



OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (OLHA)

ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF THAME

SPRING STUDY DAY AND AGM

Saturday 16 May 2026

Thame Town Hall, High Street, OX9 3DP

9:30am Registration and refreshments

10:00am Welcome and introduction by Christopher Fance, Chairman of OLHA.

10:05am **The Elizabethan wall paintings from 34 Upper High Street, Thame**
Dr Kathryn Davies will explore the wider significance of these remarkable survivals and what they can tell us about everyday life in the early modern period.

10:55am **Oxfordshire in the Civil War, 1642-6, through a Thame lens**
The county played a significant part in the Civil War when Oxford became the Royalist capital in late 1642, and Oxfordshire came to share a frontline with Parliamentary Buckinghamshire. Having examined Oxford's role in the war and its impact on the county, **Stephen Barker** will then focus on its impact on Thame, equidistant between Oxford and the major Parliamentary garrison in Aylesbury. The parts played in the conflict by two women closely associated with Oxfordshire will also be explored.

11:45am Coffee break

12 noon **Oxfordshire History Centre update**
Did you know that in a 1930s church building in Cowley, Oxford, there are over five miles of historical materials? **Dr Hannah Little** will give a brief introduction to the resources available at Oxfordshire History Centre and an update on its ongoing work to collect, safeguard, and make accessible Oxfordshire's history.

12:30pm **OLHA's Annual General Meeting.** Papers will be sent to members in advance.

1:00pm **Lunch.** Thame has a number of good pubs and cafés. Packed lunches can be eaten in the Town Hall.

2:00pm **Guided walks and visits** to explore the heritage of this thriving Oxfordshire market town; finish by around 3:45pm.

Turn over for more information...

✂

If possible, please book and pay on-line at <http://www.olha.org.uk/events/study-days>. Otherwise, send this form with a cheque for £18.40 per person made payable to 'OLHA' to: Liz Woolley, 138 Marlborough Road, Oxford OX1 4LS, (01865 242760, membership@olha.org.uk). Thank you.

Name(s)

Local society if applicable

Number of places at £18.40 per person

Would you like place(s) on the afternoon guided tours/visits? Yes No

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

.....

SPEAKERS

Dr Kathryn Davies is a member of the OLHA committee. She works as an independent consultant for planning and historic environment issues, including doing casework for Historic England, giving advice on historic buildings and on wall paintings, and carrying out conservation area work. She has recently researched and published a new edition of *Artisan Art: Vernacular Wall Paintings in the Welsh Marches, 1550-1650*.

Stephen Barker is an independent heritage advisor who works with museums, universities, and other heritage organisations to design exhibitions and make funding applications. He has worked at Banbury Museum and the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, amongst others. Stephen has delivered projects for various universities including Birmingham and Oxford. He gives presentations and tours relating to the First World War and British Civil Wars.

Dr Hannah Little currently works as Senior Archivist for Oxfordshire History Centre. She joined the team last September from the Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust (Bristol), and previously worked at Bath Record Office, English Heritage Archives, Glasgow Women's Library, Glasgow University Archives, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS).

TRANSPORT AND PARKING

Thame is well served by public transport and, as in other Oxfordshire market towns, car parks fill up quickly on Saturdays, so we encourage participants to use the local bus services, including those from the Park & Ride car park at Thornhill, Oxford.

For information about parking and links to bus timetables see:

<https://www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk/visit-thame/getting-here/>.

ACCESS

Thame Town Hall is wheelchair accessible. The Upper Chamber has a hearing loop.