

the OXTON SOCIETY

free to members



We need you!

The Oxton Society is appealing for much-needed volunteers to help support our work in the village and ensure the continued success of our flagship event, The Secret Gardens of Oxton.

The Society was founded in 1979 when Wirral Borough Council designated Oxton a Conservation Area in order



Just one of the gardens that has opened to the public

to preserve and enhance its distinctive character, and it now has a population of over 14,000.

The Secret Gardens of Oxton was first launched in 2001, and with up to 5,000 people visiting the village every May, it's become the main fundraising event for the Society.

John Heathman, Secretary of the Oxton Society, said: "Thanks to a team of stalwart volunteers, the village has benefited greatly from people offering their skills and time to various projects.



The Secret Gardens of attracts local dignitaries as well as up to 5,000 visitors

"Sadly, we have lost some wonderfully committed colleagues in recent years due to illness or retirement, and we desperately need a new generation of helpers to contribute and 'give back' to the village.

"We are all volunteers, who come and go in our normal day-to-day lives, so we understand that taking on any Oxton Society or Secret Gardens' role is totally voluntary.

"We will ensure we support everyone and help them to carry out tasks in any way we can.

"We would just ask residents not to assume that someone else will always come to the rescue; please join in and we'll be able to continue to enjoy the great community spirit that exists in Oxton."

Full list of volunteer roles needed p3

Just the job

Please can you offer to help us by volunteering for one or more of the following tasks?

“Without your help we simply cannot continue to put on our community events,” – The Oxton Society

The Oxton Society Cafe at The Hub

The Oxton Society Cafe at The Hub is always hugely popular and is a brilliant fundraiser for our partner charities on the day. We need plenty of cakes to keep it going all day so if you are able we would love to receive your baked goods.

No cream cakes please. Unless the cake is very delicate, please place on a paper plate or piece of card then wrap in foil and clearly label the type of cake.

Please deliver cake to 13 Mount Pleasant (opposite Prenton Prep School) on the Saturday afternoon before the event or deliver directly to the Cake Stall on the day of the event.

We should be grateful if you could contact Dawn on 07976 739219 so your contributions can be included in forward planning. Very many thanks in advance for all contributions.



Events General Volunteers

We need a small army of volunteers for a wide range of tasks that make the event successful on the day. These include:

- Helping to man the raffle stall at Prenton Prep School
- Garden stewards to check the numbers of visitors coming in and out of gardens and making sure they've purchased programmes
- Selling tickets on the day of the event at various locations in the village
- Road marshals to help direct people
- Litter pickers to ensure that the village remains clean and tidy

Would you be available to help for a one or two hour shift? You will still be able to wander around and enjoy the event as well.

Event Equipment Installation team

For our events, you can never have too many people helping to erect gazebos, put out tables and chairs, set up PA systems, erect signage etc.

For the Secret Gardens event we erect most of this the day before – which this year will be Saturday, May 11.

We then need people to help first thing on the Sunday morning (before visitors start to arrive around 9am) and then to dismantle everything at 5pm when the event finishes – many hands make light work!

All we require is people with a willing attitude to help for an hour or two.

The following tasks are for the general running of the Society:

Hanging Baskets Coordinator

Following the retirement of John Booth who is now in his 80s, there is a vacancy for someone to take up this role.

We already have a team of people who look after the practical aspects of the hanging baskets project, so we are just looking for someone to take the overall lead of the project by managing a few phone calls and liaising with the relevant people involved.

Help is already in place for looking after:

- Automatic watering system
- Dead-heading and feeding throughout the season
- Maintenance of watering system and brackets
- Transport arrangements

We will provide back-up and an induction to make sure that you have all the details you need to get started and progress smoothly.



Tree Group – additional member

We comment on all applications for tree work within the Conservation Area to Wirral Borough Council to ensure there is no detriment to the village. We'd love to expand our Tree Group members from two to three people.

If you have an interest in the trees in the conservation area, the task involves:

- Liaising with the Tree Group coordinator
- Viewing any proposed tree work (from the public highway) either solely or with the group
- Contributing to the preparation of the Society's response to Wirral Council - about two applications per month

No specialist knowledge is required but a common-sense appreciation of the impact of tree works would suffice.



Membership Secretary

Members will be aware that we tragically lost our Membership Secretary, Dave Barden, in the Moroccan earthquake, see tribute on Page 5. We are looking for someone to gradually take over this vital role.

We have about 600 members and we lose and gain about 40 members each year. Most members now pay their annual subscription by standing order.

The main responsibilities are to:

- Maintain our membership records
- Provide new members with a 'welcome pack'
- Coordinate distribution of newsletters via our team of helpers
- Send renewal notices to a small number of members who haven't set up standing orders

We have a fully functional membership database together with a mail/merge system for contacting members.

The job would suit someone who is computer literate and feels confident familiarising themselves with MS Access and Excel Spreadsheets. Appropriate support and induction will be provided.

Newsletter Distributors

Each member of our distribution team delivers our Newsletter and History Supplement to about 20-25 addresses three or four times per year.

The job involves picking up your batch locally and delivering within 10 days. We can provide cover if at any time you are not available.

Get in touch:

If you are interested in any of these tasks, please get in touch. We would be more than happy to discuss further and answer questions about what might be involved and what support you would need to get you started. Just email info@theoxtonsociety.co.uk, with your name and phone number, saying which of the tasks would suit you, together with some indication of your availability. Thank you.

Deputy web meister

Our website contains comprehensive coverage of all the Society's activities.

It includes regular updates of latest news, committee minutes, planning and tree reports. It also has a local history section, conservation documents, planning advice and much more. It provides essential facilities for membership renewal and for joining new members.

We need a deputy web meister to shadow our existing website manager with a view to taking over parts of the job at some stage in the near future.

The website is based on the commonly used WordPress software and is supported by a commercial firm. The job would suit someone who is computer literate and willing to learn the basics of WordPress updating with full support and familiarisation provided.

Grand Raffle Prizes

The Grand Raffle is another highlight of the event where visitors can choose which prizes draw they'd like to be entered into. This is a great place to re-home any unwanted Christmas gifts, unopened toiletry sets, cookbooks, toys etc - all will be gratefully received! Prizes are needed by April 30th. Please contact Monica Toosey at pmtoosey@sky.com or call 0151 652 1653.



Secret Gardens of Oxton

Sunday 12th May 2024 between 10am and 5pm.

Stroll around 22 private gardens in Oxton village at your own pace via a mapped out trail around the village for visitors to follow.

There will be craft stalls, musical entertainment by local artists, a Friends of the Arno plant sale, children's activities, refreshments and a gala raffle throughout the day.

Advance tickets priced £8 will be on sale at several locations in the village from April 8th, including Luna of Oxton, the Drawing Rooms, The Library and Stirling Wines.

Dogs are not allowed in the gardens themselves and some gardens maybe unsuitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.



Online £8 advance tickets can be bought via www.theoxtonsociety.co.uk

Tickets on the day will be £10.

Ticket price includes a programme.

All proceeds will be divided between the Oxton Society and three local charities helping on the day.

Location: Oxton, Wirral

Free car park on Oxton Field, Storeton Road, CH43 5TW

Further info from theoxtonsociety.co.uk or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/oxtonsecretgardens

Tree cutting applications

CA23/01195 10 VICTORIA MOUNT

1. Parotia persica – Crown lift, reduce and thin
2. Silver Birch – Cosmetic improvement.
3. Katsura – Crown lift, reduce and thin.
4. Cherry – Crown lift, reduce and thin.
5. Eucryphia – Crown lift and thin.
6. Oak – Crown lift and thin

Oxton Society comment: The Society would, in general, not raise any objections to the proposed work. However, the wording of the application is rather lacking in detail. No information is given as to the degree of crown lift or what is meant by 'cosmetic improvement'.

T23/0/1244 2 RICH VIEW

Ash tree (possibly affected with "Ash Dieback") – Fell

Oxton Society comment: The tree is a poor specimen in its present state. Whilst we are not qualified to comment on a possible diagnosis we would have no objection to its removal. We are not in a position to comment re the neighbouring Beech Tree.

CA23/00971 5 FAIRCLOUGH LANE

Beech – Pruning, crown reduction, removal of lower branches.

Oxton Society comment: The Society would not object to a moderate crown reduction or to raising of the canopy.

CA 23/00900 19 GLENMORE ROAD

1. Ash – remove
2. Apple – remove

Oxton Society comment:

1. This is a large and mature tree and its removal would have a significant effect on the tree vista. Whilst we are not qualified to comment on the potential effects of the roots on the property we would not support the application.
2. The Society has no objection to the removal of the tree.

T23/000786 10 TALBOT ROAD

1. Chamaecyparis conifer – Fell
2. Bay Tree – reduce by pruning.
3. Yew Tree – reduce by pruning.

Oxton Society comment: The Society would not object to the application

CA/23/01960 18 ROSE MOUNT, OXTON

T1 – Cedar: Full removal of the Cedar at the property – it is an inappropriate specimen for the place where it has been planted and the clients are concerned for the size in which it would reach to outgrow this poor choice of space. The tree is not disliked, however offers little amenity value and so a more appropriate specimen planted in a more appropriate position would be preferred and in the best interest.

Oxton Society Comment: the Society has reservations to

the proposed removal of the cedar tree.

From the exterior of the house and grounds, this is the only tree visible above the walled garden surrounding the grounds of the house. Whilst it is accepted that the cedar isn't in the best position, as it is about 2/3m from the house, close to the rear gate, it is a healthy attractive tree, and as mentioned, the only tree visible within the grounds.

The proposal states it is not unliked, yet proposes to remove it completely and plant another tree in a more favourable position. If a re-planting of a new tree can be made a firm monitored condition of removal of the cedar, then that might be an acceptable solution, but the Society would want to know the details of this for monitoring purposes.

An alternative would be to keep the cedar, whilst raising the canopy to above the height of the rear gate, to provide clearance, and tidy up the three pronged leaders that are currently evident at the top of the tree. Ongoing maintenance of the tree will help ensure it doesn't become too tall, whilst other tree planting in the grounds would be encouraged.

CA/23/01690 1 KYLEMORE ROAD

Removal of leylandii.

Oxton Society comment: No objection

CA/23/01687 3 KYLEMORE ROAD

Removal of lime tree. Removal of leylandii.

Oxton Society comment: No objection

CA/23/01811 10 VICTORIA MOUNT

Elaeagnus abutting the boundary wall - remove completely.

Oxton Society comment: No objection

CA/23/01956 WEBSTER HOUSE, 11 VILLAGE ROAD

LV0380 Lawson Cypress – Prune back from building. Reduce 2m laterally over Riverside land.

LV0382 Common Lime – Overhanging branches Remove epicormics, clear basal cover to facilitate VTA

Oxton Society comment: No objection

T/23/01957 1 Bushell Court, 28 Shrewsbury Road

LV0269 Sycamore – Prune back from building to facilitate 2m clearance.

LV0271 Common Lime – Remove deadwood >35mm diameter.

LV0292 Maple – Remove deadwood >35mm diameter.

LV0296 Common Elder – Fell

LV0298 Wild Cherry – Reduce canopy overhanging neighbouring garden back to boundary.

Oxton Society comment: No objection

David Barden

On September 9, 2023 the Oxton Society lost our dear friend and colleague David Barden.

David died, aged 71, during a devastating earthquake in Morocco which claimed the lives of more than 2,900 people. He had been in the country on a solo cycling trip to raise money for the Red Cross.

We talked to David's wife, Frances, and his sister Lily Clough, about his life, interests and achievements.

These are just some of the things the family remember about the much-loved, retired teacher – community spirited, gregarious and funny, who raised thousands of pounds for charity during his lifetime through running marathons and completing cycling trips around the world... and, as a teller of tales, he was legendary!

David was born in Liverpool. He spent his teenage years in Wirral when his family moved to Wallasey. He studied Art at Liscard Hall Art College in Wallasey, and then went to teacher training college at Edge Hill.

It was during his gap year that David got the travelling bug. He visited numerous countries where he made life-long friends. Coincidentally he visited Morocco on this trip.

David then settled into his 40 year teaching career. His specialist subject was art, which was of particular value once he became more involved in working with children with special educational needs. Much of his life was spent in this field. He experienced many happy years as Vice Principal of West Kirby



Residential School.

David was a loving family man. He was an exceptionally caring father to Sarah, a great stepfather to Joseph and his wife Lydie, and adored by his grandchildren. He wanted the best for everyone and was always ready to get involved with them and the wider family.

David and Frances moved to Oxton in the late 1980s, firstly in Slaty Road and latterly in Mount Pleasant. They joined the Oxton Society where David devoted much of his time to the role of Membership Secretary and organising the distribution of the newsletter.

A lifelong Liverpool fan, David always liked to keep fit and had completed several marathons over the years. He had intended to run the London Marathon again in 2024.

He always enjoyed cycling and, after he retired as Vice Principal of West Kirby Residential, he combined this with his love of travelling. Every year, since retirement, he'd organise six-week cycling trips across the world visiting places in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America.

Lily talked about a cycling trip with David, from Vienna to Budapest. She described David as being a single minded companion who wasn't always willing to accept well-meant advice.

However, they laughed together about it often... once the trip was over. Frances added that she always missed him when he was away and joined him at the end of several trips, as long as it wasn't too hot, too wet, too bug-filled or in a tent! From the



moment they met she knew life would be an adventure. It was.

David's concern for others was well known. He started to use his marathons and trips abroad to raise money for causes close to his heart, including the Red Cross and Freedom from Torture. He took a keen interest in politics and stood as the Labour candidate for Oxton twice in the 1990s.

Last September David had arranged a six-week cycling trip through Morocco and Spain to raise money for the Red Cross. He was in the Atlas Mountains when an earthquake destroyed the hotel in which he was staying. He had been due to meet his daughter Sarah in Seville the week after to celebrate his 72nd birthday.

We can't express how much we all miss him.

Oxton People – Angela Samata

Oxton resident Angela Samata is one of the UK's leading voices on suicide prevention.

Originally working in the Arts, the mum-of-two's career took a different path 20 years ago when her partner, Mark, tragically took his own life, aged 32.

After joining a bereavement support group, Angela realised how prevalent male suicide was and she was determined to do all she could to remove the stigma surrounding mental health.

Her work includes being a member of the Self Harm and Suicide Prevention All Party Parliamentary Group; co-author of the Zero Suicide Alliance #SeeSaySignpost (www.zerosuicidealliance.com) training programme which has been accessed by over 2.5 million people; a presenter of the BBC1 BAFTA-nominated documentary 'Life After Suicide' (www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05n2922); a TEDx Speaker and script advisor for broadcast media including Channel 4's Hollyoaks.

She was named Merseyside Woman of the Year 2015 for her charity work and counts the Prince and Princess of Wales among the people she collaborates with.

Together with her partner, Duane Chong, Angela also co-founded Grow-Wellbeing Forest School in 2018, a not-for-profit CIC which delivers creative opportunities for people to engage in activities in the natural environment with a wellbeing focus.

What's your earliest childhood memory?

Being woken up by the bells at Birkenhead Town Hall. I was born in Hamilton Square so we had the biggest alarm clock in Birkenhead!



When did you move to Oxton?

I've lived at several addresses in Oxton but now live in Kingsland Road. The house was built in 1882 and has loads of original features. We found a picture of the house on Ebay from 1924 and it shows the Holly tree that's still in our garden and gets red berries every year. We also found out that our cellar used to be a nightclub! It has an orange ceiling and spotlights. We'd always wondered why!

What's the best thing about Oxton?

The people; I've met some really incredible people who do wonderful

things and have really interesting lives. I also think the Oxton community is special. The Oxton Society does a good job of bringing the community together but I think we can all do more to arrange get togethers, especially making the most of places like the Williamson Art Gallery. We live in a vibrant community and we need to showcase that.

What's the worst thing?

Businesses closing on a Monday! It's really noticeable how quiet it is on Mondays.

Tell us about your early career aspirations?

I was the first girl to attend the previously all-boys Rock Ferry High 6th Form and I was offered a trainee management role at Claridges during a careers fair. However, Mark and I discovered I was pregnant so I couldn't take the job. After we had my son, I went to university to study psychology but spent most of my time in the Arts department!.

You now combine your work in the Arts with your work around suicide prevention. Tell us about that?

I met Mark at school and we had our second son 10 years after our first was born. Mark was a chef and an amazing, generous, wonderful person. When he died it was a huge shock to everyone who knew him. I always say 'if I knew then what I know now' we may have had different conversations, but at the time I didn't know anything about suicide prevention at all.

After Mark died, I wanted to share my lived experience because I realised there were loads of people who had gone through what we had but no-one was talking about it. We all need to do our bit to ensure that people can talk openly about how they're feeling if they need help.

There are 6,000 people taking their own lives in the UK every year and 75% are men. It's the biggest killer of men under 49, but older men are not immune, especially those over 74. The figures are the same today as they were when Mark died. There is still work to be done. Suicide prevention is everyone's business so please do speak to your neighbours and check out The Hub Of Hope online.

How rewarding has your work been?

If I have prevented just one person or one family going through what we have, then the work's worth it.



Strive

It may not have been a white Christmas in Oxton in 2023 but it was certainly a greener one thanks to the endeavours of a group of young environmentalists.

Strive, a youth-run charity which aims to help people in Birkenhead live more sustainably, organised a series of upcycling and awareness-raising projects over the festive period.

Under the guidance of coordinator Berry D'Arcy, eight 14-17 year olds:

- 1 Made 25m of bunting from unwanted fabric, which hung alongside the Oxton festive lights. At the switch-on November 25, Wirral Mayor, Cllr Jerry Williams, paid tribute to the youngsters for using sustainable alternatives to plastic decorations.
- 2 Participated in Wirral Winter Makefest and Cool Yule at the Williamson Art Gallery, where people made environmentally-friendly Christmas decorations. What they didn't use was turned into gift packs made from old comics and given to Heart Refugees as an art therapy project.
- 3 Organised a Christmas jumper exchange initiative in conjunction with five local schools and the Hive youth organisation, which resulted in 60 jumpers being rehomed! Not only did this save people money, it prevented the jumpers ending up in landfill, leaching microplastics, and reduced the need for people to buy new ones.
- 4 Collected and photographed good quality second-hand clothes and listed them on Strive's eBay account, promoting pre-loved clothing as a sustainable choice.



Berry, who runs Oxton Refill from her garage at 23 Shrewsbury Road, providing a range of liquids from shampoo to washing up liquid that people can refill in their existing containers to reduce plastic waste, said: "These projects are all run by young people.

"With funding from community organisations, they get paid and are able to develop valuable real world employment skills such as project management, time management, customer service, design and social media. They also meet other local young people and develop a sense of agency in the face of the environmental crisis.

"The Christmas projects were part of a six-week pilot to test how the project would work. The feedback from the participants has been very positive and so we are now seeking funding, with a view to growing the programme later in the year. We would love anybody who is interested in taking part either as a young person participant or an adult volunteer to get in touch."

Strive's most recent project, in conjunction with Birkenhead Repair Cafe, Oxton Refill, New Brighteners and Elizabeth Gadson, was the screening of a documentary film called 'Plastic Warriors' on March 18 at The Light in New Brighton. After the film there were presentations about the different solutions to the problem of plastic pollution. Berry added: "There's so much we can all do to help the situation and we want people to feel empowered to make a difference."

For more information about Strive's activities, contact Berry D'Arcy at berrystatstrive@gmail.com



Wirral Draft Local Plan

The Wirral Draft Local Plan has reached its final stage of an Examination in Public (EIP). Government Inspectors have been appointed to consider and pass judgement on the 'soundness' of the Plan.

Initial hearings having taken place but were interrupted to allow consideration of the proposals by Leverhulme Estates to seek planning permission for a number of green belt sites within Wirral.

The outcome of that enquiry was the refusal of planning permission for all the sites. The EIP hearings can now recommence and are expected to last until November 1st.

The outline proposals for the Oxton Conservation Area are included on the face of the Local Plan and provide a broad framework for planning decisions in the area. They are set out as follows:

Oxton Village Conservation Area

Reflects the early Victorian commuter settlement which developed over the summit of Oxton Hill, with its variety of period buildings, ranging from terraces, stone-built cottages and detached stuccoed villas in extensive grounds, reinforced by elevational treatments, window styles and ornate cast-iron porches, narrow roads, lanes and paths, sandstone walls, "cottage" gardens and

extensive tree cover.

Oxton Village

Proposals within Oxton Village Conservation Area will be supported where they:

1. conserve and enhance the essential unifying features of the landscape and street scene throughout the area, particularly the extensive canopy of mature trees and historic sandstone boundary walls;
2. conserve the diversity of its architectural and historic interest exemplified in its five zones;
3. within garden areas, demonstrate that the scale, form and design will preserve or enhance the setting of the parent and adjacent buildings and the character of the immediate locality;
4. within the village centre, demonstrate that they will not generate environmental impacts likely to harm the mixed retail, business, and residential character of the centre, and that design of shopfronts will preserve and enhance its character;
5. retain existing areas of York stone flags. There is an Easy Read Version of the Plan on the Wirral Council website: see link Wirral Local Plan 2021 to 2037

AGM 2023

This year's AGM took place on November 7th and was well attended by over fifty members of the society.

After hearing a tribute to Dave Barden, the AGM business followed and highlighted the activities of the society over the last twelve months together with a formal approval of the annual report and annual accounts.

Discussion followed with the members on changes to the society constitution, and a unanimous approval to proceed with these changes was received. These changes (to the way the society operates and is regulated) will now be put forward to the Charities Commission for their further consideration, and if approved, then the changes can be adopted into our normal business arrangements. Specific detail on the constitution and the recent proposals can be viewed on our website.

A presentation to John Booth for his significant contribution to Oxton, was made by Jeff Willis. John is retiring from the committee after 20 years of giving up his free time to the society, but he continues to soldier on, freely spending his time helping the Oxton area in general, working with The Friends of the Arno, and the Callister Gardens.

The meeting concluded with a presentation on the future of energy provision and how this might affect properties in a conservation area. This talk was from Stuart Walker of Scottish Power Energy Networks and was well received. Further communications on this subject will be released on our web site.

We hope you enjoyed the AGM. See you next year.

John Heathman

Important changes to Membership Subscriptions

You will probably be aware that we very sadly lost our Membership Secretary, Dave Barden, in last September's Moroccan earthquake. We are in the process of recovering our membership records and re-establishing our processes for handling renewals and new members.

With the charges levied on us by handling cash and cheques, the committee has decided, somewhat reluctantly, that in future all subscriptions for renewals and new memberships can only be paid by Standing Order. If you are due to renew your membership, then your renewal notice, included with this newsletter will reflect this approach. We hope that members will help us by going along with this change.

In exceptional circumstances only, the committee may consider any member who cannot comply with these new arrangements.

Shade Garden at the Storeton Road entrance

As you enter the Arno from Storeton Road look to the right and you will see a newly planted area spearheaded by our imaginative volunteers Sian and Dave Turner.

Until recently this was a gloomy area dominated by cherry laurels that hid the park from view.

First they raised the canopy of the mature holly tree to let more light in and allow passers by on Storeton Road to be tempted to enter.

It took many gruelling hours to clear the ivy and some of the laurels before replanting could even begin.

Several new, more well behaved, and prettier shrubs were added along the boundary walls to provide seasonal interest and fragrance.

Now the area has been cleared and planted with native bluebells, ferns, brunnera, and other shade-tolerant species, providing an all-seasonal welcome to the park.



Another ongoing improvement has been the re-stocking of the two top borders, which are now a mixture of shrubs and perennials.

This year, the star performers have been the spring flowering daphne with its beautiful scent, yellow and pink peonies, the irises and late flowering nicandra physalodes or shoo-fly plant.

The tall echiums that caused much interest in 2021 were

killed off in the December frost, but happily seedlings have since appeared. Look out for a return appearance of these striking plants next summer, weather permitting.



Secret Gardens Plant Stall – Call for Plants

The plant stall run by the Friends of the Arno is always a huge attraction with people queuing up to grab the best bargains. But we are dependent on Oxtou Society members and others with green fingers who nurture, split and pot up plants to be

sold. We hope you are already growing seedlings, taking cuttings and collecting plants for this year's stall. Also, any unwanted terracotta pots or gardening tools would be most welcome.

The plants can be delivered (during the few days before Sunday, 12th May) to 1 Ingestre Road (if no-one is at home just leave them outside the porch). Please label them if you know what they are. If you would like them to be collected or have any queries, phone Peter on 07717 291947. Alternatively,

they can be delivered to the stall from 8.30am on the day.

The plants stall will be in its usual place in the village centre. There will also be a free Creche where you can leave your purchased plants while looking round the gardens.



Luna Oxton



Michelle Fenton and Danielle O'Connell

Entrepreneurs Michelle Fenton and Danielle O'Connell introduced their exciting new artisan and curated home interiors shop to the village in November in the shape of Luna Oxton.

Based at 2 Rose Mount – the former home of Greens of Oxton – the shop offers a treasure trove of soft

furnishings and home goods, including vintage and upcycled products, as well as an array of inspirational ideas to brighten up any home.

Michelle, from Prenton, who opened Oxton Boutique on Rose Mount seven years ago, said: "I think Oxton needs a shop like this. It's great that there's another retail outlet in the village as we already have a good variety of bars and eateries. A shop like Luna will attract new footfall and complement all the other businesses."

Danielle, a holistic life coach who spent 25 years specialising in holistic therapy and Feng Shui in Liverpool, before moving to Wirral 15 months ago, met Michelle while working part time at Oxton Boutique.

"Michelle and I often talked about opening an

interiors shop because we both have a passion for it. We decided to go into business together and were looking for premises across Wirral but as soon as the former grocery shop became available we jumped at the chance. We both connected with the building."

Luna Oxton is open 10am to 5pm Tuesday to Saturday. Follow on Instagram [@lunaoxtonvillage](https://www.instagram.com/lunaoxtonvillage)

Oxton Travel

The pandemic may have put paid to Oxton-born Lisa Davies opening her own travel agents in the village, but it didn't stop her launching her successful Oxton Travel business from her own home instead and she hasn't looked back since.

"I should have set up on my own years ago, but I never had courage to go through with it," explained Lisa. "When I did pluck up the courage, it was just before Covid and I had to abandon plans to open in the village."

Lisa, who grew up near the Shrewsbury Arms, has worked in the travel industry since she was 16 and

has over three decades worth of experience with airlines, cruise companies and tour operators.

She now offers a range of holiday itineraries to rival any high street chain, but says it's her first-class personal service that keeps her loyal customers coming back time and time again.

Lisa was lucky enough to start travelling abroad with her parents, who still live in the village, from the age of 6 and by the age of 10 she had her heart set on the travel industry.

"I have a lot of direct connections within the industry and offer

everything from cruises, holiday packages, sporting events (including football finals, Formula 1 meetings, boxing matches) and more unique experiences such as my 'do something different' holidays.

"I always go the extra mile to make sure my customers are looked after, and I'm delighted I have received 5★ reviews on Google. I listen to what my clients want and really understand their needs. I'm in touch throughout the whole process and pay attention to the little details, eg a trip to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary.

"Oxton Travel is fully ABTA backed

Oxton Wellness Centre

Yoga has long been a popular form of exercise, but it was bereavement that introduced Becky Jones to the ancient Hindu discipline.

It helped transform her physical and mental wellbeing so much that she opened Oxton Wellness Centre in Victoria House, Victoria Mount in September.

Becky said: “I lost two family members just before Covid and I looked into mindfulness practices because I was struggling. I started yoga myself and was amazed how much it helped me.

“I decided to train as a yoga teacher in 2022 and opened my business here because I really like Oxton village having previously worked in the OBK.

“I want to encourage each client to improve their health and wellbeing to become a better person and my company mantra is ‘Empower Your Evolution’.”

Classes include yoga, Pilates and Barre and cater for people of all ages and abilities and there are men-only sessions too.

Interactive personal development workshops with mind coaches and therapists help people to tackle burnout and



procrastination, upgrade their skills and understand their mindset better.

And in the coming weeks Becky plans to introduce nutritious cooking workshops, spiritual Chakra Balancing, a Mindfulness Dads and Lads sessions.

Becky said: “Our goal is to offer something for everyone so that everyone can benefit. We’re tailoring courses all the time to support people’s needs.

“We’re open seven days a week and offer early morning, baby-friendly classes for parents and evening classes for people who are at work all day as well as weekend classes – so everyone is catered for.”

For more information visit oxtonwellnesscentre.co.uk

Oxton Travel continued

and ATOL protected, so clients can go on holiday safe in the knowledge that if anything unforeseen happens I’ll be at the end of the phone offering personal support and advice.

“There will be no ‘press 1 or press 2’ when you phone Oxton Travel – you get straight through to me.”

For more information, please contact Lisa at 0151 601 1975

or by email

lisa@oxtontravel.co.uk



Outstanding contribution to Oxton – John Booth

John Booth has retired from the committee after 12 years of exceptional service and received his award for his outstanding contribution to Oxton at the AGM.

John has always been a front-line contributor to our work and perhaps he is best known for his dedication to our Hanging Baskets display. As well as coordinating the annual erection and take-down of the baskets he single handedly designed, installed and maintained the automatic watering system.

This provides a twice-daily feed to 50 baskets from five supply points and replaced the onerous and troublesome hand-watering system of old. He masterminded the annual entry into the RHS's Northwest in Bloom scheme and won 10 awards for our display.

Over the years John was always first in line when any practical jobs had to be done. He was a prominent member of the Secret Gardens team and organised the popular shuttle buses. At Xmas Lights he was always ready to hump tents, tables and erect Xmas trees.

He was always on patrol around the village, the first to hear and report on the latest gossip and what was round the corner! He was a pillar of the community and seemed to know everybody and everybody knew him.

His contribution will be sorely missed and we wish him a long and happy retirement.

by Jeff Willis



Xmas Lights 2023

Another very successful event took place on Saturday, November 30th to welcome in the Christmas period.

The weather was our friend and so the event was well attended. The best thing this year, from an organiser's point of view, was the group of 15 new volunteers who answered our SOS for help. Without those extra hands, we could not have run the event.



Thanks to the local shops, bars and restaurants, we received many prizes for our regular raffle, and this helped to raise a large amount of money to help pay for the event.

A special thank you also goes to Bogan's Carpets and Newlook hairdressing who were the main sponsors of the event – without their help we would struggle to make ends meet. As it is, the Oxton Society will plug the shortfall of costs incurred to the tune of about £2,200.

Some people have asked about the lights in the trees: There were problems with these lights affecting the electricity supplies to the streetlamps, so we had to leave them switched off. These sets of lights need some TLC, which we are currently considering.

Oxton Society AGM

This year's AGM will take place on Thursday 2nd November at St Saviour's Parish Centre.

The agenda and supporting documentation will be distributed to all members as usual, several weeks before the event.



Contact us

If you have any comments you can contact the Newsletter team via email at info@theoxtonsociety.co.uk or post to the Secretary, 7 Kylemore Road, CH43 2HA. You can also contact the Society about any other matter using the above address or via the website www.theoxtonsociety.co.uk

If you're not receiving emails from us with news updates, your email address is not in the database, so please let us have it. Details are confidential and will never be passed on to third parties.