

THE TOLKIEN SOCIETY  
**OXONMOOT**

## Progress Report



*The main entrance to St Antony's College, Oxford. Porters' Lodge on left. Photo by Mike Percival.*

### **Oxonmoot 2019**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019

<https://www.tolkiensociety.org/events/oxonmoot-2019/>

St Antony's College, 62 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6JF

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**The Tolkien Society (TS)** is an organisation which contracts with St Antony’s College, Oxford for the use of its facilities, but which has no formal connection with the College or the University of Oxford.

**St Antony’s College is at 62 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6JF**, with the main entrance fronting onto the Woodstock Road 5 minutes north of St Giles. The Porters’ Lodge is in the new building just inside and to the left of the gates. This is where you can check in to your accommodation if you are staying in College, and pick up your keys.

**The number +44 (0)1865 522233 (or 01865 522233) and email contact@oxonmoot.org can be left with family/friends in case of an emergency.** This will reach the Oxonmoot Subcommittee who will find you as quickly as possible. This number can also be used to reach help if you find yourself lost or unwell and in need of assistance.

**For those not intending to stay in College, the Oxford Visitor Information Centre:** 15–16 Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3AS is open 9.30 to 17.00 Monday to Saturday, 10.00 to 16.00 on Sunday. Phone: 01865 726871 or 01865 686430. The centre has details of alternative accommodation and places to see in Oxford. There is also an official website at <https://oxfordcity.co.uk/>

## Words from the Sofa

Thank you for booking for Oxonmoot, the Tolkien Society’s annual conference. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our favourite times of the year. Whether this is your first Oxonmoot or your twenty-first we hope you will have a wonderful time, meet new friends as well as old ones, and learn new things about Tolkien’s works and life.

This Progress Report (PR) gives you a taster for the fun to come, as it is at time of writing. Exact times and other details are still to be confirmed but hopefully this will give you some idea what to expect. The Oxonmoot Information (OI) that you will receive when you arrive will give you a timetable and other details.

Oxonmoot 2019 will be what we have now learned to call a “short” Oxonmoot, but we trust it will be just as much fun and just as informative – just a bit shorter!

**The Oxonmoot Sub-Committee**



*The dwarven beard-making workshop. Photo by Charles Noad.*

## An Overview of Oxonmoot

What is Oxonmoot – other than an annual get-together for Tolkien fans?

Oxonmoot takes place in Oxford on a weekend close to Bilbo and Frodo’s birthday on 22 September. It is open to members of The Tolkien Society and non-members, although members receive a discount on the cost of registration. There are also usually day tickets available to allow anyone to attend the talks and papers without joining the whole event.

There is something for everyone at most Oxonmoots: studies of languages, life, sources and interpretations plus debates and seminars to further expand our understanding of Tolkien’s life and works. As well as **talks and papers**, the timetable features events typically including:

The **Welcome Dinner** – held on the first night of Oxonmoot, this is an opportunity for First Timers to meet the ‘oldies’, and for the latter to be reunited with each other.

**The Percival Quiz**– a very popular event, this takes place in the Bar after the Welcome Dinner at around 9pm, and is open to everyone in teams (we will find you a team). Some questions are fiendish, but the emphasis is on fun. Some answers are fiendishly funny.

**Saturday Lunch**– the only meal included in the price of registration, this is an opportunity for all attendees to have a meal together. The Subcomm will take the opportunity to read out ‘Parish Notices’ and may spring the occasional surprise.

**Telerin Circle**– the plan this year is for Denis Bridoux to host a Telerin Circle after the Quiz on Friday night – exact details TBA.

**Entertainments & Masquerade**– This year once again part of an evening party, this is your chance to sing, dance, perform, anything that you feel will entertain your fellows and to show off your costumes. If you have a last-minute idea, don't hesitate to talk to either Helen Armstrong or Mike Percival about it – they're very good at suggesting how to best present it.

**Enyalië**– The visit to Tolkien's grave on Sunday morning at 11am where the Tolkien Society Chair reads from Tolkien's work, and members have the opportunity to thank the Professor for bringing us together in Fellowship.

That is a brief overview of the weekend, but each Oxonmoot is individually crafted by the Subcomm, and by members submitting their ideas. In 2019, we are delighted that Merry and Pippin are planning to return with their cheerful **Hobbit Dance Workshop**, and we are also planning a **Hobbit Bake-Off** where our members can display their culinary talents.

In a normal year, for example, we also have an Art Show and a Dealers' Room selling books, but we aren't running those this year. Held for over 40 years it has never been dull, and with recent changes Oxonmoot is set for another 40 at least.

Some delegates attend Oxonmoot for the academic conference alone and enjoy doing so, but for most the evenings are devoted to pursuing the other side of Tolkien, his love of good ale and good company. Room parties can continue late into the night (or early in the morning) in areas of College set aside for those to whom a deep sleep is not a priority.

Whatever aspect of Tolkien that appeals to you most, come to Oxonmoot and meet with like-minded others. We predict that forever more your year will be Oxon-centric, counting the days till September and Oxford.



*The 'Just a Minute in Middle-earth' panel. Photo by Charles Noad.*

# The Serious Bit

As guests of Oxonmoot and St Antony's College, please remember that you represent The Tolkien Society and all its members. You must respect the law at all events, including private room parties, and treat your hosts and fellow guests with courtesy. In the case of room parties, the organisers of these parties are fully responsible for what happens at them; neither The Tolkien Society nor Oxonmoot will accept any liability.

The Tolkien Society, represented by the Oxonmoot Subcommittee (Subcomm), will support College staff in the event of any unacceptable behaviour. If the Subcomm feel unable to deal safely with any situation, they will not hesitate to ask the authorities to intervene. Anyone, whether in private or public, who breaks the law, or in any way brings The Tolkien Society into disrepute, will not be welcome at future events, and may have their membership withdrawn. They will also be required to make good any damage to College property.

The College bar is bound by UK licensing laws. The bar staff will refuse to serve you alcohol if they believe you are under 18, or buying it for someone under 18, so bring some ID if you are lucky enough to look young. They also reserve the right to refuse to serve you if you appear to them to have had enough to drink. Please accept this with grace, or look after each other and do not allow that embarrassing situation to arise.

If you are drinking alcohol in public (i.e. not in College or other licenced venue), please be aware that you can be asked to stop drinking and/or to hand over any alcoholic drinks by a police officer, and it's an offence not to comply.

We understand wanting to show off your work, and a few people do spend the whole weekend in costume but, if you do, please remember that carrying weapons of any kind in public, including decorative swords and knives, is illegal and could get you into serious trouble. The Masquerade and Entertainments are a time when quite a few people will be in costume – but it's not compulsory and you are very welcome however you are dressed.

Finally, a word about privacy. Oxonmoot is an opportunity for all lovers of Tolkien to get together and this can occasionally include individuals who are celebrities in their own fields in the real world. Please respect their privacy and request an introduction via the Chair or Subcomm Chair if you want to meet them.

## **Children at Oxonmoot**

**Please note there are no child care facilities at Oxonmoot.**

Parents (or guardians) of children who attend Oxonmoot are responsible for their supervision at all times. Parents may make personal arrangements with other Oxonmoot attendees to take temporary responsibility for their children, but any such arrangements will remain private arrangements between the individuals concerned. Children under 10 must always be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for them and parents will be asked to return to their children if unattended. Parents of older children are responsible for providing whatever level of supervision their children require.

Parents are asked as a matter of courtesy to other attendees to consider taking their child out of programme items if their child's behaviour is likely to interfere with other attendees' enjoyment of the event.

We provide sticky labels for parents to put emergency contact details on the back of their children's badges at registration. At a minimum this should include at least one attending parent's name and mobile phone number.



*The welcome dinner at St. Antony's. Photo by Charles Noad.*

## What, Where and When

### **Arriving with luggage**

There is no official allocation of parking in College for the event. Access to drop off luggage is possible, please ask nicely at the porters lodge at the main gate. If you have a disability, please let the Bookings Officer know and she will arrange something for you.

### **Check in for residents**

When you have carefully followed the directions in this PR and found College your first port of call is the Porters' Lodge. There you can collect your room key and get directions to your room. The Porters will give you a map of the college showing your room, and will if you ask them also help you locate your room, as the college is quite complicated. If you arrive before 14.00 the porters will show you where to leave your luggage until 14.00 when check-in opens.

Remember to take care of your room keys and be ready to vacate your room by 10.00 on Sunday. Replacement keys or overstay costs will be met by you, not the TS. There will be a left luggage room, location to be determined.

Please note that Subcomm members normally those with BLUE badges. If you recognise one staggering about carrying a bag, they are not checked in yet (and may need your help if they are lost).

## Registration

**Registration will open at 15.00 on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September and close at 18.30. There will be a notice telling where to register after that time.**

Registration will be in the Hilda Besse Building, which is the large building on the left of the main quad after you leave the Porters' Lodge. At Registration you will collect your name badge and registration pack. You must wear this badge at all times in College as you will not be allowed into events without it. If meals have been booked, your badge will indicate what you have paid for. Your badge will also act as your coach ticket. Your Oxonmoot Information (OI) booklet will contain all the detailed information about the weekend, including the timetable. Please remember that it had to go to the printer a couple of weeks prior to the event so last-minute changes may occur. These changes will be posted around College in a newsletter. If you arrive at a time that's completely out of hours and want to register, your options are to find a member of the Subcomm, or to wait until Ops re-opens. However you do not need to register to go to your College bedroom – you can register in the morning.

## Ops

Ops is the nerve centre of Oxonmoot and the place to collect your Oxonmoot badge and pack when you arrive to register. Ops is run by volunteers and it is here that you will find lost property, information, and the printer and laminator. It is also the home of the Newsletter. If you need to speak to someone on the organizing committee go to Ops and they will contact them for you.

You will find it on the ground floor of the Hilda Besse Building, in the far-right hand corner as you come into the building from the Porters' Lodge end.

## Hospitality

This is a place to find tea, coffee and biscuits if you feel in need of something to “fill up the corners”, or somewhere to sit and chat. (Please leave a donation in the box, to cover the costs.) You can find it in the Clock Room, which is the last room on the left on the ground floor of the Hilda Besse building, coming in from the Porters' Lodge into College. If you find yourself going down steps again, you have gone too far (or turned the wrong way).

## First Timers

**Lizzie Lock** is looking out for those who are attending Oxonmoot for the first time and will help you with finding your way around the College. The traditional welcome to First Timers from the TS Chair Shaun Gunner will be on Friday evening at 18.30. There will also be members of the Tolkien Society Committee and Subcomm there so this is an opportunity to put faces to names.

## Stewards

Those of you kind enough to volunteer to steward will be addressed by the Deputy High Steward (aka Maggie Bailey) on Friday evening at 18.00 in the Bar. If you have not indicated your intention on the form but now feel you could help out, please go along to this meeting and say hello. Your duties will not be onerous and there is a reward. All who do not steward are considered gophers if a need arises. Gophers get our thanks, but no reward.

## College Meals

**Breakfast** is available if you purchased breakfast tokens with your booking. It is usually served in the Dining Hall at 8.00–9.00 on Saturday, and 9.00–10.00 on Sunday (but check OI for confirmation). Only those who paid for breakfast tokens when booking their accommodation can be served. Queues can form so if anyone shows a Q–jump ticket please understand that they have duties somewhere and let them move in front of you. The College is excellent with special dietary needs but it is useful to let us know in advance.

The **Friday Welcome Dinner** will be served in the Dining Hall at 7.30 pm, for those who have booked in advance. It is an opportunity to renew old friendships and for First Timers to make new ones. There is some more about this year's Dinner on our website at <https://www.tolkiensociety.org/events/oxonmoot-2019/>

**Saturday lunch** will be a soup and sandwiches lunch served in the Dining Hall, and is the only meal included in your registration package.

**No other meals are catered**, so Saturday evening is free for you to eat out of College or arrange for take away to be delivered to the Porters' Lodge.

## The Bar

The Bar is situated in the Buttery on the ground floor of the Hilda Besse building and we've been promised that **it will stay there** (ask any old–timer for the tale of the Year of the Migrating Bar.)

## The bit that's in **bold** to get your attention

- **Early arrivals** – we can always use help setting up for the event, so if you are an early bird please go to Ops if you are willing to help. Setup will be happening during the day on Friday.
- **Stewards** – are those who have indicated their intention in advance and receive a reward. Everyone else is a gopher and may be requested to help.
- **Accommodation** – please note that only those with booked accommodation can be in College after the Bar closes.
- **Kitchens** – if staying in College accommodation please feel free to use the fridges in the kitchens, but we cannot use the cooking facilities. There is usually a kettle in the kitchens but no tea makings, so BYO. There is a small general store over the main road. Please wash up and leave the place tidy!
- **Talks** – the programme for this year is being put together. Get in touch if you would like to contribute to the programme.
- **Entertainments** – please let the Entwife Helen Armstrong at [ents@oxonmoot.org](mailto:ents@oxonmoot.org) know as soon as possible if you have an 'Ent' (entertainment) that you wish to perform at the Party. Those who wish to perform must come to the sound check earlier in the day (times TBA), otherwise you will not be allowed to perform. No exceptions – sorry. This ancient rule dates from a time when we heard what it was like when people hadn't been sound-checked, even clever people with loud voices. If you have any timing problems, please speak to Helen.
- **Masquerade** – people in costume will be able to take part in the Masquerade, which will take place during the Party. Masqueraders do not have to come to the sound check unless they wish to speak, but please let Mike Percival at [masquerade@oxonmoot.org](mailto:masquerade@oxonmoot.org) know you would like to be included.
- **App** – details of a smartphone app will be emailed to attendees shortly before the weekend. The app will make sure you have the latest schedule at all times.
- **Questionnaire** – the online questionnaire will be sent out by email shortly after the weekend. Oxonmoot is your event, so please share your thoughts.
- **Emergency** assistance while in the Conference can be obtained by calling **01865 52 2233 (+44 (0) 1865 52 2233)** or by calling/going to the Porters' Lodge (see first page). A first aid box is available at the Porters' Lodge.
- **Disabled access** – St Antony's is mostly adapted for full accessibility. If this is a concern for you, please contact us to discuss options. Please be aware of the difficulties encountered by those with limited mobility and be prepared to assist.
- **Tolkien to the World** – Annie Haward will, for the final time, be selling books and some memorabilia for Tolkien To the World. (These are all legacy items left to us by former members.) Look for her in Ops during the day.

# Directions to the College

St Antony's is located just north of the heart of Oxford, on the corner of Woodstock Road and Bevington Road. A map of the College is provided at the end of this section.

We do suggest that you consult the area maps either on paper or on line beforehand as the traffic flow in Oxford is quite complicated. Buses however do run both ways along both the Banbury and the Woodstock roads.

## **By rail**

Trains run at least once an hour between Oxford and London, and twice an hour during peak times. Oxford is also on the main cross-country routes. For details of times and fares, visit National Rail <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/> or Google for a timetable. National Rail has a phone number 03457 48 49 50 and they are really helpful once you get through.

## **From the train station**

Taxis are recommended from the station, but if you are happy with a 30-minute walk, turn left as you leave the station area. The Royal Oxford Hotel is directly in front of you; keep left and walk along Hythe Bridge Street. At the end walk straight across into George Street. At the end of George Street, the department store Debenhams is on the left. Turn left onto Magdalen Street and walk northwards towards St Giles and Woodstock Road. To reach the Front Gate, keep left up the Woodstock Road, passing the Royal Oak pub on the right, and continue till you cross the odd little junction at Bevington Road. The main college gate is another 100 yards up on the right. (Don't try and go into the old wooden one with the pointy roof, that is staff only and is not connected to the public part of the college.)

The number 14 bus connecting the railway station to the John Radcliffe (or JR) hospital has a stop very close to the College by Bevington Road. For timetable information, see <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/> and use the Timetables link to find Oxford route 14. The interactive page <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/oxfordshire/14/jr-hospital-oxford/xoao014.i> may also be helpful. Please note that the Bevington Road stop is behind the college on the Banbury Road, and you will need to go along to the Woodstock Road to get to the main entrance.

## **From the city centre**

Taxis are recommended from the bus station if you have luggage.

To walk from the city centre to St Antony's will take 15-20 minutes. Many local bus stops are located on Magdalen Street (outside the Odeon cinema), and national buses arrive at Gloucester Green Bus Station on George Street. See the TRAIN STATION section above for further details on how to get to St Antony's.

## **By coach / bus**

Two companies run frequent buses, 24 hours a day, between London (Victoria Bus Station) and Oxford: the Oxford Bus Company (tel: +44 (0) 1865 785400) and the Oxford Tube (tel: +44 (0) 1865 772250).

There are also direct and regular services to Oxford from Heathrow and Gatwick airports run by the Oxford Bus Company (see above contact details). Coach services from other parts of the country are also available. See the National Express website for more information.

### **Taxis**

There are taxi ranks (pick-up points) at the train station, Gloucester Green bus station and St Giles in the city centre.

Courtesy Cars: +44 (0)1865 343575;

ABC Radio Taxi Oxford: +44 (0)1865 242424 or 770077;

CCB Cars (airport transfers): +44 (0)1865 876699 or 765566;

### **By car**

Please note there is no parking allocation at College. If you need disabled access or have a special need please contact us.

It is recommended that drivers use the city's Park and Ride bus services which operate between the city centre and parking areas on the outskirts. The nearest park and ride to St Antony's (and the most generous time allowance) is Peartree, in the north west near the A34/A44 junction, from where you can take the 300 bus to just outside the College entrance. There are websites dedicated to these services, which are made slightly complicated by being owned by two separate councils, but they are very helpful if you can get through.

*We suggest using the Ring Road whichever direction you come from, rather than trying to take a short cut through Oxford town centre, unless you know the area very well and recently. Even from the West Side, new bus lanes have added to the complications.*

**The front gate and Porters' Lodge of St Antony's** are on the Woodstock Road, shortly past Canterbury Road on the left going towards the town. If you pass the Royal Oak pub, you have gone too far. You can turn left at the top of St Giles and go back up the Banbury Road and cross back to the Woodstock Road by going left at Canterbury Road.

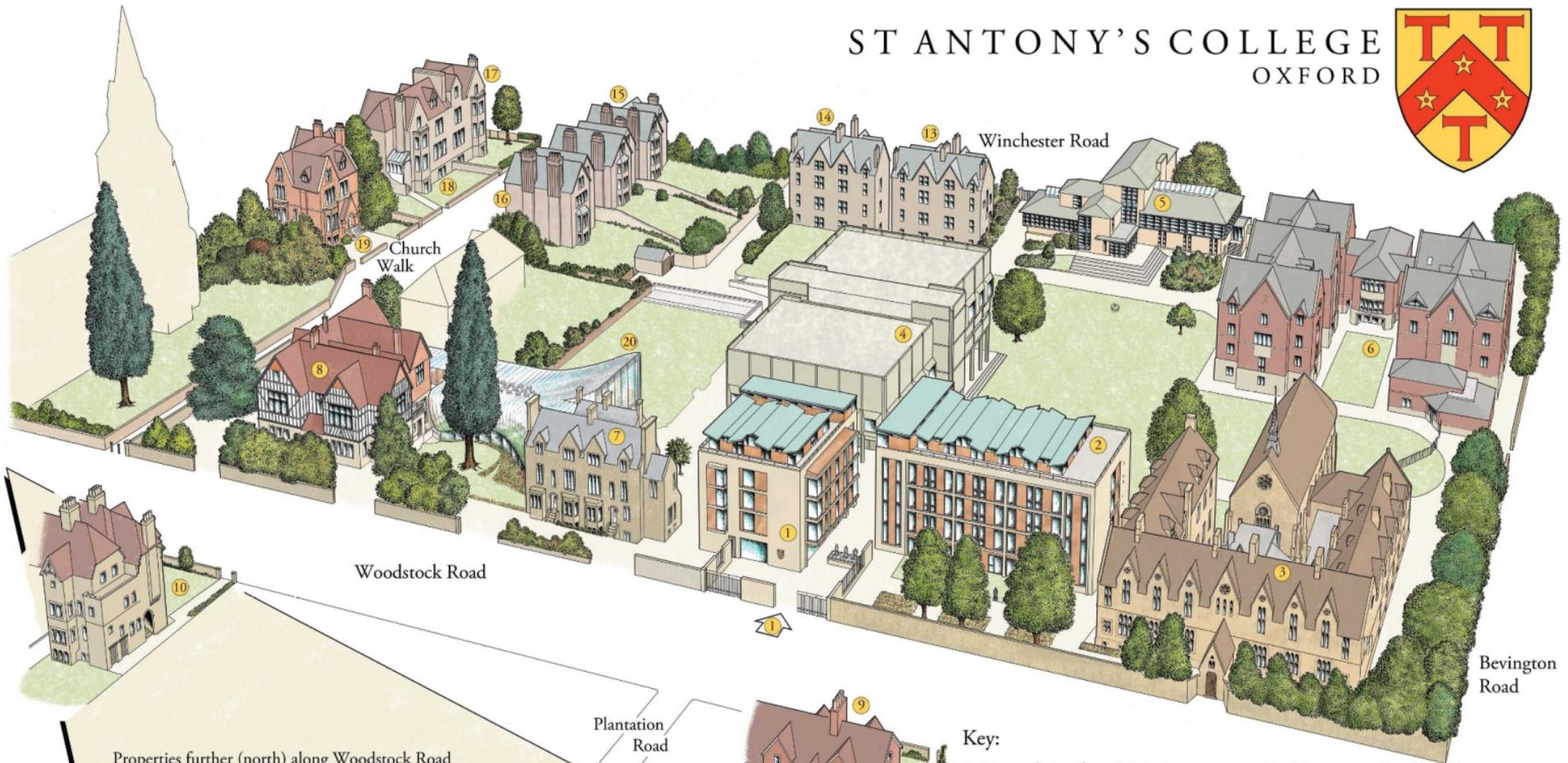
If you are unloading at the back gate, you will need to turn into Bevington Road from the Banbury Road as Bevington Road is not accessible from the Woodstock Road.

We strongly suggest getting familiar with a map of the area before arriving, rather than relying just on SatNav as there is quite a lot of One Way in the area.

If you arrive in the evening, you may find some street parking on Bevington Road or nearby in Winchester Road. You will need to move your vehicle to the Park and Ride before 8am (please check what the signs say) and the parking restrictions kick in. Please note there is now no 24-hour street parking till the very outskirts of Oxford.

Oxford roads are famous for congestion and cyclists – be wary!

# ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE OXFORD



### Key:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Porter's Lodge, Main Entrance and Ghassan Shaker Building | 11. European Studies Centre - 70 Woodstock Road |
| 2. Gateway Building  | 12. 86 Woodstock Road                           |
| 3. Old Main Building   | 13. 25/26 Winchester Road                       |
| 4. Hilda Besse Building                                      | 14. 23/24 Winchester Road                       |
| 5. Nissan Institute - 27 Winchester Road                     | 15. 22 Winchester Road                          |
| 6. Founder's Buildings                                       | 16. 3 Church Walk                               |
| 7. 64/66 Woodstock Road                                      | 17. 21 Winchester Road                          |
| 8. Middle East Centre - 68 Woodstock Road                    | 18. 2 Church Walk                               |
| 9. 83/85 Woodstock Road                                      | 19. Latin American Centre - 1 Church Walk       |
| 10. 107 Woodstock Road                                       | 20. Investcorp Building                         |

# Oxonmoot Subcommittee

These are the people who have been working hard to bring you this year's Oxonmoot, and who will be working even harder during the event!

## **Not the Chair**

This year's Oxonmoot is brought to you by a sofa large and comfortable enough to accommodate all the Sub-Committee. There is no Chair. Honest.

## ***Bookings Officer***

Francesca Barbini

## ***Papers***

Lynn Whitaker

## ***Entertainments***

Helen Armstrong

## ***Masquerade***

Mike Percival

## ***Chief Steward***

Montserrat Thorp

## ***First Timers***

Lizzie Lock

## ***Ops***

Ian Spittlehouse

## ***Art Show / Dealers (but she gets a year off in 2019!)***

Cat Poole

## ***Crafts***

Anne Gooding

## ***Tech Team***

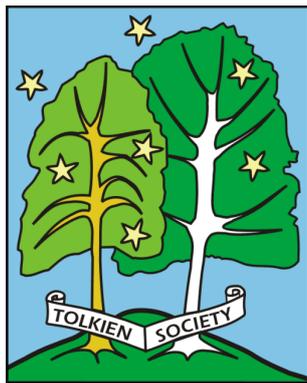
Andy Armstrong, Matthew Davison, Mike Percival and Martin Smith

## ***Digital Officer***

Daniel Helen

## ***Trustee Liaison***

Daniel Helen



THE  
**TOLKIEN**  
SOCIETY

[WWW.TOLKIENSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.TOLKIENSOCIETY.ORG)