# HENLEY PAGES AND TOWN GUIDE 2019-20

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## Useful telephone numbers

Doctors - Bell Surgery	01491 843250	www.thebellsurgery.co.uk
Doctors - Hart Surgery	01491 843200	www.thehartsurgery.nhs.uk
Eyot Centre	01491 574989	www.eyotcentre.co.uk
Henley Farm and Country Show	01491 413619	www.thehenleyshow.co.uk
Henley Citizens Advice	01491 578267	www.citizensadvice.org.uk
Henley Cricket Club	01491 577743	www.henleycricketclub.co.uk
Henley fire station	01491 572938	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
Henley library	01865 815278	www.oxfordshire.gov.uk
Henley Life magazine	01491 419449	www.henleylife.co.uk
Henley police station	08458 505505	www.thamesvalley.police.uk
Henley Rowing Club	01491 573943	www.henleyrowingclub.co.uk
Henley Royal Regatta headquarters	01491 572153	www.hrr.co.uk
Henley Rugby Club	01491 574499	www.henleyhawks.co.uk
Higgs Group printers	01491 419400	www.higgsgroup.co.uk
Henley Standard	01491 419444	www.henleystandard.co.uk
Henley Town Council	01491 576982	www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk
Henley Town Football Club	01491 410389	www.henleytownfc.co.uk
Leander Club	01491 575782	www.leander.co.uk
River & Rowing Museum	01491 415600	www.rrm.co.uk
Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading	0118 3225111	www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk
Tourist Information Office	01491 578034	www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk
Townlands Memorial Hospital	01865 903703	www.nhs.uk
Upper Thames Rowing Club	01491 575745	www.utrc.org.uk

## CALENDAR November OF EVENTS 2019-2

### October

3 to 8, Henley Art & Crafts Guild autumn exhibition, Old Fire Station Gallery www.henley-art-crafts-guild.org 3 to November 23, Run for Your Wife, Mill at Sonning, www.millatsonning.com 5 to 20, Chilterns Walking Festival www.visitchilterns.co.uk/walkingfest 6, Henley Ploughing Match, Ipsden www.thehenleyshow.co.uk/ploughingmatch 10 to 14, Finding the Edge painting and sculpture exhibition, Old Fire Station Gallery, Henley 12 and 24, Farmers' market, Market Place, Henley, 8am to 2pm, www.visit-henley.com 13, Henley half marathon and Henley Standard 10km www.henleyhalfmarathon.org 13, Jon Smith, organ concert, Henley town hall, 2.30pm for 3pm, www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk 16 to 19, Henley Players present Dangerous Corner by JB Priestley, Kenton Theatre www.kentontheatre.co.uk 19 and 20, Autumn Food Festival, Stonor Park www.stonor.com 23 to November 3, Halloween Half Term, Stonor Park. www.stonor.com

26, Spooktacular fireworks display, Sue Ryder, Joyce Grove, Nettlebed, www.sueryder.org

26 and 27, Lipstick on Your Collar, Kenton Theatre, 7.30pm, www.kentontheatre.co.uk

31, Rock photographer Danny Clifford, Old Fire Station Gallery, Henley.



6, Shakespeare Schools Festival 2019, Kenton Theatre, 7pm, www.kentontheatre.co.uk

8, National Youth Jazz Orchestra, Kenton Theatre, 7.30pm, www.kentontheatre.co.uk

8 to 17, Brakspear Jazz and Blues Week, various venues www.brakspearjazzandblues.co.uk

9 and 28, Farmers' market, Market Place, Henley, 8am to 2pm, www.visit-henley.com

9, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Aliquando Chamber Choir, St Mary's Church, Henley, 7pm, www.aliquando.co.uk

10, Remembrance Day service Henley town hall steps, 10.45am.

16, Blake: Movies & Musicals, Kenton Theatre, 7.30pm www.kentontheatre.co.uk

17, Michael Wooldridge, organ concert, Henley town hall, 2.30pm for 3pm, www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

17, Henley Symphony Orchestra winter concert, Concert Hall, Reading, 4pm

www.henleysymphonyorchestra.co.uk

18, The Ladies of Nettlebed concert featuring Charlie Dore, Rowan Godel, Megan Henwood and Jackie Oates, Nettlebed village club, 7.45pm

www.nettlebedfolkclub.co.uk

20 to 23, Henley Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society presents Jesus Christ Superstar, Kenton Theatre www.kentontheatre.co.uk

21 to 24, Country Homes and Interiors Christmas, Stonor Park, 10am to 4pm daily, www.stonor.com

25 to December 15, Christmas at Stonor, Stonor Park www.stonor.com

27, Christmas Artisan Craft Fair with free mulled wine, Henley town hall, 6pm to 9.30pm.

28 to December 3, Henley Art & Crafts Guild Christmas exhibition. Old Fire Station Gallerv

www.henley-art-crafts-guild.org

29, Henley Christmas Festival, including Christmas lights switch-on and late-night shopping, 5pm to 9pm, various locations.

30, Handel's Messiah, South Chiltern Choral Society, Great Hall, University of Reading

www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk

30 to February 8, Singin' in the Rain, Mill at Sonning www.millatsonning.com



HENLEY PAGES DIRECTORY

#### CALENDAR

### December

1 to 24, Living Advent Calendar, various locations www.livingadventcalendar.co.uk 4, Cinderella 2: The Mrs Charming Years, Kenton Theatre, 7.30pm, www.kentontheatre.co.uk 7, Henley Choral Society Christmas concerts, 2.30pm and 7pm, www.henleychoralsociety.org.uk 8, Chris Stanbury, organ concert, Henley town hall, 2.30pm for 3pm, www.henlevorgantrust.org.uk 8, Christmas Opera at Danesfield House Hotel www.danesfieldhouse.co.uk 12, Pete Burness-Smith, Old Fire Station Gallery, featuring a "Do They Know It's Christmas Tree". 13 to 28, Sleeping Beauty, Kenton Theatre, various times www.kentontheatre.co.uk 14, 18 and 22, Farmers' market, Market Place, Henley, 8am to 2pm, www.visit-henley.com 15, Henley Symphony Orchestra Christmas concerts, Christ Church, 4.30pm and 6.30pm www.henleysymphonyorchestra.co.uk 30 to January 4, Henley Children's Theatre presents Puss in Boots, Kenton Theatre www.henleychildrenstheatre.co.uk



### January 2020

12, Woodcote 10km run, 10.15am start, Woodcote village hall, www.woodcote10k.org.uk
12, Phil Kelsall, organ concert, Henley town hall, 2.30pm for 3pm, www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk
25, Henley Choir Festival, St Mary's Church, Henley



## February

**9**, Andrew Nix, organ concert, Henley town hall, 2.30pm for 3pm, www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

**17 and 18**, Immersion Theatre presents *Rapunzel*, Kenton Theatre, various times

www.immersiontheatre.co.uk/rapunzel-2020

27 to April 18, Relatively Speaking, Mill at Sonning www.millatsonning.com

### March

2 to 15, Henley Youth Festival, www.hyf.org.uk

5, World Book Day, www.worldbookday.com

**5 to 17**, Reading Guild of Artists, Old Fire Station Gallery, www.rga-artists.org.uk

**6**, Steve Norman of Spandau Ballet, Kenton Theatre, 7.45pm, www.kentontheatre.co.uk

**7**, RIBA Henley Design Day 2020, Henley town hall, 10am to 3.30pm, www.architecture.com

**8**, Jean Martyn, organ concert, Henley town hall, 2.30pm for 3pm, www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

**15**, Henley Symphony Orchestra 50th anniversary gala concert, Hexagon, Reading, 7.30pm

www.henleysymphonyorchestra.co.uk

**28,** Henley Choral Society spring concert, St Mary's Church, Henley, www.henleychoralsociety.org.uk

## April

**1 to 4,** Henley Players present *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* by Eduardo De Filippo, Kenton Theatre www.kentontheatre.co.uk

**19**, Elizabeth Harrison, organ concert, Henley town hall, 2.30pm for 3pm, www.henleyorgantrust.org.uk

**23 to June 13**, *The House on Cold Hill*, Mill at Sonning www.millatsonning.com

**23 to May 5,** Henley Art & Crafts Guild spring exhibition, Old Fire Station Gallery www.henley-art-crafts-guild.org

### May

**2 and 3**, Henley Arts Trail, www.henleyartstrail.com **4 to 9**, Henley Drama Festival, Kenton Theatre www.henleydramafestival.co.uk

**9 and 10,** Tough Mudder London West, Culden Faw Estate, www.toughmudder.co.uk

14 to 19 and 21 to 26, Chelsea Fringe exhibition, Old Fire Station Gallery, http://tiny.cc/oldfirestation 15 to 17, Wood Festival, Braziers Park, Ipsden www.woodfestival.com

#### CALENDAR

17, Chiltern Hills Rally

http://tiny.cc/chilternhillsrally

**28 to July 15,** Verdi's Un giorno di regno/King for a Day,

Garsington Opera at Wormsley

www.garsingtonopera.org

**29 to July 2,** Mozart's *Mitridate, re di Ponto,* Garsington Opera at Wormsley, www.garsingtonopera.org

### June

6, Springstock 2020, The Flowing Spring, Playhatch www.theflowingspringpub.co.uk 12 to 21, The Gap Festival 2020, Goring www.thegapfestival.org 14 to July 18, Dvorak's Rusalka, Garsington Opera at Wormsley, www.garsingtonopera.org 18 to August 8, Two Into One, Mill at Sonning www.millatsonning.com 19 and 20, Beacon Festival, www.beaconfestival.net 19 to 21, Henley Women's Regatta, www.hwr.org.uk 25 to July 17, Beethoven's Fidelio, Garsington Opera at Wormsley, www.garsingtonopera.org 27, Henley Choral Society summer concert, St Mary's Church, Henley, www.henleychoralsociety.org.uk 28, Selkie Henley Classic swim, 2.1km river swim upstream along the regatta course www.henleyswim.com



## July

1 to 5, Henley Royal Regatta, www.hrr.co.uk
8 to 12, Henley Festival, www.henley-festival.co.uk
10 to 12, Om & Bass Wellbeing Festival, Hill Farm, Watlington, www.omandbass.co.uk
11, Henley Kids Triathlon 2020
www.uktriathlon.co.uk
11, Henley Symphony Orchestra summer concert, Henley Festival, noon
www.henleysymphonyorchestra.co.uk
11 and 12, Woodcote Rally and the Festival of Ale www.woodcoterally.org.uk

**12,** Outdoor Swimmer Henley Swim Festival, incorporating the Henley Mile www.henleyswim.com

**17 to 19,** Thames Traditional Boat Festival www.tradboatfestival.com

**19,** Henley sheepdog trial, Henley Showground, Hambleden, RG9 3AS

www.thehenleyshow.co.uk/sheepdog-trial

**25,** Club to Pub 1.5km summer evening swim www.henleyswim.com

### August

7 and 8, Wargrave and Shiplake Regatta www.wsregatta.co.uk

TBC, Rewind South festival, Temple Island Meadows https://south.rewindfestival.com

**16,** Thames Marathon, 14km swim from Henley to Marlow, www.henleyswim.com

28 to 30, Reading Festival, www.readingfestival.com



### September

5, Henley Regatta for the Disabled, Phyllis Court www.regattaforthedisabled.org
12, Henley Farm & Country Show, Henley Showground, Hambleden, www.thehenleyshow.co.uk
26 to October 4, Henley Literary Festival www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk



## Festivals and events

HENLEY is rapidly becoming known for its festivals and sporting events. The town hosts a number of popular and long-standing annual fixtures, such as the Henley Festival, the Thames Traditional Boat Festival, the Henley Youth Festival, the Henley Drama Festival and the Henley Farm and Country Show. And in recent years, a number of new events has

And in recent years, a number of new events has been added to the calendar, including the Henley Literary Festival, the Henley Fringe Festival, the Henley House and Garden Show, the Chelsea Fringe festival, Music on the Meadows, Rewind, an Eighties pop event, and two food festivals.

The five-day **Henley Festival** takes place in the second week of July and comprises an elegant mix of music, art, culture and dining — all in the spectacular setting of the banks of the Thames.

The organisers call it "the most magical summer event in the United Kingdom".

The festival started life three decades ago as a classical music concert but over the years the repertoire has become more diverse, offering something for every taste.

Each night, there is a range of performances of classical music, jazz, opera, pop, rock, comedy, dance and street theatre — all topped off with a fireworks display.

The 2019 line-up included Boy George, Jessie J, Tom Odell, Abba tribute act Björn Again and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Comedians who performed included Ed Byrne,



Boy George performed on the opening night of the 2019 festival



Jessie J singing on the floating stage at the 2019 Henley Festival

Andy Hamilton, Richard Herring and Julian Clary. A ticket gives you access to up to six timetabled events as well as art galleries and a choice of bars and restaurants. The black-tie event is now one of the biggest and best-loved arts festivals in the country.

For more information, call the box office on (01491) 843404 or visit www.henley-festival.co.uk

The **Henley Literary Festival** takes place in the autumn and has established itself as one of the leading events of its kind.

Events featuring leading writers are held at a range of venues including the Kenton Theatre, Henley town hall and Phyllis Court Club.

The festival features workshops, River Readings of poetry and prose by leading actors on a Thames cruise and about 40 events for children and families.

In 2019, there will be 170 events with speakers including former Prime Minister and Maidenhead MP Theresa May, who will be discussing the books that influenced her life.

Speakers include TV presenter Mary Berry, IT

Picture: Cheryl George



Members of the Berkshire & Henley Dance School performed at the 2019 Henley Youth Festival Dance event at the Kenton theatre

pioneer Dame Stephanie Shirley and lyricist Sir Tim Rice, all of whom live in the Henley area.

Also appearing is former England cricket captain Sir Alastair Cook, actor David Suchet, comedian Paul Merton and newsreader George Alagiah. Children's and family events will include Michael Morpurgo, David Baddiel and Radio 1 DJ Greg James.

This year's festival will take place from Saturday, September 28 to Sunday, October 6.

For more information, call 0118 972 4700, follow it on Twitter (@HenleyLitFest) or visit www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk

**Rewind South** is an annual celebration of Eighties pop music that takes place in Temple Island Meadows in August and is attended by up to 40,000 people.

The 2019 line-up included Lulu, the Four Tops, The Waterboys, Midge Ure, Belinda Carlisle, The Undertones, The Dire Straits Experience, UB40, Tiffany, Heather Small, of M People, Heaven 17, the Neville Staple Band, The Selecter, The Wailers and Kathy Sledge, from the original Sister Sledge.

Festival-goers can buy day tickets or spend the weekend camping on site. There is a "glamping" area with luxury loos.

For more information, visit www.rewindfestival.com

The **Henley Youth Festival** celebrates young people's talent.

Organised by parents on a voluntary basis, the festival features a range of performing arts events,

including music, dance, drama and singing as well as sports and other competitions.

Each year, about 2,000 youngsters take part in more than 40 events. The festival takes place in March.

For more information, visit www.hyf.org.uk

The **Henley Drama Festival** has been going for more than four decades.

It consists of a series of performances of one-act plays, some of them original, performed by local amateur groups at the historic Kenton Theatre in New Street.

The rules state that the plays must be no longer than 50 minutes and there are usually three performed each night.

The festival director is Anne Dayton, whose parents were founder members.

The festival takes place in May.

The **Henley Choir Festival** has become a regular fixture for singers across the area.

Local church choirs take part, performing individual pieces before they all come together to sing a chosen piece of choral music.

St Mary's Church is filled with the sound of more than 100 singers performing in the evening. Money raised at the festival is donated to a different charity each year.

The next festival will take place in January. For more information, email David Butler at d.butler@virgin.net or Elizabeth Hodgkin at hodgkin1@waitrose.com

#### The Brakspear Jazz and Blues Week takes

place in November and features a large number of performances at the pub company's venues.

For more information, visit www.brakspearjazzandblues.co.uk

**Garsington Opera** will present another fine season at Wormsley in the Chiltern Hills from May 28 to July 18, 2020.

The programme will include Verdi's *Un giorno di regno*, Mozart's *Mitridate*, *re di Ponto*, Dvorak's *Rusalka* and a revival of John Cox's legendary production of Beethoven's *Fidelio* in the composer's 250th anniversary year.

For more information, visit www.garsingtonopera.org

The **Beacon Festival** is a boutique family event to celebrate the longest day, featuring music and art, that take places at Watlington Hill Farm.

There are about 40 bands performing across three stages, a food piazza, bars, workshops, a children's zone and camping.

The festival is a not-for-profit event and the proceeds are donated to community groups.

The next one will be held on the weekend of June 19 and 20, 2020. For more information, visit www.beaconfestival.net

The **Henley House & Garden Show** takes place over a weekend in the spring.

Organised by interior designer Niki Schäfer, the show celebrates our love of homes and gardens and aims to encourage collaboration between Henley businesses.

The show is spread over a number of venues, with speeches, demonstrations and more than 60 displays of indoor and outdoor furniture, flooring and artwork for the home.

For more information, visit www.nikischaferinteriordesign.co.uk

Another major event is the annual **Henley Farm and Country Show**, formerly called the Henley Show, which takes place at Greenlands Farm, Hambleden, and provides a day out for all the family.

Organised by the Henley and District Agricultural Association, the show features assorted prize animals, heavy horses, a sheep show, falconry display, horse show, dog show, food and farming tent, trade stands, a countryside marquee and much more.

The 2020 show — the 129th — will place on

Saturday, September 12. The association also organises a sheepdog trial in July, where the attractions include a spinning and weaving display and tractor and trailer rides.

It is also staging a ploughing match at Church Lane, Ipsden, on Sunday, October 6, where attractions include a heavy horse display, logging demonstration, ferret racing, terrier racing and trailer rides.

For more information, call (01491) 410948 or visit www.thehenleyshow.co.uk

The **Thames Traditional Boat Festival** takes place at Fawley Meadows in Henley over a weekend in late July.

The event, which was first held in 1978, features a display of about 200 traditionally built craft, including slipper launches, gentlemen's day launches, steam launches, river steamers, sailing craft, vintage speedboats, skiffs, rowing boats, punts, unpowered and electric canoes, vintage sea-going cruisers and many of the famous Dunkirk Little Ships.

There are also family attractions, including exhibitions and demonstrations, vintage and classic cars and refreshments stalls.

For more information, visit www.tradboatfestival.com

The annual **Chelsea Fringe Henley festival**, featuring a floral flotilla on the Thames, took place in May and June.

This is an alternative garden festival that is endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society and promotes an inclusive approach to flowers, gardens and gardening and runs alongside the Chelsea Flower Show.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/ChelseaFringeHenley

The **Eat! Food Festival** will be held from June 13 to 27, 2020.

The inaugural festival was held in June 2019 and came to a close with a Riverside Fiesta of food, drink and live music on Mill Meadows and featured about 30 stalls of different cuisine.

There was also pop-up events including live talks and demonstrations at various town centre venues, such as the Kenton Theatre. For more information, visit www.eatfoodfest.co.uk

The **Woodcote Rally** takes place each July. This is an annual gathering of veteran and vintage transport, including steam engines, traction



Mandy Fox and David Hart tucking into some food at Mill Meadows during the first Eat! Food Festival in Henley in June

engines, tractors, vintage cars and bikes. Since the first rally in 1964, the event has raised more than £500,000 for local charities and good causes.

The 57th annual rally will take place on July 11 and 12, 2020. For more information, visit www.woodcoterally.org.uk

The **Henley Christmas Festival** will take place on Friday, November 29 and includes late-night shopping, fairground rides, stalls, carol singing, a children's procession and the Christmas tree lights switch-on ceremony.

For more information, visit www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

The **Regatta for the Disabled**, which was 10 years old in 2019, takes place at Phyllis Court Club in Henley in August or September.

This gives children and adults with a disability a chance to enjoy a range of land and river-based activities not normally available to them, including river trips, dragon boat racing and a climbing wall that takes wheelchairs.

The event is aimed at families and other attractions include animals to pet, pony rides, rowing machines and live music. Other events include a number of open water swims on the River Thames. For more information, visit www.regattaforthedisabled.org

The **Henley Classic swim** is a 2.1km endurance race which takes place on the Henley Royal Regatta course. The next swim is on Sunday, June 28.

The **Henley Swim Festival** on July 12 is an outdoor swimming festival with options for everyone aged from eight and above.

The event incorporates the **Henley Mile**, a 1.6km swim held on the royal regatta course.

Another open water event is the14km **Thames Marathon**, previously known as the Bridge to Bridge Race, from Henley to Marlow in August.

In 2014, the organisers added the **Club to Pub Swim**, a 1.5km race from Henley Rowing Club to the Angel on the Bridge pub.

The challenge is to complete the course within an hour and before the chimes of the bells of St Mary's Church. It will next be held on July 25, 2020.

For more information, visit www.henleyswim.com

A number of multi-sport events take place in and around Henley over the summer and autumn.

The **Henley half marathon** and the **Henley Standard 10km** will take place on Sunday, October 13.

About 2,000 people take part in the races, which are organised by the Rotary Club of Henley Bridge and begin and end at Borlase Field, next to Henley Rugby Club.

The half marathon started in 1981. The event raises money for the RNLI as well as other charities.

For more information, visit www.rotary-ribi.org

The **Henley Triathlon** takes place in June and has been going nine years.

The event comprises a 400m swim in the pool at Henley leisure centre followed by a 25km or 12.5km cycle ride and then a 2.5km or 5km run.

The run takes place in the grounds of Gillotts School while the cycle ride goes along Greys Road towards Rotherfield Greys before joining the B481 to Peppard and towards Sonning Common. It returns to the school via Blounts Court Road and Devil's Hill. The next triathlon will take place in July 12.

For more information, visit www.uktriathlon.co.uk/events/ henley-thames-triathlon

The eighth **UK Kids Fun Triathlon** will be held in June. For more information, visit www.fun2tri.co.uk

**Tough Mudder**, known as "the world's toughest obstacle course", takes place on the

#### ENTERTAINMENT

Picture: Tony Wallbank



More than 850 swimmers took part in the Thames Marathon from Henley to Marlow in August, which sets off from Leander Club

Culden Faw Estate at Fawley in April and May. This is one of a series of events for hardcore competitors who require strength, stamina and determination to complete the 12-mile course.

For more information, visit www.toughmudder.co.uk

The **Great Escape** is a role play and obstacle challenge where competitors are part of an elite team that have to rescue a downed pilot, avoid the enemy and end up back in home territory. It also takes place at the Culden Faw Estate.

For more information, visit www.intrepidevents.com

#### Other entertainment

The **Kenton Theatre** in New Street is the fourth oldest working theatre in the country and is largely run by volunteers. It is a Regency gem with a warm, friendly and cosy atmosphere. The 241-seat auditorium is professionally equipped and suitable for live performances, films, lectures and conferences.

The Kenton presents a varied programme to suit all tastes, from comedy, music and family events to musicals, drama, opera and talks.

A coffee bar and licensed bar are open for performances and the theatre is available for hire for events and performances.

For more information, call (01491) 575698 or email generalmanager@kentontheatre.co.uk

For the full programme and to book tickets, visit www.kentontheatre.co.uk

#### The Henley Amateur Operatic and

**Dramatic Society** was formed in 1922 and each year puts on two musicals and a play at the

Kenton Theatre and every other year at an open-air venue.

The society owns The Studio, next door to the theatre, where it holds rehearsals and social events and stores its extensive wardrobe.

Rehearsals normally take place three nights a week for large productions and increase closer to the production dates, which are usually in April and November. Readings and auditions are generally open to all.

For more information, call Clancey Smith on (01491) 573084 or email Jennamarie Smith at haodschair@gmail.com

The **Henley Players** are an established amateur drama group now in their 70th year.

They produce two full-length plays each year, usually at the Kenton Theatre, and also compete in four or five local drama festivals.

There are around 80 members of all ages and new members are welcome.

For more information, call Jenny Haywood on (01491) 576293, visit the group online or email membership@henleyplayers.com

The **Acorn Theatre Music Company** aims to advance the education of young people in the art of theatre, music and other performing arts, regardless of colour, creed or ability, by creating original music theatre based on multicultural myths, legends and world stories.

Using the very best artistic practitioners to work with young people, the group looks to create confident and dynamic live performances for new audiences in unusual places. Its 2019 summer production was *The Green Man and Other*  *Fables,* which was performed three times at White Pond Farm in Stonor.

Such was its success, the group was then invited to perform an abridged version — two hour-long performances — at Blenheim Palace, which had constructed an Elizabethan village to host performances of some of Shakespeare's best-known plays.

#### The Henley and District Theatre Organ

**Trust** was founded in 1971 by some Henley Rotarians under the chairmanship of Gordon Mintern.

An organ was installed in the Regal cinema and regular Sunday concerts took place. The first was given by the late Reginald Dixon to an audience of more than 1,000 people.

The trust now organises concerts in the town hall for local charities and to entertain Henley's older generation.

For more information, call Susan Rusman on 0118 972 4988.

The **Henley Rock Choir** is for anyone who just loves to sing. Rock Choir is the UK's largest and most popular contemporary choir, with more than 25,000 members in more than 350 local communities nationwide. It offers adults the chance to sing and perform popular contemporary songs, with no auditions and no requirements to read music or have any previous singing experience.

Henley Rock Choir is always open to new members and rehearses at Valley Road School, Henley, from 8pm to 9.30pm on Thursdays.

For more information, visit www.rockchoir.com

The **Henley Symphony Orchestra** was founded in 1970 and is now one of the leading amateur orchestras in the country. It has around 70 players drawn from across the Thames Valley.

Under the guidance of musical director Ian Brown, the orchestra promotes an annual series of four concerts and engages internationally acclaimed soloists. Rehearsals take place weekly at The Henley College from 7pm to 10pm.

For more information, call membership secretary Maureen Idowu on 07910 435240 or visit www.henleysymphonyorchestra.co.uk

Established in 1973, **Henley Choral Society** is made up of more than 100 singers who share a love of music and gain pleasure from singing in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

No auditions are required and the society meets



Actress Mary Stewart is playing Maleficent in Sleeping Beauty, the Kenton Theatre's 2019 pantomime

on Mondays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm for rehearsals at the d:two centre in Market Place.

It is directed by Peter Asprey and performs at least three major concerts each year, often with an orchestra.

For more information, call Jan French on (01491) 576929, email guy404@btinternet.com, or visit www.henleychoralsociety.org.uk

The **Henley Children's Theatre Group** has been established for almost 50 years. Founded in 1969 by Flavia Pickworth, it has been run by her

granddaughter, Muffin Hurst, for more than 25 years. There are classes for children aged four to 16. The basic theatre skills of acting, singing and dancing are all covered in a friendly, informal atmosphere. The emphasis is on fun.

The children give two annual performances at the Kenton Theatre. The group meets on Saturday mornings at Sacred Heart parish hall.

For more information, call Muffin Hurst on (01491) 579091, email

muffin@henleychildrenstheatre.co.uk or visit www.henleychildrenstheatre.co.uk

The **Regal Picturehouse** cinema, off Bell Street, shows a wide range of films daily.

For more information, call 0871 902 5738 or visit www.picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/ Regal\_Picturehouse

The **Old Fire Station Gallery** is a converted fire station, which is owned by the town council. It provides a magnificent space for artists to display their paintings, sculpture, tapestry or photography. It is located in Upper Market Place, behind the town hall.

For more information, call the town hall on (01491) 576982 or email enquiries@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Shiplake and Dunsden Dramatic**

**Organisation**. In 1999 a local group entitled MAD (Millennium Amateur Dramatics) got together for the first time to produce *Aladdin* in Shiplake College's Tithe Barn in aid of the Shiplake and Dunsden parish appeal. Following the success of the venture, the group reinvented itself as SHADDO (Shiplake and Dunsden Dramatic Organisation) and decided to produce a further pantomime, the proceeds this time to be ploughed back into Shiplake Memorial Hall.

Since then they have produced many pantomimes and other productions including murder mysteries, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Trial By Jury*, comedies and *A Christmas Carol*.

Members also enjoy a series of events and outings throughout the year, such as theatre and museum visits. Shaddo are always looking for new members. To find out more, go to the group's regular play readings on the first Monday of the month at the Baskerville Arms in Shiplake, 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

For more information, email secretary@shaddo.org.uk

Henley Arts and Crafts Guild, founded in

1953, aims to bring together all those interested in visual arts and crafts by arranging a number of activities for members throughout the year.

Full-day painting and craft workshops are held two or three times a month during the year, mostly at Remenham village hall.

In the summer months, outdoor painting sessions are organised in the local area, along with coach trips to London exhibitions for members and friends.

Two annual exhibitions of members' work are held in the Old Fire Station Gallery in Market Place — one in the spring and another in the autumn, with a craft fair in early December.

For more information, contact Ann Spicer on 0118 972 2133 or andrewannspicer@hotmail.com

**Henley Music Centre** is run by the Eureka! Foundation. It is held at the Christ Church Centre, Reading Road, Henley. It is open to all ages. The centre is home to the Henley Youth Chamber Orchestra and also supports ensembles for younger players.

For more information, write to Eureka! Music Foundation, 5 Colleton Drive, Twyford, RG10 0AU, call 0118 961 7584 or visit www.eurekafoundation.org

**Henley Music School** provides an all-inclusive, fun music education for any child regardless of age, ability, background or means. It provides individual lessons and school-based group music clubs and holds Music School Sundays.

All tutors are specialists in their field, coaching individuals in any instrument along with all the ensembles and groups.



Henley Rock Choir performing on night six of the 2018 Living Advent Calendar at the Henley 60+ Social Club, off Greys Road

These groups include a rock and pop band, wind band, string ensemble, keyboard club, ukulele group, guitar club, flute choir, saxophone and clarinet group, music tech, mini drums, mini choir, mini recorders and musicianship for four-year-olds upwards.

It currently has more than 350 children from Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire enjoying all the different musical opportunities.

For more information, call Laura Reineke on 07989 396210, email henleymusicschool@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.henleymusicschool.co.uk

**Henley Youthful Orchestra** is for anyone over 40 who wishes they still played an instrument and would like to experience playing in a big group or performing on a proper stage.

With monthly orchestra rehearsals, the music is easy but effective and is arranged to suit all abilities.

For more information and registration forms, call Laura Reineke on 07989 396210 or email her at henleymusicschool@hotmail.co.uk

**Henley Youth Choir** is for seven- to 17-year-olds who love to sing, in either the junior (ages seven to 11) or senior (ages 12 to 17) choir.

They have performed four times at Henley Choral Society's Christmas concerts and at the Henley Youth Festival's Sing event at the Kenton Theatre, as well as at Henley Royal Regatta, the Living Advent Calendar and in Anita D'Attellis's Winter Recitals concert series in Wallingford.

Most recently they sang at the Henley Festival Family Sunday to a packed audience — their third such performance in as many years. The Youth Choir sings a wide range of music, from Mozart to Bruno Mars.

Rehearsals take place in term time on Thursdays at d:two, Upper Market Place, from 5.30pm for the junior choir and 6.15pm for the senior choir.

The choir welcome new members and singers can come along for a trial session. They also have sibling discounts and a bursary scheme.

For more information, call Fi Harding on 07947 658252, email fi.harding@sky.com or visit www.henleychoralsociety.org.uk/youth-choirs

**South Chiltern Choral Society** currently has about 100 singing members. The choir rehearses on Mondays during term time from 7.30pm to 9.40pm at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School in Sonning Common during term time. Their conductor and musical director is Paul Burke.

The singing year starts in September and there are three regular concerts each year — a Christmassy concert, a classical concert in the spring, and a lighter summer concert.

The society uses both professional and non-professional soloists and instrumentalists in its concerts.

In addition, the society runs occasional singing workshops and organises quizzes, singing and sightseeing tours and trips to concerts.

New members are very welcome — no audition required.

For more information, email the choral society's membership officer Wendy Cross at wendyjcross@talktalk.net or visit www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk

The **River & Rowing Museum** in Mill Meadows brings the river, rowing, history and the arts to life.

It has five galleries — the Henley Gallery, supported by Invesco Perpetual, the International Rowing Gallery, the River Gallery, the John Piper Gallery and the Community Gallery.

The permanent *Wind in the Willows* exhibition heralds the return of Mr Toad, Ratty, Badger and Mole to the banks of the River Thames, whose creatures and landscapes provided the inspiration for this classic tale.

There is a constantly evolving calendar of temporary art and photography exhibitions and a year-round calendar of nature trails, craft workshops and family days.

The 12-month admission ticket costs £24 for adults, £16 for children aged four and over, £22.50 for senior citizens (for those aged 65 and over) and £21.50 concessions.

Day tickets are also available priced £9 for adults, £6 for children aged four and over, £8.50 for senior citizens aged 65 and over, and £8 concessions.

Children under four go free.

The museum is fully accessible and carers are entitled to free admission.

For more information, call (01491) 415600 or visit www.rrm.co.uk

# A rich sporting heritage

Henley Royal Regatta. It was decided at a public meeting at Henley town hall in March 1839 to establish an annual regatta. It would be "under judicious and respectable management" and "would not only be producting of the most bandford regulate to the

productive of the most beneficial results to the town but from its peculiar attractions would also be a source of amusement and gratification to the neighbourhood and to the public in general". The first regatta took place on a single afternoon in June that year. The event received its "royal" prefix in 1851 when HRH Prince Albert became the first royal patron.

It is now the top traditional regatta in the world in many rowers' eyes, ranking alongside the Olympic Games and the world championships. (Henley is the only town to have hosted the Olympics regatta twice — in 1908 and 1948.) The regatta now has its own headquarters on the Berkshire side of the river next to Henley Bridge. This building was opened in April 1986 by the Queen. The regatta takes place over five days, with Finals Day always falling on the 27th Sunday of the year.

For more information, visit www.hrr.co.uk **Leander Club** is the most prestigious, historic and successful rowing club in the world. Established on the site of what is now St Thomas's Hospital, London, in 1818, Leander eventually built its own clubhouse in Henley in 1896.

At that time it was already the most successful club to compete at Henley Royal Regatta, a position it has maintained to this day.

Leander's athletes are either current members of the GB team, or row in the club's development academy with international status as their aim. To date, its athletes have won 123 Olympic medals, including 55 golds, which make Leander the most successful single sports club in the world.

The qualifications for membership require proficiency in good oarsmanship and good fellowship and most of the club's 3,500 members worldwide have competed at the highest level in rowing or given great service to the sport. The club's colour is cerise and the emblem a hippo, whose origins are unclear, although it became a significant part of the Leander regalia as early as the 1850s.

The club is available to non-members outside the regatta period for accommodation, conferences, dinner parties and weddings, whose revenue goes directly to help fund the rowing programme.



Leander's Alex Milne, Stephen Hughes, Miles Devereux and Tim Eilers, who won the Fawley Challenge Cup at the 2019 Henley Royal Regatta

For more information, visit www.leander.co.uk **Upper Thames Rowing Club** is the only one of Henley's rowing clubs to be based on the royal regatta course.

It was founded in 1963 by Peter and Diane Sutherland with the intention of providing high-quality rowing for the local community. Originally, the club operated from a house in New Street but later moved to the disused regatta boom shed halfway along the regatta course on the Remenham bank.

Now it has one of the finest rowing and training facilities in the country, catering for a wide range of recreational and elite rowers.

In 2009, a new clubhouse was opened by Sir Steve Redgrave. This complements the larger boathouse that was completed in 2005 and opened by then Henley MP Boris Johnson. The aims of the club are to promote elite-level rowing as well as cater for more leisurely enjoyment of the river and encourage junior rowing.

Upper Thames has strong links with local schools and colleges and runs summer camps open to anyone who wants to try rowing.

For more information, email

secretary@utrc.org.uk or visit www.utrc.org.uk Henley Rowing Club was founded in 1830, the year after the first Boat Race was held at Henley, and took part in the first Henley Regatta, now the royal regatta, nine years later. Its first home was a hired space at the Red Lion Hotel boathouse but in the early 1900s it moved to premises at the end of New Street. The club remained there until 1986 when it moved to the site of the old swimming baths off Wargrave Road, where it remains today. The club has about 350 members and is successful locally, nationally and internationally. For more information, email secretary@henleyrowingclub.org or visit www.henleyrowingclub.co.uk

The Henley Town and Visitors' Regatta

developed from the Henley Rowing Club Boat Races, which started in the late 1850s. Its name changed to Henley Town Regatta in 1887 and the word "Visitor" was later added to show that the regatta had been opened to competitors from clubs not based in Henley. After the Second World War and following the success of multi-lane racing on the Henley Reach at the 1948 Olympic Games, the Regatta expanded and offered three abreast racing in all events.

The regatta takes place on the fourth Saturday after Henley Royal Regatta with the generous support and assistance of the stewards. Races are run over about 800m of the famous royal regatta course.

There is free entry to the enclosure, a licensed bar, refreshments, rides on the umpires' launches and no dress code. Races run from 8.30am to 7.30pm.

For more information, email secretary@henleytownregatta.org.uk or visit www.henleytownregatta.org.uk

**Henley Rowing Association** exists to encourage rowing for all — from beginners to those who want to "have a go", through to experienced rowers. Individuals, small groups and corporate events, young and old alike, men and women, are all welcome.

Available weekend afternoons, weekdays and some early evenings in summer, each rowing experience is tailor-made so prices vary according to the number of participants, boats equipment and coaches needed. For more information, call 07881 205545, email rowingexperience@gmail.com or visit henleyrowingassociation.com

**Henley Sailing Club** was formed in 1896 at Shiplake. Now based in Willow Lane in Wargrave, it owns two acres of grounds, which include the clubhouse, boat stores, lawns and two car parks.

The clubhouse has a bar and lounge area, changing rooms, showers and toilets. For more information, call 0118 940 3344 or email enquiries@henleysailingclub.org.uk

The **Eyot Centre** is set in large grounds beside the Thames, about 300m upstream from Henley Bridge with access from Wargrave Road.

The centre is home to Henley Canoe Club and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme. For more information, call (01491) 574989 visit www.eyotcentre.co.uk,

www.henleycanoeclub.co.uk or ww.eyotdofe.com

**Henley Dragon Boat Club**, which is also based at the centre, was formed in 1991. It is open to anyone over the age of nine and of any ability.

For more information, visit www.henleydragons.online

**Thames Rescue** is a voluntary organisation that provides a water-based rescue service for charity and commercial events on the Thames and nearby waterways.

For more information, call Mary Aldred on (01491) 573562.

**Henley Town Football Club** was founded in 1871 and leased its Reading Road ground for decades. In 1974, after three years playing on borrowed pitches, the club arrived at its present home in Mill Lane with a long lease from the town council.

As a community club, Henley run two sides in the Thames Valley League and one in the Reading and District Sunday League. For more information, write to: Henley Town FC, the Triangle Ground, Mill Lane, Henley, RG9 4HB or visit www.henleytownfootballclub.co.uk

**AFC Henley** started in 1974 as Henley Boys' and Girls' Football Club. It is based at Jubilee Park opposite Tesco, which is leased from Henley Town Council, and has about 300 members. The independent club is affiliated to the Football Association and was voted charter standard club of the year for 2012.

For more information, call Trevor Howell on (01491) 578850 or 07711 845956 or visit www.afchenley.com

Henley Rugby Club, which is based at Dry Leas in Marlow Road, was founded in 1930 as Old Henliensians by the old boys of the town's grammar school. With the advent of leagues in the late Eighties, it made unbridled progress and was coached by Sir Clive Woodward in the early Nineties. It has had National League status since the mid-Nineties. At present, it has three other senior teams, a women's XV and colts side. It also has a successful mini and junior section with more than 400 members.

The club installed a synthetic pitch in 2004 with the aid of a £3,000 grant from Sport England and it may be hired by schools, sports clubs and companies.

In 2016 the rugby club opened its new clubhouse. The £475,000 redevelopment took four months to build and includes a new kitchen and an extension to the bar. It was opened by New Zealand rugby legend Sean Fitzpatrick ahead of the club's first home game of the season. For more information, call (01491) 574499, email admin@henleyhawks.co.uk or visit www. henleyhawks.co.uk

**Henley Cricket Club** in Matson Drive is one of the leading clubs in the Home Counties. The club runs three sides on Saturdays, with the 1st XI competing in the Home Counties Premier League and the 2nd, 3rd teams in the Thames Valley League.

It also runs a Sunday side which plays against local village sides and leading wandering clubs. The club has a comprehensive youth policy with a large number of professional coaches who coach a colts section of up to 200 youngsters between the ages of seven and 17. It also provides coaching at local schools.

For more information, call club secretary Tony Fettiplace on 07767 852680, email secretary@henleycricketclub.co.uk or visit www.henleycricketclub.co.uk



Sam Lunnon and Jake Albon, the joint captains of the Henley Hawks for the 2019/20 National Division 2 South campaign

**Henley Hockey Club** was founded in 1958. It has about 120 members and 200 colts and runs five men's and three women's teams plus a Sunday mixed team.

The men compete in the South and MBBO League and women in the South and Trysports BBO League.

Many of the club's players have achieved county level and some international level. The players have professional coaching two nights a week and for four hours on a Sunday morning for the colts.

The club runs social and fund-raising events. It welcomes new members, irrespective of ability and age, and runs courses for aspiring umpires. The club leases its Jubilee Park pitch from Henley Town Council.

For more information, call president Chris Baker on (01491) 574563 or email sjcmbaker@aol.com

**Henley Tennis Club** in Tilebarn Close is set within the grounds of The Henley College and has five hard courts and a new clubhouse.

It welcomes players of all ages and abilities and has a vibrant junior section and a new full-time coach.

The club holds sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm (Easter to October) and on Sundays at 10am.

For more information, email the membership secretary at enquiry@henleytennisclub.co.uk or visit www.henleytennisclub.co.uk

#### Henley Ladies' Badminton Club was

established in 1909 and originally was a mixed club. Over the years, it has met at many venues, including the town hall, Trinity Hall and Shiplake College. It meets at 9.30am on Tuesdays at Woodford Park, Woodley, and welcomes new members. A group also meets at Trinity Hall every Friday from 9.30am to 11.30am.

For more information, call Joan Belcher on 0118 947 4772.

**Henley Swimming Club** is a small but friendly competition club for swimmers aged nine to 19. The club is more than 120 years old and originally its swimmers trained and raced in the Thames at Henley. These days, activities take place at Henley leisure centre.

For more information, call head coach Sarah Williams on 07984 629935 or email

headcoachhsc@outlook.com

Henley Open Water Swimming Club was formed in 2014 as part of a pilot project that created two clubs in the Upper Thames area — Henley and Oxford. It offers a welcoming and structured approach to swimming that's open to all, from leisure to competitive swimmers. For more information, visit www.howsc.co.uk or email HOWSCopenwaterclubs@gmail.com

#### **Henley Synchronised Swimming Club**

meets on Thursday evenings and takes strong swimmers from the age of seven and above. For more information, visit

www.henleysynchronisedswimmingclub.org **Springbox Gymnastics Club**, established 25 years ago, is based at Henley leisure centre and trains on Wednesdays and Fridays with more classes opening. It offers pre-school, recreational and competition squad classes for boys and girls from three years upwards. It also offers holiday clubs and gymnastics parties at the leisure centre. Springbox gymnastics is affiliated with British Gymnastics.

For more information, email springboxgc@gmail.com or visit www.springboxgymclub.co.uk

Henley leisure centre in Gillotts Lane is run by Better in partnership with Henley Town Council and South Oxfordshire District Council. Facilities include an air-conditioned gym, indoor swimming pool, squash courts, a large hall for racquet sports and ball games and dance studio. There are male, female, group and disabled changing facilities, a café and free car parking. The centre is open Monday to Friday, 6.30am to 10pm and Saturdays and Sundays, 8am to 8pm. For more information, call (01491) 577909 or visit www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/ south-oxfordshire/henley-leisure-centre

**Trinity Trainer Pool** in Greys Hill is a shallow, warm pool that is ideal for young children to enjoy and develop their confidence in water. It is used by local schools, nurseries and playgroups and is available to hire.

For more information, email hello@trinitytrainerpool.co.uk

**Henley Squash Club**, for adults and juniors, provides squash and racket ball.

It has an active junior club and competes in Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

Club nights are every Saturday from 5.20pm to 6.40pm. Members play at Henley leisure centre. For more information, call membership secretary Duncan Nightingale on 07899 731219 or visit www.henleysquash.co.uk

# Places of worship

#### **St Mary the Virgin**



The exact origin of the parish church of St Mary the Virgin is unknown but it is likely to have been around 1000. The first recorded priest was Aumericus de Harcourt in 1204.

The present building was almost certainly pre-dated by earlier structures but the first reference to the church is a charter of 1272 granting an

indulgence "to all contributors to the building or the repairing of the church at Henley". St Mary's is basically a 13th century building that was enlarged and remodelled in the 15th century and again in the 19th.

Its sister church is St Nicholas's in Remenham. Fr Martyn Griffiths is the rector of both churches.

The main weekly service is at 9.30am on Sundays. For more information, call (01491) 577340 or email office.hwr@lineone.net

#### **Holy Trinity Church**



Holy Trinity Church opened in 1848 in the parish of Rotherfield Greys. Holy Trinity became a parish in its own right in 1849. The parish at that time had a population estimated at 1,000. Today, the total is more than 7,500, comprising

the larger part of Henley.

The church was enlarged in 1891 to cater for the growing population. The flint and stone was restored to match the original design of Benjamin Ferrey. The interior was re-ordered in 1987. The main weekly services are at 8am and 10am on Sundays. For more information, call (01491) 574822 or visit the website www.holytrinityhenley.org.uk

#### Sacred Heart Church

The Grade II listed Sacred Heart Church was opened in 1936, built around a beautiful reredos and altar designed by AWN and EW Pugin in 1852 as part of the private chapel of Charles Scott Murray at Danesfield House. In recent years the church has undergone major re-ordering to reflect today's liturgy, including a modern engraved glass screen by the artist Graham Jones and the addition of a meeting room and disabled toilets.



The 10.30am Sunday Mass includes a special children's liturgy, separate during the early part of Mass, and later as part of the main ceremony. Visitors are most welcome.

Masses: Saturday 6pm (Vigil Mass); Sunday 8.30am and 10.30am (sung); Masses for holy days 9.30am and 7pm.

Confessions: Saturdays 5pm to 5.45pm.

For more information, call (01491) 573258 or email sacredheart@sacredhearthenley.co.uk



Christ Church in Reading Road was formed following the 1662 Act of Uniformity.

The first named leader of the church was regular preacher John Gyles, who led the congregation until his death in 1683. There is a poem to him on the north wall of the present church.

#### CHURCHES

One of the most memorable early leaders of the church (1748-1776) was Humphrey Gainsborough, brother of the painter Thomas and a renowned inventor and engineer.

The church was rebuilt in 1908 with yellow stone dressings, gothic-style tracery and Art Nouveau glass. Benefactors included Sir Frank Crisp of Friar Park, who paid for the flamboyant south-east tower in memory of a non-conformist grandfather.

The main weekly service is at 10.30am on Sundays. For more information, call (01491) 577733 or email

managers@christchurchhenley.org.uk



Quakers

The Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, meet at 45 Northfield End, Henley, for worship at 10.45am every Sunday.

HENLEY enjoys a reputation as one of the leading destinations for art collectors outside London.

The OLD FIRE STATION GALLERY in Upper Market Place has an exciting and varied exhibition calendar.

It has become popular for many types of art and hosts the likes of the Henley Art and Crafts Guild as well as other local artists.

In 2009, the council made major improvements to the building, installing disabled toilets, moving the kitchen area and opening up the whole of the main gallery.

An exhibition calendar can be viewed on the town council website www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

HENLEY SCHOOL OF ART in Hart Street is a small art school offering a diverse range of courses and workshops.

You can learn to paint or draw, try your hand at ceramics, create a mosaic, sew a portrait or have a go at calligraphy, printmaking and even creative writing.

Propietor Jo Harris, who founded the school in 2013, adds to the roster of tutors all the time, so They worship in silence until someone is moved to speak. The meeting starts when the first person enters the room and ends when two of the elders shake hands. Afterwards, tea and coffee are provided. All are welcome at meetings. For more information, call 0118 972 3295.



#### **Henley Baptist** Church

Henley Baptist Church is located at the d:two centre in Market Place.

It meets on Sundays at 10.30am with worship, teaching and children's groups.

For more information, call (01491) 577414 or email info@dtwo.co.uk

# Art and galleries

the workshops and courses constantly evolve. She said: "We believe there's a creative outlet for everyone and we're here to help you find it. Just because you feel you can't draw, doesn't mean you can't create incredible jewellery, photography, linocut prints or maybe mosaics; what about clay, is that your unexpected skill?

"We're big on the enjoyment that can be gleaned from using our creative muscles, as well as the learning, and we pride ourselves on providing a blissful studio to create in."

For more information, call Jo on 07748 567250 or visit www.thehenleyschoolofart.com



Jo Harris, proprietor of the Henley School of Art

## Government & Business

IN Oxfordshire there are three tiers of local government — county, district and parish or town councils — each with distinct areas of responsibility for services.

**South Oxfordshire District Council** collects council tax and uses around 10 per cent of that to help pay for its services. Those services include weekly food waste collections, fortnightly recycling and residual waste collections, leisure facilities, street cleaning, planning, housing, environmental health (such as food hygiene inspections, noise nuisance, fly-tipping and air quality), forestry, public conveniences, sport, recreation, arts, tourism and the countryside, unclassified roads, footpaths, off-street car parks and some on-street car parks, street lighting, cemeteries and crematoriums.

**Oxfordshire Councy Council**, which receives 80 per cent of council tax, is responsible for education, libraries, social services, youth services, roads, trading standards and the fire and rescue service. The council carries out waste disposal via recycling, landfill and bio-digesters. It also maintains and looks after footpaths, both urban and rural.

Town and parish councils receive council tax revenue for services such as informal recreation areas, footpaths, allotments, bus shelters, some car parks and public conveniences. The remainder goes to Thames Valley Police.

The county council also looks after the registration service (births, deaths and marriages), special educational needs, adoption and fostering, citizenship, archaeology, flooding, pest control, health and wellbeing (in partnership with the health service), street lighting, winter maintenance and on-street parking.

Henley Town Council provides many services to residents and visitors, including permanent and temporary moorings and car parks at Mill Meadows, Mill Lane and Wootton Road; a cemetery, garden of remembrance and a green burial site along Fair Mile; allotments on two sites; parks and open spaces; a weekly market, a monthly farmers' market and four Continental markets and outdoor sports facilities including an all-weather sports pitch in Reading Road. The town hall and King's Arms Barn are available for hire for private and social functions as well as meetings, seminars and conferences. The town hall is licensed for weddings or civil partnerships. It also supports a 60+ Club, town twinning associations, festivals and other events and makes grants and offers free use of its rooms to the many charitable and voluntary organisations in Henley. The council also finances and supports an information centre at the town hall, Christmas Festival and Henley in Bloom, the Henley Business Partnership, CCTV and part-funds a police community support officer.

For more information, call (01491) 576982, email enquiries@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk or visit www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### Climate Emergency, Greener Henley,

formerly Henley in Transition, was formed in 2008 and is a community group working to address the problems of peak oil and climate change by developing sustainability and resilience within the community. A transition town aims to use local supplies of energy, food, housing and transport.

Transition works by bringing people together to discuss the problem and create their own vision for a sustainable future. Current issues include finding green solutions to Henley's congestion and pollution problems, a community energy project to put solar panels on appropriate roof spaces, working with Henley allotments to encourage people to grow their own produce and the Henley Forest Project.

For more information, call Ian Petrie on 07967 638487, email henley.in.transition@gmail.com or visit www.henley-in-transition.org.uk

**The Henley Business Partnership** is a notfor-profit organisation set up to identify, plan and run collaborative projects for the benefit of Henley. It brings people together for the good of the town, whether they are a resident, in business or represent a local authority. Steered by annual action plans, the partnership raises the necessary funds from private sponsors, the town, district and county councils and its members.

For more information, email info@henleypartnership.co.uk

## Town councillors

#### **Henley North**

**Councillor Ken Arlett (HRG\*)** 11 Elizabeth Road, Henley, RG9 2JN

07816 298922 k.arlett@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### Councillor Ian Clark (Con\*\*\*)

27 Cromwell Road, Henley, RG9 1JH (01491) 572949 or 07778 052114 i.clark@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Donna Crook (HRG)**

Henley town hall, RG9 2AQ (01491) 576982 d.crook@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor David Eggleton (HRG)**

48 Gainsborough Road, Henley, RG9 1SX (01491) 579759 or 07836 202508 d.eggleton@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak (HRG)

Pantiles, Elizabeth Road, Henley, RG9 1RA 07799 803596 s.gawrysiak@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Lorraine Hillier (Ind Con\*\*)**

The Swedish House, 8 Park Corner, Nettlebed, RG9 6DT 07818 451367 l.hillier@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor John Hooper (HRG)**

54 Ancastle Green, Henley, RG9 1T3 (01491) 576982 j.hooper@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Paula Isaac (HRG)**

41 Gainsborough Road, Henley, RG9 1SZ p.isaac@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Henley South**

#### **Councillor Will Hamilton (Con)**

153 Greys Road, Henley, RG9 1TE (01491) 577487 willhamilton200@aol.com or w.hamilton@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Kellie Hinton (HRG)**

Ground floor flat, 7 Queen Street, Henley, RG9 1AR 07527 826706 k.hinton@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Glen Lambert (HRG)**

140 Greys Road, Henley, RG9 1QR g.lambert@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Sarah Miller (HRG)**

Oak Hatch, 81 Reading Road, Henley, RG9 1AX 07909 442019 s.miller@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Laurence Plant (Con)**

Henley Practice, The Oast House, Henley, RG9 2AA 07720 400416 l.plant@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Ian Reissmann (HRG)**

9 Gainsborough Road, Henley, RG9 1SZ (01491) 579733, or 07788 735326 i.reissmann@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Rob Romans (HRG)**

12 Cromwell Road, Henley, RG9 1JH (01491) 576982 r.romans@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### **Councillor Michelle Thomas (HRG)**

1A Belle Vue Road, Henley, RG9 1JQ (01491) 576982 m.thomas@henleytowncouncil.gov.uk

#### South Oxfordshire District Council

Councillor Ken Arlett (HRG)

11 Elizabeth Road, Henley, RG9 2JN 07816 298922 kenarlett@waitrose.com

#### **Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak (HRG)**

Pantiles, Elizabeth Road, Henley, RG9 1RA 07799 803596 stefan.gawry@gmail.com

#### **Councillor Kellie Hinton (HRG)**

Ground floor flat, 7 Queen Street, Henley, RG9 1AR 07527 826706 kellie.hinton@southoxon.gov.uk

#### **Oxfordshire County Council**

#### Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak (HRG)

Pantiles, Elizabeth Road, Henley, RG9 1RA 07799 803596 stefan.gawry@gmail.com

> \*Henley Residents Group \*\*Independent Conservative, \*\*\*Conservative

## Clubs and services

**NOMAD** Youth and Community project is an active local charity which supports young people and their families at grass roots level. It provides support for those facing challenging situations in their lives and works collaboratively with other organisations to deliver positive and individually tailored programmes of support. It organises activities including family fun days, beach trips, days out, football matches and community art projects and seeks to act as an advocate for local people regarding resources and facilities within the community. It is based at 55-57 Market Place, Henley.

For more information, call (01491) 635737 or email info@nomadhenley.co.uk

Henley Army Cadet Force is one of Britain's oldest, largest and most successful youth organisations with more than 47,000 cadets in around 1,700 local detachments. It offers a range of opportunities, challenges and activities to help 12- to 18-year-olds develop mentally and physically. The young people improve their self-confidence and develop teamwork, friendship and leadership skills. The Henley Army Cadet Force welcomes girls and boys of all abilities and backgrounds from the age of 12 (year 8 and above). It meets at the Drill Hall in Friday Street on Wednesdays at 7.15pm. For more information, email detachment commander 2Lt Thomas Fearn on 3875fear@armymail.mod.uk or call 07500 504397.

Henley Sea Cadets are a nationwide voluntary youth organisation whose aim is to give young people the best possible headstart in life through nautical adventure and fun. Henley is one of 380 units nationwide. They have their own unit headquarters, Training Ship Guardian, and private waterfront on the River Thames off Wargrave Road. They have a junior cadet section for 10- and 11-year-olds, a senior cadet section for 12- to 17-year-olds and a Royal Marines Cadets detachment for 13- to 17-year-olds. For more information, including parade times, call (01491) 571159 (Monday and Friday evenings only), email info@henleyseacadets.org or visit www.sea-cadets.org/henley

Henley Air Cadets take part in a wide range of activities, including flying in RAF aircraft and gliders and going rock-climbing and canoeing (BTEC accredited training). They play seven competitive sports up to national level, undertake target shooting and receive leadership training. The cadets regularly attend events in and around the town in order to contribute as much as possible to the community. Potential new cadets are welcome. The 447 (Henley) Squadron meets on Monday and Thursday at the Drill Hall, Friday Street, from 7pm to 9.30pm. For more information, email 447@aircadets.org, call (01491) 572335 or 0796 7821220 or visit www.447atc.org

Henley Scout group prides itself on being one of the first in the world, founded in 1908. It has operated continuously since then and now forms part of an organisation with 32 million members in 218 countries and territories. The purpose of scouting is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, responsible citizens and members of their local, national and international communities. The group meets at Greys Road scout hut six times a week for beavers, cubs, scouts and explorers.

For more information, email henleyscoutgroup@btinternet.com or visit www.1st-henley.org.uk

The **3rd Henley Brownies** meet once a week. For more information, visit

www.oxfordshiregirlguiding.org.uk

#### Henley-on-Thames Women's Institute

meets on the third Friday of every month at Sacred Heart Hall, off Vicarage Road, Henley at 7.30pm. Meetings often host a guest speaker. New members are welcome.

For more information, email hotwi2017@hotmail.com

There are also branches in Harpsden, Shiplake and Remenham. Harpsden WI meets every second Monday at 2.30 at Harpsden Hall, Shiplake every third Wednesday at 2.30 in the memorial hall, and Remenham every second Monday at 2.30 in the parish hall.

For more information about the WI contact the Oxfordshire Federation on 01869 331081

Henley and Peppard branch of the Royal British Legion was founded in 1928. Members and friends meet on the third Monday of the month at Christ Church Centre in Reading Road for lunch. The meetings usually have a speaker. Social events include a winter quiz night and a summer social evening. The branch has around



Henley scouts and cubs who took part in an animation workshop to make a film to promote the movement

100 members and supports civic events, including the Mayor's inauguration ceremony and the Remembrance Sunday service and parade.

For more information, visit www.rbl-henley.org **The British Legion** supports military veterans and their families, for more information please call Nick Launders on (01491) 628243 or call the Helpline on 0808 802 8080.

**Henley Society** was formed in 1961 after the borough council approved a planning application that would have meant demolishing the Catherine Wheel Hotel in Hart Street and replacing it with a row of shops. Residents and visitors alike were aghast at the idea of losing such a splendid old building and, with the help of the society, successfully campaigned to save the hotel. Since then the society has flourished and its planning and conservation experts regularly bring an influence to bear on controversial applications.

The society's aims include the conservation and enhancement of the town, its waterfront and its settings; the preservation of the town's historical centre, its fine approach and its trees; an appropriate balance between housing and the provision of employment, shopping and leisure facilities; and the relief of traffic congestion with better car parking facilities and improvements to bus and train services. The society is non-political and recognises that trade must prosper for the town to flourish but seeks to mitigate any adverse effects of commercial activity. From time to time it organises newsletters, lectures and visits to places of interest.

For more information, call honorary secretary Nora Scanlon on (01491) 579619, email norahscanlon@yahoo.co.uk or visit thehenleysociety.ctc-aspire.co.uk Members of **Henley Lions Club** come from all walks of life and do their best to fulfil the Lions' motto, "We serve". Activities mainly involve either fund-raising or community service. Fund-raising enables members to engage in community service projects and to support worthy causes primarily in the local area. Fund-raising activities include a Swimarathon, car parking during Henley Royal Regatta in July and Santa's grotto at Toad Hall garden centre in December.

The club seeks to serve the community wherever there is a need, assisting groups and individuals. Projects have included helping individuals in distress, working with the physically and mentally handicapped, providing hospital equipment and patients' comforts, helping to supply food parcels to those in need and organising outings and holidays for the elderly or disadvantaged. The club meets on the first Monday (or a week later if it's a bank holiday) of each month at the Margaret Day Room at the King's Arms Barn from 7.45pm. For more information call David Murray on

For more information, call David Murray on (01491) 574114.

**Henley Archaeological and Historical** 

**Group** meets in King's Arms Barn in Market Place usually on the first Tuesday of the month between October and June at 7.45pm. Lectures cover a wide variety of topics, from popular local history and historic buildings to serious archaeology. Excursions to places of interest are arranged and the group administers a collection of historic books and records. Membership costs £12 per year or £20 for a family. Visitors £3 per meeting.

For more information, call Ruth Gibson on (01491) 572271, email chairman@ henley-on-thamesachaelogicalandhistorical group.org.uk or visit www.henley-on-thames archaeologicalandhistoricalgroup.org.uk

**Henley YMCA** in Lawson Road has been serving the community since it was founded more than



The 18 Henley army cadets show off their youth first aid qualification which is recognised by St John Ambulance

150 years ago. It has adapted to meet changing needs and today is responsible for a wide range of activities and facilities including housing. It provides affordable housing for people aged 18 to 25.

All the units are self-contained and designed to facilitate independent living in a community atmosphere. Housing staff provide support and guidance to residents.

The Henley YMCA pavilion hosts health and fitness and educational activities, including art, pilates, yoga, karate, martial arts, dancing, keep-fit, seated exercise, t'ai chi, table tennis, photography, University of the Third Age, the Flying Frogs after-school club, children's dance and a body, mind and spirit programme. It is part of the Henley Football Partnership, which provides an opportunity for males and females of all abilities from age five upwards to play football. It has a floodlit five-a-side pitch with an artificial playing surface.

For more information, write to: Henley YMCA, 2 Lawson Road, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 1NZ, call (01491) 411849 or visit www.henleyymca.org.uk **Henley and District Philatelic Society** was

formed in 1966. Meetings are held in Bix village hall on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from September to June (7.45pm). Members' interests include not only stamps, but also postcards, postal history and other philatelic items. The club has visiting speakers from other clubs and there is an auction each May. For more information, call Ian King on (01491) 873928, email henleyphilatelic@googlemail.com or visit www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk

Henley Visually Impaired Group meets at Greys village hall, Rotherfield Greys, on the first Tuesday of each month (except January and August) from 2pm to 4pm. Entertainment, tea, sandwiches and cakes are provided and members can enjoy a chat. There is an entrance fee of £2 and a raffle is held to cover costs. Members are collected and taken home again. Volunteer helpers and drivers are always available. For more information, call Michael Pooley on (01491) 628284.

Henley-Bled Twinning Association was formed in April 2014. Henley twinned with Bled in Slovenia following a special ceremony at the town hall with about 100 invited guests. Bled has a population of 5,000, about half the size of Henley, and is strongly linked to rowing because the Slovenian national team trains there. It hosts an international music festival similar to the Henley Festival and relies on its tourist trade. Weddings are held on an island in the centre of Lake Bled in the same way they are on Temple Island. For further information, call Will Hamilton on (01491) 577487 or email willhamilton200@aol.com

Henley-Leichlingen Twinning Association was formed after Henley was officially twinned with Leichlingen, near Cologne, in November 1979. There are regular visits between the two towns and many friendships have been made. The association encourages people to carry out exchange trips and supports youth organisations for activities such as football, music and swimming. For more information, call Patrick Fleming on (01491) 575165 or email flemings5@tesco.net

Members of the Henley-Falaise Twinning

**Association** have been exchanging biennial visits with their French counterparts for 40 years. Falaise is in Normandy, just 40 miles from the channel port of Caen/Ouistreham.

Members stay in each other's homes, experience different cultures and lifestyles and generally have fun. Many have formed long-term friendships. An inability of many members to speak more than a few words of French has never seemed to be an obstacle. Academic, sporting and cultural links take place between the two towns, always warmly welcomed by the French. The association holds social events during the year and new members are welcome.

For more information, call Denis McCoy on (01491) 575506 or email denisno7@talktalk.net

Henley Chess Club welcomes new players of any age, from beginners to Grandmasters. It meets at the Catherine Wheel in Hart Street every Tuesday at 7.30pm from September to April. For more information, call Steve Pitts on 0118 972 4570 or email stephenwpitts@gmail.com

**Henley Borama Friendship Association** was formed in 1983. Borama, which has a population of 150,000 to 200,000, is the capital of the Awdal province in Somalia. It has received various forms of assistance from Henley, the most notable being power generators donated in 1987. For more information, call Malcolm Page on (01491) 578712.

Henley Wildlife Group was set up in 1993 to improve the town's open spaces for wildlife and people. It manages three conservation areas including Mill Meadows, where it has three ponds providing a suitable habitat for wetland plants such as cuckoo flower and ragged robin. On the Valley Road chalk bank the group has constructed steps to improve access and members cut vegetation. The group organises talks which are open to all.

For more information visit www.henleywildlifegroup.co.uk

Henley Allotments Association has two allotment sites at Greencroft and Waterman's with around 200 plotholders who grow fruit, flowers and vegetables. There are different-sized plots, small starter plots, half-sized plots and the traditional 10-pole plot. The longest is considered big enough to feed a family throughout the year. The association runs a waiting list. For more information, call secretary Sharon Oldham on 07748 982031, email sharon@siserone.co.uk or visit www.henleyallotments.com

Henley and Goring Ramblers is a friendly group which welcomes walkers from all over Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties. With 300 members and several walk leaders, they organise walks which range from leisurely to strenuous and from four to 15 miles. A schedule of upcoming walks and social events is published twice a year. The group organises trips in the UK and abroad and has a popular social programme which includes a summer barbecue, a Christmas carol service and lectures. For more information, call Gill Heaven on 0118 947 5300 or email gill@heaven1.waitrose.com or visit www.ramblers.org.uk/henley-goring

Henley Probus Club meets at Badgemore Park Golf Club on the second Tuesday of each month at 11am to meet friends, enjoy a speaker and have a good lunch together. The primary object of the club is to provide fellowship and an opportunity to develop friendships. The club organises excursions to places of interest and holds two special lunches with guests in the summer and at Christmas. New members are very welcome.

For more information, visit www.henleyprobusclub.wordpress.com

Henley Ladies Probus Luncheon Club meets at Badgemore Park Golf Club on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings include presentations by a variety of interesting speakers. For more information, call Barbara Baxendale on 0118 972 3744 or email barbara@baxendale.mvzen.co.uk

**Café Scientifique** Henley began in 2012 and allows anyone to explore the latest ideas in science and technology for the price of a cup of coffee or glass of wine. Leading-edge scientists present monthly talks at Henley Hockey Club on Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 10pm followed by question and answer sessions. Previous talk subjects have included meteorites, the ageing brain, sleep patterns, bubbles and the role of plants in medicine.

For more information, email cshenley@gmail.com or visit www.cafescientifique.org

**Henley Branch User Group** represents people interested in the Henley branch rail line and holds regular meetings.

To join the group mailing list, email henleybranchusergroup@gmail.com or follow the group on Twitter @HenleyBUG

**The Arts Society Henley**, formerly the Henley branch of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society, holds meetings every third Thursday of the month, except July, August and December, at Phyllis Court, with a lecture on a wide variety of arts-related subjects, given by a range of speakers. This is an opportunity to meet new friends over a cup of coffee for the morning talk at 10.45am, or a cup of tea for the afternoon talk at 2.15pm.

For more information, call chairman Evelyn McQuater on 07912 619970, or visit https://henley.theartssociety.org

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## Health services

THE **Townlands Memorial Hospital** features services including a minor injuries unit, podiatry, outpatient services, physiotherapy and out-of-hours GP services.

The services are provided by the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust.

The hospital's outpatient department features eight consulting rooms, each with a bed, sink and desk, and one treatment room where minor surgery can be carried out, for example, the treatment of a small lesion.

The department also offers cardiology and emergency medical services as well as clinics for patients with pacemakers.

There is an X-ray unit and a physiotherapy area, which features four cubicles with beds and parallel bars.

The unit will also host exercise classes and is running a pilot project for those with long-term chronic pain.

Other services on the ground floor include speech and language therapy and the minor injuries unit with four beds.

A rapid access care unit opened at the hospital in 2017. The unit on the first floor offers services including antibiotic treatment and transfusions and operates alongside eight beds at the neighbouring Orders of St John care home. The unit is designed to replace original plans for an 18-bed ward at the new hospital.

The top floor is currently empty after Sue Ryder pulled out of a deal to relocate its Nettlebed hospice to the hospital.

Henley has two doctors' surgeries, both at York Road, **The Hart Surgery** and **The Bell Surgery**. For more information, call either the Hart Surgery on (01491) 843200 or the Bell Surgery on (01491) 843250.

**Friends of Townlands Hospital** is a charitable association of volunteers established to supplement the service provided by the hospital for the health, welfare and comfort of patients.

For more than 50 years, the league has assisted with the provision of amenities for both patients and staff and helped Henley's community hospital to acquire many items of equipment. Members help through subscriptions and a local volunteer committee organises fund-raising.

For more information, call Judith Nimmo-Smith on 07930 581732.

The **Chiltern Centre** for disabled children, off Greys Road, Henley, is an independent charitable organisation providing short-break respite care for children and young people with severe learning and/or physical and complex medical disabilities.

The support is tailored to meet the specific needs of each child or young person, providing a vital lifeline for the families from across the Thames Valley who use the centre.

The centre has a warm, homely and friendly atmosphere so that parents can recharge their batteries in the safe knowledge their child is being professionally cared for.

For more information, call (01491) 575575 or email chiltern@chilterncentre.org.uk

The **Bluebells Day Centre** for people with dementia meets between 10.30am and 3.30pm on Mondays and Thursdays at the Christ Church Centre in Reading Road, Henley. As well as providing a cooked lunch and an opportunity to socialise, the charity offers a programme of games, activities and talks designed to stimulate visitors' memories and keep them mentally active. The Henley Handybus service may be able to provide transportation for those with mobility problems.

For more information, visit bluebellsday centre.org.uk

The **Memory Cafe** offers a safe, welcoming space where it is possible for dementia sufferers and their carers to meet, relax and socialise. It is held at the Christ Church Centre in Reading Road, Henley, every Wednesday from 10.30am to noon.

It costs £2.50 for tea, coffee and homemade cakes and there are activities including quizzes, crafts, games and singing. For more information, call (01491) 577733

Riverside Counselling Service was

established as a charity in 1989 to provide professional, affordable counselling and psychotherapy for adults and young people from the age of 12. It includes The Space, which



Women at a Bluebells session at the Christ Church Centre in Reading Road, Henley, which meets on Mondays and Thursdays

specialises in counselling for young people with problems such as depression or anxiety and difficulties at home or school. It is based at the Friends Meeting House, Northfield End, Henley and is accredited by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

For more information, call 07879 381334, email riversidecounselling@gmail.com or thespace@riversidecounsellingservice.co.uk or visit www.riversidecounsellingservice.co.uk

**Oxfordshire Mind** has a Wellbeing service which operates across Oxfordshire, running peer support groups, short courses, one-to-one recovery sessions and information sessions about mental health and mental health services.

As part of this service, it runs a peer support group in Henley at the Christ Church Centre in Reading Road on Fridays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

For more information, call 01865 247788, Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm, or visit www.oxfordshire-mind.org.uk

For more information about the Henley group, call Roger Thomason on 07435 760801.

#### South Oxon Adult Mental Heath Team

helps people with mental health difficulties. It is a multi-disciplinary team consisting of doctors, community psychiatric nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists and social workers.

The team runs a programme of groups for clients aged 18 to 65 who are recovering from a major mental illness. It is based in Wallingford and the

office hours are seven days a week, 7am to 9pm. For more information, call 01865 904191. Phones are diverted to the main switchboard during non-working hours so will be answered seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Henley Stroke Club welcomes people affected by stroke and their carers, offering social and recreational activities such as raffles, speakers, bingo and a quiz at weekly meetings The group also provides information and peer support and some physiotherapy. On the last Tuesday of every month there is a trip out, either for lunch or coffee and cake. The club meets at the Christ Church Centre in Reading Road, Henley, on Tuesdays from 10.30am to noon.

For more information, call Margaret Peters on (01491) 572861.

**Headway Thames Valley** provides help and rehabilitation for people with a brain injury and support and information for their families, friends and carers.

The charity is based in Greys Road, Henley, and is part of Headway, the brain injury association that was established in 1979, and is one of more than 100 such groups in Britain.

For more information, call (01491) 411469, email info@headwaythamesvalley.org.uk or visit www.headwaythamesvalley.org.uk

**Meteor Club** provides social activities for adults with learning difficulties at Thursday meetings.

For more information, call Libby Meachin on (01491) 573213.

#### COMMUNITY

## Charities



Henley Rotary Club's international committee presented a £1,000 cheque to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance having raised the money at a charity auction. Pictured, left to right, are Rotarians Hilary Shaw and John Grout and Nicola Green from the charity

#### Rotary Club of Henley Bridge was

established in 1982, one of the 33,000 Rotary clubs worldwide. Members meet each week to enjoy a meal together with fun and fellowship and, on many occasions, a guest speaker.

The club organises a number of fund-raising activities throughout the year, including the Henley Half Marathon. It meets at Badgemore Park Golf Club on Wednesdays from 7.15pm.

For more information, call Annie Lathaen on 07769 687326, email the secretary on alpadawe@ntlworld.com or visit www.rotary-ribi.org/ clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=540

**Henley Rotary Club** is the oldest Rotary club in the town and although it celebrated its 60th birthday four years ago, it has a very youthful outlook.

Rotary's main theme is "service above self" and members try to help others in the spirit of fellowship. The club organises and runs various fund-raising events such as a bingo evening at Christmas, a big band concert in April, a mulled wine and hot dog stall at the Henley Fireworks and charity auction. The funds raised from these events are donated to local charitable causes.

One of its most popular events is the annual Youth Speaks competition held at the Kenton

#### Theatre.

For more information, call secretary Phil Fletcher on 07979 690437 or email phil.fletcher@btinternet.com

**Open Spaces Society**, based in Bell Street, Henley, was founded in 1865 as the Commons Preservation Society.

It is Britain's oldest national conservation body and the founders included Sir Robert Hunter and Octavia Hill, who co-founded the National Trust.

The society has helped preserve commons, greens and open spaces for the enjoyment of the public and has been active in protecting the historical and vital rights-of-way network in England and Wales. It also advises the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

For more information, call (01491) 573535 or email office1@oss.org.uk

The Thames Valley branch of the **Jubilee Sailing Trust** promotes the integration of people of all physical abilities through the challenge and adventure of tall ship sailing. The trust operates two tall ships, the Lord Nelson and Tenacious. Both ships can accommodate non-disabled and disabled voyage crew, including those in wheelchairs. All crew members sail as equal and active members. The trust caters for people of both sexes from all backgrounds, aged 16 to 70-plus.

For more information, call 0118 9403477 or 0238 044 9108, email info@jst.org.uk or visit www.jst.org.uk

The Henley and district branch of the **Royal National Lifeboat Institution** was formed in 1973. Its small committee of eight has been awarded six gold badges, two bars to the gold badge, two silver and two bronze medals by the RNLI for its fund-raising efforts.

The branch raises about £25,000 annually. The fund-raising efforts over the year include a stall at Henley's May fair, sales of donated goods on the river front several times a year, supper cruises on the river, barbecues and the Big One, a car boot sale held in August.

For more information, call chairman Norman Daniells on (01491) 574781, 573341 or 035572

#### **Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens**

Advice — Citizens Advice Henley offers advice on all sorts of problems, including debt, benefits, employment, housing, immigration, relationships, discrimination and consumer issues.

Run mainly by volunteers, help is free, independent, confidential and open to everyone in the community.

You can find Citizens Advice Henley right next to the town hall, at 32 Market Place. You can also reach them by phone, for advice on 0300 3309042 or for admin/appointments on (01491) 578267. Alternatively, contact them by email on henley@osavcab.org.uk or visit

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

**Face of Henley** charity was set up in 2002 by Jane Moss and Sarah Flindall to raise money for those suffering hardship or experiencing tragedy.

Most of the donations help individuals and/or worthy causes that are not identified by larger charities, such as someone in need of a wheelchair or some financial assistance to improve daily life.

For more information, call 07968 941882 or email info@faceofhenley.org.uk

Henley Educational Trust (formerly the Henley Education Charity) has existed in one form or another since 1604 thanks to various endowments. It provides confidential educational support for schools and families in the Henley area. The trust does not actively fund-raise and seeks to continue making educational-based donations through careful stewardship of its resources.

It has 11 honorary trustees, who meet about eight times a year when they agree the broad strategy and areas of activity, including considering grants, investment and risk management policies and performance.

For more information or to apply for a grant, call the clerk, Claire Brown, on 0118 972 4575, email henleyeducationaltrust@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.henleyeducationaltrust.com

#### Henley and District Talking Newspaper

**Association** produces a weekly recording of about an hour based on stories in the Henley Standard. It serves those with visual impairments or with disabilities that prevent them from reading for any other physical reason.

For more information, call Richard Hodgkin on (01491) 573192.

**The Henley and District Housing Trust** is a small charity which provides affordable rental accommodation in the Henley area for local residents in need. The accommodation is mainly houses and bungalows in Henley and the surrounding parishes.

For more information, email enquiries.henleyhousing@btconnect.com.

**The Henley Volunteer Drivers** provide transport to hospitals and doctors' surgeries for the elderly and disabled.

For more information, call the office on Monday to Friday, 10.15am to 12 noon on (01491) 572923.

**The Henley HandyBus** uses a 14-seater bus with a tail lift to provide transport for people in the Henley area who have difficulty accessing public transport and who are members of a local club, group or organisation. Regular journeys (not excursions) are free for bus pass holders.

For more information, call secretary Robin Popham on (01491) 571974 or email info@henleyhandybus.co.uk

**Henley 60+ Social Club** has been in existence for more than 40 years and is based inside Greys Road car park. The former Henley Day Centre opened in September 1971 after a year of fund-raising in place of the old St John Ambulance Brigade hall. It is now owned by the town council.

The club offers a varied programme of



The 14-seater Henley HandyBus

entertainment, hairdressing, chiropody and meals for around 200 members and runs a social environment for anyone over the age of 60 at its building in Greys Road car park in Henley.

For more information, call Sharon Donovan or Carolynne Holms-Sharp on (01491) 574718 (between 10am and 4pm) or email henleysocial@btconnect.com

**Age UK Oxfordshire** is an independent charity offering advice, information, companionship and support with the aim of making Oxfordshire a great place to grow old in.

Its information and advice helpline answers more than 4,500 enquiries a year on a range of subjects, including staying independent at home, social and leisure opportunities, legal issues, financial issues, housing, care homes and being a carer.

Age UK also produces many guides and fact sheets on a range of topics, including fuel, rights, wills, care homes, TV licences and just about every other issue that affects older people.

For more information, call the helpline on 03454 501276 or email admin@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

**Henley U3A** (University of the Third Age) is aimed at people no longer in full-time employment but wanting to make the most of their lives.

It provides an opportunity to enjoy the things you have always wanted to do and to make new friends. You can meet up with like-minded people and pursue an interest such as art, poetry, history or music. For others it is about the social contact, for example, going on walks and outings, meeting up for lunch or attending talks.

For more information or to find out how to join, call membership secretary Ros Whittaker on (01491) 413535, or email xanadu21@sky.com or visit www.u3asites.org.uk/henley-on-thames

**The Teenage Wilderness Trust** is a Henley charity which supports students who find it difficult to engage with mainstream education.

It aims to help them regain their self-esteem and reignite the spark in them to want to learn.

Working with Path Hill Outdoors, the trust offers re-engagement courses using bushcraft and wilderness learning techniques along with practical life skills to encourage students to get back to their learning, in turn giving them a better chance at a positive future.

The trustees are Matt Bailey, Penny Lake and Michael Benster.

For more information, call 0300 111 9453, email teenwilderness@me.com or visit www.teenwilderness.org

#### Accommodation



Hurley, Berkshire SL6 5NE • 01628 823501 • info@hurleyriversidepark.co.uk	
Henley YMCA 2 Lawson Road, Henley, Oxon, RG9 1NZ	01491 411849
Hurley Riverside Park	01628 824493

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The Henley Clinic 24A Tuns Lane, Henley, Oxon, RG9 1SA	01491 573344
<u>Headway Thames Valley</u> Greys Road, Henley, Oxon, RG9 1TF www.headwaythamesvalley.org.uk	01491 411469
<u>The Berkshire Independent Hospital</u> Coley Park, Swallow Croft, Wensley Rd, Re www.berkshireindependenthospital.co.uk	0118 902 8000 ading RG1 6UZ
Henley Occupational Health P.o Box 4790, Henley, Oxon, RG9 9FP	07518 700403

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Pilates ABC Henley Classes in Henley, Sonning Common, Hurley a www.pilatesabc.co.uk	075216 99265 and Reading
<u>Studio one</u> Hayden Farm, Haydens Lane, Henley, Oxon, I www.studioone.uk.com	01491 641772 RG9 5TX
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Yoga Central Plus 15B Bell street, Henley, Oxon, RG9 1SB	01491 414067
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Hospitals	
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Belmont House, New Street, Henley, Oxon, F	RG9 2BP
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#### Pets - Insurance/Shops/Sitting

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Henley, Oxon, RG9 2EG	

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#### Photographers/Photographic Services

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#### Physiotherapists

Active VIII Physiotherapy Centre 3 West Lane, Henley, Oxon, RG9 2DZ	01491 577129
www.active-viii.co.uk	
Physiolistic Ltd	01491 598043
Henley Rugby club, Marlow road, Henley, Oxon, RG9 2JA.	

#### Picture Framers & Restorers

Jack's Gallery & Framing Service	01491 571387
36 Hart St, Henley, Oxon, RG9 2AU	

#### Places of Interest

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Stonor, Henley, Oxon, RG9 6HF	
Fawley Hill	01491 574873
Fawley, Henley, Oxon, RG9 6JA	
Greys Court	01491 628529
Greys court, Henley, Oxon, RG9 1AH	
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Southern Plant and Tool Hire Unit 10 Centenary Business, Station Rd, H www.southernplant.co.uk	01491 576063 Ienley, RG9 1DS
Playgroups	
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Harpsden Pre-school Harpsden Village Hall, Harpsden, Henley,	01491 598280 Oxon, RG9 4HH
Peppard Pre School Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, G	0118 9721419 Dxon RG4 9BT
Sacred Heart Pre-school Playgroup Greys Hill, Henley, Oxon, RG9 1SL	01491 413892
The Old Station Nursery	01491 577716

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Reading Road Post Office 22 Reading Road, Henley, Oxon, RG9 1AG	03456 112970
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Higgs Printing & Design Centre 1 Station Rd, Henley, Oxon RG9 1AD	01491 419429
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Groom design Ltd	07881 952315	
Wootton Road, Henley, Oxon, RG9 1QD		

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High Meadow House, Harpsden Woods, H	enley, RG9 4AE
Skillbond Plc	01491 413071
The Old Forge, Fawley Green, Henley, Oxo	on, RG9 6JA

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All White Handyman Service 0800 7565363 Bracken Cottage, Fawley Green, Henley, Oxon, RG9 6JA

#### Public Houses

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Nettlebed Community School	01491 641328
Nettlebed Cp School, High St, Nettlebed,	Henley, RG9 5DA
Peppard C Of E Primary School	01491 628354
Church Lane, Peppard, Henley, Oxon, RC	59 5JU
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	01491 572796
Greys Hill, Henley, Oxon, RG9 1SL	
Shiplake C Of E Primary School	0118 9402024
Memorial Avenue, Shiplake Cross, Henley	y, Oxon, RG9 4DN
Stoke Row C Of E Primary School	01491 680720
School Lane, Stoke Row, Henley, Oxon, F	RG9 5QS
Trinity Ce Primary School	01491 575887
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Secretarial Services	
Delegate Office & Conference Services Delegate House, 30a Hart St, Henley, Oxon, F	01491 579058 G9 2AL
Security Equipment/Systems	
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Burlington Entry Systems Ltd Unit 9, Van Alloys Ind Estate, Henley, Oxon, I	
Came Trade Centre Unit 9, Van Alloys Ind Estate, Henley, Oxon, I	08704 462842 RG9 5QW
Sheds	
Kidbys Summer Houses & Timber Buildings Blounts Farm, Blounts Crt Rd, Sonning Comm www.kidbys.co.uk	0118 9723380 non, RG4 9PA
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Mercers Solicitors 50 Bell Street, Henley, Oxon, RG9 2BX	01491 572138
<b>The Head Partnership</b> 64 Bell Street, Henley, Oxon, RG9 2BN	01491 570900
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#### Sportswear

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#### Theatre Groups

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Feel Good Holidays 1 Market Place Mews, Market Place, Henley	01491 41292 , RG9 2AH
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Badgemore Park Golf Club Badgemore Park Golf Club, Henley, Oxon, I www.badgemorepark.com	01491 57417 RG9 4NR
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Henley Sea Cadet Corps	01491 571159
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