

The Archbishop's Palace Oxford News

Spring 2023

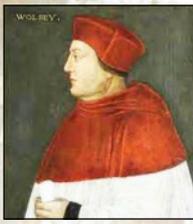
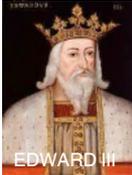
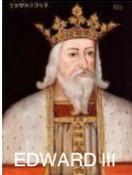
Tucked away off the main road between the Darent Valley villages and Sevenoaks, just a short step from the Duck Pond on the roundabout on the A225 at the top of Oxford High Street; is one of Kent's hidden historical gems.

Little now remains of this precious site which once boasted a palace, one of the largest in England, comparable to Hampton Court Palace. Developed by Archbishop William Warham circa 1514.

Visitors will be walking on ground known to have once been trodden by many fascinating and historically significant characters. From ancient Saxons, circa 800, 56 Archbishops and important religious influencers, Kings, Queens, Philosophers, Musicians, the nobility and the many followers and workforce of them all. In its time, the place was buzzing with activity. Have a look at some of them on the right.

Please visit our website to discover more.

THE GREAT NAMES

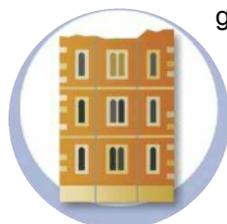
			
			
			<p>Column 1</p> <p>Arch. Lanfranc 1070-1089 Arch. Thomas Becket 1162-1170 Arc. Simon Langton 1227-1248 King Edward III 1327-1377 Cardinal Campaggio 1518</p>
			<p>Column 2</p> <p>Cardinal Wolsey 1515-1529 Hans Holbein 1497-1543 Arch. William Warham 1450-1532 Arch. Thomas Cranmer 1489-1556 Cardinal Reginald Pole 1556-1558</p>
			<p>Column 3</p> <p>Desiderius Erasmus 1466-1536 Sir Thomas Moore 1478-1535 Thomas Cromwell 1533 King Henry VIII 1509-1547 Katherine of Aragon 1509-1536</p>
			<p>Column 4</p> <p>Anne of Cleves 1540 Queen Mary I 1553-1558 (1528)</p>

OUR PATRON

The Trust is delighted to welcome Lady Colgrain, the Lord Lieutenant, the Monarch's representative in Kent as our Patron. She generously agreed to the role following a visit to the site in 2022. Being both a Sevenoaks resident added to the Royal connection brings great synergy and added enthusiasm to the Trustees. *Photo right: Lady Colgrain at the 2023 May Day celebrations.*



Below: Model of the original site visualised by local resident, Rod Shelton, Chair of the Oxford Society. The model is currently on show in Lullingstone Castle. The outline is what remains today.





MAYDAY MAYDAY - it's been 70 years

It was a call for help - which successfully brought back Maypole dancing to Otford after seventy years absence - confirmed by Palace Trustee and Maypole aficionado Cllr. John Edwards-Winsor - who was there at the last one.

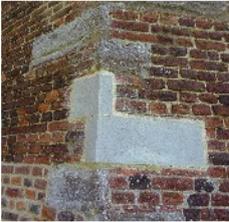
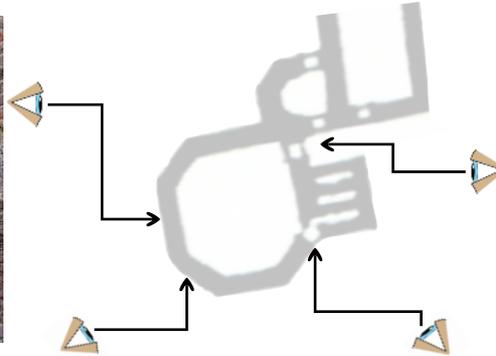
Following the reading of the 1644 proclamation banning the use of the Maypole read by Andrew Le Hagarat, John went into action corralling twelve volunteer members of the public, some with their children, to give a superb dance performance, repeated several times during the day.



Andrew Le Hagarat

(Above Left to Right):
Kent Ambassador and Trustee Roger House; Cllr. Avril Hunter Chair of Sevenoaks District Council and her husband; Trust Patron Lady Colgrain; Trust Secretary Nick Rushby.

(Below, top to bottom):
Charlie Davey from the Bull Otford dispensing the very popular Otford Palace Ale; The TreeFellas; public enjoying the Maypole dance; Morris Dancers; visitor - author Alison Weir - famous for her historical novels and biographies of the Tudor Queens.



WORK COMPLETED SO FAR

After several years of intensive fund raising activity led by the Trust's Secretary Nick Rushby, over £300,000 has been raised to date. The first phase of work has been completed (see above) whereby the lower window frames have been reconstructed, new oak lintels fitted to three windows together with a new timber entrance door. We are now ready to move on to the stabilisation works - which include masonry repair and stabilisation and replacement.

THE 2023 RESTORATION TEAM

The professional team brought together for the project is; Thomas Ford and Partners who have been appointed designer and contract administrator (they were winners of the RIBA National Awards in 2022); Principal Designer PHPS of Tonbridge; Pierra as the Principal Contractors, and CTP of Sevenoaks as Consulting Engineers.



The Archbishop's Palace Conservation Trust Otford
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Web: <https://otfordpalace.org>
Patron: The Lady Colgrain, Lord Lieutenant of Kent

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