

Welcome to the 2024 Spring Newsletter



Included are details of the 2024 AGM and reports from the officers, the programmes for our upcoming excursions and Oxfordshire Past 2024 which will be held in Bicester on Saturday 15th June.

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SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER



(Wiki Commons)

Appleton excursion with Trevor Rowley see page 13

Agenda for AGM 2024

1. Apologies for absence

2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2023

3. Matters arising from the minutes

4. Reports of Officers and Subcommittees

5. Finance

- a) Report of Hon. Treasurer
- b) Adoption of accounts
- c) Appointment of Examiner

6. Election of Officers

a) David Clark is leaving the committee, following his resignation as Chair of the Listed Buildings sub-committee. Pam Shakespeare elected not to join the committee in 2023. All other committee members are prepared to restand. Holly Kilpatrick was co-opted as Excursions Organiser in February 2024.

7. Any other business

Minutes of the OAHS AGM 2023

held at Abingdon Guildhall 17th June 2023 at 10.00 am

(Registered Charity No. 259055)

The President, Geoffrey Tyack, took the chair. 40 members were present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from 2 members.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were accepted and passed without correction.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports of Officers and Subcommittees

The Officers' reports were accepted without comment.

5. Finance

- a) Report of Hon. Treasurer

Bob Crabtree described the satisfactory financial situation of the society, which is partly the result of Zoom lectures. These are much cheaper than the hiring of an Oxford venue. 2022 had produced a surplus of £8920.42

and assets at the end of the year stood at £139,126.83. The current position shows assets in the region of £145,000, but the major expense of Oxoniensia comes in the later part of the year.

b) Adoption of accounts and balance sheet.

The accounts were adopted.

c) Appointment of Examiners

That Chapman, Robinson and Moore be reappointed as auditors was agreed unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

a) Michael Heaton has unfortunately had to resign as Excursions Organiser. All the other existing Committee members were prepared to restand.

b) Pam Shakespeare has volunteered to become an Ordinary member of the Committee.

These officers were approved by the meeting.

7. Any other business

There were no matters raised.

The President reiterated that OAHS is an active society, highlighting the excursions programme, the lectures and Oxfordshire Past. In this connection he thanked Becky Peacock for organising it and the other committee members who had assisted.

The meeting closed at 10.10 am.

Would you like to join the committee to help run OAHS?

We meet four times per year and there are other sub-committees which continue their work all year round. See their reports inside this issue.

Contact Jill Hind, OAHS Secretary, for more details
secretary@oahs.org.uk

Reports for 2023 - 2024

From the President

I am delighted to report that the Society has continued to flourish over the past year. Our programme of lectures has featured talks on archaeological subjects – a Roman settlement at Chipping Norton, discoveries at Frewin Hall in Oxford (now an outpost of Brasenose College) and a deserted village at Besselsleigh – and on a wide range of architectural topics, including medieval undercrofts in Gloucester and Oxford, Oxford's library buildings, and the brutalist Tinbergen building in South Parks Road, recently demolished after a life-span of only fifty years. There have also been lectures on Oxford during the Civil War, when it was the Royalist capital; on the Oxford experiences of the great local historian W.G. Hoskins; and, most recently, on monumental inscriptions in both the city and the county. The first four lectures after Christmas were given online, following last year's precedent. I am very grateful to all of our speakers, and to our Lectures Secretary, Adrienne Rosen, for arranging such a stimulating series.



The Tinberger Building

We can now look forward to our summer programme of excursions, which have been arranged by our new Excursions Secretary, Holly Kilpatrick. As usual, they will include walks in Oxford and visits to sites further afield, details of which will be publicised in due course. Following last year's successful '**Oxfordshire Past**' in Abingdon, the 2024 event will take place on Saturday 15 June in the John Paul II centre at Bicester, and I will look forward to seeing many of you there. Details are announced in this newsletter (see page 14), and I am grateful to Becky Peacock for her devoted work in arranging the programme.

Oxoniensia continues to flourish under the editorship of Stephen Miles, with volume 89 expected at the end of this year. I am pleased to report that the Society's finances remain in good shape, thanks in large part to our Treasurer, Bob Crabtree. Our membership has held up well over the past year, and I am very grateful to our Membership Secretary, Beverley Lear, and to our Webmanager, Meriel Lewis. Our Listed Buildings Group also continues to do invaluable work in monitoring changes to historic buildings in both the city and the county. We also continue to give grant support to the Oxfordshire Victoria County History,

now within sight of completion, with recent work viewable online, and we give research grants to other organisations and to individuals; applications for the forthcoming year are welcome. Finally I would like to thank our Secretary, Jill Hind, for successfully co-ordinating the Society's many activities, and to you as members for your support over the past year.

Geoffrey Tyack



2023 Oxfordshire Past at Abingdon Guildhall: Simon Blackmore presenting 'Gozzards Ford and the Turnpike Road, Marcham'

Secretary's Annual Report

The majority of the Secretary's work is routine – agendas, minutes and forwarding queries in the appropriate direction. For this winter's Zoom lecture series I have been acting as Host. In addition, I am the initial point of contact for our Grant applicants. I arranged for a stock of copies of the monograph on the Archaeology of Oxford to be delivered to OAHS and to Oxford Archaeology. These were made available at the Rewley House lectures and are selling well at their new, reduced price.

OAHS responded to the Botley West Solar Farm consultation in February. I do need to thank David Clark, Roger Ainslie, Roger Thomas and George Lambrick for their help in compiling this. Copies were also sent to other stakeholders, which triggered us being included in the circulation of some other responses.

In February I attended a Thames Water workshop on opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation if the proposed (and often postponed!) Abingdon Reservoir goes ahead. There will be a consultation phase on the project as a whole in the summer and OAHS will respond.

Jill Hind

Treasurer's Report

At the year-end there was an excess of income over expenditure of £9023.40 which was much the same as the figure for the previous year (£8920.42). Publication costs for Oxoniensia were substantially higher but this was balanced by increased income from the journal, receipts from gift aid and increased dividends from investments. Donations and grants from the Society were £3179.50, slightly higher than in 2022.

In 2023 an additional £10,000 was invested in the Schroders unit trust which maintained its value during the year. It is planned to invest a further £10,000 in 2024. The M and G trust lost around £2000. Overall the net assets of the Society at the year-end were £144,981.15 an increase of almost £7,000 over the year-end 2022 figure.

The finances are thus in a sound position despite increasing costs due to price inflation. Several requests for grant aid have been agreed and are in the pipeline. The committee plan to review the position regarding donations in the 2024 year.

The Statement of Accounts is shown opposite

Bob Crabtree

Oxford City and County Archaeological Forum

OCCAF has had 3 meetings this year with the work in the County largely finding Iron Age and Romano British remains in housing development areas. The City tends to find medieval remains in university developments.

The small Romano British town which was found east of Chipping Norton has been Scheduled as an Ancient Monument. The authorities will probably do their best to avoid ascertaining who was responsible for the District Council allocating land there for development.

Metal detecting may be the rising thing. The Portable Antiquities Scheme has people who identify a wide range of finds including flint implements and pottery. A metal detector rally in this area appears to have had 1000 people attending.

Roger Ainslie (OCCAF Secretary)

OXFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACCOUNTS : STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS DEC 31st 2023

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

| 2022 (£) | | 2023 (£) | | 2022 (£) | | 2023 (£) | |
|----------|----------------------------------|----------|--|---|---|----------------------|--|
| 10060.79 | Oxonienia, grants, subscriptions | 11425.50 | | 9044.00 | Publications: printing and distribution | 13070.91 | |
| 0.00 | Members and subscriptions | 0.00 | | 4680.40 | Oxonienia Volume 88 | 4969.85 | |
| 12767.64 | Advance payments | 16013.79 | | 0.00 | Editorial costs - Oxonienia | 0.00 | |
| | Publication grants etc. | | | | Editorial costs - Miscellaneous publication | | |
| 22828.43 | Sub Total | 27499.29 | | 13724.40 | Sub total | 18040.76 | |
| 68.00 | Other Memb receipts | 61.00 | | 1083.40 | Lectures | 2176.46 | |
| 1543.84 | Excursions | 162.38 | | 1745.25 | Excursions | 156.00 | |
| 532.36 | Oxfordshire Past | 526.80 | | 142.69 | Oxfordshire Past | 490.45 | |
| 0.00 | Gift Aid | 1712.72 | | 205.00 | Affiliations (CBA, BALH) | 205.00 | |
| 50.00 | Donations | 0.00 | | 2000.00 | Donations and prizes | 3179.50 | |
| 5.90 | Miscellaneous | 108.00 | | 2060.38 | Web Site | 1800.00 | |
| 0.00 | Bank & COF Interest | 0.00 | | 850.55 | Postage, stationery, printing | 907.88 | |
| 5917.87 | Dividends | 6576.03 | | 214.31 | Miscellaneous | 606.77 | |
| 0.00 | Interest on National Savings | 0.00 | | | | | |
| 30946.40 | Total Income | 36586.22 | | 22025.98 | Total expenditure | 27562.82 | |
| | | | | 8920.42 | Balance of income over expenditure | 9023.40 | |
| | | | | BANK AND OTHER INVESTMENT BALANCES (£) | | | |
| | | | | 31st Dec 2022 | | 31st Dec 2023 | |
| | | | | £ | | £ | |
| | | | | 25483.11 | Bank current accounts | 21594.53 | |
| | | | | 0.00 | CAF | 0.00 | |
| | | | | 1715.06 | PayPal | 4627.04 | |
| | | | | 0.00 | National Savings Bank | 0.00 | |
| | | | | 0.00 | Charities Investment Fund (COIF) | 0.00 | |
| | | | | 84741.88 | M&G Charfund (at Dec 31st) | 82750.66 | |
| | | | | 26186.78 | Schroders Charity Fund (at Dec 31st) | 36008.92 | |
| | | | | 138126.83 | | 144981.15 | |

M&G Charfund
Schroders Charity
Fund

5766.637
39587.64

14.35
90.96

84741.88
26186.78

M&G Charfund (at Dec 31st)
Schroders Charity Fund (at Dec 31st)

82750.66
36008.92

Membership Secretary's Report

I'm pleased to report that our membership continues to rise steadily. We have been pleased to welcome several dozen new members attracted to the Society through our lectures programme and other activities, and now have well over 500 members and subscribing libraries, including major libraries in the United States, Australia, Germany, France and Switzerland taking our journal, Oxoniensia.

Despite such a positive outlook, we have experienced some difficulties with getting Oxoniensia delivered at the end of 2023 due to a change of packaging implemented by our printers. I have written to you individually about this, and have sent out copies to those members who did not receive their copy in the original mailout. I hope that you have all now received your copy, but if not please let me know.

It is also worth noting here that about 10% of members currently elect not to receive a printed copy and prefer to access Oxoniensia online. There is no subscription reduction should this be your preference. All members have access to Oxoniensia online which can be especially useful if you are wanting to search for a particular article.

You will all be pleased to know that there is no change in the subscription this year. But if you are paying by standing order, please make sure that your bank is paying the correct amount (£18 ordinary members, £25 family membership) and includes your name, initial and membership number which you will find on the address label for this newsletter – we get several subscriptions each year without enough information to log them against individual members.

Please let me know if you would like to gift aid your subscription – this enables us to claim tax relief in support of new research relating to the history, architecture and archaeology of Oxfordshire.

Last but not least, please let me have your email address if you think I might not have it – we do not pass these details on to any other organisations, and they provide a vital link with all our members.

For any correspondence, please use my email address:

members@oahs.org.uk

Beverley Lear

Oxoniensia

This year's Oxoniensia, due out in early December, includes a rich and varied mix of history and archaeology. Many of the articles show the benefits of a multi-disciplinary approach, notably Graham Jones' examination of Beckley's mysterious British or Irish Saint Domnanuerdh and John Blair's two contributions, one a re-examination of the early development of Hook Norton church and the other an excavation of a medieval homestead at North Leigh combined with a close examination of early deeds and of surviving later building fabric.

Other contributions include pieces on the lives and works of architects Sir Bertram Clough Williams-Ellis and F.C. Eden viewed from an Oxfordshire perspective, an analysis of the development of the medieval gentry house known as Wytham Abbey, and a history and architectural description of The Old Clarendon Laboratory, England's first purpose-built physics laboratory. Archaeological input includes two significant new synthetic and analytical accounts of



Clarendon Laboratory (Wiki Commons)

the development of Iron-Age and Roman settlement in the south of the county, and a report on a superb Anglo-Saxon settlement site at East Challow in the Vale of the White Horse.

In addition, I am pleased to announce that the prestigious Brian Cohen prize* has been awarded to **Thomas Davis** for an outstanding first publication on the history of Oxfordshire. Davis's piece tackles a very original subject with considerable aplomb and stunning illustration, namely the twentieth-century archaeology of the Youlbury estate, home to the world's longest continually-occupied scout camp and sometime military 'battle school' and prisoner of war camp. The prize will be awarded to Thomas at one of our lectures, and further details will be given nearer the time.

Stephen Miles, editor of Oxoniensia

* For full details of this prize, see oxoniensia.org/briancohen.php

Listed Buildings Sub-Committee

In 2023 the listed buildings sub-committee sent detailed comments to the relevant council planning departments on a number of planning applications, the majority in Oxford city.

Since the end of March 2023 three of the applications on which we commented have been withdrawn and two have been refused permission. While some applications are still pending, the majority were granted permission. All the LPAs in Oxfordshire referenced OAHS LB's letters of objection in their delegated planning reports, apart from a couple of applications in the city of Oxford, which we in the couple of cases where this didn't happen, we contacted the case officer at Oxford City – we remain concerned that many planning applications are registered despite containing inadequate documentation; some include no heritage assessment at all, or the heritage assessment was written by someone who is not a qualified heritage professional.

Peter Howell of the Victorian Group has commented on 24 applications since end March 2023, mainly in north Oxford. We are grateful to Esther Robinson Wild, who keeps us abreast of updates to documentation and best practice from Historic England and other national bodies.

| Local council | 2023 total (2021 total last available full-year figures) |
|---|--|
| Cherwell | 1 (4) |
| Oxford City (including the Victorian Group) | 35 (54) |
| South Oxon | 4 (7) |
| Vale | 4 (8) |
| West Oxon | 2 (1) |
| Total | 46 (74) |

At the end of 2023 David Clark, our long-standing and esteemed chairman, resigned. His leadership and guidance of OAHS LB's committee over many years is hugely appreciated and will be much missed, but we are delighted that he is to stay on the committee as a case worker for Oxford city. His service was marked by a pre-Christmas committee lunch at Gee's. The committee is delighted to announce that Julian Munby has now taken over as chairman. This year also saw Nick Wright step down from the committee due to pressure of work commitments. The listed buildings committee is very grateful for all his good work for OAHS over the years.

We continue to work closely with OPT on cases affecting Oxford city. The new director of OPT, Anna Eavis, is now in post following a handover from Debbie Dance, and we look forward to welcoming her at the next OAHs LB meeting in June.

We are always keen to hear from OAHs members who would like to join the sub-committee and get involved in the protection of Oxfordshire's architectural heritage. Please contact lbsecretary@oahs.org.uk for an informal discussion about this interesting role.

Lydia Inglis (Secretary) and David Clark (Chairman)

Appleton Area Archaeological Research Project AAARP Open Day, Saturday 20 April 10am-3pm: Besselsleigh Manor excavations

Come and visit the excavations of the Anglo-Saxon to 18C Manor and its deserted village at the Rye Estate OX13 5PY, on Saturday 20 April from 10am-3pm

There will be tours of the excavations at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 2.30pm, short talks, finds displays, access to the church of St Lawrence, opportunities to try both excavation and metal detecting, and activities for young people.

Parking on grass and Portaloos are both available.



Directions

The site is south of the modern village of Besselsleigh. Left turn off A420 northbound signed to Parklands Estate, just before the solitary church. Then right through a field gate. It is better to go to the roundabout on the A420 south of the site and come back northbound than try to turn right off the southbound A420. Please do not go into the drive of Rye House. A bus from Oxford stops at the Greyhound pub in Besselsleigh with a safe footpath by the road south to the church and entry from churchyard.

Excursions

All excursions must be booked in advance
via our website oahs.org.uk

If you need help logging in you can email the OAHS
Webmanager for assistance, see below for details

Our excursion programme is still being finalised, see opposite, but all details will be published on our website, so please check there for details.

Our first excursion of the year will be a **guided walk around West Oxford with Malcolm Graham** starting in Osney at 2pm on Thursday 25th April. The cost is £5 payable in advance online and stout footwear is recommended!

Malcolm Graham was awarded his doctorate in Local History at the University of Leicester and worked for many years as Oxfordshire County Council's local historian

To book, go to oahs.org.uk/excursions



Osney Island, Oxford (Wiki Commons)

If you have forgotten your login details or have not logged into the website before and need to be issued with a new login, please email: webmanager@oahs.org.uk giving your name, address and Membership Number which you will find on the address label for this newsletter

| Date | Excursion | Leader |
|--|---|--|
| Thursday 25 th April 14.00-16.00 | West Oxford Walk | Malcolm Graham |
| Tuesday 4 th June 14.00-16.00 | South Oxford Walk | Liz Woolley |
| Thursday 20 th June | Chastleton House and village walk | Simon Draper <i>To Be Confirmed</i> |
| Tuesday 2 nd July | Visit to Rewley Abbey and the newly restored Stephenson Swing Bridge | Tom Hassall |
| Wednesday 17 th July 14.00-16.00 | A History Walk round the village of Appleton, to include the exterior of the manor house and (hopefully) a visit to Northmoor Lock with one of only five surviving paddle and rymer weirs in the country. | Trevor Rowley Trevor is a local historian and Appleton resident (may include tea at The Plough) |
| Sunday 28 th July 09.00-11.00 | A walk around Oxford viewing historic Swedish ironwork from the early C18 ending early C20. | David Clark |
| Sunday 15 th September 14.00-16.00 | A guided tour of St Mary's Church and the village of Iffley. | Geoffrey Tyack |
| <i>There will also be excursions to Nuneham Courtnay, Oxford's Painted Rooms and Lincoln College. More details on the website once the dates have been confirmed</i> | | |



St Mary's Church, Iffley (Wiki Commons)

Oxfordshire Past 2024

Every year, the OAHS holds an annual meeting for members, local societies and interested non-members. It is a day of short talks with display stands about the history, architecture and archaeology of the county. Each year it moves to a new town in the county and partners with a different local group or society. It is an opportunity for like-minded people to get together and hear about new and ongoing research in the county. It is a chance for members to meet the OAHS committee and to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

It also includes the OAHS AGM which is held at the start of the event.



Location and venue

Oxfordshire Past this year will take place in Bicester at the John Paul II Centre on Saturday 15th June and will include the OAHS Annual General Meeting. This year we are pleased to be partnering with the Bicester Local History Society. The day will once again involve a diverse programme of talks. There will be a range of stalls and exhibits to visit throughout the day.

If you would like to have a stall or advertise a project, publication or new research, please contact Becky Peacock oxpast@oahs.org.uk.

The venue is located in the heart of the town, with good access to nearby rail and bus networks as well as local car parks, with easy access from the A34, M40 and A41. There is parking at the venue.

Address: John Paul II Centre, The Causeway, Bicester OX26 6AW

More details about the centre can be found on their website:

<http://www.johnpaulcentre.co.uk/>

Booking

Tickets cost £10 and includes tea/coffee during the day and may be purchased in advance from www.oahs.org.uk/oxpast (there is a limit to the number of places so book early to avoid disappointment).

Online payments are preferred but you may send a cheque made payable to OAHS along with your name and full address to Becky Peacock at:

Oxfordshire Past, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES.

Refreshments

There will be two refreshment breaks of 30 minutes in the event with complimentary tea and coffee included in the ticket price. There will be 1 hour lunch break where catering is not provided. However there are places across the town to enjoy a light lunch or you are more than welcome to bring a picnic or packed lunch with you.

Accessibility

There are accessible toilets at the venue and refreshments will be served in the same room as the event. The venue has audio-visual support and a hearing loop and details of this and other accessibility information will be provided with your ticket when you book or is on the centre's website.

There is parking at the venue, with 30 spaces available.

Programme

The programme is printed overleaf but is subject to change so please consult the website for full details nearer the time:

www.oahs.org.uk/oxpast



The John Paul II Centre , Bicester

Oxfordshire Past 2024 Programme

| Time | Talk | Speaker |
|-------------|--|---|
| 9.45-10.00 | Registration | |
| 10.00 | Introduction | Geoffrey Tyack <i>OAHS Chairman</i> |
| 10.00-10.20 | OAHS AGM 2024 | All OAHS Members Welcome |
| 10.20 | Welcome to Oxfordshire Past 2024 | Geoffrey Tyack |
| 10.25-10.45 | Recent archaeological work in the city of Oxford | David Radford <i>Oxford City Archaeologist</i> |
| 10.45-11.05 | The archaeology of Graven Hill and the wider area | Steven Lawrence <i>Oxford Archaeology</i> |
| 11.05 | <i>Coffee break</i> | <i>30 min break</i> |
| 11.35-11.55 | Update on the work of the Victoria County History | Simon Townley <i>Victoria County History</i> |
| 11.55-12.15 | Archaeological discoveries of HS2 | Lucy Lawrence <i>Buckinghamshire County Council</i> |
| 12.15 | Oxfordshire Records Project | Oxfordshire Records Society |
| 12.30 | Recent projects and information – opportunities to publicise projects etc. | Various |
| 12.40 | <i>Lunch break</i> | <i>1 hour break</i> |
| 13.45 | Welcome and introduction by BLHS | Bob Hessian <i>Chair, Bicester Local History Society</i> |
| 13.50-14.10 | History of Bicester Railways | Bob Hessian |
| 14.10-14.30 | Recent archaeological work across Oxfordshire | <i>Oxfordshire County Council</i> |
| 14.30 | <i>Tea break</i> | <i>30 minute break</i> |
| 15.00-15.20 | Oxfordshire Buildings Record activity update | Paul Clark <i>Oxfordshire Buildings Record</i> |
| 15.20-15.50 | The archaeologies of Bicester Priory | Julian Munby, <i>Chair, Oxfordshire Buildings Record and OAHS Librarian</i> |
| 15.50-15.45 | Closing address | Geoffrey Tyack and Bob Hessian |
| 16.00 | Close of event | |

To book and for recent amendments to the programme go to
oahs.org.uk/oxpast