



Hertford College News

Issue 19, 2011

A Passion for Languages and Singing
Recognition for the Hertford Community
Student Funding and Lord Browne's Review

Principal's Column

The snows of December blanketed Cattle Street creating a vista which will doubtless grace many an Oxford Christmas card in 2011. Beautiful as this was, there was also something eerily appropriate about the sudden arctic spell given the financial climate in which the nation finds itself and the immediate prospects for higher education funding. I deal with the specifics of Lord Browne's Review and Government's response elsewhere, in so far as they deal with fees, but the Review's recommendations go beyond this to touch on the essential nature of the education we offer our undergraduates and how we recruit them.

Under the promised legislation Universities will have to meet demanding criteria for 'access and outreach' if they are to charge fees above £6,000. Every University will also have to make explicit what it offers its students in a series of undertakings making up a 'student charter'; something we should not shy away from. Hertford was engaged in access and outreach before the terms were coined and we have a long-standing commitment to excellence in teaching. Pursuing these combined goals in the new circumstances will not, however, be straightforward.

Having abolished Oxford's entrance examination in the 1990s we rely on 'A' Level grades, supplemented – as growing numbers gain three 'A's – by subject-specific tests, and from 2011 by the new super-grade A*s. This was done to ensure fairness, but A Level success is itself unevenly distributed socially and by school type, and candidates from relatively deprived backgrounds may well fail to display their innate ability. If we are to realise our access goals without compromising quality we shall need imaginative and innovative ways of reaching gifted students who might otherwise fail to shine at A Level. We cannot simply drum up applications from those with three 'A's who might not otherwise think of themselves as Oxford material. We shall need to expand our very successful summer school programme, but other forms of pre-A Level intervention will also be needed. One possibility is a pre-degree 'foundation year' for high-quality students whose A Level grades might not otherwise allow them to come to Oxford.

These are not the only issues on which we are likely to be judged. Oxford's student charter will have to set out the precise terms of our 'offer', and undergraduates paying up to £9,000 per year in fees are likely to be demanding consumers. Oxford offers an unparalleled undergraduate teaching model, in the shape of the tutorial system, but we cannot afford to be complacent and must ensure that this unique, but costly, model is no more expensive than it needs to be. The University is therefore currently conducting a review of undergraduate teaching with the four academic divisions working closely with Colleges to ensure the consistent delivery of excellence as efficiently as possible.

While these events loomed on the horizon, the life of the College continued and we were pleased to welcome two new Fellows in October. Dr. Fernando Alday joined us as Fellow and Tutor in Applied Mathematics in succession to Piotr Crusciel, and Dr. Oliver Noble Wood as a Fellow and Tutor in Modern Languages. Oliver holds a newly-created University Lecturership in Spanish which will henceforth be offered to Hertford undergraduates in this School. We also marked the retirement in September of Professor Robin Devenish who has served the College since 1979 as Fellow and Tutor in Physics, and latterly as Dean. We look forward to his continuing association with the College as an Emeritus Fellow. On a sadder note, I also have to report the death of Margaret Malpas, our Lecturer in Modern Languages. She will be sorely missed and we wish her family all the best.

Dr John Landers
Principal

'Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant'. Robert Louis Stevenson

This sentiment, to a large extent, represents the ethos of our Development Office, and many other development offices and charitable organisations worldwide. In the last three years alone, there has been a staggering increase in alumni interest and attendance at College events. Plus, more people are giving to Hertford than ever before. This is one of the ways by which we measure our success.

The next page gives a pictorial review of what has been happening in College, through the eyes of the Members and Development Office since the beginning of Michaelmas 2010. To list but a few events: 200 people attended the much-enjoyed London Drinks at Nabarro LLP back in November, hosted by Hertford alumnus, Glyn Taylor (English, 1979). Roger Van Noorden's memorial celebration, albeit an extremely sad occasion, witnessed a heart-warming turnout in the Examination Schools followed by a fitting dinner in Hall – many attendees commented on the top standard of music and the appropriateness of the speeches. After the commitment that Roger showed Hertford, it was a priority that a fitting tribute should be given in his honour. Special mention must go to the Gaudy for matriculands of 1986, 87 and 88; they were great guests and, again, the turnout was fantastic. Prior to the event, we had almost reached our limit but couldn't help squeezing one more person in after he made a plaintive plea that he would even sit at a table by himself and bring his own sandwiches.

In terms of fundraising, we began the year with Hertford's third Telethon which focused on raising money for the new bursaries scheme, student hardship and a number of other important Hertford activities. We were pleased with the results and £172,195 was pledged.

It is essential for us to raise at least £100,000 each year for the bursaries scheme to ensure its long term success in maintaining Hertford's attraction to students from less well-off backgrounds, and consequently our academic standing.

Those of you who read the last issue of *Hertford College News and Magazine* will know that Roger Van Noorden died in April 2010; the College has now launched an appeal to endow a Fellowship in his name. In order to ensure that we can continue to provide the outstanding tutorial and research supervision that is Oxford's greatest asset, as well as to secure the long-term future of the subject, Roger Van Noorden was convinced that it would be necessary to endow at least one Economics post in perpetuity and therefore set about raising the money. The College's portion of this £2m is £800,000 and we have already secured £100,000 towards this total. Former students and friends have been very enthusiastic about securing Roger's legacy.

The second post that we are seeking to endow is a History Fellowship in honour of Geoffrey Ellis who retired in 2004 and Toby Barnard who is due to retire in 2012. When he retires it is likely that no one will be appointed by the University to succeed him and neither the College nor the History Faculty can afford to guarantee a replacement. However, the University has set up a new Oxford Teaching Fund, where it will guarantee to pay its share of a new appointment in perpetuity (40% of the cost of a lecturer's salary), if the College is able fully to endow its share. This means raising a fund of £1.2m, or £960,000 with Gift Aid. This has to be entirely new money: even money raised in the past for the support of History will not count. This funding comes from income set aside from the Oxford University Press. If we can raise our portion, £800,000 will be set aside to guarantee the University's share of the post. All funds raised towards this post will go towards the permanent endowment of History teaching at Hertford even if we do not reach the target within the three years necessary to trigger this matched funding.

This represents an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of fundraising but we believe that Hertford's Old Members will wish to ensure that future generations of students can continue to enjoy the same quality of individual teaching that they received in the past.

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Newsflash: Hertford events' greatest turnout *'since records began'...!*



Alumni Concert



Gaudy 1986-8



EMBA Soirée



A pictorial review of the
academic year so far!



London Drinks at Nabarro LLP



Telethon 2010



Choir tour to San Francisco

Background photo and top caption taken by Alice Thornton (History, 2008)

Hertford Crew Fight to the End: Results of Racing at Henley Royal Regatta

As the culmination of a hard year of training and some fine racing in both Torpids and Eights, Hertford's Men's squad decided to fly the flag for the College at the 2010 Henley Royal Regatta. The regatta is so popular and entries so over-subscribed, with crews travelling from all over the world to compete, that qualifying races have now been in operation for many years. All but the very fastest crews are required to undertake a time trial over the regatta course on the Friday before the main racing week.

Hertford successfully negotiated the qualifying races and this earned them a place in the draw for the Temple Challenge Cup, the main competition for men's student eights.

The format of the main racing at Henley is a side by side knock out competition, held between wooden booms that mark out the length of the course and (generally!) prevent punts and pleasure boats from straying on to the racing line. Racing lasts from Wednesday until Sunday - with one round a day. The winners earn the right to compete on the next day, while the losers have to console themselves by watching from the bank (perhaps from one of the many bars that spring up along the length of the course for the duration of the regatta). Hertford became the only Oxford college racing at Henley 2010, and in fact the only Oxbridge college to qualify for the Temple Challenge Cup. After a lot of hard work Hertford had earned the right to compete alongside such traditional rowing powers as Imperial College, Durham University, Harvard and the University of Washington.

Henley can be cruel and Hertford was unlucky in the draw. Hertford was pitted in the first round against the University of London (UL) Boat Club 'A' crew - one of the pre-regatta favourites in the draw and averaging over 2 stone/man heavier than our crew. Racing into something of a headwind, this proved to be the crucial difference as the UL oarsmen were able to use the extra weight to their advantage. Despite ceding ground off the start, the Hertford crew maintained the good form drilled in over the season and harried UL all the way to the Finish line, even coming back at them past the Barrier (roughly a third of the way into the race, on a course that is known by landmarks rather than distances). This forced a mid-race spurt from UL at 38 strokes per minute in order to restore their lead. The final verdict was 11/2 lengths, with times at the Barrier, Fawley and the Finish of 1.55, 3.15 and 6.52 respectively.

Hertford alumna Zoe Lee also raced in the Princess Grace Challenge Cup for women's quad sculls. A brutal draw saw Zoe racing on Friday for Imperial College/Sport Imperial against the New Zealand squad crew entered as Waiariki Rowing Club. The verdict of 2 3/4 lengths was a real credit against the internationals who went on to contest the final against the all-conquering GB squad crew. [This racing experience at Henley certainly stood Zoe in good stead for the World University Rowing Championships, at which she competed soon after and which saw her crowned World Champion in the women's coxless fours event.]

HCBCS hosted drinks and refreshments for the Hertford crew on Wednesday straight after their race (which were truly well-earned!) and also held a very enjoyable get-together (afternoon tea and drinks) on the Henley Saturday for all HCBC oarspeople past and present. This was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. The Saturday event, held in Millionaires Field next to the Regatta Enclosure, was judged a great success by those who attended and we plan to repeat the format next year.



We were delighted to see so many former HCBC members in and around the regatta over the whole week. Put next year's Henley Saturday, 2nd July 2011, in the diary now!

Duncan Coneybear
(Literae Humaniores, 1986)
HCBCS Chairman, 2010/11

Hertford crew as pictured above: Back row (left to right): Alex Woolgar; Phil Robinson; Pete Morten; J-L Wilkinson; Chris Dalley (coach); Mark Valentine; Joe Sadowski. Front row (left to right): Paul Mattick (assistant coach); Graham Topping (coach); Jon Beckett; Tom Roberts; Doug Laburn.

Student Funding and Lord Browne's Review

Hertford is noted for its dual commitment both to academic excellence and to making that excellence available to all who can benefit from it regardless of their background or home circumstances. This has always been a challenging commitment and forthcoming changes in the system of undergraduate funding will make it even more so. For much of the post-war period Oxford and Cambridge received two streams of public funding in support of undergraduate teaching. The funding bodies (most recently HEFCE) provided teaching money – the so called 'T' grant – within the block grant allocated to British Universities, but Colleges also charged undergraduate fees which, latterly, were paid by Local Education Authorities. Some T grant money was clawed back, but the net effect was an 'Oxbridge premium' per undergraduate of about 20% relative to other Universities. Home undergraduates themselves effectively received their education free of charge along with a means-tested maintenance grant.

The 1990s saw major changes in this regime with the effective abolition of the College fee, so that Oxford received a 'single cheque' from the government, and the erosion of the Oxbridge premium. Loans replaced maintenance grants and undergraduates themselves paid a notionally variable 'top-up' fee. In practice the ceiling was set so low all institutions charged the maximum, which is currently a little over £3,000 and comparable to the T grant *per capita*. For Oxford this represented a regime of chronic underfunding since the tutorial system's costs raised expenditure per undergraduate to the region of £16,000, and the gap was met from endowment income, cross-subsidy from the HEFCE grant's research element, and from the generosity of donors.

The recent Browne Review, and the subsequent government response, mean that we now face another upheaval, and one with potentially far-reaching consequences. Public funding for Humanities teaching is to be effectively abolished with the withdrawal of the T grant and the retention of only limited funding for some courses in the sciences, medicine and technology (the so-called STEM subjects). It will be

“Public funding for Humanities teaching is to be effectively abolished...”

replaced by an increased student fee, at a level of between £6,000 and £9,000, together with a new system of means-tested grants and loans.

The increased fees have attracted much comment and protest, but it should be stressed that students will not have to pay anything until they have graduated and are earning at least £21,000 a year. Then they will pay an annual amount equal to 9% of their income above £21,000 with an earnings-related interest rate rising to RPI + 3%, with any remaining debt written off after 30 years. The scheme's defenders point out that the poorest will pay less than they do now and only the better-off will pay appreciably more. Hence, they argue, there is no 'objective' reason why it should deter potential students from applying. This may be so, but there is no doubt that the prospect of graduating with £30,000 or more of debt will be a daunting one to many, particularly those from poorer backgrounds. Moreover, debt repayments will

“...to charge substantially more than £6,000 we shall have to meet demanding access and outreach criteria.”

absorb a substantial proportion of the disposable income of many graduates going into professions such as teaching or social work.

At the time of writing we do not yet know what level of fees Oxford will set, but even at £9,000 we will face a very large gap between our fee income and the costs of the tutorial system and the support of our Old Members will be as important as ever if it is to be maintained. Moreover, to charge substantially more than £6,000 we shall have to meet demanding – as yet unannounced – access and outreach criteria. We should welcome these, but meeting them – and dealing with the spectre of graduate indebtedness – will require an imaginative and well-funded range set of initiatives which I am confident will be forthcoming. The generosity of our Old Members has enabled us already to put in place a system of undergraduate bursaries, and I have no doubt that with the support of the wider Hertford community we shall rise to whatever challenges the coming years may bring.

Dr John Landers
Principal

The Circle of Giving from a Student Perspective

How I have benefited from the College...

Geologists are often a strange breed who enjoy wandering rugged and remote terrains, through wind, rain and sun, in search of their beloved rocks. This geologist is, (un)fortunately, no different. I am a current 4th year Earth Scientist at Hertford, studying for my master's degree. During my four years at Hertford I have been on various department run field trips to study geological histories, techniques and methodology to Scotland, France and Greece. Financial help from Hertford College's hardship fund has supported me throughout my mapping project, as outlined below, and without which I would have been unable to study in a site of such geological importance.



Sarah Harvey on field site in Scotland

As part of our degree we need to produce a geological study and map of 15 km² area of relatively complex geology during the summer before our third year. This involved us independently researching the area and planning the trip ourselves, an experience which certainly honed my negotiation and organisational skills! For my project I spent five weeks mapping and gathering geological data in the wilderness of the Highlands, in Durness. This was a fantastic trip, with a group of eight geologists travelling up to the isolated North Coast of Scotland where we quickly learned to live and cook (very cheaply) with each other as well as work together for a long, though surprisingly sunny, month. After spending several weeks baffled by numerous rock types and confusing structure, the violent geological history of the area finally came together whilst staring at a cliff face in the rain. After five weeks in the field my mapping partner and I filled up the car with several boxes of rock samples and embarked on the epic 17 hour drive home and the months of writing up.

Madly, having enjoyed my third year mapping project, I decided to spend some more time in the field in Scotland for my master's degree project, (entitled *The Grampian metamorphic gradient near the highland Boundary Fault, NE Scotland*). Last summer I spent several weeks in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, with a field assistant mapping and sampling a coastal section which had first been mapped in the 1890s. It is a classic study of metamorphism in Eastern Scotland which has had little attention in recent years or been studied with modern techniques.

Each student participating in field research receives a small contribution from the Geology department but this does not cover the cost of living let alone food, travel and insurance etc. The financial help I received from Hertford's hardship fund helped me to pay for campsite rent, food, travel and a field assistant. Not only have these trips developed my geological, organisational and personal skills but they also create some of the best and strongest relationships between geologists and so I would like to thank the donors to the College fund.

How I have given back to the College as a student...

As a 4th year undergraduate I, like you, am one of the lucky few to have benefited from being able to study at Hertford College. I have thoroughly enjoyed College life and I will take with me many fond memories. It was at the start of my third year that I decided to try and give back what I could to the College by taking part in the student Telethon 2009. I'm sure many of you were contacted by a current student, and some by myself. I hope you enjoyed hearing about new developments in college as well as being able to reminisce about Hertford; I enjoyed this experience so much that I decided to take part in the 2010 Telethon for Hertford as well as attend the London Drinks event, as a way to meet and talk to Old Members. It was fantastic to hear all the gossip about Hertford in days gone by, what careers alumni have gone into, and it was very touching to hear how many alumni still visited college and took part in events.

During my conversations, it struck me that most of our alumni, no matter what age, relish being part of the Hertford community. I am, therefore, looking forward to my student call and my chance to give more back to the College once I graduate and finally have to leave Hertford behind.

Sarah Harvey
(Geology, 2007)

A Passion for Languages & Singing

Hertford's Old Members have no doubt enjoyed satisfying careers in many different fields: some have found eminence, others wealth and a few notoriety, and now I have rashly agreed to contribute an account of episodes in my own life for the Newsletter. It sounds easy: I know who I am, I don't have to do any research, and I can choose to include only my best moments. Yet in fact writing about oneself is very hard. And then there is the question of where to start.



So, deep breath... and back to the autumn of 1976 when I arrived at Hertford to read Russian and French. I was not a diligent student of the University course, pursuing instead my own curriculum: the history and languages of Eastern Europe, and Russian music, especially opera. Anyone with rooms near mine may recall with horror hearing my

bass voice bringing a breath of the Bolshoi to Holywell, although the late 70s Russianists did develop a sneaking regard for a song called *Ekh dorogi* (*Oh, roads*). By the time I left Hertford in 1980 I had learnt all the most famous bass roles in the Russian operatic canon, and had added to a growing reputation for eccentricity by taking rooms in New College Lane where the rent was to walk the landlord's three dogs - a Labrador, a Basset hound and Snowball, half Basset, half Labrador, white at birth but now an unlikely shade of brown - every day. Snowball became well known in College and at the river where she helped me coach one of the Hertford eights.

Nearly twenty years later, living now in Blaenllechau, a remote village high on a south-facing slope opposite the small town of Ferndale in Wales, I finally got the opportunity to combine my twin passions for languages and opera. I had retired from a career in national and local government; Welsh National Opera in Cardiff needed a Russian coach for a production which included Tchaikovsky's unfinished *Romeo and Juliet*, and they duly employed me. Romeo was Wynne Evans, now galactically

famous as the tenor in the *Go Compare* adverts on television, and Juliet was Naomi Harvey whom I am currently (January 2011) coaching for Covent Garden's *The Tsar's Bride*. We all got on well; I had the time of my life, and knew that I had found a new career.

Following this first success, Welsh National Opera invited me to coach a whole series of Russian productions. As the performances were to have Russian conductors my brief was to achieve the best possible authenticity of pronunciation and delivery, and as I gained confidence I also relished the chance to use language to colour the characterisation of the roles: a chorus of peasants for example should not sound like guests at an imperial ball. Occasionally perhaps I went a little too far. In *The Queen of Spades* there is a chorus of children playing soldiers who answer the command to attention with a torrent of rapid, military Russian. I finally got this rapped out in fiercely convincing fashion by asking the twelve-year-old performers to think of the meerkats of *Compare the Market.com* fame, but was chided by a Russian colleague: 'Da, John, is very good, but please: they are children, not Soviet Army on parade'.

Knowledge built up since boyhood was now in demand, and I have coached singers for roles in London, Stockholm, New York and Chicago as well as in Cardiff. However, the most rewarding task is to coach an entire production; to hear the language gain life as part of a complete, well-crafted piece of theatre. Singers can only perform and interpret their roles if the words they sing are convincing to themselves as well as to the audience, so authentic diction, far from being an unattainable goal, is actually the key to a great performance: and most of my pupils have relished the challenge!

Alongside opera work I have for many years conducted Côr Meibion Morlais, a male voice choir of thirty-five well-trained voices based in Ferndale. Although the choir is an amateur one, the choristers have very high standards and consequently are much travelled and much in demand. Working with them has allowed me to conduct concerts in various thrilling venues including the Sacré Cœur in Paris, the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York City, the Basilica of St Stephen in Budapest and even the Finnish Parliament, the *Eduskunta*, in Helsinki, where a performance of *Finlandia* in Welsh and Finnish brought tears to the eyes of the Speaker, Mr Niinistö. Most recently, we shared a concert in the Rhondda with the Russian State Academic Choir from Moscow - the evening

was a musical success, but the Russians felt very cold in the deep snows and spectacular frost of our winter.

In April 2007 I was invited by the Cantorion Cenedlaethol Cymru (National Singers of Wales) to conduct a series of concerts in Argentina, and specifically in the two areas of Patagonia settled by Welsh-speaking populations. One concentration of Welsh settlement is on the Atlantic coast, the other at the foot of the Andes, and although they are divided by 400 miles of cold desert, a barren, stony expanse of reddish hills and gravel plains, the imprint of Wales is clear in the architecture of the chapels and the surnames of the people. In Trevelin, in the Andes, I conducted the annual *Gymanfa Ganu*, a Welsh hymn singing festival where four-part harmonies are observed and where the congregation raises the roof. Afterwards there were cups of tea for the visitors from Wales and glasses of red wine for the locals: thankfully this segregation of traditions soon broke down.

The following day we performed at the official celebration of the 1902 Plebiscite when the Welsh settlers voted in favour of Argentinian rather than Chilean sovereignty. The Plebiscite was the first example of universal male and female suffrage in the modern World and is marked each year by parades and speeches: I found myself addressing an Argentinian crowd in rather halting Spanish, conducting an Argentinian military band - and reflecting that it was also the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War during which I had been Private Secretary to the Chief of Public Relations at the Ministry of Defence in London!

One of the pleasures of a concert tour is to explore places one would not otherwise visit such as the magnificently inhospitable terrain of Argentina's far south. Dawn on the barren steppe above El Calafate was unforgettable, a cold sun parting ribs of grey cloud to light up the glacier-bound peaks of the southern Andes. Most of my work, however, has been in Eastern Europe, and in 2009 I joined a Hungarian project based on the epic *A Walesi Bárdok* (The Bards of Wales) by the 19th century poet János Arany (pronounced **Yaahnosh Oronn**).

The Bards of Wales tells how Edward I executed 500 Welsh bards for refusing to sing his praises at a banquet in Montgomery Castle, and is an allegory for the treatment of the Hungarians by the Austrians in the years following Hungary's abortive war of independence in 1848-9. Karl Jenkins has been commissioned to compose a new *cantata* incorporating Arany's words - the premiere will be in

Budapest in June - but the project has a wider remit to forge new cultural links between Wales and Hungary. Visits to Hungary to perform readings of the excellent English language version of the *Bards* by Peter Zollman and also to coach a Hungarian chorus to sing in Welsh and English - they did this to perfection for a St David's Day concert in Budapest - have allowed me to explore the country. Often abroad I have encountered musicians who cleave to new compositions of frightening atonality, but one stifling night in a village near the Ukrainian border I heard the unmistakable sound of traditional Hungary, a group playing violins and cimbaloms with an abandon that mingled Magyar, Slovak, Ukrainian and Romany motifs, all combining to infuse that special feeling of being really far from home beneath a foreign sky.

There have been many moments to savour in the role of choral director: conducting the singing at the Memorial Service for Diana Princess of Wales in Llandaf Cathedral, leading the magnificent Polish National Anthem sung with gusto by a packed audience of over 1,000 people in Kraków, sharing the stage with the Russian State Cossack Song and Dance Ensemble - luckily I wasn't required to dance - and conducting concert excerpts from *Boris Godunov*, a chance to bring to life the music I first studied nearly 35 years ago.

Which, by bringing me back to Hertford in 1976, is my exit line. Except to add for the benefit of my fellow Hertford Russianists: *Эх дороги* - "Ekh Dorogi"

Снег ли ветер	Come snow, come wind
Вспомним друзья:	Friends remember ever:
Нам дороги эти	The roads we trod together
Позабыть нельзя	Shall be forgotten never



I shall be glad to respond to any reader who is interested in this article and wishes to contact me:
johnasquith31@aol.co.uk

John Asquith
(Modern Languages, 1976)

Introducing Hertford's Newest Fellows

Gabriel Glickman was an undergraduate and postgraduate at Pembroke College, Cambridge. He was a lecturer for three years at Hertford before securing a British-Academy funded Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in 2009. His work concentrates on the British Isles in a European and global context c. 1660-1750. His first book, *The English Catholic Community 1688-1745: Politics, Culture and Ideology*, was published in 2009. His current project explores the way in which British imperialism impacted on domestic politics, culture and religion under the later Stuart monarchs.



Oliver Noble Wood is a University Lecturer in Golden Age Spanish Literature and a Tutorial Fellow in Spanish. He joins Hertford after four years at the University of Nottingham. His teaching and research interests focus on sixteenth and seventeenth-century Spanish culture, with particular emphasis on poetry, painting, and the history of the book. He is currently involved in a collaborative project on the library of Philip IV's first minister, the Count-Duke of Olivares.



Luis Fernando Alday is the new Tutorial Fellow in applied mathematics and works on theoretical high energy physics and string theory. In particular, his research deals with the so called AdS/CFT correspondence, a duality between gauge theories and theories of gravity, conformal fields theories and integrable systems.



Sallie Burrough is a Junior Research Fellow in Geography, which was funded by the Drapers' Company up until last year but now by the Leverhulme Trust. Sallie is carrying out research in Quaternary environmental change with a particular focus on dryland environments. Her work is primarily based in Zambia and Botswana in and around the Okavango, the Makgadikgadi pans and the upper Zambezi valley focusing on long term ecosystem and landscape dynamics with relevance both to past human dispersal and contemporary environmental management.

<http://oxlel.zoo.ox.ac.uk/dr-sallie-burrough>

Radoslaw Zubek is a Oxford University Lecturer in European Politics in the Department of Politics and International Relations and Tutorial Fellow in Politics at Hertford. His research interests are the comparative study of executives and parliaments in western and east central Europe, Europeanization of domestic political institutions and national compliance with European Union law. He is the author of *Core Executive and Europeanization in Central Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan 2008) and co-editor (with K. H. Goetz) of a special issue entitled *Performing to Type? Institutional Performance in New EU Member States* (Journal of Public Policy, 2010). He acts as Reviews Editor for the international peer-reviewed journal *West European Politics*. He is currently working on a research project on negative agenda control in ten European legislatures.



Recognition for the Hertford Community

Professor Martin Maiden, Fellow and Tutor in **Biology**, has recently been elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, a professional membership organisation committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and to promoting excellence in the practice of pathology. The election reflects Professor Maiden's continuing interest in the training of clinical microbiologists at the registrar and consultant level in the latest genomic techniques. The College aims to advance the science and practice of pathology, to provide public education, to promote research in pathology and to disseminate the results.

Dr Alan Bogg, Senior Tutor, Fellow and Tutor in **Law**, has been awarded the Peter Birks Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship 2010. This prize is awarded by the Society of Legal Scholars for outstanding books published by scholars in their early careers. Dr Bogg received this recognition for his book *The Democratic Aspects of Trade Union Recognition*, which was published by Hart Publishing in September 2009. This book examines the influence of political theories on the changing legal relationship between trade unions, employers, and the State.

Professor Fionn Dunne, Fellow and Tutor in **Engineering**, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering. The Academy honours the UK's most distinguished engineers; Fellows are elected for admission following nominations from existing Fellows only. This vast pool of engineering knowledge is utilised by the Academy to enhance national engineering capabilities, recognise excellence and inspire the next generation, and lead debate which provides them with some influence over informed thinking and public policy.

Professor Tony Wilson, Fellow and Tutor in **Engineering**, has been elected President of the Royal Microscopical Society (RMS). The RMS is an international scientific society for the promotion of microscopy. It is dedicated to advancing science, developing careers, and supporting wider understanding of science and microscopy. It is a charity governed by a Board of Trustees, which is led by an Executive Committee, and publishes *The Journal of Microscopy* as well as a series of microscopy books. Professor Wilson's interests are in the theory and implementation of scanning optical microscopes and, in particular, the development of confocal microscopes.

New College Officers; Michaelmas term saw a number of new appointments to senior College offices: **Dr Alan Bogg**, Fellow and Tutor in Law, has taken over from Dr Emma Smith as Senior Tutor; and **Dr Alison Woollard**, Fellow and Tutor in Biochemistry, is the new Dean in succession to Professor Robin Devenish.

Hertford Students First for Volunteering: Hertford students have been awarded first place in the Eglantyne Jebb table for Community Volunteering. This Norrington-style table has been compiled by Oxford Hub - the focal point for charitable activities at Oxford University, to celebrate students' involvement in voluntary work. Colleges are ranked according to the proportion of their students who have volunteered in a fixed term period. Second and third place went to Worcester with 6.47% and Christ Church with 5.74% respectively.

The Tough Guy Challenge is described on their website as 'the world's safest, most dangerous taste of mental and physical pain, fear and endurance'. This year was as tough as ever and Hertford's student team of seven, Mike Flood, Hannah Avory, Nick Lee, Adam Rheinberg, Victoria Brooks, Tom Hinchcliffe and Joe de Hoop, all took on the challenge. Out of 5,000 participants (4800 men and 200 women), only about two-thirds actually finished the course with over a thousand having to give up due to injury or hypothermia. As reported by Hertford team mate Victoria Brookes: 'The course consists of eight miles of pure hell: mud and freezing water; electric shock fences which are designed to hurt (perhaps to reassure you that your nervous system is still intact); hill runs; underground torture chambers; barbed wire crawls; and wall climbs. This is nothing in comparison to the cold. However, there was a great sense of camaraderie throughout the day and the race would be impossible to finish without the help of strangers pushing you out of slippy, grimy trenches or giving you a foot up over the seven ft walls.'

'All of the Hertford team did well, with all but one completing the course. Team leader Mike Flood (cover) became the physical manifestation of the Tough Guy dream finishing the race in a Hertford record breaking time of 1 hour 43 minutes and coming 147th. The other boys followed, with the girls holding up the rear with a very respectable 3 hours - coming in at the 2000 mark.'

Hertford Announcements

Pastures new:

At the end of Trinity 2010, **Dr Anthony Murphy** finished his four year term as Fellow and Tutor in Economics. Anthony has now gone onto new and warmer climates as Senior Research Economist and Policy Advisor in the macroeconomics group of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Texas. He is an applied econometrician with research interests in housing markets, savings and consumption, labour economics and finance.

Dr David Williams also left Hertford at the end of Trinity 2010, where he was a Junior Research Fellow in English to take up the post of Assistant Professor at the University of Waterloo (UoW), Ontario. He teaches courses in modern and contemporary British literature. David continues to research the reciprocal influences of poetry and dictionaries, especially the Oxford English Dictionary, which was digitised at UoW in the 1980s. Currently he is developing search and comparison strategies using the OED files and other large text corpora.

Piotr Chrusciel, Professor of Mathematical Physics, left Hertford in 2010, where he taught applied mathematics. Piotr is now Professor of Gravitational Physics at the University of Vienna. His research interests centre on mathematical problems arising from general relativity, such as global properties of space-times, classification of black holes, construction of wormholes.

Retirements:

Professor Robin Devenish retired from Hertford College at the end of September 2010, after 31 years as a Fellow and Tutor in Physics. In 1979 he joined the legendary Neil Tanner and Mary Gillan (stipendiary lecturer) and later had the pleasure of working with Pat Roche and Sam Henry. Although no longer teaching he remains research active, finishing various projects on deep-inelastic scattering using data from the HERA collider in Hamburg. He looks forward to seeing present and former physics students at the regular dinners of the Tanner Society. Governing Body agreed on the immediate election of Robin to an Emeritus Fellowship.

Mr Tom Paulin has now retired after joining Hertford in 1994 as a Fellow and Tutor in English. In the same year as

joining Hertford, he was also elected to the All Souls (G M Young) Lectureship in 19th and 20th Century English Literature. Tom has also been elected by Governing Body as an Emeritus Fellow.

In December 2010, we had to say a very sad goodbye to **Bob Hart**, who has been the Catering Manager at Hertford for the last 26 years. Many will remember him as the point of contact for functions in Hall and the man behind the steady improvement of food in College. Bob has taken early retirement so he can enjoy family life, however he will be sorely missed by all of us in College.

Dr John Landers will step down as Principal at the end of August 2011. The Principal states that 'in revising the College Statutes to comply with the Charities Act 2006, the College has decided to make the post of Principal a five year fixed term rather than, as now, from election to retirement at 67 since this deters the selection of younger candidates. By the end of the next academic year I will have been in post for six years and have therefore decided to demit office from that date. It has been an honour to serve the College as its Principal and I will retain a close association with Hertford as a Senior Research Fellow.'

Sad news:

It is with deep regret that we inform our members about the death of **Margaret Malpas** who died on the 24th January 2011 after battling with cancer. Margaret started in 1992 as a College lecturer in Modern Languages. Not only will she be remembered for her teaching but also for her active role in Hertford's music society. Many of you may remember Margaret's husband Richard Malpas, Hertford Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy, who died in 2007.

Charities Act 2006:

Hertford is at the vanguard of the Charities Act 2006 by becoming one of the first Oxford Colleges to be registered by the Charity Commission. This means that for the first time we have a registered charity number: 1137527, and are now regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The College has had to make adjustments in order to comply with the Act, but Members and Friends are unlikely to notice any difference.

From one busy term to another...

Yet again it has been a busy year in the College Chapel. Our usual round of services, celebrations, and guest speakers have continued, and we are delighted that Old Members feel that the Chapel is the most appropriate place to get married.

A new academic year saw new additions to our team of Chapel Wardens, and we are delighted to have Seaver Milnor, Elliot Hanson, and Emma Pritchard joining Vicky Arnold, Clare Loughlin, and Charlotte Nickel in ensuring the smooth running of the Chapel.

The Chapel Choir goes from strength to strength and, under the successful leadership of our Organ Scholars, Grace Newcombe and Jennifer Law, we had a very successful tour to San Francisco in July. Venues included Grace Cathedral, the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St Mary of the Assumption, St Mark's Berkeley, and Christ Church, Portola Valley. We received an incredibly warm welcome from everyone we encountered, and particularly enjoyed meeting alumni after our Evensong at Grace Cathedral. Plans are afoot for a summer tour to Dubrovnik this year.

Our annual Christingle service was even more enjoyable than usual this year; we held a 'Children's Christmas Crafts' event in the Old Hall preceding the service, and the children made a full nativity scene which we displayed in the service itself. Everyone had a terrific time being knee-deep in glitter, and we hope even more children attend next year.

We are heading back to the sisters at Ty Mawr in Monmouth for our annual Chapel Retreat at the end of Hilary Term. We will have their lovely big guesthouse to ourselves, and are looking forward to a reflective and refreshing few days in the Welsh countryside.

We are always glad to see alumni in Chapel, so please do contact the Chaplain (chaplain@hertford.ox.ac.uk) if you'd like to be on the mailing list for the termly Chapel Card, or if you would like any further information on services or events.

Leanne Roberts
Chaplain

<http://chapelweb.hertford.ox.ac.uk/>

Photos from the Christingle service...



JCR As we demolish our last few mince pies and sit around wearing horrific jumpers given to us by distant Aunts or Uncles, we can find solace in the knowledge that this academic year has already seen a bounty of success and entertainment, which only promises to continue in 2011.



James Weinberg

So where to start? Probably at the beginning when Hertford welcomed a new tide of Freshers who wasted no time immersing themselves in everything the college has to offer – only after hitting the library religiously from day one that is.... Freshers Week saw the College once again in high spirits and there was an atmosphere of excitement for the year ahead that shone through the shadow of collections or the demon of finals lurking on the horizon. Within days, the Freshers had toured the town, speed-dated more of their peers in 30 minutes than was thought humanly possible, and donned their finery for a night of 'Jazz and Cocktails' that, as ever, proved an evening to remember.

In the sporting arena it has to be mentioned that our very own Jack Marriot was named *numero uno* in the country for swimming the butterfly stroke following the revelation that everyone who ranked higher than him had to be disqualified for sporting illegal swimwear. At the beginning of March Jack went on to indisputably win the national championship 50m butterfly in Manchester.

Moving onto musical matters, Hertford has indeed been busy. The Hertford College Music Society held a very successful film-music concert at the end of Michaelmas, conducted by Ben Goodson, and they continue to organise recitals on Wednesday lunchtimes which feature breath-taking performances. I must, also, mention Hertford's new vocal group, the Holywell Singers, who perform modern, folk and popular repertoire. In 8th week we had our first open-mic concert down in the bar – setting a precedent for any other budding pop-stars in our midst.

Our very own charity, Kids Adventure, had its first anniversary in Michaelmas and put on two activity days during the term, which involved students from across the University. The charity continues to recruit for fundraisers and has four more activity days planned for this academic year.

Looking forward, Hilary 2011 is sure to be another term jam-packed with hilarity, essay crises, bops, balls and everything else that makes Oxford unique. Just a few of the highlights include the eagerly-awaited 'Last Pango' ball, construction of our very own, respectable gym, more concerts and sporting endeavours, and the return of student involvement in our bar.

With much optimism,

James Weinberg, JCR President

MCR In Michaelmas 2010, Hertford welcomed over 90 new members to the MCR and we provided them with a traditional yet exciting Freshers' Fortnight to help them settle into College life. The schedule included: guided tours of College followed by dinner in Hall; President's drinks in the Octagon; and a wine and cheese night that was spiced slightly by the shooting of *X-Men: First Class* in College that evening. We also enjoyed a jazz and cocktails' night which saw the very successful revival of our beloved Waugh Bar, and last, but not least the Matriculation Ball in Hall.



Rubén Gómez-Castellanos

The Octagon has been host to some of the year's most important events, including Waugh Night, and exchange dinners with the likes of Christ Church, Keble, St. Antony's, Lady Margaret Hall and St. Peter's.

In sport, the MCR are proud to boast significant representation in the College and University Teams. Amongst many other rowing achievements this year, which can be seen on p. 5, Rebecca Davies (Women's 1st VIII), Geoff Nelson (Men's 2nd VIII, Vice Captain), and Tom Anderson (Men's 2nd VIII) all represented Hertford in various competitions, including Women's Head of the River, Bristol Regatta, Torpids and Summer Eights Bumps Races. And special mention must go to Abby Loebenberg, our immediate past-president, as she has been fiercely representing us on the rugby field.

Academically, the MCR can still be proud to host some of the most promising researchers of the future. We have been happy to see many DPhils and Masters completed and our old friends moving on to positions around the world, like Dr. Eleftheria Pappa who was awarded a Veni subsidy by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research to conduct postdoctoral studies at the University of Amsterdam. Also, Tom Brodie, DPhil in History and Senior Scholar, held the academic soirée in Michaelmas Term entitled *The Catholic Church and Nazism*, and will be spending much of his time this year doing research in Germany. This year, we say our farewells to Dr. Daniel D. Jordan, visiting scholar from University College Dublin, who for the past three years has served in the MCR as Sommelier and Postal Clerk while researching for his PhD in Early Modern History. We are extremely grateful to Daniel for his service to the MCR and for the many joyful moments we have shared with him.

Thanks to all the people who have contributed towards making Hertford's MCR the special place it has always been.

J. Rubén Gómez-Castellanos, MCR President

Sport

This year, sport has progressed in leaps and bounds. Leading this sporting sensation are none other than the mixed lacrosse team, who have dominated in league matches. The most poignant victory was against Teddy Hall, placing the team at the top of the league for the first time ever. The Hertford basketball team deserve a special mention for winning cuppers. Captained by Adam Etinson they defeated Wadham in the final, maintaining their reputation for two terms of unbeaten play.



Charlotte Houston

The men's football teams have taken a dramatic turn for the better since last year. The 1st team are currently fourth in the league after winning two matches, with top goal scorer, Josh Manhire. The women's football team are third in their division having won two matches. An honourable mention goes to Izzy Westbury who has scored the majority of the goals this season.

The Hertford rugby team has started this season well, remaining in the fourth division, but have been victims of some bad luck. They have lost four games with a score line within three points. The rugby team must be congratulated for competing in the Ambassador Oku tournament. This was held in memory of old Hertfordian, Ambassador Oku, a former Blues rugby player who was tragically assassinated in Iraq on diplomatic duty. The Hertford team braved the icy conditions, finishing in second place.

Hertford women's netball team enjoyed one of its more successful terms in memory. A series of epic triumphs, albeit with a number of close losses, were hard earned by its several incredibly dedicated players. Impressive new Hertford talent looks to secure a positive future for netball.

The combined Hertford-St Peter's hockey team performed admirably in cuppers, aided by hockey Blue Alex Mullins, and two strong performances have seen the team progress into the final stages of the competition.

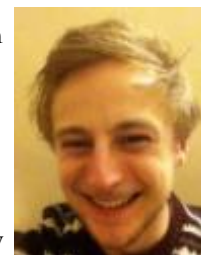
The skiing team performed well on the Varsity trip but were ultimately thwarted by an icy course that saw two of the racers crash out in the final round-robin race. Tom Raettig was unlucky to miss out on full Blues selection, qualifying 7th in the time trials (6 in the Blues team) despite having an injured knee. He made up for this by helping to lead the 2nd team to a thumping victory over their Cambridge counterparts. Hertford's sporting prowess is not only on land: led by fresher James Jurkiewicz, a few keen swimmers have finished in fourth place in cuppers.

Sport at Hertford continues to improve, and it is hoped that the new gym will only add to this sporting success.

Charlotte Houston, Sports Representative

Music

Having joined Hertford in Michaelmas 2010, I was truly overwhelmed by the standard of music in college. Great praise should go to my predecessors for the great variety. The team positions have undergone a few changes this term; fellow freshers Andy Warnock and Steven Fiddaman have taken on the daunting tasks of conducting and managing the orchestra respectively. Ally Hopper has now become Treasurer, while Ben Goodson has been transferred to the publicity department and Jen Law has taken up the reins of lunchtime recital organisation, while sharing orchestral conducting duties. I am grateful for the other members of the HCMS who have held their posts from last term, all of whom do so voluntarily, enthusiastically, and will no doubt make my job as painless as Jen Law assured me it would be.



Samuel Parsons

Some of the highlights of Michaelmas include an orchestral night at the movies, with film themes being the centrepiece of the concert. Works ranged from themes from *Star Wars* to *Pirates of the Caribbean*, with Holst's *Mars* giving the concert an epic grounding.

Hilary term has featured a programme of English music, conducted by fellow fresher Andy Warnock, after his debut last term, alongside Jen Law. We expect great renditions of Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Butterworth, and Mendelssohn's *Fingal's Cave* on Monday of eighth week. Breaking news: Thanks to our burgeoning wind section in the Hertford Orchestra, in Hilary we will be running a Hertford Wind Band who will form a double-bill with the Orchestra. If all goes to plan, we will be treated to lovely wind music, including the likes of Holst's Eb suite. This new ensemble will be led by Tom Sears, whose idea it was to put the group together.

Last but not least, Michaelmas was evidence of Hertford's 'unusually good' non-auditioning choir. With a great sense of enthusiasm and fun, the choir tackled some particularly challenging repertoire, the pinnacle of which was Gabriel Jackson's setting of the Requiem Mass, prepared for All Soul's day. Weekly Evensong was generally very well-attended, and gave the large congregation a chance to hear the wonderful music that had been prepared. The highlight for many was the carol service, which featured Britten's *A Hymn to the Virgin* and Lauridsen's gorgeous *O Magnum Mysterium*.

For up-to-date information about events and projects, or to contact one of the committee, please visit our website; <http://hcms.hertford.ox.ac.uk>.

Samuel Parsons, HCMS President

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

New York Alumni Reception	Thursday 24 March
North American Events organised by Oxford University:	
San Diego	Tuesday 29 March
Los Angeles	Wednesday 30 March
Vancouver	Thursday 31 March
San Francisco	Saturday 2 April
Inter-Collegiate Golf Tournament	Friday 8 April
Gaudy Matriculation years 2000 & 2001	Friday 15 April
Oxford University European Reunion in Paris	Friday 6 to Sunday 8 May
Geoffrey Warnock Society Lunch	Friday 13 May
Saturday of Eights Week Buffet Lunch in Graduate Centre	Saturday 28 May
Summer Reunion Matriculation year 2003	Sunday 12 June
Hertford Society Annual Buffet Lunch <i>If you are a member of the Hertford Society and would like to attend the buffet lunch, please contact Anthony Swing, the Social Secretary, avswing@tiscali.co.uk or c/o The Members & Development Office</i>	Sunday 26 June
Admissions Open Day	Wednesday 6 July Thursday 7 July Friday 16 September
Alumni Weekend www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk Recital in Hertford Chapel and morning coffee	Friday 16 to Sunday 18 September Saturday 17 September
Gaudy Matriculation years pre 1960	Friday 23 September

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'Are you looking at me?!'

Photo taken by Tom Davies (History, 2008)