

OUTREACH

LOCAL AND NATIONAL OUTREACH

Centre has continued to develop an active programme of public engagement, locally and nationally, including drawing on the advice of its Strategy Advisory Committee. The completion of the new building last year continues to attract positive public interest and has, naturally, been the focal point for many of these activities.

OXFORD OPEN DOORS

This annual programme, organized on 9-10 September 2017 by the Oxford Preservation Trust, has long been a firm fixture in the Centre's calendar. This year the tours were booked to capacity and hundreds of visitors enjoyed the opportunity to view the buildings and gardens. Centre Fellows and staff acted as guides, but also took the opportunity to explain the role and objectives of the Centre and its role in wider academic life in Oxford.

OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST

For the 40th annual Oxford Preservation Trust Awards, the Centre's building was chosen as the winner in the New Building category. The Centre's architects and others involved in the project, received the award at a ceremony held at St. Catherine's College in November 2017.

FINANCIAL TIMES OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

The festival now attracts very large numbers of visitors to Oxford on an annual basis. This year's festival, held on 17-25 March was no exception and, as is by now traditional, visits to the Centre were part of the programme. Once again the objective was not just to highlight architectural quality, but also to introduce a wider audience to the Centre's role and academic mission.

OUTREACH TO PARLIAMENTARIANS

Many members of both Houses of Parliament have continued to participate in our major events, including lecture series and the Young Muslim Leadership Programme.

OUTREACH TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Lord Lieutenant and his Deputies and the Lord Mayor and leading Councilors have also participated in Centre activities.

OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS

The Centre is developing a programme of school visits with the assistance of a newly appointed Education Officer attached to the mosque. This enables teachers from local schools to bring classes of pupils to visit the Centre in the context of delivering the religious education syllabus.

OUTREACH TO CIVIL SERVANTS AND POLICY MAKERS

It remains a Centre priority to establish productive dialogue between academics and policymakers and this has continued to be an important component of the Centre's academic programmes.

OUTREACH TO MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

Representatives of a range of Muslim organizations have taken part in Centre activities, including those devoted to interfaith dialogue, for example the joint conference, reported elsewhere in this volume, with the Muslim World League.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

This was the major purpose of the above-mentioned conference. Also relevant is the important visit and lecture by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nichols and the Director's visit to the Vatican, during which he was received in audience by His Holiness Pope Francis.

OCIS WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

The website has been refreshed to present information in a more modern and user-friendly format and the newsletter is increasingly distributed electronically to readers worldwide.