



The Henley Society

Protecting our heritage and environment in Henley-on-Thames

The Henley Society, a voice and representation for the residents of Henley and the surrounding villages, has seen a transformation during the last year.

Geoff Luckett, the new Chairman, elected in September 2020, set about working with the Executive Committee to publicise the activities of the Society and despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, a recent membership Drive has yielded an uplift of over 80% in Membership numbers, currently approaching 500, a level not seen since the late 1970s.

Activities of note:

- Our marquee Victorian Terrace house signage project was completed in the Spring when the Caxton Terrace sign was reinstated bringing the total number of signs refurbished to nineteen. These can be seen, principally, in Greys Hill, Greys Road, along the Reading Road, Boston Road, and Harpsden Road.
- Representations to:
 - the authorities with regards to the state of the Car Park lavatories, which have now been addressed.
 - the proliferation of A-boards on the town's pavements bringing about a new Town Council Policy document
 - the cleanliness of pavements
 - the reworking of the amenity area at the top of Gravel Hill,
 - the grassed area in front of The Three Horseshoes Public House which had been left in a less than satisfactory state after ZZoomm had used it during their work to bring fast broadband to Henley. The company generously donated 500 spring bulbs in recompense, all planted by Society Members.
- Currently actively engaged with the Town Council:
 - on the provision of a trial of two solar compactor litter bins
 - the renovation of the Phillimore Fountain
 - seeking to get the railings at St Mary's Church path repaired.
 - planning a tree planting programme on the southern entrance to the town.
 - Working with Townlands Hospital on a garden project
- Successfully fought:
 - the change of use for the Red Lion Hotel
 - the proposed development at Pack and Prime Lane/Parkside which, had the application been successful, would have resulted in the removal of 53 trees in a protected wildlife landscape.
- Raising member concerns on:
 - proposals for the 115-bedroom hotel on the Station Car Park
 - the plans to re-route drainage water away from the Thames Farm site towards Henley.

The Henley Society will celebrate its 60th Birthday in 2022 and exciting plans to celebrate this important landmark are well advanced and will be unveiled in due course.

The Society Planning Committee considers all Planning Applications that go before the Henley Town Council and the SODC and comment on them prior to determination.

Our social activities have of course been hampered by the pandemic, but our recent Zoom talk by Michael Redley, subject The Aldermen and Mayors: life in Henley before the First World War, was

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well received, and we plan that to be the forerunner for many more interesting talks in the months to come.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on Friday 16th April when our guest speaker will be John Howell MP.

In summing up, The Henley Society concentrates on the conservation and enhancement of the town, its waterfront and setting, the preservation of its historical centre, its fine approaches and its trees. We like to see an appropriate balance between housing and the provision of employment, shopping and leisure facilities.

**Our aims, set down by the founding Committee in 1961 are, put simply,
*to maintain the best of Henley,
and to improve the rest.***

Geoff Lockett
Chairman
23rd April, 2021
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