



Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society

www.aaahs.org.uk

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2020



2020 Lockdown sign on the pavement.

Welcome to the winter 2021 newsletter. It has now been nearly a year since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of us were hopeful that the upcoming year 2021 would see a new light and bring some easing of the situation, but alas we are currently living through another lockdown. We do hope that with the roll out of the vaccine there will be a returning to some semblance of normality in the near future. We would like to thank all the membership for your support to the Society during this difficult times and we are very grateful to the speakers for their availability and adaptation in performing their talks via a new online platform 'ZOOM AAAHsVISION'.

ZOOM Meetings Programme

For the time being all Society's meetings will continue to be streamed via Zoom. All members will be sent an invitation in advance and will be admitted virtually to the meeting from 19:30 for a 19:45 start. If you have any problems with connecting please contact a member of the Committee.

LHG Meetings

Tuesday 19th January 2021

Informal open meeting. Group Theme:
'Disasters'

Tuesday 16th February 2021

Informal open meeting. The topic is decided upon the previous meeting by those present.

Tuesday 16th March 2021

Informal open meeting. The topic is decided upon the previous meeting by those present.

AAAHS Talks

Thursday 21st January 2021

"Four Generations at Fairmile"
by Ian Wheeler

Thursday 18th February 2021

"Didcot Depot"
by David Taylor

Thursday 18th March 2021

(to be confirmed)

For more information about the meetings, please visit: <https://aaahs.org.uk/>

If there is a specific topic or speaker that you would like to hear please let us know and we will try to arrange it. Please let us know if there is anything you think can be improved, we welcome any feedback from the membership.

We hope to keep seeing you all at the forthcoming talks and don't forget your hot drink!

AAHS Highlights 2020

The spread of the Coronavirus pandemic has affected greatly our life and the way we usually run the Society. As many other societies, we had to adapt to the unexpected situation and rely uniquely on the existing digital technology. The Society's meetings were successfully resumed online via Zoom starting from September 2020 in conjunction with the AGM, and followed by an interesting talk on *'The Bayworth Coal Mine Debacle'* delivered by Bob Evans. The October Zoom lecture was presented by our Chairman, John Foreman, who gave a comprehensive talk on *'The History of the Spring Road Cemetery'* with a detailed look at some of the graves there. Dr Jane Harrison kindly joined our November Zoom meeting and gave a captivating talk about the *'The Appleton Area Archaeological Project'* and shared with us their exciting finds from the archeological research. The last 2020 meeting included a fascinating talk by Martin Buckland who described who the 'Canal People' were and included an overview of the Wilts & Berks Canal. Despite the challenges, our virtual meetings attracted a good audience.



We are grateful to all members who have renewed their membership since September 2020 and we would like to give a warm welcome to 6 new members, bringing the total of the Society's members to 65. We recognise this is a challenging time but if you have any suggestion for ways to entice new members to join the Society it would be very welcome.

An highlight of 2020 was the participation of our own Jackie Smith in the making of a video tour of the Abingdon Almshouses in St Helen's Churchyard, filmed by Alistair Fear. This fascinating video was made as part of the Abingdon Heritage 2020 and is available to view on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cF0deo8JNc&feature=youtu.be>

Abingdon Buildings and People

Despite the challenges, the ABP group has been very busy the past year and managed to upload many new and revised articles on the History Section of the Abingdon Town Council website, which now contains more than 150 articles. This is an exceptional free resource on the history of Abingdon.

Below some of the most recent articles:

- **Historic Ironwork** (<https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/feature-articles/historic-ironwork>)
- **Edward Loveden Loveden** (<https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/history/people/edward-loveden-loveden>)
- **Stratton House** (<https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/history/buildings/stratton-house-50-bath-street>)
- **William Alder Strange** (<https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/history/people/william-alder-strange>)

External Online Resources & Online Talks

The internet is awash with free resources and more recently online talks useful to local researches. If you are currently working on a personal project related to Abingdon, you might want to have a look at the new Abingdon Museum blog (<https://abingdonmuseumblog.wordpress.com/>) and also some interesting talks on the new museum YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLqyOenBcgJ56cD6wFqcTGQ>).

For anyone interested, on Monday, 25th January 2021, there will be an interesting talk title: ***"The Origins of the Sarsen Megaliths at Stonehenge"*** by Katy Whitaker (PhD-researcher at the University of Reading). This is a FREE online talk offered by Combined Hertfordshire Archaeological Societies, here's the link to register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-origins-of-the-sarsen-megaliths-at-stonehenge-tickets-128777148919?aff=>

AAHS Reminder

We would like to remind that John Foreman (AAHS Chairman), and Hubert Zawadzki (Society Membership), will be stepping 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!

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

