



The Museum of Oxford provides an insight into the history of the city and its people. Visitors to our galleries can discover more about Oxford's earliest residents, medieval crafts, Civil War stories, Oxford's famous literary connections and the growth of the modern city.



The museum works with local people and groups to present an exciting programme of projects, exhibitions and events to help bring our displays to life. We also offer a wide range of themed hands-on activities for children, families and visiting school groups.

**The museum is located in the Town Hall on St Aldate's (at the corner with Blue Boar Street). We are open Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-17:00 (last admission 30 minutes before closing).**

**Admission is free to all the permanent displays and special exhibitions!**

## Object of the month



This month's object has been chosen by eBulletin designer Owain Pearce.

I have chosen the skeleton of Giles Covington. His story was interesting as he was tried, convicted and hung for murder in 1791 based mostly on the sole testimony of an accomplice who "grassed" him up to gain a pardon. Three men were found guilty of murder and all of their bodies were used in Anatomy study but Covington's skeleton is the only one to have survived. A testament to his innocence perhaps?

## The Big Car Project Update

Over the last couple of months the museum, supported by Renaissance funding, has been working with a group of learners from Oxfordshire Adult Learning Service and local artist Dionne Barber. They have been looking at the rich motoring history of Oxford and built a model of a 1960s Mini Mk II.

The group have worked on the project every Thursday afternoon and visitors to the museum were able to view the development of the car on a daily basis. As well as the development of the model visitors can see some of the other work the group produced. An updated series of photographs, images and text appeared towards the end of each week providing an update on progress.

In addition to the Adult Learners, a group consisting of volunteers and members of the Oxford Searchers over 50s group will be meeting with people who used to work within the local car industry to record their memories of working days gone by.

The finished model mini will form part of the Lantern Procession on Christmas Light Night on 26th November. While the mini is in the procession, associates from MINI will be on hand to discuss the story of the wheel in the Museum special exhibition gallery.



## Autumn Highlights

During October half term some 1200 visitors came through our doors. Of special note was the success of our family activities. In just 4 days (Tuesday-Friday) the museum sold 96 Creation Stations, 82 trails, 24 brass rubbing packs and 69 workshop places.

Tegan Bennett (Museum Assistant) said ...."Halloween is a great annual event, especially for children. They really enjoyed painting scary T-shirts, making witches and wizards costumes and following a spooky trail around the galleries."



# What's on at Museum of Oxford



## The Big Car Project

11 September to 1 January 2011

Watch a handmade model of a Mini evolve in the Museum of Oxford. A group of Oxfordshire Adult Learners will be working with local artist Dionne Barber and the Searchers group to research and develop a 'big car project'!



Featuring a large-scale model made from MDF and Mod-roc around a wire frame, historical photographs, memories of Cowley car factory workers and research by the Searchers over 50 group.

## Memory Lane

A monthly group for people to meet and reminisce about the old days and to find creative ways to retell memories.

**Oxford Events** — Thursday 23 September

**A Trip to the Seaside** — Thursday 21 October

**Oxford Industry** — Thursday 25 November

## Drop In!

### Creation Station

Stop at the Creation Station in the galleries for simple art activities inspired by objects and themes in the museum. This autumn families can drop-in and make

### Crafty Cars

30 October to 26 November

### Father Christmas and Friends

26 Nov to 24 Dec

Creation Station £1.50 per art & craft bag. Please note all children must be accompanied by an adult.

### Gallery Trails

#### Who's driving the car?

30 October to 26 November

#### Santa's Search

26 Nov to 24 Dec

Trails cost £1 each and include souvenir prize!

#### Brass Rubbing Pack

Throughout 2010

Try your hand at brass rubbing using the five brasses in the galleries. Packs cost £1

#### Adventures with Alice Pack

Throughout 2010

Find the Alice objects in the A-Z of Literary Oxford gallery and solve the puzzles Lewis Carroll set for his friends!

## Christmas Light Night Activities

26 November

Celebrate the arrival of the Christmas Season with the Christmas lights switch on, then enjoy activities at the Museum of Oxford.

5.00 – 8.00pm

### World War Two Christmas

Join in with traditional children's games, family arts and crafts and find out what made Christmas special during World War Two from staff in period costume. Discover the traditions of Christmas past from pre-history onwards, make a Christmas character cone puppet or follow Santa's trail through the museum's galleries.



# Your City Your Museum

## ■ Become a volunteer

We rely greatly on the support of volunteers to help with the day-to-day running of the Museum of Oxford. A dedicated team of front-of-house volunteers provide public access to the museum's galleries, exhibitions and events. If you are interested in volunteering then call 01865 252761, email [museum@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:museum@oxford.gov.uk) or collect a registration form from the museum.

## ■ Have your say

Your views can help shape the future of the museum! Send your comments and suggestions to [museum@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:museum@oxford.gov.uk)

## ■ Plan a visit

When did you last visit? Have you seen our latest exhibition?

Book a workshop, drop-in and take part in the daytime activities, or just visit the Town Hall café for a coffee and cake.

## ■ Community Groups

Are you part of a group or know of one who would like to get involved with the Museum of Oxford? Perhaps you might like to create your own exhibition or maybe you have an idea for a project you would like to do.

If so please contact the Community Volunteer Officer, Neil Stevenson on 01865 252118

## ■ Reminiscence Groups

The Museum of Oxford Reminiscence project (MOOR) delivers reminiscence sessions to groups of older people in Oxford. The sessions last for approximately 1 hour and groups can choose from a range of themes, including 'fun and games', 'all dressed up', and 'making your own entertainment'.

If you would like to discuss the project or are interested in hosting a session then please contact the Reminiscence Officer, Helen Fountain on 01865 252795



## Museum Operations Officer

Vanessa Lea

[vlea@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:vlea@oxford.gov.uk) | 01865 252086

## Learning Team

Kate Toomey & Tegan Bennett

[ktoomey@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:ktoomey@oxford.gov.uk) |

[tbennett@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:tbennett@oxford.gov.uk)

01865 252819



(l-r) Tegan Bennett and Kate Toomey



(l-r) Colin Langton and Marsali Heatley

## Museum Assistants

Jill Boodell

[jboodell@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:jboodell@oxford.gov.uk)

01865 252761

## Community Groups

Neil Stevenson

[nstevenson@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:nstevenson@oxford.gov.uk) |

01865 252118

## Reminiscence Officer

Helen Fountain

[hfountain@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:hfountain@oxford.gov.uk) | 01865 252795



(l-r) Vanessa Lea, Katie Timmins and Jill Boodell



(l-r) Neil Stevenson and Helen Fountain



# After visiting the Museum see what's on at **Oxford Town Hall**

## **Oxfordshire Countryside Paintings** (by Michelle Field)

The Gallery Corridor  
1 – 30 November, 10am - 6pm  
Free entry

## **One World Fair**

13 November, 10am - 4.30pm  
50p entry

## **Green Party Bazaar**

11 December, 10.30am – 4pm  
Free entry



## **Concerts**

### **Oxford Chamber Orchestra**

19 Nov

### **Oxford University Philharmonia**

22 Nov

### **Oxford Harmonic Society**

25 Nov

### **Carols & Capers**

14 Dec



### **Handel's Messiah**

18 Dec

### **Lord Mayors Carols**

19 Dec

Call Town Hall Box Office on 01865  
252351 for ticket details

## **Christmas at the Town Hall**

### **Christmas Light Night**

Friday 26 November

4.30pm – 10.00pm

Celebrate the Christmas light switch on at the Town Hall. Enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and hot food in the Main Hall to the accompaniment of a festive marching band.

### **Charity Christmas Card shop**

23 Oct - 18 Dec 10am - 4pm

Over 300 cards from 40 different national and local charities, Advent calendars, wrappings and small gifts available.

### **Santa's Grotto**

Opening from Friday 26th Nov. Weekends Only. From 15th – 23rd Dec OPEN

EVERY DAY ! 10am - 4pm

Come and visit Santa's Grotto at the Town Hall this Christmas. Take a seat and listen to Father Christmas tell you a story, visit him to tell him your wish for Christmas and take your photo or get involved in an activity workshop (including making tree decorations, jewellery, decorating wrapping paper and creating spice pomanders). Storytelling at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm.

Prices start from £2

### **Christmas Parties**

Thurs 9th Dec & Friday 17th Dec

Celebrate Christmas in style this December at one of our Dickens themed party nights. You can enjoy a drink on arrival, a three course meal and then dance the night away to live entertainment. £45 per person. Special offer for Thursday 9th December - Book for 10, pay for 9

