

THE OXON RECORDER

Issue 39

Summer 2009



Reminder of the contents of this issue, so you can come back later for more information

OBR Excursion to Marlborough & The Merchants House. Saturday 18 July 2009, see below.

Buildings and Farming: past, present and future. Impressions from the Weekend School in May.

The Shaven Crown, Shipton-under-Wychwood. How a new recruit to recording fared.

Faringdon. What we saw after the AGM, and the minutes of our annual meeting.

Time Team at Burford Priory: a first-hand report from one of the participants.

OPT Open Doors. Volunteers needed to steward some special buildings.

WWW volunteer needed. Please help complete the 'Burford Probate Project'

Help needed with locating a water trough. A sentimental journey?

(A bit of a squash this issue, update on Blewbury next time - Ed.)

Heather Horner, newsletter editor

OBR Excursion to Marlborough & The Merchants House. Saturday 18 July 2009

On the 28th April 1653 Marlborough suffered a disastrous fire, in which approximately 250 houses were destroyed. Oliver Cromwell ordered a national collection which was distributed to the residents of the town to rebuild their houses and Thomas Bayly, a silk merchant, claimed £2339 to rebuild his house. The Merchant's House is one of the best examples of the great merchants houses built after the fire. The Trust, which manages the house, has restored many of the rooms with their original panelling and wall paintings. The dining room, with its vertical bands of stripes, is a spectacular example of 17th century decoration and is well worth a visit. Our day will start by meeting at 10:30 in St Peters redundant Church, at the west end of the High Street, for coffee and a visit to the tower for views over the town, £2pp. This will be followed by a guided walk along the High Street with its many buildings of architectural interest. Lunch will be available at the Green Dragon followed by a guided tour of the Merchant's House, £4pp. We expect to finish by around 4:00pm.



Due to the short notice for the visit, details have been e-mailed to all members for whom we have an e-mail address, but perhaps inevitably, some of them 'bounced'. If you are interested in joining the excursion, please contact David Hughes, OBR Events Secretary, New House, Bell Lane, Liddington, Swindon, SN4 0HE, tel 01793 790821 or e-mail to all@ldhughes.free-online.co.uk . I will endeavour, if possible, to include any late requests, though I am away until 14 July, so leave a message and I will get back to you on my return.

David Hughes, OBE Events Secretary

And please e-mail David Hughes or David Clark (details p8) if you did not receive an e-mail and want to be kept informed of other short-notice events – Ed.

Several OBR members attended the Weekend School at Rewley House 8-10 May 2009, organised in association with the Historic Farm Building Group. David Clark records his impressions.

Buildings and Farming: past, present and future

As always, these schools are a feast of stimulating papers and enjoyable discussions with colleagues and friends. At a time when the loss of farm buildings continues apace with changes in farming and demands for more housing, it was timely to assess the present state of knowledge and what the effects of current trends might be.

I will not attempt to summarise all the papers, but will give a personal view having reflected on the weekend and what was said there. Accordingly I shall begin at the final paper in which Peter Gaskell reported on the current legislation affecting farming and the conservation of its buildings. It is a reflection on public priorities, under pressure from special interest groups, that far more money and protection is given to barn owls than to the barns in which they nest, despite evidence that expenditure on maintaining historic farm buildings has an economic multiplier effect. The result is that many farmers, having no other use for the buildings, are converting them into habitable dwellings, some for holiday lets, others for permanent homes. English Heritage guidance has even been modified to accept this as inevitable. So, does it matter if the buildings are 'saved' in this way? Can the character of the building really be preserved? The other papers spelled out why this policy is flawed.

There are two main areas of concern – loss of context and loss of evidence. We are living at a time when most people are now many generations removed from the land, when children do not know where their food comes from, and the global economy and growth in eating out and pre-prepared foods means that there is a lack of appreciation of the connection between land, climate and food. The traditional mixed farm with its inter-related yard of barns, byre, stable, pigsties and so on was the setting for the annual round of tasks which produced the grain, milk and meat on which every family depended.



Above: the 14th C cruck barn at Rectory Farm, Northmoor, W.Oxon, before and after conversion to a cosy home. Photos: left David Clark, right from estate agent's particulars.

David Martin showed the value of detailed building recording in getting to a proper understanding of the traditional building methods of a region – in this case the Sussex Weald near Hastings. The design and size of barns changed as yields rose, while carpentry developments were similar to those found in domestic buildings. Detailed recording showed evidence for barns as multi-functional buildings. Oral tradition was also essential in understanding, for example the way in which heather with a straw undercloak was used to thatch a barn.

Roy Brigden of the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading (a treasure house for all interested in farm buildings) described the main changes in motive power, storage, processing and livestock management which took place in the 19th and 20th centuries, and their consequences for the farmstead, both new buildings and alteration of old ones. The extent of these changes, and their relative rapidity posed a major question for students of farm buildings – he asked whether we should aim to record the memory rather than the building? There was no time to debate the importance of the artefact – the physical reality of the building itself – in fixing this memory in the mind.

Matthew Bristow, known to OBR Burford volunteers as the VCH/EPE architectural advisor, showed us the value of using documentary, building and oral evidence in understanding the farmsteads of Exmoor (the paperback was launched on 3 June, a companion volume in the series that includes *Burford: Buildings & People in a Cotwold Town*). He showed that in this upland area with a severe climate the process of amalgamation of holdings had continued after enclosure, resulting in a standard farm layout, many examples of which survive today.

Brian Short surveyed a range of documentary sources, in particular the wealth of detail available in the field books of the 1910 Inland Revenue Incremental Value Survey and the 1941 Farm Survey.

One fascinating glimpse at the lost world of the countryside was given in during interval when a DVD ("Fieldwork") of short interviews with people from many walks of country life was shown. This was illustrated with photographs of the buildings and places in which they worked – a snip at £10 from the Rural Media Company. It also well illustrated the vital importance of talking to people who have actually lived or worked in a building in order fully to understand how it was used and how the various processes were organised and left their mark on the structure.

These papers showed why we need to record farm buildings properly before they are converted – but also that we often do not record what we do not understand. In an ideal world we would leave the buildings unconverted in the knowledge that future generations will look at them with a greater knowledge and pull out even more understanding when they record them.

Background papers included a review by Chris Dyer of the documentary (and archaeological) evidence for late medieval farm buildings – either side of the transition around 1400 when, faced with high labour costs following the Black Death, manorial lords ceased their direct involvement in agricultural management and began to lease out their land and buildings to tenant farmers. This might be testable in the field since the immediate result was presumably a reduction in new building activity as landlords put considerable pressure on their tenants to maintain the existing ones. Less easy to explore is his suggestion that after 1400 there was a greater separation between production and consumption. The archaeological evidence in the shape of longhouses in areas where later farmsteads with houses and outbuildings are found is fragmentary and insufficient to demonstrate the extent or timing of such a move.

James Bond looked at monastic farm buildings – thankfully many have survived, but generally in isolation (e.g. 3 of Beaulieu Abbey's 27 barns), and some have been heavily restored. We also have valuable documentary evidence for the range of sizes and how they were used. There are some good examples in Oxfordshire, such as barns at Great Coxwell (Beaulieu) and Church Enstone (Rectorial).

Susanna Wade-Martins discussed 20th century attempts to encourage small-holdings, partly for political reasons to avoid social unrest. These had not been particularly successful in her study area of East Anglia, but in other areas they had survived and were now the basis of specialist crop growing such as soft fruit.

David Clark, May 2009.

Right: at Cogges Manor Farm, this building started life as a barn/storehouse but became a stable, probably in the early 19th century when horses became more popular than oxen as working animals on the farm. We must push for the continuing availability of such buildings as resources for illustrating farm building developments.



Cogges footnote: the new Trust to manage the Farm Museum is currently being formed, overseen by a Shadow Board comprising Julia Holberry (chair), Janine Charles & Anthony Pettorino (Community Enterprise Group) Richard Munro & Simon Kearney (County Council) and John Harwood.

Editor's footnote: although not mentioned by David, the introductory talk for the conference, by Colm O'Brian, highlighted the need to be aware that the countryside we see now is a palimpsest of farming history that has been influenced by human farming practice for thousands of years. This was most strongly brought home to me with his example of Northumbrian ridge-and-furrow apparently overlaid with 18thC Enclosure Award boundaries, which on closer examination were identified as hand-drawn ridges of pre-Roman date, overlaid by Anglo-Saxon stock enclosures of 7thC.

A novice's first recording day 27 May 2009 at The Shaven Crown, Shipton-under-Wychwood

As an enthusiastic but relative newcomer to the techniques and challenges of building recording, *The Shaven Crown* presented a fine opportunity on my own doorstep to utilise practical skills knowledge acquired at two of the excellent *From Attic to Cellar* series of day courses. Twelve members, roughly half experienced recorders, led by David Clark with expert input from John Steane, reported for duty at this fifteenth century hotel in the centre of Shipton. The building sits on the east side of the green opposite the church and older cottages and houses of the village. It is reputed to have been a hostelry to nearby Bruern Abbey, a Cistercian monastery dissolved in 1536 and subsequently destroyed. Known simply as *The Crown* until the 1960s, what could the building itself tell us?

David gave a deliberately brief introduction so that we used only the evidence presented by the building to date its history and construction. Divided into small groups, each focused on a particular aspect of the ground floor and roof spaces – the building is too large and with some inaccessible areas to tackle a full recording. I opted for roof spaces, of which three were accessible, working with Heather. The tinyness of the access hatches, the need for both a long enough ladder and decent illumination, and the presence of very deep layers of blanket insulation laid on top of the joists all presented problems. As we could not walk around in the attics (they were not boarded, and we could not see the joists!) all recording had to be done from the top of a ladder, with only room for one person at a time. Heather made sketches, took photos and measurements (some necessarily guesstimates) of one huge open roof space over the south wing, all the while standing at the top of the ladder using a floodlight. [Not a comfortable teaching position, sorry Sue – Ed.] David and John examined another space where two roofs join at right-angles, presenting even greater recording obstacles. Odd scraps of waste timber hold up a crown post, probably reused from elsewhere, which should have been supporting the roof.

Left: Heather “Duckface” Horner, in full protective gear for a dusty roof space, describes to Sue “Collier” Richards what she might see from her turn at the top of the ladder using a floodlight. [Not a comfortable teaching position, sorry Sue – Ed.] David and John examined another space where two roofs join at right-angles, presenting even greater recording obstacles. Odd scraps of waste timber hold up a crown post, probably reused from elsewhere, which should have been supporting the roof.



Left: Heather “Duckface” Horner, in full protective gear for a dusty roof space, describes to Sue “Collier” Richards what she might see from her turn at the top of the ladder, watched by David “Bemused” Hughes. Photo credit(?) to whoever saw a photo opportunity and picked up Sue’s camera.

Over a working lunch (we were in the right place for food) initial thoughts and discoveries were shared. Nothing seemed to hang together, and features of one period seemed to appear in the wrong place. The building is indeed a puzzle.

Richard was concentrating on the older windows as possible dating features, and as a photographic record was required, I more usefully spent the afternoon outside with my camera. This was a pleasant contrast to the dark, dusty confines of the morning – I enjoyed the excuse to poke around in the intermittent drizzle, formulating thoughts about the sequence of building.

Right: members puzzle over the apparently medieval carriage entrance driven through what could be the service end of an open hall – but it’s not that simple, the range on the right seems to be older.... Photo: Sue Richards

At the end of the day each team reported their findings, with David interpreting, confirming or challenging the interpretation of the theories, using as verification what little documentary and photographic evidence there is available. A fascinating and puzzling day; I think we ended up with far more questions than when we started! Most buildings of this age have had many alterations, but this one is a real hotchpotch reflecting the lives of the Wychwood inhabitants and craftsmen over centuries.

Thanks to Phil Mehrtens for welcoming us all and allowing us free access, and to Sue Jourdan and Charles Keighley of Wychwoods Local History Society for joining us and providing supporting documentary evidence.



Sue Richards

Faringdon

The Ninth Annual General Meeting of OBR was held in The Old Crown, Market Place, Faringdon on 27 May 2009, followed by a tour of some of the town's buildings. At the meeting, Paul Clark was elected as our new Membership Secretary, and David Hughes moves from Membership to Events Officer. The minutes of the meeting are printed on the next page. Here is a report of what we did after the short formal meeting.

Having demolished the excellent buffet lunch provided by the Crown, members rushed off to explore the building. It was quickly agreed that the stained glass in the bar was not medieval, but opinion was divided on the opening in the rear wall of an alcove that was supposed to be the entrance to a tunnel to the church. A genuine 17th century staircase from the courtyard led to the 'court room' on the first floor, now an elegant bedroom. Clearly created during the 18th century refronting of the hotel, cutting through an earlier tie-beam and with tall bolection-moulded panelling typical of the period, this did not seem to fit with the early 17th century date for the plaster decoration on the ceiling given in the list description. The rest of the panelling, although 17th century, had been reused, and cut to fit the space, some sections having been reset upside down.

Next stop was All Saints church. The (reset) north doorway had some excellent Norman work, and windows representing the Early English, Decorated and Perpendicular styles were easily recognised. What makes All Saints special, however, are the transitional columns, arches and carved capitals of the crossing, where the rounded arches of the nave give way to Gothic pointed ones by around 1200. Glossed over in the guidebook (and in Pevsner) is the disjunction between the Saxo-Norman windows of the clerestory and the nave arches below, suggesting that the upper walls of the nave are from an earlier Norman church on the site. The south transept, which had been destroyed during the Civil War siege of Faringdon, had been totally rebuilt in the 1850s, but employing motifs from the earlier building. There was also some Victorian work in the surviving church but in places it was very difficult to distinguish it from the medieval. The final delight was the early 13th century south door with wrought iron scrollwork ending in dragons' heads – a remarkable survival (*right*). Below, the intriguing Salters, with one shop almost below ground (as per medieval custom?), another up the steps, and living space above that. Photos: Heather Horner



Of Faringdon town, we noted that there was probably much of interest hidden behind the facades which were erected in the late 17th and 18th centuries, first when as a prosperous market town, wealthy burgesses rebuilt in the style of nearby Coleshill House (Sir Roger Pratt, ca.1650, dem 1953), and then as a centre of the coaching trade when smooth ashlar facades and sash windows were essential signs of awareness of the latest fashions. We were lucky to be able to see inside three of these – the Aston Pine (and architectural salvage) shop in London Street, the Coffee House at 4b Market Place, and the private house at no. 7. Thanks to the generosity of the owners, we were allowed to explore their home, in effect probably two earlier houses with a passageway between, now incorporated within as the hall. Noting many Georgian features such as panelling, cabinets and fireplaces, but some very fine chamfered beams from an earlier phase, the roof specialists had to be dragged away from the exposed trusses in the attic. We

were puzzled by two trusses, one each side of the passageway gap, which both had empty mortices for purlins crossing the gap – but at different heights. The answer, coming to some of us thinking about it on the way home, was that one or both trusses must have been reused. If one was in situ, it was thus probably part of a building which at one time had extended over the gap. Members with stamina concluded the day with tea and cakes at the excellent Faringdon Coffee House, sitting amidst fragmentary timber framing and a former fireplace. In the front room a rare timber Tudor arched fire-surround with decorated spandrels. A fitting end to a worthwhile day.

David Clark

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the ninth Annual General Meeting of the Oxfordshire Buildings Record held on Saturday 16 May 2009 at 11.30am at the Old Crown, Faringdon.

The Chairman, John Steane, was in the chair. The following members were present: Vic Allison, Ann & Damian Atkinson, Jean Bailey, Janet & Mark Casson, Sophie Christopher, David Clark, Paul Clark, David Fielding, Heather Horner, Ken Hume, Tim Jordan, Mary Lalé, Alison Mitchell, Helena Neilsen, Ann Ree, Susan Richards, Susan Rose.

1. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Tim Cockerill, Ruth Gibson, Gillian Harrison, Michael and Rosemary Howden, David Hughes, Dennis Jeffery, Bridget Martyn, Nigel Morgan, Barbara Painter, Keith Randall, Simon Townley.

2. **Minutes of the eighth AGM** on 10 May 2008. Adoption was proposed by J Casson, seconded by H Horner, and they were signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters arising.** The Chairman reported that OBR now had a very small library of donated books, which was publicised in a recent newsletter. The long term storage and availability of completed reports was under consideration by the committee; issues of owner confidentiality needed to be addressed.

4. **Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year 2008.**

The Treasurer, Ann Atkinson, tabled copies of the audited accounts for 2008. The excess of receipts over payments had been £1.55. While current expenditure broadly matched subscription income, expenditure on setting up the website had been covered by other income. The bank balance at the year end was £4750.

She thanked members for their donations, the Oxford Preservation Trust for their support for the newsletter, David Hughes for membership details and Brian Tonkin for auditing the accounts.

K Hume asked whether with falling interest rates there was a case for raising subscriptions. Ann said that CAF interest rates were holding up, but the position would be reviewed during the year.

The possibility of saving postage by e-mailing the newsletter was raised. This would also be considered by the committee.

David Fielding proposed, and Vic Allison seconded a motion to accept the accounts. This was carried *nem con*. The Chairman thanked Ann for her work.

5. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that 2008 had been another busy year for the OBR. The travelling exhibition, Discovering Oxfordshire's Buildings had continued to be popular, and the panels were withstanding the journey round the county very well. It had been part of a successful building-related weekend at Dorchester Abbey, and was also seen in Witney, Cogges and the County Record Office in Cowley.

In 2008 we ran the first set of our one-day courses, *From Attic to Cellar*, at Cogges on various aspects of building recording, These proved very popular.

Three group recording days were held – at the Old White Hart in Henley, nearby Harpsden Court and at Charlton-on-Otmoor; individual members and small groups had also carried out a number of investigations. Recording work had started on target buildings for the 2011 Vernacular Architecture Group conference, which the OBR is hosting.

Burford featured prominently with the publication of the VCH-EPE paperback, to which many OBR members had contributed. It was launched twice – at a History Day in May and an official launch in June. Many complimentary reviews had been written and the book had now sold out. The OBR annual lecture (again with OAHS) was given by the Secretary on the buildings of Burford.

The annual presentation day had been held in Great Tew in November, with a walk through the village and a visit to Lower Farm. There was a full programme of presentations by members of their work during the year.

The website went live at the beginning of 2008 thanks to the efforts of Tim Cockerill and has been well received. It was a great advertisement for the OBR.

The newsletter under Heather's management had maintained its high standard as a key means of communication between members.

6. **Election of Officers and Committee.** The following nominations were presented to the meeting:

Nominee	Post	Nominee	Post
John Steane	Chairman	Paul Clark	Membership Secretary
David Clark	Secretary	Heather Horner	Newsletter Editor
Ann Atkinson	Treasurer	David Hughes	Events Secretary
Vic Allison	Committee Member	Ken Hume	Committee Member
Grant Audley-Miller	Committee Member	Simon Townley	Committee Member

A nomination had also been received from Sophie Christopher-Bowes as a Committee Member. This was proposed and seconded. The motion to elect the above *en bloc* was proposed by David Fielding and seconded by Sue Richards. There being no objections, the Chairman declared them all duly elected.

The Chairman recorded his thanks for their service on the committee to retiring members Tim Cockerill, Pat Harding and Nigel Morgan.

7. **Election of Auditor.** Brian Tonkin was proposed by John Steane and seconded by Vic Allison. There being no other nomination, he was declared duly elected.

8. **Any other business.**

a. The Chairman noted the death during the year of Susan Balbes, who had been a Burford volunteer

b. Ken Hume encouraged members to set up their own local recording days.

c. Suggestions were made for lecture topics. Some might be suitable for OBR lectures with OAHS, but other options such as day-schools should be considered.

d. The Chairman gave notice of forthcoming events.

The meeting closed at 12.15 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

D R Clark, Secretary, 17 May 2009

Time Team at Burford Priory

OBR members involved in the VCH Burford project (or who have read the book!) will be familiar with Burford Priory: the large, part 16th-century mansion built on the site of a dissolved medieval hospital by Sir Laurence Tanfield, and later extended by the Lenthalls. A recent Time Team Dig in the grounds revealed impressive traces of the medieval hospital, as well as important Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement evidence west of the building (i.e. away from the planned town). Antonia Catchpole of the VCH was involved over the 3 days, and has contributed the following report.

Filming for the 2010 (17th series) of Channel 4's *Time Team* took place at Burford Priory in April. The team had been invited to investigate the history of the site by the new owner, who allowed unprecedented access to the building and surrounding grounds. As co-author of the EPE paperback on Burford, the VCH's Antonia Catchpole was invited to appear as a 'local history expert', filming a variety of scenes about the history of the site and town with Tony Robinson and Stewart Ainsworth (although whether these will survive the cutting room floor is another question!). The main aim of the excavations was to find evidence for the medieval hospital believed to have stood on the site, and to set whatever was found into its local context, relating the archaeology to the origins and expansion of the medieval town.

Day 1 saw a trench opened on the lawn in front of the house to investigate geophysics evidence for a possible east-west wall. Excavation revealed a large buttressed wall with associated pottery of mid/late 12thC date, supporting the contention that the hospital was founded between 1147 and 1183 by the earl of Gloucester. An extension to the trench produced an abutting wall, thought to represent the foundations of a late 13thC arcade which is known to have stood on this alignment before the Priory was restored in the early 20th century. Possibly these features formed part of the hospital's chapel, though no evidence for a similar arcade was found on the opposite (south) side, despite Phil Harding's best efforts.

Right: Phil and Henry looking for the south arcade.

Below: Tony filming in the vegetable garden.



Meanwhile, trenches were also dug in the vegetable garden behind the Priory. One of these produced Saxon pottery associated with a probable house or other structure, which may indicate that the earliest settlement in Burford stood on the high ground to the west of the present town. Trenches nearby contained post-medieval archaeology, presumably connected with the Priory's occupation by the Lenthall family from the 17th to 19th centuries. Finally, a small exploratory trench dug beneath the altar of the 17thC Lenthall chapel (a *Time Team* first!) proved that the chapel had been built over a pre-existing wall, possibly marking the precinct of the medieval hospital. This probably explains its odd alignment – certainly not east-west, but not quite

in line with the existing Priory either.

The *Time Team* work is the first large-scale archaeological investigation in the Burford area, and has provided invaluable (and unexpected) evidence for pre-urban settlement, as well as tangible proof for the 12thC hospital. An excavation report is being prepared by Wessex Archaeology, and will eventually be available online. Meanwhile, the programme itself will be coming to a television screen near you in the New Year....



Right: Mick and Tony discuss the medieval hospital. Photos: Antonia Catchpole

No apologies for printing this again; OPT give us enormous support by printing this newsletter free of charge – Ed.

Volunteers for Open Doors 12/13 September 2009

Jane Baldwin of Oxford Preservation Trust, 10 Turn Again Lane, Oxford, writes:-

“We are organising *Oxford Open Doors* once again this year in support of the national Heritage Open Days over the weekend of 12/13 September. We wondered if the OBR might be interested in taking part in some way, or if any of its members might consider being a volunteer - stewarding for a couple of hours somewhere interesting?”
Please contact Jane direct at J.Baldwin@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

Volunteers for WWW duties

Members who were involved with the EPE/VCH Burford buildings and photography projects will be aware that a parallel theme was the transcription of the wills and inventories of some 500 people who lived and died in Burford between 1500 and 1700. The project is being formally wound up shortly (though the interpretation of the results will continue). A volunteer is needed to upload the transcribed documents onto the EPE website, so that the unique body of evidence is fully available to other researchers. Training will be given, and a small honorarium may be available. Contact Oxford VCH Editor Simon Townley at simon.townley@history.ox.ac.uk, or informally for more information, ask Heather Horner – contact details below.

Missing Location

From Diane Blackwell, Tourism Development Officer, West Oxfordshire District Council, Woodgreen, Witney OX28 1NB, Tel 01993 861553.

I have high hopes that somebody might be able to help me with an enquiry that I received a few months ago and have been unable to satisfactorily answer. Attached is an image of a water trough that was taken over 40 years ago and the gentleman who took the photo wishes to re-visit the place - he was staying in West Oxfordshire. I have tried all the channels I can think of but nobody has recognised it. Any leads would be really welcome.

Replies direct to Diane, but we would love to hear the outcome. The letter S should identify at least the area, looks like a donor's family initial - Ed.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 18 July 2009 **Members Excursion to Marlborough** to see The Merchants House. Details on front page

May/June/July 2009 **From Attic to Cellar; new extended series** at Cogges Farm Museum.

These have been going well, still room on the last one of this series, contact Ann Atkinson 01993 706210

Sunday 26 July **Rule of Thumb** – Vic Allison (photography, measuring and drawing)

Friday 25 – Sunday 27 September 2009: **Markets and Market Places** A weekend school in association with the Vernacular Architecture Group, to be held at Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford. Open to all, but book early. Information and booking ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk

Wednesday 7 October 2009 **Recording Day in Steventon**. Flier enclosed, more details in *Issue 40* or via e-mail.

Saturday 22 November 2009 (provisional date) **OBR Presentation Day**. The chance for members to catch up on recent research, even if they cannot be active recorders themselves. Venue t.b.c., and there will be a guided walk or buildings to explore.

Copy date and contacts

Copy date for Issue 40 is 1st September 2009. Please send articles, information, letters, reviews, etc. to me, Heather Horner, at Windrush Cottage, Station Road, South Leigh, Oxon. OX29 6XN, telephone 01993 773819, or e-mail hahwindrush@aol.com

The Secretary is David Clark, 21 Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HQ, telephone 01865 516414, e-mail drc@davidrclark.plus.com or david.clark3@which.net

Our website is at www.OBR.org.uk

The OBR are extremely grateful to *The Oxford Preservation Trust* for their generosity in supporting the production of *The Oxon Recorder* and to *Awards for All* in supporting our work to record the built heritage of Oxfordshire.

