



# Maidenhead Civic Society NEWS



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Issue 4/11

Nov 2011

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*A perfect reflection – the Riviera Hotel from Maidenhead Rowing Club, captured during the interval of a perfect evening (see page 17)*

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

# Chairman's Foreword

It has been a busy few months. We enticed the very private Michael Shanly into giving his first interview in public, and we broke new ground with a sell-out evening of jazz by the river. We've formally welcomed a new Treasurer and a new Secretary. And we've been engrossed in the usual business of planning and projects.

From the feedback we received, our dinner and the conversation with Michael Shanly at the Odney Club went down well. Everyone had heard of him, many held firm opinions but few had ever met him. Guests were fascinated to hear him talk about himself and his business, and particularly his views on Maidenhead; where it had gone wrong and how it could be improved. His comments, subsequently well-reported in the Advertiser, were an eye-opener for many of the 90 people present and, I've no doubt, changed a few long-held perceptions. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a memorable event.

This time last year, all the talk was about "localism" and the Big Society, the coalition's idea for involving local people in making decisions for their neighbourhood – and even running some aspects of it. Now, following the Localism Bill, a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is being prepared. On the plus side, this is a much simpler and more direct set of planning regulations. However, it has triggered a storm of protest. The main concern is for the future of Britain's countryside and the communities where most of us live. While the proposals insist on local involvement, they do away with many policies that offered community protection and replace them with a presumption in favour of development. The consultation on the NPPF may have closed but the debate is set to continue. You can see details of the Society's initial response to the proposals on page 13. Despite all this, our local authority, RBWM, a chosen vanguard for the government's localism plans, is obliged to press on. And it is about to launch the process for creating a local neighbourhood plan for the Maidenhead area itself – one of seven across the Borough.

However, just as the Borough was expecting to get into its revised stride, their Head of Planning and Development, Tim Slaney, decided to up sticks and leave. He has been offered the job of director of planning with the new South Downs National Park. Tim's departure is a real blow. In his four years here, he brought a refreshingly innovative and creative approach to the role. He was influential in the creation of PRoM and broke a few moulds and cut through red tape to help achieve results. And I will always be grateful for the time, advice and guidance he afforded to us on planning matters. RBWM have reacted to Tim's departure by appointing a consultant to hold the reins pending a planned reorganisation.

So we have our work cut out if we are to ensure that Maidenhead gets what we all know it deserves – only the best.

*Bob Dulson*

## 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY

To be held on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
at the Methodist Church Hall at 8.00 pm.

### AGENDA

1. Introduction by the President
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting
3. Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011
4. Chairman's Report for 2010/2011
5. Election of the Board of Trustees  
To approve the appointment of members of the Board of Trustees. *See note below.*
6. Election of the Officers  
To elect from the Trustees an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer
7. Any other Business.

#### ***Election of Trustees***

Under the terms of the Society's Constitution, one third of the twelve Trustees must retire each year and shall be eligible for re-election. Accordingly, John McIntosh, June Jorge and Trevor Farnfield will retire. John McIntosh offers himself for re-election, and there are nominations for Mike Emmerson (who is currently the Hon. Treasurer) and Mrs Eileen Goford (who has volunteered to fulfil the role of Hon. Secretary). There are thus four vacancies and three nominations.

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

**MINUTES OF THE  
50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY**

**Held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** There are no apologies for absence
- 2. Approval of Minutes of 49<sup>th</sup> AGM:** The minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup>. AGM were approved.
- 3. Accounts for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010:** The Annual Accounts are enclosed with the November 2010 Newsletter. Among the points worth noting is the generally satisfactory state of the Society's finances. The Society has made a first donation as a member of Civic Voice the successor to the Civic Trust. Interest has dropped significantly due to current low interest rates. Charges now being made for attending talks has reduced the cost of meetings. The Society should consider how it might use some of the available funds to improve its profile. There is also a continuing need to boost the number of members and hence income. The meeting then adopted the accounts. Proposed by Brian Madge and seconded by Ady Sheldon.
- 4. President's Introductory Remarks:** Welcome to all attending this the 50<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Maidenhead Civic Society. I would first remind you that we are meeting under the new constitution. During the year we have telescoped the Trustees meetings into the normal Executive Committee meetings. This has been done because there is such an overlap of members between the two bodies. Bob Dulson as Chairman will review the proceedings of both bodies in his report. At this point Bob Dulson took over the chairmanship of this meeting.
- 5. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's Report was presented in written form and included in the November 2010 Newsletter.
- 6. Election to Board of Trustees:** One third of the Board retire by rotation each year. This year those retiring are Bob Dulson, Harold James and Tina Sell. All offer themselves for re-election. These were proposed by Michael Johnson and seconded by Brian Darracott. Agreed nem con.
- 7. Election of Officers.** Trevor Farnfield offered himself as Hon. Treasurer. During the year June Jorge has continued as Hon. Secretary and in the absence of a successor continues in the post. Their appointments in these were proposed by Martin McNamee and seconded by Tina Sell and agreed nem.con.
- 8. Any Other Business:** There being no other urgent business, the meeting closed at 9.32 pm.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE YEAR

It's been a pretty good year for the Society. There have been achievements on all fronts, particularly in Planning, Projects and Events, as well as the inevitable challenges.

The highest profile change is the departure of **Trevor Farnfield** who bids a final farewell at the AGM, after 25 years with the Society, 13 of them as Treasurer. Trevor joined the Society in 1986 – probably press ganged by Richard Poad! – after giving a talk to the Society on his time in Hong Kong and more specifically working with Norman Foster on the Hong Kong Bank HQ (the Society had been to see an exhibition at the Royal Academy and the project had featured). Trevor edited the Newsletter from 1993 to 1996 producing the first word processed version. He also organised the talks for a few years in the mid 90's. The Society is indebted to Trevor for his loyal and proficient service over the years and wishes him and his family well in their new home in Marlow.

In Trevor's place, we're delighted that a new joiner, **Mike Emmerson** has agreed to be our Hon. Treasurer. Our other ex-officio vacancy, that of Hon Secretary, was also filled recently when **Eileen Goford**, a member for several years, offered to take on the role. The Executive extends a warm welcome to them both.

### Planning

The Planning Group sits at the heart of the Society's activities and is key to its image. This year the Planning Group have commented on more than 50 applications, and as usual some you win and some you lose.

Three years ago we remarked that our perception of the new streamlined process had led to a drop in diligence – particularly on flood-related issues – and a lack of consistency in determinations. There has been no improvement and now we face yet more streamlining under the new regime. Although the involvement of local communities in drawing up the Local Plan is welcome, at least in principle, there are real concerns for the future of our countryside from the presumption in favour of development.

There remains an over supply of office space in the town, and towards the end of last year permission was granted for a nine storey office block on the site of the Regus building (Albany House – 27-29 Market Street). We remain convinced that the height of the building will be overbearing, but demolition has now taken place. Next door Kidwells Park House will now be an eight storey block – also taking in a Premier Inn. We remain concerned for the long term traffic implications for West Street. On a positive note the more modest office block on the south east corner of Cookham Road roundabout – next to Sainsbury's - has been let to Adobe systems.

We have supported the revised proposals for the old East Berks College site in Boyn Hill Avenue, and the Waterways project which we believe will bring new life to the

town centre. We are concerned at the ongoing maintenance responsibility for the waterways and for the control of adequate water supply to the scheme.

As part of the regeneration of Badnells Pit following the clean up of the site, there is a requirement for the developer to provide a flood event safe escape route/raised walkway across Town Moor. We believe that neither of the proposed structures/routes is satisfactory and the walkway will detract from the open aspect of Town Moor. The original condition was imposed by the Planning Inspector when the appeal to develop the site was upheld. We are supporting the subsequent application from the developer to be released from the stipulation which is unnecessary and onerous. Such funds could be diverted to more worthwhile projects.

The decision on 96 advertising banners on lamp-posts around Maidenhead is still pending. We regard them as intrusive street clutter and a distraction to motorists. New applications are now in hand to introduce illuminated free standing advertising structures.

Until the end of October consultation was taking place regarding the creation of a new Conservation Area – the “Furze Platt Triangle”. This area is between Furze Platt Road and Courthouse Road with Linden Avenue as its base and the Golden Harp as the northern apex. It houses a remarkable number of large and small Victorian and Edwardian houses of architectural interest. It is important that the character of the area is protected. Some members of Maidenhead Civic Society have been instrumental as individuals in preparing the groundwork for designation as a Conservation Area. As an organisation the Society will be adding support to the consultation.

We were pleased to see the Borough’s Design Awards being revived and to be represented on the judging panel. The Society first introduced these awards in 1979 to encourage and promote good building design.

It has been a busy year and for all their hard work our thanks go to Planning Group chairman **Martin McNamee** and members of the group, including **Renu Gujral** and **Rudi Sheldon**, who sift the applications, and to newcomer **Ian Rose** who has taken on the role of Waterways Liaison.

Meanwhile the Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP), was declared sound by the Planning Inspectorate and formally adopted by the Council. The provisions in the AAP reflect many of the Society’s aspirations for the town, including an improved retail offering, a transport hub, a town square, improved access and public spaces, waterway enhancements, high design standards and town centre housing. PRoM (the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead) has re-grouped in preparation for the delivery phase of the AAP and a new chairman with extensive experience of urban planning was appointed. The Society remains represented on the group.

The Society continues to put its shoulder to a campaign for the appropriate redevelopment of the old Taplow Paper Mill site, including Skindles. The national housebuilder Barratts is working with the S. Bucks Council to prepare a development

brief for the site. The Society gave a comprehensive submission in response to the initial consultation.

## Projects

We are indebted to **Ann Darracott** for her energetic efforts on the projects front, from which she has once again emerged unscathed, relatively speaking.

Up until 18<sup>th</sup> October she was reporting progress in the Society's Millennium Walk project, undertaken in collaboration with East Berks Ramblers with regard to the missing link from the top of Prospect Hill (overlooking Hurley) to Temple Golf Club. A new permitted path had been granted by Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) (see newsletter 3/11, p12-13), together with a crossing of the A4130, was to be funded by the Royal Borough, with a contribution from this Society, to be put in place in mid-November. However, now the new Principal of BCA, Mr Mark Wain, has said his staff aren't happy with the route of the path as it may conflict with horse riders. We hope a meeting planned for November will resolve the problem.

Another of the missing links, from the Lower Cookham Road to the Thames Path, walked this year for the sixth time, during the Rotary Club's annual Boundary Walk, is still on hold as developer funding for it awaits the redevelopment of Whitebrook Park, not likely any time soon.

To publicise the potential of the Millennium Walk, a leaflet to publicise the route, was being prepared, in conjunction with East Berks Ramblers, but because of the above may now be put on hold.

Progress can be reported in the Green Way, the streamside path that runs from Cookham through Maidenhead to Bray, monitored by the Green Way Working Group on which we sit. Members of the Society have assisted the Make Space for Life Group at North Town Moor where clearing the pond, coppicing and tree planting has improved the area. Fortunately the Royal Borough now has a Landscape Officer tasked with developing the Green Way. Planning applications that affect the Green Way, ranging from the Waterways Project to elevated walkways across Town Moor, have been commented on.

Stream flow into the town centre has continued to improve thanks to further dredging and weed spraying upstream by the Environment Agency: additional flow is being generated by the Badnell's Pit development that pumps water from the chalk under the building site into York Stream.

The threat to the setting of Ockwells Manor is still a live issue. Unfortunately the Lands Tribunal rejected the National Trust's application to have the attempt to lift the covenants, on the field opposite the manor house, dismissed and the case will now go to the High Court next year. The Society has publicised the situation over the last year using visits to places linked to the builder of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Ockwells Manor, John Norreys Esq, to generate copy for Maidenhead Advertiser. We will continue to press the Royal Borough to re-designate the field as green belt. On the plus side it

would appear that Cox Green Councillors, of both political hues, are in favour of protecting the field.

We have PowerPoint presentations that are *Virtual Tours* of both Ockwells Manor and Bisham Abbey: the latter has been given twice over the last year. We hope to persuade Sport England, who own Bisham, to participate in Heritage Open Days next September as 2012 is the Olympic year and Bisham is where many of the English teams practice.

## Events

The Society produced and managed a decent programme of events during the year, though we missed the assurance of a hand on the tiller, no-one having yet come forward to replace **Tina Sell** as Event Coordinator.

A good crowd enjoyed touring St Laurence's Church in Slough, the Almshouses at Abingdon, Donnington and Ewelme and Taplow Court, all with Ockwells connections and the visit to Eton College in July was also appreciated.

The new chairman of PRoM, Graeme Tulley, was the guest speaker at our first lunch of the year. He told us only the best was good enough for Maidenhead as it prepared for regeneration. And local developer Michael Shanly talked passionately about the future of Maidenhead at our second speaker's event in October, shattering some preconceptions among the 90 members and guests.

A new venture for the Society was the Jazz evening at the Rowing Club which was a sell-out. All our events are aimed primarily at members, though guests of course are welcome and naturally we hope that we might attract new members too. To raise our profile, the Society also took a stand to the Nicholsons Centre early in the year and again to the Carnival in June.

The talks programme included an evening at the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham where Michael Johnson took us through Spencer's life as a war artist and we were also treated to talks on the landscape of Windsor Great Park and the life of Lord Desborough, linked to the earlier tour of Taplow.

While our talks nearly always bring positive feedback from those who attend, they don't always get the support they deserve, or warrant in terms of the time they take to arrange. In contrast the speakers' lunches have proved very popular. So, the Executive has reluctantly agreed to focus attention on the speakers' events and stand down the talks programme for the time being. We will continue to offer outings, starting again in the New Year, though we've been disappointed that these too have not been attracting sufficient numbers to make them viable and several have had to be cancelled. Members' feedback about any of our events would be welcome.

We should be grateful to those who helped to make all these events such a success, notably **Mike Copeland** (Outings Secretary), Geoff & Shashi Dare, Ann, Ben & Brian Darracott, Angela Dulson, Mike Emmerson, Tony Lancaster, Martin



McNamee, Bronwen Renwick, Tina Sell and Brian Smith.

## Communications

We have an impressive website that speaks well for the Society and becomes more comprehensive as the data builds up. You can now, for example, see all our past Newsletters on there. Through the site we are also getting increasing numbers of enquiries, mainly about planning matters but also about the Society generally.

Members seem to like our occasional e-mail bulletins, *Keeping In Touch*, which we began last year as an experiment. We now have around 130 recipient addresses. It's a useful way of keeping up-to-date on news and events. So with the promise that there will never be more than one a month at most, we plan to continue them, although the Civic Society News will remain our preferred communications choice.

The Society is grateful to **Brian Darracott**, as editor and webmaster (and for much more besides) as well as to **Sue Ross** who stepped in smartly to take over from our long-standing distribution manager, **Carol Innes**, when she was taken ill; and also of course to our loyal team of distributors. This year we were again able to show our appreciation to the distributors with a buffet lunch at the Rowing Club.

The society's Media coverage is good when we get it but, as the Treasurer says in his report, we should be finding more opportunities to capitalise on that goodwill to attract more active support. Maintaining our profile requires a flow of continuing solid results in our chosen fields of activity.

## Membership

Our attempts at improving membership have brought us qualified success. Since June 2010, when we launched our membership campaign at Maidenhead Carnival, we have welcomed 33 new people to the Society in 23 memberships. Despite this, total memberships declined slightly year on year and the headcount increased by just four. One reason was that the subscription increase caused a few to lapse and some have moved away but we suspect there could be few who, despite reminders, have simply forgotten to pay their subscriptions!

	2011	2010	2009
Total Memberships (inc. Family, Honorary, etc)	261	264	296
Total headcount (exc. Corporate)	357	353	385
Life Members	97	98	68
Honorary	20	26	26
Corporate	3	3	7

New members, particularly active ones, are urgently needed just to maintain our current level of activities; and more if we hope to increase our influence. Thanks to **Shashi Dare** (Membership Secretary) and those on the membership group for their efforts and deliberations.

Among the new members who joined in the last 18 months are Mike Emmerson who has succeeded Trevor Farnfield as Hon Treasurer, Tony Lancaster who has designed some of our promotional material, Charanjit Matharu (membership group) and Ian Rose (Planning Group).

Others new members are: David M Bailey, Steve Breibart, Mike Bruton, Joyce and Ray Delasalle, Janet Emmerson, Sheila and Terry Franklin, C E Gibson, Anthea and John Hill, Janet Jeffries, Mr and Mrs Simon Jeffs, Gareth and Anne Jones, Stuart D Luxon, Sally Munro, Veronica and Mike O'Shaughnessy, Roger and Annie Panton, Philip Ratcliffe, Theresa B Skelton, David Snelgar, Jane Rance and Roderick Walsh, David and Rosalind White

*Bob Dulson*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

- Receipt of tax refunds related to Gift Aid was delayed by the Inland Revenue because of my change of address. £1488 constitutes two years of refunds.
- A small surplus was made from the outings.
- Subscription income is up marginally. This is partly due to a take up of Life Membership.
- Interest received on deposited money has dropped significantly from a few years ago due to very low prevailing interest rates.
- A donation of £500 received from a member during previous financial years, which was intended for use in some way associated with the River Thames, has still yet to be expended.
- The most significant regular expenditure, as always, relates to printing of the newsletter. The expenditure shown covers five issues.
- The net cost of meetings is reduced by £112 due to charges made to attend talks and profits from teas. Also, a small profit on book sales.
- Publicity costs relate to displays and equipment bought for the Maidenhead Carnival and Nicholson's Walk stands.
- The sum for subscriptions includes our contribution of £264 to the Civic Voice.
- The deficit on social events primarily related to the Distributor's Lunch.
- During the current year our insurance premiums have dropped back slightly to £245.

The Society accounts are in reasonable health and, whilst I encourage the Committee to consider further ways of using some of the available funds to increase the profile of the Society, an improvement in membership numbers and income would be most welcome.

*Trevor Farnfield*

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

**Annual Accounts for Year ended 31st  
May 2011**

2009/2010		2010/2011
<b>INCOME</b>		
350	Donations/Grants/Bequests	0
2,505	Subscriptions Received During Year	2,771
65	Interest On Bank And Other Deposits	47
700	Surplus On Outings	128
395	Surplus On Social Events	0
0	Tax Refunds On Gift Aid	1488
<b>£4,015</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,434</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
2,220	General Expenses, Printing, Postage, Etc. Hire Of Rooms, Speakers And Meeting	2891
386	Expenses	392
381	Subscriptions	380
0	Publicity	796
290	Insurance	250
<b>Donations</b>		
150	Various	
<b>Other Expenses</b>		
172	Ockwells And Associated Projects (Net Costs)	135
56	Millennium Walk. (Net Costs)	22
0	Various Other Small Projects	38
0	Deficit On Social Events	279
101	Presentations/Memorials	0
410	Website	371
<b>£4,166</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,554</b>
<b>-151</b>	<b>EXCESS/DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>-1,120</b>
11,641	Balance Brought Forward	11,490
<b>£11,490</b>	<b>Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>£10,370</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
1,940	Bank (Lloyds TSB) and Cash	1,334
9,755	Charities Deposit General Fund (COIF)	9,301
250	Debtor/Insurance Payments In Advance	245
-455	Creditors/Commitments	-510
<b>£11,490</b>	<b>BALANCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>£10,370</b>

**Trevor Farnfield - Hon. Treasurer**

20-Jun-11

# Planning Matters

## **PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO THE PLANNING PROCESS - NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)**

The Government are seeking to streamline and simplify current planning policy and procedures. This is indeed a noble aim – to reduce more than 1000 pages to just 52. However, the motivation is to stimulate economic growth, with an unsubstantiated claim that the economy loses £3 billion per annum because of planning inefficiency. Civic Voice, the Campaign for Preservation of Rural England, the National Trust and the Royal Town Planning Institute are amongst the organisations concerned about the proposals. The consultation period finished in mid October, and the finalised policy is to be introduced in April 2012. The proposals have been drafted by a working party of four advisors – three of whom are involved in construction and development. There will be a presumption in favour of development – the default response will be “yes”. The Royal Borough are already working on the assumption that the new framework is a done deal.

There is already a current climate which is designed to accelerate the planning process. Plans can now only be viewed on line, making it awkward to compare what is existing and proposed, with small scale drawings which are hard to measure on a computer screen. This must also result in planning officers having more difficulty in making proper evaluations. One of the key measures of performance in the Planning Department is the average duration of the decision making process – not the quality of decision. We are very concerned about the long term impact of freeing-up planning and our response to the “consultation” document is as follows:

### **CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

“Whilst it is agreed that there is a need for a comprehensive review and overhaul of planning legislation, it is not the case that the current planning process acts as a drag on economic growth. The past 50 years has seen the evolution of the protective designation of localities – Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Conservation Areas – even the Green Belt – have been created to ensure that our heritage and natural surroundings are safeguarded from expeditious development. The NPPF proposals threaten to undo the protection offered by these thoughtfully evolved policies. What has been so important for decades – suddenly doesn’t matter any more?”

On the positive side:

- A revue and overhaul of the planning process is needed.
- The involvement of communities is welcomed – more localism.
- Planning authorities should have a current “ local plan”
- Local plans should be aspirational AND realistic.
- Full co-operation across adjoining local authorities is encouraged.
- Priority should be given to improving communications infrastructure.

- Planning should be transparent and efficient.
- There should be greater emphasis on quality of design.

However, the negatives are as follows:

- The presumption in favour of sustainable development – is unsustainable.
- “Sustainability” is not defined – major legal ramifications.
- Technically, any development is not sustainable.
- Although localism is fostered – communities have no right of appeal.
- Any absence of local town plans will result in vulnerability.
- Power of “neighbourhood” plans should be curtailed.
- Local authority may lose control of planning – if developers hold sway.
- Local authorities should not be incentivised by central government hand outs.
- The long term protection of green belt will no longer apply.
- Local issues should over-ride national policy – e.g. flood risk.
- A default answer of “yes” will lead to a free for all.

As stated above, there is absolutely no hard evidence that the current planning process is a drag on economic growth – where does the Government’s estimate of a £3 billion adverse impact come from? Maidenhead has an oversupply of offices, with many blocks vacant for years, and many undeveloped sites standing idle, even though planning has been granted.

On the residential front, there has been an oversupply of apartments in Maidenhead. Some developments have taken years to fill – often through discounted letting. There is however a shortage of affordable housing. Some developers are returning to building 3 / 4 bed houses. Interest rates remain at historically low levels – but low interest does not drive demand alone.

Nationally, developers are sitting on a land bank of 280,000 homes, presumably waiting for demand to return. It is reported that 88% of planning applications are granted, mostly within the agreed time scale. Of course, we have a “housing shortage” but this is caused by a wider economic malaise, unemployment, poverty and social deprivation. It is too simple and convenient to blame the planning system, which is in place to provide checks and balances to protect our landscape – both rural and urban. Maybe we should focus in the short term on the provision of affordable / social housing to address homelessness. Such a programme would genuinely increase economic activity, and could take place on brown field sites across the country.

The current recession is the product of many diverse factors – a planning malaise is not one of them.”

*Martin McNamee*

# Projects

## MILLENNIUM WALK

### Missing Link – Lower Cookham Road to the Thames Path

This missing link was walked for the sixth year in succession during the Maidenhead Rotary Club's annual Boundary Walk. As before, in conjunction with East Berks



Ramblers and the Rotary Club, a Saturday morning work-gang (left) cleared the path and we also provided marshals on the day itself. Many thanks Bronwen Renwick, Jane Gifford and Carole Stevens who helped marshal. Since last year, the only real difference is that almost the entire route is now owned by the Edwards family who have bought the flood bund land previously owned by the Environment Agency. In the present dire economic situation it is

likely developer funding for the path will be in the dim and distant future. However, we hope that negotiations with the Edwards family to secure the path will begin at some point, though we're not sure when.



*Margaret Bowdery spring-cleaning the timbers of the bridge*



*Walkers approaching bend in link*



*Our happy marshals (l to r: Bronwen Renwick, Amar Bhogel, Jane Gifford) helped walkers safely across the Lower Cookham Road*

## **LOCAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

### **Improving North Town Moor**

Society members have been helping the National Trust's warden and the Royal Borough's Landscape Officer to improve North Town Moor by protecting coppiced hazel from damage cause by deer.



*In April this year, circular fences were constructed around the tree stumps using the trimmings from the coppicing; the surplus wood was used for charcoal.*

*By August the hazel has re-grown*



## Improving Flow in York Stream

Reeds have been sprayed in several areas of the stream system north of Maidenhead. This has decreased their spread across the stream and so improved flow.

For example:



*Reeds in York Stream north of Evenlode Bridge before spraying June 2010 (left), and the effect of spray on reeds November 2010 (right)*



*Reeds in York Stream north of Evenlode Bridge after re- spraying July 2011*

*Ann Darracott*



# Events

## FORTHCOMING TALKS

The final talk of this year will take place in the Methodist Hall, King Street, Maidenhead, unless otherwise noted. It commences at 8:00pm, with a break for light refreshments. Guests are most welcome. As this will be followed by the Society's AGM there will be no charge on this occasion, though any small donations to cover the costs of the evening will be appreciated.

### **“What’s Happening Down on the Farm?”**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

**By Jan Corry, Chief Executive and Artistic Director, Norden Farm**

The talk will introduce what's coming up in Spring 2012, with a sneak preview of events and classes at Norden Farm this coming Spring. Jan will also comment on the Centre's funding conundrum, and there will be chance for some questions and answers. Jane has worked in the arts for 16 years as a programmer, producer and manager. She has worked with a range of companies, from theatre to dance and produced projects from international tours to site specific commissions, such as the European Capital of Culture.



This will be from 8 - 8.45 pm and the AGM will follow at 9.00pm.

## OUTINGS, VISITS & SOCIALS

As usual we will not be organising any visits over the winter period as most attractions are closed.

### **Jazz by the Riverside**

The Society's big social event of the year went off with a flourish. The hall of the Maidenhead Rowing Club on a relatively balmy October Saturday proved a perfect setting for the Cookham-based Trad Jazz band *The Fabulous Shirtlifters*. Over a hundred Society members and their guests enjoyed a boisterous event, enhanced by the spectacular view looking over the River Thames to the Riviera Hotel on the

opposite bank. Hardly a ripple on the water or breeze in the air provided for a near-perfect reflection. There was much greeting of old friends and members and we were pleased to welcome some members of the Slough Civic Society, with whom we have now begun to promote each others' events, outings and talks.

### **Committee Members Dinner**

We are holding our annual dinner at Moor Hall in Cookham on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012 for the Maidenhead Civic Society Officers and Committee members. We have a limited number of places available for members to join us and get to know the people who run the society better and to express your views on how we can represent the opinions and desires for a better Maidenhead.

If you would like to join us for a very pleasant evening in a beautiful setting for a 3-course meal with wine and a welcome drink for an all-inclusive cost of just £30 then please contact Mike Copeland on 01628 634181 or [mike@mjcconsulting.demon.co.uk](mailto:mike@mjcconsulting.demon.co.uk). **We will need your replies by 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012.**

## **Announcements**

### **CAROL INNES – AN APPRECIATION**

Members will be saddened to learn of the death of Carol Innes, in July of this year. Carol was the Newsletter Distributor for many years until her diagnosis with cancer last November. She had responded to a “situation vacant” plea in the Newsletter and took on her new role with characteristic energy and enthusiasm, working closely with the Membership Secretary, Shashi Dare, and the local distributors to ensure we received our Newsletters promptly. Even during her stay in hospital she worried about the distribution and she was very relieved that Sue Ross took over the job.

Carol had many other interests. She helped arrange monthly teas for Contact the Elderly, a charity which provides social contact for the housebound. Her love and knowledge of classical music made her a keen member of the music group of U3A and an avid concert goer. She also tried with varying success to learn to play several musical instruments. She was an active member of NADFAS and of the Women's Institute. She loved her garden and nature in general and it was appropriate that her funeral should be a woodland burial.

Carol is remembered and missed for her energy, her integrity, her lively intelligence and, above all, for her zest for life.

*Angela Howorth*

# NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE

## 2011 Exhibitions:

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept to 19<sup>th</sup> Nov

- **999 Fire, Ambulance, Police** - How did they all start? What happens when you dial 999? Come and find out at the latest exhibition at the Maidenhead Heritage Centre. The story of the changes to our local 999 services of fire, police and ambulance from Victorian times to today is told. See how it changes from local active tradesmen to the fully professional forces we know today. Come to see the old uniforms, the models of their vehicles from all ages, and their truncheons and handcuffs.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov – 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

- **Winter Festivals** – From the Pagan to the religious, most winter festivals share light and food as common elements. Discover more in this community exhibition at the end of the year.

## 2012 Exhibitions:

### March

- **God Save The Queen** – an exhibition to mark her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee
- **Louis Baylis Trust 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibition**

### 6<sup>th</sup> April to 10<sup>th</sup> June

- **Our Sporting Life** – an exhibition to celebrate the London Olympics and our local Sporting Heritage

### 14<sup>th</sup> June to 5<sup>th</sup> Aug

- **Local Breweries and Pubs** – to quench thirst brought on by just thinking about all that energy expended

### 10<sup>th</sup> Aug to 7<sup>th</sup> Oct

- **Who Are We?** - , we ask who we are, the Maidonians of 2012. Where did we come from, how did we get here, what do we do?

### 9<sup>th</sup> Oct to 28<sup>th</sup> Oct

- **Maidenhead Arts** Annual Exhibition

### 1<sup>st</sup> Nov to 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec

- **Stagecoach Maidenhead** - a celebration of Maidenhead's first boom period


Full details on the Heritage Centre website: [www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk)

# Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
**Talk** by Jane Corry

“What’s Happening at Norden Farm Arts Centre”  
Methodist Church Hall, King Street, 8.00 pm

## CIVIC SOCIETY OFFICERS

		
President of the Trustees	John McIntosh, 26 Harvest Hill Road, SL6 2QQ	633259
Hon. Secretary	Eileen Goford, 6 Laxton Green, SL6 3HW	638238
Hon. Treasurer	Mike Emmerson, 15 Twynham Road, SL6 5AT	628006
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Events Group	Tina Sell, Marlborough, River Road, Taplow, SL6 0BB	628675
Outings Sec.	Mike Copeland, 14 Laburnham Road, SL6 4DB	634181
Membership Sec.	Shashi Dare, Silvretta, Islet Road, SL6 8LD	629976
Newsletter Distribution	Sue Ross, Castle Hill Lodge, St Marks Road, SL6 6DG	626849

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2011

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

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

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS FOR 2011

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

12<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> October

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in the Wesley Hall at the Methodist Church at 8.00 pm.

**The closing date for copy for the next issue  
of the Newsletter is 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012.**

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