

*A growing number of members choose to receive their newsletter only by an email link and no longer by post. To join them, please email [membership@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk](mailto:membership@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk) and instruct us to stop sending your printed copy.*

*We will always mail a printed copy unless we receive this instruction.*

At the Society's AGM in March of this year, Tony Joyce announced that he would retire from the Chairmanship during the forthcoming year.

At the August meeting of Executive Committee Tony confirmed his intention to retire at the end of September, whilst offering ongoing and most welcome consultation, advice and support.

Subsequently, in October the Executive elected by acclaim Peter Thompson as our new Chairman.

Most recently, Tony has kindly agreed to the Executive proposing him for the role of Vice President of the Society, pending ratification at next year's AGM (*see p 3*).

In our lead article for this issue, our President Sir Hugo Brunner reflects on Tony's ten years of office.

**NB:** Attention is drawn to a February event in the new Programme: **An evening in conversation with Tony Joyce** (*see Programme Notes, p 7*). An open meeting, this is non-ticketed – all are welcome. *Editor*

## Tony Joyce - a decade as Chairman

by Sir Hugo Brunner, KCVO (Society President)



By all accounts Edwin Townsend-Coles was a hard act to follow as Chairman of the Society. But, as we reflect on Tony Joyce's ten years in the role, we can say with confidence that he was just the right person to succeed him.

Tony brought to the Society long experience as a schoolmaster, including many years of managing schools – exceptionally complex institutions. Those years included a spell as Deputy Head (Usher) of Magdalen College School from 1968 to 1972, so it could be said

that Oxford has been his home since then, in spite of his subsequently undertaking two full stints as Headmaster of schools in Lancashire and Devon.

When he retired to Oxford in 1992, Tony became active in civic affairs in Headington, joined the Committee of the Society and became its Chairman in March 2000. He brought to the Committee valuable experience of Residents' Associations.

Mark Barrington-Ward, my predecessor as President, has summarised Tony's achievement perfectly: *"He has stood out for the amount of time and energy he has been prepared to devote to the Society's and the city's affairs, for his ability to get on terms with and earn the confidence of a wide variety of people, and for his willingness to encourage new departures in the Society's work"*. We would surely all endorse this assessment.

I have particular reason to be grateful to Tony for his enthusiasm for the Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board. He was in effect my deputy when I served as the Board's Chairman and he brought to our work great enthusiasm and wisdom, and indeed sponsorship by the Society. Likewise, when Rosanne Bostock and I approached him in the hope that the Society might help in addressing the city's litter problem, his response was positive and his action speedy: *OxClean* has been a collaborative triumph (due credit too to the

*Oxford Times* and to the *City Council*) but only the leadership of the Society could have made it so. Typically, in taking on this new enterprise, Tony inspired and encouraged others to manage the annual campaign. He is a great enabler.

From the start, Tony involved himself energetically in the planning system, at both the strategic and local levels. He has been assiduous in attending Area Committees, meeting Councillors and Officers from both local authorities, representatives of other public bodies, and developers. He is trusted for his balanced view of planning issues; his commonsense approach was notably demonstrated in his support for the Castle Development. On this, of course, he worked closely with the *Oxford Preservation Trust*, whose Director, Debbie Dance, has been one of his greatest fans: “*Tony has done so much to bring the two organisations close to each other, which is where they should be*”.

Tony is no firebrand but he is resolute, even brave. And his concern is for the whole city, as much for the disadvantaged areas as for the historic city centre. He is invariably courteous and always sees the best in people – qualities which, with others, make him a fine public speaker. The award of a Certificate of Honour by the Lord Mayor in 2006 delighted everyone.

That the Society is widely respected, and fun to be associated with, is due in great measure to Tony. How good therefore it is to know that he will continue to play an active part in our affairs.



#### **The Chairman writes:**

Tony has been the face of our Society for more years than many of us have been members, and a cornerstone of its organisation. Apart from acknowledging his vast knowledge on all things 'Oxford', his astute judgement and above all, the sensitivity and tact with which he has so effectively pursued our objectives, I shall merely endorse every word of the tributes paid to him by our President in this issue, and elsewhere by others.

My trepidation in attempting to step into his shoes is only tempered by the reassurance that comes from Tony continuing to be there, offering help and support when needed. We are all delighted that this might continue, with Tony as our Vice President.

*Peter Thompson*

## **Chairman's Commentary**

**Oxford Core Strategy** The public examination of the Oxford Core Strategy was finally completed in September. The Inspector's Report will be issued next month; its findings will significantly influence the city's development for the next 15 years.

Major changes in planning legislation have continued, eg the development of **Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)** in place of Regional Development Agencies and the repeal of legislation on **Houses in Multiple Occupation**. Meanwhile, funding is the big question-mark against all current public projects.

The new Oxford City Region LEP may open the door to funding for some projects: LEPs are expected to be business-led partnerships involving local authorities across most of the county, and with potential access to the newly-announced **Regional Growth Fund**. Although this may open up funding, the priorities of big business are not necessarily coincident with the interests of the 'big society' of which we are all members. It remains to be seen how things turn out.

**Museum of Oxford** Meanwhile, Consultants for the **Museum of Oxford** have presented radical proposals for restoration of its viability through the total re-engineering of parts of the ground floor of the Town Hall. The intention would be to make the Museum the principal 'visitor experience', and a 'vehicle for community engagement'. However, the proposals are likely to be drastically watered-down to save costs before presentation to the Council. Approval will undoubtedly hinge on funding availability.

**Public spaces** Likewise, proposals to improve **Frideswide Square**, and for information-boards in the city centre ('**Wayfinder**' project) make some progress, despite a lack of funding for anything beyond design.

**HMO's** The proliferation of '**Houses in Multiple Occupation**' is causing consternation to many residents, and to the City Council itself. Since April, local planning authorities have had powers to improve control of multiple-occupancy of family houses. However, this legislation has now been repealed and we share concerns that the remaining mechanisms for preventing the erosion of the character and communities of complete streets have proved to be bureaucratic, potentially expensive and ineffective. This is not good news for residents in some areas.

**New development** Despite the financial despondency, major development schemes continue to emerge. Proposals for new **University Chemistry and Physics Laboratories** have been presented recently - dramatic designs which will feature prominently in the **Science Area**. A new **School of Government** in the **Radcliffe Observatory Quarter** has been announced, though no details have yet emerged. A recent meeting with a representative of **Land Securities**, the new part-owners of the **Westgate Centre**, confirmed that the currently-approved redevelopment plans will not proceed. Studies are currently underway in preparation for new proposals. We await developments, but it is perhaps reassuring that ownership has now passed to such well-established property investment groups.

Against this background, there seems to be belated recognition that city streets are places for people, not primarily highways. The national **Streets for People** movement, which the Civic Society promoted locally with tremendous success (*see article, page 9*) is one strand of this: road closures now seem to be positively encouraged rather than bureaucratically resisted. The promotion of **'Street Pride'**, an associated movement, and the **'shared space'** concepts already introduced at various locations, and proposed at more, may be part of this shift in priority from car domination. A new guidance document, **'Manual for Streets 2'** establishes a baseline of good practice for urban street design, and the introduction of 20mph speed limits across the city is more evidence of a welcome shift in attitudes.

*Peter Thompson, Chairman*

## Executive Matters

**Corporate Membership** We warmly welcome new members **ROX (Rescue Oxford)** and **Stagecoach Oxford** and look forward to working with them.

**A Corporate Breakfast Forum**, held at the Holiday Inn on 23 September, enabled the Society to break new ground: more than half of our corporate members (from academia, hospitality, design & construction, transport, and retail) and some potential new members, attended. Our shared discussion on the theme of *"A Vision for Oxford"* provided an opportunity to hear everyone's concerns/priorities, so that the Executive might reflect on these in establishing new Civic Society initiatives. The issues

that generated most discussion were: **(1) sustainable energy** production and energy conservation **(2) transport** – fewer cars, better facilities for cycling, more integration **(3) continuing work** to change attitudes to **littering** **(4) better use of Oxford's open spaces**, eg Broad St, St Giles, Frideswide Square.

Looking forwards, Executive Committee is now actively investigating a **Study Day on Energy Issues** – probably in late Summer 2011, and with speakers drawn from amongst our Corporate members.

*Gordon Balme (Treasurer), Stuart White*

### AGM - Thursday 17 March 2011 - 8 pm Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street

Nominations for Officer positions and membership of the Executive Committee and notice of any business to be put on the agenda of the meeting should be sent by Wednesday 2 March to **Hon Secretary, Oxford Civic Society, 67 Cunliffe Close, Oxford, OX2 7BJ** or [info@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk)

Nominations should have the consent of the nominee and require seconding. Anyone interested in joining the Committee is invited to contact *Vernon Porter* for an informal discussion.

The Provisional Agenda, Reports & Accounts will be published in the March 2011 Newsletter. The final agenda will be available from the Hon Sec after 3 March and at the meeting *Vernon Porter, Hon Sec*

## An invitation from City Council

Oxford City Council has announced a series of **'Consultation Events'** to invite comments on nearly 100 identified development sites across the city. The events are at various locations and times, summarised below, and attendance of the public is even being encouraged by a £25 prize draw!

East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street	
Wednesday 24 November	4.30 pm to 7.30 pm
Summertown Community Centre, Diamond Place	
Friday 26 November	4.30 pm to 7.30 pm
Jubilee Hall, Sorrell Road, Blackbird Leys	
Saturday 27 November	10 am to 12 noon
Headington Baptist Church, 78 Old High Street	
Tuesday 30 November	4.30 pm to 7.30 pm
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, St Ebbe's Street	
Saturday 4 December	10 am to 12 noon

## Report from the Planning Sub-Committee

The group continued to monitor planning applications on their fortnightly visits to Ramsay House. We found reason to write comments or objections on around 13 applications per month, slightly more than usual. One reason may be that presentation of applications has seemed to be slightly less professional than usual in recent months.

*Updates on recent applications mentioned in the July Newsletter.* A new application for buildings at the corner of **Little Clarendon Street and Walton Street** has now been *approved*. This retains the familiar corner building, but replaces the adjoining 126 Walton Street, 32/32A Little Clarendon Street and their run-down back areas with 6 retail units and 35 student rooms on 3 floors above. Refused applications for changes to **5 Park Town** are now subject to *appeal*. We *await further news* on the **Keble College Research Building** on Woodstock Road and the **Westgate Development site**.

In *July* it was proposed that at the **Railway Station** a link (or 'transfer deck') would be constructed from the existing station across Botley Road to the Beckett Street Car Park, where there would be a new 'bay platform' to accommodate an expected increase in rail services and passenger numbers. The design of the building left much to be desired, and in approving the plans in principle, Strategic Development Control Committee has required revised designs for the transfer deck to be submitted.

The site of the **Fox and Hounds Public House, at 279 Abingdon Road**, could be seen as a key 'southern gateway to Oxford' which could be used for a quite large distinguished modern building. The Tesco supermarket business is presently proposing a new outlet here. Its second application was *refused* in July, but a third has now been submitted.

On the edge of **St John's College's sports field off Bainton Road**, this College proposed to build a substantial two-storey house with five bedrooms, which would have been quite prominent, but the application was *refused*. In Blackbird Leys, the Oxford Citizens Housing Association applied to build extensions to a home for the elderly at **Fry's Court, 2 Nightingale Avenue**. We commented that no reference was made to measures for energy

conservation by insulation, or solar panels etc., and a request for these was included in the notice of *permission*.

Notable applications in *August* included two in **Woodstock Road**. Owners of **No 259** proposed to build a small house in their garden, close to the 'Lake' behind the houses; access to the house would be via a narrow gap, possibly problematic for emergency vehicles. This application was *refused* by the North Area Committee, but called in to the Strategic Development Control Committee which gave it *permission*. Owners of **No 366** applied for large 2-storey extensions to their half of the semi-detached pair. These additions to an unusually attractive stylish example of suburban architecture, although in need of restoration, destroy its symmetry. A modified application has been *approved*.

Also in North Oxford, building on land behind **No 3 Bladon Close** has long been a source of concern. Plans for a 3-bed house were permitted in 2008, but the building activity which followed created a 5-bed house, not in accordance with the permitted plans and including un-neighbourly design features. A retrospective application to approve this was *refused* in November 2010.

*September* brought into focus concerns about proposals to convert garages into living space, which has recently become a popular strategy. At first sight innocuous, loss of garaging space forces residents to park vehicles on pavements, grass areas and kerbs, setting a permanent precedent for detrimental treatment of the street scene.

*Gillian Argyle, Kate Joyce (Convenor), Chris Rayson, & Peter Thompson - who warmly welcome as new colleagues, Neil MacLennan and Graham Smith*

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**NB:** We are holding a free copy of "**Forty Years of Oxford Planning**" by **Mark Barrington-Ward** (publ March 2010) for every OCS member. The booklet has been very well received, but we have yet to run out of stock!  
**Please don't lose out:**

- Collect a copy at one of our meetings
- Ask a friend to do this for you
- Or send a C5-size envelope with 51p Large Letter stamp and marked '**Forty Years**' to the **Hon Secretary, 67 Cunliffe Close, Oxford, OX2 7BJ**

*Editor*



Members will know that the Society maintains a very close interest in the

future of the Museum and so is delighted to report that 3,686 visitors in September represents very good news – a 10% increase on September 2009, at 3,324 visitors. Also in September, 29 volunteers worked alongside regular staff contributing a total of 367 hrs.

We will be particularly interested in the decision on the future of the museum, now put back to 8 December to allow senior officers time to re-evaluate the various options in the current financial climate.

#### **Some forthcoming MOO events:**

**Memory Lane** – in partnership with the Oxford Playhouse, a free monthly group at the Museum encourages people to meet and reminisce about the old days:

*Thurs 25 Nov* – Oxford Industry

*Tues 14 Dec, 2 to 4.30 pm* – Christmas past  
Just drop in, or for more details contact Helen Fountain on **01865 252795**, [hmfountain@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:hmfountain@oxford.gov.uk)

#### **The Big Car Project**

*Now, and until Saturday 1 January 2011*

Watch a Morris car evolve as a group of Oxfordshire Adult Learners work with local artist Dionne Barber and the Searchers over 50's research group to develop a 'big car project' featuring a large-scale model, historical photographs, memories of Cowley car factory workers, and more.

#### **World War Two Christmas**

*Friday 26 November, 5 to 8pm*

Join staff & volunteers in period costume, take part in traditional children's games, family arts & crafts, learn what made Christmas special in wartime Britain. Free admission (small charge for some activities).

#### **Trails and Activities for Children**

Until **24 December** there are trails round the Museum galleries to find everything that Santa needs to get ready for Christmas.

<http://www.museumofoxford.org.uk>

## **Notes on the use of the Programme Booking Form, overleaf (page 6):**

Members are reminded that:

1. Tickets will be allocated shortly after the published closing date for applications
2. If you miss the closing date, it is always worth asking whether places remain
3. A ballot for tickets will be held if necessary
4. One cheque for each event (payable to Oxford Civic Society) and one s.a.e. for all tickets please
5. If applying for two tickets, give name of second member
6. Your name, address, telephone and email address are all vital contact details for us – please print clearly, in block caps
7. Cheques are banked three weeks after ticket issue; after that, refunds cannot be given

*Calendar and Notes (pages 6 & 7 overleaf)  
compiled by Programme Group members:*

*Michael Daniell, Keith Dyke, Alan Hobbs,  
Alastair Lack (Convenor) & Tim Treacher*

MEMBERS' BOOKING FORM

MARCH & APRIL 2011 TICKETED EVENTS

**Closing date for applications: 10 December 2010**

Please see guidance notes on page 5, and remember to enclose:

- (1) A cheque payable to **Oxford Civic Society** for *each* event
- (2) One stamped, self-addressed envelope for tickets

Member's name .....

BLOCK CAPS PLEASE

2<sup>nd</sup> member's name .....

IF APPLICABLE

Address .....

.....

Post code ..... Telephone .....

Email .....

EVENT	No of tickets	Amount enclosed
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Town and Gown Pub Walk ( <u>repeated</u> ) Thursday 10 March 6.30 pm	..... @ £4	
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NB: When a popular event is repeated, priority is given in the allocation of tickets to those who applied in the first instance, but were disappointed. Whilst it is always worth applying for tickets, space is necessarily limited.

Visit to Oxfam's Emergency Warehouse, Bicester Wednesday 6 April 2.30 pm	..... @ £4	
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If this visit is over-subscribed, I would like to know of an alternative date later in the same week.	YES/NO*
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Please delete, as applicable\*

Completed form to:

Alan Hobbs

66 Southfield Road

Oxford

OX4 1PA

tel/answerphone 01865 248105



Charity 1116739

PROGRAMME  
CALENDAR

'Cut-out-&-keep'

JANUARY – APRIL 2011

Wednesday 19 January 7.30 for 8 pm

Oxford 1960s buildings: pretty, but poor performance? A talk by Alan Berman, of the Oxford architectural firm Berman Guedes Stretton

Magdalen College Auditorium

Longwall Street

Tuesday 22 February 7.30 for 8 pm

An evening in conversation with

Tony Joyce on his recent decade as OCS Chairman, to September 2010

New Road Baptist Church,

Bonn Square

Tuesday 8 March 7.30 for 8 pm

Finding Moonshine: A Mathematician's Journey through Symmetry

Professor Marcus du Sautoy presenting mathematics in a way that can be understood and even enjoyed by all

Magdalen College Auditorium

Longwall Street

Thursday 10 March 6.30 pm

Town and Gown pub walk (nb: ticketed event) A repeated walk with Alastair Lack

Thurs 17 March coffee 6.30, talk 7, AGM 8 pm

Working with Listed Buildings – a talk by Oxford hotelier Jeremy Mogford, will precede the Society's 2011 AGM

Magdalen College Auditorium

Longwall Street

Wednesday 6 April 2.30 pm

Visit to Oxfam's Emergency Warehouse, Bicester (nb: ticketed event)

– with the possibility of a second visit in the same week if the first is over-subscribed

Wednesday 20 April 7.30 for 8 pm

Oxfam's battle against Poverty A chance to hear Thomas Schultz-Jagow, Director of Communications at Oxfam, explain

Oxfam's changing priorities over the years

Magdalen College Auditorium

Longwall Street

Contact for booking/tickets only:

Alan Hobbs, 66 Southfield Rd, OX4 1PA

01865 248105



## PROGRAMME JANUARY – APRIL 2011

Digital photos of OCS events (max 4, preferably captioned) can be sent to [webmaster@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk)

### OPEN TALKS – ALL WELCOME

no pre-booking, members free, non-members £4 at the door

**Wednesday 19 January:** [Oxford 1960s buildings: pretty, but poor performance?](#)

Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street

coffee 7.30 pm, talk 8 pm

**Alan Berman**, of the Oxford architectural firm **Berman Guedes Stretton**, is responsible for both multi-million pound projects and much smaller schemes. A major focus of his work is to ensure that economy and practicality are not sacrificed to over-imaginative design. Alan will discuss Oxford buildings of the 1960s, and in particular The Florey Building of Queen's College, designed by James Stirling, and assess how successfully it and others have weathered the last fifty years.

**Tuesday 22 February:** [An evening in conversation with Tony Joyce](#)

New Road Baptist Church, Bonn Square

coffee 7.30 pm, talk 8 pm

**Tony Joyce** was **Chairman of the Oxford Civic Society** for ten years until the autumn of 2010. In that time he not only led and represented the Society at innumerable events, consultations and meetings but in doing so, drew on a deep knowledge of both the city and the University of Oxford: its history, problems, challenges and opportunities. In a session chaired by **Alastair Lack**, Tony will discuss the major issues that faced the Society in his decade of office before taking questions from the audience.

**Tuesday 8 March:** [Finding Moonshine: A Mathematician's Journey through Symmetry](#)

Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street

coffee 7.30 pm, talk 8 pm

**Professor Marcus du Sautoy** is **Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford** and a well known mathematician, author and broadcaster. In this talk, Professor du Sautoy will present mathematics in a way that can be understood and even enjoyed by all.

**Thursday 17 March:** (1) [Working with Listed Buildings](#) (2) [Annual General Meeting](#)

Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street

coffee 6.30 pm, talk 7 pm, AGM 8 pm

A talk by **Jeremy Mogford**, proprietor of the **Old Bank** and **Old Parsonage Hotels** and **Gees Restaurant**, will precede the **Society's Annual General Meeting** (for which all relevant papers will be published in the pre-circulated March 2011 newsletter). Jeremy will talk about changes in Oxford during his business career, and the challenges of working in listed buildings; he will speculate on what the future may hold for business in Oxford.

**Wednesday 20 April:** [Oxfam's battle against Poverty](#)

Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street

coffee 7.30 pm, talk 8 pm

**Thomas Schultz-Jagow**, **Director of Communications at Oxfam**, discusses Oxfam's changing priorities over the years, from its founding in 1942 to its current work in more than 70 countries.

### MEMBERS ONLY VISITS & WALKS

\*\* tickets required, bookings for both events by [10 December 2010](#)

**Thursday 10 March, 6.30pm:** **Town and Gown pub walk** (*repeated*)

\*\*[tickets £4](#)

A walk with **Alastair Lack** on the pubs of Oxford, both Town and Gown, and past and present.

**Wednesday 6 April, 2.30 pm:** **Visit to Oxfam's Emergency Warehouse, Bicester**

\*\*[tickets £7](#)

A chance to see how Oxfam responds to emergencies: its warehouse in Bicester holds a wide range of equipment ready for airlifting in case of emergency, including displays of water tanks, tents and latrines.

**NB** If this visit is over-subscribed, it may be possible to arrange a second visit in the same week.

Please indicate on the **Booking Form** if you would be interested.

## Transport Notes

As I write, news emerges that the Government has rejected Oxfordshire's request for funding for the "Access to Oxford" project, which had been promised by the previous Government. It remains to be seen whether or not the County Council will be able to proceed with any of the schemes involved.

However, other things will be happening before the next issue of this newsletter appears in March 2011: the co-ordination of timetables and the acceptance of either ticket on the bus routes operated by both **Oxford Bus** and **Stagecoach** is due to come into effect early next year. In preparation for this, both companies have started issuing new "ITSO" **Standard Smartcard** tickets which at the moment can only be used on the issuing company's buses. Concessionary pass holders now have only to touch their pass on the card reader and no longer need to state their destination, nor will they receive a paper ticket. Boarding should be quicker although some passengers will still be paying cash to the driver. No doubt cash fares will rise as an incentive to use the **Smartcard**, as happened in London with the Oyster card. Other bus service improvements recently include:

- The restoration of dedicated **Park & Ride buses** in the evening by **OBC**
- Linking by **Stagecoach** of the **12 & 16 routes** at St Aldates enables, for example, through journeys between **South Oxford & the Cowley Road**
- The new **Stagecoach service 20** between **Rose Hill & Cowley Centre**
- **Arriva** have increased the frequency of their **280 service to Thame and Aylesbury** from 30 minute intervals to every 20 minutes

Turning to the railway, from 12 December some **Cross Country trains** which at present terminate at Reading will be extended to Southampton, where there are frequent trains to Bournemouth.

Finally, another, albeit brief, journey opportunity for those who, like me, enjoy travelling by unusual routes: the **Reading** area will be closed during the Christmas and New Year period for engineering works, so **Oxford to London** services will run via **Banbury** and the **Chiltern Line** to and from Paddington. Trains to and from **Bristol** and **S Wales** will also use this route, but may not stop at Oxford.

*David Townsend, Transport Secretary*

## Travel Behaviour Group Report

Since our last report in *Newsletter 115 (March 2010)* **Andrew Pritchard** has taken over from Paul Cullen as convenor. We thank Paul for all his inspiration and hard work. It has been a busy time, which promises to be even busier as we prepare our comments on the **Final Draft of the Local Transport Plan 2011-2030**. It is encouraging to see that some of the Society's comments have been taken on board in the document which is the basis for Stage 6 of the consultation, though we feel that too much attention is still paid to traffic, rather than the people who are travelling. Better provision for cycling and cyclists is needed.

The well-publicised County Council proposals for re-designing **Frideswide Square** do not, in our view, satisfactorily address present day issues. The square can be difficult to navigate for both pedestrians and cyclists, particularly those who are not familiar with it. No underlying data of flows, origins and destinations or user groups has been presented to support any one option, and without these it is difficult to make meaningful judgements. The proposals are not related to the wider picture of the area, in particular the unsatisfactory environments in the Botley Road and Hythe Bridge Street, nor do they consider the additional pressures that may be generated by the redevelopment of the Westgate, or the expansion of the rail station. Relocation of the rail station to Oxpens, which the Society supports, would have a major effect on traffic flows, particularly if the opportunity were taken to make it part of a general transport interchange for bus and rail passengers.

Rather than embark on any of the new proposals, we suggested minor improvements in the egress from Becket Street, better signage for strangers to identify the routes best suited to their needs, and means to allow more pedestrians to reach the southern platform at the rail station without crossing the square.

In considering the City Council's proposals for the reinvigoration of **St Ebbe's**, we felt that the re-making of **New Inn Hall Street** as a shared space has been successful, and that a similar approach should be adopted for St Ebbe's, particularly in its role as a major cycle route. This would require a revised layout of the street furniture and surface treatment. The redevelopment of the Westgate should provide an

opportunity for increased, more secure off-street cycle parking. At the southern end, our preferred option for the Pembroke/St Ebbe's junction would be a carrefour with a single surface extending up to Bonn Square.

We also considered the transport implications of the **Barton Area Action Plan**, where the A40 Northern Bypass is a physical and psychological barrier. One suggestion was to convert the A40 at this point into a "boulevard", similar to Sunderland Avenue. It was felt that excellent public transport and cycling facilities were essential, avoiding the use of the Green Road roundabout, and providing no additional access point to the A40 for through traffic.

*Juliet Blackburn, Richard Bradley, Paul Cullen, Tony Joyce,  
Andrew Pritchard (Convenor), Graham Smith,  
David Townsend*

**NB:** Documents mentioned in this article are available from the Society's website, as listed below:

[Response to LTP3 Draft Policies \(Feb 2010\)](#)

[Frideswide Square Response \(May 2010\)](#)

[Consultation on Barton Area Action Plan \(July 2010\)](#)

Alternatively, a printed copy of these papers is available on request from the **Hon Secretary, 67 Cunliffe Close, Oxford, OX2 7BJ** and on receipt of a C5-size, stamped addressed envelope.. *Editor*

## Oxford Streets for People



This is the second year in which the Society has run the *Oxford Streets for People* campaign, in partnership with the *City Council*. The aim of the campaign is to

encourage people to use their streets as social spaces not just for traffic movement, and to encourage our Councils to make changes to the street environment with this aim in mind. We have three strands to the campaign:



**Street parties** The first, and the strand which has been our main focus this year, is on street parties. They have been demonstrated to be the most effective (and very low

cost) way to bring neighbours together. And we expect the growing neighbourliness to translate into a greater

confidence within communities to tackle local issues. This has happened already in cities which have a longer tradition of street parties where, for example, there have been spin-offs in improved traffic management, reduced fear of crime, support to more vulnerable people and greater confidence about open air children's play.



This year, partly as a result of an intensive communications campaign by the *Civic Society*, with the *Oxford Mail* and the *City Council*, we are delighted that 54 street parties took place across Oxford (the greatest number by far since 1977). Our instrumental role in persuading the Council to simplify road closure procedures also contributed (the example of Oxford was picked up by national government).



The photographs on this page show some of the very varied activities which took place. Feedback from party organisers has been most encouraging: the Society's role is clearly appreciated with many left wondering why they didn't have a party before. Next year, why not organise a street party yourself? It's not hard, we can help, and there are real benefits!

**The Street Scene** Our *Oxford Streets for People* campaign is not just about parties. We also continue to lobby the City and County Councils to make improvements to the street scene, particularly in the city centre, an activity which the Society has been undertaking since its inception but now with renewed focus. We are delighted to see a growing national campaign to reduce street 'clutter', a campaign which is being promoted by the national organisation, **Civic Voice** - see the lead article of our *July issue no. 116*, also [www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/street-pride/](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/street-pride/)

*New Inn Hall Street* is a good example of a street which has been designed 'for people'. In conjunction with the Society's Travel Behaviour group we are campaigning for more streets like this.

**'Walk Oxford'** Our third strand concerns walking: we would like to see the city, in particular the centre of the city, become more welcoming for walkers, and with

better information about walking routes, for both visitors and residents. We are working closely with the City Council to develop this initiative.

If you would like to find out how to organise a street party or perhaps to undertake an audit of your street, visit our website [oxstreets.org.uk](http://oxstreets.org.uk). And if you would like to join the Civic Society's Oxford Streets for People team please get in touch. We'd be delighted to welcome you.

**Richard Bradley (Co-ordinator), Paul Cullen, Alan Foulkes,  
Tony Joyce, Pauline Martin, Christine Thompson,  
Ros Weatherall**

## OxClean at work, making a difference 'Litter should be socially unacceptable'

**Don't Drop It!** Human behaviour is difficult to change, but it can be done – just think about smoking



behaviour, or the fall from favour of the ubiquitous plastic carrier bag. Similarly, OxClean is looking for ways to spread the **Don't Drop It!** message for which Spring Clean was our original campaign in 2007.

Early in the year, some useful pilot work was done with *Creation Theatre* in one of our secondary schools. We are delighted that *Oxford Civic Society* has recently agreed funding to allow us to extend this programme, as we had such encouraging feedback and our first school site is definitely less littered now.

We are looking for effective ways to work with businesses and traders in Oxford in raising public awareness, and have had some success with public transport: both *Oxford Bus Company* (including *Brookes Buses*) and *Stagecoach* are supporting us by displaying our posters, and *The Trade* has now agreed with *City Council* (acting for OxClean) to encourage Oxford's licensed black cab drivers to display our **Don't Drop It!** roundels.



*The Oxford Times* continues to support us and with design and print; the *City Council* (we work closely with *City Works*) awarded us a grant for the roundels. **If anyone has ideas on how to win further involvement from other organisations, please email [info@oxclean.org.uk](mailto:info@oxclean.org.uk)**

**Spring Clean 2011** Meanwhile the next Spring Clean will be on **Friday 4 & Saturday 5 March**. We are busy, planning for more numbers than ever to take part and have sought ways to make this as straightforward as possible for everyone involved. **Please register soon – whether as a group or an individual – or report a Grot Spot. Visit [www.oxclean.org.uk](http://www.oxclean.org.uk)**

**Oxford's Ring Road** Drivers circling Oxford cannot fail to notice a lot of litter blowing about – sometimes large pieces blown from lorries (insulating materials, bubble wrap), more often crisp packets, water bottles, drinks cans. Four years ago OxClean started to put pressure on the Council to clear this up, and to try harder to prevent it. **Access to our beautiful city should not be along littered roads.**

It quickly emerged that this was not a simple problem: the Ring Road passes through three different *District Councils* (who collect litter) while the *County Council* looks after the road and cuts the grass. The *Highways Agency* also has an interest in the A34. Inability to co-ordinate means litter gets shredded and widely spread whenever the grass is cut.

We have encountered a good deal of 'buck passing' but recently see signs of welcome progress: for instance, by closing one carriageway at night, litter picking has been carried out on the *Oxford City* parts of the Bypass.



**Northern Bypass: Marston flyover–Headington Roundabout  
Ros Weatherall & Rosanne Bostock embrace new signs!**

We are all delighted to see the installation of new bins for recycling alongside landfill and *Cleaner Greener Oxford* notices, for which we have long campaigned, in lay-bys – similar to those provided along the A34 Oxford - M40 section.



Do let us know if you see improvements, and on which section of the Ring Road. **Email us at [info@oxclean.org.uk](mailto:info@oxclean.org.uk) – send us a photo and brief description, if you can.**

**Rosanne Bostock, Liz Grosvenor, Ingrid Lunt, Pauline Martin,  
Christine Thompson, Vernon Porter,  
Ros Weatherall (Chair)**

## Introducing our Newsletter Editor

It is a very real pleasure to introduce *Hilary Bradley* as our new Editor, from the next issue in March 2011.



Hilary has a wealth of valuable experience in advising charities, and brings excellent communications and IT skills to the role: the future of our newsletter lies in very safe hands. Hilary says: "My background is in information management and publishing in the voluntary sector, working latterly for RNIB. I now run my own business, helping voluntary and public sector clients to communicate effectively across their print and web output. I'm delighted to be joining the Society's dynamic Communications team."

*Pauline Martin, Editor (outgoing)*

## A note from the Membership Sec

Early next month I'll be contacting those members who do not pay by Standing Order to remind them that *Membership Subscriptions are due on 1st January 2011*. I'll email where possible, but it would be helpful if those without this facility could send their payment direct, thus saving mailing costs. Rates are unchanged for cheque payers: **£10 for single, £14 for joint membership**. As ever, we prefer payment by Standing Order – rates then reduce to **£9 and £12 respectively**.

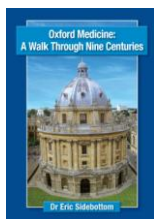
How about a year's **Gift Membership** for a friend for Christmas, in the form of a New Member's pack with a Gift Card to advise where the gift has come from? Ask for further details.



*Liz Grosvenor, Membership Secretary*  
15 Lime Walk, Headington, OX3 7AB (765453)  
[membership@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk](mailto:membership@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk)

## A Recent Publication

Readers are advised of a new guide-book *Oxford Medicine: A Walk Though Nine Centuries* by medical historian and OCS member **Dr Eric Sidebottom**, whose current mission is



described as "... to convince the uninitiated that world history has been determined more by disease than by kings, politicians, or wars".

**Publ: Offox Press, price £9.99, ISBN 978-1-904202-05-9**

## Christmas Cards Order Form

(See full details overleaf)

Item	Quantity	Cost
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### St Margaret's Rd in Snow design, with envelopes

5 cards @ £4		
30 cards @ £23		
50 cards @ £38		

### Museum of Oxford design, with envelopes

5 cards @ £4		
30 cards @ £23		
50 cards @ £38		

Both cards are over-printed with the greeting  
'With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year'

### Please add, for delivery

50 p for orders up to £5	
£1 for orders from £5-£24	
£2 for orders over £24	

*TOTAL	
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(\*cheques payable to Oxford Civic Society)

Name .....

BLOCK CAPS PLEASE

Tel no .....

Email .....

Address .....

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Orders should be sent to:

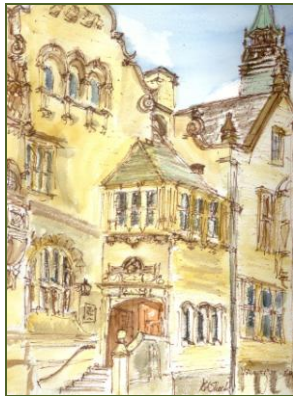
Mr Stuart White  
"Yarnells"  
Yarnells Hill  
Oxford  
OX2 9BG

## Christmas cards, available *now*

For those who haven't yet seen them, and as a reminder to those who have, here are the new cards (with envelopes) for this year: we have two attractive local scenes, each with current Oxford connections and over-printed with the greeting 'With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year'.



**St Margaret's Road in Snow  
(Jan 2010)**  
*photo: Richard M Simmons*



**Museum of Oxford**  
*watercolour & ink  
by Katherine Shock*

These are available at competitive prices – sometimes at our meetings, or by mail order for home delivery. To ensure your cards order is delivered, please cut out this column in order to complete the Order Form overleaf and send it on to us. Alternatively, enquire whether cards are on sale at meetings.

Profits from card sales are an important source of income to the Society and help to fund its work. We hope that you like the selection and will purchase a supply. We have tried to keep the prices competitive so we hope that members will support us – and quickly, whilst stocks last!

*Cards Group: Gwyneth Tyson,  
Stuart White (Convenor)*  
[sales@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk](mailto:sales@oxfordcivicsoc.org.uk)

## Contact Us:

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[oxclean.org.uk](http://oxclean.org.uk)

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