



The Oxford Trust Annual Review 2017–2018

About us

The Oxford Trust is an independent charitable trust, founded in 1985 by entrepreneurs Sir Martin and Lady Audrey Wood. Our mission is to encourage the pursuit of science and enterprise. We create, develop and deliver programmes across three key objectives:

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Enterprise – To support the innovation ecosystem in our region (Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire.)

Education – To inspire young people about science, technology, engineering and maths.

Engagement – To encourage people of all ages to engage with how scientific research impacts on their lives.

While the Trust focuses on the enterprise strategy, our education and engagement programmes are delivered through our Science Oxford brand.

The Trust has a simple but effective charitable business model: we own and run the Oxford Centre for Innovation (OCFI) on New Road in central Oxford, providing cost-effective office space for science and tech start-ups. The income from OCFI is reinvested into Science Oxford's education and engagement programmes. The strength of our model is that it is self-sustaining and supports both ends of the ecosystem, from inspiring young children about the wonders of science to helping high-tech start-ups to develop and grow.



We invest in activities, projects and programmes of work and partner with like-minded organisations that share our vision and help us to deliver our mission. Our current activities include:

- Science Oxford education & engagement programmes
- Innovation centres: OCFI and our new Wood Centre for Innovation, which opens spring 2019
- Venturefest Oxford
- Advanced Oxford
- IF Oxford, Science & Ideas Festival
- The Oxford Trust Enterprise Awards
- Make Oxford prototyping space



The Science of Beer at Tap Social – February 2018



The Big Science Event competition – July 2018



Our Enterprise Awards – September 2018

Introduction

The Oxford Trust is at a crucial stage in its 33-year history and poised to enter a new phase of operations that will have a pivotal impact on our future ability to deliver our mission to encourage the pursuit of science and enterprise.

Our trustees and staff are focussed on making a difference to those communities we serve: the entrepreneurs and high-tech SME businesses in our region, primary and secondary schools across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and our public audience of all ages.

In this review you will read about the innovative ways the Trust is making an impact. For example, our award-winning STEM World of Work programme which has reached over 3000 secondary school students this year; and our investment in programmes that encourage and support enterprise such as Venturefest Oxford and Advanced Oxford.

We're proud to share our successes with you – but we also know that we can do more, much more.

In spring 2019, the Trust will launch its most ambitious project yet – a new innovation centre and science education centre in Oxford. Situated in Headington Quarry, Stansfeld Park is a unique 18-acre site that will be home to the Wood Centre for Innovation (WCFI) and the Science Oxford

Centre (SOC). The WCFI, along with our existing Oxford Centre for Innovation (OCFI), will double our capacity to support knowledge-intensive start-ups by providing flexible, cost-effective office space in two different city locations.

The SOC will be the UK's first integrated indoor-outdoor science education centre for primary and early years children and will enable us to inspire even more young people about STEM.

We began building work on the development at the start of 2018 and it's reassuring to know that, as this is written, we are on schedule and on budget to deliver this fantastic project by spring 2019. It is an ambitious undertaking – funded by the careful financial stewardship of our trustees and staff, generous contributions from our patrons Sir Martin and Lady Audrey Wood, many local individuals from Oxfordshire's science ecosystem and grants from local and national foundations.

Our team has worked tirelessly to turn a long-held aspiration into a steel-and-timber reality, while still managing to deliver our existing dynamic enterprise, educational and engagement programmes.

Thank you to everyone who has, and continues to, share our ambitions.



Steve Burgess - Chief Executive



John Boyle - Chairman

*Please note that the Science Oxford data within this review covers the academic year 2017/18.

Our year in pictures

September

We celebrated our patrons 90th birthdays, launched our CSI Cogges forensic science challenge and welcomed new trustee Jonathan Flint to the Board.



November

Former astronaut Scott Kelly talked space walks, we launched the Big Science Event 2018 and held our first conservation day at Stansfeld Park.



January

FameLab heats kicked off, James Wong raised £700 for UNICEF at our How to Eat Better event, Science On Your Doorstep series started.



March

Contract signed with Beard Oxford to develop Stansfeld Park and broke ground on project, Thinking, Doing, Talking Science project rolled out to Hertfordshire and Essex. Make Oxford prototyping space opened.



May

We launched our children's wildlife photography competition and wildlife cameraman Doug Allen gives a talk in Abingdon. Applications for Enterprise Awards open.



July

Oxford Presenter Network launched, Science Oxford named Provider of Year by Careers & Enterprise Company, Big Science Event final takes place.



2017

2018



October

Existing buildings at Stansfeld Park were demolished, Science Oxford employer awards were launched and we hosted our Young Scientists of the Year.



December

All Science Oxford winter events sell out, and Christmas twitter campaign reaches 6,750 people. Primary school NASA model challenge begins.



February

New computing CPD for teachers launched for Science Oxford Month of Computing. We also celebrated International Day of Women & Girls in Science and took part in Oxford Careers Fest.



April

We hold STEM Experience Week for secondary students, IF Festival launched with schools poetry competition and FameLab final takes place in London.



June

Gatsby Charitable Foundation gives support to new education centre fundraising campaign. We run Oxford Green Week events and photography competition winners announced at Headington Festival.



August

We run Summer events programme for underserved communities, including library tour, shows, workshops and Robot Camp in East Oxford.

Sharing success



Secondary school students taking part in our award-winning World of Work programme

New beginnings

There's nothing like a party to get the new (academic) year started and so it was that we found ourselves surrounded by colleagues and friends at a special celebration in September to mark the 90th birthdays of the Trust's patrons, Sir Martin and Lady Audrey Wood. The celebration was a great opportunity for all the charities that the Woods' founded and still support – including the Earth Trust, Wild Oxfordshire, the Sylva Foundation and the Trust – to come together to say a big 'thank you'.

It was a quite a year of celebration and achievement for the Trust too; we broke ground on the biggest development in our history – a £13m project to build a new science education centre and innovation centre at Stansfeld Park in Headington Quarry, Oxford (see pages 14–15 for more information). The new Science Oxford Centre for early years and primary-aged children, their teachers and families and the Wood Centre for Innovation will enable us to increase our reach and impact across all our programmes.

Building community engagement

The Stansfeld Park project also gave us an opportunity to meet and work closely with

the local Headington community, work that has evolved into an ongoing community engagement programme that includes partnerships with local primary and secondary schools plus community groups in east Oxford. A highlight was a children's photography competition which we ran in collaboration with Headington Action that had over 150 entries from local primary schools.

We also built on our work to bring STEM engagement to underserved communities and people across the region. The summer library tour of our popular Science of Magic show reached over 1,000 children from ten villages across Oxfordshire. We launched a new Saturday club in Bicester and welcomed 13 young people from the Rose Hill area to a week-long Robot Camp where they learnt about engineering, CAD, robotics and 3D printing.

Touch down

We welcomed a new Trustee – Jonathan Flint (former CEO of Oxford Instruments), and said a sort of goodbye to the Oxfordshire Science Festival, which, under new leadership but with continued Trust support, has evolved to become the IF Oxford Science & Ideas Festival.

We also welcomed former US astronaut Scott Kelly, who touched down in Oxford to talk about life on board the ISS as part of our vibrant year-round public engagement programme. Thanks to our great partnership with Abingdon School, a packed family audience of 400 people heard wildlife cameraman Doug Allen talk about life under the Arctic ice. It was a privilege to hear these two inspirational explorers talk about life at the extremes.

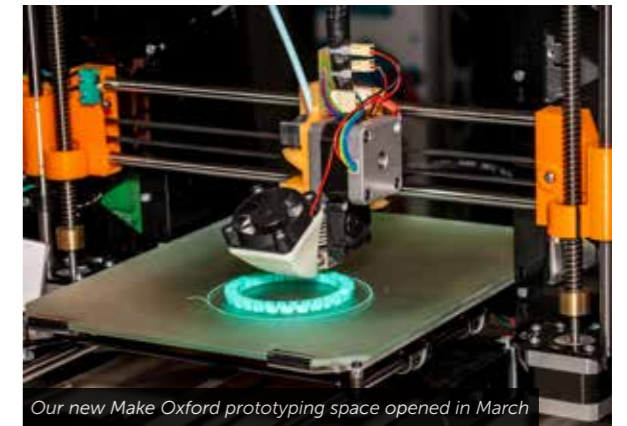
In March, we opened Make Oxford – a new prototyping facility at the Oxford Centre for Innovation. This creative workspace is for local high tech businesses and entrepreneurs but is also proving popular with our Saturday science club members.

Records and awards

Our schools programme went from strength to strength. Over 13,500 children took part in our popular primary science investigation competition *The Big Science Event*. Our secondary careers programme – STEM World of Work – was named *Provider of the Year* by education funder The Careers & Enterprise Company.

We love to share our successes, which has had a positive impact on our social media reach. Our Twitter following rose by 17 per cent over the year to 14,000+ and our Facebook page now reaches an average of 6,000 people per month.

It's certainly been a year of good news for the Trust. Read on to explore the data and impact of the Trust's programmes.



Our new Make Oxford prototyping space opened in March



An artist's impression of our Stansfeld Park development



A pupil skateboards as part of Joining Forces schools workshop



Our Science Oxford team reaches schools across the region



Supporting innovation



Oxford Centre for Innovation

With its universities, science campuses and national research laboratories, the Oxford region has a dynamic innovation ecosystem. It is home to over 6,000 high-tech, knowledge intensive businesses that are at the forefront of UK and global research in areas such as robotics, autonomous vehicles, digital health and space.

The Trust is involved in this complex, dynamic ecosystem through our investment in activities and programmes that support and encourage enterprise. Our innovation centre – the Oxford Centre for Innovation (OCFI) – offers affordable, flexible office space to high-tech start-ups. Reflecting the region's flourishing innovation landscape, it remained at near-full capacity all year. Over 200 people worked in the building at any one time.

In September, we celebrated the region's innovation successes at our annual Enterprise Awards, held in collaboration with Venturefest Oxford. The reputation of the awards is growing – thanks in part to the continued support of our loyal sponsors as well as the calibre of applicants and winners.

Professor Sir John Bell was presented with the Trust's Outstanding Achievement Award. Venturefest itself, which we support, was also a success with over 700 attendees and lots of positive feedback on the redesigned programme which showcased

Oxfordshire's leading technology sectors and featured over 50 local businesses.

Make Oxford, our prototyping facility based at OCFI, opened early in 2018 and is slowly gaining traction amongst groups within the innovation community. Several businesses moved into the centre to be co-located with the facilities. Demand for prototyping jobs continued steadily throughout the year. Make Oxford, along with other shared spaces at OCFI, also became home to 12 local tech meet-up groups, which convene for monthly networking events.

The venue has been perfect for us, and we consider ourselves very lucky to have been able to use it! We've managed to bring together quite a few people from different areas that would not have met otherwise.
Meet-up group organiser

Advanced Oxford (AO) is a group of senior leaders from Oxfordshire's major knowledge-intensive businesses who are working together to support the long-term development of the Oxford region as a vibrant and prosperous place to work and live. The group currently has 20 members and we provided over 40 days of administrative and communications support to help AO get started.

Oxford Centre for Innovation (OCFI)

- 99% occupancy rate
- 26 companies operating from the centre
- 226 people employed on the site
- GVA per filled job: c£11m
- Occupancy support for companies: c£220,000

Make Oxford

- 4 skills training events hosted for The Foundry
- 235 laser cutting and 3D printer jobs completed
- 14 business prototyping projects completed
- 5 co-located companies using the space

Innovation Support

- 754 Venturefest Oxford attendees
- 50+ exhibitors
- 12 meet-up groups hosted 65 events at OCFI

Advanced Oxford

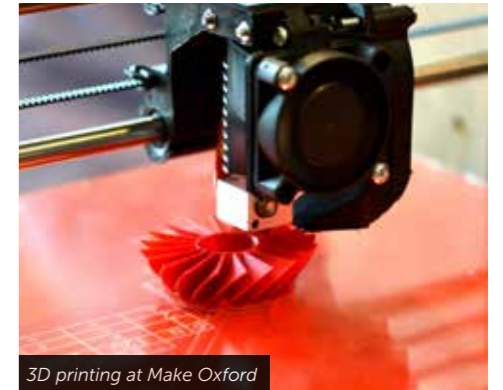
- 20 member companies
- 40 days of administrative support

Enterprise Awards

- 15 companies and young entrepreneurs entered
- 4 awards presented
- Twitter campaign reached 13,549 people
- 80 guests attended awards ceremony



Venturefest Oxford 2018



3D printing at Make Oxford



Supporting the innovation ecosystem



Venturefest Oxford 2018



Consultant Connect wins Barclays Award for Innovation

Inspiring young people



Pupils from Hanborough Manor Church of England Primary School, winners of the Oxfordshire Big Science Event 2018.

Our Science Oxford schools team provides a huge range of STEM outreach opportunities to primary and secondary schools across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, as well as continuous professional development (CPD) training to teachers.

Over the past 12 months, our primary outreach team continued to deliver a diverse range of workshops and shows to nearly 200 primary schools across the region. Our science CPD for teachers is highly valued and therefore very popular – we reached nearly 450 teachers through our general CPD programme and had a small number of enquiries for CPD from outside our region.

“The best bit was setting up our own experiment and looking at something we wanted to find out about.” Big Science Event participant, 2018

Our science investigation competition The Big Science Event (BSE) is a leading light in our primary programme and we're grateful for the ongoing support of our competition partners such as Abbott

Diabetes Care and Playforce. This year the BSE involved a staggering 13,500 children from 77 schools. It continues to be a huge success and the 2019 competition has already been launched.

Our successful STEM World of Work programme, funded by the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC), creates opportunities to inspire secondary school students to consider careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.

This year it reached over 2,529 students – a success acknowledged when Science Oxford received the award of Provider of the Year from the CEC. We have yet to find equivalent funding for October 2018 onwards but intend to continue offering STEM World of Work activities via contributions from schools and to seek other grant opportunities where possible.

With the building of the new Science Oxford Centre (SOC) at Stansfeld Park well underway, the team has already begun work on the centre's new programme for schools. The outreach programme complements the activities on offer in the SOC – developing a 'multi-touch' approach to engagement with local schools, where the Science Oxford experience extends beyond just one activity or visit.

Primary

- We reached **197** primary schools and over **27,900** pupils
- **49** primary schools are part of our membership scheme
- We delivered **144** outreach workshops and shows
- We delivered CPD training to **659** teachers
- **13,500** pupils from **77** schools participated in The Big Science Event

Secondary

- We reached **2,529** students in **77** schools through the STEM World of Work programme
- We ran **14** Careers Days and 9 STEM Workplace Visits
- We delivered **4** STEM Experience Weeks and **36** STEM Work Experience Placements
- We engaged with **87** high-tech employers
- **126** students entered Young Scientist of the Year

“It's very interesting and gives a wider understanding of different careers within the STEM industry.” Secondary student, STEM World of Work

Thinking, Doing, Talking Science (TDTs) is a professional development programme for teachers that aims to make science lessons in primary schools more practical, creative and challenging by developing strategies to enable pupils to use higher order thinking skills. It is run by Science Oxford, in partnership with Oxford Brookes University, and research into the impact of the programme on pupils has been funded by the Education Endowment Foundation. This year 211 teachers from 150 schools benefited from TDTs CPD training and the opportunities of a nationwide programme are currently being explored.



Primary pupil enjoying Sound of Science workshop



STEM work experience



STEM work experience



Oxfordshire's young scientists of the year



Our CPD for teachers continues to be popular

People & communities



A young dinosaur fan meets primatologist, author and TV broadcaster Ben Garrod at 'So you think you know about dinosaurs' event

Public engagement with STEM is not just about putting on big science names in large venues; for us it is also about reaching new audiences (especially underserved people and communities) and this was a major focus of our activities this year. Underserved has several meanings. People might be underserved because activities are unaffordable for them, or hard to get to, or not suitable for their age group or accessible for their particular needs

We delivered over 200 adult and family events in different parts of Oxford and Oxfordshire and worked in partnership with a range of cultural venues. We used 17 different venues in central Oxford for our events, including theatres, bookshops and pubs plus seven venues further afield in the city, such as The Glee Club and Ultimate Picture Palace (East Oxford) and Tap Social Brewery (West Oxford). We also took to the road, bringing workshops and shows to 11 venues in other parts of the region, including Abingdon, Woodstock and Great Missenden. We ran a CSI forensic challenge and Fire Show workshop at Cogges Manor Farm in Witney, and a jazz/space mash-up at the theatre in Chipping Norton.

Another key development in improving our audience diversity this year was the establishment of a programming strand specifically for teenagers aged 12–17. This is a challenging audience to reach but our monthly Maker Club and Creative Computing Club sessions specifically designed for teenagers proved popular. They were able to attend unaccompanied and had the freedom to focus on their own skills development and projects.

A real highlight of the year was our summer series of activities that focused on reaching underserved young people across Oxfordshire. We ran a free week-long Robot Camp for 11–15 year olds who live in Rose Hill, which included tech workshops, visits to local STEM employers and a final exhibition of their work.

We also provided science drop-in activities at five Playscheme days for the Bretch Hill community in Banbury and two play days in Faringdon and Bicester as well as taking our Science of Magic show on a tour of local libraries in Berinsfield, Chinnor, Chipping Norton, Cowley, Headington and Woodstock. We also partnered up with the Ark-T Centre in Cowley and OYAP (Oxfordshire Youth Arts Partnership) in Bicester on the My Normal: Accessible Instruments project.

Our adult engagement programme

- We ran 27 adult events in
- 20 venues across region
- 21 people took part in FameLab
- We reached 2,259 people through events
- 95% scored our events as excellent or good
- 31% not been to a science event before
- 14% have come to their first science event since studying science at school
- 400 tickets sold to astronaut Scott Kelly talk

Our family engagement programme

- 90 days of clubs shows and workshops delivered
- 4,743 young people reached
- 102 Saturday science clubs run
- We delivered 62 hands-on workshops
- And performed 20 shows
- 7 central Oxford venues used
- 10 libraries on our summer tour
- We ran 5 unique projects for underserved communities.

"It was unique, more stuff like this please!" (Big Bang to Big Band, Chipping Norton Theatre).



Banana keyboard making for OYAP Accessible Instruments project



Lucy Guile, junior doctor and winner of FameLab UK 2018



Wildlife photo competition winner



The popular Science Oxford Fire Show heats up



Increasing our impact



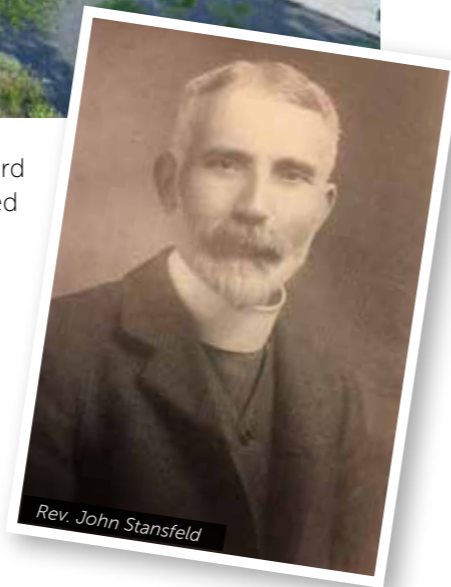
The Science Oxford centre (left) and Wood Centre for Innovation (right) at Stansfeld Park, opening in 2019.

The Trust has always wanted to find new ways to increase the reach and impact of the work we do across our three core areas of enterprise, education and engagement. In 2016, we purchased the lease on 18 acres of land in Headington Quarry, a little-known plot of woodland, ponds and dilapidated buildings that once comprised the Stansfeld Outdoor Education Centre, owned by Birmingham City Council.

Our plan is to create a new science education centre and innovation centre to inspire future generations of science innovators; to give more young people the opportunity to experience the excitement of science investigation and discovery; and to support young high-tech businesses by giving them the space to grow and flourish too.

In January 2018, Beard Oxford was appointed to develop the site and building work began soon after.

We have named the development Stansfeld Park, after the Rev John Stansfeld (right). He founded the site in 1919 as a rural retreat for the working poor of his Oxford parish and encouraged young people to learn skills that might help them in later life.



Rev. John Stansfeld

The [Wood Centre for Innovation \(WCFI\)](#), which opens in April 2019, will provide innovation space for entrepreneurs, start-up and grow-on companies working in science and technology. The WCFI will twin with our Oxford Centre for Innovation in central Oxford, meaning resident companies can use meeting facilities on both sites. Income from the WCFI will be reinvested back into the Trust its programmes.

The adjoining [Science Oxford Centre \(SOC\)](#) will be the UK's first indoor-outdoor education centre for children aged 3–11. The ethos of the centre is to enable skills-based learning through 'active prolonged engagement' with a unique exploration zone full of hands-on exhibits, complemented by workshops and shows that Science Oxford will be developing and delivering. There will also be a 120-seat flexible auditorium for demonstrations, talks and conferences. The SOC will be fully open by September 2019.

Most exciting is the 15-acre woodland setting of the new centre, which will be used for a wide range of STEM learning experiences, providing a unique opportunity for children to explore the world around them and learn what ecology is all about. The woodland includes ponds and grassland as well as being home to animal species including foxes, badgers and deer. It has required significant work to bring it back to life so we are working closely with landscapers, designers and conservationists to ensure we maximise its potential.

Progress has been rapid, with the building structure complete and internal fit out already underway. We are being sympathetic to the development's woodland setting with green features such as a sedum roof on the education centre and using sustainable British poplar for cladding. Photovoltaic panels and air source heat pumps will help to keep the energy bills down.

There's no doubt that 2019 is going to be transformative for the Trust and we look forward to bringing you along on the journey.



The woodland will be an exciting place to explore and learn in



Breaking ground on the site in March 2018



An artist's impression of a pond and walkway in the grounds of the Park



The amazing Oxford Conservation Volunteers have been helping us to rejuvenate the woodland and make pathways safe

Fundraising

The £13m development of Stansfeld Park divides into two funding streams. We are funding the Wood Centre for Innovation (WCFI) through the realisation of the Trust's strategic reserves, built up over many years of investing in start-up companies, alongside a manageable level of commercial debt.

The Science Oxford Centre (SOC) is being funded through a combination of other Trust reserves and substantial philanthropic support. Thanks to the generosity of our patrons, individual donors and grant-making foundations, we have now secured £1.1m in donations towards the opening of the SOC – with over £460k pledged in the past twelve months.



www.theoxfordtrust.co.uk
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