



CONNECTIONS

OxRSS provides Oxford research staff with a voice and networking opportunities

WWW.OXRSS.OX.AC.UK ■ DEC 2017 ■ VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

International Picnic recap	1
Forthcoming Events	1
New Connections	2
Updates on Careers Services	2
News from Your Voice Representatives	3
Featured Events	3 - 4
Useful Resources	5

CONNECT WITH US

Receive up to date information on staff events! Sign up to the staff list by sending a blank email to our [mailing list](mailto:committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk) or follow us on social media.

✉ committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk

 @ResStaffOxford

 [OxRSS Connections](#)

INTERNATIONAL PICNIC

By Louise Bezuidenhout



Despite a slightly windy day, over 50 OxRSS members and their families turned out for a great afternoon to celebrate the international nature of the organisation. Everyone was encouraged to bring along something to eat or drink from their own country, resulting in a feast of different treats featuring everything from American barbecue to South African bobotie and Iranian dolmeh. Some members even brought along cake made with fruit grown in their own garden! Attendees also made full use of the park to play frisbee, fly kites and kick around balls. All in all, it was a highly enjoyable day, and one that OxRSS hopes to repeat in future.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 5 Dec, Family-friendly carol service, Harris Manchester College
- 7 Dec, Varsity rugby, Twickenham Stadium
- 8 Dec, Pembroke College festive dinner

NEW CONNECTIONS

OxRSS is grateful to Professor Afsie Sabokbar (Medical Sciences Divisional Director of Skills Training and Researcher Development) for all her efforts, which have resulted in new initiatives. For example, researchers within Medical Sciences are now entitled to 5 days per year for training and development. Anjali Shah will advocate for an entitlement of 10 days per year at a number of high-level University meetings across departments.

Lucy Shaw (Head of the Oxford University Museums Partnership and Programme Director of Oxford Cultural Leaders) met with Anjali to discuss possible joint events (e.g., the Curiosity Carnival on 29 September 2017). Members of staff within Gardens, Libraries and Museums who undertake or support research will be warmly welcomed as members of OxRSS, and are encouraged to join the OxRSS Voice representatives team. The Gardens, Libraries and Museums (GLAM) contain some of the world's most significant collections.

Topaz Tong (Chairwoman of Oxford Newcomers Club) met with OxRSS co-chairs to discuss joint

events that can include researchers' partners and families. The Oxford University Newcomers' Club exists to welcome the partners of newly appointed staff, of visiting academics, and of postgraduate students of the University. They organise events each term and hold activities on many days of the week. Come along and meet them at one of their weekly coffee mornings at the University Club on Mansfield Road from 10:30 – 12:00 on Wednesdays. More information available at: www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk.

Sue Morris (Senior Appointments and Welcome Service Coordinator) also met with OxRSS's co-chairs and offered to provide information to help staff with finding accommodation. Lots of helpful information about the city and the University are available on the Welcome Service website (<http://internationalstaffwelcome.admin.ox.ac.uk>), particularly if you will be coming to the UK for the first time and/or are bringing your partner or family with you. Sue Morris is happy to answer questions by email on welcomeservice@admin.ox.ac.uk.

UPDATES ON CAREERS SERVICE

The first Careers Conference for Researchers, held on June 21st, was a success. The conference was designed to bring direct 'working life' experiences from sectors most appealing to post-docs and research assistants. It consisted of 6 panels and a keynote talk from Claire Viney, head of CRAC/Vitae on researcher career progression. You can listen to panel talks at: <http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/podcasts-of-past-events/>.

In response to high demand for places in the conference and in related workshops about transitioning from academia, the Careers Service will host a much larger Conference on Saturday 17th March at the Examination Schools. Save the date and keep an eye on the Careers Service website for termly, researcher-specific workshops

and conference details!

Collaborations between OxRSS members and Rachel Bray (Careers Adviser to researchers), as well as increasing engagement in Careers Service activities by the research staff community, have prompted a plan to form a Careers Service Working Group within OxRSS whose role is to co-design more relevant careers support for research staff both within and beyond academia.

Lara Hayward is the newly appointed Careers Adviser for newcomers/partners of research staff based in the Careers Service, and she will offer one-to-one appointments, workshops, and related services suggested by the Newcomers Club in her part-time role.

NEWS FROM YOUR VOICE REPRESENTATIVES

On Thursday, 6th July 2017, the Oxford Research Staff Society held its second Annual General Meeting. During the event, the organisation's recent activities were reviewed, and elections took place for Committee posts. The Terms of Reference (the equivalent to a Constitution) were amended, and unanimous support was given to the list of OxRSS objectives (published in the last newsletter and on our website).

We thank outgoing OxRSS team members, especially Anna Chabokdast, Luis Alvarez, Henrik Muller, Niraj Welikala, Laura Tisdall, Emily Troscianko, and Louise Appleton. We also thank and give best wishes to Karina George (Social

Sciences), John Miles and Josephine Quinn (both from Humanities) for supporting researcher development in their respective divisions.

The new members of the Committee are:

Co-Chair (Voice): Anjali Shah

Co-Chair (Events): Anna McNaughton

Treasurer: Alicia Heath

Secretary: Holly Reeve

Events Officer: Lorraine Mumtaz

Publicity Officer: Manya Pagjavla

Researcher Development Officer from Oxford

Learning Institute: Laura Hodsdon (permanent member of committee)

FEATURED EVENTS

Blenheim Palace Trip

By Kundan Sharma



The visit to the famous Blenheim Palace was a fantastic day out. Blenheim is a historic building set in beautifully manicured grounds, surrounded by lakes and trees. It is Sir Winston Churchill's family home, and after a tour of the palace, you get a glimpse into his life. With perfect sunny weather, we walked along the lake to the famous "Harry Potter" tree and the victory column. We were lucky that our visit overlapped with the very popular "flower show" event. We arrived early and spent a whole day exploring the palace grounds.

Cocktail making class

By Lorraine Mumtaz

The cocktail making masterclass was very popular and enjoyable! The class was held in a private room at the Slug and Lettuce bar in the Oxford Castle Quarter. We first made a cosmopolitan, and then a mojito. It was also great to chat with other researchers from around the

university. Once the class was finished, we enjoyed a buffet set out for us, and had jagerbombs to finish the evening. The mixologist set them up, so pushing one made the small shot glass fall into the larger glass, knocking the next one in like dominoes.

FEATURED EVENTS CONTINUED

Summer formal dinner

By Anna McNaughton



The OxRSS Trinity term formal dinner was held at St John's College. The evening started with a

drinks reception in the famous Canterbury Quad, one of the earliest examples of Italian Renaissance architecture in Oxford. After several days of poor forecasts and rain, the evening was gloriously warm and sunny.

A delicious three-course dinner was then served in the dining hall. A raffle was organised during the dinner with prizes including chocolates, drinks and solar-powered lights. The atmosphere in the evening was brilliant with many of the attendees taking advantage of the college bar afterwards to extend the evening.

Folly dinner and boat trip

By Lorraine Mumtaz

We arranged a meal for researchers at the Folly, by the river in Oxford. A number of attendees took a short boat trip up the Thames prior to the meal taking in Christ Church meadow, the University boathouses, the Isis Tavern, and the idyllic Iffley Lock. For many of us it was the first time eating at the Folly. We were all appreciative of the surroundings, and the location right by the Thames was lovely. The waiters were friendly and helpful, and the food was also very good. We think it is definitely somewhere to frequent again!



USEFUL RESOURCES

Career development, workshops, fairs and personal development

[Careers Service](#)

For one-on-one meetings with a Careers Adviser, and workshops and events specific for research staff.

[Code of Practice for the Employment and Career Development of Research Staff](#)

The University's commitment to supporting the careers of researchers.

[Research staff groups by department](#)

This website contains information on research staff groups in each department.

[Oxford Learning Institute](#)

Obtain support for personal and professional development via courses and seminars on management, teaching, and personal development.

[Support for researchers](#)

This website contains information on support available to research staff from across the University.

[Vitae](#)

The national researcher development organisation.

Other resources

[Health and safety](#)

For information on occupational health and welfare

[IT services](#)

For technological and computing assistance.

[New research staff](#)

This website provides information for research staff who recently joined Oxford.

[Welcome Service](#)

Welcome service for University members and their partners.

Social opportunities

[Oxford University Newcomers' Club](#)

For partners' of researchers, graduate students and staff to meet each other.

[Oxford University Club](#)

Members and staff of the University are welcome to this sports and social club.

[Facebook](#)

Like the [OxRSS page](#) for the latest news and events!

[OxRSS Email List](#)

To join, please visit www.oxrss.ox.ac.uk and click the link "Sign up to the Research Staff Mailing List"

THE OXRSS COMMITTEE



Contact us: committee@oxrss.ox.ac.uk

Editorial team:

Pavitra Kannan and Laura Hodsdon

Written and photographic contributions:

Anna McNaughton, Lorraine Mumtaz, Anjali Shah, Kundan Sharma, Louise Bezuidenhout.