



OXFORD
PRESERVATION
TRUST

Newsletter Spring/Summer 2021

Oxford ^{Re}opens



The chance to climb St George's Tower is never to be missed and the Castle is reopening in May, so do go, it's free for members. The ever-present crane on the skyline is a reminder of the changes that are happening – see page 4 for news of an exciting new digital 3D model of the city. We are all looking forward to seeing you after far too long a gap. And don't forget Oxford Open Doors 11-12 September 2021.

Full steam ahead on the restoration of the Rewley Road Swing Bridge!
Turn to page 2 to find out what's been happening on site.

Swing Bridge Cont'd

We are busy 'Mending, turning and building bridges' down on the Sheepwash Channel. Since November we've removed over 5000 rivets to take the bridge apart. We will shortly jack it up by 60cm (two ruler lengths to you and me) to get at the turning mechanism below. Paint analysis, sourcing bits of original rail, and even some magnet fishing have helped inform the work all led by our expert project managers and contractors TMP and Avon Construction.

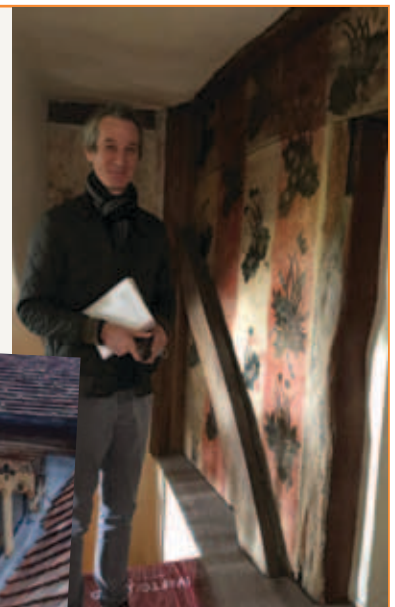


The pit below the bridge makes an unusual pond where ten fish, one wallet and one phone were found.

Abingdon's oldest house and window?

Our medieval merchant's house in East St Helen Street built 1429-31, has had an 18th century carriageway driven through, been a 'condemned slum', and found its way to OPT in the 1980s. It's full of treasures, including c16th wall paintings, and a first-floor gallery with rare three-bay traceried window. It is this window that was in need of attention, and which thanks to the William Delafield Trust, and the expertise of Dan Miles and Owlsworth, is now secure for future generations to enjoy.

Full details of the restoration are on our website and see page 6 for how to visit this Summer.



OPT News...

The Heritage Books would not have been possible without **Malcolm Graham**, and so we were delighted to support his successful nomination for a **Personal Achievement Award** by the **British Association for Local History**. This recognises his 50 years of championing and sharing his knowledge of Oxfordshire.



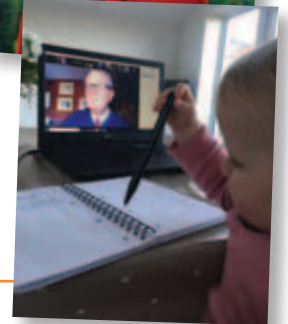
Team News...

Ros as Membership Officer, has had a busy few months with our membership continuing to grow. Thank you to everyone who has said such supportive things about our regular emails and Debbie's blogs and articles. We have sold over 100 of our '*Ox in a Box*'. If you don't have your copy, don't delay, supplies are running short.

Welcome... to Shona Carr, who joins us as assistant **Heritage and Outreach Officer** working on **Oxford Open Doors**.



And Welcome... to Bonnie Warden, our youngest recruit, here helping her Mum Laura by taking notes at a recent planning consultation evening.



Friday
19 November



1071 - 2021

Son et Lumiere at Oxford Castle. To mark the 950th Anniversary of Oxford Castle, we have been working with Oxford University TORCH to plan this event to coincide with Oxford City's Light Nights. It will be very special - details of how to get tickets will follow.

It is not just OPT that has kept our Green Spaces open. Thank you to **Christ Church** who have kept the **Meadows** open throughout, and do visit the **Botanic Gardens** and **the Arboretum** as they change with the seasons. And whilst we cannot climb the tower this May Morning we can visit the **gardens of Magdalen College** which reopen in time for Easter, including the stunning fritillaries in Addison Walk.



Stop Press...

OPT now holds the keys to the **c17th Conduit House** on **Harcourt Hill** looking after it for English Heritage. It tells the story of **Oxford's first piped water supply** which survived until the 1860s, fresh spring water feeding down through elm pipes to the Conduit which sat at Carfax, now in Nuneham Park. We'll be sure to let you know as soon as we have a date for opening.



Planning...

Oxford's new Local Plan relaxes the restrictions on the heights of buildings which has been set at 18.2 metres since the 1960s. The Council's intentions are honourable, looking to create a more varied and less monolithic skyline, but developers may see it as the lid from Pandora's box they have been waiting for.



Following Historic England's initiative, OPT is working with VU.CITY who have created an **interactive 3D digital model of Oxford**, accurate to 15cm and showing every building, road, tree and public space. As new developments can be added to assess their impact, our hope is that colleges, University, other landowners and everyone involved in development and planning will use this new platform. The first test will be the **Clarendon Centre** in a development which stretches north-south from St Michael at the Northgate to Carfax and seems to obscure views from St George's, the Mound and St Mary's in the High. It comes too late for the **University's Life & Mind building**, which replaces Tinbergen in South Parks Road and will rise to a mega 24+ metres at its tallest point. **We will be setting up a cpd event** for our corporate members to share the opportunity, and will be in touch.



The City Council's commitment to improving **special Oxford places** is to be applauded. We would have liked to see the eastern end of Broad Street pedestrianised this summer, rather than the plan for the Boswells end, but we'll need to wait a little longer. Anything that encourages interest in the **Kim Wilkie Broad Street Plan** is welcomed and it will be great to see the Weston Library 'having a go' with the café to spill out onto the steps from April. We are also pleased to be taking part in the exercise to create a **Covered Market Masterplan** which builds on our work on the Lindsay's units where negotiations are currently underway for a new and exciting food use.

OPT and the Green Agenda

OPT are committed to fighting the climate crisis. We are founding members of the **International Climate Heritage Network** and amongst the first to sign up to **Heritage Declares** putting sustainability at the heart of planning and design. We are keen to promote **Active Travel**, cycling, running and walking, across all our work. See our website, read our blog post "*Our health and wellbeing, from the personal to the planet*" and follow us @OxfordPresTrust and #OPTClimateChallenge.

The new **OPT Green Award** is one way we can be proactive. We were delighted to award it to Wadham College for the Dorothy Wadham Building on Iffley Road, presented by Cllr. Tom Hayes a true champion of Green Transport and Zero Carbon Oxford "... *decarbonisation can be done in ways which enhance the beauty and purpose of our public spaces*" something with which we wholeheartedly agree.



OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST

Awards 2020



PLAQUE WINNERS

BUILDING CONSERVATION

- All Souls College: Restoration of public facing façade, including replacement of intricate stone chimneys
- Brasenose Farm
- The Conservation of the Exterior of St Mary the Virgin, Iffley
- Keble College: Parks Road Frontage Restoration

NEW BUILDINGS

- Temple Bookbinders Ltd., Yarnton
- The Dorothy Wadham Building, Iffley Road

SMALL PROJECTS

- The Buttery & Old Porters' Lodge, Wolfson College

LANDSCAPE & PUBLIC REALM

- Kennington Meadows Path Development Scheme

GREEN AWARD

- The Dorothy Wadham Building, Iffley Road

OPT Awards Panel



The Awards
are now open
for 2021.
See OPT website



Thanks to our sponsors:



Programme of Events



We have stayed close to home in this Programme of Events using our own places and our regular speakers, who are amazing, enabling us to keep events within the guidelines and safe for everyone.

Virtual OPT Events

Thursday 8 April, 5pm

...those rampageous, dragonnading fire-devils...

The coming of the railway to Oxford with local historian, Liz Woolley.

Thursday 6 May, 5pm

Turning the bridge – saving the Rewley Road Swing Bridge Part II with OPT Trustee, Tom Hassall.

Thursday 17 June, 4.30pm

Oxford Preservation Trust AGM.

Tuesday 20 July, 5pm

Recent archaeology work in Oxford with City Archaeologist, David Radford.

Re OPT opens Walks & Events

Tuesday 13 & 28 April, 2.30pm

Follow the trail of On foot from the High to Trill Mill with author Malcolm Graham.

Friday 14 May, 2.30pm

You've heard the talk, now walk the walk *The coming of the Railway (includes the Rewley Road Swing Bridge)* led by local historian, Liz Woolley.

Tuesday 25 May, 5pm

Welcome back - take a stroll along the Cherwell to the Vicky Arms, Old Marston with the OPT team.

Tuesday 8 June, 2.30pm

Another chance to follow the trail of *On foot from the High to Trill Mill* with author Malcolm Graham.

Tuesday 15 June, 2.30pm

Discover the history of New Hinksey with local historian, Liz Woolley.

Thursday 1 July, 4pm

Delight in this walk to *Hinksey Meadow, the Conduit House and Harcourt Hill* with Malcolm Graham.

Saturday 4 July

Take a self-guided walk with family activities on *National Meadows Day* at Heyford Meadow and North Hinksey.

Friday 23 July, 9pm

Go in search of *Glow-worms at Kennington Meadows* with expert Lydia Blake.

Wednesday 28 July, 2.30pm

Take a tour of the city walls with OPT Trustee Julian Munby.

Saturday 11 – Sunday 12 September

Oxford 'Re' opens Doors.

To book events visit...

www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk or call 01865 242918.

Painted Room & Shakespeare

Friday 23 April 11.30am. Why not join us to raise a toast to Shakespeare and his birthday. Follow us on twitter and facebook.

Get you back out and about around the town download your self-guided Shakespeare Trail. Lots of family fun activities.

18 May, 1 June, 8

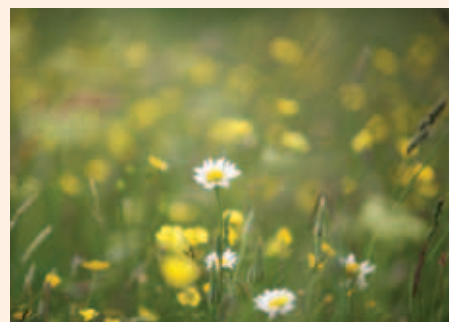
July or 4 August, 12.30pm. Book your place on a tour to 're-discover the delights of the medieval wall paintings and links to Shakespeare and Betjeman (*rule of 6 and/or other restrictions observed*).



Oxford Heritage Fund 2020

Thank you. With your amazing support we exceeded our target raising over £40,000

which has been crucial to being able to continue our work over the past year.



Spring is sprung...

with daffodils, fritillaries and then our lovely native bluebells in Abraham Wood. The last year has seen so many people out and about enjoying our **Green Spaces**, a place to meet with friends, to relax and to feel better all round. All those feet mean that it will take time for the land to recover, but recover it will. As our lives busy up we hope that this is one benefit to our health and wellbeing that will stay as part of our everyday lives. We are delighted that **Sustainable Healthcare**, the **Oxford Health Charity** and the **Oxford NHS Foundation Trust** have already signed up to take part in Oxford Open Doors.



Volunteering...

Thank you to the growing number of volunteers who are keen to lend a hand spreading the word about **Oxford's heritage**, and to help to repair and look after our **Green Spaces**.

We restart our **Conservation Work Parties** in April and whilst the 'rule of 6' is in place we will try to run some extra sessions if there is the demand. Pre-booking necessary so contact l.priddle@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

WORK PARTY DATES

15 April, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July – **Heyford Meadow**

1 May – **Jarn Wild Garden, Boars Hill**
(with **Abingdon Green Gym**)

7 May, 4 June, 2 July – **Wolvercote Lakes**

15 May – **Abraham Wood, Boars Hill**
(with **Abingdon Green Gym**)

Thanks to all those who have already signed up to help with **Oxford Open Doors 11-12 September**. Not signed up yet – to find out more contact [Shona s.carr@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:Shona.s.carr@oxfordpreservation.org.uk)



Connecting communities with their heritage...

so that local people can work with us to create walks and family activities, helping to create a sense of pride in their area and its place in the history of Oxford. We will initially focus on Rose Hill, where we are working with the primary school, youth club and residents' group and our hope is that they will want to share this at **Oxford Open Doors**, and that we can roll it out to other areas as funds allow.

*And don't forget the existing **Heritage and Green Spaces walks** and activities available on our website.*

Join Oxford Preservation Trust Today!

Support our work and make a positive difference to Oxford

Send to OPT at 10 Turn Again Lane, Oxford, OX1 1QL

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone _____

Email _____

If household/joint please give additional name _____

I would like to:

Become a member

- Individual £30
- Household £50
- Life £600
- Joint Life £1000
- Student £20

Benefits include:

- FREE access to Oxford Castle & Prison and the mound
- 10% discount at the Castle Gift Shop and Castleyard Café
- Full Events Programme - with discounts
- Special Members Only Events
- Twice-yearly informative Newsletters
- Oxford Open Doors brochure delivered to your door
- Discounts on all OPT publications
- 10% discount at The Victoria Arms, Old Marston

Make a donation/regular gift

We are a charity and depend on donations & legacies to continue with our work

Make a single gift of £

Make a regular gift (monthly) of £

The easiest way to pay your annual membership fee is by Direct Debit.

GIFT AID

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Oxford Preservation Trust.

Signature: _____

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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