



Atlantic Endeavour

An ocean rowing world record attempt

Data:

the new oil of the digital economy?

Oxford volunteers

A hub for volunteer groups



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This summer finds me in a ruminative mood at the half way mark in my term of office as Principal, pondering on how quickly four years has gone and how even faster the next four years will go. Blink and you'll miss me! It's not really a job, more a way of life being around so much sheer intelligence and appetite for life; it's constantly exciting. I wrote after my first 100 days in the job about how Hertford has 'ideas worth spreading', and I remain thoroughly impressed by the diverse range of research and study taking place under our roof, the inter-connections this institution can nourish, and the young lives it can inspire.

Our university really is not bad. The first thing to note in this column is that Oxford has been ranked number one in the UK for the quality of its research by the 2015 Research Excellence Framework. The quality and impact of research across all disciplines is examined during this official assessment – 48% of the University's research was rated in the top 4* category, while 39% more was rated 3*.

Hertford contributed to the REF assessment and, as you'll see, research taking place within Hertford has been thriving recently. Two Hertford historians were among the six British authors shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society's 2014 Gladstone Prize – Giora Sternberg (our inaugural Ellis Barnard Fellow in History) for his work on *Status Interaction during the Reign of Louis XVII* and Home Bursar Andrew Beaumont for his book *Colonial America and the Earl of Halifax, 1748-1761*. Jamie Lorimer (Geography Fellow) has just published his first book, *Wildlife in the Anthropocene: Conservation after Nature*, which draws on over ten years of fieldwork in the UK, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands to discuss the potential of rewilding for wildlife conservation. Even I made a contribution to the already groaning shelves of Blackwell's with my latest book *How Good We Can Be*.

Our John Donne lecture this year was a wonderfully thought-provoking talk on liberty delivered by Shami Chakrabarti, whilst Law Fellow Alison Young has recently co-published a paper on the Human Rights Act and the Conservative Party.

Access has long been a priority for Hertford, and next time you are in college take a look at the new plaque for the 2014 Bridge to Bridge bicycle ride (many thanks to Rob Lusardi (1975) and Sabina Wu for generously funding it). Catherine Redford has been stepping up our access work, with plans for a summer school in Hertford in 2016 (read more on pp. 16-18). We've also appointed Mary Curnock-Cook (Chief Executive at UCAS) as an Academic Visitor at Hertford for the academic year 2015-16 – she'll be undertaking a data-driven project to evaluate our approach to outreach, and hopefully establish some new projects we can trial at Hertford. Throughout 2015-16, we'll also be celebrating how Hertford spear-headed new approaches to access under Neil Tanner from the 1960s onwards. Plans are well underway for a fundraising bike ride, a new display of portraits in Hall, and Tanner Day on 5 September which will pay tribute to Neil's legacy by showcasing Hertford's commitment to outreach and access.

Joining the celebrations will be our newly-appointed Honorary Fellows: Miles Vaughan Williams, Charlotte Hogg (1988; Chief Operating Officer at the Bank of England) and Tom Fletcher (1994; British Ambassador to Lebanon). Lucie Burgess (1993; Associate Director for Digital Libraries at the Bodleian) has also joined us as a Senior Research Fellow (you can read about Lucie's work in issue 25 of *Hertford College News* when she was working for the British Library).

The college remains a wonderful environment for learning, supporting connections across disciplines and challenging expected modes of thinking. This was ably demonstrated by the alumni weekend in Vienna recently – a great blend of incisive academic events, social receptions, and even a chance to learn the Viennese waltz!

I encourage you to get involved: visit the college, come along to one of our events or join us online.

Very best

Feedback on our last issue



Compliments on the new style mag. Great to see portrait of beloved Prof. Julia Briggs, & excellent piece by David Hopkin – @LalinePaull



Hurrah! New Hertford College mag! Cover makes me wish I could've biked to Venice with ya'll. Love the twitter page – @CleaDesjardins

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COLLEGE NEWS



Hertford was the first Oxford college to receive accreditation as a Living Wage employer.

Since receiving the accreditation in November 2014 staff have been paid the Living Wage, which is independently calculated every year to take into account the basic cost of living in the UK. It is currently set at £7.85 per hour outside London, whereas the national minimum wage is £6.50 per hour.

Bursar James Lazarus noted 'it has been so good to have students, fellows and staff united in supporting this excellent campaign.' Harry Coath (2012), who campaigned for accreditation, hoped it would be 'the first step towards a closer campaigning relationship between students and staff.'

The University and Mansfield and St Cross colleges have all since received accreditation, whilst a number of other colleges are currently applying for accreditation.

Will Hutton: How Good We Can Be

Will Hutton published his latest book, *How Good We Can Be: Ending the Mercenary Society and Building a Great Country* in February, arguing that British capitalism needs to be fixed.



“The growth of inequality is both a warning of the growing dysfunctionality of our capitalism and the principal obstacle to addressing it”

Will also featured in the *Private Eye's* 'Diary', a parody diary entry written by satirist Craig Brown in the style of a chosen celebrity. In this fictional account he remonstrates with a customer trying to buy a Kellogg's variety pack of cereal:

'The packaging and supply of miniaturised boxes of breakfast cereal or cereals is clearly unsustainable in the long term and the drive to phase them out represents a fine line that must be grasped with both hands as a matter of principle...' He reports 'the consumer in question was clearly grateful for this free summary of the first laws of economics because she immediately replaced the Variety Pack and, silenced on all the key questions, exited the shop without further quibbles.'



Pat Roche and the ESO

Pat Roche, Hertford's Physics Fellow, has been appointed President of the Council of the European Southern Observatory (ESO). Pat describes the appointment as 'both a great honour and a daunting challenge'.

The ESO is an intergovernmental organisation which builds and operates world-leading astronomical facilities. These include a suite of telescopes in the Atacama desert in northern Chile,

and will include a 39 metre diameter telescope (the European Extremely Large Telescope) which will be the largest optical/near-infrared telescope in the world when it goes live in 2024.

ESO's telescopes are used for the full range of astronomical research, from observations of objects within our own solar system to the identification of galaxies forming within a few hundred million years after the Big Bang.



Hertford star in Star Wars

Hertford alum Maisie Richardson-Sellers (2010) will be appearing in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, the latest film from the Star Wars franchise, scheduled for release on 18 December 2015.

Since landing her first acting job with *Star Wars*, Maisie has taken on larger roles in American TV show *The Originals* (a spin off from *The Vampire Diaries*) and new series *Kings and Prophets*, a biblical epic in which she plays the daughter of King Saul (acted by Ray Winstone), due to air in the autumn.

Maisie commented: 'In the past year I've been fortunate enough to meet some extremely talented and inspiring people, both on and off camera. Working within a wide range of cultures, periods and genres has been an ever evolving adventure and education. My anthropology and archaeology degree has definitely enriched the experience!'



Christopher Zeeman at 90

Former Principal Sir Christopher Zeeman recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

The special occasion was marked by the launch of an online archive of his work at the London Mathematical Society.

In the above image, he is pictured with former Principal Sir Walter Bodmer and Principal Will Hutton.

Elusive Simpkin

Simpkin has recently been diagnosed with an enlarged thyroid gland. It's a common disorder in older cats (sorry, Simpkin!) which can be managed with regular medication.

Accordingly, the brave folk of the Porters' Lodge have been administering medication to him twice daily, although Simpkin often has other ideas. Lodge Manager, David Haxell, has often appealed to college members for information on Simpkin's whereabouts, and kept us updated with the latest tussles:

“Having heard our revered Simpkin was sunning himself in the quad I sallied forth, full of trepidation but still confident of the challenge that

lay ahead of me. Simpkin, with back leg raised in some sort of feline salutation, fixed me with a steely stare, the same stare that has been known to strike terror into the rodent population of Oxford. 'Do your worst', he seemed to say. So I approached with pill cunningly concealed in a chunk of turkey. Our moggy was hit by a moment of uncertainty on whether to run, show total contempt or sample the tasty morsel being offered by your narrator. Capitalising on his hesitancy I proffered the aforementioned piece and natural gluttony won the day, resulting in the pill being safely delivered and another victory for the man in black polyester.”

Simpkin is named after the cat in Beatrix Potter's *The Tailor of Gloucester* Image © Tate



Double blades victory at Torpids

Hertford rowers made college history as both Men's and Women's 1st boats won Division 1 blades in Torpids 2015.

Hertford mounted up a total of 20 bumps over the four days of racing, and emerged with its two top crews back in the first division and newly crowned blades champions.



Boat Club President Emily Wilkes expressed her delight with the achievements of the boat club this term: 'I am thrilled to have been a part of such an amazing term of rowing for Hertford, not only have a record number of students been involved but we have shown that Hertford really is capable of excellence while at the same time encouraging all to take part.'

True to tradition, their achievements have been chalked on a college wall in Holywell Quad.

In this year's Eights rowing, five crews plus a joint W3 with St Peters raced up and down the Isis totalling up nine bumps between them. The highlight for many came on Saturday in Men's Division IV when Hertford's M2 bumped into St Catherine's College so decisively that the bow of the M2 boat, Graham Topping Too, came off.

Holly Redford-Jones, Women's Captain, summed up for us: 'Overall it was a fantastic end to what has been a great year of rowing for Hertford with the women's squad doubling in size from previous years while our two 1st boats retained their position in Women's Division I and head of Men's Division II respectively.'



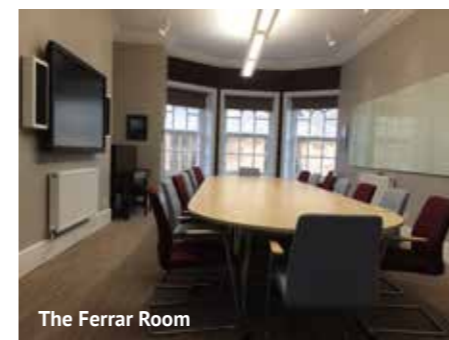
Subfusc referendum

Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) recently held a referendum on subfusc. 75% of students voted to keep it, whilst 24% voted against. Separately, 78% voted to keep the gown and mortarboard and 22% voted against.

The referendum had a turnout of 40%, the highest turnout on record for any English university student union cross-campus vote.

This referendum follows a previous referendum in 2006, and was triggered by a request from a group of examiners to remove the requirement to wear full sub fusc.

College renovation



The Ferrar Room

The college's ongoing project of room renovations has seen several rooms on the main site benefit from an upgrade. As well as working through student accommodation, newly refurbished rooms include the Ferrar Room and the Boyd Room, which are used for teaching and seminars. The latest project to commence is the Old Hall, with renovations planned to the kitchens in 2016.

Upgrades of a very different kind are currently being planned in the Library: selected books in our antiquarian collection are being treated with specialist conservation work. One such book is the *Hortus Sanitatis* from 1517, one of the oldest books in Hertford's collection. It describes various plants, animals and stones and includes annotations dated to the 1580s. Repairs will be carried out by expert bookbinders and are projected to cost £720. Donors wishing to fund these restoration projects will have their generosity noted in a plate inserted in the restored book.

Scholarship in Computer Science and Philosophy

Our fast-growing Computer Science and Philosophy course has been given a further boost following a generous donation by a former lecturer at Hertford, Ed Grefenstette. This donation will provide a full graduate scholarship for three years of study from Michaelmas 2016, and has been named the Oxford Mary Jane Grefenstette Scholarship after Ed's grandmother.

Established in 2012, Computer Science and Philosophy was the first new Philosophy degree programme at Oxford since 1973; you can read more about this course on pages 14-15.

Leverhulme Award

David Hopkin, History Fellow, has been awarded a prestigious Leverhulme Trust Fellowship. From January 2016 to April 2017 he will be researching the songs of European lacemakers:

'It is often assumed by historians that domestic women workers are subjects "without a voice"... However, hundreds of lacemakers have left some testimony to their lives, in their songs. Lacemakers were amongst the most prominent informants of folksong collectors in France, Belgium and Italy: we have thousands of texts and hundreds of audio recordings in which lacemakers expressed their views on marriage, poverty, the Church, sexuality, exploitation and faith.'

You can read more about David's work in the last issue (number 26) of *Hertford College News*.



David presents his research at the latest Warnock Society lunch



HARTfest 2015

The Hertford JCR recently celebrated its first ever Arts festival at the beginning of Trinity term. 'HART Fest', a celebration of all things creative in Hertford, was set up and run by students, with all members of college encouraged to get involved. The programme ranged from musical performances and a scratch orchestra to film screenings, life drawing and a panel on the representation of youth in literature chaired by Emma Smith.



Hertford in the House of Commons

Congratulations to the three Hertford alumni elected as MPs in the recent general election: Jeremy Quin (History, 1987) and Anne Marie Morris (Law, 1976) won Horsham and Newton Abbott respectively for the Conservatives, and Labour's Bridget Phillipson (History & Modern Languages, 2002) won Houghton & Sunderland South. Commiserations to Steve Webb (PPE, 1983) who lost his Liberal Democrat seat in Thornbury and Yate.



Jeremy Quin



Anne Marie Morris



Bridget Phillipson

Oxford volunteers

Makena is a second year Human Scientist at Hertford College and President of Oxford Hub, a network which brings together and supports voluntary work by students.

Oxford Hub is transforming students' involvement with social and environmental challenges in Oxford and around the world.

We're a student-led charity who believe that students have the power and potential to shape a better world – both during their time at university and in the future as we become leaders, thinkers and decision makers. Our vision is of a time where Oxford University students are fully embedded in the wider community, with every single one engaging in social and environmental issues during their time here. We aim to empower students to get involved in a practical and direct way with local communities and further afield.

Founded in 2007 by a group of students who felt the need for better coordination between

student charitable groups, our vision was of a network that would connect students working across different causes to share insight, knowledge, and experience. Oxford Hub provide training sessions, support student-run community volunteering, run conferences on social and environmental issues, provide a social impact internship scheme and help students find jobs in the third sector. It's really struck a chord, and led to the creation of Student Hubs (a national charity) and the development of Hubs at other universities including Bristol,

information about opportunities to get involved and supports around 600 student volunteers with weekly training sessions, speaker events and conferences. In 2014, our work was honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities, a sort of MBE for volunteer groups.

Oxford Hub projects

These are student led and student powered, and almost always set up by one or two individuals who once said 'I wonder if we could do something about that?' Hertford students have been key players in the development of the Hub through taking on key roles in the exec, and several of the projects have been founded by Hertford students.

One example is the **Oxford Student Food Co-op** (OxCoop) set up by two Hertford students, Claire Fenner and Vera Wriedt, in 2012 and passed on to

It was an amazing experience starting up an entrepreneurial organisation whilst at university; I'm working for the Bristol Hub supporting other students to do the same at the moment, but ultimately I aim to start something myself, given the skills and confidence that founding OxCoop has given me

Claire Fenner (2011), co-founder of OxCoop

Brookes, Cambridge, Imperial, Kingston, SOAS, Southampton, Warwick and Winchester.

Today Oxford Hub reaches over 7,000 students every week with

an enthusiastic second generation of Hertford students including Rebecca Carr, Miriam Chapman and Nic Patni (all 2013). OxCoop is a student run food cooperative which buys fairtrade, organic and local foods and sells these



Makena Löhr (2013)



Rebecca Carr



Florence Kettle (2013)



A fresh OxCoop delivery in Hertford
L-R: Luke (St Antony's), Nic Patni (2013), Makena Löhr (2013)

on with no profit, thus making more ethical food affordable to students. Run out of Hertford (using the Van Noorden room as a base) with a weekly pop up shop at the Oxford Hub on Turl Street, OxCoop takes between 10-30 orders every week – often including from Hertford's Chaplain Gareth Hughes.

The Homelessness Action Group was pioneered by Alice Drew (2012) and is currently headed up by Huw Spencer (2013). It works to forge stronger links between students and community services for the homeless that need their support, by coordinating and facilitating student volunteering in partnership with local charities such as Aspire, Crisis and St Mungo's Broadway.

Other Hub projects include LinkAges group (who visit the elderly at Isis House), Food Justice (who work with the Oxford Food Bank), Schools Plus (a group which trains Oxford students to support, tutor and mentor school children) as well as groups that focus their energy further afield such as Oxford for Syria, Oxford Aid to the Balkans and many others. We are very fortunate to have a huge number of committed students, and very enthusiastic community partners, who truly value the work Oxford Hub does.

Recently Oxford Hub's funding has come under stress as university funding, which made up 40% of our budget, ended. The remainder of our budget is made up through fundraising and the support of trusts, foundations and corporate partners. We've launched

a campaign to illustrate student and staff support of the Oxford Hub: a student petition gained 1,800 signatures, 18 JCRs passed motions of support within ten days, many moving testimonials were written and a 'fighting fund' is being launched to help bridge the funding gap. We are currently looking into finding new means of funding the Hub for future years.

The Oxford Hub exists because there's value in connecting voluntary groups of similar and wildly different types across the University, the city, and nationally. We hope that the continued support of students, staff, alumni and the Oxford community will support our work making volunteering effective and sustainable in the future.

Find out more, join our mailing list, or donate to the fighting fund at www.oxfordhub.org



Atlantic Endeavour

Kate Hallam (2001)

Kate aims to break two ocean rowing world records whilst racing 3,000 nautical miles across the Atlantic in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge later this year.

Blisters, salt sores, sleep deprivation and the fear of shark attacks – not something most women dream of experiencing – but this December the dream will become a reality as I set off in a seven metre long boat with three other women to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic ocean.

Last summer I raised the idea of an ocean row with my friend Sarah Hornby. Sarah and I have known each other for years, albeit from drinking in West London rather than any type of ocean adventure, but having previously been a full time offshore sailor I knew she would relish the challenge. We both knew the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge from some mutual friends who had completed it last year and had a niggling feeling that it was something we wanted to do too. I immediately thought of my friend Becky Charlton, who I'd met on a mountaineering expedition in Kurdistan earlier in the year, and Sarah invited her friend Charlie Best, a marine biologist and endurance athlete, to join us. From that moment Team Atlantic Endeavour was born!

We did some research and found that **more people have climbed Everest or been into space than rowed the Atlantic.** In 1966 Sir Chay Blyth and John Ridgeway became the first men to row the Atlantic. During their 92 day passage they faced hurricanes, 50ft waves and near starvation. This laid the foundation for the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge – a 3,000 mile race from La Gomera to Antigua with around 30 teams participating from around the world. We are aiming to beat the women's four record of 67 days and the women's team record (five

women) of 45 days. Doing two-hour shifts round the clock and battling the elements of the ocean makes it one of the toughest challenges on the planet.

I'm fascinated by the psychology of demanding environments and pitting myself against nature and so I'm always trying to find ways to blend my thirst for adventure with an extreme physical challenge. This has led me to undertake expeditions to some of the world's wildest and toughest places since leaving Hertford – from summiting Mont Blanc and Kilimanjaro to diving with sharks, ice-climbing in Kyrgyzstan, trekking the Inca Trail, wild camping in the Borneo jungle, and mountaineering in Iraq. With my job in international development I've also been fortunate enough to work all over Asia and Africa, often in remote and under-developed areas. Although mountaineering is my first passion (I'll also be attempting to climb the Matterhorn in September), the race captured my imagination and will be an ideal opportunity to venture into the unknown and push my limits!

But it's not only for the personal challenge that we are doing this. Through the row we want to inspire other women to push their boundaries. From that first 5k run to a long distance bike ride or trek up a mountain, we want to show other women that with some hard work and determination anything is achievable. Hertford has been celebrating the anniversary of co-education in Oxford (love the new Hall portraits!) and this is also the first year women have raced on the same course as men for the Oxford and Cambridge boat race. Now is the time for women to shine! Working with disadvantaged women across the world and seeing what they overcome on a daily basis has been both humbling and inspiring. We are therefore encouraging supporters to 'sponsor a sister' through the charity Women for Women International, which, through a year-long programme, helps women facing violence,

marginalisation and poverty as a result of war and conflict in some of the poorest countries in the world. We also recognise what a tough mental challenge this will be, and so also aim to raise awareness of mental illness as well as £10,000 in donations for the mental health charity Mind.

It was ten years ago when I got blades at Summer Eights with Hertford College Boat Club – one of the highlights of my time at university. I remember the cheers from the towpath, the click of the blades, and the whoosh of the seat. I also remember the pain of the aching legs and blistered hands! I hadn't rowed again until a few months ago when Fulham Reach Boat Club supported us in getting out sculling on the Thames in pairs. With two of the team having never rowed before, our coach, Olympic athlete Al Heathcote, has been instrumental in getting the team up to speed with their rowing skills. On top of this, training includes erging on machines (building up to two hour sessions) and strength and conditioning with weights, deadlifts, and squats. We also have a nutritionist to help us fuel effectively and pile on the pounds in anticipation of burning over 8,000 calories a day during the row. We have been fortunate enough to receive support from a number of partners – from Mars chocolate, to Mountain House food, Victoria Jeffs Estate Agents, and law firms, however still have some way to go to raise the much needed funds and equipment to get us across the Atlantic.

With six months to go the pressure is on and the ocean is in sight. We look forward to Hertford alumni following us on our journey!

To find out more about how to support the team and further information about the challenge please visit www.atlanticendeavour.com or email atlanticendeavour15@gmail.com



L-R: Sarah Hornby, Charlotte Best, Kate Hallam, Becky Charlton

The Atlantic Endeavour mission: To inspire women to push their boundaries.

We aim to break two ocean rowing world records whilst raising awareness and funding for our chosen charities

Andy is YouGov's Chief Innovation Officer. He is responsible for the design and architecture of their data, and has been working in market research since 1998.

In the final year at university some people have a clear career plan mapped out and others are less certain what they will do; I certainly fell into the latter camp. After graduating in the summer of 1997 I headed off to Australia for a year of travelling and working with two other Hertford alumni. In a youth hostel on Manly Beach I saw an advertisement for market research interviewers and thought 'that will be a good way of earning some money'. I soon caught the bug for discovering what people think and do, and how market researching can be used to drive the decisions made by companies, governments and institutions.

It was a moment of luck that set me on my career path, but it is a moment that I have never had cause to regret. When I returned to the UK I took a graduate job with Taylor Nelson Sofres (now part of WPP) where I learnt the ropes of market research, and since then have been involved with three fast-moving companies across a variety of roles from client and account management, sales, country office management and now heading up YouGov's innovation drive.

It is an exciting place to be. YouGov is not only the highest profile market research company in the UK but also a fast-moving, cutting edge organisation that is redefining the research sector in the UK and across the world.

In the time I have worked in the industry, market research has changed rapidly. It is often said that 'data is the new oil' and it is easy to see that here. Previously clients could know around one hundred things about an aspect of their target consumers lives, whereas now they can understand hundreds of thousands of points about their entire lives. The hottest property in research now are 'data scientists' (a job title that barely existed when I left university), who use high powered mathematical skills to pull insight from a vast sea of data.

As a fun example take a look at what we know about readers of Will Hutton via the YouGov Profiler – they are more likely than the general population to be older, well-off, left wing males. They are more likely to read *The Guardian* (no surprise) and eat lentil casserole, to love hiking and Formula One, and to regard themselves as ethical, well-educated and arrogant! They are more likely to shop at Waitrose, wear Levi's and drive a Toyota. They watch Channel 4 News, love *House of Cards* (both versions) and *Fargo*.

All a bit of fun and mildly interesting (if you are Will Hutton) but imagine how useful that information can be when the data points explode and you are looking at a brand's target customer or a candidate's potential voters. Knowing who they are, how they feel, what they want, what they read and watch on TV, what they do online means that you can better create what

people want and better reach the ones that want it. Companies can better serve their customers, and that is great news for both the companies and the customers.

At YouGov we continue to preach the power of participation and collecting more data that benefits our members, our clients and their customers. The world is more connected than it has ever been, there is more data available, we are all better informed. The more we know, the better our decisions are and the better all our lives are.

DATA:

the new oil of the digital economy?

Andy Morris (1994)



What are the new innovations you've been working on in market research?

It boils down to using the technology of the 21st century to change the way we think about research. Creating continuous conversations, listening passively (of course strictly permissioned), knowing so much more and putting that to use for clients. YouGov Profiles is the prime example – allowing clients to understand their stakeholders in a level of detail that they could never previously have imagined.

Where do you see the industry moving in the next five/ten years?

Moving from the idea of a single survey with necessarily limited data to an ongoing conversation with almost unlimited data. Moving to a place where when clients ask a question we don't have to ask it because we already have the answer.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Being at the heart of change – the feeling every day that we are creating something, and something that is of real value to clients and game-changing for the industry.

What would be your desert island disc for a long day in the office?

Noah and the Whale.

Are there any life lessons you learnt at Hertford that have been particularly useful?

It taught me to think independently and not be afraid to challenge the perceived wisdom whilst carefully thinking through the consequences of each scenario.

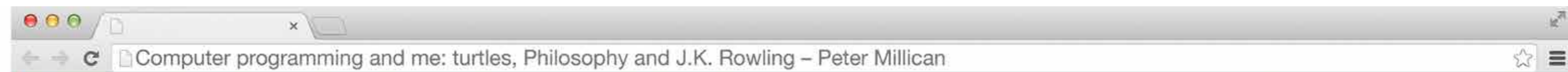


MEN		WOMEN			
1	Bill Gates	9.2	1	Angelina Jolie	10.6
2	Barack Obama	6.4	2	Malala Yousafzai	7.1
3	Xi Jinping	5.3	3	Hillary Clinton	6.4
4	Jackie Chan	4.9	4	Queen Elizabeth II	6.0
5	Narendra Modi	4.8	5	Michelle Obama	4.8
6	Pope Francis	4.1	6	Celine Dion	4.6
7	The Dalai Lama	4.0	7	Oprah Winfrey	4.3
8	Jack Ma	3.9	8	Julia Roberts	4.0
9	Stephen Hawking	3.8	9	Aung San Suu Kyi	3.6
10	David Beckham	3.8	10	Angela Merkel	3.4
11	Vladimir Putin	3.6	11	Taylor Swift	3.1
12	Warren Buffett	3.1	12	Beyonce Knowles	3.0
13	Brad Pitt	2.8	13	Sonia Gandhi	2.7
14	Bill Clinton	2.5	14	Jennifer Lawrence	2.7
15	Cristiano Ronaldo	2.4	15	Kate Middleton	2.5
16	Prince William	2.0	16	Emma Watson	2.4
17	George Clooney	1.9	17	Faye Wong	1.8
18	Joko Widodo	1.7	18	Elizabeth Warren	1.4
19	Billy Graham	1.7	19	Ellen DeGeneres	1.2
20	George W. Bush	1.7	20	Dilma Rousseff	1.1

WORLD'S MOST ADMIRABLE

2015

YouGov
What the world thinks



Peter Millican is Gilbert Ryle Fellow and Professor of Philosophy, and has been our Tutor in Philosophy since 2005.

Peter has introduced a new Oxford degree programme - Computer Science and Philosophy - and is currently working on a major project to promote computer programming in schools.

Although my research has always focused on central areas of philosophy (often connected with the thought of David Hume), I really enjoy the creativity and utility of being able to write software, especially to support my teaching. Programming gives the buzz of a constant sequence of solvable problems, and I'm particularly excited by the possibility of exploring philosophical ideas through computerised thought-experiments.

When I came to Hertford in 2005 I was keen to promote this synthesis of the two disciplines, which I see as extremely fruitful – even vital – for the future of both.

Computer Science and Philosophy

In 2012, Computer Science and Philosophy became the first new Philosophy degree programme at Oxford since 1973, representing a significant commitment by the University to this exciting area. Hertford College is the leader in this new degree, offering four places each year and attracting highly impressive and interesting applicants.

The subjects have very close links, ranging over logic, artificial intelligence, philosophy of science and social science etc. But most fundamentally, the computer provides a wonderful tool to embody and exploit the automation of reasoning, an aspiration of philosophers down the ages including Aristotle, Hobbes, Leibniz, Frege, Russell and Turing. It thus holds the promise of extending our powers of thought-experiment, analysis, calculation and investigation within almost any field of human enquiry: a tireless, reliable, and fantastically quick assistant for anyone with the ability to program.

Not surprisingly, computer scientists are in huge demand throughout the economy, but employers often bemoan their weakness at communicating with non-'techies'. Graduates from the new degree, however, will powerfully combine deep technical understanding with excellent verbal skills. They will have a wide career choice at the boundaries of research in most disciplines, from language processing or looking for patterns in historical texts, to modelling the early universe or searching for medicines in genetic data banks.

Teaching computer programming in schools: the *Turtle System*

Computing became a compulsory part of the national curriculum in September 2014; learning to code is increasingly seen as a vital skill, and should benefit children whatever their ultimate career.

The best way to start learning to program is to have fun: to experience the pleasure of intellectual creation as you capture your imaginative ideas in computer code. A wonderful way of facilitating this was invented by Seymour Papert with his idea of Turtle Graphics, based on the metaphor of a 'turtle' moving around the computer screen and drawing as it goes, all under the control of instructions typed by the user (a list of which forms the 'program'). This sort of programming, and the results it produces, are easy to understand because they are so immediately visual, and can include animations and interactive games as well as graphics. The approach is hugely popular, but usually embedded within standard programming systems whose complexity and sophistication make it hard for the novice in other ways (eg. error messages can run to dozens of lines for a missing bracket).

Back in 2000 I started developing my own 'Turtle System'. As far as I know, it is unique in being entirely self-contained, with its own 'compiler'

“The *Turtle System* is a wonderful educational tool to develop young people's thinking, giving a vision of the beauty and joy of Computer Science by offering a very approachable introduction to programming and much more”

Roger Davies, Editor of Computing At School (CAS) magazine *SwitchedOn*

that translates the user's written program into numerical 'machine code' which is then executed by an underlying 'Turtle Machine'. Users can ignore all this (they just write their code, click 'RUN', and see their program in action), but it allowed me to design the system for easy learning, with error messages that are simple and very precisely targeted. It also means keen students can take a look at what's happening 'under the bonnet'.

I put the *Turtle System* on the web, making gradual improvements in response to users (including my own children), until Michael Gove announced in January 2012 the complete overhaul of the ICT/Computing curriculum to include both coding and computer science. Then in early 2014, the UK Department for Education invited bids for matched funding of projects to develop materials to support

teachers with the new curriculum. My system uniquely combined both coding and computer science and, thanks to generous co-funding from Bill and Weslie Janeway (the parents of one of my PPE students, Charles) and my two faculties, we were able to secure a £100k project.

This project has radically extended our ambitions for the *Turtle System*, bringing in technical consultants and teachers to develop it further and add resources. It now supports four programming languages – BASIC, Java, Pascal and Python – a flexibility offered by no other system, which empowers pupils by showing the easy transferability of programming skills. My Hertford colleague Henry Merivale, another philosopher with computational interests, has implemented a version of the Turtle Machine online, thus enabling Turtle programs to be run on the web and mobile devices. He has also developed a web forum where teachers can exchange editable teaching materials, sign up students, and review their work online.

By a pleasing coincidence Hugh Wallis, the consultant who wrote the Turtle compilers for BASIC and Python (a task unthinkable in this timescale without funding support), happens to be my first ever Computer Science and Philosophy student from back in 1987 when I was teaching at Leeds University!

Find out more about Computer Science and Philosophy at www.philocomp.net

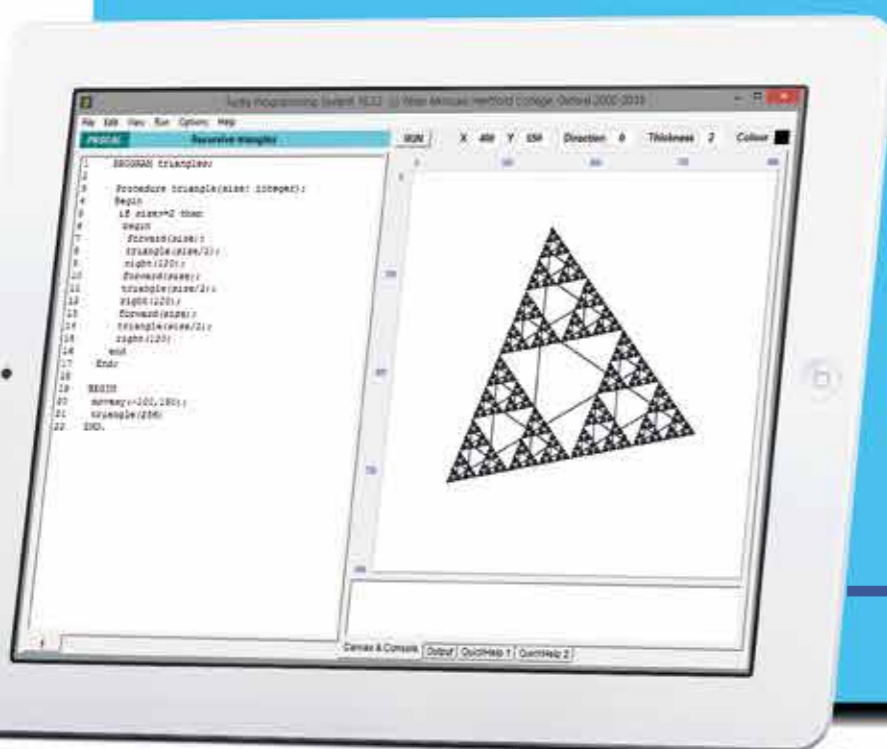
View the *Turtle system* online at www.turtle.ox.ac.uk
If you have any questions please contact me at peter.millican@hertford.ox.ac.uk

Literary signature: J. K. Rowling unveiled

Another system I wrote to interest Humanities students in computer applications has twice got me into front-page *Sunday Times* stories. Signature does 'stylometric' analysis of texts, calculating and graphing statistical measures and comparisons on frequencies of words, phrases, letters, punctuation, sentence and paragraph lengths etc.

Shortly before the presidential election in November 2008, the Republicans tried to use *Signature* to support the claim that Barack Obama's autobiography had been ghost-written by a domestic terrorist, a plot that I reported and debunked in *The Sunday Times*.

Then last summer the paper contacted me again after receiving a tip-off that J. K. Rowling was the real author of *The Cuckoo's Calling*, recently published under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith. I compared the book with two of her known works (*The Casual Vacancy* and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*) and with six other thrillers (by Ruth Rendell, P. D. James, and Val McDermid). *The Cuckoo's Calling* came out closest, on virtually every measure, to the Rowling texts, corroborating strongly that Robert Galbraith was, indeed, J. K. Rowling.



Access & Outreach

During the next academic year (2015-16), we'll be celebrating the pioneering approach to access which Neil Tanner had at Hertford from the 1960s onwards – and you can read more about that in our next issue.

But what are we doing in college to support access and outreach efforts today?



Catherine Redford, our new Access and Outreach Career Development Fellow, describes her current activities and plans for the future.

I have a deep commitment to access at Oxford University, not least because I benefitted from such work myself. Some fourteen years ago, as a very unsure sixth former, I came up to Oxford for a week on an access summer school. Nobody in my family had been to university, and my perception of Oxford was that it was for the posh and the wealthy; indeed, several people had told me that Oxford wasn't for someone 'like me'. From the moment I arrived at the summer school, however, I was struck by how friendly, encouraging, and normal everyone was. After a week of lectures and tutorials with some incredibly inspirational tutors from across the English department (including Hertford's Emma Smith), I left determined to

apply to Oxford; the following year, I took up my place to read English at St Hilda's.

I've been involved in various access and outreach schemes both as a student and, later, during my time spent as a lecturer in English, so I was thrilled when, at the end of last Michaelmas term, I was offered the position of Access and Outreach Fellow at Hertford. The way in which this role is structured means that I spend half of my time on academic research and the other half on access and outreach work; this means that when I work with potential applicants, I can deliver genuine and, hopefully, inspirational academic content. Rather than just telling school students how fantastic our university is, I'm able to engage them in an exciting academic session that will leave them wanting to come and study at Oxford.

Such sessions also give students confidence, showing them that they can hold their own in an academic conversation and come up with some original ideas. Recent seminars I've held have seen students examining

'Link' regions

To simplify communication between the University and schools in the United Kingdom, each Oxford college is linked to a Local Authority. Hertford's linked Local Authorities are Camden, Essex, Medway and Southend on Sea. This has no bearing on the admissions process, but provides a geographical focus to our outreach work

the editorial changes made to the *Frankenstein* manuscript by P. B. Shelley and comparing some early nineteenth-century texts that imagine the end of the world. It's wonderful to see the students – some as young as 14 – relishing the challenges of these topics and becoming really excited and animated in their discussions.

I've consistently been impressed by the college's attitude to access and outreach work, and it's great to be surrounded by a team of Fellows, administrative staff, and students who are keen to support access initiatives. In the first few months of my role, I've attended various Higher Education fairs and evenings, participated – along with other Hertford Fellows – in regional 'Stretch Days', been on numerous visits out to schools in our college link regions (Camden, Essex, and Medway), and run a series of Taster Days in college.

Taster Days see groups of 15-20 students from state schools come into college for the day in order to experience life at Oxford first hand. The students are able to take part in an academic session before having a tour of the college, lunch in hall, a talk from our Admissions Officer, and a Q&A session with some of our current undergraduates. These events are a really effective way to go about 'myth busting', and over the course of the day the participants often go from looking

unsure and apprehensive to being chatty and enthused. I'm able to address any worries that students may have about affording Oxford, and tell them about the generous undergraduate bursary scheme that our college offers students from lower income backgrounds. They get to see that Hertford is full of young people just like them, and Oxford goes from being an alien place to an achievable goal.

It's very important to me to spend time meeting students face to face, whether in college or at their schools; we need to show these young people that Oxford cares enough to make the effort to engage with them. Over the coming months and years, I also want to pursue some wider and more ambitious access initiatives. This June, we'll be holding our first 'Women in STEM' event, which will see a group of 70 Year 11 girls from state schools coming to Hertford for a free day of exciting science, technology, engineering, and maths sessions. I'm also planning to launch a Hertford access summer school, which will allow us to bring gifted students from less privileged backgrounds into college for a few days to follow an inspiring programme of academic, cultural, and social events. This will give the participants a real flavour of what being an undergraduate at Hertford is like, and will hopefully raise their aspirations. Hertford has a long history of innovative and effective outreach work, and I'm committed to using my time at the college to build on this excellent record.

Want to find out more? Follow us on Twitter (@HertfordAccess) or like our Facebook page (Hertford College Access).

Archie Jones (2013), JCR Access Officer

Archie Jones, our current JCR Access Officer, describes student initiatives to support access.

Hertford's access & outreach work was recently nominated for OUSU's 'Campaign of the Year' award (2014-15), an acknowledgment of both the deep commitment to widening access that runs throughout our undergraduate body, and the particular efforts of Evie Howorth (JCR Access Officer, 2014). Over 60 current undergraduates have volunteered 'internally' this year, leading events from college tours to Q&A workshops with constant enthusiasm and friendliness. JCR members are also actively engaged with a broad range of University-wide programmes (such as Target Schools, Schools Plus, UNIQ, Oxford Pathways Programme, Widening Participation, Jacari) in numbers unrivalled by other colleges.

In addition to our support of Hertford's own initiatives (particularly school visits and subject tours), the spring of 2015 has seen preparations commence for our Summer Outreach Roadshow to the Medway region of Kent – one of Hertford's 'link' regions. Teaming up with the student-run Target Schools campaign, the JCR hopes to reach around 1,000 sixth formers during the week-long event – delivering talks and workshop to schools with little or no history of sending students to Oxford. Our relationship with Target Schools has also seen the JCR host ten of its Shadowing Day workshops this academic year, catering for 300 Year 12 students while also providing a large number of volunteers to be shadowed during the morning. Working alongside Oxford University African-Caribbean Society, OUSU and Target Schools, the JCR also supported Oxford's first African-Caribbean Access day.

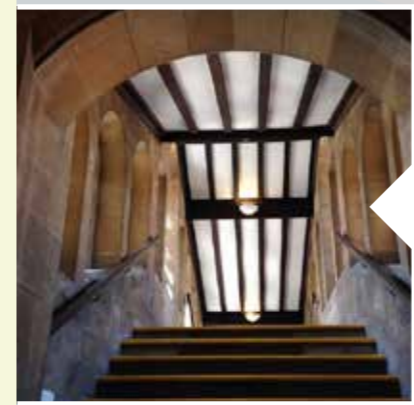
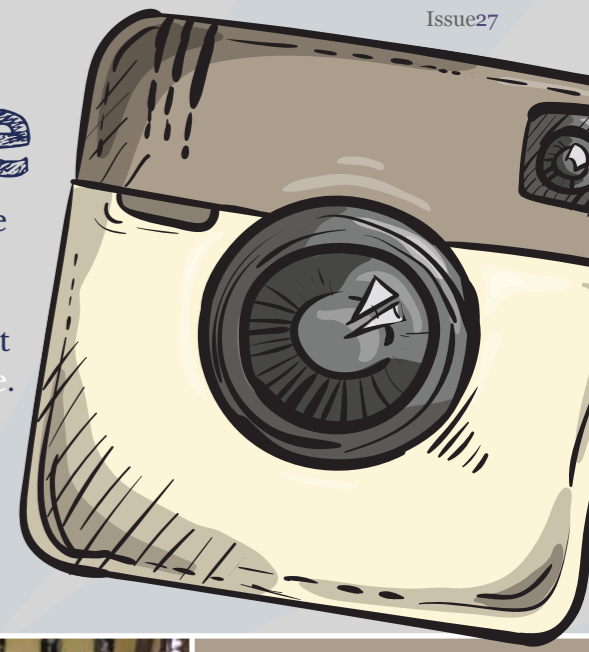
Following on from the work of Evie and Matthew Hiscock (Academic Registrar) on our most recent 'Alternative Prospectus', the JCR is also looking to further expand the reach of the 'student voice' through the production and release of a number of online videos in the run up to the July open days. These will aim to cover daily life in Oxford and Hertford through student eyes, working to debunk myths and quash stereotypes. This growing emphasis on online outreach work has also seen a number of JCR members trial a new 'online debate' format with Waddesdon School, Buckinghamshire – for which we are indebted (as ever) to the organisation of Matthew Hiscock. Our very own Dan Martin (2012) has also been at the forefront of a number of excellent films produced by the OxVlog project.

Hertford online

Since the launch of our twitter page @HertfordCollege, we've enjoyed staying in touch with more people online.

And if Instagram is more your thing, we now have an account there too: have a look at www.instagram.com/hertfordcollege.

There's also an account for access too @HertfordAccess. Remember: we're always happy to answer questions, so if there's anything you'd like to know about Hertford/Oxford please get in touch!



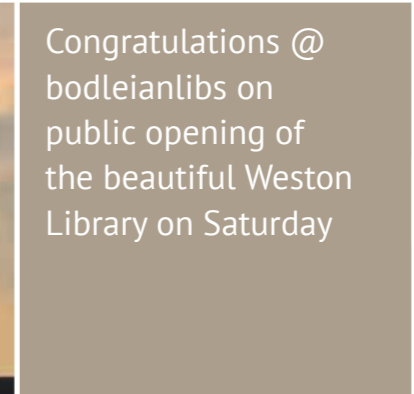
A rare view of the inside of our bridge, a well known #Oxford landmark which connects two Hertford College buildings



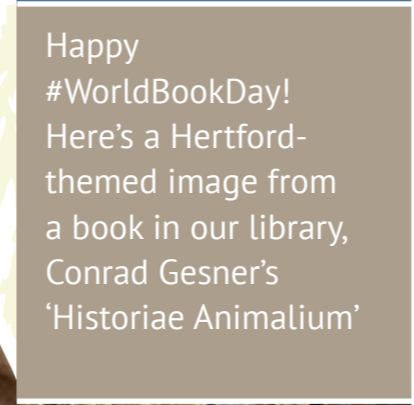
Hertford staff are supporting #wearahatday & raising funds for brain tumour research



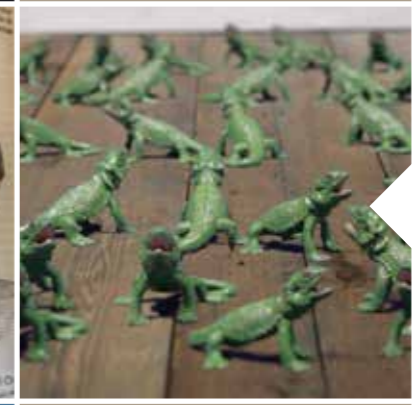
Clouds cleared at just the right moment to get the shot. Eclipse over Oxford, from the roof of @HertfordCollege (via @DrBeauBeaumont)



Congratulations @bodleianlibs on public opening of the beautiful Weston Library on Saturday



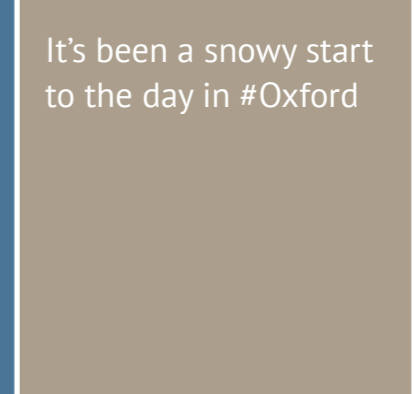
Happy #WorldBookDay! Here's a Hertford-themed image from a book in our library, Conrad Gesner's 'Historiae Animalium'



Alumni @Tom_Shennan & @OliverCoward are working on a short film, That Lizard Laden Death Feel



We are celebrating #PancakeDay with a race around OB Quad! Congratulations to Jamie for winning! #ShroveTuesday




It's been a snowy start to the day in #Oxford

Stretch days
A special event which allows us to reach potential applicants from a variety of different schools. Arranged in collaboration with Cambridge University, pupils from multiple schools attend this day which includes academic taster sessions, a talk on applying to university and writing a competitive application



THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT HERTFORD THIS SUMMER

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR ONE OF OUR EVENTS



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335 km BIKE RIDE
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MORECAMBE TO ROBIN HOOD'S BAY

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www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/tourdehertford



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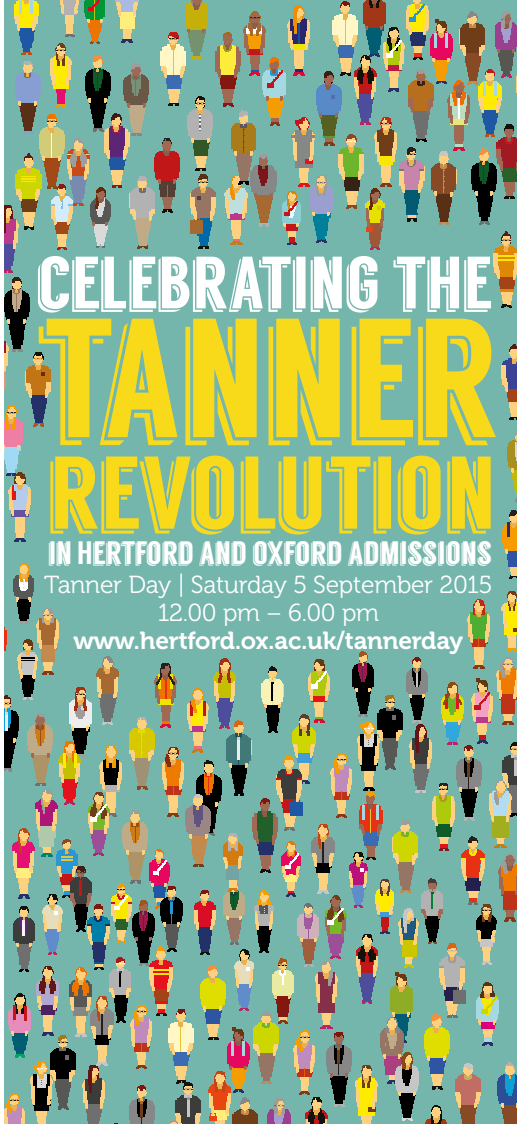
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LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD

2015

18 September: Gaudy for matriculation years 2004-05

12 November: London Drinks

5 December: Christmas drinks for donors

2016

8 January: Gaudy for matriculation years 1977-79

18 March: John Donne lecture

6 May: Warnock Society lunch

28 May: Eights' Week buffet lunch



 Hertford College Alumni

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