



# Maidenhead Civic Society NEWS



Issue 2/12

May 2012

1000 yards from the top of Prospect Hill, Marlow church spire and the tower of Eisham Church.

The permitted path may be closed for cross-country riding events. See: World Contacts for web address.

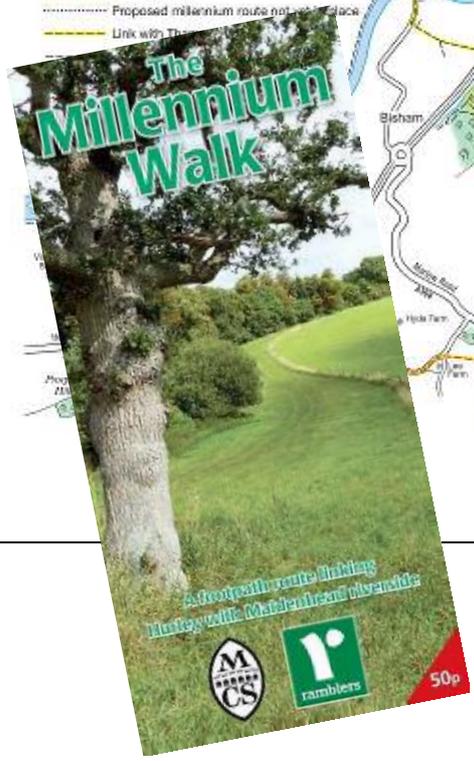
With care, follow the waymark posts across the golf course.

The Millbrook Trust Nature Reserve reserves a delightful picnic stop.

Waterloo Common

MAIDENHEAD

0 1 mile 2 km



*New Millennium Walk map published - See page 12*

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

# Chairman's Foreword

First up on the Society's calendar this month is the Royal Borough's new head of planning, Simon Hurrell, who is the guest speaker at our lunch at Boulters. If anyone has a busy agenda, he has.

Simon arrived just as the new national planning policies and the Localism Act were coming into force.

As a draft, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) created a storm of protest. It was seen as a developers' charter and raised fears for the future of our countryside and the green belt. A lot has been done through consultation to appease the protestors by softening the approach and offering more protection but the final version, published in March, is still fervently pro-growth.

A key element of the Localism Act is the creation of Neighbourhood Plans by Neighbourhood Forums and the Borough is pioneering this process as a "vanguard authority". Neighbourhood Forums enable residents to participate directly in planning the future of their area. From another perspective, they are also meant to encourage local communities to overcome their natural Nimbyism and work together to deliver opportunities for new development. So here too the agenda is growth.

To ensure conformity in the process – and some level of sanity – all new community plans and proposals must align with an overarching Local Plan or Core Strategy which the local authority is obliged to have. And that's another action point on Mr Hurrell's list.

The Society's concern, as Martin McNamee underlines on page 4, is the impact of all these pro-growth policies on the infrastructure and the Green Belt.

So as an antidote to all this "constructive" thinking the Civic Society is suggesting that the Neighbourhood Forums are also asked to draw up a Heritage Assets Register as part of their remit. We think this would help to raise awareness of assets, like statues, landmarks, streetscapes and views, which are not covered by Conservation Area or Listed Building policies, and the need to protect them. It's an idea that's been trialled in parts of Oxford over the last year and is now being rolled out more widely.

## **Martin Trepte appointed Society Trustee**

The Civic Society has welcomed Martin Trepte, editorial director of Baylis Media Ltd and editor of the Maidenhead Advertiser, as a Trustee of the Society, following an invitation from the executive committee.

Martin has worked at the Maidenhead Advertiser for 22 years, 15 of them as editor. Under his editorship the paper has run many successful campaigns for change and improvement in Maidenhead, most recently on car parking charges and now the retention of St Marks Hospital. In 2008 Martin also became editor of the Windsor and Slough Express series when Advertiser publisher Baylis Media Ltd purchased the titles. He is a founder member of the Maidenhead Regeneration Group which was instrumental in the creation of PRoM, a member and former chairman of Maidenhead Carnival Committee, a trustee of Maidenhead Talking Newspaper Association and a member of the Rotary Club of Maidenhead.



Martin shares our aspirations and frustrations. He brings a rare breadth of knowledge and a unique new perspective to our deliberations. Few people are as passionate about getting the best for Maidenhead. We are delighted to welcome him on board.

Quote from Martin “I am honoured to have been invited to join the Civic Society as a trustee and am looking forward to working with the executive to help advance the society’s aims and role in improving Maidenhead for the whole community.”

Finally, if you look forward to receiving your copy of Civic Society News, please note we urgently need some new distributors. Our team does a valuable job, more so with the cost of postage due to rise. It’s not an onerous task. You’d just be dropping a magazine through a few letterboxes once a quarter...and you know the walk would do you good! If you’d like to help, please respond to our appeal on page 18.

*Bob Dulson*

# Planning Matters

Our regular monthly Planning Group meetings continue and struggle with the difficulty of meaningfully accessing the on-line data on the Borough planning system. We have considered forty applications in detail since the last newsletter, and have submitted comments on eleven cases.

The largest project which has been formally reviewed is for the demolition of an office block called Hargrave House on Belmont Road to make way for a residential development of fourteen houses. The decision on the scheme has been deferred for technical reasons. The offices are regarded as being out of date and the location more suitable for residential redevelopment. Following the creation of the Furze Platt Triangle Conservation Area, the proposal to develop the back gardens of 6 to 12 Linden Avenue has been resubmitted and will be discussed at the Planning Group meeting for April. Our previous view was that the original scheme of five houses represented over-development. The new submission is for four houses - but of course there are now the implications of Conservation Area status to be considered.

On wider issues the Society responded formally to the public consultation on the Shanly Group proposals to develop the Chapel Arches area alongside the banks of the Waterways Regeneration scheme. These initial reactions are printed below. We also formally commented on the Bishop Centre proposed scheme for Taplow – we reported on these in more detail in the previous issue of the Newsletter. We are very concerned at the potential traffic disruption of a large Tesco store alongside a significant number of large retail units. The latter could represent a further threat to the already difficult trading situation in Maidenhead town centre. In spite of representations from many organisations (including RBWM) the South Bucks District Council passed the scheme by 6 votes to 5 - with the chair using a casting vote. The scheme is obviously very contentious and we are disappointed at the outcome. It is understood that the application has been called in by the Local Government Minister - Eric Pickles. Essentially, Tesco have already obtained outline permission in conjunction with the owners Land Securities. It is the further development of an ancillary retail park that has made the overall scheme unacceptable.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is about to be enshrined in law. It is not yet clear exactly how much attention has been paid by the Government to the consultative input from stakeholders such as the National Trust, English Heritage, Civic Voice..... and Maidenhead Civic Society. However, it is interesting that the proposals for the relocation of Furze Platt Senior School onto current Green Belt land at Spencers Farm coincided with the closure of consultations for the Local Plan and the onset of NPPF. We are very concerned at any erosion of the Green Belt buffer around Maidenhead, and do not believe that one area of Green Belt can be traded off against another, perhaps newly designated piece of land. The addition of 700 new homes in North Maidenhead will merely exacerbate the pressure on all elements of

infrastructure - including education at Furze Platt Senior School. The offer to provide “non-development covenants” on other farmland and Green Belt between Maidenhead and Cookham simply reinforces the sensitivity of the situation. The Society’s News Release is printed below to reflect our view of the proposals.

For more than a year we had made representations to Shanly Group that “St Mary’s Park” was a misnomer for the redevelopment of Badnells Pit. There was confusion with St Mary’s Parish in the town and St Mary’s School on Cookham Road. Eventually, they agreed that there should be an on-line competition to nominate an alternative. From a list of three – the winning nomination was Boulters Meadow. 500 people took part in the vote, and with an agreed £1 per vote, Shanly Group donated £500 to charity. We are happy to have been involved in formulating the name of a major development which will be a feature of the Maidenhead townscape for years to come.

## **CONSULTATION FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED SHANLY GROUP RE-DEVELOPMENT OF CHAPEL ARCHES**

We thank the Shanly Group for the invitation to comment on what will be one of the most exciting and innovative Maidenhead re-developments for many decades. The scale model, computer generated perspectives and display boards gave a clear indication of the proposed scheme to which interested parties could respond.

In general terms we welcome the proposals to create a landmark eastern gateway to the Town Centre. The scheme addresses and resolves several pre-existing planning issues:

- The Old Cinema site at One Bridge Avenue.
- The flattened site at No 1 High Street and the unattractive elevations westwards to St Ives Road.
- The deteriorating condition of the Colonnade (facade, rear and structure) at the eastern end of the High Street.
- The incorporation of the completed Waterways Regeneration scheme into the surrounding townscape.

The biggest “loss” to the town is the sacrifice of the Colonnade. Many regard the distinctive facade as a feature to be cherished and retained, but we understand that the structural supporting beams are becoming unsound where the buildings straddle York Stream. The proposals extract the full benefit from the Waterways scheme, opening up views of the stream, both to the north and south of Chapel Arches and from St Cloud Way. Currently, only the southern side of the arches can be appreciated. It would be a missed opportunity if the waterways leisure facility was only available to the south of the High Street. To open up the north side, the Colonnade will have to be breached. However, the current architectural style is reflected in the new facades and is continued in the returns northwards on both sides of the waterway.



### *The Colonnade – time to go?*

In general terms, the visual setting of the waterway is maximised by the scheme - with a Venetian feel being achieved. We are concerned that along the banks there should be maximum pedestrian access, and that boat users are able to get onto the footpath in an emergency. The model appears to show sections of sheer wall facing the water. The introduction of numerous small specialist retail units and a variety of eating / drinking venues will create a daytime and evening leisure culture.

To the south of the High Street the scheme for One Bridge Avenue is an improvement on the previous proposal for the site, although we regret that one or two storeys have been added. The westward aspect facing the water is a great improvement with extensive sitting out areas. The eastern section of Chapel Arches should be revealed by removing previous infilling. On the opposite bank, the creation of a four-sided “Copthall House” is a good solution to the currently unattractive back yard feel of the eastern and southern elevations of that block. The residential balconies and windows of these apartments should be more traditional in style to reflect the fact that the block is designated a Conservation Area. The re-facading of the High Street and St Ives Road elevations to reflect the Georgian feel of Halifax Building Society opposite will greatly enhance the streetscape. Currently, there is a hotchpotch of architectural styles. Pleasingly, the height of the proposed southwest block is more modest.

The proposed performance “amphitheatre” to the northeast of the library is an innovative concept. However the current grass area is well used (especially in summer) and we would like to see it as grassed terraces with stone facings. We would be concerned if it was entirely constructed in stone / concrete. If in doubt, we would prefer it was left as it is.

We have a considerable problem with the height of the two blocks to the northwest and northeast of the scheme. These are at least two storeys too high. We believe that using the height of the generally disliked Sainsbury’s development as a precedent is not acceptable. This is not an area designated for tall buildings in the AAP, so eight or so storeys is overambitious - and is the criticism which will unite most opposition to the scheme. We understand the developer's desire to extract maximum return - but

the height issue will result in loss of public goodwill. The proposed northwest block will completely dominate the gardens and buildings of St Mary's Parish Church.

In addition to concern about the height of these two blocks, there will be a "canyon" effect generated by their parallel alignment. This will result in a wind-tunnel, especially when the Northerlies blow. This would be alleviated by reducing the height, and staggering the waterfront elevations. If a wind tunnel does result, the desirability of *al fresco* dining will disappear - as will many restaurant umbrellas!

Alongside the retail and leisure opportunities offered by the proposals, we agree that the "Venetian" effect will create a very desirable residential location, and the aspirational feel of the scheme will be enhanced by having apartments which are significantly larger than the norm.

In summary, we would congratulate Shanly Group on an innovative and ambitious scheme to improve visually the eastern aspect of the town. As we have stated, we are primarily concerned at the height of much of the proposed development. The Waterways project will (if adopted) introduce an entire new aspect to Chapel Arches and their environs. However, the waterways cannot just sit in isolation in the current townscape. The new water channels offer a challenge and an opportunity to create a water orientated sector of town. This scheme goes a long way to achieving this objective as long as the tall buildings issue is addressed.

## **FURZE PLATT SCHOOL MOVE RAISES BIG QUESTIONS FOR MAIDENHEAD**

At the end of last month the government published its new planning guidelines in the National Planning Policy Framework. The print on the policy has hardly dried when Maidenhead is presented with a planning dilemma.

Maidenhead Civic Society had contributed to the consultation on the new guidelines. One of the Society's prime concerns was that the policies could trigger an avalanche of "sustainable" schemes that would progressively encroach on land designated as Green Belt.

The proposed scheme for the relocation of Furze Platt Senior School and the construction of 700 new homes has brought a storm of protest, although the details have not been spelt out. Any observations on the proposals must be based on the written submissions circulated by the School, their partners Summerleaze Ltd., and their planning consultants, Barton Willmore.

They make a case for a relocation into modern, purpose built, eco-friendly accommodation on land at Spencers Farm in North Town. The School recently acquired Academy status, which enables it to operate in entrepreneurial mode - outside the constraints of the local authority. However, there must be concerns at how this scheme is to be funded. 380 homes are proposed for the vacated site, and 320 are to be built alongside the new school at Spencers Farm. A total of 700 homes

will be added to this area of North Maidenhead, within one mile of the 500 or so properties already underway at Boulters Meadow (Badnells Pit).

The ownership, status and planning designation of the existing Furze Platt Senior School site are unclear. What is clear is that this scheme is only viable on the basis of developer-driven increase in land values and the construction of 700 homes. Spencers Farm is currently Green Belt. The site is bounded by a stretch of the flood relief channel called Maidenhead Ditch which is designated a wild life refuge by RBWM, the site is crossed by one popular local footpath and a proposed section of the Millennium Walk and includes an area liable to flood. Its value would soar if permission were granted for the new school and 320 houses.

The advocates put forward three main justifications for the project in their submission:

- The need for improved school buildings in view of the deteriorating state of the current structures and lack of adequate funding.
- The belief that Spencers Farm is more “sustainable” than other Green Belt and the presumption that it can be traded against other newly identified Green Belt areas. It is stated that only half of the 20 hectares will be built upon – the rest (playing fields, etc) remaining Green Belt – and as the RBWM had identified (in March 2009) an additional 56 hectares of land for potential Green Belt designation there will be no “net loss” within the Borough.
- The long-term housing requirements of the Borough indicate a need for housing on the scale proposed. The South East Plan identified the need for 346 dwellings per annum for the next 20 years. This proposal will help achieve whatever target is established as a result of the Core Strategy Review.

Commenting on the proposals we said: “This particular initiative is an early manifestation of the feared consequences of a pro-growth planning climate. Of course there is a need for more housing and improved education facilities. But we also have to consider the character and environment of where we live, and the impact of these developments on the wider infrastructure – health services and hospitals, water and waste, policing and traffic management. For example, a major issue would be the access arrangements to the proposed sites but these are not made clear in the outline submissions.

“The regular trading of one area of Green Belt against another is a likely consequence of the lighter-touch planning regulations now in place. So the Spencers Farm scheme and similar proposals in future will see swathes of the green buffer around the town under continual threat. This is the time for RBWM to use its ‘vanguard authority’ in the new neighbourhood planning process to demonstrate how it will deal with the many other cases that are bound to follow.”

*Martin McNamee and Bob Dulson*

# White Place Farm

Members of the Society's planning committee visited White Place Farm on 31<sup>st</sup> March to see some of the farm buildings that have been redeveloped for housing. The development is called *Model Farm*.

The Farm is located to the east of Widbrook Common, as you approach Cookham. For the last six years, with permission of the Edwards family who farm there, walkers participating in Maidenhead Rotary Club's Boundary Walk have been able to walk along its southern boundary to reach the Thames Path, a missing link in the Society's Millennium Walk project. White Place Farm, because of its long history, is also home to a complex of buildings that are Grade II listed and some of these have been re-developed for housing.



*The medieval barn during restoration- we were told that the two sections are of differing medieval dates .....*



*.....and restoration nearing completion*

White Place, according to Stephen Darby, in his 1909 book *Chapters in the History of Cookham*, was originally part of the manor of Bulloks, owned in the C15th by Thomas and Richard Bullok who sold it to Sir William Norreys in 1493. He was the eldest son of John Norreys Esq of Ockwells Manor. Bulloks, or Bullocks, remained with the Norreys family until 1562. It may have been during this period that the medieval farm buildings were erected.



*The interior of the medieval barn building*

White Place Farm continued to be farmed and in 1893 it was purchased by William Waldorf Astor, of Cliveden, from the Leicester Estate. It was his son, Waldorf, married to the famous Nancy Astor, who is credited with building a modern farm at White Place, including a dairy and what has been described as a “Ritz of a cowshed”.



*The old dairy-Country Life Photo Archive*



*The renovated dairy building*

Both these buildings have now been redeveloped as houses, as has the former pump house that apparently pumped water under the Thames and up to Cliveden, in addition to providing the power for the first electrical milking of cows in Berkshire.



*The Pump House today*

People lived next to the Pump House, which must have been a nightmare as the pump kept going day and night.

Of these three buildings, nothing remains of the original Pump House but, in the case of the dairy, the white tiles are apparently still there behind plaster-board. However, the cowshed, the finest of Waldorf's farm buildings, has almost all of its structure intact, including the magnificent lantern roof

roof. All the wood of the building has been sandblasted to remove the grime of its past life. That said, I doubt the cows would recognise it now, with its central cinema let into the floor and, on the cooler side of the building, a subterranean wine cellar capable of storing thousands of wine bottles!



*The cowshed today, with its lantern roof (inset)*

*Ann Darracott*

## New Millennium Walk Map

In 1985 the Society, in collaboration with East Berks Ramblers published the Green Way leaflet, now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition, that stimulated the completion of that streamside path. In April 2012, again with the Ramblers, we have jointly published a leaflet to hopefully do the same thing for the Millennium Walk. We are very grateful to Margaret Bowdery of East Berks Ramblers and their expert cartographer, Dave Ramm, for their help in the creation of the leaflet.



*Ann and Margaret proudly show off the new map*

The Millennium Walk leaflet includes an illustrated map in full colour together with some notes on the vistas, wildlife and heritage along its route. A copy is included with this Newsletter. Anyone participating in the walk from Pinkneys Green to Hurley on 12<sup>th</sup> May (see page 14), during which the new permitted path on Berkshire College of Agriculture land will be formally opened, will also receive a copy.

*Ann Darracott*

# Events

## **TWO CASTLES IN A DAY - SUDELEY & BERKELEY**

We are resuming our outings on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June with a trip to two castles – both in Gloucestershire. Our first call will be to Sudeley Castle in Winchcombe. This is privately owned by Lord and Lady Ashcombe, and dates back over 1000 years. It was once owned by King Ethelred the Unready and then Queen Katherine Parr. Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and Charles I all stayed here. It was restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is beautifully furnished with many paintings by Turner, Van Dyck and Rubens. It is set in lovely gardens and ponds and has a restaurant.



*Sudeley Castle from the Gardens*

Our second stop is Berkeley Castle which is also privately owned. Building started in 1117. Edward 11 was murdered here in 1327, and the castle was besieged by Cromwell in 1645. The State Apartments have a magnificent collection of furniture. There is the Great Hall where the barons of the West Country met before travelling to Runnymede to force King John to sign the Magna Carta. The castle is surrounded by Elizabethan Gardens and here is also a café here.



*Berkeley Castle*

Depart:	Bridge Road	09.15
	Braywick Sports Ground	09.30
Return:	Maidenhead	approx 18.30
Cost including drivers tip	Members	£37.00
	Non Members	£39.00

Please return the booking form **no later than 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012**.

In September we are planning to visit the newly restored Cutty Sark in Greenwich. More detail will be in our next Newsletter as at the time of writing it has not yet re-opened.

*Mike Copeland*

**MILLENNIUM WALK - OPENING OF PATH ON SAT 12<sup>th</sup> MAY**

As detailed in the last Newsletter, a missing link in this long distance walk will be formally opened on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to participate in this event by joining the walk from Pinkneys Green and obtaining your own copy of the new leaflet describing the Walk, here are the details:

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May; Millennium Walk - 3.5m walk from Pinkneys Green to Hurley, to formally inaugurate a new permitted path on Berkshire College of Agriculture land, a

missing link in the Millennium Walk. Arrive 10am at Hurley car park for 10.15pm departure on coach for Pinkneys Green. To book at place on the coach contact Mike Copeland on 01628 634181 or by email [mike@mjcconsulting.demon.co.uk](mailto:mike@mjcconsulting.demon.co.uk), with name(s) and a contact phone number. The cost will £4 to be collected on the coach, and this covers the coach fare, a copy of the new Millennium Walk leaflet and refreshments at Temple Golf Club where the path will be formally opened. Regretfully, no dogs.

This is a good opportunity to walk half of the Millennium Walk route and to see for yourself the new permitted path from Temple Golf Club to Prospect Hill. There are several spectacular views over the Thames Valley to be enjoyed.

We plan to arrive at Temple Golf Club by midday and be back at Hurley ca. 2pm. There are a few pubs & restaurants in Hurley for lunch or you could bring a picnic.

## **VISIT TO SHOTTESBROOKE CHURCH AND MEDIEVAL HALL**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May



This is a rare opportunity to see the Shottesbrooke Church and learn about the college founded there by William Trussell in 1337, the same year that William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, who was one of Trussell's donors, founded the priory at Bisham. The tomb of Trussell and his wife is still there in the north transept and portrait corbels of Trussell and Queen Philippa can be seen on the crossing. The medieval hall (where we will have tea) is later, thought to be C15<sup>th</sup>.

Visitors will also learn about the Landmark Trust, a building preservation charity founded by Sir John Smith.

Arrive 2pm at Shottesbrooke Church, Broadmoor Rd, White Waltham SL6 3SW. To book a place, contact Mike Copeland as above. Places are limited to 25. Cost £2.50 to be collected on the day. Refreshments will be available for a small donation.

**Our Guides** will be: **Keith Hasted**, who has a particular interest in English Cathedral architecture and Italian Renaissance palaces and teaches history of architecture at Oxford University Continuing Education and the WEA; and **Jeff Griffiths**, a local historian who volunteers at Shottesbrooke for the Landmark Trust.



*Queen Philippa*



*William Trussell*

Using a record written by Elias Ashmole in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, I have been researching the armorial glass of the church, most of which is now lost and some information on this will be available to visitors.

Please note that access at the entrance gate is by entry phone; once past the gate follow the drive to the church. Parking is limited so share cars if possible and remember: there is no heating in the church, so dress appropriately! If you are interested in the detail in the remaining armorial glass bring binoculars.

### **VISIT TO HURLEY – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

We have been invited to participate in a conducted walk around **Hurley** to be held on the morning of **10<sup>th</sup> July** and organised for the Marlow Society. It will include privileged access to the Ladye Place crypt and the Cloisters – remnants of Hurley's Priory – that are now in private hands. Meet at 10.15am at the Olde Bell Hotel in the High Street. The cost is £2.50 to be collected on the day. To secure a place contact Jeff Griffiths, tel. 01628 481980 or email [jefflgriff@yahoo.com](mailto:jefflgriff@yahoo.com).

### **TALK – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

The Marlow Society have also invited members of the Civic Society to attend the talk to be given by the well-known TV personality **Lucinda Lambton** who will talk on “**Palaces for Pigs and Other Beastly Dwellings**” on in the Liston Hall, Marlow, at 7.30 pm. Cost to be confirmed.

*Ann Darracott*

# Booking Form

## SUDELEY & BERKELEY CASTLES

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Please cut out and send this completed form,  
together with your cheque/postal order,  
payable to "MAIDENHEAD CIVIC SOCIETY", to reach  
Mike Copeland, 14, Laburnham Road, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 4DB

**not later than 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....POSTCODE .....

TELEPHONE No. ....

E-MAIL ADDRESS .....

*(Please include this if you have one)*

### *I wish to book*

..... seats for Civic Society members @ £37.00 = £ .....

..... seats for non - members @ £39.00 = £ .....

**Senior Citizens please tick here.....**

**Please treat any profit on this outing as a Gift Aid Donation (please tick).....**

*(You must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax we reclaim on your donation)*

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**Please circle pick-up point**

**Bridge Avenue  
09.15**

**Braywick Sports Gnd.  
09.30**

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# Announcements

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

We would like to again remind members who have not updated their Standing Orders to the current subscription levels (£12 single, £18 family membership) to please do so before 1st June 2012. If you are still short of the correct contribution this year, cash or cheque to the membership secretary will put the status of your account to 'Paid in Full'. Subscriptions become due on 1st June for the next year, i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013. Please ensure you pay promptly as this helps the Society carry out its good work on behalf of the membership and to the benefit of Maidenhead.

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

For most of you, the quarterly News is hand delivered by one of our volunteer distributors. The remainder who live further out of town will receive their copy by post. As everyone will be aware, postage rates will rise steeply at the end of April and we are keen to try and reduce the bill for this. In addition, a couple of our distributors are no longer able to get about as well as they used to and this leaves some areas not well covered. The areas where we particularly need help are Cookham, Pinkneys Green and Holyport/Bray. If you feel you can lend a hand, please contact Sue Ross on 01628 626849.

## News from the Heritage Centre

### EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS:

#### **OUR SPORTING LIFE** Now until 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012

This excellent national touring exhibition not only celebrates Britain's contribution to the modern Olympic and Paralympic Games, starting with Lord Desborough organising the 1908 London Olympics, but it also features Maidenhead's local sporting life, past and present. So you will find not only Lord Desborough and Bert Bushnell (Gold, double sculls, 1948) but also Stanley Jones (marathon, 1948) and many other local athletes. Stanley's 1948 team blazer, running vest and competitor's medal are on display alongside other 1948 memorabilia, including a 1948 Olympic torch which carried the Olympic flame through the streets of Maidenhead. Cricket fans will recognize the name of Freddie Brown, who attended St Piran's School, but how many know that Sir Stirling Moss was brought up in Bray, went to the Boys' Grammar School and played rugby for Maidenhead Rugby Club? In 1957 he made history as the first British driver to win a British Grand Prix driving a British car – a Vanwall from Maidenhead. Our Paralympians are not forgotten: for instance the swimmer Jeanette Chippington, who participated in 5 Paralympic games, has loaned a jacket she wore at the Sydney games. There is much more of interest, even to visitors who are not sports fans.

## **LOCAL BREWERIES AND PUBS** 14<sup>th</sup> June to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012

A glimpse into an almost forgotten time when every town had its own brewery and every street had its quota of pubs. And what better location than the former Cricketers Arms in Park Street, now the home of Maidenhead Heritage Centre?

## **TOYS OF YESTERDAY** 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> September

A family-centred exhibition for the school holidays, with lots of old toys to look at and some to play with as well. Civic Society members with unusual toys which they would be willing to lend for display are invited to contact the Heritage Centre on 01628 780555.

**GRANDMA FLEW SPITFIRES!** the permanent Air Transport Auxiliary exhibition on the first floor of the Heritage Centre, complete with its fantastic Spitfire simulator, which was recently flown by a 91-year old ATA veteran who declared it to be “pretty impressive”. A 12-year old visitor wrote in the visitor book “I want a simulator for my birthday”. Please come and try it for yourself.

## **RIVER THAMES HISTORICAL CRUISES** Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> and Tues 11<sup>th</sup> September

Enjoy a 5-hour cruise on the Thames, from Maidenhead to Marlow and return, with a live commentary en route. Enjoy the beautiful scenery while learning about the landscape, wildlife, boats, buildings and gossip of our local river. To book please phone 01628 780555. Tickets £20 pp in aid of Heritage Centre funds.

Maidenhead Heritage Centre now has a brand new visitor entrance, thanks to a large grant from Biffaward, associated with landfill tax. The new entrance provides an excellent shop window to the street, additional display space and best of all a barrier against the British weather. Visitors and volunteers all noticed an immediate improvement in the environmental conditions in the ground floor galleries.

The “York Road opportunity area” around the town hall includes the Heritage Centre in Park Street. It may take years for any proposals come to fruition but when discussions get under way, Maidenhead Heritage Trust wishes to be involved in order to protect the interests of the Heritage Centre and everyone who has contributed to its success, including Maidenhead Civic Society. It has taken 6 temporary homes and 19 years of hard work to get where we are today. Everybody involved has made huge investments of voluntary time and helped raise over £900,000. Maidenhead Heritage Trust is unlikely to consider any change unless it improves dramatically the facilities and services which can be offered at the Heritage Centre.

*Footnote:* a 1972 planning document in the Heritage Centre archive includes the Grove Road area as a redevelopment site. 40 years later the only possible comment is “**No comment!**”

More details from the Heritage Centre websites [www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk) and [www.atamuseum.org](http://www.atamuseum.org).

# Dates for your Diary

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012  
**Social Event**

The Civic Society Luncheon: "Planning in the Royal Borough", a talk by Simon Hurrell.  
Boulter's Restaurant, 12.30pm.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012  
**Walk**

Millennium Walk Missing Link – Inaugural Walk.  
Hurley Car Park, 10.00 am.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012  
**Visit**

Shottesbrooke Church, nr White Waltham. Guided tour.  
2pm at Shottesbrooke Church.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
**Outing**

Sudeley and Berkeley Castles.  
09.15am Bridge Ave; 09.30am Braywick Sports Ground.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012  
**Visit/Walk**

Guided walk around Hurley, incl. Ladye Place crypt & the Cloisters. Joint tour with Marlow Society. 10.15 am at Ye Olde Bell Hotel, Hurley.

## 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
Executive Chairman	Bob Dulson, Bryher, Islet Road, SL6 8HT	627130
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Communications Group	Brian Darracott, 6 Medallion Place, SL6 1TF	620280
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 2012

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

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

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS FOR 2012

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

10<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> October

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</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> July 2012.**

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