

Laurence Boyagis

Many people in Cookham will be sad to learn of the death of Laurence Boyagis on Friday 14th March 2003. Laurence had been Chairman of the Cookham Society in the 1970s and has been one of the Society's most stalwart supporters ever since, joining us for events whenever he could.

Laurence was the perfect gentleman and was always immaculately turned out. His fellow committee members remember the top table which was run with great formality when he was Chairman. Laurence lived at Eastgate, the house in Sutton Road that can be seen when looking down Cookham High Street and he was often seen walking along the High Street and chatting to the many people he knew. His house was full of his memories of the many places he had visited and also reflected his love of Cookham.

People will also remember Laurence for his knowledge of wine and his annual pre Christmas tastings that he organised as part of Intercase Wines at the WI Hall in Cookham Dean and more recently at the Parish Centre. The Cookham Society extend their deepest sympathy to Laurence's two daughters, Chantal and Huguette. Chantal lived in Cookham Dean and Cookham Rise, but has now moved to Salisbury. Huguette is still nearby in Bisham.

Gerald Patrick (Paddy) Barry

In February 2003, we have received a bequest of £3000 from the estate of the late "Paddy" Barry. We are grateful for his trust that we will use the money to further the Society's objectives.

Through an accident at School, Paddy lost a leg. This did not prevent him at the outbreak of WW2 joining the Royal Air Force as an executive officer. He remained in the Air Force until the early 1970's retiring as a Group Captain.

With his first wife, Margery, they originally lived in Maidenhead but having good friends in Cookham, decided to settle here. They moved to Mill Lane and quickly became part of the community. One of his first acts was to join the Cookham Society. For two years in the '80's he monitored planning applications for us, by visiting sites and reporting back, but never actually joining the committee.

Over the years, Paddy was a familiar figure walking in and around the village, he had a passion for the countryside. He was an active supporter of the RNLI, the NSPCC and the local

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(P) denotes Planning Committee members

Paddy was a gentleman of the old school, blessed with great charm and great fun to be with. He is greatly missed by his many friends. The Society sends condolences to his widow, Mette.



The COOKHAM SOCIETY Newsletter *April 2003*

THE COOKHAM SOCIETY

President – Mrs J Stretton

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will be held at THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MARKETING on THURSDAY 29th May 2003 at 7.45 pm.

AGENDA

1. Notice convening the meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Financial Report
7. To elect the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year.
8. (See Note (a) below)
9. Any other business
(See Note (b) below)

Note (a) at the 35th AGM on 23rd May 2002 the following were elected:-

Chairman	Mr R Gold
Vice-Chairman	Mr D Ricardo
Hon Treasurer	Mr J Peck
Hon Secretary	Miss L Kwantes
Membership Secretary	Mr W Spicer
Mrs M Brar	Mrs D Evans
Mr P Bysshe	Mrs S Lloyd-Parry
Mrs M Cubley	Mrs S Mahoney
Mr D Callund	Mrs S Tremlett
Mr P Dubois	Mrs G Wood

The Officers are the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. The Committee consists of the Officers and not more than fifteen members. All Officers and all committee members offer themselves for re-election except Mr P Bysshe & Mrs S Mahoney

Nomination forms, enabling members to propose and second potential officers/committee members, can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary.

Note (b) Any member wishing to propose a subject for discussion under Item 8 is requested to notify the Honorary Secretary not later than 22nd May 2003

Chairman's Report

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ACCOUNTS

The AGM will be held on 29th May at Moor Hall (see agenda attached).
Put the date in your diary now – time 7.45pm.

The Treasurer will report fully on the Accounts at the AGM but as a preview, a surplus of £3800 has been achieved for the year to 31st December 2002, following a similar surplus of £3700 last year. Total funds in the bank are now £25,600, which represents a reasonable fighting fund in respect of any future major threats to the conservation of the Cookhams.

In February 2003 we have received a bequest of £3000 from the estate of the late Gerald Patrick (Paddy) Barry. We are grateful for his trust that we will use the money to further the Society's objectives.

Sustrans Cycle Network

You may have read about this organisation in the Maidenhead Advertiser. Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity, are now planning to extend the National Cycle Network from Maidenhead through Cookham to Bourne End. As far as possible, the route is away from main roads. The proposed route comes from Maidenhead across Widbrook Common to Lightlands Lane, then to Cookham Moor via Strande Water, then across Marsh Meadow to Bourne End railway bridge.

We first contacted Sustrans in November 2002 to reflect our concern over the proposed route across Marsh Meadow. The proposal then was a route from the gate to the east of the car park to the west corner of the Sailing Club to join the Thames Towpath and National Trail along the riverbank to the Railway Bridge. Whilst stating we are not against a cycle path in principle, we objected to this proposal in two respects.

Firstly it would be visually unacceptable, as a gravel made-up cycle track would detract from the rural character and natural aspects of the riverbank.

Secondly, it is unwise to mix cycling with walking and associated leisure activities.

We proposed an alternative route from the car park, along the perimeter of the Golf Course, then following the railway line to the bridge. No further discussion has taken place, but on March 27th at a meeting of the Marsh Meadow Committee, the alternatives will be discussed further.

We will of course, be represented. Other organisations have similar views. e.g. Ramblers Association, River Users Group, Thames Path/National Trail

Planning on the Web

Planning information can now be found on the Cookham website (www.cookham.com) as part of the Cookham Parish Council web pages, which is also updated with Council minutes for the main Parish Council meetings and the Finance, Open Spaces and Adoptive Acts meetings. The latest planning information also appears under What's New on the right hand side (about half way down) of the home page whenever new Planning information is issued.

So if you wish to bring any matter to the attention of the Society, contact a member of the Planning Group identified in the committee list enclosed.

Cookham Flooding

We wrote to the Environment Agency on 12th February commenting that the December/January flooding was worse than expected, taking into account recently completed flood defence works. We also took the opportunity to express concern over the lack of road signage which resulted in vehicles entering Cookham Village across the causeway, only to have to turn back because the roads to Bourne End and Maidenhead were also blocked by floods. We also discussed the maintenance of the causeway and bridge since, as it appears likely, it becomes a more regular vehicle roadway in times of flooding. Finally, we discussed building of houses in floodplains, which is likely to increase following flood defence works – this appears premature in the light of experience.

In their reply, the Environment Agency admitted that more water got behind the defences than anticipated. In addition, they are reviewing the defences in the vicinity of Strande Lane. Improved pumping facilities are already planned. They also announced that three Flood Risk Action Groups will be formed with Local Authorities to address recent flooding issues. I have contacted the Chief Executive of the RBWM asking that we be represented. I have also just been advised of a group called "Thames Awash" who plan to support residents in discussions with the Environment Agency/Local Authorities, etc.

Details are/website www.ThamesAwash.co.uk tel: Chris Bertram on 07766 102356.

HEATHROW –

New Runway

In October 2002 we joined an organisation called HACAN Clear Skies, in order to be kept aware of developments which could affect Cookham. One of the Government's proposals is to build a new runway at Heathrow to the north of the existing airport between the A4 and M4. A third runway will require a third flightpath north of the two existing flightpaths, which would greatly increase flights across our area.

We have sent our own objections to Government, but HACAN was able to persuade them to re-open the consideration of Gatwick. It may therefore be that runway development will be there instead, but nothing has been concluded yet.

However, our membership of

UPDATES

a. Conservation Area – At their meeting at the end of November, the Borough agreed to include all of Poundfield and part of Marsh Meadow in the conservation area.

b. Old Anchor Inn – Building now demolished and a development of 7 flats will commence soon. The façade will be similar to the original in terms of gables but will be wider and somewhat deeper.

c. Dean Farm Garage Site – Work still at a stop as directed by the Borough; however, developer has not re-applied for planning permission as requested due to errors in siting of the two unbuilt houses. The Borough is considering their legal options on how to resolve the issues – we will keep under review.

d. Cannondown Bridge – The Borough have announced that traffic priority will be reversed in favour of the direction from Cookham shortly. There will also be new signage.

e. Affordable Housing – Whyteladyes Lane – So far, there have been two revisions to the original application to build 8 flats in the rear gardens of 116-124 Whyteladyes Lane. Although we are in favour of such housing, which the area badly needs, we have questioned the choice of this site and commented on the intrusion to properties in Spencers Lane.

Richard Gold Chairman



Cookham Society Website

www.cookhamsociety.org.uk

YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS

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