

Oxford Centre of the National Trust

Newsletter November 2022

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We're busy making nice plans for 2023!

That's because 2022 has shown us how to recover from lockdown and the pandemic, and to live our lives alongside Covid: this year the Treasurer balanced the budgets very carefully for planned visits to **The Vyne, Stratford-upon-Avon, Leonardslee Gardens, Lacock Abbey, Green Templeton College gardens, Kelmscott Manor with Buscot Park, and Hampton Court** and you supported them all (thank you). More recently, neither **Compton Verney** nor **Coleshill** attracted the min 30 bookings required and had to be cancelled.

We rescheduled our **lunch with our President at Linacre College** and enjoyed **two Afternoon Teas** whilst our Walking Group planned 6 separate explorations around local National Trust properties at **Sherborne, Nuffield Place, Boarstall & the Duck Decoy, Hughenden Estate, Long Crendon, and Chastleton House**. **Jonathan Anelay** outlines his very appealing schedule of 2023 Walks on page 4

Members learned much from lectures on **Oxford Castle, Indian railways, Ashdown House & the Winter Queen, and Restoring Paintings for the Trust**. Next up – **Sir Isaac Newton**, then **Managing Pests within NT Collections**. You kindly offered honesty payments for our **Zoom** series to defray costs incurred. Thank you.

In a particularly happy venture, our new partners **Plastow's Travel Ltd & Airedale Tours** helped us to re-launch Group Holidays with a successful 5-day tour of Lincolnshire based in Grantham and visiting various Trust Properties: **Calke Abbey, Kedleston Hall, Gunby Estate and Gardens, Woolsthorpe Manor and Packwood House**. Sadly, the proposed '**Christmas at Chatsworth**' mini break didn't meet the minimum bookings required, disappointing some of you we know. We are all delighted that April's **Group Holiday to Plymouth** is now duly booked and confirmed, thanks to Holidays Co-ordinator **Pam Lee** who has worked hard to pull this together. See page 5.

All in all, your generous support throughout the year has enabled us to donate £1,500 to National Trust projects this year. Thank you so much for every outing, membership subscription and donation you have funded making this possible.

Happily, we have warmly welcomed **58 new members** since January, which is wonderful.

Mindful of all this, **Programme Group** is keener than ever to offer attractive options for those who'd like to join us. You'll find details of our Spring 2023 events on pages 4 and 5 (and we're already working on Summer's Programme). We face rising costs all the time and are carefully doing all we can to offer varied and appealing options, keeping tickets prices down.

My grateful thanks go to everyone who is contributing to our 2023 programme .. including each of our valued Friends & Supporters listed on page 8 in the usual way. Together, we warmly thank YOU for your membership, support, and interest in all that's on offer for us to share and enjoy – always for the benefit of the National Trust



*My warmest good wishes for a very happy Christmas
and New Year*

Pauline Martin, Chair, 07802 390914, chair.ocnt@gmail.com

RENEW YOUR OCNT MEMBERSHIP FROM 1 JANUARY 2023

Many thanks to our continuing loyal membership, and welcome to our new members.

This is a reminder that **your annual subscriptions will be due on 1 January 2023**. Single member: **£10** and two people at the same address: **£15** (this covers both people with one mailing. If you are on our email list and want the emails to go to two different email addresses, please let the Membership Secretary know. It is much cheaper for us to email Newsletters etc to you rather than post them, so please let us know if you have an email address which we are not using.)

Please help us to maintain our records more easily by paying your subscription **by Standing Order** wherever possible. Anyone with a current account can *set up a Standing Order* either online, over the phone, or in person *at a branch of their bank*. After giving the bank your instructions, your subscription will be paid on 1 January every year – you won't need to remember, and we won't need to remind you!

These are the details of our current bank account which you will need to give to your bank:

OXFORD CENTRE OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

Sort Code: 20-65-20, Account No: 33248968

(Please use your surname and initials as the reference)

NB Our bank account changed in November 2021. You may need to tell your bank that your Standing Order should now be paid to this account, as above.

If you still prefer to pay your subscription by cheque, please send it at the end of December to the Membership Secretary, 2 Cot's Green, Kidlington OX5 1UX. Thank you. Please ensure you make cheques payable to Oxford Centre of the National Trust, written in full (not OCNT).

Felicity Peacock, **Acting Membership Secretary**, oxfordcnt@gmail.com, **07975 678475**

Remember to apply for your 200 Club shares for 2023!

The **200 Club** share application for 2023 is now open, and full details can be found on the enclosed application form. Please complete it and send it in with your cheque by the first week of January to be in time for the January prize draw. Alternatively, you can apply by email and pay by bank transfer.

OCNT runs a **200 Club** each year to raise funds for local properties of the National Trust, for which we aim to sell 200 shares at £5 each. You are now invited to apply for 'shares', with the chance to win a cash prize in a monthly draw, held January to March and October to December 2023. You can apply for as many shares as you wish (more shares mean more chance of prizes!) on the attached form. Half the money taken goes to NT funds, the other half towards the prizes each year.

This is another great way for you to support local Trust properties!

Felicity Peacock

Knowing our National Trust Neighbours

Do you have, or have you had in the past, a special connection to a local property? That might be **Greys Court, Nuffield Place, Ashdown** or **Chastleton House**; perhaps **Basildon Park** or **Coleshill and Buscot**; possibly **Hughenden**? Or another property further afield? We're always keen to be 'good neighbours' and we know that some members have a close association of their own. Oxford Centre NT has a very good rapport with some properties, but not all, sadly. We'd like in 2023 to bridge those gaps with your help and theirs. So please let us know if you've a special relationship, or would rather like one? Meanwhile ...



Sarah Hannis, Senior Volunteering & Community Officer for West Oxfordshire has been in touch as she'll be looking for volunteers in the next 6 months. Sarah writes: *"I can keep you up to date with any specific projects for example chalking the white horse in summer. I'll send you a link to share with your members. It would be lovely if they could share the opportunities wider, perhaps with family and friends. We would like to encourage younger volunteers and I'm sure OCNT members are excellent ambassadors that could support us with this."*

Catherine Thompson, Visitor Experience Manager for Thames Valley writes that coming up this Christmas, they are welcoming visitors to **Greys Court** to be 'Together for Christmas'. Local community groups are helping to decorate the site for a cosy get-together with family and friends. Children can get involved with the 'Woodland Friends' trail around the site, making sure that all the animals find their way back home in time for Christmas. Visitors can also enjoy a candlelit tour of the house after-hours, with mulled wine and a mince pie. Details available at [Greys Court, Events](#) or phone **01491 628529**



Richard Watson, West Oxfordshire Countryside Manager reports on **Middleleaze Paddock** where members subscribed to over 300 saplings: *"The summer of 2022 wasn't what we really wanted for our new trees! The prolonged dry spell has hit them very hard. We don't know the extent of the losses yet, but I imagine we've lost somewhere between 30 and 60% of the trees. I remain optimistic that some, very brown in August, may have clung on until the rain arrived in September and will bounce back next year – I live in hope! Where the trees haven't made it, we'll go back and replace them next winter with new trees. As I write this at the end of October, the ground is still very dry below the surface, and we need prolonged rainfall to top everything back up again."*



Christian Walker, General Manager, West Oxfordshire publishes a seasonal newsletter detailing the inside stories and projects on his portfolio of properties – that's **Ashdown House, Badbury Hill, Chastleton House, Great Coxwell Tithe Barn, White Horse Hill, Buscot Park, Coleshill Home Farm & Parkland, The Coombes at Hinton Parva**. We can email his newsletter, on request, to members interested to stay in touch in this way. Christian writes: *"Lots happening, good to share with you, and we look forward to welcoming you in the future to see things on the ground"*. Meanwhile, there's [Coleshill Christmas Craft Fair](#) on **Sunday, 27 Nov, 10 am – 4 pm**, no need to book, free admission. **Phone 01793 762209**

In fact, there are lots of ways for us to 'know our neighbours' better. Please contact **Pauline Martin**, oxfordcnt@gmail.com, **07802 390914** if you'd like to know more about any of this, or have something to add? Once we know the level of interest, and 'who's who', we can agree how small groups, or individual members, might enjoy being more 'neighbourly'. More on this in the next newsletter ...

VISITS & EVENTS, NOVEMBER 2022 TO MARCH 2023 – AND BEYOND

Thursday, 26 January, Oxford Playhouse, 7.30 pm

What about a trip to Oxford Playhouse at the end of January to see Oxford Operatic's uplifting performance of *Evita* including well-known numbers from Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical masterpiece: 'Don't Cry for Me Argentina', 'Buenos Aires' and 'Another Suitcase in Another Hall'. With perhaps an option for pre-theatre supper?



If there is interest, we will need to book tickets quickly so if you'd like to participate **please email oxfordcnt@gmail.com or ring 07802 390914 by Monday, 2 December** and we'll see what tickets we can get. As usual, you're welcome to bring a friend, who needn't be a member of Oxford Centre. Prices range from £10 to £25 in the stalls depending on availability.

No Booking Form for this, we just need your name and to know whether you'd like pre-theatre supper nearby at 6pm? Once we know your interest, we will quickly confirm your ticket price** – your ticket will be passed to you on the day of our visit.

**** NB Once you request a ticket, your payment is due straight away and is non-refundable** (although you may transfer your ticket to a friend should you find you can't come after all). We can take payment **EITHER by cheque** payable to **Oxford Centre of the National Trust** and posted to **OCNT Treasurer, 2 Cots Green, Kidlington, OX5 1UX** **OR by bank transfer** payable to **Oxford Centre of the National Trust, Account no 33248968, sort code 20-65-20** – payment reference **EVITA**

New – Coffee Mornings

We are planning to start informal coffee mornings providing an opportunity to meet up socially for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee with fellow members. These will be held in the Weston Library Café, Broad Street, **from 10.30 to 11.45 am on the last Tuesday of the month**. Purchase your drink and perhaps a cake, then join us at our table. The planned dates are **29 November**, (no meeting in December), **31 January 2023, 28 February, and 28 March**. Drop in any time that suits you. See you there!

Nesta Jones

Walking Group News



Walking group at Chastleton House

In September, our final day of walks for 2022 took us to **Adlestrop and Chastleton House**. We are planning six walks again next year but starting earlier (in March) and finishing later (in October). We would then omit July and August, when hot weather has led to cancellations.

Tentatively, the programme will be **Bradenham and Hughenden** in March, **Stowe** in April, **Buscot** in May, **Long Crendon** in June, **Waddesdon** in September, and **Grey's Court** in October. As before, we will select different days of the week for the various walks, in order to provide at

least some opportunities for members who have other fixed commitments on particular days. Each day's programme will incorporate options of differing lengths (from two miles or less to six miles or more), so that some may combine a short walk with a more extended visit to the property.

If you are not already on the list of walkers, and would like to receive details of each walk, please email: oxfordcnt@gmail.com

Tuesday, 14 March 2023: VISIT TO THE ROMAN BATHS, Bath

The Roman Baths were not discovered until the late 19th century, but in recent years interpretive displays and film projections have been installed to tell us about the people who visited the great Roman religious spa of Aquae Sulis. Today visitors can explore the Roman Baths complex, walk on the original Roman pavements under modern ground level and see the ruins of the Temple of Sulis Minerva. An audio guide to carry with you is included in the entrance fee. Guidebooks are available in the shop, price £5.

Projections, soundscapes and computer-generated reconstructions show the Roman Baths at the height of their popularity as a working, living and leisure space. You can watch, listen and step into the Baths as they would have looked in the 1st to 4th centuries, as Roman characters of all social classes interact with each other. Find out whether there was mixed bathing!



The museum collection, which is of international significance, includes a gilt bronze head of the Goddess Sulis Minerva, and many other Roman artefacts with a large number of coins.

Accessibility: There are steps and uneven ground in many areas, which make the Roman Baths complex regrettably not suitable for anyone with mobility restrictions.

Our coach will drop us in the centre of Bath close to the entrance to the Roman Baths at around 11.30am. You will then have an hour and a half to visit cafés and shops in the area, as we will meet up outside the Roman Baths entrance at 1.10pm for group admission. Allow around 2 hours to follow the signed route and enjoy the exhibits. The coach will pick us up at 4pm, which will give you at least half an hour for a cup of tea before boarding. It would also be possible to spend the day in Bath without visiting the Roman Baths (no price reduction!).

Cost: £42 **Booking deadline: Tuesday 21 February**
Departing: **Wheatley, Plastow's Yard 8.30 am**
 Headington shops (outside Iceland) 8.45
 Oxford Playhouse 9.15

Leader: Felicity Peacock
Wheatley, Ambrose Rise 8.35
Cunliffe Close 9.00
Redbridge Park & Ride 9.30

Holiday News

Thirty-nine members have booked for the **Plymouth holiday, 17–21 April** next year. Visits are planned to **Kingston Lacey, Buckland Abbey, Cotehele, Saltram and Killerton**, all National Trust properties, many reminding us of the Tudor seafaring history of the area. More bookings can be taken before the balance is payable in February. The hotel, '**The New Continental**' is in the City and within walking distance of several attractions.

Plans are now in place for the holiday staying in **Chester, 2–6 October 2023** at the '**Queen at Chester**' hotel which has hosted guests since 1860 including Charles Dickens and Cecil Rhodes. Oxford Centre of NT has used this hotel before with enjoyment. As usual visits are planned for both outward and return journeys, in this case **Coughton Court and Wightwick Manor**. During the stay in Chester we hope to see **Dunham Massey, Speke Hall and Quarry Bank** as well as spending time in Liverpool at the Cathedrals and seeing parts of historic Chester. There is much on offer. Booking Forms and an itinerary will be in the February Newsletter. Please put the dates in your diary.

As usual, both holidays are using the excellent services of Plastow's Travel Ltd.

Pam Lee

Lectures November 2022 to March 2023

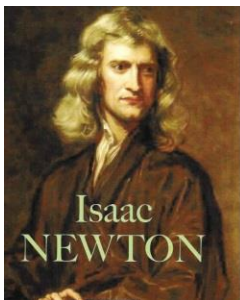
We are returning to Magdalen College's Grove Auditorium for three out of six lectures during winter 2022–23 (October, December and March), to which we will welcome members and non-members.

Following the popularity of our Zoom lectures over the lockdown period, we are also arranging three lectures delivered over Zoom. Members with email will be sent a link to access these on-line in their own homes at a time to suit themselves during the scheduled week. We invite members to subscribe to these zoom lectures with an 'honesty payment' of £5 per lecture watched, sent to the Treasurer by cheque or paid by bank transfer to Oxford Centre of the National Trust (see our item on renewing annual subscriptions for details of how to pay, p. 2).

(Owing to unforeseen circumstances, our advertised November talk on Greys Court has been replaced. We're very grateful to OCNT Member Robin Wilson for stepping in with the lecture he had planned to give during the OCNT holiday in Grantham earlier this year but was cancelled due to his contracting the Covid virus.)

14–20 November, via Zoom:

Isaac Newton: Life, Labours and Legacy



In a poll conducted to find Britain's greatest figure, Sir Isaac Newton came top of the list.

This illustrated lecture, given by Emeritus Professor of Mathematics **Robin Wilson**, covers Newton's life and his mathematical and scientific labours in the context of 17th-century England, featuring his childhood in Lincolnshire, his university career in Cambridge, and his later life as Master of the Royal Mint and President of the Royal Society.

Tuesday 13 December, 11am at Magdalen College Auditorium:

Insects – the Canary in the Collections-care Coalmine?

Hilary Jarvis, Assistant National Conservator at the National Trust leading on Integrated Pest Management for Collections, describes **how** they monitor pests in National Trust houses, which species are of most concern, **what** their varying levels can reveal and **why** it's so important to take full advantage of this.

Remember non-members are welcome at our Magdalen College lectures: do bring a friend!
Admission at the door on the day: £5 members, £6 non-members

16–22 January 2023 via Zoom:

Romantic Decline: Preserving Chastleton House



A rare gem of a Jacobean country house, Chastleton was built between 1607 and 1612 by the prosperous wool merchant, Walter Jones. It was owned by the same increasingly impoverished family until 1991. The house remained essentially unchanged for nearly 400 years as the interiors and contents gradually succumbed to the ravages of time. The talk will be given by **Beverley Turner**, Senior Collections and House Officer for the National Trust's West Oxfordshire portfolio.

20–26 February via Zoom:

Oxford Botanic Garden at 400: Reflecting on the Past, Celebrating the Present and Looking Forward to the Future



Our Lecturer is Simon Hiscock, Director of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum and Professor of Botany in the Dept of Plant Sciences at Oxford University.

He writes: “Oxford Botanic Garden is the oldest botanic garden in Britain and one of the oldest in the world. Founded in 1621 as a physic garden for teaching medical students how to identify plants used in herbal medicines, it is the birthplace of the botanical sciences at Oxford. Today it is an important centre of botanical research and teaching, plant conservation and public

engagement. Looking to the future, exciting plans have been developed for state-of-the-art new glasshouses and new facilities for research and teaching, as the Botanic Garden moves confidently into its next century, an era when plants will be critical in addressing global challenges.”

Tuesday 21 March Magdalen College Auditorium:

Annual General Meeting at 10.45am. Lecture at 11am. Non-members welcome.

AGM followed by Lecture: Colonial Photographic Collections at the National Trust



Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire

Rebekah Hodgkinson is a DPhil student in Archaeology at the University of Oxford in collaboration with the National Trust. She will describe her research into the Trust’s institutional history and its photographic collections in relation to British imperialism and will give examples of the kinds of photographs that are linked to the British Empire within the National Trust’s collections. She will use ***Kedleston Hall***, the family seat of Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India from 1899 to 1905, as a case study.

Felicity Peacock, Lectures co-ordinator, assisted by Karin Eldredge and Di Lynch

When you applied for membership of the Oxford Centre of the National Trust you gave us contact information so that we could keep you informed about forthcoming activities and invite you to take part in our events. This information is used solely for the purposes of running the Centre and its activities. It may be exchanged among members of the Committee but will not be shared with any other organisation. Your details will be kept securely, and you have the right to opt out of our communications at any time and to request to see what information we hold about you. If you wish to do this please contact:

*Acting **Membership Secretary**, phone 07975 678475 email: oxfordcnt@gmail.com*

Dates for your diary – don't miss any of these ...

NOVEMBER	200 CLUB DRAW, no 5 of 6 – winners will be notified
14 th – 20 th	Zoom lecture by email link: <u>Prof Robin Wilson</u> , 'Sir Isaac Newton – Life, Labours, Legacy'
Tues 22 nd	* Event: Afternoon Tea, Cotswold Lodge Hotel, Banbury Road, Oxford
Tues 29 th	Coffee morning: Weston Library Cafe, 10.30-11.45 (see p 4)
DECEMBER	200 CLUB CHRISTMAS DRAW, no 6 of 6 – with special prizes!
Mon 2 nd	Deadline: request ticket/s for 26 Jan "Evita" at Oxford Playhouse
Tues 13 th	Live Lecture: Magdalen Auditorium, 10.45-12 noon, ALL welcome – <u>Hilary Jarvis</u> , 'Insects in the Trust's Collections Care'. £5 or £6 non-members, payable at the door
JANUARY	200 CLUB DRAW, 1st of 6 for 2003 – winners will be notified
16 th – 22 nd	Zoom lecture by email link: <u>Beverley Turner</u> , 'Preserving Chastleton House'
Thurs 26 th	* "Evita", Oxford Playhouse, 7.30 pm (optional pre-theatre supper, 6 pm)
Tues 31 st	Coffee morning: Weston Library Cafe, 10.30-11.45 (see p 4)
FEBRUARY	200 CLUB DRAW, no 2 of 6 – winners will be notified
	Next newsletter in circulation, with Summer Programme May - September
Mon 20 th	Deadline for payment of Plymouth holiday final balance
20 th – 26 th	Zoom lecture: <u>Prof Simon Hiscock</u> , 'Oxford Botanic Gardens at 400'
Tues 21 st	Deadline for booking Roman Baths visit, 14 March
Tues 28 th	Coffee morning: Weston Library Cafe, 10.30-11.45 (see p 4)
MARCH	200 CLUB DRAW, no 3 of 6 – winners will be notified
Tba	* Walk: Bradenham and Hughenden (tentatively, to be confirmed)
Tues 14 th	* Visit: The Roman Baths, Bath
Tues 21 st	Magdalen Auditorium, 10.45 AGM immediately followed at 11 am by Lecture: <u>Rebekah Hodgkinson</u> , "National Trust Photographic Collections"
Tues 28 th	Coffee morning: Weston Library Cafe, 10.30-11.45 (see p 4)
Fri 31 st	Deadline: booking/s with deposit for Chester holiday (October)

Note: * Members need to have booked a place for these events, please refer to pages 4-5

Oxford Centre NT's 2022 Executive Committee, Friends and Supporters

President:	Dr Nick Brown, Principal, Linacre College, Oxford
Chairman:	Pauline Martin chair.ocnt@gmail.com 07802 390914
Vice Chairman:	Situation vacant
Hon Treasurer:	Felicity Peacock treasurer.ocnt@gmail.com 07975 678475
Hon Secretary:	Pat Jones
200 Club:	Felicity Peacock
Friends 'in residence':	<u>Pegasus Grange:</u> Pam Lee, Val Gould <u>Tumbling Bay Court:</u> Mark Davies, Sally Roberts
Holidays Co-ordinator:	Pam Lee, in collaboration with Plastow's Travel Ltd & Airedale Tours
Lectures:	Felicity Peacock, assisted by Karin Eldredge & Di Lynch
Membership Secretary:	Help urgently sought ... oxfordcnt@gmail.com 07975 678475
Newsletter Editor:	Margaret Lipscomb editor.ocnt@gmail.com assisted by Janet Redfern (proof reading)
Publicity:	Felicity Peacock – additional help is urgently sought
Theatre:	Rupert McNeile
Ticket Secretaries:	Rupert McNeile, Guy Rogers
Visits/Events:	Betty Fathers, Rupert McNeile, Cathy Pickin, Matthew Johnson, Nesta Jones and others
Walking Group:	Jonathan Anelay
Website management:	Ashley Castelino