

OXFORD
PRESERVATION
TRUST

Two directors in one...

Debbie and Anna meeting up on site to discuss OPT's work ensuring a seamless handover for all. The team are all looking forward to welcoming Anna who starts in the new year.



See page 7... for Debbie's parting message, looking back on 25 years at OPT. 

OXFORD OPEN DOORS

With clear blue skies overhead and suntan cream at the ready the OPT team and our wonderful volunteers were out and about all weekend providing a warm welcome to our 25,000 visitors. Gardens and shade were the popular go-to, whether the splendid gardens at Worcester College or the relative cool of the ancient cloisters at All Souls complete with music provided by the Vox Chamber Choir and the Oxford

Cherwell Brass Band. The Bodleian's A-Z of twenty-six events was brilliant, and all alongside our own tours of the Painted Room, the LMS Railway Swing Bridge, and the Castle where happy faces, ice cream, music, and some expert stone-carving could be enjoyed.

25,000
visitors!

Oxford
Open Doors
2023

oxford
bus company



“I keep discovering places I didn't know ... and I've lived here for over 50 years.”

“Excellent access to exclusive venues and things that I couldn't normally afford.”



Ready... Set... Paint!

There was a much younger crowd out and about thanks to a 'New Wave' grant from Heritage Open Days. OPT's younger team members worked with local artist Mani to combine history, graffiti and colour in an innovative way that saw hundreds come to upcycle their t-shirts and tote bags with screenprint designs of the Radcliffe Camera, the Headington Shark, and even the Dodo.

It made The Guardian's 10 best things to do that weekend and the specially created heritage 'illegal' graffiti trail around Oxford is still available to try.

Give it a go! →



Great news...

With thanks to Nina, we are delighted to have been awarded a grant of €10,000 by the Council of Europe, one of only two in the UK which will enable us to take forward the **Discovering Heritage and Green Spaces: Wood Farm** following its success in Rose Hill. Local Historian Liz Woolley has been commissioned to undertake the initial research and we look forward to sharing it with the local community in the new year.

Read Nina's story



OPT Young Team...

Louise Lockyer has become an essential part of the OPT team, and alongside her role as Membership Officer, she took part in the New Wave project, is working on a project to index our Heritage Walks books and collected our rent of a basket of apples at this year's Wolvercote Community Apple Day celebration.



New Members welcome in this year's prize draw

Congratulations to Charlotte, Huiqi, Timothy, Alfie, Giselle, Paul, and Kate who joined the new members draw at Oxford Open Doors. A selection of prizes were on offer including a tour of the Radcliffe Camera with thanks to Bodley's Librarian Richard Ovenden, tours with William and Debbie, and a bottle of gin.

Young Volunteers...

Giving students a chance to work with us is an important and enjoyable strand of our work. Victoria Grane, recipient of this year's Brookes MSc Historic Conservation Award writes:



All through the different projects I was involved in, I had the chance to meet different professionals of the heritage world ... I strongly believe this internship has helped me enormously, and I am very grateful for the opportunity.

Welcome to our new Trustees!

Emily Gee and Mark Beard

Emily lives in Oxford and was recently appointed as Cathedral and Church Buildings Director for the Church of England, after many years with Historic England.

Mark, who lives at Boars Hill, is the CEO of the local construction company E W Beard Ltd and is a former County High Sheriff.



LMS Railway Swingbridge

We were delighted to celebrate our **National Railway Heritage Trust Conservation Award** when retired Stationmaster David Mather and OPT Vice President Tom Hassall unveiled a plaque on the Bridge. This special occasion brought together many of the people who had been involved in its success including **Historic England, the Railway Heritage Trust, Network Rail, and the Rewley Road Community**. Baron Hendy of Richmond Hill, Chair of Network Rail took to the water to get up close and see the bridge from the Sheepwash Canal later in the day.



Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme...

Dates have been set for the Public Inquiry into the Compulsory Purchase of land from OPT and others to run from 14 November until the Christmas break. OPT is not opposing the scheme but has appointed experts to put their case to the independent inspector relating, in particular, to the damage to Hinksey Meadows and the loss of rare MG4a grassland, and raising the issue of why alternative routes were not properly considered.

Green Spaces Officer Hannah's children enjoying Hinksey Meadows



Going to the cinema and other planning changes...

Commercial cinemas seem unable to attract sufficient numbers after the pandemic and some of these public buildings are to be repurposed including the Grade II listed Odeon Cinema, Magdalen Street, and the architecturally interesting George Street Odeon. Oxford does not tend to suffer from unused dilapidated buildings so that the Grade II 29a Castle Street which OPT recently introduced to the national charity SAVE's Heritage at Risk Register, Grade II St Paul's Church, Walton Street (Freud's) and Grade II* Priory next the Kassam Football Stadium are noticeable. OPT are watching with interest as Oxford United consider a move from the Kassam

to Stratfield Brake at Kidlington.

Meanwhile Debbie continues to share her expert knowledge on heights and views and joined an audience of mainly developers and site owners to discuss "Reaching New Heights" at the annual OxProp Summit. Her contribution to Oxford was later recognised with an award at the OxProp Awards 2023, seen here with Chair, Matthew Battle.



OPT and the Sustainability Agenda

We have strengthened our sustainability expertise on the Planning Committee thanks to **Rajat Gupta, Director of the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development at Oxford Brookes** who will help us to formulate a sustainability policy. **Shona, Heritage & Planning Assistant**, has also submitted her dissertation for her MSc Historic Conservation on "*Colleges, Conservation and Carbon*" exploring how Oxford's Colleges are balancing decarbonisation and heritage preservation within their estates.



OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST

Awards 2023



BUILDING CONSERVATION

- Old Library Refurbishment, Christ Church
- Old & Laudian Libraries & the Canterbury Quadrangle, Phase III Works, St John's College
- Westwood Room Refurbishment, Oxford University Museum of Natural History

LANDSCAPE & PUBLIC REALM

- Marston Community Gardening, Court Place Farm Allotments

NEW BUILDINGS

- Bullington Community Centre, Headington
- The Curve, Between Towns Road

SMALL PROJECTS

- Internal Alterations and Decorations, Corpus Christi RC Church, Headington
- Monuments & Memorials, All Souls College

GREEN AWARD

- Low Carbon Bungalows, Marston & Wood Farm



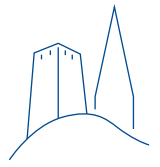
OPT Awards Panel



Thanks to our sponsors:



OPT Events



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

Wednesday 6 December, 5pm

Join OPT Director Debbie Dance for her annual Christmas Lecture and the celebratory lighting of the Oxford Castle Christmas tree
Key Learning Centre, Oxford Castle

Wednesday 17 January, 5pm

'Other Oxforas', a lecture by Professor and writer Patrick McGuinness
Key Learning Centre, Oxford Castle

Saturdays at 2.30pm, 20 January, 16 March, 13 April

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

Wednesdays at 12.30pm, 24 January, 21 February, 20 March, 17 April

Tour of Shakespeare's Painted Room
3 Cornmarket Street

Wednesday 31 January, 7.30pm

Candlelit tour of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin

Saturday 3 February, 12.30pm

British Sign Language Tour of Shakespeare's Painted Room with Action Deafness

Saturday 24 February, 11am

'Blue Plaques of Oxford' walk by local historian and Green Badge Guide Alastair Lack

Wednesday 6 March, 5.30pm

Lecture on East Oxford Archaeology by Professor David Griffiths, Director of Studies in Archaeology at the Department for Continuing Education.

Key Learning Centre, Oxford Castle

March

OPT Chairman's lecture by Simon Bradley, Editor of Pevsner Architectural Guides

www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk or call 01865 242918

Shakespeare Events



Save the Date...

On Tuesday the 23rd of April, we will celebrate the bard with our annual Shakespeare's Birthday Parade, along with other Shakespeare events throughout April.



Green Spaces Volunteering:

24 November - Larkins Lane, Headington

1 December - Wolvercote Lakes

15 December - Larkins Lane, Headington

21 December - Heyford Meadow, Sandford

30 December - Jarn Wild Garden

To sign up contact:

h.brockwell@oxfordpreservation.org.uk



Thank you...

to St John's College who are donating the Christmas Tree at Oxford Castle again this year.



“It has been twenty-five years since I walked through the door of Turn Again Lane



in another century and with not a computer in sight. Development then came fringed with talk of a strong green belt, and Oxford's prison had only recently closed its doors to the local felons. What luck for me that the trustees of this brave and independent organisation trusted me, letting me loose on the Castle. They later opened their address books so I could persuade doors to open, for what has become the magnificent Oxford Open Doors. I have spent some of OPTs money, and raised some more, acquired over 300 acres of land, found the Painted Room again, restored the Martyrs Memorial and a Swingbridge, and organised countless parties along the way, and I have had a ball.



As OPT moves towards its centenary in such good heart, with its truly wonderful OPT team and some extraordinary loyal supporters and members, it is time for someone else to make their mark on the changing landscape of Oxford. And that someone is Anna to whom I wish so much goodwill and all the same luck, fun and fulfilment that I have had.



For Oxford is a great place, OPT is a great organisation and I have had a great time, so thank you to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D.D.', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

A number of members and supporters have asked how they can contribute to a leaving gift for the Director. Debbie has indicated that she would ask people to contribute to the Centenary Fund...

see overleaf





As we look forward to celebrating our 100th anniversary in 2027 we are delighted to invite you to contribute to the OPT Centenary Fund

All the money raised will be made available to fund and to support OPT's future projects and acquisitions, as a fitting way of marking Debbie's 25 years at OPT and all that she has achieved.

Either:

- a) Donate at www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk
b) Make a BACS payment to: Oxford Preservation Trust, Sort Code: 20-65-18, Account Number: 10681326 (and ideally email us to confirm)
c) Or return this form with a cheque to: Oxford Preservation Trust, 10 Turn Again Lane, Oxford, OX1 1QL

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Donation single £ []

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.

