



THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY

newsletter

NUMBER 104

SUMMER 1997

New Local Plan Issues

Wycombe District Council has set up probably its largest ever public consultation exercise with exhibitions, public meetings and a briefing paper for every household in order to obtain people's views on their proposals for the new District Local Plan, which will look ahead to 2011. What are the Society's views on the various options under consideration?

The most controversial proposals concern the use of Areas of Special Restraint (ASRs) greenfield site on the fringes of the town for housing and business. The County Structure Plan calls for 1500-1700 new dwellings in the High Wycombe Urban Area in the period 2001-2011. WDC say that at least 1100 should be in the ASRs. Firstly, we query whether all these dwellings are needed. However, we are told that even though the population is almost static, there will be more households in future due to social changes. Even so, is there any real need to take up to 100 hectares (250 acres) of our precious green fields for no increase in population? There must be a better way, such as making more efficient use of land and existing buildings within the urban area. Of course, it is cheaper and more profitable for developers to build on green fields, but far less sustainable (using more mineral resources for new roads etc and permanent loss of open space), and greater sustainability is vital. We need architects of great skill and imagination to design dwellings of high quality to make the best use of space within the town centre.

Hazlemere Residents' Association has identified large numbers of windfall sites within the High Wycombe Urban Area. We also think there is scope for a greater residential content in the

Western Sector, and for residential accommodation over shops and in empty and redundant office blocks. If only superstores would introduce delivery services, they could reduce the size of their massive car parks, such as the 500 places on the new Safeway site, and release land for housing.

The Society, therefore, cannot support any further chipping away of the green fringes of High Wycombe, whether for housing, business parks or, indeed, for park-and-ride.

Park-and-ride is another issue. This has been adopted in a number of large towns and cities, and it does serve to reduce congestion in town centres, but edge-of-town car parks with their acres of tarmac and 24-hour security lighting are environmentally disastrous for the suburbs and villages they tend to dominate, and it is doubtful if car mileage is significantly reduced. A better solution is so to improve the flexibility and quality of company, school and public transport, that people will be more willing to leave their cars at home.

We urge the Council not to take the easy way out as far as greenfield sites are concerned, but to reassess their proposals in the light of Local Agenda 21 and aim at maximum sustainability.



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

Registered Charity No. 257897

Honorary Secretary, John Gore, 30 Wordsworth Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 2UR. Tel: (01494) 526671

BT Environment Week**Mills, Trails and Environment Week**

YES, folks, we had a double reason for opening up Pann Mill on Sunday 11 May. The Society has participated in the annual Environment Week for many years. This is organised by the Civic Trust and its principal sponsor, BT, and involves local authorities and civic societies up and down the country, and it has the object of drawing attention to the need to defend our local environment against continuing pressures that threaten both flora and fauna – ourselves included! But this year, the day of our Pann Mill presentation also coincided with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) promotion of their National Mills Day, to celebrate the work of the SPAB Wind and Watermills section, to which our own Pann Mill group is affiliated.

tea and cakes, willingly and efficiently purveyed by Myra King's chums, Sarah, Helen and Lesley, to whom we convey our sincere thanks for this essential service. On behalf of the Society's members, I wish to express our very real appreciation for the efforts of all those involved, both on the trails and at the mill.

Pity we could not turn the water wheel this time. You've guessed right – there wasn't enough flow from upstream. But we have plans for later in the year, Sunday 7 September to be exactcome along then and find out if we have been successful!

Roger Lawson

**Stepping out on the
Town Trail**

"I know the Newsletter said 'A walk along the River Wye, but"

Cartoon by the late Jim Cottrell

Regrettably, the weather was not kind on the day: it was grey and overcast, with relatively few visitors to the Rye. However, our own publicity and the 'mentions' in the local press under 'Environment Week' events, did attract a steady flow of interested visitors to the site. Of equal importance was the welcome number of participants on the Town Trail and Water Trail walks that had been run by some of our more knowledgeable members, Denise Lindsay and John Gore around the town, and Prue Meek around the Rye. Both trails led to Pann Mill, where the weary travellers could view the current work in progress inside the building, and then sup some

WE'VE all seen those old Hollywood musicals in which the leading lady is indisposed, and the understudy from the chorus line steps forward to take her place. Well, I don't claim to have become an overnight sensation, but I did step out and lead a Heritage Trail on Sunday 11 May, when our regular trail leaders were unavailable! The weather that day was typically British, and, at around a quarter to two, John Gore and I were sitting outside the Parish Church, under leaden skies, accompanied by just one prospective "customer". However, within the next ten minutes, about a dozen people turned up. We began with an interesting tour of the church led by John, and then, outside, we split into two groups, and I started the trail with a few words about the medieval market town and the Little Market House. We are always told that this was not one of Robert Adam's best efforts: well, all right then, maybe it isn't, but I still think the Pepper Pot is a likeable little building which contributes much to the character of High Wycombe. So there!

We then walked down the north side (I think) of the High Street. Between you and me, I always have problems with north and south – to me it's the Guildhall side or the Red Lion side. Never mind, whichever side of the street you are on, it is always fascinating to look beyond the logos, adverts and cash dispensers of the banks and building societies, and "see" the

(continued on page 3)

Obituaries

Mavis Varley

WE were very saddened to hear of the unexpected death, in March, of Mavis Varley. Mavis joined to High Wycombe Society following her retirement as matron at a local special school. She began attending meetings and then joined the Membership and Publicity Group. As well as helping to organise the Society's meetings and social events, Mavis enjoyed working at coffee mornings, bring-and-buy sales and at open days at Pann Mill.

We remember her fondly and will miss her practical good sense and cheerfulness.

*The Membership & Publicity Group
(Olivia Price, Barbara Rippington, Ann Simone,
Ron Sims, Annie Woodward)*

Bernard Peatey

WE very much regret to have to record the sudden death in May of Bernard Peatey, who was one of the founder members of the High Wycombe Society. He was one of the select company of people who responded positively to Jack Scruton's suggestion in 1968 that a civic society for High Wycombe should be founded. Bernard made a significant contribution to the life of High Wycombe and of Buckinghamshire, having served as a County Councillor for eight years, with education as his special interest.

Among his many talents, he was also a very fine choral singer.

We send our sincere condolences to Kathleen, one of our Vice-Presidents, and her family.

Thelma Vernon

WE were sorry to learn of the death last Autumn of Miss Thelma Elizabeth Vernon, our oldest member, at the age of 95. Thelma Vernon was a granddaughter of Arthur Vernon, the noted local architect of the late 19th/early 20th centuries, who was responsible for the design of both the old Royal Grammar School in Easton Street and the original RCS buildings in Amersham Road, as well as many other local buildings.

Miss Vernon's family lived at Montague House on Amersham Hill until they moved in 1954 to Lacock, Wilts. St Augustine's RC Church was built on the kitchen garden and the house became the Presbytery. She later moved to Cirencester.

In 1990, Miss Vernon wrote a series of articles for this Newsletter, giving a fascinating account of life in High Wycombe in the early years of this century; for example, she remembered the cows returning along the High Street each evening after grazing on The Rye. She said how proud she felt to have been born in High Wycombe with its fine Guildhall and handsome wide High Street, but regretted the many unfortunate things done to the town since her departure.

Stepping out on the Town Trail

(continued from page 2) splendid family homes these buildings once were.

We reached the Guildhall just in time to shelter from a downpour which was turning my notes to pulp, and there was a bonus for us here, as the door was open and we could look up at the stained glass window. We then continued down St Mary Street and into Queen Victoria Road to view the town's excellent civic buildings.

The last leg of our journey took us down Easton Street, past some fine houses, and the poor old Post Office building, currently hidden behind scaffolding and undergoing some much-needed restoration. About time, too, considering that BT, the owners, were sponsoring Environment Week!

Finally, after pausing to look at the wonderful old ruins of St John's Hospital, we crossed over

to Pann Mill, where we met the rest of the party for refreshments. There we learned that the Water Trail had also been well attended and enjoyed, despite the unpleasant weather.

I feel that these trails are a very important part of the Society's work - long may they continue!

Denise Lindsay

The High Wycombe Heritage Trail leaflet is available from the Tourist Information Centre, Pauls Row and at Society meetings price 50p.

The Membership Secretary reports: Alan Cleaver, former Editor of 'The Wycombe Star', has moved from Cambridge to Winchester to become Editor of 'The Hampshire Chronicle'. He sends his best wishes to the High Wycombe Society.

1997 Annual General Meeting

THE 1997 Annual General Meeting was held on 14 April at the Reggie Goves Centre, Pauls Row with Roger Lawson as Chairman. Some 50 members and visitors were present. The Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer both gave their reports for 1996/97 (copies available from the Hon Sec if SAE is supplied), after which the elections took place and the following were appointed:

HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT Mr L J Mayes

VICE-PRESIDENTS Mrs K M Peatey MBE JP, Mrs Olive Scruton

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Roger Lawson 01494 528047
Honorary Secretary John Gore 01494 526671
Pauline Cauvain 01494 529224
Peter Hazzard 01494 447949
Ron Sims 01494 440800 (Minutes Sec)
Annie Woodward 01494 527978 (Membership Sec)

Vice-chairman Evelyn Roe 01494 532575
Honorary Treasurer Nick Giles
Ian Guy 01494 716997 (co-opted later)
Myra King 01494 523968 (Pann Mill)
David Turner 01494 521967
(5 vacancies)

The Chairman paid tribute to the contribution to the Executive Committee's work by Philip Crouch, who had had to resign on taking on a new job in Cumbria. Roger Lawson then made a strong appeal to members to consider coming forward to fill the vacancies on the Committee, but unfortunately to no avail. He hoped to be able to co-opt new members during the year.

Councillor Mrs Frances Alexander invited all present to attend a meeting at the Town Hall on 14 May when there was to be a presentation about Local Agenda 21. She said she would be making Local Agenda 21 the theme for her year as Chairman of Wycombe District Council.

After the business of the AGM, there was a talk by Colin Dawes, the County Museum Officer. See separate report.

County Museum Reborn

COLIN DAWES, the County Museum Officer, spoke to us after the business of the AGM about the refurbished Buckinghamshire County Museum in Church Street, Aylesbury, which has been honoured by being named 'Museum of the Year 1996'. The museum is housed in a 15th century



listed building of great interest in its own right, and our speaker described how it had been restored and tastefully extended in the last few years vastly to improve its facilities. As well as the main galleries, there are now a new art gallery and a new Roald Dahl Children's

Gallery, where this popular Bucks' author's stories can be experienced in a 'hands-on' way. 'Hands on' is also a feature of the main galleries, with interactive displays illustrating the natural and cultural heritage of the county, including such topics as woodlands and wood products, farming and wildlife, lacemaking etc. Clearly a visit is to be recommended for people of all ages.

Frances Presland expressed the thanks of all of us to Colin Dawes for letting us in on the secrets of our own County Museum.

John Gore

The museum in Church Street, Aylesbury is open Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun & Bank Hols 2-5 Main Museum: free; Roald Dahl Gallery: £1=50 child, £1=75 adult. It is advisable to telephone the R Dahl Gallery [01296 331441] before visiting to check that it will be available, as school parties have priority until 3pm in term time.

Note: Probably the best way to go to Aylesbury these days is to let the train take the strain.

Wycombe Arts Festival

Hidden Bucks II

JEAN ARCHER, popular local historian and now Chairman of the Amersham Society, paid us another visit on 21 May to present the second instalment of her 'Hidden Bucks' series of talks. This was the Society's contribution to the 1997 Wycombe Arts Festival. She continued her alphabetical review of Buckinghamshire villages with a fund of fascinating stories of their history,

social life and architecture, accompanied by some excellent slides.

As she has still not completed the alphabet, we are trying to persuade her to return another year to conclude the series. Jean was hopeful that her book 'Hidden Bucks' will be reprinted and in the local bookshops later this year.

A Wychert Walk

INSPIRED by *Hidden Bucks II*, we decided to walk through some of the villages which Jean Archer mentioned during her Wycombe Arts Festival talk. Leaving the car at Haddenham, we set out along Green Lane towards Dinton. Our route into Dinton took us in front of the pretty row of cottages which Jean used as one of her illustrations. On the way through the village, we passed an appropriately named row of "Wychert Cottages" and the impressive Dinton Hall. At the church, we observed the five-hole stocks, both the replica outside the churchyard gates and the genuine article in the church porch, but failed to deduce the reason for the fifth hole!

Beside Dinton Castle (ruins), we joined the Aylesbury Ring which led us, around overgrown field headlands and through fields of growing crops, to the River Thame. We crossed the river with its covering of just-opening lilies, and followed the Thame Valley Walk to Nether Winchendon. In contrast to the other side of the river, the farmer on this side deserved high commendation for the wide, clear paths which he

had left through his fields.

In Nether Winchendon, we admired not only the Old Mill, church and cottages, but also the post box, set in its own stone-built pillar.

Nether Winchendon House drive provided a wide, surfaced path to Cuddington, 'Best-kept village in Bucks'. From there it was a stroll through the fields back to our starting point in Haddenham.

Pretty villages and beautiful countryside on a perfect May Sunday: we could not have asked for anything better.

Roberta Wilson

Wychert, wichert or witchert is a building material almost unique to the Haddenham area. It derives from the local chalky marl, which when mixed with water and chopped straw (to make it workable), can be moulded in layers to form walls. Reference: The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire (Nikolaus Pevsner & Elizabeth Williamson).

Philip Crouch

PHILIP CROUCH has recently moved from High Wycombe to the Lake District, to take charge of a number of museums in the Keswick area. From the time he came to the Wycombe Local History and Chair Museum seven years ago, Philip has been a good friend and adviser to the Society. As well as overseeing all the changes at the museum, Philip found time to be an active member of both the Executive Committee and the Heritage Group. His youthful, infectious enthusiasm and approachability were always

evident in spite of increasing demands on his time both at work and with his family.

We very much appreciate all the encouragement and practical help he gave, especially for allowing us to hold our 25th birthday party in the museum grounds.

We send our good wishes to him, his wife, Helen, and his family for their forthcoming move to Cockermouth. Our loss is very much Cumbria's gain!

Roger Lawson

Pann Mill Restoration Group

A Training Weekend at Charlecote Mill

Margaret Simmons, better known as the lady who keeps the Pann Mill garden in such an attractive state, tells of a weekend visit to Charlecote Mill to find out more about how to run a watermill.

To most people who visited Pann Mill on National Mills Day in May, it was a breath of nostalgia. Many could remember the mill as it once was: some had even gone there to get their chicken feed, and could still picture it in their minds. But to most people, it was hard to imagine how so little machinery in so small a space could ever produce flour. To me, who had only seen mills from the outside and had come into the mill by the devious route of the garden, it was hard to see how so much could be achieved by so few in so small a space, so I was very pleased to get a chance to see a real mill at work, and be a part of it.

Three years ago, Peter Hazzard and Dick Hoare went for a working weekend to Charlecote Mill, near Stratford-on-Avon, and came back having learned the basic principles

.... all good practice
for when
Pann Mill is ready
to start
producing flour

of running a mill; in particular, how to dress the millstones that had lain for years under corrugated-iron sheets outside the Pann Mill building. Helped by Chris Wallis, who came like a fairy godfather to lift the stones, and bowl them like prehistoric hoops inside the mill, they proceeded to dress the stones, a vital and decisive step towards producing flour.

Two years ago, Peter again went to Charlecote, and Myra and I accompanied him. We went again this year, and it was an absolute revelation! Some people may have visited the nearby Charlecote Manor, owned for many years by the Hampton Lucy family and now by the National Trust. The mill as it now stands was built around 1800 on the site of an older mill. In fact, like Pann Mill, there has been a mill there, or nearby, since the time of the Domesday Book. The mill stopped grinding corn by water power about 1939, but it was repaired and brought back into full use in 1983 by the present owner, John Bedington. Every year he holds a weekend workshop for people who either have a mill they

hope to restore, or hope to have one, or who just love mills.

Saturday is spent doing the maintenance work that John has little time for during his busy working week: repairing paddles, dressing millstones, greasing and oiling machinery, making spouts, mending sacks, checking waterwheel bearings, repairing the brickwork of the headraces, pollarding a willow tree, cleaning out the draught tube of grain (THAT has to be experienced to be believed – it's worse than sweeping chimneys!), repairs to floors, painting windows, sweeping up – but MOST of all – teamaking, cheers Myra!

On the Sunday, the mill was open to the public, so we helped to operate machinery that we had learned about the previous day, adjusting the water flow to regulate speed, adjusting stones, monitoring flour quality and fineness, sacking and bagging flour – all good practice for when Pann Mill is ready to start producing flour. One essential job, performed by Myra – repairs to the footbridge over the second headrace, leading to the kitchen, which also houses the loo – walking the plank had NOTHING on that hazardous journey.

When Pann Mill is open to the public again on Wycombe Show Sunday, perhaps you would like to hear more about the weekend from those of us who went, and you might even want to join the workshop at Charlecote next year to find out how you too could help in the restoration of Pann Mill.

Margaret Simmons

Charity Market Stall

Once again, the Society has benefitted from the sterling efforts of those who donated items; those who sorted, priced and delivered them to the stall; and those who 'manned' the stall to sell to a public drawn by curiosity and/or the desire to purchase a bargain! The sum of some £130 was raised for our Society funds. The Executive Committee would like to thank all those who participated. You know who you are; give yourselves a round of applause! you did "all right" on the day!

Roger Lawson

Outing

The Evening of the Longest Day 1997

DAYLIGHT hours of sunshine, breezes and no rain as 40 members and friends took to the calm waters of a pleasant voyage from here to there – actually by coach from High Wycombe to Marsworth and then by the narrow boat 'Princess' on a lovely cruise along the famous Grand Union Canal past the entrance to the Aylesbury Arm, back to Pitstone Wharf and by coach back from this fairyland to the real world of High Wycombe.

We had fish and chips in the garden of 'The White Lion' at Marsworth, and then on board we took liquid refreshment of various kinds and in varying quantities. Some of us were relieved to hear that the middle of the canal was only 4 feet deep, but nobody volunteered to see if this was so, partly perhaps because the water looked rather too murky. It was peaceful: a beautiful scene, bridges, locks and the occasional building only adding to the enchantment. The anglers huddled under their small tents, and grazing sheep and a few late walkers were the only

living things we saw, unless you count the greedy carp breaking the surface of the water and ducks idling about.

We are fortunate to live within easy reach of beautiful countryside, and fortunate too to be able to visit it in such a friendly and relaxed way. We were cruising for about two hours and went through many locks, all manually operated.

Olivia Price

PS Some said the CARP were TROUT, but they all had barbels: so what were they?

Editor's note: One of our more observant members informs me that also visible from the 'Princess' was the unique chimney of the former Pitstone Cement Works, which is apparently the tallest, continuously slip formed concrete chimney in Europe. It was built circa 1960 and is specially tapered to limit the fallout of dust.



Get aboard, you doomed crew!

Cartoon by Ian Barrett

As those on the outing will know, unlike the 'Marie Celeste', our trusty vessel 'Princess' did complete its voyage with a full complement of crew, and we arrived home on schedule at 10pm. If you would like to suggest an alternative caption to this cartoon, please let John Gore know. All publishable contributions will be included in the Autumn Newsletter.

Local Agenda 21

Wycombe 21: Shaping Our Future Together

Wycombe District Council's main contribution to Environment Week this year was a meeting in the Town Hall on 14 May which was devoted to reviewing Local Agenda 21 progress since the Rio World Summit in 1992 and to emphasise then vital need to pursue sustainable activities for sake of the planet's future. Councillor Mrs Frances Alexander, newly-appointed Chairman of WDC, who is making LA21 the theme of her year in office, introduced the speakers to an audience of people drawn from all parts of the community.

Felix Dodds, on the UK Committee of United Nations Environment & Development, said that the world is less sustainable than in 1992 due to continuing destruction of rain forests etc, but 120 countries, including China, do at least now have sustainability programmes. He foresaw that in 20 years time, some 70% of people would be short of water and wars could ensue unless there were adequate conservation measures. Over-fishing was another continuing problem.

Ian Roberts, speaking for a trust dealing in Local Agenda 21 initiatives, warned of the threat to the quality of urban life brought about by environmental decline. We have been trying to cheat nature and have been obsessed with economic growth, but 'short-term gain can lead to long-term pain'; for example, unsustainable

Richard Cummins, Chief Executive WDC, stated that environmental issues were more important factors for longevity than health care. Wycombe was considered to be the 20th best place to live in in the UK, yet there were significant areas of deprivation in High Wycombe. The Council were working on a 15-year plan to improve the quality of life for the whole community, seeking a 'we' society as opposed to a 'me' society.

It was then over to the audience to form groups to make proposals for sustainability improvement. Our group concentrated on sustainable transport, one member calling for one carless day per month. Well, maybe that's a start, but we ought to be able to do better than that! Group findings were reported to the meeting as a whole, and we were told that they would be added to a 'Citizens' Report' to the Earth Summit due to meet in New York in June. Some of the nations of the world have made little or no progress since Rio, but each one of us ought to do what we can to become more 'sustainable' for the sake of future generations.

John Gore



agriculture leads to soil degradation. Also, we have been ignoring the problem of the growing inequality of wealth in the world. Everyone must become sustainability minded.

Chris Williams, Bucks County Council, reported on the state of the environment in Bucks, referring to a tabloid version of the main report which had been widely distributed. Road transport is mainly responsible for poor air quality, he said, and vehicle fuel along with agricultural fertilisers adversely affect the quality of water supplies. He called for more recycling to save landfill sites, and for improvements in energy efficiency to reduce the output of greenhouse gases.

Local Agenda 21

Live on the Earth's income, not its capital!

- O Use the car less, share car journeys, walk, cycle and use public transport more**
- O Make use of the Council's recycling facilities: paper collection, glass and can banks**
- O Make compost to improve soil quality using waste vegetable matter from kitchen and garden, perhaps using a Council-subsidised CompostAbin**
- O Improve home insulation, fit long-life lamps and watch the thermostat**
- O Use water wisely and install water butts for garden watering etc**

Wycombe District Council Local Agenda 21 contact: Lesley Stonor on 01494 421744

Planning

Recent Planning Applications

Recent planning applications and other planning matters on which we have made comments are as follows:

John Lewis Car Park John Lewis applied to build and extension car park for 300 cars on the adjacent BMX track at Holmers Farm Way. We all know that there is often a build-up of traffic in the Cressex area whenever John Lewis offer price reductions, but we objected to the proposal on the grounds that more parking would tend to lead to more traffic which is not at all pleasant for nearby residents. In any case a children's play area should not be used. We suggested that an improved bus service should be provided. The Council granted permission for the car park, but John Lewis are in fact providing £300,000 for Cressex bus service improvements.

Hughenden Valley Doctors' Surgery We objected to the proposal to build a new surgery with car parking as a matter of principle, because the land in question is designated as both in the Green Belt and in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Council refused the application for the same reasons.

Wycombe West School Bucks County Council applied for outline permission to redevelop the site of this school which is to be made redundant for residential purposes. Our comments were that preferably the buildings should continue to be used for educational purposes, or else for social

use by the people of Downley. Any rebuilding on this skyline site should be of high quality design.

Red Lion Way, Wooburn Green Our Transport Group objected to the renewal of permission to build houses on the track of the former High Wycombe-Bourne End railway line on the grounds that the line should be protected for possible future public transport use as required by the Bucks County Structure Plan. We were most surprised when the Council granted this application. We think there is a strong case for a light tramway between High Wycombe and Bourne End in the interests of sustainability to reduce pollution and congestion along the London Road etc.

Wycombe District Local Plan: proposals for alterations We have objected to the Council's proposal to an additional retail store for heavy goods on the Cressex island site on the grounds that, assuming carparking is allowed, there would be even worse congestion in the area, and that the viability of town-centre shops would be further undermined. A decision has yet to be made.

Places to be proud of

The Civic Trust, with which the Society is registered, has marked the start of its 40th anniversary celebrations by launching a manifesto aimed at galvanising political and public action towards the renewal and revitalisation of our towns and cities, to make them better places in which to live, work and relax. We need our urban areas to thrive. On their future depends not only economic prosperity but also social wellbeing. We must not accept as inevitable the trend towards population exodus from urban to rural areas. We must make urban living a choice people will positively embrace.

The central theme of the manifesto is a call for renewed 'pride of place'. To support the vision, seven linked themes have been put forward, backed by a plan of action:

- 1 **People first** not forgetting young people;
- 2 **Sustainable regeneration;**
- 3 **Taming the car and lorry;**
- 4 **Designing for quality;**
- 5 **Incentives for investment** to encourage more and better quality urban development;
- 6 **National leadership and local action;**
- 7 **Town and country** The best way to protect the countryside is to make towns more attractive to live in.

For a copy of the full manifesto 'Pride of Place', please send a cheque for £5=50 to Civic Trust Publications Department, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW.

Summarised from 'Urban Focus' Spring 1997

Notices

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

Mr & Mrs M G Lindsay, Gillets Lane
Mr & Mrs D R Snoxell, Bassetsbury Lane
Mr Roy Stone, Lindon Gardens

We look forward to meeting new members at our next event. Please introduce yourself!

*You are warmly invited to our
Coffee Morning
with Bring-and-Buy stall
at the Friends Meeting House
25 London Road
on Saturday 9 August
10.30am until noon
Admission 80p
Come and bring your friends!*

Obituary

It is with much regret that we record the deaths of the following members of the Society, and we would like to express our condolences to their family and friends:

Miss M Anthony
Mr B C Peatey
Miss M Varley
Miss T E Vernon

(see also page 3)

Local Plan for Wycombe District Public Consultation 1997

If you have not yet sent in your completed Comments Sheet, remember it should be with Chris Swanwick, Wycombe District Council by 25 July 1997. Please see front page for Society views.

The River Wye

A Riverside Development Advice Note

Wycombe District Council, in partnership with The Environment Agency, has produced an advice note for developers and landowners whose land adjoins the River Wye and its tributaries, the Hughenden Stream and Wycombe Marsh Brook. The commendable aim is to protect and enhance the river environment by: encouraging wildlife, protecting water quality, improving landscape design of river bank developments and increasing public access. Buildings will not normally be permitted within 8 metres of the river bank.

It seems fairly clear that if this guidance had been in force in the 1960s then the river would never have been so disastrously culverted through the town centre.

Copies of the advice note are available free of charge from WDC Planning Reception.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1997

Saturday 9 August 10.30–noon
Friends Meeting House, London Road

Coffee Morning with Bring-and-Buy stall
Admission charge: 80p

Saturday/Sunday 6/7 September
Sunday 7 September 11am–5pm

Wycombe Show on The Rye
Pann Mill Open Day with exhibition and refreshments

Saturday/Sunday 13/14 September

Heritage Open Days

Wednesday 8 October 7.45pm
Reggie Goves Centre, Pauls Row

October Quarterly Meeting: *Improving Your Environment*
Illustrated talk on the work of the Environment Agency
Speaker to be announced

1998

Wednesday 14 January 7.45pm
Reggie Goves Centre, Pauls Row

January Quarterly Meeting: *Georgian Houses*
Speaker: John Neale, Georgian Group

Tuesday 14 April 7.45pm
Reggie Goves Centre, Pauls Row

AGM followed by talks by Society Groups on their activities