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## Editor's note

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The Editor thanks all those who have contributed to and advised on this year's issue, especially Julia Thaxton and the team in the Development Office.







## Principal's Welcome

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**T**ime is definitely going faster. It seems only yesterday that I was writing this annual piece for the magazine. Perhaps we are living through such momentous times – a referendum, a general election, the impending shock of Brexit – that everything is speeding up. There is a wonderful scene in *Catch-22* when one of the characters explains that he welcomes peeling potatoes because it's so dull and boring that time slows down – and makes the gaps between combat missions last longer. I doubt the college, university and the country are going to have many potato-peeling moments any time soon: change is hurtling towards us, and it's anything but boring.

Jeremy Corbyn's unexpected electoral success, partly on his pledge to eliminate tuition fees, and the consequent hung parliament have suddenly put in doubt what seemed like an unassailable foundation of the financing of British



higher education. The Conservatives are keenly aware that they are losing the youth vote – and more sensitive to criticism about being the party of the old. Thus when Lord Andrew Adonis (a Hertford conversationalist amongst his other qualities), who initiated the fee regime at £3,000 back in 2004, says the current regime is ‘poisoned’ he has a hearing that only months ago seemed improbable. There is no market as hoped among universities who operate as a cartel, he alleges: students, with fees now lifted to £9,250, leave university with more than £50,000 of debt; and the interest rate, at 6.1 per cent, is usurious. He wants to scrap the system.

The Conservative defence is that the system was designed to simulate a graduate tax, that repayments only start for earnings over £21,000, that nearly all high earners are graduates so that *de facto* they (and not low earners) are paying for their valuable education and that nearly half of the debt will be written off – but that cuts little ice. The scale of student debt and default rate are so high that Labour has captured the youth vote; and the bidding war that led to the triple lock on pensions is now going to open up on tuition fees.

And why not? As one commentator wryly observes, the annual additional cost of the triple lock, a difficult to justify financial concession to the elderly, now runs at £12 billion a year. Scrapping tuition fees, a similar concession to the young, would cost the same. Already the government has announced a review, and a reduction of the interest rate and raising the threshold for repayments looks inevitable, with even some reduction in total amount not off the cards. A Labour government would have to scrap them.

Yet the impact on Oxford will be considerable. Already the university is grappling with the impact of the loss of not just potential research income from Brexit but, as gravely, its ability to lead research consortia and attract EU academics. Now

comes the potential shock of a loss of income to support teaching, because there is little chance of a financially hard-pressed British government making good pound for pound the loss of fee income from student loans. Rather, it will be an opportunity to put universities on short rations and further entrench the growing regulatory powers, some of which, like Prevent, directly threaten academic freedoms. Yet British universities generally, and Oxford in particular, are among the most successful parts of the UK economy and society.

Should we – could we – do more to help ourselves, so that any change to the regime aimed at producing more fairness will not at the same time damage universities? While Oxford, and indeed Cambridge along with some of the top London universities regularly rank alongside Stanford, MIT, Harvard and Yale in the world top rankings, we don't enjoy the same standing in British society. While US universities are seen as the co-authors of the US's pre-eminence in frontier technologies and the US's defence and commercial strength, the same quality of research done in Oxford earns little of the same admiration. The aura of the Bullingdon club, stylised Oxford Union debates and decades of being characterised as a scene in *Brideshead Revisited* or *Downton Abbey* seem impossible to escape. To argue that Oxford is above anything else academically brilliant, the home of great research that extends from medicine to the humanities, does not get the hearing it should above the wider cultural din. Equally that its commitment to teaching through the tutorial system, with young people getting more face time with their tutors than anywhere else, is total. And that over the last decade there is an accelerating pace of innovative start-ups and spin-outs that is beginning to rival the best in the US. Last year Oxford sponsored no fewer than 21 spin-outs, made over 100 patent applications and 100 licence deals – and

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the pace is accelerating. We all know about Oxford's beauty and its particular place in British society, but even in an article in the college magazine it bears repeating that the quality of teaching and research here is world-beating.

Hertford will try to do its bit within the collegiate university to fly the flag for Oxford – statistics like those above need to be more widely known. When the House of Commons debated the bill to trigger Article 50, I circulated a draft letter to *The Times* among my fellow heads of house (triggered by our incoming Senior Tutor, Professor David Hopkin) urging Parliament to state there and then that EU citizens in Britain (and reciprocally British citizens in the EU) should enjoy the same rights as they do now. I was delighted that the vice-chancellor and nearly every head of house signed it, thus making it *The Times* front page lead – and almost all our alumni, whether Leaver or Remainer, felt on this issue the university was right to take a lead. It was striking that no other university – or leading British company – despite sharing our views had the chutzpah to speak out. I was very proud of

Oxford, even if Parliament voted to ignore us. The government has been wrong to drag its feet over the civil rights and lives of millions of people who took the honest decision to live in Britain when we were a member of the EU club. They have faced unparadonable uncertainty which, whatever the final deal, is a sad reflection on our new national priorities.

We are also proud of our access work, which is really making a difference. This year the team, lead by our Access Fellow Dr Catherine Redford in conjunction with our new Academic Registrar Lynn Featherstone, hosted 33 schools for Taster Days in college, mounted more than 30 events including a first – a year-12 History study day – and in total worked with over 2,300 students. Most importantly, even though we are necessarily very economical in our spending, we calculate that 10-11% of our UK intake can be traced back to our access and outreach work. State school and independent school students apply to Oxford in a 70:30 ratio, and I am pleased that last year we admitted on those terms, some 10 per cent better than the university average.



We are working with two other colleges – Wolfson and Pembroke – to promote a competition for wannabe student innovators: this year over 25 teams entered with 90 students, and next year we are aiming to expand it still further. And we were delighted to announce that Professor Alison Woollard, Fellow and Tutor in Biochemistry, has been appointed the University's Academic Champion for Public Engagement. Alison has been brilliant in disseminating the results of her own work on exploring the developmental genetics of the tiniest worms, thus advancing our understanding of both life and cancer – her half hour interview on Radio 4's *The Life Scientific* was compelling. Her job, working alongside Professor Ian Walmsley, who as Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation is responsible for public engagement, is to bring that same flair to get high quality public engagement across the university's research programme, so that not only is the wider public aware of what we do, but its feedback can improve it. In the same vein Professor Michael Wooldridge has won a record-breaking advance, in particular from China, for his new book setting out the principles and possibilities of Artificial Intelligence. We were also delighted that Professor Claire Vallance won a teaching award from the MPLS division for her redesign of the undergraduate chemistry course.

We also try to keep the undergraduate and graduate body linked to the outside world via the Hertford conversations. This year we had a number of very timely and brilliantly engaging speakers. Ed Balls ranged from the possibilities of another general election within a year to how he had dealt with the disability of having a pronounced stutter, especially when he was young, and of course after supper posed for endless selfies in his *Strictly Come Dancing* mode. Mervyn King reminded us how near the world had come to financial disaster in 2008/9, but thought that when we looked back

at the economic history of the first 50 years of the twenty-first century we would hardly notice Brexit as an economic event disturbing the economic trend lines. We were also pleased to welcome David Goodhart, whose book *The Road to Somewhere* has so influenced Conservative thinking (and in particular Mrs May's), traced the cultural differences between 'citizens of anywhere', who expect to live, work and travel abroad, and 'citizens of somewhere', in particular the traditional working class who would like to be anchored. Students really engaged with the arguments, as they did with the career and reflections of Vicky Pryce, former head of the government economic service, who offered her thoughts on everything from women's prisons (where she had spent three months following her conviction for falsifying driving infringements to avoid her then husband getting the points) to the rights and wrongs of the Greek economic crisis.

And when our undergraduates were not attending Hertford conversations, down the bar, or in their rooms burning the midnight oil, they were successfully competing on the river and on the sports field. Fourth on the river for Division One Women's Eights – the best for more than thirty years. The women's football team won Cuppers, which we think is a first. The mixed Lacrosse team won their league and the men's second football team was promoted. Congratulations to them all.

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Congratulations are also in order to a number of our Honorary fellows and alumni who have been publicly recognised this year for their contributions to British life. Honorary Fellow, the **Right Honourable the Lady Helen Mary Warnock DBE**, was made a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour in the 2017 New Year's Honours List for services to charity and Children with Special Educational Needs. **The Rt Hon Steven Webb** (PPE 1983) was knighted for political and public service.

**Professor Vidal Ashkenazi** (DPhil, Engineering Science 1963 and DPhil, Physical Sciences 1965) was awarded the OBE for his services to science, **Mr Trevor Cooper** (Physics, 1968) received the MBE services to ecclesiastical heritage, and **Ms Natasha Kaplinsky** (English, 1992) was made an OBE for services to Holocaust commemoration. We warmly congratulate them.

Congratulations also to our law fellows, Professor Alison Young and Professor Alan Bogg, whose blossoming careers are taking them away from Oxford and Hertford. Alison is to become the Sir

David Williams Chair in Public Law at Cambridge, one of the great landmark posts in her chosen field of legal expertise. This follows her high-profile and expert commentary of the evolving constitutional crisis. How much executive discretion does parliament have? And where does ultimate sovereignty lie – parliament or people in a referendum vote? Alison guided millions through the dilemmas with wise BBC commentary in the autumn of 2016, confirming her as a talented public intellectual. Alan, meanwhile, is to take the law chair at Bristol University and build up Bristol's capacity in employment law where he is an acknowledged world leader, with his work cited in Supreme Court rulings: both universities are lucky to have them. They have given exemplary service to Hertford academically, to our students and on our committees – Alison for 22 years, including a period as Tutor for Women and Alan for 14, including a stint as Senior Tutor – where both have taken their civic responsibilities to the college extremely seriously. I know that hundreds of their former students, while deeply regretting



their going, will join me, the Fellowship and staff in wishing them the very best.

Geography is experiencing loss on a parallel scale with the retirement of Dr Peter Bull after 30 years at Hertford. His geographers, achieving six Firsts this year, brought his cumulative tally of students under his tutelage achieving Firsts to over a hundred – quite something! He has combined a superb teaching career with original research in forensic science, while also holding a number of college offices – and in recent years has had to battle with unlucky bad health, which he has done with courage and fortitude. Hertford loses one of its great colourful figures, and I am sure he will use the years ahead as fruitfully as he had done in college. We wish him well, as we do our Career Development fellow in economics, Dr Damoun Ashournia, who took up a post at the Ministry of Finance of Denmark.

We also had our deaths to register. Miles Vaughan Williams, Honorary Fellow and former Tutor in Medicine, died on 31 August 2016. Miles was one of the architects of contemporary Hertford,

in his case literally: he designed and drove forward the rebuilding of Holywell quad and was an inspirational teacher and researcher. The memorial dinner was over-subscribed, and thanks to Professor David Greaves for organising it, and Richard Vaughan-Jones, a former colleague from the Pharmacology Department, and Nigel Thompson, a former student of Miles, for giving memorable speeches. I received a personal note from Miles that he must have typed in the last few days of his life with a characteristically flamboyant sign off – Voltaire's great quote on religion: *ecrasez l'infâme!* We grieve his loss. We were sorry too for the death of Emeritus Fellow Professor Ray Guillery FRS (1929-2017) on May 6th 2017 and Dr Anne Holmes on 9th February – a respected Tutor in French, a great teacher and a long-standing Tutor for Admissions (see the tribute below). We also mourned the death of former Home Secretary, leader of the House of Commons and Honorary Fellow David Waddington (Jurisprudence 1947) on February 27th 2017.



And it was a sad goodbye to Simpkin III, our much-loved college cat, who chased his last mouse in July of last year after a long fight with ill health. Head Porter Dave Haskell's update emails about his progress, and the travails of persuading him to take his pills, were mini-masterpieces. Simpkin IV, breaking with tradition as completely all black, took up his position with great aplomb immediately after Christmas – recovering his self-confidence after being restored to full cat capabilities by our wonderful team of porters. He is becoming as much loved as Simpkin III.



It was a year where we welcomed a number of new additions to our team, replacing retirees or staff moving on in their lives. In February, Daniel Lee arrived as our new clerk of works, a new post as Jim Coyle stepped down as head of maintenance after 15 years of service. Lynn Featherstone joined the same month from Merton as our new Registrar and has already become a byword for hard work and good-humoured efficiency. Undine Bruckner joined in a new role, HR manager, as Hertford finally conceded the arrival of the twenty-first century and its demands for dedicated professional handling of our most precious resource – our people. A few weeks later we welcomed our new bursar, Jamie Clark, who is already bedding in well. Finally Malcolm (Mac) N'Jie was installed in June as our new ICT manager. So no fewer than five new enthusiastic faces around the college, infusing renewed energy into our administration, management and stewardship of our estate.

For those of you coming to gaudies, attending our events or just dropping

in to see us, you will notice further developments in our look. Some are less visible like the vital new water heating system in the Graduate centre or the internal improvements to Warnock House: some are long overdue like the refitting of the entire north east corner of OB1, particularly underground which suffered from rot and the presence of asbestos, but more visibly the Old Library and Old Hall. The Old Hall is now complete and looking splendid with its full quota of paintings, notably the grand painting of the leaders of the Protestant Reformation. But most visible of all are the paintings in the Hall, now refurbished (thanks to Chris Monckton for his leadership of the project and the Hertford Society for its support). A luminous Thomas Hobbes has joined William Tyndale and a revived Geoffrey Warnock over High Table along with a suite of distinguished Principals, glowing as in their original portraiture. We retain photographs of alumni on the North Wall over the doors which we will rotate over the years, while the East Wall now boasts two newly-commissioned portraits –





one of the first woman Home Secretary Jacqui Smith (PPE 1981) and the other of Oxford's first black Rhodes scholar, Alain Leroy Locke (Philosophy, Greek, and Literae Humaniores, 1907-1910), whom Hertford accepted after four other colleges turned him down. He went on to found the Harlem movement and inspired Martin Luther King. We think the range and variety of portraits now captures the kind of college we are and who we want to be, and many thanks to the Works of Art Committee (Professor Christopher Tyerman, Professor Emma Smith and Dr Katherine Lunn-Rockcliffe) who have pioneered this transformation.

My thanks also to the 850 alumni who have given to the college this year – a new record. Hertford is a remarkable community, and giving in this way is a kind of contract between the generations. Income from the endowment is crucial to our finances and ability to offer the current generation of graduates at least the same teaching and college experience (we hope even better) that our alumni enjoyed. I also want to thank those alumni who have joined the consortia we have formed to pay the college salaries of tutorial Fellows for the next ten years in Law, Computer Science, Biochemistry, English, Management, and Physics. It is a new approach to funding fellowships that is finding a lot of support amongst you; less of a financial mountain to climb than aiming for a huge multi-million endowment but highly effective in giving the college support. A big pat on the back to the Development team and its director Julia Thaxton.

So that's it for this year. We are moving forward on every front – hopefully we will be able to reveal even more news about our plans next year – but thanks to all of you for staying engaged and so supportive, especially in times as fast-moving and not boring as these. But then as I say to our students in their finals year: Hertford expects!



# Hertford Highlights





## The Donne Lecture

Mark Thompson  
*Trump, Brexit And The Broken  
Language Of Politics*  
John Donne Lecture  
Oxford 17 March 2017

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**T**here's a point in the middle of *The Tempest* when Caliban and the drunken castaways Stefano and Trinculo devise a plot to overthrow Prospero. They'll march across the island, murder the wise magician and seize power. Stefano will be crowned king and marry Miranda. Trinculo and Caliban will become his viceroys.

We've already seen enough of these three characters to know that, were their *coup d'état* to succeed, the results would be – to quote that great wordsmith Donald J. Trump – 'very catastrophic'.

But we also know that it *won't* succeed. For a start, Prospero's virtual assistant Ariel is listening in. And besides, Prospero has two defensive weapons of immense power: his book of spells and the staff which gives him magical

authority. Caliban, whom Prospero regards as an irredeemable sub-human, warns the others, 'Remember / First to possess his books, for without them / He's but a sot as I am, nor hath one spirit to command.'

So the coup is doomed before it starts, and at the end of the play Prospero deals with it almost as an afterthought. A chastened Caliban, firmly back under control, wonders why he ever believed in his vainglorious companions: 'What a thrice-double ass / Was I to take this drunkard for a god, / And worship this dull fool!'

I saw all this unfold in Stratford-upon-Avon at the end of 2016 in a ravishing new RSC production of *The Tempest*, with Simon Russell Beale as a sad and self-aware Prospero, and Joe Dixon, Tony Jayawardena and Simon Trinder outstanding as Caliban, Stefano and Trinculo. The production transfers to the Barbican in a few months' time.

But as I watched Caliban explain his scheme to Stefano and Trinculo, a different, darker *Tempest* came into my mind. Imagine that Ariel is deaf and dumb. He can't hear the conspirators and never issues a warning. And imagine further that, when the three murderers arrive, Prospero's book and staff fail him. They've never let him down before but now, just when he needs them most, they're useless.

And so, before anyone can stop them – before anyone has even seen the danger – three inebriated, know-nothing braggarts bump him off and take control of the island. Reason, wise counsel and benevolence give way to self-delusion, incompetence and hate. We're no longer watching *The Tempest*. We're watching *King Lear*.

It's not what William Shakespeare wrote. But it is a pretty fair approximation of what many people believe is playing out in our politics right now. For them,

Donald Trump's election, the Brexit vote, the growing strength of populist and far right parties in continental Europe all point to an incomprehensible eclipse of wisdom and common sense by ignorance and prejudice.

Of course the vast numbers of people who support these parties and who voted for Trump and Leave, take a quite different view of 2016. For them, it was a breakthrough: the year when ordinary people stood up to the self-serving dishonesty of the elites and finally asserted themselves.

So how do the two sides describe each other? As luck would have it, two British public figures threw out some usefully representative adjectives when they clashed recently on Twitter. When J.K. Rowling tweeted out how satisfying it had been to hear Piers Morgan being abused on an American talkshow for defending Mr Trump, he quickly hit back:

*The superior, dismissive arrogance of rabid Remain/Clinton supporters like @jk\_rowling is, of course, precisely why both campaigns lost.*<sup>3</sup>

Exactly six minutes later, the creator of Harry Potter responded with this:

*The fact-free, amoral, bigotry-apologism of celebrity toady Piers Morgan is, of course, why it's so delicious to see him told to fuck off.*<sup>4</sup>

'Superior', 'dismissive', 'arrogant', versus 'fact-free', 'amoral' and 'bigot'. Apart from a little 'celebrity toady' on the side, this could be Caliban and Prospero describing each other. And note how vituperative and personal the language is. This is the sound of public discourse in 2017.

Insults like these are flying back and forth across the western world. Populists and their supporters are racist, sexist, and cruel. They have no plan. And they lie.

And those hated elites and their

1. William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, III ii, 92-4.

2. *Ibid.*, V i, 299-301.

3. Piers Morgan, tweet, 8:06 am 11 February 2017.

4. J.K. Rowling, tweet, 8:12 am 11 February 2017.

followers in the centre and on the left? Smug, controlling, corrupt, quite unable to understand or empathise with the lives and concerns of average citizens. And they lie too.

As for their supposed allies in the media, let me briefly channel the 45th president of the United States, though alas I can't do justice to the accent: 'The FAKE NEWS media (failing #nytimes, #NBCNews, #ABC, #CBS, #CNN), is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American people!'<sup>5</sup>

In other words, we in the media are every bit as bad as those other 'enemies of the people', the British judges – or 'so-called judges' as Donald Trump would have it – damned by the *Daily Mail* for having the insolence to rule that parliament be allowed to vote on Article 50.

2016 was the year when many people on both sides of this divide in Britain, America and elsewhere came to believe that they were living among strangers – neighbours, friends, family members even, whose world view and values had been revealed to be quite alien and incommensurable with their own.

So how did we come to this pass? I want to call on two early witnesses. The first is *The New Yorker* magazine writer Adam Gopnik. Through the magic of the internet, I sat in our Manhattan apartment and listened to him on Radio 4 a few days before the US presidential election. In his talk, Gopnik warned fellow liberals not to believe claims that Donald Trump's astonishing run at the presidency was the result of genuine economic or social injustices. 'No,' he said,

*we must not delude ourselves. Trump's rise is due to the reawakening of deep, atavistic passions of nationalism and ethnic hatred among millions of Americans. And it was capable of being reawakened for the*

2016 was the year when many people on both sides of this divide in Britain, America and elsewhere came to believe that they were living among strangers.

*tragic and not very complicated reason that such passions are always capable of being reawakened everywhere in the world, and at any time.*<sup>6</sup>

Elsewhere in the talk, Gopnik described those atavistic passions as a 'pathogen'. Imagine some long-known and long-feared plague sweeping through our towns and cities once again for no other reason than our natural susceptibility.

Prospero calls Caliban 'this thing of darkness'. For Gopnik, there's a zone of darkness in all of us, or at least in many human beings. His explanation for the Trump phenomenon, then, is *anthropological* – and it's a pretty pessimistic anthropology at that. Maybe Caliban, that misshapen representative of the unwashed, uneducated human id, really is incorrigible, as Prospero claims.

Contrast this with a remark I heard the political philosopher Michael Sandel make at Davos, after he'd sat through a week of discussion about the rise of populism which was high on disapproval, but rather lower on self-reflection:

*Why is Davos man and woman still so deaf to the legitimate grievances of ordinary people?*

Sandel meant the world's political, business, academic and, yes no doubt, media elites. A narrower group of people than Adam Gopnik probably had in mind when he used the word 'we', but close enough.

<sup>5</sup>. President Donald J. Trump, tweet, 17 February 2017.

<sup>6</sup>. BBC Radio 4, *A Point of View*, 'America Votes', 6 November 2016.

Michael Sandel's remark implicitly rejects Adam Gopnik's argument at least in part – 'legitimate grievances', he claims, *are* an important part of the story. And it directs us to a rather different thesis: that one reason for the present political disruption is the failure of the world's elite to listen and respond to ordinary people.

And his actual question – why? Why, after everything that happened in 2016, are they still not listening? – reminds us that the underlying drivers of the populist revolution may still be at work; that, notwithstanding Geert Wilders' weaker than expected showing in this week's Dutch elections, they may still be hammering their wedges deep into our societies, dividing not just elites and non-elites, but different generations, classes, regions and races.

Sandel's explanation also has an anthropological flavour. His focus, though, is not on humanity's 'atavistic passions', but on the way we communicate and establish relationships of reciprocal understanding and, in particular, on our uniquely human faculty of *listening*.

This takes us straight to rhetoric, because listening is as important a part of rhetoric as speaking, listening not just on the part of the audience but of the speaker. The philosopher Martin Heidegger went so far as to define rhetoric as 'the art of listening'.

Michael Sandel then is less concerned with Caliban's wicked nature than he is with Prospero's defective hearing. Maybe the wise magician has a few questions to answer himself.

► This evening I'm going to offer a few thoughts of my own on the political discontinuities of 2016. To frame it in terms of my own variant *Tempest*, the question I want to address is 'why did Prospero's book and staff fail?'

Why did the established language and conventions of political debate, the established relationships between

politicians and public and media, relationships which had delivered relative political stability and at least adequate levels of public trust for many decades, break with such apparent suddenness in Britain and America last year?

I gave a series of lectures on 'rhetoric and the art of public persuasion' at St Peter's College back in 2012. In them, I made the case that a set of political, cultural and technological forces had come together to cause a crisis in the language of politics, and in the relationship between politicians, media and public:

- The changing character of Western politics after the Cold War, with old affiliations based on class and traditional group identity giving way to a more uncertain landscape in which political leaders struggle for definition and differentiation;
- The widening gap between the world view – and the language – of technocratic elites and the public at large;
- The impact of digital technology, and the disruption and competition it has brought to both politics and the media;
- And lastly the arrival of an empirical *science of persuasion*, driven by advances in social psychology, market research and now data science, which is now used by almost all politicians and anyone else who hopes to influence public sentiment and voter intention.

I argued that, as a result, the political language which the public actually hears was becoming more compressed, instrumental and extreme, gaining rhetorical impact at the price of explanatory power. I used Sarah Palin's invention of the phrase 'death panels' – two deeply misleading words which changed the terms of the debate over Obamacare – as an example of this.

I argued that wild exaggeration and

outright lies had become routine, that the authority of science, medicine and other kinds of special knowledge and expertise were so widely disputed and denied that ordinary people were struggling to discriminate between facts and fantasies. I cited the debates about vaccine safety, GMOs and global warming as evidence of this.

I said that it was becoming harder and harder for us to find words to bridge the gap between different cultures and belief systems, and that mutual tolerance was becoming more difficult to sustain.

And I warned that some governments seemed to be having doubts about the wisdom of free and open public discourse, and that in many parts of the world – including our own – freedom of the press was under attack.

And I said that this was all important because democracy cannot function without an effective public language. It falls apart. Society falls apart in mutual incomprehension and hostility. It's happened before.

So how is my thesis holding up four and a half years later? It doesn't give me much pleasure to say: pretty well.

In 2012, it was still possible to argue that rhetoric didn't really matter – especially when compared to apparently more fundamental matters like economics, ideology and social change.

But political language was clearly at the centre of the discontinuities of 2016. Other Republican hopefuls laughed at Donald Trump's idiosyncratic and impromptu style of speaking to the American public. Hillary Clinton did the same. When Trump refused to change or moderate his style, most commentators said he was doomed. In fact it was the key to his success.

There were linguistic winners and losers during the Brexit debate too. Remain had any number of economic arguments – and any number of experts

prepared to back their case. But it was the Brexiters who came up with the two best political phrases of the campaign: 'Take back control' and 'Independence Day'.

Both are examples of exactly the kind of super-compressed, high impact political language – questionable in substance but emotionally pitch-perfect – which I'd identified in my lectures.

The Brexiters also took active steps to undermine the rhetorical advantages of their opponents. If you are faced with rivals who boast more expert witnesses than you, why not undermine the whole idea that people with specialist expertise and knowledge should carry extra weight in an argument?

When Michael Gove said, 'I think the people in this country have had enough of experts' (adding, to be fair, 'from organisations with acronyms'), he was not just accusing economists of failing to predict the financial crisis, but advising his listeners to dismiss the *language* of these experts and its privileged status. Aware that he himself would be seen by many as a member of the technocratic elite, Gove also said:

*I'm not asking the public to trust me. I'm asking them to trust themselves.*<sup>7</sup>

Now this is very artful: I accept that you can't trust me because I'm one of *them* – but I'm just voicing the instinct that *you yourselves* have about experts, namely that they speak gibberish, make you feel stupid and are usually wrong.

'Remember first to possess his books,' Caliban insists to his co-conspirators. In trashing experts, Michael Gove had the same tactic in mind.

Unfortunately, it turns out that an absence of knowledge is not an unmitigated blessing when it comes to a referendum. Unlike general elections – where broad political instincts play a central and legitimate role – a single-topic referendum demands a minimum

<sup>7</sup> Michael Gove MP, speaking on Sky News, 3 June 2016.



level of understanding of the issues and trade-offs involved.

By this standard, the 2016 Brexit referendum was a disaster. Low levels of pre-existing knowledge of the EU and a chaotic and evasive debate left many people voting by gut, or for a series of essentially imaginary propositions – millions more for the NHS, no more Syrian refugees, the end of fishing quotas, whatever you wanted really – or alternatively on the basis of claims by one authority figure after another that the ten plagues of Egypt would immediately descend if the public had the nerve to vote Leave. Whatever the long-term impact of Brexit, the failure of the frogs and locusts to turn up on cue didn't exactly help the reputations of those battered experts.

Public confusion, of course, is not limited to the UK. In recent weeks, it's become clear that a significant percentage of Americans did not realise that it was impossible to abolish Obamacare, which they have been taught to hate, without also abolishing the Affordable Care Act, on which many of them have come to rely, because it turns out they're the same thing. 'Nobody knew healthcare could be so complicated,' as Donald Trump put it the other day.<sup>8</sup>

It's difficult to disagree with the harsh judgement on the quality of the Brexit campaign which Andrew Tyrie MP, the Chairman of the Treasury Select Committee, delivered a few weeks before the vote:

*What we really need is an end to the arms race of ever more lurid claims and counterclaims made by both sides on this.*

He went on: 'I think it's confusing the public, it's impoverishing political debate'.<sup>9</sup>

I want to endorse Tyrie's reference

to 'both sides'. Many disappointed Remainers would likely place all the blame for the woeful quality of the debate on the Leavers.

There was indeed plenty to criticise on that side: comically exaggerated claims and promises; outrageous opportunism on the part of some of the key leaders followed by an instant denial of accountability once the votes were cast; and an ugly undertow of nationalist xenophobia or worse, best exemplified by Nigel Farage and UKIP's 'Breaking Point' poster which, with its depiction of a teeming snake of refugees, took us straight back to the playbook of Josef Goebbels.

But, at least to my eye and ear, there was almost as much cynicism in the way advocates of Remain made their case and attacked their opponents.

The Conservative and Labour leaders of the Remain campaign seemed scarcely more enthusiastic about the UK's membership of the EU than their opponents. Instead, they opted for those over-heated warnings – 'Project Fear' was fairly named. The campaign as a whole sounded negative, instrumental and complacent. No wonder it failed.

Many Americans and Europeans used to look to Britain for a better kind of political debate: at least as feisty as their own, but with greater underlying common sense; less poisoned by ideological division, and with a shared sense of responsibility across right and left to debate issues in ways which help rather than hinder public understanding; at its best, more eloquent, more witty, more courteous, more intelligent.

But last year British political debate was exposed to the cold light of day and turned out to be the same as everyone else's, or worse – small-bore, bitter, inward-looking – and Britain itself looked less like a nation than a grab-bag of feuding classes and regions and generations.

8. President Donald J. Trump, speaking to Governors at the White House, 27 February 2017.

9. Andrew Tyrie MP, speaking on BBC News, 27 May 2016.



► But this dismal picture still pales in comparison to events on the other side of the Atlantic.

As you've heard, last year I published *Enough Said*, a book about public language based on those 2012 lectures. I was just able to reflect the Brexit decisions, changing the final proofs a few days after the vote. But the US election was still months away.

Even back then though, I thought that Donald Trump had a much better chance of winning than most people did – precisely because I believed that he had stumbled on a rhetorical formula which, though incredibly high risk, was potentially an almost unstoppable disruptive force.

This story is still far from over, but we know a good deal more today than we did last June, so let's now analyse some key features of the Trump rhetorical revolution.

The first is a paradox. Donald Trump claims that he doesn't use rhetoric. On Inauguration Day, he told America:

*The time for empty talk is over. Now arrives the hour of action.*<sup>10</sup>

Rhetoric is for other people. Me, I'm a simple man of action. It's what Mark Antony claims in the middle of the 'Friends, Romans and Countrymen' speech: 'I am not an orator as Brutus is, / But as you know me all, a plain blunt man'<sup>11</sup>. It's what Silvio Berlusconi, another businessman turned proto-Trumpian once told the Italian people: 'If there's one thing I can't stand it's rhetoric. All I care about is what needs to get done.'<sup>12</sup>

Some of Donald Trump's enemies, especially those who look back fondly to the stately oratory of past presidents, might be tempted to agree that his public speaking doesn't add up to rhetoric.

But they'd be wrong – and so is he.

Despite its protestations, anti-rhetoric is itself just another form of rhetoric. So let's open the bonnet and take a closer look at the Trumpian variety.

The strong man, the general, the dictator, nowadays the CEO who's trying his hand at politics, wants to keep it short and sweet. When Julius Caesar was away at war, he liked to keep the brand burnished bright back in Rome so he wrote letters and despatches punchy enough to be nailed up on street corners.

No need for the kind of flowery language which that slippery lawyer Marcus Tullius Cicero was always spouting. Instead: 'Veni, vidi, vici.' *I came, I saw, I conquered.*

*We have to build a wall, folks. We have to build a wall. And a wall works. All you have to do is to go to Israel and say how is your wall working? Walls work.*<sup>13</sup>

That was Donald Trump addressing supporters in Dallas back in September 2015. As I note in my book, consciously or unconsciously he's using a style which students of rhetoric call *parataxis* – short, simple sentences that emphasise certainty and determination and that can be layered up like bricks in a wall themselves towards a conclusion which has a linguistic logic, even it falls short of dialectical argument. In this case, alliteration – all those 'w's in 'wall' and 'work' – help pull it together.

Whatever you think of this style of rhetoric, it was effective enough to win a presidential election. But it clearly has drawbacks. You can't convey sophisticated thought or conduct a sophisticated debate – indeed, even to attempt to do so would be a betrayal of the style. This is perhaps one reason why the president gets so irritated when opponents or the media challenge him with systematic argument or, heaven forbid, the actual facts.

10. President Donald J. Trump, Inaugural Address, 14 September 2017.

11. William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, III.ii.

12. Quoted in Arturo Tosi, *Language and Society in a Changing Italy* (Multilingual Matters, 2001), p. 129.

13. Donald J. Trump, speech to supporters in Dallas, 17 January 2017.

And it's hard to pull off. A practical challenge for the new president is that none of his lieutenants – certainly not the hapless White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer – can successfully mimic it. As another key aide Kellyanne Conway put it, 'none of us do it like he does'<sup>14</sup>. No one can do Trump like Trump.

Most presidents delegate the majority of their messaging to surrogates. Given how much of his political credibility with his supporters depends on his unique style of political speech, Donald Trump may well find that he largely has to speak for himself.

But perhaps he's up to the task. Because right now this one man army is assaulting America's eardrums with what amounts to a 24/7 rhetorical blitzkrieg of presidential speeches, press conferences, campaign-style political rallies, tweets and impromptu one-liners.

If one attack gets bogged down or repulsed, he launches three more, just as he did as a candidate. Even the blizzard of early 'executive orders' has come across as primarily rhetorical rather than administrative in intent – though some of course have had immediate real-world effects.

Exaggeration, distortion, the reckless deployment of baseless rumours and conspiracy-theories as if they were facts: I discussed all these tendencies in contemporary political rhetoric in my 2012 lectures and my book. Today they are central features – not just of Donald Trump's early morning tweets – but of his formal rhetoric as president.

In his inaugural address, he described his own country, one of the most successful and prosperous in the world notwithstanding its problems, in apocalyptic terms: 'This American carnage stops right here and stops right now.'<sup>15</sup>

'American carnage' is a supreme example of President Trump's tendency, implicitly or explicitly, to argue fallaciously from the particular to general. If one Mexican immigrant is a rapist, they all are. If some Americans have lost their jobs or been the victims of crime, then every American, or at least every 'real' American, lives in poverty and fear and carnage. 'Mass propaganda,' Hannah Arendt wrote about the totalitarian regimes of the 20th century,

*discovered that its audience was ready at all times to believe the worst, no matter how absurd, and did not particularly object to being deceived because it held every statement to be a lie anyhow.*<sup>16</sup>

But there are some important features of Donald Trump's rhetoric which I did not foresee. A good example is what could politely be called *indeterminacy* – his tendency to say different or even contradictory things about the same policy area, within days or even hours of each other, or to flip from praise and warmth to blame and fury, without appearing to trouble his own supporters in the slightest.

Conventional politicians place great emphasis on consistency. They only change tack when they feel they have to and only then after careful thought and risk analysis. They also dutifully suppress their emotional mood, or distill it into a carefully calibrated and politically useful essence.

Neither Donald Trump nor his base feel bound by these conventions. Trumpian policy is plastic, reshapeable to almost any degree at any time. If he says one thing and then another, the second doesn't so much replace the first, as co-exist alongside it.

Many observers are still parsing his rhetoric as if he was a traditional politician. Thus his address to Congress

14. See: <http://money.cnn.com/2017/02/22/media/kelly-anne-conway-sidelined-from-tv/index.html>.

15. President Donald J. Trump, Inaugural Address, 14 September 2017.

16. Hannah Arendt, *Totalitarianism: Part Three of The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, New York, 1968, p. 80.

Conventional politicians place great emphasis on consistency. They only change tack when they feel they have to and only then after careful thought and risk analysis.

In February 2017 was talked of as if it might be a considered 'turn' to a more presidential approach in substance and style. Not a bit of it: within days he was angrily tweeting about how his predecessor Barack Obama – a 'Bad (or sick) guy!' – had supposedly wiretapped him, a claim for which no evidence has been offered. The shifts in style are not strategic, merely additional new voices generated by a rhetorical multiple personality.

And much of what he says is not really about policy at all, but is part of a stream of real-time bulletins about his emotional state. Thus those exclamation point sign-offs on Twitter: 'Sad!', 'Jobs!', 'Not!', 'Very dishonest!', 'SO DANGEROUS!', 'Enjoy!'

For a large swathe of America, this emotional candour, the informality, the spontaneity, even the willingness to self-contradict, speaks to Donald Trump's *authenticity* – a word we'll return to – and they like and admire it.

If you don't share their admiration, if you don't warm to the way that Donald Trump and Nigel Farage and Marine Le Pen are disrupting and undermining what their supporters see as the discredited rhetorical conventions of mainstream politics and what Steve Bannon calls 'the administrative state', you better pinch yourself. Perhaps you aren't a 'real' person at all, but a member of one of those shadowy

elites, as insubstantial in your way as Ariel. This is the gulf that opened up in America and Britain in 2016.

Indeterminacy was in the air when Donald Trump came to lunch at *The New York Times* a few weeks after his election victory, and spent 75 minutes answering our questions on the record. Would he bring back torture? His pick as Defence Secretary, General Jim Mattis, had told him it didn't work, so maybe not. Since then, it's been back on the table and then off again at least once.

Would he support the prosecution of Hillary Clinton, as he'd promised during the campaign? 'I don't want to hurt the Clintons, I really don't,'<sup>17</sup> said the man whom the US Constitution enjoins to 'take care that the laws be faithfully executed'<sup>18</sup>. Everything is subjective, and subjectively valid only in the moment.

Donald Trump sees contemporary politics as a Manichaeian struggle between two opposing world views, that of the liberal elite establishment which seems to include many Republicans as well as Democrats, and that of 'real' Americans, whose 'voice' he claims to be. So to him, facts cited by the establishment are necessarily lies because of their source, whereas any claim which fits his own world view, no matter how fanciful or demonstrably false, is by definition a 'fact'.

One of Mr Trump's sayings is that 'everything is negotiable'. It turns out that this 'everything' includes reality. If you don't like the facts, here are some alternative ones.

The most concerning thing about the 'fake news' controversy is not that some people spread lies on the internet for commercial gain. Nor that the digital platform giants distribute the good, the bad and ugly to the entire world with little discrimination. Nor even that Russia

<sup>17</sup> President Donald J. Trump, meeting at The New York Times, 22 November 2016. See: <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/23/us/politics/trump-new-york-times-interview-transcript.html>

<sup>18</sup> The Constitution of the United States, Article II, Section 3.



is deliberating using misinformation to influence western elections.

It is that the man currently running the most powerful country on earth does not appear to recognise or accept the objective nature of reality. Donald Trump seems to believe that he has the God-like power to make things true merely by saying them. And tens of millions of Americans clearly find his distorting mirror version of reality more credible than the one which actually pertains on Planet Earth.

‘I want you all to know that we are fighting the fake news,’ he told the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC, last month. ‘It’s fake. Phoney. Fake.’<sup>19</sup>

It tells you everything about the new president’s intuitive rhetorical facility –

and his lack of scruples – that he should have so adroitly turned the phrase ‘fake news’ into a stick to beat news organisations like *The New York Times*, organisations which, whatever else they do, take immense care to make sure that they report what has actually happened.

Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed that *The Times* is losing audiences and subscribers. At it happens, exactly the opposite is happening – in the last three months of 2016 we added more new digital subscribers than in the whole of 2013 and 2014 combined. Other serious news providers are also seeing larger audiences and more subscribers.

But we should be under no illusion: in America a tradition of fact-finding and truth-telling which, with all its inevitable frailties, is second to none in the world, is now under fundamental attack.

<sup>19</sup>. Donald J. Trump, speech to CPAC, 24 January 2017.

And remember that public confusion – about whom to believe, ultimately about what is true and what is false – asymmetrically favours the liar. Misinformation doesn't have to be definitively believed to damage democracy. It merely has to sow enough doubt in enough people's minds about the reliability of sources of genuine information that the whole question of truth becomes a matter of permissible debate. Remember first to possess his books.

Misinformation aims to level, to disrupt and to divide. There was misinformation aplenty in last year's Brexit debate, and anger about it persists to this day. But to me at least it felt like an irresponsible means to an end in the heat of a political campaign.

Perhaps the same could have been said of Donald Trump if the misinformation had stopped once the electoral battle was over. But it hasn't. Instead it looks as if deliberate misinformation is to be a central feature of Mr Trump's presidency.

That would be an unremarkable if we were talking about Vladimir Putin's Russia. The fact that this is happening in America takes not just America but the whole western world into unknown territory.

Nor do we know where the president's hatred of what he thinks of as establishment media will lead to. When he visited *The Times*, I asked Donald Trump whether, given what he'd said about tightening America's libel laws, he supported the First Amendment, in other words freedom of the press. 'I think you'll be OK,' he said, 'I think you're going to be fine'.

Then he left the building telling the rest of the world's media that the organisation he'd described the same morning as the 'failing nytimes' was a 'jewel' for America and the world. Make of that what you will.

► What can the long history of rhetoric tell us about all this? My answer is: plenty, and in my book I was able to trace the origins of rhetoric and the striking parallels between past crises in public language and our own predicament.

Let me restrict myself this evening to a single moment, not from the start of the story of rhetoric, but from its middle. We're going to pay a fleeting visit, not to Greece or Rome, but to Aix-la-Chapelle, modern-day Aachen, and the court of the Frankish king and emperor, Charlemagne the Great.

Charlemagne was an ambitious man, but not just for land and power. He was ambitious for civilisation.

He knew how many of the essential elements of a well-ordered society had been lost with Rome and he set about rediscovering and rebuilding them. Not singlehandedly either: he gathered the most brilliant minds of the known world at his court, including the Anglo-Saxon monk and abbot, Alcuin of York.

Think of the Frankish king and his English advisor trying to re-erect a vast cathedral from scattered stones. Which should be the first stone, the cornerstone? Not science, not literature, not law. They chose rhetoric – to be taught, discussed, developed and actually used.

But theirs was a far more expansive definition of rhetoric than we're accustomed to. Here's the German Historian Johannes Fried on Charlemagne and Alcuin's achievement:

*The rhetoric which they revived [...] was much more than simply a debate about language and the art of 'fine oratory'. [...] In conjunction with the revived and steadily adopted discipline of dialectics, rhetoric provided a theoretical and practical epistemology, and gave rise to a mode of thinking that began to guide the way people acted, and without which the intellectual revival of the Latin West would have been unthinkable. Over time, both*

*disciplines also taught people to pay heed to the 'opposite side'; in other words not merely to comprehend their own society and its world but to embrace what was alien, to approach it in an understanding way and to assimilate it intellectually. In this, these two disciplines constituted the essential character of European intellectualism.*<sup>20</sup>

Rhetoric, as Charlemagne and Alcuin understood it, helps us to make sense of the world and to share that understanding. It also teaches us to 'pay heed' to the 'opposite side', the other.

We've just encountered a fracturing of perceptions of reality in Donald Trump's America so profound that the two sides do not even hold the facts in common.

Imagine Charlemagne and Alcuin using rhetoric to achieve exactly the opposite effect – to enable different tribes and language-groups, with different cultures and world views, to 'pay heed' to, and intellectually 'assimilate' each other, so that they could then make that common understanding the foundation of rule of law, stable government, and at least the prospect of peace and prosperity.

This can sound like a vote for the centre-ground or for compromise, but it isn't. The best policy ideas often begin life on the radical edges rather than the comfortable centre, and there are some matters on which there should never be compromise. What rhetoric defined in this expansive way strives for is not compromise or the centre as such – Charlemagne wasn't exactly a Liberal Democrat – but a context of shared understanding within which disagreements can be isolated and confronted.

But history teaches us that what can be learned can be forgotten, and what has been built destroyed. In the matter of rhetoric, over the centuries we lost sight of truths about society and politics

that were apparent to a chopper-off of heads and an itinerant monk sitting by a fire in the depths of the Dark Ages.

Our notion of rhetoric shrank until we came to believe that it really was just about 'fine oratory', and – because few people listen to set-piece speeches any more – that it was politically and socially irrelevant. We no longer thought it necessary to teach young people to understand and formulate argument, or to develop the critical faculties needed to judge whom and what to believe, or not to believe, in politics or in life.

The rhetoric which Charlemagne and Alcuin revived was anthropologically realistic. It understood, as Aristotle had taught, that the intellectual content of public language, the facts, systematic argument – Aristotle calls this *logos* – is important. But it also recognised that persuasion of a given group of listeners depends on the emotional context too: the way the speaker comes across, *ethos*, and the mood and reaction of the listeners themselves, *pathos*.

But during and after the Enlightenment, this understanding began to be challenged by two opposing tendencies. Let's call the first *hyper-rationalism*, the belief that the only thing that really matters in public language is *logos*, or Reason – in this context meaning dialectical argument using logic and empirical evidence – and that emotion should be downplayed as much as possible.

Hyper-rationalists distrust rhetoric for the same reason Plato did, fearing that it enables an unscrupulous speaker to press an audience's emotional buttons and make a bad argument sound like a good one. We can think of today's technocratic elite and many, though clearly not all, of today's mainstream political establishment, as inheritors of the hyper-rationalist tendency.

Opposed to this, is the tendency which I call in my book *authenticism*.

For authenticists, what matters most

20. Johannes Fried, *The Middle Ages*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge Massachusetts, 2015, p. 61.

is identity and the shared values of a given community, and the best speaker is the one who best understands and most exactly expresses the emotional, even spiritual, needs of their community. *Ethos and pathos* are everything, in other words. Now it's the turn of *logos* to be sidelined.

Authenticists purport, as we've seen, to speak the same simple language as the people they claim to represent. For them, 'rhetoric' is a term of abuse reserved for the speech of those they take to be the enemies of their community – which often means those who privilege facts and argument above what they see as a deeper emotional and narrative truth.

The most notable authenticists in history were the fascist dictators of the 1930s. But today's European and American populist insurgents, including Donald Trump, also show strong authenticist tendencies, some of which I've touched on this evening.

This hyper-rationalist/authenticist model is useful in understanding how we got to where we are – and how we might begin to heal the terrifying divisions that were revealed in 2016.

First, I believe that Michael Sandel is correct: the western world's technocratic and liberal elites did fail to listen to ordinary citizens. Indeed, if by 'listening' we mean 'listening, taking seriously and responding', they could be said to have lost the *art* of listening.

Collecting and analysing data is not the same as listening, though it is often treated by political and business leaders and their advisers as if it is. Nor is telling people that their lives are getting economically better when that's just not how they feel. Nor is warning them about a future which seems unconnected to their own experience. 'That's your bloody GDP, not ours', as one angry woman told Professor Anand Menon, when he was talking publicly about the potential economic

consequences of Brexit in Newcastle.<sup>21</sup>

And the rationalist elites forgot another home truth: which is that an argument is truly won, not when you have convinced yourself and your friends, but when you have persuaded your adversary, or the truly undecided, of the merits of your case.

In recent decades, the elites regarded some policies as being so obviously beneficial that the case for them did not have to be made at all. Free trade is an example. No doubt to the majority of economists, business people and educated members of the public, the case for free trade is indeed a no-brainer.

But to ordinary citizens, worried about jobs and their children's futures, it is far less obvious. I don't know how easy it would have been to persuade Donald Trump's supporters of the merits of free trade. I do know that almost no one tried.

Other arguments were deliberately suppressed. For decades, and despite growing public disquiet, elites tried to avoid an open debate about immigration, for fear it would encourage racism. This suppression meant that the positive social and economic case for immigration was seldom heard.

The technocratic elite and most educated citizens in this country and elsewhere are convinced by the scientific consensus that human activity is causing planetary warming. So am I. But I am not convinced that the best way of persuading everyone else is to stop climate sceptics from ever being heard, as many scientists have advocated. The same with vaccine safety.

2016 demonstrated that hyper-rationalist attempts to manipulate and shut down public debates are not just morally suspect, but totally ineffective. They ignore the reality of human nature, and they just don't work. Far from

21. Anand Menon, '2016: A Review', *The UK in a Changing Europe*, 31 December 2016. See: <http://ukandeu.ac.uk/2016-a-review/>

convincing the unconvinced, they make them more suspicious and resentful.

Political correctness – the attempt to suppress hateful and hurtful speech and writing about minorities – is usually justified by saying that we have a collective duty to protect vulnerable groups from harm and distress. I believe we do have such a duty, but it must be freely discharged, it cannot be imposed on a population – and the attempt to do so creates more problems than it solves.

Political correctness has not made racism and other forms of prejudice go away, and may actually have made them worse. While it has no doubt protected some members of minorities from immediate hurt, the reaction to it in many western countries has probably left minorities more vulnerable than they were before. And it has allowed angry and resentful members of the majority population, not just to present themselves as victims in the hope of political and economic preferment, but to genuinely *feel* like victims too.

Refusing to listen; taking some arguments for granted while attempting to suppress others; treating ordinary citizens as if they were too stupid to understand policy choices and had to be bribed, frightened or deceived into compliance; or as if they were nothing more than data points to be manipulated for political advantage, or in the furtherance of some theoretical public good: the charge is not that the rationalist elites are directly responsible for the dark forces which are now playing out in western politics, but that they allowed a vacuum of empathy and understanding to open up into which these dark forces are now pouring.

Of course not everything that happened is dark. Euroscepticism is a long-established and legitimate current in British political life and the British public had as much right to leave the European Union as they did to join it

in the first place. The American public have the right to vote anyone they want into the White House.

But intolerance, rage and bitter division are also part of the story of 2016. Anti-semitic and other racist attacks – physical as well as rhetorical – have increased in many western countries, the attackers seemingly emboldened by the abrupt change in the political tide. Immigrant communities and members of ethnic and other minorities felt, and still feel, a new vulnerability and fear. The political mood has turned ugly in many countries. In the US, at least at the federal level, the possibility for finding common ground between left and right, a feeble and flickering flame under Barack Obama, has been snuffed out.

And many otherwise reasonable citizens have bought into a despairing and apocalyptic vision of their own societies – the vision of the Breaking Point poster or ‘American carnage’.

It’s a vision which exaggerates and generalises the many real problems which ordinary people face in our societies to the point of madness. History tells us that, when such false but compelling visions take hold, they are the devil’s own job to shake off. And that they can be used by unscrupulous political leaders to justify almost anything.

So Adam Gopnik’s warning about ‘deep atavistic passions’ rings true. But it doesn’t tell the whole story about human nature. To believe in a democracy is to believe that we are imbued not just with immense destructive potential but with what the Greeks called *phronesis*, or *practical wisdom*.

Such wisdom, combined with an effective public language, allows a process of collective deliberation and decision-making which gives us the best chance of channelling our ideas and passions into building a better, fairer and more united society rather



than descending into recrimination and strife.

The Greeks themselves understood that *phronesis* was not a guarantee of peace and order: democracies sometimes do crazy and wicked things. But the fact that a vote doesn't go the way you wanted, or even that there are long years when you believe that your democratically elected government is headed for disaster, doesn't justify abandoning all belief in the practical wisdom, not just of those who agree with you, but of those that don't.

The only alternative to a democracy based on this collective respect is some form of tyranny, whether led by those who think of themselves as Prosperos, or by Caliban and his friends. Unfortunately the sense of mutual respect on which a successful democracy ultimately depends is in desperately short supply today.

To state the obvious: we cannot rebuild confidence in democracy and reunite our societies if we divide ourselves up into Prosperos and Calibans. That need not mean a dilution of fundamental values, but a far more intense effort to understand and communicate with each other.

The real *Tempest* ends not with catastrophe, but with forgiveness and reconciliation – even between sworn enemies. Terror and grief are replaced by hope. As Ferdinand says:

*Though the seas threaten, they are merciful.*

*I have cursed them without cause.<sup>22</sup>*

So what would it take for us to turn our politics back towards the path of reconciliation? The humility to treat everyone, even political opponents, as if they were worth listening to.

A recognition that the only kind of public language that can bring a society together is one which combines respect for evidence and rational argument with genuine empathy.

The determination, not to compromise, but to engage with those who disagree with you – and to go on making your argument for as long as it takes until you convince your listener.

Implacable resistance to every form of official or unofficial censorship, and a commitment not to drive intolerance and hatred underground, but to confront and argue against them in public.

And finally the courage to make sure that the facts are heard. In much of the world, governments and other interests bury the real facts and promote their own alternative version of reality. There are now powerful forces in our own countries who want to do the same.

But you can't rebuild anything, least of all a healthy public language, on the basis of lies, half-truths and conspiracy theories. It's time for all of us to stand up for the facts. That means The New York Times and the rest of the responsible media, but it also means you.

Serious fact-finding journalism is costly to make. If you value it, help pay for it by subscribing to a newspaper or magazine whether in print or online.

Hold your own elected politicians to account and support the ones you believe you can trust to tell the truth.

And take a leaf out of the Emperor Charlemagne's book. Teach your children how to listen, how to know when someone is trying to manipulate them, how to discriminate between good arguments and bad ones, how to fight their own corner clearly and honestly. In other words, teach them rhetoric. Thank you.

*Mark Thompson is the CEO of The New York Times Company. From 2004 to 2012, he was Director-General of the BBC.*

22. William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, V.1, 183-4.

# The Restoration of the Hertford College Portraits

Chris Mockler (1963)

Notes on the restoration of the Hertford College portraits

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## Background

In early 2015, the portraits in the Hall were seen as an important part of the college's heritage. There were paintings of famous college alumni like William Tyndale, Edward Hyde and John Donne, and of former Principals, including Sir Geoffrey Warnock and Sir Christopher Zeeman. In all there were 21 pictures. Some of the artists were particularly well regarded such as Ruskin Spear, Humphrey Ocean (still with us) and Hubert von Herkomer. However, the portraits were almost all in poor condition, and some had deteriorated badly. Unless something was done, their condition would worsen much more. Even the more recent portraits needed cleaning, especially those unprotected by glass.

The Hertford Society took it upon itself to restore the majority of the portraits, especially those most in need of treatment, so that future students and alumni of the College would see them in their proper condition for the foreseeable future. This was a very significant commitment by the Society, which never wavered, under the chairmanship of Robert Seymour.

## First steps

The first step was to invite the Courtauld Institute in London and the Hamilton Kerr Institute in Cambridge to inspect the portraits (then in storage as there was an exhibition in the Hall). Those who have watched Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould in *Fake or Fortune* will have seen both institutes visited in the programmes.

The Courtauld carried out a very helpful survey of each portrait with recommendations. Six were regarded as in need of urgent attention, with tears, paint losses and raised craquelure or cracking. One had been heavily overpainted – a particular hatred of restorers who would far rather deal with one that was badly dilapidated but



untouched by anyone else. Another seven were chosen by the Society, on the advice of Professor Tyerman from the college's Work of Arts Committee.

Food deposits were found on at least two portraits and one had a knife in its backing! Fortunately students today are much better behaved.

Given that the cost of a private restorer would be around £4,000-£5,000 per portrait, the college was extraordinarily fortunate to be working with the Courtauld, which offered to do three for £350 each plus VAT. The Hamilton Kerr Institute offered to do the first five for £500 per portrait plus VAT, although for the second five it understandably charged more, as the work had proved much more time-consuming than expected and the institute's staff wanted to restore them properly.

## The restoration

The Courtauld carried out its work in London, with Pippa Balch and Professor Burnstock liaising with the Society. The Hamilton Kerr Institute worked under its Director, Dr Rupert Featherstone, who took a very close interest in the portraits and also visited the college. In 2015, the first eight portraits were transferred to the two institutes, with the college Bursar (James Lazarus) helpfully agreeing to meet transport costs.

## Help from the Ashmolean

A problem arose with the first five restored pictures by the Hamilton Kerr Institute, as there was no room in the college to store them (a new exhibition

was in the Hall) and there was a strong reluctance to return them to the depot, which was damp and mouldy.

The Society wrote to the Director of the Ashmolean, Dr Alexander Sturgis. Although he had not met anyone from the Society, he kindly agreed for the Ashmolean to store the portraits for one year (or longer if necessary) without charge. This was a godsend and greatly appreciated.

A visit was arranged for the Principal, Will Hutton, and others, as well as Society members, to go to the heavily-protected Ashmolean storage area to see the restored portraits, with a member of the Hamilton Kerr Institute explaining what had been done to them. People were genuinely impressed by what they heard and in seeing the results.

## The final stages

In late September 2016, the second batch of restored portraits from the Hamilton Kerr Institute were ready. They were reunited in the college with the five that had been held by the Ashmolean and all were hung in the Hall later that year. In June 2017, the three portraits being restored by the Courtauld returned to the college and hung up.

Those who have been working on them are very pleased with what they have done (always a good sign) and all who have seen the portraits are full of praise. In all, from original proposals to completion, the project had taken three years, but it has proved very worthwhile and this part of the college's heritage has been safeguarded by the Hertford Society for the foreseeable future.

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A special vote of thanks is owed to Julia Thaxton and her team from the Development Office, who have worked closely with the Society and provided much needed guidance and help.

## Appendix

The restored portraits are listed below.

*The Hamilton Kerr Institute*

The first five:

D. Crutwell by Grace Crutwell

Denison – British School 19th century

Fox – copy after Reynolds

Hyde – after Lely

Tyndale – unknown, copy of original  
16th century painting

The second five:

Boyd by Hubert von Herkomer

Ferrari by Ruskin Spear

McBride – British School, 19th century

Michell by William Slater

Newton – British School, 19th century

*The Courtauld*

Ryan – British School, 19th century

Spencer – British School, 19th century

Warnock by Humphrey Ocean

*Chris Mockler, Hertford Society  
Committee member, May 2017*



# The Perils of Public Engagement

Alison Young, Fellow and Tutor in Law



Any law student trying to cast their mind back to their studies of constitutional law will probably find words like ‘Dicey’, ‘*Factortame*’ and the ‘Human Rights Act 1998’ drifting into the back of their mind, along with many a fond memory of lectures from Professor Paul Craig. It was often seen as a peaceful introduction to public law, where nothing particularly interesting happened, until the Human Rights Act came along; a distant juvenile cousin of more exciting law subjects such as Administrative Law and Human Rights Law. All that changed in the last year, courtesy of: a referendum vote in favour of Brexit; the *Miller* litigation; the enactment of the Wales Act 2017; an election in Northern Ireland, but where no executive could be formed, leading to legislation to increase the period required to form a new Government; the triggering of Article 50 to start the Brexit negotiations; a vote in favour of a second independence referendum in the Scottish Parliament; the use of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011 to call an early general election; and the election of a hung Parliament. One would be forgiven for thinking that ‘Constitutional Law’ had rebranded itself as ‘Brexit Studies’.

This plethora of events has changed the nature of scholarship. Following the referendum outcome, constitutional lawyers were being asked by the media for explanations of EU law and its relationship to UK law. Constitutional lawyers took to social media to write short blog posts – particularly on the UK Constitutional Law Association website – explaining the law and the possible consequences of Brexit. As the *Miller* litigation grew in momentum, academics were called upon to appear on more traditional forms of media. This culminated in the live broadcast of the *Miller* litigation on mainstream media, complete with a poor unsuspecting Professor of Public Law appearing live on television screens, being bundled

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into radio cars and hastily constructed tents for live radio slots, and being chased down the street by over-enthusiastic broadcasters from China Central Television. Since then, blog posts, public lecture appearances, visits to BBC studios and radio broadcasts have become as regular a feature of my life as giving tutorials and lectures would have been had I not been on sabbatical leave. All of this leads us to question whether public engagement is important and, if so, whether it's something an Oxford don should be involved with.

At this time, in my subject, I would argue it was crucial. There are no lessons in the national curriculum designed to give a full understanding of government, the separation of powers between the legislature, executive and judiciary, the extent to which the UK protects human rights, the role of referendums, the nature of devolution, or the nature of the relationship between the UK and the institutions of the European Union. Without that understanding, it is hard for

anyone to play a full role in holding the government to account, or in making decisions which have such a large impact on the UK's future. Whilst it may have been a fun way to while away some time whilst on sabbatical, it was also a crash course in communication skills. I hope that I've been able to add a little to the general knowledge of how the constitution works, though I'm looking forward to spending more time teaching these issues in more depth to a new crop of first years over the traditional cup of tea in OB3:3.

*Editor's note:*

*Since the time of writing Professor Young has been elected to the Sir David Williams Chair of Public Law in the University of Cambridge. We hope to have a tribute to her time at Hertford in a future issue. Please write to [magazine.editor@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:magazine.editor@hertford.ox.ac.uk) if you have any reminiscences you would like to share.*



## Memories of Miles Vaughan Williams

Tom Cunnane, Emeritus Fellow  
in Medicine

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I thought it would be a good idea to let you have some of my memories of Miles as requested by many of his 99 former students (and mine) and the guests and family members who attended his Memorial Evening. Miles taught in Hertford for 33 years and I for 26 years. There was great continuity for 50 nice years with Miles still attending after my retirement.

I first saw Miles when I was an undergraduate at the University of Bath in 1974. The student pharmacology society invited distinguished speakers from time to time and one of them was Miles. I remember that his talk on the classification and mechanisms of action of antidysrhythmic drugs made a great impression on me at the time, so much so that I spent much time reading his papers. Alas, as a lowly undergraduate,



I wasn't invited to have dinner with the guest speaker but I was very pleased that in finals there was a question on antidysrhythmic drugs; so thank you Miles!

Little did I know that the next time I would come across Miles would be many years later at dinner in Hertford College when he was subtly interviewing the two candidates put forward by the Department of Pharmacology for his Fellowship. Having been to Bath, Glasgow and Leicester Universities and spent two years as a Royal Society Research Fellow at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, the thought of an Oxford college dinner after the rigours of the department interview was slightly intimidating. I have to say that Miles put me completely at ease and I was struck by his wry sense of humour and lack of pomposity given his status. Again, thank you Miles for suggesting to Governing Body that I would be the more suitable successor.

A few months later, I met Miles in his laboratory and had the somewhat delicate task of supervising the removal of the electrophysiology equipment and other paraphernalia that he had collected during 40 years of outstanding research.

One tricky moment came when he offered me his 'state-of-the-art' computer. It was the size of a small office and could store one kilobyte of data only, i.e. enough to digitize one cardiac action potential. This was about the time of the IBM and Macintosh personal computers with hard drives that could store thousands of digitized records. When I told him about the new technology he asked if I could donate his 'computer' to a local children's home. I said of course I would try but there were no takers.

Next, Miles invited me to a Gaudy for which I had to buy the full black tie regalia and gown, as I had been educated in the 'sticks'. It was a splendid occasion and I remember commenting on how nice the

red wine was (it was Chateau Margaux).

Miles noted how much I liked it and called over Norman Bayliss, the SCR butler at that time. Bayliss told me discreetly that he would place three bottles in my pigeonhole in the morning set against my wine allowance. What was a wine allowance I thought? Truly, I realised that Oxford was heaven on earth and that I had found a great place to continue my research endeavours.

Miles then asked about my tutorial experience, which was mainly giving seminars to groups of about twelve medical or physiology students, not one-to-one teaching. He asked me if I would like to sit in on a couple of his tutorials so that I could observe the Oxford 'tutorial experience'. Naturally, I said yes please.

He taught the first years together as a group on a Monday evening between 5pm and 6pm and the second years from 6pm to 7pm. This allowed a 15-minute overrun time before dinner in the hall at 7.15pm. Naturally, he served sherry to the students, an eye-opener for me. He explained that the wine allowance should be used to entertain the students not my friends, although I considered all the students to be my friends. I have to say that I learned so much about the heart in those two brilliant tutorials, from the wonderful and nuanced insights delivered by Miles. The students present may not have realised how lucky they were to be taught by such an eminent scientist, but I did.

Thus, Miles introduced me to the ways of Oxford. I fear, however, that I must balance these lovely memories of Miles by saying something negative about him, but it is rather tongue-in-cheek – it is to do with cars.

At the time I had an old banger, a Morris Marina, which was on its last legs. Miles kindly said he would sell his 'wonderful' Citroen car to me for the bargain price of £600 – a lot of money in those days. He assured me it was a snip. It was at this time that I met his

A particular use of the fund was to buy any student a piece of equipment (within reason) that would help him or her pursue their medical career.

delightful wife Marie. She tried to insist that Miles give the car to me *gratis*, but as we all know Miles could always drive a hard bargain. I purchased the car and found out it needed an MOT within three months. At the MOT, the mechanic said to me, 'I wouldn't drive my family in this rust bucket – it is only the rust that is holding the chassis together.' Then the mechanic condemned it to the scrap yard in the sky.

So what about Miles' replacement car? He 'kindly' invited me – no ordered me very nicely – to drive him to a Mercedes garage. I was positioned in the back seat while Miles was about to take the car for a test drive. I remember that he asked the salesman politely, 'How do I start the engine?' The salesman replied, 'Sir, the engine is running.' It was a beautiful car, which I know that he and his family enjoyed for many years.

Last but by no means least we come to the VW Fund. Many of you will have heard his traditional speech at the VW Dinner, held twice a year, but perhaps do not know how these occasions came about. Fortunately, and deliberately, about 13 years ago I decided to video Miles giving his classic speech so that future generations of students, who would enjoy a free dinner and financial support from the VW fund, would hear it from the man himself. He actually started the speech by saying, 'Well, Tom thinks I am about to pop my clogs!' But he was on fine form and gave one of his best

renditions of the speech, in which he explained the background to the dinners and how the funds were obtained. Miles enjoyed telling the new generation of students the background to the VW Fund so I will not steal his thunder here. You cannot imagine how generous Miles was to the students.

He told me about the VW Fund early on in my Oxford career as his successor and asked my advice about what to do with the money. Together, we came up with a list of things that he would like to happen to the funds, which he typed on an old manual typewriter.

The first was that the preclinical students could meet the clinical students at a dinner, so that the preclinical students would discover what would happen to them after they entered the clinic after three years of heavy science. The second was that he would invite a former Hertford student to give a talk on his or her career in medicine. I have to say that after 26 years there were some very distinguished Hertford students and some not so distinguished. Nevertheless, the talks were endured or greatly appreciated, but every speaker said they had a great debt of gratitude to Miles for putting them on the right road in their clinical careers. I inherited many of his references for students and suffice to say that he was very generous in his comments, even for his weakest.

I initiated, with Miles' consent, the tradition that the visiting speaker buys the first round in the Hertford bar after the VW dinner. The speakers really enjoyed being young again and had evocative memories of their time in Hertford. Discretion will not allow me to recount the many and various tales I heard.

Miles was particularly keen that students should be able go on electives to countries in the developing world and actually practise medicine in relatively constrained settings. Obviously, Miles had me act as judge and jury to prevent certain students (I can name names!)

going on holiday jollies. An important requirement for obtaining funding was that the student wrote a comprehensive report on their activities abroad. Miles greatly enjoyed reading them.

Another use of the VW fund was to invite a distinguished scientist to give a plenary lecture whenever the British Pharmacological Society met in Oxford. There have been two such occasions and it was very nice that Erwin Neher in 1990 gave the first talk and met our undergraduates. Was it a coincidence that the next year after his Hertford talk he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in 1991?

A particular use of the fund was to buy any student a piece of equipment (within reason) that would help him or her pursue their medical career. His last wish, expressed in his voice recording at the Memorial Evening, was that every Hertford medical student entering their clinical years should be presented with a stethoscope and an ophthalmoscope purchased by the VW Fund. He was

typically generous to the end.

There is so much more to tell but that will have to wait for another occasion.

It was a shame that he did not get his century (in cricketing parlance) as he received a very tricky ball when he was 98 not out.

Returning to the beginning, when I first started at Hertford College he gave me a signed copy of his book on antidysrhythmic drugs. The dedication was as follows: 'To Tom, the next step on the journey with no end. Kindest regards, Miles.'

Finally, he presented me with a bound copy of all his published papers and typically ended with one word – *Finis* – an appropriate time to end these memories of Miles.

He will be greatly missed by many people, but perhaps he is now taking the next step of his journey with no end, in the great somewhere.

*(See also the subject report on Medicine in this issue.)*



## A Tribute to Geoffrey Ellis, 1940-2017

Toby Barnard,  
Emeritus Fellow in History

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**G**eoffrey Ellis was Fellow and Tutor in History at Hertford from 1974 until 2004, and thereafter an Emeritus Fellow. He had succeeded the very long-serving Felix Markham, himself, like Geoffrey, expert on French history, especially of the revolutionary and Napoleonic periods. In turn, Geoffrey would be followed by another historian of France, David Hopkin. Indeed the strength of French history in the college is further enhanced by both Christopher Tyerman and Giora Sternberg: no insularity here.

Geoffrey arrived in Oxford, at Magdalen, in 1964, having already graduated from Grahamstown and lectured there briefly. He may have been directed to Oxford, and specifically to Magdalen, by one of his South African mentors, James Crampton, who earlier had written a dissertation in Oxford

on Lollardy. A Magdalen tutor, Bruce McFarlane, attributed to Crampton Geoffrey's penchant for 'a somewhat high-flown literary style'. At Magdalen he encountered a remarkable quartet of tutors, and developed his interest in pre- and post-revolutionary France. A First in Finals in 1966 was the prelude to an outstanding career as a graduate student, the quality of his research rapidly earning him a Research Lectureship (equivalent to a Junior Research Fellowship elsewhere) at Christ Church. A contemporary who encountered him then noted that Geoffrey (usually known as 'Geoff') was 'so good, serious and competent that all must feel fraudulent, ignorant and superannuated in his presence'.

Formally he was part of the dazzling *équipe* gathered together by the personality and Francophilia of Richard Cobb. The anarchic traits of Cobb were not ones that Geoffrey ever wished to copy. Furthermore, Geoffrey's choice of subject – the impact of the continental blockade on the economy of Alsace in the first decade of the nineteenth century – was suggested by a second specialist on continental Europe, John Roberts, then (and later) at Merton. Geoffrey was obliged to immerse himself in the archives both in Paris and the provinces, and would later summarise some of the experience and discoveries in an essay for the Cobb festschrift. The thesis, submitted in 1972 and published in the Oxford Historical Monograph series in 1981, was immediately recognised as pioneering and authoritative, indeed probably definitive. For the first time, it detailed the impact of Napoleon's protectionist policies on inland and eastern France, a vibrant centre of manufacturing. A stern reviewer based at the Sorbonne concluded that it was 'an almost perfect monograph'. On the strength of his research and of tutoring in Oxford Geoffrey was appointed to a lectureship in the small and then independent economic history

department at Durham. The northern stay was brief for he returned to replace Markham in 1974.

He arrived at Hertford at the moment when it was soaring high. The fellowship was growing in size and diminishing in average age; finances were improving, although in comparison with the grandeur of Magdalen and Christ Church shabbiness and parsimony prevailed; the character of those coming as undergraduates changed as women were welcomed and the early-offer scheme began; and it climbed rapidly in the Norrington table of finals results. Geoffrey was very much part of this renaissance, fully in sympathy with the meritocratic aspirations, meticulous over administration, and formidably thorough as a tutor. Moreover, he found the regime of Principal Warnock, whom he had known at Magdalen and with whom he shared prowess and interest in cricket, congenial. Warnock would remain for him – as for others who knew him – the *beau idéal* of a head of house. Even so, they were hard years. At first he was the subaltern to the idiosyncratic John Armstrong and then commander of Armstrong's no less wayward successor. As well as the burdens of preparing and keeping up to date the multiple general and specialised papers that then any tutor was expected to teach, there were college and faculty duties which he never shirked. Soon he was much in demand to teach the European history options to pupils from other colleges. Initially, all this had to be combined with commuting from Durham. Personal tragedy clouded professional recognition: an infant child died unexpectedly.

Although several contemporaries attest to the awe that Geoffrey inspired thanks to his evident competence, he was himself sometimes intimidated by seniors. It was a time when the epithet 'plucky little Hertford' was heard frequently. Colleagues disparaged and condescended, notably at the

annual meetings over admissions with the history tutors of the other colleges grouped with Hertford. Late-afternoon December gatherings in the Wyatt Library of New College, with sherry served, were punctuated by forceful disapproval of Hertford's innovations. Such treatment may have intensified Geoffrey's deference and reticence. Always he wanted to do what was proper and to do it properly. In private, of course, he made no secret of those whom he regarded as pompous or fraudulent. One target was characterised accurately as 'the grand pasha'. Throughout his prime, the Governing Body of Hertford contained opinionated and independent members and its collective decisions could be unpredictable. He appreciated and contributed to the strong collegial, egalitarian and convivial spirit of the place. In interviews and tutorials he could be severe: the best method to achieve good results. Heaven help the innocent when talking confidently of the 1832 Reform Bill who blundered into the elephant trap set by Geoffrey, of the Chandos clause. Then, too, an unexpected counterpoint from the pipes and taps of the wash-hand basin in his room could disconcert the nervous. Towards young researchers, sometimes becalmed in the doldrums or beset with doubts, he was gently and constructively encouraging.

Geoffrey managed to combine the heavy load of teaching and administration and a transformation of his private life with writing two valuable historical surveys: one of the Napoleonic empire and the other of Napoleon himself, intended to replace an earlier study by Felix Markham. Each took account of the voluminous recent publications and research (including Geoffrey's own) and succeeded in making the complex subjects accessible. His account of Napoleon surprised some by engaging in psycho-history,

diagnosing the emperor with an Oedipus complex. Colleagues were not so surprised. In a memorable academic soirée after dinner in college, Geoffrey talked eloquently about Napoleon's exile on St Helena. The mystery arose as to whether he might have been poisoned by arsenic, perhaps in the acid yellow wallpaper of his quarters. This prompted rather arcane discussion of whether the deposed emperor had retained his own hair or sported a wig. Arsenic might have left traces on his scalp, but exhumation and analysis are rendered impossible by Napoleon's entombment in Les Invalides.

In 1998, having married Patricia Huth, he and his new wife moved to Charlbury. At first this led to fresh anxieties over the reliability of the Great Western Railway service. Unimpressed by some of the developments and appointments in both faculty and college, Geoffrey was pleased to retire early. With typical dutifulness, he had taken on the onerous role as Director of Graduate Studies in the history faculty, the strains of which damaged his health and overshadowed his final terms. More happily, he was prevailed upon to continue as cellar-master, an office which he had discharged with thoroughness and discrimination. Familiarity with the French past is traditionally accompanied by appreciation of its vintages. He assisted materially in securing funds for the endowment of the history fellowships, one in part commemorating his former Magdalen tutor, Angus Macintyre, and Markham, and the other, himself. Meanwhile he plunged into country and small-town society. Happy with Patricia, he could enjoy his two sons and their families, and her daughters and theirs.

Rather than the much-needed economic history of the French Revolution which Geoffrey was uniquely qualified to write, his energies were diverted into local and oral history. One result, a short history of Charlbury,

typically exhaustive and illuminating, is available only on the website of Evenlode Books, which also published some of Patricia's poetry. A perhaps unexpected fruit of retirement was the entertaining duet offered to audiences in West Oxfordshire with Patricia's words and Geoffrey's accompaniment as Bob Dylan *manqué*. If this surprised colleagues in Hertford, the privileged few who had seen Geoffrey's contributions to charades in the later stages of schools' dinners in the 1970s might recollect the zest if not quite verisimilitude with which he had impersonated a Parisian *fille de joie* on a boulevard corner.

With a longer perspective, Geoffrey may come to be seen as an exemplar of a golden age – the heyday of Magdalen historians of the 1960s, the blossoming

at Oxford of French history under Cobb, John Roberts and Jack McManners, and the Hertford reawakening during the 1970s. More immediately and personally, as his junior partner in the arranged marriage of a two-tutor subject, I benefited from – and I fear took advantage of – his punctiliousness. We shared a training in the rigours of the Oxford history school, an enthusiasm for archival research, a belief in university education as a public good, coolness towards pretence, and a continuing fascination with the past, both in itself and its impact on current society, institutions and ideas. I count myself fortunate to have had someone so accomplished, courteous and forbearing as Geoffrey as my close colleague for over 30 years.

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Geoffrey managed to combine the heavy load of teaching and administration and a transformation of his private life with writing two valuable historical surveys: one of the Napoleonic empire and the other of Napoleon himself, intended to replace an earlier study by Felix Markham.

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## A Tribute to Anne Holmes, Tutor in French 1973-96

Katherine Lunn-Rockcliffe, Fellow and Tutor in French

Anne Holmes  
30 April 1929 – 9 February 2017

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**A**nne Holmes (née Klein), who has died aged 87, was a popular French tutor at Hertford and scholar of nineteenth-century literature.

Anne went to Wimbledon High School and studied Modern Languages at Newnham College, Cambridge. She wrote her doctorate there on Jules Laforgue, a late nineteenth-century poet who was amongst the first to use free verse in French and exerted an important influence on Pound and Eliot. Her research was supervised by Robert Bolgar, and her interest in Laforgue was to become a lifelong preoccupation.

Anne married the historian George Holmes in 1953, and they moved shortly afterwards to Oxford, where they had four children. She undertook some school teaching and worked for many years as an A-level examiner for the



Cambridge board. She began teaching French at Hertford as a lecturer in 1973, at a time before any women were Fellows. In 1989 she became Fellow and Tutor for Admissions until her retirement in 1996, when she became an Emeritus Fellow.

At Hertford Anne returned to her research on Laforgue, on whom she became a well-respected specialist. Her work was rooted in a close acquaintance with the surviving manuscripts of his verse in the Bibliothèque Jacques Doucet, Paris, and culminated in the publication of *Jules Laforgue and Poetic Innovation* (OUP, 1993). By examining the variants of poems in his abandoned collection *Les Fleurs de bonne volonté*, this book reveals the extent to which Laforgue's apparently natural colloquialism and irony were studiously contrived, and also how the most striking formal ruptures in his influential experiments in free verse, *Derniers vers*, resulted from his practice of recycling fragments from the abandoned *Fleurs*. Anne also wrote numerous articles on Laforgue, as well as his contemporaries such as Mallarmé, Verlaine, and Kahn. She continued to research and publish through her retirement, with the last article on Laforgue's use of interior monologue and free verse appearing as recently as 2013 in the *Modern Language Review*.

Anne enjoyed College life greatly and was always ready to participate fully. As Tutor for Admissions, she took over at a time when University reforms had produced a uniform practice and the days of Neil Tanner's pioneering approach were over. She was diligent in fostering good relations with schools and meetings under her control were methodical, with the circumstances of special cases always carefully scrutinised. She worked hard to attract candidates in Modern Languages from a wide range of schools, reassured those freshers who initially found the Oxford system offputting, and always had kind

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At Hertford Anne returned to her research on Laforgue, on whom she became a well-respected specialist.

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advice for those struggling in any way, invariably persuading them that they had the resilience to overcome their own difficulties.

Anne was an extremely popular and supportive tutor, much appreciated by the generations of students to whom she taught a very wide range of modern French writing. She wore her considerable erudition lightly and communicated a real passion for literature. Her understanding of the connections between French and English literature, as well as her interest in the relationships between literature and other arts, particularly painting and music, was especially stimulating. She also actively fostered the various Joint Schools with Modern Languages. She had a clear and thorough approach to tutorial teaching, demonstrating to newcomers what was required, going through all essays with a fine-tooth comb, and in discussion filling in the gaps as though simply pointing out all the subtle things that she assumed her students knew but had somehow omitted to mention. Although often described as modest herself, she invariably encouraged her students to be bold and ambitious, and inspired graduates to success in a very wide range of spheres.

She is survived by a son and two daughters.

*With thanks especially to Nick Holmes, Roger Pensom, Stephanie West, and Richard Parish.*

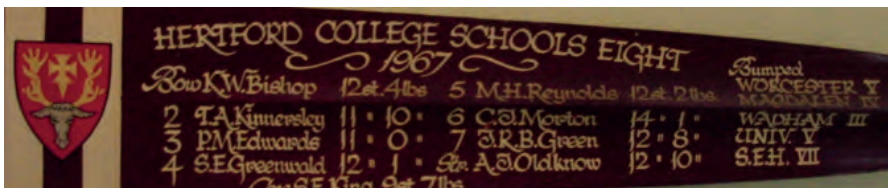
# Hertford Rowing 50 Years Ago

Adrian Oldknow (1964)  
Speech given at the Hertford  
College Rowing reunion, Oxford,  
27 May 2017

It is great to be with so many former Hertford rowers this evening at the Folly Restaurant after a stimulating and congenial afternoon at the boathouse and on the river. Thanks to all those concerned, we were able to get out for a (mercifully brief) outing in the M2 boat after the racing ended today. Our crew was a mixed one with four from Hertford crews of the 2007 era and five of us from the 1967 era. I just wanted to share a few observations from the afternoon.

The main differences between now and 50 years ago are the number of women’s crews competing, and the geography of the banks of the Isis. In 1967 I seem to remember that Hertford had fewer than 200 undergraduates, all male. Also rowing was nothing like as popular a sport as it has become nowadays. Few of my generation had had the chance to row before coming to Oxford. On this day 50 years ago I was stroking what was called the ‘Schools Eight’, aka M3. This consisted of five oarsmen from the M1 of 1966, supplemented by three men and a cox not otherwise required by M1/2! We had a very good day, quickly securing our fifth bump! I was amazed to find that the data on bumps of that year is still online ([http://eodg.atm.ox.ac.uk/user/dudhia/rowing/bumps/hert/hert\\_meb.html](http://eodg.atm.ox.ac.uk/user/dudhia/rowing/bumps/hert/hert_meb.html)). This reminded me that the M1 crew stroked by the Boat Club Captain, Adrian Titcombe, rowed over that day, while M2 got their fourth bump and also won their oars.

We also had a very good evening, as Hertford had an Eights Week Ball that night. Rowing along the Green Bank today was a very evocative experience – so very little has changed. That was



until we passed the splendid OUBC building on our left, which for so long had been a burnt-out wreck. In our day it was a distinctly austere set of low rise brick buildings. Carefully negotiating the hundred odd swimmers we turned, as usual by what had been Salters, now the Head of the River pub. Sitting at back stops I realised that the occupant of the 4 seat of M2 earlier that day must have been a lot taller than me. That accounted for the distinct twinge I was beginning to feel in my right calf. Michael Henderson (rowing at 5 in front of me) and I failed to free up the footplate, so I knew I would have to play a restricted part in the easier row home, assisted by the current. As I looked around over Christ Church Meadow I suddenly remembered the college barges that used to line that bank. In their heyday there were about 30 of them.

By the time I went up in 1964 that had dwindled to just four (Hertford, Pembroke, Wadham and St. Catz). Most of the richer colleges had their own (or shared) boathouses opposite OUBC where they are now. Hertford couldn't afford one of these, but luckily had the foresight to buy the former Thomas Tims boat-building works at Long Bridges. Actually I have only just discovered a bit of its history (see <http://www.southoxford.org/local-history-in-south-oxford/66-men-of-grandpont-1914-18/henry-rough>). The works were built by Frederick Rough in the 1880s, and he owned Riverside House, next door. In 1913 the works were burned down by suffragettes. The photograph below shows his funeral cortege in 1914 in front of the rebuilt Rough boat-works. In 1922 it was put up for auction and sold to Tims, who continued to build racing boats there until the early 1960s, when Hertford bought it. When I arrived in 1964 it looked very similar to the building on the right, except that the college had replaced the balcony and staircases with something not quite as much of a death-trap.

The ground floor had been turned into boat racks, very similar to now. We rented some of these to St Catherine's and Mansfield Colleges, both of which were relatively new foundations without their own rowing premises. We also had a boatman who helped teach our fledgling coxes about the ways of the river. But the upper floor had been left exactly as it was the day boat building stopped! The nearest image I can find is of the inside of the building works for Salters Steamers – but it gives a very good impression of what we found when we entered the boathouse from the balcony. We even found that the telephone in the tiny office was still connected. In fact an American contemporary of ours used it to run up a huge bill phoning his US girlfriend overnight – and got sent down! At the end of Trinity Term 1967 a group of six of us visited the Bursar with a proposition. We offered to spend a month after term as a working party to recapture parts of the upstairs as a changing room, in return for board and lodging! Of course plumbing was out of the question. But we did manage to put up a partition and to turn the front part of the upstairs into a sort of club room with a door behind which we could change in modesty amongst what was left of the old boat rigs.

The Sunday after Eights was traditionally when the President of Boats invited hearties and guests to the balcony of the boathouse for a sherry party at noon. As President in 1967 I performed my duty and welcomed many of those here this evening. Among those guests was a former Fellow of the college, then an MP, who had written to me on House of Commons notepaper asking if he could be invited with his guest. That is how I first met my wife-to-be, Jennie. So this is a very special event for the Oldknows. Well, that's rather a long diversion from this afternoon's outing!

So thanks very much to all who made the event possible, especially Tom for



finding the restaurant and providing the impromptu bar on the boathouse balcony! Thanks also to those who were there to support, including Jules Hay (1964) and Chris Morton (1964) from the 1966 M1 as well as Phil Greenwood (1966), John Dunne (1965), Peter Titchener (1960) and Graham Winyard (1965). It has also provided an opportunity to reconnect with those who were otherwise engaged today, including Jonathan Green (1966), Hugh Reynolds (1964), Simon King (1965) and Adrian Titcombe (1965). Sadly Keith Bishop (1964) passed away in his forties.

Thinking of the other connections with Hertford rowing of the 1960s who are no longer with us, two other names come to mind. The first was Geoff Jukes, a defector from Wadham College, who was a great coach and benefactor of Hertford rowing. In Easter 1966 he moved his family out from their large modern house in Henley-on-Thames to allow the M1 to move in and train for a week from the Upper Thames Boat Club under his tutelage! Geoff was a distinguished Russian scholar (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYk9GDRYNJ8>) as well as serving in the MoD, Foreign and Colonial Office, before becoming an academic in Australia (see <http://cais.anu.edu.au/node/59>). He is far from the only Hertford contact with the intelligence services at that period. Perhaps the best known is Sir David Spedding (1961) who went on to become the Chief of

M16. (See <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/1309010/Sir-David-Spedding.html>.) For a long time the only photograph of Spedding (1961) was a black and white one of him rowing at Sherborne School when he was about 14 – which mysteriously seems to have been removed from public view! He was just one of many Hertford students recruited to M16 by Felix Markham (1908-1992). Felix was an expert on Napoleon and was a Fellow of Hertford from 1931-1973. But his image has also now been airbrushed from the face of the earth, or at least from Google. As a former member of the CND at school, and as an active member of the Oxford University Humanist Society, I never had my shoulder tapped – especially since most Sunday afternoons I went to the Humanists' tea meeting with Tariq Ali from Freddie Ayer's house in North Oxford. So I am not expecting a 'gong' any time soon.



The other major Hertford rowing connection was with Neil Tanner, (1930-2008) who was the Senior Member representing the Boat Club while I was



Here is the crew from L to R: Peter Hollins M1 1967, Tom Roberts M1 2007, Amy Wallace M1 2007, Phillip Davies M1 2007, Mike Henderson M1 1966/7, Adrian Oldknow M1 1966, Steve Greenwald M3 1967, Paul Watts M1 1967, Rory Galloway M1 2001

Captain. Neil had come from Australia to study Physics in Cambridge in the 1950s where he rowed. He was Physics Tutor at Hertford 1960-97, and was made Admissions Tutor in 1965. That was when Hertford spearheaded the Tanner scheme for positive discrimination for students other than from public schools. Fortunately I had already slipped in in 1964! Neil was a great supporter of college rowing, and every time I came back to watch Eights from the boathouse balcony I always had a good chat with him. On one occasion he talked in a worried fashion about the hike in price of elite boats, and whether the College

could afford to support rowing for much longer. I told him that I was sure that there were many Hertford alumni, like me, for whom rowing was the most important part of their College life, and who would be very happy to dig into our pockets to help provide boats and equipment for future generations of college rowers. Always full of energy, Neil set about putting the idea into action through the establishment of the Hertford College Boat Club Society – of which I am proud to be a founder member. It is really good to see the HCBCS flourish, and to be able to participate in its social events, such as today's. Long may it continue.



John Dunne, Adrian Oldknow, Peter Titchener



Paul Watts, Adrian Oldknow, Michael Henderson

## A history of Hertford College

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To mark the sesquicentennial anniversary of the current college in 2024, the Governing Body has commissioned Professor Christopher Tyerman to write a full academic history of the college, its progenitor Magdalen Hall and its precursor Hart Hall/the first Hertford College. While the college archives contain material relevant to the college's institutional organisation, there is a deficit in information about staff, tutors and the academic and non-academic experiences of undergraduates and graduate students. Relevant contributions from old members – archival, autobiographical, pictorial etc. – would therefore be welcome in establishing the necessary rounded picture of college life. If any old member is minded to assist the project in this way, before sending any material, they are invited first to approach either Professor Tyerman or the Archivist, Dr Lucy Rutherford ([archives@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:archives@hertford.ox.ac.uk)).

Buffet  
Drunk

Don't say copious  
a a a c o b

Mr  
Coley



The french

~~Mr F. B.~~

as upon wednesday

Grif  
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TOILETS



# Hertford Research, Teaching, Public Engagement



# Gone With The Wind – How A Seabird Reacts To Weather

Joe Wynn (Biology, 2014)

Over the summer of 2016 I was lucky enough to conduct my undergraduate project on Skomer Island in Pembrokeshire. An internationally important nature reserve, Ynys Sgomer plays host to something approaching half the world's population of Manx Shearwater. These diminutive seabirds live a pelagic lifestyle, spending each day foraging in the Irish Sea before returning to the nest in the evening to feed a single chick which resides in a burrow. The birds alternate between short trips out to sea to feed the chick, and longer self-provisioning trips which can take an individual from South Wales to the Isle of Man and beyond. In the winter months these birds spend their time off the Argentinian coast, undertaking their migration of many thousands of kilometres in a matter of days.

My time on Skomer was spent looking not at this migration, however, but at the day-to-day feeding regime that they employ to feed the chick. This presents a problem, in that the birds spend the majority of their time out of sight of land. To study them, therefore, we use GPS devices. One of the most exciting things



Figure 1: Map to show feeding areas utilised in 2016 by Shearwaters from Skomer Island.

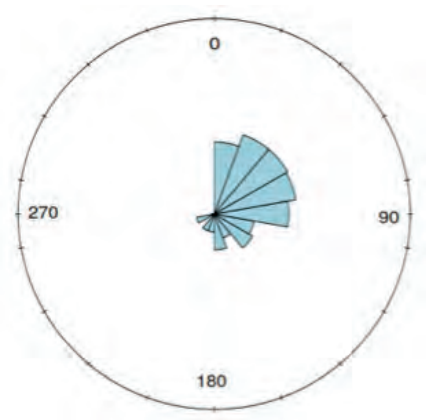


Figure 2: The bearing to the wind of birds leaving Skomer Island, Wales.

about this methodology is how easily procured the GPSs are, as they are simply adapted from off-the-shelf models that could be picked up on the high street. The plastic casing (and a lot of the circuit board) is cut away, a smaller lithium polymer battery added and the device (now weighing some 15g) is attached to the bird's back. Here it remains, held in place with Tesa marine tape for up to three weeks. The device takes a 'fix' every five minutes where longitude and latitude are recorded, and this can be plotted onto a map using a computer at a later date. My project specifically looks at the relationship between weather and the at-sea distribution of the birds, as well as focussing on how this affects the chick provisioning efforts of the bird. To do this I took weather data from buoys in the Irish

Sea, and looked for correlations between the trajectories of the birds' flight and the weather at the time. As it turns out wind direction has a huge effect on the path taken by the birds, with birds significantly more likely to fly at 70 degrees to the wind than any other orientation. This means that the destination of a feeding trip is largely dictated by the direction of the wind, which is interesting as it means that the foraging grounds used might not necessarily be the one the bird would use, all things being equal. We also found that weather is a good predictor of a bird's provisioning rate, with the wind speed proportional to the food gained by the chick. This is a fascinating result, and one that may prompt further research in the future.





## Forty years of teaching German Language and Literature

Kevin Hilliard, Lecturer in  
German, Hertford College,  
1995-2017

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**I** began teaching German language and literature 40 years ago, in the Hilary Term of 1977, when, as a graduate student, I took over as sabbatical leave cover for my own tutor, Malcolm Pasley, in Magdalen College. More substantial posts at Merton and the University of Durham followed, before I was appointed Fellow and Tutor in German at St Peter's, and Lecturer in German at Hertford. I retired at the end of the academic year 2016-2017, after 22 years in post. This prompts some reflections on what I was doing (or thought I was doing) all that time.

One way of describing what happened across my time as a tutor is to say that I learned to make fewer mistakes. In the beginning, I overprepared, as if I were the one expected to hold forth, rather than the undergraduate – with the result, which I should have foreseen, that I did

hold forth on what I'd prepared. As my tutees past and present will know, I never was quite able to curb my tendency to speak too much – I was never one for pregnant silences – but over time, I learned that it was better to leave my own ideas in a state of flux in the run-up to the tutorial, and only begin to give them more definite shape in response to the promptings of the student's essay. I also learned to comment, as a friendly adviser, on ways in which the student's own thoughts could have been arranged to greater effect, without necessarily feeling that their ideas had to be brought into conformity with mine. That was not only better for my pupils, but also more enjoyable for me; it meant that no two tutorials on the same subject were the same. For this and other reasons, I never got bored – angry with myself, often, for not handling a discussion well, but never bored.

When I began, I was not much older than my students. With advancing age, I've come to appreciate more and more the opportunity the tutorial has given me to talk to young people about matters of substance. Outside of the family, this kind of inter-generational dialogue is in fact not as common or as easy to establish as it should be, at least in my experience. The old and the young don't strike up conversations spontaneously. It seems that an institutional framework is needed to allow them to develop. The tutorial is one such institution, as is the college as a whole.

The age barrier to serious discussion is not the only one there is. Compared to politics or religion, literature is actually one of the safer topics one can bring up. And of course short exchanges do take place about the novel one's been reading, the film one recently saw, the play one's going to see. But even with close friends it would be pretty uncommon to find a situation arising spontaneously in which two or three people sat down to discuss a literary work (or cluster of works), in depth

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and for any length of time. Again a certain institutional artifice has to take the place of spontaneity. Once inside the institution – in this case, the tutorial – behaviour can become natural that outside would seem odd or cranky. Tutorials are places where the requirement is to converse (in my line of work) about a couple of books for an hour; and so one does, perhaps a little quizzically at first, but increasingly with the sense that this is right and natural.

One conclusion that could be drawn from this is that ceasing to notice how weirdly one is behaving is indeed a sign of having become institutionalised (not in a good way). Or one could, in a spirit of romantic protest, denounce the way artifice interferes with our nature, suppressing what is spontaneous and replacing it with lifeless convention. But this would be wrong, both in theory and in practice. Romanticism is not all it's cracked up to be. In the sphere of human interaction, nature, so called (for what is natural between social beings such as ourselves?), has a very limited repertoire. 'What comes naturally' is in fact conditioned by all manner of inhibiting social rules and psychological defence mechanisms. Trusting to nature and spontaneity to generate rich encounters with others is a mistake. The artifice of the teaching situation is therefore one of

the best things about it. It allows us to set aside those inhibitions and de-activate at least some of those mechanisms, and so create the possibility of meaningful exchange. It doesn't guarantee it; but at least it clears a space for it.

Another way of making the same point is to say that it is good for us to play roles. Social institutions might even be defined as settings that demand of their participants that they play a role. All teachers know that when they enter the classroom, they are performing. So too are the pupils. The trick on both sides is to perform the role well. New tutors – I was no exception – sometimes feel that they are impostors. In some ways that is of course undesirable and confidence-sapping. But in other ways it is close to the mark. The way out is to become the person one pretends to be. We should remember that the word 'person' itself derives from Latin *persona*, 'mask'.

This suggests that in teaching (and perhaps elsewhere, too) distance from ourselves – from our off-duty selves – is a good thing. With that distance, we can hear ourselves think thoughts that our everyday ('natural?') self would not think, would not be able to think, not be willing to think.

This happily ties in with the subject I have taught for 40 years. I have taught a foreign language: itself a medium that, whether I want to or not, takes me outside my civilian self and everyday environment. And I have taught literature in that language. What, it is often asked, is the relevance today of a novel, play, poem written 250 years ago (fill in any figure you like here) – and in a foreign language to boot? But that double distance is the point. My thoughts in the present are only

a small, and not necessarily the better portion of my potential thoughts. How to escape the constant murmur of the everyday, the latest insistent headlines, the din of advertising, the attention-grabbing flashing of social media? How to step out of the group-think of my place and moment? The literature of another time and place prompts and nudges me out of my everyday habits, and gives a better me the space it needs to think.

That is why I've always put the literary works at the centre of my tutorials. I've not thought of the tutorial, as perhaps some do, primarily as a gladiatorial contest of thrust and parry between tutor and student. Maybe, as a result, I've done less for the intellectual muscle tone of my pupils than I should have. Not that that aim is an unworthy one. But for me the subject mattered. Goethe mattered; Kafka mattered. The object was to get to the heart of the text, to see what it was trying to do, the ways in which it met or frustrated our expectations, the adjustments to our understanding it was asking us to make: in short, to do justice to its power. That is not the same as surrendering to it; violent dislike and disagreement can be excellent teachers. But the works we study demand something of us, and I didn't want that to fall by the wayside.

I've been lucky to have intelligent students to teach throughout my career, many of them more intelligent than me. They have made my life interesting for 40 years. Marking proses? If I'm honest, I won't miss that so much. But the tutorials: they were fun.

*(This article also appeared in Crosskeys, a St Peter's College publication.)*

# Hertford Year



# Honorary Fellows

News of Honorary Fellows

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## **Baroness Mary Warnock**

Honorary Fellow the Right Honourable the Lady Mary Helen Warnock DBE was named a Companion of Honour in the Queen's New Years Honours (2017)

## **Richard Fisher (Latin American Studies, 1972)**

Alumnus and Honorary Fellow Richard Fisher writes:

'Missy Bailey and I were married by my brother The Reverend Michael Fisher in Perkins Chapel at Southern Methodist University in Dallas on 18 July. (We are the only brothers to both have Honorary Doctorates from Bryant University in Rhode Island).'

## **Lord David Pannick (Jurisprudence, 1974)**

Alumnus and Honorary Fellow Lord Pannick was named Barrister of the Year at the Lawyer Awards held on 27 June 2017. Lord Pannick QC has appeared in almost 120 House of Lords/Supreme Court cases, more than 25 cases in the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg and over 30 cases in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and appeared in many of the leading public law cases of the last 25 years. Milestones include acting for *The Sunday Times* in Spycatcher, Tiny Rowland and Lonrho plc in the battle with Mohammed Al-Fayed concerning the take-over of Harrods, and establishing on behalf of gay servicemen that it was a breach of their human rights to exclude them from the military. This year he appeared in the historic Article 50 'Brexit' Appeal, acting successfully for the lead claimant Gina Miller.



## **Deaths**

Honorary Fellow Miles Vaughan Williams died 31 August 2016. See the tributes elsewhere in this issue.

The Right Honourable David, Lord Waddington of Read (1947, Jurisprudence) died on 23 February 2017 (see the tribute in the letter from the Chairman of the Hertford Society in this issue).

Honorary Fellow Dame Helen Alexander (1975, Geography) died on 5 August 2017. See the obituary in this issue.



# Hertford Society

The Hertford Society  
Robert Seymour, Chairman (1985)

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**B**y permission of the Principal and Governing Body, the Society held its 56th Annual General Meeting in the Principal's Lodgings on 25th June, business being managed briskly by Jacqui Smith, the President of the Society. After the meeting ended we emerged into OB Quad to find champagne, sunshine and guests waiting, swelling our number to nearly 70. After a very agreeable lunch in Hall, the President welcomed everyone and invited Christopher Mockler (1963), a Committee Member, to outline the project undertaken by the Society over the last three years to restore 13 of the college's portraits (see the article elsewhere in this issue). The restoration was undertaken by students at the Courtauld Institute and the Hamilton-Kerr Institute as part of their academic studies in the conservation and restoration of paintings and we were delighted that Mimi Gillman and Jenny Gonzalez Carujo from these institutions could attend and see some of the restored portraits hung once again in Hall. The portraits looked extremely fine and have much benefited from the removal of various items of cutlery and layers of gravy and chocolate sauce. A small number of portraits remain to be restored and these will be completed in the early part of 2018. Both Society and college extended thanks to Christopher Mockler for overseeing this extremely significant and complicated project.

After lunch, Professor Emma Smith, Fellow and Tutor in English, spoke about the portraits that now hang in Hall, where Principals of the distant and more recent past share space with more contemporary portraits from the Hertford Women and Tanner Scheme photographic series, a portrait of Alain LeRoy Locke, the first African-American Rhodes Scholar, and a fine new portrait of our President by Tom Cross. Professor Smith explained that the portraits in Hall are likely to change with more frequency and to represent a wider body of significant personages in the history of college, rather than a rather

austere procession of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Anglican Bishops. Professor Smith also remarked on a couple of noticeable absences, the emblematic Hart's head, and the modern facsimile portrait of John Donne.

Inevitably, the last year has brought news of other absentees who will be missed by both the Society and college. Honorary Fellow Miles Vaughan Williams died in August 2016. In 1955, he had been the first Science Fellow ever appointed by college and, typically modestly, he then informed Governing Body that they needed to appoint a 'proper scientist'. He was influential in the appointment of Neil Tanner and the many initiatives that followed on. Miles Vaughan Williams was Tutor in Medicine between 1955 and 1985. Having found college a 'complete slum' when he arrived, he oversaw a significant programme of improvements, particularly to the sanitation facilities which he considered responsible for a number of infectious outbreaks at college at the time. It was largely due to his influence that college purchased the buildings behind NB Quad from Merton College, which were subsequently developed into Holywell Quad. (See the tribute to Miles Vaughan Williams in this issue.)

The Right Honourable David, Lord Waddington of Read (1947) died in February 2017. David, always a plain-speaking Lancastrian, read Law at Hertford and was subsequently called to the Bar. President of the University's Conservative Association, politics was a life long passion. After standing without success on a number of occasions, David Waddington was first elected to parliament as MP for Nelson and Colne in a by-election in 1968, losing his seat in Ted Heath's disastrous snap general election of 1974 and returning to parliament in 1979 at the Clitheroe by-election. He then served as a junior Treasury minister and Conservative Party whip from 1979 to 1981; Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Department of Environment from 1981

to 1983; Chief Whip from 1983 to 1987; and was appointed Home Secretary in 1989. After the fall of Margaret Thatcher – another career brought to an end by the European Union – David was made a life peer in 1990, serving as Leader of the House of Lords from 1990 to 1992 and thereafter as Governor of Bermuda from 1992 to 1997. David was President of the Society for eight years and attended committee meetings and society events as frequently as his other commitments allowed.

Simpkin, the college cat (version 3) also died in the course of the last year, but happily Simpkin (version 4) has now matriculated. Version 4 is somewhat darker and fluffier but – so far at any rate – does not seem overtly vicious.

Honorary Fellow the Right Honourable the Lady Mary Helen Warnock DBE was named a Companion of Honour in the Queen's New Years Honours. Baroness Warnock has been a loyal supporter of the Society over many years and we congratulate her on this distinction and give her our very best wishes.

At the annual general meeting referred to above, Dr Barry Lester (1976) was elected to the Committee. The Committee has met on a number of occasions, arranging the purchase and donation of two running machines for the college gym, marking the contribution of Anthony Eady (1959), a lifelong runner, long-serving Society member, Committee member, Chairman and Vice President. The Bill Atkinson (1936) trophy was once again awarded to the most promising new rower at College. Financial contributions were made in the last year toward the cost of the MCR matriculation ball, JCR freshers' week, the ambassador outreach scheme and the choral awards. The Committee proposes to continue contributions toward all these into the future, subject to availability of funding.

On the subject of funding, the Committee and the Society remain committed to providing ongoing support

for both college and the student body, and also arranging social functions interesting to its members. The Committee is actively considering the establishment of a number of sub-committees to address social functions and recruitment in particular, without which the Society's ability to support these ends will become increasingly constrained. Members will have noticed that in the last year the Society has initiated means by which members may donate directly to college, which is taken to equating to membership subscription of the Society, but enabling Gift Aid to be claimed and making the money go further. I do hope many of you will use this means to support the aims and objectives of the Society.

I thank all of my colleagues on the committee for their unstinting loyalty, hard work and support which make the Society and its functions an enduring pleasure.

## Gifts to college from the Hertford Society

The college is deeply grateful to the Hertford Society for its support over many years. The inventory below is a record of its material contributions over a long period; its intellectual and social contribution to the life of the college is no less valued.

- 1) October 1962: £50 towards equipping a television room for the JCR.
- 2) May 1963: £10 for a retirement present to Mr. Pollicott (Battels Clerk).
- 3) June 1964: £30 plus for an engraved silver salver to Dr Ferrer on his retirement as Principal.
- 4) March 1968: An engraved pewter tankard to Jim Couling, retiring Buttery Manager.
- 5) May 1968: A Visitors' Book to the MCR.
- 6) May 1968: An antique French clock, suitably engraved, to the MCR. Obtained by Gerald Darling and presented on behalf of the Society.
- 7) October 1969: £92 for prints of the college to be hung on the Hall staircase.
- 8) February 1972: 10 guineas for an engraved pewter tankard to Gilbert Dyer, retiring college chef.
- 9) June 1974: £200 (approx.) for a portrait of Felix Markham, to hang in Upper SCR.
- 10) May 1976: £110 for mounting and framing of Principal Boyd's paintings.
- 11) June 1979: £600 for producing the college Magazine (total cost). Similar funding in subsequent years.
- 12) July 1980: Two garden seats for the front quad (cost £168).
- 13) February 1982: Three-handled drinking pot with pewter rim commemorating the Hertford College Regatta of 1879. Purchased initially by Brian Galpin and then by the Society for £63. Placed in the Upper SCR.

- 14) October 1982: Repair to the MCR's antique clock by John Birkle on behalf of the Society (cost £35).
- 15) February 1984: Support towards the cost of 'Hertford Anthology' book by Andrew Goudie. (£700 approx.).
- 16) June 1984: Portrait of Bishop Robert Stopford (former Bishop of London and first President of the Society). Commissioned by old member Byron Mikellides and presented on behalf of the society.
- 17) October 1987: Funding of the Italian walnut frame for the portrait of Sir Geoffrey Warnock by Humphrey Ocean. To hang in the Hall. (Cost £800).
- 18) June 1990: £125 contribution to cost of memorial plaques (one in Chapel and one in the Ferrar Room), commemorating Dr William Ferrar (former Principal).
- 19) November 1991: Labelling portraits in Hall and Upper SCR (total cost £941).
- 20) November 1991: Annual cost of supporting college Magazine now reaches £2,182.
- 21) June 1994: Carriage clock to Richard Holder, retiring Senior Scout.
- 22) February 1996: Annual cost of supporting College Magazine reaches £2,500.
- 23) June 1996: £500 contribution to the cost of the portrait of Sir Thomas Jackson, architect of many of the college buildings, painted by Mark Alexander of the MCR. Portrait hung in the MCR.
- 24) June 1996: £500 contribution to the cost of an etching by Henry Edridge, ARA, depicting the Schools from the ruins of Hertford College, signed and dated 12th August 1820.
- 25) June 1998: £2,000 contribution to lighting the portraits in Hall.
- 26) October 1998: £2,100 for purchase of three six-foot teak benches. Cost to include delivery and suitable plaques to be affixed to the benches.
- 27) October 2000: The first contribution to the college cat (then Simpkins, now Simpkin). Cost then £150. Contributions continued annually.
- 28) October 2000: £5,000 contribution to cost of carpets and paintings for the new Graduate centre.
- 29) February 2001: £1,400 for the lighting of the remaining portraits in Hall and the Old Hall.
- 30) June 2001: The plaque in Chapel in memory of Sir Geoffrey Warnock (cost £700 approx.).
- 31) June 2001: Gift to the Revd. Michael Chantry, on his retirement as Chaplain.
- 32) October 2001: A further £1,500 for paintings in the Graduate Centre.
- 33) February 2002: £2,000 complete funding of portrait bust of Professor of Poetry Paul Muldoon, attached to the college for his period of Office. Displayed in the upper SCR.
- 34) February 2002: £250 for mounting and framing of photographs of all seven Hertford men who had represented England at soccer in Amateur Internationals.
- 35) February 2003: £2,500 for a further three benches for Old Quad, including plaque in memory of Bob Jackson, former Chairman of the Society.
- 36) October 2003: £2,014 for two silver candelabra, suitably engraved, for the Hall.
- 37) June 2004: £1500 towards the purchase of the new edition of the *Dictionary of National Biography* for the college Library.
- 38) June 2006: £1,950 for sundial and plaque in memory of Alfred Nathan (founding committee member of the Society) on wall of the Nathan Building in the Graduate centre.
- 39) December 2006: Annual cost of Simpkin reaches £435.
- 40) October 2008: £1,800 contribution to cost of Freshers' Week, run by undergraduates.

- 41) October 2009: Copy of *Oxford Jackson* book presented to the SCR (cost £40).
- 42) October 2009: Leaving gift of 1973 Oxford Almanac print to Cris Ballinas-Valdes of the Development Office (cost £45).
- 43) June 2010: £5,000 approx. for purchase and framing of a painting of the college barge by the late Kenneth Rowntree.
- 44) June 2010: Purchase of a replica of an eights shell in its case, in memory of Bill Atkinson, first Chairman of the Society (cost £1,400 approx.).
- 45) June 2010: Retirement gift of a pewter tankard to Bob Hart, College Catering Manager (cost £35 approx.).
- 46) June 2011: £750 contribution to Principal John Landers's portrait.
- 47) June 2011: £500 towards Freshers' Week.
- 48) June 2011: £2,000 contribution to the College's Ambassadors' Scheme to visit schools with little previous knowledge of Oxford.
- 49) June 2012: £500 towards Freshers' week.
- 50) October 2012: Anthem (*Like as the Hart desireth the waterbrooks*) in memory of Brian Galpin (founding committee member of the Society), commissioned from Samuel Pegg (cost £500).
- 51) December 2012: Annual cost of Simpkin reaches £969.
- 52) June 2013: £2,500 contribution to the cost of the College Magazine.
- 53) June 2013: £2,000 contribution to the Ambassadors' Scheme.
- 54) June 2013: £1,000 for Hertford Choral Scholarships.
- 55) June 2013: £750 for Freshers' Week.
- 56) December 2013 : Annual cost of Simpkin : £732
- 57) June 2014 : £750 for Freshers' Weeek
- 58) June 2014 : £750 for MCR Freshers' Ball
- 59) June 2014 : £1,000 for Hertford Choral Scholarships
- 60) June 2014 : £2,000 contribution to the Ambassadors' Scheme
- 61) December 2014 : Annual Cost of Simpkin : £707
- 62) June 2015 : £750 for Freshers' week
- 63) June 2015 : £750 for MCR Freshers' Ball
- 64) June 2015 : £1,000 for Hertford Choral Scholarships
- 65) June 2015 : £2,000 contribution to the Ambassadors' Scheme
- 66) December 2015 : Annual Cost of Simpkin peaks at £1,037
- 67) June 2016 : First payment of £3,000 to Hamilton Kerr institute for restoration of college portraits
- 68) June 2016 : £750 for Freshers' Week
- 69) June 2016 : £750 for MCR Freshers' Ball
- 70) June 2016 : £1,000 for Hertford Choral Scholarships
- 71) June 2016 : £2,000 contribution to the Ambassadors Scheme
- 72) October 2016 : Second payment of £9,702 to Hamilton Kerr Institute for restoration of college portraits
- 73) December 2016 : Valedictory payment for Simpkin III : £457
- 74) February 2017 : £1,000 for running machines and plaque in memory of Anthony Eady

## The College Office

Lynn Featherstone, Registrar and  
Director of Admissions



I joined Hertford as Registrar and Director of Admissions at the end of February 2017. The role is wide-ranging, and oversees all aspects of College Office activities, from outreach and admissions to examinations and graduation. The team also works closely with other departments across the College, and supports the academic staff in their teaching and research duties.

One of my first tasks in post was to work with our Outreach Fellow, Dr Catherine Redford, to review our current access and outreach strategy. Hertford began to formalise its outreach work in early 2013, since which time we have been steadily cultivating our links with schools and colleges in our designated link areas of Essex, Southend-on-Sea, Medway and Camden. We offer a menu of activities for students in Years 10-13, including taster days in Oxford, academic masterclasses, and application workshops. These events are targeted predominantly at students from less privileged backgrounds who have a realistic chance of applying to Oxford and other competitive universities. In addition to this, we collaborate with other college schemes, and support a large number of departmental and University initiatives, including the Pathways Programme and the UNIQ summer school. This work complements our general outreach programme of open days, guided tours, admissions talks, and subject-specific recruitment activities.

The last four years have seen us work with around 170 individual schools and colleges, and participate in over 500 separate events and activities. This puts us in the top five colleges for outreach work – no mean feat given our relatively small team and modest budget! We are indebted to the hard work and dedication of Catherine Redford and our Admissions Officer, Lisa Hartwright; to our inspiring academics, who carve out time in their busy schedules for outreach; and to our enthusiastic band of some 50 current students, many of whom have been

beneficiaries of our programme, and whose evident energy for our access work is invaluable.

And the collective hard work has paid off. Not only did our state school intake reach 70% in October 2016, but our proportion of students from less privileged backgrounds exceeds that of the University as a whole, and 10% of our home students over recent years can be traced back to our access work. This goes to show that our access work doesn't just dispel myths or present a desirable college choice, but also offers challenging curriculum enrichment, which helps bright students from non-traditional backgrounds make competitive applications.

However, we mustn't be complacent. Oxford admissions remains under scrutiny, and there is more we can do to ensure we are open and accessible to students from all backgrounds with the academic potential to succeed here. Next year, alongside our core activities, we will be looking to expand our work with teachers (both in our regions and through our alumni community), and to support university-wide initiatives, including engagement with black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) communities currently under-represented in higher education.

Whilst access and admissions are a crucial area of activity, my role sees me equally concerned with the administrative support for our current students and academic colleagues. In this regard, I am privileged to work with the dedicated duo of Sue Finch and Julia Howe in the College Office, who offer day-to-day support and guidance, and co-ordinate key activities such as Freshers' Week, student support and hardship applications, examination arrangements, and degree days. It is testament to their genuine care and attention that the College Office was rated 100% by our own students in the *Student Barometer* satisfaction survey for the third year running.

In my first sixth months, I have been bowled over by the generosity and goodwill of my colleagues, and the sense of collective college pride in support of our work with prospective applicants, and in helping each cohort of our current students to realise their academic potential. Before I started at Hertford, I spent over ten years working in access, admissions and academic administration at a number of other Oxford colleges. Knowing Hertford's renowned friendly and informal atmosphere, and its long-standing reputation as a college at the forefront of widening access initiatives in Oxford, I knew this would be the perfect job for me. So far, I have not been disappointed!



# The Bursary

Jamie Clark, Bursar



**A**lmost 30 years since my last experience of university life, I was not sure whether to expect everything to have changed, or for things to be pretty much as they always were. The reality, of course, was a bit of both. I am very happy to observe though, that the things that are different seem to me a distinct improvement. Facilities are (for the most part!) more extensive, better appointed, and more comfortable. In contrast, the things that have not evolved much are a relief to find still intact. The sense of community, lively minds, and not insignificant traces of mischief are all very familiar, and entirely welcome.

That is also exactly how I have been made to feel. Welcome. Not just by Hertford, but by the University at large. I have discovered a very active community of fellow Bursars out there who work closely together for mutual benefit. I think that is one of the most distinctive features of the culture here. Collaboration and collective purpose are viewed as natural, and unquestionably worthwhile. Coming from years spent in an unashamedly commercial environment that is a refreshing, and an empowering change.

That is not to say of course that the university and the colleges could not learn a thing or two from the business world. The college has a wealth of resources at its disposal, but recognises the need to develop those to improve its capabilities and services for the benefit of current and future members. Finding ways to do that will be a major part of my role over the next few years.

One of the central themes will be the development of the college's estate. Devising a suitable strategy, refining it through discussion and debate, and starting to put the early stages in motion will take most of the coming year. We are not working from a completely standing start. A number of potential developments and alterations (particularly for the main site) have been designed in quite some detail in the past, and are proving very

useful. We are, however, looking to expand on that significantly – considering what our needs are likely to be a number of years hence; looking at ways that we can achieve multiple uses for the same space; keeping an eye on how we can leverage our estates to improve our trading business income; deliberately challenging how we use space now and asking if there is a better way. One of the most exciting projects we have underway right now is looking at how we can use some of our existing land to provide brand-new graduate accommodation. We are pleased to be working closely with the University on that, who have an ambitious target for expanding graduate housing provision.

As well as creating an estates vision for tomorrow, we have to address today's demands. It is acknowledged that over the last few years the college has built up a maintenance backlog. So we are delighted to have a new Clerk of Works this year, Daniel Lee, who comes to us from St Anne's. Daniel has many years experience of estates management, and has already added huge value. He has been able to establish a clear picture of the current state of our buildings, and is developing a rolling multi-year refurbishment programme to ensure that we get back on track. He will also play a key role in the development and implementation of our Estates Strategy.

As well as the buildings we occupy, college members are heavily reliant on the services provided, particularly the domestic ones. So another key area of focus is on operational optimisation. Some of this is in turn linked to our estates development. It is difficult, for example, to eliminate meal time queues when the physical space to expand serving areas is simply not available. But beyond those physical constraints there is much that we can do to keep our costs down and our standards high. Coming from an IT background, I am particularly interested to leverage technology –

especially digital services – to deliver on both those fronts. Again, a great boost for us on this comes with the arrival of Malcolm N'jie (Mac), our new IT Manager. Mac has wide-ranging experience of the University's systems that we interface with and rely upon, having most recently worked for the Engineering Department's IT team. We have had a lot of turn-over in our IT area over the last year, and now find ourselves with a completely new set of faces from those only six months ago. So Mac will be focused on developing a new team as well as new services.

Over and above the bricks and mortar (and quite a bit of stone!) that we use, the process and services that we run, our biggest operational asset is of course our staff. So it is no surprise that this is also an area where we wish to invest. The brand -new role of HR Manager has been created this year, and we have been joined by Dr Undine Bruckner as our first incumbent. Not to buck the trend, she also has a background within the University, so hits the ground running. Undine combines professional knowledge and skills with a passion for all aspects of college life, and has made herself invaluable in only a few short months. Not only does this appointment help support and develop existing HR processes, but it allows us to focus far more attention on areas such as training, supporting career development, and the like.

Sticking on the topic of people, there are a number of other new arrivals amongst the permanent staff to report. At the time of writing these are – Yo Davies (a change of role to the new position of Welfare Officer); Alison Nicholls (who takes Yo's place as College Nurse); Richard Simmonds (Chef de partie); Dale Smith (IT Team); Josie Dyster (IP Team); Andrew Hilsdon (Maintenance Team); Derek Lear (Lodge); Carl Isham (Sous Chef); Tom Knowles (IP Team); Mia Smith (Chaplain); and Jonathan White (Development Team). We also have Ben Gibbons back on a second tour of duty

covering for our Head Chef Frankie Parry, who is on maternity leave. Welcome to all.

It would be remiss of any Bursar not to say a word or two about the finances of the college! I am happy to be able to report that we continue to enjoy a healthy income and expenditure position, and have generated sufficient cash surplus over the last 12 months to support a number of capital projects. Our International Programmes business remains one of the University's highest earning conference operations, making significant contributions. Likewise, our investment portfolio (which includes our endowments along with other reserves) has grown by over 11% year on year from around £63m to just under £71m. There has been a deliberate, and highly beneficial policy over the last few years to re-invest most of the endowment income, but projections for future years indicate that the investment income will be required to fund college operations in the face of increasing financial pressures. The investments that have been built

up will serve us well as we contemplate significant investment in our estates over the next few years, allowing us to access other sources of finance from a robust foundation. Lastly, on the finance front, as always we are very grateful to all our Alumni that continue to support us most generously. Your donations help us provide essential support to students by way of grants and scholarships, incremental funds for teaching and research, and for keeping the whole place up and running – thank you!

Finally, I wanted to say thank you to everyone – Fellows, Staff, Students and Alumni – for the very warm welcome I have received. I also wanted to mention two people who have been a particular support since my arrival. They have also carried the additional burden of operating for several months before that without a Bursar. They are Graham May (Deputy Bursar), and Dr Andrew Beaumont (Home Bursar). Both have my grateful thanks, along with those of the college.

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Over and above the bricks and mortar (and quite a bit of stone!) that we use, the process and services that we run, our biggest operational asset is of course our staff.

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# The Library

Alice Roques, Librarian  
Emma Smith, Fellow Librarian

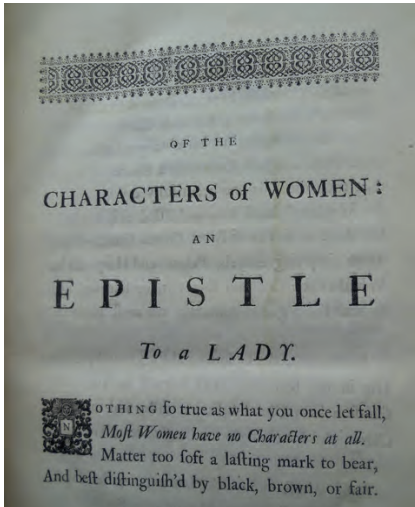
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**T**his year we have had a focus on our antiquarian collections: on conservation, on display, but in particular on their use. With encouragement and practical support from the Librarian, Hertford students in a range of disciplines can access our rare books (and not entirely coincidentally, the popularity of the graduate library training course among our students has risen markedly). The Librarian has also been active in bringing the Library's exceptional collection to the attention of scholars across the University. Helen Brown, co-convenor of the English Faculty's Eighteenth-Century Literature and Culture Seminar, reports on a workshop held in Michaelmas Term 2016:

'The English Faculty's Eighteenth-Century Literature and Culture seminar is based at Hertford, and our termly archival workshops explore the collections held in college libraries and the role they play in teaching and research. For our first workshop, Alice curated a display called "Tales of the Unexpected", which revealed some of the treasures available to researchers and students here – such as illustrated herbals, atlases, and broadsides, as well as editions of Margaret Cavendish, Mary Astell, Jonathan Swift, and Alexander Pope. The workshop demonstrated the diverse print formats of a wide range of eighteenth-century content, and highlighted intriguing details of provenance (such as the signature of a previous owner, John Locke), prompting interesting discussion both within and following the seminar.'

Next year we plan to develop the catalogue (currently a type-written handlist) so it is easier for us all to access the collection: watch this space! And do look out for the library displays that are part of a number of Hertford alumni events in college.

The library is a real team effort. We are grateful to the team from the Arts Society (formerly known as NADFAS) who volunteer to maintain our book



collection, and this year we celebrated their commitment to Hertford library over the last 25 years. Our student assistants Hannah Townsend (2016), Chris Cottell (2014), Anna Middleton (2014), and Polina Maloshchinskaia (2015) have done a great job and are much appreciated. Thank you to all who have donated books to the library during the year: Jieun Baek\*, Janet Banfield\*, Toby Barnard\*, Katie Burke (2016), Augustus Fukushima, Holly Gardiner (2014), Nicholas Graves (1974), Donna Haraway\*, Kevin Hilliard, Lily MacTaggart, Dana Mills, Helena

Mullineaux (1999), Steve New, Yoshio Otake\*, Younes Saidani (2014), Emma Smith\*, Nancy Weiss Malkiel\*, Julian Whitehead\* (1963), Claire Williams, and Abigail Witts (2015)

(\* denotes gifts of authors' own works). And finally, thanks to Oliver Noble Wood for his championing of library matters during his term as Fellow Librarian.

*And a PS from Emma Smith: congratulations to Alice Roques MCLIP on gaining her chartered librarian recognition!*

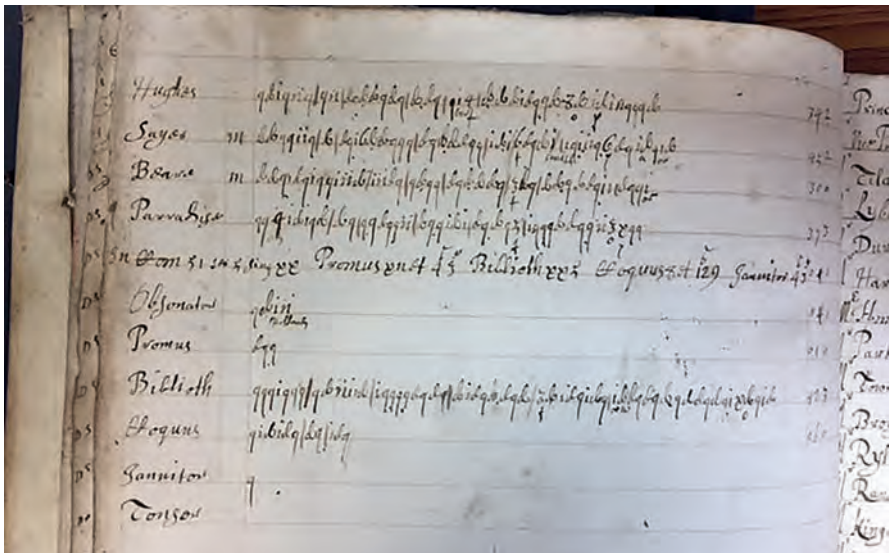
# The Archive

Lucy Rutherford, Archivist

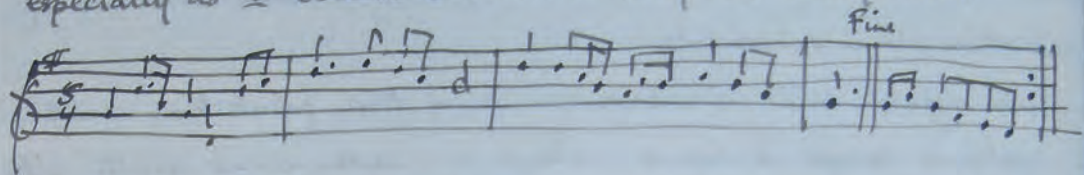
**H**ertford College Archives contain the records created by Hart Hall, Magdalen Hall and Hertford College. The earliest records in the College Archives are the Magdalen Hall Buttery Books, which run from 1661 to 1874.

In addition, the Magdalen Hall collection contains Governance records, Admissions Registers (1849-1874), and a beautiful Benefactors' Book and Library catalogues. There is a small collection of similar records from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries from the old Hertford College, the successor of Hart Hall. The majority of the records in the Archives, however, are those created by Hertford College after its foundation in 1874. These mainly consist of the administrative, financial and fabric records of Hertford College, with some personal papers of former Hertford College staff and students and records of student life and societies. The collection also contains prints, engravings and photographic series from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Buttery Books are undoubtedly amongst the most significant items in the collections,

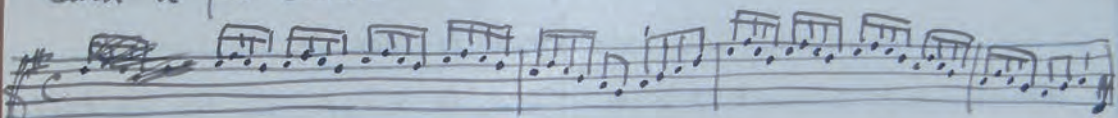
1682 Buttery Book



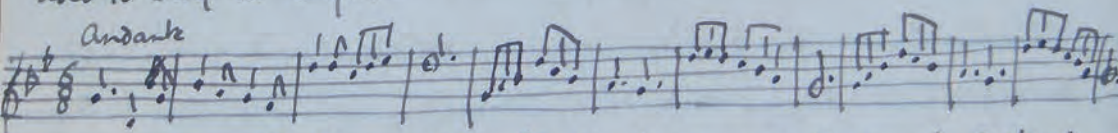
especially as I believe Serbian is very like Bulgarian.



of the dance tune which they were playing when we entered, and which they repeated at my request, I could only catch a few bars:-



I also took down from Radenkovich this tune, which the Serbs used to sing in Corfu:-



After a bit, a Serbian soldier led the band, and the music deteriorated. He brought the latest things from Salonika, including Tipperary, which, they played, possibly out of compliment to us. Then he did very clever tricks on the fiddle - imitated bird noises with harmonics - played the fiddle behind his back, & then with the fingers of his left hand up near the bridge, and the bow near the neck. Then he put the bow between his knees, nut downwards, and moved the fiddle up and down it.

The evening ended with a rather unpleasant looking Serbian officer cursing him for about ten minutes because he had

but other highlights are the plans from the Sir Thomas Jackson restoration of the college from the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries and the war-time diaries of John Dewar Denniston, Fellow in Classics at Hertford (1913-1949).

We currently hold approximately 159 linear metres of records, all of which have very different physical formats, including parchment, paper, photographic material and film, and require a variety of storage and handling conditions. Our current storerooms are nearly full and not compliant with professional standards, so we need to plan for high-quality future storage that takes account of the differing requirements of the existing collections. We also need to evaluate and prioritise the conservation needs of the records; so we will be planning a trial project to conserve some of the earlier Magdalen Hall Buttery Books and to explore their potential for digitisation. The large body of modern records – our future archives – that the college currently creates needs better management, in order to ensure

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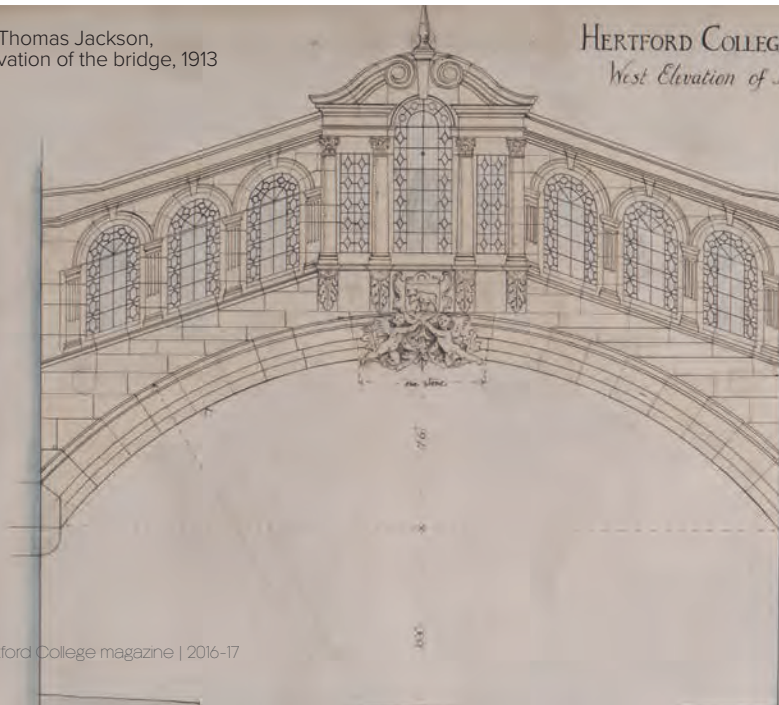
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their permanent preservation. The replacement of traditional paper records with emails and webpages, and the ever increasing volume of electronic and born digital records, poses huge challenges for the archivist in terms of access and long-term preservation.

The Archives are an important resource, both as an internal support to

Sir Thomas Jackson,  
Elevation of the bridge, 1913



T.G. Jackson  
June 3, 1913. R.L.  
14 Buckingham Str  
Strand. W.C.



college administration and as a public facing resource for academic and private researchers. In the past year, for example, we have used the records to research previous building projects in order to support current works and planning applications, answer queries from former students, provide primary sources for a Masters project and create a display for the Donors' Christmas Reception. In addition, the Fellow Archivist, Professor Christopher Tyerman, will be making extensive use of the Archives to research a new college history. We also make the records available to external researchers and the range of their research is surprisingly wide. Many are family history researchers who want to find about a former student, college servant or Fellow, whilst some are interested in the college buildings, or the history of pieces of land owned by the college and documented in title deeds held in the Archives. Others are interested in broader themes such as the First World War or Empire, and are looking for information that will contribute to wider research projects or exhibitions.

It is therefore crucial for the administration of the college, and for outreach to Alumni and the wider public, that the Archives are catalogued, kept physically secure and permanently preserved for present and future users. The principal task currently is to

complete the catalogue of the existing archive collection. The Archives were catalogued in the 1980s, but this now represents only part of the collection and exists only as a paper copy. We have purchased Adlib software to create the cataloguing database; which means that the catalogue is fully searchable, compliant with current professional standards, and will be capable of being made available online if necessary in future. Every item in the Archives needs to have its physical location and condition checked and recorded, before cleaning and repackaging with conservation standard materials. In addition to the existing archives, there is new material coming in on a regular basis – 55 new accessions in the last two years. Amongst these are included Bursar's working papers, Boat Club Society Records, College Chapel records and Matriculation and Sports photographs. We have also had donations of personal papers from Fellows and Alumni, and have recorded an oral history interview with an Alumnus who was a student at Hertford in the late 1950s.

We welcome enquiries and are always happy to make the collections available to researchers. Further information about the Archives can be found at <https://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/hertford-college-archives>.

# The Chapel

Mia Smith, Chaplain

**E**velyn Waugh said of his conversion, that it was like stepping into a new world, ‘and then begins the delicious process of exploring it limitlessly’.<sup>23</sup> Stepping into the world of Hertford College has, for me, been a similarly delicious exploration, and I have been fortunate to share this journey with so many of you in the chapel community and beyond.

Our Tuesday ‘Compline by Candlelight’ services provide a midweek oasis of serenity, with 20 minutes of plainchant. A compline workshop has been held, and a number of students have been trained to lead.

Our Choral Eucharist on Thursdays has incorporated ‘word of the week’, with students choosing a word for the sermon. A number of our students have attended preaching classes, and have come along to give it a go. One such word, ‘refugee’ – led to a fundraising concert by our choir for the International Rescue Committee.

The main service of the week is Choral Evensong on Sundays. The preaching theme for Michaelmas 2016, inspired by the college grace, was ‘Blessed to be a blessing’. We explored our responsibility towards the environment with Anita Cleverly, heard from Simon Iddon about ‘Lego and Loos’ – how his Shropshire secondary school came to the attention of Stuart Milk for its accommodation of transgender students, and then were asked by Revd Dr Michael Lloyd, ‘Isn’t agnosticism the only intellectually honest position?’.

During Michaelmas, the college community marked both Remembrance Sunday and Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

The annual Macbride Sermon on Messianic Prophecy was delivered by the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle Dean of Bristol Cathedral, followed by the customary madeira and madeira cake, and the newer tradition of whisky.

Compline



23. Unpublished letter to Edward Sackville-West, <http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/art/evelyn-waugh-ultra-modern-to-ultramontane.html>



Concert for the International Rescue Committee



McBride madeira

Our Evensong preaching series aimed to cheer us out of winter blues with 'Amazing grace: stories of kindness hope and love'. Highlights include Canon Andrew White, 'Vicar of Baghdad', sharing stories from Iraq; Sir Robin Oake, retired chief constable, speaking powerfully about his journey of forgiveness after his son was murdered in a terrorist attack; and John Fieldsend, Auschwitz survivor, sharing his equally moving story.

During Hertford Equality Week the chapel became a reflective space, with beanbags, fairy lights, and interactive reflection and prayer stations. These included homelessness, lack of clean water and food, identity, race, and gender.

Our annual Pancake Race had a suspense-filled finish, with the final being replayed three times to avoid a tie.

Trinity Term 2017 began painfully, with a memorial service for a member of our choir, Rafa Baptista, postgraduate student from Keble College. Our senior Organ Scholar, Aaron King, composed the anthem, Lux Aeterna, for the occasion.

Our preaching theme for Trinity was 'Ancient wisdom – modern life'. We remembered Hertford's saint, the Jesuit martyr Alexander Bryant, aided by fellow Jesuit Dushan Croos. Perhaps the most memorable Evensong came during Hartfest, with our composition competition yielding a number of world premieres. The chapel was used as a

gallery for some beautiful photographs and drawings.

Special thanks go to the chapel committee for their wisdom and support. I am particularly grateful to the chapel choir for their contribution, and to our organ scholars, Aaron King and Hannah Towndrow. All of you at Hertford have enhanced my own journey of exploration, and your chaplain thanks you.



# Development

Julia Thaxton, Development  
Director

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In 1997, Apple launched a new advertising campaign, ‘Think Different’. Drawing a line under a period of painful decline, Steve Jobs had rejoined the operation, and ‘think different’ was the strapline that summed up everything he wanted the company to achieve. Within a year of the first ‘think different’ commercial, Apple’s share price had tripled; consumers trusted and liked a company that professed to ‘think different’... and the rest of the history is well-known.

At first glance, Hertford might not seem to have a great deal in common with a multi-national, multi-billion dollar technology company. The college has gone bankrupt not once, but twice in its history (while Apple merely dabbled on edges of bankruptcy). But both institutions have in common that dramatic ‘return from the brink’ moment in their histories. For Hertford, rather than hiding past difficulties as an embarrassing skeleton in the closet, the college today proudly demonstrates what can be achieved if enough people put their shoulder to the wheel to challenge the status quo. In 1874, it was the combined determination of a formidable triumvirate – Principal Richard Michell, banker Thomas Baring, and lawyer Francis Jeune – that enabled the refoundation of Hertford College on the Catte Street site. More recently, our forebears had the foresight to overturn traditional practice in admissions policy, make bold investments to shore up the college’s financial reserves, and take risks in striking up new conference opportunities overseas. Even before Apple came along, Hertford liked to ‘think different’. (Mind you, this being Oxford we might struggle with the grammatical issues of that particular phrase...)

Overwhelmingly, our alumni ‘think different’ too. In 2016-17, we’ve been celebrating the wide variety within our alumni community with the *Hertfolk* project. Taking inspiration from the *Humans of New York* blog, which

features photographs and stories from people living in New York City, our alumni all have stellar academic credentials in common but their history and their path since leaving Hertford could not be more different. The range of experience and endeavour is truly extraordinary – if you've not done so already, do take a look: [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/hertfolk](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/hertfolk).

We have embraced a different route with our fundraising in 2016-17 too. Having set a challenge to raise £300,000 for student support over the academic year, we ran a parallel 'virtual challenge' to circumnavigate the globe. 73 Hertford friends and alumni from across the world each recorded the kilometres that they cycled, walked, ran or swam towards their personal goal. Adding all of these together, over the course of seven months (from our launch date of 1 January until the end of our fundraising year on 31 July) the team collectively covered 40,070 kilometres – which is the circumference of the globe. What an achievement! We often talk about how small gifts collectively add up to a great total, and the virtual challenge gave the perfect visualisation of that. Each of the participants also contributed towards our fundraising goal, either by donating themselves or by fundraising from friends and family. The challenge collectively raised a fantastic total of £302,821, all of which will go towards student bursaries, scholarships, hardship grants and outreach. We're hugely grateful to all of you who took part, cheered the team on, or donated towards the goal. A quick Google tells us that it's 384,000 kilometres to the moon... should that be our next destination...?!

After our roadshow across the USA in 2016, 2017 saw us take on Asia. It was fantastic to meet new and familiar faces, not only in our usual haunts of Hong Kong and Singapore, but also in Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo – and a particular thank you to Katie Targett-Adams (1997) who hosted a beautiful rooftop reception at her

home in Hong Kong. Thank you also to those who helped us put on fabulous events elsewhere: Eric Clement (2013) organised and Dana Mills (2008) hosted a great drinks reception in New York and Rob Collard (1988) welcomed us back to Macfarlanes for our annual London drinks. (If you would be open to organising or hosting an event at your home or work, please get in touch with the Development team).

It's always daunting to celebrate record achievements – what happens when one day you don't break your own records?! But this year was another historic one for Hertford's fundraising: 878 people made a donation to the college in the last academic year, our highest ever. That brings our total number of donors to 1,838. And we raised a grand total of £924,361 in gifts and pledges – again, our highest ever! Many were for student support and will be spent on student bursaries, hardship grants, scholarships and outreach. Some donors chose to give to student activities, such as the rugby team and the boat club, and the JCR were hugely grateful to the Hertford Society's gift in memory of Anthony Eady (1959) – a new running machine (because Anthony had a lifelong love of running). We also received a very generous legacy

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from Jonathan Swallow (1971), which will go towards student support.

Over the course of 2017-18, we will be moving our focus towards the academic heart of the college. We talk a great deal about supporting our students and restoring our buildings, but the whole reason these fantastic students are occupying these beautiful buildings is the core academic purpose of Hertford: to enrich minds, push boundaries and further understanding. We have already received some very generous donations towards our Fellowships in Geography, Law, English, and through the generosity of donors we now have ten years of funding secured for a new post in Computer Science. Thank you – your support is hugely appreciated. If you

would like to make a donation in support of a particular subject, please do get in touch!

Steve Jobs may not have been to Hertford (his loss) – but his fascination with innovation, passion, and ambition might have fitted well at the college:

*When you grow up, you tend to be told that the world is the way it is; you should live your life the way it is and try not to bash into the walls too much... Life can be much broader once you discover one simple fact: that everything around you was made up by people who were no smarter than you. And you can change it, you can influence it.*

It could almost have been written for Hertford.



## Subjects and research

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### Archaeology and Anthropology

We again celebrated a productive year with our first years venturing out to Italy in the summer vacation to work on Mark Robinson's exciting excavations at Pompeii (below), having first attended the departmental fieldwork training dig at the Roman site of Dorchester-on-Thames. The second years used the long vacation to work on their dissertations covering a variety of subjects from the influence of dietary variation on birth spacing in early hominins to investigating child burial practises in the Ancient Greek Mediterranean c.900-300 BC. Amongst our third year finalists, Billie Croucher and Francesca Anderson obtained first class degrees and Alexander Benn won a place to do a Masters at Oxford.

Mark Robinson is due to retire this year and we are enormously grateful for the invaluable role he has played in teaching and supporting the undergraduate degree at Hertford. Happily Mark is not disappearing from the scene altogether;

First years (left to right): Bridget Johns, Etty Caverly, Amy Hoguin and Ed Burnett on fieldwork at Pompeii.







he has agreed to continue to take Hertford students on excavations. In this last year his efforts were concentrated on the excavation at the site of the Republican Baths, located next to the Triangular Forum on the Via del Teatri at Pompeii. The baths are among the oldest in Pompeii but curiously went out of use before the eruption in AD79. One of the aims of the project was to understand how the plot of land was transformed and used before the time of the eruption. Some of the most interesting finds came from the period after the life of the baths when the location became a town house. Here, excavations of the peristyle (continuous porch around the central atrium) and summer rooms of the new house revealed how some of the material from the demolished baths had been incorporated into the new structure. Special finds, reported by first year participant Bridget Johns, included parts of frescos and an imbrex tile (junction roof tile) in the shape of the face of a satyr that would have channelled rainwater into a collecting basin (above).

Nick Barton continued his work at Taforalta cave in Morocco. This year, a new chamber was discovered at the back of the cave and 3D mapped using the latest digital techniques developed at the Institute of Archaeology. This has allowed the undisturbed surface of the chamber to be examined for the first time in 15,000 years and has revealed a rich assembly of bone and lithic artefacts including possible burial structures. He also undertook work with one of his research students, and helped by undergraduates, to investigate a large open-air Upper Palaeolithic site on the Nottinghamshire-Lincolnshire border. This area is of interest because during the lateglacial 12,000 years ago it was blanketed with windblown sands that covered and protected some of the original Upper Palaeolithic land surfaces. The site at Farndon lies in the Trent valley between the cave sites of Creswell Crags and the North Sea plain and thus on a strategic route for people re-entering Britain from Europe at the end of the Ice Age.

Nick Barton

## Biology



The normally smooth year-on-year cycle of Biology teaching at Oxford was dramatically interrupted on 10 February 2017 with the unexpected announcement that the Tinbergen Building would be closed to all use from the following Monday. This iconic, if not universally loved and admired, building housed the majority of the Department of Zoology research and administration, along with a very large portion of teaching of the Biology, Biochemistry, Human Sciences, and Experimental Psychology degrees. In common with other recent and even more dramatic building evacuations this year, this was on safety grounds and due, in this case, to large and unexpected quantities of asbestos in the building fabric. Although there has been no evidence of exposure to anyone working in the building to date, the University took the view that once the scale of the problem was known, it was not possible to manage this risk whilst the building was occupied. Although the timescales remain uncertain at the time of writing, it is clear that the building will either have

to be completely refurbished or totally demolished and rebuilt – a process that will likely take around five years, as the asbestos in the fabric must be made safe first.

Thanks to tremendous efforts of the teaching staff, the teaching of the BA in Biological Sciences was scarcely disrupted with virtually no teaching cancelled and most relocated to other parts of the University without major rescheduling. I was expecting to have to deal with many worries and complaints, but Hertford Biologists were phlegmatic: the most disappointment was among the first year students who had hoped, in vain, that the 9am lectures would be cancelled or rescheduled to a later time! Teaching is now being done in the Natural History museum and the Plant Sciences Building, with the University working furiously on the provision of new temporary teaching laboratories for the new academic year. The college is very fortunate to continue to enjoy great strength in depth in teaching with our team of stipendiary lecturers, Clive, Odile, and Timothy, who as ever, have ensured excellent provision across this wide subject despite the building problems.

The Maiden Lab was located in the Tinbergen Building and this caused much more disruption to my group, although we

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Thanks to tremendous efforts of the teaching staff, the teaching of the BA in Biological Sciences was scarcely disrupted with virtually no teaching cancelled and most relocated to other parts of the University without major rescheduling.

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were very fortunate to be able to move back into the adjacent Peter Medawar Building, where they were based from 1998-2009. The graduate students and researchers have now been able to continue their work, in excellent if more constrained surroundings. I also spent the majority of my time from the closure to mid-June helping to deal with the problems at a departmental-wide level and now know far more about the functioning of the University Estate Department and the provision of 'modular' buildings than I ever thought possible. In the long term, there are multiple opportunities in the provision of a new building, which should be much better suited to 21st-century Biology, but there's certainly much to do short and medium term.

It's that time of year again and we bid a fond farewell to this year's sextet of biologists Chantal, Chloe, Joe, Lucy, Mitch and Sophie. We are looking forward to seeing you all again soon, but it seems like only yesterday you all came up for interview (remember the Megalodon tooth?!). Finally, a special mention for Joe, who not only got a first, but also the Southern Prize for the best finals project in Field Zoology, for a truly outstanding piece of work on Manx Shearwaters – very well done Joe. Hertford supported this work with a de Unger Travel award. (See Joe's report in this issue.)

Martin Maiden

## Chemistry

2017 has been a busy year for Hertford's chemists. Several members of our chemistry community, including fellows, graduate students, and undergraduates, have written about some of their own personal highlights below.

Hagan Bailey and his colleagues have been building a new spin-out company, OxSyBio, at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus. The company will develop synthetic tissues fabricated by 3D printing. Harwell is the place to be, soon to be the home of the new £100 million Rosalind Franklin Institute aimed at exploiting new technologies to understand and treat human disease.

Chris Schofield's research group has been working with academic and industrial partners across Europe, as part of the Innovative Medicines Initiative, to develop agents that will protect beta-lactam antibiotics (most famously the penicillins) from resistance-causing enzymes that inactivate them. The main target has been metallo beta-lactamases, which enable resistance to all beta-lactams, including last resort drugs such as the carbapenems.

Claire Vallance has continued a variety of projects in the area of chemical reaction dynamics, as well as working in collaboration with Jason Smith's group (Oxford Materials) to develop a new type of chemical sensor employing optical microcavities. She and Jason have just been awarded an Innovate UK grant to enable commercialisation of the sensors via a new spin-out company, Oxford HighQ. Claire is also coordinating the development of the new Oxford Chemistry practical course, due to begin in October 2018 in a purpose-built new undergraduate laboratory facility.

Yijing Cao (third year M.Chem.) writes: 'Last summer I did an internship with a computational chemistry group. It was really exciting to be able to model chemical systems by writing programmes. Chemistry is indeed an



interdisciplinary science that opens up so many opportunities.'

Xiuting Lee (Senior Scholar and D Phil student) has observed an interesting fact about 'pure' water over the course of her research. A measured resistivity of  $18.2 \text{ M}\Omega \text{ cm}^{-1}$  or higher at  $25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  is usually taken as the gold standard in performance for

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Of particular interest recently, I have been designing compounds called hybrids, in which two drugs with different modes of action and are chemically bound.

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a water purification device, proving the absence of ionic impurities. However, after leaving the purification device, Xiuting has found that  $\text{CO}_2$  from the air rapidly dissolves in the water, setting up the equilibria  $\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}^+ + \text{HCO}_3^- \rightleftharpoons 2\text{H}^+ + \text{CO}_3^{2-}$ , leading to a significant increase in conductivity and rendering the water no longer 'pure'.

Jonathan Lockett (D Phil student) writes: 'My research in the Moloney group focuses on the synthesis of novel antibiotics. It is common knowledge, worthy of even national news, that antibiotic resistance is on the up. Antibiotic resistance is quickly becoming one of the most challenging tasks for scientists in the search for new drugs which work differently to existing ones. I attempt to design new antibiotics which incorporate a moiety known as a Tetramic

acid, found in many naturally occurring antibiotics. Of particular interest recently, I have been designing compounds called hybrids, in which two drugs with different modes of action are chemically bound. Hybrids offer hope in the race to slow down resistance by minimising the ability of bacteria to develop resistance.'

David Heathcote, a first year D Phil student in Claire Vallance's research group, has visited the Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY) in Hamburg to work on three experiments as part of an international collaboration aimed at studying interactions of molecules with high energy light. A laser is used to excite molecules, often leading to fragmentation. The fragments are ionised by a second laser pulse, and their scattering distributions are imaged using a technique known as velocity-map imaging. A key contribution from Oxford was the Pixel Imaging Mass Spectrometry (PIImMS) multimass imaging camera, which allows all of the molecular fragments to be imaged simultaneously, rather than one at a time as in previous versions of the experiment.

Claire Vallance

## Computing Science

My working life at Oxford is nowadays divided into three parts, all of which seem to be a full-time job in themselves. There is my college role; my regular academic role (research and teaching); and my role as Head of Department of Computer Science.

In my college role, I have continued to act as Steward of the Senior Common Room, and one exciting development this year is the refurbishment of the Upper SCR and Vaughan Williams room. The refurbishment was necessitated by building works to address worries about damp, but we have taken the opportunity to reorganise and hopefully improve the layout and décor of the rooms.

For my regular academic role, my main teaching activity has been to introduce a new course for my department, entitled Computational Game Theory. Game theory is the theory of strategic decision-making – that is, decision-making in settings where there are multiple decision makers, each trying to achieve the best outcome for themselves. Although usually thought of as a branch of Economics, game theory turns out to be very relevant for Computer Science – the twist that we give to the game theory story is that our decision-makers are computer programmes. My course is aimed at computing students, who want to look at game theory from the perspective of Computer Science. They know nothing about Economics, so we have to start from the very beginning. Fortunately, the students are so strong (and mathematically capable) they can absorb a lot of technical material in a very short period of time. The feedback on the course was very encouraging, and we plan to continue to offer it in future. My research projects continued well, with papers published at major conferences in New York, San Francisco, and Brazil, and in major journals such as *Artificial Intelligence*, *Annals of Pure and Applied Logic*, and *Games and Economic*



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For the department, one of my main challenges has been to grow undergraduate numbers in Computer Science at Oxford, and the only way to do this is to persuade colleges of the wisdom of admitting our students.

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*Behaviour.* The latter was particularly pleasing, as GEB is the main journal for game theorists – it is very rewarding for someone working outside the field to have their work recognised within it.

For the department, one of my main challenges has been to grow undergraduate numbers in Computer Science at Oxford, and the only way to do this is to persuade colleges of the wisdom of admitting our students. The upshot of this is that I spend a lot of my working life cycling around Oxford visiting colleges, and making the case for my subject. I am delighted that over the past year three colleges have agreed to admit Computer Science for the first time: Hertford, Jesus, and Christ Church. This is tremendous progress, and I sense that there will be more in the years to come. The post at Christ Church was made possible largely because our department recently hired Sir Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web, as a Professor, and Tim took up a fellowship at Christ Church. We were delighted to host Sir Tim at dinner at Hertford along with Andrew Hodges (author of the Alan Turing biography which inspired the recent Hollywood film), and Sir Roger Penrose, the eminent

physicist. It was an astonishing evening – the sort of event that can only happen in Oxford. I will remember it for the rest of my life.

Finally, my research area, Artificial Intelligence (AI), has continued to be big news over the past year, and this has created a new range of opportunities for me and my research group. In the first of these, I committed to writing a popular science introduction to AI, entitled *The Road to Conscious Machines*. This will be published in the UK by Pelican in 2018. As a side project, I was delighted to be invited to write the Ladybird book on AI. For anybody British over the age of 45, Ladybird books will likely have been a major part of their childhood (I have very fond memories of *How to Make a Transistor Radio*, which I read endlessly, although I never actually made one). The original Ladybird series was gradually wound down after its heyday in the 1960s and 70s, but was recently rebooted, first with a humorous series for adults (*The Hangover*, *The Dad*, etc), and more recently in the Ladybird Expert Guide series, of which my book will be part. Ladybird has a fixed (non-negotiable) format for their books, and the main challenge for me in writing the book was to map my understanding of the field of AI to this format. I was also acutely aware that Ladybird books have a long shelf life, and so if I did a disservice to my research area in the book, I might have to live with the consequences for quite some time. In the end, I was very happy with what I wrote, and the whole experience was a delight – the most enjoyable academic project I have ever been involved with. I daresay there are academics who would be sniffy about such a project, but not me – I was honoured to do it. The book was released in early 2018.

Michael Wooldridge

## Economics



2016-17 was a very successful year for students of Economics at Hertford. We were pleased with our students' performance in Economics Prelims and Finals, with seven distinctions, three first class degrees (including one student who overall came eighth in the entire year in PPE) and a number of very good 2:1s. Several of the students have gone on to graduate study of Economics. The second year also did very well, showing for example very strong potential in quantitative Economics, with

students' interests ranging from studying novel metrics in data science for their internships, to advanced probability and statistics.

News early in the year was the appointment of myself to replace David Gill as Roger Van Noorden Fellow in Economics. But my position was not due to start until 2017. So in the interim, we were really lucky to have Zac Gross directing the teaching team. This also comprised stipendiary college lecturer Richard Povey, career development fellow Damoun Ashournia, and departmental teaching associates Rustu Duran and Jerome Simons. Alongside their teaching, this team were very active in research. Zac focuses on the links between household debt and consumption, and the impact of downward nominal wage rigidity. Damoun studies the labour market effects of international trade. Richard Povey continues to research the social welfare consequences of altruism. And Jerome Simons studies combinations of macroeconomic data series that exhibit stability and hence forecastability over time filtering out any components that hinder standard statistical analysis.

During the year, we also bid farewell to Damoun, and wish him very well in his further work. I was delighted that Zac, Richard and Jerome all stay on for the 2017-18 academic year – and we are also appointing an additional tutorial fellow to join us in 2018-19.

Elizabeth Baldwin



## Geography



Geography at Hertford is about to embark on a process of transition, with the retirement of Dr Peter Bull at the end of the year. Dr Bull is one of the longest serving Fellows of the college, and has been at Hertford for over thirty years. During that period he has taught upwards of 200 students and helped achieve at least 100 first-class degrees. Peter was central to creating Hertford's formidable reputation as a top college for Geography at Oxford. His experience, candour and intellect will be missed.

*[Editor's note: we hope to have a tribute to Peter Bull in a future issue. Please write to [magazine.editor@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:magazine.editor@hertford.ox.ac.uk) if you have any reminiscences you would like to share.]*

Dr Bull's successor will join Dr Jamie Lorimer, Dr Janet Banfield and Prof David Thomas in taking the subject forward. Hertford currently admits nine students per year, with 27 in residence at any given time. Hertford geographers thus make up more than 15% of the geographers in the University. Students continue to be taught

the full breadth of the discipline, including both human and physical geography, before specialising towards optional subjects in their final year.

One of the highlights of the Geography degree is the dissertation, an independent piece of research that students undertake over the summer holiday of their second year. Our students head off to a wider range of destinations and work on an eclectic range of subjects, that best illustrates the diversity of contemporary Geography. Students graduating this year completed projects that encompassed wolf conservation around Yellowstone National Park, dust monitoring in the Kalahari, and the politics of hosting refugees in Birmingham. We are grateful for the financial support offered by our Geography alumni, who help fund these student projects.

Hertford is also host to a vibrant community of Geography graduate students, many of whom are doing one-year MSc and DPhil programmes relating to the environment. We are fortunate to be able to award the Bruce, Julia and Mortimer May DPhil studentship, which covers students fees and living expenses for a full three years. The current recipient is Anabelle Cardoso, whose project focus on elephant conservation in Gabon. In 2017 we will be making two new awards to Joshua Evans and (Hertford alumna) Ella Walsh.

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Dr Lorimer's research focuses on the history and politics of wildlife conservation. He has recently shifted scales from past work on 'rewilding' in the wider countryside to look at the microbiome (the invisible world of microbes made accessible by recent developments in gene sequencing). He is interested in the rise of 'probiotic' approaches to health and hygiene and has developed participatory methods for working with households to explore the microbial life of their kitchens (see [www.goodgerms.org](http://www.goodgerms.org)).

Dr Banfield continues her research on the geographies of artistic and cultural practices and this year published her first book – entitled *Geography meets Gendlin: an exploration of disciplinary potential through artistic practice*. Professor David Thomas holds the Chair in Physical Geography at Hertford and is a world-leading geomorphologist and physical geographer specialising in contemporary drylands and the Quaternary Period. This year he edited the discipline-shaping *Dictionary of Physical Geography*.

Jamie Lorimer

## Human Sciences



Hertford is now back to our usual number of three Human Sciences in each year. Our finalists' dissertations were typically diverse, topical, and ambitious: on the cultural variation in food use as a medicine; on the implications of gene editing for the human person; and on masculinity and HIV/AIDS in southern Africa.

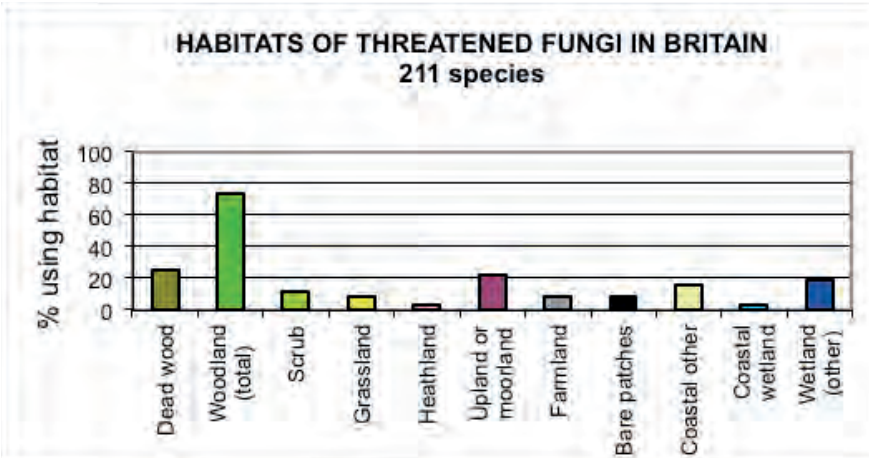
The Human Sciences course in Oxford is being reviewed and will certainly have a major overhaul, amongst other things because it now has too high a workload. As people have joined the teaching staff, material has generally been added rather than reduced. The aim is to keep the exceptionally broad scope but have a more reasonable number of lectures and a number of tutorials more typical of a science subject. There is debate about the timing of the extended essay – currently submitted in Trinity term and eating into the time for tutorial work. There is an assessed presentation based on the dissertation, but as yet it does not contribute much to Finals grades – which is frustrating because such oral exams

typically have very high marks. The degree's marking schemes have been revised, and are now much more detailed. So, in response to student feedback, to external examiners and teaching staff, the course is on course to improve – and be even more popular.

As usual our students contribute greatly to college activities, societal causes and sport – from the choir to rowing to the homeless to rugby to open-mic poetry. Despite the heavy workload, Ava Scott, in her second year, served as JCR President.

A spectacularly disruptive development for me this year was the disturbance by building work of asbestos in the Tinbergen Building (which held Zoology and Psychology). Indeed, there is so much that the building will probably have to be knocked down. It will be closed for at least two, and possibly more than five years – so Human Scientists will be taught in new venues such as the Natural History Museum, Plant Sciences, and a temporary modular laboratory which Martin Maiden has helped plan. The financial implications are huge, but great efforts are being made to have few impacts on undergraduates. There is talk of a 'Shiny New Building' for both Zoology and Plant Sciences – and which Human Sciences students would at times be taught in. The Tinbergen building was evacuated as an emergency, locking much of my materials and equipment inside. For the next several months I've been relocated to New Radcliffe House in Jericho, an open-plan office, but I spend a lot of time in college teaching or dealing with confidential items. My field and laboratory work will have to take a pause.

I've largely completed my desk work on the habitats of threatened species in Britain – which I intend to put in a book sometime. There's an example of the results in the diagram below. Fungi are typical of most non-marine organisms in that they often need



woodland, deadwood and wetland, and these habitats continue to be relatively vulnerable in Britain and globally.

Following a request, I've returned to a previous research focus: a biologically acceptable mechanism of climate stability that I worked on with my Zoology Department colleague Bill (WD) Hamilton in the 1990s. This explores negative feedback mechanisms that must lie behind observed atmospheric and climate stability lasting millions of years – despite perturbations and chemical disequilibrium. I advocate and predict a paradigm shift in the scientific approach to climate – from life being considered largely a responder in the earth system to being recognised as a forcing factor. It's a great shame Bill died before publication and tests of some of these ideas and models; I expect alumni reading this remember some of his other controversial and revolutionary papers.

I've also made a large collection of false widow spiders (*Steatoda nobilis*), which is Britain's most dangerous spider. This was very easy, since I've discovered it's now one of the commonest spiders in urban areas in the south of Britain, including Oxford. It's very closely related to the notorious black widow, and its recent very high abundance on and in

buildings makes it much more likely than was thought to bite people. Reports are mounting that it's much more dangerous than was thought – as an online search for images of bites will attest (be warned!). I think bites could occasionally be fatal due to an unusual tendency of the wounds to become seriously infected and ulcerated. I'm now working with colleagues in Zoology to look at the genetic diversity and geographical origins of the species. So my year's not been quite as interdisciplinary as a typical Human Scientist student's – but varied and interesting nonetheless.

Just to show that evacuations come like double-decker buses, I've been moved out of Hertford room OB3.2 for the vac, for structural work on that staircase. My cardboard boxes from the Tinbergen building will have to find another new home. Could it be that to lose one room is misfortune, but two is carelessness? The plus side is the redecoration of OB3.2, which the college is very efficiently arranging. So if you visit me sometime you may find things have changed a lot – and that old familiar drawing of a daisy on the whiteboard will survive only in your memories. I wonder what it will evolve into!

Clive Hambler

## Law



It is with great delight that I can report the news of Professor Alan Bogg's appointment to a post as Professor of Labour Law at the University of Bristol. My pleasure at his success is tinged with sadness at the loss of a valued colleague.

Alan arrived at Hertford in October 2003, stepping into the gulf left by the retirement of the legend that is Roy Stuart. Whilst Alan never had to step into Roy's shoes as Dean, his provision of criminal law and jurisprudence tutorials are equally legendary to those of Roy. Alan also provided tutorials in his main research area – labour law – as well as providing lectures and seminars for FHS Labour Law and International and European Employment Law on the BCL. During his time at Hertford, Alan published his first book, *The Democratic Aspects of Trade Union Recognition* (2009), which was awarded the Peter Birks' Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Legal Scholarship. Alan has published prolifically on aspects of trade union law and labour law more generally, his outstanding scholarship being awarded

by the title of Professor by the University, in addition to receiving a Philip Leverhulme Prize in 2014. Alan also served as Senior Tutor, as well as on many a committee, not to mention being a constant source of free legal advice on employment law!

Personally, I will miss a colleague and a friend who has always been the epitome of civic virtue. Whilst his hair may have become more grizzled with the passage of time, his loyalty, friendship, intelligence, wit, compassion and collegiality have remained steadfast. I'll miss the regular phone conversations, lunch meetings, walks around Christ Church meadow (frequently clutching coffee) and our many in-jokes. But more than that I know I could not find a more caring, supportive and understanding colleague. Hertford owes him a huge debt and he has more than earned the status of 'Hertford Law Legend'. Bristol has gained an outstanding legal academic and Alan will be sorely missed by all those whom he taught, supported and befriended during his time here.

Alison Young

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Hertford owes him a huge debt and he has more than earned the status of 'Hertford Law Legend'.

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## Mathematics



Keen readers of my column may recall last year I reported on the diverse talents of our first year mathematicians, from tap dancing to piano recitals in the chapel. I have been less successful, though, in uncovering hidden talents in our current first year, wonderful as they of course are, and my suggestion of tap dancing on the piano in the chapel was not taken up. We do have our first Texan though – I think the English weather has been a struggle for him – and our first two Romanian mathematicians, at least first in the 14 years I have been here. It is quite striking how much more pure mathematics pupils learn at school in Romania than in the United Kingdom.

A social highlight of the year for us has become the now annual Ferrar dinner, named in memory of a past Fellow in Mathematics. (Bill Ferrar, I believe, retired in the early 1960s and so none of us actually have any memory of him: I would be delighted to hear from any Hertfordians who do.) For one night only the mathematical tutors and students let their hair down together, and engage in an

increasingly riotous round of something called ‘sconcing’, a form of toasting which has the merits of embarrassing one reveller while at the same time inducing half the others to drink. Exactly whether all this improves the quality of mathematical teaching and learning in the college is not yet clear to me.

On the research front, the most exciting news for me this year was that my collaborator Henri Darmon won the Cole prize in Number Theory. This prize is awarded every three years by the American Mathematical Society and, short of the Fields Medal, it is the most distinguished accolade a number theorist can receive. Henri was recognised for his great contributions to the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture, one of the most celebrated questions in pure mathematics. (Birch was a professor in Oxford for many decades, as some mathematical readers may remember, and in his eighties still attends our weekly seminar.) My own work with Henri over the last five years has been on this topic, largely in collaboration with Victor Rotger from Barcelona. Working with Henri and Victor has been the most fulfilling intellectual endeavour in my career, though it strained every sinew in my brain. Henri quite deservedly received the prize, but this recognition of his work I feel also shows that our work together has been appreciated (that is at least how I see it).

On the personal side, my son Kenneth has taken his first GCSE decision a year early (well I’m certainly not taking Spanish), and I am increasingly doubtful that he will follow in his father’s footsteps with mathematics (what do you need numbers for anyway, you just need to count to ten, I mean can you see pyramids anywhere). I, though, have followed in his footsteps as a footballer and am now a keen player, regularly scraping shins at a weekly five-a-side match with many of my colleagues from Hertford.

Alan Lauder



## Medicine



The start of August 2016 saw an outpouring of best wishes from Hertford medical students past and present on the occasion of Miles Vaughan Williams' 98th birthday. In an email Miles wrote 'I was greatly touched and frankly amazed at receiving more than 60 birthday cards for my 98th. Thank you also for having included updates on your careers and your appreciation of your time at Hertford.' Sadly Miles passed away only a few weeks after his 98th birthday in his own home surrounded by his family. A college memorial dinner celebrating Miles' many contributions to Hertford College life was held in Hall on the 13th January 2017. The occasion brought together Miles' family and Fellows of the college with former and current medical students in a fitting tribute to a fellow who gave so much to Hertford as a teacher and a colleague.

Since my election to the Fellowship in 2002 I have had the privilege of dining in Miles' company twice a year at VW dinners. Miles set up these dinners soon after his retirement from teaching and research as an opportunity for pre-clinical

and clinical medical students to meet up and enjoy each other's company. The dinners start with a short talk by one of Miles' former students in the Old Library where they reminisce about their time at Hertford and reflect on their subsequent careers in medicine. The highlight of VW dinners (for me) was always Miles' after dinner speech where he talked about the genesis of the VW Medical Fund.

The VW Medical Fund provides grants to Hertford medical students for their clinical rotations and electives abroad and arose out of various *ex gratia* payments from pharmaceutical companies. Miles tested the effects of their new drugs for their effects on heart rhythm as part of his medical research. The speaker at the first VW dinner without VW in October 2016 was Gary Green (1969) who was well placed to talk about Miles as a teacher having read for a BA and a DPhil with Miles. Our most recent VW dinner speaker was Dr Deborah Hay (1996) who gave a fascinating and inspiring account of her journey from being an undergraduate at Hertford to her recent appointment as a consultant haematologist at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

My research laboratory in the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology studies inflammation, the normal response of all tissues to injury and infection. Many human diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis are caused by a failure to properly resolve inflammatory responses. By studying the basic biology of inflammation we aim to identify new pathways that can be targeted to develop novel anti-inflammatory drugs. In the past year we have started to study a cell surface receptor called GPR84. We believe that this receptor plays an important role in regulation of inflammation. The lead investigator on this project is Dr Carlota Recio who joined my laboratory straight from her PhD studies at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. A second-year Hertford medical student, Poppy Iveson, who is undertaking her



Poppy Iveson in the lab



experimental dissertation project in the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, is helping Carlota in her laboratory studies.

Peer-reviewed work from my laboratory has been published in journals including *Biochemical Pharmacology*, *PLOS One*, *ELife*, *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology*, *Nature Communications* and *Mediators of Inflammation*. Work in my laboratory is funded by a programme grant from the British Heart Foundation and a collaborative award from the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

Our teaching of undergraduate medical students at Hertford has been ably assisted by a number of dedicated tutors over the past year including Patrick Garfjeld-Roberts (Orthopaedic Surgery, 2003), Louise Wing (Radiology), Arash Yavari (Cardiology), Zoi Alexopoulou (Neuroscience), Max Brodermann (2012) and Nic Patni (2013). Simon Brewster leads our teaching of Hertford students in

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the Oxford Clinical School, ably assisted by Dr Henry Bettinson, Dr Antonia Lloyd-Lavery (2002) and Sujata Biswas. In 9th week of Trinity Term Hertford's medical tutors celebrated the achievements of our finalists in Medicine Schools Dinner, which this year took as its fancy dress theme *Hollywood meets Bollywood*.

Medicine Schools Dinner  
David Greaves



## Modern Languages



This is a year of change for Modern Languages, as Kevin Hilliard is retiring as German tutor after 22 years. Kevin held a joint-joint (two-college) appointment and was actually a Fellow of St Peter's, but he was such a dedicated and visible presence in Hertford that colleagues would have been forgiven for thinking he was a Fellow of the college. He regularly lunched in Hertford and participated enthusiastically in a range of academic and social activities. German has thrived in the time that Kevin was with us, and his commitment to his students is perhaps best illustrated by his annual reading week, when he took the cohort of Finalists off to Germany before their Final exams. Kevin also did much to ensure the continuity of Modern Languages as a whole during a transitional period, and it is through his efforts and following his example that we now undertake much of our language teaching jointly with St Peter's. We are delighted to welcome Joanna Neilly in his place.

### French

This year I have taken on the task of co-editing the *Cahiers Tristan Corbière*, a journal devoted to the Breton poet Corbière, and have spent a lot of time putting together the first number. I have also published a chapter on 'French Romantic Poetry' in the *Oxford Handbook of European Romanticism*, and journal articles on Victor Hugo's cosmic poetry and on Marceline Desbordes-Valmore, who published some of the first Romantic verse in French. I gave a pre-concert talk at a performance of Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit*, a piano piece based on intriguing prose poems by the French Romantic Aloysius Bertrand. The event was organised by the Rimbaud and Verlaine Foundation in London, which is doing great work promoting French poetry to a wider audience.

Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe

### German

I published two articles on Gotthold Ephraim Lessing in the last year. One, based on his philosophical writings, was on his views about the reliability and reach of the senses. The other, on *Nathan der Weise* (1779), compared his treatment of the theme of the 'honest man at court' with that of another, less well-known writer of the period, Johann Michael von Loen, author of a novel with that title (*Der redliche Mann am Hofe*, 1740). If you imagine the question being: 'Can one be in politics and remain an honest man?', you will have got the gist of the problem. A third article discussed the place of Johann Gottfried Herder (1744-1803) in the thought of Isaiah Berlin (1909-1997). For Berlin, Herder was the chief witness for the 'counter-Enlightenment'. I tried to point out some of the limitations of this view, and pleaded for an approach to Herder that puts his theology at the centre of his thinking.

The year's reading week in March 2017 again took the combined St Peter's/

Hertford group of fourth years to Frankfurt. As usual, we had our thoughts on literary matters, reading and discussing works by Wieland, Lessing, Goethe, Tieck, Novalis, and Eichendorff. A picture shows Anna-Elizabeth Shakespeare (St Peter's), Josie Dyster (Hertford) and Luca Pinelli (St Peter's) outside Goethe's birthplace, to which we made the obligatory pilgrimage. Proceedings were satisfactorily rounded off by two theatre visits, to a suitably sombre production of Schiller's *Don Carlos* in Wiesbaden, and one of Goethe's *Faust* in Frankfurt, pared down by a shoestring company to parts of Part One, but played with great verve, and with enough left in to convey the exuberant energy of the original.

Kevin Hilliard



## Oriental Studies



This year was the last of my term as President of the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJ), which is the largest Japanese Studies association in the world. Some of my time this past year was thus taken up with preparations

for the large triennial EAJ conference which took place in Lisbon in late August 2017, although, to be honest, most of the work was done by the EAJ office in Berlin. I was, however, able to finish some articles for publication this past year, including one for the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia on Old and Middle Japanese*, and a chapter on the history of the Japanese language for a handbook on Japanese linguistics.

I spent the summer of 2017 in Tokyo at the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, working with colleagues there on the *Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese*, as well as on editing a two-volume Japanese Historical Linguistics Handbook which will be published in 2019 (fingers crossed) by Mouton.

Exams went very well for the Hertford Orientalists this year. For example, three out of a total of four Firsts in Japanese throughout the University were awarded to Hertford Japanologists. We have a strong Japanese and Chinese Studies community in Hertford which we can be – and are – very proud of.

Bjarke Frellesvig

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Exams went very well for the Hertford Orientalists this year. For example, three out of a total of four Firsts in Japanese throughout the University were awarded to Hertford Japanologists.

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## Student life

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### JCR Annual Report

Hertford's Junior Common Room has seen another active, successful and prosperous year. Upon the introduction of a new cohort of Freshers, and 'Hert'-felt goodbyes to Finalists and those leaving for their year abroad, the Hertford identity remains strong, and has been recreated and celebrated throughout the year.

Bright-eyed but nervous, the new first years were shown to their rooms on a bright morning of October. The Fresher Committee, led by Thomas Van Der Stichele, were tireless in giving a warm and efficient welcome to those arriving. Goodbyes to parents were varied and diverse, from tearful to cringing, but undergraduates soon came together in dyeing their Fresher's T-shirts in Holywell Quad, just the first of many activities organised for the week. After a whirlwind

of five days, with G&D ice cream trips, club excursions, college family meals, and a 'Welcome to the Jungle' themed bop, the Freshers perhaps weren't feeling so 'fresh' in their first lectures of term. An even more exhausting week for the Fresher Committee, all smiles and commitment, ensured another generation of integrated and confident Hertford students.

The traditions of Michaelmas term were carried out in their full glory and recurrent mishaps. The Christmas tree proved as unwieldy as the year before, first not showing up on the day it was expected, and then being repeatedly defeated by the vicious gales of Holywell Quad. This didn't stop its sparkling, tinsel-laced presence from fostering festivity, albeit not always upright! Continuing this seasonal atmosphere was a novel event, the Christmas Fair. Using the £500 we won in last year's success in the Pledge2Reg competition (which you will see a return of later...), OB Quad was filled with carols, Christmas tunes, cake, mulled wine and cider. The Chapel was transformed into a grotto complete with Santa, presents and a hyper-realistic North-Pole backdrop ordered off the web. Along with the large Christmas formal and secret Santa initiatives, the conclusion of Michaelmas term was a warming and wholesome end to a typically busy term. Having just been elected, the new JCR Executive and I waited throughout the vacation with nervous and excited anticipation to start of our term of office in Hilary Term...

As always, Hilary Term was jam-packed and exhibited further the dynamic nature of the student body. We saw the creation of Hertford for the Homeless, an initiative set up by two first years, Kez Smith and Jude Lewis, to aid the homeless community of Oxford. It has provided sanitary products, food and money, raised through selling snacks at (generally successful) cuppers matches and other events. Huge soups have been lovingly cooked in a huge vat in the tiny kitchen

of the JCR, both a charitable and culinary feat! Working with local organisations such as On Your Doorstep and the Iffley Road Open House cause, this Hertford-grown initiative has been significant in the support of the marginalised homeless communities in Oxford.

The inaugural Equalities Week, run by our Access Officer, Holly Kilner, the Equal Opportunities Representative, Kyrill Afudego, and many incredible volunteers, is also a testament to the progressive and egalitarian sentiments of our college. We enjoyed a week of workshops, EqualITEAs and panel discussions for students that identify with identities such as LGBTQIA, BME and Women. We hosted the performer and writer, Rikki Beadle-Blair, who discussed the work tackling homophobia and racism in theatre and TV. We finished the week of awareness and celebration of diversity with three formal dinners, for BME, LGBTQIA and Female-identifying students respectively. The latter was followed by a night of classic tunes by iconic women, playing in the bar.

This week is supplementary to the consistently dynamic and collective work of the JCR towards Access, supporting tours, question and answer sessions and school visits throughout the year. Around 30 undergrads regularly volunteer to help broaden the experience of Oxford to those who might never consider it otherwise. Bringing the world to the Hertford experience is the work of the International Programmes Office, who employ many undergraduates through the Spring Vacation. Showing groups from Japan and America around the beautiful buildings, museums and galleries of Oxford, whilst sharing cultural similarities and differences, is always eye-opening for undergraduates and the visiting students.

The year did not slowly decline into a quiet summer, as Trinity Term began with Hertford Ball. Long months of emailing, scheduling, booking and preparing on

behalf of the Ball Committee, headed by Jei Diwakar, ensured that the event was a huge success (see the report in this issue). Catte Street, already graced by the Bodleian and the Bridge of Sighs, was filled with burritos, noodles and curries, alongside couture cocktails by London Mixology. OB Quad hosted The Hoosiers and many other talented artists were spread around the site, facilitating the party long into the night. In the quintessentially iconic Oxford location, under the floodlit Bridge and in the sophisticated Hall-turned-Casino, I have never felt more honoured and privileged to be a part of Hertford College.

But the excitement didn't end there; just two weeks later, HARTFest, the college's Arts Festival, saw a return. Inclusive and creative, it is hugely exciting to see the artistic talents of the undergraduate members being explored and expressed. One of the largest arts festivals across Oxford colleges, HARTFest (executed beautifully this year by Johanna Gewolker) is now a much anticipated and celebrated event in the Hertford student's calendar. (See the report in this issue.)

Another huge achievement that exemplifies the JCR's engagement and team-spirit is our victory in Pledge2Reg, the competition to have the most students signed up to vote in the 2017 election. After a narrow defeat by St Hilda's last year, and an unexpected (snap election!) with a chance to prove ourselves again, Hertford took no prisoners. We won by over 70 registrations and the prize of prosecco and free ice cream thoroughly raised spirits on election night in the JCR. Our new plush deer mascot-costume

also took a precocious jaunt into the quads of Mansfield and Brasenose, the runners-up of the competition, much to their annoyance.

With particularly appropriate timing, Hertford Business and Economic Society hosted Ed Balls in conversation with Will Hutton. Talking Strictly, snap elections, and the future of the Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn, the event engaged a turn-out of over 50 attendees. This is just one of the many high-profile and interesting speakers that HBES has given platforms to this year (see the fuller report elsewhere in this issue); the students of Hertford are aware of, and passionate about, the fluctuating and tumultuous political and social issues of our world. No doubt some of the current cohort will be invited back for discussion of their own role and influence in the issues of the next decades.

The few last days of Trinity term rolled by, spent lounging in sunny OB quad, punting from Magdalen Boathouse, and reminiscing with the finalists and linguists who leave us this year. I would like to thank all those leaving the JCR; your brilliance will go far and Hertford without you may seem sub-par. Hertford's student body of 2016-17 has shone particularly bright in the eternally graceful city of Oxford, with triumphs across sport, the arts, democracy, access and diversity. It has been an honour to preside over the last two terms, and I look forward to Michaelmas, and the inevitable welcoming of a whole new year group and the continued exuberant identity of Hertford undergraduates.

Ava Scott, JCR President



## College Ball

Hertford Ball 2017 was on a scale unlike anything the college had seen before in recent history with a total of nearly 950 guests. Its extraordinary success was due to the incredible support we had from college staff and the enthusiastic committee who organised the event. A special mention has to go to Andrew Beaumont, the college's Home Bursar, who guided us all the way through. A major breakthrough for the Ball came over the summer, where after long discussions with the council, we managed to receive permission to close off Catte St, giving us the space we needed to host the vast number of people! With 18 Balls being held in 2017, ticket sales were competitive and despite an initial surge of tickets, Catte St was not enough of a selling point. After tense and lengthy debates, we decided to take

a risk and spend money on a headline act. We knew that headliners could be tricky simply due to varying music tastes and the possibility of more famous acts performing at other balls. We hit a jackpot in finding The Hoosiers – a perfect band for the occasion and a name known by many (we ended up being the only black-tie ball with a named headliner!). They put on a fantastic performance and helped place Hertford Ball on the public radar for future years. It was an amazing feeling seeing all the planning come together on the days leading up the Ball, and the praise we received made the stress worthwhile. Seeing as it was executed so well and I actually had time to relax that night, I think it is safe to say that it was an excellent event!

Jeji Diwakar, Hertford Ball President 2017





## HARTfest

HARTfest took place on a sunny early May weekend for the third time running. Planning had already begun months earlier in February as I was inspired to run even more events than in previous years, setting up a volunteer team of around 40 people to help out. Students were able to enjoy classic events such as the Ceilí, accompanied by student musicians, open mic night (featuring a performance by the Arctic Monkeys Experience), life drawing, and Jazz on the Quad with Pimms.

This year I wanted to put emphasis on placing a wide variety of Hertford talent on display. New events included a DJ workshop and creative coding. An early call for submissions resulted in a vibrant host of photo series, with themes ranging from travel, to portraiture and wildlife. Prints were sold for charity at the end of the weekend. We also hosted an open-air film night on Saturday evening; featured silent films accompanied by Hertford

musicians, as well as student films made by people from other colleges, drawing more external guests to HARTfest.

Yet perhaps one of the most exciting events of the festival was the outdoor Romeo and Juliet spoof play. Scripted by first year Katie Burke, actors performed original lines, edited lightheartedly to parody rugby club (the Montagues) and left-wing activist (the Capulets) stereotypes. Alongside Jazz on the Quad this was possibly the most highly attended and appreciated event of all, involving 20 actors and crew members.

All in all HARTfest 2017 built on the previous years of the festival, offering a panorama of student talent as well as enabling people to try new creative media. It was a privilege to organise and a joy to watch the events unfold following the hard work of everyone who volunteered.

Johanna Gewolker



## Music

Hertford College's musical scene is one of its greatest assets and at the centre of this is Hertford College Music Society (HCMS), the largest collegiate music society of the University. With an Orchestra, Jazz Band and Concert Band, there is a wide range of genres available for members of the college and beyond to take part in and enjoy. In accordance with the ethos of the college, it is a guiding principle of the society that all of our ensembles ought to be non-auditioning. This has not detracted from the quality of our performances and, in the last year, our ensembles have covered some difficult material, including Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*, *Danse Macabre* (Saint-Saëns) and *Serenade for Wind* (Dvořák).

The high quality of our performances represents, for us, a confirmation of

our belief that music at Hertford allows students of all abilities to develop their skills and take part in a performance which entertains others and provides a sense of personal fulfilment for its participants. In fact, each of our ensembles is currently conducted by somebody who was not familiar with this skill beforehand. Quite naturally, fantastic performances are the culmination of hard work; weekly rehearsals take place in the Baring Room for every ensemble.

In Trinity Term, HARTfest (Hertford Arts Festival) allows HCMS to display the best of our musical ability in OB quad, in the form of both Jazz on the Quad and Scratch Orchestra. In the latter, musicians of all abilities spend a whole morning practicing a set of reasonably challenging pieces and performing them in the early afternoon in OB Quad. This represents an



opportunity for musicians of all abilities, who may have been unsure about joining an orchestra to try their hand at it.

However, I do not want to create the impression that life in HCMS is without levity. Each term, we have an HCMS dinner, where ensemble members and the members of the Chapel Choir can enjoy each other's fine company. Furthermore, there are a number of less serious events for anyone to attend. Namely, Carols in the Quad occurs each Michaelmas and involves the Concert Band and Chapel Choir giving their renditions of popular Christmas carols. From the perspective of the JCR, Jazz and Cocktails is possibly the most anticipated event in the musical calendar and is an evening known to be enjoyed by all and for which tickets are sold out quickly!

HCMS is fortunate enough to enjoy support from college, the JCR and a number of donors, including our honorary patron, Sir Nicholas Jackson, Bt. These can be difficult times for classical music in the University, with a number of ensembles in the city being forced to close, due to want of players. Admirably, HCMS has managed to keep its head above water and, with continuing support from the college community and beyond, should continue to go from strength to strength.

Faaris Zaki

## Hertford Business and Economics Society

The Hertford Business and Economics Society's (HBES) 2016-2017 term was one of the best so far, with speakers including Vicky Price, Lord Mervyn King, David Goodhart and Ed Balls. As a sign of the times, the conversations were more focused on economics and politics than on the business world and brought a selection of speakers with very different perspectives on how best to lead our country forward.

Vicky Price kicked off the term with a fantastically insightful and pragmatic assessment of the British economy and what should be done with it. When the discussion ended, however, and Will went around attendees surveying whether the mood was 'pessimistic' or 'optimistic', other than Price herself, the resounding sentiment was a profound lack of hope.

The next speaker provided HBES with one of its most high-profile speakers yet

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## Goodhart focused on the breakdown in British society that his latest book details

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– Lord Mervyn King. In the said Business School's 120-seat Nelson Mandela lecture theatre, Lord King laid out the principles underlying his latest book in such a way that even the non-economists in the audience could follow his train of thought. This went from the fragility of the current financial system to some of the solutions that could be offered, including mainly banks being forced to take out insurance.

Next on the list was David Goodhart. In his conversation, Goodhart focused on the breakdown in British society that his latest book details between the

The Principal in conversation with Mervyn King



'Anywhere' people – liberal, urban and frequently university-educated – and the 'Somewhere' people, whose identity is rooted in a particular place, often a small town or in the countryside, and likely to be socially conservative. Goodhart managed to stir some marked disagreements with some of the attendees on a wide range of topics. In particular a long debate around the most appropriate and successful teaching methods ensued between Goodhart, students who had just come out of the British education system, and professors who were currently working in it.

The final talk of the year was given by Ed Balls, who not only provided the jam-packed Baring room with a clear and convincing autopsy of the previous week's general election, but also with a load of humour, light-heartedness and insight into his newfound career in dancing. Having gone into the Vicky Price talk in collective dark and gloom, people left the last HBES talk with newfound optimism that UK economics and politics are not as hopeless as Brexit and a botched general election might suggest.

Members of HBES with Ed Balls and the Principal, Milo Rignell, President, HBES





## Sport

The Hertford/Keble Women's football team had an incredible season, which culminated in them winning their Cuppers competition, with a 5-1 victory in the final at Iffley Road stadium. They also went on to win the five-a-side Cuppers tournament in Trinity. As well as these unprecedented results, the number of girls getting involved has never been higher. The team can't wait to retain their new-found reputation as the undisputed champions of Oxford football next year!

The men's footballers have also enjoyed great success. Beginning the season with a 10-0 thrashing of Trinity, followed up in impressive style with an 8-2 victory over Magdalen, Hertford's 1st XI footballers got off to a flying start. A dip

in form followed, accompanied by a spate of injuries and other absences, although a valiant effort in defeat to Division 1 Champions St Catz proved Hertford can compete with the very best in college football. Although disappointed not to achieve promotion, a respectable fourth place finish was the final position in another thoroughly enjoyable season of college football for Hertford 1st XI, with several Freshers coming into the side and promising a bright future for the club.

It's been an equally great season for Hertford's 2nd team – they battled hard throughout the season, having been promoted to the division above last year, and for their toils they placed second, meaning they got promoted for the second time in two years, and only missed out on the league title by goal





difference. They also went on a great Cuppers run, getting through to the quarter finals and only missing out on the semis on penalties to the team at the top of the division above us. All in all, it's been a great season for the 2nds – they've battled hard to be where they are, and the new faces among the Freshers have integrated really well. It's sad to see some stalwarts leave, but they all know that the team can only go upwards. From bottom of the bottom division, to 2nd division in two seasons – the Hertford 2nds juggernaut rumbles on.

The rugby club also enjoyed another successful year which included promotion to division one along with a Cuppers quarter finals appearance. A large intake of Freshers has once again ensured high participation rates, a trend we expect

to continue with this summer's tour to Mongolia. After the success of the same tour in 2013, the club is looking forward to reporting back on the forthcoming adventure.

The netball club is another team which has had an amazing season; coming

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The rugby club also enjoyed another successful year which included promotion to division one along with a Cuppers quarter finals appearance.

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second in the division, narrowly missing out on promotion. They dominated many of their games, beating Mansfield 21-10 and St John's 18-6. They were unlucky to miss out on winning their division, but hope to come back even stronger next year!

Hertford Mixed Lacrosse have had a truly unprecedented season. Hertford have always been underdogs in the

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Hertford have always been underdogs in the lacrosse league, but this year the team was unbeaten all season

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lacrosse league, but this year the team was unbeaten all season, thus managing to reach the semi-finals. HCMLC stormed through the semis beating our sworn rivals St Hilda's 3-0, before defeating New College in the final, a traditional lacrosse powerhouse, to become victors of the University mixed lacrosse league.

Hertford darts have had yet another brilliant season, winning all of their games to be crowned champions for the fifth year in a row. No one can usurp Hertford's grip on Oxford darts! This year is also rather special as it marks the first year a Hertford 2nd team has been created. This is an Oxford first and shows that Hertford truly are the undisputed champions of University darts.

Hilary term also saw the first tournament for the newly-formed Hertford Dodgeball

team, made up of five determined Freshers, who astonished spectators by making it to the final of the Dodgeball Cuppers competition. Although they were narrowly beaten by last year's champions in a highly controversial final, they were proud to represent Hertford and hope to claim their rightful place as victors next year!

Having been promoted to Division 1 last season, the cricketers at Hertford have continued to perform consistently well this year. The team won five out of the seven league matches played. In the college Cuppers tournament the team reached the quarter finals, losing to Teddy Hall in challenging conditions, yet the day saw some stand-out performances from individuals with both bat and ball. It is clear that Hertford once again has proven to play home to one of Oxford's top college sides, a legacy which we are all very excited to carry on through the next season. We also formed a women's cricket team for the first time, who won their one-day Cuppers tournament, and hope to repeat this success in coming years.

Our newly-formed women's basketball team, led by Anna Williams, won all of their games in Trinity term by a considerable margin, before beating Sommerville 36-9 in the Cuppers Final to add yet another trophy to Hertford's collection.

Given our #TrinityGoldRush of sporting success, we decided to enter the University 'Aquathlon' and went on to win the Cuppers titles for both the men and

women, mainly by having three times as many competitors as any other college. This was a great day for Hertford sport, showing that it really is 'the taking part that counts' as we humbly beat University tri-athletes by making the most of a scoring system that hugely valued the quantity of entrants over quality.

In other news, we have invested in a deer mascot costume, and set up a college Instagram page (@sportathertfordcollege) to keep people up to date with how the teams are doing, as this will hopefully make more people want to get involved. We've had huge crowds down to support the teams (especially for the women's football games), and the ARTford society has contributed some beautiful placards for our supporters. This shows how college sport really brings together the wider college community, and I'm delighted at how many people have got involved as players and supporters this year.

Our high participation rates are reflected in our ever-expanding trophy collection, as Hertford have won an unprecedented seven Cuppers titles this year. This is attributable to the commitment and dedication of our college captains and players. They've trained hard and produced some very impressive results. We think that this year we have won more Cuppers titles than any other college, so there really has never been more reason for other colleges to Fear The Deer!

Annie Ault

JCR Sports Officer 2017



## Rowing

From humble beginnings at the start of Michaelmas term, the HCBC men's squad has come a very long way after a year of grit and hard graft. After much dedication to the training schedule through the dark months of winter, the new team tasted early success at Henley 4s and 8s Head in the spring with a contingent placing first in the Novice 4+ category, beating 12 other crews from around the country. Back on the Isis, history was made as Hertford M1 climbed to the heady heights of fifth on the river in Torpids – the joint highest position ever held by a Hertford Men's First Eight!

Buoyed by a successful Hilary term, the squad continued to train into the Easter holidays to prepare for the famous Head of the River Race (HoRR) in London. Having dropped from 137th to 263rd in 2016, the crew of 2017 were determined to rectify the fall from grace, but, as a result of strong winds on the day, were

cruelly denied the chance to prove themselves. Despite the disappointment of a cancelled race, the squad came back fighting in Trinity term and put in a strong performance at Worcester regatta, winning pots in IM3 8+ and narrowly missing out to Birmingham University in the final of the IM3 4+ division.

Swiftly after this, Summer Eights was upon us once again. In the face of very strong opposition, especially that of lightning-fast Catz and Jesus crews, and the pull of final exams for a handful of the squad's rowers, the Hertford M1 and M2 suffered several bumps to finish in the second and fourth divisions respectively. Following a rollercoaster season punctuated by victories and disappointments, the squad will return from this year with valuable race experience and gritty determination to take on the challenge of climbing the Torpids leaderboard to uncharted heights.

Summer Eights 2017



The HCBC women's side have had a very strong year, starting off with a win at Autumn Fours back in October. The rest of Michaelmas term saw the seniors focusing on technique to build a solid platform for the rest of the year, while the novices had their first taste of racing at Christchurch Regatta.

With a range of experienced rowers and novices coming together to form W1 in Hilary term the crew went from strength to strength, competing in two categories and Henley 4s and 8s Head and entering a strong 8+ into WeHoRR. The biggest success of the term, however, was at Torpids, where W1 moved up four places to be ranked fourth in Division I, the crew's highest ranking since 1982, with the headship in sight! W2 suffered an unfortunate crash on the second day of Torpids, dropping four places, but bumps on the other three days meant the entire women's side ended the term on a high note.

Trinity term saw W1 lose a number of rowers to finals and injuries, but the hard work of W2 throughout the year meant the crew had ample talent to fill the openings. After the women's entries to Worcester Regatta were sadly rejected due to a lack of competition, all eyes turned to Summer Eights. W1 faced strong opposition both ahead and behind, but all the training and commitment allowed the crew to persevere and concede only one

bump. However, this term it was W2 who proved to be the most successful, being the only Hertford crew not to be bumped. Klaxons on two of the four days made for some very exciting racing, with a crash that almost resulted in one member of the crew being launched into the river on the third day, while the fourth and final day involved an extremely narrow escape from Oriel W2 behind.

Next year the women of HCBC turn their attention to the Torpids Headship, which will take hard work, grit and determination, but with the experience and commitment of this year's rowers combined with some fresh new recruits, it may just be a realistic possibility.

For the last hurrah of the year the men and women joined forces to take on Oriel Regatta, where the 1st Mixed 8+ stunned onlookers by beating a crew made up of Brookes men and Oxford blues boat women! Both the individual men's and women's sides have had an excellent year of rowing, and the Hertford College Boat Club as a whole looks forward to another year of success and enjoyment.

For more detailed race reports for all crews this year and further information on getting involved with HCBC please see the website at [www.hertfordcollegeboatclub.co.uk](http://www.hertfordcollegeboatclub.co.uk), and check out our Instagram @HECBC.

Rosalind Martin

## The Telethon

### Adam Kellett



This was my second telethon year: having enjoyed the experience the first time around, I applied again and the set of callers I was lucky to chat with continued an excellent trend. With the #TeamHertford campaign that was being run, I had the chance to discuss student support along with access and outreach (a topic close to my heart). It was brilliant to hear from so many alumni that the progressive and welcoming ethos of Hertford was a longstanding one, with the anniversary of the pioneering Tanner Scheme (and discussions with some Tanner students) an extra reminder that the high and growing proportion of state school applicants is the result of tireless Hertfordian efforts.

But as much as I enjoyed harping on about Hertford, it was also fascinating to hear about the destinations of the alumni that I spoke to. Conversations with influential teachers and academics, UN development workers and a rocket scientist, along with snippets of fascinating life histories and exploits (both

while at university and beyond) stick in my memory. They encouraged me to think where I may go post-graduation. To have the chance to speak to alumni in the public health sector (my hopeful career destination) was a huge confidence boost, as well as providing some very helpful recommendations as to where to look and how to stand out.

However, just the chance to chat, laugh and be enthusiastic about the college was the main take-away from the telethon. I felt proud to be helping the college (while developing my own communication skills), and to make myself a part of Hertford's rich history. To meet so many interesting alumni over the phone was absolutely brilliant, and I actually had the chance to then meet some of them at the Christmas Donor Drinks (a recently instituted event). It was great to meet the voices behind the phone calls, and the quick resumption of chatter was testament to the commonality that Hertford can provide, and to how pleasant our conversations were. I hope the telethon in the coming year can produce more of the same!

*Adam Kellett (2014 Geography) was a caller in this year's telethon.*

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# After Hertford





## Interview with David Edelman (2007)

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**D**avid Edelman came to Hertford from Yale in 2007 to study for an MPhil in International Relations. He had intended to focus his studies on East Asia and nuclear non-proliferation, but became increasingly interested in cyber security, which at the time was a fledgling discipline. We spoke to David recently about his time at Oxford and his subsequent career which saw him serving as Special Assistant to President Barack Obama on issues of the digital economy and national security, and the first Director for International Cyber Policy on the National Security Council.

'When I first started writing about cybersecurity my advisor was tremendously supportive, although not everybody at the International Relations faculty was. However, one of the things I really cherished about Oxford was

a true willingness to entertain not just constructive but really profound disagreement; disagreement over whether something is even a valid topic. And so the Division didn't prevent me from doing what would become my life work; instead it became an opportunity to convince the rest of the faculty that this was worthwhile, at a time when the topic was far from mainstream. I don't think anyone had written about anything resembling international cybersecurity at Oxford before, but it was through the encouragement of my advisors that I was able to find a topic that I loved. When I finished they invited me to stick around for the DPhil, and I wanted to do it because there was so much more work to be done here. It really was a wonderful transition.'

Having spent time as an intern at the State Department, a career there seemed like both a logical and a sensible step for David. He was recruited at a time when many people still didn't understand the importance and relevance of cybersecurity and was, thus, one of few people working in the area. However, interest grew, and it wasn't long before he found himself representing the USA at the United Nations, becoming the country's primary negotiator for internet matters. David attributes much of his success at the UN to his time at Oxford:

'Having now been a practitioner in diplomacy and foreign policy for almost a decade, I can think of no better academic preparation than Oxford. Obtaining a grounding in theory and history, and forming those two into a lens from which to view present day challenges of international relations is exactly the right way to go about it. And so Oxford was the perfect place to prepare me for something like negotiation at the United Nations and having not only the context to understand the institution, but also the vocabulary to understand what this place meant and what it should be like. In other words, if I had gone in and just studied

one very narrow thing I would have had no idea how the UN should deal with cybersecurity, but because my education was not so narrow, and instead gave me the opportunity to explore all sorts of challenges, it gave me the context to really be able to visualise what role I had at the UN.'

David first began his transition to the White House when he was asked to be the lead drafter for the US foreign policy strategy on cybersecurity and internet policy issues: 'Imagine being at Oxford writing your dissertation on a topic and then a few years later being invited by the Government to write that policy from scratch because it didn't exist before. It was an absolute dream project.' What David worked on would eventually become the International Strategy for Cyberspace, and it still remains the US Government's principal operating doctrine on international cyber policy issues, including everything from internet freedom and human rights online, to military cybersecurity, digital trade promotion, and technical standards.

In 2010, David joined President Obama's National Security Council staff as the first Director for International Cyber Policy, at the time the youngest ever director appointed to the Council. In 2012 he became Senior Advisor for Internet, Innovation, and Privacy at the White House's Office of Science & Technology Policy, and in 2014 he was promoted to Special Assistant to the President for Economic & Technology Policy. In his various roles he was responsible for regular briefings with President Obama, something he would eventually get used to but which, initially, was something of an intimidating experience.

'The first two things you notice when you go in to meet President Obama, assuming you're going to the Oval Office, is how incredibly bright it is. The light in the Oval Office might as well be a stage with blinding lights shining down on you. So it has a certain ethereal quality

to it that matches just how nervous and otherworldly the experience is for those going in. But the second thing that takes some getting used to is, when you walk in for the first three minutes of your meeting with the President there is a guy constantly circling around you snapping photos because, as you probably know, the President is always followed around by a photographer. As a result, in addition to trying to remember whatever points I was going to give him and trying to sound coherent, I also had to battle with what felt like a constant attack from the paparazzi. The President, of course, was completely unfazed by this because he was used to it, but for the rest of us it was very unsettling. I think I walked out and thought 'well I completely blew that'. However, a week later I saw him in the hallway and, probably sensing that it was my first time and that I had been nervous, he pulled me aside and said 'Hey David, that was a really good briefing the other day'. It was heart-warming, and a triumph in itself that he had remembered my name!

Although David started his career in government as a civil servant, as a result of his role as a presidential advisor, he became a political appointee. As such, his role came to a natural end with that of President Obama.

'I would have contemplated continuing under another Republican president. I'm a Democrat, I'm quite socially liberal, economically sort of depends, but while I disagree with mainstream Republicans on many things, from the perspective of someone working in cybersecurity things can be more universal. Most technology issues are very bipartisan and the amount of change from administration to administration is largely semantic because it's fundamentally staffed by professionals. The same is true in a lot of national security areas, but I think it's true of technology broadly. But I had decided before the election that I was going to take some time out: I had originally

promised my wife I would do two years at the White House, but by then I had done six.'

Following his departure from the White House, David took up a position at MIT, where he still teaches.

'Part of what we're doing at MIT is to get more students at the undergraduate and graduate level excited about cybersecurity. So the chance to teach amazing engineers and aspiring public policymakers these topics as a former practitioner is a tremendous opportunity – I feel incredibly lucky. I felt now was the right time to get back and to write and to teach about this issue, as well as shape public policy. Part of my lab has a very engaged public policy component: we convene policy makers on various topics; we do work, not just in the United States but internationally, on issues as well. So it's one part educating and training the next generation, and it's also providing a further information for the debates that are happening internationally.'

Although MIT is now his home, David also still feels a strong sense of connection to Oxford, and especially to his college home there.

'I have a lot of friends from a lot of colleges. I married a woman from Brasenose, and Hertford continues to stand out in a way that I think is really remarkable. I still bump into people who went to Hertford who really enjoyed their time there. It is not only a community that leads to tremendous happiness, but it is also a community that endures.'

*Interview conducted by Julia Thaxton.*

## Teach First

Rebecca Grant, Rebecca Carr,  
Archie Jones (2013)

### Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside

Teach First is a nationwide social enterprise aiming to address educational disadvantage. It places new and recent high-achieving graduates in schools meeting strict deprivation criteria across England and Wales. Participants commit to a minimum of two years in their placement school, teaching full time while simultaneously completing a PGCE and Leadership Development Programme (LDP). Rebecca Grant, Rebecca Carr and Archie Jones (all English 2013) joined the programme immediately after graduating in July 2016.

### Rebecca Grant

Teach First aims to fight educational inequality, and it turns out we will fight it on the beaches. Becca, Archie and I had planned to move back to our respective hometowns of Leeds, London and Manchester after finishing at Hertford, but we were informed – in my case on the



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I've been constantly awed by the skills and commitment of my colleagues. I feel uncomfortable when I'm told that my kids must be lucky to have me because I have an Oxford degree.

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first day of my finals – that we were being placed for the next two years in Grimsby, Southampton and Blackpool. I wasn't pleased, having hoped to be back near family in a familiar city. I supposed I'd do the two years and scarp.

Now, I don't want to leave. You can't beat the extravagance of the Illuminations or a big Blackpool night out. As an avid outdoor swimmer who could never resist the pull of the Isis or its tributaries (to the frustration of Hertford's college nurse Yo, who had to deal with the resultant ear infections) living by the sea has been magical. I get to cycle past the world's largest disco ball on a daily basis. What's not to like?

It took some getting used to. September to Christmas was a dark time. Teach First provides six weeks of training over the summer before sticking you on a full timetable and letting you get on with it. At first I was completely overwhelmed; my flatmates (also on the programme) and I kept a 'Crying Chart', with the necessary caveat that only one episode of weeping was counted per day due to difficulty discerning when one cry stopped and another started. I worked evenings and weekends and it still never seemed enough. Slowly, however, I acquired better routines and started to settle in. I am amazed (and bewildered, irritated, challenged...) on a daily basis. I

have received a homework project that consisted of the island from *Lord of the Flies* replicated in colourful Blackpool rock. I have read a sonnet – in near-perfect iambic pentameter – expressing a deep and profound love for KFC. I've presided with my gavel (possibly my best teacher tool – the sword is good too) over impassioned debates about everything from Jeremy Corbyn to beauty pageants.

I always find it puzzling to observe the reluctance of student 'activists' to consider public sector jobs such as teaching. Teaching is daily activism. It is inherently political. It is as radical as you make it. I have been humbled by the responsibility to interpret our complex and often unfair world around us for the children I teach, especially after the Manchester bombing which hit communities in the North West so hard. I've also been forced to test the ideas that were prevalent at university to see how they apply outside of the student bubble. You can't no-platform Brad from Year 11 because he makes racist comments about immigrants.

I've been constantly awed by the skills and commitment of my colleagues. I feel uncomfortable when I'm told that my kids must be lucky to have me because I have an Oxford degree. First and foremost you need to get 30 twelve-year-olds fuelled by energy drinks and armed with fidget spinners to sit down and shut up. This is an art, and if you haven't mastered it a detailed knowledge of Middle English lyric poetry isn't going to help you.

I feel a vast sense of achievement coming to the end of my first year of Teach First. We are all hugely grateful for Hertford's support – not just financially in the form of the Teach First Bursary, but also for the college's ongoing interest in our lives and careers, and for fostering in us a lifelong commitment to change and equality.

## Rebecca Carr

As you drive down the A180, a weather-worn sign notifies you of your arrival into 'Great Grimsby'. There are no surrounding flowerbeds, no preface of 'Welcome to...' or cheery tagline asking you to 'Enjoy your visit!' – just those two words and a rather tired-looking version of the town's coat of arms. For the first few months after I moved to Grimsby, every time I passed that sign when driving back from a weekend away at my parents' house in Leeds I couldn't help reading the prefix 'Great' as slightly ironic. Now, a year on, I see moving to Grimsby and becoming a teacher as two of the best things I have ever done.

It would be a lie to say that I actively chose to move to Grimsby. In all honesty, I was pretty gutted (excuse the fishing pun) when Teach First informed me that I had been allocated to teach in a place *The Telegraph* calls a 'beleaguered... dilapidated port' and *ShortList* magazine describes as 'Ukip's new heartland in the north'. People don't go to Grimsby unless they have to – there simply isn't any through traffic or established graduate community. As a colleague succinctly noted recently: 'It's the place you end up in if you fall asleep on the train'.

Now I've been here for almost a year. Like anywhere really, once you accept where you are and start to look for interesting things to do and people to spend time with, you are always pleasantly surprised. I still have the Fishing Heritage Museum – which Bill Bryson lauds – saved up for a rainy day, but whilst I've been here I've done lots of interesting things outside of work. I've been up a working six-sail windmill (one of the very last in the country), taken up ballroom dancing, and spent a lot of time walking along the beach eating chips doused in salt and vinegar.

The positives of living here, however, extend much further than the food and activities of the beach: there is something unshakeable about the ability of the

people here to stick together through the hard times. Gaby Hinsliff, the *Guardian* journalist, wrote an article in March 2015 with the headline 'Grimsby: past its glory days but still hoping'. With Hull named as 2017's 'City of Culture', the people here are definitely still hopeful that interest in the town will flow across the bridge and bring some much needed financial and cultural investment.

I would definitely encourage others to go and do something fulfilling somewhere different, perhaps even somewhere Northern (I say 'something fulfilling' explicitly as I think being unemployed or doing a job you didn't love in this area would have produced a very different outcome). And no, 'Northern' does not mean 'anywhere above London'. I'm talking about towns like Grimsby – towns that are being squeezed and underfunded, stereotyped by Hollywood blockbusters such as the one starring Sacha Baron Cohen. Places like Grimsby have a lot to offer – sometimes you just need a reason to go.

## Archie Jones

Prior to placement in Southampton, my only visit had been a 2005 trip to watch my beloved Brentford FC park the proverbial bus in the FA Cup (2-2 before you ask, remember Henri Camara?). Arriving directly from Oxford in the hungover afterglow of Sunday of ninth week, the city has since provided the backdrop for easily the most challenging year of my life. I have learnt as much as

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I would definitely encourage others to go and do something fulfilling somewhere different, perhaps even somewhere Northern.

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I have taught, and wouldn't change a second of it.

Loving what I do has taken time. Subject pedagogy and behaviour management are developed only through experience, with some fairly eye-watering mistakes made during the first few weeks. To be able, now, to grip entire classes (along with occasional full year groups in special lectures) with a text or poem is a source of quiet pride. The general resilience the programme develops cannot, in turn, be overstated. As Rebecca writes, the responsibility of the role is humbling. I feel contented by a clear sense of direction and purpose. I know that my pupils and I have an enormously positive, mutual impact on one another. The colleagues I work with are singularly inspirational.

Yet in moving beyond individual experiences, we should remind ourselves that around a third of teachers leave the profession within five years. If this is in itself striking (particularly given the sizeable, taxpayer-subsidised training and recruitment costs), the disproportionate impact this has on deprived schools like mine is the key

concern. The high social impact we have is accompanied by an equally high relative workload and emotional labour, leading to burnout and high turnover. Where not leaving the profession entirely, many of our best-qualified and most experienced practitioners eventually move to less challenging environments in 'nicer' areas, leading to a greater proportion of trainees placed precisely where institutional stability and long-term staff retention are most needed. If our improvement curve is remarkably steep, no amount of pre-existing qualifications make young graduates like us immediate replacements for experienced professionals. It is our nation's most deprived schools and communities that absorb this reality. The existence of Teach First is symptomatic of a wider structural failure in the distribution of our teaching workforce. Beyond teaching Shakespeare or the periodic table, the focus (and legacy) of our generation of teachers must be the breaking of this cycle through reform – both from the ground up and through meaningful engagement with public policy.





## Teaching in State Schools

Tomos Rees and Francis Martin (2012)

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Lots of Sixth Form students sleep through school. They are asleep because they are not being challenged academically, not encouraged to hold ever-higher aspirations, and not inspired to be original. Many such students have the potential to succeed at Oxford or other top universities, but are not currently fulfilling their promise.

In our analysis, there are several factors that lead to this lack of attainment and aspiration. Chief amongst them is the balkanisation of A-level subjects: an exam-centric approach means that students are taught to satisfy narrow criteria and not think beyond the curriculum. A more creative, interdisciplinary approach is necessary in order to achieve the very highest grades in humanities and arts subjects, and is vital preparation for university study.

Moreover, many students, particularly those in state comprehensives, are not facilitated in aiming high because their teachers are – quite understandably – investing their finite time into helping students on the pass/fail borderline.

We both attended state comprehensives, received no help from our schools in preparing for Oxford interviews and had little opportunity within classes to extend our skills and knowledge. After graduating last year, Francis returned to his old school determined to address these deficiencies. He developed a seminar course that involved an interdisciplinary introduction to cultural and critical theories – everything we would love to have learnt at that age! The sessions were

discursive and wide open to new ideas, however unexpected. The students loved it, and the school has asked him to deliver the course again this year.

We decided to found Enrichment Tutorials, a social enterprise, in order to offer these seminars more widely. To this end, we have developed programmes that include seminars, tutorials and academic mentoring sessions. Our intention is to start delivering such programmes at schools in south London from September.

Whilst at Hertford we were both enthusiastic participants in access work, and we were both beneficiaries of the vaunted Hertford Bursary scheme. We are proud to be continuing the spirit of this work with Enrichment Tutorials.

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## Marriages

Shahnaz Ahsan (2006 History and English) and Avi Bram (2007 PPE) were married on Monday 28 August 2017. They met at Hertford back in 2007 and then reconnected at a Hertford alumni London drinks event in 2013. They write: 'Our wedding was in West Yorkshire (where Shahnaz is from) and had a ceremony that combined elements from both of our Jewish and Muslim faith traditions. Hertford obviously holds a special place for us!'



The Hon Richard Fisher (1972) married Missy Bailey on 18 July 2017 in Perkins Chapel at Southern Methodist University, Dallas. Richard was an undergraduate at Harvard before reading Latin American Studies at Hertford. He went on to a successful career in finance and politics, culminating in being appointed President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

## Births

Henry Albin Sanders was born on 30 July 2016, in Regensburg, Germany, to Jana Christina Sanders, from Germany, and David Lansdale Sanders from Washington, DC, USA. The family were living in Oxford for the academic year 2016-17, while David was completing his MBA degree as a member of Hertford College. Upon graduation in September, the family moved to Munich, Germany, where David is taking up a new role with Deloitte Digital and Jana will eventually return to her former employer, Lufthansa.

Henry was baptised in the Chapel on 3 June 2017: the first baptism in Hertford since 2005.



## Obituaries

### Correction

John Pender (1968) was mistakenly listed in this section in the last issue of the Magazine. He writes: 'As I am very much alive I must let you know, misquoting Mark Twain, that "reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated"'. The Editor very much regrets this error, and apologises to John himself, and to his many concerned friends.

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

### Fellow & Tutor in French, 1973-1996

Anne Holmes

### Fellow & Tutor in History, 1974-2004

Geoffrey Ellis

### Dr Lee's Professor of Anatomy & Fellow, 1984-1996

Ray Guillery

**1942**

Ted Perkins

**1943**

Richard More

**1944**

Clive Allen

John Milne \*

**1945**

Charles Haywood

Charles Hennessy

Richard Rundle

**1947**

Peter Emmerson

David Waddington

**1948**

Michael Ashley-Miller

Robert Carpenter

Geoffrey Rowlands

**1949**

John Harris

Raymond Heslop

Guy Wilkin

**1950**

Richard Asser

**1951**

Bjorn Ardin

Roy Burgess

Christopher Lee \*

**1952**

Frederick Hampson

Brian Lloyd

David Lublinski (David James Conrad Samuel) \*

**1953**

Ralph Marson

**1955**

John Riddy \*

**1956**

Thomas Laidler

Peter Radcliffe

**1957**

Charles McInerny

**1964**

Keith Bishop

**1967**

Robert Durham

Robert Wenkert

**1968**

Martin Gordon-Russell

David Hughes

**1969**

David Hager

**1971**

Mike Gover

Jonathan Swallow \*

**1974**

Patricia (Mary) MacLachlan \*

**1975**

Helen Alexander \*

Terry Cane

Peter Howard \*

**1984**

David Penn

**2000**

Matthew Latter \*

**2004**

David Peniket



## Helen Alexander (1975 Geography)

Dame Helen Anne Alexander (10th February 1957 – 5 August 2017), was educated at St Paul's Girls' School, and came up to Hertford to read Geography in 1975. Her mother Tatiana (Tania) von Benckendorff, writer, translator and theatrical adviser, was Russian (with roots in Estonia), while her father, Bernard Alexander, was a British lawyer who worked for the UNHCR in Geneva, where Helen was born. She might have gone to another college, had not her future tutors, in league with Neil Tanner, the Tutor for Admissions, used unorthodox techniques to lure her to Catte Street. They had recognised her extraordinary abilities, and were determined to admit her by whatever means. It caused something of a rumpus at the time, but this never fazed Tanner. As a result, she became one of a group of extraordinarily talented women who broke upon the Hertford scene in the 1970s. As an undergraduate she worked

hard, participated with wry amusement and tolerance in the lively activities of the Gilbert Club, participated in various sports, including lacrosse, and charmed all those around her. Helen maintained her links with the college, of which she was inordinately fond, for the rest of her life, despite one unfortunate case of mistaken identity in the Porters' Lodge. She became an Honorary Fellow and chaired our Remuneration Committee. In 2014/15, 21 portraits of Hertford women, photographed by Robert Taylor, were displayed in Hall to coincide with the 40th anniversary of co-education at Hertford: Helen was one of these.

Helen's career as a businesswoman was one of huge distinction. From Hertford she went to INSEAD and obtained her MBA. She began a career in publishing with the publishers Gerald Duckworth (1978-79) and then at Faber and Faber. She joined *The Economist* Group as a marketing executive in 1985. From 1997 to 2008 she was chief executive of that group, during which time profits greatly increased and the circulation of *The Economist* surged. When she was first put in charge of it in 1987, the weekly circulation was well under 400,000. She pursued an expansionist policy so that in 2004 *The Economist's* circulation broke through 1m for the first time; by the time she stepped down in 2008 it was selling nearly 1.4m copies a week. In 2011, she became the first female president of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and was awarded a DBE for services to business. Richard Lambert remarked in the *Guardian* that she was 'the ideal CBI leader at a time when the economy was in deep trouble and trust in business was rapidly collapsing. She was a good listener, and a great networker, and she was unflappable even though there was plenty to flap about. There was not an ounce of pomposity in her, she carried no political baggage, and by no stretch of the imagination could she be dismissed as a fat cat'. As her obituary notice in

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There was not an ounce of pomposity in her, she carried no political baggage, and by no stretch of the imagination could she be dismissed as a fat cat’.

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*Fortune* said, ‘For all the fashionable fascination with big strategy, she was unerringly sensible and, where need be, decisive: nothing foolish would happen on her watch. She treated her colleagues with respect, set an example of discipline and solid values (the diary always cleared time for family), and in return inspired confidence’. In the *Financial Times* she was described as ‘unassuming but gregarious’.

Her numerous directorships included Huawei Technologies, esure Group Holdings, Rolls-Royce Group, Incisive Media, Thomson-Reuters, UBM plc (of which she was Executive Chairman), Northern Foods, Centrica and Bain Capital. In September 2011 she became Chancellor of the University of Southampton, the first woman in that

role. She had also, alongside Sir Philip Hampton, undertaken the independent Hampton-Alexander Review, which was published in 2016 and looked at increasing the representation of women in senior business roles. In that connection she was a leading figure in the 30% Club which was focused on getting more women into the senior ranks of business. She was a trustee of Sir Tim Berners-Lee’s World Wide Web Foundation, and was chairman of the Port of London Authority from 2010 until 2015. In 2016 she was awarded Chevalier in the Ordre national de la Légion d’Honneur, France’s highest honorary decoration. In presenting it to her, the French Ambassador to the UK, Sylvie Bermann, called Helen ‘one of the emblematic figures in the conquest – through soft power – of women’s access to decision-making posts, and in the transition to actual equality based on competence and merit.’

Helen was married to Tim Suter, the media policy specialist, and they had three children, Nina, Gregory and Leo. She was diagnosed with cancer in 2014, and was taken from us aged only 60. Words cannot express the grief that this has caused to so many people and institutions, and not least to the college of which she was so proud to be an alumna.

Andrew Goudie

## Peter Howard, CPhys MinstP (1975, Physics and Philosophy)



Peter Howard, who has recently died of cancer at the age of 60, had a life that straddled the arts and the sciences with ease. He wrote algorithms embedded in the device strapped to Felix Baumgartner to monitor his vital signs as he jumped from space in October 2012. And he was a prize-winning poet, performing on stage in the *Joy of Six* poets' group.

He was born in Nottingham to Enid and Edgar Howard, both teachers. He was educated at the Royal Grammar School, Worcester, where he was moved up a year on his first day (which impressed his younger sister), and he took A-level Maths two years early.

He won a Meeke scholarship to Hertford College, Oxford, where he read Physics and Philosophy – a brilliant choice of subjects for him – and he had the good fortune to be tutored by wonderful minds. He immersed himself in college life, playing synthesiser in a student rock band, *The Galactic Emperors*.

He worked for RSRE in Malvern during vacations and, on graduating in 1978, spent four years teaching maths and science at Worcester Girls' Grammar School. In 1983, he joined Irwin-Desman Ltd in Croydon as a digital hardware and software design engineer (later becoming a manager), designing laboratory equipment. There, he met his future wife, Heather, whilst interviewing her for a job.

In 1989, he moved to what Oxonians might call the 'dark side'. He set up house with Heather, joining Philips Telecom in Cambridge. He worked in a team of talented engineers on the design of large, trunked radio systems at Philips but he was most proud of his key role at the Cambridge start-up Hidalgo Ltd in the design of potentially life-saving, remote physiological monitoring equipment worn by people in dangerous situations such as in the fire brigade.

Peter had a keen interest in music of most eras, linguistics and photography. He was also an accomplished poet. Simon Rae has said of his poetry: 'Although every line breathed intelligence, what impressed was his wit, his surrealist humour, and a penetrating imaginative sympathy.' His poetry has been widely published in magazines and anthologies, including *The Faber Book of Christmas* (1996 and 2017), and the *Oxford Poets 2001* anthology. He published *Low Probability of Racoons* (1994), *Game Theory* (2005) and *Weighing the Air* (2007). And he won second prize in the prestigious 2000 Arvon competition.

Here is a poem by Peter, from his book *Weighing The Air*:



## The Apotheosis of Frozen Peas

They hit eager water, fall  
sullen to the bottom of the pan,  
bound with dogmatic ice.

Their hauteur stills enthusiasm  
as an Inquisitor might  
plunged into a cocktail party.

Self-conscious silence breaks  
with a cough, a suppressed laugh,  
a nervous whisper, thin streams

of conversational bubbles.  
Peas are jiggled by heresies.  
Ice melts, peas break away,

spread over the floor of the pan  
arrange themselves in stern hexagons.  
One jumps. It's unexpected

as a cleric turning a somersault  
on the other side of the room  
seen only dimly in a mirror.

Then another does it, so it must be true:  
a gymnastic slow-motion replay  
with a perfect landing...

...and they're all at it but you can't see  
their urgency and purpose until  
one breaks the orthodoxy of surface

tension, is welcomed to the realms  
of air. One by one, the rest ascend  
and a green, angelic chorus

dances on a froth of sound  
above the sour one, the unbeliever  
who remains below.

*Peter is survived by his wife, Heather  
(who wrote this obituary), and his sister,  
Cottia.*





## Matthew Douglas Latter (2000, Chemistry)

Matt joined Hertford from Tonbridge School, matriculating at the turn of the millennium. After four years in labs, he transitioned onto a Post Graduate Diploma in Law and the Legal Practice Course, earning Distinction before joining London's Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP and qualifying as a Solicitor in 2009.

What Matt lacked in height, he made up for with calves – quite remarkable calves that served Hertford well. A good all-rounder on the sports field, he enjoyed his greatest successes on the squash court, where he represented the Oxford University Squirrels.

Though an intelligent and diligent chemist, he was not a natural mathematician, failing his maths prelim

examination in first year. Unkind speculators have long suspected a deliberate sabotage – a means to avoid collegiate participation in the Great North Run of 2001 – falling, as it did, on the date of re-sits. Matt's talent for closing down difficult conversations with a curmudgeonly silence left the truth elusive.

Beyond University, he found and embraced golf, which was to become his greatest love – and obsession – in life. He joined Lamberhurst Golf Club, by the family home in Kent, which, in time, would provide a place of happy refuge, the fairways and greens a safe haven on which to escape from debilitating treatment.

In his mid-20's Matt developed a tumour in the brain, which doctors

described as the size of a golf ball. Despite the harrowing and heart-breaking consequences, he faced a ten-year battle with unwavering courage, determination and dignity. Preferring the gallows humour of his friends to sympathetic coddling, he stoically regarded his condition as an irritating inconvenience, a hurdle to be overcome.

When full-time professional work become untenable, Matt engaged in volunteering and fundraising events, most notably in support of the Seve Ballesteros Foundation, a charity established by the great golfer to raise money for brain cancer research. Closer to home he served as Director, Trustee, and Company Secretary to the Paddock Wood Community Advice Centre, using his legal expertise to offer impartial advice to those in difficult circumstances.

Matt had a range of literary and popular culture idols. Some of my most poignant memories recall his fervent anticipation – and subsequent analysis – of *Spooks* or *24*. He dreamt of being James Bond. Or Sharpe. Jack Bauer, or Maximus. While these ambitions – and a young life full of promise – have been cut cruelly short, to his loving family and friends he will be remembered as far stronger and braver than any of his heroes.

Aidan Elliott

## Christopher David Lee (History, 1951)

Christopher was born on 18 October 1931. He won a scholarship to Hertford College, after which he moved to Cambridge where he worked as a lecturer and tutor, as well as undertaking a large number of research projects on areas that interested him, and pursuing his interests in art. Never one to hoard or collect possessions, he has left almost nothing of this rich life: his art, drawing, cartoons and writings, and other creative works, have sadly disappeared, including his work on Daniel Defoe. He lived an almost nomadic life, ready to move on at short notice, without the trappings of life which many of us consider so important, but which he seemed to consider of little value. In later years, having retired from tutoring, he moved to London, where he kept up with his creative urgings, visiting the National Portrait Gallery where he would take copious notes, sitting in libraries, and drawing. Christopher spoke a number of languages, and was highly knowledgeable across a whole range of subjects. He died on 7 November 2017, following a severe stroke.

Mike Jennings

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When full-time professional work become untenable, Matt engaged in volunteering and fund raising events, most notably in support of the Seve Ballesteros Foundation

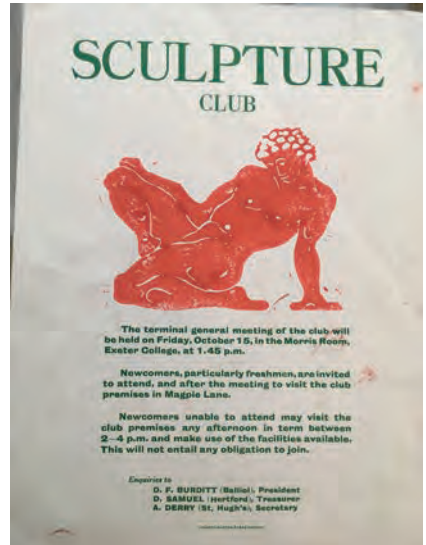
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## David Lublinski aka David James Conrad Samuel (1952, Physics)

Lublinski sculpted in stone, plaster, terracotta and papier-mâché. He drew in ink, favouring pointillism and created silk screen prints. His unique painting style involved days of meticulous drawing followed by months of brushwork, applying thin oil glazes alternating with razor scratches in the dried paint, creating a vibrant depth of colour and intriguing texture. He took inspiration from life, landscape and photographs. The same image was sometimes reworked in several versions. He would have what he repeatedly described as 'breakthroughs'. He was always interested to learn from what others had to say about his art. He noted as influences: Canaletto, E H Gombrich, Jackson Pollock, Andrew Wyeth and Chuck Close, as well as his own teachers and pupils.

Lublinski's father was a Jew of Polish, German and Iberian origins. His mother was an English Christian of Huguenot descent. The youngest grandson of Oxford artist J Allen Shuffrey, he was born David James Conrad Samuel on 1 December 1931 in Surrey. His father Conrad Samuel JP was a company director, Chair of Woking Urban District Council and a survivor of the Western Front. His mother Babs (née Shuffrey) had been a nursing auxiliary during the First World War.

Sent away at the tender age of seven to St Edmund Prep School, Hindhead, he went on to Harrow as an Entrance Exhibitioner. At Harrow, Lublinski was somewhat of a misfit, his choice of newspaper being *The Daily Worker*. Yet he started an electronics club and won a sixth-form maths prize. He took art as an extra subject for one term only. The teacher was a young Gerard Hoffnang. From surviving sketches Lublinski showed early artistic promise. Thereafter, two years of National Service in the army



University Sculpture Club poster 1954

took Lublinski to Germany. Despite public school expectations, he was not considered officer material and couldn't march straight. Much later in life he was found to have scoliosis.

It is unclear why Lublinski went to Hertford or why he read physics. Slight of stature, he apparently coxed for the college boat but did not excel. During his time as an undergraduate Lublinski began to focus on art. He became a member of the University Sculpture Society and for a time was its treasurer.

On graduation he declined invitations from two other universities to pursue academic physics and went into industry as an electrical engineer for Decca Radar. There he worked on the design of early transistorised colour TV, speed cameras and cruise control. His passion for art consumed most of his leisure time and he began evening classes at Kingston School of Art (KSA). In a life drawing class he met a fellow student and his future wife, Margot Stewart. Margot was a primary school teacher, artist and poet.

She encouraged Lublinski to study fine art full time, which he did at KSA from 1957 until at least 1960 when he took his paternal grandfather's original surname as his artist's name. Married in 1958, the couple first lived in Surbiton until 1963, when, to get out of the rat race, they moved to the West Country with their two young children.

The family settled at a Bohemian small-holding with a large studio, goats and various other animals and eventually four children. Little Harford was open house to friends, relatives, foster children, overseas Exeter University students at Christmas, Belfast teenagers on holiday in the early years of the Troubles and a Ugandan Asian refugee. The welcome included eating delicious Aga-cooked home-grown food, chatting around the kitchen table or in the studio, helping in the garden, being thrashed by Lublinski

at table-tennis or attending a concert performed by the children.

Pursuing their interest in the environment and self-sufficiency, the couple created an extensive vegetable garden, orchard and woodland. True to his scientific past, Lublinski recorded rainfall, air and compost temperature and conducted horticultural experiments. He even gained external employment as a gardener and dry stone waller. But most waking hours were spent in the studio.

In the early 1970s, Lublinski studied for a secondary school PGCE at the University of Exeter. Quickly discovering that comprehensive school maths teaching was not for him, he became an inspiring adult education art teacher in Crediton and Exeter for nearly three decades. However, he continued to do some supply teaching during the 1970s. He also gave some individual tuition and

*Introducing Omega* (1988), oil on canvas 106.5 x 81 cm, a rare self-portrait David with his painting 2014. Photograph taken by Richard Saunders.



took commissions. In Tedburn St Mary in 1991, he also began tutoring a weekly art class that, with Margot's help, ran until he retired through ill health in 2014. Lublinski was a longstanding member and Chair of the Parent Staff Association of Queen Elizabeth's School (QES) Crediton, which all four of his children attended.

As a lifelong fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Lublinski showed great creative diversity. In the 1970s, based on an idea by a mathematician friend, he designed, developed and marketed Xy-Rixa, a tetrahedral games board for chess and other games. This sold in London, Oxford and abroad. For a while he compiled cryptic crosswords and even taught himself to play the piano. He was for a time the Chair of Crediton Writers Circle. He wrote short stories, often autobiographical, and a few poems. He also joined two community drama groups, the members of which devised, co-wrote and performed their own plays that toured Devon. Lublinski's musical interests were eclectic. In addition to his passion for classical music, always on in the studio, Lublinski listened to John Peel on late-night Radio 1 and was a member of the contemporary music record club at QES. He always took pride in his children and grandchildren's achievements and was especially encouraging of their musicality.

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Pursuing their interest in the environment and self-sufficiency, the couple created an extensive vegetable garden, orchard and woodland.

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Over the years Lublinski's work was exhibited in various parts of Devon, in London and elsewhere in the UK, Finland and Germany. Notably he had a retrospective of 70 paintings at the University of Exeter in 1997. As well as works in private collections worldwide, Lublinski can be seen in the collections of Crediton Parish Church (commissioned), University of Exeter (donated), Harrow School (donated), St Edmund Hall (purchased) and Hertford (donated).

After a slow decline with dementia and other health issues, Lublinski died at the age of 85 on 17 January 2017. His daughter Rebecca predeceased him in 2005. He is survived by Margot, his three remaining children Christoffer de Graal, Judith and Rachel Samuel, and his granddaughters Hannah and Grace McInerny. A third grandchild was born due in June 2017.

Judith Samuel

Patricia MacLachlan (1974, PPE)



Patricia was one of the first 12 women ever to be admitted to Hertford. She studied PPE from 1974-77. She went on to take a Masters in Information Science, an MBA, a PGCE and National Qualification for Head teachers.

She taught and advised at secondary school level in Leicestershire, Essex, Austria, the USA and the UAE, and was an Ofsted Inspector in latter years as well as teaching pre-sessional English as a Foreign Language to overseas students at Hull University.

Patricia was active in her parish church, and local film society. She was a member of the Royal Overseas League and was a keen bridge player there. She was a gifted water colourist, and earlier in her life had a private pilot's license and was an enthusiastic glider.

She died on 4 April 2017 at her home in Essex.

Paula MacLachlan

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She taught and advised at secondary school level in Leicestershire, Essex, Austria, the USA and the UAE, and was an Ofsted Inspector in latter years as well as teaching pre-sessional English as a Foreign Language to overseas students at Hull University.

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## John Edward Milne (1944, PPE)

John Milne passed away peacefully on 26 November 2015 after a short illness, aged 89.

Born in Aberdeen, he was brought up in Hexham, attending the Grammar School. He acknowledged that the Second World War made it easier for him to get into Oxford University, and he started to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Hertford in 1944. After a year he was called up for service as a Royal Naval officer in minesweepers. He returned to Hertford after being demobbed and graduated in 1951.

John was brought up in the Free Church of Scotland, but his experience in Oxford both in formal philosophy classes, with the Principal Dr Murphy, and engaging with students and academics, guided his spiritual path to the Roman Catholic Church, thanks also to the Jesuit Father Wingfield-Digby at Campion Hall.

After Oxford he took up teaching Economics and History, with posts in Madrid, Turkey, Scotland and Nigeria, before settling in Southampton, where he taught Economics at Richard Taunton Sixth Form College (1968-1982) and Hulme Grammar School in Oldham (1983-1987).

He always recognised with some humility that his Oxford degree and education made it much easier for him to get good jobs; equally it should be said that he was well regarded and did well

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After Oxford he took up teaching Economics and History, with posts in Madrid, Turkey, Scotland and Nigeria, before settling in Southampton.

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in those posts because of his Oxford education.

He met his wife, Carmen, from Aragon in northern Spain, in the mid-1950s, and together they had four sons, and were married 57 years.

He continued to study Politics, Economics and History throughout his life, and after retirement engaged in long correspondence with many statesmen and thinkers of our time, in particular Robert Fisk and Hertford College's own Will Hutton. It is likely that John got much more from this correspondence than Will, but John's family are thankful for Will's forbearance and engagement, which undoubtedly contributed to gradually changing John – a natural 'one-nation' Tory – into a mild Labour supporter.

Carmen B. G. Milne

## John Riddy (History, 1955)



My friend and brother-in-law John Riddy, who has died aged 82, made his mark as a book collector, and built up a much-admired private library on the history of British India. It was based on a large section of the old Bombay Yacht Club's library, and was once the largest of its kind in private hands.

In retirement in York, after a career mostly working in universities, John's interest in book collecting flourished even further. When from time to time he decided to prune his library he gave substantial parts of it to the Borthwick Institute for Archives, York, but nonetheless after each donation his collection would quickly grow again. Wherever he visited, no secondhand bookshop remained unraided.

John was born in Kempston, Bedfordshire, to Donald, a teacher and education inspector, and his wife, Kathleen (née White). He was educated at St Paul's School in London, where among his brilliant classmates were Oliver Sacks and Eric Korn. He won a History scholarship to Hertford College, Oxford, which he took up after national service in the RAF as a Russian linguist. Most of his service in 1953 and 1954 was spent flying over the North Sea, monitoring and translating transmissions from Russian spy trawlers.

On graduating in 1958 he went to India and worked for three years as a factor in Bombay (now Mumbai), where his association with the yacht club library began. In 1961 he returned to the UK as an assistant registrar at Oxford University, where he met his future wife, Felicity Maidment, who was a student there.

From Oxford they both went, in 1965, to the Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria, where John was an assistant secretary. He was present in 1966 when large-scale massacres of the Igbo population took place, with some of the killing extending onto his university's premises. Subsequently John was largely responsible for the job of clearing away corpses from the campus, and soon afterwards he and Felicity left to take up positions at the new University of Stirling.

Although an administrator at Stirling, John also taught courses on Commonwealth literature. He retired early and with Felicity moved to York, where she became professor of medieval English literature and deputy

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On graduating in 1958 he went to India and worked for three years as a factor in Bombay (now Mumbai), where his association with the yacht club library began.

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vice-chancellor at the University of York.

John was a witty, erudite, generous and kind man. He was also a true eccentric and an outrageously Rabelaisian host who at times would leave the dinner table to lie on the floor and take a nap. He had a taste for Havana cigars and kept a filing cabinet of rare malt whiskies in his garage. He always kept glasses full to the brim.

Regrettably he never published a book on British India, but he did give lectures and wrote articles that illuminated various aspects of Indian history – mostly to do with the 1857 mutiny and its aftermath. He was a gentleman scholar, learned, eloquent in style and diction, and captivating in the telling of historical anecdotes.

He is survived by Felicity and by their three children, Gerson, Francesca and Myrianthe.

Brian Martin

## Jonathan Swallow (PPE, 1971)



My friend Jonathan Swallow, who has died aged 63 after suffering from motor neurone disease, played an influential role in trying to hold back the tide of privatisation in local government.

He did this by helping to establish, in 1991, a consultancy called Competition Advice, for which he travelled the country informing public sector and trade union clients on the best ways of managing the tendering out of public services. He used the expertise he had gained over many years working in senior management in local government to try to protect services and maintain the working conditions of council employees.

Catering assistants, cleaners and road sweepers were among the many who owed their jobs to him and the retention of their terms and conditions. Partly through his efforts the unions were able to establish that the principle of a Transfer of Undertakings should be applied to public sector workers if their jobs moved to a different employer.

Born in Ilkley, West Yorkshire, Jonathan was the son of two French teachers, Sybil (nee Parker) and Albert. After Ilkley

Grammar School he was awarded a scholarship to Hertford College, Oxford, in 1971. There he read Philosophy, Politics and Economics, before taking a master's degree in politics at Strathclyde University.

Beginning in 1976 as a graduate trainee at Ealing council, in west London, he moved on to work in various senior officer roles for Islington before returning to Ealing. In 1983 he was appointed as a principal officer at Birmingham City Council and was then given the corporate role of Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive, a job that involved a great deal of troubleshooting. His ability to find a way out of a tight corner was much admired.

In his last two years at Birmingham, Jonathan worked on secondment with the Association of Direct Labour Organisations and the Centre for Local

Economic Strategies, helping them to set up Competition Advice. He was appointed as head of the consultancy and was responsible for managing a team of associates.

Jonathan also worked on a retainer for more than 30 years alongside trade unions in Northern Ireland, both to support the peace process and, eventually, to ensure that the Good Friday agreement took on board equality and human rights considerations.

Outside work he was a keen chess player and lover of classical music.

John Roberts

*[Jonathan Swallow's legacy to Hertford has created a new support fund for students experiencing financial hardship. His generosity to the college will be marked with a plaque in his old room in NB quad.]*

# Alumni News

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| 1958                | Dermot Boyle                         | Dermot Boyle (PPE, 1958) was presented with an MBE at Buckingham Palace by HRH Prince Charles in July 2001. Following a career in the third-sector, working for organisations including Save the Children and the Refugee Arrivals Project in Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Tibet, and China, he was honoured for his outstanding work with refugees and displaced peoples.   |
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| 1963                | Julian Whitehead                     | I have recently published a book called <i>Rebellion in the Reign of Charles II</i> (Barsley: Pen and Sword History, 2017). I read History at Hertford from 1963 to 1966. I then joined the Intelligence Corps and spent the rest of my career in a variety of intelligence and security appointments including Chief of Staff of the Intelligence Centre and Deputy Director of Defence Security. After retiring from the army I became the Security Advisor for Historic Royal Palaces based at Hampton Court, but covering the other palaces such as the Tower of London and Kensington Palace. I am now fully retired and living in Tackley, a village near Woodstock. |
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| 1971<br>and<br>1974 | Peter Lane and<br>Martin Spencer, QC | Martin Spencer, QC, and Peter Lane were appointed judges of the High Court, Peter Lane becoming one of only two solicitor High Court judges. At the ceremony, the Lord Chief Justice commented that he suspected it was a first for two judges from the same college to be sworn in on the same day.   |
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| 1973                | Norman Botton                        | I took part in the 2016 England Over 60s Cricket Tour to Australia. I played in eight of the 13 matches, we won 11 of them, including a 2-1 win in the One Day Internationals to bring home the grey Ashes. I got my cricket Blue way back in 1974 when a Freshman.  |
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1979	Judith Samuel	I retired from being an NHS Head of Psychological Services for people with Learning Disabilities in March 2016 . I am now in a voluntary role as Chair of the British Psychological Society Division of Clinical Psychology Faculty for people with Intellectual Disabilities: a post I previously held 20 years ago! I also work clinically two days a week within the NHS but no longer in a management position.
1992	Dan Eatherly	The paperback of my book, <i>Bushmaster: Raymond Ditmars and the Hunt for the World's Largest Viper</i> , was published in 2017 by Arcade (Skyhorse Publishing), New York, with a special foreword by the naturalist, writer and artist Desmond Morris.
1992	Natasha Kaplinsky	In the Queen's Birthday Honours List, 2017, Nathasha Kaplinsky was created an OBE for services to Holocaust commemoration.
2007	David Holden-White	David launched Biotechspert last year to help companies in the healthcare sector access precise technical expertise, fast. The company is now using big data technology to pin-point experts with very specific knowledge to match clients' needs. Backed by Professor Steven K Smith in Cambridge, the company is currently crowdfunding on Syndicate Room, enabling investors of all sizes to join their journey.
2007	Dr Christian Nordholtz	The Trilateral Commission has nominated Dr Christian Nordholtz (M Jur, 2007) as one of the three new European David Rockefeller Fellows for the 2018-2021 triennium. As a David Rockefeller Fellow, Christian has the opportunity to attend over the three years the two annual meetings of the Trilateral Commission, i.e. the plenary meeting in spring and the European regional meeting in autumn. The Trilateral Commission is a non-governmental, policy-oriented forum. The Trilateral Commission was formed in 1973 to foster closer cooperation among the core industrialised areas of the world with shared leadership responsibilities in the wider international system.

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2008	Jeremy Boon	Jeremy was a winner in the Black British Business Awards 2017. The Black British Business Awards are the only premium awards programme which celebrates the exceptional performance and outstanding achievements of black entrepreneurs and professionals operating across the UK. Jeremy won in the category 'Professional Services Rising Star'. He is Chief of Staff, Analytics and Information Management, Deloitte.
2009	Ryan Alford	Ryan Alford's book <i>Permanent State of Emergency: Unchecked Executive Power and the Demise of the Rule of Law</i> was published in June 2017. <i>Publishers Weekly</i> summarises its argument: 'Concluding that the US government is now an elective dictatorship where systemic violations of basic rights can be carried out with impunity, Alford's utterly reasonable and objective study is a compelling, important call to restore democratic balance.'
2012	Pit Genot	Pit Genot and Sejung Oh's daughter Hielle was born on 2 May 2017.

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The Editor of the Hertford Magazine welcomes feedback, news and contributions. Please write to [magazine.editor@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:magazine.editor@hertford.ox.ac.uk).





