



The Henley Society

Protecting our heritage and environment in Henley-on-Thames

Executive Committee Briefing – May 2021

The **2021 Annual General Meeting of the Society** was held, remotely, on the Zoom platform, on April 16th. With Vice President The Baroness Buscombe of Goring in the Chair, the 70 members who attended were addressed by the Henley Constituency Member of Parliament John Howell. If you missed the meeting, you can read the Draft Minutes, the Chairman's report on our activities for 2020/21, and the Chairman of Planning Committees report on our website – www.thehenleysociety.org

In accordance with the Society's Constitution the **Executive Committee** met on Monday 26th April to elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman and Geoff Luckett and Julian Brookes were duly appointed to those positions.

On the same day as the AGM our plans for tree planting on the triangle of land at the junction of Sheephouse Lane and Reading Road came to fruition when the Oxfordshire County Council parks team planted two Wild Cherry, two Rowan, two Whitebeam, a Field Maple and a Linden on the site. This project was led by our Executive Committee Member, Catherine Notaras who created the planting scheme and negotiated with our neighbouring parish before the Society got the go ahead. Our thanks extend to Harpsden Parish Council and to Cllr Stefan Gawrysiak for his untiring help in assisting with the project. We have been trying for some years to get permission to plant trees on this site, one of the important gateways to Henley. We are offering sponsorship of these trees to members at a price of £200 per tree and each tree will be identified by your name plaque. Already two trees have been spoken for by a Henley resident who is dedicating them to each of his two grandchildren. If you wish to sponsor a tree please contact Catherine (07474 095807 or catnotaras@gmail.com) she will be delighted to hear from you.



View from Sheephouse Lane towards Henley showing our eight newly planted trees

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Members will, we are sure, be pleased to have read that there appears to have been a resolution over the Friday Street Slipway, and Sorbon Estates, who had concreted it over, possibly unlawfully, to make two car parking spaces, have agreed to remove the concrete. The efforts of the Society combined with those of Henley Town Council, SODC, the Environment Agency, the River Thames Society and the general public has borne fruit and resulted in this valuable and long-standing amenity being restored to its proper use for the benefit of Henley residents and visitors.

Four dates for your diary-

The River and Rowing Museum re-opens on **May 20th** and will include a new exhibition 'Painting in Coloured Light' featuring the modern stained-glass designs of John Piper. John lived at Fawley Bottom for many years and was a founder Vice President of the Society in 1961. He retained that post until his death in 1992. His work can be seen locally in the churches of All Saints, Farnborough, West Berkshire, St. Bartholomew's Nettlebed, Remenham Church, and in Coventry Cathedral.



John Piper Stained Glass Window at St. Bartholomew's Church Nettlebed

The next Bell Surgery Zoom talk is scheduled for **June 22nd and will be entitled 'The Diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer: opportunities and hurdles. Full details and how to join the talk will be given in our June briefing.**

The Joint Henley Harpsden Neighbourhood Plan Public Exhibition **July 2nd and 3rd. This is a community matter, and all residents are encouraged to put forward their views. Please put the dates in your diary, turn up at the exhibition, and have your say!**

River Thames Society Summer Party on the Waterman leaving from Hobbs Waterfront– **Saturday 10th July 6.45pm Full details next month,**

David Whitehead, Chairman of our Planning Committee is still keen to recruit two additional Committee Members to help with scrutinizing and commenting on planning applications put before Henley Town Council. Full details from David on 01491 573635.