

THE GREEN WAY – A HISTORY

- 1961 Civic Society campaigns to make York Stream in town centre an asset.
- 1973 Ramblers campaign for Maidenhead to Bray walk.
- 1976 Chapel Arches improvement scheme aimed at improving the appearance of York Stream area in the town centre proposed by Civic Society. Idea incorporated into town plan.
- 1976 York Road - Railway path created as planning gain, forming part of Maidenhead to Bray walk.
- 1980 Ramblers suggest linear park from Cookham through Maidenhead to Bray. Civic Society meet councillors to outline idea and win support. Peter Nevell of Ramblers leads walk of Green Way.
- 1981 Civic Society produces design for bridge across stream at Ray Mill Road West. Trees planted on the Moor and North Town Moor in 1981/82 season by Civic Society/Council Ramblers clear North Town Moor pond of reeds with Civic Society. Society wins Keep Berkshire Tidy Environmental Award.
- 1982 Civic Society attempts to get agreement for bridge at Ray Mill Road West and improvement of Stafferton Way to Green Lane footpath. Ramblers and Civic Society build island in middle of North Town Moor pond.
- 1983 Footpaths secured for linear park from Railway Arch to Stafferton Way and Stafferton Way to Green Lane as planning gains. Estate Committee promise to ensure strip of land available adjoining flood relief channel to accommodate footpath and footbridge near Ray Mill Road West.
- 1984 Civic Society organises open meeting to discuss the "Linear Park". Draft proposals included in Maidenhead local plan. Competition to find a new name. The "Green Way" suggested by Peter Nevell is selected. Civic Society/Council plant more trees on the Moor, including along the flood relief channel and at the Cookham end of North Town Moor. Thames Water dredge the stream north of Maidenhead plus Strand Water and the Widbrook. Ramblers identify need for new footpath to replace one to be extinguished on Hines Meadow.
- 1985 "Introducing the Green Way" leaflet published by the Civic Society with assistance of Ramblers and RSPB, funded by Borough Lottery and the Countryside Commission. The Green Way incorporated into the Maidenhead local plan. Walk of The Green Way organised in Environment Week 1986. Civic Society/Ramblers involved in studying proposals for future of Braywick where there is an old disused tip. Further work needed at North Town Moor pond because of clogging reeds. Civic Society organise dredging of silt and planting round edge.
- 1987 Stafferton Way - Green Lane footpath link put in planning gain when allotments relocated and industrial estate built. Restoration of North Town Moor pond wins Keep Berkshire Tidy Environmental Award and reaches final of national competition to celebrate European Year of the Environment. Civic Society details comments on Braywick Park Study suggesting further footpaths and a nature centre. Ramblers campaign to re-open Green Lane for public use. Chapel Arches to York Road link, plus footbridge, put in planning gain when old bus station and cinema sites redeveloped. Environment Week - Civic Society organise first ever Children's Environment Day on the Moor at Maidenhead.

- 1988 Railway arch - Stafferton Way link put in planning gain when small industrial estate developed. York Stream starts to dry in the town centre (and continues to do so every summer till 1992). Civic Society contacts the National Rivers Authority to find out why. Footpath granted from the Moor to the A4 as planning gain.
- 1989 Civic Society campaigns to get Green Way footpath incorporated into Crest Homes development south of Ray Mill Road West - now Fulbrook Close. Braywick Nature Centre opens. Extended Braywick Park has new footpaths including streamside walk and an improved Green Lane, funded by Council. Connecting bridge to cross to Bray not built. York Stream Action Group formed to resolve problem of lack of water in town centre of York Stream which causing ugly eyesore. Civic Society member of Group.
- 1990 Civic Society and Ramblers campaign to have footpath from A4 to Crown Lane to enable walkers to go under the A4. This path to replace one on Hines Meadow. Attempts to take the path further under Chapel Arches to link with the Green Way in the town centre fail. Windsor & Maidenhead Urban Wildlife Group produce a report on planting designed to improve the appearance of the banks of York Stream in the town centre. Action Group continues to campaign for a resolution of the water supply problem. Wildlife Group with help from Civic Society plant shrubs and other plants in the banks and in the stream margin. Environment Week includes walk of Green Way and first Children's Environment Day based at the new Braywick nature Centre, both organised by Civic Society.
- 1991 Urban Wildlife Group with help from Civic Society plant bulbs in town centre. Civic Society plants primroses and bluebells in and around dried up pond at north end of North Town Moor Footpath from A4 to Crown Lane put in. Ramblers and Civic Society campaign for Chapel Arches link.
- 1992 Groundwork Trust commissioned by the York Stream Action Group to produce a report "The York Stream Green Corridor - feasibility study" which details what needs to be done to complete and improve the walk. The Green Way Working Group set up to implement study; Civic Society, Ramblers and Urban Wildlife Group all members. Civic Society/Ramblers lead organisation for production of revised Green Way leaflet. Civic Society plants daffodils and bluebells under trees around North Town Moor pond and puts aquatic plants in pond margin (latter supplied by Urban Wildlife Group). Council undertake to finance engineering study of Chapel Arches link and include completion of Green Way as medium term goal (within four years). Civic Society organises open meeting "Disappearing York Stream" in Environment Week with experts from National Rivers Authority.
- 1993 Footpath link on the Moor put in plus improvement to footpaths in North Town Moor and on The Moor. Bridge put over stream at Ray Mill Road West. Community tree planting at North Town Moor organised by Groundwork Trust. Civic Society with Ramblers update Green Way map for revised leaflet to be published in May 1993. Programme of walks and talks about the Green Way organised for Environment Week by the Civic Society.

Ann Darracott
27/4/93

