

Oxford University Society

Gloucestershire Branch

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Ms Samantha Tolley Branch Secretary

Dear Oxonian

We are writing to share with you the results of our recent survey and to engage you in subsequent plans for events. This is also an opportunity to remind you of a couple imminent events for which booking is now open and places are currently available.

**27<sup>th</sup> March Boat Race Party 2pm to 5.30pm** £10 including a cold buffet lunch and drinks  
Bruce Mitchell (Catz'54) and his wife Julia (The parents of our treasurer Andrew Mitchell Catz '85) have agreed to host at their home, Hoo Farm, which is close to Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury.

**14<sup>th</sup> April AGM 7-9pm** Robert Raikes House, Gloucester

**16<sup>th</sup> April Hobbs Hobbes Bakery**, bread making 10am-1pm followed by lunch with a glass of wine at £37 inclusive. This course is normally priced at £75 excluding lunch and is a fantastic offer.

<https://hobbshousebakery.co.uk/class/beginner-bread-making/>

**3<sup>rd</sup> July Queen's Chapel, St James' Palace**, there are still some spaces available for the 12.30pm start, £30, guests welcome.

Please contact me to check there is space before forwarding the booking form and cheque.

All these events and more are now listed on our website, hosted by the University Alumni Office. Please visit and share your thoughts on developments you'd like.

<http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/gloucestershire>

### **Survey results**

We had 141 responses, about 20% of our email membership and the message was pretty unambiguous.

1. There are a few people who'd like to play Varsity Bridge or Golf but not many. If you make yourself known to me, I can pass on your details, with consent, to Camsoc and the events can be organised.
2. There was a big appetite for "Book Groups". 40% of the respondents wanted to join an OUS Gloucestershire book group and one in four offered to host an inaugural meeting. Please could you get in touch, the survey is anonymous and I now need to look at where people live to bring you together.



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3. A quarter of respondents did want us to organise events where single people were encouraged to come. The programme is quite full already this year but we will look to plan something. If you have an idea or would offer to host an event, please do get in touch.

What I didn't ask is whether the respondents had already attended an OUS Gloucestershire event. We are keen to encourage people to attend and hope that the imminent postal mailing to the 3000 members for whom the university have no email address, will grow our group and allow us to organise more ambitious events.

Finally, the university has asked me to promote an event taking place at The Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford on Sunday, 24 April. Alumni are welcome. The University's new Vice-Chancellor Professor Louise Richardson, is inviting Oxonians to attend a very special panel discussion moderated by Ngairé Woods, Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government on the subject 'What makes a great university in the 21st century?'

The event will feature the Presidents of the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) and a reception for IARU alumni follows in the Weston Library's Blackwell Hall.

<https://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/events/what-makes-great-university-21st-century>

As always, we welcome feedback, new ideas and offers of help!

Kind regards

Sam Tolley

Secretary OUS Gloucestershire Branch

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