

Programme Group

Purpose

We run a year-round programme of Oxford-themed talks, walks and visits aimed to encourage an awareness and understanding of our city. The talks (free and open to all) are given by leading speakers in interesting locations across the city. Topics can include Oxford's history, buildings, arts and science, and current development projects. The extensive programme of visits and walks (for members only and usually for a small charge) is led by local experts and held both in and out of Oxford.

Membership

The Group Coordinator is Terry Bremble and other members include Alan Hobbs, Clive Booth, Peter Thompson, Tim Treacher, Christopher Franks and Ian Green.

The Group's work

The Group aims to provide about six events for each of three terms. The spring 2017 programme is shown in the illustration.

We meet six times a year to plan the programme of walks, talks and visits. This is an enjoyable activity involving reviewing all aspects of life in Oxford and deciding which ones would be of interest to our general membership. Increasingly we intersperse the general interest programme with talks on our key activities – for example, the talk on city-region development in Cambridge and Oxford.

Members of the Group follow up the meetings by organising the events and helping to promote them.

Opportunities for new members

We would welcome new members willing to identifying topics for the walks, talks and events and to help



Programme spring 2017

Open talks – all welcome	Members-only walks and visits
<p style="text-align: center;">No pre-booking, free of charge Help us to recruit new members by bringing a guest</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tickets needed for these events: bookings by 25 November</p>
<p>A fuel for the future: biomethane Tuesday 10 January <i>Ship Street Centre (The Bastion) †</i> Talk 7.30pm</p> <p>The challenges of climate change have produced a revolution in how we produce energy. Dr Thomas Bradshaw from Harwell explains how space-industry technology is enabling gas produced from mown grass and farm waste to be stored and transported for use as domestic and vehicle fuel.</p> <p>'King of all Balloons': James Sadler, Oxford pastry cook and first English aeronaut Thursday 19 January <i>St Edmund Hall, Queen's Lane †</i> Coffee/tea 7.30pm, talk 8pm</p> <p>James Sadler (1753-1828) is noted in Oxford as the pioneer of hot-air ballooning. But he also spent 25 years as a designer of engines and armaments and as Chemist to the Royal Navy. Local historian Mark Davies will explore Sadler's remarkable life and achievements.</p> <p>Lessons from the model 'green city' of Freiburg Tuesday 28 February <i>Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street †</i> Coffee/tea 7.30pm, talk 8pm</p> <p>Freiburg in South-West Germany, an ancient university city in a beautiful setting, has won many accolades for sustainable urban development. Paul Lincoln from the Landscape Institute talks about the lessons it might hold for Oxford.</p> <p>Heritage at the heart of growth Wednesday 29 March <i>Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street †</i> Coffee/tea 6.30pm, talk 7pm followed by AGM</p>	<p>Ardley Energy Recovery Facility – a visit Friday 10 February at 10am Saturday 25 February at 10am</p> <p>If you have ever wondered what happens to the contents of your rubbish bin, this is your chance to find out. Viridor's ERF at Ardley treats the county's residual waste, keeping 95% of it out of landfill and generating enough electricity to power around 38,000 homes.</p> <p>Lady Margaret Hall – a visit Monday 13 March 10.30am Tuesday 14 March 10.30am</p> <p>Founded in 1878 as the first Oxford college for women, LMH is noted for its Giles Gilbert Scott chapel, elegant early 20th century buildings and its extensive gardens. The college archivist, Oliver Mahony, will talk about the history of a college that set out to change the University and the world. This will be followed by a tour of the gardens and main buildings.</p> <p>Nuffield College's island site – a walk Tuesday 28 March at 2pm Thursday 30 March at 2pm</p> <p>Local historian Liz Woolley will lead a 1.5-hour circular walk around the site bordered by Hythe Bridge Street, Park End Street, the Worcester Street car park and Frideswide Square. The site was acquired last year by Nuffield College and is due for major redevelopment. The area is full of social, industrial and commercial history and the tour will highlight this rich heritage.</p> <p>Harwell Campus Rutherford Lab – a visit Thursday 6 April 10am</p> <p>Harwell is a world-leading science, innovation and technology campus. Around 225 organisations and companies are based there, employing over 5,600 people and investing over £1.5 billion annually in research and innovation. Angus Horner, who is a Director of the Campus, will lead a visit to the famous Rutherford Lab and Diamond Light Source, the national synchrotron facility. Tea/coffee will be served before the 1.5 hour tour.</p>
 <p>Until her recent election as Master of St Cross College, Carole Souter was the Chief Executive of the National Heritage Memorial Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund. Sir Peter Luff, Chair of the NHMF and HLF, says: "It is impossible to overstate the contribution that Carole has made to the heritage of our nation". In this talk she will explain her vision of how heritage and growth can both be accommodated in cities such as Oxford.</p> <p><small>† wheelchair accessible venue</small></p>	

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organise them. The Group's work is informal and most enjoyable.

Contacts

For more information, please contact Terry Bremble (Group Co-coordinator) on g.bremble@gmail.com

A typical event:

Worcester College gardens: a visit

The college has one of the largest gardens in Oxford with 26 acres including the playing fields. There is much to admire, from its exquisite planting to its lawns and lake. It has won Best College Garden in Oxford in Bloom more than once. The Head Gardener, Simon Bagnall, who transformed the garden, will lead the tour.

