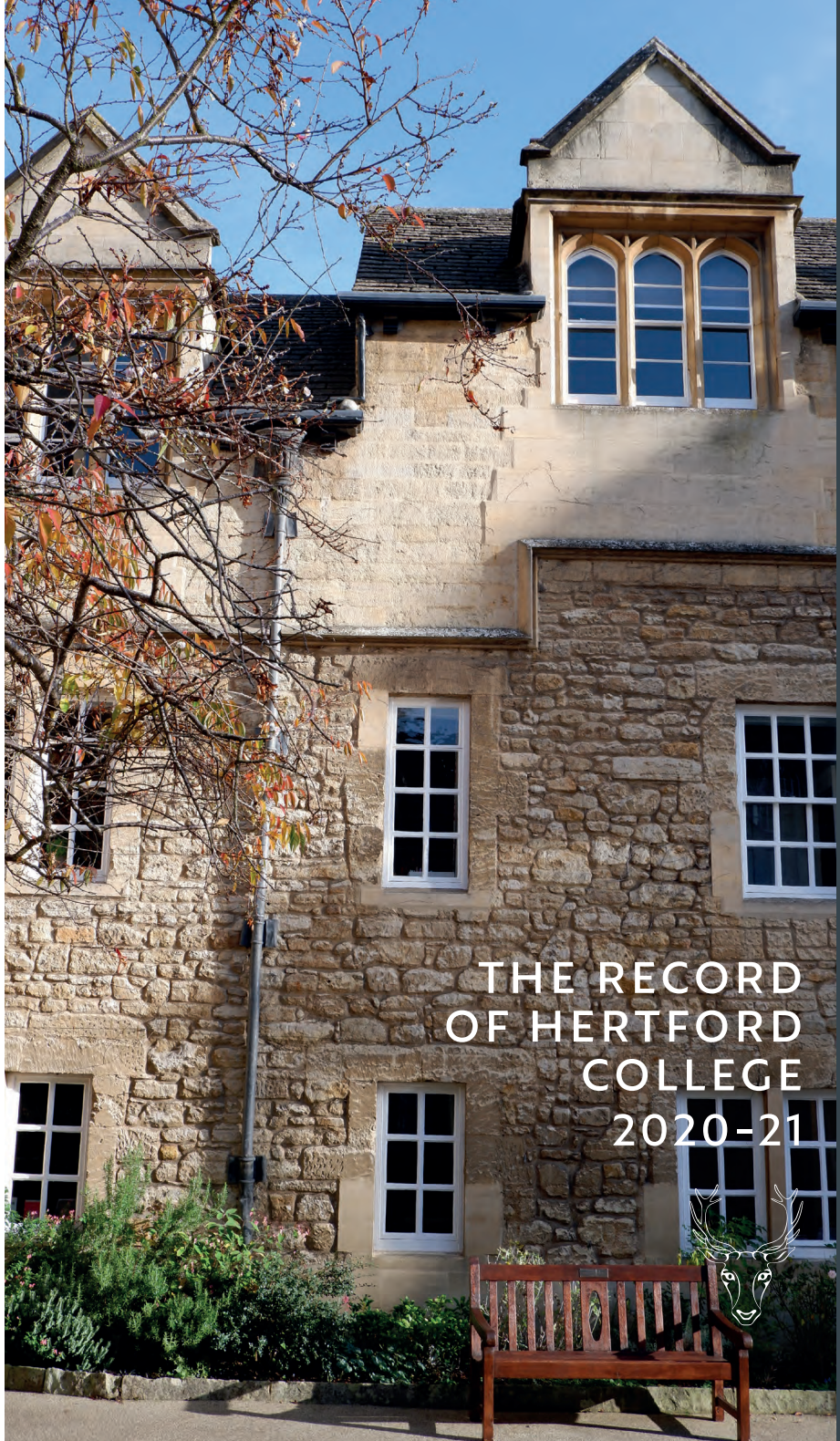


# MAGAZINE

THE RECORD  
OF HERTFORD  
COLLEGE  
2020-21



 The Record of Hertford College 2020-21





**HERTFORD  
COLLEGE  
MAGAZINE**  
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Editor: Professor Ian McBride  
Sub-editor: Frances Wheare  
Design: [www.dougdawson.co.uk](http://www.dougdawson.co.uk)

Produced by:  
Development Office, Hertford College, Oxford OX1 3BW  
01865 279428 | [development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk) | [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk)



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## Editor's note

The Editor thanks all those who have contributed to and advised on this year's edition, including Frances Wheare, Nathan Stazicker and everyone in the Development team.





# Principal's Review 2020-21

Tom Fletcher writes:

As one of our thrice-weekly Zoom calls on COVID-19 came to a conclusion, one of the Fellows raised a virtual hand. 'We need to talk about Hobbes.'

Indeed we do. What would the 17th-century philosopher of authority against the state of nature have made of the daily lockdown trade-offs between liberty and security, between consent and diktat? Might he provide a way of explaining to students the social contract of this pandemic: that the young sacrifice some of their most

active years to give the old more of their least active? Distancing restrictions might prevent us from having this discussion beneath his austere portrait in Hall, but this was the kind of debate I had relished in returning to the college where Hobbes had studied.

The eminent colleagues on the working group looked back at me with the slightly perturbed look that Oxford professors have for heads of house who are still being house trained (i.e. all of us). Perhaps the Zoom screen had frozen again. Then a sigh. 'Not Hobbes,

principal. Hobs. If we get locked down again while the students are all in residence, the NB Quad kitchens will need more hobs.'

Of course.

August 2020 I started this role not in the Principal's Lodgings but quarantined with my sons in a (beautifully renovated) student room, so I knew all about the cooking facilities. Indeed, I was the only person physically present at my first Oxford dinner, and the only alcohol on the high table was hand sanitiser. These past 18 months have been extraordinary, but they have created many new rituals and memories.

Matriculation took place in Holywell Quad with isolated students joining from their windows. The marquee in OB Quad became the social and teaching centre for the college, and then Oxford's premier cream tea venue. Gaudies, chapel, and tutorials moved online. We found new ways to connect students to the books they needed, provided tablets, and kept the Wi-Fi from flagging. This year was a live experiment in adapting Hertford's routines, habits and traditions to the limits of a student room and a computer screen.

Hertford's traditions of liberty, tolerance, community and society were all challenged by the constraints of protecting each other from a pandemic. But our response was also grounded in those values. Liberty was restrained, but not the liberty to think and learn, for students to find themselves. Tolerance was tested, but we found creative ways to live well together as a community. Society was fragile, but we refreshed our commitment to a university as a hub for ideas, learning and opportunity. We were physically distant from the world outside, but more determined than ever to contribute to it. This year was shaped by the pandemic, but it was not defined by it.

There is a reassuring permanence and stability to Oxford. Heads of house, tutors, staff, and students arrive and depart. Oxford colleges are sustained and scaffolded by the rhythm of the academic year. Michaelmas, Hilary, Trinity: the excitement of the new start to each year; the pace of study and social life; the looming exams. In so many ways, everything was different this year: we missed so many of the rituals and rites of passage that should accompany the Oxford year. And yet that cycle sustained and scaffolded us again.

But we cannot pretend that the world is not changing fast around us. This is a fragile moment for Oxford, higher education and wider society. As I concluded most Zoom meetings, we do not know what comes next, so we also need to start to draw some lessons, however difficult. Any industry that does not recognise the scale of disruption exposed and accelerated by the lockdowns will struggle to emerge from this.

So what has higher education learnt from this year of lockdowns, deep

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cleans, PCR tests, online lectures and household bubbles?

The institutions that coped well quietly continued to do three basic things. They managed to hold to a vision and sense of purpose, despite the unpredictability and flux. They retained trust and a sense of collective endeavour and camaraderie, despite the growing sense of distrust in society and periods of estrangement and isolation. And they focused on the basics of quiet competence, despite the erratic lurches of government. Vision, trust and competence might not be the hallmarks of many political leaders, but they must remain the fundamentals for all of us tasked with developing a better generation of political leaders.

This was of course a period of frustration, anxiety and turbulence, and we are yet to understand or respond to the longer-term damage that it will have caused, even if the vaccine prevails. The quiet, essential work of building and nurturing a community proved much harder online than offline. As we staggered towards the end of the year, the main request from students, tutors and staff was that we not end it with another hesitant lifting of a glass towards the computer screen, another eye rolling unmuting and another awkward Zoom wave.

But this was also a period of extraordinary innovation, creativity and resilience. Professors who were once unable to remember passwords adapted their content for digital learning. Student residences turned themselves into care homes and hotels. Teams adjusted to working together without the vital nuances and visual cues of in-person human contact. There was genuine solidarity. As one fresher said to me when I sympathised that they were missing out on the Oxford experience: 'Who is to say this isn't our Oxford experience?'

Social life changed. Throughout the year I repeated again and again to students that we were postponing rather than cancelling events, rituals and rites of passage. I asked them to write on a piece of paper each time they missed out on one and place it in a postbox outside my office. But can we recreate those moments of serendipity, those relationships made and unmade, those thousands of interactions, mistakes and observations that contribute to the development of a young person as they experience university? Are there extraordinary marriages that will never happen, partnerships that will never spark, friendships that will never kindle? In an effort to restore a fraction of this interaction, we invited the students to stay for a fortnight at the end of Trinity Term, but then had to lock down again in the face of the Delta wave.

Teaching changed. Hertford tutors adapted to online tutorials with great patience and creativity. But there is more that universities like Oxford must do to ensure that academics have the skills and infrastructure to create world-class online educational content in an increasingly competitive environment. We should now be able to imagine that the lecture series on Orwell or astrophysics can reach anyone in the world rather than just a lecture theatre of masked students. If universities do not lead, quickly and assertively, someone else will.

Exams changed. At Hertford, we worked hard to make accreditation and selection fair in the face of lockdowns that closed the exam halls or made it unfair to test young people. Can we now finally imagine a world where written exams matter less in our assessment of how well a student has really learnt their subject? The assessments of the near future must shift more quickly away from the knowledge a student can

memorise to what they can do with it.

A final tough lesson. Despite the noble and valiant efforts of many, especially at Hertford, online learning exposed and accelerated inequalities. You can't learn as fast if you don't have the kit, connectivity and working environment. We worked to fill the gaps by providing tablets and ethernet cables, and with extra support to help with time management, dealing with pressure, personal organisation, and wellbeing.

Education was already at a sliding doors moment, but the pandemic has given us a reason to reflect afresh on why, how, and what we teach and learn, as well as an opportunity to make that change. In a period of rising distrust, are we gaining or losing trust? In a period of rising inequality, are we contributing to it or confronting it? In a period of unprecedented technological change, are we working for the tech or is the tech working for us? Universities must make their voice heard in these debates. Get on the right side of those challenges and universities will be part of the answer to the urgent challenges ahead.

I suggest there are also three broad areas where higher education must both question itself and be held to account.

First, as good ancestors, what should we pass on around our metaphorical campfire? Can we make our expertise more accessible to those who won't physically enter a university? Can we make universities a preparation for life, work, and citizenship rather than a sabbatical from them? Can education last a lifetime? Can we develop a generation that is kind, curious and brave – or, at least, kinder, more curious and braver than us.

Second, how do we ensure we have the right people in place to deliver that vision, and that they are genuinely supported, recognised and rewarded? This starts of course with fairer access

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at all levels to universities. The next enlightenment will only be possible if a broader range of tomorrow's thinkers and pioneers have the opportunities of higher education. It also means honesty and action on supporting the academic precariat and liberating tutors to teach rather than survive from grant to grant. And it means a broader reflection on what universities must do to be a good neighbour in our local communities and in wider society, developing people who are both global citizens and citizens of somewhere.

Third, do we as a sector have the



plans and processes to deliver these aspirations? Are we adapting our provision of mental health for students, staff and academics? Are we preparing to manage the new risks ahead, rather than being blinkered by this pandemic? Are we ready to make the hard choices on student numbers and funding? Are we leading the way – by research, example, and activism – on the climate crisis?

Hertford can and will help to show the way. We can share knowledge, not hoard it. We can develop citizens of a global world, with the ability to connect ideas, environments and places, to experience failure and to solve problems. We can lead the ethical debate about the human values that we want to imprint in technology, and how we live with machines. We can explore ways to take advantage of technological change to make learning more collaborative, flexible and human. We can promote expertise and freedom of speech. We can spark the wonder of learning.

Change is not easy. Like wider society, many in universities already feel overwhelmed, insecure and anxious about the future. But that sense of fragility is why this effort matters so much. We cannot wait for politicians to

lead us: that is surely a major lesson of this era of pandemic and polarisation. To change education, we're often told, we must change the politics. But education is upstream politics, so to change the politics, we must change education.

Amid all this churn, I feel great optimism. The generation currently in education have a much more intuitive understanding of how to adapt and transform their learning, and to identify new gaps and opportunities for where technology can help renew education in the future. These young people will liberate themselves to unleash the ingenuity and creativity that they know they need to navigate the challenges ahead.

I also feel great optimism because of all that the Hertford community has achieved this year, despite the lockdowns. We have been reminded how much we owe to the scientists at Oxford and elsewhere who pushed back the boundaries of how we confront a pandemic. But we also owe a great deal to the people who have supported us all through these lockdowns. In the case of Hertford this included the catering staff, porters, cleaning teams and others who worked to support students living and studying in college. It included the

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tutors who adapted to new ways of teaching and supporting their students as they faced new challenges. It included the students who kept at it: this year saw our largest ever intake of students, with our highest ever proportion of state school undergraduates. And it included our supporters, alumni and friends, whose generosity and goodwill meant that Hertford continued to thrive.

Hertford's community was not defined by the pandemic. Every Governing Body began with a long list of prizes, many of which are captured elsewhere in this magazine. From privacy and ethics (Carissa Véliz) to flooding and rivers (Louise Slater); from computational chemistry (Fernanda Duarte) to microbiology (Martin Maiden); and from AI (Mike Wooldridge) to gene therapy and blindness (Lewis Fry), our academics were recognised for pioneering work in their fields. In some cases, there was direct relevance to health crises. David Stuart was knighted for his work on medical sciences, including anti-viral

drugs for viruses like COVID-19. Chris Schofield is leading a £100m project on anti-microbial resistance. Zhanfeng Cui, who pioneered a rapid testing solution for COVID-19, was recognised by the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Meanwhile, Honorary Fellow John Dewar was elected Chair of Universities Australia, and our newest Honorary Fellow Will Hutton became President of the Academy of Social Sciences. The legacy of Will's gusto carried us through much of this year, even in his absence. Over almost a decade, Will – in the words of Senior Fellow, Tony Wilson – cheered us up. This past year has demonstrated how important that is, and Will has remained a consistent source of good cheer and sound advice to me.

New books emerged, seen in our Hertford Bookshelf on pXX. Judith Herrin won the 2020 Pol Roger Duff Cooper Prize for her book *Ravenna*. Hertford poet Will Harris won the Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection. Podcast pioneers such as Peter Milican,





Filming a Virtual Open Day video with the Principal and JCR members Caleb Bram and Sian Morris

Emma Smith and Ciaran Martin created accessible new content, as did the many Hertford figures who contributed to our Desert Island Discs. Jeri Wright even inspired a dish on the *Great British Menu*, and Jacqui Smith became the second Hertford alumna to appear on *Strictly Come Dancing*.

Hertford students blitzed *University Challenge*, won cricket Cuppers, dominated Oxford's innovation competition, won an array of prizes, climbed Kilimanjaro, got the top five Economics and Management firsts, trained Syrian refugees in Jordan as part of a new pilot project, raised funds

through a virtual run to Venice, and were part of the team that scored a century in the Varsity cricket match at Lords. We even dug up the quad to investigate our archaeological history. We got down to the late Saxon/early Norman period and found a medieval kitchen. The survey is part of our preparation to create a world-class library.

We also hosted a brilliant cast of thinkers through the year. Gordon Brown was our end of year speaker. Other guests included UN humanitarians Zeid Ra'ad and Baroness Valerie Amos; journalists Angela Saini, Fiona Bruce, Adam Fleming and Carole Cadwalladr;

former EU Vice President Baroness Cathy Ashton; veteran parliamentarian Sir Nicholas Soames; global education guru and OECD Director Andreas Schleicher; former US speechwriter Josh Earnest; and Oxford academics Noran Fouad and Peter Frankopan. Finally, in an evening remembering alumnus Jeremy Heywood, we were joined by his widow Suzanne, four former Permanent Secretaries, and many friends and colleagues.

Our flag flew at half-mast to mark the loss of Emeritus Fellow John Torrance. John was a popular Politics tutor here for many decades, and (twice) a wise

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and far-sighted Vice Principal. We will be holding a memorial concert in his memory once the situation allows. We also said farewell to Honorary Fellow The Rt Hon Lord Ashburton, and alumnus, Hertford Society and boat club stalwart Derek Conran. More obituaries can be found on p132.

We also started a collective reflection on Hertford 2030. I am keen that we build on our tradition of reform, independent thinking and tolerance, updated in recent decades to an unstuffy openness and a commitment to both access and academic rigour. We have such strengths, including our reputation as a pioneer on state school admissions, a jaw-dropping location at the heart of Oxford, and rapid progress over just a few decades from being a poor college with weak academic results to a serious contender (as the awards above demonstrate).

What matters most to us, and how can we demonstrate it? Alumni, staff, and students told us that Hertford can be a frontline for a better society. So as part of this effort, we want to expand our access and student support programmes with a goal of eliminating financial barriers to studying here. We will reach carbon net zero no later than

2030. And we will launch an innovative 'head, hand and Hertford' programme, preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century.

I'm keen that Hertford 2030 is a home for extraordinary research and teaching; a pioneer of access, equality and sustainability; and a thriving, open, friendly community. That will require creative thinking on the next leap forward in access and opportunity, our business model, and sustainability. By 2030 we'll have over 10,000 alumni, so part of the reflection is about the impact they can make in society: I think we would already come high in the Norrington Table for that.

Hertford is part of my DNA: I care deeply about the college's history, values and potential. I've been so impressed by the adaptability, patience and kindness demonstrated every day to keep us on track. I'm struck in so many conversations by the way that people talk about how 'Hertford made me.' I certainly feel that. And I am confident that our current and future students will say that too.

This was an extraordinary time. But Hertford is an extraordinary community. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to keep it that way.

**ALUMNI, STAFF AND STUDENTS TOLD US THAT HERTFORD CAN BE A FRONTLINE FOR A BETTER SOCIETY. SO AS PART OF THIS EFFORT, WE WANT TO EXPAND OUR ACCESS AND STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMMES, WITH A GOAL OF ELIMINATING FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO STUDYING HERE.**



**HERTFORD  
HIGHLIGHTS**





# Professor Christopher Tyerman's Valediction

Dr Toby Barnard writes:

After John Armstrong's retirement in 1976, Medieval History at Hertford was taught by a lecturer. In those distant, unreformed days, lecturers enjoyed an uncertain status and insecure tenure. Appointments were seldom advertised formally, but reflected availability and recommendations. This seemingly haphazard process brought Christopher Tyerman to Hertford in 1979. Already he had had a dazzling career at New College. After graduating with a first-class degree in 1974, he began research focused on later medieval

France under the supervision of Lionel Butler, a fellow of All Souls. Butler, after a time at St Andrew's moved south to become Principal of the then Royal Holloway College, a constituent of London University located at Egham. The good fortune of his being on hand to supervise Christopher was short-lived: Butler, a chronic asthmatic, died suddenly, thereby removing a powerful patron as well as friend. However, the originality of Christopher's research and the rigour and success of his teaching were building a high local reputation.

Testimony to this regard among his seniors and peers was his election in 1977 to a junior research fellowship at The Queen's College, the latest in a succession of notable medieval historians. The fellowship was intermitted when he took over the teaching of medieval papers at St Hilda's (the college that all three of his sisters had attended). At this point, too, he joined Hertford, although tutorials were conducted in his college rooms elsewhere. Further distinction and migration followed when, in 1982, he was elected to a prestigious Murray senior research fellowship, which translated him to Exeter College. During this busy period, an essay, subsequently published, won the Alexander Prize of the Royal Historical Society, and then – in 1988 – *England and the Crusades 1095–1588*, the first of an outstanding sequence of books on the crusades, was published.

Despite the productivity and the distinction of the publications, Christopher was hampered, first by the death of his original supervisor and then by the hostile atmosphere of the 1980s in which severe and sudden cuts were being implemented. A post outside Oxford for which Christopher had applied was abolished while he was on the train going for interview. With three young children, although much in demand as a tutor and lecturer, it was proving a somewhat precarious existence. From this he was delivered by returning to his old school, Harrow, as the head of history. Although taxing, he had the energy and adroitness to balance the demands of school teaching with those of tutoring for Hertford and numerous other Oxford colleges. Eventually the exercise in bi-location ended when he succeeded his old tutor at New College, Eric Christiansen, as the principal medievalist there, and was

elected to a senior research fellowship of Hertford in 2006.

Such a bare outline fails to do justice either to Christopher's massive contribution to history at Hertford (the history of which happily he is writing) or to his reputation as a scholar, notably of the crusades in their multiple aspects. Commercial success and scholarly acclaim greeted his *God's War* in 2006 (swiftly translated into many languages) and its sequels *How to Plan a Crusade and The World of the Crusades* (2019). Further evidence of the regard and affection came with a festschrift (*Crusading Europe*) published in 2019.

Until late in the 1990s, Christopher's crowded schedule meant that interviewing candidates in December and the annual schools' dinner in June were the main occasions when we met. During the 1980s, schools' dinners coincided with the evenings of general elections. On the whole, the tutors were more interested in and exercised by the results than were the undergraduates. In 1983, fancy dress was decreed for the diners, and two dressed as Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan, complete with realistic masks. When it was revealed that the masqueraders had failed to vote, the tutors decreed

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that they would have neither food nor drink until they had discharged their democratic duty. This they did, but were ordered by the police outside the polling station to remove the masks before they entered. At that time, the zest of the young was matched by the stamina of the relatively youthful tutors. Party games were played including charades. Predictably, Christopher excelled. Miming necessitated a good deal of physical exertion, which led – for forgotten reasons – to chairs being piled perilously on one another and then mounted by an acrobatic Christopher who had – characteristically – taken charge. These nights (dawn broke with surprising speed, usually when the revellers had slumped into ruminative and sedentary, even comatose modes) led often to the spontaneous trading of home truths and rebukes. One of these might occasion a rift between the seniors which would endure for months. Christopher showed the greatest staying power. It was he who would take the survivors for breakfast in Brown's in the covered market.

Through a deliberate strategy, first-year undergraduates were obliged to take medieval options, an epoch of which almost all were ignorant. Thanks to Christopher's rigorous tuition, some were enthused and themselves became medievalists. When he was attached temporarily to St Hilda's, its then senior historian stated, 'Tyerman can teach anything'. The truth of this was borne home to the Hertford tutors during admissions. Exhausted after several days of interviewing, on the final evening a few who had applied originally for other colleges would be seen. There was no chance yet to read any of their written work. When one such candidate

announced that his or her submission related to the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931, Geoffrey Ellis and I turned automatically to Christopher. Sure enough, he quizzed the aspirant not just with aplomb, but with precise knowledge. Had I remembered this copious and arcane learning, I would not later have been so rash as to dispute with him one evening in the senior common room, of which west country diocese, the father of another member of the history faculty was bishop. Unwisely I wagered with him, losing thereby a good bottle of claret. This ability to conjure up a recondite detail – whether of the constituency represented by an MP in the 1950s or the weight of dung excreted by ship-board horses in the thirteenth century – rivals that of Mr Memory in the film of John Buchan's *The Thirty-Nine Steps*.

Christopher relishes the ethos and traditions of institutions, but far from uncritically. Alive to the foibles and follies of colleagues, impatience is tempered by an amused resignation. Especially since becoming a member of the Hertford Governing Body, he has willingly taken on responsibilities such as Tutor for Graduates, Archivist and Steward of the SCR. On two successive Principalian search committees, he exerted decisive influence. Many of the idiosyncrasies of both Hertford and the history faculty, even of Oxford University, have vanished during the course of his career. Yet, sharing many of his values and something of his scepticism, alongside gratitude for a congenial and convivial colleague, I can only restate my admiration for Christopher's triumphs as both a memorable college tutor and an internationally renowned (and very readable) historian.







# Funding Hertford College

Professor Christopher Tyerman

Almost all that has made Hertford distinctive, from its foundation, or refoundation in 1874 onwards – the numbers and nature of tutors and undergraduates, the facilities or lack of them, the changing educational and admissions outreach, even the sense of community itself – has been in some fundamental ways determined by funding. The now familiar trajectory of the transformation of a small, obscure, impoverished, conservative college, cosily dishevelled for the students if claustrophobically comfortable for the then tiny governing body (only seven tutorial fellows in 1959) into an intellectually prosperous, materially

sound and socially diverse pioneer of open access and educational innovation rests on money as much as on women and men. When I became a lecturer of the college in 1979, the place was still somewhat grimy, a recognised physical sump, except in academic prowess unable to compete with its richer neighbours. Only when I began research on the college history did I begin to understand exactly why and to explain its modern renaissance.

When Principal Richard Michell began his scheme to recast Magdalen Hall as Hertford College in 1873 he was confronted with many obstacles, legal – how to do it; physical – a cramped

site; institutional – would the University permit it; who would come; educational – what would be taught and who would do the teaching. But the greatest obstacle was financial. Legally, as a private hall not an incorporated college, Magdalen Hall possessed no corporate assets barring the site which, if sold or vacated, would revert to the University and could not be mortgaged or used as collateral for a loan. Such capital investments, scholarship endowments and donations that were directed for the Hall's use, including the vestigial assets of the first Hertford College dissolved in 1816, were held in trust by the university and generated an income for the Hall of less than £650 a year (perhaps under £70,000 in 2020 values). The Principal, as proprietor, kept all undergraduate dues and accommodation charges, the other tutors and lecturers receiving no stipends except the money from the pupils they taught and whatever the Principal paid them for administrative offices. The sole significant source of revenue therefore were the paying clients, the students, made up of men reading for degrees, both the BA and a few for the higher degrees in Law or Theology (no doctorates as yet) with others who were simply on the books, including MAs. Since the middle ages private halls, that existed before colleges were invented, had been allowed to matriculate students and present them for degrees. Therefore, for basic financial reasons, Magdalen Hall was perforce an open institution, without the restrictive statutes of established colleges, welcoming men of all ages, included those already married and those discarded from other colleges. The roll regularly ran into three figures, many members being housed in digs or in houses rented by the college in the town. The Hall's costs were cheaper



Richard Michell (1805–1877), oil on millboard

than most of the established colleges. But the University reforms of the 1850s – 1870s threatened this business model with competition as freeing colleges from their old statutes allowed them to admit as many undergraduates as they wished and permitted them to live outside college, something members of the Hall had been doing for centuries. By 1873, Magdalen Hall seemed doomed to extinction unless it could incorporate itself into a college with endowment.

Michell's original idea was first to legally establish a college and then attract donations and endowment to pay for fellows, meanwhile teaching on the old Hall basis. Then, entirely out of the blue, in late February 1874 came an offer of substantial endowment for the new college from TC 'Charley' Baring, a member of the banking family, Conservative MP and diehard and irascible reactionary. Baring's intervention allowed Hertford College to

be reconstituted by an Act of Parliament in August 1874. After an initial donation of £30,000 (around £3m-plus in today's money) to fund five fellowships mentioned in the act, Baring went on to give a further £200,000 (£20-25m today) enshrined in four separate trusts to pay for 12 further lavish but tenure limited £300 pa fellowships, 30 five-year £100 pa scholarships, seven college lectureships, a Dean and a Bursar. So far, so generous. However, Baring made no provision for a salary for the Principal nor provided any endowment for college running costs or for the building work necessary to house the numbers of undergraduates required to ensure the college's solvency. Baring's trusts were carefully and narrowly drawn to prohibit diversion of income to general purposes. Even more inconveniently, but reflecting Baring's reactionary and anti-reform agenda, recipients of all but two of the Baring Trust fellowships and scholarships had to be unmarried and all had to be sworn members of the Church of England. Furthermore, the Baring Trusts were not under the direct control of the college's Governing Body, being run by separate boards of trustees, although these usually included the Principal and at least one other senior fellow. This unusual, awkward and occasionally fraught arrangement persisted until 1970, although by then the role of the Baring Trusts had diminished in financial significance for the college. Baring's endowment created a very different institution to the openness of Magdalen Hall, the new college's purpose expressed in the statutes in deliberate order as 'a place of Religion, Learning and Education' (c. 19), a formula that stayed in the statutes until the revision of 1964. The religious test seemed to some to contradict the Universities Test Act of 1871, despite the explicit statement in

the 1874 Hertford College Act that it did not, and only survived legal challenge after a protracted lawsuit settled, again contentiously to some, in the college's favour by the Appeal Court in 1878.

The legacy of the Baring endowment was summed up unflatteringly by the Governing Body in 1919: 'As a result we have certain luxuries but lack certain essentials'. In 1924, the Trust income was £7,500; the college's only £3,300 with a running deficit of £1,280. The Principal's salary had to be achieved by using the surplus gained by freezing some of the fellowships. The Jackson buildings from the 1880s and the acquisition of the NB Quad site in the 1890s had to be funded largely through borrowing and donations, including the earliest appeal to old members for NB quad and the chapel. More seriously, the paradox of a poor college offering some of the richest fellowships and scholarships in Oxford forced Hertford to rely on taking more undergraduates than its founders had envisaged or hoped. Principal Boyd, at the helm from 1877 to 1922, always insisted that the original plan had been for a college similar to Corpus – small and intellectually elite. Finance insisted on a more inclusive admissions policy not out of charity or educational zeal but to balance the current account books. Equally Baring's ideal of a young, gentlemanly, celibate Anglican fellowship – ie one of pre-reform character – was increasingly damaging to the college's attempts to recruit or retain career academics; the great Greek philologist JW Denniston (fellow 1913-49) had to resign his Baring fellowship in 1919 on marriage and be re-elected to one of the few married fellowships that had to be vacated by its current holder in a complex and tedious round of musical chairs that for some time had threatened to leave Denniston



New Magdalen Hall, lithograph (Wellcome Collection)

without a job. Baring scholars who left the Church of England or who were discovered never to have been in it had to relinquish their award, a process that continued until well after WWII. Trustee intransigence and trust law largely prevented attempts to modify the trusts on marriage, the religious tests or on the uses to which trust money could be put. Any changes to funding had to come from meagre college resources alone.

This constitutional anomaly was matched by financial consequences. Baring's endowment was in fixed interest stocks and government bonds, initially including \$100,000 in 5% USA funding loan, reflecting Baring's extensive US experience (he married the daughter of a major New York merchant, RB Minturn, one of the creators of Central Park), but increasingly in British or South American railway stock and government bonds.

The endowment did not include any land. Indeed, this has been a continuing feature of Hertford's endowment ever since, except for a period between 1941 and 1955 when the college diversified by owning a couple of farms in Hampshire and Warwickshire. The only land in the college's portfolio, barring a few small pieces of property linked to old pre-1874 scholarship trusts, lay and lies in its own sites. But not only were the Baring Trusts, therefore, at the mercy of the Stock Market, they – and other colleges – were limited in what sort of stock they could possess, chiefly fixed-interest gilts, a situation that only changed in the 1960s. Hertford's endowments were therefore potential victims of inflation as well as the conservatism of the trustees. Furthermore, the trustees saw it as their duty to plough net surpluses into the college Domus Fund for use



on limited college activities (mainly to cover running deficits). This meant that they did not regularly reinvest to maintain or increase the trusts' capital which consequently gradually eroded over time. By 1938 the capital value of the Baring Trust was £190,000 (around £12.7m in 2020 value), almost half what it had been 50 years earlier. By 1967, its capital value had declined to £122,000 (£2m in today's value which is roughly what it is currently worth). Then, its income represented about 50% of investment income. Today, it constitutes between 2-2.5%.

The Baring anomaly infected most areas of college activity, from the contrasting financial attractions and practical limitations of fellowships and scholarships to the inability of the college to unlock the Baring assets for renovation or building, for example the NB 5 and 6 range and the Octagon between the world wars. New statutes of 1926, imposed after the Chelmsford Statutory Commission of 1923, allowed for more married fellows – but not at the Baring Trusts' expense, although the trust did contribute to a new fellows' pension scheme (FSSU). This financial rigidity strategically undermined college finances, forcing it to keep charges and numbers high relative to its facilities. The academic impact was severe: no new tutorial fellows were elected between 1933 and 1950 when the number of tutorial fellows had dropped to just five – three historians, a mathematician and a lawyer; by 1959 this number had only risen to seven (with the addition of fellows in Economics and Medicine). With the drop in income during WW2 and post-war inflation, the college lacked funds to hire fellows, maintain or improve its buildings or even deal with the primitive lack of adequate plumbing. The site degenerated into a slum as the

college stayed firmly near the bottom of the table of college incomes, behind even some of the chronically underendowed women's colleges. Admissions needed to be kept high, but this meant paying a large number of lecturers and outside tutors to cover diverse academic demand. With investments still grounded on fixed interest stocks and continuing inflation, the college and its ageing fellowship faced – as had its predecessor in the early 19th century – running out of money.

The subsequent financial, academic, physical and educational transformation in college fortune from 1959 rested on four pillars: radical changes in investment policy and administration allowed by changes in charity and trust law; collaborative funding from the University; a more open and generous system of state funding for undergraduate fees and living costs; and the emergence of a larger, younger, livelier, more diverse fellowship that sought to make the necessary innovations and changes to secure the college's improvement and future, not least launching a series of appeals, attracting outside non-university funding for academic posts and building up vacation conference and foreign language teaching business.

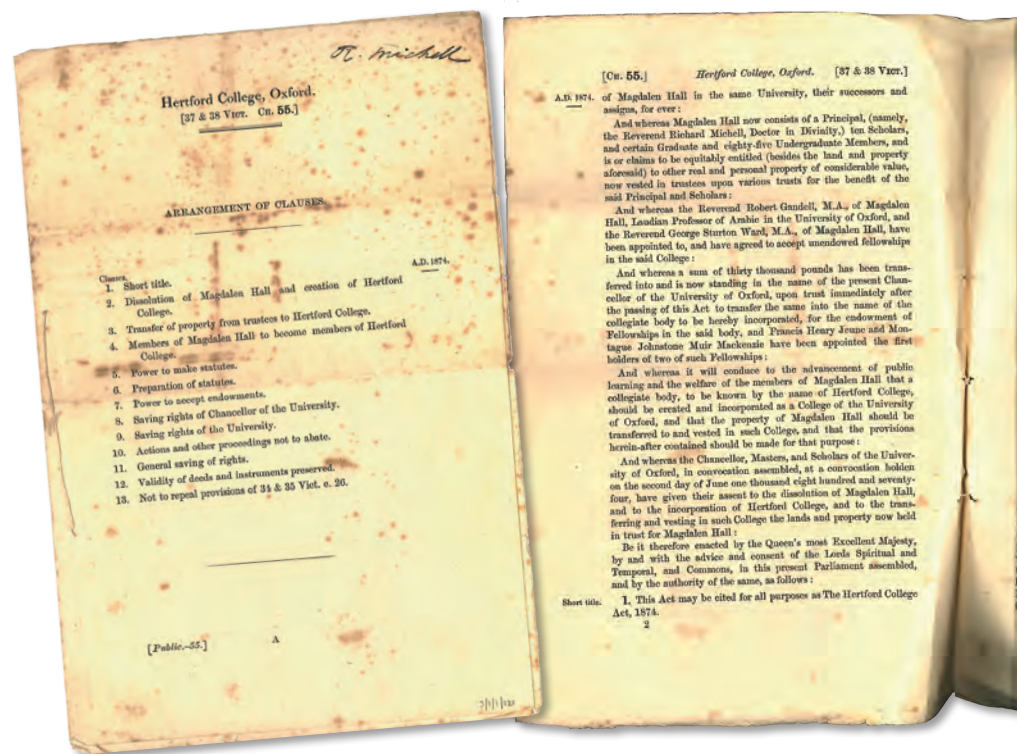
The process of change was initiated by Bill Ferrar, Principal 1959-64, Maths tutor since 1925, Bursar since 1937. Aided by the Economics tutor Dick Ross, Ferrar began the process of reforming the college's investment structure. Three Acts of Parliament were crucial in this effort. The University Colleges Trust Act of 1943 allowed colleges to pool their trust funds into one investment pool. The Charities Act of 1961 gave trustees powers to divest themselves of their role to others; and the Trustee Investment Act of 1961 allowed charities,

such as colleges, to move away from fixed interest stocks to equities. Over a decade, the Baring Trust diversified into equities, was incorporated into the general investment pool (which had been set up in 1962) and finally in 1970 surrendered trusteeship to the college. This left only the capital of the 17th century pre-1874 Meeke and 18th century Lucy scholarship outside the college's control, a peculiarity only resolved in 1987. The move away from fixed interest investments began cautiously in 1961 and was completed by 1977.

However, it was only support from the University that allowed the college to expand its operations, investment income and revenue in general. Until 1960, with the exceptions of Dick Ross, who from 1952 was jointly paid by the Institute of Statistics, and the pharmacologist Miles Vaughan Williams, the bulk of the salaries of tutorial fellows was paid by the college. To expand the teaching fellowship from college funds alone was impossible, so Ferrar began a systematic search for joint appointments with University departments and faculties, especially in Natural Sciences, with the college taking on only a fraction of the salary in return for limited college teaching. This allowed the college to expand its undergraduate and then postgraduate numbers whose fees could cover the added teaching costs. Ironically, one quid pro quo was the demise of Baring-funded fellowships, as Baring surpluses were now integrated into general college investment funds and the growth of non-Baring investment income and general college funds meant the prohibitive restrictive fellowship tests could be avoided and ignored. Nonetheless, it is a sobering contrast with the past that, instead of having all the college fellowships fully endowed, as in Baring's foundation,

we today have only one fully endowed tutorial fellowship, a result of a college/University joint matching funding scheme.

Equally far-reaching, after the Franks Report into the University's management in 1966, a more extensive system of college taxation was introduced directed towards providing inter-collegiate contributions to enhance the endowments of the poorer colleges. For four decades, guided by Ross' successor, his old pupil Roger van Noorden, as investment bursar from 1966, Hertford took full perhaps occasionally more than full advantage of this largesse. By 2019, the value of the endowment fund derived from the Franks college contribution scheme came to £48m out of a total endowment valued at £84m. RVN's combination of constitutional austerity and feline investment became legendary. His policy was to bear down heavily on all college running costs while conducting an imaginative programme of share trading, taking advantage of the new freedoms to invest in high-yielding stocks granted in the 1960s. He resisted attempts to restrict how college contributions funds could be used. Occasionally his activities caused auditors to raise their eyebrows, as in the college's entry into the options market in 1978. Over the decades, his investments did best in bear markets, and, overall, probably outperformed the larger FT indexes while running close to the FT 100. RVN admitted to a tendency to buy and sell against the market trends, and a willingness to expand investment horizons, especially from the 1970s into US and Japanese markets. He himself argued his main quality as an investor was patience. Others would suggest attention to detail. What is undeniable is that the college now sits in the middle of the collegiate wealth list not in its



The Hertford College Act, 1874

historic position at the bottom.

Of course, this has been achieved not just from playing the stock market. Taking advantage of inflation in the seventies and since, fees and charges were increased in real terms, supported by the ability of students to pay, first through state grants, and now through loans. The fresh ideas and ambitions of the new fellowship from the 1960s brought external funding for fellowships from the Central Electricity Generating Board and companies such as ICI, IBM and Esso and later from Tepco and the Kajima Foundation. Very substantial donations were elicited from the Drapers' Company and the Carreras

Foundation. Regular appeals were begun: for the sixties library extension and provision of adequate and hygienic washing and lavatory facilities; in the seventies for the Holywell Quad; later for the Graduate Centre and student accommodation in South Oxford etc. These met with uneven but significant success, including a Baring's Bank gift of £100,000 in 1974 and an American donation of £1m in 1999. By the 1980s the college was turning in regular surpluses, even if much of it had to be ploughed back to sustain capital, to amass funds to pay for building work and to repaying large loans. The revival of college finances enabled the college

to modernise its infrastructure, expand the fellowship and attract students. However seductive and innovative the offer of the famous 1965 Hertford admissions scheme to attract a wider social range of outstanding applicants, who – from any background – would necessarily willingly join a run-down dowdy tip? The physical and academic settings needed to advance in step.

Against this story of apparent growing prosperity should be set the constant struggle to balance the books. Large capital projects have always required borrowing and still do. Most of the capital endowment cannot be touched or, if used, has to be repaid with interest. Over the past 20 years the college has made a growing net loss on every undergraduate as we subsidise accommodation and food. This is now true of graduates as well. New rebarbative university formulae for centralising the collection and distribution of fees for teaching and research, as well as the withdrawal of government grants to support humanities have added downward pressures on revenue. Reliance on investment income, fees and charges alone, even with strict internal audit and economy, risks being overwhelmed by external events, as in 2020, but also by the inherent loss-making aspects of our business. To mitigate the risks, Hertford, more successfully than any other college in the University, has developed a subsidiary business, an International Programme of language teaching during the vacations that grossed £3m in 2018/19, much the same as the figure for annual investment income, or just under a quarter of gross annual income. The risk here is also obvious; 2020/21 may produce little or no revenue from International Programmes.

To sum up. Oxford colleges in 2021 as in 1874 are financed by varying combinations of land, stocks and shares, academic fees, hotel charges, University funding, credit, appeals, legacies and other donations. Expenditure is dominated by salary and maintenance costs. In all these areas, Hertford's trajectory has been unusual, not to say eccentric. How the students have paid for the college's services is another equally varied story – from private funds and a few college scholarships at the start, through a few public body grants from 1918, then general state funding after 1945 and onwards to modern loans. While individual student funding gaps have been addressed by the college's tradition of bursarial assistance funds, stretching back to the WWI Memorial Fund and the Boyd Memorial Fund in the 1920s and onwards to modern more extensive hardship provision, the college's general funding gaps have proved less tractable. While Hertford is no longer the rich poor college of a century ago, or the bankruptcy candidate of the mid-20th century, many of the fundamentals remain familiar: an investment portfolio tied solely to the stock market; an unavoidably precarious balance sheet; an inability to finance large capital projects within existing regular funding streams; dependence on income outside the college's control; and, above all, a charitable activity and purpose that is not predicated on profit. But that activity and purpose – to teach and research to the highest possible standards in the particular setting of a small diverse collegiate community – is what the college is and what it is for. And, as Richard Michell understood in 1874, the key to achieving and sustaining that community lies in funding.



# Ireland's Mother and Baby Homes

Dr Deirdre Foley, Roy Foster Irish Government Research Fellow

At the Oxford Irish History Seminar on 2 June, Professor Mary Daly, one of three members of Ireland's Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes, was interviewed by Professor Ian McBride and Dr Deirdre Foley. In normal times we meet in the Old Library, but last year seminars took place online. This one attracted an audience of 200. It also made the front page of the *Irish Times*.

The Commission of Investigation was established in 2015 by the Irish government to investigate the many

religious institutions where single mothers were forcibly sent to give birth and have their children adopted, often illegally. It was set up following the revelation by a local historian, Catherine Corless, that the bodies of up to 800 babies and children were interred in an unmarked mass grave in the Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home, Tuam, County Galway. It was later established that the death rate of children in mother and baby homes was appallingly high; in the 1930s and 1940s, over 40% of resident children died before their first birthday

in these institutions, which remained in operation into the 1990s.

The Oxford Irish History Seminar was the first (and, to date, only) time that any of the three commissioners involved in the investigation have publicly spoken about their much-criticised final report since it was published in January 2021. As a previous invitation to appear before an Irish government committee was turned down by the commissioners, the event sparked huge interest among survivors, campaigners and journalists. There has been extensive and justified criticism of the fact that Professor Daly agreed to speak to an academic seminar at a British university about her work, but did not offer the same regard to survivors of Ireland's mother and baby homes. In the Dáil (the lower house), Tánaiste Leo Varadkar said the decision of Professor Daly to appear before the seminar was 'disrespectful' to survivors and the Oireachtas (the Irish parliament).

During the seminar, it emerged that the commission's chosen methodology meant that the final report deliberately disregarded the testimony of hundreds of survivors of Ireland's mother and baby homes. The revelations made at this seminar were subsequently discussed extensively in the Irish parliament and media, and calls have been made by Irish politicians for the commissioners to come before the government to further clarify the many issues arising from this report. To give just one example, survivor Joe McManus, who along with his sister spent time in St. Patrick's on the Navan Road in Dublin, remarked to me recently that, in his informed opinion, the report of the Commission is 'missing depth on the link between the many institutions and the transfer of people between them.'

The issue of Ireland's expansive 'architecture of containment', a

phrase first used by James Smith of Boston College in his path-breaking 2008 volume on Ireland's Magdalene Laundries, has inspired a wide range of academic activism in the Irish studies community and beyond. Recently, Catherine Corless published her memoir, entitled *Belonging*. There have been many other important volumes. The Clann Project team, Claire McGettrick and Maeve O'Rourke, have worked since 2015 to help establish the truth of what happened to unmarried mothers and their children in 20th century Ireland. In Galway, the Tuam Oral History Project has enabled survivors of the Tuam institution and their families to tell their own life stories in the way that they want them to be told. In July, a draft alternative executive summary to the

**THE OXFORD IRISH HISTORY SEMINAR WAS THE FIRST (AND ONLY TIME TO DATE) THAT ANY OF THE THREE COMMISSIONERS INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION HAVE PUBLICLY SPOKEN ABOUT THEIR MUCH-CRITICISED FINAL REPORT SINCE IT WAS PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2021.**





Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation report was launched. The report, edited by Mairead Enright and Aoife O'Donoghue, was co-authored by a large group of legal academics and also had input from expert readers and academic reviewers. The purpose of this project was to explore whether the Commission could have come to different findings, using the evidence available to it, while remaining within the applicable law. The project authors concluded that the Commission had sufficient evidence before it to find multiple abuses of key human rights provisions.

One of the most common critiques of the report has been that it did not employ a trauma-informed approach. Similarly, the recently publicised state redress scheme for survivors has been criticised in a letter by more than 30 experts in childhood trauma. Survivors and clinicians alike have objected to the state's proposal that people who were born in an institution but spent less than six months there will be excluded from claiming redress. Anna Corrigan, activist and author of *My Name is Bridget*, whose mother gave birth twice in a mother and baby home, has described the redress

scheme as an 'absolute travesty of justice'.

The government's failure to adequately address the historical abuse of women and their children has led to an established pattern whereby survivors, primarily women, are forced to publicly relive their experiences in order to draw attention to the issues; a pattern that has unfortunately continued in the media after the publication of the Mother and Baby Homes Report and the related redress scheme. At an Oxford 'witness seminar' held online in September, survivors were given a platform to react to the reports on mother and baby homes in the republic and the north of Ireland, and to have a conversation to illuminate how academics might treat and learn from witness testimony. In the absence of a satisfactory scheme of historical investigation and redress from the Irish government, this conversation continues.

At the seminar in June, Professor Daly stated: 'I think basically we have done a job. And I think let it stand. Nobody ever suggested this was going to be last word on it. Let others go and take it further.' The question remains, indeed, can the report still stand?

Fáilte Ireland - "Tuam Cathedral, Co. Galway." Digital Repository of Ireland. Dublin City Library and Archive. CC BY-NC-ND 4.0



# University Challenge 2021

Bridget Donaldson (MSc Energy Systems, 2020) writes:

Five Hertford members recently shared a childhood dream come true. Matthew Lloyd (team captain), Bridget Donaldson, Matthew Hitchens, Lucy Oswald and Harry McGrory (reserve) successfully completed a gruelling trial before being selected to feature on the BBC2 show. Bridget Donaldson recounts the experience.

It has been an immense privilege to represent Hertford College and the University of Oxford on the BBC's *University Challenge* programme. With around 350 university teams applying to be on the show each year, we were very fortunate to have been selected by the producers to appear in the final 28.

For most of us, this is a result of several years of preparation and unsuccessful trials. Despite covid and lockdown, it has been a real pleasure (virtually) practicing

every week with the team. The process began for us back in early Michaelmas Term 2020, when Matthew Lloyd began running try-outs. Matthew previously held the role of reserve when Hertford last featured on the show in 2018. Several initial quiz rounds were held and members of college were encouraged to apply. After this first stage, Matthew invited around 20 applicants to take part in a follow-up 'buzzer round' via Zoom. This consisted of college members going head to head on a fastest buzzer first scenario. Based on a combination of scores across the trial rounds, Matthew was then able to put together a team.

After confirmation of the team, a rigorous practice schedule took place over Michaelmas term whilst we waited patiently to hear if we'd passed the initial application stage of the show. Around



January time, we heard that we'd been successful in getting through to the next round which included an interview with the producers and a notoriously difficult 50-question exam. Luckily, the practicing paid off and we had the chance to prove ourselves to producers. It was afterwards the waiting game really began and we received news in February that we had made it onto the TV show.

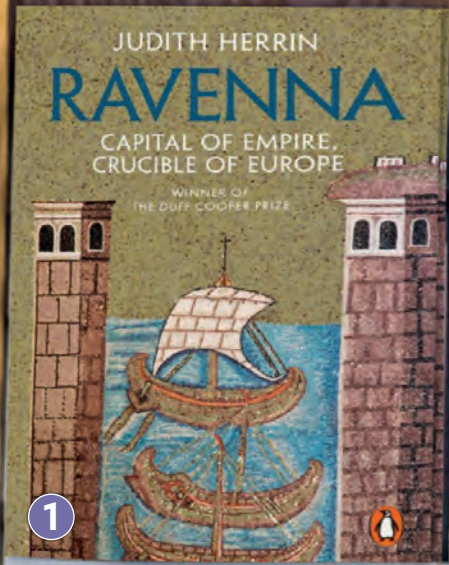
The whole filming experience was amazing and, for some of us, was the first time we'd actually met in person. It felt like we'd known each other for years and despite Zoom, we'd all built a strong bond and friendship with each other. Before and after the filming dates we were able to stay in a hotel on the riverfront in Salford. It was a great

opportunity to relax before putting our brains to the test.

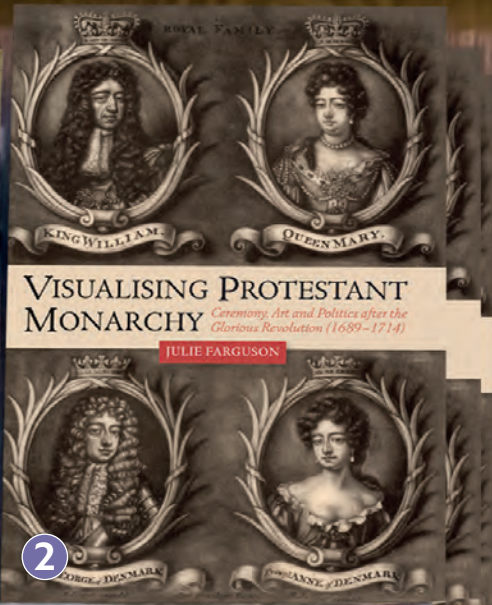
It only really sunk in when we finally made it to the studio to film our first episode. It's truly remarkable how quickly the whole experience goes. In the studio, you're taken to your seats before the intro music plays and BAM, straight into gruelling questions from Jeremy Paxman. You spend 25 minutes racing for the buzzer against the other team before hearing the final gong and that's it! Over in a flash!

We've all truly loved the process so far and it was amazing to take the win against the lovely London Business School. We're now looking forward to competing in our second round match against Kings College London.

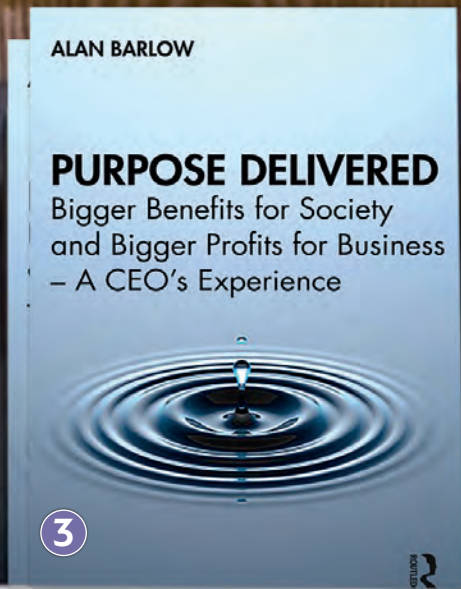




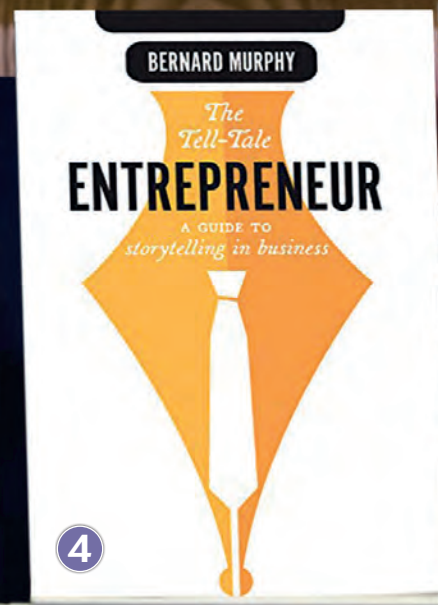
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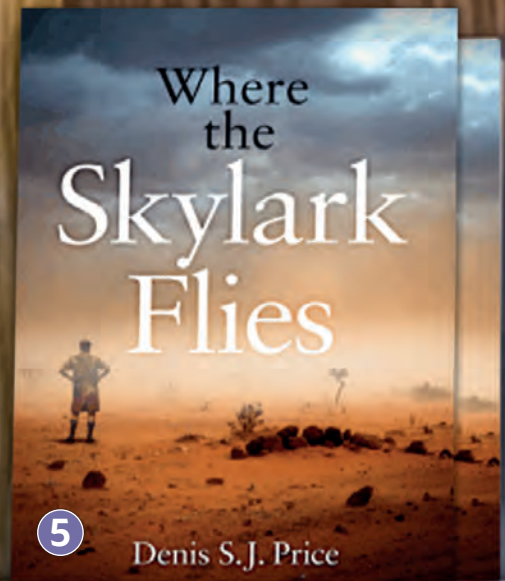


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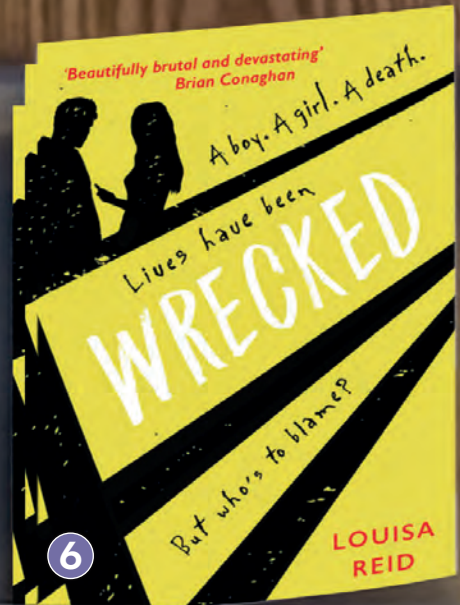


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Hertford Bookshelf



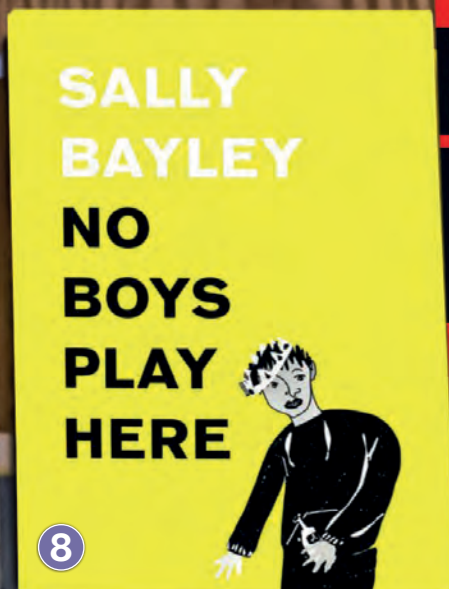
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## 1 RAVENNA JUDITH HERRIN

From 402 to 751 AD, Ravenna was first the capital of the Western Roman Empire, then that of the immense kingdom of Theoderic the Goth, and finally the centre of Byzantine power in Italy. Judith Herrin explains how scholars, lawyers, doctors, craftsmen, cosmologists, and religious luminaries were drawn to Ravenna where they created a cultural and political capital that dominated northern Italy and the Adriatic. Beautifully illustrated with specially commissioned photographs, and drawing on the latest archaeological and documentary discoveries, *Ravenna: Capital of Empire, Crucible of Europe* brings the early Middle Ages to life through the history of this dazzling city.

## 2 VISUALISING PROTESTANT MONARCHY

JULIE FARGUSON  
(History, 2004)

Julie Farguson provides the first comprehensive, comparative study of the visual culture of monarchy in the reigns of William and Mary and Queen Anne. Through a study of art and material culture within the broader political context, the book examines not only the production of images and use of ceremony but also the ways in which they were received by audience, both in England and abroad.

## 3 PURPOSE DELIVERED: BIGGER BENEFITS FOR SOCIETY AND BIGGER PROFITS FOR BUSINESS – A CEO'S EXPERIENCE

ALAN BARLOW  
(Economics, 1971)

Going beyond the why and what of purpose-led business, this book sets out an innovative business model of how to lead and operate a company to deliver its purpose. Alan Barlow is a CEO practitioner who demonstrates with analytical rigour and evidence-based argument a business model for how CEOs can actually deliver a purpose-defined company that yields both bigger benefits for society and bigger profits for business.

## 4 THE TELLTALE ENTREPRENEUR: A GUIDE TO STORY-TELLING IN BUSINESS

BERNARD MURPHY  
(Physics, 1972)

Changing the narrative with a critical customer who is not happy. A talented duo of entrepreneurs who struggle to craft a transformative product and find the ideal customers. The winning pitch that sparks passion and a "yes" from investors. Learning what you're capable of by landing a robotic vehicle on Mars. These are just a few of the stories that you'll find in *The Tell-Tale Entrepreneur*, a witty and insightful investigation into how people communicate with each other, and how you can harness the ancient power of storytelling to revolutionise how you tell your own story, in business and in your own life.

## 5 WHERE THE SKYLARK FLIES DENIS S. J. PRICE

(Modern History, 1952)

A little village on the North Cornish coast has little contact with the world outside. Several of the villagers have never come to terms with their losses suffered in the 1914-18 war. But when in 1940 the Second World War spreads to East Africa, the villagers are suddenly made aware of a strange and exotic world outside, and old prejudices and beliefs are swept away.

## 6 WRECKED LOUISA REID (English, 1994)

Joe and Imogen seem like the perfect couple. But after accidentally becoming involved in a tragic fatal accident, they become embroiled in a situation out of their control, and Joe and Imogen's relationship slowly unravels until the truth is out there for all to see. Structured around a dramatic and tense court case, the reader becomes both judge and jury in a stunning and page-turning novel of secrets and lies: who can be believed?

## 7 WHAT DOES JEREMY THINK? SUZANNE HEYWOOD

Jeremy Heywood (Modern History and Economics, 1980) was at the centre of political power in this country for more than 25 years, thanks to his insightful questioning of the status quo. This book began as a joint effort between Jeremy and his wife Suzanne, working together in the last months of his life, with much of it completed in hospital treatment rooms and with Jeremy's full involvement. Suzanne completed the work after his death. This extraordinary book follows the experiences of a great modern public servant, and celebrates Heywood's life in the beating heart of UK politics.

## 8 NO BOYS PLAY HERE SALLY BAYLEY, COLLEGE LECTURER IN ENGLISH FOR VISITING STUDENTS

*No Boys Play Here* is the second part of a coming-of-age story, telling of a teenage girl in search of her lost father and uncle through the characters and plots of Shakespeare's plays: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Henry IV*. The story unfolds as a series of strange theatrical scenes in the mind of a young girl intent on finding the missing men in her history. Moving back and forth between family life and Shakespearean scenes, Sally Bayley asks some hard questions about how it is some children grow up poor and what happens to make them so.

THE HERTFORD  
BOOKSHELF



Hertford writers may have cut their teeth on essays and problem sheets, but they are now writing across an amazing range of genres, from children's picture books to literary fiction, from young adult novels to crime, from non-fiction to poetry. In the Hertford Bookshelf podcast, Professor Emma Smith meets Hertford writers to find out more about their work, their influences, their advice for would-be writers, and their memories of the college. Follow the QR code to download the whole series.







HERTFORD  
YEAR



# The Hertford Society

Barry Lester, Chairman of the Society, writes:

Now that we are coming blinking into the light after a year and a half of lockdowns and peering at screens, like prisoners freed from the Bastille, let me outline what the Hertford Society has been up to and perhaps persuade alumni who are not members to contemplate joining.

The Society belatedly held its annual committee dinner at the Oxford & Cambridge Club at the beginning of August. This was attended by past and present officers and members of the committee; and also guests in the form of Frances Wheare, Director of Development at the college, and Caleb Bram, current President of the JCR.

What seemed incredible to those of us attending was that it happened at all, face to face. The undergraduates and graduate students at the college have obviously had to cope with far more severe difficulties than the committee of the Society, but there was an undeniable sense of relief among us that we had made a small step towards normality.

What is the Hertford Society? The original aims of the Society when it first met in 1962 were to bring old members of the college together, both in Oxford and elsewhere, on a more frequent basis, rather than waiting ten years for the next Gaudy; and to find ways of supporting the college. Those are still the Society's

aims, principally in the form of organising annual buffets and black-tie dinners in Hall and other events; and in making donations and gifts to the college for a range of significant small-scale projects.

In the last few years, this has ranged from arranging the restoration of 13 of the most historic portraits in the Hall, at a cost of £14,000, to providing garden seats in the OB Quad and contributing to the upkeep of Simpkin the college cat (now in its fourth incarnation). We make regular financial gifts to the MCR and JCR to support their respective Freshers' Weeks. And, at our November 2020 committee meeting, following a discussion of the difficulties faced by students under lockdown, we decided to contribute £1,500 towards the cost of laptops for students of limited means.

The Society also provides a forum where alumni and former staff can share their memories and knowledge of Hertford and contribute to the college's awareness and appreciation of its long and rich history. At our Zoom committee meeting last November, for instance, we discussed the condition of the memorial next to the Chapel entrance for those college members who had died in World War II. We are now exploring with the college the possibility of providing funding to restore the lettering that has faded.

Our next committee meeting, at the beginning of March this year, again via Zoom, began by remembering two former Chairmen, both of whom had recently died. Derek Conran (who first came up in 1944 for an Army Officers' short course and returned in 1948 to read Modern History) had been a member of the SCR and very well-known in college for many years. And Judge Charles Gibson, who matriculated in 1959 and read Greats, had served on the committee for some 32 years.

On a happier note, it was agreed that two recent Hertford graduates join the committee: Kaja Fenn, recent member of the MCR committee and former President of the Boat Club; and Mitchell Tate, President of the JCR in 2018-2019. Both have expressed their enthusiasm for making the Hertford Society better known among younger alumni.

The incoming President of the MCR, Teresa Taylor, has expressed an interest in providing students who were at Hertford for only the last academic year with a means of maintaining a connection with the college and that membership of the Society might help in this respect. It must have been extremely disappointing to have taken a one-year course at Oxford during a year when it was near impossible to experience and enjoy all that Hertford and the University had to offer. The committee is exploring ways of promoting membership of the Society among such students, including the holding of a party in college for current MCR members and those who have just gone down.

Given the absence of Hertford Society events during the pandemic, we are looking forward to holding our 'summer' buffet lunch in college on Saturday 13 November, open to old Hertfordians and their guests and friends. This will also be the occasion of our AGM at which the Society will say goodbye to our President Jacqui Smith who is coming to the end of her six-year term. This is sad for us on the committee but we are extremely pleased that Lord Pannick QC, a Hertford graduate and Honorary Fellow of the college, has agreed to be nominated as the next President.

Membership of the Hertford Society is a modest £25 a year. To join, please use the college donation form on its website, under Alumni, which can be accessed at: [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/society](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/society)





## The Academic Office

Lynn Featherstone, Registrar and Director of Admissions, writes:

It's been a busy year in the Academic Office, as the team continued to support tutors, students and our core academic activities whilst adapting to the changing circumstances of the pandemic.

The pandemic continued to affect all aspects of the college's academic provision. At the start of the year, we quickly recognised the reliance which continued remote study placed on IT provision, and the college purchased supplementary tablet devices to loan to students and academic staff for effective remote teaching, especially for subjects involving a reader or screen sharing.

The college's Porter Fellow in Academic Skills, Dr Catherine Sloan, continued to develop materials for remote study and teaching. She also supported students through the now well-established programme of workshops and one-to-one meetings. The college's Librarian Alice Roques remained active finding online resources and helping students in other ways to find the material required for their studies.

We welcomed the college's largest ever undergraduate fresher cohort of 133 in October 2020. 85% of the group are UK students, of which 81% from state schools and 60% from disadvantaged

backgrounds. This group had an unusual start to their Oxford experience, as most Fresher's Week induction activities were online and the matriculation ceremony virtual.

Undergraduate admissions interviews were moved online in December 2020. In response to the educational disruption and associated challenges of the pandemic, we once again put in place a programme of offer-holder support, including enhanced communications, webinars, study skills sessions, electronic reading lists and college tours at key moments during the period between offer-making in January 2021 and the students' arrival in October 2021.

Examinations and assessments were once adapted this year, with the majority of examinees sitting remote, open book examinations from their college rooms. Over 1,300 individual papers were sat in these conditions over the course of Trinity term. We are grateful for the support of the JCR and MCR committees in helping us maintain quiet and minimise disruptions. Hertford students

**WE WELCOMED THE COLLEGE'S LARGEST EVER UNDERGRADUATE FRESHER COHORT OF 133 IN OCTOBER 2020. 85% OF THE GROUP ARE UK STUDENTS, OF WHICH 81% FROM STATE SCHOOLS AND 60% FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS.**



performed exceptionally well in such challenging circumstances, with a number of individuals awarded coveted University prizes.

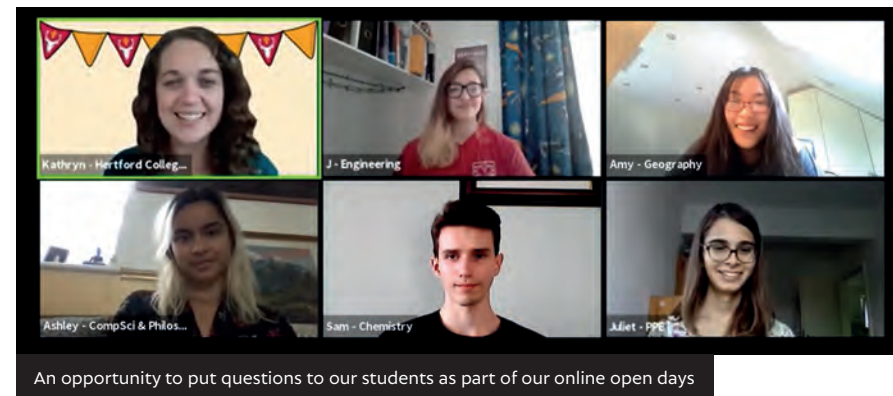
Nathan Stazicker and Kathryn Boast in the outreach team continued to lead the way in digital engagement with a creative suite of initiatives in the midst of educational disruptions. We once again ran our flagship Swiftstream programme of sustained webinars for students in Medway, and introduced Next Steps Essex, a series of information, advice and guidance webinars organised jointly with Emmanuel College, Cambridge. This year also saw the establishment of virtual Geography and Physics club, which brought together prospective applicants with current students to develop their subject-specific skills and interests; twilight Teacher Forums, organised with our Oxford for East England consortium partners, Balliol and Wadham; and Springboard, another consortium activity which engaged graduate students to create an online repository of stretching super-curricular videos.

Now in its third year, our Unsung Heroes of Science video competition

continues to attract great interest, especially from female students and those from BAME backgrounds. This year we received a record 70 entries and shortlisted 30, which were watched on YouTube more than 24,000 times. This year's winners were announced in a special virtual awards ceremony in June with special guest, award-winning science writer and broadcaster, Angela Saini, who spoke in conversation with Professor Alison Woollard, Biochemistry Fellow and University Academic Champion for Public Engagement with Research. First prize went to Ellie and Grace from Essex, whose entry promoted the work of Lise Meitner. The competition prizes were provided by the Royal Institution, which we hope to work with on the competition again in the future. A suite of resources for teachers based on previous years' videos are available from the college website.

The open days were once again hosted online this year. They are very much a collective effort of tutors, student ambassadors and our admissions and outreach team: Nathan, Kathryn and Admissions Officer, Caitlin Kennedy. Whilst we can't wait for the time we'll

**OUR STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME IS INTEGRAL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR OUTREACH WORK, AND LAST YEAR WE HAD 114 TRAINED STUDENT AMBASSADORS, REPRESENTING AROUND A QUARTER OF THE COLLEGE'S UNDERGRADUATES.**



be able to welcome thousands of prospective applicants through the Catte Street entrance once again, we took the opportunity this year to hone our suite of videos and live-stream Q&A sessions, and now have a repository of material for prospective students and teachers to access throughout the year. Our student-led college tour is particularly popular.

Our student ambassador programme is integral to the success of our outreach work, and last year we had 114 trained student ambassadors, representing around a quarter of the college's undergraduates. Six Tanner Prizes were awarded to the most active ambassadors in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

There have been some changes in the Academic Office team following Sue Finch's retirement in summer 2020. Julia

Howe and Kim Jones were promoted into the new roles of Academic Services Manager and Academic Officer respectively, and Billy Jackson joined us from the college's International Programmes team as Academic & Admissions Assistant. We are shortly to say farewell to our Admissions Officer, Caitlin Kennedy, for pastures new in Bristol. Caitlin was instrumental in the smooth running of last year's online undergraduate interview process and we wish her all the very best for the future. We look forward to welcoming her successor, Anna Matthew.

We are grateful to all members of the team for their hard work and good humour in adapting to the challenges of the last 18 months. In such difficult times, the college is very fortunate to have such a dedicated team supporting academic activities.





# The Bursary

Bursar Jamie Clark writes:

That was quite a year. For all the obvious reasons. I could fill up several pages recording the to and fro of regulation, national and local context, temporary arrangements, and day-to-day unexpected challenges that we had to respond to. But it would be similar to many other accounts of COVID woe, and by the time you read this that the world may be starting to focus on other matters.

So, despite it overshadowing everything we have experienced over the recent past, I shall confine my remarks to the more positive aspects, of which I count three in particular.

First, and of critical importance, has

been the way that our staff and students have dealt with the whole situation. Of course, it was mostly an awful experience for everyone, and far from what any of us would wish for, but if there was any saving grace it surely has to be that as a college, by and large, we kept on an even keel, maintained a good humour, and stood united. We saw none of the unfortunate scenes that unfolded in some university towns, nor did we ever struggle to get people to rally round when we needed them. I like to think that was at least in part down to something about Hertford's DNA, and not just sheer luck, but the reality is that we have come through things relatively intact.

Second, a last-minute decision at the end of last year's long vac to erect a marquee has proved to be one of the mainstays of our COVID coping strategies. Beyond its obvious practical use as part of that effort, it has demonstrated that a large, well-located, shared space open to all members, staff and students has much to commend it. It has not only filled gaps where other facilities have had to be closed, but has provided something more than we had. Our challenge is to think about how this might influence the estates strategy going forward.

Finally, the unfortunate absence of students in residence for extended periods, and the falling away of conference business, has given us a rare opportunity to push forward with long overdue refurbishments. I'm delighted that we were able to complete a full overhaul of Holywell Quad. Every student room there has been thoroughly updated and refurbished, and several new student kitchens and bathrooms created.

Despite my promise to stick to the positive, it would be remiss of me not to cover the small matter of the financial impact from COVID. We are still counting that, and of course it depends on what you choose to measure, but it will end up somewhere over £9m in terms of net revenue reductions. Of course, the principal challenge is almost always cashflow. We have been fortunate here, and have been able to supplement our funds by drawing upon cash raised through our previous bond issue. This has allowed us to meet operational demands, and even maintain some of our capital investment programme. Towards the end of the financial year, we issued a further bond for £20m to allow us to maintain the momentum on some of our ambitious estates plans. In

summary, we have certainly lost ground financially – that was unavoidable – but we have been able to sustain our position and a solid foundation.

On the topic of estates plans, we are now progressing well with two of our key projects. Foremost among these is the plan for a new library, for which we hope to submit a full planning application this autumn. Our plans for a new centre for graduates at Winchester Road are also well advanced; the eventual Hertford facility will be able to accommodate around 130 students, allowing us to house all, or most, of the graduates who request rooms.

On other matters, this year has seen a number of arrivals and departures across the college team. I would like to record my sincere thanks to Graham May, College Accountant and Deputy Bursar, who has now retired. I am grateful not only for the work he has undertaken for college over the last eight years or so, but the support he gave me since my arrival. That has been invaluable, and I am deeply grateful for it. Another senior figure to move on is Gareth Tebbutt, Domestic Bursar. In the (relatively) short time that he has been with us he has made a significant impact across domestic operations, and has similarly been a huge source of support. He leaves us to take up a wonderful overseas opportunity, and we wish him and his family all the best for their exciting new adventure.

On both counts we have been lucky enough to find excellent people to step into their shoes: James Hill as our new Domestic Bursar, and Judi Banks as our new College Accountant. Both have hit the ground running at pace. I shall leave further details until next year's report, when their achievements will no doubt provide a rich source of material!



# The Library

Librarian Alice Roques writes:

Last year's library update reported on our rapid move to a remote, mainly online service. This academic year has seen the library supporting Hertfordians in various levels of lockdown, with some students spending the whole year studying remotely, while others got the chance to be in Oxford for a term or two. Even those who did get to the city of *dreaming spires* found the academic landscape restricted. The usual weekly whirl of library books and last-minute fact foraging in the Rad Cam was replaced with competitive bookable slots in the University libraries and made doubly difficult by the constant risk of being sent into isolation.

Quite a lot of the past year has been focused on just getting students through their terms, dissertations and exams. For the library this has meant offering postal loans, scanning chapters, making online reading lists, donning masks and gloves to deliver parcels to quarantining households and using our expert search skills to find alternatives to inaccessible materials. The library staff have put a lot of effort into providing a safe, reliable, and regular service, which has meant almost no face-to-face contact between staff as we tried to reduce the risk of cross-infection between ourselves. We have all very much missed the contact with other college members, especially



Simpkin staffing the library's click and collect desk

our students. Alex, Hertford's graduate library assistant and two new seconded team members, Jenny and Tiffany, have been invaluable in keeping the library service running smoothly.

Work on the rare books collection has continued, although we have missed hosting our long-running volunteers from the Arts Society for their weekly book conservation sessions. The library's expert cataloguer Sophie has continued to unearth unexpected gems as she gradually adds detailed records to Oxford's shared online library catalogue. Although our in-person displays have had to pause, we have begun a special collections blog ([www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/collectionsblog](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/collectionsblog)) to share and celebrate Hertford's rare book and archival collections.

Our recent experiences have also influenced plans for the library's big renovation project. We have been reminded of how important high-quality, flexible study spaces are to





ALTHOUGH OXFORD'S LIBRARY SERVICES HAVE BEEN GREATLY CURTAILED, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES THAT WILL BE OF LONG-TERM BENEFIT TO READERS.



our students. The colleges with large, modern libraries have been able to offer much more study space and staff workspace, whilst Hertford's narrow, cramped floors have been difficult to make safe. We also now have experience of some options for temporary services that could be used during the rebuilding of the existing space. Click and collect services, detailed planning with tutors to ensure access to essential texts, fast book purchasing and remote cataloguing methods, temporary study spaces and collaborative working with other parts of the University could all be

used to minimise disruption to services during the potential building works.

Although Oxford's library services have been greatly curtailed, there have been some changes that will be of long-term benefit to readers. The University now has many more e-resources, and the college libraries have been able to increase their involvement in their procurement. Colleges have also taken a very active role, particularly at Hertford, in using the new online reading list software to make access to resources easier for students and lists easier to manage for tutors. The college librarians

have worked collaboratively to share the cost of expensive online resources, digitise print material and share best practice. As a community we move forward with renewed confidence in the benefits of working together and more appreciation of the contribution that college libraries can make to the University as a whole.



## College Archives

Archivist Dr Lucy Rutherford writes:

I am delighted that our online archive catalogue is now available at <https://hertford.epexio.com/>. This has been invaluable during the period of COVID closure, as we have been able to use it to make information about our records available to users in the absence of physical access. In particular the 'Featured Collections' are a useful way of pointing users to frequently requested records and providing further information and images. The flexibility of our cataloguing software also allows us to provide information on non-archival records which are nevertheless of interest to researchers – for example, the chapel memorials – and provide

more detailed research guides on specific topics.

We are very fortunate to have a new volunteer, Alice Parkin, an experienced assistant archivist and volunteer at several college archives. Alice has been working remotely to edit the names index and has been carrying out some fascinating research on individuals connected with the post-1874 college and earlier halls. Look out for some of these discoveries in our new rare books & archives blog at [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/collectionsblog](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/collectionsblog).

At present the archives are still closed to visitors in person but the archivist is now back in college. There is a backlog



The 1913 Torpid Team from the photograph discovered in Cumbria

of enquiries but it is satisfying to be able to provide a service to our users once again. With restricted access to the college site during the pandemic, most of the past year's work has been focused on implementing our online archives catalogue and developing systems for managing our digital records. Good progress has been made with rationalising digital files and ensuring that they are stored more securely, so that they are preserved and accessible in the years ahead. A large proportion of our personal papers collection has been uploaded to our new digital preservation platform. We have been trialling the capture and transfer of larger volumes of emails; the next challenge will be the archiving of Twitter and WhatsApp conversations!

As the college has opened up I

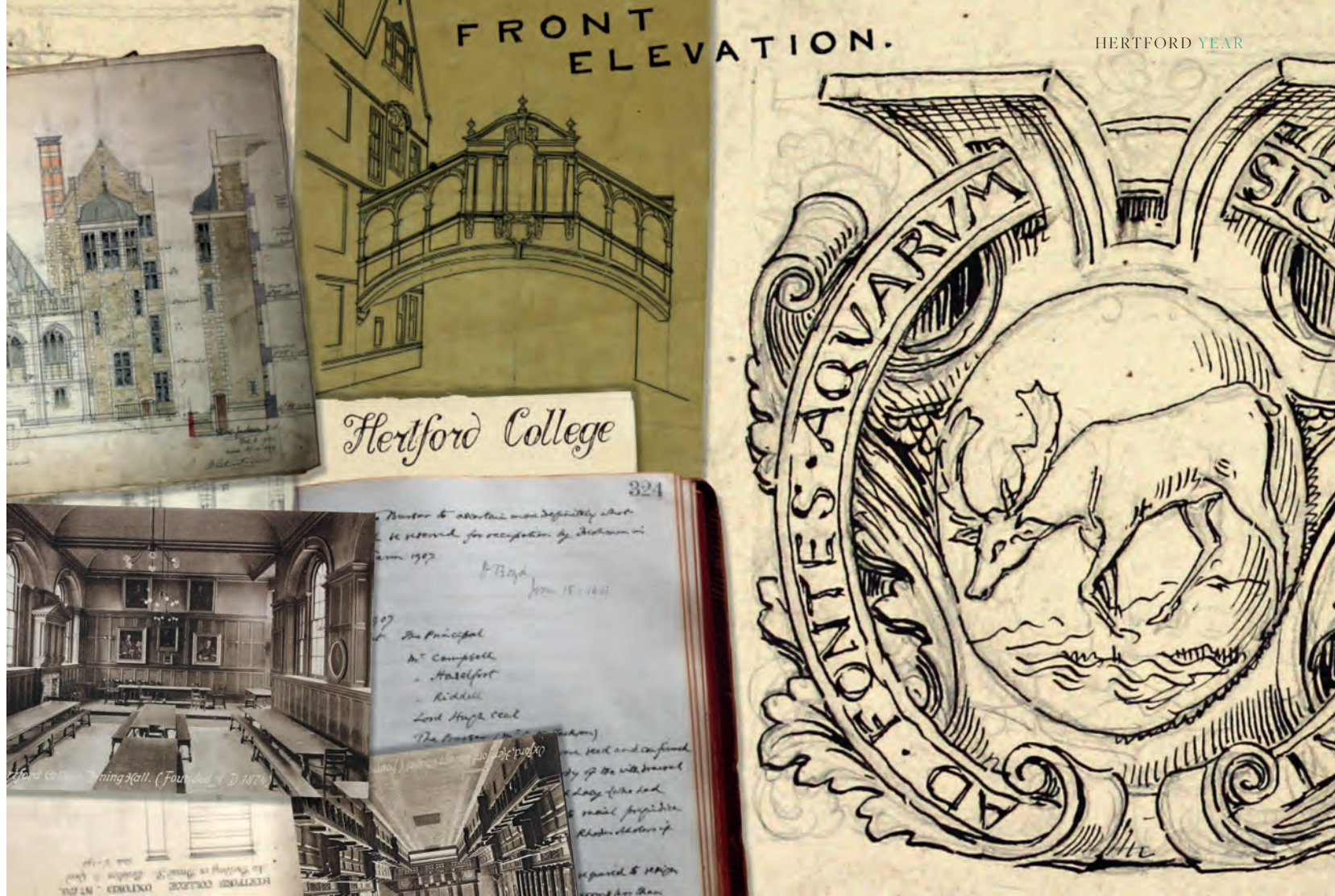
have been able to return to the more traditional activities of accessioning and cataloguing, as well as some much-needed repackaging and cleaning of documents. Detailed cataloguing of the Magdalen Hall Buttery Books is now ongoing; and descriptions for the earliest volumes from 1661 to 1704 can be found via the online catalogue. During this quiet year there have been very few new accessions to the archives. One curious donation was discovered in new shop premises in Ulverston, Cumbria in February 2020; these turned out to be a mounted set of photographs, possibly copies, of the Hertford Torpid team from 1913. The shop owner has no idea how this photograph came to be there and in whose possession it has been previously. We have very few sports team photographs from this



decade and it is all the more poignant as nearly all of the young men named here enlisted during the First World War (unusually for the times, all except one of the team survived).

In the coming year we plan to rebox the archive collection into higher grade archival boxes, which will make better use of our existing storage space. In addition, we will focus on improving access to the archives by developing ways of providing information remotely. Key activities will be photography of essential documents, adding to the online catalogue descriptions and increased use of social media to publicise our holdings.

Finally, I must record my thanks to Professor Christopher Tyerman, who will be completing his time as Fellow Archivist in October 2021. His appreciation of the significance of the archives helped to establish a professional role of college archivist seven years ago. His knowledge of the college's history and personnel is extensive, but it will no doubt have been enhanced by his research in our records for the forthcoming college history; and I am pleased that the archives will continue to contribute to this publication. He has been a tireless advocate for the collections, the archives department and its activities, and his support will be greatly missed.







# Chapel

Reverend Mia Smith writes:

In *Leviathan* (1561), Hertford alumnus Thomas Hobbes wrote of manners: '*I mean not here Decency of behaviour; as how one man should salute another, or how a man should wash his mouth, or pick his teeth before company, and such other points of the Small Morals; But those qualities of mankind that concern their living together in Peace and Unity.*' During this extraordinary year this definition has come to mind as we have both wrestled with the fine print of the 'small morals' – the wearing of masks, the social distancing, and remote interactions – and the bigger questions of how we live together well as a community during times of uncertainty,

volatility, chaos, and anxiety.

The academic year began with the news that because of the restrictions of the continuing pandemic, in-person services would not be taking place. Ever adaptable, our choir resolved to keep on singing. Taking to Catte Street in singing bubbles of six, we sang evensong on the street. Our first rehearsal attracted the presence of Thames Valley Police, who, after a chat with the Principal, were assured that all was in order and they stayed to enjoy the music. The traditional bidding prayer, 'Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy house' was altered to 'who minister on thy streets under thy bridge', and for







both evensongs and compline, a wide range of people joined us, many saying how much it had meant to them to come across our worship and music-making at a time when opportunities to gather for worship and hear live music were so limited.

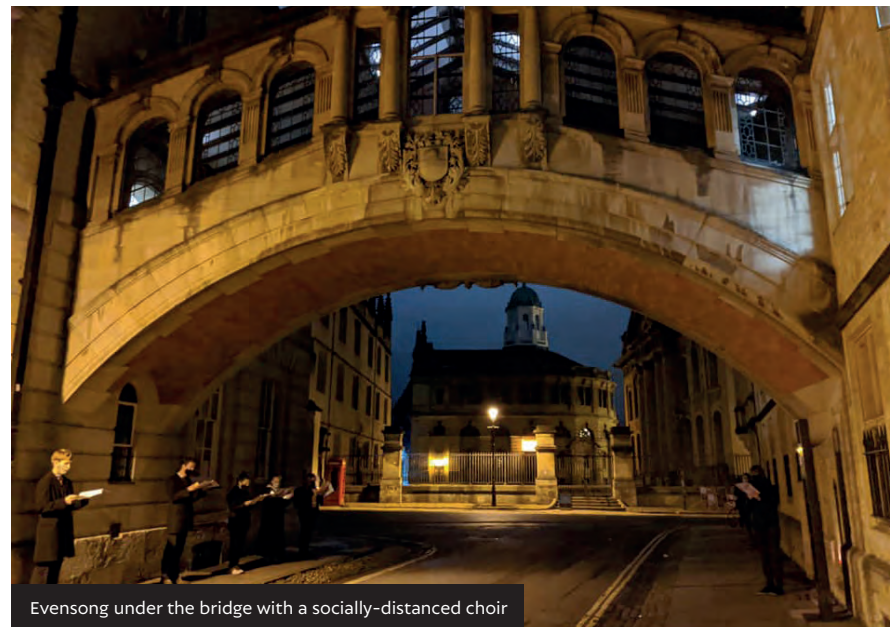
Our Chapel at Home services continued, including an online service of remembrance with preacher Reverend Wing Commander Ruth Hake of the RAF, and online services of remembrance for All Souls and for the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

As so many students were unable to mark special celebrations with family because of lockdown, Chapel has offered a space to mark events such as Diwali. Our isolating households were given special craft kits, and made Diwali lanterns and crafts. In Chapel we offered space to light diyas, and shared some sweet treats together.

As the November lockdown eased, we were fortunate to be able to hold a live carol service in the marquee. Keeping our candles alight in the November chill was a challenge, and the warmed mulled wine was especially welcome. The service brought some much-needed seasonal cheer at the end of a difficult term. The choir produced a pre-recorded carol service for alumni and families, which allowed the wider Hertford community to share in our Service of Lessons and Carols from the comfort of their own households.

As restrictions continued, our pancake race morphed into an online affair, with the prize of an engraved glass going to Oliver Bingham for an impressive 72 flips per minute.

By the end of the year we were fortunate enough to be able to have a final service and chapel dinner, the dress code was black tie with a hint of Bible, with loaves and fishes, Jael's tent



Evensong under the bridge with a socially-distanced choir

peg, Eve & the serpent, and Lux Fiat all represented.

One of the interesting developments has been the large number of weddings in chapel, most of them 'micro weddings' of between five to 12 people. These have had a particular beauty of their own in spite of limited numbers and no singing.

One of the challenges this year for all of us has been the need to make last-minute adaptations to plans as government guidelines changed. My thanks go to the organ scholars for their astonishing flexibility and professionalism, producing online services, Choirantine recordings, live recordings, and in-person services with little notice. The choir has done a

fantastic job in providing high-quality music with very little opportunity to learn to sing together as a group. Your teamwork, patience and resilience have provided something very special to our college as we have weathered the pandemic.

The chapel community has pulled together in an exemplary fashion, demonstrating clearly those qualities that concern living together well, in spite of the 'small morals' of social distancing, signing in masks, and sometimes freezing during outdoor worship. My heartfelt thanks go to the students, staff and Chapel Committee members whose creativity, flexibility and good humour have enabled chapel life to flourish.





# Development

Director of Development Frances Wheare writes:

I started my last Magazine report by reflecting on how little time I'd been able to spend in college. I will start this year's by saying how good it feels to emerge, blinking, into the daylight of post-lockdown life. As someone who has been at Hertford for a year and a half and yet still feels completely brand-new, I can't tell you how good it is to start welcoming alumni back to college and meeting people face to face.

You will see that this year's Magazine comes with a copy of our annual Donor Report. There are several reasons for this but, like most decisions, it was borne from necessity. We have had a number of staff changes in the development office

with the departure of our Events and Communications Officer Alicia Povey, our Alumni Relations Officer Jason Fiddaman, and our Development Officer Sarah Bridge. With Deputy Director of Development Olga Batty now on maternity leave, we are operating with a skeleton staff. Many of you will have encountered Alicia, Jason and Sarah, and I'm sure you would join me in thanking them for their hard work over the years.

When faced with this many changes, it can be a good moment to take a step back and consider what works (and what doesn't). Now that the college has publicly committed to a carbon net zero target date of 2030, we concluded

that having three publications was neither necessary nor sustainable. As such, we have decided to create a new online space called the Bridge Blog [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/bridge](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/bridge), which will bring together opinion, experience and research from across the Hertford community. All being well, we hope that the blog will be live by the time this issue reaches you.

We hope that the Bridge Blog will become a regular feature in your Internet browsing, sharing space with your newspaper of choice. But there's nothing to beat having a publication in your magazine rack or on your coffee table. We also know that some members of our alumni community are not connected by email, and we know that these publications represent an important link back to college.

So we knew we wanted to keep at least one physical publication dropping through your letter boxes, but why these two, and why together? It's important that we celebrate the huge impact that philanthropy has on Hertford's activities, and to recognise the generosity of our supporters to as wide an audience as possible. And, yes, by showing what can be achieved when even the smallest donations accumulate, we hope that others might consider joining the ranks of our donors. However, we know that donations aren't possible for everyone, or may not be something you would naturally consider. Putting these two publications together gives us an opportunity to show both sides of the coin: philanthropic support and what it enables, and the many other ways our alumni contribute to college life.

For instance, many of you have given up your time to help our students as they plan for their future careers, either through our HertNet platform or by participating in one of our networking

events. We know that connecting with Hertfordians can prove enormously helpful for our students, either by providing advice or simply boosting their confidence. I'd like to particularly thank Eda Seyhan, Jeremy Boon, Eric Clement, Charlotte Hogg, Carol Sennett, Paula Clarke, Pip Wilson, Nicola Bruce and Vanessa Collingridge for giving up their time over the course of this year, and sharing their experience and advice. We're also grateful to those of you who helped to shape our Hertford 2030 aspirations, which we shared with the Hertford community in May this year, and to everyone who has been in touch to offer practical support since then.

Ordinarily, I would use this piece to say thank you to those of you who generously hosted an event during the year. We were entirely confined to Zoom, of course, but we took the

**WE HOPE THAT THE BRIDGE BLOG WILL BECOME A REGULAR FEATURE IN YOUR INTERNET BROWSING, SHARING SPACE WITH YOUR NEWSPAPER OF CHOICE. BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO BEAT HAVING A PUBLICATION IN YOUR MAGAZINE RACK OR ON YOUR COFFEE TABLE.**

opportunity to travel virtually, bringing together alumni in Japan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and, somewhat closer to home, Ireland and Northern Ireland. We also hosted networking events for our MBA and EMBA alumni, as well as those in the legal profession – with a special mention to the alum who joined the latter event from Australia and went to the trouble of putting a suit on, even though it was the wee small hours of the morning. We held two 'Meet the Principal' events and are grateful to Fiona Bruce and Adam Fleming for hosting these and putting Tom through his paces. We even organised our first ever virtual gaudy, although I'd like to assure the 1989–1991 cohorts that we will be welcoming them back to college, in person, in the summer of 2022.

One practical benefit of including the Donor Report along with the Magazine is that I can merely direct you there to give you all the highlights of a year in fundraising rather than recounting

it here. But I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we exceeded the record we set for ourselves last year in terms of funds raised, with £1.41m received from 913 donors. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your continued support.

When I started my career, the Development office in my organisation was known as the cake and champagne department. It's a (frankly somewhat insulting) cliché that all we do is socialise with people and organise parties but, as with all clichés, there's a grain of truth to it. Many of us who work in Development are drawn to this as a career because we thrive on meeting new people and making connections. I've loved hearing all your memories of Hertford, whether on Zoom or over coffee, lunch or even, on one memorable occasion, a rainy walk through the Oxfordshire countryside. I hope there's plenty more to come (and if it involves cake and champagne, so much the better!)

**I'VE LOVED HEARING ALL YOUR MEMORIES OF HERTFORD, WHETHER ON ZOOM OR OVER COFFEE, LUNCH OR EVEN, ON ONE MEMORABLE OCCASION, A RAINY WALK THROUGH THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE.**







## ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Professor Nick Barton writes:



In another unusually challenging year, the Archaeology and Anthropology students responded with resilience and tenacity to the challenges of lockdown. Two of our four first year students (Leah Stein and Emily Williams) achieved the only two firsts in the

whole year at Moderations and will share the Meyerstein Prize for the best result. Our second years generated an array of creative dissertation projects on a diverse range of topics spanning the links between stone circles and Welsh nationalism, the archaeology of contemporary forced migration (in Greece and Southwest US), the study of how the image of the state is constructed through violence, and the varieties of time-consciousness in Alfred Gell's *Art and Agency*. Many congratulations also to our third years who did very well, especially to Olivia Roberts for achieving a first class degree. We are very proud of the continuous improvement of our students over the years, and we wish them the best for the future.

Dr Lambros Malafouris, Tutorial Fellow, has just completed his first year as the new Tutorial Fellow in Archaeology and Anthropology. His new book, *An Anthropological Guide to the Art and Philosophy of Mirror Gazing* (co-authored with Maria Danae Koukouti) was published with

Bloomsbury last September (see [www.bloomsbury.com/uk/anthropological-guide-to-the-art-and-philosophy-of-mirror-gazing-9781350135178](http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/anthropological-guide-to-the-art-and-philosophy-of-mirror-gazing-9781350135178)). The book is a cross-disciplinary examination of mirror gazing as a technology of self-identification that weaves together anthropological and philosophical perspectives with clinical and experimental case studies. In Hilary term 2021, Lambros also published (with Tom Wynn and Karenleigh Overmann) a special journal issue for *Adaptive Behaviour* focused on 4E cognition (cognition as embodied, embedded, enactive and extended) in the Lower Palaeolithic (see <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1059712320967184>). The special issue is based on a series of workshops held in Oxford between 2017 and 2019 aiming to investigate the application of material engagement theory and the 4E approach specifically into the study of stone tool manufacture and use as well as for understanding hominin technical expertise, a crucially important component of hominin cognitive evolution. Lambros' paper explores the question 'How does thinking relate to tool making?'

(see <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1059712320950539>) focusing on the skilled performance of a knapper detaching flakes from a flint core.

Lambros published another two research articles this year. The first, *Mark Making and Human Becoming* (see <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10816-020-09504-4>) investigates the cognitive life and agency of mark making in the evolution of human intelligence. The second paper, *Thinging Beauty* (co-authored with Maria Danae Koukouti), offers some anthropological reflections on the making of beauty and the beauty of making based on our comparative



Hanne Mi S Sauge (Figure 2, left), and Dionysia Avouri

anthropological study of aesthetic consciousness in pottery making (see [www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.12832/99831](http://www.rivisteweb.it/doi/10.12832/99831)).

Last but not least, Lambros has been continuing his ethnographic research in Greece directing the HANDMADE project (funded by the European Research Council ERC) looking at the process of making by hand, focusing on the anthropological study of clay and the craft of ceramics (see <https://handmade.web.ox.ac.uk/home>). Last year the project was hindered by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, during the summer it became possible to resume travel and undertake ethnographic research exploring the combinatory use of various multisensory techniques (such as the use of portable eye-tracking) that enable us to image and capture the affective dynamics and temporal structure of creative gesture (Figure 1 and 2).

Fieldwork plans for Morocco were sadly postponed in 2020 and 2021



Refitting flint artefacts from Guildford fire station, Refit Group 10

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ERC Handmade

due to the pandemic but in between busy terms Nick Barton completed a monograph with Alison Roberts (Ashmolean Museum) on Guildford fire station to be published by Historic England in collaboration with Surrey County Council. The book provides a comprehensive report of a rare Upper Palaeolithic campsite dating to about 12,500 years ago, discovered during redevelopment in Guildford town centre. The site's unique preservation qualities have allowed many of the flint artefacts to be refitted (Figure three) revealing the location of manufacturing and tool using areas in a Late Glacial occupation on the banks of the river Wey.

Mark Robinson co-organised an exhibition ('Last Supper in Pompeii') at the Ashmolean Museum in 2019-

20 which featured results of some of the work of former Hertford undergraduates. He normally takes our students on excavation to Pompeii in the long vacation but for obvious reasons this was cancelled in 2020. He is hoping to resume work there again this September. Recently he published a paper based on field investigations with Hertford students which dismissed earlier claims of archaic fortifications of the 6th century BC beneath the Stabian Baths (Robinson, M, Trümper, M, Brünenberg, C, Dickmann, J-A, Esposito, D, Ferrandes, A, Pardini, J and Rummel, C 2020. *Stabian Baths in Pompeii. New Research on the Archaic Defenses of the City*, *Archäologischer Anzeiger* 2020/2, 82-119).

## BIOCHEMISTRY

Professor Petros Ligoxygakis writes:



Again, a rollercoaster of a year. When it started all were cautiously optimistic, mainly because the bar was set very low. The appearance of the marquee in the College quad underlined this optimism and the willingness to do everything for a

better experience. I started the year with a sense of doubt for the 'longevity' of our arrangements due to a fast-evolving situation but wanted to understand the students and their own worries for another year that would be different

from anything else that came before. For each year, as per usual, school leavers go to university but this year nothing was going to be the same for our freshers. Nevertheless, the marquee and some formal dinner arrangements gave an air of normality to the proceedings. The epidemic allowed one 'normal' term. Then things went back to lockdown and lectures, tutorials and practical work became a Zoom call.

Our students were resilient and tried very hard. If I had to use only one word, I would say that our students were generous. Generous in trying, generous in their work, generous in protecting each other and generous in protecting older people. I'd like to think I returned this generosity, but they will be the judge of that. So, whoever is reading this, I want to remind them that our students are our greatest asset. People in the media (and beyond) sometimes deliberately demonise young people as 'woke' or 'snowflakes' but all I see is



Biochemistry finalists with tutors Alison Woollard and Petros Ligoxygakis

intelligence, determination, hard work and some sadness (and who can blame them?).

Their results were again excellent reflecting their work and mitigating the harm done by lockdowns and COVID. Most of all I want to pay tribute to the first years here: You are not a fresher twice in your life and given the situation, they were incredibly able to pull together, work hard and achieve tremendous results with five out of seven distinctions and individual paper marks that reached 85% for some. Their hard work was evident from their tutorials and essays and their results was a happy confirmation of their abilities. Hopefully, this year will be more of a face-to-face set-up and for the new freshers the year will not be out of the ordinary. Not much anyway. Of course, our third years and finalists also worked very hard to achieve good results (one first and three 2.1s). The finalists have already planned their next steps that will be as varied as anyone would expect. Teaching, research jobs in industry or joining the world of finance.

Finally, I want to thank the teaching team, namely, our brilliant lecturers, Dr Delia O'Rourke, Dr Maria Gravato and DPhil student Jonathan Moloney as well as our mentor Professor Alison Woollard, fellow travellers on this journey.

The great composer Mikis Theodorakis has passed today and the only thing that remains for me to do is to go and very loudly listen to some of his music as well as sign off as Zorba the Greek (biochemist) aka Petros Ligoxygakis.

## BIOLOGY

Professor Geraldine Wright writes:



Professor Martin Maiden has been on sabbatical working on his research during the biggest pandemic since 1918. In his wake, Dr Odile Harrison

took the helm, pioneering the epidemiology lectures and practicals into online format in a short space of time as the pandemic hit.

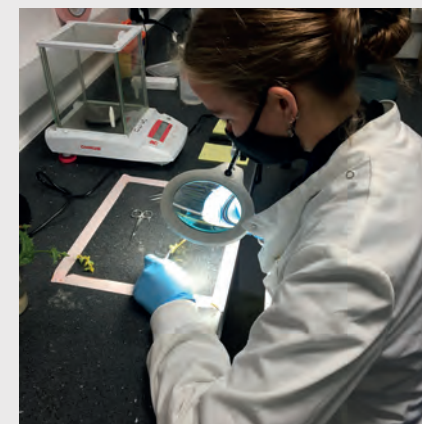
Professor Geraldine Wright was the lead for the second year of the new MBIology course which made its virgin voyage during the pandemic. It was a difficult year to work, where everyone was doing lectures, tutorials, and even practicals entirely online! We somehow managed to get through it, and were able to run lab and field skills courses during Trinity Term 2021. It was also a very difficult year to conduct research in the labs, as all of us were socially distancing. In spite of this, her lab continued to forge ahead, uncovering exciting information about the bee's sense of taste, honeybee nutrition, and the bee's susceptibility to addiction-causing compounds. A former student at Hertford, Anna Turns (now freelance writer for *The Guardian*, and others), reviewed Wright's lab's research in an article she published in late 2020: [www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/28/new-nectar-could-artificial-](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/28/new-nectar-could-artificial-)



pollen-make-life-sweeter-for-bees. Some Hertford students are currently working in Wright's lab doing their Masters' projects on bee conservation (Abi Sheppard) or bee sensory biology (Eve Davies) or working as lab research assistants performing nutrition experiments (Sarah Bannister) or field research assistants collecting pollen (Stefania Karlsdottir).

Professor Wright will take up a new position as the Hope Chair of Entomology starting 1 October 2021, and will, unfortunately, be required to move to Jesus College.

This academic year also saw the conversion of the old three-year course into a four-year course (the MBIology). Most of the class incoming in 2018 converted to a four-year degree. Three of our eight third year students achieved first class marks in their final exams. Seven of these students will go on to Masters' projects starting in summer/autumn 2021. Our second year promoted four out of seven of its students to 'scholar status' based on their performance. One of our first year students, Nell Miles, was awarded a Prize for Excellence in her Prelims examinations. Only four students in the MBIology (out of 105) from the first year were awarded this prize.





## CHEMISTRY

Professor Fernanda Duarte writes:



This past academic year has not been free of challenges. The disruption of the past 18 months due to COVID restrictions has meant arrangements had to be changed at short notice and activities rescheduled. We are thankful to all chemists and staff at

Herford who have pulled together and helped each other during this period. Everyone has tried their hardest, and while it has hit some harder than others and some additional support will be needed over the next year or two, we are extremely proud of our community and the way we have coped. We are excited to be back in college again and look forward to a joyful and productive 2021/2022 academic year.

Despite the restrictions in place, the year was as busy as usual. We continued using Zoom and Teams for tutorials but also met in person when possible. In October 2020, we welcomed a diverse cohort of seven first years. Two of our first years were promoted to 'scholar status' based on their performance in their Prelims exams. Our second year sat Part IA exams with Kamen Petrov obtaining stellar marks. We were proud to see our four third-year students achieving first class marks in their final exams and our fourth years successfully submitting their Part II theses.

In addition to a busy academic

year, students went into exciting new activities during the year. Kamen did a summer research project in Biochemistry, investigating computationally the mechanism by which antibiotics pass through bacterial membrane to combat the current threat of antibiotic resistance. Lizzie Bateman had a busy summer, helping administer COVID-19 vaccinations to hundreds of people. She also worked at her local GP surgery prescribing medicines, some of which she was proud to recognise from her organic modules! Sam Arrowsmith joined the first cohort of students taking the Newton Consultancy Summer Academy hosted by Newton Europe to learn about consultancy in industry. This experience also helped him to greatly improve his communication and analytical skills.

Outside of science, students kept challenging themselves with sports and other activities. Joe Welsh got involved with college hockey, which he really enjoyed. He also put into practice his chemistry skills at home and started brewing his own beer. Iain McLauchlan helped build a climbing wall at home for his family, which kept them active through the lockdown. Sam started playing badminton again and joined the events run by the Hertford Badminton Club.

Tutors had a busy summer too. Claire and her team of fantastic graduate students and postdocs managed to get the lab up and running again after six months of lab shut down due to COVID. They obtained exciting data on electron-molecule collisions and photoinduced reactions, which they are in the process of analysing, and extremely exciting proof-of-concept data on using a new type of rapid mass spectrometry to diagnose various diseases. Claire also

finished her term as President of the Faraday Division of the RSC. Despite her high hopes of not having another huge job to do alongside her main research/teaching job, she segued straight into being Senior Tutor. This is an exciting role and we wish her the very best.

Mike has become our technology guru. Exploring the best tools for remote teaching, we have hugely benefited from his knowledge. He has been tutoring every day for several hours at home in his 'garage' which, very fortunately, he had converted to a heated and insulated versatile living space some years ago. Since the relaxation of enough restrictions, he has also managed to have a couple of in-person piano lessons. Over the summer, he enjoyed climbing some Welsh mountains with his teenage daughter for the first time.

Fernanda has also had a busy year with her research group. The first PhD students under her supervision have recently graduated. The group has also been recognised with a series of accolades, including the MGMTS Frank Blaney Award from the Molecular Graphics and Modelling Society, OpenEye Outstanding Junior Faculty Award and Harrison-Meldola Memorial Prize which they hope to celebrate soon in person.

This new academic year will hopefully bring more in-person interactions and exciting new activities. We will continue working hard to better understand chemistry and apply this expertise to the many aspects of life. We wish all our chemists and their families all the best for 2021/2022!

**OUTSIDE OF SCIENCE, STUDENTS KEPT CHALLENGING THEMSELVES WITH SPORTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. JOE WELSH GOT INVOLVED WITH COLLEGE HOCKEY, WHICH HE REALLY ENJOYED. HE ALSO PUT INTO PRACTICE HIS CHEMISTRY SKILLS AT HOME AND STARTED BREWING HIS OWN BEER.**

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Professor Michael Wooldridge writes:



Many of us in the University spent the summer of 2020 preparing for the first full academic year of the pandemic. We knew it wasn't going to be normal, but we hoped the endless precautions we put in place would allow something like a regular academic

year, even though we knew that large group teaching was going to be impossible. Of course, the virus wasn't going to let us have that. A month into Michaelmas, we got hit by the national 'circuitbreaker' lockdown; and by Christmas it was obvious that Hilary term was going to be purely online. This was tremendously disappointing for everyone, but most of all for our students, who were denied the key experiences that make Oxford a unique academic experience: the sense of being part of an academic community in a college. I delivered my lecture course in Hilary term via Microsoft Teams to a class of about 60 students. It wasn't the same, of course – you miss subtle clues you get in a lecture theatre when students don't understand or are getting bored – and perhaps surprisingly, I found it much more draining. But, as we discovered when the pandemic first hit, we can make it work, even under the most trying and awkward of circumstances. As I write this, we are in the final stages of planning

for Michaelmas 2021. The University is planning to return to 'some semblance of normality', with staff expected to return to offices and actual face-to-face lectures in prospect (though we won't be teaching large groups face to face). The academic year 2021-22 will not be normal, but unless the virus bowls us yet another googly, (and I wouldn't risk a bet against that), then it will surely be more like the Oxford experience that we know and cherish.

I was very fortunate to receive a number of awards in 2020-21 for research and teaching (to paraphrase the old adage, you wait for one for years and then three come at once...) In November 2020, it was announced that I would receive the Lovelace Medal from the British Computer Society. Named after Ada Lovelace, daughter of Lord Byron, and one of the first people to understand the possibility of computing

**I WAS VERY FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE A NUMBER OF AWARDS IN 2020-21, FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING (TO PARAPHRASE THE OLD ADAGE, YOU WAIT FOR ONE FOR YEARS AND THEN THREE COME AT ONCE...)**

machines, the Lovelace Medal is (according to Wikipedia, anyway), the top award that can be given to a UK computer scientist. In February 2021, I received the Outstanding Educator Award from the International Association for Advancement of AI (AAAA). The award is given annually to an individual who has made a substantial pedagogic contribution to their field. Finally, in June 2021, I was told I would receive a major research award, valued at £4.2m. The funding is part of the UK's current investment in Artificial Intelligence research, and will fully fund me and my research group for the next five years.

January saw the publication by Flatiron Press of the US edition of my popular science book on AI, under the title *A Brief History of AI*. I have received lots of very positive feedback, although sales have been (ahem) *modest!* The UK edition of the book was also picked up by Penguin for their 'Penguin Readers' series in which both fiction and non-fiction books are adapted for readers learning English as a foreign language. The book will appear in early 2022. I have to say, I found myself not just excited but really quite emotional at the prospect that people across the world will learn English by reading my book. Publication is a funny thing. It takes you to places that you could simply never have imagined.

## ECONOMICS

Dr Federica Romei writes:



As with every other subject, this year has been strange for Economics as well. We moved everything online, and our students had to attend both

the lectures and the tutorials remotely. Whoever would attend the University in this way would be discouraged. But not our students. Despite all the problems, they did great. Therefore, we must first applaud them for their effort and maturity – good job to everyone.

Our beloved Fellow, Teodora Boneva left to join the University of Zurich as an Associate Professor. During the year, the University of Bonn offered a position as Professor and she will be joining the University of Bonn in September 2021. A big congratulations on her promotion.

This year, we welcomed Federica Romei as a new fellow. It was a strange year to welcome a new colleague, but she coped well with her transition.

Now, let's go back to our students. Like every other year, our first year students did their prelims. Fifty per cent of our students in Economics and Management and a third of our students in Philosophy, Politics and Economics got a distinction. That is an impressive result.

Finally, this was the last year for some of our students. They did their final exam

remotely. We are very sorry that they spent their final year in such a strange way and about their exam format. However, the exams went very well. All our students, in both Economics and Management and Philosophy, Politics and Economics, achieved a 2.1 or better, and two in each school were awarded first class degrees. Some of them decided to work in the private or public sector. We wish them good luck, and we hope to see them again. Some other students decided to continue with their studies and to start a Masters degree – at least two of them starting a Masters in Economics, as well as others in other subjects. In addition, one of them will start a PhD in Business Studies. We wish them good luck too, and please come and visit to tell us how it is going.

To conclude, we hope that next year will be easier and more pleasant than last year. We also hope to be able to teach in-person and to meet, not only virtually, our students as soon as possible.

**THIS YEAR, WE WELCOMED FEDERICA ROMEI AS A NEW FELLOW. IT WAS A STRANGE YEAR TO WELCOME A NEW COLLEAGUE, BUT SHE COPED WELL WITH HER TRANSITION.**

## ENGINEERING

Professor Manolis Chatzis writes:



In the academic year 2020-2021, we welcomed four new Engineering Freshers who did very well in their Prelims examinations. Our five second

year students had their first form of examination this year and progressed well in year three. Seven of our third year students progressed in year four with strong performances after a year where they started and finished the academic year with double exams. Several of them are on their way to a first class degree. Isidora achieved a distinction receiving the Gibbs award for the best B design project. Finally, our fourth-year graduates did very well. Chongkai, Daniel and Haider completed all their degrees with a high 2.1 degree. Also, Ellen secured a very strong offer from the industry and decided to pursue a new career graduating in year three after a very strong finish resulting in a 2.1 degree. We wish them all the very best in their next steps.

## ENGLISH

Professor David Dwan writes:



ELL students have coped heroically with the demands of this year, and we have been very grateful for their intellectual commitment, patience and good cheer. They also distinguished themselves in online exams – with two firsts in Finals and

three distinctions in Prelims.

This year each of our English Fellows has enjoyed a period of research leave. In their absence, we were very lucky to be able to draw on the excellent teaching of Ayoush Lazikani (old and medieval English); Namratha Rao (early modern literature) and Wendy Xin (nineteenth and twentieth century literature). George Mather and Stephen Turton did a fine job teaching the language and literary theory paper to first years.

Congratulations to Stephen for his award of a research fellowship at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge. Well done too to Nam who has been appointed to a permanent lectureship at the University of York. Sadly, we also said goodbye to Ayoush, who will be taking up a lectureship in Jesus College. We will miss them all.

Given the various shutdowns of archives and libraries, it has been a tricky year to do research, but we have managed to keep busy. Charlotte Brewer started work on a new project on letter writing and the OED (described at The Murray Scriptorium), and has continued

to write and give conference papers on various aspects of the OED and dictionaries more generally – including ghosts.

Emma Smith has been working on a book about books – *Portable Magic* – which will be published by Penguin in April 2022. She has also produced essays on Shakespeare and adaptation and in early print. Emma worked on a new adaptation of Webster's play *The Duchess of Malfi* which was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in June 2021, and was a discussant on Radio 4's *In Our Time on Macbeth and Shakespeare's Sonnets*. Thanks to Zoom, she has been able to visit a number of school classrooms during lockdown, and given online talks for the Rose Playhouse, Southwark Cathedral, Harvard Bookstore, the Mark Twain House in Hartford, and the Folger Shakespeare Library.

In January 2021, I published an edition of Orwell's *Animal Farm* and have subsequently produced essays on Yeats, Conrad and the question of moral luck and Iris Murdoch. I have also started work on a project on Irish intellectuals, generously funded by the Leverhulme Trust. With luminaries like Tom Paulin, Roy Foster and Honorary Fellow Mary Robinson on its books, Hertford feels like a good home for this research.

**THIS YEAR EACH OF OUR ENGLISH FELLOWS HAS ENJOYED A PERIOD OF RESEARCH LEAVE.**



## GEOGRAPHY

Professor Jamie Lorimer writes:



Hertford Geography has celebrated another productive year. In spite of all the disruption over the last two years, five of our seven students achieved Firsts at Finals. Students completed excellent research dissertations on a diverse range of topics spanning

extreme tropical low pressure in southern Africa, community participation in flood risk management, water runoff at the Tower of London, local food identity in Yorkshire, and the digital experience of the Glastonbury Festival. Rebecca Simpson was awarded the Meldrum Prize for the best fieldwork report and Carina Williams and Erin McGauran Porter's dissertations were both nominated for dissertation prizes at the Royal Geographical Society. First and second year students responded with equal resilience and ambition to the challenges of lockdown, with the second years currently underway with an array of creative dissertation projects.

The academic team has been equally productive.

**Professor Jamie Lorimer**, Tutorial Fellow, was promoted to Professor of Environmental Geography in 2021. His second book, entitled *The Probiotic Planet: Using life to manage life* has been well-received and he is often called upon to discuss the merits of

rewilding and nature-based solutions in wildlife conservation. Jamie was recently invited to join the advisory board of Natural England, the body that advises the UK government on the nature environment. Jamie and his students continue to conduct research examining the relationships between animal agriculture and climate change, including the rise of plant-based eating and meat alternatives in Europe and North America (see [www.leap.ox.ac.uk](http://www.leap.ox.ac.uk)). This work is funded by the Wellcome Trust.

**Dr Louise Slater**, Tutorial Fellow, recently secured a prestigious Future Leaders Fellowship funded by UK Research and Innovation which will allow her to focus on researching the Dynamic drivers of flood risk (DRIFT) over the next seven years. DRIFT aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of flood non-stationarity across timescales. Additionally, Louise was successful in securing a five-year NERC Large Grant on the Evolution of Global Flood Hazard and Risk (EvoFlood) as part of a consortium of nine UK universities. EvoFlood aims to establish, on a global scale, the relative importance of changes in hydro-climatology versus the evolution of channel and floodplain morphology in causing changing flood hazard and risk. In her teaching, Louise developed a new undergraduate course with colleagues on 'Geographic Data Science', which introduced skills in programming and Geographic Information Science (GIS) to the curriculum. During the pandemic, Louise also led the Oxford Water Network (OWN)'s transition to an online seminar series, as Chair of the network. She also continues to serve as Editor for the journal *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences* and editorial board member for *Advances in Water Resources*.

**Professor David Thomas**, Professorial Fellow, is currently leading part of the UK National Research Excellence Framework (REF2020) assessment of University research. He chairs the Geography and Environment Panel (SP14) as well as being a member of the social sciences Main Panel. This work is in effect a full-time secondment to UKRI and finishes in March 2021. As his research has been greatly hindered by COVID-19 effects, with no international research travel possible, REF2020 has at least provided something to keep him off the streets. Nonetheless, he has also been working on the outputs of the major Makgadikgadi (Botswana) geoarchaeology and palaeoenvironments project he led (with eight papers appearing in 2021 in a special issue of the major international journal *Quaternary Science Reviews*). His new four-year grant, won from the Leverhulme Trust, aiming to address how the Indus Civilisation responded to environmental change with multi-method approaches (see [www.leverhulme.ac.uk/research-project-grants/collapsed-or-evolved-what-happened-bronze-age-indus-valley-civilisation](http://www.leverhulme.ac.uk/research-project-grants/collapsed-or-evolved-what-happened-bronze-age-indus-valley-civilisation)), has not been able to start as scheduled, but is due to recommence in October 2021. He is also a PI on the Oxford Martin School Dryland Bioenergy project (see [www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/bioenergy/](http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/bioenergy/)). Research in Namibia has continued remotely via in-country links, with new commercial links developing with potential users and major corporations (including B2Gold) that seek re-use of degraded lands in sustainable ways.

**Dr Janet Banfield**, Stipendiary Lecturer, has consolidated her puppet research with the publication of an initial paper establishing puppets as legitimate

**DURING THE PANDEMIC, LOUISE ALSO LED THE OXFORD WATER NETWORK (OWN)'S TRANSITION TO AN ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES, AS CHAIR OF THE NETWORK.**

disciplinary terrain and the submission of the manuscript for her third book, which examines the grotesque geographies of puppets as they are constructed in popular culture, from metaphorical uses in literature through their filmic use as actors or characters, to their potential to generate powerful dramatic and affective impacts. Over the summer, Jan also worked in an advisory capacity with a film maker in the US on the production of a documentary about the psychological phenomenon of flow (loss of spatial, temporal and self-awareness due to deep immersion in an activity), which draws on her earlier psycho-geographical research into this phenomenon in artistic practice. With respect to teaching, the Geography and Policy option, which Jan co-developed last year, was well-received by students and will run again this year.

## HISTORY

Professor David Hopkin writes:



The academic year 2020-21 was undoubtedly a strange and sometimes disrupted one, but Hertford's historians met the challenge in some style, with more than half of our finalists graduating with Firsts. We congratulate them and all the students,

undergraduates and postgraduates, who made it through this trying time.

September 2021 sees a number of staff changes. Most notably, Professor Christopher Tyerman, who has taught Medieval History at Hertford since 1979, is retiring. For an entire generation of Hertford historians, his tutorials for the History of the British Isles papers 1 (c 300-1100) and 2 (c 1000-1330) will have been their first introduction to

studying history at Oxford. We don't know how we will manage without him! He will, however, stay on to complete his history of the college. We await his findings from the archives with some trepidation.

Dr Naomi Lloyd-Jones, who has taught modern British history here for the last five years, is leaving to take up a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at Durham University. Her place will be taken by Dr Luke Blaxill, returning to Oxford (and Hertford, where he was a Junior Research Fellow from 2013 to 2016) from Cambridge.

Also joining us for this coming year is Dr Jonathan Krause, a First World War specialist. He temporarily replaces Professor David Hopkin who, after four quite busy years as Hertford's Senior Tutor, is on leave and off to Tarragona to complete his long-promised book on the social history of European lacemakers. Dr Deirdre Foley, who was not able to take advantage of her fellowship in 2020-21, will be rejoining us in 2021-2 as the Roy Foster Irish Government Fellow to continue her research on women in 20th century Ireland.

**SEPTEMBER 2021 SEES A NUMBER OF STAFF CHANGES. MOST NOTABLY, PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER TYERMAN, WHO HAS TAUGHT MEDIEVAL HISTORY AT HERTFORD SINCE 1979, IS RETIRING.**





## HUMAN SCIENCES

Clive Hambler writes:



Our three Finalists did deservingly well, with all getting Firsts and Imogen winning the University's Bob Hiorns Prize for the best overall performance in finals in the subject. Imagine how well they would have done without lockdown! Their dissertations were

on monogamy in humans, COVID's origins and agricultural expansion, and the causes and implications of racial bias in genomic sequencing. Such research was challenging with fewer library resources, despite the great

support Hertford colleagues gave; our Librarian Alice was outstanding. Exams were taken in the students' rooms, in college or elsewhere – but none in Texas this year, so I'm glad that's not become a tradition!

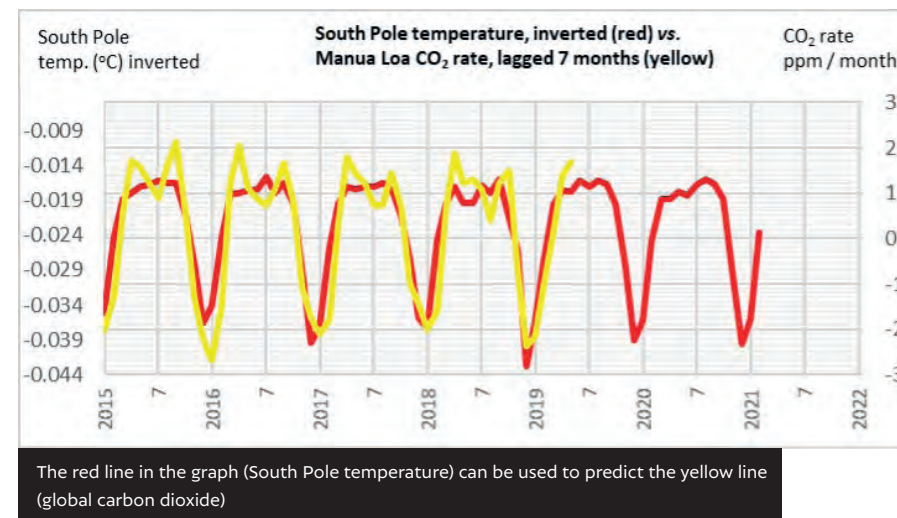
Our four Prelims students actually took Prelims – after a lot of tutes on benches and tables in the quad. They have missed a lot of their Fresher's fun but should rest assured the best is yet to come...

Despite not having the chance to do so at Prelims in 2020, two of our second years won college scholarships. This was also despite me telling them (as usual) not to revise for collections. Fortunately, the college believed my marks were good enough evidence.

I've taught in person whenever possible during the pandemic. I'd like to thank the Hertford catering team, who managed to provide their great meals most of the year and made teaching and life so much easier! And we owe



Hertford finalists in 2021, with tutors Clive Hambler and Josephine Reynell



many thanks to all the staff in Hertford who kept education going.

We're expecting two Freshers in the autumn, when we hope to be able to restart pizza feasts with the Archaeology & Anthropology and the Life Sciences students and staff at Hertford.

I spent much of lockdown trapped with a computer and a lot of monthly data on carbon dioxide, methane, sea ice and temperature. This is not a particularly healthy mix, but a surprising result emerged that I published as a preprint at [www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-558940/v1](http://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-558940/v1). The South Pole air temperature has high predictive power for global carbon dioxide changes at least seven months ahead.

The red line in the graph (South Pole temperature) can be used to predict the yellow line (global carbon dioxide).

The mechanism is unclear but probably physical, not biological, given the great strength of the relationship and the noise one sees in most

biological systems. It may be sea ice, not plant productivity, that drives the seasonal carbon cycle – contrary to IPCC assessments. If I'm right, most climate models, predictions, attributions and policies are wrong. So we might be able to save millions of species and trillions of pounds with a less dramatic shift in energy sources. If people don't like my conclusions, they will have to find a flaw in the preprint: online suggestions and criticisms are welcome – especially if you can find correlations above 0.9 with carbon dioxide! Once again, this proposed paradigm shift was too hot for the preprint server arXiv to handle; some such servers are no longer the best fora for debate of politicized controversies. Fortunately, originality and free speech still works in tutorials and, up to a point, in Finals, and it's likely group-think will eventually succumb to data. The next year will probably be lively with debate, especially now we can meet in person again!



## LAW

Dr Aruna Nair writes:



For us in Law, 2020-21 has been a successful year despite the challenges of the pandemic. The incoming freshers have made a strong start, adapting remarkably well to a very strange first experience of Oxford and obtaining an excellent set of Mods results. Two of

our finalists obtained first class degrees, with the remaining five graduating with good 2.1s. Two members of the cohort will be pursuing Masters degrees in Law next year at London universities. We were delighted to be able to celebrate with them in person in the new Hertford marquee over canapés and fizzy drinks; I was pleased to learn that at least two students, post-finals, now consider trusts to be 'underrated' and 'not so bad'.

In research terms, I have spent the year thinking about discriminatory gifts and priority problems in property law; teaching on the BCL course, Advanced Property and Trusts has been immeasurably helpful in crystallising my thoughts on these problems and many others. A co-authored piece on how to evaluate discriminatory gifts will be published in August 2021. Dr Kate Greasley, meanwhile, has been continuing to think and write about pornography and free speech, sexual consent, and the legal and philosophical problems arising out of the #MeToo movement. Teaching-wise, she is co-convening a new interdisciplinary BCL course entitled 'Philosophy, Law, and Politics'.



## MANAGEMENT

Dr Steve New writes:



The unusual year curtailed the normal range of extra activities normally pursued by students following management degrees (Economics and Management undergraduates and MBA

and Masters in Major Programme Management postgraduates). However, we were delighted to hold a well-attended virtual alumni event in March at which three outstanding Hertford entrepreneurs (Phil Barry, Ani Hakuni, Baoli Zhao, and Gary Wu) shared their experiences and discussed the status of their ventures. Hertford MBA students Reka Kassay-Farkas and Ester Ninshuti shared their experiences of studying during the pandemic. During the event the management fellows Dr Steve New and Dr Anette Mikes gave brief updates on their current research.

Also, in Hilary Term we were delighted to be joined by our Oxford colleague Professor Mari Sako for a special guest talk on her ground-breaking research on the impact of Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Professional Work.

In Trinity, Dr Steve New was able to bring in his colleagues from Cryptocycle – a startup in the area of digital deposit return schemes – for a virtual workshop with the first year Economics and Management students, enabling them to practice their skills in strategic analysis on a real company.



## MATHEMATICS

Professor Dawid Kielak writes:



Since this is the first time I am writing for this column, let me start by introducing myself: my name is Dawid Kielak, and I am the new Pure Maths Tutor in college. As Alan made you aware in his last column, he is now the Applied Maths Tutor.

My research area is group theory. Since I am sure you all remember what a group is from your undergraduate days, let me just say that I study infinite groups, often of geometric provenance, and my favourite tools all come from Algebra, mainly Ring Theory and homological algebra.

One could say that I started my adventure at Hertford at an 'interesting time'. Nevertheless, I have very much enjoyed the experience so far, especially in Trinity Term when I had the chance to meet the Fellowship over dinner and when the arrival of a blackboard made teaching even more fun. Sadly, it did not improve my handwriting.

Due to the limitations on social life, I did not have the pleasure of meeting the third and fourth years. However, I am very happy to report that all four of our fourth years got a distinction! The first and second years I have met, and they are a smart and friendly bunch.

Another noteworthy piece of news (gossip?) is that Greg Tadjanskas, who had been a Maths lecturer in college for a couple of years, is now moving

to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, to take on a research fellowship. I interacted with Greg only briefly during admissions this year, but that was enough to convince me that he is a gentleman and a scholar. We all wish Greg all the best at the Other Place!

And lastly, the news that is not so fresh but nevertheless should be reported here: our esteemed colleague at the Maths Institute, Roger Penrose, was awarded the Noble Prize in Physics at the end of 2020. I am personally a big fan of Roger's popular science work, I have read all his books and seen him give talks a couple of times (the first time around 2005, when I was an undergrad at Oxford, and the last time in Bonn around 2014, when I was a postdoc there); I highly recommend both.

**ONE COULD SAY THAT I STARTED MY ADVENTURE AT HERTFORD AT AN `INTERESTING TIME`. NEVERTHELESS, I HAVE VERY MUCH ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE SO FAR, ESPECIALLY IN TRINITY TERM, WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE TO MEET THE FELLOWSHIP OVER DINNER.**

## MEDICINE

Professor David Greaves writes:



I offer the following highlights of a highly unusual academic year. The past 12 months saw the rapid emergence of the Kent strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in MT2020 to be replaced by the even more infectious delta strain in TT2021. The national lockdown

and concerns for student welfare meant that none of our undergraduate (years one to three) students were in Oxford for Hilary Term 2021 with all departmental teaching and college tutorials being delivered online.

Dr Vladyslav Vyazovskiy made an excellent start to his first year as a Tutorial Fellow in Medicine, taking over tutorial teaching of BM Physiology and Pharmacology for our first year BM students and providing thought-provoking tutorials for second year students on many aspects of BM neuroscience. These tutorials included topics close to his own research expertise in sleep and circadian biology, which you can read more about on the Hertford College website in The Bridge 2021. I particularly enjoyed the students versus tutors online social quizzes that Vlad organised. I think these quizzes helped the students to bond online in their extended time away from Oxford.

Dr Hamish Lemmey, a postdoctoral research fellow ably supported Vlad

by giving excellent first year tutorials in pharmacokinetics, respiratory and gastrointestinal pharmacology. Driven by wanting to see his British Heart Foundation funded research work being delivered to patients, Hamish decided to apply for graduate entry medicine courses across the UK. In September he will be starting the Oxford Graduate entry medicine course and we wish him every success in the years ahead.

One important task that Mr Simon Brewster and Dr Sujata Biswas undertook last term was deciding which of our cohort of clinical finalists would be the recipient of the second Hertford College Vaughan Williams Prize in Clinical Medicine. The prize was won jointly by Dr Poppy Iveson and Dr Archith Kamath who scored an equal number of points in a process that mimics that used in making clinical appointments at later stages of their clinical career. Their year group was not without evidence of distinction in academic competition with Faaris Zaki winning the John Friend Medical History Essay Competition writing about the 17th century oculist John Taylor and Shloke Joshi publishing a peer-reviewed article on the multiple effects of aspirin on prostate cancer patients.

Another key member of Hertford's clinical teaching team is Henry Bettinson, an ITU and respiratory medicine consultant at the John Radcliffe Hospital who has been very much in the front line treating COVID-19 patients for the past 18 months. Henry was able to give a fascinating account of his work in a Radio 4 interview which we have posted on the college website.

I was elected to the fellowship at Hertford nearly 20 years ago and with each passing year I appreciate a little bit more the amazing legacy of Miles Vaughan Williams in giving generations



of students the opportunity to study Medicine as a first degree in Oxford. One of those students was **Nigel Thompson** (matric 1981) who I met at Miles' memorial dinner in 2017.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank all my college colleagues and my current and former students for their many messages of support following my recent cancer surgery. I am gradually easing myself back into running my research lab in the Dunn School of Pathology where we are looking to develop new classes of anti-inflammatory drugs. I look forward to meeting and teaching the next generation of Hertford medical students as well as hearing from alums new and old.



**Nigel Thompson**  
(matric 1981)  
writes:

Having arrived in New Zealand 30 years ago for a one-year stopover on a round the world trip, I have happily helped raise a family here and have never been more grateful to be living in these Shaky Isles. This is despite having been in my hotel room at 4.30am, in Christchurch for our national GP conference when the September 2010 earthquake struck.

I have continued to enjoy living here, at what has seemed like an arm's length from the pandemic. Literally at the other end of the world from my family home in Belfast, Northern Ireland, my wife's family in Dublin, and Hertford's bridge in the centre of Oxford. My monthly 50 pence phone call home as an undergrad,

from a telephone kiosk, for five minutes of 'what's the weather like there?' – a very distant memory.

Since the pandemic began, we have only experienced 3,569 cases with 26 deaths. Only eight people required ICU support and still cases only in hundreds, although some infants have now been tested positive. However, we are now playing catch-up with the rest of the world in having the Delta variant finally appear in the community.

Two weeks of full lockdown has just finished for most of the country but working from home is still encouraged for all who can. We have an alert grading of one to four – with four being strict home isolation in bubbles. Level three has been described as level four with takeaways! Currently only 26.8 % of New Zealanders are double vaccinated, with still less than half having received their first Pfizer jabs – but the vast majority of the eligible (12 and over) population is now booked in to begin their schedule in response to the new outbreak.

**HAVING ARRIVED  
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YEARS AGO, FOR A  
ONE-YEAR STOPOVER  
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RAISE A FAMILY HERE  
AND HAVE NEVER BEEN  
MORE GRATEFUL TO  
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SHAKY ISLES.**



## MODERN LANGUAGES

Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe writes:



For the second year running, the finalists coped admirably with the shifting sands of COVID-shaped ML FHS. Whereas, in the summer of 2020, the medieval texts and special author papers were dropped, this year they were sat at the start of Trinity, in -1st (Paper IX),

0th (X), and 1st (XI) Weeks. Papers were released at 9am on Monday mornings for completion and uploading by close on Fridays. This meant that the nerves normally associated with the orals were generated instead by early skirmishes with online assessment platforms and fears of untimely fire alarms and power outages. Eight weeks later, Schools Dinner took place... as a picnic in University Parks, with splendid hampers put on by the catering team and one tutor unable to attend (having been pinged by the NHS app).

The third years made the best of the year abroad despite the constantly changing restrictions in force in the various countries they were travelling to. Brexit has added to the challenge, and we are now grappling with an array of visa regulations as well as the loss of Erasmus funding, but students continue to undertake a similar range of activities as previously, whether

teaching as British Council language assistants, undertaking internships or studying at universities.

The unusual conditions have tested the perennially fine balance which tutors have to strike between research and other duties. Oliver Noble Wood began his term as Dean and Tom Clark has stepped in to assist with the Spanish teaching. Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe juggled homeschooling with online tutorials during the third lockdown, and at other points enjoyed giving classes in the marquee in a range of climatic conditions. Claire Williams was involved in a number of commemorations of the centenary of the birth of the Brazilian novelist Clarice Lispector, and Joanna Neilly has been getting musical, with work on, among others, Gustav Mahler's literary influences.

**THE UNUSUAL CONDITIONS HAVE TESTED THE PERENNIALY FINE BALANCE WHICH TUTORS HAVE TO STRIKE BETWEEN RESEARCH AND OTHER DUTIES.**

## MUSIC

Dr Benjamin Skipp writes:



Avid readers of the Music entry in the magazine will remember that plans had been made this year to take the musicians to Vienna for their postponed field trip (from 2019). Alas that was not to be, and so it will have to be another year before photographs of us

drinking *Einspänner* coffees and feasting on *Sachertorte* grace these pages.

No doubt in common with other subjects, navigating the teaching of a Music degree in the time of lockdown has been a challenge. The ability to play recordings, to jump seamlessly between piano and the manuscript-whiteboard to demonstrate a particular harmonic progression and to encourage a free-flow discussion was somewhat compromised when online. The students were very tolerant and hard-working, submitting some excellent work and meeting deadlines despite the difficulties. The two finalists, one of whom was awarded a very fine first-class mark for Finals, produced portfolio work including, for example, a series of electronic compositions, essays on music in communist states and a dissertation on music within internet meme culture.

The three first years also have had a productive year. Before term officially began we met in September for online seminars, an innovation which may continue post-COVID. This encouraged

critical thinking around issues of canonisation and musical ideologies that is central to the course. (One of the composers towards whose work I was pleased to help ferment their enthusiasm was the Estonian Arvo Pärt and was delighted to be gifted with a pair of socks adorned with a print of the composer's face.)

For me personally it was an interesting year, sitting on the faculty board and witnessing the discussions around the reforming of the music syllabus in light of debates around 'de-colonising' the curriculum. I am very grateful to my fellow music tutors Tom Czepiel and to Alice Barron who helped both with the teaching of our small band of musicians and who also offered pastoral support during this difficult year.



## ORIENTAL STUDIES

Bjarke Frellesvig writes:



It's been a quiet year in Oriental Studies. Very quiet. Many of the things that normally happen during the academic year ended up not taking place at all. Our second year students were not able to travel to Japan or China in the normal way for their year abroad. This was a great disappointment,

as that year is an important part of the course, and of course a major opportunity to get a lived experience of the language, culture and country they are studying. The faculty and University are working to see how it will be possible to make sure to get a period in the countries for those students, and I am sure we in college will try our best to support that.

And for the second year running, the very successful and popular academic enrichment excursion, which includes all undergraduate year groups, did not take place; this was also a disappointment, for it is an occasion which brings all of our undergraduate Orientalists and tutors together around an academic purpose. Teaching took place, of course – after all, that is our chief purpose – but very little of it was in person. We all got used to Teams and Zoom and other virtual ways of meeting. We discovered that online teaching can be very efficient and even in a few respects may have some advantages over in-person teaching. More than that, though, we found, as the year wore on, that we grew exceedingly fed up with sitting in front of our computers trying to

have the kind of interaction that normal tutorials bring with them. And so on. Finally, sadly, at the very end of the year, our schools dinner was cancelled at short notice (on the day) due to COVID.

Thus, there's no denying that overall it was a pretty miserable year. It was not all misery, though. For one thing, exams did take place in Trinity Term, both Prelims and Finals, not with attendance at Schools in subfusc, but online, in front of a computer screen, but I am happy to be able to report that, as usual, our students did us – in fact, themselves – proud by achieving very strong results under unfamiliar and difficult circumstances. That says a great deal about their resilience through the year leading up to their exams and their sustained engagement with their studies. Throughout the year our students did their very best, against the odds, to remain positive and focus on their academic work. They also did a great job of supporting each other and deserve a lot of credit for that as well. As will surely be detailed elsewhere in this newsletter, the Hertford marquee in OB Quad was a huge success, by a long stick the best marquee in town, and while the weather was not always obliging, it became a well-used venue for informal meetings with students, as well as the odd tutorial. In that way we actually managed to keep in touch in person and not just online, and that was very important to all of us, students and tutors alike. I take heart and encouragement from the way the Hertford Orientalists navigated and managed the unfamiliar and unwelcome situation. We are now all hoping for this coming academic year to resemble past years more; and hoping that we will be able to work together with and support our Oriental Studies students properly through the coming period so that the negative impact of the past year and a half on their studies will be as small as possible. And hoping that it will be possible to do the things we have missed out on over the past year in a safe manner.



## PHILOSOPHY

Professor Peter Millican writes:



In last year's *Hertford College Magazine*, I had the great pleasure of reporting the appointment of Professor Carissa Véliz as our second Philosophy Fellow, and the continuing appointment of

Dr Nick Tasker as our Philosophy Lecturer. After so much reliance on temporary staff over the years, it is wonderful to have at last such an excellent established team of permanent colleagues.

As usual we have strong academic results to report, though not quite as spectacular as last year when COVID 'safety nets' played a role (eg enabling students to discard their weakest mark). Although firsts grab the headlines, we usually have a good number of students with very strong 2.1s, and some this year would have moved up had a similar safety net been in play. This cohort of third years also deserve great sympathy for having had to endure more than half their time at Hertford under the shadow of COVID, and some students understandably felt compelled to suspend their studies. Nevertheless, our remaining students achieved two excellent Firsts in PPE, while in Computer Science & Philosophy, they managed three high Firsts in the third year and two in the fourth year. Moreover, our outstanding record of University prizes in Computer Science & Philosophy continues to grow, with



Peter Gao narrowly beating Shashvat Shukla to the fourth year Hoare Prize, while the third year Gibbs Prizes were taken by Ewen Edmunds (on the Computer Science papers) and Georgie Lang (in Philosophy). But several of the results that pleased me most came from students who, after enduring quite considerable personal and family difficulties, worked extremely hard to achieve strong 2.1s which might earlier have seemed unlikely. None of this Hertford Philosophy cohort even came close to falling below the 2.1 threshold, and all deserve hearty congratulations for persevering so well through such a difficult time.

Much of the credit for this success is also due to the excellent support that the college has given to our students, and as last year, I feel great pride in the impressive way that our administrative, welfare, catering and domestic staff have pulled together – often at considerable personal cost in time and effort – to give the students the best experience that was possible in the circumstances. As just one example, those who have visited the college recently will have

seen the excellent marquee which has been a central fixture for over a year now, providing a safe and well-ventilated space for students and others to mingle, offering food and drink at appropriate times in a delightful atmosphere. With the students mostly absent over the summer, this has been enterprisingly opened to the public with delicious afternoon teas.

We all hope that the shadow of COVID is now receding, and I for one am trusting in my double vaccination and the responsibility of our students to return to in-person teaching, which will be an absolute delight after so long confined mainly to online interaction (which is particularly inadequate for medium-sized classes). As I write this, we have just had a weekend of long-overdue Gaudies and degree ceremonies, at which it has been a joy to meet up again in person with alumni and recent graduates. It was a particular pleasure at the latest graduation to be giving my congratulations to two former undergraduates who are now continuing with postgraduate study in Philosophy at Hertford after excellent

results, namely Nick D'Aloisio, who has just completed the BPhil and is transferring to the DPhil, and George Hargrave, who has just finished in PPE and is moving into the BPhil. Both clearly have a flair for Philosophy research, achieving superb scores for their theses in Philosophy of Cognitive Science and Moral Philosophy respectively.

In previous reports I haven't said much about the postgraduate philosophy scene at Hertford, and this seems a good opportunity to say more. Since 2017, the numbers have grown significantly, averaging just over three new students per year, with two of these on taught courses and one on the DPhil doctoral programme. The main taught course is the famous BPhil, which brings Oxford the largest cohort of elite Philosophy students to be found anywhere. It is extremely demanding, and many students fail to complete, but all our recent students have made it through. We have also had a small number of students on two relatively new 'Master of Studies' philosophy programmes in Ancient Philosophy and Philosophy of Physics. Taking all three programmes together, we have had six students finishing in 2020 and 2021, with three distinctions, two merits, and one pass. Over a rather longer period, several of our doctoral students – coming from elsewhere to study at Hertford – have completed excellent theses and gone on to academic positions at York (Daniel Morgan), UCL (Simona Aimar), and Pembroke College (James Read). All this is impressive, though we tutors can claim relatively little credit, since postgraduate supervision is done by subject specialists who may be at any college. The other side of this coin is that I have supervised many promising students from other colleges over the years, especially on David Hume.

**MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR THIS SUCCESS IS ALSO DUE TO THE EXCELLENT SUPPORT THAT THE COLLEGE HAS GIVEN TO OUR STUDENTS.**

Two such students who stand out are Nick Tasker, who is now my valued colleague, and Henry Merivale, who went on to teach for a time at Hertford and has since become my long-term collaborator on [www.davidhume.org](http://www.davidhume.org) and [www.turtle.ox.ac.uk](http://www.turtle.ox.ac.uk). Hertford has proved to be a wonderful place for developing great academic and working relationships at many levels.

It's a relatively rare pleasure to supervise postgraduate students whom I previously taught as undergraduates, though over the last couple of years I have done so with both Nick D'Aloisio and Sam Greene (who originally came to us as a visiting student from the US). Significantly more of our undergraduates, around 10 since I started in 2005, have continued in Philosophy elsewhere, often because the funding at Oxford is so limited. Most of them are pursuing an academic career, which is not an easy path, though I believe their talent and commitment gives them excellent chances. One of my earliest students at Hertford, Hsueh Qu (PPE, 2006) has already blazed this trail, after staying at Hertford for the BPhil – with a thesis on Hume which I supervised – and then leaving for NYU,

**WE ALL HOPE THAT THE SHADOW OF COVID IS NOW RECEDING, AND I FOR ONE AM TRUSTING IN MY DOUBLE VACCINATION AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OUR STUDENTS TO RETURN TO IN-PERSON TEACHING, WHICH WILL BE AN ABSOLUTE DELIGHT.**

to pursue a PhD – again on David Hume but from a rather different perspective – with my arch-rival and very good friend, Don Garrett. Qu is now an established Professor at the National University of Singapore, author of an excellent book on *Hume's Epistemological Evolution* (2020), and I am very much looking forward to continuing our debates in the role as Visiting Professor there next year.

The last two years have brought a very unwelcome hiatus in the opportunities to meet up again with friends who have studied Philosophy at Hertford, both before my time and since, both as undergraduates and as postgraduates. I look forward very much indeed to seeing more of you all before too long, and in the meantime, would be delighted to hear your news.



## A life-changing year

Not too long ago, I was a postdoc living a quiet, uneventful life. Then came the spring of 2020. For starters, I got a contract with Transworld (Penguin) to write my first book. A couple

of weeks later a pandemic descended upon us. And a few weeks after that I got my dream job after an online job interview during which, unbeknown to my interviewers, I was barefoot, with a bag of ice under my feet, and wearing shorts because it was so hot in the best Wi-Fi spot at home that it was the only way to avoid sweating during the job talk. Life felt surreal. It still does.

I spent the first lockdown writing at full speed. Who would've thought that writing could be so enjoyable that it would make me forget the pandemic? I spoke my mind in my writing. I argued that surveillance leads to control and to a loss of freedom, and that we should end the trade in personal data because it is a toxic business model. I finished *Privacy Is Power* in about three months and a half, and in the same month that I started working at Hertford it got published. My memory of the months that followed is a blurry whirlwind of busy online meetings, events and tutorials. I don't have a clear recollection of many of the book talks in which I participated, but I'll never forget the very first one.

It was Tom Fletcher who – after a brief friendly introduction, both of us being brand new to our jobs – first asked me how I was doing with organising book talks. I didn't have even a single talk organised and publication was only days away. It simply hadn't occurred to me: I thought my job was done once the book was written! I froze in panic. He then patiently and kindly explained that it was up to me to organise book talks, and that talks were important to make the book known. Tom must've noticed how I turned pale, because very quickly he told me not to worry – he would take care of the first one.

In just over a day he had enlisted the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, HRH Zeid Ra'ad, and Head of the Department of Computer Science, Professor Mike Wooldridge, and Senior Research Fellow at Hertford. Nathan Stazicker, our brilliant Outreach and Communications Officer, designed an elegant image for the event, made sure the tech side worked smoothly, and we were good to go. Sharing the screen with not one but three eminent

persons was daunting. I was nervous. But Professor Peter Millican – who has become an unfailing ally ever since he spent days and a night revising in haste the last proofs for my book – reminded me that I was among friends. And I was. Tom immediately broke the ice and all three showed such generosity and kindness in their comments and their manner that I quickly relaxed into the discussion. We ended up having such an enriching conversation that it inspired the inclusion of a section on diplomacy in the paperback edition of the book.

That event, which has now been viewed over a thousand times, soon mushroomed into more than a hundred talks in a year. I never knew a philosopher could receive so many emails per day, and I still don't know how to cope efficiently with that. Among the many wondrous adventures I've been lucky to enjoy as a result of it all, three stand out: *Privacy Is Power* becoming an *Economist* book of the year; being invited as a witness to the House of

Lords; and winning the Herbert A Simon Award for outstanding research by the International Association for Computing and Philosophy.

I have encountered nothing but kindness and brilliance this year at Hertford, from every single person I've met, and feel extraordinarily lucky and grateful to be a part of this community. What I once found surprising when I was studiously preparing for my job interview – Professor Mike Wooldridge dedicating his book *The Road to Conscious Machines* to the Principal, Fellows and Scholars of Hertford College – now feels entirely understandable and fitting.

I have an idea for a new book. I can't wait to write it – as soon as I finish editing the *Oxford Handbook of Digital Ethics* and find the much-needed funding to get myself some writing time. And I'm counting on Tom to organise the next book launch, if he wouldn't mind. The last one went pretty well.

**I HAVE ENCOUNTERED NOTHING BUT KINDNESS AND BRILLIANCE THIS YEAR AT HERTFORD, FROM EVERY SINGLE PERSON I'VE MET, AND FEEL EXTRAORDINARILY LUCKY AND GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF THIS COMMUNITY.**



## PHYSICS

Professor Siddharth Parameswaran writes:



Needless to say, the first full year under COVID restrictions has meant that the experience of Hertford's physicists has been totally different to past and (hopefully) future years. Lectures were exclusively online, and while some tutorials were able to be held

in-person, the rules around masking and social distancing made them rather less interactive than they would usually have been. Thanks to heroic efforts, practicals were run via a mix of in-person experiments and online computing projects, but were much less hands-on than in previous years. Exams were all take-home, meaning that students had to adapt their well-honed test-taking and revision skills to match the changes to the style of the papers. Despite all these challenges, all year groups came through with quite strong performances. We were especially delighted that one of our exceptional fourth year finalists won both the Scott Prize for the best performance in the MPhys examination and the Gibbs Prize for the best MPhys research project, which was published in a top peer-reviewed journal.

Over the summer, one of our third year students completed a (remote) research internship at the Max Planck Institute for Physics in Dresden, Germany,

studying unusual properties of 'spin ice' magnets. This is a particularly fitting project topic: the Institute's Director, Prof Roderich Moessner, is a leader in the study of these materials, and was himself an undergraduate at Hertford in the 1990s and is now an Honorary Fellow of the college.

Theoretical research in Sid Parameswaran's group has been impacted relatively little by COVID, though we have sorely missed interactive discussions over coffee, which are just starting to revive as we emerge from lockdown. Most notably, the group has made several contributions to a worldwide effort to understand the unusual new states of matter that can emerge in 'moiré systems'. Engineered by gently twisting two atomically thin sheets of carbon or other two-dimensional materials relative to each other, these unusual structures exhibit a rich variety of phenomena ranging from superconductivity and magnetism to more subtle topological features, making them among the most active research areas in physics today. Thanks to the efforts of several graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty, Oxford is becoming a key centre for theoretical and computational study of these systems.

After significant disruption, the major astronomical observatories have resumed operations, albeit in different modes with on-site visits severely curtailed. Nonetheless, analysis of data and publications have continued, and Pat Roche is looking forward to the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope in late 2021 and its eagerly anticipated harvest of infrared observations. Fingers around the world are tightly crossed for a successful mission.

Particle physicists were already used to remote working and excessive Zoom meetings, required to run the large international collaborations at the Large Hadron Collider. Sam Henry has worked on the planned upgrade of the ATLAS experiment, as well as creating content for the physics department's YouTube channel to keep up our public engagement while we are still

stuck at home. This year saw the long-awaited first results from the Muon g-2 experiment, hinting at new scientific phenomena, which Sam worked on.

Otherwise, the cycle of teaching and examination has continued, adapting to changing circumstances and guidance; we all hope that the 2021/22 academic year will be much less interesting...

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# Student Life





# JCR

Caleb Bram (Biology, 2019) writes:

The 2020/21 academic year was arguably one like no other in Hertford's long history. With nearly every aspect of Hertford's operations being affected in one way or another by the pandemic, the JCR's experience of college life was drastically altered to say the least. Everyday customs such as studying in the library or heading to hall for dinner had to be halted and events postponed. However, the story of 2020/21 is not just one of doom and gloom. Though not quite the typical 'Oxford experience', our students, with the help of our dedicated staff, were still able to excel academically and interact as a community using new and old tricks (our biggest trick being the instalment of our wonderful OB Quad marquee!).

Starting in Michaelmas, we welcomed our new first years using a staggered

moving-in window to ensure that all students could arrive safely. The freshers committee, led by George Hobart, provided our new Hertfordians with a mixture of information and entertainment via virtual workshops, quiz and game nights, and a fresher's fair. For the first time ever, new students were matriculated in an online ceremony which students watched in their household bubbles. Despite this, all our freshers still dressed up in traditional sub fusc and were treated to pizza and prosecco in the OB Quad marquee as a post-matriculation celebration. Even those households isolating during the marquee celebrations were paid a visit by the Principal bearing gifts at the bottom of their staircase. The remainder of Michaelmas term was characterised by a spread of online events including



Hertford's cricketers triumph over Worcester in the final of Cuppers



JCR meetings, Hertford Politics and Economics Society talks, BAME and women's networking events for equalities week, and Entz's open mic nights. Of course, the JCR still triumphed in holding some in-person activities too, including the continuation of college sports, marquee quiz nights, and a US election morning breakfast.

Given Hertford's small geographical footprint, balancing the continuation of college services, with the need to maintain social distancing was always going to be a challenge. Fortunately, the college found solutions to many of these obstacles. Library services continued to run, and the baring room was utilised as an alternative study space. The basement gym was moved to the Hollywell common room to provide better ventilation during exercise. A full catering and bar service was provided through the OB Quad marquee and catering staff were able to experiment with various themed food nights, ranging from mezze sharing boards to 'Simon Fried Chicken' named aptly after our Catering Colonel – Simon

Robinson. The JCR's Welfare Officers, Cass Baumberg and Matt Unwin, also made sure to look after isolating households throughout the year by providing them with care packages of groceries, gift cards, card games and library books.

The onset of another national lockdown in January 2021 and new University guidelines meant that the majority of Oxford's students had to spend their Hilary term at home. With fewer than 60 returning undergraduates, all relocated to the Graduate centre, it was certainly a strange experience. As one of those returning students, I recall feeling an eerie atmosphere as I wandered through Oxford's empty streets and past an unoccupied Hertford College on my cold afternoon walks. Indeed, in a normal Hilary term such deserted scenes are only witnessed in the early hours of the morning by those students returning from late-night exploits. Nevertheless, the JCR still found ways to remain productive in every sense of the word. Some students organised a library webroom for online group study, while the welfare team set up online yoga classes and a JCR bake-off competition in welfare week.

Elsewhere, our Access Officer Husna Argandiwal used her time to create 'Humans of Hertford' on Instagram and Facebook, which serves to showcase the diversity of stories and experiences of Hertford students to prospective applicants. Further outreach success came from our Geography students who worked with the outreach team to run an online Geography Club for aspiring school students in Years 10-13. The JCR also continued its charitable efforts during this time. Hertford-themed valentines' cards, designed by our Arts Rep Liberty Hinze, were sold to students and alumni to raise money for the Oxfordshire Homelessness Movement.

To everyone's relief, all students



Watching the Euros on the big screen in the marquee

were able to return for a warm and optimistic Trinity term. Finalists were aided in their revision by the conversion of the Principal's Lodgings into separate study spaces. To keep people motivated throughout the exams season the committee held a daily 'ExecuTea' in the marquee providing free snacks and refreshments for all (although, given the heat, there were more ice creams going around than cups of tea). Charitable works continued with a Ramadan fundraiser organised by BME Rep Sohaib Hassan and fundraising for the Nasio Trust organised by Airi Visser's group of Hertford students who are undertaking a 10-day climb of Mount Kilimanjaro. Trinity term was a huge success for Hertford sports too. Most notable was the impressive campaign of the cricket team in Cuppers as they defeated Worcester in the final to win the tournament. A special thanks is due to our ultra-supporter and Principal Tom Fletcher who turned up to lead our chants and push the team to victory. Off the sports pitch, the JCR funded live screenings of the Champions League and Euros football matches in the OB quad marquee for everyone to enjoy. The back end of Trinity term also saw the long-awaited return of college formals and dinners for our dear finalists

departing the Hertford community.

"Students worked to set biodiversity and net zero commitments as priority actions in the face of an uncertain future – we now form part of the sustainability working group (or the official name for the group) and aid in the continuing journey towards net zero carbon and net biodiversity gain as soon as possible!"

Having given this brief breakdown of the past year I've come to realise the true strength and resilience of Hertford College as an institution. In a year in which ever-changing restrictions on University life have posed serious challenges the JCR has still managed to achieve so much (more than can be mentioned in this short report). Students have embraced new formats of teaching and learning under the pandemic and have been creative in maintaining a sense of community. Undoubtedly, this would not have been possible without the help of college staff who have been attentive to our needs and strive to keep excellent facilities for all of us to enjoy. Heading towards my final term as President, the easing of national restrictions keeps me faithful that Hertford, and Oxford in general, will return to 'normality' and our students will have a Hertford experience more familiar to those who came before us.



# Music

Katherine Lewington (Music, 2019) writes:

It is unsurprising that musical life at Hertford over the past year has not been its usual exciting flurry of rehearsals, concerts and events, but thanks to the optimism and adaptability of the college's musicians, this year has not been without its moments of musical relief.

My first two terms as President of Hertford College Music Society have been somewhat defined by the challenges imposed by the coronavirus restrictions, with most students remaining at home in Hilary term, and limitations continuing into Trinity term. With the help of the newly elected Hertford College Music Society committee, we were able to adapt to the circumstances and continue with our weekly lunchtime recital series 'virtually' throughout the year, with solo and chamber performances streamed

live on the HCMS Facebook page and YouTube channel.

The college choir displayed similar resilience under the leadership of Andrew Liu and William Jeys, Senior and Junior Organ Scholars respectively. Michaelmas term saw the choir perform in atmospheric outdoor chapel services under the Bridge of Sighs. Andrew's remarkable adaptability as director of 'Choirantine' enabled the choir to continue singing from their homes during lockdown, and then Trinity term saw the long-awaited return of choral evensong in chapel. After such an extended break, it was with renewed appreciation and zeal that the choir resumed its twice-weekly gatherings to sing together.

Regretfully, restrictions meant the HCMS committee were unable to run the college orchestra and jazz band this

THE JOY THAT COMES FROM MAKING MUSIC WITH OTHERS HAS BEEN SORELY MISSED BY SO MANY, SO IT IS WITH HUGE ENTHUSIASM THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE ACADEMIC YEAR AHEAD

year. Airi Visser and Riya Wadhwa did an exceptional job as social secretaries in maintaining high morale, running several socials on Zoom that were well-attended and enjoyed by all. These events were especially focused on recruiting freshers for when ensembles restart in the new academic year.

I am grateful to the HCMS committee for their unrelenting enthusiasm in the face of the challenges we have faced over the past year. The joy that comes from making music with others has been sorely missed by so many, so it is with huge enthusiasm that we look forward to the academic year ahead and the possibilities it will hold for music at Hertford.



# Politics and Economics Society

Andrew Smalles (Philosophy, Politics and Economics, 2019) writes:

Just as with virtually every society, the past year has considerably impacted Hertford Politics and Economics Society (HPES). However, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, HPES has showcased an impressive range of speakers over the past year, all freely accessible to all Hertford students and staff over Zoom.

During Michaelmas 2020, we hosted a range of speakers for Tom Fletcher's brilliant 21st Century Survival Skills series, which shone the spotlight on issues particularly important in the modern day, with talks on 'How to Negotiate', as well as digital privacy, being highlights.

**AT THE END OF TRINITY TERM, WE WELCOMED GORDON BROWN FOR A DISCUSSION ON 'SEVEN WAYS TO CHANGE THE WORLD'.**



Gordon Brown on 'Seven Ways to Change the World'



In addition, we were lucky enough to be able to welcome Fiona Bruce, a Hertford alumna, to share her experience of working at the top of the media industry.

At the end of Trinity Term, we welcomed Gordon Brown for a discussion on 'Seven Ways to Change the World', with the issue of vaccine inequality being a particularly topical issue that the former Prime Minister discussed at length. This event drew impressive attendance, with several hundred people tuning in over Zoom to hear Gordon's insights.

All of this goes to show that despite the global pandemic, HPES has remained central to the extra-curricular exploration of politics and economics at Hertford, and is a unique strength of Hertford for anyone studying, or simply interested in, the political and economic sphere.

As the pandemic hopefully continues to unwind over the next few months and we reflect on life over the past year and a half, there will be certain changes that we might wish to keep. Zoom has likely not seen its last days yet! However, as I discovered during my first and second terms at Oxford, HPES events really can offer so much more in-person. The ability to connect closely with speakers and discuss their talks with them over dinner sets HPES apart from other similar college societies. As a result, I am very much hoping that we will be able to enjoy a full programme of in-person HPES events this upcoming Michaelmas. I would encourage everyone interested in politics and economics at Hertford to get involved with HPES over the coming year, as it has been one of the highlights of my experience at Hertford so far, and I'm sure it will remain so in the future.



# Sport

Louis Hudson (Geography, 2019) writes:

This academic year was eventful for Hertford sport in every meaning of the term. While the pandemic had generated every hurdle possible for sports since March last year, college sport fully gained impetus in Trinity term, where there was a real Olympic-esque exhibition of activities.

The men's football club, with a newly promoted top-division 1st XI and a dominant 2XI, were itching to play this year. In Trinity, a newly arranged five-a-side tournament put the teams' prolonged inactivity to the test and allowed a sizeable cohort of eager first years to put the red jersey on for the first time. Both the 1s and 2s fought hard in their respective five-a-side leagues, despite failing to attain very competitive promotion spots. The strongest performance of the tournament came

in a fixture against eventual tournament winners, St Hugh's. The Hertford 2s, led by maverick Tom Evans, managed some impressive wins including a thrashing of Teddy 2s. Ultimately, the football club weathered the pandemic and will be back as strong as ever for the beginning of the next academic year.

Meanwhile, despite a very slow start to the year, Hertford Netball Club firmly defended its place in Div 1. After eight months devoid of any netball practice whatsoever, weekly sessions at Magdalen College School in Trinity Term solidified a great team benefiting from players old and new. In no time, the team proved to be thoroughly deserving of the team's Div 1 status, winning or drawing the majority of their Cuppers matches. Friendly matches against St Hilda's and HCFC also proved very successful, and

the club is excited to be entering another year of more netball opportunities and many more wins.

Using a more oddly shaped ball, the rugby club enjoyed their first outing as a side this year, at Easter at the Oku Memorial Trophy at Richmond Rugby Club. This is an annual memorial tournament where Hertford rugby members both old and new play numerous sides, including London Japanese, Oxford University (OB), Kew Occasionals, and the Commons & Lords. Having taken home the Oku Memorial trophy, Hertford RFC set the sights on the Sevens Rugby Cuppers title at Iffley Road. After finishing second in the group, the side eased past Keble and a competent Corpus Christi side to reach the final against a historically strong Teddy Hall side. Despite a gladiatorial performance by the 'Friendly Red', and impressive fresher performances, Teddy Hall prevailed and HCRFC took home a well-earned silver medal. Off the back of this successful campaign and an incredibly strong intake to the side from freshers, the rugby club looks to put in a strong bid for the Cuppers trophy in Michaelmas next year.

Meanwhile, the last year has thrown more than its fair share of hurdles the Hertford boat club's way. Boathouse president Alison Carrington mentioned she had 'to commend our novice rowers and coxes who returned to Oxford with such enthusiasm and dedication to training; most of the squad who competed in "TorpEights" had not rowed before Trinity term'. Eights week was a highlight for many of the crew, getting on the river and competing with other colleges. The cherry on top was the W1 crew reaching the head of the river on Wednesday. With a strong base of new rowers and coxes, with many continuing to train throughout the summer,





The newly re-formed mixed hockey team

Hertford will have more rowing success next year.

This term also saw the return of a relatively new college sport: water polo. Hertford took part in water polo Cuppers, and despite some close losses managed to win the final match against Linacre post-graduate college. Training at Hinksey lake was a notable highlight of Trinity term.

Moreover, after a long hiatus, Mixed Hertford Hockey resumed this year in Trinity term, with a convincing opening 3-0 win against Magdalen College. Throughout the season, the Freshers proved their worth, Ollie Bingham netting a few goals, Francesca Topel controlling the wings. The club's player of the season was Jacob Gilroy, who gallantly stepped into a goalie kit without having ever played hockey before and conceding only one goal in six games. Overall an excellent season, despite a shock loss meaning the club, missed out on a third place play-off.

In another Cuppers competition, Hertford Tennis, led by Alice Kelly, was

unfortunately defeated by a very strong New College side in the first round. As with all sports, it was also tricky to get badminton going this year. Despite this, Hertford College Badminton Club saw its best season in recent years. Under the captaincy of Barney Johnson, the HCBC squad produced some spectacular play to reach the Cuppers finals where they faced off against Teddy Hall and ultimately finishing in a very respectable second place.

Arguably the greatest college interest was drawn to the more peculiar of sports. An elusively difficult, mentally challenging, and strategically demanding team sport, battled out on the perfectly preserved quad lawns of Oxford's constituent colleges. Following a rigorous application process, involving motivational and competency-based interview questions, assessed by Captain Imad Mohammed Nazar, the team was ready to go for Cuppers. Unfortunately, Nazar's widely reputed croquet team, mainly an assemblage of players new to the sport (but demonstrating raw

passion for croquet), fell at the first hurdle to a strong St Hughes side.

Perhaps the biggest success came from Hertford Cricket, who found themselves finishing top of the University where they swept to a magnificent cuppers victory. In their triumphant Cuppers campaign, Hertford brushed aside Peter's, Magdalen, Exeter, and Univ on their road to the final. The Hertford CC then faced a very strong Worcester College side on the University Parks, before a vocal following, which was amplified by the support from none other than principal Tom Fletcher. Behind the scenes, further support was offered by Simon Robinson, (and his wonderful catering team), who as an avid cricket fan, kindly assumed the role of Head of Hertford Cricket Club Afternoon Tea Provision. In the final, the Worcester supporters, with one less principal supporting their team than Hertford had, and silenced by the deafening Hertford chants, persisted in producing noise levels that would rival the quietness of the Bodleian Library study areas. Ultimately, after a nerve-racking chase, propelled by final year

tacticians Luca Ignatius (Captain) and Hargrave, second year Andrews and first year Foot saw Hertford over the line to beat the likely favourites going into the tournament. The side will look to remain champions of Oxford in 2022.

This performance was a perfect (yet far from the only) exhibition of why Hertford sport is so awesome. College sports obviously faced numerous challenges this year, but Hertford showed its sporting prestige in many ways: from the diversity of sports offered at Hertford, to the overwhelming support college games will draw, but also more importantly an inclusive and friendly culture which will challenge any college in Oxford. It has been a pleasure being involved as the JCR Sports Officer this year and I know Hertford sport will be propelled towards great things this coming academic year.



# Hertford College Boat Club

Penny Hyde (MChem Chemistry, 2015) writes:

After a disappointing end to the last academic year, the HCBC squads took back to training like rowers to water. But just as crews started to hone their technique the country was thrown into another lockdown and the squads were presented with an old enemy – online training. With some creativity and technical assistance, both sides of the club persevered and showed much dedication to the training schedule through the dark months of winter, albeit from their crewmates.

Hilary Term began with the unfortunate but necessary decision to not allow students to return to Oxford as the country entered its third lockdown – this time with no well-defined end in sight. Not to be disheartened, both squads embraced remote training once again with a new challenge – the Hertford

Tour of Europe. By compiling mileage the crews ran, cycled and erg-ed their way to different destinations around Europe, such as Paris and Brussels, ending up back in Oxford in time for Trinity.

With the fresh promise of water time and a bumps campaign, the club returned to almost normal operation. Riding on a second wind of novice recruitment the HCBC was able to establish more crews than in the past four years – two men's and three women's boats. Spurred on by the successes of Hertford's own Adam Teece in the Men's Reserve Boat Race (27 April 2021) and Harriet Thomas, who learnt to row with HCBC, in the Women's Lightweight Boat Race (18 May 2021), all crews were poised and ready for battle in Summer Torpids. Using the start order from Torpids 2019, W1 started second on the river, behind Pembroke. A precision







bow to stern bump secured Hertford's Headship on day two, only to have this cruelly taken away from them after an unfavourable decision by OURCs following a klaxoned race. Although M1 also took a tumble from ninth to 17th, they gave a strong performance from a largely novice squad and showed heaps of potential for the next rowing calendar.

The end of term didn't signal the end of water time for many members of both the men's and women's squads. Riding the wave of enthusiasm from

Trinity three crew from W1 joined forces with the mighty St Edmund Hall W1 for BUCS regatta in Nottingham at the end of June. Following a good qualifier, the girls cranked up the power and places second in their final – losing only to the University of Southampton and pipping the Oxford University Lightweight development squad crew at the finish. The two colleges teamed up once again to race at Henley Town and Visitors regatta. Despite rowing through a monsoon, both 4+ and 8+



crews delivered a good performance but were knocked out in the quarterfinals in a narrow race against Wallingford RC and by an incredibly strong crew from Upper Thames RC respectively. Meanwhile, the men's side have been able to continue operating a regular outing schedule, with many of the crew having only learnt to row in Trinity and are keen to up their game ready for the new year of racing ahead.

Both the individual men's and women's sides have had an excellent year of

rowing despite the setbacks blanketed across the entire rowing community this year. The Hertford College Boat Club as a whole looks forward to another year of success and enjoyment, and to continue with the momentum from the close of this academic year. For more detailed race reports for all crews this year and further information on getting involved with HCBC please see the website at [www.hertfordcollegeboatclub.co.uk](http://www.hertfordcollegeboatclub.co.uk), and check out our Instagram @HECBC. FTD.





# Arts

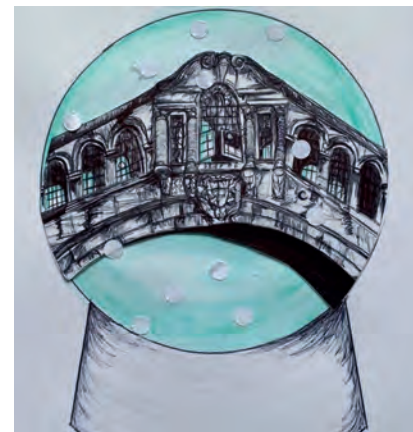
Liberty Hinze (Archaeology and Anthropology, 2019) writes:

The academic year was kicked off by the previous Arts Rep - the wonderful Eve Dickie - who welcomed the new freshers to the arts at Hertford with some very popular origami drop-in sessions over Zoom, and a workshop on creating Matisse-inspired paper cut-outs. Students could sign up and have all the materials they needed delivered to them via their pidges, so that we could all stay safe in the Autumn partial lockdown and create some beautiful artwork to decorate our college rooms with.

Unfortunately at the time I took up the Arts Rep mantle it was in the depths of February, during the winter lockdown when the majority of Hertford students were away from the warm glow of Oxford. Yet, we managed to still stay connected and have a creative outlet

away from college. Through an 'Art Buddy' scheme, students were matched up based on having similar interests in different types of art be it writing, drawing, painting, knitting, acting, music, photography, or embroidery. With some prompts and resources emailed over, the new buddies could collaborate on a piece of art together virtually, during the term and the vacation before Trinity.

Every week I also shared a random art prompt on social media, where anyone could send in their response to it in whatever medium they liked. We had crocheted earrings of clouds with bead raindrops by Hannah Richmond, an owl-shaped plant pot by Amy Leung, a multimedia drawing of our iconic bridge in a snow globe by Teagan Riches, a joy-filled watercolour painting of someone gardening in the rain by Min Luo, a sewn



banner embroidered with important messages made to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage by Alice Reynolds, some incredible photography by Lizzie Bateman and Laura Watson, and many more beautiful submissions.

We also held a few colouring-in sessions, teaming up with the fabulous JCR welfare reps Cass Baumberg and Matt Unwin, to create multi-coloured versions of the Hertford dining hall, Christchurch Meadows, and the Hertford library (complete with Simpkin!).

This year also featured a new termly Open Mic Night! Started as a way of getting to perform over Zoom, students could send in recordings of their musical

talent, or perform live, to be streamed to the college. I was blown away by the skill of all the performers and acts included (amongst many others) classical Spanish guitar, the accordion, musical theatre, and performances of songs written by Hertford students.

In Trinity Term, the Open Mic Night formed part of HARTfest, a yearly festival celebrating the arts at Hertford. Whilst still affected by the restrictions in place across Oxford, we managed to hold a workshop on sun print photography in the Quad, a photo-walk through some of the prettiest spots in Oxford, and a promise for the famous HARTfest Play to return in its full glory in the Autumn.







AFTER  
HERTFORD



## Career pivot

By Rachel Nixon (Modern Languages, 1990)

Wow! You're brave! a friend exclaimed when I told her I planned to walk away from a 20-year career in journalism in favour of a new path – photography.

That became a familiar response as I gradually told people I was going to go to art school to retrain. But my decision didn't feel brave – it felt necessary. My professional and personal priorities had transformed over time, and a layoff gave me the push I needed to pursue my long-held passion.

My own career pivot began in 2018 – a couple of years before the pandemic accelerated the much-discussed 'Great Resignation'. For anyone who might

now be re-evaluating their ambitions, I hope to offer some insights from my own experience.

After graduating with a first in Modern Languages and Literature, I was privileged to work as a journalist and executive developing cutting-edge digital news services. I was one of the first journalists at BBCNews.com, and worked my way up over nine years. Later, I became head of digital media for CBC News in Canada, modernising the corporation's online offerings. As editor-in-chief of MSN News and Sports for Microsoft in the US, I helped reinvent services used by many millions every day.

Each role (plus start-ups along the

way) offered a daily opportunity to innovate in a fast-growing medium for organizations with national and global impact. The early 2000s especially saw a surge in demand for journalism on the internet, boosted by big stories such as 9/11, the war in Iraq, and the death of Pope John Paul II. In these rapidly evolving newsrooms, I advanced quickly and took on ever-increasing responsibility with job titles to match.

By 2018, I felt differently. Digital had long been integrated into mainstream journalism and the pioneering spirit had ebbed away. Years of working unsociable hours had taken their toll, and I was simply less interested in my status in the industry.

Photography, on the other hand, had always been a passion waiting in the wings, and I wanted to give it a proper chance as a creative career with enough years still ahead. To do so, I felt I needed a solid foundation across its artistic, technical and business aspects. So it was that – aged 46 – I found myself alongside classmates mostly in their early 20s.

Upon graduating in September 2019, I decided to specialise in fine art photography – a rarified, highly subjective corner of the profession in which it can take years to establish oneself. I've had to build my reputation from scratch since my journalism career is largely irrelevant to photography tastemakers, so I've focused on submitting work for exhibitions and awards to boost my visibility – with some success. I'm particularly proud to have twice won the prize for abstract photography in the Julia Margaret Cameron Awards for female photographers, as well as having been selected for the 2021 Exposure Photography Festival in Calgary.

COVID has slowed my progress,

causing cancelled exhibitions and discouraging buyers from investing in art. I've also realised I need to keep one foot in my old life for now – editing, and teaching journalism – to support the less financially secure direction I have chosen.

I recognised I have an array of skills and experience to draw on. Hertford taught me a great deal – but especially critical thinking and the ability to present and defend one's work to experts. In journalism I specialised in storytelling and I now embed that in my photography. My experience of running a business, and collaborating with people are also essential to success as a photographer.

For anyone considering their own pivot, then I humbly offer a few suggestions:

- Reflect on what you value and are passionate about, and ensure your new direction is in alignment.
- Review your definition of success. Perhaps it once meant status or money, but now it's more important to be creatively fulfilled, or have more energy for friends and family.
- Outline the skills and experience you can bring to your new career and identify critical gaps.
- Recognise that change rarely happens overnight, so create a plan to support the transition financially, and to track progress.

I have some way to go down my new path, but I've learned that your job needn't define you for life. What you wish for can change many times. If there is a consistent thread, it is to play to your strengths and passions, even though it may be challenging – or brave – to defy others' expectations.

Find Rachel's work at: [rachelnixon.com](http://rachelnixon.com)





'Half Moon Bay (Ucluelet) II' by Rachel Nixon



# From early 1980s EnglishLit to lockdownLit in 2020 via ecocriticism and Dominic Cumming's blog

Janet Mackinnon (English, 1980)

During the first pandemic lockdown, I wrote a (very brief!) history of some major ecological literary discourses for the British Association of Nature Conservationists' journal ECOS.\* A shorter contribution to Hertford's lockdown blogs from the same period helped me complete that larger project, and this is a revised

version of my lockdown post.

Lenin said that sometimes decades pass in weeks, but for me it's been millennia. During a moment of coronavirus lockdown mania, I committed myself to writing a very brief history of major ecological discourses in narrative literature, from Gilgamesh to contemporary DoomerLit. I had the

idea for a short ecocritical odyssey from the Middle Ages to the modern period earlier in the year but had not anticipated undertaking this for a while. Then on a longer than usual lockdown walk, I recalled a useful classification of environmentalism in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and thought this could be applied to five literary ages, including works from the ancient Near East, Greece and Rome. It is as follows:

- Apocalyptic environmentalism in the ancient world
- Redemptive nature in European medieval poetry
- Animal kingdoms in early modern English fiction
- Transcendent ecology in the late modern novel
- Anthropocene narratives in contemporary genres

What was the motivation for this somewhat eccentric project, one might ask. It derives in part from a sort of internalised Bakhtinian discourse – or polyphony – between Lorraine Elliott's five types of environmentalism in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. These are:

- Anthropocentric schools of thought
  - Apocalyptic environmentalism
  - Emancipatory environmentalism (including "green utopianism")
- Biocentric school of thought
  - Social ecology and deep ecology
  - Animal rights
  - Ecofeminism

Psychologically, and in my literary preferences, I incline towards a more apocalyptic worldview, but my professional background is in spatial planning and this shifts me towards emancipatory – even utopian! – and managerialist environmentalism. Then again, philosophically I'm attracted

**LENIN SAID THAT SOMETIMES DECADES PASS IN WEEKS, BUT FOR ME IT'S BEEN MILLENNIA. DURING A MOMENT OF CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN MANIA, I COMMITTED MYSELF TO WRITING A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF MAJOR ECOLOGICAL DISCOURSES IN NARRATIVE LITERATURE, FROM GILGAMESH TO CONTEMPORARY DOOMERLIT.**



to deep ecology and other biocentric perspectives.

Another issue which has been a source of self-questioning since completing my English degree at Hertford concerns the role of the humanities in major ecological discourses. During the mid-1980s, I didn't feel one could be a fully-fledged environmentalist without studying a 'relevant' subject. At the time, a masters in urban and regional planning fulfilled this requirement, but having wrestled with the shortcomings of planning systems over the decades, I've lately felt a need to return to my humanities roots. An introduction to the study of ancient religions provided a missing link in early literature and opened up an historical perspective on environmentalism of which I had hitherto been uninformed. I also discovered modern ecocriticism and the so-called environmental humanities. Neither existed during my Hertford days but if they had I might have pursued a different life path. As it is, lockdown provided an opportunity to rediscover some texts from the early 1980s and revisit the joys of narrative literature with a new ecocritical perspective.

However, I have to confess that another impetus for my little lofty enterprise was, in fact, Dominic Cummings. As is widely known, Mr Cummings is contemptuous about the suitability of Oxbridge English graduates for key roles in government, which he proposed should be occupied by technocrats. Meanwhile, he reminds me of the techno-optimists in C S Lewis's *The Cosmic Trilogy*. For anyone seeking LockdownLit, I would strongly recommend the final book in that series: *That Hideous Strength*. The novel's action revolves around the establishment of a 'National Institute for Controlled Experiments' (or NICE) in a historic English university town. The (then) No

10 adviser's motto was apparently 'Get Brexit done, then ARPA' or Advanced Research Projects Agency. As I don't want to deliver a plot spoiler for Lewis's 'Modern Fairy-story for Grown-Ups', let's just say that all does not go well with NICE. Similarly, a Cambridge professor wrote of the Cummings blog: 'A striking further aspect of (his) worldview is a lively conviction that total disaster for humanity may be right around the corner: as he says darkly, "it's just a matter of when."'.

Whilst I'd appreciate an exchange with Mr Cummings, who studied Ancient and Modern History at Oxford, concerning discourses (literary and otherwise) between apocalyptic environmentalism and techno-optimism, I fear his prejudice against English graduates may prevent this. Along with its other motivations, therefore, my very brief history of major ecological discourses in narrative literature may be a displacement activity for big conversations about the future absent from the contemporary public realm. The good – or bad! – news is that these are very much happening in 'present day' DoomLit. Late 2019 saw the publication by Robert Harris, a Cambridge English graduate, of a brilliant essay entitled 'Apocalypse.com' alongside his novel *The Second Sleep*. Both deal with the theme of global systemic collapse, and the fictional work is set in a future England which has reverted to pre-modern dark pastoral, where monotheistic religion is once again the dominant ideology. Like all good storytellers, Harris captures a certain zeitgeist which has been described as collapsitarian or collapsologist.

*The Second Sleep* received mixed reviews with critics extending praise and some general readers clearly finding its genre bending anthropocene gothic

unsettling. Conversely, *That Hideous Strength's* rich mix of genres, including a magical realism unusual in mid-20th century British novels, divided critics but remains popular outside the academy, especially amongst those interested in CS Lewis's transcendent ecology. What Lewis and great writers from earlier periods, like Jonathan Swift and Geoffrey Chaucer, bring to ecological discourses is a striking, and often discomfiting, combination of moral purpose, irony, and creative ingenuity. Disentangling these provides one of the great benefits of reading their work, inviting engagement with the essential ambiguity of a human condition that modern ecocriticism describes as fractured. One of the learnings I most value from my literary studies is the assistance these provide when dealing with ambiguity. I may be prejudiced but, in my experience, people with some background in literature – whether academic or through personal reading of the canon – are generally better equipped to disentangle fact and fantasy in the so-called real world.

Postscript: As I write the 2021 United Nations COP26 Climate Change Conference is reaching its final stages. In the preamble to this event, even our famously ebullient prime minister (another Oxford humanities graduate) engaged in a dalliance (or perhaps something more serious) with collapsitarian pessimism, as a classicist reminding us of the fall of the Roman Empire.

Mackinnon, Janet 'A history of some major ecological literary discourses' *ECOS* vol. 41(6), 2020, *British Association of Nature Conservationists*, [www.ecos.org.uk/a-history-of-some-major-ecological-literature/](http://www.ecos.org.uk/a-history-of-some-major-ecological-literature/)

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GOTHIC UNSETTLING.**

# Alumni News

## PAUL MANDUCA (MODERN LANGUAGES, 1970)

Having retired from the Prudential Group plc after 10 years on the Board and eight and a half as Chairman, he joined St James's Place plc as Chairman designate on 1 January 2021 and was elected Chairman in May 2021. In September 2021 he was elected Chairman of W.A.G. payment solutions plc, one of the largest logistics companies in Europe. He continues as Chairman of Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust plc.

## SARAH WALKER (PPE 1975) AND TIM WHEELER (PHYSICS 1974)

Congratulations to Sarah and Tim who celebrated a civil partnership in March 2020, 42 years after their engagement party in the Octagon in January 1978.

## JOHN DEWAR (JURISPRUDENCE, 1977)

was elected Chair of Universities Australia. John relocated to Australia in 1995, and has held senior leadership positions at Griffith University, the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University, where he has been Vice-Chancellor since 2012. In 2020, he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in recognition of his distinguished service to education and professional organisations.

**CLAUDE LEBRUN (MATHEMATICS, 1977)** was recently elevated to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at Stony Brook University.

## THREE HERTFORDIANS RECEIVED HONOURS THIS YEAR.

Professor Sir David Stuart FRS FMedSci, Hertford's Senior Research Fellow in Medicine, received a knighthood in the New Year Honours list for services to medical research and the scientific community. In the Queen's Birthday Honours, Michael Adamson (Economics, 1982) was awarded a CBE for services to the humanitarian sector and the Red Cross Movement, and Elinor Buxton (Physics and Philosophy, 2006) was awarded an MBE for services to British foreign policy.



## JAMES HAWES (HISTORY AND MODERN LANGUAGES, 1978)

was particularly delighted with Hatchard's window display in Piccadilly this August; placed almost next to his Times top 10 bestseller, The Shortest History of England, was a Dunlop Maxply tennis racquet exactly like the one with which he played for the College all those years ago.

## ROS DHARAMPAL (PPE, 1981)

After graduating, Ros worked in television for 10 years and became a political correspondent. She has now completed my medical training and

began her first consultant post in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Royal Free Hospital, London, in May.

**ANDREW LATIMER (JURISPRUDENCE, 1990)** was appointed as Recorder to the Criminal division on the North Eastern Circuit.

**AARON PUNWANI (MATHEMATICS, 1993)** has won the "Transformational Leader" category for London and South East in the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021 programme. He is the CEO of the Actuary firm Lane, Clark and Peacock.

## DR WANDA WYPORSKA (MODERN HISTORY, 1997)

on 1 October, Wanda took up the role of CEO of the Society of Genealogists, returning to her roots in social history. The Society was founded in 1911 and houses rich archival, library and pedigree collections available online and to members, including records pertaining to South East Asia and the West Indies. She is thrilled and slightly daunted to be in charge of a library and archive, but urges anyone with an interest in genealogy and family history to get in touch.

## LUKE MACLEOD (PPE, 2007)

Congratulations to Luke MacLeod and Will Maynard (Oriel, PPE, 2007) who celebrated their marriage on 3 September 2021 at Hertford followed by the Divinity School.





# Obituaries

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

**1934**

David Mure\*

**1944**

Derek Conran \*  
John Russell

**1947**

John Pulford \*

**1948**

Patrick Jackson-Feilden

**1950**

Peter Green  
Christian Stroker

**1951**

John Flint

**1952**

Trevor Cowlett \*  
Colin Morgan  
Alan Richards  
Louis Stott

**1954**

Peter Dommett  
Donald McLeod \*  
John Robert Torrance \*

**1957**

Peter Whiteman \*

**1958**

Brian Wilson

**1959**

Charles Gibson \*  
Alastair McHugh

**1960**

Charles Elly \*  
Michael Perman \*  
Lord (Tony) Greaves \*

**1961**

William Malvern  
John Heilpern \*

**1962**

Neil Nuttall

**1969**

John Marsh

**1970**

David Carter \*  
Stephen Davies

**1972**

Charles Pichon  
Charlie Kemmis-Betty

**1979**

Peter Randall

**1981**

Joanna Kirk

**1988**

George Marshall

## John Robert Torrance

John was an Emeritus Fellow of the college, having taught politics here for many years, and was a specialist in Marx. He was also unique in having served two terms in the office of Vice Principal. This period coincided with the

era when Hertford was transformed – as described by John in his obituary of Principal Geoffrey Warnock – from “one of smallest, poorest, and least regarded of Oxford men’s colleges into a mixed, middle-sized college with sound finances, new buildings, an expanding fellowship, a progressive admissions policy and good academic results.” We owe him a great debt.

In retirement, John wrote poetry which was published in the collection *Waterwheel* (Overstep Books, 2013). One section features poems written for his friend from school days, the poet and writer, Jan Farquharson, who was dying of cancer. It includes a poem called *Twilight* which is shared below.

We remember John’s humour, intelligence and commitment to Hertford.

Twilight gathers in the bedroom window.  
Rachmaninoff in a minor key, turned low,  
wanders on melancholy steppes of sound,  
and shadows, rising from the ground,  
climb up the trees, which sway a little,  
like anchored ships.  
I spoon soft mouthfuls between her  
slackened lips.

Mornings return and light up the wild plum  
day after day. She lingers, but it’s time  
to go.

No more fighting now, my darling. Come,  
the battle’s over. You won it long ago.

Dear emptying head, as you slip into  
emptiness  
be like a river that joins the sea-surge,  
nothing more left now for drowning or  
shipwreck,  
just a current that fills as the waters  
merge.

**David Mure (1934)**

David Mure was born in 1916 and died on 1st July 2020, aged 103, and was educated at Lancing, Oxford and Royal Agricultural College. His first job was as assistant land agent at Petworth Estate. In 1937, he joined the TA and on 1st September 1939, on the first day of the war was called up. He remembered a holiday in Munich in 1937, the sight of the Hitler Youth strutting about in their uniform and jack boots. He was reprimanded by them for not taking off his hat at the cenotaph. He could have avoided service, being in a reserved occupation, however because of this experience and his sense of duty to his country, he chose to join.

He went to France and Belgium as part of British Expeditionary Force BEF in May 1940, and became a platoon commander aged 24. He rarely spoke about his experience, but it is fair to say he was in 'the thick of it', engaging with the enemy. Luckily he was just a few hours or sometimes even minutes behind the death and destruction which was the retreat to Dunkirk. He arrived at the beach with other men picked up from other regiments where he saw 'thousands and thousands lined up waiting'. He was fortunate to get his men onto The Mole and then onto a crammed tight cross channel steamer, which later went aground and was towed off by a tug!

Afterwards he did home defence roles and then became assistant adjutant of Irish Guards, being made up to rank of Captain. He was demobbed in 1946 and went into farming with the Pym family at Barnfield and, later, his own at Pevington Farm where he farmed pigs, sheep and fruit. He won a national award for outstanding pig performance, including for 'the most number of

pigs per sow per year'. He helped the late Robin Leigh Pemberton (Lord Kingsdown) with his estate at Torry Hill in 1950's and remained close friends. He said they were the happiest of times.

He served as a Justice of the Peace in Ashford for over 30 years and as a church warden. He had a special affinity with dogs, who all loved him. He enjoyed Cornwall and boating and used to ski on a ski bike!

In 1968, David married Bridget Wickham, a widow 16 years his junior (to whom he had previously been engaged) with 3 children aged 7,6 and 4. He brought them up as his own. Bridget pre-deceased him, and he is survived by 3 stepchildren and 4 step-grandchildren.

When asked the secret to his longevity, the answer could be always thinking about and making plans for the future which included planting trees, and daily walks with his dogs. He was kind, gentle and caring, always interested in others whoever they were, there to give advice when needed, a friend to many and a true gentleman.

**Derek Henry Conran TD MA FRSA.  
(Modern History, 1944)**

*Derek Conran holds a special place among Hertford Graduates. Perhaps no other Member has done so much in so many capacities to foster the continuing connection between the College and its Old Members. So begins a profile of Derek in the 2001 Hertford Record. Few would dare to disagree with this sentiment, and I gladly acknowledged that this interview is the basis for a great deal of what follows.*

Derek was born in Paddington, London, on 26 October 1926, to a well to do family who lived in Hove, Sussex.

He went to school at Brighton College and had fond memories of that time. Upon finishing his schooling in 1944, the Headmaster of Brighton College suggested that he apply for a Cadet Commission, spending six months at a university as an army officer cadet with the promise of a return to the same University afterwards. Derek was informed by the War Office that he had gained a place at Hertford College, Oxford, an institution of which he confessed he had never heard. He was to undertake the Royal Armoured Corps Short Course.

After basic training and kitting out in Northampton, he and others went by train to Oxford. They were marched in full order from the Railway Station into the town. Every so often the column was ordered to halt, some names were read out and those men were ordered to 'fall out'. Outside Hertford his name was called out with four others. Derek thought the College rather decrepit and uninviting but the Bursar, Bill Ferrar, had done his stuff. They were quickly found rooms and given a substantial hot meal! They were treated exactly like undergraduates, of whom there were still a few around, even to the point of wearing gowns in Hall over their military uniforms. There were only a few of the older Fellows in residence who did not teach but dined with them.

The plan was that they spent 3 days a week on military training and 3 days on their academic pursuits. Sundays were free, though Derek wryly commented that he spent most of that day cleaning kit!

At the end of the six months, they had to take an exam rather like Prelims. If successful, which Derek was, a place at Hertford on return to civilian life was pretty much guaranteed. Meanwhile, commissioned into the Royal Tank

Regiment, he saw active service in Austria, Italy and the Suez Canal Zone. Demobilised in 1948, he determined to take up his studies at Hertford once more. He sent several letters to Principal Murphy enquiring about his position but received no reply! His father advised him to go up to Oxford at the beginning of term, announce his arrival and take things from there. Fortunately, while he was in the College Lodge, Murphy himself came wandering through. "Ah, Mr Conran", he said, "Welcome back. We were wondering what had happened to you."

Derek read Modern History under Felix Markham and took his MA degree in 1951. He then joined British Aluminium in its various guises and spent the next 18 years selling their product, or rather the company, to prospective clients. He retained an interest in the army world, being commissioned in 1954 into the Territorial Army, from which he retired in 1969 with the rank of Major. He was awarded the Territorial Decoration. He became President of the Banbury and Oxford branch of the Royal Tank Regimental Association and for many years he organised reunions of the 1944/45 Royal Armoured Corps Short Course participants.

It was about 1960 that the first stirrings were evident that the College was soon to emerge from its 700-year slumber, and Derek was there from the outset. At a Gaudy in that year a group of diners, headed by Bill Atkinson, conceived the idea that the College should have a Society for old Members such as existed in many other Colleges, so that Members could have more regular contact than a Gaudy every ten years. They took the idea to Principal Ferrar who embraced it warmly, while stressing that the Society would have to consume its own smoke.

The Hertford Society was formally



instituted at a Reception in Lincoln's Inn in January 1962. Derek Conran was co-opted onto the Committee at its first meeting, and subsequently served as Secretary from 1965 to 1976 and Chairman from 1976 to 1987, a period of 22 years in all. He then continued as Vice President.

At about this time the Indian Institute became available, which would have been eminently suitable for expansion by Hertford. In 1967 an Appeal was decided upon and put in the hands of a professional fundraiser. Derek, with Tony Ryder as Society Treasurer, was able to give much assistance in identifying the current addresses of Members who had joined the Society. By 1970 £129,000 had been raised, roughly £2 million in current prices (2020).

Sadly, the Indian Institute dream faded, the University having made it clear that it had other plans. But another, even more exciting possibility emerged. Merton College owned a row of near derelict cottages in Holywell Street, which they were prepared to let the College have on advantageous terms. Realising that there was enough land to build an entirely new Quad, albeit of modest proportions, the College agreed.

A further appeal was launched. This time the Principal, Sir Lindor Brown, asked Derek if he would agree to be the Appeal Director, taking a two-year sabbatical from his job. Derek was to live in College in a Fellow's set in OB II. The Appeal moved quickly into being, with the usual brochures, regional committees, dinners, and other events.

An initial plan was devised to completely demolish the Holywell houses and replace them with buildings in the current 'plate glass' idiom. The College was uneasy about this and not unhappy when Oxford Council threw it out. Derek suggested that the College

should seek the help of Bill Atkinson, Secretary of the RIBA, and he arranged a lunch with Sir Peter Shephard, the then President. He immediately indicated that he would be prepared to produce some plans himself which would satisfy the Council by retaining the Holywell frontages. Building work proceeded apace and the new Holywell Quad was opened by Harold Macmillan as Chancellor and Visitor.

Derek continued to work as Secretary of the Appeals Committee tidying up any loose ends with donors on a voluntary basis, and decided that he would not return to the aluminium industry, instead continuing in the fundraising field. His first attempt was not a success. He joined Cranfield Management College near Bedford, with, as Derek put it, nothing but cabbages as far as the eye could see. He was very much an outsider there and cut off from his old spheres of activity in Oxford and London. Fortunately in 1972 the Principal of Henley Management College, where Derek had been Chairman of the Old Henley Members Association, asked him to become their Director of External Affairs. The post really involved 'selling' the College, now part of Reading University, and its many different courses to public and private sector bodies, at home and abroad.

Derek moved to a flat in Water Eaton Road in North Oxford with views across the Cherwell meadows. It was a very happy time in his life. It also enabled him to indulge his interest in rowing. He became a Member of the Stewards' Enclosure and an Associate (i.e. non rowing) Member of Leander. Many of his friends will recall Regatta Week when Derek would take a car park space for the entire five days and entertain with copious amounts of Pimms and champagne to wash down

cold collations foraged from the Oxford Market and elsewhere. Derek usually tried to include some members of the College Boat Club on one of his days, particularly if any were rowing. He was a regular financial supporter of College rowing and was elected first Chairman of the Boat Club Society. He even had a boat named after him.

Derek retired from Henley in 1988, conveniently in time to allow him to indulge another long-cherished enthusiasm. He became Vice Chairman of the Oxford and Cambridge Club from 1986 to 1988 and then Chairman from 1988 to 1990. He was already a member of Hurlingham and kept that on as well!

Derek continued to be seen regularly in Hertford and he became a one-man Development office. He dealt with correspondence from old members, collected subscriptions and donations, and scrupulously maintained his famous card index. He edited the College Record for some years and one edition of the College Magazine. This also gave him reason to lunch and dine in College as a member of the SCR and to attend Evensong regularly. He gradually withdrew from this work in 1996 when the College decided to set up a formal Development Office.

Derek had many other interests. He had been a Council Member of the Oxford Society before the Jenkins' reforms, he was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and Science and he was a sidesman at Oxford Cathedral. In his life he had suffered some illness and after a brush with cancer he decided to move to the Lady Nuffield Home in Summertown. To the surprise of many, he seemed then to retire from public life. He was no longer seen at his Club or at Henley and his visits to Hertford became infrequent.

His geniality, his generosity and

his loyalty to his friends and the organisations he belonged to were never in doubt. The word 'clubbable' might have been specially invented for Derek. But for over half a century his life was inextricably linked to the growth and development of Hertford College, uniquely perhaps for an old member who for most of that time had no formal position. He died on 26th November 2020, at the age of 94. The War Office chose well in 1944. He is greatly missed.

With thanks to Jeffrey Preston (1959)

#### Charles Gibson (Literae Humaniorum, 1959)

Charles Gibson was born on 9th July 1941 at the Imperial Nursing Home, Cheltenham. His father was the Revd Andrew Gibson, a former member of Hertford College who died in 1961, while Charles was still an undergraduate. His mother came from a long line of Hamiltons, mostly distinguished military men, one of whom received a VC, also for action in India. Through his mother, Charles was amused to be able to claim as ancestors both Charles II and Thomas Cromwell!

Charles was educated at the Sherborne Prep School and subsequently at Sherborne School itself. We both turned up at Hertford in December 1958 to take the scholarship exams in the hope of being accepted to read old style Mods and Greats. The exams and interviews were very tough and we were relieved to return to College each evening for tea and later, of course, dinner. Charles's mordant wit and effervescent personality, together with an ability for mimicry, immediately marked him out. On our final evening someone got hold of a bottle of College Port to mark the end of our ordeal. Little did I know then

that the evening would be the first of many such. Suffice it to say that the College wisely awarded Scholarships to both of us as well as to several other applicants.

We matriculated in October 1959, the last group to do so in the Sheldonian before its six-year closure for rebuilding. Hertford was at a critical point of change in its history. Neville Murphy had just retired as Principal after being in post for twenty years. His successor, Dr William Ferrar, had hopes for renewal and expansion of the College, one of the two smallest in the University. The SCR had also recently seen the loss of such long serving stalwarts as Fifoot, Hignett and Denniston, whose mighty tome on Greek Particles had not long been published.

There was unfortunately no replacement Mods tutor and for Greats both the Ancient History and the Philosophy tutors were very recently appointed. Gerry Fowler held the former position until he left to become a Labour MP and Minister in one of the Wilson governments, but Richard Malpas taught philosophy until his retirement. For Mods, Charles and the rest of the classicists were farmed out to Margaret Hubbard, a brilliant young don at St Anne's and protégée of the renowned Dr Fränkel. As St Anne's did not yet have any buildings of its own, she shared a house in Bevington Road with Iris Murdoch, novelist and playwright then at the peak of her success. Iris was their philosophy Fellow. She sometimes dropped in on tutorials, usually to borrow cigarettes, which added to the tutorials' entertainment value, if not one's grasp of Greek and Latin.

Although Charles had deliberately chosen to read Mods and Greats rather than Law, it had always been his firm ambition to try for the Bar. This led

him to a course of action which had a profound effect on the rest of his life. On going down in 1963 he decided to take a year off at home in Colwall so that he could earn some money and begin his law studies. He got a job teaching at The Elms prep school. Another schoolmaster there introduced Charles to the Schoolmasters Wine Club and persuaded him to join a two week tour to Bordeaux during 1964. This was the beginning of a lifelong love of and interest in fine vintage wines. More importantly, he met on the tour the man who was to become his father in law, Geoffrey Rowntree, of the York Rowntrees. Soon afterwards Geoffrey and one or two friends decided to set up their own Society called The Winetasters which would be London based and would concentrate more particularly on regular tastings as well as tours. Charles immediately joined in.

Geoffrey's daughter, Susan, also took part in these tastings and wine tours, sometimes with the family and sometimes independently. On a tour of Alsace in 1968 love blossomed amid the Rieslings and Gewurtztraminers and Charles and Sue decided to marry. The wedding took place at Ashdon in Essex in 1969 and I was honoured to be Charles's best man. Largely thanks to the efforts of connoisseurs like Charles and Sue, the Society is still flourishing today, over 50 years later. They were both long standing Committee members and Charles served at least twice as Chairman and as President.

Meanwhile, in his career Charles had secured an introduction to a Bencher at Lincoln's Inn and to a highly successful barrister who agreed to be his pupil master. Having steered his way through the Bar exams, he was offered a place in the same Chambers in the Temple in which he had been working, pipping to

the post several other candidates, one of whom later became Lord Chancellor! He and Sue duly settled in Streatham where they lived for their entire married life. Soon their marriage was blessed by the addition of two lovely daughters, Catherine and Rachel.

Charles had a successful general practice at the Bar dealing with the whole range of civil and criminal work but as he became more senior, he tended to concentrate on cases involving claims of medical negligence and inquiries into hospitals, particularly psychiatric, where things appeared to have gone wrong. While taking silk was not out of the question, he decided that the prospect of the Bench had more appeal. Thus, he began to sit part time in 1987, was appointed a Recorder in 1991 and became a Circuit Judge in 1996. Based principally in the Inner London Crown Court and the County Courts of Lambeth and Woolwich, he experienced the full range of difficult cases that could be expected in areas which combined wealth and also considerable deprivation. In 2004 he also began to take on work involving Tribunals under the Mental Health Act, cases which generally called for the judgement of Solomon. He continued with this important work for a while after his retirement from the Bench.

Throughout his life Charles remained close to Hertford College. He had been an early member of the Hertford Society and he and Sue were regular attenders at as many functions as they could manage. Charles joined the Society Committee in 1986 and remained a member for 33 years until 2019. He was elected Chairman of the Society in 2004 and held office until 2012. This was a tricky period when the newly expanded Development Office took on an official role in relation to alumni, and they and

the Hertford Society had to seek to avoid duplication of effort or treading on each other's toes. Needless to say, Charles was deftness itself at smoothing things over and keeping the peace. On leaving office as Chairman he remained on the Committee and became a Vice President.

Although not a player himself because of eyesight problems, he was a passionate follower of cricket. He also had a great love of classical music, particularly the orchestral works of later composers such as Elgar and Vaughan Williams. His CD collection was extensive! He and Sue were regulars at the theatre and cinema. Charles was also a valued member of the Oxford and Cambridge Club in Pall Mall and he and Sue were usually to be seen each year at the Henley Royal Regatta. He was also an early member of the P.G. Wodehouse Society.

In 2018 after a series of unexplained health problems he was diagnosed as having non Hodgkins lymphoma of a particularly aggressive nature. There followed lengthy treatment at St George's Tooting and elsewhere, with periods of remission which gave hope of possible full recovery. But it was not to be. Towards the end of 2020 he was told that the lymphoma had returned once more and was widespread. No curative treatment was possible.

Charles bore this blow with his customary phlegm, aided by the support of his wife and family and by his lifelong strong Christian faith. He died peacefully at home on 30 December 2020, and his funeral took place under Covid restrictions on 29th January, 2021, at St Leonard's Church, Streatham, where he and Sue had worshipped regularly for over fifty years. Despite restrictions on numbers, Roger Westbrook (1960) and I were able to represent the Hertford



community in person and many others followed the service on a live video link. He is survived by Sue, of course, and by his two daughters, Catherine and Rachel, as well as by his beloved granddaughter, Imogen, whom he longed to see again, living in Australia with Rachel and John, her mother and father. They were also able to take part in the funeral service through a live link with Melbourne.

During the long vacations Charles had a job delivering Schweppes mixers from their Colwall depot to pubs in the area. At first Schweppes were not sure that this would be suitable work for the vicar's son, as a free pint was often involved. They did not know their man! He was a great character in the true Hertford tradition. He considerably enriched the lives of his family and friends and he is greatly missed by all of us. His wit and good humour, his quickness and sharpness of intellect and his phenomenal memory for people met, for places visited, for lunches and dinners enjoyed, and particularly for wine consumed, made him a congenial companion and a stimulating and loyal friend.

With thanks to Jeffrey Preston (1959)

#### Charles Elly (Jurisprudence, 1960)

Born 20 March 1942 and died 27 March 2021. He came up to Oxford in 1960 where he read Jurisprudence. He was very active in the legal profession, culminating in his presidency of the Law Society in 1994/5. Shortly after his election to president, he switched from law practice as a solicitor to the judiciary, becoming a circuit judge specialising in family proceedings, first at Kingston and then at Reading. Retirement did not slow his pace, and he was Deputy Lieutenant, Chair of the Berkshire

Gardens Trust and Chair of the Marlow Educational Trust, whilst also chairing the local village club and horticultural society. He had a keen interest in the arts, particularly opera and ballet, and was heavily involved in NADFAS. He had undertaken almost every role in his local parish of Crookham Dean, and was Chair of the Diocesan Trust of Oxford.

#### David Carter (Physics, 1970)

David's son Stephen writes:

His life and career was in academics and observational astronomy following Hertford:

He went on to study his PhD in 1977 at the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge, work at the Anglo Australian Observatory where he was involved in the identification of shell-type 'Malin-Carter elliptical galaxies', then later was head of La Palma Support for the Royal Greenwich Observatory, Project Scientist for the Liverpool Telescope and Head of Research and Professor of Observational Astronomy at the Astrophysics Research Institute at Liverpool John Moores University.

#### John Pulford (Modern History, 1947)

John Sydney Leslie Pulford was born on the 19th April 1925 in Rye, East Sussex. He was evacuated from Rye to Bedford with many of the staff and pupils of Rye Grammar School in 1940. Whilst there, he joined the school division of the Air Training Corp and after completing his 6th form studies and exams in 1943, joined the RAF at Cardington a few miles away.

On leaving the RAF, he was offered a place at Hertford College in 1947, where

he read Modern History and gained a Bachelor of Arts degree (second class honours) in 1950. He was married in 1948 and settled with his wife in the village of Bladon where they lived for the duration of his studies. He was awarded a Master of Arts degree in 1954. During the end of his time at Oxford he passed the Civil Service Open Executives Class examination and was appointed to the Estate Duty Office where he spent the next 10 years. He studied for the Bar Examinations in his spare time and was called to the Bar in 1955 at the Middle Temple.

In September 1960 he was appointed Deputy Chief Clerk in the Metropolitan Magistrates' Courts Service spending his first year at Bow Street Magistrates' Court. In 1962 he became the senior Deputy Chief Clerk at South Western Magistrates' Court and in 1968 started at the Inner London Juvenile Courts where he remained until 1977.

In 1985 he retired from the post of Senior Chief Clerk at Thames Magistrates' Court so that he could concentrate on his family, a love of local and family history, travel, the opera and many other aspects of life. He died peacefully in October aged 95. His wife Dorothy predeceased him by 15 years.

#### Peter Whiteman (Jurisprudence, 1957)

Peter's daughter, Georgina Antony, writes:

Peter was born on 21 November 1936 and died 13 February 2020. He went up to Hertford College, his father's former college, to read law in 1957, playing rugby and cricket and rowing while completing his degree. He made a life-long group of friends who continued to meet up regularly for 'Gordys' and other events, becoming known as 'the old fools'.

Prior to Oxford he was educated at Rugby School and did his National Service (Cyprus, Bahrain and Aden) with the Gloucestershire (later Wessex) Regiment where he had a long and distinguished career with as a Territorial Officer culminating as the second in command of the territorial battalion.

He completed his articles in London in 1963 and returned to Gloucester to work in the family solicitors' firm till he retired in 2003. During this time he was appointed a Recorder and sat on the Western Circuit 1981-2002. He served on the Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Law Society, the Gloucester Legal Association, the board of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society and the Severn Vale Investment Club. He also served on his village PCC, Parish Council, local charities and as a school governor.

He married Judy in 1963 and they had five children, William and Charlie, Georgina, Catherine and Nicola. He passed on his love of the outdoors and sport, in particular tennis and golf, but his main passion was horses, and in his retirement he bred horses. He was still riding well into his 70s and was Chairman of the Gloucestershire Branch of the British Horse Society 2003-9.

He leaves his wife, five children and ten grandchildren.

#### Trevor A Cowlett (Music, 1952)

Trevor Cowlett was the founder and musical director of Kennington and District United Church Choir. He formed the seventy strong choir at the end of 1973 and it embarked on forty seven years of singing for local, national and international charities raising over £500,000: an amazing achievement for a local amateur choir.

Trevor was born in Twickenham, in 1932, where he met his future wife Brenda Williams who died in 1995. His family moved to Bourne End during the war and the talented teenager was much in demand as an organist especially for weddings. From 1950 to 1952 Trevor did National Service at RAF Wattisham, in charge of tele-communications. Trevor was awarded an organ scholarship at Hertford College (Oxford), where he founded a choir bringing in young women from the ladies' colleges.

After graduation he married Brenda and they bought a house in Kennington where he lived until his death on April 29. Between 1957 and 1962, Trevor was Head of Music at Larkmead School in Abingdon. He then set up as a private music tutor, teaching more than 100 students the piano, organ and other keyboard instruments each fortnight in his Kennington home for almost 60 years. Brenda and Trevor also ran the Kennington nursery school for 40 years, from their house.

In the early 1960s, Methodists in Kennington had begun meeting in various homes around the village, but Trevor had the ambition to build a church. "We had no money, and we had no land. But the determination was there." The church opened on Saturday, October 29th 1967 free from debt.

When Trevor was featured in the Oxford Castaways series for this newspaper, he was frank about the time he suffered from agoraphobia. He also described how he overcame it.

In the autumn of 2011, Trevor had kidney failure and had been on dialysis ever since. In the same year he was awarded the MBE for services to music. These include 50 years of singing Christmas carols calling at every home in Kennington and accompanying villagers on his accordion to raise £50,000 for

special needs children at Penhurst School, Chipping Norton.

Trevor was one of the founder members of Kennington Overseas Aid (KOA) and every year for half a century organised a fundraising concert for that year's project. In acknowledgement of that KOA's chairperson, Sylvia Vetta, wrote a history of the choir Trevor founded. He asked for it to be titled ***I Love You All*** because that is what he said to the choir at the end of every performance.

The funeral service will take place in Kennington Methodist Church – a significant place in Trevor's life. Because of restrictions only 30 people can attend but the family would love his friends in the village, the choir and from all the charities he generously supported to line Upper Road to say farewell. The family and the choir hope to organise a memorial event later in the year.

Trevor leaves three children, David, Peter and Mary and three grandchildren, Jonathan, Christina and Victoria.

#### John Michael Perman (Modern History, 1960)

Michael Perman died in the USA after a long and successful career in the history faculty of the University of Chicago at Illinois.

David L Smith writes: 'He remained a great friend, albeit always at a distance. I had kept in touch with him until a couple of years ago and his death is a sad blow to me, my wife and his other UK friends, especially those who spent happy days with him in Oxford at the beginning of the sixties.'

Dr Nigel Bowles writes: 'Michael Perman was a most distinguished scholar who contributed greatly to

understanding of Reconstruction, and of Reconstruction's failure. To have won the V.O. Key prize, as he did, is as great an honour as the profession can bestow.'

#### Donald Reginald McLeod (Literae Humaniorae, 1954)

Donald was born in Calcutta on 10 February 1934; his father was a New Zealand Scot and his mother English, and he had a younger brother, Ian.

After prep school in Darjeeling (he well remembered the small steam train that took him there and flying paper aeroplanes from the terraces which floated the thousands of feet down to the valley floor) the family returned to the UK, and after prep school in Worcestershire, he went to Uppingham and then to National Service with the Royal Artillery (AA), ending as a lieutenant via Oswestry and Mons. His motorcycling skills, learned young on a BSA Bantam, proved valuable, when as part of the British Army on the Rhine he was marshalling convoys of artillery on the move. Donald reckoned that doing his National Service before going up to Hertford was wise, but he did not find it completely easy to settle back to academic life. Notwithstanding, he achieved a Second in Greats (Literae Humaniores), played tennis for the University, and continued with the horn, including playing for a performance of Verdi's Macbeth, recalling that the leading role was played by Heather Harper in her debut performance.

In 1958 he joined ICI and married Patricia Beesly in 1960. They had three

children, James, Fiona and Caroline. His work meant many moves: Edinburgh, Cheshire, Surrey, Connecticut, Cheshire, Glasgow and Cheshire again, where he retired early in 1989 on ill health grounds.

Following retirement, he was far from idle. He played tennis and golf for as long as he could and shot and fished up to 2019. He also started a second career volunteering in useful and significant roles in the community. Amongst others, he was a General Commissioner of Income Tax, held several posts in community health including chairing an inquiry into suicides, was trustee and Chairman of Trustees at Tabley House Trust, President of the Wilmslow Arts Society, was much involved in the local Conservative Party and longest of all was a governor and then Chair of Governors at Chelford CoE Primary School, where his work rescued the school from almost certain closure. His love of music continued, and he sang in choirs in Greenwich (CT), Helensburgh, and Wilmslow, and was a longstanding member and then choirmaster of Chelford Church choir.

Donald was also a much-valued member of the Macclesfield Old Boys Club, and in particular of its poetry group, his lifelong love of poetry and writing enabling him to recite, inter alia, 'Horatius' in full without error – he retained an astonishing memory for verse and ben trovato stories. To all these roles he brought wisdom, common sense, generosity of spirit, energy and subtle wit. One letter received after his death, echoing what was said by many others, observed that 'he left the world a better place.'



