



## Newsletter August 2011

### Civic Day



This event was a great success with many people enjoying the music played by The Acoustic Club, stalls, teas in The Old Gaol and displays by the Rose and Crown Morris Dancers.

The Civic Award was presented to The University of Buckingham nominated for the redevelopment of Prebend House.

### Garden Party

About 90 members and guests attended this event which began with a talk “The Secret Gardens of Oxford” by Dr Helena Chance. This was followed by drinks and canapés at Walnut Yard.

A bouquet was presented to Carolyn Cumming who has been a stalwart of the society for almost 20 years. She will be retiring from The Buckingham Society during the time that she is High Sheriff. Carolyn was thanked for her strong commitment and inspirational work.



### Special Interest Group Reports

#### Planning – Helene Hill 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011

Detailed plans for the London Road development for 700 dwellings are being submitted by Barratt Homes in association with Bovis Homes and David Wilson Homes. Announced as Thornborough Park, the developers quickly agreed to find another name after public outrage! The statement on the front of their brochure, “Creating a new community in Buckingham” should be “outside Buckingham” and is then an apt description, as there is no integration with the town.

We welcomed the plans to restore the interior of Prebend House, and to repair, and convert to a flat above, the Coach House. We objected to the installation of internally

illuminated (blue) lights to the heads of windows at Lloyds bank. There is now an application to install replacement double glazed windows at 58 Well St, a listed building, which will seriously alter the look of the street scene. I am also concerned that the plans to extend and alter to 12 bed sits Garden House in Castle St. for student use contains no parking spaces at all.

Although outside Buckingham parish, we welcomed a presentation on the proposals to re-develop Maids Moreton Hall as a residential care home.

We need new members for the Planning Group. If you have an interest in planning and would like to be involved, please let us know.

## **Green Spaces Report – Ted Farmer 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

Very few of about 1,000 tree and shrub whips planted on the prominent mound in Heartlands at the start of what proved to be a very dry spring, have survived.. The area cannot be mown and is now a weed-infested mess. There are also only seven or eight survivors of the 24 Black Poplar planted on the flood plain between Eider Close and the river. The Heartlands remains in the ownership of AVDC and it is understood it will be replanted in the winter. It looked fine as it was – and save the cost.

Horse Chestnut trees in a wide area are seriously infected by diseases and some are shedding leaves quite heavily. The anticipation that a cold winter might eliminate some of the disease proved false.

Buckingham Town Council contractor continues work to eradicate Himalayan Balsam on the river bank in Bourton Park. This problem was recognized by a Society member in 2009; further outbreaks have been noted recently further down-stream.

## **Other Representations**

The Buckingham Society is also represented on a range of other groups including the Buckingham Partnership, The Neighbourhood Action Group, The Association of North Thames Amenities Societies and the Town Council Planning Group.

## **Dates for your Diary**

**9-12 September - Heritage Open Days:** The Buckingham Society will have a stall in the Old Gaol on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September and The Old Gaol has a series of event with a Gilbert Scott theme.

**3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30 –** A Halloween talk on Superstitions by David Pickering at the Sunley Lecture Theatre, Chandos Road Building, University of Buckingham. Wine will be served prior to the talk.

**26<sup>th</sup> January 2012 Buckingham Society AGM** – more details later

## **Buckingham Society executive meetings**

All meetings are held at the Villiers Hotel, starting at 5.15 pm and finishing by 7.15 pm. The meetings for 2011 are scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> September and 24<sup>th</sup> November. Members are very welcome to attend.