

The Cookham Society



November 2017 Newsletter

Registered Charity No. 257224 | www.cookhamsociety.org.uk | messages@cookhamsociety.org.uk

THE MOOR AND MARSH MEADOW

PARKING METERS

One of Cookham's favourite walks starts at the National Trust car park on the Moor and heads out along the Thames towpath towards Bourne End.

It is a very popular route and the car park is often full. The National Trust submitted a planning application in October for the installation of a "pay and display" ticket machine at the Moor car park. We would prefer to see this car park remain free for all users and not be "urbanized" with a machine, but we understand

that it is not only about raising money from parking charges but also about allocating money from central National Trust funds. NT members will be able to park free-of-charge by swiping their membership cards. Each swipe generates a payment to the Cookham and Maidenhead Commons from central National

THIS ISSUE:

- Special feature on the Moor and Marsh Meadow
- Piece by local wildlife expert, Brian Clews
- Quiet beauty spots in Cookham
- Planning issues

Trust funds. This system of allocating monies to individual National Trust properties based on the number of member visits, works throughout the National Trust and regrettably, we will accept the machine in order to ensure our Commons have their share of funds for maintenance and development.



MARSH MEADOW

Marsh Meadow is very popular with walkers, but not everyone appreciates that this meadow is owned by Copas Farms and does not belong to the National Trust.

The hedge at the end of the car park marks the end of NT property and the start of privately-owned land. For twenty years Marsh Meadow was made available as public open space as part of an agreement tied to a temporary planning permission for the use of some of the agricultural buildings at Lower Mount Farm for non-agricultural purposes. As part of the arrangement, the Marsh Meadow Management Committee was set up to oversee the running of the site. The Cookham Society is privileged to be a member of

this committee, along with the Parish Council, Borough Council and a number of interested local groups. Although the formal planning agreement finished in 2015, we very much welcome the continued availability of this meadow to the public and the continuing advisory role of the Marsh Meadow Management Committee. The Meadow is also used for two of our most popular local events, Let's Rock The Moor and Cookham Regatta.



WILDLIFE ON MARSH MEADOW

by Brian Clews

Brian Clews is a well-known local naturalist and a published author. He has written this special piece for our newsletter about the rich flora and fauna of the Meadow.

Marsh Meadow is a large field of grass, regularly used for events, and is a major dog-walking venue. However, closer inspection reveals an interesting range of wildlife present through all the seasons.

The wildlife pool, designed by the Environment Agency, with input from BCS, as part of the Flood Relief Channel mitigation scheme, attracts breeding coot, moorhen, and occasionally, mute swan. The surrounding phragmites reeds, host reed warblers in summer, reed bunting in the winter and kingfishers are regular and welcome visitors. This year, the pool came to the rescue of hundreds of frog and toad spawn eggs which were brought from a



dessicating local pond and the surviving tadpoles could be seen right up until September. There are good numbers of water boatmen, whirligig beetles and several species of damselfly and dragonfly lay their eggs on emerging and surface vegetation. Dainty signal flies are often active on the water's edge, but are very small and difficult to see. Thanks to sensitive strimming techniques around the pool, there are a good range of wildflowers, which attract large numbers of insects such as bees, hoverflies, pollen bugs, beetles, wasps and shieldbugs. A botanical walk

earlier this year revealed some 120 plant species around the pool and the field margins heading towards Cockmarsh. Barn owls breed nearby and the longer grass supports voles, predated by the owls and used to feed their young. Over a dozen species of butterfly have been spotted on the Meadow and 50 different bird species have been seen over the course of this year. The more unusual 16-spot ladybird has been observed here and a spider specialist would have a field day among the grasses.

Wasps and hornets nest along the nearby stream and sand martins make their home on the banks of the Thames in spite of the frequent intrusions by mooring boats on the same site. Even water rail has been heard amongst the riverside reeds near the gateway to Cockmarsh at the northern edge of the meadow. And for anyone interested in rare bee species, a careful search of any of the ivy bushes might reveal the rare ivy bee, new to UK this century.



Clockwise from top right
Ivy bees (courtesy of Bruce Hicks),
Devils bit scabious, Pyrausta Aurata micro
moth and Kingfisher with food (courtesy of
Brian Clews)

Brian Clews

THE SOCIETY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS CLASH OVER NEW HOUSE IN TERRY'S LANE

Controversial plans to build a new, three bedroom, three bathroom, detached house on an undeveloped open area in the garden of Greythatch, were discussed at the Borough Panel meeting on Wednesday 25th October.

The site is in the Green Belt and is an Area of Special Landscape Importance. The Society opposed the design on the grounds of bulk, discordance with nearby properties and the use of materials alien to the local vernacular.

The Planning Officers recommended refusal of the plans on similar grounds. However, two of Cookham's local councillors, Richard Kellaway and MJ Saunders gave their support to the applicant and convinced other members of the panel to vote it



through. Your committee is very disappointed that both the professional advice and skill of the officers and the Society's views were overruled.

We note that no immediate neighbours objected to the application and that the Parish Council Planning Committee had "Enthusiastically supported" it. Interestingly, we have been unable to identify another case of the Parish Council having given this level of

support to a new house in the Green Belt before. Opinions regarding this application do appear to be sharply divided. We would like to know if any of our members disagree with the Society's views that this application should have been rejected. Alternatively, we would be very pleased to hear from any members who believe we were right to object. It is important to your committee, that we understand and appropriately represent the views of our members.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Of the many planning applications scrutinized by the Planning Committee the following cases are of note.

Appeals

Ballards: The Inspector ruled that the proposed dwelling in the garden of Ballards in Jobs Lane was not permissible under the present planning legislation, since it represented unacceptable development in the Green Belt.

Crook Cottage, High Road: This appeal was allowed for replacement of the garage with a link to the main house. Crook Cottage is a Victorian cottage on the bend in High Road where the road turns away from the railway towards the remainder of High Road. The Inspector concluded that the proposal would not have any harmful effect on the character and appearance of the old house or the surrounding area.

Lower Mount Farm Barn: Despite our objections, the Inspector ruled that the conditions placed on the original permission for construction of the barn to serve the PYO operation on Long Lane did not preclude the conversion of part of the barn into residential use.

Current applications

Lower Mount Farm: This application is for a change of use of agricultural land to grazing land for horses. The Society has no objection to this change of use but is concerned, that the application does not extend to the inevitable need for stabling, tack rooms and other buildings associated with equestrian use.

Taylor Made: The Taylor Made equestrian business at the end of Strande Lane has been operating for many years and is now seeking a Certificate of Lawfulness in order to use the land for equestrian purposes. The Society has no objection to this proposal.

Stable Cottage Poundfield Lane: This is a further attempt to build in Poundfield and in the Cookham Conservation Area. The Society continues to object to any development in this sensitive location.

Recent applications

Sewage Farm: The proposal to build on the site of the old sewage farm by the Golf Course has been withdrawn.

MORE DAYTIME TRAINS ON THE MAIDENHEAD-MARLOW BRANCH LINE

Currently, we have two trains per hour, each way, travelling on the branch line during the morning and evening rush hour. Outside those times, the service drops to half of that.

The Cookham Society wants to see the two trains per hour service maintained throughout the day and we have asked the Department of Transport to include this improved level of service in the new franchise, which starts in 2019.

We have asked the Parish Council and our ward councillors at RBWM to support us in this campaign.

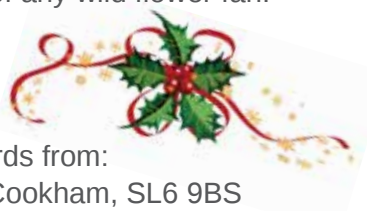
QUIET BEAUTY SPOTS IN COOKHAM



The National Trust's changes and sowing of wild flower seed at the Winter Hill Viewing Point car park have produced a bonus for the early autumn.

Scarlet poppies jostle with white daisies and velvety indigo borage, to make a display to gladden the heart of any wild flower fan.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Don't forget you can get your Christmas cards from:

Village Hardware 39, Station Parade, Cookham, SL6 9BS
Hillcrest Stores 12, Hillcrest Avenue, Cookham, SL6 9NB
The Odney Club Odney Lane, Cookham, SL6 9SR

You can also find them at the Christmas Fayre on the High Street on Sunday 10th December.

2018 DESIGN AWARD

The Society's Design Award for 2018 will cover new building projects, extensions and landscaping schemes in the Parish of Cookham, which have been completed by 31st December 2017. The Award is given to projects, which enhance the visual environment and are in keeping with the Cookham Village Design Statement. If you would like to make a nomination for the Award please download the PDF form attached to the newsletter and send it to: **Pablo Dubois** **Regency Cottage, The Pound, Cookham SL6 9QD** Alternatively, forms can be requested from Pablo (pablo@dubois.me.uk).

MEMBERSHIP AND PAYMENTS UPDATE

We want to spend our time on important issues affecting Cookham, and as little time as possible on administrative tasks. To help us, please pay your subs as soon as you get your reminder. They can be paid straight into our bank account using your first and surname as a reference.

This would be a great help to our new membership secretary.

Bank: NatWest
Bank Account: The Cookham Society
Account Number: 64226026
Sort code: 60 13 35

The Cookham Society is looking for a new Treasurer to join the committee, as Nick Singeisen will be retiring in March.

If you have some spare time and could do a Treasurer's role, please contact the Chairman, **Evert Groeneweg**, on **01628 851003**.

Cookham Society : Committee Members

Position	Name	Contact Details
President	John Bowley	Gayton House, High Road, Cookham Rise, SL6 9JF Tel 01628 524580 email jandrbowley@talktalk.net
Vice-president	Vacant	
Officers		
Chairman	Evert Groeneweg	23 Coxborrow Close, Cookham Rise, SL6 9HH Tel 01628 851003 email: gwenevert@btinternet.com
Vice-chair	Lysette Penston	Gayfield, Grubwood Lane, Cookham Dean SL6 9UB Tel 01628 473862 email: l.penston@yahoo.com
Hon Treasurer	Nick Singeisen	44 Westwood Green, Cookham Rise, SL6 9DE email nsingeisen@aol.com
Secretary	Lysette Penston	As above
Membership Sec	Ossie Wardell-Yerburgh	Hunters Lodge, The Pound, Cookham, SL69QD Tel 01628 528041 email ossie.daphne@btinternet.com cookhamsociety@gmail.com
Committee Members		
	David Ashwanden	Butts Leigh, School Lane, Cookham, SL6 9QJ Tel 01628 526704 email ashwandendavid@gmail.com
	Pablo Dubois	Regency Cottage, The Pound, Cookham Rise, SL6 9QD Tel 01628 521002 email Pablo@dubois.me.uk
	John Kitching	Highfields, Grubwood Lane, Cookham Dean, SL6 9UD Tel 01628 482353 email jnkitching@yahoo.co.uk
	Liz Peters	Cobbers, High Road, Cookham Rise, SL6 9JS email mail@lizpeters.plus.com
	Dick Scarff	Cranford, Bradcutts Lane, Cookham Dean, SL6 9AA Tel 01628 528955, email dickscarff@btinternet.com
	Laurie West	Moorlands, School Lane, Cookham, SL6 9QJ Tel 01628 530960, email lorenzopwest@hotmail.com
	Peter Munday	Harvest Cottage, Poundfield Lane, SL6 9RY email peter@jpmunday.plus.com
	Barry Weare	14, Roman Lea, Cookham Rise, SL6 9BZ Tel 01628 528682, email barry.weare@btinternet.com
Events Chair	Vacant	
Minutes Secretary	Vacant	