

Not only artists, everyone needs time off to soak up good impressions, to 'feed the soul'. This day of talks is designed to give you the best such food, in good company and in one of the most beautiful settings in Oxfordshire.

Fee: £45 (£40 if received by 15th May) includes refreshments and buffet lunch.

Pre-booking is essential. To obtain forms call or email us, as below.

Finding Waterperry

From Oxford take the A40 towards London and turn off at the Wheatley exit, before reaching the motorway. Follow the brown signs to Waterperry Gardens.

From London and Banbury, leave M40 at Junction 8 and follow signs to Wheatley and then to Waterperry Gardens.

Car Parking

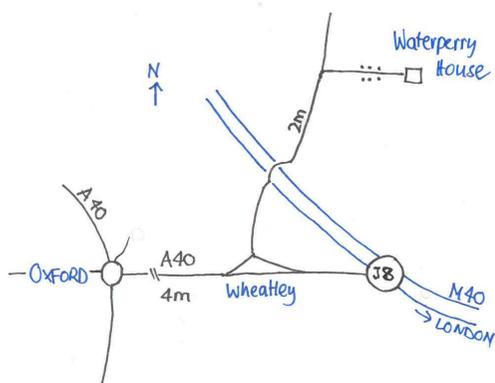
Drive up to the house from where you will be directed to free parking.

Disabled

The house has wheelchair access and all floors are accessible by lift.

Programme

- 9.30 – 10.00 Registration and coffee
- 10.00 – 11.00 Jeremy Naydler
- 11.00 – 11.30 Refreshments
- 11.30 – 12.30 Andrew Sisson
- 12.30 – 2.00 Buffet lunch
- 2.00 – 3.00 Bruce Ramell/Discantus
- 3.00 – 3.30 Refreshments
- 3.30 – 4.30 Ian Mason
- 4.30 – 5.00 Convivium



School of Economic Science

Registered Charity No 313115



School of Economic Science (Oxford Branch)

Enquiries and Bookings: David and Linda Smith
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Portraying the Divine



A Day with Dante at Waterperry House

Waterperry, nr Wheatley, Oxon OX33 1JZ

Sunday June 2, 2013 9.30 – 5.00

Ian Mason *Banking on Dante*

Jeremy Naydler *The Journey of the Soul*

Bruce Ramell *The Poet's Ear*

Andrew Sisson *Love in the Divine Comedy*

Members of Discantus

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The Journey of the Soul in Dante's *Divine Comedy*

The journey of the soul to God that Dante describes in his epic poem begins in confusion and despair. It then proceeds through the dark depths of Hell, followed by the arduous and painful climb up the mountain of Purgatory. Finally, in the last part of the poem, we traverse the planetary spheres to the highest reaches of Heaven, and the culminating mystic vision of the divine source of light and love. In this illustrated talk, Jeremy Naydler will give an overview of the *Divine Comedy*, including some of the profound psychological and spiritual teachings that it contains.

Jeremy Naydler is a philosopher and cultural historian. He is also a professional gardener and his most recent book is *Gardening as a Sacred Art*. On the subject of gardening, Jeremy has also written a volume of poems, *Soul Gardening* and a brief manifesto for gardeners, *In Defence of the Flower Garden*.



Love in the *Divine Comedy*

The theme of love runs right through Dante's extraordinary vision of Hell, Purgatory and Paradise. How are we to understand that Hell was made by 'Supreme Wisdom and First Love'? Or that Love is the foundation of all our faults, as well as of our redemption? This talk explores what Dante has to teach us as we each make our pilgrimage across the river of life.

Andrew Sisson first studied *La Divina Commedia* as an undergraduate, and has found Dante to be a constant and true guide through the hazards of a busy professional life.

The Poet's Ear

Poetry and music are sisters. What did Dante listen to? What was the music of his time? From the abundant references to musical instruments in his writings, we know it was both sacred and secular, but it is the former which carries the greater influence in his work. This session will include a survey of Dante's musical references as well as descriptions of the types of music which he must have known and loved.

Bruce Ramell is a retired headmaster who has spent much of his life working in the world of music. He has particular affection for early music and for choral singing. He formed the choral group DISCANTVS in 1988 and it has performed in many churches and cathedrals in this country and abroad. Members of Discantvs will allow us to hear sounds from Dante's musical world, the world which formed him as a poet.



Banking on Dante

Seven hundred years ago Dante had a vision of divine justice as three worlds, Hell, Purgatory and Paradise. In the seventh circle of Hell he meets the usurers suffering the eternal torment of sitting, weighed down by their purses, on burning sand under a rain of fire. As Dante saw it, the buying and selling of money as though it were a commodity creates only spurious wealth and results in injury to the earth (Nature) and exploitation of labour (Art). Was he right, and what is the relevance of Dante's vision today?

Ian Mason, Principal, School of Economic Science, is a practising barrister who has studied philosophy and economics in the School for many years. One of his main interests has been the development of courses in economics-with-justice and he sees the combination of justice and economics as being critically important in the present time.

