Conference Oxford Expands

At the start of the new academic year we are delighted to announce several important developments here at Conference Oxford, including new members, new staff, and several major developments in the University and the colleges. There is more information in the articles that follow and I am certain that you will agree that the new services and the new facilities make Oxford an even more attractive venue for your conference and banqueting needs than ever before.

Don’t forget, whether it is a conference or meeting, special dinner or wedding, Oxford is the ideal venue. Whether your taste is for a medieval building or state-of-the-art contemporary architecture, Oxford is guaranteed to have what you need. And, Conference Oxford can offer a choice of over 250 meeting rooms and 6000 bedrooms, and provides for both residential and non-residential events.

We organize regular familiarization tours, visiting the colleges and University departments, including refreshments, to enable you to select the venue that suits you best.

We are always available to answer any questions that you might have and to help you in any way we can, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sally Dunsmore
Conference Oxford Manager

New Members

Conference Oxford has expanded its membership and now includes several University departments, as well as the 38 Colleges, thus greatly adding to the wealth of venues and range of facilities from which to choose.

The new members are:

- Ashmolean Museum
- Begbroke Directorate
- Chemistry Department
- Examination Schools
- Green College
- Maison Francaise
- Oxford Limited
- Rhodes House
- Said Business School
- Sheldonian Theatre
- University Club
- University Museum of Natural History
- University Sport

New Staff

This autumn Conference Oxford gained two new members of staff—Isabelle Barber (who is primarily responsible for working with corporate clients) and Marie O’Connor—joining the existing team of Sally Dunsmore, Matthew Morgan, and Matt Brown. This enlarged staff will of course be better able to deal with your enquiries, answer any questions that you might have, and generally prepare the way for a successful visit to the University and Colleges when you come for your conference, meeting, dinner, etc.
1. News from the University and Colleges

St Anne’s College
Opens New Building

The impressive Ruth Deech Building was officially opened on 18 June by the Chancellor of the University, Chris Patten. It is an outstanding example of contemporary architecture and contains exclusive dining facilities, a light and airy lecture theatre seating up to 100, 3 seminar rooms and exhibition space; all the components needed to create your successful event. In addition, the Mary Ogilvie Theatre seats 148 delegates and St Anne’s can offer 185 rooms with en-suite facilities, all of which are ethernetted. As a result, the Ruth Deech Building provides the College and its visitors with a far greater flexibility than ever before.

Pembroke College
Unveils High-Class Stand-Alone Conference Facilities

Constructed in 1699 to serve as the Master’s Lodgings, Staircase 8 at Pembroke College is now available to groups as a self-contained conference centre, following extensive renovation and restoration work. Facilities include 12 spacious rooms with en-suite facilities, a fully-equipped kitchen and a conference office. The large ground floor meeting room has been modernized to include an integrated digital projector with stereo sound system and provides disabled access and a hearing loop. The meeting rooms, restored to Regency style, provide an excellent, elegant space for private meetings and dining. The building transformations also include the renewal of the Master’s front door, sealed in 1928 when the building was converted to student accommodation, thus allowing exclusive entry for conference groups separate from the usual Porters’ Lodge entrance.

St Benet’s Hall
Welcomes Summer School

As it has for over thirty years, St Benet’s Hall again welcomed a group from North Carolina State University and associated institutions in June-July for a month-long liberal studies summer school, centred on English literature. A quite different group was among those at the Hall in August: the first students to visit Oxford from the Hungarian University of Transylvania—a university so new that it has not yet been accepted for the Erasmus scheme—all of them pursuing a DPhil in various aspects of English linguistics.
2. News from the University and Colleges

Chemistry Research Laboratory
Wins Award
The Chemistry Research Laboratory, designed by RMJM, has won the 2005 RIBA Award. The citation said, ‘The most striking innovation is the controlled presence of daylight and views of other people into and from the modular laboratories which has resulted in a light, bright and enjoyable place to work—something that is never easy to achieve in the inevitably internalized environment of the laboratory’.

Oriel College
Completes Major Refurbishment Work
Oriel has recently undergone some major refurbishment work that has been well received by students and visitors alike. Aiming to ensure that the college has a sufficient number of bedrooms at the required standard to meet the needs of both our students and conference guests, Oriel now has many upgraded rooms with en-suite facilities, including one room fully equipped to provide accommodation for people with disabilities, the first of its kind at Oriel.

Thanks to the generosity of a donor, Oriel also has a newly-refurbished porters’ lodge of which to be proud, completed at the end of this last summer. The result is a pleasant and efficient environment in which to welcome both members of the College and visitors.

The Champneys Room has recently been completely transformed and now offers a first-class dining room accommodating up to 50 people.

Mansfield College
Completes the Garden Building
Mansfield is about to open a major new building on its main site. The Garden Building has been designed with the intention of making significant improvements to the conference capability of the College, and provides 24 bedrooms with en-suite facilities on three floors, above a ground floor that has two seminar rooms and relevant support facilities.

The building, designed by Oxford Architects and built by Kingerlee at a cost of £1.8m, will be ready in January 2006. Unusually for an Oxford college, Mansfield can therefore offer conference and events facilities during term time, for this coming year only, between January and July.
3. News from the University and Colleges

Christ Church
Continues its Modernization

Over the summer Christ Church modernized a further Peckwater Staircase, again to a very comfortable standard. The Peckwater rooms have always been very popular and provide a private lounge area with either one or two separate bedrooms (with washbasins) leading off from the lounge.

For enquiries, a brochure, and further details of Oxford’s colleges and University departments and their conference facilities, contact:
CONFERENCE OXFORD, THE PAINTED ROOM
118 HIGH STREET, OXFORD OX1 4BX
Telephone/fax: +44 (0)1865 276190.
Email: conference.oxford@univ.ox.ac.uk
Website: www.conference-oxford.co.uk

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ROOM ON PECKWATER STAIRCASE, CHRIST CHURCH

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