

# OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST AT 95

## “Discovering Heritage and Green Spaces!”

We loved introducing more outdoors spaces to the **Oxford Open Doors** programme this year. We worked with the **Rose Hill** community to produce their own self-guided walk.

*See page 7!*



*It's been a special year with the opportunity to save two green spaces in Oxford.  
See page 2 for a first impression!*

## Two new Green Spaces for Oxford

### Harcourt Hill

When a 10-acre field came up for sale next to our existing **Harcourt Hill field**, OPT felt that we had to act. When we discovered just how wonderful the view was, it strengthened our resolve and we were able to secure it for Oxford. We are now looking at how to manage this land in the most sustainable way, and we look forward to sharing it with you in the spring.



It arguably has a better view of the dreaming spires than any of our existing land, so that you feel you can almost reach out and touch the towers and spires.

### Larkins Lane

We like to mark special events like the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** in some lasting way, and this seemed to have just the right ingredients to become a new nature reserve for the city.



Thank you... to everyone who helped us secure the two-acre **Larkins lane field**. We have lots of plans and opportunities to volunteer.





# OPT News...

## Brand the Bus

Local charities can design the outside of a city bus via the **Oxford Bus Company's brand the bus competition**. The winner is decided by community votes, so please add your voice here before December 1.



## Volunteer...

Monica Hentz planted her **Queen's Green Canopy Tree** on Boars Hill to celebrate becoming a British citizen. *Congratulations, Monica!*



## Team News...

- ✔ Congratulations to **Laurie Dighton** who has moved to London for a new job celebrating 300 years of Wren churches.
- ✔ We welcome back **Jane Hornsby** who has come to help us in the interim period looking after our members.
- ✔ Congratulations to our Green Spaces Officer **Charlie Jackson**, who is having her first baby early next year.

The death of the Queen has made the purchase of our **Larkins Lane Jubilee field** all the more special and we will be planting a tree in her memory as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. **Oxford Open Doors** was also a celebration of how much she meant to the city.

## Keep an eye out...

for our new nature volunteering groups that are being set up in Boars Hill and Larkins Lane. *See page 6 for more information.*



## Wolvercote Community Orchard...

paid their annual rent of a basket of apples to Shona during the traditional annual Apple Day celebrations.



## Swing Bridge...

With the main work on the restoration completed this summer, we are now on the final leg of the landscaping and railings. We worked with local artist Mani and the community of West Oxford at their summer funday to create a bit of interest and a locomotive was installed on the hoardings in time for **Oxford Open Doors** as we await planning permission before the final works can happen. In the meantime, we have been delighted to learn that the Bridge has been removed from the **Historic England 'at risk' register** and that it has been shortlisted for a **Railway Heritage Trust Award**.



## Planning Update...

The Committee took to the stairs to get up high and see how pressure to build up could affect **the dreaming spires of Oxford**. This could include the buildings on the Oxpens site which are likely to be several storeys in height. We understand the need for greater density where development sites can happen, but when so much green belt around the edge of the city was recently lost to housing we would have hoped that the City Council who are developing Oxpens would have chosen to make it a new sustainable living quarter with houses for people who cannot afford Oxford's property prices and where they would be within walking distance of where the jobs are. It is a disappointment that so much of the site will go to innovation, science and technology buildings bringing more pressure to the city centre.

We engaged in the County's plans to remove the traffic from Broad Street, only 18 years after the OPT Broad Street Plan 2004 was published. We wholly support the initiative though have concerns about the traffic led approach with not enough thought given to the public spaces left behind, but seeing the car parking removed is an important first move. Changing behaviour requires dramatic plans, and the gates that will come next year reducing the traffic coming into and through the City will have a marked effect. They are good in their intentions though how it will work remains a concern as it seems to be a small part of a much bigger plan.



## Climate change and sustainability...

have been high on the agenda this year with some amazing **OPT Green Awards** and thoughts on our own meadows and issues of the environment and carbon capture. We have also been reorganising our committees to upgrade our work to better

include the green agenda and are delighted to welcome **Trustee Dr Nick Leimu-Brown**, international expert in tree and plant ecology and the restoration of ecosystems, who is looking forward to giving us a guiding hand.



We continue to fight for the rare MG4 grassland which will be lost if the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme crosses our Hinksey Fields. We feel sure there is a more sustainable way to protect Oxford from floods and save the environment. The same goes for the pressure to turn so much open green space into sites for solar panels. We understand the need for renewable energy and are calling on the Councils to come together and produce a strategy to decide where these should go rather than taking a piecemeal approach site by site.





# OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST

## Awards 2022



### BUILDING CONSERVATION

- The Restoration & Conservation of Clark's Row, St Aldate's
- The Refurbishment of St Giles' House

### LANDSCAPE & PUBLIC REALM

- Restoration of the South Wall of Northmoor Churchyard, Church of St Denys

### NEW BUILDINGS

- Low Energy House, Coppock Close, Headington Quarry
- New Housing at The Oval and Ashhurst Way, Rose Hill
- The extension and reordering of Radley College Chapel

### SMALL PROJECTS

- Exeter College Porter's Lodge - Accessibility and Energy Efficiency Improvements
- Gees Restaurant- Secret Garden & Gallery
- "The Studio" Office Space Conversion, Dawson Street

### GREEN AWARD

- Long Mead Barn and Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project, Swinford
- Vishuddha Yoga Studio, East Street
- The Decarbonisation of Wolfson College



### OPT Awards Panel



Thanks to our sponsors:



# OPT Events



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

Wednesdays at 12.30pm, 16 November, 18 January, 15 February, 29 March  
*Tour of Shakespeare's Painted Room and its medieval wall paintings.*

2.30pm, 18 November, 21 January, 18 February, 18 March  
*OPT's Medieval Merchant's House Tour*  
East St Helen Street, Abingdon

Monday 5 December, 5pm  
*Join OPT Director Debbie Dance for her annual Christmas Lecture and the celebratory lighting of the Oxford Castle Christmas tree*

Thursday 9 January, 5.30pm  
*'Blue Plaques of Oxford', a lecture by local historian and Green Badge Guide Alastair Lack*  
Castle Learning Centre

Thursday 9 February, 5.30pm  
*'The life of John Buckler', a lecture by OPT Trustee Dr Julian Munby*  
Castle Learning Centre

Thursday 19 January, 12pm  
*An exclusive tour of Oxford Union and Library*

Tuesday 28 February, 5.30pm  
*'Felicia Skene: Oxford writer, prison reformer and friend to the poor', a lecture by local historian Liz Wooley*  
Castle Learning Centre

Wednesday 15 March, 5.30pm  
*OPT Chairman's lecture. 'John Betjeman, John Piper and the face of England' by Professor Frances Spalding*  
Castle Learning Centre

Saturday 18 March, 2pm  
*Alternative Oxford tour by stand-up comedy group the Oxford Imps*



## Save the Date...

On Friday the 21st of April, we will honour the life of the bard with our *annual Shakespeare's Birthday Parade*



## Green Spaces Volunteering:

Saturday 12 November – **Larkins Lane**  
Thursday 17 November – **Heyford Meadows**  
Friday 2 December – **Wolvercote Lakes**  
Saturday 3 December – **Jarn Heath**  
Thursday 15 December – **Heyford Meadows**

To sign up contact:  
[info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk)



## Thank you...

to St John's College who are once again donating a Christmas Tree to Oxford Castle.



[www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk) or  
call 01865 242918



# Reaching Out

## Rose Hill

OPT worked with local groups so that together we have been able to produce something really special for Rose Hill which captures something of its fascinating industrial past and its deep-rooted sense of community. Thanks go to local historian Liz Woolley and everyone involved who are so proud of the result.

*Please do the walk, you will love it...*



Welcome to Nina Urai, who joined us in April to help organise Oxford Open Doors.

*I am very excited to be able to organise my favourite event of the year and give a personal touch to it.*

20,000 visitors!

Many special family-events

## OXFORD OPEN DOORS

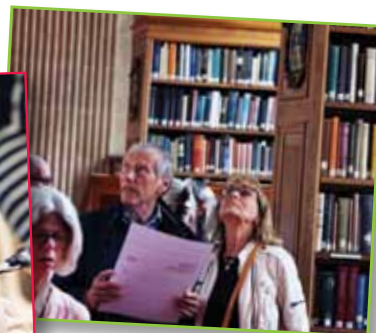
Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Oxford Open Doors such a success, opening up, volunteering and just coming along. We took the opportunity to remember the Queen's visit to the Castle in 2006, with other highlights including the chance to have a go at stone carving and old printing presses, and to visit our amazing colleges and University buildings. We also celebrated the

new with the chance to visit the COVID-19 vaccine labs and to meet Ai-Da, the world's first ultra-realistic artist robot.

oxford bus company



*A brilliant weekend. Well done to the organisers. We visited loads of places!*



*Congratulations on another brilliant year!*

Welcome... to Lizzy Diggins, who has joined us as our City Council Appointed Trustee, whose interest in education and outreach will be a great asset. Lizzy has lived all over Oxford and takes a keen interest in both our city's history and its future.



*Enjoyed reading what we do? Join 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            £35
- Family                £60
- Life                    £750
- Joint Life            £1200
- Young person       £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
- 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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