

# Oxford University Scientific Society

The oldest student-run learned society for the Natural Sciences in the English-speaking world

## Information Booklet for Sponsors

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### Our Heritage

A Century-Long Aspiration



The Oxford University Scientific Society (then the Junior Scientific Club) counts prominent scientific names such as Nevil Sidgwick (bottom left in the picture), Fredrick Soddy (front row, second to the right), Henry Moseley, Julian Huxley, and J B S Haldane (not in the picture) during their undergraduate years amongst its long lineage of very able Presidents. Image: *Photo of the Oxford University Junior Scientific Club's steering committee, 1898*. Source: Museum of the History of Science, Oxford.

The Oxford University Scientific Society was founded in 1882 as the Oxford University Junior Scientific Club by a group of undergraduates which included D H Nagel, Edward Poulton, and Halford Mackinder among its ranks. The objective of the Club was the bringing together of undergraduate and graduate members of the University for the discussion of scientific matters.

The University of Oxford just only started to formally award degrees for the study of the natural sciences in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and throughout the early introductory years teaching quality was generally poor. The creation of the Junior Scientific Club was the epitome of Oxonian proactivity in terms of participation in the teaching process - within a year of its founding the Club already managed to

capture 80% of the University's science undergraduates into its membership, and from there organized activities which tried to stimulate research and scientific discussion amongst its members.

The Club organized 'ordinary meetings' once a fortnight for members to present papers on their own research or reviews on recent developments elsewhere, 'special meetings' regularly where established scientists can speak to the members of the Club about their subjects of expertise, and 'Boyle Lectures' once a year to allow members to hear from the most eminent scientific personalities whom are not based in Oxford. Henry Acland, William Ramsay, and Lord Kelvin have all addressed the Club before as guests speakers at the Boyle Lectures.

Through the organization of biennial *conversazioni*, the Club was instrumental to the publicizing of science in Oxford from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. These *conversazioni*, massive jamborees centred around the Pitts River Museum and attended by over 1000 people from the university and the city, featured a plethora of lectures on interesting scientific topics as well as exciting demonstrations such as "the properties of gyroscopes" and "blood circulation in a tadpole's tail".

The Club also published its own termly journal, *Transactions of the Oxford University Junior Scientific Club* (initially the *Journal of the OUJSC*), from 1887 to 1938. Articles published in *Transactions* mostly comprised papers presented by members of the Club during the fortnightly ordinary meetings, written in the same format adopted by mainstream academic journals.

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### **Our Recent Endeavours**

Since the University's widespread adoption of a more accepting stance towards the natural sciences in the post-World War I years, many of the Society (the Club)'s original roles in the Oxonian scientific community have been (rightfully so) taken over by the various university departments. With the establishment of formal postgraduate research degrees and departmental colloquia, undergraduates and graduates no longer needed to rely on the Club as the sole platform for the presentation and discussion of research findings. The biennial *conversazioni* are also no longer economically viable, given that general inflation has now rendered impossible their funding solely using the Club's subscription earnings. The role once played by the *conversazioni* is now filled largely by the publicly-funded Oxfordshire Science Festival.

OUSS has retained its "special meetings"-ethos, inviting scientists to give lectures on their research work, or more generally about their field of interest, every Wednesday evening of the Undergraduate term. Our speakers hail from Oxford University and many other academic institutions and industrial companies. They are united by excellence in their chosen discipline.

In the past 8 years, we have hosted over 160 expert speakers in the fields of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, computer science, engineering, and science communication, 18 of which were Nobel Prize winners. Our most popular talks in recent times were "Old Solvents: New Solutions?" by Sir Martyn Poliakoff, "Are we Seeing Signals from before the Big Bang?" by Sir Roger Penrose, and "The Secret of Cell Division" by Sir Tim Hunt, all of which had more than 80 attendees. On top of that, we organized two high profile debates in the Sheldonian Theatre in the years 2012 and 2013, titled "This House Wants to Defeat Ageing Entirely" and "This House Believes Hormones, not Calories, Makes us Fat" respectively, as well as a panel discussion titled "The Geek Manifesto - Why Science Matters". On occasion, we also organize visits to research facilities such as the Joint European Torus, the Rutherford

Appleton Laboratory, and the Royal Observatory. A record of many of our events, including video recordings of the 2013-2014 talks, can be found at our website, [www.ouscisoc.org](http://www.ouscisoc.org).

We maintain a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/OUSciSoc/>), where we regularly post about our events and share multimedia content about the latest breakthroughs in science and technology or fun scientific facts that are simply and interestingly expressed. Our page very recently hit 200,000 followers, and we expect this count to grow further in the years to come.

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**OUSS Committee**  
**2018 - 2019**



Peter Liu  
*President*



Deepanshu Singh  
*Vice President*



David Cao  
*Treasurer*



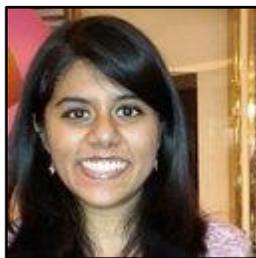
Suer Zhou  
*Secretary*



Luiza Bondila  
*Publicity Officer*



Matthew Raybould  
*Sponsorship Officer*



Priyadarshini Chatterjee  
*Webmaster*



Raymond Man Him Ho  
*Events Officer*



Jack Hardwick  
*Membership Officer*

## Our Future Outlook

The Scientific Society is well-placed to grow from strength to strength in 2019. In recent years, it has become ever more difficult to secure speaker venues around Oxford (Departments and Colleges have changed their policies, and most either refuse to host out-of-hours events or charge unsustainable amounts). Nevertheless, our committee have secured a college venue for all Hilary Term talks. This allows us to uphold the professionalism expected of such an established society.

We will continue to invite the best and brightest speakers from academia and industry. Already confirmed for next year are Dr. Frank Hasselbach (Global Head of System Design, Rolls Royce), Dr. Suzie Sheehy (Accelerator Physicist and Science Communicator, University of Oxford), and Professor Brian Edward Launder FRS, FEng (Mechanical Engineer, University of Manchester). We have also invited, and hope soon to confirm, Dr. Bryn Roberts (Head of Clinical Pharmacology, Roche Pharmaceuticals) and Dr. Brian May CBE (Astrophysicist and Ex-Guitarist of Queen).

One ambition that unites the committee this year is to re-engage with our alumni and our broader network of supporters (over 200,000 track our posts on Facebook). Recording each talk and hosting it on a video sharing platform, such as YouTube, would greatly facilitate this. We last attempted this back in 2015 (channel link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChP1tLqksAmtm52JLDka8gA>), with our most popular talk attracting over 70,000 views. Sadly, we were soon forced to discontinue this service, as the responsible committee member left Oxford, taking their equipment with them.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in sponsoring the acquisition of recording equipment: a camera and good quality clip microphones (see **Supporting Us**). We have also reflected on the feedback on our previous videos; while the science was almost always well received, the audio quality too often spoiled the experience. We would therefore be keen to hire a professional videographer/sound engineer to uphold the requisite standards expected by the online community, and by our esteemed speakers.

We also intend to make 2019 the first year that OUSS hosts online interviews and talks. Hosted via YouTube ("YoutubeLive") and Facebook ("FacebookLive"), these events would allow us to share the most exciting scientific developments without geographical constraint and further increase engagement among our alumni and online follower communities.

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## Supporting Us

The running of the Society, be it in terms of organizing speaker events or networking socials, is a fairly costly affair. There is only so much that we can do if we operate solely on the limited inflow of membership subscriptions, and any amount of financial support will go a long way in helping us bring in prominent guest speakers based far away from Oxford, bring down the entry costs for our socials and discourses, and bring a larger variety of engaging events to our members.

For the sake of flexibility, we have conveniently categorized the ways in which you can support our society into three forms:

### 1. Event Sponsorship

Event sponsorship constitutes the engagement of a one-time partnership with our society with respect to one specific event. The sponsorship of an event in our society can happen through one of two ways:

- You find that one specific event (whatever type it may be - lecture, social/networking event, careers event, etc) scheduled in our term card matches the objectives of your organization well and you wish to support that event
- You wish to propose for our society to organize an event of a specific nature and financially support its planning and organization

As an estimate, the sponsorship of an event with our society generally requires £200. In return for your generous support, we will display your organization's logo prominently on all online and printed publicity media specifically produced for the event which you are sponsoring, as well as have your status as Event Sponsor announced at the start of the event.

Seeing as to how we as a society are seeking to bring a wider variety of events to our members, we will of course be more than happy to tailor a bespoke sponsorship package for you if some aspects of your desired event falls outside of our society's normal operating parameters.

### 2. Audiovisual Sponsorship

As discussed previously, we hope to offer professionally recorded video content for our members and the wider community to enjoy. We are therefore looking for an audiovisual sponsor to provide:

- Funding to buy, or the donation of, a professional camcorder (4K ready for futureproofing, price range £1250-£1500, e.g. <https://amzn.to/2TTrXuj>) and tripod (price range £75-£150, e.g. <https://amzn.to/2TT5lVh>).
- Funding to buy, or the donation of, a good quality clip microphone for audio recording (price range £200-£400, e.g. <https://amzn.to/2Nf3Rrm>)
- Funding to hire a student with knowledge of videography for each video to ensure the quality is as professional as possible (initial offer £25-£30 per talk, estimated to be ca. £500 for a calendar year).

In return, the society promises to:

- Include your company logo at the start of every society video, which we will share on our Facebook page of 200,000 followers. Your company will be mentioned in the description of each recorded video.
- Thank your company for sponsorship, and highlight your contribution, at the beginning and end of every talk.
- Include your logo on promotional material associated with each recorded talk, both online and distributed around Oxford. We will also mention your company's contribution in our weekly newsletter.
- Include all other benefits of a Silver sponsorship package (see below).

### 3. Society Sponsorship

Year-long sponsorship of our society ensure a close and long-lasting partnership between our organizations. Regardless of package, your company will be visible at a minimum of 20 Oxford Talks and 3 online events throughout the calendar year. The specific benefits of each tier are listed below:

	Bronze (£900/yr)	Silver (£1500/yr)	Gold (£3000/yr)	Platinum (£5000/yr)
Advertisement at a minimum of 20 Oxford talks and 3 Online events throughout the calendar year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prominent display of your organization's logo in our website's 'Sponsorship' page	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Display of your organization's logo at the bottom navigation bar on our website	No	No	No	Yes
Prominent display of your organization's logo on our Term Card (online and printed)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prominent display of your organization's logo on our weekly newsletter (online)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Circulation of advertisement of your organization's choice (preferably internship/careers advertisements) through our weekly newsletter (online)	Once per year	Once per term	Twice per term	Thrice per term
Circulation of advertisement of your organization's choice during our events (printed)	No	No	Once per year	Once per term
Circulation of advertisement of your organization's choice through our	Once per year	Once per term	Twice per term	Twice per term

Facebook page and Facebook group				
Display of your organization's banner at our events	No	No	Yes	Yes
Distribution of your organization's merchandise at our events	No	No	Yes	Yes
Prominent display of your organization's logo in the footer of all official e-mails sent out by the Society	No	No	Yes	Yes
Free priority entry for a member of your staff to our exclusive post-lecture dinners/networking socials	No	One event per term	Two events per term	Three events per term
Bespoke lecture/networking social event* tailored to your organization's needs	No	No	Up to one bespoke event per year	Up to two bespoke events per year
Prominent display of your organization's logo in our society banner	No	No	No	Yes
Announcement of your company's status at the Society's sponsor at the start and end of each event	No	No	No	Yes

\*Alternative bespoke event format can be arranged if needed

The tiered packages above simplify the process and are derived from our previous relationships with companies. Should you find that these pre-prescribed packages do not suit your needs, we would be happy to negotiate a bespoke arrangement that can best serve your organization.

At Oxford University Scientific Society, we truly value the generosity of our sponsors – your contributions both allow us to share the science we are so passionate about and to facilitate connections within our University to drive new scientific innovation.

We thank you for your kind consideration, and hope that you will be encouraged to support us on what promises to be a transformative year for our Society.

Matt Raybould  
Sponsorship Officer

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