



# THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY

## *newsletter*

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### Coloured Flags

NOW THAT Wycombe District Council has won a green flag for our unique Rye Public Open Space, the Town Centre Partnership is getting in on the act. Would you believe it, a good town centre that everyone wants to visit, regardless of their age or the time of day or night, can earn a Purple Flag! Our Society was approached to supply observers whose job it is to go round and make notes of all kinds of things that make up a good town – cleanliness, ability to find one's way around, sense of security, "convenience", and ability to find transport home again!

Your Editor thought it would be fun, with Mrs Editor, to volunteer for the night slot – 11.00pm to 2.00am. It was fun, too. With our trusty dictating machine to record our thoughts, we prowled up the High Street observing the rubbish sacks left out (which disappeared on to a Veolia lorry around 1.00am), and into what used to be called the Octagon, and followed the signs to the bus station (it was closed when we got there, of course, but there was no shortage of taxis). We found the "out of hours" toilets, but they weren't! Around 1.00am, the only food available was kebabs and the like (indoors and out), but it was tasty and filling all the same. We noted the finger posts and spotted one to the *old* Tourist Information (which now, a shadow of its former self, is in the new Library of course) but none to our Museum. We wandered into Eden and were impressed by the good lighting and sense of security for *most* of the car parking pay areas, and the light and shiny shops. We walked through the University campus (spotless and well lit) to Desborough Road.

Having heard scary stories of Frogmoor late at night, we wondered if we would feel insecure, but no! Perhaps it helped that it was a Wednesday, not a Friday. Once we were half-heartedly asked if we had some "change", but he wasn't persistent. We saw a police van but no serious incident. We sat around on seats in Frogmoor and Eden and watched the (young) world go by.

All very reassuring, we thought. A few things need fixing, but it's all possible, with a will. And all this was just after the Mayor-Making day, when the Council broke new ground by running town walks for the public (as we have done for many years). For most "clients" this was all new stuff, and there's nothing like telling people about the town's history to raise civic pride. We hope the Partnership succeed in their quest for a coveted Purple Flag, because they deserve to.

**Chris Woodman**



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

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