

Oxford: The Bodleian Library and the Clarendon's New Building  
on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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This event has been organised by John Temple

The Bodleian Library, like the Cambridge University Library and the British Library, is entitled to receive one copy of everything that is published in Britain. To house such a vast collection, tens of miles of bookshelves are needed. Shortly after the foundation of the first Oxford Colleges, a library was begun in 1320, in the University Church of St Mary in a room which is now a vestry. In 1444 Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester, the youngest brother of King Henry V, bequeathed a collection of books and papers to the University and it was decided to build a new library to accommodate it.

We shall visit Duke Humfrey's library. Decimated during the Reformation, the library was refurbished in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I by Thomas Bodley, whose name it bears to this day. Today the Bodleian embraces 26 other libraries in the city including the Science Library and the Weston Library. Here is a slide show about the Bodleian's history: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/about/history>

When I (JT) was an undergraduate, the Department of Physics' laboratories comprised the Old and the New Clarendon Buildings, otherwise known as the Townsend Building, after Sir John Sealy Townsend (<https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Sealy-Townsend>) and the Lindemann Building, after Prof. Frederick Lindemann, Lord Cherwell, Winston Churchill's chief scientific adviser during WW2. There is an infill building between the two and now there is a new building under construction, the Beecroft Building.

I asked Prof. John Wheeler, Head of the Department of Physics if REMS might visit it and he suggested that we came before the completion in December 2017 so that we could see what is behind the cladding. A five minute video about the Beecroft Building: <https://www2.physics.ox.ac.uk/the-beecroft-building>

**Cost:** £14 per person including entry to the Bodleian and a small donation to the University's endowment fund for graduate physics students (<https://www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/physics>).

### **Getting there:**

#### **Train**

Oxford Station: Leave the station and take No 5 bus to St Aldates or Queen's College; walk to Weston Library.

Oxford Parkway: Park & Ride bus to City Centre; walk east along Broad Street to Weston Library (Map WL)

#### **Bus**

City link or Oxford Tube: London Victoria to Gloucester Green (GG); walk east George Street / Broad Street

#### **Car - Do not attempt to park in the city centre!**

Take Park & Ride bus to city centre; walk to Weston Library (Map WL)

## **Timetable**

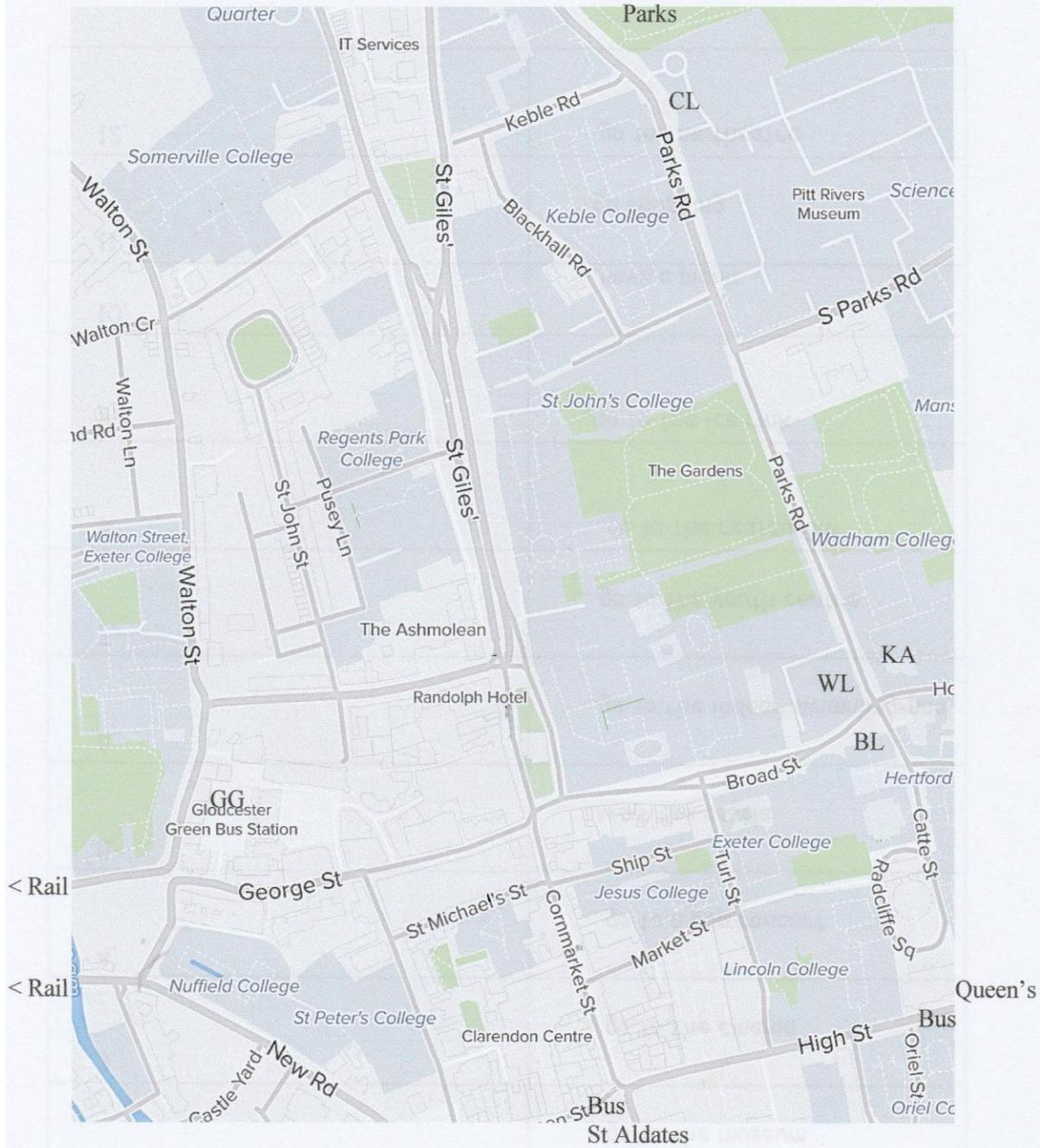
|       |  |          |
|-------|--|----------|
| 11.00 | Meet in Weston Library Café  | (Map WL) |
| 11.30 | Tour of The Bodleian Library (1 hour)  | (Map BL) |
| 12.45 | Lunch at The Kings Arms (Table reserved for REMS)                                  | (Map KA) |
|       | There may be time explore the Weston Library and/or University Museum and/or Parks |          |
| 14.50 | Walk to Clarendon Laboratory (circa 500 yards)                                     | (Map CL) |
| 15.00 | Issue of safety gear helmets, boots etc  |          |
| 15.30 | Welcome by Prof John Wheeler, Head of Department of Physics                        |          |
|       | Tour of the new Physics Beecroft Building  |          |
| 16.30 | Tea and cakes in Physics common room (courtesy of the Department of Physics)       |          |

**Maximum size of party:** 13 including John Temple

Late arrivals please contact John Temple directly (T: 0777 944 5251)

# Map of Oxford

18<sup>th</sup> May 2017



- WL Weston Library (Meet here)
- BL Bodleian Library
- CL Clarendon Lab (Meet here after lunch)
- GG Gloucester Green