

**THE PEWTER SOCIETY**



**1918 - 2018**

**Centenary Year Meeting**

**Oriel College, Oxford,  
England**

**21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>  
September**





After much anticipation, we are now well into our Centenary Year, which commenced with a super first meeting at Pewterer's Hall in the City of London in January, where John Swindell was formally inaugurated as President for 2018-19.

It is going to be a busy year, culminating in our Centenary Meeting and dinner at the historical Oriel College in Oxford on Saturday and Sunday 21-22 September.

Members of the NTV, the PCCA, Belgian and German societies were all invited to join us in November 2017, and there has been keen interest, especially due to the superb historic Dining Hall. *All wine and soft drinks included pre and during dinner, courtesy of the Society and the Worshipful Company of Pewterers.*

The guest speakers will include John Douglas, a resident of Oxford, who is the 'Father of the Society', having been a member since 1964; Jan Beekhuisen, the President of the Dutch society, the NTV; Philippe Boucaud from France and, hopefully, a representative from the PCCA in North America.

***The success of this Centennial gathering will be further enhanced with every additional attendee, so I urge you to put the dates in your diaries and come along to join the celebrations.***





## Meeting format & timetable:

**On Saturday at 14:00, the main meeting will take place in the Harris Lecture Theatre and will start with the welcome to Oxford by John Swindell, President of The Pewter Society followed by a programme of presentations by our guest speakers**

Proceedings will finish at 17:30 to allow time for members to return to their accommodation and change for the evening, which will commence with a reception in the second quad at 19:00, prior to dinner in the beautiful and historic Dining Hall.

***On Sunday, the highlight will be a visit to the famous Ashmolean Museum, where you will see treasures such as the Alfred Jewel, which was reputedly used by King Alfred the Great in the 8th century, important mediaeval artefacts, including rare pewter pilgrim badges and other treasures collected and donated over the years.***

At 13:00, we will meet again at the Mitre for a farewell buffet before continuing our visit in this fascinating area or proceeding home.

For those who do not have a strong interest in wandering around museums, there is much more to see and do in and around Oxford, from the many historic colleges to the Cathedral – not to mention extensive shopping opportunities!

For out-of-town visitors, who are staying over on the Friday, we will meet at the nearby Mitre pub/restaurant in Oxford, which is close to the city centre and the College.

On a first come, first served basis, we have managed to secure an allocation of rooms at Oriel College. These are priced at £178.00 double and £106 single, inclusive of full breakfast. Report to the Lodge, where you will be welcomed and shown to your room.

***Pictured here – The Historic Oriel College, Oxford***





## Our History:

So, what has happened in the last 100 years? In November 1918, Antonio de Navarro, penned a letter, co-signed by other founding members announcing the formation of The Society of Pewter Collectors. This was sent to a group of known enthusiasts and the first meeting was convened in early December. Regular meetings then followed, held at members' homes or clubs, such as the London Sketch Club. Proceedings noted, even then the dearth of available pewter at a reasonable price, although the sale at Sotheby's of a private collection of 650 pieces makes one wonder!

Early collectors specialised in 17th & 18th century pewter, much of it from churches. It was only after the 2nd World War that other specialisations became evident and members looked for specific items, e.g. flacons, spoons, medical pewter, sadware, mediaeval items, etc. The Society went from strength to strength, with membership, which was 'by invitation only', until quite recently, growing to 250 worldwide by mid 2015. It is now the oldest society of pewter collectors in the world



## **A couple of suggestions of what to see and do around Oxford**

There are lots of attractions in and close to Oxford, including most of the colleges, which welcome visitors – for more information contact the Visitor Information Centre at Broad St - 01865 686430

Walking Tours City and Colleges daily guided – see the Radcliffe Camera, Bridge of Sighs, Sheldonian Theatre, Bodleian Library and much more - 01865 686441

‘Hop on, Hop off’ Sightseeing bus with 20 stops around the city

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad St,  
Open Daily 10.00-16.30 Cost £3.50 pp, over 60s £2.50

Bodleian Library, Main Building Franklin Sq., 01865 27700  
2nd oldest library in Britain Open Fri, Sat Sun 11.00-17.00

Evening ‘Ghost Walks’ around carefully selected scary sites and pubs

Oxford Cathedral, open Sundays between services

Toad Distillery, where local spirits are distilled and sold

## **Within an hour’s drive**

Stratford-upon-Avon, approx. 1 hour drive

Blenheim Palace, Birthplace of Winston Churchill, approx. 30min drive

Hook Norton Brewery, 01608 737210  
Saturday & Sunday tours at 10.30, 11.30, 12.30  
Cost £14.50, approx. 45min drive

Getting to Oxford:

Regular train services from London Marylebone at 30min intervals during the day

X90 bus from London Victoria station every 20mins





Don't miss the opportunity to join the centennial celebrations with the oldest pewter society in the world.

Please let us know that you will be joining us by emailing:

John Swindell at [president@pewtersociety.org](mailto:president@pewtersociety.org)

Full details will follow, but cost for the meeting is expected to be in the region of GBP 66.00 per person. More details available from the Secretary

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