

Making friends in Oxford

The Oxford University Newcomers' Club is financed by the University and only the partners, husbands and wives of newly appointed University academic and administrative staff, of visiting academics and of graduate students are eligible to join. We are sad when other newcomers to Oxford discover the Club, only to be told they cannot be members. OUNC members, past and present, have contributed to this list of organisations and groups through which we hope you can start to make friends and feel part of the community. This is a limited selection of the opportunities Oxford has to offer; it's just to get you started!

For single people who want to meet others for activities like walking, theatre and cultural visits, try these websites:

www.internations.org/oxford.expats

www.meetup.com

There are **community groups** in North Oxford:

www.northoxfordassociation.co.uk

and Cowley: www.ark-t.org,

that offer classes and creative group activities for people of all ages.

Church Groups

The following have been recommended as particularly welcoming to those who have come from overseas to work or study here.

St Andrews in Summertown: www.standrewsoxford.org

St Barnabas in Jericho: <http://sbarnabas.org.uk/>

St Aldates: www.staldates.org.uk and **St Ebbes**: www.stebbes.org.uk in the City Centre

The **Baptist Church** in Headington: www.hbc.oxford.org.uk

These are Protestant churches but there are many other places of worship, including **Orthodox** and **Catholic** churches, several **Mosques** and a **Synagogue** in Oxford if you belong to any of these faiths.

Singing and Dancing

The following choirs are known to be friendly and welcoming. No auditions are required.

"Joined up singing" meets near the JR hospital:

www.joinedupsinging.co.uk

Oxford City Singers meet in the City Centre:

www.oxfordcitysingers.com

Swing dancing has become increasingly popular in Oxford.

There is a class nearly every night and you don't need a partner!

www.oxfordswingdance.co.uk

www.oxfordlindyhoppers.co.uk

Volunteering

Many Newcomers have found volunteering the most rewarding way to become part of the community. If you put **Volunteer in Oxford** into Google there is a huge list of possibilities, from supporting the homeless to helping children read. Oxford's numerous **Charity Shops** are always looking for volunteers, as is the **Fair Trade** shop next to St Michael's in the Northgate. You join a friendly team and if English is not your first language here's a chance to practise!

Do you have small children?

There are many playgroups in Oxford where you can make friends with other parents. The following have been particularly recommended.

Buttercups and Sunflowers at the Magdalen Road Church:

www.sunflowersoxford.co.uk

Donnington Doorstep in Iffley: www.donningtondoorstep.org.uk

Music sessions for children at various locations in Oxford:

www.nickcope.co.uk/events

We are sorry if you are disappointed at not being able to join the Newcomers' Club but please let us know if this list has been useful. We would be really interested to hear your experiences and might have more ideas to give you.

Theresa: theresafrayn@hotmail.com

Jenny: jenwalker7@gmail.com