Oxford's DAILY INFO

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Next issue: Thu 28th February
Deadline: 10am, Wed 27th February

Tue 26th - Wed 27th Feb 2008 (7th week)

WHAT'S ON / COMING SOON

This event is free and open to the public

Freedom from Oil:
How the Next President Can End the United States' Oil Addiction.

by David Sandalow, energy and environment scholar and former energy adviser to the Clinton administration

Tuesday 26th February, 5.00-6.30pm
Oxford University Museum of Natural History
Reserve online at: www.21school.ox.ac.uk/registration

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Sat 1st March 10am – 3pm, Headington Parish Hall, £25

Adult Learning Hotline – 0845 351 0646 (Local Rate)
OR www.oxfordshire.gov.uk - click on 'Adult Learning'
Course Code no: OC 09H122H

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www.sundaytimes-oxfordliteraryfestival.co.uk

GIGS

Tue 26th

EPIDEME, AXIS MUNDI, SERFS / Permanent Vacation / Port Mahon, St. Clement's

THE HOWARD PEACOCK QUINTET / Live jazz plus DJs playing r'n'b soul and funk / 8pm-2am. Free / Bullingdon Arms, 162 Cowley Rd / 244516

REEL BIG FISH + STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO + MORE / 7pm, £14 adv / www.reel-big-fish.com / Carling Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, OX4 1UE / 0844 477 2000

THE OXFORD REVUE / Comedy showcase / 8pm / The Wheatsheaf, Wheatsheaf Alley, 129 High Street, OX1 4DF; Tel: 01865 721156

BIG BANG TUESDAY JAZZ NIGHT / 8pm / £15 for 2 course dinner & jazz / www.thebigbangrestaurants.co.uk / 511441 / The Big Bang, 124 Walton St

BRAZILIAN BEATS Free Dance Class + Brazilian music and world influences / 9pm, £5 / Cellar Bar, Frewin Court, off Cornmarket / 244761

Wed 27th

PONT MUSIC – PRIZE OPEN MIKE / Compete for a £50 gig / 8ish till 11pm / Free / 07769 608124 / Folly Bridge Inn, Abingdon Road

GRAND POCKET ORCHESTRA, THE FOLLYS, LUKE LEIGHFIELD / Experimentalists and popsters / Port Mahon, St. Clement's

ONE NIGHT ONLY + CLOCKS + NICK HARRISON / Doors 7pm / £7.50 adv / The Zodiac ‰ Carling Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, OX4 1UE / 0844 477 2000

MONTJOYS JACKET, TAMARA PARSONS-BAKER + JAMIE FOLEY / 7-10pm, free / Purple Turtle, Frewin Court, off Cornmarket; Tel: 247007

CINEMA to Thu 28th Feb

Vue Cinema (08712 240 240)

RAMBO [18] daily: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm
Sylvester Stallone exterminates more nameless Asians. Reluctantly, this time.

BE KIND REWIND [12A] daily: 1.10, 3.45, 6.15, 8.45pm
Clerks have to re-film the contents of a video shop.

ST TRINIAN'S [12A] ✍ daily: 11.40am
Contemporary remake of schoolgirl comedy.

THERE WILL BE BLOOD [15] daily: 1.20, 4.40, 8.00pm
Mesmerising tale of oil and greed.

JUNO [12A] ✍ daily: 3.15, 5.45, 8.15pm
Tale of teen pregnancy.

CLOVERFIELD [15] ✍ daily: 3.00, 5.15, 7.30, 9.40pm
Five teens record a monster attack on New York.

THE WATER HORSE [PG] ✍ daily: 1.30, 4.10pm
Dick King-Smith's tale of big aqueous beast.

THE BUCKET LIST [12A] Mon - Wed: 6.45, 9.00pm
Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman have things to do.

NATIONAL TREASURE 2 [PG] ✍ daily: 2.00, 4.50, 7.45pm
Nicholas Cage unearths more secrets.

JUMPER [12A] ✍ daily: 2.45, 5.00, 7.15, 9.30pm
A man who can teleport at will.

MY BLUEBERRY NIGHTS [12A]
Mon, Wed & Thu: 2.15, 4.30, 7.00, 9.15pm, Tue: 12.00, 2.15, 4.30, 7.00, 9.15pm
Norah Jones goes on a road trip to fix her broken heart.

THE BANK JOB [15] Thu: 6.45, 9.00pm
Robbers get more than they bargained for.

Odeon Magdalen St (0871 2244 007)

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN [15] ✍
Mon, Wed & Thu: 2.00, 5.00, 8.00pm; Tue: 2.00, 5.00pm
Coen brothers' latest.

BE KIND REWIND [12A] daily: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm
Clerks have to re-film the contents of a video shop.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON [U] Tue: 8.00pm
People who've stood on the moon tell their stories.

Odeon George St (0871 2244 007)

THE BUCKET LIST [12A] daily: 12.45, 6.15pm
Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman have things to do before they die.

SWEENEY TODD [18] ✍ Mon- Wed: 3.00, 8.45pm; Thu: 3.00pm
Burton and Depp offer the demon barber.

JUNO [12A] ✍ daily: 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00pm
Tale of teen pregnancy.

NATIONAL TREASURE 2: BOOK OF SECRETS [PG] ✍ daily: 2.00, 5.00, 8.00pm
Nicholas Cage unearths more secrets.

DEFINITELY MAYBE [12A] ✍ daily: 2.15, 5.15, 8.15pm
Romantic comedy. A father explains how he met his daughter's mother.

JUMPER [12A] ✍ daily: 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30pm
A man who can teleport at will.

CLOVERFIELD [15] ✍ daily: 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15pm
Five teens record a monster attack on New York.

SENIOR SCREEN: RENDITION [15] ✍ Wed: 10.45am
Sending people overseas for torture.

THE BANK JOB [15] Thu: 8.45pm
Robbers get more than they bargained for.

Phoenix Picture House (0870 758 3218)

THERE WILL BE BLOOD [15] daily: 1.45, 5.00, 8.15pm
Mesmerising tale of oil and greed.

MY BLUEBERRY NIGHTS [12A]
Mon & Tue, Thu: 1.00, 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.10pm
Norah Jones takes a road trip to fix her broken heart. Wed: 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.10pm

BIG SCREAM: MY BLUEBERRY NIGHTS [12A] Wed: 11.30am
Norah Jones takes a road trip to fix her broken heart. For parents with children under one.

Ultimate Picture Palace (245288)

THE BIG LEBOWSKI [18] ✍ Mon: 11.00pm
Classic Coen brothers mobster comedy.

THREE COLOURS: RED [15] Mon: 7.00, 9.00pm
Final episode in Krzysztof Kieslowski trilogy on modern French society.

THE KITE RUNNER [12A] ✍ Tue - Thu: 6.00pm
An American immigrant returns to Afghanistan.

RESCUE DAWN [12A] Tue, Thu: 9.00pm
Christian Bale is Dieter Dengler, the only escapee from the PoW camps of Laos.

I'M NOT THERE [15] ✍ Wed: 9.00pm
Rather good, utterly surreal pseudo-biopic of Bob Dylan.

✍ = review on dailyinfo.co.uk

THEATRE to Sat 1st March

Burton Taylor Studio (305305)

DEBRIS Tue 26th - Sat 1st: 7.30pm
By Dennis Kelly. A man finds and tries to adopt a baby. £5/£4

DOLORES WEARS THE STARES Tue 26th - Sat 1st: 9.30pm
By Jen Chutz. Surreal satire on sitcom culture. £5/£4

Kingston Bagpuize Village Hall (305305)

TEECHERS BY JOHN GODBER ✍ Thu 28th: 8pm
The classroom comedy. Not suitable for children or the easily offended. £7.50/£6.50. Also showing at **Lains Barn** (01993 811678 / 01235 765648): Fri 29th: 8pm, and **Bayworth Chapel, Sunningwell** (735910) Sat 1st: 7.30pm

New Theatre, Oxford (0870 6063500)

DEREK ACORAH Tue 26th: 7.30pm
TV Spirit Medium. £17.50

LAZYTOWN LIVE! Fri 29th: 11am, 5pm; Sat 1st: 11am, 2pm, 5pm
Colourful, fast-paced children's show. £12-£18.50

Pegasus Theatre (722851)

OKAN NIJO (ONE) ✍ Fri 29th & Sat 1st: 8pm
African heritage & culture through post-traditional styles & dance techniques. £8.50/£6/£4

Oxford Playhouse (305305)

SPIES BY MICHAEL FRAYN ✍ Mon 25th - Wed 27th: 7.30pm
Thu 28th, Sat 1st: 2.30, 7.30pm, Fri 29th: 8pm
Stephen & Keith's game changes: Keith says that his mother is a German spy. £10 - £23.

MICHAEL FRAYN Fri 29th: 5pm
Award-winning writer of Spies, in conversation. £6.50/£4.50

Moser Theatre, Wadham College

"FRÜHLINGS ERWACHEN" IN GERMAN ✍ Sun 24th: 5.00pm
Tue 26th, Thu 28th: 7.30pm
A group of University students performs a play on puberty and (im)moral teachers.

Mill Arts Centre, Banbury (01295 279002)

LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME Wed 27th - Sat 1st: 7.45pm
An 'improbable' comedy of murder, chocolate & a night in 1890s London. £7.50/£6.50

The Theatre At Headington (759138)

CLEMENT FREUD ENTERTAINS ✍ Thu 28th: 7.30pm
Without hesitation, repetition or much deviation, Sir Clement talks about his life. £15/£12

Merton College Chapel

LA VOIX HUMAINE & LE LIVRE BLANC Mon 25th - Wed 27th: 8.30pm
A one-woman telephonic opera & the world premiere of a new puppetry show. £7/£5

The Wheatsheaf (721156)

THE OXFORD REVUE ✍ Tue 26th: 8pm
Comedy showcase

INTERVIEW

An interview with Clement Freud

Clement Freud Entertains at The Theatre At Headington: Thu 28th Feb: 7.30pm £15 (£12).

You're bringing your one-man show to Oxford. Why now?

You're just unlucky and got the short straw! No, I do about twenty shows a year. After Oxford it's Pitlochry and then Tunbridge Wells.

You clearly enjoy interacting with an audience...

If you do an afternoon speech, you get a lot of money and appear in front of a lot of drunks who may have no interest in you. But if you go to Headington and people pay so much money to see you, you've actually got an audience, they want to listen to you. Speaking to people who've seen you, heard you or read you, is fun – a good means of communication.

It's certainly not your first time in Oxford. What are your abiding impressions of the city?

I've been to Oxford hundreds of times. My wife was evacuated to Oxford during the war and lived with C.S.Lewis at The Kilns in Headington Quarry. And he gave us a wedding present which I still treasure. And, yes, I've spoken at the Oxford Union and done *Just A Minute* there.

You're well known for your views on food. Some might say you were one of the very first celebrity chefs and food writers. Do you think the current vogue for celebrity chefs is good for food?

You know, everything is good for food. Even someone who appears on television and burns a piece of toast. I tend to think that any programme which deals with something can be helpful.

Do you still go out to restaurants much these days?

Yes, a lot. Raymond Blanc is a friend of mine: I first came across him in Summertown many years ago. I enjoy his restaurant very much. But I still cook every day – it's no difficulty for me.

And as a former MP yourself, with food policy so much in the news, do you think Government has a role to play in promoting good food?

Yes, I do. The first time it really happened was in the Boer War! Of the first 5000 or so troops that were sent out, about 3000 died because they were so weedy they couldn't stand the voyage. So, the government's first entry into gastronomy was in health checks because they wanted soldiers to be alive before they got shot.

You stood as a Liberal M.P. for several terms.

Yes, I was a Liberal at a time when there were only six Liberals in Parliament. I'm still a Liberal – although the party's now gone. If you decide you're going to be the middle party, you don't have any policies – you wait for the policies of the other two and fit in between. In my day, you had Michael Foot on one side and Margaret Thatcher on the other – and a huge constituency in between.

So if you had your time over, would you be less interested in going into politics today?

When I went into Parliament, people would say, 'Gosh, how wonderful.' Today, they say, 'What bad luck, when are you going to get a decent job?' I was absolutely thrilled to get into Parliament – it was one of the biggest things to happen to me. And when I was there, if you asked your colleagues what they were sorriest about in their lives, it would often be that their fathers had not been alive to see them become M.P.s. Nobody does that now – it's only under interrogation that someone would admit their son's in Parliament!

Many people know you from your many performances on Radio 4's "Just A Minute." You've done it since 1967. Is it completely second nature to you?

Yes. We never rehearsed. You knew it had gone well if on the way home you didn't say, "****, I wish I'd said this or that". The key attribute is being able to think ahead. You've got to stop yourself saying things, like repeating yourself – new people often have little phrases that kill them. Stephen Fry is probably the best speaker, although he does speak four times faster than me. And he thinks ahead about 20 seconds whereas I only think ahead about eight! And Stephen can gallop on without repeating himself. And he's incredibly knowledgeable.

In other aspects of your life you've been quite competitive. Is that the case in "Just A Minute" too?

No, being competitive in *Just A Minute* doesn't work. And people who are generally piss off the audience. If someone's speaking entertainingly, humorously and fluently and you buzz them because they erred somewhere and you haven't got anything better to say, that's exactly what audiences don't like!

It's more a matter of entertainment than winning…

Oh yes. You remember Peter Jones? He was wonderful, he'd not say anything for five minutes and then make some devastating remark. Or start a subject and then say 'I don't think this is a good subject for someone like me!'

In your autobiography you mention that you were accused of not having a sense of humour – but humour is surely one of the things you're known for?

That goes back to the Eammon Andrews show. Back in the '60s he had a metamorphosis from boxing commentator to talk show host and I was on his first show. And there was a comedian – Dick Emery – who told a joke and I didn't laugh because I didn't think it was funny. But the camera cut between Dick Emery and me not laughing and that reputation stuck for a while. I do laugh – he just wasn't very funny.

So who do you think is funny – who makes you laugh?

Oh, Les Dawson, Tommy Cooper… *Little Britain* I don't like. And Anthony Worrall Thompson I like least. I want to put him in *Room 101* with the A12, the road to my home in Suffolk.

So the A12 is not a friend of yours?

(Laughs) No, it's disgraceful.

You've not been able to use some parliamentary influence to change things then?

You're quite right! The good roads are the ones where ministers live at the end! But we've never had anyone that terrific living near us.

In your career, you've learned to cook, fly a plane, done all sorts. Is there anything looking back you'd like to have done, or looking forward and still want to do?

No. The BBC asked me the other day and said we're doing a programme where we ask people to go to places they've always wanted to go to. And I explained that at the age of nearly 84, if I'd had a burning desire to go to Melton Mowbray I would have gone - I don't need the BBC with a camera following me into a butcher's shop.

You've done so many things and being successful in a wide variety of activities. Was there ever a game-plan?

Everything is held together, I suppose, by communication – cooking is gastronomic communication; being a soldier, you communicate by shooting people; journalism is a literary communication. I'm also very interested in bad communication: I was listening to Radio Suffolk last weekend and the disc jockey said 'I'd like to dedicate the next record to Mrs. Johnson of Littleport who is 111 – oh, I'm sorry - who is ill.' He misread it.

You covered the Olympics as a sports correspondent a number of times. What do you make of the political wrangles over the Beijing Olympics?

You mean the Spielberg-Darfur issue? I think to agree to do some of the publicity for the Beijing Olympics and pulling out six months before the Olympics is overdoing it a bit. I think China understands its responsibility. But yes, I covered the Games several times - Melbourne, Rome, Mexico, Tokyo.

Are you still interested in sports generally? Do you still follow Plymouth Argyle football club?

No not anymore - I can't pronounce the names of any of the players. We used to have people from Plymouth. Sometimes we even went to Bristol and signed somebody! Nowadays, you have three Estonians, others from countries I've never heard of.

And you've written a number of books. Will there be any more?

Yes, I've written a lot of books, some for children. I might. I wake up in the morning and say, goody, I've lots to do. I write for the Racing Post, The Sun and The Times and do *Just A Minute*. I have race horses. I don't know about retirement, I don't understand it.

Glenn Watson

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MEETINGS & LECTURES

Tue 26th

FREEDOM FROM OIL / David Sandalow / 5pm-6.30pm / info‰21school.ox.ac.uk / www.21school.ox.ac.uk / 01865 287430 / University Museum of Natural History, Parks Rd, Oxford

THE OXFORD CASTLE / Dan Poore / 5.30pm, Free. / www.oahs.org.uk/ / Rewley House, 1, Wellington Square / 270380

GO / BADUK / WEIQI / Board-game - play or watch; free lessons / Free - all welcome. 7pm / www.britgo.org/clubs/oxford_c.html / 248775 / 273928 / Freud's, Walton St

CELEBRATING FRANCO MUSICALLY: AVANT-GARDE MUSIC IN COLD WAR SPAIN / Enrique Sacau-Ferreira (St Catherine's College) / 5.15pm. Free, all welcome. / www.music.ox.ac.uk / Denis Arnold Hall, Faculty of Music, St Aldates / 276141

JOINING THE DOTS / Meet community groups engaged with climate change, share experiences & get ideas. Incl delicious food / 6.30 - 9pm, Free, please register in advance / jo‰climatex.org / 275856 / Wolvercote Village Hall

THE ATTACK ON THE INDIVIDUAL / Lecture by Dr Celia Green, author of "The Human Evasion" / 2pm, free / www.celiagreen.com / The Mitre, High St.

DEEKSHA ENERGY TRANSMISSION / Deeksha giving, meditation and relaxation / 8.30-10pm £8/6 / 513435 / Thrangu House, 42 Magdalen Road

GLOBE CAFE FOR INTERNATIONALS / Meet new people, practice English / 8-10pm free! / www.globecafeoxford.org.uk / St Andrew's Church, Linton Rd (off Banbury Rd)

VIOLENT MEN / Prof. Michael Wood, Princeton / Clarendon Lectures in English - Yeats and the Measure of Violence / 5pm, free / St Cross Building

THE PAPER MARKET: 'BORROWING' AND 'RENTING' IDENTITIES / Ellie Vasta / 4 - 6pm / 278818 / James Martin Seminar Room , Said Business School, Park End St, OX1 1HP

EVIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE FLOWS: TRANSITION AND TRANSLATION / Prof. Aileen Clarke, 1pm / Richard Doll Building, Old Road Campus, Headington, OX3 7LF

MOSTLY MEN / Introductory talks. Meet in the Randolph Gallery (Room 1). / 1.15 - 2pm, free (optional donation £2) / Book on 278015 / Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont St

Wed 27th

HOPE IN THE COMMUNITY / Lent lecture with speakers from OXPAT, OCIC & Asylum Welcome / 7pm - free / www.stclements.org.uk / 246 674 / St Clement's Church, Marston Rd

PANEL DISCUSSION / The role of the Art School in the 21st century? / 6.30pm / Free. Booking reqd. / www.modernartoxford.org.uk / 813800 / Modern Art Oxford, 30 Pembroke St

WILBER GROUP / To explore Ken Wilber and other Integral thinkers. / 8pm, no charge / www.OxfordIntegral.org / Private venue nr Jericho Café - call 07723 029378 for details.

DEAD SEA SCROLLS & THE PRIESTLY MYSTICAL TRADITION OF THE CHARIOT / Prof R Elior / 8.00pm, free / www.ochjs.ac.uk / Yarnton Manor, Yarnton OX5 1PY / 377946

ACTIONS AND RADICAL HYBRIDITY: JOSEPH BEUYS / Prof. Alex Potts, 5pm, free, all welcome / www.hoa.ox.ac.uk / 286830 / University Museum of Natural History, Parks Rd

OXFORD UNI NEWCOMERS' CLUB / We welcome other halves of new & visiting Oxford University academics. / 10.30am - 12pm, free / www.ox.ac.uk/staff / The University Club, 11 Mansfield Road, OX1 3SZ / 271044

OXFORD-HARVARD APPLIED ETHICS / Reasoning in Law, and How It Differs from Reasoning, Frederick Schauer (Harvard) / 5.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m., free / ethics‰philosophy.ox.ac.uk / 286888 / Seminar Room 2, Old Indian Institute, Broad St

ABINGDON CRAFT CLUB / Different craft activities each week. Materials, equipment, drinks provided. Run by adult education tutor. / 10am - 12pm, £8 / 01235 550168 / Near the centre of Abingdon - call for details