

Roadmap for the 2017 Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery

Dear Symposiast:

This roadmap will help you to prepare for the upcoming symposium and to answer questions many of you may have, especially if you are a first-time symposiast.

Getting to St Catz:

- The link for getting to St Catz is: www.stcatz.ox.ac.uk/contact/map-and-directions
- If you prefer to taxi with luggage, go to the final stop at Gloucester Green and get a taxi from there.
- Another option is by train, with frequent trains from and to London Paddington that take about an hour. Do buy your ticket in advance to get a better deal.
- Most people arrive on Friday afternoon, but you may want to arrive a day early to enjoy the Ashmolean or other sites; the Ashmolean and most other museums are closed on Mondays.

Accommodations, Meals, and Dress:

Staying in college, (where all the symposium action takes place and which is situated ten or fifteen minutes on foot from the town centre) is the most convenient way to enjoy the symposium. You can book extra nights before and after the symposium (i.e. for Thursday or Sunday night). **If you did not book for Sunday night, please note that check out time from St Catz is 1000 ON SUNDAY MORNING and you have to return the room key to reception by that time;** there is a luggage room to the left of the Porter's desk where you can deposit your luggage on Sunday morning.

As a registered symposiast, you have already purchased meals. Appropriate beverages are included in all meals, with wine, beer or other similar provided at lunch and dinner. Meals are a critical part of the symposium, as they are designed to educate and highlight the Symposium topic, as well as being enjoyable, sustaining, and fostering conviviality.

Jake Tilson's gorgeous menus - don't throw yours away; they are a collector's item - will tell you all about the guest-chefs and sponsors whose generous supplies of wine and special ingredients allows St. Catz' talented and tolerant Head Chef Tim Kelsey and his team to keep within the College's necessarily modest budget.

Dress at the Symposium during the sessions is quite informal, although some presenters choose to dress up in "business casual". There is no dress-code: just wear what makes you feel comfortable. There's a chance - by no means a requirement - to dress up a little for our Friday

and Saturday dinners, with some men donning a jacket and some women opting for “smart casual” evening wear.

Weather, as all UK residents know, is unpredictable and St Catz is not air-conditioned should a heat wave strike, so light clothing suitable for hot weather is advised, with a sweater or jacket at the ready should a cold wave set in. There's a hundred-yard walk between the Lecture Hall building and the rest of the college, including the dining room and JCR where evening entertainments and socialising takes place, so an umbrella comes in handy if it rains.

The informality of communal dining tables allows symposiasts to sit wherever they choose, providing an opportunity to make new friends and revisit old friendships. Other opportunities to exchange news and views present themselves during the morning and afternoon coffee breaks, pre-dinner drinks and post-dinner rest and relaxation in the bar-area. The college asks us to leave the dining room promptly and leave bottles and glasses behind. At other times, refreshments can be purchased from the bar in the JCR.

Getting Help at the Symposium:

General queries: Symposium trustees and administrators will be wearing **red name badges** they stand ready to help you or to direct you to the appropriate person for further information. The staff at the Porter's Lodge at St Catz can also help with some issues, such as calling taxis, lending adapter plugs, etc.

Medical issues: There is no walk-in-clinic in the city of Oxford, so the John Radcliffe Hospital is the only option for someone falling ill. The hospital provides A&E for emergencies. Address is John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Oxford OX3 9DU. Telephone: 01865 741166

You can also find assistance on-line at <http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/UrgentCare/UrgentCareFinder> or <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland>

Neither the College nor the Symposium administrators can take any responsibility for illness or accident on Campus.

Internet Access:

Free computers are available adjacent to the JCR (Junior Common Room); you can also request a password for wireless access on your own devices from the Registrar when you pick up your registration packet.

Paper Presentations, Recordings, and Symposium Etiquette:

Papers will be presented in the order listed on the program, with questions to follow immediately after each talk. Time limits must be followed scrupulously to allow full discussion for each presenter, and please do be prompt to sessions to allow us to stay on schedule.

All presentations will be audio recorded for subsequent posting, and speakers who use illustrations will be asked to provide PowerPoints for integration into mp4s. You can experience previous years' sessions through the Audio and Video links on the Symposium website.

With so many wonderful papers, Oxford etiquette encourages symposiasts to move quietly among sessions if desired, waiting until a break between speakers to leave the room. If a room is overcrowded (this can happen if a subject or presenter is unexpectedly popular), please use your discretion: all the papers are on-line and you can always buttonhole the presenter later.

The Symposium topic is determined three years in advance. Should you have topics that you would like to propose, please note them on the enclosed slip (or any piece of paper) and give them to any of the trustees, identified by their red badges. Better still, wait till the last session and make your voice and vote count.

Finally, please join our lively discussion-group on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to keep yourself up-to-date with the community between-times. Many of the ideas that dictate how the Symposium develops derive from our on-line discussions.

The Schedule:

First-time symposiasts: You will receive the schedule of sessions and events for the weekend. What is **not** on the schedule is the socializing that takes place in and around the JCR and bar at St Catz. Please feel free to introduce yourself - we are a friendly group and welcome newcomers; that is why we have drinks hours before Friday and Saturday dinners - and participate in after-dinner entertainments, or simply wander round and join in informal discussions, one of the most important activities of the weekend. Please note that we are not allowed to take any drinks out of the dining hall; after dinner drinks have to be purchased from the bar.

To learn more about some of the plenary sessions:

Friday night: **Jane Grigson Memorial Lecture:**

<http://www.janegrigsontrust.org.uk/lecture.html>

Saturday morning: **Sophie Coe Prize:** <http://sophiecoeprize.wordpress.com/about/>

Sunday morning: **Cherwell Studentship and Young Chef's Award:**

<http://www.oxfordsymposium.org.uk/awards-grants/#>

Sunday afternoon: Closing session: **Student Paper Awards** and future topic selection, an exercise in what can only be described as chaotic democracy.

<http://www.oxfordsymposium.org.uk/awards-grants/#>

Supporting the Symposium: The Trust, The Friends and The American Friends of the Oxford Symposium:

The Oxford Symposium Trust is a UK charity organized to further the weekend Symposium and its proceedings, both publications and recordings. Symposium fees cover the costs of the Symposium, but they do not allow us to engage us in all of the activities that we would like, including offering further subsidies to allow student attendance.

Helping to support the Trust are two fund-raising entities, the **Friends** and the **American Friends**. Through these entities:

1. The published proceedings have been digitized (subject to a three-year holdback) to enable universal access to the papers;
2. The Cherwell Studentship has been funded through 2017;
3. The Young Chef's Award has brought a budding chef-scholar to the Symposium;
4. Monetary prizes are given to student papers, including an award for the best student oral presentation;
5. The parallel sessions have been audio recorded and edited for podcasting as mp3s, and, starting in 2015, as mp4s where possible;
6. Video recordings of the plenary sessions and been edited and posted for 2014 and 2015.

The Symposium needs outside support to be able to continue these worthwhile activities, as well as to offer subsidized places to students.

Donations to the Friends may be eligible for Gift Aid (UK taxpayers); those to the American Friends, a 501(c) (3) organization, to a tax deduction (U.S. taxpayers). You will receive a solicitation in your Symposium packets; if you can afford to support either of these entities, your contributions will be greatly accepted and put to good use.