Hertford celebrates:

The Tanner Revolution in Oxford admissions

The life (and death) of William Shakespeare

The Wallasea Island wild coast project
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Cover photo: Book display in the Henry Wilkinson room at Hertford College, which overlooks Radcliffe Square
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Hertford College News is published by the Development Office for members and friends of the college. The opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily the official views of Hertford College.

Hertford College is a registered charity in England and Wales, number 107527

What did you choose Hertford?
**Brexit**

If you’d like to raise your game on the question of Brexit, Hertford help is at hand. On 2 June we’ll be hosting a tutorial-style debate between Will Hutton and Dana Mills (Lecturer in Politics) during which they will argue both for and against the UK leaving the European Union.

You can also read what a Brexit would mean for UK workers, according to Frances O’Grady (General Secretary of the TUC), by reading the transcript of her lecture for our annual John Donne event at www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/jdonne16.

Please contact Elizabeth Partridge if you’d like to get involved (elizabeth.partridge@hertford.ox.ac.uk).

**Hertfordians tackle Ebola**

Alumni and students both played important roles in fighting the recent Ebola outbreak.

Kate Arey (1996) was awarded an OBE for her work organising the British response to the Ebola crisis, whilst two students Sarah Bevan and Alice McMahon volunteered to test the new Ebola vaccines being developed in Oxford.

Kate was posted as Deputy High Commissioner to Freetown, Sierra Leone just weeks before the first Ebola case. She worked with a cross-government leadership team to set up six treatment centres and create a national burial team. Kate described it as ‘an honour and a privilege to serve in Sierra Leone at that time and work with fantastic military and civilian colleagues.’

Alice had previously volunteered in Sierra Leone on a careers guidance project and heard from her friends there about how Ebola was devastating the country. Sarah explains: ‘I had been really moved seeing the crisis in the news so when I heard about the trial from Alice it seemed like a good opportunity to help.’

As of January 2016 there have been 11,307 deaths caused by Ebola in West Africa, a vast reduction from initial estimates of up to 1.4 million deaths in the region.

A Hertford student helped row OUWBC to victory in the 2016 Cancer Research UK Boat Races. The Oxford team won by 24 lengths, in a time of 21 minutes and 49 seconds on rough waters.

Emma Lukasiewicz joined Hertford in 2015 from Harvard University, and is studying for an MSc in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation. She rowed in bow position and described the day as ‘a unique and unforgettable experience: ‘it was incredible to see the crowds on the banks and hear the helicopter overhead, all the while focusing on our race. My crewmates and teammates are incredible women, athletes, and friends, and I feel very fortunate to have raced and represented Oxford with them.’

**Jazz show with Hertford host**

Soweto Kinch (1996) will host a new jazz show with Hertford host Ewen McKinnon, who blog by Ewen McKinnon, who wrote: ‘It really is great to see the interest and commitment to studying economic wellbeing and that new economists will be leaving university well versed in wellbeing science.’

The society arrange debates on contemporary global issues connected to business and economics, and in recent months have welcomed Jeremy Bentham (1976), Paul Morduca (1970) and Polly Toynbee to college for conversations. They welcome new speakers, and are particularly interested in hearing from alumni involved in corporate social responsibility for their firms.

**Jazz Now**

www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/jazznow

**Visit us using Google Street View**

You can now visit Hertford College from anywhere in the world and view inside OB Quad, Chapel and Hall in 360 degrees. Have a look for yourself at www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/googletreetview.

**Outreach rising star**

Outreach Fellow Catherine Redford has been awarded a Rising Star Engagement award by the British Academy. The award provides funding for Catherine’s plans to produce engaging school outreach programmes in English language and literature with other early career academics.

**Support for Syrian refugees**

The JCR and MCR have both passed motions to implement a donation from each student’s battels of £4 per term towards providing scholarships to refugee students. This sits alongside Hertford’s decision to support refugee Syrian scholars through the Council for At Risk Academics.

**Jazz Now on BBC radio 3**

Soweto Kinch (1996) will host a new jazz show on BBC radio 3, exploring the vibrant new and underground jazz scene. Jazz Now is broadcast on Monday nights, and also features co-hosts singer Emma Smith and trumpeter Al Ryan.

**College News**

**Hertford students advise the Cabinet Office**

Students in the Hertford Business and Economics Society have completed a study on the implications of wellbeing research for government policy, and were invited to Downing Street to present their findings.

Olivia Shillabeer, third year PPE student, explains: ‘We worked for about nine months on a project determining how wellbeing research could be incorporated into future government and civil service policymaking.’

Their report appeared in a Cabinet Office Analysis and Insight Team blog by Ewen McKinnon, who wrote: ‘It really is great to see the interest and commitment to studying economic wellbeing and that new economists will be leaving university well versed in wellbeing science.’

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**Hertford in the boat race**

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**News in brief**

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Rosemary Chamberlain, third year biochemist, has won the Biochemistry Society’s national science communication competition with her entry ‘From bark to bacteria’ which examines the natural sources of modern medicine:

‘Nature; it’s all around us. We eat it, we wear it and we are part of it. But do we really appreciate the benefits for our health concealed in the natural world, and the contribution that some organisms are making to modern medicine, as they have done for millennia?’

The full article has been printed in The Biochemist December 2015, available at www.biochemistry.org.

Devesh Mistry (2010) is developing a synthetic lens for the eye which could restore long-sightedness in older people.

The lens will be made using liquid crystals, the same materials found in smartphone and TV screens, to create a lens which can adjust and focus automatically depending on the eye muscles’ movement.

Devesh is in the second year of his PhD at the University of Leeds, and recently won an Industrial Fellowship from the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 to support his research; he aims to have a prototype ready by 2018.

Clearer vision

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In 2005, a scholar suggesting that Shakespeare might have retained his allegiance to Catholicism also speculated that the playwright had an Oxford education after all, ‘in a sympathetic college, such as Hertford’ (The Guardian, 28 August 2005). It’s highly unlikely, but probably about as close as we are going to get to a college claim to Shakespeare.

In the 400th anniversary of his death, however, everyone is dusting off their claims and their Shakespeare swag. There are exhibitions, performances, films, theories, and books everywhere. The Globe theatre in London will screen 37 short films of Shakespeare’s works along a stretch of the Thames. Theatres from Bangladesh to Melbourne, and museums from Buffalo to Windsor are strutting their Shakespeare stuff. You can see four of the six extant Shakespeare signatures at Somerset House, and a fifth at the British Library. The BBC is producing a new series of films of the histories as well as a sitcom starring David Mitchell. If you can’t stand Shakespeare, it’s going to take a real effort to avoid the jamboree.

You’ll be pleased to know I’ve done my bit. I’ve been working for some time on a study of the first edition of Shakespeare’s plays, the First Folio of 1623, tracing individual copies and examining their marks of use: from winestains to doodles and from bookplates to signatures. My book Shakespeare's First Folio: Four Centuries of an Iconic Book was published by Oxford University Press in March 2016, and I’ll be talking about it at literary festivals and libraries in Oxford, London, Hay, and Edinburgh, and in the US, France, and Germany. You could even join the Warnock Society for a chance to hear me talk about it in Hertford.

Mine is a kind of biography of the book, and it’s taken me to copies all over the world, and to a new skillset in understanding details from bindings to handwriting, and from auctioneers’ catalogues to social history. I’ve tried to trace the ways this book has been differently understood across contexts, and to understand what it has meant to its many owners and users. In New Zealand I encountered an example of a colonial First Folio: the first governor Sir George Grey donated it to the library as the keynote of his project to secure English as the language of the Pacific. He did the same in Cape Town when he was governor of South Africa, and the different trajectories of these two First Folios over time speak eloquently of the different post-colonial histories of the two countries. Quite different was the First Folio brought into the BBC studio for the first ever National Lottery live draw: there its function was to symbolise the million pound jackpot, but in a more Reithian and less vulgarly acquisitive way than, say, a Maserati. In my own hometown of Leeds I was delighted to discover that the Gott family, local woollen magnates whose estate is now our local park, had owned a First Folio in the mid-nineteenth century. That book can claim to be part of Leeds’ industrial heritage as much as the mill chimneys and the grand Town Hall. The great excitement was being able to announce a previously unknown First Folio, at Mount Stuart House on the Isle of Bute, at the beginning of April: a story covered across the media from New York to Shanghai, and which, proudest of all resulted in a special edition of The Buteman, the island’s newspaper.

One of the unexpected benefits of the project is that I have been involved in getting a number of First Folios better known and better displayed: in Auckland, in Stratford-upon-Avon, at the Morgan Library in New York, and at Sir John Soane Museum in London. My next project will develop this interest in how we display old books and make sense of them. Then maybe we can all forget about Shakespeare for a while!

Emma Smith (Fellow and Tutor in English) has been examining how wineglass rings, grease spots and doodles in the First Folio tell the history of the first collected edition of Shakespeare’s plays.

She recently authenticated a three volume copy of Shakespeare’s First Folio which was discovered at Mount Stuart house on the Isle of Bute.

1616–2016
Celebrating the life (and death) of William Shakespeare

2016 marks four hundred years since Shakespeare’s death.

Books, plays, screenings and exhibitions around the world will use this opportunity to consider the impact Shakespeare’s writing has had on our collective imagination – and how we continue to engage with his writing in the twenty-first century.

“We’ve found a First Folio that we didn’t know existed.”
amazing
definition: very surprising
synonym: astonishing
definition: very surprising
amazing
Three Hertford alumni have found themselves working together on one of Europe’s largest projects to restore wildlife habitats. Mike Clarke has been working as a construction partner with Mark Warren and Simon Webb to use three million tonnes of material excavated from below London to create a wetland reserve at Wallasea Island in Essex.

Located eight miles north of Southend-on-Sea, Wallasea Island was once made up of five separate saltmarsh islands which have been progressively enclosed by sea defences and converted to arable farmland; land claim together with accelerating coastal erosion and rising sea levels, has reduced the area of intertidal salt marsh by over 91%.

This project will recreate a varied landscape through managed realignment, allowing land previously prevented from flooding to become flooded – in this case by introducing breaches in the sea wall. The land, which was around two metres below sea level, needed to be raised significantly before this process could begin so that higher and lower ground could be used to provide mudflats, saltmarsh and lagoons.

Step in Crossrail, whose work building a new east-west route across Greater London has involved the excavation of several million tonnes of earth. In total, 1,528 shipments have delivered three million tonnes of excavated material to Wallasea. At its peak six ships arrived at Wallasea each day, unloading 8,000 tonnes of material.

The Crossrail infrastructure and RSPB habitat restoration project are both the largest of their kind in Europe, and show that a world-class economy and a world-class environment can go hand in hand.
Last June I attended the Hertford Talking event: Setting the Green Agenda. Mike Clarke was one of the panellists and he mentioned Crossrail during the Q&A. As I was putting up my hand to mention I worked on Crossrail, I was beaten to it. Simon Webb (1969), who leads one of our programme partners, was also in the audience. A small world.

I am proud to have worked for Crossrail in various roles since 2008. My first engagement was to co-author the Sustainability Strategy, to define what we meant by sustainability, to bring together the many and varied strands of work, and embed sustainable thinking into our decision making – our goal to genuinely ‘move construction forward’.

Following the Hertford event, I visited the RSPB head office to discuss how we can assess the economic benefits of a project like Wallasea Island – how do you allocate scarce resources and judge priorities against such varied and often unquantifiable goals? In my view, it is better to be roughly right by making ‘best effort’, no matter if approximate, than be precisely wrong by ignoring the difficult to quantify elements.

Looking back, I can see that the skills I use most in my career can be directly linked to my Engineering and Management degree. The analytical rigour and innate creativity of engineering, coupled with an understanding of fundamental business concepts, gave me a significant head start in work. I remember my first presentation as a fresh faced 22 year old needing to explain Net Present Value to a boardroom full of seniors, but blank, faces. The degree has ultimately supported a career as an engineer, programme manager, management consultant and management accountant.

I recently found myself right back in the thick of engineering when I took over a project from my father when he became ill. The innovative project to design a transfer system to offshore windfarms stretched my rusty engineering skills, and has led so far, with the support of the Carbon Trust and Technology Strategy board, to a full size prototype and published patent. I never thought back in 1993 as I left Oxford that my name would be on a patent!

Hertford has a very special place in my memory. In retrospect, I didn’t realise what I had achieved when I was offered a place, nor how lucky I was to be at Hertford specifically – a calm, friendly haven of normality.

Boys had come on scholarships to Hertford from Worcester for over a century, but Engineering and Economics was only in its second year when I arrived. I have used one or other (and increasingly both) during most days of a fascinating life in defence and transport projects.

I arrived as Senior Responsible Officer (programme manager, management consultant and management accountant) during most days of a fascinating life in defence and transport projects.

Graduating from Oxford helped me secure one of the very few CASE Award PhDs, that were then sponsored by the Nature Conservancy Council. I gained much of my understanding of environmental science and politics during my early career with NCC and then RSPB.

By the time I left, my passion for understanding nature had combined with volunteer experience, such that I wanted to make a difference through nature conservation.

But, there’s no doubt that my training at Oxford to think around problems and question assumptions (keep asking the ‘why?’ until there aren’t any ‘why’s’ left) is the most important asset to being the CEO of an environmental charity in the most ‘interesting’ of times!

The RSPB estimates that as many as 50,000 birds may use the island.
Throughout 2015-16 Hertford has been celebrating our history of promoting open access to higher education, with the fiftieth anniversary of Neil Tanner starting work as Tutor for Admissions in 1965.

**Recollections of the Tanner Scheme**
Alumni who joined Hertford whilst the college was running its revolutionary scheme, which side-stepped the traditional route to Oxford, were eager to write in and share their experiences.

**5 September 2015**
5 talks on subjects ranging from our current access work to reflections on how access has affected alumni career paths

50 cyclists (and 1 tandem!)

50

68,000 pedal strokes

200 miles

“A Tanner taught me how to think for myself, and to take courage in my own convictions and the strength to pursue a minority path through life. I owe to Neil Tanner the belief that all things are possible, to look for potential in others and in education, and that education is for the business of living a full and useful life, not just for helping one on to a career.”
Isabel Collyer (1982)

“I thank the way Oxford opened my mind to such a rich and diverse set of experiences contributed hugely to my own approach and philosophy in education (and in life) and I hope I passed some of these attitudes on to the teachers and hundreds of young people I’ve worked with.”
John Alton (1969)

“Thank you Professor Tanner and thank you Hertford College for giving me, a shy 1970s comprehensive schoolgirl from rural Devon, the opportunity to succeed in such diverse ways both at Oxford and thereafter throughout my life.”
Judith Samuel (1979)

£120,000 raised to support current and future students

2

Tour de France climbs – Buttertubs and Kidstone Pass

NEW PORTRAITS IN HALL

On display until Michaelmas 2016

TOUR DE HERTFORD BIKE RIDE

21 beneficiaries of Hertford’s access scheme – plus Neil Tanner

“A one man band?”
As Emeritus Fellow Keith McLauchlan explains, the scheme was not entirely Neil Tanner’s.

“It was really the outcome of discussions and plans made between Neil, Peter Ganz and Jim Murray. The three did copious research to identify small grammar schools throughout the UK that had never sent anyone to either Oxford or Cambridge. Hertford then wrote to headmasters inviting them to put forward their best students and a number of us visited these schools to drum up candidates. Neil was the one who put the plan into action and was by far the most active in implementing it. He enjoyed the support of the Governing Body at the time and this should not be underestimated. We had to suffer the opprobrium of our colleagues in other colleges and risk being expelled; in his first term as Principal Geoffrey Warnock was summoned to appear before a committee to justify our actions.”

How did we celebrate?

www.hertford.ox.ac.uk

HCN28
Through these Tanner portraits we want to highlight social mobility in action. These alumni – among many more, too numerous to photograph! – came from modest backgrounds in the UK, and were admitted to Hertford at the instigation of Neil Tanner’s initiative. They have gone on to a wide range of rewarding and impactful careers – and just as importantly, with the mind-set that anything is possible and audacity pays off.

We have many different voices expressing different opinions which reflect the true benefit of our pioneering scheme. Diversity and excellence go hand in hand.”

Will Hutton

I would tell any student entering Hertford that what you can do or be is limited only by you and no one else.

Paul Stannard (1972)

It all began with the Tanner Scheme, on that chilly staircase, when the switchpoints of my life shifted forever.


At its best, Hertford is not just a college, it’s an attitude.

Vanessa Collingridge (1986)

The one lasting thing which I believe has shaped my path since is the rather combative approach to learning that was a hallmark of my degree – the constant challenging, arguing, finding new perspectives and seeking the best possible answer.

Kath Cates (1981)

I’m proud that my lasting enthusiasm for my time at Hertford has helped encourage today’s pupils to apply.

Jenny Hopper (1977)

Hertford was a wonderful experience, it was life changing. It gave you confidence to believe that anything was possible.

Philip Jones (1979)

Read more at www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/tannerportraits
Students visiting us for tomorrow’s open day may be able to see college #cat Simpkin. Last seen in the Library...

We are celebrating LGBT History Month, and proudly flying the rainbow flag

The race for the annual Hertford College Pancake Cup took place in college today! Students, staff and Fellows all compete, with contestants running around the quad holding a pan, flipping a pancake at each corner. The heats this year led to an all student final (the first in three years!) and some celebratory pancakes for the spectators, courtesy of Hertford’s kitchen.

Our **most popular recent posts**

**Dates for your diary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>30 April</td>
<td>Spring Concert</td>
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<td>6 May</td>
<td>Warnock Society lunch</td>
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<td>2 June</td>
<td>Brexit: beyond the headlines</td>
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<td>9 June</td>
<td>London garden party</td>
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<td>9 July</td>
<td>Summer party for donors</td>
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<td>3 September</td>
<td>Family day</td>
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<td>16 September</td>
<td>Open Gaudy for all matriculation years</td>
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<td>16–18 September</td>
<td>Meeting Minds: Oxford Alumni Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 September</td>
<td>Gaudy for matriculation years 1980–82</td>
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This spring Hertford has been on the road hosting a series of events across North America.

We visited Washington, New York, Boston and Toronto in April, and look forward to meeting more alumni at our next events.

**17 May:** Dallas, TX  
**19 May:** Boulder, CO  
**23 May:** San Francisco, CA