

## HENLEY IN ARDEN TOWN GUIDE

GATEWAY TO SHAKESPEARE'S COUNTY

### HENLEY IN ARDEN

## HERITAGE CENTRE



Gifted to the town by the former Lord of the Manor, Joseph Alexander Hardy in the late nineties, the museum houses a wide range of historical artefacts, dating back from the Norman Conquest up to the present day. Sited adjacent to the famous Henley Ice Cream Parlour, why not enjoy a cone or a wafer then stroll around this delightful cavern of treasures and history.

Open Tuesdays to Fridays during summer months between 10.30 and 4.30, Sundays and Bank Holidays 2.30 to 4.30 pm. www.heritagehenley.org.uk

#### HENLEY IN ARDEN

#### 1100 - 2020 AD

A son of Henley, John Hamnet, wrote in his historical account, entitled *The Forest of Arden*, 'Presuming the traveller to have reached the old hostelry of the Swan at Henley-in-Arden, it will now be desirable to commence a description of that town, to enter upon an inspection of its chapel and to inquire of its objects of interest'.

This Guide sets out to do the same, forty pages or so, describing the wide range of historical buildings, artefacts and beautiful countryside that is Henley.

The famous High Street, known as the Magic Mile, boasts a wide range of restaurants to tickle the palate, Asian, Italian or just plain English fare, served in our many eating houses and gastro-pubs. Why not visit one of our welcoming hostelries, whilst sipping at a glass of wine or real ale, plan your trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick or Kenilworth, just twenty minutes or so away.

Within the boundary of the town, lies the ancient Mount, separated from the High Street by the River Alne. This was the platform for the castle built by the Normans to house the first Lord of the Manor, Thurston de Montfort, in the early eleven hundreds, which they named Beaudesert Castle. Sadly, only a few old wall stones and the remnants of the original most now remain

To reach the Mount, turn into Beaudesert Lane, which runs adjacent to St John's church, and at the rear of the building you will find the Guild Hall and Jubilee gardens, where you can sit and admire the most attractive borders filled with a variety of flowering plants. Then back out on to the lane, across the bridge, and down to St Nicholas church at the foot of the Mount.

Historians believe that this little church may well have given sanctuary to the wife and children of Peter de Montfort, who was slain along with his rebellious Baron leader, Simon de Montfort, at the Battle of Evesham in 1265.

King Henry III, the victor, it is said, wanted to exact punishment on Henley and the Lord's family after the battle. Fortuitously, his soldiers arrived too late, the family had fled to a safe haven in the north, regrettably, the perpetrators vented their anger and burnt Henley to the ground.

Less than one hundred years later, in 1346, Henley was again involved in war, this time across the Channel in France. King Edward III, knew of the skills of our local bowmen, short stocky fellows with powerful shoulders and arms, more than capable of firing up to forty arrows a minute with uncanny accuracy. He employed them at the Battle of Crecy, where their waves of arrows showered down on the foe, a storm of death from the sky which changed tactical warfare for years to follow.

Over a period of a few hundred years, the Norman conquerors integrated with the locals and together, the first regulated communities were born. Such settlements needed guidance, and in Henley, this took the form of the Court Leet. At its head, the High Bailiff who, working on behalf of the Baron, employed his band of officers to maintain law and order. The Constable, had the power of arrest and detention, the tithes or taxes, were collected by his Affearors, the best job however, was the man who made sure that the ale served in the inns, was fit for human consumption, this onerous task was given to his Ale Taster.

The Leet also controlled what would now be described as social media, through the guise of the Bellman or Town Crier. A booming, ear piercing vocalist, the Crier would stand at the Market Cross and bellow out the latest headlines for people to hear as they went about their daily business, often reaching eighty-five decibels!

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OPTICIAN 01564 79 23 34

PHARMACY 01564 79 26 45

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HUB@HENLEY 07974 573 582

TENNIS & BOWLS 07912 66 44 26 & 01564 79 52 16

HENLEY IN BLOOM 0779 157 580

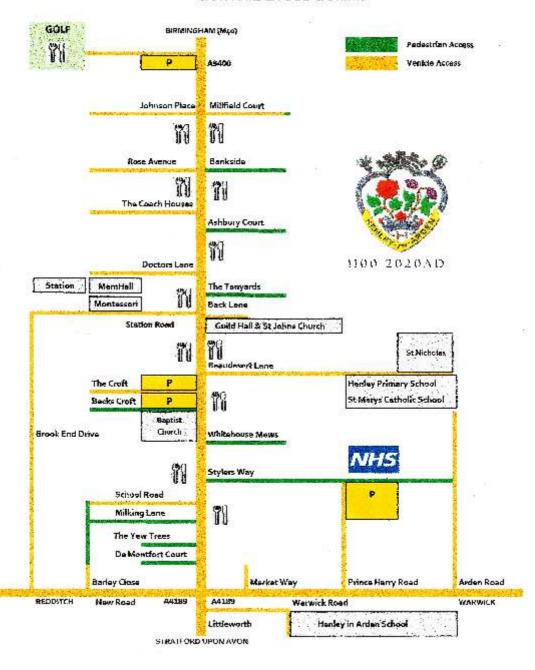
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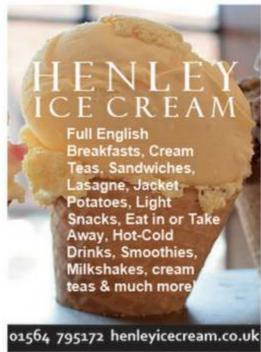
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#### Probus Club of Beaudesert

**Probus Clubs** are clubs for retired or semi-retired people from all walks of life, the name "Probus" being an amalgamation of the first three letters of the words 'PROfessional and BUSiness'. They started in the 1960's in England and are now a worldwide organisation. The aim is to bring together people in a non-political and non-sectarian way and provide them with regular opportunities to meet others with similar levels of interest and make new friends. In 2018, there were over 400,000 members in approximately 4,000 Probus clubs worldwide.

The Probus Club of Beaudesert started in 1990 as a Club for Henley in Arden and surrounding area.

#### VENUE

We meet at the Henley in Arden Golf Club, usually on the first Wednesday of every month starting at 12 noon. We have a high quality talk/presentation lasting for about an hour followed by a either a hot meal or a buffet selection.



In addition we organise outings to popular sites of interest and twice a year we have a more formal lunch. Spouses/partners/friends of club members are encouraged to participate in these social activities.

For further details of membership, please contact the Hon Secretary;

Andrew Yarwood on 01564 794079

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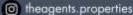










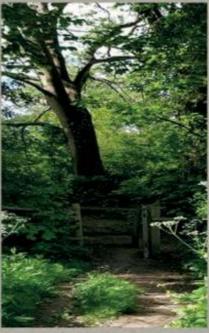




Some of the most breathtaking walks in the UK. From the Bluebell Walk in Spring to a stroll over the Mount all year round!

Photographs courtesy Vicki Vernon © 2019







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Naya Restaurant presents to you a taste of Bangladesh & India, allowing you to savour its clever blend of spices, delicate herbs, meats and vegetables.



Our aim is to satisfy our customers with a warm welcome and make them feel at home in a relaxed atmosphere, followed by quality service and excellent food. Customer satisfaction is our reputation. Simply relax and enjoy the dining experience.

For Reservation & Takeaway 01564 793 089 or 07850 938 242 nayarestaurant.co.uk







The volunteer-run Henley Community Library opens 4 days a week, Tuesday and Friday 9 to 5, Wednesday and Saturday 9 to 1. The Library offers internet access, advice and computing free to the community, provides photocopying and printing service, caters for a wide range of tastes and ages in books and spoken word, enjoys regular school and pre-school visits and offers a venue for community activities. Our summer and holiday activities for families include workshops and the annual Summer Reading Challenge. Supported by the Henley & Beaudesert Joint Parish Council, the Wootton Wawen Parish Council and the Warwickshire Library and Information Service, the Community Library opened in 2012. We may be reached at henley.community.library@gmail.com, via Facebook, at our website www.henleycommunitylibrary.org or by telephone during opening hours at

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#### INNER WHEEL HENLEY -IN ARDEN

Inner Wheel is one of the largest women's voluntary service organisations in the world with more than 100,000 members in 104 countries. The object is to make firm and lasting friendships while working together to help local, national and international charities and causes.

We'resure most of you are familiar with the Inner Wheel as there's been a club in Henley for nearly 45 years.

We meet the third Tuesday of the month, except for August, at Henley Golf Club. During the winter months we meet at lunchtime and the rest of the year in the evening. All our meetings start with a meal, then a talk by a guest speaker followed by a business meeting. We have a wide variety of speakers ranging from people of interest, local, national and international charities and health specialists.

We not only contribute to a wide range of charities by giving a donation to the invited speaker and local Henley causes, we also have a specific charity every year that we support. Last year it was the Women's Refuge in Stratford-upon-Avon, where we did a monthly shop of things they needed.

This year our charity is Kissing it Better, which helps make a difference to the care of patients and their carers'.

We also have fund raising events during the year, which are great fun, I'm sure some of you have seen the Singing Vicar or joined us for afternoon tea at 'Not quite the Ritz.'

We are a very friendly group and in recent years our membership has risen to 24, but we are always looking to increase our numbers further so we can contribute even more to the many local, national and international charities and causes to improve the lives of people less fortunate than us

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#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Beaudesert & Henley-in-Arden, Joint Parish Council [JPC] consists of twelve Councillors, led by a Chairman and Vice Chairman. They are made up of five members representing Beaudesert and seven members representing Henley. The JPC employ a part-time Clerk and Proper Officer who is responsible for administration, setting and publishing agendas and minutes of all public meetings, looking after financial obligations and liasing with members of other authorities involved in the welfare of the town. The JPC works closely with the District Council in Stratford and the County Council in Warwick and Councillors from both attend JPC Ordinary meetings regularly. The JPC also consult with the Police, Fire and local Health Authorities. The present Council were elected in May 2019 and established a formal website, which will be the platform for presenting events, documentation and financial matters for public scrutiny. Perhaps the most important feature of their work setting a budget for income and expenditure. which will form the essence of the precept which will be lodged with Stratford District Council and funded through Council Tax Demands, contributed by every householder in the joint parishes.

The structure of the Council can be found on the website along with details of the individual members and their assigned duties.

The major topics under constant scrutiny are upgrading and enhancing the areas of Henley through regular maintenance of parklands, bankside lands, trees and children's play areas. The JPC have acquired the Croft car park and details of its management will be published early this year.

This year holds several challenges for the JPC, and the issues will have an impact on the welfare and lifestyle of the residents, the JPC will work hard to ensure that all the decisions they reach are fair, transparent and for the good of all.

Visit henley-in-arden-pc.gov.uk for more information.



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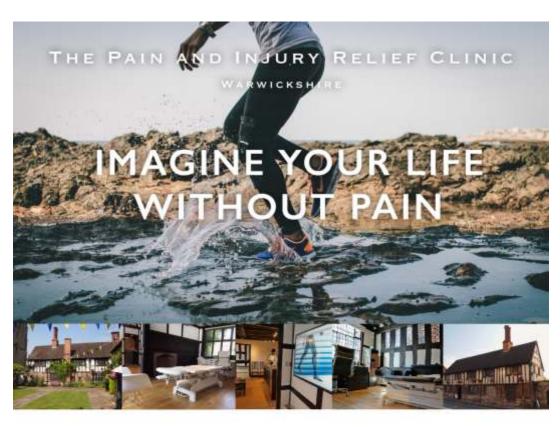
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#### MEMORIAL HALL

An amazing building, with an amazing history. The hall was opened with much pomp and circumstance and attracted a large number of minor royals, local dignitaries and high ranking military personnel, in January 1909.

In essence, this was a building, years ahead of its time, innovative and adventurous, no other small town in Warwickshire had ventured to provide a theatre, library, catering area and rifle range all under one roof. The concept, design and building of the hall was down to one local man, Doctor Ernest Nelson who won the attention of a group of local businessmen, who invested in the project. The rifle range was included at the behest of the Military who, quite fortuitously, thought it sensible to train local men in the use of firearms. They were proved right, only five years after it opened, the hall became a Voluntary Aid Detachment hospital under the supervision of Dr Nelson. In the four years of the war [WW1] they cared for over 1500 wounded and distressed soldiers, with the loss of just two souls, a remarkable feat of expertise and welfare undertaken voluntarily.

Amongst the attractions on offer during the opening celebrations was a performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* by the local playwright, William Shakespeare, casting the lead roles to the Richard Burton and Liz Taylor of the time, Mr Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton.

The hall remains the beating heart of the town and hosts such events as wedding receptions, dinner and dance evenings, amateur theatre, and indoor sports, while becoming a Montessori School on weekdays.

In 2014, our local Royal British Legion, staged a re-enactment of what the VAD hospital may have looked and sounded like during those dark years and their efforts left the town sincerely humbled by the realism they created.



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## THE FUTURE [A Comment from the Guide]

Many years ago, trading in a hamlet like Henley was relatively straight forward. A lot of what was produced by the townsfolk on the land was sold onwards to the residents via a string of shops along the High Street.

The economic uncertainty that greeted 2019 has been instrumental in the town losing a number of High Street stores and services. Though we appear to have a stable government at last, there is still much to do in order to sustain and increase the footfall that keeps this town alive.

We are limited in acreage, so finding new venues and events to attract visitors is difficult. Suggestions that we re-launch the *Henley Market*, so famous for hundreds of years here, that we set aside land owned by local benefactors for this purpose, as well as erecting temporary buildings and car parks for fairs, exhibitions, and pageants abound, but do not come to fruition.

No one wants to see Henley become a sedentary town and so we wish our traders and local government every success in campaigning and establishing such facilities in the future.



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