

THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY

newsletter

NUMBER 83

SPRING 1992

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 16 April at 7.45pm at the Reggie Goves Centre in Pauls Row. We do urge you to come to this meeting to show your support for the Society, and to elect Officers and an Executive Committee for 1992/93. Please do consider seriously putting yourself forward for election. The need for more committee members to advance the Society's aims is urgent. In the last twelve months we have sadly lost two really active members by death, including the irreplaceable Jack Scruton, and two more by unavoidable resignation. So even if all our present members seek and achieve re-election there will be four vacancies. Hopefully this will stir some members reading this note to fill in the nomination form on page 3. What about you, dear reader?

The agenda for the meeting is also printed on page 3. You will note that it is proposed to revise the Society's aims and objectives

to fall into line with those of similar amenity societies. The review of objectives sprang from some members' request for clarification made at last year's AGM. See page 3 for details.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO INCREASE

Unfortunately, inflation has hit the Society in common with everyone else. Having held subscription rates unchanged for three years, the Executive Committee is proposing a modest increase in rates, apart from those of retirement pensioners, which will remain at £2 per annum. Details are given on page 3. The EC will invite members at the AGM to approve the increase. Meanwhile, subscriptions for 1992/93 are now due (as from 1 March), and it would be appreciated if you would send yours to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible, please, using the form on page 5.

EXHIBITION

JACK SCRUTON MBE AND THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY

Work is going ahead preparing for the exhibition which will run from 30 May until 13 June. Help is still needed to steward the exhibition at the Guildhall. Marilyn Isherwood (Tel: 0494 436805) is preparing a rota; if you will be able to spend an hour or two as a steward at the exhibition, please get in touch with her. Bring your friends to the exhibition as well as coming yourself; it should provide a good opportunity to enrol them as members!



...caring about our town and heritage

Registered Charity No. 257897

Honorary Secretary, John Gore, 30 Wordsworth Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 2UR. Tel: (0494) 526671

TOWARDS 2000

Wycombe District Council invited the Society along with other organisations and the public in general to comment on a series of strategic plans called 'Towards 2000'. The Council sees itself both as a provider of services, for example, leisure services, and as a regulator, for example, to control town planning and pollution, all to achieve a higher quality of life for local people. The main Strategic Plan covers nine issues, including Economic Development Strategy and Town Centre Action Plans, which merit separate documents.

Our comments centred on housing, the environment, roads and transport, and town centre development.



Housing You may recall that the draft District Local Plan, which we commented on in our last issue and which dealt with development planning up to 2001, posed no threat to the Areas of Special Restriction (ASRs) such as Gomm Valley, Grange and Terriers Farm and Slate Meadow, Bourne End which are being held in reserve for future housing development. However, public pronouncements by District Councillors in connection with the Strategic Plan spoke of these areas having to be used to build 1500 extra homes to meet housing need. A difference of opinion seemed to have arisen between the Planning & Development Department and other parts of the Council over the necessity of building on the ASRs in the short term. The Society backs the view that any extra housing needed should be built as far as possible on vacant sites in town centres not on green fields, although we also warn against over-intensive development which could lead to the slums of the future. We continue to press for the ASRs to be included in the Green Belt.

As in our comments on the Local Plan we asked the Council to look into the potentially large amount of residential accommodation hidden away in the town centre over shops. We should like to see more people actually living in the town centre to make it more lively place when the shops and offices have closed.

Transport On roads and transport, we recognised that approach roads to High Wycombe are becoming intolerable during rush hours, but continue to hold the opinion that new urban roads like the Northern Relief Road from Temple End to Easton Street and from Hazlemere to Temple End would not provide a lasting solution to the problem, but would do untold and permanent damage to our heritage and environment. A new approach to transport is needed to reduce our dependence on the car: our Transport Group supplied some ideas for the Council to consider.

Town Centre We called for a high-quality development plan to be produced for the Stewart & Arnold site and its environs to include civic buildings and, possibly, housing, not just the same old shops and offices. Once again we made a plea for the River Wye to be deculverted wherever possible, and for more trees in the High Street.



Economic Development We supported the Council's aims to encourage the regeneration, modernisation and diversification of the local economy. (This is more than ever vital following the sad announcement that the G-Plan furniture factory in High Wycombe is to close soon with the loss of several hundred jobs.) We did say, however, that there ought not to be a significant increase in job opportunities in the District, once the recession is over, as the consequence would be either an increase in population with further pressure on housing and other services or an increase in in-commuting with additional road congestion.

JOHN CORE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Executive Committee will be proposing at the AGM that the objectives of the Society should be revised (Agenda item 7). This follows a request for their clarification made at the 1991 AGM. The proposal is as follows:

The aims and objectives of the Society shall be to promote and encourage the following by charitable means but not otherwise:

- (1) the protection and enhancement of the built and natural heritage of High Wycombe,
- (2) the adoption of high standards of architecture and town planning in the locality,
- (3) the improvement of the environment and the amenities enjoyed by local people, and
- (4) the stimulation of public interest and care for the history and character of the town and its surroundings.

These objectives shall be pursued by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications and the promotion of schemes of a charitable nature.

*Please bring this page
with you to the AGM*

SUBSCRIPTION CHANGES

The Executive Committee will also be proposing some annual subscription increases, the first for three years (Agenda item 6). The proposed rates are as follows (old rates in brackets):

Individual membership: £4=50 (£3=50)

Family membership: £6=00 (£5=00)

Retirement pensioner: £2 (unchanged)

Individual life membership: £35 (£25)

Affiliated Societies: £5 (£3) for first 50 members or part thereof; £2 (£2) for each subsequent 50, up to a maximum of £15 (£11).

AGM TALK: THE MUSEUM

After the business of the AGM, Philip Crouch, who has recently taken over as Museum Officer at the Wycombe Local History & Chair Museum, will be speaking to us about Museum Policy and Future Development. We are grateful to him for taking over this assignment from Neridah Wyatt-Spratt, who was to have given the talk, but as you may have read in the local press, was unable to renew her work permit and had to resign. During her short stay at the museum she set in motion many improvements and raised the profile of the museum. We look forward to hearing what more is planned at Castle Hill.

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 16 APRIL 1992 AT 7.45PM AT THE REGGIE GOVES CENTRE, PAULS ROW, HIGH WYCOMBE

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 April 1991
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Honorary Secretary's Report
- 5 Honorary Treasurer's Report
- 6 1992/93 Subscriptions
- 7 Proposed revision of Society's Aims and Objectives as set out in the Constitution
- 8 Election of President and Vice-Presidents
- 9 Election of Executive Committee: (a) Chairman (b) Vice-Chairman (c) Honorary Secretary (d) Honorary Treasurer (e) Members of Committee
- 10 Election of Auditors
- 11 Any other business

To be followed by an illustrated talk on *Wycombe Local History & Chair Museum: Policies & Future Development* by Philip Crouch, Museum Officer, Wycombe District Council.

To: Mr J S Gore, 30 Wordsworth Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2UR
NOMINATIONS FOR 1991 AGM

I hereby nominate _____ to stand for election as
Chairman/Vice-Chairman/Honorary Secretary/Honorary Treasurer/Committee Member.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

I second this nomination

Signed: _____

Date: _____

I agree to stand

Signed: _____

Date: _____

AIRCRAFT NOISE

Noisy discos, ear-splitting factory noises? The District Council has powers to enforce noise abatement procedures under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Aircraft noise? Sorry, the District Council cannot help you. Airports and airfields come under the Civil Aviation Act 1982 which gives the Department of Transport (DTp) the power to "designate" an aerodrome to compel it to produce a scheme to minimise noise disturbance. However, it seems that not one aerodrome has yet been "designated" in the ten years of the Act, so aerodrome management continues to be both judge and jury in its own case!

Our affiliated society, Booker Common & Woods Protection Society, and its Chairman, Allan Duggin, are in the front line as far as aircraft noise is concerned. Their members in Booker and Sands lived in reasonable amity with Wycombe Air Park for almost half a century, but in recent years aircraft noise disturbance has increased far beyond reasonable levels. Anyone who walks in the countryside around Lane End can confirm this. The previous reasonable balance between commercial gain and environmental loss has not been maintained or respected. There has been an increasing number of aircraft movements (surprisingly, perhaps, Wycombe Air Park is the third busiest airport in the UK in terms of aircraft movements), and noise levels have been exacerbated with the introduction of a commercial helicopter operation. Not only does this bring a more intrusive type of noise, but it has made compliance with voluntary noise-abatement procedures more difficult for fixed-wing aircraft pilots.

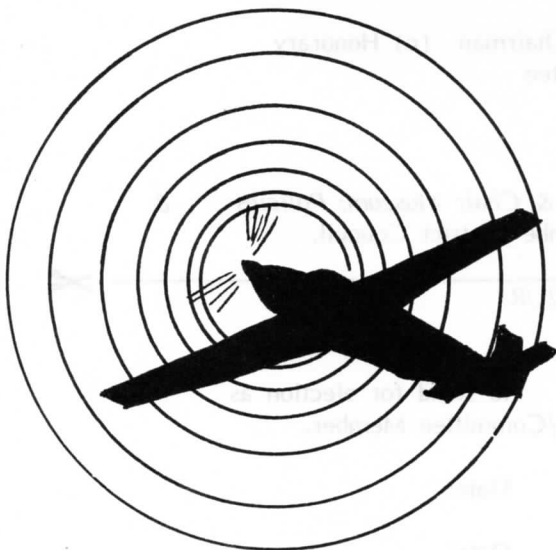
Last year DTp published a consultative paper *Control of Aircraft Noise* which goes some way towards recognising the problem. It proposes that at a "designated" airport the airport authority would have to devise a scheme to minimise noise disturbance, to consult locally and to agree the scheme with the local authority. However, as Booker Woods & Common Protection Society have pointed out in their comments to DTp, "designation" ought to be compulsory and the local authority (in our case Wycombe District Council) should be given statutory power to control and monitor noise and aircraft movements, otherwise there would be no real improvement on present practice.

Along with the Airfields Environment Federation, the Booker Society calls for the publication of standards for the measurement of noise, and for guidance on effective noise-reduction measures. The AEF also wants a clear scheme for ensuring effective penalties for infringement (the polluter pays principle).

There is already a Wycombe Air Park Joint Consultative Committee made up of air park operators and District and Parish Councillors, but no residents' association representatives from Booker or Sands. The Booker Society wants any new legislation to make it mandatory for properly constituted residents' associations in areas affected by aircraft noise to be represented on Joint Consultative Committees.

We hope the outcome of this DTp exercise will be legislation to put aircraft noise control on a more satisfactory basis with local authorities being given adequate powers to deal with a growing environmental nuisance.

JOHN CORE



PLANNING

TOM BURT'S HILL

The Council have decided to allow Wycombe Health Authority's revised application to extend the Nurses' Home on Tom Burt's Hill. Whilst these plans are not so horrific as the original rejected ones, it is still a matter of great regret that a significant green space visible from the town centre will be built on when there are so many feasible alternative sites. This is a case in which an Environmental Assessment should have been made.

TRANSPORT**A DECORATIVE OCCASION**

The Guildhall has set the scene for many important occasions in the past, none more so than the ceremony which took place there on 5 December 1991. It was during the evening of that day that the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Commander The Hon John Fremantle, presented Olive Scruton with Jack's decoration, the MBE medal, after Councillor Mrs Pam Priestley, Chairman of Wycombe District Council, had summarised his achievements.

Supported by relatives and guests including the Mayor of High Wycombe, Councillor Mrs Valerie Letheren, and by members of the Society and friends, it was a proud moment for Olive. Pride, too, within the Society, in the knowledge that their founder, that worthy man the late Jack Scruton, had been so honoured by this award and his work recognised.

It was a simple ceremony, unforgettable, a milestone in the life of the High Wycombe Society, which is firmly established with a voice to be heard.

ELSIE FOWLER

MBE*MBE*MBE*MBE*MBE*MBE*MBE*MBE
E*MBE*MBE*MBE*MBE*MBE*MBE*MBE*M

NOT JUST BIKE OR BUS!

Charles Mann, in his 'Mann on Friday' column in the Bucks Free Press the other week, suggested that the Society's only contribution to the town's traffic problems was the advice to 'get on your bike' or 'take a bus'. Our Chairman, Roger Lawson, responded with a letter to the BFP Editor referring to the positive ideas put forward in our 1990 booklet 'New Thinking on Transport' and arguing that throwing large sums of money on new urban roads doesn't solve the problem but spoils the quality of town life. We followed this up with an article on 'Traffic Congestion in High Wycombe' which draws on the experience of other towns around the world, and we hope to see this published in due course. Meanwhile it is promising to learn that WDC are having a rethink; they are due to publish a new transport strategy next year in which all the transport options will be evaluated, not just more and more new roads.

POLLUTION**RADIOACTIVE WASTE AT BOOKER?**

We joined with many other organisations and individuals in expressing to HM Inspectorate of Pollution our fears about the proposal to dump very low level radioactive waste from Amersham International at High Heavens Wood among other dumps. We suggested that even if levels were very low, it was unwise to put the waste in the centre of a densely populated area; 100 000 within a 4-mile radius. We also expressed fears about the effect on water supplies.

HIGH WYCOMBE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

To: Mrs A Woodward, Membership Secretary, High Wycombe Society,
20 Coningsby Road, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 5NX

We/I wish to renew our membership for 1992/93 and enclose £ _____ in payment (please tick type of membership).

MINIMUM SUBSCRIPTIONS

Individual membership (£4=50) _____ Family membership (£6=00) _____
Retirement pensioner (£2=00) _____ Individual life membership (£35=00) _____
Affiliated Society £ _____ [£5 for first 50 members or part thereof; £2 for each subsequent 50, up to a maximum of £15.]

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: (block letters, please) _____

Address: _____

Title of Affiliated Society (if applicable) _____

Note: Members who joined the Society after after August 1991 need not renew their subscriptions until March 1993. Subscriptions run from 1 March until the end of the following February. Please advise the Membership Secretary if you change your address.

HIGH WYCOMBE: QUO VADIS?

BY SYD SPENCE

Syd Spence, a member of the High Wycombe Society from its early days, gives his personal view about the town as he sees it today and how it might evolve if his dream becomes a reality.

The town of High Wycombe is now very much at a crossroads (in more ways than one!). For many years, particularly during the 50s and 60s, the town was torn apart. Unrestricted and poor quality development was allowed to proceed, with very little thought for the present let alone the future. A voice crying in the wilderness, and very much an exception to the above, was the then Secretary of the High Wycombe Society, the late Jack Scruton MBE.

To quote Martin Luther King, Jack Scruton had a dream. He could see what was happening and was determined to steer the developers and planners away from crass, hostile and short-term development, and channel their energies into something more meaningful, and of greater benefit and to the greater good of the inhabitants of the town. Backed by the High Wycombe Society, of which he was the founder member, Jack battled against many a planning application, and, although successful in many skirmishes, the notable "first" being the saving of the Rye, there were inevitably some losses, including the demolition of the old Chequers Inn, the loss of the Red Lion and so on. Looking at the town today, it certainly bears the scars of many a hard-fought battle, but inevitably the past is in the past, and it is to the present day and to the future, with the new millenium approaching with some haste, that our thoughts and aspirations need to be addressed.

As with any new development, the new Entertainments Centre, which reveals itself as a vast red edifice as one approaches the town down Marlow Hill, is the subject of much discussion as it nears its completion at the end of this year. Will it be the fount of the Arts, both professional and amateur, or will it be a white elephant, as some of the cynics predict? It is too early to pass judgement at present, but I am sure that most inhabitants of the town would like to see it succeed and wish it well!

In recent years the refurbishment of the Octagon, the opening of the Chilterns Centre, the pedestrianisation of White Hart Street and the upgrading of Frogmoor have brought a greater feeling of well-being to the town. We look forward to the pedestrianisation of the High Street as well, certainly long overdue when one sees what other towns in the UK and the Continent have achieved. One could go on! Now to the future... Would it not be possible to bring back the River Wye, at least along part of the Oxford Road, and perhaps make the vast and

unedifying Bridge Street carpark area into a town square or piazza, with fountains, trees, flower beds, seating and, in a nutshell, to make the area something the town can be proud of, an area to inspire and uplift!

In a superb book which has recently come my way entitled *The English Town** by one of Britain's leading architectural historians, Mark Girouard, I was surprised to read on page 4, and I quote, 'England has no real water city (though guidebooks used to call High Wycombe 'The Venice of Buckinghamshire'! One could almost be accused of hallucinating: Wycombe - Venice, Venice - Wycombe? I have been privileged to visit Venice on several occasions, and confess that admittedly there are differences! But would it not be wonderful if our planners could, like Jack Scruton, dream just a little, and bring the dream to reality by bringing just a little bit of Venice and Venetian charm into the setting of High Wycombe?

How about it, planners? A challenge indeed for the year ahead! Perhaps that quote about High Wycombe being called the Venice of Bucks could indeed become a reality. What a memorial this would be to the memory of Jack Scruton MBE. I am sure he would give his seal of approval should he be looking down from above!

Bibliography: **The English Town* Mark Girouard, pub. Guild Publishing by arrangement with Yale University Press; *Victorian Cities* Asa Briggs, pub. Pelican Books. (Syd recommends both of these books as essential reading for anyone interested in their town and environment.)

ENTERTAINMENTS CENTRE

WELCOME TO THE SWAN!

The new Entertainments Centre on the south side of the High Street is nearing completion. This long awaited new facility has been called the Wycombe Swan, an appropriate name for a town with the swan as its historic symbol. Pessimists fear for its viability, but hopefully it will attract customers from a wide area. Architecturally, when viewed from Marlow Hill, its main southern aspect appears as a red monolith. Unfortunately, all the features which might relieve its bland appearance are hidden behind other buildings. Final judgement must await completion of what is to be High Wycombe's largest building.

OLD WYCOMBE: INN SIGNS: THE RED LION

by L John Mayes

Our President, L John Mayes, continues his articles on Old Wycombe, which he originally wrote for a US Forces newsletter back in the 1960s. At the time he wrote this article, the Red Lion was still an hotel. The hotel closed in 1967 and the building, of course, became what is now Woolworths.

Inn signs today tend to be fanciful or "funny", often with rather a sick type of humour. Nothing, though, could be simpler and more four-square than the Red Lion (he deserves capital letters) that dominates Wycombe High Street and gives his name to one of the town's most ancient inns.

We do not know just how old, but we do know that in the 15th century one John Cox of Myrtleton in Oxfordshire gave the Red Lion Inn and £120 to Brasenose College, Oxford, to pay for two priests to pray for the repose of his soul. We know, too, that in 1481 it was producing £8-6s-8d (£8-33) per year and that, like many other similar properties, its rent fluctuated with the prosperity of the town, reaching the low figure of £5 in 1535 before starting a new upward trend.

The Inn has always been associated with the town's history both as regards its successive landlords and the various distinguished people it has had as guests. An example occurs in the 17th century when Wycombe, like all England, was torn by the Civil War. The Royalists and the Parliamentarians were both too busy to mint small coins for the day-to-day use of the people, and the tradesmen in the various towns were allowed to make their own "token" halfpennies and farthings. At this time the

landlord of the Red Lion was one Richard Lucas who became Mayor of the town at the Restoration of Charles II in 1660. He had been very active in local politics and on his post-Restoration tokens, the words appear "Rather dead than disloyal". His enemies made much play with the timing of his declaration, but he continued to be a very influential member of the town council and was Mayor again on more than one occasion.

Famous men have spoken from the wonderful vantage point of the Red Lion portico and the names of two of them will be enough to give the flavour: Benjamin Disraeli, long before he became the great Prime Minister, and Sir (then Mr) Winston Churchill. The Lion himself, at least the third of his line, narrowly escaped disaster recently when the portico was struck by a vehicle and so badly damaged that it had to be taken down and "His Majesty" had to be put into store, giving the High Street a very naked look for a time. He has now been triumphantly restored to his throne and again watches over the town which has been served by this inn for so many years.



Postscript: It is almost 25 years since the Red Lion Hotel closed. Its facade was retained when Woolworths took over, apart from the ground floor elevation which became an attractive arcade, mirroring the arches of the Guildhall. The Red Lion itself (or himself, as Mr Mayes would prefer) was toppled from its plinth and severely damaged for a second time during the gales of recent years. Happily, it has been expertly restored and once again watches over the High Street.

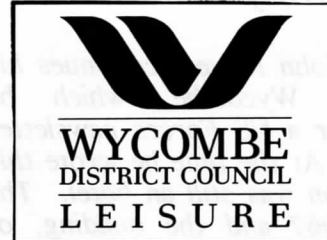
JANUARY QUARTERLY MEETING

THE PROMOTION AND MARKETING OF HIGH WYCOMBE

David James has been Marketing, Tourism and Services Manager for Wycombe District Council for two years, being responsible for the tourist information centres in High Wycombe and Marlow, and the Museum, as well as marketing the Leisure Department.

Marketing was the main theme of Mr James' talk to the Society at the Reggie Goves Centre in January. Maybe the Council is not a commodity one would think of as being marketed, but the concept obviously works, for we all recognize the stylized green 'W' that appears on all Wycombe District Council literature. To succeed, a product, be it a can of lager or our local Council, must have an identity, a recognisable image. That is the thinking behind all those carrier bags, bugs, logos, hats etc., that we see everywhere – these items help create awareness in the public.

David went on to explain the various methods used to promote the Council and its facilities – booklets, magazines such as *Wycombe Ways*,



offers at the Sports Centre, market research projects and publicity in the local press. Not surprisingly, market research has revealed that the public's main concern is crime and vandalism.

This talk was very revealing, in that we were shown the businesslike stance taken by the Council in these competitive days.

David answered several questions, and a vote of thanks was given by Barbara Rippington.

DENISE LINDSAY

You are warmly invited to a

COFFEE MORNING

at Bassetsbury Manor

on Saturday 4 April 1992

10.30am - 12.30pm

Admission 75p each

with Bring and Buy stall

Come and meet your friends in the Society in this delightful setting, the recently restored Bassetsbury Manor

PANN MILL

RESTORATION WORK CONTINUES

BY MYRA KING

Myra King, leader of the Pann Mill Restoration Project, introduces the team members and reports on recent progress.

Restoration work on Pann Mill continues with a dedicated team of five. Vic Day, with 15 years of experience on the Lacey Green windmill restoration project to his credit, has a vast knowledge of conservation and has committed himself wholeheartedly to the project, spending hours preparing old timbers for re-use on the mill rather than take the 'easy option' of buying new. Vic has liaised with Wycombe District Council who helped to finance an electricity supply to the mill

The Pann Mill Project was Ian Stone's first, and his involvement comes from being a founder member of the one-time Water Group of the High Wycombe Society. Having an aptitude for practical matters, he has applied logic to the task with great enthusiasm. Over the winter months he has made a new set of wooden cogs to replace a worn set for use in the next twelve months. His interest has spread to his daughter, Tracey, who has provided us with a public signboard to explain the High Wycombe Society interest in the mill to passers-by.

Peter Hazzard, living almost opposite to the mill, is our security service, groundsman and 'runner', and also completes the engineering team of three. Peter, who previously would have described himself as 'not practical' now admits to 'having a fair knowledge'.

Margaret Simmonds has transformed the Pann Mill site into a delightful garden with flowers for every season. It is not unusual for Margaret to spend three days per week weeding, planting and watering. The herb garden she began four years ago is now a well established feature.



PANN MILL, THE RYE,
HIGH WYCOMBE

To sum up progress over the past year:

- * The moving machinery has been cleaned and lubricated.
- * Two large and ugly internal iron supports have been replaced with solid timber posts.
- * The concrete floor has been extended by about three square metres.
- * A Hurst frame has been put together like a jigsaw and erected. (The millstones will eventually sit on this frame.)
- * Many tasks too small to itemise, which contribute to the general maintenance of the building, workshop and site, have been undertaken.

Wycombe District Council have kindly donated the cast-iron decorative signpost which until February stood just outside the Central Library Gardens. Is there somebody reading this who would like to refurbish this antique? Please contact me, Myra King, on 0494 523968.

Come and see Pann Mill for yourself on our Open Day on Sunday 17 May between 1.00pm and 5.00pm. There will be an exhibition and refreshments will be available. Also there will be a guided walk around the Rye starting at 2.15pm finishing back at the mill with tea in the garden.

Myra is too modest to mention her own contribution to the mill project. Her leadership and coordinating skills are proving to be invaluable to the success of the project. Editor.

The Open Spaces Society (charity no 214753), Britain's oldest national conservation body, is running a special new project to help people protect the open spaces of their cities and towns.

- ☐ Send for our free booklet *Spaces Between* published jointly with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) – it is full of ideas for action.
- ☐ Help us to help others by making a donation.

For further information contact:
Open Spaces Society, 25a Bell Street,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2BA.
Telephone: (0491) 573535

OBITUARY**ERIC FOWLER**

The Society has lost another valuable member by the death of Eric Fowler. Well-known for his lovely drawings and paintings, he has been a member of the High Wycombe Society for many years.

His art sprang from his great love of Nature and of his home town. His beautiful line drawings on notelets have made money for the Society for some years and are still available.

The Wycombe Art Society thought so well of his work that he was made an Honorary Member. It has been very sad to see his gradual decline, and our sympathy goes out to Elsie, his wife, who cared for him so devotedly throughout the difficult years of his illness.

M WADSWORTH

BT environment week

May 16-24 1992

Watch out for local Environment Week events in May organised by Wycombe District Council and environmental societies! It is thought that the Council will be publishing a leaflet about it. Our contribution to the week will be the opening of Pann Mill on 17 May and running Town and Water Trails. Please see **Dates for your Diary** on this page for details

NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr C Whitelock of Alexandra Road

Mr M Walker of Gordon Road

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 17 March 1992 7.45pm
Sands First School, Lane End Road

Heritage Group Meeting *Wycombe on Video*
All welcome!

Saturday 4 April 1992
10.30am - 12.30pm
Bassetsbury Manor

Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy stall
Entrance 75p. Come and meet your fellow members in a delightful setting!

Thursday 16 April 1992 7.45pm
Reggie Goves Centre, Pauls Row
(Note earlier time!)

Annual General Meeting followed by *Wycombe Local History & Chair Museum: Policies & Future Development* Philip Crouch
Museum Officer, Wycombe District Council

Sunday 17 May 1992 1.00-5.00pm
Pann Mill, The Rye

ENVIRONMENT WEEK EVENT
Pann Mill Open Day
Exhibition. Refreshments available.

All Saints Parish Church 2.15pm

Town Trail around the Town Centre Conservation Area finishing at Pann Mill at 4pm approx for refreshments

Pann Mill 2.15pm

Water Trail around the Rye finishing at Pann Mill at 4pm approx for refreshments

Saturday 30 May - Saturday
13 June 1992 (excl. Sundays)
10.00am - 5.00pm
Guildhall

Wycombe Arts Festival: Exhibition: *Jack Scruton MBE and the High Wycombe Society*

Thursday 16 July 1992 8.00pm
(Venue to be announced)

River Pollution Peter Rudd, Pollution Prevention Officer, National Rivers Authority.