

Safety on Outings to a Club

Group outings to a club or bar are a feature of undergraduate social life in Cambridge. The College has an interest in ensuring that outings are conducted safely and responsibly. Hence these simple points of advice:

On a group outing, you should make sure you have a leader, and that he or she knows his or her role.

The group leader has special responsibilities throughout the evening. He or she is responsible for using his or her reasonable best efforts to make the outing run safely and without incident, from the time you all leave College until you return. The group leader needs to stay clear-headed throughout. If he or she drinks at all, it should be kept to a minimum.

You should all genuinely choose to join the outing. You should not feel under pressure to join if it is not your kind of event. There are plenty of other ways of socialising and meeting people in Cambridge.

If you take any cash with you, keep it to a planned minimum. Bank cards are best left at home.

Be wary of the risks of pre-drinking before you go out. It is best avoided, and very unwise indeed on an empty stomach! Most things that go wrong on a trip out to a club start with pre-drinking. You may feel fine when you leave College but soon be in a bad way once you are out.

Everyone in the group should keep a gentle eye open for each other's interests, and be willing to intervene if events take turn for the worse. Nobody should feel any pressure to do anything that he or she is not comfortable with.

A member of the group must not be left on his or her own unless the group leader is sure he or she can get back to College safely. Don't ever abandon a member of the group!

Sometimes things do go awry. If a member of the group gets badly drunk, be sure to bring him or her back to College to the porters. They will know best how to help. It is very dangerous to leave a badly drunken person on his or her own, or for him or her to be looked after by a person who has been drinking or who may not know how to look after him or her properly.

If you feel unsafe while you are out, you can go to the porters' lodge of any college for help.

And, finally, on your way back into St John's, please say "Goodnight" to the St John's porters. They like to talk to you, and one day, very likely, they will do you a good turn!

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