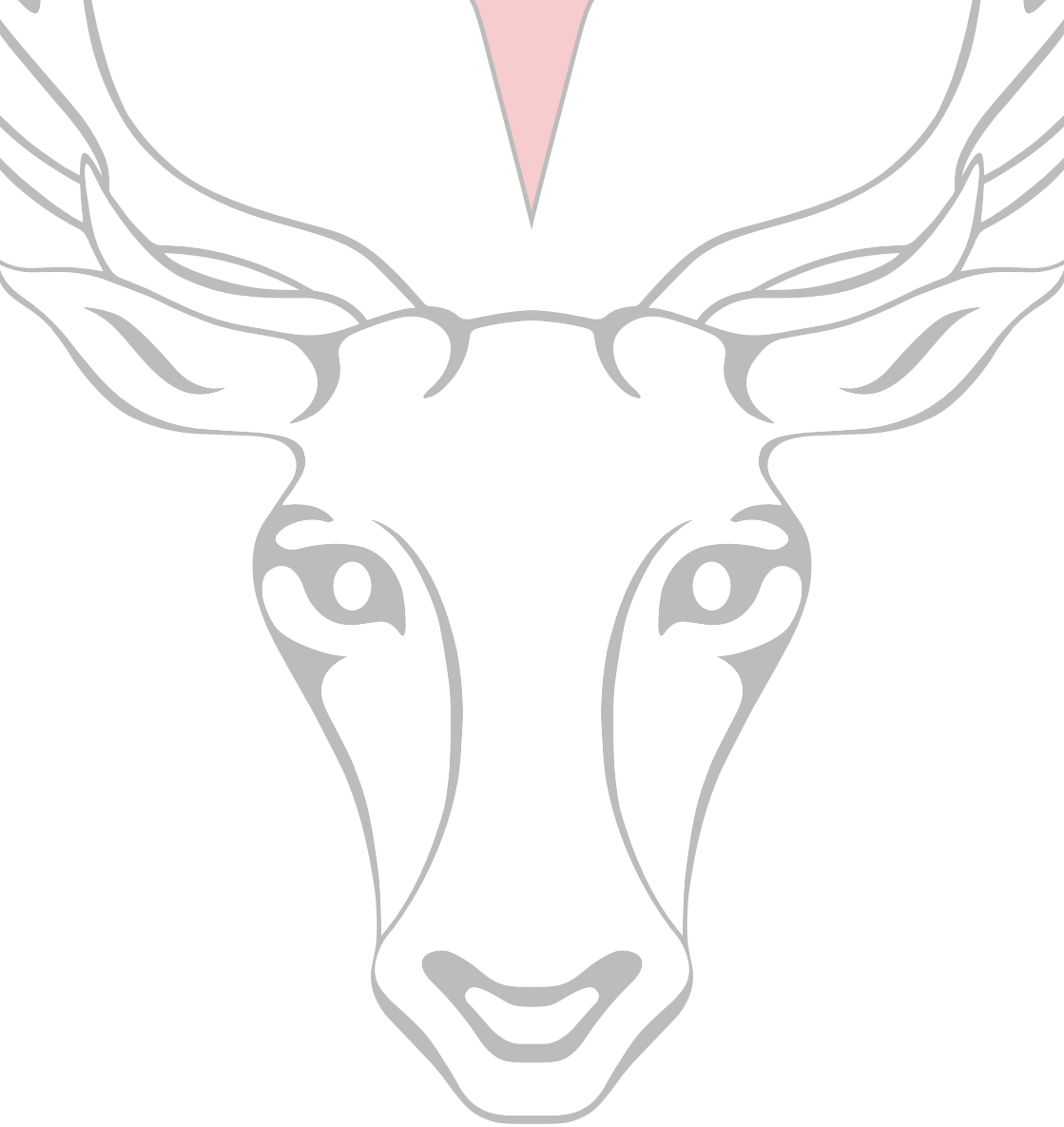


THE MAGAZINE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The Editor thanks all those who have contributed to and advised on this year's issue, especially Olga Batty, Alicia Povey and everyone in the Development Office team.





PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

It's been a good year for Oxford and for Hertford – notwithstanding an intensifying first-order political and constitutional crisis. The University has once again been ranked the best in the world. It has also received unexpectedly positive headlines, rather than the usual brickbats, for launching two programmes – Opportunity and Foundation Oxford – to give the cleverest in our society, from whatever background, a chance of being offered a place.

Meanwhile, the college is enjoying a sense of new energy from our intake of enthusiastic new fellows and new senior staff, including our new domestic bursar and head of catering. Academically, organisationally, even in terms of the look of our rooms and buildings and what we eat and drink, we feel on an upswing.

The debating point of the year continued to be access. There are concerns that the University is giving in to politically correct pressures to 'social engineer' its intake, but the counter-argument is that the British educational system is already socially engineered to favour the better-off to a degree unparalleled anywhere in the world. In the long run the University has an obligation to itself and to Britain to find the cleverest and give them the unique opportunity to flourish that Oxford offers. Beyond the University, there is the newly established Office for Students

– with cross-party backing – insistent that the University widens the social background of our undergraduates. There is really no choice.

Opportunity Oxford will come into effect in 2020. Effectively it scales up the bridging programme that University College has been piloting for the last three years. It offers a partly residential study programme for applicants who are on course to gain the required grades but need additional support to transition successfully from A Levels to an Oxford degree course. Univ is a passionate advocate of the policy, believing that it has transformed the willingness of tutors to take risks. The students so admitted have all done well.

Hertford was always likely to throw our weight behind the scheme, although not without some debate. Along with Mansfield – which has the best access record in Oxford, but with around half the number of students – our record has been outstanding. Ever since the days of Neil Tanner our admitting tutors have been taking those risks – without the expense in time, money and effort of a bridging programme. But there is a long tail of colleges (some of the most venerable names in Oxford) whose record is frankly embarrassing. Without the efforts of the few, the University would really be in the dock for giving too little heed to the demand to advance social mobility. The consequences could be grave. The University might



even be instructed to move to a central admissions system, so that colleges lost their time-honoured control of admissions. With the climate changing the laggards are having to change their tune. But if tutors elsewhere had been less infatuated with the top private schools and prepared to recruit the cleverest from wherever, none of this expense would have been necessary. As it is, Opportunity Oxford hopefully will contribute to changing the culture – but it's a shame it had to come to this.

From 1966 Hertford offered the most talented state school applicants minimal A Level grades for admission. As Professor Lawrence Goldman points out in his magisterial assessment of the Tanner Scheme (see his article later), that initiative was part of a wider sense in the 1960s that Oxford had to do better. Other colleges experimented too, but it was Hertford's Tanner scheme that was the most long-lived and determinedly

implemented. In the mid-1980s, at the University's insistence, colleges began to operate a level playing field and the scheme was wound up. It demonstrated unambiguously that there are great rewards for taking risks in admission: Hertford shot up the Norrington league tables, averaging 8th between 1974 and 1983 – a position that only began to erode as some of the richer colleges invested heavily in both widening access and in their teaching. Over the last 12 years Hertford has averaged fifteenth. (The first estimate this year is that our Norrington score will be that level, although yearly results are so influenced by idiosyncratic variations with such tiny numbers involved that only long-term averages are indicative). To improve on that average over the next decade we have this year launched a series of initiatives: the creation of a Porter Fellow (supported by alumnus John Porter), whose responsibilities

include supporting students and fellows in how they set about teaching and learning; a revised academic covenant with undergraduates that clearly sets out their academic responsibilities; the creation of an academic enrichment fund to support extra-curricular study; and adding a further Principal's Collections for first year undergraduates in which I discuss their academic ambitions. All in all, we intend to lift our academic performance still more.

We are doing this alongside our ongoing commitment to widen access. Oxford's reputation still deters too many from applying – as many as half of the pool of potential candidates according to the Sutton Trust. It is a constant battle, one of the reasons we are teaming up with Balliol and Wadham to promote a coordinated engagement with schools across the whole of the East of England as now required by the University. Such school and teacher relationships, of course, were another key component of the Tanner approach: the college had to engage with schools to get the candidates it wanted. My

thanks to Professor Goldman for his paper, the fellows past and present who gave him interviews and the 38 Tanner alumni who answered his questionnaire and spoke to him – and of course to alumnus Professor Roderich Moessner who generously funded the research.

It is this feeling that the University must continually innovate that lies behind the second proposal to launch Foundation Oxford in two years' time, although there are even greater concerns whether the effort and expense will bring the desired payback. Here the idea is to take students from tough social backgrounds who have achieved A Level results below what was necessary to win them admission, but which given their disadvantage are nonetheless promising, and give them a year of supplementary teaching at Oxford in subjects in which the University offers degrees. The students then join the admissions process in week nine of Michaelmas term and are made offers, subject to them passing the Foundation course exams at the end of the academic year. This is built on the scheme Lady Margaret Hall has run for three years, with growing success. I have been invited to teach the students and been impressed by their ability, especially given the obstacles they have faced ranging from a parent in prison to having a mother working in the sex trade. LMH tutors offer a growing number of places, and all have flourished – some extraordinarily. My guess is that this scheme too is one we will rally behind.

Our fellows continued to distinguish themselves. Professor Emma Smith's *This is Shakespeare* was a non-fiction best-seller, and her growing reputation as a broadcaster saw her taking part in numerous radio programmes, including the 20th anniversary of *In Our Time*. Professor Christopher Tyerman's *The*

Here the idea is to take students from tough social backgrounds who have achieved A Level results below what was necessary to win them admission, but which given their disadvantage are nonetheless promising.



World of the Crusades was widely critically acclaimed, and colleagues and former students assembled a collection of essays honoring his scholarship in *Crusading Europe* – kept a secret until it was surprised on him at a pre-arranged dinner. Christopher was (momentarily) lost for words: a first. Professor Dame Kay Davies is to be the 2020 recipient of the Biochemical Soc's Centenary Award – the first woman to receive it. Professor David Greaves' research group made a breakthrough on human cannabinoid receptors, while geographer Professor David Thomas won the RGS-IBG Victoria Medal for outstanding geographical scholarship into dryland environments and societies. Our new economics fellow Dr Teodora Boneva was awarded a Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship to investigate socio-economic inequality, but was also awarded a Distinguished

Affiliate Award by Munich's CESifo research group. Our new Law fellow, Kate Greasley, was shortlisted for the Inner Temple Book Prize 2018. In March our very own Professor Martin Maiden assumed his role as the University's Senior Proctor, and the college turned out in sub-fusc force for his investiture in the Sheldonian (in Latin of course) with Martin subsequently in a spirited speech at lunch letting us know that the last medic from Hertford (as Hart Hall) who doubled up as Senior Proctor went on to attend Henry V at Agincourt! He expects no such martial medical future for himself.

Nor are our lecturers academic and teaching slouches. Dr Paul Harrenstein, lecturer in Computer Science, was shortlisted in the Outstanding Tutor category of Oxford SU's student-led teaching awards – as was DPhil student Francisco Marmolejo. Dr Sam

Henry won a University Impact Award, deploying My Little Pony cartoons to enhance his physics teaching. Clive Hambler, our doughty and longstanding lecturer in human sciences, was invited to give evidence in the US Congressional Committee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife.

It was great to welcome seven new fellows – an exceptional array of research and teaching talent. Dr Teodora Boneva in Economics, theoretical chemist Professor Fernanda Duarte, Computer Scientist Dr Andreas Galanis, Dr Kate Greasley in Law, biochemist Prof Petros Ligoxygakis, geographer Dr Louise Slater, and zoologist and bee expert Professor Geraldine Wright are all making their mark. We expect great things – so no pressure. We were delighted to vote Professor Roderich Moessner, a distinguished physicist and Director of the Max Planck Institute in Dresden, as honorary fellow. We were very sorry that our medical fellow of five years, Dr Rebecca Sitsapesan, was compelled to retire early from extreme ill health. She is now an Emeritus fellow: we wish her all the very best, hoping she beats the prognostications.

Our new tutorial fellow arrivals were matched by a bevy of new recruits to our staff. Gareth Tebbutt returned from a successful bursarial sojourn with Dulwich College in Singapore to become our dynamic home bursar, while Simon Robinson is Head of Catering Services whose passion for great food, drink and stylish table dressing is infectious. Our new Events Coordinator, Jordan Davies, is tirelessly efficient while similarly our HR Officer, Emilie Walton, is a consummate professional. Gill Shreir has begun as our Welfare & Wellbeing Coordinator. They are all already making an impact.

Dr Kathryn Boast joined as our innovative STEM Outreach Officer,

the first in Oxford to focus on STEM and funded thanks to a donation from alumna Pip Wilson, alongside our communications and outreach officer Nathan Stazicker. We run an extensive outreach programme across our allocated regions of Essex, Southend-on-Sea, Medway and Camden. On top of 100 visits, events and any number of intriguing pilots on STEM and sixth form academic enrichment as preparation for Oxford, Nathan and Kathryn combined their expertise in establishing the inaugural *Heroes of Unsung Science* competition – with the prize being a day shadowing alumnus Krishnan Guru-Murthy at *Channel 4 News* – again an Oxford first. The competition generated a host of short films about lesser-known scientists and was won by a brother and sister in Preston with a video about the tenth century Muslim surgeon Al Zahrawi.

On top of all this we have quadrupled the places we offer students on the University's successful UNIQ summer school. Amazingly one in five of our undergraduates are trained student ambassadors, spreading the word that Hertford and Oxford welcome applicants from all economic and social backgrounds. We have more to do, especially boosting applicants from ethnic backgrounds – but we can take great pride in what has been achieved.

Inevitably 2018/19 also saw some goodbyes. We said farewell to Sir Martin Donnelly, former head of the department of Business and Industrial Strategy, and Kumar Iyer, now Chief Economist at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who both had spent two years with us as academic visitors engaging in debate and seminars – with Martin a notable contributor to the chapel choir. Malcolm N'jie, our Head of IT, also moved on. We wish them all great good fortune.

No academic year is without deaths,

timely reminders that our spans are finite and to make good use of the time we have. Dr Paul Coones, who had been one of two geographer fellows for more than 20 years with a distinguished teaching career alongside his intense musical interests, died of cancer and other complications sadly too young – he was not yet 60 – in the John Radcliffe in September. You will recall that last year we published the tribute in chapel made by his long-time colleague Dr Peter Bull. Our former Head Porter, Judy Mullee – remembered fondly by many of you – also passed away. Two Hertford figures who had made their mark nationally and were great friends of the college also passed on – Sir Jeremy Heywood, distinguished former Cabinet Secretary, and Baroness Mary Warnock, moral philosopher, launcher of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and partner of Principal Geoffrey Warnock. Here is what she wrote as a self-avowed practical feminist, with typical candour, to accompany her photograph, back in 2014 when we celebrated the 40-year anniversary of admitting women by hanging only women photos in Hall: 'Perhaps I was, and am, too fond of men: perhaps I took too much delight in the give and take of sex, the taking turns between dominance and submission, to be able to envisage a world in which women could do without men, or must always regard themselves as inferior'. She will be much missed.

I offer a fuller tribute to Sir Jeremy Heywood later in the magazine, but it is worth noting here that we held a well-attended commemorative afternoon and dinner in February assessing his career and impact on Whitehall. The speakers included his wife Suzanne, his predecessor as Cabinet Secretary Lord Gus O'Donnell, former colleagues Dame Melanie Dawes (Permanent Secretary

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for the Department of Communities and Local Government) Baroness Vadera (now chair of Santander), Dame Sue Owen (Permanent Secretary at the DCMS), Tom Kibasi (head of the IPPR think tank), and Sir Martin Donnelly. Gripping tales of the 2008 financial crisis and others were intermingled by debating his passionate belief in an independent civil service, discussions amusingly framed by his former History tutor Dr Toby Barnard recollecting that Jeremy was not only perhaps his cleverest student but, *en travestie*, made such a fetching young woman at a schools dinner that he wholly confused one of the academics. Whatever the loss to the world of drag, the wider country was undoubtedly the winner! And thanks to alumnus Simon Webb who took the opportunity to announce his £50,000 Heywood travel fund along with the Heywood Fellowship which the college is delighted to host.

It was a lively year of Hertford conversations. David Lammy MP spoke passionately and revealingly about the many hidden biases and prejudices he has experienced as a man

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

of colour. Alistair Campbell was no less revealing about his personal demon of depression, while making the case for the EU. Roland Rudd talked about his entrepreneurial career in PR – and his role in the People's Vote campaign. Gerard Lyons, former adviser to Boris Johnson, tried to convince his sceptical student audience that Brexit was both right and an opportunity. Alumni Peter Dart of WPP and Krishnam Guru-Murthy, presenter of *Channel 4 News*, offered our undergraduates wonderful insights into their professions, while at the Law reunion Professor Sir Jefferey Jowell QC and Michael Fordham QC discussed their careers, human rights and Brexit. The students really value these encounters – and many thanks to all four alumni who gave their time so generously. Anyone minded to do the same, do get in touch!

The Hertford conversations also held a series of talks debating capitalism. Our

range of speakers included Professor Paul Collier, urging a Marshall Plan for training, Tom Kibasi who spelled out the recommendations of the Commission for Economic Justice, and Lord Adair Turner warning how smart machines would take over all routine work, turbo-charging the growth of inequality. Mariana Mazzacato made the case that all great inventions had involved smart, active government. Professor Colin Mayer argued that companies committed to great purposes were the most innovative and long-lived, while entrepreneur Philip Ullman explained that, so inspired, he wanted to turn his company into a wholly employee-owned trust. All stayed to enjoy a drink supper with our students – always great and memorable evenings for all involved. Of course the pivotal Hertford speaking event of the year is the John Donne Lecture, this year given by the

BBC

NAIK

NIXON

GURR

GRANET

UC

CLARE - CAMBRIDGE

150

WOODGATE

TAYLOR

TUDOR

PAGE

UC

HERTFORD - OXFORD

150

charismatic and iconoclastic (Dame) Mary Beard. It was some lecture, as Mary showed how much classic imagery and stories impinge on the present.

Student achievements during the year included a fine run in *University Challenge*: after playing Clare College, Cambridge the Hertford team made it the highest-scoring losers' playoff and beat Exeter University. Congratulations to our amazing team of undergraduates – Stephanie Woodgate, Pat Taylor, Richard Tudor and Chris Page.

Congratulations also to Ifan Jenkin, fifth-year Clinical Medicine student, on being awarded the John Pearce Memorial Prize. The prize is awarded by the University's Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences to the clinical student considered to have 'demonstrated care and concern for their patients in the most exemplary fashion'. Chloe Jackson won conference prize for best student paper at International Surgical Conference in Belfast – her research project: prostate cancer detection.

Charlotte Corderoy, our fabulous organ scholar and Director of the choir, was appointed Music Director of Oxford University Philharmonia. On the rugby field Tom Humberstone (DPhil Pharmacology, 2019) helped secure the Oxford win in the Varsity rugby. The women's football team reached the final of Cuppers, but despite vocal support from the male cheerleaders and virtually the entire college (including the Principal) sadly lost out to St Catz. Hertford women did well on the river as well, with the women's crew finishing third in first division Torpids – the best result for more than 40 years! They and other members from the Hertford Boat Club took part in the Oxford to London challenge row, congratulated by Team GB Hertfordians Zoe Lee (Geography, 2004), and Stephanie Cullen (Chemistry, 1999) when they finished. Zoe earlier

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had been part of the winning crew in this year's Princess Grace Challenge Cup at the Henley Royal Regatta. It also triggered a wonderful £50,000 donation to the club from Mark Greenberg (History, 1987). And while discussing donations, thanks to alumni Peter Newman and Mark Teversham (both Geography, 1973) who set up the 73 Scholarship Fund for Geography. Indeed, many thanks to all of you who donated to the college this year – see Development Director Julia Thaxton's report later in the magazine.

Other alumni achievements (please let the Development Office know what you are doing so I can report it next year) included Edmund Whitehead's (Music, 2011) acclaimed performance conducting the Southbank Sinfonia in Phaedra at the Royal Opera House. Carole Cadwalladr (English, 1988) was the finalist in the National Reporting category of the Pulitzer Prize for her work on Facebook and Cambridge Analytica

data scandal: she has almost signal-handedly unmasked the scandal of date manipulation by the Brexit campaign – do watch *Hacked* on Netflix to get a flavour of her work. Fiona Bruce (Modern Languages, 1982) has taken on BBC1's *Question Time*. Professor Louise Gullifer QC (Jurisprudence, 1979) was appointed to the Rouse Ball Chair of English Law at the University of Cambridge. Congratulations to them all. And it is worth noting that this year's Pulitzer Prize was awarded to the extraordinary biography (by Jeffrey C Stewart) of our alumnus Alain LeRoy Locke, the first ever Afro-American Rhodes Scholar, and inspiration to Martin Luther King.

So that's it for another year. I approach my ninth and last year at Hertford ambitious and hopeful to pass the college on to my successor in better shape than I found it – the aim I think

of every incumbent and one I hope my successor will achieve in turn. As I write there are architectural competitions under way for both renewing the library and our new graduate accommodation on our gardens between Winchester and Banbury Roads – key parts of our ambitious estates strategy, the results of which will be announced during the coming academic year. On all fronts the college is progressing. The bursar, Jamie Clark, and his team are getting a real grip on our finances and infrastructure, while Senior Tutor Professor David Hopkin and the dynamic registrar, Lynn Featherstone, are doing the same academically. It has been a fabulous privilege to be your principal: there will be other opportunities to say thanks for the opportunity and your support – but I thought it couldn't hurt to say it here. So – thanks!



Hertford Highlights

JOHN DONNE LECTURE

Professor Mary Beard

I want to start, appropriately enough, with some lines from a poem, not by John Donne, but one written centuries later in 1938 by the Irish Oxford poet Louis MacNiece. For a couple of decades after reading Classics here, he was a professional academic classicist teaching Greek first at the University of Birmingham, then at what was Bedford College, London, and finally at Cornell in the United States, before giving it all up for part-time poetry and part-time BBC writing. MacNiece was, by all accounts enigmatic, slightly aloof, a truly dreadful lecturer and quite, to put it politely, high maintenance. He was described by Antony Blunt as irredeemably heterosexual, which is not hard to decode. But that's another story.

The poem that I'm referring to is his long, partly autobiographical *Autumn Journal*. At the opening of one of its main sections he reflects with some irony on his classical education at school and then at Oxford between the wars. Just to be clear, by classics he, like me, is referring to the combination of Greek and Latin languages, literature, culture, history, philosophy, art and archaeology of the Greco-Roman world. I want to read a couple of passages from this poem, which are a bit like a sermon:

Which things being so, as we
said when we studied

The Classics, I ought to
be glad

That I studied the Classics at
Marlborough and Merton,

Not everyone having had
The privilege of learning a
language

That is incontrovertibly dead.

A few lines later, he goes on, 'the classical student is bred to the purple. His training in syntax is also a training in thought and even in morals; if called to the bar or the barracks he always will do what he ought'. Now elsewhere in the poem, he reflects on his own engagement, not so much with how he was taught the structures of classical education, but with the almost impossibly distant world of ancient Greece itself. Hellas, as he calls it, by its Greek name. Not with its supposed glories, but with the real-life people who often get passed over and sometimes the seedy underbelly of classical culture:



... when I should remember the
paragons of Hellas,

I think instead
Of the crooks, the adventurers,
the opportunists,

The careless athlete, and the
fancy-boys,
The hair-splitters, the pedants,
the hard-boiled sceptics,

And the Agora and the noise
Of the demagogues and the
quacks; and the women pouring

Libations over graves
And the trimmers at Delphi and
the dummies at Sparta and lastly,
I think of the slaves.

And how one can imagine
oneself among them

I do not know;
It was all so unimaginably
different

And all so long ago.

I first read that in the very early 70s when I was 15 or 16, and it opened my eyes to a very different way of looking at the Latin and Greek that I was then studying at a very good, very traditional girls' high school. I think, like many nerdy teenagers, I lived a strangely split existence. I was a would-be free-thinking revolutionary in my head, but day to day at school I was a decidedly unrevolutionary swat learning my Latin grammar with sickening obedience and being rather too committed to getting ten out of ten for my translations. When I think about it now, I seemed like almost a horrible combination of a goody two shoes and Rosa Luxemburg rolled into one with rather more shoes than Luxemburg. I still remember how I used to do my homework on the

kitchen table at home, above which I persuaded my parents to let me pin a poster of the then imprisoned black power leader Angela Davis, beneath whose profile I would struggle diligently with my Thucydides and my irregular verbs. Thanks to the amazing magic of Google images, I managed to come face to face again with the very poster.

Into this split teenaged existence came Louis MacNiece's poem, pointing to the connections between politics in the broadest sense and the subjects that I myself was then learning. Although I might have seen myself as a young revolutionary, I had never thought before about the social and cultural capital that had traditionally gone with the study of the Latin and Greek that I was enjoying and was quite good at. I'd never thought about the role of classics as 'a gatekeeper of the British social and political elite.' It took me some time back then to realise that MacNiece's phrase 'called to the bar' was a reference to a legal career rather than being invited to the pub. Nor had I consciously reflected on the loaded uses to which Classics had sometimes been put; from upholding conservative styles of art to justifying empire. If I'd spotted that the big bank branches in my hometown tended to have classical columns on their facades, I think I'd probably put that down to aesthetic choice rather than any connection between the authority of money, capitalism and the politically symbolic repertoire of Classics.

Equally important were MacNiece's prompts to look a bit harder at what modern students or scholars were expected to notice in the ancient world itself. Up until then, I had generally accepted a kind of diet in Classics of great men, Caesars and a few genocidal generals, possibly with a sprinkling of women behind the throne. Now I don't



think that MacNiece was much of a feminist, in fact, you may have spotted that I passed over it rather quickly; how his verses assume that all classicists were male, 'his training in syntax', he wrote. However, at the particular moment that I read it, it was this poem more than anything else that prompted me to realise that there were bits of the ancient world and its inhabitants that I had not been taught to see. Or perhaps that I had been taught not to see. The ordinary, the crooks, the fancy boys, as he put it, the women, the slaves, and, of course, the people that my Angela Davis poster was talking about. MacNiece's message has stood by me for decades. Look, he seems to be saying, for what you can't see in the ancient world and always try to tell the story from the other point of view.

Why were enslaved people in antiquity always represented small? This is an ordinary wall painting from Pompeii. It's easy to spot the slaves because they're little. Where were the people of colour? How can you capture the perspective of the conquered, or the women, the factory workers, the poor and well, the hopes and the fears and the aspirations of ordinary regular people like us? To push MacNiece further than he went, how do you read the stories of violence and misogyny that seem embedded in ancient literature and continue to be part of our own representational world, even now?

Some of you will know that one of my favourite, but particularly unpleasant, recent versions in which the ancient decapitation of the mythical snakey Gorgon Medusa is reworked to end up as the image of the severed head of Hillary Clinton. This is from a US presidential campaign tea mug. You could also get it on tote bags, on t-shirts, on mouse mats, and wherever you wanted. This image of decapitation goes back to the

ancient world. I doubt that many of the people who bought this knew the story of Medusa in any detail, but they damn well knew what it was about.

Now, it's 50 years on from my first encounter with *Autumn Journal*, and I'm really pleased to say that it helped me work out my own slightly different engagement with the classical world and the way we study it, which I have gradually come to feel reasonably at ease with. I feel much bolder than I used to in resisting the temptation to claim that the Greeks and Romans are relevant to us in any narrow sense. Still less, that they provide helpful analogues for modern politics.

The most frequent query I now receive from journalists is: what Roman emperor do I think that Donald Trump is most like? When I get this, as I frequently do, I take pleasure in explaining that while that might be a fun party game, historically, any superficial similarity between a modern US president and an ancient Roman emperor is practically meaningless. That usually takes quite a lot of time to explain. If I don't have time to go through all that, I tend to suggest a Roman Emperor that they wouldn't have heard of and take some comfort that at least they'll learn something by going away and looking him up. I should say that the second common

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question is: did immigration cause the fall of the Roman Empire? To this, the answer, at least when the question is put like that, is emphatically no. But beyond that, I think I now feel fine in a way that I wouldn't have about not admiring the Greeks and the Romans in any straightforward way. People often say, 'Mary Beard really loves the Romans'. I wouldn't say 'no, she damn well doesn't,' but she certainly doesn't want to go back there unless it's a first-class return ticket!

What I feel is something quite different from admiration about these people. It's quite simply that some of the things that the Greeks and Romans wrote and made and left behind them, from great literature to apparently trivial bits of papyrus, are still worthwhile reading, reflecting on, engaging with and thinking very hard about. At the highest level that goes from their dissections of imperialism and corruption, because

we have to remember, uncomfortable as it is, that imperialists themselves are often the most acute analysts of the faults of empire, to the challenges of any straightforward version of patriotism that are set to us by poems like Virgil's *Aeneid*. Although classicists, who I think can be miserable at times, often lament that so much of classical literature has been lost, let me just remind you that we still have more stuff written in Latin and Greek than anybody but a prodigy with no social life could possibly get through in a whole career. I think often one should be more surprised by that claim than we often are.

I have no doubt too that in interrogating the dialogue between classical culture and modernity that's been going on for hundreds of years, we do begin to understand better why Western culture operates like it does. Here is a wonderful Athenian pot depicting Odysseus' wife Penelope and

I think if I witnessed that today when I was braver, I'd probably interrupt and I'd say, hang on, when do we see cruelty for pleasure in our own culture?

her teenage son Telemachus, which for me evokes that moment early in Homer's *Odyssey*, the second work of European literature to survive, when Telemachus becomes the first bloke in European literature and in European history to tell his mother to be quiet.

'Speech is man's business,' this little squirt says to his mother. Or whether when the king of crucial debates about the rights and obligations of citizenship, the Latin phrase *civis romanus sum*-I am a Roman citizen, was famously refused by Lord Palmerston in 1850 and then adapted by John F Kennedy in Berlin in 1963 as a slogan to capture the protection offered by modern citizenship.

It goes back to the works of Cicero in the first century BC, though I strongly suspect that neither Palmerston nor Kennedy realised that in the Ciceroen original it was a phrase that had been cried out fruitlessly by a Roman citizen who was being illegally crucified. To get attention which not forthcoming, he repeated 'I'm a Roman citizen who should not be crucified'.

I think neither Palmerston or Kennedy had realised that they might both have thought rather harder about the problems and ambivalences of

citizenship now. I think he would have given a rather different spin to Kennedy's 'Ich bin ein Berliner' speech. I have no hesitation, in other words, in saying that keeping Classics in the picture hugely enriches our understanding of Western social, political and cultural structures. They often thaw our assumptions on which those structures were and all based. In saying that, I am not saying that I think Western civilization is solely a product of the classical tradition, it is much more varied than that. It would be truly ghastly to be living in a hand-me-down classical world. I'm not saying that classical or to literature are superior to that of other traditions. For a start, I'm not remotely qualified to make any such judgment, and anyway I don't think hierarchies of that kind mean anything; superior at what? To whom? The same goes for Western civilization itself, which I'm not singling out for its pre-eminence over other civilizations. But because I don't want to hype my claims by implying that the Greco-Roman classics have the same degree of purchase across the whole planet. They don't. Don't let's pretend that they do. For me, it's enough that a lot of people, wherever they are, still want to read Tacitus and Plato. They still want to visit museums and work with, adapt and reformulate the Greco-Roman artistic tradition. I'm told that Plato is still the best-selling philosopher in the world ever.

I also have an increasing sense of the value of Classics in giving us new perspectives on ourselves and at prodding our uncertainties and some other sanctimonious self-righteousness that can afflict modernity, even if we sometimes need to work harder at that that we sometimes do. That came home to me most powerfully almost 20 years ago when I was in the Coliseum, in Rome, with time on my hands. So, I decided to

eavesdrop on what the school parties were being told in the Coliseum as they were shown around. They were from lots of different countries, but the script was almost always the same. The teacher or the guide would start by asking the kids what happened here, and some eager child would put his hand up, and it usually was a boy, and would say words to the effect of 'they used to kill people here for pleasure and throw them to the wild beasts'. The teacher would then almost always respond, 'would we do that now?', and the chorus came back in harmony, 'no, miss', and a kind of awful, self-satisfied glow of confidence in human progress would descend on the whole bloody lot of them.

I think if I witnessed that today when I was braver, I'd probably interrupt and I'd say, hang on, when do we see cruelty for pleasure in our own culture. Who's still getting a thrill out of gladiatorial combat? Which of you have bought a gladiator model and who has just had their picture taken outside the Colosseum with some scam gladiators for a rip-off price? And anyway, who's queued up to see the movie? You can go on and on. I think if it was today, I might have added: and how do you compare what went on here with the fact that millions of people have recently watched footage of a real-life mass murder on their smartphones? My point is not to make some stupid claim that gladiatorial slaughter was not as bad as we think it is, but to insist that if you seize the opportunity, you find that our dialogue with the ancients can turn back on us. It can make us sort of anthropologists of ourselves. Now, in some ways, I think that's probably true of any study of the past or any elsewhere, but the particular combination of familiarity and difference embedded in the classical

world makes for a particularly powerful light shined not on men only, but on us. Hold it in your mind while we move back to MacNeice, from where we've strayed a bit, and to his political reflections on his experience, not of the ancient world itself, but of Classics, especially the Greek and Latin languages, as a subject studied institutionally at schools and universities.

What MacNiece is doing is characterising Classics as, in his experience, a mechanism of exclusivity. His argument goes, and happily, this is no longer entirely true, but his argument goes: only the rich learn Latin and Greek. It's their knowledge of those languages that by a kind of conservative feedback loop legitimates their position as the rich elite and so underpins the traditional conservative social and cultural order in a haze of moral superiority that the sheer uselessness of the subject both inculcates and mystifies. At the same time as a gatekeeper of privilege, Classics offers a practical route to power, to the purple, as MacNiece puts it using Roman terminology, singling out the law and the only hint of British imperial administration lurking behind. That summary is obviously far less elegant than MacNeice's elusive verses. But in those terms, it represents a position that is familiar to us from, for a start, media discussions of learning dead languages. It's familiar to me and to some of my colleagues in the profession. It's a familiar line which is now taken by some fairly strong voices within the academic profession of classics itself, who feel that the toxic, conservative, discriminatory, past and possibly present, of classics as a discipline is so toxic that unless the subject completely reforms itself, it will be better off destroyed. Now, whatever you think of that position, if you're addressing the question of the point of Classics now and I mean Classics as an

academic discipline of study, you can't avoid thinking about that so-called toxicity, its elitism and its discriminatory aspects.



Kennedy discovers the gerund and leads it back into captivity.

This cartoon sums up the position in a rather more light-hearted way. It comes from the series of 1950s and 1960s books for kids with the antihero Nigel Molesworth, a lad who resolutely refuses to be moulded into elite shape, even though he is force fed Latin at his terribly third-rate public school, St Custards. In it, we see Benjamin Paul Kennedy, the author of the most famous Latin grammar book of the 19th century, which was actually ghost-written by his daughters. He's dressed here as an imperial-style explorer, capturing that trickiest bit of Latin grammar, the gerund, here reimagined as an exotic animal and as the caption says, 'leading the gerund back into captivity'. It's the perfect triangulation of imperialism, the Latin language, and because although Molesworth was a rebel, he was still a toff, class.

It goes without saying that in some ways Classics has been, and some would say in respects still is guilty as charged, a knowledge of Greek and Latin really used to be the gatekeeper of elite privilege. It was not until 1960 that

Latin ceased to be an entry requirement for Oxford and Cambridge, and it was only after the First World War that the compulsory Greek requirement was abolished, following huge arguments both in Oxford and in Cambridge that stretched over decades. It partly came down to the appalling brute fact that the young posh boys just learned the translation of their set texts off by heart, and so it wasn't a test of Greek at all, but of expensive, privileged rote learning. It was doing no intellectual good whatsoever. I looked at a few papers from these exams a few weeks ago, and they say in the instructions to candidates to keep as close to the translation as you can. They ask them to translate the Greek New Testament, and they say that the candidate is advised to stick close to the authorised version. Well, that means they read the authorised version, learnt it and spotted the passage. So, you can see why the radicals at Oxford and Cambridge thought this was totally worthless. You got that kind of sense of the British elite of the past using Classics as an entry mechanism.

You might also argue that class privilege was actually written into the name of the subject itself because there

But leaving aside the name of the subject, there's no doubt that, Classics, particularly languages at school and university, still carry around some of that burden of elitism.

is an undeniable etymological link between Classics and class. The term Classics comes from a second century AD Roman antiquarian called Aulus Gellius who adapted a term that had long in Rome been used to describe the formal hierarchies of Roman wealth and status, social, economic, or whatever. He took that literal class vocabulary to denote also the best or the classiest kind of literature. Classics, in other words, has not just been defined as posh, the very word classics originally meant posh. Now it's for that reason that some of my colleagues would like to change the title of the subject entirely to call it Ancient World Studies or whatever. I've always felt rather laid back about this. Most people in the world have never heard of Aulus Gellius and when I tell people on trains that I'm studying Classics, I always find it quite a relief that they think that I work on Jane Austen and Charles Dickens and things like that. It makes for generally better train journeys, so I'm happy with Classics.

But leaving aside the name of the subject, there's no doubt that Classics, particularly languages at school and university, still carry around some of that burden of elitism. Now, thanks to a huge amount of work done by colleagues, who are busting a gut to get Latin and Greek and ancient civilization firmly embedded in the school curriculum and made available to all, this is changing, but there's still a lot more to do. I'm going to let my prejudices show here. Every time some parliamentary fop opens his mouth and spouts Latin, that de-poshification project take several steps backwards. It's not just about elite gatekeeping, but it's also about the authoritarian, militaristic and far-right causes that have found legitimation in the study of the ancient world and which somehow the subject

can sometimes seem to be complicit. Benito Mussolini in Italy conscripted the images of Roman emperors to his fascist movement, and he cleverly deployed, as you can see here with the Colosseum in the background, the monuments of ancient Rome as backdrops to his own ceremonial extravaganzas.

He also paid for the excavation of many of the ancient Roman monuments that we as tourists now flock to the Altare della Patria, the Circus Maximus and much more. You can't just write Mussolini out of the history of ancient Rome. He has provided the ancient Rome that we now see. And it's also certainly true that the British Empire did on occasion look back to the Roman Empire as its legitimating predecessor. And modern far right groups have invested heavily in what they see as a powerful Western and white classical tradition. I'm going a lot further to the right than Jacob Rees-Mogg to a



number of openly white supremacist movements which often parade highly inaccurate versions of their classical ancestors. But to move to a European group, here are two posters that I found on the web whose message is pretty plain. The culture of European identity: Europa is classical, and white.

It will perhaps come as no surprise that the people who put out this kind of propaganda are very resistant to the fact that much, if not most, of ancient marbles culture was not originally white at all, but brightly painted in colours, all sorts. They're so resistant that they recently threatened death to one young American scholar who had fairly simply laid out the clear arguments for classical sculpture being painted. And it was no doubt some of the same guys who smothered me with abuse online for saying that this image was a not implausible image of an elite Roman family, in Roman Britain, there being good evidence for the presence of people of colour in the province of Great Britain. That was very hard for quite a lot of these guys to take. In fact, I think our recent bio archaeology in Roman Britain is an extremely powerful antidote to the not uncommon fantasy that no black person ever came here until the 1950s. There's quite a lot of really old evidence now.

As a classicist, how do you counter that? How do you respond to that version of the subject's toxic history? Well, one simple way is to point out that this is only one side of the story. It's true that the classical tradition and classical scholarship itself has been linked to some very nasty things and that we don't always really realise exactly quite how it's been linked. It comes as a shock to many people to discover that one of the 'best' in inverted commas and still the most popular books on Roman everyday life, which is Jérôme

As a classicist, how do you counter that? How do you respond to that version of the subject's toxic history? Well, one simple way is to point out that this is only one side of the story.

Carcopino's *Daily Life in Ancient Rome*, was written by a paid-up fascist, the Minister of Education in Vichy France, who excluded all Jews from French academies. And when you know that is what he was and you read his everyday life, it doesn't half jump out at you. But he's still blithely being read as if it's political past meant nothing.

But the checklist on the other side of this argument is just as striking. Ask people what subject Karl Marx's doctoral dissertation was on? Well, Greek philosophy! What underpins Freudian psychoanalysis? Greek myth. The 1832 Great Reform Act, which vastly extended the franchise in England and Wales, was partly driven by historians of Athenian democracy such as George Grote, who saw in Athenian democracy a model for what you could do here. As a project about Classics and class directed by Edith Hall in London has shown, there is also a radical working class tradition of conscripting classical symbols to working class causes. Here is a nice Hercules strangling a snake, presiding over a plea for the end of destitution, prostitution and exploitation.

British Trade Union movements in general looked back to the plebeians struggles in the early Roman Republic in the fifth century BC as a model, for example, for their own withdrawal of labour. Rome, in other words, for them, legitimated the concept of a strike. Now, obviously, you can't do a scorecard here. You can't check out the good versus bad uses of Classics, even supposing we could agree what the good and the bad were. But it is a reminder that Classics, despite what you sometimes hear, does not intrinsically have a politics. I don't think that any academic subject, with the possible exception of women's studies, does have a politics. It may, as MacNiece nicely explores, become politicised. It can be used politically, and we need to attend to those uses, but it does not of itself intrinsically have its own politics. That point, I think, significantly complexifies the idea of just how toxic Classics has been. It's a complex story that I want to push a bit further. In exploring the relationship of Classics to the British Empire, a relationship which has been frankly

over mythologised. I think classicists are extremely good at studying Greek myth, but they're not always so good at studying the myths that they propagate of their own subject.

Part of the strength of Classics, I'm going to hint, lies and lay in its own ambivalences about itself and its role about exactly what it's for and what it is. The blokey self confidence that MacNiece picked up certainly exists, but it's always been balanced by a sense of fragility about what this subject was all about and what its place should be. It's worth remembering if you want just a single illustration of that, that 120 or so years ago, what we would have thought the high watermark of classical dominance in the education system of this country, the gents of Oxford and Cambridge in London were getting together to found the National Classical Association, which still exists. Why were they doing that? Because they thought the subject was in imminent danger of extinction unless they launched a crusading organisation to protect and preserve it. There is, I think, an embedded nostalgia in Classics, that every generation of people who study the ancient world always believe that A) it's going down the tubes and B) their predecessors did it better. Neither of those claims are true.

Once again, it would be absolutely wrong to deny that there were close connections between British imperialism and the Roman predecessor, or between nineteenth century constructions of its right-wing predecessor, because there's always a circularity here. Nineteenth century scholars and politicians both took the Roman Empire as their model, and they reinvented Rome in order to fit their own picture of what they were doing. It's not as simple as it seems. It went far beyond things that we're familiar

My basic point is that in our hunt for toxicity, we miss the fragilities and the ambivalences and the other side of this subject. We hear those awful blustering of Jowett, but we don't stop to think why he was shouting so loud.

with; representing the British Imperial Mission as if it were Roman, are two nice examples from the Foreign Office, representing themselves as Roman soldiers or comparing British failures in the Boer War to the disastrous Athenian expedition to Sicily in the fifth century BC. It went beyond that! For Benjamin Jowett of Balliol, it was pre-eminently those who were trained as classicists, and preferably at Oxford, who were uniquely equipped to govern the empire. It was another version of the triangulation between classical education, class and empire that we saw in the Molesworth cartoon and Jowett binged on about it at every possible opportunity.

Yet that summary, true as it is, obscures the complexities of the interrelationships here. For a start, the British and Roman empires made a very awkward fit. History put them on different sides. That is symbolically hammered home by this most famous, in-your-face monument to the British Empire in all of London: the statue of Boudica on the Thames embankment. Boudica, the rebel against the Romans, who has an inscription underneath her, taken from Cowper's earlier poem, chillingly proclaiming that her descendants would rule more territory than the Romans ever had.

"Regions Caesar never knew/
Thy posterity shall sway"

It seems to me it was a very good encapsulation of the awkwardness of fit between us and the Romans. Here we're envisaging ourselves as British rebels against Rome. What's more, the idea that classicists were ideal rulers of an empire was actually a highly contested one. Sometimes, in truth, what was euphemistically named the Indian civil service, as people said at the time was neither India nor civil nor service. Sometimes entry into the Indian civil

service was dominated by those who had studied Classics, particularly here. Sometimes the rules for entry to the Indian civil service were actually framed in order to exclude Oxford classicists. When Jowett said about classicists, the only people who had studied Latin and Greek, being the only people who were suited for the governance of the Empire, he was not, as we sometimes naively take it, stating the bleeding obvious. He was tendentially responding to those who thought the exact opposite. The last people he wanted to send out to India were people who'd studied philosophy. The irony is, although it's much less well-known, that while Jowett and one part of Oxford was busy trying to recruit Oxford classicists to serve the empire, CP Scott, who himself studied Classics and went on to be editor of *The Manchester Guardian*, the most powerful anti-imperial paper in the country, was trying to Hoover up classicists to get them to use their classical training to denounce the empire. He wanted those who knew their second century Roman historian Tacitus, who, in referring to the behaviour of the Romans in the province of Britain, coined the best description of imperialism ever: 'They make a desert and they call it peace'. Something that we're still doin, I might say.

So, a debate going on here is not a simple, taken for granted, well-known truth that empire and Classics go together. My basic point is that in our hunt for toxicity, we miss the fragilities and the ambivalences and the other side of this subject. We hear those awful blusterings of Jowett, but we don't stop to think why he was shouting so loud. An unconventional view as I think it would be, I would locate the strength, and in some ways part of the point and the longevity of Classics, is precisely in its uncertainties, its anxieties and

its very well-developed skills in self-flagellation and self-criticism. MacNiece, in making his criticisms, was writing as a professional classicist. Some of those areas of fragility remain fairly consistent. What do we study the ancient world for? Who do we open this subject to? On what terms? But the contours also change. MacNiece in 1938 would probably not recognise the area that has rightly come to the top of our list of anxieties, the lack of ethnic diversity within the subject. I know of no one in Classics or I think in Oxford actually who is not keenly aware of that not only with relation to maths and greats, but also in relation to many other subjects. I know of nobody in classics who is not aware of it and is also not committed to diversifying it both in the interests of fairness and in the interests of a subject that is a better subject, and more enjoyable. It's one of God's better traits that the more fair an institution is, the more fun it is to be in and the more interesting it is to be in. The idea of diversity is not simply about fairness, it's about a better subject for everybody. And that's easy to say, but the question is how? And the answer to how takes me

back finally to one of the topics that I've already touched on.

One answer people say to how you make a subject that looks more representative of Britain now than Classics does, is to say we should expand the territorial range of Classics away from just northern European lands and the shores of the Mediterranean to include Africa and further east on the grounds that making the subject of study look less white European would be more attractive to those who were not a white European inheritance.

Now I think there might be very good reasons for extending the territorial area that Classics covers. What people call the Greco-Roman world and Greco-Roman subjects has got pretty fuzzy boundaries. They've expanded and contracted over time. No one has ever quite agreed whether Egypt was for Egyptologists or whether Roman Egypt was for classicists and so forth. And there are some expansions, as Joe Quinn recently pointed out that to me are no brainers. I, for one, am extremely pleased that we no longer teach our students about the Greco Persian wars in the fifth century BC expecting them to know nothing about Persia at all, as

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if we were to teach the origins of the Second World War without only looking at England.

But I worry that in that kind of logic that we're falling into a trap that is set by the half-baked ill-informed tirades of the alt-right who claim to see their white selves reflected in the Greco-Roman world. You don't escape a trap simply by deciding to hold up the mirror to somebody else. You might think that the mirror needs to be reformed. Now, this hit home a few months ago when there was another typical storm on social media about the BBC choice of a black actor to play Achilles in their I have to say, not very good drama, about the Trojan war. How can you steal our Achilles? Was the message of many complaints. For me, there was an obvious bottom line answer to this: Achilles didn't exist, so really no one could hope to play him! My colleague Tim Whitmarsh wrote a blog essay that pushed those points in a more sophisticated direction. It looked at how ancients saw, described and signified colour. He insisted that ancient and modern colour does not match, and that you could not map it onto each other. You can't take a colour description of Zeus' hair and say he can't be blonde. There is no match between those two. The whole point about Achilles was that whatever his non-existent skin colour was, and I say non-existent because he's actually as fictional as Paddington

Bear, he was outside those categories and those significances that we assume to be natural that Achilles is alien. He is strange. He is different from what we take to be the basic coordinates of our world. And that is his point.

What I'm saying is that it is a false promise to suggest that anybody at all can find themselves in the ancient world. That's just one reason why the alt-right are wrong. For me, what it tells us is that if we want as we must, to diversify the subject, insist even more firmly than we do, that despite the counterclaims, nobody owns Classics, however you define it. No one's identities can be found in the ancient world. This is not a place for identity politics. The classical world is a mirror to nobody. To put that more positively, one of the greatest and mind-changing intellectual rewards of studying the classical world is that it is simultaneously familiar because it is in some way embedded in modern discursive practices, and simultaneously so strange. But it turns us into analysts and anthropologists, not only of it, but of ourselves. Classics in a kind of slogany way, is always about all of us and about none of us. That is why it can have and must have diverse appeal and why we can learn from it, as I would like to have said to little kids in the Coliseum or to return to the text of my sermon, as MacNiece put it, 'it was all so unimaginably different and all so long ago' and that's its point.

A TRIBUTE TO BARONESS MARY WARNOCK

Professor Peter Millican



Baroness Mary Warnock began her long association with Hertford College in 1971 when her husband Geoffrey was elected Principal, in which office he remained until 1988. This was a transformative period, during which the college became one of the first five mixed colleges (1974), and rose to near the top of the Norrington Table, thanks to the impact of the Tanner Scheme (which had started in the late 1960s). This period also brought new buildings (notably Holywell Quad in 1975), sounder finances, and Simpkin the cat. Sir Geoffrey Warnock died in 1995, but Mary remained closely associated with Hertford, and was elected to an

Honorary Fellowship in 1997. She died on 20 March 2019, after a long and productive life whose richness is hard to convey in a brief obituary.

Helen Mary Wilson was born in Winchester on 14 April 1924, the seventh child of a housemaster at Winchester College who died before her birth. Her mother, Ethel, was daughter of Sir Felix Schuster, a banker and Liberal politician, but Mary was brought up mostly by the family nanny until she went as a boarder to St Swithun's School in Winchester (and later to Prior's Field School near Guildford, when St Swithun's temporarily closed owing to fear of the Luftwaffe). In 1942 she went up to study Literae Humaniores at LMH, graduating with a First in 1948, her studies having been interrupted by two years of teaching at Sherborne Girls' School (as an alternative to war service). In 1949, having taken the BPhil in just one year, she was appointed as Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy at St Hugh's College, and married fellow philosopher Geoffrey Warnock. He too had graduated with a First in Literae Humaniores in 1948 (from New College), and likewise won a fellowship in 1949 (by examination, at Magdalen College). He was eight months older than Mary, but his studies at Oxford had been delayed until 1945 by service in the Irish Guards.

Mary was the first married fellow at St Hugh's, and soon became also the

first with children, giving birth to three daughters and two sons between 1950 and 1961. She remained at St Hugh's until 1966, after which she spent six years as Headmistress of Oxford High School for Girls. Meanwhile, Geoffrey became Fellow and Tutor in philosophy first at Brasenose (in 1950), and then back at Magdalen (from 1953), before being appointed Principal of Hertford in 1971. This led Mary to relinquish her full-time career, turning back to Philosophy in the role of Talbot Research Fellow at her old college LMH (1972-76). From 1976 until 1984, she was Senior Research Fellow at St Hugh's, and then in 1984 was elected as Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, where she stayed until 1991.

At Hertford, Mary played the role of Principal's wife with characteristic aplomb, as recalled by Esther Jeapes (PPE, 1987): 'At functions in the Lodgings, Mary was very good at putting everyone at ease. She was very engaging and interested in what we younger members of college had to say.' She had no formal teaching duties, of course, but early on she helped look after some students while the Philosophy Tutor, Richard Malpas, was on sabbatical leave (building a house, I am told!). And after the college went mixed, she was particularly appreciated as a tutor by female students. Carrie Gracie (PPE, 1981) recalls: 'Baroness Warnock tutored me for moral philosophy in the second year. I made a special request and – miraculously – it was granted. I think she was the only female teacher that I had in three years. And what a brilliant teacher she was. So wise, calm, funny, inquiring, surprising, patient – and so absolutely alive and open to every idea and perception. It was a great privilege to be her student.' She also tutored Christine Salmon (PPE, 1978) for Philosophy of Mind: 'I have the very fondest memories of Mary Warnock. She valued the

contribution of her students and showed that she valued it. She latched on to everything said that had the potential for exploration and learning, and made me feel appreciated and capable of interesting and creative thought. Her manner was kindly and respectful but also rigorous and challenging. She gave me enormous confidence, for which I shall be forever grateful.'

As she herself acknowledged, Mary was not strikingly original as a philosopher, but she was a gifted expositor, a strong believer in the virtues of clarity, and especially notable for her breadth of interest. Her 1960 book *Ethics since 1900* was still a firm favourite amongst undergraduates in my own day (late 1970s), and differed from most comparable books (including Geoffrey's *Contemporary Moral Philosophy of 1967*) by including – after discussion of the standard Oxford 'isms' (intuitionism, emotivism, prescriptivism) – full chapters on moral psychology and on Sartre's existentialism. The latter was then generally ignored in Oxford, viewed as pretentious and wilfully obscure. Mary went on to elucidate Sartre's thought for this somewhat unwilling audience in three books, starting with *The Philosophy of Sartre* in 1965, then *Existential Ethics* in 1967 (also covering Kierkegaard and Heidegger), and in 1970 *Existentialism*. As a result, she became the main supervisor for Oxford students wishing to study continental philosophers, something of an irony for the wife of a prominent advocate of 'ordinary language' Oxford philosophy. Apart from ethics and existentialism, her other main research area was philosophy of mind – especially bordering on issues of personal identity and aesthetics – in which she wrote the books *Imagination* (1976), *Memory* (1987), and *Imagination and Time* (1994). These brought in themes from well beyond traditional

analytical Philosophy, including from poetry, novels, autobiography, literary theory, and even religious traditions. Such richness makes them all the more interesting for non-specialists, though it perhaps hindered her influence within academic philosophy itself. On Oxford's faculty reading lists, of all her books only *The Philosophy of Sartre* features prominently today (under Post-Kantian Philosophy), while *Imagination* gets a mention under Aesthetics.

Where Mary Warnock truly excelled was as a public philosopher, advantageously bringing to this role her wide interests, her broad sympathies and fair-mindedness, and her willingness to engage patiently and carefully with opposing views, bringing clarity to confused debates. Her public appointments included membership of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (1972-84, chair from 1973-82), and a Royal Commission on environmental pollution (1979-84). She also chaired a Home Office committee on animal experimentation (1983-89), and an appraisal of the Royal Opera House (1993). But what she is most remembered for is her chairmanship of two extremely influential inquiries, one into the education of children with special needs (1974-78) and the other into human fertilisation and embryology (1982-84). The first of these concluded that so-called 'handicapped' children lay on a continuum, and should be treated as individuals with their own particular needs, rather than being consigned to fatalistic categories. It led to the reintegration of these children back into ordinary schools after the Education Act of 1981, though as Warnock later emphasised, 'the committee... never proposed that ... special schools should be abolished (*Telegraph*, 17 Sept 2010)' Sadly, financial issues came to dominate in the wake of the Thatcher cuts, and as part of this – to Warnock's frustration

– 'children's supposed special needs' became 'exaggerated and exploited in order to attract more money for schools'. Thus the legacy of her involvement with special needs education became a troubled one.

By contrast, the 1984 Warnock Report on Human Fertilisation & Embryology, later republished as *A Question of Life* (Blackwell, 1985), was an enduring success. In 1978, the first 'test-tube baby', Louise Brown, had been born as a result of in vitro fertilisation, bringing hope to many childless couples, but also provoking serious unease about where this could lead unless suitable safeguards were put in place. Research on embryos would be required to fulfil the potential of these new techniques, and also carried the promise of much wider medical benefits (eg through better understanding of stem cells). But prominent religious groups were fundamentally opposed, taking the view that human life was sacred from the moment of conception, and not to be used for research purposes. The Warnock Committee came up with an ingenious compromise, allowing research only for the first 14 days after fertilisation, on the basis that the 'primitive streak' – the first identifiable stage in the formation of a specific embryo – develops from around 15 days. My impression at the time was that most philosophers considered this something of a fudge, since it attributed moral significance to a development that is still a long way from sentience of any kind, let alone distinctively human awareness. But in context it was a clever move, because primitive streak formation marks the point at which individuality is defined, in the sense that splitting of the embryonic disc (followed by development of identical twins) becomes impossible. And although the report tactfully avoids mentioning souls at all, the possibility of twinning

puts serious pressure on the idea that 'ensoulment' could already have occurred at some earlier stage. Thus some potential religious objections, based on the idea that the human soul is created at conception, were subtly undermined. Not surprisingly, the 14-day limit was controversial in both directions, but it was enshrined in the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act and has since been widely seen as a sensible compromise, massively influential both in the UK and internationally.

Some philosophers are committed to following their favoured principles wherever they might lead. Mary Warnock's approach was quite different, with a sensitivity to different points of view, modesty of approach, and willingness to compromise. In 1991, I helped organise a conference on Philosophical Ethics in Reproductive Medicine, inviting her to speak specifically on 'The Philosopher's Role in Ethical Debate', with Richard Hare – emeritus White's Professor of Moral Philosophy and my erstwhile Oxford supervisor – also an invited speaker. The contrast in their approaches comes out in the resulting book (*Ethics in Reproductive Medicine*, Springer, 1992), with Warnock expressing scepticism about Hare's focus on 'the language of morals', and Hare rejoicing that Warnock's 'intuitionism' lacked arguments that could provide 'much in the way of reasons for [her conclusions] which would stand up'. My own contribution (on *The Complex Problem of Abortion*) attempted to reach some middle ground by developing a compromise position that could avoid the dominant extremes and appeal to various parties through rational argument, despite the significant divergence in their premises. Finding a way through these sorts of

difficulties remains a pressing need, for in our pluralist society it is essential to reach some ethical – or at least legal – consensus, even about issues that are hugely controversial. Another such area is artificial intelligence and its applications, now a major focus in Oxford with the impending foundation of the Schwartzman Institute for AI Ethics. Artificial intelligence would barely have registered as an ethical concern in 1984, but it is a mark of Mary Warnock's influence that her work has frequently been mentioned in connection with this new initiative. Through her success in reaching widespread practical and respected consensus, even where philosophical agreement is lacking, she continues to provide a model for how to lead public debate on controversial matters.

Mary Warnock's life was conspicuously productive and successful, bringing many honours. Amongst these, in 1984 she was appointed as Dame Commander (DBE), and in 1985 created a life peer, subsequently sitting as Baroness Warnock of Weeke in the Lords until 2015. In 2017 she was made Companion of Honour. There is much more that could be said about her, and I would strongly recommend those who are interested to consult some of the rich resources on the internet, including Andrew Brown's article 'The Practical Philosopher' (*Guardian* profile, 19 July 2003), and Jane O'Grady's insightful obituary (*Guardian*, 21 March 2019), not to mention a wide range of interviews, including a BBC Radio 3 transcript from 2007, a BBC Radio 4 *Meeting Myself Coming Back* from 2014 (recently repeated), and a number of short *Philosophy Bites* podcasts which give the opportunity to experience her as a teacher.

JEREMY HEYWOOD: THE GREATEST PUBLIC SERVANT OF OUR TIME

Principal Will Hutton



Westminster Abbey on 20 June 2019 was full to overflowing – 2000 of the great, good, citizens at large and the occasional college Principal had turned out to celebrate the life and public contribution of Jeremy Heywood, Lord Heywood of Whitehall. Ex-ministers and senior officials jostled with opposition MPs, businessmen and women, leading academics, think-tankers, journalists, writers and representatives of our top NGOs. Yes, being cabinet secretary is a fulcrum job in the British Civil Service. But nobody in my recollection has ever won such accolades, respect and general affection as Jeremy Heywood.

He served four prime ministers (or, as

they joked, *they served him*): Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Cameron and Theresa May. All spoke movingly about Whitehall's greatest broker, solution finder and creative crisis manager, as did former deputy prime minister Nick Clegg. Gordon Brown caught the mood to general laughter: 'In May 2010 I left a handwritten note to David Cameron saying something like "The country is in good hands, Jeremy is running it"'. But Conservative successors were no less effusive. Mrs May said in her tribute that he was 'the greatest public servant of our time. He was not just an extraordinary adviser but an extraordinary doer. Nothing stopped him until he found a solution. Whatever the issue was, Jeremy always sorted it'.

But he was, as his predecessor Lord Gus O'Donnell declared, so much more. In his private life he was not only a party-lover but a committed family man, finding time to be present with his three children, however distracted by public affairs. Their love for their father came through in their moving tribute. Professionally he championed an independent and impartial civil service that is justly ranked as number one in the world. He also loved Bob Dylan – hence the strains of 'Don't Think Twice it's Alright', sung by Cerys Matthews, echoing around the pillars, choir stalls and vaulted ceiling of the abbey. It was, in short, quite an occasion.

But Jeremy was also devoted to his old college. Of course he came to his year's Gaudy – but he also held seminars and workshops, freely discussing public policy issues with our students and urging them to consider a career in public service. Not the best-paid option, perhaps, but the inherent interest and importance of the work more than compensated for that. It was vital to be able to look yourself in the mirror in the morning and feel that what you were going to do with your life was worthwhile and honorable. On one occasion he commissioned a group of students from the then Hertford Business and Economics Society to do a piece of work on how work-life balance and diversity could be better promoted in the Civil Service. The team did the interviews, read the literature and worked hard on a presentation to be given to the great man in the cabinet office. They trooped in, hearts in their mouths. Jeremy – shirt-sleeved, smiling and casual – put them at their ease immediately. He had insisted that half a dozen of his senior officials be present too. The students were heard out. He quizzed them – and they answered with an aplomb reinforced by the evidence of their eyes that their interlocutor was more than human, and very engaged. Excellent, he said. We will do some of that immediately. We stumbled out into the street – beers and wine all round in Whitehall's Red Lion for a toast to the cabinet secretary.

The outlines of Jeremy's career are well-known. After a first in History and Economics he joined the Health and Safety Executive before quickly migrating to the Treasury, working alongside the young David Cameron advising Chancellor Nigel Lamont during the ERM crisis. While undertaking a review of the Treasury's functions, he met his greatly loved Suzanne, whom he was soon to marry. He was appointed Principal Private Secretary to Tony Blair, becoming the peace-maker with Ed Balls in his troubled relationship

with Gordon Brown. A sojourn at Morgan Stanley ended with his being coaxed back to Downing Street by Brown, with David Cameron making him Cabinet Secretary in 2012 and head of the Civil Service in 2014 – a role he continued under Teresa May. And all along the way he was pivotal in keeping the ship of state moving forward through a variety of difficulties, including the financial crisis of 2008.

His prescience was eerie. He told me that during the purdah of the 2015 General Election campaign he had used the time not only to think through how Britain could hold a constitutional convention, but also commissioned briefing papers on all the major issues that might achieve some consensus. Those papers and that work will someday be disinterred – and be very useful to another generation.

Diagnosed with cancer at a cruelly early age, he was in touch with work right to the very end. He had been very apprehensive about the referendum, confiding his feelings about the likely economic and political damage honestly in one of his visits to my study. He was right. Nor was he optimistic that Mrs May could negotiate a deal that would be sellable to the House of Commons – his political antennae as acute as ever even days before he died. It was his successor Sir Mark Sedwill who said at Westminster Abbey, 'we will miss him more than we can say'. He could not be more right. A great public servant – and a great Hertfordian.

The Cabinet Office has established the Heywood Fellowship based at Hertford College and the Blavatnik School of Government. Supported by the Heywood Foundation created by Suzanne, the first fellow – Sir Oliver "Olly" Robbins – began at Hertford in September. We are delighted to have him and look forward to many more Heywood Fellows in the years ahead.

RESEARCHING THE HISTORY OF THE TANNER SCHEME

Professor Lawrence Goldman

When the principal contacted me to ask if I would write the history of Hertford's Tanner Scheme I was not completely in the dark. As Tutor for Admissions in St. Peter's in the early 1990s I'd heard about Hertford 'doing its own thing' in the not too distant past. But what came to mind first was a meeting long ago, when I was between school and university, with a young man about to go to Hertford who explained to me that he had won his place on the basis of an interview and a 'two E' offer only. In my case – then the norm – I had returned to school after my A-levels to take entrance examinations in profusion to win a place (at 'the other place', Cambridge). After spending several months tracing the history of the Tanner Scheme in archives in Hertford, other Oxford colleges, and in the University's own collection of papers, I now understand and also applaud Hertford's famous experiment in undergraduate admissions.

The Tanner Scheme will be familiar to many readers. In the mid-1960s, at a time when most undergraduates entered Oxford and Cambridge following examinations and interviews after A-levels in their seventh term of the sixth form, Hertford targeted grammar and the new comprehensive schools where 'staying on' was impossible and

encouraged applications from them. The college began to admit some students on the basis of strong school references and an interview in September at the start of their A-level year. The scheme lasted for 20 years until 1985, during which time approximately 500 undergraduates came to the college in this way. By giving places to students who would not otherwise have applied to Oxford it helped transform not only their lives but also Hertford itself, which literally shot from the bottom to the top of the Norrington Table inside 15 years, winning a reputation as an open, accessible, unfussy and socially-inclusive college which it retains to this day (and which is borne out by all measures and statistics).

So much is well-known. But what else does my research show? These are some of the highlights.

First, Hertford was not the only Oxford college to target grammar schools without any tradition of sending pupils to Oxford and built its Tanner Scheme on slightly earlier experiments which drew students to Oxford from the West Riding of Yorkshire and Northumberland. Merton, St. Catherine's and University College were linked together in a scheme to admit pre-A-level students from Yorkshire; Wadham took two students a year in this way from Northumberland



Inner London Education Authority. These schemes were small and tentative, depended on personal relationships, and did not bring very many students to Oxford. It was the distinction of the Tanner Scheme to expand the numbers admitted to a single college to 25 per year approximately, and to open the procedure to all comers from any school in the land.

Second, although the scheme was known as the Tanner Scheme after Neil Tanner, Hertford's Physics tutor, it depended on the college fellowship as a whole. Neil was a charismatic, chain-smoking Aussie who was Tutor for Admissions when the scheme was introduced and also for a lengthy period in the scheme's later years. But other fellows deserve special mention like Peter Ganz, fellow and tutor in German, who helped devise the procedures; Brian Steer, mathematician; Keith McLauchlan, Chemistry tutor; and, towards the end of the scheme, John Torrance, Politics tutor. Without the support of successive principals, Robert

Hall and Geoffrey Warnock, relations with the rest of the University might have become unmanageable.

For this is the third point: the Tanner Scheme was very controversial and Tanner's skills as an academic negotiator and University pugilist were required at many stages to keep Hertford ahead of an angry pack of colleges. Introduced in 1965 on a small scale, the scheme went unnoticed for some time. But in 1969 when Hertford advertised it openly, the other colleges ganged-up and for two years Hertford struggled to be allowed to keep the experiment running, and to expand the numbers admitted each year through these novel methods. Colleges felt that Hertford was taking an unfair advantage and confusing potential entrants by adding another mode of entry to a procedure that was already quite complex enough. Later, at the scheme's end, when Hertford showed recurrent signs of wanting to

First, Hertford was not the only Oxford college to target grammar schools without any tradition of sending pupils to Oxford and built its Tanner Scheme on slightly earlier experiments which drew students to Oxford from the West Riding of Yorkshire and Northumberland.

The Tanner Scheme proved so successful in drawing talent into Hertford that by the end of the 1970s, when Hertford was riding high, other colleges began their own 'pre-A-level schemes' based on Hertford's example.

interpret in its own way new, cross-collegiate arrangements, it faced similar opposition.

Yet this opposition must be set against a fourth finding. Despite their initial opposition, many colleges eventually adopted Hertford's special procedures themselves. The Tanner Scheme proved so successful in drawing talent into Hertford that by the end of the 1970s, when Hertford was riding high, other colleges began their own 'pre-A-level schemes' based on Hertford's example. By 1982, ten colleges were allocating some places on this basis, and another four colleges had indicated that they would also follow suit. It was at this point that the University announced the establishment of the Dover Committee,

chaired by the President of Corpus Christi College, Sir Kenneth Dover, to overhaul the admissions system. The Dover reforms, operative from 1986, made pre-A level applications the norm, though left open post-A level admission as well, and form the basis of the admissions procedures still in operation today. Ironically, therefore, the Tanner Scheme was not simply the controversial brainchild of a college that had declared independence from the rest; in its very success it led to the reform of the whole Oxford admissions system which thereafter adopted the key characteristic of the Tanner Scheme: that students could be admitted before and not after their A-levels so that all schools might present candidates for Oxford.

One other noteworthy finding coming out of the archives will put to rest a legend about the motivation of the Tanner Scheme: without doubt, it was primarily driven by the desire of a group of young and newly-appointed fellows to improve the academic intake and standing of Hertford rather than to deliberately change the social basis of the college. The Tanner Scheme traces its origins to the establishment of an ad hoc 'Academic Standards Committee' in the college in 1964 to consider how best to raise Hertford's academic performance. The Norrington Table was more important than diversity, in short. But this should neither be surprising nor disheartening: in institutional as well as personal life we often do the most good accidentally or without really trying.

That Hertford did indeed 'do good' through its Tanner Scheme was made very evident to me when I looked through the recollections of students who had been admitted in this manner. Their comments, volunteered in 2015 to the Tanner celebrations on the 50th anniversary of the scheme, and in the 38 questionnaires which Tanner alumni sent back to me, are all the proof required to demonstrate the significance of the scheme for individuals. What I hope I have shown in this study is the impact of the Tanner Scheme on the University as whole, and on the reform and modernisation of its procedures, which endure to this day.

The report entitled *The Tanner Scheme at Hertford College. Widening Access, Reforming Oxford 1965-1985* can be accessed on the college website.



Professor Lawrence Goldman is Senior Research Fellow, St. Peter's College, Oxford and author of *Dons and Workers: Oxford and Adult Education Since 1850* (OUP, 1995)

DISCOVERING UNSUNG HEROES OF SCIENCE

Dr Kathryn Boast

Science is full of stories, but some of them get told more often than others. Who has history forgotten? Whose work gets overlooked? Who has been left out of the textbooks? These are the unsung heroes of science and, from Alice Ball to Al-Zahrawi, we're bringing their stories to life.

Or at least, the next generation is. At Hertford, we're creating a stage for school students to discover and share these stories through our 'Unsung Heroes of Science' video competition, which we launched in spring 2019. Open to anyone in the UK aged 16–18, it is the first video competition for young people run by an Oxford college. Over a couple of months, more than 70 young people got involved with making videos about their unsung heroes of science, resulting in 30 fascinating explorations of under-appreciated scientists.

The idea for the competition grew from some comments in a girls-in-physics survey that Hertford ran, in which some girls studying A-level Physics suggested that their curriculum was very male-dominated as a result of the historical context of the subject. The competition was conceived of as a way to explore interesting scientists who may not fit the trope of the Einsteins who fill our schoolbooks. We hope that by showcasing lesser-known scientists we can provide role models and inspiration

for those who don't see themselves in the usual science and scientists they learn in school. In addition, by siting the competition within an Oxford college, we are also demonstrating that Hertford and Oxford value and celebrate those whose stories sit outside the usual narrative. Finally, the competition brief is very open – simply to create a two-minute video about an 'unsung' scientist. It thus provides a space for bridging the divide between creativity and science in school.

We were blown away by the submissions we received, and overjoyed to learn about so many new scientists – even our science outreach officer picked up a few new stories! The videos are also highly creative, spanning everything from hand-drawn pictures and digital animations to acting and shadow puppets. We shortlisted our favourites, and handed over the top 20 videos to Professor Alison Woollard, our judge for the competition. Alison is a biochemist, Hertford College fellow and Oxford University's Academic Champion for Public Engagement with Research, all of which made her perfectly placed to pick out the prize winners. First prize was to spend time shadowing Hertford alumnus Krishnan Guru-Murthy behind the scenes at *Channel 4 News* – so it was certainly a prize worth fighting for!



We would like to congratulate everyone who took the time to enter – we loved watching all of the videos! We're also very pleased to announce that we will be running the competition again in 2020.

The 20 shortlisted teams were all invited to spend a day in Hertford in July to celebrate their success and find out who had won. As well as taking part in the awards ceremony, the young people uncovered some scientific treasures from our rare books collection with Alice Roques, our librarian, and explored the college with current students. As an extra element of competition, they also undertook a scientific selfie scavenger hunt around the city, and enjoyed a sunny afternoon tea in the quad.

Brother and sister Kairul and Tasnia Choudhury took first place in the competition with their eye-opening

video about the tenth century Muslim surgeon Al-Zahrawi. The pair travelled down from Preston to collect their award, while the second-place team had a rather shorter journey from Cherwell School in Oxford. Toby Saunders and Daniel Treuherz's quirky film featuring the astronomer Caroline Herschel also won the Audience Award for most-watched video. Third prize went to Adeola Oni and Olaoluwa Dada from Cranbrook School in Kent whose beautiful video celebrates pioneering African-American chemist Alice Ball.

All of the shortlisted videos are on the Hertford College website at www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/unsungscience and are well worth a watch. Overall, the videos have already been viewed more than 20,000 times! We are currently creating a resource for teachers based around the videos so that these amazing science stories can reach even more people. Maybe someone somewhere will see themselves in one of these side-lined scientists and find a new source of inspiration.

We would like to congratulate everyone who took the time to enter – we loved watching all of the videos! We're also very pleased to announce that we will be running the competition again in 2020, where we will undoubtedly discover another brilliant set of talented film-makers and unsung heroes of science.



EQUALITIES WEEK AT HERTFORD

Grace Davis (PPE, 2017)



Oxford has a reputation for being white, middle class, and dominated by people from non-minority backgrounds. When I first came to Oxford, I was worried about the stereotypes I had heard of Oxford, and I was concerned whether I would ever be able to truly fit in here. However, events such as Equalities Week proved to me that Oxford can be a place for people like me.

As an openly lesbian woman from a working class background, it was a relief to find that there were people like me at Hertford. This is in no doubt partially due to the way in which we embrace and celebrate equality here at Hertford – a celebration which happens all year round, but particularly in equalities week. This is why Equalities Week is so important: to remind members of minority groups that they are welcome in a university which has to work hard not to appear hostile.

Equalities Week has become an annual event in Hertford, which

brings together the equal opportunity committee to organise events for people who are BME, LGBTQ+, women*, or who have a disability. Events are held such as speakers and discussion panels, socials, and formals. The events serve the purpose of highlighting some of the problems for minority groups in Oxford, and discussions of how these can be improved, as well as providing members of Hertford College a chance to celebrate the differences between one another, and at the same time the things which bring us together.

One of the biggest successes of Equalities Week, and the thing I am most proud of from this week, was the women*s formal. For this event we had the hall booked out, and Hertford women* read out speeches about what it means to be a woman* at Hertford. The women*s formal felt so special because of the sense of solidarity that could be felt within the hall. This event was so successful that the women*s formal became a termly event. We also held events such as a board game night with Hertford Disabilities, where our disabilities rep gave a talk on disabilities in Oxford with snacks and board game, a self-care night, and a screening of the movie *Pride*. The screening felt particularly special to me, as the movie discusses Wales, trade unionism and LGBTQ+ rights in one film, three things

which are important to me as a Welsh, working class member of the LGBTQ+ community.

As well as events organised by the equalities committee, there were displays in the chapel organised by Mia, the college chaplain, in combination with Hertford for the Homeless, and the opportunity to give to the college-organised charity. We also had a jigsaw of lots of different groups of Hertfordians. People were invited to place in a piece of the jigsaw until the puzzle was complete. The end result was aimed at showing all the different people who study at Hertford, and the Hertford community we hold in such importance.

The overall message from Equalities Week was that people from Hertford will do so much to promote equality,

but that there is so much more needed to do. Equality is a hard-fought thing, and Oxford will never be the perfect bastion of equality, but events such as Hertford's Equalities Week serves as an important step in the right direction.

Hertford feels like an accepting place to be a minority in, but, as is always the case, there are things to be learnt even by a college as progressive as Hertford. These include considerations of accessibility for disabled people, support for working class students, such as stopping the imposition of financial penalties, and a bit more understanding between the college and the students about the difficulties involved in being a member of a minority group in Oxford. However, despite this, I feel more accepted than I ever have been, here at Hertford.

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WHY THE BRITISH KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT IRISH HISTORY ...AND HOW HERTFORD IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Professor Ian McBride

When asked by a journalist if he was an Englishman, Samuel Beckett is supposed to have replied 'Au contraire'. The notion that Irishness might be defined in opposition to England hardly comes as a surprise. The Anglo-Irish relationship has been the dominant theme of most Irish historical writing. It is difficult to understand modern Ireland without understanding modern Britain, too. In contrast, as the Princeton-based historian Linda Colley has shown, when a cohesive sense of British national identity developed during the eighteenth century, it was in opposition to ideas and images of the French – or, more generally, of Catholic Europe. Britain was at war with France for more than 60 years during the period between 1689 and 1815. Later generations of Britons would imagine themselves as pragmatic and liberal, in contradistinction to Europeans who seemed militaristic, idealistic or, at any rate, too excitable. It is hard to imagine an English playwright being asked if she was Irish, but even harder to imagine her responding 'on the contrary!'

I tell this story because I have been asked many times over the last year why it is that British people know so little about Irish history. I suspect that many

of my Oxford colleagues would hasten to point out that the British public doesn't know much about British history either. But my own response begins with the obvious asymmetry between the two islands. Size matters, particularly when size is measured in economic or military terms, where Ireland has never counted for much. (And it should by now be clear that this is one of those cases where we should really say 'England' rather than 'Britain'.)

The second and more interesting answer concerns what might be called the question of political legitimacy. Until very recently the English have enjoyed a sense of identity so secure as to be almost dormant. It has been easy to conflate the condition of being English with that of being normal. And the most puzzling problem about the rest of the world then becomes why so many neighbouring nations have diverged from the orderly processes of constitutional development allegedly favoured by Anglo-Saxons. As Herbert Butterfield put it in his wartime *The Englishman and his History* (1944), 'We do not have to set about the deliberate manufacture of a national consciousness, or to strain ourselves, like the Irish, in order to create a

'nationalism' out of the broken fragments of tradition'. With the basic shape of the nation-state apparently resolved by the seventeenth century, British historians were able to concentrate on proper history: the evolution of parliamentary government, the industrial revolution and the rise of class politics. Happily, these were all areas in which Britain was a world-leader, hence the remarkable prestige enjoyed by British historians in American universities in the post-war era of academic expansion. They were also areas in which Ireland was apparently marginal or anomalous. Irish history was consequently seen as a niche subject, of interest only to Irish immigrants and the odd Marxist.

We could of course put Butterfield's point the other way round: before 1922, the state in Ireland was not regarded as fully legitimate, violent rebellion was always viewed as justifiable by a minority, and the repression of rebels was likely to alienate public opinion. Charles Townshend's excellent book *The Republic: The Fight for Irish Independence 1918-1923* (2013) describes how British authority slipped away following the execution of the Easter rebels in 1916, and how the IRA erected a revolutionary counter-state. Townshend's conclusion wryly observes that the repressive actions of the new Irish free state were more violent than the British regime that preceded it (three times as many republican insurgents were executed). But it survived because it was the *Irish* free state. The English have not been troubled by such fundamental questions of legitimacy for a very long time now. That is one reason, I think, why they struggle to imagine what it might feel like to be stranded on the wrong side of a border, as happened to Northern Irish Catholics almost a century ago, in a state whose very existence was an

expression of protestant triumphalism; or to understand why Ulster Protestants feared the reversal of that situation. Even in the age of Brexit, the passions and animosities of Irish history seem profoundly alien.

Since the 1990s, Hertford has been the home of the only chair of Irish history on the island of Britain. We host a vibrant graduate seminar which has shaped a new generation of lecturers now teaching Irish history and/or literature at Bristol, Exeter, Goldsmiths, King's College London, Liverpool, Newcastle, Northumbria and Teeside. But less well-known, I think, is the Roy Foster Irish Government Senior Scholarship, effectively a one-year post-doctoral position which, for nearly three decades, has helped talented early-career researchers to establish themselves. The Senior Scholarship was established by an endowment gift from the Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust of the Irish government in the early 1990s; it has also received three donations from the Normanby Charitable Trust. Several former holders of this post are now teaching in Ireland (University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Galway) and one is based at the University of Notre Dame (Indiana). But most of them have made their careers in History departments here in Britain (St Andrews, Cardiff, Dundee, Northumbria, Sheffield and Staffordshire). As I write, our new Senior Scholar, Dr Bethany Marsh (see page 50) is settling into Hertford, and preparing to convene an informal reading group with the graduate students over the next year.

One of the highlights of last year's Irish events was a 'witness seminar' on the origins of the Northern Ireland peace process, organised jointly by Hertford and All Souls. The point of a witness seminar is to assemble a caste

of politicians civil servants and others, in order to reconstruct a specific episode in recent history. In this case our focus was the Downing Street Declaration of 1993, which laid the basis for the IRA ceasefire of 1994 and the talks which led to the Good Friday Agreement. Our panellists included Sir Quentin Thomas, political director at the Northern Ireland Office (1991-98), who led the British team which met Sinn Féin following the 1994 ceasefire and supported ministers in round table talks that culminated in the Good Friday Agreement, and his Irish counterpart, Sean O'hUiginn, former head of the Anglo-Irish division at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs (1991-97), and later Irish ambassador to the United States and Germany.

It is easy to forget how utterly improbable the breakthrough of 1993 really was. That was the year of the IRA bombs at Warrington (in which two children were killed), and on Belfast's Shankill Road (nine civilians died along with one of the bombers), as well as Bishopsgate – the most damaging terrorist attack, in financial terms, before 11 September 2001. It takes a real imaginative effort now to recall the intractability and hopelessness of the Northern Ireland conflict at that time – the dull routine of rioting, assassinations, bombs, and the occasional spikes in violence that shocked the public and energised the peacemakers. It was then orthodoxy in both London and Dublin that 'talking to terrorists' was unacceptable. One memorable contribution to the witness seminar came from David Cooke (head of division at the Northern Ireland Office, 1990-93), who described the day he received the now famous message, apparently from Martin McGuinness, stating 'the war is over'. Martin Mansergh, PPE and DPhil in History, Oxford. served under three Fianna

Fáil leaders as Director of Research, Policy and Special Advisor on Northern Ireland. Martin Mansergh, who served under three Fianna Fáil governments as Special Advisor on Northern Ireland, told how he began secret meetings with Sinn Féin in a Dundalk monastery in 1988: 'My instructions were just to listen, but, as it is impossible to have a meaningful dialogue on that basis, I ignored them.' Both Cooke and Mansergh, incidentally, are Oxford-trained historians. Both had an instinctive grasp of the historical context in which the Downing Street Declaration took shape – the basis for a negotiated settlement that would involve not only the two governments and the constitutional representatives of Unionism and Nationalism, but would also draw in 'the men of violence'.

In the years after 1998 it seemed that the poisonous legacy of the partition of Ireland could be removed from Anglo-Irish relations for good. With the border a source of contention once more, it might seem an odd moment to claim that Ireland's past is better understood in Britain than ever before. What is certainly true, however, is that in Oxford, and in universities across this island, it is no longer possible to study British history without also studying Ireland. Twenty British universities now offer courses on the Troubles, very often over-subscribed. Many have been designed by former Irish senior scholars at Hertford. And the Irish are no longer viewed as erratic figures who intrude upon the otherwise rational routines of British statesmen once every 30 or 40 years. As universities and schools turn towards global history, we are beginning to wonder whether Ireland's experience – of colonisation, insurgency and civil war, not to mention poverty, emigration and diaspora – is actually more normal than Britain's.



**PROFESSOR BEN LEVITAS,
GOLDSMITHS, LONDON**

'We sat, often quite tightly cheek by jowl, in the Old Library and listened, questioned and argued (and drank) together. In an era when the the culture and politics of Ireland – particularly Northern Ireland – could be a fraught debate, it contributed an atmosphere of reflective discussion. That tradition has produced, and continues to produce, scholarship at the highest level and a culture of reasoned inquiry. It is a resource much needed in present times.'



DR ERIKA HANNA, BRISTOL

'The Oxford Irish studies community was indispensable for a young scholar keen to build networks and share research. Now I teach twentieth century Irish history to undergraduates and postgraduates at Bristol. These courses are always oversubscribed; my students are keen to understand Ireland's past and to make sense of the complexities and subtleties of relationships between Ireland and Britain behind the headlines.'



**DR CONNAL PARR,
NORTHUMBRIA**

There is absolutely no doubt that the experience I had at Oxford led directly to my present post and ongoing opportunities for expanding the learning, understanding, and furtherance of Irish history – especially at a post-1992 'new' university, for students who have up until this point encountered little of Ireland or its history.

DR BETHANY MARSH

Historian | Runner | Drinker of gin



Hi! My name is Bethany and I am the new Roy Foster Senior Scholar in Irish History at Hertford College. I recently moved to Oxford having completed my PhD at the University of Nottingham. My thesis examined the organisation and dispensation of relief to 'Irish' refugees,

who fled to England in the wake of the 1641 Irish rebellion. I paid particular attention to the local dimensions of welfare in England through examination of churchwardens' and constables' account books. I knew my Maths A-level would be useful one day! Before coming to Oxford I finished a six-month postdoctoral research placement at the National Civil War Centre in Newark, where I worked on two new exhibitions which are now open to the public! *Fake News* explores the centuries-old tradition of manipulating information for political, religious and economic gain, while *The World Turned Upside Down* explores the chaos, conflict and creativity of the British and Irish Civil Wars (1641-1653). Over the course of this year I will be editing my thesis into a monograph and working on a new area of research which I have become increasingly interested in, the emotional dimension of refugee displacement.

Follow me on twitter: @TheMarshster

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PSAUMES
POUR TOUS LES TEMPS

Le prophète

Decoding AI in Financial Services

1

Business implications for Boards
and Professionals



First Edition

Clara Durodié

ROUTLEDGE
ROUTLEDGE
HANDBOOKS

3
GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

2



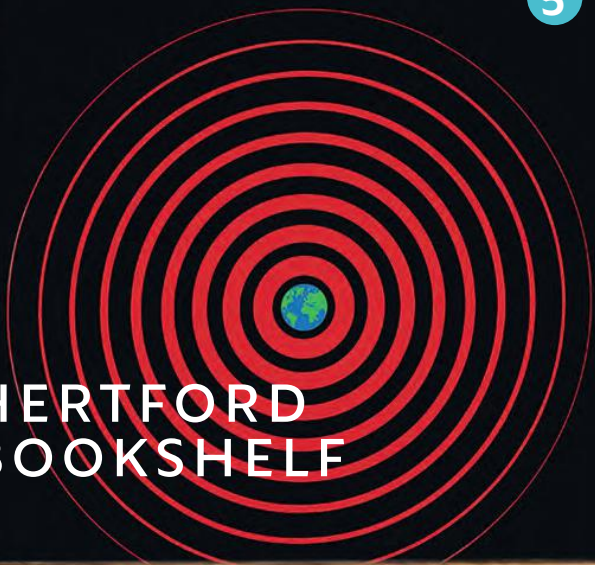
a GlassHouse book

The Routledge Handbook of
International Development,
Mental Health and Wellbeing

TECTONIC POLITICS

GLOBAL POLITICAL RISK IN AN AGE OF TRANSFORMATION

5



HERTFORD
BOOKSHELF

A PELICAN BOOK

This is Shakespeare Emma Smith



«Un livre

HERTFORD HIGHLIGHTS

DAN EATHERLY

3



INVASIVE ALIENS

Plants and Animals from over there that are over here

LIBERTY EQUALITY & HUMBUG ORWELL'S Political Ideals

4

DAVID DWAN

heare

6

FROM THE AUTHOR OF GOD'S WAR

'Glorious, lucid and thought-provoking from start to finish.'
Peter Frankopan,
author of *The Silk Roads*



7

THE WORLD OF THE CRUSADES

Christopher
Tyerman



tr

1 **DECODING AI IN FINANCIAL SERVICES**

CLARA DURODIE (MBA, 2002)

One of the most compelling aspects of technology is the pace of innovation and change.

This is the first book that examines how AI is changing corporate governance, business strategy and Board leadership in financial services. The book enables the reader to navigate confidently a world of hype and echo chambers.

Written for Board Directors, the book addresses the knowledge gap at the leadership level with a thoughtful and sincere intellect. It draws from a thorough research and hands-on experience: 180 executives interviewed, 15,000 bibliography entries, 2 years of research including 2 months of academic grade research in Hertford College coupled with two decades of industry experience and Boardroom advisory work.

Clara Durodié approaches the AI technologies landscape with intentional simplicity. She explains core terminologies in simple but not simplistic terms while retaining a practical approach by introducing an ample number of AI use cases and useful frameworks. Clara has been serving on or working with leading organisation's boards and is a promoter of ethical AI.

This book has been reviewed as "one of the most thoroughly researched and well written books on AI" and "essential reading for any business leader or Board member". The profits from selling this book are donated in full to Hertford College to help students in financial distress and Wood Land Trust. Each copy sold pays for planting and caring for one tree. You can purchase the book at www.cognitivefinance.ai/shop.

2 **INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

LAURA DAVIDSON (ENGLISH PGCE, 1993)

Laura has recently edited a book mental health and international development, which contains a compilation of chapters from global experts in the field. Laura is a London Barrister who specialises in human rights, mental health and capacity law. She also works as an international development consultant in health, disability, social protection and justice. In 2008 she founded Mental Health Research UK, the UK's first charity dedicated to funding research into mental illness. In 2013 she drafted Rwanda's first mental health law. She has co-written two chapters of the book and authored two others on international human rights mechanisms and remedies for violation of the rights of those with psychosocial disability.

3 **INVASIVE ALIENS**

DAN EATHERLEY (BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, 1992)

A unique history of plant and animal invaders of the British Isles spanning thousands of years of arrivals and escapes, as well as defences mounted and a look to the future.

As Brits we pride ourselves as stoic defenders, boasting a record of resistance dating back to 1066.

Yet, even a cursory examination of the natural world reveals that while interlopers of the human variety may have been kept at bay, our islands have been invaded, conquered and settled by an endless succession of animals, plants, fungi and other alien lifeforms that apparently belong elsewhere. Indeed, it's often hard to work out what actually is native, and what is foreign.

From early settlement of our islands, through the Roman and mediaeval

period, to the age of exploration and globalisation, today's complement of alien species tells a story about our past.

4 LIBERTY, EQUALITY & HUMBUG

DR DAVID DWAN, TUTORIAL FELLOW AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN ENGLISH

George Orwell is watching you and you're watching him. Britain pays its respects in the form of the Orwell Prize, the Orwell Lecture, and, more recently, Orwell Day. A statue of Orwell now stands outside Broadcasting House in London and he continues to tower over broadsheet journalism. His ghost is repeatedly summoned in the houses of Parliament and in schools across Britain. In Europe and the US, citizens confront the perennial question: "What would Orwell say?"

Orwell is part of the political vocabulary of our times, yet partly due to this popularity, what he stands for remains opaque. His writing confirms deep and widely shared intuitions about political justice, but much of its enduring fascination derives from the fact that these intuitions don't quite add up. David Dwan accounts for these inconsistencies by exploring the broader moral conflict at the centre of Orwell's work and the troubled idealism it yields. Examining the whole sweep of Orwell's writings, this book shows how literature can be a rich source of political wisdom.

5 TECTONIC POLITICS

DR NIGEL GOULD-DAVIES (PPE, 1984)

Political risk now affects more markets and countries than ever before, and that risk will continue to rise. But traditional methods of managing political risk are no longer legitimate or effective.

In *Tectonic Politics*, Nigel Gould-Davies explores the complex, shifting landscape of political risk and how to navigate it. He analyses trends in each form of political risk: the power to destroy, seize, regulate, and tax. He shows how each of these forms reflects a deeper transformation of the global political economy that is reordering the relationship between power, wealth, and values. In a world where everything is political, the craft of engagement is as important as the science of production and the art of the deal. The successful company must integrate that craft—the engager's way of seeing and doing—into strategy and culture.

6 THIS IS SHAKESPEARE

PROFESSOR EMMA SMITH, TUTORIAL FELLOW IN ENGLISH AND FELLOW LIBRARIAN

A genius and prophet whose timeless works encapsulate the human condition like no others. A writer who surpassed his contemporaries in vision, originality and literary mastery. Who wrote like an angel, putting it all so much better than anyone else.

Is this Shakespeare? Well, sort of.

But it doesn't really tell us the whole truth. So much of what we say about Shakespeare is either not true, or just not relevant, deflecting us from investigating the challenges of his inconsistencies and flaws. This electrifying new book thrives on revealing, not resolving, the ambiguities of Shakespeare's plays and their changing topicality. It introduces an intellectually, theatrically and ethically exciting writer who engages with intersectionality as much as with Ovid, with economics as much as with poetry: who writes in strikingly modern ways about individual agency, privacy, politics, celebrity and sex. It takes us into a world of politicking and copy-cattling, as we watch him emulating the

blockbusters of Christopher Marlowe and Thomas Kyd, the Spielberg and Tarantino of their day; flirting with and skirting round the cut-throat issues of succession politics, religious upheaval and technological change. The Shakespeare in this book poses awkward questions rather than offering bland answers, always implicating us in working out what it might mean. This is Shakespeare. And he needs your attention.

7 THE WORLD OF THE CRUSADES
PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER TYERMAN, TUTORIAL FELLOW IN HISTORY AND FELLOW ARCHIVIST

Throughout the Middle Ages crusading was justified by religious ideology, but the resulting military campaigns were fueled by concrete objectives: land, resources, power, reputation.

Crusaders amassed possessions of all sorts, from castles to reliquaries. Campaigns required material funds and equipment, while conquests produced bureaucracies, taxation, economic exploitation, and commercial regulation. Wealth sustained the Crusades while material objects, from weaponry and military technology to carpentry and shipping, conditioned them.

This lavishly illustrated volume considers the material trappings of crusading wars and the objects that memorialized them, in architecture, sculpture, jewelry, painting, and manuscripts. Christopher Tyerman's incorporation of the physical and visual remains of crusading enriches our understanding of how the crusaders themselves articulated their mission, how they viewed their place in the world, and how they related to the cultures they derived from and preyed upon.



Hertford
Year

THE HERTFORD SOCIETY

Graham Jones, Secretary of the Hertford Society writes:

I hope I may be forgiven for introducing this report with a little bit of history.

The Hertford Society was originally founded through the efforts of William ('Bill') Atkinson (Physics, 1936). He attended a college Gaudy in 1960 and thought that it would be a good idea to have some mechanism of bringing together old members at other times and also of supporting the college. He approached the Principal, Dr William Ferrar, with a proposal to establish a society to promote those aims. The Principal consulted the governing body (about ten members in those days) and the verdict was entirely positive. Thus encouraged by the college, Bill went ahead in 1961 and formed a temporary committee. I think it would be only fair to name these gentlemen as they share with Bill the credit for the society's existence. They were Gerald Darling QC (1940), Basil Eckersley MBE (1937), Ronald Ellen (1939), Brian Galpin (1940), Henry Mitchell (1945), Alfred Nathan (1940), and Anthony Ryder (1948).

With the help of the college they contacted several hundred old members who expressed their support. The inaugural meeting of the Hertford Society was held in Lincoln's Inn Hall on 6 January 1962 and its first annual general meeting on 20 June of that year when the temporary committee was confirmed in office, together

with Derek Conran TD (1944), Gerald Goodhart (1923), and Robert Jackson CBE (1926).

The main point of commencing with these details is to convey the idea that the Hertford Society was responding then to a perceived need and it has been attempting to do that ever since.

Originally the society organised various annual social events in order to fill the gaps between the occasional college Gaudies.

Over 20 years ago, the college instituted its development office and since then the office and its succession of directors have transformed the social scene for alumni of the college. No longer are there gaps to be filled, with a plethora of events throughout the year, all posted on the college website.

The society has kept abreast of all these excellent developments and has adapted its activities to take account of them.

We still hold a black tie dinner in Hall every third year, with a buffet lunch in college in the intervening years. Members may bring guests to these events – partners and others. College Gaudies for alumni only are always oversubscribed, so these society events do provide an extra amenity for old members of the college.

Ever since its founding, the society has made gifts to the college for various purposes, dating from its very

first donation in October 1962 of £50 for equipment in the then new JCR television room at the bottom of NB6. The society has continued its donations in many different ways – retirement gifts to college staff, garden seats in the OB Quad, portraits of distinguished alumni and fellows, candelabra in Hall, and, very popularly, support of the college cat! (A full list of these gifts was printed in the *Hertford College Magazine* two years ago).

The latest project, now completed, has been the restoration of 13 of the college's most historic portraits. – at a cost totalling almost £14,000.

The society's aim in many cases is to support activities or make donations for items which might not otherwise receive priority by the college in the normal course of events.

Having said that, we also keep up with the college of today by supporting the JCRs and the MCR's Freshers' Weeks, and also the college's ambassadors scheme whereby schools who have no tradition of their pupils applying to Oxford are contacted and encouraged to do so.

I mentioned the college cat just now. A little more history, if I may. He is always named Simpkin, after the cat in the Beatrix Potter book *The Tailor of Gloucester*, first published in 1903. Our first Simpkin was the cat of the Warnock family. Sir Geoffrey Warnock was Principal from 1971 to 1988. Simpkin arrived in 1974 as a kitten and soon extended his fiefdom from the Principal's lodgings to the whole college. He became widely popular amongst the undergraduates and was once elected President of the JCR, but was unable to take up office due to his unfortunate inability to sign his name. The original Simpkin died in 1986, and was shortly succeeded by Simpkin II. The current college cat is Simpkin IV.



Reference to Sir Geoffrey Warnock leads me to pay tribute to his wife Baroness Warnock. Mary Warnock was Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge for the last four years of her husband's time as Principal of Hertford. They jointly held the record of a husband and wife coincidentally Heads of Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. This record so far stands unmatched. Lady Warnock was a great supporter of the Hertford Society and was an Honorary Member. Not many years ago, she sponsored a most enjoyable dinner for the society on the terrace of the House of Lords. She remained in close touch with the society until her death in March of this year.

Recently, the JCR asked the society if it would request reminiscences of their time at Hertford from older alumni. They plan to put a selection in the "freshers' pack" to give those just coming up an idea of the college's recent history. We have now a collection of such recollections. They will be sent to the JCR Freshers' committee and also to the college archives.

One such reminiscence particularly impressed me.



After a while, the enterprising young man wrote to the Principal to say that he was delighted to accept the kind offer from the college of a place – an offer which had not been made! His bluff worked and he was accepted and went on to read Medicine with considerable success.

In the 1950s the then Principal was somewhat absent-minded and often failed to attend to correspondence. A certain young man applied to the college to read Medicine. A good number of weeks went past with absolutely no reply from the college – no acknowledgement, not even a rejection – nothing.

After a while, the enterprising young man wrote to the Principal to say that he was delighted to accept the kind offer from the college of a place – an offer which had not been made! His bluff worked and he was accepted and went on to read Medicine with considerable success. He eventually became a leading surgeon.

The college informs me quite firmly that this particular mode of entry would not succeed these days.

The society has long had its own gentlemen's tie which has the Harts



Head logo on a maroon background. These may be ordered from committee member Jonathan Billowes – the details for doing this are in the society's section of the college website, under alumni societies.

Although this design of tie has been available ever since the founding of the society, we have been somewhat exercised over the last couple of years in deciding on a scarf design which would commend itself to female members of the society. I'm pleased to be able to announce that we have recently settled on a scarf designed by Elizabeth Southwood who recently won a gold award for her poster design for the London Transport Museum. The design incorporates the Hart's Head logo, the

hall staircase, the bridge, the chapel, and undergraduates in the quad, accompanied of course by Simpkin!

We are most grateful to committee members Angela Fane and Fiona Robertson for their considerable work in sourcing the scarf design and its designer and bringing the whole project to fruition.

Full details of the scarf and how to order one will soon be put in the society's section of the college website.

The society is most grateful as ever to the Principal and governing body for allowing the society to use the college facilities. Further heartfelt thanks are due to the Development Office team and its Director Julia Thaxton for their constant assistance and advice.

ACADEMIC OFFICE

Lynn Featherstone, Registrar & Director of Admissions writes:



It's been another eventful year for the academic office.

The year began by us welcoming our new outreach team, Nathan Stazicker, Outreach and Communications Officer, and Dr Kathryn Boast, STEM Outreach Officer. Nathan masterfully took the reigns of our regional outreach programme, which is predominantly aimed at encouraging and supporting applicants from disadvantaged and/or under-represented backgrounds in Essex, Southend-on-Sea, Medway and Camden. This included setting up a pilot programme of academic enrichment workshops to high-achieving Year 12 students in four schools in Camden, which, following its success, we will

expand to schools in Medway next year.

Kathryn has been busy designing programmes and workshops to promote STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) to groups currently under-represented in those fields. She has collaborated with Oxford's African & Caribbean Society on a careers workshop ('Into STEM') for Year 7 students and parents targeted at BAME groups. From this September, she will be launching an on-line chat forum called 'I'm a Scientist...' with groups from Medway schools.

Nathan and Kathryn combined their considerable expertise in establishing the inaugural Heroes of Unsung Science competition – the first of its kind across the University. Attracting a diverse range of entrants, the competition generated a repository of short films about lesser-known scientists – including those from under-represented groups – which will be transformed into an inspiring online resource. The competition winners – Kairul and Tasnia Choudhury, a brother and sister from Preston – will have the opportunity to spend a day at *Channel 4 News* with alum, Krishnan Guru-Murthy. We intend to run a similar competition next year, and would be delighted if other alums would be interested in providing the prize!

Over the course of the year, we've delivered 100 individual events, and have participated in many more. Our access

programmes couldn't run without the commitment of our fellows, lecturers, and student ambassadors. We trained 90 ambassadors last year – that's 20% of all current undergraduates. We awarded six Tanner prizes to our most active ambassadors in January. We remain committed to supporting University-wide initiatives. We welcomed over 150 students on the UNIQ summer schools, and also continue to support Target Oxbridge in reaching out to black African and Caribbean students.

Hertford's outreach work is very much focused on widening access to Oxford, and the college is committed to identifying potential in students from all backgrounds. It is testament to our work and ethos that in the University's undergraduate admissions statistical release we continue to be at the

forefront of access within the University in many respects – especially women (55.8%) and state school intake (69.2%). Indeed, this October will see the highest state school intake in recent times at 74%, with 49% of the cohort arriving with at least one marker of educational or socio-economic disadvantage on their application.

In May 2019, the University announced a new admissions initiative designed to enable more academically talented students from less advantaged backgrounds to make a successful application. Hertford is pleased to be participating in Opportunity Oxford from this coming year. A distinctive feature of the scheme is the bridging course in the summer after their sixth form exams, which was designed to introduce students to lectures, tutorials



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and other academic skills required to make a successful transition to university -level study.

At the time of the announcement, we had already been considering ways to support our undergraduates academically – not just at the start of the first year, but throughout their studies. This has led to the creation of an academic enrichment fund for each course to be spent on one or more group activities to bring the cohort together. Claims on the fund this year ranged from a Philosophy reading 'retreat' in the Cotswolds to a group visit to see *Enron* at the Oxford Playhouse! We have also appointed a new Porter Fellow, a career development post which

combines research with academic skills support. Dr Catherine Sloan arrived at Hertford in September and has already demonstrated her credentials by delivering sessions at our Fresher Welcome Day, and is already well on the way to developing a full academic skills programme for the year.

From the excitement of Freshers' Week inductions, to the stresses of deadlines and exams, and the celebrations at graduation, the college owes a debt of gratitude to those in the team who deal with our new, current and graduating students: Sue Finch, Academic Administrator and Julia Howe, Deputy Academic Administrator, who have continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes offering support and guidance so that our students can give full focus to their academic studies; and Caitlin Kennedy, who joined us at the start of the academic year as Admissions Officer, and managed her first undergraduate admissions round with great aplomb and an unstoppable work ethic. Dr Josephine Reynell, Director of the Visiting Students Programme, has continued to run a tight and supportive ship for the some 30-plus visiting students, and has recently been joined by Kim Jones, our new Visiting Students Administrator, who has already demonstrated an eye for detail and significant organisational acumen. The college is very fortunate to have such a dedicated team supporting its teaching and learning.



BURSAR'S REPORT

Jamie Clark writes:



I write as the long vac is drawing to a close, and an abrupt seasonal transition is once again approaching. The start of another academic year is a good time to reflect on the last. Looking back over the last 12 months I realise that much has altered, and even more has begun to change.

Most notably, we have welcomed a number of new people, many in key roles: Simon Robinson (Head of Catering), Gareth Tebbutt (Domestic Bursar), Jordan Davies (Events Manager), and Emilie Walton (HR Officer). Internal promotions have included Izabela Dziadosz to College Butler, and Carl Isham to Head Chef. A significant

change for me has been the loss of my PA Sue Geddes. As this is also through promotion (to Principal's EA) I shan't complain too loudly, but rather congratulate her on the new role. In her stead, I'm delighted to welcome Linda Cassettari.

There are of course many more that have joined during the year. Without exception, they have all made a strong start, and are making their mark on college. Catering operations have seen some of the most significant change, and we have been going through a steady, and visible transformation. I think it is fair to say that this has met with universal approval. The creation of the events management function has assisted with that, and provides us with a key link between our various domestic operations, which has paid great dividends. Indeed, it would be hard to see now how we could manage without it. On the wider domestic front we are embarking on some significant changes to processes, systems, and services. Gareth's previous DB experience at St Anthony's (as well as extensive hotel and school operations management) has prepared him well for the challenge, and he is front and centre of these.

An area of significant change that will be apparent to members and visitors alike is the increasing amount of buildings work being undertaken.

This follows agreement of the estates strategy in Hilary term. Over the next ten years, we expect to spend around £75m on a combination of remediation, refurbishment, and new-build projects. Right now we are just commissioning a new academic office suite, have begun work on the lodge remodeling, and are in progress with a complete refurbishment of two Holywell staircases. A number of smaller refurbishment works have been completed this summer, and the next 12 months will see more activity as we roll out the full programme of works for the main site.

We have made significant progress on some of our larger building projects. The new accommodation plans for Winchester Road are midway through a competitive process to select an architect (and with it a design for the site). We have launched a similar process for the library project, which aims to double the current capacity. Both are scheduled to come to a conclusion at the end of Michaelmas term, and we shall then move forward to detailed design phases, and planning application submissions by (hopefully) next summer. We have also started to consult with local residents on our ambitions for the sports grounds, and are about to embark on some early design work for the much-needed expansion and refurbishment of the main hall servery.

As well as updating and upgrading the physical fabric, we are steadily working through similar approaches with our systems, processes and services. Many of these changes are relatively invisible to members. They will mostly not have noticed that we have replaced our core accounting system, engaged a new food supply

agent, or that our tills and payment systems are entirely new. Nevertheless, such changes do play a significant part in maintaining/improving efficiency and operational standards – all of which ultimately do impact upon members' everyday experience of life at college. More noticeable will be the new service additions, such as the college intranet launched this year, or the café facility that we shall hopefully have opened by the time this is being read.

I'm pleased to report that college finances remain robust, with operational results buoyed by strong performances from our conference operations and a rising trend for development income. This allows us to fund many of the smaller/medium change initiatives, but for the largest investments we will of course need to seek additional sources. While we have some healthy reserves, and the proceeds of the recent bond ready to assist, we shall also be heavily reliant upon a significant increase in donations to realise our ambitions for the next few years. Demand will of course come from seeking to deliver the extensive estates strategy, but also from our ongoing efforts to secure important areas of expenditure (fellowships and student support, for example) by building dedicated endowment funds to cover.

I think it would be true to say that right now Hertford is certainly demonstrating the adage that the only constant is change. I think it is also true that with any significant change comes an inevitable degree of disruption and inconvenience. So, I'd like to conclude by saying a big thank you to college members for their continuing forbearance in that regard, and for their ongoing support.

THE LIBRARY

Librarian Alice Roques writes:

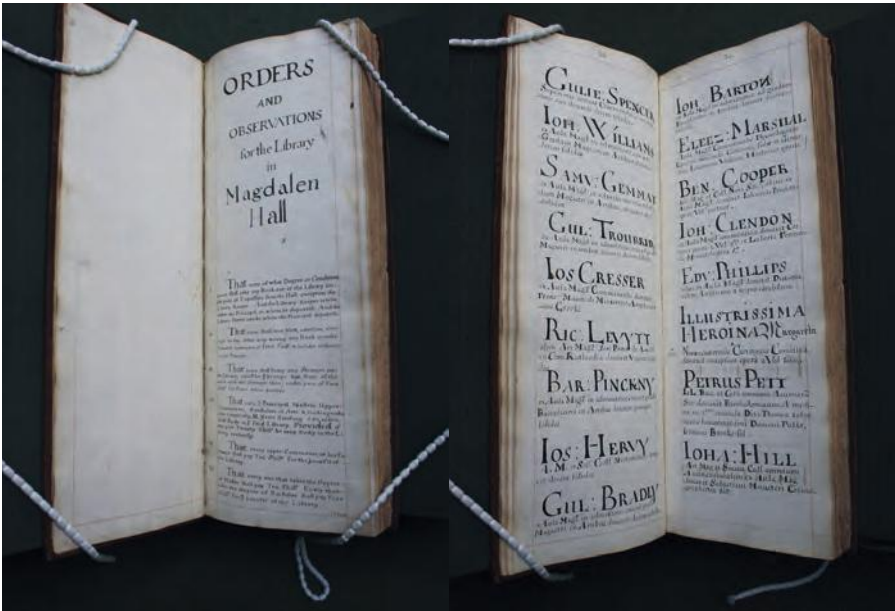


It has been another busy year in the Library for both our staff and our readers. Being a college librarian is particularly enjoyable because it is such a varied job. One morning you can be searching for copies of the latest books on the anthropocene, including the catchily titled *We're Doomed. Now What?*, and the next you can be exploring Hertford's wonderful rare books with 16-year-old school pupils. Helping readers get the best out of the resources Oxford has to offer is also a key part of the role, from training second years in research skills for their thesis to helping decipher vague reading

list references. There is also something immensely satisfying about placing an eagerly awaited new book in a student's pidge, sometimes only hours after they have requested it.

Hertford's rare books have benefited from the meticulous regular care of the Arts Society volunteers, as well as the expertise of cataloguer Sophie Floate and conservator Victoria Stevens. Sophie is creating publicly accessible online records for our rare books so that researchers from around the world can find out about the gems held by Hertford. Some of these books are well-known titles, such as Tyndale's *Obedyence of a Chrysten Man*, and others we believe to be unique surviving copies, including a 1780 edition of the *St Lucia Gazette*. The records include information specific to Hertford's copies, such as any clues about how the book came be part of Hertford's collections. Magdalen Hall's 17th-18th century benefactors' books provide vital information about donations that went on to form the core of our collection. Victoria has spent many hours carefully conserving these volumes so that they can be more safely handled and digitised for use in cataloguing and research.

Over the past year the library has also been staffed by four excellent student assistants, who have helped



Library rules in the fair copy of the benefactors' book

An example page of donors, including Margaret Cavendish

maintain a welcoming and well-ordered space. One particular junior librarian has entertained the students with his announcements on social media about incorrectly returned books (funnier than it sounds, I promise). The library continues to provide a quiet haven for

study. Indeed, demand for desk space in the reading rooms is very high. It is hoped that progress will be made in the coming years on creating a larger library that houses more study spaces and our growing collections.

THE ARCHIVES

Archivist Dr Lucy Rutherford and Professor Christopher Tyerman write:



It has been a productive year in the college archives. As usual, we have continued to work with external researchers and to use the records to answer enquiries, from inside and outside the college. The main focus has been on improving how we catalogue our collections. In July we joined a number of Oxford college archives in moving to a new cataloguing system, Epexio. This will have a number of advantages over our old 'standalone' software, as it will allow us to create more detailed catalogue records which will meet current professional standards. Epexio is cloud-based which means

that we will be able to make our archive catalogues available online. The system includes an objects module, which will enable us to record information and images relating to the college's artwork, silverware and other objects. A further records management module will allow us systematically to catalogue and manage the college's modern records, including the increasing number of digital records. Our existing catalogue data has been successfully migrated into the new system which is now up and running, although it is not yet publicly available.

We have made good progress with the management of the college's buttery books. These books (sometimes known as battel books) record the meals taken by fellows and tutors, students and college staff and servants and can also record payments for food and drink ordered by the kitchens. They provide an invaluable picture of college life and are sometimes the only means of checking whether a particular individual really was a member of college. We have a large collection of approximately 200 volumes, consisting of Magdalen Hall Buttery Books from the mid-seventeenth to late nineteenth centuries, and the later Hertford College books dating from 1874. This year three early nineteenth century Magdalen Hall buttery books

One of the great pleasures of running an archive occurs when an unusual or particularly significant item turns up, often by chance. This year a recent book purchase by the University of Oklahoma library contained an unexpected extra item.

were selected for conservation. These particular volumes are unique in our collections, as they record the name of John Musgrave, the butler who kept the books from 1816 to 1819. We have other records in the archive relating to the Musgrave family, and a descendant of John Musgrave from Australia spent some time last year researching these. The work has been expertly carried out by conservator Victoria Stevens and these volumes are now stable and safer for handling by researchers.

The remaining buttery books have been removed by PADS, the Bodleian's Packaging & Delivery Service, and each item will be cleaned and individually housed in purpose-built boxes by their staff. PADS will also be designing new shelving which will be installed in a newly fitted out storeroom in the old quad. We hope that the books will be returned in September, after which we will be able

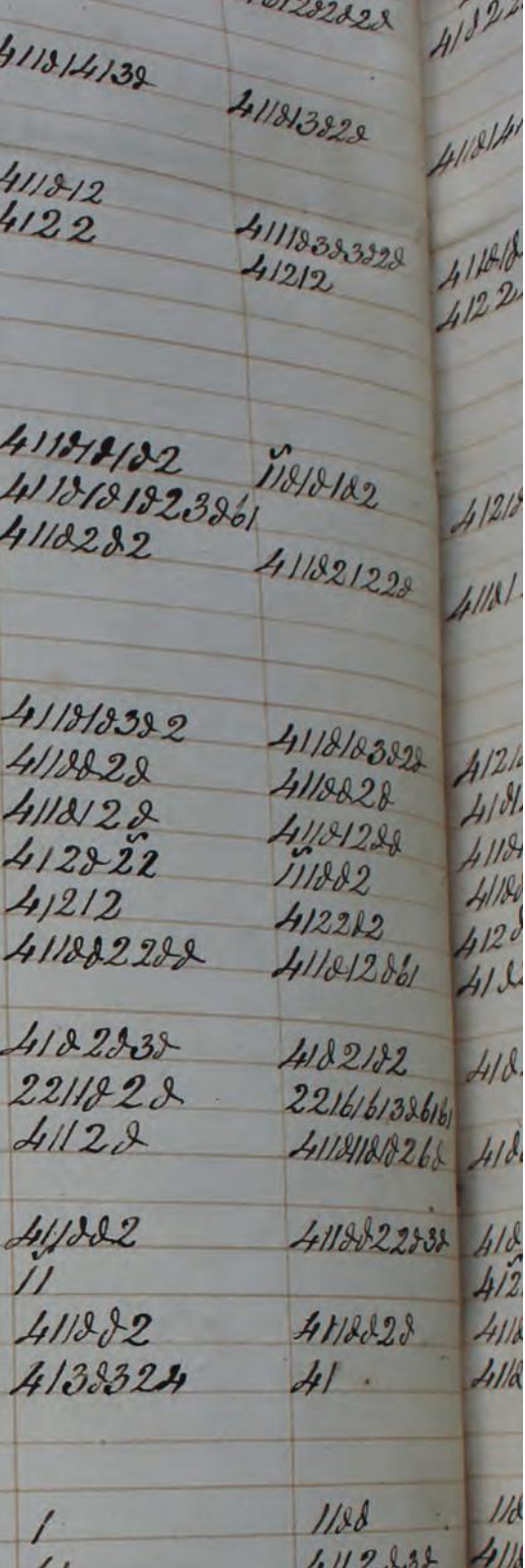


Front of envelope containing
C A J Armstrong's letter to Cecil Clough

to assess their condition in order to plan any necessary conservation work, and for the first time to catalogue individual volumes. We plan next to focus on the rarer seventeenth century books (13 volumes in total) in order to assess their research and outreach potential. Look out next year for more publicity about the buttery books in our college publications, and on our website and social media.

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unexpected extra item. Tucked inside a copy of *The Usurpation of Richard III*, written by C A J Armstrong (Tutor and Fellow in Modern History at Hertford College 1937-1967) was a one-page letter, dated 10 March 1970. This was typed and signed by Armstrong himself and written in reply to a letter sent to him by Cecil H Clough of the School of History at the University of Liverpool. It refers to an article published by Clough in the *English Historical Review* in 1967 and discusses their research relating to dating of the *Anglica Historia*. The letter concludes with an invitation from Armstrong to meet in person in Oxford. Many thanks to the University of Oklahoma which has kindly donated the letter to our archive.

A page from the recently conserved 1818 Magdalen Hall buttery book

CHAPEL

Chaplain Reverend Mia Smith writes:



‘We believe in your ability to bring about change’, states the Principal in his website welcome, ‘change in yourself and in the world’. This year in chapel we have looked at changing ourselves and the world for the better under three themes: faith, formation and flourishing. The three ran concurrently throughout each term’s service themes.

The faith stream examined how the Christian faith is lived out practically and academically. Highlights included the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, speaking on the ethics of artificial intelligence, and Professor Ard Louis speaking on faith and physics. The rhythms of the Christian year included a memorable service of remembrance

to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War. Our preacher, Reverend Chaz Howard from Penn State University reminded the current generation to remember the past to weep with those who weep, to fight for common values, and to guard against the repetition of history – profound warnings for these uncertain times. Students read out the name of each of the college fallen from the Great War. The service ended with joining in a nationwide peal of 100 chimes, and the National Cry for Peace, made by Mr David Haxell, Lodge Manager, as our college cryer.

Our formation stream addressed our values as a college. Our St Luke’s service celebrated 70 years of the NHS, and included a blood drive at which 32 Hertfordians signed up to give blood as a thank you to the NHS. This year’s equalities display focused on the language we use around disabilities, especially autism. We are grateful to India Cosgrove, JCR Disabilities Representative, for this. Speakers were welcomed from FGM charity ‘28 Too Many’ and the Salvation Army Homelessness Chaplains, to complement our Charity Collections for 28 Too Many and Homeless Oxfordshire. Collections were also made for Solidaritee, a charity which supports refugees. We also looked at a couple of career vocations with



the help of an RAF Chaplain and the Thames Valley Police Chaplain. Holocaust Memorial Day was marked at Evensong with a performance of Shostakovich's Piano Trio Number Two (Largo), with programme notes by the late Dr Paul Coones. Paul was a good friend to chapel and had been planning this event at the time of his death in September 2018.

In our flourishing stream we enjoyed preachers on relevant issues such as imposter syndrome, self-esteem, stress, and forgiveness. We learned what it is like to live a counter-cultural life in community at a special 'Meet a Monk or Nun' tea party. We are grateful to our visitors for their honesty and sense of fun. In our Eucharist services in Trinity term we took a break from 'Word of the Week' preaching in favour of reading



Our choir this year has been popular, often resembling more of a Hertford College Chapel Chorus. Their music has been an obvious source of pleasure to singers and congregations alike. Tour to Budapest in July was a great success and was supported by Alumni in the area.

through Matt Haigh's book *Notes on a Nervous Planet*, which stimulated conversations at supper afterwards on the pace of life and the stresses of social media and mental wellbeing.

Our choir this year has been popular, often resembling more of a Hertford College chapel chorus. Their music has been an obvious source of pleasure to singers and congregations alike. Tour to Budapest in July was a great success and was supported by alumni in the area. This year we say goodbye to Hannah Towndrow, our outgoing Senior Organ Scholar, whose sense of celebration and community brought a wonderful character to the choir and the chapel. Thanks too to Charlotte Corderoy, our incoming Senior Organ Scholar, and to the choir, librarians, and welcome assistants for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Special thanks, as ever, go to the chapel committee for their wisdom and support. We have been particularly grateful to Professor Rebecca





Sitsapesan for her enthusiastic service as Chair, and to Dr Benjamin Skipp for his valued wisdom and support as Acting Chair. Particular thanks are due to the Bursar and maintenance team for installing a heating system in chapel. We look forward to reaping the rewards of their work as the seasons change.

It is said that an army marches on its stomach, and I would add, a chapel likewise. Our thanks go to the wonderful catering team for the chapel suppers,

the formal dinners, and the drinks which keep us all singing and working in chapel. This year's enterprise of 'Faith Feasts' has brought college together in wonderful ways as we marked festivals such as Diwali over deliciously prepared menus inspired by the faith traditions of members of college.

May you all continue to flourish and bring about change in the world and in yourselves.

DEVELOPMENT

Director of Development Julia Thaxton writes:



What lies ahead for a Hertford student graduating in 2019? I find myself falling into the trap of thinking it can't be that different to when I left university – and then realise with a shock that my own graduation was nearly two decades ago. When I think back to that summer, the memories of application forms and CV-editing are spliced with recollections of an extraordinary heatwave, the 'dodgy dossier' news story, and Chelsea football club being bought by a little-known oligarch called Roman Abramovich. Perhaps the career advice I've been giving to recent graduates is more out of date than I had thought...

The 'Milkround' today still features companies and employers who would have been familiar names to alumni several decades ago – but they have been joined by new players. In the early 2000s, Google was the search engine of choice but not yet seen as a potential employer. By 2018 Google had nearly 99,000 employees – a fair number of them Oxbridge graduates. The companies that were once the young upstarts and interlopers are now the established behemoths.

The world of work can be bewildering to a new graduate, and it's not always clear where to turn for advice. There is a wealth of information and networking possibilities available from the Oxford Careers Service, but the most valuable resource is an individual conversation with someone actually doing the job you're interested in. The trouble is, how to find that person? Ideally they would be five to ten years ahead of you on the career path you're interested in – that way their experience is close enough to your own to be relevant and their first-hand knowledge is still relatively current. But all too often, that person isn't accessible via friendship groups (which tend to be those of similar age) or family relationships. Most people need some assistance to navigate the gap. And it's not just our students who are looking for mentors. From recent

graduates in their first or second job, through to experienced professionals who are thinking about a change of course, almost everyone finds that career advice is a running feature in the modern world of work. At Hertford, our challenge is to keep adapting what we do so that the Hertford alumni network is accessible and useful to you throughout your alumni journey, so if we can help you navigate the gap so you can find the right person to talk to, it is to everyone's advantage.

To tackle this conundrum, we have been updating our 2016 HertFolk project (where we interviewed alumni to create a Humans of New York-style publication and webpage) and adapting it to suit a new purpose. Do get in touch with us if you'd like to take part. The idea is that each short profile will give students or alumni an insight into what people go on to do after Hertford, opening a window into what is possible. Those wanting to get an idea about career options can filter by job sector or year group. For some, that online navigation and filtering will be enough – it's useful to see other people's career paths to seed an idea of what to aim for. For others, they might want to reach out and make contact to find out more. We're keeping it simple and light-touch so the person seeking advice can navigate their own way through the alumni network – and hopefully this will leave space for serendipity to take its course. If you'd like to be included, send us a few sentences that briefly outline what you do, indicate how you are willing to help, and you can also link to an external site (your company profile, or a LinkedIn page) for more information.

Our networking focus was reflected in our alumni events over the course of the year. At the Leavers BBQ for graduating students in June, 27 recent alumni from

matriculation years 1997 through to 2013 joined the event for 'speed networking' in the quad. With representatives from the V&A, AstraZeneca, Google, start-ups, barristers' chambers and law firms, the NHS, civil service, financial services, academia, and many other industries and companies, it was a fantastic event – thank you to all involved. We were lucky to have alumni meet students throughout the year and particular thanks go to Ness Collingridge (1986) who gave a coaching session to a group of Hertford students to help them with public speaking and presentation skills, as well as Rob Williams (1983) who spoke about running the charity War Child.

One of the perennial features of these annual summaries is the thanks due to alumni for hosting us in their homes and places of work. We are greatly indebted to Jeremy Goodwin (1991) for opening up Eversheds to Hertford alumni for our





London drinks event. Internationally, Graeme Preston (1994) hosted us at Herbert Smith Freehills for our second alumni event in Tokyo and Teresa Wu (1999) welcomed us to Des Voeux Chambers in Hong Kong. In Boston, Andrew Cole (1989) arranged a round table dinner for alumni and guests at the sumptuous Somerset Club, while Helen Mumford Sole (1982) put on a wonderful spread for guests at her home in New York, and Michael Wyatt (1967) hosted an excellent alumni party at Foley Hoag in Washington. Our UK events also took us to see alumni at reunion events in Manchester and Edinburgh.

We also hosted academic-focused events. At our English reunion, David Dwan spoke about his new book on George Orwell, while Professors Emma Smith and Charlotte Brewer looked back at the college's recent history in English scholarship. For our Physics reunion, we toured the spectacular new Beecroft building, and heard about the latest developments in Astrophysics from Professor Pat Roche, solid state

particle physics from Professor Sid Parameswaran and Dr Sam Henry gave us an insight into the outreach and public engagement work going on in Physics. We also had a wonderful event for Hertford's lawyers when Michael Fordham QC (1983) interviewed Sir Jeffrey Jowell (1961) about his long and varied career – before Jeffrey turned the tables and interviewed Michael about his career in human rights law.

Across the board it has been a fantastic year for the college, and so much of that is down to our alumni. This year we received a triumphant £1.2m in donations, with a further £1.37m pledged over the next five years. 946 of you made gifts, and we have been delighted to see over 1,000 alumni at Hertford events (which is 1,900 of you when we count your guests too!). There was an extra incentive for young alumni to give back to Hertford this year: a matching fund that would multiply their gift five times over – so a regular gift of £5 a month became worth £360 a year, and even more if it was eligible for gift aid. 2005 and 2007 were the main year to take advantage, with 2004 close behind – and the matched fund is still going so get in touch if you would like to take advantage of it! (All alums who matriculated since 1999 are eligible). Alumni supported the boat club with their Row to London challenge, which raised over £8,000 from 37 donors, and the choir tour to Budapest received much-needed sponsorship from alumni donors and those who attended the pre-tour concert.

The aim of the Development Office is for Hertford's relationship with its alumni to be life-long. We know that people's capacity to give back – whether financially, by hosting events, or by giving advice to others – varies hugely according to personal circumstances and timing. Hopefully we're covering enough

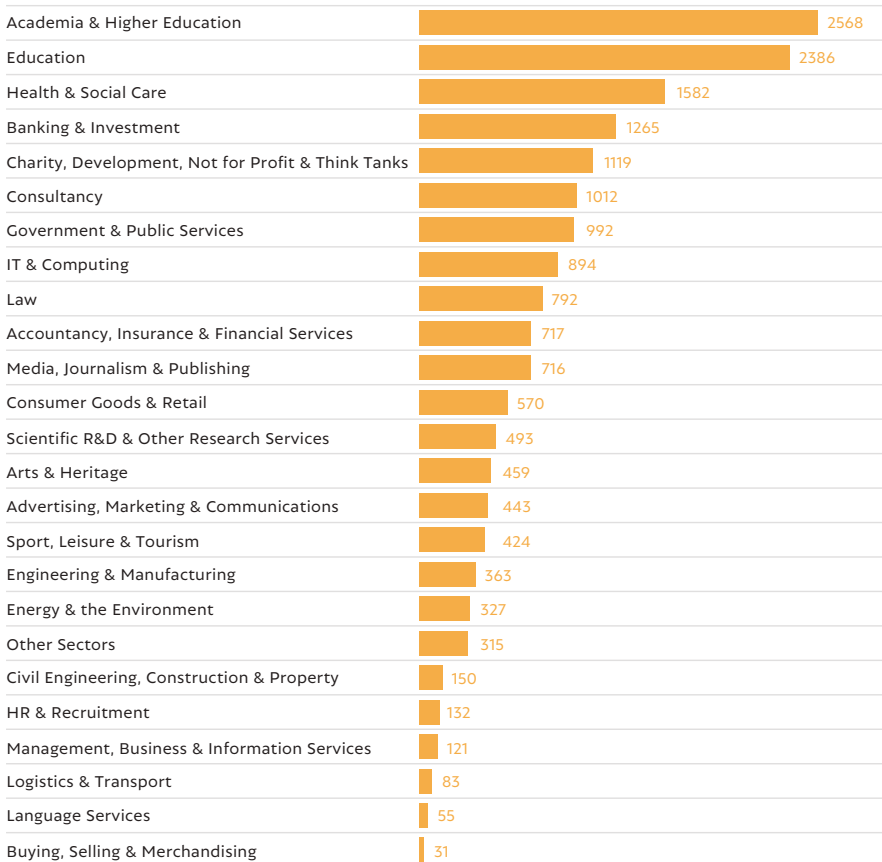
of these bases so that when the time is right, it's easy for you to pick up where you left off. And for students graduating this summer, my own advice is not to worry about finding the ideal job straight away, but to look for something

that sends you off in roughly the right direction. You can adjust and refine your direction as you go along. It has worked for me – but others might disagree! One thing is certainly true: it is helpful to get advice from more than one person.

WHAT DO OXFORD ALUMNI GO ON TO DO?

From the Oxford Careers Service:

'Every year we survey all undergraduate and postgraduate alumni six months after they leave Oxford... We collect results from over 80% of UK-domiciled undergraduate leavers, 50% of EU domiciled leavers and 40% of internationally-domiciled leavers.'



CATERING

Head of Catering Services Simon
Robinson writes:



Like most new members of staff writing for the first time in the magazine, I can confidently say that after my first six months at Hertford how time has flown!

And like all new employees at Hertford I can join them in saying thankyou to everyone who has made me feel so welcome! The college is truly a friendly, cheerful place to work. My interview was probably the most difficult I have ever attended – the panel will remain nameless – but they ensured that I was thoroughly grilled (no pun intended). I did mention that I was the first member of my family to ever get an interview at Oxford, and my father is now immensely proud that I am the first member of the

family ever to get a 'place,' at Oxford!

Even in the depths of the college basement I am extremely lucky to be able to look up at the Radcliffe Camera. This is not my first office with an iconic view. My previous job was in the City, looking after catering a six Livery Halls – including skimmers, barber-surgeons, saddlers and apothecaries as well as many of the more obscure Guilds who no longer have Halls – Pavoirs, Woolmen, Spectacle Makers and Distillers to name but a few. My daily walk from the College over to Warnock does beat slogging around the square mile!

It was whilst I was at university I had my first taste of working in hospitality behind the college bar. That progressed to managing pubs and then clubs in my native north-west of England, then to being guest relations manager at a 500-bedroom hotel at Heathrow and eventually ending up managing large-scale events, posh society weddings and very special lunches and dinners in unique London venues. Notable achievements include managing six state banquets and being the VIP food and beverage manager for the 2012 Olympics. Besides the 'special' events I have also done lots of good standard catering – including looking after lots of international students at the University of Manchester for the annual soccer World Cup.

For over 25 years I have been in an industry which looks after people with great service, food and drink hospitality. My personal work ethic has always been to ensure that every guest that walks through the door experiences the very best service we can offer. A great hospitality team is peerless – we have all at one time experienced it from the famous smile at McDonald's to the very best of fine dining at a great restaurant. I have inherited a great team at Hertford, who know how to smile, are engaging with all our customers and are trained in the skills to ensure that your experience of catering is flawless.

I am also lucky to have appointed a new Head Chef, Carl Isham. Carl's ambition has always been to manage a kitchen at a University of Oxford College. His background is also like mine – a good cross section of knowledge gained from all sectors of the industry – including a Livery Hall – Merchant Taylors! We are also fortunate to have for the first time in many years a full brigade in the kitchen, again a team of great experience, eager to make every meal the very best for everyone.

I promised to that infamous interview panel that I would bring lots of new ideas to the catering department. I'm extremely fortunate that the other senior members of the college management team share that vision. Whilst the long-term plans for the catering department include new kitchens and new servery, we are improving what we have. Over the long vacation we have reshaped the servery in the main hall to reduce the legendary Hertford lunchtime queues. We are also opening the bar as an alternative for lunch, serving real coffee, gourmet sandwiches and food to go. Warnock House will also open for lunchtime during the term.

The food and drink we serve is at the heart (and stomach) of everything we do. Over the last two terms we have got rid of the clutter which was in all our dining areas. This detracted from the great meals which the kitchen team created. Feedback cried from the end of term schools dinners illustrated the hard work which the team did to make the dining areas more appealing and allowed us to showcase Hertford at its best. Fireworks in the Summer Pudding at the end of term formal showed what we can do in a fun way – and it certainly ended the term on a high!

After my first two terms we quickly fell in to looking after our international visitors serving over 15,000 breakfast, lunches and dinners and 2,000 afternoon teas!

As I look forward to the new term, I am conscious that I now manage a food offering which is measured not only by its high standards of service and food but also the ethics of everything we do. Cutting down waste food, food miles, 'meat-free' Mondays should all concern us. Conversations will be held with every member of Hertford over the next term to discuss our offer and how to improve our footprint which we leave for future college students. We are now, more than ever, also conscious of those who have dietary requirements – again all our guests are looked after, and I would encourage anyone with any dietary needs to come and talk to me and the team.

I would in fact encourage any of you who wish to discuss any aspect of the catering operation to come and talk to me. I am very 'hands-on' and can be found at nearly every 'service' in the college. It's a cliché, but my office door is always open – with a view – and a very good coffee machine!



SUBJECTS AND RESEARCH



NEW FELLOWS

Dr Aruna Nair



I am very pleased to be returning to Oxford after a long spell in London, and to be joining a friendly and progressive college like Hertford. I initially came to Oxford as an undergraduate in 2003, to study Jurisprudence at Brasenose

For the last six years, I have been a lecturer at King's College London. While I've found my time away from Oxford – at King's and UCL and at the Law Commission – to be enormously enriching experiences, it is an amazing feeling to be back

College; after an LLM and a couple of years of work in London (at UCL and at the Law Commission for England and Wales respectively), I returned to Brasenose for a DPhil in 2009. For the last six years, I have been a lecturer at King's College London. While I've found my time away from Oxford – at King's and UCL and at the Law Commission – to be enormously enriching experiences, it is an amazing feeling to be back and I am very much looking forward to getting to know my new college.

Dr Anette Mikes



Anette joined Hertford College and the Saïd Business School in August 2019. Between 2014-2019, she was a professor at HEC Lausanne, teaching risk management, management control and accounting for sustainability. Formerly at Harvard Business School, she launched (with professors Robert Kaplan and Dutch Leonard) the Harvard executive education program 'Risk Management for Corporate Leaders'.

Anette completed her PhD at the London School of Economics in 2005. She was the 2017 laureate of the prestigious ACA Prize of the University

of St. Gallen for her contributions to the field of risk management and financial governance. She won the David Solomons Award ('Best Paper in Management Accounting Research') twice. Her research documentary on a man-made disaster ('The Kursk Submarine Rescue Mission') won the Most Outstanding Short Film Award at the Global Risk Forum in Davos in August 2014. The latter project signifies her continuing interest in man-made disasters, and her current research project ('Values at Risk: Management Accounting in the Age of Corporate Purpose') focuses on the interface between risk management, business ethics and management control.

Dr Catherine Sloan



I've just started in a new role as Porter Fellow. I'm really looking forward to meeting Hertford's students. I've been meeting with staff to discuss the challenges students face, and I will be running workshops and one-to-one sessions to help students manage their academic work. This is Oxford's first academic skills fellow, and it's great

to continue Hertford's tradition of being a college that supports students from all backgrounds. It's also a career development role. I've recently completed my D.Phil in History at Oxford, and the research time gives me the opportunity to continue my research into young people's experiences of schooling in the nineteenth century.

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ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Professor Nick Barton writes:



This was another rewarding year in which our first years again fulfilled part of their fieldwork requirement by participating in Mark Robinson's ongoing excavations at Pompeii. Normally this occurs after the excavations at the department's training dig at Dorchester-on-Thames but last year it had to be arranged over the Easter vacation to fit in with Mark's other commitments. The second years spent part of the long vacation on research for their dissertations which covered a wide range of topics from investigating arable farming in the British Iron Age to studying tool use in long-tailed macaques in Mozambique. Amongst our third year finalists, Jenny Carter obtained a first-class degree.

Mark Robinson was very pleased with the results of the excavations at Pompeii. Despite the inclement weather conditions, with some days of snow on Vesuvius, the Hertford team – including Rosie Bound, Frances Hawkins, Philippa Kent and Sophie Street (Arch & Anth, 2017) – managed to explore the

development of the Stabian Baths from the second century BC (long before the eruption in AD 79). A trench in a shop between one of the mens' and the womens' entrance to the baths revealed that the items it was selling included sea shells containing what appeared to be white make-up, perhaps for clients of the baths emerging from the heat with a rather pink complexion! The students were also able to visit other sites in the area, including Herculaneum, and to have a trip to Naples.

Nick Barton continued his long-term research excavations into modern human origins in North Africa. Last year the project announced the oldest nuclear DNA sequence recovered so far from Africa, from skeletal remains at Taforalt, Morocco. The new contribution ('Pleistocene North African genomes link Near Eastern and sub-Saharan African



Mark Robinson

Stabian Baths at Pompeii. Sophie Street (left) and Frances Hawkins exposing the bath drain.



Excavations at Taforalt, Morocco showing investigation of Later Stone Age levels near the front of the cave.

human populations', van de Loosdrecht et al 2018, *Science*) has shown that Later Stone Age peoples, living around 15,000 years ago, had genetic affinities to both Western African and Near Eastern populations, indicating greater than expected mobility patterns that included early trans-Saharan travel. During last year's field season at Taforalt, the team also discovered earlier levels of the Later Stone Age at Taforalt, which can now be extended back to around 23,000 years ago. Further work was conducted near the back of the cave which had previously produced many human burials and associated objects such as bone tools. Abigail Desmond,

one of Nick's doctoral students at Hertford, has made a study of the bone artefacts. In a recently published paper she has been able to show how new biomolecular identification techniques can help us better understand the nature of the bones used, and what they tell us about activities at the site ('ZooMS Identification of Bone Tools from the North African Later Stone Age', Desmond et al 2018, *Journal of Archaeological Science*). One surprising finding is that the Taforalt people seem to have selected the bones of different animal species for different tasks, including for hunting, basketry and hide-working.

BIOCHEMISTRY

Professor Petros Ligoxygakis writes:



This was my first year as a fellow in Biochemistry at Hertford and I really enjoyed the synergy and collaboration with Professor Alison Woollard, who made the process of further developing the teaching for the subject in college enormous fun. Alison has made great efforts to organise various evenings for students and tutors to get together and discuss science. From the evening when the finalists present the fruits of their research projects to all biochemists to the Darwin dinner (held jointly with biologists and human scientists) these were events where students were inspired to continue learning. And what better way to understand that this learning can be a deeply felt personal experience than the stories of people that did it before them? The Darwin pre-dinner was a careers discussion (from organising science events to science communication to research in industry) while the after-dinner speech was by new fellow in Biology, Professor Geraldine Wright, who gave us her personal story/trajectory into academia and honeybee research.

If proof was needed that our students are our greatest strength, two Hertford biochemists were in the top three students of the year (including the top spot!) following the Part I exam results and both finalists as well as first years achieved excellent results. We have six students coming into the first year this term and along with the exciting expansion of numbers plus two there is also the very real responsibility of participating in choosing them! It was my first admissions cycle here in Hertford. It was stressful but rewarding as we got to meet a number of extremely bright students that I am confident will do well in the course.

But what about you, I hear you say? Well, I'm an immunologist studying how insects interact with microbes. Why insects? Because they represent a crucial part of the global ecosystem and their immune system is a major way of their interaction with the world. Moreover, they transmit serious infectious diseases to humans, animals and plants and understanding how these pathogens establish infection in the insect gut can be the key to stopping transmission. Otherwise, 'married, two kids' as my favourite band (The Fall) used to say. Nice to meet you, even from afar.

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BIOLOGY

Professor Geraldine Wright writes:



Professor Martin Maiden took up the role of University Provost for the academic year 2019-2020. During this

role, Professor Maiden will be involved in overseeing how the important decisions within the University are made through a pivotal role on the University's executive committee.

In 2018, Professor Geraldine Wright joined Professor Martin Maiden as an APTF in the Department of Zoology at Hertford College. Professor Wright, an expert in honeybee biology, arrived from Newcastle University where she spent 13 years establishing a laboratory focused on the nutritional physiology and chemical ecology of bees. Since her arrival in Oxford, she has set up a new lab at the John Krebs Field Station at Wytham with over 30 bee colonies.

During the academic year of 2019, five biology undergraduates finished their degrees achieving a 2.1 or better. All of the students did an excellent job on their exams and their projects. Zara Ahmed was awarded a first class degree in Biology.



CHEMISTRY

Professor Claire Vallance writes:



Hertford's chemistry community continues to thrive. This year we welcomed Fernanda Duarte as our new Tutorial Fellow in Organic Chemistry. Congratulations are also due to Mike Laidlaw, whose position as Stipendiary Lecturer in Inorganic chemistry has now been made permanent. Mike has been a fantastic colleague over many years, and we are very pleased that he will be with us for many more. Mike has not limited his activities to Chemistry. This year he has also been busy exploring north Wales, landscaping his garden, celebrating his twentieth wedding anniversary, and enjoying his (multiple!) grand pianos.

Not to be outdone on the music front, Sarah Jenkinson, our Stipendiary Lecturer in Organic Chemistry and an accomplished cellist, took part in the hugely successful Oxford University orchestra tour to Japan. Part of the tour was spent working with student and professional musicians in Tokyo, culminating in a sold-out concert in Keio University's concert hall. The

orchestra also worked with the Soma Children's Orchestra and Chorus in Fukushima, a partnership that was picked up by Japanese National TV, and had the opportunity to visit the tsunami monument in Soma and to meet children affected by the tragic events in 2011.

In other tutor-related news, Claire Vallance completed the first of a three-year stint as President of the Faraday Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry, which she just about managed to juggle with her day job in Oxford. She has greatly enjoyed this key supporting role for the UK physical chemistry community, and has had the opportunity to launch a number of initiatives aimed at bringing the community together and ensuring its future success. All those trips to London have finally provided the required justification for adding a Brompton to her stable of bikes, and afforded a few extra miles of training in preparation for a little ride from Land's End to John O'Groats over the summer. Claire has also been kept busy with Oxford HighQ, a new spin-out company co-founded last summer with colleagues Jason Smith and Aurélien Trichet from Oxford Materials and Hertford Chemistry alumnus Dean James. The company has had a very successful first year, meeting all of its milestones and growing to 12 employees. Its prototype nanoparticle analyser is competitive with electron microscopy in its ability to size nanoparticles, and the first products are due to be released early in 2020.

The undergraduate course has seen some changes in the 2019-20 academic year. The new state-of-the-art Chemistry teaching laboratory opened its doors to the first cohort of students. The days of separate practical courses in organic, inorganic, and physical chemistry are behind us. Students now

study an integrated chemistry practical course with the emphasis on synthesis and measurement techniques. While a project of this size and complexity was bound to have some teething troubles, the new labs have been very popular with students across all colleges. Within the department we look forward to further improvements in this area, with the introduction of third-year practical projects over the next couple of years.

Within Hertford, the year marked the beginning of a new college initiative to provide all of our students with one or more academic enrichment activities. The chemistry tutors organised a trip to the Diamond Light Source, a synchrotron light source based at the Harwell Research Complex, a few miles south of Oxford. The synchrotron is an electron storage ring that generates ultra-bright 'synchrotron' radiation spanning wavelengths from the X-ray to the far infra-red, used in a wide variety of specialised scientific experiments. Students heard a lecture on synchrotron

science, and were then treated to a tour of the synchrotron facility. They were able to see many of the experiments in action, and hear about the research being performed at the facility from the researchers themselves. Based on the chat in the bus on the way back to Oxford, horizons had been well and truly broadened, and many of our students found it hugely enjoyable to find out about chemistry and other sciences in the context of cutting-edge research.

Continuing the theme of research, several of our more senior chemists have taken the opportunity to become involved in summer research projects, either in Oxford or further afield. Kevin Liang (third year) has worked in Oxford on metal-organic frameworks, a relatively new class of materials of considerable interest for a number of applications, including hydrogen and carbon dioxide storage. Joe Morrow (third year) also worked in Oxford on a computational chemistry project within Claire Vallance's group. Joe Anderson



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(third year) carried out a project at Bangor University, synthesising and screening small molecules for a class of reaction known as asymmetric Michael reactions, which are used to make carbon-carbon bonds. Joe was also lucky enough to win a place on the GSK Residential Training Experience, held in September at its R&D site in Stevenage, which provided attendees with a mix of chemistry and transferable skills. In other chemistry-related activities, this year Andrew Boczek (fourth year) was Vice President of the Oxford University Chemistry and Biochemistry Society. Maddy Buffett and Iain McLauchlan (both first years) are also putting their organisational skills to good use, playing key roles in organising Freshers' Week for the 2020 cohort of freshers.

Outside of chemistry, we also appear to have a number of sporting

heroes in our ranks. Several of our chemists joined the Hertford Town and Gown 10k team in May, with Joe Morrow putting in an astounding performance and placing third overall out of well over 4,000 runners. Joe also represented the University in the BUCS 10k. Running is a common theme: Sofia Thomas (second year) has run a half marathon, Andrew Boczek ran in the Teddy Hall relays and will run his first marathon in October, and Becky Andrews (second year) is training with her dad for the Chiang Mai marathon in December. Eleanor Frew (third year) captained Hertford's womens' football team on their path to the Cuppers' final (a high point to contrast with the miserable experience of sitting finals with the mumps!). James Lomas (third year) has played for Hertford College Rugby Club, and went on tour with the club to Brussels. Oskar Denby (second year) plays cricket and squash for the college, and has an active role in the University Eton Fives Club, winning the U21s national competition in his first year and the University championships last year, as well as playing in the Fives varsity matches in both years. Kevin Liang has taken up trampolining from scratch over the past two years, competing in the Southern University Trampoline Leagues and the Varsity Trampoline Match, and is now Vice President of the university's Trampoline Society. Iain McLauchlan competed for the University in the BUCS and Varsity bouldering competitions.

Outside term, there has been some much needed R&R, with reports of backpacking around Italy, relaxing in Seville, surfing and hiking around Wales and Cornwall, and a budding film-maker in our midst.

We wish all of our chemists an equally successful year in 2020.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Professor Michael Wooldridge writes:



Ahhh... sabbatical. A year with no teaching or administration commitments. Time to focus solely on research, with no interruptions or stressful demands on my time. Except that, of course, it never quite works out that way. While I was indeed free of teaching and (most) administration burdens throughout the year, the fact that I was going to be back as Head of

Department of Computer Science for two years from October 2019 rather changed the tenor of the sabbatical – I didn't quite get to switch off!

Nevertheless, 2018-19 was a productive and enjoyable year. My main project was the completion of a 100,000 word popular science introduction to artificial intelligence (AI), entitled *The Road to Conscious Machines*, which will be published by Pelican in early 2020. This was – predictably – a much bigger and more complex process than I had imagined. I delivered my first draft in January 2019, and was still working to address the editorial feedback in August. I am proud to have completed it, but mostly just relieved.

The continuing AI boom led to a lot of travel this year: three visits to China, two to Singapore, two to the US, two to Canada, plus visits to Spain, France, Portugal, and Qatar. The highlight was the World AI Conference in Shanghai in August 2019, where I found myself on the same billing as Elon Musk, the US technology billionaire and founder of Tesla Motors and PayPal. He was hugely entertaining, although his views on AI were *unconventional*, to put it mildly.

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ECONOMICS

Professor Elizabeth Baldwin writes:



Economics in Hertford has had an excellent year. For one thing, we have been joined by a new fellow, Professor Teodora Boneva. We were also joined by 17 new undergraduate students in PPE and E&M, and three new graduates studying the MPhil and DPhil in Economics.

Teodora's work is in the economics of inequality, particularly relating to educational attainment and aspiration. A few months after she joined us, she was awarded a Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship.

Teodora's work is in the economics of inequality, particularly relating to educational attainment and aspiration. A few months after she joined us, she was awarded a Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship – a 36-month award, representing 150,000 Swiss francs. This will enable her to further investigate the sources and consequences of socio-economic inequality in childhood. Within Hertford, she teaches quantitative economics. The students really appreciate her expertise and her ability to show the context and use of complicated econometric techniques.

The remainder of teaching within college was taken up by Dr Richard Povey, Dr Arhat Virdi, and myself. Richard continues his work in the economics of altruism. Arhat has a background also in philosophy, and writes, among other things, on the philosophy of the natural and social sciences. For next year, Arhat will leave us but we will be joined by Olga Gdula, who is completing her doctorate in empirical econometrics at Oxford. My own work has continued in both environmental economics and more abstract economic theory; I was happy to have papers published in both the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, and *Econometrica*, back in May. I also delivered a new third year optional undergraduate course in environmental economics for the first time this year, and look forward to next year when four students from Hertford will study this subject with me.

The students at Hertford have also had a successful year. All our finalists in PPE or E&M obtained either a 2:1 or better, and there were four firsts in PPE. In Prelims, there were six distinctions, three each in PPE and E&M.

ENGINEERING

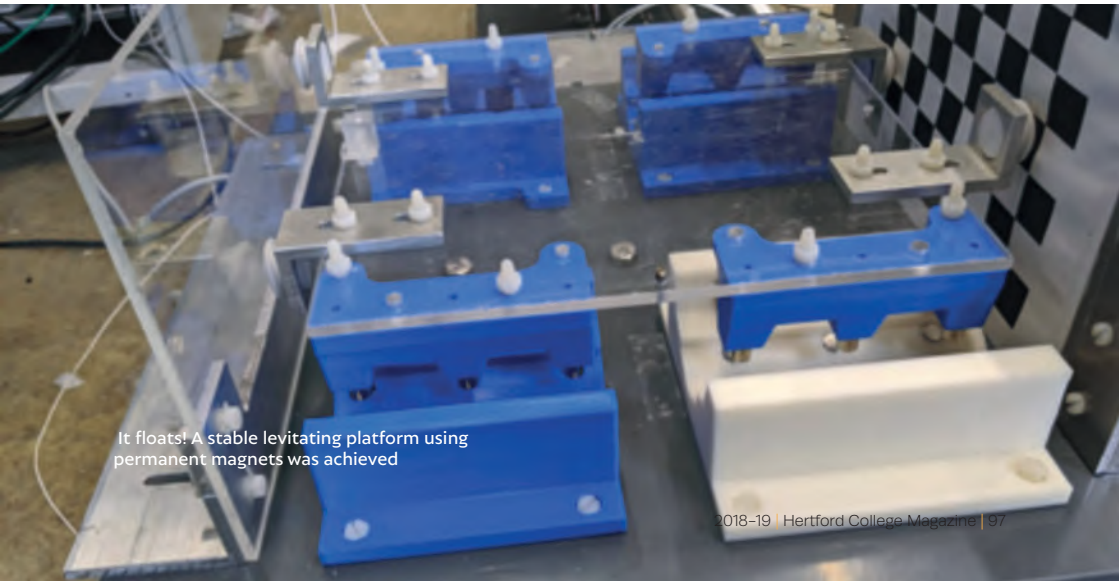
Professor Manolis Chatzis writes:



During the 2018-2019 academic year we had the graduation of our three excellent fourth year Hertford engineers. Marcus Hoddinott graduated with a first-class degree, being at the top of the cohort for students choosing Chemical Engineering options. Hujing Liu and Jong Kwon both chose to do fourth

year projects with their college tutor Manolis Chatzis. Hoo worked in the response of free-standing water tanks subjected to vibrational excitations, and his work with M Chatzis and C MacMinn was presented by Manolis in the 2019 Engineering Mechanics Institute Conference in Caltech Pasadena, one of the top conferences in the field. It is the second time that Manolis presents a conference paper with a Hertford undergraduate student, the first being in the 2014 EMI conference where the work with Chris Needham, a 2014 Hertford Engineering graduate was presented. Jong, co-supervised by Manolis and F Hoffmann, achieved the design and build of a stable magnetic levitation platform as a means of exhibiting objects in museums. The platform achieves the aesthetically pleasing element of levitation, yet is stable for a reasonable range of vibrational excitations.

Finally, we want to congratulate our first year students for their performance: three distinctions and a series of very good marks in several papers by all students.



It floats! A stable levitating platform using permanent magnets was achieved

ENGLISH

Professor Charlotte Brewer writes:



Hertford English has been buoyant this year, with a good crop of examination results, notably from our English and Modern Language finalists – congratulations to all.

I'm proud to report that both David Dwan and Emma Smith have brought out well-received books this academic year. In Michaelmas, David published *Liberty, Equality & Humbug: Orwell's Political Ideals* (Oxford University Press

2018), a study of the man, the work, and the political and cultural context, with immediate relevance to the present – not least in its demonstration that 'freedom of expression is a dangerous licence when severed from any commitment to truth' (*The Guardian*). Written for the general reader as well as for those of us in ivory towers, it is 'an excellent book, beautifully crafted, smart and bold, just like its subject, and not an ounce of humbug' (*Literary Review*). Emma followed this up in Hilary with *This is Shakespeare* (Penguin Books, 2019), getting a handsome crop of reviews from both fellow academics and writers/journalists. Colin Burrow appreciated the way 'her book fizzes with jokes' and Hilary Mantel described how "passion and curiosity... light up the page" – while our own Alex Preston judged it a 'fun, insightful and profoundly approachable study of 20 of his plays... perhaps the finest critique of his work to date'.

I have published a new examining the OED website (<http://oed.hertford.ox.ac.uk/main/>), and have forthcoming articles on dictionaries and poets (Liverpool University Press) and on the history of English lexicography (Cambridge University Press).

Hertford English has been buoyant this year, with a good crop of examination results, notably from our English and Modern Language finalists – congratulations to all.

GEOGRAPHY

Dr Louise Slater writes:



Hertford Geography has celebrated another productive year, achieving four firsts at finals, as well as four prize winners.

Two of our finalists, Eleanor Ward and Oliver Barlow, were awarded the University's CDD Gibbs Book Prize for FHS Geography 2019. The Gibbs Prize in Geography is awarded by the University on the average of the written examination papers for the Honour School of Geography in Trinity term 2019.

Additionally, two dissertations by Hertford geographers have been nominated for external prizes. Annie Simm's dissertation was selected by the FHS Exam Board to be nominated for the external Gender and Feminist Geographies Research Group (GFGRG) undergraduate dissertation prize relating to geographies and gender. Joyce (Yuk) Lo's dissertation was also selected by the FHS Exam Board to be nominated for the external Social and Cultural Geography Research Group (SCGRG) undergraduate dissertation prize in social and cultural geography.

The academic team has been equally productive.

Dr Jamie Lorimer has just completed his second book, which will be published next year. The book draws together work he has been doing over the last five years on rewilding across different scales – from the body to the wider countryside. He is interested in common efforts to use life to manage life – reintroducing important species like beavers to restore different ecologies. Jamie hopes to show that those working in different areas of health and environmental policy might learn from each other. Jamie is also leading a new research project looking at the rise of plant-based eating and meat alternatives in Europe and North America. This work is funded by the Wellcome Trust and examines why people are buying these products, who is benefiting from their growth, and why they are proving controversial. We have a paper coming out soon on Piers Morgan and the Greggs' vegan sausage roll!

Dr Louise Slater has just completed her first year as the new Tutorial Fellow in Physical Geography at Hertford. In Hilary term 2019, she was appointed as the Chair of the Oxford Water Network (OWN), a multi-disciplinary research community from the natural, social and engineering sciences. OWN supports a diverse portfolio of water research spanning 31 different departments, institutes, centres, and schools. Dr Slater also continues as editor for the journal *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, and as Outreach and Education Secretary for the British Society for Geomorphology. In recent research, she has established the existence of a link between climate variability and the conveyance capacity of rivers, which has implications for engineering and flood modelling around the world. Her

A new innovative £1m project funded by the Oxford Martin School is, with colleagues in engineering, plant sciences and business, exploring new biofuel options for African drylands.

research focuses on developing new approaches for better understanding, modelling and predicting flooding in the context of changing climate and land cover.

David Thomas, Professorial Fellow, has been working on a series of research projects in southern African drylands. A new innovative £1m project funded by the Oxford Martin School is, with colleagues in engineering, plant sciences and business, exploring new biofuel options for African drylands that combine benefits of land degradation restoration, advanced anaerobic digestion and dryland-adapted succulent species to deliver power in regions where other options

are less viable. This work is currently focused in Namibia in partnership with a local university and the government. His recently completed Leverhulme-funded geoarchaeology project in Palaeolake Makgadikgadi is in a public engagement phase that in January saw lectures and outreach conservation meetings in schools and communities in central Botswana. Two of his Hertford-based DPhil students, Kaja Fenn and Aayush Srivistava, respectively working on central European loess and the dune systems of the Thar Desert, are submitting their theses in autumn 2019. In July, David was awarded the Royal Geographical Society's Victoria Medal for his work in the world's drylands.

Dr Janet Banfield's second book is due out in the coming weeks. It is based on three years of voluntary work as Vice Chair for her local neighbourhood planning group and is a critical reflection on neighbourhood planning as a transfer of power to the people. It addresses the process of place-making; explores conflicted constructions of the environment, green belt and sustainable development; unpacks the contentious politics involved, and highlights the deleterious impacts on place attachment for residents that result from neighbourhood planning. Dr Banfield also has a chapter in a handbook on the geographies of creativity due out early next year.

HISTORY

Professor David Hopkin writes:



Hertford History finalists achieved seven firsts this year, our best crop in some time! Congratulations to them, to all our finalists, and particularly to Katie Burke and Lydia Parkes who win prizes for their performance in finals. Katie and Lydia proved themselves not only excellent historians but worked hard promoting the subject, the college and the University to school students during their time in Hertford. So, in addition to congratulations, a big thank you to them and all the Hertford historians who do so much outreach work.

We say goodbye to two young researchers. Dr Andrew Phemister was the 2018-19 Roy Foster Irish Government Senior Scholar; his work brings together nineteenth century political thought on land and republicanism with the practical politics and social history of the Irish Land War. Dr Ruggero Sciuto joined us for the year, in association with the Voltaire Foundation, working on the French Enlightenment. Some of his work can be read on the ongoing Oxford project on 'Cultures of Knowledge: Networking the Republic of Letters, 1550-1750'.

At the same time, we welcome a new young researcher. Dr Catherine Sloan joins Hertford as the Porter Career Development Fellow, dividing her time between helping Hertford students improve their study skills and researching Victorian children's writing, particularly school magazines, in the British Empire.

Professor David Hopkin continues in his role as Senior Tutor, and in his spare time tours the country and beyond talking about lacemakers and the history of the lace industry, stopping in Huddersfield, Blackburn, Derby, Colchester and Amsterdam so far this year. He has also given talks on songs about Napoleon in the aftermath of Waterloo and Peterloo in Oxford and Warwick. He has published articles and chapters in 2019 on Flemish lacemakers and their songs, broadside ballads and marketplace singers in France, the literary, popular and military history of Hans Christian Andersen's tale *The Tinderbox*, and regionalism and folklore in twentieth century Europe. Professor Christopher Tyerman's *The World of the Crusades: An Illustrated History* was published by Yale University Press earlier this year, and his contribution to the history of the crusades was honoured by a festschrift, edited by G Lippiatt and J Bird, *Crusading Europe: Essays in Honour of Christopher Tyerman* (Brepols, 2019). He has given talks in London and Oxford on communal politics in the crusades and on crusader writers' use of landscape. Professor Giora Sternberg continues to research his next monograph on the power of writing in *Ancien Régime France*. Congratulations to Dr Naomi Lloyd-Jones, our Lecturer in Modern British History, who received her doctorate from King's College London in June this year. Her recent edited collection, *Four Nations Approaches to Modern 'British' History* (Palgrave, 2018), could not be more timely.

HUMAN SCIENCES

Professor Clive Hambler writes:



In the last two years, our Human Sciences students have done consistently well – with great marks including a first and a distinction in each year (helped I suspect by changes to the QM course). In 2018, Ava Scott shared the Wilma Crowther Prize for the best dissertation in Human Sciences. Her dissertation topic was a mixture of culture and genes in North America: how waves of colonists have interacted in nature and nurture over hundreds of years, and what influenced the regional spread of traits from one to another. Both Ava and Maciej who also graduated in 2018 were very active in helping applicants and in college societies and the JCR – recent graduates will remember their kind, good citizenship, the 'Hartfest', and guitar playing! Our four HumScis who graduated in 2019 have also contributed in a wide variety of ways, including football and poetry, and had the usual impressive spread and quality of dissertations. One project on the possible origins of bipedality through selective pressures on females aroused

lots of interest at alumni meetings and Principal's collections. We wish them all well in their new careers or higher degrees – including taking on the challenges and rewards of school teaching.

There have been no big changes in the finals course – options come and go, as do tutors, but the greater coursework element has helped lead to a record proportion of firsts in Hum Sci in the university in 2018: 58%! This also reflects the external examiners ensuring that the degree quality equates to those in other universities. The overall quality of assessed essays, verbal exams and dissertations was highly commended by the examiners.

I've moved my research base to a temporary 'modular' building in Mansfield Road, and now do almost all teaching in college in the sunny quad – when possible, of course.

I'm continuing my research on false widow spiders – the species which closed down about a dozen schools in London in 2018. It's hard not to study them: my fieldwork suggests they are probably on almost every building in the south of Britain and in Oxford!



A female false widow spider on the gates to an Oxford park.

I'm continuing my research on false widow spiders – the species which closed down about a dozen schools in London in 2018. It's hard not to study them: my fieldwork suggests they are probably on almost every building in the south of Britain and in Oxford! Fortunately they tend to retreat into crevices if disturbed, but they are far more easily encountered than people realise. Closing organisations for fumigation may become a common phenomenon unless other means to control the risk are developed, and I suggest Britain (and other countries)

need a resurgence of natural history education to help identify the species and tell people how best to avoid it. I have published a preprint on the species <https://osf.io/6gv74> with supplementary videos (not for the arachnophobic). I am now working on a peer-reviewed version of the paper.

It was great to see many alumni at the recent Darwin Dinners, and at various visits through the year. Please do keep in touch and come back often! Happy to show you Britain's most dangerous spider when you do..!

LAW

Dr Kate Greasely writes:



This term I'm on research leave, working on a series of philosophical issues concerning with sexual offences – in particular, the nature of consent to sexual activity, and how the law determines

The student's work consisted of teaching selected prisoners Public Law as part of a qualifying English Law degree from the University of London. In doing so, he spent over 50 hours, over the course of five weeks, in both the men's and women's prison.

lack of reasonable belief in consent for the purposes of sexual crimes. I'm also working on some specific issues within free speech theory, including feminist criticisms of free speech protections for pornography. Meanwhile, our new Law fellow, Aruna Nair, is settling into Hertford (see the feature on new fellows, p86)

In Trinity term, we launched Hertford's Law mentoring scheme. This was set up by the Hertford Law Society presidents, Mitchell Tate and Sebastian Bell with the aim of better connecting Hertford students interested in a career in the law with our alumni lawyers. Students can ask about different legal career paths and get CV and interview advice. So far, six Hertford students have been in touch with alumni and we hope to expand this scheme even further over the next academic year.

This year's Ben Ogden travel grant was awarded to a second year Law student. He undertook an internship with African Prisons Project Uganda which operates in the Luzira maximum security prisons. The bulk of their work focuses on training prisoners to become auxiliary paralegals in order to build a legal clinic inside the prison, something that has never been accomplished before. The student's work consisted of teaching selected prisoners Public Law as part of a qualifying English Law degree from the University of London. In doing so, he spent over 50 hours, over the course of five weeks, in both the men's and women's prison, preparing the students for exams in October. We are happy to be able to support initiatives like this one through the Ben Ogden Travel Fund.

MATHS

Professor Alan Lauder writes:



It has been a year of transition in Mathematics at Hertford. My esteemed colleague Fernando was elevated to a university only position after the first-term, in recognition of his great achievements in Mathematical Physics, but kindly agreed to stay on tutoring at the college until the summer. As I write this I am ploughing through a mass of applications from would-be successors: I hope when you read this we will have appointed a new Tutorial Fellow in Mathematics. The new tutor will teach Pure Mathematics and I suspect will not be fully in post for another academic year. In the meantime, Mathematics at Hertford is being held together by a patchwork of lecturers, and myself.

Alert mathematical readers may have spotted that we will then have two tutors in Pure Mathematics at Hertford, and none in Applied. In fact, not so, for I am also in transition, from a pure tutor to an applied one. I began this painful transformation at the start of the last academic year and hope to be a fully-fledged applied tutor by the end of the coming one. After 15 years of fussing

I hope when you read this we will have appointed a new Tutorial Fellow in Mathematics.

over algebra and analysis in tutorials, it was a liberation to be discussing a problem in which the flight of a spaceship was calculated. (One of my tutees wrongly referred to it as a rocket in their solution. I was firm in correcting them, as I believe that is not the same thing and these sorts of distinctions are important in Applied Mathematics.) I also proudly dug out from my attic the gold medal I received for Physics from Glasgow University 27 years ago, to show off to my children. (Has Fernando ever won a gold medal for Physics I





wondered?) The gold seemed to have rusted a little over that time.

Two notable firsts this past academic year were our first student from Argentina and the first, that I have admitted, from Scotland. The former first is not such a surprise – there is no great tradition of youngsters from Argentina applying to Oxford, and I suspect ours may have been attracted

to Hertford when he spotted a fellow countryman was a mathematical fellow. The latter is perhaps more surprising. I have seen though very few Scottish applicants over the past 16 years. We Scots have a very high opinion of our ancient universities, and why then should we apply to Oxford when we can stay at home for free.

MEDICINE

Professor David Greaves writes:



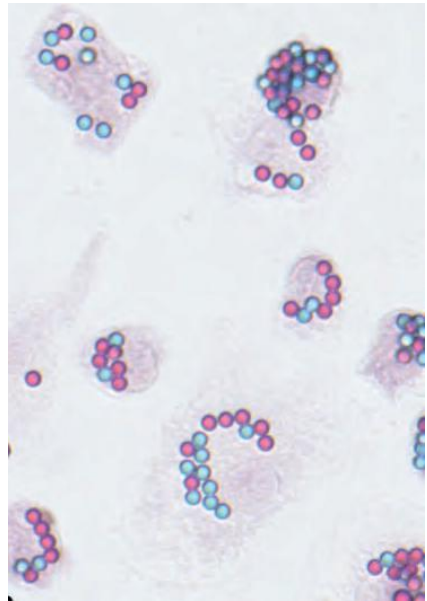
All six years of medical students at Hertford were kept busy in the academic year 2018-2019 by a combination of examinations, extracurricular activities and visits to experience medicine abroad, generously supported by the Miles Vaughan Williams Medical Fund.

Congratulations to the Hertford third years for an excellent set of results in undergraduate finals this summer with not one, but two, University prizes in Pharmacology. Ahmed Alhussni was awarded the Wronker Prize in Pharmacology for his experimental dissertation undertaken in the laboratory of Hertford fellow Professor Rebecca Sitsapesan and Hamish Streeter's FHS experimental dissertation was nominated for the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) prize, which will be presented at the BPS meeting next December.

Hertford medical students who spent time undertaking clinical work abroad include Shloke Joshi – Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Bahamas; Laura Hudson at a surgery summer school

in Moscow; Omar Alrawi who visited the American University of Beirut; Ifan Jenkin – Obstetrics and Gynecology, Kathmandu; and Chloe Jacklin, Paarl Hospital, near Cape Town.

In addition to visiting South Africa, Chloe Jacklin also attended an international conference in Belfast run by the Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT). The conference, with 900 delegates, was aimed at surgical trainees, foundation doctors and medical students interested in a surgical career. Chloe won a prize for her oral presentation on her research on prostate cancer, a project she had been working on for around eight months with Mr Simon Brewster.



Shows pale pink-stained cells called macrophages that have accumulated bright blue and pink latex bead particles through a process called 'cannibalistic phagocytosis' where macrophages eat dead and dying macrophages together with their cargo of beads.



Hertford Medicine schools dinner summer 2019 with a *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* fancy dress theme. Left to right: Adam Watson, Ahmed Alhussni, Gabriella Kelly, Lewis Greenan-Barrett and Hamish Streeter.



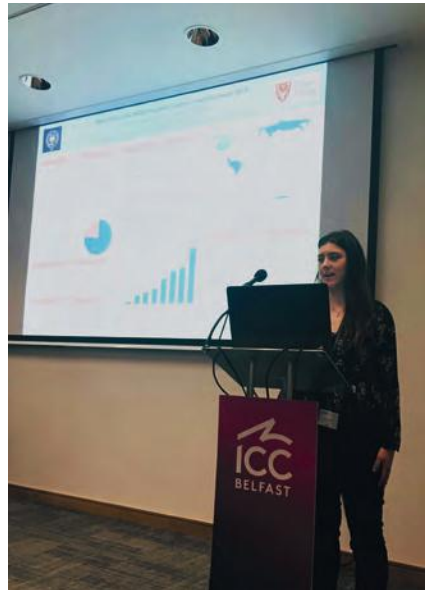
Ifan Jenkins in Katmandu, Nepal.

We are pleased to welcome Mr Max Gibbons, an orthopaedic surgeon, as a new member of Hertford's clinical teaching team. Max will be providing specialist training for Hertford students in year five of clinical school and we were delighted to see Sujata Biswas and Patrick Garfjeld-Roberts collect their DPhils in the Sheldonian this year. Many congratulations also to Louise Wing who has been appointed a Consultant Radiologist in the Oxford University Hospitals Trust. Originally an Exeter College alumna I remember teaching Louise BM Principles of Pathology and supervising her final year lab project in the Dunn School!

In addition to funding overseas study visits an equally important part of Miles Vaughan Williams' legacy are the two dinners per year that bring the Hertford pre-clinical and clinical students together with their tutors to listen to one of our medical alumni. In May 2019 our students particularly appreciated the honest advice on surviving clinical training offered by Bayo Alli, an ENT Speciality Registrar at the Severn Deanery Rotation of the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust.

Students and tutors alike were sorry to see Rebecca Sitsapesan retire from teaching Pharmacology at Hertford far too early. We wish Rebecca all the best as an Emeritus Fellow. Rebecca will be a very hard act to follow and greatly missed by all members of the Hertford medicine family.

Working in the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology I continue to study the biology of immune cells called macrophages in human disease. Work from my laboratory has been published in peer-reviewed journals including ACS



Chloe Jacklin in Belfast – note Hertford College logo on the slide.

Chemical Biology, FASEB Journal, DNA and Cell Biology and Am J Respir Crit Care Med. I was particularly proud of an interdisciplinary paper authored by a Mathematics PhD student in my lab in the world's oldest scientific journal, the *Proceedings of the Royal Society Series B*. In our experiments we studied a fundamental problem in macrophage biology by building predictive mathematical models of macrophage consumption of dead and dying cells and then testing our predictions in a tissue culture model. My research is funded by grants from the British Heart Foundation and the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

SITSAPESAN RESEARCH

Research in the Sitsapesan lab in 2018-2019 has focused on specialised proteins called ion channels that control the movements of calcium inside cells. The work is helping to identify why calcium released inside cells at the wrong time can lead to potentially fatal disorders of the brain, heart and skeletal muscle.

Results have been published in a number of high impact journals including *British Journal of Pharmacology*, *Science Reports*, *Journal of Physiology*, *Human Molecular Genetics* and *Nature Communications*. Following the discovery that statins affect an ion channel called the ryanodine receptor, a British Heart Foundation (BHF) project grant was awarded this year to Rebecca Sitsapesan to investigate the muscle-related side effects of statins and to develop improved cholesterol-lowering drugs. BHF-funded DPhil students, Abigail Wilson and Chris Lindsay, have successfully gathered a record number of awards for communicating their research at local, national and international meetings this year. These



include the Oxford Pharmacology Paton prizes for 2018 and 2019; British Pharmacological Society Edinburgh, Best Poster 2018; Biophysical Society Education Committee award 2018; Gordon Research Conference poster commendation, Italy 2019; Oxford BHF CRE poster commendation 2018; BHF Student Conference Thesis Talk prize, first place 2018, third place 2019.

Results have been published in a number of high impact journals including *British Journal of Pharmacology*, *Science Reports*, *Journal of Physiology*, *Human Molecular Genetics* and *Nature Communications*.

MODERN LANGUAGES

Dr Katherine Lunn-Rockcliffe writes:



This year saw an exceptional set of FHS results in Modern Languages, with seven students gaining well-deserved first class degrees. We look forward to hearing what they do next. The syllabus continues to shift with the times, with the Algerian author Assia Djebar now replacing Sartre on French paper XI.

Katherine Lunn-Rockcliffe has been on sabbatical research leave this year and has continued her research on Victor Hugo's poetry. She has also learnt a lot about open access publishing after co-editing a bilingual edition of poems by Tristan Corbière. Marvellously translated by Christopher Pilling, *Oysters, Nightingales and Cooking Pots: Selected poetry and prose in translation* is published online by White Rose University Press and available free to all at <https://doi.org/10.22599/Corbiere>. Many thanks go to Sarah Jones for looking after the French students so well in her absence.

Oliver Noble Wood has recently

We also owe a big thanks to Claire Bitoun for all her patience teaching the finer points of French grammar for the last few years and we wish her all the best for her new job in the civil service.

completed pieces on *Don Quijote* and Calderón's dramatic engagement with the visual arts, in addition to an article on English translations of picaresque tales by the lesser-known Alonso de Castillo Solórzano. He is looking forward to being on sabbatical next year, when he hopes to spend Hilary and Trinity (or at least some of them!) chained to a desk in the Biblioteca Nacional de Madrid.

Joanna Neilly is currently on maternity leave and we congratulate her on the birth of her daughter Aoife Maria Tuffnell, born 13 May 2019. Thanks go to Reinier van Straten for covering the German teaching in her absence. We also owe a big thanks to Claire Bitoun for all her patience teaching the finer points of French grammar for the last few years and we wish her all the best for her new job in the civil service.

We have been pleased to hear from several recent graduates and would be delighted to hear what others are up to.

MUSIC

Dr Benjamin Skipp writes:



A particularly positive aspect this year was the presence of four students reading for postgraduate degrees in Musicology. This cohort, two US students and two British, brought

The outgoing senior organ scholar, Hannah Towndrow, who has been a resourceful champion of our chapel choir, used her experience as the basis for her dissertation on leadership versus management in choral contexts.

additional vibrancy and knowledge to our academic music community within Hertford. It was pleasing to witness their interaction with undergraduates, especially in the new film nights which were organised to showcase films that engaged with historical or iconic musicians and genres. These were convivial occasions which allowed cross-generational (in student terms!) discussion and exchange.

The undergraduate Music students had a strong year with ethnomusicological and sociological projects in evidence. The outgoing senior organ scholar, Hannah Towndrow, who has been a resourceful champion of our chapel choir, used her experience as the basis for her dissertation on leadership versus management in choral contexts. This was very convincing 'practice-led research' typical of much of the newer approaches within the field.

In addition to teaching, I have continued my work with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, attending various conferences and workshops which relate to the pedagogic issues surrounding music in, and out, of schools. This will hopefully bear fruit in contributing to the national conversation about the role of music in young people's development, something which is often neglected in favour of 'facilitating' subjects. In Hertford, I am glad to report that Music as both an academic and practical activity is still suitably valued.

ORIENTAL STUDIES

Professor Bjarke Frellesvig writes:



This past academic year, 2018-19, was very much business as usual for me, with busy teaching terms and several research visits to Japan, including a month-long visit in the spring to the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics (NINJAL) in Tachikawa on the outskirts of Tokyo. There I spent time continuing work on the Oxford-NINJAL Corpus of Old Japanese (abbreviated as the ONCOJ), which is an electronic, annotated corpus of texts from the Old Japanese period of the Japanese language (eighth century AD). Since its online publication in March 2018, the ONCOJ has seen several updates, further improvement and increased public use. The corpus, which includes all poetic texts from

the period, enriched with a wealth of morphological and syntactic information, and linked to an Old Japanese-English dictionary, may be accessed at <http://oncoj.ninjal.ac.jp/>.

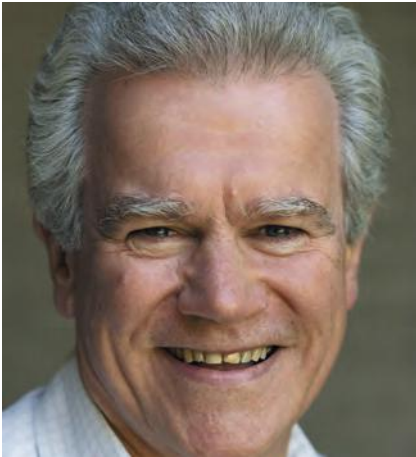
I also spent a month in the summer at Kobe University which is where all our second year Japanologists go on their year out. It was good to see our students doing well out there, and I was particularly impressed by their elegant and well-researched presentations in Japanese at the end-of-course event in August.

Other than the ongoing publication of and work on the ONCOJ, I published a few articles on various aspects of early Japanese grammar. And I was honoured to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters in April 2019.

Hertford is the largest college for Japanese, with more undergraduate students in the subject than any other college and together with their peers in Chinese they make up a strong and vibrant Oriental Studies community in Hertford. In May, we organised a visit the East Asian collections at the British Museum for the entire cohort, using the newly established academic enrichment fund, followed by dinner at a Japanese restaurant in London; this brought the students together across the year groups and subjects and was in all respects both successful and fun. For various reasons we only had three finalists in Oriental Studies this year, but as usual they did very well, with two firsts and a good 2.1.

PHILOSOPHY

Professor Peter Millican writes:



Philosophy at Hertford has grown considerably over the last decade, especially since 2012 with the new degree programme in Computer Science and Philosophy (CS&P), in which we consistently have more students than any other college (typically four or five per year). More recently, we have also seen pleasing growth in Physics and Philosophy (P&P), in which we would like to maintain at least two students per year, though this depends on the preferences of our strongest applicants in Physics. Likewise, in Philosophy and Modern Languages (PML), we have been keeping up one per year recently, and would like to see this continue. But Mathematics and Philosophy (M&P), sadly, is no longer offered by the College, as small degree programmes are being concentrated in fewer colleges to reduce risks of isolation and lack of support. In Hertford, we have always taken these concerns very seriously, ensuring strong social integration between all of our students from the very start, both in frequent joint classes and congenial

Philosophical Society events, which are always popular and very well-attended. We continue to run our Easter vacation 'Philosophy Retreat' in the Cotswolds from Monday to Thursday of noughth week, and this provides a great way of enhancing friendships and support networks across all years and subjects.

PPE continues to be our largest degree programme (with eight or nine per year), and it is wonderful at last to be back to full teaching strength in Economics, thanks to the appointment of Elizabeth Baldwin and Teodora Boneva as Tutorial Fellows (in 2017 and 2018 respectively). Until this last year we had not had two Economics Fellows since 2006, and I suspect it is no coincidence that this summer, for the first time since at least 2004, every single first year PPEist has chosen to continue with Economics to finals. In Philosophy, by contrast, I remain the only fellow, but the college last year agreed that we should aim to appoint another as soon as this is financially possible (with support from the faculty). Fifty or so students are clearly too many for one person to manage, and although I have been very ably assisted by two excellent Stipendiary Lecturers, Nick Tasker and Jonny McIntosh, the absence of a permanent colleague on Governing Body has significantly restricted my flexibility and possibilities for taking leave.

Philosophy degree results have been good across the board. Hertford PPE has always done solidly (and for more than a decade we have been one of the very highest scoring colleges in prelims), but we were delighted this year that four of our seven finalists achieved first class honours. Numbers in the smaller degree programmes are less significant, but when aggregated, their results have been spectacular: since 2013, every one of our eight finalists has achieved

first-class honours (after either three or four years) in PPP (1), M&P (2), P&P (2), and PML (3). Moreover, three of these students were awarded Gibbs prizes in Philosophy for the best performance within that degree programme across the University. Gibbs Prizes in CS&P, meanwhile, have become a yearly expectation, with 11 of our 17 graduates so far achieving first class. Overall, Philosophy in Hertford has been doing very well academically, and our total of nine firsts this year is more than ever before.

The main focus of my research continues to be Early Modern Philosophy, where I currently have an exciting project underway (with an ex-Hertford Lecturer, Henry Merivale) to extend our long-established *Hume Texts Online* (<https://davidhume.org>) to provide a much broader *English Philosophical Texts Online* ([\[englishphilosophy.org/\]\(https://englishphilosophy.org/\)\). Our pilot project for this was funded by the University's John Fell Fund, and we have just got through the first stage of a Leverhulme Fund application, which we hope will enable us to bring it to fruition. The aim is to provide both a wide range of searchable texts – including many by hitherto neglected female authors – with user-friendly tools \(modelled in part on my Signature software\) that will enable deep research into patterns of word usage etc. This will enable influences to be traced through English-language philosophy, starting with Hertford alumnus Thomas Hobbes and extending into the nineteenth century.](https://</p>
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Most of my recent publications have been on David Hume and related topics (to be found through the 'Scholarship' link on davidhume.org), and I am currently finishing an OUP book entitled



Another exciting development has been the *Futuremakers* podcast, in which I host a discussion with three researchers from the University (and sometimes beyond) on key areas where science and technology will have a major future impact.

Hume on Causation and Free Will). I have also had a recent flurry of activity in Philosophy of Religion, both on logical topics (notably the Ontological Argument) and arising from a paper on religious experience published in 2015 (together with another ex-Hertford Lecturer, Branden Thornhill-Miller), which amazingly attracted 12 published responses within two years – something I've never experienced before. We are now planning a volume based on the paper and responses.

Outreach activities have continued to occupy much of my energy, particularly with a view to attracting young people to consider Computer Science and Philosophy. Typically, I'm involved in around 25 to 30 events a year, including school visits, talking to visiting groups, faculty-organised events, day schools, and most recently, three 'UNIQ' summer schools for bright children from underprivileged backgrounds. A few years ago, I was able to bring the

international 'Bebras' computational thinking challenge to Oxford, and with the help of grants from Google and with my collaborator Chris Roffey (a retired teacher), we have increased the numbers year-on-year to over 200,000 participants across the UK, aged from ten to 18. They take the challenge online in school each November, and then the top 250 or so are invited (with parents) to a second round in Oxford, split between the Computer Science Department and Hertford. This occupies two whole weekends in January and February, split into four age groups, and provides a wonderful way of making Oxford accessible and attractive to children who often haven't previously realised how talented they are. Over the last two years we have added a further competition for the top 10% of Bebras performers, funded by TCS. This June we held a very enjoyable event for prize winners and their families, to which our students enthusiastically contributed.

Another exciting development has been the *Futuremakers* podcast, in which I host a discussion with three researchers from the University (and sometimes beyond) on key areas where science and technology will have a major future impact. The first series of ten episodes focused on artificial intelligence (for summaries and links, see www.research.ox.ac.uk/Article/2018-10-22-the-futuremakers-podcast), then we had a 'special' on quantum computing, and we've just started recording a new series on climate and sustainability issues. These discussions have been fascinating for me, and have attracted a good audience (over 8,000 for some episodes), highlighting some of the excellent research that is being done across the University. I'm also hopeful that the podcast will draw more bright young people to consider studying at Hertford College!

PHYSICS

Professor Pat Roche writes:



Over 60 people attended a major alumni physics event held on 4 May. This provided an opportunity to catch up with developments in the physics realm

in both the University and the college, as well as to meet up with old and new friends. Alumni attending spanned the years from 1963 to the most recent graduates, with some current students joining in too. Those who arrived in the afternoon were able to explore the new Beecroft physics building, which is a wonderful airy space designed to promote interaction and collaboration. After tours of the building, they were able to hear about activities in Oxford, research programmes conducted by the Hertford Physics Fellows and innovative outreach and public engagement programmes from Sam Henry, Sid Parameswaran and Pat Roche. We then moved on to Hertford, where our wonderful librarian, Alice Roques, had prepared a display of some of the treasures from the Hertford old books collection. We enjoyed drinks, dinner and the inevitable trip down to the bar, and I think that a good time was had; we will definitely plan to hold another event in a few years' time.





Physics as a subject is thriving, with major initiatives across all scales from quantum materials to the perplexing unknown forces and particles (dark energy and dark matter) that shape the universe. It is also thriving in Hertford. In the examinations in June, our finalists performed at a very high level, and there were some exceptional results in the other years too, while the Tanner society brings our physics community together for dinner each term.

We are delighted that Prof Dr Roderich Moessner, Director of the Max Planck Institute for complex systems in Dresden, Germany and Hertford alumnus, has been elected to an honorary fellowship. Roderich has sponsored a history of the Hertford admissions scheme that was developed by Neil Tanner and the college governing body in the 1960s and has very strong links with Oxford physics; we hope that we will see him at Hertford often in the future.

Congratulations to Sid Parameswaran who has been awarded a European Research Council grant to investigate the structure and properties of novel quantum materials. This is a prestigious five-year award that will enable him to establish a research group and advance our understanding of fundamental properties of matter. Pat Roche has continued his involvement with

Physics as a subject is thriving, with major initiatives across all scales from quantum materials to the perplexing unknown forces and particles (dark energy and dark matter) that shape the Universe.

European astronomy, working with the European Southern Observatory and networks of national agencies to develop their future programmes. Sam Henry was awarded the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Divisional award for public engagement with research. Sam has developed a unique programme which uses fan fiction to engage with online audiences and explain concepts in physics and regularly interacts with a wide range of people directly through stalls at science fairs and other events.



STUDENT LIFE



JCR

Mitchell Tate (Jurisprudence, 2017)

As we head into the summer vacation, the long break offers us a chance to look forward to a new year and new challenges but also to remember those moving on in the world and celebrate their years at Hertford College. To welcome those arriving at the College in Michaelmas and to thank those who are leaving for their contributions this year, we must reflect on what has been a brilliant 2018-2019 for Hertford JCR.

The year kicked off with the arrival of new students, by a freshers committee led by Nina Turnbull. The week was filled with a balance of entertaining and informative activities to prepare the new fawns with the skills needed to succeed at Hertford. With more diversity workshops than ever as well as the traditional Matriculation Ball, Hertford JCR was off to a strong start.

Freshers week also saw the arrival of new sportsmen and sportswomen, all with a thirst to dive into the deep end of their new university lives. As a result, Hertford has put its name on the

Oxford map. Men's football and rugby made it to the quarter finals of Cuppers, with the football team securing their third promotion in three years. Women's football made it yet again to the final of Cuppers and the netball team made it to their semi final in Trinity. But it is not just the performance of the teams which makes these results impressive – the sheer number of Hertford supporters is something we can all truly be proud of. With well over 100 fans at the Cuppers final, including the support of Principal Will Hutton, and extremely high numbers at all games, the spirit of Hertford truly shone through this year.

Continuing the high standard set in the first week of term, the JCR's devotion to equality and access work remained throughout the year. Led by Fenella Sentence, the Equal Opportunities Committee ran a set of extremely successful programmes and events such as a talk from C N Lester, academic panel events as well as establishing focus groups to discuss ways to increase diversity in college. The commitment to equality goes hand in hand with access schemes that the JCR are heavily involved





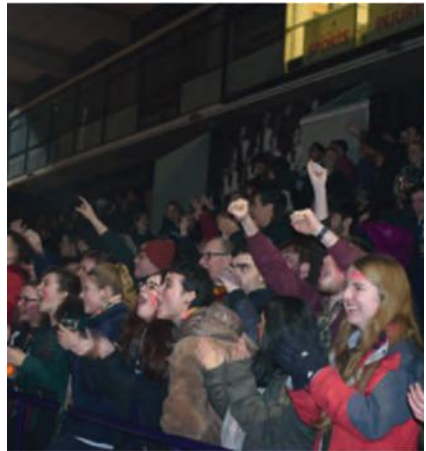
in. Volunteers, organised by our Access Officer Alicia Fisher, run weekly tours and lunches for schools which reflect the importance of principles such as inclusivity which our JCR hold.

In other areas of the JCR, another extremely successful Arts Week was held, which included an open mic night, arts sessions and the hugely popular Hertford play. Written by Katie Burke, 'Mamma Mia: Hert We Go Again' a Hertford equivalent of *Mamma Mia* saw an emergence of hidden talents and was attended by many on OB quad.

As we move forward to Michaelmas and I enter the last term of my presidency I look forward to another new year of Hertford College. With new JCR societies already emerging, such as the entrepreneurship society, it looks to be a busy and exciting new year. A revamp of the common room in Hollywell, led by myself and JCR Treasurer Dan McKavanagh saw a clearance of the 'historic' JCR cupboard. We stumbled across JCR minutes dating back to the 1980s and would like to

thank you for your contributions – we all had great fun reading through the various motions from 'purchasing Gary Lineker for the thirds football, to buying a JCR Porsche for those frequenting long walks to faculties'. Finally, the JCR constitution is being rewritten this summer which marks the new era for Hertford's JCR.

All that is left to say to conclude a hugely successful year is that it has been my pleasure to represent the JCR this year, and to help foster a fun and friendly atmosphere in college. In total, over 100 events were hosted by members of the college this year, which truly reflects the passion and enthusiasm that our students have for Hertford life. From charity sports matches, to open mic nights, to talks and debates hosted by keynote speakers, Hertford thrives in such a diverse environment which encourages students to pursue their goals and truly make use of their time at Hertford. Hertford is a brilliant college to be a part of and I want to thank everybody who has even been involved in creating the atmosphere that we are able to thrive in today. I am positive that everyone for years to come will be saying exactly the same thing.





MCR

Helen Neale (Oriental Studies, 2017)

Michaelmas 2018/19 saw the arrival of more than 115 new members of the graduate student body at Hertford, the largest incoming group of graduate freshers we have seen. As has become traditional, the MCR hosts three weeks of Freshers' 'Week', packed full of events and activities to welcome these new students into our community. Over the course of these three weeks, our new members quickly became familiar faces, getting a chance not only to know each other but also the returning members of the MCR. In particular, we welcomed back two students who had previously been visiting students at Hertford a few years ago, and who evidently found the learning and social environment here enjoyable enough to return as graduate students. Three long weeks of warm welcomes culminated

in the matriculation ball in the Hertford hall, after rain had dampened the matriculation ceremony (and no doubt everybody's photos) but not the evening.

With Freshers' Week over, it was time for students, new and returning, to settle back into the rhythms of research, classes, libraries and laboratories. Of course, the MCR committee provided ample opportunities for students to balance their hard work with a healthy social life. Events such as Waugh Night – a 20s themed celebration of all things Evelyn Waugh, Oxmas – with a saxophone-playing Santa – and Burns Night, complete with haggis, whiskey and ceilidh, were perennial highlights. We were also pleased to welcome back the Hertford Society, organising a joint wine and cheese evening in the lovely setting of the Octagon for a second year running and what we hope may become an annual tradition. Alongside



official events, it was gratifying to see the students of the MCR developing into a closely knit community. Over the course of the year, an informal lunch club could be found in the MCR almost daily, and a group of pub quiz enthusiasts boasts enough members to need multiple teams at the Old Bookbinders. They even regularly score passing marks now.

A great strength of the MCR has been our programme of academic soirées over the past few years. The members of the MCR study a great variety of different specialities, and the academic soirées allow us an opportunity to share and engage with each other's research. We are particularly grateful to the members of the SCR who attend these events. We hope to continue strengthening these ties across the whole college community. In addition to our regular soirée each term, this year also saw the successful introduction of specialist soirées. On International Women's Day, we hosted

a soirée celebrating the research being done by and about women at Hertford, as well as a second soirée in Trinity term focusing on feminist approaches and challenges in the workforce. Members of the MCR and the JCR also collaborated to host a wonderful soirée highlighting LGBTQ+ research.

As we come to the end of the year, it has been a privilege to serve as President alongside an enormously hard-working committee who have been generous with their time and committed to building an environment in the MCR that is welcoming. With the end of one year, we begin looking to the next. A new committee has been appointed, and new graduate students are even now looking forward to their first term at Oxford and Hertford College. I can only say thank you to the committee and all the students for making this a wonderful year for the MCR, and best wishes for another one to come.

MUSIC

Charlotte Corderoy (Music, 2017)

Hertford has seen another fantastic and jam-packed year of music-making. Music continues to frequently feature at the heart of day-to-day life in college, and at the very centre of all this is Hertford College Music Society (HCMS), the largest collegiate music society of the University. The society, and its President Nathan Di Georgi (first year music undergraduate), welcomes musicians from across the entire University, and continues to proudly boast its non-auditioning ethos.

The college orchestra has enjoyed tackling some ambitious repertoire, including movements from Dvorak's Symphony No 9 *From the New World*, as well as works by Verdi and Grieg. The orchestra bid farewell to conductor Maddy Withers, a second year musician from Hertford, and welcomed Nathan as their new

conductor at the beginning of Trinity 2018. HCMS's termly concerts, held at University Church are the culmination of an enormous amount of hard work and preparation, and the HCMS orchestra is renowned for its exciting and varied concert finales. As the society's largest ensemble, the orchestra is the largest, and safest musical space, which 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 all its participants.

The HCMS jazz band has played for a variety of exciting and successful gigs this year. In Trinity term, HARTfest (Hertford College Arts Festival) saw hundreds of JCR and MCR members enjoying the jazz band's music, even braving the drizzle to do so! 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! Last year's event in Hilary term was no exception, and yet again saw an hour-long encore from the band. In Michaelmas week eight, jazz band and chapel choir joined forces once again for the annual carols in the quad, delighting members of the public with Christmas carols whilst selling mince pies and mulled wine for a local charity.

This year, the society's newest initiative has been a serious drive on promoting talented and emerging soloists across the University in the form of a new initiative – Hertford presents... In addition to the weekly solo lunchtime recitals, organised by HCMS in Hertford chapel, the termly concerts now provide a platform to a serious musician, invited to perform by the society. Highlights have included performances from Tetsu Isaji and Toby Stanford, two promising Hertford pianists.

**Further afield,
Hertford musicians
continue to conquer
the University music
scene. Second year
music undergraduate
Charlotte Corderoy
concluded her year as
Conducting Scholar of
Schola Cantorum of
Oxford.**

The Chapel choir has also seen great successes this year – they delivered an exciting and unusual concert during Hilary 2019, juxtaposing the works of Pärt and Bach, to much enjoyment. The year culminated in the choir's tour of Budapest. Armed with the works of Bach, Purcell, Tippett and Duruflé, and in spite of a 38 degree heatwave, the choir delivered three wonderful concerts across three beautiful and unique venues. St Stephen's Basilica, Matthias Church and Pomaz Church hosted the choir for two concerts and one mass over the course of the week, and the singers were exposed to liturgy and performance practice in Hungarian – an insightful and exciting new experience for all involved. In an unexpected turn of events, their final concert, in the small village of Pomaz, included performing to a camera and sound crew, and was later broadcast on Hungarian television!

Further afield, Hertford musicians continue to conquer the University music scene. Second year music undergraduate Charlotte Corderoy concluded her year as Conducting Scholar of Schola Cantorum of Oxford, and took up her new appointment as Conductor of the Oxford University Philharmonia Orchestra. Meanwhile first year music undergraduate Toby Stanford saw great success as répétiteur and pianist for the Oxford Contemporary Opera Society's UK premiere performance of Gavin Bryars' *Marilyn Forever* in May.

HCMS is fortunate enough to enjoy support from college, the JCR and a number of donors, including our honorary patron, Sir Nicholas Jackson. With continuing support from the college community and beyond, HCMS continues to go from strength to strength.

POLITICS AND ECONOMICS SOCIETY

Joshua Cleary (PPE, 2017)

It has been a fantastic year for the Hertford Politics and Economics Society, with the college lucky enough to welcome a fascinating range of speakers for talks and workshops.

Over the course of the year, HPES has run a highly successful series, 'Debating Capitalism', in which speakers from a wide range of disciplines were invited to share their economic insights. Among those who spoke were Sir Paul Collier, who emphasised the need for a new 'radical centre', and Professor Mariana Mazzucato who discussed the revolutionary potential of government in research and development.

Of course, no recent HPES term card would be complete without a generous helping of Brexit-related events, and in this area we welcomed a diverse range of speakers and opinions. Those who spoke on Brexit included Roland Rudd, Chair of the People's Vote Campaign, and Gerard Lyons, co-founder of Economists for Brexit. It almost goes without saying that

Over the course of the year, HPES has run a highly successful series, 'Debating Capitalism', in which speakers from a wide range of disciplines were invited to share their economic insights.

The fantastic opportunities that HPES affords students of all subjects to openly interact with all of our speakers remains our greatest strength, and I would like to personally thank Will for the huge amount of work he does to support these dinners.

both talks provoked a healthy amount of debate, and as ever the dinners hosted by Will Hutton that followed each talk were highly engaging. The fantastic opportunities that HPES affords students of all subjects to openly interact with all of our speakers remains our greatest strength, and I would like to personally thank Will for the huge amount of work he does to support these dinners.

Beyond this we have also enjoyed hearing from, amongst many others, David Lammy and Alastair Campbell. Alastair's incredible openness and honesty regarding his own mental health was spoken to a generation addressing mental health in a new age of social media, whilst David's discussion of his own route into politics alongside broader issues of institutional inequality and injustice in modern Britain provided many fantastic insights. These talks helped to remind those present of the values that Hertford is proud to defend, as well as encouraging us to consider

what more we must do as students.

However, among all these incredible events there stands one clear highlight. Late last year, Jeremy Heywood, Baron Heywood of Whitehall and a Hertford alumnus, sadly passed away. As HPES President, it was my absolute privilege to help organise a day of memorial and celebration for Jeremy in February, held at the Oxford Martin School. During an extraordinary day, leading figures from across civil society who had spent their careers working with Jeremy were invited to share their reflections on his life and legacy. This was followed by a moving talk by Jeremy's wife, Suzanne, on the fantastic work of the newly established Heywood Foundation, and we were even treated to some photos of Jeremy as he graduated from Hertford, wearing some typically silly fancy dress!

As I mentioned above, the incredible opportunities extended to the JCR to interact with all of HPES's speakers is something to be proud of, and this was never more so than in the case of the dinner that followed the talks on Jeremy's life and legacy. We live in uncertain times politically, and as students thinking about their plans moving forwards in life, many argue that there is little to feel inspired by. However, after spending an evening in the company of those who knew Jeremy best, remembering a man who was genuinely devoted to public service, one cannot help but feel full of hope. His unwavering commitment to the highest values of government is a standard towards which we must all aim if we truly want to make our world a better place, and to witness such a broad range of figures from Jeremy's life speak of him with such adoration was truly inspiring. The small role that HPES plays in promoting these values is one of the most rewarding experiences of my time in Oxford, and I hope we can continue to do so long into the future.

SPORTS

Josephine Bellman (Human Sciences, 2017)

The Hertford sporting calendar of 2018-2019 has been very full, featuring many strong Cuppers journeys in traditional sports as well as the start of some new sporting traditions. In true Hertford spirit, many teams have drawn out large crowds to support their endeavours. Sport continues to be celebrated as an integral part of everyday life with enthusiasm.

No doubt, the sporting highlight of the year came in women's football with Hertble's, a combined Keble-Hertford team, Cuppers final appearance. The team reached the final for the second time in three years. The campaign featured an exciting 3-2 extra-time win over traditional rivals The Foxes and a convincing 4-0 semi-final win versus New College. With star players Annie Simm and Eleanor Frew returning from

the 2017 Cuppers-winning team, the girls had the full force of the Hertford community behind them. A 'We Back the Girls' video by Ollie Gardner featured Will Hutton, members of the development office, porters, and students. Over 100 students and staff marched out to watch the match under the Friday night lights at Iffley road. Orla McBride led the crowd as our deer mascot and Hertford chants filled the stadium. Unfortunately, the final proved one step too far against a very strong Catz side. The end result was 4-1 to St Catz. Despite the final result, it was a very impressive Cuppers journey – fuel for next year's campaign!

Complementing the women's football achievements, both HCAFC men's teams had a very successful season in their leagues. The firsts secured promotion to Division 1 after finishing second in their league. They also reached the quarter finals of Cuppers,



finishing their Cuppers journey with a very tight, well-attended match against Christ Church. The men's seconds went undefeated and won their league! Their season-defining win was definitely their 5-1 triumph against Jesus.

On the back of all this footballing success, we held the second Hertford subject-six-a-side tournament at Hertford Pitches in Trinity. Fourteen subjects competed. Biochemistry, Geography and Law all proved to be very strong sides; multiple matches went to penalties. In the end, by the smallest of margins (HCAFC's captain, James Nelson, single penalty kick), Geography clinched the win for the second year running. It remains a challenge for all other subjects to dismantle Geography's impending hat-trick next year!

Hertford Netball has had unprecedented success this year, achieving two promotions. The team started Michaelmas in division three and ended Hilary in division one. Highlights of the league season included 12-1 win versus St. Hughs, 15-5 versus Pembroke and 8-0 versus LMH A's. HCNC made it

to the semi-finals of women's Cuppers, its highest finish in recent years. The strength and depth of the side, with Aisha Cooper (OUNC's next president) and a strong fresher line-up, bodes well for future years. Hertford entered both an A and B team in mixed Cuppers. The A team reached the semi-final – culminating in tight matches versus St Johns and Jesus-Sommerville. Next year, HCNC is excited to be competing at its highest level yet.

On a lighter note, disguised as some pre-mixed-Cuppers training, HCNC challenged HCAFC to the inaugural 'Hertford for the Homeless' charity netball match. After the footballers' relaxed, confident, 'sunglasses-on' warm-up, it wasn't long before the shades came off as the first half of the match started to get serious with the score 5-5 at half-time. Failure to understand all the finer points of the rules led to some heated discussions on what constituted 'legal' footwork. Harry Jackson-Smith and Aisha Cooper proved particularly competitive at the centre position. Eventually, Hayley Birks' clean



and sharp shooting gave HCNC the extra edge in the second-half, running out 11-5 winners. The intra-college match-up gathered many Hertford supporters and raised £60 for the charity, set up by former JCR President and Welfare Officer, Jude Lewis and Kez Smith. It was a great sporting start to Trinity.

Rugby at Hertford also had an exciting year with the revitalisation of a Hertford women's rugby team. Led by Cecilia Bonisch, a Hertford-only side entered women's Cuppers – a feat only a few other colleges managed. On the men's side, HCRFC reached the Cuppers quarter finals, after an astounding 42-5 defeat of St Catz in the round of 16. Both rugby teams are looking forward to developing together and boosting Hertford's rugby's presence for both men and women.

Sporting success flowed in other sports too. Our badminton and tennis teams both reached the quarter-finals of Cuppers. Tennis came top of their league and will be promoted to division three next year. After a Trinity filled with unfavourable weather conditions, Hertford cricket still came third in the league and next year will be entering a T20 league as well to ensure more cricket will be played. HCCC are also looking forward to its annual tour in September, this year to that famous cricketing capital of Greece – Corfu.

Hertford had arguably the strongest college turnout for water polo Cuppers – fielding two teams drawn from all sorts of sporting backgrounds, led by blues water polo player, Zara Ahmad. However, the amateur 'egg-beating' enthusiasm of our Hertford teams proved unable to unravel the dark arts of the sport enough to outwit the blues-stacked teams they faced. Another sport which captured the enthusiasm of the college community this year was croquet. Sixteen Hertford teams entered the Cuppers tournament in Trinity this year. OB Lawn opened for

matches on Friday and Sunday evenings. After making it to the fifth round of Cuppers, two Hertford players, Ollie Gardner and Dan Mckavanagh, were last-minute substitutes into the Oxford squad for the varsity croquet match in June.

Overall, Hertford's JCR boasted over 36 University sportsmen and women this year. Some of the standout performers included Alex Hampshire, who picked up 'Sportsman of the year' at Oxford University's sports ball recognising his second place at BUCS National Judo competition and his captaincy of the varsity-winning team. Joe Pocknell won 'Fresher of the year' for winning first place at BUCS national fencing competition out of a field of 120 athletes. In total, Hertford students represented the university in over 25 different sports including contemporary dance, hockey, badminton, water polo, and athletics. This level of participation bodes well for a continued array of Hertford sporting achievements next year.

It has definitely been another great year in Hertford sports. Well done to all who have been involved! The notable success of women's sports this year has to be recognised by highpoints of Hertble, HCNC women's cuppers, Hertford rugby, and HCBC's W1 crew. This goes to show the growing recognition, progress, and achievements of women's sport within the college. I must congratulate the captains and players, who dedicated their time and effort to contribute to Hertford's sporting endeavours.

For many more 'fear the deer moments' feel free to follow @sportahertfordcollege (Instagram) for updates! With many strong performances and 'almosts' in Cuppers journeys this year, I'm excited for what Michaelmas and next year has to bring.

ROWING

**Philippa Thornton
(Geography, 2016)**

HCBC has had a standout year setting The foundations for what will be a very strong future. The highlight has been seeing the club come together as a whole for the Row to London last March helping to raise funds for the club and test our ability as rowers. It was lovely to see so many alumni coming to join us at the reception afterwards.

Further to this we had a great recruitment campaign at the beginning of the year following an extremely generous donation by an alumni to cover the first year fees of all new club members. This led in part to the success

of the W1 in Torpids and Summer Vllls with three freshers joining the crew.

Our M1 and W1 started the year in good form with the former winning their category at Wallingford head in a four and the latter placing top three out of the Oxford colleges providing much needed race experience.

When Torpids came around both M1 and W1 put in great top division performances. The women moved up three places to third in division one, a success that hasn't been met in decades and cementing Hertford women as a crew to watch rather than an underdog. Unfortunately for M1 the competition only gets tougher each year in division one and they dropped



to tenth. HCBCs lower boats, W2 and M2, also put in performances with W2 keeping their place in fixed divisions. M2 unfortunately dropped out of fixed divisions but are ready to take on the challenge of rowing on next year!

Finally, Summer Vllls was a wonderful event with many alumni coming back to cheer us on! The W1 fought the odds almost getting blades more than making up for the losses of the previous year. M1 rowed extremely well given the number of novices in the boat but were not able to hold off all of their pursuers. M2 rowed as a composite with St Hughs and W2 dropped four places, however, as the rowers gain experience we expect big things from next year!

This year also marked a number of other changes. The club, thanks to our treasurer and future President Kaja, moved to online banking. A real achievement. However, we also had to say goodbye to Chris Dalley, long-time coach of the M1. We commemorated his commitment to the club with a dinner at the boat house with previous members he has coached and we have awarded him the Bill Atkinson award this year.

It has been a pleasure to see all the rowers grow and improve over the past years and to see all the great changes taking place. Fear the deer!



CHARITY

Lybah Haider (Modern Languages, 2018)

Hertford saw yet another successful year in the charity department, from the cosy and comedic atmosphere of pub quizzes at DTB to the more active sports days organised under the sun during Trinity term – Hertford College's scene did not fall short of fun charity events.

During the first two terms, there was a stronger and more maintained focus on the levels of homelessness in Oxford: statistics show that the number of people sleeping on the streets has been increasing rapidly since 2012. As a Hertford student, one is overwhelmed by the number of rough sleepers they come across right in the heart of the city centre; even a minute's walk to Tesco on Magdalen Street is never experienced without at least acknowledging such a prevalent

issue on Oxford's doorstep. Michaelmas term, in particular, would have been an unbearably cold experience for those living on the streets. As a central college, a student (whether living on-site or making their way into the centre as part of their everyday routine) is inevitably met with the harsh reality of such a stratified class society. It is for this exact reason that Hertford has continued to work with the student-led organisation 'Hertford for the Homeless' to tackle the crisis of homelessness that we see day to day in Oxford. From using the 'H4H' logo as a sponsor on sports stash, to organising fundraisers throughout term, Hertford has contributed money towards short-term impacts such as direct aid with food or shelter, and even towards longer-term impacts such as sorting out accommodation for those living on the streets during winter.

Trinity term saw a shift in mood as exam season had finally begun for the majority of the students, and so we



We organised a charity head-shaving event that saw many students gather in the quad – a quirky and effective way to directly and quickly raise money for Oxfordshire Mind.

thought it would be fitting to focus on a charity dedicated to mental health: Oxfordshire Mind. As an Oxford-based charity, Oxfordshire Mind has been promoting the importance and acknowledgement of mental health for more than 50 years by providing high-quality services and campaigning for more access to such services for those struggling with their mental health. Helping over 20,000 people each year, the charity is deeply committed to ensure that those in need of such support are in the best position to receive it. From talking therapies and interactive courses to a simple, confidential and free information line, Oxfordshire Mind provides a platform of support that is undeniably vital to many students in Oxford. We therefore found it particularly poignant to focus on such a charity during Trinity term since many young people find themselves struggling under the pressure of exams amongst the multitude of other mental health issues that already exist within each individual, so it only seemed appropriate as the JCR charity reps to promote Oxfordshire Mind as a charity that should be at the forefront of our fundraising intentions. Following this, we organised a charity head-shaving event that saw many students gather in the quad – a quirky and effective way to directly and quickly raise money for Oxfordshire Mind. Whilst our collective roles as JCR charity reps have only just started, we hope to start Michaelmas term 2019 with a strong focus on Hertford's charity scene, with plans to continue the popular and in-demand events such as Jazz and Cocktails, as well as introducing more accessible events to involve as many students as possible and therefore maximise the positive impact we can have in Oxford.

HARTFEST Viola Cozzio (English, 2017)



After weeks of preparation and buzz, the first day of HARTfest, now in its fifth year, finally dawned. With a highly anticipated jazz concert in the quad inaugurating the festival, the iron-grey sky over Oxford threatened rain at any moment. Luckily, through a collective manifestation of good weather by all the students attending, the event went smoothly. In fact, through the students' sheer willpower, the clouds even parted to allow for a few rays of sunshine to enhance enjoyment of HCMS' jazz band's groovy tunes, as well as the Pimm's provided by college bar staff. Following the concert, students gathered on the lawn to witness the premiere of Hertford playwright Katie Burke's latest offering. The 45-minute adaptation of both *Mamma Mia* films, *Mamma Mia: Hert We Go Again*, with an all-star cast of Hertford College students belting ABBA's greatest hits (lyrics newly revised to reflect realities



After weeks of preparation and buzz, the first day of HARTfest, now in its fifth year, finally dawned with a highly anticipated jazz concert in the quad inaugurating the festival.

of undergrad life) was an all-around smash hit – rumours of a potential West End theatre run continue to swirl. The weekend continued, jam-packed with events, from a Zumba afternoon and a poetry workshop, through to watercolouring to the grand finale of donut decoration and a screening of *Ten Things I Hate About You*. Another particular highlight was Saturday's Open Mic Night, organised by the indefatigable Toby Steel and bar rep Eileen Casey, and featuring a collective of Hertford College's most talented musicians and performers. With everything from the event logo (designed by History student Jenny Coulton) and the props used in the play, to the weather during Jazz in the Quad created and manifested by Hertford students, HARTfest is a team effort on every level. In keeping with a trip to the Ashmolean held earlier in the year, and a poetry event held in cooperation with Hertford College's Wellbeing Week, arts events at Hertford go hand in hand with a sense of community and collaboration among the student body.

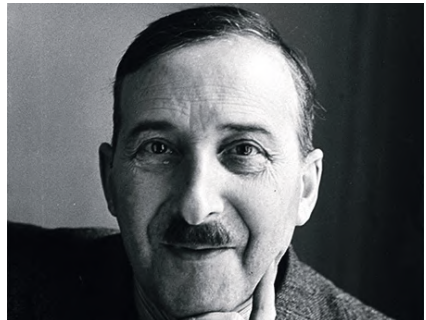
PRESTON TRAVEL FUND



Following an award from the Preston Travel Fund, I travelled to Munich for 3 days in November 2017 to conduct research as part of my undergraduate dissertation about author and antiquarian Stefan Zweig. I visited the Stefan Zweig centre in Salzburg, held meetings with prominent Zweig academics, and watched a rare production of *Die Schweigsame Frau* (the opera he wrote with composer Richard Strauss in 1935) by the Bayerische Staatsoper at the Munich National Theatre. The trip was very informative and enjoyable, helping me to better contextualise the arguments I offered in my essay and learn from international scholars.

Robert Ham (Music, 2015)

Robert graduated from Hertford in 2018 and is in his second year of the NHS National Graduate Management Training Scheme.



As a result of the Preston travel award, I was able to afford the airfare in order to take a once in a lifetime trip to New Zealand during the summer of 2018, and join a conservation project in the central North Island. This involved monitoring kiwi and predator control projects. Meeting Kiwi, Whio and other endangered birds up close was

an experience I will never forget. This trip also allowed me to experience the cultural and geographical wonders of New Zealand, such as the vast geothermal areas, predator free islands, mountain ranges, volcanoes and Maori traditions.

Madeleine Czura (Biological Sciences, 2017).





After
Hertford

'MOZART SAYS HI' – A HERTFORD MUSICOLOGIST IN THE JUNGLE

In grateful memory of Hertford's Roy Stuart and Paul Coones by Carmel Croukamp (Music, 1998)



work in nature conservation in Brazil, specialising in the birds of the Atlantic Rainforest. I'm CEO of Parque das Aves, a bird park integrated into the Atlantic Forest and the only institution in the world focused on the conservation crisis of the birds of the Atlantic Forest. We work to prevent extinction of some of the most endangered avian species on the planet. I live in the Iguaçú region of Brazil, close to the magnificent Iguazu Falls, with my husband and two children, two dogs, two cats, 1,400 birds, 250 full-time employees manage field conservation projects and partnerships across several Brazilian states.

Ten years ago, I was finishing a DPhil in Music at Hertford; I was at Hertford all the way from my undergraduate degree to the end of my doctorate on Mozart.

I arrived at Hertford to read Archaeology and Anthropology. Surrounded by these terribly clever and self-assured people, I felt lost and didn't have the first clue how I would ever keep up with them. I started failing, quickly, and dropped out during the first year. That summer, I did an internship at an opera house in Germany.

I reapplied to read Music, a more familiar subject. I really loved Mozart. Feeling less lost was helpful and I did better. In my finals year, my mother had a stroke. I dropped out and took my finals the following year.

Hertford was patient and supportive throughout all this. My supervisors and mentors needed to navigate their way around an individual with tremendous under-confidence. Roy Stuart, Dean of Hertford, and Paul Coones, my moral supervisor, at times had to fight my case. Hugh Collins Rice, the Hertford Music Tutor at the time, was intellectually curious and encouraging when I pursued fields that must have seemed positively dubious to him, such as critical theory and sociology. After



my masters year, he employed me as a tutor, and in the last two years he invited me to conduct entrance interviews with him. It was interesting and meaningful.

Reinhard Strohm was Heather Professor of Music and the Head of the faculty. He made a point of setting up one-to-one sessions and year-long essay supervision with every Music undergraduate. In our first meeting, he posed tough questions, and I cowered. He was a classicist and broad-ranging scholar. I was wearing a possibly smelly Bolivian llama-wool jacket. He listened carefully and then suggested an incredibly dry essay on Mozart's musical borrowings. I never stopped working on the topic and he would become my DPhil supervisor with a thesis on the subject. It is an amazing, multidisciplinary area, as much sociology as musicology, and I focused on applying theory of communicative action to eighteenth century music. I learnt how to learn.

As I approached the end of my doctorate, I reflected.

My family lived on the Isle of Man. My father had founded a small bird park in Brazil many years before – which, by the way, horrified me. Birds. Humid jungle. Corruption. My parents suffered, and my father died, embattled, two years after the park opened. I hated it throughout my teens and most of my twenties. My mother had been there, on her own, for 15 years. I wanted to be closer to family, and for my mother to have family close by. My husband, who I met while he was at Merton College, had never visited Brazil, but moved with me.

It was not a glamorous option. I thought I was throwing away my career, which I'd fought hard for, and worried that I was betraying the faith and generosity of many people.

My first job after working as a tutor at Oxford was painting toucans on a wall I have since demolished. As an assistant, the first time I was sent to seek out a staff member, it took me four hours to find them in the jungle (they were hiding). But I knew sociology and theory of communicative action from my doctorate, and applied them to the analysis of visitor behaviour. We grew. I became Development and Communications Director. When the administrative director left as growth became too large I took over as CEO, and my husband as Financial Director. We learnt how to administer an organisation in Brazil, and how to use formal and technical Portuguese.

The triple frontier between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, where Iguazu is located, was at this time South America's second-largest drug, guns and animal trafficking frontier, with Brazil's highest homicide rate. There is no space to feel intimidated defending employees, the organisation or our mission.

When our municipal healthcare system broke down and 12 out of





14 municipal councillors were jailed for corruption, we started providing private healthcare as well as paying all prescription medications, and then extended it to on-site teams for psychological support, physiotherapy and stress relief, as well as interest-free loans for quality of life. Although there's no obligation to be remarkable, it is constantly remarkable what people can achieve when given the right support. Some of our best and most experienced managers and team members don't have a high school education, have suffered violence, have worked as poachers or gold-panners, have found their only work as 'desbravadores', deforestation workers, and they have built a world-class institution.

When we asked them to focus their efforts on an unknown conservation crisis, what happened was incredible.

There was once a small ground dove, *Claravis geoffroyi*, which lived in the

The triple frontier between Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, where Iguazu is located, was at this time South America's second-largest drug, guns and animal trafficking frontier, with Brazil's highest homicide rate.

HERTFORD HIGHLIGHTS

forests of Iguaçu. Parque das Aves is part of the largest inland fragment of Atlantic Forest in existence. Iguaçu is a miracle. But the last expeditions of ornithologists who had gone out to seek surviving individuals of this species had come back with nothing, and a

consensus had developed that *Claravis* had gone extinct across its global range. A bird of our own backyard had become extinct, and we didn't even know about it. Unaware, we had lost a species. The worst part was that we didn't know. We reflected, and researched more.



There are 120 avian species and subspecies native to the Atlantic Forest threatened with extinction. For birds, this is a huge number. A number of species had become extinct in the last five years and a huge number of species are about to go extinct, part of the

first wave of continental, as opposed to island, extinctions. And nobody was talking about this.

We wondered why this was not being talked about. I doubted my judgement in identifying this as a distinct issue specific to the biome and pressed this





issue with staff. I was not a biologist. I read a lot, and talked with many people. We had a large audience and resources, teams across multiple, useful disciplines: many vets, biologists, researchers, communications experts,

product developers, environmental educators. Moreover, we had a bunch of people with a lot of faith in what was possible. It was a complicated process requiring protagonism on the part of many people.

So we put everything we did to work in favour of the birds of the Atlantic Forest and became the only institution in the world focused on this conservation crisis. We work alongside a number of incredible partners and species protagonists. Species conservation is a group effort to create an unbroken chain of support.

Parque das Aves created an observatory of the population status of all of the birds of the Atlantic Forest, and started to create red lists of endangered species. We establish emergency actions to prevent species' extinction and have founded and run a number of field conservation projects in multiple





federal states. One of our projects, the Blue-fronted Amazon Project, sees 85% of all nestlings observed in Atlantic Forest sites robbed by traffickers; it's the most-trafficked of all animal species in Brazil. For the red-browed Amazon parrot, a spectacular, charismatic species, it's not even known exactly in which areas of Brazil the species lives, or what the real threat dynamics are. We established a permanent field base to get to the bottom of the problem, and our teams have driven thousands of miles tracking down populations of this species.

We breed endangered species and work as a rescue and rehabilitation centre for hundreds of birds a year, and develop or contribute to reintroduction projects. This includes, for example, the Alagoas curassow, a species extinct in the wild, which is due to be reintroduced into the

wild this month, the first such case in South American history. We receive 930,000 visitors a year, due to increase to a million in 2020, into the Atlantic Forest, in carefully calculated learning environments. The majority of these are Atlantic Forest residents who we educate about their own biome.

Parque das Aves is now the highest-funded bird conservation organisation in Brazil and specialises in the species which have no specific protection or safety net. There are some 25 species or subspecies of birds native to Atlantic Forest with less than 100 individuals alive on the planet. The majority of these had no species-specific action or project. Our role is to be proactive in identifying emergencies and creating barriers to their extinction. It can be harrowing. Death is the end of life, but extinction is the end of birth. You fight like hell.



The Alagoas ant-wren is an Atlantic Rainforest species next up in the wave of extinctions, and it was emotional reaching the point of putting in action such as this.

Last week, we convened a workshop at Parque Das Aves to develop an action plan which has been immediately implemented to save two bird species from extinction: the Alagoas ant-wren and the blue-eyed ground dove. The first species has 12 individuals remaining on the planet, the second 20. Imagine if there were only 12 African elephants remaining on the planet. The repercussions of extinction are unknown in precise terms, but undoubtedly and concretely significant to the survival of other species. The Alagoas ant-wren is an Atlantic Forest species next up in the wave of extinctions, and it was emotional reaching the point of putting in action such as this. The blue-eyed ground dove was thought to be extinct for 60 years and rediscovered by one of our partners, SAVE Brasil, in 2016.

Present at Parque Das Aves for this workshop was Professor Carl Jones, personally instrumental in saving nine

species from certain extinction and a key figure in species conservation. (Let's not mess about: Carl Jones, Indianapolis prize winner, is a bit of a god to species conservation nerds.)

On the second day of the workshop, I finally had the courage, as host and convenor, not to flee from Carl Jones, and to instead talk to him. As if by hex, he asks me, within a minute, in his distinctively Welsh accent, 'So what are you? A biologist, a vet?' This question is surprisingly rare. Put on the spot, I had to say, 'I'm a musicologist.' And I cowered.

He said: 'That's bloody great! That means you can think outside of the box! Nigel here (Professor Nigel Collard of Birdlife International, the largest bird conservation institution in the world) has an English Lit doctorate from Cambridge!'

I'd never heard of anything like it.

He asked me to autograph our institutional book on the avian

conservation crisis of the Atlantic Forest. I wrote, 'Mozart says hi.' What else was I going to write.

'Claravis', the name of the bird native to Iguacu thought today to be globally extinct comes from 'Clarus, clarens'-light, bright, illuminating, and the species has shone a light forward for us and for the many species without protagonists.

Nowadays, I speak about Claravis in every lecture I give as a symbol of our failure and of the change that introspection and circumspection brought us. I daydreamed for years that, at the end of one of these lectures, someone would approach me with an indication that Claravis was not extinct.

One day last year, that happened. A respected Brazilian ornithologist approached me after a lecture with new evidence that she may still exist. After lengthy investigations, we will mount our first expedition to find her next week. There is hope.

'THEY'RE JUST PEOPLE!'

The Reverend Susie Simpson (Music, 1978)

Last year I was awarded a Butler Trust commendation for my work as Managing Chaplain of HMPYOI Isis. The prison holds young men aged between 18 and 25, and I worked there for nine years. I am now the Managing Chaplain of HMPYOI East Sutton Park, an open prison for women. I studied for a Music degree at Hertford from 1978 to 1981.

'Would you like a piano in your room?' These were the first words of welcome uttered to me by the Hertford College Bible clerk of 1978, Paul Simpson, who greeted my father and me at the top of the stairs to OB6 as we laboured under the weight of all the essential equipment I had brought with me to Oxford, such as my own duvet, to replace the scratchy college blankets, and a whole sound system with turntable, cassette player, amplifier with valves and speakers. It was an effective opening gambit, and 41 years later, we are still married.

During my 11 years as a prison chaplain working with young men aged between 18 and 25, I often told the story of how I met my husband because the lads were intrigued that anyone could stay married and faithful for such a long time. They were impressed by what a player the bible clerk was; he was entitled to the pleasant, airy room OB6.2, with its aspect looking onto the Bodleian and the Radcliffe square, and so he arranged for the one female first year

music student to be allocated the poky, dismal room behind his, looking out across the roof. He also ascertained that there was an unused piano in one of the other rooms, and thus his plot was laid. I did have to caution my young listeners in prison, though, that this ingenious strategy would only work if a) they had a piano and b) the girl in question was a pianist.

Many years later, Paul and I drove through Oxford to look round St Stephen's House prior to my ordination training there. As we drove past the Exam Schools I predicted, 'We're never stepping inside there again!' Even after 20 years, the building can cast a chill across the High Street. Not even the glorious memory of stopping the traffic to spray each other with Moët & Chandon can erase the terror of finals. So it was that I found myself studying for a Theology degree at Staggers, to be completed in two years instead of three, and I did indeed clothe myself in subfusc and re-enter those daunting portals.

There was a significant difference between studying as a young undergraduate in the days when student life was as much about partying as study, and embarking on a degree in my late thirties with three young children and the compulsory services and duties at college. I had to be much more disciplined, (although I could still waste a whole morning drinking coffee



and chatting nonsense with my fellow students), not least because my memory was so much worse. My motivation was very different as well, as I was not doing this for my own benefit, but for my future congregation. If, the first time round, I had bungled a five-part Palestrina exercise with some consecutive fifths, it only affected me (and my exasperated tutor), whereas the theological study would inform my teaching and preaching for years to come.

At this time, I envisaged my congregation in the image of churches I had attended before. I hoped for a decent choir, and I had married an organist, thus removing one potential source of parish headache. Then, as part of our training, a group of us were sent to HMYOI Onley, a young offenders' prison nearby. We were a group of about 20 tweedy ordinands, and I was the only woman in the party. We entered the prison, and I became acutely conscious of the number of times we were shepherded through massive stout metal gates which were slammed shut and locked behind us, and we did not have keys. I was increasingly afraid. Like most people, I imagined prisoners as a composite of ugly mugshots of people who had committed violent crimes, and the lags from *Shawshank Redemption*. The brutal architecture of prisons adds to the expectation that prisoners are a bunch of aggressive thugs. But as we climbed some stairs to the chapel, we passed two young boys cleaning, who shrank back to let us pass. They looked more intimidated than we did. In the chapel we met a large group of young prisoners, and all I could stupidly think was, 'But they're just people!' This is true of every prison I have been in since. We lock up over 80,000 people in this country, but for a large variety of crimes, not all violent, and the majority of them do not come across as anything but





ordinary; likeable, polite people who have done things that are illegal. The vast majority of them do not think of themselves as bad people, but like the rest of us, can make excuses for and minimise their own wrongdoing, and avoid thinking about the hurt they have caused. The other thing that struck me on this first visit was how entertaining and funny the young men were, cracking jokes and teasing each other. I did not expect so much laughter in jail.

Both Paul and I benefited from schemes that helped children whose parents could not afford private education. I went to North London Collegiate School on a direct grant scholarship. I was able to stay on after my mediocre A Levels to be coached for Oxbridge entrance along with about 30 others, most of whom gained places. Paul was one of the first state school pupils that Hertford took in based on predicted grades and an interview, with an offer of two Es. Our children are aghast at our unremarkable A Level grades compared with the numerous stellar marks required now to ensure an Oxbridge place. I felt that many of the young men who ended up in prison had the potential to do very well academically, but had not had the opportunity as we had. I worked in particular with those who had musical talent, but had never had lessons or sung in a choir. There was one amazingly talented drummer who played excruciatingly loudly, so that the rest of the band had to wear ear plugs, and he regularly smashed the drumsticks into splinters. This was because as a young boy he had no kit to practise on, so he used to lay out books on his bed to drum on, and of course you have to thwack a book very hard to make it resonate.

I did not think for a moment that having two Oxford degrees made me over-qualified to work in a young

offenders' institution. At times, I admit, I didn't think the lads fully appreciated my awesome ability to hear a piece of music and then write it down, but then rap musicians rely instead on phenomenal powers of memory. They did appreciate my ability to teach them Latin and in particular Greek so that they could decipher the original text of the *New Testament*, emulating their Muslim brothers who were learning Arabic in order to read the *Qu'ran*. It is the music that I am most proud of, although sadly none of it was recorded for posterity. Every Thursday morning the office workers on either side of the chapel would brace themselves for two hours of band practice. We rehearsed a wide range of music; traditional hymns, Gospel music, pop songs with 'Jesus' inserted into the lyrics, some classical music and the boys' original songs and raps. They learned so much from being in the band; how to give and take criticism, how to back down graciously without punching anyone, how to listen, how to practise, what it means to be reliable, how to support those less talented than yourself, and what a wonderful experience it is to make music with others. On Sunday morning, it was never certain that the whole band would make it to chapel. They soon learned that fighting and misbehaving would get them banned from attending, and most of them chose music over fisticuffs. Our performance was never as good on a Sunday as during band practice, because there can be few tougher audiences than 60 or so unimpressed young prisoners, but when we did play something that went well, the result of an exhausting and emotional practice session, (there were tears), and showed off someone's singing or drumming or rapping, the congregation could be loud and physical in their appreciation, and there was no feeling on earth like



that moment when these young men achieved that accolade of peer approval and when the congregation left the chapel still singing the chorus. For the band members to feel useful, to do something positive for their fellow prisoners was sometimes the first time they had achieved anything and been praised for it. They could channel their anger and energy into their music. Better broken drumsticks than broken heads.

My vision of the future when I was reading for a Music degree at Hertford was to be a music teacher. At that time I had no thought of being ordained, and certainly not of working in a prison. When I look back over my time as a prison chaplain, I am thankful for the

opportunity to encourage those young men to develop their talent. Out of the 60 or so lads in my band over the years, fewer than ten have reoffended, and music was for many of them the catalyst to convince them that they were capable of reform. I'd encourage them to see music as I did, a marvelous hobby rather than a means of making money and becoming famous, neither of which worked for me.

A final thought: don't assume that all those years ago, I was a passive victim in the bible clerk's dastardly plan. Once he and my dad had pushed the piano down the uneven corridor and into my room, I produced my books of piano duets, and that's when our fate was sealed.

ALUMNI ANNOUNCEMENTS

NADIKA KARUNATHILAKE (PHYSICS, 1998)

Nadika and his partner recently welcomed a baby boy, Jaxon Noah Karunathilake, born on 11 September, 2019. Both mother and baby boy are doing well but they're all exhausted!

MARK SALTER (MATHS, 2002) AND ANTONIA LLOYD-LAVERY (MEDICINE, 2002)

Mark and Antonia met during their Fresher's week at Hertford College 17 years ago in October 2002. They married in Hertford Chapel in July 2011 and on 12 June, 2019 they welcomed daughter Tara to the world!

CAROL ROBERTS (LAW, 2010) AND JAMES HOLLEY (PHYSICS, 2010)

Carol and James were married in Hertford Chapel on 24 August, 2019. Congratulations to the pair and thank you for sharing these gorgeous wedding photos with us!



ANNIE JO (RADIATION BIOLOGY, 2012)

Annie married Jon Osborne on 2 February, 2019 at the Cardboard Cathedral in Christchurch, New Zealand.

VICKY VAN DER ZEE (APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, 2015)

Vicky married Edwin de Jong last June and is now pregnant with her first baby due in May 2020. Both Vicky and Edwin are happy and excited, and she often reminisces about her time at Hertford!

LYNN DURRANT (MBA, 2018)

Lynn and his wife Rebecca welcomed baby Eleanor in January 2019 in the middle of Lynn's MBA programme at Oxford. Lynn completed his programme in September. Thank you for providing the wonderful photo by Haley Hawn, who's husband is also a Hertford alumnus!



Lynn, Rebecca and Eleanor in the Hertford Chapel.

OBITUARIES

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

1944

Peter Maugham

1948

Chris Sellick

1950

Tony Jarrett
Trevor Silverstone

1951

Dick Williams

1954

Alan Fraser*
John McLaughlin*

1955

Gordon Glanville
W Spettigue

1958

John Scrivener

1959

David Hayes

1960

David Lury

1963

Barry Cullen

1964

Jerry Owen

1967

Keith McVeigh

1968

Jonathan Stewart

1976

Henry Carr*

1977

Martin Underwood

1980

Rupert Essinger
Jeremy Heywood*

1981

David Clapp*

1996

Victoria Povey

Friends of Hertford

Mary Walters

DR ROGER PENSOM: EXTENDED TRIBUTES



Roger Pensom, Fellow and Tutor in Modern Languages, passed away last year. A memorial book launch was held in Hertford on Tuesday 30 October 2018 to celebrate the publication of his last book: *Accent, Rhythm and Meaning in French Verse* (Legenda, 2018). Edited versions of the tributes are printed here, as well as the reminiscences of a former student. Copies of the full texts are available from the Development Office.

**Adrian Armstrong, Centenary
Professor of French, Queen Mary
University of London**

Accent, Rhythm and Meaning in French Verse is the culmination of a project that spanned a large part of Roger Pensom's career and was developed across a long sequence of books and articles. This project generated and refined a very powerful toolkit for working with French verse, for which many French scholars round the world – not to mention generations of students faced with the task of literary commentary – have cause to be deeply grateful.

Typically, French verse has been seen simply as a matter of counting syllables, regardless of whether or not those syllables might be accented in ordinary language. Roger contends, by contrast, that accent has a part to play – that French verse, indeed, relies on various alternating patterns of accent across its thousand-year-plus history. Those patterns are essential to verse being perceived as verse; and also essential to how verse works, and how meanings are generated, in any given poem. This is worked out, in theory and in practice, over two long chapters. Chapter one surveys the development of French, out of postcolonial Latin inflected by Germanic vernaculars, which leaves its traces as a cultural practice in patterns of alternating accent in verse. These patterns remain consistent across centuries of French poetry and form the basis of a model for parsing the accentuation of verse. Chapter two tests out this model on a variety of verse texts in Old, Middle, and modern French. In each example, we can discover and describe the ways in which rhythm and meaning are interdependent.

The book begins with a question, or rather three questions. The title of the introduction is 'What Is Verse and Why Do Poets Write It?' The introduction itself begins with a quotation from Shakespeare's Sonnet 18: 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?' That question remains unanswered, but the line sets us on the way towards answering the two questions in the introduction's title. The meaning of a poem depends in part on the relationship between, on the one hand, the regularity of its form, and on the other hand, the changing ways in which words are accented (which itself depends on wider linguistic conventions). That relationship reflects and shapes not only our understanding of a poem's language and its various



contexts, but also what we do with our own bodies: as listeners, as reciters, and indeed as silent but subvocalised readers. And this is what leads Roger to claim with typical vividness: 'Poets write verse because it gives them the raw materials for creating meaning outside language'.

This is a book that does two main things. On a very general level, it makes some large claims about historically invariant properties of French verse. On a very specific level, it supports those claims by a set of readings that pay attention to the finest details. Both levels draw on a vast range of cultural and disciplinary reference: on musicology, information theory, cognitive psychology, and different strands of linguistics, not to mention more than a millennium's worth of literature in French, as well as material in Latin, Occitan, and Spanish. Today a

scholarly enterprise of this kind normally calls for an interdisciplinary team funded by a six-figure grant, but this is the enterprise of one person over a lifetime of intellectual curiosity.

Accordingly, the book reads very much as the product of a distinctive personal voice. On the level of subject matter, the musical examples are in Roger's own hand, and at one point he mentions 'my old copy of the *Oxford Book of French Verse*'. On the level of expression, readers are never very far from an absolute zinger. Even in the midst of the most technical passages, we read of 'punchbags for metrical analysis', 'the rude intensity of the paired accents', 'a differentially conversational octosyllable', 'the breath-stopping intercalation of the adverb'. The unexpected appearance of a decasyllable in *La Fontaine* elicits a footnote that reads, in its entirety: 'How can you do that to an alexandrine?'



What makes the model developed in this book so valuable is its empowering quality. Anyone can use it to work out the accentual structure of a verse passage, and develop interpretations based on the results. This is exactly how the book ends; by inviting people to pick up what it does and run with it. The very final phrase of the conclusion reads: 'further experiment by interested parties will confirm the heuristic value of our model'. For anyone with the slightest stake in French verse of any kind, I can only second that invitation. Give it a go. Whatever happens in the process, you'll find out a lot of valuable things. And having read Roger's analyses, you'll find yourself wanting to give it a go. It's difficult to imagine a better intellectual legacy than that.

Tony Hunt, Emeritus Fellow in French, St Peter's

Roger and I first met virtually when I reviewed his book on *Literary Technique in the Chanson de Roland* (1982). I was diffident about reviewing, feeling I lacked the authority, but a colleague at St Andrews, playfully adapting Richard Strauss's famous boast, said to me: "You may not be a first-class scholar, Tony, but you are a first rate second-class scholar." I suspect Roger might have agreed, for I was much less exploratory a reader than he was. Roger dealt with causes not effects, paying particular attention to the presuppositions that lay behind critical statements and thereby disarming most of us. Nonetheless, like a first-rate second-class scholar, I wrote a fussily critical review of Roger's book, especially concerning its presentation. Roger wrote me a



friendly letter in which, whilst retaining his customary charm, he implied that I might have missed the point and be trailing a rather outdated positivist methodology. Roger came to Oxford first, but when I finally arrived it is probably true to say that the review was a potential elephant in the room. Needless to say, the elephant never intruded and seemed to have been consigned to somebody's garden shed.

Roger was also, of course, provocatively and uncompromisingly intellectual with the destructive capacity of a military trebuchet. One of his more disconcerting habits was to offer you summaries of your arguments which you did not recognise as your own. I remember a paper I gave in Hertford on Chretien's Yvain. At the end Roger said amiably: 'So what you're saying is...' What followed were a lot of technical terms with which I was barely

conversant. I was stumped. "Am I?" was my first, lame, thought. "Well not quite in the terms which you have employed" was another; "That's one way of putting it" was a third. But no, these were not viable answers. Instead, I put a biscuit in my mouth. Lacking this latter option, I think a number of Roger's reviewers experienced something of the same unease that I did. When it came to scholarly criticism, ease of access was not Roger's bag. There was something hermetic about his hermeneutics. As to theory, which he ferociously enjoyed, Roger had few equals. His writings are liberally sprinkled with mind-arresting concepts: 'systemic equifinality', 'liminal pollution', 'semic isotopy', 'deontology', 'phallogocentric doctrines of progress'. These were not sprung on you like hand grenades, they were part of the logical chain of argument to be taken in one's stride. Any concessions would have



been pointless.

Roger was a conviction academic who eschewed any sense of glory. When he turned the heat on the Zumthorian revolution there could be a sky-searing conflagration which resembled the torching of Valhalla. Those of us who had failed to engage with Paul Zumthor's rereading of medieval literature were likened to "Australian Aborigines confronted with Cook's ships." The philosopher Michael Hinton used to say 'Oxford people read too much and think too little'. But Roger was, inveterately, a thinker. His personal manner was neither obsequious nor truculent. Behind his pyrotechnic brilliance lay decades of careful, unhurried reading and reflection.

Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe, Fellow in French, Hertford

The first time I met Roger was as a sixth former, when he was giving a talk as part of a day of activities encouraging students to apply to do Modern Languages at Hertford. Roger's approach to this exercise was to explain the principles of Saussurean linguistics, starting with the example of the world 'bull'. How is it, he asked, that the signifier 'bull' simultaneously denotes a horned quadruped and a papal bull? His explanation of the arbitrariness of the sign was rigorous, technically detailed, and clear. It proved compelling to an audience of 16 year olds and I was not the only one there who applied to Hertford and arrived the following year.

Roger's lively approach to teaching medieval literature has been rightly celebrated. He would sing passages of the set texts in lectures, emphasising

how they would have been heard by their original audiences, and staged medieval plays in the front quad of Hertford. He insisted that theatre was about bodies moving in space and that poetry should be experienced as oral performance. As a college tutor, Roger tempted even those of us who were more inclined to modernity to sample medieval writing by running a series of series of classes on 'Bisclavret', Marie de France's tale of a werewolf, which had nothing to do with any paper that any of us were officially studying. Although Roger was officially a specialist in Old French, he taught a wide range of early modern authors. We were struck by the way that he viewed literature not as something that belonged in an ivory tower but as something which dealt

As a college tutor, Roger tempted even those of us who were more inclined to modernity to sample medieval writing by running a series of series of classes on 'Bisclavret', Marie de France's tale of a werewolf, which had nothing to do with any paper that any of us were officially studying.

with the most urgent aspects of being human.

Roger was very exacting but also invariably sympathetic towards his students. He took all year groups for unseen translation classes fortnightly throughout the course and never once set anything as pedestrian as a past examination paper. Instead, he found an array of strange and incomprehensible passages in French. Some were from novels full of untranslatable slang and some were extremely abstract theoretical arguments, which he instructed us to translate 'for the man on the Clapham omnibus'. He made students feel as though they were collaborators in a joint quest for understanding, often declaring that he had no idea what the most opaque sentences meant. He always laughed a lot and his very occasional lapses in good humour were memorable. On one occasion, after a student had stumbled through the first line of a garbled translation, he sighed and said 'I can see this is going to be a long hour'. He calmly reached for a cigarette holder and lit a cigarette, only to conduct the rest of the class with his customary good temper.

It turned out that Saussurean linguistics was an integral part of Roger's teaching. He was always talking in theoretical terms, and this was never just superficial jargon but always a precise way of pinpointing what was central to the matter at hand. It was also a way of making us think about what we were doing and why we were doing it. Roger emphasised that studying Modern Languages was not just an exercise in proficiency but that as non-native speakers we were examining cultural artefacts with a particular kind of critical distance, and that we might

offer an intellectual perspective to the discipline which would complement that of native speakers.

This attitude is in evidence in *Accent, Rhythm and Meaning*, which challenges the conventional view of French metre by asking what speakers actually do and what listeners hear when verse is recited. Roger was of course acutely aware of the risks of relying on the impressions of an outsider and insists in the book that he is not just imposing what he describes as his 'native accentual prejudices' on French verse. Indeed, he marshals a vast array of objective evidence to support his argument, amongst other things dissecting compositions by a wide range of composers who have set French verse to music. Roger often rehearsed parts of these arguments with students, and I remember him being delighted when one said that there appeared to be 13 syllables in a feminine alexandrine. He took the opportunity to explain at length exactly why the conventional theory offered an inadequate account of such lines. Undergraduates are fortunate to be exposed to dissent conducted with such method and modesty.

For Roger, poetry, like medieval farces, was something to be recited, performed, and enjoyed. The last time I saw him he was asking for references to contemporary descriptions of how nineteenth century poets sounded when reading their verse. In the absence of recorded evidence, he was trying to build up a picture of the oral practices in the period. This use of an enormous range of evidence, combined with highly technical analyses and his sensitivity to the force which poetry could exert, were all central to Roger's teaching. Any former student reading the introduction to his new book would recognise his voice, sounding very much as it did in tutorials.

Toby Barnard, Emeritus Fellow in History, Hertford

Roger Pensom arrived as a fellow at Hertford in 1985. Having studied originally at Manchester University, he had been lecturing at Exeter for more than a decade. Two episodes soon brought him to wider notice among colleagues. The then college secretary, Chris Dorward, like other canny members of the college staff, was an acute observer of the foibles of fellows. Shortly before her departure (in dudgeon), she confided to me that she regarded Roger as the fellow with the most style, and also scrupulously courteous (not an attribute of all). Certainly he had a taste for vivid colours in scarves and jumpers and, with his straight raven-coloured hair, retained a youthful look.

Shortly afterwards, at a governing body meeting, Roger unexpectedly – and with unexpected passion – brought up the deplorable condition of the old library. Preparing to give a seminar there, he found the cupboards and the oval table, around which participants had to sit, laden with detritus from past meals. He asked whether one of his duties as a fellow was to be cleaning the public rooms. Hertford GB at the time could be unpredictably cantankerous and turbulent, but the complacent bursars were taken aback even when appealed to by the Principal to answer Roger. Reforms, even improvements, resulted, although Roger was paid back soon by being elected as steward of common room. That was a post to which his hospitable nature and kindness fitted him well, as also his discriminating tastes in food and wine. Being the son of a butcher, from the fertile and lovely Golden Valley on the borders of Herefordshire and Radnor, he told me once of his axiom, learnt from the parent, 'don't eat what you are

not yourself prepared to kill'.

Roger's election had resulted from of a determined campaign by Leslie Seiffert, the fellow and University reader in German, to build up Modern Languages in the college. This project was sadly frustrated by Leslie's premature death. Roger, a relative newcomer, was left somewhat isolated, although he had the stalwart backing of Anne Holmes, the long-serving lecturer in French, and Jeanine Balhetchet. Roger, in the brutal world of the governing body, was something of a novice and an innocent, too polite and scrupulous, and could not contend against instinctive bursarial utilitarianism and cheese-paring, and a residue of institutional philistinism: Modern Languages was regarded as an awkward and expensive subject with most of its undergraduates abroad for a year. Ideally, a few thought, it should be suppressed. In the event, thankfully, it was not.

Subsequently, through living in the same west Oxfordshire village, I came to know Roger much better, especially thanks to shared journeys to and from Oxford when he generously motored me backwards and forwards. Roger was not a gossip, nor greatly interested in the minutiae of college or University politics. He was bemused by and sometimes impatient with arcane Oxford procedures. Yet, he was fully in accord with the meritocratic and egalitarian ethos of Hertford, and passionate about learning and teaching. In all these respects, he was the ideal college tutor, full of zest and passion for his subject, keen to share ideas, sympathetic towards those eager to learn, sensitive to the diffident and uncertain. Latterly, he took an increasingly gloomy view of the burgeoning bureaucracy and of

the unashamed commercialisation of education.

He was fascinated by and happy to discuss the big questions of existence. Ideas and understanding structures fascinated him, so for a pedantically empirical historian such as myself his conversation was bracing. Music and drama meant much to him, as a practitioner as well as an analyst. So too did the Church of England, of which he had become an active member in his home parish. At our last meeting back in the early summer, Roger in bed was reading – without spectacles – a pocket edition of *War and Peace*. A devotee of great and enduring epics, that is how, happily and gratefully, I shall remember a kind, clever and stylish man.

Rachel Nixon (Modern Languages, 1990)

It was Trinity term 1992, and Roger Pensom invited a handful of modern linguists and other willing victims to act in two fifteenth century plays in OB quad. It sounded like fun – especially for those of us with no exams that year – except for the fact that we would have to act, convincingly, in medieval French.

After much hilarity and rehearsal, the auspicious day arrived. I 'starred' in *The Farce of the Funky Friar* (*Farce de Frere Guillebert*). The plot is a little hazy now, but I recall playing a young wife married to an old man. My eye was caught by a wandering monk, with whom my character began an affair. My elderly husband became suspicious when a pair of the monk's underpants were discovered in our bed. My wise, and wizened, old neighbour helped me concoct another improbable story about the underpants in fact being a holy relic. All was well that ended well, as we finished by dancing in a circle.

ALAN FRASER (Jurisprudence, 1954)



Alan was born 11 February, 1936 in Long Eaton, Derbyshire.

He was educated at nearby Trent College, then at Hertford College, Oxford where he gained MA in Jurisprudence with Honours.

Embarking on a career in Law he passed the Law Society final examination with Honours and qualified as a solicitor in 1960.

Alan had a long legal career in Local Government with a number of County Councils. He was articled in West Sussex, then served as Assistant Solicitor in East Suffolk, moving to Derbyshire where he ultimately became Assistant Clerk of the Council. In October 1971 he moved to Cumberland as Deputy Clerk to the late Roland Whitfield.

As Cumbria's County Solicitor he led the council's legal department for a further 20 years.

His responsibilities were much wider

than just legal and committee services. For instance, he had oversight of County Council elections, Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Archives, Road Safety, setting up Management Services and the new County Prosecuting Solicitors, and the Governance of many diverse bodies including Police, Probation and Cumbria Tourist Board.

He was totally committed to the public service ethic and a strong believer in county government.

He looked well beyond the boundaries of Cumbria, being a founder member and later both Secretary and then Chairman of the Society of County Secretaries.

In the 1980s he served on the Child Care Advisory panel which submitted evidence to DHSS in connection with its review of child care law. This led to the revolution of the Children Act 1989. He was President of Carlisle and District Law Society. He was a trustee of Austin Friars school.

Alan's belief in and commitment to Local Government was 'old school', he believed in the important role of the professions in their areas of expertise and in the direct provision of public services if possible.

It was typical of his generosity that when he gave up playing, he donated his instrument to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music for the use of up and coming young players.

Alan retired from the county council in October 1994.

Almost immediately his developing interest in Employment Law led to his taking up a new career as a part-time Chairman (judge) of Employment Tribunals.

He served in this role from 1995 to 2004 sitting mainly in Newcastle and Teesside.

Locally he played hockey for Carlisle. He later became an umpire, and chairman of selectors and secretary of the County Association. In the summer he played behind the stumps for Irthing Vale Cricket Club. He also played golf and squash. He was a follower of Derbyshire County Cricket Club and Derby County FC. His abiding passion, however, was music. A keen bassoon player when younger he played first bassoon in the Oxford University orchestra. He was selected for the National Youth Orchestra but sadly missed out on playing because of appendicitis.

It was typical of his generosity that when he gave up playing, he donated his instrument to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music for the use of up and coming young players. He usually found time before a performance in Glasgow or Edinburgh to have a word with the bassoon players in the Scottish Opera orchestra. He was a patron and generous benefactor to a number of musical and cultural organisations, particularly Scottish Opera and Theatre by the Lake.

August was blanked out in his diary as he headed north from his home in Scotby. He felt at home in Edinburgh and would often extol the virtues of the city, particularly its restaurants. He made many friends through his interest in music.

After retiring from his tribunal work, he went to Australia each winter for a number of years for the sunshine and

cricket. He spoke fondly of the country and was interested in supporting Aboriginal art. He travelled extensively in western Europe.

To quote a former county solicitor colleague: 'he was a highly intelligent, thoughtful, cultured and supportive man'.

Alan never married and is survived by several cousins.

With thanks to Brian Walker.

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN (Modern History, 1954)

Born 18 March 1935 and died 2 March 2019. John read Modern History between 1954 and 1957 before receiving a Diploma in Education at the Oxford Institute of Education. He lived in Farnham between 1972 and 2019 and was closely associated with secondary education in the town.

SIR HENRY CARR (Jurisprudence, 1976)



I had the great pleasure of meeting Henry in my first hour at Hertford in October 1976 when we were both allocated rooms in the NB quad on the

same staircase. We dined in Formal Hall that night and remained the closest of friends since then.

First and foremost, Henry was a devoted family man, doting on his wife Jan, who he married in 1988 and his children Oliver, Harry, Charlie and Lily. He was also an exceptional friend and, from the beginning, a brilliant lawyer.

Henry read Jurisprudence and was a natural at the subject. He was able to accomplish enough in 'three good hours' (as he would put it) in the library to allow him to pursue all his outside interests in Oxford including his large circle of friends, sport, public speaking and acting. He also loved literature and poetry and his mother Sally named him after the author Henry James.

Henry's legendary levels of intellect and concentration allowed him to cruise to a first in 1979 and very nearly to All Souls. By his second year at Hertford he had decided, with characteristic decisiveness, that he would become a patent barrister and would do a Masters at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

He returned to the UK in 1980 after obtaining his LLM in the legal protection of computer software, worked at Lovells and then at Carpmaels and Ransford, a leading patent agent before being called to the Bar in 1982.

He joined the top Intellectual Property Chambers, 11 South Square in Grays Inn and despite being one of the few IP barristers without a science background, became one the leading advocates in the country, voted IP barrister of the year on repeated occasions and became the 'go to' barrister of his generation for complex IP cases.

He took silk before the age of 40 after only 16 years as a junior and established himself as an expert in highly technical areas of patent law such electronics, pharmaceuticals and biochemistry and

became a feared cross examiner with his extraordinary ability to grasp the technical and the commercial issues with rapidity and clarity. He was appointed Chairman of the IP Bar in 2012.

In 2015, Henry was appointed to the High Court bench in 2015, proving to be as excellent a judge as he has been an advocate. Tragically, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer only one year after his appointment.

In typical fashion, Henry worked throughout the gruelling treatment and continued to live life to the full. As a passionate fan of Liverpool FC he was able to witness their European Cup victory in Madrid in June.

On a personal note, Henry was the most positive and kind person with a great sense of humour, enjoying life and combining a drive for achievement with the warmest and most generous personality.

He was a loved and respected figure to his close-knit family, large circle of friends and colleagues at the Bar and Bench.

Despite his brilliance and great wisdom, he always retained his modesty and complete lack of arrogance.

Henry always loved Hertford College, and remained involved by becoming a highly effective Chairman of the Remuneration Committee for four years.

He will be hugely missed by his three friends from the Hertford intake of 1976, myself, Anthony Zeitman and Andrew Tait who dined with Henry in Formal Hall on our first night as freshers. We remained lifelong friends, best men at each other weddings, godfathers to our respective children and, while Henry departed this world much too early, his was a life well lived and it was a privilege to have been part of it for the last 43 years.

With thanks to Stephen Massey.

DAVID CLAPP (PPE, 1981)



David Clapp died suddenly and unexpectedly on 28 April 2019 in New York City. He was 56. He was a man of many talents who could have succeeded in many different fields. Through his life's work for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), he devoted himself to peace, justice and caring for our brothers and sisters. David was a passionate family man, accomplished musician and gifted linguist.

David's first love was music. During his teenage years he excelled at viola and piano, often performing in chamber music ensembles with students several years his senior. For two years he was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

David came up to Hertford College from Cheltenham (now Pate's) Grammar School in 1981 to read PPE. He was a member of the University orchestra and a popular conductor of the Hertford College orchestra, often performing to capacity audiences. After a year, he seriously considered transferring to one of the leading London music

conservatories, but ultimately chose to complete his degree at Oxford. As his studies progressed, David found his second passion – international development and humanitarian causes, subjects that became an integral part of his life. After graduating from Oxford, he earned a master's degree at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, specialising in international law and diplomatic history. While there, he completed an internship at the United Nations. During this time, he met his first wife, Charlotte; they had two sons, Alexander and Sebastian.

David started his career as a civil servant in the European Union, with postings in Brussels, Budapest, Luxembourg and Turin. In his early thirties he decided to resign from the EU to become a United Nations volunteer in Poland, marking the beginning of a long career in international development. His next assignment took him to Sofia as director of CARE International Bulgaria. While with CARE, David uncovered potential fraud in the distribution of medical supplies and, probably not coincidentally, suffered a street mugging that left him with a broken cheekbone and left hand, threatening to end his viola playing. He was evacuated to England, where he was patched up but, determined as ever, he went back to Bulgaria to finish the job. Once there, he received expert medical attention, and the movement of his hand was restored by a doctor, Yanna Miteva, who later became his second wife.

David and Yanna relocated to the United States and settled in Princeton, New Jersey. From there, David embarked on his career at the United Nations. He served in the UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States and the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy in various positions of increasing seniority.

He frequently traveled to troubled parts of the Middle East and North Africa, including to Iraq in the aftermath of the US invasion and to Algeria as it was recovering from civil war. He developed extensive expertise in crisis and disaster management, community-based development, inclusive and effective democratic governance, resilience building and sustainable development pathways.

In 2012 David was appointed director of the UNDP's mission to Somalia. In an effort to make itself accessible to the Somali leaders it was seeking to help, the UN decided to locate its operations outside the protective perimeter of the Mogadishu international airport. In June 2013 the mission was attacked by the al-Shabab militant group. David and several of his colleagues were rushed down to the basement while a firefight lasting more than an hour raged in the compound above. At least eight UN employees and contractors died in the attack. David and his surviving colleagues were evacuated out of the country.

After an interlude at headquarters in New York, in 2014 David was appointed as sub-regional platform Coordinator,

East and Southern Africa based in Nairobi, Kenya. He was responsible for coordinating the UNDP's work over a vast swathe of territory, encompassing projects in South Sudan, the African Great Lakes region and many other countries. Most recently, he coordinated the UNDP's response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique. At a memorial service in New York organised by his UNDP friends and colleagues, he was remembered thus: 'David was an inspiring leader who discharged his duties with dedication, professionalism, competence and diligence. He was highly disciplined, hardworking and humble, with the greatest devotion for Africa. He left a mark in the hearts and minds of his colleagues and friends, who remember his great sense of social responsibility and personal dedication to development work. He was a champion of working together as One UN and showcased what can be achieved when we work together.'

David is survived by his wife, Yanna, sons Alexander, Sebastian and Dobrin, father Richard, and siblings John, Elizabeth, Michael and Brian. He was predeceased by his mother, Susan.

In his early thirties he decided to resign from the EU to become a United Nations volunteer in Poland, marking the beginning of a long career in international development.

