



# Maidenhead Civic Society NEWS



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Issue 2/16

May 2016

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*The central square at Boulters Meadow – a big improvement over  
Badnells Pit*

*Visit our website: [www.maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk)*

# The Chairman's Foreword

The Society's redrafted Constitution was approved and adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. The revision should improve the way we work and be less intimidating to newcomers. The Society's regular Committee meetings, usually on the second Tuesday of each month, are open to any member to attend. Following the introduction of the revised constitution, there are now a couple of vacancies on the committee, so if you're interested please come along.

I'm also happy to note that our Events Group is up and running again with Tina Bell in the chair. This is a welcome return. We had a delightful visit and private tour of Maidenhead's Tudor gem, Lillibrooke Manor last month, organised by Tina and Ann Darracott. Looking ahead, we'll be launching our third Maidenhead & Me art competition on Civic Day June 18<sup>th</sup> and we've a visit to the boat builder John Freebody on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you have an idea for an event you'd like see on our calendar.

Watching the redevelopment taking place in the town centre, you get a clear sense of history repeating itself.

When the first bridge across the Thames was built to create a more direct route for the great west road, medieval Maidenhead sprang up. Following that, each new transport era – stagecoach, railways, car, air, motorway – brought new interest, investment and growth.

What we're seeing now in the town centre, ahead of Crossrail's arrival, is another chapter in the same story.

Since the first settlement, Maidenhead's unique selling point has been its location and accessibility. And its primary appeal, with its proximity to London, the verdant riverside setting and quality homes in quality spaces, is as a place to live.

The Society was among the first to acknowledge a level of growth as desirable and necessary but we have serious concerns about the impact on the town's character and infrastructure of the numbers and type of housing being mooted, as Martin McNamee cautions in this edition's Planning Matters. It would be very sad if, in its enthusiasm to meet government housing targets and deliver a Local Plan on time, the council were to threaten the very thing that makes Maidenhead attractive.

*Bob Dulson*

# Membership Reminder

We would like to remind our members that pay by cheque that your subscriptions are now due. If you would like to change the way you pay to a Standing Order the details are: Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-95-36, account number 00277876. Subscriptions have not changed for the coming year but could you please check that your Standing Order is for the correct amount as listed below. Your prompt payment would be appreciated as this helps the Society carry out its good work on behalf of the members and to the benefit of Maidenhead.

If you have any queries please contact me on [joyce@delasalle.me.uk](mailto:joyce@delasalle.me.uk) or telephone: 01628 637342

Single membership	£12.00
Family Membership (2 members at one address)	£18.00

*Joyce Delasalle*

## From the Archives

Expressing concern about the proposals by Berkshire County Council to release land for housing, the Society's Chairman (Gordon Slater) reported in his **Annual Report for 1969-70**:

The argument we make is that, if Maidenhead is to retain any of its character and not to become merely another suburb, some restraint on the use of available land is necessary. Because of the extent of house building in the Borough its population has more than doubled since the war and in the last 10 years alone has gone up by more than 40%. The number of "dwellings" has increased even more. Every year some 500 more are built and in the Outer Metropolitan Area no less than 1 in 70 of all "dwellings" built each year is in Maidenhead. Much of this is the result of replacing one large house and garden with considerably more houses – sometimes as many as thirty. So long as density is not too high this is sensible enough but it should make unnecessary the proliferation of more housing estates. Plans are afoot for a considerable expansion in office space in Maidenhead and this will induce more people to live in and around the area. The county says land should be released to meet "natural growth" only but other opinions (and actions) prevail. A "bigger Maidenhead" is by no means a "better Maidenhead".

Then as now we still have the same concerns!

*Editor*

# Planning Matters

The number of applications being reviewed by our Planning Group each month averages fifteen, and in the last quarter we have submitted comments on ten. Of these, two proposals are of particular interest as they are follow up applications for previously refused projects.

The old Norfolk Arms (on the corner of Cookham Road and Norfolk Road) is now known as the defunct Diwa curry house (*right*). In late summer last year an application to demolish the existing structures and replace with 10 flats was refused. This application has gone to appeal, and although the decision is still awaited, a subsequent application for the same number of dwellings has been made.



The previous proposal was seen as overdevelopment, being too cramped for the site, with inadequate parking and amenity space. The frontage of the residential properties on this corner plot is too close to the pavement, with a lack of privacy for apartments on the ground floor. The subsequent application in February this year does move the building line back from the pavement by about five feet. However, the height bulk and mass of the new proposal remains the same with the overambitious total of 10 flats unchanged.

A similar situation applies to the rear of Nos. 5 - 8 Sunnymede Cottages on Ray Mill Road East. This is a small vacant plot which fronts Sheephouse Road. Last year a proposal to squeeze a two-bed detached house onto the site was refused. This decision has also gone to appeal, with the decision awaited. In the meantime a subsequent application has been submitted, which primarily reduces the height of the proposed new dwelling. The proposal remains un-neighbourly, being too close to Sunnymede Cottages, and being constructed entirely in front of the building line of the houses on Sheephouse Road on which the new property would be situated.

We are all aware of the Shoppenhangers effect - where perfectly good substantial houses are demolished to make way for blocks of new apartments. This completely changes the character of the neighbourhood. Down at Riverside there is a new proposal to demolish Green Trees on Widbrook Road, and construct 12 flats. Although there was a recent application refused for 55-57 Lower Cookham Road, this was for eight houses on two plots. There have not been any recent applications for



flatted developments in Riverside, and this Green Trees (*below*) proposal represents an unhappy departure which is to be resisted.



Although Widbrook Road lies outside the Riverside Conservation Area, it is important that the character of large properties situated on spacious plots is preserved. If successful, this application will create a precedent for widespread introduction of apartment blocks in one of Maidenhead's most attractive locations.

Representatives of the Civic Society are still heavily involved in drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan. Over the past five years, nearly 50% of new-build residential properties built or permitted in Maidenhead have been one- or two-bedroom flats. Of course, they require less land and are therefore obviously cheaper and more "affordable". The construction of higher density flats also helps to drive up the number of dwelling units that are delivered and therefore help achieve the unrealistically high housing targets that are set by central government. Shoppenhangers Road, Chapel Arches, The Landing, Stafferton Park and Boulders Meadow are primarily major flatted large scale developments. Boulders Meadow does have a mix of houses and apartments. Stafferton Park has permission for a small proportion of houses, but the developers have recently come back to the planners to replace the houses with flats.

In our work on the Neighbourhood Plan, we are very concerned that there will be a future shortage in the proportion of three- or four-bedroom houses, with garden/outdoor amenity space for traditional family living. The Area Action Plan for the town centre originally envisaged around 800 residential flats. However, it appears likely that the final number of flats will be approaching 3,000. This will undoubtedly create a vibrant town centre, with great activity especially in the

evenings. The area will change in character with thousands of young flat dwellers over the coming decade. However, there will eventually be a demand for family homes as this “town centre generation” move on to their next lifestage and seek family homes. If they are not available in Maidenhead, then the town will lose young families to other localities. It is essential that Maidenhead has a representation of all housing types and sizes to support a balanced population profile. It is a key aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that the number of flats outside the town centre is kept under control. It is for this reason that proposals such as Green Trees above should be resisted. As well as adversely impacting the character of the neighbourhood, such schemes will contribute to the long term oversupply of flats if permitted.

Finally, a few words on Taplow Riverside, the Berkeley Homes development on the Skindles/Paper Mill site: as you are aware ground work is well underway, and as mentioned in our last edition, the “treescape” has regrettably been decimated. However, one aspect of the project is being challenged by a small group of Taplow residents. The scheme involves the eventual closure of Mill Lane at the bridge over the Jubilee River. This was a requirement inherited by Berkeley Homes from the original design brief drawn up by South Bucks. It is widely felt that it is unsatisfactory for the new Taplow Riverside residents (probably numbering nearly 1,000) to be isolated from their host village. They will all have to exit the site via the newly constructed roundabout on the A4 (*below*), even if heading towards Cliveden/Beaconsfield.



The closure of Mill Lane will make the site a residential enclave and will result in the loss of a relief road for the wider community. We believe that the road should remain open, and hope that the local campaign is successful.

*Martin McNamee*



# Projects

## The Search for the Mystery Man whose arms are in Ockwells Manor

The February Newsletter included illustrations of an unidentified armorial achievement in the Great Hall at Ockwells as it is now and as it was in 1765 when drawn by Sir Thomas Reeve of Hendons House, Holyport.



*Copy by Charles Kerry of a C18<sup>th</sup> drawing by Sir Thomas Reeve of the unidentified achievement (drawing in the Bodleian Library, Oxford)*

As one of the coats was labelled “Englefield of Lowbrook”, it was hoped this might help identify who the mystery man was. However, the Englefields didn’t get Lowbrook till the mid-C16th so the Lowbrook part of the label in the drawing was a red herring. The search was made more difficult as the coat that would give us his name (top left) was already missing by 1765. The other coats represent other families he was related to.



Another of the coats was for Bulstrode and there is at Ockwells an achievement for William Bulstrode who was married to Agnes, sister of John Norreys Esq who built Ockwells manor house (*see left*). As you will see from the family tree below, Agnes, William’s mother, was a Bulstrode. His father (her second husband), John Shoppington/Chopinden had assumed his wife’s name. If you were a wealthy heiress in those days this happened all the time. So the problem was who had ancestry that included Bulstrodes and Englefields?

It was known that Agnes's first husband was a Brudenell and she had children by him including one Edmund Brudenell, and, lo and behold, Edmund's wife was an Englefield. Could Edmund be the mystery man?

Edmund and his wife Philippa Englefield are buried in St Mary's Church, Amersham, so one cold winter's day, new member Mike Hockley, Brian and I visited the church to see if we could find any helpful heraldry. Unfortunately, the guide book said that the brass once there for Edmund and his wife was among those lost.



*St Mary's, Amersham*



*St Peter's, Deene Park*

What followed was a fluke. Brian and I had theatre tickets for Stratford and to enhance our trip north decided to visit Deene Park in Northants where Sir Robert Brudenell, one of the more successful sons of Edmund, had built a manor house. Robert and his two wives were buried in the nearby church of St Peter's.

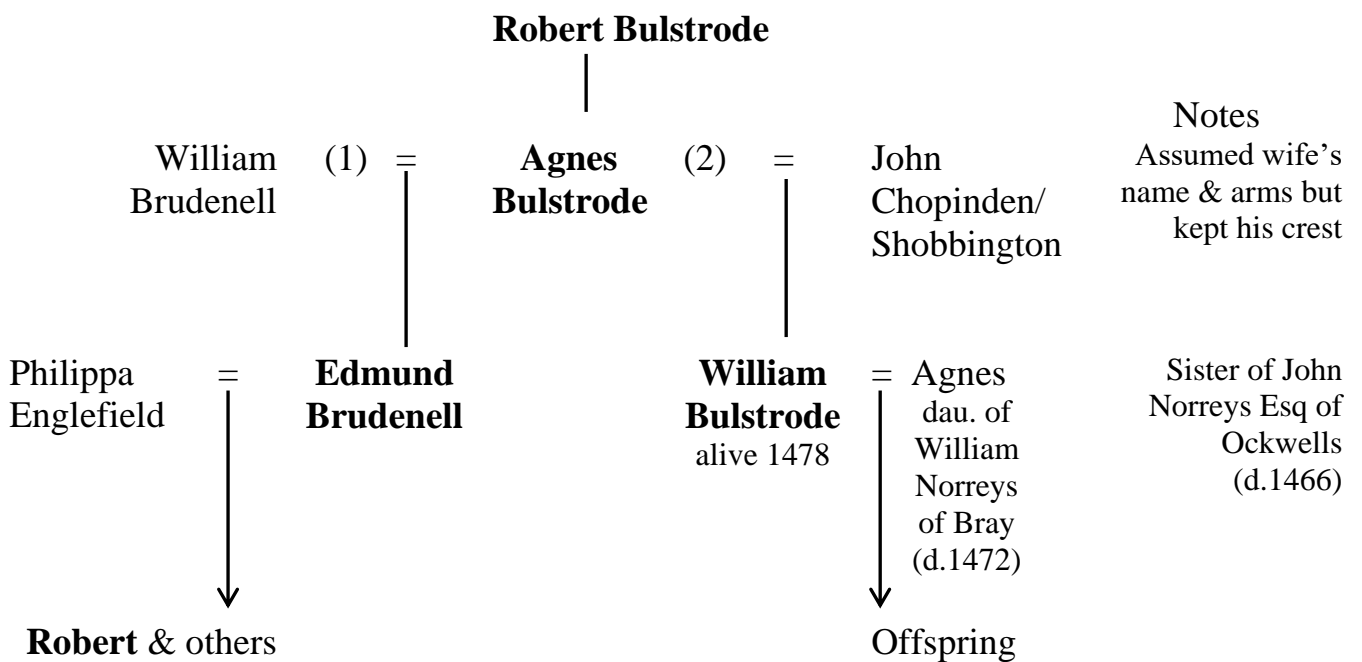
We were unable to visit the manor house (still lived in by Brudenells and open to the public in season) but we could visit the church (Grade II listed, redundant and looked after by the Churches Conservation Trust). Robert's tomb and effigies was there but within a chapel surrounded by wrought iron grills. The chapel included lots of later Brudenells including the 7th Earl of Cardigan famous for his role in the Charge of the Light Brigade. With some difficulty we were able to photograph Robert's tomb (*see below*), on the side of which he, thankfully, had put his armorial achievement. This, as you can see, includes the coat of Bulstrode though not the Englefield coat of his mother.





*Left: Tomb of Sir Robert Brudenell and his two wives*

*Right: close-up of central armorial showing Brudenell (top left);  
and Bulstrode (bottom right)*



On balance I think the unidentified armorial at Ockwells is for Edmund Brudenell (d.1469) of Amersham, Lord of the manors of Raans, Colshill, Chalfont, Burleys in Stoke, & patron of Missenden Abbey, who, it transpires, had a lot to do with John Norreys Esq and others represented at Ockwells.

*Ann Darracott*

# Events

Last month nearly 40 people enjoyed the visit and afternoon tea at Lillibrooke Manor arranged by the Society. Ann Darracott spoke about the history of the Manor and a tour of the manor house and barn were part of the experience.





We now have two more attractive visits planned for you:

**VISIT TO FREEBODY BOATYARD, HURLEY, near Maidenhead**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

We have arranged a visit to the Freebody workshop and boatyard at Hurley. The Freebody business was started in the 13th century and was located at Caversham before moving to Hurley. Wooden boats are still made in the traditional manner, and the company is particularly famous for its Thames slipper launches. They both make and repair boats at the yard. There is a limit of 25 people who can visit due to space restrictions. We will be shown round by one of the Freebody family.



Parking is available in the car park opposite the church in Hurley village. There is a signpost to the river from the car park and when you reach the river turn right to the yard. The tour starts at 10.30 am, so please allow 15 minutes to park and walk there. If you would like to come please call Mike Copeland on 01628 634181 or email [mike@mjcconsulting.demon.co.uk](mailto:mike@mjcconsulting.demon.co.uk) with your name and phone number and the number in your party, **by 3rd June 2016 at the latest.**



## VISIT TO THE POPPY FACTORY & HAM HOUSE

### Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016



We are planning to visit the British Legion Poppy Factory and Ham House in Richmond this August. The poppy factory was started in 1922 on the Old Kent Road, but by 1925 demand for poppies exceeded the capacity of the original factory, so it moved to its current location in Richmond.

The size of the group is limited to 35. The tour will take about 90 minutes and there will then be time to look around Richmond and have lunch. There is no charge to visit the factory, but we will make a donation to the British Legion of £2 per person.

We will then be collected by our coach and taken to Ham House. Those who are members of the National Trust will be admitted free, but you must bring your card with you. Ham House is located on the banks of the Thames and was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century with much credit for the house going to the Duchess of Lauderdale. It is filled with 400-year-old paintings, textiles and furniture. Outside are the restored 17<sup>th</sup> century gardens and kitchen garden. The refurbished Orangery serves tea.



*Ham House*

Please sign up to the visit, **by 29<sup>th</sup> July at the latest**, using the Booking Form towards the end of this edition of the News. We will be leaving Maidenhead at about 8.30 am and returning at about 17.45 pm. If you have any problems or for last minute cancellations, please contact Mike Copeland without delay on 01628 634181 or mobile 07770 421221.

**AND FINALLY:** we plan to have a Speakers Luncheon in the autumn – Wednesday 12th October. Watch out for further details in the August edition of the News.

# Booking Form

## The Poppy Factory & Ham House

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016

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 Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

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 with NT @ £22.00: = £.....

.....places on the visit for Civic Society members @ £31.00: = £.....

.....places on the visit non-members with NT@ £24.00: = £.....

.....places on the visit for non-members @ £33.00: = £.....

This price includes drivers tip and donation.

**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  
08.30**

**Braywick Sports Gnd.  
08.45**

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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 £2; contact 01628 630924 for talks, and 01628 629614 for outings)

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May: Outing to Marlborough & Bowood, Wilts, (dep at 8.30 am). Cost £33. After a short stop in the attractive market town of Marlborough for coffee etc and to explore on your own, we go on to Bowood. We first visit the famous Rhododendron Walk which should be at its best in May, before transferring to visit the main house (Georgian Grade 1 listed with Robert Adam interior) and grounds, landscaped by “Capability Brown” and thought to be his most beautiful. Finally, time for tea at “The Treehouse Café”! For further details contact Brian Madge 01628 630924

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May: *Purpose Built Villages* by Trevor Ottlewski

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June: The Museum of Army Flying and Mottisfont (NT), Hants. Cost £30 (non NT members will need to pay £11 extra). The museum tells the story of British Army flying from WW1 to the present day, with interactive displays, artefacts, models and of course 30 actual aircraft. The Apache Café has balcony views over the airfield. Mottisfont is a restored country house set on the site of a medieval Priory with beautiful riverside gardens. The grounds include the Abbey Stream created to bring the river Test close to the house. The Walled Garden, with 500 rare and beautiful roses in bloom, should be at its best in June. For further details contact Fred Whittle 01628 663652

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June: *The Dam Busters* by Mike Whitehouse

### **Marlow Archaeology (MA)**

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

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm: *Buildings archaeology: new evidence at Hampton Court Palace*, by Deirdre Forde (*To be followed by MAS AGM*)

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 8pm: *The Medieval Greyfriars excavations at Westgate, Oxford*, by Ben Ford

### **Archaeology in Marlow (AiM)**

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

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 8pm: *The Watlington Hoard*, by James Mather



# News from the Heritage Centre

## EXHIBITIONS

### **The Changing Face Of Maidenhead – starts 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016**

Readers who have lived in Maidenhead for 20 years or more will be fascinated by this new exhibition running until June 25<sup>th</sup>. Inspired by the discovery in the Heritage Centre archive of 190 photos of shopfronts taken in 1984, the exhibition looks at the ways that the centre of Maidenhead has changed since around 1960. While the ‘old’ High Street and Queen Street are still recognisable, in King Street the Clocktower, the Bell, and the Rose are the only buildings between the railway and Nicholson’s Lane which are more than 40 years old. Similarly, the Vine is the only old building left in Market Street. We wonder how many people remember the Arcade, with its unique blend of smells: fish, meat and pet food!

### **Skindles: The End of an Era – starts end of June**

This new exhibition will trace the historic development of the site and look at the social history of Skindles and its visitors - from Clementine Churchill to the Rolling Stones. The Heritage Centre has a large collection of Skindles photographs, but would welcome offers from Civic Society members of other memorabilia to display with the exhibition. The largest surviving relic of Skindles is the stained glass window permanently on display in the Heritage Centre.

## LUNCHTIME TALKS

Our popular monthly lunchtime talks start at 12.45pm and last approximately 40 minutes. A £2 donation is requested.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May** - to be announced

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June** – “**The Unseen National Trust**”. Speaker: John McGuinness.

July 1st marks the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme, and on July 2nd Tony Stock will lead a special **World War I Walk** leaving the Heritage Centre at 2pm and lasting about 90 minutes. This very interesting walk was created last year as part of the project ‘*For King and Country*’.

More information is available on the recently revamped Heritage Centre website [www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk)

# Dates for your Diary

Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 <b>Civic Day</b>	Launch of 'Maidenhead and Me'
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2016 <b>Visit</b>	<b>Freebody Boatyard, Hurley</b> Meet at Hurley 10.15 for 10.30 am
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2016	<b>Maidenhead Festival</b>
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016 <b>Outing</b>	<b>Poppy Factory &amp; Ham House</b> All day, dep Maidenhead 08.30 am
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2016 <b>Lunch &amp;Talk</b>	The Civic Society Luncheon including a talk by Mike Potter (title to be confirmed) Fredericks Restaurant, 12.30 pm

## 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	Mike Emmerson, 15 Twynham Road, SL6 5AT	628006
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 Bell, 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 2016

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

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

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in the Parish Centre in St. Luke's Church at 8.00 pm.

**The closing date for copy for the next issue  
of the Newsletter is 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

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