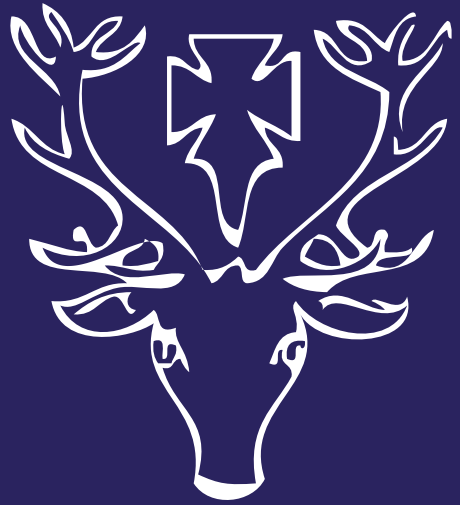


The Hertford College Magazine

2014-15

No. 95



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No 95 – 2014-15



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Editor's note

The Editor thanks all those who have contributed to and advised on this year's issue.



Principal's welcome

2014-15 has been year two in a hat-trick of Hertford anniversaries. 2013 was the 100-year anniversary of the completion of the iconic Hertford Bridge, marked in particular by the Bridge to Bridge bike ride raising an astounding £344,000: the year ahead is the 50-year anniversary of the launch of the Tanner Scheme, the college's great contribution to promoting access to Oxford. This year was the 40-year anniversary of the college being among the first five Oxford colleges to admit women. Don't worry: as far as I know there are no anniversaries in 2017!

I feel blessed to be Principal during this trio of anniversaries: in many respects together they represent key constituents of our college's DNA. Certainly our celebration of Hertford's women by hanging photographs of a select 21 in our hall became a national story. When the gallery was unveiled last September it was reported on the BBC and covered in newspapers and internet sites around the world, even triggering a question on "Have I Got News for You".

The *Daily Telegraph* quoted an anonymous alumnus: "Are any of these women, in any sense of the phrase, up there with [the temporarily displaced] Donne and Tyndale? I wonder." Background harrumphing of this sort rumbled around over the first few weeks, but very soon everyone became a convert to what has been a triumphant success. Hertford women have achieved a great deal in their mere 40 years, reaching the pinnacles of politics, media, business, science, sport and law—achieving proportionally at least as much, some might say, as their male counterparts over more than seven centuries. On top of this, the photographs are singular, striking and give the hall a clean mix of new and the traditional. Sarah Crompton, former arts editor of the *Telegraph* and subject of one

of the photographs, wrote powerfully about the effect of both the old and the new display (her article is reproduced later in this issue, as is an article by the fellow who came up with the idea in the first place, Professor Emma Smith):

"I never went to hall much in my time at college—the food was grim, and the prices high. But when I did, as one of only the third intake of women, it always felt overwhelmingly blokey, and that impression was reinforced by the faces on the walls.

...It is certainly true that we women do change the feel of the place. For one thing, we all appear pretty happy. We look as if we might actually have enjoyed our time at university and gained something from it. We gaze gently down on the diners; none of us is the slightest bit stern. In the short statements we were asked to write to accompany our pictures, we all express a sense of honour and surprise at being there."

Sarah Crompton is right. The photos have become widely admired—and the idea has begun to be copied by others. The university and its colleges should and must honour our women: the Chinese proverb says that men and women co-equally hold up the sky. Men and women co-equally support Oxford, and our pictorial celebration reflects that truth. Now, as we take the photos down to be replaced by 21 new portraits of the men and women who were admitted to Hertford under the Tanner scheme, there is sadness at their passing—even though we have re-configured the originals in a fine display on the library first-floor landing. We took a risk: but it came off gloriously. The moral in the story could hardly be clearer.

The heart of our work remains what it has always been and will continue to be: celebrating academic excellence, imparting it to our students, and giving the space for our academics to deliver the research which makes them world class. I am pleased to say that in the

round we are in pretty good shape. 38 of our undergraduates achieved firsts this year and several won university prizes, notably Benjamin Dawes in Computer Science and Philosophy, Matt Dixon in History and Politics, Elliott Gordon in Mathematics and Statistics, and the redoubtable Rachel Hunter, who walked away with three university prizes in Law. Nor do our undergraduates devote themselves to academic work only. The JCR (thanks in particular to President Holly Redford-Jones and Ellen O'Neill) organized a first "HART fest", a weekend in early May celebrating all things creative in Hertford: music, life-drawing, films, talks on youth in literature and even a short story competition, opening with jazz in the quad on a late Friday afternoon in the pouring rain. Hertford's music continues to be outstanding: the Hertford College Music Society is the largest non-auditioning society in the university. The men and women first eights registered a Hertford first by both achieving blades in Torpids, while James Ross won a swimming blue for 200 metres freestyle in another overwhelming Oxford victory over Cambridge. JCR sports rep Naomi Vides supplies further details of sporting prowess in her report below.

Our fellows continue to make their academic mark. Chemistry fellow Claire Vallance won a professorship in the recognition of distinction exercise last year, and she has been joined by English fellow Emma Smith, awarded a professorship in Shakespeare studies, and History fellow Christopher Tyerman, now professor of the history of the crusades. Professor Dame Kay Davies (who also featured in the portrait exhibition) won the 2014 WISE Lifetime Achievement Award, for women whose careers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics "have inspired and supported other women to follow in their footsteps".

Two members of the fellowship won prestigious and highly competitive awards



A model of Hertford in Lego, on display during the July 2015 Open Days



Encaenia, 24 June 2015



from the Leverhulme Trust. Professor Alan Bogg won the Philip Leverhulme Award to develop his work in labour law over the next two years, an award that recognizes "the achievement of early career researchers whose work has already attracted international recognition and whose future career is exceptionally promising". A few months later Dr David Hopkin won a one-year Leverhulme Trust fellowship to study the songs of European lace-makers, an under-researched group of women who left no written testimony but articulately expressed their views on marriage, sexuality, religion, poverty and workplace exploitation in song. Their story is about to be told for the first time.

Meanwhile Hertford fellow Professor Pat Roche, Tutor in Physics, assumed the Presidency of the Council of the European Southern Observatory (ESO) and also took over as Chair of the ALMA Board, the governing body of the Atacama Large Millimeter/sub-millimeter Array. ESO is an intergovernmental organization which builds and operates the foremost astronomical observatories on earth, located on three main sites in the Atacama desert in Chile, where the dry conditions and clear skies provide outstanding observing conditions. Medical fellow Professor David Greaves has developed a new treatment for psoriasis which will be marketed by an American bio-tech company, Rogne Bioscience. The anti-inflammatory formula uses a protein produced naturally in the body and has fewer side-effects than existing treatments.

“As a renaissance woman, our dean is also developing a career in stand-up comedy!”



Family Day, 1 August 2015



Cyclists in Morecambe at the beginning of Tour de Hertford, 10-12 July 2015



Current Principal Will Hutton with two of his predecessors, Professor Sir Christopher Zeeman and Sir Walter Bodmer, on the occasion of Sir Christopher's 90th birthday

It has also been something of a year for new books. Geography fellow Dr Jamie Lorimer published *Wildlife in the Anthropocene*, in which he argues that human beings are now so pervasive on earth that there is no longer a category we can think of as Nature that is independent of humans. Drawing on over ten years of fieldwork in the UK, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands he argues that Nature should be reconceptualized as wildlife with profound implications for wildlife conservation. Professor Roy Foster added another extraordinary book to his canon: *Vivid Faces: the revolutionary generation in Ireland 1890-1923*, which has already won a British Academy medal for "a landmark academic achievement... which has transformed understanding of a particular subject or field of study". Law fellow Dr Alison Young co-authored "Common sense, confusion and human rights", an important and closely argued analysis of the contradictions of attempting withdrawal from the European Convention of Human Rights.

Biochemistry fellow Dr Alison Woollard, one of Britain's women of the year for 2014, will deliver the JBS Haldane lecture at this year's British Science Festival. As a renaissance woman, our dean is also developing a career in stand-up comedy! English tutor Dr David Dwan joined us as an expert in Irish literature, perfectly complementing our long standing commitment to Irish history. Lucie Burgess (1993), associate director for Digital Libraries at the Bodleian, has also joined us as a senior research fellow.

A good third of our students are researching for DPhils or studying for masters' degrees, and over the year the Middle Common Room has begun to develop some important initiatives to give a greater sense of community. As many of you know we have plans down the line for a Hertford Graduate School, a distinctive hub of interdisciplinary research and innovation. The MCR published its

first newsletter, held an afternoon and early evening of graduate presentations on research interests, and organized a pitching session in which a strong field of proposals for social or commercial enterprise competed for cash prizes from the Hertford Graduate Innovation Fund (£2,500, £1,500 and £1,000 respectively for first, second and third prize). The winner, Dominique Piche, proposes to turn the dramatic and colourful images of stem cells into coverings for iPhones, tablets and bags, giving back any surplus to support further graduate research. Next year we are collaborating with Wolfson and Pembroke colleges in "Tri-Innovate",

“The college was pleased to find matched funding for a dozen graduate scholarships spread evenly across the four university divisions”

a three-college effort to stimulate undergraduates and graduates to develop innovative ideas. The college was pleased to find matched funding for a dozen graduate scholarships spread evenly across the four university divisions (funded in part from our bike ride proceeds) and will aim to do something similar in the year ahead. We were delighted to announce a new graduate scholarship in Computer Science and Philosophy starting in Michaelmas 2016, the Oxford Mary Jane Grefenstette scholarship. The scholarship is fully funded, covering all fees and a living stipend, and has been created by a generous donation from former Hertford lecturer, Dr Ed Grefenstette. We hope more will join him. Second degrees are





increasingly important in all walks of life, and highly indebted British graduates in particular—but not only British graduates—need support if Hertford is to attract the best. Equally important for career academics (and equally hard to fund) is the period after completing a doctorate. The college made the significant decision this year to support two new junior research fellowships in the humanities, along with a non-stipendiary post in the Physical Sciences. The value of these positions was immediately evident from the extraordinary number of quality applications—over 500, many of them outstanding. We look forward to getting to know the three successful candidates—Dr Ingrid Rembold (Medieval History), Dr Matthew Windsor (Law), and Dr Guiseppe Congedo (Physics)—over 2015-16. All these initiatives—on funding, on promoting a greater sense of community, and on innovation—hang together.

We were sorry to lose our outreach and career development fellow Dr Jamie Castell to Cardiff University but pleased he had secured such a great job. We welcomed Dr Catherine Redford in his place, who—as she tells us in her own words later in this issue—is writing a book on the figure of the Last Man in romantic (i.e. early nineteenth-century) literature. Our access work goes on apace, and we

“We were proud that Ewa Gluza, one of the bursarial team, was voted UK Polish Woman of the Year in the Social and Community Worker category”



Leavers' BBQ, 19 June 2015



were pleased this year that two thirds of our offers went to applicants from state schools, of whom eleven had applied through our access visits. We commit to access partly in self-interest—we want to recruit the best, and partly from a sense of fairness—nobody with the requisite ability should feel deterred from applying to Oxford (three further individuals who attended our access programmes were awarded places elsewhere in Oxford). Catherine is energetically continuing our programme of visits to schools in Essex, Camden and the Medway towns (our designated areas under the Oxford link scheme) and launching key initiatives too, like this year's Access day for year 11 state school girls in STEM subjects and next year's July summer school. The Open Day this June was the best organized, best attended and most rewarding yet—Hertford at its best, a number of fellows reported, making them proud of the college. Thanks to Registrar Matthew Hiscock, Catherine and our outstanding new admissions officer, Lisa Atkinson, for such doughty work.

Our staff have been hard-working and committed to the college this year as in every year: great thanks to them all, and I was delighted when Hertford became the first Oxford college to accredit to the Living Wage Foundation in September of 2014. The Governing Body and JCR, under the leadership of Josh Platt, worked together to deliver the result. We were proud that Ewa Gluza, one of the bursarial team, was voted UK Polish Woman of the Year in the Social and Community Worker category at a celebration at the Polish Embassy in London last autumn. She runs the Oxford Polish Association which supports the Polish community and encourages links between it and other local communities. The Home Bursar, Dr Andrew Beaumont, found time between his feats of lego construction to publish *Colonial America and the Earl of Halifax, 1748-1761*, examining the governance

“two thirds of our offers went to applicants from state schools, of whom eleven had applied through our access visits”

of British America in the period prior to the American Revolution through the focus of the Earl of Halifax. His book was shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society's 2014 Gladstone Prize along with *Status Interaction during the Reign of Louis XIV*, the work of our inaugural Ellis Barnard fellow Dr Giora Sternberg.

The Hertford Conversations continue. This year we have welcomed Dame Gail Rebuck, who talked compellingly about building a career in publishing, the state of the industry, and contemporary politics. Susie Orbach mixed personal biography and an illuminating assessment of feminism in another well attended talk, while Cabinet Secretary and Hertfordian, Sir Jeremy Heywood (1980), spoke to our PPE students about his job, British politics and the constitutional issues raised by the hung parliament which threatened the nation in spring 2015. Two fellows—Dr Steve New (Management) and Professor Peter Millican (Philosophy)—together with Politics lecturer Dr Dana Mills (who collected an university award as an outstanding teacher of 2014-15), offered an intriguing appraisal of my own book, *How Good We Can Be*. The John Donne lecture was given by the director of Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti—a rousing disquisition on liberty, an edited version of which we are proud to reproduce in this issue—accompanied by a special exhibition of books on freedom from



“ I finish where I began—with a bike ride ”

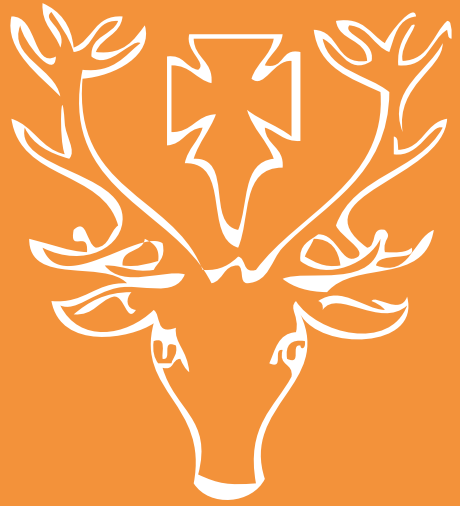
our own collection, organized by our dedicated librarian, Alice Roques. She and Dr Mills have become a great double act—Mills and Roques, aided and abetted by our students—with their succession of fascinating book displays this year on feminism, liberty and nature.

Our alumni have also been making waves. Three Hertfordians are newly elected MPs in the House of Commons: Jeremy Quin (1987) representing Horsham, Anne Marie Morris (1976) in Newton Abbott, and Bridget Phillipson (2002) in Houghton and Sunderland South. However, reflecting the general pattern of election winners and losers, the radical LibDem Pensions minister Steve Webb (1983) lost his seat. We were delighted that the Honourable Charlotte Hogg (1988), chief operating officer of the Bank of England, Dr Miles Vaughan Williams, distinguished Hertfordian medic, emeritus fellow and great supporter of Hertford medicine, and Tom Fletcher (1994), Britain's youngest current serving ambassador, have all become honorary fellows of the college. Another honorary (and former) fellow, Professor of Geography Andrew Goudie, represented the college at our London debate this June on the green agenda, an event inspired by the centenary of the Hertford alumnus Gavin Maxwell, author of *Ring of Bright Water*. Alumnus and honorary fellow Richard Fisher (1972) has been awarded the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service, while in June this year Marion Osieyo (2013) was selected as one of fourteen future leaders from around the globe who gave their views on the world's future at a European Commission conference, the European Development Days. John Mason (1975) was awarded a CBE in the Queen's 2015 Birthday

Honours for his public work in various major events in Scotland during 2014, notably the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles and the Homecoming 2014 programme. I am sad to report the sudden death, in July, of Paul Langford (1964), eminent historian and former Rector of Lincoln College, whose obituary will appear in next year's Hertford magazine.

I finish where I began—with a bike ride. We held a second coast to coast bike ride from Morecambe to Robin Hood's Bay this July, a mini version of last year's, in celebration of the Tanner scheme. One of the cyclists, David Banner (1965), was one of the first beneficiaries and insisted on doing the ride to acknowledge the importance of Neil Tanner in his life: the encounters between him and those 50 years his junior were a delight to behold. We raised directly and indirectly £120k: thanks to everyone who took part or who supported us.

The bike rides are just a small part of what I hope you will agree is a vibrant, engaged and optimistic academic community. The hard work on access, the ongoing commitment to academic excellence, the great research done by our fellows, the evolving initiatives on innovation and our general openness and generosity make us a distinctive community. Over this last year I have experienced first hand the way the college looks out for others with my wife's continuing and tough illness. We are both profoundly grateful for the many kindnesses and expressions of support from fellows, alumni, students and staff, and indeed across the university. There are great challenges ahead but I have no doubt that Hertford—and Oxford—will weather them.



HERTFORD REPORT



Genetics in Medicine

Kay Davies



Hertford's Professorial Fellow Dame Kay Davies, who holds the Dr Lee's Chair of Anatomy, has been awarded the 2015 William Allan award by the American Society of Human Genetics. The award, first given in 1961, recognizes "substantial and far-reaching scientific contributions to human genetics". Kay received the award at a ceremony in Baltimore in October 2015, when she also gave the William Allan lecture.

The importance of genetics in medicine is now recognized widely as more public consultation about personal genetic profiling continues. What is often not realised is how much the technological advances have changed the field for potential therapy. This is certainly the case in a disease I have spent my career studying, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a devastating muscle wasting disease where patients become wheelchair dependent at about the age of twelve years and generally die in their late twenties. I have been fortunate to have been working in this field for more than 25 years since

I met my first patient, and now we have a treatment entering the clinic. The journey has taken me from working with obstetricians in developing early DNA diagnosis of the disease to finding out more about the function of the faulty gene. The final step has been to set up a small company to deliver a treatment. This has been a team effort between researchers, patients and their families, charities and government funding through the Medical Research Council.

DMD affects only boys. This is because boys have one X chromosome and one Y chromosome whereas females have two X chromosomes. If there is an error on the normal X chromosome, females have another normal X chromosome to compensate. In 1980, when I began this work with Bob Williamson in London, there was no prenatal diagnosis and no reliable carrier detection test. There was no effective treatment. In some families, aborting all male fetuses was their only choice. Our first job was to collaborate with clinicians who had a large cohort of well-defined patients. Peter Harper in Cardiff had such families and after two years we had developed DNA markers which were suitable for prenatal testing and carrier detection with greater than 95% accuracy. A few years later, Louis Kunkel and colleagues in Boston identified the gene which causes the disease and, in collaboration with many groups worldwide, new tests with 100% accuracy were developed. Interestingly, our first diagnostic test took three weeks to complete. This test can now be done in a few hours thanks to the DNA amplification techniques now commonplace in forensics.

The DMD gene was remarkable because it is the largest known and encodes a very large structural protein localized at the muscle membrane providing stability when muscles contract. Patients lack this protein (called dystrophin since the lack of it causes muscular dystrophy). Dystrophin is one of the largest proteins in muscle and any effective therapy will need to replace the proteins in all muscles, which constitute 40%

of our body weight. This is an enormous challenge. One approach is to deliver the missing dystrophin using a virus, but dystrophin is too big to fit into the common viruses used to infect muscle. Collaboration with clinical geneticists solved this problem. A sample sent to us for analysis from a very mildly affected patient showed that remarkably he had only 50% of this gene. This patient showed no symptoms until his early forties. At first investigators in the field thought that this patient must have some compensatory genes as such a large deletion of his gene seemed incompatible with such a mild presentation. However, we showed that this patient's gene could prevent the disease in the mdx mouse

“I have been fortunate to have been working in this field for more than 25 years since I met my first patient, and now we have a treatment entering the clinic”

model of the disease and that the central missing domain of the dystrophin was not as critical as other regions for function. We could therefore use this gene as a model for integration into viruses for therapy. Several clinical trials are just beginning worldwide using viruses to deliver this dystrophin “minigene” to compensate for the missing full length dystrophin.

When we were busily searching for the dystrophin gene in 1985, we found a fragment of DNA which was very similar to the dystrophin gene but not identical. This was our Eureka moment. When we sequenced it, we found that the section

was 95% similar to the dystrophin gene. We realized that this gene could perhaps be used to compensate for the missing gene. We isolated the rest of the gene and it, too, was large. (This process took two years in 1988 but would take two weeks now). We called it utrophin as it is expressed in many tissues in addition to muscle. In early fetal life, utrophin is expressed in muscle in a similar way to dystrophin at the muscle membrane, but at birth it is confined to the nerve-muscle junction only. We went on to show that if utrophin is expressed at higher levels in adult muscle in the mdx mouse model of the disease which also lacks dystrophin, the muscular dystrophy was prevented. The concept that a small molecule might be able to re-programme a muscle cell to produce increased levels of utrophin was born. This seems obvious now but back then many of our funders felt that this would not work as Nature might be expected to increase levels spontaneously in response to the lack of dystrophin.

The next stage was to set up a drug screen to identify molecules that might re-programme the cellular machinery—something not evident to a biologist, even one married (like me) to a chemist! Fortunately, I presented our data at a Cold Spring Harbor meeting where the Nobel Prize winning geneticist, Jim Watson, was present. He immediately realized the potential and persuaded a small company in New Jersey, OSI Pharmaceuticals, to help us develop the screen. We never did find a drug but we did set up the screen. When OSI decided to focus their resources on their successful other pipelines, they handed the screening tools back to us, and this time we set up a company with the chemists at Oxford, Vastox plc, now called Summit Therapeutics. We had to establish our own company as no big pharma twelve years ago was interested in such rare diseases. How things have changed—there is now considerable interest from big and middle-sized pharma in the rare disease space and there are more than ten working on DMD.





Our original screen was set up with drugs from the laboratories of Angela Russell and Steve Davies in the Chemistry Department at the University of Oxford. This screen was taken in-house by Summit Therapeutics while we set up more screens to find other drug series. One drug which came out of the Summit screen is called SMT C1100 and is currently in Phase 1b trials in DMD patients. We are excited that this trial will enable us to show proof of principle in man which will allow us to move forward and find molecules even better than SMT C1100 which will have even greater benefit for patients.

This last part of the journey has been a fascinating learning experience. Working to industrial standards, reporting in our notebooks at standards expected of industry, was hard at first but my team soon adapted. We work well with Summit Therapeutics debating the scientific challenges at our monthly meetings with a team now not only at Milton Park, but also at Kendall Square in Boston. Some of my team in the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics have been working with me for more than fifteen years and we continue to collaborate internationally with colleagues we worked with on the original diagnosis developments.

I have been very fortunate because my work on DMD has been international and depended very much on close working between patients, their families, research councils and charities. Interaction with patient groups has been essential for our success and my career has also very much been involved in speaking to patient groups and lobbying parliament for funding for the disease. Being in Oxford where interdisciplinary research is the accepted way forward and with supportive research services and ISIS Innovation for spinning out companies, we have a successful combination. We have almost reached our goal and I am determined that there will be an effective treatment for this devastating disease before I retire (some years yet)!

Wildlife in the Anthropocene

Jamie Lorimer



Dr Jamie Lorimer is an environmental geographer. He is an Associate Professor in Oxford's School of Geography and the Environment and a Tutorial Fellow in Geography at Hertford. His book Wildlife in the Anthropocene: Conservation After Nature was published by the University of Minnesota Press in June 2015.

There is much discussion amongst environmentalists about "the Anthropocene"—the claim by some geologists that our planet has entered a new epoch now the people have become a planet shaping force. Debate rages in scientific journals and conference rooms as to whether or not humans have the power to end the 10,000 year Holocene. If so then when does the new epoch begin and how might it be detected in the rocks? Some propose nuclear testing. Others favour the invention and proliferation of plastic. Many focus on James Watt's development of the steam engine and the

subsequent acceleration this drove in the consumption of fossil fuels.

The international commission charged with deciding on the Anthropocene hypothesis reports in 2016. But the outcome of their deliberations has been overtaken by the popularization of the term in the popular media. Many have seized upon this word as an apt, if fraught, descriptor of the environmental present. "Anthropocene" seems to work for many people as a way of imaging a world shaped by human hands, in which there is nowhere left untouched by our activities. For researchers like myself interested in the history of environment what it describes is a pretty radical event. It would seem to represent the public end of one of the central cornerstones of Western environmentalism: the idea of a Nature out there, untouched and defined by human absence. Such thinking was the basis for 20th-century environmental campaigns to "Save Nature" in nature reserves and other protected areas.

There is a growing sense amongst environmentalists that the diagnosis of the Anthropocene demands a radical rethinking of their movement to identify what we should try and save now that Nature has gone. This debate is really just getting underway, but has already proved rancorous and divisive. At one extreme we find a group of "new environmentalists" or "ecomodernists" who argue we need one final leap in our development—a new round of science, new technology and better markets and government, to finally achieve our Enlightenment destiny as the God Species. They imagine a "good Anthropocene" with the planet tamed to human ends. At the other extreme are retrenched preservationists, for whom the Anthropocene describes the coming apocalypse: an eco-Rapture that will herald "a world without us"—or at least a dramatic reduction in human population and a return to primitive existence.

While these debates are fascinating and



entertaining they quickly descend into caricature and wilful misunderstanding. In my recent book—entitled *Wildlife in the Anthropocene*—I have tried to offer an alternative way of thinking about environmentalism after the end of Nature. This book has been my major writing project since arriving as a new fellow at Hertford three years ago. It draws on over a decade of fieldwork tracing the history and politics of wildlife conservation in various places across the UK, Europe and South Asia. It is great to see it finally in print! In the book I make

“Advocates suggest that we will soon be able to actively monitor the life in us and will regularly take good bacteria (and even worms) alongside our morning vitamins”

a case for the conservation of wildlife, which will inevitably have some form of human signature. I suggest we can find wildlife outside of the wilderness, in the countryside, our gardens, homes and even in our bodies if we are willing to look. I propose that conserving such wildlife involves recognising multiple forms of natural knowledge and curiosity, not all of which are scientific.

I focus in particular on recent enthusiasms for rewilding in the UK and Europe. In its more experimental forms rewilding involves reintroducing ecologically important species—like beavers or wolves—and allowing them to



engineer entire landscapes. The resulting landscapes are often surprising, rarely conform to past imaginations, and are starting to generate a great deal of interest amongst scientists, policymakers, visitors and even local residents. There are plenty of controversies here and political battles yet to be fought, but rewilding offers a more hopeful story for future conservation than endless narratives of extinction.

In my current work I am exploring comparable enthusiasm for reintroducing species and managing the ecologies of the human microbiome—the myriad lifeforms that make up the human body. Here there is a growing anxiety about the absence of microbial life in our guts and on our skin and suggestions that the excesses of modern hygiene might be driving a range of allergic and autoimmune conditions. Various scientists and patients are now experimenting with rewilding the human body—introducing parasitic worms and good bacteria to try and rebalance dysfunctional bodily systems. Here worms, like wolves, are enrolled to engineer desired ecologies. Advocates suggest that we will soon be able to actively monitor the life in us and will regularly take good bacteria (and even worms) alongside our morning vitamins.

I teach and enjoy discussing these ideas with the geography students here at Hertford. The arrival and implications of the Anthropocene is an important component of their environmental geography course. My thinking around the Anthropocene has also benefitted from a research grant from Hertford that funded an interdisciplinary seminar series, which I organized with Jamie Castell, former Career Development Fellow in English at the college. The series was entitled “Life after the Anthropocene” and drew together a diverse audience from across the humanities and social sciences at Oxford.

Celebrating 40 years of co-education at Hertford: reflections on the portraits

Emma Smith



The Hall portrait exhibition received extensive press coverage in September 2014. We were overwhelmed by the publicity: from the Guardian and the Daily Telegraph to the New York Times blog and the BBC website. In addition, there was a fair amount of comment on Twitter and on Facebook, as well as some old-fashioned letters. Professor Emma Smith recorded her response to the initial reception in an online posting which we reprint here.

Most of the coverage has been very positive, and the large majority of our feedback from old members and others has been proud that their college would do this. For most people, it seems that Robert Taylor’s black and white photographs sit remarkably well in the hall’s wooden panelling. Robert’s own blog on the project is characteristically reflective and interesting, especially on the question of photographing women and





“the very delicate balance between surface/cosmetic appeal and other factors such as character, charisma and presence”. Almost regardless of their content, the new pictures look clean and modern and the space really benefits from being curated as a whole.

Students at this year’s Freshers’ Dinner—our intake was exactly 50/50 from 2014—seemed interested by the project and excited by the sense that Hertford was breaking new ground. Some student comments are reported in the coverage by the student paper *Cherwell*: Florence Kettle, co-founder of the Hertford Feminist Society told *Cherwell*, “I love what the portraits represent—our college’s commitment to equality and progression. Sitting in hall, we’ve joked about not being able to relate to all these anonymous historical white men or the anonymous stag, and it’s fantastic to

“Our aim was never to create a pantheon, but to give some sense of the range of things Hertford women have done, in and out of the public eye”

see change in our environment, provoking us to think about what we surround ourselves with and why.” Lots of colleagues from across the university and beyond have contacted us to ask how we went about this project, so perhaps there’ll be more elsewhere. It prompted one alumna to launch the latest edition of the literary magazine *Five Dials* in the hall. And the response to our Women’s Gaudy invitation was extremely positive, and resulted in a fully booked Gaudy.

Of course—and we welcome the debate—there have been some alternative views expressed. The below-the-line

comments on the online newspaper articles are often deeply and angrily opposed to this initiative as political correctness gone mad. The suggestion has often been made that co-education could be better celebrated by adding some women to the existing portraits in hall, rather than replacing them all. Some interesting commentary used the new display as a provocation to think about our attitudes and obligations to our institutional past. One Oxford colleague asked “would there be a college or a hall there in the first place if it hadn’t been for all those dead white men? Seems a dangerously reductive way to think about a complex institution’s history to me”, and others expressed similar worries. Clearly this is a real point for discussion, not just in Hertford but across a university where history is writ large. How should we acknowledge the past without being held back by it? Some people objected to the inclusion or exclusion of certain sitters—and it’s certainly true that we could have done any number of exhibitions with entirely different women featured. Our aim was never to create a pantheon, but to give some sense of the range of things Hertford women have done, in and out of the public eye. John Donne and William Tyndale were often identified as figures of such eminence that the college ought never to displace them (current students were more worried about the fate of the stag’s head, also removed for the duration). And the *Guardian*’s headline shorthand about “dead white men” roused many, including Sir Walter Bodmer, our honorary fellow and former principal. Like his immediate predecessor, Sir Christopher Zeeman, he is very much alive, and I apologize that the coverage rather overlooked that important fact. A current Oxford graduate student, writing in the *Oxonian Review*, was the most articulate of commentators writing from an explicitly feminist viewpoint, unimpressed by a display she criticized as tokenistic and patronizing. Most recently, local columnist Bill Heine wrote in the *Oxford Mail* that this exhibition confirmed the college’s reputation as a “free-thinking foundation”: exactly the place that could stage the debate, as well as the exhibition.

Celebrating 40 years of co-education at Hertford: Why I’m proud to be on the wall of my Oxford college

Sarah Crompton (1976)



From the age of 13, I lived in Oxford, and fell in love with its architecture and its spirit. It was the only place I really wanted to go to university, though my father—a Manchester man—did all he could to dissuade me, pointing to its stuffy English syllabus and stuffier ways.

After I won a place at Hertford College and walked nervously into its dining hall, I thought he might have a point. My overwhelming impression was of a shadowy, imposing place, full of history but utterly terrifying.

It was deeply dingy, rather sticky, and very oaken; the portraits on its walls, blackened by centuries of smoke, were all of men. The only friendly face was that of John Donne (the poet and Hertford’s

most famous graduate apart from Evelyn Waugh and Jonathan Swift)—a hero and a friend to cling to in the frightening early days.

Never, in my wildest imaginings, did I think that one day my portrait would hang on those walls. But on Friday I returned for a reunion and there I was—high top left, smiling down, along with nineteen other women, all shot in black and white by the photographer Robert Taylor.

We range from the immediately recognizable—the broadcaster Natasha Kaplinsky, the rower Stephanie Cullen, the philosopher Mary Warnock, the banker Charlotte Hogg, Jacqui Smith, the former Home Secretary and now an honorary fellow—to less well-known fellows and former undergraduates. Theresa Moran is a teacher, Sukhvinder Kaur-Stubbs a charity executive, Marian Bell an economist, and Kay Davies a professor of anatomy, for example. We represent all ages and backgrounds. We look contemporary and benign.

We have been hung on the walls, replacing dusty chaplains, former principals and other assorted dead white men, to mark the 40th anniversary of Hertford admitting women. Even Donne has gone, and in his place hangs a woman I believe he would have very much liked—Julia Briggs, Hertford’s first woman fellow, appointed in 1978, a distinguished scholar and critic; a warm, encouraging inspiration to me and many other women. Hers, a beautiful, radiant face, is the only archive photograph because she died in 2007, at the all-too-young age of 63.

Seeing her there, seeing the other women around her, was surprisingly moving. I never went to Hall much in my time at college—the food was grim, and the prices high. But when I did, as one of only the third intake of women, it always felt overwhelmingly blokey, and that impression was reinforced by the faces on the walls.

Despite the undergraduate population



“Seeing [Julia Briggs] there, seeing the other women around her, was surprisingly moving”

now being divided roughly 50/50, Emma Smith, Fellow in English, thinks that those forgotten and forgettable men are still off-putting. She was one of those pushing for the year-long temporary rehang because “we found that today’s students, both male and female, don’t have the slightest affection or interest for any of those anonymous men.

“If you see yourself as a forward-looking and free-thinking college, as Hertford does, then it is important to have visible symbols of your difference. That is what these portraits should be,” she said.

It is certainly true that we women do change the feel of the place. For one thing, we all appear pretty happy. We look as if we might actually have enjoyed our time at university and gained something from it. We gaze gently down on the diners; none of us is the slightest bit stern. In the short statements we were asked to write to accompany our pictures, we all express a sense of honour and surprise at being there. I obviously wasn’t the only one who thought my inclusion was some kind of mistake. In fact, I spent a long time quizzing the photographer about why I was there—an obsession rivalled only by my concern about the size of my chin in any photograph chosen.

“Most of Taylor’s photographs capture women, whatever our merits or demerits, who have achieved outside Oxford”

I suspect, in truth, it was slightly random. As an arts editor and columnist, I am in a profession and a discipline that a lot of current students still aspire to. But I recognise that this slightly startled reaction is also part of my own complex feelings about my time at the university.

I think everyone finds going to university daunting and if you choose one of the long-established institutions, then your fragile confidence in your own intellectual worth is always going to come into conflict with the heavy weight of history and tradition. Those men in the portraits represented an entire story and ethos which sometimes made me feel intimidated and lonely. I spent a lot of time in a state of panic and self-doubt.

That was where Julia Briggs came in. She was a mother of three, a brilliant academic, and a wonderful teacher. She never pretended having all of that was easy, but she made it look possible and she took the time to help her students, particularly the girls, to feel it might be achievable too.

So Hertford gradually became a welcoming place. The men may have been in the majority but they were kindly and smart and far from overbearing. They were nearly all from state schools—a tradition of determined promotion of open access that Hertford continues to this day, and one which radically altered its atmosphere just as much as the arrival of women.

That’s another reason why the antiquated bishops were setting the wrong tone. They are all about authority, about people laying down the law to others. Yet what any university should do—and what Hertford did for me—is to provide a place to begin, in the most tentative way, to understand

“I think everyone finds going to university daunting”

who you are and so start to make the best of yourself in your own way.

In that context, I humbly think that perhaps I do merit a place on its walls, for a little time. I have done what I set out to do in life; I am happy. I have achieved something, even if it is not climbing Everest, or inventing the internet. So have all the other women who now hang in the dining room—and we only represent the tiniest proportion of the potential and success that has passed through that space.

Emma Smith made the point that nearly all of the old portraits showed people whose success had been confined to college; they were academics and clerics in a narrow sphere. Most of Taylor’s photographs capture women, whatever our merits or demerits, who have achieved outside Oxford; the university gave us a base from which to spring.

That symbolises something far beyond Hertford, or even Oxford. Education, if it means anything, means allowing people to expand their minds and ultimately fulfil their dreams. History is important, but sometimes its hand can lie too heavily on the present.

If my portrait, and those of my fellow women, can act as an incentive for even one prospective student who feels nervous and overwhelmed to think that actually she can aspire and expect to achieve, then I will be very proud.

I don’t expect to remain on Hertford’s walls—a David Hockney portrait of the former principal Geoffrey Warnock has had to go into storage to get me there—but while I am there, I hope I do some good.

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The Tanner Scheme: view from a colleague

Robin Devenish



Next academic year (2015-16), Hertford celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the Tanner scheme, introduced by Dr Neil Tanner who became Tutor for Admissions in 1965. Professor Robin Devenish (Emeritus Fellow; Fellow and Tutor in Physics 1979-2010) tells us of its origins and one of its early beneficiaries, Martin Lipton, writes on its consequences for him.

When I joined Hertford as a tutorial fellow in Physics in 1979, the college was reaping the academic benefits of the “Hertford Admission Scheme” spear-headed by Neil Tanner. It was nearing the top of the Norrington Table from being virtually at the bottom when Neil was elected to a tutorial fellowship at Hertford in 1960.

At that time, the admissions process consisted of an Oxford entrance exam which required the candidate to embark on a third year in the sixth form to have any chance of success. The style of questions required a higher level of ability



“The college was not just encouraging students from state schools to apply, it was making it possible for them to get in”

we have been commemorating in Hertford over 2014, girls were first admitted to college in 1974). These pupils would then be interviewed early, outside the standard application process, and if it was thought they had potential, they would be offered a binding place at Hertford as long as they achieved two Es at A-level (the Oxford matriculation requirement), without having to sit the entrance exam. This was designed to level the playing field, giving state-schooled boys a realistic chance of an Oxford education at a time when their presence at the university was virtually non-existent. It was a bold idea and the college Governing Body was understandably nervous, but the then principal, Sir Robert Hall, gave his strong support to the plan put forward by the triumvirate. Neil took charge of admissions and the scheme ran until the university banned early entrance in 1984.

Neil was committed to widening access, but there were other reasons that necessitated change which earned him the overwhelming support of the Governing Body. These reasons centred on Hertford's extremely poor academic performance in the early 1960s, caused by the much greater

than A-level, and schools with staff time to devote to a small subset of pupils ran special coaching sessions in the autumn term of the extra year in order to prepare candidates for Oxbridge entry. Most state schools did not have the resources to provide this level of preparation, nor could their pupils afford to delay for a year before going either to university or straight into employment (the latter being the norm at the time).

In light of this, Neil developed the “Tanner”, or “Hertford”, scheme for admissions in 1963. Going against the university principle of the “gathered field”, Neil, along with college fellows Peter Ganz and Jim Murray, initially investigated and visited state grammar schools which had never sent any candidates to Oxford, and asked their headteachers to put forward their best pupils (all boys, at that stage; as

“Hertford now has one of the largest state school contingents in Oxford”

availability of awards at other colleges, as well as their higher profile. The Tanner Scheme allowed Hertford to break out of the rut of only being able to get the least able public school boys, and as a result Hertford rocketed from rock bottom of the college rankings to the very top in only a few years, having the highest number of firsts and seconds combined of any college throughout much of the late sixties. The college was not just encouraging students from state schools to apply, it was making it possible for them to get in. Hertford had a definite “buzz” and was an exciting place.

The scheme was unique and was resented by other colleges. Soon other colleges followed and “early admission schemes” became the norm. However each college had its own features, leading to schools complaining that Oxford admission required so much effort to understand that their best students should apply to Cambridge or London Colleges instead. The Dover report of 1984 imposed uniformity on the Oxford admissions system, not doing away altogether with the conditional offer route but barring colleges from offering such places ahead of the gathered field. Hertford's September offers were no more.

This was a great blow to Hertford College as a whole, but especially to Neil who had evolved such a successful system over 21 years. The Vice Principal of the time, John Torrance, criticized the change as removing the one truly successful access scheme that Oxford had developed over the preceding years; however, the college remained committed to widening the scope of its intake, and continued to evolve processes to these ends. Hertford now has one of the largest state school contingents in Oxford, as well as creating the first access and outreach fellow in the university. Neil evolved a scheme that has endured and flowered, if not in its original format, and the Hertford College of today is very much one that has been moulded by his ideals.

The Tanner scheme: view from a student Martin Lipton (1985)



Martin Lipton was chief football writer on the Daily Mirror from 2002 to 2014 and is now deputy head of sports content at the Sun.

Sometimes people appear in your lives out of nowhere, make an indelible impression, and then retreat to the shadows, unaware of the impact they have made.

I doubt whether Neil Tanner ever gave a thought to me, even when we crossed paths in OB Quad or in front of the notice board outside the Lodge in the mid 80s.

Indeed, I'm pretty sure he never even asked himself what had happened to me in the years that followed, either. And I'm absolutely convinced he didn't devour any of my World Cup or Champions League match reports in the *Mail* or the *Mirror*, although he might have glanced at the odd cricket piece.

After all, I wasn't one of his Physics group, merely another of the transitory group of English undergrads, a name but



not a personality. Just one of the many to pass through, stay briefly, move on. Replaced by the next generation. And the next. And the next.

Yet without Neil Tanner, without his vision, ambition and drive, without his belief that Hertford should be at the vanguard of a truly progressive, egalitarian approach to education, I suspect my life would have turned out very differently.

From the standpoint of three decades on, things may look far less rigid but in the summer of 1984 there was still a sense of deference and the “natural order” of things.

Kids from my background did not go to Oxford, I thought. It was not an option, not on the agenda. Parents who had left school at 15, with one O-Level between them. A comprehensive in the Essex commuter belt, where it always seemed there were just three serious career options—in the Forces, in the City, or inside!

It was slightly different in my case, in that I was pushed and supported by a terrific teacher, Mike Clamp, who thrust a copy of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* in front of me and encouraged me to be more than I thought I could be.

He had been to Oxford himself, St John’s, two decades earlier. He saw in me, bizarrely, some sort of promise. He told me that I should give it a go.

But I wasn’t entirely convinced, even though I began to read up about entrance procedures and saw that Hertford, perhaps, might offer me a slightly greater chance of success. Not that the leap from “none” to “slim” was that precipitous.

And it was at that stage, through one of the quirks that can change lives, that Neil came, briefly, into my life, that his determination to alter Oxford was to give me the opportunity that transformed my entire future.

Of course, Neil’s views were conditioned by his own background,

“Instead, Neil badgered me, bullied me, told me in no uncertain terms I would be doing myself a disservice if I didn’t apply”

born to a lower middle-class family in Melbourne and earning a scholarship to Gonville and Caius after completing his first degree in Victoria.

For many, pioneering research in nuclear physics—don’t ask me what ANY of it means!—would have been enough and Neil might have concentrated on that when he arrived as a fellow at Hertford in 1965, by way of the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge and the California Institute of Technology.

Instead, he looked at Oxford, saw it as a bastion of unearned privilege and decided things had to change.

The 60s may have been swinging elsewhere, but not in academia. Indeed, Neil’s vision and determination to make Oxford accessible to people from his own basic background, those previously disenfranchised, caused apoplexy.

This, remember, was a time when seventh-term entry was the main way in, a process overwhelmingly weighted towards private education.

The “Tanner Scheme”, later known as the Hertford Scheme, was the first genuine outreach programme, with Neil and colleagues Peter Ganz and Jim Murray visiting state grammars which had no history of sending candidates to Oxford, bringing in fourth term entry interviews, no exam and offers of two Es at A-Level.

With the beginning of the comprehensive movement under Harold Wilson’s government—although Margaret Thatcher was the Education Secretary when the largest number of state grammars changed status—the impact of the Tanner Scheme became clearer, much to the consternation of the university as a whole.

Hertford’s academic success as it moved up the Norrington Table did not prevent deep unrest, with moves to disassociate the college for going it alone. Nobody appreciates a trouble-maker and Neil, and Hertford, were trouble-makers.

Thankfully, Hertford stood its ground. The Tanner Scheme became a blueprint for many to emulate and as Hertford went co-ed in 1974, another ground-breaking move, the college’s reputation as a beacon for educational equality was further enhanced.

Not that, in truth, I knew any of this on that July day as I trooped up Broad Street for the first time in my life, ducking out of the second half of an Open Day at Balliol to see what Hertford had to offer, trooping into NB Quad, up to Neil’s room.

If I’m honest, I was looking for an excuse to give it up as a bad idea. Confirmation bias, as it were.

Instead, Neil badgered me, bullied me, told me in no uncertain terms I would be doing myself a disservice if I didn’t apply, that he expected me to have the courage of HIS own convictions. It was a 15-minute chat that altered my consciousness. Rather than heading back to Essex with a red line through Oxford in my planned UCCA form, I had to recalibrate and give myself that chance—a swing against the odds.

Of course he did not know whether I was good enough. Evidently, when it came to the final analysis three months later, as I sat perched on the front edge of a sofa in front of Tony Cockshut and

Julia Briggs, neither did they, given that, against all that should have been, I was offered a place to read English.

As I later learned, I was among the last beneficiaries of Neil’s imaginative approach. Hertford was forced to come into line with the rest of the university that summer. The Tanner Scheme was to be no more, although the impact was felt when I arrived in October 1985 to find a huge number of fellow state school newbies, among whom are a number I still regard as my closest friends.

To my shame I never really told Neil what he had done for me. I always nodded as we passed but I’m not entirely sure we ever had a proper conversation. After all, I was not alone. There were plenty of us. When there are so many, you take it as the norm.

It wasn’t, as I recognise now. And much of the reason Hertford was, and hopefully still is, the place it was then, warm, welcoming and open, was entirely down to Neil’s bravery in taking on the system and recreating it in his own image.

Without him, would I have accomplished the career I have had in newspapers and on television? Possibly, of course. But probably not. Getting into Hertford, due to the Tanner Scheme—I know I would not have done it by any other process—made me believe in myself, helped me to feel I could take on any challenge, instilled a sense of purpose that was lacking in my fledgling self.

I am not alone in owing him a huge debt. Hertford, too, would surely have been very different without him. A visionary, a trail-blazer, a man of integrity and determination. The essence of what every Hertfordian should aspire to achieve. Most crucially, perhaps, someone who thought outside the box and saw potential where others saw nothing.



2015 John Donne lecture: On Liberty Shami Chakrabarti

Shami Chakrabarti CBE, Director of Liberty and Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University, reflects on the talk she gave in the Sheldonian Theatre on 10 April 2015.

Introduction

Visiting Oxford is always a treat, but seldom is it such an honour. The invitation to deliver the John Donne lecture, following in the footsteps of such remarkable speakers, was a tremendous privilege and one very much worth losing sleep over—literally in this case, as I had just returned from a trip abroad. But nothing wakes you up quite like the Sheldonian Theatre—a sight for my sore eyes. This masterpiece of architectural design served as the perfect

venue for a speech on the Human Rights Act—itself a masterpiece of legislative design—and no doubt helped towards the overwhelming turnout. On the subject of the audience, meeting some of Britain’s brightest young minds was a joy. The quality and challenging nature of the Q&A which followed the lecture, and the college library’s exhibition of the literary treasures which have shaped Hertford’s thoughts on the concept of liberty, were truly gratifying. It is heart warming to know that so many talented scholars are concerning themselves with such vital issues in these uncertain times.

So why are the times uncertain? Since the lecture the government has made clear its intention to scrap the Human Rights Act. Our Human Rights Act; the very instrument which enshrines the European Convention on Human Rights—Churchill’s post-war legacy—into British law. Time and time again it has enabled ordinary people—soldiers, journalists,

bereaved families, victims of domestic violence, slavery and rape—to hold the powerful to account. Only a few months ago the HRA formed the basis of Liberty’s legal opinion which forced Oxford City Council to defer its decision on a Public Space Protection Order which sought to criminalize begging in the city centre.

The “plan”—and I use the term loosely because nothing tangible has actually been produced—is to replace the HRA with a so-called British Bill of Rights. Hertford College, celebrating 40 years of co-education and renowned for providing opportunities for all, will recognise the inherent dangers of removing “human” and inserting “British”. Rights for some, not all, are not human rights.

Despite ministers’ protestations about their intentions, the reality is that their rhetoric is simply misleading. One proposal is to limit the use of human rights to the “most serious cases”, with “trivial cases” falling by the wayside.

Attendees of the lecture will know that this distinction is untenable. What is a trivial case? An elderly relative waits for hours to use the toilet in their dying days; Rosa Parks refuses to go to the back of the bus. Should partisan politicians decide? This “injection of common sense” is actually an unambiguous statement that certain rights will be taken away, diminishing protection for all of us.

Liberty has never shied away from a fight and it will take more than a little jet-lag to hold me back. I left Hertford safe in the knowledge that you’re up for the fight too. Visiting Oxford is always a treat, but seldom so important—together we can save our Human Rights Act.

“Rights for some,
not all, are not human
rights”





Transcript from the lecture

It is an enormous, if slightly daunting, privilege to be here to give this lecture, to be a guest of Hertford College, and indeed to give a lecture in John Donne's name.

Be afraid, be very afraid—because you've taken a bit of a punt on me. The *Sun* newspaper once called me "the most dangerous woman in Britain". But I hear people have been saying similar things about Nicola Sturgeon north of the border, and I may sue if people start calling her the most dangerous woman in Britain.

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were".

John Donne of course, Meditation XVII. And I'm sure he was thinking about all sorts of other things when he wrote that, but I can't think of a better way to sum up what I think about human rights and why it's so important that we cherish them and defend them from all sorts of very difficult challenges at this very difficult time—not just in British politics but in the history of the world.

Liberty (or the National Council for Civil Liberties) was formed in 1934; you might think that 1934 and 2015 are two years that couldn't be more different, and of course you'd have a point. There have been so many changes in that 81-year period. In 1934 there was barely television, let alone CCTV and reality TV. In 1934 we'd yet to discover DNA, let alone take it from anyone ever arrested for a criminal offence whether or not they were subsequently charged or convicted of anything. In 1934 there was no internet, let alone the capacity for the great democratization but also blanket surveillance of entire populations that internet communications have brought us. So things were very different in so many ways. And yet. In 1934 certain newspapers still around today, and still pillars of national public life, would regularly run

“Amongst the signatories to that letter were people like Clement Attlee, H. G. Wells, E. M. Forster, Vera Brittain, A. A. Milne”

front-page headlines about the way in which the country was being invaded by refugees from eastern Europe. In 1934 there was a time of great austerity and economic uncertainty for lots of people. In 1934 the Far Right was on the rise in parts of this country and all over Europe. But the particular stimulus for the formation of my organization, and I am essentially the caretaker of this great organization, was when hunger marchers came from some of our great northern cities to assemble in Hyde Park in central London, where they were promptly beaten up by the Metropolitan Police. And what's more, the particular technique used by the police was that some of them went undercover and dressed as hunger marchers and behaved in a deliberately provocative and violent way in order to apparently justify a more brutal policing response. That's what happened. A group of people (much smaller than the generous audience here this evening) were horrified by what they'd seen in Hyde Park, and got together in the crypt of St-Martin-in-the-Fields Church. Of course today they would have blogged or facebooked or tweeted, but they wrote a letter to the managers of the *Guardian* newspaper. In it they wrote about how horrified they were at what they had seen happen in Hyde Park, and that "we today have formed a National Council for Civil Liberties to keep watch over the entire spirit of liberty in this country". Incredible. The audacity of it, that they just called it the National Council for Civil Liberties.

Amongst the signatories to that letter were people like Clement Attlee, H. G. Wells, E. M. Forster, Vera Brittain, A. A. Milne. The list goes on. Activists. Writers. Lawyers. All coming together and saying we must defend the spirit of liberty in this country.

The next really brilliant moment, I think, is the post-war movement. Because it's in that 1945-46 period that freedom-loving people from all over the world come together and settle the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948. And you know why. These people are not 1960s hippy liberals or pantalooned nineteenth-century gentlemen—all the clichés and all the ways in which human rights folk are put down in political rhetoric. These are people who have lived through the horrors and terrors of the second Great War. They have seen bags of bones being carried out of Nazi extermination camps. They have seen people coming out of Japanese prisoner-of-war camps. And they decide that there have to be some values that can be agreed upon all over the world so that people are not going to have to constantly take up arms against tyranny. It's an extraordinary moment in human history, yet to be repeated I think. Think about how difficult it is to secure international treaties and agreements on anything important, from climate change to banking regulations, but these people did that. And they were slightly to the left of the centre of politics, slightly to the right of the centre of politics, there were representatives of all the great world religions and people of no religious conviction whatsoever. Eleanor Roosevelt called it the "Magna Carta for all mankind". Now of course this year you will note there are lots of celebrations of the actual Magna Carta, and I hope you'll forgive me for noting the irony that lots of politicians who are putting on their smart DJs to go to receptions celebrating the Magna Carta are the same people who want to scrap the Human Rights Act and pull us out of the European Convention on Human Rights. What's going on there? In the words of that great legal philosopher Tony Hancock:

"Remember Magna Carta, did she die in vain?" So that is the extraordinary moment: we have the Universal Declaration and then we have the regional instruments to make it law including our own European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Churchill's post-war legacy, drafted for the most part by conservative lawyers, is now under threat. It's extraordinary to me that this should be on the table in a great old democracy in 2015, in the year that we celebrate 800 years of the Magna Carta.

What are the rights and freedoms that we're talking about that are under threat? What's in this dreaded ECHR that people dislike? It's the rule against torture. It's the right to life (now obviously not everlasting life because that would take a medical miracle and not legal drafting, but the right to positive protection of life and the right to investigation into untimely or unnatural death). It's the right against slavery—and

“there have to be some values that can be agreed upon all over the world so that people are not going to have to constantly take up arms against tyranny”

you might think that's a bit redundant these days but no it isn't. There are still people trafficked into this country and it was only a few years ago, only just before the last general election, that we secured a criminal offence of holding someone in servitude or as a slave. The slave trade was abolished hundreds of years ago, but there was no actual criminal offence of holding someone as a slave. People would say "it's fine, we can prosecute under false imprisonment if you lock someone in or under offences





against the person and threats and so on". But what if you don't lock them in? And what if there were threats but we can't prove it, or there's been a different kind of oppression—this is a trafficked person who is afraid of recriminations back home. This person's passport has been taken. This is someone with learning difficulties. There were people living as slaves in modern Britain and now that is a criminal offence, courtesy of the campaigning we were able to do and the litigation we brought under article 4 of the ECHR, the right against slavery.

Article 6 is the right to a fair trial including the presumption of innocence when you are charged with a criminal offence. Of course, for a fair trial to mean anything there has to be access to legal advice and representation, and that is so much under threat in modern Britain. Legal aid is practically decimated. In fact, decimated is the wrong word because that means one in ten – there'll be less than one in ten people who have access to civil legal aid in modern Britain. I don't know if you've ever been unfortunate enough to need a lawyer, but this is not a cheap pursuit and there are all sorts of people out there who are completely outside the scope of legal help in this country. People who are potentially losing their children (to an ex-spouse who has denied them access), people who might lose their job, people whose homes are under threat, no longer have access to civil legal aid.

Article 8 is very topical: the right to respect for your private life, your family life and your correspondence. This is a national conversation I think we are only just beginning. In part because, forgive me, the

“ a war against an abstract noun... is a war without end ”

securocrats did not tell us what they were doing to us in our name. And whatever your views are about Mr Snowden's revelations (the *Guardian* newspaper has been called treacherous and Snowden has been called an enemy of the state etc.), whatever you say about the proportional balance between privacy and security, surely that level of surveillance of entire populations rather than individual suspects should at least have been conducted under the rule of law? When was the public debate, let alone the parliamentary debate? Where is the primary legislation that governs the limits of that kind of surveillance? It was happening behind our backs. There were occasionally debates about pieces of draft legislation that might have been adopted to allow for greater blanket surveillance for all sorts of laudable reasons like fighting terrorism and online child abuse and so on. But those bills did not pass. And they were doing it anyway.

The most important right and freedom of all, the key to the human rights kingdom in my view, is encapsulated in article 14 of the ECHR. It is the right to non-discrimination—equal treatment under the law. I have this debate with school children and law students up and down the country every day, every week: why is non-discrimination more important than any other human right? People look at me quizzically, "but surely torture, slavery, free speech, these are the most important ones. Why do you say equal treatment is so important?" We lawyers call it non-discrimination; humans call it empathy. I think it's the most important because, in truth, there would be no torture and no slavery and no similar abuses of power if we really practised empathy or equal treatment.

“ the people who get upset about human rights do love human rights—their own ”



You see, in my experience, the people who get upset about human rights do love human rights—their own. And those of their family, and people like them. It's other peoples' human rights which are a little bit trickier. In fact the man who once described me as the most dangerous woman in Britain was a very good case in point. A journalist on the *Sun* (he's not there anymore) called John Gaunt. In addition to writing a very popular column in the *Sun* he was a talk-show presenter on talkSPORT radio, and he thought some of

“Why shouldn't internationalism also be for ordinary people, their human rights protection and their values?”

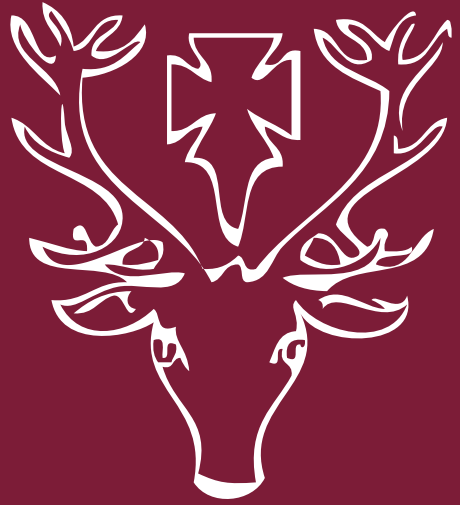
our work was “political correctness gone mad”. But then he got into an argument during a discussion on live radio with a councillor about whether smokers should be allowed to foster children in care, in which he accused the councillor of being “a Nazi”. There were about three and a half million complaints to OFCOM and John was sacked. Not temporarily suspended. Not warned. Not invited to the Principal's study for a “you've let the college down” chat. Nothing like that. Just completely canned. John went to see some lawyers who stated that talkSPORT radio could dismiss John...unless that contract has to be read subject to article 10 of the ECHR. He has a case currently pending (it's now some years later) in relation to his free speech in the European Court of Human Rights. So there it is. It's not just Abu Qatada, it's John Gaunt. These people are not the best poster boys for human rights,

but be careful what you wish for because you might need them one day.

And what about those women in the environmental movement, have you heard about them? They went to Greenpeace meetings. They formed friendships and relationships with men which sometimes went on for up to seven years. And then the boyfriend, who one minute was in the family photographs, is gone. Disappeared off the face of the earth. Years later they found out that he was an undercover cop from the special demonstration squad. They were under surveillance as domestic extremists. Those radical vegans. So “nothing to hide, nothing to fear”? I disagree.

Often the “war on terror” is used as a reason for abrogating human rights, but a war against an abstract noun which describes a terrible part of human behaviour (but nonetheless a part of human behaviour that has always gone on and will always be a part of the human condition) is a war without end. It's a permanent emergency, it's Donald Rumsfeld's “new normal”. And it justifies so much exceptionalism that you wouldn't otherwise tolerate and deprives you of the values and moral compass that I think you need most in difficult times.

The late great Tom Bingham spoke to Liberty six years ago at our 75th anniversary conference, and he ended his remarks by saying: “Which of these [ECHR] rights, I ask, would we wish to discard? Are any of them trivial, superfluous, unnecessary? Are any of them unBritish? There may be those who'd like to live in a country where these rights are not protected. But I am not of their number.” And no, I'm not either. Why should internationalism only be for corporations, organized criminal gangs and terrorists? Why shouldn't internationalism also be for ordinary people, their human rights protection and their values? Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.



HERTFORD
YEAR



Reaching out to present and past

Catherine Redford,
Career Development
Fellow and Outreach
Officer



I came to Hertford in January this year, having previously spent just over two years as a lecturer in English at St Hilda's. As an early-career academic with a passion for access work, it's not an overstatement to say that the role of Career Development Fellow and Outreach Officer at Hertford is a dream job for me! The position is a 50/50 split between research and outreach work with schools, allowing me to develop a strong research portfolio while giving me the opportunity to visit schools in our link regions of Essex, Camden and Medway and talk to the students there about applying to Oxford. The two halves of the role complement each other well; being research-active means that when I work with potential applicants, I can deliver genuine academic content in the form of English "taster sessions". Rather

than just telling school students how great our university is, I'm able to engage them in an exciting academic session that will, hopefully, leave them wanting to come and study at Oxford.

Over the six months that I've spent in this role so far, I've been hugely impressed by the college's attitude to access and outreach work. It's fantastic to be surrounded by a team of fellows, lecturers, administrative staff, and students who are keen to support access initiatives, and I'm proud to represent a college so genuinely committed to improving access.

The bulk of my outreach work involves visiting schools, where I meet students predominantly from years 11 and 12. Face-to-face encounters are irreplaceable: they show these young people that Oxford cares enough to make the effort to engage with them. The activities that I run on such visits depend on each individual school's needs, so I might, for example, give a general talk on why students may want to consider applying to Oxford at one school, while offering a more focused presentation on the specifics of our application process at another. I also lead workshops on topics such as interviews and UCAS personal statements, as well as running mock tutorials.

These academic sessions give students confidence, encouraging them to see that they can hold their own in an academic conversation and come up with some original ideas. Recent tutorials I've held have seen students examining P. B. Shelley's editorial changes to the *Frankenstein* manuscript, comparing some early nineteenth-century texts that imagine the end of the world, and carrying out some practical criticism on a Wordsworth poem. It's wonderful to see the

I'm proud to represent a college so genuinely committed to improving access

students—some as young as fourteen—relishing the challenges of these topics and becoming really excited and animated in their discussions.

Besides my visits to schools, I attend various Higher Education fairs, events for parents, and collaborative days with Cambridge and other universities. We regularly run Taster Days at Hertford, which allow school students to spend the day in college and get a feel for what studying at Oxford might be like. They take part in an academic session before having a tour of the college, lunch in hall, and a talk from our Admissions Officer, finishing up with a Q&A session with some of our current undergraduates. These events help with "myth busting", and over the course of the day the participants often go from looking unsure and apprehensive to being chatty and enthused. They learn how affordable Oxford is, given the college and university subsidies to all students and Hertford's generous bursaries for those from lower income backgrounds, and they get to see that Hertford is full of young people just like them. Oxford goes from being an alien place to an achievable goal.

I have some exciting plans for the college's access and outreach programme, and over the coming months and years I want to pursue some more ambitious access initiatives. At the end of this term, we held a "Women in STEM" event for Year 11 girls from state schools. Around fifty girls spent the day at Hertford experiencing a range of science, technology, engineering, and maths sessions with our tutors, before getting the chance to look around the college, meet the access and admissions team, and chat to some of our current female STEM undergraduates. The event was accessible to those from all backgrounds: the day itself was free of charge, and we covered the travel costs of all participants. Oxford University Press generously provided books for all of the girls to take home at the end of the event, therefore allowing them to continue

exploring STEM topics as they prepare to start their A level studies in September. The day was a great success, and I hope to run similar events for potential applicants in future years.

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.

These academic sessions give students confidence, encouraging them to see that they can hold their own in an academic conversation and come up with some original ideas

I have similarly ambitious research plans for the duration of my fellowship. I completed my doctorate in 2013, and am now revising my thesis for publication as a monograph. The book discusses the figure of the Last Man on earth in later romantic literature, focusing on a range of novels, poems, and plays written between 1806 and 1833. My research covers key figures of the romantic movement, including Mary Shelley and Lord Byron, as well as lesser-known non-canonical writers such as Thomas Hood, Thomas Campbell, and George Dibdin Pitt.



Year 11 girls looking at the Lego Hertford on our recent STEM day, 26 June 2015



John Martin's painting "The Last Man" (1849; after sketches made in 1826)

I am particularly interested in the way in which Last Man literature of the romantic period is not simply concerned with the individual figure of the Last Man, but is bound up with issues of friendship and community. The Last Man is not the ultimate depiction of the romantic solitary who perceives his position—at least in part—as one of privilege, but is instead a desperately lonely individual who longs for companionship. Early nineteenth-century Last Man texts repeatedly interrogate the themes of community and friendship, often through the Christian model of the heavenly community. They examine the Last Man's relationship with communities and empires that have risen and fallen over time, and they explore the anti-community sentiment promoted by urban living. They

also reflect on the author's "friendship" with the future, reaching out across generations to posterity. My book will place the history of the romantic Last Man theme in the context of community: rather than viewing these writings as a series of individual texts responding to a common idea, we should read them as an interlinking network that began to form when the first two Last Man texts were fused together as a pair by their critical reception. My research thus suggests that even as the figure of the Last Man depends so entirely on his singularity, we must view the texts that respond to this theme as an interdependent web.

I'm also investigating broader ideas of apocalypse, dystopia, and utopia in nineteenth-century English literature, taking in Mary Shelley, H. G. Wells, the Gothic, and friendship in romantic literature. Since taking up my post at Hertford in January, I have presented a paper at the annual Newstead Abbey Byron Society Conference and given a public lecture on William Blake and the Gothic at the Ashmolean Museum. This summer, I will attend the British Association for Victorian Studies Conference, where I will give a paper on depictions of subterranean spaces in *fin de siècle* literature.

I am currently working on an article considering Lord Byron's response to both the eighteenth-century eschatological tradition and the biblical model of apocalypse in his poem "Darkness", which will be published in the autumn issue of *The Byron Journal*. I am also preparing a paper for a forthcoming collection of essays considering "troubled landscapes" in the work of William Morris and H. G. Wells. My contribution will look at the use of underground space in the novels of Wells and some of his contemporaries, including M. P. Shiel and Edward Bulwer-Lytton. Other forthcoming projects include articles on the female utopia of Mary Bradley Lane's *Mizora* and the use of coastal spaces in Mary Shelley's work, so I'll certainly be busy in the coming months.

Travel & research fund awards

This year 35 Hertford students benefited from travel and research grants to extend their understanding of the outer reaches of their subject. These grants are funded by generous donations from Hertford friends and alumni. The students shared with us some of their experiences.

Joy Aston
(Biological Sciences, 2012)

This summer I was able to carry out research on ecology within a tropical forest. I worked with fruit flies and the wasps that parasitize them by laying their eggs within the fly larvae. More specifically, I was studying whether the incidence of parasitoids changed with the gradient of rainfall that exists across the Isthmus of Panama, and I did this by setting fruit-baited traps at seven sites along the Panama Canal. The fieldwork took many hours and was tough, and the processing of my traps was smelly and involved spending many, many hours picking pupae (around 1,500 of them) out of two-week old fermented banana and placing them into individual tubes to wait for them to hatch. I also collected over 2,000 larvae and preserved them for future DNA analysis work. The identification stage of hatchlings was a steep learning curve due to the sheer number of *Drosophila* species that exist in

““ I feel I now know what carrying out research on ecology in a tropical forest actually entails, and I absolutely loved it ””

tropical forests, and my microscopy skills increased exponentially as a result. I feel I now know what carrying out research on ecology in a tropical forest actually entails, and I absolutely loved it.

As a registered member of the Smithsonian Tropical Research institute, I was able to attend bi-weekly lectures by individuals working on a huge range of topics, from the impacts of marine traffic on cetacean communication to the sustainable development of different parts of Panama City. I assisted with the data collection and progression of three other projects, giving me a much more varied experience, and discussed with new friends I made the projects they were working on. I was fully immersed in the rainforest, and was lucky enough to see a large amount of wildlife, the highlight being Panama's most dangerous snake—the fer de lance. I also saw first-hand how the rapid development of the nation is encroaching on its nature, and discussed with experts in the field their pessimistic views on the future of not only Panama's forests but those the world over. However, perhaps all is not lost—the seven sites I was working on were all less than 100 years old, as all areas around the Panama Canal were cleared during its construction. The levels of growth and biodiversity present in these secondary forests were inspiring—it is possible for nature to reclaim land and flourish.

I set out thinking that this experience would solidify my ambitions for further study, and this has proved to be the case, but not in the way I expected. The opportunity has rekindled a passion that I have had since a young age; climate change is happening, human growth is ever-increasing and pushing into "wild" areas, most worryingly those that act as carbon sinks and sources of biodiversity, and more constantly needs to be done. It is easy to fall into the widespread apathy that seems to permeate my age-group: apathy about politics, the future,



job markets. I want to make an active difference towards protecting beautiful places across the world like those I was able to see in Panama. After graduating, I plan to take a year out to work and gain additional relevant experience, before applying for a masters in environmental policy or conservation.

Toby Bladen
(*Oriental Studies, 2011*)

Thanks to funding from a donor, I carried out a research trip in Tokyo and the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido for the purposes of my undergraduate dissertation, investigating the topic of language contact between Japanese and the endangered Ainu language. I travelled to Tachikawa in West Tokyo in order to visit the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL), a major research hub for linguistics in Japan that is also a close research collaborator with Oxford University's own Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics. There, thanks to an introduction by Oxford academics, I was able to meet Dr Anna Bugaeva, a leading scholar of Ainu-Japanese language contact.

From there, I journeyed to Nopporo in the outskirts of Sapporo, and visited the nearby Kaitaku-no Mura historical museum. The museum details the Meiji Period colonization ("kaitaku"), which brought Japanese speakers into intense language contact with the indigenous population and ultimately set in motion the decline of the Ainu language. I attended a Japanese language seminar organized by the Hokkaido University Center for Ainu and Indigenous Studies on the topic of images depicting the Ainu in historical documents. As the Ainu formerly had no custom of writing their language or producing images of themselves, looking at images produced by other cultures, and their accompanying texts, is an important tool in understanding

pre-modern contacts.

My next major activity was to undertake a trip to the village of Nibutani, a hub of the Southern Hokkaido Ainu community and a key region in the Ainu Language Revival Movement. It was rewarding to talk to Ainu individuals in an Ainu-majority region and to increase my understanding of the local community. Whilst in the area, I visited the Kayano Shigeru Nibutani Ainu Archive, which commemorates Kayano as one of the most prominent scholars of the Ainu language and a key leader in its revival movement. I was able to examine instructional texts used in Ainu-language schools across Hokkaido, and to listen to a large library of spoken Ainu recordings—a privilege given that only a handful of individuals can remember the language today.

In Hilary 2015, I submitted my undergraduate dissertation entitled 'Ainu-Japanese Language Contact' based on the research I conducted during the trip. In the dissertation, I contextualised and interpreted a report I had received at NINJAL on the Hokkaido dialect of Japanese as spoken by native Ainu speakers. I first outlined the characteristics of the Ainu language, before providing a discussion of Ainu-Japanese historical language contact. Finally, I reassessed the report and discussed how it reflects the Ainu language's wider sociolinguistic context. I feel the successful writing of a dissertation along these lines was only possible by travelling to Japan. Thus, I am hugely grateful for the opportunity provided to me by the travel grant.

Lily Goodyer Sait
(*Biology, 2013*)

With the aid of this funding I was able to undertake a five week placement in MGGN lab at North Arizona University. The main project was concerned with Arizonan strains of *S.pneumo*, which were found to be resistant to the chief antibiotic treatment Co-trimoxazole.





The MGEN lab had already designed DNA primers using the sequenced genomes of a few Arizonan samples of *S.pneumo* which were resistant, and the genome of wild type (Co-trimoxazole susceptible) *S.pneumo*. It was my job to validate these primers (via the use of a DNA amplification technique known as Melt-MAMA) by seeing if the results gained corresponded to the phenotypes of already identified *S.pneumo* samples. The results from these tests would help us understand if these primers could be used to successfully identify samples of Arizonan *S.pneumo* which were resistant, or whether resistance was conferred by more than one form of mutation, thus calling for a more complex approach to identifying resistant strains.

From my work with the Arizonan samples and the designed primers I discovered that the primers could identify some of the phenotypically resistant strains but not others. This suggested resistance was being conferred by more than one type of mutation either within the two earlier specified genes, or within other genes not yet scrutinized by scientific research.

Zoe Holmes
(Physics & Philosophy, 2011)

I spent three months this summer as part of the non-equilibrium statistical mechanics and theoretical biological physics group at the University of Potsdam. While I was there I worked on a memory driven random walk that had been suggested might describe the motion of animals in a *Physical Review* letter by Boyer and Solis-Salas.

I started by trying to understand the paper and replicate its results. In the process of this I found a couple of errors in the paper. My work largely consisted of getting further numerical results out (by programming in Python) for the original walk and then modifying the walk by applying various biases and obtaining

“Before the project I had not programmed anything in my life; now...I enjoy coding and want to do more of it”

both analytical and numerical results for the new walk. Before the project I had not programmed anything in my life; now I am happy with the basics of Python and more importantly have discovered that I enjoy coding and want to do more of it. I practised line fitting for graphs, how to use analytical and numerical work to complement one another, the importance of being organized, how to make professional looking graphs and reports using pyplot and latex, how brilliant mathematica is and how to use a linux computer. These are all essential basic scientific skills that will give me a head start for my MPhys project this year and support my CV when applying for PhDs and modelling based work. Added to this it was really fun spending the summer in Berlin. I met lots of interesting people and I improved my German.

Charlie Jackson
(Physics, 2012)

This summer I spent three weeks in Shanghai, China at East China Normal University studying Mandarin and Chinese culture. It was an amazing opportunity which has given me lifelong memories and skills. The programme consisted of daily language classes, module classes, Chinese based activities such as calligraphy and tai chi, and also trips to local points of interest. I really enjoyed learning Mandarin and found the differences very interesting and the language rewarding to learn. I plan to

keep up learning Mandarin in my own time and through university—which I hope will enhance my future employment opportunities.

Haran Jackson
(Mathematics, 2010)

This summer I spent eight weeks at the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (IGC)—a small research institute just outside Lisbon. Owing to my mathematical background (I had just completed my MMath at Oxford), I was assigned to the Population and Conservation Genetics group of Dr Lounès Chikhi. The aim of my project was to investigate the conditions under which PSMC can produce false population bottleneck signals (PSMC being an algorithm in bioinformatics that, given a sample pair of genomes, determines the historical size over time of the population from which they derive). The work was fairly intense but highly rewarding. I also covered a huge amount of new material over the course of my project, and gained a great deal of programming and general computing experience, all while honing my research skills.

Dan Martin
(Physics, 2012)

I worked for nine weeks with Oscar Dahlsten in the Clarendon Laboratory. This was work on theoretical physics, so it consisted of private study and conversations/debates with Oscar and the other DPhil students in the office. Two questions in theoretical physics relevant to the work are: “why are the fundamental laws of quantum mechanics the way they are?” and “can we develop workable quantum computers?” Using a framework called General Probabilistic Theories (GPTs), I investigated how much “mutual information” could be stored and communicated using basic physical systems in that theory.

I also attempted to simulate quantum computers using a classical computer—a

project thought to be doomed, but we decided it would be fun to see where it was doomed. I developed a framework inside GPTs for making sense of this idea, and showed where it ran into problems. It was a great learning experience.

“I also attempted to simulate quantum computers using a classical computer—a project thought to be doomed, but we decided it would be fun to see where it was doomed”

Charlotte Reeks
(Archaeology & Anthropology, 2011)

I used my grant to undertake a summer research project at the Institute of Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology in Oxford with Dr Emma Cohen. The research was based on the evolution of movement and “exercise” in Homo sapiens, a pervasive characteristic of the species, and the reciprocal links it might have with social bonding and cooperation in humans. My contribution, briefly, involved looking at a large database of ethnographies, books, articles and other texts called the Human Relations Area Files and exploring how “exercise” appears in societies cross-culturally.

The experience was highly beneficial as I am currently studying for a Master’s degree in the same area.

Jakob Sowa
(Chemistry, 2011)

I was awarded a grant which enabled me to undertake a month-long project in the Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory in Oxford. Working in Professor Timmel’s





group I investigated the effects of magnetic fields on chemical reactions using various fluorescence techniques. In order to measure the changes in concentrations of certain species a technique called Fluorescence MARY was used. It involved measuring the intensity of the fluorescence signal (at an appropriate wavelength) with varying external magnetic field. A number of systems were observed and, with help of computer simulations, several kinetic schemes were established.

Helen Spooner
(Geography, 2011)

Over this summer I led the pilot study for the Oxford-based social enterprise Prayog India. The project sought to gauge the extent to which children's access to hand-held computers in the classroom might improve their access to information and learning potential. While this was the fundamental aim of the study, the eye-opening experiences of living with a family in rural India taught me more about Indian culture and the obstacles to development than any book I could read on Development Theory.

While staying in the town of Haliya I built many friendships with the teachers at the two schools, particularly the female teachers. In the evenings after work I

“the eye-opening experiences of living with a family in rural India taught me more about Indian culture and the obstacles to development than any book I could read”

would go over to talk, drink chai, help cook and prepare meals. During these evenings, I had invaluable conversations with these women where we spoke—amongst many things—about love, marriages, dowry, domestic violence and female subordination in India. While my selected topic of “Contemporary India” that I studied at Oxford honed my theoretical understanding of the issues these women face, the opportunity to hear these women's intimate stories first-hand, their individual and collective struggles, has provoked a desire to pursue female empowerment in India in greater depth.

My experience in India this summer has no doubt played a huge factor in my decision to specialize in Gender during my Masters in Development Studies at SOAS this year. The conversations I had in Haliya have certainly played a role in my hopes to pursue a career where I can make a difference by working to minimize the inequalities and injustices experienced by women in the Global South.

Winnie Street
(Archaeology & Anthropology, 2012)

Thanks to this funding, I was able to conduct research in the Northwest Territories of Canada for my anthropological dissertation on the differences between indigenous and settlers' communities, and the way in which these relate to resource extraction and the treatment of indigenous women.

I enrolled on a course at Dechinta University, entitled “Indigenous Self-Determination in Theory and Practice”, taught by indigenous academics and members of the local Dene First Nation. Dechinta is based in Blachford Lodge, 60km away from Yellowknife, the capital city of the Northwest Territories. While the course itself taught me a great deal about the history and present situation of First Nations groups across Canada, living with indigenous students and teachers from different nations across Canada greatly influenced my understanding of the complexities

“living with indigenous students and teachers from different nations across Canada greatly influenced my understanding of the complexities of the issues”

of the issues involved in present day negotiations between First Nations and the Canadian state, and the reasons why those negotiations are often fraught with difficulty and conflict.

After completing the course, I returned to Yellowknife where I met the coordinator of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to discuss issues ranging from cultural appropriation of aboriginal dress by festival-goers in British Columbia, to the legacy left by the pan-Canadian indigenous cultural movement of 2012—Idle No More—within indigenous youth groups. The museum itself presented a wealth of cultural artefacts and information on indigenous craftwork, history and culture, and simply exploring the city of Yellowknife provided an interesting insight into how relations between settler and indigenous populations work in real terms.

The trip was utterly crucial to my final dissertation in exposing me to a great number of new ideas. More importantly, however, my first-hand experience of the place and its people gave me the lens through which to approach the issues involved with the necessary care and attentiveness. First Nations' political and cultural ideology, and their relationships with landscape in contrast with those of settler “Eurocentric” society, are a fascinating and highly politicized area of inquiry.



The living wage

James Lazarus, Bursar



The Bursar describes how and why Hertford became the first Oxford college to accredit to the living wage in November 2014.

The living wage is a relatively new creation, although much in the news. It only formally became a national entity in 2011. There are eight principal partners made up of a number of charities, but also Linklaters, Aviva and KPMG. The key feature of the living wage is that it is focused on individual need, which is thoroughly researched, rather than affordability from the employer perspective.

The campaign had been actively discussed within the university since its

national inception, largely as a result of lobbying by student representatives. The university's council approved plans to accredit in summer 2014 but at an incremental pace that would not see the living wage fully adopted for an extended period and with the announcement delayed until January 2015.

Hertford JCR and MCR took up the issue and made strong representations in late Trinity term 2014 for the college to accredit at a faster pace than the university. Within the college there is an excellent relationship with both JCR and MCR and undoubtedly their vigorous campaigning helped us to take our rightful place at the forefront of official implementation. I believe we would have got there in the end but am glad to pay tribute to our students for encouraging the college to take this step.

As Bursar, I felt it was important that Governing Body assessed the financial consequences of taking the decision, which we would be bequeathing to our successors. We also needed to be mindful of the worsening financial outlook in higher education more generally. However, having considered this perspective carefully, I was pleased to recommend to Governing Body that we should proceed. This seemed to be a moment when the right course was more important than the cheapest.

And the amounts at stake were not so very sizeable as the college has long sought to be a good employer. In particular, on his arrival as Principal, Will Hutton and the then Bursar Simon Lloyd ensured that the college

informally shadowed the living wage, so that the college was never more than three months behind the last date for complying with the official living wage rate.

Governing Body's decision and the college's formal accreditation were both a symbolic step and enshrined our commitment for the future. Having made the decision, the college was determined to enter into both the letter and spirit of the agreement.

The campaign allows all employers a period of six months' grace before all salaries have to be aligned to the living wage. However, Hertford has agreed to pay the living wage as soon as it is announced. So, in 2014, we paid the living wage from the date of its announcement on 1 November. We have committed to do so in all subsequent years.

Following its decision, Governing Body was delighted to receive a letter of thanks from our scouts—the largest body of staff directly affected by accreditation.

Looking forward, it is likely that the increases in the living wage will continue to be at the upper end of each year's annual cost of living increase. However, Oxford remains an expensive place to live and the college has every reason to be grateful to our staff, not least our wonderful scouts, who work extremely hard throughout the year, especially in the summer in support of our International Programmes, in contrast to many other colleges, which are much quieter over the long vacation.

Although it seemed for a few months as if Hertford would be the only college to accredit, I am delighted to report that around half of all colleges have now taken this step and many others have agreed to do so soon. It seems very likely that all staff across the collegiate university will soon enjoy the same benefit. I am so pleased that we have played our small part in making this happen.

Refurbishing Hertford

Andrew Beaumont, Home Bursar



There is a popular and often-repeated story about refurbishment: that of the iconic Forth Rail Bridge. No sooner have the painters reached its end, it is claimed, than they have to return to the beginning and start the task all over again. The tale is apocryphal, but nonetheless illustrative of the point that all refurbishment work is cyclical, and rarely if ever provides lengthy opportunities for respite.

Nowhere is this truer than in an Oxford college. The seasonal ebb and flow of students, conferences, and admissions follow hard upon each other, and the college's domestic teams endeavour to make each group in turn as welcome and comfortable as possible. Much like the figurative swan's legs, out of sight but always working, the team strive ceaselessly behind the scenes to deliver the best facilities that we can to our members and guests alike.

66 Hertford has agreed to pay the living wage as soon as it is announced 99



Principal's Drawing Room



Student bedroom at Abingdon House



Ferrar Room



Old Lodgings' Dining Room





The Catte Street site alone offers a fascinatingly diverse series of demands. Occupied and used almost all year round, the windows of opportunity to refit or upgrade are few and far between. Nevertheless over the past few years, the Principal's Lodgings have been extensively redesigned, with guidance from the college's Works of Art Committee. Elsewhere, the Boyd Room and Ferrar Room have been substantially refurbished, and upgraded to accommodate state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment and video-conference facilities. This summer, the much-loved Old Hall will be totally refurbished, presenting additional challenges in restoring a Grade II* heritage-listed room to its former glory. Looking further ahead still, during the next two years the main site kitchen (the largest, and busiest of the four catering operations within the college) and its associated servery facilities will be upgraded and updated to meet the college's desire for high-quality dining.

Beyond the main site, the college's present portfolio comprises a further eighteen residential properties (three leased), in addition to the shared Longbridges boathouse, and our sports ground in east Oxford. The total current room-stock now exceeds 500, without adding in the ancillary kitchens, bathrooms, communal spaces and teaching rooms. The properties are distinct and vary greatly, from five and six-bed townhouses on Abingdon Road, up to giants such as the Graduate Centre and Warnock Houses (85- and 72-bed respectively). Maintaining all these properties and their facilities is a never-ending day-to-day task. Operating on an ideal refurbishment cycle of ten years for all college rooms, the annual target of fifty bedrooms alone presents a formidable challenge, in addition to the re-fit of plant equipment and necessary infrastructure upgrade.

In late 2014 the college purchased an additional residential property at 11 Winchester Road, increasing our North

Oxford portfolio and expanding the size of our site in that area (the college already owns the neighbouring numbers 8-10, as well as numbers 57 and 59 Banbury Road at the rear). The house, a mid nineteenth-century villa, is scheduled for major reconstruction this summer, to restore and convert it into a magnificent ten-bed residence. I look forward greatly to welcoming students to our new flagship accommodation.

The successful year-on-year reduction of the college's sizeable carbon footprint has been achieved through a combination of hard work, investment in efficient technology, and crucially in the awareness of our members of their own, individual responsibility for the environment. The retro-fit of college buildings to low-energy "smart heaters", energy-efficient boiler plants, and motion-sensing LED lighting are all rolling measures to reduce the college's impact.

The continuing improvement of safety and security remains paramount for a college of our size and layout, with upgrades to site access, CCTV, and fire detection systems representing significant recent investments at present and in the future. The commission and installation of timed power switches on cookers and other appliances have greatly reduced the number of fire alarms across the college's sites, and our eponymous "Beaumont Switch" is even now on commercial sale (albeit branded as the Mk. II Ovanguard).

Hertford is fortunate to have the service of so many conscientious, hard-working colleagues, dedicated to keeping our buildings in the best possible condition. As the journalist Sean Coughlin pithily observed, "these might be corridors of learning. But someone still has to clean them": the support of all of our staff involved in maintaining, updating and improving what we are able to offer for our community day-in and day-out, plays an important if un-noticed part in the overall student experience. The swans swim ceaselessly on.



Development update

Julia Thaxton, Director of Development



Recently I was asked a question, which prompted some reflection. My inquisitor was Sabina Bi, the newest member of the Development team, who in her first week asked: "I know what Hertford stands for from a historic perspective—the first to go co-ed and to push state school admission. But what makes Hertford different now?"

To an outsider, it can be difficult to tell the Oxford colleges apart. Each one is a constituent part of a stellar, world-leading academic institution, with an intellectual powerhouse of students and fellows. The majority of colleges will tell you how much they prioritize access and encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds. Many will say how friendly their communities are and emphasise the close relationship between tutors and their students. Which begs the question: how can Hertford stand out in a collegiate university that continues to surpass expectations in its mission to

push the boundaries of knowledge and inclusivity?

To that I would say that Hertford truly embodies its ideals. Rather than merely talk about the historic tradition of academic excellence, access and diversity, innovation and cross-disciplinary collaboration, Hertford is proactively putting in place plans to ensure that we maximise our potential in each of these areas.

We prize our academic excellence and the opportunity for cross-disciplinary collaboration. Undergraduates form bonds across subjects through the close-knit

Hertford truly embodies its ideals

community of college life, whether that is on the playing field or river, while making music, or (as is often the case) in the college bar. Our postgraduate community are beginning to replicate this "college experience" for the MCR, with a new programme of events in the Octagon and a summer conference, with graduate speakers shedding light on their research. Development plays into this too: a donation shared between Hertford, Pembroke and Wolfson has allowed us to pool our resources and establish a scheme to encourage innovative start-ups by offering a prize to the best business plan for a start-up or social enterprise. We also encourage students to look beyond the confines of their course papers with travel grants and research awards, funded by donations, which allow budding scholars to explore the outer reaches of their subject.

We champion our commitment to access, continuing the Tanner tradition discussed in articles above. After increased tuition fees were introduced in 2012, Hertford pledged to support students from under-funded backgrounds by introducing the Hertford bursary—a blanket award of £1,000 that is given to all undergraduates who qualify



“ For the past 50 years, the story of access has revolved around the undergraduate experience ”



for financial support under the university's means-testing assessment. Since we launched the scheme, these bursaries have increasingly been funded by gifts from alumni and friends of the college, including funds raised last year by the Oxford to Venice bike ride, which have supported the college's yearly £100,000 bursary expenditure.

Donations from the bike ride also allowed the college to double its budget for outreach activity this year which, together with the arrival of our second Outreach Fellow, Catherine Redford, in January, means renewed momentum in this area. Catherine has introduced a STEM day for girls interested in studying science, technology, engineering and maths and is planning a new summer school for prospective applicants in 2016. We anticipate an extra injection of inspiration when we welcome our first Academic Visitor in October 2015, Mary Curnock Cook, Chief Executive of UCAS. With a unique overview of both UCAS data and Hertford's admissions processes, Mary will be running a research project looking at the challenges and opportunities for Oxford admissions in the years and decades ahead. I'm sure this research will instigate more exciting projects that will further inspire friends and alumni to support us.

For the past 50 years, the story of access has revolved around the undergraduate experience. The 2010 Browne report into Higher Education funding devoted 50 pages to undergraduate funding and only one single page to postgraduates. But the truth of the situation is that funding for postgraduate study is increasingly scarce, and particularly for UK students. We are rapidly approaching a situation where only the wealthiest students can consider undertaking further research—a worrying picture because postgraduate study carries enormous public benefit. Concerned by this trend, in 2014-15 Hertford made the first moves towards a more level playing field by offering an increased number of graduate scholarships. Funds donated by alumni and friends, including those raised via the Oxford to Venice bike ride, allowed us to offer "senior scholarships" of £5,000 to six graduate



students—an increase from four scholarships of £4,000 the previous year. Donations also allowed us to allocate additional funds towards co-funded scholarships, which meant that an additional five students were offered Hertford Studentships or Clarendon Scholarships this year, the most generous of which covered all fees and a stipend. This summer we will be advertising our first wholly funded graduate scholarship in Computer Science and Philosophy, which has been made possible by a donation from

“In the past year, over 1,200 alumni and friends have come to Development events”

former Hertford Lecturer, Dr Ed Grefenstette. These scholarships are essential to ensuring that postgraduate study is available to students from diverse backgrounds, not only those who are able to pay.

The subject of graduate scholarships also brings to mind one of Hertford’s other well-known, but less talked about, qualities: the ability to make the most of what we have. When our graduate tutors receive the funds raised by the Development Office, they take them out into Oxford, scouring the university for matched funding opportunities, negotiating with departments and faculties to get the best value for our investment. Perhaps it’s not surprising that we take this entrepreneurial approach. As a historically poor college, Hertford has taken a shrewd view to allow it to compete with its wealthier counterparts. Famously, Roger Van Noorden undertook a measured and methodical investment policy, which allowed the endowment to grow to an extent that it provides 17% of our annual income. Hertford was the first to spot the opportunities provided by the international conference market, and has built a business

around that, International Programmes, which stands head and shoulders above all others in Oxford. The income from these international visitors provides another 25% of our annual income.

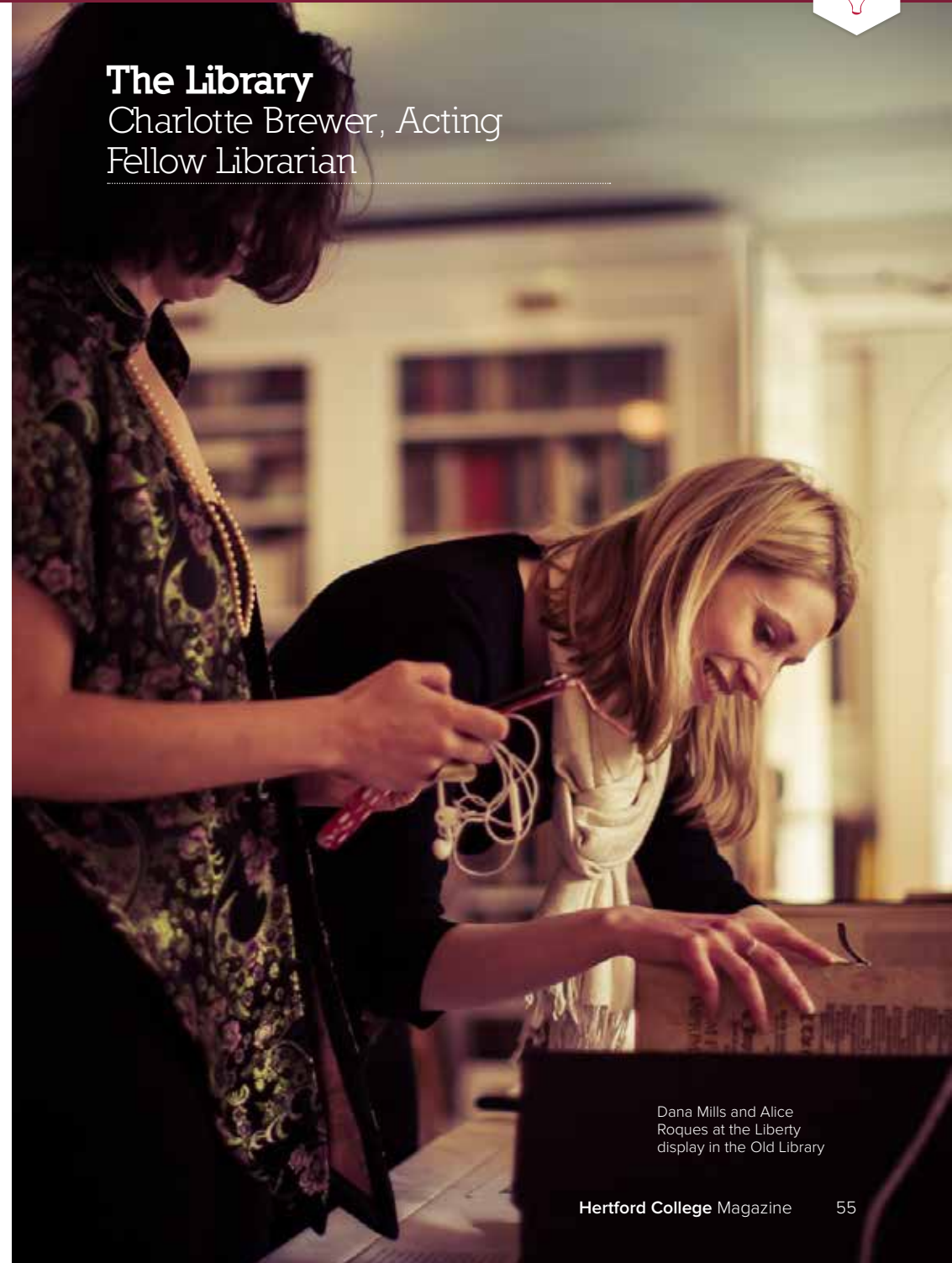
There are significant milestones in the college’s recent history: in the 1960s Neil Tanner pioneered access; the 1970s brought co-education and Roger Van Noorden’s investment programme; in 2000 we started International Programmes. It is interesting to note that the motivation for the Tanner Scheme and co-education was not only the moral imperative to “do the right thing”—they were strategic decisions to ensure that Hertford maintained its academic edge by attracting the very best candidates. Income from the endowment and International Programmes are similarly essential to the long-term security of the college, and the decision to make these investments arose from necessity but also in recognition of the opportunity to grow and improve in socially responsible ways.

So what is the next milestone? As we stand at the mid-point of the 2010s (the twenty-teens?), it is logical that Development is the next piece of the puzzle to fall into place. After no fewer than three anniversaries in three years (100 years of the bridge, 40 years of co-education, and 50 since Neil Tanner became Tutor for Admissions), we enjoy a closer relationship with our alumni community than ever before. In the past year, over 1,200 alumni and friends have come to Development events—our largest ever attendance rate. We now communicate through multiple channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn as well as by email and in print. And we have more donors and supporters than ever before—11% of our community have made a gift to the college already this year, and 29% have given to the college since the launch of the Development Office. We hope, as we continue to make in-roads in areas that you care about and develop important new initiatives, that you will support, or continue to support, the college’s good work.



The Library

Charlotte Brewer, Acting Fellow Librarian



Dana Mills and Alice Roques at the Liberty display in the Old Library



The Library's activities this year have shone a spotlight on the historical scope and range of its books, from rare antiquarian volumes to new scholarly publications, many of them generously donated by members of the college both past and present. Our rich resources have been used by students studying English (Swift and Pope), History (Christianity in the early modern period) and PPE (Theories of Politics) to complement their courses, and students have been closely involved in the choice of volumes to exhibit in our four displays this year.

The first of these celebrated the 40th anniversary of co-education (co-curated by Dr Dana Mills, Politics Lecturer, and our Librarian Alice Roques; view online at <http://bit.ly/intothemix>), while the second marked the Donors' Lunch in December 2014 ("Donors, Dinosaurs and Dr Henry Wilkinson"). To accompany the Donne Lecture on Liberty given by Shami Chakrabarti in April 2015, Dana and Alice worked with PPE students to assemble and comment on appropriate items spanning six centuries, including editions of the Bible, Donne himself, John Mill, and George Orwell. Our fourth display, "Around the World with Hertford Library", saluted the wide geographical provenance of our international visiting students.

We are continuing to conserve and explore our historical volumes, which regularly yield unexpected discoveries: in June this year, Alice identified a second book originally belonging to the philosopher John Locke, Caspar Barlaeus's 1647 work on South America. It has intricate fold-out drawings and will be one of the Library's treasures on display in October in the exhibition accompanying the Ortelius event. This occasion, to which all our members will have been invited, marks the return of the 1573 edition of Abraham Ortelius's first modern atlas of the world to its rightful owner, the Humboldt University Library in Berlin. The images right give an indication of what our readers will find if they go online at <http://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/> and explore the digitized version the college has made of this extraordinary work. And we are delighted to report that Hertford's Ortelius plays a significant role in the new university resource *Digital Bodleian*, launched in summer 2015 under the leadership of our recently elected senior research fellow, Lucie Burgess, which makes a number of dazzling items in individual Oxford libraries available online for the first time.

Our old books are in the process of further rearrangement, following the removal of 700 of them from Old Hall in preparation for the renovation works there. All 700 items were meticulously recorded then wrapped and boxed over a series of days before being transferred to a local professional book conservation and storage company. Old Hall, in regular use as a dining room,

“We are continuing to conserve and explore our historical volumes, which regularly yield unexpected discoveries”



The Ortelius Atlas



The Librarian, Alice Rogues



Rebecca Grant, junior librarian



Evie Sparkes, junior librarian

is subject to fluctuating temperatures and humidity—30 of its books were discovered to need treatment for a minor outbreak of mould—so the college is carefully considering how and where else they should be shelved on their return.

Our nine NADFAS volunteers play a vital role in caring for the historical collections and have generously decided to commit an extra 30 minutes each week to their labours for the college. This year we welcomed Fleur Hughes to the team, which has worked on 135 volumes since last October including works on foreign languages, dictionaries and many items of Hebraica.

We are also looking into ways to make the library a better, brighter and more comfortable space. 50 of the new red chairs have been added to the main study locations, some sprucing up has taken place in the entry and stair area, and we are proud to host the permanent, smaller display of Robert Taylor's portraits of women alumnae on the wall of the first floor landing. The Librarian has run research skills support sessions for many of our students, including thesis research training for all second-year historians.

The regular library-user survey—which gets a remarkably large response—tells us that one of the things students most appreciate at Hertford is 24-hour access to the library. This compensates for the relatively small number of study spaces we are able to provide in comparison with bigger colleges (but shorter open times). Expansion, and imaginative use, of our limited physical space is our biggest challenge. If the college acquires a new site, the library's needs will be a top priority.

Our collection has grown by about 1,000 items, including donations from Andrew Beaumont, Alan Bogg, Sophie Corke, Roy Foster, Guillaume Guez, Kevin Hilliard, Will Hutton, Kate Kinoshita, Denis Lazo, Hannah Lovell, Roger Macdonald, Daniel Martin, Oliver Noble

“ in June this year, Alice identified a second book originally belonging to the philosopher John Locke ”

Wood, Filippa Ronquist, Joshua Platt, Tomos Rees, Giora Sternberg, Alex Stronell, Paul Tromp, Christopher Tyerman, Baroness Mary Warnock, Alison Young, and Christopher Zeeman.

We have received generous funding for Law students from Mayer Brown LLP, enabling students to choose 236 textbooks for the library over the last two years, and the Archives have been expanded by the donation of the war diaries of John Dewar Denniston, Hertford don and classicist—otherwise known as “Denny’s diaries”. Our former Assistant Archivist Rob Petre, having done doughty work in dusty and uncongenial quarters in Hertford, has moved on to St Edmund Hall, and we are delighted to welcome the equally tenacious Dr Lucy Rutherford in his stead.

Our three Junior Librarians for 2014-15 were Evie Sparkes (2013), Kathryn Poole (2012) and Rebecca Grant (2013). Our Graduate Library Assistant has been Elisabeth Feltaous (2014), whose major project this year has been working on the electronic version of our antiquarian book catalogue. We also get the occasional visit from Simpkin, who likes to nap on the comfortable chair in the Library office.

Best new book titles: *Unwrapping Christmas*, *Zombie Economics*, *Statistics for Terrified Biologists*, *Does Spelling Matter*, *The Life of Cheese*, *Trolls: An Unnatural History*, and *Divorcing Responsibly*.

Fellow Librarian Oliver Noble Wood is on leave.

Magdalen Hall Library's benefactors' book, recording donations now in Hertford Library.





Life in the kitchens Ben Gibbons, Head Chef (maternity cover for Frankie Parry)

During the course of this year we have been lucky enough to achieve some great things, and also arrange a few fun things. In April it was our turn to be visited by the environmental health office to assess our food hygiene rating, making sure we work to the highest food safety regulations and ensuring that everything we do inside the kitchen is completely safe. We were delighted to receive the top rating of five out of five—a result of consistent work with high standards drummed into the kitchen team over the years.

We were asked to hold renowned chef Yotam Ottolenghi's new book launch (*NOPI: The Cookbook*) in Hertford's dining hall in October 2015. Yotam has co-written the book with the head chef from his flagship restaurant NOPI in London, Ramael Scully, who will be coming to cook in our kitchen with a couple of our lucky brigade including myself. The guests lucky enough to buy a ticket before they sell out will get a four course meal cooked by Scully from his new book.

This year we also started our Hertford College Kitchen Instagram account to try and give followers a small taster of how we like to work in the kitchen, and to show the world the food we really enjoy making. It has proved to be extremely useful for feedback—once we post

something and people comment on it we are able to see what people enjoy eating and what they want us to cook for them. The majority of the time the feedback is great but we do get the occasional piece of constructive criticism—which we also love as we want to correct anything people may not enjoy so much. There were some unexpected requests though, such as “no more sweet potato fries”...who doesn't enjoy a sweet potato fry! Visit us at www.instagram.com/hertford.college.kitchen to see some of our recent dishes.

At present we are investigating putting the college forward to win a sustainability award from the Sustainable Restaurant



Marta Nowak (Deputy Catering Services Manager) married Dominik Fischer in college on 11 April 2015



Frankie Parry (Head Chef) gave birth to Marley Joan Francis Foley on 1 April 2015

Association. If successful, Hertford will be the first of all the Oxford colleges to qualify. It is a great award which many restaurants now hold, and I believe it is very important for educational establishments to receive them also.

Closely tied with sustainability is the sourcing of ingredients. We try our hardest to keep everything as local as possible, although when cooking for huge numbers it can be impossible for the nice farmer down the road to cater for our needs. The next best thing when we are unable to use local farmers is to identify larger companies with sustainable work ethics who buy as much as they can from their own local producers. Occasionally we go on trips with suppliers to find out more about where the produce comes from; one trip earlier this year saw a couple of us

“This broad customer base opens our minds and inspires us to be creative with what we cook”

chefs going to Covent Garden vegetable market with a supplier to see how the market works and what produce was available.

As well as taking inspiration from trips like these, our menus are inspired from cultures all over the world. It is amazing to see how a vegetable used in one part of the world will be used in a completely different manner in another part of our planet. For example take the cauliflower—here in England we may smother it with a cheesy béchamel sauce or turn it into a purée to serve with scallops, whereas in India they may be grating it raw into a fresh salad or mixing it into a spiced batter to deep-fry as pakoras.

Overall I feel privileged to work in Hertford College kitchens alongside the great team of chefs and porters. As I am sure all of them would agree, everyone works incredibly hard to create the highest standard possible.

It's a great pleasure catering for the wide variety of customers we have—from our fellows, to our students, to our summer conferences. This broad customer base opens our minds and inspires us to be creative with what we cook, encouraging us to provide foods from all over the world to ensure that everyone we cook for feels comfortable and at home. Seeing happy customers is the best part of the job and brings great satisfaction.

“Visit us at www.instagram.com/hertford.college.kitchen to see some of our recent dishes”



STUDENT LIFE

The Junior Common Room Holly Redford-Jones (2013), JCR President

The past year has been another busy and productive one for Hertford's undergraduates. An action-packed Freshers' Week, a successful living wage campaign, blades in Torpids for our rowers, an Arts Festival, two college balls and three HCMS concerts!

Kicking things off in style, we started the academic year by celebrating the Bridge of Sighs centenary with a Venetian-themed Commemoration Ball held in Hertford's very own grounds. A disappointment to some, though I'm sure a relief to many, Holywell quad was not, as had been rumoured, flooded to make way for the Grand Canal of Hertford; but the ball was

nonetheless a fantastic event featuring many of our own performers and musicians alongside a few other big names and attractions. The event was a success all round, made possible by the hard work of college staff and the JCR Ball Committee.

As ever Michaelmas saw the arrival of many new faces to the Hertford community. The JCR Freshers' Committee, a team of ten enthusiastic second years, was on hand to welcome them into the fold, organizing events, arranging tours, and, most importantly, showing them the way to the library! Our new contingent threw themselves headfirst into all things Hertford, from rowing in the boat club's first boats to conducting and playing in the orchestra. Of particular note is the burgeoning success of Hertford Feminists set up in Trinity term 2014 which has flourished under new waves of energy and interest.

The new JCR Executive Committee took office at the end of Michaelmas 2014, buoyed by the success of Hertford's recent accreditation as a living wage employer. One project which captured the imagination of the JCR was the inauguration of an arts festival, "HART fest", to showcase Hertford's creative talents and particularly our phenomenal Music Society. Set up and run by students in the JCR, Hertford's first ever Arts festival was spread across a long

weekend in early May. The Music Society (the largest non-auditioning such group in the university) got things off to a flying start with Jazz on the Quad, and the next day music-lovers were treated to a scratch orchestra and a piano recital by Wojciech Swietonski, the first of two collaborations with the Oxford Polish Society. On Sunday the distinguished composer Pawel Lukaszewski paid a visit to the chapel, watching as the choir performed an evensong of Polish music and conducting one of his own pieces in front of a packed and appreciative audience. It wasn't only music, either:

presenting the findings of a year-long project on the future of financial services to the board members of a FTSE 100 bank. This summer, the JCR's Outreach Roadshow will visit the Medway Towns, with around a dozen schools with little history of sending students to Oxford receiving visits from student ambassadors.

The early days of Trinity term saw the greatly anticipated summer ball held in the Town Hall with a drinks reception in college, music provided by the Hertford Jazz Band, while talk of coalitions and Ed Miliband's electoral (or other) appeal prevailed in the dining hall and in the common room. Fuelled by a visit from Cabinet Secretary Jeremy Heywood (1980), enthusiasm for the election was evident in the vast swathes of students who gathered in the JCR for the first results, which were projected onto the common room wall. The party atmosphere, however, turned solemn after the announcement of the exit poll at 10pm, at which point the JCR emptied and the bar rapidly filled.

Even with the onset of exams, spirits have remained high in the JCR. A particular ray of light for many was provided by a motion to make Dr Paula Boddington's tortoise, Salvador, an honorary JCR representative at the Corpus Christi Tortoise Fair. Salvador's performance captured the hearts and minds of the JCR while the ever-present Simpkin continued to attract (or distract?) students on the way to the library.

It has been a jam-packed year in the Hertford JCR and I am incredibly proud to have been elected to represent such an inspirational and diverse group of students, and work with the support of college staff, alumni and fellows. I look forward to seeing what the next academic year will bring!

“enthusiasm for the election was evident in the vast swathes of students who gathered in the JCR for the first results”

there was the fascinating Representation of Youth in Literature panel, chaired by Hertford's own Professor Emma Smith, where discussion ranged from fairytales to Shakespeare and Tolkein; a 50-word short story competition, which received fantastic entries from JCR, MCR, staff and students; a Life Drawing class, and several packed film screenings.

2015 has also seen the Hertford Business and Economics Society go from strength to strength, led by Hertford students with the aim of encouraging businesses to be more sustainable. A particular highlight this year was

“Holywell quad was not, as had been rumoured, flooded to make way for the Grand Canal of Hertford”



"HART fest" organizers Ellen O'Neill and Holly Redford-Jones



The Middle Common Room Mustak Ibn Ayub (2012), MCR President



Hertford College MCR has the reputation of being one of the most intellectually vibrant as well as amiable MCRs in Oxford. The college has recently put a great deal of thought and effort into enhancing graduates' intellectual as well as financial experiences and 2014-15 has seen many further developments. The MCR has buzzed with activities ranging from regular social events to big academic initiatives and entrepreneurial stimulations, encompassing almost every group of graduate students.

This year we arranged the first Christmas lecture with Sir Walter Bodmer, former principal of Hertford College and a world-leading geneticist and cancer researcher. We look forward to its successors. Like many colleges, we also organized graduate bops, quiz nights, jazz nights, formal dinners, movie nights etc, and on Sunday evenings in term, ten

graduates now join fellows at high table for a weekly MCR/SCR dinner. The taste and displays of "cheese & wine evening" and "poetry & whisky night" helped create a special ambience in the historic Octagon of Hertford MCR.

While keeping these social aspects of life moving, the MCR worked with the college to build and extend the cohesion and identity of graduates at Hertford. We organized the first Hertford Graduate Conference in Trinity term, with eighteen graduate speakers, and inaugurated the Hertford Graduates Initiative Fund (HGIF). Many members of the Hertford postgraduate community submitted proposals for entrepreneurial business plans or initiatives of any size or scale to a team of Hertford fellows, with the three selected as winners receiving a total of £5,000 each to develop their ideas.

The MCR now has its own termly magazine, *the Hart*, which highlights graduates' issues and achievements and will, we hope, become an important medium in communicating with a bigger audience. Over 2014-15 we feel we have reached a crossroad from which we can grow with redefined purpose as a graduate community.

“The college has recently put a great deal of thought and effort into enhancing graduates' intellectual as well as financial experiences”



Hilary term concert:
"Towards the Unknown"



Jazz band in the University Church

Music Madalena Leao (2013)



This year Hertford College Music Society acquired a new venue for our concerts, the University Church in Radcliffe Square, which is grander and larger than the Holywell Music Room. One of the most memorable pieces at our second concert (Hilary term), after which the concert was named, was Vaughan William's *Towards the Unknown Region*, requiring orchestra and full choir which was a fantastic rounding off to the term.

We ran concerts and events throughout the year, including Christmas carols in the quad, jazz and cocktails in the MCR, our contribution to "HART fest" (see the JCR President's account above) and Trinity term's "Waltz Under a Paper Moon". HCMS has also continued to hold weekly recitals in the chapel on Wednesdays with students and tutors performing.



Sport Helen Strain (2013)



“The sheer enthusiasm, commitment and love of sport that we see at Hertford are wonderful”

influx of freshers and consequent wins brought us promotion in the league. Similarly, both hockey teams (the women’s joint with St Anne’s and the mixed joint with St Peter’s) have flourished. Tom Jackson (who has excelled at university hockey throughout his three years), Eimear Monaghan and I all competed in Hockey Varsity this year.

This year has been a fantastic one for sport at Hertford. We have climbed the league tables and shown strong performances in Cuppers, and we have seen countless impressive achievements from our individual sports men and women.

The men’s first football team came third in the league, only narrowly missing out on promotion, while the women’s team had a brilliant season. Many have played for the Oxford teams and all have competed at Varsity this year. Special mention to Rebecca May, Sophie Cooper and Sam Broadey for their achievements.

The boat club has surged to new heights, their countless early morning training sessions on the river and in the gym paying off with spectacular successes. The women’s squad is now one of the largest in Oxford and has triumphed in regattas throughout the academic year. Our top men’s and women’s boats achieved a historic double blades victory in Torpids and more recently put in heroic performances during Summer Eights.

Hertford scored individual achievements as well as team successes. James Ross represented Oxford at swimming while Ella Jackson, Jack Templeman, Alice Farley and Araminta Naylor all maintained Hertford’s presence on the lacrosse scene. Matty Hughes has been playing for the prestigious MCC Cricket team, an incredible feat for someone juggling a degree as time-consuming as Chemistry! Finally, we have some brilliant athletes who have been competing in various track and field events at the university level, notably Brittney Olinger, Hugh Baker and Archie Jones.

The rugby team has also excelled, an impressive side whom many Hertford students (and the Principal) have enjoyed watching on a sunny afternoon. They reached the semi-finals of Cuppers, an achievement unmatched for 40 years. Hertford can also boast strong women rugby players: Lizzie Nuttall, Becca Carr and Emily Stone all play for the Oxford team and vigorously promote women’s rugby in the college.

Trinity term saw many sessions of cricket, croquet and rounders, with our cricket team winning almost every match in their league.

The sheer enthusiasm, commitment and love of sport that we see at Hertford are wonderful; not only are we a college with a passion for sport, we also demonstrate high ability across the field.

Well done Hertford!



Rounders



Men's rugby



Mixed netball



Men's cricket



Women's rowing (W1)



Men's rowing (M1)



SUBJECTS AND RESEARCH

Archaeology and Anthropology



Professor Nick Barton writes:

Our first year students engaged in a number of interesting projects last summer as part of their fieldwork course requirement. These included visits to Sweden and Italy, and indeed one of our Hertford students, Billie Croucher (2013), won the Oxbow fieldwork prize for the best essay on fieldwork at the Roman Baths in Pollena Trocchia. Amongst our third year finalists Jessye Aggleton (2011) was awarded a first class degree and decided to continue to Masters level here in Oxford, specialising in the study of osteology and writing her dissertation on biomechanical stresses in human hand bones. These studies will form the basis of a longer term doctoral project.

My own research continues in archaeological fieldwork in North Africa and in 2014 I completed a detailed survey of sites in Southern Tunisia, near one of the perennial springs at Oued el Akarit near Gabes at the eastern end of the Chotts. Our work revealed a rich and complicated sequence of archaeological layers showing how Middle Stone Age humans had continued to occupy a

“Our work revealed a rich and complicated sequence of archaeological layers”

variety of different environmental settings ranging from the edges of active streams to old land surfaces and from spring contexts to the shores of temporary shallow lakes. Apart from demonstrating that humans were actively present at various times and under different environmental conditions it also suggests that these occupations were clearly not only confined to periods of enhanced humidity. The work was funded by the Libyan Studies Society and the Hertford Fellows Fund.

Biochemistry and Biological Sciences



Dr Alison Woollard and Professor Martin Maiden write:

This year, owing to the refurbishment of the Old Hall, the Life Sciences Schools Dinner (encompassing finalists in Biochemistry, Biology and Human Sciences) was held in hall. This proved to be particularly apposite as the inspiring portraits of the twenty Hertford women, which include our very own Alison Woollard, gazed down on a dinner in which all of the graduating students were women (seven biologists, three biochemists, and two human scientists). At Hertford we are extremely proud of all of our life sciences graduates and remain committed to opportunity regardless of gender or background. With the recent debate on women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects ringing in our ears, we are especially pleased to reflect that over the past 40 years so

many women have found opportunity and success in our subjects here. We look forward to continuing to celebrate their achievements.

There are, perhaps, three important events in the calendar of our three subjects. An annual tea in the Old Library in 0th week of Michaelmas is consistently well attended and it is always exciting to see our enthusiastic returning students discussing their (usually very impressive) summer activities and meeting the (slightly bewildered) new freshers.

Around the birthday of Charles Darwin, which generally falls in 4th week of Hilary term, the annual Darwin Dinner affords the opportunity for undergraduates, graduates, and recent alumni in our subjects to meet. This year we added the innovation of a pre-dinner talk on “Life after Hertford”, given by recent graduates. Each year we aim to focus on a different career path and, for our first foray, we focused on the teaching profession, with Kirsty Monk (2007) and Gabi Byfield (2009) gamely stepping up to the plate to describe their experiences of primary and secondary teaching. They showed true Hertford spirit in presenting excellent and good-humoured accounts of their experiences, which left us all in awe of those teaching in the beleaguered state sector. It was, as always, a joy to see many former students and to catch up with their news. This year Alison gave an after-dinner speech on the subject of women in the life of Charles Darwin.

“Over the past 40 years so many women have found opportunity and success in our subjects here”

“the annual Darwin Dinner affords the opportunity for undergraduates, graduates, and recent alumni in our subjects to meet”

The last week of Trinity term sees our regular trip to Down House, the home of Charles Darwin, and Schools dinner, both opportunities to relax a little and reflect on the successes and travails of the year, which brings us neatly to where we came in...

Biochemistry

Biochemistry continues to thrive, with sixteen students across the four years of the course, a good sized community. I am delighted to report that all three of our 4th years achieved firsts, having worked on final-year projects as diverse as the biology of ageing, innate immunity and virology. These were enjoyed by students and tutors alike; indeed, so inspired were Hannah Walters and Georgia Cook (both 2011) by the six months they spent working full time in a research group that they have decided to carry on, starting research careers of their own. Never to shirk a challenge of her own, our third finalist Rhiannon Britt (2011) is going to India with International Justice Mission, a US-based human rights organization. To finance this, Rhiannon was lucky enough to be one of the first recipients of the Ben Ogden Memorial Fund, in memory of our former law student. At the other end of the undergraduate experience our four first year (all male!) cohort have proven to be a particularly friendly, enthusiastic and hard working group and I have no doubt



Life Sciences Schools Dinner, 2015

I will be writing with equal admiration about their achievements and plans in three years' time.

In research, the Woollard lab continues to expand and diversify, with several new and exciting collaborations both nationally and internationally. We have made firm in-roads into discovering novel mechanisms of biological ageing, with a new grant funding two posts (one of these being taken by Hayley Lees (2010), a former Hertford graduate student), as well as two DPhil students. Industrial collaboration is becoming increasingly important in the sciences, partly due to the challenging funding environment and also as a demonstrable way of achieving impact, and I am lucky enough to be working on the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* (known as *C. elegans* to its friends), an organism which is becoming recognized as having important industrial

application in drug discovery among other things. I now have two separate industrial collaborations all funding applied research in the Woollard lab, with another one planned for next year. We find it both exciting and highly instructive to learn more about the UK innovation sector, and to work closely with industrial R&D leaders. I'm writing this from the 20th International *C. elegans* meeting in Los Angeles, surrounded by the best science in the world and a wonderful community of (almost 2,000) fellow worm folk, sharing data and new technologies. What a privileged life we academics lead!

Biological Sciences

With applications at an all-time high, the undergraduate Biology intake has more-or-less settled down at the increased number of six students per year, with eighteen in residence at any one time.

This group size is popular among the undergraduates with the additional students helping to create a critical mass. This year seven students graduated with two firsts and one Finals Prize, for Meritorious Work in Biology, awarded to Marianne Clemence (2012, whom some readers may recognize as last year's president of the HCMS). In addition to Marianne's contribution to wider college life, Joy Aston (2012) was JCR Welfare and Housing Officer this year and played an important role in organizing the first college ball to be held on the Hertford site for many years. Again, the destinations of our biologists are diverse, with a number progressing to further studies and others exploring opportunities in science writing and communication, education and environmental biology.

Martin's group (zoo-MaidenLab.zoo.ox.ac.uk) continues to be very busy, this year coordinating a large study (nearly 22,000 participants) of the asymptomatic carriage of the meningococcus, a major cause of bacterial meningitis. This survey will provide important baseline data before the introduction of new vaccines into the UK immunization schedule in the autumn of 2015. The group is also working on major gastrointestinal pathogens, especially *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* and forms part of the National Institutes of Health Research Health Protection Research Unit in Gastrointestinal Pathogens. Former Hertford biology undergraduate Maddi Pearce (2011) started her DPhil in the laboratory this year, the first Hertford Biologist to graduate into Martin's laboratory. The laboratory continues to host Hertford undergraduates for both work experience and finals projects and it is always a pleasure to include them in the research of the group.

Chemistry



Professor Claire

Vallance writes:

2015 is proving to be another busy year for Hertford's Chemistry fellows. Research in Chris Schofield's group is focusing on two very different fields of biology,

linked by a common theme of metal (iron or zinc)-using enzymes. Some members of the group are working on providing a basis for controlling the most important resistance mechanisms in penicillin-type antibiotics. Others are working to understand how animals produce different proteins in different environments. Recent work in the group has revealed that the same type of iron-using enzymes that regulate blood vessel formation in humans also regulate protein formation in some bacteria, which has important implications for developing new antibiotics and anti-cancer drugs.

Continuing the biological theme, Hagan Bayley has started a company called OxSyBio to exploit 3D printing of tissues and tissue-like materials for regenerative medicine. On the research side, Hagan's group has been following the progress of individual "small-molecule walkers" and demonstrating that their "nanoreactor" methods can be used to examine the chirality of single molecules within complex reaction networks.



PImMS camera, "the fastest camera in the world"



My own research group is continuing to work in the areas of molecular reaction dynamics, imaging mass spectrometry, and laser-based chemical sensors. The ultrafast PImMS (pixel imaging mass spectrometry) camera, developed in collaboration with research groups in Oxford Chemistry, Oxford Physics, and the Rutherford Appleton Lab, is finding an increasing number of applications in labs around the world, and I will be presenting recent results over the summer in invited talks at conferences in California and China. To keep me busy at work outside of research and teaching, I have also taken on the responsibility of chairing the Chemistry Practical Course Committee through the design and building of brand new undergraduate practical labs attached to the Tinbergen (Zoology) building, and the accompanying development of a new integrated undergraduate practical course that will be launched in the new labs in October 2017.

Several of our undergraduates are playing an active role in extracurricular chemical activities within the university, with Charlotte Hutchins (2014) taking on the role of Events Officer within the Oxford University Chemistry Society (ChemSoc) committee, and Alice Vacani (2012) having recently completed a term as President of the society. A highlight for Alice was hosting Nobel-Prize winning scientist Sir Paul Nurse during a visit to give a talk at the Oxford Union.

Computer Science



Professor Michael Wooldridge writes:
My life at Oxford took a new direction in October 2014, when I became Head of the Department of Computer Science. The role of head of a university department is an

“machine learning is an area that our department identified for strategic investment, and over the past year, it has become a major topic at Oxford”

unusual one, not at all like being a CEO in the private sector. This is at least in part because academic freedom plays such an important part in university life. In practice, it means that academics enjoy an extremely high degree of autonomy in their roles. We are mostly just trusted to get on with our job, and are free to organize our time in whatever way we see fit. The idea of an academic being told what to do is anathema, and if you asked a typical academic to whom they owed their professional allegiance, many would respond that their primary allegiance is to their discipline, rather than to their department or university. (As if this situation were not confusing enough, in Oxford we have colleges in the mix as well.) The upshot of this is that consensus-building is a hugely important part of the head of department role at Oxford.

I was fortunate to take over a department in rude good health: while the Department of Computer Science is young by Oxford standards, tracing its origins only to the 1950s, it has grown hugely over the past decade, and is currently home to some 70 academic staff and more than 100 contract researchers. My first year in office has been taken up with trying to develop a strategic plan for teaching and research. In terms of teaching, a major challenge is our tiny undergraduate intake: last year we admitted just 25 undergraduates to our core computer science degree programme,

across the whole university. For a world-leading university, this situation seems to me to be deeply anomalous, and is regarded as simply astonishing by colleagues at other UK universities. By way of contrast, for example, Kings College London admitted 245 undergraduates to their computer science programmes in September 2014! While I don't wish for anything like that number, I do think that it is essential for the future of the university that Oxford develops a more substantial undergraduate presence in the subject. In terms of research, we have resolved to build up research in three key areas: algorithms (an area concerned with getting computers to solve problems efficiently); machine learning (concerned with getting computers to solve problems without being told how to); and sensor nets (concerned with computers figuring out what is in the environment around them). I am delighted to be able to report that we have been able to make new appointments in all these areas, and I hope for further appointments in the future. As I mentioned above, machine learning is an area that our department identified for strategic investment, and over the past year, it has become a major topic at Oxford across a range of departments. One reason for this is that in November 2014, Oxford signed a collaborative research deal with Deepmind, Google's London-based artificial intelligence research labs. Machine learning is Deepmind's core technology, and having witnessed some of their demos, I can honestly report that they are developing breakthrough technologies. I was delighted to be able to welcome two of Deepmind's founders, Demis Hassabis and

“The role of head of a university department is an unusual one”





Mustafa Suleyman, to a dinner at Hertford in December 2014, to celebrate the deal.

My own research agenda has progressed well over the past year, with many new results at the intersection of logic, game theory, and computing. I was pleased to (finally) see the publication of my book *Principles of Automated Negotiation* (Cambridge UP, 2014), co-authored with long-standing collaborators Sarit Kraus (Bar Ilan University, Israel) and Shaheen Fatima (Loughborough). The book is all about how computers can be programmed to engage in automated bargaining, and is the culmination of more than a decade of joint research.

This summer, I will chair the twenty-fourth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. IJCAI is the main conference in the artificial intelligence community, and this year we received more submissions than any previous IJCAI—more than 2,000 in total.

For the college, I was involved in establishing an IT Committee, and over the past year, one of our main tasks has been to install a new wi-fi system throughout college, to replace the very patchy and unreliable system that existed previously. After installing more than 200 “access points” across the college, the consensus is that we now have a wi-fi system that provides the kind of service that staff and students expect to find in 2015. The next time you visit Hertford, you should be able to get a good signal!

Economics



Dr Damoun Ashournia writes:
Economics has had a very productive year at Hertford. October saw the successful conclusion of our fundraising for the Roger Van Noorden

“Our students continue to engage in advising and consulting organizations and businesses, putting into practice the skills they have acquired at Hertford”

Fellowship in Economics culminate in a celebratory dinner where the donors who supported the Fellowship so generously joined Roger’s family, the inaugural Roger Van Noorden Fellow Dr David Gill, and other members of the Economics team as we raised a toast to Roger’s legacy. We are indebted to everyone who supported this effort to secure a strong future for Economics at Hertford. Besides David Gill and me, the teaching team consists of our stipendiary college lecturer Dr Richard Povey and Rustu Duran who is a departmental teaching associate.

It is an absolute delight to teach our Economics students, who put enormously hard work and effort into their studies (seven of our students got firsts in summer 2014). We currently have more than thirty students studying for papers in Economics at Hertford and they play an active role in college. Through the Hertford Business and Economics Society our students continue to engage in advising and consulting organizations and businesses, putting into practice the skills they have acquired at Hertford.

Besides teaching our amazing students, the team pursued a number of interesting research projects. David Gill spent most of Hilary and Trinity term in America collecting and analysing experimental data in the field of behavioural economics.

Richard Povey studied the evolutionary foundations of altruism while Rustu Duran continued to study systematic biases in economic decision making. Finally, I have been studying the impact on wages in a developed country of international trade with low wage countries.

English



Professor Charlotte Brewer writes:

Our students this year have distinguished themselves with four firsts in Finals and two distinctions in Prelims, as well as participating vigorously in all aspects of college and university life—from treading the boards to lacrosse to our new arts festival “HART fest”. We have all been delighted to welcome our new colleague David Dwan, a specialist in Irish Literature in English whose wide chronological range includes Burke at one end and Orwell (and beyond) at the other. I am looking forward to my third year as senior tutor and to the opportunity to return to work on a long-standing book project thereafter; meanwhile I have organized a second “English Grammar Day”, open to the public, at the British Library, given invited papers at various conferences, and published a long-gestated academic article on Jane Austen and the OED.

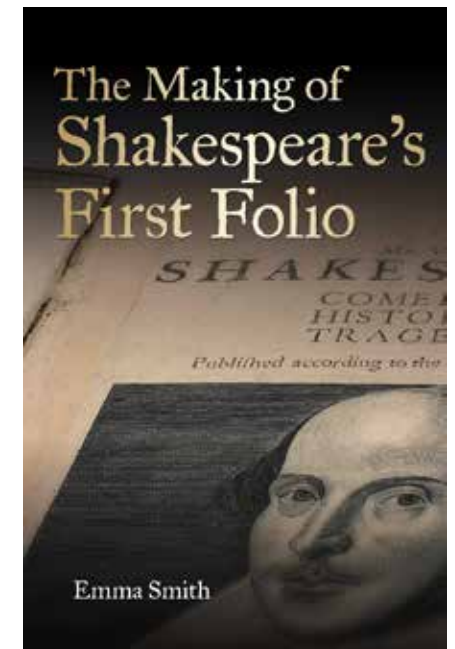


Professor Emma Smith writes:

This year, thanks in part to sabbatical leave in Michaelmas term, I have completed a long-term project on the first collected edition of Shakespeare’s plays, the First Folio of

1623. *The Making of Shakespeare’s First Folio* will be published in the autumn, focusing on the circumstances, technologies and individuals who made this book. In spring 2016 *Shakespeare’s First Folio: The Biography* will take up the story from 1623 to 2014, analyzing the owners, collectors, editors, forgers, actors, and others who have interacted with this book and tracing the itineraries of specific copies. Finally, an edited collection of essays, *The Cambridge Companion to Shakespeare’s First Folio*, due out in summer 2016, aims to integrate this book within undergraduate and graduate Shakespeare studies. That’s quite enough First Folio. Next year I hope to be able to report on some other activities.

In other news, I gave papers at the Shakespeare Association of America conference in Vancouver, at the Wells Literary Festival, at branches of the Oxford Society and U3A, at the Globe theatre, and in St-Omer, where an unrecorded





First Folio was discovered during the year. My essay co-authored with Laurie Maguire of Magdalen College won the Hoffman prize for distinguished work on Shakespeare and Marlowe: our paper, forthcoming in the journal *Shakespeare Survey*, argued that Marlowe's play *Dido Queen of Carthage* was a dominant influence on Shakespeare, especially in *The Tempest*, and proposed some new theories of source and influence based on modern understandings of memory and trauma. Our book, *30 Great Myths About Shakespeare*, was translated into Italian; my *The Cambridge Shakespeare Guide* was published in Portuguese and in Arabic. I have been working with the Royal Shakespeare Company on a Knowledge Exchange Fellowship, helping them prepare a new permanent exhibition for the Swan Wing which will open in 2016.

Geography



Dr Jamie Lorimer writes: Hertford Geography continues to flourish, academically and socially. We were pleased to achieve eight firsts in finals last summer together with

the usual assortment of university and national academic prizes. On paper our best ever results (if you judge success by exam results), and this year has done well too. We, of course, populated college and university sports teams with our usual spread of representatives and had a good representation of players in the rugby tour to Mongolia where they diplomatically were eased into second place in a number of matches, some of which appeared on Mongolian television.

The social highlight of the year was the 40th anniversary Gilbert Club Dinner attended by a full hall of former geographers. Dr Bull's speech was

heckled, of course, but his apologies for the content of his written comments on tutorial essays provided to him over the last 30 years was accepted graciously by the baying hordes.

History



Professor Roy Foster writes:

My working year was dominated by the publication of my book *Vivid Faces: the revolutionary generation in Ireland 1890-1923* in October 2014—some of which had been tried out formally on an Oxford audience via my Ford Lectures in Hilary 2012, and informally on several generations of undergraduates—including a good few from Hertford—who took my Further Subject on "Nationalism, Politics and Culture in Ireland 1870-1922". Though I was enabled to write



it by a three-year Wolfson Research Professorship (about which I wrote in an earlier issue), I had been working on the idea of profiling a whole generation, and the way they thought, since a much earlier date. So it dawned on me quite late that the book would come out just before the centenary of the Easter Rising of 1916 which (by some reckonings) began the Irish revolution against British rule. This meant being pitchforked ruthlessly into the debates, symposia, conferences, broadcasts and—of course—controversies that have already sprung up about the event in Ireland, and I seem to have spent much of the year criss-crossing the Irish Sea. As if this were not enough, 2015 was also the 150th anniversary of the birth of W.B. Yeats, once again something I had not anticipated, but which—once again—meant full-scale immersion in lectures, discussions, radio and TV programmes, and much else. Nor is it over yet. Commemoration as a national industry deserves some thought, and I keep remembering the opening stage direction for Stewart Parker's wonderful play *Pentecost*: "Set in Ireland: the continuing past". (A phrase applicable to some aspects of Oxford too). Meanwhile the book makes its way out in the world; at time of press it has come out in paperback and has just been awarded a British Academy Medal "for transforming understanding of a particular subject or field of study". I wish I felt that this was absolutely true.

66 I keep remembering the opening stage direction for Stewart Parker's wonderful play *Pentecost* 99



Dr Giora Sternberg writes:

My first book, *Status Interaction during the Reign of Louis XIV*, came out last summer and was shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society's Gladstone Book Prize. Thanks to a generous research fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust, I have been able to make good progress this year on my next book-length project, provisionally titled *Writing Acts: the power of writing in the Ancien Régime*. In the coming academic year, I will be convening for the first time a new Further Subject related to this work, "Writing in the Early Modern Period, c. 1550-1750", to which Hertford undergraduates are most welcome.

Human Sciences



Dr Clive Hambler writes:

Human Sciences is now one of the most popular science degrees in Oxford, with about ten applicants per place. Unfortunately, such success now prevents us interviewing everybody, so in order to help short-list applicants for interview the subject will bring in an admissions test (the TSA, as used by several other degree subjects). We currently have five second years and three first years—a peak number of Human Scientists in the college.

This year's finalists, Anaelle Stenman and Atty Naylor (2012), did their dissertations on eating insects and on gender biases in violent crime. Congratulations to Aoife Duff (2011) who has already published her dissertation on local cultural variations which might influence the rate the HIV



Anaëlle Stenman and Atty Naylor (2012) at the Human Sciences Schools Dinner of 2015, with Clive Hambler (photo: Wanting Zhao)

epidemic spreads in different parts of India; this could save lives though locally-nuanced healthcare and education. For her dissertation in 2014, Hettie Davies (2011) did a thoughtful review of the sociological and evolutionary Western body “ideals”—again a topic that could save lives.

My research on impacts of energy

“This year’s finalists, Anaëlle Stenman and Atty Naylor (2012), did their dissertations on eating insects and on gender biases in violent crime”

sources continues. There has been media coverage of my concerns about biomass fuel policy counter-productively increasing the species extinction rate and increasing carbon dioxide levels (by reducing forest carbon sinks and stores). I am developing my early work on the poorly-understood biologically-mediated stabilizing feedbacks in the atmosphere and climate system, in which marine plankton and their production of clouds likely play a major role.

More down-to-earth and locally, I have also expanded my work on limestone grassland re-creation, including pollinators. The explosion in public interest in rewilding continues, and I reviewed this debate in *The Systematist* (2015). A new NGO (Rewilding Britain) is helping enact many of the management principles developed from my research of the 1980s and 1990s. In these days of university obsession with research citation and “impact”, it’s sobering to see how slowly ecology may be applied! My book

Conservation with Susan Canney is being reprinted again—many thanks to those of you who bought it.

With twelve college graduates to advise, and an environmental MSc option to run, time spent on administration has increased this year. I’m often asked if I’m going to do any exciting overseas fieldwork, trying to save species. Unfortunately I’ve nothing planned in the short term—but I know many of my former students are working on some of the urgent things!

Management



Dr Steve New writes: I have been on sabbatical in the academic year 2014-15, and using the opportunity to continue to work on my research in supply chain management and

process improvement. From the recently completed project Safer Delivery of Surgical Services (S3), my colleagues in the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences have published papers in *BMJ Quality and Safety* and *BMJ Open* with a string of other publications in the pipeline. My work on supply chain mapping (with colleagues Felix Reed-Tsochas and Tomomi Kito) has continued with a recent paper in *CIRP Annals-Manufacturing Technology*, and a conference presentation at the annual meeting of the Japanese Operations Management and Strategy Association in Tokyo. On that trip I was also able to give a seminar at the University of Tsukuba, where I hope to return in the autumn to participate in their Global Science Week. The supply chain mapping work also led to a workshop in April (held at Hertford) involving some innovative local companies (Hellios and Historic Futures) and research colleagues from

Manchester and Cambridge. Other research visits have included a workshop on Sustainable Operations at ESADE in Barcelona, and to the Euroma annual conference in Neuchatel, Switzerland.

Mathematics



Professor Fernando Alday writes:

My field of research is theoretical high energy physics, and in particular, string theory. Imagine you look into the atom: you will see a nucleus, formed

by protons and neutrons, surrounded by electrons. It turns out the electron is a fundamental particle (it cannot be further split), which belongs to a family with similar properties, called leptons. On the other hand, protons and neutrons are composed of more fundamental particles, called quarks. It is believed that leptons and quarks are the most fundamental particles in the universe, and all matter is formed by them.

The question we are trying to answer is the following: imagine you look at an elementary particle, let’s say an electron, and you zoom in (a lot, even more than they do in CSI!), what is the shape of the electron? If you assume that fundamental particles are point-like (or zero-dimensional), many problems arise. String theory assumes that the fundamental particles are one-

“This should allow us to understand the finer structure of fundamental particles”



dimensional objects, or tiny vibrating strings. Different fundamental particles would then be different vibration modes of identical tiny strings (very much in the way that the same string can give rise to different musical notes).

If one makes this seemingly innocent assumption (i.e. fundamental particles are strings), sits down, and tries to construct a theory consistent with the known principles of physics (namely, quantum mechanics and the theory of relativity, of Einstein), one arrives at fantastic conclusions. First, it turns out that this theory should explain every fundamental law of physics, from black holes, to the origin of the universe. Second, this theory makes a remarkable prediction: we don't live on a three dimensional space, but rather in a space with nine dimensions. One caveat is that the theory is extremely hard, both technically and conceptually, and the required level of mathematics is so high, that it hasn't been developed yet (it has been said that string theory is a theory of the 21st century, which was discovered in the 20th century by mistake).

With my group of postdocs and PhD students (six in total), together with collaborators from Harvard and Princeton and other people at Oxford, we are trying to understand different bits of the theory, develop the necessary mathematics, and work out what the consequences of the theory would be for the observable world.

At the moment particle physics is in a

very exciting period, and we are exploring whether we can see signals of string theory in nature. How do we do this? Since babyhood, we humans are good at something: smashing things! and we (humankind) have constructed a huge machine (the Large Hadron Collider, or LHC) in Geneva, whose purpose is to take the fundamental particles described above, accelerate them to almost the velocity of light, and smash them. This should allow us to understand the finer structure of fundamental particles, and whether they are really fundamental strings, or not.

Medicine



Professor David Greaves writes:

My laboratory in the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology continues to study the role of white blood cells called monocytes and macrophages

in chronic inflammatory diseases. We have recently been awarded a five-year programme grant by the British Heart Foundation to investigate the implications for coronary heart disease (i.e. angina and heart attacks).

In March 2015 I was invited to a small meeting in Denmark organized by the Nova Nordisk Foundation that brought together 30 scientists from Copenhagen University, the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and the University of Oxford. During the course of a three-day conference we discussed potential collaborations in the newly emerging area of "Immunometabolism". I am excited by the prospect of initiating new collaborations where we will apply our expertise in inflammation biology to diseases such as Type II diabetes.

My laboratory is currently hosting three undergraduate medical students

“ I am excited
by the prospect
of initiating new
collaborations ”

for research internships and final year experimental dissertation projects. Krithi Ravi (St Anne's) is studying macrophage chemotaxis and David McCaffary (2013) has been awarded a summer research internship by the British Heart Foundation to look at new technologies to study macrophage cell biology. Max Brodermann (2012) will be returning to my laboratory to finish out experiments he performed in my laboratory as part of his FHS research project for inclusion in a manuscript currently in preparation.

Peer-reviewed work from my laboratory has been published in a number of international journals including *BLOOD*, *Journal of Molecular Medicine*, *Nature Communications* and *Scientific Reports*.

Vaughan-Williams Dinners

Hertford College medical students are very fortunate in having two college dinners per academic year that are hosted by our honorary fellow in Medicine, Miles Vaughan-Williams. Miles invites former students back to Hertford to talk to our pre-clinical students (years 1-3) and students studying in Oxford Clinical School (years 4-6). In October 2014 our speaker was Dr Rod MacRorie (1979) who gave a fascinating account of the time he and his family spent working in the rudimentary healthcare system in Nepal. During that time, measures that Rod put in place eradicated the scourge of leprosy from that resource-poor nation.

In May 2015 our speaker was Dr Christopher Hornby (1980) from the Banbury Road Health Centre who talked about his time at Hertford in the 1970s and

the challenges of general practice in north Oxford 40 years later. These dinners are a unique opportunity for Hertford medical students to come together socially and thank Miles in person for his continuing financial support of medical student electives, which are a unique opportunity for our students to experience healthcare in developing countries.



Professor Rebecca Sitsapesan writes:

Our lab, in the Department of Pharmacology, studies the function of intracellular ion channels involved in the control of Ca²⁺ release from

intracellular stores. The lab is primarily funded by grants from the British Heart Foundation (BHF), including a five-year programme grant to characterize the function of novel ion channels within the sarcoplasmic reticulum and their role in heart failure and inherited arrhythmic disease. The BHF also funds two Hertford College DPhil students, Fiona O'Brien (2013) and David Eberhardt (2013).

We have a fruitful collaboration with a Japanese group headed by Professor Hiroshi Takeda from Kyoto University. A PhD student from that group, Tsunaki Iida, is currently working in our lab for two months over the summer. We have also recently begun a collaborative project with Professor Wayne Chen, University of Calgary who visited the lab in January to investigate mechanisms of sudden cardiac death linked to intracellular Ca²⁺ release.

The lab is hosting two FHS project students this year, Megan Longworth (Magdalen College, studying Biochemistry) investigating statin modification of ryanodine receptor gating and Matthew Beech (Lady Margaret Hall, studying medicine) investigating TRIC protein function.



Dr Simon Brewster writes:

I have been a consultant urological surgeon in Oxford since 1998. I provide a service for general and emergency patients, with a subspecialist interest in prostate cancer and prostatic disease. I spend approximately 80% of my working time on clinical care and the remainder on teaching, training and research. I lead on undergraduate teaching within my department and am a core member of the medical school surgical teaching committee. I have been involved in teaching the clinical students of Hertford College since 2002. On occasions, these students are encouraged to participate in audit or research projects under my supervision. For example, one of the year six students Luke Granger recently audited outcomes of image-guided prostate biopsy conducted over a year within my department and presented the results at our departmental meeting. I also collaborate with laboratory scientists working on aspects of prostate cancer biology and I recruit patients to clinical trials involving prostate cancer surgery. I have over 70 peer-reviewed publications dating back to 1983 and am co-author of one textbook, the *Oxford Handbook of Urology* (OUP 3rd ed. 2013). I am an elected member of the cancer and educational committees of the British

“ I have been involved in teaching the clinical students of Hertford College since 2002 ”

Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) and I regularly lecture at or chair sessions in the BAUS annual scientific conference.

Modern Languages



Dr Katherine Lunn-Rockcliffe writes:

I continue my research on Victor Hugo's poetry, and this year have given a paper to the society of Dix-Neuviémistes at Glasgow and written an article for a special number of *Dix-Neuf* devoted to Hugo. A chapter on French Romantic Poetry for the *Oxford Handbook of European Romanticism* is forthcoming. It has to be said that this year most of my energies have been taken up elsewhere. Being secretary for the Sub-Faculty of French has kept me busy preparing agendas and writing minutes, but fortunately seven years as secretary to Governing Body have taught me how to maintain alertness through the convolutions of long meetings.

Modern Languages at Hertford has been enhanced this year by a new lecturer in Linguistics, Sandra Kotzor, who is based in the Language and Brain Laboratory and is also a lecturer at St Peter's College. This builds on our close collaboration with St Peter's and has made life much easier for students in what is now the joint school in Modern Languages and Linguistics (Linguistics now being a separate faculty from Modern Languages).



Dr Kevin Hilliard writes:

I gave a paper to the conference "Religiöses Wissen in der frühen Neuzeit" (religious knowledge in the early modern period) at the Freie Universität Berlin.





German reading week: visiting Goethe's birthplace

I published two articles: on late 18th-century satire in German, and on the poet Johann Wilhelm Ludwig Gleim (1719-1803). The latter figure is central to some ongoing research into rococo culture in Germany.

Another Easter vacation brought with it another German reading week in Frankfurt. The visit with this year's finalists was bookended by a production of Goethe's rarely performed early play *Clavigo* in nearby Wiesbaden, and one of Georg Büchner's *Dantons Tod* in Frankfurt itself. In between we read and discussed other works of Büchner's, as well as pieces by J. M. R. Lenz and Schiller. The general theme was the development of realism in the years 1770-1840. As usual, we made the pilgrimage to Goethe's birthplace; Martha Williams (2011) can be seen on the right in the photograph outside the house.

In January, all the year groups reading German in St Peter's and Hertford had an outing to London, to see two horizon-

widening exhibitions: *Terror and Wonder* at the British Library, and *Germany: Memories of a Nation* in the British Museum. The picture shows the assembled group in the foyer of the British Library.

Oriental Studies



Professor Bjarke Frellesvig writes:

This past academic year was the last of my three-year tenure as Chair of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. They have been

three busy years, with little time for teaching or research, and less time spent in college than I would have liked, so I am looking forward to a return to more normal duties. During that time, most of my teaching in college and faculty was covered by Dr Stephen Horn, who has been a great asset to the Oriental Studies students in college. Stephen is

off to Japan from September, to take up a prestigious fellowship there, and we must thank him for his service and wish him all the best.

I spent part of the summer in Japan at the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, and over the summer and early autumn 2014, I gave invited talks at Kyoto University, University of Ljubljana, and Università di Pavia on various aspects of Old (8th century) Japanese language, deriving from work within the two research projects on Old Japanese grammar which I direct: *Verb Semantics and Argument Realization in Pre-Modern Japanese* and *The Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese*. The former was funded by the AHRC and came to a successful completion in June 2014; the latter carries on with the support of the British Academy. I was also invited to give a keynote lecture in October at a large symposium on "Forefront Studies on Japanese Culture and Society", held by Kobe University in a posh hotel in Brussels. (Until then I had thought that only medics, engineers, political scientists, and economists got invited to conferences in posh hotels.) From 2011 to 2014 I was the Secretary of the European Association of Japanese Studies, and at the 14th International Conference of the EAJS in Ljubljana in August last year, I was elected President of the association, to serve for three years, until the next international

conference which will be held in Lisbon in 2017.

Because of changes to course structure, we had more finalists in Japanese this year than usual, eight as opposed to the usual four—a strong year of whom three achieved firsts and all did well. Over the last ten years we have built up a large, lively, and diverse community in Hertford of students of Japanese and Chinese, by some distance the largest undergraduate college for Japanese with a good number of post-graduate students also. Hertford has become an exciting place to be for Japanologists.



Dr Jieun Kiaer writes:

Last year I published *The History of English Loanwords in Korean, The Old Korean Poetry and Jeju Language and Tales from the Edge*

of the Korean Peninsula. I also published a book on the lives of Anglo-Korean words in Korean. This year I have been invited to present my work on old Korean poetry at a workshop on middle Korean in March, held at the University of Vienna. I was also invited to give a series of lectures on Korean phonology at the University of Salamanca, Spain in March. Currently, I am working on a pilot project, titled *Multilingual children growing in London*, supported by a John Fell OUP grant. The study examines how multilingual children develop and mobilize both verbal and non-verbal resources to make meaning carry out a variety of communicative functions. The central objective of the project is to observe how young children of Asian heritage acquire their heritage language (Korean, Hindi and Japanese), their version of English, British English (and another heritage language in some cases) and grow as multi-linguals.

☞ The central objective of the project is to observe how young children of Asian heritage acquire their heritage language ☞



Physics

Professor Pat Roche writes:

Photons of light can traverse vast distances across the universe but in the last millisecond of the journey, those heading for telescopes on earth encounter air, dust and cloud in the atmosphere and may be swamped by background light. The thin and precious veil that surrounds our rocky and watery planet and sustains our lives perturbs the feeble waves emitted by distant stars and galaxies, while even the darkest skies radiate and scatter light, which raises background light levels and makes it more difficult to measure astronomical signals. The best observing sites in the world are on high, dry and remote mountaintops where these effects are minimized.

The search for the optimum sites has led to a concentration of new large telescopes and observatories in the Atacama desert in Northern Chile. The exceptional conditions there are very hostile to most lifeforms, with very little accessible water and sparse vegetation across large tracts of the desert. But these attributes are ideal

for stargazing. The remote mountains are far from towns and cities, with light and dust produced by mining activities the only significant concerns. The dry atmosphere contains low quantities of water vapour, which absorbs infrared and microwaves, while the clarity and darkness of the sky and low levels of cloud cover are remarkable, especially for those used to British skies.

At the beginning of 2015, I was elected President of the Governing Council of the European Southern Observatory (ESO), and Chairman of the ALMA Board. ESO is an inter-governmental treaty organization representing fourteen European member states in cooperation with the host state, Chile, with two further countries, Poland and Brazil, currently in the accession process. Its mission is to provide frontline astronomical facilities for the astronomical communities in the member states and to foster cooperation. In those roles, I oversee the operation and development of the ESO

“The exceptional conditions there are very hostile to most lifeforms”

facilities in Chile and advise the Directors of the ALMA and ESO observatories.

This is a remarkable time for astronomy. Last year saw completion of ALMA, the first truly global ground-based astronomical observatory. The Atacama Large Millimetre/sub-millimetre Array consists of 66 antennas linked together to make microwave observations of unprecedented sensitivity and resolution. It has been constructed over the last decade by large and talented teams in Europe, coordinated by ESO, North America and East Asia working together to complete this complex and challenging project. The first results have been astonishing, revealing the surprising structures of cold dust and gas around newly-formed stars and tracing molecules and dust formed from supernovae in the early universe. As its full power and capabilities are utilized, the results from ALMA over the next few years will be truly transformational.

I have visited Chile regularly over the last twenty years through involvement in a number of telescope projects. In 2002, I visited the plains of Chajnantor, located at an altitude of 5,000m in the high altiplano for the first time. At that time, it hosted a few pioneering experiments that had demonstrated its tremendous potential as an observatory site. It has

“To be involved in the development and governance of these cathedrals of discovery is a real privilege”

now been transformed by the ALMA project, with the 66 antennas together with their receivers and electronics, the communications links, power systems, roads and the highest supercomputer on earth, where the data streams are collected and correlated to form the stunning images that ALMA is producing.

Just as ALMA was being completed, ESO embarked on its next major project, the imaginatively named European Extremely Large Telescope. This will be a 39m diameter optical-IR telescope on top of Cerro Armazones, a mountain that is now about 15m lower than it was a year ago, as the 300m x 150m platform needed to accommodate the telescope has been levelled. This will be the most powerful facility of its kind when construction is

ESO's flagship observatory on the summit of Cerro Paranal in the Chilean Atacama desert. The large enclosures house the four 8m telescopes of the VLT whilst the smaller structures contain the relocatable 1.8m auxiliary telescopes used in its interferometric mode. When night falls, the telescopes exploit the clear and dry skies of the Atacama to probe the mysteries of the universe.





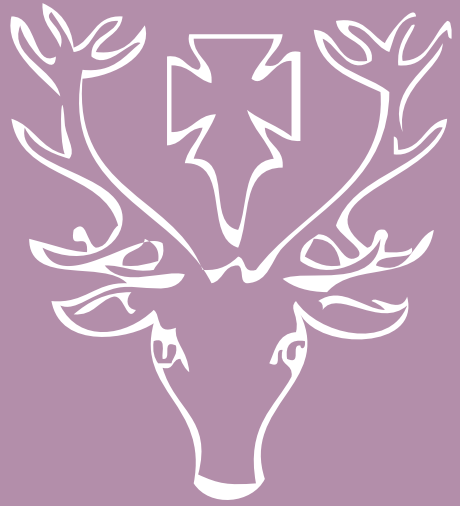
completed in a decade's time and it starts its scientific life peering into the void where the first galaxies formed or the nurseries in our own Milky Way where stars and planets are forming.

To be involved in the development and governance of these cathedrals of discovery is a real privilege, working with scientists and engineers around the world to enhance their capabilities and maintain them at the forefront of world astronomy. Seeing a new telescope project from the initial ideas and proposals through designs and developments and securing the funds required for the construction and commissioning of the instruments and telescope is often a fraught and difficult process, but the results are astonishing. Technical advances have allowed us to push back ever further and ever backwards in time as well as revealing much more detail in familiar objects, but these gains are hard won

through cooperation between teams of people in institutes and universities. They are a wonderful demonstration of the power of collaborative research, clearly demonstrating the benefits of close cooperation with our European partners.

The increased light-gathering power of the new telescopes in turn provides higher sensitivity and resolution, supporting the research programmes of thousands of astronomers—students, postdoctoral researchers and professors, in hundreds of institutes. The discoveries made are challenging our understanding of star and planet formation and will shed new light on the formation of molecules in space and the first stars and galaxies that coalesced out of the Big Bang. The next decade will be a tremendously productive period and I am very fortunate to be involved in the planning and execution of some of the most ambitious and exciting projects in the world of astronomy.





LIFE AFTER
HERTFORD



Bushmaster Dan Eatherley (1992)

Dan is a British naturalist, writer and wildlife film-maker who read Zoology at Hertford, returning to academia over 2005-6 to read for an MA in Sustainable Development at Exeter University. He has made a variety of natural history TV documentaries for the BBC, National Geographic, and the Discovery Channel, including credits as an assistant producer on two BBC series hosted by Sir David Attenborough: "Life of Mammals" and "Planet Earth". He has filmed on location in swamps, deserts and jungles around the world. He has written over 100 articles on science and environmental issues for the New

Scientist, Scientific American and BBC Wildlife magazines. These days, when not hunting giant vipers, he works from his home in Exeter as a consultant in environmental sustainability.

The following is an extract from his new book, *Bushmaster: Raymond Ditmars and the Hunt for the World's Largest Viper* (Arcade Publishing, 2015), the story of one man's obsession with an enigmatic and deadly reptile. Raymond Ditmars (1876-1942), the first curator of reptiles at New York's world-famous Bronx Zoo, popularized cold-blooded animals as never before. His love for snakes, insects and other misunderstood creatures was conveyed in books, lectures, and pioneering motion pictures. But his expeditions to the South America jungles during the 1930s in search of the legendary bushmaster—the world's

largest viper—really captured the public imagination. In *Bushmaster* the author follows in Ditmars's footsteps and attempts to achieve what Ditmars himself failed to do: find a bushmaster in the wild. Eighty years on, will Dan have any more luck? And will a bushmaster find him first?

"Bushmasters, you say? Well, they're definitely in my *top three*. Up there with boa constrictors and Burmese pythons. They're *monsters!* But at the same time *extremely shy*, not like a fer-de-lance. You can hold a bushmaster in your hands. It's not advisable but I have done it!"

Smiling broadly, Junior Charleau gripped an imaginary bushmaster as if fighting an invisible tug of war. The strange beauty of the legendary giant viper seemed the main appeal for him.

"I'm picturing a freshly shed bushmaster now," he continued, a distant look in his eyes. "It has pearl white scales and gorgeous black diamonds. Beautiful. It's, like, *glowing!*"

I had arrived yesterday in Trinidad, a small island off the coast of Venezuela, on the latest stage of a seemingly deluded quest for a bushmaster. Famed as the world's largest viper—reliable reports have specimens exceeding twelve feet in length—the four recognized species of bushmaster inhabit rainforest from Brazil to southern Nicaragua. While other snakes' venom is more toxic, the volume potentially delivered in a single bushmaster bite makes the reptile extremely dangerous, not least because the fangs, sometimes attaining two inches in length, inject the poison deep into the flesh of victims. In his 1648 natural history of Brazil, the physician Guilherme Piso reported that the bite of the bushmaster quickly causes pain, dizziness, colic, delirium, and fever. Soon after, the blood rapidly corrodes and boils up through the nostrils, ears, and even the hands and feet. Death comes within twenty-four hours. So, why the

heck was I trying to find one?

Well, it was a long story. Here's the short version. Leaving Hertford College in 1995 with a newly-minted zoology degree under my arm I wasn't sure where I would go next. One thing was certain, academia was out: I needed a break from libraries and textbooks (ironic, given that I now love whiling away hours in dusty archives). So, with half-formed thoughts of filming exotic creatures on tropical islands I eventually drifted west to Bristol, the global centre for wildlife television making, the "Green Hollywood" as it was sometimes known.

The BBC's Natural History Unit had been churning out programmes here for decades, including most of

“You can hold a bushmaster in your hands. It's not advisable but I have done it!”

David Attenborough's highly regarded documentaries. Dozens of smaller independent production companies specializing in wildlife had emerged in recent years, making shows for the BBC or overseas broadcasters such as the Discovery Channel or National Geographic. After stints as a researcher at the Beeb and other companies, I wound up at Zebra Films, a small, now-defunct independent. We had recently made some successful films about snakes for Nat Geo TV and were developing a new programme idea about the bushmaster.

The serpent went by many names. Costa Ricans knew it as the *matabuey* or "the ox-killer"; in Brazil it is the *surucucú-de-fogo*, "the one who strikes repeatedly



at the fire"; while here in Trinidad the bushmaster is called *mapepire z'anana*, "the pineapple snake", a creole term referencing the roughness of its body that results from curious protuberances on each scale. The bushmaster's original scientific name, *Lachesis muta*, is just as dramatic. Lachesis was one of the three Fates of classical mythology who determined the length of a person's life, while "muta" means "silent," hinting that the bushmaster is a rattlesnake that has lost its noisy appendage. That the snake vibrates the peculiar burr-like tail tip when annoyed just adds to this impression, although in truth other snakes perform similar defensive behaviour and scientists now believe bushmasters are only distantly related to rattlers. A further distinction from rattlesnakes and indeed all other New World vipers is that



Raymond Ditmars with a deadly green mamba (*Dendroaspis sp.*) in the reptile house of the Bronx Zoo, New York City, in 1932 (photo: Mike Dee)

bushmasters lay eggs rather than giving birth to live young.

The snake famously appears in *Thrills of a Naturalist's Quest*, a book of memoirs published in 1932 by Raymond Ditmars, the curator of reptiles and mammals at New York's Bronx Zoo. Ditmars remembers how, as a kid in late nineteenth-century New York, he started bringing snakes home as pets including venomous ones. After much resistance his parents yielded to their son's hobby, by the mid-1890s surrendering the entire top floor of their house to the expanding collection.

One day, the young Raymond received a crate of snakes from Trinidad; among the tropical boas, rat snakes, coralsnakes, and fer-de-lances was an eight-foot-long bushmaster in good condition, which, the delivery note stated, the recipient should "be extremely careful with liberating." On its release the viper supposedly chased the young snake devotee around the room, the rest of the family downstairs oblivious.

The incident kindled in Ditmars an obsession to catch a bushmaster specimen for himself from the wild. The curator studied, wrote about, and filmed all manner of animals, but the viper continued to fixate him. In several of his books he reproduced the same ghastly photograph of a bushmaster. Despite its evil cat-eye stare, the snake in the picture was dead, its maw fixed open in a half grin, half sneer, the tusk-like fangs straining indecently at their fleshy sheaths, desiccated tongue forks tickling the chin. In later life, Ditmars's vacations were spent hacking through the forests of Panama, Brazil and Trinidad in fruitless search of a wild, living specimen. These quests caught the public imagination, making national newspaper headlines during the 1930s.

Six decades on, Ditmars's adventures caught my imagination too and, although the bushmaster film never got made, a few years later I resolved to follow in his footsteps, heading down to Trinidad to

Was my bushmaster, my mapepire z'anana, waiting for me down there somewhere?

try my own luck at finding a bushmaster. How difficult and dangerous could it be? After all, bushmasters were responsible for only 0.01% of reported snake bites in Latin America. I tried to ignore the nagging possibility that because accidents occurred far from civilization, bushmaster bites were underrepresented in the figures, and that if I was bitten, the outlook wasn't great. The locals seemingly knew this. During the filming in Peru of Werner Herzog's 1972 movie, *Aguirre, the Wrath of God*, a lumber man was struck twice in the leg by a bushmaster. Legend has it that, without missing a beat, he lopped off the limb.

And now here I was in Trinidad with a crazy plan to find one of these monsters! My flight from London had been surprisingly full given that the Caribbean island's spiralling murder rate and recent imposition of a curfew did little to recommend it as a tourist destination. However, the plane half-emptied during a stopover in St. Lucia and for the final short hop to Port of Spain I could switch to a window seat. From this altitude the waves below looked frozen. At a pinch, the steel-blue pattern had the texture of reptilian skin. Was this a good omen? Trinidad's Northern Range came into view, crowned in pristine green forest, rusty shacks dotting the lower elevations. Was my bushmaster, my *mapepire z'anana*, waiting for me down there somewhere? The following afternoon I had headed to the outskirts of Port of Spain and the Emperor Valley Zoo, Trinidad's main animal collection. A swift



South American bushmaster (*Lachesis muta muta*) photographed in the Peruvian rainforest (© Maik Dobjey 2015)



“Obtaining a healthy animal was critical to its survival in captivity”

tour of the small series of uninspiring reptile enclosures had established that no bushmasters were on display.

At closing time I'd got to talking with the reptile keeper, Junior Charleau—real name Delbert Charleau Jr. We were sitting on a green bench outside the zoo's main entrance. The evening was humid but pleasant. Parrots chattered boisterously in the canopy of a nearby tree. Handsome and now in his early forties, Charleau had greying hair and a precise goatee beard. He continued to effuse over the splendour of the z'anana: "In the sunlight, the scales look like beads, like crystals on a well-made carpet—"

"But when did you last have one here?" I hated to interrupt the reverie but was anxious to press on with my inquiries. He now stroked the goatee.

"Let's see. I think we've had three bushmasters over the last six years. One survived for four years! It went fantastic! But the conditions have to be right. The bushmaster love dark, humid but not too hot. It loves a cool environment. If too hot and dry there is trouble. The bushmaster, it will regurgitate food."

Obtaining a healthy animal was critical to its survival in captivity and sure enough Charleau's record-breaking snake had been parasite-free when captured. It nevertheless failed to shed and died.

"If I wanted to find another one," I asked, "where should I look?"

"Well, farmers in Christophine Valley see them, and a German lady got bitten by one near Asa Wright. She didn't die."

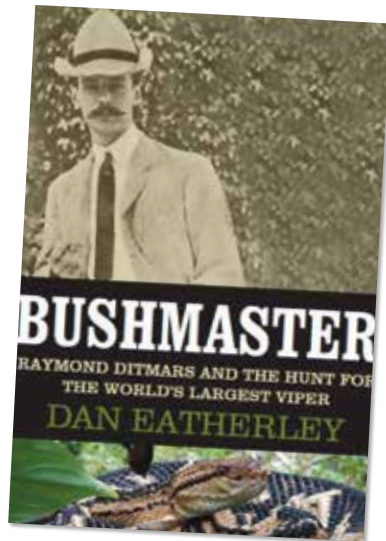
As I bid Charleau good bye, I felt exhilarated. Located high in the Northern Range, the Asa Wright Nature Centre was the country's premier bird-watching

reserve, and "christophine" was not the name of a valley but a gourd-like fruit cultivated on trellises in the same hills. Perhaps the snakes liked ambushing prey in the tangled vines associated with this crop? It certainly sounded like the Northern Range was the place to go.

But my mounting excitement at the prospect of actually finding my bushmaster was quenched by a paradoxical fear: what if a bushmaster found me first?

See more at www.daneatherley.com.

Bushmaster: Raymond Ditmars and the Hunt for the World's Largest Viper has been praised by Desmond Morris as "a fascinating book about a fascinating man". It was excerpted in the Guardian newspaper in July 2015 and can be purchased from good bookshops or online.



Emma Pritchard accompanying the Good Friday Procession, Jerusalem (photo: EAPPI/C.Lillehammer)

Three months in the West Bank
Emma Pritchard (2010)

When I matriculated as an undergraduate at Hertford College in 2010, I hardly expected that five years later I would be returning to the UK after three months as a human rights monitor in the occupied Palestinian territory of the West Bank.

In the most logical of career progressions, my degree in English Language and Literature led me straight into an MA in Conflict Resolution, where I began by doing my best to avoid studying, writing, or thinking about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—a failing I feel much

of the western world suffers from.

Eventually, of course, I could not avoid it. An understanding of this conflict is a basic requirement to understanding what is happening (or has happened) in the rest of the Middle East. With the de-escalation of the Northern Irish conflict in the late 90s, it is perhaps one of the best examples of a protracted social conflict. As a student of conflict, and latterly, transitional justice and legacies of human rights abuses, it was perhaps inevitable that my first placement in a conflict zone was in this area.

Tracing the origins of any conflict is difficult, to say the least. For the Palestinians I met, the first key event, and the one I found myself regularly apologising for, was the Balfour Declaration in 1917, which declared the intention of the British government to support the establishment



of a Jewish homeland in British Mandate Palestine.

In 1947, in the aftermath of the Second World War, and with the support of 33 of 57 member states of the UN General Assembly, the Partition Plan created a state of Israel on approximately 55% of British Mandate Palestine, and an Arab nation on the remaining 45%. The British abstained from this vote.

The Arabs rejected this plan, and went to war. The war ended with Israel owning around 78% of the land, Egypt controlling the Gaza Strip, Syria the Golan Heights and Jordan the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

In 1967 the Israelis launched the six-day war, successfully capturing all of this territory. East Jerusalem was annexed to Israel, with the other territories becoming occupied (though under international law, East Jerusalem remains occupied).

In 1993 the Oslo Accords signed between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Liberation Organization agreed a five-year plan for Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. The West Bank was divided into three "areas": Area A, under the full control of the Palestinian Authority (PA) (approximately 18% of the West Bank), Area B, under joint PA and Israeli control (approximately 25%), and Area C (the remaining 57%) under full Israeli Control.

In 2005 Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip. According to UN standards the territory remains occupied as Israel remains in "effective control" over the area.

Today, the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza strip approaches its 50th year and the prospect of peace looks further

away than ever.

In March 2015, I travelled to the West Bank as an Ecumenical Accompanier (EA) for the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). EAs come from all over the world, from all backgrounds, faiths and viewpoints, to live and work for three months in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, also spending time in Israel.

We witness the occupation first-hand, documenting the experiences of those living under its rule, writing reports to bodies such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and advocating for an end to the occupation. An impartial organization, we report on human rights abuses (regardless of the perpetrators), and support both Israelis and Palestinians working peacefully for an end to the occupation and a just peace.

EAs work in six placements around the West Bank, and in East Jerusalem. I was placed with a team of four others in Yanoun. Yanoun is a tiny village with around 80 inhabitants in the north of the West Bank, surrounded on three sides by outposts of Itamar settlement.

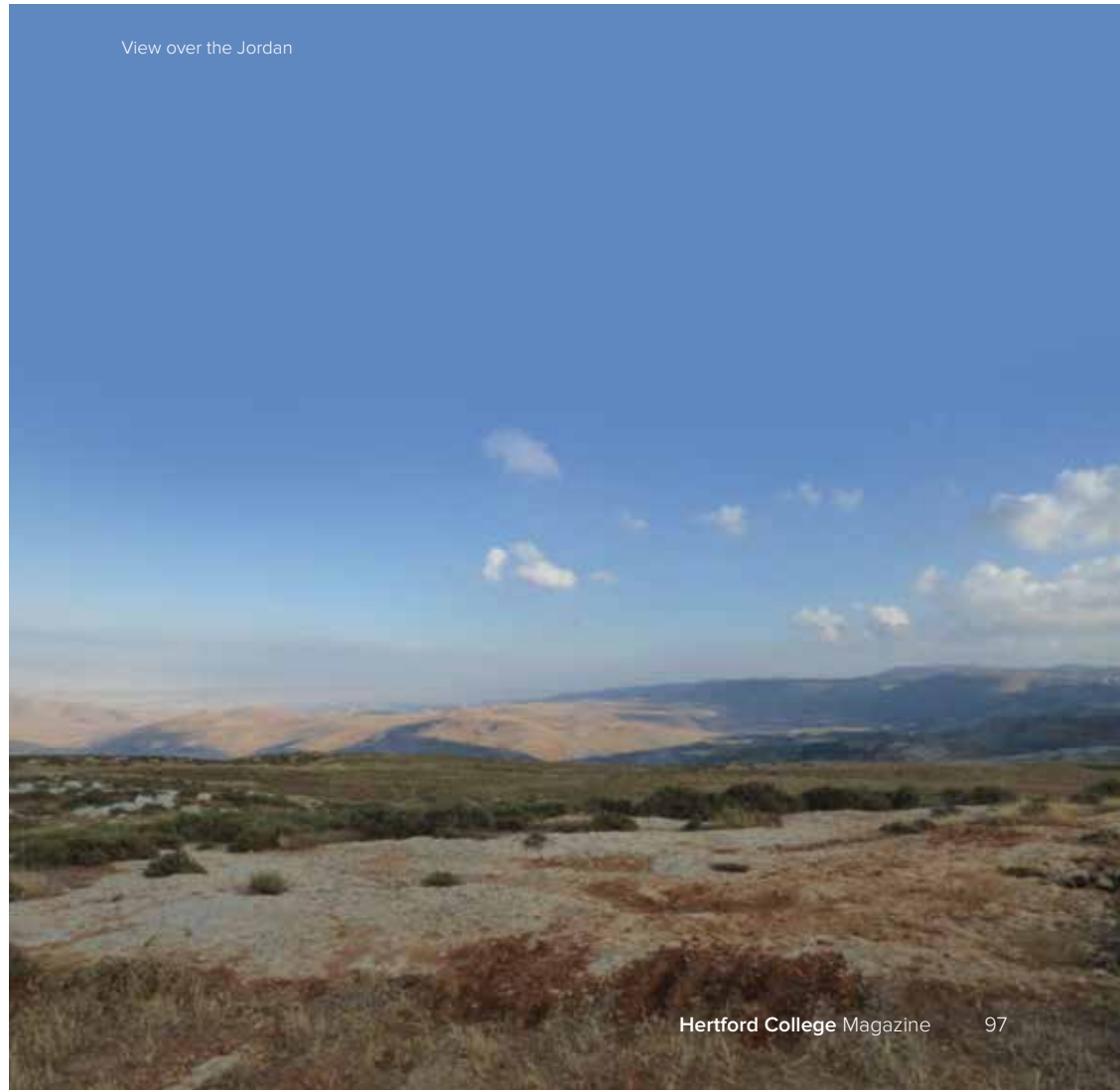
Israeli settlements are illegal under international law. The 4th Geneva Convention, which lays out the rules of occupation, precludes the transfer of citizens into or out of the territory. Since the Oslo Accords, the number of settlers in the West Bank has grown from 262,500 to 520,000, and settlements continue to expand through outposts such as those around Yanoun. Though illegal under Israeli planning law, outposts benefit from mains electricity, internet, newly built



Children of Burin School play parachute games



Soldier in field outside Burin School with tree



View over the Jordan

“Each year the boundary fences
move a little further down the hill, and the
villagers lose even more of their land”



roads, and, crucially, protection by the Israeli military. Outposts and settlements are built on Palestinian land.

Yanoun is surrounded by four outposts that vastly reduce the land available to the village for shepherding and agriculture. Each year the boundary fences move a little further down the hill, and the villagers lose even more of their land.

Loss of land, however, is not the only thing the villagers have to fear from settlers. In 2002, after a sustained campaign of violence against crops, livestock, buildings and the villagers themselves, the whole village was forced to flee in fear of their lives. With the support of Israeli and

“Soldiers would enter the school with tear gas and sound grenades”

international peace activists, they were able to gradually move back in, and since 2003 EAPPI has provided a permanent international presence in the village.

Settlers still enter the village, conducting walking tours, attempting to swim in the well, and driving around the village late at night, scaring the inhabitants. In April they accused two shepherds of trespassing on Itamar land, because a stray sheep (not, in fact, belonging to the shepherds) went too close to the boundary fence surrounding the outpost. The army were called and the villagers arrested and held for four days.

One of our key tasks was monitoring schools. EAPPI partners with UNICEF in monitoring and reporting on human rights violations as they relate to schools in the West Bank. We were responsible for three schools. It was here that we had

most of our encounters with the military.

During our three months, one of our schools, As’sawiyya and Al Lubban Mixed Secondary School, was subjected to repeated attacks. Soldiers would enter the school with tear gas and sound grenades, stating that the children had been throwing stones at nearby Route 60. Towards the end of the school year in June we attended the school every day as the children returned home. So did the military.

It was at Burin Secondary Mixed School that I witnessed one of the worst examples of apparently pointless cruelty that characterized my time in the West Bank. Several organizations had come together to arrange activities for the younger years to play games in the school field. For once, these activities were not aimed at a grander purpose, to educate the children on their rights or teach them how to respond to various crises and difficulties. These activities were to give them a rare chance to play.

The games were carried out under the watchful eyes of two members of the military, armed with automatic rifles.

Accustomed to this scrutiny, the children continued to play. One of the soldiers wandered up from his position outside the watchtower, and began to cut down a tree planted the week before. Later, the second soldier continued his work, completely severing the young tree from its trunk, and walking away with it, blade slung over his shoulder.

Finally, the soldier advanced towards the school, causing the children’s tenuous control to snap. They ran yelling and screaming towards the soldiers who had interrupted their play.

The far-reaching effects of the occupation were brought home to me through an encounter with Muna, a woman of Palestinian descent who has just received Canadian citizenship. Muna came to visit Palestine for a week with her family. She was 45 years old, and it was

“The far-reaching effects of the occupation were brought home to me through an encounter with Muna”

her first time here. Her father had been in Kuwait at the time of the 1967 war, and was denied the right to return under the absentee law which barred the return of anyone in “enemy territory” during the war. Muna had been born and raised in Kuwait and Jordan. Fourteen years ago she and her husband had moved to Canada, and now she was finally allowed to return on a three-month tourist visa.

The day I met her she had been to see the house her mother grew up in, now a crumbling ruin. The next day she was going to Jerusalem, to the Al Aqsa Mosque. Her mother had asked her to

pray that she might see her country again before she dies. She is 85 and very unwell. Muna cried as she told me this. She has waited 45 years to finally see her home country through a foreigner’s eyes. Her mother likely never will again.

I returned to the UK in June. People keep asking me how was it, what did I do, what did I learn. It is hard to find words to communicate all that I did and saw.

I learnt that this conflict damages all involved. The villagers struggling to eke out a livelihood. The children whose education is constantly disrupted. The Palestinians around the world who cannot return home. The young men and women on military service exposed to Palestinians only as threats. The children who grow up in the settlements learning only there is an “us” and a “them”.

I have lost count of the number of people, both Israeli and Palestinian, who have told me that if we have any hope, it will come from Europe. From the international community exercising their diplomatic and economic powers to pressure Israel to end the occupation according to UN resolutions and international law peace. It will come from the people like you, and me, pressuring our government to fulfil its obligations to uphold the Geneva Conventions and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I learnt that there are people on all sides of this conflict whose voices are not being heard and whose stories are not being told. Now, as an EA, my task is to begin to tell them.





Remembering the 1975 Chapel Eight

Alan White (1973)

In the sunshine on the towpath at the end of May, the Mums and Dads might wonder what Summer Eights is about and think it a kind of outdoor party for twenty-something-year-old Oxford undergraduates. The crowd, the Pimms, the painted faces and ebullient cheering all support that view. But take a closer look and think again. Why is it that after so many years living in distant

places, a maturer group of celebrants made the effort to meet at the boathouse on the Saturday of Summer Eights this year?

We are the twenty-something Hertford undergraduates of 1975. Forty years ago we gathered in the cold at 6am by the college lodge and ran to the boathouse, our cox cycling alongside shouting words of encouragement. The morning mist rises from Christ Church meadow, and as we run breathless, now along the towpath, the mallards rise from the Isis into the air. We enter the college boathouse, find the breath to greet the boatman, carefully pick our boat from its resting place and carry it with something akin to love, to lower

Summer Eights 2015. L-R: Emily Wilkes HCBC President; Brian Harris, Chapel Eight stroke; Alan White, bow; Dave Molyneux, first reserve; Will Hutton, Principal and sponsor of future Chapel Eights; John Marshall, 2; Mellor Hennessey, 4



it gently into the water. We paddle light. We row. We improve our balance. We practice racing starts. Our muscles turn to knots of iron. Our hearts beat loudly in our ears. Our lungs...our lungs. We glide back to the pontoon, climb out of our beloved boat, our knotted muscles contemplate the lift out of the water and into the boathouse and we savour the thought of competing in Summer Eights in just a few weeks' time.

Most of us had never rowed before Hertford and many of us never rowed again. But the 6am starts, the morning mists, the knotted muscles and all the challenging facets of rowing experienced together are the stuff of long lasting friendships. The twenty-somethings are sixty-somethings now, Mums and Dads ourselves. We know what Summer Eights is about and have done for forty years. So we commend to you the stuff of long lasting friendships and entreat you to return to this spot in forty years, older, wiser twenty-something undergraduates in HCBC t-shirts, lives forever enriched by the intensity of rowing and studying together at Hertford College.

We of the 1975 Chapel Eight thank Hertford College, Will Hutton, his predecessors and Neil Tanner for the opportunities you gave us. We relished them all.

“We commend to you the stuff of long lasting friendships... lives forever enriched by the intensity of rowing and studying together at Hertford College”





Samuel de Jersey showing an early interest in his dad's books, just before his first birthday

Births

Philip Edwards (1984) is pleased to announce the birth of his son Sebastian Edwards in June 2014.

Philip de Jersey (1984) and Jenny Cataroche are delighted to announce the birth of Samuel Peter de Jersey on 19 April 2014.

Dan Eatherley (1992)'s second daughter, Hannah Florence Eatherley, was born on 21 April 2015. Dan also published in May 2015 a book on Raymond Ditmars and the hunt for the world's largest viper, *Bushmaster*. [see pp. 90-94]

Alison Sutherland (née Short; 1996) and Craig Sutherland's daughter Emma Beth Sutherland was born on 23 December 2013 and christened in college on 13 July 2014 (following Alison and Craig's wedding in college on 16 March 2013).

Alison Benson (née Kennedy; 2001) and her husband Oliver welcomed their son Patrick Lewis Benson on 25 September 2014.

Stefanie Seidel (née Schuh; 2008) and Thorsten Seidel welcomed their daughter Charlotte Ulrike Augusta, named after her aunt and great grandmother, on 24 November 2014.



Alison and Emma Beth Sutherland



Patrick Benson (ten months old)



Sonia Bauckhage lighting candles for a dinner in hall

Marriages

Jessica Hill (2003) married Richard Tooby on 11 April 2015 in the Yorkshire Dales. Jessica has also self-published a murder mystery book, *Death on Safari*, which is available on Kindle.

Rachael Bedford (2005) married Tim Smith in college on 18 April 2015.

Helen Ashcroft (2008) married Andrew Furniss (assistant organist) in college on 26 July 2014.

Alexandra Huk Watson (2010) married Chris Watson in college on 11 July 2015.

Pit Genot (2012) and Sejung Oh's marriage was blessed in college on 9 August 2014.

Alan and **Tricia White** (1973) renewed their marriage vows in college on 28 June 2014.

Stella Griffiths (1985) married Peter Vine in college on 20 September 2014.

Aidan Liddle (1997) married Helen Liddle on 3 May 2014, and in July 2014 began a new posting as British Deputy Ambassador in Stockholm.

Victoria Sill (2000) married Dominic Laurie in college on 4 July 2015.

Jo Devlin (2002) married Henry Hardy in college on 5 July 2014.

Antonia Halker (2003) married Roberto Mercandino in Berkhamsted School on 6 September 2014.



Aidan and Helen Liddle

Ash Will



Alan and Tricia White



Jo Devlin and Henry Hardy



Pit Genot and Sejung Oh

Kevin Peter



Alexandra Hulk Watson and Chris Watson



Antonia and Roberto Mercandino

Rachel Mowiz



Rachael Bedford and Tim Smith

Media 1st of Hertfordshire



Stella Griffiths and Peter Vine



Helen Ashcroft and Andrew Furniss

Paul Riddell



Jessica and Richard Toobey



Victoria Sill and Dominic Laurie



Stella Griffiths wedding cake featuring Simpkin



News

Keep up-to-date with the latest news from your contemporaries.

If you have news you would like to share with the Hertford community, please sent it to the Development Office (development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk) along with any photographs we can print. The Editor may edit any contributions.

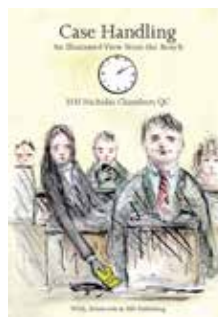
1952

Jimmy Hartley has published *The Dramatic Life of Elizabeth Barry*, the first full-length biography of the first actress to achieve megastar status on the English stage, and *Much Ado about Shakespeare*, the story of the three-day event at Stratford-upon-Avon in 1769 that started the Shakespeare legend.

1960

Marcus Wigan writes: "Having done a little study in the last six years, I now hold a postgraduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law from the Melbourne Law School, and a Masters in International Relations (again from Melbourne). I am scheduled to complete my Research Masters in Musicology at Monash and my Applied Ethics Masters at Melbourne during 2015...and can report that all of this recent rash of learning has been immediately applied in social, political, teaching and other domains at once, and with real effect. It is such fun to do this...and discovering that philosophy is so very practical in these domains (it IS hard!)...but my wife has told me to STOP at ten degrees, which I will reach in 2105 at this rate...as she thinks that it is 'quite enough'...she may well be right...but astrophysics beckons still...it's nearly 50 years since my DPhil in Physics and it's a fresh new world again where cosmological scales, the nano and the gluon morass converge...so maybe I won't listen too hard..."

1962



Nicholas Chambers has published a new book called *Case Handling: An Illustrated View from the Bench*. Experience of all sorts at the Bar and on the Bench has led to the thought that a few timely words could avoid

a lot of grief as well as perhaps bringing a smile or two from the hand-drawn pictures. All the author's profits go to the Barristers' Benevolent Association.

1963

Remington Norman's publications include:

1. *The Great Domaines of Burgundy* (3rd edition, 2010). Winner of the Andre Simon Prize for best wine book
2. *Rhone Renaissance* (1996). Winner of the Andre Simon Prize, Glenfiddich Prize and Champagne Lanson Prize for best drinks book
3. *Grand Cru: The Great Wines of Burgundy through the Perspective of its Finest Vineyards* (2010)
4. *Sense and Semblance: An Anatomy of Superficiality in Modern Society* (2010)

He became a Master of Wine in 1984, and was elected to the Academie Internationale du Vin in 1996. He has since been a keynote speaker at wine symposia, a cruise lecturer and hosted the International Pinot Noir Celebration in Oregon.

Richard Norton-Taylor is a member of the Board and Policy Council of Liberty, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

1970

Ian Rogers writes: "The fourth book in the 'Captain Pegg-Legg' series of books for children aged six-eight was published in October 2014. Quirky, exciting and with

a touch of faith, these stories have been well received by their readers. More details on my website: www.ianrogers.org.uk (I am also on Facebook as Ian Captain Pegg-Legg Rogers)."

1973



Robert Dodds has published a new novel, *The Garden of Earthly Delights*, inspired by the work of the 15th century artist Hieronymus Bosch and described by the Historical Novel Society as "a gripping and absorbing read".

Robert writes for both adults and children and has been widely published and broadcast. His first novel for children, *The Midnight Clowns* (Andersen Press, 2000) was short-listed for the Kathleen Fidler Award, and also published in France by Flammarion. His other children's novels are *Nightland* (Andersen Press, 2002), *The Secret of Iguando* (Andersen Press, 2004), and *The Murrian* (Andersen Press, 2008). He has two books in A&C Black's "Wired" series for struggling teenage readers: *The Haunted Mobile* (2011) and *Pitch Dark* (2012). For adult readers, his collection of stories *Rattlesnake and Other Tales* was published in 2001 by Polygon, the fiction imprint of Edinburgh University Press. In 2011 he published the comic novel *Sitting Duck* ("Not a whodunit, but a who'll do it!"). He has had nine stories broadcast on BBC Radio Four, a professional stage play production, and has written and directed several short films shown on television and at film festivals.

After several years working in England, Mexico, and the USA, he has settled in Edinburgh. In the mid 1980s, he set up a new degree course in film and television production at Edinburgh College of Art, which he led until becoming head of the School of Visual Communication in the college. In 2008 he left academia to spend more time writing.

David Elleray received an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2014 for services to football,

and has also been awarded an honorary doctorate from Sheffield Hallam University.

Graham Kings has been appointed to a new seven year post of Mission Theologian in the Anglican Communion, and started in July 2015. The role was founded by a partnership of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Church Mission Society and Durham University. He is an honorary fellow at Durham University, and will convene a series of theological seminars in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as London and Durham. These will be published in a new book series.

1974

Patrick Allitt's new book is *A Climate of Crisis: America in the Age of Environmentalism* (Penguin, 2014).

1975

Jill Hollis has translated, adapted for the UK market, and published a radical new sex education book for teenagers: *Sex & Lovers: A Practical Guide*. The author, Ann-Marlene Henning, is a neuropsychologist whose work in sex therapy and couples counselling persuaded her that it is essential to provide young people with good quality information about all aspects of sex, including relationships and emotional health, so as to allow them to enjoy sex safely. For more information about the book, please visit www.sexandlovers.uk.

John Mason was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2015 for his work for the Scottish Government with the business sector and his involvement in various major events in Scotland during 2014, notably as board member of the Organizing Committee of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and as the lead for the Scottish Government in delivering the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles and the Homecoming 2014 programme (which comprised over 1,000 events throughout Scotland).

1976

Neville Ford writes: "I have been at Chester since 1986 in a variety of roles. Currently



Senior Executive Dean of Research at University of Chester and recently appointed as Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic) from 1 August 2015”.

1979

Meryl James is a founder member of the Scotland China Education Network, and has been appointed Senior Professional Development Officer at Scotland’s National Centre for Languages.

1980

Charles Doyle published *A Dictionary of Marketing* (OUP, 2011).

Karina Vidler’s poetry pamphlet “Facing” was published in February 2015 by Prolebooks in their collaborative poetry collection *Caboodle* (www.prolebooks.co.uk).

1981

Sukhvinder Kaur-Stubbs has been appointed Chair of the Taylor Bennett Foundation, which promotes young people into PR and communication roles.

1982

Stuart Oliver was awarded a PhD in 2014 by the University of Surrey.

1984

Jonathan Hall’s latest book is *Artefact and Artifice: Classical Archaeology and the Ancient Historian* (University of Chicago Press, 2014).

Martin Lipton writes: “After 20 years travelling the globe to watch football, time for a change of pace. Now I get to shout at the people who travel the globe to watch football. Still getting my head around commuting and an office. Remains significantly better than working for a living...” [Read Martin Lipton’s article about Neil Tanner on pp. 25-27].

1986

Jason Dykes lives in East Leicestershire with Emma and their four children—Fred and Iko (9), Nell and Alma (2). Jason is Professor of Computer Science at City University London,

chaired IEEE Information Visualization in 2014 and gave a keynote at GIScience 2014. He greatly enjoyed the #TourDeHertford in 2015.

1987

Roderick Tweedy recently published a book on William Blake entitled *The God of the Left Hemisphere: Blake, Bolte Taylor and the Myth of Creation* (Karnac Books). It has been reviewed by Philip Pullman as “absolutely fascinating—in fact both revelatory and thrilling”, and by Iain McGilchrist as “a highly original and stimulating book, the best I have read on one of the greatest of English poets.”

1991

Muhammed Haque was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 2015.

1992

Warren Swain recently moved from the University of Queensland in Australia to take up the post of Professor of Law, Faculty of Law at the University of Auckland New Zealand. He has also published *The Law of Contract 1670-1870* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and co-edited with Kit Barker and Ross Grantham *The Law of Misstatements 50 Years on from Hedley Byrne v Heller* (Hart Publishing, 2015).

1993

Laura Davidson has established an exclusive jewellery range for blues athletes. After Hertford she undertook a PhD in Law at Cambridge where she became president of the university modern pentathlon club, gaining three half blues, as well as two full blues in fencing. However, she was disappointed to discover little available for female athletes to celebrate their achievement; all the familiar “blues kit” had been designed for men.

Upon graduation, Laura decided to help redress the balance. Despite her busy career as a barrister, she designed and commissioned a jewellery range in India. It

has now been launched in both Cambridge and Oxford Universities. “I think it’s so important to raise the profile of women’s sport, and to recognise the hard work it takes to gain a blue or half blue”, said Laura, adding, “and it’s also a lovely reminder of your time at university.”

The jewellery range incorporates semi-precious stones inset in high quality sterling silver. The colours of the inlaid stones reflect both the university, and whether the wearer has gained a full or a half-blue. Alumni from both universities with blues and half-blues are able to purchase all items from the range online at www.oxbridgebluesjewellery.com. Special edition unisex cufflinks will shortly join the range.

1995

Mihail Evans published *The Singular Politics of Derrida and Baudrillard* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

1996

Katherine Byers (née Edmunds) has been elected School Trustee for Salt Spring Island, Southern Gulf Islands, BC, 2012.

1997

Anna Morris (née Hodkinson) writes: “We have recently bought and moved into a lovely house a few kilometres north of Perth, Western Australia, with our daughter Martha who turned one in June 2014.”



1999

Stephanie Cullen became a rowing World Champion in September 2011 in Women’s Lightweight Quad.

2000

Jayne Glass (néé Parmee) was the lead editor of a book about land ownership and sustainable land use in Scotland called *Lairds, Land and Sustainability: Scottish Perspectives on Upland Management* (Edinburgh University Press, 2013).

2005

Rachel Williams received an MA in Communication, Media Practice and PR with Distinction from Swansea University.

Emeritus Fellow

John Torrance won the British Association of Local History Publications Award for 2014 with his article “Branscombe 1280-1340: An East Devon Manor before the Black Death”, published in *The Devon Historian*, 80 (2012). John retired to Poole in 1996, and has lived in East Devon since 2006. He is an active member of the Branscombe Project for oral and local history, led by his partner Barbara Farquharson. Since 2010 he has been convening the East Devon Local History Workshop, in collaboration with Philippe Planel and supported by the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as a forum for village history societies.

Oxford Full Blue pendant



Oxford Half Blue bracelet



Oxford Full Blue ring





Obituaries

We record with regret the following deaths of alumni, listed in order of the date of matriculation. Use of an asterisk (*) indicates that an obituary follows; we are most grateful to those who have supplied this material.

Honorary Fellow

Paul Langford – aged 69

1936

Thomas Pickard – aged 97

1939

Barry Finch – aged 90
Geoffrey Sharland OBE – aged 91

1940

Jeffrey Attale* – aged 92

1941

Peter Arkell – aged 87
Walter Sayers – aged 92

1942

Robert Hornby – aged 90
Gus Taylor – aged 91

1943

Frederic Bayliss – aged 89
Frank Orford* – aged 88
Ronald Thornton – aged 86

1945

Derek Bridge – aged 90
Brian Murray – aged 73
Michael Strickland – aged 87

1947

Peter Barclay – aged 92

1948

Anthony Fells – aged 88

1950

Neil Denison – aged 85

1951

John Newton – aged 83
Laurence Olivier – aged 81

1953

Keith Jackson – aged 80
Ian Matheson – aged 82

1954

Barry Coles – aged 80
Christopher Warren – aged 80

1955

David Woolf – aged 79

1957

Richard Norton* – aged 78
Ian Sinclair

1959

Murdoch Mackenzie – aged 76

1961

Peter Colyer – aged 71

1966

John Taylor – aged 80

1969

David Hager* – aged 64

1972

David Allen – aged 59

1973

Stratford Caldecott – aged 60

1976

Paul Cotton – aged 56

1986

Richard Wragg – aged 47

1992

Laura Marshall – aged 44

2006

Takashi Saito – aged 51

Jeffery Errol Attale 1922-2015



Jeffery Attale was born in London in 1922. His father Errol was a doctor, originally from Trinidad and practising in London at that time. Jeffery was a pupil of Cranleigh School and went up to Hertford College in 1940. He intended to study medicine but half way through his studies he decided to change to dentistry. In 1942 he went to Guy's Hospital to continue his training, and he obtained his Licentiate of Dental Surgery (LDS) in 1945. Due to the fact that it was wartime, there was no official degree ceremony at the time. Jeffery eventually received his degree on 23 June 1992 at the Royal Festival Hall, when medical students and others who had graduated in the war finally had their own graduation day, at a ceremony at the South Bank presided over by HRH Princess Anne.

On completing his studies, Jeffery joined the Royal Navy in Cornwall as Surgeon Lieutenant, before moving to Haslemere in 1948 to join the dental

firm Strickland and Partners, where he had a long and fulfilling career as a dental surgeon up until his retirement in 1986. He was elected to the board of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1975 as a representative for the LDS, and served on the board until 1979. Many former patients have paid tribute to his professionalism, sense of humour, charming smile and ability to calm the fears of even those most terrified of the dental chair.

Jeff had a lifelong passion for sports of all kinds. He was awarded a half blue at Oxford for squash, and played for many years afterwards until the pressure of years forced him to give up squash and continue with tennis, which he played at least once a week until the age of 87. He also loved sailing, walking, fishing and swimming. He was an accomplished glass engraver, loved a good game of chess and bridge, and never tired of travel, good food and wine. He was devoted to his family and friends and kept in touch with many friends from his childhood, eventually outliving all of them. Jeffery will be fondly remembered for his sense of humour, fun and enjoyment of life as well as his professional years as a compassionate and caring dental surgeon.

Sally-Ann Attale

Frank Orford 1925-2014

My husband Frank Orford, who died in the summer of 2014, very much valued his time at Hertford. He was attached to Barnet House and left Oxford to become a social worker at the Institute of Social Psychiatry in London. He then qualified as a psychologist, taking a post-graduate course at University College London. He worked at the Fountain Hospital in South London and there became interested in autism, undertaking some groundbreaking research on the basis of which he served on Dr Mildred Creek's working



party defining the condition. Subsequently he moved to the adult department of the Tavistock Clinic, from which he retired in 1990. He had meanwhile qualified as a psychoanalyst and maintained a lively private practice for many years thereafter. He is survived by his wife, son and two grandchildren.

Eileen Orford

Richard Norton 1937-2015

Richard Norton died peacefully in July 2015 after battling with Parkinson's disease for a number of years.

Richard was one of the best oarsmen Hertford has ever produced, winning the Silver Goblets at Henley Royal Regatta in 1959 with pairs' partner Hugh Scurfield (1956). The duo went on to represent Great Britain at the European Championships that same year, where they placed fourth.

The booklet Richard wrote on their experience in the pair, *In search of the Goblets*, is a fascinating read and the pair racing at Henley was described by the HRR archivist as follows:

"RB Norton and HH Scurfield of Hertford College Oxford won the Goblets, their races being noted for their exceptionally high rating, starting at around 45, rarely dropping below 38 and finishing at over 40."

Richard became a stalwart of the Boat Club Society over many, many years, including a stint as Chairman. In this role he was instrumental in getting a new boathouse built for Hertford at Longbridges. He also became an evangelist for Thames traditional boats, participating in the Vogalonga in Venice on multiple occasions and championing the creation of City Barge in Oxford.

He will be sadly missed by HCBC and the society.

Duncan Coneybear (1986)

David Hager 1951-2015



Over one hundred colleagues, clients, family and friends attended a memorial service at the college on 17 April 2015 to celebrate the life of David Hager, who died in January at the age of 64 after a harsh battle with brain cancer.

David gained a double first in Engineering and Economics and was always immensely proud of his time at Oxford. After university he qualified as an actuary in near record time—just two years. After short spells in investment banking and insurance, he joined the consulting actuaries Bacon & Woodrow in 1975 and remained there for his working life. He became an equity partner of the firm in just five years, followed by a spell as Managing Partner in the 1990s, one of the most profitable periods of the firm's existence.

David was one of the UK's leading pension fund investment consultants, having pioneered the development of investment performance measurement, and was the author of a number of definitive books and papers. He held strong views on a range of investment subjects—soft commissions, active versus passive management, equities versus

bonds to name a few—and supported his clients through many periods of substantial change in the pensions industry. He was a fearsome negotiator on behalf of his clients and his firm alike.

David was most definitely a high flyer—pun fully intended, since flying was his passion in life. He held a commercial pilot's license and an air transport pilot's license, and liked nothing better than offering to fly a client to their meeting.

All who knew him remember David's professionalism, his ability to convey complex subjects in a straightforward way, his cheeky grin and his excellent dry wit. He was an inspiration to the people who worked with him, and an excellent advertisement for the actuarial profession. His untimely death deprived clients of his insights and expertise and colleagues of his backing and support for their continued development. He will be sorely missed.

Kevin Wesbroom (1975)

John Hammond 1928-2013

Norman Perrin (1948) writes on the outstanding contribution to college football of John Hammond (1928-2013), whose death we reported last year:

"When I came up to Hertford in 1948 I played in a truly nondescript side languishing in the lower depths of the inter-collegiate second division. We frequently couldn't muster a full XI without the aid of one or more college scouts.

1949 saw the arrival of a quite large contingent of players from either side of the Pennines. Most, but not all, had already completed their National Service and were thus more experienced and brawnier than those, like me, who came up straight from school. But more importantly they came from football playing (state!) schools. I soon lost my place in the First XI but by then we were able to field a regular Second XI. There was therefore a sound foundation for future success, albeit in need of someone to lead

and mould the individuals into a tactically coherent team.

That leader emerged in the person of John Hammond. Success soon came in the 1950/51 season. In Michaelmas the second division championship was won with an unbeaten record. But Trinity was even better, when Hertford won the inter-collegiate Cuppers with some great scores against larger, and supposedly sportier, colleges.

The final itself, against Keble, is as fresh today in my memory as it was at the time. The final score appeared to suggest a close match. Quite the opposite; we cruised into a 3-0 lead in short order, relaxed to 3-1. John was highly incensed at this lapse and demanded more concentration. So 4-1. Error then 4-2, 5-2, 5-3, 6-3 then with only seconds to go 6-4. No time to recover the three goal lead!"



Letter from the Chairman of the Hertford Society

Your society held its annual general meeting in college on the last Sunday in June as usual. Having presided at the meeting, Roger Westbrook, CMG came to the end of his second three-year term as president of the society, the limit permitted under the rules, and then retired from office. Although there were many other claims on his time, Roger had been able to attend a number of committee meetings and many society social occasions. Roger's presence at these gatherings elevated "happenings" into "events" and his conviviality added lustre and bonhomie to every occasion. No mere figurehead, Roger made good use of his time at these meetings since, as the president is supernumerary to the committee, he was able to offer guidance and constructive criticism and to hold the committee to account, though this was always done with tact and charm honed to a high pitch by long and eminent service for Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service. The meeting was an opportunity to thank Roger warmly for his enormous and ongoing enthusiasm for the society and its doings and we hope to see him on many future occasions.

Following the president's retirement, the committee had given some time to considering a worthy successor. As you will have seen in my letter last year, the society has been greatly favoured by the addition of three further vice presidents: David, Lord Pannick QC, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles KCMG LVO, Professor Sir Walter Bodmer MA PhD FRCPATH FRS and Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith PC.

The roll of past presidents of the society includes, among others, Thomas, 3rd Baron Ponsonby of Shulbrede—Labour member of the House of Lords and

Opposition Chief Whip in the 1980s, and David, Baron Waddington—Conservative member of the House of Commons, Chief Whip (1987-89), Home Secretary (1989-90), and Conservative Leader of the Lords (1990-92). During the year, I was asked by the committee to approach the Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, PC to establish whether she would be willing to be nominated by the committee to stand for election at the annual general meeting, and I am delighted to report that Jacqui was elected at the meeting as the new president of the society for an initial term of three years. Jacqui's credentials are impeccable in the company of such past presidents: while serving as Member of Parliament for Redditch between 1997 and 2010, she held variously the posts of Minister of State for Schools in the Department for Education and Skills (2005-06); Government Chief Whip (2006-07); and Home Secretary (2007-09), being the first woman to be appointed Home Secretary, and one of only three women to have held one of the Great Offices of State (her peers being Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister and Margaret Beckett, Foreign Secretary). Though losing her seat in the House of Commons in the 2010 General Election, Jacqui continues in public service as a member of Her Majesty's Honourable Privy Council, as Chair of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and as an Honorary Fellow of the college. The society is extremely fortunate to have a president so involved in college and I am sure I write for all in saying we look forward to seeing her at events and committee meetings as frequently as her busy schedule may permit.

The annual general meeting was followed by the usual convivial gathering in the Old Quad for drinks. Sunshine had been ordered and arrived, slightly belatedly. Drinks were followed by a very good buffet luncheon in Hall at which the photos of Hertford College women were a subject of much discussion. One of the

most significant ongoing projects to be funded by your society (of which more below) is the renovation of a number of the portraits which were—until recently—on display in hall. Christopher Mockler has undertaken substantially all of this work himself to date, in collaboration with the Development Office, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for the significant work he has done to progress this task. The portraits have been taken down, and several are now in the progress of restoration at very reasonable cost. The Ashmolean Museum has agreed to store the portraits

☺ *Beside the ongoing portrait restoration project mentioned above, we made a number of substantial gifts to college during the year* ☺

until they may be rehung in due course.

As has been noted elsewhere, the General Election in May brought various fortunes for several Hertford Old Members. I will mention only one, as Jeremy Quin (History, 1987), who was elected the Conservative Member of Parliament for Horsham in the General Election in May, served on the society committee for some years.

We saw two departures from the committee this year: Tom Wippermann, elected to the committee in 2006, has found attending increasingly difficult given the pressure of work, and the

society owes Tom its thanks for his input over recent years and I hope that we may see him at social events in future; and Cicely Brown, who was co-opted onto the committee in 2006 and elected as membership secretary in 2007, a post she held continuously until June 2015, during which time she was responsible for a significant overhaul of the society's membership records and database, in close liaison with the Development Office, and to the extent the society has any reliable records of its membership at all, it is largely down to Cicely's efforts in this regard. Cicely was often a constructively questioning committee member, and we shall miss her input at future committee meetings very much. Like Tom, Cicely faces many pressures at the moment and has decided that she should stand down rather than occupy a post which she feels she is not carrying out with the attention it deserves. Pro tem, the committee has tasked me to fulfil this function.

Happily, James Weinberg was elected to the committee at the annual general meeting, having attended a number of committee functions during his tenure as JCR President. To remain effective, the committees require regular infusions of talent and enthusiasm and I would like to invite any society members with an interest in contributing in this way to get in touch.

Beside the ongoing portrait restoration project mentioned above, we made a number of substantial gifts to college during the year. The Bill Atkinson Trophy was once again awarded to the most promising new recruit to the Boat Club; choral awards, jointly funded by the society and past and present principals of college, were made to support the college choir, and such is the success of this scheme that it may be expanded in the forthcoming year; further financial support was given to the Ambassadors' Scheme to encourage applications to Hertford and Oxford more widely from students at schools with few



or no previous applicants; a contribution was made towards JCR Freshers' Week to ensure a welcome to new members of college; and, with many thanks to Shirley Stacey for doing so much of the research and work, a contribution was made to the equivalent event for the MCR, so often overlooked in the past; the society again contributed toward the cost of Simpkin the cat, a total of £3,750 all funded by members' generosity.

It is now some years since the society last appealed for its members to renew their periodic five year subscription and the committee will be arranging for a general invitation for subscription renewals later this year in conjunction with a mailing from the Development Office to minimize the cost of the exercise. Depending on the level of renewals received, the society will continue making contributions on similar lines to those described above and also a contribution toward the cost of the publication in which this letter appears, and in conjunction with the Home Bursar, to investigate the practicality of installing handrails to assist the ascent of the first steps from the Old Quad into Hall. Angela Fane and Fiona Robertson continue their

efforts to devise an insignia for all those who wish for an alternative to the society's tie.

For all their efforts throughout the year, my thanks to all members on the committee this year who give up a great deal of their time to support the ongoing activities of the society and to ensure its smooth operation. My thanks in particular, once again, to our secretary, Graham Jones who not only ensures the orderly running of the committee's meetings during the year, maintains comprehensive and accurate minutes and provides technical input on the application of the society's rules, but excelled himself again in organizing the annual general meeting and luncheon, which was generally held to be a great success. My final thanks to all members for their ongoing generous support of the society: without your support, neither the society's congenial social events nor the substantial financial assistance given to college and its constituents would be possible. Thank you.

Robert Seymour, Chairman

