the council's joint venture partner), Shanly Homes, Hub and Areli. All these have entailed extensive public engagement, to the extent that some have complained about 'consultation fatigue'. But people are still

asking what Maidenhead will be like – who will live here, where will they work, what will there be to do in the evening and weekends?

The following is purely my interpretation of how I see the Maidenhead of the future: When Crossrail opens in 2022 we will be just 55 minutes away from Canary Wharf, further strengthening our links with the City. Although building height has been controversial for Maidenhead, the reality is that the town of the future



Maidenhead a mini Canary Wharf?

will include tall buildings. So let's embrace that change and think of the future town as a mini Canary Wharf with more than just offices and the added bonus of being in the green Thames Valley with beautiful countryside on our doorsteps and the River Thames a stone's throw away.

Maidenhead currently does not have many people living in the town centre itself but this is set to change with roughly 4,000 new homes being built in and around the town. All of those new residents will be using Maidenhead as their local town. Some homes will be aimed at young professionals and commuters into London, some will be retirement living and some will be the various forms of social housing – this will create a vibrant new local community who will bring much needed footfall and local spend to the town.

Currently Maidenhead, like many towns up and down the country, has declining footfall where local people have chosen to shop differently – either online or in neighbouring towns that have a better retail offer than we do. We should not be aspiring to compete with destinations such as Windsor, Bracknell, High Wycombe, Marlow and Henley but we will, through the developments planned, create our own identity and be a place that embraces independent shops, restaurants and cafes. A place that encourages community enterprise, arts and leisure and sets the benchmark locally for sustainable development and reducing our carbon footprint; we have the opportunity to create green walls, build biodiversity into the public realm and set ourselves apart from neighbouring towns.

So rather than comparing ourselves to other places let's look forward to a future Maidenhead that welcomes all ages, has a great mix of facilities, all within walking distance of the station. Plus a bustling waterfront – where you could pop into a canoe or a punt or feed the ducks – a vibrant office market providing employment and weekday footfall to local businesses, and a community that gets involved and supports the host of events and activities that take place in the town already.

Projects

BATTLEMEAD COMMON

The present position

As you will see from the poster put up in Battlemead recently there is currently no access to the East Field. Apparently the poster can be easily updated for when the situation changes!!



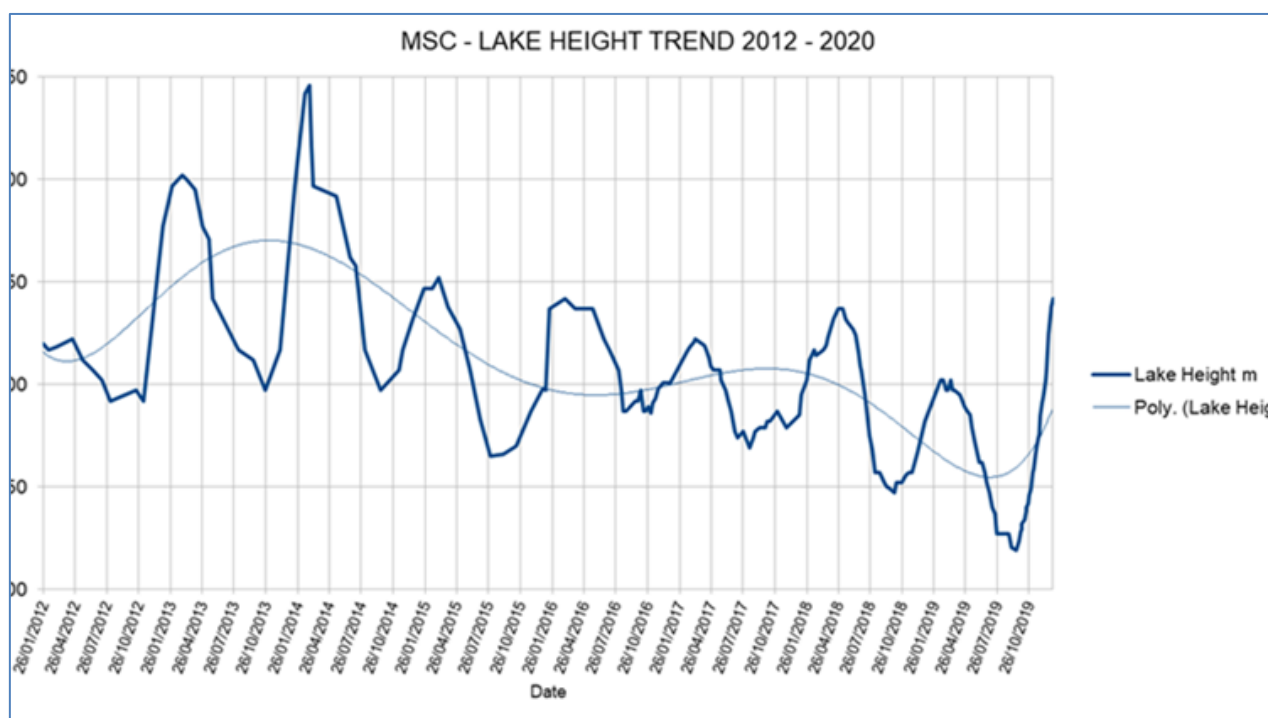
We will, however, be using the causeway route to cross this field for the 20th anniversary walk of the Millennium Walk on 24th May.

On behalf of the Society I have been working with Mike Copland (Wild Cookham), Martin Woolner (Wild Maidenhead), Steve Gillions (East Berks Ramblers) and the two Ians, Caird & Rose (Maidenhead Waterways), to produce a document, *Battlemead Common – the Way Forward* which was presented to the 2nd meeting of the Friends of Battlemead Common in January. Comments on the plan are being collated by the Royal Borough and Mike and I will be discussing where we go from here with them at the end of January.

Surveys of Groundwater & Aquatic Fauna on Battlemead Common

Members of long standing may remember that when the stream system failed to reach Maidenhead in 1988, Thames Water said this was in part due to the groundwater being 2 metres below normal. Water abstraction and a series of dry winters when aquifers are recharged were given as the reasons.

Being therefore sensitive to any suggestion of low groundwater we have been in contact with Summerleaze Sailing Lake. The level there reflects the groundwater and they have been having problems in the warmer months in recent years, as happened in 1988, though it seems to be more 1m below normal rather than 2m.



*Graph showing lake height
(Courtesy of Malcolm Brown, Summerleaze Sailing Club)*

Their problem is that, if the lake level drops too far, the boats scrape on the bottom and need repair.

Currently the lake level has gone up (see graph). However, they are concerned about next summer when the level will drop, something also of interest to Maidenhead Waterways and our Society. We really don't want the stream drying again!

Battlemead Common is where the White Brook begins its journey towards Maidenhead, leaving the Thames at Islet Park. As there was a borehole in the willow fields put in by the Environment Agency as part of the flood alleviation scheme and never used, it seemed a good idea to collect some groundwater data from it and have a look at the aquatic fauna at the same time.



Borehole containing a tube-well in the willow fields. Ian Caird (Maidenhead Waterways) measuring groundwater depth using an electronic dip sensor.

Aquatic fauna were sampled at two sites:



1. The White Brook in the Willow Fields near the old bridge damaged in the 2013 flood



2. The White Brook north of the gravel-haul bridge (contiguous with the wetland) where a trial removal of silt will occur later in the year.

Measurements in November 2019 and January 2020 show the groundwater level went up in both the willow fields at Battlemead and the Sailing Lake, as there was a lot of water about. The aquatic environment appears healthy as it supports mayfly and damsel fly nymphs.

A report on our findings has been sent to the Royal Borough. I would like to thank fellow committee member Bridget Morris for her assistance with the sampling and for “snapping” me while I wasn’t looking!

Ann Darracott



Forthcoming Events

An Invitation to our 'THEME TEA' Wednesday 18th March 2019

For the fourth in our series of Theme Teas, we're looking at water supplies. With the prospect of a 45% increase in population over the next 10-15 years in Maidenhead, could our gushing taps be reduced to a trickle?

A telling phrase in the Borough's emerging Local Plan insists that developers should "contact the water company as early as possible to ascertain whether their proposed development could have implications for the network and/or existing users".



All our drinking water currently is locally sourced, either from underground aquifers or from The Thames. But are the supplies inexhaustible? Will climate change have an effect?

South East Water is responsible for maintaining our supplies. With 24 years' experience in resource and demand management across the south east of England, Lee Dance (pictured) is their Head of Water Resource.

Based at SEW's HQ in Kent, Lee has a BSc in Environmental Sciences and is a chartered scientist. We're delighted that he has agreed to be our guest at a Theme Tea in March.

Our Theme Teas are social occasions where we enjoy a delightful afternoon tea with sandwiches and cakes while joining – or just listening to – a discussion on a theme of local interest. To date they have proved to be both popular and stimulating. We're sure this one will be too.

Where: Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Church Lane, Cookham, SL6 9SW. **When:** Wednesday 18th March from 3 to 5 pm. There will be a charge of £7.00 per person to cover costs. To reserve your place please contact Joyce Delasalle (t: 01628 637342 email: joyce@delasalle.me.uk) first and send your cheque, made payable to Maidenhead Civic Society, to 7 Laxton Green, Cox Green, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 3HW, by Tuesday 10th March. Non-members are welcome and there is ample parking.

CIVIC SOCIETY DINNER

Friday 15th May 2020, 7.15 for 8.00pm

The Society was founded in May 1960 at the behest of the Council to represent public opinion on planning matters, and the Civic Society Dinner is taking place at a later date this year in order to celebrate our 60 years in existence.

We hope the Dinner will be a celebration of 60 years of carrying out our stated aims and also a look to the future. To help us to move forward we have invited **Ian Harvey, Joint Founder and Executive Director of Civic Voice** to be our guest speaker. He was one of two individuals who set up the national Civic Society Initiative. Among the topics he will address are: Building Better, Building Beautiful. He will be helping us to ensure that we encourage the building of housing of quality in the future development of our town.



The dinner is open to members and their guests, although numbers are limited. It takes place as usual at Moor Hall in Cookham. The cost is £40 per person and will include a choice of menu and a welcome drink. If you wish to purchase drinks with your meal there will be an order point in the Bar. Please place your requests on arrival in order to give time for the drinks to be placed on the appropriate tables. Payment may be made by cash or card.

We hope you will join us for a relaxed and informative evening. It is a great opportunity to socialise with other members of the Society. You will find a booking form at the rear of the Newsletter; select your preferences from the menu below and also indicate whether you have any special dietary requirements, and send it to Mike Copeland along with your cheque, **no later than Monday 20th April 2020.**

The Menu:

Starters

- A) **Garden Pea Veloute**
- B) **Smoked Mackerel Pate, Summer Salad, Horseradish Cream**
- C) **Peach Soused Watermelon, Lemon Sorbet**

Mains

- D) **Poached Breast of Chicken, Stuffed Thigh, Crisp Winglet, Dauphine, Braised Vegetables, Jus**
- E) **Grilled Supreme of Salmon, Warm Potato Salad, Asparagus, Fennel & White Bean, Prawn Bisque**
- F) **Skinny Vegetable Lasagne, Heritage Tomato Salad, Crisp Garlic Croutons**

Dessert

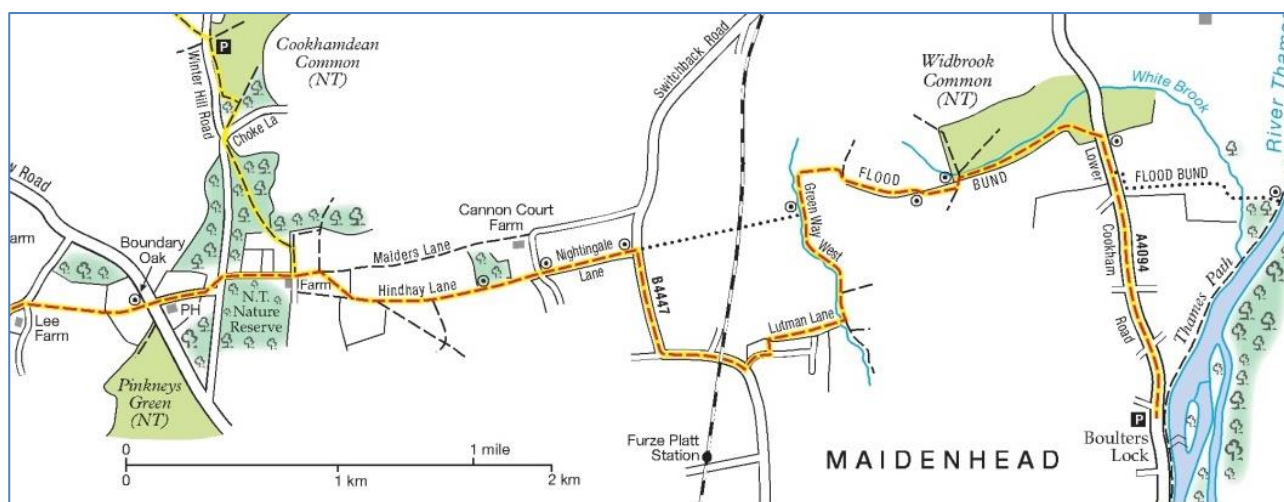
- G) **Rhubarb Nutty Crumble Tart, Mascapone & Vanilla Ice Cream**
- H) **Strawberry Panacotta. Black Pepper Honeycombe**
- I) **Fresh fruit salad**

Millennium Walk – 20th Anniversary Walk

Sunday 24th May 2020

Start 2.00 pm sharp from the National Trust (NT) car park opposite the Scout Hut on Pinkneys Green.

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the inaugural walk in 2000 we are organising, with East Berks Ramblers, a walk of half the route – about 4 miles – walking from Pinkneys Green to Maidenhead Riverside following the 1934 northern boundary of Maidenhead.



The walk will be led by our Patron, Theresa May MP, and her husband Philip. Our M.P. led the walk in May 2000.

By agreement with the Friends of Battlemead Common we will be using the causeway route across the East Field on Battlemead which currently is closed to the public awaiting the results of a second overwintering bird survey. During the walk the remaining missing link, from Switchback Road to the Green Way, will be pointed out as will the current position regarding future access to the causeway route.

There is no charge for this event which is part of the Society's 60th Anniversary and the East Berks Ramblers 50th Anniversary celebrations. It would be helpful to know how many will be participating so please contact Ann Darracott on 01628 620280 or by email to ann@darracott.me.uk if you plan to walk, giving a contact home phone and mobile number.

If you can't arrange to be dropped off at Pinkneys Green please consider car sharing. The way this works is two drivers and their cars meet at Boulders Lock car park. Both drivers travel to Pinkneys Green in one car. At the end of the walk both drivers return to Pinkneys Green to retrieve the first car. Please let Ann know if you need to be put in touch with another driver. We hope to have the use of the plot of NT land opposite the Scout Hut in Pinkneys Green for use as a temporary car park; see the May Newsletter for an update.

Visit to Waltham Place – Church Hill, White Waltham Berkshire, SL6 3JH on Tuesday 2nd June 2020

We have arranged a private visit to Waltham Place on Tuesday 2nd June 2020. The tour includes the Ornamental and Kitchen Garden and costs £12.00/head which covers entry onto the Estate, a guided tour with the gardeners, plus refreshments and biscuits. Numbers are limited so please book early. We will meet in the car park at 10:30am and form smaller groups for the tour, which takes 2-3 hours.

Please note that photography is not permitted.

If you wish to reserve a place on this visit please contact Tina Sell on 01628 628675 or by email to tina.sell@talktalk.net and send your cheque, made payable to Maidenhead Civic Society, to Tina Sell 'Marlborough', River Road, Taplow, Bucks, SL6 0BB. Alternatively, you can pay by BACS: Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-95-36, account No. 00277876. Either way, please include a contact email or phone number. Bookings should be received no later than Monday 20th April.

AGM with a speaker Wednesday 18th November 2020

More on this in later editions of the Newsletter as our plans evolve.

As you know, the “business” part of our meeting is preceded by a talk on a topical subject by someone prominent in that field. If members have any suggestions for an interesting topic, ideally related to Maidenhead and its development, or some other aspect of the town, then please do let us know. This is always a good opportunity to learn more about how Maidenhead and/or how we can improve our environment.

WALTHAM PLACE

“WORKING WITH NATURE”

Tours of Waltham



Join our gardeners for a walk around the beautiful gardens and woodland of Waltham Place. Designed by Dutch garden designer, Henk Gerritsen, using his principles of natural planting, the gardens reflect his idea that nature is not symmetrical but irregular, free and whimsical. Natural gardening is all about your relationship with the garden and its evolution, using your knowledge of plant systems and families.

Using organic and biodynamic husbandry, we have created a haven for an abundance of insect and animal life, fungi and indigenous flora. This is our legacy; our investment in the future.

Waltham Place Estate, Church Hill, White Waltham, Berkshire SL6 3JH
Tel: 01628 825 517 • Email: estateoffice@walthamplace.com

www.walthamplace.com

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 United Reformed Church Hall, West Street, Maidenhead SL6 1RL. Parking in West Street surface car park, free to Advantage Card holders. Time: 7.45 for 8 pm. Visitors welcome on payment of £3 on the door; contact 01628 630924)

Wednesday 26th February: Talk by Russell Bowles *Dig for Victory*.

Wednesday 25th March: Talk by Professor Jill Eyers *An Archaeological Tour of Food through the Ages*.

Wednesday 29th April: AGM followed by short lectures on subjects of local interest.

Marlow Archaeology (MAS)

(Talks held at the Liston Hall, Marlow, SL7 1DD; £4.50 non-members; contact 01628 523896)

Thursday 6th February, 8pm: *Kings, Power and Conversion in Anglo-Saxon England: new archaeological perspectives from the kingdom of Kent*, talk by Dr Gabor Thomas.

Thursday 26th March, 8pm: *The Old Stones - The Megalithic Sites of Britain and Ireland*, talk by Andy Burnham (joint talk AiM/MAS).

Thursday 23rd April, 8pm: *Cheddar Man and the Genetic Prehistory of Britain: the Story So Far...*, talk by Dr Tom Booth – Crick Institute (joint talk MAS/AiM).

Thursday 14th May, 8pm: *The Origins of Cookham*, talk by Paul Seddon.

Thursday 11th June, 8pm: *Windsor Castle during the English Civil War - 1642-1645*, talk by Elias Kupfermann.

Archaeology in Marlow (AiM)

(Talks held at the Liston Hall, Marlow, SL7 1DD; £4.50 non-members; contact 01628 485961)

Thursday 20th February, 8pm: *Archaeology of HS2 in Buckinghamshire*, talk by Lucy Lawrence.

Thursday 26th March, 8pm: *The Old Stones - The Megalithic Sites of Britain and Ireland*, talk by Andy Burnham (joint talk AiM/MAS).

News from the Heritage Centre

As this Newsletter went to press, a meeting with the council to discuss various relocation options was about to take place, but no details are available yet. Any subsequent detailed negotiations will take some time, as there are three main issues to be resolved: location, floorspace and, of course, the financial terms. Meanwhile it is business as usual at Park Street – remember that the Centre is now open from 12.00-16.00 every Sunday.

The current exhibition “An artist’s view of Maidenhead” runs until 23rd February, showcasing paintings by a number of very talented local artists. During February

half-term there will be art workshops for youngsters run by some of the artists. So if you have grandchildren staying you'll be able to find details on the Heritage Centre website.

Starting on 27th March will be a very colourful exhibition "Drama in Maidenhead", the colour provided by a changing display of costumes used in local productions. In line with our policy of community engagement, the exhibition is being put on by the five major theatre groups in Maidenhead. It will run through the Easter holidays, when there will also be family events, and on into the early summer. It will be followed, appropriately enough, by "Summer on the River". In the autumn we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of Maidenhead United Football Club – more community involvement.

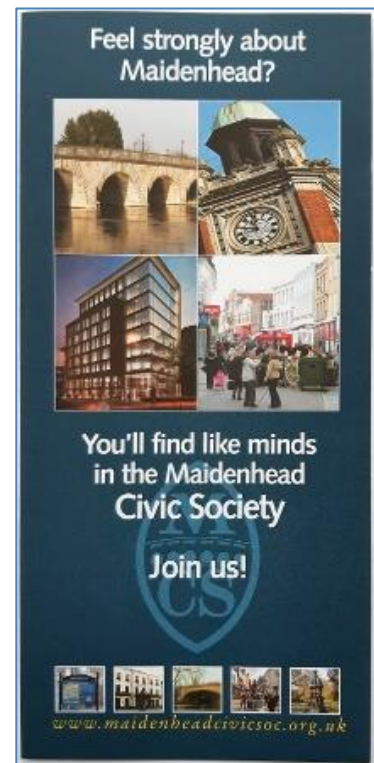
The Heritage Centre is delighted to be hosting two events in this year's Maidenhead Big Read Festival in early March. On Friday 6th March at 18.00, *Advertiser* editors past (Martin Trepte) and present (James Preston) will be talking about the best-selling book "In Days Gone By", which is available in our shop. The following evening, Saturday 7th March at 19.30, author Tim Walker will talk about "The Early Dark Ages – Where History Meets Legend". Details of both these events will be available on <https://www.maidenheads-big-read.org.uk>.

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

Can You Help?

The Society is looking for volunteers on two fronts:

1. We need someone with graphic design expertise to help us produce a new membership leaflet and to design an emblem to mark our 60th anniversary. If you have these skills and are willing to help, or know someone who would be suitable, please contact Brian Darracott.
2. We are also looking for members who would be prepared to man our stall at various events throughout the year. This year our events diary includes Cox Green Fair in May, Civic Day in June, Maidenhead Festival in July and the Town Show in September. Our aim at these events is to raise awareness of the Society and, hopefully, attract new members. If you are interested in helping us in this way, please get in touch with Joyce Delasalle.



Booking Form & Menu Choice

CIVIC SOCIETY DINNER at MOOR HALL

Friday 15th May 2020, 7.15 for 8.00pm

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

no later than Monday 20th April 2020

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....POSTCODE

PHONE:EMAIL:

Please reserve ____ place(s) @ £40.00 each. I enclose a cheque for £_____

My party's names and menu choices are (continue on a separate sheet, if necessary):

Name(s) USE BLOCK CAPITALS	Starter A - C	Main D - F	Dessert G - I

Please indicate if you have any special dietary requirements

Please treat any surplus on this event as a Gift Aid Donation to the Society (tick) ☐

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

If you have any problems, or for last minute cancellations, please contact
Mike Copeland without delay on 01628 634181 or mobile 07770 421221.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 18 th March 2020 Theme Tea	Afternoon with discussion on Water Supply in Maidenhead 3.00 pm at Parish Centre, Cookham Holy Trinity Church
Friday 15 th May 2020 Annual Dinner	Civic Society Annual Dinner, with talk by Ian Harvey 7.15 for 8.00pm at Moor Hall, Cookham
Sunday 24 th May 2020 Walk	20 th Anniversary of the Inaugural Millennium Walk 1.45 for 2.00 pm at NT car park, Pinkneys Green
Tuesday 2 nd June 2020 Visit	Visit to Waltham Place, White Waltham 10.30 at Waltham Place car park
Wednesday 18 th November 2020 AGM	Civic Society AGM , preceded by a talk Venue to be advised. 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 2020

At St Luke's Community Hall, Norfolk Road, Maidenhead

13th January, 11th February, 10th March, 14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 8th September, 13th October, 10th November, 8th December

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 18th November 2019 at 8.00 pm, venue to be announced

**The closing date for copy for the next issue
of the Newsletter is 17th April 2020**

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

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