



Pembroke College Garden Party 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the timings for the Garden Party?

The party runs from 1:30 pm (30 minutes earlier than last year) to 4:00 pm. The only entry point is via the North Quad Gate, where the registration desk is located. Afterwards, many guests head to the Pembroke boathouse to cheer on the Pembroke Rowers at the Summer Eights.

2. What is the dress code?

Guests are encouraged to wear smart casual or summer formal attire (e.g. dresses, skirts, collared shirts and smart trousers). Blazers, rowing blazers and ties are welcome but not required. As the event takes place on the lawns, we recommend avoiding stilettos.

3. Where can I park?

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer parking at Pembroke due to limited availability. We recommend using Oxford's Park & Ride services or one of the city centre car parks and encourage you to allow extra time for travel into the city, especially on a Saturday.

- [Worcester Street Car Park](#)
- [Gloucester Green Car Park](#)
- [Oxpens – Large city-centre car park](#)
- [Westgate Car Park](#)
- [Redbridge Park and Ride](#)
- [Peartree Park and Ride](#)
- [Thornhill Park and Ride](#)

4. Can you let me know more about the temporary congestion charge?

Oxford City Council have introduced a temporary congestion charge. This means that anyone driving through any of the congestion charge locations without a permit will have to pay a daily £5 congestion charge, or a fine if not paid. There are six charge locations around the city, [which can be found on the map on this webpage](#), along with charging times. Full information regarding the Temporary Congestion Charge can be found [here](#).

5. How does registration work?

Like last year, there will be a registration gazebo at the North Quad entrance, with separate signs for alumni and staff. Please queue at the appropriate sign and be ready to give your name and the names of your guests. A member of the Events or Development team will sign you in and issue your wristbands.

6. What are the wristbands for?

Wristbands confirm that you have registered and are part of the Garden Party.

- Blue and white striped wristbands - Alumni
- Blue wristbands – Staff/Former Staff
- Yellow wristbands - Children (under 18)



7. I am attending with a group; can we all sit together?

Seating is unreserved and available on a first-come, first-served basis, so arriving promptly should allow you to sit together. Reserved seating is available only for guests with specific accessibility requirements, which can be noted on the booking form. You are very welcome to bring a picnic rug, particularly if you plan to use the children's and families' area in Old Quad.

8. What happens if it rains?

We have a wet weather plan in place should it be needed, although we are always hopeful for sunshine.

9. Is the event accessible for wheelchair users or those with mobility needs?

Yes. Step-free access is available via the ramp into Chapel Quad, and there is an accessible toilet located in Old Quad. If you require reserved seating or any additional support, please indicate this on the booking form in advance.

10. Is there a quiet space available if needed?

Yes, the Rookery Room will be the designated quiet room for guests who may prefer a calm space away from the main event. In addition, the Hall will remain open and may also be used as a quieter area if needed. If you would like any further information in advance of the event, please do not hesitate to contact the Events Team.

11. Will there be photography at the event?

Yes, a photographer will be present. Photographs may be used in college publications, on the website, and on social media. If you would prefer not to be photographed, please indicate this on the booking form and collect a 'no photography' badge from the Welcome Desk on arrival.

12. Who should I speak to on the day if I have a problem?

Please speak to a member of the Events Team, who will be wearing badges and checking guests in on arrival. You can also contact the Porters on duty, who are based in the Porters' Lodge.

13. I can no longer attend; can I have a refund?

If you notify us at least two weeks before the event, we can offer a refund.

Unfortunately, we are unable to issue refunds for cancellations made after **Monday 18th May**, except in extenuating circumstances.

14. Where are the toilets located?

Two toilets (one male and one female) are in the Samuel Johnson Building (Staircase 8). Four unisex toilets are situated underneath Hall, by Staircase 10. There is also a large accessible toilet with baby changing facilities in Old Qua