



the OXTON SOCIETY

COMMUNITY SPIRIT LIGHTS UP OXTON VILLAGE

OXTON residents showed true community spirit in December by pulling together to raise more than £2,350 for the village's Christmas lights.

With no income last year from Secret Gardens or profits from the usual switch-on event, the Oxton Society launched an online fundraiser to help pay for the display.

Jeff Willis, one of the event organisers, said: "For the first time ever, and with a little trepidation, we opened a JustGiving page and the response was amazing.

"The cost of the lights was covered by a tremendous pulling together of the whole Oxton community."

Despite a target of just £1,000, more than 200 donors raised well over £2,000 and the collection box in Greens raised £350. Wirral Borough Council contributed £500 from the Wirral Together Fund and local businesses donated more than £400 with notable sums from Bogan's Carpets, Bon Bakery, Brennan Aire O'Neill, Edwards News, Elixir, Impressions, Noubalm and Oxton Bar and Kitchen.

Other donations came from Speedwell Motors, Mayflower, Oceans, Bisque-It and Thyme.

Jeff said: "Altogether this matched our contractor's fee which included extra costs to extend the lights to cover missing sections, repairs and lights on the new Christmas tree.

"Money isn't everything though. There were other terrific community efforts. Kate Wyness from Greens donated the splendid Christmas tree shipped in from Denmark, whilst the Oxton Artists hand made and installed the delightful decorations."

There was praise too for Society member John Booth who masterminded the erection of the tree which included sourcing a 10ins diameter steel tube, some 3ft long, which was concreted into a deep hole dug by Oxton House Clearance. A time-capsule with Oxton memorabilia went into the hole.



Kate Wyness with the Christmas tree



Jeff Willis and team prepare to erect the tree

Marie and Dave Pennington delegated various tasks to the planning committee with John Heathman in charge of the lights themselves.

Jeff added: "A final word for our contractor, Andy Stephens of STG Signs. Andy does the lights for five community groups throughout Wirral and, not surprisingly, they all want them done at the same time. Andy and his team cheerfully worked all hours in terrible weather and made sure none of us were let down.

"A huge well done to everyone involved. Here's to Christmas 2021, when hopefully we can do it all again but with some people, songs and good food."

DO YOU LIKE OUR NEW NOTICE BOARD?

NO, it's not a new notice board! Our tired 20 year-old cabinet has been comprehensively refurbished and weather-proofed, with a beautiful Lincoln Green finish.

The job was done for free as a gift to the Society and to a very high standard by our local craftsman, John Novak of Oxton Joinery. It adds a finishing touch to the redevelopment of the former Bank site, now called The Willows, finally completing the tidy-up of this corner of the village centre.

Thanks to our noticeboard steward, Paul Smith, the current display now shows the benefits of joining the Society, details of History Publications and our Commemorative 40 Year Book. It also signposts our new defibrillator, just behind on the wall of the new shops. Residents waiting for the bus or just on another lockdown stroll will be able to have good read.



John Novak of Oxton Joinery hands over to Paul Smith, our notice board steward

A NEW WAY OF PAYING FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If your membership is due for renewal you will have received an “invitation to renew” letter with this newsletter.

You will see that we have changed to a new method of renewing your membership. From now on the preferred method will be to set up a Regular Payment if you do internet banking, or to pay by Standing Order.

If yours are due for renewal your invitation contains full details of how to set up your payments. The Society’s website also has full details of the new system at

www.theoxtonsociety.co.uk/membership

We hope this will be more convenient for our members and it will certainly reduce the admin efforts of our hard-pressed officers.

Payments for multiple years are now discontinued unless you are in the middle of a multi-year plan which will run its course. Payments by Bank Transfer (BACS) are also discontinued.

There will be the option to continue to pay annually by cash or cheque for any members who really want to - but we hope that Standing Orders will become the new normal.

We will also be introducing Standing Orders for new members.

Gift Aid and Donations and Life Membership will continue as before.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE OXTON SOCIETY**
HELP TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE OXTON'S DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

- Quarterly newsletter
- Quarterly local history supplement
- Regular updates on local news & Society activities
- Members' emails, Facebook and Twitter notifications
- Advice on planning & tree work
- AGM, Annual Report and Accounts

YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS US TO:

- Preserve and enhance the Conservation Area
- Raise awareness of our history and architecture
- Encourage involvement in community and civic pride
- Keep our finances in good shape

JOIN THE OXTON SOCIETY

- £8 / YEAR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP -
- £10 / YEAR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP -

JOIN

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

- £8 / YEAR INDIVIDUAL RENEWAL -
- £10 / YEAR HOUSEHOLD RENEWAL -

RENEW

COVID CHALLENGES FOR THE VILLAGE

THE Covid-19 crisis has brought many challenges to small businesses, including those in Oxton village.

Essential food stores including Edwards, Greens and Stirling's Wines have stayed open throughout the pandemic offering additional services like home delivery to help residents who are self-isolating.

Conversely, non-essential businesses have been forced to close during lockdown and while some retailers can generate sales through online platforms, others, such as hair and beauty salons, have had to shut up shop completely.

It's been particularly frustrating for the hospitality industry with many bars, cafes and restaurants offering take-away menus in order to stay open.

The Oxton Society Newsletter talks to two Oxton business owners whose businesses have been affected differently during the past 12 months.

Kate Wyness, who owns Greens and has remained open throughout the crisis, said: "The impact of the pandemic has affected the way we operate the shop and at times it has been stressful and overwhelming.

"We had to introduce a Covid secure system with customers and staff. We had to put an extra staff member on the door and introduce hygiene facilities for staff and customers and a new one-way system. We opened the hatch at the side of the shop for customers who felt safer not coming inside.

"We are pleased we have been able to remain open and contribute to a community spirit during this difficult period.

"We learnt how resilient and supportive the community of Oxton is and we delivered to customers shielding and isolating and still offer that service."



Kate & Paul Wyness of Greens

Christine Lesley, of Christine Lesley Hairdressers who has had to close during two lockdowns, said: "It has been the roughest road that our industry has endured along with hospitality and retail.

"To have closure forced on you through no fault of your own is frightening, and only seeing revenue for part of the year is very detrimental to any business.



Christine Lesley and her staff in happier times

"The Government grants have helped but, unlike the first lockdown, they are a lot lower and nowhere close to the overheads that businesses like ours have.

"The speed at which lockdown happens is a shock and the uncertainty of when we will reopen again is frustrating. There is no clarity.

"As a business owner you can feel down and frustrated but you have to be positive for your team because they need your support.

"After the first lockdown there was a big change to how we run the salon. PPE was very new to us and at first we struggled with wearing the visor and masks.

"We also had to reduce our clientele by about a third. When the demand is there, it's frustrating not being able to do your job at your normal pace.

"The non face-to-face chat and reducing the time a client spends in the salon is also sad as our job is based on the relationships we form with clients.

"In these trying times we thank everyone for their continued support and the spirit of enthusiasm to keep the village going.

"Hopefully we all come through the other side more resilient and with a new motivation to have that buzzing village back again but we must KEEP IT LOCAL when lockdown ends."



WE did eventually get round to planting our 700 spring bulbs which had been delayed by the weather. If you visit the Arno via Ingestre Road on the left-hand side as you enter the quarry you can just see them peeping through.

Work continues in the Quarry to reinforce the sandstone wall with metal beams where the ivy has been taken after many years' growth.

Our gardening group has been having fun making our leaf mould by collecting the fallen autumn leaves from the borders and composting them to make a lovely mulch for the spring.



Clearing the 'Big Rock'

Remember 'The Big Rock' in the Quarry? Well it is back, thanks to our hardworking volunteers who have cleared away many years of overgrown bracken and revealed the rock again - a great job well done.

The shed has now been fitted with roll down shutters on the door and windows that make it secure. Other maintenance jobs around the shed are ongoing.

We received our Green Flag award this year for Quality of a Park & Green Space, also three RHS Certificates 'Inspiring Others', 'Sharing your knowhow' and Recognition' of which we are very proud.

We continue to receive donations from very generous people. It really helps to keep us going and is very much appreciated by us all. It is good to see so many people using this wonderful space long may it continue with your help.



There are plenty of interesting things to find when you visit The Arno. Why not download our I SPY activity sheet and have fun discovering lots of interesting facts about the Arno? Fun for adults and children alike!. Go to <https://friendsofthearno.blogspot.com> or find us on Facebook.

QUIZ WALKS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

ON our website there are now two quizzes to use on walks about Oxton, mostly for younger children and their parents, grandparents or caregivers, though anyone could do them if they fancied a walk around our village. The questions are mostly observational and require no particular knowledge.

Go to the "History" section of our website and use the quiz link at the top. There are two sets of sheets to download and print for each quiz...a 'Question Sheet' for the children and a 'Question and Answer Sheet' for the adults and the walks should each take under an hour.

If you enjoy these or have any comments do let us know at history@theoxtonsociety.co.uk



INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD OF URBAN FOXES

THE red fox, one of the only members of the wild animal part of the dog family, has made a success of living alongside people, more so in urban areas. Through their ability to cohabit with us, we're able to learn more about the urban red fox in Britain than we do about their rural counterparts.

Foxes love to be vocal, but more so in the winter. You may have heard their barking/screams as they call out for a mate. It's usually the female who makes the loud screeching noises whereas the male will bark out instead.

Most people will have a fox visit their garden at some point, with some visiting more frequently if there's plenty on offer for them. Urban foxes have a varied diet which includes earthworms, fruits, insects, wild birds, mammals and so on. They even like large juicy beetles and vegetables too.

A common question people often ask which can divide opinion is whether they should feed their garden visitors and whether it's safe to do so. The simple answer is that it's absolutely fine to feed them if you want too. Lots of people like to feed foxes and capture it on trail cameras to look back on the next day, especially during the lockdowns where people can get a great deal of enjoyment out of it and it connects them with nature.

The advice I would give though, is to just feed them and enjoy the moment. Don't try and tame them as remember they're a wild animal after all. It's also important to not put excessive amounts of food down and clear away any uneaten food the day after to deter unwanted visitors, such as rats or cause a nuisance to your neighbours.



Now, I wouldn't worry too much about what to feed them as the urban fox loves anything, from raw/cooked meat or tinned pet food to cheese, cooked vegetables, table scraps and even bread soaked in fat! That doesn't sound very appealing but hey, I'm not a fox! You should always be mindful though that whatever you put out could equally be taken by dogs, cats and other wildlife. For example hedgehogs are lactose intolerant, so nibbling away at the cheese left out for foxes is not good for them. Urban foxes will also eat peanuts, bird seed, and other food put out on bird tables.



Urban foxes won't become dependent on you if you feed them but if foxes are fed heavily and regularly they can become over-confident and less wary of people. This could encourage them to approach strangers for food, a situation that should not be encouraged.

Some people don't like foxes visiting their gardens and perhaps see them as pests. But for me, in a world where we have become so disconnected from wildlife and nature, it's important to remember that we're part of nature. While we're forced to spend more time at home, embracing the presence of our wildlife friends whose natural world is continually shrinking, should be encouraged.

If you have any photos or videos of foxes you would like to share with us, there is a 'Cheshire's wildlife and nature' Facebook group you can join: www.facebook.com/groups/cheshirewildlifeandnature or alternatively, you can email info@cheshirewt.org.uk

Article kindly provided by Rachel Bradshaw, Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

A DEFIBRILLATOR FOR OXTON VILLAGE

THE Oxton Society is delighted that, thanks to generous member donations, Community Fund grants from Wirral Borough Council and a partnership between the Oxton Society and Eraklis Developments Ltd, a defibrillator is now located in The Willows, in the centre of the Village. It is registered with NW Ambulance and is simple to use.

Each year 100,000 people in the UK lose their lives to sudden cardiac arrest. Community public access defibrillators play a vital role in saving many lives and give the public access to life-saving equipment which can be used without any training.

Leaflets are available in several of the shops and NHS and St John's Ambulance have easily accessible website guides which are updated regularly. An example is given below:

<https://www.nwas.nhs.uk/get-involved/lifesaving-skills/learn-to-save-a-life>

We would like to thank everyone who has made this possible: the generous donors; Mike Hercules, Eraklis Developments; Barry, the electrician; Jim Poynton, Impressions, for the leaflets and Anne and John Field who will monitor the defibrillator.



*Society Chair, Rhiannon Evans,
with the defibrillator*

SECRET GARDENS 2021

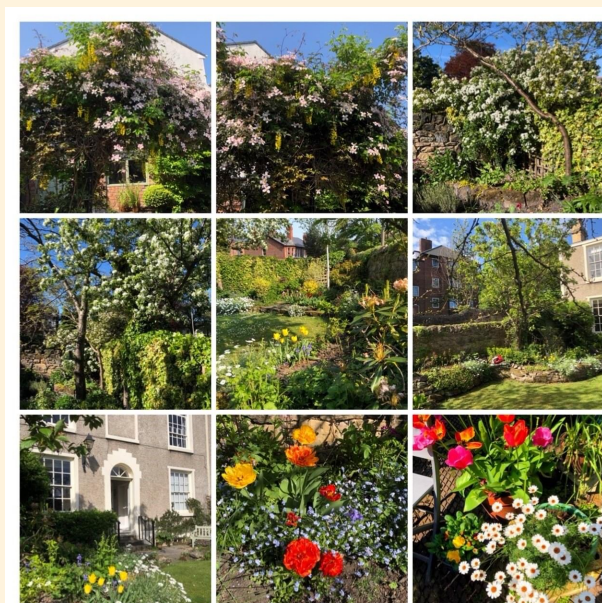
Sadly, Oxton's Secret Gardens will not be able to go ahead for the second year running due to the continuing pandemic.

However, the team behind last year's 'Virtual Gardens' is going to bring the event safely into people's homes again via another Facebook Live. This year it will be hosted on the Secret Gardens of Oxton page.

Kirsty Cotton, one of the Secret Gardens organisers, said: "We're really disappointed that Oxton can't open its beautiful gardens to the public this year as it's such a highlight in the local calendar, but we have to put people's safety first.

"Last year's virtual event was a huge success with videos and pictures of local gardens and music from an array of performers and it raised more than £3,000 for Wirral Foodbank. We'll be looking to do something similar this year on May 9, when the event was scheduled to be held".

To keep up to date please follow Secret Gardens of Oxton on Facebook. If you are interested in including your garden in this event and for Sponsorship opportunities please email secretgardens@theoxtonsociety.co.uk



WHO'S BEEN LIVING IN MY HOUSE? - 3 RICH VIEW



THIS is the second in our series exploring the stories behind some of the houses where Oxton's residents lived in the past. Many street names reflect the way Oxton was viewed by well-off middle class families in the mid-19th century: Mount Pleasant, Fairview Road and Rich View all conjure up pleasant places to live.

Number 3 Rich View was built in around 1840 when the population of Oxton was 546, rising to 2007 by the time of the first national census in 1851. Fourteen families have lived in the house including many intergenerational families. Most households had one or two live-in servants and a number of children who would have played in the delightful sloping garden with its extensive views towards Liverpool.

Many solid middle class professions are represented over the 180 years of the house: a draper, owning seven stores; master printer; building society manager; retired shipmaster; surveyor; estate agent; planning consultant; retired solicitor. Several residents were of independent means. Many of the men worked in Liverpool and would take carriages from Oxton to Woodside where they would catch the ferry to Liverpool.

Until the second half of the 20th century houses were rented from the Earl of Shrewsbury and it is noticeable how mobile people were, sometimes moving several times within Oxton. Many occupants moved to Rich View from adjacent counties, or, as in the case of the Hosking family, as far away as Cornwall. And it is to Josiah Hosking, whose family were the longest serving occupants (46 years), that we will now turn.



Josiah Hosking

Josiah Hosking was born in around 1824 near Penzance in Cornwall. When he was six he moved north with his father, an estate agent. At the age of 28 Josiah was a master printer employing four men, a wholesale stationer and later a retailer of fine clothes, but his real passion was building societies of which he variously described himself as manager, accountant or secretary.

In 1858 there were only two or three building societies in Liverpool but they flourished over the following decades, encouraged by the 1875 Act. Hosking, like many of the philanthropists of his era, was "an honest and upright man, respected by all".

Josiah was chairman of 20 building societies in Liverpool over 40 years. At 44 he was widowed and had four children to bring up, which he did with the help of two Welsh servants and his mother-in-law, who moved into Rich View until her death six years later. His older children carried on living with him until his death in 1907, aged 84.

His daughter Edith lived in the house for three more years, then moved to a ladies' establishment in Bournemouth. The Birkenhead News' obituary for Josiah Hosking was headed *Building Society Pioneer* and it went on ...

"The deceased was practically the founder of Building Societies in Liverpool and had carried on business in the city for over 60 years.mainly through his efforts, by interviewing leading Peers and Commoners, a new Building Society Act was passed, creating societies on the 'permanent' principle with shares of £10 each. He was recognised as the leading authority in Liverpool on Building Societies and his advice was frequently sought and, on numerous occasions, he headed deputations and appeared before House of Commons Committees. He also took a prominent part in protesting against the wholesale eviction of previous Earl of Shrewsbury's Oxton tenants."

Josiah was a staunch Liberal Party member who, at the time of his death, was chairman of the Vauxhall Ward, a position he had held for over 20 years. He died a wealthy man, left an estate worth £23,710, around £2 million today and is buried in Flaybrick cemetery.

TREES AND PLANNING

Trees

THE Society has been consulted on seven applications for tree work since the last report. At the following addresses there were no objections to the proposals:

1 South Hill Grove. CA/20/0222

4 Glenmore Road. CA/20/0241

13 Victoria Mount. T/21/0003

8 Duncote Close. T/21/0004

7 Kylemore Road. T/21/0006

8 Arno Road. T/21/0014

The Society made comments in relation to:

East Bank CA20/0247

Proposal: To prune branches interfering with telephone lines and overhanging the gardens of the premises and of Heatherdale Close

Comments: No objection to the pruning work being carried out on this well-established mature tree. However, real concern that the tree is split and has a significant visible hollow from ground level two metres upwards. The health and possible future of the tree requires serious consideration.

Planning

The Society has been consulted on six applications since the last report. No comment was necessary for two applications -

Oxton Bar and Terrace APP/20/01092: Replacement of existing awning with a larger retractable awning.

4 Salem View APP/20/01440 - Single storey rear extension

Comments were made in relation to four applications:

4 Arno Road. APP/20/01119: Single storey detached outbuilding in front garden area.

A similar application was approved at the adjacent property, 2 Arno Road, in October 2018. Both properties are identified in the Conservation Area Character Appraisal as “making a positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area”.

Although the Society has serious concerns about frontage development of this sort, in the light of the precedent it was recognised that an objection would not be reasonable. The Society urged that the officers give the same attention to the design, materials and screening of the building as was given to the next door development. These mitigating measures should be secured through appropriate conditions.

3 Talbot Road. APP/20/01115: Subdivision of front garden area and construction of a new house.

The property is identified in the Conservation Area Character Appraisal as “making a positive contribution to the character of the Conservation Area”. Large Victorian villas set within extensive grounds are an important part of the area’s character, and the property is one of the relatively few remaining examples of this character type. A further significant element of the local context is the adjacent Listed Oxton Old Hall and the potential impact of the proposed development on its setting.

Whilst the Society does not oppose development within large gardens as a matter of principle it is important that the design of such developments should make a positive contribution to local character. In this case the Society does not consider that the design of the proposed development rises to the importance of the site.

The Society urged the Council to engage with the applicant’s design team to secure significant improvements to the design of the proposed development in accordance with the Council’s ambitions as expressed in the emerging local plan.

1 Alton Road APP/20/01575: Re-roofing and exterior alterations to bungalow

The bungalow is situated at the junction of Alton Road and Village Road. It is identified in the Character Appraisal as an illustration of a recent building in a prominent location which detracts from the character of the area. The proposals, particularly the replacement of the visually prominent red clay roof tiles with good slate reproduction tiles, would mitigate some of the negative features identified in the Character Appraisal, and for this reason the Society supported the application.

53 Christchurch Road (former Rowlands pharmacy) APP/20/01806 : Retrospective application for an external ventilation flue in relation to the proposed change of use to restaurant / hot food takeaway.

No objection to retrospective approval of the ventilation flue already installed at the rear of the property. The Society’s main concern remains the intended future use. An earlier application for a hot food takeaway was withdrawn. The Society remains in correspondence with the enforcement officer on this. A recent temporary change to the regulations makes it lawful for the business to open and operate solely as a hot food takeaway, providing that when the temporary regulations expire the business reverts to a predominantly restaurant use with the takeaway element as subsidiary.

FONTAINE FADIORA



IT was a dream come true for Fontaine Fadiora when she opened her pottery studio, Bisque-it, in Oxton village in August 2017.

Fontaine, who grew up in Essex, studied chemistry at Liverpool University and moved to Claughton Firs after joining a materials company in Bromborough as a senior scientist working in research and development.

Having made Wirral her home for the past 11 years, Fontaine explains how her 'dream business' came about...

Why did you decide to open a pottery studio?

About five years ago, while helping my sister move house, we stopped at a shop for coffee and to use the WiFi.

The shop happened to be a pottery painting studio and I was instantly captivated by the concept.

I couldn't shake the feeling that this would be lovely to have in the village that I lived in.

Supported by people who believed in me, I put everything into making it happen. Bisque-it is the product of that dream.

What appealed to you about Oxton?

I've always loved the atmosphere in the village. I felt that it would be well received by the current demographic while complementing the existing businesses.

What is your earliest memory?

I have vivid memories being with my brother and sister, spending every waking hour of the summer holidays, riding on our bikes.

What are your proudest achievements?

Most recently I recorded a radio advert for the Government about the pandemic. It made me proud to show how local shops are doing their part in preventing the spread of Coronavirus in their communities.

Are you a naturally creative person?

I would say yes. One of the most enjoyable parts of having the studio is playing a role in a customer's creative process.

How has the pandemic affected your business over the past year?

Moving everything online and providing takeaway kits for people to paint at home provided a new experience for customers. For many, it has been a source of enjoyment and relief from a time that is challenging for all of us.

People would be surprised to know this about me....

I didn't choose art for my GCSE options.

What do you like best about Oxton?

There's always someone who will give you a smile.

What changes would you like to see in the village?

At least three times a day I see the bus struggle to turn onto Rose Mount. It would be nice to have better parking options for people.

LOCAL LOCKDOWN WALKS

CURRENT Coronavirus lockdown restrictions prevent us from leaving home without a reasonable excuse.

Taking exercise is one such excuse but we are obliged to do this only within our local area. So previous excursions for walks or cycle trips in North Wales or even further reaches of the Wirral are no longer allowed.

We all hope this will change before long, but in the meantime, where can we walk from Oxtun that serves as a compromise between trudging the same familiar streets and taking to ankle-deep mud in this rainy weather? How about Birkenhead Park, Noctorum Lane, Bidston Hill and the old Bidston Hall site, the Arno and Oxtun Fields or the Mountwood area of Prenton?

We have posted some suggested walks on the Oxtun Society website - on the home page under 'Activities' on the menu bar - and there will be more there and on the Facebook Oxtun Society Members' page over the next few weeks.



2021 NATIONAL CENSUS

census 2021

Be a part of Census 2021

Census day is 21 March 2021.

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

Follow @Census2021

Office for National Statistics www.census.gov.uk

AMGP1A

THE 2021 census will take place on March 21 and by taking part you can help inform decisions on services that shape your community, such as healthcare, education and transport. You will be able to fill the census in online as soon as you get your access code in the post.

The census is a unique survey that happens every 10 years, giving a snapshot of all the people and households in England and Wales – the most detailed information we have about our society.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) runs the census in England and Wales and is independent from government. Your details are protected by law and information published is always anonymous.

The ONS says: “It’s important that you fill in your census questionnaire. Without the information you share, it’d be more difficult to understand your community’s needs and to plan and fund public services.

“In one way or another, your information touches the lives of every single person living in England and Wales, whether it’s through using census information to plan new schools, doctors’ surgeries or bike lanes.”

For further information visit www.census.gov.uk

WELCOME TO NEW VILLAGE BUSINESS

THE Hideout Café opened its doors in Oxton last month and owner Kieran Cowley is delighted with the welcome he's received from residents.

The café, at Unit 1, The Willows, will eventually open all day, serving breakfast and dinner, but is concentrating on evening collection and delivery trade while lockdown restrictions are in place.

Kieran, who has recently moved to Oxton from Nocturum, said: "We've had some really good feedback since opening. We're serving things like burger and chips and nachos and American drinks and sweets. Our desserts have been really popular – people can't get enough of our doughnuts."

As well as running the café with the help of his parents and sisters, Kieran is working on opening a second business next door but one at Unit 3, called The Canine Cabin.

"I specialise in stud dogs and had a mobile business previously. The new shop will stock things like raw dog food, disinfectants and deodorisers, beds and my own brand of dog leads. I will also be carrying out dog scanning, microchips and all aspects of canine fertility including artificial insemination."

So why did Kieran choose Oxton?

"Oxton is a nice area and I have lived here in the past. I love the area and get on with everyone so it's been lovely to open the businesses here."



Kieran's mother Alison outside the Hideout Cafe

SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE Society has not been able to hold an AGM in 2020 because of the pandemic.

However, it has been decided to hold the 2019/2020 AGM via Zoom by the end of April, and members will be invited to attend.

There will be two parts to the meeting.

Normal business items including annual report, financial report, constitutional issues, elections of officers and executive committee and awards and design awards.

Three 10-minute recorded sessions to stimulate discussion:

- Lessons from the pandemic - led by Allan Brame
- Eco Oxton – led by Alan Chape, with Peter Gommon
- Quality of buildings in the Conservation Area – led by Steve Weber

Each of the above sessions would be based on conversations between 2/3 people.

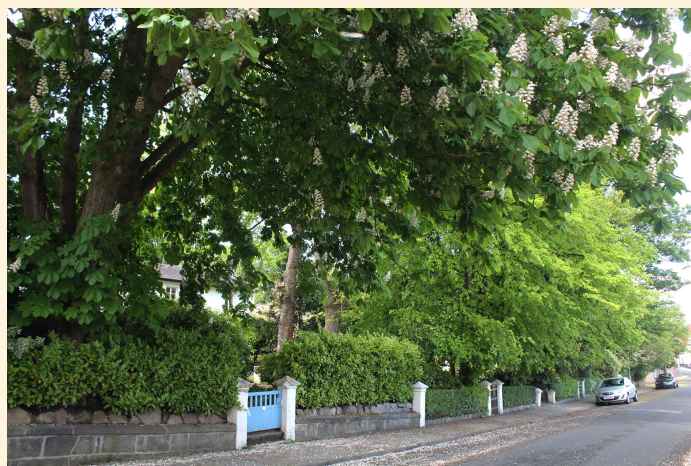
Further information about the plans for the AGM will be circulated to members in due course.



CAN YOU HELP OUR TREE GROUP?

WE need a new member for our Tree Group, which contributes to the preservation and improvement of the trees which are such a distinctive feature of the Conservation Area. The Society receives copies of all applications submitted to Wirral Council for tree work in the Conservation Area, and the Tree Group then looks at each application and sends its comments to the Council. The Group also helps to agree sites for new tree planting funded by the Society and can also offer advice to members before they submit applications for tree work.

We would welcome a new member to join the two current members. It is envisaged that the new member will take over as coordinator of the Group after a period shadowing the role. The coordinator acts as the contact with the Council for the receipt of applications and the submission of comments.



If you are interested in joining the Tree Group, then do please contact us for further information by email to info@theoxtonsociety.org.uk or by phone to 0151 653 0274 (leave a message)

JOHN FIELD

WE are delighted to welcome John Field as a new member of the Executive Committee. John says:

“I have enjoyed living in Oxton Village for 35 years with my wife Anne and our two daughters.

“The village has developed in so many ways over this period and the Oxton Society has been pivotal to monitoring and driving these changes. The ‘Secret Gardens’ event is the jewel in the crown of the Oxton calendar.

“I have worked for most of my life in the University of Liverpool and been involved in international clinical research programmes. As I am now part-time, I have an opportunity to contribute to the life of Oxton village.

“I am a keen cyclist, and you may have a glimpse of me in the village in lycra, to the amusement of my daughters!

Oxton Village and the Wirral have so much to offer; we are fortunate to live in an area that offers so many recreational and cultural activities.”



Contacting us

We would welcome articles for the Newsletter from any members of the Society. If you have a topic you would like to write about please do contact the editors via email to info@theoxtonsociety.co.uk or by post to the Secretary, 4 Willan Street, CH43 5ST.

You can also contact the Society about any other matter using the above addresses, or via the Oxton Society website at www.theoxtonsociety.co.uk

Do you have an email address? If you are not receiving emails from us with news updates, your current email address is not in the database, so please let us have it. Your details are confidential and will never be passed to third parties.