

**MCR**  
**Alternative Guide**  
**to**  
**Lady Margaret Hall**

**2011**

<http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk>

<http://mcr.lmh.ox.ac.uk>

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## Congratulations and Welcome

Stop... Take a deep breath... You have been accepted to Oxford, Lady Margaret Hall, and most importantly to our Middle Common Room. Make no mistake, this is one of the most prestigious and secretive groups that most people will ever hear of, if they are lucky enough to hear of it at all. Through these doors have walked the crème de la crème of humanity: poets, painters, historians, scientists, doctors, politicians, cheese makers, pet groomers, alchemists, and even a famous quidditch announcer. Welcome to your new home away from home.

The MCR, governed by its own Executive Committee, will provide you with a luxurious lounge filled with a list of amenities so long that we dare not mention them. Here you will have a supportive environment to relax, talk, play music, watch television, drink, party, play miniature sports, and yes even eat your lunch. Beyond the physical, we will provide you with peer support, vast amounts of email notifications and advertisements, and even the opportunity to catch a quick nap. During freshers week we will introduce you to all of these amenities as well as to the College, University, and the great City of Oxford.

However, we know you are filled with anxiety and anticipation over arriving. Below we have provided, for your specific entertainment and information, a guide that far exceeds anything provided by the College or the University. With information from where to get the best Burrito, to what Battels actually are. This guide to Oxford, will be your lifeline, your one great hope, compass, and your map. Have no doubts, what you find here is the culmination of centuries of knowledge from all of your MCR ancestors that came before you.

Thus, the Most Honourable and Highly Exalted Executive Committee is honoured to present you with your holy grail... The MCR's Alternative Guide to Oxford.

Go now... Read... Meditate... And prepare your mind and body for your great awakening and birth into the future!

Your presidents,  
Julia Shanks and Megan Edwards

(Please also check out the MCR website at <http://mcr.lmh.ox.ac.uk/> and join our facebook group for 2011-2012 (Lady Margaret HallMCR 2011-2012) to keep up to date with event and meet new and existing members.)

## A Middle Common what?

### What is a college?

All students and fellows at the University of Oxford are affiliated to a college, which will impact life at Oxford in differing ways, depending on your occupation. Colleges are comprised of the Junior, Middle and Senior Common Rooms, which group respectively undergraduate students, postgraduate students and academic staff. Amenities generally include libraries, dining halls, gyms, chapels, bars, classrooms, lecture theatres and housing.

For undergraduates, college not only provides housing but also the bulk of their education. For postgraduates, a college provides mainly housing and various forms of support concerning, for example, welfare, social and financial matters. Postgraduates rely on their departments for education. You will find that your involvement with college will depend entirely on you. There are many facilities you can make use of, and little obligations you need to fulfill. Make the most of it!

### What is the MCR?

The “Middle Common Room,” or MCR, refers both to the **organisation** that represents graduate students at Lady Margaret Hall and to a **room** used as a common space by graduate students. The room is in the “Kathleen Lea” building.

The MCR is responsible for organising entertainment and events, supporting its members with information and advice, and representing the interests of graduate students to the governing body of the College.

### The Organisation

Graduate students automatically become members of the MCR, unless they specify otherwise to the College or the MCR Secretary by the second week of Michaelmas Term. Graduates are charged £20 for membership (you will be billed separately).

The MCR’s Executive Committee has several members: the President (or Presidents), the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Social Secretaries, and the Male and Female Welfare Officers. These positions are elected at the end of Michaelmas Term for one year. Please consider standing for one of these positions — although you can get involved with the MCR much earlier! There are other non-Executive positions that always need filling, such as the Library, IT, Chapel, MCR, Environment, and Beer & Wine Representatives.

All MCR members are invited to MCR general meetings twice per Term. Please do attend if you can, because we discuss and decide on matters that will impact your life in College during these meetings.

If you have any complaints or concerns about any MCR Committee member, please consider raising them first with the President (or another member of the Executive Committee) before raising them with the Dean or the Tutor for Graduates.

### **The Common Room**

The common room has the following facilities:

- A kitchen stocked with cooking utensils;
- A brand new television! Complete with Blue-ray player, DVD player, Free view and an extensive collection of DVDs and Blue-rays;
- Games consoles and games;
- A weekday subscription to three newspapers: The Times, and The Guardian, as well as the Time Higher Education Supplement.
- An ever growing collection of books;
- A table football table, dartboard, board games, 2 x croquet sets, tennis rackets, footballs, Frisbees and other sport equipment;
- A computer with Internet access.
- A (very reasonable priced all around £1-2) Beer Fridge. Currently stocked with Beer, Cider and Wine, however subject to suggestions/change.

There are also comfy sofas and bean bags within the tv room. With a long dining table and seating area within the main MCR.

Please keep the MCR tidy! This is your space so please respect it! Do your own washing up and dispose of any used bottles etc. appropriately.

You can access the MCR with your key fob, which you will get on arrival. Do not lend it to non-members of the MCR! The security of your MCR (and the rest of college) is very important.

If you are the last person to leave the MCR at night, please ensure that the doors are locked and that the lights and heater are turned off.

# Arrival

## Getting to the UK

Oxford is about 60 miles (ca. 95 kilometers) northwest of London and 80 miles (ca. 130 kilometers) south of Birmingham. These two airports are the most convenient way to get to Oxford. There are regular bus services between London Heathrow and Gatwick airports and Oxford:

[http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/main.php?page\\_id=23](http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/main.php?page_id=23)

There is a direct train connection between Birmingham International and Oxford. Very few direct connections exist between Oxford and London Stansted and London Luton airports, and their use is generally not recommended. Beware that travel between them and Oxford (via London) may take up to five hours.

Eurostar trains (<http://www.eurostar.co.uk>) offer a relatively cheap, fast and carbon-neutral way of travelling between the mainland (Paris, Calais, Lille and Brussels) and London. Tickets start from £50 return.

## Getting to Oxford

The British railway system is probably among the worst maintained and most expensive in the developed world, but some good deals – if booked far in advance – can be found. Your best bet for cheap tickets is the National Rail website (<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk>) which tries to create some sort of order in the chaos caused by a myriad of competing privatised railway companies. You may, in due course, wish to buy a 16-25 Railway Card (£26), which offers a 1/3 discount on all railway travel in the UK (and despite its name is also available to fulltime students older than 26).

Oxford is on the London-Birmingham railway line. Trains from London depart from London Paddington station, which serves all trains bound for the West (and Heathrow airport). Those travelling from other parts of the country via London, or by Eurostar, should be aware that they need to change train stations there. A train journey from London to Oxford lasts about 60 minutes; a last-minute train single ticket (without Rail-card discount) is about £19.

Bus travel is usually cheaper. There are two bus companies serving the Oxford – London route: Stagecoach ('the Oxford Tube'; <http://www.oxfordtube.com>) and the Oxford Bus Company (the Oxford Express: [http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/main.php?page\\_id=27](http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/main.php?page_id=27)). Both depart just outside London Victoria Bus Station via Marble Arch. Both charge £10-11 for a one-way ticket (with

student discount; £13 pound next day return) to Oxford. Both offer wireless Internet access on board their services free of charge. For other bus routes to Oxford, check the National Express (<http://www.nationalexpress.co.uk>) website.

## Getting to Lady Margaret Hall

Taxis in Oxford are cheap and omnipresent and we recommend their use, especially for those arriving at night. There are taxi ranks outside the train station and close to the bus station. All taxi drivers should be able to find Lady Margaret Hall, but tell them 'Norham Gardens' if their memory needs jogging. The ride should cost you around £5-6 (more late at night).

If it turns out that you do not have sufficient funds to pay for your taxi, don't worry. The porters will pay the taxi for you (and you can pay them back later).

A good taxi number is Royal Cars: 01865778866

## Accommodation and practicalities

If you have opted to live in College, you will have a room in one of the flats or halls on college grounds.

If you are considering living out of college, popular neighbourhoods for private accommodation are Jericho and Summertown (in northwest Oxford), Cowley (southeast from Magdalen Bridge), or Botley Road (past the train station).

### Living in College

#### Your arrival

Once you get to LMH, report to the porter's lodge (just inside the main gate) or press the doorbell if the door is closed. The lodge is open 24 hours a day. The porters will give you all the information that you need and hand you your key. You can always rely on them to be friendly and helpful.

#### What to Bring

In your room you will usually find:

- Bed (but **no duvet, pillow, or linen**)
- Desk
- Chair
- Armchair
- Bookshelves
- Wardrobe
- Chest of Drawers
- Lamps (though maybe not enough for your liking)
- Internet and internal phone line (but no phone)

You will probably be sharing a bathroom and toilet with other students. If you do have some space in your suitcase, then these are things you will generally need:

- Linen (this can be bought from the college porters, but you may like to bring your own)
- Towels
- Computer/Laptop (you will have access to the internet in your College room). These are a great help in Oxford; however, there is a (recently refurbished) MCR computer room in the "Old Old Hall" building (see map).
- Books, writing material, etc.
- Some cutlery, crockery and cooking implements (some are supplied in the MCR, but you might like to have your own in your room).

## **Fixing Things**

If anything in your room needs replacing or repairing, send an email to [faults@lmh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:faults@lmh.ox.ac.uk). Replacement light bulbs can be obtained free of charge from your scout or the Porters' Lodge.

## **Cleaning and Laundry Facilities**

LMH has a number of washing machines and dryers in the college (but not on Fyfield Road). They can be found (a) opposite the MCR at the base of the "Kathleen Lea" building, (b) down the steps beside Talbot Hall, next to the bar, and (c) close to the computer rooms in Old Old Hall. It costs £1.60 to do a load of washing, and 20p per 12 minutes for a load in the dryers. A change machine is available in Toynbee building, close to the vending machines room and the entrance to the bar.

## **Communication**

Post will be delivered to your pigeonhole in the porter's lodge, so it is important that you give out the right address. Please look under *General: Communication* below for more information.

If you have a telephone you can use the phone line in your room to make free phone calls within the university network – convenient if you'd like to call a friend at a different college or need to contact your supervisor urgently. If you call the porter's lodge (74300) from your extension they can tell you your extension number. Your friends and family can reach you by phoning the university switchboard (+44 1865 280000).

## **Living out**

If you need to find private accommodation, a good starting point is the classified ads at <http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk>.  
<http://www.gumtree.com/oxford>.

## **General**

### **Communication**

All students have a pigeonhole in college: the university and your faculty or department will send your mail there, so it is important to check it regularly. The university operates an internal mail service between different colleges, faculties and university buildings that students can also avail themselves of.

Your address will be:

<Your name>  
MCR  
Lady Margaret Hall  
Oxford  
OX2 6QA  
[United Kingdom]

If you plan to use Skype on the college network you will need to tweak a few settings:  
<http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/network/voip/skype.xml>.

The mobile phone market in the UK is very competitive. The four main networks are Vodafone, Orange, O2 and T-Mobile (Virgin uses the T-Mobile network). Vodafone is generally regarded as the best network for coverage (and the most expensive), T-Mobile the worst, and O2 and Orange as somewhere in the middle. All of them have their own particular advantages and disadvantages. To discuss what may be a good deal for you it may be worth visiting 'The Car Phone Warehouse' on Cornmarket (the main pedestrian street in Oxford) where they sell phone contracts from all the major networks.

### **Money**

Cash dispensers (or ATMs as they are known elsewhere) are generally omnipresent in Oxford. The major banks do not charge for their use (though your bank at home may charge you for using them); the ones in pubs and the one in college charge a small fee (usually about £1.50) for their use.

You may, in due course, wish to open up a UK bank account. In order to open a bank account you will need to print off an Enrolment Certificate from Student Self-Service (you will have full access to this once you are registered), this will confirm that you are indeed a student and that you live where you say you do. Banks may offer a number of freebies (sometimes including a 16-25 Railway Card) if you open a bank account with them.

### **Parking**

If you're bringing a car to LMH, you'll need to get a parking permit, either from college (contact the Porters' Lodge), or from the city council. It's also a very good idea to invest in a steering-wheel lock.

# Everyday life in college

## Places

### **The Porters' Lodge**

The Porters are very friendly and very important. Be nice to them and keep them on your side – they can be really helpful in times of need. They also sell stamps and provide change for the laundry facilities (before 6 p.m.).

### **Library**

LMH has a well-stocked library, particularly good in the arts and humanities. It can be accessed twenty-four hours a day using your key fob, and most books can be taken out for up to a term at a time. It provides Ethernet points for laptops and has a wireless network. It has a photocopier, and several computers linked to the university's library network, OLIS. Old exam papers are available, as well as several major periodicals. The librarians are extremely helpful and happily take suggestions for new acquisitions to the library.

Oxford is rightly famous for its ancient central library, the Bodleian (a.k.a. Bod), which receives a copy of every text published in the UK, and many from around the world. Induction tours of the library, which will tell you how it works, are available throughout the year; for more information, consult the librarian.

### **The MCR Computer Room**

The MCR computing room in Old Old Hall (so good they named it twice!) provides some half-dozen computers with the standard Microsoft Office suite. The computer room also has a printer and a flatbed scanner. You will need your key fob to get in. When you arrive, you will receive documentation about setting up the account you need to use these computers.

The Oxford University Computing Services is available for help about the University network. Their website is at <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk>; they are located at 13 Banbury Road (Department #10 on your Oxford Map, square C-4) and have a help desk open from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

## Food and drink

### **Eating in College**

LMH has a dining hall that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner every weekday. At the weekends it serves only dinner on Sundays. You buy food using your Bod Card rather than cash. You can top up your Bod Card either through the Student Finance Office or by using the top-up machine next to the dining hall. On the whole, the food is reasonably priced.

Snacks (drinks, food, chocolate) can be purchased from the vending machines in Toynbee building, across from the Library.

### **Formal Hall**

Members of the MCR are entitled to four free formal halls per term. If you would like to invite guests, the cost will be charged to your battels at £11 a head (excluding wine). Wine is sold in the MCR before formals for £4 a bottle (a very good subsidy on approximately £12 bottles or wine) a selection of red. White and rose is generally available. If you become a member of the college choir, all formal halls are free.

Signing up for formal hall is done via the LMH intranet. This has to be done by the morning of the day before (i.e. by 9 a.m. Monday if hall is on a Tuesday). If you're a vegetarian, or prefer the sound of the vegetarian option, make sure you don't forget to indicate this on the form.

Sherry is provided before formal hall in the MCR from 6.30 p.m.; we then proceed to the dining hall around 7 p.m. After the meal, head back to the MCR for some port. Formal hall is a great opportunity to get the MCR together as a group, and is a good place to meet people who don't live in college accommodation or don't come into college all that often. The food is usually pretty good and the desserts are especially acclaimed.

## Academia

The college is normally not involved with your studies. You will, however, have a College Advisor whom you may approach for advice and extra guidance. You can also address the Tutor of Graduates with any concerns you have about your academic progress.

### **Scholarships**

For UK students, LMH administers government hardship funds (contact the Student Finance Officer for more information). The LMH Grants and Bursaries Committee meets termly to award grants for conferences, research expenses, and cases of unexpected

financial hardship (forms can be found in the Student Support Information rack, opposite the Student Finance Office). If you experience any serious money emergencies, don't panic: in the first instance discuss them with Rev. Dr Allan Doig, Tutor for Graduates.

Keep an eye on the notice boards in the MCR and on the board in Hell Passage for information on scholarships and other special opportunities. (*Hell Passage* is the corridor between Deneke Building and Toynbee Building.)

Scholarships will generally be advertised in the University Gazette (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/gazette>). The International Office has an easy to use funding search engine on its website (<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/io/ioawards/search.php5>).

## Activities to get involved in

### Sport

LMH offers plenty of opportunities to get involved in sport and other activities. Unlike the Blues (i.e. Oxford University) teams, college sports are mostly for fun and aren't necessarily all that competitive. Keep an eye out for signs and postings (most teams post information along Hell Passage). Alternatively, contact the MCR sports rep and start your own team.



At the last count, LMH competed in badminton, cricket, football, hockey (field, not ice), lacrosse, netball, pool, rowing, rugby, squash, swimming, and tennis. Most sports have both men's and women's teams. Most of the college's teams are combined with undergraduate students. The combined teams give MCR members a good opportunity to meet undergraduates, as well as students from other colleges.

A swimming pool is available in Summertown, about twenty minutes walk from college. The University also has its own modern and stylish swimming pool at the sport centre on Iffley Road, and numerous other sporting facilities. The best way to find out about sporting and social activities within the University is to attend the fresher's fair during 1<sup>st</sup> week. You will be told about the allocated time slot LMH has to visit the fair when you arrive.

LMH facilities include three tennis courts, a playing field, a fitness room and its own punts. Punts are only available during the warmer months, from 2 May until 1 October. See the Porters for keys and booking sheets.

## **Chapel Choir**

LMH Choir is a friendly, non-auditioning choir that sings regular services in the college chapel every Sunday evening. The choir also gives concerts and sings at special events. It is open to both JCR and MCR members of any faith (or none) and is generally a good way to meet people.

## **Welfare**

The University as a whole is well equipped to deal with welfare issues, ranging from health issues, discrimination and harassment matters, to counselling services. LMH has developed an extensive support network to help people with any welfare issues – personal and health problems, academic difficulties, financial worries, or any other concerns.

The MCR has two Welfare Officers, one male (James Sinclair) and one female (Natalie Sanderson), who are all available as a first resource for any problems and can help direct you to the right support service. Welfare Officers are also the people to contact with suggestions for improving welfare systems around college, as they attend the regular college welfare meetings.

There are also several Peer Supporters, who have undergone training with the University Counselling Service, and who can be contacted at any time. See the notice boards in the Porter's Lodge and MCR for more information about the Peer Support team in college and when their drop-in hours are.

The University Counselling Service is available to all students, the details of which can be found on the university's website, on the welfare notice board in the MCR, and on the MCR website.

### **Welfare-Related Contact Information:**

If you have any concerns, please do contact the following people. They will be happy to help you. Check the MCR and LMH website for up to date information:

<http://mcr.lmh.ox.ac.uk>

<http://www.lmh.ox.ac.uk/Students/Welfare/Welfare-contacts.aspx>

Most people on this list can be contacted at [firstname.lastname@lmh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname@lmh.ox.ac.uk) (if not noted otherwise).

### ***MCR Welfare Officers (Natalie, and James)***

- Personal problems (loneliness, homesickness, depression, etc.)
- Academic problems (anxiety, stress)

- Any other welfare-related problems: they will refer you to the right person to contact

See the MCR contact sheet on p. [282827](#) for their contact information.

***Tutor for Graduates and Chaplain (Rev. Dr Allan Doig)***

- Spiritual issues (any religion or spiritual belief)
- Personal problems
- Academic matters

Tel.: (2)74386, or call at his room in 1 Fyfield Road, at the Vestry next to the chapel, or email [allan.doig@lmh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:allan.doig@lmh.ox.ac.uk).

***Harassment Adviser***

- Sexual/racial discrimination
- Equal opportunities

Dr. Helen Barr: (2)74378

Dr. Garry Brown: (2)74396

***University Counselling Service***

- Any welfare issue

Tel.: (2)70300

Web: <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/shw/counserv.shtml>

***Student Advice Service (Oxford Student Union's advice service)***

- Any welfare issue

Tel: (2)88461;

Email: [advice@ousu.org](mailto:advice@ousu.org);

Website: <http://www.ousu.org>

***Nightline (Oxford's own telephone counselling service)***

Tel. (2)70270, 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., 0<sup>th</sup> Week to 9<sup>th</sup> Week

**Religion**

Regular services are held in the college chapel throughout the year; the Chaplain will send out information about these. LMH chapel is multi-denominational, which means all are welcome. The college also has an active Christian Union to provide resources and encouragement to those exploring Christianity. There is also a very active Catholic community, which occasionally celebrates mass in the chapel. The chapel attracts a regular line up of prestigious preachers, which has included the Bishop of Oxford. Oxford also has good provision for non-Christian religions, and the chaplain is happy to talk with anyone regardless of their spiritual background

## **Illness**

The college surgery is open every weekday morning (between 9:00-11:45am, and Tuesdays 6-7pm; only during term time) and the college nurse, Ms. Anne Harpin, will gladly discuss with you any health or welfare issues you may have. A doctor visits college every Tuesday and Friday morning ( 9-10am; again during term time).

College recommends the use of the NHS dentist (25 St. Johns Street, tel: 01865 515967). However, be aware that the waiting lists are long.

## **Recycling**

In the last few years, LMH (spearheaded by the Domestic Bursar) has taken great steps to **reduce** the amount of waste produced, encourage **recycling**, and promote the **reuse** of stuff (e.g. the Marketplace on the LMH intranet). College now has an Environmental Policy, an important first step.

Yet much remains to be done. You can play a part! The MCR is doing its collective bit through, for example, the position of **Green Rep** and using **recycling boxes** in the MCR for glass, plastic, paper. Houses on Fyfield road also have blue and green recycling boxes which are collected by the City Council every week together with your regular rubbish. Please recycle your beer/wine bottles, plastic, paper – some reasons *why* recycling is important are (thanks to some signs on bins in Newcastle-upon-Tyne!)....

“Plastic can take up to 500 years to decompose”

“Every year the UK wastes enough cans to reach the moon and back”

“Recycling paper requires 70% less energy than making it from raw materials”

## A message from your Development Office

### **What we do**

First of all, welcome to Oxford and LMH! We are your Development Office and it is our job to make sure that LMH is for life. We will arrange your graduation with you and, once you leave the College, we will be in touch with you to keep you updated with College news and invite you to our alumni events through email and publications. You will probably already hear from your undergraduate College/University for these same reasons and through possibly the same channels.

However... we also help keep LMH running and help to ensure there is enough money to do this. The beautiful set of buildings and spacious gardens which you will enjoy at LMH have been made possible by the generosity of alumni from generations past and it is our job to enlist the support of current alumni to ensure that you, and those who follow you, can enjoy the best possible facilities and educational support here. We seek financial input from our alumni for general maintenance of the College, but more importantly for student bursaries and grants, for academic support and also for student facilities – such as the newly opened undergraduate building beside your MCR! If you have heard about LMH's plans to fundraise for and build a new Graduate Centre – then you're pretty up-to-date with our work!

### **How can we help you?**

In many ways. You'll have read that we graduate you, so that's pretty important. But before that and whilst you are busily working on your postgraduate studies, we will be working hard behind the scenes to gather momentum for graduate funding and for your new building. We already have £3.5 million in the pot and it won't be long before we can give you a proper progress report. In other respects, we employ students throughout the year, so if you could do with some extra cash, get involved with some of our initiatives (such as the Telephone Campaign and annual Gaudy) where you will work with us and our alumni to benefit the College. You will receive email updates and see posters about our work, so we hope to meet you before long. But in the meantime, if there is something you think we should be doing or would like to suggest – come and tell us!

### **Who are we and where do we live at LMH?**

Our office is in Deneke Central, quite near the Principal's study. Our door is always open if you have a question or would like to know more about our work. There are 4 of us in our team. **Peter Watson** is the Development Director and is chief of fundraising. He manages the office, decides what we are going to do each year and keeps the rest of us in check. **Carrie Fehr** is the Deputy Development Director and helps Peter with Fundraising. She also looks after the Annual Fund, Telephone Campaign and legacies. **Maya Evans** is our Alumni Relations Officer and looks after all our alumni events and publications, but she also used to study History at LMH, so knows the ropes very well.

Then **Gus Bridges** is our Database Officer. He manages our website and data – fundamental to the running of the office – and gets involved with pretty much everything we do!

**Contact us**

Email: [development@lmh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development@lmh.ox.ac.uk)

Phone: 01865 274362

Website: [www.lmh-alumni.org](http://www.lmh-alumni.org)

## Food & Drink

You can buy all the food you need for cooking from the many supermarkets and local corner shops. Supermarkets used to be a little lacking in Oxford until about the last year where they seem to have erupted out of nowhere! We provide a short, somewhat subjective list here; more comprehensive and more objective information can be found at <http://www.oxfordcity.co.uk/>, <http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/>.

### Stores

#### **Nine-to-nine**

Good corner store and nearest grocer to college. Prices are, however, slightly higher than larger stores. Open until 9pm every night. Go down Fyfield Road to Norham Road, turn left, cross Banbury Road, and it's on your left on North Parade.

#### **Tesco's**

Reasonable supermarket. Better prices, larger and a wider selection than the others. Located on Magdalen street (next to the Sainsbury's-see below), a less than 10 min walk from LMH. Open 7am-11pm most days, can get very busy at peak times during term time.

A second large Tesco's is located up the Cowley Road, and a smaller one on St. Aldates.

#### **Sainsbury's**

Smallish standard supermarket found in the centre of town, in the Westgate Shopping Centre. Extremely busy in the later afternoon and on Saturdays.

Sainsbury's Locals (smaller versions of the big supermarkets) are situated on Magdalen Street (next to the Tesco's), just across Magdalen bridge to the east of the city, and opposite the Tesco's on Cowley road.

Large out-of-town stores are located in Kidlington, beyond the northern part of the Oxford ring road, and Iffley beyond the eastern part of the ring road.

#### **Co-op (Summertown)**

Another standard supermarket. Also a bit on the small side, but not as busy as Sainsbury's. Up the Banbury Road away from town towards Summertown. A regular bus does the run from the end of Norham Road up to Summertown, which saves lugging heavy shopping too far.

### **Co-op (Jericho)**

Small but diverse and reasonably priced store on Walton Street in Jericho, open until midnight every night. Sells good organic and fair-trade products. There's a larger one in Summertown.

### **Covered Market**

Good for fresh meat, fish, fruit and vegetables. Meat and fish generally quite cheap. Fruit and veggies are generally a little more expensive than in the supermarkets. Located in the centre of town between the High Street and Cornmarket Street.

### **Gloucester Green Markets**

There are markets in Gloucester Green on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Thursday features crafts, but Wednesday is the day to get very cheap and plentiful fruit, vegetables, fish, cheese, meat and other consumable products. It's also fun as all Oxford's eccentric characters are drawn to market day!

### **Lung Wah Chong Chinese Supermarket**

Located at 41-42 Hythe Bridge Street near the train station. This store stocks East Asian ingredients hard to find elsewhere.

## **Can't cook, can't be bothered to learn**

Oxford has many fast food outlets, ranging from the sparse fish and chip shops in Cowley, to the thousands of kebab vans that emerge at night. Really you can eat any cuisine at any time of day. The best idea is probably to ask people already within the college for recommendations if you feel like something in particular, but here is a bit of a rundown (not extensive at all!)

### **The Kebab Vans**

Ubiquitous and very cheap. There are vans scattered round Oxford town centre, and the nearest to LMH is up St. Giles by Little Clarendon Street. Yummy!

### **The Gardener's Arms and the Rose and Crown**

Great little pubs which offer good brews and food. Moderately priced. Very pleasant atmosphere. Opposite each other on North Parade.

### **Radcliffe Arms, The Bookbinders, Jude the Obscure, etc.**

Just a few of the many pubs serving good food in the Jericho neighbourhood (Northwest Oxford).

### **Pizza**

There should be some leaflets in the Porter's Lodge detailing pizzas for delivery. The standard ones are *Domino's* (tel. 01865 200222). **Many good Italians around!** From the chain shops to independents, best to ask for recommendations.

### **Asian**

Claiming (with some fairness) to be the best Chinese in Oxford, **Xi'an** (tel. 01865 554239) is located on Banbury Road in Summertown. **Friends** is good and cheap. Portions aren't big, and it isn't the plushiest place in town, but people seem to like it. **The Peninsula** off George Street is smarter, but quite pricey, and **Chiang Mai Kitchen** (tel. 01865 202233) off the High Street is another somewhat pricey but classy and cosy Thai restaurant. **The Opium Den** is OK, our sources reveal. Finally, **Noodle Nation** on Gloucester Green is somewhat of a mix between an Asian and a fast-food restaurant. For those of you who like sizeable portions it will become a regular place to eat.

### **Indian**

There are a fair few quite reasonable Indian restaurants around Oxford, particularly on Walton Street and down the Cowley Road. **The Bombay** (tel. 01865 511188) on Walton Street is all you'd expect from a good quality Indian restaurant, plus a little bit more. **The Standard** (tel. 01865 553557) is very reasonable and quite tasty. **Jamal's** (tel. 01865 554905), also on Walton Street, is very popular with LMHers out for a group meal, and is perfectly adequate. Apparently the best restaurants are down the Cowley Road, however (real student territory). The nearest to LMH is **Jee Saheb**, on North Parade (tel. 01865 513773).

### **Ice Cream**

**G&D's** has three little places: one on St. Aldates opposite Christ Church, one on Little Clarendon St, and the other down Cowley Road. Many people love it and it stays open later than the pubs!

### **Haute Cuisine**

There are quite a few nicer places about for those out to impress, but be prepared to shell out a bit more cash. Have a look at the OUSU Handbook (which you should receive fairly soon at the Freshers' Fair) for a full list and details of Oxford's smarter establishments. **Gee's** and **The Old Parsonage** (both on Banbury Road), and **Quod** in the Old Bank Hotel on High Street are all owned by the same company. They're all mighty fine places to take those special people in your life. **Browns**, located where St. Giles becomes Woodstock Road, also provides good nosh, as do the nearby bars and cafes in Little Clarendon Street.

## Pubs

There are a wide range of pubs around Oxford, varying dramatically in terms of volume and clientele. Try out as many as you can!

A short note before we come to Oxford's nightlife. If you need to get back home from wherever you are within Oxford and don't want to walk on your own, use the OUSU/Brookes nightbus (<http://www.ousu.org/main/services/nightbus>); the phone number is 07714 445 050. For £1, the Nightbus will take you anywhere inside the ringroad (i.e. to any club and back!). Phone and ask for a pick-up. It runs 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. on Monday to Saturday nights and 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Sunday night.

### **The LMH College Bar**

Less of a pub, more of a nothing-particularly-special college bar, LMH bar is nevertheless a perfectly adequate place to while away a little time, and it's customary to end up here eventually after formal hall. There's a pool table, dartboard, table football, and a couple of video game machines on offer, and the drink is very cheap compared with pub prices. Post-grads are a bit under-represented most nights in the bar, but hopefully you newcomers will change this! Undergraduates aren't that scary really, just misunderstood.

### **The Rose and Crown**

LMH's nearest pub, on the right-hand side of North Parade. It's quite pricey but has a great atmosphere, and outdoor heaters mean that the fantastic patio is occupied even in the depths of winter – but try not to sit directly under the heaters because your head will melt! Not much music to speak of, so great for good tipsy conversation. It also tends to be open longer than most Oxford pubs (i.e. past 11pm), but we're not quite sure how...

### **The Gardener's Arms 1 & 2**

There are two pubs called the Gardener's Arms, and both are close to one another. The first, down North Parade on the left-hand side, is a bit pokey but cheaper than the Rose and Crown. The other Gardener's Arms is on Plantation Road and is nicer. This has a great selection of beers and – for those keen to try – offers some of the best vegetarian food in Oxford.

### **The Victoria**

At the more LMH-convenient end of Walton Street, this pub is better than it might appear from outside. It has a pool table that is not continually booked by undergraduates and serves drinks at reasonable prices. The clientele is quite mixed, giving the pub a pleasant not-too-studenty-you-are-in-the-real-world kind of atmosphere (if you're into that kind of thing).

### **The Eagle and Child**

The corridor in which J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis used to hang out. Nice if you can find somewhere to sit without people tripping over you. Good atmosphere generated by harmless, intellectual types.

### **The King's Arms**

This is a busy one. Diagonally opposite the Bod, this is the place where people congregate after exams, although its central location means it's pretty packed most evenings. Fairly loud and expensive, it's alright but not the best. You can get a coffee or beer here during the day relatively peacefully, if you want to escape the library.

### **The Turf**

A pub with real character and plenty of space in its courtyards, though with ceilings constructed in the days when people only grew to three foot tall. Tucked away in a maze of cobbled pathways and circled by the old city walls, it pays to bring a guide with you the first time you go here. Very popular, and especially busy in good weather, everyone goes here at least a couple of times. Nice.

### **The Crown**

In a courtyard off Cornmarket Street, beside McDonalds, lurks the Crown. It's a mixed town/student pub that serves food. It's alright, but not superb.

### **The Royal Oak**

On Woodstock Road. This is a fairly large pub consisting of several small rooms. It's quiet, old, very nice and reasonably close to LMH.

### **The Lamb and Flag**

A relatively un-cramped central establishment opposite the Eagle and Child on St. Giles, this pub is fairly average in almost every individual quality that makes a pub except that it manages to be actually quite good when taken as a whole. Recommended.

### **The Jolly Farmers**

Oxford has two LGBT pubs, *The Jolly Farmers* and the *Castle Tavern*, both on Paradise Street near the Westgate shopping centre. See the OUSU LGBT handbook or contact the LGBT reps for more information on other gay club nights and trips to London.

### **Out-of-town pubs**

*The Trout* in Wolvercote, which is a half-hour stroll across Port Meadow, is beautiful, and serves pretty good food to boot. It is *extremely* popular for Sunday lunch. So much so, that it is full almost immediately after opening at midday. If it's full, go to *The Perch*,

which is about two-thirds of the way up the Port Meadow towpath and then up a little path on your left. It isn't as nice but serves passable food and is still a nice weekend-lunch stroll. Punting up the Cherwell from LMH, you will come across the **Victoria Arms** on your right. This is the standard punting destination, and is a pleasant place to rest, eat, and drink before attempting the treacherous drunken punt back to college.

## Nightclubs

Oh dear. Oxford is not especially renowned for its club-scene, but here is a list of places where you can dance the night away (till 2am at any rate):

### **Lava Ignite**

On Park End Street. This is the closest Oxford comes to a decent club. Student nights are on a Wednesday, but Mondays also witness the 'infamous' Brookes night, Sex. Looks and feels like a real club, and is fairly large. Plays mostly modern dance music. Not cheap, but cheaper than London.

### **The Old Fire Station (OFS)**

This theatre becomes a 'cheesy' disco venue on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and has a student night with a DJ every Wednesday. Plays all your favourite disco classics, week after week after week. Bit like a college bop, really. But worse. Some people love it.

### **The Purple Turtle**

Not really a club, more like a trendy ill-lit bar with a late license and a very small secluded dance floor for those too drunk to stand. It's quite cool actually, and gets very crowded on Friday and Saturday nights. Free entry for Oxford Union members. It exists beneath the Oxford Union buildings off Cornmarket Street.

## **Nightclubs in London**

If you feel hard done by regarding the Oxford night-life scene, you can always catch the regular 24-hour coaches to London. The 'Oxford Tube' and the 'Oxford Espresso' coach service to Victoria runs at regular intervals all through the day and night and the journey normally takes about an hour and a half. It's not too pricey, and it goes to London. London stays up late. London is cool.

## The Oxford Code: or, a Short Introduction to Oxford-Speak

When you get to Oxford, you may find some of the expressions used here surprising or confusing. Here is a short guide to some of the expressions you might hear.

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Battels</b>                        | Your financial account with the College. The word is also used as a verb: "Should we battel you for that?"   |
| <b>Bod</b>                            | The Bodleian Library, Oxford's main library.   |
| <b>Bod Card</b>                       | Your University card. A combination of identity, library, and stored value card. It is the key to getting into many places in Oxford.  |
| <b>Bop</b>                            | A party, usually involving loud music and dubious dress code.  |
| <b>Formal Hall</b>                    | A three-course meal in the LMH dining hall that takes place once a week — usually on Tuesdays, but once per term on Friday (wk.6). Table service is provided and attendees are encouraged to dress smartly (a suit or evening dress), but academic gowns need not be worn.   |
| <b>Matriculation</b>                  | The process of being formally accepted into the university. It is done early on in your first Term. It <b>must not</b> be missed because you <b>cannot</b> graduate without having matriculated. It takes place in the Sheldonian Theatre; you will wear sub fusc (see below) and listen to some Latin. You will get further information after you arrive about the date and time of your matriculation ceremony. Following the ceremony, everyone goes to a pub (this part is optional!). |
| <b>Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity</b> | These are the names of the three Terms that make up the academic year at Oxford – roughly equivalent to Autumn, Spring, and Summer, respectively.  |
| <b>Pigeonholes</b>                    | Mailboxes located in the Porters' Lodge. Every student gets a pigeonhole, where mail can be sent to you. You should check it frequently, as important mail from the University will be sent there.   |
| <b>Punt</b>                           | A small, flat-bottomed boat, propelled by a pole. Popular in the summer months; LMH has a few of its own, which appear on the river about this time.   |

**Scout**

Scouts are people who clean college rooms. As an LMH graduate student, you will have a scout if you live in Fyfield Road.

**Sub fusc**

The official university dress, worn for all official university events including matriculation, graduation and exams. For men, sub fusc consists of a graduate gown, a mortarboard, black trousers, a black jacket, a white shirt, and a white bow tie. For women, sub fusc consists of a graduate gown, a mortarboard or soft cap, a white blouse, a black skirt or trousers, and a black ribbon. (Visiting students of either sex wear an undergraduate gown rather than a graduate gown.) You can buy the gown, headwear and tie at various shops in Oxford.

## MCR Contact Sheet

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