# Oxford's SNOWY INFO

Issue No. 7975

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**www.dailyinfo.co.uk**

Next issue: Thu 5th February
Deadline: 10am, Wed 4th February

**Tue 3rd & Wed 4th February 2009 ( 3rd week )**


## WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON

*The Art Room Annual Come & Sing Concert 2009*

**Choral Extravaganza**

**Zadok, Nelson Mass and Mozart Requiem a bravura performance!**

7.30pm, Sat 7th Feb, The Sheldonian Theatre
Tickets £10 (£7.50 concessions)
**tarcas09@googlemail.com** / 01865 552855

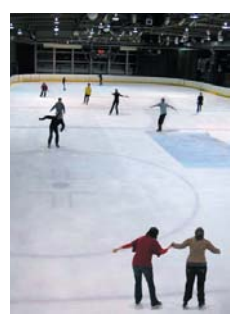
*This is a fundraising event on behalf of **The Art Room**, a local educational charity.*

D'OVERBROECK'S COLLEGE
Independent Sixth Form

**Sixth Form Open Morning**
**Sat 7 Feb 2009: 10am-12.30pm**
For more information please telephone 01865 310000
www.doverbroecks.com

## ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE

# Oxford Ice Rink



If you've ever been ice skating you'll recognise that first heartstopping moment, when you step on to the ice and feel your feet running away from you. I've been a couple of times now, but I still grapple with the thought, just as I'm about to get going, that I must be mad. I'm willingly heading on to a cold, hard, slippery surface with little more than a pair of knives strapped to my feet! Why do I do this?

And the answer, of course, is that feeling of flying. The speed, the adrenaline, the thought that with a little more practice one could be gracefully drawing figures of eight on the ice, the childhood memories of watching Torville and Dean in the winter Olympics. These are what skating can do for you like nothing else, that and the bruises, but we won't dwell on them.

It's also pretty good for people-watching. As I hovered close to the edge, cautiously circling further and faster, it was very interesting to see what everyone else was up to and how they were going about it. Even on a fairly quiet evening there's a lot to see - the nonchalant guys in hockey skates, a small girl performing pirouettes, some people practising seriously, a couple of novices with terrifiedexpressions, a gang of teenage girls holding hands and shrieking. Most noticeable were the couple of fearless beginners who couldn't skate but didn't seem to notice. They raced each other, and more than once we saw a spectacular fall. Later on one of the pair left the rink with his arm tied up in a makeshift sling. By the end of the session everyone seems to be on nodding terms at least with everyone else.

There are only 40 or so permanent ice rinks in England (source: the National Ice Skating Association website) with a smattering of extras in the winter, and we're jolly lucky to have one so close to the centre of Oxford. It gets pretty good use, with 4 public sessions most days, plus University ice hockey late in the evening, skating lessons, training sessions for ice dance and in the little time left over it's available to hire. So you can hold your pyjama skating party between 11pm and 3am, weekdays. Lessons are fitted in first thing in the morning, and in half hour slots elsewhere. Currently there are 12 month waiting lists for some lessons!

Despite its popularity with town, gown and tourists, the future of the ice rink is uncertain. The machinery and building were never expected to last forever, and the machinery is already overdue for replacement. In addition, according to the Council statement, "the development of the West End has injected considerable uncertainty about the best use of the land where the Ice Rink stands". The good news is that after consultation the Council feel "there are strong arguments for maintaining an ice arena in the Oxford area" and they're intending to keep it open and fully functional while further decisions are made. So if you were meaning to go skating and haven't got round to it, go soon! Go while the ice rink is still in Oxford and easy to get to, and show your support for the place.

If you want a quiet session go for Monday or Tuesday evenings, or the teatime sessions (5 - 7.30pm). For a livelier time go on Friday evening or Saturday afternoon. On Tuesday evenings you're not allowed hockey skates, and Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings are disco sessions. General session prices are £6.10 for adults, and £4.60 for concessions, with numerous options for family tickets and some variation for different times. There's a pay and display car park right beside the rink, but the machine doesn't give change.

Our party went for enjoyment and exercise, and got both. We came away without bruises, although two among us had never skated before. We weren't terribly stiff the following morning, although it's about as good as running in terms of burning the calories (around 350 calories per hour, depending on weight, gender, and how vigorous your skating is!). We stayed for longer than we anticipated, and we're all intending to go again soon. See you there?

**Jen Pawsey**

## CINEMA to Thu 5th

### Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

**SEVEN POUNDS [12A]** daily: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
Will Smith tries to make up for manslaughter by altruistic suicide.

**ROLE MODELS [15]** Mon - Thu: 1.00, 3.45, 6.15, 9.00pm
Comedy about men on probation helping teenagers.

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD [15]** Mon - Thu: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm
Fifties couple seek fulfillment in France.

**FROST/NIXON [15]** Mon - Thu: 2.00, 5.00, 8.00pm
Account of historic interview with disgraced former president.

**BRIDE WARS [12A]** daily: 1.30, 7.00pm
Two friends schedule their weddings for the same day. With Anne Hathaway.

**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS [18]** Mon - Thu: 4.00, 9.15pm
Origins of the feud between the vampires and their former slaves.

**VALKYRIE [12A]** Mon - Thu: 12.00, 2.45, 5.45, 8.45pm
Plot to kill Hitler at the height of WWII. Subtitled: Fri 12.00, Sun 5.45, Mon 8.45 & Thu 2.45.

**SENIOR SCREEN: GHOST TOWN [12A]** Wed: 10.45am
Ricky Gervais as antisocial dentist pestered by the dead.

### Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE [15]** Mon - Thu: 6.15, 8.45pm
Vibrant tale of life on the streets of Mumbai.

### Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD [15]** Mon, Tue, Thu: 12.45, 3.30, 6.20, 9.00pm
Fifties couple seek fulfillment in France. Wed: 3.30, 6.20, 9.00pm

**FROST/NIXON [15]** Mon - Thu: 12.30, 3.15, 6.00, 8.45pm
Account of historic interview with disgraced former president.

**BIG SCREAM: REVOLUTIONARY ROAD [15]** Wed: 11.30am
Fifties couple seek fulfillment in France. Exclusive screening for parents with babies under one.

### East Oxford Community Centre

**MEPHISTO - CREDIT CRUNCH CINEMA** Wed: 6.30pm-11.00pm
Belated Australia Day: The Castle and Chopper. £2.50 all night.

### Vue Cinema (08712 240240)

**DEFIANCE [15]** daily: 3.20, 9.30pm
Daniel Craig as Polish Jewish fighter in Russian resistance.

**THE READER [15]** Mon, Wed & Thu: 12.30, 6.20pm
Complicated love affair in post WW2 Germany. Tue: 12.30pm

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE [15]** Mon - Thu: 1.00, 3.40, 6.30, 9.15pm
Vibrant tale of life and love on the streets of Mumbai.

**BRIDE WARS [12A]** Mon - Thu: 5.00, 7.30, 9.45pm
Two friends schedule their weddings for the same day. With Anne Hathaway.

**ROLE MODELS [15]** Mon - Thu: 3.30, 9.00pm
Comedy about men on probation helping teenagers.

**SEVEN POUNDS [12A]** Mon - Thu: 11.50am, 2.50, 6.00, 8.45pm
Will Smith tries to atone for manslaughter by altruistic suicide. Subtitled Sun 2.50 & Tues 6.00.

**FROST/NIXON [15]** Mon - Tue: 12.40, 6.10pm
Account of historic interview with disgraced former president.

**REVOLUTIONARY ROAD [15]** Mon - Thu: 12.00, 2.40, 5.20, 8.15pm
Fifties couple seek fulfillment in France.

**VALKYRIE [12A]** Mon - Thu: 12.20, 3.00, 5.50, 8.30pm
Plot to assassinate Hitler at the height of WWII.

**UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS [18]** Mon, Wed & Thu: 1.10, 3.30, 5.40, 8.00, 10.15pm Tue: 3.30, 5.40, 8.00, 10.15pm
Centuries-old feud between the vampires and their former slaves.

**NICK AND NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST [12A]** Mon - Thu: 12.50, 3.10, 5.30, 7.45, 10.00pm
A couple-to-be search for a secret gig.

**AUSTRALIA [12]** Mon - Thu: 1.30pm
Sweeping period epic from Baz Luhrmann with Nicole Kidman.

**SENIORS CLUB: THE EXPRESS [PG]** Tue: 12.30pm
The trials of one of the first black american footballers.

### Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)

**MILK [15]** Mon, Wed, Thu: 1.45, 4.45, 7.45pm, Tue: 1.45, 4.45pm
Story of California's first openly gay elected official, Harvey Milk.

**SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE [15]** daily: 2.30, 5.30, 8.30pm
Vibrant tale of life and love on the streets of Mumbai.

**THE WAVE [15]** Tue: 8.00pm
A teacher creates fascism in the classroom.

✍ = see review on www.dailyinfo.co.uk
**- & now watch film trailers online !**

## PS3 GAME FOR SALE

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## PERFORMERS SOUGHT

PERFORMERS SOUGHT FOR short paid slots at regular Oxford-based contemporary Cabaret/Variety Night. Do you have circus, dance, theatre, magic, comedy or music skills at a professional or very good amateur level? Showcase your work in front of a friendly, receptive audience. Please send cv / myspace / details, or for more info, email susannabandit@hotmail.com

## THEATRE to Sat 7th

### Burton Taylor Studio (305305)

**ART** Tue 3rd - Sat 7th: 7.30pm
Comedy about friendship and art by Yasmina Reza. £5/£4

**MANKIND** Tue 3rd - Sat 7th: 9.30pm
Lively Middle English morality play. £5/£4

### New Theatre, Oxford (0844 8471585)

**RICHARD THOMPSON** Sat 7th: 7.30pm
Journey through 1000 Years of Popular Music. £20

### North Wall Arts Centre (319450)

**MARK THOMAS** Tue 3rd: 7.30pm
Radical comedian tries out new material. £10.

**FOUND IN TRANSLATION** Thu 5th: 8:00pm
The Oulipo Poets present a unique live literature show. £10/£8.

### Oxford Playhouse (305305)

**PLAYBITES** Tue 3rd: 1pm
Rehearsed reading of 6 short works in the Circle Bar, by Writers at Oxford Playhouse & Oxford Actors' Network. £5 on the door.

**DANCE CONFERENCE: MOVING THE BOUNDARIES** Sat 7th
Oxford Playhouse & Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies present a discussion on the concept of The Body in the world of dance. £10-£13.50

### Pegasus Theatre (722851)

**THE DANCERS' CUT** Fri 6th & Sat 7th: 8pm
The bite-sized best bits of Shobana Jeyasingh's hallmark choreography - part of Dancin' Oxford Festival £4-£8.50

### The Theatre At Headington (759138)

**BROTHERS ON EVEREST** Wed 4th: 1.55pm
Tom Clowes describes his experience of climbing Everest with his brother, Free.

**ALL CLASSICAL MUSIC EXPLAINED** Sat 7th: 7.30pm
Elaine Hirsch Presents. £12/£10.

### Oxford Brookes, Graduation Hall (01296 486009)

**DRAMAGANZA AT BROOKES UNI** Fri 6th: 7.30pm
Jigsaw theatre company & local theatre/dance/music groups; a comedy extravaganza. £5/£4.

### Lains Barn (01993 811678 / 01235 765648)

**HANSEL & GRETEL** Tue 3rd: 7.00pm
The familiar tale of food, families and a very wicked witch!

Also showing at **Charlbury Primary School** (01608 810354), Wed 4th: 7.00pm; **Bourton Village Hall** (01793 780279), Thu 5th: 7.00pm; **Cassington Village Hall** (8844458), Fri 6th: 6.30pm and **Buckland Memorial Hall** (249444), Sat 7th: 7.00pm

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Oxford University, Department of Psychiatry
**Feeling depressed?**
If so, we need your help! We at the Department of Psychiatry are investigating the effects of styles of thinking and low mood among people aged 18-65 who are feeling down or depressed. You will be compensated for your time and expenses.
**Interested?**
Please contact Tamara Lang on 01865 226390 or email: **tamara.lang@psych.ox.ac.uk**

FEELING BLUE? AGED 40-65? Researchers at Oxford University are investigating mental processes at times of utmost crisis in people with experience of depression. Interested? Please contact Susie Hales on (01865) 223903 or email epactstudy1@psych.ox.ac.uk for more information

## PLAN !

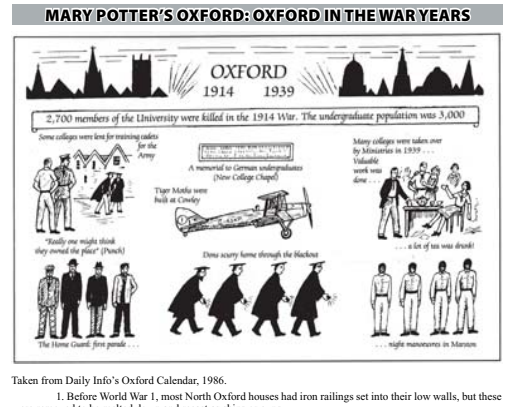
DAILY INFORMATION'S YEAR PLANNER 2008/09

**Get Organised!**
**Daily Info's Year Planner**
**Oct 2008 - Dec 2009**
**Last 400 left !**
A2, write-on days, important dates & holidays, lots of useful info. Free within Oxfordshire.
Email planner@dailyinfo.co.uk for your FREE copy!

## COFFEE MAKER FOR SALE

COFFEE MAKER, MORPHY Richards, good condition, £30. kkstp11@hotmail.com

## MARY POTTER'S OXFORD: OXFORD IN THE WAR YEARS




Taken from Daily Info's Oxford Calendar, 1986.

1. Before World War 1, most North Oxford houses had iron railings set into their low walls, but these were removed to be melted down and recast as ships or guns.

2. In May 1940 men between 17 and 65 were asked to offer their services for the "Local Defence Volunteers". Uniforms and equipment were less forthcoming than volunteers and it may have been the ramshackle nature of their weaponry which earned the Barton Contingent the nickname "Look, Duck and Vanish Brigade". Barton was an enthusiastic group, which "stood down" in 1944 with some reluctance. The name "L.D.V." was later changed to the less bureaucratic "Home Guard".

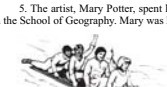
3. By early 1939 the Government had decided that war was inevitable, and called up 18 year olds that spring, ostensibly for 6 months training. They didn't get out again until 1947, since those who joined up later were released earlier on grounds of greater age and therefore less employability - so some spent 8 years in the army.

4. Our founder spent part of his war in Oxford and gave his reminiscences.

"At St Edwards' school the most obvious impact on school life, when rations were reduced to 1/4 of an ounce of butter and one egg per week, was a vast improvement in the food compared with peacetime. We had minced meat and sausages, which, while largely made with bread, you could actually cut with a sharp knife, whereas our sliced mutton before the war was as resistant as the plate itself.

"Military parades took place 2 half-days a week, and we were sometimes called upon in uniform to defend Oxford against practice incursions by Canadians pretending to be Germans. It was my mission on one occasion to defend the Woodstock Rd against the threat from the north, for which I was provided with one thunderflash. I spent the entire day standing in the doorway of a house on the corner of Osberton Rd, awaiting the tanks. I clutched my thunderflash tightly, and the sweat gradually dissolved it until by 4pm, when I was relieved (because the Canadians had gone down the Banbury Rd instead) there was nothing left to throw. Great equalisers, the Canadians. There was a wall off the Banbury Rd, dividing a private estate from a council estate. They went through it and it has never been rebuilt."

5. The artist, Mary Potter, spent her war years drawing maps for the Admiralty, who were camping out in the School of Geography. Mary was head of a cartography section in New College.



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## GIGS

### Tue 3rd

**THE FIRRY MIC** / Acoustic open mike. Songs, poetry, stories. / 8pm. Free / 245 290 / The Fir Tree, 163 Iffley Road, OX4 1EJ

### Wed 4th

**TUG DUMBLY** / Hammer & Tongue / Australia's most highly broadcast and recognised performance poet, plus Open Poetry Slam. / www.hammerandtongue.co.uk / 8pm £5/£4 conc / Baby Simple, Cowley Rd

**DANCEHALL NICE AGAIN** / Ska Roots Dancehall / 8pm - 12am, free / 07813 355448 / James St Tavern

## JOBS OFFERED

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## MEETINGS & LECTURES

### Tue 3rd

**DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER STAMMTISCH** / Speak German, play games and organise other activities. / 8:30pm, Free, All welcome / deutschesta mmtisch@yahoo.co.uk / Anchor Pub (corner Kingston Road/Polstead Road)

**GLOBE CAFE** / Friends, coffee & conversation for international students and visitors in Oxford / 8-10pm, free / www.globecafeoxford.org.uk / 07925 394122 / St Andrew's Church, Linton Road / 331212

**LGBT BOOK CLUB** / Discussing the Naked Civil Servant. All welcome. / 8pm, Free / oxfordgaybookclub@yahoo.co.uk / The Lamb and Flag

**IRISH LANGUAGE GROUP** / Informal group for those who would like to meet up to speak Irish. / 8.00pm to 10.00pm free / Half Moon Public House, St Clements

**LADYFEST OXFORD 2009 MEETING.** / Get involved with this year's Ladyfest! / 6.30pm / ladyfestoxford09@googlemail.com / Far From the Madding Crowd Pub

**TELESCOPES NOW** / Prof Alexander Boksenberg talks about William Herschel and the Hubble Telescope / 7pm, free / www.mhs.ox.ac.uk / 277280 / Museum of the History of Science , Old Ashmolean Building, Broad St

**SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT** / Six sessions, covering local & international questions / Oxford Transport Network / 5pm, £6 / http://oxtran.tsu.ox.ac.uk / 285533 / School of Geography, Mansfield Rd

### Wed 4th

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION** / Meditating in the Christian tradition as taught by John Main. Beginners welcome! / 7.25pm / £2 donation / www.wccm.org / 01856 519458 / 2, Canterbury Road, OX2 6LU

**DAVID PATTERSON SEMINAR** / Dr G Zuckermann: Language, Religion and Identity in Israel / Hebrew & Jewish Studies Unit / 8pm, free / www.ochjs.ac.uk / Yarnton Manor, Yarnton OX5 1PY / 377946

**GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY** / The Financial Crisis, World Recession and Energy / Christopher Allsopp, OIES / 5 pm, FREE / www.sant.ox.ac.uk/centres/geopolitics.html / St Antony's College, Woodstock Rd / 284700

**THE OXFORD WE HAVE LOST** / David Clark talks about recording and saving vernacular architecture of the past / Tea and Talks / 1.30 pm, £1 inc tea and cake / www.smi-oxford.org.uk/ / St Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road

**MUGHALS I** / 'Regional centralisations' in the Mughal empire: Dr Polly O'Hanlon / Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies / 5pm, free / 278730 / Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, George Street, OX1 2AR

## BANDS, MUSICIANS & KIT

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JERICHO 1 BED furnished sunny purpose-built gch flat overlooking park with secure parking, £775 pcm excl. Available 1st March. N-S. Professional(s) preferred. 07785 292719 robert@vaccaperna.co.uk

SPACIOUS 1 BEDROOM newly refurbished apartment next to Churchill Hospital, £800pcm and bills flat4vc@hotmail.co.uk

HEADLEY WAY, 6 bedroom student, excellent condition, off road parking, fully furnished, fitted kitchen, with 2 bathrooms, from August 09. £345pcm. 07979 983236. snpinky@hotmail.com

2 DOUBLE BED ground floor flat, gch, double glazed, garden, parking, all appliances, N/S. £825pcm excl. 07977 140946. Available 24/2/09. neiltorpton@aol.com

NORTH OXFORD HAREFIELDS. Two bed (both doubles) ground floor flat near Banbury Rd. Good condition with GSH. Available 1 March. £825pcm 07947 650578 t.green@virgin.net

## ROOMS TO LET

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EN-SUITE MASTER AT Greater Leys, £470 all inc cwong@wongcna.co.uk 07787 376764

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**email valentine@dailyinfo.co.uk or send us your poems via www.dailyinfo.co.uk**

**Here's a couple of recent "antis". Keep 'em coming, both anti and pro. Closing date Tuesday 10th February**

You don't need flowers, chocolates and stuff. I tell you I love you: that should be enough.

Love hearts on cards, with verses in red: you don't need that rubbish I'll kiss you instead.

You don't need romance, or a meal at the Royal. Just take off your clothes, and pass me the oil.

You don't need valentines, to show you who cares. Lock all the doors, and meet me upstairs.

**jackiedoh**

I have something to say: Sorry to be a bummer But if God wanted us to do Val Day He'd have put it in summer.

Who's f-ed up plan was it To have a day when you dare To eat mountains of chocolate Then put on thong underwear?

And if you want someone to sleep with you To hear "yes" instead of "mmmmaybe" Don't get her a card Featuring an arrow-shooting baby!

The headlines every day shout "Save the trees!" "Credit crunch!" "No, but on 14 February, Buy dead flowers by the bunch!"

So you can keep Valentine's Day With its contradictions and clashes I prefer compatible things Like beer, bangers and mashes.

**NR**

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