The disgrace of our High Street, with Central Beds Council blaming Anglia Water and a nationwide shortage of the paving blocks which match the originals.

Please sign our petition,
Look out for it in local High Street shops.
January Meeting

The speaker for the first meeting of 2018 was unable to attend as he was unwell. As a result the Chairman and two members of the committee stepped into the breach and talked to members about a range of current issues of importance to the Town.

The Chairman spoke about the state of the pavements in the High Street and of his correspondence with our President Andrew Selous M.P. and of the M.P’s exchange of letters with the Central Beds Council. The current situation? CBC staff will walk the High Street and consider the evidence put forward by our Chairman! Watch this space!

John Sharp our Transport expert spoke next about the East West Rail link between Oxford and Cambridge via Milton Keynes. Many members will have travelled on the slow train from Bletchley to Bedford and have visions of Express links to the two University towns from M.K or Bletchley starting with Oxford next year. Change this to ‘within our lifetime if we are lucky!’ John had a tale of woe to report. Yet another consultation on the orders of the Department of Transport and a cost reduction review. The line will not be electrified so that the overbridges at Bletchley, Bicester, and Bedford will not be rebuilt,. With one exception, level crossings and rights of way will be retained. There is no decision on the route from Bedford to Cambridge, and no real prospect of longer routes using the Oxford route connections between M.K. and Marylebone or Southampton.

Victoria Harvey gave three presentations. One related to the East West link, but covering the road and future development implications. The plan is to create an Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and a scheme to complete a dual carriageway between Cambridge and Milton Keynes is expected to commence in 2020. The route between the M1 and the M40 is under consideration. One option is to follow the rail line referred to by John Sharp. A second is to run south of Aylesbury and link with the M1 south of Milton Keynes and the third is to the north following the line of the A421 to the south of Bicester via Buckingham to the east of Milton Keynes.
The vision is to build one million new homes along this new corridor and this has the backing of Oxford and Cambridge County Councils and Milton Keynes. Victoria told us that this represented the equivalent of 6 small cities of 320000 people (each equal to the size of Reading) or 50 towns of 38000 and 200 villages of 9500 people.

On a separate subject, Victoria spoke briefly about the continuing difficulties relating to the Town’s Market. The market was relaunched with gazebos for stallholders, and with 2 or 3 exceptions a move to the south side of the High Street and increased rents for the larger stalls. The initial result, a petition signed by over 680 shoppers asking for reconsideration of the rent increases and a planned demonstration called off at the last minute when the Town Council agreed to negotiations. Victoria said that whilst negotiations were still ongoing it had been suggested that the market traders had not seen any material increase in business since the relaunch, and there remained a distinct possibility that the stallholders that had experienced substantial rent increases might be unable to continue unless the problem can be resolved.

Victoria’s final presentation was on the subject of Climate Change a subject on which she is a recognized expert and your Reporter would have to apologize for more than the usual number of errors and omissions if she had attempted to cover the talk. Victoria has therefore kindly agreed to produce a separate summary for the benefit of readers.

Anneliese Bird

Did you know that our town council holds online consultations?

https://www.leightononlinslade-tc.gov.uk/consultations/

The present consultation is for the Skate Park in Parson’s Close Recreation Ground, the facility has been in situ for a number of years and is nearing the end of it’s usable life.

Usage is intended for skateboards, free-style bikers & scooters. Our June walk will be around the recreation ground.
Railways

The Department of Transport issued a press release recently about Northern rail modernisation schemes which had tucked away in it that the East West Rail project will not now be electrified. Furthermore as was mentioned in the Newsletter, there was a further round of public consultation for the East West Rail project last week held in Winslow, Bletchley & Ridgmont with paper copies of all the consultation information available in Aylesbury Public Library plus online versions. I delved into this using the online link as this consultation which covers the line from Bicester through Bletchley, on to Bedford & the branch from Claydon Junction (midway between Bicester & Bletchley) to Aylesbury & on to Princes Risborough had all been done at least two years ago & I had visited the Bletchley consultation exhibition then & made my comments. Typically unless one delved as I did you would be mystified as to why this consultation process was being repeated at considerable public cost. The reason behind it was that the Dept of Transport or rather Secretary of State, Chris Grayling, had ordered a cost reduction review during the middle of 2017. Hence revised drawings have had to be prepared on sections where cost reduction works have been carried out. All the design work is done by contractors engaged by the Dept of Transport via East West Rail. Primarily the Claydon Junction to Aylesbury line which is at present single will now not be doubled. Lifts & new additional platform at Aylesbury Parkway have gone. The new station at Winslow will only have one retail unit instead of two; a cross over at Bletchley high level on the line to MK will be re-sited. Many over-bridges between Bicester, Bletchley & Bedford which would have had to rebuilt to provide for sufficient clearance for overhead electrification wires etc. will now only be repaired. The construction works are all detailed on separate drawings covering the entire route hence even bridge repair works require a revised drawing for that section of track.

The retention of single track from Claydon Junction to Aylesbury is short sighted & I will be commenting on that as part of the consultation process. The traffic plan is for Chiltern Railways (who have a 22 year franchise) to run trains between MK, Bletchley Winslow & on to Aylesbury with the theoretical ability to reach London Marylebone via Princes
Risborough or Amersham. Without loops on the single track sections that will severely restrict the service that can be operated. The hugely expensive newly reinstated line from Edinburgh to Tweedbank was built as a single track with insufficient crossing loops & is now being strongly criticised for lack of foresight by train operators.

Remarkably many of the level crossings between Bletchley & Bedford are being retained, even public Right of Ways which are now frowned upon officially. Only one near a school in Woburn Sands is being closed & diverged. Previously that was due to have a full step free access footbridge. Even vegetation which has almost totally engulfed the disused but mothballed railway between Claydon Junction & Bletchley is not going to be completely removed. Unbelievable.

When they first came up with electric traction on East West Rail & Chiltern running to MK by 2019 I said then that this was totally unrealistic.

Do you recall the much vaunted electric spine for freight running from the MML at Bedford, then East West Rail to Oxford, then over the electrified GW to Reading then to Basingstoke then finally to Soton, all electrified at 25kV. Even the existing third rail section from Basingstoke to Soton would be dual equipped with 25kV overhead!

All quietly dropped, like the rest of the MML electrification scheme from Bedford northwards to Derby, Nottingham & Sheffield/Doncaster except for the route to Corby. Nottingham are pressing for the direct route to the MML via Corby & Oakham to be reinstated & electrified.

We are being told that diesel fuelled road transport is bad for us environmentally & yet this Government are intent on widening the use of overtly expensive dual fuelled electric & diesel trains instead of electrifying as was originally planned. Typical short term planning once again.

John Sharp, Transport Officer
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Thursday 28th April 2017
The Gables Hall, Linslade

The meeting was opened at 7.30pm by the Chairman, Maurice Crowe, who thanked members who were present for their attendance and asked that they be sure to sign the attendance sheet.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Hartley, Mrs C Birch, Mr G Perham, Mr and Mrs R Barry, Mrs J. Crowfoot, Mr. and Mrs R Underwood, Mrs S James.

Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting held on 28th April 2016

Minutes of the meeting were provided to all members present via the latest newsletter; these were proposed by Nick Whitehouse and seconded by Tony Birch.

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Chairman’s Report

Maurice welcomed our Town Mayor Mr Steve Cotter, to the meeting. The Mayor would be making a presentation to the group on his year in office following the AGM.

Maurice reported he had attended the local Parish meeting held at Pages Park and had given a talk on the work of the Society some of the achievements. The state of our pavements on the High Street was an ongoing concern, some work had been done on the Market Cross, but we looked forward to more work being done in the future.

Looking back on 2016, the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary with a party last May. We had a talk on Kensworth Quarry and a visit followed shortly after enjoyed by all who attended. Paul Rabbitts enlightened us on the subject of Natural Parks; Victoria Harvey surprised us with a talk on greening the town. This year we had talks on policing in Hertfordshire and a GP linking the Seven Ages of Man to the common medical practices of today.

We also breathed a sigh of relief on the success of the Valley Farm outcome and hope this will be the last we have heard of
As reported earlier Maurice gave a talk to the Mayor, Councillors and the public, on the activities of the Leighton Buzzard Society at the Annual Parish meeting in March. This was very well received and a letter of thanks from the Town Council had been received.

Cedric Hoptroff who has been a long term and loyal member of the Society had found it necessary to resign from his post of being our representative to the London Green Belt Council; he had in the past served as secretary and chairman. Cedric was unable to attend the meeting but Maurice paid tribute to him for his dedication and hard work for the Society, Cedric’s knowledge of planning and fine details had been of great benefit to the Society and also his service to the LGBC.

It is with sadness that Maurice reported a long term member Rosemary Beckett had passed away at the age of 94, despite disabilities Rosemary had continued to attend meetings until very recently.

Maurice thanked all the members of the Committee for their invaluable help over the year.

Special thanks to Tony Birch, John Sharpe, Rita Barry, Anneliese Bird, John Hartley and Sue James (who keeps everyone up to date via our Leighton Buzzard Society website, Twitter and Facebook) Sue is also the Editor and organiser of our Newsletter.

Welcome to Josh Walker who is taking over from Richard Groom setting up equipment for our speakers each meeting. Many thanks to Richard for his dedication we could not have managed without you.

Maurice advised members of the serious matter of getting volunteers to join the committee. Rita Barry our Treasurer had given notice that this would be her last year. Along with this position we will need to fill other vacant positions too in order for the Society to continue into the future.

Josh Walker had offered his help to the Society and confirmed we do need to encourage new and possibly younger members to join us. We need to fill the following positions Secretary, Vice Chairman, Minerals and Waste Officer for this year.
We have been pursuing the question of the state of the High Street, some of the repairs had been done around the Market Cross and around the trees at the bottom of the High Street all be it with tarmac replacing brick. No indication of money being made available to continue with the repairs had been advised and was disappointing.

We have a petition we would like everyone to sign and this will also be taken to the May Day Fayre.

**Treasurers Report**

In the absence of Rita, Maurice presented her report and balance sheets which were included in the Newsletter.

The income and expenditure were explained and we are again in a satisfactory position with a end of year balance of £11,432.00

Maurice spoke about The Trust of St Andrews School Clock which now has a balance of £1776.68

There was some discussion on the possibility of having to pay for speakers in the future.

Maurice asked for these accounts to be accepted, these were proposed by John Sharp and seconded by Anneliese Bird.

**Proposal and Election of Officers**

Mike Shepherd agreed to come on the committee proposed by Mr John Hartley and seconded by Mrs Rita Barry.

The present Committee were re-elected.

**Any Other Buisiness**

Tony Birch proposed we make Cedric who is already a Vice President a Life Member of the Society; this was seconded by Wally Randell.

Maurice read a piece from a new Green Belt paper.

Maurice thanked everyone present for attending the AGM and closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

Carole Perham
# LEIGHTON BUZZARD SOCIETY STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31st DECEMBER 2017

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£.</td>
<td>£.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members subscriptions and donations (£18/£48)</td>
<td>1292</td>
<td>1281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social events</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booklets</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>-----------</strong></td>
<td><strong>2245</strong></td>
<td><strong>2093</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Affiliation fees</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social events</td>
<td>1595</td>
<td>1312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stationary, printing, postal expenses</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Andrews school clock donation</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>---</strong></td>
<td><strong>2148</strong></td>
<td><strong>1907</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>97</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
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## GENERAL FUND

Represented by

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash in hand</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>1065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Savings Bank (incl £5000 ring-fenced)</td>
<td>10289</td>
<td>10337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>-----------</strong></td>
<td><strong>11239</strong></td>
<td><strong>11425</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock of Booklets</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>-----------</strong></td>
<td><strong>11432</strong></td>
<td><strong>11575</strong></td>
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</table>

## RECONCILIATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund as at 1st January 2017</td>
<td>11432</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduct movement of stock of booklets</td>
<td></td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>-----------</strong></td>
<td><strong>11389</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plus excess Income over Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>-----------</strong></td>
<td><strong>11575</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Fund at 31st December 2017

I have examined the above accounts and the receipts and vouchers and find them to be correct.

Barry Henshaw.
TRUST OF ST ANDREWS SCHOOL CLOCK 1979

Statement of Accounts for the year to 31st December 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Savings Account</td>
<td>708-00</td>
<td>708-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>708-00</td>
<td>708-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>0-36</td>
<td>0-09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>708-36</td>
<td>708-45</td>
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Current Account

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>1018-32</td>
<td>1068-32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>50-00+</td>
<td>50-00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation from LB Society</td>
<td>50-00+</td>
<td>50-00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1068-32</td>
<td>1118-32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Joint Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1776-68</td>
<td>Joint Total</td>
<td>1826-77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Digital Bus Stop Displays

Where are they?
The bus shelters by Oxfam were replaced but the displays were not returned.
Calling Notice and Agenda for the
53rd Annual General Meeting
Followed by a Presentation by the
Town Mayor Councillor Syed Rahman.

Thursday 26th April 2018
7.00 for 7.30pm at The Gables Hall

Agenda

1. Those present and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the meeting of 25th April 2013
3. Matters arising not dealt with on the agenda
4. Approval of the minutes
5. Chairman’s report
6. Treasurer’s report
   - LBS accounts
   - Clock accounts
   - membership
7. Proposal and election of Officers:
8. Any Other Business:

Speed Watch and Street Watch volunteers have continued to patrol around Leighton Buzzard and Linslade area.

Speed watch has been in action in Mentmore Road, Wing Road, Plantation Road and shortly Southcourt Avenue.

Street Watch volunteers have continued to do patrols on Market days, Tuesday's and Saturdays quite a few members of the public have commented how they like to see the patrols about the area. If anyone would like more information please contact Carole.
East West Railway

There is a public, i.e. free, conference on Thursday 19 April at the Network Rail HQ offices in Milton Keynes, the address being The Quadrant, Elder Gate, MK9 1EN. This is organised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers Railway Division. Subject is the “East West Railway: Creating a New Type of Railway.”

It starts at 17.30, for refreshments, with the conference proper starting at 18.00 & due to finish at 19.30. Speaker is Peter Austin, Delivery Director, East West Railway, previously Finance Director London Overground. You need to register via nearyou.imeche.org. This registration website is not easy to use, if you have problems don’t waste your time continually trying to register, simply email the imeche contact name saying you want to attend even though you are not an IMechE member. I shall be attending & I’m having problems registering even though I’m a Railway Division member.

The reason for this third round of consultation is because Chris Grayling, the Secretary of State for Transport, asked in June last year for a cost reduction exercise on the Bicester - Bletchley - MK - Bedford & Bletchley - Aylesbury sections of the East West Railway project. This was duly done & one result has been that electrification which had been planned from Oxford through to Bletchley & beyond to Bedford was quietly dropped. (the second result relates to the proposed service of passenger trains between MK, Aylesbury & London. I’ll discuss this this later in this email, see below) This highly significant electrification scheme was all to do with running, much lauded when first mentioned a couple of years ago, electrified freight services from both the West Coast Main Line & the Midland Main Lines thence through to Oxford, Reading, & Basingstoke, then on to the various freight terminals at Southampton, this being the much vaunted “electrified spine freight route”. This announcement to drop the electrification was released by the Dept of Transport around Christmas time, tacked on to the end of another press release. As you will discover in this latest round of consultation there is, cunningly, no overt mention of electrification plans as such, or not, merely that the pub-
lished drawings for each length of railway formation showing various over bridges which would have been rebuilt to give higher clearances from rail level for the 25KV overhead electrification headroom are now revised showing merely that they are to be repaired where necessary. The repairs are needed as the line from Bicester to Bletchley has lain derelict & overgrown since 1993. Typical short term & short sighted, cost cutting exercise, the subject of which I have protested as part of my online response. We should be getting rid of diesel hauled freights wherever possible. The idea of running diesel hauled freights under the wires which happens regularly is also a nonsense.

The second result of the cost reduction exercise that I referred to above relates to the plan to run diesel multiple unit passenger trains between MK & Aylesbury & beyond to London Marylebone using the railway track that already exists from Claydon LNE junction on the existing but derelict Bicester - Bletchley railway just north of Calvert to Aylesbury, also serving the new station planned for Winslow on the East West Railway & passing through the closed station of Quainton Road (home of the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre). The plan prior to the cost reduction exercise was to reinstate double track from Claydon LNE junction to Aylesbury Vale Parkway station. This involved creating a second platform at the latter station, complete with footbridges & lifts. The result of cost reduction is to retain the single track route throughout, retain the existing station layout at Aylesbury Vale Parkway & slightly reduce the facilities at the new station to be built at Winslow. Again this is a short term, short sighted exercise which mitigates against efficient passenger train operations as the existing single track route also carries daily freight trains carrying bulk refuse waste for landfill from London to the Calvert freight terminal between Aylesbury Vale Parkway & Claydon LNE junction. As you can imagine I have objected to the retention of this single track railway route via my online response.

John Sharp

Not renewed your membership and it is already April, this is your last printed newsletter unless you renew.
CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Aylesbury Vale District Council
17/03956/AOP Land North Of Leighton Road (a4146) Soulbury Buckinghamshire opp Valley Fm Consultation Outline Planning Application with access to be considered and all other matters reserved for residential development (C3) comprising 50 Dwellings (50% Open Market/50% Affordable), Associated Roads, Drainage, Car Parking, Servicing, Footpaths, Cycleways, Public Open Space / Informal Open Space and Landscaping

Central Beds
CB/17/03749/OUT Land north of Leighton Road, Linslade rhs past Bridal Way Withdrawn Outline planning permission for construction of up to 18 bungalows
CB/17/03813/FULL Former Quarry Works, Mentmore Road, Linslade Consultation Change of Use of Land to Boat Yard, Change of use of Administration Building to Dwelling
CB/17/05466/FULL 25 Baker Street, LU7 1BL r.o. 21-25 & cp Consultation Proposed new construction of mixed tenure housing comprising of 2 no 3 bedroom dwellings; 2 No 2 bedroom apartments; 4 No 1 bedroom apartments; 1 no studio apartment
CB/17/05497/FULL 1 Bluebell Court Leighton Road, Linslade, LU7 1FZ was Millers Dairy Granted Change of use from A1/A2/A3/B1 (shop) as Consent Notice CB/11/00170/REN to a two bedroom dwelling
We reluctantly agreed to the original application granted on 24 / 11 / 201 i.e. CB/11/01197/FULL Land at Millers Dairy, Wing Road, Linslade for the ‘Demolition of existing buildings and erection of a C2 development comprising 44 care suites and 27 nursing beds with a small amount of A3 use’. So now that there will be no retail provision we object to this application and respectively request that it is refused
CB/17/05681/OUT Land at Station Approach, Station Road, Linslade, LU7 2LY incl T/C bldg Consultation Approximately 25 Dwellings, up to three storeys in height with basement car parking
CB/17/05725/PAAD Barn on Land at Old Linslade Road, Heath and Read LU7 0DU Refused Notification for Prior Approval proposed change of use: from agricultural use to a single dwelling
CB/17/05835/FULL 17 Wing Road, Linslade, LU7 2NG SLG was Faith Press Granted Change of use of existing building with partial demolition, creation of 1 new flat and 3 new two storey dwelling houses and 4 new flats in retained part of building
CB/17/05971/OUT Land at Northern Chamberlains Barn (to the south of Shenley Hill Rd), LB Consultation Residential development of up to 253 dwellings
CB/17/06018/FULL Corbetts Hill Farm, Taylors Ride, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3JN Withdrawn Redevelopment of farm buildings and pool house to create seven dwellings with associated works
CB/17/06062/FULL Land at Northern Chamberlain's Barn (between Shenley Hill Rd and Heath Rd) LB Consultation Creation of new link road
CB/18/00142/PASD 2 Hockliffe Road, LU7 3FN shoe repairs Consultation Proposed change of use of shop to a residential dwelling
CB/18/00260/LB 23A-23B High Street, LU7 1DN Granted Internal fit-out works to form a Costa Coffee with the relocation of the existing Back-of-House into rear storage area
CB/18/00676/FULL Grovebury Service Station, Billington Road, LU7 9HH Shell Consultation Demolition of existing sales building, car wash & jet wash. Erection of new single storey sales building together with the creation of 11 No new car parking spaces
CB/18/00758/FULL 9 Waterborne Walk, LU7 1DH Waitrose car park Consultation Installation of 3no new automatic number plate recognition cameras; 1no. Camera to be fixed to existing Waitrose building & 2no Cameras to be fixed to 2no new galvanized steel camera column protected by 2no new potted ‘ram raid’ bollards within the Waitrose car park
CB/18/00943/FULL Land to the rear of no's. 11B - 29 Wing Road, Linslade Consultation Proposed residential scheme of 34 x 1 and 2 bedroom apartments
Alternative Energy Sources

We welcome back to our February Ian Foll, Operations director at Arnold White Estate’s (AWE).

Ian last spoke to us 5 years and on looking back on the presentation he gave us in 2013 he was surprised at the rate of change in energy.

He outlined his background large and small biomass, district heating, landfill, wind, solar, PV and public transport.

He spoke of the places he has visited aboard to look at options of generating energy, Sweden, Germany for example, as part of his job.

The success of the D1 bus which even today is still financially viable, running from 6am to late evening, the last bus from the High Street being at 8.29pm.

Ian explained the 24/7 running of the local wind turbine on AWE land which operate 90% of the time. Issues are from spikes in the national grid.

Affordability, reliable, reduced carbon emissions have gone from government vocabulary and today’s national context.

The promise of zero carbon houses has gone but today’s house building has improved.

As we no longer madly mining for coal our reserves have increased to 250 years.

In contrast Germany has closed nuclear power stations and gone for more coal fire power stations.

Energy now comes under Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

21-4-17 was the 1st non coal generation day since the Industrial Revolution in the UK, a landmark day for the country.
Ian explained that gas generated power stations produce lower carbon emissions than coal are more efficient and gas prices are stable, although we do import 50%.

With regards to Nuclear, it is carbon free, there are 14 nuclear Stations at 8 sites.

Hickley C is French and China investment. The deal though is crazy, as explained in the Guardian in December 2017, *Building Britain’s first new nuclear reactor since 1995 will cost twice as much as the 2012 Olympics*.  

Ian spoke on efficiency of generation, solar 11% over the year due to night time, panels too hot in summer to efficiently generate.


2013 heading towards a capacity Crunch but the lights have stayed on. 30% renewable, 50% zero carbon energy.

Centrica trading report today in comparison to its report 2012 makes interesting reading, today the company has sold all its investment in wind and want to sell all of their nuclear investments.


The Government have announced in 2017 no new diesel/petrol cars to be sold after 2040, Ian feels that it will be sooner as people will not wish to purchase a diesel car in 2032 if it is soon to be extinct. The future is electric with National Grid claiming 9 million electric cars by 2030. Today there are 90,000 on road

Ian feels the big challenge is transport and heating.
Gig economy is storage of power, zero carbon homes, battery power transport on rails, which in turn he hopes will lead to the sacking all councils highway engineers.

So in Conclusion, rate of growth has been faster than expected, the need to increase battery storage and to move away from car ownership.

Sue James

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**Leighton Buzzard Voluntary Patient Transport (LBVPT)**

LBVPT service is ready to transport you to your Hospital outpatient clinic appointments. LBVPT service provides voluntary transport for elderly and vulnerable people to and from their outpatient appointments at the three local hospitals - Luton & Dunstable, Milton Keynes, Stoke Mandeville. We are now pleased to be able to extend our service to include Bedford, Amersham and High Wycombe hospitals; and we will take individuals to attend hospital appointments at Saturday clinics. All our services are subject to a volunteer driver being available on the required day. This service has been operational since 1 April 2017 and is available to you if you do not qualify for NHS non-emergency transport, or you are unable to get to your hospital appointments by any other means. One feature greatly appreciated by people using LBVPT that is not yet provided elsewhere is that the driver will accompany you from the car to your appointment; wait there with you if you wish, or come back to collect you later, and then accompany you home to your door.

LBVPT asks for a voluntary donation to cover the cost of providing the service.

Further information on using this service can be found by:
* calling our call handler on 07 873 49 76 33
* sending an email to lbvpt@outlook.com
* looking at the website at http:www.lbvpt.co.uk
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<tr>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Maurice Crowe</th>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Rita Barry</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Planning</td>
<td>John Sharp</td>
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<td>Transport</td>
<td>Sue James</td>
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<td>Newsletter Editor/Facebook</td>
<td>Anneliese Bird</td>
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<td>Meeting Reporter</td>
<td>Carole Perham</td>
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<td>Committee member</td>
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<td>London Greenbelt Rep</td>
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*Website* leightonbuzzardsociety.com
Annual parish meeting 19th March

Councillor Wallace gave an outline on the role of the council, he explained that councillors are easy to contact and welcome contact from residents of the town. He said that they have invested in the market and saved the market. There has been controversy but at present the town council subsiding the market at a cost of £36,000 a year, there is hope that this will reduce over the next few years when the changes are stabilised and when training and improved appearance bring additional revenue in.

The council has been driving down costs, keeping parish share of council tax the same this year at £149.58.

He spoke on the available grants for youth provision in town and the need to support the youth, called the youth promise. Mark Saccoccio, the Town Clerk was pleased to announce that the lake on Sandhills opening June by developers.

Mark outlined what the council does, only two allotments in the town.

*Living History Day* this year is WW1 early October with the promise of the attraction of a WW1 Byplane will be on show in the Town. He did not specify it will come complete with wings attached or if it will be pulled up the High Street and down Lake Street.

New exciting Christmas lights promised this year.

Markets growing, strength by strength, it will be worth it.

The structure of the council was outlined.

*New play equipment* Adams Bottom and Vimy Road with work to start on Linslade recreation ground. Want to get Henry Finch fountain, want to crowd fund to get it working again.

New £6,574 pa grass cutting contact with Southcott Management Company.
The Mausoleum is open in Vandyke Cemetery it was self financing to the region of £88,000. The Council are responsible now for the toilets in the multi story car park and Parsons Close also a compositing toilet has been added to the allotments. Council looking to make themselves digitally more accessible and greener. With new digital sign boards round the town coming soon, one going to the railway station, the other two boards are at present under discussion with CBC and Highways for West Street and near Town entrance. With a presence on Facebook and Twitter, Mark hopes everyone is following the council on social media. The Henry Finch fountain will be costly to repair so consideration is being given to how much funding will be allocated. Other public funding streams are being investigated to help with this project.

Talked about The Tactic Centre and the fact it can be hired out during the day.

Culture, new this year cinema in the park, 11 and 12 April Mentmore Park.

Architectal lighting, more information to follow.

Councillor Brandham brought up the state of the High Street pavement and the petition the Society has at present. CBC Councillor Bowater stated the issue is Anglia Water digging up the block paving and the fact that the blocks are extremely difficult to source in the UK.

I raised the issue of accessibility to shopping in town as the wheelchairs which were housed in the Multi-storey disappeared with the CBC staff. I was given a detailed answer, basically no staff so no supervision of them so they have been, ‘nicked’.

So shopping in MK with the shop mobility scooters, wheelchairs, children buggies looks far more appealing and directly impacts on the footfall of our badly paved High Street.

Sue James
Government funding for final part of A421 upgrade

On the 22nd of March it was announced during a visit by the Transport Secretary to Amazon that there will be £22.5 million worth of funding from the Department for Transport to complete the dualling of the A421 road from Magna Park in Milton Keynes to the roundabouts in Central Bedfordshire by junction 13 of the M1, which is used by almost 30,000 vehicles a day. CBC and MK councils are contributing up to £3 million towards this £28.5 million project.

“This last stage of the A421 road dualling project runs from junction 13 of the M1 motorway up to Eagle Farm Roundabout and is 3km in length, the majority of this stretch falling in Central Bedfordshire. The A421 forms a key section of the strategic east-west corridor, and helps underpin the proposed future Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. The Expressway is part of the proposed infrastructure which will help to create opportunities for the wider area to become the UK’s Silicon Valley, delivering growth in science, technology and innovation.”

source CBC website


The widened carriageway will need two bridges to be extended: the Cranfield Road bridge, plus another footbridge near Hulcote that will safely take pedestrians, horseriders and cyclists over the A421 (via four public rights of way). The road works for the improvements are anticipated to take 18-24 months.

I do wonder nearly 30 years later that I was foolish to turn the job offer from the Department of Transport in Roads. Having just graduated with a BSc in Maritime Geography I wanted a job in my degree subject and roads did not appeal to me. If it had you might today be enjoying fantastic cycling super highways across the UK, as they followed all new road builds. Of course pollution would not be an issue as all traffic would be powered by electricity not dependent on oil states.

Sue James
Membership

It is often asked at committee meetings why more people do not join the Society. Those who attend meetings would not say that our Facebook followers age reflect the membership of meetings.

Would we benefit from the just click a button and pay with PayPal for membership? My kids in their early 20’s do not have a cheque book, I don’t think the Nationwide Building Society offers them upon reaching the grand old age of 18.

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<th>Your Fans</th>
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<th>People Reached</th>
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Do all of our Facebook followers live locally? Maybe that is why they are not members.

Facebook also generates that information, 214 LB, 22 Linslade, 36 London, 11 MK, 3 Dunstable, 2 Luton, 1 Stoke Hammond.

English is the main language but one Russia speaker is slightly concerning in today’s political climate! But it can be deduced from these figures that there are nearly 250 local people who if they are not already members could join and support our work in protecting the environment they live, work and play in.

Sue James
Chair’s Report

Hello Society members, another year has passed and our AGM is next month on Thursday April 26th when I hope you will all attend.

Unfortunately I cannot be with you as I have a previous engagement with a surgeon.

For the past three years, as you know, I have been pursuing CBC to repair the High St pavements with little success. Andrew Selous our MP and president did elicit a reply from CBC, after I had sent him all the evidence of the damage, which more or less said CBC had performed their statutory duty by filling all the holes in with cement and tarmac. What a bodge job. CBC also promised to do a walking survey of the damage but no report has been circulated.

So I embarked on raising a PETITION which intended to draw CBC’s attention to what we the citizens of our Georgian town thought of the damage requesting CBC to implement the repairs hoping this will promote some action. Only 290 signatures so far have been collected. At the February meeting I distributed to members who attended the meeting a copy of the PETITION to collect signatures of their friends and colleagues. I was extremely disappointed that not one member had returned their PETITION copy when asked at the March meeting. Alan Brandham did circulate his copy to all parishioners at the morning service at St Barnabas and I asked all my Festival Singers to sign at their rehearsal. Could I ask you all to raise your copy of the PETITION and bring it along to the April meeting. Further PETITIONS are to be circulated to the shopkeepers in the town for customers to sign.

As a Society we must promote our engagement with all parties to give the PETITION importance and legitimacy.

The future of the Society is doubtful if we cannot act as a
body for the good of the town.

The Society has survived in the past decade through the good offices of the committee from which three long serving members are to resign at the AGM. They John Hartley, Rita Barry, and Annaliese Bird have given unstinted and devoted service to keep the society in business. And we need members to volunteer to replace them. The Secretary post is once again vacant.

If you want the society to continue please help the committee to find candidates willing to serve.

Maurice Crowe
Chairman

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**Buses**

Going to the L&D hospital and planning to be green and catch the bus? Did you know that since March the direct 70 bus stopped running, instead you have to either change in Dunstable or catch the F70 or F77 to the Busway hospital stop and walk for 8-10 minutes, half a mile.
Members are invariably surprised on learning about what exists in the local area when attending Society meetings and this talk was no exception.

The subject Rectory Farm Great Brickhill. The speaker the farmer Tom Turner the 13th generation of the Turner family to farm in Great Brickhill.

Rectory Farm extends to 700 acres and converted to organic production in 2001. There are few if any other organic farms in this Region.

The farm has a herd of 250 Aberdeen Angus cross cattle, producing beef for Marks & Spencer. The farm produces cereal crops, with wheat sold to feed Waitrose’s organic pigs and oats transported to Ireland to make White’s organic porridge oats.

An integral part of the farm is an environmental stewardship scheme to encourage flora and fauna. A local wildlife site is managed alongside the Greensand Trust. Thinnings from a broadleaved woodland are sold for firewood or for feeding elephants at Whipsnade! Willow along the river Ouzel are made into cricket bats.

Today the farm operates with 2 full time workers and contract labour. Machinery is bigger, more sophisticated and vastly more expensive. Tractors and combined harvesters steer themselves with satellite guidance and alerts when cows are calving are provided by mobile phones via pedometers with GPS locators.

We were told that in the 1816 the farm had 200 sheep, 35 pigs, 27 cows, 13 horses and 146 chickens/turkeys/ducks. In 1840 25% of British workers were farm labourers whereas today 60% of agricultural labour is provided by farmers and
their families and only 1.5% of the workforce is employed in agriculture.

The organic approach extends across the whole farm. Cattle graze during the summer and are housed in the winter. Bedding and manure is composted and spread across the fields to provide phosphorus and potassium nutrients to assist crop growth. Essential nitrogen is provided by a rotation of crops including 2 years of clover and grass. After 2 years of fertility building the land is ploughed and a seed bed prepared before sowing wheat in the autumn. The next year oats or barley are sown and in the third year oats with grass and clover which establishes once the oats are harvested.

On a more general note Tom reminded us how farming is at the mercy of the climate. 2015 produced a record yield of a new wheat variety but 2016 was too wet and 2017 too dry resulting in some of the farms worst yields. Rain results in nutrients leaching from the soil and in an organic scenario cannot be replaced by artificial nutrients but organic production without sprays and fertilisers is better for wildlife. A recent RSPB survey identified 56 bird species on the farm.

The uncertainty of Brexit and the possibility of cheap imports was touched upon along with the need for seasonal workers to pick fruit, vegetables and flowers and vets to work in abattoirs as it seems that 60 to 80% of these are also migrant workers.

This resume based on the Speakers own notes gives a flavour of a fascinating talk enjoyed by some 28 members. Tom Taylor was warmly applauded after an interesting question and answer session.

This is your Reporter’s last contribution and I hope that another member will take up the baton and help to provide a record of the Society’s activities for those members unable to attend meetings.

Anneliese Bird
**Future Events**

All meetings to be held at The Gables, 132 Wing Road, Linslade, LU7 2NN

7pm for 7.30pm unless otherwise specified

*Non members are welcome,*
*entry £2 unless otherwise specified*

April 26th AGM with guest speaker
Syed Rahman, Town Mayor

24th May Hugh Granger on Advertising

28th June Ian Haynes,
Head of Grounds and Environmental Services
Historical Tour of Parson Close Recreation Ground,
Celebrating 170 years of leisure
*Ket at the Bandstand 7.30pm*

26th July Mark Soccaccio, Town Clerk

25th Oct Katherine Holloway, Police Commissioner

**Friday 16th November President’s Evening**
*(Members only)*

The Gables is on the 150 bus route on Wing Road, a short walk from the Railway Station, where the F70, F77 and D1 buses stop.

The Gables has a large car park with lighting and disabled access into the building via a ramp.

Registered Charity No 279003