



# Maidenhead Civic Society **NEWS**

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Issue 4/08

November 2008

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*Gone at last! – Maidenhead's No. 1 eyesore is no more.*

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AGM Agenda and Reports

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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As anyone who has been in business will know, there's nothing like an approaching AGM to focus the mind. It doesn't seem much more than a couple of weeks to me since we paid deserved tribute to John McIntosh as he swapped seats to become our President after nine years as Chairman. It was a highlight of last year's AGM.

Twelve months on, John still deserves the credit. I'm sure that each of my colleagues on the Executive Committee would say that not a week has passed without feeling John's gentle "Presidential" hand on the tiller. He's certainly been a wise uncle, guide and friend to me in the first 12 months of my chairmanship. I'm very grateful for that and long may it continue.

It was John's determination that brought the Society to compile its *Strategic Review of Amenity*. This document did much more than admirably demonstrate the Society's aspirations for the future of Maidenhead; it also inspired a range of other activities, stimulating debate and opening doors. Ultimately this year, it has led to the Society playing a significant role on the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead (PRoM). This is the cross-party group charged with finding agreed solutions for town centre regeneration, including the creation of a vision and Masterplan and a strategy for achieving it. The Council has declared town centre regeneration a priority.

PRoM has recently published a vision and action plan for the town centre which is out for public consultation. The feedback received will be used in the next stage of the process – drawing up a Masterplan. I urge everyone to try and see it and respond. Hopefully you will find in it several ideas which were in our original Strategic Review. I spotted 11 at the last count!

The Strategic Review also helped raise the profile – and the expectations – of the Society. In recent months, the Society's new group structure has brought more and freer discussion resulting in lots of new ideas to meet those expectations. This brings me to the second topic I want to highlight from the year under review.

As previously reported, the Strategy & Policy Group under Nigel, Cockburn singled out "membership" as the overriding priority for the Society. In a nutshell: There's more to do than people to do it!

So, if you have a like-minded friend or neighbour, or just someone you know who shares your hopes and concerns for Maidenhead, please tell us. You can do this either by contacting any of the officers listed on the back page, or by answering Q9 on our Membership Survey and we'll contact you.

If we are to continue to punch our weight, we urgently need more members and, in particular, people who are prepared to help pack that punch and lend a hand.

Bob Dulson - Chairman

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The Civic Society is a charitable volunteer organisation which aims to improve local amenity in Maidenhead.

Two years ago we undertook a Membership Survey which proved very useful and informative to the Executive Committee in determining the Society's direction. At the time we said we would carry out similar surveys occasionally to see if the Society is meeting expectations and/or whether there are other activities and issues you think it should be pursuing. We would be grateful, therefore, if you'd spend a few minutes answering this questionnaire.

Since the last survey the Civic Society has played a significant part in the formation of the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead (PRoM) and has an active role on that group. We have continued our campaigns against elements of the Crossrail Bill and for appropriate redevelopment of the former Taplow Paper Mill land, including Skindles. We continue to seek improvements to the York Stream and the completion of the Millennium Walk and the Thames Path and we have made improvements to our events calendar.

We are also very keen to attract new members, so if you know of any like-minded friends or neighbours who would be willing to join, please fill in Q9 and we'll contact you for their details.

Please send your completed forms to **Civic Society Survey, c/o 'Bryher', Islet Road, Maidenhead SL6 8HT** by Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

Many thanks – Bob Dulson, Chairman

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Henceforth, please accept this regular newsletter as an acknowledgement of your Membership subscription. You will no longer receive an individual letter for repeat annual subscriptions.

It is possible that you may have forgotten to send in the subscription, but if payment is not received after a 2nd reminder letter, you will not receive subsequent Newsletters until payment is resumed. Alternatively, you could complete a Standing Order form for the subscription - you can request a membership form from Membership Secretary. Annual subscription covers from June 1st to May 31st.

Thank you for your support – Shashi Dare

**48<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY**

**To be held on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008  
at the Methodist Church Hall at 8.00 pm.**

**AGENDA**

1. Introduction by the Chairman
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting
3. Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008
4. Reports for 2007/2008
5. Election of the Board of Trustees  
To approve the appointment of the new Board of Trustees. *See note below.*
6. Election of the Officers  
To elect from the Trustees an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer
7. Any other Business.

***Election of Trustees***

Under the terms of the Society's Constitution, one third of the twelve Trustees shall retire each year and shall be eligible for re-election. Accordingly, Bob Dulson, Tina Sell and Nigel Cockburn will retire, and of these, Bob Dulson and Tina Sell offer themselves for re-election. Together with the existing vacancy, there are thus four vacancies and two nominations.

The Membership is invited to make nominations for the position of Trustees. The nominations, in writing, should be accompanied by a seconder and the consent of the nominee, and be with the Hon. Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM.

**MINUTES OF THE  
47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY**

**Held on Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007**

With the introduction of the new constitution, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Bob Dulson, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The Chairman accepted apologies from Richard Poad, Harold James and the Society's link to the Council, Councillor Derek Wilson. With the inception of the new constitution Richard had relinquished the post of President of the Society. In this position he had given many years of valued service to the Society as well as providing a link with the Heritage Trust. The Society offers best wishes and sincere thanks.

1. The Chairman went on to refer the meeting to the report in the Newsletter of the Society's activities during the year and also to those who had contributed their time and effort. He drew attention to the enormous amount of work involved in understanding and contributing to the Local Development Framework. Nigel Cockburn had played the major role in this as chairman of the Society's Planning Group. He has mastered the large volume of documents, has made many significant comments and contributions on them and overall has made an important impact in this field. Nigel will take on the role of vice Chairman of the Society under the new constitution passing the leadership of the Planning Group to Martin McNamee and he is warmly welcomed in this role.

The Waterways Restoration Group has been effective in its pursuit of converting the York Stream channel and its feeds into a positive amenity for the town centre rather than having it as an eyesore. The Society continues its strong support of their efforts.

There has been improvement in relation to the other eyesores notably Cresset Towers but the dilapidated cinema site remains a challenge.

The Group structure has been up and running for some time and is proving its worth. There is a Communications Group with Brian Darracott as its chairman, Events Group chaired by Tina Sell which includes Mike Copeland finding attractive Outings, and Ann Darracott's Projects Group. It is the aim to develop all further.

Under the new Constitution the Society has to elect a Board of Trustees and this as you can see is part of the Agenda of this Annual General Meeting.

In general there is a need to find more people to take an active role in the activities of the Society. There is the whole question of redevelopment of the town centre and while the Crossrail campaign has been successful the project still requires vigilance. Thanks go to all these who have helped make the Society's work a success. It is now time to move the meeting on to the other matters on the Agenda.

2. **Confirmation of the Minutes for the Meeting of November 2006.**

Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Ann Darracott and seconded by Michael Bayley. There being no dissent the minutes were accepted.

3. **Accounts for the Year Ended 30<sup>th</sup> May 2007.**

The Hon. Treasurer presented the year's accounts commenting that there had been two significant items of expenditure during the financial year. These were first, the creation of a plan illustrating ideas for the regeneration of an area near the town hall and secondly, the purchase of a digital projector and a lap top computer needed for its control.

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Michael Johnson and Seconded by Tina Sell. There being no dissent the accounts were adopted.

**4. Reports for the Year 2006/2007.**

The Chairman drew attention to the group reports in the Newsletter issue 4/07 under the headings Events, Planning, Projects, Communications and Membership. These were open to queries. But there being none their acceptance en bloc was proposed by Tim Goldingham and seconded by Brian Darracott. There being no dissent the reports were adopted.

**5. Election of the Board of Trustees and Officers.**

The following were proposed to become Trustees under the new constitution and to sit on the Board viz :

**As Officers**

Hon Treasurer: Trevor Farnfield. Hon Secretary: June Jorge.

**As Executive Members**

Nigel Cockburn, Bob Dulson, Ann Darracott, Brian Darracott, John McIntosh, Martin McNamee, Tina Sell.

The election of the executive members of the Board of Trustees was proposed by Michael Johnston and seconded by Jill Powell. Accepted nem. con.

**As Non-Executive Members**

Mrs. Theresa May and Mr. Harold James.

The election of the non-executive members of the Board of Trustees was proposed by Michael Bayley and seconded by Jill Powell. Accepted nem. con.

This leaves one vacancy compared with the number specified in the Constitution.

**6. Any Other Business.**

Having appointed the new Board of Trustees under the new Constitution it remained to appoint its chairman who is also the President of the Society. Accordingly John McIntosh was proposed by Bob Dulson and seconded by Martin McNamee. There being no objections he was duly appointed.

With the actions in these minutes the Society's new Constitution is in full effect.

In a short ceremony Bob Dulson, on behalf of the Society, presented John McIntosh, as outgoing chairman under the old constitution, with an engraved decanter and thanked him in generous terms for his work for the Society over the term of his chairmanship. In reply John thanked the Society for the gift and said how pleased he was to see the Society go on to new endeavours under a vigorous new leader in Bob Dulson.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 9.45 pm.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been a good year for the Society with lots of successes and plenty of challenges. Planning remains our leading activity but Projects and Events are in the ascendancy with welcome new initiatives, including Thames Path link and Society Luncheons. The bottom line, however, is – we still have more ideas than people to carry them out.

We began the year with the new structure introduced by the new Constitution. Thanks to members of the executive committee and particularly to **John McIntosh**, **Brian Darracott** and **Nigel Cockburn** for steering us through that process. The aim was to make us more efficient, effective and accountable and that seems to be working with the half-yearly Trustee meetings overseeing our progress. The Groups inspire freer discussion and more creativity. One downside was that a few loyal supporters may have felt displaced by the restructuring and that we can ill afford.

The Society's purpose and aims were reviewed in a comprehensive report from the Strategy & Policy Group under **Nigel Cockburn**. Put simply, the outcome was for more of the same but with more resources, i.e. members, to do it. A useful paper by **Martin McNamee** sought to take this initiative forward recently and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Members Survey is one result.

The Planning Group sits at the core of the Society's activities and is key to its image. Its focus is not just on landmark buildings (e.g. Symantec, the old cinema site & Boulters) or the march of flats but also about domestic developments and extensions. From the Group's monthly consideration of planning applications a concern has emerged which **Martin McNamee** is pursuing: a perception that the new streamlined planning process (and new Government-designed application forms) have led to a drop in diligence – particularly on flood-related issues – and a lack of consistency in determinations. The group was sad to lose the valuable contributions of **Bridget King** and **Jill Powell** who both left but has welcomed a new member **Graham Barker** to the table.

Many aspirations from the Society's Strategic Review are reflected in the outline Vision & Action Plan for the town centre, recently published by PRoM, the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead. They include a transport hub, a town square, improved access and public spaces, waterway enhancements, high design standards, a new transport strategy, improved retail offering and town centre housing. PRoM has cross-party support on the council and provides our best hope for reinvigorating the town centre. It will be overseeing the production of Planning Briefs for areas of the town centre as part of its brief. Our concern must be that until those are in place we are still at mercy of developers. The Society has a new representative on PRoM. **Nigel Cockburn** has decided to stand down and as we thank him for his uniquely diligent contribution to the group we welcome newcomer **Nigel Hefferman**, a property and landscape designer, to the role.

On another planning front, the Society continues to put its shoulder to a campaign for the appropriate redevelopment of the old Taplow Paper Mill site, including Skindles. The developer has so far responded with what we might politely call “ambitious” proposals.

During the year the Society became the first corporate associate member of the Waterways Restoration Group (MWRG) reflecting our continued support. **Michael Johnson** represents us on the group and provides literary-style reports.

On the Projects front, **Ann Darracott**'s determination appears to increase in line with the areas of her endeavour. This year in addition to her ongoing work she revived public interest in Ockwells Manor, devised a project to help clear areas of the York Stream and fought a rearguard action to maintain it, as well as lending support to the campaign for completing the missing link in the Thames Path.

The Events Group under **Tina Sell** compiled a particularly attractive, carefully researched calendar of Talks, Outings and other social events, with **Mike Copeland** masterminding the outings. It included, notably, our first Society Luncheon with guest speaker Ian Trenholm, the Royal Borough's new CEO making his first public speaking engagement. The warm response to this occasion is encouraging us to think about making it a regular six-monthly event. Another highlight of the calendar earlier this year was the exchange visit by members of our "twin" society from Bad Godesberg. **John McIntosh** put together a fascinating three-day programme for them, which brought a profusion of gratitude. Our thanks go too to all those, members of the Events Group and others, who helped to make this and other events in our programme run so smoothly.

Hon Treasurer **Trevor Farnfield** keeps a weather eye on our financial behaviour and maintains our records with calm efficiency. Thanks are due to him and to **June Jorge**, our Hon Secretary, whose support extends beyond her formal duties.

The Society continues to have a good PR standing and is a respected voice in the Borough and, we hope, in the community. There is still room to capitalise more on our achievements and convert that goodwill into active support and the Society would welcome someone who could devote time specifically to publicity. Progress toward the anticipated revamp of our website stalled for reasons beyond our control but, we hope, is now back on track. Newsletter Editor **Brian Darracott** intends that the Communications Group will follow this with a makeover for the Newsletter but, meanwhile, there have been noticeable improvements in the content. Our thanks to Brian for his editorship and to **Carol Innes** and the team of Distributors.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members, active or passive, for their support in maintaining the work of the Society and encourage them to spread the word to those of like mind who are not yet members but should be.

Bob Dulson

## PLANNING GROUP REVIEW

Over the year the Planning Group reviewed approximately 145 planning applications. We passed comment to the planners on 50 cases. The most recent three months are summarised elsewhere in this Newsletter.

This has been a year of consultation both with the Royal Borough and with developers. The Borough has carried out consultation on Strategic Housing Land Availability; Townscape Assessment; and the Planning Brief and Sustainability Assessment for the Broadway/King Street/Queen Street Triangle. With developers there has been consultation on Kidwells Park House; the Old Cinema site; and (at last!) the Skindles/Taplow Paper Mill site. At the same time, significant progress has been made by PRoM under the tireless guidance of our Executive Chairman, Bob Dulson. We also participated in the consultation process for the Third Runway proposal at Heathrow.

Large office developments continue to appear. We believe that Kidwells Park House will be a striking glass fronted building which will offer a highly visible positive statement about Maidenhead. We were concerned about parking and access problems via West Street, but in general we were in favour of this development. We are less happy about the office block – now at ground level – on Sainsbury's roundabout. We feel the architecture is very overbearing, and the building lines are very close to the roundabout and Market Street. Likewise, at 72-80 Moorbridge Road the steel framework of another office block is taking shape. Again this is very close to the

road/building line. We would have preferred it if the building line was set back, with parking/landscaping in front. The outcome is going to be a very dominant and obtrusive landmark on the eastern approaches to town.



*The new office block in Moorbridge Road taking shape*

Meanwhile, the rebuilding of the old Symantec block by the Police Station appears to have ground to a halt, leaving an ongoing eyesore.



*The “Symantec Skeleton”*

The office block proposed for the Old Cinema site was refused, and an interim demolition of the building has been completed (see front cover photo). New proposals are now underway – and although plans have not yet been submitted we understand that the building will be reduced in size and bulk and set back from Bridge Avenue and York Stream. A ground floor café with outside terrace will be introduced overlooking the Green Way and York Stream. More trees and landscaping will be introduced. We await the detailed proposals with interest. One of our main concerns is to protect and if possible enhance our historic Chapel Arches.

There have been a number of appeals to the Building Inspector over the year – in particular the Badnell's Pit development, the outcome of which is eagerly awaited. The Society has made written representation for nearly three years, and our position remains that whilst we agree that contamination of the site needs resolution, the resultant proposals represent excessive overdevelopment.

Another feature of the year was the introduction of a new standardised planning application across the authorities. The APPI was introduced in late 2007. In our opinion it has serious shortfalls with the omission of key information – in particular reference to flooding history/floodplain policy. With the “streamlining” of the planning process by introducing “Permitted Development” it is essential that a key issue such as flooding is not disregarded.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks for the ongoing support of all members of the Planning Group, who meet monthly to consider applications large and small with diligence, good humour and objectivity that invariably enables a consensus to be reached.

Martin McNamee

## **PROJECTS REVIEW**

### **Millennium Walk**

As readers will know, the Walk is one of the objectives in the Royal Borough's Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005-2015. Work this year has concentrated on two missing links: from Prospect Hill to Temple Golf Club and from the Lower Cookham Road to the towpath. The major achievements this year have been the drawing of a new Millennium Walk map, (courtesy of Dave Ramm of East Berks Ramblers) and, with the help of our MP, Theresa May, persuading the Environment Agency, who had changed their mind about selling their land on our missing link from the Lower Cookham Road to include a 2-metre path, to change it back again!! We have even had a letter from Peter Quarmby, Area Manager of the EA South East-Thames Region, wishing us luck with our project; I may frame it!! Our hope is that once this section is in place, the rest will follow.

### **Green Way**

Harold James and I have attended meetings of the Green Way Working Group this year. The group monitors the condition of both the Green Way path and the stream system. The following relate to some of the topics discussed at the GWWG:

### York Stream

The improvement in flow into the town centre has continued this year. As noted previously a major factor in this improvement is due to the Environment Agency dredging the White Brook for four years starting in 2003. Due to flooding in the town centre in July 2007, dredging was not done in that year but is planned for 2008. 2008 saw the implementation of the “Windows” project that aims to create “windows” free of weeds and reeds in Maidenhead Ditch that flows into York Stream (see update later in this Newsletter). We hope this will improve the amenity of the stream and also allow it to flow more easily.

A canoe survey was undertaken by Don Betts in May 2008 from half way down Maidenhead Ditch to the Thames (see Aug 2008 Newsletter) which demonstrated that the northern end of Maidenhead Ditch is far more congested with reeds than the rest of the system, a good part of which was canoeable, at least in May. A copy of his report was given to the GWWG meeting in October. Interestingly, the riparian owner of one of the sections still obstructed (near to Ray Mill Road West), is the Council.

#### Maidenhead Moor

The 2007 consultation by the Council regarding the improvement of Maidenhead Moor has yet to produce a plan of action though some work has been done removing fallen trees. Hopefully the scheme will be made known before too long.

#### Planning

The following applications relating to York Stream were commented on to no great effect, as in both cases our plea that approval by the Council be contingent on the inclusion of a planning condition that adequate maintenance of the stream system be put in place (i.e. removal of fallen trees, control of reed growth), was not included.

*06/00442 Environment Agency's application to delete widening of Maidenhead Ditch from MWEFAS:* ENTEC's report was sent to me on 11<sup>th</sup> July. With Harold's help I composed a reply, hand delivered to the Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> July in time for the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July under "Late Observations". It was obvious that no matter what, this application was going to be approved!

*08/00207 Cookham Remediation Works (formerly Strande Lane Flood Prevention scheme):* This application was always going to be contentious because the Cookham scheme will increase flooding risk for Bourne End residents. The panel report was published on the Council website a few days before the meeting on 20 August, recommending refusal because of increased risk to Bourne End residents. Then on the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> this changed to approval (the EA told them they had already reduced the flood risk by removing sills in Odney Weir etc). Needless to say the Bourne End residents at the meeting were furious. The Royal Borough did not include a "maintenance" requirement in their planning conditions because the EA told them that this might increase flooding risk elsewhere!!!! What makes this comment even more fascinating is the EA's consultant's comments in the Environmental Statement that doing nothing "*would involve the Environment Agency abandoning all works and maintenance responsibility for Cookham and the surrounding area. Were this to occur, drainage channels would be more likely to become overgrown and subsequently the flood risk to properties within the catchment would be likely to increase*". It further notes that this option is not available as the Environment Agency is responsible under its duty of care to maintain channels, primarily to avoid risk of flooding.

In reality the most congested part of the entire stream system from Cookham through Maidenhead to Bray, as evidenced by attempts to canoe it (reported in our newsletters - 3/08 and 3/07), is mostly north of the North Maidenhead Flood Bund Gate; the flood bund area is exactly where flood water will be impounded in a future flood; the reason for the Cookham Scheme in the first place. At the GWWG in October, the EA representative reiterated that they have no plans to clear trees or reeds from this area. Evidently it's more acceptable to spend £1 million building bunds to keep the water back (they hope) than making sure the streams are unobstructed.

#### **Ockwells Project**

A paper on the Grandison family and their connection with Bisham Abbey is nearing completion. In July we cooperated with the Friends of St Michael's Church, Bray, in organising a successful open morning at Ockwells Manor to raise money for the St Michael's Bray Emergency Appeal. St

Michael's and Ockwells are linked historically and a leaflet detailing the link was produced for the open morning. We are grateful to Mrs Jill Stein for giving permission for the visit.

Ann Darracott

## **EVENTS GROUP REVIEW**

Over the last six months the Events Group have held regular monthly meetings.

### **Social**

The Bad Godesburg Twinning weekend in May was packed with activities, involving many of the members. As well as a visit to the Stanley Spencer Gallery, a tour of Windsor and a marvellous combined visit to Salisbury and Winchester Cathedrals, the visitors met the Mayor and toured the Town Hall. After a recent visit to the Stanley Spencer gallery, with a lecture, which 23 people attended, a handful of us met in the Kings Arms, some to eat and some to have a meal. It was a very pleasant occasion and enabled us to get some feedback. These are good opportunities and we hope to have more of them.

### **Talks**

The year began with a very well attended talk by Tom Hart Dyke, of Lullingstone Castle, who captured our imaginations with his experiences of being kidnapped while in Columbia, plant gathering. David Barber, HM Swan Marker, also gave a riveting presentation about the history and traditions of Swan Upping and spoke entertainingly about his appointment and his influence in making the event more humane as well as developing the education and conservation aspects of this ancient tradition. And recently, local landscape and garden designer Martin Little gave a colourful reviews of the gardens great and small that he had designed and worked on.

The first talk of the new autumn season was given at our first Society Luncheon by Ian Trenholm, Chief Executive of RBWM. We had 55 people in attendance, a number of whom were non-members and it was felt to be worthy of repeating in approx. 6 months.

Future talks will be given by Tim Slaney, Head of Planning for RBWM, a local magistrate and Stephen Carr on his life in Africa.

### **Outings and Visits**

Apart from the visit to Salisbury and Winchester Cathedrals with our visitors from Bad Godesburg, we had only one other outing this year. This was to Wimbledon and the Imperial War Museum. We started with a behind the scenes visit to Wimbledon Tennis Club. Our guide was excellent and we were able to visit the BBC studio, the players' area and Number 1 Court. The Museum was also fascinating and we all learnt some amazing facts about the club. Our next stop was the Imperial War Museum in Southwark. We spent around two and a half hours here and we were all very impressed with the latest displays and how they conveyed the information. It was quite a long day, but the two contrasting visits were enjoyed by all. Finally, in November, a group of 20 visited the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Maidenhead.

We hope to organise an interesting programme for 2009 and would like to continue the growth of social opportunities with members

Tina Sell & Mike Copeland

## **MEMBERSHIP REVIEW**

A warm welcome is extended to new members: Gill Curry, Mrs Francine Heastie, Nigel Hefferman, Dr Crystal Horwitz, Mr Desmond and Mrs Barbara Lavers, and Judith Littlewood.

Current headcount is approximately 288 entities (households) which equates to 350 members. 14 new members joined in the last three years (end of May 2007) but we lost 35 members for various reasons.

You can help by recommending the Maidenhead Civic Society to your family and friends.

Shashi Dare

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Annual Accounts are enclosed with this report and I would like to highlight or explain a few points:

- Reduced profits were made from the outings. This was due to the relatively poor take up of coach seats. As a consequence, Gift Aid contributions to the Society's funds will be lower next year.
- Subscription income has remained relatively stable.
- A donation was received under the Shell Employee Action Scheme from Shell UK Limited for specific use in connection with the design and implementation of a new website. This will be spent during the current financial year.
- A donation of £500 received from a member during previous financial years, which was intended for use in some way associated with the River Thames, has yet to be expended.
- The website hosting costs were met by a direct donation from a member.

The Society accounts are still in good health and I encourage the Committee to consider further ways of using some of the available funds to further raise the profile of the Society.

Trevor Farnfield

**MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY - Charity No.  
272102**

**Annual Accounts for Year ended 31st May 2008**

**2006/2007**

**2007/2008**

**INCOME**

75	Donations/Grants	350
2, 610	Subscriptions Received During Year	2,746
641	Interest On Bank And Other Deposits	697
1063	Surplus On Outings	338
825	Tax Refunds On Deeds Of Covenants / Gift Aid	937
<b>£5,214</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,068</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

**Administration**

2, 580	General Expenses, Printing, Postage, Etc.	2,301
512	Hire Of Rooms, Speakers And Meeting Expenses	765
52	Subscriptions	248
180	Insurance	190

**Donations**

1, 750	Various	0
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**Other Expenses**

145	Ockwells And Associated Projects (Net Costs)	94
28	Millennium Walk. (Net Costs)	80
8	Various Other Small Projects	0
590	Deficit On Social Events	219
0	Presentations/Memorials	80
898	Town Planning Project	0
1, 449	Equipment	0

<b>£8,192</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,977</b>
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<b>-2,978</b>	<b>EXCESS/DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,091</b>
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15, 667	Balance Brought Forward	12,689
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<b>£12 689</b>	<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>£13 780</b>
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**FUNDS**

639	Bank (Lloyds TSB) and Cash	1,457
12, 530	Charities Deposit General Fund (COIF)	12,225
190	Debtor/Insurance Payments In Advance	966
-670	Creditors/Commitments	-868

<b>£12 689</b>	<b>BALANCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>£13 780</b>
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**Trevor Farnfield - Hon. Treasurer**

20-Sep-08

# PLANNING MATTERS

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Over the three months of August to October we reviewed more than 40 applications and passed comment on 15 proposals. In two cases, we made supportive observations – and were a little disturbed that the planners saw fit to refuse both!

Three applications which were refused are going to the Planning Inspectorate on appeal. There is a proposal for fourteen flats on the Braywick Road/Stafferton Way roundabout with access through Greenfields. We believe this to be overdevelopment with poor and restricted access through an already busy and congested street. Another block of twelve flats at the junction of Harrow Lane and Bridle Road has also been refused for overdevelopment and lack of parking. Finally, the demolition of three houses to be replaced by eight four-bedroom town houses is also going to appeal. This location is at the junction of Harvest Hill Road and Manor Lane, and would represent a continuation of Shoppenhangers Road development.

The appeal hearing for Badnell's Pit took place at the end of September, and the outcome is still awaited.

We are concerned at two aspects of recent planning decisions. Firstly, we would prefer to see legitimate brown-field sites being used for housing development, rather than back gardens being sold off. In two recent cases such development has been refused. Secondly, we are worried that flood plain issues appear to have recently taken a lower priority. Whilst Maidenhead has its history of flooding from the Thames, more recent concerns are the increasingly widespread problems of flash floods. One of the most regular issues in our comments to the planners is the flood risk associated with enlarged building footprint and increased run-off. Although “technically” protected by the Jubilee River, we must be aware of the risk of continual development on the flood plain. Several recent applications have been permitted with apparently no reference to flood risk issues. There has been no policy change – in fact new regulations will specify that driveways and hard-standing must in future be permeable. A meeting has been arranged with the planning authority to establish that floodplain development policy is being properly applied. The issue of development on the floodplain will be dealt with at greater length in future Newsletters.

Martin McNamee

## PLANS FOR PAPER MILL AND SKINDLES UNVEILED

A smart new hotel with riverside walks, “live/work” units, boat basins, executive housing, a tennis club and apartments are among the proposals being lined up for the Skindles and Paper Mill site in Taplow.

Society members and residents turned out in good numbers at Glen Island House for an exhibition of the developers' plans last month.

The reaction was generally pretty positive that at last something was being done to improve the site but there was concern at the extent of the planned development in the flood plain.

The ideas set out by planning agents Hunter Page for the 45-acre site include:

- A “stunning” new 120-bedroomed hotel replacing Skindles at this important gateway site.
- A new riverside footpath by the hotel, linking Mill Lane to the Thames Path

- Relocating the junction of Mill Lane/Bath Road to the east of the VW garage.
- A new tennis club to the rear of the car dealership.
- A series of “live/work” units on the old Severnside recycling site in which each dwelling has its own office or workspace, suitable for artisans or home business.
- Retaining the existing boatyard with some new building.
- Developing existing inlets into small marinas with waterfront housing.
- Refurbishing Dunloe Lodge, Mill House and Glen Island House for various possibilities which include an hotel, a care home and a restaurant, as well as private housing.
- A line of five apartment blocks replacing the old mill shed alongside the Mill Leat.
- New public footpaths giving access to the northern part of the site.

The proposals are exciting but, as they stand, almost certainly constitute over-development. A Taplow resident at the exhibition was worried that having got rid of the lorry traffic, with all the proposed dwellings there would now be lots of cars. But overall he felt the proposals were good news.

Val Mason, a society member and flood expert with the River Thames Society, said: “They are proposing housing in an area which is a functional flood plain and should never be built on. We have stressed the high flood risk to them in meetings and it’s disappointing that they’ve not taken note of these concerns.”

Paul Fong of Hunter Page said: “One inlet provides an exciting opportunity, hopefully, to try and get a solution to development in the flood plain.” But he admitted that the idea, involving chalet houses on stilts, was contentious and may not succeed.

However, he also said there had been discussions with local residents about a footbridge link to the site from Boulton Island, although this was not shown on the plans. The Society’s Ann Darracott said she was very interested in this proposal. “It could enhance one of our project aims which is to improve recreational walking in the area.”

It’s plain that residents and interested parties will need to keep an eye on developments and members’ views would be welcome. If you have any comments on the proposals or what you would like to see, please send them to Bob Dulson at bob.dulson@btinternet.com (or at the address on the back cover).

Bob Dulson

## **A NEW DIRECTION FOR MAIDENHEAD? – HAVE YOUR SAY**

PRoM, the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead on which the Civic Society is represented, recently completed the first phase of its work with the publication of *A Vision for Maidenhead Town Centre*.

The document is described as a Vision and Action Plan (VAP) for the town over the next 20 years. PRoM is a cross-party group charged with finding agreed solutions for town centre regeneration, including the creation of a Masterplan and a strategy for achieving it. The Council has declared town centre regeneration a priority.

The VAP sets out 10 strategic objectives for the regeneration of the town centre, centred on three themes: Natural Environment, Physical Environment and Accessibility, and Economic, Social and Management. Key among these are:

- Encouraging quality buildings,
- Optimising accessibility, linkages and open space
- Reducing pedestrian and traffic conflicts,
- Promoting mixed use development
- Enhancing the use of water
- Promoting a 'green' and greener town
- Quickening the pace of urban development

It also proposes five priorities as catalysts for town centre regeneration:

1. Redevelopment of the Broadway - King Street - Queen Street Triangle site as a retail-led mixed development, linking Nicholsons and the High Street to the station
2. A hotel or arts/conference centre as part of a mixed use development incorporating the York Stream on the site of the football ground in York Road
3. An integrated transport hub based on the Railway station
4. The restoration and enhancement of the town centre's waterways and the areas adjacent to them.
5. Redevelopment of West Street area to incorporate residential usage with active ground-floor frontages and the potential to bridge the ring road to introduce Kidwells Park into the town centre.

Now out for public consultation, the VAP pulls together public opinion and a number of previous reports along with fresh thinking. It also draws on the views expressed during stakeholder consultation.

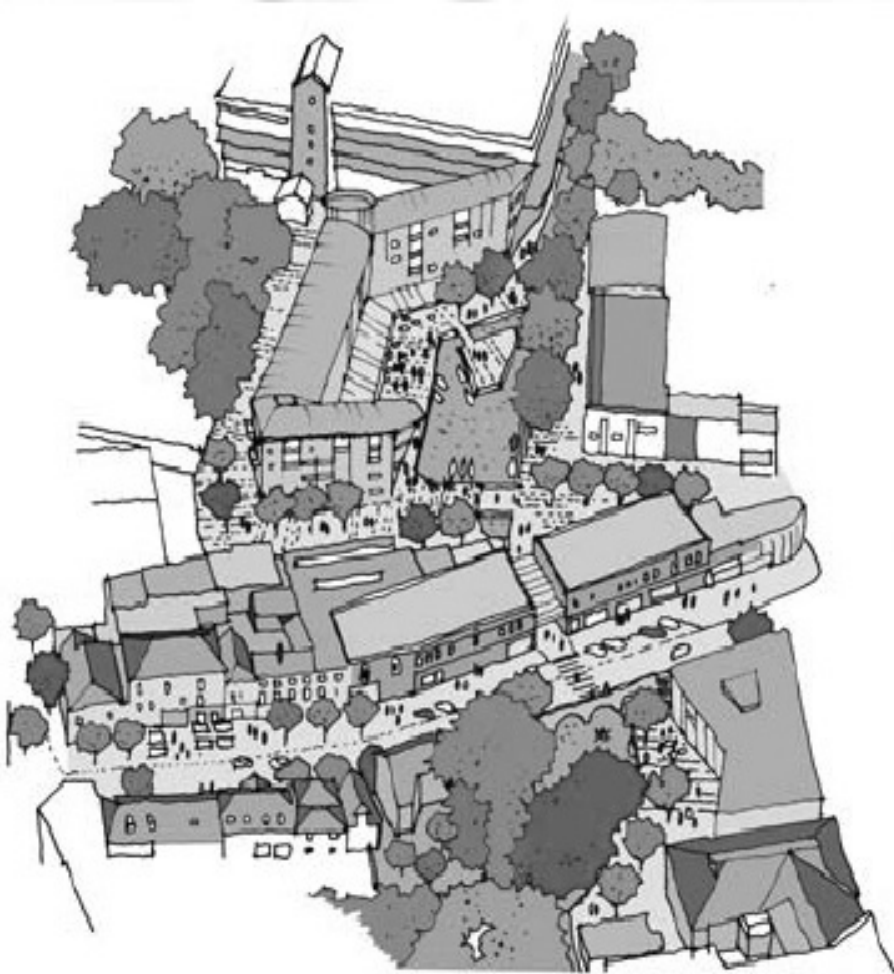


*Architect's vision for the West Street area*

Society chairman, Bob Dulson, who is also the independent chairman of PRoM, said: "The two main aims for me are to meet the expectations of the residents and to revive Maidenhead as a

destination for a wide cross-section of interests. The report takes a deliberately practical approach and, thanks to cross-party support in the council, the active participation of community groups and a lot of hard work behind the scenes, I think it provides a firm foundation for regeneration.”

The Society has a new representative on PRoM. He is Nigel Hefferman, a designer and artist with the TPA Design Company, the local firm of architects, designers and planners. He replaces Nigel Cockburn who has decided to stand down. Bob Dulson said: “Nigel Cockburn has promised to continue to offer support and advice and I look forward to that. He’s a hard act to follow but in his impressive footsteps, Nigel Hefferman brings a level of knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm that will serve the Society and PRoM well.” Nigel will report to the Executive Committee and the Planning Group.



*Architect's vision for the Chapel Arches Basin*

The feedback from the public consultation on the VAP will be used in the next phase to help develop an overarching Masterplan and prepare the planning briefs for the separate areas that make up the town centre. Society members are urged to have their say. You can do this by writing to: Maidenhead Vision and Action Plan, PRoM, c/o Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead SL6 1RF or email [prom@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:prom@rbwm.gov.uk) Closing date for responses is Friday November 14 2008.

## THE FUTURE OF MAIDENHEAD

**The Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead (PRoM) recently published for public consultation an outline Vision and Action Plan (VAP) for Maidenhead Town Centre. Civic Society President John McIntosh believes they should look to our roots...**

Consider why Maidenhead ever came into existence and why it has been so successful? The answer is simple – communications.

Maidenhead was founded in the Thames Valley at an easy river crossing point on the most direct route from London to the west. Each transport era brought a new swathe of travellers and settlers. It was at a convenient distance from the capital for an overnight stay and became a staging post. Then, when modern transport came into being, Brunel traced the same convenient route for the first railway, to be followed by others and the M4; and then Heathrow was dropped conveniently near to the East.

So what has caused all the alarm and despondency about its future? Plainly, it is the town's decline as a place where the residents can find a full and satisfying range of facilities - for buying goods and for indulging leisure and pleasure.

In the past we've all decried the disappearance of butchers, bakers, fruiterers and a host of other useful individual shops. A recent brief survey in Nicholsons Walk and the lower end of the High Street showed about eight empty shops in each. Of course, most will be reoccupied by shops selling some goods or other but the turnover of premises in recent times has been remarkable and too high for stability. Why is this happening when nearby towns such as Marlow, Henley, and High Wycombe seem to be doing better?

Amid this discouraging picture, however, one group seems to be doing quite well. These are the shopping enclaves dotted round the outer areas of the town, at Cox Green, Farm Road, Wootton Way etc. All seem to be well patronised and, what is equally clear, all are easily accessible. They cover a wide range of convenience goods and services, grocery, pharmacy, hairdressing and hardware. Interestingly, one of the hardware stores used to be in the middle of the town. Why did they move out?

Maidenhead may be one of the most accessible towns on the country, with its excellent rail, road and air connections. The problem arises on arrival. Looking at the layout of the town today, it is clear that while Brunel's railway and the modern roads may have brought the town prosperity, they now do the town centre no favours. Both constrict the town centre and limit its accessibility, which has a particular effect on short-term visits. The town is well supplied with longer-term car parking but a quick in and out on foot, by bike or in a car is tricky. It is paradoxical that the transport links which made Maidenhead so successful, as a result of the law of unforeseen consequences, now threaten to strangle it.

The compact nature of our town centre is both an asset and a challenge. One can easily walk the length or breadth of it in a few minutes. But the constricted centre of the town has dictated a dearth of central open spaces. While there are pleasant parks nearby at Braywick, Grenfell Road and the award-winning Kidwells Park, they are all on the wrong side of either the railway embankment or the ring road. In the town itself there is a lack of comfortable open spaces where the flow of people can open out, thin out and even find relaxation. There are suggestions of open space, in King Street and St Ives Road. Down the length of High Street there is none.

What other attractions do we have? Maidenhead has a thriving arts and cultural scene but do we capitalise on it? There is of course Norden Farm, excellent in its way, but a little out of the way, and forsaken by public transport. And the Desborough Suite is well used by local societies. But there is huge potential to revive the town's reputation as a destination.

Another potential but under exploited asset of the town is its proximity to the river. There is also the network of streams that pass through the town, particularly its centre, and which are linked into the river. These latter are at long last in with a chance of being converted from eyesores into a real environmental asset thanks to the initiatives of the Waterways Restoration Group. In considering the new town plans steps should be taken to integrate the river and its through-town channels into the plan. There should be an effort to site buildings of appropriate size and scale to create attractive vistas incorporating the waterways. After all, man is supposedly descended from aquatic apes, from which we may take our innate pleasure in water!

There are other factors at work too, one of which seems to be rent and rates. Rates are now set and collected centrally and distributed from the centre. They are heavy. Even in 1992 when we set up The Heritage Centre in premises of just 1,200 sq. ft, the rates were £8,000 and the rent was £18,000 before we opened the door. These charges plus heating, lighting and other overheads made the costs of even this limited space almost prohibitive. Many shops in the town centre are quite small. Do they have the same prohibitive heavy costs? If so, then it suggests that only high margin goods or high volume sales will allow them to prosper.

Another factor is land values. Although the current economic climate may help to redress the balance, the value of the land on which a property stands has often been worth more than the property itself. Rents have been geared not to what a shop can generate in sales but to what the return on the land value should be. The result: rents rising in line with rising land values. There have been reports of a number of shops in the centre closing down because of rent rises on contract expiry/renewal. Is this a valid scenario? They may find some succour in the economic slowdown but they are also looking for and need the whole-hearted involvement of those of us who care about the town.

So what can be done to reverse the trends and to bring about the transformation needed to make the centre of Maidenhead modern? This is what the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead (PRoM) is attempting to determine. The Vision and Action Plan is a first step in the right direction but more is needed. Crucial is a plan for the town's future infrastructure before restructuring work begins and indeed this action is already part of the Vision. These thoughts offer some inputs needed in the process of creating an overall plan for the creation of an attractive, welcoming town centre with good shopping and leisure facilities and green space.

Is this all a dream? Certainly not, but it requires an iterative planning process as professionals work towards a final solution. It will not be done in a single planning step. The vision – and our determination – must be for a completely modern town centre containing residential housing, shops, offices, probably in a mix of high and low rise buildings, in streets and spaces with pleasant vistas where there is the opportunity by day or night to enjoy what ever one has in mind whether it is work, shopping, leisure or pleasure.

In all this, however, the question of easy access seems crucial. This requires the appropriate siting of shops and a transport strategy that enables easy access and short-term parking. This parking will have to be convenient, close to the shops, accessed from the incoming and surrounding roads and, because of the compactness of the centre, mostly underground.

This is crunch time for Maidenhead. It will always enjoy the benefits of its position as a communication centre but if it does not get its act together in creating a centre on the lines of this dream, then it may well muddle along as a collection of offices which contribute to the prosperity of their owners and occupiers but do little for the ambience and success of its inhabitants and visitors. We should not accept second best!!!

John McIntosh

# WINTER 2008 EVENTS

## TALKS

### **ST GEORGE'S CHAPEL, WINDSOR – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**by Jeremy Holloway, Chapel Steward.**

The talk in November will now be given by Jeremy Holloway, of St George's, Windsor. St George's Chapel, Windsor has a rich tradition and varied history. Bryan will explore some of the principal themes in its development and the figures behind them.

The talk will take place in the Methodist Hall and will commence at 8.00pm, with a break for refreshments at 8.45pm, and will be followed by the AGM at 9.00pm.

There will be no entry charge for members but guests will be asked for a contribution of £5.00 inclusive of refreshments.

### **PLANNING IN THE ROYAL BOROUGH – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009**

**by Tim Slaney, Head of Planning, RBWM.**

Tim Slaney, Head of Planning for RBWM, will give a talk to illustrate how local planning is managed in the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead.

Newly appointed to the Royal Borough, he finds the combination of the planning and transport challenges in an area that faces growth pressures, but that nevertheless has significant environmental attributes, brings its own rewards and challenges. The rejuvenation of Maidenhead has its own particular characteristics, such as its compact nature and accessibility. These assets need to be captured and taken forward in order to improve its environment and "offer" a journey that he hopes will prove particularly rewarding. With near on one hundred staff, over 3,000 applications of various types a year and a new system for producing planning policies, together with the need for planning to be a means to a end rather than an end in itself brings home the importance of good planning.

Tim has been working in the Planning and Transport field for 20 years, and during this time he has had experience of working in urban areas, such as Watford, rural areas such as the Cotswold region of north Wiltshire and areas of historical interest, in particular, Salisbury and its Environs. This interest in the historic environment lead to an MSc in Historic Conservation to accompany his formal Town Planning training. Most recently he has been engaged in a number of town centre regeneration projects in a number of Local Government Authorities. He has also become involved in Transport Policy, Planning and Implementation.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> CIVIC SOCIETY LUNCHEON - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

This will be held at the WAMDSAD Hall, Braywick Sport Ground, and will follow a similar format to the successful event staged in September this year. The speaker will be Supt. Tim De Meyer, Local Police Area Commander for Maidenhead who will give a presentation on "Policing in Maidenhead", with an opportunity for questions; this will be followed by a two-course lunch.

There will be more details in the next Newsletter.

Tina Sell

## OUTINGS

No outings are planned over the winter period as most National Trust and Heritage sites are closed at this time. However, don't forget that in early November a party of 20 people will visit the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** in Marlow Road, Maidenhead (near the Castle Hill roundabout). Although this visit is fully subscribed, we have been fortunate in securing a slot for a second visit on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009, and all those members on the waiting list have been informed of this.

Mike Copeland

### ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Members and friends got the No.1 show court to themselves at Wimbledon earlier this month. There was no play of course, but the visit provided a fascinating insight to life behind the scenes at the world's most famous tennis club. It was part of a two-venue outing, which also took in the imposing Imperial War Museum in London.



*Spot the ball!*

At Wimbledon we were able to visit the Millennium Building, modelled appropriately on an M or a W, which contains the players' private restaurant, rooftop tea lawns and viewing terrace. There was a good view from here of the progress being made on the installation of the Centre Court's new retractable roof and the construction of a new No.2 show court. In the Media Centre, home to the world's broadcasters during Wimbledon fortnight, we saw the BBC studio. On the wall, a framed Radio Times cover from 1977 declared Sue Barker as "our big hope" for the women's singles in that centenary year. (Virginia Wade memorably went on to take the honours!).

Each year Wimbledon gets through 112,000 punnets of strawberries and 7,000 litres of cream, not to mention 52,000 tennis balls.

Bob Dulson

# PROJECTS

## GREEN WAY/YORK STREAM

### “Windows” Project

The Green Way was created as a streamside walk from Cookham through Maidenhead to Bray. The walk is in place but for a great deal of its length, the stream, especially in the warmer months, is invisible from the path due to growth of weeds on the banks and excessive reed growth in the stream itself. In the past another effect of the spread of weeds had been effectively to force walkers away from the public right of way and onto the edge of the field under crops, an area subject to regular chemical treatment with herbicide. A revised mowing regime has improved this situation.

The “Windows” proposal arose from a meeting of the Green Way Working Group on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007 when there was discussion of how best to open up views of the watercourses from the Green Way footpaths by creating “windows” in bank-side and aquatic vegetation at appropriate locations. The project was implemented in 2008 when Forest & Garden Timber Services carried out a spraying programme in using glyphosate (on 1<sup>st</sup> August and 8<sup>th</sup> September) on the stretch of Maidenhead Ditch from next to the hippo near North Town Moor northwards to the flood control gate. A report on the results of the spraying was forwarded to the GWWG October meeting. Briefly, the reeds sprayed show some species difference in effect. Burr reed and Great Water grass appear to be more affected than *Phragmites*, the Common Reed. It was decided at the October meeting to wait and see what the effect is on growth next spring and if necessary commission further work.



*Spraying the weeds*



*Ian Gunner and Jeremy Gates from Forest & Garden Timber Services  
enjoy a welcome break from spraying*



*Killing off the weeds reveals the water in the stream*

The “Windows” project was jointly written with Margaret Bowdery of East Berks Ramblers and was financed by the Environment Agency.

## **MILLENNIUM WALK**

### **Missing Links**

#### Prospect Hill to Temple Golf Club

We had a site meeting with the Highways Department representative in April to discuss ways of creating a crossing of the A4130 – a crossing the golf club is in favour of, as it will ease traffic movements there. We are awaiting details of the design of the crossing but in the meantime have ascertained that a crossing meeting Department of Transport guidelines is possible here for both absolute minimum distances and desirable minimum visibility requirements (100m) for cars travelling at 40mph - the legal requirement on this section of road. We found that the absolute minimum requirement is met by crossing directly into the golf club drive and the desirable minimum by crossing further south opposite the telegraph pole.



*The proposed crossing meets Dept of Transport guidelines*

#### Lower Cookham Road to Towpath

This missing link was again walked on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October for the 2008 Boundary Walk organised by Maidenhead Rotary Club. With the help of Maidenhead Rotary Club permission was obtained from the landowners to cross to the towpath. We would like to thank Mr John Edwards, owner of White Place Farm and the Environment Agency for giving walkers the opportunity to see this attractive alternative to walking back to Boulters Lock via the road. The route was cleared by members of the Civic Society, East Berks Ramblers, and Maidenhead Rotary Club. Tina Sell, Bronwen Renwick, Angela Howorth, Shashi Dare and myself acted as marshals on the day of the Boundary Walk. I am grateful to all concerned.



*Willing helpers from the Civic Society, East Berks Ramblers, and Maidenhead Rotary Club cleared the route across to the towpath*

*Marshalls Sandy Baillie-Hamilton (on the right) from the Civic Society and colleague from the Rotary Club*



*A young family enjoying the opportunity to walk the new route*

# HERITAGE CENTRE NEWS

The Heritage Centre in Park Street has been open since July. Excellent visitor numbers have been boosted by Sunday morning opening on the day of the Farmers' Market (2nd Sunday of the month), and lots of group and school visits are being booked for the year ahead. The Centre is still looking for volunteer stewards, especially for afternoons and for Saturdays.

A 'Maidenhead Bridge' Christmas card is on sale this year, alongside local prints and books ideal for Christmas presents.

A new initiative is a monthly lunch-time lecture at 1245pm on the second Thursday of every month; lectures will last for 30 minutes and themes will be taken from the whole range of local history.

**Thursday 13th November - 12.45pm**

**Lunchtime lecture** in the Heritage Centre. Nominal charge £1

## **Calling all fans of THUNDERBIRDS!**

**Thursday 20th November - 7.30pm**

Meet the legendary Sylvia Anderson, who created Lady Penelope and made Thunderbirds fly - and did all the female voices! Sylvia will discuss her FAB life, starting with the first puppet films made in 1957 in a riverside mansion in Maidenhead.

**Studio Theatre, Norden Farm Centre for the Arts**

Tickets £10 in aid of Maidenhead Heritage Centre funds. Call 01628 780555

**Thursday 11th December - 12.45pm**

**Lunchtime lecture** in the Heritage Centre. Nominal charge £1

**22nd October to 22nd November**

**LEST WE FORGET** An exhibition to mark the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War in 1918. Includes details of over 800 men of Maidenhead who lost their lives in the "war to end all wars".

**26th November to 20th December, continues in the New Year**

**SHOPPING IN MAIDENHEAD** Many local people remember names such as Webbers and Biggs the Jewellers, where Queen Mary used to come shopping in the 1930's. Step back in time this Christmas season and remember when Maidenhead High Street was NOT identical to so many others!

For further information and bookings, please contact the Heritage Centre:  
Telephone 01628 780555 or e-mail: [info@maidenheadheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@maidenheadheritage.org.uk)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2008 <b>Local Visit</b>	Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Maidenhead 10.00 am
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2008 <b>Talk</b> by Jeremy Holloway, followed by <b>AGM</b>	“St George’s Chapel, Windsor” Methodist Church Hall, 8.00 pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2009 <b>Local Visit</b>	Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Maidenhead 10.00 am
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2009 <b>Talk</b> by Tim Slaney	“Planning in the Royal Borough” Methodist Church Hall, 8.00 pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2009 <b>Talk</b> by Gordon Anderson JP	“Magistrates In The Community” Methodist Church Hall, 8.00 pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2009	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Civic Society Luncheon</b> WAMDSAD Hall, Braywick

## CIVIC SOCIETY OFFICERS

President of the Trustees	John McIntosh, 26 Harvest Hill Road, SL6 2QQ	633259
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Webmaster	Tim Goldingham, 76 Walker Road, SL6 2QT	630108

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2008

Parish Centre in St. Luke’s Church, at 7.45 p.m.  
8<sup>th</sup> January, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> November

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS FOR 2008

Parish Centre in St. Luke’s Church, at 7.45 p.m.  
9<sup>th</sup> April, 8<sup>th</sup> October

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007 in the Wesley Hall at the Methodist Church at 8.00pm.

**The closing date for copy for the next issue  
of the Newsletter is 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009.**

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**News Editor**     **Brian Darracott**  
**6 Medallion Place, Maidenhead, SL6 1TF (01628 620280)**