

An Exploration of Oxford – More ‘Town’ than ‘Gown’ A River Cruise and Walk on Thursday 19th May 2011

This visit has been organised by John Temple

Meeting Place (revised): Salters Steamers, Folly Bridge (downstream side), Oxford.
(Salters is on the left as you walk southwards across the bridge.)

Time: 10.45 for a prompt start at 11.00

Cruise: An opportunity to see and learn about Oxford from the tranquil and revealing perspective of the River Thames, which has played a key role in the military, economic, and social history of Oxford from its earliest days. Local historian and author Mark Davies will highlight some unusual aspects of Oxford’s past through references to a variety of authors and literary heroes, and to some influential Oxford women – legendary, fictional, and real.



Lunch: To be taken aboard (see overleaf)

Disembark: 1.00 pm at The Perch, Binsey Lane

Walk: 1.30 pm approx: An historical and literary towpath tour through parts of Oxford rarely visited by organised groups, and a chance to learn about the 'other' Oxford: the 'Town', which has co-existed – in turns uneasily, gratefully, or violently – alongside the more famous 'Gown' of the University for centuries. The walk will include the extraordinary expanse of Port Meadow, the 18th-century Oxford Canal, the Victorian suburb of Jericho and older suburb of St Thomas, a Victorian railway swingbridge, medieval abbey ruins, a subterranean stream, and Oxford Castle.



Disperse: 3.30 pm approx.

Transport: by car – please use Park and Ride (Senior Citizen cards valid). **Parking is expensive in town.**
M40: Exit at J8 and use Thornhill P&R (every 15 minutes). Ask for **Speedwell Street**. Bus stops near St Aldates. From Speedwell Street, see further directions below.

A34: Exit at SP for Botley and use Seacourt P&R (every 15 minutes) Ask for **Speedwell Street**. Bus stops near St Aldates. . From Speedwell Street, see further directions below.

If you use Redbridge or Peartree P&R (every 10 minutes), ask for **Law Courts**. Bus stops near the police station (Pol Sta on map).

The nearest car park to Folly Bridge is Westgate (by Norfolk Street). It is then a ten minutes walk to the bridge. See the map overleaf.

By train – Turn right out of station and board P&R bus 400 from Frideswide Square to Speedwell Street

By coach – Oxford City Link or Oxford Tube: get off at Thornhill P&R then as above (M40)

– From Gloucester Green, cross George Street; pick up P&R 300 towards Redbridge

From Speedwell Street walk East to St Aldate’s; turn right past the **Courts** (opposite the police station) and walk to Folly Bridge.

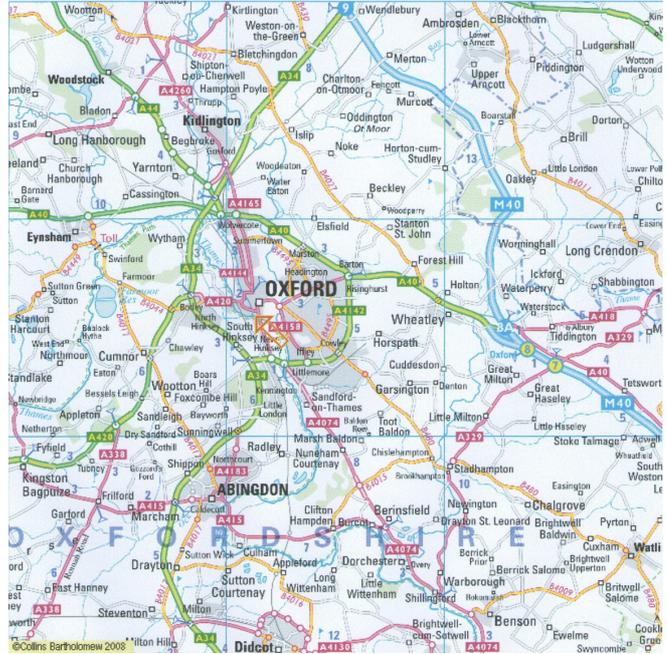
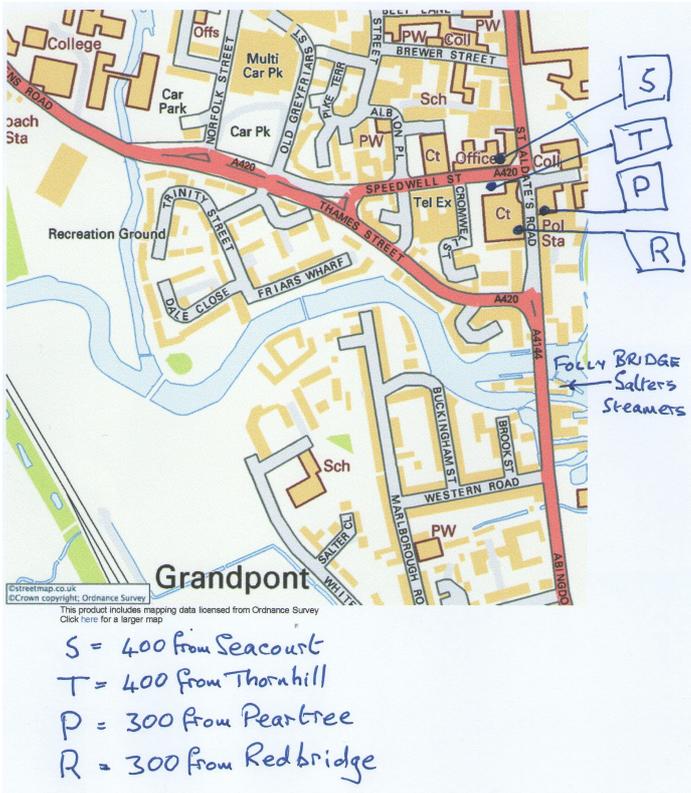
The maps overleaf show our meeting place on the pontoon by Folly Bridge (orange arrow near the bottom).

Cost: Cruise and Walk: £20.00 per head

Buffet Lunch: £10.80

Selection of sandwiches, cocktail sausage rolls, pizza slices, chicken drumsticks, cocktail sausages, a selection of crisps and tortilla chips with spicy salsa dip.

Contact: On the day: John Temple – 0777 944 5251; John Belling (REMS Secretary) – 07986 379 935



Note that we are now meeting at Salters on the east side of the bridge, not the west as indicated by the arrow.

Park and ride bus stops are shown on the left hand map. Return stops are on the opposite side of the road
The above maps may be found starting with the following link:

<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/map.srf?x=451407&y=205543&z=106&sv=451407,205543&st=4&ar=y&mapp=map.srf&searchp=ids.srf&dn=833&ax=451407&ay=205543&lm=0>

The following links may also be of interest:

<http://www.oxfordwaterwalks.co.uk>
<http://www.salterssteamers.co.uk>
<http://www.the-perch.co.uk/>
<http://www.oxfordcastle.com/>



John and Anne-Marie Temple