



Hertford College News



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 heading 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 Oxbridge 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 cabinet secretary 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 girding its loins 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 Mulholland – 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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THE JOHN DONNE LECTURE, FRIDAY THE 16TH OF MARCH
 SHELDONIAN THEATRE, 5.15 PM

Climate Justice 'What if the present were the world's last night?'
 Holy Sonnets, no. 13

given by Dr Mary Robinson (former President of Ireland, President of Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, and Honorary Fellow at Hertford)



14

Photos: Barker Evans ©



16



8

Image: Wilkinson Architects ©



12

Photos: Frederic Courbet ©



11

Photos: Jan Cartwright ©

From the Members' and Development Office



Paul Dryden



Anna Baskerville



Claire Blake

Almost as soon as he arrived, the new Principal found himself presiding over our largest Gaudy to date. It seemed like almost everyone from 1960 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 Nicky 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 £800,000 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 18 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 Wadham 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 £93,866 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 16th 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.

Pictures from Hertford events over the past five months



Gaudy, pre 1961



Celebration of History at Hertford



Telethon 2011: our 14 student callers



London Drinks 2011



Gaudy, 1961 - 1970

A full review of these events will feature in the next issue of Hertford College News

Hertford at a glance



Photo: Diocese of Southwark

Chaplain, Reverend Leanne Roberts' and her Successor

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, and fellows, 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.

Before coming to Hertford, **Reverend Gareth Hughes** was Associate Priest of All Hallows Twickenham (right across the road from the rugby ground) and Research Officer in Syriac Narrative Sources at the University of Oxford's Oriental Institute. He is originally from Exeter, trained for the ministry at St Michael's College, Llandaff, and was ordained in 1998 in Durham Cathedral.

Gareth has served in parishes in Darlington, County Durham, and Westbury, Wiltshire. He read Physics at the University of Durham before going on to take a BD in Theology in Cardiff and an MSt in Syriac Studies at Wolfson College, Oxford. He is currently working on a DPhil on the fifth-century Syriac verse-homilies of Narsai on Holy Week and Easter, and continues to work on the early spread of Christianity in Asia, in the Middle East, India, Central Asia and China.

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.



McGowan, C. *The Fall*

The Fall is a thriller which tells the story of two women from very different backgrounds, who are brought together by a murder in modern-day London. When their lives are shattered by the incident, they're both pushed to breaking-point in a search for the truth.



Preston, A. *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.

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 Roberta Dionello** (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 her chosen specialty in imaging bones and joints, as well as performing interventions aimed at reducing pain from conditions such as arthritis.



Honorary Professorship

David Thomas has been awarded a second five-year Honorary Professorship at the University of Cape Town. The post is associated with the School of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, at South Africa's top-rated university. The position is in recognition of his associations with the university that have included collaborative research, teaching and examining, and for his contributions to scientific research in Africa.

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 formed 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, 2008).

Fifth in Norrington Table

Hertford is currently in fifth position in the Norrington Table, narrowly 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, CVO (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, 1965) was awarded a CBE for his work as Director of the Cabinet Office, Major Projects Authority (MPA).

Vice-Chancellor Appointment at Australian University

Professor John Dewar (Law, 1977 and Former Fellow) has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University, and will take up his position from January 2012. Professor Dewar studied for both his BA in Law and BCL at Hertford, before returning as a CUF Lecturer and serving as a Fellow from 1990 to 1995. He is an internationally known family law specialist, and has lived in Australia for the last 16 years. During this time he has had extensive experience in the higher education sector and has held senior positions at both Griffith University and The University of Melbourne.

A Real Mystery...

Stained Glass Panels Found in the Basement

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

Within 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 furtherance to Hearthford 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.



*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 have heralded many significant changes for this key University institution. Our neighbourly location has meant that Hertford is 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 exciting progress in the rollout of the Libraries' strategy 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 Osney. The first stage involved the temporary relocation of a significant proportion of the special collections to space made available in the Radcliffe Science Library. At the same time construction began on a new Book Storage Facility (BSF) in Swindon. Completed on time and on budget, the BSF opened a year later in September 2010 with great success. This will house up to eight million low-demand items from the Library's collections, many of which have electronic copies available. The opening of the BSF unlocked the key to the next redevelopment project, the long-awaited renovation of the New Bodleian which will be renamed the Weston Library in honour of the £25 million donation given in March 2008 by the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Known to readers, scholars, visitors and to the Oxford community as a book fortress housing more than 3 million books, 1 million maps, 1.5 million items in the ephemera collection and 10,000 medieval manuscripts, the New Bodleian has been in major need of transformation and upgrading. The new building, designed by Wilkinson Eyre Architects (WEA), has three aims:

- to create high quality storage for our valuable special collections, which include the rare and unique manuscripts, books and maps that the Bodleian preserves for the international world of scholarship
- to develop space for the support of advanced research
- to expand public access to its great treasures through new exhibition

*Photos of the Bodleian Libraries, p 8 (taken by the Bodleian) top left - Gladstone Link; bottom left - Swindon BSF
p 9 Wilkinson Eyre Architects' images for the new Weston Library.*

galleries and other facilities, allowing the Library to build on its successful relationship with the community.

The Weston Library will become the new home of our special collections when it opens its doors in 2015. The interior transformations will see the central stack replaced, three floors of secure storage developed below ground level, additional reading rooms provided, and dedicated floors for curation and conservation. The new public access to the ground floor will mean Oxford residents and visitors can view some of the University's greatest treasures and gain insights into research activities at Oxford.

At the end of July 2011, the New Bodleian in its present guise was closed permanently following more than 70 years of service to the University. It took more than a year for the collections stored in its book stacks to be moved to other locations such as the newly-opened BSF in Swindon, the temporary Special Collection Room open at the Radcliffe Science Library or other open-shelves reading rooms within 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 collections and in future it will enable a more efficient delivery system of 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.

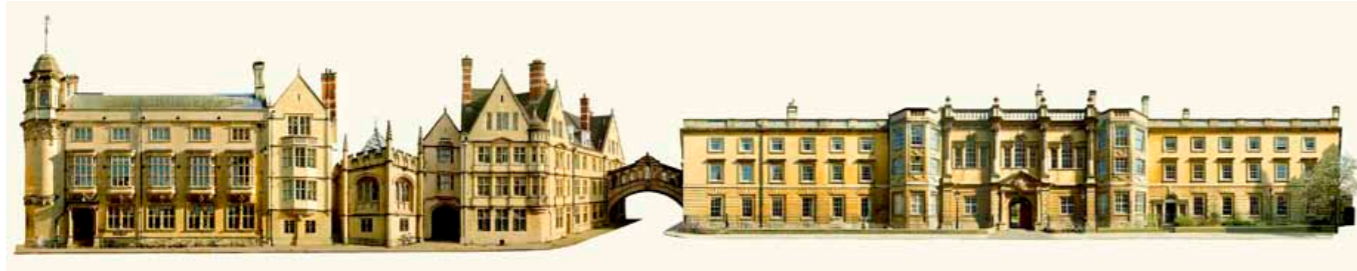
The other major commitment the Bodleian is undertaking is to improve the overall speed of access to information by providing direct access to high-demand print collections, more online access to materials, electronic document delivery, and expanded inter-library loans. Major steps have been taken in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

At Hertford we have recognised those who have included the College in their will by

establishing the Geoffrey Warnock 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.

Make a difference.

Leave a legacy to Hertford College.



Contact the Development Office on +44 (0)1865 279428 or development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk

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. Your 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 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 assure 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.

Photo of Hertford College (above) courtesy of www.virtual-archive.co.uk

Prehistoric beginnings; ...not so primitive?



Professor Nick Barton

Nick is a Professor in Palaeolithic Archaeology and has been a Fellow and Tutor in Archaeology at Hertford since 2003. Nick Barton's main research interests cover Palaeolithic archaeology of Europe and North Africa, specialising in the study of prehistoric lithic technologies.

Caves may seem to us rather dark, uninviting places to work in but due to special conditions of preservation they are often the best places to study evidence of early human activities and past environments. This is one of the reasons I began investigating such sites over 30 years ago. Outside Britain my research has taken me to many countries including the Rock of Gibraltar where I excavated for several years with a team from the Natural History Museum, London on Gorham's and Vanguard Caves. Both sites have yielded abundant records of Neanderthal occupation revealing that, far from the image of brutish, cold-adapted scavengers, our close evolutionary relatives thrived 100,000 years ago in warm Mediterranean woodland environments, living in small family groups and subsisting on a rich diet of mussels, sea bream, Monk seal, ibex and red deer as well as seeds and ground up pine nuts (early pesto!).

The results of our five-year programme of excavations will be published next year (Barton, Stringer & Finlayson; *Neanderthals in Context*). More recently, I have been directing excavations in the Maghreb region of Northern Morocco. Initially I was drawn to this area because of its position close to the narrowest point where Europe meets Africa, separated by only eight miles of sea. Despite this relatively slender gap, the cultural prehistory of the Maghreb is in fact entirely different from Europe and shows long phases of independent development.

About 100,000 years ago culturally and physically distinct humans occupied North

Africa. Intriguingly, they used different lithic and bone tools from the European Neanderthals and their fossil remains can be classified as anatomically modern *Homo sapiens*, so it would appear there was no interaction of genes or culture across the Straits of Gibraltar at this time.

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 widespread 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 roomy 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 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, caves 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 surpassed in other kinds of archaeological sites.



Taforalt Cave, north Morocco.



Adult group burial from Taforalt.



Human grave pit under excavation, Taforalt.



Nassarius shell beads from Taforalt.

Photos: Ian Cartwright, Institute of Archaeology ©

Hertford Matters

Eugenie Reidy; The Turkana & climate change

'It's **Mauss!!**' cried the professor in fury, pushed finally to his limit by my repeated mispronunciation (as in 'mouse') of one of anthropology's greats. Privileged to be among so much inspiration and knowledge, it alarms me to recall those moments when the Archaeology and Anthropology course felt like pearls before swine. I can still feel my chest bursting with heat and shame after the regular sprint down St Giles, late for a tute and waving a recklessly conceived essay that just skimmed past the required fifteen hundred words...

And yet mostly I remember an enriching, energised time that forged the path I am on now. Lectures, tutorials, museums and films that took us to other worlds and put determined (sometimes foolish) wings on our feet so that I'm pretty sure we are all spread far and wide today. I hope it won't alarm the professor mentioned to learn that I went on to do an MA in the Anthropology of Development at London's SOAS, to various projects in

India, Pakistan and South Africa, and most recently to Kenya where I now live and work.

For two years I've been working among nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralist groups, mostly the Turkana. Various projects for NGOs and the private sector have included medical anthropology studies to guide better health care, reports on nutrition in times of drought, research into state and traditional peace building, and a consultation for philanthropic foundations on the importance and limits of mobility.

The Turkana I stay with are as intrigued by all this as I am, though it took me a while to believe this. I remember watching two magnificent elders, with ostrich feathers in their hats and bone rings on their knuckles, having what looked like a very heated debate in a dry riverbed as I sat close by. Intrigued and sure I would learn something of the latest dowry scandal or cattle news, I asked my translator what was going on. 'They are



Eugenie Reidy
(Archaeology and Anthropology, 2001)

arguing,' he replied, 'over whether your hair is real, or a wig.'

With such mutual curiosity I have on many occasions felt like a visiting lecturer in outsider studies. The amazing thing is that when you try to explain things like aeroplanes, elevators, and global terrorism to Turkana it all starts to sound as bizarre as potlatch, Argonauts and exogamous matrilineage did to me on the Banbury Road.



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 pitied 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 *edunga* 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 Nakapelewoi to see how a camel-herding 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 pointed a long finger damningly at them and declared, through angry missiles of brown tobacco spit, 'God is a liar!!'

Photos: Frederic Courbet. p 12: Nachukuli's daughter Aragai holding camel milk during a drought. p 13: top - Eugenie's hut; far right (head shot) - a woman who replied when Eugenie asked her what she could teach someone like her, 'We could teach you survival'; bottom left background - Eugenie sitting under a termite mound with translator Lokale.

Living and working in Turkana with filmmaker, Frederic Courbet, we embarked on a film to let people there explain their way of life and how it is changing. It premiered for them at a series of 'bush screenings' - everyone's first encounter with a generator let alone moving images of themselves on screen. Many froze, some screamed and fled, but eventually most gathered round transfixed to watch. After some hilarious moments - including one elderly woman mistaking her husband for a "big-eyed animal" to the gleeful laughter of the crowd - a unanimous 'sign off' was granted and the film permitted to speak on their behalf to the outside world.

Entitled *God is a Liar* after Nachukuli's outburst, the film is part of various climate change advocacy efforts and was selected for this year's National Geographic All Roads film festival in Washington DC. There we learnt the commonality of its issues in other parts of the indigenous world. We heard Inuits complaining of heat and the poor quality of seals' coats, Mayan shamans pained by Mother Earth's tears at the abuses of her children, and Amazonian elders describing the impact on their authority of no longer being able to teach younger generations the way the world works.

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 captivated 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

...from JCR to Jazz

Our alumni; Where are they now?



Soweto Kinch (History, 1998) is 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 Harriot 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 music?

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 next A J P Taylor - being a historian was the long-term plan.

Q: Why did you choose to study History?

A: Lots of reasons. I've never been one for complicated technical language and jargon but I'm very interested in the polemical aspects of history and how you can debate both sides.

Q: What was your Hertford highlight?

A: Oh so many highlights, too many to number. I was just recounting a very comical tutorial I had with a tutor who didn't like me or my half-ditched essay offering very much. I actually ran for JCR President which was very funny, especially the hustings. The hustings was probably the highlight of my JCR career; we had to do all sorts of intellectually rigorous things, like hump a table to prove our aptitude for the job. With hindsight I'm glad I didn't get it because it was far more work than I imagined.

Photos: Barker Evans ©

Q: Do you enjoy coming back to Oxford and in 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 is still happening in Birmingham called the Live Box. I thought this was a perfect way to use my grey matter, play music 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 life 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 chose Birmingham as the location?

The Flyover Show is an 'unconventional inner-city festival - lead 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).

A: 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 on this as a topic that needs to be explored in the UK today?

A: The issue of black male identity again

is only ever raised in the popular media in conjunction with policing crises or underachievement in schools. It was crucial to identify artists who have made a huge contribution to British identity without compromising their culture or artistic standards. Similarly in 2010, female black identity was the respective theme.

Q: Coming from a theatrical family, did you feel that you were destined to perform?

A: I didn't feel destined to perform and that's partly the reason why I pursued an academic path at Oxford. However, my background undoubtedly set in me good stead in understanding the creative process and the energies and skills needed to perform.

Q: You have taken part in a number of urban projects, such as The Flyover Show and the national music week initiative. Do you think it's important to bring alternative music forms such as jazz to the masses?

A: It is important to evangelise more for those forms of music that don't receive the same amounts of commercial backing as pop music. At one time jazz of course was a dominant popular genre and communicating this history as well as the power and nuances of playing an instrument is still relevant. Its also an important message to get across in music education that you can be successful in the music industry without being a star.

Q: With your debut single, *Jazz Planet*, there was some issues regarding categorising your music leading to you breaking free of the commercial aspect of the industry to become an independent artist. What was it about 'categorising creativity' that spurred this decision?

A: I was never actually a commercially signed artist. I was with an independent label for a few years and have had my own label for the past four. My railings against music retailers have always been based on them hiding my music away in the specialist music section and my records not being visible to a major part of audience. The problems with 'categorising creativity' are huge as its always lead by financial concerns not artistic ones - how much a label has paid for racking space, or a certain form of marketing.

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. I'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.ox.ac.uk/alumni

Hertford's Undergraduate Bursaries Programme

Key Facts:

Why the need for it?

In 2009 we noticed that we had a decreasing proportion of students from less well-off backgrounds. Working with Old Members and seeded with a £100,000 gift from an alumnus, the bursaries programme was established to redress the balance.

What is it?

It is a £1,000 bursary to all home students eligible for an Oxford Opportunity Bursary. This helps with living costs which is crucial in a climate of increased fees and poor economic outlook.

A Hertford bursary is one of the three most generous college support packages in the University.

Results so far?

Already the number of eligible students has risen from 67 to 108.

How you can help?

For this programme to continue and be sustainable - and to benefit future generations of Hertfordians - we need to raise £120,000 each year.

A regular gift of £2.30 a day plus Gift Aid, will fund a bursary. This is a standing order of £70 per month; or why not talk to a friend and go halves?



Soweto Kinch is performing in OB Quad on...

**Saturday
September 15th**

...to support Hertford College's Undergraduate Bursaries Programme

Our alumni; Where are they now?

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 whilst 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, but 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 Fillipi 4+ was named *Live and Let Dalley* in honour of Chris Dalley, 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

demanding 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. Steph Cullen won gold at the recent World Championships in Bled, Slovenia in the lightweight women's 4x, whilst double world champion Paul Mattick 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 Hertford rowing.

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.ey.com.



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>.



The Hertford Society's Golden Jubilee

The past 50 years...



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.

Celebrating 50 years...



From the beginning...

The story began with the 1960 Gaudy when Bill Atkinson obtained Principal Ferrar's encouragement to found an Old Members' society; in 1961 a temporary committee worked hard to contact Hertford Old Members about the idea for an alumni society, all of whom supported the idea enthusiastically. The Inaugural Meeting took place at Lincoln's Inn in January 1962, and the first AGM in June of that year when a full set of officers and committee members were elected. Bill Atkinson was very appropriately elected as the Society's first Chairman and he has been succeeded by many other dedicated and enthusiastic officers and committee members over the years. Derek Conran, in particular, was indefatigable in the Society's development over more than four decades.

Currently the committee comprises Hertford graduates from the 1950s to the 2000s, representing an eclectic range of professions from professors of nuclear physics to computer scientists, judges to cabinet advisors, generals to accountants and many more.

The Society initially filled something of a gap in providing a more frequent link between the College and those who had gone down. It did this by annual events such as dinners and lunches in College and other meetings in London, such as House of Lords receptions. Previously, only MAs were 'kept on the books', and those who attended Gaudies at approximately ten year intervals. The Society was able to present gifts to College from time to time, varying from benches in the Quad, to prints on the Hall staircase, to illuminating and labelling the portraits in Hall and the Old Hall.



Relationship with the Members' and Development Office

The College's appointment of its first Director of Development in 1997 has since expanded into a fully-staffed Members' and Development Office which organises major fund-raising for the College and also a wide range of social events in the UK and abroad. Regular parties in London for those working in the metropolis, parties in College for those who have gone down five years before, two Gaudies per year, and a regular *Hertford College News* magazine have all transformed communications between the College and its Old Members.

The committee has viewed these developments at close quarters and with much pleasure as they have been so greatly to the College's advantage. Concurrently, the committee has thought carefully about its own position in the general scheme of College arrangements. These thoughts were articulated (on paper) as recently as last year in the Chairman's Letter in the *Hertford College Magazine*. We continue to thrive and are always looking for new members to join.

Who we are and what we do (in summary)

- The Society has around fifteen officers and committee members, comprising of Old Members acting for the good of the College
- The President and the Chairman act, on occasion, as representatives of the body corporate of Old Members
- The Society make gifts to the College
- The Society support the undergraduates in their worthy efforts such as helping to fund the JCR's activities during Freshers' Week
- Finally, the Society has for years proved its support of the living heart of the College by funding Simpkins, in all his lawful undertakings

Be a part of the next 50 years...!

We would like all Hertfordians to join the Society and help to shape its future and carry on this tradition.

Our aim is to continue helping with College-alumni relationships and recording its history: ensuring prominent Hertfordians past and present are appropriately commemorated by portraits, sundials, trophies, anthems and indeed obituaries. It also gives us great pleasure to be able to contribute to student life for activities such as Freshers' Week and the Student Ambassador Scheme.

Membership is £25 for five years. To join please use the subscription form that accompanies this newsletter. Alternatively contact the Members' and Development Office by phoning +44 (0) 1865 279428 or by emailing development.office@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 frivolities 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 90s* 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 *It's My Party* at the Corpus Christi Auditorium. 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 twelve 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.



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 gloom 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 'Waugh Night'. Stepping into the 1920s, and feasting on plovers eggs, just under a hundred MCR members enjoyed a superlative dinner 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 larcenous 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 welcoming. One of the joys of undertaking postgraduate study in Oxford is the alternative social spaces furnished by being part of colleges, away from the life of the department; spaces where the traditional academic taxonomies and divisions do not obtain; and scientists and lawyers and historians can sit and break bread in solidarity and friendship. Very much in that spirit, the MCR's new academic affairs representative, Rachael Whittle organised the first soiree of the academic year, combining her interest in the novels of Vladimir Nabokov, with a second presentation on my own research on the European Court of Human Rights. The subsequent discussion was sprightly, questioning, interested and constructive.

In a similar vein, I have been exceedingly pleased to note that Hertford's postgraduates have responded enthusiastically to the Principal's 'Hertford Conversations'. The visits made by Geoff Mulgan and Maurice Glasman over the course of Michaelmas Term were particularly well-attended by postgraduate members of the College. We await the New Year's speakers with enthusiastic – and suitably critical – interest.



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. Currently unbeaten, 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

in the hardest game Exeter had played of the season. This season Hertford 1st XI has got great strength in depth, with lots of quality players in all positions. With a bit of luck, hard work and commitment, they are aiming for promotion for the first time in years.

Hertford 2nd XI football team is also looking strong, with a 5-3 win against Lincoln. Finn Keane and Joe Taylor are providing a strong presence on the field, and the 2nd team is going for glory this season.

Hertford Mixed Lacrosse has built upon its already formidable reputation (feared University-wide), with co-captains Rhys Dalkin and Miranda Essex at the helm. Winning everything from friendlies to the Mixed Lacrosse League, teams have been defeated in style. Beating Magdalen 4-0 and Oriel to reach the top of the League, Hertford have perfected their goal celebrations with Freshers Harry Jackson and Alex Monk keeping spectators entertained. The lacrosse team are hoping to win Cuppers in Trinity with the captains keeping the team in shape with regular practices.

Hertford Netball had a glorious Michaelmas Term. After an initial scare over dwindling numbers, some male Freshers have stepped up to the plate and the team is doing well. Although they beat Exeter 10-1, Hertford can never be criticised for taking Division 5 too seriously and new methods of wearing down the opponents include persevering in monsoon rain, continual side-line chatter and occasionally running off the court. All in all Hertford Netball has had a very successful term. Alongside the general chaos there is a strong contingent of genuine ability in the team and they hope to build on this next term, perhaps even eventually reaching the dizzying heights of Division 4.

The Hertford Squash team is far stronger than last year, and are on course for a promotion. They are currently through to the third round of the Cuppers tournament after beating Oriel from the league above and Exeter.

HCBC is as successful as always, with all teams rowing well at the Cambridge Winter Head. Despite a disappointment at Nephys Regatta, the 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!



Sam Parsons HCMS President

The time has come once more to reflect on what has been a particularly busy period of music-making 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 Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium*. Edmund Whitehead, our new Junior Organ Scholar, also debuted with *Bogoroditse Devo* from the Rachmaninov Vespers. 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 *Harmoniemesse* in B-flat to 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, Helena 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 reprieve as well 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 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 Daniel Benn both performing whole concertos from Sibelius and Elgar respectively. Other highlights included Hertford's own flute trio, Steven Fiddaman, Olivia McDermott, and Christopher James, who performed challenging works by Lefebvre and Weber with consummate ease.

Hilary Term will feature Andy Warnock taking the orchestra to new heights, the lunchtime concerts are already shaping up to be as varied and brilliant as ever, not without a few surprise guests. The choir will carry on delivering services of the highest order, and the Wind Band will no doubt continue to amaze. Not only that, but there is talk of the infamous HCMS *Jazz and Cocktails* event making a comeback, with music from a Hertford-based jazz ensemble...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2012

FEBRUARY

WED 29 Hertford's Golf Society Tournament
Swinley Forest Golf Club

MARCH

FRI 2 William Charnley Law Dinner

FRI 16 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)

MON 19 Singapore Drinks
Colin Ng & Partners LLP

WED 21 Hong Kong Drinks
The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club

FRI 23 Gaudy
Matriculation years 1989, 1990 & 1991

FRI 23 Inter-Collegiate Golf Tournament
Frilford Heath Golf Club

APRIL

FRI 13 SAT 14 Oxford University North American Reunion

SAT 14 Hertford's New York Reception

SAT 14 English Reunion

MAY

FRI 11 Geoffrey Warnock Society Lunch

SAT 26 Eights Week Buffet Lunch

JUNE

WED 6 The Hertford Society Reception
Drapers' Hall, London

SAT 9 Summer Reunion
Matriculation year 2004

SAT 23 Alan Turing Centenary Philosophy Dinner

SEPTEMBER

FRI 14 SAT 15 SUN 16 Oxford University Alumni Weekend
www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk
(Weekend accommodation available)

SAT 15 Soweto Kinch Live Performance
Pimms' & Jazz on the Quad

SAT 15 Hertford Alumni Dinner
Open to all matriculation years

FRI 21 Gaudy
Matriculation years 1971, 1972 & 1973

FRI 28 Hertford Economics Summit

CONTACT DETAILS

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Simpinkin: 'I'm off out for a night on the tiles to celebrate:
Happy Birthday to The Hertford Society!'



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