



# Maidenhead Civic Society

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# NEWS

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Issue 4/24

Nov 2024

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*Maidenhead has had one of the wettest periods on record. The Civic Society is always concerned about the flood risks from new developments; let's hope we never see sights like this again!*

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

# From the Chairman

## The Battle of Battlemead Common – Part 2

Battlemead Common and land at Thriftwood Farm were purchased by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in 2017. The reason for the two sites being purchased would create open space to the north and south of Maidenhead.

This all stems back in time when a planning inspector reviewed an earlier submission of the Local Plan in 2007. The inspector who rejected that plan advised that not enough sites were being considered for development. In his summing up of the Local Plan, it was confirmed that the growth area should be in Maidenhead with the advent of Crossrail (now known as the Elizabeth Line).

Work commenced on the replacement Local Plan, known as the Borough Local Plan up until 2033 and further sites needed to be considered following his recommendations. A large number of sites were considered and consulted upon, and many were controversial, none more so than Maidenhead Golf Club.

Due to the strategic importance of its location close to the railway station. Consideration had to be given to open space provision, as part of the development plan process. The Borough Local Plan involves many different aspects when considering future sites and involves hiring experts in their respective fields to give guidance on assessing sites and open space provision.

It was fortunate at the time that both sites to the north and to the south of Maidenhead could be purchased, which could add further open space provision to benefit the community of Maidenhead.

Today, the Ockwells Park extension at Thriftwood Farm can be enjoyed by ramblers, dog walkers and has the added benefit of leading walkers through bluebell fields on the extended land that was purchased for recreational enjoyment.

However, to this day the same cannot be said of the land at Battlemead Common, there should be the ability to park just off the A4094 Sutton Road and allow walkers the freedom to roam across the land, as various interest groups have a particular view.

It should be open and a proper surface car park laid out to encourage the community of Maidenhead to enjoy this land that gives lovely views across the Thames to Cliveden House, as this was fundamentally the reason why the land was purchased in the first place to be enjoyed!

*Derek Wilson*

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

**To be held on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
at 8.00pm, in the main hall, Methodist Church, High Street, Maidenhead**

We have arranged for a speaker to start off the meeting before the usual business agenda. Orla Gallagher, CEO of Housing Solutions, will be talking to us about ‘**Current challenges and opportunities in the social housing sector and for Housing Solutions**’ – a really important topic these days. See page 18 for more details. The business meeting will follow after a break for tea/coffee and biscuits.

### **AGENDA**

1. Introduction by the Chairman of the Committee
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting
3. Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 (see pages 7-8)
4. Chairman’s Report for 2023/2024
5. Election of the Officers. To elect a Chairman, an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, who shall be Committee Members
6. To approve the election of Members of the Committee. *See note below.*
7. Any other business.

#### ***Election of Officers***

Officers are elected for a term of one year but are eligible for re-election at the AGM. Nominations for the role of Chairman should be accompanied by a seconder and the consent of the nominee, and be with the Hon. Secretary prior to the AGM.

#### ***Election of Committee Members***

There currently are twelve Committee Members: Bob Dulson, Eileen Goford, Peter Child, Martin McNamee, Ann Darracott, Brian Darracott, Joyce Delasalle, Lisa Curtin, Ian Rose, Jane Wright, Tim Burt and Derek Wilson. Under the terms of the Society’s Constitution the Committee shall consist of eight to twelve Members including the Officers. One third of the Committee Members who are not Officers must retire each year and shall be eligible for re-election. Accordingly, Ann Darracott, Brian Darracott and Ian Rose will retire. Ann and Brian offer themselves for re-election, and there will consequently be one vacancy.

The Membership is invited to make nominations for the position of Committee Members. The nominations should be accompanied by a seconder and the consent of the nominee, and be with the Hon. Secretary prior to the AGM.

# MINUTES OF THE 63<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY

**Held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 in the Bromley Room,  
Methodist Church, High St, Maidenhead**

26 persons in attendance

**Apologies for Absence:** Ann Beauchamp, Brian Davies, Michael Gamage, Eileen Goford, Mark Harris, Jume Jorge, Mark Loader, Brian Madge, Martin McNamee, Jill Powell

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the 63<sup>rd</sup> AGM of the Society
2. **Approval of Minutes of the 62<sup>nd</sup> AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 via Zoom.** The minutes were approved as read. Proposed Brian Darracott, seconded Peter Child.
3. **Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023** The Society was in good health financially with a surplus of £1,546 and funds in hand of ca £13,000. The report was approved Proposed by Bob Dulson, seconded by Sue Ross.
4. **Chairman's Report of 2022/2023:** Taken as presented in the November 2023 edition of the Newsletter. In particular, it was noted that the Society is still campaigning to get public access to a car park on Battlemead Common, purchased as public open space by the Royal/Borough in 2019 and also the long-standing problem of flooding of the Green Way on the A4 underpass.
5. **Election of Officers:** Derek Wilson was re-elected chairman. Proposed by Bob Dulson, seconded by Tim Burt. Peter Child (Hon Treasurer) and Eileen Goford (Hon Sec) were prepared to stand again and were re-elected. Hon Sec proposed Jane Wright, seconded Peter Child; Treasurer proposed Derek seconded Joyce DelaSalle.
6. **Election of Members of the committee.** Roger Panton was not seeking re-election and was thanked for his work on the website. Bob Dulson and Joyce Delasalle offered themselves for re-election. They were proposed by Derek Wilson, seconded by Brian Darracott. There was one vacancy due to Roger's retirement. Lisa Curtin was willing to join the committee. Proposed by Brian Darracott, seconded by Joyce Delasalle.
7. **AOB** The Chairman asked members if they had any questions or wished to raise anything. Brian Ball queried the role of the Civic Society in planning now that we have Maidenhead Neighbourhood Forum. The chairman noted that the Society was formed in 1960 so has a long historical background to the development of Maidenhead and that he felt we still had a role to play. Ian Rose who sits on MNF outlined its role and noted that there are some things the Forum couldn't do. The chairman noted that he had sat on Cox Green Parish Council when it was first formed (in 1985) but it couldn't replace all the work on the Civic Society. It was pointed out that the Society's work on Ockwells Manor has been welcomed by Cox Green Parish Council. Richard Davenport said that the Society is able to comment on specific planning applications whilst MNF fills the gaps in the BLP. Tony Monk then lead a lengthy discussion relating to the safety aspects of high-rise buildings. Brian Darracott pointed out that the committee was aging and encouraged members to suggest younger people who would be interested to join the committee, especially those used to posting on social media. Finally, the chairman thanked members for attending.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

## CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2023-24

Our AGM is a time to reflect over the past year, and I must first thank all our Committee and Group members whose efforts make sure all our activities and events go smoothly.

### Planning

Every week the RBWM Planning List of New Applications is reviewed on line and significant applications are circulated to members of our Planning Group. Following feed-back a consensus is formed on applications of concern. Over the year we have commented and/or objected to around 25 proposals. In many cases our concerns are ignored, in some cases schemes are withdrawn or modified, and happily some are refused – although there is always the risk of appeal. There have been some successful objections – most notably against a variety of schemes to develop a residential block on the car parking lot to the south of Stafferton Way. Although permitted by RBWM Conservation Team, the proposals for change of use to a nursery/pre-school at the listed Bridgewater Lodge on Bridge Road have been refused. Significant schemes that have been granted permission are headed by the Spencers Farm development which has been allowed on appeal. However, there are several applications pending a decision, most significantly three residential blocks of between 6 and 8 storeys on West Street and a proposal for a 70-bed care home at Lawnfield House on Westmorland Road. There has been an increasing number of applications for permitted change of use from office blocks to residential units – ahead of RBWM introducing protection for such employment sites through Article 4 legislation, which is belatedly undergoing consultation and review.

### Projects

Thanks to a grant from the Louis Baylis Trust the work on the following projects was carried out this year:

- **The Millennium Walk:** Waymarks were purchased and erected to connect the Marlow link with the main Millennium Walk (Hurley to Maidenhead Riverside) route; see more on this later in this Newsletter.
- **The Green Way:** Missing or damaged waymarks have been replaced.
- **90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boundary Stones of the Borough of Maidenhead:** Ninety children doing the Family Friendly Boundary Walk, or the main one, were given a sixpence, and an explanation of what this coin was (see more later). Also “Lost” Boundary Stones have been uncovered or in the case of the stone built into a patio, re-sited. The search continues.

**Battlemead Common:** We have continued to monitor the state of Battlemead Common and the associated safety issues; see more on this later in this Newsletter.

**North Town Moor and Pond:** The *Make Space for Life* group continues to manage North Town Moor including the productive apple orchard they planted. In 2022 the pond somehow acquired sticklebacks that ate the small aquatic fauna. These fish when

caught have been relocated, and since July the pond has been clear of them, resulting in an increase in biodiversity: fingers crossed!

**Ockwells Manor:** As noted in the August Newsletter, this important house has now been sold having been on the open market since 2019. It is in the process of being restored and we were given a guided tour by the architects from Nick Cox Architects. The firm purchased two copies of *Ockwells Manor – a history of the house and its occupants* that the Society published last year, and many other copies were sold during the year.

## Membership

Figures for the 2023/24 year-end were:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Membership (Family, Honorary, Life, etc)	227	223	219	208	235	226	221
Total Members (Excl. Corp)	329	322	306	294	332	318	294
Life members (Headcount)	86	82	78	74	70	68	65
Honorary Members	17	14	18	17	18	20	20
Corporate	1	2	2	2	2	2	2

This year we were pleased to welcome: Simon Bond, Gordon Badnall & Andrea Doolan. However, we have lost a few members due to various reasons which is always sad as it is very difficult to replace them.

## Events

Although we have not managed to attend many shows this year we did attend a very successful Maidenhead Waterways Fun Day giving us the chance to speak to existing members and recruit new members. We have had some very well attended events. A visit to Dorney Court followed by a cream tea. This was a very interesting private tour as the house is only open for a few weekends in the summer. A visit to Burnham Abbey followed (which is now on the market to be sold). This was arranged rather quickly as we knew it was being sold and needed to visit before the sale. In June we had a lunch at Moor Hall and very interesting talk on the history of the BBC. This was a very entertaining talk enjoyed by 46 members.

If you have any ideas for places you would like to visit please let me know as it is always possible that other members would be interested.

Also if you have any friends or relatives that would be interested in joining or helping at any of our shows please contact me, Joyce Delasalle: 07917 876145; joyce.delasalle@btinternet.com.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT 2023-24**

The annual accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 are attached.

The main points from these accounts are as follows:

There is a surplus of income over expenditure this year of £171 compared with last year's surplus of £1,546. Once again, the generous donations and grants received this year have provided funds for another significant project, the Millenium Walk Signage, following the expenditure last year on the publication of the book on Ockwells Manor.

### Income

Income was £231 lower than last year. Subscriptions including gift aid declined by £290, reflecting a reduction of 20 members. However, a £114 surplus on all events (visits to St. Mark's Church, to Dorney Court and to Lillibrooke Manor) was achieved and sales of the Ockwells Manor book realised a surplus of £109. As of today, there are now only 40 copies of the book remaining in stock. If members would like to buy a copy or are thinking of a Christmas present, the books remain very good value. In addition, interest income climbed by £237 as interest rates began to provide a better return after years of being so low. Although donations and grants were £401 lower than last year, the funds are very significant in achieving the aims of the Society.

### Expenditure

Overall expenditure increased by £1,144 this year. "Project" expenditure has been £1,130 higher this year. The main item of expenditure has been on the Millennium Walk signage, fully funded by donations, at £2,247, compared with the costs incurred on the launch of the Ockwells Manor book last year. The signage expenditure comprised pointers, posts, markers and concrete. In addition, expenditure on the inaugural Design Award was £485. Expenditure on other projects was lower this year, last year having included a £250 contribution to the RBWM Christmas lights switch on reception. Otherwise, expenditure on recurring items was in line with last year, insurance being an exception, with an increase of £139, as premiums across the insurance world rose. In addition, hire of meeting rooms at £306 was a new but welcome expense, as the monthly meetings are now "in person" again. Come and join the meetings.

### Balance of Funds

The Society accounts show bank funds in hand of £12,260 compared to £10,021 in the previous year, an increase of £2,239. However, £1,244 of this increase arises from advance funds on the Moor Hall lunch and the Burnham Abbey visit, which both took place in the current financial year 2024/25. The balance of the increase in funds arises mainly from £1,065 book sales income. Society funds were £13,307 as at the year end. The current year has started satisfactorily.

*Peter Child*

**MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY - Charity No. 272102**  
**Annual Accounts for Year ended 31st May 2024**

<u>2022-2023</u>		<u>2023-2024</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
2,801	Donations/Grants/Bequests	2,400
0	Surplus on sales of Ockwells Manor book	109
0	Surplus on events	114
2,905	Subscriptions Received During Year	2,643
238	Interest On Charities Deposit Account	475
647	Tax Refunds On Gift Aid	619
<b>6,591</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,360</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
10	General Expenses, Printing, Postage, Etc.	216
0	Purchase of Blue Plaque Award	485
852	Jubilee Bench	0
1,293	Newsletter	1,302
0	Hire of meeting rooms	306
144	Zoom subscription for online meetings	144
100	Donations	150
444	Subscriptions	420
285	Insurance	414
17	Millenium Walk signage	2,247
	Ockwells Manor book publication, promotion and launch	60
1,160		
440	Other Projects (Net Costs)	145
300	Website	300
<b>5,045</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,189</b>
<b>1,546</b>	<b>SURPLUS of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>171</b>
11,590	Balance Brought Forward	13,136
<b>13,136</b>	<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>13,307</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
2,027	Bank (Lloyds TSB)	1,292
7,994	Charities Deposit General Fund (CCLA)	10,968
0	Moor Hall lunch & Burnham Abbey income received in advance	(1,244)
827	Subscriptions & Insurance Payments In Advance	883
(202)	Member subscriptions for 24/25 received in Advance	(122)
2,490	Stock of books of Ockwells Manor (note A below)	1,530
<b>13,136</b>	<b>BALANCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>£13,307</b>

**Note on the book on Ockwells Manor**

150 books printed at £30 each

As at 31 May 2024, 51 (2023: 83) Books in Stock at £30 each, cost

Note A £1530

**Peter Child - Hon. Treasurer - 16 October 2024**

**Planning Matters**

In our last Newsletter we referred to the proposals for flatted developments fronting West Street, to the rear of the now defunct Poundland unit at **88 to 90 High Street**, and to the rear of the old Post Office at **106 to 114 High Street**. These applications were for 52 and 57 units respectively.

The ongoing residential transformation of West Street is the most significant current planning concern, with four blocks currently completed or applied for. In 2019 the first six-storey residential block was permitted at **70 to 72 High Street** (next door to Marks and Spencer). This development – known as **Brunel House** – has recently been completed. It has a total of 26 dwelling units over 6 floors with no parking provision. You will by now probably be aware of how the building is constructed right up to the pavement edge, with no facility for drop off or delivery. Since permission for Brunel House was granted, a Tall Buildings SPD (Supplementary Planning Document) for the town centre has been adopted by RBWM. This recommends a maximum “conceptual height” of 5 storeys for West Street. It is therefore unfortunate that Brunel House has already exceeded that recommendation.

The previously referred to application for 106 to 114 High Street is for 7 storeys with 57 apartments and 49 parking spaces. This is an amended application originating in 2020, for 108 flats over 13 storeys. The date of the original (still undecided) application conveniently pre-dates the Tall Buildings SPD. The proposal for 88 to 90 High Street is 52 units with 19 spaces, this time up to an 8-storey height.

The situation has been compounded by the latest application for **74 to 82 High Street** for the construction of a 6-storey block to provide a total of 36 residential units with 18 parking spaces on the ground floor. This site is located next to Brunel House, so there would be a continuation of the established height of 6 storeys. With the ground floor given over to parking and other service facilities, there are 5 storeys of residential accommodation. There is a welcome move away from 1-bed flats (which are currently over-provided in Maidenhead), all dwelling units meet the minimum living space standards, and most have balconies and/or communal living space. However, the building is over-height and will contribute to the increased over-shadowing and loss of daylight in West Street. It should also be noted that the western boundary of this site forms the narrow pedestrian “cut-through” between West Street and High Street. This is likely to be out of action whilst construction is underway, and it is important that this link is retained and/or improved for continued future use.

There is likely to be further development of residential blocks along West Street and it is clear that the existing traffic arrangements should be reviewed. Currently, there are four new or proposed blocks with more than 170 flats in total. Although in the town centre, the provision of parking spaces will encourage many of these new residents to be car owners. This new residential traffic combined with existing shopper and delivery vehicles will overwhelm the current two-way cul-de-sac, especially with the pinch point to the rear of M&S. RBWM have failed to come up with a Traffic

Management Scheme for West Street – ahead of such developments – which could total around 500 flats. We believe that a one-way system will be required, probably running west to east. No further permissions should be granted until it is evident that the likely traffic issues have been identified and resolved.

We have previously commented on the marketing and sale at auction of open green space or amenity land with a view to potential planning permission. To date such applications have been unsuccessful. About a year ago, a triangular wooded plot between two residential closes in Maidenhead Court Park (Ashdown and Oakhurst) was bought at auction. This land formed part of the landscaping and setting of Maidenhead Court Park when it was developed around 60 years ago. Now an application for a single dwelling at **4 Oakhurst** has been submitted. The plot has no road frontage or access – with only the three angles of the triangle meeting the adjacent pavements. It is clearly open space with two footpaths connecting the two streets running alongside. It is protected by covenant from the original developer of Maidenhead Court Park and is intended for public access and enjoyment. The Highways team believe it forms part of the public highway. Details of the proposed dwelling are limited, but it appears unlikely to reflect the distinctive architectural style of the surrounding properties. It is to be hoped that such speculative applications do not prevail.

You will be aware that RBWM are in the process of establishing Article 4 protection for key employment sites and locations. Historically, there have been a number of Prior Approval applications for change of use from offices to residential units. Many sites in Cordwallis and Vanwall Business Parks are already residential. One such “Permitted Development” was for the change of use of three existing office blocks to residential – situated at what is now **Coopers Square**. Once the residential use had been established, the developer progressed to the 10-storey new build scheme that is nearing completion near Waitrose. Unfortunately, Article 4 protection will not come into effect until early 2025. Hence there is currently a flurry of applications for change of use from offices to residential.

Most noteworthy is **Eastgate** on Moorbridge Road – just east of Waitrose. This office block was only constructed in 2009 and is now proposed to be changed to 36 flats – primarily studios or one bedroom. Although, reasons for refusal are limited, in this case many dwellings are below the minimum living space standards. Therefore it is to be hoped that RBWM will insist on no substandard flats being included in the scheme. **Switchback Road Office Park** have also applied for change of use with six smaller blocks being converted into a total of 49 dwellings. **Vandervell House** on Vanwall Road will be made into 31 units, and **Nicholsons House** have applied for change of use to create 42 flats. Of course, the last named is dependent on the ultimate outcome regarding the proposals for the redevelopment of Nicholsons Centre. Despite rumour and speculation there is nothing to report on the progress of the scheme at the heart of the regeneration in Maidenhead. In the meantime, the town suffers from the loss of Broadway Car Park.



*The Eastgate office block, just to the east of Waitrose (from Google Maps)*

The decision on the application to demolish the Victorian villa known as **Lawnfield House** on the corner of Westmorland Road to create a 70-bed care home is awaited, but there are two refusal decisions to report. Firstly, the application to rebuild and extend **Freebody's Boatyard** on Boulters Island has not been permitted. It was felt that the new sheds encroached on the lock cut on the west of the site. We felt that the structures were too large for the site and could be better screened, but welcomed investment in river related activity. It is difficult to envisage a boatyard that doesn't go near the water! The second refusal relates to the application for change of use of **Bridgewater Lodge** to a pre/nursery school. This red-brick Georgian listed house sits on Bridge Road near the junction with Guards Club Road. It used to be part of the neighbouring Bridge Clinic. Although the Conservation/Heritage officers had no issues with the significant changes to the listed structure, the Development Panel refused the application because of the traffic disruption and noise generated by more than 30 staff and the parents of more than 100 children requiring access/drop-off/pick-up/parking facilities – all generating two way traffic on the only access route – the narrow Guards Club Road.

*Martin McNamee*

## Projects

## THE GREEN WAY

You may have noticed the new cycle path currently being put in alongside the Arena Court office block, near the “Waitrose roundabout”. We have been assured that, as part of the works, the electricity supply will be connected to the pump that removes water seeping onto the Green Way path under the A4. We shall see!

## BATTLEMEAD COMMON

**Access:** Last year we noted that this public open space still lacks a public car park and in the May Newsletter we illustrated the problem with photos of cars parked in front of the barrier to what the Royal Borough calls the “Service Area” and also on the verge near the entrance to Widbrook Common. This sign was seen recently at the entrance to the “Service Area”: evidently a negative comment from a member of the public!



**Traffic Safety:** There are still no signs warning motorists that walkers cross the Lower Cookham Road at two locations. The only warning signs on the road are those put up by Rotary during the Boundary Walk. The Royal Borough has put up a sign “Busy Road Ahead” near to the pedestrian crossing at the northwest corner – a crossing with poor sight-lines.



## WAYMARKING THE MARLOW LINK OF THE MILLENNIUM WALK

The Marlow Link runs from Marlow to Malters Lane to connect with the main route. Masterminded by committee member Tim Burt, waymarking was carried out this year with the help of Maureen Bell and Bridget Morris. We are grateful to Bucks County Council for permission to put up the waymarks in Marlow. With the help of the National Trust we will shortly be waymarking the route across Cookham Dean Common. In the meantime posters showing the route across have been put up.



*Putting up the waymark on one side of the road*



*And then on the other side.  
l-r: Maureen Bell, Bridget Morris and Tim Burt in action*

## OCKWELLS BOOKS NOW IN IRELAND!

Whilst visiting Anne and Peter Child at their home in Ireland in August, the opportunity was taken to revisit Mallow. This town has a Norreys connection and a mansion with replica Ockwells armorial glass (see MCS Newsletter Nov. 2019). Conor Nelligan of Cork County Council had very kindly arranged for a photo of the stained glass to be sent to me and this features in the Ockwells book. As a thank-you we donated two copies of the Ockwells book to Cork County Council.



*l-r Brian and Ann Darracott, Kevin Morey, Divisional Manager for North Cork, Cllr Liam Madden, Peter Child*

We hope the additional historical information will help them with obtaining grants for the restoration of the mansion and the preservation of the neighbouring castle.

## 2024 MAIDENHEAD BOUNDARY WALK

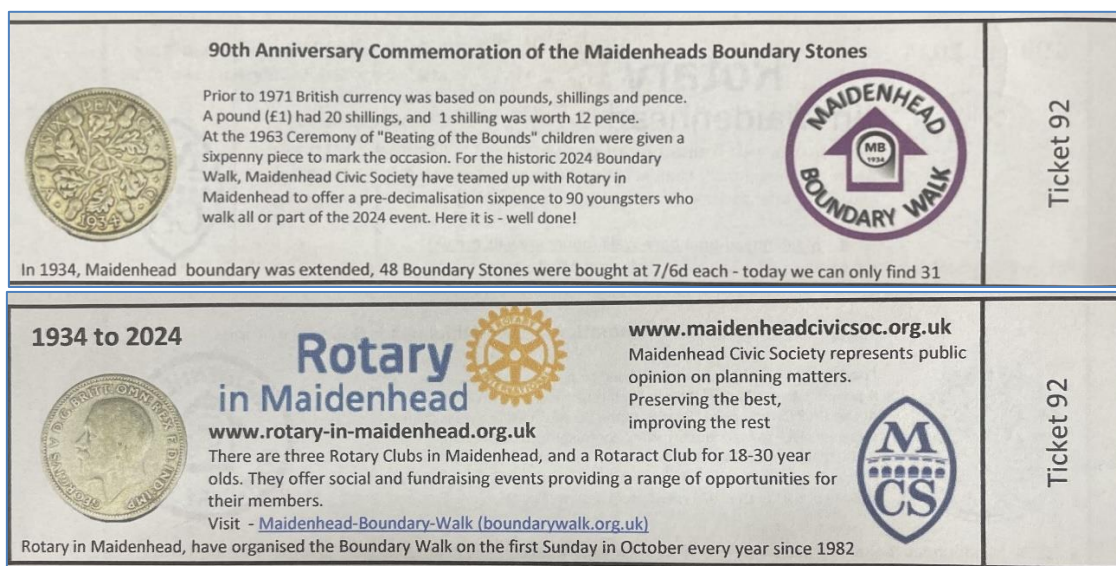
The 2024 Boundary Walk was a worthy celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the boundary stones being placed around Maidenhead. It raised £22,538 for over 58 charities, with 549 walkers participating.



*They're off! With our new MP Joshua Reynolds and Matthew Burdett President of Maidenhead Rotary at the start of the 2024 Boundary Walk*

The Civic Society was involved in two ways this year:

**Firstly** we gave children who participated in the 2024 Boundary Walk a little bag containing a certificate and also a sixpence, as was done in 1963. The certificate, designed by Eddie Piekut of Rotary Bridge, explained what a sixpence was, so giving the children a crash course in the coinage used before 1971 when we went metric. It also gave them a memento of the event.



*Front and back of the little certificate describing the sixpence piece*



*Youngsters from the Burdett family receiving the first two sixpences*

*Eddie Piekut and Lisa Hunter of Rotary Bridge, organisers of the 2024 Boundary Walk, with Matthew Burdett, President of Maidenhead Rotary*



**Secondly**, At the request of Rotary we provided stewards for the 2024 *Family Friendly Boundary Walk*. The aim of this walk was to allow families with younger children to participate in this event and 3 routes were on offer. The full route went around Ray Mill Island, south through the Taplow Riverside estate, under Maidenhead Bridge, and past the rowing club to go around the Sounding Arch, returning via Maidenhead Bridge to the starting point. Many thanks to Committee members Dennis Wilson, Tim Burt, Neil Savin and Lisa Curtin and members Vivianne Holland and Joan Francis for being stewards.



*Member Viviane Holland at  
the Taplow Riverside bridge*

*Chairman, Dennis Wilson  
“directing traffic” at  
Maidenhead Bridge*



*Committee member Lisa Curtin  
at the Rowing Club*



*Ann Darracott*

# Events

## CIVIC SOCIETY AGM

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.45pm for 8.00pm**

This year our Annual General Meeting will be on a **Tuesday**, rather than the regular Wednesday, but it'll be in the usual venue of the High Street Methodist Church. This has enabled us to secure a speaker who will address us prior to the business side of the meeting. Orla Gallagher, CEO of Housing Solutions will talk about '**Current challenges and opportunities in the social housing sector and for Housing Solutions**'. This is a topic that is of increasing importance and relevance to many families in Maidenhead and hopefully will shed light on many aspects of housing development policies.



Orla is an experienced Chief Executive with an unwavering commitment to achieve the best for people in Maidenhead. She joined Housing Solutions as Chief Executive in September 2016 with nearly 30 years of experience in the housing sector. Orla has a degree in Housing & Development, she is a qualified Chartered Surveyor with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, she is also a Chartered Member of the Institute of Housing, and an elected FRSA (fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts Manufacturing and Commerce). Prior to joining Housing Solutions she was the Chief Executive of Hounslow Homes, the Chief Transformation Officer at the LB of Hounslow, Chief Executive of CDS Co-operatives, and Managing Director at Genesis Housing Group. As well as running Housing Solutions Orla is also Trustee at Centrepont, the UK's largest youth homeless charity.

Orla has an acute understanding and foresight of the challenges and opportunities in housing and the wider community. Her passion is to ensure local people and especially vulnerable people benefit from a secure and safe place to live.

## St Luke's Christmas Tree Festival

The Society is again sponsoring a Christmas tree at this event. The chosen charity this year is Thames Valley Heartbeat. Apart from lots of trees to admire, there will be a raffle and refreshments. Do come along and bring your friends, especially if they aren't members. The church, on Norfolk Road, will be open on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 10am to 7pm, and on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> from 12 midday to 6pm followed by the Christmas Tree Service.

## RECENT EVENTS

52 members and their friends enjoyed a very entertaining evening of Jazz in September presented by Richard Kellaway and The Traditional Jazz Quartet/Quintet (aka the Fabulous Shirtlifters Tribute Band!) although we were lucky to have a sextet. The guests tucked into their picnics whilst enjoying an evening of music and dancing. Our thanks to Maidenhead Rowing Club and Richard in helping to make this a memorable evening.



## Membership Secretary

The Society is still looking for a new Membership Secretary.

The postholder plays a key part in managing annual subscriptions and maintaining the membership database. **Without this, the Society would have difficulty functioning properly.** It's an important job at the heart of the Society and would suit someone who obviously has an interest in what we do and is comfortable using a computer.

Our current membership secretary, Joyce Delasalle, will be on hand to share her knowledge and expertise in handling tasks like membership applications, payment reminders, and preparation of lists for the distribution of the quarterly Civic Society Newsletter.

Anyone interested and prepared to support the Society in this way should contact the Newsletter Editor – Brian Darracott – at [info@maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk](mailto:info@maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk) or on 07796 834542 in the first instance.

# Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
**AGM and Speaker**

Civic Society AGM  
High Street Methodist Church, 7.45 for 8pm

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
**Event**

**St Luke's Christmas Tree Festival**  
Fri & Sat 10am to 7pm; Sun 12 to 6pm

## CIVIC SOCIETY – KEY CONTACTS

Interim Chairman	Derek Wilson	01628 621176
Hon. Secretary	Eileen Goford	01628 638238
Hon. Treasurer	Peter Child	01628 632300
Planning Group	Martin McNamee	01628 623203
Projects	Ann Darracott	01628 620280
Newsletter & Website	Brian Darracott	01628 620280
Events		
Membership Sec.	Joyce Delasalle	01628 637342
Newsletter Distribution	Sue Ross	01628 626849

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2024

All meetings are now at the Cox Green Community Centre, 6.30pm until further notice.

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

The 64<sup>th</sup> AGM will be held on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November** 2024 at 7.45 for 8.00 pm.

**The closing date for copy for the next issue  
of the Newsletter is 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

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**News Editor**     **Brian Darracott**  
**editor@maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk; (01628 620280)**

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