

Welcome to the 2023 Spring Newsletter



Included are details of the 2023 AGM and reports from the officers, the programmes for our upcoming excursions and Oxfordshire Past 2023 which will be held in Abingdon on Saturday 17th June.

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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



Hook Norton excursion with Dr Stephen Miles on see page 12

SPRING 2023
NEWSLETTER

Agenda for AGM 2023

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2022
- 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 Elections
 - a) All officers are prepared to restand
 - b) Nominations for general committee vacancies will be accepted
- 7 Any other business

Minutes of the OAHS AGM

Held via Zoom 9th July 2022 at 10.20 am

(Registered Charity No. 259055)

The President, Geoffrey Tyack, took the chair. 24 members were present.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from 3 members.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were accepted and passed without correction. Proposed: Sarah Gray, Seconded David Clark.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Officers reports

a) The President welcomed everyone back to in-person events. He referred to the way that the Society had managed to continue activities throughout the pandemic, particularly via the online lecture series and the walks programme. Thanks were expressed to those responsible.

GT also announced the death of a former OAHS Treasurer, Don Wilde at the age of 91.

b) Beverley Lear introduced herself as Membership Secretary. The membership of the Society now stands at around 530, with family members. This number has risen by 57 since she took on the post. There are still some who have not changed their standing orders to the new subscription rate and 67 members have yet to pay for 2022. BL will be contacting them.

c) Michael Heaton, the Excursions Secretary, said that the Wheatley Excursion was now fully booked. There are still some places available for the Chalgrove visit, which has a strict limit of 24.

5. Finance

a) Report of Hon. Treasurer

Bob Crabtree apologised for the error in the publication of the accounts in the newsletter. An amended balance sheet had been circulated. The correct figures had been used by the auditors. The Society is in a good position financially, partly because of lower costs for lectures during the pandemic, 2 years of Gift Aid payments and the income from the Oxford Monograph. Investment income is also up significantly. 2021 had produced a surplus of £10,485.31 compared to a loss of £3030.08 in the previous year.

b) Adoption of accounts and balance sheet.

The accounts were commended to the Society and were adopted.

c) Appointment of Examiners

The Treasurer proposed that Chapman, Robinson and Moore be reappointed as auditors. This was agreed unanimously.

6. Election of Officers

a) John Stevenson has unfortunately had to resign. There is therefore a vacancy for a general Committee Member and volunteers were invited. All the other existing Committee members were prepared to restand.

These officers were approved by the meeting.

7. Any other business

There were no matters raised. The meeting closed at 10.35 am.

Reports for 2022 - 2023

From the President

The past year has been another active and successful one for the Society. Following a highly enjoyable and instructive ‘Oxfordshire Past’ at the Banbury Museum in July 2022, and a series of well-attended summer excursions, the annual lecture programme was launched in October at Rewley House with a stimulating talk by Paul Booth on Roman and early post-Roman Dorchester-on-Thames. It was followed later in the term by a lively presentation by Steven Gunn on ‘Everyday Life and Accidental Death in Tudor Oxfordshire’, and by lectures on tradesmen contractors in 18th and early 19th-century college gardens, on magic in post-medieval Structures and on the building and past uses of the Old Ashmolean Museum in Broad Street. The first four lectures after Christmas were given online, and explored an equally wide variety of topics: the history of the medieval peasantry; the recent archaeological discoveries at Graven Hill, south of Bicester; the Oxford work of Giles Gilbert Scott (architect of, inter alia, the New Bodleian Library); and Methodist local preachers in the county. The final Tom Hassall lecture, by Anne Dodd, was a wide-ranging survey and review of Anglo-Saxon archaeology in the county; it was given to a large audience in Rewley House but was also viewable online by those who preferred to remain at home.



The Old Ashmolean

We are currently discussing the possibility of repeating this hybrid format in the future. Meanwhile I would like to thank Adrienne Rosen for arranging such a consistently interesting series of lectures, and to our members for supporting them.

We are now looking forward to our next ‘Oxfordshire Past’, which has been arranged by Becky Peacock; it will be held

in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall at Abingdon on Saturday, 17 June, and I hope to see some of you then.

Our programme of summer excursions will include a walking tour of Giles Gilbert Scott's Oxford buildings and visits to the Rycote Chapel near Thame, and to Hook Norton, to Ascott-under-



2022 Oxfordshire Past at Banbury Museum

Wychwood and, hopefully, to Iffley church and village. I am grateful to Michael Heaton for arranging these visits, and for his work as Excursions Secretary in recent years; he is about to step down, and will be replaced by Eugene Coyle. Meanwhile I would like to draw your attention to a day of lectures arranged by the local branch of the Council for British Archaeology, to be held at Cherwell School on Sunday, 21 May.

The normal work of the Society has continued over the past year in the able hands of our Secretary, Jill Hind, our Treasurer, Bob Crabtree, our Membership Secretary, Beverley Lear and our Webmanager, Meriel Lewis. I am pleased to welcome Lydia Inglis as secretary of our Listed Buildings Group, and I am glad to report that our finances are healthy, that our membership is increasing, and that plans are being made for more promotional activity in the future.

I am looking forward to the publication of the next (88th) volume of *Oxoniensia* at the end of the year, and am pleased to report that we have given £7,171 in research grants and support for the VCH over the past year.

We are fortunate to be members of one of the longest-established local history and archaeological societies in England, and I am very grateful to all of our officers and members who enable it to flourish.

Geoffrey Tyack

Secretary's Annual Report 2022-23

The past year has been characterised by at least a partial return to normality, with an excursions programme, in-person lectures and committee meetings as well as Oxfordshire Past. Zoom has not gone away and I have been involved with recording lectures and trying again to manage hybrid for the Tom Hassall Lecture.

One innovation this year has been the purchase of a card payment machine, which proved its worth at Oxfordshire Past and the Oxford Open Doors stand.

After several quiet years, there have been several applications for Grant Funding. Contributions have been agreed for research into Sir Charles Oman, the Oxfordshire phase of Becoming Christian in Midland Britain AD500-1050 Project, dendochronology in Wallingford and the construction of a website for the Marcham – Frilford excavations. Reports on these will appear on the website on completion. The Society has continued to support the Oxfordshire VCH also.

Jill Hind

Treasurer's Report

2022 was a satisfactory year from a financial perspective. The balance of income over expenditure was £8,920. This was slightly less than in 2021. The income came mainly from subscriptions, payments for pages in Oxoniensia, donations and dividends from investment. No gift aid was claimed in 2022 but two years will be claimed in 2023. Dividend income increased due to the increased investment in the M and G Charifund.

Expenditure was slightly lower than in 2021, the only donation being £2,000 to the Oxfordshire Victoria County History. A number of grants have been approved for payment in 2023 or later depending on when projects are completed.

The total value of the investments in charitable funds at end Dec 2022 was £110,929. This, together with the bank and Paypal deposits, gave a total asset value of £138,126. This compares with £133,436 a year earlier, an increase of £4,690.

I wish once again to thank Jim Moore of Chapman, Robinson and Moore for examining and approving the accounts.

Bob Crabtree

Annual Accounts 2022 - 2023

**OXFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACCOUNTS : STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS DEC 31st 2022
INCOME**

	2021 (£)	2022 (£)	2021 (£)	2022 (£)	
					EXPENDITURE
2021 (£)					2022 (£)
	Oxoniensia, grants, subscriptions				Publications: printing and distribution
11655.34	Members and subscriptions	10060.79	14050.02	4500.00	Oxoniensia Volume 86
0.00	Advance payments	0.00	4500.00	0.00	Editorial costs - Oxoniensia
17916.93	Publication grants etc.	12767.64	0.00	0.00	Editorial costs - Miscellaneous publication
29572.27	Sub Total	22828.43	18550.02	13724.40	Sub total
129.00	Other Memb receipts	68.00	583.17	1083.40	Lectures
0.00	Excursions	1543.84	0.00	1745.25	Excursions
0.00	Oxfordshire Past	532.36	0.00	142.69	Oxfordshire Past
1745.23	Gift Aid	0.00	209.50	205.00	Affiliations (CBA, BALH)
0.00	Donations and prizes	50.00	3567.00	2000.00	Donations and prizes
188.76	Miscellaneous	5.90	1820.38	2060.38	Web Site
0.00	Bank & COIF Interest	0.00	1066.62	850.55	Postage, stationery, printing
4925.82	Dividends	5917.87	279.08	21.31	Miscellaneous
0.00	Interest on National Savings	0.00			
36561.08	Total income	30946.40	26075.77	22025.98	Total expenditure
			10485.31	8920.42	Balance of income over expenditure

BANK AND OTHER INVESTMENT BALANCES (£)

		31st Dec 2021			31st Dec 2022
	UNITS			PRICE (Dec 31st) p	
		£			£
		26148.80	Bank current accounts		25483.11
		0.00	CAF		0.00
		2128.95	PayPal		1715.06
		0.00	National Savings Bank		0.00
		0.00	Charities Investment Fund (COIF)		0.00
		79436.14	M&G Charifund (at Dec 31st)		84741.88
		25722.80	Schroders Charity Fund (at Dec 31st)		26186.78
		133436.69			138126.83

Membership Secretary's Report

Another year past, and I'm pleased to say that our membership remains steady at around 500 members. Many of our members now elect to pay by PayPal using the link from our website. That payment comes through to me almost immediately and is then entered manually into our membership database. If it is a new membership, I take the address and email details from the PayPal notification to create a new membership record. When that is complete, an automated letter is sent out with details of how to login to the website and sign up for events. Whilst I try to do this as quickly as possible, I am a volunteer with a busy life and it might take a week or so, but please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have concerns.

We encourage all members to make use of the membership pages of the website, and amend their records as required, however we also realise that not everyone is relaxed about doing this, and there can be some confusion as to whether subscriptions have been paid or not. I am currently working with our Webmanager to send an automated email notification to existing members when their subscriptions are logged into the database.

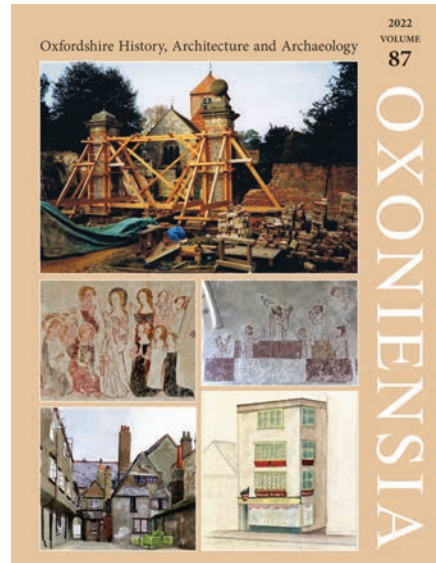
If you are paying by standing order, please make sure that your bank is paying the correct amount (£18 ordinary members, £25 family membership) and includes your name, initial and membership number – we get several subscriptions each year without enough information to log them against individual members. Members still paying the old subscription rates no longer receive a copy of Oxoniensia. Standing orders are your instruction to your bank and I'm unable to update these for you. Last but not least, please, please, please let me have your email address if you think we 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.

I hope it helps to have a little more idea of how 'the system' works – and more importantly, I hope you all have a good year and take full advantage of the lectures and excursions on offer, and not least, enjoy reading this year's Oxoniensia which will arrive in time for Christmas reading!

Beverley Lear

Oxoniensia

Volume 88 of the Society's peer-reviewed journal is due to be published in December. The volume includes an engaging mix of history and archaeology. Ian Godfrey sets out a fascinating interpretation of the Uffington White Horse, a well-known prehistoric chalk hill figure, as a winter solstice observatory. A 'debate' between former VCH county editor Alan Crossley and Professor John Blair focusses on the location of the Anglo-Saxon minster of St Frideswide, which



has significant implications for Oxford's early layout. Professor Nigel Saul supplies a re-examination of the tomb effigy of an unidentified medieval lawyer in Deddington church, while Emily Greig lays bare the religious rivalries in Victorian East Oxford. Amongst the many substantial archaeological contributions, a Foundations Archaeology report on Wallingford includes tantalising new evidence for the town's Anglo-Saxon defences, possibly including an early phase dating to the eighth century.

*Stephen Miles*on, editor of *Oxoniensia*



The Uffington White Horse – in Volume 88 (2023) of Oxoniensia

Oxford City and County Archaeological Forum

During the past year we have met 3 times via Teams.

It is good that dig open days have started again with the TVAS excavation of, presumably Saxon halls, at Butts Piece, Stanton Harcourt and Oxford Archaeology's work at Frewin Hall in Oxford.

Otherwise the City archaeology section is seeing the usual Colleges building libraries and student accommodation with quite deep archaeological deposits whilst the County is seeing large housing developments, which often produce Iron Age to Saxon remains.

The County Council's Historic Environment Records have been put onto the Historic England Heritage Gateway website. The HER is also researching the shortfall between the sites they have in their records and those which are known from other public sources. This is of some importance as the HER is relied on for development control purposes.

The Oxford West Solar farm has been proposed using a planning application method designed for major infrastructure projects. It is unclear who gets to use this system where Local Planning Authorities are just consultees to decisions made by Central Government.

Roger Ainslie (Secretary)

Listed Buildings Sub-Committee

In 2022 the sub-committee sent detailed comments to the relevant council planning departments on a number of planning applications, the majority in Oxford city. We only have figures for applications examined between 6 September 2022 and the end of February, when this report was written. (The new secretary cannot access the previous database.) This means that figures for 2022 are not comparable with previous years – a more extensive report will be submitted in March 2024.

Since 6 September 2022 two of the applications on which we commented have been withdrawn by the applicants, two have been refused permission, four have been granted and 10 are still pending. We remain concerned that many planning applications are registered despite containing inadequate documentation; some include no heritage assessment at all,

Local council	2022 total (2021 total) Totals only since the secretary took over on 6 Sep 2022
Cherwell	2 (4)
Oxford City (including the Victorian Group)	15 (54)
South Oxon	2 (7)
Vale	1 (8)
West Oxon	0 (1)
Total	20 (74)

or the heritage assessment was written by someone who is not a qualified heritage professional.

Peter Howell of the Victorian Group has commented on 15 applications since 6 September, 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.

We were very sorry to lose Liz Woolley, secretary of OAHS LB for 15 years, who resigned in the autumn. Lydia Inglis joined as the new secretary. We also welcomed Shona Carr and Victoria Grane (intern) from OPT.

We continue to work closely with OPT on cases affecting Oxford City, and to notify national groups such as the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), 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.

Lydia Inglis (Secretary) and David Clark (Chairman)

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**

We have some places left on our current excursion programme – go to the excursions page on the website for full details and booking.

Tour of Hook Norton

Saturday 3 June 2023

Leader: Stephen Milesen

Closing Date for Bookings:

26 May 2023

Tour of Ascott-under-Wychwood

Saturday 1 July 2023

Leader: Simon Townley

Closing Date for Bookings:

23 June 2023

This excursion is full but we are taking bookings for the reserve list.



We hope there will be more excursions later in the year including a visit to Iffley Church in September where we hope to have some of the plaster casts on show.

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

Other OAHS Activities

Research Grants

We offer grants of up to £2,500 for individuals, groups and organisations to support research into the history, architecture and archaeology of Oxfordshire (including the city of Oxford). Grants are given both for original research and/or the publication and dissemination of research.

How to apply

Send a proposal of up to 1000 words to the secretary Jill Hind (**secretary@oahs.org.uk**) outlining the activities proposed. The proposal should contain a time chart for the project, the amount of grant requested, a breakdown of how this will be spent and an indication of the public benefits from the OAHS funding.

Reference and CV: Applicants should provide a CV and an academic or professional reference that supports the proposed activity.

Timing of applications: An application can be made at any time in the year and will normally get a response within three months.

Report: After completion of the research grant holders are expected to submit a report of around 500 words suitable for placing on the OAHS website

The Brian Cohen Oxoniensia 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 written by someone who has not previously published in the field. 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.

For full details see www.oxoniensia.org

Oxfordshire Past 2023

Oxfordshire Past this year will take place at Abingdon Guildhall OX14 3JD on Saturday 17th June and will include the 2023 OAHS AGM (see p 2 for details of the agenda) and a diverse programme of talks (see p 16).



There will be a range of stalls and exhibits to visit throughout the day. If you would like to have a stall or advertise please contact Becky Peacock oxpast@oahs.org.uk.

Abingdon is one of the oldest towns in Britain with many cafes and pleasant riverside walks.

Tickets cost £10 and include tea/coffee during the breaks and may be purchased in advance from oahs.org.uk/oxpast or on the day (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, 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 is a 1 hour lunch break where catering is not provided. However there are places across the town to enjoy a light lunch or there are plenty of places along the river and in the town centre to enjoy a picnic.

There are accessible toilets at the venue and refreshments will be served in the same room as the event. As the venue is large with multiple function rooms, time has been allowed for movement around the building at break times.

Access

There is limited accessibility at the Guildhall so please get in touch with Becky Peacock (oxpast@oahs.org.uk or call 07584 501610) to discuss your requirements and to avoid disappointment. The limited disabled car parking spaces at the venue will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Getting to Abingdon

By public transport: There are plenty of buses that connect Oxford, Didcot, Wantage, Witney and surrounding towns and villages run by three bus companies. For more information visit the Abingdon Town Council website www.abingdon.gov.uk

By road: Abingdon is located close to the A34 with links to the A40 and M40 to the north and to the M4 to the south.

Car parks There are car parks in the centre of the town. Please be aware these can become very busy, especially on a Saturday, and it is best to arrive early to ensure there are spaces. The car parks closest to the Guildhall are all well signposted. There are electric car charging points available at the Waitrose Car Park on Abbey Close, OX14 3JD.

Oxfordshire Past 2024!

Are you and your society or organisation interested in partnering with us for next year's event?

This year we found it difficult securing a venue which meant we could not advertise a date for the event early enough in the year. We hope that by starting now, we can avoid this issue for next year's event. Why not come along to OxPast in Abingdon and we can have a chat about next year!



Abingdon Guildhall

Oxfordshire Past 2023 Programme

Time	Talk	Speaker
9.45	Registration	
10.00	Introduction	Geoffrey Tyack, <i>OAHS Chairman</i>
10.05	OAHS AGM 2023	All Members Welcome
10.30	Welcome to Oxfordshire Past 2023	Geoffrey Tyack, <i>OAHS Chairman</i>
10.35	Recent archaeological work in the city of Oxford	David Radford, <i>Oxford City Archaeologist</i>
10.55	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.25	Oxfordshire Buildings Record activity in 2022	David Clark, <i>Oxfordshire Buildings Record</i>
11.50	Gozzards Ford and the Turnpike Road, Marcham	Simon Blackmore, <i>Marcham Society</i>
12.15	Recent archaeological work across Oxfordshire	Vicky Green, <i>Planning Archaeologist, Oxfordshire County Council</i>
12.40	<i>Lunch break</i>	
2.00	Welcome by AAAHS	Roger Thomas, <i>Chair, AAAHS</i>
2.05	Abingdon Map project	Roger Thomas, <i>Chair, AAAHS</i>
2.25	Update on the work of the Victoria County History (VCH)	Simon Townley and Simon Draper, <i>VCH</i>
2.45	<i>Tea break</i>	
3.15	Oxford Archaeology at 50: Abingdon Vineyards	Tim Allen, <i>Oxford Archaeology</i>
3.40	Is this Walter Giffard's Mill Pond?	Paul Sayers, <i>Hanney History Group</i>
4.00	Closing address	Geoffrey Tyack, <i>OAHS Chairman</i>

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