



*The*  
**COOKHAM SOCIETY**  
**Newsletter      October 2009**

### **The Cookham Society Meets Theresa May**

On August 24<sup>th</sup> 2009 our planning sub committee was pleased to meet The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP to discuss issues pertaining to green spaces in Cookham. We are pleased that The Royal Borough is proposing two small additions to greenbelt land in the heart of the village. However, as you are all aware we have concerns regarding the narrow margin of greenbelt remaining between Maidenhead and Cookham and perhaps lost opportunities to protect and enhance other green spaces.



*Evert Groenwig      Theresa May      Bill Spicer*  
*Josephine Crabb      Jeen Stretton      Georgina Kilner      Shelagh Courtenay-Smith*

The Village Design Statement Group has identified Cookham's character as being defined by its green spaces and recent surveys have borne this out. Shez Courtenay Smith has previously commented that "The numerous survey results that we have obtained over the past few months show how highly Cookham's green spaces are valued by both residents and visitors alike. It is fair to say that the combination of the river's accessibility and the unspoilt green spaces are the major reason why so many families and other groups come to Cookham to enjoy their leisure time".

We asked Mrs May for her support in achieving a range of objectives. The Society feels that the new South East plan is responsible for placing unrealistic housing targets on The Borough. It identifies Maidenhead as an area where "...alterations to the greenbelt will be the most sustainable option for locating employment and housing as part of mixed use schemes...". Hopefully windfall sites and changes in government policy will relieve some of that pressure on the greenbelt and green spaces.

The Society advance the view that it would like to see a countryside policy devised and implemented by The Borough to check sprawling commercial development on agricultural land within the greenbelt and has campaigned for this already.

Finally, The Society put forward the view that it would obviously like to see Poundfield placed in greenbelt in accordance with its historical remit. It has been campaigning for this since 1968 and it hopes that the current greenbelt review will finally end the uncertainty surrounding this site.

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### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2009 / 2010**

***The Cookham Christmas Fayre***

**Moor Hall Saturday 21st November 11am—4.30pm**

**The Cookham Society AGM**

**Moor Hall Thursday, 11th March 2010 7.30pm**

### **Theresa May *continued***

This has been a very busy year for your committee to date with numerous Borough wide consultations. The Society's committee works tremendously hard to try to achieve its aims of protecting and enhancing Cookham and will continue to use its funds to achieve that aim. We sincerely believe that Mrs May has taken on board the concerns we raised.

Following the meeting Mrs May made the following comment for our press release "I was pleased to meet representatives of the Cookham Society and hear their concerns about the future of green spaces in and around Cookham. I share their fears that under the current proposals in the South East Plan not only green spaces locally but also green belt land could be under threat. In particular I support them in their campaign to have Poundfield included as green belt. This has been a long standing issue for Cookham and it is time it was settled. Following my meeting with the Society I will be meeting with the Council to discuss the threat to our green spaces"

We recently wrote to exchange some information subsequent to this meeting and expect that we will be hearing from Mrs May in the next few weeks.

### **Village Design Statement**

As you are all aware, the Cookham Society is one of the stakeholders in the preparation of the Village Design Statement and we have been keeping you abreast of its progress. In September, the VDS team made a presentation to stakeholders of their progress to date. Councillors and a Borough representative were also in attendance.

The research and collection of input is largely complete. This month, the team will complete its analysis of that information and a draft of the initial document is expected. The breadth and depth of the consultation processes were in evidence alongside the team's creative and ingenious research methods.

The professionalism of the process was clearly evident and The Borough representative was impressed. The goal for The Society, at the outset, was to ensure that the VDS should become a supplementary planning document and the team is on target to achieve this. The team still has work to do and completion is expected in June 2010 but it will most definitely benefit our community at large.

The consultation processes revealed that Station Parade was our least liked view in Cookham and as a result of this our Environmental Enhancement Group is currently researching what it might do to address that in the coming months.



### Noah's Boathouse at Spade Oak Reach

The Society was recently contacted by The Marlow Historical Society to draw our attention to the state of dilapidation of a grade II listed building called Noah's Boathouse at Spade Oak Reach. This building is clearly visible from the river. On September 29<sup>th</sup> The Times ran an article about lottery funding potentially being used, if there is a change of government, for the repair and enhancement of such buildings. Noah's Boathouse was mentioned in



this article. The Society has contacted English Heritage and The Borough's own Conservation officer in the hope that some action may be able to be taken.

Noah's Boathouse is one of the oldest surviving works by architect Colin Lucas, a pioneer of reinforced concrete construction in Britain. Lucas studied architecture at the University of Cambridge from 1925-8. He became interested in the use of concrete but mistrusted the conservatism and inexperience of many builders when faced with this new material. The boathouse was built for Lucas's father in 1930.

### 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 Post in Cookham Dean' scene, and Lyn Rackley from Maidenhead for her 'Cookham from the Fleet Bridge Scene on Cookham Moor.

To minimize postage costs, this year's cards are again produced in the 7" x 5" size and come in a mixed pack of 10 cards with envelopes containing 5 cards of each scene priced at £5.00 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 6th. 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 last year's cards available at a sale price £4.00 per pack. Contact Bill Spicer.



### Welcome to "Help for Heroes"

"It's about the Blokes, our men and women of the Armed Forces. It's about Derek, a rugby player who had lost both his legs, It's about Carl whose jaw is wired up so he has been drinking through a straw. It's about Richard who was handed a mobile phone as he lay on a stretcher so he could say goodbye to his wife. It's about Ben, it's about Stephen and Andy and Mark, It's about them all. They are just Blokes—but they are Our Blokes.

They are our Heroes.  
We want to help our Heroes."

The "Cookham Christmas Fayre" will be donating all of the proceeds this year to this Charity Please come along on the 21st November to Moor Hall - [see enclosed insert](#)  
Members of The Household Cavalry from Windsor Barracks will be in attendance  
Keep up to date on developments at our Fayre Website:- <http://www.cookhamfayre.co.uk>

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#### IMPORTANT –

If your name and address as shown on your address label requires correction please let Bill Spicer know —  
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