

“Planting a strong future...”

Continuing our long history of tree planting to mark royal occasions, **Sir Philip Pullman** planted a majestic Oak at **Larkins Lane** in memory of **Queen Elizabeth II**, our contribution to the **Queen's Green Canopy**. It was eighty-five years to the day since the planting of the fastigate hornbeams in Sunderland Avenue now immortalised in **'His Dark Materials'**.



See page 5 at how Sir Philip inspired the Year 6 Writing Group from St. Andrew's School, Headington to write their own stories.



Oxford, a city alive and thriving...

Oxford Covered Market

Thank you to **Oxford City Council** who are to invest nearly £7 million in this jewel at the heart of the city. OPT has been helping to make conversations happen, restored the units 46-48 and worked closely on the masterplan idea. As improvements to Market Street begin to happen and the **Market due to celebrate its 250th anniversary in 2024** we are thrilled to see this commitment to its future.



10% discount for OPT members



Check out the best coffee in town

and the **Jericho Coffee Traders** at the Castle. OPT and JCT are working in partnership and with a **10% discount for OPT members** and some of the profits coming to OPT.

What's not to love!

Good changes are happening...

2023 has seen our new committee structure in place with our first ever **Engagement, Heritage and Sustainability Committee meetings** taking place. Debbie took new trustee, the chair of the engagement team, Lizzy Diggins on a tour of our work to include some of our **special green spaces** accompanied by other members of the team.



OPT News...

Congratulations to OPT

Here are Debbie and project manager Russ Turner at the **2022 National Railway Heritage Trust Awards** receiving the **Conservation award** from HRH the Duke of Gloucester for the **restoration of the Swing Bridge**. We will put the plaque up on site later in the year when the landscaping work is finished.



Two Green spaces officers in one...



Charlie Jackson and Hannah Brockwell getting together before Charlie went off on maternity leave. Hannah is covering for Charlie this year, and we are

delighted to report that Charlie's little boy George was born in early February and all are well.

Welcome

to **Louise Lockyer** who has joined us as our **Heritage and Membership officer** and is already becoming a familiar face to many at our lectures and events.



Well done

to our colleague **Nina** who secured one of the much-prized 14 UK-wide places offered on the **Heritage Open Days "New Wave" training project**. After successfully delivering **Oxford Open Doors 2022**, she is in a brilliant position to contribute to this programme which focuses on working with young adults and developing new, innovative heritage events. We are looking forward to seeing the results in September.



OXFORD OPEN DOORS

Oxford Open Doors 9 & 10 September

Save the date!

'Everyday Oxford'

is the theme for this year's Oxford Open Doors, focussing on the history and heritage of the ordinary, alongside the extraordinary, in the life of this special city.



The original OPT logo

was King Charles I's Oxford Crown, minted in New Inn Hall Street during the Civil War. What fun to find that the image on **King Charles III's coin** is by sculptor **Martin Jennings**. Martin had his first workshop in Oxford, did the wonderful lettering recording our restoration at the Castle, and judged our Gargoyles Competition in 2009. Our Betjeman Circle logo is one of Martin's sketches for his now famous statue at St. Pancras Station. **John Betjeman** was Trust secretary from 1946 to 1948.



Oxford is growing. Its growth may be guided but should not be grudged. The work of the Trust is not to hamper Oxford but to help it... Oxford is not a museum piece. It is a living thing. In Oxford the poorer families need better and healthier homes ...

OPT Annual Report, 1927.

The OPT planning team have been busy reviewing two more applications on sites around the edge of the city which will deliver over 1,750 dwellings. There are 64 allocated sites of various sizes in the Oxford Plan and now the City are looking beyond to 2040. These housing and other pressures are not going to go away and what we must do is try to make sure that the Oxford we get is one that everyone can still enjoy. We will be thinking about this as we grapple with the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme which has once again reared its head and which will spoil some of OPTs much loved and much used green spaces if it goes ahead.



Broad Street...

The committee has been looking at the trial plans for Broad Street. It's not right yet but having started in 2004 and given an award to Broad Meadow in 2021 we are keen to help make it happen. Watch this space...



Join us for the Annual OPT/OUNCE Oxford Day School on the 13th of May



Oxford: an ever expanding city – the growth of suburbia will explore the past, present and future of Oxford's suburbs looking at their impact and how they have become established communities with their own story to tell. Book a place at: www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk

OPT Awards 2023 Launch

Entries are now open for the Annual Awards, now in their 46th year. We are so grateful to Carter Jonas, Critchley's, Matthews Comfort, and St. John's College whose continuing support have enabled the Awards to grow into a special event in Oxford's calendar, one where we can all celebrate the wonderful things that are happening all around our great city.

We are particularly keen on the OPT Green Award and the work of others has inspired us to look at our own properties to look at how to retrofit them to become energy efficient and act as an exemplar to others. Shona Carr, who runs the Awards, has chosen the decarbonisation of the Oxford Colleges as her MSc Dissertation topic, inspired by Wolfson College and their decarbonisation project which won a 2022 award.

See page 6 for details of a visit to the College to find out more.

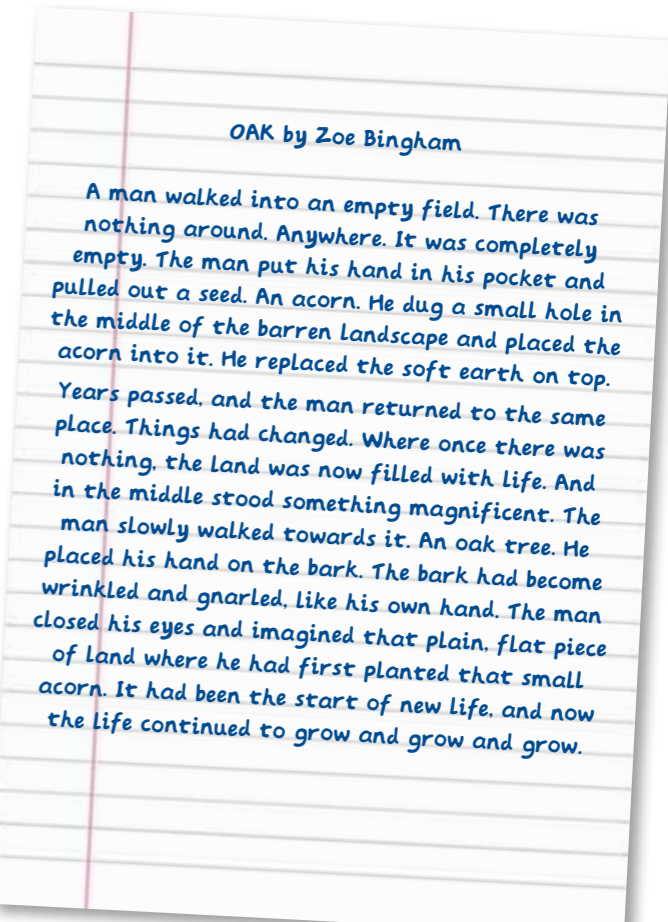


What better thank you

than to receive the lively writings of the young people who had joined us for the Tree planting at Larkins Lane in November. Over tea and chocolate cake Sir Philip Pullman clearly inspired them.



Scan the QR code to see more



OAK by Zoe Bingham

A man walked into an empty field. There was nothing around. Anywhere. It was completely empty. The man put his hand in his pocket and pulled out a seed. An acorn. He dug a small hole in the middle of the barren landscape and placed the acorn into it. He replaced the soft earth on top.

Years passed, and the man returned to the same place. Things had changed. Where once there was nothing, the land was now filled with life. And in the middle stood something magnificent. The man slowly walked towards it. An oak tree. He placed his hand on the bark. The bark had become wrinkled and gnarled, like his own hand. The man closed his eyes and imagined that plain, flat piece of land where he had first planted that small acorn. It had been the start of new life, and now the life continued to grow and grow and grow.

Congratulations

to Victoria Grane who won the Annual OPT student award given to a student on the Oxford Brookes MSc Historic Conservation. We look forward to her joining the Awards Panel 2023.



We are really keen that everyone feels safe and welcome to our OPT green spaces so look out for our new information boards and signs as they begin to appear. We've started by updating our signage at our nature park at Heyford Meadow, and have listened to our users and put in a new more convenient kissing gate working with the local parish council.



OPT Events

Saturdays at 2.30pm, 15 April, 13 May, 17 June and Friday 14 July at 6.30pm
OPT's Medieval Merchant's House Tour
East St Helen Street, Abingdon

Monday 1 May, 8am
May Morning Magdalen Tower Climb
A rare chance to climb the Tower just after the traditional May Day celebrations

Saturday 13 May
OPT/OUCE Oxford Day School – Oxford: An Ever-Expanding City – The Growth of Suburbia
Rewley House (See our website for booking details)

Thursday 18 May, 2pm
Nuneham Courtenay Estate and Carfax Conduit Walk with OPT Trustee, Julian Munby

Wednesdays at 12.30pm, 24 May, 21 June, 19 July, 16 August
Tour of Shakespeare's Painted Room
3 Cornmarket Street, Oxford

Wednesday 14 June, 5pm
'The Other Oxford' guided walk with Professor Patrick McGuinness

Thursday 22 June, 4.30pm tea, 5.15pm start
OPT AGM with Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Professor Irene Tracey
Pembroke College

Tuesday 27 June, 2pm
An exclusive members tour of All Souls College

Saturday 1 July, 10am
National Meadows Day walk with Avril Hughes
at Hinksey Meadow

Thursday 6 July, 10am
An exclusive members tour of Wolfson College's decarbonisation project and Gardens

Tuesday 11 July, 6pm
Green spaces walk around Jarn Heath and Matthew Arnold Reserve

Friday 28 July, 10am
Rose Hill guided walk with historian Liz Woolley

Monday 31 July, 2pm
North Hinksey Conduit House to Harcourt Hill walk with Vice President Malcolm Graham

www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk or call 01865 242918



Festival of Archaeology

Saturday 15 July, 10.30am
Oxford City Walls Walk with OPT Trustee, Julian Munby

Tuesday 18 July, 5pm
Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Oxford with Oxford City Archaeologist, David Radford
Key Learning Centre, Oxford Castle

Shakespeare's Birthday Parade is back!

Friday 21 April, 11am

Come and watch as the great and the good of Oxford, parade from St George's Tower, Oxford Castle to the Painted Room in Cornmarket, to celebrate the life of the Immortal Bard.



Big Help Out

To mark His Majesty The King's Coronation join OPT by doing something amazing and helping out in your local community.

Wednesday 10 May, 2pm-4pm
Join us at JCT at Oxford Castle to have a chat about our exciting volunteering opportunities at Oxford Open Doors 2023!

Friday 12 May, 9.30am-12.30pm
Join us to launch a new volunteer group at Larkins Lane. Give it a go, followed by refreshments. Everyone's welcome whether you're already a volunteer or looking to try something new.

Green Spaces Volunteering

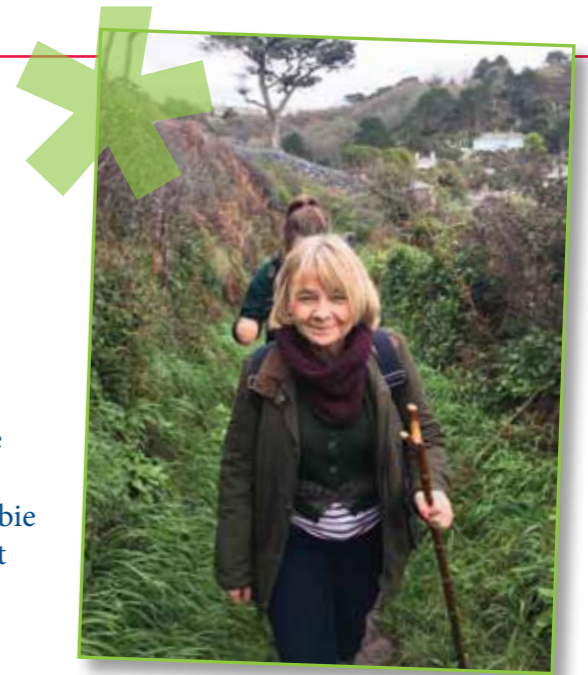
Heyford Meadow – Thursdays from 9.30am, 20 April, 18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 17 August

Wolvercote Lakes – Fridays from 9.30am, 5 May, 2 June, 7 July, 4 August

Larkins Lane – Fridays from 9.30am, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July, 11 August

To sign up contact:
h.brockwell@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST



After much thought, and 25 years of service to the Trust in September, Debbie has confirmed her intention to retire at the end of 2023. To say Debbie will be a hard act to follow does some violence to that cliché, and I want to thank my fellow Trustees Dame Helen Ghosh, Carole Souter, and Phil Parker, who have been working with me as we begin to look for her successor. Their experience and expertise in heritage and charity administration will be enormously helpful. I'm delighted to say that Debbie has also offered to provide her full support to the process.

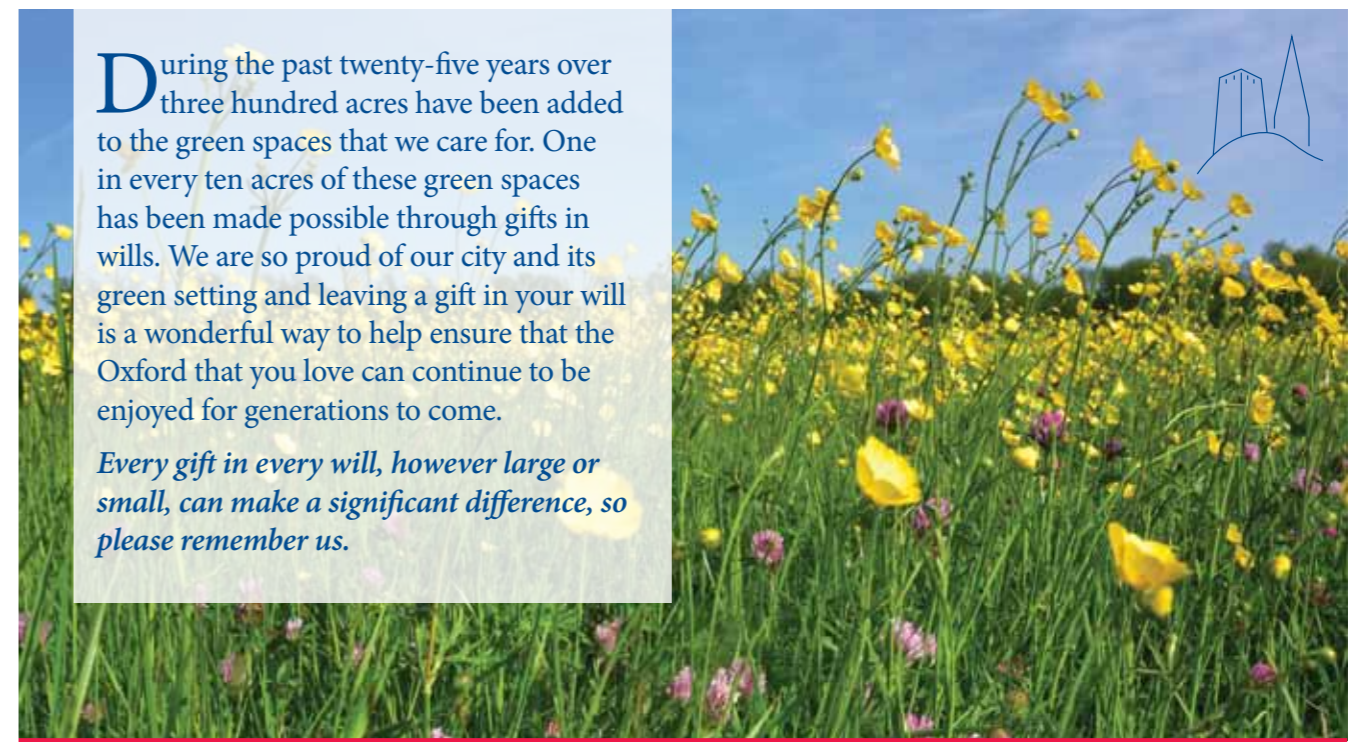
We are planning lots of opportunities for us all to say thank you and we will keep in touch on this as we make plans for the autumn and leading up to Christmas. But I should like to affirm here and now just how much OPT – and Oxford more generally – owes to Debbie. As we walk around the city, the Castle, the Martyrs' Memorial, the Covered Market, the Swing Bridge, and a thousand other projects all testify to her vision and her leadership. It's extraordinary to note that in her time the Trust has acquired 300 acres of land. Above all, OPT is now recognised as a national leader in heritage policy and activism as well as a local force for good.

It's a fabulous legacy.

Reverend Professor William Whyte, OPT Chairman

During the past twenty-five years over three hundred acres have been added to the green spaces that we care for. One in every ten acres of these green spaces has been made possible through gifts in wills. We are so proud of our city and its green setting and leaving a gift in your will is a wonderful way to help ensure that the Oxford that you love can continue to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Every gift in every will, however large or small, can make a significant difference, so please remember us.



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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