Issue 21, 2012

Will Hutton and his first 100 days
Hertford alumni; where are they now?
The 50th anniversary of The Hertford Society
Hertford, the first 100 days...

Will Hutton Principal

Hertford College offers its newly elected Principals a low-key first day. I know of at least one Oxford college where the incoming head of house is met by a delegation of fellows at the main gate who at a special service in the chapel then present him or her ceremonially with the keys to the college. At Hertford I could not be sure for my first hours in the job whether anybody knew I was here. The Bursar introduced himself, and a welcome card from one fellow indicated that I was expected. But apart from that there was little to judge whether anyone thought my office was occupied or not.

In reality my first day had started months earlier when I began meeting college officers and other fellows, and there had been a very good welcome dinner in May just after my election. I rather liked the lack of fuss and matter-of-fact beginning. After all it was not as though I was ignorant of what was expected of me; part of the reason for trying to meet so many fellows before starting and in the first few weeks was to get a handle on what they thought my priorities should be. My task was to find my own way how effectively to respond – and my first day was just another staging post in what will be a long voyage of discovery.

Oxford can move in mysterious ways.

But as I learned, there were lots of genial eyes watching my progress and ready to nudge me in the right direction as needed. It could be a timely reminder when I needed to don a gown for an occasion or the standing of a particular bye-law or any one of the host of more substantive issues that come one’s way. But collectively it seemed as though the fellows had unspokenly decided to give me the space to find my own way and my own solutions, while gently helping me away from the multiple elephant traps that exist for any novice Principal. I was and am very grateful.

In any case, as I have quickly learned, the head of house job in any Oxford college is like none other in any walk of life. The job title may suggest that you are the formal leader, but in truth these are phenomenally democratic institutions – and the Principal/Warden/President/Provost has to respect and work within that democracy. College business proceeds through its network of committees – themselves no less democratic – which then make recommendations to the college parliament, its governing body. With three governing body meetings a term, Hertford in essence is governed by these nine quasi-parliaments. As Principal, I chair the key committees and the governing body – but it is a role whose constitutional position is more closely analogous to some combination of speaker, leader of the House of Commons and secretary of state, rather than a chief executive, head-master, minister or even executive chair. The role is to listen, persuade and be persuaded in order to get the agreement to lay the foundation of subsequent action; you can’t just lead and do as in other executive jobs.

Yet I relish this democratic atmosphere, and have enjoyed my first months hugely. Hertford likes to think of itself as an informal and friendly college – and so it has proved. I have not only been supported by the fellows, but by the undergraduates and graduates here. The College is grading its icons for a genuinely innovative and energetic approach to outreach starting next summer. This would be impossible without the enthusiasm of the students, who are our best ambassadors, along with the conviction of the fellowship that we must do all we can to promote yet better access to Hertford in the great tradition begun by Neil Tanner. More prosaically, an incoming Principal can ambitiously lay on a series of talks – ‘The Hertford Conversations’ – from public figures as I am doing; but without the JCR and MCR turning out in force, they become damp squibs.

It is exhilarating learning the extraordinary diverse range of research interests of our fellows. I spent two days in the science laboratories early on, and then got some of Hertford’s science (and humanities) fellows to join others from the wider University to give a festival of science to the Editor of The Observer, John Muirhead – who was researching ideas for a special Observer Science feature and for the annual TED (Technology, Education and Design) it runs. The TED catchline is ‘Ideas worth spreading’ – and Hertford has them in abundance: frontier work on cancer, on the human genome, on new materials, astronomy, on meningitis, on language – not to mention what is going on in, say, human rights, Irish history, employment law, English literature, philosophy or mathematics. For a generalist like me the whole experience has been jaw-dropping. I have become an evangelist for the College – and indeed for Oxford.

Nor has the support stopped there. One of our main challenges as a college is to up our game in fundraising; for example we are one of the last of the 29 mixed Oxford colleges not to have any endowed fellowships – and in today’s world that is a genuine threat to our future, and which we are aiming to redress with endowing fellowships in history and economics. Meeting our Old Members to enlist them to the cause, and recruiting a cross-section to join our newly constituted Development Committee, has made me very optimistic we can do what has to be done. Universally and unhesitatingly they are ready to put their shoulders to the fundraising wheel.

So it has been good. The flat in the Lodgings offers a view from the bedroom window of the Bodleian and Radcliffe Camera that must be one of Europe’s best, and an early morning run in the Parks is beautiful – but also a vital antidote to Oxford’s disconcerting love of eating. Time flies: it seems scarcely credible that four months of my five year term is already over. A lot of listening, persuading and doing ahead – and not much time in which to do it!
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From the Members’ and Development Office

Almost as soon as he arrived, the new Principal found himself presiding over our largest Gaudy to date. It seemed like almost everyone from 1980 and before wanted to come. Then to our surprise the 1961 – 70 Gaudy at the start of this year was even bigger and we had to run a satellite dinner in the Old Hall. We were asked if the seating position was based upon anticipated rowdiness but we are far too discreet to comment.

For those of us within the College, the wider the mix of age group, the more enjoyable the event. This was emphasised by the Celebration of History at Hertford, with matriculation dates spanning 65 years, and the London Drinks which managed a half century. We would once again like to offer our heartfelt thanks to Ian and Nolty Gatt (both Law, 1981) for hosting the most outstanding event, at Herbert Smith, outside of College. It will be hard to match it this autumn.

Will Hutton has made Development a key priority of his term of office. Coming from outside of the academic world he has brought a range of fresh perspectives and we have been struck by his energy, enthusiasm and engagement. We have a new Development Committee in place with eight Old Members each bringing a range of skills, experience and contacts, it also includes a number of Fellows. The Committee’s first priority is to champion our three existing projects and ensure that our objectives are achieved within the short time-frame available.

One of these existing projects is the Ellis Barnard History Fellowship Fund which was publicly launched at the Celebration of History at Hertford back in September. We have now secured £315,000, more than a quarter of the £1.2m needed to release the matched funding of £300,000 from the University’s Teaching Fund and secure this post in perpetuity. We have until September 2013 to raise the rest. The second project is the Roger Van Noorden Fellowship in Economics which has now benefited from gifts and pledges worth over £170,000; we still need to find over half a million pounds in the next 15 months.

Our new student bursaries programme has succeeded in attracting an increased number of students from less well-off backgrounds. Thanks to the generosity of you, our readers, over 100 students now benefit from £1,000 a year to help with their living costs at Hertford. After Wassham and Univ, our bursaries are the most generous in the University and we are proud that our Old Members have supported our current students in this way. At the start of Michaelmas Term 2012 the new student fee of £9,000 pa comes in; this extra support will thus become even more crucial. We need to raise around £120,000 each year to sustain this programme. Please do consider making a regular gift to help our undergraduates and ensure that we maintain a balance of students from all backgrounds, not just those who have wealthy families.

Not only was our 2011 telephone campaign successful in communicating these projects to our Old Members, but we are pleased to announce that £30,886 was pledged. Our thanks go to all those who spared the time to talk and/or gave, and of course to our 14 charming student callers who were fantastic!

The next few months promise to be even busier. On the 18th of March, Mary Robinson (former President of Ireland, President of Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, and Honorary Fellow at Hertford) will be giving the John Donne Lecture on the subject of climate justice in the Sheldonian Theatre. We hope that as many Hertfordians as possible will attend. The very next day the Principal and Director of Development will be flying to the Far East and we will be hosting gatherings in Singapore on the 19th of March and in Hong Kong on the 21st, returning for the Gaudy on the 23rd. North America will not be neglected either and we will be at the University’s New York Reunion on the 13th and 14th of April, and also holding a number of Hertford events around the United States.

Wherever you are now, we hope to get the chance to see you over the next few months.

Irish President, Dr Mary Robinson, born 23.11.1944. Given by Dr Mary Robinson (former President of Ireland, President of Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, and Honorary Fellow at Hertford)
Hertford at a glance

Message from Leanne Roberts: ‘After six and a half years as Chaplain of Hertford, the time came to move on. From 11th September I took up the post of Canon Treasurer of Southwark Cathedral, and Diocesan Director of Ordinands for the Diocese of Southwark. This role means I will be responsible for encouraging and helping to discern vocations throughout the diocese, about which I developed a passion while working with students at Hertford, and serving as a Vocations Advisor for the Diocese of Oxford. My love of liturgy, and particularly Choral Evensong, will be put to good use as I play a full part in the life of Southwark Cathedral, and I owe much of my experience to my time at Hertford. I shall miss working with students, staff, fellow students, and my frequent encounters with alumni. I am sure that all College members will be as welcoming and supportive to my successor, Revd Gareth Hughes, as they were to me, and I hope he enjoys his time at Hertford as greatly as I have done.’ To contact Leanne: leanne.roberts@southwark.anglican.org.

A Good Day for English Alumni

On the 2nd February 2012, Alex Preston (English, 1998) and Claire McGowan (English & Modern Languages, 2000) each have a novel being published; we wish them the best of luck.

Academic Achievements in Medicine

The academic achievements of Hertford’s medicine teaching team have been recognised by recent awards. Dr Gemma White (Lecturer in Biochemistry and Cell Biology) was one of seven young researchers identified by the British Heart Foundation as ‘Rising Stars of Research’ for her work on the role of cell migration in the development of coronary artery disease. Dr Imran Mahmud (Lecturer in Physiology and Pharmacology) was awarded the Bristol Myers Squibb Prize in Cardiology and David Greaves (Tutorial Fellow in Medicine) was awarded the title of Professor of Inflammation Biology in the recent University of Oxford Distinctions Exercise.

Mr Simon Brewster (Clinical Senior Research Fellow) was voted onto the British Association of Urological Surgeons Section of Oncology and Office of Education Committees. He organised a three-day urological oncology conference in London on behalf of the European Association of Urology, which attracted over 1,000 international delegates. Dr Roberto Dioniello (Medicine, 1998 and presently Lecturer in Anatomy), is undertaking a study visit to Stanford Medical School. She will be spending her time there with the musculoskeletal radiologists, to further her knowledge of their speciality in imaging bones and joints, as well as performing interventions aimed at reducing pain from conditions such as arthritis.

OUSU 2012

In the 2011 OUSU elections, Hertford student Genevieve Laurier (PPE, 2009) was elected to be one of three student trustees. As a recently turned charity, OUSU must have a trustee board that takes ultimate legal responsibility for its actions and ensures that it is acting in the best interest of its beneficiaries: the students. This is the second year that OUSU has elected student trustees and last year one of Genevieve’s predecessors was another Hertfordian, Alice Thornton (History, 2009).

Fifth in Norrington Table

Hertford is currently in fifth position in the Norrington Table, namely trailing Magdalen, New, Christ Church and Merton. Alan Bogg, Senior Tutor, commented: ‘I think we can be justifiably proud of our Finals results this year. I would like to thank everyone involved in the teaching and support of our students, both in academic and welfare capacities. You have all been marvellous. Most of all, of course, the plaudits really go to our graduating students who turned up at Schools and excelled. Well done!’

The Queen’s 2012 New Year Honour Lists

Jeremy Heywood CB, OVO (History & Economics, 1980 and Honorary Fellow) has been awarded a KCB. Sir Jeremy has just been appointed Cabinet Secretary in succession to Sir Gus O’Donnell.

Robert Assirati (PPE, 1985) was awarded a CBE for his work as Director of the Cabinet Office, Major Projects Authority (MPA).

The Revelations

This is Alex’s second novel; The Revelations is a gripping tale of what happens when the advancement of a religious movement becomes more important than the lives of its followers.

Dr Peter Bull

Dr Peter Bull (Fellow, Tutor in Geography & Tutor for Admissions) suffered a bad fall and has since spent several months in hospital undergoing extensive rehabilitation. He has borne this with great fortitude but all of his visitors have reported that he cannot wait to get back to Hertford to resume teaching.

For the time being Dr David Hopkin, Fellow & Tutor in History, has taken over the duties of Tutor for Admissions.

A Real Mystery...

Stained Glass Panels Found in the Basement

Recent work extending the Library into the basement under the Lodgings uncovered an old, some moldering chains and a mysterious chest, screwed tightly shut.

When the chest were eight stained glass panels, believed to date from the mid nineteenth century, probably between 1870 and 1880. They seem to be English, or since English churches at that date were often supplied with glass from Munich they could possibly have come from liberated Europe. They may also be from a British church destroyed during the blitz. The mystery is why they came to Hertford at all?

They were sent from Canada, in October 1973 through the good offices of the Royal Canadian Air Force, and via the Canadian High Commission in London. The chest was addressed to ‘Commanding Officer, CDLS London, England. For furtherance to Mr Warren, Canadian High Commissioner: For fulcrum to Heartfield College, Oxford University.’ At the time our Honorary Fellow Roland Michener had just retired as Governor General; is this the connection? Nobody now working in College even knew that the panels were here, and we wonder if any of our readers can supply us with any information as to their origin, or why they came to Hertford. Unless we can find out why they were sent to us it is likely that they will be sold at auction, with the proceeds helping to pay for the Library works, as we do not believe that there is a place here in College where they could be installed. If you know anything that might help solve this mystery please get in touch with us here in the Members’ and Development Office.

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Transforming Oxford University Libraries for the 21st Century

The opening of what appeared to be a book mine in Radcliffe Square, followed by the appearance of a bright red crane atop the new Bodleian, heralded many significant changes for this key University institution. Our neighbourly location has meant that Hertford has been witness to much of this action. Oana Romocea, Acting Deputy Head of Communications at the Bodleian Libraries, has kindly provided us with this article to shed light on these changes.

In the 1930s Sir Edmund Craster, the then Bodley’s Librarian who had developed the detailed plans for what was later to be known as the New Bodleian on Broad Street, said: ‘To replace an old library by an entirely new one is a comparatively simple matter. But to retain and transform the old and add to it a great new library building is much more complex’. These words are still true today, as the Bodleian management have spent the last few years planning for the transformation of their world-famous libraries.

The Bodleian has been undertaking a series of major projects to overhaul its facilities and services in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The aim is to improve the existing facilities for supporting researchers, to preserve our collections, and to deliver better services to readers.

Sarah Thomas, Bodley’s Librarian, is leading the committed team of library managers through these major transformations: ‘This is an exciting and innovative project that aims to improve services for its readers. The academic strategy includes a combination of direct access to books on the shelves of Oxford’s libraries, online access to the largest number of digital titles in the UK, and state-of-the-art storage for paper collections’.

The ambitious plans started in 2009 with the publication of a new academic strategy following the failure to secure planning permission to build a new book repository at Disney. The first stage involved the temporary relocation of a significant proportion of the special collections to space made available in the Radcliffe Science Library. The opening of what appeared to be a book mine in Radcliffe Square, followed by the appearance of a bright red crane atop the new Bodleian in its present guise was closed permanently following more than 70 years of service to the University.

The dilemma the library management faced at this stage was how to move and keep track of millions of items which need relocation and ensuring that these are still accessible during the refurbishment. The solution was provided by the implementation of a new system of barcoding. This tool became critical to the management of the books and manuscripts to readers.

What does it take to barcode over 100 miles of books or in other words 6.5m items? The answer is the equivalent of 90 full-time employees of whom one third were current or former University students, working three-hour shifts barcoding items at a rate of around 110,000 items - over two miles - per week. Their efforts were exceptional: six million items have already been barcoded and ingested in the BSF.

At the same time as we were emptying the New Library of its contents, the Old Library and Radcliffe Camera were being transformed and a new kind of reading room created in the subterranean Gladstone Link between the two buildings. Here informal reading spaces are brought together with high-demand items formerly kept in the bookstacks but now readily to hand on open access. For the first time, there is also provision for disabled access to the buildings.

The other major commitment the Bodleian is undertaking is to improve the overall speed of access to information by providing direct access to high-demand print collections, more online access to materials, electronic document delivery, and expanded inter-library loans.

Major steps have been taken in this direction as the Bodleian has been investing heavily in increased digital access to its collections. One million pounds has recently been spent on improving access to retrospective journal holdings in electronic form.

During all these major transformations, the Bodleian is committed to remain both a working University library which welcomes tens of thousands of readers each year and a tourist attraction whose exhibitions, lectures, events and guided tours attract more than 120,000 visitors every year.

Regular updates on our ‘Transforming the libraries’ projects can be read on our website: www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk or please contact us on communications@bodleian.ox.ac.uk.
Your legacy can now make a bigger difference…

Over the centuries Oxford has benefited enormously from the generosity of philanthropic individuals who have invested so much both in the fabric of the University and its colleges, and in the people who make this a living University. Most people give at some point in their lives. Some find that the way they can help to achieve a real transformation is to leave a bequest to their College or to the University. Dr. John Radcliffe, Queen Anne’s physician, left us an infirmary, an observatory and a library. Cecil Rhodes was a controversial figure in life but in death he left us not only Rhodes House but also a flourishing network of Oxonians around the world. Hertford has also benefited from bequests made by Old Members; sometimes they can be used to help endow posts or to ensure that we can continue to offer particular academic subjects. More recently, the late Freddie Mann’s legacy has helped support both undergraduate bursaries and postgraduate studentship.

At Hertford we have recognised those who have included the College in their will by establishing the Geoffrey Wormald Society. This body meets annually in College and is an excellent way to bring like-minded people together in a convivial atmosphere.

A less-publicised part of last year’s budget saw the introduction of a number of measures to encourage philanthropic giving. One of the biggest changes is the introduction of a new lower rate of inheritance tax (IHT) from 40% to 36% where a person leaves a charitable legacy of at least 10% of their net estate after they die from the 6th of April 2012.

A number of charities have established the Legacy 10 Campaign to encourage as many people as possible to make a charitable legacy which will reduce their IHT liability by 10%.

The full details will be part of the 2012 Finance Bill but the key points are that the 10% charitable legacy will be based on the value of the estate after deducting IHT reliefs, exemptions and the nil-rate band.

Types of legacy

These apply to UK residents only. If you are domiciled in the USA, the North American Office can help with legacy planning. Elsewhere, you should contact your own legal adviser.

The Residuary Legacy

Provides a part or all of the remainder (or a share of the remainder) of your estate after other liabilities and bequests have been satisfied. This type of gift tends to be the most helpful to the College as it will reflect the value of your estate at the time of your death, and so will be unaffected by inflation. You tax adviser can help you make the most effective use of all of your allowances.

The Pecuniary Legacy

allows for a specific percentage or sum of an estate to be left to a named individual or organisation (the disadvantage of specific sums being that the value decreases with inflation). However, it is possible to index-link this type of legacy although you will need to seek legal advice.

The Reversionary Legacy

leaves assets to be administered by trustees so that beneficiaries (e.g. a spouse) enjoy the income during their lifetime and the whole or a portion of the estate reverts to the College upon their death.

The Specific Legacy

permits the leaving of personal possessions specified in your will. Examples might be real property, investments, life insurance policies or works of art. If you are thinking of making a specific legacy to the College please do talk to us to ensure yourself that it is something that we are able to accept.

The Conditional Legacy

provides for the College in the eventuality that no named dependants survive the benefactor.

Over the centuries Oxford has benefited enormously from the generosity of philanthropic individuals who have invested so much both in the fabric of the University and its colleges, and in the people who make this a living University. Most people give at some point in their lives. Some find that the way they can help to achieve a real transformation is to leave a bequest to their College or to the University. Dr. John Radcliffe, Queen Anne’s physician, left us an infirmary, an observatory and a library. Cecil Rhodes was a controversial figure in life but in death he left us not only Rhodes House but also a flourishing network of Oxonians around the world. Hertford has also benefited from bequests made by Old Members; sometimes they can be used to help endow posts or to ensure that we can continue to offer particular academic subjects. More recently, the late Freddie Mann’s legacy has helped support both undergraduate bursaries and postgraduate studentships. At Hertford we have recognised those who have included the College in their will by establishing the Geoffrey Wormald Society. This body meets annually in College and is an excellent way to bring like-minded people together in a convivial atmosphere.

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Prehistoric beginnings; ...not so primitive?

Curiously too, these early Africans seem to have had an awareness of personal identity embodied in rich visual symbols, which the contemporary Neanderthals appeared to lack. In one of our caves, at Taforalt, which lies about 40 km from the coast, we have found small, fingernail-size marine shells of the Nassarius species that were perforated, coloured with red pigment and have wear patterns showing that they were suspended. Over 50 of these ornaments have been found in one layer dating to this period, and together with identical shell beads from Algeria and the Near East, imply a geographically-spread tradition stretching across the Sahara and show links between the coast and the interior (one Algerian site with shell bead evidence lies 200 km from the Mediterranean coastline). How long these traditions lasted is unclear but they seem to have originated in North Africa during the last interglacial period when the Sahara was wetter and more vegetated than at present.

Towards the end of this phase, as climate became more arid, human groups may have been forced to forage more widely, placing greater emphasis on long distance contacts with other groups for survival purposes. Caves thus provided fixed points in the landscape offering temporary shelter and accommodation in their rocky entrances. However, they were also used for other activities too. In the more recent layers at Taforalt we have excavated one of the oldest cemeteries anywhere in Europe or Africa, dating to around 13,000 radiocarbon years ago. Here, the dead were buried regardless of age or status, with adults and adolescents often deposited side-by-side buried regardless of age or status, with adults and adolescents often deposited side-by-side. In group graves. Only the loss of the very young, including newborns, may have merited separate rituals as they were often interred individually under blue stones with scatterings of red ochre. For me, cases continue to hold great fascination for studying human prehistory, they can offer unparalleled insights into our early evolutionary past and provide a level of detail and preservation rarely suspected in other kinds of archaeological sites.
The Turkana & climate change

Eugenie Reidy

(Archaeology and Anthropology, 2001)

Of course similarity is as marked as difference: food and hairstyles might be worlds apart but it is both amusing and comforting to realise how much overlap exists between their conversations, personalities and preoccupations and those we are more used to. Sometimes at night, lying on animal skin mats with the family watching the revolving night sky almost like a television, I have seen a plane move among the stars and plied the people inside. They may well have been thinking, like I used to, that the desert beneath was nothing but inky blackness. But all over it were groups of people like the one I sat with who were enjoying the warmth of food, family and fire. Far from being dark and still the gathering was probably alive with glowing hearths, cooking pots and the bustle of animals lowing nearby. Rather than an eerie silence the air was likely to be heaving with stories, laughter, song and the nightly esanga dance that glorifies each person’s favourite animal in the herd.

Today many pastoralist communities like Turkana face the disturbing threats of climate and environment change. While their lives are marked by cycles of hunger and plenty, drought and rainfall, the pattern seems to be changing. Rain and all its blessings now come far less frequently or violently and unexpectedly, or for long periods not at all. I recently returned to a place called Nakapeleno to see how a camel-hunting family were faring in the drought and found old man Nachukuli thinner and more pensive than I remembered. He had recently killed two of his three remaining camels because they were so weak, and was reminiscing angrily about the good seasons, long grass and plentiful cattle of his youth. Showing me grey clouds that would once have brought rain but now simply hovered teasingly, he ponted a long finger dammingly at them and declared, through angry missiles of brown tobacco spit, “God is a liar!”

It prompted the idea to do this in pastoralist places the world over: chronicles of how mobile ways of life are adapting to new realities. Starting with a nomadic group of Turkana along the Kenya-Uganda border, we hope to do a series involving pastoralist herders in Central and South Asia as well as other parts of Africa.

Many have been captured by nomads, from 1930s explorer Freya Stark describing them as gallant aristocrats to captivated travel writer Bruce Chatwin collecting quotes about the virtue and precedence of their way of life, such as this one by fourteenth century explorer Ibn Battuta: “He who does not travel does not know the value of men.” I think that may have been what the explosively furious professor was driving at when he raged at the lack of intellectual voyaging before him. The very memory of it quickens my pace...!
Soweto Kinch was a MOBO award-winning jazz saxophonist. Here he has kindly answered our questions on his Hertford days, his inspirations and aspirations.

Q: First of all, when did you start playing the saxophone?
A: I had just moved to Birmingham from London - I must have been nine years old - and I went to a music workshop. There were lots of instruments on display and as soon as I saw this shiny thing at the end of the room I thought this instrument was calling to me. Although it wasn’t until I was 12 or 13 that I started to feel like there was some purpose in practising. Before that, the saxophone seemed cumbersome and a difficult-to-play lump of metal around my neck.

I caught the jazz bug when I was 13. I went to the Edinburgh Festival with my father who was a playwright and on the tour we had a jazz tap dancer called Will Gaines and a percussionist called Frank Holder who worked with Joe Harriott in the 1960s. These were living, breathing repositories of the music and just their whole manner, their demeanour really inspired me; I thought they were fun and comical, and I wanted to be like them when I grew up. I also went to one of my father’s concerts that same year and I had exactly the same kind of encounter seeing the majesty, the poise and the humour with which he approached the stage-craft, his instrument and everything. I thought I would like to be a jazz guy when I get older.

Q: Whilst at Hertford, how did you divide your time between study and practice?
A: Clearly I would have got a First in History had I been more regimented and meticulous about it… Although, when I was a student I held these grandiose ideas about being the guy when I get older.

However, the Jazz Ensemble was a perfect way to use my grey matter, this was a perfect way to use my grey matter, to play music and try my hand at event organising. I received some funding to put on a jazz session with a band I was developing in Birmingham called the Live Box. I thought this was a perfect way to use my grey matter, play music and I love and find more colourful ways to justify and present this music. I started writing as well about the type of music I wanted to make, this is good as it gave me focus. All too often I think it’s people who are non-practitioners who get to codify and explain to other people what jazz is all about and at some point in my line I would like to return to a more academic approach to explain why music and why I make what I make.

Q: What is the best thing about playing jazz?
A: The great thing about jazz as an idiom, is that you don’t feel you’ve done it all – there are so many varieties of jazz. As a jazz musician you’re constantly trying to evolve and add things to the lexicon, scales, phrases – it’s really challenging as well as exciting.

Q: What was your inspiration for The Flyover Show, and what made you choose Birmingham as the location?
A: The Flyover Show is an uncommissioned inner-city festival – led by Soweto - which transforms the grey space beneath the Hockley Flyover into an oasis of cultural expression, celebrating generations of black British music and art (www.soweto-kinch.com).

I chose the location largely because I live right next to it in Birmingham. When I started, the area only received press for negative news stories, shootings and race riots. I felt it was important to highlight that jazz musicians, poets, dancers etc lived in the area and that there is this rich vein of culture that goes uncelebrated.

Q: Last year, your Flyover show focused on the theme of black male identity. What made you decide to put this as a topic that needs to be explored in the UK today?
A: The issue of black male identity was the respective theme. I’m very interested in the polemical aspects of black male identity again needs to be explored in the UK today.

Q: Do you enjoy coming back to Oxford and to particular Hertford?
A: It’s really nice to come back and just enjoy the vibe, the beauty of the grounds and everything that kind of passes you by when you’re fretting about your next tutorial.

Q: What made you choose music as your career path in the end?
A: Music very much chose me. I did what most people do when they leave University; look for applications, teacher training placements, research placements etc, none of which were yielding or particularly fruitful. Then I received a call to do a show in Singapore with a jazz reggae ensemble called Jazz Jamaica. This gave me the opportunity to go to Singapore, play music and try my hand at event organising. I received some funding to put on a jazz session which we were playing in Birmingham called the Live Box. I thought this was a perfect way to use my grey matter, play music and I love and find more colourful ways to justify and present this music. I started writing as well about the type of music I wanted to make, this is good as it gave me focus.

Q: What’s next for you?
A: I’m currently touring less and working on a new album exploring the Seven Deadly Sins. However, the next major touring project and event is a trip to Johannesburg this March to stage a Flyover Show event there in Kliptown. It’ll also be travelling to Norway as well as a number of UK dates this spring.

The full interview can be found on the ‘Events’ page of our website: www.hertford.ac.uk/umad
Hertford College Boat Club Society

Hertford College Boat Club Society exists to support College rowing in as many different ways as possible. Its members primarily comprise Hertford alumni who are former members of the Boat Club whist current Boat Club members automatically receive Society membership during their time at Hertford. The Society supports College rowing by raising funds for equipment and activities, especially coaching and training camps. It also aims to create a presence at the main rowing events at which Hertford competes, including Summer Eights, Torpids, Christ Church Regatta, Henley Royal Regatta, Women’s Henley and the Tideway Heads. The Society arranges a busy social calendar for members, with events at the aforementioned regattas and races, and most notably a champagne reception for novice rowers after the Christ Church Regatta, the AGM Dinner in Hall in late April or early May and the always popular afternoon tea at Henley.

The past year has seen great achievements: Hertford crews have had a promising year on the river, the men retained a high position in both Torpids and Summer Eights and the women climbed the bumps charts in both intercollegiate regattas whilst also climbing 111 places in the Women’s Head of the River Race on the Tideway in London. Alumni have also become more involved by competing at the Head of the River Race, entering a crew into the Henley Royal Regatta qualifiers, and supporting the Regatta for the Disabled by racing in the dragon boat competition which was a highlight of that event.

This year the Society AGM and Dinner was a combined event involving boat naming, Old Boys rowing and fundraising for the Stroke Association undertaken by the Boat Club. The Boat Club acquired a new high quality women’s 1st VIII, which was named after Lesley Atkinson who has been a pillar of the Society for many years. In addition a Filling 4+ was named Live and Let Dally in honour of Chris Dally, a long-time member of the men’s coaching team. The evening dinner was well attended, with Oxford Blue, double World Champion and Olympic Gold medallist Pete Reed MBE present as the guest speaker. He spoke of the path that has taken him from modest beginnings rowing with the Royal Navy, to the highest level of commitment demanded by international rowing. We wish him every success in his aim to win gold at London 2012.

We are also very proud of the fact that Hertford Old Members have enjoyed great success recently on the international rowing scene. Stephen Cullen won gold at the recent World Championships in Bled, Slovenia in the lightweight women’s 4+ whilst double world champion Matt Hickson added a bronze medal to his collection in lightweight men’s 4+. More detailed reports from the rowers themselves appeared in the latest edition of Blades magazine, which is circulated to all Society members and keeps them in touch with all things to do with rowing from Hertford.

We love to help contemporaries at College get together, so please contact people that you rowed with and get a group together to come to one of our events. And if you didn’t row at Hertford, why not take the opportunity to find out what you were missing?

For further queries, please contact me (the current Society Chairman), Duncan Coneybeare, at dconeybeare@uk.co.uk.

The Hertford Society celebrated their 50th anniversary with a dinner in the Old Hall of the Lincoln’s Inn on Thursday 12th January 2012. It was a wonderful evening and they were joined by 77 members and their guests with the new Principal, Will Hutton as guest of honour.

Join the Hertford College Boat Club Society today!
Membership starts at only £5 a month and application forms can be found by visiting the Boat Club website http://boatclub.hertford.ox.ac.uk.

With thanks to Graham Jones, Secretary, and Ciceley Brown, Membership Secretary, for this article.
**James Weinberg**  
**JCR President**

Not only did Michaelmas 2011 welcome more than a hundred new faces but embarked on a new academic year with all the social thrivvilities that this entails.

Freshers’ Week itself was a huge success, punctuated by the ever-celebrated Jazz & Cocktails, ice-skating, speed-dating, fancy dress to the theme of born in the 80s and much more. Our incoming cohort were committed Hertfordians within the hour and it was wonderful to see students from all year groups socialising like life-long companions. The friendship and inclusiveness of Hertford JCR is undoubtedly one of its greatest traits; the camaraderie and good will is second to none and we can be extremely proud to boast such a cohesive undergraduate body.

Although extra-curricular activities will be reported elsewhere by my colleagues in the music and sports arena, mention must go to Hertford’s continuing claim to fame in the minority sporting world, with our pool team winning every single game of the season to finish victors in the 2nd tier of the University wide league; an achievement we can all be proud of. More seriously and impressively though, we have had an active term in drama, with very heavy involvement in Noughts and Crosses; a production at the Simpkins Lee Theatre in 7th week, which was assistant-directed by Florence Robson with star actors Fiona Johnston and Gurpreet Narwan putting in sterling performances. Florence also acted in a play called The Activist written by a student at Brasenose, and Fiona performed in My My Party at the Corpus Christi Audition. Watch out Hollywood!

As for the Exec, we have been redoubling our efforts to push forward the frontiers of Hertford’s ‘Access’ efforts this term. Our Student Ambassador Scheme, now numbering more than thirty JCR members, is up-and-running with much enthusiasm and success. After managing to attract investment from the Hertford Society worth £4,000, I am proud to say that this has the funding to be a lasting development. Visits to and from disadvantaged schools have been greeted with many thanks by teachers and pupils alike, and I think all involved would say it is a highly rewarding experience to be able to inspire secondary school individuals who may never previously have considered Hertford, Oxford or even Higher Education. Our fundraising efforts have also made possible the production of a new Alternative Prospectus, which has now been written by the students for the students as any good prospectus should be. Edited by Natasha Rees, this is due to be printed by The Guardian before the beginning of next term and we have hired a graphic designer in London to ensure that it looks suitably professional, attractive, and in true Hertford fashion, slightly ‘off-the-wall’.

With the Exec due to handover to our successors, I also feel it is necessary to say a quick farewell. I personally have loved every minute of serving the Hertford JCR and I feel confident in saying that we have come a long way in two months. I am certain that my successor, Rachel Pickering, will fulfil her role with vivacity and success. Hertford is moving forward at gathering speed into a very bright future and it has been an absolute pleasure to be part of that journey; long may it continue.

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**Andrew Tickell**  
**MCR President**

Michaelmas is always an exciting and challenging term for the graduate body. The Middle Common Room must contend with continuity and discontinuity; a new academic year brings with it around a hundred new students many of whom coming to Oxford for the first time, from all over the world. This makes for busy days and endless introductions, before the bustle of the term’s beginning settles into the more studious gnom of the English autumn. At Hertford, we make the most of these early days by laying on an extensive programme for our newcomers and returning members, from the simple pleasures of an afternoon tea to our traditional, rather more dramatic black-tie Matriculation Ball in Hall to commemorate the day’s ceremonies.

The social highlight of Michaelmas calendar is the MCR’s customary (and for many, tongue-in-cheek) celebration of ‘Vaugh Night’. Stepping into the 1920s, and harking back on penguins eggs, just under a hundreded MCR members enjoyed aballs-themed evening in Hall in honour of one of Hertford’s most problematic students. Later in term, our ever-diligent MCR Steward, Edwin Simpson carried off groups to exchange dinners with Trinity and Magdalen colleges. When welcoming other colleges to Hertford, it is with thanks to Edwin and his steely watchfulness that any tardy designs our visitors had on the MCR’s stuffed fox were to be disappointed.

All of this has only been possible by the commitment and sacrifices of time and energy made by our students. Earnest thanks are due to all of the MCR committee for their tireless work over many days, conducting events, and striving to cultivate an atmosphere that is inclusive, unpretentious and much more. Our visitors had on the MCR’s stuffed fox were to be disappointed.

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**Sam Parsons**  
**HCMS President**

The time has come once more to reflect on what has been a particularly busy period of musical activity at Hertford.

In Michaelmas the chapel choir, in addition to weekly evensong services, took on the challenge of Fauré’s Requiem on All Souls Day, complete with orchestra. The moving service was complemented by stirring solos from Natasha Rees, Dominic Stockbridge, and Roland Walters, all under the direction of Jennifer Law. The other addition to standard evensong choir duties was the annual carol service. As usual this gave everyone a chance to belt out the classics, as well as the more intimate and contemplative Hymn to the Virgin by Britten, and Laudians’ O Magnum Mysterium. Edmund Whitehead, our new Junior Organ Scholar, also debuted with Bouvardler Devo from the Royal College of Organists. He shows great promise for the next generation of the Hertford Chapel Choir and I’m sure he will be a great asset.

The perpetually busy choir were joined by the college orchestra, conducted by Andy Warnock, in our 80th anniversary concert in 8th week, and performed Haydn’s Missa in E♭ with an audience that spilled out of Hertford Hall. With a speech by our honorary patron Sir Nicholas Jackson and vast quantities of mince pies in the interval, the evening was a great success and really an occasion to be remembered. Thanks also go to soloists Lucia Simon, Heleina Bickley, and Oliver Longland for their contribution, and especially to Felix Leach, who stood in at the last minute to perform the solo tenor role. The chapel choir then went on tour to Brussels in 9th week; after such a hectic term, it was a much needed and much appreciated respite and as well as a chance to sample some well-deserved Belgian lager. And there was more singing, of course.

The Wind Band, too, provided a mixture of concert repertoire at the anniversary celebrations, ranging from Holst’s Concert Suite F in F to a light-hearted assortment of Christmas tunes in a klezmer style. Tom Sears continues to conduct and organise the band, and it’s really wonderful to see this new ensemble flourishing as it is. They also braved the December cold and went carolling in OB Quad in aid of the Stroke Association.

Michaelmas lunchtime concerts have showed no sign of letting up on quality, featuring an array of talented musicians - Henry Chandler and Natasha Rees, Olivia McDermott, and Christopher James, who performed challenging works by Lefebvre and Weber with consummate ease. They also braved the December cold and went carolling in aid of the Stroke Association.

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**Charlotte Houston**  
**Sports Rep.**

Hertford sport has gone from strength to strength over the years, and the sporting prowess of the recent intake of freshers in Michaelmas 2011 was impressive.

The Hertford 1st XI football team had a great start to the season. Unfortunately, they are at the top of the table with wins over University. Jesus and Somerville. Unfortunately, they were knocked out of Cuppers in the first round against Exeter, who are in the Premier division. However, this was not without a fight, losing 1-0.

Hertford’s Boat Club are as strong as ever, and are training hard in preparation for next term. Michaelmas has been a successful term for sport at Hertford; lets hope this continues in the New Year!

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**Students’ News**

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**Students’ News**

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2012

FEBRUARY

- Hertford’s Golf Society Tournament
  Swinley Forest Golf Club

MARCH

- William Charnley Law Dinner
- The John Donne Lecture
  Climate Justice: What if the present were the world’s last night? (Holy Sonnets’, no. 13.) given by Mary Robinson
  (former President of Ireland, President of Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, and Hertford Honorary Fellow)
- Singapore Drinks
  Colin Ng & Partners LLP
- Hong Kong Drinks
  The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club
- Gaudy
  Matriculation years 1989, 1990 & 1991
- Inter-Collegiate Golf Tournament
  Frilford Heath Golf Club

APRIL

- Oxford University North American Reunion
- Hertford’s New York Reception
- English Reunion

MAY

- Geoffrey Warnock Society Lunch
- Eights Week Buffet Lunch

JUNE

- The Hertford Society Reception
  Drapers’ Hall, London
- Summer Reunion
  Matriculation year 2004
- Alan Turing Centenary Philosophy Dinner

SEPTEMBER

- Oxford University Alumni Weekend
  www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk
  (Weekend accommodation available)
- Soweto Kinch Live Performance
  Pimms’ & Jazz on the Quad
- Hertford Alumni Dinner
  Open to all matriculation years
- Gaudy
  Matriculation years 1971, 1972 & 1973
- Hertford Economics Summit

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Simpkin: ‘I’m off out for a night on the tiles to celebrate: Happy Birthday to The Hertford Society!’

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