

# OxClean Spring Clean 2009

by Liz Storrar, Chair, Steering Group



OCVC students at Blackbird Leys

Spring Clean 2009 took place this year over two days on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Around 100 groups took part, each covering a different location, and many hundreds of volunteers turned out in sunny conditions to do their bit to make our city less littered and thereby raise our self-esteem.

The diversity of participating groups illustrates the breadth of support from across the city: *schoolchildren from 23 schools – nursery, primary and secondary; students from Brookes University and Oxford & Cherwell Valley College; church congregations; cyclists; residents' associations; businesses; political groups; youth groups; allotment associations; canoeists, rowers and boaters; environmentalists and concerned individuals who joined a group in their locality.*



JR nursery school gearing up!

This year **10,720kg** (equivalent to **875 household collections**) of litter were collected – a **25% increase on 2008** overall – with **recyclables increasing by 37%**. We think that some of the increase was due to longer-lasting picks, because of the good weather. But of course we want to see a drop in the amount of

litter out there! In addition, **2,660kg** of scrap were removed – a **decrease of 11%** – suggesting that last year an in-depth clean was carried out at nature reserves and roadsides, for example.

**City Works** again did a magnificent job distributing equipment, collecting and sorting these huge quantities of rubbish throughout the weekend.

At the Official Launch on 13 February, kindly hosted by **Cherwell School**, the **Lord Lieutenant Tim Stevenson OBE** talked about self-esteem – the poor self-esteem of those who litter, and the effect that a littered environment has on self-esteem generally – a vicious circle which must be addressed. **Lord Mayor Councillor Susanna Pressel** launched a competition for secondary schools on '*The Psychology of Littering*', which should yield particularly interesting results.

Local radio ran interviews with OxClean during the event and threw challenging questions back to their listeners: '*Do you litter?*', '*Why?*', '*What do you think of people who litter?*', '*What can we do about it?*'. The national press is currently supporting wide discussion on the problems, citing the **Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE)** and comparing the UK with Europe. **Our local MP's** are fully supportive, taking part, cleaning up, and promoting and endorsing our work.

OxClean's Steering Group believes firmly that littering behaviour can be changed. It's been done in Australia and in the US. Oxford will be cleaner and *you* can help to achieve this. We are looking to recruit more help so do join us in our campaigning and planning. Visit [oxclean.co.uk](http://oxclean.co.uk) for details of what we are up to, consider how you might contribute, and be in touch.

*Help raise the self-esteem of our city and of all of us who live here,  
and make Oxford worthy of its international renown.*



A bumper crop at Fairview Allotments



Unloading at City Works

## Executive Committee Reports:

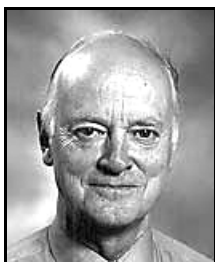
### Oxford Civic Society, 1969 – 2009

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Society is a very important landmark for us all, when we reflect on the achievements and frustrations of the past alongside the challenges we embrace in today's Oxford and the wider environment.

The Programme Group has devised some fascinating events for us, as you will see, and there are more celebratory items to come as the year unfolds. All will be revealed in the enclosures to the next newsletter, in July.

The support of our membership in all our pursuits and endeavours has never been more important to us. How fitting it would be if this anniversary year could see us enrol our 1,000<sup>th</sup> member!

### Sir Hugo Brunner, Vice President OCS



We are delighted to welcome Sir Hugo Brunner KCVO as our new Vice President. Sir Hugo has always been a great supporter of the Civic Society and all our activities. Indeed our OxClean initiative owes much to his inspiration and encouragement, whilst our

involvement in the Blue Plaques scheme (see page 6 for further reporting) is the result of his energetic initiation and vision.

Of course, Sir Hugo's interests have extended widely across the city and the county. We are greatly privileged that, following his retirement from the office of Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, he should feel that he can now spare a little more time for the work of the Society.

*Tony Joyce, Chairman*

### Civic Trust Membership Appeal

*"All over Britain people who love and care about their towns and cities work to take responsibility for something that affects us all – the places where we live. I salute them, respect them and am delighted to be made their president."*

'As a member of a civic society, you are already part of a national network of over a quarter of a million people who have pledged their support to making a difference in the places that matter to them. Through the work of your society, you are helping to improve, protect and promote your local environment for the benefit of your own communities.'

The Civic Trust is appealing for funds to provide better support to your civic society by allowing us to recruit policy and campaign staff dedicated to the civic society movement. I do hope you will help me by donating online or completing the downloadable form.'

*Griff Rhys Jones, President, The Civic Trust*

For more details, please visit their website at <http://www.civicsocieties.org.uk/support-us/membership-appeal/> or contact: **Ian Harvey, The Civic Trust, Century Building, 31 North John Street, Liverpool L2 6RG Tel: 0151 231 6908**. The official donation form will be available at our meetings and by post from the Hon Secretary, on receipt of the usual stamped, addressed envelope (see page 8 for contact details). *Editor*

### AGM – Monday 17th March, 8 pm

The Annual Meeting of the Society took place in the recently extended Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies in St Giles. Over 110 members heard the Chief Executive of Oxford City Council, **Peter Sloman** talk on the challenges faced by the City. He thanked the Society for OxClean and for ensuring a high quality of debate on planning and development matters.

The talk was followed by the formal business of the Annual General Meeting. The Reports pre-circulated to members in February, and available on the Society's website, were received and discussed, allowing time for questions.

**Chairman: Tony Joyce, Hon Treasurer: Gordon Balme and Hon Secretary: Vernon Porter** were re-elected to office unopposed. Members **Keith Dyke, Liz Grosvenor, Kate Joyce, Pauline Martin, Christine Thompson, David Townsend, Ros Weatherall** and **Stuart White** were re-elected to the Executive Committee and were joined by a new member, **Ingrid Lunt**.

Thanks were expressed to all who had served the Society in 2008-9, particularly to **Stephen Brown**, (formerly Vice Chairman) and to **Sheila Glazebrook** and **Liz Storrar**, who were not seeking re-election.

## New Corporate Members

We are pleased to report that, despite the difficult economic climate, we continue to attract new corporate members. Since November, *Kingerlee Ltd*, *Lincoln College*, and *Lowe & Oliver Ltd*, have joined us. This brings our total of corporate members to 15, all warmly welcome (for the full listing, please see the Membership section of our website).

However, in order to drive forward the diverse initiatives and aspirations of the Society, as reflected in these pages, we must increase this level of support. We know that many of our members have links to large local organisations. Are **you** in a position to introduce a new corporate member? Personal contact is always the best means of recruiting, so if you think your organisation shares our aims and values, please let us know and we can follow up your lead. Thank you.

*Gordon Balme, Hon Treasurer (01865 511387)*

*Stuart White, University Liaison (01865 247669)*

## A New Convenor for Programme Group

A very warm welcome is extended to **Alastair Lack**, who joins our enterprising and hard-working Programme Group as Convenor.



Alastair read History at Oxford in the 1960s before teaching in India, then working in publishing in New York. He was with the BBC World Service from 1991-1997, responsible for a

wide range of programmes from current affairs to the arts, and finally as Head of English Programmes. Moving to Oxford, he became Secretary of the Oxford University Society before freelancing in Oxford and city guiding, journalism and other pursuits.

*In welcoming Alastair, we must also offer a huge vote of thanks to **Sheila Glazebrook**, Programme Group Convenor for the last ten years, who is now retiring from the Committee. Sheila's diverse and highly informative programme has always had instant appeal to members, new and established. In 27 years of tireless service to the Society, she has filled almost every role on the Committee, notably in her time as Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. We are hugely indebted to her. Her many friends within the Society look forward to the continuing pleasure of her company at our future events.*

*Tony Joyce, Chairman*

## Chairman's Commentary

*Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's)*. Oxford has at least as intense a concentration of these as any city in the UK. A major problem is that the majority are unregistered, therefore uncontrolled, and often unknown to the local authority. Some buy-to-let landlords and their agents have of course been very good and genuinely help to meet the huge demand from students and others. But badly run, unregistered HMO's can have an erosive effect on a neighbourhood in terms of rubbish, litter, noise, hygiene, car parking and related problems, which can only be mitigated by the somewhat cumbersome processes of the Environmental Control officers.

In addition, the transient nature of occupants dilutes the community in an area, with some streets in the city now having just 25% of normal permanent residents. The City Council has recently carried out a drive to try and identify HMO's, in association with their Balance of Dwellings policies. But compulsory registration and control is statutorily limited at present to 3-storey properties and those accommodating six or more separate occupants. The effect has been that many modest 2-storey family houses have been divided and converted within permitted development rights, and sometimes with very unsightly box dormers, to cram in as many unofficial occupants as possible.

The City Council is taking the lead in promoting changes in the legislation to extend mandatory registration to 2-storey houses and those accommodating four or more separate individuals. The junior minister responsible for this area in the Department for Communities and Local Government, Iain Wright MP, paid a very useful visit to the city recently and was shown some of the nastier manifestations of the problem. We hope, as a result, that he will take speedy action.

**OX1**. Following the narrow failure of the BID process (see March 2008 Newsletter), the City and County Councils have reviewed their funding of OX1, the city centre management company: they have decided to reallocate their grants, amounting to £105,000 per year, to the re-establishment of an in-house management company to improve the basic services in the city centre (which have always been the responsibility of the City Council).

The councils had hoped that OX1 might continue its role of promoting the interests of city centre businesses and visitors through co-ordinated pub-



licity, marketing and events. The directors have concluded, however, that without BID funding or the continued support of the councils' grants, this was not financially possible, and the company is in the process of being wound up.

The success of the new arrangement will of course be judged by the environment in the city centre and the economic and cultural success of the city in these challenging times.

**Core Strategy.** At a preliminary meeting, the Inspector appointed to examine the city's proposed Core Strategy raised a number of fundamental questions on its presentation. He has required more detailed justification and more definition of individual proposals – “*more flesh on the bones*”, as he put it. The City has now submitted a revised (and lengthier) version, and awaits his decision whether this is acceptable, whether a further round of consultation is required, or whether a major rethink of the Strategy is necessary.

**Northern Gateway.** Consultation is now under way towards the production of the Area Action Plan for this important stretch of land around Peartree, much of which is safeguarded and some is within the Green Belt. With the safeguarded land at Barton, it represents the only remaining space of any size available to meet the city's future needs for development within the existing boundaries.

**Highway Improvement.** Work has now started on the complete resurfacing of **New Inn Hall Street** to provide a uniformly flat surface, as in Cornmarket. The street is already effectively a “shared space” accommodating pedestrians, vehicle access to college and retail sites, disabled parking and the north-south Sustrans cycle route. This will not change, but it is hoped that the elimination of the stepped kerb, though with a preferred pedestrian walkway still defined, will ease the restrictions of the existing uncomfortably narrow pavements.

As this work reaches completion in the summer, we should see the beginning of the modifications to the road surface in **Queen Street**, as part of the first phase of **Transform Oxford** described in the *Transport Notes* (see page 5). Plans are also well advanced for the repair and upgrading of the middle section of the **High Street**, and consultation is in progress for the improvement to the most sensitive section of the **London Road**, from Osler Road to Wharton Road through the **Headington Shopping Centre**.

Overall, we should be seeing a significant improvement to the city's street environment during the coming months.

*Tony Joyce, Chairman*

## Report from the Planning Sub-Committee

*Update on applications mentioned in the November 2008 newsletter:* Three proposals which were refused were: for development of **26 Lathbury Road**; to demolish **16B Cherwell Street** in **St Clements** (and replace by five houses); and to add to the rear of **61 and 62 Juxon Street, Jericho**. Extensions at **Springfield, 121 Banbury Road**, were permitted in 01/09 but with many conditions. Proposals at **10 to 12 Stephen Road, Headington** (in at least the third attempt), were allowed on referral to the Strategic Development Control Committee of the City Council. A proposal to extend the **Linton Lodge Hotel** in Linton Road, was withdrawn. Development of **29 Wellington Street, Jericho**, had been refused in 07/08 but soon after another version was submitted, which is still pending. Oriel College's proposals for the **Bartlemas Nursery School** site were refused in 12/08, but have gone to Appeal, which is still pending. Similarly, a proposal to build on land behind **21 Wolvercote Green** was refused in 12/08 but has gone to Appeal. Two other proposals which have not yet been determined are: to demolish **268 Woodstock Road**, (formerly **The Lemon Tree Restaurant**) and replace it by three large houses; and to demolish **26 Barton Village Road, Barton**.

New applications in *November* included one for a large 3- and 4-storey building at the junction of **Marston Road** and **John Garne Way**, for 361 study-bedrooms for students of **Brookes University**, arranged around an inner courtyard. Permission was granted in 01/09. Application was made to build a second house with four bedrooms on three floors to the rear of **45 Coniston Avenue**, sharing its plot. Unfortunately this difficult sloping site causes problems with different floor levels, and a semi-basement kitchen requires stairs up to the dining area. The house would be too close to neighbours and look bulky: it was refused consent in 02/09. An interesting proposal has been made to develop a **Shopping Mall** hidden behind buildings around **Carfax** which face on to **St Aldates** and **Queen Street**. Space here is under-used and derelict. 14 new retail units would be built on the ground floor with offices above and accommodation for 96 students on the third floor: the application has still to be determined.

An application was made in *December* to demolish garages behind six houses in **Cherwell Drive** (Nos 9 to 19) and three on **Marston Road** (Nos 489 to 493) and to build eight one-bed flats on two storeys, with car-parking etc. This might be overbearing on neighbours' gardens, but is still pending. To the rear of **82, 84 and 86 Windmill Road** it was proposed to build a block containing three 1-bed maisonettes, but this rear-garden back-land development would be very cramped: it was *withdrawn* in 01/09. An application to alter **No. 120 Banbury Road** by replacing a rear conservatory with large protruding copper-clad openings for the kitchen and family room areas, met with *refusal* a few days later. At **27 Norham Road** it was proposed to demolish a separate garage block, and erect ancillary accommodation for the house on one and two storeys: this was *withdrawn* a month later. In **Botley Road** two internally illuminated moving poster displays were proposed, to be mounted on lamp-posts, and *permitted*.

In *January*, **46 Hythe Bridge Street** on the corner of Hythe Bridge Street and Upper Fisher Row, poised above the Canal, was threatened by demolition and replacement by a four-storey building for nine flats. This significant corner of the Conservation Area has both character and charm: the Victorian/Edwardian terrace should be retained intact, and sensitively restored. The application was *withdrawn* in 02/09. Another threat of demolition came for **11 Walton Well Road**, which is part of a Listed terrace: so far the matter is undecided. In Littlemore, **Peers School** site is to be re-developed by the County Council as a new Oxford Academy Campus, which involves demolition of nearly all buildings and replacement by new buildings on 2 and 3 storeys, including Sports Centre etc., a wasteful process that seems to be taken for granted. A rash of **Advertising Banners** was threatened on 102 lamp-posts all over Oxford, but our protest was acknowledged and most were immediately *withdrawn*. An application was made to replace garages at **90 Bainton Road** with a six-bed Victorian-style house, on 2 and 3 storeys, close to the deep pool visible from Elizabeth Jennings Way; it has also been *withdrawn*.

*Gillian Argyle, Mark Barrington-Ward,  
Kate Joyce, Chris Rayson, David Townsend*

**Note:** A reminder to readers that (1) the full list of the Planning Sub Committee's monthly comments on applications, in summary form, can be viewed on the home page of our website, which is regularly updated; (2) in addition, the main **Planning** section of our site

links directly to **Oxford City Council's** website, where a comprehensive history of each application, and all comments received, is published under its relevant reference number. *Editor*

## Transport Notes

Members will be aware (from the recent AGM mailing) of the Society's response to the County's plans to "*Transform Oxford*". One of the key concerns we raised has now apparently been met – there should be no need to use two or three buses to get from east of **Magdalen Bridge** to the city centre. The weight of objections from all parts of the city, not just the Civic Society, no doubt contributed to this reappraisal. It remains to be seen if our other major objection regarding bus access – **George Street/Magdalen Street** – is accepted.

The removal of bus stops from **Queen Street** was not so controversial since this has always been a long-term aim of the *Oxford Transport Strategy*, which we supported at the Public Inquiry in 1998. The Inspector recommended then that this should be done as soon as possible so, eleven years later, our job is to see that the changes are as painless as possible. The County's transport planners seem to have done the best they can, given the constrained layout of Oxford's roads.

There will still be stops near **Bonn Square** for the Headington group of services and quite a few other services will run through **Queen Street** without stopping. Air quality should improve since most pollution comes from vehicles starting and stopping (and idling when stationary). Instead of in Queen Street, stops for other routes will be in **Castle Street, St Aldates** and a new stop in **High Street** at the junction with Turl Street which will be used by the 280 to Aylesbury, the Brookes bus to Headington and the more infrequent services to villages to the east and south-east. Passengers for the no 10 will now walk down St Aldates to **St Aldates Church**, while those for Wood Farm will go from **Castle Street** instead of St Aldates. Marston and South Oxford stops are virtually unaffected. Cowley Road/Blackbird Leys buses will go from the **Carfax** end of St Aldates.

The unluckiest people are those for Iffley Road/Rose Hill. These services will depart from **Castle Street** but from opposite sides of the road – no 3 from the castle side and no 4 from the Westgate side. The well-known law postulated by Professor Sodde will ensure that the bus on the other side will always come first!

As for Park & Ride services, the 300 to Redbridge will stop in **Castle Street** instead of Bonn Square and will no longer serve the stop opposite the Post Office in St Aldates, while the 400 for Thornhill will go from **Castle Street** instead of Bonn Square and for Seacourt from a new stop in **New Road** near County Hall, instead of Castle Street. I assume that the X90 London coach will continue to provide an evening service to Thornhill although this is not clear from published documents.

On a lighter note, did you know that Marks & Spencer now have a "Simply Food" store at the railway station? This is larger and carries a wider range than I expected, as I discovered recently.

*David Townsend, Transport Secretary*

### Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board

Sir Hugo Brunner has retired from the chairmanship. He will be much missed as a very active founding chairman, taking pride and pleasure in the awards and presiding with characteristic grace on all occasions. He is succeeded by Dr Kate Tiller, who is a Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire and a distinguished specialist in English Local History, with great knowledge of the county. We are delighted that she has accepted the invitation to be the next chairman and look forward to working with her.

Since the last report eight plaques have been put in place. In the county **James Allen Shuffrey (1859-1939)** whose evocative watercolours recorded a vanishing Oxford, was honoured at 7 Narrow Hill, Woodgreen, Witney, where he was born and grew up. At Rock Hill, Chipping Norton, the plaque for **General Sir Montagu Stopford (1892-1971)** who played a crucial part in the Burma Campaign 1943-45, was unveiled by General Lord Ramsbotham to fanfares of bugles.

Grateful readers gathered to remember the writer **Elizabeth Goudge (1900-84)** at Rose Cottage, Rotherfield Peppard. As a young woman she had resided in Tom Quad, the inspiration for her novel *Towers in the Mist*. A former resident there had been the eccentric geologist **William Buckland (1784-1856)** who was the first to identify dinosaur bones and may have eaten a king's heart. As Dean of Westminster he had the living of Islip where his plaque now adorns the gate pier of the Old Rectory.

In the city **Anthony à Wood (1632-95)**, the celebrated antiquary, was honoured at Postmasters' Hall, Merton Street, where he was born, then lived and died. A long-awaited plaque for **C.S.Lewis**

(1898-1963) was finally installed at The Kilns, Headington Quarry. Biochemist and Nobel Laureate **Sir Hans Krebs (1900-81)** was commemorated at 27 Adderbury Road, Iffley, his home of many years where he loved his orchard garden. The last ceremony of the year was for the writer **Nirad C. Chaudhuri (1897-1999)** who discoursed on two cultures, at 20 Lathbury Road. His death in 1999 prompted the idea of the Blue Plaques scheme. Most appropriately Sir Hugo was able to preside on this final occasion.

*Eda Forbes, Secretary*

### Special events, later in the year:

#### *Oxford Open Doors, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September.*

Throughout this weekend, Oxford will open its doors to the discovery and enjoyment of its most interesting buildings and spaces, little known corners and unusual places. A range of interesting activities will be available to visitors: a particularly attractive new element this year will be a planned mini-festival celebrating Oxford's canal, with boat trips and guided walks.

More information and a detailed programme will be available later in the summer. Meanwhile, see [www.openingdoorsopeningminds.org.uk](http://www.openingdoorsopeningminds.org.uk) or e-mail [info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk)

**Note:** Oxford Open Doors is organised by **Oxford Preservation Trust** in partnership with Oxford University.

*Editor*

**Oxford Streets for People.** Oxford City Council has asked OCS to co-ordinate the annual 'Streets for People' programme, which this year falls on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September and will involve any number of localised events, independently organised. Its two-fold purpose is to: (1) remind people that we should celebrate streets as valuable social spaces for all to use and enjoy; (2) make a case for changes in street design and management to bring this about, where appropriate.

The Society is pleased to agree to the Council's request and will post information to the website as it becomes available. If you have any ideas for an event in a street near you, please let us know; more importantly, to ensure that you are included in our circulation as we plan *Oxford Streets for People*, please email [streets@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk](mailto:streets@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk)

*Richard Bradley, Project Co-ordinator*  
*telephone 01865 762418*



## Urgently seeking members' support:

**Museum of Oxford.** There has been no shortage of publicity recently regarding the financial crisis facing the Museum of Oxford. Members will know that OCS has undertaken to recruit volunteers to help mitigate the impact of essential staff cuts, and keep the Museum fully functional.

We are very pleased to have had more than 30 offers of help so far, but we will need more if we are to be able to offer at least two volunteers per session for the foreseeable future – with provision for reserves as required, and accommodating the occasional basis on which many people can make themselves available.

We are all delighted that OCS member **Lesley Court** has offered to co-ordinate the volunteers' working schedule. Lesley will be pleased to receive any further offers of help, either via our website or via a message left on **01865 727074**; she is making contact with everyone who has volunteered thus far, pending final agreement on our association with the Museum. *Our special enclosure clearly outlines the range of practical support we seek to offer to the Museum.*

**Jericho Boatyard & Canalside Campaign.** The campaign spearheaded by the Jericho Living Heritage Trust to acquire the old boatyard site adjoining St Barnabas Church is in full swing. The Trust's first objective is to ensure that the site is safeguarded into the permanent ownership of the community. Once this goal is achieved the plan is for a community-led development of architectural credit to Oxford – one that would include a dock facility as well as a waterside social space welcoming all who live in or visit this city.

Donations are welcome and supporters continue to be very generous to the campaign. In these turbulent times of depressed property values the recent collapse into administration of Castlemore Securities Ltd, the boatyard's erstwhile owners, has brought with it an exceptional opportunity for the site to be bought from the administrators by the rust and for the community at a reasonable price. Please contact **Steph Pirrie** on **07974 917763** for more information or visit [www.jlht.org](http://www.jlht.org)

**St Sepulchre's Cemetery Working Party.** Friends and would-be friends of St Sepulchre's Cemetery are invited to an inaugural ivy-snipping gathering at 2pm Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2009 (the first day of British Summer Time). Meet at the gateway on the

south side of Walton Street – next to the Londis Shop: and please bring along your secateurs, and a rake, and gloves.

**Peter Strong, OCS member & Jericho resident**  
[javelindart@javelindart.free-online.co.uk](mailto:javelindart@javelindart.free-online.co.uk)  
telephone 01865 553749

## Anniversaries, from the archives

This year, the Civic Society celebrates forty years of activity. Here we note some of the past anniversaries, starting with the tenth:

In the Newsletter of January 1979, James Stevens Curl who was the first Chairman wrote about the foundation of the society. A new, celebratory logo appears on the Newsletters of 1979 and a new leaflet was produced. A development which was noted at the AGM of 1979 was the setting up of a Liaison Group with other amenity societies and Newsletter No. 22 of April 1979 reported that the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary social evening for associate members was a success.

The twenty-first anniversary in 1990 was celebrated in style, with a reception in the Town Hall on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The list of invited guests included a number of third-generation family traders among them: butchers, builders and a firm of chimney-sweepers. An exhibition in the library staged to coincide with Environment Week highlighted the achievements of the Society.

For the 25<sup>th</sup>, there was a boat trip with an attractive buffet lunch followed by the cutting of a celebratory cake (see photograph), by the President of that time, Dame Penelope Jessel.



**Cake generously made and decorated by Barbara Ashdown**

Newsletter no 82 noted: "To mark our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are repeating the highly successful river trip on a Salters steamer which we took five years ago. We can count kingfishers, look out for Carfax Conduit, and enjoy a buffet lunch and a celebratory cake on the way back."

This year's celebration was inaugurated at the Town Hall by the Lord Mayor on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Councillor Susanna Pressel spoke warmly of the Society's new commitment to the Museum of Oxford.

**Christine Butler, OCS Archivist**

We are indebted to many organisations and individuals within them who have, by their support and practical help, ensured the success of Spring Clean 2009:

- **Oxford City Council** kindly granted our application for discretionary funds, enabling us to buy 6,000 roundels; **Area Committees** were extremely supportive of Spring Clean 2009;
- **City Works** have been our staunch allies in the planning stages and throughout the actual event, overcoming unexpected problems that inevitably crop up in an event of this type;
- **The Oxford Times** gifted us excellent design and graphics, technical assistance and publicity material – our grateful thanks to **Derek Holmes**, Editor, and **Mel Costello**, Editorial Artist;
- **Oxford Bus Company** gave us welcome publicity on their fleet of buses and then registered to participate;
- **Midcounties Co-operative** generously funded the purchase of 200 hi-vis vests and offered us publicity on their in-store plasma screens – their team also became active participants;
- from the outset, just over 2 years ago, the **Civic Society's** Executive Committee has supported and endorsed our endeavours with practical help whenever required.

We extend a very big thank you to Mrs Jill Judson, Head Mistress and to the pupils of **Cherwell School** for hosting our Launch this year; to **Lord Mayor, Councillor Susanna Pressel** for her enthusiasm and active interest, to MPs **Evan Harris** and **Andrew Smith** for their endorsement and involvement.

And we warmly welcome the feedback we have and are continuing to receive in response to the searching question “**What Next?**”. Just some examples follow:

- ❖ “I think OxClean is absolutely fantastic; it is superb partnership, raising awareness locally about the need. I have not heard one word against it.” **Peter Sloman, Chief Executive, Oxford City Council**
- ❖ “It’s great that schools and schoolchildren are so involved, but how to educate adult litter drop-pers? Plastic shopping bags went out of favour fast enough, can’t we do the same about litter?”
- ❖ “What would it take to put a small deposit on cans and bottles for return – this would clear my local park of a real eyesore, quicker than any other measure I know! A charity might even get the money raised.”
- ❖ “Let’s talk to the Environment Agency and others, and get the water courses cleaned up in the autumn, and so stop litter being taken down the rivers. It’s the best time of year to do this.”
- ❖ “We mustn’t lose the fun element – it was all a bit ‘earnest’ this year. Get local shops to encourage the volunteers with a chocolate bar or two, free tea or coffee; plan a BBQ or a big community picnic in a newly cleaned area, with no litter afterwards, of course; persuade friends and neighbours to turn out, take part.”
- ❖ “Please let’s get a biodegradable alternative to polystyrene packaging!”

*OxClean’s Steering Group: Rosanne Bostock, Liz Grosvenor, Ingrid Lunt, Pauline Martin,  
Vernon Porter, Liz Storrar, Christine Thompson, Ros Weatherall*

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*Newsletter issued in March, July and November and published by*

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