

IDCA Committee 2012-13

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Volunteers to help IDCA are still needed, and contributions to or ideas about items in this **programme** are always welcome. Discuss what you can do or would like to see or do with any committee member.

The Association now has its own **WEBSITE**. Visit www.idca.org.uk for up to date details of our activities, and archives too. Please put suggestions for improvements to our Publicity Officer Vicky Tustian.

The **2012 subscription** was requested in February. Most people have paid already, but if not you will find a renewal notice enclosed. Please help by paying the Membership Secretary, Paul Graham, promptly. Many thanks. If you do not renew you may not receive further programmes.

PRINTING

The IDCA programme is printed with the compliments of Drayton Press, 2-6 Horton Road, West Drayton, UB7 8ED, 01895 858000, to whom we are very grateful.



Iver and District Countryside Association

If you live in the Iver area and would like to get out more in the local countryside and learn more about it - contact any of the committee members on the back page. Alternatively, just come to any of the events in our programme - no obligation to join. You will have a warm welcome. IDCA - protecting and valuing Iver's countryside since 1973.

2012 Summer Programme

Sunday 10 June. **WALK AND LOCAL HISTORY**. Explore the Frays Island Nature Reserve, Mabey's Meadow and historic West Drayton conservation area. Meet at 2.30pm at Iver Village Hall car park (car sharing possible) or 2.45pm at the small car park in Thorney Mill Road near West Drayton mill (GR 053 792). Leisurely stroll. 2 hours maximum. Paul Graham 01753 655183.

Saturday 16 June. Easy going short **WALK** in Iver - at your own pace. Meet at 2pm at Iver Village Hall Car Park. 2 hours maximum. Socialize at the new High Street café on our return. This is a joint event with **SIMPLY WALK**. Paul Graham 01753 655183.

Sunday 15 July. **MINI-COACH TRIP to OXFORDSHIRE**. Tour the abbey and village of Dorchester-on-Thames, explore the Chiltern countryside, and visit Stonor House in the afternoon. Choice of pub lunch or bring your own picnic. A wonderful summer day out. Places limited. £15 per person. Booking essential. Wendy Rogers 01753 651581.

Saturday 21 July. Easy going short **WALK** in Iver - at your own pace. Meet at 2pm at Iver Village Hall Car Park. 2 hours maximum. Socialize at the new High Street café on our return. This is a joint event with **SIMPLY WALK**. Paul Graham 01753 655183.

Sunday 5 August. **St Peter's Church**, Iver Village will be open every Sunday afternoon from 2pm until 5pm in August (5th, 12th, 19th, 26th). Climb the Church Tower. Cream Teas available.

Saturday 18 August. **CONSERVATION WORK** from 1pm-3pm at Swan Road Open Space. Help to improve the area's biodiversity by cutting and raking the meadow. Jobs for everybody. Meet outside The Swan PH, High Street, Iver, at 1pm. Vicky Tustian 07833 128574.

Saturday 18 August. Easy going short **WALK** in Iver - at your own pace. Meet at 2pm at Iver Village Hall Car Park. 2 hours maximum. Socialize at the new High Street café on our return. This is a joint event with **SIMPLY WALK**. Paul Graham 01753 655183.

Sunday 2 September. **LUNCHTIME BBQ SOCIAL**. 12 noon until 3pm. There will be a charge of £5 for food. Bring your own drink and glass. Booking essential. Jacky and David Miles 01753 818416. Many thanks to them for organizing this.

Saturday 15 September. Easy going short **WALK** in Iver - at your own pace. Meet at 2pm at Iver Village Hall Car Park. 2 hours maximum. Socialize at the new High Street café on our return. This is a joint event with **SIMPLY WALK**. Paul Graham 01753 655183.

Monday 8 October. The first **SOCIAL EVENING** of the autumn. Coppins Room, Iver Village Hall 8pm. Tom Way will show a film and give a talk on "Wildlife on Your Doorstep". Jacky Miles 01753 818416.

Sunday 14 October. **CONSERVATION WORK** from 1pm-3pm at Love Green Pond, Love Green Lane, Iver. Come and help clear vegetation in and around the pond. Vicky Tustian 07833 128574.

Saturday 20 October. **IVER APPLE DAY**. Fun for all the family from 11am to 4pm. Home Cottage Farm, Bangors Road South, Iver. E-mail appleday.iver@tiscali.co.uk or ring 07870 338712 for details, or see local press nearer the time.

Water Under the Bridge

Our Secretary David Miles has arranged the re-publishing of this 1990s Rosalind Barnes-Ken Elkins video on DVD. The price is £7.50 and the DVDs are now on sale. This is a unique memento of Iver's rural past as described by ex-member Ken Elkins who was born in Swan Road, Iver, in 1911 and died in 2000 aged 88. Contact David Miles (see back page). Cheques made out to IDCA please.

Pinewood Studios

The association was relieved and delighted with the turning down of the appeal against South Bucks District Council's refusal of the application for the Pinewood Studios proposed building of 1,400 homes on Green Belt land.

Programme notes

Please contact the organizer in plenty of time regarding any of our events if you are unsure about any aspect of **disabled access**. Contact Paul Graham on 01753 655183 who may be able to offer or organize **transport** to some of our programme events.

A sincere thank you once again to the dedicated band of IDCA **programme deliverers** for the work they do.

Local conservation working groups.

The Friends of **Iver Heath Fields** meet on the second Saturday of each month from 2.30pm. Contact Jan Buck 01753 651450 for information. The Friends of **Hardings Row** (off Swallow Street) meet on the first and third Thursday of each month. Contact Carol Gibson 01753 819975 for information.

Both groups maintain and improve these valuable areas of Iver's publicly accessible countryside.

The Eleanor More Archive

Village Road and St Mary's church, Denham, 1960, by Eleanor More



Derek Jones

Members will have been saddened to learn of the death of Derek Jones, a long standing member of the Association and its committee, on which he served as Hon. Treasurer for many years. Derek took a great interest in Iver Village and its welfare. A Gladstonian Liberal of the old school, his many interests included lengthy periods as a parish and district councillor. A worsening disability about which he was never heard to complain restricted his involvement in the physical activities of the Association in later years, but not his capacity to engage in stimulating conversation, particularly on matters of political history, of which he had an in-depth knowledge. Our thoughts go to Joyce and their children, Douglas and Elaine, at this sad time.

Mike Timms

Annual General Meeting

The AGM in April was very successful. As well as the routine business, we had an interesting talk on local wildlife from John Richardson, and Vicky Tustian reprised her delicious wild food buffet.

Saturday 20 October. Easy going short **WALK** in Iver - at your own pace. Meet at 2pm at Iver Village Hall Car Park. 2 hours maximum. Socialize at the new High Street café on our return. This is a joint event with **SIMPLY WALK**. Paul Graham 01753 655183.

Sunday 21 October. **CONSERVATION WORK** from 1pm-3pm at Hardings Row Nature Reserve, off Swallow Street, Iver. Come and help clear vegetation in and around the site's many ponds and improve the area's biodiversity. Vicky Tustian 07833 128574.

Footpath report

I regularly liaise with the County Council Rights of Way and District Council litter and fly tipping removal officers about a range of issues including missing signs and minor obstructions as well as keeping the Parish Council, the relevant County and District Councillors and committee members informed. Please contact me if you come across any problems.



Paul Graham, Footpath Secretary

IVER street and footpath map

A reminder that the association publishes a street and footpath map of Iver (30p) and a booklet guide to The Beeches Way (70p). If you cannot find a copy in local shops, contact Paul Graham, details on the back page.



IVER HISTORY SPOT

Iver Village Hall



Iver Village is lucky to have a modern and well equipped hall. It was opened in 1980, with Princess Alexandra performing the ceremony.

Included in the same complex are Iver Village Infant School, Kings Church, and the former library now the Sure Start Children's Centre.

The Hall is at West Square, once an area of Victorian cottages including the old blacksmith's forge, a gospel hall and The Garibaldi PH.

However, older residents will recall the old hall in the High Street. When it was demolished a great opportunity was missed to provide something more aesthetically pleasing in the heart of the village than the pallet reclaim business which now occupies the site. That loss was partially the motivation behind the formation of Iver Conservation Area.

The old hall was opened on 31 October 1881, with Trustees Rev W S Ward, Henry Brockett and Mr J N Jeakes. Fassnidge of Uxbridge had the building contract, for a price of £142! The minutes of the Village Hall Committee record that the opening ceremony included a hymn, prayers, address by Rev Ward, music, lecture by Rev Bardsley, a vote of thanks, finishing with God Save The Queen.

All manner of clubs and groups met in the hall during the next 80 years of so, including bible classes, Uxbridge & Hillingdon Brass Band, Mothers Meetings, the YMCA, Iver United Cricket Club, British Conservative Association, the Primrose League, Iver Youth Club, Colnbrook & Iver Horticultural Society, Women's Institute and Liberal Party lectures.

In 1895 the charges were raised to 6 shillings (30p) for the main hall and half that for the committee room.

However, not all hirers were welcomed. Somewhat bizarrely the list of those refused included ventriloquist Mr Carlisle Dyke, the Christy Minstrels, Mr Harman who wished to entertain friends and provide dancing, and even the Social Purity Society! On the other hand, in 1882 villagers were able to hear Mr Walter Powton provide entertainment in the form of "Humorous Sketches from Barnaby Rudge by Mr Dickens".

Setbacks included a stolen music stand in 1885 (later found by police at Langley Board School), unauthorised alcohol consumption at an ex-serviceman's dinner in 1926, slight incendiary bomb war damage in 1940 and a "gang of roughs" from West Drayton causing damage to the floorboards during an Iver Cadet Dance in 1945.

The hall was used as a library for many years, with Miss Ward as the first custodian. Magistrates used the hall for Petty Sessions, and local authorities on election polling days.



Facilities included an organ in 1882, "WC apparatus" in 1911 followed by ladies lavatories in 1925, and electric lighting in 1926.

By the 1960s, though full of memories, the hall had deteriorated badly, and older residents recall it as a dark, dingy and on occasions rather smelly venue. On the whole they were pleased with the brand new hall.

Paul Graham, May 2012