



# Maidenhead Civic Society NEWS



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Issue 2/17

May 2017

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*Burghley House*



*Petworth House*



*Hardwick Hall*



*Bisham Abbey*

***What links these four buildings? See page 10***

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# The Chairman's Page

We'd welcome members' engagement and support on the big planning topic of the moment – the Borough Local Plan (BLP). This is the document that will set the shape of development across Maidenhead and the rest of the Borough for the next 25 years. It's been a long time coming.

The last Local Plan, adopted in 1999, was due to be replaced in 2006 but the replacement failed when it was declared unsound at examination in 2007 for lack of evidence on housing allocations.

During the preparation of the replacement plan, in 2005 the Civic Society joined forces with the *Maidenhead Advertiser* and others to organise "The Great Debate" on the future of Maidenhead. Our aim was to encourage community involvement in the process and make the council aware of public feelings at the time. This time round, we're planning something similar.

Date, time and venue will depend on the timing of the public consultation on the BLP but already the leader of the council, Cllr Simon Dudley, has agreed to take part, along with Cllr Derek Wilson (lead member for planning), Peter Sands (the Chamber of Commerce's planning chair) and our own Martin McNamee (chair of the Society's planning group). As before, we plan to summarise the issues raised and include them in our submission as part of the public consultation and examination.

Back in 2006 two by-products of the event were the birth of the Waterways Group and the formation of PRoM. Who knows what may emerge this time?

As we anticipated in the February edition of Civic Society News, an application to construct a community centre at the rear of Boulter's Lock car park has resurfaced. On its first outing this led to some bitter and controversial comments which we hope will be avoided this time round. Our Planning Group will almost certainly object, believing that the only proper use for the land is to provide additional parking, which is already necessary and will surely be required once the footbridge to Taplow Riverside is installed.

The Riverside is Maidenhead's main tourist attraction, according to the Borough's own statistics, and Boulter's Lock and Ray Mill Island top the list of 'Things To Do' on the travel website TripAdvisor.

Improvements to the leisure offering of Maidenhead Riverside are expected from a working group to be set up by the Council following representations by the Civic Society. The group has yet to convene but the leader of the council recently re-stated his strong support for the idea. If you'd like to be involved in this or have ideas for improving Riverside, let us know.

*Bob Dulson*

# Subscription Reminder

We would like to remind our members who pay by cheque that your subscriptions are due on June 1st. 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.

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

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

## Art Competition: More Chances of Winning

This year's Civic Society's art competition *Maidenhead & Me* will offer more opportunities and more prizes when it launches on Civic Day, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

New sponsorship from the Nicholsons Centre will swell the prize fund, already generously backed by the Louis Baylis (Maidenhead Advertiser) Trust and the Civic Society, and enable us to offer more prizes in two separate categories, Art and Photography.

As well as separating the categories, we are also increasing the number of classes. So for the first time, there will be three classes in both Art and Photography with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes in each: Adults, 11 to 18 yr olds and 10 yrs and under.

By doing this we hope to broaden the appeal and attract a wider and more diverse range of entries, particularly from younger competitors.

As in previous years, there will be an exhibition of all the entries in Nicholsons where the winners will be announced in September. Full details of this year's challenge and how to enter will be included in the entry form, available from the launch date.

Once again the Society is extremely grateful to the sponsors and for the support given by 'Art On The Street', Bovilles Art Shop, Enjoy Maidenhead and the Maidenhead Advertiser.

# Planning Matters

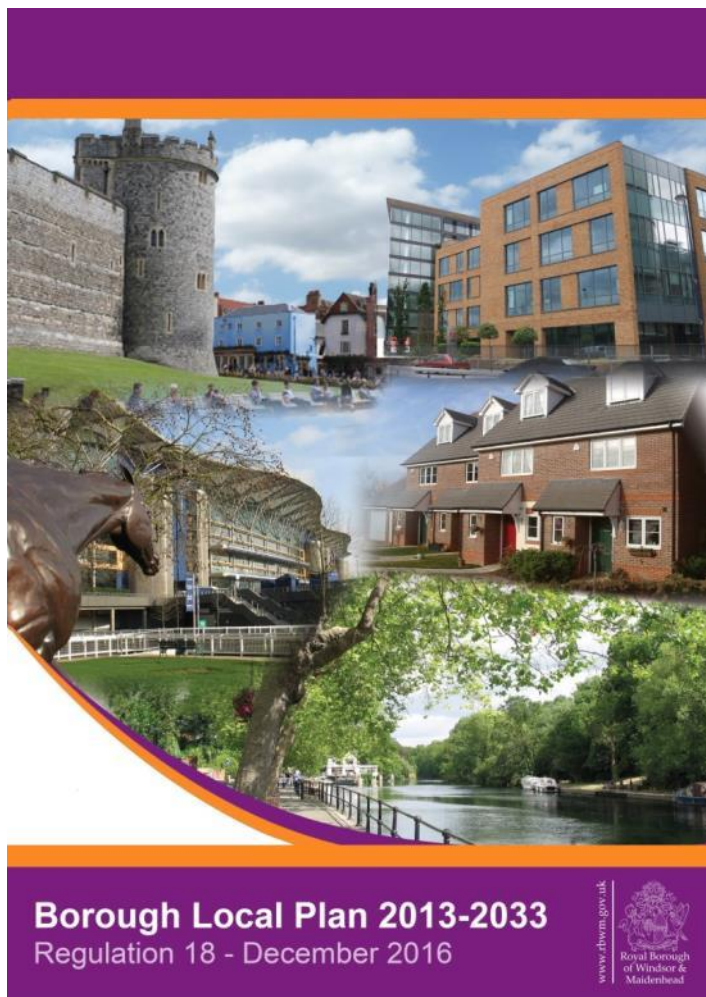
In the last edition of the News we reported at length on the emerging Borough Local Plan (BLP) and the issues that caused concern. The effect of the public consultation in December is still awaited. Publication of the revised BLP was postponed until 15th May but now, in light of the impending General Election, this date too is set to

be deferred. Maidenhead Civic Society and Maidenhead and Cox Green Neighbourhood Planning Group were amongst the many stakeholders who generated input into the consultation. Some issues raised were from individual residents, but many concerns – such as the lack of any proposals on infrastructure – were widely raised by a cross section of stakeholders. It remains to be seen how much influence the consultation process has had on the awaited version of the BLP.

Maidenhead Civic Society is liaising with the *Maidenhead Advertiser* to hold a public debate to review the awaited version of the BLP, during the final consultation period. In the meantime, the Neighbourhood Planning Group (largely comprising Civic Society members) arranged five

consecutive weeks of features in the *Advertiser* on various aspects of the BLP. It is to be hoped that these articles will increase public awareness of the issues at stake so that they can participate in the “debate”, and also vote in the referendum that is required to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan which will sit alongside the BLP.

Since its inception more than three years ago, the Neighbourhood Planning Group has been chaired by Councillor Philip Love. Regretfully, the powers that be in the Royal Borough have not appreciated the criticisms of the BLP which were implied in the recent articles in the *Advertiser*. It should be pointed out that these issues are exactly the same as were contained in the BLP consultation which was submitted in January. There were no surprises. However, Councillor Love has resigned as Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Group, which is much regretted by all members of the Group who have worked with him. Of course, the concerns raised by the *Advertiser*





articles also largely reflect the consultation feedback on the BLP which was submitted by Maidenhead Civic Society. You will be hearing more from Bob Dulson about the upcoming public “debate” when the details are finalised.

# Lack of parking strategy is ‘a recipe for gridlock’

## Next steps for the local plan

THE BOROUGH Local Plan is a blueprint for development until 2033, allocating sites for housing, business and leisure development. The final version of the local plan is being drawn up following the consultation over Christmas. This final plan version will then go out for a further six-week consultation. But crucially, this will only be about the legal and technical soundness of the plan – not what’s actually in it. It will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in the summer for approval. This will be followed by an ‘examination in public’ later in the year, after which the plan will be adopted.



**SPACE RACE:** New homes coupled with Crossrail will increase the number of cars clogging residential roads if adequate parking is not provided.

**BUILDING** more offices and flats in the town centre without enough parking spaces is a recipe

THE second in our series of articles highlighting concerns over the council's borough-wide local

ensure they move in. "New commercial developments should

*From the Maidenhead Advertiser*

The monthly routine matters of the Planning Group have continued over the past three months. About 45 relevant applications have been reviewed and comments have been submitted on 19 proposals. The most ambitious scheme was at **Chauntry Court** on Chauntry Road. This large riverside property is raised 1.3 metres off the ground to prevent ground water or fluvial flooding of the ground floor, which is a traditional planning precaution. However, it is proposed to create a sub-basement living area by excavating 1.5 to 2 metres below ground level. The basement “extension” will cover the entire footprint of the existing house – an increase in habitable area of 302 square metres. The new area will have a kitchen, lounge, games room, four bedrooms etc. Flood Planning Policy restricts “extensions” on the flood plain to 30 square metres, although in this case the 302 square metres are below the existing ground floor. However, with four additional bedrooms the number of occupants at potential risk at times of flood is significantly increased – especially in view of the subterranean construction. Furthermore, the proposal will result in the displacement of ground water storage capacity. If “downward” extensions are being considered for riverside properties, it is clear that the Environment Agency and planning authorities will need to review Flood Planning Policies accordingly. Such innovative schemes should not be permitted in riverside properties.

There has also been an application to construct a detached block of 12 hotel rooms in the car park of **The Golden Ball** on Pinkneys Green. This proposed block

overshadowed properties on Golden Ball Lane and was visually intrusive within the open aspect and setting of the Green Belt of Pinkneys Green itself. We are pleased to report that the scheme has been refused.

We were disappointed last year when permission was granted to build a block of four flats on land adjacent to **24 South Road**. This land was previously a parking area for No. 24. Because of the proximity to the town centre, planning permission was granted for four flats without any parking provision. In addition, No 24 lost its parking. The applicants have returned with a follow-up scheme of 7 flats instead of the 4 originally permitted. The ground floor will have 3 flats (instead of 2) and 2 additional flats will be added by creating a third storey. We hope the planners will not permit further flats on this site. This is a further example of the misplaced belief that residents who live near the town centre will exclusively use public transport and will not have cars.



*24 South Road – very close to town but there would be virtually no parking in the proposed scheme*

The saga of **22 to 24 Braywick Road** was referred to in the last News. This involves a sequence of applications to demolish two existing houses to be replaced by 8 (or 7) detached houses. Although an appeal (against the 8 house refusal) is pending, a decision to permit the application for 7 dwellings was made at the Development and Control Panel in mid-April. Although overcrowded, at least the permission granted is for family houses and not more flats.

On the subject of more flats, in the last edition we referred to a “Shoppenhangers style” proposal to demolish an *Arts and Crafts* house in Maidenhead Riverside – **Green Trees** on Widbrook Road (see opposite).



Whilst a second application for 12 x 2-bed flats is still in the pipeline, the previous refusal of 10 x 2-bed and 2 x 1-bed flats is being taken to appeal. This scheme would be the thin end of the wedge regarding the demolition of substantial Riverside houses and we have submitted further comments to the Planning Inspectorate. Like in Braywick Road, family houses are preferred to flats in this location. This is what we said:

“Dear Inspector,

Further to our original comments on this application dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016.....

We are writing to reinforce our strongest possible objection to the prospect of the first such flatted development in Maidenhead Riverside. Although Widbrook Road is outside the Maidenhead Riverside Conservation Area, the properties are characteristic of the large, detached buildings of character which prevail in this locality.

Although suggested in the application, there have been no recent previous examples of similar blocks north of Ray Mill Road East. Near Boulders Lock, Horsham Grange on Lower Cookham Road is a mixed development of town houses and one block of flats. This block contains only five apartments: two ground-floor; two first-floor and a penthouse. Further north, 31 Lower Cookham Road is a small block of six flats. Another development in the angle of The Avenue and Lower Cookham Road is a block of apartments restricted to two storeys. The Georgian House about one hundred yards further north (on the east side of Lower Cookham Road) is three storeys but is a conversion into apartments of a substantially older property of architectural interest.

Furthermore, in recent years there have been a number of applications to develop two blocks totalling 12 apartments on the site 33/35 Lower Cookham Road. This



location has just seen the completion of 5 semis/townhouses which are much more in keeping with the locality.

**Green Trees** is a substantial *Arts and Crafts* style property, which will be an architectural loss to the area if demolished. However, the most important issue is what is proposed in its place. Shoppenhangers Road in Maidenhead has been transformed over the last ten years. Successive detached properties have been demolished and replaced by apartment blocks similar to this Green Trees proposal. Only a handful of the original properties now remain and the character of Shoppenhangers Road is unrecognisable and changed forever. We are concerned that such a programme of development will befall the Riverside if this Green Trees application is permitted.

Maidenhead has a comparative oversupply of flats. In the 2011 census 24% of our housing stock was comprised of flats – against a national average of 19%. Over the last five years around 40% of dwelling units of new builds and permissions granted have been flatted developments. As the proportion of flats is increasing, there is a risk that there will be an undersupply of family homes. Flats are cheaper to build and maximise the delivery of dwelling units, but family homes are preferable.

It is understood that the RBWM has decided that flood plain policies do not apply to the location, which is adjacent to an area prone to flooding, and where drains have struggled at times of heavy rainfall. A development of this scale must increase run off and ground water risks. However, we are not objecting on flood policy grounds.

More flats are not required in this location, and could establish an undesirable trend in Maidenhead Riverside. If the site is to be redeveloped then a small development of up to three substantial family houses would be preferable and more in character with the locality.”

### **Building in the Floodplain**

For years we have become increasingly concerned about new build and extensions on the **flood plain**. Historically, relevant applications required a Flood Risk Analysis and were subject to the constraints of Flood Planning Policies. We have never been happy that the nationally adopted Application Form (APP 1) does not even include flood-related questions relating to the site location. Consequently, these days many such applications do not even refer to the fact that the site is within a designated flood risk area and subject to Flood Planning Policies. In March there were three such cases considered by the Planning Group. We have decided that in future, as a matter of principle, we will send a standard comment on all such applications – if only to highlight to planning officers that flood plain issues should not be overlooked.

*Martin McNamee and Bob Dulson*



## Finding a future for “The Brocket”

Suggestions for the future use of The Brocket, an imposing Grade II listed Edwardian house in Boyn Hill Avenue, were sought at an Open Day organised by the Council in February.



*Front (left) and rear (right) views of The Brocket*

Built as a gentleman’s residence in 1907, The Brocket was latterly used as a pupil referral unit but has been closed for a number of years. The house is in remarkably good condition with most of its original features still intact.



*Spacious rooms and high ceilings inside*

It had been earmarked for conversion to key-worker housing but a number of councillors felt members of the public should be able to see it or use it.

The Civic Society, which will soon be looking for a new meeting place itself, suggested it could be a real community asset, providing rehearsal rooms, nursery spaces, studios or meeting spaces for local groups and societies. Though with only limited parking, it may best be restored to its original use as a private residence.

# Portraits of Lady Elizabeth Cecil

As the portrait of Elizabeth Cavendish née Cecil, Countess of Devonshire, by Sir Anthony Van Dyck, in Bisham Abbey is well known to us from Heritage Open Day events there, I thought I would try and find out *why* it was there. It transpires that there exist three other portraits of her: in Burghley, Petworth and Hardwick. Evidently, in the days before photography you got your portrait painter to churn out a few copies for members of the family. Can you spot the differences?



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)

*Portraits of Lady Elizabeth Cecil, Countess of Devonshire, at: (a) Burghley, light blue ribbons; (b) Petworth, grey ribbons, said to be the original; (c) Hardwick, the “ugly” version, probably the actual original; (d) Bisham Abbey, dark blue ribbons*

All four buildings have a link with the Cecil family:

**Burghley House**, Lincolnshire, was built for William Cecil, Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer to Elizabeth I. The portrait possibly was brought to Burghley when Anne, Lady Elizabeth Cecil's daughter, married John Cecil, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Exeter, and they inherited Burghley. Anne inherited her mother's painting collection.

**Petworth House**, West Sussex, was home of Anne Cecil, Elizabeth's sister, married to Algernon Percy, 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Northumberland. It was purchased between 1652 and 1668 when Northumberland died, probably from a member of the immediate family. My guess is it was obtained from Elizabeth's father William Cecil, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Salisbury, who lived at Hatfield House, where Elizabeth grew up. This is held to be the original portrait.

**Hardwick House**, Derbyshire, built by Bess of Hardwick in the C16<sup>th</sup>. The "ugly" version of the portrait is here. Bess also built Chatsworth House which has subsequently been much altered in comparison with her building at Hardwick. The Curator at Chatsworth, said "*The paintings at Hardwick Hall were until 1959 part of the Devonshire Collection*". Whilst Hardwick said "*We do not know whether the portrait was at Chatsworth. It may have been, but we have no records that would tell us that. Certainly the portrait was here when Hardwick and its collection was transferred to the Treasury and then later to the National Trust in the 1950s*". Elizabeth Cecil lived at Chatsworth with her husband William Cavendish, Earl of Devonshire, in the C17<sup>th</sup>. It's likely it was moved to Hardwick in the C 18<sup>th</sup>/C19<sup>th</sup> when later Cavendish's were setting up a portrait gallery of ancestors. Elizabeth's portrait has the bogus inscription of Christian Bruce, her mother-in-law.

**Bisham Abbey**, Berkshire. The Cecil connection is via Elizabeth Cooke, wife of Sir Thomas Hoby, who inherited Bisham from his brother Philip in the C16<sup>th</sup>, her sister Mildred was the 2<sup>nd</sup> wife of William Cecil, Lord Burghley. The two families were close, Thomas and Elizabeth spending their honeymoon at Burghley. Lady Elizabeth Cecil was the great-granddaughter of Lord Burghley and a contemporary of Peregrine Hoby, the grandson of Sir Thomas Hoby, who had inherited Bisham Abbey. Peregrine probably commissioned a copy from Sir Anthony Van Dyck. The portrait at Bisham has the name "Countess of Sunderland" on the frame and as this countess was also painted by Van Dyck (see below) it appears that they got the names mixed up in the workshop.

Sir Anthony Van Dyck was successful because he vastly improved the appearance of his female sitters, suggesting that the uglier version is the actual éoriginal!

Multiple copies of other contemporary countesses are extant which exhibit a marked difference in the appearance of the sitter. If it is assumed that the more attractive the face the more work Van Dyck himself did, rather than his assistants, then the portrait of the Countess of Bedford at Petworth is the original whilst the same portrait at Burghley is a copy, whereas the portrait of the Countess of Sunderland at Petworth is a copy, the original being at Hardwick Hall.





*Portraits of Anne Carr, Countess of Bedford, at left: Burghley; right: Petworth*



*Portraits of Dorothy Sydney, Countess of Sunderland at left: Hardwick Hall; right: Petworth (photo taken at an angle)*

If you would like to see these for yourself, Petworth and Hardwick are both National Trust and Burghley is also open to the public. Try to go to Petworth on a Monday when the White & Gold Room, where the portrait is located, is open to the public. Bisham Abbey is open rarely, e.g. when we organise Heritage Open Days, but if you go to a wedding fare or other event there you can see the portrait (in the Warwick Room). If you fancy a trip up north do Chatsworth, Hardwick, Burghley (go to the nearby church for Cecil tombs) and if you are up that way, Deene Park, home of the Brudenells and their nearby church with its Brudenell tombs (see Civic News, May 2016 p8-9).

*Ann Darracott*



# Welcome to Wild Maidenhead

Wild Maidenhead is a charity promoting conservation and improvement of biodiversity in Maidenhead. They are a hub for organisations with similar interests, exchanging information, gathering data and sharing know-how. This will involve residents, RBWM, developers, schools, Parish Councils, farmers, landowners, and others. BBOWT, TVERC, Woodland Trust and RSPB members were at their first AGM recently.

The next major event will be to take over the High Street with stalls and displays on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Children's activities will be run for free.

In the last year Wild Maidenhead have installed nest boxes for swifts, made rescue ladders for migrating toads, and done tree planting and technical support for Thrift Wood. BBOWT Living Landscape Project is a partner, and a Biodiversity Action Plan (formal) is in hand. Neighbourhood initiatives like Oaken Grove Park and North Town Moor are offered a forum with like people and a source of technical support. Take a look at their website:

<http://www.wildmaidenhead.org.uk>.

Why should Maidenhead Civic Society be interested? It has long had Environment and Amenity as heads in its programme and there is common ground.

One clear benefit could be a link between Wild Maidenhead and MCS Planning Committee so that examinations with “green environment” aspects have access to technical support. MCS members with gardens might find membership rewarding, and Wild Maidenhead could produce “good practice” guidelines. Biodiversity surveys are interesting, and not just for children – butterflies, bees, grass snakes and slowworms currently – and Wild Maidenhead could offer encouragement.

Wild Maidenhead members might even join the Civic Society for its complementary objectives!

*John Ashford*



# Dr Dolittle from Maidenhead

## HUGH LOFTING – 1886-1947

The author **Hugh Lofting** was brought to our attention when one of the entries in our 2016 *Maidenhead & Me* art competition was a picture in pen depicting Hugh Lofting as a young man.

Hugh was born in Norfolk Road, Maidenhead on January 14<sup>th</sup> 1886 to English and Irish parents and was one of six children. His most famous publication was *Doctor Dolittle*, but he also wrote *The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle*, *Doctor Dolittle in the Moon*, *Doctor Dolittle's Post Office* and *Doctor Dolittle's Return* which he wrote five years after the last publication due to popular demand.

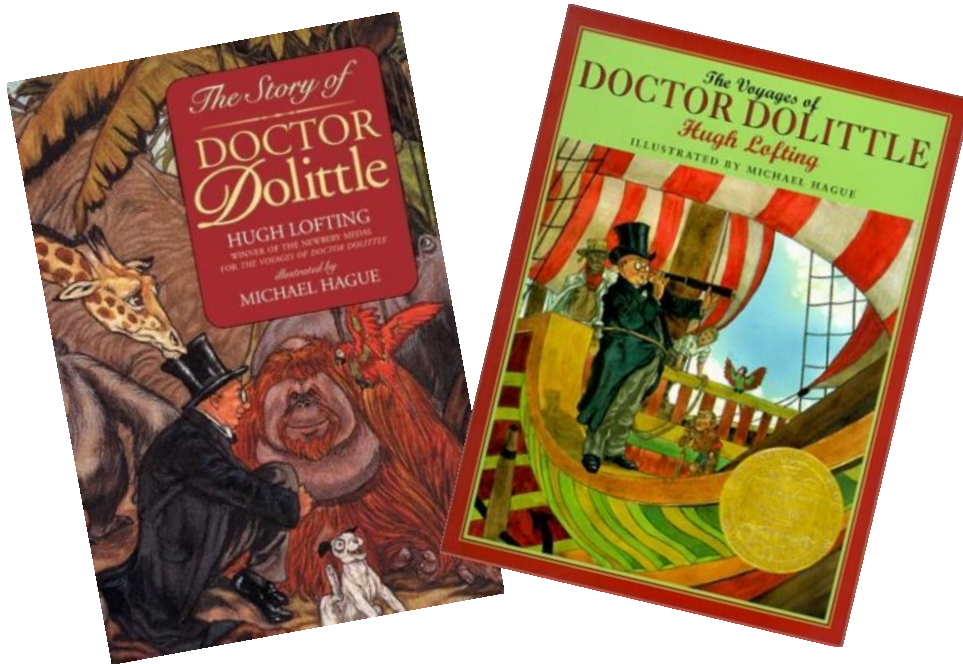


*Picture in pen by Eloise Hunt  
(Commended in MCS  
art competition 2016)*

The Doctor Dolittle books tell the story of a doctor who after learning how to speak animal languages from his parrot then re-trained and became a vet. He is sent to Africa to cure a monkey epidemic and has to borrow a ship and supplies for this as he is facing bankruptcy. Also on board were a crew of his favourite animals. Once there he finds himself shipwrecked. The story goes on to tell of his many adventures, one being captured by The King of Jolliginki and escaping to make it to the monkey kingdom to cure the sick monkeys. As a reward the monkeys gave him a *pushmi-pullyu* (a two-headed gazelle-unicorn cross), which after more adventures Dolittle brings back to England and tours with the *pushmi-pullyu* in a circus.

Hugh was educated at Mount St. Mary's College in Chesterfield, Derbyshire; it was at this stage that he decided to become an engineer and to travel. His travels took him to America where he started to study for his engineering degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1904-1905. After leaving America he finished his studies at the London polytechnic and afterwards he worked as an architect for a short time. His travels took him to working in Canada and Cuba before settling down in New York with his first wife Flora Small and starting a family – Elizabeth Mary

born in 1913 and Colin MacMahon born in 1915. He started writing and most of his writings were short stories for magazines and did not include any illustrations.



When the First World War broke out Hugh was still in New York and still a British subject working for the British Ministry of Information. A year later he was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Irish Guards and saw action in Flanders and France in 1917-18. During this time he would write home to his children and rather than tell them of the terrible things he was experiencing decided to tell them stories. In 1918 he was wounded and invalided out of the army. He and his family returned to America in 1919, initially to New York and later to Connecticut, and it was then that he started to turn the letters/stories he had sent to his children into published books. The first book to be published in 1920 was Doctor Dolittle followed by other publications as well as giving illustrated talks to children. In 1927 his first wife died and he married his second wife Katherine Harrower Peters in 1928, but sadly she became ill and died the same year. He married for a third time in 1935 to Josephine Fricker and they had a son Christopher Clement in 1936. The family then moved to California.



*Hugh Lofting later in life*

After two years of ill health Hugh Lofting died in California in 1947 at the age of 61 and is buried in Kinningsworth, Connecticut.

(Information taken from <http://puddleby.tripod.com/author> and Wikipedia)

*Joyce DeLaSalle*



# Forthcoming Events

## Outing to Royal Greenwich Village

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017**

We are planning a trip to the historic village of Royal Greenwich. There is so much to see and do that we will let you organise your own itinerary.

There is the National Maritime Museum, the Royal Naval College, the Queens House, Greenwich Park and the Royal Observatory all of which are free to enter. You can also visit the Cutty Sark and the Planetarium.

There is a water taxi from the pier running to Westminster and a cable car across the Thames running from the O2. Greenwich also has a very fine craft market in the village and there are numerous cafes and restaurants to cater for all tastes. Recently there has been a considerable investment in restoring buildings and paintings.



Our coach will drop us off and collect us in the centre of the village and you can choose to do what you like. Please note that parking at Braywick now costs £5 for the day. We will be back in Maidenhead at about 6.30 pm.

Please complete and return the booking form towards the end of this edition of the News and return to Mike Copeland by June 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Tea-Dance, Pinder Hall, Cookham

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Watch out for further details of this event in our next issue, due out in early August.



# Booking Form

## Outing to Royal Greenwich Village

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017

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 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

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 @ £20.00: = £.....

.....places on the visit for non-members @ £23.00: = £.....

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)*

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**Please circle pick-up point**

**Bridge Avenue**  
**09.15**

**Braywick Sports Gnd.**  
**09.30**

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

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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 Maidenhead Community Centre (formerly RVS York Club), 42 York Road, Maidenhead SL6 1SH; 7.45 pm; visitors £2. Contact 01628 630924 for talks, and 01628 629614 for outings)

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May: Outing to Tudor House Museum, Southampton Old Town and Exbury Gardens

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May: Talk by Hugh Grainger “Wernher von Braun's Amazing Career”

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June: Outing to Beaulieu and Bucklers Hard

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June: Talk by Trevor Ottlewski “Just Beyond Berkshire”

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

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

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm: *Marlow and the river trade*, Talk by Julian Hunt

### **Marlow Archaeology (MAS)**

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

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm: *The Origins of Wessex: Long Wittenham and the context of power in 7th Century England*, by Adam McBride, Queen’s College, Oxford (full-length talk, then break and short AGM)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 8pm: *The Round Mounds Project: from medieval Mottes to prehistoric Round Mounds*, by Dr Jim Leary, University of Reading

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 8pm: *Investigating travel and communication in Anglo-Saxon England*, by Stuart Brookes, Institute of Archaeology, UCL

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, 8pm: *Verulamium revealed: Recent geophysical surveys in the Roman town*, by Kris Lockyear, Institute of Archaeology, UCL (joint talk MAS/AiM)

# News from the Heritage Centre

## EXHIBITIONS

### **Maidenhead in the 1950s**

This new exhibition will include sections on the Vanwall racing car and the Fairey Rotodyne, both projects closely associated with Maidenhead. 60 years ago Stirling Moss drove the Vanwall to victory in the British Grand Prix at Aintree – the first time a British driver won the British GP driving a British car. Later the same year, the revolutionary Fairey Rotodyne (the world's first vertical take-off airliner) made its maiden flight from White Waltham airfield. If you worked for either Vanwall or Fairey and would like to share your memories, please contact [curator@maidenheadheritage.org.uk](mailto:curator@maidenheadheritage.org.uk).

3rd May to 30th September 2017. Cost: Free

### **Maidenhead in 100 objects**

Description: This new exhibition will trace the fascinating history of Maidenhead through objects in our own collection. From the Stone Age to racing cars, aeroplanes and computers Maidenhead's history is well worth delving into! And if you have any special items which you would be willing to loan to help illustrate this history, please contact [curator@maidenheadheritage.org.uk](mailto:curator@maidenheadheritage.org.uk).

4th October to 21st December 2017. Cost: Free

## PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

### **Story of Maidenhead**

Display of artefacts related to Maidenhead and surroundings, from 100AD to the current time. Don't miss the roman skeleton found near Bray about 1600 years ago!

Cost: Free

### **Grandma flew Spitfires**

Exhibition and archive dedicated to the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA).

Cost: £3.50 adults, £2 children aged 11-16 (10 and under free). Tickets valid for multiple return visits within 12 months. Simulator £15 per 30 minutes (£10 for Advantage card holders).

### **Lunchtime Talks**

Lunchtime mini-lectures lasting 35-40 minutes are held at the museum on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. There is a small charge of £2. Advance booking is not required.

And don't forget our next **River Thames Cruise** at Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 10am.

As always, full news and information about the Heritage Centre is available on our website [www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk)

# Dates for your Diary

Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Civic Day Launch of <i>Maidenhead and Me</i> Art Competition
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2017 <b>Outing</b>	Royal Greenwich Village 09.15/09.30 am coach pickup in Maidenhead
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2016	<b>Maidenhead Festival</b>
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	Presentation of prizes for the Art Competition. Exhibition for two weeks following.
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 <b>Tea-Dance</b>	Pinder Hall, Cookham. 2 – 4.30 pm. Details to follow

## 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 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 2017

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

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

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 at 8.00 pm, venue to be announced

**The closing date for copy for the next issue  
of the Newsletter is 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

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