



The COOKHAM SOCIETY

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Newsletter - February 2011

ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT GROUP

Work advances on Stanley Spencer and Kenneth Grahame projects

Back on 2008 we reported our ideas to the AGM on these two projects. After three years of patient research we are now making progress and believe the next twelve months should tell us whether they are viable. The first proposal is to work jointly with other local organisations for a statue of the late artist in Cookham. The second is a tribute to Kenneth Grahame's much-loved "Wind in the Willows" – and we have been strongly supported by the Kenneth Grahame Society who are coming to Cookham for their AGM in September.

We plan a wide-ranging fund raising campaign to cover the costs, if we can secure the preferred locations. Our initial discussions with landowners have been positive.

During the year we have also worked on other local environment issues, which have included dog fouling, flooding, village signage and the Marsh Meadow children's nature reserve. We welcome input from members on these and any other environmental issues.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Christmas card sell-out ends successful year

Thanks are due to local retailers who helped wind up a successful season with an almost complete clearance of our stocks of Christmas cards. The Society recorded a continuing flow of new members from our representation at the Scout Fair, Cookham Regatta, Cookham Dean's Autumn Fayre and the Xmas Fayre held at Moor Hall and we intend to return to these events in 2011.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Following the reminder letters sent out in January, would all members who have not already paid, please ensure that subscriptions are sent to Bill Spicer without further delay. *Thank you.*

The COMMITTEE 2010

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(P)=Planning Sub-Committee

(E)=Events Sub Committee

(EEG)=Environmental Enhancement Group Sub Committee

CAUSEWAY CLOSURE CAUSES CONCERN

News that the Royal Borough does not intend to open the Causeway across the Moor during flood conditions has raised concerns among people in Cookham about access when roads into the village are inundated. Newspaper reports before Christmas cited a risk assessment, which has not been made publicly available, and, at the time this newsletter went to press, no information had been given to villagers about how they will be able to get in or out, what provision will be made for the emergency services or how the needs of the village's care homes will be addressed.



Jean Stretton, the Society's retiring President, who has lived in Cookham for more than 50 years, said: "The situation is extremely worrying. It is quite unacceptable that the Council should allow us to be cut off in this way."



The Society is pressing the Council for a response.

LEADING WILDLIFE EXPERT TO ADDRESS AGM

The Society is delighted that Dr. Michael Keith-Lucas has found time to talk to us prior to the Annual General Meeting on 10th March. Dr. Keith-Lucas has recently retired as Senior Tutor in Plant Sciences at the University of Reading. He is Chairman of the Mid-Berks. region of the Wildlife Trusts (BBOWT) and of Reading Gardeners and will be talking about Flood Plain Meadows and their conservation, with particular reference to Cock Marsh.

AGM Announcement and Agenda

The AGM is scheduled to be held at the Chartered Institute of Marketing at Moor Hall on

Thursday, 10th March, 2011 at 7.30 pm

NEW MEMBERS ARE NEEDED ON THE SOCIETY'S COMMITTEE

Keen to learn about local issues at the same time as 'lending a hand' and making new friends?

Making a contribution and what some of our present Committee members say:



Cookham parish would not be the special place it is today if its people had not struggled to preserve and enhance that which is best in and around the three villages. In the past, residents staunchly defended Cookham's common land, to which they had (and still have) ancient rights, but the historical tradition also includes taking of active steps to 'create the right future'. Not everyone realises that Cookham's bridge was built by the Victorians specifically to anticipate the coming of the railway line and to open up Cookham to commerce and economic well-being.

"I was brought up in Cookham Dean and my wife and I were drawn back here in the 1970s. As a Chartered Surveyor who has worked for many years in the world of planning and development and has been both a parish and borough councillor, I have found my time on the Society's Committee to be a very rewarding way of helping to protect our unique villages." **Tom Denniford, Chairman**
Resides: Winter Hill Road



The Cookham Society was founded in the 1960s and follows these fine traditions of preserving and enhancing the best whilst helping to create the future. This is not achieved without a great deal of hard work and we need active and enthusiastic Committee members who can make a real contribution to our efforts.

"After settling in to my new home some four years ago, I wanted to get more involved with Cookham. It has been particularly rewarding to come face to face with issues relating to such a wonderful place. I feel I have learnt so much about the three Cookhams, as well as making great new friends. A steep learning curve - but enormously worthwhile." **Shez Courtenay-Smith, Vice Chairman**
Resides: Churchgate

The work we do



Whilst further housing will probably be needed, the Cookham Society has put an enormous amount of effort into ensuring that Cookham does not simply become an over-populated suburb of Maidenhead. The Society's Planning sub-committee reviews all planning applications and also keeps its finger on the pulse of new initiatives and planning policy. Meanwhile, an Events sub-committee ensures the Society has a strong profile right across Cookham parish, whilst an Environmental Enhancement Group looks to the future. Other members of the Committee are contributing to the forthcoming Cookham Village Design Statement

"I started primary school at Holy Trinity in 1950 and spent my childhood roaming around the nooks, crannies and open fields of the three Cookhams. Since I married in 1970 I have lived in High Road. Whilst my career in the Refinery and Petrochemical Industry has taken me all over the world, my long affinity with Cookham has instilled a profound need to help preserve its natural beauty and amenity. My involvement in the work of the Committee helps me give something back to safeguarding this very special place." **Bill Spicer, Membership Secretary**
Resides : High Road

Who we need on the Committee



We need people who are positive, enthusiastic and prepared to make an input of a few hours each month. If you bring professional skills - lawyer, architect, surveyor, planner, accountant, etc - then that is entirely welcome, but it is not essential.

Joining the Cookham Society's Committee is not a lifetime commitment. Although you may stay longer, your active contribution even for 2-3 years can be invaluable and ensures the Committee stays refreshed.

"As a relative newcomer to the village, I felt happy to help the Cookham Society Committee. The role of Minutes Secretary has proved quite challenging as secretarial skills do not appear on my CV! Over the years my career has spanned teaching, marketing, hospitality, property - and last but definitely not least, motherhood. However the Committee seems satisfied with my efforts and I enjoy the contact with some genuinely likeable people who are so dedicated in their work to preserve and enhance Cookham." **Joy Vans Agnew, Minutes Secretary**
Resides: The Pound

The Society has a large committee in order to provide adequate representation of the whole of the area. Currently, as the result of the inevitable resignations and retirements, we shall have 6 vacancies. In particular, we should like to recruit someone who has an interest in taking on Josephine Crabb's important role as our representative on the Marlow-Maidenhead Passengers Association looking after Cookham's interests on the branch line and...

New Honorary Secretary required Bill Spicer is stepping down after 5 years of yeoman service.

Bill will continue to handle the Society's membership records,

but a new Secretary is needed to deal with our (small) amount of general administration. C.T.D

The Society was sorry to lose Georgina Kilner from its Planning Sub-committee towards the end of last year. Georgina has worked tremendously hard for the Society and under her leadership the Planning Sub-committee represented the public interest in Cookham developments and consultations with outstanding care and professionalism.