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Queries 553377 (Mon-Fri 9-5)

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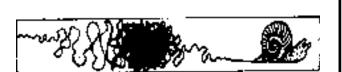
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BOOK REVIEW

MEETINGS

OXFORD: A cultural and literary companion by David Horan

Free Barebones entries for day of meeting only. Societies running regular, repetitive meetings will be listed separately once a week during term, under "Regular Meetings".

Tuesday 13th June

OXFORD REFORM CLUB / Sir David Ramsbotham (Chief Inspector of Prisons) / 8pm / Fraenkel Room, Corpus CHALLENGES FOR THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY. MCR Maplethorp Lecture. Speaker: Sam Daws, UN Officer. 6-7pm Wordsworth Room, St Hugh's College, Oxford. JUSTINE HARDY reading from and signing new book "Goat". 7.15pm / Blackwell's, 50 Broad Street / £1. SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL/OUP LECTURE Internet and the new economy/Gulbenkian Lecture Theatre, St

REGULAR MEETINGS Free Barebones entries for classes and clubs meeting regularly, to appear once a week. This

Herbaliser, Malaki et al. / Po Na Na / £5

GIGS + NIGHTLIFE

column does, of course, appear permanently on

Tuesday 13th June

BACHELOR PAD Funk, soul and groovy tunes at

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THE HERBALISER present Beatroot with DJs Jake

RICHARD MOLLER (JAZZ PI ANO) 10pm-midnight/

our website: www.dailyinfo.co.uk Wednesday OUDC "BEYOND BEGINNERS" Ballroom

Dancing. 7.15pm - 8.15pm Mordan Hall, St Hugh's College. Term time only.

CAPOEIRA SOCIETY. Brazilian dance/martial art. 7pm-9pm, Long Room, New College, term time only. £4. www.new.ox.ac.uk/~john/capoeira RAQS SHARQI. HILAL-BASED EGYPTIAN

Jericho Centre, Canal Street. To book: Katrina Robinson, Oxford 777462 Wed 9 May for 9 weeks. QI GONG 6.30pm All Saints' Church Hall, New High Street, Headington. KUNG FU 7.30pm All Saints' Church Hall, New High Street, Headington. Tel 01235 532891, email lamasmaster@qigongoxford.freeserve.co.uk

Friday

OU SULKIDO. Fitness and self defence. I ffley road gym, 8.30pm. Term time only K.E.E.N. ZIG-ZAG SESSION. (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now) Theatre and Music Workshop at St Ebbes Parish Centre. 5.15pm-6.15pm. Help and support very welcome. Phone Ox. 798250 for

Saturday

K.E.E.N. MUSIC AND MOVEMENT. A session for under 6s with special needs. Phone Ox. 798250

K.E.E.N. SPORTS SESSION. At New College Sports Ground most weeks. Phone Ox. 798250 for details. 2pm-3.20pm younger athletes, 3.40pm-5pm older athletes. Help and support very welcome.

Sunday

OU SULKIDO. Fitness and self defence. Iffley road gym, 11.30am. Term time only.

Monday OUDC BALLROOM DANCING absolute beginners

class. 8.30pm - 10.30pm, Dining Room, St Edmund Hall. Term time only. **OU SULKIDO.** Fitness and self defence. I ffley road gym, 8.30pm. Term time only.

Tuesday

EMOTIONAL HEALTH ANONYMOUS. St Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road, 8pm. For details phone John (Ox 243553), or Mary (Ox 863340).eha-ox@mailcity.comTerm time only. QI GONG 8pm Abbey Centre, Abingdon. Tel 01235 lamasmaster@qigongoxford.freeserve.co.uk

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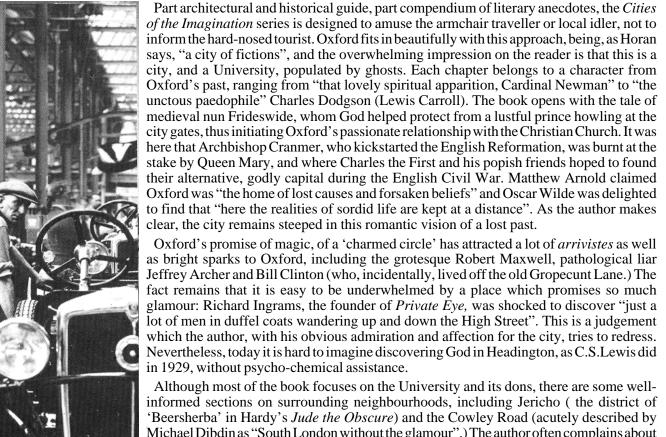
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their alternative, godly capital during the English Civil War. Matthew Arnold claimed Oxford was "the home of lost causes and forsaken beliefs" and Oscar Wilde was delighted to find that "here the realities of sordid life are kept at a distance". As the author makes Oxford's promise of magic, of a 'charmed circle' has attracted a lot of *arrivistes* as well as bright sparks to Oxford, including the grotesque Robert Maxwell, pathological liar Jeffrey Archer and Bill Clinton (who, incidentally, lived off the old Gropecunt Lane.) The fact remains that it is easy to be underwhelmed by a place which promises so much glamour: Richard Ingrams, the founder of Private Eye, was shocked to discover "just a lot of men in duffel coats wandering up and down the High Street". This is a judgement which the author, with his obvious admiration and affection for the city, tries to redress. Nevertheless, today it is hard to imagine discovering God in Headington, as C.S.Lewis did Although most of the book focuses on the University and its dons, there are some wellinformed sections on surrounding neighbourhoods, including Jericho (the district of 'Beersherba' in Hardy's Jude the Obscure) and the Cowley Road (acutely described by Michael Dibdin as "South London without the glamour".) The author often complains about the city's encroaching poor, unwittingly pointing up the fact that Oxford is essentially schizophrenic territory, unable to integrate its seedier side with its long-cherished privileges. Horan has produced an intelligent and elegantly written portrait of the city, full of lively characterisation and historical detail. If you're going further afield it's also worth looking out for the other titles in the series: Rome, Venice, Edinburgh, Madrid, Kingston and

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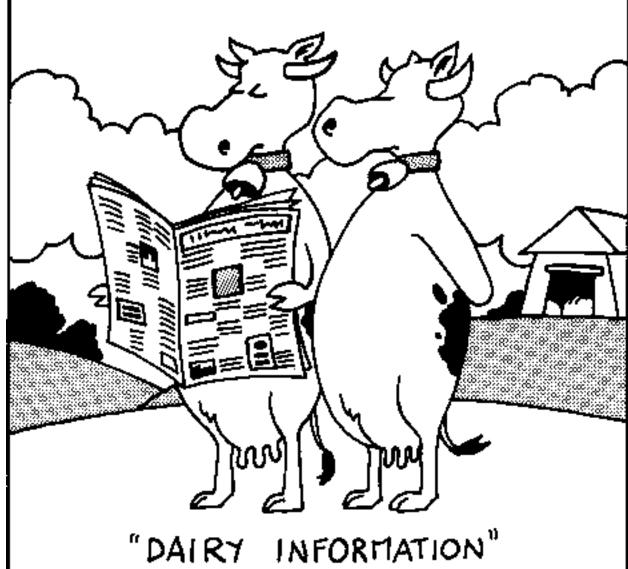
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