

THE OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE OXFORDSHIRE CANALS

Study day to be held on Saturday 14th November 2015

in the Victorian gothic splendour of Banbury Town Hall, Bridge Street, OX16 5QB

The Oxford Canal opened in Banbury to peals of bells in 1778, but took another twelve years to reach Oxford. The Wilts and Berks Canal was completed in 1810. Canals opened up Oxfordshire to trade from the newly industrialised Midlands, and linked the county to a national network. The economic benefits, such as cheap coal, are well known, but what was the impact of those who came to dig the canals, and who were these regular travellers through Oxfordshire?

9.30 COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

10.00 OXFORDSHIRE'S VICTORIAN BOATPEOPLE Dr Barrie Trinder

Dr Trinder grew up in Banbury and can recall the last generation of working boatpeople. He is Vice President of the Banbury Historical Society, editor of the Society's 34 records volumes, and author of Victorian Banbury (1982/2005). He has written many books and articles on urban and industrial history, including Britain's Industrial Revolution: the Making of a Manufacturing People, published by Carnegie in 2013.

11.00 BREAK

11.15 CANAL PEOPLE OF OXFORD: CONVICTS, COALMERCHANTS, CHURCHMEN, CAMPAIGNERS Mark J. Davies

Mark Davies is an Oxford historian and guide with a particular interest in the physical, social, and cultural importance of the waterways of the city. He has lived on a canal boat in central Oxford since 1992, is the author of six local interest books, including A Towpath Walk in Oxford, and oversaw the creation of the Oxford Canal Heritage Trail in 2014.

12.15 THE WILTS AND BERKS CANAL: RELIC AND ASSET Brian Stovold
A Look at the history and restoration of the longest derelict canal in the UK

Brian has been Chairman of the East Vale branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust for over ten years and is a Trust Director. Other interests include the Great Western Society, other canal societies, BBOWT (wildlife trust), and playing the tuba in the Wantage Silver Band. His guided walks along the canal for the Wantage Summer Festival are now legendary.

12.40 THE BENEFITS OF CANAL RESTORATION TO THE ENVIRONMENT Martin Buckland

Martin Buckland has been interested in industrial archaeology from the age of four when watching Great Western trains with his Dad at Iver, not far from the Grand Union Canal. Nearly seven decades later he is involved in the Great Western Society at Didcot Railway Centre and with the restoration of the Wilts and Berks and other canals. He is a member of Abingdon Naturalists' Society.

1.00 LUNCH

Banbury has many cafés and pubs. The Museum in Castle Quay, and the Arts Centre just outside, both have good cafés and overlook the canal. Banbury cakes are available at local bakeries.

2.15 OPTIONAL TOUR OF TOOLEY'S BOATYARD

An opportunity to take a tour of this historic boatyard at a cost £5 per person in addition to the study day fee. Only a limited number of places are available; these will be reserved on a first-come-first-served basis. It may be possible to run a second tour at 3pm if demand is high. Please indicate on the form below if you would like to reserve a place, and add £5 to your payment.

Alternatively, the Museum of Banbury has excellent displays on the history of the town, and a Historic Town Trail leaflet is available at the Tourist Information Centre at the entrance to the Museum. See over for map.

X

Booking form for The People of the Oxfordshire Canals, 14th November 2015

Please book and pay on-line at: www.olha.org.uk/?page_id=40

OR complete this form and send it with a cheque for the total amount (£10 per person) made payable to 'OLHA' to:

Liz Woolley, 138 Marlborough Road, Oxford OX1 4LS (01865 242760, membership@olha.org.uk)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BOOK A PLACE ON THE TOOLEY'S BOATYARD TOUR PLEASE ADD £5 PER PERSON TO YOUR PAYMENT

AND TICK THIS BOX []

Name(s).....

Name of local society if applicable.....

Number of places at £10/£15 each Your e-mail address.....

[] Please tick this box (and write your e-mail address above) if you would like an acknowledgement by e-mail.

BANBURY TOWN CENTRE

