

Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society

AGM Papers and Spring Newsletter 2021

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AGM (on Zoom)

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OAHS Annual General Meeting 2021

The 2021 OAHS AGM will be held on Saturday 12 June at 10.30 a.m. on Zoom. The papers for the meeting are in this booklet.

Attending the AGM

All members are very welcome to attend the AGM, and should book at www.oahs.org.uk/oxpast in order to receive the Zoom link.

The AGM will be followed by Oxfordshire Past 2021 (see pages 13-14 of this booklet). If you wish to attend either the AGM or Oxfordshire Past, or both, you must book in advance at www.oahs.org.uk/oxpast. Attendance will be free this year.

Agenda for AGM 2021

1 Apologies for absence

2 Report on the alternative to the Annual General Meeting 2020

3 Reports of Officers and Subcommittees

4 Finance

- Report of Hon. Treasurer
- Adoption of accounts
- Appointment of Examiners

5 Elections

- Membership Secretary – Beverley Lear has taken over following the resignation of Peter Steere.
- Committee – there are vacancies for general committee members.
- All other officers are prepared to stand again.

6 Any other business.

Report on the alternative to the Annual General Meeting 2020

The 2020 AGM was cancelled due to the Coronavirus epidemic. The documents and accounts had been circulated in the Spring Newsletter, and members were invited to send any questions to the Secretary. As no questions were received by June 13th 2020, the accounts and reports were deemed to have been accepted. All officers were to remain in place until 2021.

One volunteer to join the Committee as a general member was received. Beverley Lear was co-opted.

Reports for 2020-21

From the President

When I wrote my report for the 2020 Newsletter the Society's summer programme had just been curtailed because of Coronavirus, but, like most of us, I had little idea that lockdowns and other restrictions would last for another year. That has happened, however, and this year's AGM and Oxfordshire Past will have to be held online, on Saturday, 12 June. But, with restrictions being eased as I write, we have arranged an interesting (though still provisional) series of summer outings which you are warmly invited to attend: see elsewhere in this Newsletter for details. We will of course be in touch with you if the situation changes.

We can nevertheless look back to a highly successful series of winter lectures given online on a characteristically wide variety of subjects ranging from recent archaeological discoveries from Bronze and Iron Age sites, most of them in the Thames Valley, to new architectural developments in the city and university of Oxford. I am very grateful to all our speakers for their stimulating and well-prepared talks, and to them, and also to our members, for their patience in coping with the technology involved.

One of the most pleasing events of the past year has been our publication of *The Archaeology of Oxford in the 21st Century*, a substantial volume of reports and scholarly articles on the results of work carried out by Oxford Archaeology between 2006 and 2016. I am

grateful to Anne Dodd, Stephen Mileson and Leo Webley for their editorial work in producing this impressive volume, which is intended as the first of a series of Occasional Papers, and to the Boydell Press for publishing it to such a high standard, and I strongly recommend it to all our members. *Oxoniensia* meanwhile goes from strength to strength under the capable editorship of Stephen Mileson, and I am looking forward to Volume 86, which will appear towards the end of this year.

I thank all our committee members for their hard work in enabling our Society to continue flourishing in these difficult times. I am sorry to say goodbye to our Membership Secretary, Peter Steere, who is moving out of the county - though only as far as Hampshire - and I am delighted to welcome Beverley Lear as his successor. David Clark and all the members of our Listed Buildings Committee deserve thanks for their invaluable work in monitoring proposed alterations to our historic and not-so-historic built environment. And I am grateful to you as members for your support of the Society, and I hope that we will all be able to meet in person in the not too distant future.

Geoffrey Tyack

From the Secretary

The Secretary's job, arranging and minuting Committee meetings and acting as a central point for queries, has continued despite the pandemic. Since July 2020 the committee has been meeting via Zoom for which I have acted as host. I have now taken over the host role for lectures from Peter Steere.

A number of books on the history of Witney's blanket industry have been donated to the Society by a historian who now lives in the USA. He has not been a member, but wanted the books to go to a local home. These will be passed to the Librarian when conditions permit.

I have spent some time compiling a digital collection of minutes etc from my 10 years as Secretary. This includes the records of the Listed Buildings Sub-Committee and, thanks to Roger Ainslie, OCCAF. Work on assembling the archives is ongoing.

Jill Hind

From the Membership Secretary

2020 has been a difficult year for everyone, because of the pandemic. For OAHS it was an historic year from the point of view of the subscription rate increase coming into effect after very many years when it had remained unchanged. Moving into 2021 I am dismayed to see that some people are still paying a £12 subscription by standing order and have not changed it to £18 (£25 for family membership). The member's standing order can only be changed by the bank account holder. It means that those who are still paying the £12 via standing order have to take action to change it by contacting their bank to do so. OAHS cannot do this for you. Currently there are 90 subscribers who are not paying enough to the society for their membership.

If these 90 underpayers are counted as full members then the headline membership sits at 568 which is relatively healthy in the current climate.

After 5 years as your membership secretary I have decided to relinquish the role and I am glad to announce that Beverley Lear has agreed to become the new membership secretary. Please continue to address all questions to the members@oahs.org.uk email address, but it will be Beverley replying to you from now on.

I am moving out of the Oxfordshire area but will keep up my membership of OAHS and wish it continued success for very many years to come.

Peter Steere

From Oxford City and County Archaeological Forum

During the past year we have met three times. These meetings have been via Zoom.

Hugh Coddington has left the County archaeology section and has been replaced by Richard Oram, whose position has been taken by Steven Weaver.

OAHS Spring Newsletter and Papers for AGM 2021

At the meetings reports on archaeological activity and sites are considered. These have now been supplied to the Secretary of the OAHS in case anyone wishes to see them.

In general the amount of activity appears to have been quite high as the construction industry has continued working. Landowners and consultants also appear to be preparing schemes for sites, although it is unclear whether these will all result in development taking place.

Roger Ainslie

From the Listed Buildings Sub-committee

Local council	2020 total (2019 total)
Cherwell	3 (1)
Oxford City (including the Victorian Group)	57 (54)
South Oxon	5 (2)
Vale	1 (0)
West Oxon	0 (1)
Total	66 (58)

In 2020 the sub-committee sent detailed comments to the relevant council planning departments on 66 planning applications, the majority in Oxford city. At the time of writing [March 2021], 18% of applications on which we commented have been withdrawn by the applicants, 14% have been refused permission, 50% have been granted permission, and the remaining 18% are still waiting a decision. Our comments appear to have been taken into consideration in about 48% of the cases on which a decision has been made (it was 53% in 2019). We are still concerned that many planning applications are being registered despite containing inadequate documentation; in 2020 about 29% of applications (up from 21% last year) fell into this category in our opinion.

OAHS Spring Newsletter and Papers for AGM 2021

Peter Howell of the Victorian Group commented on 23 applications, mainly in North Oxford. We were pleased to welcome Katie Wylie and Nick Wright as new members. Katie Wylie is Assistant Heritage & Planning Officer at the Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) and acts as OPT's representative on the committee; she has a BA in Archaeology from the University of Reading and an MSc in Architectural Conservation from the University of Edinburgh. Nick Wright has recently completed an MSc in Historic Conservation at Oxford Brookes University and works for the architectural practice and historic buildings consultancy Donald Insall Associates; he will act as an additional caseworker in South Oxfordshire for the committee. We are grateful to member Esther Robinson Wild who keeps us abreast of updates to documentation and best practice from Historic England and other national bodies.

We continue to work closely with the Oxford Preservation Trust on cases affecting Oxford City, and to notify national groups such as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), the Georgian Group, the Victorian Society and the Twentieth Century Society of cases which we think are worthy of their attention.

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.

Liz Woolley and David Clark

From the Editor of *Oxoniensia* and the new OAHS Occasional Papers series

This year's *Oxoniensia*, due out in early December, includes a stimulating mix of history and archaeology, with contributions on the city and the wider county. Articles on Anglo-Saxon Oxford by John Blair and Jeremy Haslam are complemented by a substantial new treatment of the history and archaeology of Oxford's medieval friars (by George Lambrick), and an article on fifteenth-century Masters of Arts (by David Thomson) based on Bodleian MS Digby 26. Other

articles range widely, from investigations of the huge and enigmatic earthwork known as the North Oxfordshire Grim's Ditch to a close re-examination of the circumstances and significance of the notorious case of the nineteenth-century 'Ascott Martyrs'. Regular archaeological round-ups are joined by a new report on the county's Museum Service and a note about the development of the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record.

December 2020 saw the publication of *The Archaeology of Oxford in the 21st Century*, the first in a new series of OAHS Occasional Papers designed to facilitate single- or multi-authored works which make a significant new contribution to the history and archaeology of the county. The richly illustrated 464-page book focuses on the medieval city and its northern suburb, and includes significant new evidence about life in the Jewish quarter. The volume can be obtained from the Boydell website, for £30:

<https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781783276134/the-archaeology-of-oxford-in-the-21st-century/>

Stephen Milesen

From the Excursions Secretary

Due to Coronavirus no excursions have taken place during the last year. For 2021, some guided walks have been identified. These can all take place at short notice when lockdown rules allow such a gathering. (See page 18 of this newsletter for further details.)

Michael Heaton

From the Webmanager

The website is just the visible part of the webmanager's job at OAHS - underneath lies a large database full of details about lectures, events, payments, and the all-important members which are brought together by over 100 separate pages containing the code that makes it work. It is the webmanager's job to keep everything running smoothly and make sure that the data are kept up-to-date.

Through the website members can check their own membership details, subscription payments and event bookings. These details can

also be accessed by the Membership Secretary and the Events Organisers to send out renewal reminders and details of any lectures or outings booked. To access your membership record you will need to login with a user name and password - if you have forgotten or never received one, just email me at webmanager@oahs.org.uk and I can send them to you.

The job also includes adding notices to the home page to keep members informed.

This year has of course been more challenging with a lot of requests for access to the recorded lectures. I have also learned a bit about video editing!

Along with the Membership Secretary and the Lecture Organiser, I have also been updating the public website and the back-office to accommodate the new Zoom lecture regime. This work will also apply to the events bookings as restrictions are lifted.

Meriel Lewis

From the Lectures Secretary

In common with many societies faced with the closure of lecture halls in the past year we have migrated to Zoom, and I am very grateful to Peter Steere, Meriel Lewis and Jill Hind for their expert assistance. Eight lectures were given instead of our normal winter season of ten, ending very successfully with the first online Tom Hassall Lecture when almost 100 members logged in.

Planning for next year presents obvious puzzles: should we aim to meet in the lecture theatre, or continue on Zoom, which lacks the pleasures of social contact but can reach members at home? If you have views on this, or suggestions, please do send them to lectures@oahs.org.uk.

Adrienne Rosen

From the Treasurer

2020 Accounts (see opposite page)

There was an excess of expenditure over income of £3,030 (i.e. a loss) in 2020. This was due to the high *Oxoniensia* printing costs, that have now been addressed, and the editorial costs for the Occasional Paper (*The Archaeology of Oxford in the Twenty-First Century*) which were paid in 2020. The increase in subscription rates has kept income fairly stable despite a loss of income from *Oxoniensia* sales due to a change in purchasing policy by the Sackler Library. A grant of £2,000 was made to the Oxfordshire Victoria County History. The National Savings account has been closed since interest payments were effectively zero.

There was a loss on investments of £20,400 from the fall in the stock market (although dividend income was £4,077). This took the assets back to the 2019 level of around £111,000. The income/expenditure position is expected to improve in 2021 due to income from Oxford Archaeology for the Occasional Paper, and some reduction in expenditure due to the absence of room fees for the winter and spring lectures.

Bob Crabtree

Have you given us your email address?

Email is the most efficient way to keep our members up to date with OAHS events. Please send your email address to members@oahs.org.uk, and keep an eye on our website at www.oahs.org.uk as well.

Proposed Committee for 2021/22

President	Geoffrey Tyack
Secretary	Jill Hind
Treasurer	Bob Crabtree
Membership Secretary	Beverley Lear
Lectures Secretary	Adrienne Rosen
Excursions Secretary	Michael Heaton
Editor, <i>Oxoniensia</i>	Stephen Miles
Librarian	Julian Munby
Listed Buildings	Liz Woolley/David Clark
Webmanager	Meriel Lewis
OCCAF	Roger Ainslie
Oxfordshire Past organiser	Becky Peacock
Committee member	vacant

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Subscriptions

Subscriptions were due on 1 January 2021. Any member failing to pay the annual subscription by 31 May will cease to be a member of the Society.

Members are reminded that there has been an increase in the subscription and that Standing Orders need to be amended. Payment of the full subscription by 31 May is required in order to receive a copy of *Oxoniensia*.

Oxfordshire Past 2021

Oxfordshire Past this year will take place online on Zoom. It will be held on Saturday 12th June and will be a short programme in the morning. It will include the OAHS Annual General Meeting, followed by short talks providing an overview of work and research that has been carried out in the county over the last year. It will be free to attend and will be held online on Zoom, just as the lecture series has been over the last year.

Please visit our website to book your place: www.oahs.org.uk/oxpast. All those who have booked a place will receive an email containing the Zoom login link shortly before the event.

Programme

10.15 Registration, welcome and 'meet and greet' on Zoom.

10.30 AGM. All members welcome. The agenda and papers for the AGM are all in this newsletter.

11.00 Geoffrey Tyack, OAHS President: Introduction and welcome to Oxfordshire Past.

11.05 David Radford, Oxford City Planning Archaeologist: Recent archaeological work in the city of Oxford.

11.25 Paul Clark, Oxfordshire Buildings Record: Recent research on buildings around Oxfordshire.

11.45 Jacqueline Pitt, Oxfordshire HER: Round-up of recent archaeological work across Oxfordshire

12.05 Simon Townley, Victoria County History: Update on recent work by the VCH.

12.20-12.30 Closing address, farewells and news on future events.

The OAHS committee hope that restrictions and the pandemic will have sufficiently subsided by the autumn. We are looking into the possibility of holding a larger Oxfordshire Past event in person later in the year. We will advertise any further events on the website, at OxPast 2021 and at the autumn lectures.

In the meantime, we hope that you will be able to join us for this informative and rewarding event on 12th June.

Brian Cohen *Oxoniensia* Essay Prize

Guided by its objective of promoting knowledge of the history of Oxfordshire and its buildings, and in order to increase involvement in such studies, the Society is offering an essay prize. The aim of the prize is to encourage articles from those who have not previously published in the field.

A prize of £250 is offered annually for the best essay on a subject related to the archaeology, architecture, or history of Oxfordshire. The winning essay will be considered for publication in *Oxoniensia*.

The essays will be judged by a panel appointed by the Society, the judges looking for evidence of original contributions to knowledge, quality of research, and clarity of expression. The decision of the judges will be final, and the Society reserves the right not to award the prize if there are no suitable entries.

There is no age limit for entrants, but entry is restricted to those who have not previously had their work on Oxfordshire history published in a refereed journal. Both individuals and groups are eligible.

The closing date for entries is 30 September each year.

For further details please contact the editor of *Oxoniensia*, Dr Stephen Miles, at stephen.miles@history.ox.ac.uk.

Obituary: Chris Day, MA, FSA

The untimely death of our former OAHS President Chris Day on 3 March, after a two-month illness, marks a sad loss not only to the Society but to the wider academic and local-history community, both in Oxfordshire and elsewhere. Beginning his career with the Oxfordshire Victoria County History, Chris went on to a distinguished second career in lifelong learning at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education, where he earned a well-deserved reputation as an inspiring teacher and natural communicator – a reputation which, thanks to his involvement in international programmes, extends not only beyond Oxfordshire but across 'The Pond' to the USA. To those who worked with him he was also a much-loved colleague, valued not only for his professional expertise but for his natural warmth and kindness and for his inimitable wit and sense of humour.

Christopher John Day, MA, FSA, was born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1946, and remained a life-long supporter of Stoke City football club. He obtained a First in history at Manchester University and embarked on a PhD, but after being disastrously denied access to crucial documents in private hands he considered instead a career in the Civil Service. Despite spectacular success in the entrance procedures he decided to persist with historical research, which brought him to Oxford in 1975 to join the staff of the Victoria County History. There he was immediately thrown into the deep end, his first task being to research the modern history (since 1771) of Oxford city, where his expertise in Tudor history was of scant use. Even so his work on Oxford (published in 1979) was an outstanding achievement, and during his 20 years with the VCH (during which he contributed to a further four volumes) he remained a much loved figure within a harmonious team, his humour and vitality enlivening the routines of co-operative research. Such was his patience and understanding that he even forgave the loss of his handwritten draft chapter on (appropriately) Oxford communications from the back of the then Oxfordshire Editor's motorbike somewhere in the Cowley Road. He also published outside the VCH, contributing a substantial chapter to the multi-volume *History of the University of Oxford*, a chapter on the historiography of Warwickshire to a festschrift focused on early county histories, and book reviews in *Oxoniensia* and elsewhere.

Chris's talents as a communicator were already evident during his VCH years, and in 1994 (perhaps also spurred by the experience of surviving a near fatal attack of lymphoma in the early 1980s) he decided to split his time between the VCH and Oxford University Department for Continuing Education. In 1996 he moved to the Department full-time, where he directed and taught the Undergraduate Certificate (later Diploma) in English Local History, introducing hundreds of adult students to local history. He also initiated the pioneering online Advanced Diploma in Local History, and contributed to the MSt (later MSc) in English Local History. The Advanced Diploma in particular opened up study at Oxford to students from many countries, providing a springboard for a significant number of them to progress to master's and doctoral work. In 2004 Chris succeeded Kate Tiller as Director of Studies in English Local History, before moving in 2006 to the Department's International Programmes Division as Director of Academic Programmes. A Fellow of Kellogg College since 1994, he served as Admissions Tutor (2002-5), and Senior Fellow in 2007. He was elected to an Emeritus Fellowship in 2011.

Underpinning those achievements was Chris's passion for teaching and his genuine interest in people, which is best summed up in his own words:

'I find adult learners more rewarding, more challenging because they've got a lifetime of experiences that they bring to the class. There's a virtuous circle of learning, where you start off as teacher and they are students; but at some point, they become the teachers and you start to learn from them.... That's the beauty of teaching. No matter how many books you read at home, that interaction with the tutor and with other people in the class makes it a three-dimensional learning environment.'

Alongside all this Chris somehow found time to continue as Honorary General Editor of the Oxfordshire Record Society (serving a 25-year stint), and had a long connection with the Oxfordshire Local History Association. Retirement, of course, meant no such thing - not only did he serve as Chairman of Deddington & District History Society (having moved there with his wife Alison several years earlier), and continued to direct the Oxford Berkeley Program at Merton College, a summer school partnership with University of California, Berkeley, on which he had taught for many years, but in 2013 he also became editor of *Cake and Cockhorse*, the journal of the Banbury Historical Society. In

addition he continued his own research interests, including a long-term project on Thomas Walker of Woodstock, town clerk and agent to the duke of Marlborough in the late 18th century, on whom he delivered a lecture in Banbury only last November, and which he was planning to publish in *Oxoniensia*.

Chris was also a popular and effective President of OAHS from 2012 to 2017, notable for his warm welcome to speakers and audiences at the Society's lectures, and his genuine interest in everything from prehistoric Oxfordshire to gardens, buildings, social history and landscape.

To those of us who knew him, however, Chris's manifold professional and academic achievements are almost secondary compared with the delights of his company, and his less well-known talents as (inter alia) a brilliant cook and host. In the words of one former colleague: 'simply one of the best people we have ever known'.

Simon Townley with contributions from Alan Crossley, Eleanor Chance, Adrienne Rosen, Trevor Rowley, and Kate Tiller

A link to a podcast of Chris delivering his popular lecture on the history of Oxford University - with the typically intriguing title 'If I were you I wouldn't start from here' - can be found at <https://www.kelloqq.ox.ac.uk/news/in-memoriam-chris-day/>

Excursions 2021

We have provisionally arranged five excursions for the summer. Please save the dates, but we will not be taking bookings until shortly before each event because of the ever-changing situation caused by the pandemic. All the outings are guided walks within public open space with, in a few cases, access into a church or other public building, and this element may have to be omitted if the rules do not allow it. Outings will be limited to 20 people. The walks are being led by past and present members of the OAHS Committee, who are not charging for their time. For access into buildings, if allowed, we may ask for a donation on the day and also, if refreshments can be offered, the cost of these will also be payable on the day.

When we are able to confirm that the guided walk will take place, we will email all OAHS members for whom we have email addresses to notify you that registration is open at www.oahs.org.uk/excursions, with no costs incurred at this stage. After the first 25 people have booked, the list will be automatically closed, with the last five being held in reserve.

Please watch for announcements on the website, and make sure that we have your email address. There will not be a paper booking form this year.

More excursions may be added in August/September. Check www.oahs.org.uk for the latest updates and information.

Disability Policy

Members with limited mobility must contact the Excursions Secretary, Michael Heaton (tel: 01865 425909 or email: excursions@oahs.org.uk) before booking an excursion to discuss whether special access arrangements can be made to buildings or locations. The Society will do its best to accommodate special needs, but reserves the right to refuse access to its events where, in the judgement of the Committee, the safety of an individual or of other participants is put at risk.

Wheatley Saturday 5 June at 2.00pm led by Michael Heaton

OAHS Excursions Organiser Michael Heaton has immersed himself in the history of Wheatley since moving here 3 years ago. Wheatley has an industrial background from its days of limestone quarrying from the 14th century supplying high quality stone for Windsor Castle and many of the Oxford colleges. Evidence of these quarries remains. A few fine dressed stone buildings remain and there are many houses of lesser-quality rubble. As well as having this outcrop, Wheatley also sat on two seams of Kimmeridge clay which resulted in brickworks in the village from 1742 to 1939. Wheatley High Street was also on the main road from London to Oxford via Shotover Plain, bringing considerable passing trade, until re-routed at the end of the 18th century. The influence of this historical past on the current village underlies this tour. If allowed and available, the tour will end with tea at the Sun public house (payable on the day), one of three remaining pubs from 15 that have existed over time.

Dorchester Saturday 19 June at 2.30pm led by Malcolm Airs

This walk will explore the rich variety of domestic buildings in Dorchester under the expert guidance of Malcolm Airs who has lived in the village for more than 40 years. We will meet at 2.30pm in the car park by the bridge. It will take a leisurely two hours and numbers are restricted to 25. Subject to Covid restrictions, the Abbey will be open for those who wish to visit it in their own time and lunch and tea is available at a number of attractive establishments in the village. Three short films which touch on some of the aspects that we will cover can be viewed on YouTube:

Dating buildings: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tzPADmRlls>

Windows: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJHYPoH7kLQ>

Building materials: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcWs1o8yiOc>

Witney Wednesday 7th July at 2.00pm led by Jill Hind

OAHS Secretary Jill Hind carried out an intensive study of the historic town of Witney while working for Oxford Archaeology. This afternoon walk will focus on two key periods: its medieval links to the Bishop of

Lincoln and the development, and demise, of its blanket industry. The tour will start in the south at the parish church of St Mary and move northwards towards the former Early's Blanket Mill on the River Windrush. The intention is to include the ruins of the Bishop's Palace and conclude with a tour and tea (payable on the day) at the Blanket Hall, but this will depend on their Covid-19 reopening plans.

**Chipping Norton Sunday 18 July at 2.30pm led by Adrienne
Rosen**

Join us to explore the historic centre of the market town of Chipping Norton on a Sunday afternoon, guided by Adrienne Rosen (OAHS Lectures Secretary), John Marshall and Jan Cliffe, members of the Chipping Norton Oxfordshire Buildings Record group that has recently discovered much surviving early fabric in the town. Around the large medieval market place we will see a medieval inn, several unassuming houses hiding 15th century roof-beams, the 16th century Guildhall, and much 18th century gentrification influenced by nearby stately homes. Side streets offer 17th century almshouses, the 11th century castle earthworks, and evidence of the hillside springs that supplied Chipping Norton's water. We will end our tour in the beautiful medieval parish church, where tea will be available (donation requested).

Abingdon Saturday 31 July at 11.00am led by David Clark

This walk around the central area of Abingdon will focus on its rich legacy of historic ironwork, recently catalogued by walk leader David Clark (<https://www.abingdon.gov.uk/feature-articles/historic-ironwork>). Starting at the County Hall, we shall get a broad impression of the remarkable diversity of examples in both wrought and cast iron that have adorned the town over the years - from bollards to drainpipes and from fanlights to weathervanes. We shall then explore in more detail examples of eighteenth-century railings and lamps, Georgian balconies, Victorian street furniture, Art Nouveau boot scrapers, a cast iron bridge and what remains of one of Abingdon's iron foundries. There will be plenty of scope for personal observation and discussion - some of what we shall see is not quite what it seems to be!