



The Henley Society

Protecting our heritage and environment in Henley On Thames

Members Newsletter- December 2025

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Members will not need reminding that we are holding our **Christmas Lunch** at Henley Rugby Club on **Thursday 18th December** 12.30 for 1pm. WE have been able to negotiate an extra 10 places. Tickets are priced at £32 – please call 07860 145982 if you would like to come.

This month we are pleased to **welcome new members** Virginia and Ian Crosbie, Eleanor Wills and Scott Thompson, Margaret Spratley

On November 9 our Committee member Joan Clark laid a wreath on behalf of all members at the town's **Remembrance Service** at the steps of the Town Hall.



Our **second Autumn talk** held on November 13 attracted 67 members and guests and was given by Richard Pinches, Chair of the Henley Branch of RBL. His subject was Henley during the Civil War, and his talk was full of interesting facts and stories. Richard added to the sense of nostalgia by dressing in the costume of the day

A group of members and guests with Richard after the talk (Photo Judy Clinton)

Our **First Talk of 2026** will be given by **Richard Phelps, Chairman of Henley Royal Regatta** on **Thursday 12th February @ 7.30pm in the Eyot Centre**. Richard succeeded Sir Steve Redgrave as Chairman of the Regatta earlier this year. Richard was himself an Olympic Oarsman, a member of our eight at Barcelona in 1992. He was an Oxford Rowing Blue in

1993, 94 and 95, and umpired the Oxford/Cambridge Boat Race in 2014 and 2019. Our poster for the talk is attached and ticket sales are now open.

The lengthy trial of **solar compactor bins** which we promoted to the Town Council in 2022 has proved successful and once again we are sponsoring the bin at Singers Park whilst Cllr Gawrysiak continues to sponsor the bin at the Top Shops. In addition Henley Town Council has sponsored a further bin at the Fair Mile Cemetery. The bins hold more rubbish than the standard bins around town, compress the rubbish by solar power and send a signal to base when they require emptying. Savings are therefore made in manpower and vehicle fuel and there is a consequent reduction in air pollution.

Members will remember that we were honoured by the presence of the Speaker of the House of Commons at our Lenthall plaque unveiling in Hart Street. During his visit he kindly invited Society members to attend **Prime Ministers Questions in the House and we have booked to attend on **Wednesday 11th March (date subject to confirmation by the Sergeant At Arms)** and full details will be published shortly. For the moment we ask that if you are interested in being amongst the party perhaps you could email and we will put you on the list with no commitment. We are restricted to 40 attendees and we intend travelling to the House by coach.**

The Executive Committee would like to wish all members and their loved ones **a very happy Christmas** and a prosperous and healthy New Year.



The Executive Committee

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



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