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A growing number of members choose to receive their newsletter only by email and no longer by post. To join them, please email membership@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk and instruct us to stop sending your printed copy. We will always mail a printed copy unless we receive this instruction. (See also p 16, 'E-communications')

In this issue, we revert to our usual colour scheme – the ruby livery of last November being a one-off celebration of the Society’s 40th Anniversary.

*Here, we offer 16 pages in all, including the provisional Agenda and various reports for our AGM on **Monday 18 March** (see **CONTENTS** below) so that all members might be equally well informed and, perhaps more importantly, that the AGM itself can allow for maximum time on taking questions from the floor, with all necessary papers taken as read.*

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Looking towards the future for Oxford by Peter Thompson, Vice Chairman

As the newly-elected Vice Chairman, perhaps I should introduce myself and set out some of my thoughts, and what I see as priorities for the immediate future.



I am a chartered civil engineer, and I spent my working life involved with construction, and latterly managing developments for a major commercial property investor, until 'retirement' 6 years ago. We have lived, and raised our family, in Summertown for 30 years, and are committed to the city, and to our community.

I have been involved in local Planning issues for several years, and I remain concerned that the future development of Oxford should enhance our beautiful city. I do, however, believe that we need to look forward, not backwards; that 'improvement' rather than 'preservation' should be the priority. In view of the long-term effects on the environment and on society, building development should reflect the best in design, including contemporary examples where appropriate.

'Sustainability' may have become an over-used piece of jargon, but the recognition that the earth's resources are not inexhaustible is a significant advance. Whatever one's opinion on climate change, there is no question that the depletion of finite resources will necessitate changes in our lives and particularly in our architecture. There is a perversity in our continuing consumption of irreplaceable fossil fuels to meet energy needs, whilst enormous quantities of natural energy go to waste. We have the technology to harvest this waste, and it is common sense, not 'eco-evangelism' that dictates that we should use it. We need to ensure that our political, administrative and economic systems reflect this common sense.

In the context of Oxford, and its future development, I thus believe we need to work relentlessly to improve the quality of design in the built environment, not just in terms of aesthetics and suitability and

attractiveness in occupation, but also for energy efficiency and the mitigation of environmental impact. The City Council has a vision of Oxford as a leader in sustainable development, and the Civic Society should offer enthusiastic support and encouragement. However, controversy will no doubt dog our footsteps! We already have proposals for some very large wind turbines on the perimeter of the city; these would certainly become a feature of the landscape – an enhancement, or an eyesore? Will they really generate enough energy to be worthwhile? Is their impact acceptable? Or are they merely an empty gesture? Opinions on these kinds of issue will no doubt be diverse, and we cannot avoid the debate.

Talking of a vision for Oxford, a preoccupation for many of us in recent months, nay, years has been the City Council's Core Strategy. This is the document which will set the framework for development in the city until 2026. Once adopted, the Core Strategy will effectively replace the current Local Plan as the basis on which all Planning applications will be considered.

Needless to say, the gestation of this document, which will be critical to the appearance, the prosperity and the society of our city over the next 20 years, has been long and painful. There are widely differing visions of the city of 2026. Inappropriate boundaries polarise political opinion and commercial interests present hidden agendas, making it difficult to establish a genuinely Planning-based strategy. Legal challenges have further complicated the process and the prospects of a change in central government within the next 3 months, and promised repeal of relevant legislation leave huge uncertainty. Meanwhile, no more heated debate has ensued than over the so-called Northern Gateway proposals, where woeful local consultation, and already-dire and intractable traffic and air quality issues have created a local furor. We are not on the sidelines of the debate.

Whatever happens with the Core Strategy, the importance of the outcome to the future of our city, and the quality of the lives of all of us who love it, will, I am sure, necessitate our continuing involvement. I sincerely hope that we can make positive contributions to the development of Planning policy, and that they will continue to be recognised for their objective and apolitical good sense.

These are the areas in which I have, to date, been most involved. A personal challenge will be for me to widen that involvement to the huge range of other initiatives which the Civic Society has led, helping to extend the influence and membership of the Society ever more widely across all the communities of the city.

Peter Townsend, Vice Chairman

"Forty Years of Oxford Planning: what has it achieved, and what next?"

by Mark Barrington-Ward, retiring President

Newly published, this fascinating insight into the serial successes and failures of transport and planning policies past and present is free of charge to all Society members. From Thursday 18 March, it will be available at any of our meetings or on request from the **Hon Secretary, 67 Cunliffe Close, Oxford OX2 7BJ** enclosing a C5 envelope bearing a Large Letter stamp (47p if to be posted before April, 51p from 6 April).

The President's Retirement

It has been an enormous privilege for the Society to have enjoyed the benefit of Mark Barrington-Ward's Presidency for the last five years. Mark's fine reputation is well-established in and beyond Oxford. Indeed, the Society feels that in publishing his booklet in the month of his retirement from office, due recognition can to some degree be made of his remarkable background, his diverse energies and expertise. He has most generously placed those very special qualities at our disposal and, without him, many of our most challenging undertakings would hardly have borne fruit.



On behalf of all our members, we extend our grateful thanks for his splendid encouragement and wise counsel and look forward with very real pleasure to his continuing association with us all, whenever circumstances allow.

Tony Joyce, Chairman

Report of the Planning Sub-Committee

NB Further, repeated reference to some applications is, of necessity, made in the AGM Planning Report, p13.

Update on recent applications mentioned in the November Newsletter. Several applications are still pending: the site of ex-Peers School's new **Academy Buildings in Littlemore**; alterations to **190 Iffley Road**; conversion to flats of a pub in **New Road**; development behind **St Aldates**. Refused were demolitions of **Highbank Bungalow, (8 Headley Way)** and of **46 Hythe Bridge Street**. A proposal to alter **28 Holywell Street**, and convert it to student accommodation, was withdrawn.

In November came another in a series of applications proposing drastic alterations to the charming house at **26 Lathbury Road**. This (like earlier proposals) was refused in January 2010. Thirteen student rooms were proposed at **229 Cowley Road** and promptly refused. (29 rooms had been proposed and refused in February 2009 for this house and two of its neighbours in the terrace, in 4-storey rear extensions. They were too cramped and lacking in facilities). In the High Street, Narda, a dress shop at **Nos. 67-68** closed down after a good many years. Application for change of use to a restaurant has now been permitted.

December brought plans to develop **Keble College** land on the site of the former **Acland Hospital**. The application was for demolition of most of the Hospital buildings, and two houses, **Nos. 25 Banbury Road and 46 Woodstock Road** (but retaining part of one building by T.G.Jackson). A new Quadrangle for **Keble College** is proposed but not yet decided. It amounts to 4- and 5-storey buildings fronting Banbury Road and Woodstock Road, containing 240 study bedrooms, 6 flats for Fellows, with teaching, research and office space, and parking for 27 cars and 160 cycles. Our main objections were to the large 'Research Building' fronting Woodstock Road, an uncompromising horizontal block, with a glassy blue surface.

This application was closely followed by others for massive redevelopment by **Oxford University** on part of the former Radcliffe Infirmary site (now relabelled the **Radcliffe Observatory Quarter**) and these too are still undecided. The objective is to bring together teaching and research space for Humanities and Mathematics in two massive Institutes in buildings with five storeys above ground and two below. An

underground Library is also proposed, and parking for over 2300 cycles. Entrances could be more obviously marked, made less daunting, more inviting. **NB: a model is on view in normal office hours at the Planning Office, Ramsay House, St Ebbes, (behind the BHS shop)**

The site has already been cleared of scruffy hospital buildings, revealing our familiar and beautiful **Observatory 'Tower of the Winds'** in an open setting similar to its original one. Sadly, as the huge new buildings go up, with others mooted to occupy spaces, the Tower will gradually become more hidden.

In January, **Oxford Brookes University's** proposals for their **Gipsy Lane Campus** made further progress. Last May, consent had been sought to demolish the Lloyd Building and erect on its site a new Library and Teaching building, with a lecture theatre and social facilities. Original plans for an uncompromising rectangular block 25m tall, about 50m wide x 237m long, were refused in September. An amended application included reducing the height by 3m, the width by 2m, with improved treatment of windows with louvres. The decision is still pending.

At **Nos 43A and 45 Davenant Road**, at the junction with Woodstock Road, another attempt to develop was proposed (the fifth in four years) and like its predecessors this has already been refused. The proposal sought to demolish both houses, and replace with a pair of semi-detached dwellings and a 2 and 3-storey block of 5 flats. A proposal was made to demolish some rather shabby but characterful buildings at the junction of **Walton Street, (Nos 126 – 127), and Little Clarendon Street (Nos 32-32a)**, and replace them with modern versions. This was recently refused. Hernes House Residential Home, at **3 Hernes Crescent**, was proposed to be replaced by a terrace of eight 4-storey dwellings, with four or five bedrooms. We objected to the unsatisfactory arrangement of gardens and the inappropriate relationship of these tall, cramped houses to their neighbours, amongst other considerations. Our suggestion to omit one proposed house in order to alleviate the acute congestion was ignored in an amended application.

In February a further chapter began in the saga of the sensitive **Conservation Area at Bartlemas**, just off the **Cowley Road**. A disused Nursery School here has recently been demolished, and **Oriel College**, which owns the land, plans to house 31 mature students in

three-storey buildings on the site. We are anxious that the peace and privacy of this very special Conservation Area will not be compromised by disturbance from the proposed flat roof and balconies of the main building or from the access footpaths. The decision is still pending. *NB: A model is on view in Ramsay House.*

*Gillian Argyle, Mark Barrington Ward, Kate Joyce,
Chris Rayson, Peter Thompson.*

Note: readers are reminded that the full list of monthly comments on applications, in summary form, can be viewed on the home page of our website, which is regularly updated. *Editor*

The Local Transport Plan 2011- 2030

The fourth consultation phase of developing the County's next Local Transport Plan addressed transport policies, with an expected life span of 20 years and the requirement to adapt to considerable changes – not just an increase in the population of Oxford and Oxfordshire, but carbon reduction, increased energy prices and instability in supplies, as well as an ageing population. With such challenges come opportunities – to manage travel demand, reduce the need to travel, and enable technology to help people make better informed choices.

Our response recommended that the draft policies be re-shaped to better address transport integration and traveller choice, and to ensure that travel opportunities are available to the whole population including the young and the old. Because of the considerable dominance that freight vehicles can exhibit, additional policies were recommended to address the challenges of managing and providing for freight vehicles.

We commented that while some policies were specifically addressed at new developments, such will represent only a small proportion of the built environment in the county. The major future challenge is to enable existing settlements and urban structures to adapt. Policies should facilitate this, should enable wider choice in our travel habits and should look beyond meeting our needs through travel, to new ways of working and communicating.

Given Oxford's special character as a city in which not only a good deal of public transport travel occurs, but a good deal of cycling too, our comments included a request for a stronger commitment to policies enabling people to choose to cycle, as well as to use public transport, so helping to meet environmental targets and to reduce the congestion witnessed on Oxford's roads.

The draft policies contained no references to matters on which the Society has previously commented: bus service connectivity; provision of orbital city bus services; improved connectivity between bus and rail services. We asked that these omissions be rectified. New policies will demand new skills and new thinking so we asked for staff training to equip planners and engineers for the considerable challenges ahead.

The next phase of consultation is on 'Scenarios', followed by a draft programme of prioritised schemes for the Plan to deliver. Comments are to be made on the whole draft Plan from July to October this year. *If you would like to participate in the Society's responses to the consultation, contact Paul Cullen on 01865 426805 or d_paul_cullen@ntlworld.com*

Travel Behaviour Group:

*Juliet Blackburn, Richard Bradley, Paul Cullen (Convenor),
Tony Joyce, Andrew Pritchard, Graham Smith, David Townsend*

Chiltern Railways Proposals

Chiltern Railways have now completed the next stage in their proposals for the new **Oxford to London Marylebone line**: the consultation with interested parties required by the Transport & Works Act application to the Minister for Transport for the construction and operation of the line. Within the city, the **Bicester** line passes close to much residential housing, and skirts the edge of **Port Meadow** and the **Wolvercote Conservation Area**. Whilst welcoming the improved travel opportunities, many local residents will no doubt have expressed their concerns at the possibility of increased noise, vibration and pollution from the greatly enhanced frequency of high speed trains, and will be anxious to see what mitigation measures are proposed. Much may depend on the final design of the track, and the locomotives and carriages employed. A limit of say 30mph on trains within the city boundary would hardly add more than a few minutes to overall journey times. There are also wider environmental impacts which need to be addressed. The County Council too have raised a series of concerns, mainly related to the possibility of increased vehicle congestion around the new **Water Eaton Parkway** and other stations on the line, car parking arrangements at the stations and station design. All these and other considerations are expected to be assessed in a Public Enquiry later in the year.

Tony Joyce, Chairman

Transport Notes

There are now direct buses to the John Radcliffe Hospital from all 5 Park & Ride sites. Seacourt has joined the others with service 100 operated by R H Transport and this operator has also introduced service 200 from Redbridge. Oxford Bus Company's X13 from Abingdon via Redbridge and Marston to the JR has now been supplemented by service X23 which runs more directly to the hospital via London Road and Osler Road. This service runs from/to Abingdon during the morning and evening peak hours. The combination of X13, X23 and the 200 together gives 7 buses an hour between Redbridge and the JR, which should cater for most appointment times, although it is unfortunate that they are not evenly spaced! Incidentally, the 100 from Seacourt runs via Banbury Road and Marston Ferry Road, providing a useful link to the railway station.

Meanwhile, big changes are in prospect at the railway station. Although, ideally, we would have a new station at Oxpens, it is not deemed to be financially viable though Network Rail intends to provide much-needed extra capacity by building a new platform to the south of Botley Road, on the edge of the long-stay car park. This will have its own entrance in the car park and will also be connected to the main station building by a new, wider, pedestrian and cycle bridge for both rail passengers and the general public. This new platform will be used for trains to the south, starting and/or terminating at Oxford.

At the other end of Platform 1, Chiltern Railways propose a new two-platform station, on the site of the disused Parcels Depot and short-stay car park, to serve their alternative route to London Marylebone via Bicester. Their plans also include a new Parkway station at Water Eaton which will be an attractive alternative to Oxford station for North Oxford, Kidlington, and a wide swathe of north-west Oxfordshire. This will mitigate the loss of parking at Oxford station for the new platform south of Botley Road.

This new platform is to be part funded by the County Council's "Access to Oxford" project which also includes changes to the station forecourt. Different options are being considered for the layout of bus, taxi and drop-off locations but none of this will increase the space available.

One disadvantage to the new arrangements will be that passengers from Bicester and Islip wishing to travel on beyond Oxford towards Reading will have a longer walk between trains.

David Townsend, Transport Secretary

A note to members on the presentation of Programme Notes and Calendar overleaf

In this extra full, 16 page issue, it has not been possible to position the programme notes and calendar as a centre page pull-out, as was the case in the previous, November issue.

The **Booking Form** is, this time, a separate enclosure for those who need it. Anyone with Internet access can download a copy from oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk

For your convenience, and while Executive Committee evaluate feedback received on the future provision of the yellow programme card, the **Programme Calendar column** immediately overleaf is presented as a cut-out item, for those who like to display this information on a noticeboard.

Feedback from the November issue no 114 has been most useful and is in circulation to, and under careful consideration by, Executive Committee as we go to print. Thank you to all who responded.

Editor





Charity no 1116739

PROGRAMME CALENDAR

Saturday 15 May, 10.30 am

Bernwood Meadows Walk

Led by **Caroline Jackson-Houlston**, botanical artist and Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust volunteer

Tickets £4; bookings by 1 April

Wednesday 26 May, 8 pm

Finding Moonshine: A Mathematician's Journey through Symmetry

A talk by **Professor Marcus du Sautoy**, mathematician, author and broadcaster

**Magdalen College Auditorium,
Longwall Street**

Tuesday 22 June, 8 pm

The Bodleian Libraries: Buildings for the 21st Century

A talk by **Dr Sarah Thomas**, Bodley's Librarian and Director, Oxford University Library Services

**Magdalen College Auditorium,
Longwall Street**

Wednesday 4 August, 2.30 pm

Visit to Merton College

An illustrated talk on the history of the college by **Julia Walworth**, Research Fellow and Librarian – followed by tea and coffee, and a guided tour

Tickets £7; bookings by 1 April

Thursday 2, Monday 13 OR

Wednesday 22 September, all 6 pm

Town and Gown Pub walk

Blue Badge guide **Alastair Lack** leads a tour of some central city pubs, all with stories to tell.

Allow 2 hours

Tickets £4; bookings by 1 April

Saturday 25 September, 10.30 am

Visit to the New Biochemistry Building

A talk by **Dr Jonathan Hodgkin**, Professor of Genetics, Oxford University, and a Fellow of the Royal Society. Followed by guided tour. Refreshments/lunch available in the department café

Tickets £7; bookings by 1 April

Contact for bookings/tickets only:

**Alan Hobbs, 66 Southfield Road, OX4 1PA
tel/answerphone 01865 248105**

PROGRAMME MAY – SEPTEMBER

PUBLIC TALKS – ALL WELCOME

no pre-booking, members free, non-members £4

Wednesday 26 May, 8pm

Finding Moonshine: A Mathematician's Journey through Symmetry

Professor Marcus du Sautoy is Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University and a well known mathematician, author and broadcaster - his four part series on the history of maths was recently televised. In this talk, Professor du Sautoy will be presenting mathematics in a way that can be understood by all.

*Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street
coffee 7.30 pm, talk 8 pm*

Tuesday 22 June, 8pm

The Bodleian Libraries: Buildings for the 21st Century

Dr Sarah Thomas is Bodley's Librarian and Director, Oxford University Library Services. Previously she was the University Librarian at Cornell University. Much of her focus for the last 25 years has been in the areas of the impact of information technology on libraries, innovations in scholarly communication and developments in library architecture. She will touch on all three in her talk on the future of the Bodleian in the 21st century.

*Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street
coffee 7.30 pm, talk 8 pm*

MEMBERS ONLY VISITS & WALKS

tickets required, bookings by 1 April

Saturday 15 May, 10.30am

Bernwood Meadows walk

Bernwood Meadows, between the villages of Stanton St John and Oakley, is one of over 80 nature reserves owned or managed by the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust. These ancient 'ridge and furrow' meadows, full of wild flowers and insects, are surrounded with hedgerows and woodland. **Caroline Jackson-Houlston, a BB and O Trust volunteer and botanical artist**, will lead a walk round the two meadows and two ponds, home to more than 100 plant species and famous for its butterflies. Allow up to two hours.

Tickets: £4

Wednesday 4 August, 2.30pm

Visit to Merton College

Merton College is one of the oldest, richest and most distinguished of Oxford's colleges, with the first college chapel to be built in the city and a current reputation for academic prowess. **Julia Walworth, Research Fellow and Librarian**, will give an illustrated talk on the history of the college, to be followed by tea and coffee. Three groups will then tour the gardens, the quadrangles and the chapel in rotation.

Tickets: £7

Thursday 2, Monday 13 or Wednesday 22 September, 6pm

Town and Gown Pub walk

Oxford has more churches and chapels than almost all other English towns and cities - the same is true of its number of pubs. Some are traditionally 'Town' pubs and others are 'Gown' pubs: and all have stories to tell and characters to recall. There are also pubs no longer in existence that have played a part in Oxford's history, such as the Swyndelstock Tavern near Carfax and The Catherine Wheel in Broad Street. Join **Alastair Lack**, a Blue Badge guide for the city of Oxford, on a tour of some central pubs in the city. Allow up to two hours.

Tickets: £4

Saturday 25 September, 10.30am

Visit to the New Biochemistry Building

This new Oxford University building, designed by Hawkins/Brown Architects, was awarded an RIBA prize in 2009 and is already considered by many architects to be the best modern building in Oxford. **Dr Jonathan Hodgkin, Professor of Genetics at Oxford University and a Fellow of the Royal Society**, will give a talk on the design and construction of the new building, and also the artwork that forms an important feature. Following the talk, groups will be taken on tours by members of the department. The department cafe will be open for refreshments and for lunch.

Tickets: £7

DIARY DATES

Saturday 9 or 16 October 2010, 10.30am

Visit to Pusey House in St Giles

**Compiled by Programme Group members
Martin Cuss, Keith Dyke, Alan Hobbs and
Alastair Lack (Convenor)**



Members will know of the special relationship between the Museum of Oxford and OCS, and the invaluable work done there by our volunteers (see the Chairman's Report, p 11, para 2). A warm welcome awaits anyone able to help, even only occasionally – please contact **Vanessa Lea, Museum Operations Officer, Museum of Oxford, St Aldates, OX1 1DZ (T 01865 252086)**.

Forthcoming events include:

A History of Pegasus Theatre until 3 April 2010

A unique Oxford history researched, designed, produced and created by young people from the **Oxford Youth Theatre Production Company**.

Eggbert Family Day

Tuesday 6 April: 10 am – 4.30 pm

A special workshop for families with younger children to meet Abingdon author of the Eggbert's Adventures series, **Paul Gustafson**; listen to stories, make an Eggbert character and more.

Reminiscence Groups

A brand new initiative, led by **Helen Fountain**, Reminiscence Officer, who brings along a collection of museum objects to discussion sessions designed to encourage the sharing of memories and stories.

The Searchers

This group of over 50s meets to carry out its own choice of research topics and is currently preparing an exhibition of work.

Full details available from the website

museumofoxford.org.uk

or by telephone 01865 252086

Annual General Meeting, Thursday 18 March 2010 (Talk 7 pm, AGM 8 pm)

The 41st Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place in the **Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street**. It will be preceded by a talk by Jennifer Wood, Director of Estates, Oxford University, on plans for the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. The talk will commence at **7pm**. Refreshments will be available from **6.30 pm**.

The Provisional Agenda for the meeting is given below. Copies of the final agenda are available, on request, from the Hon Secretary or at the meeting.

Provisional Agenda

1. **President's Opening Remarks**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Monday 16th March 2009**
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
5. **Chairman's Report**
6. **Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2009**
7. **Planning Report**
8. **Environment Report**
9. **Trustees' Report to Charity Commission**
(A summary of the fuller reports above, for submission to the Charity Commission as required by law)
10. **Election of President**
Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO. Proposed by the Chairman on behalf of the Executive Committee.
11. **Election of Officers for 2010-11**
12. **Election of Committee Members for 2010-11**
13. **Any Other Business of which notice has been given**
14. **Remarks by New President**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Monday 16th March 2009, 8.30 pm Stelios Ioannou School for Research in Classical & Byzantine Studies, 66 St Giles

Present: In the Chair – Mark Barrington-Ward (President), Tony Joyce (Chairman), Gordon Balme, Keith Dyke, Sheila Glazebrook, Liz Grosvenor, Kate Joyce, Ingrid Lunt, Pauline Martin, Vernon Porter, Christine Thompson, Ros Weatherall, and approximately 95 members.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

In welcoming Members to the Annual Meeting the President referred to the battles of the last 40 years and to successes such as the establishment of Park & Ride. He also referred to current successes such as OxClean and the evolving involvement with the City Museum. He also commented on the venue for the meeting as an example of new architecture adding to the old.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Liz Storrar, David Townsend and 19 members.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (8th MARCH 2008)

The Minutes were AGREED as a correct record and signed as such by the President.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The President reminded members that the Chairman's written report had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. In speaking to his Report, the Chairman, Tony Joyce, mentioned the continuing campaign to secure Town Green status for the Warneford Fields and that a Town Green in Oxpens was now proposed. Looking ahead to 2009-10 the Chairman pointed to the City Canal Partnership, and consultations on the Core Strategy. He expressed delight that so many had volunteered to assist at the Museum of Oxford and hoped that a long term solution could be found. The Chairman's report was adopted by acclamation and Tony Joyce was thanked by the President for the enormous amount of work he did for the Society.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT and ACCOUNTS for 2008

Gordon Balme (Treasurer) reported that this year's accounts showed a smaller surplus than in 2007. Income, excluding OxClean, was little changed. Expenditure had risen to reflect the fact that the Society is doing more and communicating more. He drew attention to the increase in Corporate Members and urged everyone to persuade their friends and business partners to join us. The Accounts tabled by the Hon Treasurer and including the report of the Independent Examiner were approved by the meeting nemine contradicente. The President thanked the Hon Treasurer for his work and his report.

7. PLANNING REPORT

The Planning Secretary, **Kate Joyce**, introduced the report, circulated previously to members, on the work of the Planning Group. A questioner was told that no response had been received to our protests over the proposals to demolish buildings at the Oxford Academy Site. The President thanked the Group for their work and report and Kate Joyce for having written all 118 letters of comment.

8. ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2007

The Environment Secretary, **Ros Weatherall**, thanked everyone who had been involved in the work described in her written report. She highlighted the need for new blood to help run OxClean and the Streets for People campaign. The President thanked Ros Weatherall and all her colleagues.

9. TRUSTEES REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION

The contents of the formal report to the Charity Commission were noted.

10. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO was proposed by the Chairman on behalf of the Executive Committee and it was agreed, by acclamation, that Sir Hugo should be elected to serve for an initial term of ten years. Sir Hugo thanked the Society for the invitation which he was delighted to accept. He promised to be a loyal and active Vice President.

11. ELECTION of Officers 2008-9

Chairman – **Tony Joyce** (proposed by Sheila Glazebrook, seconded by Stuart White)

Treasurer – **Gordon Balme** (proposed by Stuart White, seconded by Liz Grosvenor)

Hon Secretary – **Vernon Porter** (proposed by Sheila Glazebrook, seconded by Liz Grosvenor)

All of the above were elected nemine contradicente. The President pointed out that no nomination has been received for the position of a Vice Chairman and urged members to contact the Chairman or Hon Sec with any suggestions. The President thanked **Cllr Stephen Brown** for his contribution as Vice Chairman and **Vernon Porter** for his continuing work to ensure the smooth running of the Society.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Hon Secretary referred to an appeal from the Civic Trust for individuals to join as Members. In response to a question from a Member, the Chairman assured the meeting that the Society would indeed respond to the County over the proposals to remove bus stops from Queen Street. He said that good 'professional' discussions were continuing on how the grand design of 'Transform Oxford' could be fitted into our medieval city. The Society was striving to represent the interests of those living in the city. Another member drew attention to the number of contractors' vehicles parking in Radcliffe Square. It was agreed that they spoil an attractive space. There being no further business the President thanked members for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9:15 pm.

Note: Prior to the Annual General Meeting, members were given a presentation by **Peter Sloman**, Chief Executive of Oxford City Council on the challenges facing the City. The presentation is available separately. Following the talk Mr Sloman answered questions on The Oxford Museum, Unitary Status, Social Housing, the next steps on the Core Strategy, improving the Street Scene. Mr Sloman was thanked most warmly by the Chairman for his presentation and answers to questions from the floor.

Chairman's Report

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope you consider that in 2009 we celebrated the Society's fortieth anniversary in fitting style. We were blessed with fine weather for our summer party in the Botanic Garden followed by a delightful talk on its history from the *Hortus Praefectus*, **Timothy Walker**. Then in September our **President Mark Barrington-Ward** gave us his memorable lecture: *40 Years of Oxford Planning. What has it achieved and what next?*, which now takes its place as the latest in our succession of occasional publications. Our day conference *Oxford Architecture: The Last 40 Years* followed in the entirely appropriate setting of **St John's College Garden Auditorium**. For me, perhaps the most impressive memory of a fascinating day was listening to **Sir Richard MacCormac's** reflections on architectural design in the very place which he had created for just such an occasion.

These special events were supplemented as usual by a full programme of other talks, visits and walks, organised now by **Alastair Lack** with his team of assistants, to whom we are most grateful. The continuing rise in our membership owes much to the quality and variety of our programme.

Under **Pauline Martin's** dynamic leadership as Editor, we have also marked this anniversary by extending and improving the Newsletter and the other ways in which we communicate with members, now increasingly electronically where convenient.

You will see from the **Planning Sub-Committee's** report that this has been another typically busy year on the planning front, with some very major proposals to examine, and a busy sequence of pre-application discussions also. Oxford University has continued to develop its plans for the **Radcliffe Observatory Quarter**, and to make rapid progress in the construction of the **Bodleian Library's** new depository at Swindon. This should permit the redevelopment of the New Bodleian, and let us hope a reconsideration of the environment in **Broad Street**, which has been in abeyance for too long. The Colleges too have been active in advancing improvement plans.

Oxford Brookes has twice revised its proposals for its Gipsy Lane campus, following much criticism of the earlier plans. At the time of writing, the future of its third design remains to be determined. On the **Churchill Hospital site**, the major development of the Cancer Centre has been completed, adding to the complexities of the traffic congestion in the area. Consideration of the **city's Draft Core Strategy** continued throughout the year, from the Inspector's initial hearings which required revised proposals, through the detailed consideration of the many lengthy submissions, to further postponed hearings, and the legal challenge to the South East Plan. At present, the outcome remains uncertain.

The **Oxford City Canal Partnership** was formed early in the year, with the Society as one of the inaugural members. The Partnership seeks to promote a vision for the canal as an environmental resource, a focus for the community and a contributor to economic life in the city. Its strategic plans should include ideas for the future of the Jericho Boatyard and the former Canal Basin.

We are one of the larger Civic Societies in the country, and an active member of the **Association of North Thames Amenity Societies**, a constituent grouping within the now defunct Civic Trust, to which we were formerly affiliated. During the year, articles in the Newsletter have kept members informed of the debate around a possible successor organisation to the Trust. The Executive Committee have carefully considered this, and the Hon Secretary has represented our views in the national discussions, out of which the new *Civic Voice* is gradually emerging.

One of the most worthwhile of the organisations which we support is the **Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board**. With **Eda Forbes** as its tireless secretary, the Board has had another full year, unveiling eight further plaques, four within the city boundary, and four in the wider county.

Through the unremitting efforts of the **OxClean Group**, the March Spring Clean weekends, and all the other initiatives to reduce litter and increase awareness of the littering problem go from strength to strength, with more clean-up groups participating each year. These activities are now embedded in the City Council's programme, and the Group continues to expand their contacts to ensure increasing success in the battle to achieve a cleaner, greener city.

At the City Council's request, we have also taken on responsibility for the coordination of the **Streets for People** campaign. Our efforts this year assisted thirteen groups to arrange street events, and plans are well under way to increase this number significantly in 2010, and extend the scope and purpose of this initiative which stems originally from European Mobility Week.

The **Travel Behaviour Group** has had an increasingly busy year. From the early consultations with the County on the Transform Oxford proposals, through discussions on various detailed road schemes, we have moved to all the preparative work on the Local Transport Plan 3, and the implementation of Access to Oxford, of which improvements to Oxford Station are an important component.

Early in 2009, the future of the **Museum of Oxford** was threatened when the City Council halved the Museum budget for 2009-10 and proposed closure from April 2010. We are most grateful to all those members who rallied round to support our campaign for the retention of this vital part of the presentation of the City's cultural heritage, particularly those who have volunteered to assist the reduced staff. Without them the Museum could not remain open. We still need more help if the rota is to be fully supported, and I appeal to anyone who can offer some occasional time for this interesting and rewarding work to put their name forward. A steering group has now been set up to explore a more stable and sustainable future. So far, a continuing budget for 2010-11 has been proposed, and we are involved in the work which is proceeding on the longer term prospects. We expect this to be a continuing commitment for the Society.

I think it must be clear that all the Society's activities could not take place without the great deal of time and expertise given to them by a group of remarkably dedicated and gifted members. I should like particularly on your behalf to welcome those who have joined the Executive Committee or one of its sub-groups this year, and also all those who assist at meetings and in support in a multitude of ways.

Finally, I draw your attention to the Treasurer's Report, which shows that our finances continue in a healthy state. Your Committee remains alert to the demands which our current and future activities place on our funds.

Tony Joyce

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees

Report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 31 December 2009 which are set out on the following page.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and examiner

As the trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(d) of the Act. The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the trustees and comparison of the Accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence which would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the requirements of the Act, have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Brian Causby CPFA

21 January 2010

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2009

| 2008 | INCOME | 2009 | 2008 | EXPENDITURE | 2009 |
|------------------|--|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 7,855.56 | Subs/Donations | 7,602.23 | 3,221.04 | Newsletter | 4,116.45 |
| 5,529.40 | Programme | 10,360.90 | 4,809.96 | Programme | 6,176.83 |
| 314.61 | Meetings | 329.10 | 1,798.71 | Meetings | 2,556.18 |
| 1,492.66 | Cards | 1,701.00 | 875.18 | Cards | 1,540.49 |
| 5.00 | Visions book | 53.00 | 961.00 | Publications | 184.10 |
| 1,395.70 | Gift Aid | 1,469.52 | 1,740.88 | Stamps, telephone, stationery, etc | 678.00 |
| - | Streets for People/Walk and Talk | 500.00 | 215.00 | Civic Trust/ ANTAS | 215.00 |
| 1,250.90 | CCLA Fixed Interest Fund for Charities | 311.09 | 246.09 | Blue Plaques | 301.62 |
| 620.00 | Corporate Subscriptions | 1,110.00 | 105.00 | Planning papers | 90.00 |
| 1,015.00 | Oxclean | 3,205.00 | 310.00 | Insurance | 310.00 |
| | | | 192.00 | Hire of Committee Room | 288.00 |
| | | | 80.00 | Audit fee | 80.00 |
| | | | 129.86 | Miscellaneous | 62.26 |
| | | | 500.00 | Donations | 250.00 |
| | | | 57.00 | Schools Litter Award | 82.24 |
| | | | 121.00 | Chairman's allowance | 130.00 |
| | | | 1,871.03 | OxClean | 5,050.04 |
| | | | 202.00 | Subscription Refunds | - |
| | | | - | Streets for People/Walk and Talk | 743.24 |
| | | | 1,130.76 | Membership services | 1,039.35 |
| | | | 912.32 | Excess of Income over Expenditure | 2,748.04 |
| 19,478.83 | Total Income | 26,641.84 | 19,478.83 | Total Expenditure | 26,641.84 |

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2009

| ASSETS | | |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| 22,311.15 | CCLA Fixed Interest Fund for Charities | 24,872.24 |
| 511.95 | HSBC Current Account | 692.30 |
| - 6.60 | Less unrepresented cheques | - 692.30 |
| 22,816.50 | | 25,564.54 |
| | Represented by: General fund | |
| 21,904.18 | Balance 1 January 2009 | 22,816.50 |
| 912.32 | Plus: Excess of Income over Expenditure in Year | 2,748.04 |
| 22,816.50 | | 25,564.54 |

Report from the Planning Sub-Committee on applications dated Jan - Dec 2009

The team has continued to look at planning applications fortnightly, choosing about half of them for thorough scrutiny over a morning in Ramsay House. The total number of applications registered over the year 2009 was 2,834 (compared with 2,703 in 2008; 2,912 in 2007; 2,661 in 2006 and 2,553 in 2005.) We objected in writing to 87 applications. Decisions on proposals to which we objected were: 38 permitted; 24 refused; 12 withdrawn and 13 still pending. To illustrate how varied our planning applications can be, a few are selected here for description.

Several large and complex applications have been made by the Universities. In March permission was obtained to demolish most of the old *Radcliffe Infirmary* buildings between Woodstock and Banbury Roads, while retaining the fine group of 'Listed' buildings comprising the original Infirmary, the Chapel, the Outpatients building and the Triton Fountain. Detailed plans for new buildings were submitted in December 2009. They differed considerably, and disappointingly, from the proposed Master Plan for the site described in last year's AGM Report as freely allowing views of the **Observatory Tower** in an imaginative plan with radiating alley-ways centred on the Tower of the Winds. Instead four and five storey blocks are proposed, to contain the huge Institutes of Humanities and Mathematics, and they will be daunting, overbearing and rather monotonous. However their large size seems inevitable when they are expected to house so much. Just across the **Woodstock Road** from this proposal, land owned by **Keble College** is also about to be developed. Much of the former **Acland Hospital** and other buildings, including **No 46 Woodstock Road**, would be demolished and replaced by a new Keble College Quad on four and five storeys, with 249 study bedrooms, along with another large building for research and teaching. It is not at all clear how well the Keble College buildings and those on the former Radcliffe Infirmary site will co-ordinate with one another.

In Headington, **Oxford Brookes University** has presented plans for a new Student Centre, Library and other facilities on the Gypsy Lane Campus, all to be housed in a vast building over 200m long and about 25m tall. These plans met with refusal, and amendments are now being considered. **Ruskin Hall of Ruskin College in Dunstan Road, Headington**, has obtained permission for alterations and additions to accommodate more students.

In **Cowley Road**, proposals for student accommodation have fared less well. To the rear of **Nos. 229, 231, and 233**, 4-storey extensions have been added making 13 bedrooms in each of the terrace houses. Application was made for change of use from dwelling or guest house to student accommodation, 39 study bedrooms in all, with shared kitchens and bathrooms but no common rooms. Close behind these houses, another building was proposed for 9 further bedrooms. All were refused on grounds that this student provision would be too cramped and inadequate. Six months later, a repeat proposal to convert the rear extension of **No. 229** to 13 bedrooms was also refused.

An interesting proposal was put forward by the **Churchill Hospital** to build a 'Maggie Centre' off Old Road, Headington, and this has been permitted. It is one of a national series of such buildings close to hospitals treating cancer patients, and intended as support centres for patients and their families. A small single-storey building, it has an organic form with a low tent-like roof, standing on stilts on sloping land and enveloped by trees. Its peaceful woodland character should indeed be therapeutic, although regrettably it slightly infringes the important wild-life corridor along the **Boundary Brook**. Another unusual building is, chameleon-like, about to change its character yet again. Starting life as a (probably) seventeenth century town house, **No.28 Holywell Street** became Blackwell's Music Shop, an unusual and charming structure which was awarded a 'Listing', with stairs from ground-floor to basement spiralling around a glass-walled well which brought daylight from above. The building changed its use to a Restaurant for some years, but is now about to become part of the **Back Quad of Wadham College**, accessed from the back. Upper floors will be demolished and rebuilt as student accommodation with external and internal staircases, walkways and pergolas. It is good to know that bookcases will be reinstated.

We continue to try to remain vigilant over several special buildings whose futures are still uncertain. One is **26 Lathbury Road**, a house built in Arts and Crafts style in dark-red brick and tiles with low eaves, which give it a 'cottagey' character. It has undergone many alterations, once had a chapel, but it still retains historical interest and charm. Over several recent years a series of proposals for it have been made, which so far have been refused or withdrawn, to demolish, alter, extend or divide the house into two or three dwellings, or to build new modern houses close up beside it. Of rather different concern is the **Bartlemas Conservation Area**, hiding just off the Cowley Road. Accessed by a country lane, this comprises a group of well-preserved medieval stone buildings in a green setting of trees: a Leper Hospital (now a farmhouse), a Chapel and a second farmhouse. Possible overdevelopment on the site nearby of a former school threatens its unique peaceful and private atmosphere.

Certainly Oxford's planning scene in 2009 has been varied and interesting, and it seems unlikely that it will be any the less so in future years. *Gillian Argyle, Mark Barrington-Ward, Kate Joyce, Chris Rayson, David Townsend, Peter Thompson*

Environment Group Report on Activities in 2009

OxClean co-ordinated a second Spring Clean in March 2009. This again was a great success, with almost 100 groups registered following extensive publicity in The Oxford Times and elsewhere. Afterwards, we identified a failure to deliver equipment on time, so we set to and raised funds to acquire 400+ litterpickers to be offered free to groups registering for Spring Clean 2010. The intention is that groups are equipped to carry out more frequent litterpicks, at times to suit themselves. By the end of 2009, registration for Spring Clean 2010 was already exceeding previous numbers.

Much litter in Oxford ends up in the rivers, so we supported the River Thames Society in organising a waterways clean-up from boats, in October - to be repeated in April 2010. We continue to work with Oxford schools giving annual awards for clean sites, and are trying ways to make contact with students of language schools. Finally, we are stepping up pressure on the various authorities to do something about littering of the bypass and main roads around Oxford.

The city and county are producing a new Streetscene manual, which will cover both design and maintenance of the streets in the city centre. Maybe we will get more and better litterbins. OxClean are also working with the new City Centre manager on cleanliness of the streets and supporting the city's new 'Cleaner Greener Oxford' campaign.

'Oxford Streets for People'

The city council approached us to lead a campaign called 'Streets for People' around European Mobility Week and In Town Without My Car day (22 September). The purpose of the campaign is to encourage people to use streets for social purposes, in addition to their transport function. Using some of the OxClean experience, we communicated with residents' groups and developed a website to help with formalities like street closure and insurance, resulting in 13 street parties and events. Feedback was encouraging. The event will be repeated in 2010 with - we hope - many more events taking place.

Travel Behaviour Group

The Bus Connectivity document was launched in February, with evidence emerging that people have read it and absorbed some messages. In the spring, we commented extensively on stage 1 of Transform Oxford, and think we may have had some influence as the county has decided to look again at Frideswide Square before going on to stage 2 which would have closed George Street, which we think won't work. We await news of changes to the bus network following news that the bus companies are at last allowed to talk to each other, and hope they manage to close the 'Cornmarket gap' which at present requires long walks across the centre to change buses.

The county started work in the summer on developing its next Local Transport Plan (LTP3); the second of six stages of consultation ended in December. The travel group is also being consulted about potential changes to the forecourt and cycle bridge at Oxford's railway station.

Ros Weatherall, Secretary

Annual Report of the Trustees of the Society for year to 31/12/2009

(Note: this is a summary of the activities of the Society for submission to the Charity Commission as required by law)

During 2009 the Society celebrated its 40th anniversary with an enhanced series of very well attended events, culminating in a day conference: "Oxford Architecture – The Last Forty Years" attended by over 150 members and guests. **Membership** continued to rise to a year end total of 971.

The Planning Sub-Committee continued to meet fortnightly, scrutinising as usual around half of all planning applications – increased this year to 2834, including important proposals from Oxford University, Oxford Brookes University and some Oxford Colleges. Written comments were submitted on 87 applications. The important service of advising individuals on their planning problems was maintained.

Once again, the Sub-Committee devoted considerable time to pre-application discussions, consultations with city and county council officers during the development of new plans, verbal representations at the City Council's Area and other Committees, and at Appeal Hearings. Additional involvements this year were with the public examination of the City's Proposed Core Strategy (still not resolved) and with the City's Regeneration Framework.

We have participated in the efforts to replace the defunct **Civic Trust** through the Civic Societies Initiative and have continued to support the Association of **North Thames Amenity Societies**.

Our involvement with **Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board**, on which we are represented and for which we provide the administrative support, has continued. This year eight new plaques were unveiled.

The **OxClean** group repeated the success of 2008's Spring Clean weekend with a similar, but even more effective, event on March 6/7th. With around 100 local groups of widely differing composition participating, the weight of general litter collected throughout the city increased by 25% and of recyclables by 37%. This campaign is now firmly established in the **City Works** programme, and enjoys strong publicity through our media partner **The Oxford Times**. In addition, the group maintains close links with the City Centre Manager and City Works over the special problems of cleanliness in the city centre, and has continued its efforts to reduce the litter scattered around the ring road.

The **Travel Behaviour Group** took part in a number of consultations on the County Council's plans for "*Transform Oxford*" particularly concerning pedestrianisation and revised bus services, following the publication of our study of **Bus Connectivity in Oxford**. We have also contributed to the early stages in the development of **Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan 3**.

At the city council's request, a sub group has taken over responsibility for the city's **Streets for People** campaign and, working with city officers and our media partners, facilitated 13 street parties and other events associated with **European Mobility Week**. We plan to stimulate more extended participation in 2010.

In addition to the support and publicity given to all our activities, the Communications Group has continued to develop and update our website, extend our electronic communication with members, and improve both the quality and size of our Newsletters.

Early in 2009, the future of the **Museum of Oxford** was threatened when the City Council halved the Museum budget for 2009-10 and proposed closure from April 2010. We immediately organised a group of voluntary helpers to assist the reduced staff in maintaining the programme of openings, and campaigned for the Museum's survival: in response to which a steering group was set up to explore a more stable and sustainable future. So far, a continuing budget for 2010-11 has been proposed, and we are involved in the work which is proceeding on the longer term prospects. We expect this to be a continuing commitment for the Society.

Financial Review

The 2009 accounts show a healthy surplus of Income over Expenditure of £2748.04, a trebling of the previous year's surplus of £912.32. Detailed comments below explain how this came about.

Dealing first with income: the overall income from all subscriptions, ordinary and corporate, is up by £237. This is despite a small drop in ordinary subscriptions which underlines the fact that the way to increase our subscription income is by attracting more corporate members. The programme in our 40th anniversary year was much expanded and as a result the income (profit) generated has gone up from £720 in 2008 to £4184 in 2009, transforming the overall outcome for the financial year. Income from the sale of cards is reduced this year, down from £618 in 2008 to £161 in 2009. Gift Aid income has increased a little. Income from our Deposit Account has been hit hard by the general reduction in interest rates, down from £1251 in 2008 to £311 in 2009.

Raising money by getting grants to support the various initiatives that we have started/continued is an important function of the various groups involved and this year they have been very successful. Oxclean raised £3205 to part defray their costs of £5050 and a grant of £500 was obtained for the Streets for People initiative. Valuable financial support was received from the Oxfordshire Community Foundation and Oxford City Council.

Moving now to expenditure, the costs of the Newsletter increased by £895 in 2009 as the quality and content were improved. It should be noted that costs in 2010 are expected to go back to the 2008 level. The cost of meetings rose in 2009 as we celebrated our anniversary but there were savings against the previous year's expenditure on administration and publications. A donation of £250 was made to the Civic Society Initiative which has been created to assist societies following the demise of the Civic Trust. The cost of supporting the ever expanding Oxclean programme increased to £1845. Other costs remained broadly the same.

Despite the increases in expenditure there is once more a surplus for the year. The Trustees remain confident that the Society has adequate income and reserves to support an expanding level of activities to meet the challenges of the future. The accounts have been examined as required by the Charity Commission and the Trustees of the Society approved them on the 2nd February 2010.

The Report was approved by the Trustees on 2 February 2010

(Chairman of Trustees)

(Hon Secretary)

This concludes the section of pre-circulated 2010 AGM papers relating to the 18 March meeting

E-communications – how do they work?

I've been asked by colleagues and by members to clarify this, and am very happy to explain the three-stage system we have devised:

(1) If we have your email address, the Hon Secretary will from time to time inform you of any 'headline news' between newsletter issues in a Members' Bulletin. So if you are not hearing from us in this way, please email membership@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk so as to ensure that we can be in touch.

(2) Again, if we have your email address you will automatically receive a one-click link to the newsletter as soon as it becomes available. **But we will always mail a printed copy to you**, unless you ask us not to because you choose to receive it electronically, and not by post. If you haven't so instructed us, and would like to, please email membership@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk

(3) If you are not an email user, you might be able to ask a friend or relative to pass you a printout. Alternatively, lodge an appropriately sized sae with the Hon Secretary clearly marked **E-COMMS** and you will be sent a printout of any emails that go out. Then, once you have received this, simply send in a further sae to continue to receive e-comms printouts.

In this way, the Society can save valuable time, costs and resources, and maintain close links with our membership, whilst best serving those who love computers and those who don't! *Editor*

Replacement Newsletter Editor required

After the November issue later this year, the Society's newsletter will need a new editor. Pauline Martin will have produced 21 consecutive issues by then and feels strongly that the newsletter should benefit from fresh energies and ideas. (Pauline needs to concentrate, with colleagues Christine Thompson and Liz Grosvenor, on the expanding remit and work of the Comms Group). E-communications and web pages alongside our printed circulation makes the newsletter a very interesting project of critical importance to the membership – *please make yourself known to us if you enjoy this kind of work and would like to be involved. We would very much welcome any suggestions for the future of the newsletter.*

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