Somerville College Senior Common Room

General Information for Members, 2016-17

Introduction

Welcome to Somerville Senior Common Room (SCR). This handbook is designed to help you find your way around College by describing many of the facilities for and some of the activities of senior members. If, having read it, you are still in doubt about anything, please don't feel shy about asking someone, as they will be very happy to help.

The SCR is the social forum for senior members of the College. It is also a room, located underneath the Hall, which may be entered from the Main Quad or via the Private Dining Room (PDR). Entry to the SCR rooms (as well as most other College buildings) is by University Card which controls access. If you have a contract with the college and have any problems acquiring a University Card please contact the College Human Resources team on human.resources@some.ox.ac.uk . Please contact the Academic Office on academic.office@some.ox.ac.uk if you are an associate member of the college who needs a University card.

Membership of the SCR is wide, encompassing Fellows, Lecturers, some College staff, and retired academic staff. The President of the SCR is a senior Fellow of the College, and **Professor Benjamin Thompson** currently fills this office.. The SCR President is supported by the Fellows' Secretary.

Members whose entitlements make it likely that they will use the SCR fairly frequently are asked to pay a **subscription** towards the facilities of the SCR e.g. newspapers and presents for staff; these are currently £70 for Fellows and £35 for most others, while a number of people are not charged. (Note that this system is under review in 2016-17.)

The business of the SCR is transacted once each term at a **meeting** on the Friday of '0th Week' (the week before term begins properly).

Please note that the SCR is not responsible for everything outlined below. In particular, meals are governed by the rules of the Common Table, which is overseen by the College's Governing Body.

GUIDANCE

Finding one's way round the administrative structure of any institution can be difficult, and Somerville is no exception. Please don't hesitate to ask somebody if something is confusing. Lecturers and JRFs may find tutors in their subject area(s) the best point of reference, but any SCR member will be willing to help. The **Academic Office** team will be happy to point you in the right direction, at academic.office@some.ox.ac.uk.

The College Website http://www.some.ox.ac.uk should contain much of the essential information you may need and especially the college intranet at http://www.some.ox.ac.uk/intranet/ which where you can book in for meals and find contact details for the IT Helpdesk.

Somerville's Senior Management Team:

Dr Alice Prochaska is the College's Principal
Professor Richard Stone is Vice-Principal
Mr Andrew Parker is the Treasurer
Dr Steve Rayner is the Senior Tutor, Tutor for Admissions and Tutor for Graduates
Dr Anne Manuel is the Librarian, Archivist and Head of Information Services
Ms Sara Kalim is Head of Development

Domestic matters are ultimately overseen by the Treasurer: apart from those listed below, these include Car parking, allocation of teaching rooms, security and the College Nursery.

Catering: questions about meals, food and drink should be directed to the **Catering & Conference Manager**, Mr David Simpson at catering@some.ox.ac.uk. He has general responsibility for SCR lunch and dinner and the running of the SCR common rooms. Comments and queries about meals should be placed in the Comments Book located near the coffee machine in the SCR, or directed to the Catering & Conference Manager, or the SCR President or Fellows' Secretary.

Logistics & General: general queries about logistics (finding somewhere or someone) are best taken to the *Porters' Lodge* in the first instance, where the Lodge Manager, Mr Mark Ealey and his colleagues, are to be found. They are also responsible for issuing temporary Access Control Cards to visiting members. If in doubt, please ask at the Porters' Lodge. (Guests attending College Guest Nights will not need a card, as special arrangements are made for access on those evenings.)

Parking space in College is extremely limited and we would ask SCR members not to bring in vehicles except by prior arrangement. Any requests for parking must be submitted to the Lodge Manager, Mr Mark Ealey, for consideration and approval. Contact carpark-ing@some.ox.ac.uk

Offices: the *Housekeeping Manager*, Teresa Walsh, and her staff can be found on the ground floor of Hostel (housekeeping@some.ox.ac.uk). They can assist with requests for office equipment, furnishings, and supplies.

IT: The Somerville IT Office is staffed by Mr Chris Bamber (IT Systems Manager) and his team. They may be contacted via helpdesk@some.ox.ac.uk or via 70597, or visited at the Help Desk just inside the front door of Maitland. A lot of help and advice on IT is available on the College website https://www.some.ox.ac.uk/library-it/i-t/.

Finance is the province of the *Treasury* (House 10-12, treasury@some.ox.ac.uk); the Treasurer's Executive Assistant, Mr Paul Francis, may be contacted in House 11, or on 70624.

The *Catering Office* <u>catering@some.ox.ac.uk</u> and *Bursary* <u>bursary@some.ox.ac.uk</u> also deal with bills for some services.

The **Somerville Association** looks after alumni and a busy programme of events, in which SCR members are encouraged to participate; Liz Cooke and Lisa Gygax can be reached in the Development Office on 70632, elizabeth.cooke@some.ox.ac.uk lisa.gygax@some.ox.ac.uk

COMMON ROOMS

Pigeonholes are located House 3, where all communication with you on paper will arrive, including external and internal post. College and SCR notices are also in House 3, and access is by means of the electronic access system.

The **Senior Common Room** is where newspapers and other publications are kept and where we take drinks and gather before dinner. For security reasons the SCR is kept locked by the card access system. The **Private Dining Room** (PDR) next to it can be used for spillover. Sometimes the SCR makes use of the **Mary Somerville Room** under House (MSR) for special events.

Hot drinks can be made in the SCR. As well as a kettle and a range of tea-bags, there is an espresso and cappuccino machine which is fairly simple to use, though it's advisable to get somebody to show you the first time.

Filter **coffee** is provided at lunch time. **Tea** and biscuits are provided on weekdays from 3.30 to 5.45pm; during Full Term there are also sandwiches. Wednesday teas are more elaborate, being in principle designed to sustain those who have been in, or are about to attend, meetings, but of course all are invited to partake of the offerings (in moderation).

The **College Bar**, the 'Terrace', in Vaughan (on the Little Clarendon St side of college) is for the use of the whole college. It is open 9.30am-11pm on weekdays and 10.30am-11pm at weekends. It functions as a café during the day, as well as offering stronger drinks from 6pm, or after noon at week-ends. Its various spaces can be used for discussion, or for solo work. There are also tables on the terrace outside for when the weather is clement.

MEAL ARRANGEMENTS

Note: Dining Rights are awarded by Governing Body not the SCR and are contractual. What follows is subject to the rights each member holds with their contract of employment. Any queries about them should be directed to the Principal's PA in the first instance.

Breakfast may be taken in Hall from 8.00-9.00 am, Monday to Friday.

Lunch is served from 12.30-1.40 pm in Hall on weekdays during term, but in the PDR at weekends (provided that at least 3 SCR Members & guests have signed in). Lunch is also served in the PDR during much of the long vacation; members will be notified when the change of venue occurs. In either case, SCR members are required to collect their food from the nearby servery (or, in the PDR, from hotplates and side table). The catering assistants clear plates and cutlery. On Thursdays there are tables below High Table where members of the MCR are invited to eat with the SCR.

There are *important conventions* about seating at lunch, which are designed to promote collegiality (and also help the catering staff re-lay in a rational order on busy days):

- 1. You should normally sit in the next available free place, so that tables fill up consecutively. This means the place closest to the main body of lunchers, not one of the splinter groups (as in 3). As lunch goes on (i.e. well after 1pm) it sometimes isn't clear what the main body is, but the priorities in the next point should guide you: otherwise, try to join a large group, rather than splintering the lunchers further.
- 2. High Table starts filling from the end nearest the kitchen (although occasionally this does seem to change), and lower tables from the end close to High Table, with the table next to the window 'Lower High' to be filled first.
- 3. If you have a guest with whom you wish to hold an exclusive discussion (business or academic), it is permissible to go straight to Lower High table, or to the far end of it, to find a space where you won't be disturbed by the normal process of filling up places. But members are encouraged only to use this mechanism when necessary.
- 4. If the Principal has guests, then places may have been reserved for her party on High Table by napkins (normally at the far end).
- 5. Towards the end of lunch, it may be that seating starts again on High Table: again, try to join the main group of lunchers, rather than fragmenting.

Note: similar rules apply in the PDR when meals are taken there in vacations. Start from the top (House) end and fill downwards on either side. Discussion can take place on the side tables.SCR members lunching on Saturdays in the PDR are asked to arrive promptly at 1pm.

Guest Nights are held at 7.30 pm on Tuesdays or Fridays in Term, the latter typically in 1st, 5th & 6th weeks. Gowns are not worn for dinner. *Members are very strongly encouraged to come to some guest nights*, with or without guests (on whom see below).

There is a seating plan, so when inviting guests on the meal booking system please state their title and as much information you can to assist the Principal with seating arrangements. If the numbers dining exceed the number of places available at High Table a 'Lower High Table' is laid in the body of the Hall.

Wine, sherry and soft drinks are served in the SCR from 7.00 pm, and members can introduce their guests to their colleagues, and to the Principal, or Fellow presiding at dinner (usually the senior Fellow present). When Dinner is announced the Principal or presiding Fellow will lead the way into Hall, followed by those with guests. There is a brief Grace at the beginning of the meal, but none at the end: the Principal or presiding Fellow will simply leave with their guest(s) after everyone has stood up.

Diners then proceed to Dessert in the PDR and SCR (or occasionally the Old Bar, when diners are many), where they face a selection of cheese, fruit, red and sweet wine, coffee and chocolates, and other drinks too if desired; we do not normally sit formally round a table, so that members and their guests can stay for varying lengths of time as they choose.

Members of the SCR are encouraged to bring partners/spouses to guest nights, and particularly to do so on the first available Guest Night in Michaelmas Term, known informally as 'Spartners Night' (but to which any guest may be invited).

A Guest Night in Hilary Term doubles as a 'Supervisors Dinner' to which MCR members may invite their supervisors. SCR members may, of course, still dine by themselves and with their guests.

Special Guest Nights are held on the Friday of 5th & 6th Weeks of each term, 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Black tie is worn, the meal is slightly more elaborate, but otherwise arrangements are as for ordinary Guest Nights. Since higher quality wines are served, the charge for wine is higher. Early booking is advised: see 'Signing-in' below.

Forthcoming **Special Events** are announced at the SCR Meeting in 0th week, and circulated by email at the beginning of term and sporadically thereafter, with deadlines for signing up. See the guide at the end of this document for the various different forms of event.

Ordinary Dinner may take place in the PDR on weekday evenings as long as there is no Guest Night or other College function, and provided that *at least three SCR Members* and guests have signed in for it. The meal is left on hotplates in the PDR and members help themselves and clear away afterwards.

Some SCR members are now signing in for Wednesday evening dinner in the PDR on a regular basis, and all are welcome and encouraged to join this trend.

Academic societies involving students also sometimes use ordinary dinner to entertain guest speakers; other SCR members are also welcome to join in on these occasions.

If fewer than three SCR Members and guests are signed in for a weekend lunch or weekday dinner, it will not be provided. You can see on the website how many are signed in. Should there be less than three, members may still obtain an evening meal in College by going to the large (student/staff) Servery in Hall between 6.00 and 7.00pm and eating their meal in Hall. You do not need to sign in: simply inform the Catering Staff in the Servery that you are an SCR Member when collecting your food. If no evening meal is being served in Hall, a cold pre-plated meal can be made available by prior arrangement with the Catering Office.

Wine is not officially provided for PDR dinners, although sometimes leftovers from a guest night the previous evening may be available. Otherwise, wine may be purchased from the College Bar on the night; or you may order it in advance from the Catering and Conference Manager, David Simpson, if you wish to take advantage of the slightly lower SCR rate for wine from the College; in addition, recently a sheet of available wines has been available at the time, from which diners can order bottles via the serving staff. In the last two cases this wine will be charged to your battels (see below under 'Charges').

No PDR evening meal is provided at weekends, although pre-plated cold meals can be ordered in advance by those with appropriate dining rights.

SIGNING-IN FOR MEALS

There is a web-based system for booking ordinary lunches and dinners, Guest Nights and other special events. The website is very simple and user friendly, but if you find something confusing, please let the IT department know (helpdesk@some.ox.ac.uk) and they will assist you. The URL for the facility is: https://meals.some.ox.ac.uk/

The system uses the Oxford University Single Sign-On (SSO) account name (e.g. Some1234) and password. The logon screen is common across the University, but if you do need help please contact the IT Helpdesk on 70597 or email helpdesk@some.ox.ac.uk.

If you cannot access the meal booking system and wish to make a booking, then please contact the Catering Office in the first instance: catering@some.ox.ac.uk or call 70641.

The main screen offers various choices in the form of buttons:

- 1. Lunch Booking in Hall: Click to book yourself for lunch on a normal day.
- 2. Dinner Booking in Hall: Click to book yourself for dinner on a normal day (if any).
- 3. Dietary Requirements.
- 4. Other Events: Click to book for Guest Nights, Special Guest Night, the MCR/SCR symposium, etc.

For Guest Nights and special events, the Catering Office will send round a timetable with deadlines for signing in: after this point a place cannot be guaranteed for the most popular events, because they will have been opened to students, who in some cases (e.g. Special Guest Nights) fill the Hall quickly.

Important points to note:

- Use the calendar to select the date for which you wish to sign on for ordinary lunch or dinner.
- You can only sign on and off until 10:00am on the same day of the lunch or dinner you want to sign on/off for. After that time you will need to call the Pantry Office on (2)70641. This is also explained on the website.
- For Guest Nights and other special events, the web-based system closes automatically two days before the event (at midnight). Members may still book by the end of lunchtime the day before the event (e.g. by 2pm Monday for a Tuesday Guest Night) by contacting the Pantry Office on (2)70641 or by email to: catering@some.ox.ac.uk
- Once you have signed on, you can sign off lunch or dinner from these same menu options. To sign off Guest Nights or other special events, you will need to contact the Pantry Office on (2)70641, or by email to: catering@some.ox.ac.uk
- You can specify up to four guests (please add their affiliation) and your guest's
 dietary requirements, if any. The Principal has particularly asked for information
 about guests to be provided for Guest Nights and other special events, to be used in
 drawing up seating plans and because it is helpful to those deciding whether to
 attend, to know who our guests will be.

- You can specify whether you are having a meal or a sandwich. If you have a sandwich, your guests will be also signed on for a sandwich.
- Rather than signing on for each individual lunch, it is possible to make block-bookings week-by-week if you do so in advance: select 'Book on Monday to Friday' (or even Sunday to Saturday) from the bottom of the screen. If you do this, remember to sign off for any particular day if you know you are not going to come.
- You can see the list of SCR members and their guests attending any dinner or event at the side of the sign up page.

Charges

Many meals taken by SCR members will be free, according to the dining rights in your contract, but some members will pay for meals above-quota. All members pay for guests and for wine. On Guest Nights a single charge is made for all the drink across the evening, but if you don't drink anything you can avoid this by ticking the relevant box on the online form. A list of current charges for meals, guests and guest-night wines is circulated by the Catering & Conference Manager.

The Treasury issues a bill known as 'battels' for these various items. These are raised monthly; for example, January Guest Lunches/Dinners/Wine etc. will be charged at the start of February, and the payment will be deducted from stipend at the end of February, or you will be asked to pay by then.

Guests

Members are welcome to bring guests into college for both academic and social purposes. The SCR may be used for coffee and tea, and the PDR may also be used for meetings or discussion in small groups when it is not otherwise in use. The College Bar at the Terrace is available to members when it is open, and all are strongly encouraged to use it.

Most members have the right to bring guests to meals according to their entitlements; guests should be signed in on the system, as above. Lunch-guests will normally be for academic or other work meetings. Dinner and guest nights are also used more socially, and members are also encouraged to invite their partners or spouses for any guest night.

Graduate students – of Somerville or elsewhere – may be brought into lunch or to Guest Nights; on Thursdays the MCR may lunch on the Lower-High tables, and SCR members can arrange to meet their graduate advisees there. It is not permitted to bring undergraduates to High Table for lunch, unless in exceptional circumstances (e.g. for a meeting with college officers); they may be brought to Tuesday Guest Nights, but this opportunity should be used with discretion (and this practice has largely fallen into desuetude).

By convention, members do not usually invite more than two guests to meals except by arrangement with colleagues who are prepared to help entertain them. It is also customary not to bring in the same guest for more than once a week on a regular basis, but visitors from outside Oxford can of course be entertained for several days running.

Cellar

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The SCR maintains a small cellar, from which members are welcome to order wine for College functions. A wine list and order forms are available in the Pigeonholes Room near the sign-up folders for meals and events. The Treasury will debit wine from battels, or issue separate bills, on a termly basis. It is possible to buy a very limited supply for personal use, but the Catering and Conference Manager or Treasurer (who heads the Wine Group) should be consulted first.

Additional Notes on Events Held in College

All SCR Members are encouraged to attend the occasions listed below, in addition to coming regularly to Guest Nights. *You are particularly requested to prioritize the following:*

Michaelmas Dinner (MT, Thursday 7 th week)	see §1 below
College Christmas Party (Christmas Vac, Friday of 10 th week)	§2
SCR Leavers' Party (TT, Thursday 9 th week)	§3
Other occasions which you are strongly encouraged to attend are:	
The SCR Welcome Party (§3) after dinner on Wednesday of 0 th week in MT.	
Foundation Dinner (HT, Tuesday 7 th week)	§1
Leavers' Dinner (TT, Friday 8 th week)	§1

An SCR presence is desirable for occasions when former students and parents are present, notably *Degree Days* and *Somerville Association* events for alumni (§6): Fellows and Lecturers are particularly requested to try to attend when their former students are present.

Families are particularly welcome on *Fireworks Night* (§2) and the *Family Day* (§6), as well as the *Carol Service* (§7).

1 ALL COMMON ROOMS

Michaelmas Dinner

Thursday of 7th Week, Michaelmas Term

This is the main annual College dinner, with toasts and brief speeches by the Principal and the JCR President and, usually, some form of entertainment. As the Hall cannot accommodate the whole college, attendance at dinner is restricted to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students. SCR members sit at High Table; this is a Somerville-only event.

JCR/MCR/SCR Symposium

each term, Thursday 6th week

Drinks in Flora Anderson Hall are followed by two short talks by one member each of the JCR and MCR on some aspect of their current work, followed by further drinks and nibbles.

Burns Night

Tuesday night nearest to 25th January

The Haggis is welcomed by bagpipes, addressed by a member of the SCR, and served to all attending this Tuesday Guest Night.

Foundation Dinner

Tuesday of 7th Week, Hilary Term

To celebrate the naming of the College for Mary Somerville. By convention, the dress code is black and red (see the College website for pictures!). This is a Somerville-only event.

JCR and MCR Leavers Dinner

Friday of 8th Week, Trinity Term

Fellows and Tutors are invoted to dinner to say goodbye to those students finishing their course.

2 WHOLE COLLEGE

Fireworks Night

normally 5th November, Michaelmas Term

Mulled wine in the PDR and a simple meal in Hall are provided free of charge for SCR members and their families before the Fireworks on the Quad.

Carol Service

Sunday of 8th week, Michaelmas Term

A traditional service of readings and carols, sung by the Chapel Choir.

Christmas Party

Christmas Vacation, often Friday of 10th week

A lunch party for all members of academic, administrative and domestic staff.

Other Staff Parties Long Vacation

Sometimes a barbeque is held on the quad for all college staff.

3 SCR OCCASIONS

SCR Party to Welcome New Members

Wednesday of 0th Week, Michaelmas Term

Held in the SCR/PDR after the Undergraduate First-Year Dinner; post-prandial dessert and drinks. New and old members are strongly encouraged to attend this event!

SCR Leavers' Party

Thursday of 9th Week, Trinity

Term

End of Trinity Term

Members are invited to come to the annual SCR Leavers party held in the SCR/PDR and on the lawns, to bid farewell to departing SCR Members.

4 SCR/JCR OCCASIONS

The routine entertainment of their own pupils is left to the discretion of individual Tutors, and varies considerably from one School to another.

Undergraduate First-Year Dinner

Wednesday of 0th Week, Michaelmas Term

Fellows and Tutors invite their own students to drinks before dinner; there is a reception in the SCR for those who don't (or who don't have students). At dinner in Hall Fellows and Tutors sit with their subject-groups in the body of the Hall. There is a brief speech of welcome by the Principal. After dinner, junior members retire to their own common rooms, and senior members to a party in the SCR (see SCR Occasions below).

Subject Dinners Wednesday of 2nd Week and Tuesday of 6th Week, Hilary Term

Organised by Tutors for their pupils on one of the dates above, by arrangement with the Catering Management. There is no charge to the students or staff, but there is a fixed college allowance.

Finalists' ('Schools') Parties

End of Trinity Term

For those who have finished their undergraduate courses (3rd/4th years); organized by Tutors individually, although the Catering Management offers a set menu. There is no charge to the students or staff, but there is a fixed college allowance. Extra wine / catering may be added to battels.

5 SCR/MCR OCCASIONS

Graduate First-Year Dinner

Monday of 0th Week, Michaelmas Term

Fellows, Tutors and JRFs are invited to join the new graduate students for a welcome drinks in the MSR followed by dinner in Hall.

MCR/SCR Symposium

each term, Thursday of 2nd week

The MCR and SCR meet for drinks in the Margaret Thatcher Centre, after which there are two short talks by members of each common room on some aspect of their current research. Supper follows in the Dining Hall for all attending.

Supervisors Dinner

Tuesday of 4th Week, Hilary Term

The 4th Week Guest Night in Hilary Term doubles as a 'Supervisors Dinner' to which MCR members may invite their supervisors and/or College advisors.

6 ENTERTAINMENT OF SOMERVILLE ALUMNI

Degree Days

Occasional Saturdays each term and during the Long Vacation

A list of candidates is posted in the Pigeonholes Room a week in advance. The Principal hosts drinks/afternoon tea in the College which is an opportunity for Tutors to meet former pupils and their families.

Gaudy

End of 9th Week Trinity Term

The Dinner on Saturday evening, to which particular years of Somervillians are invited, the AGM of the Association of Senior Members (of which Fellows are members), and a Garden Party, to which all past and present members of the college are invited with their families (rather an all-age affair). A strong SCR presence is desirable.

Somerville Family Day

July/September

SCR members and Alumni are invited to bring their families for a Celebration of Learning.

Somerville Association

The alumni (or Old Members) association is particularly active both in Oxford and round the country, with several active London branches. Information on these events is circulated

from time to time round the SCR, many of which are open to us; and the Association Officers (Liz Cooke and Lisa Gygax) may be approached via the Development Office.

Year and Subject Reunions for alumni are arranged from time to time by the Somerville Association officers in the Development Office. At present there is a regular 50-year reunion in September (thus in 2015 for those matriculating in 1965). Subjects are encouraged to hold reunions for past students, especially those taught by current Tutors.

7 OCCASIONAL EVENTS

Memorial Events

Current Fellows are strongly encouraged to attend Memorial Services or Meetings for former Fellows, and to help entertain family and guests in College afterwards. Gowns are worn at these occasions.

Special Lectures (Bryce, Rathbone, Monica Fooks, Dorothy Hodgkin)

Held from time to time; a good SCR attendance is desirable both at the lecture itself and to help entertain the speaker and other guests afterwards.

Concerts and Services

The Carol Service is held at the end of Michaelmas Term, as above. There is also a Benefactors' Carol Concert on Thursday of 8th week in MT, and at the end of HT and TT there is usually a substantial college concert. The Music Society (SMS) puts on many other concerts and events throughout the year. The Chapel Choir sings Choral Evensong at 6pm on Sundays during Term, followed by a buffet dinner in Hall for all those attending.

Domus Dinners or lunches (Fellows)

Held occasionally to enable Fellows to discuss urgent and/or important items of college business at greater length than is possible at Governing Body. No Guests attend these events.

Other events at which SCR presence is highly desirable include **occasional celebrations** for members of the College who have been awarded a special honour, e.g. FRS or FBA.

Benjamin Thompson (President of the SCR)
Saphire Richards (Tutorial & Graduate Officer, Academic Officer)