

**OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (OLHA)**

**A HISTORY OF SHOPS AND SHOPPING IN OXFORDSHIRE**

**A study day to be held at Bicester Methodist Church, Bell Lane, Bicester OX26 6JQ  
on Saturday 18 November 2023**

- 9:30 Registration and tea/coffee. Please note that the entrance is at the back of the church, on Victoria Road.
- 10:00 **HERITAGE SEARCH – AN EXPLORATION OF OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ONLINE CATALOGUE AND HISTORIC MAPPING PLATFORM, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BICESTER.**  
**Mark Lawrence** is joint Manager of Oxfordshire History Centre, Oxfordshire County Council's public archive and local history library. Management of the photographic archive and the development of digital resources are two of his key concerns.
- 10:50 **THE DEPARTMENT STORE F CAPE & CO: THE STORY OF A FAMILY BUSINESS AND AN OXFORD INSTITUTION**  
**Garth Lewis** is the great grandson of Henry Lewis who acquired Cape's in 1893. Henry, his three sons and subsequently his grandson, ran and greatly expanded the business until 1972, when Oxford City Council's plans to redevelop the whole St Ebbes and the Westgate area sounded the death knell for this much-loved Oxford institution. There will be a short break after the talk.
- 11:30 **BEFORE THE SUPERMARKET: SHOPPING IN THE POST-WAR OXFORD SUBURBS**  
Former Head of Oxfordshire Studies **Malcolm Graham** will introduce a remarkable collection of photographs taken in the late 1940s and 1950s by the City Council to monitor poster sites and street advertising.
- 12:10 **SHOPS IN BICESTER AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT TO THE PRESENT DAY**  
Chairman and founder member of the Bicester Local History Society **Bob Hessian** will explain how shopping in the town has changed over the years and the challenges that retailers now face. Bob has lived in or near Bicester for over fifty years and has closely followed the changes to the town.
- 1:00 **LUNCH**  
Packed lunches can be eaten in the Methodist Church, or there are several cafés and pubs nearby in Bicester.
- 2:00 **GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF BICESTER: THE ORIGINS OF THE FIRST BICESTER VILLAGE**  
With Chairman of the Bicester Local History Society **Bob Hessian**. The tour will last approximately an hour.  
Printed guides to the landmark buildings of Bicester will be available for anyone who prefers to do their own self-guided tour of the town.

**TRANSPORT AND PARKING**

Bicester has good bus links and two train stations. Parking is available in the Cattle Market car park in Victoria Road, about five minutes' walk from the Methodist Church Hall. The fee for a whole day is £5.

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**If possible, please book and pay on-line at <http://www.olha.org.uk/events/study-days>.** This reduces administration for our volunteers, and avoids the 40p which our bank now charges for every cheque that we pay in. If you are unable to book on-line, send this form with a cheque for £14.40 per person made payable to 'OLHA' to: Liz Woolley, 138 Marlborough Road, Oxford OX1 4LS, (01865 242760, [membership@olha.org.uk](mailto:membership@olha.org.uk)). Thank you.

Name(s) .....

Local society if applicable .....

Number of places at £14.40 per person ..... Do you want place(s) on the afternoon guided tour?  Yes  No

If you would like an acknowledgement by e-mail, please tick this box  and write your e-mail address here:  
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