

OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST AT 95



“Enjoy the meadows while you can...”

OPT's Hinksey Meadows are under threat due to the Environment Agency's **Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme**. We are supportive of reducing the risk of flooding to Oxford but cannot accept the proposed loss of the **rare MG4 Grassland** with its fritillary colonies on Hinksey Meadows, which will need to be dug up. See us at National Meadows Day before it is too late...

We have been working on exciting plans to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and take part in The Queen's Green Canopy. *Turn over to Page 2 find out more*

Queen's Platinum Jubilee... Larkins Lane Field

We are delighted to have secured a two-acre field at Larkins Lane, Old Headington. There is much to do, with opening access, biodiversity plans and tree planting. **The cost is £180,000; we have secured £100,000 and we are now asking if you would help us to raise the remaining £80,000.**

See Page 8 to pledge your support for OPT's Queen's Platinum Jubilee Project



Tree planting...

We have begun increasing our canopy cover by planting a crab apple and a cherry, gratefully received from the Woodland Trust. Here is volunteer expert Walter Sawyer at the Elizabeth Daryush Memorial Gardens in Boars Hill lending a helping hand.

The Covered Market

We are delighted that the units have now found new tenants. The City Council worked with Oxford Makespace so that **The Woolhound** is now open, and we wish Jessica every success

Tenants are now being sought for the remaining units so do spread the word. See the link on our website for further information.



OPT News...

Two special Oxford Books

Trustee Geoffrey Tyack's beautifully illustrated **The Historic Heart of Oxford University** tells the story of the growth of the University and its links to the town. **The British Historic Towns Atlas: Oxford** is a significant achievement and an important resource. There are too many people involved to name, but are pleased to see OPT Trustees Julian Munby and Geoffrey, and OPT Vice President Malcolm Graham listed. See Page 6 for details of member event.



Swing Bridge Conservation...

Emily Gee, Historic England Director came to see the first phase completion of the **Swing bridge** conservation which they have funded together with the Railway Heritage Trust and Network Rail. We are now undertaking the landscaping and a public engagement event will be held soon. See updates on our website.



The Team...

OPT is sponsoring Shona to study for the Oxford Brookes MSc Historic Conservation – here taking a measured survey of the Grade II* Barton Well House. Meanwhile, Laurie completes her Masters in English Building History with her dissertation looking at Oxford Building works of Cardinal Wolsey.



Towards the Centenary...

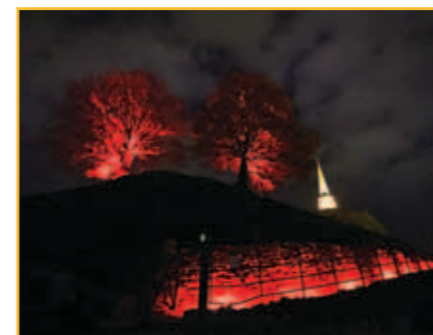
We hope you enjoy your enclosed copy **Towards the centenary: our strategic plan to 2027** and would be keen to hear your thoughts. Over the next five years we are setting ourselves 10 priorities – one for each decade of our 100 years of work. Look out for Debbie's monthly Oxford Times articles and online blogs via our website.

OXFORD CASTLE AT 950

Our 950 Celebrations...

November saw the launch of our 950 celebrations when we welcomed NDCMS Heritage Minister Nigel Huddleston and individuals from Historic England to climb St. George's Tower. The son et Lumiere and the lighting of the Mound rounded off a month of celebrations. The Mound continues to change colour for different occasions, here shown as red for Armistice Day and Blue and Yellow in support of Ukraine.

Also, don't miss the Oxford Castle Day School on April 23 – details on Page 6.



OPT Awards 2022 Launch

This year's launch was held at the award-winning Christ Church Visitor Centre. Nominations are now open for the 45th **OPT Awards with thanks to our sponsors, Critchleys, Mathews Comfort and Carter Jonas**. Categories include buildings large and small, new building and conservation, landscape, environment, temporary projects and the coveted OPT Green Award.

Why not nominate a project – details on our website



CLAIRE BORLEY

We are all hoping to see **Broad Meadow** back this year, winner of an OPT Award 2021 for temporary projects.

See Debbie's March Blog via our website.

Oxford Architecture in the 21st Century

Check out newoxfordarchitecture.com documenting the best of Oxford's new architecture. A big thanks to architect Tim Brindley who began this work in 2015, and to Shona who has been adding OPT award winners.



Planning updates...

The push for development around the edge of Oxford for housing and research space, all causes knock on pressures for roads and bridges, solar farms, gravel extraction, and even cemetery space. There is particular concern at the lack of a cohesive vision across authority boundaries.

As development pushes outwards, Oxford is also seeing increased pressure to build upwards. Recent changes to the Local Plan have seen a number of speculative high buildings coming forward at the heart of the city, some as high as 25 metres where once 18.2 metres was the limit. The recently published Historic England's **Tall Buildings Guidance** includes Oxford as a case study. The Vu-City digital 3D tool is proving useful to assess development. We continue to work with all the partners to ensure that Oxford's views survive for people to enjoy.

Within the city itself a **City Centre Action Plan and Central Conservation Area Management Plan** have been prepared. They need to speak to each other and the Public Realm and Design Guides promised will be an important part of the delivery on the ground. Elsewhere we were pleased to see the City's commitment to the OCC/OPT **Oxford Heritage Asset Register** which highlights buildings of local concern and now includes the shark at Headington and an ancient wall in the Grates at Cowley behind the Temple Shopping Centre which won an award a few years ago.



Charlie gives her first impressions as OPT's Green spaces officer:

I am excited to be steering our green spaces into a more sustainable and inviting future

Charlie has visited all our **Green Spaces** and met with local experts, learning at first-hand what these places mean to local people, seeing the dreaming spires views, native wildflower habitats and rare acid peat bogs. With the buds, blossom and bluebells out, we look forward to seeing everyone continuing to enjoy Oxford's beauty. Look out as improved **signage on our green spaces** appears, expanding our connectivity and inviting all people in to explore.



Thanks go to... volunteers Clive and Noel for making and putting up our new bird and bat boxes.

Climate change is very high on our agenda, conscious of our responsibility to contribute to the Oxford response. We have this opportunity to be both an ambassador for the planet, and to encourage greater diversity of access for community, health and wellbeing through our land and property ownership. We are looking at the best ways to give our properties a sustainable future whilst respecting their past, and to move towards carbon net zero land management in our historic landscapes. We will also act in partnership where we can and are looking forward to engaging in the City Council's street tree, hedgerow and garden planting campaigns.



Show your support for **OPT & our climate** with our new Reusable cup – just add the coffee.

£10.00 available on our website, call in and see us, or we'll have them for sale at our events.



£10 from our website!

OPT Events

See our website for booking and virtual access details (*members and non-members*)

Thursday 21 April, 3pm

OPT's Medieval Merchant's House tour
East St Helen Street, Abingdon

Saturday 23 April, 9.45am - 5pm

OPT/OUCE Oxford Day School - Oxford Castle through the Ages - Celebrating 950 Years.
Rewley House (See our website for booking details)

Thursday 28 April, 5pm - 6pm

OPT Chairman Lecture - the 'Other Oxford' talk
Lecture by Professor Patrick McGuinness
Castle Learning Centre

Sunday 1 May, 8am

May Morning Magdalen Tower Climb
A rare chance to climb the Tower just after the traditional May Day celebrations.

Wednesday 11 May, 5pm - 6pm

The British Historic Town Atlas: Oxford
Talk by Nick Millea, Bodleian Library Map Curator
Castle Learning Centre

Thursday 19 May, 2pm - 4pm

North Hinksey Conduit House to Harcourt Hill
Guided walk with Vice President and local historian, Malcolm Graham

Friday 20 May, Friday 17 June, Friday 15 July, 6.30pm

OPT's medieval Merchant's House special summer evening tours
East St Helens Street, Abingdon

Tuesday 14 June, 5pm - 6.30pm

University Parks to Vicky Arms - along the Cherwell

Walk led by expert gardener, Walter Sawyer followed by a beer with the OPT team.

Tuesday 21 June, 2pm

Christ Church Meadows Walk - A History of the Landscape

Led by Historic Landscape Architect, Sarah Couch

Thursday 23 June, 4.30pm tea, 5.15pm start

Oxford Preservation Trust AGM
Pembroke College

www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk or
call 01865 242918



Thursday 14 July, 6pm - 7.30pm

Summer Drinks with the OPT Team
Barracks Lane Community Garden, Cowley

Saturday 23 July, 2pm - 4pm

Celebrate Oxford's Flood Meadows: Family fun
Hinksey Meadow, North Hinksey

Festival of Archaeology

Wednesday 20 July, 5pm

Recent Archeological Discoveries in Oxford
Oxford City Archaeologist, David Radford

Thursday 28 July, 2pm

Oxford Archaeology Walk - Parks Gate to Christ Church. OPT Trustee, Julian Munby

**OXFORD
OPEN
DOORS**

Oxford
Open Doors
10 & 11
September

Save
the date

Invention and Innovation

is the national Heritage Open Days theme this year. Oxford has the first University, the first purpose-built Museum, a car factory, a turning swing bridge and now a vaccine to help with our plans - we'll keep you posted as the programme evolves.



Shakespeare's Birthday Parade is back!

Watch the colourful parade on Friday 22 April from 11am as the Lord Mayor and invited guests parade from the Town Hall to the Painted Room to raise a toast to the Immortal Bard. See our website for a downloadable **Shakespeare trail** & family activities.

Members can book a free Painted Room tour on 21 April, 19 May, 23 June, 14 July, or 25 Aug. 12pm.

Local resident, Alice Purkiss has been a volunteer on the OPT Awards and in March she and a couple of friends joined the working party at Wolvercote Lakes for the first time.

Thanks to Rod for a brilliant introduction and for pointing out some amazing flora. We moved recent storm-damage, got our gardening gloves dirty clearing scrub, and went ankle-deep in the lake. The lovely regulars made us really welcome - we will be back.



GREEN SPACES WORKING PARTIES COMING UP

6th May - **Wolvercote Lakes**

14th May - **Jarn Mound & Wild Garden with Abingdon Green Gym**

19th May - **Heyford Meadows**

22nd May - **Matthew Arnold Reserve with Oxford conservation Volunteers**

3rd June - **Wolvercote Lakes**

16th June - **Heyford Meadows**

1st July - **Wolvercote Lakes**

21st July - **Heyford Meadows**

No work parties in August

*We are now recruiting
volunteers for Green Spaces
and Oxford Open Doors...*

Join the OPT volunteer family. Email
Laurie to find out more
l.dighton@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

Sharing Oxford's Heritage

The children of West Oxford & St. Ebbe's Schools helped us to celebrate the Castle 950 birthday and some of the images made it into the son et Lumiere. There have been Easter Egg hunts in our green spaces, and we are now looking forward to working with the Rose Hill Community creating their own Heritage and Green Spaces Trail.

Drop in session Tuesday 26 April 5.30pm at Rose Hill Community Centre - all welcome.





Help us buy Larkins Lane Field, Old Headington

We need your support for OPT's Queen Platinum Jubilee Project

Help us to provide public access and improve the biodiversity and tree planting at Larkins Lane.

The cost is **£180,000** and we have raised **£100,000** so still need your help to raise **£80,000**.

Donate at www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk

Or return this form to

Oxford Preservation Trust, 10 Turn Again Lane, Oxford, OX1 1QL

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Donation single £

Monthly £

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.

Leaving a legacy is a wonderful way to make a lasting contribution to this great city of Oxford. Join our Centenary Circle. Debbie director@oxfordpreservation.org.uk or Stephen s.dawson@oxfordpreservation.org.uk would love to hear from you.

Join OPT Today ... ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FROM £20

Benefits include:

- FREE access to Oxford Castle & Prison and mound
- 10% discount Castle Gift Shop
- 10% discount at The Victoria Arms, Old Marston
- Special Members Only Events
- Regular updates and Newsletters
- Oxford Open Doors priority booking
- Discounts on OPT publications

www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk