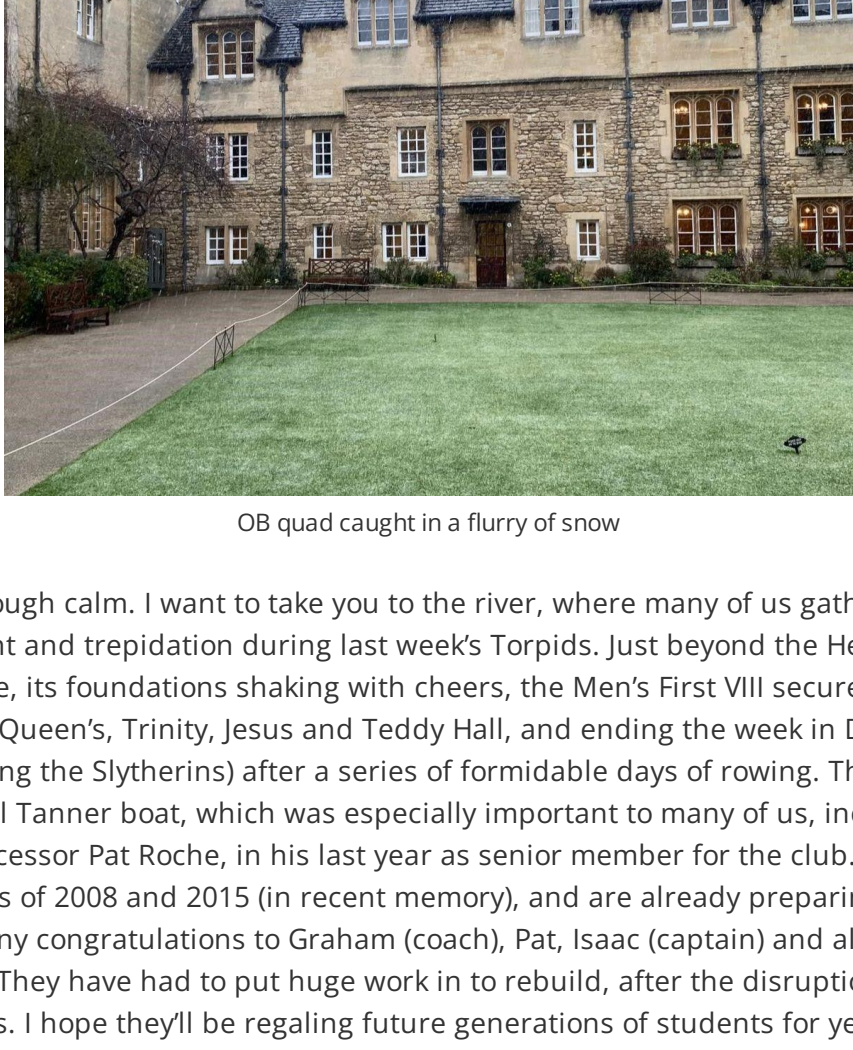


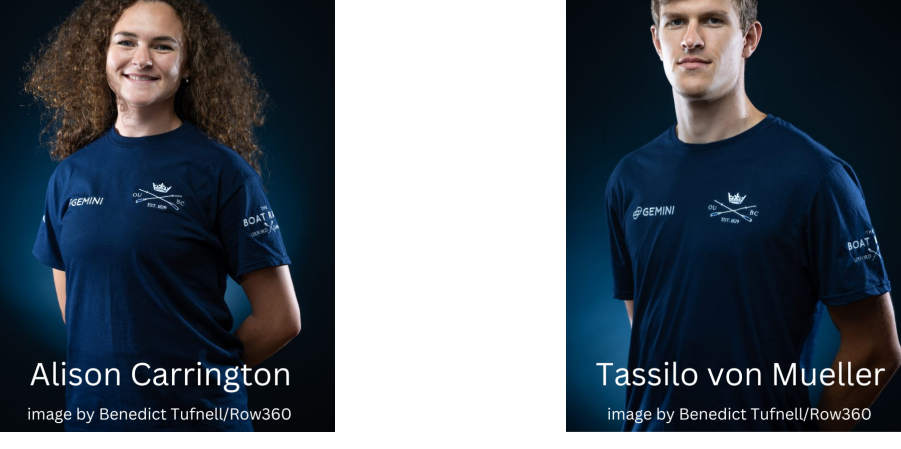
Dear Hertford Community,

Ah, improbably, there is a dusting of snow on the Hertford quad as I write this, as 8th Week and Hilary Term draw towards a close. The rhythms of college life feel somehow out of kilter. This was my first term when I didn't get a dose of 5th Week blues, and I feel less of the giddy 8th week exhaustion than usual. I don't know if this is because I am finally becoming house trained (the Governing Body see that as work in progress) or because we have found a settled, focused, tempo this term. Whichever it is, I hope that Hertford's wonderful tutors, staff and students are able to get some rest in the weeks ahead, and that our equally wonderful alumni can enjoy a moment of calm looking at a wintry photo of our quad, in which we all had so many of the moments that formed us.



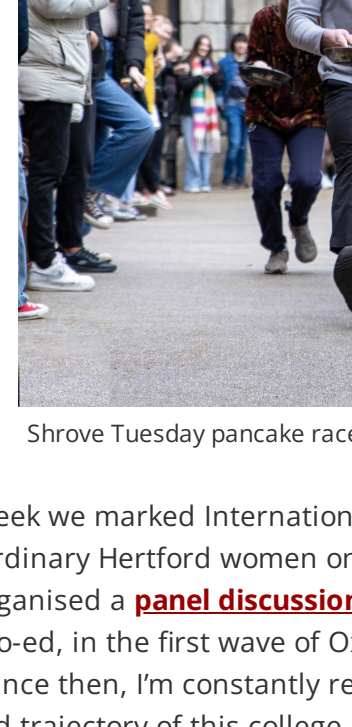
OB quad caught in a flurry of snow

Right, enough calm. I want to take you to the river, where many of us gathered with excitement and trepidation during last week's Torpids. Just beyond the Hertford boathouse, its foundations shaking with cheers, the Men's First VIII secured blades, bumping Queen's, Trinity, Jesus and Teddy Hall, and ending the week in Division One (among the Slytherins) after a series of formidable days of rowing. They did it in the Neil Tanner boat, which was especially important to many of us, including Neil's successor Pat Roche, in his last year as senior member for the club. They join the heroes of 2008 and 2015 (in recent memory), and are already preparing the chalk. Many congratulations to Graham (coach), Pat, Isaac (captain) and all involved. They have had to put huge work in to rebuild, after the disruptions of the lockdowns. I hope they'll be regaling future generations of students for years to come. Having vowed last year to preserve my dignity by not running along the towpath or losing my voice, I did both. And I don't regret it a bit. Many thanks to the alumni and students who did the same. And well done of course to our other Vllls, who fought and celebrated hard. Date for your diaries: Summer Vllls, with plenty going on at the boathouse (peaking on Saturday 27 May).



The victorious Hertford M1 crew after winning blades in Torpids

It feels quite un-Hertford to linger on rowing. But a massive congratulations to Hertford's own Alison Carrington and Tassilo von Mueller for being selected for the Blue Boats. They will be racing in the **big one against Cambridge** on 26 March in London. Alison learnt to row at Hertford and was president in the 2020-2021 season. Tass joined Hertford last year, and has been president of OUBC this season. I will be trying to regain some dignity on a nearby barge.

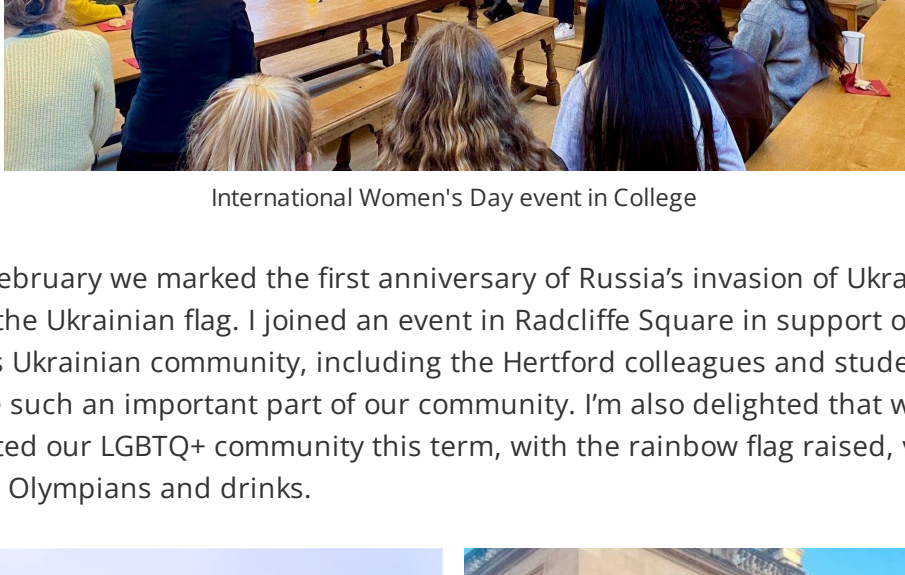


Alison Carrington
Image by Benedict Tufnell/Nov360



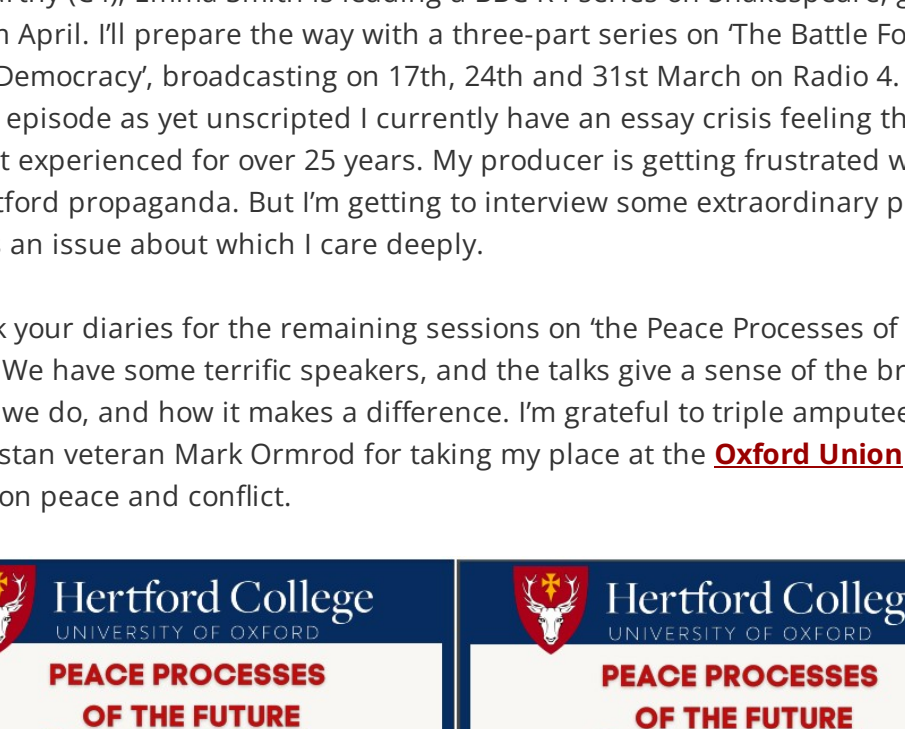
Tassilo von Mueller
Image by Benedict Tufnell/Nov360

From one epic sporting encounter to another, Shrove Tuesday saw the traditional Hertford pancake race taking place in OB quad. Students and staff gathered with frying pans and fiendish race plans to do battle. After the multiple casualties of last year, the health and safety team did I'm afraid have to establish some speed and cornering rules, but the contest was as fierce as ever. Congratulations to Nene Nagashima for her stylish win. Pancakes were scraped off the quad and served afterwards in hall.



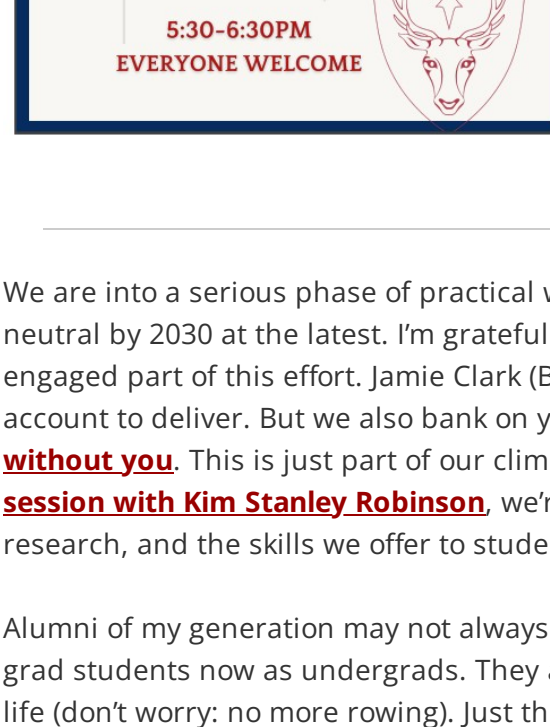
Shrove Tuesday pancake race, with Nene Nagashima and Jack Smith in the lead

This week we marked International Women's Day. We have been highlighting extraordinary Hertford women on our social media channels and the **Bridge blog**, and organised a **panel discussion in Hall**. Next year marks 50 years since Hertford went co-ed, in the first wave of Oxford colleges to do so. As the first Principal to be born since then, I'm constantly reminded of what has meant for us: the upward trajectory of this college in that period is *unimaginable* without them. But I'm also conscious of the women who tell me their stories of how we could have done more, or of the obstacles they had to work too hard to make us dismantle. We cannot be complacent, or take for granted the pioneers who made us better. Watch this space for news on how we'll celebrate those five decades, and the many more to come.

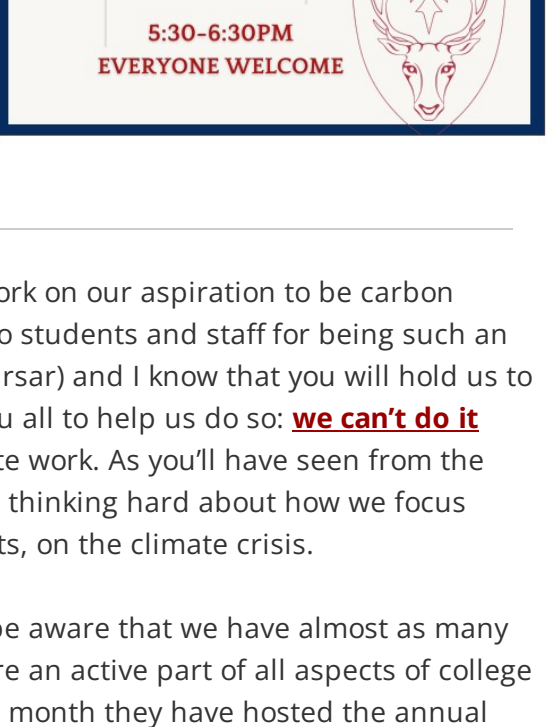


International Women's Day event in College

On 24 February we marked the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine by raising the Ukrainian flag. I joined an event in Radcliffe Square in support of Oxford's Ukrainian community, including the Hertford colleagues and students who are such an important part of our community. I'm also delighted that we celebrated our LGBTQ+ community this term, with the rainbow flag raised, visits of LGBTQ+ Olympians and drinks.



Raising the Ukrainian flag



LGBTQ+ Olympians visit Hertford

Some upcoming Hertford content, and please do let me know if you have more to add to future bulletins. Carissa Véliz's **new book** is out. Laline Paull has just been shortlisted for the **Women's Prize for Fiction** for 'Pod'. Alongside the more regular alumni media voices of Adam Fleming (BBC), Fiona Bruce (BBC) and Krishnan Gurumurthy (C4), Emma Smith is leading a BBC R4 series on Shakespeare, going out from April. I'll prepare the way with a three-part series on 'The Battle For Liberal Democracy', broadcasting on 17th, 24th and 31st March on Radio 4. With the first episode as yet unscripted I currently have an essay crisis feeling that I have not experienced for over 25 years. My producer is getting frustrated with all the Hertford propaganda. But I'm getting to interview some extraordinary people, and it is an issue about which I care deeply.

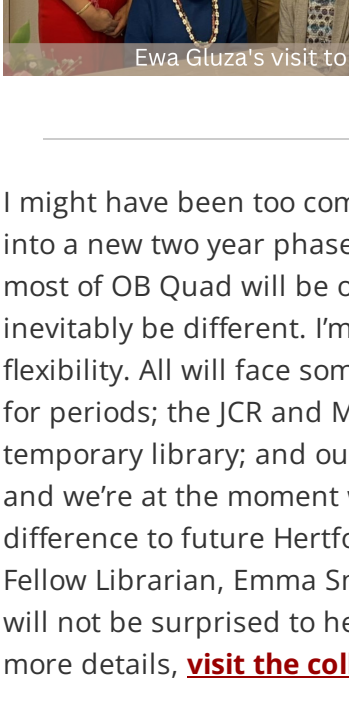
Do make your diaries, please, sessions on 'the Peace Processes of the breadth of what we do, and how it makes a difference. I'm grateful to triple amputee and Afghanistan veteran Mark Ormrod for taking my place at the **Oxford Union debate** on peace and conflict.

Hertford College UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD			
PEACE PROCESSES OF THE FUTURE Speaker Series			
NO# 01	26TH JANUARY With Lord Fabian, Chancellor, University of Oxford	CHINA & THE FUTURE GLOBAL ORDER	
NO# 02	2ND FEBRUARY With Alessandro Achilli, Alfred Williams, and Dr Karlheinz Bechtelmeier	PEACE WITH OUR ANCESTORS Reading the records of history from Liberty's George South Africa Warlines Journal	
NO# 03	16TH FEBRUARY With Jonathan Powell, David Collier and Professor Ian McBride	WHAT CAN TOMORROW'S PEACEMAKERS LEARN FROM NORTHERN IRELAND?	
NO# 04	16TH MARCH With Jonathan Powell, David Collier and Professor Ian McBride	PEACE AND CULTURE: Can we have peace and culture?	
NO# 05	25TH MARCH With Principal Tom Fletcher	PEACE AND THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT Reconciling Ireland's Past	
NO# 06	21ST APRIL With Lord Fabian, Chancellor, University of Oxford	THE MEDIA AND PEACEMAKING	
NO# 07	27TH APRIL With Dr Paul Eaton	PEACE WITH OUR DNA: An investigation of peace and genetics	
5:30-6:30PM EVERYONE WELCOME			

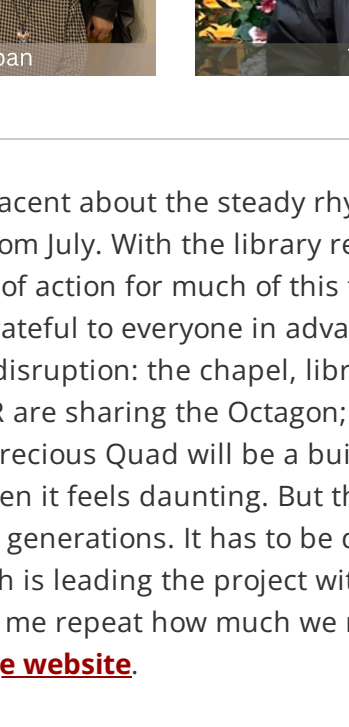
Hertford College UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD			
PEACE PROCESSES OF THE FUTURE Speaker Series			
NO# 08	11TH MAY With Lord Fabian, Chancellor, University of Oxford	PEACE WITH OXFORD: How can we live together in a better world?	
NO# 09	25TH MAY With Adam Lee and Professor Anette Miles	PEACE WITH OUR PLANET	
NO# 10	1ST JULY With Peter Friedmann, Vice-Chancellor	PEACE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST	
NO# 11	19TH OCTOBER With Clifford Chance, Ciaran Martin and Noah Redford	PEACE WITH TECHNOLOGY	
NO# 12	26TH OCTOBER With Professor Vladyslav Vyacheslavsky	PEACE WITH OURSELVES How deep can change go in life	
NO# 13	9TH NOVEMBER With Baroness Valerie Amos, Paul Fulman and Alexander Betts	OXFORD AND THE SDGs How can we live together in a better world?	
NO# 14	23RD NOVEMBER With Richard Nigge, Ted Rahn, Sara Rahm, Heather Lloyd-Stevens and Karina Elomäki	WOMEN, CONFLICT AND THE FUTURE OF PEACEMAKING	
5:30-6:30PM EVERYONE WELCOME			

We are into a serious phase of practical work on our aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030 at the latest. I'm talking to students and staff for being such an engaged part of this effort. Jamie Clark (Bursar) and I know that you will hold us to account to deliver. But we also bank on you all to help us do so: **we can't do it without you**. This is just part of our climate work. As you'll have seen from the **session with Kim Stanley Robinson**, we're thinking hard about how we focus research, and the skills we offer to students, on the climate crisis.

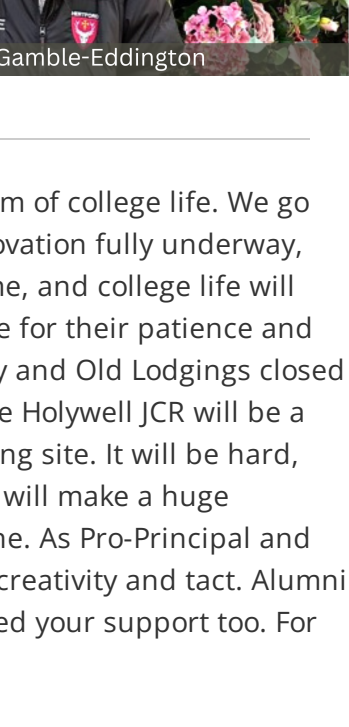
Alumni of my generation may not always be aware that we have almost as many grad students now as undergrads. They are an active part of all aspects of college life (don't worry: no more rowing). Just this month they have hosted the annual Venison dinner, for colleges with a deer in their emblem. I am pleased to confirm that their deers are less feared than ours. The MCR also hosted the Hertford Society for a Wine and Cheese event, with the MCR providing the wine and the distinguished former members providing the cheese. I've also enjoyed the innovation of the MCR film nights in the Octagon. Thanks to outgoing President Emma Ford, Social Sec Lara Bampfied and Arts Officer Daniel Whittle, and the rest of the exec, for all their hard work.



Emma Ford



Lara Bampfied



Daniel Whittle

I am very excited to announce a new scholarship: the aFOx-Hertford Sibusiso Scholarship, which will enable five graduate students from any African country to study for a Masters degree at Hertford. We are grateful to alumnus John Doble (History, 1962) for his generosity in supporting this scholarship. John worked in the Diplomatic Service and spent much of his working life in Africa. He has chosen to give the scholarship the name 'Sibusiso', which means 'blessing' in Zulu, Swazi and Ndebele.

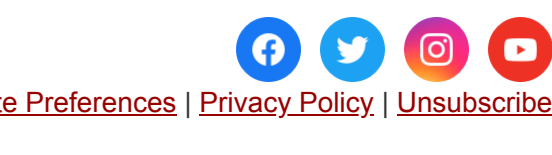
I promised an update on plans for the **Hertford Festival** over the first weekend of July. I hope you saw the Festival teaser and have marked 3 April in your diaries to book your ticket. We'd love to hear from footballers who can take part in the Kenny Lewis memorial football tournament on the second day of the Festival – please get in touch with the **Development Office** if you'd like to join in. As well as catching up with many of you, I'm looking forward to turning the Question Time tables on Fiona Bruce, and hearing from some brilliant speakers.

Our next telethon starts on 14th March. There is much to get done for future students, and we would love for as many of you as possible to take part in this effort to give them the same incredible opportunities we had. We've got a great group of students who are eager to get to know our alumni so please do accept that call. And look out for the latest editions of the Magazine and Donor Report, covering the 2021-22 academic year, which will be landing on your doorsteps very shortly. If you'd like a sneak preview, they can be found on **our website**.

As you know, one of our major strategic aspirations is to be a better neighbour. As part of Hertford 2030 we've been hosting school students for work experience placements. They have had a chance to learn from brilliant teams: Front of House, the Kitchen, the Library, Academic Office, Development and the Lodge. I'm delighted that two who went through the programme are now joining us. Marking Kenny Lewis this term drove home that the college gate needs to be a portal not a barrier. Also as part of the same effort, Ewa Gluza (Accounts Team) has just completed the Oleander Art, Memory and Peace programme in Hiroshima with the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building. And Tawreak (Ty) Gamble-Eddington (Rhodes Scholar and MCR Welfare Officer) has received a John Robert Lewis Fellowship from the Faith and Politics Institute. He'll take forward the philosophy of civil rights leader and their Board Chair Emeritus, the late Congressman John Lewis, that making lasting positive social change requires that "the means and ends are inseparable."



Ewa Gluza's visit to Japan



Ty Gamble-Eddington

I might have been too complacent about the steady rhythm of college life. We go into a new two year phase from July. With the library renovation fully underway, most of OB Quad will be out of action for much of this time, and college life will inevitably be different. I'm grateful to everyone in advance for their patience and flexibility. All will face some disruption: the chapel, library and Old Lodgings closed for periods; the JCR and MCR are sharing the Octagon; the Holywell JCR will be a temporary library; and our precious Quad will be a building site. It will be hard, and we're at the moment when it feels daunting. But this will make a huge difference to future Hertford generations. It has to be done. As Pro-Principal and Fellow Librarian, Emma Smith is leading the project with creativity and tact. Alumni will not be surprised to hear me repeat how much we need your support too. For more details, **visit the college website**.

At moments of change and like this, it is important to remind ourselves why it all matters. I've been thinking a lot this term about what it means for the college to be the frontline for a better society that we aspire to be. We can't do that unless we have the facilities to attract and support the very highest potential people. We can't be a pioneer of opportunity, equality and sustainability without building a college environment in which we can thrive. Sometimes it has been in Hertford's DNA to be proud of being somehow ordinary. I want us to retain that sense of humility and mischief, but to recognise that we can also be extraordinary.

All best wishes,

Tom

Tom Fletcher