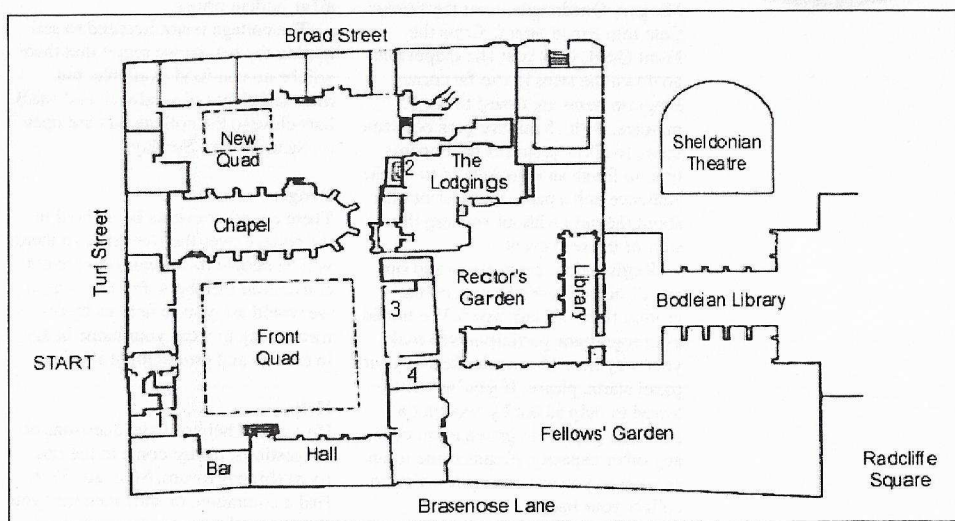


# Read Me Now

■ It's about books!

## Useful information for Lexicon Exeter College, Oxford 18-20 August 2000



### Exeter College

- 1 Dealer room: Stapledon room
- 2 Main and secondary programme: Saskatchewan and Quarrell
- 3 Common room: JCR and TV room
- 4 Ops, green room and registration: Morris room

Staircases are numbered anti-clockwise from 1 by the Lodge to 14 by the chapel except 7 and 8 which are on the other side of the Lodge.

IT'S ABOUT BOOKS!



## Read Me Inside

Welcome to Exeter College!

As you can see from the map, Exeter is arranged around two open squares, called quadrangles. The rooms are reached by numbered staircases; Staircase 1 is next to the Lodge (on the right as you come through the gate from Turl Street) and the staircases go round to the right—apart from Staircases 7 and 8 which are to the left of the gate, next to the chapel and Staircase 14. Our two program rooms, the larger Saskatchewan room and smaller Quarrell room are in the corner of Margary Quadrangle, near the Wicket Gate into Broad Street. Cross the Front Quad, walk past the chapel and go down the steps in the far corner. Program items are timed to last 75 minutes, with 15 minute gaps between them, to allow program participants time to finish an argument or to let the audience nab a panel member or chat about the item without missing the start of the next event.

Registration, green room and ops are all in the Morris Room, on the ground floor of Staircase 5. We would ask programme participants to make your way here 15 minutes before your panel starts, please. If you've volunteered to help us out by working a shift as a gopher, in green room or in any other capacity, please come to ops as soon as you can after you arrive to collect your badge.

Next door on Staircase 6 are the Junior Common Room (JCR) and TV room, where you are welcome to sit and chat (or filk).

The dealer room is in the aptly-named Stapledon room, on the lower ground floor of Staircase 2. Be sure to visit, if only to see the impressive rowing memorabilia!

### Food and drink

Breakfast will be served between 8.30 and 9.30am in the Hall (on the right of Front Quad, between Staircases 3 and 4). The entrance to the Undercroft bar is next to the steps up to the Hall.

### Bar opening hours:

Friday 6pm - 12pm

Saturday 12 noon - 2pm, 6pm - 12pm

Sunday 12 noon - 3pm

The bar will be serving real ale (we have three barrels of Old Speckled Hen to drink) as well as draught beer and cider. Alcohol and soft drinks are all at student prices.

The college is not licensed to sell food in the bar, so we regret that there will be no con food available, but there are plenty of sandwich and snack bars close to the college that are open on Saturday and Sunday.

### Badges

There are other events being held in the college over the weekend, so there will be people in college who are not convention members. For this reason we would ask you to help us by remembering to wear your name badge in college and producing it if asked.

### Help

If you need help or have questions or suggestions, please come to the ops room (Morris Room, Staircase 5) or find a committee or staff member: you can spot us by the bright rainbow badges and harassed smiles we'll be wearing. We're happy to reprise the traditional refrain of inviting you to buy staff and committee members a drink when you see them. We're very grateful to all the volunteers helping to make the weekend go smoothly—and we hope you enjoy yourselves.

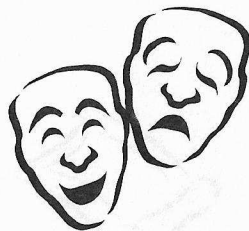
## Programme

Welcome to Lexicon's programme. We hope you enjoy our mix of items - with everything from the launch of Juliet E. McKenna's latest novel, *Gambler's Fortune*, to a discussion of how we teach SF. Whilst there isn't one specific theme to what we're offering, we've never lost sight of the one thing that brought us here; the books.

So why is the programme the shape it is? A Unicon is a small, relaxed convention, so we're not giving you a huge multi-stream event. You'll find roughly one and a half streams, with items in 90-minute slots. We're planning on items running 75 minutes, giving you 15 minutes to chat with the panellists, or to touch base with your friends before the next item. We hope you'll find this convenient; we thought of it because we found ourselves rushing out of one interesting programme item into another, or missing the start of one panel because we were still talking about the one we'd just seen. It's something of an experiment, so we'll be interested to hear what you think.

So welcome to Lexicon, enjoy the programme and the college, and remember: it's about books.

Simon Bisson



## Andy Butler: Northern Lights tutorial

Have you ever thought about taking a degree in science fiction? Have you ever wondered how studying and criticising a novel differs from reading and talking about it? We've asked BSFA luminary and SF academic Dr Andy Butler to teach a literary critical tutorial on *Northern Lights*—the first book of Philip Pullman's *His Dark*

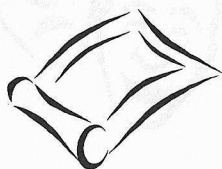
*Materials* trilogy; Andy will take a class of up to 20 people and if there's enough demand we'll hold a second tutorial on Sunday. If you wish to take part you'll need to have read the book and be willing to talk about it! If you're interested, please sign up at the registration desk as soon as possible so that we have an idea of numbers.

## Friday

|        |                                               |              |                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7.00pm | Opening ceremony                              | Saskatchewan | Welcome to Lexicon! Followed by...                                                                                                              |
| 7.15pm | "Pass me another elf Sarge, this one's split" | Saskatchewan | There's good fantasy and there's bad fantasy. What does it take to put the nuts and bolts into fantasy novels—and do we really need thoseelves? |
| 8.30pm | Juliet E. McKenna book launch                 | JCR          | New books – and wine...                                                                                                                         |

IT'S ABOUT BOOKS!

## Saturday: Saskatchewan



- |         |                                                           |              |                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.30am | Teaching SF                                               | Saskatchewan | Science Fiction is literature, but how do we give it academic respectability, and how do we teach it in our universities?                                                 |
| 12.00pm | Take 3 Books                                              | Saskatchewan | It's about books. These are the books that have affected us, maybe even changed our lives. But what do other people think of them?                                        |
| 2.30pm  | GoH Interview                                             | Saskatchewan | Tanya Brown interviews our Guest of Honour, Philip Pullman (followed by a signing session)                                                                                |
| 4.00pm  | Written for Children, Read by Adults                      | Saskatchewan | Books like <i>Northern Lights</i> appeal to both children and adults. What makes adults read children's fiction—and what are our favourite books?                         |
| 5.30pm  | Paradox                                                   | Saskatchewan | John Meaney talks about his latest novel                                                                                                                                  |
| 7.00pm  | The Long Term Future of the Human Race: Transhumanism 101 | Saskatchewan | At the end of the Millennium we look at the next thousand years and beyond. What does the future hold for humanity? We take a little scientific speculation a long way... |
| 9.00pm  | The Matrix—National Theatre of Earth Prime                | Saskatchewan | Time for something a little different... a, err, new version of last year's hit Hong Kong action movie/SF crossover                                                       |

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## Saturday: Quarrell

10.30am Alternative Space Quarrell  
Launch Ideas: From the Ridiculous to the Sublime

For truly cheap space travel we must look beyond rockets and spaceplanes, to fundamentally different methods. There is no shortage of more imaginative ideas for getting payloads up into orbit. Superguns, space tethers, giant lasers, nuclear propulsion: could any of them work? Colin Bruce reviews the options.

12.00pm An SF Tutorial Quarrell

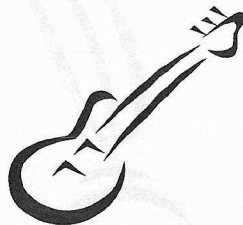
Andy Butler guides a group of readers through *Northern Lights*

5.30pm Victorian Role-playing Quarrell

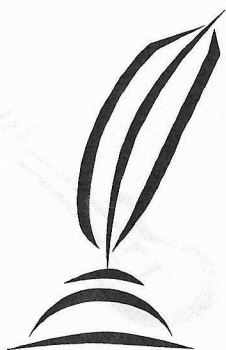
Marcus Rowland discusses the fine art of role-playing Victorian scientific romances

10.00pm Filking Quarrell

A tuneful noise...



## Sunday: Saskatchewan



- 10.30am State of the Awards Saskatchewan Hugo, BSFA, Clarke - SF has more awards than it can count. What do they mean, and what are the books nominated for this year's awards like? Should they be on all our reading lists? Or should something else be there?
- 12.00pm The Internet and Publishing Saskatchewan From paper to screen, from atoms to bits, the publishing world is changing. With ebooks starting to appear, and plenty of online SF, what is the future for the publisher and the writer—and does Napster mean they're all doomed?
- 2.30pm Take 3 Books #2 Saskatchewan It's about books. These are the books that have affected us, maybe even changed our lives. But what do other people think of them?
- 4.00pm GoH Reading Saskatchewan Our Guest of Honour, Philip Pullman, reads and answers questions (followed by a signing session)
- 5.30pm Closing Ceremony Saskatchewan So long and thanks for all the fish...

IT'S ABOUT BOOKS!

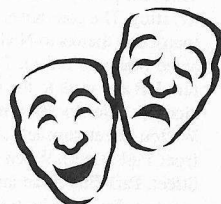
## Sunday: Quarrell

12.00pm Unicon bid session Quarrell

So where next? York or...?

12.30pm The Next UK Worldcon Quarrell

The next European Worldcon may be just around the corner. A Glasgow in 2005 bid is currently being prepared. So what will the next UK Worldcon be like?



2.30pm The Future of the Fanzine Quarrell

A new crop of fanzines is starting to appear, with agendas and manifestos. What does this mean, and are we seeing a renaissance of the pubbed issue? Has online communication revitalised the fanzine rather than killing it?

4.00pm An SF Tutorial (repeat) Quarrell

(If there's sufficient interest)

## Read Me Outside Places to eat

There are plenty of restaurants, pubs and takeaways in the centre of Oxford; this is a selection of the most interesting. The committee has tried a fair few of them over the years and we have consulted with local fans (particular thanks to Niall Hedderley), but we haven't visited all the restaurants listed here so we can't guarantee what you'll find. Turn right out of the college to reach Broad Street; turn right for Holywell Street or turn left and walk to the end of Broad Street. Straight ahead is George Street with many restaurants; turn right along St Giles for Browns and Little Clarendon Street (home of a superb ice cream shop called G&D's) and Walton Street; turn left along Cornmarket Street for takeaways (cut down Ship Street to reach Cornmarket from Turl Street). When you reach the end of Cornmarket, turn right for Queen Street, leading to Castle Street, Park End Road and Hythe Bridge Street; straight on for St Aldate's; or left for the High Street (which you can also reach by turning left out of the college).

### Snacks and takeaways

You'll find most of the usual fast food chains on Cornmarket Street (**McDonald's**, **Burger King**, **Kentucky Fried Chicken** and even a **Prêt A Manger**) or there's the popular **Golden Gate** chip shop on the corner of the High Street and St Aldate's. Oxford's famous (or infamous) late-night kebab vans ply their trade on many of the central streets; most serve burgers, baguettes and baked potatoes as well. Not for the faint-hearted but **Mehdi's**, High Street, **Kiku Moto**, St Aldates, **McCoy's**, St Aldates and **Speedy Snacks**, Queen Street come recommended. Visit **Bens Cookies** in the Covered Market (turn left out of college and right down Ship Street) for excellent, freshly cooked cookies as well as sandwiches and snacks. There are several sandwich and coffee shops in the market; best value is **George's** at the back of the market by Ship Street, the **Natural Food Bar** promises vegan food. There's a well-stocked deli in the market too. Warning for those with delicate sensibilities: the Covered Market has several old-fashioned butchers' in it. We're talking 'dressed carcasses on hooks' outside the shop here folks! There are many sandwich bars in the centre; the best is also the closest, **Heroes** on Ship Street. **Mortons** on Broad Street (turn left out of Turl Street and it's a few doors along) has a tiny garden and serves sandwiches and bagels. Try the **Nosebag** in St Michael's Street (off Cornmarket opposite Ship Street) for healthy soups, salads, baked potatoes, excellent garlic bread and delicious home-made cakes, with more substantial fare like lasagne in the evening (no smoking). The **Ashmolean Café** in the basement of the Ashmolean Museum (corner of St Giles and Beaumont Street) serves pleasant food; venture further up St Giles to Little Clarendon Street to enjoy great ice cream and bagels at **G&D's**.

### Restaurants

#### English

**Brown's**, Woodstock Road 01865 511995 Very English, very Oxford, quite expensive; famous for their Steak and Guinness Pie. Queues for tables can sometimes be long (30 - 60 minutes), especially at weekends.  
**The Mitre**, 17 High Street 01865 244563 A Beefeater restaurant serving steaks, fish and vegetarian food.  
**All Bar One**, 124 High Street The ubiquitous bar chain also serves good food.

#### Mexican/American

**Chicago Rock Cafe**, 42 Park End St 01865 241144  
**Fatty Arbuckles**, Gloucester Green, George Street 01865 201899 Ribs and burgers.  
**Maxwells**, 36-37 Queen Street 01865 242192 Ribs and burgers.  
**Old Orleans**, George Street 01865 792718 Cajun and creole cooking, steaks, fish, pastas, fajitas, chimichangas and burgers.  
**Charley's Horse**, St Aldates 01865 242138 About 15 minutes walk from Carfax, this is a small, traditional Mexican cantina. Booking essential.

## Places to eat

### Pizza and pasta

**Pizza Express**, Golden Cross, Cornmarket St 01865 790442

**Pizza Hut**, 61 George St 01865 790089

**The Gourmet Pizza Company**, Gloucester Green, George Street 01865 793146 Good pizza, say local sources.

**Bella Pasta**, 16 George Street 01865 791032

**Caffe Uno**, 41 George Street 01865 246652

**Gino's Spaghetti House**, 94 The Gallery, Gloucester Green, George Street 01865 794446

### French restaurants

**Café Rouge**, 11 Little Clarendon Street 01865 310194 Café bar, part of a chain; good selection.

**Pierre Victoire**, 9 Little Clarendon Street 01865 316616 Good value, especially the set menu.

### Chinese

**The Liaison**, 29 Castle Street 01865 242944 Excellent food, if pricey; service can be slow; book ahead. .

**The Opium Den**, 79 George Street 01865 248680 Air conditioned, excellent food; worth booking.

Dim Sum at lunchtimes.

**The Paddyfield**, 39-40 Hythe Bridge St 01865 248835

**The Peninsula**, George Street 01865 248224

### Lebanese

**Al-Shami** Walton Crescent 01865 310066

### Thai

**Bangkok House**, 42a Hythe Bridge Street 01865 200705 Extensive and authentic menu with excellent food, staff in traditional costume. Pricey. Booking recommended.

**Chiang Mai**, 130a High Street 01865 202233

### Indonesian

**Bandung**, 124 Walton Street 01865 511668 At the far end of Little Clarendon Street but the walk is worth it for excellent, authentic Indonesian food in a small restaurant with a tropical fish tank.

### Japanese

**Edamamé**, 15 Holywell Street (go right down Broad Street, past The King's Arms: it's on the left side slightly further along than seems reasonable) 01865 246916 *Friday 11.30-2.30pm, Friday & Saturday 4.20-8.30pm, Sunday 12-4.30pm* Good Japanese food in somewhat spartan surroundings, often busy.

### Indian

The best and cheapest Indian restaurants are not in central Oxford but about a mile away on the Cowley Road (down the High Street, over Magdalen Bridge; number 53 bus). There are some good Indians in town as well if you don't want to travel.

**Shemon's**, 135 High Street 01865 242062 Highly recommended and reasonably priced.

**Chutney's Indian Brasserie**, 36 St Michaels Street 01865 724241 Large airy restaurant with good vegetarian selection; frequently crowded.

**Shimla Pinks** Turl Street, practically opposite the college

**The Bombay**, 82 Walton Street 01865 511188 Further afield (Walton Street is at the far end of Little Clarendon Street); Bengali cuisine, specialising in fish.

**Moonlight Tandoori Restaurant**, 56-60 Cowley Road 01865 240275 Our favourite of the many Indians on the Cowley Road.

## Local information

### Pubs and bars

There are many pubs in central Oxford: these are close to the college and worth a visit.

**The Kings Arms**, corner of Broad Street and Holywell Street – close to the college, large with outdoor seating, Young's beer, no-smoking room, serves food.

**Turf Tavern**, Bath Place (between Holywell Street and New College Lane: follow either street about 100 metres, look for the signs) - immortalised in *Jude the Obscure* and *Inspector Morse*, it's close to the college, has courtyards and good beers, plus a non-smoking area, but can get very crowded!

**White Horse**, Broad Street – tucked between two Blackwells, this is a cosy pub close to the college with a good range of real ales. Serves food, can get crowded especially at lunch time. Steps down into the pub.

**The Three Goats' Heads**, St Michael's Street - on two floors, good, cheap beer (Sam Smiths), serves food. Access only via steps.

**Eagle & Child**, St Giles - known as the Bird and Baby, this has been an inn since 1650. The Inklings met here every Tuesday morning from 1939-1962.

**Lamb & Flag**, St Giles – wood panelled, oak beamed pub opposite the Eagle & Child.

**The Chequers**, High Street - popular 400 year old pub in the centre of town

### Off licenses

**Oddbins**, High Street and Little Clarendon Street, **Victoria Wine**, 19 George Street.

### Shopping

You'll find the usual high street names in Cornmarket Street and Queen's Street, and the shopping precincts on Queen Street, the Clarendon Centre and the Westgate Centre but there are more interesting shops on the High Street and in the Covered Market (left down Turl Street, right down Ship Street), in Gloucester Green (off George Street) or along St Giles and Little Clarendon Street.

### Bookshops

There are at least seven branches of **Blackwell's** along Broad Street and Holywell Street, specialising in travel, music, art, paperbacks, children's literature and rare books. The main branch is on Broad Street opposite the Sheldonian Theatre and stocks more than quarter of a million titles but it's in the middle of a refit; the second-hand section is here. There is a **Waterstones** on the corner of Cornmarket and Broad Street. The **Little Bookshop** (Covered Market) sells second hand books; interesting stock but rather disorganised. **Arcadia** on St Michael's Street has a small selection of second-hand books (as well as china and jewellery). Further out **Walton Street Books** (Walton Street) has a good stock of second hand books and helpful staff.

### Cash machines

**Barclays**: Turl Street, 20 metres north of Exeter main gate. **Midland**: west side of Cornmarket. **Lloyds/TSB**: east side of Cornmarket. **NatWest**: corner of Cornmarket and George Street. **Abbey National**: corner of Cornmarket and Queen Street. **Link**: **Halifax** on south side of Queen Street by the Westgate Mall (go left down Cornmarket, turn right into Queen Street and continue 250 metres); **Coventry Building Society**: north side of Shoe Lane (cross Cornmarket heading West, go through Clarendon Centre and come out by Shoe Lane exit). **Co-Op Bank**: north side of Queen Street a little further down from the Halifax.

### Post Offices

The main post office in St Aldates is open 9am-6pm Saturday. There's a smaller post office inside Little-woods on Cornmarket Street, open 9am-noon Saturday.

### Taxis

ABC 01865 770 077, Radio Taxis 01865 249 743, 001 Taxis 01865 241 641.

IT'S ABOUT BOOKS!

### Buses

There are plenty of buses if you want to travel further around Oxford: catch them in Queen Street, St Giles and on the High Street or from the bus station in George Street.

### Exploring Oxford

With historic colleges and University buildings and churches, there's plenty to see in Oxford. If you're feeling touristy you can visit The Oxford Story on Broad Street and join official or unofficial walking tours. Full details from Oxford Tourist Information Centre at Gloucester Green, open 09:30-17:00 (Sundays 10:00-13:00 and 13:30-15:30). Get a good view of Oxford by climbing Carfax Tower (corner of Cornmarket Street and Queen Street), St Michaels Tower (corner of Cornmarket Street and Ship Street) or the spire of St Mary the Virgin, the University church (entrance in Radcliffe Square, off the High Street).

The Radcliffe Camera and other buildings of the Bodleian Library are also on Radcliffe Square; Duke Humphries Library in the Bodleian boasts an elaborate painted and vaulted ceiling (open to the public 9-6pm Monday - Friday, 9am - 12.30pm Saturday).

Turn down Queen Lane to find New College, with impressive cloisters and gardens. Walking along Catte Street towards Broad Street brings you to the Sheldonian Theatre, Sir Christopher Wren's first architectural commission; more great views from the Cupola on the roof.

There are plenty of museums in Oxford, including:

**Ashmolean Museum** of Art & Archaeology, Beaumont Street, art, silver, bronzes, ceramics, pottery, sculpture and much more; open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm & Sunday 2-5pm.

**Museum of Modern Art**, 30 Pembroke Street, open Tuesday-Sunday 11am-6pm.

**Museum of Oxford**, St. Aldates, open Tuesday-Fri 10am-4pm, Saturday 10am-5pm

**University Museum of Natural History**, Parks Road, dinosaur skeletons; open *Mon-Saturday* 12-5pm.

**Pitt Rivers Museum**, Parks Road (go east along Broad Street, turn left at the Kings Arms, continue 300 metres north and the Pitt-Rivers is on the right-hand side, through the Museum of Natural History), open *Mon-Saturday* 1-4.30pm. Well worth a visit, it's an ethnographic museum based on an eccentric collection of everyday objects from around the world started in 1884; more like a gigantic attic than a museum.

### Places of worship

**Christ Church Cathedral**, St Aldate's. Daily services: 7.35 Holy Communion, 6.00pm Evensong.

Sunday: 8.00am Holy Communion, 10.00am Matins and Sermon, 6.00pm Evensong.

**St Mary the Virgin**, High Street. The University Church. Sunday 8.00am 1662 Holy Communion,

10.00am Parish Eucharist, 6.00pm Evening Prayer.

**Blackfriars Priory**, 64 St Giles. Sunday 8.00am Mass, 8.45am Lauds, 9.30am Family Mass, 6.15pm Community Mass with Vespers.

**Catholic Chaplaincy**, Rose Place (off St Aldate's). Sunday 9.00am, 11.00am, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

**New Road Baptist Church**, Bonn Square, opposite Westgate Centre. Sunday 10.30am.

**Wesley Memorial Church** (Methodist), New Inn Hall Street. Sunday 10.30am and 6.30pm.

**St Columba United Reformed Church**, Alfred Street (off High Street). Sunday 10.45am.

**Oxford Community Church**, ABC Cinema, George Street. Sunday 10.30am.

**Society of Friends** (Quakers), 43 St Giles. Sunday 9.30am, 11.00am.

**Oxford Mosque**, 10-11 Bath Place (off St Clements).

**Oxford Synagogue**, 21 Richmond Road. Friday 7.00pm, Saturday 10.00am.

### Medical emergencies

**Casualty**: John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington 01865 741166.

**Late chemists**: **Boots**, 6/8 Cornmarket; **Lloyds**, 1 Woodstock Road (*Monday-Friday till 8pm, Sunday 10am-5pm*); **10 O'clock Pharmacy**, 59 Woodstock Road, about 1km north of Exeter (*every day till 10pm*). **Emergency dental clinic**, telephone Monday-Friday 5.15-8.15pm 01865 842609, Saturday & Sunday 9am-12

noon 01865 201976. ☎

**OXFORD RAIL  
STATION**

ley Rd (Buses only)