



Charity No 2324205

# HENLEY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## October 2014

Editor: Sandra Moon

[www.thehenleysociety.ctc-aspire.co.uk](http://www.thehenleysociety.ctc-aspire.co.uk)

### **Dates for your diary:**

Tuesday 25th November - lecture Elizabeth Hazeldine at The Barn details below

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Lunch at Badgemore Golf Club details attached

Friday 27th March 2015 - AGM at Sacred Heart, Henley

### **Lecture - Henley Through Time by Elizabeth Hazeldine Tuesday 25th November at the Barn at 7pm**

This is the first lecture we have held for sometime so please support us and bring along your friends and neighbours. It is free.



**Town Hall: Nelson Day 1918**

Elizabeth Hazeldine has written a book about the Henley featuring present-day and old photographs of many of the town buildings. It reflects on the individuals who lived and worked there. From the paper bag factory in Friday Street to a surprising number of umbrella manufacturers to Mr Mash the photographer and Mr Monk the draper. Elizabeth pays tribute to those 18th, 19th and 20th century characters who made the town what it is. Even if you have seen her at the Literary Festival there are many more stories to tell. Refreshments will be served.

### **Christmas Lunch - Saturday 6th December at Badgemore Golf Club**

Once again we are holding our popular Christmas lunch at Badgemore. Please find attached the application form. Non-members welcome. We intend to have a raffle. If you would like to donate something to it please let Pauline know in advance.

### **The outing to Kenwood House and Bentley Priory on 18<sup>th</sup> June.**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> June twenty-two of our Members enjoyed a most interesting visit to North London in perfect summer weather..



After a traffic free journey we spent the morning at Kenwood House an English Heritage property originally constructed in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and remodelled and extended by Robert Adam in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Our visit commenced with a guided tour of the house which gave us a chance to admire the many Adam features and paintings and our guide certainly brought the pictures to life. Members were then able to enjoy

a very tasty lunch in the attractive gardens of the Brew House Café followed by an opportunity to walk in the extensive gardens and woodland surrounding the house with fine views towards the City of London.



We were then transported a short distance to Bentley Priory Museum which opened in 2012 after a £14.2 million restoration project. The beautiful Grade 2\* Listed Property once again enjoying amazing views over London has been restored to focus on its role as Headquarters of Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain. We had a most instructive guided tour of the property by an excellent guide showing the technology, leadership and courage which transformed one of Britain's darkest hours into her Finest Hour.

With just time for a quick cup of tea we were then back on the road to Henley after a most interesting and exhaustive day.

### **Henley Society Response to the Draft Henley/Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan**

Members of the Henley Society Executive Committee and its Planning Committee recently assessed the Draft Plan and, as a result, the Society would like to submit the following comments.

#### **Housing**

The Society agrees with the 'brownfield first' policy and, in general, endorses the sites put forward for new housing, though it has some reservations about three of the sites. In addition, in order to provide the greatest opportunity to local residents, the phasing of the release of new housing over the whole of the plan period should be given greater emphasis and clarity.

The area within the Gillotts School playing field should be developed for housing only as a last resort. Its inclusion in the current Plan is seen as a short-term expedient that would preclude the future options (i) of using the area for sports activities should a greater need arise and (ii) of using it for building should an expansion of the school be needed. Other sources of funding for the school, including potential funds from the legal owners of the site, should be fully explored first.

Regarding the Empstead Works/ Stuart Turner site, some members felt that greater emphasis should be placed on redeveloping the whole area in conjunction with the Greys Road car-park, thus providing increased town-centre parking, together with retail/business premises, as well as housing.

Development of the Highlands Farm site, though accepted in principle, should be subject, in terms of the number of dwellings, to the views of OCC on traffic flows and to the views of the County Archaeologist with regard to the conservation of the SSSI and the scheduled ancient monument. Building should be confined to the designated brownfield area, as the surrounding fields are wholly within the Chilterns AONB. The Society supports the inclusion of retirement and/or care home accommodation at this location.

We welcome the news that the Youth Centre site has just become available (though we recognise the need to provide facilities for young people's activities elsewhere) as this may provide a means of overcoming any shortfall in housing allocations due to the considerations above.

The Society also recommends that the Plan should encourage the development, wherever possible, of the accommodation above shops for additional housing.

#### **Traffic and transport**

It was felt that the current shortage of parking space and the extent of traffic congestion had not been fully acknowledged and that proposals for the future were seriously inadequate. The aims of the 'vision' on p. 20 of the Plan were considered to be a 'wish list' with little prospect of achievement and with no strategy for implementing them.

### Social infrastructure

Several of the objectives set out on p. 21 were seen as platitudinous and, again, lacking in strategy.

#### Retail, town centre and economy

It was agreed that (with a few exceptions such as local food/newspaper stores) retail premises should be concentrated in the town centre. The evidence-base for the Plan's proposals is largely out-of-date and needs updating. The inadequacies of the current retail situation were seen as being due mainly to the small size of many of the existing shops, and consequently it was felt that encouragement should be given to the merging of neighbouring shop premises.

As indicated above under Housing, redevelopment of the Empstead Works/ Stuart Turner site should incorporate accommodation for commercial/business activities that require a town centre presence and that would not be viable, for example, at the Wyevale site.

#### Environment, sustainability and design quality

We fully support the objectives outlined on p. 23 but, for most of them, see little prospect of implementation.

### General

The Society notes the change in government policy that has resulted in the Neighbourhood Plan no longer 'allowing local residents to determine where development should go', as originally promised. The remit of the Plan now appears to be that it should 'influence' to an indeterminate extent where development should go.

The Society will vigorously oppose any proposal to increase the number of housing units above the 400-450 accepted by the Neighbourhood Plan.

It is clear from the population projection cited on p.12 that the bulk of the new housing will be occupied by incomers to Henley/Harpsden. The 40% allocation of 'affordable homes' should ensure that this proportion is occupied by residents of South Oxfordshire but, of those available on the open market, it is likely that many will be occupied by people moving from the London area. There appears, therefore, little point in attempting to ensure that the overall balance of types of housing meets specific local needs. The major role taken by Nexus Planning in assessing the weight of the numerous conflicting claims and proposals put forward during the process, in achieving a majority consensus view and in preparing the current document should be acknowledged in the Plan.

24 June 2014

### **New Members**

I would like to welcome the following as members :

David and Sheila Dickie, Lesley Fryer, Robert and Sarah McCreery and Frank Murray.

### **River Thames Society**

The River Thames Society would be happy to welcome you to the events that they are putting on next year, details below.

Friday January 30 2015 Quiz Evening aboard the New Orleans, moored at Hobbs.

Boarding from 7pm for prompt start at 7.30 Cash Bar on board. Hot Supper served around 8.30pm. Come alone, or bring a team to challenge the regulars.

Further details from Colin Howard [howard376@btinternet.com](mailto:howard376@btinternet.com) or Sandra Brown 0118 972 3895

Wednesday February 18 2015

Lunch and Talk at Maidenhead Rowing Club (By Maidenhead Bridge) 'Islands of the Thames' by John and Elizabeth Lourie. 12 noon for lunch at 12.30, followed by the talk. Cash bar from 12noon.

Tickets £20.00 per head. Cheques made to RTS please Booking from January, to Colin Howard [howard376@btinternet.com](mailto:howard376@btinternet.com) or 179A, Long Lane, Uxbridge. UB10 9JW

Please enclose SAE if you require a receipt, other than email.

## **The Henley Archaeological and Historical Group**

The following lectures are held at The Barn at 7.45pm. For more details go to their website

6th January, 2015 Hazell Williams  
Gatehampton Roman Villa

3rd February, 2015 Ruth Gibson  
Henley and its Changing Relationship with the Thames

3rd March, 2015 Alistair Lack  
The History of Oxford University

### **Committee**

Errol Facy - Chairman

Ian Giuliani - Vice Chairman

Nora Scanlon - Hon Secretary 01491 579619

Sandra Moon - Hon Treasurer & Membership Secretary 01491 573887

David Whitehead - Chairman of Planning Sub Committee

Jenifer Copeland, Pauline Fleming - Events Organiser, Valerie Alasia. Emma Abbott

Cllr. David Clenshaw - Henley Town Council Representative

### ***President***

**H.R.H. The Duke of Kent KG GCMG GCVO**

### ***Vice Presidents***

**The Lord Camoys GCVO DL Sir Martyn Arbib The Baroness Buscombe of Goring The Lord Phillimore of Shiplake**