

Henley Archaeological & Historical Group

**NEWS-
LETTER
NO. 136
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2016**

Chairman's Report:

I am pleased to tell you the Oxfordshire Family History Society has sent us a cheque for £440 in respect of the sale of CDs for the transcripts of St Mary's Parish Registers. Our thanks to the members who laboured for ten years on the project.

2016 has seen the lectures very well supported even on the coldest, wettest evenings; so well done for turning out and I am sure you will agree that it was worth it because the lectures have been superb. I believe the accounts of the talks printed in the Henley Standard help to attract new members, as we now have 86 paid up members and always attract a number of visitors.

Our greatly valued Membership Secretary Hilary Fisher will step down from her position in September and fortunately for us John Whiting has agreed to take over this responsibility. Our grateful thanks to John. A special thank you in advance to Hilary for all her years of service and it is good to know she will be following her own interests but will still be available to advise the Group.

Ruth Gibson will continue as acting Secretary until the AGM but then she will be resigning from the post to concentrate on the aspects of recording historic buildings and keeping a watch on Planning Applications. Ruth is so valuable to us and has given years of service, it is about time she has a rest. The person or persons who replace Ruth should have reasonable computer skills as notices have to be e-mailed and the Newsletters have to be compiled and sent to Group members.

The position of Secretary is an essential responsibility that holds the Group together; without a Secretary it would be very difficult - almost impossible for the Group to continue in the same format. I am extremely worried about what will happen if nobody comes forward. We are enthusiastic, vibrant and knowledgeable and I know many of you have already given years of service to the Group so it is the newer members I am appealing to. Surely there is somebody who is capable of becoming the new hon. Secretary of HA&HG.

Please give this some serious thought.

Pam

Our three next talks:

- 5th April 2016** **Stuart Foreman** ‘Archaeology of the Jubilee River ‘
- 3rd May 2016** **Derek Toms:** ‘Phillip II of Macedonia:
Why was he so important to Greece?’
- 7th June, 2016** **Mark Stevens:** ‘Broadmoor Revealed: The Victorian Asylum’

N.B: All lectures are held at 7.45 p.m. in the old ‘Kings Arms’ Barn;

entry from Kings Road Car Park. All welcome, members free, non-members £

About our next three speakers:

Stuart Foreman (April): Stuart graduated from Durham University in 1990 with a BA (Hons) in Archaeology and Anthropology. He joined Oxford Archaeology in 1997 after an early career as a field archaeologist in Essex, Cumbria. His range of experience includes environmental impact assessments, field surveys, evaluations, excavations and building recording. He is particularly experienced in managing archaeological fieldwork and post-excavation projects on major transport infrastructure schemes, such as OA’s commitment to High Speed 1, the A30 Bodmin to Indian Queens Road scheme, and the London Gateway Port.

Derek Toms (May): A lifelong scientist, retired since 1992, and since then frequently travelling, whilst dabbling in photography, art, architecture and archaeology. He became a member of HA&HG on moving to Henley in 2005. When recently studying the archaeology of Greece was motivated, even though not a historian, to investigate the history of Philip II which seemed as important as, but much less well known, than that of his son Alexander the Great.

Mark Stevens (June): Mark Stevens is County Archivist for Berkshire. He looks after the Broadmoor Hospital archive and his book, ‘Broadmoor Revealed’, is based on stories from the archives. His talk will allow us a look behind the formidable exterior of this building and history of this institution.

Our Spring/Summer 2016 outings

11th May Wallingford Castle Visit Another trip to Wallingford has been arranged for Wednesday, May 11th. Our tour guide will once again be Judy Dewey. Curator of Wallingford Museum, who gave us such a fascinating tour last year of Wallingford Town. This year she will be showing us what is left of Wallingford Castle. With her trained eye the mechanics of the Castle will be revealed of what was one of England's most formidable fortifications.

Situated at a strategic Thames crossing it posed, equally, a bastion or threat to Royal or Parliamentary authority, during its long history.



The trip will be by individual cars and starts at 17.45 hrs in the Town Square. It will take about two hours, to be followed by an optional light bite and drink at a near-by riverside hostelry. The cost is £ 5 p.p. (not including food and drink). Application forms will be available at the HA&HG meeting on March 1st 2016.

For more information please contact
John Whiting 01491 410963

13th July Blenheim Palace Visit



After listening to Alistair Lack's inspiring lecture last January the next thought was that we must try and visit. I am sure many of you have been to the Palace, the home of the Dukes of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, but you can never tire of the place, the architecture, art, stories, sheer magnificent and of course "the most wonderful view in England"

There is so much to see and discover so come and join us for a tour of the Palace and then

relax in the café or walk in the grounds. We need 33 people to cover transport and entrance fee. The coach will collect us at 9am from outside the Catholic Church in Henley, to return at around 5pm.

If you like the idea and want to come, there is a more specific Acceptance Form (at our meeting, but also sent out via E-mail), which is to be returned to me, together with your very important Cheque for £24 or £26 - if you are lucky enough to be under 60.

This could be a good day. For more details please contact Pam Syrett 01491 574983

8th JUNE **Outing to Nether Winchendon House, Long Crendon and Thame**

This visit will be a car sharing arrangement – full directions for drivers and parking (and postcodes for Sat Navs will be provided in due course).

MEET: 10.15 at Nether Winchendon House to start our guided tour by the current owners at **10.30**, for approximately 45 mins. We shall then walk the short distance to The Church of St. Nicholas' with a fine gallery and Georgian box pews (see Simon Jenkins' 'England's Thousand Best Churches'). It contains many memorials to those whose portraits hang in Nether Winchendon House.

COST of TOUR: £10 pp



Nether Winchendon House is a unique Strawberry Hill style Gothic medieval Manor House situated in a beautiful valley at the foot of the Chilterns. Sir Scrope Bernard Bart redesigned the medieval and Tudor exterior and clad the original timber-framed house in stone and then encased it in stucco in the Strawberry Hill Gothic style. It has passed by family descent for over 450 years and remains a family home to this day. The name 'Winchendon' originates from Anglo Saxon, meaning 'hill at a bend'. The Winchendon villages were recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Wincandone.

This is a tiny, unspoilt village with only 57 households within the parish. With no pub, no shop, no school and no village hall, the church is the only public building. The church dates from the early C13th although there are traces at the tower base of an earlier Saxon building.

(see www.netherwinchendonhouse.com for further information)





11.30 depart for Long Crendon. There we will have two hours to have lunch at The Eight Bells Pub (own cost), visit the Court House (National Trust, free entry for members, otherwise small charge) and walk around part of the historical village. (Menus for the pub will be provided in advance).

The Court House dates from the C15th and provided accommodation on the ground floor for the poor and on the upper floor for the

meetings of the manorial court. The court, which all the tenants were required to attend, dealt with minor offences and the transfer of tenancies. At east end of the building was the kitchen in which dinner was prepared for members of the court.

The village of Long Crendon, or Crendon as it was known in the Middle Ages, has a long archaeological history. At Church End a concentration of artefacts from the Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods have been found. The village has almost 100 Listed Buildings, many of them of medieval cruck construction. (www.long-crendon.com/history for further information)

The pub was originally licensed in 1607 as an inn, called the Five Bells, in keeping at that time with the number of bells in the church tower. Its name was changed to the 'Eight Bells' in 1771, due to the addition of three more bells in the church.

2 p.m. or later if wished, leave the village to drive to Thame to visit the Museum (free entry). The Museum is housed in the old Magistrates Court and has a fine collection of objects, photographs and documents related to the Thame area. You should allow approximately 45 minutes for your visit; the museum is open till 4 p.m. There are WC facilities but no café. After your visit refreshments may be taken at the pub opposite the museum, 'The Thatch', or at one of the tea/coffee shops in the town.

20th August Calleva Atrebatum visit

Ruth Gibson is leading another gentle walk of three miles around the Roman walls. We will meet at the Calleva Arms in **Silchester** starting at 10.30 am. The outing is shared with the Henley & Goring Ramblers. There will be several stops to appreciate the walls, gateways, amphitheatre and archaeology of this former essential 'hub' for Roman travellers between the Channel coast and the British hinterland. Five Roman roadways meet at Calleva and the site of the former East Gate, where the medieval church and manor house are located, is of particular interest.

No charge, and no booking required. Followed by lunch at the Calleva Arms - optional. Please contact Ruth Gibson for more information on 01491 572271

News from: SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Excavations will start at this Roman site in Highwood/Harpsden on 11. - 14. 3.
Further dates: 25. 3 - 28. 3 and 8. 4. - 11. 4. 2016

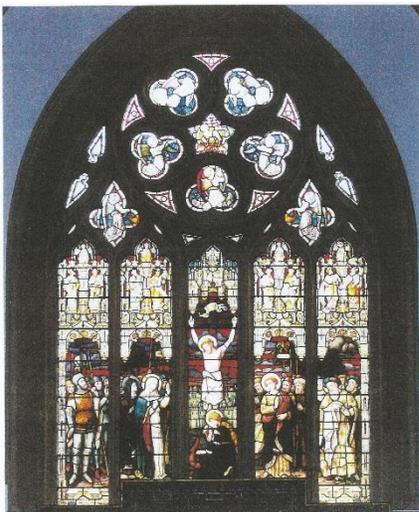
'There is plenty to do for all ages, with or without experience, from digging to pottery sorting and washing. All equipment provided'

Please, contact SOAG secretary Mike Vincent directly on 07974 445142 for more details.

Makins Recreation Ground

A new plaque is planned for the steps from Grey's Hill up to Makins Recreation Ground, land that was dedicated to the memory of Gladys Makins, 1879 – 1919, by her husband Sir Paul Makins and is one of many philanthropic gifts to the people of Henley from the Makins family. Sir William Makins, his father, purchased Rotherfield Court (now part of Henley College in 1872), endowing the building with lavish decoration in the Arts and Crafts style, some of which can still be seen today. Parcels of land for council housing and for road widening were also generously gifted – but the most stunning bequest is as vivid today as it was at its installation in the C19th - the stained glass window in St Mary's Church.

The window is dedicated 'To the Glory of God and in loving memory of her mother Sarah Ann, wife of Lightly Simpson, born May 24th 1810, died 21st August 1869. This window was placed by her daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Colonel WM Thomas Makins of this parish. On Sir William's death, at Rotherfield Court, in 1906, his son Sir Paul moved to Henley. He was as beneficent as his father, financing the iron screens which surround St Leonards Chapel at St Mary's. Sir Paul died in London in 1939 and was buried at St Nicholas Church, Rotherfield Greys.



St Mary's Church Henley



Rotherfield Court 2012

President Ann Cottingham 01189 403276

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Please visit our web site: for more information on our activities on

<http://www.henley-on-thamesarchaeologicalandhistoricalgroup.org.uk/index.php>

Edited by: Ruth Gibson