



ANNUAL REVIEW

APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020



Encouraging the pursuit of science and enterprise

ABOUT THE TRUST



Our patrons
Sir Martin and
Lady Audrey
Wood

“We want to inspire children about the wonders of science and help science and tech start-ups to develop and grow.”

The Oxford Trust is an independent charitable trust, founded in 1985 by entrepreneurs Sir Martin and Lady Audrey Wood, co-founders of Oxford Instruments. Producing superconducting magnets for MRI scanners, the company went on to be a great commercial success which enabled the Woods to start the Trust. Our mission is to encourage the pursuit of science and enterprise. We create, develop and deliver three connected programmes – our three Es:

ENTERPRISE

To support the innovation ecosystem in our region.

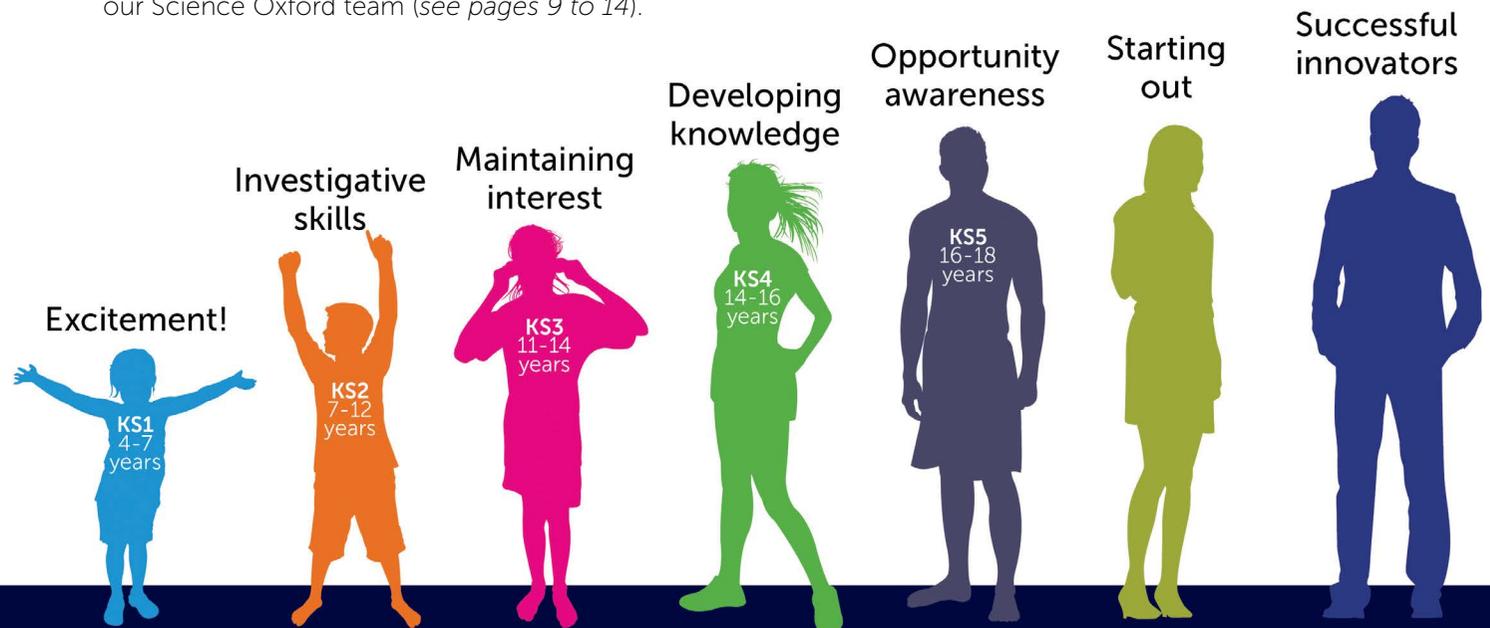
EDUCATION

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

ENGAGEMENT

To engage public audiences with science as an important part of our culture

While the Trust focuses on our enterprise programmes (see page 4 to 8), our education and engagement activities are developed and delivered by our Science Oxford team (see pages 9 to 14).



A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Welcome to our review for April 2019 to March 2020. Overall, it's been an exciting and challenging year for the Trust with the opening of our new Science Oxford Centre and Wood Centre for Innovation at Stansfeld Park in Headington and we have many successes to share.

With the addition of our new Wood Centre for Innovation at Stansfeld Park (see p4), we now have nearly 40,000 sq ft of innovation space within the city. Located in Oxford's Global Health and Life Sciences District, we hope that the Wood Centre for Innovation will become an established hub for diverse science and tech start-ups and grow-on businesses. In Spring 2020, we partnered with Barclays to open an Eagle Labs accelerator space at the Wood Centre for Innovation, which will further add to our capacity.

In 2019–20, we have seen several successful and expanding businesses graduate from our Oxford Centre for Innovation, including Mirada Medical, Perspectum Diagnostics and Navenio. These graduations are a key part of our strategy allowing a new cohort of young dynamic and innovative businesses such as Oxford Brain Diagnostics, DeepZen, Oxford VR and Habitat Energy (see p7) to benefit from our support. In addition, businesses like Ultromics, Lurtis and the Low Carbon Hub have started at the Wood Centre for Innovation.

We are proud to say that our Science Oxford Centre is the UK's first indoor-outdoor hands-on science centre for early years and primary-aged children (see p9). After a four-month testing phase over the summer months, we formally opened the centre in September 2019 to schools across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. With thousands of visitors over the year, it is proving to be a welcome addition to primary science learning for our region and has had amazing reviews from teachers and children alike (see p10). With support of groups like the Edina Trust and national programmes like Explore Your Universe, our aim is to increase diversity and inclusion by working to attract schools from more underserved communities. In the July 2019, we also fully opened the centre to families with our bi-weekly Family Open Days. All in all, it has been a successful first year for our new science education centre with our school visits and family open days booked up weeks – sometimes months – in advance.

This year our Science Oxford outreach programmes have also gone from strength to strength delivering workshops and shows for primary schools

and our award-winning STEM careers programmes to secondary schools. In addition, we have run a wide range of Saturday science and computer and maker clubs and public events over the year, mainly held at the Science Oxford Centre or at selected partner locations.

With a lot of hard work from our staff, contractors and Oxford Conservation Volunteers, we have transformed the Stansfeld Park site from a wilderness into a special outdoor learning space that is now used for a wide range of STEM experiences for our visiting schools and public open days as well as a dedicated forest school area for local primaries (see p12).

These achievements would not have been possible without the support of our patrons and donors and the hard work and dedication of our all our staff, volunteers and trustees. I would like to thank you all.

Overall, it has been a good year but unexpected dark clouds appeared in mid-March when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the UK. This resulted in operational changes at our both our centres and all our Science Oxford programmes were suspended. We now face a period of major challenges for the Trust but maybe some opportunities too. Time will tell what the impact will be but we are still determined to fulfil our mission to encourage the pursuit of science and enterprise and, with the help of all our supporters, ensure we build on the successes of 2019–20.



Steve Burgess
CEO, The Oxford Trust



OUR ENTERPRISE PROGRAMMES



Supporting science and tech start-ups



As of this year, the Trust owns and runs two Oxford-based innovation centres: the Oxford Centre for Innovation (OCFI) on New Road in central Oxford and the new Wood Centre for Innovation (WCFI) at Stansfeld Park in Headington. These centres provide cost-effective and flexible innovation space so that we can support science and tech businesses through their start-up journey by offering virtual office and co-working space right through to serviced offices and, in the future, labs. Over

the years, we have helped hundreds of tech companies to flourish thanks to the time they have spent in one of our innovation centres and this year was no exception with some graduating out and a new cohort of dynamic new companies taking their place (see p7).

“We support enterprise across the region.”

Our partnership programmes

Alongside our innovation centres, we also form partnerships with other key organisations to encourage and support innovation and enterprise in our region. Thanks to the Trust, Advanced Oxford is a now thriving and active group of local knowledge-intensive business leaders who are working to support the growth of the innovation economy. This was the 14th year of The Oxford Trust Enterprise Awards that recognise and celebrate the breadth of innovative companies and individual science entrepreneurs working in the region. The awards are run in conjunction with Venturefest Oxford – an annual event that brings together innovators, investors and entrepreneurs which the Trust has supported since 1998. This year awards went to Professor Lionel Tarassenko, Oxford Biomedica, Oxford Space Systems, Oxitec, Opsydia and DynamX Medical.



Our new innovation centre



Opened in April 2019, the Wood Centre for Innovation provides a further 20,000 sq ft of innovation space for entrepreneurs and start-ups but also has grow-on space and

lab space for science and tech companies looking to expand. The centre capitalises on its close proximity to Oxford's rapidly developing Global Health and Life Sciences District around Old Road Campus and clinical research facilities at local hospitals and Oxford Brookes University. Set in 15 acres of beautiful woodland, it has some of the best eco-credentials in the city with air source heat pumps, photovoltaic panels, a green roof, electric car charging points and is planted with an amazing array of wildflowers in summer. The building has an A-rated energy performance certificate and we have calculated that the Stansfeld Park site is overall carbon positive. We are looking forward to seeing the centre grow in to an important hub for science and tech businesses in the area.

“I’ve been involved with the Trust and its work for over 30 years. It is making a real difference to science innovation and education across our region, particularly to the numbers of young people choosing science and preparing for a science-based career.”

Professor Sir Michael Brady, Founder Mirada Medical



OUR IMPACT

OUR INNOVATION CENTRES



50

Science & tech
businesses
supported



£23.8m

GVA for our innovation centres



8

Peer-to-peer
meet-up groups
hosted



284

Employees
supported in
our centres

PARTNER PROGRAMMES



18

Advanced Oxford
business members



833

Attendees at
Venturefest Oxford

BUSINESSES JOINED 2019-20



DeepZen

Using AI to create an ultra-realistic voice to convert text to audio.



Habitat Energy

Developing the Energy Superhub Oxford (ESO).



Low Carbon Hub

Social enterprise working on energy generation and efficiency.



Oxford Brain Diagnostics

Using AI to improve early detection of Alzheimer's.



Oxford Product Design

Oxford's only product design consultancy.



Oxford VR

Healthcare company using VR to develop psychological treatments.



Social Tech Trust

Supporting start-ups that are transforming lives with tech.



Ultromics

Developing a new echo-based ultrasound diagnostic support tool to detect cardiovascular disease.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE YEAR



We raised over £300,000 in new donations this year to fund our Science Oxford Centre at Stansfeld Park.



In April, we opened the doors of our new innovation centre and science education centre at Stansfeld Park.



Utromics was the first business to move into the Wood Centre for Innovation in May.



In August, BBC Radio Oxford recorded their afternoon show at Stansfeld Park interviewing children visiting the centre and entrepreneurs in our innovation centre.



In September, the Trust supported Venturefest Oxford, held at Oxford Brookes Headington Campus.



This year Professor Lionel Tarassenko won the Outstanding Achievement Award at our Enterprise Awards alongside Oxford Biomedica, Oxford Space Systems, Opsydia, Oxitec and DynamX Medical



We planted over 300 trees at Stansfeld Park for November's National Tree Week.



Stansfeld Park won a 2019 Oxford Preservation Trust Award.



In January, the Trust formed a partnership with Barclays to run an Eagle Lab at the Wood Centre for Innovation (opening 2020).



We were sad to see Georgina Ferry and Dr Paul Brankin step down as trustees this year but we were pleased to welcome Nick Cross to our Board.

OUR EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES



Our education programmes

Our Science Oxford education programmes continue to inspire young people about science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Opened in May 2019, our Science Oxford Centre at Stansfeld Park is a new experience for early years and primary-aged children and their families. Alongside opening the centre, the team has run an extensive outreach programme this year – delivering interactive STEM workshops and shows to primary schools across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire as well as kit loan and training for teachers. And our STEM Careers Programme team delivered high quality work placements, insight weeks with local research departments and tech businesses and interactive careers days for secondary school students. Our vibrant year-round programme of events included our ever-popular Saturday science, computing and maker clubs, summer holiday science and computing camps, as well as talks, film nights and shows. Our science investigation competition, the Big Science Event was a big hit this year with 94 primary schools taking part.

Thinking Doing Talking Science

At the core of our educational programmes is the Thinking, Doing, Talking Science ethos which encourages higher order thinking. TDTS is an evidence-based approach for effective science learning developed by Science Oxford in partnership with Oxford Brookes University. In spring 2020, we were proud to receive a grant from the Education Endowment Foundation to fund the next phase of the TDTS training programme for primary teachers. The TDTS approach was used to create the specially-designed exhibits in our new Science Oxford Centre.



Our new science education centre

Opened this year, our Science Oxford Centre gives children the opportunity to experience the excitement of making their own discoveries through accessible STEM activities that engage and challenge them. There's an Exploration Zone with 20 plus hands-on exhibits, a bespoke workshop or learning space, a theatre for shows and 15-acres of woodland and ponds for STEM-related activities. The centre is open to primary schools and early years providers during the week and at weekends for our Saturday Science and Computing Clubs as well as our regular Family Open Days.

REVIEWS OF OUR NEW SCIENCE OXFORD CENTRE

“Incredibly impressive! The visit was very well organised and well suited to the range of needs in the class. All the children were engaged and motivated. An incredible day – one of the best visits I’ve ever been on.”

Teacher, Pegasus Primary



“It’s the best thing you can experience. You will not regret spending a day at the Science Oxford Centre.”

Pupil, Wood Farm Primary School



“I thought the science trip was amazing! It makes you see science in a different way.”

Pupil, Tackley Primary School



“The children haven’t stopped talking about the trip... we were so impressed by the set-up and how great your staff were! We have a class assembly next week and after being inspired by your centre they have decided to make the ‘Class 2 Science Show’.”

Teacher, St Bartholomew’s Primary School

OUR IMPACT

47,403 Total number of people reached 2019-20

PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAMME



13,988

Primary school children reached

241

Teachers trained

129

Schools reached

172

Shows & workshops

BIG SCIENCE EVENT PARTICIPANTS:

94

Schools

16,920

Pupils

SCIENCE OXFORD CENTRE (May 2019-end March 2020)



106

Schools visited

31

Family Open Days

4,936

Children visited

4,462

Visitors to Family Open Days

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROGRAMME



1,017

Secondary school pupils reached

6

STEM careers days

3

STEM insight weeks

27

STEM work placements

SCIENCE OXFORD EVENTS AND CLUBS



182

Events & clubs

5,120

Attendees

A SNAPSHOT OF THE YEAR



We opened our new Science Oxford Centre at Stansfeld Park to primary schools in May 2019.



We went wild in Spring with our Children's Wildlife Photography Competition.



We held the finals of our 11th Big Science Event for Schools at the Science Oxford Centre.



In September, we opened the doors of our Science Oxford Centre to families.



Thanks to local councillors support, the dedicated forest school area opened in the woodland at Stansfeld Park in October.



In October, we applauded 122 young scientists at our Young Scientists of the Year celebration.



The Science Oxford Centre was awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom quality badge.



Edina Trust announced funding of a travel bursary scheme for hard-to-reach local schools to visit our new centre.



In November, BuzzEV loaned us one of their fleet of electric vans for our STEM outreach team.



Over the winter months, we ran Expert Explainers at our new centre to increase diversity and inclusion in science.



In March, Helen & Douglas House hospice children enjoyed their first visit to the Science Oxford Centre.



Science Oxford received a grant from the Education Endowment Foundation for the next phase of our Thinking Doing Talking Science programme.



Science Oxford also received a grant from the Evolution Education Trust to bring our Live Lab to life.



In March our schools outreach team packed up the Science Oxford van and set out for British Science Week.

A photograph of three young girls in school uniforms smiling and holding colorful balloons (red and blue) and pink tissue paper. They are in a science exploration zone with a complex structure of blue corrugated tubes. A boy is visible in the background, also engaged in the activity.

*“We want to inspire
the next generation
of scientists and
innovators.”*

THANKS TO OUR PATRONS OF STANSFELD PARK AND ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

Abbott
BuzzEV
Dr John Boyle
Edina Trust
Education Endowment Foundation
Evenlode Investments
Evolution Education Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Gatsby Charitable Foundation
Georgina Ferry
Hamilton Trust
Ian Laing
Jon Sheppard
Judith & Peter Iredale
Kirby Laing Foundation
Mr & Mrs JA Pye's Charitable Settlement
Patsy Wood Trust
PF Charitable Trust
Professor Peter Atkins

Professor Raymond Dwek & Mrs Sandra Dwek
Professor Sir John Bell
Rt Hon David Cameron
Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851
Sir Martin & Lady Wood
Souldern Trust
The 29th of May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust
The Beard Charitable Foundation
The DLM Charitable Trust
The Helen Roll Charity
The Martin Smith Foundation
The Mila Charitable Organisation
And many anonymous donors.

We could not deliver our enterprise, education and engagement programmes without the help and commitment of our supporters. Your support means we can reach more young people and inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators in our region. If you can help us, get in touch.



OUR TRUSTEES

Dr John Boyle (Chair)

Nick Cross

Paul Dean

Professor Alistair Fitt

Jonathan Flint

Imam Monawar Hussain

Professor William James

Megan Morys-Carter

Professor Alison Noble

Lynne Pebworth

Jonathan Welfare



theoxfordtrust.co.uk



scienceoxford.com



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