

Henley Archaeological & Historical Group

**NEWS-
LETTER**
No. 144
November
2018

Report from the Chair

Reminder of the AGM 04 December 2018 at 7.45 pm

Welcome everybody to the final meeting of 2018. After having had to use the Town Hall for our November Tuesday lecture, we plan to return to The Barn for the AGM, as the repairs should be completed by then.

I outlined to you in our September Newsletter that we are facing a critical time and I appealed for volunteers to join the Committee, but all has been very quiet and nobody has come forward. Please, either fill out the form at the end of this newsletter or ring us; either me or any committee member you feel you would like to talk to. You find all the names and contact numbers at the end of this letter.

As far as 'History' is concerned I say I that I know a 'little about a lot' but in our Group we have specialists and experts who are probably too busy, but if one were to volunteer they would enhance the position of our Chair immensely. Our Constitution states that the Chairman/woman should only be in office for three years and I have now served for four years. There are many of you in the Group who could fill this role with distinction and I can say that it is really an honour and not a burden in any way.

Ruth too has been looking for somebody to take over as Secretary (unfortunately Lotti Culver has not been able to take this on due to heavy work and family commitments). We do need more involvement from you all to help choosing our talks, our visits and organizing them, and the many jobs which need doing to keep 'the show on the road'.

Next year is safe with all speakers booked. We are planning an outing to London (see below), but our main coach outing is yet to be decided (any suggestions please).

However, the future looks challenging, so I sincerely hope we find some solutions. Wishing you well, I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 4th December.

Pam Syrett

All lectures are held at 7.45 p.m. in the 'hayloft' of the old 'King's Arms' Barn (unless otherwise advised). Entry from Kings Road Car Park.

Whilst the development at the Market Place Mews is ongoing the pedestrian access is via a narrow passageway (sign-posted to BARN) at the back of the former Police Houses in Kings Road and the entrance to the main car park. We can no longer – or at least for the time being we are told - use the small car park behind our Barn.

All are welcome, members free, non-members £4

Tuesday, 4th December AGM.

Following the **business of the AGM** there will be an interval for refreshments provided by the indefatigable Viv Greenwood, followed by several brief short but very interesting presentations from members, i.e.:

- Andrew Allum will give us another update on the ever more interesting as well as mysterious HIGHWOOD SOAG dig.
- Elizabeth Toms will brighten our evening with pictures of Roman and medieval sites, churches, ruins and beautiful vistas taken in Albania, where one of her study tours took her this year.
- Ruth Gibson will be showing what the burgage plots at the Market Place Mews look like from a bird's eye view, pictures taken by Richard Pinches' clever drone; plus updates from the archaeological investigation.

Here is our full Lecture List for the 2019 season:

8th January – Martin Buckland : Wilts & Berks Canal – Past, Present and Future

5th February – Dr. Michael Redley: Victorian and Edwardian Henley

5th March – Janet Hurst: Bridging the Gap (Goring)

2nd April – Jenny Knight and Kay Gough: Introduction to the Museum of English Rural Life and the Swing Riots

7th May – Dave Carless: Blewbury and its area

4th June – Robert Heath-Whyte: Chalgrove church and its paintings

1st October – Nicola Tallis: Elizabeth's Rival; The Tumultuous Tale of Lettice Knollys

5th November - Lindsey Bedford: Boxford Villa and its Mosaic

3rd December AGM

About our first three lectures in 2019

8th January 2019

Martin Buckland: Wilts and Berks Canal - Past, Present and Future

NB THIS TALK WILL BE GIVEN IN THE TOWN HALL, HENLEY

The canal opened in 1810 after 15 years of construction but had a chequered career until its legal closure in 1914. In 1977 restoration of the canal began in a few places but in 2004 full restoration of the entire 62 miles was decided upon. The talk looks at the

historical restoration progress and future proposals for this major East to West canal link.

5th February 2019

Michael Redley: Victorian and Edwardian Henley

Following on from his talk last year on the Boer War, Michael will explore the wider life of late Victorian and Edwardian Henley. He will examine how the town grew, developing a more complex local economy and social structure as it extended physically. He will examine how changes to the town were reflected in its social life and local politics - in tensions between brewers and builders, between non-conformity and the established church, in loyalties to town and county and the contribution of the town and its surrounding villages to South Oxfordshire's unprecedented election of a Liberal Member of Parliament at the general election in 1906. He will examine some of the key figures in the town at that time, and the contribution made by Henley to the life of the region and the nation in the years up to the First World War.

5th March 2019

Janet Hurst: Bridging the Gap - Goring and Streatley through the Ages

The twin villages of Goring and Streatley grew up on either side of the Thames where it cuts a passage through the Chilterns to make the Goring Gap. The river played a huge part in the development around this crossing place, but other communication routes were important too – the Icknield Way, the Ridgeway and the turnpike road through Streatley. The Gap was transformed by the coming of the Great Western Railway in 1840, but one village stood still and the other grew large. This talk traces these developments and examines the factors and people involved.

Outing to London

Following our very enjoyable outing to the Goldsmiths', the Fishmongers' and Vintners' Livery Halls, we are now planning to visit the much older (it did not burn down in the Fire of London!) and therefore still much more interesting to the buildings historians among us.

The Apothecaries' Livery Hall, at Blackfriars

Date: 18th April, 2019, start of conducted tour will be 11.30 a.m.

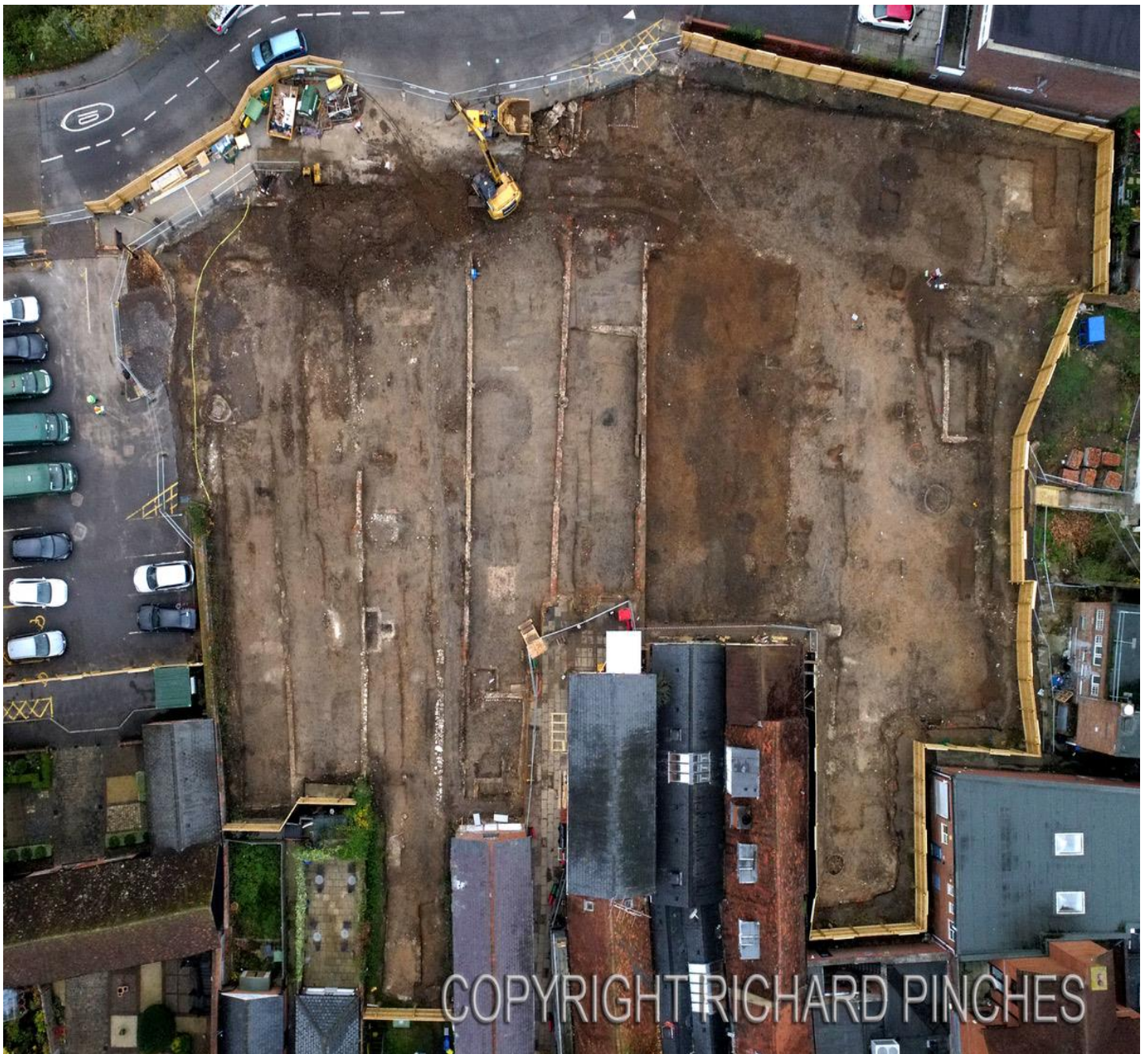
Cost: £ 15 p.p.

More details about the suggested travel possibilities (individually arranged and not part of the details of the visit) and the location of the Livery Hall nearer the time from Rachel Adams, our treasurer, who will be coordinating the visit.

Please, let Rachel know if you are interested as soon as possible, early in 2019, as numbers are limited to a maximum of 25 visitors.

Site visit to the archaeological dig at Market Place Mews on 13.11.2018

Drone photograph by member Richard Pinches of the burgage plots at Mkt. Place north.



Some 45 members from our Group plus visitors from Marlow came to the archaeological dig, which has laid bare the original lay-out of the medieval burgage plots. The senior site archaeologist explained the very great significance of this site, as it has preserved the plots mostly intact, despite their use ancillary to the dwelling houses over some 800 years. This very rarely ever happens, as many town centers have been built and rebuilt many times and leave a palimpsest of multiple periods and uses.

The archaeologists have not yet dug down to the horizon of the early town, let alone to the time before Henley was founded in circa 1200. So there is still much information to

come and to look forward to. The Henley Herald sent two of their staff members to the visit and have an excellent and detailed report on their web site – for those of you who want to find out more about it, the archaeology and the finds so far.

Ruth Gibson

Election of committee members at AGM

If you are interested and can find a little space in you busy timetables to ensure that our HA&HG (now nearly 40 years old) does not only flourish, but actually continues to exist, please put your name on the form below and either send it or E-mail it to John Whiting.

Don't hesitate to talk to, ring up or E-mail one of the committee members if you have any queries. Contact details on P. 6 of this newsletter.

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HENLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL GROUP

AGM 4th December 2018

I am interested in becoming an ordinary Committee member

I am interested in taking on the post of chair

I am interested in taking on the post of Secretary

OR

I am interested in taking on the post of Assistant Secretary

Name:.....

Contact details

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N.B. Access to E-mail is essential for the roles of Chair and Secretary

Please, send/give completed form to: Membership Secretary John Whiting, 4 Orchard Close, St Andrews Road, RG9 1HR or via E-mail Johnwhiting75@yahoo.co.uk

H.A. & H.G.

President Ann Cottingham

Officers and Committee members

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Please visit our web site: for more information on our activities on
<http://www.henley-on-thamesarchaeologicalandhistoricalgroup.org.uk/index.php>

Edited by: Ruth Gibson