

Oxfordshire Old Blues

Newsletter - Spring 2011

Chair: Prof. Stephen Harrison; Secretary: Dr. John Evans; Treasurer: Mr. Bob Brindle;
Committee members: Miss Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith, Mr Charles Ellis. Mrs. Cathy Steiner

The following programme for Oxfordshire Old Blues has been organised by the committee for the coming year. As always, any new ideas or suggestions are very welcome.

Stratford Theatre Visit: Wednesday 4th May to see 'Macbeth' at the newly refurbished Memorial Theatre, 7.15 pm. Charles Ellis has organised good stall seats at £28. Last year people met at Weatherspoons, 41 Sheep Street (about 400 yds. from the theatre) and this is suggested again this year - from 5.45pm. Those interested should contact Charles on 01993 703966 or by email at elliswitney@talktalk.net as soon as possible.

Kelmscott Manor Visit, Thursday 30th June 30. This has been organised by Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith. The visit to the Manor, once the home of William Morris, will begin at 2.00 pm with an introductory talk, following which members can tour the house. The basic cost will be £10, plus £4.50 for the pre-booked cream tea. Further details of the visit and how to book are given by Elizabeth in the page added to this Newsletter.

Woodstock Museum Friday 12th August

A visit to the Oxfordshire Museum at Fletcher's House in Woodstock has been organised by Brian Hook. The free visit will include a guided tour of the Winston Churchill Oxfordshire Hussars exhibition starting at 10.30am after which other permanent exhibits of the museum can be visited, including the special exhibition on automata. In addition there are extensive gardens with flowers, lawns and sculptures. The plan is to meet up for lunch at the Museum Café at a time to be arranged later. Those wishing to join this visit should contact Brian either by phone (01235-8684477) or e-mail (brian.l.hook@btinternet.com), by Monday 8th August.

Founder's Day Dinner: This will be held on Saturday 29 October, at Balliol College Oxford, (with thanks to Prof. Jasper Griffin (Pe.A 1948-56)). The guest speaker will be Dennis Silk (Ma.A 1942-50). Further details will be sent out in September.

Evensong and Supper: January 2012. As in previous years, Professor Stephen Harrison will organise a visit as a group to a Saturday Evensong at one of the Oxford Colleges followed by an optional supper. Details will be circulated late December.

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**Membership**: All Oxfordshire Old Blues and guests are welcome to any of the events. The Committee is very grateful to those who have completed an Oxfordshire Old Blues Membership Standing Order (min. £10 p.a.). The funds raised contribute toward our very moderate running costs and allow undergraduates to attend events such as the Founder's Day Dinner at a reduced cost. In addition, all surplus donations are given annually either to a deserving cause within the School or to the Benevolent Society of Blues.

If you wish to set up a Standing Order or have any queries about your present Standing Order, please contact either Bob Brindle, our treasurer (01993-831330), or John Evans. Our committee meetings are held in January and July. If anyone is interested in attending, please let the Secretary know.

Enquiries about any item on this newsletter can be made to John Evans, 27 Clevelands, Abingdon, OX14 2EQ; tel: 01235-525059; [jhevans@sky.com](mailto:jhevans@sky.com).

## Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011: Group Visit to Kelmscott Manor

As Old Blues will know, Kelmscott Manor was the home of William Morris. It is a beautiful house near Lechlade in a beautiful setting on the upper Thames, now owned by the Society of Antiquaries of London. Rather than attempt to summarise all it offers, I urge members to check out the Website at [www.kelmscottmanor.org.uk](http://www.kelmscottmanor.org.uk). Kelmscott itself is a pretty village about 25 miles from Oxford and the drive takes about three-quarters of an hour.

We have booked up for a “free roam” visit. This entails an introductory talk, after which we shall be able to visit the Manor House without a guide but will find a steward in each room to answer questions. They suggest a minimum time of 1hr.45 minutes for the house. One also needs time to enjoy the gardens, meadow and dovecot and to browse the excellent Gift Shop.

The visit will cost **£10 per head** unless you are a student (concession) or a member of the Historic Houses Association (free). We shall need to **be at the Manor by 2.00 pm**, and please note that the walk from their car park through the village takes at least 10 minutes. There is no public transport to Kelmscott so everyone will need to drive (perhaps some scope to share cars?).

The food provided in the restaurant is delicious but not cheap. So I propose that those wanting lunch should meet in advance in the nearby pub. However, I am disposed to take a gamble and book us a Cream Tea in the restaurant at the end of the visit. **This will cost an additional £4.50**. I am afraid that this would have to be a group booking (because food and catering staff are ordered in advance) so individuals could not opt in or out at the last minute.

There is no limit to the number of participants, in fact the more the better. We shall need at least 20 to cover the basic charge for groups and if we muster more than 32 (admittedly unlikely) then the price might come down a bit. So please bring along your friends and family - and especially anyone interested in William Morris and his circle, or in furniture and the Arts and Crafts Movement. It makes a lovely day out for a sunny midsummer afternoon.

**Will those interested please let me know as soon as possible** – with numbers of your party and details of any concessions you may qualify for. And if anyone has a particular interest in Morris, or an aspect of the collection, I am asked to let Kelmscott know so that the introductory talk can be as relevant as possible.

Do not send any money yet, I will be in touch nearer the date of the visit.

Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith Tel. 01608 811874; Email: [e.llewellynsmith@btopenworld.com](mailto:e.llewellynsmith@btopenworld.com)