

Interesting facts on Oxford



The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford was the first museum in the world to open its doors to the public when it officially opened in 1683. Its treasures include the lantern that Guy Fawkes had when he was arrested for his part in the Gunpowder Plot on 5th November 1605. It was given to Oxford University in 1641 by Robert Heywood, son of a Justice of the Peace who had been present at the arrest of Guy Fawkes when the Gunpowder Plot was foiled.

The bell in the tower of Christ Church Cathedral is called the Old Tom which strikes a unique 101 times at 9.05pm every evening. Originally, this was the curfew

time for students in the city and the bell rang to signal their return back to college - things have obviously changed but the tradition lives on.

The University of Cambridge was actually founded by Oxford students who were fleeing Oxford following riots that erupted in 1209 between students and townspeople. Violent confrontations between townspeople and students have erupted in Oxford at various times throughout history. On this occasion, trouble began following the murder of a local townswoman by students. Oxford University is the oldest English speaking university in the world, dating back to the end of the 12th century.

The St. Scholastica Day riot of February 10, 1355, is another notorious example of the 'Town and Gown' rivalry. The dispute took place in The Swindlestock Tavern (now the the Abbey Bank on Carfax) between townspeople and two students of Oxford University. Insults grew into armed conflict and local citizens attacked the University which left 63 scholars and many locals dead. The dispute was eventually settled in favour of the university. Every year on St Scholastica's Day from then on, the Mayor of Oxford had to pay a penny to the University for every life lost and attend a Mass for the souls of the dead scholars. The penance continued for 470 years, until the mayor refused to take part in 1825.

Oxford was once the capital of England during the English Civil War when Charles I held his court here from 1642, following his expulsion from London by the Parliamentary forces lead by Oliver Cromwell. Oxford itself supported the Parliamentary cause, but the University was a strong supporter of the king. From 1642 to 1646 King Charles stayed at Christ Church College.

Oxford University has educated 25 Prime Ministers including Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher.

The Orange Tree Theatre

The Orange Tree Theatre opened on the 31 December 1971 in the upstairs room of the Orange Tree pub near to Richmond Station. It was part of the explosion of "alternative" theatre than blossomed in the late 60s and early 70s. It proved the right time and the right place, and having had to do the first lunchtime performance twice to accommodate the numbers who came, the theatre developed throughout the 70s, often relishing the queues on the stairs eager for seats in those days before any form of booking at all!

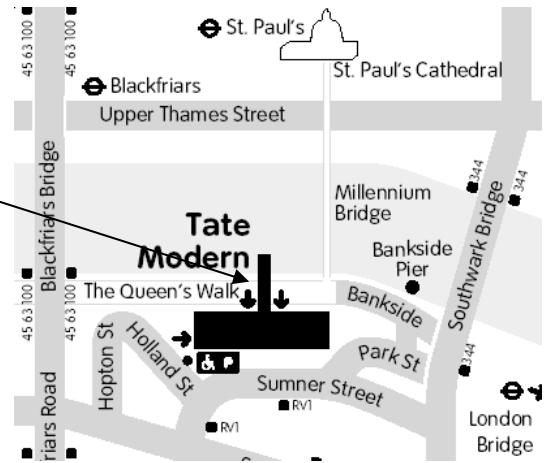
The new Orange Tree Theatre, seating 172, London's only full time professional theatre in the round, opened in February 1991, in what had been a school, just across the road from the pub. The first production was Arthur Murphy's All in the Wrong.

We had not begun in 1971 by intending to work only "in the round". But the first production, done by daylight at lunchtime, where the audience and the actors shared the space, clearly had its effect. When the possibility of creating a new theatre became concrete, we knew what we wanted. The Orange Tree is entirely committed to this form of theatre and all the productions are always in the round.

This week's events

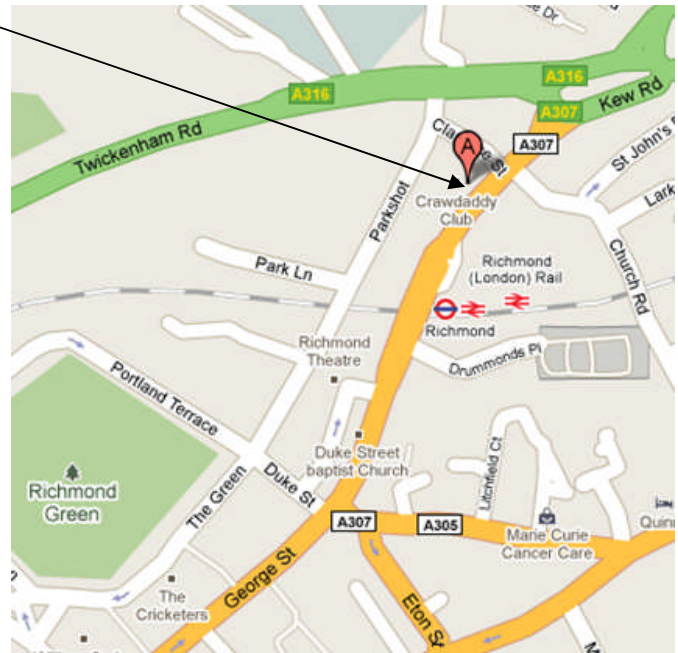
Tuesday, April 20th

- 12:00 pm Mandatory Weekly Meeting**
- 1:15 pm Tate Modern (British Art).** Meet Carole outside the Level 1 cloakroom. DIRECTIONS: Take the Central line from Chancery Lane to St. Paul's. Walk down to the river and over the Millennium Bridge (destroyed in Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince) to the Tate Modern.
- 7:45 pm Taking Steps, Orange Tree Theatre (all students).** *Althea will leave AHA at 5:00 pm if you would like to travel with her.* There are plenty of places (and there will be time) to pick up dinner upon arriving in Richmond. DIRECTIONS: Take the Piccadilly line from Holborn to South Kensington. At South Kensington change for a District line train to Richmond. Do not get District line train for Ealing Broadway or Wimbledon.



Wednesday, April 21st

- 10:00 am ***ICE CLASS CANCELLED TODAY*****
- 1:00 pm Green London class will meet at AHA and then leave for a 'London Squares' walk.**



Thursday, April 22nd

- 10:00 am Tate Modern Gallery (Brit Art).** Meet Carole outside the Level 1 cloakroom. DIRECTIONS: Take the Met line from Harrow to Finchley Road. Change for the Jubilee line to London Bridge and walk down Bankside to the museum.
- 1:00 pm Filmscape class will meet at AHA**

Friday, April 23rd

Oxford Day Trip with Carole

- 10:15 am** Meet Carole inside the Caffe Nero at the Oxford bus station. To arrive in Oxford in time you will need to get the Oxford Tube (bus) from Hillingdon (Piccadilly and Met lines) no later than 9:00 am. Further information to follow at ICE class.



next week

- 27 Apr Theatre Class Cancelled Today
- 28 Apr Royal Parks visit (Green London)
Pre-show talk followed by performance of *The White Guard*, National Theatre (all students)
- 29 Apr Imperial War Museum (Brit Art and Filmscape)
- 30 Apr Bath day trip with Martin

Looking ahead

- 4 May *Anderson's English*, Hampstead Theatre (all students)
- 5 May ICE class
Hampstead (Filmscape and Green)
- 6 May Henry Moore Exhibition, Tate Britain (Brit Art)
- 7 May—16 May Midterm Break

Web Update

Have a look at our website www.ahalondon.org.uk. This bulletin will be uploaded to the website, so the information is always online!

Transport tip

Plan your route beforehand and, when meeting a teacher for a visit right after another class, leave the AHA centre quickly to allow enough journey time. To find the best public transport route: <http://journeyplanner.tfl.gov.uk>