



The Henley Society

Protecting our heritage and environment in Henley on Thames

Member's Newsletter – April 2024 (V46)

Thank you to all members who attended our **Annual General Meeting** on March 21st at Shiplake Memorial Hall with our President the Baroness Buscombe of Goring in the Chair. After the business matters were concluded our Members heard the Deputy Mayor of Henley Cllr Rory Hunt deliver a talk on the 'Strategic Plan for Henley 2024-29' which Cllr Hunt played a large part in composing. The draft Minutes of the AGM, and a transcript of Cllr Hunt's talk are now posted on the Society's website under 'News'.

On the Monday following the AGM, and in accordance with the Society's Constitution, **the new Committee met to choose their Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Membership Secretary for 2024/5** and the following were elected- Geoff Luckett (Chairman), Julian Brookes (Vice Chairman) and Monnik Vleugels (Membership Secretary).

Tickets for our **Horse drawn boat trip on the Kennet & Avon canal** on June 4th have **sold out** and we have established a wait list. If you wish to join the wait list please contact 07860 145982 for full details and to reserve your place.

Our Summer event – as previously announced - will be a **Picnic on the Lawn** event at the **Eyot Centre, Wargrave Road** on the afternoon of **Sunday 4th August**. Tickets (£20 per person) will go on sale on May 1st and full details will be on a poster attached to the next Newsletter. Bring your own picnic and tipples, and listen, and dance to, the music of Barry Owen and the Main Attraction. Ticket sales restricted to 140.

We haven't heard much, or reported to you, anything recently re **HGVs using Henley as a rat-run**. It appears that OCC have produced a draft baseline report on the Henley HGV study and held meetings with Reading Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council and the freight industry to discuss possible restrictions. The next move would be to carry out an

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Automatic Number Plate Recognition survey around the area but this would be OCC budget dependent!! It seems things do move slowly at Council level!

Seventy-six tickets were sold for our **Spring talk** given by **Thames Valley Air Ambulance** volunteer Clive England. Members heard how the service raises £14m per year to cover its outgoings with no government help, nor lottery funding. The Air Ambulance service is called upon on average nine times per day and its four full-time pilots and numerous full time medical staff are kept busy from 7am until 2am the following day, 365 days a year. The interesting talk was followed by drinks and nibbles with the Society Committee during which a 'bucket' collection was made which raised £1,116 for TVAA. Thank you to all members who attended and for your generosity towards a most deserving cause.

***For those interested in finding out more about our local Air Ambulance, they have a comprehensive website - <https://www.tvairambulance.org.uk/>
If anyone wants to look at, and maybe join, their independently run Lottery, access can be found at - <https://www.tvairambulance.org.uk/support-us/lottery/>***



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Pictured (left to right) Ian Carlton, Janet & Grahame Thompson, Christobel Goodwin and Irene Lindsay, Julian Brookes (Society Vice-Chairman), Judy Clinton and TVAA speaker Clive England (photos by Nick Richardson)

Many members will have seen the coverage of the **Thames Path diversion** in the Henley Standard, but for those who haven't, here's an update:

The Marsh Lock Horsebridge has been closed for the last two years. To date, this has not been too much of a problem as the Culden Faw estate has generously permitted a diversion of the Thames Path across its land. However, the estate has now run out of patience with the authorities and is closing the diversion on 31st March. This means that those wishing to walk from Shiplake to Henley and vice versa will have to take a considerably longer route via Harpsden. The reason for the bridge closure is that 161 defects have been identified. The bigger problem is that the three authorities involved (Oxfordshire County Council, Wokingham District Council and the Environment Agency) cannot agree amongst themselves how the repair cost should be shared, and the Environment Agency are now questioning whether they own the bridge, hence the lack of progress. We have written to the Environment Agency asking for some clarification and in an effort to expedite matters.

We are delighted to report that our long-standing Planning Committee Member, **Ruth Gibson**, has been awarded the **T** of the Henley Archaeological and Historical Group over many years, and more recently on dendro dating of many of the AONB, the Conservation Area and on Listed Buildings, and is a valuable and regular contributor to the Henley Society F and we congratulate her on the award.

Since last reporting the Society has been pleased to **welcome new members** Jacqueline and Lee Berghouse, and Dorothy and Ken Arlett.

The newly elected Executive Committee 2024/25

wish you all a very happy Easter

Julian Brookes, Joan Clark, Dr Jeny Copeland, Geoff Luckett, Sandra Moon,
Catherine Notaras, Nick Richardson, Monnik Vleugels
