



Maidenhead Civic Society NEWS

Issue 4/06

Oct 2006



Out of sight.....



Water at last

*Eyesores of Maidenhead
Revisited*



In this issue

AGM Agenda and Reports

Taplow Mill; Membership Survey

Regular features on talks, outings, the Heritage Centre,
Projects and Planning

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Given the report for the AGM further on in this Newsletter, it seemed appropriate to set out some thoughts that have been in my mind for some time and to begin this quarter's Message with a couple of questions: Where does the Society fit in the general pattern of the fabric of the democratic operation of the country in general and Maidenhead in particular? Why exactly are there thousands of societies like ours with volunteers exerting themselves in no small degree to get desirable things done to the advantage of society?

I believe that the answer is that otherwise there is no satisfactory mechanism which leads to detailed overall improvements in the quality of lives. No governmental action, national or local can hope to address the myriad of issues needed to ensure progress in harmony with people's wishes as opposed to purely central government wisdom. Our Society is not just 'a bolt-on goodie' but is an integral part of the framework of a successful democracy. Any one who doubts this only has to look at the Soviet Union as was, where the state purported to take care of everything!

So, why this portentous beginning? Simply because the account of the Society's doings that I give on later pages for the AGM may well give a seriously distorted view of the soundness of the Society based on what it has achieved. The results conceal how much depends on how few. We have two problems, not uncommon to many societies like ours. The general one that our membership is biased to the older age groups and the more particular one that the activities needed to achieve concrete results depend on the work of a very small proportion of these members. By tradition the members of the Executive Committee have come on board because they wished to achieve some result in the area of the Society's interests. The Society's Constitution provides a legal framework and the Committee provides guidance. What has become clear is that significant improvements are needed in our 'modus operandi'. Above all, we need to rebalance the age distribution of our membership and to attract and involve those from the younger age groups. This requires imaginative thinking and an accurate insight into the motivations of the younger age groups to be followed by programmes which appeal to their innate desire to help make life better-to appeal to the enthusiasm of youth, if you like.

The Executive Committee has already started making moves to meet these objectives. We have moved to a focussed group structure covering specific areas where we wish to achieve results. These groups are not composed solely of Executive Committee members but also include individuals co-opted for skills and knowledge that are needed for the task in hand. One of the tasks that will be assigned to a group is to put forward and carry out actions needed to attack the membership problem set out above.

The present Constitution has to be revised anyway to meet the guidance from the new Charities Commission but we also see this as the time to restructure the Society organisation to meet the legal requirements and to provide the needed revised organisation. Put simply we will propose a two-tier structure. One tier will consist of the focussed groups and the other upper tier the officers and other elected members, called Trustees, who will, *inter alia*, look to the long-term aims of the Society and review the progress of the focussed groups to achieving them. If all this sounds terribly formal that is inevitable in setting out organisational arrangements. However, in the end it has to always be remembered that it is people who make it work, who achieve the results and who, in our case, are all volunteers.

At a later date and after due discussion we will be putting this all to a formal meeting of the membership. Wish us luck!

John McIntosh

TALKS

WEDNESDAY 15th November 2006 – 8 p.m.

“THE JUBILEE RIVER – TWO YEARS ON ”

A talk by James Gibson and Graham Barton
Thames Asset Systems Management Team, Environment Agency

This is a follow-up to the talk given by the EA two years ago.

OUTINGS

On the 30th September we had a busy day visiting three different locations in London. Firstly we went to Marble Hill House in Twickenham situated on the banks of the Thames. This is a beautiful Georgian house full of period paintings and furniture. It also ran a very informative video to help us understand the history. From Twickenham we moved to Chiswick to see the Palladian villa built for Lord Burlington. Again, it was filled with a display of Old Masters and lovely period furniture. It also had a large collection of statues and sculptures both inside and in the delightful grounds. Here we were able to take lunch in the café, which is a popular meeting spot for dog walkers. Our third visit of the day was to the BBC Television Centre in White City. Here we were split into two groups for a very enthusiastic guided tour, which lasted two hours. We saw the studio from where the weather forecast is broadcast and the Strictly Come Dancing set along with many other interesting areas used for different programmes. We arrived back in Maidenhead quite late, but much wiser from what we had seen.

Our next visit will be on January 27th 2007 to Brooklands in Surrey which is home to the birthplace of British motorsport and aviation. We will visit the museum and see the famous wooden racetrack as well as having the opportunity to board Concorde.

Two more dates for your diary are the re-scheduled reception at Hall Place, Burchetts Green, on Friday 23rd March 2007, which will be on a first come basis by the enclosed form with preference given to those who bring along a prospective new member. We hope to attract some local politicians and other representatives who have influence on our town and its environment.

Secondly we are organising a boat trip from Caversham to Mapledurham on April 29th 2007. There will be some commentary and a chance to visit the house and take tea if you wish. The application form for this will be in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Mike Copeland

**46th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY**

**To be held on Wednesday, 15th November 2006
at the Methodist Church Hall at 8.00 pm.**

AGENDA

1. Introduction by the President
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting.
3. Accounts for the year ended 31st May 2006
4. Reports for 2005/2006
5. Election Of Officers Nominations
 - (a) President R. Poad
 - (b) Vice Presidents M. Bayley, H. James, J. McIntosh
 - (c) Patron The Mayor
 - (d) Chairman J. McIntosh
 - (e) Vice Chairman Vacant
 - (f) Hon. Secretary Vacant
 - (g) Hon. Asst. Secretary Mrs G. Moore
 - (h) Hon. Treasurer T. Farnfield
 - (i) Chairman, Planning Group N. Cockburn
 - (j) Hon. Membership Secretary Mrs S. Dare
 - (k) Trustees Mrs A. Child, H. James, R. Poad

6. Election Of Committee

The Committee consists of the officers plus not more than 18 members. The present committee is:

Elected 2003	Elected 2004	Elected 2005
Mr Michael Copeland	Mrs Ann Darracott	Dr Daphne Line
Mrs Lydia Parker	Mr Gerald Ashton	Mr Bob Dulson
Mrs Angela Howorth	Mrs June Jorge	Mrs Tina Sell
	Mrs Lilia Baillie-Hamilton	

There are a total of 8 vacancies to be filled.

Mrs Angela Howorth, Mrs Lydia Parker and Mr Michael Copeland offer themselves for re-election.

7. Any other Business.

**MINUTES OF THE
45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY**

Held on Wednesday, 16th November 2005

In the absence of the President, Mr Harold James chaired the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Harold James, Mike Copeland, Gerald Ashton, and Sheila Holmes.

1. Harold James, who chaired the meeting, passed on the following message from our President, Richard Poad who sent his best wishes to all the members present and said that he had noted the Society's high profile and the launch of the Great Debate, and wished the Society all success in the coming year. He further reminded members of the planned visit to Bad Godesberg which was always a good trip, and this was emphasised by Harold James, who had done the trip twice in the past. There are still six places to fill.

Harold James went on to say that the Society had had a largely successful year although we had not always been able to persuade various authorities, such as the Environment Agency to heed us. Among other problems there are still difficulties in completing an authorised route for the Millennium Walk. All that has been achieved has been the work of an enthusiastic team and thanks are due to all of them.

Most of the information on the Society's activities is contained in the Chairman's report (see October Newsletter.) The Executive Committee, according to the Constitution, is smaller than its maximum, and more active members would be welcome. For those who want to become involved the Committee has the power of co-option. Both Chairman and Vice Chairman posts are vacant and there is a need particularly for someone to take over from John McIntosh. In the Society, the Planning Group is key. Given the pressure of building houses at the behest of central government, there have been masses of applications by developers and the Planning Group has done its best to comment on these. In addition it has been deeply involved in the Crossrail proposals and in setting up and contributing to the Great Debate. All this has been initiated by the Strategic Review of Amenity published in July 2004. The Society has also highlighted various 'eyesores' around the town and has pressed to have them remedied.

Outings have been successful and have contributed financially to the Society's funds. Talks have gone well but there is a need for bigger audiences.

The Society dedicated a Memorial Seat, in Belrope Meadows, Cookham, to Bob and Ivy Sandys who served the Society for many years, particularly in organising the Outings for no less than 16 years.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting held on the 17th November 2004 were proposed by Michael Bayley and seconded by Daphne Line.

3. **Accounts**

The detailed Annual Accounts are set down in the October Newsletter, together with Treasurer's Report which gives further details on specific points. The Treasurer stated that the accounts are in good health and funds are available for projects

Adoption of the Accounts was proposed by Harold James and seconded by Gerald Ashton

4. Reports

The full reports of the Society's activities are tabled in the October Newsletter and taken as read. The Chairman then invited questions on them.

Ann Darracott then gave an update on the York Stream. She pointed out that the Environment Agency has sought to have the work deleted on the Maidenhead Ditch which they undertook as part of the application for the creation of the flood relief channel. The Council's Planning Department had stated that the Environment Agency were still studying the problem. Ann Darracott further commented on the geophysical work being carried out to evaluate the layout of Bisham Abbey. So far this indicated that the site towers may have been found.

Val Mason commented on the Maidenhead Ditch situation and said that the boreholes were being made along the Ditch to check ground water levels and there are experts working on it. The meeting registered its strong objection to the deleting of the clause directed at improving the flow of water in the Maidenhead Ditch.

5. Election of Officers

Richard Poad was proposed as President by Ann Darracott and seconded by Gerald Ashton. John McIntosh was proposed as Chairman by Harold James for the coming year and this was seconded by Michael Bayley. There were no nominations for Vice Chairman. The following officers were elected en bloc as follows:

Chairman	John McIntosh
Hon. Secretary	June Churchman
Asst. Secretary	Gillian Moore
Hon. Treasurer	Trevor Farnfield
Hon. Membership Secretary	Shashi Dare
Chairman, Planning Group	Nigel Cockburn
Trustees	Ann Child, Harold James, Richard Poad

Proposed by Ann Darracott and seconded by Gerald Ashton.

6. Election of Committee

Daphne Line offers herself for re-election as do Bob Dulson and Tina Sell who had been co-opted to the Committee during the year. All three were formally elected to the Committee. Proposed by Sheila Holmes and seconded by Gillian Moore.

7. Any other Business

There was a brief discussion about the need to encourage more people to attend the Talks. Georgina Mates pointed out that it was difficult to achieve adequate publicity for them. In response, Harold James suggested making the announcements in the Newsletter more prominent and, further, that a letter be sent with the next Newsletter encouraging members to attend the Talks.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Society, as viewed in the light of its results and achievements, has had a good year. Summarising the most prominent of these they include our contributions to the Local Development Planning Framework exercise. This sets out proposals for the development of the town over the next twenty years. **Nigel Cockburn** has managed our input to this and has himself made an incisive contribution all with apparently effective results. There was also the 'Great Debate' which was rounded off with a highly successful public meeting in which **Bob Dulson's** liaison with the Advertiser was most valuable. The Society also appeared in front of the Parliamentary Select Committee to pursue our petition on the Crossrail Bill where there also seems to have been a positive outcome to some extent. On a lighter note there was also a very successful visit, arranged by our President **Richard Poad**, to our German counterparts at Bad Godesberg (see Bob Dulson's write up in the July Newsletter).

If these constitute some highlights, there is still a lot of satisfactory if less obvious success to note. One long running problem has been the lack of a reliable water supply in the York Stream. Thanks to **Ann Darracott's** sterling and persistent endeavour the Environment Agency at long last has carried out some of the necessary dredging and clearing of the White Brook. The result has been a steady if slow-flowing supply of water in the town centre section despite a hot and fairly dry summer. It just shows what can be done if you try! In this area of the Society's interests and endeavours the Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group has come into existence as a result of an initiative by Peter Prior. The Society strongly supports their endeavours and is represented on their controlling committee by **Michael Johnson**.

The Society, represented by **Tina Sell, Nigel Cockburn, Bob Dulson and John McIntosh**, appeared before the Select Committee at the House of Commons to represent the Society's Petition on the Crossrail Bill. This issue is quiescent for the moment, but there is reason to believe that there has been a satisfactory resolution to the use of Guards Club Park, the gantries on the Brunel bridge plus a contribution to the creation of a transport hub at the station. The key issue on which they have still to rule is whether they agree that the western terminus should be at Reading rather than Maidenhead. In these activities **Tina Sell** has provided a solid basis of fact and research and continues her meticulous review of information on the various activities involved coupled with personal contacts.

The Planning Group has continued as ever at the core of the Society's work. With the Council's moratorium on planning applications the flood of these has slowed to a trickle. This has allowed the Group under the practised chairmanship of **Nigel Cockburn** to give more time to other planning related issues, as you will read further on in the Reports from the Planning Group, and Publicity & Public Relations.

Quarterly meetings with the Council and its officers have continued but although the exchanges have been interesting and informative we have yet to feel that our input is having as much effect as we would wish. As commented in last year's AGM report it takes time to turn the supertanker!

Most of the 'eyesores' are still with us but there has been major progress in eliminating Cresset Towers from the list. Under Council enforcement action the owners have been carrying out a long awaited programme of improvement. Its satisfactory completion should significantly upgrade the appearance of a prominent landmark in the High Street. Improvement of another eyesore - the old 'never was' cinema - site has been stymied for the moment but contacts with the company which has purchased the site are encouraging. It is to be hoped that successful action to deal with these 'eyesores' will not have gone unnoticed!

Ann Darracott's unremitting work under Projects has continued. Apart from her success on the York Stream there has been intricate and delicate interventions to bring to a satisfactory conclusion the full and final definition and acceptance by all concerned of the route of the Millennium Path. The complications in considerable degree arise from the multiplicity of the bodies involved. **Ann's** sphere of project activity has now extended to take in archaeological investigations of the history of Bisham Abbey.

With the appointment last year of **Bob Dulson** as **Publicity Coordinator** the Society has seen its activities, where appropriate, receive their due in the press and on local radio. But we have all also begun to learn the discipline of public relations between organisations and people. It has driven home the need to base publicity and its offshoots on sound results. This in turn has re-emphasised the need for an improved organisation and a better way of working. Hence the changes indicated below.

It has been becoming increasingly clear over the past few years that the present operational structure of the Society would have to be modified. During the past year there has been a move to setting up focussed groups, each dealing with a raft of specific and related problems. Thus an Events Group has been formed under the chairmanship of **Tina Sell** and including as members **Mike Copeland, June Jorge** and **Shashi Dare**. The purpose of the group is to set up a coherent programme of events including talks, outings and social activities, which will engage the members and stimulate interest in the Society's work and achievements. These events would include possibly four talks, whose topics would be of local or national interest; four outings; and a number of social occasions such as a Summer Party, a riverboat trip or an Annual Ball. It is hoped that there will be a social event each year, where a timetabled list of events can be given a formal launch. A **Communications Group** has similarly been set up under the chairmanship of **Bob Dulson** to address all aspects of the Society's internal and external communications. This group has as members **Nigel Cockburn, Brian Darracott, Tim Goldingham** and **John McIntosh**. Brian is, of course Newsletter Editor, and Tim is Webmaster. This Group's priorities are PR and perception, and its aim through a strategy of coordinated (hence my involvement) and disciplined PR & communications is to retain the high ground for the Society while broadening its constituency. Its agenda includes communications with members, the public, the local authority, the media and opinions formers – and we are open to new ideas. The new Communications Group also has 'improving the effectiveness of the website' on its agenda which basically needs more and better input. There is a possibility that further groups will be created when there is a specific need. For example **Ann Darracott** runs **Projects** but at present she does this on her own. One of the benefits of using these new structures is that they can feel free to call on any member to bring in skills needed for whatever task there is in hand without the need to have them commit themselves to membership of the Executive Committee. This arrangement offers a much needed flexibility and access to new blood.

It is also now necessary to revisit the way we set our strategy, oversee our performance and meet our legal responsibilities as a charity. It is not appropriate to expand on this in this report as the proposed structure is still being considered by the Executive Committee. The final complete organisational structure will also enable us to meet the guidelines from the Charities Commission and in its final form will be put for approval to a special meeting of the Society membership.

Although in reporting these activities some names have been highlighted there are a lot of others who contribute to the Society's endeavours. It would be invidious not to mention those too. In the planning group thanks go to **Nigel Cockburn** for his quiet and effective chairmanship coupled with many incisive initiatives. Also to **John Ashford** and **Janice Waterman** (formerly Crewe) for their scrutiny and selection of the planning applications for consideration by the group not to mention their grasp of the intricacies of planning matters and procedures. Thanks go also to the other group members viz **Rudi Sheldon, Bob Dulson, Bridget King, Jill Powell, Michael Johnson, Michael Bayley** and the latest addition **Tina Sell**. There has been a successful Outings programme

masterminded by **Mike Copeland** who is to be thanked for his organisational abilities and for finding a succession of interesting locations to visit. An interesting series of talks has been provided and thanks go to **Shashi Dare** for a double effort along with her duties as Membership Secretary. **Brian Darracott** has continued to produce a quality Newsletter and has also used his skills in technical matters to help the Society for which many thanks, while **Tim Goldingham** is to be thanked for his continuing effective management of our website. The Newsletter continues as our main means of communication and its regular and efficient distribution are due to **Carol Innes** and her team of **Distributors**. The Society showed their appreciation of their efforts with a lunch in December last. Our thanks are due for their continuing and invaluable work. Throughout the year we have had the steady and reliable commitment of **Trevor Farnfield** as **Hon. Treasurer**, **June Churchman** as **Hon. Secretary** and **Gillian Moore** as **Minutes Secretary**. These have provided the basic support needed by the Society. It is therefore a matter of regret that **June** will be standing down from the Hon Secretary's post shortly. I would like to thank her for all the quiet endeavours with which she has helped the Society. Her organisational skills have been much valued. We urgently need to identify a successor.

Lastly a comment is needed on another consequence of the onward march of new technology viz. the web and particularly e-mail. The Society has much to gain from use of this latter method of transmitting information. Not least it allows quick and easy contact with its members but also it saves time and money in passing information to and between Executive members and other organisations. Telephones are still useful but e-mail allows a message to be sent in recorded form to a virtually unlimited number of people in a single action. Clearly, discretion is needed in its use or we would all be swamped. Recently the Society has been trying to take advantage of this service and has been asking for members e-mail addresses. Some have responded but we are aware that quite a number do not use e-mail. The point of this note is not to pressurise members into e-mail but perhaps to encourage them to have a go!

OUTINGS REVIEW

During this year we have visited Bristol to see the British and Empire Museum and SS Great Britain, both of which we really enjoyed and can understand why the SS Great Britain was awarded the museum of the year award. Secondly in June we went to Sussex to see Herstmonceux Castle and Hammerwood where we had one of the most unusual and entertaining guided tours that you could imagine. We also had a talk and visit to Bisham Abbey organised by Ann Darracott in July, which was well attended. Finally, at the end of September, we went to Marble Hill House in Twickenham then Chiswick House and, as a contrast in the afternoon, to the BBC Television Centre at White City: a long but interesting day.

We have visits already planned to Brooklands in January, a reception at Hall Place in March and a boat trip to Mapledurham in April from Caversham. Please support these outings and take the opportunity to bring along a friend who could be a prospective new member. We guarantee a great day out!

PLANNING GROUP REVIEW

A highlight of the year was the Society's appearance before the House of Commons Select Committee scrutinizing the Crossrail Bill. As explained to the Select Committee, we are not against Crossrail coming to Maidenhead, it could bring benefits; we would just prefer it to carry on to Reading. We do not understand why Maidenhead has been chosen as the Western terminus. Whether or not this is the case, provision needs to be made to accommodate the consequences and investment made in the necessary infrastructure. A full report of the case we presented to the Committee is carried elsewhere in this Newsletter and we were pleased to hear that Crossrail may

have conceded on four important areas of our concern - they will not use Guards Club Park for storage; at our suggestion will use barges on the river to transport their materials; they will review the use of gantries on Brunel's listed railway bridge, and a contribution will be made to providing additional car parking at the railway station.

During the year we have also met with Cllr Vicky Howes and her officers on a quarterly basis. On the Local Development Framework we are still waiting to see the Council's final proposed Core Strategy document which was due to be published in September and their preferred options on Housing and Employment and Major Site Allocations Development Plan Document. The Council declined our offer to discuss their final Core Strategy before finalising it, so we hope the Inspector who has to approve the final Core Strategy will, if necessary, be more receptive to our comments. In order to assist the Council produce a Development Brief for the York Road /Civic Area we have employed Andrew Plumridge, a professional architect and town planner to help us produce a proposal for the type of development the Civic Society would like to see in this part of the town.

Cllr Simon Werner has taken on specific responsibility for the town centre and we are encouraged from an initial meeting with him that he would like to work more in partnership with the Society. While so far there has been no progress with the Old Cinema site, work is now being done on Cressett Towers as a result of the Council at last taking some enforcement action, following our encouragement. We should also like the Council to adopt a more effective policy for improving the appearance of shop fronts in the High Street.

The flow of water in the York Stream seems to have improved but the state of the stream remains a disgrace when it could be such an asset for the town. Maidenhead Waterways Restoration Group, which the Society supports, continues to make progress and is addressing the large number of technical issues involved in making a navigable waterway through the town.

Finally I should like to thank all the members of the planning Group for their hard work and support throughout the year.

PROJECTS REVIEW

GREEN WAY/YORK STREAM

Town centre

During the year both Harold James and myself attended meetings of the Green Way Working Group chaired by Anthony Hurst, Principal Rights of Way Officer. The group includes other RBWM officers, the amenity societies and the Environment Agency. Lack of water in York Stream features regularly in the discussions of this group, indeed it was one of the reasons for the creation of the group in 1989. As noted in last year's AGM report, in 2005 flow retreated to the hippo near North Town Moor whereas this year it didn't retreat despite it being the hottest July and hottest September since records began in the 17th Century, not to mention hosepipe bans etc in place to conserve water. Flow reduced to a trickle at the end of July but it was still moving. For those of you, including some Council officers, who don't understand this, let me explain: the reason the stream now has water in the town centre is because beginning in autumn 2003 the Environment Agency have every year, including 2006, **removed silt and reeds from the White Brook.**

In order to clarify what has happened in the past with regard to this watercourse, a review of Council records was undertaken and published in January 2006. The review also included earlier church records, maps dating back to 1761 and other records. Those interested in this topic can download the review from the Society website (see under projects). It is quite clear that at least since 1838 regular removal of fallen trees, silt and reeds has been necessary to keep the stream flowing.

Maidenhead Ditch

A related matter is the application made by the EA in February to delete work on Maidenhead Ditch planned as part of the flood alleviation scheme. This application has still not been resolved as the Royal Borough apparently needs more information. I would have thought work on the Ditch was necessary given that the Jubilee River is never going to carry the flood capacity it was designed to and that the flood bund north of Maidenhead helps increase flooding at Cookham. We will have to wait and see what happens but as I have said many times, clearing the Ditch will also help increase flow into the town centre.

MILLENNIUM WALK

This year we tried to find out more about the new scheme for paying farmers for environmental improvements, improvements that include “permissive access” i.e. if the project fulfils certain criteria, farmers can be paid for the creation and maintenance of permitted paths. We thought this scheme would facilitate the completion of the Millennium Walk so we contacted DEFRA. With the help of our MP, Theresa May, we now have this information and, on the advice of Barry Gardiner MP, Minister for Biodiversity, Landscape and Rural Affairs, have contacted the local Rural Payments Service in Reading and hope to discuss our project with them soon. The scheme has had teething troubles but we are hopeful that this is the way forward.

Lower Cookham Road to Towpath

A major achievement this year was having this missing link walked on Sunday 8th October during the 2006 Boundary Walk, organised by Maidenhead Rotary Club.

VALLEY GARDENS

During the year the Society cooperated with the Valley Gardens Action Group and the Windsor & Eton Society in a successful attempt to make the Crown Estates withdraw their plan to fence Valley Gardens and charge an entrance fee. Over 20 000 signatures were collected and were delivered to the Queen. This means that people will still have free entry to the gardens. The VGAG website was critical to the success of the campaign facilitating protest and contact with decision makers. It provided lessons in how such campaigns should be run.

OCKWELLS PROJECT

The Wenlock Jug During the year the Society contributed to a fund to keep this jug in the country (Sir John Wenlock whose armorial achievement occurs at Ockwells Manor is one of the potential owners of the Jug). We attended the reception to launch an exhibition featuring the Jug at Luton Museum in May.

Ockwells Research took a back seat to Bisham Abbey this year. A talk on Bisham’s history was held in the Abbey in July and I am in the process of writing part of this up as it is of interest to Exeter Cathedral and the church at Ottery St Mary (Devon) among other ecclesiastical establishments.

Bisham Priory Church

We provided a small amount of funding to facilitate a geophysical survey to try to find the foundations of the Priory Church (demolished in the from time of Henry VIII). A report on the initial survey written by Dr Jill Evers of Chiltern Archaeology is now available. This survey, undertaken by volunteers from Marlow Archaeology Society, aimed to see if any foundations were detectable in the area of the tennis courts the surface of which had recently been removed. Unfortunately, the rubble left behind when the macadam was removed made the resistivity readings unclear. We are still attempting to find out what is to happen about the results of second survey that used ground probing radar, the results of which seem to indicate the existence of twin foundations that could be the base of the twin towers that were most likely at the west end of the priory church (for a 15th Century drawing of the church see Newsletter July 2005).

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

A remarkable year got off to a high profile start with the *Great Debate*. This was a Civic Society initiative, following our Strategic Review, aimed at raising public awareness of the Local Development Framework – and the Society’s profile. Held under the auspices of the Maidenhead Advertiser and in association with the Chamber of Commerce, the Debate ran for six weeks. The comments it drew, together with the results of a readers’ questionnaire, which we devised to round it off, sent some strong messages to the Town Hall. The concluding public meeting at the end of February, attended by the RBWM Cabinet Member for Planning and Planning Executives, was a sell-out.

The Society benefited from some good publicity related to its decision formally to petition against elements of the Crossrail Bill. Liaisons with the local authority and our local MP strengthened our case and resulted in wide media coverage. On other matters, letters to the press and comments to the media on a range of planning issues and projects meant that for many months of the year hardly a week went by without the Society getting media attention.

Latterly, the Society has been liaising with residents and interested bodies over the sale of the St Regis Taplow Mill site which includes Skindles. Our aim here, without treading on our Taplow neighbours’ toes, is to impress the local authorities and the new owners with a consensus view of what local people think is best for this 48-acre prime riverside site.

TREASURERS REPORT

During the last few years a concerted effort has been made to strengthen the financial position of the Society such that a foundation is made to allow further and potentially larger projects to be undertaken to lift the profile of the Society. The last financial year has seen this position improve further such that the Committee are now able to sanction expenditure on a number of projects this year. These will be announced in due course. The Annual Accounts follow this report and I would like to highlight or explain the following points.

- Good profits have been made on most outings thanks to a generally high take up of coach seats.
- The tax refunds noted under 2005/2006 relate to Gift Aid donations for membership subscriptions in 2004/2005.
- During 2005/2006 no payments were made to the Civic Trust for insurance. However, these have now been paid.
- Expenditure on the Ockwells Project during the year has been largely self-funding.
- A generous donation of £500 was received from a member. The Committee will be discussing with the member concerned how this will be spent.
- The Society has made donations to the National Trust, the Woodland Trust and the Urban Wildlife Group in recognition of assistance received during the year.

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

Annual Accounts for Year ended 31st May 2006

2004/2005

2005/2006

INCOME

350	Donations/Grants	500
2 555	Subscriptions Received During Year	2685
717	Interest On Bank And Other Deposits	536
991	Surplus/Loss On Outings And Social Events	1293
902	Tax Refunds On Deeds Of Covenants / Gift Aid	981
£5 515	Total	£5,995

EXPENDITURE

Administration		
2 757	General Expenses, Printing, Postage, Etc.	2,246
597	Hire Of Rooms And Meeting Expenses	446
364	Subscriptions	220
230	Insurance	0
Donations		
500	Various	300
Other Expenses		
686	Ockwells And Associated Projects (Net Costs)	110
273	Millennium Walk. (Net Costs)	132
51	Various Other Small Projects	0
142	Website	50
685	Presentations/Memorials	38
£6 285	Total	£3,542

-770	EXCESS/DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	2,453
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13 984	Balance Brought Forward	13 214
£13 214	Balance Carried Forward	£15 667

FUNDS

828	Bank (Lloyds TSB) and Cash	1 778
13 355	Charities Deposit General Fund (COIF)	13 889
314	Debtor/Insurance Payments In Advance	0
(1 283)	Creditors/Commitments	0
£13 214	BALANCE OF FUNDS	£15 667

Trevor Farnfield - Hon. Treasurer

14-Jun-06

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

A warm welcome to new members Fergus and Charlotte Bain, C C Combe, Peter & Eileen Goford, Mr Rajan & Mrs Renu Gujral, Phoebe Hawkins, Mrs J O Norman, Ms Nina Thomas; and New Life members - Graham & Phillippa Fisher. There has been yet again a decrease in the number of Entities (Household members, Honorary and Corporate) from 297 (last year) to 289. Currently there are 5 Corporate members, 66 Life member entities which equate to 93 actual Life members, and 21 Honorary members.

Maidenhead Civic Society needs more active members to move the good work of the Society forward and therefore we look to you as current members to help introduce more people to the Society, as one of the ways of introducing new members. Consequently, a membership form has been sent all Maidenhead Civic Society member households so that if a friend and/or relative are interested in participating, you have a form to hand to pass on to the individual/s. You can speak to any Executive member, or contact me on 01628 629976 for more forms and there is always the website where the information can be downloaded.

Thank you to Carol Innes our “Chief of Distributors” for the Civic Society Magazine and her supporter distributors who volunteer their time to such a valuable cause. Please note that any queries regarding non-receipt of the Newsletter should be directed to Carol on 01628 532418, and who will be pleased to help.

EYESORES OF MAIDENHEAD – REVISITED

In his annual review of activities, Chairman John McIntosh yet again makes reference to the now infamous “Eyesores” of Maidenhead, though this time alludes to some progress in removing these blots on the landscape. Readers will recall that we featured these Eyesores in the July issue of 2004, highlighting seven for particular mention. By the time of last year’s AGM Newsletter issue in November 2005, **only one had been put right** – the Boy and Boat statue. The present front cover shows the same eyesores today. As can be seen, some progress has been made, but there is a long way to go!

Editor

PROJECTS

MILLENNIUM WALK

Lower Cookham Road to Towpath

A major achievement this year was having this missing link walked on Sunday 8th October during the 2006 Boundary Walk, organised by Maidenhead Rotary Club. With the help of Ron Walker of the Rotary Club and our MP Theresa May we were able to obtain permission from the landowners for walkers to cross to the towpath. We would like to thank Mr John Edwards, owner of White Place Farm, and the Environment Agency for facilitating a very attractive addition to the Boundary Walk that was well used on the day. The route was cleared the weekend before by members of the Civic Society, the East Berks Ramblers, St Luke's Youth Group and Windsor & Maidenhead Urban Wildlife Group. Ground staff of Stiefel Laboratories had cleared the route across the EA land. Members of the Society executive acted as marshals for the new link. We are very grateful to all concerned.



Society Committee member Lilia Baillie-Hamilton acted as a marshal at the busy crossing of the Lower Cookham Road, helping our walkers to cross to the newly created path.

Society members walking the newly cleared path alongside White Place Farm.



PLANNING DIGEST

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

During the last three months the Planning group reviewed 25 applications in detail and commented to the Council on 13 of them. Comments on some of the more significant applications were as follows:

110-114 High Street, behind the Post Office (Demolition of modern extension and erection of 14 one and two bedroom flats)

We welcome the development of housing in the Town Centre and the archaeological investigation on this site. However, the development should incorporate some social housing or affordable homes to meet local needs. We also object to the proposed density of this development which at 130 dwellings per hectare greatly exceeds the government's guidelines of 40 to 75 dph for this type of location. This would be an over-development of the site.

89 High Street (New Doors and Coat Window Frame; New Shop Front Fascia and Projecting Sign)

The fascia and signage are discordant with the Conservation Area. There should be a policy for the High Street shop fronts that ensures there is consistent colour coordination along the High Street. We are also left wondering why there is no application for a change of use of the property from a restaurant to a Bet Fred. We also object to the proposed site opening hours of 9am to 10pm daily and 10am to 6pm on Sundays which are in excess of other businesses in Maidenhead Town Centre.

21 Marlow Road (Extension of existing office by rebuilding second floor, adding a third floor and a mezzanine floor)

We object to the proposed fifth storey in this location, as there would be a disproportionate increase in height compared to neighbouring properties. The building itself would also be out of proportion being too high for its width. This is an important gateway location for the town and the site can be seen from the by pass and Kidwell's Park as well as from Marlow Road. With five storeys it does not fit into the site. The height in appearance is greater than Thames House and it takes an increase in height up the road opposite the War Graves Commission and the old Art College which are not as high or so densely packed. A reduction in height to four storeys would make the sight lines more acceptable. No increase in the number of car parking spaces is proposed given the increase in the size of the office. With the parking problems that already exist in the area more spaces need to be provided.

Land at bridge Road and Oldfield Road (Renewal of outline planning permission 02/39282- 120 dwellings plus 12,000 sq m light industrial and offices)

We much prefer the density of 86 dwellings per hectare in this application compared to the excessive density applied for in subsequent applications. The original outline application was allowed on appeal subject to various conditions specified by the Inspector which should be reflected in any new permission.

In addition, this application is subsequent to the 10 August 2006 when national legislation requires many applications to be accompanied by a combined Design and Access Statement and this has not been provided. In addition outline applications after 10 August have to show clearly that the proposals have been properly considered in the light of relevant policies and the constraints and opportunities relating to the particular site. Matters of layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping all have to be addressed unless they are reserved matters requiring subsequent approval. Again, this new application does not address these matters directly.

A major concern remains the traffic problems as set out in our comments on the original application. Oldfield Road as it stands is unlikely to be able to cope with the additional traffic that a

development of this scale will cause. We recognise that traffic lights at the junction with Bridge Road as suggested by the developer may well help, but possibly not if the pedestrian crossing on Bridge Road by the shops is not more carefully considered within the scheme. The development is likely to generate more traffic under the difficult railway bridge on Oldfield Road and on the approach roads south of that. It is essential that the issues of traffic management are carefully addressed, particularly in view of further proposed developments in the area.

Since the original application there have been changes to the local flood plain maps and the site is in the 1 in 100 floodplain. There is no consideration of the flooding issues and the application should be referred to the Environment Agency for consideration.

269 Courthouse Road (Demolition of existing house to erect three 3 bed attached dwellings)

We regret the loss of a fine house and its replacement with an architecturally uninspired block which does not reflect or live up to the character of the rest of the adjacent street. The three car parking spaces at the front on Courthouse Road will spoil the attractive line of front gardens along the road. Access to the spaces will result in cars backing onto the highway which is dangerous on such a busy road close to the corner with Furze Platt Road. Together with additional traffic on Courthouse Road from the new development behind onto what at times with the school nearby are very congested roads, this makes for excess development in the area.

7 Braywick Road (Demolition of existing detached dwelling and erection of eight 2 and six 1 bedroom flats)

The proposed density of this development is of approximately 120 dwellings per hectare is too high and significantly exceeds the government guidelines of 30 to 50 dph. The plans indicate that further development is intended along Braywick Road and this is not considered a suitable area for such intense development. The block is overlarge and with three stories is too high and is an over-development of the site. It is situated at a major gateway for the town and any redevelopment calls for a more stylish building. It will also bring more traffic to the Greenfields estate behind on narrow roads which are already congested. Access to the site through the estate is not appropriate as there is limited parking for existing residents already and the area is heavily populated with families with children. Furthermore the amount of car parking being provided on site is insufficient and will lead to further parking problems nearby.

12 & 13 Bridge Avenue (Construction of three storey office building following demolition of two existing two storey office buildings)

This side of Bridge Avenue has the appearance of a residential street and is in the perfect location near the centre of the town for residential development. It would be preferable for this site to revert to residential especially as other recent developments along this side of the road have been for residential development. The proposed elevations of the building are out of character with this side of the street and its design should be sympathetic with other buildings nearby. The building is too high and in particular will dominate the two storey houses in York Road. The reduction in car parking spaces to 14 is inappropriate given the very large increase in floor area and will result in additional parking on already crowded streets and car parks.

CROSSRAIL PETITION

We are now able to let you see the formal petition that we presented to the House of Commons Select Committee, and it we think it is worth printing in full as it captures some key points about development in Maidenhead:

“CROSSRAIL BILL, HOUSE OF COMMONS SELECT COMMITTEE, PETITION NO. 122, 27 June 2006

The purpose of this document is to summarise our response to the Promoter’s Response Document which does not properly address most of the points made in our Petition.

1. NO JUSTIFICATION FOR CHOOSING MAIDENHEAD

There is no adequate evidence provided to support the choice of Maidenhead for the Western terminus. There has been no usage forecast or opinion survey undertaken to justify the choice or to support the assertion that Maidenhead is the first stop that will generate extra passengers. Information Paper A6 provides no evidence except to say that the analysis is based on their own forecasts—these are their own forecasts not independent evidence based on specific work or studies that have been undertaken.

Simply the case for Maidenhead has not been made and there is better case for Reading which is already a transport hub with its multiple rail links and extra facilities. Paper A6 even suggests that Crossrail may later be extended and Maidenhead may not be the final terminus. Part of the Promoters reluctance appears to be on the grounds of cost although no indication has been given of the comparative costs; but what about the long term cost to Maidenhead in terms of its environment and amenity for the terminal being located in a town location that is not big enough unless a significant investment is made in the local infrastructure. If cost is the issue why not terminate in Slough or in Twyford or Reading where local people are clamouring for it.

The loss of space to Crossrail at the railway station as shown on the map will restrict plans for a badly needed integrated bus station at the rail way station. Crossrail will not only add to the amount of traffic but will take away the means for dealing with the congestion at the railway station.

Maidenhead is a small town of 55,000 people with a tight –knit town centre that has no room to accommodate any expansion as can be seen from the map. The impact of Crossrail will be either to choke it to death or lead to unwanted expansion- with consequences for the surrounding Green Belt. We are not here to argue the case for a different terminus such as Reading or Slough but they should be considered and evaluated. There is no proof or evidence offered that it should be Maidenhead or any assessment of the potentially damaging effect on the town and it people. There is not even assessment of the impact of additional traffic on the local roads.

It is lamentable with all the work and effort that has been put into what is a major project that so little work has been done to investigate the most appropriate site for the terminus.

2. WORSE TRAIN SERVICE

It appears that Crossrail will take up 50% of the rail capacity into Paddington station and provide a slower service. Again no evidence is provided to justify a demand for a service that stops at every station whereas as local commuters we know there is a demand for a fast service into Paddington station.

3. WHY USE GUARDS CLUB PARK AND ISLAND?

The promoter has not given proper consideration to alternative sites or costed them. If quantities of materials are small and need to be stored why not use barges on the river for transport, storage and as a work platform. There are a number of appropriate sites nearby on the river as can be seen on the map where material can be stored and loaded onto barges. The picture of the island shows where a barge could be moored. This would have less impact on the area as there would be no need to use the Park and the surrounding narrow roads. The wildlife would be less affected and the work would not impose on an unsuitable Grade 11 Listed Footbridge across to the Island.

The Promoters response refers in detail to their Construction Code which deals with minimising the impact on the environment of the work in terms of noise, vibration, dust, disruption etc. but it does not consider or mention the use of waterborne transport that would alleviate all this. There is no evidence provided that lorries are more efficient and they are certainly going to be more disruptive to the local environment.

4. WILDLIFE

We have already suggested how to minimise the impact on wildlife in the area and would be pleased to leave this to English Nature provided they are consulted in advance and not after the event.

5. THE GRADE 11 LISTED BRIDGE

We are encouraged to see that it will be possible to locate all of the electrification gantries within the internal width of the bridge. However, there is no evidence or costings for alternative solutions such as a third electrified rail. This is a world famous bridge over a picturesque part of the River Thames with one of the longest brick spans in the world that was immortalised in William Turner's great painting. We are disappointed to find that at this stage the design is still under discussion and we humbly submit that it is not considered acceptable that this part of the Bill be passed without the design being specified or subject to further specific planning approval by the local authorities and English Heritage. Ways must be found to eliminate the visual impact of any gantries.

6. OTHER MATTERS FROM OUR PETITION

The promoters have not addressed the following objections:

- Point 6- Disruption to the town from such a large development especially from parking and traffic congestion.
- Point 8- Financing the provision of an infrastructure to support this large development.

As set out above these issues both need to be addressed as an integral part of Crossrail's proposals.

YOUR PETITIONER therefore humbly prays that the bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands."

Nigel Cockburn

TAPLOW MILL

An Important Opportunity

Following the summer shock that St Regis Paper Company Ltd had sold its 48-acre site to a commercial property developer, New Taplow Paper Mill closed its doors for the last time on October 31st.

There's been a milling tradition on the site since the 13th century and there was a real sadness about it closing. The closure is a serious loss, for its employees, obviously, and also because of the company's record in community involvement.

The sale was announced in August and by the end of that month St Regis was paying rent to new owners, Towntalk Ltd. The St Regis HQ and the Severnside recycling plant will stay on site until new locations are found.

The sale of the site, however, provides an opportunity at last to improve an important and environmentally valuable area of Thames riverside. It also raises a host of interesting issues. For example, we understand it includes parcels of mooring rights on both banks of the river and two islands.

The Civic Society is liaising with colleagues in the River Thames Society, residents groups and

other local bodies. We are also seeking a meeting with the developers.

With extensive frontages to both the Thames and Jubilee rivers, the site lies in the Green Belt, adjacent to an Area of Attractive Landscape, and contains several buildings of historic and architectural merit. Skindles is the most obvious and, until recently, the only one protected by a Conservation Area. But there are also four C19th buildings worthy of note and in September South Bucks District Council (SBDC) approved an extension to the Taplow Conservation Area to include them and most of the St Regis site.

The Conservation Area Character Assessment noted that Glen Island House (1869), Mill Island House (early C19th), Mill Cottage (1876) and Dunloe Lodge (late C19th) “all have architectural quality and historic character and should be retained or renovated”. It adds that the “existing spaces between buildings play an important part in the character of the area”. Glen Island House, which St Regis have used as offices, was originally home to Lt Col Roger Palmer who was one of the 600 who rode in the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava.



Glen Island House, built in 1869

It's also possible that Glen Island House and Mill Island House could soon be listed. The local authority moved swiftly to have them assessed when the sale was announced. The gardens and grounds of Glenn Island House extend northwards to a finger of land, opposite Boulters Inn and Ray Mill Island, sandwiched between the Thames and the Mill Leat. Glen Island House, Mill Island House and Dunloe Lodge are riverside properties with lawns surrounded by, and interspersed with, trees of many species. Beyond Glen Island House's second lawn the character changes to that of managed woodland. The abundance of trees and watercourses, and the absence of traffic, has ensured a rich natural habitat along the riverbank.



Dunloe Lodge, built in the late 19th Century

Towntalk's £30m offer was unconditional. We understand they had no discussions with SBDC beforehand. St Regis, on the other hand, when they thought they might be working in conjunction a developer to redevelop the site, did meet SBDC planners. It emerged that mixed use was probably the best way forward and there was some support for a quality hotel, using the mill site, in relation to the future of Dorney Lake. SBDC imparted three priorities: 1) the existing footprint should not be exceeded; 2) highways/traffic to be addressed, and 3) open space.

Since their purchase, the new owners have been to meet the planners. We can only assume they received the same guidance. No doubt they will be thinking about some residential development but they will have heard that SBDC can meet their housing targets using urban areas and overshooting those targets would not play well with elected members.

Whatever development is eventually proposed, the Society would encourage the new owners and the planners to:

- Recognise and revitalise the site's Green Belt status
- Ensure any new development is in-keeping with the environment (Green Belt, Conservation Areas, Setting of Thames, etc.) and kept to a minimum
- Find a solution to unwelcome and potentially dangerous traffic movements
- Enhance public access and site lines to both rivers
- Urge caution over private riverbank ownership
- Retain & renovate period buildings of architectural merit
- Maintain and improve tree cover and wildlife
- Emphasise leisure and recreational uses of the area
- Insist that riverside businesses should be river-related
- Preserve and enhance mooring and boatyard facilities

We also urge the local authorities to see this section of the river not merely as a boundary but as an important, rare and attractive shared amenity to be managed, collaboratively, to the benefit of the communities on both banks.

Bob Dulson

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Keep up the pressure and bring in some younger blood. These were two of the main messages from those responding to the Civic Society's Membership Survey 2006.

In a year which has seen the "Great Debate" on the future of Maidenhead, the Crossrail petition, and the campaign on High Street "eyesores" among the initiatives, respondents overwhelmingly thought the Society had been meeting its objectives and hitting the right notes. 90% felt the Society was fulfilling its purpose "well" or "very well"; only 9% thought it was doing "fairly" or "not very" well. Asked if the Society was choosing the right issues on which to campaign, 90% said "yes", 10% were unsure, no one said "no".

Opinion was more disparate about the public's perception of the Society, however. Asked if they thought the general public regarded the Society as important and relevant, the majority (51%) said only moderately so. One member commented: "Members, I imagine, think it is important and relevant. Others probably have no idea what it does; and some probably have not even heard of it."

A striking aspect of the survey was that 29% of respondents were aged between 46 and 65 and 68% were over 65. Only two percent were in younger age groups. Several respondents commented on this imbalance, urging us to give more consideration to the young and to attract more young members.

The quarterly Civic Society Newsletter was favourite among members as a way of learning about the Society's activities. 97% chose it as a source although 41% also listed local papers. The website, on a par with "friends", was chosen by only 2%. A significant minority (14%) said they would like to receive news by e-mail, although a sizeable majority (80%) said not.

The Newsletter was also highly valued. 87% said they read it either from "cover to cover" or "most of it". Most popular among the regular items were Planning issues (83%), Campaigns and News (68% each) and Chairman's notes (66%).

The reaction to the question about Social Evenings will give food for thought to the new Events Group. A minority (22%) said they would like to have Society Social Evenings, 29% said not; but the majority (46%) said it depends on what's being offered.

Although the number of responses was not as high as we'd hoped, the results provide a useful indicator of membership opinion and information for discussion. The Executive Committee has agreed there is a need regularly to survey the views of the membership if the Society is to stay in tune with its members and reflect their interests.

Survey forms were distributed with the July issue of Civic Society News. The closing date was September 15th and the results have been collated and reported to the Executive together with individual members' comments and suggestions. Our thanks to those who took part and to the Heritage Centre for acting as mailbox.

Bob Dulson

HERITAGE CENTRE NEWS

An Evening with the War Poets: Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm.

At the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Marlow Road, by kind permission of the Director General.

Especially relevant in this 90th anniversary year of the Battle of the Somme, in which so many men of Maidenhead lost their lives, this is a special event for the Season of Remembrance. The Somme also marks a change in the character of the poetry of the Great War, with the romantic image of the warrior soldier giving way to the heart-wrenching images of the later poets. Works from a wide variety of poets, including Lord Desborough's son Julian and several female poets will be read by Edward Dixon, John Copping, Tess Marsh and others.

This event is FREE to all, but to keep track of numbers we do need to issue tickets. Please call in at the Heritage Centre, or phone us on 780555.

Note: the nearest car park is in West Street; there is some on-street parking in The Crescent and St Luke's Road.

Lest We Forget: 31st October – 18th November

In this 90th anniversary year of the Battle of the Somme, this moving exhibition remembers Maidenhead's role in the Great War, when over 850 local men lost their lives.

Cub Scouting in Maidenhead: 21st November – 22 December

A special exhibition compiled by the local cub movement to mark the 90th anniversary of cub scouting in Britain

Skindles in Stained Glass

When New Taplow Paper Mill bought the derelict Skindles Hotel a number of years ago, the Managing Director, Sue Lennon, rescued a stained glass window from the building and has now offered it to us. The window is almost 6ft high and 4ft wide, in an oak frame, and shows the coat of arms of the Earl of Orkney, after whom the original inn on the site was named. It came to be run by a certain William Skindle and developed into the most renowned riverside hotel on the Thames. Very little material relating to Skindles survives; our collection has only a plate, a spoon and some photographs. So we are extremely grateful to the paper mill for this donation: it will be an interesting challenge to incorporate it in our permanent home.

Permanent Heritage Centre in sight?

Maidenhead Heritage Trust is advanced negotiations to buy a freehold building in central Maidenhead as the Heritage Centre's permanent home. However this building will *not* be 12 High Street, the former Michael Chell building, because after many nail-biting weeks, the Trust was substantially outbid by another interested party. However another suitable building came on the market in September, with just under 3000 sq.ft of floorspace and great potential for use as a Heritage Centre. In order not to prejudice negotiations, it is not being identified at this stage. The major donors have agreed to transfer their support to a new 'venue' and The Trust hopes that all its supporters in the Civic Society will also wish to maintain their support.

Maidenhead Heritage Centre is open Tuesday – Saturdays
90 Moorbridge Road, Maidenhead SL6 8BW, ☎ 01628 780555
www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 15th November 2006

Talk by James Gibson & Graham Barton

Saturday 27th January 2007

Outing

Friday 23rd March 2007

Reception

Sunday 29th April 2007

Outing

46th Annual General Meeting

Methodist Church Hall, 8 p.m. and
“Jubilee River – Two Years On”

Brooklands

Hall Place, Burchett’s Green

7.30 – 9.30 p.m.

Boat trip from Caversham to Mapledurham

CIVIC SOCIETY OFFICERS

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2006

Parish Centre in St. Luke’s Church, at 7.45 p.m.

11th January, 8th February, 8th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 13th September, 11th October, 8th November, 13th December.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 15th November 2006 in the Wesley Hall at the Methodist Church at 8.00pm.

**The closing date for copy for the next issue
of the Newsletter is 12th January 2007.**

News Editor **Brian Darracott**
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