



## MAIDENHEAD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

No 130

Dec 2017

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

In this Newsletter there is the information about next year's AGM. Rosemary is resigning as Programme Coordinator at the end of this year - I am sure that we would all like to thank her for all her efforts over the years. So obviously we need a new Programme Coordinator. We also desperately need new outing organisers. At present we have a trip to the musical "Crazy for You" at the Wycombe Swan; the holiday in the Lake District and a maximum of two day-trips. Please consider whether you have the time to organise a trip. We also need somebody to take over the care of our sound system. If you would like to discuss any of these things then please contact me by phone or email.

For a number of reasons we will not be including a programme with this newsletter. All our events are included here and we will produce a programme with the March newsletter.

*Sheila White*

### DIARY DATES

Thurs 11 Jan	Meeting	Review of 2017
Thurs 8 Feb	Meeting	Catherine of Aragon
Sat 10 Feb	Theatre	Crazy for You
Thurs 8 March	Meeting	AGM
Mon 16 to Fri 20 Apr	Holiday	Lake District

*More information overleaf.*



## **FUTURE PLEASURES**

*The meetings will be in the Jacoby Drama Studio at Desborough College, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead SL6 2QB and tea and coffee will be available on arrival.*

*If you wish to go on any outing you must book by the date advised. This is the latest date by which we must either confirm our booking, consider changing to a smaller coach or cancelling it without incurring costs.*

### **MEETINGS**

#### **40 Years Without a Proper Job**

**Thurs 7 Dec**

Chris Hare will be talking about his life in the entertainment industry. There will be a £5 charge for this meeting to cover the cost of the Christmas drinks and nibbles that will be available.

#### **Review of 2017**

**Thurs 11 Jan**

We will be looking at Arthur Hawkswell's photographs to remind us about the fun we had last year.

#### **Catherine of Aragon**

**Thurs 8 Feb**

The Rev Dr Nicholas Henderson is a retired vicar. He graduated from Selwyn College Cambridge and trained for the Anglican ministry at Ripon Hall, Oxford. He has worked at Coventry Cathedral and was also bishop-elect for the Diocese of Lake Malawi in Central Africa. Fortitude & Fancy is the first of a trilogy about the six wives of Henry VIII - an amusing and profound view of the powers behind the throne.





## FUND RAISING

The Bring and Buy sale at the October meeting raised £55.10. Special thanks go to Sheila and Rosemary for the jam and cakes respectively.



## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2018 ARE NOW DUE

The renewal form is at the end of this newsletter. The membership fee next year is £12 for the first member and £5 for the second member at the same address. There is a discount of £4 if you receive your correspondence by email.

Those who pay annually please return the form with a cheque made payable to 'Maidenhead National Trust Association' to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Jackie Beresford, 9 The Bingham, Bray, Maidenhead, SL6 2ES. Cheques will not be banked before 1 January 2018.

As subscriptions have been increased for the next year if you pay by standing order you must change your mandate. See the last newsletter.



## EMAIL

The most expensive part of sending your newsletters and programmes on paper is the postage. Please help us to keep costs down by having your newsletter delivered by email at a small discount to you. Apart from helping to cut costs there are other advantages – you often get your email copy before the paper copies are delivered and you get it in colour. Let Jackie Beresford have your email address at

[Secretary@Maidenheadnta.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@Maidenheadnta.org.uk)



## TO NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of the association and look forward to seeing them at meetings and on outings.

Carole Stevens  
David Bailey  
Pamela Alexander

Keith Ponchaud  
Vernon Webster



## **Maidenhead National Trust Association Annual General Meeting**

The 33rd Annual General Meeting will be held at Desborough College, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead, on Thursday, 8 March 2018 at 7.45 pm.

### **Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks
3. Minutes of the AGM dated 9 March 2017. (See June newsletter)
4. Committee's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts, also Appointment of Accounts Examiner
6. Suggested Allocation of Funds
7. Election of officers and committee. Under the Constitution, all the officers and committee shall retire at the Annual General Meeting, but be eligible for re-election
8. Any Other Business

Nominations for officers and committee must be sent on the form at the end of this newsletter to the Secretary

Mrs J Beresford  
9 The Bingham  
Bray  
Maidenhead  
SL6 2ES

at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting and must have the consent of the nominee(s).

*Please retain this notice for use at the AGM*



## PAST PLEASURES

### Thames Valley Millionaires

### Sept Meeting

If you were expecting to hear about the current millionaire residents you would have been disappointed. The people Keith Parry told us about were long dead. He told us about the residents of Cliveden House, Taplow Court and, the now demolished, Temple House. The residents enjoyed affairs, had convenient marriages and took part in political manipulation. We even heard about a couple of fires. The wealth came from a variety of sources. One resident cornered the market in copper mining and the copper was used to sheath the hulls of boats to prevent the wood decaying or barnacles sticking. Hence the origin of the phrase copper bottomed.

### Lewes and Firle Place

### Sept Outing

Our outing started in Lewes - which according to Daniel Defoe in 1724 was a "fine pleasant town". We went to Anne of Cleves House and Museum, although apparently it was doubtful that she ever lived there.

It was a fascinating Tudor house with authentic period furnishings – all for the princely rent for a whole year of seven shillings and six pence (37.5p)!

There are costumes of the period to try on and be photographed by Arthur and some strange objects to test our imagination, for example a mid 19<sup>th</sup> C wooden washing machine which looked like a pram. Clothes were put in hot soapy water, the lid closed and then the whole thing was rocked to and fro, probably by a servant. There was also an impressive Wealden ironworks exhibition telling of 85 ironworking and gun factories in Sussex in the 16<sup>th</sup> C and showing examples of iron fireback designs and a massive Cannon Borer, essential for warfare in those days. A mystery object was a fixed wooden pole with an arm extending about two feet and two feet off the ground ending in a ring about two feet in diameter which turned out to be an early 17<sup>th</sup> C baby walker. The gardens were also a delight with all the herbs and plants needed medicinally.

Then off to the 15<sup>th</sup> C Firle Place with its connections to our local Lord Desborough. It is now owned by the 8<sup>th</sup> Viscount Gage (83) and family including his eight year old son.

A lovely house it had beautifully proportioned rooms containing many treasures, notably Chippendale furniture, Sevres china and original paintings by Gainsborough, Van Dyke, Reynolds and Zoffany. It housed Canadian soldiers during WW2 but they caused little damage apart from some graffiti which has been preserved in a secluded alcove.

The tea and a good selection of cakes were welcomed and much appreciated as was the chance to sit in the sun and absorb the beauty of the parkland.

## **Do You Remember the 50's?**

## **Oct Meeting**

Well no, not quite, but judging from the reaction many people attending did. Starting with Bill Haley's 'Rock Around the Clock', Tony King showed us many newsreels (the Coronation, The Suez Crisis and Prime Ministers coming and going to number 10) lots of photos (the devastation caused by WW2, tin baths hanging on the wall waiting to be used in front of the fire for the weekly bath, twin tub washing machines) and advertisements from the newly formed ITV (Knights Castile soap and Omo washing powder). Childrens Hour – yes I do remember the Flowerpot Men and Sooty – featured too. And he played the top ten hits – they definitely caused a hummalong in the audience. We knew our walk down Memory Lane had finished when we went back again to 'Rock Around the Clock'.

## **Hampton Court Palace**

## **Oct Outing**

We gathered on a very blustery and showery morning for our trip to Hampton Court Palace which was built in 1514 by Cardinal Thomas Wolsey and acquired by Henry VIII in 1529. The palace was occupied by Tudor, Stuart, and Georgian monarchs over about 100 years each and this resulted in a fusion of architectural styles which are very evident 500 years later.

We were given a tour of the kitchen area which is believed to be the oldest 16th C kitchen in the world and was responsible for providing some 600 meals, twice a day to the Great Hall. About 50 departments and 200 cooks were involved in managing the process from intake of goods to the

serving of the meals to Henry VIII and his assembled diners, who all expected high standards.

Maps illustrated the various areas of interest with story boards highlighting specific events in each period which allowed self guiding to suit all. Many of the halls and rooms were adorned with fine tapestries, paintings and some had very high decorated ceilings. One room contained an ornate replica of Henry VIII's crown and although we walked the Haunted Gallery we did not see or feel the ghost of Catherine Howard!

Of special interest was the Chapel Royal where the ceiling contains a total of 60 gilded winged angels which took two years to complete, the Altar, designed by Wren, is believed to have the heart of Jane Seymour (Henry VIII's third Queen) buried beneath it. Our present Queen chooses the Chaplain who lives on site.

Views of the attractive formal gardens could be seen from many of the rooms, and, despite the weather, we explored a few of the numerous themed areas. In 2016 a new garden was created named The Magic Garden aimed primarily at children, containing legendary heraldic creatures, towers, elevated walkways and slides, an excellent attraction for the younger ones.

*John Bowers*

## **Stanley Spencer**

## **Nov Meeting**

Stanley Spencer was born in Cookham and lived there most of his life. You can see Cookham in many of his paintings – even when they are supposed to show somewhere else.

He was educated by two older sisters in the garden shed and was fortunate to have a sponsor to get into the Slade because he would not have passed the entrance exams. He went to war twice (WW1 and WW2) had a wife and two mistresses, sometimes simultaneously. He painted landscapes and portraits along with work with a religious theme, such as Sandham Memorial Chapel. If you know what to look for you can see him or one or more of his women, sometimes more than once, in his paintings. A fascinating man.

# 2018 Annual Subscriptions

First member at £12

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email address ( if you agree to receive newsletters and programmes via email) \_\_\_\_\_

Second member at the same address £5

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Subtract discount for email correspondence - if applicable - £4

Total of cheque £ \_\_\_\_\_

Please give your telephone number in case of queries.

\_\_\_\_\_





If you would like to receive our  
communications in large print please contact  
Jackie Beresford at  
[secretary@maidenheadnta.org.uk](mailto:secretary@maidenheadnta.org.uk)