

OXFORD
CIVIC SOCIETY



SHAPING OXFORD'S FUTURE

VISIONS

No 122, July 2012

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Photo: Street party success! See p 3



Communications – the future

By Peter Thompson, Chairman

July 2012 sees the launch of a comprehensive update of our communications, designed to meet our needs for the coming years.

During the past year, the Communications Group has undertaken an extensive review of the Society's current activities and aspirations, and how we communicate with the membership and the wider public. In the course of this, three key factors were identified:

- **the evolving profile of our activities** broadly categorised as **buildings and public spaces, travel and transport** and, increasingly, the **environment and community** affairs, in addition to, of course, the hugely popular **programme of events**;

- **a shifting emphasis in our use of communication channels** with electronic media increasingly taking over from print – and our website becoming the central 'hub' for distributing information and publications;

- **the public's increasing expectation** in terms of websites and the use of social media.

We concluded that updating our communications was essential so that what people see and use aligns with these dynamics. With some input from professional graphic and web designers, we are now launching:

- a forward-looking theme for the Society – **'Shaping Oxford's Future'**

- a **distinctive logo** with greater visual impact, reflecting this theme, and with the flexibility to support different contexts

- a **'fit for purpose' website** using new flexible design software, making navigation easier and providing a search facility

- a **memorable newsletter title – Visions** – which underpins our theme and is indicative of the ideas and views expressed in the newsletter

- a **distinctive, co-ordinated new style** for print and web material

- the addition of **social media** to our channels of communications – initially, Twitter.

We hope you will like the new look of



our material, the improved functionality of the website and the new ways of keeping in touch with you.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Pauline Martin and Christine Thompson who steered the project, implemented the many changes needed and supported colleagues in using the new style.

Oxford station relocation

In the March Newsletter I explained the efforts of the Transport Group to have the case for relocation of the station to Oxpens properly considered in the light of current circumstances. Thanks to sympathetic hearings from both our local MPs (Andrew Smith and Nicola Blackwood), the subject was raised in a House of Commons debate in April. We have received reasonably encouraging responses from three of the Government ministers responsible.

We also persuaded both the City and County Councils to contribute to Arup's fee for updating its 2004 report into the technical feasibility and likely cost implications of providing the necessary rail infrastructure at the Oxpens site. With the Society contributing the balance, we have now been able to commission this work and we await the outcome.

Meanwhile, we understand Network Rail is preparing in secret its own proposals for major alterations at the existing station, to accommodate the continuing increases in rail passenger and freight traffic. These alterations will do nothing to improve the interconnection between trains and buses, are likely to exacerbate the problems at Frideswide Square, and will not provide commercial development opportunities which could help regenerate the area. We and other interested parties would welcome sight of these proposals to enable comparison of the alternative options.

We continue to promote our ideas to the train-operating companies, local politicians and officers, and developers,

but it remains to be seen if we can succeed in having this last-chance opportunity properly considered. There is more on this story on page 7.

Barton Area Action Plan

The City Council's policies for developing up to 1,000 homes on the site west of Barton were submitted for examination in April, and the date for the public hearings has been fixed for mid-July.

Meanwhile, at the pre-hearing meeting on 7 June, the issue of speed limits on the A40, alongside the proposed development, was raised – you can read more about this on page 7. It will be interesting to see the outcome of this debate, since this policy is quite fundamental to the Barton development.

The matter is also of interest in the light of the implications contained in the recently-adopted National Planning Policy Framework relating to the duty of authorities to cooperate, and on the significance of the Inspector's opinion. Mid-July could be exciting for anyone interested in the development of Oxford's built environment.

Where to put new housing?

The public examination of the City Council's *Sites and Housing Development Plan Document* has been set, for two weeks from 10 September. This establishes detailed policies relating to housing development and land-use allocations for 142 sites across the city, in nine categories.

Some of the sites have already proved contentious and several more will no doubt follow suit. Some of the policy details appear to erode the protection for residents of properties adjoining new developments, so some lively debate may ensue here, too.

Turning Oxford green

[Low Carbon Oxford](#) is an initiative of the Oxford Strategic Partnership, which

itself represents both the City and County Councils, as well as a broad cross-section of other institutions. Set up nearly three years ago, it has an ambitious vision for the city – 'a cleaner, greener and more sustainable city' – in the next 10 to 30 years.

Eleven essential 'Critical Success Factors' necessary to deliver the vision were identified, and, two years on, a 'Pathfinder Event' was held on 14 June to discuss progress. The significance of the event may be judged by the keynote address being delivered by Greg Barker, Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change, and the attendance of MPs among others.

A series of discussions ranged from a review of the vision itself to particular aspects of its implementation. Some surprising data were presented, including figures for reductions in carbon consumption in the city, which are encouraging. Government encouragement is building steadily in the form of incentives such as the forthcoming Green Deal, and the effects of these measures will be critical to the achievement of the Low Carbon Oxford vision.

Carbon reduction is becoming a priority and is cutting across virtually all our activities and areas of interest – planning, transport and every aspect of the daily lives of the community we represent. We will continue our involvement with other local organisations focusing on these issues.

Peter Thompson
Chairman





Oxford Streets for People

The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics are making this a record year for street parties.

The *Streets for People* team helped promote and support 40 street parties across Oxford during the Jubilee weekend, involving about 3,000 people. In spite of the rainy weekend, British gumption prevailed and few were cancelled. Feedback from organisers was excellent. One said: ‘An amazing atmosphere developed with many people, who recognised each other but had never spoken before, chatting away. The young people joined in playing badminton and the smaller ones played bat and ball ... It felt great to have the freedom of the closed street to play in.’

Street parties have helped people to enjoy a greater sense of belonging to their neighbourhood and generated communal activities such as book groups and traffic campaigns.

If your street did not join in these festivities now is the time to plan a street party in September – perhaps the best time of year to do so as the weather is often better. This year we are promoting **street party weekend** on 15-16 September, or maybe you would like to mark **car-free day** on 22 September. The choice is yours!

See oxstreets.org.uk for advice, or call Richard Bradley on 01865 762 418.

Oxford City walks

There are lots of documented walks within Oxford – historical, architectural, green, industrial and so on. We wish to compile a list of these and would welcome your help. Please get in touch if you would like to be part of this fascinating project.

We are also liaising with the Oxford Ramblers, Oxford Canal Partnership and others to see how the network of Oxford paths and routes can be extended, improved and promoted.



Seven roads in North Oxford came together for a giant street party in May

City centre signage

Over the summer there are likely to be lots of new direction signs, maps and information boards appearing in the city centre. These are part of the City Council’s Wayfinding project, which aims to make Oxford an easier and more interesting place to explore. Along with the signs, a website is being developed with more information about places close to each sign. If you have a smart phone you will be able to access the website via a QR code.

The Society has been involved in this project from its beginning, latterly providing advice on the content of each display board and the contents of the website. We are keen to hear your views. How should the scheme be developed – should it increase the range of subjects or its geographical scope beyond the city centre?

Decluttering the city centre

Many thanks to those members who joined us recently to survey superfluous bollards, signs and poles in the city centre. We were invited to undertake this survey by the City Council.

This is all part of a movement to remove clutter from our streets – a campaign which is being promoted by English Heritage, Civic Voice and

others. The ethos of the campaign is that an uncluttered city is more appealing and easier to navigate for those on foot, with buggies or in wheelchairs.

Working with the Oxford Pedestrians Association, we identified 22 items which we think should be removed as soon as possible and a long list of locations where signs, bollards and the like would benefit from a reappraisal.

What happens next will depend on financial priorities but we think that many items could be removed or improved. We will keep an eye on this!

Oxford Streets for People: *Richard Bradley (Co-ordinator), Tony Joyce, Pauline Martin, Christine Thompson, Ros Weatherall*





Neighbourhood planning – what can it offer us?

Considerable planning powers have recently been put into the hands of local people – in theory at least. Clive Booth writes about an event he chaired in June to examine the potential and the pitfalls.

Neighbourhood planning is rather like Everest: a seemingly formidable challenge, not for the faint-hearted, but potentially very rewarding if you make it to the summit. This appeared to be the feeling of many of the 74 participants at the **Plan Your Neighbourhood** event jointly organised by ourselves, Oxford Brookes and Oxford City Council at the Town Hall on 27 June.

The **Localism Act** opens up some potentially exciting new opportunities for neighbourhoods to influence the physical planning policies affecting their area. These include a ‘community right to buy’ and to make ‘neighbourhood development orders’ affecting particular sites; more about these later. The main focus was on the new powers for neighbourhoods to produce Development Plans (‘neighbourhood plans’ for short).

As with Everest, neighbourhood planning has its equivalents of Hillary and Tenzing, though they are more numerous. With the help of grants of £20,000 each from the Government, some 260 neighbourhoods across England are already ‘front runners’ ascending the foothills. A few of them have made even

Some pioneers

At the event, we heard about three interesting and contrasting examples:

Thame (ably represented by Councillor **Mike Dyer**), where an ambitious plan is taking shape that will, if successful, allow the distribution of housing and retail development to take place over the next 15 years in a way that reflects the views of local people;

Woodcote, a small village between Reading and Wallingford, where a

group of 15 volunteers is preparing a neighbourhood plan for the parish, focusing on housing, and:

St James Ward in Exeter, where a wide-ranging plan is taking shape potentially affecting the environment, open spaces and sensitive development sites, to mention but three areas. St James sounded particularly interesting because of its urban character and proximity to Exeter University – some parallels with certain Oxford neighbourhoods, perhaps?

faster progress, though most are some way off the summit and unlikely to reach it until 2013.

Just what is involved?

We heard from **Dr Sue Brownill** of Oxford Brookes about the steps involved in putting together a plan – defining a neighbourhood, forming a neighbourhood forum where no parish exists, actively consulting the community about their issues and priorities, gathering the evidence, formulating options and developing a plan. Sue emphasised that communities should carefully explore whether a neighbourhood plan is the best way forward compared to other alternatives.

Michael Crofton-Briggs, Head of City Development, spoke about the legal ground rules for neighbourhood planning. Plans must be in line with national and local planning policies, including the Oxford Local Plan. The plans cannot be used to block new development envisaged in the Local Plan, but – as in Thame and Woodcote – they can be used to influence the type, design, location and mix of new development. Michael also outlined the later steps in the process: an independent examination, a referendum and, if both of these

are passed successfully, coming into force with the same legal status as the Local Plan.

What is Oxford doing?

The Council will shortly be publishing a Protocol intended to help neighbourhoods understand the available choices and the support on offer from the City Council. Michael told us that Headington, Wolvercote Common and Summer-town are exploring the idea of neighbourhood planning and four other areas are actively considering their options.

Questions, questions ...

In the final Question Time session, the speakers were joined by City Council Leader Bob Price. Plenty of challenging issues were raised. How, in Oxford, most parts of which are not parishes, should a neighbourhood be defined? Where were the resources to come from? Would neighbourhood plans be needed if city planners consulted communities more closely?

Invited to suggest ideas for the new community right to buy and neighbourhood development orders, two ideas quickly emerged from the floor – a certain pub and a celebrated boatyard. Watch this space!





OxClean – more than just a spring clean!

Turnout was fantastic for the annual Spring Clean in March but the work goes on all year round to help make our city a cleaner, more pleasant place to be.

This March numbers more than matched previous years with 127 community groups and schools (fielding over 2,000 people) taking part in the Spring Clean. Nearly all of Oxford's primary and secondary schools took part, with many of them tackling litter in and around their own grounds. Some introduced litter-themed activities in the classroom.



Volunteers from Cowley St John

Elsewhere, a number of public spaces were cleaned up in addition to local streets – recreation grounds, river banks, Port Meadow, car parks and sections of the ring road, for example.

A huge amount of litter, scrap and fly-tip was collected. Encouragingly, less litter was collected in places that have been cleaned up before – with an overall increase being accounted for by many more places being tackled for the first time. Much of the litter was recyclable.

The impact of so many people out litter picking raises awareness of the litter problem and the sight of cleaned-up areas drives home that a cleaner city really is a better place to be. And, as many people find out to their surprise, litter-picking can be fun!

Our warmest thanks go to everyone who took part.

Year-round clean-ups

We have raised funds and **donated over 300 litter-pickers** to community groups for year-round use. We hold a **loan stock of over 400 litter-pickers** which can be borrowed at any time.

A number of groups have borrowed litter-pickers since the Spring Clean – among them the 43rd Oxford Beaver Scouts and Friends of Magdalen Woods. AC Nielsen in Risinghurst took up the company's challenge to make an 'Uncommon Impact' and several employees completely cleared the litter on the Oxrad sports ground. The Boundary Brook Appreciation Day in May included a litter-pick as part of a wide range of activities highlighting the value of the brook for wildlife and inspiring creativity.

Our **Schools' Anti-Litter** team are finalising their annual assessment and

deciding on awards for Primary School Certificates and the winner of the Secondary School Shield.

Lobbying for change

Our lobbying of the City Council and other District Councils for the provision of **litter bins and notices on the ring road** has resulted in many now having been installed – with more to come!

For more information, visit oxclean.org.uk

Spring Clean 2013 is planned for Friday 1 March and Saturday 2 March. Please save the date!

OxClean Team: *Rosanne Bostock, Liz Grosvenor, Pauline Martin, Vernon Porter, Christine Thompson*



Congratulations to Rosanne Bostock (second from the right) who was recently honoured by the Lord Mayor for 'her invaluable and inspiring commitment as a volunteer to the Civic Society, particularly for the OxClean Spring Clean' among other activities. Rosanne has been a leading campaigner from the outset and runs the Schools Anti-Litter Campaign.

From left to right: The Lord Mayor Cllr Elise Benjamin, OCS President Sir Hugo Brunner, David Bostock, Rosanne Bostock, OCS Chairman Peter Thompson



Planning comments – of shop fronts and sheds

We have commended two recent developments – a city centre shop front and an eco-improvement.

We welcomed improvements at **6–7 High Street**. The former shop front has been replaced by a new one with an integral awning and non-illuminated fascia sign. The restoration of Victorian-style details on the shop frontage is also to be welcomed.

In **Apsley Road, Summertown**, 1960s blocks of student accommodation now need updating. The major eco-refurbishment of one of these, along with alterations to the car-parking area, provision of covered cycle parking and a common energy centre has now been *approved* – all to be commended.

Headington

A **February** application in the **Headington Quarry Conservation Area** to demolish a block of eleven garages behind houses in **Coppock Close** and to erect three small bungalows was *refused*. Among the reasons were inappropriate design and setting in the conservation area, which can now more easily be defined following the completion of the Conservation Area Appraisal. The inadequate size, outlook and natural light for good-quality internal living spaces can also be measured against the criteria in the emerging Housing DPD. Inadequate off-street parking was another factor.

In **Pullens Lane**, a major expansion of **Cotuit Hall** (previously housing 108 Brookes students) is proposed by EF Academy, to provide residential and teaching accommodation for 408



students, aged 14 to 18 years, many from abroad, to live and study for

entry to British universities. Existing buildings would be demolished, and replaced by three large new buildings each on three floors with a basement, and with an underground Common Room. This overdevelopment presents a host of unresolved problems.

Earlier in the year, an application was made to extend and alter **129 Lime Walk, Headington** to form two 3-bed and one 2-bed chalet bungalows. We objected to this proposal and the application was later *withdrawn*, but a modified version has now been submitted.

Jericho and North Oxford

In **April** a proposal was made by **Green Templeton College** to erect a community sports pavilion for a temporary period of ten years on land to the rear of **9 -13 Observatory Street**. This would be in the Conservation Area, within the curtilage of the **Observatory** and the **Tower of the Winds**, both exceptionally fine listed buildings of 1794. A modern structure here would be out of keeping with its surroundings and could not be concealed, even by a high wall, because it would be visible from above to people standing within the Observatory. A similar application made about six months ago was refused, and this one has now been *withdrawn*.

From **162 Kingston Road** came proposals for many alterations, including replacing the staircase, removing the chimney breast and adding a single-storey rear extension. This is one of a Victorian terrace of little brick cottages, an attractive feature of the North Oxford Suburb Conservation Area, 'listed' in deference to its special design and materials. No significant alterations should be made. The application was *refused*.

5 Boults Lane, Old Marston, is an interesting old cottage in the Conservation Area. Alterations were proposed to demolish and replace a poorly designed extension, making possible the restoration of the original layout of the ground floor and entry to the house through the original front door. However, the new extension would have been large, relative to the size of the original cottage, and the proposed oak cladding was judged to be out of keeping. The application was *refused*, as was a somewhat similar previous application which was also *dismissed at appeal*.

In **May**, an application was made to replace a wooden boundary fence along the public footpath at **16A Charlbury Road**. The concern here is that the new replacement structures in the Conservation Area should follow the established Victorian style: the boundary should be defined by low brick walls topped by iron railings of an agreed design and proportions, but without brick pillars.

Iffley

An application was made by **Hawkwell House Hotel, Church Way, Iffley**, to refurbish and alter the hotel, adding 11 bedrooms and extending the dining room. This could not be accommodated on the restricted site without disruption and unacceptable increase in road traffic. A decision is awaited.

From **38 Freelands Road, Iffley Fields** came an unusual application to change a garden shed to commercial use, for drumming lessons. This seemed an intractable problem without enough sound-insulation on the roof and walls of the shed, or an agreement on hours of lessons, and the application was *refused*.

Planning Group: *Gillian Argyle, Clive Booth, Kate Joyce (Convenor), Neil MacLennon, Chris Rayson, Stuart Scott, Peter Thompson, Tim Treacher*



Transport – still pressing for change

Our ‘boulevard’ proposal for the A40 alongside the planned new Barton development is again in the news.

Recently it has been reported that there is disagreement between the City and the County over speed limits on the section of the A40 that runs alongside the proposed Barton West development. The City is broadly in favour of a 40 mph speed limit to break down the isolation generated by the 70 mph traffic stream that divides Barton from the rest of the city. The County is said to have serious concerns about speed reductions. According to the City Council however, the agreement is still under discussion while traffic analyses are completed.

The A40 is no longer the strategic road that it once was, its role having been taken over by the M4 and M40. Surveys show that some 70 per cent of the traffic on it is local, as befits its status as a ring road. There are concerns that lower speed limits may be ignored, as on the A34 where it passes through Botley.

We look forward to taking part in the inquiry. The inspector overseeing it has said that if the County Council will not agree to the speed reduction, the policy will probably be found to be unsound as it will not be implementable.

Oxford station

Our efforts to promote a transport hub at the Oxpens continue, with more meetings with City and County executives and councillors.

We had a sympathetic hearing during a walkabout with representatives of Arriva UK Trains, one of the four companies which has qualified to bid for the new Great Western franchise. Arriva was surprised to find out how close the proposed site was to the Westgate and the city centre. We look forward to further



The planned new station in Ourense, Spain. Designed by Norman Foster, the station combines elegance with functionality. Surely Oxford deserves a world-class station too?

discussions with Network Rail.

We have had a first presentation from Arup for an up-to-date costing of the Oxpens station proposal, which will be important for a comparison with alternative schemes put forward by Network Rail. We were very pleased that both the City and County agreed to join the Society in funding this work.

Initial work had concentrated on a station with two island platforms but only four tracks, an option which had not previously been considered. This would have a slightly smaller footprint than the original 2002-2004 proposal; that had two extra freight by-pass tracks, but would reduce the operational flexibility. With estimates of 39 freight trains each way by 2030, this seems short-sighted, and we pressed for figures based on the original six-track layout.

Radcliffe Observatory Quarter

We recently had a chance to discuss with County representatives their initial ideas for the carriageway of the Woodstock Road outside the new Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. This will be a

major new traffic generator, especially for cyclists, and we were surprised that little account appeared to have been taken of its impact upon traffic over a wider area, or the relation of its design to the road to the north and south of it.

A central reservation has been incorporated to make it easier for pedestrians to cross, though those using the bus to reach the new Health Centre would probably welcome a light-controlled crossing. Our input was welcomed, and we look forward to further discussions.

Frideswide Square and more

We are still awaiting proposals for pedestrian and cyclist tracks across the reconfigured Frideswide Square.

We continue to press for improvements for cyclists to be incorporated, where possible, in road maintenance schemes elsewhere. The latest of these is at the bottom of St Aldate's.

Transport Group: *Juliet Blackburn, Richard Bradley, Peter Headicar, Tony Joyce, Andrew Pritchard (Convenor), Graham Smith, Peter Thompson, David Townsend*



Recording our heritage

The Oxford Heritage Assets Register will identify historic features that are important to the city's neighbourhoods. Robert Lloyd-Sweet from Oxford City Council explains.

The City Council has been working with local community groups in East Oxford for the last six months to prepare a register of heritage assets that are valued by local people. This will be expanded to other areas of the city over the next year.

'Heritage assets' are valued features of the historic environment identified by the Council as meriting consideration in planning decisions. Listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas are termed 'designated heritage assets'. These receive legal protection and, in planning decisions, the Council acts in favour of retaining them.

The National Planning Policy Framework enables councils to identify 'non-designated heritage assets' that are locally important. The Oxford Heritage

Assets Register will identify non-designated heritage assets that are important to the city's neighbourhoods and document their significance.

Inclusion on the register won't always mean heritage assets will be preserved without change. Changes that conserve the significance of a heritage asset, or even those providing public benefits that outweigh harm incurred to the asset's significance, may still be permitted. Nevertheless the Council will seek to avoid conflict between conserving heritage assets and any aspects of proposals for change.

The Council has worked with a steering group of local people, including OCS representatives, to develop a nomination form that helps you consider what gives each candidate for the register 'heritage significance'. The trial version of the form and selection criteria will be available online in July 2012. Nominated candidates for the list will be submitted to a review panel to ensure they meet the criteria.

The project is also developing understanding of character in each neighbourhood surveyed using the Oxford Character Assessment Toolkit. The first edition of a *Character Statement for East Oxford: Our East Oxford* is nearing completion. This includes a review of historic themes and character features that make East Oxford a distinctive area in the city, with street-level character analysis undertaken by representatives of local residents' associations.

Areas coming up for survey in the next 12 months will include West Oxford, Summertown and Blackbird Leys, as well as more of East Oxford.

Groups or individuals who would like to be involved can contact Robert direct:

RLLOYD-SWEET@oxford.gov.uk

Photo gallery



The recent OCS visit to the Iffley Road sports complex introduced members to the facilities offered to rowers.



Other members explored the parts of the Oxford Playhouse that the public doesn't normally see.

If you have any photos of your OCS visits, please email them to:

newsletter@oxcivicsoc.org.uk



Museum of Oxford re-opens

Thanks to Tony Joyce and OCS volunteers, the museum has been saved from closure and it officially re-opened to great acclaim in June.

Author Colin Dexter and our Vice-President, Tony Joyce, pulled the ceremonial ribbon bow in the presence of those who had helped to save the museum and to redevelop it. Among the audience were representatives of the funding bodies whose grants were crucial – the Heritage Lottery Fund and WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd).

The first normal opening day on 23 June attracted over 600 visitors. The two small rooms open at present are only a 'taster' of what should be achieved eventually, but they provide a window on Oxford's fascinating history for citizens and visitors alike, and effective support for the Museum's important educational programme. There is also a time-line of iconic characters in the corridor which will act as reference points when the extended presentation is achieved.

The new title 'Explore Oxford' signals that the shop and museum will also



Project Manager Sadie Paige displays a Victorian map in a re-creation of an 1897 office in the Town Hall Photo courtesy of the Oxford Mail/Antony Moore

supplement the Visitor Information Centre by providing advice and leaflets on how to visit the points of interest displayed.

Associated Town Hall improvements will include upgrading the café, better display facilities in the adjoining gallery, where the museum will mount special displays, and much improved educational facilities.

The next steps should be to set up a Friends organisation, and to consider longer-term fundraising to finance extending the themes and displaying more of the available material in other adjacent rooms.

If you have not yet seen the new layout, a visit is strongly recommended. The entrance is now more conveniently

and obviously made from the main lobby of the Town Hall.

The museum also needs more volunteers to maintain its longer opening hours (Mondays to Saturdays 10am till 5pm, and Sundays 11am till 3pm).

If you can spare a few hours and would like to be involved in the project, please contact Vanessa Lea, the Museum Curator, on 01865 252086 or email her at vlea@oxford.gov.uk

Booking form

September – October ticketed events

Closing date for applications: **Monday 13 August**. Please enclose:

- 1 cheque/s payable to Oxford Civic Society, one for each event
- 2 one stamped, addressed envelope for all tickets

Member's name

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

2nd member's name (if applicable).....

Address

Postcode Telephone

Email

Event	No. of tickets	Amount enclosed
Visit to Queen's College Wednesday 19 September at 2.30pm@£7	
How railways changed Oxford walk Please delete any dates you <u>can't</u> do and indicate your preferred date/s@£4	
Sunday 23 September, 2pm Thursday 27 September, 5.30pm Saturday 6 October, 2pm		
Gloucester Green, St Giles' and the Beaumonts walk Please delete any dates you <u>can't</u> do and indicate your preferred date/s@£4	
Sunday 7 October, 2pm Saturday 27 October, 2pm Sunday 28 October, 2pm		
Visit to Bartlemas Chapel Tuesday 9 October, 2pm@£4	

Note: Tickets are allocated soon after the closing date but if you miss it, it's always worth asking if there are places left. Cheques are banked three weeks after ticket issue; after that no refunds can be given.

Send this completed form to Alan Hobbs – see right.



Programme calendar 'cut out and keep'

September – November 2012

*ticketed events

Wednesday 19 September* 2.30pm
Visit to **Queen's College**

Sunday 23 September* 2pm

Thursday 27 September* 5.30pm

Saturday 6 October* 2pm

How the railways changed Oxford, a walk led by Liz Woolley

Sunday 7 October* 2pm

Saturday 27 October* 2pm

Sunday 28 October* 2pm

Gloucester Green, St Giles' and the Beaumonts, a walk led by Malcolm Graham

Tuesday 9 October* 2pm

Visit to **Bartlemas Chapel**

Thursday 1 November 7.30 for 8pm

New architecture in Oxford 1990-2012, a talk by Geoffrey Tyack on buildings such as the Ashmolean and lesser-known additions to the city

Wednesday 28 November 7.30 for 8pm

Lord Nuffield, a talk by Eric Sidebottom on how Oxford was changed by the founder of the British car industry

*Contact for booking/tickets only:

Alan Hobbs
66 Southfield Road
Oxford OX4 1PA
01865 248 105

If, at the last moment, you can't attend, please phone Alan Hobbs – someone will be pleased to take your place





Programme September – November 2012

Open talks – all welcome

No pre-booking, members free – non-members £4 on the door

New architecture in Oxford 1990-2012

Thursday 1 November

Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street

Coffee/tea 7.30pm, talk 8pm

Over the last 20 years, Oxford has been among the leading patrons of modern architecture in this country. **Geoffrey Tyack**, fellow of Kellogg College and architectural historian, will focus on both much-publicised projects such as the Ashmolean extension and lesser-known buildings and will discuss their impact on the historic environment.

Lord Nuffield

Wednesday 28 November

Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street

Coffee/tea 7.30pm, talk 8pm

William Morris, Lord Nuffield, was an influential figure in England in the last century and a man who radically changed the face of Oxford. **Eric Sidebottom** of Oxford University has become the unofficial and knowledgeable historian of Lord Nuffield. In the year that Nuffield Place opens as a National Trust property, he considers the life and influence of the founder of the British car industry.

Members-only visits and walks

Tickets needed for these events: bookings by **Monday 13 August**

We welcome digital photos of events (preferably captioned) – please send to newsletter@oxcivicsoc.org.uk

The Queen's College, High Street

Wednesday 19 September, 2.30pm *Tickets: £7*

Founded in 1341, the college was rebuilt between 1671 and 1765, in a style of some grandeur, making it architecturally the most classical of all Oxford colleges. After an introductory talk on the history of the college, members will visit the chapel, the library and the latest addition to the college buildings – the new lecture theatre. The afternoon will end with tea in the dining hall.

How the railways changed Oxford

Sunday 23 September, 2pm

Thursday 27 September, 5.30pm

Saturday 6 October, 2pm *Tickets: £4*

The railways arrived relatively late in Oxford, partly due to the objections of the University, which feared for the morals of the students. When it did come it had a profound impact on the city physically, economically and socially. Local historian **Liz Woolley** leads a walk that illustrates the effect on Oxford of 'those rampageous fire-devils'.

Gloucester Green, St Giles' and the Beaumonts

Sunday 7 October, 2pm

Saturday 27 October, 2pm

Sunday 28 October, 2pm *Tickets: £4*

Local historian **Malcolm Graham** continues his series of walks round Oxford, this time concentrating on the evolution of one of the most fascinating areas of the city centre, including the medieval Beaumont Palace. It incorporates parts of Oxford that will be covered by the first of Oxford Preservation Trust's *Heritage Walks*, due to be published in the autumn.

Bartlemas Chapel

Tuesday 9 October, 2pm *Tickets: £4*

The tiny Bartlemas Conservation Area is East Oxford's hidden gem. It was created in 1976 to protect the setting of three listed buildings, the Hospital of St Bartholomew, a leper hospital founded by Henry I, a chapel and a chaplain's house. **Christopher Franks**, the present chapel custodian, will give a talk on the history of the site and the recent archaeological dig and the part played by the chapel in the local community. **NB It is not possible to visit by car.**



The President's reception

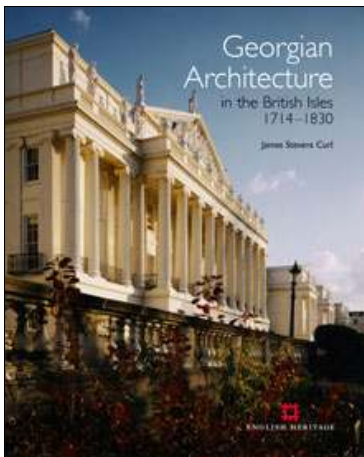


Over 60 guests, many of them new members, joined the President, Sir Hugo Brunner, officers and others at a reception in May, held in the historic Judge's Lodging in St Giles'. The occasion was an opportunity to explain our work to new members and to thank the Society's associates and volunteers who support our work in a variety of ways. As our Chairman, Peter Thompson, put it, we volunteer 'because it's fun' to be involved. If you have a particular skill or interest and would like to support us, please contact any of the groups listed on this page.

Book shelf

Long-standing members will recall the Society's first Chairman and founder member, Professor James Stevens Curl. He is now living in Northern Ireland where he is Visiting Professor at the University of Ulster and is still writing about architectural history.

He has recently revised his book *Georgian architecture in the British Isles* which refers to a number of Oxford buildings. The book argues that the architecture of this period



was much more varied than often realised. Lavishly illustrated, the book is published by English Heritage, price £50 and it can be ordered from English Heritage Publishing Sales, Central Books, 99 Wallis Road, London E9 5LN, phone 0845 458 991 or email eh@centralbooks.com

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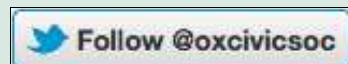
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