

Dear OBR member,

The Oxfordshire Buildings Record recently held its 2025 Annual General Meeting, where several members of the committee stood down and new members were elected.

As the first bulletin from the new committee, we want first of all to thank and acknowledge the huge contribution of former Chairman Paul Clark, Secretary David Clark and Treasurer David Hughes. They have been an inspiration and created an incredible record of over 500 buildings in Oxfordshire - a legacy which we hope to continue and grow.

All three are continuing to be actively involved in the group, with David Clark and Paul Clark remaining on the committee.

This bulletin includes:

- Upcoming Building Forum - Wednesday 16 July, 7.30pm
- OBR's 2025 Annual General Meeting
- Introducing the new members of the OBR Committee 2025

Upcoming Buildings Forum

Wednesday 16 July, 7.30pm via Zoom



Incoming committee member Martha Bailey will be chairing the next Buildings Forum on Wed 16 July at 7.30-8.30pm, via Zoom.

The evening is an informal 'surgery' where OBR members and guests can bring along their building-related curiosities, queries and discoveries. The Forum provides an open space to encourage the sharing and growth of knowledge of all who attend.

We are keen to widen participation (and perhaps attract new members!). If you know anyone who might be interested, please do pass on the meeting link:

Topic: Oxfordshire Buildings Forum
Time: Jul 16, 2025 07:30 PM London
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2259892360?pwd=iFAeI6wnRclAqnkg9CGIkk1TwCS8Q5.1&omn=85695807424
Meeting ID: 225 989 2360
Passcode: 314260

Attendees are encouraged to contribute items in advance. A loose agenda will be circulated ahead of the meeting to help direct the discussion. However, this is an informal forum and we also welcome additional discussion points on the night.

To contribute items in advance, please email secretary@obr.org.uk (ideally by Fri 13 July) with any building-related pictures or queries you would like to raise. Images can be shared on the night via Zoom's Share Screen function.

OBR's 2025 Annual General Meeting

Saturday 17 May, Abingdon Guildhall and Abbey



The 2025 Annual General Meeting took place on a gloriously sunny May day in Abingdon. Once the business of the AGM was concluded, the members were given a fascinating talk on the history and development of the Guildhall, before being led on a visit around the intriguing remains of Abingdon Abbey by outgoing Secretary David Clark. David took us into the vaulted undercroft, the Checker, Checker Hall (Unicorn Theatre) and the guesthouse. Members were able to undertake some building archaeology to identify subsequent phases and speculate on former uses.

The minutes of the AGM can be found here.

Introducing the new members of the 2025 OBR Committee

Following the 2025 Annual General Meeting, OBR now has the biggest committee since its foundation, and we have three new officers: Abigail Lloyd (Chair), Nick Wright (Secretary) and Boris van der Ree (Treasurer and Membership Secretary). Existing committee members David Clark, Paul Clark, Simon Townley, Heather Horner, Sally Stradling and Kathy Davies have been joined by new members Harriet Still (Engagement Officer), Dan Miles, Martha Bailey and Julian Munby.

This Bulletin introduces all our new committee members - future Bulletins will offer a refresher on the rest of the committee.



Boris van der Ree

Treasurer and Membership Secretary

OBR member since 2024

A recently joined member of OBR, Boris trained as a conservation carpenter/joiner in London, before moving to Oxfordshire and working as a Conservation Officer in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. He has recently moved councils to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, where he continues to build on his experience of heritage legislation and local policy. In his spare time, he has been using his heritage skills to restore his flat in Abingdon's historic Market Place.



Dan Miles

Committee Member

OBR member since before 2002

Dan was a founding partner of Oxford Dendro Lab and has extensively dated hundreds of historic building timbers across the country through dendrochronology, building an incredible data set. This catalogue of tree-rings has become a keystone to OBR's ability to understand the evolution of building styles across the region. He also recorded the cruck houses in *The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England* (Alcock and Miles, Oxbow 2013). Many of you will recognise him from his work at our recording days, most recently at The Abbey in Sutton Courtenay.





Harriet Still

Engagement Officer

OBR member since 2024

Harriet joined Donald Insall Associates Oxford office as a buildings researcher in 2022. She previously worked in museums as a curator and for the National Trust, looking after Hardy's Cottage and Clouds Hill. She completed her MSt in Building History at University of Cambridge in 2024, specialising in jointed cruck buildings in the south west.

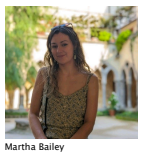


Julian Munby

Committee Member

OBR member since 2025

Julian is the former Head of Buildings Archaeology at Oxford Archaeology, where he worked from 1990 to 2020 on a wide range of historic buildings and environmental consultancy, including Conservation Plans. With a particular interest in medieval carpentry, he has published studies of Oxford buildings, cathedral and other major roofs, and on the archaeology of medieval and early modern carriages.



Martha Bailey

Committee Member

OBR member since 2023

Martha has worked as a heritage consultant with Purcell since 2022, and prior to this was a Project Coordinator at Historic England. She formerly volunteered with the Planning & Conservation Working Group at London Parks and Gardens, a regional branch of the Gardens Trust. Martha has an academic background in social history and is particularly interested in how the built environment shapes and reveals patterns of human experience and social interaction.

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