

THE OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (OLHA) - DIRECTORY OF SPEAKERS AND GUIDES

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| <p>MIKE & JANET HURST</p> | <p>Address: 6 Nun's Acre, Goring, Reading RG8 9BE Tel: 01491 871022 E-mail: mhurst@w-mark.myzen.co.uk</p> | |
| <p>Talks</p> | <p>Duration: 1 hour Cost: £50 Plus expenses: Travel from and to Goring if long distance. Other info: Available daytime, evenings and weekends. Own data projector and laptop.</p> | <p>Titles available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Time Christmas • Saunders of the River - Sam E Saunders, boat builder of Goring, Streatley and founder of the Aviation Company Saunders Roe • Turning over Stones - Nun's Acre Goring and its Architect Percy Stone • Goring & Streatley's Hall of Fame • Bridging the Gap – Goring and Streatley through the ages • An Oxfordshire Village in the 1960s (Goring on Thames) • <u>Goring's Wonderful Railway</u> • An Illustrated History of Transport in the Goring Gap • Edwardians on the Move • Tracks to the Trenches • Getting Around in the 1960s <p><i>Further details on all talks below.</i></p> |

Old Time Christmas

A light hearted review of the social history of Christmas followed by a nostalgic look at the minutia of Christmas at home in Britain in the mid 20th century. 'We had one of those' comments' distinctly possible.

Saunders of the River: Sam E Saunders, boat builder of Goring, Streatley and founder of the Aviation Company Saunders Roe

Sam Saunders was born at the Swan in Streatley. Like his father and grandfather before him he built boats, but he was innovative and took full advantage of the Victorian boating boom on The Thames. This talk traces his meteoric progress in Goring and Streatley and follows him to the Isle of Wight where he formed Saunders Roe, made flying boats and became an intimate of royalty .His company still exists as GKN Aerospace .Not bad for the pub landlord's son!

Continued overleaf...

Turning over Stones - Nun's Acre Goring & its Architect Percy Stone

In 1884 a London architect called Percy Goddard Stone came to Goring and built a domestic revival style mansion called Nun's Acre on the bank of the Thames. Percy was not only an architect but also an antiquarian and an extrovert character, with friends in artistic circles. He came to the village often, became immersed in local affairs, excavated the priory and designed several buildings that stand today. This talk will explore Percy's life and follow him to the Isle of Wight where he went in 1899 after the death of his wife and carried on his work notably with churches and monuments. It will also describe how the history of the house was uncovered.

Goring & Streatley's Hall of Fame

This talk takes a sometimes serious, sometimes light-hearted, look at the famous and occasionally infamous people who, through the ages, inhabited or made their mark on these twin villages on either side of the Thames.

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 had forged a passage through the hills to make the Goring Gap. The river played a huge part in the development around this crossing place, but other communication routes were also important, such as 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 will trace these developments and examine the factors and people involved.

An Oxfordshire Village in the 1960's

A fascinating look at how the village of Goring (and neighbouring Streatley across the Thames in Berkshire), changed in the 1960's. An influx of young professional families occupying new housing (facilitated by the arrival of mains drainage!) combined with the increasingly liberal attitudes of the times brought major changes to a quiet backwater- seemingly dominated up until then by retired military officers!

Prepared for the 50th Anniversary of the Goring Gap Local History Society

'Goring's Wonderful Railway'

A comprehensively illustrated history of the GWR line between Pangbourne and Cholsey - from Brunel to the traumas of present day electrification.

An Illustrated History of Transport in the Goring Gap

The story of our trackways, roads, river, railways and aviation from the earliest times, including carts, stagecoaches, cars, lorries, bus services, garages, barges, leisure boating, Brunel and the GWR to date, balloon races, gyrocopters and even locally built planes.

Edwardians on the Move

A colourful account of how the Edwardians got around in those halcyon days before World War. Illustrated in colour from old postcards, GWR posters and paintings ranging from transatlantic travel to commuting, pleasure jaunts and vacations.

Continued overleaf...

Tracks to the Trenches

An affecting account of railway activities in the South of England and in France during the Great War. This will include the transport and care of the wounded back to Blighty with some focus on South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. Railways permitted the mass movements of munitions, equipment and men – and the harrowing resulting casualties, many of whom were taken through the Thames Valley. The GWR pioneered ambulance trains.

Getting Around in the 1960's

An entertaining illustrated talk about how we were on the move in the 'Swinging' Sixties. Covering cars (often second hand), motorbikes, scooters, buses, air travel, a railway system in apparently terminal decline, the first motorways, the rise of lorries and car ownership, inclusive tours abroad and the switch of ocean liners to cruising. A decade of amazing change and already history! Prepared for the 50th Anniversary of the Goring Gap Local History Society.