



# FRIENDS OF HIGH WYCOMBE LIBRARY

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Spring 2004 Newsletter

Issue No.1

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## *Letter from the Chairman*

Dear Friends

We intend to publish a newsletter at regular intervals to keep members informed about what has been achieved so far and what our plans are.

In January, a public meeting was held to establish The Friends of High Wycombe Library as a working organisation.

Friends will play an important role in promoting the Library and its services throughout the community. They will also provide volunteers to support the library personnel, who are under increasing pressure to maintain services. We intend to develop a system whereby volunteers from Friends work with the library staff over a range of services.

Following the January meeting, a Steering Committee met, with the initial objectives of attracting new members, drawing up a Constitution and planning Friends' first AGM to be held later in the year.

We have also begun to plan a programme of meeting and events for 2004/2005. This programme will build on the very successful evening talks organised by the Library over the last few years. It will be wide-ranging to appeal to all interests in our community.

Please remember that Friends is to be *your* organisation, so we are looking for *your* support, not by just attending meetings and events, but by actively contributing to our work.

We welcome ideas and suggestions as to how Friends should develop. Please telephone me or e-mail me:

Mike Dewey  
01628 525207  
DeweyMiked@aol.com

## COFFEE AND CAKES

*On Saturday April 24th we are selling coffee, tea, squash and cakes in the library foyer as part of Wycombe District Weekend. We need offers of cakes, home-made or bought, to sell and volunteers to help serve for an hour. Please make this, our first fundraising event, a success!*

*Offers of cakes or help to Mary Woodman, please, on 01494 528106.*



## What's going on in "Friends"?

### Committee of the Steering Group

Mike Dewey – Chairman

Jean Esslemont – Treasurer

Mary Woodman – Secretary

Lorna Cassidy

Elaine Collier

Adrienne McKenna –

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Pir Siddiqi

Margaret Simmons

Colin Taylor – Membership

Lamia Walker – Publicity

### AGM

The AGM will be held on Wednesday June 30th when the Constitution drawn up by the Steering Committee will be presented and officers elected – this will be your chance to become an active member in promoting the activities of the Friends. The AGM will be followed by a talk by Julian Hunt, until recently Heritage Manager of Bucks County Council, on "Paper Mills in the Wycombe Area".

### Publicity

Good publicity is the key to generating more interest in the Library and in "Friends". Can you help with designing eye-catching posters? We and the Library staff are already helping to publicise the monthly talks by getting posters on to the Council notice boards. We now need to design posters to attract new members and get articles about Friends in the local press.

### Membership

Membership is slowly increasing. We had two sessions in March handing out forms and talking to the public in the foyer of the Library, which attracted individuals and family membership. We will repeat this on two afternoons in April. Come and help! Contact Mike Dewey on 01628 525207.

### Volunteers

A bank of volunteers who are able to support the staff is an important part of "Friends". The Photo Project is already underway. Members have volunteered to run a Reading Group and the Library can help with the loan of books. Help is also needed to read to children, to help people with their use of the computers, especially those with a visual problem, and with administrative tasks such as sorting out tapes.

### Contacts

Local History – Chris Featherstone

Children's Library – Liz Sawney

IT – Helen Ward

Fundraising – Elaine Collier

Promoting the Library – Derek Morris

Reading Group – Fran Jenner

Helping on the Committee – Mike Dewey

### Programme of events

We have already booked a speaker to talk at the AGM in June. At our October meeting there will be a talk about the Battle of Trafalgar which has its bicentenary next year. Meetings are also proposed on the following subject areas: family history, local history, literature, sport and general interest (such as Criminology and Astronomy). We shall also have a quiz night. There will be visits to local places of interest, starting with our trip to the County Record Office in Aylesbury (see *Diary p.6*) We need a programme secretary: ring Mike Dewey if you can help.(01628 525207)

## Photo Project



This exciting project has already begun and has been featured in an article in the Bucks Free Press. Volunteers are needed to help us digitise over 10,000 photographs of High Wycombe and make them available over the Internet.

Training will be given!

Please contact Chris Featherstone in the Reference Library.

## *Booking in..... Library News*

### ***Did you know that ....***

People make 500,000 visits to High Wycombe Library every year?

High Wycombe Library has 21,357 registered members and lends out an average of 620,000 items every year?

### ***What do we lend?***

Novels for all tastes from classics to bestsellers: crime, science fiction, action and adventure, romance, family sagas, horror, city girls and Asian and black writers.

- Magazines
- Books in community languages such as Urdu, Hindi and Chinese
- Novels in French, German, Italian, Spanish and Russian
- Graphic novels
- Adult literacy collection
- Large print books
- Books for study and leisure, including local history and African Caribbean studies
- Children's board books, picture books, stories and homework/hobby books
- Talking books on CD and cassette for adults and children
- Language courses on cassette and CD
- Videos for adults and children, including the Classic Film Collection in First Floor Lending
- DVDs for adults and children
- Asian feature films on video and DVD
- Music CDs and DVDs
- Playstation games and CD-ROMs
- Ordnance Survey maps

### ***Why not try our on-line library service where you can:***

Renew loans, check reservations, view your account and search the library catalogue.

Just visit [www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries) and select 'On-line Library'. On-line reservations are in the pipeline. In the meantime e-mail your requests to [lib-hiw@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:lib-hiw@buckscc.gov.uk).

### ***New High Wycombe Library – Watch This Space!***

Steady progress is still being made with the developers towards drawing up the contract. We should have more exciting news to report next time.

***Elaine Collier***

### ***Budding Authors***

Which of the monthly talks in the library do you enjoy? Are you interested in Military Muskets or Pre-Raphaelites?

Could you write a short report on one of the talks for the next newsletter?

Please send your contribution by June 15th to the newsletter editor: Lamia Walker, 7 West Waye, High Wycombe, HP13 5PT.

## **Wycombe District Weekend – 24th-25th April**

Residents of Wycombe District will soon be able to take advantage of a number of special offers/discounts and guided walks which have been arranged by the Tourist Information Centres (in High Wycombe and Marlow) to take place over the weekend of 24th and 25th April. 'Wycombe District Weekend' is a fantastic opportunity exclusive to residents of the District, and includes a chance to visit many attractions in the area for free or at a discounted rate.

Hughenden Manor, Cliveden and the grounds at West Wycombe Park, for example, are all offering 2 for 1 entry, and at Odds Farm Park and Bekonscot Model village children will be entitled to free entry with every full paying adult.

Admission to Wycombe Museum is free, as always, but over the Wycombe District Weekend there will be a 10% discount in the Museum Gift Shop and a chance to join in with some Civil War re-enactors in the Museum grounds on Saturday 24th April at The Royalist Camp.

For those quick off the mark, there are two free tours of Wycombe Swan on Saturday 24th (although numbers are strictly limited), and at Wycombe Summit some lessons and open practice will be available at 2 people for the price of one.

Walks to suit all interests and abilities will take place at different times and locations during the weekend, covering such topics as Red Kites, Woodland Wildflowers, Local History and the Countryside. These will be led by experts from the Chilterns Conservation Board, WDC Rangers, the Marlow Society, the High Wycombe Society, the Risborough Area Heritage Society and the Risborough Countryside Group.

Wycombe District Weekend will also be an unmissable opportunity to visit Pann Mill in High Wycombe and the windmill at Lacey Green, both of which are being specially opened up to visitors.

Other participants include The Chiltern Brewery, Wycombe Wanderers FC, The Home of Rest for Horses, and Chiltern Valley Winery and Brewery.

**Details of all the offers are in a leaflet which is available at the two Tourist Information Centres (High Wycombe and Marlow) and at Princes Risborough Area Information Centre, or by phoning 08000 686218.**

*Don't forget that the TIC's have a wealth of information, not only on local attractions and things to do, but on most of the rest of the country as well. At this time of year, many places are opening up after the winter and there is a lot of new literature available for the forthcoming season.*



*Wycombe Museum – free as always*



*High Wycombe – Pann Mill – milling since Domesday times.*



*Join the red kite walk.*

### ***Postpeople needed***

Could you help with the delivery of the newsletter? If we could all deliver two or three newsletters in our own neighbourhood this would save considerably on postage. Contact Adrienne McKenna, Volunteer Co-ordinator, 01494 525444.

## Talks at the Library

### Advanced Driving!



The most recent talk at the Library, on 18th February, was by dedicated ex-policeman, Robin Thomas, of the Institute of Advanced Motorists. The IAM runs a "Skill for Life" programme which includes theory and "on-road presentation". The programme of training given by the IAM can be tailored to male and female, bold and shy, experienced and inexperienced drivers. Drivers go out in their own cars, accompanied by one of the IAM's volunteers, and learn to criticise their own driving, to do a running commentary on their innermost thoughts, but above all, to look at the road well ahead. Just watching as far as the second car ahead *won't do!* A good driver will be watching the road as far ahead as the eye can see, preferably even further. How long the programme of learning will take depends on *your dedication!* We heard that the programme can often be completed within 3 months, but don't rely on it! Once the volunteer considers you are ready, you get to go out in your own car on an Advanced Driving Test, which lasts 90 minutes and is run over "all types of road"! Your examiner will be the *crème de la crème* of police drivers, who holds a Police Advanced Driving Certificate. If you are successful, you get a certificate and become a full member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

Is this just entertainment for car fanatics, we wondered! Well, there's a serious side to it too. Drivers who have passed the IAM test are 50-70% less likely to be involved in collisions, less likely to incur penalty points (because you were looking well ahead!), and you might even get reduced insurance premiums, which is surely worthwhile.

After the end of the talk, those attending were offered a copy of the IAM magazine "Advanced Driving" (what else?) and returned thoughtfully to their cars, wondering if they could pluck up the courage to embark on the advanced driving route.

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### **Signing with your Baby**

No, this is not about teaching your baby to write its name before it is out of its pram, but showing it how to communicate its thoughts and needs effectively at the earliest possible time. Our apologies to those who were looking forward to this talk. Unfortunately it could not take place *on the date arranged*, but we hope that Vasti Stols can come at later date. Watch out for the posters, and book a baby-sitter.

### **Reading Group**



Do you have a favourite author? Sci-fi, fantasy, romance, family sagas, classics, biography, travel? Why not help set up a Reading Group at the library? The Library can help with loans of sets of books.

Perhaps you could write a book review for the newsletter? Contact Fran Jenner.

## Diary dates

### 2004

- Wednesday April 21st 2.30pm – 4.00pm Family History afternoon. An afternoon of practical help with the Buckinghamshire Family History Society. Beginners welcome. Phone the Library or call in to book a place.
- Wednesday April 21st 7.30pm "*Military Muskets and Pistols*". Following on from his very popular talk last year, Paul Sawney will show us more of his collection of military arms.
- Thursday April 22nd 2.30pm – 7.00pm Business Advice Afternoon, supported by Business Link. Starting a new business, need advice? All welcome. Come along at any time during the afternoon.
- Saturday April 24th 10.30am – 3.30pm in the Library foyer. Coffee and Cakes. A fundraising event to coincide with Wycombe District Weekend. There will be a quiz sheet to test your local knowledge. See box on p.1 to offer to help.
- Wednesday May 5th "*Pictures and Poems*". An evening of illustrated poems written and performed by the "Bard of Buckinghamshire", Stuart King.
- Wednesday May 12th "*Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood*". An illustrated talk by Peter Mussett.
- Wednesday May 26th "*History of the Workhouse*". A fascinating mix of social history, politics, economics and architecture by Peter Higginbotham.
- Wednesday June 30th AGM and a talk by Julian Hunt on "*High Wycombe Paper Mills*". No charge, see p.2 and below.
- To be announced – an Autumn date Trip to visit County Record Office at Aylesbury: hear how old documents are preserved. **Places limited to 10 only** – first come, first served. Shared cars for those needing a lift. Contact Mary Woodman on 01494 528106.

***All events take place in High Wycombe Library in Queen Victoria Road, unless otherwise stated. Tickets for evening talks (except the AGM) cost £2 including a glass of wine or fruit juice. Bring a friend!***

## Industrial unrest, riots and transportation!

Yes, and all at our very first AGM on...

### Wednesday June 30th

when ***Julian Hunt*** will trace the development of the paper industry in south Buckinghamshire, and describe the notorious paper riots which raged through High Wycombe in 1830.

Julian Hunt was for many years Buckinghamshire's Local Studies Librarian and is now a writer, researcher and lecturer on English local history. The paper riots of 1830 were one of the most dramatic events in Buckinghamshire's history and have many resonances with modern industrial disputes.