



## Chairman's Report

There are many of us who feel that our lovely town is worth preserving, and we in the Epping Society are always on the lookout for potential threats, and making suitable representations on behalf of the town, to the appropriate authorities.

Apart from the conservationist aspect of our work the Society contributes much of a positive nature. For example, together with the Epping Town Council and The Churchill Trust, we are co-funding the erection of a memorial plaque on the site of the old Victoria Buildings in the High Street (now the Co-op Supermarket). This will commemorate his time as M.P. for Epping, between 1924-45, a period of great historical significance. We are grateful to the management of the Cooperative Store for their invaluable help with this project.

You will all no doubt be aware of the proposal to establish a Marks and Spencers branch somewhere in



*The High Street with the Co-op Supermarket on the right*

the High Street. Despite the increase in traffic and parking problems that will result, it will undoubtedly bring major benefits. While the proposal makes it way "through the usual channels" the Epping Society will examine the development carefully, to ensure maximum benefit to the community and minimum disruption.

Opinion is divided about the new "piazza" surrounding the fountain in the High Street. It resulted in the loss of several parking bays, but is more conducive to the market

stands at that end of the Street. It also sets off the fountain nicely and pedestrianises an important section of the market area.

We are always looking for new members and people to serve on the Committee. If you would like to join, and help protect our historic town, please contact our membership secretary Janet Walton, or myself, David Sebire Chairman and Secretary, on 01992 572172. We would be delighted to hear from you.

**David Sebire, Chairman**

### We still need....



A volunteer to maintain the planting and tending of the window boxes outside the Old Post Office, otherwise these will have to be abandoned. Please ring any Committee member if you think you can help.

### EPPING PARKING PROPOSALS

The operational review of the recent parking policy is currently being discussed by the County and District Authorities.

If you have any comments to make concerning the review, please send them as quickly as possible to:  
*Mr Spencer Brown, West Area Office, Warwick House, Roydon Road, Harlow CM19 5DX*

and send a copy to:  
*Epping Forest District Council, Parking Office, Burton Road, Loughton IG10 3ZS*

### At last - NEW BUS SHELTERS!

After years of our appealing for replacement Bus Shelters these have now been promised in a combined initiative by County, District, and Town Councils. We understand that the cost of some

£20,000 will be funded 50% by County, with EFDC and Town sharing the balance.

The two shelters to be replaced are both sides of the High Street at the St. Johns Church end. It seems to us that this is one of few examples of co-operation by all three authorities, and what a good result!

## Epping Society Walks

The Epping Society's walks are held on the last Sunday of each month and are organised by Ray Latham - telephone number 01992 560 469. All the walks are circular and commence from Epping railway station at 10am. The route varies from month to month but the walks last for four hours and cover about 10 miles. Boots or strong shoes are recommended. There is a stop of approximately 20 minutes for drinks only at a public house. A team of volunteers take it in turns to lead the walks. Details of the next few walks are as follows:

### 30th March

**Leader** Ray and Jan Latham  
**Pub stop** The Green Man, Toot Hill  
This is a walk for fit and energetic walkers

**NOTE -** start of British Summertime

### 26th April

**Leader** Bola Baruwa  
**Pub stop** The Forester's Arms, Loughton

### 25th May

**Leader** Cecilia Gonzales  
**Pub stop** The Good Intent, Upshire

### 29th June

**Leader** Eve Gentilhomme  
**Pub stop** The Garnon Bushes, Coopersale

### 27th July

**Leader** Linda Harris  
**Pub stop** The Mole Trap, Tawney Common

## Events 2008 - Copped Hall



THE COPPED HALL TRUST [www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk](http://www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk)

### Sunday Morning Tour

The third Sunday of each month (except December)  
Gates open from 10.00am to 11.00am.

Refreshments available  
Charity Registration No.  
1065569/0

### Special Garden openings

Sundays April 6th, May 4th, June 1st, July 6th

Open 10.00 to 11.00. Close 1.30pm

**Open Day Sunday May 25th**

11.00am - 4.00pm

Various stalls, exhibitions, lunches and Bar

### Ticketed Events

**Sunday 15th June** - the Greek Theatre Company

"The Tempest" by William Shakespeare

4.00pm in the grounds

£10.00 per person

**Sunday 28th June** - the Fitzwilliam Quartet

Performing 18th Century music in the mansion at 7.00pm

**Sunday 16th March** - Lecture at Theydon Bois Village Hall

Alan Cox will talk on "The Past Year at Copped Hall"

£5.00 per person

Tickets for these events obtainable from Frances

Dennett Tel. 01992 610 713

email: [f.dennett3@ntlworld.com](mailto:f.dennett3@ntlworld.com)

Vehicle access is only possible via the London entrance on the B1393 Upshire Road.

## Walking and Musing around Epping

Because of the inclement weather I have not been able to do much walking around Epping recently as it has been cold, wet and muddy. It was not until mid February that evidence of Global Warming appeared and many Spring flowers bloomed. I only hope a late frost does not punish them for their cheek. Hence much of my walking has been restricted to the High Street and surrounding hard surfaces.

The roads seem to get busier by the day and as often there are no footpaths - should striped clothing, as worn by Highway operatives, be compulsory? Hence walking through the High Street one cannot fail to recognise the extent of the new pedestrian area outside Barclays Bank particularly when the High Street is relatively pedestrian free. Love it or hate it we are stuck with it hence why not use it as a form of Town Square. Thence is it not reasonable to suggest that we use it throughout the year for events ie Musical, Open Air Theatre you could even have a Rant Night ie Epping's answer to Speakers Corner. The Local Societies, Schools and Churches could all promote

something under the auspices of the Town Council. Give Epping back its Heart which it is in danger of losing by the day.

Sorry to bore you but I do a lot of musing whether I walk about this Planet or not and the inheritance we are leaving to the grandchildren (not the financial aspects of IHT). The Good Book charges us with the stewardship of this Planet and in my opinion we are not doing a very good job. Hence as this is the Season of Lent I invite us all to make a Resolution to give up or use less of those activities or things that have an adverse effect on the Planet, not only for the period of Lent but the rest of the year also, reinforced by a similar New Year Resolution. It is us who have to save the Planet as you cannot trust politicians to do anything about it as their view on this very important issue is to clock up thousands of jet miles to a luxury destination, talk Green and then return home to business as usual.

A F Loy

# Dates for your Social Diary

**Friday 7th March**  
8.00pm

**EPPING TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING**  
at the Council Offices, St. Johns Road.  
Come and ask questions!

**Wednesday 19th March**  
8.00pm for 8.15pm  
Pelly Court

**MEMBERS MEETING**  
Our speaker will be Alberta Stevens who will talk about "The Civic Trust and Epping" - what the Trust can do for Epping.  
Refreshments served from 7.30pm onwards.  
(Epping Society is a member of the Civic Trust and M/s Stevens is their programme Manager, Civic Societies).

**Sunday 18th May**  
Pick up  
High Street St. Johns Church 9.00am  
Tidys Lane 9.10am  
Cost including Coach,  
Guided Tour and  
entrance £17.50

**MICHELHAM PRIORY**  
After a short break at Tunbridge Wells we travel to the Priory which is surrounded by England's longest water-filled moat. Dating back to 1229AD, it was founded and lived in by Augustinian Monks. After its dissolution in 1537, it underwent various transformations, including the addition of the Tudor wing. Our Guided Tour will show us more of its history, the alterations, the furniture and artefacts within the house and trace the religious origins and its life as a working farm, before becoming a country residence.  
The 7 acres of grounds include an orchard and a mixture of formal and informal Gardens, a Gate House, ancient Watermill and licensed restaurant.  
What more could we want? (except good weather!)  
**To book please phone Jacky Smith 01992 573 345**



**Wednesday 17th September**  
8.00pm for 8.15pm  
Pelly Court

**MEMBERS MEETING**  
Speaker to be advised in autumn newsletter

**Wednesday 19th November**  
8.00pm for 8.15pm  
Pelly Court

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Followed by a film presented by Epping Cine & Video Club.

**Sunday 7th December**  
Pelly Court

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH**  
Details to be announced in the autumn newsletter.



# Epping Society



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**Walks/Trees/Publicity** Mavis Ellis  
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**Committee** Janet Hedges  
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**Town Council Representative** Ben Murphy  
07782 224 128

## ST MARGARET'S HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT

When considering the latest planning applications at our last committee meeting, the detailed scheme for the development at St Margaret's Hospital came up and we were unanimous in our condemnation at the scale and design of the proposals. We understand that the scheme for 46 "key worker" dwellings has now been approved on the part of the site immediately adjoining the existing hospital buildings. The latest application is from Bellway Homes for detailed approval to build an additional 351 on the remainder of the site, a total of almost 400 dwellings. Given that some of them are four bedroom houses, there must be an average of three persons per dwelling, a possible total of 1200 new residents for Epping, an increase of approaching 10% of the present population. This could also mean in the region of 500-600 additional cars!

The original outline permission for the site was, we understand, for 300 dwellings - why are they now applying for such a large increase? - is it yet another case of "lets put in for more than we want, get a refusal and then put in a revised application for a lesser density - that which we really want - and get it approved?"

Has anyone considered the impact of such increases on our Town - can the schools cope with an influx of perhaps 300 additional children? What about doctors - there are only two surgeries in the town and it is already difficult to get an appointment when you need one. And parking - there are constant difficulties in the High Street and the car park and roads around the station are always full to overflowing. Also that number of vehicles entering and leaving the site into The Plain, a fairly narrow and always busy road, will cause considerable delays even if there are traffic lights at the new junction. There is also water, gas,

electricity and the sewers to consider - are the Town's services able to cope with the increased demand? And with vast areas of open land to be concreted over where will the surface water go? And public transport - will there be additional bus and train services? - it is already impossible to get a seat on the train in the rush hour.

We were also concerned about the design. The approach from The Plain appeared quite pleasant with a mix of housing and two and three storey flats but towards the centre of the site the street scene deteriorates considerably with many four storey blocks, which we considered quite unacceptable in this area where they tower over the adjoining properties, and to make matters worse most of these blocks are joined together without intermediate spacing, giving the appearance of barracks or prison blocks. This impression is enhanced by the very bland, unimaginative design.

Your committee, acting on behalf of Epping Society, has already registered a formal objection to the proposals on the basis of the above concerns, which has been acknowledged by the District Council. They have additionally informed us that there is to be a public display of the proposals on Monday 17th March in Epping Hall, St John's Road, Epping from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Representatives from the Developer and the EFDC will be present to answer questions. Formal objections then have to be lodged by Thursday 20th March, a period of only three days.

If you are concerned about the future of Epping, we would urge you to attend this presentation and then add your objections to the many already submitted.

Iain Wallace