10. Oxford Botanical Garden

After the City of Oxford High School closed in 1966 I used to travel by bus to Oxford School in Glanville Road, Cowley. This journey took me through the center of Oxford crossing over Magdalen Bridge. If I looked right I gazed down upon the Botanical Garden, one of Oxford's most beloved and least visited places. The gardens have been there since the early 17th century. As one enters them through a huge stone arch a peace descends upon you. Time slows and the sound of bees forms a cosmic microwave background, playing an echo from the 17th century.



The gardens border the Isis where are moored tens of punts, silently waiting Ratty and Mole. The garden was originally a physic garden filled with medicinal herbs. Today those same herbs are used to make a gin.





Magdalen tower rises in the near distance above the herbaceous borders and, when it strikes the hour, you would not wish to be anywhere else.