



The recording team assembles at Hardwick House © H. Horner

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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 on our website: [www.obr.org.uk](http://www.obr.org.uk)

## OBR News:

### Recording Hardwick House

At the invitation of its very hospitable (and long suffering) owner, a team of OBR recorders descended on Hardwick House, on the outskirts of Banbury, in late January. The team split into three groups, two for the roofs and one for everything below attic level. This large house has been repeatedly added to (and probably subtracted from), and theories abounded both within each group and between them as to which part came first, how old each was, and whether its original footprint extended into the garden. Dendrochronology is underway, although how much that will help, given that one roof extensively reused old timbers, remains to be seen. A revisit to test early theories has taken place, adding another layer of debate! When the report is eventually finished it should make interesting reading.

### Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2016 became due on 1st January. The subscription remains at £5. Most members pay automatically by Bankers Order. Those who do not and have not yet paid should send in their subscriptions, preferably using the tear off slip at the end of this issue.

### Forthcoming Annual General Meeting

The 2016 AGM will be held at Crowmarsh Gifford on Sunday, 15th May. The usual format will apply: meet at 11.00 for coffee in the village hall (where cars can be parked for the day); AGM at 11.30; lunch in the Queen's Head pub; guided promenade in the afternoon around the village, hopefully followed by tea back at the Queen's Head about 4pm. Please see the detachable flyer at the end of this issue for the agenda, map and booking form.

## The beauty of cob

Cob building is an ancient building technique dated as far back as 10,000 years ago. Throughout human history 'earth' has been used to create all manner of structures: dwellings and settlements, religious buildings and even the Great Wall of China. From the Stone Age (8000 BC) until the industrial revolution (1780AD) earth building was very popular in Europe. Post-Second World War saw the decline in popularity of earth building in Europe, but there remain plenty of cob structures in Oxfordshire. So what is it? Why use it? How do you use it for house building?

Cob is clay, sand and straw, which has been trampled and stomped on. In the UK cob buildings are evident in many counties, most have different names for cob, (for example 'Clob' in Berkshire, 'Clay Lump' in East Anglia, 'Shuttered Earth' in Norfolk and 'Mud' in Ireland) but it is almost always the same material, with a slight difference in application. Old cob buildings usually have a moulded aspect, surmounted by thatched roofs, and always look like a beautiful old cottage from a picture postcard.

Why use it? In a nutshell, it is the ultimate low technology vernacular building material. The raw materials are readily available locally and the constructional techniques are simple.

It is also robust apart from its susceptibility to running water, provides very good insulation from cold, is a breathing material so not susceptible to condensation, and has good fire resistance (excluding the thatched roof which usually accompanies it). What follows is a present day cob builder's guide to using cob.

Cob is made up from 3 part sand, 1 part clay and 8-10 handfuls of straw; water is used to assist mixing. Once well mixed the consistency should be one that is hard to stomp through. Cob that is too wet is no good; cob that is too dry is very hard to work with. A 'drop test' can be used to test the consistency of your mix. Roll a 'tennis ball' of cob and drop from waist height. It should stay firmly together in a dome shape on the ground. Now you are ready to build.

It is essential to keep ground water away from a cob wall, so well drained foundations are needed. There are a few foundation methods for a cob build: the 'Rubble trench foundation', the 'French drain skirt' and a 'poured lime-crete footing'. I like to use the rubble trench foundation personally, 3 foot deep by 700mm wide. The trench is filled with rubble with your drainage pipe running through the bottom rubble.

A 'stem wall' of impermeable material adds further protection for the cob above it. Two feet high is perfectly sufficient; it should be 100mm slimmer than the foundations to ensure optimum weight bearing on to the rubble. Any kind of stone can be used for a stem wall. I prefer to use locally sourced stone with a natural lime mortar. Dry stone walling is great too. On top of this wall sits the cob wall.

A cob wall is built in 'lifts'; each lift should be no more than two feet high; one lift needs a week to dry before the next lift is built on top. The cob wall is shaped using 'stomping down' by standing on the wall, and 'cutting off' using an old saw and spirit level to shape the edges into a perfectly vertical wall. A pounding log tool can also be used for shaping. The cob wall needs to have a skirt overhang for the stem wall below it on the outside edge of the build, to allow any water to drip off the cob without hitting the stem wall. So the cob wall is actually wider than the stem wall it sits on. Windows and doors can be installed by simply cobbing around them to an airtight standard. 'Dead man blocks' are a good way of giving doors and windows some binding strength; these are nails or screws sticking out from a block that is attached to the door or window. Once the cob walls are built to the desired height, the roof can be built directly on to the cob walls. The walls will take up to 3 months to fully dry through but are perfectly strong enough to build on after the final lift has had a week to dry.

A wooden wall plate must be used on or in the top of the cob walls to ensure even distribution of the weight of the roof, and as an attachment point for the roof structure. Any kind of roof can be used, with thatch most common, not least because roofs must have an overhang of at least 450mm to ensure rainwater has adequate clearance from the walls as it falls to the ground.

Cob can also be used as an 'Earthen floor', made up of gravel and cob layers, a clay finish, linseed oil and beeswax to create a beautiful 100% natural and well insulated floor.

Cob builds are well suited to the warmer months as frosts must be avoided while the cob is wet. Similarly to using cement for a conventional brick wall; you should not build the walls



in any temperatures below 4 degrees Celsius. It is a good idea to start a cob build in March-April and aim to finish in September-October.

All that is needed now is a lime plaster inside and a lime render outside. This is natural hydraulic lime mixed with sand and splatted on to a dampened wall. Once smoothed with a trowel the walls can be left to dry, then finished with a natural paint, made from a lime wash and pigment of your desired colour. This always results in a beautiful finish to a natural home that has numerous health benefits, is high in energy efficiency and can be 'passive house certified', a home that has an extremely low carbon footprint, living with its environment instead of damaging it.

Lastly, how is cob so strong? Each raw material in a Cob mix has an important part to play in providing a very strong and stable microscopic structure. Clay particles are microscopic and form tiny platelets; when water is added to the clay it gets between these platelets and pushes them apart. Eventually the water evaporates from between these platelets and they shrink and bind closer together forming a hard mass.

Sand and aggregates are added to the clay when it is wet. These are much larger particles of various sizes giving the mixture more mass and limiting shrinkage. These particles fit together like a jigsaw puzzle with the clay providing a cohesive bond between them. The addition of sand and aggregates also helps prevent water from eroding or damaging the material, thereby vastly improving durability.

We also add fibres, typically strong stable cereal crop stems e.g straw. Fibres interrupt tiny cracks if they should develop and prevent them from growing larger and cracking the material. The fibres also act as reinforcement giving tensile strength to the material.

*Luke Morris*

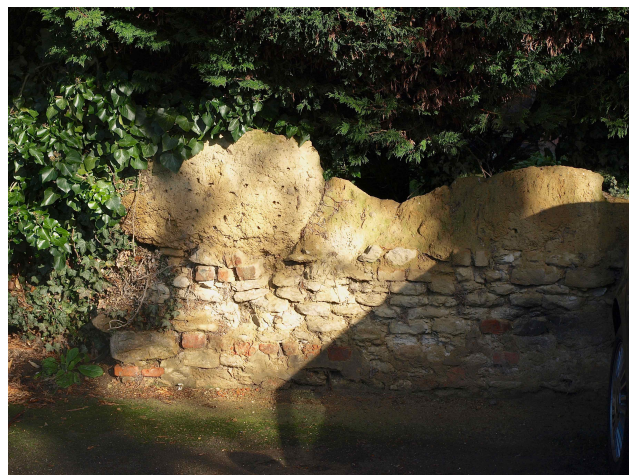
[*Editorial note:* The author manages Eco Earth Builds Limited in Witney. For further information see his website [www.ecoearthbuilds.com](http://www.ecoearthbuilds.com)]



**Two cob walls in Dorchester © R. Farrant**

**From this...**

**...to this; just add water**



## Book review: “Domestic Culture in early Modern England”, by Antony Buxton

Published 2015 by the Boydell Press, Woodbridge, Suffolk. ISBN 978-1-78327-041-5. £75

This is a book about Thame, observed through 188 probate inventories of non-elite households in the seventeenth century. It thus excludes observation of the elite section of society on which most history concentrates, instead focussing on what might be described as the middle classes. It is based on the PhD work undertaken by the author, who lectures at Oxford University’s Department for Continuing Education at Rewley House. The inventories contain some 27,000 objects, the location of which within a house is usually identified.

The introduction betrays its PhD origin, in being an intellectually weighty analysis of how much reliance can be safely placed on such inventories as a source of information about the past. In the author’s words, “...the aim was to create a conceptual framework within which the domestic culture could be theorised, interpreted and comprehended.” For the typical Oxfordshire Buildings Record member this will be the least interesting part of the book. Of course, it is a very important issue, but at times its exploration reminded me of the agony of 3 year’s undergraduate Oxford philosophy tuition long ago. Clearly, one has to be cautious about drawing too many inferences from a narrow slice of evidence, but I was fully convinced of this after one page, and while the next 20 pages of the introduction may have been necessary to persuade the PhD examiners of this, they were not necessary for me.

But don’t be deterred. For most readers the meat will start after the introduction. And there is real interest here. Buxton first seeks to set Thame and its residents in the context of its physical surroundings and economic, social and cultural environment, drawing on a variety of contemporary sources as well as modern studies. He seeks to narrow this down to the domestic level of individual households, arguing “The domestic sphere is one which forms an important source for historical research and is regarded as a fundamental component in early modern society, and yet not infrequently it is taken simply as a given part of that wider world, its internal dynamics unexplored, its characteristics restricted to a brief description and definitions privileging certain aspects, as a residential group, as a dwelling space or as an economic unity...It may thus be profitable, whilst recognising the variation in its form and operation through time and place, to attempt to discern core characteristics in order to determine its *modus operandi* and to understand the role that the domestic group plays in human life.”

This observation certainly caused me some pause for thought in the context of typical OBR work. In our focus on recording the physical attributes of a building, the details and dating of its construction and subsequent alteration, do we think enough about how people went about their lives within that building, what its contents might have been, and where they were located? Do we think enough about how the building really worked for its residents and users? If you think these are worthwhile questions, this book will interest you. Contemporary independently observed factual evidence of probate inventories offers a more intimate picture of what life must have been like for the average citizen than the more usual top down historical narratives,.

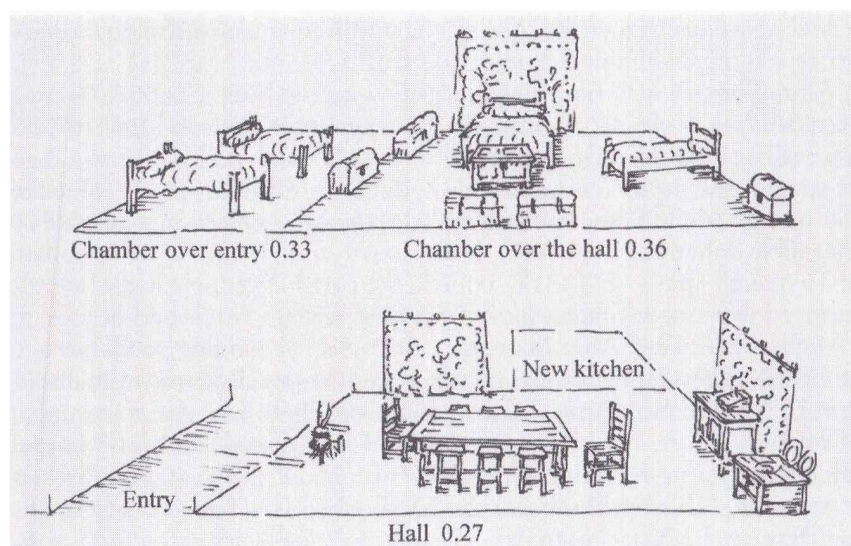
It is easy to forget how small communities were in the seventeenth century. Thame's population in 1600 was about 800, rising to some 1,500 by the end of the century. The villages forming its economic hinterland usually had less than 200. Yet Buxton argues convincingly that Thame was not a rural backwater. It had one of the principal markets in the region, set in a fertile vale. Of the total of 188 inventories studied, 5 were of "gentlemen", 6 of clerics, 41 of yeomen, 12 of husbandmen, 5 of agricultural labourers, 17 of traders, 31 of artisan-traders, 23 of artisans, 37 of widows/spinsters (and 11 not specified). The value of furnishings of gentlemen and clerics was double or more of that of yeomen, traders, artisan-traders and widow/spinsters, and 3 to 4 times that of the rest. There was less inequality between these categories in terms of how many (on average) dwelling rooms they had: 6.5 for gentlemen; around 4 for clerics, traders and artisan-traders; around 3 for artisans and widow-spinsters; 2 for husbandmen; and just over 1 for agricultural labourers. Of course, probate evidence takes no account of the majority of people who died with insufficient possessions to warrant a probate inventory. In looking through the OBR prism of the houses that still stand, it is very easy to forget that the bulk of the population lived in houses with 1 or at most 2 dwelling rooms, long disappeared.

The identification of the different rooms in which different belongings were found is an invaluable feature of most of the probates, enabling the author to analyse in some detail how different spaces in the house were used. The author has separate chapters on foodstuff provisioning, processing and cooking, socialising, and rest and security, cataloguing typical objects for each activity, describing their use and their location. From this he draws out common features of the practice and domestic culture of the Thame household at different economic and social levels of its society. Because the inventory evidence spans the whole of the seventeenth century, he is able to discern developments in the use of space, notably the diminishing importance of the hall and increasing reliance on kitchens, chambers and bedrooms as specialised spaces. A likely consequence was that within the house social interaction became more compartmentalised, a process still evident today as teenage children flounce off to play computer games in their bedrooms on their own rather than socialise with their parents downstairs!

Some thought provoking snippets emerge from all this. For example, the evidence of location of cooking implements suggests that, particularly in the first half of the century, kitchens were primarily for food preparation, with the hall continuing to be used for actual cooking, because that was where the fire was. How does that fit with our eagerness to identify outbuildings with hearths as detached kitchens, rather than spaces for a more specific artisanal purpose?

To help draw together the evidence to form a picture of different Thame households, the author has a series of helpful artist impressions of dwellings and furnishings of particular householders, as evidenced in their probate inventories. For example, three levels of persons involved in agriculture:

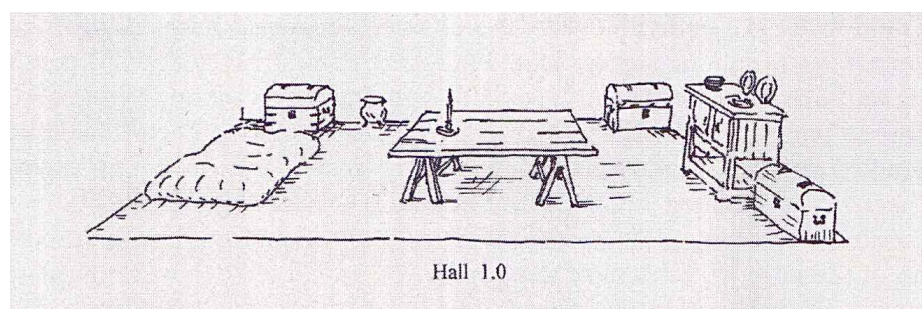
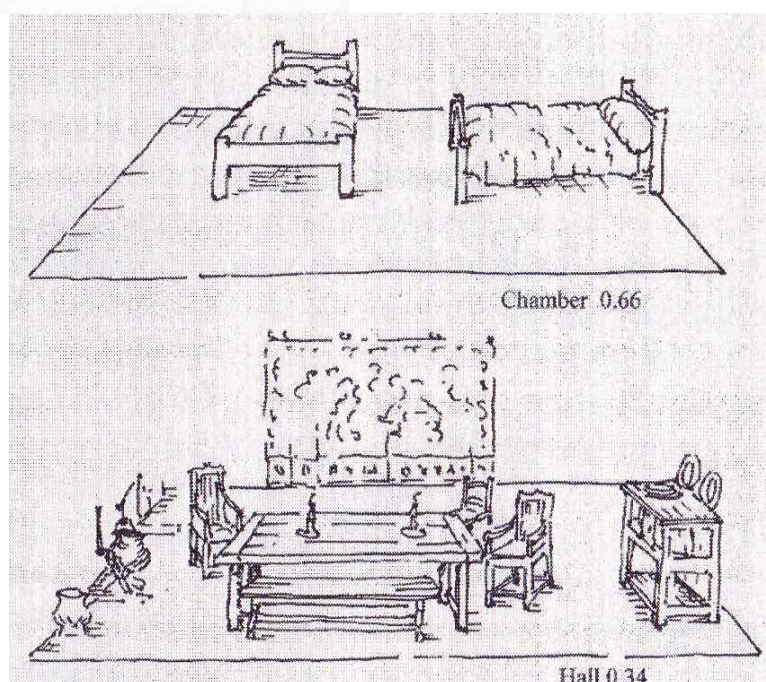




**Dwelling & furnishing of  
John Corner, yeoman, 1619**  
© A. Buxton

**Dwelling & furnishings of John  
Simons, husbandman, 1605**

© A. Buxton



**Dwellings & furnishings  
of Thomas Francklin,  
labourer, 1611**

© A. Buxton

In conclusion, there is much here to interest the OBR member. But its precise intellectual style favours long words and it is not the easiest of reads. The following extract illustrates what I mean, and summarises his observations on domesticity within the home (there being much more taking a wider span): "The domestic world revealed here is one which was in many ways alien from the present day, where reproduction, subsistence, economic labour and commensality all occurred within one dwelling, housing not only the nuclear family but also sundry associates, servants, and possibly relatives...However...the Thame household was not a standardised institution, but manifested considerable variation according to status,

in space and through time. As the number of rooms and the spatial options increased [as the century progressed], so it appears did distinctions between the mundane and the social, and discrimination within the social sphere. The messy, odorous and mundane processes which supported the subsistence of the household were distanced, thereby also detaching the women and domestics from the hall, the traditional heart of the dwelling, and its social body. The addition of a parlour or chambers provided opportunities for retirement and social distinction within the household. The elaboration of internal physical divisions thus fostered social differentiation, people ordering and being ordered by their material environment. Seventeenth century Thame domestic life was in this sense a house society, the building expressing the culture and identity of the social group.”

*Richard Farrant*

## Getting more from the documents

Having had a sneak preview of Richard’s review of Anthony Buxton’s book, I am prompted to add a couple of personal notes.

The first concerns the three categories of dwelling illustrated for yeoman, husbandman and labourer. It is important to recognise that these are measures of status, not necessarily of occupation, applied either to themselves or more often by their peers. The term ‘labourer’ is one which has changed its meaning in the intervening centuries. An ‘honest labouring man’ was independent, and had respect and status in the community. He was not the ‘Ag. Lab.’ of 19<sup>th</sup> C censuses, but closer to what we would now think of as a smallholder, working a subsistence holding of say 1 - 2 acres with a cow and a pig and some hens, a couple of strips in the open fields, and access to common land for grazing. This was the class which lost out at enclosure, when frequently the lease on their land not was renewed, forcing them to become day labourers, or move to the towns and factories.

Why do I feel I can talk about status? Because I too have read hundreds of 17<sup>th</sup> C inventories. As an active member of Oxfordshire Probate Group, we have transcribed thousands of wills and inventories into plain typeface, so that researchers can tabulate/sort/analyse the contents. Which brings me to my second point; we try to make our transcripts available to researchers, initially to Victoria County History staff and the Oxfordshire History Centre, then whoever needs them, though we have not yet found a reliable public website. The transcriptions used by Anthony were a product of a local history group in Thame, taught and led by the late Mary Hodges. Mary played a similar role in Woodstock, where the transcripts have been used in teaching the online Local History course run by OUDCE/Oxford Brookes. In her last project, Mary taught palaeography to a group based in Burford, coinciding with the time OBR contributed to the EPE volume on Burford [Catchpole, A. Clark, C. Peberdy, R. *Burford buildings and people in a Cotswold town*. Phillimore 2008]. I joined that group because I wanted to know how the buildings that fascinated me so much had been used by real people. I continue to be intrigued by the contents of the documents which were mostly produced for the probate process close to the time of death, wills frequently written on the deathbed, inventories soon after the death. Wills often tell you a lot about immediate family relationships (human nature hasn’t changed), and some inventories seem to have been produced only to prove to the creditors that there really was



nothing left for them. Most documents have something to tell us about how people thought of themselves, and the value they put on their possessions.

So my point? I'm glad Anthony has used the Thame transcriptions, and that the Woodstock transcriptions have been used for teaching. It would be nice, though, if more acknowledgement was made to the transcribers input of many thousands of hours of concentrated skill. I am not convinced that either Anthony or the OUDCE tutors give adequate credit to the source of their material. Maybe that is churlish of me; we do it because *we* get something out of it. We get to feel we know the people intimately. Some we can even hear speak, their vernacular accents reproduced in the phonetic spelling. Their possessions show us how they lived their lives and used the spaces in their dwellings. Their wills reveal family feuds as well as family ties.

*Heather Horner (wearing her Oxfordshire Probate Group hat)*

## Where are they?

Dan Miles seeks to identify the location of two pictures. If you think you know, email [newsletter@obr.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@obr.org.uk) and I will forward the information to Dan.

*Richard Farrant*





## Dendrodating elm

Martin Bridge has gained Heritage England funding to work on the dendrodating of elm, hitherto regarded as too unreliable. Part of this involves creation of a database of buildings that are known to have a mixture of oak and elm timbers. If you know of any candidates, email [newsletter@obr.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@obr.org.uk) and I will forward the information to him.

*Richard Farrant*

## A Place in the Sun

Insurance policies are an underutilised resource for building historians. There are good reasons for this – not many people insured their houses in the past, fire insurance marks are portable (and collectible) so may not relate to the house they are fixed to, only those of the Sun Fire Office have numbered plaques that can be related to policies, and finding the policy requires a visit to the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), which took over the documentation from the Guildhall Library a few years ago.





**Sun fire mark in  
Burford © D.  
Clark**

That's the bad news. The good news is that when you see a Sun Fire mark it has a number that is in fact the policy number and now the LMA have reached a milestone in their task of cataloguing these. They have just celebrated cataloguing 200 registers – but there is a long way to go. See <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/london-metropolitan-archives/the-collections/Pages/place-in-the-sun.aspx#> for a note on this project.

We have used these fire marks to good effect in a few buildings recorded over the years. The first was Lower Berrick Farm in South Oxfordshire, where the number (143347) led to an entry in the registers for a policy taken out on 29 October 1754 by Thomas Blackall, of Reading, a mealman. The policy noted that the house was tenanted by Edward Ansell, a farmer, and as well as the house, the insurance covered two barns, two stables, a pigeon house and a woodhouse. The house was described as 'stone and tiled'; the barns 'boarded and thatched' and the pigeon house, 'plaistor and tiled'. The premises were valued at £400, of which £280 represented the farmhouse. With the policy books to browse, this could be compared to the values of some other insured properties in the village, such as John Cotterell's thatched house and stable at £80 (possibly that of 2 hearths belonging to Elizabeth Coterill in 1665), Ann Wise's thatched house at £50 and Thomas Welles' dwelling house at £50.

Subsequent research suggested that the 17<sup>th</sup> century owner of Lower Berrick Farm might have been John Hambleden the younger. He died a rich man (his goods at death were valued at £1453 14s .5d.) in 1671, having made an extensive will in 1670. His main legacies were to John Barrett and his sister, Anne, John's mother. In the inventory taken after his death, there is an item for 'a flight of pigeons', valued at £4. All this led to the possibility that Hambleden was the owner of Lower Berrick Farm – pigeons and pigeon-house, no direct heirs and tenanted (and insured) house, rich man/large house. All this was circumstantial, until the Victoria County History turned their professional attention to the



village a couple of years ago, and indeed did manage to prove Hambledon's ownership. The insurance policy was a key document in the research.

In working on the buildings of Burford we noted some fire marks there. In particular there was a very early one, no.1710 on 20 High Street, a small cottage that had once been a blacksmith's shop. Sadly, this mark related to a property in London, no doubt bought by a previous owner and fixed to the building as a feature. Across the road on nos. 19/21 was another Sun Fire Office mark, this time in situ. This gave us the name of its owner in 1739, John Smith, a fellmonger – a dealer in hides, probably sheepskins, perhaps associated with the tannery nearby. It also provided the additional information that he also insured a stable and malthouse to the rear.

Finally, a Sun insurance mark of 1769 was noted on the wall of Tudor House, Steventon, which we investigated in great detail for the Vernacular Architecture group conference in 2011. This was an early medieval house, with a wing of 1299 on to which had been built a hall range on 1365. Its history had been the usual one in the village of a continuous record of transfers of copyholds noted in the court records still surviving in the Westminster Abbey archives. But in 1767 when Thomas Hayward its previous owner died, he left the house to his servant, Sarah Bosley, whose name appears on the insurance policy. We can only guess at the human story behind this bequest, and whether the responsibility of this large house was more of a burden to Sarah than a blessing – and hence the need to insure it. Yet Tudor House remained in her family until 1861 and is today one of the architectural gems of the village.



**Fire mark above window  
on Tudor house, Steventon**  
© D. Clark

So – if the house you are exploring has a Sun Fire Office mark, do note down the number and follow it up in the catalogue – if it does relate to your building it can often tell you an important part of the story.

*David Clark*

## Forthcoming Events

### Excursions

This year OBR will have no excursions, as we have not found a volunteer to act as excursions organiser. However, many of us are also members of OAHS, which has tours on 21 May, 11 June, 16 July, 13 August and 8 September. See [oahs.org.uk](http://oahs.org.uk) for details. These are restricted to OAHS members this year.

### Talk on St. Mary's Church, Chalgrove

Monday 4 April 7.15pm for 7.45. Graham Keevill talks about the conservation and renovation of the church following its completion. £4 (free for Chalgrove Local History Group).

### History of housing in Oxford

Day school at Rewley House on Saturday 14 May, with talks by Julian Mumby, David Clark, Liz Woolley, Malcolm Graham and Alan Berman. Department for Continuing Education in association with the Oxford Preservation Trust. See [www.conted.ox.ac.uk](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk) for details and booking.

### Courses at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum

Various day courses, including 'Deciphering old documents', Tudor farmhouse day in the Bayleaf farmhouse', 'Building technology before the saw and ruler', 'Documenting apotropaic and carpentry marks', English Brickwork: Tudor to Edwardian', 'Wattle and daub', and much more. [see.www.wealtdown.co.uk](http://see.www.wealtdown.co.uk) for details.

### Oxfordshire Past annual day

This annual day meeting will be held at the Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon from 1000 to 1600 on Saturday 4 June. £7; booking essential. See flyer at end.

*Copy dates are 1 March, 1 June, 1 September and 1 December. Please send any contributions or comments to Richard Farrant at [newsletter@obr.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@obr.org.uk)*

### Contact details

Membership – Paul Clark ([membership@obr.org.uk](mailto:membership@obr.org.uk))

General – David Clark ([secretary@obr.org.uk](mailto:secretary@obr.org.uk))

Newsletter - Richard Farrant ([newsletter@obr.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@obr.org.uk))

Webmaster – Barbara Creed ([admin@obr.org.uk](mailto:admin@obr.org.uk))

Website: [www.obr.org.uk](http://www.obr.org.uk)



**OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD****2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Dear Member

**If you have not yet paid your 2016 subscription, please use the tear-off slip to renew your membership or return the attached Bankers Order form** (see next page).

The subscription for 2016 remains at £5.00 and became due on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Kind Regards

Paul Clark

*Membership Secretary, Oxfordshire Buildings Record.*

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**OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD**

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**Mr Tim Peacock, OBR Treasurer**

## OXFORDSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD

### SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Oxfordshire Buildings Record will be held on Sunday 15 May 2015 in the village hall, Crowmarsh Gifford, starting at 11.30 am. See location map over. There is a car park on site, but car sharing is recommended. Coffee will be available from 11.00am. Guests are welcome but are not eligible to vote at the AGM.

Please let the Secretary know if you have any further items you wish to place on the agenda. Motions should be proposed and seconded.

**Illustrated: the Queen's Head at Crowmarsh Gifford, an aisled hall with base cruck dated to 1341**

### Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the fifteenth AGM on 16 May 2015 (on pp.22-24 of Oxon Recorder no.63 – if you have lost your copy, please visit [www.obr.org.uk](http://www.obr.org.uk) to download another).
3. Matters arising
4. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the years 2014 and 2015
5. Secretary's Report
6. Membership Secretary's Report
7. Newsletter Editor's Report
8. Election of Officers and Committee for 2016/17
 

The following Officers need to be elected at the AGM (present incumbent in brackets)  
 Chairman (Paul Clark),  
 Secretary (David Clark),  
 Treasurer (Tim Peacock).

The Committee currently consists of the following (present roles in brackets): Barbara Creed (webmaster), Richard Farrant (newsletter editor), Heather Horner, David Hughes, Simon Townley. All retire annually but are eligible for re-election. John Steane and Donna Thynne were co-opted members during the year, and Donna is standing for election.
10. Election of Auditor
 

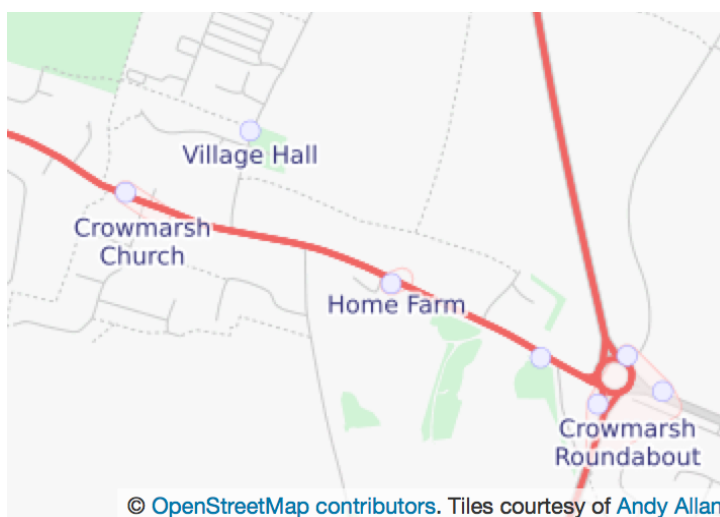
The OBR accounts examiner, Andrew Clements, has been nominated to the post.
11. Any other business

/over

If you would like to serve on the Committee, please complete the slip below and return it, if possible before the AGM to the Secretary, D Clark, 21 Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HQ.

**After the AGM, a buffet lunch will be provided in a marquee at the Queen's Head (at a cost of £9). Please complete the form below so we can plan lunch numbers.**

After lunch there will be a guided walk (starting about 2.00pm, finishing around 4pm) around Crowmarsh Gifford, led by Richard Lay. We are hoping that access to the Queen's Head can be arranged after 4pm, and this would be a good opportunity to have afternoon tea should you wish.



✂.....  
Nomination of candidate for election at the Annual General Meeting, 15 May 2016

.....(Name)

is nominated for Committee Membership\*/the post\* of.....

Proposed by.....Seconded by.....

I accept nomination and will serve as above if elected.....

Date.....2016

(\*delete as appropriate)

(signature of nominee)

Please return to D R Clark, 21 Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HQ ([secretary@obr.org.uk](mailto:secretary@obr.org.uk))

✂.....

Name.....e-mail.....phone.....

I intend to come to the AGM on 15 May, and would like to have lunch £9 ( ) Please specify number of people.

I enclose a cheque for .....

I should like a lift to Crowmarsh Gifford from..... I can offer a lift from.....(... places)

Please return to David Clark, 21 Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HQ (01865 516414; [secretary@obr.org.uk](mailto:secretary@obr.org.uk)) by 9 May.



## Oxfordshire Past 2016

**Oxfordshire Past 2016** will be held on Saturday 4 June at the Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon OX14 1NS, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. This popular annual event in the Oxfordshire calendar is for anyone interested in history, buildings and archaeology.

There are a limited number of parking spaces at the Northcourt Centre, and in residential streets nearby. Buses (X2, X3, X13) run frequently from St Aldates (stop H1) in Oxford; alight at the Boundary House and Northcourt Road is the 1st turning on the right. The Northcourt Centre is 6 minutes' walk from the bus stop.

Attendance at Oxfordshire Past costs £7 and must be booked in advance. This includes tea/coffee but not lunch. A packed lunch is recommended.

Time	Subject	Speaker
10.00	Welcome	Chris Day, OAHS
10.05	Reflections on County Archaeology in 2015	Susan Lisk, Oxon HER
10.35	Capability Brown in Oxfordshire	Joanna Matthews, Oxon Gardens Trust
11.05	<b>Coffee / tea</b>	
11.25	The Lost Paths Project	Tony Dale, Ramblers' Assocn
11.45	Excavations at the Westgate, Oxford	Ben Ford, Oxford Archaeology
12.15	Recent Archaeological Work in Oxford City	David Radford/ Jill Hind
12.30	<b>Lunch break and OAHS AGM</b>	
13.45	The Cinemas of Abingdon	Bob Frampton, AAHS
14.05	Current VCH Projects: an Update	Simon Townley, VCH
14.35	<b>Tea / coffee</b>	
14.55	Building Recording in Oxfordshire 2015/16	David Clark, OBR
15.25	The Blewbury Big Dig	Dave Carless, SOAG & Blewbury LHG
15.55	Closing address	Bob Evans, AAHS
16.00	<b>Close of Oxfordshire Past 2016</b>	

To book, please pay online at the website <http://oxfordshirepast.org/> which can be used by both O.A.H.S. members and non-members;

OR send a cheque for £7 payable to 'Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society' to Adrienne Rosen, 5 Field House Drive, Oxford OX2 7NT.

If paying by post, please assume receipt as no acknowledgement will be sent.

Oxfordshire Past is organised by O.A.H.S.  
in association with other Oxfordshire societies and organisations  
**[www.oahs.org.uk](http://www.oahs.org.uk)**