



- ▶ PLANET EARTH SEASON
- ▶ OPEN DOORS WEEKEND
- ▶ OXFORD PLAYHOUSE TURNS 70
- ▶ EARTH FROM THE AIR AT OXFORD CASTLE
- ▶ NOWKA-BAIS AND OLYMPIC FLAG DAY
- ▶ THE MAGIC HOUR
- ▶ NEW BROOKES CHANCELLOR
- ▶ SUSTAINABILITY AWARD
- ▶ CULTURAL BRANDING AWARD
- ▶ VISION FOR AN URBAN FUTURE
- ▶ NEW DEPUTY LIEUTENANT
- ▶ MARK WALLINGER SCULPTURE
- ▶ MEDIA PARTNERSHIP RENEWAL

○ SUMMER | ○ 2008



# OxfordInspires

ENCOURAGING CULTURE ACROSS OXFORDSHIRE

## Introducing The Planet Earth Season

Climate change is provoking artists and environmentalists across the county to take action and this autumn we shall see a windfall of events to capture your imagination.

Oxfordshire's universities and research institutes lead the field in tackling global warming, and this season will demonstrate the pioneering endeavours of scientists, campaigners, artists and everyday people from all across the county.

The large brochure shortly to appear in display racks welcomes events such as 'Earth from the Air at Oxford Castle', and will be marked by a Yann Arthus-Bertrand aerial photograph on the cover.

The brochure gathers *Big Draw* events for families to take part in art workshops in October linked by an earthy theme, as well as highlighting venue birthday celebrations and the launch of the new Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot (29-31 August).

*The Planet Earth Season* features Apple Days, Feast and Fairs such as the wonderful Wychwood Forest Fair on 31 August, and some motivating talks and debates. Mark Lynas will be in town for a book signing and will meet with Low Carbon Groups for their talk at The Corner Club, Oxford on 15 October. Tim Smit of the

Eden Project will be at Saïd Business School to share his thoughts for a lunchtime lecture with the Oxford Entrepreneurs on 12 November.

For practical ideas on reducing your own or your business' carbon impact go to the EIE Environmental Showcase on Saturday 27 September at Oxford Brookes University. If you prefer to smell the flowers, try the Wildlife Walk and Breakfast at Waterperry Gardens.

For more information visit [www.oxfordinspires.org](http://www.oxfordinspires.org). ❖

*The Planet Earth Season is supported by BMW Group Plant Oxford, First Great Western, ESRI (UK) and Blake Laphorn Tarlo Lyons through Oxford Inspires*



## Open Doors Weekend Leaves No Corner Unturned

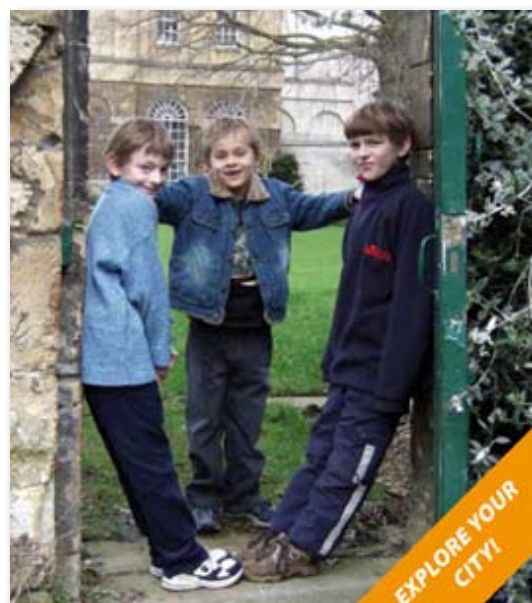
Ever wondered what lies behind some of Oxford's famous portals? Once again, doors will swing open across the city for a weekend of discovery on September 13 and 14 when visitors will be able to climb towers, discover hidden gardens and peek into civic buildings that are normally closed to the public eye. Guided walks and talks, hands-on activities and rides in vintage buses, cars and boats are all part of the fun.

Oxford Open Doors with the Oxford Preservation Trust in partnership with

the University of Oxford attracted thousands of people to its event last year, and this year over the same weekend you can also visit 'Oxfordshire Open Eco Homes'. Take a look inside 5 remarkable eco-houses to find ideas on how to make your home brighter, warmer and cheaper to run.

See [www.ecovation.org.uk](http://www.ecovation.org.uk) for details. ❖

More info on Open Doors: [www.openingdoorsopeningminds.org.uk](http://www.openingdoorsopeningminds.org.uk), and in the local press.



EXPLORE YOUR CITY!

# Oxford Playhouse is 70 Not Out!

The Oxford Playhouse building in Beaumont Street reaches the grand old age of 70 this October – and star-studded celebrations are planned. A special birthday weekend with two Gala events takes place on 25 and 26 October, when the theatre takes a look back at its golden years and conjures up some magical theatrical moments, helped by surprise celebrity guests. It will also be an occasion to say farewell to director Tish Francis who bows out after nearly 20 years at the helm of one of the country's most popular theatres.



**Many Happy Returners:** Libby Purves and friends re-live famous moments from the Playhouse's star-studded history. 25 October, 7.30pm

**Seventy – Not Out:** Gyles Brandreth hosts an evening of wit and laughter. 26 October, 7.30pm

Other anniversary events in October include the exciting world premiere of a new opera, *Burial at Thebes* written by Nobel Prize winning poet Seamus Heaney and directed by another Nobel Laureate, the poet Derek Walcott.

The Playhouse may have garnered many laurels in the past, but it's certainly not sitting on them now: the 70th anniversary marks the start of a major campaign to raise £1million in a year and set the stage for the theatre's future. This includes producing more of its own work and making Oxford a centre for artistic exploration and innovation; developing theatre for young people and the local community; and ongoing improvements to the building itself.

A programme of special anniversary events will run throughout the year. More info: [www.oxfordplayhouse.com](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com) ❖



## MEDIA PARTNERSHIP RENEWED



Oxford Inspires continues to enjoy a media partnership with The Oxford Times – which means that arts organisations have an additional channel for promoting culture across the county. “Last year’s millennium events enjoyed strong coverage in the weekly newspaper and we’re delighted that the links created in 2007 will continue. There are some great stories to be told in 2008”, said Chief Executive Sarah Maxfield. Look out for the Planet Earth Season supplement in The Oxford Times due 22 August.

## OxfordTimes

## Earth from the Air at Oxford Castle



YPT-0001-04  
Yann Arthus Bertrand - Taking photograph from helicopter  
© YANN ARTHUS BERTRAND / IMPACT PHOTOS

A spectacular outdoor exhibition of giant aerial images captured by internationally renowned photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand will be revealing the world in all its fragile beauty at Oxford Castle.

*Earth from the Air at Oxford Castle*, part of this autumn's *Planet Earth Season*, charts the photographer's airborne adventures around the globe – and the changing nature of the world we live in.

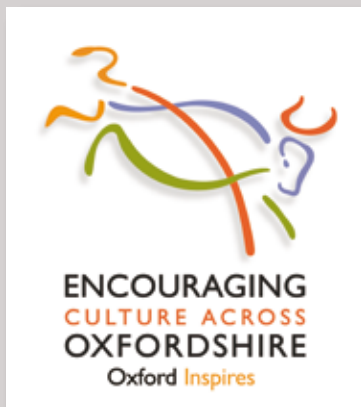
Yann Arthus-Bertrand spent ten years carefully researching the landscapes he chose, flying over more than 100 countries. A series of 120 pictures depict everything from human settlements to breathtaking geographical landscapes such as deserts and volcanoes, all taken from a helicopter.

The free exhibition, which will be floodlit at night, is set to transform Oxford Castle's courtyards from 20 September until January 2009. Look out also for related workshops and talks.

Hosted by Oxford Castle Ltd. in partnership with the Oxfordshire ClimateXchange, Oxford Inspires, OISSP (Oxfordshire Independent/State School Partnership), Oxford Castle Unlocked, The Key Learning Centre & wecommunic8

For more information visit [www.wecommunic8.com/earthfromtheair](http://www.wecommunic8.com/earthfromtheair) ❖

*Major Local Corporate Supporter – Blake Laphorn Tarlo Lyons*  
*Supporters of Earth from the Air: Oxford Castle Ltd., University of Oxford Environmental Change Institute (ECI), University of Oxford Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, Good Energy, ESRI (UK) & wecommunic8*



Central Library  
Westgate  
Oxford OX1 1DJ

**General enquiries:**

Tel: 01865 815525  
Fax: 01865 810187  
info@oxfordinspires.org

**The Team:**

Sarah Maxfield  
Chief Executive  
sarah.maxfield@oxfordinspires.org

Kathelene Weiss  
Director of Development  
kathelene.weiss@oxfordinspires.org

Jacqui Ibbotson  
Arts and Learning Coordinator  
jacqui.ibbotson@oxfordinspires.org

Olivia Thornton  
Marketing & Communications Officer  
olivia.thornton@oxfordinspires.org

Liz Gresham  
Administrative Manager  
liz.gresham@oxfordinspires.org

Lisa Makros  
PA to Chief Executive  
lisa.makros@oxfordinspires.org

Terry Winter  
Financial Administrator  
terry.winter@oxfordinspires.org

# River Is A Riot Of Colour For Olympic Flag Day

As the thrills and excitement of the Beijing Olympics turns to anticipation in London, Oxfordshire will be joining the rest of the UK in marking the ceremonial hand-over on Sunday 24 August 2008. Around the county Olympic flags will be raised at events in Banbury, Bicester, Henley and on White Horse Hill.

In Oxford, a colourful Bangladeshi boat contest – or nowka-bais – will make a welcome reappearance on the River Thames at Folly Bridge from midday onwards, with special races and traditional Bangladeshi music and dance. The nowka-bais were introduced on the river for Oxfordshire 2007's popular *Go with the Flow* festival, thanks to local restaurateur Aziz Ur Rahman. Now they have a special day to themselves. This year, teams from other UK cities will be arriving to challenge the Oxford crews – and they will also be helping civic dignitaries and local sporting heroes to unfurl the Olympic flag

later in the afternoon at a special ceremony at Carfax Tower at 5.30pm.

**Event Organisers:** Peter Travis and Aziz-Ur Rahman, Oxfordshire Bangladeshi Boat Club, Oxfordshire Bangladeshi Association, and Oxford Inspires

**Media Partners:** S Channel, ATN Bangla and Bangla Mirror

**Confirmed Supporters:** Thames Water, Pride of Asia Catering, Kansaras Exclusive Luxury Chocolates, Eurasia, Buildbase, Darbys Solicitors, City Linen, Oxford City Council, The Waterways Trust, Oxfordshire Sports Partnership, Aziz Restaurants and City Sightseeing Oxford

**Friends:** Oxford Sea Cadets, The Riverside Centre, City Barge, Falcon Rowing and Canoeing Club, The British Canoe Union, BOB, Network Bangla and Brit Bangla

See [www.oxfordinspires.org](http://www.oxfordinspires.org) for details of these events. ❖



Workers from Piggotts put finishing touches to UK Olympic Handover Flags

## Air Your Views On The Arts

Arts and culture organisations are invited to have their say on the future of Oxfordshire. A long-term vision for the county covering the next 20-plus years is being formulated by the Oxfordshire Partnership, which wants to hear the views of everyone in the county. The Oxfordshire Partnership brings together organisations from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to look at the things that matter to the county – and do something about them.

A draft strategy, *Oxfordshire 2030*, has been prepared for public consultation during the

period 7 July to 22 September 2008. This recognises the importance of local groups in helping to create a sense of community, stating that culture and leisure activities have a strong part to play in creating Oxfordshire's unique identity. If you want to make sure that culture is well up on the agenda, make your voice heard now, before the final strategy is agreed in November.

More info and download the strategy document at [www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.oxfordshirepartnership.org.uk) ❖

## Vision For An Urban Future

A developer talking about culture? It's a bit like getting (alleged hamster-eating) Freddie Starr to address the local small pets club. But Trevor Osborne, the man responsible for transforming the Oxford Castle quarter into a multi-award winning example of urban regeneration, is passionate about the role that arts and culture have to play in making places come alive.

Trevor was guest speaker at Oxford Inspires' latest cultural platform, hosted in July at the beautiful setting of Eynsham Hall – and outlined his belief that great places have the power to fire the imagination. Trevor is also Deputy Chairman (and co-founder) of the Academy of Urbanism, an organisation concerned with fostering buildings and places with a high quality of living and creative input. The Academy even has a writer, poet and an artist in residence.

For those interested in discovering more, a conference Towards a New Urbanism, takes place in Liverpool from 25 to 27 November 2008.

More info:  
[www.academyofurbanism.org.uk](http://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk) ❖

## Oxford Inspires Chair of Board Tony Stratton becomes Deputy Lieutenant for Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire's outgoing Lord Lieutenant Sir Hugo Brunner has appointed six new Deputy Lieutenants including our own Chair Tony Stratton.

The other new deputies whose role it is to represent the Queen and royal family in Oxfordshire will be Diana Bagnall, from Buckland, Helen Baker and Marion Stevenson, from Oxford, Michael Macfadyen, from Checkendon, Miranda Markham, from Newton Purcell. ❖

## Mark Wallinger Sculpture In Oxford College

Turner-prize winning artist Mark Wallinger has been commissioned by Magdalen College, Oxford to help celebrate their 550th anniversary. Wallinger has created a steel tree-shape sculpture as his first ever dedicated permanent artwork, now on display at the college. It reflects the Gothic tracery present in the surrounding architecture. For more information see [www.magd.ox.ac.uk](http://www.magd.ox.ac.uk) ❖

## Be-Witching Hour In The Gardens

Mysterious sounds, unexpected sights – it's all part of the enchantment when dusk starts to fall in the University of Oxford Botanic Garden during three evocative evenings in early September. Twilight will draw out magical music

created by some of the country's most exciting sound artists and composers, who have spent the last six months working on the project with environmentalists and gardeners.

Wander through the Gardens and experience their work, which also involves local school children. *The Magic Hour* takes place on 4-6 September, from 7 to 10pm is led by Oxford Contemporary Music and the University of Oxford Botanic Garden, whose successful collaboration *Power Plant*



(premiered in Oxford in 2005) goes up to Liverpool in October as part of the Capital of Culture celebrations. Follow the progress of *The Magic Hour* as it unfolds via BBC Radio Oxford 95.2FM and online [www.bbc.co.uk/oxford](http://www.bbc.co.uk/oxford).

*The Magic Hour* is generously supported by Arts Council England's Capital Lottery programme, the PRS Foundation, Oxford City Council, Arts and Business and VSL. BMW Group Plant Oxford is giving

its support to the project through Oxford Inspires.

More info: [www.ocmevents.org](http://www.ocmevents.org) ❖

**Pop in to Quod, on The High Street** just a few minutes stroll from *The Magic Hour* at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden show your *Magic Hour* ticket to receive a complimentary glass of wine with your supper. Offer available Thursday 4th - Saturday 6th September. They would love to see you for an early supper or after the event.

Every month Quod sends a newsletter to subscribers with opportunities such as Win a Lobster Supper. If you would like to subscribe to receive news and special offers from Quod, The Old Bank Hotel, The Old Parsonage Hotel and Gee's please sign up at [www.gees-restaurant.co.uk/main.news](http://www.gees-restaurant.co.uk/main.news). ❖



## “Human Dynamo” is New Chancellor at Brookes

The UK's leading champion of human rights has been appointed Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University. Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, formally took over the position, which is a ceremonial one, on 11 July.

Oxford Brookes students run an annual Human Rights Film Festival which won praise from the new Chancellor, who said: “I am delighted to be part of a place where ideas –and idealism – flourish.” The outgoing Chancellor Jon Snow described



Ms Chakrabarti as “an extraordinary human dynamo”. He also paid tribute to the links that Oxford Brookes has to the community, city and region.

Shami Chakrabarti is one of a strong line-up of women players at Brookes, which includes Vice-Chancellor Janet Beer, appointed last September, Lina Mughal Students' Union president, and Joanna Simons, the Chief

Executive of Oxfordshire County Council, is the new Chair of Governors. ❖

# Oxford Inspires With Hook Norton Brewery Win Arts And Business South-East Cultural Branding Award

A beer dedicated to everyone in Oxfordshire who helped deal with last year's floods, has helped Hook Norton Brewery and Oxford Inspires win a top accolade together for cultural branding, at this year's Arts & Business Awards. *Inspired* was a limited edition, brewed entirely from local ingredients to commemorate the county's millennium and was so popular that it sold out before the end of the year. A bottle was also given to every firefighter in the county.

Hook Norton supported *Faces of Oxfordshire*, one of *Oxfordshire 2007's* special projects, and has renewed its corporate support for Oxford Inspires in 2008. The company plans to get Inspired again in 2009.

According to the Arts & Business judges, Hook Norton Brewery demonstrated "an integral connection with culture that has increased brand equity and therefore business performance. Nominations for this award were short-listed from across the entire South East of England. ❖



## Oxford Inspires Would Like to Thank Our Supporters:

### Oxford Inspires Stakeholders



www.oxfordshire.gov.uk



### Major Supporters 2008



### Corporate Members 2008



## AWARD-WINNING PARTNERSHIPS THAT STAND THE TEST OF TIME



BMW Group Plant Oxford, in partnership with Oxford Inspires, Creation Theatre Company, Cowley Road Carnival and Oxford Philomusica was delighted to accept the Arts and Business South-East Sustainability Award. This regional award recognises an on-going partnership that continues to set standards on innovative arts-business collaborations.

Kathelene Weiss of Oxford Inspires said "the strong commitment of Plant Oxford has made a real difference to the companies involved, allowing each of us to plan, create new work, develop ideas and attract thousands of local people to the arts".

BMW Group Plant Oxford, the home of MINI, continues to be a local leader in championing vibrant arts and culture through continued support of high quality street arts, professional theatre, innovative concerts and imaginative high-profile artistic events.

