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## COMING

**OPEN MORNING: D'OVERBROOK'S COLLEGE.** Saturday 9am - 10am to 12.30pm. Entry at age 13 into Year 9. age 15+ into Sixth Form. 1 Park Town off Banbury Road, Oxford. Tel: 310000 for details. All welcome.

## MAY MORNING

Singing from Magdalen Tower will be at 6.00am for 7 minutes. We're not sure exactly when the bridge will be closed to stop you jumping off it. If you know, do tell us.  
Please note the licensing rules for May Morning are fixed Oxford-wide. Booze will be available from 6.30 to 8.30am. Anywhere open before or after that will be limited to food and good will.

Fishers, St Clements, 24/303 6am - about 8am Champagne breakfast £9.95 Full English or smoked salmon & scrambled eggs, with a glass of bubbly. Booking advised, but walk-in possible.

Freud, Walton Street, 311171. Bucks Fizz breakfast from 6.30am

The King's Arms, Corner of Parks Rd & Holywell St. 24/269 Open 6.30-8.30, but no breakfast.

The White Horse, 52, Broad Street, 728318. Open for breakfast at 6.30.

The Turf, down Bath Place, off Holywell Street 242325. Bacon and sausage baguettes from 6.00 ish

The Cock and Camel, 24 George Street, 203705. DJ, and bacon and sausage butties etc. from 6.00 to 9.00. Full breakfast from 9.00.

The Grapes, 7 George Street, 793380. Breakfast and drinks 6.00 - 9.00

The Grand Cafe, 84 High Street. Two sittings, but fully booked. Press your nose up against the glass or book early for next year.

## GIGS

**Thu 29th**  
**SEAFOOD /** From The Club That Cannot Be Named. 55 adv 8/ 7pm / The Zodiac. 190 Cowley Road. Tel: 420042 [www.thezodiac.co.uk](http://www.thezodiac.co.uk)  
**SPARKY'S FLYING CIRCUS /** Every Thursday, Pops & Performers welcome. Free / From 5pm on / The Half Moon, 17 St Clements  
**OXFORD BLUEGRASS /** Oxford Time Jam / Bluegrass and Appalachian Old Time music pickers and singers welcome / Oxford Bluegrass/Appalachian / 9.00 PM FREE / Email: [table.merke@bluegrass.co.uk](mailto:table.merke@bluegrass.co.uk) / Fox and Hounds Pub, Abingdon Road and Weirs Lane 723451  
**KARL DEMATA /** Blues guitar / 11pm-2am / Freud's, Walton St. Tel: 31171

**Fri 30th**  
**OXFORDS ON COM PRESENTS...** / The Young Krives + Ivory Springs + Headcount. The Wheelchair / <http://www.oxfordson.com> / doors 8pm, only £4 / Email: [info@oxfordson.com](mailto:info@oxfordson.com) / Web: <http://www.oxfordson.com> / Website: 129, High St. 01865 554627

**BUNTED PRESENTS SURESHOTS** (Joe Busha, Mista Jam, Tempa) and Kicochet Kishinohri / Live night plus DJ sets / 8.30pm Live Arts Productions / 9pm-3am 589 from the-zodiac.co.uk, AVID RECORDS, [www.melbopresents.co.uk](http://www.melbopresents.co.uk) / The Zodiac, 190 Cowley Road, Tel: 420042  
**LIVE @ THE X /** Pete Fryer Band, Redox, Onziabue, Agnema / Klub Kakodromos / May Festival / 8.00 - 12.00 £4 daily / Email: [linkeper@getexternal.co.uk](mailto:linkeper@getexternal.co.uk) / [www.getexternal.co.uk](http://www.getexternal.co.uk) / Exeter Hall pub, Corner Cowley / 0781 721277  
**DR MANFREY /** Music and dancing / 11pm-2am / Freud's, Walton St. Tel: 31171

## MEETINGS & LECTURES

**Thu 29th**  
**LUNCHEONE TALK /** ILLUMINATING ISLAM - Speaker: Basil Mustafa, OCS / St Giles' Church / 12.30 pm - Admission Free / [www.st-giles-church.org](http://www.st-giles-church.org) / St. Giles Church / 311188 / 311198  
**ROMANTIC PHILOSOPHY:** Coleridge, Shelley, Hazlitt / Dr U Natarajan / 12 St Cross Building  
**A BUI'S LIFE /** Prof D Sherratt / 4.30 / University Museum of Natural History, Parks Rd  
**WORK AND WELFARE IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY /** Prof R Rees & Prof R Semetti / 4.30 / Rothmans American Institute, 18 South Parks Road; [www.raai.co.uk](http://www.raai.co.uk)  
**EMOTIONAL HEALTH ANONYMOUS /** Info: Mary O'Connell 953340 / Every Thursday 9pm-9.30pm / [eha.co.uk](mailto:eha.co.uk)  
**STAGELIGHTS-GROVETHEATRE GROUP /** Meet every Thursday / New members always welcome / From 10pm / [www.stagelightsgroup.org](http://www.stagelightsgroup.org) / Old Mill Hall, Grove End / 15.5pm / Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street. Opening times: Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm / Tel: 276111  
**MEL GIBSON - TIP OF GOSPEL /** OXFORD GOSPEL ASSOCIATION / 7.30 PM Free / [www.nighar.freezone.co.uk/act.htm](http://www.nighar.freezone.co.uk/act.htm) / Town Hall, Oxford / St Aldates, Tel: 01865 249811 / 01818 982300  
**ABINGDON YOUNG FARMERS MEETING /** 16 - 26/9 Entry of the TV? Come to see what YFC is all about / Abingdon Young Farmers / 7.45pm / [abingdonyfc.co.uk](mailto:abingdonyfc.co.uk) / The Boardroom, Manor Farm, Marcham / 0781 721277  
**AN EVENING WITH AGNES HAY /** drawings and animated short films by London Hungarian artist / Oxford Hungarian Society / 8 pm / [hungarysoc.org.uk](http://hungarysoc.org.uk) / [www.hungarysoc.org.uk](http://www.hungarysoc.org.uk) / Oneil College MacGregor Room / 76873

**Fri 30th**  
**OLIVIER DUTHELLE DE LAMOTHE /** Lecture: Evolution of European Social Policy since 1957 / 5.15pm, Admission Free / Email: [mason@narl.co.uk](mailto:mason@narl.co.uk), Mission Française, Notman Rd / [www.mf.co.uk](http://www.mf.co.uk) / 274200  
**CURRENT ISSUES IN COMPETITION AND CONSUMER POLICY:** an international perspective. / T J Muns / 5.00 / 501 South Cowley, High St  
**TURKEY, THE KURDS OF IRAQ AND THE US:** three sides of a triangular relationship. / Dr W Park / 5.00 / St Antony's College, Woodstock Rd, Tel: 264700  
**DOES THE REAL WORLD REALLY OBEY QUANTUM MECHANICS? /** Prof A Leggett / 4.30 / Clarendon Laboratory / 07776 206 141 / [www.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ox.ac.uk)  
**SOVIET EVOLVING /** IVC Social Events Club / 8.15 / Poughnall Walk / 01865 578215

## SERVICES

**SIRENE HAIR STUDIO:** 20% Special Introductory Offer for students/senior citizens when mentioning Daily Info / 675 Belsyre Court, Woodstock Road. 01865 578267  
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## THEATRE

**Old Fire Station Theatre 297170**  
**THE MIKADO** Tue 27 - Sat 1st May / 7.30pm Gielgud & Sullivan musical comedy. Tel: 310000  
**Oxford Playhouse 305305**  
**A DOLL'S HOUSE** Wed 28th - Sat 1st May  
Wed: 7.30, 2.30, 7.30, Fri 8pm, Sat: 2.30, 7.30  
Isis's drama  
**Pegasus Theatre 722851**  
**DANCING TALES** Thu 29 April - Sat 1 May  
Tue: 7.00pm, Fri: 7.00pm, Sat: 3.30, 6.30pm  
Young dancers celebrating passion for dance. £2.50-£5.50  
\* Review on [www.dailyinfo.co.uk](http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk)

## PHOENIX Picture House 512526

**KILL BILL VOL 2 (18)** Thu: 1.20, 4.00, 6.40, 9.20  
Uma's on the rampage...again  
**MONSTER (18)** Thu: 4.30, 9.00  
Scar-womaning tale of female killer...  
**BLIND FIGHT (18)** Thu: 2.30, 7.00  
Brian Keenan & John McCarthy's trials as hostages in Lebanon. Plus Q&A with Director John Furfur.  
**Odeon Magdalen Street 0870 5050007**  
**KILL BILL VOL 2 (18)** Daily: 2.00, 5.00, 8.20  
Uma's on the rampage...again  
**THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT (18)** Daily: 3.20, 5.50, 8.30  
Time travel drama  
**Ultimate Picture Palace 245288**  
**GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING (15)** Daily: 5.30  
Painter & his muse  
**TOUCHING THE VOID (15)** Daily: 7.30, 9.30  
Mountaineering drama based on true story  
\* Review on [www.dailyinfo.co.uk](http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk)

## THE MIKADO

Old Fire Station, The 27th - Sat 1st May

Gilbert and Sullivan's tale of flirtation, corruption and beatings (or the lack of them) seems to be enjoying a revival at the moment and the Oxford University Gilbert and Sullivan Society provides the chance to enjoy the lowly capers of the Mikado's court at the Old Fire Station until Saturday. To quote Jonathan Miller, 'The Mikado is not really about Japan: it's about the silly English.' The Mikado is widely regarded as the most popular of Victorian operettas because it epitomises the light comic style which Gilbert and Sullivan mastered so fully. This production of the Mikado is certainly wonderfully silly, and if the original was intended to satirise English society in general, the G&S Society's production is well adapted to its setting in present-day Oxford.

For those not familiar with the plot, The Mikado presents a story which might have had Machiavelli taking notes, and it's better explained than you might think. Suffice it to say that the drama revolves around the designs of the Lord High Executioner (a deliciously caddish Adam Symbiot) to marry his love, Yum Yum (Kirsty Anderson). She in the meantime has fallen in love with Nanki Poo (played with affective naivety by Will Edwards). Katherine Cooper's Kaisasha, compounds the situation in a blaze of haggish glory as she dominates the stage at the end of Act 1 when she comes to claim her former love Nanki Poo.

The cast work their way through the various plot twists required to bring this situation to a conclusion with aplomb, with very strong performances from all the principal characters. Anderson, together with Anna Larkin (Piti Sing) and Bethan Jenkins (Peep Bo), provide a tonically coquettish slant on the traditionally very flattery roles of the 'Three Little Maids. Ollie Hayes' wonderfully sententious Pooh Bah and Alexander Morrison's unexpectedly inflated Mikado also exploited to the utmost the comic potential of their roles, which can easily seem incidental to the

plot. This was reflected in a healthy level of guffawing from the audience. From a musical point of view, the principals could have been better served by the chorus, who lacked verve in the first act, although they visibly relaxed as the show proceeded. The design of the Old Fire Station presents problems for ensembles, which were apparent in some of the earlier numbers, but these problems seemed to have been ironed out by the second act.

It was a pity that the cast were supported by piano alone, when Sullivan's original orchestral scoring could have added a robustness which was distinctly lacking in some of the musical numbers. The absence of an orchestra was especially acute at the very beginning of the show where the long overture was not enhanced by some rather clunky lighting effects.

On the whole, the production was intelligent and effective, with simple and unobtrusive lighting and movement being used to enhance the drama. Occasional overly busy dances were distracting, however, and did not sit easily with overall clarity of the production.

Definitely worth spending an amusing evening at the Oxford Mikado's court.

Daniel Parkes, 28.04.04

## HISTORY OF OXFORD

2,700 members of the University were killed in the 1914 War. The undergraduate population was 3,000

Many colleges were first training colleges for the army. Many colleges were first military hospitals in 1914 - 1918

Many colleges were first military hospitals in 1914 - 1918

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## Oxford in the War Years

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.  
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'.  
By early 1939 the Government had decided that war was inevitable, and called up 18 year olds that spring, offering 6 months training. They didn't get out again until 1947, since when they joined up later were released earlier on grounds of greater age and therefore less employability - so some spent 3 years in the army.  
Our ubiquitous Proprietor spent part of his war in Oxford and gives his reminiscences:  
'At St Edwards' school the most obvious impact on school life, when rationing was reduced to 1/4 of an ounce of butter and one egg per week, was a vast improvement in the food consumed with peace-time. 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 handkerchief. I spent the entire day standing in the doorway of a house on the corner of Osberton Rd, awaiting the tanks, I clutched my handkerchief tightly, and was dissolved in a grin 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.'  
Your calendar 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.

Mary Potter