

THE IMPORTANCE OF HENLEY AND THE RIVER THAMES

A study day to be held at the Chantry House, Church Avenue, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AT
on Saturday 20 November 2021

There is evidence of settlement in the area in Roman times, but Henley with its situation on the River Thames became a considerable inland port in the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. It linked London to the interior of the country and acted as a corridor for goods, people and ideas.

9.30 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

10.00 ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF THE NON-TIDAL RIVER THAMES IN THE 10th - 17th CENTURIES:
AN INTRODUCTORY SURVEY

Robert Peberdy will outline the main ways in which the Thames was used as an economic resource from the late Anglo-Saxon period onwards, and will relate these to broader trends in economic history. Coverage will include the role of Henley-on-Thames.

There will be a short break after this talk.

11.15 WATERMEN, WHARFS AND WHEELHOUSES: THE HISTORY OF HOBBS OF HENLEY

Simon Wenham will focus on one of the best known boating businesses on the Thames: Hobbs of Henley (established in 1870). We will learn how a 17th-century family from nearby Hambleden became notable pillars of the establishment, and developed a market-leading hospitality company.

12.30 THE CHANTRY HOUSE AND THE RED LION

Ruth Gibson and Kathryn Davies will explain briefly what is known about these two important medieval buildings, including recent discoveries about their histories.

1.00 LUNCH: The Red Lion is next door to the Chantry House, and Café Rouge is nearby. Henley has many other eateries. It may be possible to eat a packed lunch in the Chantry House.

2.15 GUIDED WALK around Henley with Dr Simon Townley, Editor of the Oxfordshire *Victoria County History*. Alternatively, the River & Rowing Museum is open if attendees prefer to spend the afternoon there. Please note that advance booking is highly recommended, and there is an entry charge. Further details at www.rrm.co.uk.

There is **NO** parking at the Chantry House but there are several car parks nearby, including at the railway station and in Kings Road (www.visit-henley.com/travel-parking.html). There is a good bus service from Oxford (www.thames-travel.co.uk/routes/x38x39x40).

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BOOKING FORM for *The Importance of Henley and the River Thames*, 20 November 2021

Please book and pay on-line at <http://www.olha.org.uk/events/study-days>

OR complete this form and send it with a cheque for **£12 per person** made payable to 'OLHA' to:
Liz Woolley, 138 Marlborough Road, Oxford, OX1 4LS (01865 242760, membership@olha.org.uk)

Name(s)..... Local society if applicable

..... Your e-mail address

Number of places at £12 per person Do you want to go on the afternoon guided walk? Yes / No

Please tick this box (and write your e-mail address above) if you would like an acknowledgement by e-mail.