

# VICTORIA ROAD GROUP

# Welcome to Victoria Road

This information pack was put together by the Victoria Road Group (“VRG”), a community group for all residents in Victoria Road, and builds on many years of feedback from people moving in about what they would find useful to know in the first weeks and months of living here.

You will be very welcome at VRG-organised events that run every few months, or a VRG meeting where matters of local interest are discussed. The photos in this pack are from some of our events.

We don't wish to replicate information better found elsewhere. We hope you will find here some very local information unique to our Road, and pointers to other sources that we think are reliable. There is a list of websites and other resources at the end of this document. The whole document, including clickable web links, is also available online at [vrgoxford.org.uk](http://vrgoxford.org.uk).

We hope you find this information useful and that you will enjoy living in Victoria Road.

The Victoria Road Group

## Emergency telephone contacts

### *Serious emergencies*

Here, as elsewhere in the UK, the telephone number for any situation where there is **immediate serious threat** to life, safety or property is **999**. This gives access to fire, police and ambulance emergency services.

The EU-wide emergency number **112** can also be used.

### *Less urgent situations - medical*

For less serious medical emergencies the NHS helpline number, staffed by trained nurses who can give medical advice, is **111**.

Alternatively, your GP (general practitioner) doctor's surgery is likely to have a telephone number that gives access to out-of-hours doctors. For our local NHS surgeries, those numbers are:

<b>Summertown Health Centre, 160 Banbury Road, OX2 7BS</b>	<b>01865 515552</b>
<b>Banbury Road Medical Centre, 172 Banbury Road, OX2 7BT</b>	<b>01865 515731</b>

### *Less urgent situations - police*

The police non-emergency number is **101**.

### *Other useful numbers*

- if you think there may be a gas leak: **0800 111 999**
- to report a leak of water or sewage in a public place: **0800 714 614**
- to report hazards relating to overhead electricity cables: **0800 40 40 90**

# Contents

<b>Emergency telephone contacts</b> .....	<b>2</b>	Tradespeople .....	11
Serious emergencies .....	2	Schools .....	11
Less urgent situations - medical .....	2	State schools .....	11
Less urgent situations - police .....	2	Independent schools .....	11
Other useful numbers .....	2	<b>Culture and music</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>The history of Victoria Road</b> .....	<b>4</b>	Local cultural organizations .....	12
<b>The Victoria Road Group (VRG)</b> .....	<b>5</b>	Public libraries .....	12
Communication with residents .....	5	The North Wall .....	12
The VRG notice boards .....	5	Summertown Choral Society .....	12
<b>Other community organisations and groups</b> .....	<b>6</b>	Something to do today? .....	12
Seven Roads in Summertown .....	6	Sports .....	12
The North Oxford Association .....	6	Walks .....	13
Cutteslowe Community Centre .....	6	<b>Transport</b> .....	<b>14</b>
The Friends of Cutteslowe and Sunnymead.....	6	Parking in Victoria Road and surrounds .....	14
The Oxford Preservation Trust.....	7	Buses.....	14
Summertown-St Margarets Forum.....	7	Coaches to London and the airports .....	14
<b>Deliveries, shops and services</b> .....	<b>8</b>	Trains.....	15
Post.....	8	Cycling .....	15
Post boxes .....	8	Dockless using smartphone app and prepayment .....	15
Post office .....	8	On-street docking stations .....	15
Rubbish and recycling.....	8	Pickup/return points .....	15
Recycling batteries .....	8	Bike pooling .....	15
Garden waste .....	8	<b>Local Government and democracy</b> ..	<b>16</b>
Deliveries and suppliers .....	8	Oxford City Council .....	16
Milk deliveries .....	8	Oxfordshire County Council .....	16
Newspaper deliveries .....	9	Member of Parliament.....	16
Local produce .....	9	<b>Information and resources</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Convenience store .....	9	General information .....	17
Chemists (pharmacies) .....	9	State schools .....	17
Butcher and fishmonger .....	9	Independent schools.....	17
Supermarkets .....	9	<b>Finally</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Other shops .....	9	Revision history .....	19
Pubs, restaurants and takeaways .....	10	<b>Summertown map</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Places of religious worship .....	10		
NHS doctors and dentists .....	10		
Private dental practices.....	11		
Private medical and complementary therapy practices.....	11		

# The history of Victoria Road

Cuttleslowe, just north of us, appears in the 1086 Domesday Book. The history of Victoria Road begins in the nineteenth century when the city of Oxford expanded northwards across farmland, reaching Summertown in the 1860s and Victoria Road just after the turn of the century. The area had contained orchards, and some old apple trees survive in the gardens.

The Road came into the ownership of a local builder, Mr Knowles, and was mainly developed over the period 1905-1935, though infilling and new building have continued at intervals since. The road runs along the side of the gentle hill that one can detect when going north along the Banbury Road. The earth was excavated out of the north side of the street and spread onto the south side, giving the slopes up to the houses on the north and the platforms detectable on the south side.

The shop at the end of the road was formerly the local dairy (Paternoster Dairy, A.M. Stanley & Son), which closed in about 1990. It was subsequently used by a science toys shop, then Carphone Warehouse. It now houses a funeral director.

A study of the architecture of the houses will show several standard styles, with individually designed houses mixed in. Victoria Road continues to change, with older houses on larger plots replaced by modern homes.

The flats behind houses 33-41 were built in 1997, replacing buildings that had been used by Avery & Son, who at one time had owned a motorcycle shop on the Banbury Road, subsequently a Honda garage. Before then the site had contained an abattoir. Cattle were grazed on a meadow which occupied the space behind houses 45-63, then moved through to the abattoir. The meadow provided a green lung between Victoria Road and Harpes and Hernes Roads until 1997 when it was developed.

Nearby is Sunnymead Park or Recreation Ground, leading to Cuttleslowe Park over the footbridge crossing the ring road. (1 on the map at the end of this document), and Sunnymead Meadow (2 on the map). The Meadow borders the River Cherwell, one of Oxford's two rivers (the other is the Thames, or Isis, to the West) and is almost an island. It used to be known as Cromwell's Island as supposedly his troops camped there during the Civil War. The ditch down the side of the Meadow is known as Cromwell's Ditch.

More of the history of Summertown can be found in the following books:

*Summertown Since 1820*, Ruth Fasnacht, St Michael's Publications, Summertown, Oxford, 1977

*The Changing Faces of Summertown & Cuttleslowe*, Julie Kennedy, Robert Boyd Publications, Witney, Oxon, 1995

*Seven Roads in Summertown: Voices from an Oxford Suburb*, Perilla Kinchin, White Cockade Publishing, Oxford, 2006

## The Victoria Road Group (VRG)



VRG offers a focal point for everyone who lives in the Road.

Its origins in the early 1980s were focused on recycling, and things environmental still inform some of its activities. For example, on “Green Balloon Day” everyone is invited to put things they don’t want out on the pavement, and then to go up and down the Road picking up anything of interest that others have left out. Any usable remnants are then taken to a charity shop. In recent years Green Balloon Day has sometimes been enhanced by closing part of the street, with a bar and plant stall, to create a street party atmosphere.

Other events over the last year or so have included a garden party, book swap, quiz night, Safari Supper, Christmas carol singing and party, and litter picking.

All residents are warmly invited to VRG meetings, about every two months, where events are organized, and other matters of local interest are discussed. You can see minutes of these meetings on the blog [vrgblog.wordpress.com/meetings](http://vrgblog.wordpress.com/meetings). If you’d like to join in, simply turn up to a meeting or contact the VRG Chair who can always be reached by email at [chair@vrgoxford.org.uk](mailto:chair@vrgoxford.org.uk). At the time of writing the chair is held by Sally Bromley at number 59.

### ***Communication with residents***

Three or four times a year you will receive green VRG notices or newsletters, which are distributed to every letterbox in the road. Information is also published on our blog [vrgblog.wordpress.com](http://vrgblog.wordpress.com) and our website [vrgoxford.org.uk](http://vrgoxford.org.uk).

VRG maintains two email lists. One is used exclusively to publish announcements of VRG meetings and activities. The other is for open discussion and allows you to send messages to all members of the list. To join either or both lists, contact [chair@vrgoxford.org.uk](mailto:chair@vrgoxford.org.uk).

### ***The VRG notice boards***

There are notice boards outside numbers 36 and 84. Half is open access and here you can place any notices of general interest (e.g. information about concerts, things for sale/being given away, lost/found, requests for/offers of services etc). The other half of the board is behind glass for longer-term and more official notices.

## Other community organisations and groups



### Seven Roads in Summertown

This group (often known as “The Seven Roads Group”) organizes social and community events for Victoria, Hamilton, Portland, Lucerne and Kings Cross Roads and Hawkswell Gardens – about 450 homes in all. Recently they have arranged a Safari Supper, talks by local experts, and a community weekend with open gardens, cinema and picnic evening, and afternoon tea. You can expect to receive their yellow newsletters two or three times a year. The Victoria Road representative is currently Ali Clarke (56 Victoria Road).

### *The North Oxford Association*

This association is based at The Ferry Centre (18 on the map) (01865 552295). Part of a complex that includes the swimming pool, it organises various activities and events in the area – mostly in The Ferry Centre, but also in The Pavilion in Cutteslowe Park and other places. Their activities include:

Bridge Clubs, Excursions, Folk Dancing, Holidays, Junior Chess (ages 5 – 10), Library, Lunch Clubs, Music Groups, Neighbourly Help, Parent and Toddler Art Club, Parent and Toddler Lunch Club, Pet Care Classes, Poetry Group, Parent & Toddler Playgroup, Scrabble, Sewing Bee, Talks by Local Authors, VIVA (Club for the visually impaired). See [www.northoxfordassociation.org.uk](http://www.northoxfordassociation.org.uk).

### *Cutteslowe Community Centre*

The Centre publishes a quarterly newsletter, The Cutteslowe Connection. Weekly activities include: a Homework Club, a girls’ Coffee Club, a Parent-Toddler Group, a Darby & Joan Club, various young persons’ dance groups, a Youth Club, a Doctor’s clinic, a Childminders’ Group, a young mothers group, a Health Visitors Group, a Gingerbread Group, Bingo, and the Street Sports. The Centre is run by The Cutteslowe Community Association, [www.cutteslowecommunity.org.uk](http://www.cutteslowecommunity.org.uk), 01865 311172. Associated with the Community Centre is a Children’s Centre which supports local families and their children with a variety of activities, including parenting classes. In recent years, funding cuts have threatened the viability of the community centre, and various initiatives are in place to support them, including monthly direct debits from local people.

### *The Friends of Cutteslowe and Sunnymead*

This group consists of people from the various streets bordering the former recreation area now known as Sunnymead Park (1 on the map). The Group was originally formed to stop the fields being used as a motorcycling area, and has worked subsequently to improve the park as a recreational area for local people. Thus there are now walks around the whole area and sports facilities (see Sports later). Dog walkers are encouraged to dispose of waste hygienically.

Many people who enjoy the Park greatly help by collecting any litter that they see and the Group occasionally participates in a litter blitz. Find out more at:

[cutteslowesunnymead.org/who.shtml](http://cutteslowesunnymead.org/who.shtml)

## ***The Oxford Preservation Trust***

The Oxford Preservation Trust, [www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk](http://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk), aims to protect the character, history and setting of Oxford. It owns land and buildings, runs special projects and organizes regular meetings and volunteering activities, including in our patch.

## ***Summertown-St Margarets Forum***

The Localism Act of 2011 enabled local communities to create Neighbourhood Forums as a way for residents to influence the planning process. Summertown-St Margaret's Neighbourhood Forum was brought into being within this structure and has been active in writing, and consulting on, a Neighbourhood Plan. More details are available at [summertownstmargaretsforum.org.uk](http://summertownstmargaretsforum.org.uk).

## Deliveries, shops and services

### ***Post***

Usually delivered around the middle of the day weekdays and Saturdays.

### **Post boxes**

The nearest post box on the way into Summertown is on the corner of King's Cross and Portland Road (7 on the map). There is another at the corner of Water Eaton Road and Islip Road (near the Recreation Ground), one on the other side of the Banbury Road opposite Hamilton Road, and one in the centre of Summertown.

### **Post office**

A Post Office counter has recently opened in the Co-op supermarket at the southern end of the Summertown shops. For sending parcels and similar you can also use Mail Boxes Etcetera on the east side of the Banbury Road, near the Dew Drop Inn. For a post office with more comprehensive facilities, go to Kendall Crescent (Oxford OX2 8NE, close to Cutteslowe Park), the post office in Wolvercote (OX2 8NY), or the main Post Office in central Oxford.

### ***Rubbish and recycling***

The City Council collects bins on Thursdays and they request that your bins be presented at your boundary with the pavement by 7.30am. In practice the collection is usually somewhat later than that. The small food waste bin is collected every week, and the other bins on a fortnightly cycle. Excellent information about what to put in which bin, the collection calendar and what to do about bulky waste items can be found on Oxford City Council's website. Follow the links to "recycling and waste" or go directly to: [oxford.gov.uk/info/20004/recycling\\_and\\_waste](http://oxford.gov.uk/info/20004/recycling_and_waste).

It is possible to have a text message delivered to your phone reminding you which coloured bin to put out the next day.

### **Recycling batteries**

The Council collects used batteries as part of household waste collection. Just put them in a transparent plastic bag on top of any of your bins and they will be taken away on bin day. Some local retailers also have collection points for them in-store.

### **Garden waste**

Garden waste is **not** accepted with the normal rubbish collections. For an annual fee (currently £47) you can get a brown wheelie-bin from the City Council that is emptied every two weeks on the same day as the blue recycling bin. More details are available at [oxford.gov.uk/info/20070/garden\\_waste](http://oxford.gov.uk/info/20070/garden_waste).

## ***Deliveries and suppliers***

### **Milk deliveries**

Either the Co-op (Midlands Co-op, Dairy Division, Ferry Hinksey Road, Oxford, OX2 0ES, 01865 790479 (they have an organic range), or Dairy Crest (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays).

## Newspaper deliveries

Deliveries to the street are made by Court Candy Shop, 65 Woodstock Road, 01865 515506 (nearer to Oxford city centre, by Observatory Street).

## Local produce

[dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/food-shopping](http://dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/food-shopping) offers useful guidance, including information about Farmers' Markets. Our local one forms a lively focus in Summertown every Sunday from 10am to 2pm. Others include:

- Wolvercote, at the White Hart on Godstow Road (map number 31)  
[www.hugofox.com/community/wolvercote-farmers-market-7600](http://www.hugofox.com/community/wolvercote-farmers-market-7600)
- North Parade on the second and fourth Saturday of every month  
[www.northparademarket.com](http://www.northparademarket.com)
- and rival markets at the Castle and Gloucester Green in the City Centre

A food-growing co-operative, Cultivate Oxford, usually has a stall at the Sunday morning farmer's market: [cultivateoxford.org](http://cultivateoxford.org)

A social enterprise, Charterville Care, runs a plant nursery in the greenhouses on Cutteslowe Park. It sells an excellent range of plants and garden accessories at attractive prices, while providing supportive employment and day placement opportunities: [chartervillecare.co.uk/cutteslowe-park](http://chartervillecare.co.uk/cutteslowe-park)

## Convenience store

The nearest shop is Oxo's provisions shop in Islip Road (4 on the map).

## Chemists (pharmacies)

There are two Rowlands Chemists and a Boots in Summertown. There is a chemist open until 19.30pm every day on the corner of Woodstock Road and Observatory Street in a small parade of shops.

The chemists' late night rota can be found at [dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/late-opening#chemists](http://dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/late-opening#chemists).

## Butcher and fishmonger

Alcock's (9 on the map), on the west side of Banbury Road on the corner of Rogers Street between here and Summertown, is a butcher and fishmonger with a selection of organic vegetables.

## Supermarkets

Summertown has a Co-op, a small Tesco and Sainsbury, and a Marks and Spencer food store. There is a large Sainsbury's at Kidlington, about 3km north on the first roundabout beyond Oxford Parkway station.

## Other shops

In addition to the above, Summertown also has Taylor's delicatessen, Gatineau Patisserie and Gail's Bakery, a stationer (Pen to Paper), a Holland and Barrett health food shop, a frozen meals shop, several charity shops, a good shoe shop, hairdressers, a dry-cleaners, multiple estate agents, banks and building societies. Vanilla boutique and Wild Honey health food shop add to the mix in South Parade.

## ***Pubs, restaurants and takeaways***

We have several eateries within walking distance. The nearest is The New Dancing Dragon, a Chinese bar and restaurant. The Dew Drop Inn (17 on the map) is the only pub within reasonable walking distance. Recently renovated, it's a traditional 'local' with all age groups mixing, a public and saloon bar and some food. There is seating on the pavement, and a surprisingly large back garden.

A little further afield on Wolvercote Green you can find The Plough, a pleasant local that has its own library! Wolvercote also has two other pubs, the White Hart and Jacob's Inn.

In South Parade, Pizzeria Mamma Mia is long-established and popular. It does takeaway. Pompette restaurant is a modern French bistro that is rapidly gaining an excellent reputation. "Thirty-Eight" (formerly The Oxford Wine Café) is open for coffee, cake and wine throughout the day and evening, and has occasional tasting events.

On the main shopping area Joe's Bar has coffee, drinks, and decent cocktails and reasonably priced meals. Oxford Kitchen has a smarter feel and has recently been awarded a Michelin rosette. A little further south, next door to Summertown Cycles, is The Bicycle Shed, a recently opened bar/café.

On the other side, Spice Lounge (also Indian) and Xian (Chinese) both have a good reputation, and LB's Lebanese takeaway offers traditional Middle Eastern food at lunchtimes.

Hong Kong House – mainly a takeaway with some tables - just down South Parade, is good value. Oxo's convenience store in Islip Road also has a café.

## ***Places of religious worship***

Nearby churches are the United Reformed Church at the north end of Summertown shops on the Victoria Road side:

[summertownurc.org](http://summertownurc.org)

St Michael's Church of England round the corner in Lonsdale Road:

[stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](http://stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)

and St Peter's in Wolvercote:

[stpeterswolvercote.org](http://stpeterswolvercote.org)

These three are closely linked, forming the Ecumenical Parish. For the most part the congregations worship separately.

Baptist, Jewish, Methodist, Muslim, Unitarian, New Testament, Greek and Russian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Serbian Orthodox and Society of Friends worship are all available locally. See [dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/religion](http://dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/religion) for more information, and for the times of services.

## ***NHS doctors and dentists***

There are several NHS GP surgeries serving our community. Summertown Health Centre is a group practice at the corner of Banbury Road and Marston Ferry Road. They also hold surgeries in Wolvercote and Cutteslowe. Tel. 01865 515552, [summertownhealthcentre.co.uk](http://summertownhealthcentre.co.uk), 160 Banbury Road, OX2 7BS.

See [www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP/LocationSearch/4](http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/GP/LocationSearch/4) for an up-to-date list of local GP surgeries.

It can be hard to find a dentist with vacancies for the treatment of adults under the NHS. A good starting point is [www.nhs.uk/Service-Search](http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search).

## ***Private dental practices***

Diamond House [diamondhouse.co.uk](http://diamondhouse.co.uk) at the south end of Summertown, and Summertown Dental [summertowndental.co.uk](http://summertowndental.co.uk) opposite the end of Victoria Road, are both well-established local private practices.

## ***Private medical and complementary therapy practices***

The Summertown Clinic, one house down on the left at the Banbury Road end of our road, has osteopaths, nutritionists, homeopaths, a herbalist, a counsellor and other provision: [summertownclinic.co.uk](http://summertownclinic.co.uk), 362 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7PP, 01865 558561.

## ***Tradespeople***

Finding good electricians, plumbers etc is always a challenge. Apart from asking your neighbours, you might try [buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://buywithconfidence.gov.uk), a government-backed scheme supported by Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards team. It is a searchable database of tradespeople of all types who have proven their competence and financial stability.

Neighbours often exchange information about reliable tradespeople using the VRG email discussion list – see ***Communication with residents*** on page 5.

## ***Schools***

### **State schools**

State education is administered by the County Council, with a range of primary and secondary schools. The nearest primary school is Cutteslowe School (25 on the map), off Wren Road next to the recreation ground. Others are listed in the resources section at the end of this document.

After age 11, most local children go to Cherwell School (29 on the map), on the Marston Ferry Road.

### **Independent schools**

There are numerous independent schools in the area. We have tried to collect contact information for most of them in the resources section at the back of this document, but it's likely that we have missed some!

## Culture and music

With Oxford only two miles away and London within easy reach, there is a huge range of culture and entertainment on offer. A good source for more information, especially about events in the city, is Daily Information [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk). Here we highlight some of the activities that are based within Summertown. Our selection is inevitably incomplete, but we hope it covers some useful facilities.



### *Local cultural organizations*

#### **Public libraries**

The excellent local library (24 on the map) is in South Parade – you can find more information at [oxfordshire.gov.uk/summertownlibrary](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/summertownlibrary). It even offers 24-hour access to those who have registered. The Turrill Sculpture Garden, at the back of the library, has regular exhibitions of sculpture. The library has an active Friends organization [summertownlibraryfriends.org](http://summertownlibraryfriends.org) that raises funds and organizes events.

The much larger main library in the Westgate Centre, central Oxford, is also very good:

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries/find-library/oxfordshire-county-library](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries/find-library/oxfordshire-county-library)

#### **The North Wall**

Oxford has a rich and varied cultural life. In Summertown ‘The North Wall’ is our local theatre and performance venue in South Parade that shows plays, live traditional and contemporary music, hosts readings and masterclasses, children’s puppetry etc – for the current programme see [thenorthwall.com](http://thenorthwall.com)

#### **Summertown Choral Society**

Summertown’s own thriving non-audition choir has about 130 members drawn from the immediate area and further afield. It presents two concerts a year, in February and May; rehearsals start in September and February:

[summertownchoral.org.uk](http://summertownchoral.org.uk).

### *Something to do today?*

Long-established listings service Daily Information includes a searchable diary of what is happening in Oxford as well as extensive information on clubs, societies, public lectures, classes, ads etc - [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk). Local newspapers (the weekly Oxford Times and daily Oxford Mail) publish events listings.

### **Sports**

Just north of the far (east) end of Victoria Road, Sunnymead Park has an excellent Streetsport site. This is a hard standing area with facilities for football, basketball and other games. There is also a BMX cycle track. The Park has plenty of room for games, and boats and canoes can be launched onto the river.

The Ferry Centre (18 on the map) (01865 476060) is owned by the local council, and has a swimming pool, a gym, squash, basketball and badminton courts and many classes including yoga, pilates etc:

[fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/ferry-leisure-centre/](http://fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/ferry-leisure-centre/)

There are both hard and grass tennis courts at the Alexandra Courts (19 on the map) between Middle Way and the Woodstock Road. There is also the North Oxford Lawn Tennis Club (553401) in Cutteslowe Park north of the ring road.

At Cutteslowe Park (20 on the map), beyond the ring road, there are more tennis courts, putting, and cricket, hockey and tennis clubs. You can walk or cycle over the bypass on the bridge beside Cutteslowe School (25 on the map).

The Virgin Health and Racquets Club (22 on the map) (01865 318300) at St Edward's School, is a modern fitness centre with various fitness classes, an exercise room, squash courts, sauna, pool and so on. Spirit Health Club is at The Holiday Inn, Pear Tree roundabout. There is also a new "Viavi-Be Health Gym" in the same building as the Co-op at the south end of the shops.

Finally, don't forget Oxford's traditional recreation, punting, from the Cherwell Boathouse (23 on the map) in Bardwell Road.

## **Walks**

We are fortunate to be located with the River Cherwell to our East, the Thames, Oxford Canal and Port Meadow to our West, the City to our South (with some interesting domestic architecture in between), and Cutteslowe Park, the village of Wolvercote and footpaths through farmland to the North, for example around Kidlington and Water Eaton Manor.

Wytham Woods is a beautiful expanse of woodland to the west of Oxford, maintained by the University for research purposes. You need a permit to walk there, but they are free and easy to obtain through the website

[www.wythamwoods.ox.ac.uk](http://www.wythamwoods.ox.ac.uk).

The OS Explorer Map number 180 covers Oxford, Witney and Woodstock.

Good websites for walks, including free maps:

- [walkinginoxfordshire.co.uk/oxford.php](http://walkinginoxfordshire.co.uk/oxford.php)
- [oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/walks-and-rides](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/walks-and-rides)
- [dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/river-walks](http://dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/river-walks)
- [canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk)
- [oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/kidlington-circular-walk](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/kidlington-circular-walk)

## Transport

### *Parking in Victoria Road and surrounds*

Victoria Road is part of a Controlled Parking Zone operated by the County Council. If you or your visitors wish to park in the road during the scheme's hours of operation, a permit for this area ("SM") will need to be displayed. An allowance of 24-hour visitors' permits is available free of charge to any adult resident. You need to pay for a permit for your own car if required. Full information is on the County Council website:

[oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/parking/parking-permits](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/parking/parking-permits).

If you or your visitors park on the street, please take great care to note the restrictions on each individual marked bay. They have widely varying conditions: for example, some are restricted to only permit holders between 10am and 4pm on weekdays, and others have a 3 hour limit for non-permit holders. It is especially important to note that the weekday restrictions remain in place on Bank Holiday Mondays, and are quite assiduously enforced.

### *Buses*

Oxford has two main bus companies: Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach. Both run good and frequent services into the centre of Oxford (about £2.20 single, £3.60 return, £4.20 for a 24 hour "Smart Zone" pass valid on all buses within the city). The two companies collaborate on ticketing, so a pass or return ticket bought on one company's bus can later be used on the other's. There is a northbound bus stop (for Kidlington and Oxford Parkway station) opposite the end of Victoria Road, and a southbound stop (for the city and hospitals) between Hamilton and Portland Road, about 200m south of the end of Victoria Road. Almost any bus that stops there will take you into the city; the main exception is the Stagecoach 700 service (weekdays only) for the John Radcliffe and other Headington hospitals. The 500 service between the city and Water Eaton Park-and-Ride does not stop at the Victoria or Hamilton Road stops, but it does stop at Summertown shops and Squitchey Lane.

### *Coaches to London and the airports*

From Gloucester Green coach station in the centre of Oxford, at the bottom end of George Street, there are good services to many parts of the country. In particular, the Oxford Bus Company runs a service to Heathrow, which runs every half an hour on the hour and half hour, and is quicker than alternatives. There is also an hourly service to Gatwick leaving Gloucester Green at 15 minutes past the hour. Full details at [airline.oxfordbus.co.uk](http://airline.oxfordbus.co.uk).

The Oxford Bus Company's X90 service goes to London, as does The Oxford Tube, run by Stagecoach. Together they mean that there is a coach leaving every 5 - 10 minutes during the day. Both London services run along the M40, go past Marble Arch, and finish up in the Victoria area, and are reasonably quick in non-rush hour times. One way of taking a day in London is to drive to the Thornhill Park



and Ride car park at Risinghurst on the A40 and then pick up the coach there – this saves a long crawl between the City Centre and the edge of the City. Beware though, the Park and Ride car park fills up quite early on weekdays. There is a fee for parking there; you can park for a maximum of 72 hours.

## **Trains**

Oxford station is on one of the main lines to the North, via Birmingham, and connects to the South and West via Didcot and Reading. There are regular trains to London (just under an hour for the fastest trains). Timetables can be found on [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com). The station is about 10 minutes' walk from the city centre bus stops.

Oxford Parkway station at Water Eaton, only 2km north, offers direct trains to London Marylebone in just under an hour. Buses towards Kidlington stop on the main road very close to the station; the 500 Park-and-Ride service and 700 hospital service go into the station car park. Note that the 500 does not stop at “our” bus stops – but stops at Summertown Shops, and at the Squitchey Lane stops which are just a little further north.

## **Cycling**

Oxford is one of the more cycling-friendly cities. There are cycle paths, and reasonable provision for cycle parking in Summertown and the City Centre. National Route 51 runs down some of Victoria Road.

Cyclox promotes cycling in the area. You can download their cycling map: [cyclox.org/oxford-journey-planner/cyclox-map](http://cyclox.org/oxford-journey-planner/cyclox-map).

There is a cycle shop at the south end of the Summertown shops.

In the city centre and Headington there are various options for short-term bike rental. Recently the choice has exploded, with various dockless schemes available alongside several others using docking stations or fixed pickup and return points. At the time of writing we were aware of the following:

### **Dockless using smartphone app and prepayment**

For any of these systems, you will first need to download the company's smartphone app from Google Play or the App Store.

- Mobike, Pony Bikes

### **On-street docking stations**

- Oxonbikes ([oxonbikes.co.uk](http://oxonbikes.co.uk))

### **Pickup/return points**

- Brompton Bike Hire ([bromptonbikehire.com](http://bromptonbikehire.com)) have bikes in lockers at various rail stations including Oxford
- Donkey Republic ([donkey.bike/cities/bike-rental-oxford](http://donkey.bike/cities/bike-rental-oxford))

### **Bike pooling**

- Cycle Land ([cycle.land](http://cycle.land)) is a kind of AirBnB for bikes. People with spare bikes can rent them by the day to people who need them.

## Local Government and democracy

We have two-tier local government in Oxfordshire, meaning that there are two Local Authorities each responsible for different aspects of public services in Summertown. The information given below was correct as at 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

### ***Oxford City Council***

The City Council is our District Council and covers planning permission, building regulations, public housing, rubbish collection, and environmental health.

PO Box 10, Oxford, OX1 1EN  
Main switchboard: 01865 249811  
[oxford.gov.uk](http://oxford.gov.uk)

Our two City Councillors (Summertown Ward) are Michael Gotch and Andrew Gant.  
Councillor Michael Gotch (Liberal Democrat)

1 First Turn  
Oxford OX1 1BX  
07483 010920, [cllrmgotch@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrmgotch@oxford.gov.uk)

Councillor Andrew Gant (Liberal Democrat)

55 Middle Way  
Oxford OX2 7LE  
07545 122560, [cllragant@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:cllragant@oxford.gov.uk)

### ***Oxfordshire County Council***

The County Council is responsible for the majority of services, including education, social services, fire and rescue, libraries, recreation, arts and museums, most roads, strategic planning, trading standards, transport and strategic waste management.

County Hall, New Road, OX1 1ND  
Main switchboard: 01865 792422  
[oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Oxfordshire County Council has 74 elected councillors representing all parts of the County. The council is Conservative-controlled and its decision-making body is called the Cabinet. Elections are held every four years. Victoria Road is in the Summertown & Wolvercote division (ward) of Oxfordshire County Council.

Our County Councillor is Cllr Paul Buckley (Lib Dem):

27 Lakeside  
Oxford OX2 8JF  
01865 450215, [paul.buckley@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:paul.buckley@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### ***Member of Parliament***

The parliamentary constituency is Oxford West and Abingdon. Our MP is Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat), first elected in June 2017:

[laylamoran.com](http://laylamoran.com), Twitter [@laylamoran](https://twitter.com/laylamoran)

## Information and resources

### General information

There are several useful, well-maintained websites covering our area:

- [dailyinfo.co.uk](http://dailyinfo.co.uk)  
Long-established Oxford-wide newsletter carrying small-ads, event listings, and a wealth of other local information
- [www.summertown.info](http://www.summertown.info)  
General information about events and businesses in the area
- [www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk)
- [oxford.gov.uk](http://oxford.gov.uk)  
City Council website
- [oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
County Council website

### State schools

Cherwell School	Marston Ferry Road	11-18	<a href="http://cherwell.oxon.sch.uk">cherwell.oxon.sch.uk</a>
Cotteslowe Primary School	Wren Road	5-11	<a href="http://cotteslowe.oxon.sch.uk">cotteslowe.oxon.sch.uk</a>
Wolvercote Primary School	First Turn	5-11	<a href="http://wolvercote.oxon.sch.uk">wolvercote.oxon.sch.uk</a>
“Phil and Jim” Primary School	Navigation Way	5-11	<a href="http://ss-philip-and-james.oxon.sch.uk">ss-philip-and-james.oxon.sch.uk</a>
St Aloysius Primary School (Catholic)	143 Woodstock Rd	5-11	<a href="http://stalloysius.net">stalloysius.net</a>

### Independent schools

St Edward’s School	Woodstock Road	12-18	<a href="http://www.stedwardsoxford.org">www.stedwardsoxford.org</a>
Summer Fields School (boys)	Mayfield Road	8-13	<a href="http://www.summerfields.com">www.summerfields.com</a>
St Clare’s	139 Banbury Road	15-18	<a href="http://www.stclares.ac.uk">www.stclares.ac.uk</a>
Oxford High School GDST (girls)	Belbroughton Rd	3-19	<a href="http://www.oxfordhigh.gdst.net">www.oxfordhigh.gdst.net</a>
Wychwood School (girls)	74 Banbury Road	11-18	<a href="http://www.wychwood-school.org.uk">www.wychwood-school.org.uk</a>
D’Overbroeck’s	333 Banbury Road	16-18	<a href="http://www.doverbroecks.com">www.doverbroecks.com</a>
Leckford Place School	Leckford Road	11-16	<a href="http://www.doverbroecks.com/leckfordplace">www.doverbroecks.com/leckfordplace</a>

Please note that these lists of schools are not exhaustive, but they cover schools attended by the great majority of local pupils.

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## Finally...

if you have any suggestions for how we could improve this leaflet, we would welcome your comments. Currently it is maintained by Jonathan Bromley at number 59, [jonathan@oxfordbromley.plus.com](mailto:jonathan@oxfordbromley.plus.com).

### *Revision history*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Summary of changes</b>
July 2015	Manda Joyce	New format, greatly enlarged, some photos added
July 2017	Jonathan Bromley	Formatted as A5 leaflet. General updating. Removed some discursive material, added many web links.
January 2018	Jonathan Bromley	Updated section on bike rental to reflect new dockless services. Added this history. Made some minor corrections and updates.
August 2018	Jonathan Bromley	Updated lists of shops, pubs and restaurants, added new Post Office in Summertown Co-op. Revised description of Green Balloon Day. Updated list of City Councillors. Various minor editorial changes.
January 2019	Jonathan Bromley	Various minor updates, particularly concerning changes to shops and restaurants. Web links cleaned-up.

# Summertown map

