



The Henley Society

Protecting our heritage and environment in Henley On Thames

Members Newsletter – October 2025

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Your Society is increasingly using **social media** to get our stories out to non-members in an effort to get our name in front of more residents. We now have almost 1,700 followers on Instagram and Facebook combined, up 72% so far this year. As a result we have also started to post to LinkedIn where, we are told, we will find a whole new audience. We will see.

This month we are pleased to **welcome new members** Dr Lilian Pearson- Bishop, Raelene Clarke, Rosie Bowden and Paul Barker.

Members will doubtless have noticed that the **bollard at the bottom of Gravel Hill**, on the south-west corner of the Town Hall, which was damaged in May, has still not been replaced. We are lobbying OCC to get the work completed. 'Fix My Street' says that the work is still under review.

There are still places left for our first Autumn talk, given by the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber. This will take place on Thursday 2nd October, 7.30pm, at the Eyot Centre, Wargrave Road, Henley on Thames RG9 3JD. Tickets, £8.50 each, are available from 07860 145982 and include wine and nibbles after the talk. There is plenty of parking on site. Matthew has promised to answer all member questions.



Our **second Autumn Talk** will take place on Thursday 13th November at the same time and venue. On this occasion the speaker will be Richard Pinches, Chairman of the Henley Branch of the Royal British Legion, and his subject 'Henley during the Civil War', which ties in nicely with our recent unveiling of the plaque commemorating the birthplace of Speaker Lenthall, and the planting of the Rupert's Elm. Full details and ticketing arrangements are on the attached poster.

The **River Thames Society – Mid Thames branch** - has asked us to make members aware of a talk they are holding at Leander Club on Saturday 4th October (poster attached). The speaker will be Miriam Luke, a member of the first-ever women's rowing team to win an Olympic medal. You are all welcome. See the poster for ticketing.

Members will doubtless have read that in the recent **Muddy Stilettos** vote Henley came out as the best Oxfordshire town in which to live. A feather in the town's cap!

Fast on the heels of that news comes the information that Henley has been awarded a **Gold Medal in the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom award ceremony**. This is a tremendous achievement since the town has not entered this competition since 2019, and reflects the efforts of many of the town's institutions and, in particular, the Henley in Bloom Committee chaired by Cllr. Kellie Hinton. Well done to all concerned!!

Plans are well advanced for our **Christmas lunch** and as soon as they are finalised we will circulate members. However, first publicity will be via the Events page on our website hopefully within the next two weeks – www.thehenleysociety.org Ticket sales will be restricted to 50.

until next month

The Executive Committee

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