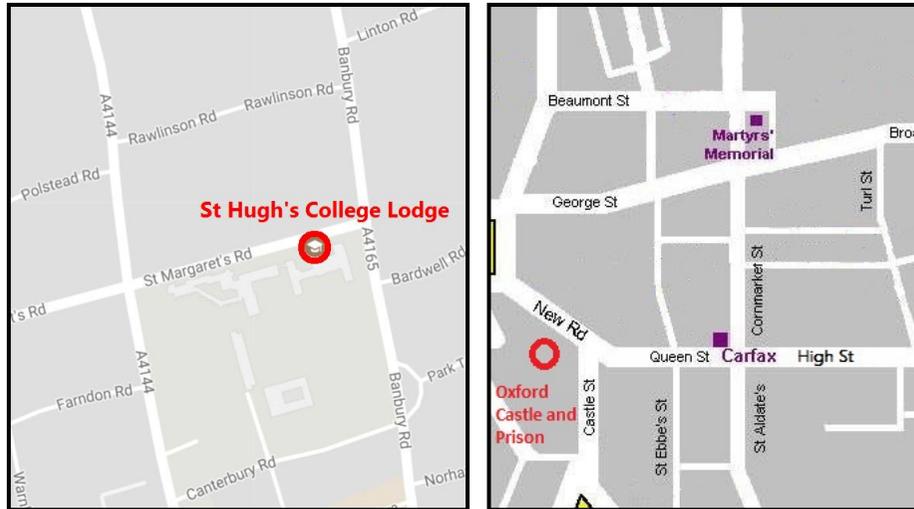


Where to find us



St Hugh's College

The entrance to St Hugh's is through the Lodge (main gate) on St Margaret's Road. You will be directed from there to our playing area in the Maplethorpe Building.

The nearest bus stop is at St Margaret's Road, on either Banbury Road (bus routes 500 and 2) or Woodstock Road (bus route 700).

The Oxford Castle and Prison

The main entrance to the "Castle Quarter" is from New Road, and we will meet for the tour at the "Oxford Castle Unlocked" ticket office. Most buses into the city centre from the north stop opposite the Martyrs' Memorial, a few minutes' walk away.

Contact us

For any questions before the start of the Festival, please contact Elena Jeffery by e-mail at festival@oxfordshirebridge.co.uk. The Festival web page is at www.oxfordbridgefestival.co.uk

During the Festival, the emergency contact number will be **07561 837764**. Volunteers will also be on hand at each venue during the day to help deal with any problems.

Oxford Festival of Bridge

Thursday 20th September 2018

St Hugh's College, St Margaret's Road, Oxford OX2 6LE

Programme

10.00 onwards: Arrive at St Hugh's for registration

10.30 – 1.00: Short seminar followed by duplicate bridge (or play drop-in bridge or rubber if you prefer)

2.00: (*pre-booked only*) Tour of Oxford Castle and Prison, followed by tea at Malmaison Hotel

4.45 – 7.15: Short seminar followed by duplicate bridge (or play drop-in bridge or rubber if you prefer)

7.30 – 10.30: Our playing area will remain available during the evening for convivial drop-in or rubber bridge



Please aim to reach St Hugh's by 10.15 at the latest, to allow time for registration before the morning seminar begins at 10.30. Those attending only the afternoon seminar will need to arrive by 4.30. The playing area is a light, airy space in the Maplethorpe Building.

Today's seminars will be given by Patrick Shields of Gloucestershire. The morning one is titled "Better Opening Leads" and in the afternoon it will be "Better Slam Bidding". Each seminar will last about 30 minutes and will be followed by a friendly duplicate session playing pre-set hands partly based on the relevant topic. "Drop-in" bridge (see overleaf for explanation) will be available all day as an alternative to the main duplicates.

If you've pre-booked, you'll be able to join our tour of the fascinating Oxford Castle and Prison. This lasts for about an hour, and will be followed by a cream tea at the Malmaison Hotel (the former prison building). Otherwise, the early afternoon is free to explore the city, perhaps with the hop-on hop-off open-top bus, which has a convenient stop outside St Hugh's.

About the bridge

Rubber or duplicate?

The hands following the seminars will be played as friendly duplicates with “match point” scoring. The “drop-in” bridge, although much less formally organised (see below), will also use pre-dealt hands. Those who prefer rubber bridge can opt for supervised play, with expert advice available on request, or can simply enjoy a friendly game in congenial surroundings.

What’s drop-in bridge? A number of pre-dealt hands will be available for you to play any time during the day in sets of four, whenever there are enough players to make up at least one table. Your total plus or minus score for each set will be recorded at the end of the set, and the organisers will produce a result by comparing each pair’s scores with average scores achieved on the same hands when they were previously played in a major competition. A small prize will be given to the highest placed pair over the first 20 boards, but you can play as few or as many sets of four as you like.

Do I need a partner?

If you want to come with a partner, that’s fine, but you don’t need to. The duplicate and drop-in bridge will be hosted, so that no one will be left without a partner. Rubber players will “cut in” if there are odd numbers.

Will it be scary?

Our aim is to create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere at all times for all players, regardless of their level of experience. The duplicate sessions will be run by a volunteer Director, who will be there to help you with any problems that might arise while you’re at the bridge table – so do let him or her know if anything seems to be going wrong.

Can I try duplicate if I’ve never done it before?

Duplicate players will be playing pre-prepared random hands placed into duplicate boards. Bidding will be done using bidding boxes and for the main sessions, the results will be scored electronically using Bridgemates. If you’d like to have a go at duplicate but you haven’t previously used any of this equipment, don’t worry – we’ll be there to help you! The only essential requirement is that you should be able to play at the same speed as everyone else, which is about eight hands in an hour.

Where can I find the results?

Results of all bridge competitions will be displayed in St Hugh’s College, and will also be available on the Festival website at www.oxfordbridgefestival.co.uk.

Who’s running this event?

The Oxford Festival of Bridge is organised and sponsored by the Oxfordshire Bridge Association, with assistance from the Worcestershire and Gloucestershire Bridge Associations. The duplicate bridge is licensed by the English Bridge Union.

The practical stuff

Parking and buses: Parking in Oxford during the daytime can be both difficult and expensive. We hope to have a few spaces available in the car park at St Hugh’s for those with restricted mobility – please contact Elena if you need this. Otherwise, we recommend using a park-and-ride (see <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/park-and-ride>).

The 500 bus from Water Eaton park-and-ride comes along Banbury Road and stops at St Margaret’s Road. The 700 bus from Pear Tree park-and-ride stops on Woodstock Road at the other end of St Margaret’s Road. The 500 also operates either from Oxford Parkway train station, or from the main Oxford train station. There are frequent buses from St Hugh’s to and from the city centre.

Taxis: Of course, Oxford also has numerous taxi companies: see <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/taxi> for a list with phone numbers.

Where can I stay? Accommodation isn’t included in the price of the Festival. If you search on the internet for B & B in Oxford, you’ll find that many of the Oxford colleges offer such accommodation at reasonable prices. A number of last year’s participants stayed at various colleges, including St Hugh’s, Christ Church and New College, and all reported themselves well satisfied. There are also plenty of airbnb options available.

Communication: If you have one, please bring a smartphone with you. This will make it much easier for you to contact us in the event of any problem, and will also help you to find your way around Oxford if you aren’t familiar with the city centre.

Food and drink: It’s very easy to find anything from a sandwich through to a gourmet restaurant, either locally, or in town. If you’re a visitor to the area and you’d like to eat out, Daily Information, the guide to all things Oxonian, has an excellent list of local places to eat at <https://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/oxford/guide/food>.

Allergies and other special needs: Please do let us know in advance of any allergies, special dietary requirements, or other needs such as extra lighting. If you’re concerned about seating, it might be best to bring a portable cushion.

Access: All activities at St Hugh’s will be held on the ground floor, with easy access for anyone with restricted mobility. However, please be aware that there is a short walk from the Lodge through the grounds of the college to the Maplethorpe Building. The Castle and Prison tour does include several steep gradients and steps, with no lift access to some areas.

First aid: A trained first aider will be on call each day.

More about Oxford: Googling “what to do in Oxford” will get you more hits than you can shake a stick at, but if you need a place to start, you could do worse than try [this summary from the Daily Telegraph](#).