

OXFORD SYMPOSIUM | on FOOD & COOKERY | 2018 SEEDS

Roadmap for the 2018 Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery

Dear Symposiast:

First, a warm welcome from all Trustees and those involved in the organisation of this year's Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery.¹ Especially for our **first-time symposiasts**, you will soon have the detailed schedule of sessions and events, and we encourage you to browse some of these offerings in advance.² What is **not** on the schedule is the socializing that takes place in and around the JCR and bar at St Catz. Please introduce yourself - we are a very friendly group and delight in welcoming newcomers. Do participate in our after-dinner entertainments, or simply wander round and join in informal discussions, one of the most important activities of the weekend.

Practical Matters: Getting to St Catz:

Several companies run regular and convenient bus service to Oxford. Oxford Tube running from London (but not the airports) is currently the cheapest, with discounted fares for students, young adults (up to 26 years) and seniors (over 60 years).

<http://www.oxfordtube.com/tubefares.aspx>

The **Oxford Bus Company** and **National Express** both run services from Heathrow's Central Bus Terminal or Gatwick's North Terminal. While more expensive than the Oxford Tube, they are convenient for international arrivals. <https://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk/> or

<http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>.

¹ Trustees and other officers (most of whom are around throughout the weekend): Claudia Roden (President), Elisabeth Luard (Chair), Ursula Heinzelmann (Director), David Sutton (Treasurer), Fiona Sinclair (Secretary), Cathy Kaufman (Programme Secretary), Ken Albala (Student Grants Editor), Mark McWilliams (Editor of Proceedings), Doug Duda, Naomi Duguid (Podcast), Gamze İnceci (meals coordinator), Máirtín Mac Con Iomaire, David Matchett, Harold McGee, Polly Russell (Wiki-Editing), Jake Tilson (Designer of our menus and website), Priscilla White (Administrator).

² **To learn more about some of the plenary sessions and honors:**

Jane Grigson Memorial Lecture: <https://janegrigsontrust.org.uk/the-lecture/>

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

Cherwell Studentship (rechristened, The Oxford Food Symposium Rising Scholar Grant);

Young Chefs' Awards, and Student and First-Time Presentation Awards:

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

The stop closest to St Catz is High Street/Queen's Lane, and this map will guide you on foot: <https://bit.ly/2ljU8CM> If you prefer to taxi with luggage, go to the final stop at Gloucester Green.

Another option is by train, with frequent trains from and to London Paddington which take about an hour. Do buy your ticket in advance to get a better deal.

Pre-Symposium Activities:

Most people arrive on Friday afternoon, but you may want to arrive a day early to enjoy the Ashmolean, <https://www.ashmolean.org/>, or other sites; be forewarned: the Ashmolean and most other museums are closed on Mondays.

In 2018 the Symposium offers two activities during the few hours immediately before the official start of the Symposium: a Wiki-Edit-a-thon, held at St Catz, which provides guidance in the ways of creating and editing Wikipedia entries, and, this year, a guided tour of the Oxford Botanic Gardens.

For those interested in working on Wikipedia, simply present yourself in the Junior Common Room (JCR) at St Catz at 1.00 PM; we are honored that Roberta Wedge, who instituted the very first Oxford Food Symposium/British Library Wiki-editathon, will guide you through the process of becoming a Wiki contributor.

For those who wish to explore flora at the Oxford Botanic Gardens under the expert tutelage of the Gardens' Director, Dr Simon Hiscock, you may either meet at the Gardens' entrance at 1.00 PM, or gather at the College Reception for a 12.45 PM departure, guided by long-time symposiast, Jeremy MacClancy. A walking map from St Catz to the Gardens can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2K3ApW8> The tour is free, although a contribution to the Gardens is optional.

Accommodations, Meals, and Dress:

If you're staying in college, you will already have your accommodation booked for you. **Please note that check out time from St Catz is 10.00 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 the dining room, with wine, beer or other similar provided at lunch and dinner. Meals 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.

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 to leave bottles and glasses behind. Post-dinner refreshment can be purchased from the bar in the JCR.

There's no dress code: wear what makes you comfortable. There's a chance - by no means a requirement - to dress up a little for our Friday and Saturday dinners. Weather, as all UK residents know, is unpredictable and St Catz is not air-conditioned should a heat wave strike. 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 may come in handy.

The book room (opposite the lecture hall) is open throughout the day for browsing and buying.

Getting Help at the Symposium:

Symposium trustees and administrators will be wearing **red name badges** and are 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 note: 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; 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 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.

Oxford etiquette permits symposiasts to move quietly among sessions if desired, of course waiting until a break between speakers to minimize distractions. 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.

We love images and social media (and our hashtag, which we encourage you to use, is #OxfordFood18), but please be judicious in their use, as they can be distracting to those around you.

Acoustics in the Lecture Theatre (which is amplified) are best in the centre section; the break-out rooms for certain of the parallel sessions do not contain amplification, but the rooms are small enough that this typically does not present a problem. If this is a concern, arrive early to get a seat near the speakers.

Recordings

The plenary sessions will be video recorded and available on the Symposium website. Previous years' recordings, including some audio, can also be accessed there.

Future Topics for the Symposium and Keeping in Touch Afterwards:

The Symposium topic is determined three years in advance. Should you have topics that you would like to propose, please note them on the ballot contained in your registration packet and give them to any of the trustees, identified by their red badges, or deposit it in the box on the Registrar's desk in the Book Room by lunchtime on Sunday. The most popular nominations will be put to a vote at the last session, so do stay and make your voice and vote count.

As you probably already know, no academic qualifications are required either for paper-presenters or attendees. Places are allotted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration opens in mid-December and early booking is advisable.

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.

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

The Oxford Symposium Trust is a UK charity organized to further the weekend Symposium and its proceedings, both publications and recordings. We keep our weekend and day-packages priced as low as possible, student-places are subsidised to allow new voices to be heard, and our fabulous meals and wines are the result of generous sponsorship and is not reflected in the price of attendance. While Symposium fees cover the costs of the Symposium weekend, 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.

The Trust is a not-for-profit organisation and needs support, through two fund-raising entities, the **Friends** and the **American Friends**. These entities have allowed us to cover the costs involved in projects such as:

- digitising and uploading past proceedings (subject to a three-year holdback) to the web for free downloading;
- offerings subsidised places to students (which has been funded, in part, through the generosity of The Julia Child Foundation);
- supporting a young scholar through the Oxford Food Symposium Rising Scholar (née Cherwell Studentship) Grant;
- bringing Young Chefs to the Symposium to introduce them to the intersection of cuisine and scholarship;
- recognizing achievement through student and first-time presenter awards, and most recently,
- launching **Ox Tales**, the Podcast of the Oxford Food Symposium.

Donations to the Friends may be eligible for Gift Aid (UK taxpayers); those to the American Friends, a 501(c) (3) organization, may be entitled 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 gratefully accepted and put to good use.