

Events

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Society will be participating in the following Events this year. So please make a note of the dates in your diaries.

- Scout/Village Fair** Saturday June 16th
Cookham Moor
- Cookham Regatta** Saturday September 1st
Marsh Meadow
- Cookham Dean Fête** Saturday September 15th
Cricket Common
- Christmas Fayre** Saturday October 27th
Moor Hall
- Village Charity Afternoon** Saturday December 9th
High Street



Bill Spicer and David Ashwanden

We will be there with our tent with various Exhibits and updated information on key planning and related issues. From September we will be selling Cookham Christmas Cards. Otherwise the committee are considering holding a few social evenings later in the year.

**Your news and views
to The Editor**
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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 E-mail on
bill@thespicers.co.uk**



The COOKHAM SOCIETY Newsletter June 2007

www.cookhamsociety.org.uk

Planning

As usual there have been several applications which have attracted the opposition of members. In particular, the application to extend Spencers Public House and turn it into a *Blubeckers Restaurant* has caused much debate. On the one hand the addition of a well regarded branded restaurant to the range of facilities in Cookham is not unwelcome; on the other hand, the size and unneighbourly aspects of the proposed development together with the lack of suitable parking for the extra customers make the proposed extension highly undesirable. The Royal Borough Planning panel have refused two applications but one is already subject to appeal and the other was only refused because the applicant had not undertaken to pay Section 106 money.



The White Hart Hotel - now 'Spencers' in The Pound

The Cookham Village Plan

Work has been continuing on the Village Plan. It is hoped to present the Plan to the Parish Council in time for their meeting at the beginning of July. The five working groups have



Richard Simmonds

now completed their reports and recommendation which are being considered by an editorial committee whose members are Richard Simmonds, Chrissy Rosenthal and Father Michael Smith. This committee is working with professional drafters from the Chartered Institute of Marketing to produce a distillation of the proposals and recommendations. A first draft will be ready for review by the working groups and the Steering Group at the end of May. The second draft, incorporating their amendments will be produced in mid June with the final version being considered for approval before the end of the month. The final version will be available on the **Cookham.com** web site and hard copies will be available in the Library and the Parish Office.

We hope that the Plan will be acceptable to the Royal Borough defining policies as part of the new **Local Development Framework**. We have been warned however that we may need to submit a **Village Design**

Statement to ensure inclusion in the policies of the **LDF**. The **VDS** has to be presented in a particular format and to have been the subject of extensive consultation; most work will have already been done to produce the Village Plan. Should the Royal Borough require a **VDS**, the Society should be closely involved in its production.

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

Railways

The MP for Maidenhead continues her dialogue with First Great Western (FGW) with the objective of improving the local and Maidenhead train services and has met with the CEO of First Group plc Mr Moir Lockhead in an attempt to progress the timetable changes which were originally expected to take place this month (May 2007) but look to have been put back until December 2007.

Apparently Mr Lockhead's response to representations about crowded trains is that passengers should endeavour to stagger their travelling hours. The vigorous campaign to improve the local rail service continues and your help and support in this endeavour would be much appreciated Mr Lockhead can be contacted at First Group plc, 395 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5RP, telephone number 01224 650100; Fax 01224 650140.

To add insult to injury to those passengers travelling on the Marlow - Maidenhead line it appears they are no longer able to catch the first fast direct train to Paddington from Maidenhead as although more carriages have been added to the train plus an additional stop at Pangbourne there has been a slight alteration in the timetable so that the train leaves Maidenhead station a few minutes earlier than previously and just misses the Cookham - Maidenhead first train of the weekday morning although the first morning service to Maidenhead which will run 3 mins earlier (dep Cookham 06.28).

Timetable changes

There are some minor adjustments: There is an extra Maidenhead – Bourne End service in the early morning shown in the timetable booklet but it is still not fully clear how this will operate as there appears to be conflicting information currently available.

There is a missing train in the local timetable booklet D – the present 18.36 service from London to Maidenhead is not shown in the table BUT IT DOES RUN.

The current Sunday service from Reading does not connect with the branch-line service at Maidenhead – this has been addressed. Trains from Reading are scheduled to arrive at 32 mins past the hour – branch now departs at 34 mins past the hour.

Footpath 60



The legal requirements which held up the progress of FP60 for such a long time have now been resolved and all financial aspects have been settled with the landowners.

The photograph was taken from the terrace of "The Ferry" and shows the blue side of the road bridge over the river. As well as the incredible range of accumulated rubbish and the well kept 'Public Footpath' sign, there is clearly a large difference in the level of Footpath 60 on "The Ferry" side of the bridge and its level on the other

side of the road. This difference is being addressed by the Environment Agency in the provision of a "boardwalk" with a gradient of no more than 1 in 10 for the benefit of disabled persons. This should have been completed in early May but the contractors at the time apparently were unable to continue. We understand that new contractors have taken a grip and we look forward now to the completion by late June or early July (2007 !)

Flooding

The Environment Agency has recently presented some new proposals for flood protection for South Cookham, primarily Strande Lane, Lightlands Lane and Danes Gardens.

The proposal envisages the construction of several bunds including one across the southern end of Marsh Meadow.

The Society is working with other interested groups to make the EA aware of the real implications of spending a considerable sum of money to no good purpose.



Our Firemen 'rescue' the Berries Road end of the High Street in the recent flood

There will be public consultation on the proposals later this year and all members should consider what reasonable comments or objections they can make to these meetings.

COOKHAM'S ROYAL ASSOCIATIONS

The Norman Conquest



Harold swears fealty to William

Both the Manors of Cookham and Bray were part of the Honour and Castle of Windsor and belonged to **Edward the Confessor** until his death. So when **William of Normandy** took over England in 1066, he held on to both Royal Manors. The whole area was now part of the extensive forest of Windsor, greatly appreciated by the Norman kings because of their love of the hunt.

In 1085 approximately, William sent his Monk-Commissioners to every town and village, to make the economic census we know today as the Domesday Book.

The Commissioners made a note of everything they considered important – how many pigs, slaves, freemen, fisheries; how much forest, ploughland etc; what it was

worth in rents, who owned it before 1066, and who owned it then. Cookham was included and the whole business must have caused quite a stir. It is in the Domesday Book entry that Cookham is said to be a market town – which indicated that it was a fairly important place.

The river crossing, dating back to Roman times, was still in use, although Cookham began to decline when a bridge was built at Maidenhead – then called Ellington – and when the road from London to the west was realigned in early medieval times