



Walk Talk

Newsletter of Oxford Pedestrians Association

March 2020

Welcome to Newsletter 133



Caption competition

Deborah Glass Woodin took this photograph to show the congestion in St Aldates – then spotted the ‘errant pedestrian’ in the centre of the road between the two rows of vehicles (just to the left of the yellow bollard). Can you come up with a caption for this photograph? Please email entries to oxford.pedestrians.association@gmail.com. We are offering a year’s subscription to OxPA and some OxPA goodies from our stall goods as a prize for the best entry. Entries will be judged by OxPA members Councillors Suzanne Bartington and Susanna Pressel. Closing date is 1st April 2020.

CoHSAT Surveys in Broad Steet

OxPA members helped CoHSAT (Coalition for Healthy Streets and Active Travel) with surveys in Broad Street on Weds 16th and Saturday 26th October last year. The results show a very large excess of cycling over driving in Broad St: 1,013 cycle and 255 motor vehicle movements over two hours on the Wednesday morning, and 479 cycle and 219 motor vehicles movements on the rainy Saturday morning. This work is one of five projects that CoHSAT undertook using Low Carbon Hub funding. Further details are available at <http://cohsat.org.uk/2019-2020-projects/>. During the past year Thames Transit, operating the two ‘science transit’ bus routes on behalf of University of Oxford, have introduced the ST1 into

Broad Street – the bus parks outside the Sheldonian Theatre before turning at the end of the parked cars (sometimes needing a 3-point turn) and leaving. This, and the continued presence of 25 parking spaces, make our joint vision of a motor vehicle-free public space a dream for the future.



Campaigner Training by Lucy Saunders

Report by Chris Cowley

On Thursday 20th February, CoHSAT arranged a session on Campaigner Training, given by Lucy Saunders, a public health specialist and transport planner, who has worked in a number of London boroughs. The event was lively and well-attended. Lucy highlighted 5 health issues related to current urban transportation: Physical Activity, Injuries, Air Quality, Noise and Severance. All these issues lead to rising healthcare costs.

She then went on to present her 10 indicators of healthy streets: Everyone Feels Welcome; Easy to Cross; Shade and Shelter; Places to Stop and Rest; Not too Noisy; People Choose to Walk and Cycle; People Feel Safe; Things to See and Do; People Feel Relaxed; Clean Air. She showed examples of streets in London which have been improved in line with these indicators.

There followed a lively debate about the barriers to effecting similar changes in Oxford and the difficulties of changing opinions, both within the local councils and in the general population. The essence of her advice was to advocate the positive aspects of change, i.e. things which will make life better (improved air quality; better physical and mental health; an enhanced street environment). We can all agree on that!

Festivals for the summer

OxPA is usually present at a small number of local festivals, particularly Headington Festival and Elder Stubbs Festival, and in December at the Green Fair. This year we are short of people to help at Headington Festival on Sunday 31st May and Elder Stubbs on Saturday 15th August. Please contact us if you could help.

Pavement parking and other issues in Barton Park

In WalkTalk 132 we reported that some car parking spaces in Barton Park run right across the pavement. Cllr Susanna Pressel has followed this up with the County Council and reports that 'they have promised to remedy the deplorable situation that OxPA so helpfully revealed'. But this may not happen until the County Council adopts the road. We will keep an eye on it!

In the meantime, Barton Park is turning into a pedestrian-friendly environment. The 'linear park' beside Bayswater Brook is pleasant (photo above) and forms a nice walking link to 'Old' Barton.



OxClean 2020

Oxford Civic Society organises the annual OxClean event. Teams of volunteers litter-pick in their chosen areas, and close liaison with the City's Street Scene team means that the rubbish is collected very promptly. Oxford Ramblers group litter-picked on a very wet Friday afternoon, 28th Feb, in Magdalen Wood, Wood Farm, and in 2 hours collected 30 bags of rubbish (half recyclable) along with assorted shopping trolleys, discarded child seats and a rubber duck. Perhaps OxPA could do this in future years – please contact us if you would be prepared to organise it.



OxPA has a secretary!

OxPA is very grateful to member Chris Cowley who has stepped forward to take on the role of Secretary. Chris will be responsible for preparing meeting agendas, taking minutes, being the point of contact for enquiries, sending out things to membership, booking rooms and stalls, working with the Chair to plan meetings, book speakers, etc. Chris can be contacted through oxford.peDESTrians.association@gmail.com.

Meetings: All 7 pm in the Town Hall unless stated otherwise

March 24th: Speaker Iain Nicholson (City Centre Manager), Plowman Room

April 28th: Martin Kraftl (Senior Transport Planner, Oxfordshire County Council), Plowman Room

May 26th: t.b.c.

June 23rd: a walk in Oxford (details t.b.c.)

Contacts:

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