

4th May: Patrick Steptoe (1913 – 1988), gynaecologist, at 52 West End, Witney, his home 1917 – 1943. He pioneered IVF with his colleague Robert Edwards. They pursued their goal in the face of much hostility and very little financial support. Dr Peter Brinsden who succeeded Steptoe as director at the Bourn Hall Clinic and spoke at the unveiling, said that since the birth of Louise Brown, the first test tube baby, in 1978, some 8 million babies around the world had been born through IVF. Professor Andrew Steptoe spoke of his father's formative years in Witney and his passion for music. The Mayor of Witney attended the ceremony.

1st June: Dame Margery Perham (1891 – 1982), historian, at 5 Rawlinson Road where she lived for 20 years. She became a specialist on colonial governance, especially in Africa, and was ahead of her time on development and the ideal of independence. She was the key adviser on the process of decolonisation in the post war years. She was the first Fellow of Nuffield and a formidable figure there. The speaker was John Darwin, Professor Emeritus of Global and Imperial History, and Sir Andrew Dilnot, Warden of Nuffield attended the ceremony.

16th June: Robin Cavendish (1930 – 1994), responaut, at the Old Rectory, Drayton St Leonard. He was struck down by polio at the age of 28 and survived against all the odds to lead a fulfilling life. He pioneered the respirator wheelchair and devoted his life to the improvement of the quality of life of severely handicapped people. Jonathan Cavendish, film producer, gave the tribute to his father. He had recently made the biopic *Breathe* of his parents' story. Diana Cavendish unveiled the plaque and hosted a tea party at her house for the invitees.

29th June: Chiang Yee (1903 – 1971), artist and writer, author of the *Silent Traveller in Oxford* and other books in the series, at 28 Southmoor Road. He was bombed out of his London flat in 1940 and given shelter by the very generous Henry and Violet Keene. He remained their lodger and friend for another fifteen years. Some of his descendants and Rita Keene, the little girl immortalised in the book, were traced and thrilled to attend the ceremony. His biographer Da Zheng came over from America to give the address and there was a symposium in Chiang Yee's honour at the Ashmolean on the same day. This plaque has the distinction of bearing his name in Chinese characters, a first for us.

6th July: Chassar Moir (1900 – 1977), first Nuffield Professor of Gynaecology, at 11 Chadlington Road. He is especially renowned for his development of the drug ergometrine (1932) which stems postpartum haemorrhage, the cause of huge numbers of deaths in child birth down the centuries until that miraculous discovery. David Barlow, the most recent Nuffield Professor, gave a brilliant address in tribute. There was a huge gathering of Moir family, friends and medical fraternity and a sumptuous tea was hosted by the family at Wolfson College.

27th July: Joan Murray (1917 – 1996), Bletchley Park cryptanalyst, at 7 Larkfields, Headington Quarry, where she lived in her final years. At Bletchley the young Joan Clarke was assigned to Hut 8 where she worked as one of Alan Turing's brilliant small team to crack the German naval Enigma codes and anticipate U-boat attacks which were devastating Britain's Atlantic supply lines. The speaker at the event was Kerry Howard, an independent Bletchley Park researcher and writer.

8th October: Frank Bellamy (1963 – 1936) and his niece Ethel Bellamy (1881 – 1960), at 2 Winchester Road. They were unsung townspeople who worked at the University Observatory

on the worldwide project known as the Astrographic Catalogue. Together they photographed a million stars for the Oxford and other European observatories. Ethel became a pioneering seismologist tracking and recording epicentres, a very early professional role for a woman in science. This proposal came from the Oxford Philatelic Society for whom Frank is a great hero as their founder and creator of a famous stamp collection. The speakers were Bill Jackson of OPS and Professor Karin Sigloch of Oxford University Dept of Earth Sciences.

27th October: Foundation of Oxford United Football Club as Headington FC in 1893 at the Britannia Inn, Headington. This proposal came from OxVox the independent Oxford United Supporters Club. The speakers at the event were Martin Brodetsky, OUFC historian, and the Vice Chairman Zaki Nuseibah.. The Lord Mayor attended the ceremony which attracted a good crowd but mercifully not as many people as had been feared by me. This plaque facing the London Road is one of our most prominent.

1st November: Oxford Park & Ride, at Redbridge where the scheme was launched in December 1973. Peter Headicar, former Reader in Transport at Oxford Brookes University, gave an excellent speech, giving due credit to OCS for promoting the idea of P&R which has proved such a success. He outlined his thoughts on desirable future expansion of the system further out from the city. Phil Southall, Managing Director of Oxford Bus Company, also spoke on the history of the service in Oxford and to great delight all laid on a special service bus to convey people to the Town Hall for refreshments.

A busy but gratifying year. We already have a very full complement of plaques for next year.

Many thanks to OCS for its annual donation and support for running costs.

Eda Forbes,

Blu Plaques Secretary