

Events

During 2007 The Society had our usual displays of Village and Dean Fetes, the Regatta and Christmas Fayre. These are important events for The Society and give us the opportunity to meet with existing and new members to discuss issues of concern, etc.

Our Christmas Fayre reverted back to the more popular Victorian theme that encouraged most of the stallholders to dress in period costume. There were 30 stalls at the **Fayre** and about £4,000 was made by the local charities involved.

Our 2008 Christmas Fayre is planned for 15th November which will again be under the superb organisation of Sally Lloyd Parry.

This year's Christmas cards sold very well and together with sales of our surplus stock from last year contributed just over £2,500 to the Society's funds. This included another order from The Chartered Institute of Marketing who chose 'Cookham Village Under Snow' by Pam Hammond for the front of their corporate card.



Bill Spicer

Obituary - Ed Cairney

We have to report the death in December of our Committee member, Ed Cairney. Although he only joined our Committee in April 2007, his wise advice had already impressed us all, here was a man who always said something worth listening to.

His contribution to the Society was all too short. Our sympathy goes out to his family and his wide circle of friends.

COMMITTEE

President: Mrs Jean Stretton (P)

Isis House, Berries Road, Cookham Village SL6 9SD

01628-819107 Email thestrettons@hotmail.com

Chairman: Mr David Ashwanden (P)

Butts Legh, School Lane, Cookham, SL6 9QJ

01628 526704 Email david@ashwandens.demon.co.uk

Vice-Chairman: Mr Richard Gold (E)

Little Garlands, Grange Lane, Cookham, SL6 9RP

01628 521215 Email bemagold@waitrose.com

Hon Secretary and Membership Secretary:

Mr Bill Spicer (E)

Azul, High Road, Cookham SL6 9JU

01628 525258 : mobile 07808 257755 Email bill@thespicers.co.uk

Hon Treasurer: Mr Jim Peck

Danes Oak, Danes Gardens, Cookham, SL6 9BF

01628 522356 Email aliandjimpeck@thamesinternet.com

Minutes Secretary Mrs Janet Palmer (E)

Hillside, Graham Road, Cookham SL6 9JQ

01628 529274 Email janet_palmer@btopenworld.com

Mrs Mandy Brar (E)

13 Hillcrest Avenue, Cookham SL6 9NB

01628 523606 (also Fax) Email mandybrar@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Vivienne Chaikin

3 Grove Cottages, Lower Road, Cookham SL6 9ET

01628 529920

Ms Josephine Crabb (P)

75 Westwood Green, Cookham, SL6 9DE

07712 082556 Email jcrabb@supanet.com

Dr. Shelagh Courtenay-Smith (P)

Churchgate, Church Gate Sutton Road, Cookham, Berks SL6 9SN

01628 520320 Email shez@appliedintellect.co.uk

Mrs Margaret Cubley

57 Temple Mill Island, Bisham, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1SQ

01628 825042 Email margaretcubley@57tmi.fsnet.co.uk

Mr Tom Denniford (P)

Inkydown, Winter Hill Road, Cookham Dean, SL6 6PJ

01628 482403 Email cfanford@cfanford.nildram.co.uk

Mr Pablo Dubois (E)

Regency Cottage, The Pound, Cookham SL6 9QD

01628 521002 Email pablo@dubois.me.uk

Mr Evert Groeneweg (P)

23 Coxborrow Close, Cookham SL6 9HH

01628 851003 Email gwenevert@tiscali.co.uk

Mr Tord Norstrom (P)

Holmcroft Lower Road Cookham SL6 9HF

01628 525198 Email tord.norstrom@tiscali.co.uk

Mr George Stinnes (P)

Poundside, Terrys Lane Cookham Rise SL6 9QG

01628 523086 Email george@stinnes.com

Mr Richard Wheeler (E)

14 Southwood Road, Cookham Rise SL6 9LY

01628 810394 Email richard@thewordshop.co.uk

(P) = Planning Sub-Committee (E) = Entertainments Committee



The

COOKHAM SOCIETY

Newsletter

www.cookhamsociety.org.uk

February 2008

Chairman's note

The past months have been taken up with work on the Cookham Village Plan. The Plan has now been presented to the Parish Council and it will need considerable work to analyse its contents before the Society can draw any conclusions from it. Having been involved in a private capacity as a member of the Steering Group, I can assure members that all the points raised in the final document were fiercely debated and represent a majority view of what could be practical. The emphasis on congestion – of housing and of traffic – reflected the weight of views and concerns raised by all those who contributed their comments to the various meetings and consultations. It is a pity that some of those now voicing their disagreement with the Plan's proposals did not contribute more actively when asked for their ideas.

Once again, I must thank all those who have given their time and energy to supporting the Society. Bill Spicer has done sterling work in keeping up the membership and ensuring that all the subscriptions are up to date; Jim Peck has once again optimised the returns on the Society's finances: Richard Gold has been a pillar of strength in organising events while we also have to thank Sally Lloyd Parry for her marvellous Christmas Fayre at Moor Hall.

David Ashwanden

Cookham Village Plan

The following notice has been posted on the village web site (Cookham.com):

"There has been much comment about the Village Plan and the part of the Cookham Society in its preparation."

"Please understand that the Village Plan is not the creation of the Cookham Society. We will be expressing our concerns and comments on the Plan like everyone else. At our January Committee meeting we set up a small group of members to analyse the Plan and the Working Group reports underlying it and to prepare a response from the Society to the proposals. We hope that the first version of this response will be circulated to as many members as possible in time for it to be approved or otherwise at the AGM on 13th March.

It is also worth noting that the Plan was drawn up after much work by a large number of people over a long period. It should be accorded the attention which such a large project should receive. Just because there is one proposal (for a feasibility study) which is controversial there is no cause to ignore the rest of the Plan."

It is planned that the Parish meeting on March 11th in Pinder Hall, will be devoted to an Open Forum seeking the views of Villagers on the Plan as part of the Parish Council's consultation in developing their own response.

Since there is still much work for the Society to do in making representations and influencing the Plan; all Members are encouraged to consider whether they should offer themselves for election to the Committee.

Please come to the AGM if you wish to contribute to these consultations.

AGM Announcement and Agenda

The AGM is scheduled to be held on 13th March in the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Moor Hall at 7.30pm.

See Agenda inside.

Planning applications

Mardon, Lower Road: Michael Shanly has been refused permission to build two three bed semidetached houses in the garden behind Mardon in Lower Road on the grounds that the application did not include any provision for infrastructure.

A second application has now been submitted with an undertaking to contribute a payment of £26,000 for infrastructure. The Society has written objecting to these proposals but it seems likely that this application will be approved thus further increasing the density of housing in Cookham Rise.

White Place Farm, Sutton Road

The application to convert five redundant farm buildings (three of them listed) to residential use was approved by the Borough planners in 2007 subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State. The proposal will now be the subject of a three day public enquiry starting on 8th April.

The Society supported this application since it represented the only realistic way to preserve the historic buildings involved – as well as reducing the area of built land in the flood plain.

Railway

The Maidenhead and Marlow Passengers Association has asked if the Society will nominate a member to their Committee following the resignation of our previous representative. The Association has lobbied – reasonably successfully – for the maintenance of the service on our branch line despite the Government's attempts to convert it to a "Community Railway". More recently the Association has fought for the improvement of the service on the Reading to Paddington line which most Cookham residents use. The Society's input to the Association has been valuable and considered important. Please contact any Committee member.

Crossrail:

The passing of the Crossrail legislation means that by 2017 it will be possible to commute directly from Maidenhead to Shenfield in Essex or Ebbsfleet in Kent without changing trains. The effects on the local infrastructure may be significant: demand for housing may be increased because of the improved accessibility of the area from London, parking at Cookham Station may become impossible and, it is suggested, the southern end of the branch line may become the staging area for the Crossrail trains.

Flooding

The Environment Agency have announced their new plan to reduce the risk of flooding in South Cookham. The objective of the proposal is to restore the flood risk level of the housing in Strande Lane and Bourne End to the same level as existed before the Jubilee River and North Maidenhead Bund were developed.

The proposals include the construction of a new bund on the south side of Marsh Meadow which will slow down the arrival of flood water at Widbrook through the Fleet Stream and divert more water to the main river. The removal of the cills in Odney Weir has already greatly improved the capacity of the River and remedial work on the Jubilee River has increased its capacity to be able to handle the additional flows.

A formal application for planning permission has just been made and it is hoped that work will be completed before the end of the summer 2008.

Cookham Society 40th Birthday

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Society, you may be interested in some memories of the early history as recorded by a past chairman, **Laurence Boyagis**.

"The Society was formed in 1967 after the Hall and Ham River company had bought 512 acres of good gravel bearing land at Widbrook from the estate of Lord Astor and put in an application to extract gravel and put up a processing plant.

This represented the first major threat ever to the well being of the village and it was decided to create a fighting fund and to brief Counsel. The figure decided upon was £2500, a considerable sum for those days. The money was raised very much by a village effort and one of the members, Mr Morgan (father of Sally Lloyd Parry), carried out a survey which showed that a successful application would mean that every two or three minutes for eight hours a day for six days a week for at least 20 years a gravel lorry would come through the village – he also indicated the structural risk to Cookham Bridge. Against the odds we won, probably the first time a small village beat a sizeable public company over gravel extraction. It was, however, only after three or four years that the gravel company finally withdrew, at the eleventh hour, their final two appeals. By this time we were facing another threat – Poundfield. It was then that the Committee decided to build up a reserve fund against the gravel and Poundfield threats."

Hon. TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2007

The year reflected a surplus of £5,000 which raised our Reserves by more than the rate of inflation to £45,500. The main features were higher subscription income, gift aid tax recovery, interest received and Christmas card profits. Social events saw a small surplus before equipment purchases and repairs. Running costs were slightly below 2006.

In 2008 we are budgeting to contribute £1,000 to the Cookham Villages Plan process and a similar sum for Environmental work, although at this point the latter item is still in embryo and likely to move ahead slowly. We should again see a healthy surplus. Once again my thanks to those who do the real work and make the "bean counter's" job straightforward.

Jim Peck

Elizabeth House Appeal

With the forecast increase in the number of elderly inhabitants of Cookham, the Trustees of Elizabeth House are seeking to improve the facilities. They are expecting the cost to be about £175,000 to double the size of the present dining room to provide more dining seating and to double up as an activities room; the reception area will be enlarged, the kitchen improved and access for the less mobile improved.

We would encourage our members to support this project by giving something to help. Contact the Treasurer, Val Eckert, c/o Elizabeth House.

Who knows how they might appreciate this facility in the future!

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Statement to Members.

The Data Protection Act does not allow The Cookham Society to hand over your details to anyone else without your consent. Rest assured that the Society will not pass information on to any third party.

However, we do need to be able to maintain a record of our Membership and we will be what the law calls the 'Data Controller'. Your information is stored on a password-protected database, and will only be used by the Society for gathering membership subscriptions and for contacting you.

IMPORTANT –

If any part of your name and address as shown on your address label requires correction please let Bill Spicer know:-

01628 525258

or by email on bill@thespicers.co.uk.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Following the reminder letters sent out last December, would all Members who have not already paid, please ensure that subscriptions are sent to Bill Spicer without further delay