MANSFIELD COLLEGE IS VEGETARIANS' CHOICE AT OXFORD

Thursday 8 December, 2016

Mansfield College, Oxford, has won the award for the best Oxford College offering vegetarian and vegan food.

The poll launched at the beginning of Michaelmas term invited members of the University to rate Oxford Colleges according to their provision of vegetarian food. Mansfield College tops the poll, with Worcester College coming second, and Kellogg College coming third.

The worst colleges were Magdalen College, followed by St John's College, and Jesus College.

Over 200 people voted and Mansfield was the clear favourite. The ranking of the Colleges can be found here.

The initiative, based on the well-known Norrington Table for ranking colleges according to their examination results, was pioneered by the Oxford University Animal Ethics Society.

Society President Tobias Thornes (Oriel College) said, "We all hope that this will encourage Oxford Colleges to improve their provision of vegetarian food. After all many colleges have fixed catering fees, which means students have to pay for the food whether they like it or not."

All College Bursars were invited to state whether they provide vegetarian and vegan options, indicate whether they have chefs trained in vegetarian and vegan food, and supply a sample menu.

"Sadly not all the college bursars replied to our emails," said the Revd Professor Andrew Linzey, the Society's Senior Member, "and we received a disappointing reply from the Chair of the Domestic Bursars' Committee, who said that 'Some colleges have commented they don't much care where they come in the proposed table.'" His letter can be found here.

One member of the University summed up the reactions of many students:

"Colleges who don't provide clearly marked, nutritious, and readily available vegetarian and vegan alternatives, as a matter of course, need to get with the times. Providing good [food] for their students on an equal basis, whatever the diet, is fundamental to their health, and their happiness at Oxford. Hopefully, with the Veggie Norrington Table such discrepancies in hall standards will become more apparent, and under-performing colleges will be able work with their students, as well as other colleges, to make their food, and hence life at their colleges, much better!"

The results were independently calibrated by former Oxford Student Max Elder and will be the subject of a research paper by Dr Kay Peggs, Honorary Professor of Sociology at Kingston University.

For more press information and interviews please contact Dr. Sam Calvert, SC Marketing Communications

sam@samcalvert.plus.com **/ 01782 505430 / 07967 042050.**

Notes for Editors:

1. The Oxford University Animal Ethics Society was founded in 2007 with the aim of providing a forum for the discussion of the moral status of animals. See http://www.oxfordanimalethics.com/who-we-are/animal-ethics-society/.

2. This initiative is being supported by the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, which is an independent centre based in Oxford. It aims to pioneer ethical perspectives on animals through research, teaching, and publication. See www.oxfordanimalethics.com.

3. The officers of the Oxford University Animal Ethics Society (2016-2017) are:

President: Tobias Thornes (DPhil in Climate Physics, Oriel College)

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Oxford Animal Ethics Society :: Veggie Norrington Table :: Vegetarian :: Vegan :: Oxford University :: Oxford Colleges ::

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Vice President: Adam Bridgen (DPhil in English, Linacre College)

Secretary: Rivers Gambrell (DPhil in History, Kellogg College)

Treasurer: Katie Javanaud (DPhil in Theology, Keble College)

Company Contact:

Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics

T. 01782505430
E. sam@samcalvert.plus.com
W. https://www.oxfordanimalethics.com

Additional Contact(s):
Samantha Calvert, SC Marketing Communications
sam@samcalvert.plus.com
01782 505430 / 07967 042050

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