



# Walk Talk

Newsletter of Oxford Pedestrians Association  
December 2022

## Welcome to Newsletter 144

### Audits of Street Use



Over the past year OxPA members have carried out several more audits by wheelchair and on foot, and our findings have been that very few of Oxford's pavements and footways are ideal, and many are unusable (obstructed, narrow, in poor condition, not level). Perhaps the most discouraging experience was trying to access The Perch pub via Port Meadow, which was impossible due to the steepness of the Rainbow Bridge over the Thames, after a difficult walk over rocky terrain, and Rumbling Bridge which has huge gaps between planks. However no entire route can be called accessible to pedestrians. Please read our findings by clicking <https://bit.ly/3G7mmlm>

#### Bus Users Meeting

Our November meeting was attended by Brenda Boardman who is setting up Bus Users groups across the County with a view to expanding rural bus services and improving the experience for people of using urban buses.

The groups are not yet fully formed, and anyone who thinks they represent a group may ask to attend meetings. It is unclear at this point how things will move forward, but in Oxford Brenda says that once the traffic filters are installed buses will become faster and less clogged in general traffic - which will make a difference in terms of time taken to get places. Contact Brenda if you are interested in taking part: [Brenda.Boardman@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Brenda.Boardman@ouce.ox.ac.uk)

#### Botley Road closure delayed

Botley Road's closure has been delayed indefinitely by Network Rail, as they claim they are not in a position to begin work on the scheduled January 9th. This will likely have a knock-on effect to the traffic filters, further delaying them to accommodate the Botley Road closure. OxPA would like to see the traffic filters installed as soon as possible.

#### Gifts from the Green Fair

The Green Fair was good for OxPA with our pavement parking stickers for car windscreens by far the best selling item. At £1 a sheet (30 gummed stickers) or £2 for three sheets, these make an excellent seasonal gift and can be posted to you on request.



#### Oxford Congestion Charge

OxPA is calling on the City and County Councils to support the installation of a Congestion Charge for Oxford, to raise funds for increased bus services, and to reduce private motor vehicle use, so that public space is safer for cyclists and pedestrians, and clearer for buses to run on time, and also to reduce the illegally high levels of air pollution which threaten the health of us all.

There is a twitter account [@oxfdcongestchrg](https://twitter.com/oxfdcongestchrg) campaigning for an Oxford congestion charge, visit <https://twitter.com/oxfdcongestchrg>

### **Oxford Walks website**

Members with good memories will know that OxPA contributes to a group known as On Foot in Oxford, who created a website listing walks in Oxford, to be found at <https://www.oxfordwalks.org.uk/>.

The other organisations involved are Oxford Civic Society (OCS), who host the website, and Oxford Ramblers. Our representative is Keith Frayn.

The website was launched in 2014 and is periodically updated to add new walks and remove those no longer available. OCS supply us with monthly statistics for visits to the site, which rose somewhat during the Covid lockdowns, and remain high. Currently 83 walks are listed, available either on-line (mostly free) or in books, with notes on where to purchase.



The team would welcome any comments, notes on walks we have missed, corrections, or information on links that no longer work: there is a Feedback function on the main menu.

### **OxPA benches**

Over this year, a lot of work has been done with city officers, City Councillors, residents and partner organisations to find locations for the benches OxPA is placing around the city to encourage walking as a means of urban transport, in memory of late member Keith Holly. Each bench will have a plaque on it with a relevant line of poetry or quote, plus OxPA's logo. Whilst there are still finalising details to work through, a map of the bench places can be found by clicking <https://bit.ly/3jIM4CU>

We look forward to this very positive way of being able to give to the city and its walking residents, visitors, and students. Hopefully the benches can start to be placed in spring of 2023.

### **Note on icy pavements**



The recent spell of icy weather has highlighted the fact that roads are treated with salt whereas pavements are left icy, putting vulnerable pedestrians at risk of slips and potential fractures. We wonder how this fits with the County Council's stated hierarchy of road users, which supposedly prioritises walking over car journeys.

### **Social event – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

Please come to OxPA's social event at 7-9pm on Tuesday January 31st in the Friends Meeting House on St Giles in Oxford centre. We will have mulled wine and nibbles and meet with fellow members and campaigners to start 2023 with conversation in a relaxing and warm environment.

### **Next AGM – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

OxPA's AGM is on February 28th, in which we will have a speaker on change and how change happens, and how to make change possible - a key topic if we are to get to grips with the Climate Emergency and the part played by changes to how we travel. Officers will give reports about the year, and elections/re-elections will take place to OxPA committee.

All members welcome to all meetings.

### **Contacts**

Sushila Dhall: Chair  
Don O'Neal: Treasurer and Membership Stalls: Vacant, volunteer needed  
Owen McKnight: Social Media Co-ordinator  
James Taylor: Secretary  
Enquiries:  
[oxford.pedestrians.association@gmail.com](mailto:oxford.pedestrians.association@gmail.com)