



# OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

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Painting by Margaret Peach (2005) with kind permission of W Lucy & Co Ltd

*Sandawana Castings at Witney\*, where the traditional iron railings of North Oxford are still made.*

## OXFORD RAILINGS RESTORED

A project to restore traditional cast iron railings in North Oxford is now underway following a visit by Debbie Dance and Sarah Billam, City Council conservation officer, to Sandawana Castings. The visit, intended as a way of understanding more about the process of making the railings, so inspired them that the original project to produce a Railings leaflet has developed into something much more exciting and tangible.

With the support of Lucy's, the Trust has been able to commission its first pattern for railings in the Southmoor/Kingston Road area, which can be made available for hire at a modest fee to allow owners to reinstate railings which are historically correct for the area. Negotiations are underway for the railings to be restored to two houses in the area and it is hoped this will happen this Spring. As funds are raised so more patterns can be made available and we are grateful for the support of Mrs Caroline Sants who has kindly

*\* Sandawana Castings is a subsidiary of Oxford's own W Lucy & Co., which still has its headquarters in Jericho after more than 200 years in existence and is where many of Oxford's original Victorian railings were cast.*

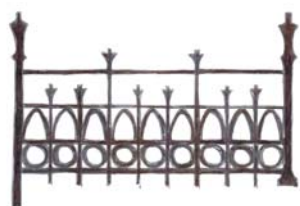
donated funds raised from the use of a pattern suitable for the Norham Manor area.

We will still be producing a leaflet and this will be published to coincide with the first completed Trust project. Prepared in partnership with the City Council, the leaflet is intended to raise interest in Oxford's railings and the Trust's project, and will act as a guide to best practice in repairing and reinstating historic railings.

North Oxford was constructed in a series of phases from 1850-1900: almost uniformly, brick front boundary walls were topped with cast iron railings as an integral element in the design of the area. Most of Oxford's railings were removed during World War II and have not yet been replaced. Examples of railings designs from each phase are shown below (images: Sarah Billam).



Phase 1 (1850-60s):  
From the Park Town development. Important fragments remain at 11-36 Park Town.



Phase 2 (late 1860s-80s):  
Norham Manor and Kingston Road area. Surviving examples on Kingston Road and Norham Gardens.



Phase 3 (1880s - 1890s):  
Walton Manor. Important designs around the Southmoor Road area.



Phase 4 (1890-1900+):  
Developments outside St John's ownership. Examples: Woodstock, Longworth, Staverton Roads, etc.

## LAND NEWS

The **Old Berkeley Golf Course** was filled with fun and laughter as children and adults, including the occasional policemen, all enjoyed the snow. We thank the neighbours, friends and wardens for their help in clearing the site after the action.



*Sledding on the Old Golf Course (Photograph: Nick Hallas)*

The three year Acid Grassland Restoration Scheme on the Golf Course lay dormant beneath the snow and as Spring approaches we hope to begin to see

the results of the rare meadow grasses and flowers which are being introduced using local seed wherever possible. Our thanks go to Dr Camilla Lambrick for her help with this project.

Elsewhere at Boars Hill some careful tree work has opened up some of the view from Jarn Mound. In the Jarn Reserve a memorial bench has been given to the Trust in memory of Olivia Graham, put in a place with special memories for her family.

Planning permission and funding sources are being sought to allow us to move forward with our plans to create the **Heyford Meadow Nature Park**— our 11 acre field running down to the river at Sandford on Thames. A family fun day last autumn showed just how popular this will be with around 30 families joining in a nature trail, mini-beast hunt and bird box making. We aim to create a wildlife friendly amenity space to encourage and enhance biodiversity, promoting public access and making our contribution to the local community. Elsewhere in Sandford, plans for the **Simons Land water garden** are coming together, and with the

help of the Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers we hope to be able to make progress this Spring and Summer. We are grateful to the Four Pillars Hotels for their support for these projects.

The Trust has the opportunity to **acquire land in the Cherwell Valley**, inside the ring road and close to Old Marston. We will purchase this through the **Oxford Land Fund** and will need to raise the money to do so. We enclose the Land Fund leaflet and hope that you will **give generously** to this worthwhile cause.

The transfer of the **Lakes at Wolvercote** is imminent and plans are underway for an Open Day this Spring when local people and stakeholders can come and see the Lakes for the first time and learn something of our plans. Our first job will be to make the area safe and through our partnership with BBOWT a condition and conservation management survey is being carried out to inform the future.

Research into the history of the acquisition of the land at **South Park and Shotover** is currently underway thanks to Oxford Brookes final year history student Niall Van Santen who is taking this on as part of his 'History Work Based Learning' module. If any member has any old photographs relating to this land that might help in this research please let us know: [info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk)

If you are interested in occasional **work parties on Trust land** and would like to become a Trust Land Volunteer, please get in touch with Eluned Hallas: [e.hallas@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:e.hallas@oxfordpreservation.org.uk). Our next working groups will be on land at Heyford Meadows and Boars Hill.

**OXFORD OPEN DOORS, 11-12 SEPTEMBER 2010 — EXPLORE YOUR CITY!**  
[www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk](http://www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk)



We are well advanced with planning for **Oxford Open Doors 2010** and are delighted to have Oxford University as our partners once again.

We are pleased to confirm that favourites such as the Oxford Canal with its popular boat trips will once again feature and new supporters including Magdalen College and the Oxford Police Service are coming forward. To mark the 350th anniversary of The Royal Society, there will be a Science theme within our 2010 programme and we are planning to take you behind the scenes to laboratories and workshops, to hear about Oxford's fascinating range of people and their discoveries, old and new.

This follows the success of Oxford Open Doors 2009, which attracted over 37,000 visits to more than 130 venues and activities, with nearly 70% of these made by local people. As this was only the second Oxford Open Doors, we were surprised to

### **DISCOVERING PLACES—EXPLORE OXFORD'S GREEN HERITAGE WITH OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST, 1-3 MAY**

*Explore some of Oxford's green spaces in the city's loveliest season – walk in the footsteps of poets, see the views of the dreaming spires and discover signs of spring with all the family.*

Join us as we celebrate May Day with a series of walks and family activities across the Trust's land. This event is being organised to coincide with the launch of *Discovering Places*, a national event organised by Heritage Alliance, CABE and Natural England encouraging the public to explore their natural, historic and built environment as part of the Cultural Olympiad. Further details will be announced on our website in March.

Watch out for our plans for Discovering Places 2011, when we will focus on Oxford's unique May Day celebrations, followed by a major sporting theme for Oxford Open Doors 2011 to mark the approach of the Olympic Games.



*Photograph: K T Bruce*

hear that it was the third largest Heritage Open Days event in the country.



Oxford Open Doors encourages local people to explore and enjoy their city and is a celebration of all that makes Oxford distinct – its people and places. **If you know of any interesting venues which might open their doors or if you would like to join our growing group of**

**volunteer stewards, please let us know: [j.baldwin@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:j.baldwin@oxfordpreservation.org.uk)**

## OXFORD CASTLE

We are delighted that the success of **Oxford Castle Unlocked** continues and figures for 2009 were the best yet. This February half term was the busiest on record, with lots of local families and one young group that was visiting for the fifth time.

Oxford's first **Christmas Market** took place in the Castleyard in December when shoppers and carol singers mingled with smells of mulled wine, cinnamon & oranges around the 40 foot Christmas Tree kindly donated by Corporate Members Knowles & Son. Plans are now underway for making th Market even bigger and better for 2010.

A full programme of events is planned throughout 2010 including 1000 scouts and guides expected to mark St George's Day by raising a flag on St George's Tower. Plans for a May Day Celebration, Mediaeval Fayre and Knight School, and an Archaeology Day are all underway. With Shakespeare and a Ghost Festival also on the cards there is a great deal happening. Keep checking our website: [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk) or go to: [www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk](http://www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk).

At the **Key Learning Centre** family learning has been at the fore, with children and their parents taking part in the **Oxfordshire Family Learning**

**Festival 2009.** Working with Pegasus School, costumes, crafts and site visits all formed part of the programme which aims to build civic pride and a sense of ownership in Oxford and its history. The **Adult Learning Programme** also continues to grow—see page 8 for details of the extended **OPT Monthly Series of Talks** at the Key Learning Centre.

## PROJECTS

Thanks go to Trust volunteer Roderick McDonald, recent graduate of the Historic Conservation Masters' at Oxford Brookes University, who has completed a study of Oxford's **historic telephone kiosks**, following a concern that BT may remove them. Eight unlisted 'K6' kiosks, of Giles Gilbert Scott's 1935 design, were found in the city centre, with four listed Grade II in Jowett Walk, Pembroke Street and Catte Street, together with the earlier 'K2' by Carfax Tower. We are now discussing the best way forward with English Heritage and the City Council's conservation team.

At the **Martyr's Memorial**, improvements to the paving will begin this Spring.



*St Sepulchre's in 1992 with the old Lucy's Iron Works (Photograph: John Ashdown)*

The Chiltern Railways (Oxford to Bicester) extension has widened the interest in the future of the **LMS Swingbridge**, as these plans will affect the setting of the Scheduled Ancient Monument. We are hopeful that this will be an opportunity to work with our partners to find a long term solution. The **Headington Hill Hall Bridge** is still on the agenda for a future partnership with Oxford Brookes University and links have been made with

the City and County Councils who will need to be involved as the Highways Agency and owner of the structure. The bridge was designed in 1877 by William Wilkinson, who also designed the Randolph Hotel and much of North Oxford (see cover article), and was constructed when this area was within the Morrell family estate. In Jericho, plans are underway to commission a Conservation Management Plan for **St Sepulchre's Cemetery**, to guide the care and improvement of this important green space.

We are delighted that work on the updating of the 1970s series of walks leaflets *On Foot in Oxford* is progressing with the assistance of the original author Dr Malcolm Graham and artist Edith Gollnast, both of whom have recently retired from their posts in the County and City Councils.

## OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST AWARDS



*Lighting the Victoria Fountain, Plaque winner 2009 (Photograph: Greg Smolonski)*

Entries to the Oxford Preservation Trust Awards 2010 are now open. The Awards, now in their 33rd year, recognise projects which make a significant contribution to the conservation and improvement of Oxford and its setting. We are pleased to welcome our new Chairman, Professor Malcolm Airs, Trustee, a respected architectural historian who is known to many people locally. Malcolm has been a member of the Panel since 1992 and his appointment follows the retirement of John Ashdown who continues as an OPT Trustee. This year a Community Projects Award has been introduced to recognise projects that benefit or involve local people.

Professor Malcolm Airs adds: *I am flattered to be asked to continue the work of my distinguished predecessors and look forward to playing my part in this important work of the Trust.*

To enter or to nominate a project go to [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/planning/awards.php](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/planning/awards.php).

The 2010 Awards are sponsored by Kemp & Kemp Property Consultants.



## PLANNING

The results of the inquiry into **Oxford's Core Strategy** remain uncertain due to unresolved legal challenges to the South East Plan relating to the inclusion of land to the south of the city within the **Green Belt**. Meanwhile the Trust is moving forward with the City Council and English Heritage on the **Heritage Plan** which will ensure that heritage is integrated into all strategic issues, whether health and well-being, economic development or climate change, recognising the importance of Oxford as a historic city.

Oxford Archaeology is working on a **West End Historic Context Study** commissioned by the City Council with the support of the Trust and County Council. This Study will provide a historical framework to guide the redevelopment of the West End, and with proposals for **Frideswide Square** and the **Rail Station** coming forward, this is timely.



*Section from H W Brewer's 1891 drawing of Mediaeval Oxford from the West, showing Osney Abbey in the fore.*

**Oxford University and the colleges'** plans for major developments will transform the northern approach to the city centre stretching from the Banbury Road to Walton Street. The first

permissions at the **Radcliffe Observatory Quarter** have been granted and work will begin this summer on student accommodation for Somerville College and changes to some of the existing listed buildings. Further applications for Humanities and Mathematics Department buildings are under consideration with ongoing discussion between the University and the Trust on matters such as the height and treatment of the roofscapes and views of the Radcliffe Observatory. **St Anne's College** have plans for a new Library and Kitchen at the main entrance on the Woodstock Road. The key to the success of all this will be a joined up approach.

In the High Street, **Oriel College's** plans to raise the roof on the **Rhodes Building** will have a negative impact on the street and from St Mary's Tower and it is hard to see how such development can be achieved in such a sensitive location. The University have much needed plans to upgrade the **Iffley Road Sports Ground** and at the **Oxford Brookes** Gypsy Lane campus, revised plans have come forward after further consultation with local residents.

**Wind turbine** sites at Cutteslowe Park and Horspath Road are under discussion and recent

English Heritage and the City Council to undertake a Study recognising the need for a more sophisticated understanding and protection of **Oxford Views** is underway and should be commissioned this Spring.

The first draft of the conservation area **Character Appraisal Toolkit** is now available on the City Council's website and feedback is welcomed. The Trust is planning a practical session to test the Toolkit, which gives local residents guidelines to assess the city's streets and areas. More information can be found at: [consultation.oxford.gov.uk/inovem/consult.ti/toolkit/consultationHome](http://consultation.oxford.gov.uk/inovem/consult.ti/toolkit/consultationHome) or from Jane Baldwin: [j.baldwin@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:j.baldwin@oxfordpreservation.org.uk).

On the **Public Realm** Debbie Dance continues to sit on the Oxford Strategic Partnership's Public Realm group and comments have been submitted on the **Street Scene Manual** intended to guide public realm management in the city centre, and prepared jointly by the City and County Councils. Improvements to **Broad Street** remain on the agenda and submissions were made to the **Local Transport Plan: 2011-2030**, to ensure that it remains as a priority for the County.

Nationally, a redrafting of the new **Planning Policy Statement 15** on the Historic Environment is awaited after a number of objections were received, and April will see the launch of **Civic Voice** as a national voice for the civic movement to replace the Civic Trust.

## TRUST NEWS

A review of our **Area Committees** has revealed an interesting history of their early beginnings in the 1930s. The Trust's three Area Committees are Boars Hill, Marston and North Oxford. These committees inform us of planning and other local issues, encourage new members and help us to keep in touch with existing supporters. They organise walks and talks and attend work parties and help with fundraising activities. If you would like to be more involved please contact Jane Baldwin: [j.baldwin@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:j.baldwin@oxfordpreservation.org.uk).



Photograph: Chris Andrews

public exhibitions were helpful in explaining this process, as siting these structures in Oxford's sensitive setting will be hard to achieve. A successful conference on **Oxford Views: Past, Present, Future** organised by the Trust with Oxford University Department of Continuing Education, drew interest from across many sectors. Work with

## TURNER CARDS FOR SALE

We remind members of our postcard of JMW Turner's *View of Oxford From North Hinksey*. Cards can be purchased in packs of 6 for £5 a pack + p&p (50p for 1-3 pack, £1 for 4 or more). To order, please write in with the number of packs you require, your address and full payment.



We are particularly keen to hear from members in Central and North Oxford.

We are also grateful to our wide range of **Affiliated Groups** who work in areas across the city, including Botley and North Hinksey, Old Headington and Quarry, Iffley, Kennington, Wolvercote and Shotover. They are our eyes and ears and we in turn assist in sharing knowledge where we can. An Area Liaison meeting on a topic of interest takes place each quarter at the Key Learning Centre at Oxford Castle and is open to all. The next meeting on Tuesday 11 May will feature issues relating to Trust Land. We congratulate **The Friends of Old Headington** who are celebrating their **50th Anniversary** this year, and they will be holding a special anniversary event on Sunday 13 June (see page 8 for more details).

In October, Debbie Dance, Director, was appointed Chairman of the Historic Towns Forum, which provides a platform for those involved in historic towns throughout the UK to share best practice and experience, and we look forward to contributing and learning from others.

### OXFORD FUN RUN FOR OXFORD OPEN DOORS

On **May 8th**, Debbie Dance and Joanna Simons, Chief Executive of the County Council, will be running together in the 5km Oxford Fun Run, to raise money and support for Oxford Open Doors. Sponsor Debbie and Joanna online at : [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk) or send a cheque for Oxford Preservation Trust to 10 Turn Again Lane, Oxford OX1 1QL.



We are grateful to our students and to Diane Rollinson, who is assisting us for a few hours each

### OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST CALENDAR 2011

We are pleased to announce that we will be producing an Oxford Preservation Trust Calendar for 2011. Responding to feedback from our members and supporters, the 2011 Calendar will be smaller and under £10.00, and will again feature stunning photographs of Trust land and buildings across the city, by leading local photographer Chris Andrews.

We still have a few calendars left from last year, which are now available for just £4.50. To order, please send a cheque to OPT, go online at [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk), or pop into the office and pick one up.

week under the County Council's employee volunteering scheme.

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our Membership numbers continue to steadily increase, assisted by the success of Oxford Open Doors and our other community outreach programmes. The **Corporate Business Membership** scheme launched last year has been a great success and we now have twenty-four Corporate Members, details of whom are on our website. If you are interested in finding out more about corporate opportunities, please email us on: [info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk).

We have extended our series of **Talks at Oxford Castle** and these now take place every month on a Tuesday evening at 6pm in the Key Learning Centre. Booking forms are available from our website at [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/news/events](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/news/events) or if you would prefer to be sent a form, please ring the office on 01865 242918 and we will be happy to send you one in the post.

The Autumn and Winter programme of **trips and walks** was once again fully subscribed. A special visit to the Ashmolean attracted a record 130 members and we are grateful to Dr Christopher Brown and the Ashmolean staff for their support in allowing everyone to come. Other highlights included an evening tour of Oxford's Georgian architecture led by Dr Steven Parissien, who later in the year guided members around Compton Verney where he is curator, and tours of Jericho, St Edmund Hall and Kellogg College by Trustees John Ashdown, Dr Ian Scargill and Professor Malcolm Airs respectively.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the 2010 Programme Card and a Trips and Talks sheet with details of the members programme for Spring and Summer. Full listings of all our events can also be found overleaf.

## OXFORD OPEN DOORS 2010, 11-12 SEPTEMBER - GET INVOLVED!

Oxford Open Doors is a growing celebration of our city's people and places and we need *your* help! If you know of any **interesting venues** or if you would like to be a **volunteer steward**, we would be delighted to hear from you. For more details see [www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk](http://www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk) or contact Jane Baldwin: [j.baldwin@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:j.baldwin@oxfordpreservation.org.uk).

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

To book for all events, download booking forms from [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/news/events](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/news/events) or ring Holly Kilpatrick at the Trust offices: 01865 242918.

### EVENING TALKS AT OXFORD CASTLE

All talks take place at the Key Learning Centre and run from 6pm - 7.15pm (approx). Pre-booking essential

**23 March: The History of the St Ebbe's Area of Oxford**  
Tom Hassall, Oxford Archaeology

**27 April: Philanthropic Houses in East Oxford**  
Dr Annie Skinner, Local Historian

**11 May: The History of Jericho**  
David Clark, Architectural Historian

**1 June: Medieval Wall Paintings in Domestic Dwelling Houses**  
Dr Kathryn Davies, English Heritage

**27 July: The Life and Work of Lord Nuffield**  
Barry Thornton, Friends of Nuffield Place

### MEMBERS EVENTS

Please note that unless marked these events are open to OPT members only. Pre-booking essential for walks and trips.

**Sunday 18 April, 9.30am onwards: Morning Tours of the Tudor Painted Room, 3 Cornmarket Street**  
Non-members may attend if accompanied by a member.

**Wednesday 12 May, 2pm: Tour of Oxford's Amazing Painted Rooms** with Trustee John Ashdown and Associates.

**Thursday 10 June, 10am – 4.15pm (approx): Oxfordshire Historic Churches Tour** by Richard Lethbridge, Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

**Wednesday June 16, 2.15pm: Afternoon visit to Green Templeton.** Tour followed by a talk with Dr Colin Blundy, Principal.

**Wednesday 30 June: Oxford Preservation Trust AGM,** Maison Française, Norham Road. *All members welcome.* Tea from 4.30pm; Meeting at 5.15pm.

**Thursday 22 July, 6pm: Explore Oxford Underground -** an evening walk by Julian Munby.

**Wednesday 18 August, 2.15pm: Guided tour of Christ Church College and Cathedral,** ending with tea in the Great Hall.

### AREA COMMITTEES & AFFILIATED GROUPS

**Kennington Memorial Field Committee**  
**AGM Wednesday 3 March, 8pm**  
Speaker: Frances Watkins, *The Work of BBOWT*

**Marston Area Committee**  
**AGM Monday 22 March, 8pm**  
St Nicholas Church Hall, Elsfeld Road  
Speaker: Dr Alison McDonald, *Plant Communities on Oxford Preservation Trust Land*

**Boars Hill Area Committee**  
**AGM Monday 15 April, 7.30pm approx.** (to follow Boars Hill Association AGM at 7pm)  
Sunningwell Village Hall. Speaker: John Tolson

**Friends of Iffley Village**  
**AGM Friday 16 April, 7pm**  
Church Hall, Church Way, Iffley  
Speaker: Jane Harrison, *East Oxford Archaeology and History Project*

**The Friends of Old Headington**  
**AGM Friday 7 May, 8pm,** Parish Hall, Dunstan Road  
**Sunday 13 June, 2.30 - 5.30pm** Open Gardens with an exhibition to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Friends of Old Headington

### FOR ALL THE FAMILY

**1-3 May: Discovering Places—Explore Oxford's Green Heritage with OPT**  
(see page 3) Check our website from March for full details: [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk)

**Sunday 18 July, 10.30am - 4pm: Archaeology Day at Oxford Castle**

**11-12 September: Oxford Open Doors**  
[www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk](http://www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk) Full details will be available later in the year.

Don't forget to check [www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk](http://www.oxfordcastleunlocked.co.uk) for a full programme of events at the Castle.