



Thames Valley Network

## Study Day

# Historic Towns of the Thames Valley

Wednesday 17 March 2010

at

River & Rowing Museum, Mill Meadows, Henley on Thames



The Thames Valley has been a focus for people and events throughout history. There is evidence of human habitation since Neolithic times. The River Thames has been an economic resource, a means of transport, a boundary and a leisure facility, factors which define the area in which we live. This Study Day looks at the geographical and historic background to the development of towns in the Thames Valley and explores, in more detail, several of the towns that can be regarded as vital to development of the area.

The day is a spring board for an exciting project, The U3A Thames Valley Network Riverside Project. Throughout 2010 and 2011, U3As will combine to walk and study the Thames Footpath and its environs.

The Study Day programme in the form of lectures by experts drawn from universities or the U3A is:

10:00	Arrive. Registration. Coffee
10:25	Introduction
10.30	Colin Mitchell National U3A Co-ordinator for Science, Technology and Society "The Development of Towns in the Thames Valley"
11.00	Tony Joyce Chairman of the Oxford Civic Society "Dreaming Spires in the Flood Plain"
11.30	David Cliffe Local Studies Manager for Reading Borough Council "Reading, a Town on Two Rivers"
12.00	Judy Dewey "Royal Powerhouse of the Thames Valley: an assessment of Wallingford's historic role"
12.30	LUNCH
14:00	Dr.Robert Peberdy, currently working on the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire from the Bodleian Library "Henley and the River Thames"
14.30	Brian Boulter "The changing fortunes of Maidenhead"
15.00	Panel discussion with all Speakers and Questions and Answers.
15.30	Break. Tea/coffee
15.45	Launch of the Thames Valley Riverside Project by Patsy Thornton, Chairman of Wokingham U3A
16.15	Summing up / close
16.30	Finish

The venue is River & Rowing Museum, Mill Meadows, Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 1BF. There is ample parking in the Museum Car Park, and it is easily accessed by public transport. Free entry to the museum is included in the ticket which can be used on the day or within the following year.

The Study Day Fee is £15.00 includes participation in the full programme plus coffee/tea on arrival and mid afternoon. A sandwich lunch is available for £6.00. Members of U3As not affiliated to the Thames Valley Network are welcome at an additional fee.

Further information can be obtained from :  
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