

the

OXTON SOCIETY

free to members



Artisan market is a roaring success



Oxton's monthly village market has gone down a treat since it launched in July – so much so that the village will now host its first ever Christmas Market in December.

Hundreds of visitors from all over Wirral have flocked to the RAFA Club on the last Sunday of the month to sample an array of products from home-cooked Indian cuisine to artisan bread.

Organiser Ash Ahmed said: "The response has been absolutely phenomenal. Visitors have described it as one of the best artisan markets in the north west, and this is precisely what the village needed. All our traders are overwhelmed by the support from the local community, and it has become their favourite market to trade at.

"A massive thank you to the Oxton Society and local businesses for their continuous support. It has greatly benefited local businesses as well as the community. Local enterprises have experienced an increase in footfall in the village, and some cafés have begun to offer special promotions on market days, which is wonderful to see as a market organiser.

"A huge thank you to the locals for making this event a tremendous success.

As an organiser, I promise to continue putting my heart and soul into this event to ensure we bring the best artisan products to your doorstep. Bring on 2025!"

John Heathman, Secretary of the Oxton Society,

added: "It's great to see how popular the monthly market is and the positive knock-on effect it's had on whole the village. The Society tries to support the local business community wherever and this is a welcome addition to Oxton."

Cont.



The Christmas Market will be held on Sunday 8th December at Oxton Cricket Club, Townfield Lane between 10am and 4pm. As well as an array of stalls, there will also be hot food, mulled wine and live music.

The monthly Oxton Village Markets will take place at the RAFA Club between 9am and 1pm on Sunday 24th November and Sunday 22nd December.



Christmas Lights switch-on 2024

This year's Oxton Christmas Lights switch-on will take place on Saturday 30th November between 3.30pm and 6pm.

Following the switch-on the village and our giant Christmas tree will be lit up for the festive season. Father Christmas and Elf will be in the village to meet the children and there will be lots of activities, choirs, carols from the Salvation Army Band, mulled wine and mince pies plus street food. We will round off the event with a rousing performance from the Wirral Drummers.



The Oxton Society needs your help to finance the Christmas Lights and the road closure which cost around £4,000 – and there is a fundraising page on JustGiving where you can donate to sponsor a bulb. Please visit the Oxton Society's website, Facebook or Twitter page for details.



Design Awards 2023/24

The AGM celebrated three recent projects that typify modest examples of good practice that are vital to preserving Oxton's special character.

Every year the Oxton Society invites nominations for its Design Awards – recognising projects that contribute to preserving and enhancing the conservation area.

Design Awards are made to substantial projects and more modest projects are given a commendation.

In order to qualify projects have to demonstrate good design, correct use of materials and provide visible examples of good practice which can inspire others.

No major projects were nominated this year but there were a number examples of smaller projects which

were presented with commendations.

Oxton's heritage houses have very little protection from poor alterations which result in loss of original features which add up to a general degradation of the area's character.

These awards demonstrate how residents can choose works that are in keeping with our heritage and play their part in looking after the area.



Commendations were awarded to:



David and Elizabeth Coombes, 1 Mount Pleasant for the complete re-building of a very prominent chimney stack, including reinstatement of original pots.



Julia Nelki and Micael Golpert, 15 South Bank. This was a major renovation, designed to bring an older house up to date, introducing space and light, improving heating, insulation and circulation – all achieved whilst protecting the main facade. Most of the work was internal and not visible from the public domain, hence we awarded a commendation.



Gillian Mounsey, Chris and Gemma Tutill, 41/43 Christchurch Road. This pair of semis on one of the main entrances to the village have been externally refurbished resulting in a striking improvement to the look of the street.

Annual General Meeting and History Group Meeting



Our AGM in November was well attended and the formal business was passed without a hitch.

Of particular note is the addition of three new members to our committee - Duane Chong, who has taken on the role of Tree Co-ordinator; Alistair Beattie, who will lead our website work; and Hugh Owen, who be our new membership secretary.

Chris Jarrey, Chairman, outlined the highlights of the last 12 months and expressed his gratitude to all the volunteers who help the society to carry out its role, whether on the committee, or the many people helping to run our projects, including the Secret Gardens and Christmas Lights events.

The evening was topped off with an informative talk from Rowena Beighton-Dykes on the life of Jessie Gavin, an artist of the late 19th and early 20th century who was born and grew up on Talbot Road in Oxton.

The annual report and draft minutes are on our main website.



OXTON TREE GROUP REPORT:

4 Rathmore Drive - T/24/01134: TPO, T1, Cherry, Fell - Limited visibility, poor crown structure.

Society says: Low amenity value. Limited to no visibility to public so no objection

Decision by WBC: Conditional Approval- Poor crown shape/structure. Limited visibility to public- Proposed works are acceptable. Replacement Species: Homeowner may select species for replacement. Rowan or Birch, suggested.

6 Victoria Mount - CA/24/01153: Pruning a yew tree and a bay tree growing in the adjoining property (6 Victoria Mount) whose branches are hindering growth of other vegetation.

Society says: No objection

Decision by WBC: No objection

RADA Club, Alton House, 17 Shrewsbury Road - CA/24/01242: T1: Sycamore- Reduce crown by 3m to reduce risk of falling branches on to car park. Branch fell on to seating area 2 months ago. Also prune branches that touch building in windy conditions.

Society says: No objection

Decision by WBC: No objection

Webster House, 11 Village Road - The Riverside Group CA/24/01337: LV0382 – up to 2.4m crown lift over pavement. LV0385 – up to 2.4m crown lift over pavement. Lateral reduction of no more than 1m over road, or to highway clearance. NEW_2218_0002 - Hawthorne remove

Society says: Common Lime; has epicormic growth and is over hanging Village Rd with a few lower branches. Crown lift seems sensible. Crack Willow; lower branches hanging low over Kylemore Road and crown lifting a good idea. Hawthorn is a spindly and clearly diseased tree, surrounded by other trees and shrubs so its removal is not a problem.

Decision by WBC: No objection

OXTON PLANNING REPORT:

3 Fairclough Lane – APPH/24/01421: Demolition of two single garage doors and replacement with larger garage door and opening, remove stone pier in wall. The drawings are difficult to read in term of proposals but from the Heritage Statement the idea is to replace two single garage doors with one larger one.

Society says: No objections

10b Victoria Mount – APPH/24/00736: This is a retrospective application for widening of driveway in sandstone wall. New opening 4.2m wide plus 0.8m path.

Society says: Drive seems wide although section of removed wall was not of highest quality so no objection from society.

13 Victoria Mount - APPH/24/01020: Single-storey rear extension, front landscaping works, amendment to front boundary wall, new access gate and extension of existing dropped kerb (resubmission of APPH/23/00539)

Society says: Following consultation the Society, whilst expressing some reservations about the width of the new opening in the sandstone wall, did not object due to other proposed improvements in the wall.

50a Bidston Road - APPH/24/01064: Front Porch Extension

Society says: No comment.

2 Normanston Road - APP/24/00941: Retrospective - 2 air source heat pump units fitted at the rear of the property over 1m away from neighbouring boundaries.

Society says: No comment works to rear no visible from street.

18 Rose Mount – APPH/24/00903: Demolition of existing garage and the construction of a garden room.

Society says: No comment

Tree Advice *By Duane Chong - Oxtton Society Tree Co-ordinator*

As autumn is clearly upon us, it's a time to be aware of the increase in falling leaves around our properties, which can clog up roadside kerbs and reduce or block rainwater drainage.

You can help reduce the risk of slipping on pavements, the clogging up nearby drains, and rainwater flooding, by sweeping up leaves falling from the trees on yours or adjacent properties.

An even more creative and practical way to use fallen leaves is to make a mulch to be used in your garden next spring.

'Mulching is generally used to save water, suppress weeds and improve the soil around plants but it also gives your garden a neat, tidy appearance and can reduce the amount of time spent on tasks such as watering and weeding. Mulches help soil retain moisture in summer, rain to penetrate the soil in winter, prevent weeds from growing and protect the roots of plants in winter.' <https://www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/mulch>

There are some helpful tips on making mulch in Monty Don's latest blog: <https://www.homesandgardens.com/advice/how-to-make-leaf-mulch>



The Drawing Room in Christchurch Road has been a stalwart business in Oxtton since it opened its doors on 16th May 2002.

The brainchild of sisters Jane and Sara Williams, it's been a favourite destination for shoppers all over Wirral and beyond

The premises is now for sale and as Jane prepares for a new chapter, she said: "I want to express my deepest gratitude to all my wonderful customers. Your loyalty and support over the years have meant the world to me (and to Sara during the tearoom years!)"

"Being made to feel such a part of this community has been a true privilege, and I hope I've managed to give back even a fraction of what I've received."

Here Jane explains what it's been like owning a business in the heart of Oxtton:



Given the beautiful period properties throughout the area, we felt a period style interiors shop would be the perfect fit for the community.

Why have you decided to retire now and what plans do you have?

I wouldn't exactly call this retirement - more of a gentle transition to a new chapter. Having run the shop mostly on my own for over 22 years, I feel the time is right to ease back a little and explore different opportunities. I'm particularly looking forward to getting involved in some voluntary work and spending more precious time with my family. As for what's next job-wise, I'm keeping an open mind and excited to see what opportunities present themselves!



Drawing Room in 2002

What inspired you to open the Drawing Room:

The idea originally came from Sara. While we both had retail experience behind us, owning our own business was a new frontier - though you could say it runs in our blood, as our Mum and her three sisters had all been successful retail business owners so we were excited to follow in their footsteps!

Why did you choose to open in Oxtton?

The location choice came naturally. Sara was living in Oxtton at the time and spotted an available premises on Christchurch Road.

What have been your highlights of being a business owner in Oxtton?

Some of my fondest memories include the amazing Secret Gardens events, the Christmas lights, and the incredible sense of community spirit. The village residents and The Oxtton Society have always been wonderfully supportive, and I've also been blessed with fantastic business neighbours.

How has the village changed over the years?

It's fascinating to reflect on how Oxtton has evolved over the years. When we first arrived, it was very much a traditional village serving locals, complete with all the essentials - a chemist, bank, post office, newsagent, greengrocers, and even two butchers! The transformation into today's destination spot, with its wonderful mix of shops and eateries, has been remarkable to witness.

What will you miss most?

The heart and soul of Oxtton - its residents and visitors from near and far - will be what I miss most. Their support and friendships have meant everything. I'm also incredibly grateful to my wonderful business neighbours who've helped countless times taking in deliveries for me! While I may be stepping back, I'll certainly remain a regular visitor to this special village, and I know whoever takes over the premises will receive the same warm welcome I did.



Progress with the Rose Beds

Our first trial bed was planted in February 2023 with 7 Rosa Penelope shrub roses. These were bare-root roses planted in cardboard boxes in the ground to allow their roots to establish without any contact with the original soil, which could have been responsible for the decline of previous roses we had put in that bed.

During the Summer of 2023 we observed the health of the Penelope roses. Delighted by how they were doing, another bed was cleared and planted, using the same method in late October, with 7 Rosa Sally Holmes.

In early March 2024, two more beds were planted, one with 9 The Simple Life roses, and the other with 12 Lark Ascending roses.

During this year we also worked hard adding low growing perennials to the newly planted rose beds. This is already creating ground cover and reducing the need to weed between the roses. It also attracts insects which feed on aphids which could be on the roses, therefore helping to keep the roses healthy.

Many people had commented positively on the lavender under planting on the left side of the garden, looking down from the

rose arch. The far side of the garden is shadier, and the soil is less well draining. This has meant growing, dividing and purchasing a selection of perennials for under planting. Our aim is to have plants which are bee friendly and flower for a long time, are evergreen wherever possible and spread well to carpet the ground.

Overall, the result has been very good and people visiting the Arno have said they enjoy seeing the colourful new rose beds. We will be planting 4 more beds in November with more under planting in the spring. Please come and see for yourselves next time you are passing by the Arno.

Reviving the Little Arno

In 2021 Wirral Council decided to halt all future maintenance of the Little Arno. We expressed concern about this at the time and over the following 3 years we became increasingly dismayed by the deteriorating condition of this valuable pocket park.

Recently we suggested to the Park Manager that if Wirral Council could cut back the laurels, which had got completely out of control, remove the brambles and recommence mowing the grass, that the Friends would carry out regular maintenance.

Imagine our delight when in mid-October, a team of 6 gardeners arrived at the Little Arno and set about putting it to rights. They have now worked on it for several days, restoring it to a manageable state, so that we can take over. We also intend to place a bench or two for visitors and will consider other improvements to make it a friendly place for use by the community once again.



The Secret Gardens of Oxton will be back in full bloom on Sunday 11th May.

First launched in 2001, dozens of gardens have opened their 'gates' to the public, thousands of visitors have enjoyed a wonderful family day out and over £500,000 has been raised for local charities in the process.

Co-organiser Kirsty Cotton said: "As always, we are looking for new gardens to open to the public. There are so many family favourites in Oxton which bring visitors back year after year and to those garden owners were are truly grateful.

"But if you've been put off by opening in the past because you're not sure what it involves, or you think it may be too much work, then please don't worry. We have a team of volunteers on hand to help. Please reach out and let us chat through everything so you can make an informed decision."



Litter Picking

Oxton's community spirit is there for all to see during our main events such as the Secret Gardens and the Christmas Lights switch-on – but there are many residents who volunteer their time all year round to make sure the village is as welcoming as possible.

A group of like-minded residents have been meeting regularly to clean up some of the rubbish that has been discarded on our streets.

village makes a big difference and we have a lovely team of people who don't mind getting stuck in.

"We're always happy to see new faces too if anyone wants to come along.

"It's good to give the Biffa team a helping hand as well because they do a great job."

The litter-picking get-togethers usually take place once a month and are advertised on the Facebook group Only in Oxton.



Organiser Kate Heathman said: "Sadly, litter is a problem everywhere not just Oxton, but we're lucky that just a few hours in the



Visit Oxton Open Studios

STUDIO 1 Stokesay Stables, Noctorum Lane CH43 9UA (Limited Parking)



Sue Holt: Potter

Thrown and handbuilt ceramics inspired by geology and the wildlife of the Dee Estuary.

Instagram: sueholt pottery
Facebook: Sueholt pottery



George Evans: Photographer

Landscape, architecture, nature and light, designed for your enjoyment.

Website: gwevansphotography.com
Instagram: wirralpixal



Daniel Meakin: Painter

Vivid paintings featuring colour, contour, collage both illustrative and the fantastic.

Instagram: danielmeakinart
Facebook: danielmeakinart

OXTON OPEN STUDIOS

30 Nov. 10-4
1 Dec. 12-4
2024



STUDIO 3 30 Templemore Road CH43 2HB



Lynda Roberts: Multi-media

Richly layered, multi media collages combine both architectural and natural landscapes.

Website: lyndarobertsart.co.uk
Instagram: lyndarobertsart



Gill Curry: Printmaker

Specialising in etching and lino print, her detailed work explores contrasting landscapes of the Dee Estuary and Les Alpilles in Provence.

Instagram: gill_curry

STUDIO 4 Kylemore Road CH43 2HA



Slip & Tickle: Potter

Functional, decorative, sometimes zany ceramics for those seeking a little artisan joy.

Instagram: slipandticklec ceramics
Website: slipandticklec.co.uk

STUDIO 2 Wellington Road Art Studios CH43 2JE



Alison Bailey Smith: Jeweller & eco Artist

Transformative jewellery and objects made from recycled materials.

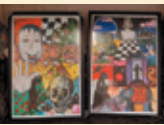
Instagram: AlisonBaileySmith
Website: abscraft.com



Jude Gill: Ceramic Organic

Fascinating intricate ornamental porcelain pieces inspired by nature.

Instagram: Ceramic Organic
Facebook: Jude Gill Ceramics



Jan Ewing: Painter

Layered and textured paint on canvas created from the imagination.

Instagram: jan.ewing.315



Kate Bigley: Illustrator

Drawings, paintings and installations influenced by flowing line and space.

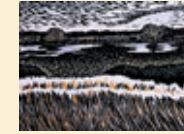
Website: bigglesart.co.uk
Instagram: biggles_art



Marie Mairs: Painter & Ceramicist

Jubilant oil paintings of real and imaginary subjects, plus decorative ceramics.

Instagram: MarieMairs



Viv Netherwood: Felter & Printmaker

Textile art featuring felt and fabrics, plus hand crafted prints.

Instagram: v.netherwood
Facebook: ThingwallFelt



Oxton Open Studios has become a well-loved free annual Christmas event.

Now in its 4th year, the studios showcase the creativity and passion of 12 Wirral creatives in four locations, most within a short walk of Oxton Village. Discover Pottery, Photography, Print Making, Felting, Multi Media, Painting and more.

By visiting Artists in their work spaces visitors will have an opportunity to gain insight into working practices, inspiration, techniques, tools and materials that shape the end product.

This is a wonderful opportunity to view and buy original works of art and gifts with prices to suit all budgets.

The Artists look forward to welcoming you on Saturday 30th November between 10am-4pm and Sunday 1st December between noon-4pm.

For more information visit Facebook/instagram: Oxton Open Studios

Contact us



If you have any comments or suggestions for the Society or the Newsletter team please email 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

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