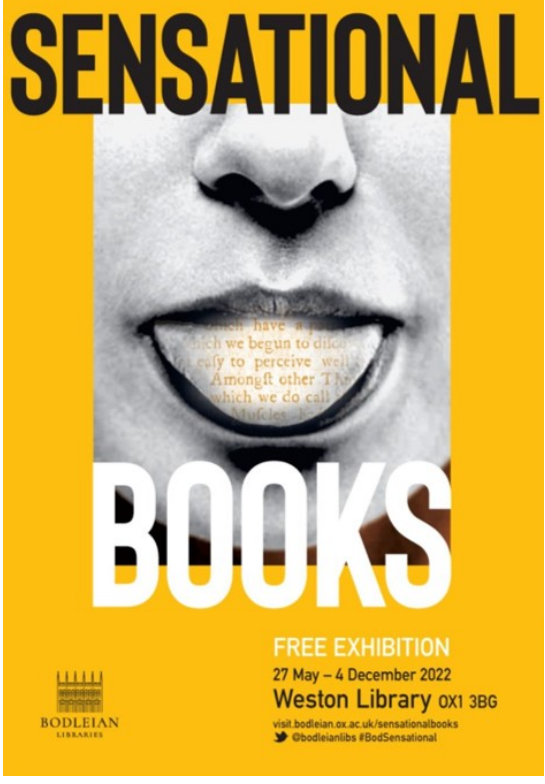


Dear Hertford Community,

The Trinity Term is flying by at Hertford. Congratulations to everyone who has taken exams, and best of luck to those still in the process. The daily schedules are up in the lodge to help us get behind a generation of finalists that has made it to this point despite significant disruption of three academic years. It was great to celebrate with the graduate finalists earlier this week, to look back on an extraordinary period, to reflect on the people that helped get them here, and what they will do next.

Hertford's research continues to thrive. Congratulations to Mike Wooldridge who will be leading the [Alan Turing Institute's expansion of AI research](#). Sid Parameswaran's research is opening up [new avenues in the study of quantum materials](#). The Bodleian's latest public exhibition, [Sensational Books](#), has been co-curated by Emma Smith, who invites visitors to rub, stroke, chew, wear and sniff the exhibits. Management fellows Steve New and Anette Mikes were part of the teaching faculty to receive the Social Sciences Division [Teaching Excellence Award](#) for their work on a new MBA module. And part-time lodge porter [Sebastian Page](#) has been awarded the Society of Civil War Historians' annual book award for his excellent "Black Resettlement and the American Civil War". Two former fellows, Fernando Alday and Ros Rickaby, were elected fellows of the Royal Society, following in the footsteps of one of the Society's Hertfordian founders John Wilkins (1614-1672).



The latest exhibition at the Weston Library, co-curated by Emma Smith



The Barton CoLab outreach group at the Museum of Natural History

We have had a brilliant array of visiting speakers. Schona Jolly joined us to discuss human rights law, China and the UK. John Kampfner shared his take on why the Germans do it better. James Fletcher launched his new Trump film. Iceland's top ambassador, Sigríður Snævarr spoke on space diplomacy and breaking glass ceilings as one of the first female senior ambassadors. Ruth Sherlock (former Telegraph World Affairs Correspondent) shared stories of undercover journalism, while Paul Wood (former BBC Middle East Correspondent) talked about surviving a kidnap. James Hawes came to talk on William Tyndale. We also hosted the former head of the Foreign Office, Simon McDonald; a former Deputy Secretary of the US Treasury, Richard Fisher; the Governor General of Guernsey, Richard Cripwell; and Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi. I spoke on the [future of learning](#) at the Times Education Summit.

Over the Jubilee weekend, Ewa Gluza from the Bursary represented Oxford Polish Association at the Jubilee celebration service at Christ Church Cathedral. Meanwhile, we had three Hertford speakers at the Hay Festival. Mike Wooldridge briefly broke off his outreach to Benedict Cumberbatch to share thoughts on game theory, to great acclaim. Alum Louisa Reid spoke about her [new book](#), "The Poet: A Novel of Toxic Love, Unspoken Rage and Fighting Back". You can also read Louisa's challenging piece on her time at Oxford in [Vogue](#). And I did a couple of events, including one with Lyse Doucet on peace making and reconciliation. [All available here](#).

Coming up we have [Kim Stanley Robinson](#) on 14th June, challenging us on how to connect academic research to the challenge of the climate crisis, in an event designed and led by Management Fellow Anette Mikes. The annual chapel celebration is on 16th June at 5pm. And on 17th June, Nik Gowing is here on Thinking the Unthinkable.



Mike celebrating his sold out 1,100 seats at the Hay Festival this weekend

Injuries and bad luck, plus what the men's captain called "an unfortunate and untimely meeting with the bank" led to a challenging Summer Eights weekend. But the Hertford boats put in an incredible effort, especially with training so disrupted by lockdowns. And the women's eight provided one of the most memorable moments in a hard fought three-way contest just in front of our boathouse. Simon Robinson and the team laid on the friendliest bar on the river. It was excellent to see so many past and present Hertford friends there. In other sporting news, Hertford made the semi-finals of the netball, and we have reached the final of Cuppers hockey, on 12th June. Hope to see many of you there on Sunday at 3pm.

We've been working with partners from across the local community to deliver a collaborative outreach project with young people in East Oxford. Yesterday the [Barton CoLab group](#), coordinated by Kathryn Boast, celebrated the conclusion of their first project by creating a volcanic eruption at the Museum of Natural History. Hertford's students held their first ball in several years. And our latest Unsung Heroes of Science competition entrants are live on YouTube - [please take a look at the videos](#).



Hertford's women on the river for Summer Eights

Our first ever Giving Day is coming up on 16th-17th June. To help realise our 2030 plans we aim to increase the number of our donors to 1,000. Watch this space for the launch of the Hertford Challenges. We also have an [All Alumni Dinner](#) on 2nd July - everyone welcome. And a [Leavers' BBQ](#) on 9th July, for those whose departure were disrupted by the lockdowns. Emma Smith, Frances Whare and I are looking forward to seeing many US alumni in Washington, New York and San Francisco later this month: US alumni, do let us know if you would like to meet. We are also looking forward to welcoming back the [Hertford Society](#) for their annual dinner on 9th July.

In other news, MCR President Teresa Taylor has reached the shortlist of this year's Oxford SU Student Awards for her leadership of the MCR. Porter Nikki Benton was [profiled in the Cherwell](#) and shared her experience of meeting Hugh Grant. Several of us took part in the Town and Gown run - Google tells me that my Achilles tendon injury is typical of middle-aged men who take on a run without adequate training. And Simon Robinson and head chef Carl Isham starred on BBC Radio Oxford talking about serving 304 May Day breakfasts. Their next challenges include a delayed "Christmas" staff party in July and two very busy weeks of schools dinners for finalists.

Next year we will welcome a Ukrainian scholar and our first two Porter scholars, plus a surprise guest (and former Nobel Peace Prize winner) to take the Head, Hand and Hertford course.



Presenting awards to Oxford and Sandhurst boxers with Sandhurst Commandant

These messages only scrape the surface of all the activity going on in college. It has been the most recognisably normal term since I arrived during the lockdown of autumn 2020. But while the masks and Zooms are less of a feature now, those periods of estrangement and anxiety have also left us with much to catch up on, and a sense that we need to learn afresh (and for those of us not here before the pandemic the rhythms the rhythms the rhythms and communion and solidarity that make a college. This requires deep wells of patience and goodwill, and there are some days when the progress is less obvious than others. But with just over a fortnight left of the academic year, we are in good shape. So renewed thanks to staff, students, tutors, alumni and friends.

All best wishes,
Tom

