



# Hertford College News

Issue 13 Autumn/Winter 2005-6



**Feature: Hertford Student PJ Thum Swims the Channel**

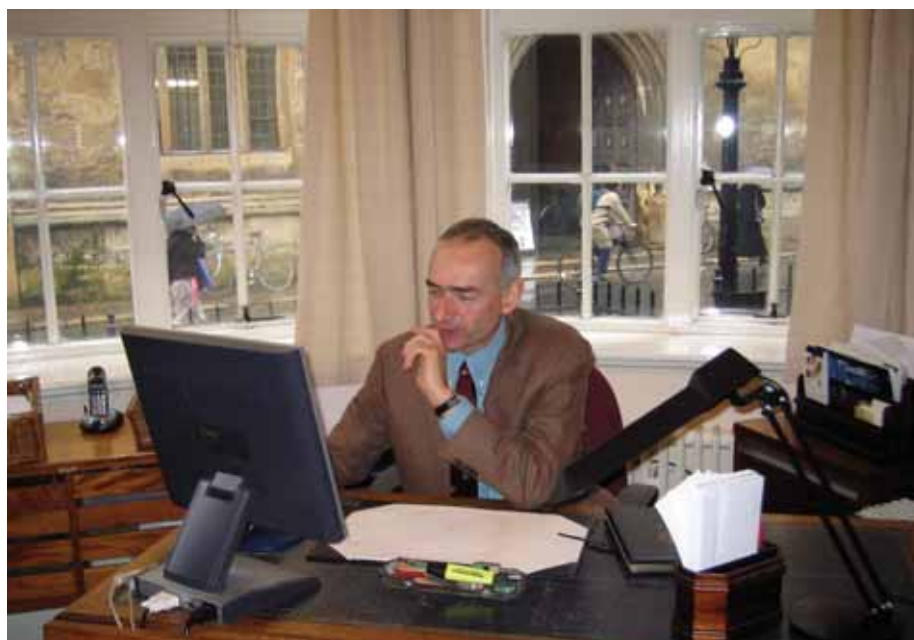
**Recent Publications: *Smart Spending with Jane Furnival* and *Crusoe's Secret* p.11**



Hertford stands in the middle of one of the most impressive townscapes this country has to offer, and the mid-winter sunlight falling on the OB quad as I write this is a wonderful sight. Now that I've been back for a few months, however, I realise more than ever that what really makes a College is not a set of beautiful buildings but its people. Since October Diana and I have been meeting the present generation of undergraduates and graduates and have really been impressed by their energy and commitment.

The Hertford community though, includes all those who've studied and worked here in the past as well as those here at the moment. As one of my first 'official duties' I had the pleasure of welcoming back to College more than a hundred members of the matriculation classes 1967-71 - including a number of my own contemporaries. We've had many letters thanking us for the warmth of the welcome they received, although the concept of a no-smoking JCR bar evidently came as a bit of a shock to some attendees! I look forward to greeting more old friends from the classes of 1972 - 1975 this September.

On Friday 11 November we had the pleasure of a visit from Baroness Warnock as guest of honour at a dinner for the Geoffrey Warnock society. In a



speech that was as entertaining as it was effective, Lady Warnock stressed the importance of the legacy programme to the financial wellbeing of the College. We're very grateful to my contemporary Peter Dart for his help with the new brochure for the programme and for furnishing us with some excellent wines from his newly-acquired vineyard at Stanlake Park. A few days later I was able to meet over a hundred 'old' members - drawn from wide range of ages - for a buffet supper at the Freemason London headquarters in Great Queen Street. We're very grateful to 'the craft' for their generous hospitality and a fascinating lecture tour of the Grand Lodge and its museum.

We're now looking forward to the University-wide New York reunion at the end of March. Aside from a full programme of events at the Waldorf Astoria, we're very grateful to Bob Lusardi for

kindly placing his house on the Upper East Side at our disposal for a Hertford reception. Bob's gesture exemplifies the generous support we get from so many of our old members and on which we will be ever-more reliant if we are to offer present and future generations the kind of opportunities that Hertford's students have enjoyed in the past. This year's annual giving mailing provides examples of the many uses to which donations can be put - bursaries to offset the growing financial pressures on students, support for the tutorial system and for Fellowships, and for a wide range of cultural and sporting pursuits.

Dr John Landers  
**Principal**

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Cover photo: PJ Thum taken by Mark Bassett

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### Ellen Brennan has joined Jo Munt and Nichola Reid in the Members & Development Office. She has been appointed Development Director during Yvonne Rainey's maternity leave.

"I am an American who lived and studied in Europe (Spain and England) before returning to university in the USA, where I graduated from the University of Denver with a BA in Psychology and Education. I went on to do graduate studies in Organisational Behaviour and Development. My career has been in marketing (The Economist, NY), business development and executive recruitment in the US and the UK. I eventually ran my own headhunting firm in London before taking time off to produce and raise twins, who still keep me very busy.

"I came out of retirement about two years ago and returned to the UK from Spain where we lived for three years. I was drawn to Oxford as I had started postgraduate studies here just before I had the children and was sure it would offer interesting work opportunities. Returning to the workplace after a seven year "sabbatical", I have found that my headhunting, marketing and business development skills and experience have all translated very well to development work in an Oxford college. I spent last year covering for Trinity College's Development Director and that experience is highly relevant to the job and challenges at Hertford.



"As you might expect, I have been very warmly welcomed into the Hertford Community and have already had the pleasure of meeting and/or communicating with numerous Old Members of College.

"Like most Oxford colleges, Hertford is well loved by its Old Members, who welcome contact from and involvement with the College and want to support it as it plans for the future. I relish the prospect of adding value to Hertford's development activities and to that end, I invite you to get in touch with your thoughts and ideas."

On 1st February, Yvonne Rainey gave birth to a baby girl, Klara.



### Oxford Reunion 2006, 30 Years On - Save the date!

A message from the Organising Committee of this University-wide event.... Please keep the weekend of Friday 23 to Sunday 25 June 2006 for our 30 Years On Reunion in Oxford. Remember those heady, carefree days, that first tutorial, black tie dinners and, of course, those May Balls? You can recreate those days for yourself - for a weekend at least. A group from around 1975 is organising a Reunion weekend across all the colleges, the first of its kind. The Reunion has the backing of the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor although it is an independently organised event. Spouses, partners and children are welcome. Dancing, music, drinks and dinner, sporting events, punting, seminars and lectures, debates, not to mention a formal degree ceremony for those who never quite got round to doing the dressing up bit - we have it all! Please spread the word amongst your friends and contemporaries and enter your wish to participate by signing in on the website of the event organisers, at [www.oxfordreunion2006.com](http://www.oxfordreunion2006.com). The site is password protected - and the password is triginta (NB case sensitive). The outline programme on the site will be updated as plans progress, so keep revisiting for up-to-date news. The personal details you provide will only be used in connection with this Reunion unless you indicate otherwise. Inevitably, places are limited, so don't miss out by being indecisive. The event will be priced at cost and there will be the opportunity for sponsors to take tables or advertise their involvement in the programme. We look forward to seeing you in June!

# Hertford College is pleased to welcome three new Fellows (Dr David M. Hopkin (History), Katharine Lunn-Rockliffe (Modern Languages) and Peter Millican (Philosophy))

## Dr David M. Hopkin - Tutorial Fellow in History

Welsh in origin but brought up in Tunbridge Wells, David Hopkin studied History at Cambridge from 1985 to 1988. For the following six years he worked in the International Department of the Law Society, but spent so much of his time in the library of University College London that he realized that the law was not for him. He returned to Cambridge to do a PhD on European cultural



history under Professor Peter Burke in 1994, and stayed on for a Junior Research Fellowship at Churchill College, also teaching part-time on French History at Warwick University during this period. In 1999 he took up a post as Lecturer in European Social History in the Department of Economic and Social History, University of Glasgow.

Dr Hopkin likes to think of himself as a historical anthropologist, applying insights derived from contemporary social science to historical communities. This means that most of his research takes the form of micro-studies, usually in France but at the edges of the French polity (Alsace-Lorraine, Brittany...). His first book, *Soldier and Peasant in French Popular Culture, 1766-1870* examined the role the military played

in the rural imagination through folktales, songs, popular prints and conscription rituals. He is currently working on a project entitled "Oral Culture and Community" using folklorists' collections as a way to observe the inner workings of face-to-face societies, whether they be Breton high-seas fishermen, extended family households in the Nivernais, or female lacemakers in the Upper Loire valley. He was on the Committee of the Folklore Society, and is currently on the committee of the Social History Society.

He lives, with his wife and three young children, just within cycling distance of the College.

**Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe** first came to Hertford to read French and German in 1992, and her present research interest in nineteenth-century poetry has its roots in her reading of Baudelaire's rich and strange poems as a first year undergraduate. Anne Holmes and Roger Pensom were the ideal pair of tutors: the former introduced ever richer and stranger kinds of poetry, while the latter challenged the ways in which it was read.

Katherine stayed on as a research student and embarked on a thesis on the late nineteenth-century poet Tristan Corbière, an obscure bohemian whose fragmented verse inaugurated a brand new variety of poetic strangeness. He made radical use of irony to confound the reader and to explore the conflicts of modern man. The project took Katherine to Paris, where she worked as a lectrice at Nanterre, the university where the 1968 student revolution had begun exactly thirty years earlier. Teaching English in this context proved a refreshing contrast with Oxford, and left plenty of free time - Paris was conveniently the centre for three

favourite activities: roller-blading, cinema, and painting.

After completing her D.Phil., Katherine moved to St Anne's College, Oxford, as a Junior Research Fellow in 2002. Having produced a long book about Corbière's short poems (to be published by OUP in 2006), she began work on a short book about long poems by the earlier poet Victor Hugo. His Romantic verse seems strange to modern readers, because we are no longer accustomed to its



effusive rhetoric, yet it is packed with visionary metaphors which are strange by any standards. In 2004, Katherine was awarded a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to write a study rehabilitating Hugo's poetry, and she still holds the Fellowship for her first year at Hertford. Her research is based on precisely the kind of close reading that she originally learnt at Hertford, and which is now central to her own teaching at all levels, including first year tutorials on Baudelaire.

## Peter Millican

Born in Yorkshire, Peter Millican spent most of his schooldays in Kent before going up to Lincoln College to read Mathematics. Concerns



## Flows: David Hopkin (Modern and Peter Millican (Philosophy))

about “life, the universe, and everything”, however, led to Mathematics and Philosophy and ultimately Philosophy and Theology, in which he graduated with a First in 1980 before taking the B.Phil. in Philosophy. A short interlude lecturing on Ethics and Philosophy of Religion at Glasgow was followed in 1985 by a move to Leeds which, during that notoriously barren period for recruitment in British universities, had managed to fund an innovative permanent post in Computing and Philosophy through the Government’s “New Blood” scheme. Thus economic necessity dictated yet another change of subject, and a rapid self-taught initiation into Computer Science (including a research MSc).

During 20 years of continuous revolution at Leeds University, driven by declining resources for ever-rising numbers of students, Peter combined the roles of tutor and researcher in Philosophy with lecturer and software engineer in Computing. However a large part of his time was also devoted to new initiatives and course development, first in Philosophy and then interdisciplinary Computing, where he built up the Leeds Electronic Text Centre and various teaching programmes, the last of which grew to involve nine staff and over 1,500 registrations per year. Concern for interdisciplinarity also led to a significant role in University policy developments, as a result of which Leeds undergraduate degrees have since 1998 been classified according to rules, and using software, that Peter developed and still maintains.

Throughout this time Peter retained broad research interests in Philosophy, publishing on Epistemology, Ethics, Logic, and Philosophy of Religion, but espe-

cially on David Hume. Hume is best known for his devastating sceptical arguments, especially in his early Treatise of 1739. But a stronger theme in his later work is the need for rational balance, seeking a naturalistic understanding of the world based on careful observation and experiment, avoiding fanaticism and superstitious delusion, and tempering our conclusions with open-minded modesty that fully acknowledges the limits of our faculties. The main focus of Peter’s



doctorate and subsequent research has been understanding how serious scepticism can cohere with science, and establishing the 1748 Enquiry as Hume’s definitive work (as he himself insisted). Hume’s later writings still have much to teach the modern world about the dangers of dogmatism.

Peter is married with three children (18, 16 and 13), particularly enjoys music, cycling and walking, and is a correspondence chess Grandmaster (though writing educational software has now displaced that as a hobby). After so many years in the increasing stress of an industrial-scale modern university, he finds the Hertford community, and the personal teaching still possible in Oxford, wonderfully refreshing.

**Hertford College continues to benefit from NADFAS’s hard work.**

In 1990, Hertford College was fortunate enough to secure the services of local members of NADFAS to undertake restoration work on its older collections.

Fifteen years later, a team of Heritage Volunteers still visits the college each Friday morning during three extended terms.

The college’s older books are housed in several different locations besides the Old Library and the team is currently working on a collection in the library stack, which has been sadly neglected and separated from the main holdings.

Team members involved in the work undergo initial training and subsequent refresher courses, run by professional conservators either in Oxford or at NADFAS House in London.

### **New Head Porter at Hertford College**

Mr Steve Jamieson (*pictured below*) has been appointed Head Porter. Mrs Judy Mullee has taken early retirement. We wish her a very long and happy one.



## Dr Steve New

Dr Steve New (Tutor in Management Studies) recently delivered the keynote address "Utopian Harmony in the Supply Chain: Some Lessons from History" at the



Workshop on Supply Chain Management and Information and Communication Technology at the University of Groningen, in the Netherlands, on the 21st-22nd November 2005.

**Dr David R. Greaves** (Reader and Tutorial Fellow in Cellular Pathology), has been awarded a 5-year programme grant by the British Heart Foundation to study the role of inflammation in coronary artery disease.

Dr Greaves' research team at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology are studying the role of a new class of inflammatory mediators called chemokines in the disease process that leads to heart attacks and strokes.

Macrophages are cells that are found in virtually all tissues of the body and they play a central role in diseases characterised by chronic inflammation such as tuberculosis, rheumatoid arthritis and coronary artery disease. My research work aims to find out how macrophages contribute to chronic inflammation.

In the summer of 1995 I shared a lab bench with a sabbatical visitor to Oxford, Tom Schall, who was visiting from San Francisco where he had just cloned the first cellular receptor for a family of potent chemoattractant proteins called CC chemokines. We now know that chemokines rep-

resent an important target for the development of a new generation of anti-inflammatory drugs.

In work funded by the British Heart Foundation we have shown that a CC chemokine binding protein can dramatically reduce atherosclerosis in arteries and vein grafts (Bursill et al. 2004 *Circulation* 110: 2460-6). We want to continue this work by engineering therapeutic proteins that could find application in the next generation of drug eluting stents used in coronary artery angioplasty. My laboratory also studies endogenous mediators that are important in the resolution of chronic inflammation as this may give us new insights into the role of macrophages in inflammatory disease.

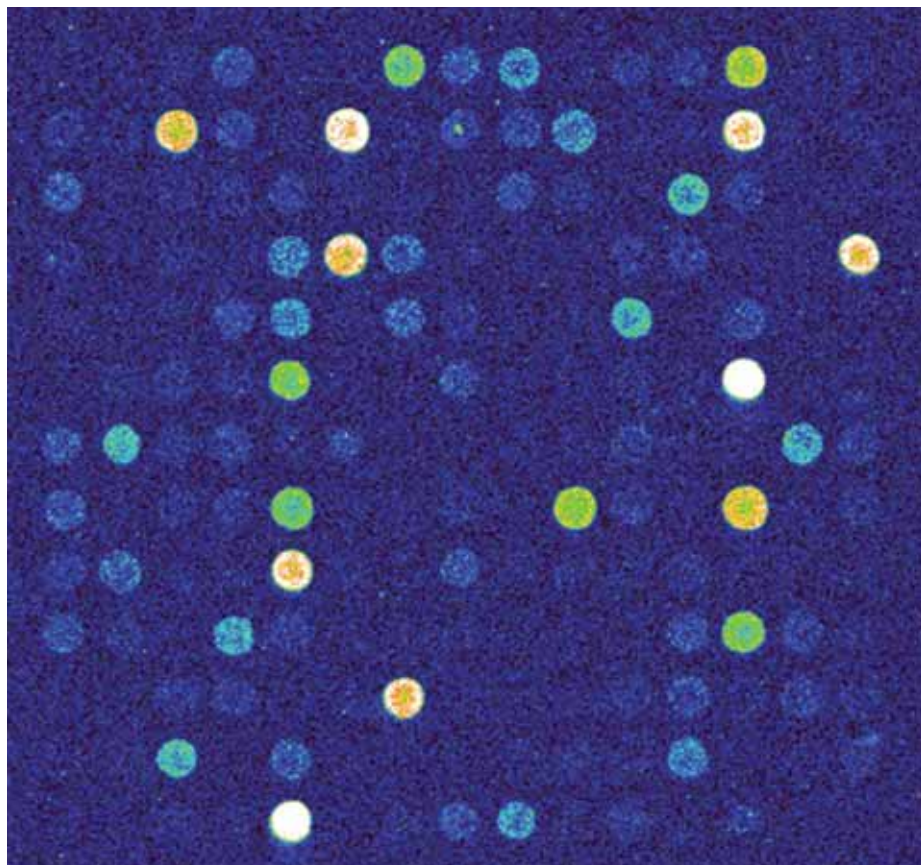
I benefit enormously from many interactions with the wider cardiovascular research community in Oxford. Following a national competition Oxford University was awarded one of three British Heart Foundation 4 year graduate studentship schemes and as Academic Director of this programme I will oversee the graduate training programme for a cohort of up to 12 students over the next four years. I con-



tribute to teaching medical students through organising the BM General Pathology and Microbiology course and I tutor medical students and physiologists at Hertford College in all three years of their undergraduate studies.

When I am not involved with research, teaching, administration and mentoring I enjoy cooking, reading and cycling.

*The image below shows part of an oligonucleotide microarray experiment. Each spot represents the level of expression of a single gene in the genome.*







Research by Professor David Thomas (Professor of Geography) and colleagues, published in *Nature* in June and modelling predicted 21st century global warming impacts on desert dynamics in southern Africa, attracted considerable media coverage including the UK, African and North American press and radio. It also featured in lengthy pieces, filmed in the Kalahari desert with Professor Thomas, on the BBC's *10 O'clock News* and *News 24* in November, ahead of the Montreal climate conference. Using a new model based on empirical studies of dune dynamics, and driven by Global Climate Model data for 2000-2100, the research suggests that a combination of higher wind speeds, lower rainfall and higher temperatures will lead to the reactivation of ancient dunes across northern South Africa, Botswana, northern Namibia western Zimbabwe and western Zambia in regions that are currently important for farming.

The laptop is connected to a portable gamma spectrometer which was lowered down a drill hole to measure the radiation dose rate emitted from the sand. The data was then used to produce an optically stimulated luminescence age, reflecting the time when the sand was deposited by the wind.

# Hertford Student Swims Channel

On 6 August 2005, Hertford College's Pingtjin Thum became the first University of Oxford graduate to swim the English Channel.

PJ, as he is known to his friends, started the gruelling 34km swim at 8.55 am from Dover, England, and ended 12 hours, 24 minutes and 7 seconds later at Wissant, France. He also became the first Singaporean to swim across the Channel.

He was more than three hours into his Channel swim when the weather turned and he had to battle five-foot high waves. Not only did he vomit several times from ingesting too much seawater, but he was also stung by jellyfish, and for most of the swim he was shivering and fighting cramps.

PJ, who did a second BA at Hertford on a Rhodes Scholarship, said, "It was much harder than I thought it would be. Based on how I had been training, I thought I would do a sub ten-hour swim.

"But I never really registered how fickle Mother Nature can be. Even though the forecast was good, about three hours into it I was on the pace I wanted to be when the weather abruptly turned.

"I battled five-foot high waves and I felt like I was in a washing machine. I could barely move my arms and legs and almost gave up. I just kept thinking, 'I'll just take a few more strokes and then see how I feel' - and I ended up telling myself to 'just take a few more strokes' for the next eight hours.

"My legs gave way halfway through and I was just dragging them along using my arms. In all honesty, I didn't think I would make it. It was only right at the end when I put my feet down on dry land that I realised I actually had succeeded. I was relieved more than anything else. I struggled up the beach, sank to my knees and punched the air. All the tension, frustration, and relief just came out."

Although there was a boat with a crew watching over him, he was not allowed to hang on during the rough patch, as a channel swimmer is not allowed to touch the boat. Mr Nick Thomas, President of the Oxford Swimming and Water Polo Alumni Association, was on the boat and said the pilot noted that many would have given up in such circumstances.

"It was really up to the resolve of the individual swimmer, and PJ hung on," he said.

Also on the boat was fellow Hertford College graduate student Mairin Hennebry, whose task as part of PJ's crew was to feed him a glucose drink every hour. PJ credits Mairin's optimism and cheerfulness as a major reason why he was able to keep going.

"I always believed he was going to make it," she said, "I never had any doubt in him the whole way through."

"I think the most important lesson I learnt is that the human spirit in its purest and humblest form is equal to anything in this world," P.J. reflected later, "Having met so many other Channel swimmers, seen what I've seen and experienced what I've experienced, I can't help but believe that anything can be achieved if we strip away all our vanity and apply ourselves with great humility to our goals."

P.J. decided on the swim as it is 'one of the greatest human challenges', but he also swam to raise money for two Singaporean charities, Action for Aids Singapore and his sponsor, the Methodist Schools Foundation. He raised over S\$160,000 for the two charities.

But he risked death to do so - the water is numbingly cold at between 12 deg C and 17 deg C. People have died from hypothermia and heart attacks while attempting the swim. Just 811 people have completed the swim since 1875, compared to around 2,000 who have scaled Mt. Everest.

Contrary to popular perception, swimmers do not spread fat over themselves to stay warm- it's been proven to be ineffective. Swimmers are also not allowed to wear wetsuits, just standard swimming trunks. Instead, what swimmers do is to put on lots of body fat. To do so, P.J. had double helpings of lunch and dinner every day. However, due to his excessive training regimen, he still had trouble putting on enough weight. "Towards the end," P.J. recalled, "I got so worried about not having enough weight I went out to KFC, bought an entire bucket of fried chicken and forced myself to eat it in one sitting!"

He added wryly, "I'm never eating KFC again."

Still, a physiotherapist who had treated many channel swimmers told him that he was one of the thinnest she'd ever met.

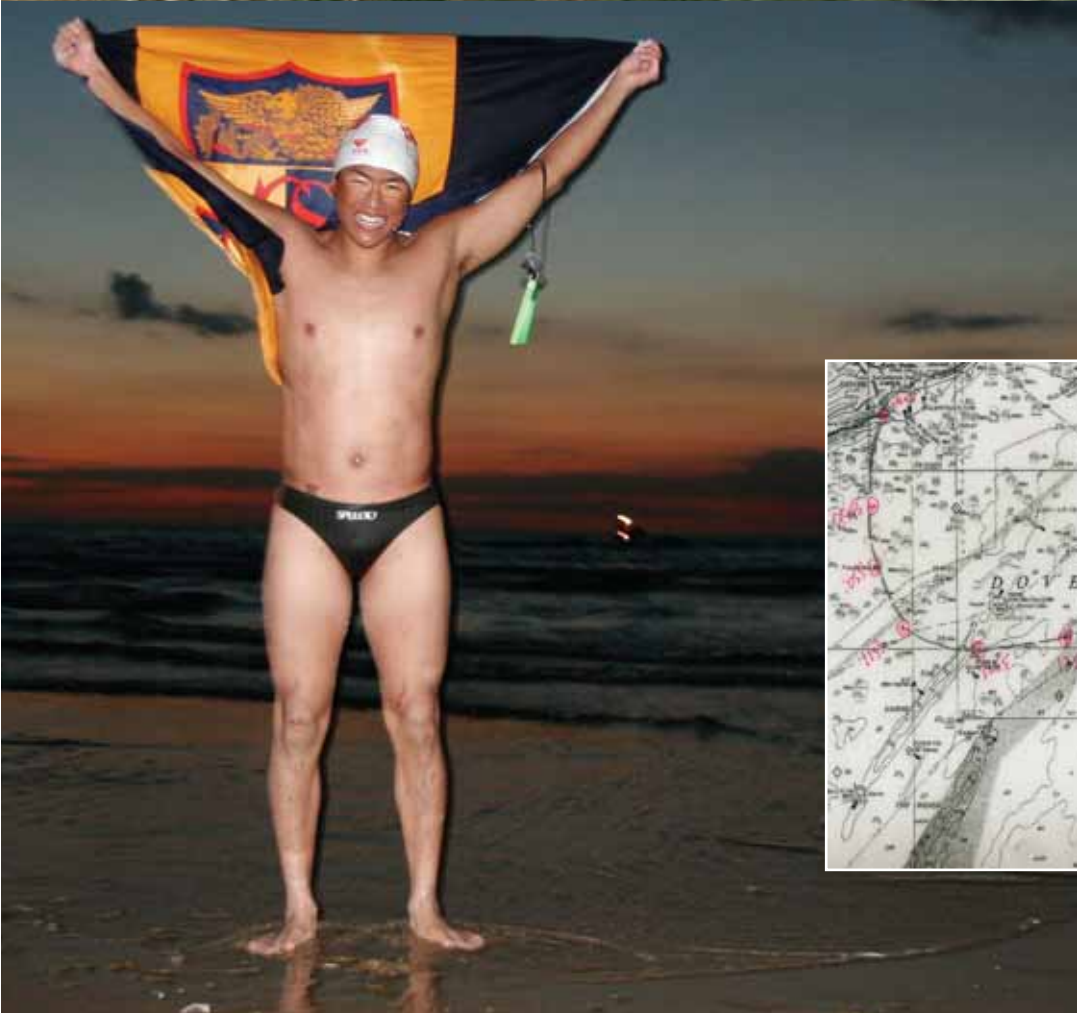
Asked about his future plans, P.J. responded with a laugh, "I'm now back at Hertford studying for a doctorate. I think that's more than enough to worry about for now!"

You can learn more about his swim at his website, <http://channel.fredastaire.net>.

*Photos: Above right: PJ struggled with huge waves during his swim. Below right: PJ on the beach in France, holding up his school flag. Inset 1: PJ in the OB Quad at Hertford College. Inset 2: A chart showing the route of PJ's swim with times marked in red.*









## The Chapel by Revd Leanne Roberts

Arriving at Hertford as the new Chaplain at the beginning of Trinity Term was, in some ways, a daunting prospect. Not only was the Reverend Dr Simon Oliver clearly an extremely hard act to follow, but I felt I was the only Fresher in College! But thanks to the efforts and dedication of Canon Hugh Wybrew, our organ scholars and an excellent team of Chapel wardens, the regular round of services and events had continued during Hilary Term after Simon's departure, and made my introduction to Hertford an extremely positive experience.

Hertford's tradition of welcoming distinguished and interesting guest preachers continues, and Chapel attendees have had the privilege of hearing inspiring and thought-provoking ser-



mons from a wide variety of people, lay and ordained. In addition to the preaching, a highlight last term was the installation of the icon of the Baptism of Christ (*pictured above*), painted by Bulgarian artist Silvia Dimitrova at the College's request, to commemorate the life and ministry of the Reverend Michael Chantry, who was Chaplain at



Hertford for 40 years. The icon was blessed by the Rt Reverend Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, who also preached. Towards the end of term, the candlelit service of Nine Lessons and Carols saw Chapel full to capacity, and the Christingle service on 11th December was well attended by staff, fellows and their families.

The Chapel's weekly programme continues, and the College Eucharist takes place at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays in term time. A small choir supports the singing and aids prayer and reflection after communion by singing a piece of sacred music each week. There is a short homily, preached either by the Chaplain or, occasionally, a student, and the service is followed by a convivial supper in the Chaplain's rooms.

Our choir goes from strength to strength, and members currently number c.30! Under the direction of our dedicated and enthusiastic organ scholars, Christopher Bentley and Tom Hammond-Davies - and, prior to Michaelmas 2005, Matthew Lilley - the choir has led the choral worship in Lincoln (July 2005), St Paul's (Nov 2005) and Guildford (Feb 2006) Cathedrals, and will end Hilary Term with a concert in Hertford. This is, of course, in addition to the regular round of sung services in Hertford: Choral Evensong, the College Eucharist, and our termly Corporate Communion. We also hope to go on tour during the summer vacation.

As well as providing music of an impressively high standard, the choir also seems to be a fertile ground for faith! Three members of our choir were confirmed by the Bishop of Dorchester, the Rt Revd Colin Fletcher, during our Corporate Communion for All Saints Day in November. And we are delighted that staff, fellows and old members continue to feel the Chapel to be the appropriate place to get married or have their children baptized.

In addition to Choral Evensong on Sundays and the College Eucharist on Wednesdays, Morning and Evening Prayer is said in Chapel every day, and Compline sung by candlelight at 10 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Outside formal services, the Theological Discussion Group meets on Sunday afternoons, offering a friendly environment in which to reflect on con-



temporary issues from a theological and scriptural perspective. The Chapel provides a focus for private prayer, open to students, staff and fellows at all times. It is also used by Hertford's many talented musicians for practice, concerts and, currently, a weekly recital series in aid of our Organ Fund.

The Chapel continues to play an important role in the life and atmosphere of the wider college community as a positive, relevant and inclusive place of serious thought, friendship, creativity and prayer.

*If you have any queries or suggestions regarding the life of the Chapel, or would like to receive our termly Chapel Card, please contact the Chaplain, the Reverend Leanne Roberts, on 01865 279411.*

### Pianos Wanted

**Hertford is looking for new pianos to provide adequate means for College musicians to excel.**

**If you have a piano you would like to donate to the college, please get in touch with the Development Office.**

**Alternatively, we would welcome any donations towards the purchase of a new piano.**

**Tom Hammond-Davies  
Organ Scholar**



## Recent Publications by Jane Furnival (English, 1976) and Tom Paulin (Fellow of Hertford College)

### Smart Spending with Jane Furnival

When Jane Furnival was at Hertford, she wanted to be a writer and hoped that if she was very lucky, one day some of her work might be reviewed by a highbrow publication like the London Review of Books. She never dreamed in one week, she would appear in the “all-star party” section of *OK! Magazine* and as a celebrity “at home” in the *Sunday Times*, as happened recently.

“Unfortunately, I’m not a pale, passionate novelist,” she laughs. “My metier is being helpful and practical, with a light touch. It’s a pain: because my books are so fact-filled, I never



know what I’ll be asked during an interview, so I have to revise them regularly, as if I were undergoing a viva voce. Then you end up being asked something off the wall. I ended up discussing flip flops on BBC Radio Oxford yesterday.”

Her latest book, *Smart Spending with Jane Furnival: You CAN save £1000 in 4 Weeks* (published by Hay House, £8.99) follows her primetime BBC-1 series of last summer, *Smart Spenders*, which the BBC approached her to present.

“I felt more comfortable doing the book. TV necessarily needs to be impressionistic, AND I had to wear red stilettos and a suit,” she confesses. “Writers don’t DO suits when left to ourselves! I’m happiest slobbering around in my husband’s old shirts and doing research to dig out facts about things like...did you know that you can get an interest-free loan from the Arts Council to buy any modern art?”

The skill of fast reading - honed by essay crises all those years ago - and journalistic scepticism, acquired when writing for the *Daily Mail* and the *Telegraph*, has stood her in good stead to write the book, as she had to read lots of psychology. She aims to help readers to save money for life, by understanding why they overspend in certain situations. There are sections on personal relationships (trying to impress partners and friends) and family history (trying to repeat or run away from the past). Biochemistry comes into it too. “Certain feelings, which can be based on events or even what you’ve eaten, trigger depression, and silly spending,” she explains. “The hardest part was devising personality types. I gave up on a really complicated flow chart quiz in favour of simple questions you can ponder for yourself, like are you a fritterer or a binger?”

It’s a natural progression from her cult bestseller, *Mr Thrifty’s How to Save Money on Absolutely Everything*, now in a newly-revised fourth edition, inspired by a column Richard Ingrams asked her to write for *The Oldie*.

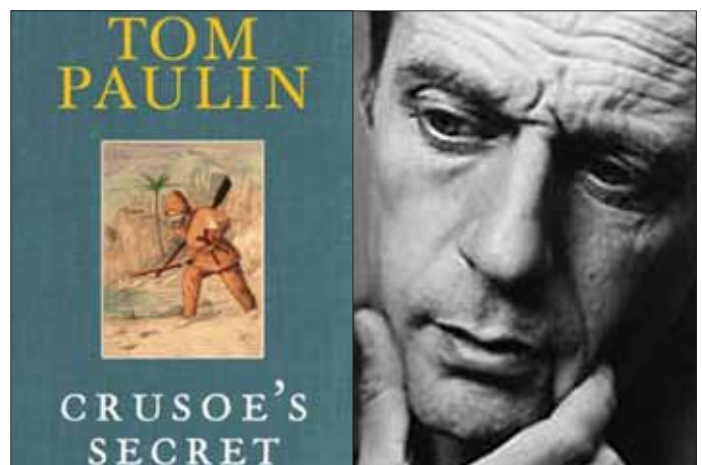
Jane, who began her career as an advertising copywriter,

swapped to journalism when she had her first son 18 years ago. Now her time is divided between her three children, dog, cats and hens at her old rectory home in Surrey, where she writes for various magazines, and supervises three websites devoted to her books and “stuff” including School of Life, a series of workshops held at home to encourage people to take up hobbies rather than go shopping. “We’re doing breadmaking, hen keeping and how to complain effectively this Spring,” she says. “I’m also working on various projects including the plot for a novel which must be done by March. Oxford taught me how to stick to a deadline, but I envy writers who take two years to do something - I think, how can they afford to live? And don’t they get bored? See, I can’t stop being practical...”

### Crusoe’s Secret - by Tom Paulin

*Crusoe’s Secret* is a wide-ranging collection of essays on major authors and texts from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. More than a loose gathering, it offers a series of explorations and readings in the culture of English dissent, whether focussed on canonical works - *Paradise Lost*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Clarissa* - or moving between epic and novel, lyric, tract and drama. Tom Paulin engages with the great dissenting voices from Bunyan to D. H. Lawrence, and he casts new light on others - such as Clare or Kipling or Hopkins - whose work was touched by dissent, often in secretly generative or transformative ways. The Radical tradition has long been understood as integral to the making of the English working class, but Paulin restores a sense of how vital to middle-class print-culture were the civic, discursive and utopian intuitions of Dissent. *Crusoe’s Secret* continues the investigations of Day-Star of Liberty, Paulin’s previous study of William Hazlitt and his milieu, and it fans out to include salient Irish examples: Sheridan and Synge, Yeats, Joyce and Heaney.

Tom Paulin’s most intricately plotted collection of essays so far, even as it avoids any single plot or overarching idea, *Crusoe’s Secret* moves through a landscape of example and anecdote, of minute particulars and things “hidden in daylight”. Above all, in its marriage of a historical vision to close critical readings, *Crusoe’s Secret* locates Paulin himself in a line of exemplary readers, including William Empson and the late Edward Said, for whom biographical and historical awareness complement aesthetic enquiry, and in whose awakened rhythms can be heard the speaking voice of prose.



# Gaudy for Matriculation Years 1967-1971

On Friday 30th September a record 120 Old Members from matriculation years 1967-1971 returned to Hertford to relive their time at College and remake old friendships, some for the first time in nearly forty years!

The events started with tea being served in the Old Hall. Members then had an optional tour of the Graduate Centre down at Folly Bridge followed by Chapel. Others ventured over to the Kings Arms for alternative refreshments. Everyone resurfaced at 7pm resplendent in black tie for drinks in the Quad and then dinner in Hall.

The guests were joined by several Fellows: Mr Roger Van Noorden (Tutor in Economics), Dr Alan Day (Senior Tutor), Mr Peter Baker (Bursar) and our Chaplain Reverend Leanne Roberts, Honorary Fellows included Mr Ian Brownlie, Professor Andrew Goudie, Professor Sir Christopher Zeeman, Sir John Whitehead, and Sir Nicholas Jackson. Emeritus Fellows included Mr Tony Cockshut, Mr John Torrance, and Professor Keith McLauchlan.

Diners were entertained by speeches from our Principal, Dr John Landers, Mr Paul Manduca (Modern Languages) and Mr Simon Webb (EEM). Port and conversation flowed late into the evening, as Old Members mingled with the current members in the College bar following dinner.

The Gaudy dinner was a splendid occasion and it was wonderful to see the Hall filled with reminiscing Members.



# London Drinks at Freemason's Hall



On Monday 14th April we held a London Drinks party in the Freemasons' Hall in London. Over seventy Old Members attended. During the evening we were given a tour of the Grand Temple, The Library and Museum. Wine and canapés were served and it proved to be a very enjoyable evening. Mr Bob Morrow, Grand Secretary, (Literae Humanoires, 1966), (*pictured right with the Principal*) kindly helped to made this evening possible.







Guests at the London Drinks evening, including (left) Dr Lorne Whiteway (who won the champagne prize) with his wife Dr Jacqueline Glomski.

## Geoffrey Warnock Society Dinner

The College was delighted to welcome members of the Geoffrey Warnock Society to a dinner on Friday 11th November. The Society was founded five years ago to honour those who have generously made provision in their wills for a gift to the College.

Over 50 Old Members who matriculated in 1960 or earlier returned to the College to enjoy a splendid dinner accompanied by fine wines, courtesy of Peter Dart's Vineyard - Stanlake Park.

Our guest of honour was Baroness Warnock who gave a speech. The Principal, Dr John Landers, attended with his wife Diana Parker and gave a speech in honour of Geoffrey Warnock, in whose memory the Society was formed. Other guests included Peter Dart (1972, Physics) and his wife Annette, Mr Anthony Bacon (1958, Modern History), Mr Neil Sorton (1955, Law) and his wife Anita, Mr Norman Jopson (1958, Modern Languages) and his guest Gill Kirby. The Emeritus fellow was Mr Tony Cockshut and his wife Gill.

Attending the dinner from the College was Professor Hagan Bayley (Fellow in Chemical Biology), Dr Paul Coones (Fellow in Geography) whose guest was Mr Tom Hammond-Davies, Hertford's Organ Scholar, Professor Martin Maiden (Fellow in Zoology), Mr Roger Van Noorden (Tutor in Economics) and The Bursar, Peter Baker.

For further information about making a bequest through the Geoffrey Warnock Society or to request a copy of the Society's brochure, please contact: Members and Development Office Hertford College  
Oxford OX1 3BW  
Tel: 01865 279 428  
Fax: 01865 289 142  
Email: [development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk).



## JCR News

Since the summer it's been all go in Hertford JCR. Once the freshers had settled into their work patterns (which they seemed to do with remarkable ease) we welcomed them in their extra-curricular capacities - many keen musicians, dramatists and sportsmen and women have happily joined our community. The eventual completion of the college gym provided a welcome source of exercise as the evenings began to get colder and darker. The new gym was a long-desired shared venture between JCR and MCR with contributions also being made by college. It was also a relief to see the boathouse back up and running after the difficulties caused by the fire. The rowers showed great determination however, still managing to encourage exceptional numbers of freshers to take part in the Christ Church novice regatta.

Meanwhile, on the musical front, the Hertford Orchestra was practising hard for its end of term finale in 8th week, and what a magnificent show it turned out to be! Alongside the orchestra was a breathtaking solo performance on the piano by John Stubley, which left the audience at the Holywell Music Rooms transfixed for the duration and seemingly unable to stop applauding the musicians!

In the world of drama, we've had a number of Hertfordians involved in acting and directing this term and their recent successes are examples of just some of the splendid talent we house in the JCR. The new President of the Hertford Drama Society, Helen Winston, plans to acknowledge their achievements with an evening hosted in Hall celebrating Hertford Drama next term.

For the very first time this year, the JCR and MCR joined together in hosting a new college event - The Matriculation Ball. This was an occasion intended to break down some of the existing barriers between common rooms, helping to foster a more cohesive student community at Hertford. All those matriculating in 1st week were greeted in OB Quad, after the ceremony, by the JCR committee who provided champagne, orange juice and bacon sandwiches (with the help of the catering staff). That same evening, festivities continued in Hall with a black tie evening hosted by the MCR. The MCR President, accompanied by his jazz band, entertained the Freshers with his fabulous singing, whilst the MCR and JCR committees busied themselves running the bar and serving all sorts of food provided by companies around Oxford especially for the occasion. The Principal made a special guest appearance and said a few words of welcome before dancing the night away with the rest of us. It was a fantastic evening enjoyed by all!

As the finalists contemplate the prospect of their last term before exams commence, I shall be joining those retiring from more active roles in college life to focus on revision, leaving the position of JCR President in the very capable hands of my successor, Samina Bhatia. The 2006 Executive Committee, including the new JCR IT Officer (in charge of systems and the JCR website combined), were elected last term and should prove to be a great asset to college. Many of them have already taken on roles in the JCR and I am confident that they will soon leave a very positive mark on the college. On that note I would like to thank the departing committee for all their hard work and encouragement this year - it's been great working with all of you.

*Stephanie Johnston, JCR President 2005*



## MCR News

Michaelmas and Hilary term of this academic year have been a great success, marked by excellent participation from MCR members in a wide range of college and university activities. The MCR is as always, comprised of an abundance of exceptional individuals from around the world boasting artistic, academic and sporting talents. More importantly though, the Hertford MCR continues to enjoy a palpable sense of community, making it the envy of a great many graduate common rooms.

In Michaelmas term we welcomed 80 new members to the MCR. Over two weeks, freshers were introduced en masse to all that Oxford has to offer - including its nightlife and uniquely mobile cuisine. Freshers brought with them their enthusiasm and willingness to be part of a community, and were warmly received by a large contingent of returning members eager to pass on their accumulated wisdom. New graduates were guided through college and its traditions, brought up to speed on the quirks of life in Oxford and entertained at events including a Hawaiian luau staged at a temporarily-transformed Graduate Centre courtyard beach!

Freshers' Week (or perhaps more accurately Freshers' Fortnight) produced considerable social momentum for the remainder of term, with well-attended social engagements following at regular intervals. A host of exchange dinners and guest dinners featuring salsa dancing, live jazz, ceildh and karaoke proved popular with members and brought even the most demure of our demographic to their feet. Indeed dancing in all forms has been keenly pursued amongst MCR members this year; the MCR currently has representatives in the OU Dancesport, Salsa and African dancing societies. Likewise, the arts more generally have a strong presence in the common room, with several outstanding musicians being members of the OU Orchestra, Philharmonia, Sinfonietta, Chamber Orchestra, and Big Band.

MCR achievements on the sporting field have been equally impressive. Currently the MCR possesses sportspeople who have represented the University this year in athletics, swimming, fencing, karate, football and cricket. MCR rowers have also featured prominently in intercollege regattas, with numerous members participating in Torpids and achieving blades. Putting aside more high-level competition however, the backbone of MCR sport remains its mighty football team; though results have been mixed, team members continue to display unparalleled commitment to regularly donning Hertford colours on cold Saturday mornings.

Of course, the MCR is more than just a conduit for social and sporting affairs. On the contrary, the organization serves a vital role in our student lives as an escape from work and other commitments. To this end, the MCR functions as a space and fraternity dedicated to fostering a home-away-from-home - whether through the regular provision of home-cooked brunches or through our new dedicated peer support programme for incoming students. Likewise the common room offers its members a place to share their varied backgrounds and culture; special occasions like Thanksgiving and Eid-ul-Fitr for example were celebrated this year by the whole MCR alongside other festive fixtures.

Overseeing all of these activities is the 15 strong MCR Committee, who have been diligent in their execution of events and facilitation of their peers' college experience. The current Committee has notably brought a great deal of profes-





sionalism to MCR operations in recognition of the fact that good administration of the MCR and its funds are important to securing the long-term vitality of the organisation. Part of the Committee's broader agenda for the year for example, has been to oversee codification of some of the 'customary laws' that govern MCR operations. Accordingly, the MCR now has a number of protocols relating to common room finances, housing, facilities and so forth which will allow members to clearly know what their rights, entitlements and obligations are as members of Hertford. These rules of conduct will ultimately form the basis of Regulations subsidiary to a new MCR Constitution.

With the support of the membership and College, the Committee has achieved much this year, including: completion of a full register of members; creation of a catalogue of muniments; redevelopment of the MCR website; provision of online event-registration services; renovation of the Tea Room and Computer Room; a 300% improvement in recycling outcomes; and acquisition of an array of capital assets ranging from new computers and sound and lighting equipment to the complete works of Evelyn Waugh. An ambitious administrative and social agenda for the year will most certainly continue in Trinity Term thanks to the enthusiasm exhibited by our friendly, lively and involved membership.

Finally, it bears mentioning that this year marks the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the MCR. To commemorate the occasion, the MCR in conjunction with the SCR and Hertford Society will shortly be holding a gala event bringing together fellows, dignitaries and members past and present in a spectacular black tie dinner. A four-course feast

accompanied by an orchestra in Hall, and subsequent dancing to the sounds of 20-piece Big Band are amongst some of the trimmings which should underpin a night befitting the occasion - and moreover, the vibrant community which is the Hertford College Middle Common Room. I look forward to reporting on it and other graduate successes in the sunshine of Trinity Term.

*Tanzil Rahman*  
MCR President 2005-06

## Sports Round-up

Michaelmas has, once again, been a good term for Hertford's sports teams, with success shared across the sporting spectrum. Congratulations should also go out to all those who were successful at university trials, and are now representing the university at their respective sports.

The Rugby, Netball and Hockey teams have played solidly this term, maintaining their positions in their current leagues and are ready to progress onto the second half of the league which continues in Hilary Term. The Rugby team were unlucky to have missed out on promotion after the first round of matches, they ended up finishing in third place with promotion going to the top two. The team is looking for a strong performance to end the season, with the prospect of promotion still realistic before the Cuppers competition begins. The women's Hockey team is joint with University College and at this point in the season they haven't lost a match! Unfortunately, frozen ground towards the end of term forced games to be postponed.

The boat club has had another successful Michaelmas, at both squad and novice levels. In the Christ Church

novice regatta in 7th week, the men's novice A's and B's made it through to the first and second rounds respectively, losing only due to equipment failures. Whilst the men's C's outperformed the other crews making the 4th round. Enthusiasm and talent shown throughout bodes well for Torpids, with high hopes of novices progressing to join senior boats. Since the summer, the men's senior squad has been racing in external competitions. There were wins in coxed fours at both Oxford City Royal regatta and Sprint, and a category win at the Cambridge Winter Head. They also entered a four into the Fours Head, where they really stood out against other Oxbridge colleges, thus gaining valuable confidence and experience.

The novice women were very impressive this year. The novice B's won their recharge and were only knocked out by default due to time constraints. The novice C's are still unbeaten, leaving the competition due to a steering error in high winds. The novice A's won Nephthys Regatta in November, were the second fastest crew in the Isis Winter League A, and got to the quarter finals, where they were knocked out by the eventual winners. The women's squad have been training in fours, and a four was sent to the Fours Head in November, this was the first time Hertford women have gone to this event, and earned a respectable place. In addition, a mixed eight of both squad and novices was the second fastest eight in the Isis Winter League B.

*Zoë Lee*  
Sports Officer



## Weddings

On October 8th 2005 Old Member Todd Mirabella (2001, Business Administration) married his childhood sweetheart Amy Webster on Martha's Vineyard. His best man, also an Old Member, was Igor Stychinsky (1999, Business Administration).



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN 2006

<b>Geoffrey Warnock Society Lunch</b>	Sunday 21 May 2006
<b>Eights Week Event</b>	Saturday 27 May 2006
<b>Summer Reunion (for matriculation year 1998)</b>	Sunday 11 June 2006
<b>London Drinks Party</b>	Monday 19 June 2006
<b>Hertford Society Annual Lunch</b>	Sunday 25 June 2006
<b>Roger Van Noorden's Retirement Dinner</b>	Saturday 23 September 2006
<b>College Gaudy (for matriculation years 1972-1975)</b>	Friday 29 September 2006

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### **University-wide event: Oxford Reunion 2006, 30 Years On**

Friday 23 to Sunday 25 June 2006 (see page 3 above for details)



Simpkins finds it  
difficult to think out-  
side the box