

# Oxford Pedestrians Association

**OXFORD PEDESTRIANS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER NO. 69**  
**MAY/JUNE 2006**

Welcome to Issue no 69 of OxPA's Newsletter!

**OxPA's first Springtime Walk** was enjoyed by about a dozen members who walked north to south across Oxford city, seeing some of the recent developments affecting people on foot. Some said they saw places they hadn't known existed; those who knew the city well remarked that some places had changed beyond recognition. The walk was judged a success, and we hope to have another this year, probably taking a look at Iffley and its surroundings.

- 1) **Now that it is spring showers of rain have been collecting into giant puddles** at the junctions where pedestrians cross roads again. The broken and dropped places where vehicles habitually park on pavements likewise fill with water. If you find your progress impeded by a giant puddle on a main highway road or pavement, please report to **Mr Gordon Hunt, Oxfordshire County Council's Drainage Engineer, on 815571**. If the road or footpath is a minor one, report to **City Works, on 252900**.
- 2) **Summer Speed Watch! Streets for People is holding a national Summer Speed Watch on Wednesday 7 June**. They want communities and residents to show local authorities and the Government that communities want slower traffic speeds and safer streets. Streets for People can provide posters, campaign briefings and car stickers. An order form is obtainable from **Linda Beard on 020 7613 0743**. Alternatively you can email Linda at: **[linda.beard@transport2000.org.uk](mailto:linda.beard@transport2000.org.uk)**. Please make sure you provide your phone number, whichever method you use. **Streets for People is run by Transport 2000, The Impact Centre, 12-18 Hoxton Street, London, N1 6NG. e-mail [www.transport2000.org.uk](http://www.transport2000.org.uk)**
- 3) **An excellent example of time wasted by having a separate City and County Council running Oxford City:** Oxford City Council received a request for a pedestrian crossing of some kind across St Aldates between G&D's icecream café and Christchurch College, a popular pedestrian route. The City Council suggested where the crossing could go, and then had to ask the County Council to approve of the proposal. The County Council officer given this task spent time writing a detailed report about why there could not be a crossing of any kind installed there. Amazingly enough the 'reasons' against the crossing boil down to **'the traffic tends to speed here so it would not be a safe place for a crossing'**. The mind boggles at the cost of reaching this 'conclusion'!
- 4) **Walk to School Week is from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May** – see the Walk to School website: **[www.walktoschool.org.uk](http://www.walktoschool.org.uk)**.





- 5) It has come to the notice of your Newsletter Editor that **works are done to 'resurface' city streets which leave them worse than they were before.** For example, George St has lost its pedestrian-priority brick-look surfacing outside the cinema, and Little Clarendon St has likewise lost its traffic calming features. **Ashley Prior of the County Council and Andrew Burchett of the City Council are in charge of road resurfacing in Oxford city.** Keep a watch for resurfacing works near you, and let one of them know if the works leave the street less pedestrian-friendly than it was before.
- 6) **We are told that Capital Shopping's city centre proposal, to develop big shops from the Westgate to Thames St and across the neighbouring car park to include the demolition of Abbey Place housing, is expected in the near future. The proposal does not allow land to take the buses off Queen St, which is the most dangerously polluted street in the city centre. It also means 'traffic like just before Christmas, but every day' according to a Capital Shopping representative.** Traffic generated would affect the whole city, but Botley Road, Abingdon Road, and Thames St would be the worst affected. Woodstock and Banbury Roads would also be likely to be affected by increased traffic. Many people think the Capital Shopping proposal is a foregone conclusion due to publicity and unofficial consultations carried out by Capital Shopping over several months. **However the consultation when the application is submitted will be official, in that the City Council will have to take responses into account when considering the application. Please make sure you have your say when the Planning Application is submitted.**

**OxPA's next two meetings are on Tuesdays May 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm in Oxford Town Hall.**

**On Tuesday 23 May we will be undertaking Campaign Planning. Come and add your weight to this year's campaigns: cycling on footways; parking on footways; and more 20mph zones.**

**On Tuesday 27 June an officer from the County will give a presentation on the County's Local Transport Plan 2006-11: What will the County spend its cash on for the next five years? Come along and find out.**

**Please come, and bring a friend. Everybody is welcome!**

**Contact Numbers**

**Paul Cullen (Chair).....426805.**  
**Corinne Grimley-Evans (Secretary) .....779663**  
**Ray Jones (Membership Secretary and Treasurer) .....865070**  
**Michaela Philbin (Stalls).....201541**  
**Jill Haas (Consultation Process Reviewer).....766368**  
**Sushila Dhall (Newsletter Editor).....553415**

**National Pedestrians Association (Living Streets).....0207 820 1010**