

Open Doors «

Open season

This month ushers in the eighth Oxford Open Doors event, the free showcase for visitors to enjoy a sneak peek at the city's historic gems.

Organised by Oxford Preservation Trust and Oxford University, doors will open throughout the weekend of September 12th and 13th. This year, highlights include: Oxford Brookes University's Headington Campus on Saturday (noon-4pm) to visit the award-winning John Henry Brookes building with tours starting at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm and the Educating Oxford – booking essential by emailing events@brookes.ac.uk. Oxfordshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit at Woodeaton Manor will welcome visitors for a tour on Saturday at 5pm. You can see the Cold War bunker – book by calling 01865 323765 or email emergencyplanning@oxfordshire.gov.uk

St Anthony's College, at 62 Woodstock Road, welcomes you to the new library and lecture theatre building designed by Zaha Hadid on Saturday, between 11am and 3pm. Among those to join the event this year is also Oxford University Press in Walton Street, Jericho, which has been printing in the city since the 17th century. Merton College will also throw its doors open for visitors. Merton

has the oldest library in the city, dating back to the 14th century. Newer libraries on show include the Hadid-designed Investcorp Building in Woodstock Road.

There are also several events in the run-up to the weekend, including a tour of Osney Mill, on the former site of the Osney Abbey built in 1410 and the Archimedes screw that powers the site, on Thursday, September 10th.

The Oxford Preservation Trust event has been named the most successful in the country with 2011 seeing 60,000 visits to 185 different venues and events. Oxford Open Doors was devised to celebrate the city and all that makes it special, from the buildings of Sir Christopher Wren to inspirational community projects. It is a chance for everyone to show off their place and a chance for Oxford to come together and share stories.

● For a full programme, visit www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk

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