

## Oxford background reading

There are pamphlet & pocket guides available on a multiplicity of topics but below are more in-depth treatments to look out for in your local library or bookshops

### Architecture

Tyack, G *Oxford: An Architectural Guide* (1998)

### History

Victoria County History *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 3*, the University of Oxford

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol3>

Victoria County History *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume 4*, the City of Oxford

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/oxon/vol4>

Prest, JM *Illustrated history of Oxford University* (1993)

Morris, J *Oxford* (3<sup>rd</sup> edn, 2001)

Sturdy, D *Historic Oxford* (2004)

Clapinson, M *Brief history of the Bodleian Library* (2015)

There is of course OUP's 8 volume *History of the University of Oxford* ....

### Fiction

Wholly or partially set "in Oxford" or about Oxonians/Oxfordians Oldest works first

Bede, C *The adventures of Mr Verdant Green, an Oxford Freshman & Further adventures ... an Oxford undergraduate* (1853) Of its time & so popular then continued by *Further adventures* (1854) and concluded by *Mr. Verdant Green married and done for* (1857)

Hardy, T *Jude the Obscure* (1896)

Berbohm, M *Zuleika Dobson, or, an Oxford love story* (1911) A satire of Edwardian Oxford

Waugh, E *Brideshead Revisited* (1945) Begins in 1920s Oxford

Larkin, P *Jill* (1946) A northerner's experience of 1940s Oxford

Byatt, AS *The game* (1967) Stress between sisters – one is an Oxford don, the other a successful writer.

Stewart, JIM *A staircase in Surrey* a quintet - *The Gaudy* (1974); *Young Pattullo* (1975); *A Memorial Service* (1976); *The Madonna of the Astrolabe* (1977); *Full Term* (1978)

Mariás, J *All Souls* (English trans. 1992) Winner of the 1990 Ciudad de Barcelona Prize, a visiting Spanish lecturer's experiences at Oxford.

Pulman, P *His Dark Materials* trilogy (1995-2000) & add-on *Lyra's Oxford*

Willis, C *To say nothing of the dog* (1998) It's 2057 & OU's time travel research falls into wrong hands...

Jeschke, M *The Oxford Chronicles* series starting with *Inklings* (2004) – 1960s Oxford & US woman student comes up for her junior year, *Expectations, Evasions, Intentions*.

Skelton, M *Endymion Spring* (2006) Written for juvenile audience but in the name of research...

Garner, E *The Ingenious Edgar Jones* (2007) The changing scene of Victorian Oxford

Atkins, C. P ; Johnson, M, editors *A dodo at Oxford : the unreliable account of a student and his pet dodo* (2010) A 17th-century diary found in a second-hand bookshop in Oxford (allegedly).

Alderman, N *The Lessons* (2010) College students

Harkness, D *A Discovery of Witches* (2011)

Huth, A *Laughter in the willows* (2011) A short story on the idyllic second year summer of an undergraduate

Acland, Simon *The waste land* (2011) a Holy Grail quest which starts with the contents of a college library

Flitcroft, I *The reluctant cannibals* (2013) OU academics when away from their books

### Whodunits

Masterman, JC *An Oxford tragedy* (1933)  
Blake, N *A Question of Proof* (1935)  
Sayers, DL *Gaudy Night* (1935)  
Crispin, E *The Case of the Gilded Fly* (1944)  
Innes, M *Operation pax* (1951) Includes the Bodleian; *Death At the President's Lodgings* (1959)  
Dexter, C Morse novels published 1975–1999 *The wench is dead* (1989) includes Oxford libraries  
Caudwell, S *Thus was Adonis murdered* (1981) Amateur detectives are an Oxford Legal History Don, & some fledgling barristers  
Dibdin, M *Dirty Tricks* (1991)  
Holt, H *The cruelest month* (1992) Murder of a librarian  
Stallwood, V *Oxford Exit* (1994)  
Strong, T *The poison tree* (1997)  
Pears, I *An instance of the fingerpost* (1998) Set in 1660s  
White, M *Equinox* (2006)  
Blake, V *Jumping the cracks* (2008)  
McDermid, V *Trick of the Dark* (2011)