



Charity No 2324205

HENLEY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2015

Editor: Sandra Moon

www.thehenleysociety.ctc-aspire.co.uk

Dates for your diary:

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

Tuesday 26th May 2015: Outing to Strawberry Hill

AGM Friday 27th March

This year the Society's Annual General Meeting is at The Sacred Heart, Walton Avenue, Henley-on-Thames. The Agenda, Minutes from last year's and the accounts are enclosed. If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee, please complete the nomination form and send to Nora Scanlon before 13th March.

Mr Matthew Kinghan NSc MIED, of Nexus Planning. Lead Consultant on the Neighbourhood Plan will once again be addressing the meeting. Giving us an update on the Neighbourhood plan, followed by refreshments. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Outing to Strawberry Hill on Tuesday 26th May



0011Pauline has organised an outing to Horace Walpole's Gothic Castle which has been new restored.

This includes coffee on arrival, conducted tour of the house and a two course meal.

Please see enclosed application form.

Lecture - Henley Through Time by Elizabeth Hazeldine on Tuesday 25th November

Thank you to all who attended this lecture. I understand that it was a very entertaining event and well supported, which I was sorry to miss but I am enjoying her book.

Christmas Lunch - Saturday 6th December at Badgemore Golf Club

After fearing we were not going to make the numbers this year, thirty eight of our members enjoyed our annual festive lunch on Saturday 6th December at Badgemore Park. Once again we were blessed with perfect weather and were able to enjoy the picturesque setting with views over the golf course. From the comments we have received all the guests seemed to have enjoyed the lunch. Thanks to the generosity of our members in providing raffle prizes and buying tickets, we were able to raise £79.21 in this year's raffle. This is the fifth year that we have held our Christmas Lunch at Badgemore Park and as mentioned in our Newsletter last May whilst we have explored alternative venues it would appear impossible to match the cost, choice of menu, service, parking and private location. If members would like to suggest any alternatives venues we would always be happy to explore their suggestions.

Henley/Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan

As you may know, the public consultation on the First Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan carried out in the summer of 2014 produced a mixture of responses. Only 54% of those responding were in favour of the general policies outlined in the Plan though, in some cases, a negative response may have been due to a misunderstanding. It is certainly the case, as explained by Councillor Dieter Hinke in his letter to the Henley Standard of 9 January, that opposing the Plan as a whole will have no effect whatsoever on the number of new dwellings (450) allocated to Henley/Harpsden by SODC, who in turn are, in effect, allocated numbers by the government. The Neighbourhood Plan process just allows residents to influence future developments in ways which, it is hoped, are the least damaging to the quality of life in the town (or may even improve it).

As part of the consultation on the First Draft, comments were invited on ways in which the Draft might be improved. A substantial number of suggestions were received, many of them concerned with the distribution of housing amongst different potential sites and others with traffic management. These suggestions have now been considered by the working groups and by the governance committee of the Plan, as have new sites that have become available for development. As a result of these considerations, a Second Draft has been produced and this has now been issued for public consultation during the period 6 February to 20 March 2015. More information, including a copy of the Plan, is available on the Neighbourhood Plan website www.jhhnp.co.uk. To see the Plan go to 'Information & Downloads', then select the third document on the list: 'Draft JHHNP Pre-Submission Consultation Version'. Alternatively, visit the Town Hall to see a copy.

Members of the Society: do respond to this consultation, even if you responded to the previous one. There are significant differences which, in my view, have resulted in improvements. However, make clear what your priorities are even if they do not appear to be under immediate threat, as apparently abandoned proposals could, possibly, be resurrected. For example, if you think that Drawback Hill should be retained as open space and/or that building should not be allowed in the Henley section of the Chilterns AONB, apart from on brownfield land, then do say so. Or if you think that more business units should be allocated at the Empstead Works site, do say so. It is worth remembering that once the Plan is finally adopted, there will be little point in opposing any of the developments that are included in it.

David Whitehead

New Members

I would like to welcome the following as members :

Carol Sutton, Ceila Jackman, Pam Syrett and Richard Guy & Judi-Ann Roscoe .

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 and The Lord Phillimore of Shiplake