



*The*

## **COOKHAM SOCIETY**

**Newsletter**

**February 2009**

### **The Cookham Village Design Statement Needs *YOUR* Input and Involvement**

In the last issue of this Newsletter we told you about the decision of the Cookham Parish Council to commission a Cookham Village Design Statement (usually designated VDS).

A VDS is a document that seeks to 'capture the essence' of how a village looks - its landscape setting, its streets, its building styles and so on. It focuses on the physical qualities that residents love about their village. It then sets out guidance for the design of any future development so that it will complement and enhance (rather than damage) the unique character of the village. It also shows where certain types of development would be harmful to the recognised character of the village.

The volunteer Working Group for the Cookham VDS has already put in a great deal of effort to get the VDS project launched, and has now reached the stage where wide-ranging input is needed from Cookham residents. For the VDS to be formally accepted as a 'Supplementary Planning Document' of the Royal Borough it has to be proven that residents have been adequately consulted and have adequately contributed to the resulting document.

So it's up to Cookham Society Members as well as all other residents of the Cookhams to help ensure the success of the project. Please respond to the initial request to identify your favourite Cookham VIEWS, **do** learn more at the Cookham Society's AGM, **do** attend the Public Meetings (see insert), and **do** stay involved.

The Cookham Society believes that the VDS will prove to be a major asset to the Cookhams. We are providing a defined level of financial support to the project, alongside the Parish Council, whilst monitoring all progress closely. The VDS is prepared to a strict formula, and Royal Borough Planning Officers will collaborate at all stages.



Two splendid Cookham VIEWS, familiar to most Members of the Cookham Society. The first is Redaways Cottage and the second is Nightingale Place and Cottages.

One of the inserts in this Newsletter asks you to 'name' the Cookham VIEWS that are most important to you. Please do respond! You can send responses off to the Council Offices or drop them into any of the VDS Views Collection Points in village stores and meeting places.

Photos will also be very welcome if you happen to have them!

### **How YOU can influence the future of planning decisions in the Cookhams**

**Learn more about the Cookham Village Design Statement at the Cookham Society AGM on 5th March 2009 - There will be displays, a presentation, and an opportunity for discussion. Thank you so much for your contributions.**

## **BOURNE END VIADUCT**

**Birse** (Railway Engineering Contractors) will be closing the footpath over the River Thames at Bourne End in the coming months. The Contractors will be grit blasting the bridge, and to ensure the safety of the public this section of the footpath will be closed.

(It is noted there is no vehicular access to the 9 properties on Cockmarsh, and the nearest alternative pedestrian route is a mile away over Cookham Bridge which will undoubtedly deter many customers of the Bounty public house and present a major issue to residents' daily lives.)



Bourne End Viaduct will receive a cash injection from Network Rail as part of a nationwide scheme to makeover unsightly bridges. These railway bridges, which have been blighted by rust, graffiti, fly posting and pigeons, will be thoroughly cleaned and re-painted to bring them back to their former splendour.

However, as of this moment, the initiative for the Bourne End Viaduct renovation has been put on hold until further notice due to access issues over several Landowners property with the heavy machinery required for the cleaning process. Anthony Hurst, Principal Rights of Way officer of the RBWM is closely in touch with Network Rail and is awaiting their conclusions on the problems of access to the Bourne End Viaduct.

## **MMPA - AGM**

The Marlow to Maidenhead Passengers Association AGM is at Bourne End Community Centre at 8pm on March 27th. This organisation is our voice with the rail and bus services locally both key to our villages. The AGM is always attended by senior managers from both railway and bus companies who give a short presentation and then answer members' questions.



Please consider attending and supporting this group.

## **Appeal For New Committee Members and Minutes Secretary**

As always at this time of year, a few of our committee members step down at the AGM. We would like to attract some replacements and would invite our members to consider whether they would like to stand. There are a number of different dimensions to committee membership – some members are steeped in the minutiae of planning; others enjoy the practical organisation associated with our attendance at events; some members represent us at, for example, The Marsh Meadow Committee or the Marlow to Maidenhead Passengers' Association Meetings; others liaise with outside groups like Heathrow noise campaigners or The Maidenhead Civic Society. The only qualifications for being considered are a genuine *wider interest* in "The Cookhams" and a willingness to become involved.

In addition, our very dependable Minutes Secretary, Janet Palmer is standing down. We would like to thank Janet for her painstaking attention to capturing, on paper, our lengthy debates over the period of her office. Needless to say, we are extremely keen to attract someone to replace her for our first meeting of the new year at the beginning of April.

If you feel able, willing or perhaps just interested in finding out more – give Bill Spicer a call on 525258. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Society Boost for Elizabeth House

A Society cheque for £2,000 was recently donated to Elizabeth House to add to the funds already raised by the Day Centre's Fund Raising Team. This completes the £170,000 total needed to pay for its recently completed extension.

Elizabeth House, Cookham Day Centre is widely recognised as an asset to the community and a model of its kind.

***"If only there was somewhere, where my older patients could meet and have a meal together in company..*** was the heartfelt cry of one of Cookham's best loved doctors, Dr David Mercer at a meeting in 1977

This plea was taken up with much determination by many hard working folk. Fund raising initiatives were enthusiastically supported by the community.

The Centre opened on a daily basis from 5th January 1981.



***Back row: John Bowley, Mike Copland  
Georgina Kilner and Reg Wilsher, Day  
Centre Chairman.***

***Front Row: Wendy Craig, EH President  
and Jean Stretton Society President.***

*It is interesting to note that Georgina is our current Chairman but John, Mike and Jean are all previous Chairmen of The Society.*

## The Effects of Climate Change on Cookham

A presentation to the  
Cookham Society AGM by  
Fiona Hewer MSc FRMetS

5<sup>th</sup> March 2009

See AGM Agenda

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

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.

## EVENTS - 2008

We are indebted to The Chartered Institute of Marketing (Moor Hall) for kindly allowing us to hold our Christmas Fayre for yet another year on their premises on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Christmas Fayre was once again well received and continued in the popular Victorian theme with the stall holders dressed in period costume. The overall organisation by Sally Lloyd Parry was superb.



There were 30 stalls at the Fayre and about £3,500 was made by the local charities involved. This included £340 generated by the Society's Tombola through the outstanding efforts of Cordelia Ashwanden and her team and our thanks go to them and the very many people who donated the prizes.

This year's Christmas cards again sold very well and together with sales of our surplus stock from last year contributed just over £1,700 to the Society's funds. This included another order from The Chartered Institute of Marketing who commissioned 'Frosty Morning at Moor Hall' by Pam Hammond for the front of their corporate card.

During 2008 The Society had our usual displays of historical Cookham photographs and souvenirs at the Village and Dean Fêtes, 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.

## COMMITTEE

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