



*Dear Hertford Community,*

We are in the final days of an extraordinary term and an extraordinary year. The sun is shining on the marquee and Oxford is glowing. It has been brilliant to see some sense of normality and energy coming back to Hertford this term, despite the constraints and challenges. From my windows, I can see relieved Hertford Finalists celebrating in Cattle Street, and a celebrated Hertford cat relieving itself in OB Quad. Staff, tutors, and students can finally start to think about rest and recuperation.

We were building the plane as we flew it this year. No one got the experience they expected, and everyone had to make sacrifices as part of the collective effort to protect each other and the learning environment. I could not be prouder of the way that the Hertford community coped. We didn't just get through the year, we did so with real Hertford camaraderie and solidarity. We are hugely grateful to you all, and to our alumni for supporting us through it. I hope that everyone who missed out on so much of the normal Hertford experience will be able to make up for it in the future. As a first step, many students are taking advantage of our invitation to stay up beyond the end of term.

The prospects on lockdowns and variants remain uncertain. But I wanted to share some updates beyond all of that.

I do hope you saw the launch of [Hertford 2030](#) in May. As part of this we also made a public commitment on Earth Day to achieving [net-zero](#) by 2030. The first phase of this, an audit of all our emissions, is underway. This is a collective ambitious project for staff, students, tutors and alumni. Watch this space for more news on the wider Hertford 2030 effort, including access, new ways of developing our students, and world class facilities.

To mark the end of term, I'll be hosting a [conversation with Gordon Brown](#) on 5 July. Please do join us (there will be a special link for the Hertford community) and let me have any questions you would like me to put to him.

As well as maintaining the highest quality teaching through the lockdowns, our Fellows have continued to be recognised for achieving great things. Carissa Véliz received the 2021 Herbert A. Simon Award for Outstanding Research in Computing and Philosophy, for her work on privacy and ethics. Louise Slater was given the Gill Memorial [Award](#) from the Royal Geographical Society for her

research on the impact of climate change on river systems. Louise has also secured a Future Leaders Fellowship. Fernanda Duarte won the Outstanding Junior Faculty Award in Computational Chemistry and a Royal Society of Chemistry [prize](#). Honorary Fellow John Dewar was elected [Chair](#) of Universities Australia. And our newest Honorary Fellow Will Hutton was appointed [President](#) of the Academy of Social Sciences. Congratulations to them all.

Simpkin is currently in the Library Office helping Alex the library assistant prepare book parcels for recent postal requests.



Meanwhile, the 2021 Hertford College Vaughan Williams Prize in Clinical Medicine was jointly won by Poppy Iveson and Archith Kamath, and Tanner Prizes for contributions to outreach work were awarded to Kitty Attwood, Saida Azizova, Natasha Clieve, Charlotte Frazer-Morris, Imogen Harter-Jones and Laura Watson. I was able to thank them and our other student access ambassadors yesterday for the brilliant work they do in helping us reach the highest potential applicants.

Beyond the prizes the Roy Foster Irish Government Research Fellow, Deidre

Foley, chaired - with great compassion and tact - the Oxford Irish History Seminar on 2nd June, including interviewing Ireland's Commission on Mother and Baby Homes. Academic Visitor Ciaran Martin introduced an influential [paper](#) on Scottish Independence. Do look out for Sam Henry's work on [Fermilab](#) (and My Little Pony); and Visiting Students Lecturers Charlie Lee-Potter and Sally Bayley [discussing](#) Sally's new book, *No Boys Play Here* on Charlie's podcast [Inside a Mountain](#). You might also have seen that Jeri Wright inspired a [dish](#) on the Great British Menu. And do keep an eye on Hertford's Desert Island Discs ([latest](#) from David Greaves).

Students have also been as busy as ever. The MCR raised funds through a [virtual run to Venice](#). George Hargrave got a [century](#) in the Varsity cricket match. I'm hoping that he will be unavailable for Hertford's game against my ageing team next weekend. Congratulations to Hertford's cricket team for reaching the final of cuppers (taking place today). And to the Men's and Women's rowing teams for their performances in this year's '[TorpEights](#)' races. And there's more to come. Each year we run our 'Unsung Heroes of Science' competition, in which we challenge 16-18s from around the world to make a two-minute video about a scientist they think deserves more recognition. This year's videos are now all available [here](#) and we've got some corkers, featuring hand-drawn illustrations, stop-motion, live-action and animations, spanning over 3000 years of science, including [Manasseina](#) (a pioneer of sleep science), [Hamilton](#) (who wrote the software that took humans to the moon), [Lacks](#) (whose "immortal" cells were taken without her consent), [Strassman](#) (who pioneered the use of medicinal psychedelic drugs) and even anti-hero [Midgley](#) (who put poisonous lead into petrol and created the CFCs that destroyed the ozone layer). Alison Woollard will be in conversation with award-winning science writer and broadcaster Angela Saini, whose latest book 'Superior: The Return of Race Science' will feature as one of the competition prizes. Do join us. Details and registration [here](#).



As well as saying goodbye to our finalists, we are also bidding farewell and happy retirement to Professor Christopher Tyerman (off to write the history of Hertford) and Deputy Bursar Graham May (off to walk the length of the Cornish coastal path). Devotees of Christopher will enjoy his recent [blogpost](#) marking

the opening up of Oxford (barring one small corner ...) in 1871. Grateful thanks to all others moving on, and a hope that you will stay in close touch.

Our flag flew at half-mast this term to [mark](#) the loss of Emeritus Fellow John Torrance. John was a popular Politics tutor here for many decades, and (twice) a wise and far sighted Vice Principal. We will be holding a memorial concert once the situation allows. If you missed it, please do watch our [tribute](#) to Hertford alum Jeremy Heywood, featuring friends, former colleagues and Suzanne Heywood.

There is so much I have failed to include, but I hope this gives you a snapshot of how we are placed as we reach the break. Do drop in (restrictions permitting) over the Summer, when we hope to be offering cream teas in our (now famous and much envied) marquee. We would love to see you, family and friends.

I'm not the only alum to wonder how our current students have come through this year. Future students will also marvel at the way this group has pulled together, and the support they received from tutors and College staff. Tests like this come along rarely (I hope), but - thanks to you all - we are in good shape. Enjoy the Summer.

*All best,*

Tom

