

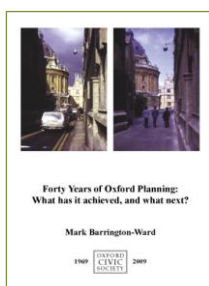
A growing number of members choose to receive their newsletter only by an email link and no longer by post. To join them, please email [membership@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk](mailto:membership@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk) and instruct us to stop sending your printed copy.

We will always mail a printed copy unless we receive this instruction.

### REMINDER TO MEMBERS

Have you claimed your free copy of "Forty Years of Oxford Planning: what has it achieved, and what next?" by Mark Barrington-Ward (publ March '10)

Not yet? Then do please request your copy at any of our meetings; ask a friend to collect one for you; or send a CL size envelope with 51p Large Letter stamp marked '40 Years' to the *Hon Sec, Oxford Civic Society, 67 Cunliffe Close, Oxford OX2 7BJ*



## Civic Voice – Talking Civic Sense by Vernon Porter, Hon Secretary



*Civic Voice* is the national charity for the civic movement. It aims to make places more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive, and promotes civic pride.

Oxford Civic Society is a large and active Society. We enjoy good relationships with the local Councils and media. We have our successes. But we recognise that there are times when we need the support of a national organisation – some things are beyond our local reach.

That is why we contributed to the extensive consultation and discussion about the future of the civic movement following closure of the Civic Trust in April 2009. (Civic and amenity societies and their members with over 100 other interested organisations and partners were all involved.) And that is why we decided to join *Civic Voice* as founder members and why Peter Thompson, Vice Chairman, and I attended the Launch in April 2010.



Tony Burton, Director, *Civic Voice*, speaking at the Launch

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Griff Rhys Jones  
Civic Voice President

*Civic Voice's* mission statement says:

*'As a national voice with a strong local presence we make a difference where it matters.'*

*You will find us lobbying in Whitehall and Westminster, campaigning with local volunteers, speaking out in the media, undertaking research, building partnerships and promoting civic pride.*

*We support local groups and help them work together.'*

Hopefully you saw some of the media coverage of the launch and the endorsements by HRH Prince Charles, Griff Rhys Jones and others.

*Civic Voice* is the result of an analysis of what the civic movement needs. This was supported by The National Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, CPRE, North of England Civic Trust, English Heritage and the RIBA and civic societies country-wide.

The aim is to establish a light footed, energetic organisation with clear, focused ambitions – with a particular emphasis on getting people more actively involved in their local community. Campaigns that have already been launched include: **Street Pride**, supporting local action to help rid streets of unnecessary clutter; **Love Local**, uncovering the local DNA of different places. Readers with access to the Internet can follow and indeed help their campaigns by going to [civicvoice.org.uk](http://civicvoice.org.uk)

Oxford Civic Society welcomes the arrival of *Civic Voice*, which gives us:

- contacts with Societies facing similar challenges to our own – sharing experiences and frustrations should lead to more appropriate and effective solutions
- a public profile for the movement – the better known the movement is, the easier it is for us to recruit new members and make our voice heard
- an authoritative voice to speak on our behalf to Government and national organisations such as English Heritage

The need for an authoritative voice is of particular importance given the changes to the planning system being introduced: as you may be aware, the new Coalition Government have announced the abandonment of centrally set planning. This could mean a more fruitful dialogue with our local councils. But central government will still set the rules. *Civic Voice* gives us an opportunity to influence those rules.

Your Society faces many challenges in the coming years. We believe *Civic Voice* will help us meet them.

*Vernon Porter, Honorary Secretary*

## Chairman's Commentary

As promised before the General Election, the new government is losing little time in introducing major changes to the planning system.

So far, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has announced his intention to abolish Regional Strategies and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils. He has emphasised government support for the retention of Green Belt land, has deleted the minimum density level for housing development, and by removing gardens from the category of 'previously developed land' has provided more defence against over-development in existing urban areas.

The necessary legislation to give legal power to these and other parts of the new planning framework will probably take two years to complete. During this time of course, many major schemes will anyhow be delayed after the spending review this autumn.

How the city's Core Strategy can be advanced under the new regime, without the extension south of Grenoble Road, remains to be determined. Inspector Pratt, who earlier this year had suspended the Core Strategy examination pending further ministerial clarification, now considers that it can be resumed, provided additional information is made available, and opportunities are provided for further comments from interested parties. If so, it seems likely that the examination of the Core Strategy's soundness might resume in mid-September.

In the mean time, work on developing an Area Action Plan for the proposed Barton extension continues. There are many important issues here, not least how high quality infrastructure and housing design can be achieved, and the eastern bypass be made more permeable so that the area beyond it is no longer so cut off from the rest of the city.

Land remains safeguarded here and at the Northern Gateway until 2016 under the existing Local Plan. It could only be developed earlier if an approved Core Strategy superseded the Local Plan, or if some other method were found to override the safeguarded status.

*Tony Joyce, Chairman*

### **A note to OCS members from Oxford Brookes University -**

The decision to grant planning permission to build a new library and teaching building at Gipsy Lane site heralds an exciting time of transformation for the University, as we approach our 150th anniversary in 2015.

Over the next few months some important infrastructure work will be taking place on campus to prepare the ground for the first class new building. We will be working hard over the summer to prepare the ground, in order to minimise prolonged disruption to our neighbours, staff and students. Work will include the demolition of a further part of the single storey Darcy building during July, along with the demolition of the Lloyd building from mid August to mid October.

We have written to our immediate neighbours and representatives from the Residents' Associations, local schools and councillors to invite them to a new monthly meeting. The purpose is to update those who are potentially most affected by the works about developments and give them the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues.

The first in this series of meetings was held on Wednesday 14 July.

## **Planning Sub-Committee Report**

*Updates on recent applications mentioned in the March Newsletter:*

Alterations to **190 Iffley Road** were permitted. Demolition of **Hernes House Residential Home in Hernes Crescent** and replacement by a 4-storey terrace of eight dwellings, was refused. **Oxford Brookes University** obtained permission for revised proposals for the **Gipsy Lane Campus**: demolition has already begun. **Oriel College's** plans to develop the site of the nursery school in **Bartlemas Conservation Area** have again been refused. The future still seems to be undecided of buildings at the junction of **Walton Street** and **Little Clarendon Street**, and likewise at **12 New Road**, where conversion of a house to flats and a pub was proposed. Similarly obscure is the future development proposed behind St Aldates. **Keble College** has received permission for a new quadrangle on the site of the old **Acland Hospital**, but not for the proposed research building on the Woodstock Road frontage to the site. On the other side of the road, **Oxford University** has permission for new buildings for **Humanities** and **Mathematics** on the **Radcliffe Observatory Quarter**.

In **Littlemore** details of new **Academy Buildings** to replace **Peer's School** are still undecided.

In *April* permission was sought retrospectively for a 3-storey rear extension, already built at **229 Cowley Road**, with rooms for 13 students, with shared bathrooms and kitchens. When permission came quite promptly we were disappointed because the accommodation is substandard and very cramped. [We note also that in March of 2009 an identical application was refused to extend this house, along with neighbours Nos 231 and 233, which would in all have created 39 tiny student rooms]. The same month also saw revival of plans for the **Westgate Development Site**, after four years of inactivity, and still with John Lewis participating. The proposals are essentially the same as in 2006 and so our profound objections are unchanged: that the visual impact with a height of 18.2m and a long level roof would be

overbearing and monotonous both from close up and from a distance. Cycle use is not sufficiently encouraged, and good cycle parking not adequate. A decision is awaited.

An application to demolish a magnificent Victorian Conservatory at **34 Leckford Road** came as a surprise and sadness. The roof is in poor condition but still shows the delicate radiating bars, and it might still be possible to restore it. We were pleased when the application was withdrawn and there is hope that at least some of the roof will be reconstructed and used over a new kitchen.

We objected to 12 applications in *May*, of which seven have been decided. Two which were refused were at **85 Fairacres Road, Iffley Fields**, and at **5 Park Town**. At the former, drastic enlargement of the house more than doubled its size, with a dormer window on the rear roof slope and part 2-storey/part 1-storey extensions. Proposed alterations to the gable by insertion of a triangular window seemed to us regrettable.

At **5 Park Town** a first floor side extension was proposed over a porch, and there was difficulty in incorporating it successfully with the pleasant, distinctive design of the existing house: further thought seemed necessary. One which was permitted was at **16 Broad Street**, where removal of an unauthorised illuminated sign was requested. We commented that applications for this sensitive location should show exact reproduction of the proposed appearance in colour. Proposals for **366 Woodstock Road** are still undecided. If allowed, one half of this rather attractive pair of semi-detached houses would be drastically enlarged with a two storey extension to the side. There would be no respect for the design, and the pair would be made completely unbalanced.

**194 Banbury Road** also gives concern: proposals for extension to the rear have been made and permitted. This building is the end house of a Victorian terrace long ago converted variously to shops, and is on the junction with a footpath leading to several interesting old cottages called Diamond Place. The rear of No 194 is all too visible to pedestrians on the footpath; it displays a

multitude of 'added on' structures, and it seems a pity to add further to these.

*June* was a record month for objectionable planning applications, with twenty-two, none as yet decided. Perhaps the most significant were for alterations to the Old Schools Quadrangle of the **Bodleian Library** and the underground book store below Broad Street. The proposal for the Quadrangle is to re-grade and level the surface so that vehicles (small vans) can have access for delivering and collecting books. These changes need to be sensitive and cause minimum disturbance, so that perceived proportions of the facades are not altered. Solutions proposed so far, such as ramps, look neither practical nor attractive.

At **96 Morrell Avenue** an unwelcome precedent threatened this sensitive Conservation Area in the shape of an application to add on both a 'box dormer' and a 'Juliet balcony'. On land to the rear of **No. 3 Bladon Close** a site was carved out of a moderate sized garden for a second house which has now been built. It has five bedrooms which is more than was agreed in the original permission, and only restricted amenity space is left. Windows on the south elevation also do not concur with the planning permission and instead are large dormers which seriously overlook two houses in Blenheim Drive. A retrospective application to approve these unauthorised and unsatisfactory changes has been withdrawn, and we await developments.

At **34 Mill Lane, Marston**, the continued retention of an unauthorised bungalow has finally led the city planning authority to enforce demolition.

*Gillian Argyle, Kate Joyce (Convenor),  
Chris Rayson, Peter Thompson*

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

*Editor*



## A final farewell to the yellow programme card

Overleaf is the 'cut-out-and-keep' Programme Calendar which, from this issue, replaces the separately enclosed yellow card that has served us well for so long. Its replacement has been under consideration for some time, as advised in previous issues dated November 2009 & March 2010 and will, we know, not be universally popular although the majority of feedback has been positively encouraging.

We save significant costs by avoiding enclosures to the newsletter, and instead integrating the copy to the inside pages. This further helps us to streamline our communications to the Society's readership as a whole -

- a significant number (we recorded 5,780 'hits' in June) visit our website;
- 476 members receive a one-click email link to the newsletter, as soon as each new issue is ready;
- 140 members now prefer an electronic copy of their newsletter rather than a printed version, thus helping us to reduce print costs.

Our healthy membership numbers (we are tantalisingly close to our 1,000<sup>th</sup>) are undoubtedly the Society's greatest asset and, indeed, our raison d'être.

*We fully appreciate the importance of our regular newsletter, the sole mechanism by which we reach every individual member 3 times each year.*

This will always be an important priority.

*Pauline Martin, Newsletter Editor  
newsletter@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk*

## Notes on the use of the Programme Booking Form, overleaf (page 6):

Members are reminded that:

1. Tickets will be allocated shortly after the published closing date for applications
2. If you miss the closing date, it is always worth asking whether places remain
3. A ballot for tickets will be held if necessary
4. One cheque for each event (payable to Oxford Civic Society) and one s.a.e. for all tickets please
5. If applying for two tickets, give name of second member
6. Your name, address, telephone and email address are all vital contact details for us – please print clearly, in block caps
7. Cheques are banked three weeks after ticket issue; after that, refunds cannot be given

*Calendar and Notes (pages 6 & 7 overleaf)  
compiled by Programme Group members:*

*Michael Daniell, Keith Dyke, Alan Hobbs,  
Alastair Lack (Convenor) & Tim Treacher*

# MEMBERS' BOOKING FORM

## OCTOBER & NOVEMBER TICKETED EVENTS

**Closing date for applications: 27 August**

Please see guidance notes on page 5, and remember to enclose:

- (1) A cheque payable to Oxford Civic Society for each event
- (2) One stamped, self-addressed envelope for tickets

Member's name .....

BLOCK CAPS PLEASE

2<sup>nd</sup> member's name .....

IF APPLICABLE

Address .....

.....

Post code ..... Telephone .....

Email .....

\*NB Where 2 or more dates are offered below, please indicate if you can accept alternatives. If not, please delete.

EVENT	No of tickets	Amount enclosed
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Jericho Walk ( <i>repeated</i> )		
Either * Saturday 2 October 2.30 pm	..... @ £4	
Or * Wednesday 6 October 6 pm	..... @ £4	

Industrial Oxford Walk ( <i>repeated</i> )		
Sunday 3 October 2 pm	..... @ £4	

Visit to Pusey House, St Giles		
Either * Saturday 9 October 10.30 am	..... @ £7	
Or * Saturday 16 October 10.30 am	..... @ £7	

Headington Walk		
Either * Saturday 23 October 2 pm	..... @ £4	
Or * Sunday 24 October 2 pm	..... @ £4	
Or * Saturday 6 November 2 pm	..... @ £4	

Visit to the James Martin 21st Century School, Oxford University		
Tuesday 9 November 5.45 pm	..... @ £7	

Completed form to:

Alan Hobbs, 66 Southfield Road, Oxford OX4 1PA  
(tel/answerphone 01865 248105)



Charity 1116739

## PROGRAMME CALENDAR

**MAY-SEPTEMBER SERIES, ONGOING  
(NOW FULLY BOOKED)**

**Wednesday 4 August, 2.30 pm**  
**Visit to Merton College**

**Thursday 2, Monday 13 OR**  
**Wednesday 22 September, ALL 6 pm**  
**Town and Gown Pub walk (allow 2 hrs)**

**Saturday 25 September, 10.30 am**  
**Visit to the New Biochemistry Building**

### OCTOBER & NOVEMBER EVENTS

**Saturday 2 October, 2.30 pm OR**  
**Wednesday 6 October, 6 pm**  
**Jericho walk (*repeat*) with Mark Davies**

**Sunday 3 October, 2pm**  
**Industrial Oxford walk (*repeat*) with**  
**Liz Woolley**

**Saturdays 9 OR 16 October, 10.30am**  
**Visit to Pusey House, St Giles – Dr**  
**Edward Pusey's theological library and an**  
**important collection of C19 pamphlets.**

**Saturday 23 October, Sunday 24 October,**  
**OR Saturday 6 November, ALL at 2pm**  
**Headington walk with Malcolm Graham**

**Wednesday 27 October, 8pm**  
**OPEN MEETING – NO PRE-BOOKING**  
**Knowing & getting what you want:**  
**problems & opportunities in Oxford's**  
**townscape** A talk by **Professor Brian**  
**Goodey, School of the Built Environment,**  
**Oxford Brookes University**  
**Magdalen College Auditorium**  
**Longwall Street: coffee 7.30 pm, talk 8 pm**

**Tuesday 9 November, 5.45 pm**  
**Visit to the James Martin 21st Century**  
**School, Oxford University led by Alison**  
**Stibbe, Outreach Manager of the Institute**

**Wednesday 17 November, 8 pm**  
**OPEN MEETING – NO PRE-BOOKING**  
**A talk by local historian Mark Davies on**  
**the varied life of C18 Daniel Harris**  
**Magdalen College Auditorium**  
**Longwall Street: coffee 7.30 pm, talk 8 pm**

**Contact for booking/tickets only:**

**Alan Hobbs, 66 Southfield Rd, OX4 1PA**  
**01865 248105**



## PROGRAMME AUGUST – NOVEMBER 2010

### OPEN TALKS – ALL WELCOME

no pre-booking, members free, non-members £4 at the door

**Weds 27 October, 8 pm – Knowing & getting what you want: problems & opportunities in Oxford's townscape**

Professor Brian Goodey of the School of the Built Environment at Oxford Brookes University will talk to his title and discuss how shared townscape respond in representing a changing city such as Oxford.

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

**Wednesday 17 November, 8 pm – Daniel Harris**

Local historian and writer, Mark Davies, discusses the varied life of Daniel Harris – a man of great talents and dynamism, and enormous influence on 18th century Oxford. He applied his skills as a builder and engineer to complete the Oxford canal, improve the River Thames and reconstruct the Oxford castle gaol, using convict labour.

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

### MEMBERS ONLY VISITS & WALKS

**\*\* tickets required, bookings for all October & November events by 27 August**

**A REMINDER OF ONGOING MAY – SEPTEMBER SERIES EVENTS, NOW FULLY BOOKED :**

**Wednesday 4 August, 2.30 pm, Visit to Merton College**

**Thursday 2, Monday 13 OR Wednesday 22 September, all 6 pm Town and Gown Pub walk Allow 2 hrs**

**Saturday 25 September, 10.30 am Visit to the New Biochemistry Building**

<sup>1</sup> **Saturday 2 October, 2.30 pm OR Wednesday 6 October, 6 pm - Jericho walk (repeated)**

**\*\*tickets £4**

A repeated walk by writer and guide, Mark Davies, on Jericho and the Oxford canal. Allow up to 2 hrs

<sup>1</sup> **Sunday 3 October, 2 pm - Industrial Oxford walk (repeated) Allow up to 2 hours**

**\*\*tickets £4**

A repeated walk by local historian Liz Woolley on the comparatively little explored history of Industrial Oxford.

<sup>1</sup> **NB: In allocating tickets for both walks, preference will be given to those members who were disappointed last time**

**Saturday 9 October OR Saturday 16 October, 10.30am – Visit to Pusey House, St Giles**

**\*\*tickets £7**

Founded in 1884 in memory of Edward Pusey, a leading member of the Oxford Movement, the House is a centre of theological scholarship and pastoral ministry to the University in the Anglo-Catholic tradition - maintaining Dr Pusey's large theological library and an important collection of 19th-century pamphlets. Coffee at 10.30am will be followed by a visit to the Hall and Chapel, with time in the archives.

**NB** Two groups of 30 only each Saturday, with no access for wheelchairs.

**Saturday 23 October OR Sunday 24 October OR Saturday 6 November, 2 pm – Headington walk**

**\*\*tickets £4**

Headington, a name derived from the old English 'Hedena's dun' - Hedena's Hill - has a long and interesting history, with settlements dating back to prehistoric times. Join local historian Malcolm Graham to find out about Headington's past and how it has shaped the bustling suburb we know today. Allow up to 2 hours.

**Tuesday 9 November 5.45 pm – Visit to the James Martin 21st Century School, Oxford University**

**\*\*tickets £7**

Founded in June 2005, following a generous endowment by James Martin, this establishment is a unique collaborative effort of academics and practitioners across many disciplines. The aim is to provide solutions for the most serious problems of the day. Alison Stibbe, Outreach Manager of the Institute, will talk about its origins and current work.

**DIARY DATE: Wednesday 19 January 2011**

***"Oxford's buildings of the 1960's: pretty but poor performance"***

**a talk by Oxford architect Alan Berman**

## Executive Committee Matters

**Oxford City Council Area Committees** are the way democracy works in Oxford. There are six Committees, each composed of the Councillors for the wards in the area. A map of the areas is available on the City Council website: [www.oxford.gov.uk/Direct/29795ACMap.pdf](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/Direct/29795ACMap.pdf)

Committees generally meet one evening every month to deal with issues affecting their areas. For dates and venues, please see [Council meetings - Agenda, Minutes & Reports](#). Although more strategic matters are considered elsewhere, the Area Committees really represent the primary interface between citizens and the Council. They are thus involved with all the day-to-day issues which affect everyday life in our city: maintenance and improvement of recreational facilities and allotments, the street scene, litter and graffiti, parking, crime and public behaviour, community events, and, not least, planning applications and building development.

Matters discussed and decided at various recent meetings have been as diverse as community affairs: Streets for People, Japanese knotweed, the City Farm, playground equipment, skateboard parks, parking, Barton housing proposals, assorted house extensions and new rules for houses in multiple occupation. These may not be strategic issues, but they do shape the character of local communities, and hence by aggregation, that of the whole city.

The new Government has signalled strongly the intention of devolving decision-making to much more local levels of representation; it is too soon to judge how this will translate into practical action, but it may be timely to consider what the Area Committees currently do. In future, greater influence on how the city develops may be possible at a more local level; equally, it may be that local community action will be the principal,

or only way in which things get done! So, perhaps there is an opportunity and a threat!

Either way, as a grass-roots organisation concerned with what's going on across the city, the Civic Society would love to be represented at every meeting, to gain useful feedback, and, on occasion, perhaps to contribute. We could thus be more effective, in more ways, in more areas. If you can help in this way, please get in touch!

*Peter Thompson, Vice Chairman*

**Challenges create opportunities** and the Society enjoys an abundance of both, but faces a real shortage of time and talents in the form of enough volunteers to help manage the work as we might like. Those of us already involved find real satisfaction in helping the Society to make a difference in one way or another.

We think our current wide-ranging list of vacancies has broad appeal:

- *different roles within OxClean*
- *interviewing for the "Who is Oxford's Covered Market" project*
- *creating a small "Front of House" team to help manage events or helping with refreshments*
- *offering feedback from local Area Committees or digital photographs emailed to the webmaster*
- *joining our Volunteer Network at the Museum of Oxford*
- *filling a much-needed replacement role as either Environment Secretary (Autumn '10) or Newsletter Editor (Spring '11)*

Please, if you can spare some time and quite like a challenge – or if you know someone who could be just the person we need – then do contact us. Visit the site for our current [Situations Vacant](#) notes, email [volunteer@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk) to express an interest or phone 07555 756692 for further information. Thank you.

*Pauline Martin, Newsletter Editor*





OCS members will be all too familiar with the plight of the **Museum of Oxford** which, like many publicly-funded organisations across the country, is facing a difficult future. There is, however, recognition that the museum plays an important role within the city as an '*essential introduction to the fascinating history of the City and its University*'.

Any vision for its future must be guided by its users, the people of Oxford and visitors to the city. An open consultation, seeking views, has only recently closed and the Society awaits the results with interest. Time is short as the Museum's Steering Group works with its consultants to develop fresh plans before the coming round of city budget discussions, and prepares a capital bid for the Heritage Lottery Fund.

In practical terms, the Museum plays a strongly educational role in association with local schools. Forthcoming events in July & August include a full range of activities geared to young and older children, and families – of interest to any members entertaining children and grandchildren perhaps? See the [museumofoxford.org.uk](http://museumofoxford.org.uk) website and their 2010 Calendar or telephone 01865 252086 for further details.

### *Oxford Streets for People*

Many of you will know that this is the second year in which the Society has run the *Oxford Streets for People* campaign, in partnership with the City Council. The aim of the campaign is to develop 'civic pride' through using streets as social spaces.

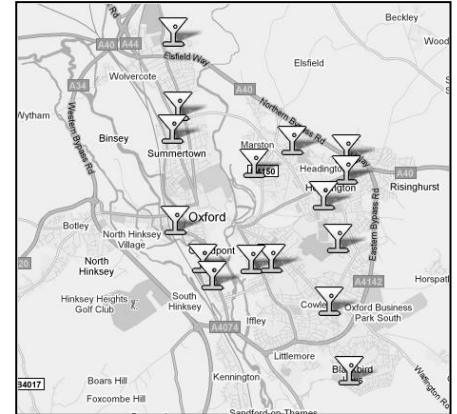
Our main focus is on street parties. They have been demonstrated to be the most effective way to bring neighbours together. In turn this brings a greater sense of belonging, and increased feeling of security. We have designated Saturday 18 &



Sunday 19 September as Oxford's 'street party weekend', but the date when parties are held does not matter. Through a communications campaign to residents' groups, backed up by a poster campaign and support from the Oxford Mail, we aim to have 25 street parties in Oxford this year.

We are well on our way, with 18 events planned and others

expected. We have recently developed an interactive map of street parties to demonstrate the range of



registrations as they occur – coming soon to [oxstreets.org.uk](http://oxstreets.org.uk)

We are very grateful for the financial support of a national charity, *Streets Alive*. They have provided funding for a community worker with whom we are in close liaison, to work in some of the more 'challenged' areas of Oxford, and to encourage the initiation of street parties there.

In addition to numerous street parties during mid September we are encouraging the City and County Councils to coincidentally announce or trial changes to the transport infrastructure, to reinforce the message that 'streets are for people not just for traffic'.

As a next step, we will encourage organisers of street parties to press for improvements to their street environments if that is of interest to them. This might, for example, build on the Street Pride campaign recently announced by *Civic Voice* (see lead article by Vernon Porter), with the aim of improving the appearance of streets by removing unneeded clutter.

*Richard Bradley, Project Co-ordinator  
Oxford Streets for People*

## Cleaning up Oxford

Is Oxford cleaner? The summer weather brings more of us out on the street, the city centre is full of visitors. As eating and drinking in the street seems to be a feature of British life, so **OxClean** is working on how to spread the message *Don't Drop It!* We need people to think that it is much better to avoid creating litter than to create jobs for street cleaners.



Since the foundation of **OxClean** in 2006, there has been real progress but much still remains to be done. The City Council is more active, having launched their own *Cleaner Greener Oxford*, which currently focuses on the Cowley Road area and is about education and enforcement.

There is now a permanent City Centre Manager; trade waste is much better controlled, at least in the centre; there are some new litterbins (Queen St, Summertown and more to come); bins are emptied more often; and the city has just acquired a 'hot wash' machine to try to get chewing gum off the pavements.

In October the Council will be changing (again) the rubbish collection system by replacing open blue and green boxes (how many of us still have the lids?) with blue wheelie bins. We hope this brings an end to recyclable paper and plastic blowing along the streets.

Those who live near Brookes will be glad to hear that they are going to appoint students (paid) to liaise between residents, students and the council – starting this autumn with a trial in the Divinity Road area.

Cigarette ends are now a feature of many streets: the council has powers to enforce a clean-up by restaurants, bars, fast food outlets and banks whose staff and customers smoke in the street outside but the legislation does not yet allow them to chase other businesses who create cigarette litter outside their premises. We will

write to the appropriate Government Minister but if this bothers you too, please write to your MP as the law is made but not finally enacted.

And finally, the issue that originally spurred the formation of **OxClean** - the litter around the Oxford Ring Road. If you drive on the A34 to Bicester you may have seen large bins and notices in the lay-bys: these are thanks to *Cherwell Council*, and they seem to work. *Oxford City Council* tells us that they have bins and signage on order for the ring road lay-bys – but not all the ring road lies in the district, it also runs through *Vale of the White Horse* (west of the Thames) and *South Oxfordshire* (from the Thames bridge south of Oxford to Heyford Hill). We are delighted that the City have finally cleared the bank by Rose Hill where a group of members started clearance during last Spring Clean.

**In closing – a date for your diaries –  
Spring Clean 2011 will take place on  
Friday 4 and Saturday 5 March**

*Ros Weatherall, Environment Sec & OxClean Chair*

## OxClean Anti-Litter Campaign with Oxford's 5 Secondary & 31 Primary Schools

For the year 2009-2010 *Richard Bradley, Vanessa Kenyon* and *Liz Storrar* have visited the primary schools on behalf of the **OxClean's Anti-Litter Campaign**. For the year 2010-2011, *Liz Storrar* will visit 13 primary schools, *Philippa Berry* will visit 10 and I will continue to visit 5 secondary schools and 8 primary schools. We each visit our schools' grounds every term and send a grade by email to the school. In the summer term we send each school a graded certificate recognising overall progress and award the *Oxford Civic Society Shield* to the winning secondary school.

OxClean encouraged all the schools as part of their participation in Spring Clean 2010 to give time to curricular activities studying the

behaviour patterns and management of littering. Several Heads and teachers have said that they hope to develop this theme in 2011.

This year, we have been delighted to award the *Oxford Civic Society Shield* to **Cheney School** who have consistently maintained a very high standard since winning it for the first time at the start of our campaign. The school is also very pro-active on the environmental front.

*The Barnsbury Trust* kindly funded *Creation Theatre* to give anti-litter workshops covering most of the classes in *St Gregory the Great Catholic School*. *Creation's* players were extremely dynamic and thought-provoking for each audience. They raised awareness with the pupils and, according to the Site Manager, also with the teachers who attended the workshops and who are now bringing litter prevention into the classroom. Improvements include more litter bins in classrooms and the school grounds and the introduction of outdoor chairs and tables for pupils to sit and eat at, as they had no such provision previously. This has been so successful that it will be expanded and will include litter bins near the tables. In discussion with *Creation* and the Headteacher it became clear that pupils bin litter more readily when cleaners visibly work during the school day rather than after hours; this too seems to be having some effect.

Such was the success of this venture that **OxClean** is doing all it can to secure funds to extend the *Creation Theatre* programme to other secondary schools where diverse problems exist on a daily basis.

Overall we move steadily forward. We have a better understanding than ever before of the challenges faced by different secondary and primary schools and we hope that by maintaining our relationship, we can help to improve things by raising awareness and standards for schools and their neighbourhoods.

*Rosanne Bostock,  
OxClean Schools Campaign (Convenor)*

## **The Chairman writes:**

Dare I suggest that OxClean risks falling victim to its own success? It is clear from the articles on these last pages that a phenomenal amount of work has been done to very good effect since the launch just four years ago.

The main thrust of all the campaigning for OxClean rests with just two campaigners – Ros Weatherall and Rosanne Bostock – who have each contributed their respective reports on previous pages. They are ably supported in their endeavours by the combined forces of the Society's Communications Group and our Honorary Secretary. Nonetheless, the team faces a critical situation: the wide-ranging consultation and lobbying that has forged such an effective partnership between OxClean and Oxford City Council simply must be sustained when Ros retires from the post of Chair in the Autumn.

The Society is deeply appreciative of everybody's combined efforts in establishing highly successful and effective Spring Cleans across the city each year thanks to the widespread support of more and more residents and community groups each time. And we would wish to see the broad range of OxClean projects and contacts carried forward and gaining momentum. As Peter Thompson and Pauline Martin have separately made clear on page 8 of this issue, the Society urgently needs to find active and willing volunteers across a range of vacancies.

I am perhaps more keenly aware than anyone of the invaluable work being done on the Society's behalf by a large contingent of talented people who most generously give their time and energies in addressing shared concerns, many and varied. This newsletter portrays something of that diverse energy and its impact.

The vigour and drive of the Society, and any success, is directly proportional to the number and calibre of those who feel they can be actively involved.

I therefore appeal to everyone reading this to consider how they might help, either directly or by introducing a friend or colleague. And to please get in touch with us to share any suggestions or ideas. Don't put it off!











*Tony Joyce, Chairman  
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## Cards, Summer Sale – notelets with envelopes & postcards

The Society's Cards Group is clearing stocks at "give away" prices to help fund our various projects, such as **OxClean** and **Streets for People**. Some stocks are available of each of the images shown below, at the very special price of **10p per postcard, or 30p per notelet & envelope (these are also available at £1 for any 4)**.

Cards are available for purchase at most meetings, and can also be ordered by post for home delivery – in which case, 50p is requested towards costs.

<b>Rowing on the Isis</b> 	<b>Blossom on The High</b> 	<b>Botanic Gardens</b> 
<b>The village of Iffley</b> 	<b>St Giles black &amp; white</b> 	<b>St Giles Fair</b> 
<b>Broad Street</b> 	<b>Radcliffe Camera in snow</b> 	<b>St Michael's Street</b> 
<b>Notelets, with envelopes 30p each OR any 4 for £1</b>	<b>Jericho Boatyard</b> 	<b>Postcards, 10p each ----- 50p delivery</b>

These popular correspondence cards prove useful on so many occasions and also as very acceptable small gifts. *Please support this exercise to raise some useful funds. Thank you.*

For details of current stocks, see the [Sales Order Form](#) on our website, email any queries to [sales@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk](mailto:sales@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk) or, to request a Sales Order Form by post, telephone **07505 756692**.

*Stuart White (Convenor)*

*& Gwyneth Tyson, Cards Group*

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