



Contents:

- OBR News
- AGM walkabout at Finstock
- Recording at the Gables, East Hagbourne
- Marking 120 years of the Victoria County History
- VCH/OBR Hook Norton Project
- Forthcoming events

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 September. Please send any contributions or comments to Richard Farrant at newsletter@obr.org.uk. Contributions need to be Word or Pages documents with accompanying photographs sent separately in high resolution jpg format.

OBR News

AGM.

The OBR AGM was held in Finstock, near Chipping Norton on Saturday 1 June. Draft minutes, and the final accounts and treasurer's commentary for 2017/18 are appended to this issue of OR.

OBR BURSARY SCHEME

Congratulations to OBR member Abigail Doggett who has been awarded an OBR bursary of £500 to help finance her participation in a course run by Historic England "Understanding Historic Buildings". Her report on the course will appear in a future OR. The Committee anticipates continuing the bursary scheme in future years.

OBR PRESENTATION DAY

This year's OBR Presentation Day will be in Goring on Saturday 9 November. As usual, we expect there will be a guided walk-about before the presentations.

MAPPING MANNING

Mapping Manning is a website that brings together in graphical form on Google Maps the catalogues and databases of the Ashmolean Museum relating to the extensive collections of the Oxford antiquary Percy Manning (1870-1917). It also pinpoints all the Oxfordshire archaeological sites – over 2,500 of them – marked on Manning's large-scale maps of the county, with links to the digitised images of the maps. The majority of the annotations were made in the 1890s by Manning, but the maps proved so useful that the Ashmolean continued to add annotations for over 60 years after his death. It could be of value to local historians. Available at <http://pm.ashmus.ox.ac.uk>

HONOURS

Congratulations to OBR member (and mentor) Professor Malcolm Airs for his thoroughly deserved OBE for services to the historic environment, conservation and education.

AGM walkabout at Finstock

Released from the AGM and a generous buffet lunch at the Plough Inn, some 25 of us were able to enjoy a lovely summer afternoon walkabout led by local guru Shaun Morley.

He described a modest village: not in the Domesday book; no notable medieval manorial history, being an almost anonymous part of the Bishop of Lincoln's estates; near but just outside Royal Wychwood Forest. It is effectively an accumulation of local farmstead hamlets sited at spring water sources emerging at different levels up a hill and located on or near the Roman Aceman Street running south to north, with two nearby Roman villas. Infill between these hamlets have resulted in an almost triangular village footprint. Cornbury Manor is nearby, and provided largely absentee ownership of Finstock, the character of which has been determined by the economic needs of the farms and from the 18th Century local small scale craft industries - weaving, clay pipe and pottery making (based on nearby deposits of Kimmeridge clay) and brick making. Glovemaking became a secondary family

income based on piece work at home by women until mechanisation in the early 19th century centralised the work and a glove factory was established, still employing women. It burned down in 1928 and its replacement lasted no more than 8 years before it became the village hall; itself now replaced by the new hall where the AGM took place.



Initial briefing for the walkabout

The Plough forms the nucleus of the bottom part of the village, known as Soggy Bottom, with one of the more prominent farmhouses across the road. It may be older than the 1772 date on the pub sign - a building appears on a map of 1757. Originally it is likely to have featured a central passage with 2 rooms either side, of 1 1/2 stories. This area features 2 spring lines, which continued to be relied on until piped water came in the 1930's, although several houses continued to rely on wells into the 1950's. A second spring line is located towards the top of the hill near the church, but beyond that, at the vicarage, the well is 60' deep.

The farmhouse at Soggy Bottom



Soggy Bottom is on the line of Acerman Street, and provides a nodal point for local roads to the east and south. A Methodist chapel was built here in 1840, and a local school added in 1902. These lasted until 1990, when they were converted into 2 houses.

Climbing the hill the character of the village becomes clear, being a collection of terraced and individual cottages of varying age with infill post war housing development off the main routes, interspersed by a few larger farm houses and barns. The older buildings are predominantly built of rubble stone, many with stone slate roofs.



Artisan cottages

**Barn with
farmhouse
behind**

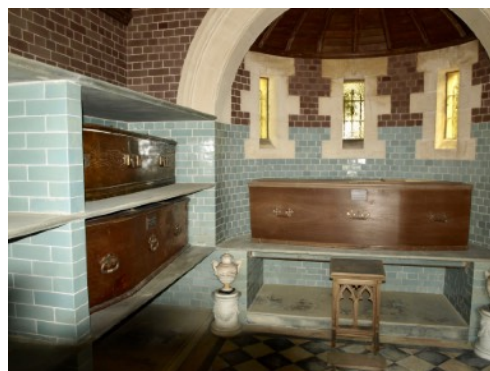


The church, near the top of the hill, was built in 1842, originally as part of Charlbury parish. Its best claim to fame is as the adult christening place of TS Eliot, the poet. Shaun made little of it. Elliot was in Finstock for less than a day, and the event was as low profile as possible and conducted behind locked doors. Elliot promptly decamped afterwards to Cuddeston, to be confirmed the next day. Of more interest to OBR members were a vertical course of protruding stones on both sides of chimney buttresses supporting the nave. Typically, several possible hypotheses as to their purpose were developed, with no agreement on any of them!



The church. Why the protruding stones on the chimney buttress?

The highlight of the graveyard is the du Cros family vault, conceived, planned and built in seven weeks in 1899 to accommodate the body of the wife of Harvey du Cros, a self made Irish business man who bought Cornbury Manor in 1896. A mini classical temple, it impresses as a family mausoleum if that is what takes your fancy. Designed for a large dynasty (and Harvey did have 7 sons), it still has plenty of spare space for future members of the family, who continue to own Cornbury Manor.



The du Cros mausoleum

Beyond the church and across the main road to Charlbury and so technically within the boundary of Royal Wychwood Forest lies Flinstock Manor Farm, the most important farmhouse in the village. The main house has a date stone of 1660, but informed opinion amongst OBR members was that the mullioned windows were more characteristic of some years earlier. We could only view half the house from the east and its north facade from the footpath crossing the garden, so more searching investigation was not possible.



Flinstock Manor Farm; east and north facades

And that was it. Yes, a modest village, but one with character. They continue to celebrate annually the forced legal repudiation in 1810 of their ancient claim to cut 2 oak trees from the local woods, the proceeds of which were suspected of funding a village knees-up. The annual party continues, centred on a special memorial bower.



The memorial bower

Richard Farrant

Recording of The Gables, East Hagbourne



The Gables, West elevation Photo: © S. Barksfield

On 25th March the owners of The Grange welcomed a team of OBR members into their home in East Hagbourne with an invitation to record and to try to interpret this interesting house.

The feature which first attracted our attention was a medieval style un-glazed window which was now blocked by an adjacent range. The early window and style of timber framing seemed to contradict the historically later 'lobby entrance' plan form of the main building, so there was a puzzle for us to try to resolve.

Figure 2 The unglazed medieval style window blocked behind by the second range



After a brief tour of the house the team split into several groups of beginners and more experienced recorders busy studying, measuring and analysing the roof, the timber frames and other features.

The plan of the house is shown in figure 3. Range A is the suspected lobby entrance building with entrance on the east side of bay 2 and contains the unglazed window in bay 4. Two-storey Range B blocks the window. Range C is a single storey structure. Ranges D and E are later brick structures which now provide linking corridors between ground and first-floor rooms of three timber-framed ranges.

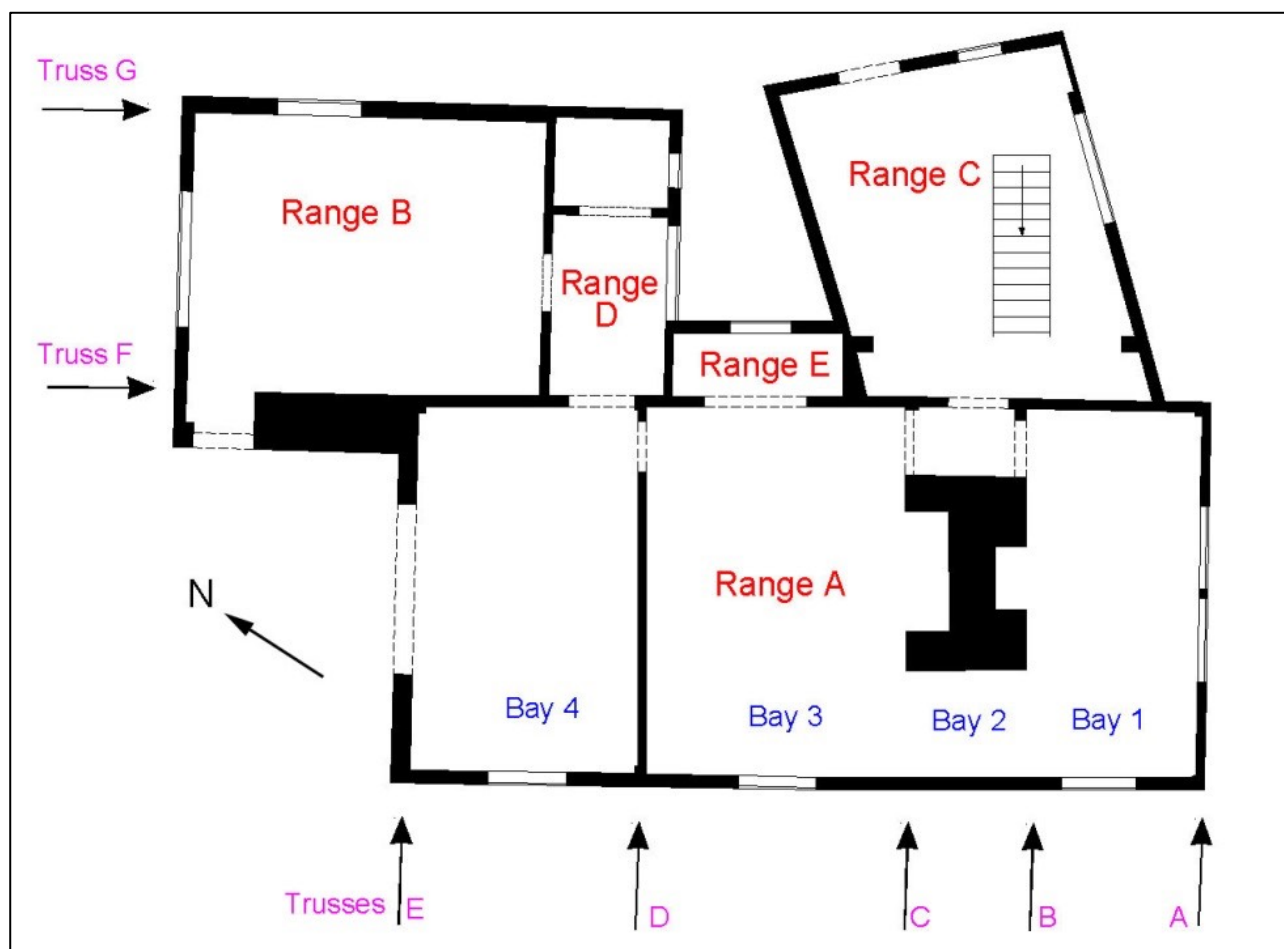


Figure 3 Ground-floor plan of The Gables.

The 'lobby entrance' plan house with entrance, chimney stack and stairs all occupying a single bay generally appears at the beginning of the seventeenth century¹. It can be seen as a style which developed from the infilling of the cross passage in hall houses and a solution to the developing need for a more 'private' form of house. The Gables could be seen as a hall house with infilled cross passage but the assembly pegs in the timber-framed west wall indicated that bay 2 had always been closed on that side, providing good evidence that the primary building was more probably of 'lobby entrance' form. One would therefore not expect a medieval unglazed window, generally associated with the sixteenth and earlier centuries to be present in a seventeenth-century building. Adding further to the confusion, the roofs of both the main Range A and Range B included curved wind braces, another feature more commonly associated with sixteenth and earlier centuries. The puzzle was

¹ See Brunskill, (1997), p.p.66-9

compounded by the timber wall framing of Range B including curved braces (Range A has straight braces) as well as a generally higher quality of carpentry and timber preparation, all suggesting this range was earlier than the lobby entrance range.

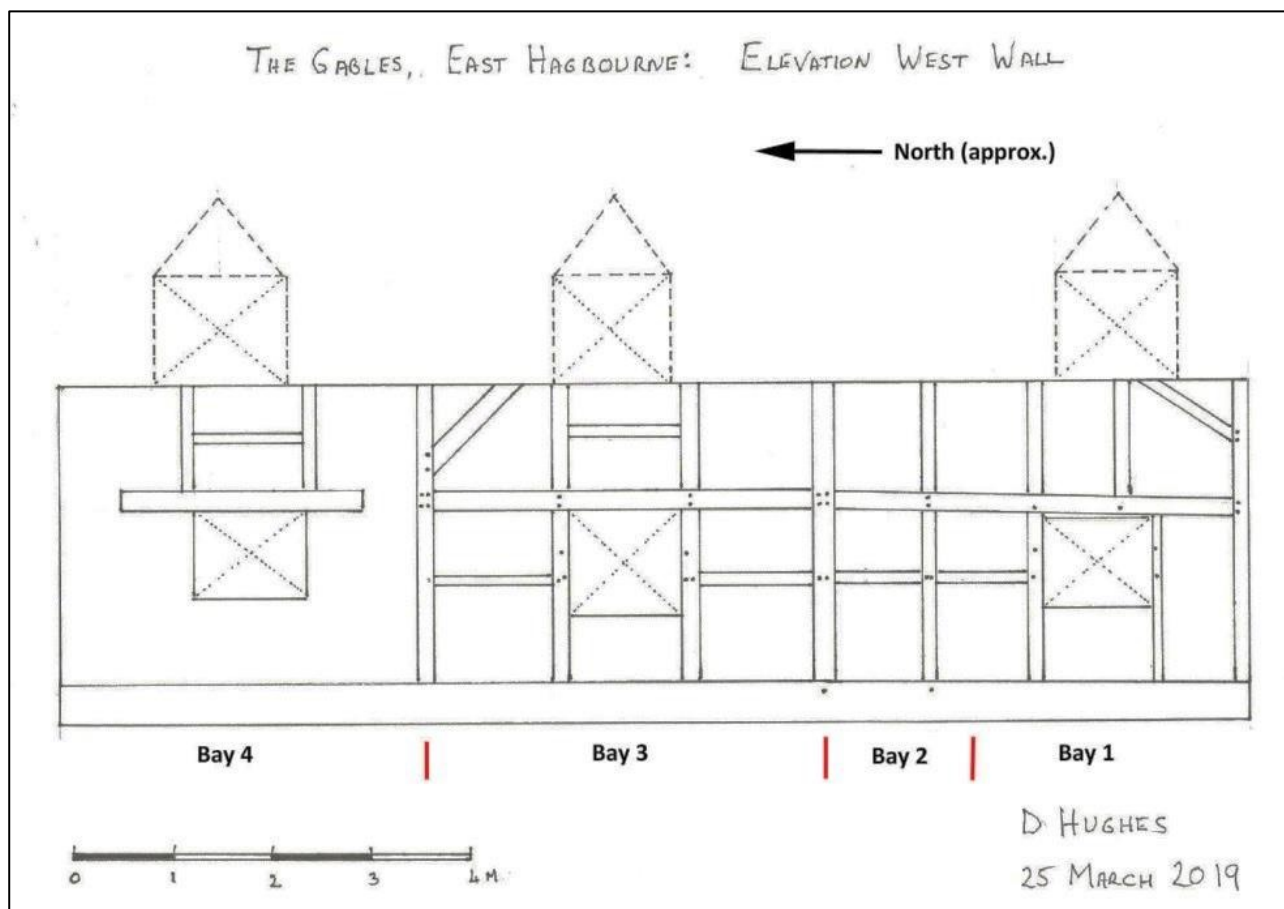


Figure 4 The timber-framed west wall of Range A.

As is so often the case with recording our survey began to add more questions than answers. It was soon realised that there had been more than one stair. The stair in bay 2, now removed but recorded on 1952 plans, served the upper room in bay 3. A 'Tudor' arch cut into the soffit of truss B tie beam indicated the stair also once served bay 1. But bay 1 had evidence for a further stair in the ceiling's south-west corner. Similarly, the ceiling in bay 4 once contained a stair, plus the 1952 drawings showed a further stair in range B. The perhaps obvious cause was division of the building for multiple occupancy, and documentary records supported this, but our survey showed that, apart from the stair linking bays 1 and 3, there had never been any access between any of the first-floor rooms. Multiple stairs were therefore needed even for a single occupancy.

The roof survey confirmed that Range B had been built against Range A and therefore post-dated it. The wall frames of the two ranges sat side-by-side independent of each other, explaining the blocking of the unglazed window. The roof survey also found that although the roof of bay 1 had been reassembled there was sufficient smoke blackening on the ridge beam and some rafters to suggest this bay may have once contained an open hearth. The arrangement of supporting posts in the side walls, together with the rebuilt roof, suggested that truss B had been moved, perhaps when a new hearth was added to bay 1.

Highly unusually for Oxfordshire, the roof of Range B includes a king-post truss (truss F) where it abuts Range A. King-post trusses became very popular throughout the country from the eighteenth century but before that were generally restricted to northern counties. This truss may be a local response to the width of the span and is subtly different from the northern version as the king post is divided in two by the collar. The only other Oxfordshire example we know of with this design is in a roof in a Chipping Norton house dated to 1424-56. In this form the lower part of the king post below the collar is called a crown strut.

**Figure 5 Range B Truss F
(from east)**

**Dotted lines = missing timbers
Dashed lines = chimneystack**

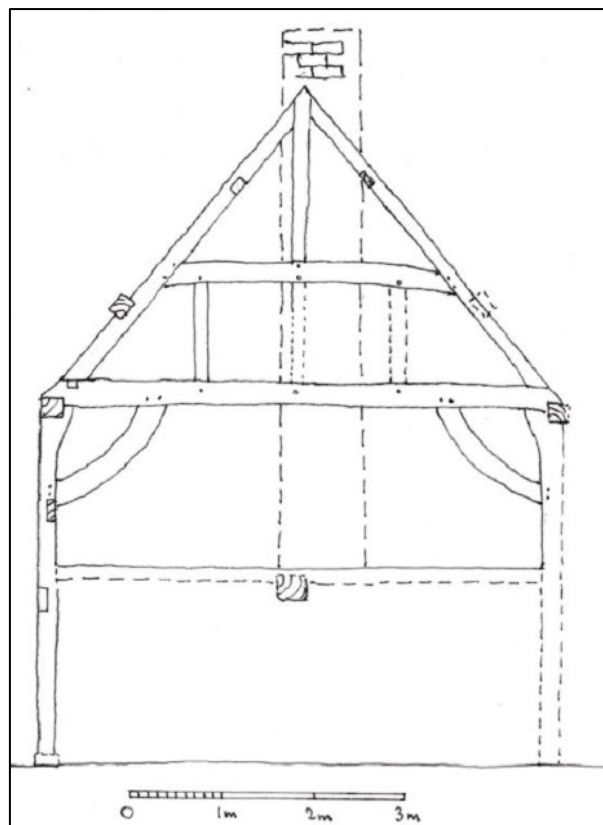


Figure 6 King-post trusses. The Grange (left) and from Chipping Norton (right)

Further investigation of the wall and ceiling frames suggested that bay 4 had also had its ceiling inserted, not only explaining the additional stair there, but also proving a clue to the unglazed window. We concluded the bay was probably initially used to house animals, hence the window, and would therefore have been either open to the roof or contained rudimentary storage floor, perhaps for fodder.

It was the smoke blackening and the moved truss in the main Range A which now seemed to provide the critical clues to unravel the history of this building. We concluded that this was probably a late sixteenth-century house and although it did contain an open hall this was located at the end of the building without the traditional cross passage. The location of hall and parlour had effectively been swapped compared with the traditional arrangement. This was possibly then seen as an improvement on the many converted hall houses as the cooking, with its associated smells, was placed at the end of the house while the main living space remained central to the building. The hearth heated this parlour while cooking was still done in the traditional manner on an open fire.

This arrangement was probably short lived as it appears Range B was constructed quite soon after Range A was built. Range B, constructed with a ceiling, now provided more accommodation space as well as a modern kitchen heated by a hearth with chimney. Like many modernised hall houses, this range was placed beside and to one end of the main range. It needed a stair of its own as the adjacent bay 4 was probably still single storey. At the same time the old open kitchen was floored over and a new hearth added beside the old hearth to heat this bay. It is not fully understood why truss B was moved, if it was, but it may be associated with the insertion of this hearth. Rather than cutting all the way through the obstructing tie beam, as is more often the case, an arch was cut into its soffit and a rather low and perhaps awkward extension was added to the existing stair to provide access to the new first-floor room.

Later on in the seventeenth century a first-floor hearth was added beside the chimney stack to heat the chamber over bay 3. The additional stair in bay 1 may have been added at this time, to replace the existing awkward stair. Alternatively this was perhaps a result of dividing the building into multiple occupation, more probably in the next or following century. This may also be the reason why a further stair was added when bay 4 was floored over, rather than connecting directly with the adjacent first floor of Range B. The house, already with separate stairs elsewhere, would have been an ideal candidate for division into multiple occupancy, as commonly occurred in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

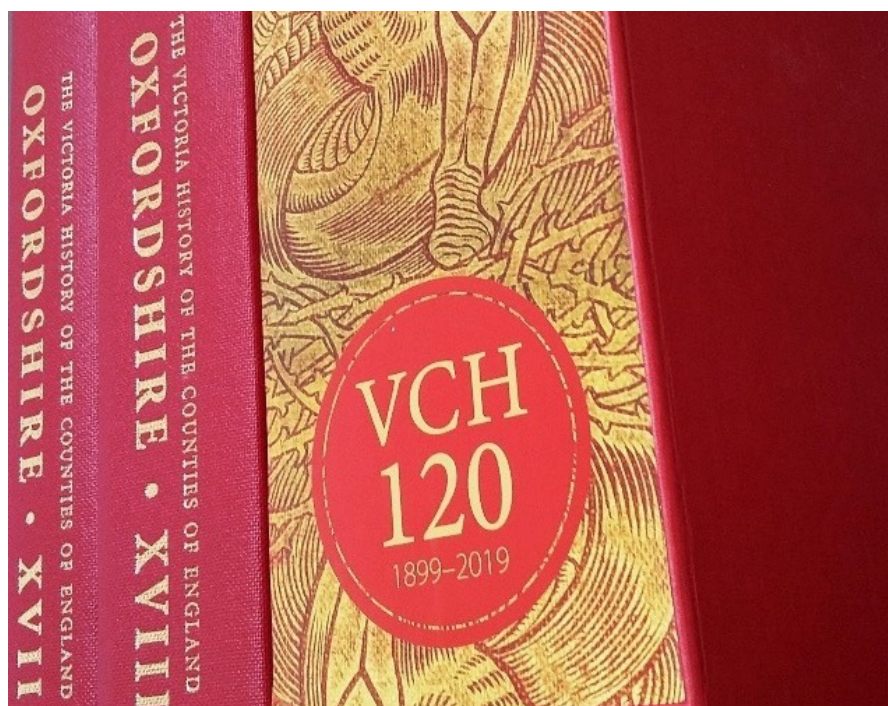
The full survey report of The Gables, OBR Report 383, will be shortly be available to read in the members' area of the OBR website.

Bibliography

Brunskill, R.W., 1997, *Houses and Cottages of Britain, Origins and Development of Traditional Buildings*, New Haven and London

Paul Clark (Photos © OBR members)

Marking 120 years of the Victoria County History



The VCH as a national enterprise celebrates its 120th birthday this year – having originally been conceived as a ‘national project’ to mark Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee (hence the name).

The VCH as a whole is marking the event with a light-hearted ‘Red Box project’ intended to encourage people to celebrate the history of their county. Every county with an active VCH has a ‘Red Box’ modelled on the famous VCH Red Books – to be filled with as wide a range as possible of small objects symbolising some aspect of the county’s history, landscape, places, and communities, from prehistory to the present. All the boxes will form part of an exhibition at the Institute of Historical Research in London in the autumn, as well as forming a permanent digital exhibition

We don’t want objects as yet, just creative and original ideas for what to include – which can be as odd, as obvious, or as unexpected as you like provided they highlight a significant theme or event, are not unique, irreplaceable, or perishable, and have no great monetary value (so not the Watlington Hoard, please!). Objects somehow encapsulating the county’s varied vernacular building traditions would be especially appropriate from OBR members.

Please send any thoughts and suggestions (including how objects can be accessed) to simon.townley@history.ox.ac by the end of July. We shall make a final choice during August, ready to return the box to VCH Central Office.

Simon Townley

The VCH/OBR Hook Norton Project

As part of its work on the Hook Norton area – now in its early stages – the Victoria County History is teaming up with the OBR to investigate Hook Norton's buildings. VCH work on the wider area will take place over several years, and we hope to incorporate some volunteer recording in Hook Norton a little further down the line, once some key buildings have been identified. In doing that we are fortunate to have the enthusiastic support of Hook Norton Local History Group and of Hook Norton Museum (based in the Brewery Centre), which gives us an invaluable link with the local community.

This is a predominantly stone-built area, whose key features were summarised in Raymond Wood-Jones's classic study of *Traditional Domestic Architecture of the Banbury Region* (Manchester 1963). One of many questions to address is whether Wood-Jones's conclusions require modification in the light of more recent work and of whatever we find in Hook Norton. More specifically, is there a particular 'Hook Norton' vernacular, and if so how does it relate to features in surrounding villages and in Chipping Norton as the dominant market town? Are the village's buildings mostly 17th-century and later (as they superficially appear to be), or are there hidden cores behind later facades? – and if so were those of stone, timber, or other materials? How do surviving domestic, farm, and industrial buildings relate to the village's wider social and economic history (as researched by the VCH), and can we identify any periods of concentrated building activity? Can buildings be related to the evidence of probate inventories, which are being transcribed and analysed on our behalf by the Oxfordshire Probate Group? Plenty more questions are bound to emerge.

So far a small group has carried out a short external examination, which we plan to follow up with a few brief and targeted internal visits. The next stage will be to draw up more detailed recording plans – so watch out for items in future newsletters. The VCH's initial draft on Hook Norton's wider history will appear on the VCH Oxfordshire website early in 2020, to be revised before publication in the light of whatever comes out of the OBR work. The website also has information on the volume as a whole (which will include Chipping Norton), together with draft texts for our South Oxfordshire Chilterns volume, which will appear late in 2021. Our Wychwood area volume will be published this autumn.



Lincolns Inn in Hook Norton, with its characteristic gable-end windows (offset to accommodate the stack), and its rounded stair tower. Like many Hook Norton houses it seems originally to have been entered from the rear. (Interior not yet inspected.)

Simon Townley

Forthcoming Events

OBR recording days

We hope to have a number of recording days this summer - open to members of all experience levels. Dates will be circulated by email, so please make sure we have your up-to-date email address.

OBR Presentation Day

This will be on Saturday 9 November in the Canterbury Room of St. Thomas of Canterbury church in Goring. The afternoon presentations will be preceded by the usual morning walkabout followed by lunch.

Concert in the church in Nuneham Courtenay Park

A concert of Bach cello suites will be held at 8pm on Saturday 27 July, in aid of the Churches Conservation Trust. The classically designed church was built in the 1760's within the gardens of Nuneham Park House. Booking details on the flyer which is appended to this newsletter.

Oxford Architectural & Historical Society Oxfordshire Local History Association

See websites (http://www.oahs.org.uk/new_program.php and (<http://www.olha.org.uk/events/talks-and-meetings/>) for listings and details of events, and talks.

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
[DRAFT]
NINETEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Oxfordshire Buildings Record held on Saturday 1 June 2019 at 11.30am at the Village Hall, Finstock.

The Chairman, Paul Clark, was in the chair. The following members were present: Vic and Barbara Allison, Laurence Balbes, Mark and Janet Casson, David Clark, Jan Cliffe, Kathy Davies, Richard Farrant, John and Sue Hine, Heather Horner, Mary Lale, Abigail Lloyd, Melody Mobus, Tim and Isabel Peacock, Cliff Potter, Cynthia Robinson, John Steane, Simon Townley, Donna Thynne, David Wheeler.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Malcolm Airs, Richard Bidgood. David and Sue Fielding, Mary Finch, Catherine Hitchens, Tim Horton, Chris Howlett, David Hughes, Ken Hume, Felix Lam, Anthony Loehnis, Debbie Mundy, Helena Nielsen, Sue Richards and Russell Weston.

2. Minutes of the eighteenth AGM on 12 May 2018. No amendments were suggested and adoption was proposed by S Townley, seconded by D Thynne, and approved *nem con*. They were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. Matters arising.

a. Training bursary scheme

The Chairman reported that this was now in its second year and we hoped to offer another in 2020. An announcement would be made in the newsletter.

4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year 2018.

The Treasurer, Tim Peacock, tabled copies of the accounts for 2018. The excess of receipts over payments had been some £950, partly due to one-off items such as a refund of website hosting costs (£227). During the year there had been income and expenditure on archaeological work at Chipping Norton castle, and a contribution of £200 had been made for dendrochronology at Letcombe Bassett. The unrestricted bank balances at the year end totalled £10,400.

Tim thanked members for their donations and Malcolm Lucas for examining the accounts.

Responding to a question about OBR's plans for using the accumulated surplus, the Secretary said that as well as the bursary scheme and occasional dendrochronology, the committee were exploring the potential for photogrammetry equipment and software for recording details at height.

J Cliffe proposed, and C Robinson seconded a motion to accept the accounts. This was carried *nem con*.

5. Secretary's Report.

The Secretary, David Clark, reported that 23 building reports had been completed in 2018. These included more buildings from the Chipping Norton project on Early Fabric in Historic Towns, some houses examined in the Wychwood area for the Victoria County History, in Appleton for their local archaeological research project and more buildings in Abingdon, where the results are being published on the Town Council's website www.abingdon.gov.uk/partners/history.

Opportunities for group recording days were fewer than usual. A successful training day at Hockmore Cottages in Cowley, was reported on at last year's Presentation Day. We also recorded the important medieval cruck-framed barn at Rectory Farm, Letcombe Bassett, for which Dan Miles had produced a felling date of 1391/2. We also on that day had a demonstration of photogrammetry equipment. The recording days continue to attract a good cross-section of members, and are the main way in which we try to develop recording skills.

As ever, individual OBR members had also been active on their own initiative in recording interesting local features and buildings at risk. Some members also worked professionally on recording projects.

As was reported last year, work to get our building reports into a form suitable for archiving at the Oxfordshire History Centre had continued, and the first 50 reports were now in their archive. This involved much detailed admin to ensure all necessary permissions were in place, and he thanked Donna for her hard work on this. He hoped the next 50 would be ready for deposit later in the year. OBR regarded this as a priority, since there were now almost 400 building reports, which we need to get into the public domain for other researchers to use.

He recorded thanks to Tim Peacock for his work on the website – now including an interactive map showing buildings recorded. Donna had also been active in posting snippets of information on the OBR Facebook page.

Although there were no OBR excursions in 2018, he thanked OAHS for allowing OBR members to join their excellent programme – run by John and Sue Hine. OBR has also joined the Oxfordshire Local History Association (OLHA) who also organise events and excursions – and members were urged to subscribe to their monthly newsletter to learn about these.

Dan Miles was the OBR lecturer last year, giving us a marvellous round-up of the results of some 30 years of tree-ring dating work in Oxfordshire which has added significantly to our understanding of carpentry techniques and structures in the county from the Middle Ages onwards.

6. Membership Secretary's Report: Paul reported that membership numbers continued to show a steady growth: 19 new members had been recruited in the year

making a total of 194, 4 of which were corporate. The deaths of two members, Paul Jacques and Richard Faircliff were noted with sadness.

7. Election of Officers and Committee for 2019/20: The Chairman declared that nominations had been received for Paul Clark as Chairman, David Clark as Secretary and Tim Peacock as Treasurer. There being no further nominations, J Casson proposed and K Davies seconded a motion that they all be elected. There being no objections, he declared them duly elected.

Offering themselves for election to the committee were:

Kathy Davies, Richard Farrant (Newsletter Editor), Heather Horner, David Hughes, Donna Thynne (Archivist) and Simon Townley. There being no further nominations, J Cliffe proposed and M Mobus seconded a motion that they be elected en bloc. This was agreed *nem con*.

The Chairman noted that John Steane had been a co-opted member and we hoped he would continue to act in this role. We also proposed to co-opt Felix Lam, who had offered to help with OBR events.

8. Election of Examiner. Malcolm Lucas was proposed by H Horner and seconded by K Davies. There being no other nomination, he was declared duly elected. A vote of thanks to Malcolm for his work was passed unanimously.

9. Any other business:

- a. In response to a question about group recording days, the Secretary said that the main reason for the low number in 2018 had been a lack of suitable buildings – size and challenge were needed. It was hoped to have days at Combe Mill, Cogges Manor Farm and in Hook Norton later in the year.
- b. It was suggested that a poster – aimed both at new members and new buildings – be designed for circulation to the county's libraries.
- c. In response to a proposal that the OBR newsletter be circulated to all the county's local history groups, the Secretary pointed out that as it was designed for members, the committee would need to consider this suggestion in the light of any privacy issues that might arise with a wider circulation.

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

D R Clark, Secretary, 2 June 2019

OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR OF 2018 (1 JAN TO 31 DEC)

WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR

		2017			2018		
RECEIPTS		RESTRICTED £	UNRESTRICTED £	TOTAL £	RESTRICTED £	UNRESTRICTED £	TOTAL £
GRANT	(1) English Heritage	-		-	740.00		740.00
NORMAL INCOME	joining fees		45.00	45.00		60.00	60.00
	subs.		950.00	950.00		1,017.00	1,017.00
	members' donations		568.00	568.00		578.90	578.90
	visits & contrib. for meetings		540.00	540.00		610.45	610.45
	training courses		-	-		-	-
	gift aid tax refund		229.43	229.43		246.53	246.53
	interest		4.97	4.97		8.14	8.14
	other		-	-		257.77	257.77
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	-	2,337.40	2,337.40	740.00	2,778.79	3,518.79
PAYMENTS							
FROM GRANT	Chipping Norton	157.96		157.96	542.11		542.11
PAYMENTS FROM NORMAL INCOME	general admin.		-	-		108.44	108.44
	visits & meetings		874.20	874.20		925.40	925.40
	web		136.57	136.57		162.96	162.96
	recruiting & publicity		340.00	340.00		-	-
	training courses		-	-		85.00	85.00
	equipment maint.		66.85	66.85		-	-
	recording consumables		-	-		-	-
	insurance		195.80	195.80		206.30	206.30
	CBA affiliation		70.50	70.50		73.50	73.50
	other		131.00	131.00		466.00	466.00
	TOTAL PAYMENTS	157.96	1,814.92	1,972.88	542.11	2,027.60	2,569.71
	EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	-157.96	522.48	364.52	197.89	751.19	949.08
BALANCES		RESTRICTED £	UNRESTRICTED £	TOTAL £	RESTRICTED £	UNRESTRICTED £	TOTAL £
OPENING BALANCE AT BANK							
	CAF deposit account	750.00	8,473.67	9,223.67	592.04	9,565.03	10,157.07
	NatWest current account	-	665.03	665.03	-	96.15	96.15
	OPENING TOTAL OF ALL ACCOUNTS	750.00	9,138.70	9,888.70	592.04	9,661.18	10,253.22
CURRENT BALANCE AT BANK							
	CAF deposit account	592.04	9,565.03	10,157.07	789.93	10,188.98	10,978.91
	NatWest current account	-	96.15	96.15	-	223.39	223.39
	CLOSING TOTAL OF ALL ACCOUNTS	592.04	9,661.18	10,253.22	789.93	10,412.37	11,202.30
	CHANGE IN BALANCE AT BANK			364.52			949.08

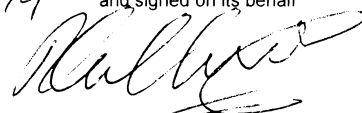
(1) OBR acting as payment stage for English Heritage.

This statement of receipts and payments was approved by the Executive Committee on

16th May 19

and signed on its behalf

Paul Clark (Chair)



EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

I have examined the statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 December 2018 and I certify that it is in accordance with the records, vouchers and information supplied to me.

Malcolm Lucas



date: 27 May 2019.

Commentary to the accounts for the year 2018

The accounts are shown for 2018, with the 2017 figures for comparison. Each year contains three columns, 'restricted', 'unrestricted', and 'total'. The 'restricted' column is used for the HE funded project at Chipping Norton. The OBR acts as agent for the project and these funds do not belong to the OBR.

The excess of receipts over payments for 2018 was £949.08, compared to £364.52 the previous year and this deserves some explanation. £197.89 of the excess is in the restricted Chipping Norton account and £751.19 in the OBR's own account. The Chipping Norton excess was due to grants from HE and the CBA Mick Aston fund, some of which remained in the account at year end. In fact, ignoring the movements in the restricted account the OBR excess is £751.19, compared to £522.48 the previous year. The difference is largely accounted for by the refunded £227.77 for web costs, following a renegotiation in 2017 (as noted in the commentary to 2017's accounts).

Income from membership fees and donations was up slightly from the previous year. Once again we received generous donations which took our total donation income above that of the previous year.

There are two notable items in the outgoings. Firstly we used £200 for dendrochronology analysis of a C14 cruck barn we recorded at Letcombe Bassett. That sum was matched by the property owner. Secondly, there was a grant to the Chipping Norton project which has been trying to ascertain the role of the castle in the life of the town. We agreed a £200 grant to help with costs for archaeological surveys as an 'enabler'.

In 2018 we experimented with a small bursary scheme for training, and this explains the resurrection of the "training courses" category. The OBR will continue this scheme in 2019.

Our "general admin" costs in the year were £108.44 in contrast with zero the previous year. This was for printing, postage, and stationery costs incurred by committee members. Some of these were actually incurred by the claimant in the preceding year.

Tim Peacock,

Treasurer.

A photograph of a large, ornate metal church door with intricate scrollwork and a semi-circular transom window above it. The door is set in a light-colored stone wall.

Cello in the Church

Benjamin Dry will play solo Bach Suites on the cello in this beautiful church on Saturday 27th July 2019 at 8pm

Tickets £10 from www.wegotickets.com (plus £1 booking fee) or reserve a seat and pay cash on the evening by emailing dmundy@thecct.org.uk. Proceeds to The Churches Conservation Trust.

The concert will take place at the Old All Saints Church, Nuneham Park, Nuneham Courtenay, Oxfordshire, OX44 9PQ. Free parking in the Global Retreat car park. There is no toilet at this venue.

