



HERTFORD COLLEGE NEWS

Issue 20, 2011

New Principal Elected
Spotlight: Hertford History Special



As I deliver my valedictory note...

Dr John Landers
Principal

One of the great strengths of the college system is the inter-disciplinary character of the traditional 'mixed' (i.e. combined undergraduate and graduate) colleges. It is not quite true that all mixed colleges cater for all disciplines but each of them does accommodate most of the Final Honour Schools offered by the University. In particular the colleges provide a unique base for colleagues in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities to come together. Scientists and social scientists have rooms in their departments, and colleges cannot offer laboratory facilities, but here in Hertford at any rate we are fortunate in the degree to which our scientific Fellows participate fully in the life and governance of the College.

There is nonetheless a particular structural relationship between the mixed colleges and the Faculties that now make up the University's Humanities Division. The great majority of Fellows in the Humanities hold what is called 'CUF' (Common University Fund) Lecturerships in the University. This means that they are simultaneously employed by their faculty and their college, but it is the college which accommodates them and funds the larger share of their stipend and allowances. Hence the financial difficulties currently facing the Humanities Division are of particular concern to colleges. It is ironic that the Division's triumph in the last Research Assessment Exercise – when Oxford's pre-eminence in a wide range of Humanities disciplines was reaffirmed – should have been followed by a substantial drop in public funding as Government acted to ring-fence money for the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and medicine) in the face of overall cuts in the Higher Education budget.

Confronted with this challenge, Oxford has responded with an imaginative scheme drawing on the commercial success of Oxford University Press and embodying a welcome partnership between the colleges and the central University. Under this scheme a central 'Teaching Fund' has been established, with £60m of OUP capital, to provide matching funds for the colleges' own fund raising efforts in order to establish a permanent endowment for sixty Humanities' CUFs (as well as a smaller number of posts in other disciplines). The total required to endow a single CUF is £2m of which £1.2m must be raised by the college in order to release the balance from the

Teaching Fund. Once endowed the college can be assured that the post will be permanently filled, free of the vagaries of Government funding and policy shifts. Here at Hertford we have associated the CUF in History, currently held by Dr. Toby Barnard, with the scheme and have high hopes of thus ensuring the future of the post.

History, as the articles in this Newsletter clearly demonstrate, is a high-achieving discipline at Hertford. With two CUF posts, currently held by Drs Toby Barnard and David Hopkin, and Dr Christopher Tyerman's College-funded Senior Research Fellowship, it is also one of the largest. Alongside these teaching Fellowships we are also privileged to be associated with Professor Roy Foster's Carroll Chair in Irish History. Roy and Toby have the distinction of being Fellows of the British Academy but Hertford is also supporting outstanding historians at an earlier stage of their careers. Dr Gabriel Glickman currently holds his British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship here as a Junior Research Fellow and Governing Body member and we look forward to welcoming Dr Christina Anderson as Drapers' Company Junior Research Fellow in the Humanities this autumn.

Academic excellence of this kind is not, of course, confined to Hertford's History School or to the Humanities, and it is a particular pleasure to note the recent election of our Professor of Chemical Biology, Hagan Bayley, to a Fellowship of the Royal Society. The support of Fellows' and Lecturers' research commitments is becoming increasingly important in Hertford's academic life, but teaching remains the College's central academic activity, and its quality is central to that of the overall Hertford 'student experience'. It is our achievements in this respect that underlie the continuing loyalty displayed to their College by Hertfordians past and present. One of the greatest pleasures of my Principalship has been my contacts with members of the wider Hertford community across the world – most recently in New York in April and at the University's second European Reunion weekend in Paris in May. As I prepare to hand over to my successor Mr Will Hutton, I am confident that their loyalty, together with the talent and commitment of all at Catte Street, will ensure the College's continuing success. In closing my final Newsletter column as Principal I should like to wish them and you every success and happiness in the future.



Paul Dryden



Anna Baskerville

From the Members and Development Office



Claire Blake



Mark Sweeney

London, Paris, New York... not just the three locations that you might find labelled on a bottle of perfume or a couturier's bag but three places we have held alumni gatherings over the past few months. To this, of course, we should add Oxford; several hundred Old Members have come back into College since the publication of the last newsletter, taking part in a number of diverse events. Hertford is a great community and it is very gratifying to us that people want to continue being involved both seventy years after they have matriculated, or seven weeks after graduation.

In the last issue of *Hertford College News* we introduced the Ellis Barnard History Fellowship Fund. This issue is focused on History at Hertford and the launch of the fund. We hope that, no matter what your subject, you will be interested to read about the work of our Fellows and their students, as well as what some of our history alumni have achieved since leaving Hertford. We are sure that many of these sentiments and experiences are common to Hertfordians of all disciplines.

We have now secured just over £250,000 of the £1.2m needed to release the matched funding of £800,000 from the University's Teaching Fund and secure this post in perpetuity. On the 30th of September we will be holding a special event to celebrate History at Hertford and launch the public phase of the fundraising campaign. Details are on the back page of this Newsletter and we very much hope that you will want to join with those Old Members who have already committed to securing the future of History teaching at Hertford.

Our other fundraising priorities are the Bursaries Programme and the Roger Van Noorden Fellowship in Economics. In the case of Bursaries when we designed the scheme there were some 67 eligible students at the College. At the start of next term, when the first payments are made, they will go to over 100 students; nearly a third of our whole undergraduate body. This shows two things: first, that the establishment of the scheme has been successful in keeping Hertford attractive to students from less well-off backgrounds. Secondly, it shows that the level of student need has increased as the world economic situation has deteriorated and pressures on student funding have grown. To maintain these Bursaries at the current level we will need to raise over £100,000 each year and we would like you to consider making a regular gift to help support our students. £70 a month plus Gift Aid will fund a bursary; not much more than many people spend on a coffee each morning on their way to work.

One of the things that brings a sense of urgency to our development programme at the moment is the number of students dressed in *sub fusc* rushing to or from exams. During the rest of the year Oxford is full of young people but it is hard to tell whether or how they might be connected to the University. The unchanged nature of academic dress and the pressure of exams emphasises the bond between our current and former students. We hope that you will continue to feel the strength of this bond and look forward to seeing you at some of our forthcoming events.

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Alumni Concert



The Alumni Concert took place in the Chapel on the 29th January. After a rehearsal period of a matter of hours and boosted by support from current students, especially the hard-working organ scholars, the evening performance was impressive. Highlights were *O Fortuna* from Carmina Burana, Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium* and a spirited rendition of the *Allegro* from Beethoven's Fifth of which Ludwig himself would surely have been proud. Drinks and dinner afterwards rounded off a perfect day; whether you're a singer or instrumentalist or just enjoy listening, it's an opportunity not to be missed when the next Alumni Concert comes around!

Janet McCourt
Education, 1976

The welcoming coffee on a trestle table outside the chapel was, I admit, a trifle optimistic for January. However, with customary cheeriness, Hertford alumni and current students gathered for the Alumni Concert. This year the programme was designed to satisfy the scratch choir and orchestra on the grandest of levels; particularly impressive was the rousing rendition of Vaughan Williams' *English Folk Suite* and the skill on display in Beethoven's Fifth symphony. For me, the best moment was the combination of voice and instrument in Orff's *O Fortuna*, proving to any naysayer just how much can be achieved with a group of musical Hertfordians in a single day. The post-concert dinner rounded the day off merrily and it was an event of real pleasure for all involved.

Dr Benjamin Skipp
Tutor in Music & Event Co-organiser

North American Reunions



The University's *Oxford Thinking Campaign* is in full swing and, as part of this, the Vice-Chancellor visited the West Coast of Canada and the USA at the beginning of the Easter Vacation. The Principal was also on the US East Coast the week before so I flew over to take part in the University events in San Diego, Vancouver and San Francisco, as well as to meet Hertfordians in New York and to attend a small valedictory dinner for the Principal hosted by Rob Lusardi (Engineering & Economics, 1975) and Sabina Wu.

The Vice-Chancellor must have an iron constitution; each morning saw him in a new city, and each evening saw him hosting another dinner. By way of contrast, I missed attending the University event in Los Angeles in order to spend a little time making individual contact with Old Members in Vancouver, and

I was not able to attend the Rhodes Scholars' breakfast in that city as I was already waiting at the airport to fly to San Francisco. The University team followed in a leisurely fashion, having the great advantage of the offer of a lift in a Keble man's private jet...

Next year the University Reunion will be at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City on the 13th-14th April and we hope to see many of you there. We will also be holding a Hertford event at the same time, and hope to travel to other cities to meet as many of our alumni and friends as possible. If you would like to help organise something then please do let us know at development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk.

Paul Dryden
Director of Development

Hume's 300th Birthday



On the 6th May, Hertford members past and present gathered to celebrate the philosopher David Hume's 300th birthday; sharing in Dr Peter Millican's (Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy) enthusiasm for his favourite philosopher. Although many of the alumni would not have had Peter as a tutor, it did not seem strange to them that we should be celebrating the birthday of a deceased philosopher. This evidence of eccentricity gave me high hopes for the evening.

The event began with a drinks reception where current students barraged recent graduates with questions about life after Hertford while those further removed from Hertford life sought to go in the opposite direction, keenly enquiring about how the College had changed since their day. The time then came for us to move to Hall for the meal. Thanks to Peter's seating plans, with a move

halfway through, everyone socialised with a mix of familiar and new people. After dinner, we heard from the famous moral philosopher Prof. Simon Blackburn, legitimising what would have otherwise been a birthday party as a somewhat academic affair.

Thereafter, philosophical conversations began in earnest; if there is any group that can discuss all things endlessly it is philosophers. We toasted the arrival of Hume's birthday with Scotch at midnight, then returned to our conversations, some of which resumed over Pimm's in the Quad the following afternoon. The event was a success and whilst not many birthdays are as momentous as one's 300th, hopefully we'll find other occasions to do similar events.

Genevieve Laurier
PPE, 2009

Gaudy (2000-2001)



Returning to Hertford is always a pleasure. I suspect that everyone reading this article will look back fondly on the place – and their time – remembering it for good.

I do sometimes find visiting Oxford a little strange, though. The city itself seems never changing. But, time – the most important part of memories – moves on. How is it possible to feel such a stranger in such a familiar place?

For this reason, I didn't know what to expect from the Gaudy. Would it be a return to the old days, or a faded memory? Would people pick up where they left off, or would they have moved on?

The answer surprised me: it was neither.

It was simply a pleasure. It was a pleasure to see old friends with new stories. It was a pleasure to be back in College, and in Hall. It was a particular pleasure not to be served green beans for dinner...

We did, of course, head DTB (Down The Bar, should you need reminding). And there I realised the time and the place were made by the people.

Hertford is a wonderful college, which – with the support of its Old Members – goes from strength to strength. The Gaudy was a wonderful opportunity to be part of it again.

Matt Maltby
Economics & Management, 2000

European Reunion: Paris



It was a balmy summer evening as a large crowd of Oxford alumni aged everywhere between 22 and 82 congregated in the Grand Salon of the Sorbonne in Paris on Friday 6 May for the 2011 Oxford European Reunion. The formal reception, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor of the University, was followed by a Hertford dinner at a nearby restaurant – splendidly organised by the Development Office team – at which it was nice to see the odd familiar face, meet the Principal and some of the College staff in person, and get to know some of the many Hertford alumni of years other than one's own. The weekend's events continued on Saturday with a buffet lunch at the historic École Militaire followed by a series of academic talks, culminating in the keynote lecture by Professor Timothy Garton Ash on the topic *What Europe for our Grandchildren?*

Underpinned by Oxford trademarks – grand locations, intellectual stimulation, fine food, interesting conversations and lots of alcohol – the weekend was also an enjoyable opportunity to make new acquaintances from other colleges. Regardless of age and subject read, it was striking how fondly people spoke and laughed about their time at Oxford. Not to mention the uncanny familiarity of experiences shared – to quote one Jesus College lawyer, now a delegate to the European Commission in Brussels: "I remember one time I was weaving my way back down the Cowley Road towards College at 3 a.m. while my companion discoursed on Sanskrit fertility symbols...". Yes, life has moved on – but some memories are here to stay.

Michaela Lowrie
English & French, 1995

Saturday of Eights Week



It was good to return to Oxford on a warm and sunny day in June. There were 60 of us including Fellows and guests, meeting for lunch on the Saturday of Eights Week at the Graduate Centre. We quickly renewed acquaintances and made new friends. That's the power of these alumni events – people who don't know each other mingle at random and suddenly discover some unexpected connection. The Graduate Centre was the perfect location for setting off along the towpath to the Boathouse to watch the bumps. It brought back memories of the river flooding to the rowers amongst us. I was part of Hertford Chapel eight in the 1970s and the atmosphere now is as then – but the structures are different with new Boathouse and smooth tarmac on the towpath!

Mellor Hennessy
Physics, 1973

Results of Eights Week 2011:

M1 entered Summer Vllls in a historic fifth position, but were sadly bumped by a very strong Wolfson crew, finishing the weekend down one place. M2 obtained spoons after a very memorable week, which included a spectacular bumping on day 2, a dead duck on day 3, and a controversial situation on day 4. They finished the weekend down four.

Summer Vllls 2011 was one of great success for the women's side. On the final day W1 managed a solid bump on Christ Church, securing themselves eighth place in the first division for next year. W2 were triumphant with a series of bumps moving them up four places. W2 finished the fourth women's second boat on the water. Finally, W3 did themselves proud finishing up three places.



New Principal elected: Mr Will Hutton

Mr Will Hutton is an economist and leading public intellectual whose career began in the City, but who is best known for his work in journalism. He was Editor-in-Chief at *The Observer* from 1996-2000 (where he continues to write a column), when he joined the Work Foundation. His review *Fair Pay in the Public Sector* has just been published, and he has also conducted a number of other independent reviews: on Britain's education and training compared to EU countries for the then DFES (2005), for the BBC's charter renewal submission (2004) and led a team assessing the prospects for the creative industries – "Staying Ahead" – for the DCMS (2007). He is currently chairing the Ownership Commission, established by the outgoing Labour government, due to report in the autumn of this year. He is a governor of the London School of Economics and the Ditchley Foundation, and has received honorary degrees from many universities including Bristol, East Anglia, Kingston, and Glasgow Caledonian.

Mr Hutton states:

"Newly elected Heads of House are of course expected to say how delighted they are and how much they are looking forward to the role. So I won't disappoint expectations, not least because that is how I feel. I

am delighted to have been elected Principal of this distinguished college and I am looking forward to the role enormously. Hertford is a friendly, liberal but nonetheless serious institution with a proud and intriguing history.

Finance, access and maintaining – hopefully extending – the breadth of academic excellence will obviously dominate the next few years and my aim is to help the College navigate the shoals ahead as sure-footedly and innovatively as possible. Hertford in the recent past has won a reputation for being progressive and forward thinking; it is a reputation that should be built upon as the College responds to the challenges and threats posed by the emergent policies towards Higher Education.

What has impressed me in my pre-Principal trips to the College is the extent to which there is a shared determination to succeed. It also helps to hold a job like this through election; you know you are wanted! There is a good platform on which to build, and while there are some weaknesses that need to be addressed, I aim to pass on an even stronger Hertford to my successor whilst having as much fun and intellectual engagement along the way as I can! And I hope that as many alumni as possible join in."

Congratulations to Hertford's Fellows, Graduates and Students for their recent accomplishments:

Professor Hagan Bayley, Fellow of Chemical Biology, has been elected Fellow of the Royal Society, in recognition of his research in understanding the folding, assembly and function of transmembrane channels and pores.

Professor David Thomas (Geography, 1977) Fellow of Geography, was selected for the GSA QG&G Farouk El-Baz award for 2011. This award is given annually to a person whose body of work has significantly advanced the field of desert research.

Dame Helen Alexander (Geography, 1975), Honorary Fellow, has received a DBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for her service to business.

Lauren Cowley (Psychology, 2008) was awarded a Civic Award by the Vice Chancellor for volunteering with a number of charitable organisations: STIR reading volunteer in a local primary school; Big Brother/Big Sister mentor for young people in the care system; re-launching and co-ordinating the Oxford Hub group AgeAid; and fundraising for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Genevieve Laurier (PPE, 2009) was nominated for the Vice Chancellor's Civic Award. Gen's nomination was specially commended for her contribution to Kids Adventure, voluntary service to other charities and commitment to Oxford Hub.

James Weinberg (History, 2009) finished second in TARGETjobs' Undergraduate of the Year Awards 2011. This award exists to raise the profile of employability skills on campus, to engage academic departments in identifying their best undergraduates and to find students who have a winning mixture of personal and academic skills.

Jack Marriott (Engineering Science, 2008) won the 50m butterfly title at the British Championships in March 2011. Jack's time is the sixth-fastest ever by a Briton. Since this win Hertford has granted him a year out from his studies so that he can train and focus on his Olympic development programme.

Opportunity in the face of adversity

Hertford welcomes Michael Lee and Satoshi Imamura to the College community.

Michael Lee is from Christchurch University, New Zealand and whilst in Oxford he has studied European history with Dr David Hopkin at Hertford and Medieval Japanese history at Oriel. Hertford has participated in a collegiate initiative to offer free board and lodging for Trinity Term to students from Christchurch, whose studies have been disrupted by the earthquake. They have come to Oxford under the Visiting Student programme and the University has agreed to waive their tuition fee in full.

Satoshi Imamura is a doctoral student from Tohoku University in northern Japan, which was severely affected by the earthquake and tsunami which hit Japan in March 2011. Despite little direct damage to the physical university infrastructure, this caused long term disruption in the area, also to education. Hertford, therefore, decided it would be worthwhile offering 'academic refuge' for a student from that region. Tohoku University was contacted and identified Satoshi as a suitable candidate. Hertford Fellow, Professor Bjarke Frellesvig, will be supervising Satoshi's work on Japanese Linguistics. The University and Hertford have similarly waived fees and charges for lodging.

A brief guide to... The History of Hertford

Professor Andrew Goudie
Honorary Fellow

The history of Hertford College is both complex and chequered. One of its two antecedents, Hart Hall, was founded on a rather uncertain date in the late thirteenth century by property speculator Elias de Hertford, himself a shadowy figure. It was located on Catte Street and was bought in 1312 by Walter de Stapledon, Bishop of Exeter. Indeed, for long the site was owned by Exeter College, and the security afforded by this link allowed the Hall to last longer than most of its kind. It even absorbed its immediate neighbours, Black Hall and Cat Hall. When Philip Randell (or Rondell) was Principal in the second half of the sixteenth century, Hart Hall became independent and among its alumni were John Donne, John Selden and Henry Pelham. It was transformed into Hertford College (though not without opposition) by Principal Newton in 1740. Among the alumni from this period was Charles James Fox. But, underendowed, it fell on hard times. By 1805 it had only two fellows and no pupils and in 1820 part of the Catte Street building collapsed into the street and Hertford College was deemed not to exist.



The second antecedent of Hertford College was Magdalen Hall. This was founded in 1448 by William of Waynfleet and had something of a Puritan tradition (unlike Hart Hall), producing many great sons, including Tyndale, Hobbes, Wilkins, Plot, Clarendon and Swift. The old Magdalen Hall was on the site of the St Swithun's buildings of Magdalen

College but it was burned down following an undergraduate supper party in 1820 and its dispossessed members moved into the Hart Hall site in 1822. They enjoyed the two handsome new blocks that had been constructed either side of the present main entrance to the College.

It was in 1874 that the banker Thomas Baring, encouraged by Dr Richard Michell, gave money to Magdalen Hall (which was then dissolved) to enable the re-foundation of Hertford College in that year. During the lengthy reign of Principal Boyd, 1877 - 1922, extensive buildings designed by Thomas Jackson were constructed. In spite of this the College remained small, beautiful (but in places scruffy) and poor.

However, a remarkable transformation occurred which began in the 1960s. The College's finances were boosted, not least through the efforts of our late Bursar Roger Van Noorden; an innovative undergraduate recruitment policy (The Hertford Scheme) was instituted through the efforts of that iconoclastic Australian physicist Neil Tanner; the College admitted women in 1974, one of the first of five to do so; the Fellowship expanded; more and more graduates were admitted; the College swept up the Norrington Table; and new buildings were erected, including the Holywell Quadrangle, Abingdon House, Warnock House (named after Geoffrey Warnock, a very great Principal from 1971 - 88) and the fine Graduate Centre by Folly Bridge, which was opened in 2000.

The College has grown hugely since its re-foundation in 1874, when it had c80 students. By the time of the Great War this had risen to c120 and by the time of the Second World War to c150. The figure now stands at c600, of whom over one third are graduates, many from overseas.

Since the Second World War college members have become *inter alia*, the Head of the Army, the Head of one of our intelligence services, newsreaders (multiple), Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassadors, Prime Minister of Malta, Home Secretary (twice), leading naturalists, a Nobel Prize Winner in Economics, Vice-Chancellors of Oxford and elsewhere. In addition to large numbers of academics, members of the armed forces, medics, business people, lawyers and the occasional criminal or politician, it has even produced some Heads of House in the University of Oxford, and a disproportionately large number of Fellows of the Royal Society and the British Academy.

Above all, the College has inspired a huge amount of loyalty from a great many of its members as is made evident by the range of activities that are organised by the Hertford Society, and by the generosity that alumni have shown towards the College's Development Programme. That Old Members should have been loyal is partly a reflection of the example set by some of the College's senior members – people like Roy Stuart (the most gentle but effective of Deans) or Michael Chantry, who when he was not visiting prisons, football matches and Radio Oxford, was for years a most successful Chaplain. It is a reflection of the long and sometimes eccentric service of tutors like that remarkable duo of historians, Markham and Armstrong. It is also a reflection of the loyalty of some of the 'college support staff' (perhaps that sounds better than 'college servants'), who in my time have included Norman Bayliss, Richard Holder, Kenny Lewis and Bob Hart. Such people have been integral to the history of the College of which we are all so proud to have been a part.

Photos courtesy of Sanders of Oxford



The Future of History at Hertford

Dr David Hopkin
Fellow and Tutor in History

History at Hertford is thriving. We have, currently, forty-one undergraduates, the largest subject cohort in the College, and more postgraduates than ever before. We host two Junior Research Fellows, funded by the Drapers' Company and the British Academy. The Irish History seminar, led by Professor Roy Foster, has confirmed the College's reputation in this area. More history teaching and more historical research are being done in College now than at any point in the past. And yet the subject is not secure: two things threaten its future.

The first of these is the Government's plans for Higher Education. From October 2011 there will be no state funding at all for undergraduate humanities teaching. Instead, universities will be able to charge higher fees. Reluctantly Hertford supported the decision of the University to charge the maximum allowed, £9,000. However, this does not cover the costs of undergraduate teaching at Oxford, which is some £16,000 a year. The tutorial and collegiate systems are expensive and we face a stark choice: either give up the very things that define an Oxford education or raise money by other means to make up the £7,000 per annum, per student shortfall.

All the Humanities subjects at Oxford face this quandary, but the problem is posed with particular keenness in relation to History at Hertford because the second issue is that at the end of the next academic year, Toby Barnard will retire. Since 1976, Toby has been one of two joint University/College appointments in History at Hertford. Along with Geoffrey Ellis, he was responsible for building up the subject at Hertford and

expanding the social basis of undergraduate recruitment. He has encouraged the growth in postgraduate numbers, and he helped to make Hertford a centre for Irish history. However, in the current financial climate neither the University nor the College can afford to replace him.

There is a way to resolve this problem. The University, anticipating the threat to the tutorial system and collegiate teaching, set up the Oxford Teaching Fund with money that had been earmarked for new building projects. The purpose of this Fund is to endow teaching posts in the collegiate University and so protect them from the vagaries of state-funding and market forces. If a college is able to raise sufficient new monies to endow its share of a teaching post, the University will undertake to meet its side of the costs of that post in perpetuity. The total endowment required is two million pounds: the college share is £1.2 million, the University's £800,000.

To meet this objective Hertford has set up the Ellis Barnard History Fellowship Fund. Its dual purpose is to recognise the achievement of these two tutors over the nearly forty years that they oversaw History in the College, and to ensure that their intellectual and institutional legacy survives. Thanks to the amazing generosity of a small group of alumni, we are already one quarter of the way to reaching our target. Now we are taking our appeal to the wider Hertford community.

The sum we need to raise is large. Hertford did not open the door to riches to all of its Old Members (nor do we consider that to be the College's purpose); and we understand

that many will be suffering from the same financial storms that are currently battering higher education. Nonetheless, for those who enjoyed their time at Hertford, who made the most of the opportunities that were provided to them, and who believe in the academic and social values for which the College stands, now is the time to take positive action. In short, we need your help.

We recognise that you have other calls on your generosity, some coming from this very institution. We are committed to a policy of needs-blind student recruitment; jointly with the University, we will provide bursaries and scholarships to those who cannot afford the new fees. We will undoubtedly be asking those who benefitted from a free University education to help meet those costs.

However, there are two reasons why you might choose to support a fellowship rather than studentships. Firstly, an endowed post means that the direct costs of teaching are covered in perpetuity, and therefore the College's other resources can be directed to supporting students. Secondly, fellows do not just teach, they are also researchers. It is essential that those involved in training the next generation of historians should themselves be continually and directly involved in research. If Hertford historians were unable to pursue their research (a real threat in the present financial climate, as Government cuts affect research as well as undergraduate funding), this would soon undermine the College's reputation in teaching. Hertford is committed to research-led teaching, which ensures that Oxford's academic excellence is maintained.

THE ELLIS BARNARD HISTORY FELLOWSHIP LAUNCH



30th SEPTEMBER 2011

Profiles of Hertford History Fellows

Dr Geoffrey Ellis

Emeritus Fellow

Dr Geoffrey Ellis retired in 2004 after thirty years as Fellow and History Tutor at Hertford and Lecturer in the History Faculty. His main research interests are in French history of the period 1750-1850, and more particularly in the French Revolution and Napoleon. Besides various articles for journals, essays for collected volumes, and conference papers, he has published *Napoleon's Continental Blockade: The Case of Alsace* (1981), *The Napoleonic Empire* (1991; 2nd revised edn, 2003), and *Napoleon* (1997, 2000), of which the latter two have appeared in several recent European and Asian editions. Since retiring, he has kept up his academic work as a reviewer and as a consultant to a number of publishers, writing further conference papers, and dabbling in the local history of Charlbury, where he and his wife now live after moving from Oxford in 1998. He recently delivered the keynote address at a conference on Napoleon's Continental System at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam in May 2011, whose published proceedings are expected next year.

Dr Toby Barnard

Senior Fellow and Tutor in History

Dr Toby Barnard has been Fellow and Tutor in History at Hertford since 1976. During that time he has taught most of the 16th and 17th century options in the history syllabus. His recent books include *A new anatomy of Ireland* (2003); *Making the Grand Figure: Lives and possessions in Ireland, 1641-1700* (2004), *The Kingdom of Ireland, 1641-1760* (2004), *Guide to the sources for the history of material culture in Ireland, 1500-2000* (2005), and *Improving Ireland? Projectors, prophets and profiteers, 1641-1786* (2008). He is a Fellow of the British Academy and an honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy. Between 2006 and 2009 he held a Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowship, working on the cultures of print in Ireland between 1680 and the 1790s. Foretastes of the conclusions and details of the research have been given as lectures in Britain, Ireland and continental Europe, and have appeared in essays. However, the full findings will be published in two books.

Professor Roy Foster

Carroll Professor of Irish History

Professor Roy Foster holds the Carroll Chair of Irish History, which has been attached to Hertford since its foundation in 1991. He writes mainly about Irish social, political and cultural history. His work includes lives of Charles Stewart Parnell, and Lord Randolph Churchill, the authorised two-volume biography of W.B. Yeats (*The Apprentice Mage 1865-1914*, 1997, and *The Arch-Poet 1915-1939*, 2003), collections of essays (*Paddy and Mr Punch*, 1993, and *The Irish Story*, 2001), and general histories (*Modern Ireland 1600-1972*, 1988, and *Luck and the Irish: a brief history of change 1970-2000*, 2007). He has just published *Words Alone: Yeats and his Inheritances*, based on his 2009 Clark Lectures at Cambridge, and is currently working on a study of the Irish revolutionary generation of 1890-1916, for which he has been awarded a Wolfson Foundation British Academy Research Professorship. He is also a well-known critic, reviewer and broadcaster.

Dr David Hopkin

Fellow and Tutor in History

Dr David Hopkin's research focuses on the popular and oral culture of eighteenth and nineteenth century France, and so he has written about such things as storytelling sailors, singing lacemakers, servants' ghost-stories, the exchange of love riddles in courtship. Some of these will feature in his book *Voices of the People in Nineteenth-Century France* which will be published next spring by Cambridge University Press. He is also editing a book on folklore and nationalism. As folklorists provide most of his sources, he is interested in when and why intellectuals and artists became interested in folk culture (he is a member of a French research 'laboratoire' on this topic). His next project will be a peasant's history of feudalism, based on the stories that nineteenth-century peasants told about the *ancien régime*. He has a sideline in military history, and works with colleagues in Brittany on cross-Channel histories of conflict.

Dr Christopher Tyerman

Senior Research Fellow and Tutor in History

Dr Christopher Tyerman has taught for Hertford since 1979. A medievalist, he has written widely on various aspects of medieval French and English history as well as the history of education. However, his specialism lies in the history and historiography of the Crusades on which he has published extensively, most recently *The Crusades: A Very Short Introduction* (2005); *God's War: A New History of the Crusades* (2006); and, just out, *The Debate on the Crusades* (2011). He is currently engaged in writing a study of crusade planning and medieval rationality.

Dr Gabriel Glickman

British Academy Junior Research Fellow

Dr Gabriel Glickman came to Hertford as a lecturer in 2006 and became a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow in 2009. His research concentrates on the British Isles in a European and global context 1660-1750, and his first book was published in 2009 as *The English Catholic Community 1688-1745: Politics, Culture and Ideology*. He is currently working on a study of the domestic impact of early British imperialism under the later Stuart monarchs.



Alison Smith

History, 1979

Being a deadline junkie and sounding plausible: the world of essay crises and bluffing one's way through tutorials is so close to journalism it's a wonder all Hertford historians don't end up in the trade.

Though I have now spent many years at the *Financial Times*, my first job after Hertford was a Fast-Stream Civil Servant in the Home Office, then after as Private Secretary to the Leader of the House in the House of Commons. That was where I caught the politics bug and saw the opportunity to take the path that several media organisations had decided was not for me on graduation.

Reading history was great for any number of careers because the flexibility of the timetabling gave lots of scope to pursue other interests. "You need to be on parade for just an hour or two every week, but come

prepared" pretty much captures it. One could only feel for people who had to spend most of the week in the laboratories, instead of having the freedom to make up for lost time by working through the night just before a tutorial.

Fortunately, academic time was valuable too. Having to read out an essay not only to Toby Barnard, Geoffrey Ellis or Christopher Tyerman but half-a-dozen or so assembled friends and colleagues was good for discouraging a pompous or florid prose style. The practice also encouraged opening gambits intended to draw the audience in - though perhaps a first sentence that attempted to encapsulate the decline of Spain throughout the seventeenth century was a tad ambitious.

It favoured also, a sharp approach to argument. As I remember one tutorial when we were discussing early modern Europe,

Toby asked why the ruling families of the time favoured assassination. While we "umm"ed and "err"ed, he cut through the mumbling with a succinct "It worked".

It also provided lots of practice at matching information with the space available. For anyone who has ever summed up Aristotle's political thought in a 45-minute essay or wrung every conceivable nuance from a tiny 'gobbel' of text, the prospect of writing any article to the length of the Editor's choosing holds no fears.

More important than any of these is this broader lesson: spending your time in any worthwhile occupation you enjoy is a desirable end in itself.

Ali Smith became a Fast-Stream Civil Servant in the Home Office in 1982. Her Whitehall career included being Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Commons. In 1989 she became a journalist at The Sunday Times. Subsequent roles at the Financial Times have included Political Correspondent, writing for the Lex comment team, UK Companies' Editor and leader writing. She is currently the FT's Chief Corporate Correspondent.

Life after Hertford: history



Carol Sennett

History, 1982

Whether or not you agree with Edward Gibbon's assertion that history is "little more than the register of crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind" (memories of history 'Prelims', anyone?), there will always be opportunities for those who can apply the lessons of the past to the challenges of the present. As I recall Dr Geoffrey Ellis pointing out when I first mentioned my ambition to work in the media, a degree in history is a wonderful launch-pad for a wide variety of careers. Three years of struggling with the competing claims of narrative and analysis, all the while making sure that the target audience (or tutor!) was engaged, was the perfect grounding for a career in television.

But three years spent under the watchful eye of Dr Geoffrey Ellis and Dr Toby Barnard offered far more. In tune with Hertford's long-standing commitment to broadening access, my cohort of Hertford historians

was, with one exception, entirely female, and predominantly state educated. The tutorial system offered all of us, from the most diverse of backgrounds, the opportunity to engage one-to-one with the best minds in the world. I recall, with chilling clarity, one particular tutorial for which - due to a forthcoming orchestral concert - I arrived grossly unprepared. Dr Barnard patiently listened to my under-researched ramblings - then calmly destroyed the entire premise of my argument with just a few well-chosen words. In the agonising hour which followed, showing no mercy, he forced me to defend an untenable argument about a subject I knew little about. In moments of doubt I still recall his closing words: "You can argue anything now". He gracefully added that it was vitally important I continued working on my music. Hertford does have a knack of seeing the development of an individual far beyond the purely academic.

And so it was the confidence and intellectual rigour, provided by a Hertford History degree, that enabled me to pursue the career of my dreams in the audio-visual world of BBC radio and television. I have been lucky enough to have worked with names such as David Attenborough, Judi Dench, Simon Schama, Jonathan Dimbleby, Richard Hammond, to name but a few. I have had the opportunity to commission and produce hundreds of hours of programmes in all factual fields. Those extraordinary three years at Hertford gave me the inspiration and the skills to help bring to life, for a mass audience, Macaulay's dream of creating a history which is not only "received by the reason but burned into the imagination."

Carol Sennett (née Tarr), is currently responsible for the acquisition of factual programmes for BBC Television. Her critically acclaimed credits include the Emmy-award winning series 1914-18. Carol had a strategic role in the launch of three BBC channels: BBC FOUR, and BBC HD and History, and shaped the European Commission's policy on supporting archival-based programmes. She lives in Hertfordshire with her husband Paul, a banker, and their two teenage children.



Jeremy Quin

History, 1987

Nearly 25 years on from matriculation I work for Deutsche Bank combining a management position with occasionally advising the UK Government when it undertakes corporate transactions; the latter role is a natural follow-on from an interesting time spent as Senior Corporate Finance Adviser inside HM Treasury. My term co-incided with the financial crisis: it's a rare privilege to be a fly on a wall as history is made and I was extremely fortunate to see the crisis 'close up'.

I wouldn't dwell on the fact that historic analogies peppered the commentary on the crisis: many chose, in appropriately concerned tones, to reference the 1930s, occasionally the 1906 banking panic and even (for the well-researched) the Overend and Gurney collapse of the 1860s. At one point a civil servant with considerably more stamina than most, in a rare break from immediate concerns, produced a discussion-piece chart showing

national debt as a proportion of GDP going back to the War of the Spanish Succession. On another occasion an American watching TV footage of a particularly bad moment in the UK crisis said that it gave him a "sense of history": he said two things amazed him about the British (a) that we still had banking panics and that (b) when panicking we still queue in an orderly fashion.

However no one would suggest that understanding seemingly analogous phases and past responses are prime benefits of reading history, far from it. Distilling detailed information from different sources; presenting that information orally and in written form that can persuade and carry an argument; thinking on one's feet. All of which have provided powerful groundings. A syllabus that takes one outside the 'known world' of recent British history, in order to appreciate the different attitudes of cultures separated by time or

geography, is a broadening experience for a modern world in which peoples and forces far distant have extraordinary direct relevance. And Hertford - a friendly, relatively diverse, occasionally insular but intellectually stimulating environment - was a great place to learn.

Churchill, famously, was comfortable with how history would treat him on the grounds that he intended to write the history himself. As an individual who had a small part to play on a very large canvass, the most interesting aspect for me was that source of endless historic fascination - the interplay between huge forces and individuals. I was pleased and reassured to be able to conclude that whatever the great tides of history, at the end of the day people can determine outcomes.

Jeremy Quin is a Managing Director in Deutsche Bank's UK Management. He has worked for Deutsche and its predecessor organisations, primarily as a Company Adviser, since 1990. He served 2008-2009 on secondment as Senior Corporate Finance Adviser, HM Treasury. He has previously stood for Parliament as a Conservative candidate and retains political interests. Jeremy is also involved in a number of charities and is a trustee of the Countryside Alliance Foundation.

alumni share their experiences



Tom Fletcher

History, 1994

A degree from Hertford is about much more than the words a student is able to dredge up in the surroundings of the Examination Schools. It is about much more even than the words a student hears from his or her tutor in the austere surroundings of a central Oxford study (always, I fear, a greater ordeal for the tutor than for the terrified, underprepared, overprepared, or sometimes simply hungover student). It does not give the history graduate the ability to reel off dates or events, or the words to say something smart on an anniversary or when passing a monument. A Hertford history education is not all mouth and no trousers.

Instead it equips the student who seizes the opportunity of studying with the likes of Drs Toby Barnard, Christopher Tyerman or Geoffrey Ellis with the intellectual vigour to pursue to the maximum his or her talents. Through curiosity about the world;

through healthy scepticism that questions and challenges orthodoxy; and through the confidence that comes from knowing that you have had the most rigorous intellectual workout yet designed for a three year degree. Hertford History Fellows - as the Governing Body can testify - like a good argument, and they want their students to argue back.

That's why Hertford history graduates go on to pursue such a range of roles - from my era alone including politicians, spies, journalists, bankers, academics, mandarins, TV presenters, teachers, stand up comedians and entrepreneurs (some in more than one category ...). We have all gained that curiosity, challenge function and confidence.

In my case, the curiosity provided by a Hertford history degree has taken me to most countries in the world, and to homes in

Nairobi, Paris, Beirut and beyond. The scepticism has - I hope - given me an independence of spirit when it comes to policy making, and a greater readiness to take risks. And the confidence has - I hope - helped me to challenge assumptions, and to take on roles I would not previously have contemplated.

Hertford is no academic conveyor belt. Satisfaction in league tables always comes after satisfaction in other achievements. The Hertford History Fellows have never sought to churn out androids. Their students' academic success has never been because they were taught exam technique, nor the intellectual short cut. Hertford history students have instead been offered savvy judgement and rigour, with a healthy dose of humility. They answer back, and do not accept the world as they find it. Long may this be the case.

Tom Fletcher joined the Foreign Office in 1997, and became Private Secretary for Foreign Affairs to Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, and Foreign Policy adviser to Prime Minister David Cameron. He has recently been named Britain's youngest Senior Ambassador, and will take up his position in Beirut in August. He was made a CMG in the 2011 New Year Honours.



Adam Lovejoy
1st Year

“The way in which I think about the subject has undergone a real metamorphosis...”

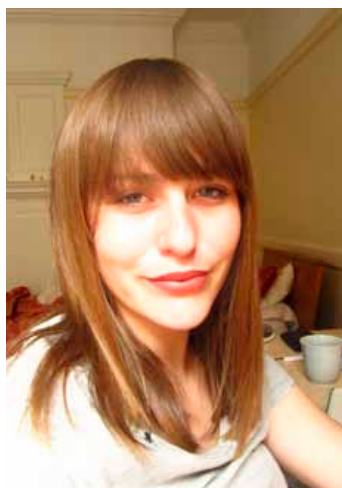
This is my first year studying History at Hertford and on several occasions I've walked out at the end of a tutorial quietly thinking to myself that I am extremely lucky to receive and, at the same time, enjoy this standard of education. The best way to illustrate the impact is that I no longer think of GCSE or A-level history, challenging as they were at the time, as really reflecting the discipline of studying history as I now understand it. The way in which I think about the subject has undergone a real metamorphosis since I started here.

The people to whom I give the lion's share credit are, of course, the tutors. Obviously, learning from specialists in their fields, one can't help but be aware of the simple scale of their knowledge, both in terms of depth and breadth. I've been able to study late medieval British history, Renaissance Europe, the evolution of theories of the state and the major works of four great historians down the ages (taking in Tacitus, Machiavelli, Gibbon and Weber), all within Hertford itself. Furthermore, in each discussion with the tutors, I've been able to make any point or ask any question – however tangential they may have been on occasion – in the knowledge that they would be fully able to expand upon it and direct me

to its most salient features. As a student, that has really been invaluable. Personally, I've also been able to begin fostering my own style as a historian. The aspect of history I have most enjoyed studying thus far has been the development of ideas through various periods of history; as a result, the style of my historical writing is typically quite theoretical. Again, the tutors have been instrumental in this maturing process. I have at all times been given the space to think for myself whilst also being guided through those studies by the experience of the tutors. Hertford does not, in my experience, try to press all students into a single mould, instead encouraging and directing our creativity. In a subject as broad as history, that is just about all one could ask for.

My intention to go into teaching is, I think, intimately bound up with the pleasure I take in studying history. As is perhaps inevitable for a humanities student (particularly in the current climate), I am inclined to think of education not only as a means to an end but also as an end in itself. Really, that is what my experiences at Hertford boil down to: I have so far been able to enjoy studying history purely for its own sake, even before taking into account the many skills it has given me.

Life at Hertford: history students



Agnes Arnold-Forster
2nd Year

“History at Hertford has the benefit of accommodating a variety of interests”

As a second year historian at Hertford, I have been able to explore the full range of my historical interests and enter into unusual levels of specificity. This term I applied to the Fulbright Commission in order to pursue postgraduate study in History in the USA. In the past two years, I have pursued two courses that have informed my objectives: *'the authority of nature: race, heredity and crime, 1800-1940'* with Professor Pietro Corsi and Dr Ruth Harris, and *'the romance of the people: the folk revival from 1760-1914'* with Dr David Hopkin (from Hertford). My interest in the intellectual and cultural history of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries has been molded by the study of these interrelated topics. The eighteenth century was greatly illuminated by the papers I pursued with Dr Gabriel Glickman – finding new fascination with even the minute machinations of political parties and intricacies of economic development. History at Hertford is almost invariably a fulfilling experience, with great attention paid to the pursuit of personal passions.

I am currently the Deputy Editor of the *Cherwell* newspaper, and I have found both my student journalism and my academic study are mutually beneficial. My degree has honed my writing skills, enabling me to be a

better journalist and editor. Working at *Cherwell* has been a constant interest and forced development of time-management. Both journalism and history are about the study and understanding of people. My interest in history is largely one of an interest in humanity. I appreciate the continuity in the nature of human activity and what motivates people to act. I would be interested in working in the humanitarian field or in diplomacy and international relations. An understanding of past events and the developments that have shaped the modern world – particularly my interest in nationalism and the formation of nation-states in the nineteenth century – all will assist any future career.

History at Hertford has the benefit of accommodating a variety of interests. My fellow students all are able to investigate their own areas of history. This is in part due to the high number and quality of the teaching staff. Hertford has the unusual quality of having academics that can address a range of historical periods. Hertford historians have taught most of my papers and all of our classes are held within College. My experience of History at Hertford is, and I am sure will continue to be, overwhelmingly positive.



Amy Cowan

3rd Year

“...since coming to Hertford, I haven't been disappointed”

I have thoroughly enjoyed my three years studying History and French at Hertford. One of the chief reasons that I chose to study History was because of the breadth and variety that the subject encompasses, and since coming to Hertford, I haven't been disappointed. The array of different topics on offer is amazing, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to study such a wide range of periods and places. Every paper has presented its own attractions and challenges. The topic which has interested me most is that of Ireland during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For me, this paper set the perfect balance between political, social and cultural history, and I was fascinated to study the origins of a conflict which has had, and continues to have, such an impact on Britain today.

Alongside History, I also study French language and literature, so I particularly appreciate the opportunities the course offers for bringing these two subjects together. Also, I have found that the knowledge or skills gained from one side can often help me on the other. During my first year, for instance, I was able to explore this in the Foreign Text paper, which examined in detail the writer Tocqueville's work on the

French Revolution. I have really enjoyed being able to take this combination even further in my Bridge Essay, a dissertation linking the two halves of the course, which I have been researching during my year abroad this year. As I am looking at the folk literature of central France, this project has been the perfect way to use my understanding of French language and literature to further my historical insight into rural society and culture.

Through studying History at Hertford, I have not only learnt a lot of information but also many vital life skills. Amongst many other skills, it has taught me the importance of analysis and of considering an issue from every angle before reaching an opinion on it. In tutorials, I've learnt to acknowledge others' points of view as well as to defend my own. Meanwhile independent reading and research have improved my application and self-motivation. I'm still undecided about my plans after Oxford – there are so many options to choose from! – but whether it's teaching or post-graduate studies, heritage work or research, I'm certain that the skills I've learnt here at Hertford will provide me with a firm foundation for the future.

reflect on their academic lives



Tom Brodie

Post Graduate

“...Hertford continues to offer me a base of support and intellectual stimulation”

I began my history career at Hertford in Michaelmas Term 2006 as an undergraduate student. Having completed my BA in the summer of 2009, I progressed to reading for a Masters in the subject during 2009/10, and finally commenced work on my doctorate in October last year.

Whilst an undergraduate, I greatly enjoyed the opportunities afforded at Hertford to study a wide range of historical themes and periods. Tutorials on medieval Britain and the Crusades with Christopher Tyerman, and on eighteenth century European political culture with Gabriel Glickman are cherished memories. These opportunities encouraged me to pursue academic study beyond Finals.

Although my postgraduate work on the history of the Third Reich is being supervised at Magdalen College, Hertford nevertheless continues to offer me a base of support and intellectual stimulation. As a recipient of a Senior Scholarship from Hertford, it has made a tremendous difference to my quality of life as a student and my ability to spend periods in Germany undertaking research.

The History Fellows are always available for advice regarding academic matters, and

a chat concerning less dark periods of the past! My Hertford experience has developed my ability to above all think critically: from engagement with first year reading lists, through to submitting Finals' dissertations. The College Tutors have always encouraged us as students to think and write originally and creatively. My skills in reading and assessing texts, and composing analytical arguments, essential for my Doctorate, are largely due to my time at Hertford (no doubt this will be ceaselessly stressed on my CV when the time finally comes to seek actual employment...).

When I complete my doctorate, I hope to pursue an academic career either at Oxford or elsewhere. If however the economic climate of Britain renders this impossible, I would apply for the Civil Service or teaching.

Beyond the rigours of study, History at Hertford has always been characterised by tremendous solidarity and friendships across year groups, and between students and tutors. This environment was pivotal to the success attained by my year group in Finals with the tension of exams diffused by mutual support and camaraderie.



James Weinberg JCR President

There are plenty of fine memories from the past two terms to reflect upon, and many successes to savour from every arena of college life. There is, though, one sad moment that does cloud the accomplishments of the past months, and is worthy of attention: namely the decision of this University's managerial apex to embrace government reforms and charge tuition fees of £9,000 from 2012. Oxford could be in danger of reverting back to the *status quo ante* and we, therefore, need to be genuinely proactive. I am glad to say that we at Hertford are doing just that. The JCR have passed a motion of 'No Confidence' in David Willetts as Minister for Higher Education and added its voice to the on-running OUSU campaign. We have also been brainstorming and implementing concerted strategies that may help ameliorate the impact of these reforms on Hertford: developed an e-mentoring scheme; started active participation in outreach events and insight days; insisted on providing student input into a College access review; created a new Access Officer as part of our Executive Committee; and I am in the process of raising funds to establish a student ambassador scheme in the autumn.

On a slightly more light-hearted note, Hertford JCR was proud to offer itself as a venue for part of a 12 hour improvised comedy marathon performed by the Oxford Imps, and organised by our very own Sylvia Bishop on behalf of the Homeless Action Group. I am delighted to say that the College's charitable outlook was also recognised in the Vice-Chancellor's Civic Awards (p.6). Among our upcoming thespians, it is similarly great to note that Millie Townsend has been acting as the set designer for *Chutney and Chips* and *Tamburlaine*, Florence Robson has been starring in a garden play called *Charley's Aunt*, while Annie Hollister and Laurence Osborn are occupying senior positions as Producer and Musical Director on this year's OUDS/Thelma Holt Tour, which represents the highest level of commitment and talent that the Oxford drama scene has to offer.

In the sporting arena, it has as ever been a story of mixed fortunes, but the JCR did champion its claim to minority sport prowess as the pool team overcame all odds to reach the semi-final of Cuppers. The social scene has also been punctuated by a series of enjoyable events, including a very successful Wild West Vs. Out of Space Bop, but the highlight must be the annual College ball. Commencing with a champagne reception in the Quad, revellers moved in their finery to the Union where a haute cuisine BBQ and an excess of strawberries typified the 'British Summer' theme; drink was free flowing; music operated on numerous levels in the silent disco; and Morris dancers, caricaturists and photographers added to the entertainment. Performing on the night was the fantastic *a cappella* group *Out of the Blue*, which included the vocal genius of Hertford's own Dominic Stockbridge and Ollie Stephenson. This group deserve a special mention for storming into the 2011 semi-finals of *Britain's Got Talent*.

So as the academic year finished, I feel Hertford JCR can look back on an array of happy memories and moreover a multitude of memorable achievements, which have once again laid firm foundations for even more triumph and amusement in terms to come.



Rubén Gómez Castellanos MCR President

Thanks to a combination of good weather, election fever and Summer Eights, the MCR has been as lively as ever.

Hilary and Trinity Term have been witness to our continuous efforts to live up to the social expectations of Hertford. Our social team spearheaded by Edwin Simpson has hosted some of the best events in town, including our traditional Burns Night, MCR Guest Nights and Exchange Dinners with Wadham, St. Cross, Oriel, Keble and Brasenose colleges, and a first for Hertford, Fitzwilliam College (Cantab). The common room in the Graduate Centre has seen its fair share of use thanks to our newly appointed Arts Rep, Ivo Gruiev who has organised movie nights and, as I write, has still one or two surprises for the MCR before the year is over.

On the sports ground, the MCR has been well represented in the 1st and 2nd Men's Torpid Boats, rugby, basketball, power-lifting, cricket and the dance sport cup. The MCR celebrates the competitive spirit of its members and wishes to congratulate all of them. The MCR has shown its academic strengths as well. Our Academic Affairs Rep Matthew Powell organised the termly soirées, the first one by Charles Copley on *Big Science* and Prof. Robert Miller on *Developing a Clinical Research Program in Hadron Therapy at the Mayo Clinic*. And alumnus Dr Cristopher Ballinas Valdés was kind enough to share with us the news of his book being published: *Political Struggles and the Forging of Autonomous Government Agencies*.

This year saw many changes to College statutes. A result of which is our current Principal, Dr John Landers, stepping down from his position to allow for a new Principal to start a 5-year term in office. The MCR, along with the JCR, was invited to collaborate on the Principalian Search, and we were represented by our Secretary and Treasurer, Andrew Tickell and Geoff Nelson. We look forward to welcoming Mr Will Hutton as our new Principal later this year. We wish to thank Dr Landers for his support to the MCR during his Principalship. As our personal thank you and farewell we will be hosting the last MCR Guest Night of the year in honour of him and his wife, Ms Diana Parker. Tanzil Rahman, former President of the MCR and musical director of the Oxford University Big Band, will be performing the finest jazz music in the finest room the College has to offer: the Octagon.

I have only left to express my most sincere thanks to all committee and MCR members who have contributed to make Hertford one of the best colleges in Oxford for graduate studies. We will be celebrating the end of the academic year, as it is now tradition, with a boat party on the Isis River leaving from the Graduate Centre where we will be formalising the transition to the new committee elected for the coming year.



Charlotte Houston Sports Rep.

The new JCR Gym has sparked an invigorated sporting revolution. Boasting a whole host of machines the gym is in constant use by a variety of JCR, MCR and SCR members. Thanks must go to James Baillie for coordinating the implementation of the new equipment.

The most successful team these past few terms have been the Hertford men's 1st football team; finishing fourth in their division and were through to the quarter finals of a university 5-a-side competition. The women's football team weren't quite as successful, although they beat the Balliol-Regents team convincingly 5-3.

Hertford Mixed Lacrosse had a great season. After beating Teddy Hall to finish in third place in the League they suffered a slight disappointment at Cuppers by being knocked out in the early stages. The men's and women's tennis teams also had a great season. The women have won all of their league matches so far, and whilst the men are doing well, they are certainly the smartest team in the league thanks to fancy new Hertford tennis kit!

The netball team played a host of closely contested matches within Division 5. The team produced some stunning victories, thanks in large to strong performances from Mary Spencer and Alais Ricard, as well as some great tenacity from incoming enthusiasts. Despite frequent squad changes, the team developed really well, culminating in the addition of some new kit to solidify the bonding process.

The HCBC men's rowing first VIII is still competing at the highest college level with admirable performances in Torpids (finishing 9th on the river) and the national Head of the River event in London. Women's rowing had an extremely successful year with over thirty ladies currently rowing for the club. After a tumultuous but successful beginning of the year in Michaelmas term, many novices continued rowing in Hilary and Trinity Terms representing W1, W2, and W3. This term Torpids was a great success for the women's boats, followed by the Women's Head of the River Race in which the W1 came in 124th (an improvement of 111 places on last year's result!). They finished third (out of 13) in their division this season.

The pool team have been very successful, with the 1st team reaching the finals of the division 2 play-offs. Sadly they lost to New College in a sudden death frame after ending the normal match 9-9. In Cuppers the team excelled even further; reaching the semi-finals of a tournament that started with over 40 entrants. The team eventually lost to the number 1 seed Harris Manchester, but put on some great performances, including knocking out the favourites Brasenose.

Hertford sent two teams to sailing Cuppers and had surprising success! Both teams were in a tough group, but the 1st team made it through to the finals. After a very close couple of races, Hertford lost 2-1 to Oriel finishing in an impressive second place.

To finish: Hertford Cricket. Undoubtedly they had the least successful cricket season any Hertford team has ever had, and were yet to win a single game. Nevertheless, they remained positive.



Sam Parsons HCMS President

These last two terms have proved that musical activities in Hertford continue to be both rich and plentiful. The orchestra continued to rehearse weekly, and performed both an evening of Music from the British Isles at the end of Hilary, and Cimarosa's oboe *Concerto in C* mid-Trinity with the College's Music tutor, Ben Skipp, as soloist. Both under the baton of Andy Warnock. The Trinity concert was further supplemented by a trio of flute, piano, and cello (played by Christopher James, Steven Fiddaman, and Olivia McDermott) who championed C. M. von Weber's Gm work. We hope to hear more from them in the future.

Further to orchestral goings-on, Hilary term saw the foundation of the Hertford College Wind Band, which was directed by Tom Sears. Given the high quality of performance and level of interest, the ensemble will continue to feature in future HCMS concerts, giving an opportunity to wind players across the university who want to engage in slightly less serious (yet still good!) music-making.

The choir, now conducted exclusively by Jen Law, as Grace Newcombe approaches finals and her departure from Oxford, is as strong as ever, supplemented by a large number of visiting students. These last two terms featured some challenging repertoire, particularly the Oxford premiere of Gabriel Jackson's Requiem on All Soul's day, and Howells' Chichester Service. Both were, thanks to hard work from Jen and the choir itself, well performed during service, which goes to strengthen their claim that Hertford is the best non-auditioning choir in Oxford. A separate troupe, who comprise an associated touring choir, is also in the process of planning and fundraising for a tour to Dubrovnik, Croatia in the summer which is shaping up wonderfully. The tour programme will feature works by Severac, Lotti, Poulenc and Palestrina, and is being conducted by Ben Goodson.

Wednesday lunchtime recitals continue to run throughout every term, and Trinity saw performers range from the leader of OUO, Henry Chandler, to one of the leading performers of the theremin, Lydia Kavina.

The infamous HCMS dinner also took place this Trinity in Hall, which was enjoyed by all, and ended with a rousing, slightly tipsy, rendition of Bruckner's *Locus Iste*.

As the music society continues to flourish, it is now looking forward to next year, which will be our 80th anniversary. This will no doubt be aided by a new set of faces who will bring new vitality into the society, and allow to continue to thrive. As we wave goodbye to Grace Newcombe (Senior Organ Scholar) and Tom Sears (Wind Band Conductor) I'd like to thank them for their hard work and commitment to the society over the years. Thanks also go to Ally Hopper (Treasurer), Dominic Stockbridge (Secretary), Christopher James (Entertainment Rep), Steven Fiddaman (Orchestra Manager), Andy Warnock (Conductor), Ben Goodson, Vicky Arnold and Claire Vallance for their support and dedication, as well as all the players and singers who make HCMS what it is. Long may it continue.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2011:

Admissions Open Day Friday 16 September

Alumni Weekend Friday 16 to Sunday 18 September
www.alumniweekend.ox.ac.uk

Recital in Hertford Chapel and
brunch in Hall
(Weekend accommodation available)

Saturday 17 September

Gaudy Friday 23 September
Matriculation years pre 1960

Celebration of History at Hertford Friday 30 September
The Ellis Barnard History Fellowship Launch

London Drinks Thursday 10 November
at Herbert Smith LLP

2012:

Gaudy Friday 6 January
Matriculation years 1961 - 1970

**Hertford Society's
50th Anniversary Dinner** Thursday 12 January
The Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn, London

Gaudy Friday 23 March
Matriculation years 1989 & 1990

North American Reunion Friday 13 & Saturday 14 April
in New York

Geoffrey Warnock Society Lunch Friday 11 May

Eights Week Buffet Lunch Saturday 26 May

Summer Reunion Sunday 10 June
Matriculation year 2004

Alan Turing Centenary Dinner Saturday 23 June

If you would like to hold a
conference in Hertford College,
please contact Julie Dearden in the
International Programmes Office.



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Simpkin is finally making up for not having taken a gap year!