



Preserving and enhancing the environment in Henley on Thames

Members Briefing June 2024

V48

One of the most frequently asked question of our Committee Members is **‘what does the Henley Society actually do?’** We have therefore compiled a list of our events, talks, visits and lobbying activities since our 2020 AGM which provides the answer to the question. Click on the link below to see the list –

www.thehenleysociety.org/2024/05/07/so-what-does-the-henley-society-actually-do-find-out-here/

This past month we have been joined by **new members** – Rachel Shaw & David Sherrell, Emma Tretherne, Constadinos Antoniou, Dennis Craggs, Libby Finlay, Julie Henehan & Andy Bradshaw, Pauline Harkisson, Helen Lindsay and Sean Bedford, Clare Graham, and Roberto Balbontin. A warm welcome to you all.

Members may recall that we recently have been **lobbying various retailers** over the cleanliness of the areas around their shops the latest being Gail’s in the Market Square, a bakery we all love. We have asked that they be a little more considerate in the way they leave their daily rubbish for collection – you will see what we mean by viewing the photograph below which was taken on the evening of 24th April at 8pm. That pile was destined to stay there until being collected by their contractors the following morning, giving plenty of time for rats and foxes (which have been seen in the area) to help themselves!



We are delighted to record that last year’s Mayor of Henley, **Cllr. Kellie Hinton**, has been elected **Chair of South Oxfordshire District Council**. This is a huge compliment to Kellie, and indeed Henley, and richly deserved, and on behalf of all members of the Society we were pleased to send Cllr. Kellie our congratulations and best wishes for a successful year.

Tickets for our Summer music event - **Picnic on the Lawn**- are selling fast and full details of the event and how to obtain your tickets can be found on the attached poster, and at the link below – www.thehenleysociety.org/2024/02/15/picnic-on-the-lawn/

For those interested in developments at the **Thames Farm site in Shiplake** it appears that after a quiet spell this application has come to life again. SODC inform that they have received an Application for the Environmental Screening of the site (ref P24/S1613/SCR). This requires the Local Planning Authority to consider the likelihood of major environmental impacts, and then advise if a full environmental impact assessment is required for the site. The Thames Farm Action Group, based in Shiplake, will be monitoring the situation and we will keep members up-to-date with any further news as quickly as we can.

The **Marsh Lock Horsebridge** which closed in May 2022 for reasons of safety still remains closed some two years later. We are overdue a response to our Freedom of Information letter to the Environment Agency and we have chased them again. A further delay in response will result in us asking them for an internal review, followed by elevating our request to the Information Officer which is the next step in the process if we are not granted the review. (and see below)

You will remember, we are sure, the difficulties we had in our dealings with **the Environment Agency** over the Friday Street Slipway. Those difficulties continue as we attempt to get information on the situation with the Marsh Lock Horsebridge. The somewhat damning article which appeared in the Guardian newspaper earlier this month helps to explain why perhaps, and shows the EA up, we believe, in a fairly poor light. You can access the article via the link below- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/24/uks-environment-agency-chief-admits-regulator-buries-freedom-of-information-requests>

Our FOI request to **Oxfordshire County Council regarding repairs to the Henley Grade 1 Listed Bridge** was answered but we have seen no progress on the structural repairs nor the promised removal of the H graffiti, or the replacement of paving slabs, both items well overdue. We will continue to chase.

Members will recall that the Society, in conjunction with Henley Town Council, the River Thames Society and residents lobbied successfully for the restoration of the **Friday Street Slipway** to public use. It has been noticed recently that, once again, craft are being moored on the slipway causing, at least, a partial blocking of access to the river. The Town Council now own the Slipway and we are imploring them to enforce their rights and to deal with what we see as common trespass.

***As you know we are always pleased to hear from our members and so, if you have any concerns, or comments to make, regarding Henley – or indeed South Oxfordshire- then please do not hesitate to contact the Committee on
07860 145982
or email – thehenleysociety@btinternet.com***

.....until next month

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