

History of Earley

Dates of notable local historical events

- 1066 Two Saxon thegns, Aelmar & Dou held two manors in Earley in freehold from King Edward the Confessor.
- 1086 Domesday Book records that King William the Conqueror held one manor (Earley Regis) Osbern Gifford the other.
- 1160 The de Erlegh family hold Earley Regis, Earley St. Nicolas directly from the King from about 1160 until 1362.
- 1214 First mention of the Chapel of Earley St. Bartholomew.
- 1292 John de Erlegh (alias the Whiteknight) inherits Earley Whiteknight (St. Nicolas).
- 1362 Maiden Erlegh Manor formed, partly from the Manor of Earley Whiteknights.
- 1375 Henry de Aldrington, Lord of the Manor of Earley Whiteknights, died.
- 1488 Erlegh Court comes into possession of the Fettiplace family.
- 1502 The name of Erley Maydens (Maiden Erlegh) is first documented.
- 1606 Hugh and Elizabeth Speke convey Earley Whiteknights to Francis Englesfield.
- 1759 The lane known later as the Wokingham Road, is turnpiked.
- 1820 Land allotted to the poor of Earley by the Sonning Inclosure Award as compensation for lost rights - the origin of the Earley Poor Charity.
- 1840 Last manorial court held at Whiteknights. Old Whiteknights House is demolished & the Great Western Railway line to Reading is completed.
- 1844 Earley St. Peter's Church is consecrated, leading to Earley becoming a separate ecclesiastical parish.
- 1848 Earley's first school (Earley School later renamed St. Peter's) is opened.
- 1863 Earley Station is opened.
- 1866 Earley Civil Parish is created.
- 1887 Boundary changes move Earley Rise & the eastern part of Newtown, from Earley into Reading.
- 1903 Sol Joel purchases the Maiden Erlegh Estate.

- 1927 Sol Joel gives £10,000 & 20 acres of land to the National Playing Field Association. This becomes Sol Joel Park.
- 1935 Erleigh Court is demolished & the land sold to developers, thus starting the development of North Earley.
- 1943 Earley Power Station is commissioned.
- 1947 The University buys Whiteknights.
- 1960 Maiden Erleigh House is demolished & the new housing estate developed.
- 1965 Earley Parish Council purchases Maiden Erleigh Park and Lake for £8,500.
- 1972 The M4 motorway is opened (A329 follows in 1975).
- 1974 Earley Town Council is formed.
- 1975 The Lower Earley development gets officially underway.
- 1976 Sutton Seeds move from Earley to Torquay.
- 1978 ASDA is built.
- 1986 Earley expands as the boundaries with Woodley and Shinfield are changed.
- 1987 Earley Town Council moves to Radstock House.
- 1997 Maiden Erleigh Park is designated a Local Nature Reserve (LNR).
- 2000 A plaque, outside Radstock House, was provided in December 2000 to commemorate the Millennium.