

OXFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR OXFORD
SINCE 1969

Programme Group

Purpose

We run a year-round programme of Oxford-themed talks, walks and visits aimed at encouraging 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, nature, business and enterprise, 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 the city and in the county.

Membership

The Group Coordinator is Ian Salusbury and other members include Glynis Baguley, Clive Booth, Terry Bremble, Gillian Coates, Ian Green, Cate Tattersall and Peter Thompson.

The Group's work

The Group aims to provide about six events for each of three terms. Parts of the autumn and winter 2020 programme are shown in the illustrations.

We meet several 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.

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

Examples of talks

Devised in Oxford: tales of innovation

Tuesday 14 January 8pm

Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street

Dr Matt Perkins, CEO of Oxford University Innovation, describes how Oxford University's technology and research commercialisation company has helped launch over 150 spinout companies.

A vision for Oxford city centre

Monday 3 February 8pm

Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square

The Society's **Louise Thomas** and **Ian Green** discuss the history of the city centre, emerging trends and their implications and present a vision which seizes opportunities and mitigates threats.

A vision for tourism in Oxford

Monday 10 February 8pm – see panel below

250 years of weather in Oxford

Wednesday 19 February 8pm
Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street

Weather observations have been made at the Raddiffe Observatory since 1772, the longest continuous record in the British Isles and one of the longest in the world.

Dr Stephen Burt from the University of Reading delves into the records. What do the records tell us about weather oddities and climate change?

Saving Oxford's wetland wildlife

Tuesday 3 March 8pm

Magdalen College Auditorium, Longwall Street

Ellie Mayhew from the Freshwater Habitats Trust will explain why our area has such rich biodiversity and what the charity has been doing to improve and monitor these valuable freshwater areas to protect the species they support.



Examples of walks and visits

Our ancient water boundaries – a river cruise

Monday 2 September 1.45pm

Mark Davies completes his exploration of the city's water boundaries with a talk and convivial cruise from Folly Bridge and back. You can buy drinks on the boat and there's an option to lunch at a discount price at the Folly Restaurant.

Worcester College Gardens and the Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre – a visit

Wednesday 11 September 2pm and 4pm



Worcester College gardens are famous for their rare plants and exquisite design. This visit will combine a tour of the gardens, led by the head gardener, with a walk around the exterior of the impressive Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre, winner of the RIBA South Building of the Year award in 2018.

Newman College, Littlemore – a visit

Tuesday 24 September 2.30pm

By popular request we are repeating this visit to the college founded by Cardinal Newman when he was the local vicar. This 1.5-hour tour, led by one of the sisters of this small community, will take in the chapel, library and a museum in Newman's room. Newman is to be canonised this autumn.

Making the Mini – a visit to the BMW factory

Wednesday 2 October 12.45pm

BMW's vast industrial complex uses some of the most sophisticated production engineering in the world to produce 1,000 Minis every day. This fascinating 1.5-hour tour will give you a new insight into an Oxford success story.

Headington's arboretum – a walk

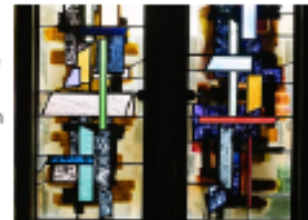
Sunday 20 October 2pm

Headington Hill Park has been maintained as an arboretum since 1953 with over 1,000 specimen trees. This 1.5-hour walk, led by Ian Gaurlay, Chair of the Friends of the Park, will highlight a few of the most interesting, old and rare specimens. *Note that strong footwear is advised.*

Art at Nuffield College – a visit

Saturday 9 November 10.30am

Led by Emeritus Professor Richard Mayou, former chairman of the Nuffield College Art Acquisitions Committee, the visit will include the John Piper Chapel with stained glass by Piper/Reyntiens and the distinguished modern and contemporary art collection in the Quad, the Hall and the Senior and Junior Common Rooms.



Opportunities for new members

We would welcome new members willing to identify topics for our walks, talks and events and to help organise them. The Group's work is informal and most enjoyable.

Contact

For more information, please contact Ian Salusbury (Group Co-coordinator) events@oxcivicsoc.org.uk