



## Network Rail / Bourne End Viaduct



Since our last Newsletter, we are pleased to report that Network Rail have confirmed that the viaduct will be repainted in 2009.

The work is to be started between February and April. First Great Western have indicated that branch line services will be severely disrupted to enable bridge painting and sand blasting to take place, on the **following Sundays**

**14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> of March and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009.**

### Committee Officers - October 2008

**President:** Mrs Jean Stretton  
Isis House, Berries Road, Cookham Village SL6 9SD 01628-819107

**Chairman:** Mrs Georgina Kilner  
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**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Richard Gold  
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**Hon Secretary and Membership Secretary:**

Mr Bill Spicer  
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**Hon Treasurer:** Mr Jim Peck  
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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:-  
on **01628 525258** or by email on **bill@thespicers.co.uk**.

### EDITOR—

Jean Stretton      01628 819107  
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## Society Christmas Cards

This year we are delighted to offer two more specially commissioned Christmas Cards to add to your 'Cookham Collection'. They have been produced from original paintings by two of our most popular artists, *ie*, Pam Hammond from Cookham who has produced a 'Christmas Shopping in Cookham High Street' scene, and Lyn Rackley from Maidenhead for her 'Winter Scene in Cookham' at the Moor end of the High Street.

To minimize postage costs, this year's cards are available in a new 7" x 5" size and come in a mixed pack of 10 cards with envelopes containing 5 cards of each scene priced at £4.90 per pack. They will go on sale at selected shops throughout Cookham from the end of October. The original paintings can be also bought through a secret auction held by the Society which closes on December 7th. See details on the enclosed Order Form.

The caption inside each card reads:-

**"With all Good Wishes for Christmas and the New Year"**

We also have a small quantity of the previous two years' cards available at a sale price of £3.50 per pack. Contact Bill Spicer.

## Christmas Fayre

This popular annual event is taking place at Moor Hall on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November from 11.00 am to 4.30 pm and is organised by Sally Lloyd-Parry. The sponsors will be the Chartered Institute of Marketing to whom we offer our grateful thanks.

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.

## A New Challenge

### The Cookham Village Design Statement

Local communities have an unparalleled appreciation and understanding of their own village. It is with this in mind that every village community is now being encouraged to produce its own Village Design Statement as a practical tool to help influence planning decisions.



A Village Design statement (usually designated VDS) describes the qualities that residents value in their village and its surroundings, and sets out clear and simple guidance for the design of any development in that village based on its unique character.

A VDS is not about *whether* development should take place. That is a task for the Council's strategic planning process at higher level. A VDS does, however, provide important local context and sets out broad principles for integrating development into the local environment. It also shows where certain forms of development would be harmful to the recognized character of the village.

Some villages in the UK have already produced VDSs (but none has so far been produced under the auspices of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), so in that respect Cookham can be a 'first'. Those VDSs which we have examined to date are attractive, well-argued documents that use carefully chosen photographic material to illustrate key points.

When correctly prepared a VDS can be adopted as a so-called 'Statutory Planning Document' -- a status which both heightens and formalizes the influence which it has on a Council's planning decisions.

Cookham Society members will be in no doubt, therefore, about the importance to Cookham of a well-prepared VDS. In Cookham, we have much of value to enhance and protect, including the three separate 'centres' of the village, its two major conservation areas, its ancient common lands and its cultural heritage.

The Parish Council has drawn together a small committee of volunteers to develop the Cookham VDS, a process which demands extensive consultation. Everyone in the community can be involved. See overleaf for a "*Call for Photos*" in 'VDS—get Snapping'

### Dates for your Diary

**This year's Christmas Fayre at Moor Hall — Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008**

**The Society's AGM Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009 - Moor Hall**

## Cookham Dean Post Office



The Society has objected to the two related planning applications associated with the above site. Firstly, on the grounds of there being a general presumption against residential development in the Green Belt and secondly because of loss of retail space in these circumstances should not be permitted unless the retail use is no longer sustainable.

Quite apart from the technicalities of planning law, we believe it to be desirable to support retail premises that serve our community and its way of life. Post Offices are

particularly valuable as they can provide steady turnover alongside newsagents or convenience stores to increase retail viability.

*(stop press— The RBWM in this case have refused the application on several Local Plan policies and also Conservation Area policies. )*

## Holly Place, Lower Road

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July, the application to build 5 detached dwellings with garages, parking and an access road at the rear of this and adjacent properties was rejected. The site is next to Hatch Gardens. The Borough felt that the proposal was a cramped overdevelopment of the site and stated that the development failed to make a financial contribution in lieu of the provision of off site public open space, sport education and community facilities etc.

Locally, there was much discussion over this development being undesirable in its nature, causing a ribbon of estate development to develop along this stretch of Lower Road. Both the Parish Council and The Cookham Society objected to the planning application but there was only one private letter of objection.



The Cookham Society urges residents to consider applications being made in The Cookhams and use their right to make comments upon them to try to shape the community in which we all live and preserve Cookham's unique character.

*(stop press)  
Following an appeal against the refusal by the RBWM, the Inspector rejected it on the reason that no S.106 money contributions had been proposed so far.*

## Thames Lock Houses Update

*The Environment Agency has issued the following statement :-*

"Following a meeting with the Minister Phil Woolas and MPs Martin Salter and Theresa May, we have agreed to put on hold any changes proposed by the lock-house review until we have completed our full review of Waterways staff roles and responsibilities and terms and conditions."

"No action will be taken to sell or rent lockhouses until these negotiations on the full review are completed. We anticipate that this will take 6 months but this guarantee will continue until all negotiations are completed, or January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, whichever is latest. We will then review the position on lockhouses with lock-keepers and their representatives and with the MPs group".



## VDS—GET SNAPPING !

Every Cookham resident, not just members of The Cookham Society, is invited and encouraged to make an initial contribution to this Cookham VDS project by responding to this 'Call for Photos'.

What do you most value about Cookham - that is - something tangible, not an idea but something that you can actually see? It is from these **physical things that we can see** that we have to distil our arguments and construct the Cookham VDS.

What do you especially like to look at in any one of the three 'centres' of the village? What do you regard as representing our village heritage? What do you consider to be very positive for the community? What do you believe really **characterises** the place in which we live?



It could be a building, a construction style, a view of trees and fields or the river, even a flood defence, or something else altogether different that comes to your mind. It may be in Cookham Village, Cookham Rise or Cookham Dean, or in one of the two major conservation areas, or the ancient common lands that surround our village.

Please take a photo of whatever **you** would like to highlight for the Cookhams' VDS project. You are very welcome to send more than one photo. Please send your photo(s) to us with a brief statement of the reasons you have chosen it.

If it is difficult to get a photo to us, then just let us know what would be the subject of your photo and give your reason for choosing it.

Please send all e-mail responses to photos@cookham.com or postal responses to The Parish Office, High Road, Cookham Rise, SL6 9JF, and mark them for the attention of the Village Design Statement Team. Take a copy if you are sending it by post as we will not be able to return the images you send in. Summer images need to arrive by the end of October and Autumn/Winter images by the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Photos will be displayed at www.cookham.com/vds

To thank you for your efforts, all photos or other contributions that we receive will be entered into a raffle to be held by the Cookham Society at its AGM next year. Everyone has a chance of winning a raffle prize - this is not a competition for the best images so get snapping!

