

Praise for artists

DISABLED artists are bowling people over with the quality of their work in an exhibition at a sports venue.

The creative team selected the best works produced at the weekly Wamsdad art group to be displayed to an appreciative general public at the group's Braywick sports-ground HQ.

Visitors so far have included Royal Borough Mayor Mike Bruton with his wife Jo and Maidenhead MP Theresa May, who said she was very impressed with what she had seen.

Mrs May added: "I went to the same exhibition last year and I was very interested to see how much the artists have improved.

"I was also delighted to see that the exhibition has



ARTISTS' IMPRESSIONS: Royal Borough Mayor Mike Bruton and Maidenhead MP Theresa May talk to artist Jean Franklin about her painting. Ref:82868/9

increased in size. I think the art group is an excellent idea. Certainly, having spoken to the artists, I know they really enjoy it."

Wamsdad administrator Liz Hornby said the artists were getting a lot of good feedback.

She added: "The talent here is fantastic. These people, despite their disabilities, produce the most phenomenal work. I take my hat off to them."

The exhibition ends tomorrow (Saturday), but Mrs Hornby hopes to move it to Maidenhead Library in the near future.

Riverside flats plan revealed

MICHAEL Shanly Homes is proposing to pull down 12 flats in the riverside area of Maidenhead and replace the block with a more intensive development.

The developers say that the flats at 24 Ray Park Avenue, which are called Kimbolton, are in a state of disrepair due to lack of maintenance and the grounds are unkempt and overgrown, doing little to enhance the area.

In their place the Beaconsfield-based company wants to build a three-storey block of 15 new two-bedroomed flats and four four-bedroomed houses with additional loft accommodation. The plans have been submitted to the Royal Borough.

Michael Shanly Homes say that its scheme meets Government targets aimed at making more effective use of previously developed land within settlement areas.

The 19 new homes would be built at a density of 52 homes per hectare, which the company says is similar to other densities of development in the area.

The four houses would be tied in to the flats by a central courtyard. They would be built at the rear of the site, backing onto Clappers Stream which the developer states is not a flood risk.

No fishing allowed

PLANS to use land at New Farm in Drift Road, Hawthorn Hill, for outdoor recreation instead of agriculture by using two lakes for commercial coarse fishing, have been turned down by the borough's development control panel.

The farmer said the activity would be low key and not harmful to the greenbelt as no more than 10 anglers at a time would be allowed in, but there were objections that it would cause noise, traffic and obtrusive lighting.



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Teachers go to the top of the class

Jill's skills and new Sue are welcomed

By Edgar Morse

A SCHOOL has received a double boost with the appointment of a new deputy head and a teacher gaining an advanced skills certificate.

Sue Keith, a leading teacher of primary mathematics and a former numeracy consultant for the Royal Borough, has joined Ellington Primary School, off Cookham Road, Maidenhead.

Former deputy head Shelley Duffy left in July to become numeracy consultant for the borough council's education department.

Ms Keith took up the post in time for the start of the new academic year and said she is delighted to be joining such a progressive school.

She said: "I am especially pleased to be appointed to the school after its recent inspection success."

Headteacher Rehana Juna was thrilled to have her on her team. She said: "Sue brings that numeracy element to the school and I'm delighted to welcome her."

Teacher Jill Pockett's talents have also been recognised, becoming an advanced skills teacher.

Mrs Pockett is so well qualified that other teachers will now visit the school to observe her in action.

Mrs Juna said: "The children will benefit as does the school so it's really good."

"After our inspection we are on the up and up and quality staff, such as Sue and Jill, will guarantee we continue that way."



THAT'S HANDY: Headteacher Rehana Juna welcomes new deputy head Sue Keith and congratulates teacher Jill Pockett on her success. Ref:82880/2