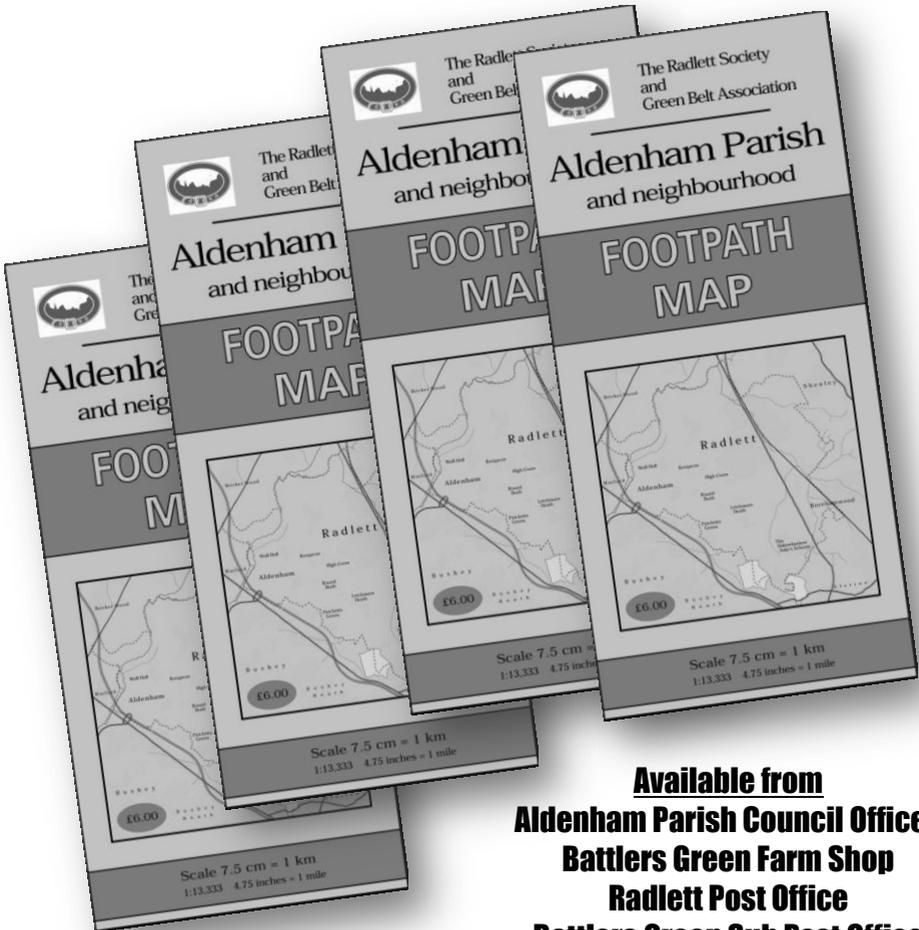


Radlett Society & Green Belt Association



NEWSLETTER **AUTUMN2011**



Available from
Aldenham Parish Council Offices
Battlers Green Farm Shop
Radlett Post Office
Battlers Green Sub Post Office

**Annual General Meeting will take place at Vision Hall, Christ Church,
Radlett on Wednesday 9th November at 8pm prompt**

Guest Speaker: JAMES CLAPPISON, MP

We look forward to welcoming all members to the Society's AGM on:-Wed 9th November 2011 at 8pm, Vision Hall, Christ Church, Watling Street, Radlett.

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 34st AGM on 10/11/2010
3. Treasurer's report y/e 30/06/2011
4. Annual report and discussion
5. Election of Officers and Committee for 2010/11
6. Appointment of auditor
7. Resolutions
8. Any other business [please notify Chairman in advance]

Contact details for Chairman are:
Graham Taylor
123 Newberries Avenue
Radlett WD7 7EN
rsgba@dsl.pipex.com

Nominations for Officers and members of the Committee should be made in writing, signed by the proposer and seconder, and bear the consenting signature of the nominee. The Chairman should receive nominations not less than 24 hours before the time fixed for the AGM.

After the AGM there will be a presentation by our Guest Speaker, **James Clappison, MP for Hertsmere**, followed by drinks until 10pm close.

Officers & Committee 2010

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| President | Martin Saunders |
| Chairman | Graham Taylor |
| Vice-Chairman | Rob Reith |
| Hon. Treasurer | Aleks Kotulski |
| Hon. Secretary | Beverley Porteous |
| Hon. Membership Secretary | Catherine Treves Brown |

Other areas of responsibility:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Planning | Rob Reith |
| Green Belt | David Slater |
| Crime Prevention, Trees, Conservation Areas | Rosamund Gray |
| Footpaths | Geoffrey Smyth |
| Transport & Parking | Clive Glover |
| History Archives | vacancy |
| Elstree Aerodrome Consultative Committee | Rob Reith |
| Web Master | Robin Crosher |
| Environment | Sean Stanley |
| Co-opted | Mike Stearns |

Advisory Members:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Local History | Philip Eastburn |
| Web Adviser | Colin Mansell |

Chairman

Welcome to the 2011 edition of our Newsletter – I hope you find it interesting and informative. If you have any comments to make I'd be pleased to hear them – contact details are on page 2. Don't forget that, if you have access to the internet, you may feedback via our web-site, www.radlettsociety.org, leaving your details and comments on the form provided.

As many of you may already know, Herts County Council [HCC] decided on 28th April not to award preferred bidder status to E.ON as developer of an Energy-from-Waste [EfW] incinerator on part of the LaFarge site in Harper Lane, Radlett. This Green Belt site was [and is] totally unsuitable for such a scheme. Instead, HCC have preferred the Veolia EfW bid for a HCC-owned site at New Barnfield, Hatfield, though many still believe for environmental reasons that this location is still far too close to centres of population.

According to HCC's Waste Procurement timetable, Veolia should by now have presented its planning application to HCC [October 2011]. If approved, this proposal could have far-reaching implications for everyone in the County. Also, if HCC consents Veolia's scheme, there's no route for appeal except via the very narrow grounds of a judicial review. We will need to study this application carefully.

The Society is a member of the Advisory Board of Aldenham Country Park and it's really good news that HCC have now found a tenant to take on a long-term lease of the Park. Plans are already being discussed for enhancing the facilities and there should be some improvements seen in 2012. I'm pleased that the new tenants have said that they're keen to continue to consult the Friends of the

Park, Councillors, park visitors, Aldenham Sailing Club and the agents for Safari Investments, owners of the lake and its margins.



For a number of years, HCC were finding it increasingly difficult to justify funding and this was clear from the minimum levels of investment and high parking charges! Add to this the legal and financial imponderables caused by the lease on the reservoir and its potentially costly dam, it's not surprising HCC 'wanted out'. One initiative HCC did manage to 'squeeze in' was to allow a fenced-off site in the Park for a new building and adventure playground for KIDS, the charity that works with disabled children, young people and their families.

We have excellent relations with local Councillors, both Parish and Borough, and hold annual liaison meetings which are both useful and informative.

Among the subjects we have raised are the apparently stalemated plans for key sites at the southern boundary of Radlett North Conservation Area: the former Fire Station and Burrells shop & yard. The Borough Councillors' policy of a 'substantial' public use for the Fire Station site, which we have supported, may be complicating the situation, as the site remains unsold. Nor is there a buyer for the Burrell's site. A further

imponderable is the petrol filling station site which, if assembled with its two northern neighbours, would create a substantial frontage in Watling Street.

The Committee is concerned about the lack of progress made by the various land-owners and their failure to produce a single scheme for consultation. Meanwhile, two of the sites are becoming derelict and do not present a favourable impression of Radlett to visitors.

Graham Taylor

Footpaths

This has been a busy year. In addition to the usual program of coordinating the inspection of the local footpath network, we have produced a new footpath map. Our previous map was produced in 2000 and, whilst there was a continuing demand for the map, we had run out of copies. We applied to the Ordnance Survey for a licence to make further copies but were told that the regulations had changed and we could no longer print a map with a sufficiently large scale.

Taking this problem into account together with the need to ensure that footpath information was kept up to date, we decided to produce a new footpath map. We engaged a local mapmaker, Bill Willett who had produced a footpath map for the Berkhamstead Citizens Association. We also formed a committee of Geoffrey Smyth (our footpaths representative) together with Robin

Crosher and Graham Taylor who liaised with Bill over an 18 month period to produce the new map. Bill and the committee were assisted with advice from Dawn Growcock (Countryside Access Officer, Public Rights of Way Service, Herts County Council) and Petrina Llewellyn (Projects Officer, Countryside Management Service).

The map went on sale at the Radlett Festival in June. Copies cost £6 and are on sale at outlets shown on the cover. You may also contact the Society via our web site, www.radlettsociety.org.

The map shows places of interest and local landmarks which we hope will increase your enjoyment of the countryside. Except for two locations which are indicated, the map shows all current rights of way for walkers, horse - riders and cyclists, as they exist on the ground.

The Society also thanks the loyal band of walkers which, as in previous years, has patrolled the footpath network to produce data for the annual Footpath Report submitted to The Aldenham Parish Council and the Herts County Council for implementation. In this connection, the Society have been much assisted by Dawn Growcock who has produced periodic

reports summarising maintenance works on the footpath network and other steps being undertaken by Herts County Council.

Geoffrey Smyth, FOOTPATHS



River Colne, from A62, near Morden

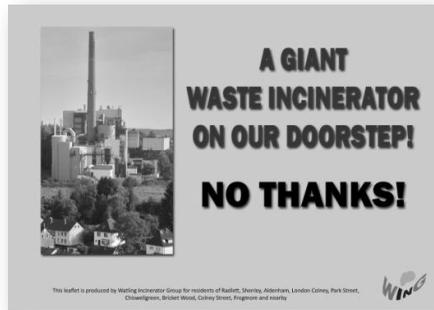
Herts Waste Procurement

Those who attended last year's AGM will remember the rather lively discussion between the audience and our guest speaker Cllr. **Derrick Ashley** [Herts CC Executive member for Waste] and Assistant Director, Environment, **Richard Brown**. Cllr. Ashley was promoting HCC's controversial plan to consider a bid from E.ON to develop an Energy-from-Waste Incinerator at the LaFarge site in Harper Lane, Radlett. RSGBA members voiced strong arguments citing issues of Green Belt, Environment, Highways and Health. These concerns were all more-or-less dismissed as either irrelevant or inappropriate and the County Council pressed on with its planned timetable.



Not at all content with this outcome, RSGBA joined with Councillors and members of the public in support of the formation of an action committee, **WInG, Watling Incinerator Group**.

Many new faces from all walks of life pitched-in to join forces against HCC's Waste proposals. Two RSGBA Committee members, **Graham Taylor** and **Clive Glover** joined the WInG steering group and within a month a fully-functioning, active local campaign group was up-and-running. Fund-raising was started in earnest; a leaflet campaign launched, press releases issued and HCC were bombarded with FOI [Freedom-Of-Information] requests. WInG undertook a line-by-line scrutiny of HCC's policies, minutes and correspondence. Legal experts in planning were engaged, advice was sought from other campaigners and formal letters were sent to the County Council. Support was gratefully received from local Borough and Parish Councils: Hertsmere, Aldenham and St. Stephens.



In February 2011, Cllr. Ashley was interviewed by Radio Verulam. Graham Taylor gave a presentation at Aldenham Parish Council's AGM in March and Radlett Centre was full to capacity for public meeting on March 24th.

It seemed to us that HCC had rushed into its timetable. It had arranged PFI funding [long-term loan], but this was based on a completely different site – New Barnfield in Hatfield. But HCC was still undertaking a reviews of its waste policies and the government was still considering its waste advice to Local Authorities.

Critically, in our view, the shortlisted contractor, E.ON had not produced an environmental impact statement for the Harper Lane site. WInG intensified its lobbying and local resident and prominent human rights lawyer, Lord Pannick, added his name to the campaign.

On 28th April, County Council finally decided to award the bid to Veolia, at New Barnfield. WInG had hoped HCC would reconsider the whole question of whether it is appropriate to site an incinerator so close to towns, exposing residents to the potential health risks of emissions of 1000s of tons of combustion particles in the atmosphere.

The Society would like to pay tribute to the enormous energy, commitment and determination displayed by members of WInG

under the Chairmanship of Janie Jackson-Spilman. **CHAIRMAN**

Green Belt / Planning

National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF]

This document is a consultation paper intended to be finalised as a part of the new Localism Bill now going through Parliament. Its purpose is to greatly simplify the Planning System, to alter its purpose and direction quite radically and to use it primarily to facilitate development of hitherto undeveloped land. It states quite clearly that the Government's top priority in reforming the planning system is 'to promote sustainable economic growth and jobs'.

The document lays great emphasis on sustainability. The term 'sustainable development' appears in almost every sentence and is defined as 'What we do today to meet our needs must not stop future generations being able to meet their own needs'. As we have no idea what the future needs of our descendants are likely to be the word sustainable in these contexts has no useful meaning and can be safely ignored. It is presumably used in an attempt to mitigate public despair in the realisation that large areas of open space will be lost forever.

Many commentators have recently pointed to the fact that there is no shortage of land in company land banks and in derelict areas, and that the problem lies almost entirely in a shortage capital and loans. It is, in any case, nonsensical to suppose that an advanced country can achieve greater prosperity by increasing its built upon area.

One of the main features of the paper is the 'Presumption in favour of development'. The presumption 'is a new policy intended to ensure that the Planning System focuses on opportunities'. The implication is that these will

be opportunities for development. The paper suggests that development would not be allowed if it would undermine the key principles of 'sustainability'. However, 'sustainability' is not defined and, as we have seen, is essentially meaningless.

It makes clear that if Councils have not made Local Plans, defining where development can be permitted, the Presumption will permit development wherever planning permission is applied for. The mechanism whereby pressure will be brought to bear on Councils to include development in their Local Plans is not clarified.

A Neighbourhood Planning system will be introduced under the Localism Bill. This would allow the creation of Neighbourhood Development Orders by local communities by which the community can grant approval for development without developers having to apply for Planning Consent.

The current requirement that brownfield sites have priority for planning approval will be abandoned under the Bill. Green Belt land which has been developed in the past can be used for new development. There will be additional grants to Councils which bring forward land for construction (new houses bonus). There will be a levy on Communities to provide infrastructure but it is not clear how this will work.

The Radlett Society and Green Belt Association was established to protect and enhance amenity in Radlett and its neighbourhood. However, as a Civic Society, it maintains an interest in the planning mechanism, and in the freedom it gives to individuals and companies to create urban sprawl and to destroy landscape in the absence of acceptable planning control on behalf of the community at large.

The proposed Framework seeks to;

1. Establish a presumption in favour of

development as a default position where comprehensive Local Plans are not in place.

1. Abandon the principle that 60% of new houses should be built on brownfield sites.
2. Reduce the planning protection of local open spaces, despite their immense amenity value to many communities, unless such areas have specific designations e.g. Green Belt, AONB, SSSI, or National Park.
3. Weaken the safeguards even for designated areas.
4. Enable commercial and other organisations to pressure Councils to accept "Neighbourhood Plans".
5. Enable development plans to be put forward without accompanying proposals for transport infrastructure.
6. Facilitate pressure on Councils to release extra land for housing.

The Government's proposal greatly impedes (as it is intended to do) the constraints upon those who seek to profit by the sale of land for development and upon those who wish to build upon land without regard for the long term benefit of the community. It has been termed, with some justification, a "builder's charter" and is clearly intended to permit developers to outflank and ignore the expressed wishes of those desperate to preserve and maintain the amenities without which their communities are progressively blighted.

The Radlett Society objects most strongly to the proposed Framework and adds its voice to that of many other organisations which have urged that this consultation paper be withdrawn and radically redrafted.

David Slater,
GREEN BELT REPRESENTATIVE

The Society continues to support STRiFE in its campaign against the Strategic Rail Freight Terminal which, as you know, has been the

subject of a judicial review. Since Slough Borough Council has refused an application for an alternative scheme, the matter is now back on the desk of the Honourable Member for Brentwood and Ongar, **Eric Pickles**, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. Mr. Pickles himself will be re-determining the outcome. He seeks representations on any new matters or change in circumstances, and has asked for clarification of the position of Hertfordshire County Council, which owns the vast majority of the site. **CHAIRMAN**

Woodlands in Aldenham

Woodlands & Special Sites Review

At the instigation of Mr. Tony Jennings, former Committee member, who enquired at a previous AGM: 'Who is 'looking after' local woodlands and special sites of interest?', keen local walkers Corrine & Roger Housechild kindly volunteered their help with getting a review started. The recent Government threat to sell-off woodlands gave this project extra urgency and I am pleased to reproduce the initial results below. The Society would be interested to learn of any additional particular arboreal or historical information that members may wish to add.

The Housechild's report says: *This Woodland list is mainly a description of the names and locations. Except where stated, all woods are on private land. Unless a footpath passes through or alongside the woods, comments on the woods relate to their external appearance from a distance.*

The state of all woods is, or appears to be, satisfactory.

Ordnance Survey 6-digit grid references are from Explorer maps 173 & 182. See map illustration on P9.

1. 'The Gorse' 177997 – between Shenley Road and Wood Hall Farm; FP 55 passes through wood which is on private land with numerous warning signs.
2. 'Monks Wood' 173009 – not named on OS map but trees to east of FP 58 from The Avenue to Margaret Cottages by golf course.
3. Wood alongside FP 58 169006-172009 – wood through which FP 58 runs and which butts up against Monks Wood.
4. 'Kendal Wood' 172985 – between Watling St and Tykeswater and adjacent to or part of school grounds. FP 18 and FP 70 adjacent to NW and NE sides, FP 41 to the South.
5. 'Wellhouse Dell' 169987 – subject to Tree Preservation Order 30 of 1970.
Land is in the care of APC who have plans to transform Salter's Field nearby, fill in the Dell to make way for sports pitches and improve vehicle access from Watling Street.
6. Along Tykeswater Lane 175982 – BOAT 79 (byway open to all traffic).
7. 'Dellfield Wood' 152998 – not named on OS map; bridle way FP5 passes close to Eastern end.
8. Small dell 153997 – very small wood just South of Dellfield Wood; no adjacent footpath.
9. 'Beechy Dell' 142003 – not named on OS map but is a wood by track (open to public) running NW from sewage works to Ver Colne Valley Walk.
10. Small wood 143006 – long thin wood NW of sewage works and close to Beechy Dell; no footpath nearby.
11. 'Beatrix and Lucinda Woods' 153003 – recently planted woods at end of Oakridge Avenue with permissive paths through them and FP 5 bordering Western edge. 2006 OS map shows these as fields and not shown as woods.
12. Watermeadows Woods 134996-138000 – woods on either side of R Colne. FP 4 passes close on Northern side; FP 22 is on South side on other side of river.
13. Wall Hall: all area covered by TPO 262 of 1991.
14. Jennings Wood 153994 – not named on OS map but is wood adjacent to North side of Watford Road.
15. Bingham's & Otterspool 130990 – woods alongside bridle path FP 22 (part of Ver Colne Valley Walk). Owned by Herts CC.
16. 'Berrygrove Wood' 134983 – FPs 15 & 76 runs through wood. Owned by Herts CC.
17. Roundbush 147984
No wood shown on OS map but is presumably the trees around the electricity pylon.
18. 'Cobdenhill Dell' 167987 – wood around quarry adjacent to Watling Street (South side). FP 46 passes through edge.
Owned by APC and recently fenced between FP and steep bank into quarry for safety reasons
19. 'Moses Dell' 163984 – close to FPs 17 & 71 from Battlers Green to Watling Street.
20. 'Lt Kendals Wood' 166980 – South of Little Kendals Farm between FP 31 and FP 40.
21. Aldenham Park 170965 – wood alongside Butterfly Lane and backing on to Haberdashers' School; FP 51 passes through one part.
Fairly large private wood; from Butterfly Lane and FP 51 looks OK, but most is not visible or accessible.
22. Small wood 159977 – unnamed behind Aldenham School with FP 32 running adjacent to one short side.
23. Bhaktivedanta Manor (with its lakes) 150976 – private land but open at times of some events/festivals.
24. Aldenham Grange 147978 – by road between Round Bush & Letchmore Heath.

Special sites

The locations in the following list are in the main on private land (except for 3. Trig Point, 6. Granary and 10. Moat and Pond) and are not visible to the general public. RSGBA will consider how to verify the continued existence and state of preservation of these sites.

1. Ice House Porters Park Golf Course 174001 – not shown on OS map.

2. Ice House Wall Hall 140993 – has a Conservation Order; not shown on OS map but presume close to farm buildings.

3. Trig Point 149006 – marked on OS Map as 101 near Hill Farm.

4. Site of Roman Villa (by BW 20) 142012 – FP 23.

5. Site of Roman Buildings 136003 – Munden Estate, not shown on OS, believed to be inside Munden House.

6. Granary (Conservation Order separate from Wall Hall order) 138992 – wooden building on pad stones by FP 12.

7. Folly (Conservation Order separate from Wall Hall order) 138993 – close to previous building.



To find a 6-figure grid reference, first 3 digits = east, last 3 digits = north
example shows location 7, 138993

8. Italian Garden (Conservation Order separate from Wall Hall order) 138994 – close to previous building.
9. Spanish Well Head (Conservation Order separate from Wall Hall order) 137994 – close to previous building.
10. Moat and pond 152976 – Letchmore Heath pond with two smaller ponds behind it and alongside FP 14.
11. Ornamental bridge (Aldenham House) 173963 – presumably on Tykeswater Lane.
12. Roman pottery kilns 162987 – not shown on OS map but presumably N of Moses Dell.
13. Dew Pond 156969 - not shown on OS map but presumably close to FP 14.
14. Edge Grove Fish Pond 143989 – close to FP 10 from Aldenham Village to Blackbirds Farm.

Grass Verges

In a recent conversation with SW Herts Highways District Manager, Hamid Kassrai, I learnt that due to the financial situation the post of Verges Officer has been 'lost'.

For Radlett with its many attractive verges, this is very regrettable and the Society has complained to our County Councillor, Caroline Clapper. I know that she has a good working relationship with Mr. Kassrai and will do all she can to restore the post of Verges Officer. Meantime, if you know of any verges being damaged, particularly by contractors, please call Herts Highways on 0300 1234047 or use the on-line highways fault reporting system: www.hertsdirect.org/actweb/hfr/default.cfm.

CHAIRMAN

RSGBA Financial Summary 2010-2011

| INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT year to 30 th June 2011 | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>2010</u> | <u>2011</u> |
| INCOME | £ | £ |
| Subscriptions / Donations | 3,337 | 4,987 |
| Investment Income | 2,128 | 2,101 |
| Income Tax Refund | 369 | - |
| | 5,835 | 7,088 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Admin, Postage & Internet | 132 | 20 |
| Newsletter - Printing and Distribution | 479 | 408 |
| Room Hire & AGM Expenses | 243 | 227 |
| Subscriptions to Other Societies | 5,468 | 1,252 |
| Insurance | 280 | 245 |
| Footpaths | 110 | 38 |
| Festival | 180 | 60 |
| Honorarium | - | 20 |
| Totals: | 6,892 | 2,270 |
| NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR 2009-10 | (1,057) | 4,818 |

Alex Kotulski – HONORARY TREASURER

Please note: as the Society's year runs from 1st July to 30th June, subscriptions for the current year became due on 1st July 2011

In the interests of efficiency and simplicity, we ask you to consider making regular annual payments by **Standing Order**. To encourage a wide membership from the whole community, we will accept a minimum standing order of **£1.00 annually**.

If you prefer to make a direct payment, we ask for a minimum of **£5.00** [cheques payable to The Radlett Society].

Whether you pay by standing order, on-line or cheque, the Society can benefit from HM Revenue & Customs' Gift Aid scheme. Please sign and date the relevant declaration.

See the notes opposite about Gift Aid.

EXISTING COVENANTS & STANDING ORDERS

If you already pay under an existing **deed of covenant**, do nothing. (Gift Aid has replaced covenants but existing covenants can continue).

If you already pay by **standing order** you do not have to do anything. However, if you are willing to let the Society reclaim the tax on your subscriptions/donations, please see the notes opposite and fill in the appropriate section of the form overleaf.

GIFT AID

Please sign and date in the relevant section overleaf to enable the Society to claim back the tax on your subscriptions/donations.

Notes on Gift Aid:

a) Under the Gift Aid scheme, Charities can recover the basic rate tax paid by members. Until 2011, a subscription or donation of £10 will allow us to claim an extra £2.80 from HMRC.

b) If, in the future, your circumstances change and you cease to be a UK basic-rate taxpayer, you must notify us and cancel your declaration.

c) If you pay tax at the higher rate you can also claim further tax relief on your Self-Assessment tax return.

d) If you are due an Income Tax Repayment, you can nominate your Society for the Self Assessment Charity Donation using our unique code of SAM58SG

e) For Inheritance Tax purposes, legacies can be left to the Society net of the 40% tax charge.

Please notify the Hon. Membership Secretary if you change your name, address or wish to resign your membership. Address on P12.

Thank you for your support!

MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS & GIFT AID 2011 – Application Form

Please complete the necessary details and send the whole page to the Hon. Membership Secretary.

PAYING SUBSCRIPTIONS:-

1. OUR PREFERENCE:-

BANKER'S STANDING ORDER:

Please complete the Mandate and Gift Aid box:

I am a UK taxpayer and wish the Society [Registered Charity 280877] to treat all my subscriptions/donations paid since 6th April 2000 and all future payments as Gift Aid.

PLEASE SIGN

DATE:.....

2. ON-LINE: Use our Bank details shown; please complete and send us this page for Membership and Gift aid records

3. DIRECT PAYMENT [CHEQUE]:

Note our minimum of £5, payable to 'Radlett Society and Green Belt Association'.

NEW MEMBERS – HOW TO JOIN

Please print your name, address and telephone number, and complete other details as appropriate.

Date of Application

Name:

Address

Telephone:.....

Home email:

NEW STANDING order MANDATE

YOUR BANK:.....

BRANCH:.....

ADDRESS of BANK:.....

NAME OF ACCOUNT TO BE DEBITED.

ACCOUNT NUMBER SORT CODE

Please pay to the **NatWest Bank plc, Radlett Branch**, Sort Code **60-17-14**, for the credit of **THE RADLETT SOCIETY AND GREEN BELT ASSOCIATION, A/C No. 42035732**,

on theday of(month), 20.....(year), the sum of £.....

(.....)

(Amount in words)

and continue to make a similar payment on the same day EACH YEAR until further written notice and charge such payments to the debit of my account.

SIGNED

DATE:

Hon. Membership Secretary RSGBA
c/o 30 Gills Hill
RADLETT
Hertfordshire WD7 8BZ

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