

## Alice in Oxford

*Christ Church* - the St Catherine Window in the cathedral by Burne Jones is dedicated to Alice's sister, Edith Liddell, who died aged 22, days after the announcement of her engagement to the heir of Nuneham Park – a favourite destination for Dodgson's rowing trips with the girls. The St Frideswide Window, also by Burne Jones, depicts the life of Oxford's patron saint and features the "treacle" (healing) well at Binsey mentioned at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and often visited by Alice and her governess. In the Great Hall: Dodgson's portrait hangs to the right of the door, Dean Liddell's to the left of the High Table. The "Alice" window depicts Alice Liddell, Dodgson, the Dodo, Alice and other characters from Wonderland. The brass fire-dogs inspired the image of Alice with a long neck that seemed "to rise like a stalk". In Tom Quad: Dodgson's rooms overlooked St Aldate's and the Liddells lived in the Deanery in the north-east corner of the quad.

*The Museum of Oxford* - a permanent display entitled *Looking for Alice* explores the lives of Lewis Carroll and Alice Liddell. The displays tell the story behind the stories and include many of Alice's personal effects such as her watch and fan.

*Alice's Shop* – opposite the entrance to Christ Church Meadow. The former sweet shop where Alice Liddell loved to buy her favourite barley sugar features in *Through the Looking Glass* as The Old Sheep Shop attended by the sheep knitting with a multitude of needles. Original illustrations by Sir John Tenniel, who was already well-known as an illustrator of "Punch", depict a looking-glass image with window and door reversed. Little changed since then, Alice's Shop now stocks a varied and extensive selection of Alice memorabilia.

*Christ Church Meadow* - the meadow was a regular haunt of Dodgson and the children, whose path to the river followed the route of New Walk, planted with poplars by Dean Liddell in 1872. Follow in their footsteps along the riverside walks which skirt the meadow or via Dead Man's Walk, past Merton, to Britain's oldest Botanic Garden on the banks of the Cherwell.

*Magdalen College* – Alice and her sisters so delighted in Magdalen's Deer Park and "Water Walks" that Burne Jones depicted their famous fritillaries in Edith's memorial window at Christ Church. Enjoy the seclusion of Magdalen's extensive grounds and spot the face of the Red Queen, instantly recognisable amongst the warring pastry chef gargoyles battling it out overlooking the approach to Addison's Walk.

*University Museum of Natural History* – Alice loved this visionary "cathedral to nature" (brainchild of her distinguished drawing master, John Ruskin) where even the stone capitals are delicately carved with plants and animals to celebrate the natural world. Dodgson wove stories around its exhibits, notably the remains of a dodo brought to Oxford in 1683 with the Tradescant Collection which formed the nucleus of the old Ashmolean Museum, the first public museum in Britain. The girls were also particularly fascinated by the Insect Gallery and by Jan Savery's painting of the dodo.

*Worcester College* – windows in the college chapel are by Henry Holliday, illustrator of Dodgson's *The Hunting of the Snark*, whilst the tunnel between the front quadrangle and the main garden is said to have inspired the rabbit tunnel in *Alice in Wonderland*.

*St Margaret's Well, Binsey* - Alice would have been familiar with the story of St Frideswide, Anglo-Saxon princess and heiress in her own right, escaping marriage to a heathen Mercian king by rowing upstream to Binsey where she hid in a pigsty. The Mercian king pursued her but was stuck blind. He was cured by the prayers of St Frideswide using healing well waters now dedicated to St Margaret. This healing well became known as a 'treacle well'. She returned to Oxford to found a nunnery where Christ Church now stands. Excavations near the Cathedral have revealed over 50 burials dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> century in the former Minster's graveyard.

*St Frideswide's Church, Osney* - a woodcarving by Alice Liddell of St Frideswide travelling by boat along the Thames on her way to found the nunnery hangs in the church.

Oxford normally celebrates Alice with an annual Alice Day event in July.

Look out for the Alice themed Oxford Official Guided Walking Tours in the annual programme or book a private Alice tour.