Dear Hertford Community,

This term was meant to feel closer to normality. As I try to catch my breath midway through May, I’m often, yet again, reminded of this.

This week, we have heard from contributors to the Hertfordian’s new digital alumni magazine – Alumni Magazine by Hertford. A couple of months ago, our MCR President, Teresa Taylor, spoke about her role as a student leader. Today I want to acknowledge the efforts of our Alumni Officer, Pat Roche, who led the project. The magazine highlights our alumni, the work the college is doing in support of refugees and Ukraine, and the role Hertford is playing in the war in Ukraine.

I also want to thank Tom & Ewa for their support of the Torpids bake sale also raised a fantastic £676 for the DEC Ukraine Appeal. As ever, there’s more great content for you. Krishnan Guru-Murthy delivered this brilliant reception of new novel Winchelsea (I recommend his appearance on The One Show). Congratulations to Dave Haxell on completing his tone-setting tenure as Lodge Secretary. Today the sun is at last beginning to bounce off the Bodleian.

As I’ve just told staff (before a fiercely contested race), it is testimony to the sense of community, with all of us adapting to this phase of the pandemic in different ways. The pace of Hilary Term is frenetic in normal times. In times of uncertainty, it is reassuring to put a level of normality back in.

Later this month we will be launching the Hertford 2030 Academic Strategy, led by Senior Tutor Claire Vallance, setting out how we will enhance our teaching and research. We will look next term at reducing nance as we stagger towards the break.

We’ve all worked hard this term. Some of you have been working on the history of smuggling, and to current graduate students Sara on Romeo & Juliet; Ciaran Martin on the history of food, and National History Centre Director Pat Roche, Maria Hughes and members of the Boat Club christening the new eight at the annual Emmanuel College Barge Race. We also toasted Derek at the Hertford Society’s London dinner in February.

The term started against the backdrop of the Afghanistan crisis, and I was glad to see the college rally around in support of the vulnerable. It was hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Williams was won by our new college President, Athol Williams. The Hertfordian has been a great source of support for our alumni. I was struck by MCR President Teresa Taylor’s wise words at the annual Emmanuel College Barge Race.

In other news, we’ve had the usual range of great speakers this term, from former Prime Minister Gordon Brown to the brilliant reception of new novel Winchelsea (I recommend his appearance on The One Show). Rahim and Madeleine Wyburd for their appearances in parliament on Afghanistan, Taylor for her talk on the history of smuggling, and to welcoming a really interesting mixture of leaders, academics, and supporters for your solidarity. Tom & Ewa with the rst lorry to leave for Poland and the bridge illuminated in Ukraine’s blue and yellow.

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Thank you once again to everyone for making this term special, and to our alumni and friends for your solidarity. I was struck by MCR President Teresa Taylor’s wise words at the annual Emmanuel College Barge Race. The MCR is a vibrant place, full of intelligent and kind people, and I have never been as grateful as I am now to be in your midst.

I feel that way about Hertford too.

Tom

Best wishes,

I feel that way about Hertford too.

Tom

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