

THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY

newsletter

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Just Keep Going...

WHAT AN amazing three months for High Wycombe. It seems an age since the new Bus Station opened, but Eden eventually let in the shoppers in March, amidst great razzmatazz, and in June we had the opening of High Wycombe's remarkable new Library. A few discordant voices remain. One of our members (see p.11) feels Eden's design pays not enough attention to Wycombe's very special surroundings. Certainly some of our members still hanker after the more modest MAB scheme which came before Phoenix (remember that?), but that proved uneconomic and could not be implemented. Eden is draughty, but that, we're told, can be fixed. And all are asking what will happen to the old Library – elegant but hopelessly “unfit for purpose” in this modern age.

Most important, how to revitalise the High Street and the Chiltern Centre? The Civic Trust knows something about this kind of problem, which is common in English towns after redevelopment, and we hope they can be of some help. There are exciting ideas in the air for the Chiltern Centre. And what a delight it is to see, and hear, South American musicians playing Andean music beside the Little Market House in the High Street from time to time.

Meanwhile, the Bus Station is convenient for Eden, Tesco and the new Sainsbury's – if not for the railway station – and the shoppers keep coming. The pleasing appearance of the residential blocks on Desborough Road owes much to the architect's rethink after our members likened their original design to “Eastern Europe in the 1950s”.

One uninformed criticism we still often hear is, “Why didn't they open up the River where it flows under Eden?” Well, the River Wye doesn't flow under Eden! It goes along under the Oxford Road, and then beneath the Abbey Way flyover, until it turns off near the Swan and the Police Station towards the Rye. And that is the answer to all of us who have campaigned to open up High Wycombe's historic river. Our District Council is, we know, totally committed to removing the Abbey Way and re-routing the A40 to the South-West. That will be the golden opportunity to “green” Wycombe's town centre, and all should work towards making that a success.

Chris Woodman



...caring about our town: past, present and future

Registered Charity No. 257897

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