

# HERTFORD

# FORD



collegenews  
Issue 28

## Hertford celebrates:

The Tanner  
Revolution in  
Oxford admissions

The life  
(and death)  
of William  
Shakespeare

The Wallasea  
Island wild  
coast project

HERTFORD  
COLLEGE  
OXFORD



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# FROM WILL HUTTON



I am writing this in the warm aftermath of the John Donne lecture at which Frances O’Grady (General Secretary of the TUC) made a passionate case for the EU, and how it benefits working people. It is not an argument you hear often, and even those in the audience not sharing her view found it refreshing and challenging – Brexit and Remain supporters continued in friendly debate over a drink afterwards. It was one more piece of evidence, if any was needed, that the purpose of an university is evidence-based argument and counter-argument in an atmosphere of free and open exchange – a purpose to which all of us at Hertford are 100 per cent committed.

The highest concentration of new startup companies outside Silicon Valley and Boston are now found in the science parks around Oxford, Cambridge, UCL and Imperial with Oxford rapidly closing the gap with Cambridge – and on some measures moving ahead. As many of you know I am a keen promoter of innovation in all its guises, not only start-ups but as importantly subsequent scale-ups where the UK has much to do. Hertford can play an important catalytic role. This year we’ve launched Tri-innovate – a joint initiative with Pembroke and Wolfson – to encourage teams of students to come forward with innovative social and business models. Many thanks to the alumni who judged the submissions, especially given the tight deadline. I am pleased that four Hertford teams are amongst the six finalists for the run-off next term. I look forward to hearing their new ideas for commercial or social enterprises on subjects ranging from medical imaging to high tech tutoring.

So what other news? The MCR is working hard to make Hertford graduate students feel more involved in college life. One intriguing new initiative is to organise incoming graduate students into small groups with similar study interests, better to help build friendships and enable cross-disciplinary collaboration. The groups of four to six students have been named after beneficiaries of the Tanner scheme, whose portraits are on display in Hall until the end of September 2016.

Chemistry met Music on 5 March when Claire Vallance played as soloist in the latest Hertford Bruckner Orchestra concert – it can’t be very often that a Fellow in Chemistry is of concert standard as a pianist. Claire also played brilliantly at my wife’s memorial, who died in February after a two year battle with cancer, along with haunting singing from Holly Redford-Jones, a third year PPEist: huge thanks to them both for helping to create an extraordinary and for me a cathartic event. As any number of people at the memorial commented, Hertford really came up trumps, with members of our choir also singing Panis Angelicus with inspiration. I am intensely grateful for the many condolences I have received, and to the fellowship for its unstinting support and warm sympathy throughout Jane’s illness. It dramatized as nothing else has done that we are all members of an unique community: fellowships at moments like these are genuine fellowships. But that has not been our only recent loss. Former Principal and renowned mathematician Christopher Zeeman also died in February aged 91.

Lastly the college has played a central role rallying nearly every Oxford college to host refugee Syrian academics at Oxford, through the Council for At Risk Academics. A few have already taken up posts and we are standing by ready for ours. I felt, as did the fellowship, that although it is a small step in the grand scheme of things, it was the least we could do. It’s what we stand for.

My very best to all of you.



## Hertfordians tackle Ebola

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

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

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

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

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

## News in brief



### Visit us using Google Street View

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

### Hertford's first access summer school

Designed to provide targeted academic support, training in study skills, and advice on interviews to year 12 state school students, the residential programme will be available for free. [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/summerschool2016](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/summerschool2016)

### Support for Syrian refugees

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

### Outreach rising star

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

### Jazz show with Hertford host

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

## Hertford students advise the Cabinet Office

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

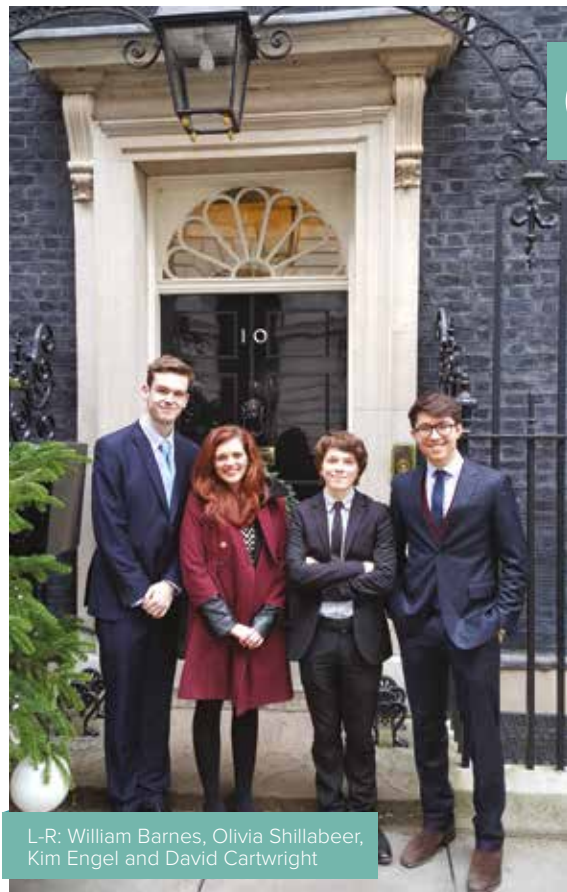
Olivia Shillabeer, third year PPE student, explains: 'We worked for about nine months on a project determining how wellbeing research could be incorporated into future government and civil service policymaking.'

Their report appeared in a Cabinet Office Analysis and Insight Team blog by Ewen McKinnon, who

wrote: 'It really is great to see the interest and commitment to studying economic wellbeing and that new economists will be leaving university well versed in wellbeing science.'

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

**Please contact Elizabeth Partridge if you'd like to get involved ([elizabeth.partridge@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.partridge@hertford.ox.ac.uk)).**



L-R: William Barnes, Olivia Shillabeer, Kim Engel and David Cartwright

## Brexit

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

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



## Hertford in the boat race

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

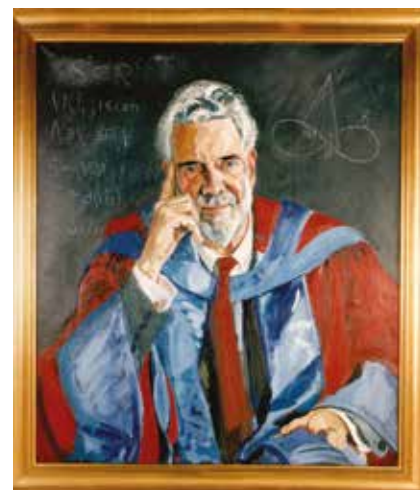
Emma Lukasiewicz joined Hertford in 2015 from Harvard University, and is studying for an MSc in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation. She rowed in bow position and described the day as a unique and unforgettable experience: 'it was incredible to see the crowds on the banks and hear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



L-R: Joanne Jansen, Emma Lukasiewicz, Ruth Siddorn and Elo Luik

## Professor Sir Christopher Zeeman (1925-2016)

On 13 February Professor Sir Christopher Zeeman passed away at home, aged 91. Sir Christopher, a renowned mathematician and communicator of maths, was Principal of Hertford from 1988-95.



He is well known for presenting the Royal Institution's 1978 Christmas Lectures, in which he described maths as a paradoxical subject:

*'we are never quite sure whether it is an art or a science, whether we invent it or discover it, whether it is a man-made toy or a truth so universal that it is independent of the universe.'*

An obituary will be published in the next *Hertford College Magazine*.

## New Vice Chancellor

Louise Richardson started work as the 272nd Vice-Chancellor at the University of Oxford on 1 January 2016. A political scientist by training, Louise has specialised in international security with an emphasis on terrorist movements, and spent the last seven years as Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of St Andrews.

*'Let's all make the most of the time we have here in this privileged, magical, extraordinary place to leave it even better than we found it.'*

Louise Richardson's installation speech



## Bark to bacteria

National prize for science communication won by Hertford student

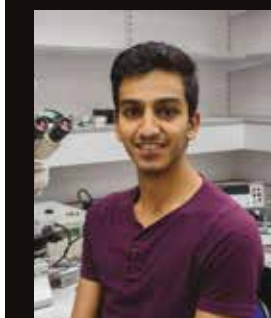
Rosemary Chamberlain, third year biochemist, has won the Biochemistry Society's national science communication competition with her entry 'From bark to bacteria' which examines the natural sources of modern medicine:



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

The full article has been printed in *The Biochemist* December 2015, available at [www.biochemistry.org](http://www.biochemistry.org).

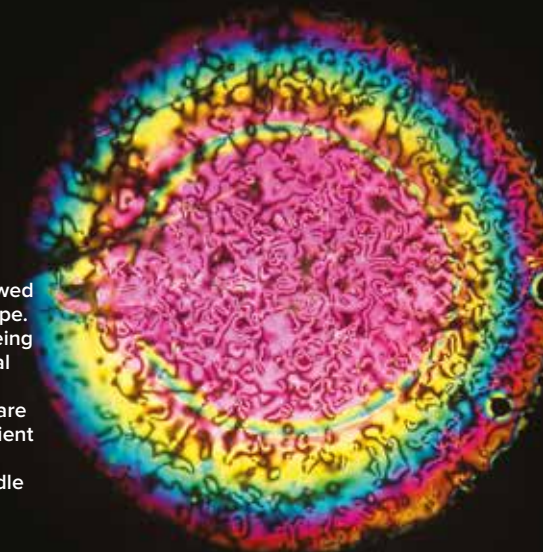
## Clearer vision



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

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

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



Liquid crystal viewed under a microscope. The material is being heated to a critical temperature; the different colours are caused by a gradient in temperature between the middle and edge of the sample

## Hertford's academics



**New professors:** Two Hertford Fellows have been recognised by the University in the 2015 Recognition of Distinction awards, which provides the full professor title for those who meet criteria in research, teaching and good citizenship.

Emma Smith is the new Professor of Shakespeare Studies, whilst Christopher Tyerman is Professor of the History of the Crusades.



**Kay Davies** received the 2015 William Allan award from the American Society of Human Genetics, recognising substantial and far-reaching scientific contributions to human genetics.



**Roy Foster** has been awarded a British Academy medal for 2015, recognising outstanding academic work in his book *Vivid Faces: The Revolutionary Generation in Ireland, 1890-1923*.



**David Greaves** and his research group have discovered a naturally occurring anti-inflammatory peptide which could treat psoriasis without many of the side-effects of current treatments.



**Martin Maiden's** research group have published a new paper which identifies the different bacterial lineages responsible for outbreaks of meningococcal disease, which will help target vaccines more effectively.



**Tony Wilson** has been presented the 2015 Callendar Medal by the Institute for Measurement and Control for outstanding contribution to the art of instrumentation and measurement, in recognition of his significant contributions to advances in confocal microscopy.



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

2016 marks four hundred years since Shakespeare's death.

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

# Emma Smith

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

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



“We've found a First Folio that we didn't know existed”

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

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

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

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

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

# Katie Traxton

Katie Traxton (2006) is working for the British Council's Shakespeare Lives project, an international celebration bringing the UK's number one cultural icon to everyone.

**amazing**  
definition: very surprising  
synonym: astonishing  
first recorded usage:  
Shakespeare's *Richard II*,  
Act I, Scene iii

Over 400 years later – and seven years after graduating from Hertford in English Language and Literature – ‘amazing’ seems the best possible description for my current job. After nearly seven years working in motorsport and automotive marketing, I've recently been appointed Marketing Lead for the British Council's Shakespeare Lives campaign; a role that allows

professional development, while also offering the chance to talk about, write about and discover a little more about Shakespeare every day.

However, the truly special thing about this campaign isn't the opportunity for me to discover more about the Bard, it's the opportunity for everyone. A recent article from my colleague Paul Smith quoted, '[Shakespeare] is studied in school by more than 50 per cent of the world's population when no other creative figure in history is studied by more than 1 or 2 per cent' (*Huffington Post*). That figure is as exciting as it is mind-blowing and we have to embrace it by reaching as many of that 50 per cent as possible.

Brand new short-form video content designed for a young, global, online audience reimagines Shakespeare's plays, from *Twelfth Night* brought to us by pop and rap film-maker Jamal Edwards MBE to *Julius Caesar* filmed in

the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and starring Mark Stanley (*Game of Thrones*, *Dickensian*, *Star Wars*). Politicians, scientists and sports stars are playing their part and recognising the widespread relevance of Shakespeare's skill in communication, empathy with the human condition and confrontation of issues of diversity, such as gender, race and religion.

In 2012, 'brand' William Shakespeare was estimated at \$600 million (Campaign Brief) with the potential to reach \$1 billion if commercially owned (in line with Elvis Presley or Marilyn Monroe). Yet Shakespeare isn't and can't be owned, because what he offers us is unquantifiable. His work resonates now as much as ever and has the potential to excite, entertain and engage anyone, anywhere. It's for this reason that in a modern, digital age #shakespearelives and not for the few, or even the many, but for everyone.

## Join the celebration

**Bodleian Library: Shakespeare's Dead** explores the paradox that, on the 400th anniversary of his death, Shakespeare could hardly be more alive, in an exhibition curated by Emma Smith and Simon Palfrey.

**The Complete Works in Oxford** has set the challenge to local theatres, cinemas and schools to present the full canon of Shakespeare's plays in Oxford during 2016.

**British Library: Shakespeare in Ten Acts** covers ten key performances which have transformed our understanding of Shakespeare, featuring the only surviving play-script in Shakespeare's hand – and a copy of the First Folio.

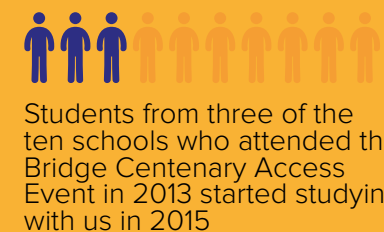
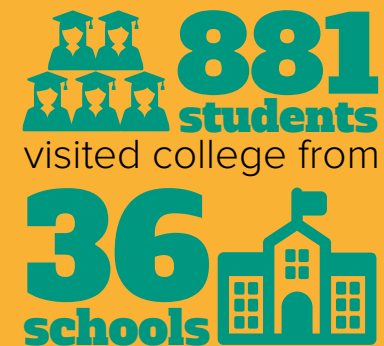
**The RSC: Dream 2016** teams 18 professional actors with local amateur groups around the UK in productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Shakespeare's Globe: 1616: A Momentous Year** examines other theatrical events in 1616 including the deaths of theatre impresario Philip Henslowe, playwright Francis Beaumont, Spain's Cervantes and the Chinese playwright Tang Xianzu, as well as the publishing of a Folio edition of Ben Jonson's plays.

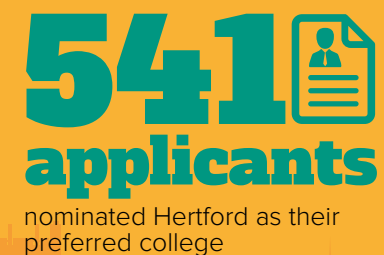
# What are the facts + figures for 2014-15?

Lots of you have made donations allowing us to support more students and promote access. Thank you!

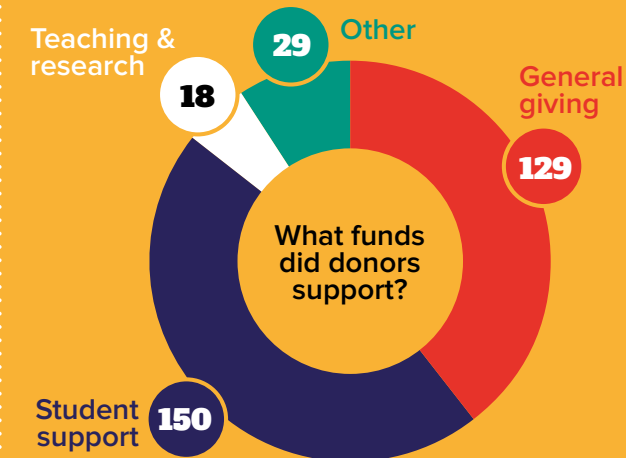
## Access and outreach



## Admissions



## Fundraising

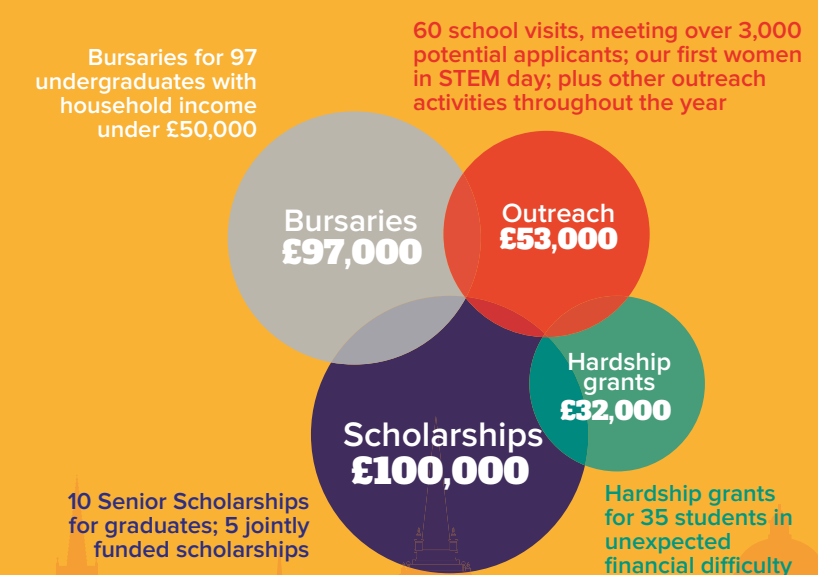


## Student support fund

How did we fund student support expenditure?



How was our student support fund used?



# WALLASEA ISLAND WILD COAST PROJECT

Three alumni, from three decades, working on the same land restoration project

- Simon Webb (1969) – Chair of Transcend, programme partner to Crossrail
- Mike Clarke (1978) – Chief Executive at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Mark Warren (1989) – Head of Performance at Crossrail

Three Hertford alumni have found themselves working together on one of Europe's largest projects to restore wildlife habitats.

Mike Clarke has been working as a construction partner with Mark Warren and Simon Webb to use three million tonnes of material excavated from below London to create a wetland reserve at Wallasea Island in Essex.

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

This project will recreate a varied landscape through managed realignment, allowing land previously prevented from flooding to become flooded – in this case by introducing breaches in the sea wall. The land, which was around two metres

“Transport was arranged by rail and ship where possible, avoiding approximately 150,000 lorry journeys from London”

below sea level, needed to be raised significantly before this process could begin so that higher and lower ground could be used to provide mudflats, saltmarsh and lagoons.

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

The first phase of the project to form Wallasea Island is now complete, with

the sea allowed to breach some areas of the new island in July 2015. The RSPB hopes that species such as the avocet, redshank and lapwing will return in significant numbers along with large flocks of brent geese, dunlin, wigeon and curlew in winter. Plants such as samphire, sea lavender and sea aster are also expected to thrive.

By 2025, the project plans to have created 148 hectares of mudflats, 192 hectares of saltmarsh and 76 acres of shallow saline lagoons. Around eight miles of coastal walks and cycle routes will allow people to get closer to the island's wildlife, with two walks already open to allow visitors to view the work completed.

“The RSPB will require more than 10 million tonnes of excavated material to create the reserve, and are currently seeking partners to provide the remaining amount”

“The Crossrail infrastructure and RSPB habitat restoration project are both the largest of their kind in Europe, and show that a world-class economy and a world-class environment can go hand in hand”  
Mike Clarke



“ The RSPB estimates that as many as 50,000 birds may use the island ”



**Mark Warren (1989)**  
Head of Performance  
at Crossrail

Last June I attended the Hertford Talking event: Setting the Green Agenda. Mike Clarke was one of the panellists and he mentioned Crossrail during the Q&A. As I was putting up my hand to mention I worked on Crossrail, I was beaten to it. Simon Webb (1969), who leads one of our programme partners, was also in the audience. A small world...

I am proud to have worked for Crossrail in various roles since 2008. My first engagement was to co-author the Sustainability Strategy; to define what we meant by sustainability, to bring together the many and varied strands of work,

and embed sustainable thinking into our decision making – our goal to genuinely ‘move construction forward’.

My current role at Crossrail, as Head of Performance, is focused on measuring, understanding, and improving performance, whether that be cost, schedule, safety or quality. As you can imagine on a project of this scale – 10,000 people and a run-rate of £7m per day – it would be easy to get bogged down in the detail. Our response has been to develop innovative new forms for the Board Report (and associated project reports) that are a world away from the typical turgid corporate read.

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

Looking back, I can see that the skills I use most in my career can be directly linked to my Engineering and Management degree. The

analytical rigour and innate creativity of engineering, coupled with an understanding of fundamental business concepts, gave me a significant head start in work. I remember my first presentation as a fresh faced 22 year old needing to explain Net Present Value to a boardroom full of senior, but blank, faces. The degree has ultimately supported a career as an engineer, programme manager, management consultant and management accountant.

I recently found myself right back in the thick of engineering when I took over a project from my father when he became

ill. The innovative project (to design a transfer system to offshore windfarms) stretched my rusty engineering skills, and has led so far, with the support of the Carbon Trust and Technology Strategy Board, to a full size prototype and published patent. I never thought back in 1993 as I left Oxford that my name would be on a patent!

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



**Simon Webb (1969)**  
Chair at Transcend  
(programme partner  
to Crossrail)

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

I arrived as Senior Responsible Officer for Major Projects at the Department of Transport in 2004 to find on my desk a fragile St Pancras station regeneration project, and a dense report on a proposal

called Crossrail. The Treasury were grumpy about both. Like Mike, Hertford gave me the confidence to probe for solutions and argue for their implementation. The first was solved with some creative engineering and imaginative planning (incidentally the Argent Group, which has redeveloped the St Pancras area so splendidly, had as its Chairman another Hertford economist, Peter Hazell). For Crossrail the case for funding was clinched by a young economist who found a new way of valuing better links between businesses and more

people being able to get to high-paid jobs. One of the engineering problems was finding a way to get earth out from the barges they’d been transported in, and onto Wallasea Island. Ironically, for such a modern project, this issue was solved by reverting to that most ancient of devices, the Archimedes screw.

My interest in defence policy was stimulated by going next door to All Souls one evening where the dauntingly entitled Professor of War was holding

a seminar about preventing nuclear war. Only at Oxford would an engineering/economics undergraduate be allowed to cross disciplines and talk to ministers and visiting Americans about strategy. This flexibility opened up a second set of policy jobs that I could interweave with projects. My time at Hertford showed that A level choices made at 16 don’t have to constrain career paths for life.

“ Only at Oxford would an engineering/economics undergraduate be allowed to cross disciplines and talk to ministers about defence strategy ”



**Mike Clarke (1978)**  
Chief Executive at RSPB

I was one of the Tanner generation; Hertford gave me access to educational opportunity that my family had never remotely known.

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

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

But, there’s no doubt that my training at Oxford to think around problems and question assumptions (keep asking the ‘why?’ until there aren’t any ‘why’s’

left) is the most important asset to being the CEO of an environmental charity in the most ‘interesting’ of times!

“ Hertford gave me access to educational opportunity that my family had never remotely known ”





# THE TANNER REVOLUTION IN OXFORD ADMISSIONS

Throughout 2015-16 Hertford has been celebrating our history of promoting open access to higher education, with the fiftieth anniversary of Neil Tanner starting work as Tutor for Admissions in 1965.



5 September 2015



118 guests



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

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

*"Hertford taught me how to think for myself, and to have courage in my own convictions and the strength to pursue a minority path through life. I owe to Neil Tanner the belief that all things are possible, to look for potential in anyone and any situation, and that education is for the business of living a full and useful life, not just for helping one to a career."*  
Isobel Collyer (1982)

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



£120,000

raised to support current and future students



2

Tour de France climbs – Buttertubs and Kidstone Pass



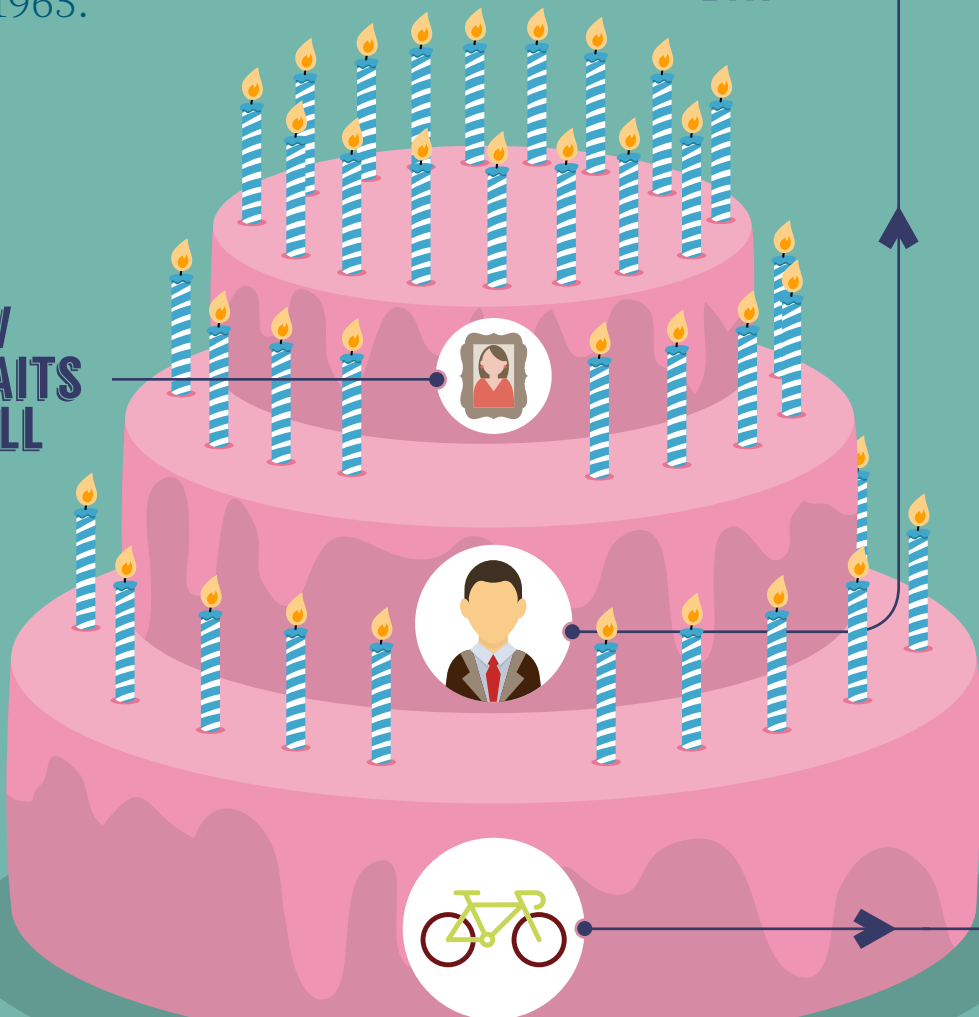
3

days

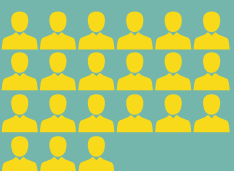
**A one man band?**  
As Emeritus Fellow Keith McLauchlan explains, the scheme was not entirely Neil Tanner's:

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

## TANNER DAY



## NEW PORTRAITS IN HALL



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



On display until Michaelmas 2016



50

cyclists (and 1 tandem!)

## TOUR DE HERTFORD BIKE RIDE



68,000

pedal strokes



200

miles

## HOW DID WE CELEBRATE?

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

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

“It all began with the Tanner Scheme, on that chilly staircase, when the switch-points of my life shifted forever.  
Nigel Gould-Davies (1984)

“I would tell any student entering Hertford that what you can do or be is limited only by you and no one else.  
Paul Stannard (1972)



“At its best, Hertford is not just a college, it’s an attitude.  
Vanessa Collingridge (1986)



“I’m proud that my lasting enthusiasm for my time at Hertford has helped encourage today’s pupils to apply.  
Jenny Hopper (1977)

“Hertford was a wonderful experience, it was life changing, it gave you confidence to believe that anything was possible.  
Philip Jones (1979)



“The one lasting thing which I believe has shaped my path since is the rather combative approach to learning that was a hallmark of my degree – the constant challenging, arguing, finding new perspectives and seeking the best possible answer.  
Kath Cates (1981)

Read more at [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/tannerportraits](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/tannerportraits)



## THE SCHEME IN NEIL TANNER’S WORDS

During the Tanner Day we were delighted to hear Neil’s son Julian read a speech on the scheme, which Neil had written sometime in the 1970s. We’ve shared some extracts below, or you can read the full speech online at [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/tannerspeech](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/tannerspeech).

“It certainly looked very odd that the great majority of Oxbridge places were secured by candidates from schools educating about 20% of the sixth formers, and that a large number of schools had never put forward an Oxbridge candidate at all. Such a concentration of academic talent seemed quite improbable.

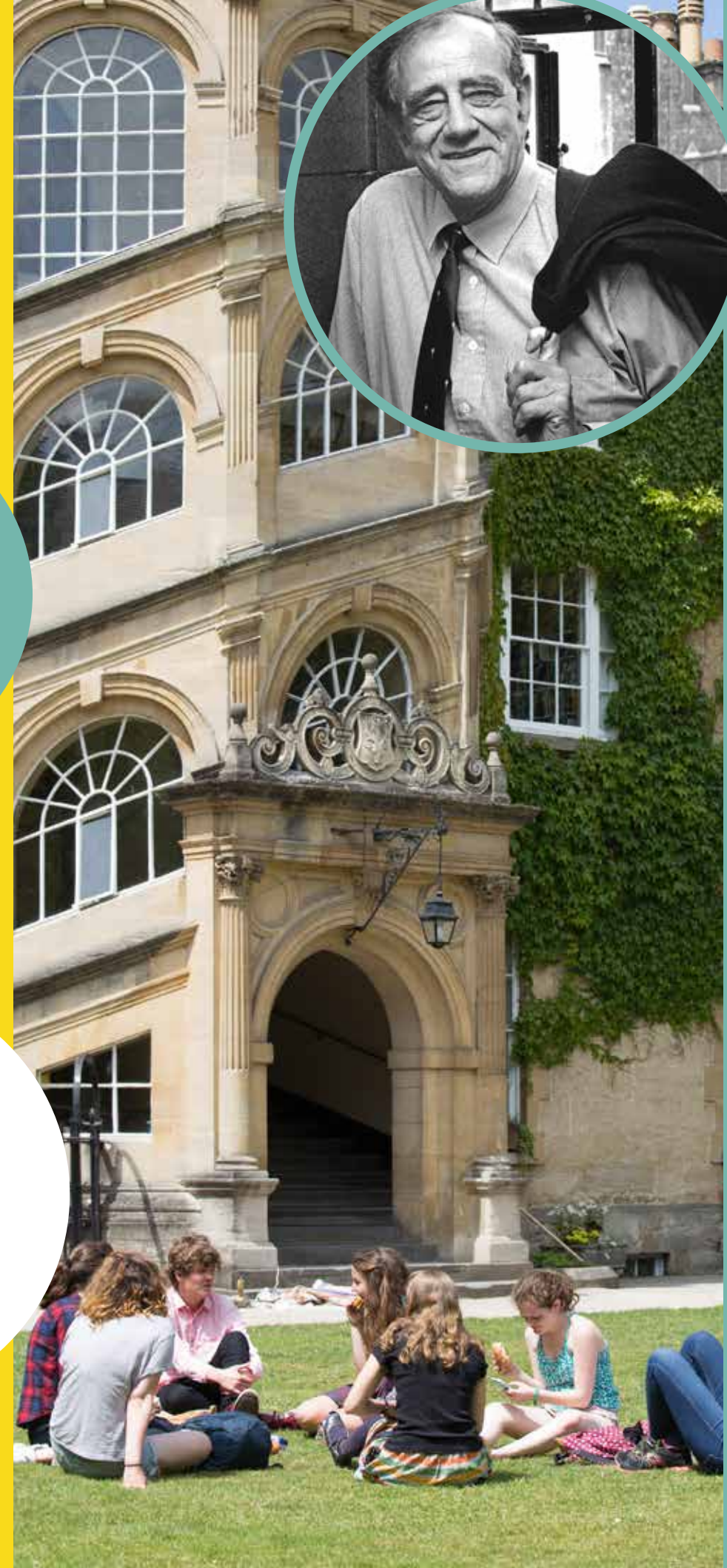
At the time Hertford was not the most affluent of colleges academically speaking and with more than its fair share of angry young Fellows was in the rare state, for an Oxford college, of being ready for change.

It was clear that the grammar schools could not compete in the Entrance Examination on even terms; selection by school report and interview looked like a much more satisfactory system of entry which would be less critically dependent on preparation.”

“Generally the policy is that a candidate can either talk or write his or her way into a place, in both cases the reckoning being on promise rather than achievement.”

“After a few trial years of the system Hertford declared its intention to go public in 1968, whereupon there descended upon the college’s collective heads all things mentionable and unmentionable. The Tutors for Admission individually and collectively lost their cool, angry words were spoken, and Hertford was condemned by a massive majority.

There should be no delusion that the Hertford unconditional offers represent an easy way into Oxford. About a third of those who have entered thus have obtained Firsts compared with 10% for the University as a whole.”



 Twitter

[www.twitter.com/hertfordcollege](http://www.twitter.com/hertfordcollege)



Students visiting us for tomorrow's open day may be able to see college #cat Simpkin. Last seen in the Library...



 Instagram

[www.instagram.com/hertfordcollege](http://www.instagram.com/hertfordcollege)



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

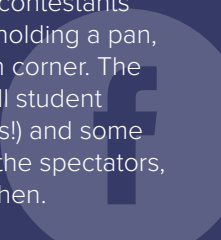


 Facebook

[www.facebook.com/hertfordcollegealumni](http://www.facebook.com/hertfordcollegealumni)



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



## Our most popular recent posts



## Dates for your diary

**2016**

- 30 April: Spring Concert
- 6 May: Warnock Society lunch
- 2 June: Brexit: beyond the headlines
- 9 June: London garden party
- 9 July: Summer party for donors
- 3 September: Family day
- 16 September: Open Gaudy for all matriculation years
- 16-18 September: Meeting Minds: Oxford Alumni Weekend
- 23 September: Gaudy for matriculation years 1980-82



This spring Hertford has been on the road hosting a series of events across North America.

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

**17 May:** Dallas, TX

**19 May:** Boulder, CO

**23 May:** San Francisco, CA