



Henley Archaeological & Historical Group

NEWS-
LETTER
No. 149
September
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Chairman's Report

Daily life goes on with the gradual return to normality, but I think from the Group's point of view Covid-19 is not going away soon.

A recent article in *British Archaeology* drew attention to the virus's impact on groups such as ours and the impractical aspects of our events. Wherever we hold our meetings a strict hygiene routine of wiping down all surfaces, seating, door handles etc before and after the meetings will be required. Social distancing with regard to seating will be complicated. Many of our Group are in the vulnerable age group and may not want to risk such exposure.

Henley Town Council has closed for hire the Kings Arms Barn, and indeed the Town Hall rooms, until further notice. We are currently researching alternative **local venues** as it is hoped to retain the 6 October, 3 November and 1 December lectures. It has to be noted that any alternative we find will carry a charge – we have been fortunate for years in using Kings Arms Barn free!

Equally your Committee feel we should plan to hold the meetings **using Zoom**, as many other organisations are now doing, in the comfort and safety of your own homes. We should be able to organise these with our currently booked lecturers. **PLEASE WILL YOU LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO ATTEND LECTURES VIA ZOOM**, by email to Ruth. Those who do not have, or do not know anyone with, internet access, we would attempt to put members in touch to achieve the access for everyone!

Our **outings schedule** has been destroyed by the virus. Calleva and the RN Dockyard trips have been cancelled – social distancing, coach travel, insufficient interest. The Bodleian Library visit has been moved to 12 November, but is still pending while the Bodleian finalises its restrictions. Eighteen people had originally signed up for this trip – please could they reaffirm their interest to me – and of course others now interested please let me know.

We have held only the first three lectures in 2020 – and it has been decided that the **subscription** you paid in January will be carried over to include next year, until December 2021.

This is a positive and optimistic note to close the Newsletter, with excellent speakers for the rest of this year, and a promising list being compiled for the next.

NOTE 1:

Paul Lacey (who was the speaker booked for 6 October but had to withdraw) is offering a copy of his book on Early Bus Transport in the Henley and Marlow area at the discounted price of £10 including posting it to you, instead of £15.

Write to him at 17 Sparrow Close, Woosehill, Wokingham RG41 3HT, mentioning that you are an HAHG member.

NOTE 2:

Jill Eyers has kindly agreed to deliver her lecture instead on 6 October. Detail later.

Response to our Journal on the ‘Historic Buildings of Friday Street South’

We had such a kind and interesting note from Diana Shand, a very long-standing member, about her memories on Nos. 14 and 16 Friday Street and thought you too may enjoy her memories of No. 14, the corner shop Holtons (Journal cover picture) and next door, when she recalls the entrance to the back yard of No. 16, the dairy. She also recalls the terraced houses, which had to make way for the Territorial Army building, the one building which does not fit into the historic street pattern of Friday Street.

Here is Diana’s note:

Dear Ruth,

Apologies for this belated thank you for sending me this Journal.

But, I have been continually picking it up as it evoked so many childhood memories... Going through from Holtons to Gray’s to the dairy (formerly the pub) which had an enormous cellar. I also remember that my grandmother, Mary Gray, used to send food along to the poor folks in the terrace houses which were there before the Territorial building. In fact, Holtons shop was originally my grandmother’s, and, grandfather met her through buying his bits & pieces !! (Our Hilary Fisher obtained some wonderful talks from my aunt & uncle of their histories). Grandmother’s father, Edwin Gray, was the shoemaker/repairer next door.

Oh my goodness, sorry, I’m getting carried away, it is so very clever of you. My cousins will be trying to get their hands on it !! Cousin Tim is still reading the Friday Street north !!

Love
Diana Shand

HA&HG

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