



Issue: 16 October 2023

BLHS Newsletter

The monthly newsletter for Bicester Local History Society

2024 Calendar Launch

Our calendar for 2024 goes on sale this month, with an official launch at the October meeting. It will be based on a theme of Transport. The talk at that meeting will be a presentation of the photographs we've chosen and the history behind them.



This meeting will be held in the Clifton Centre on Monday 16th October at 7:30pm.

Victorian Christmas Talk

A welcome return by Tim Healey with his new talk about how Victorian innovations shaped mass society Christmas as we know it today. Before Victoria's reign, Britons were unfamiliar with Santa Claus, Christmas crackers and cards. Most people did not have holidays from work for the festive period. The wealth and technologies generated by the industrial revolution of the Victorian era changed the face of Christmas forever.

This meeting will be held in the Clifton Centre on Monday 20th November at 7:30pm.

Date Stones

Would any members like to get involved in a small project in Bicester town centre? Walking the town centre streets, taking photos, making notes and stopping for coffee is as arduous as it gets!

The Oxford Buildings Record has an on-going project to record date stones on buildings throughout the county and a small number have been added for Bicester. Have a look here to see what is included and how further records can be added: <https://obr.org.uk/date-stones>.

This is an activity that would suit a couple of members or a small group and does not have to be completed in one session, as data can be submitted piecemeal. If you don't favour dealing with the data, this can be a separate task for another volunteer.

So, if you fancy exploring the town with a purpose, let us know and we can provide guidance, if required, as to the location of stones we are aware of. Who knows? You may discover a hidden gem!

Contact Sally James: sallyjames46@hotmail.com or 01869 243804 for more information and to let us know if you want to tackle this project. OBR like to know the area you will be covering to ensure that no one else is already working on it.

Dates For Your Diary

2024 BLHS Calendar talk

16th October @ 7:30pm

Bicester Advertiser local history article

2nd November

November newsletter and Bicester Historian submission deadline

3rd November

OLHA Study Day

18th November

Victorian Christmas talk

20th November @ 7:30pm

St Edburg's Christmas Coffee Morning

On Saturday 4th November St Edburg's Church will be opening its doors between 10am and 1pm and welcoming people in to enjoy some refreshments, win a few prizes on the tombola or the raffle, and even partake in a little bit of Christmas shopping. We will be there this time, selling our calendars, books and DVDs, so it would be great to see you all there.

OLHA Study Day - A History of Shops and Shopping in Oxfordshire

OLHA study days take place every spring and autumn. Each one is based in a different location and focuses on a particular aspect of Oxfordshire's history.

The next study day, on the theme of A History of Shops and Shopping in Oxfordshire, will be held in the Methodist Church Hall, Victoria Road, Bicester, on Saturday 18th November. Places can be booked online for £14 per person, or by post for £14.40 (details below).

The day will begin at 9:30am and the morning session includes the following talks:

- An Exploration of Oxfordshire County Council's Online Heritage Catalogue and Historic Mapping Platform, by Mark Lawrence.
- The Department Store of Cape & Co, by Garth Lewis.
- Shopping in the Post-War Oxford Suburbs, by Malcolm Graham.
- Shops in Bicester and their Development to the Present Day, by Bob Hessian.

After lunch there will be a one hour guided walk around Bicester, led by Bob Hessian, titled "The Origins of the First Bicester Village".

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If possible, please book and pay on-line at <http://www.olha.org.uk/events/study-days>. This reduces administration for our volunteers, and avoids the 40p which our bank now charges for every cheque that we pay in. If you are unable to book on-line, send this form with a cheque for £14.40 per person made payable to 'OLHA' to: Liz Woolley, 138 Marlborough Road, Oxford OX1 4LS, (01865 242760, membership@olha.org.uk). Thank you.

Name(s)

Local society if applicable

Number of places at £14.40 per person Do you want place(s) on the afternoon guided tour? Yes No

If you would like an acknowledgement by e-mail, please tick this box and write your e-mail address here:

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