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The Oxon Recorder is the newsletter of Oxfordshire Buildings Record and is published four times a year. OBR aims to advance education and promote research on the buildings of Oxfordshire by encouraging the recording of buildings and to create and manage a publicly accessible repository of records relating to such buildings. The Oxon Recorder is also available in the members' section of our website: www.obr.org.uk

Next copy date for contributions is 1 December. Please send any contributions or comments to Richard Farrant at newsletter@obr.org.uk

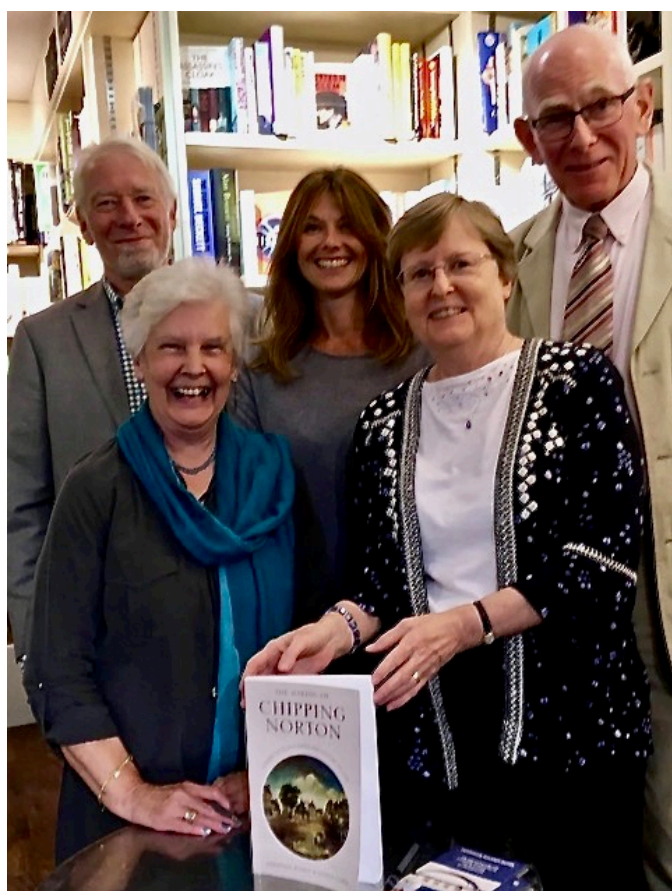
OBR News

The OBR Presentation Day will be on Saturday, 18th November, at Appleton. More details appear in the invitation form attached

Chipping Norton book launch

Members of OBR from all over Oxfordshire, local historians and residents of Chipping Norton eager to learn more about their local community gathered on a grey September evening at Jaffé & Neale, the town's excellent bookshop in Middle Row. Well over 100 people turned out to launch *The Making of Chipping Norton* and soon there were queues of customers outside trying to get in to buy their copies. Patrick Neale welcomed everyone, and the two authors, Jan Cliffe and Adrienne Rosen, gave short talks about the project.

Jan explained that the Chipping Norton Buildings Record had been encouraged by David Clark of the OBR to apply for a grant from Historic England to undertake a two-year study to look for pre-1750 fabric in this historic town. The team of five were delighted to be chosen to take part in this project: Vicky Hubbard the project manager, John Marshall, Paul Clark the chairman of OBR, Jan Cliffe and Adrienne Rosen.



The Famous Five

Work started in the very cold winter of 2013 when members of OBR assisted in the external Level 1 survey. From this initial survey the most promising properties were identified for Level 2 or 3 surveys. Then began a whirlwind dash around town with cameras, tape measures, torches and notebooks. Vicky arranged visits to over 70 properties in the two years and the team hardly had time to draw breath. The book was written in 2016 using the hundreds of photographs and reports collected during the surveys as well as documentary sources.

Jan thanked all the people of Chipping Norton who had kindly allowed the team access to their homes and to crawl into all the nook and crannies from attic to cellar, and those who had lent their deeds.

Adrienne followed on with a preview of just a few of the discoveries made as a result of the project. Some of them were underground in the town's many cellars, and while there was no sign of the fabled secret passages, there were watercourses that channelled water down the steep hillside. The 14th-century undercroft in the High Street was surveyed in detail and the team decided that it was probably a medieval basement tavern entered from the street.

More discoveries were made in the roofs and attics of Chipping Norton's buildings, including smoke-blackened timbers and some original thatch. Dendrochronology produced some felling dates and confirmed that the Chequers in Goddard's Lane, and some houses in Market Street, date back to the 15th century.

Meanwhile documentary research was adding to the information about buildings – not only deeds but wills and probate inventories, newspapers, Corporation records, maps and photographs.

We are very grateful to Polly Jaffé and Patrick Neale for hosting the launch, and to the publishers, the History Press, who have taken great care with production of the book. We hope that *The Making of Chipping Norton* will inspire local residents, visitors and researchers to look at the town and its historic buildings with new interest.

Adrienne Rosen

Barnstorming - Note by the Secretary

These days we do not often get the opportunity to record historic barns – the few that have not been converted to domestic use are usually on a working farm and full of 'stuff' (a technical term covering fixed equipment such as grain dryers and moveable items such as chickens, rusty old seed drills, bits of aeroplanes, old cars and the like). So you wait, and like buses, three come along together: OBR have been busy over the summer at Appleton and Chalgrove.



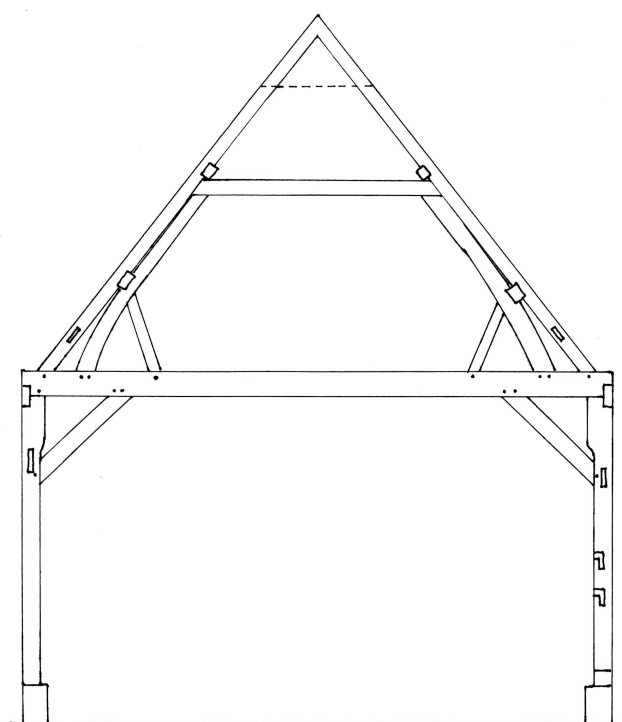
Figure 1 Great Barn (foreground) and College Barn before conversion (Rachel and Paul Jacques)

The two barns in Chalgrove were selected by Martin Bridge as candidates for assessing the potential for the tree-ring dating of elm (Fig.1). They both belonged at one time to Manor Farm, but when that was divided in 1977, the house was bought by Paul and Rachel Jacques and the barns remained with the farmer. By 1986 the two listed barns were most of what survived of the agricultural buildings on the site, and approval was obtained to convert them into houses. The list description considered the five-bay Great Barn to be 16th-century in date, extended to the south (the College Barn) in the 18th century. When I first visited the Great Barn (briefly, in 2013) I found this dating to be unbelievable: the roof structure is of the ‘cranked inner principal’ type (Fig.2). These roof types were found to be local to Buckinghamshire, South Oxfordshire and Berkshire and to have a median date of ca.1750 (see my article in *Vernacular Architecture* 35 (2004) pp.32-39). The earliest example was found at Crowmarsh Gifford and dated to 1651, so ‘16th century’ was surprising, to say the least.



Figure 2 Great Barn, general view

The first barn we looked at this year was the College Barn (Magdalen College was an earlier owner of the manor in Chalgrove) and this confirmed a likely mid 18th-century date – the roof structure (Fig.3) was very similar to that of the Great Barn, and there was no evidence of any earlier phase – except that it had been built on to the southern truss of the Great Barn, and that was distinctly weathered. So at least part of the list description seemed right. Unfortunately the cores for the dendrochronology did not produce a better date.



D HUGHES
29 JUNE 2017

**Figure 3 College Barn, typical truss
(David Hughes)**

Later in the summer we had the opportunity to return to the Great Barn, and, despite the conversion, sufficient of the wall timbers survived – and were visible – to suggest that we were looking at an older building that had been given a completely new roof structure in the 18th century. But what was the date of the primary build? Again, the dendrochronology was unsuccessful, so we looked at the stylistic evidence. Although there were some edge-halved scarf joints (which are found from the 1320s onwards), the timber conversion was by axe and pit-saw, and the bracing was straight, thus pointing to a 17th-century date.



**Figure 4
Weathered truss
between the barns**

But we had forgotten about the weathered end truss, visible only from within College Barn, but definitely an early element of the Great Barn (Fig.4). This was different – a queen-post structure with clasped purlins, diminished principals and assembly marks made by a stubby narrow chisel. Again, the signals were not definitive, but began to push the date back a bit. It is never easy to date rural buildings on the basis of their carpentry alone – teams working in the early 17th century would have had members brought up in medieval ways, and the older ones might still have the tools they used in their youth. Thus even in the 18th-century parts of these barns, the trusses either side of the threshing floor were ‘fair-faced’ into that central space, following the traditional way of respecting this special place within the barn – where the labour of threshing the wheat produced the wealth on which the future of the farmer depended. We thus concluded that a date of ‘ca.1600’ might be justified for the Great Barn – the weathering on the truss could easily have represented 150 years of exposure to the elements.



Figure 5 South Lawn Barn, Appleton

Our third barn was quite different in many respects, though basically similar in construction: a timber frame on a stone plinth with weatherboarded walls and a tile roof (Fig.5). South Lawn barn in Appleton was neither converted nor full of stuff. The owners use it for large gatherings and storage, so it was an ideal recording opportunity: most of the timbers were visible, and there were few obstructions (Fig.6). But here the issues were of a greater number of phases, with additions and conversion of the additions over the years.



Figure 6 Interior looking north

Our tentative conclusion was that South Lawn barn started as the present four northern bays – which were probably built ca.1700. There was also at this time a building to the south, probably timber-framed, but with a stone gable to the road. The next phases included:

- a. building a new stone porch to the west (ca.1800)
- b. Adding – or replacing – a bay to the south
- c. rebuilding the southern building in stone
- d. covering over the gap between the two structures and installing doors to east and west

It seems that most of these alterations had been completed by 1828.

Later phases were increasing the heights of the east and west doorways, blocking the carriageway (d above), conversion of the southern building to a garage, and then the modern addition of toilets and other facilities to enable the building to be used for storage and occasional events.

Faced with the chance to record what was in effect a large empty space, we considered the possibility of hiring a drone to photograph the timber of the upper roof. We were unable to arrange this for the recording day, but the committee have agreed to explore this option with a local company who fly drones professionally, though they have never used them for internal building recording. Who knows, if it works, we may have opened up new possibilities for recording historic buildings.

David Clark

Gillian Harrison

Gillian died on 15 August. She was one of the founding members of OBR and joined the committee in 2000 as its first proper newsletter editor, a post she held for four years. She established the format and was assiduous in chasing up material for it. Her drive and determination were characteristic, and she later was instrumental in founding the Abingdon Buildings Record, which did good work for a number of years recording buildings in the town. One of her major achievements was the production of a comprehensive history of her own house, 3 Stert Street, Abingdon, which can be read online at <http://www.abingdon.gov.uk/history/buildings/3-sterst-street>. Jackie Smith, the town archivist, who helped her on this project, said of Gillian that she ‘was one of the most single-minded and tenacious researchers I ever met’. Over the past few years she had been an active member of the ‘Buildings and People’ subgroup of the Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society, researching and writing a number of the building histories that can be read on the website (above).

Few of us were aware, however, of Gillian’s earlier life. Having graduated from Oxford where she had studied at St Anne’s College, she began her working life in television and it was through their work together at Anglia TV in Norwich that she met Michael, her husband of 56 years. They had two children and six grandchildren. Once both children were old enough, the playwright Robert Bolt, best known for his film *A Man for all Seasons*, took on Gillian as his secretary/PA and she found herself pretty well running his household. In the index to Adrian Turner’s definitive biography of Bolt there are thirteen references to ‘Harrison, Gillian’.

Gillian was no sportswoman, according to Michael, and played tennis only twice in her life: once with him and once with Robert Redford, to whom Bolt had lent his house when the actor was working in Britain. Her association with Bolt also brought her into contact with many famous people from the Beatles to Sir Laurence Olivier.

OBR salutes her memory, and we send our deep condolences to Michael as he comes to terms with the loss of his lifelong soulmate.

David Clark (with contributions from Michael Harrison)

Forthcoming Events

Cruck buildings: origins, distribution, significance and derivatives

Weekend course at Rewley House, Oxford from Friday 29 September to 1 October. For programme details and booking information see

<https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/cruck-buildings-origins-distribution-significance-and-derivatives?code=O17P100HCR>

David Clark writes: “The origins and development of crucks is very relevant to the study of Oxfordshire buildings, as we are firmly within that enigmatic area where this roof form is found to the west of a sharp line along the Chilterns. We have fully framed cruck houses (and some of the so-called base crucks) in the Vale, and raised crucks (or are they long-kneed principals?) in West Oxfordshire - with a number of variations in Burford. This weekend promises to be immensely stimulating, and will feature a talk by OBR member Dan Miles, dendrochronologist and carpenter, whose own house (of 1334) is of course cruck framed. There are still some spaces available”

From the Cotswolds to the Chilterns: The historic Landscapes of Oxfordshire

Joint full day conference hosted by the Society of Landscape Studies and Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society on Saturday 21 October at St. Annes College, Oxford. Cost £35 (members £30) including buffet lunch and refreshments. Program details and booking information appended to this edition of OR.

Inns, ale-houses & taverns

Full day study day at Market Lavington, Wiltshire, organised by the Wiltshire Buildings Record. See flyer attached for more details. To book, contact Dorothy Treasure on 01249 705508 or email dorothy.treasure@wiltshire.go.uk

OBR Presentation day

Fixed for Saturday, 18th November, at Appleton. See invitation flyer attached.

OBR Contact details

Membership – Paul Clark (membership@obr.org.uk)

General – David Clark (secretary@obr.org.uk)

Newsletter - Richard Farrant (newsletter@obr.org.uk)

Webmaster – Tim Peacock (admin@obr.org.uk)

Website: www.obr.org.uk



OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

PRESENTATION DAY 2017 – SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

This year's presentation day will be in Appleton. It will follow the usual format with a walkabout in the morning, a buffet lunch, and talks in the afternoon. This is a chance for members to meet up and hear about the various recording projects which have taken place over the past year.



The day will start at the Village Hall in the centre of Appleton – there is parking there. We shall start the walk at about 11am – exact time to be confirmed – to look at some of the historic buildings in the village.

Lunch will be a finger buffet (with vegetarian options) provided by Ann's Munchies at the Village Hall from 12.45pm to 1.30pm, where we shall stay for a round-up of recording activities during the year – whether 'official' OBR events or not – and to discuss experiences, pose questions and (maybe) find answers. Please share your findings with others in the group. If you would like to make a presentation, display drawings or photographs please say so on the form.

If you intend to come, please complete and send in the form below.

A programme and further details will be sent about a week before the day to those attending.

✂.....

I should like to come to the presentation day on 18 November.

Name.....

e-mail address..... Telephone

I should like to book lunch and enclose a cheque for £forpeople at £7 each, made out to Oxfordshire Buildings Record.

I have the following dietary requirement (please specify).....

I should like to say something about.....for.....minutes.

Please return to David Clark, 21 Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HQ, Tel. 01865 516414, or e-mail secretary@obr.org.uk by Friday 10 November.

FROM THE COTSWOLDS TO THE CHILTERN: THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPES OF OXFORDSHIRE

A joint conference hosted by the Society for Landscape Studies and Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society, to be held on:

Saturday 21st October 2017 at St. Annes College, Oxford from 0930 to 1700.

Programme:

0930 Registration

1000 Introductions

1010 Helena Hamerow (Oxford University):

'Anglo-Saxon Oxfordshire: Dorchester-on-Thames and the origins of Wessex'

1045 Coffee

1115 Stephen Miles (Oxford University/VCH Oxfordshire):

'The South Oxfordshire Project: perceptions of landscape, settlement and society, c. 500-1650'

1150 Simon Townley and Simon Draper (VCH Oxfordshire):

'The Victoria County History in and around Wychwood Forest'

1250 Questions

1300 Buffet Lunch and Society for Landscape Studies AGM

1400 David Clark (Oxfordshire Buildings Record):

'Period, People and Place: houses in the Oxfordshire Landscape'

1430 Heather Horner (Oxfordshire Buildings Record):

'Clues to Landscape Use: evidence from Oxfordshire farm buildings'

1500 Questions

1510 Tea

1545 Stephen Wass (Oxford University/Polyolbion Archaeology):

'The Enstone Marvels and other Oxfordshire Wonders of the Seventeenth Century'

1615 Trevor Rowley (Oxford University):

'Twentieth-Century Oxfordshire Landscapes'

1645 Questions and Round-up

1700 Close

Course Fee.

Basic Fee: **£35**. For **full time** students and members of Society for Landscape Studies or Oxfordshire Architectural and History Society the fee is **£30**.

The fee includes a buffet lunch and light refreshments in the morning and afternoon breaks.

Please complete booking form below or email Brian Ric
brianrich457@btinternet.com for more information.

**FROM THE COTSWOLDS TO THE CHILTERN:
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A joint conference hosted by the Society for Landscape Studies and Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society, to be held on **Saturday 21st October 2017** at **St. Annes College, Oxford.**

BOOKING FORM

Name.....

Postal Address.....

.....

Post Code.....

Home Telephone Number.....

Email address.....

I wish to book.....place/places for the conference and I enclose a cheque for

Your cheque should be made payable to “Society for Landscape Studies” and posted with the whole of this form to :

Brian Rich 11 Adams Grove Leek ST13 8NX.

If you are booking for more than one person on this form please give the names of all the other persons.....

You will be sent an email to confirm receipt of your cheque and booking form.

Please email Brian Rich: brianrich457@btinternet.com if you have any further queries.



ANNUAL STUDY DAY
SATURDAY
28 OCTOBER 2017
 10.30 - 4.30 PM (FROM 10.00)



INNS, ALE-HOUSES & TAVERNS

... an undeniably intoxicating subject ...

❖ **INNS & INNKEEPERS IN 18TH C WILTSHIRE**

ROBERT JAGO

❖ **TIMBER-FRAMED TAVERNS**

DUNCAN JAMES

❖ **ALEHOUSES & PUBS OF NORTH DEVON**

DAVID CARTER

2 SHORTER TALKS:

❖ **BREWING IN LATE SAXON & MEDIEVAL TIMES**

MIKE MARSHMAN

❖ **EARLY INNS & THEIR PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY**

PAM SLOCOMBE

AT MARKET LAVINGTON COMMUNITY HALL, SN10 4DG

£16.50; or Members, Students, Senior Citizens £14

Optional Buffet Lunch £8.75. Book early to avoid disappointment.

01249 705508 dorothy.treasure@wiltshire.gov.uk

wiltshirebuildingsrecord.org.uk





STUDY DAY – Saturday 28 October 2017, 10.30 - 4.30 (10 coffee)

Inns, Alehouses and Taverns

... an undeniably intoxicating subject ...

This year's WBR annual study day at Market Lavington Community Hall will look into places for drinking and hospitality. We shall consider their amenities and services provided, and explore how buildings were designed or adapted to meet the needs of the community they served.

Duncan James – Timber-framed Taverns In the past most town and villages had far more pubs than today. The majority now serve other functions, commercial or domestic. These smaller premises might well be adaptations of domestic buildings. Duncan's talk will focus on timber-framed buildings of 15th - 17th C, adapted to form alehouses. He will point out features to look for to identify them. Duncan has been analysing buildings for over 20 years in Herefordshire and surrounding counties, specialising in timber-framed structures. 'Insight – Historic Buildings Research' was established in 2002 in partnership with his wife, Alison. Duncan is a member of the Society of Architectural Historians and The Vernacular Architecture Group, is on the Committee of the Woolhope Club, Hereford. He is the author of a variety of publications.

Robert Jago – Inns and Innkeepers in 18th century Wiltshire Robert will talk about the background of innkeepers and the services they offered at their establishments, particularly the leisure activities they sponsored. He has gathered material from 3 major sources: probate records, insurance policy registers and (above all) newspapers. After working as an archives assistant in Cornwall Record Office at Truro, Robert attained his archives M.A. at Liverpool University. He's worked for Wiltshire Archives (first at Trowbridge, then Chippenham), and he's now in his 26th year in that post. For about the past 20 years he's been gathering information on 18th C Wiltshire inns.

David Carter – Alehouses and Pubs of North Devon People do like pubs. They are often the focus of village life and history. But what other purposes did they serve, and have their numbers increased or decreased over the years? David shows how the history of pubs and alehouses can be researched. He'll also give us an illustrated historical tour of pubs in North Devon and in particular, his home village of Appledore, with some startling conclusions. David lived in Swindon for almost 50 years before Devon. He worked in the architecture and building industry for 30 years, and now runs Nimrod Research with his wife Jenny. He undertakes research on buildings, and has just published his third book on the history of Appledore where he now lives.

Mike Marshman – Brewing in Late Saxon and Medieval Times Mike will give an overview on the development of brewing and retailing from Saxon to late medieval times for which there are very few remaining buildings. Mike recently retired after 28 years as Wiltshire's Local Studies Librarian, has written 7 books and over 150 articles, has researched brewing and ale selling for many years and has an interest in the medieval period.

Pam Slocombe – Early Inns; their Form and Function Pam will discuss the motives of the builders of early inns, the design of the buildings and what they offered to travellers and the local community. Pam founded the Wiltshire Buildings Record in 1979, co-founded the Wiltshire Local History Forum in 1985, and is the author of a variety of books. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Tickets £16.50, or £14 WBR members, Senior Citizens & Students. Optional buffet lunch, booked in advance, £8.75 per head. Contact Dorothy Treasure on **01249 705508**
email: dorothy.treasure@wiltshire.gov.uk www.wiltshirebuildingsrecord.org.uk 