

## The Cookham - Kedida Project

It is not usually part of the remit of the Cookham Society to contribute to other charities and we do not intend to do so on this occasion. Because this is a project to which the Cookhams are being closely linked, we would like to draw our members attention to the project, to bring water to an area of southern Ethiopia where a secure supply will change the lives of many thousands of people.

The Cookham community, led by all the churches active in the Village, has undertaken to raise £25000 towards the cost of £100,000. Every £1 raised by Cookham will be matched with £3 from EU funding which will make the overall cost achievable.

It has been suggested that the Society might be willing to sponsor a young person so that he or she can visit **Kedida**, but in our view any money raised for this purpose should be used first and foremost for the project. We would like to encourage our members to contribute to the project and those who wish to do so should contact :-

**Matthew Reed on 01628 483568.**

## Cookham's Christmas Charity Afternoon

Cookham Village High Street

Sunday, 9th December 2007 from 2.30pm

Great entertainment for all the family

The Society will be in attendance. This could be your last chance to purchase The Society Christmas Cards if we haven't already sold out

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



# The COOKHAM SOCIETY

## Newsletter

### October 2007

www.cookhamsociety.org.uk



**There have been few contentious planning applications during the last six months: many people are extending their homes, a large number of trees need to be cut down or reduced and some "reserved matters" in old planning applications have come up for approval.**

Probably the most disputed application has been the proposed extension of Spencer pub. The new owners, Greene King, wanted to extend the kitchen and dining areas an turn the pub into a Brubeckers Restaurant. It was felt that the extension would make the pub too large and would impinge on the neighbours. Also the enlarged pub would probably attract more customers and the extension would reduce the number of available parking spaces. In view of the objections, the brewery withdrew their application and decided to promote the existing restaurant as part of their fine dining country pub chain. There will be a further application to extend and improve the existing facilities but nothing as obtrusive as the original proposal.

A great deal of effort has gone into work on preparation of the Village Plan. It had been hoped to be able to complete the work before the holiday season but several factors prevented this. It is now hoped that the completed Plan will be presented to the Parish Council in the next two months. The Plan will undoubtedly contain recommendations which may not be to everyone's liking but "you cannot please all the people all the time". In order for the Plan to be incorporated into the policies of the Local Development Framework (Local Plan to you and me), further work will be needed to draft a Village Design Statement which should be used to give the Borough planners guidance as to what sort of development would be acceptable to the community and where it should be allowed. The Society will certainly be asked to assist with this task and volunteers to contribute will be welcome.

As soon as the Plan has been presented to the Parish Council, it will be available for all to study on the Cookham.com web site with hard copies in the Library and Parish Office.





Dr. Mike Bruton puts the boardwalk to the test - it passed!

## Footpath 60

The long-running saga of Footpath 60 which has been blocked from running beneath Cookham Bridge, from the Bourne End side to the Ferry Inn terrace has finally ended.

The problem for very many years has been the ownership of the towpath alongside Ferry Cottage. Not only were the mooring rights involved but also the actual ownership of the towpath itself.

Resolved they were, thanks to the persistence of stalwarts like Margaret Bowdery of the Ramblers Association but also the skills of the Rights of Way Officers in The Royal Borough.

Because of natural obstructions on the Ferry Inn side of the bridge, such as embedded iron work together with a massive tree root growth it was considered a more realistic solution to install a graded "boardwalk" of about five feet in width to rise above the obstructions to land on the terrace of the Ferry Inn.

On the 21st August a large party of 4 wheel "Scooters" were the first disabled to cross over the boardwalk and really bring it all to life. The party of some fifteen "scooters" were headed by Dr. Mike Bruton of "Disabled Ramblers"

**"Quod erat Faciendum"**

## "White Christmas in Cookham"

Snowy village scenes were unveiled as the paintings chosen to adorn the front of the Cookham Society's Christmas cards this year. Every year we invite local artists and members of the Cookham Arts Club to submit paintings of seasonal scenes of Cookham for their Christmas Cards.

This year the Society has printed three cards from original paintings by Juliette Palmer RBA and Pam Hammond from Cookham who have both produced different yet very complimentary scenes of Cookham Dean church also Lyn Rackley from Maidenhead for her stunning view of Odney Bridge and stream.

The original paintings can be bought through a secret auction held by the Society until the auction closes on December 9th. **(Contact Bill Spicer - 01628-525258)**

## Railways

Our MP Theresa May has informed us that FGW have now proposed their December 2007 timetable with an improved service for both morning and evening peak times and more fast services operating, which is great news for all those who have complained about the inadequate service.

Theresa May goes on to say "The most important thing is that FGW realise that they did not provide a good service to Maidenhead and Twyford in their December 2006 timetable. Thank you all for emailing them, I have no doubt that this made them wake up to their responsibilities.

However, our battle is not over. This timetable shows that FGW can listen, but all is not over yet. Please continue to let them know how you feel about their service, and **please keep me informed** of your experiences so I can take them up directly with FGW."

We continue, therefore, to urge members to copy the Maidenhead and Marlow Passengers Association on any complaints they make to FGW regarding the service as they are followed up and pursued directly with FGW by the MMPA. - *David Ashwanden*

## Environmental Enhancement

What a mouthful ! But this is the name given in late June to our new sub-committee who are looking for ways to make all three parts of Cookham — Village, Rise and Dean — look better. It has met regularly and alternative projects.

The idea came from Cookham's twin town in France, *St. Benoit*, where they have '**Les Jardins de Cookham**', beside the Town Hall. A pleasant parkland with a stream flowing through, benches and attractive footbridges, all in stone and vandal-proof !

Imagine what a water garden by the Causeway might look like, or a statue of Stanley Spencer set on the Moor with some winding paths and perhaps a play area for children. Maybe some floral hanging baskets alongside the river towpath near the bridge like the ones near Boulters Lock.

All this is exactly what the Cookham Society's constitution stands for – the preservation and enhancement of our Village. And this is something **positive** – a change from the usual run of having to raise objections to planning applications!



## Polytunnels

Some comments have been received lately about *Polytunnels* which have appeared recently (not only at Lower Mount Farm.) The position regarding the need for planning permission for *Polytunnels* is not entirely clear. There has been at least one High Court judgment stating that planning permission is required but it also stated that each application should be judged on its merits. Factors to be taken into considering include the visual impact of the *Polytunnels* in the location, permanence of the construction (if the supporting frame is set in concrete it is regarded as requiring planning permission whereas if it is merely pinned to the ground it does not) and whether the siting and use conform to NFU guidelines. We should monitor the situation and check the types of *Polytunnel* being used.

## Victorian Christmas Fayre

Once again we are planning to hold this popular event from 11.30am to 4 pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Our hosts will again be the Chartered Institute of Marketing at Moor Hall to whom we offer our thanks for their support.

There will be a wide range of stalls operated by local organisations and charities where you will be able to solve the problem of what to buy for Christmas – or at least to ensure that you have enough Christmas Cards! For the young, Father Christmas will be making an early appearance and there will be an assortment of children's games to while away the time.

As there will be a bar and refreshments the event offers a great opportunity for a fun day out for all the family. There is ample car parking space on site so come along and join us.