



Abingdon Area Archaeology and History Society

www.aaahs.org.uk

NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2021

Welcome to the Autumn
newsletter.

We are very pleased to have resumed our meetings at the Northcourt Centre Hall every third Thursday of the month.

Thanks to all who came along to our meeting in September, it was lovely to see so many of you, welcoming new members and talk in person after such a long time

One big item of news to share with you all is the change of the Society's name approved during the AGM. From now on the Society will be known as: **Abingdon Area Archaeology and History Society.**



AAHS Committee Update

The start of this new term saw two members stepping down from the Society's committee. First, we want to thank very warmly John Foreman for all that he done for the Society in his time as Chairman, in particular during one of the most difficult periods in its history. We also want to say a big thank you to Hubert Zawadzki, for being our Membership Secretary. We wish you all the best and look forward to continuing to see you in our monthly meetings.

We are looking for members interested in covering the Membership Secretary role and also to play a large role in our Society and be our next Chairman. Currently, Roger Thomas is acting as temporary AAHS Chairman and Andrew Steele as Membership Secretary.

If there is anyone, who feels able to take on one of these roles and to help the running of this Society, or would like to know more - no commitment - then please contact any member of the Committee. You will be greatly welcomed!

The Society's constitution has been updated; all members are welcome to read its content visiting our website at <https://aaahs.org.uk>

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

The next LHG meeting will be on **Tuesday 9th November 2021**. Details about the location will be sent by email.

If you are working on any aspect of Abingdon history, you may find this meeting inspirational.

This is an informal meeting. All are welcome to join in and share material and thoughts about the chosen topic with the group.

The topic is decided upon at the previous LHG meeting by those there.

We hope to keep seeing you all at the forthcoming talks.

AAHS talks for 2021-2022

We are very happy to announce that the Lambrick Lecture 2021 will take place on Thursday, 21st October 2021. The Lambrick Lecture is an Annual Lecture held in Memory of Gabrielle Lambrick, founder member of the Society.

**Every third Thursday of the month at 7.45pm
at the Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road,
Abingdon OX14 1NS**

We would like to know your thoughts about the talks offered so far so please do let us know if there is anything you think can be improved or if there is a specific topic or speaker that you would like to hear in the future. Committee Member Michael Bloom would be happy to hear any of your suggestions via email at speakers@aaahs.org.uk

Thursday 21st October 2021

Dr. Tania Dickinson (York University, retd.): "The Staffordshire Hoard" (**Lambrick Lecture 2021**)

Thursday 18th November 2021

Tony Rayner (Cholsey resident and author of books on local history): "Cholsey - A very Special Place' covering its history and notable residents such as Agatha Christie.

Thursday 16th December 2021

Ian Giles (Oxford Waits Band): live costumed performance of historical Christmas and winter folk songs and music.

Thursday 20th January 2022

Katharina Ulmschneider (Director of HEIR): "The Story of the T'ang Dynasty Camel in the Ashmolean Museum - An Example of Art Looted by the Nazis".

Thursday 17th February 2022

Timothy Walker (Oxford University): "The History of Oxford University Botanic Garden".

Thursday 17th March 2022

Nina Morgan (OU Museum of Natural History): "William Smith and the History of Geology in Oxfordshire".

Thursday 21st April 2022

Stephen Barker (Heritage Advisor): "Oxfordshire (the modern county) in the English Civil War" with especial reference to the Abingdon area.

Thursday 19th May 2022

Ed Peveler (Archaeology Officer at Berkshire Archaeology, formerly Landscape Heritage Officer, Chilterns AONB): "The Use of LiDAR in Archaeology" with especial reference to the Chiltern Hillforts Project and sites in Berkshire (**Lambrick Lecture 2022**).

Thursday 16th June 2022

Members' Evening

For more information about AAHS meeting and for details of the COVID restrictions in place at the centre, please visit our website at <https://aaahs.org.uk>

Abingdon Heritage Weekend

Thanks to all our members who participated in the Heritage Weekend on 18th - 19th September 2021 and helped to make it a huge success. This year the group offered a fascinating programme with so many activities, walks and talks. Some of these are available to view online such as the mini talk series about the archaeology of food and farming by Roger Thomas. Follow this link to view it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFMI9gBOnNQ>

Online Resources

Wondering what archaeology was found at the new housing sites on Dunmore Road? Excavation by Oxford Archaeology uncovered the remains of roundhouses and enclosures from the Iron Age, around 2500 years ago, and a trackway dating to the Roman period, around 2000 years ago, that linked Abingdon into the local Roman road network. A fuller summary and an illustrated report can be found on Oxford Archaeology's Library site at: <https://librarynew.oxfordarchaeology.com/search/Dunmore+Road+Abingdon/6096>

Any members researching the many people of Abingdon who served during the First World War would find it useful visiting the archive shared online by the Friends of Abingdon Civic Society at <https://www.abingdonfirstworldwar.uk/>

Talks

For anyone interested in WW2, Gareth Howell will give a talk recounting the history of WW2 on Friday 12th November at 7 pm at the Council Chamber, the Guildhall. Tickets are available to purchase at Abingdon Museum.

We aim to send round the Society's Newsletter three times a year. We welcome members' contributions so if you have photos, curious stories or book/place reviews, that you think other members might be interested in, please send all content by email at publicity@aaahs.org.uk or to any committee member.

Please stay safe and we look forward to seeing you soon!

AAHS Committee Positions

John Foreman (AAHS Chairman), and Hubert Zawadzki (Society Membership), have stepped down in September 2021. If there is anyone, who feels able to take one of these roles and to help the running of this Society, or would like to know more - no commitment - then please contact any member of the Committee. You will be greatly welcomed!

Abingdon Buildings and People



Virgin and Child, attributed to Alexander of Abingdon, in the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

The ABP Group is continuing to do valuable research into Abingdon's history and its people and has recently uploaded new articles available to read through the new History section of the Town Council Website at <https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/history>

These articles feature the solicitor Bromley Challenor, intellectual Peter Heylyn, the Dayrell family and the medieval sculptor Alexander of Abingdon. Read them on: <https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/history/abingdon-people>