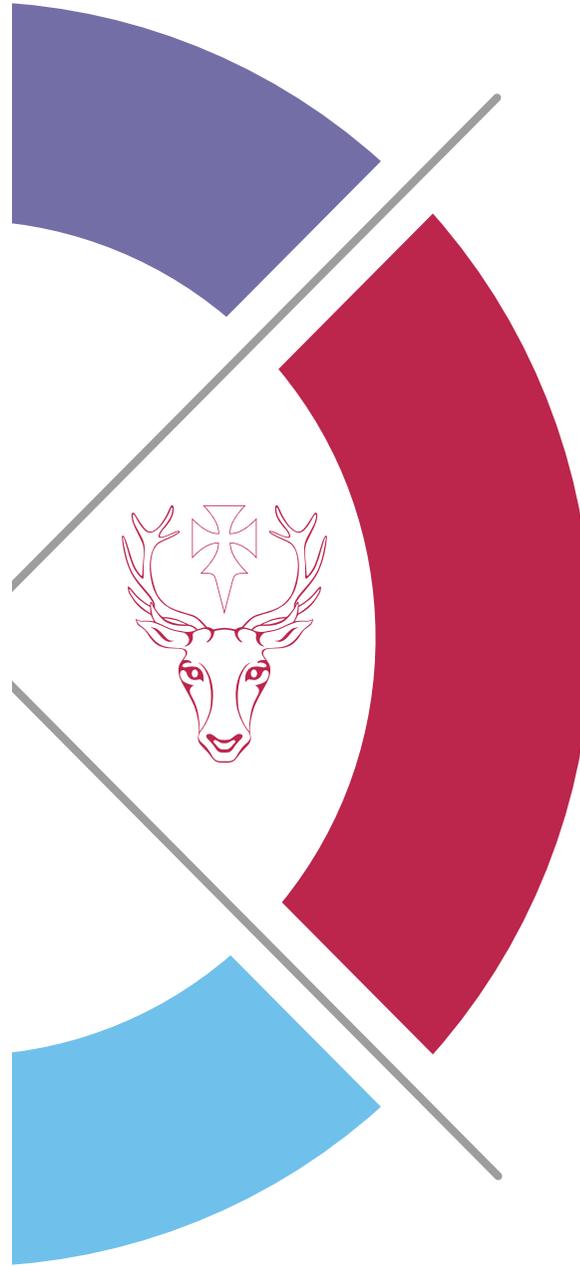




THE RECORD OF  
HERTFORD COLLEGE  
2022-23



MAGAZINE



**HERT  
FORD**  
MAGAZINE  
2022-23

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Editor: Ian McBride  
Sub-editor: Sophie Carp  
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)



Hertford College Magazine is published for members and friends of the college. The opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily the official views of Hertford College.

Hertford College is a registered charity in England and Wales, number 1137527.

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Our thanks as ever, to everyone who has contributed to the Hertford Magazine, including Sophie Carp, Frances Wheare, and the Development Team. You will notice some mentions of the Donor Report, which is sent with this Magazine to those who have opted in to fundraising materials. You can review and change your contact preferences online or by contacting the Development Office: [development\\_office@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:development_office@hertford.ox.ac.uk)



# PRINCIPALS REVIEW: 2022-23



**Tom Fletcher,**  
writes:

At the end of another hectic academic year at Hertford, I have the difficult task of trying to pluck out some highlights amid so much that has been extraordinary.

Our speaker series for 2023 focuses on the peace processes of the future. The conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East are a sad reminder of why these themes are so important. Students, staff, academics, alumni and the local community have looked at challenges such as peace with the planet, peace with our ancestors, even our DNA. To help us we have been joined by delegations from South Africa, Northern Ireland and the COP climate talks; former leading international figures such as Cathy Ashton and Valerie Amos; former Prime Ministers, Ambassadors, peacekeepers, and National Security Advisors; best-selling writers such as Peter Frankopan; architects of the Good Friday Agreement (marking the 25th anniversary of that landmark achievement); and journalists such as Lyse Doucet and Krishnan Guru-Murthy, who have covered the conflicts close up.

I have learned a huge amount and been heartened to see our partners for the series – the new Oxford Diplomacy Society – grow to 2,000 students. In Michaelmas 2023, we tackle Big Tech, the Sustainable Development Goals, and how to make peace with ourselves. We conclude by looking ahead to the future of peacekeeping through the lens of women in conflict. Thank you to everybody who has taken part so far.

Our next speaker series will align with our two anniversaries: 150 years since the refoundation of Hertford, and 50 years since the college was one of the first traditionally male colleges to admit female students. As the first Principal to have been born since that watershed moment, I'm constantly reminded of what that 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. Over the next 18 months, we'll hear from many – across disciplines and fields – who are ensuring that women's voices are heard.

As ever, we have had plenty of visitors beyond the speaker series. Many joined us for the brilliant Hertford Festival in July – read more about this fantastic event in the Development Director's report on p60. Hollywood dust was briefly sprinkled at various points by Emma Watson, Hugh Grant, Ralph Fiennes and Kyle MacLachlan, the latter making the most of our Hertford Festival bouncy castle. And Peter Mandelson recalled being grilled at interview by Roger van Noorden, in a college that smelt, in those days, of cabbage.

## HERTFORD 2030

We are now well into the plans to deliver the Hertford 2030 aspirations set by students, academics, staff, and alumni in 2021. Last year, I gave an update on the four key pillars at the heart of our aspirations, and I'm delighted to do the same now.

At the heart of this project is **excellent teaching and research**. You will have seen from my bulletins the phenomenal breadth of research being led by our academics. There is too much to list here, but you can read later in this Magazine of the prizes that have been stacking up. It is heartening to see much of this research connect with the effort to be a frontline for a better society. On climate, for example, we hosted the top 30 chief sustainability officers to connect our academics with the urgent challenges they face. On the teaching side, we must continue to be aware of the opportunities and the threats ahead – and technology like Chat GPT is both – but not dazzled by them; aware of the competition but

not defined by it. Technological change will alter why, what, and how we learn, and how we assess our learning. But artificial intelligence only strengthens the case for the Oxford tutorial.

Our second aspiration is to be a **pioneer on access and sustainability**. In the 2022-23 academic year, we launched several full scholarships for graduate students from less represented countries and displaced communities, with more on the way. These students are enriching the academic community. Meanwhile, we will expand our outreach and access work in the UK with a new access plan led by Senior Tutor Claire Vallance and the Academic Office, building on the effort over recent decades to find students based on potential, not polish; on where they are going, not where they have been. Bursar Jamie Clark led an overhaul of our student support, with the aim of further reducing financial barriers to studying

here, and you can read more about this in the enclosed Donor Report.

On the sustainability front, Jamie and Domestic Bursar James Hill are leading our efforts to decarbonise our estate, supported energetically by staff and students. This year we built on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Baseline report with a survey of our different college properties in order to develop a workable plan for the future. All our current members came together in Michaelmas Term to reduce our use of gas and electric, resulting in savings of up to 20%. Again, you can find more detail on this in the Donor Report.

Next, Hertford 2030 aims to **prepare students for life, work, and citizenship**. As part of the effort to build this sense of a community of learners, we launched a college/student charter to set out our commitments to excellent teaching, welfare, food, and accommodation; to sustainability, diversity, equality, and

free speech; and to financial support where it is needed. We're asking students for curiosity; a commitment to learning; independence and autonomy; an understanding that this is a small, close-knit community; and an openness to debate, challenge and feedback. This includes respect for the rights of others to express views with which we may disagree. Our world is becoming increasingly polarised, discourse increasingly binary. We want to create a space for courteous disagreement, while also encouraging a curiosity about others' points of view. My Head, Hand and Hertford course on life skills – now in its third year – helps underpin this effort. Thank you to alumni who are supporting mentoring and coaching initiatives, both through this programme and HertNet.

For all of us – students, tutors, staff, and alumni, this is most importantly an opportunity to be part of an extraordinary place with an extraordinary story. We

don't expect perfection from each other: being a student (and a human) is a journey of discovery, and it is fine to make some mistakes along the way. Our hope is that our new students also feel that this is a great place for them – that they look out for and support each other; develop a passion for learning; make the most of the opportunities here; and leave better prepared. We want them to feel that Hertford is a positive part of their story, as it is for so many of us.

And finally, Hertford 2030 aims to underpin all this work with **excellent people and facilities**. Pro-Principal and Fellow Librarian and Archivist, Professor Emma Smith, has been leading the effort to ensure that we have a library that matches our ambitions, and we are grateful to all of our alumni and friends who have supported this project. On the people side, we have created two new roles: Director of Music and Student Welfare Lead, ensuring that these vital



areas of college life are well supported.

A key theme of Hertford 2030 is the effort to be a good neighbour. Accounts Clerk Ewa Gluza has been coordinating our work to support community organisations and events, and we are now paired with a local primary school. With Summer Eights and the record-breaking May Day brunch, we put the emphasis on throwing the doors open rather than closing ourselves off. For this year's Pride Parade, we handed out thousands of rainbow ice creams to participants as they came through Catte Street. I was joined for what I hope will be a new tradition by the Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of Conference of Colleges, and several Heads of House.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

This year, we marked the retirements of three much-loved tutors and stalwarts of the Fellowship: Professors Tony Wilson, Charlotte Brewer, and Pat Roche. Generations of Engineering, English and Physics alumni shared happy memories of studying with them over the decades. Valedictions for Tony, Charlotte, and Pat can be found from p.14 onwards.

We also said farewell this year to our wonderful Chaplain, Mia Smith, after seven years. Mia has carried our community through triumphs and tragedies, with thousands of quiet but powerful interventions, cups of tea, and – on the toughest of days – doughnuts. Among the many staff, friends, students, choristers, and tutors at her final service were three former Heads of House, making this the first time that four Principals (or, to use our chapel role in this context, Ordinaries of the Peculiar) had gathered – between us, almost 30 years of responsibility without power.

We started 2023 with the sad news

of the death of our friend, Kenny Lewis. Kenny was a bustling, exuberant presence at the heart of the college, who had interactions with more Hertford people than anyone else, ever. His irrepressible camaraderie, loyalty, enthusiasm, and kindness, over almost five decades, is why Hertford is the friendliest college in Oxford. For longer tributes, and obituaries of other old members, turn to p34.

## OTHER NEWS

Hertford's music, sport and other societies are thriving. Both Men's Vills got blades this year, a superb and long-celebrated achievement. They did it in the Neil Tanner boat, which was especially important to many of us, including Neil's successor Pat Roche. Meanwhile, Hertford won Cuppers for mixed hockey. I experienced our fast bowlers close up on the treacherous Hertford square but was relieved when my plan to re-enter the boxing ring was not licensed.

Beyond Oxford, Hertford students and alumni continue to thrive. There are Hertford people in the cabinet and shadow cabinet, running NGOs, charities, courts, schools, hospitals, and business, working for the King, writing bestsellers, and so much more. It is increasingly rare to switch on BBC Radio 4 and not hear a Hertford Fellow or alum, and our new Hertford in the Media section in this Magazine (p34) celebrates the range of contributions our community has made this year.

Sometimes it has been in Hertford's DNA to be proud of being somehow ordinary, when our college community is anything but. I want us to retain that sense of humility and mischief, but to recognise that we can also be extraordinary. Thank you for being part of that story.



# CHARLOTTE BREWER



**Professor Emma Smith, writes:**

Charlotte Brewer's retirement after 33 years at Hertford marks the end of an era for English at the college. She arrived, from Leeds and All Souls, best known for ground-breaking work on the text of the medieval poem *Piers Plowman*; she leaves as a renowned lexicographer, still working to unpick the assumptions that underpin the great *Oxford English Dictionary*. During her Hertford tenure, more than 300 English students have passed through the college, all of whom will appreciate her kindness, her intellectual and pedagogical honesty, and her sense of humour.

Charlotte's first Hertford colleagues were Tony Cockshut and Julia Briggs. Later Tom Paulin replaced Tony, and I came to fill Julia's post after she went to de Montfort University. In turn Tom has retired and David Dwan was appointed. Through all this change, Charlotte has set the tone for English at Hertford: rigorous, disciplined, attentive to detail, and fun.

In addition, Charlotte's contribution to the college has been significant. As only the second woman Fellow, she was a pioneer in getting Hertford to establish maternity leave, and later negotiated a period of part-time work when her daughters were young. She will be remembered by many as Tutor for Women, at a time when the vast majority of female students in Hertford would have been tutored entirely by men. As Senior Tutor she revised many policies, including working for better terms and conditions for stipendiary lecturers. And as a lifelong environmentalist, she has always been a voice for reducing waste and acknowledging our carbon footprint, most recently as Sustainability Fellow.

Among many other things, I will miss her



company and advice, her generosity to me throughout my time at Hertford, her baking at admissions, her reproachfully tidy college office, her reading recommendations, our ongoing conversation about words which don't seem, but are, gendered (feisty, anyone?) and her ability to get, and inspire, the giggles. In recent years, French and France have become an important dimension of her life: we hope very much that the chance to spend more time in such a civilised country will more than compensate her for her absence from the Hertford common room.

We are lucky that Rachel Burns, who has been teaching at Hertford for the last couple of years, will continue to work with us on early literature in the syllabus, and with those rare creatures who opt for Course II. We do not plan to appoint a third English fellow at this time, so David and I will be running the subject together.

Through all this change, Charlotte has set the tone for English at Hertford: rigorous, disciplined, attentive to detail, fun.

# PAT ROCHE



**Professor Sid Parameswaran, writes:**

Professor Patrick Roche, Tutorial Fellow in Physics and Investment Bursar, retired from Hertford College and the Department of Physics on September 30, 2023. Pat has been part of the Hertford firmament since his appointment as a Fellow and a University Lecturer in Astrophysics in 1996. As Neil Tanner's successor, Pat had rather oversized shoes to fill. He more than rose to the challenge, serving as Senior Member of the Boat Club for 25 years and ensuring that Hertford maintained the traditions of egalitarianism and openness that were sparked by the Tanner Scheme's opening of the gates of Oxford to students from all backgrounds. Whether in the form of one of his deservedly famous off-the-cuff, standing-on-the-table speeches in Hall at the termly Physics Tanner Dinners (which somehow always managed to touch on both current affairs and the latest advances in astronomy), his forthright questioning of visiting speakers, or as a voice of moderation in Governing Body or Treasury Committee, Pat's words and good sense have been invaluable to Hertford, and he will be much missed as he embarks on new adventures in retirement.

Pat's path to Oxford was less direct than many of his contemporaries. After leaving school, he spent a year as an engineering technician working on semiconductor manufacturing at Texas Instruments in Bedford. Deciding that materials physics was not to his taste, he went to University College, London where he earned a BSc in Astronomy in 1976. He stayed on for a PhD in the same subject, awarded in 1982 for developing an infrared spectrometer and using it to study dust in planetary nebulae – in plain terms, investigating how planets are born by looking at the invisible radiation they emit. Pat's

love for travel was evident even then, with his doctoral work taking him to observatories in Hawaii, California, Australia, and the Canary Islands. As a young scientist, Pat continued this penchant for bouncing around the world, with extended periods as a postdoctoral researcher in Australia and the UK before joining the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh in 1986 as a Senior Researcher. He finally came to Oxford in 1989, originally on a two-year secondment to work on a proposal for the UK "large telescope" project – a proposal that was approved and led to what became known as the Gemini Observatory. Fortunately for us, Oxford's astrophysicists knew a good thing when they saw it, and appointed Pat to a permanent post, jointly with Hertford, in 1996.

Pat rose through the academic ranks swiftly and was promoted to Reader in 2000 and then to full Professor in 2005, while establishing his reputation as an authority on the interstellar medium and star formation, building and using novel instrumentation to probe the infrared signatures of cosmic dust. Apart from his own research, Pat also has a gift for solving thorny administrative problems and has become one of the select group of scientists that the UK and global astronomy community turns to when times are especially challenging. In a variety of roles, he helped manage the UK's withdrawal from a range of global astronomy projects, using his consummate diplomatic skill and his not-inconsiderable powers of persuasion – not to mention his ever-present sense of humor – to ensure that the reputation and prospects for UK science remained strong. Over the course of his career, he has been elected to a range of key positions in

the Astronomy community – including chairing the board of the Atacama Large Millimetre/Submillimetre Array (ALMA), and a three-year term as President of the Council of the European Southern Observatory (ESO), which oversees the strategic direction of the world's foremost observatory with a €200million annual budget.

Throughout his career, Pat has kept up an active schedule of lectures, particularly to graduate students, and has given tutorials on a range of topics, playing a particularly crucial role in guiding the delicate transition of Hertford first-years as they grapple with their first University-level physics classes. Pat's service to Hertford has been similarly exemplary, including a four-year stint as Tutor for Graduates, and over a decade as Investments Bursar, steering the college's finances

**As one of the most approachable members of both the Physics department and the college, Pat is beloved by his students**

over an extraordinarily difficult time that encompassed the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, the impact of austerity, Brexit, the Covid pandemic, and the cost-of-living crisis. His time as Senior Member of the Boat Club was equally eventful, as it coincided with the opening of the refurbished boathouse and included an arson attack and the subsequent replacement of the smoke- and heat-damaged boats in 2005. In a fitting end to his tenure at the helm of the HCBC, 2023 was a successful rowing season across all boats, and saw two new inscriptions chalked on the college walls to record the award of blades to the Men's first boat in Torpids in Hilary term (who thereby entered the first Division), and to the Men's second boat in Summer Eights in Trinity.

As one of the most approachable members of both the Physics department and the college, Pat is beloved by his students, and has been a mentor to many younger fellows and JRFs. Several of his former tutees came to the Physics subject reunion earlier this year to help celebrate his final year, and more still filled out an online book of memories about Pat, ranging from late-night trips to the Purple Turtle (alas, now closed) to stories of motorcycle-riding and shared Pangos in the college bar. Other tales of Pat

shared at his departmental retirement dinner – attended by several current and former astrophysics graduate students – paint a portrait of someone whose infectious enthusiasm and supportive nature has touched many lives.

Speaking on a personal note, Pat has been extraordinarily kind and supportive in my six years at Hertford, and it is with not a little trepidation that I look ahead to leading Hertford physics without him. Fortunately, he has been persuaded to stay on for a little longer and help guide the college through the challenges of the Estates Strategy which he helped to spearhead. Three weeks into his retirement, he seems to be as frequent a lunch partner as he was before it, and I'm reassured that I can seek his advice (and rely on him for Tanner dinner speeches) for what I hope is years to come. We will have more to say on Pat's successor in a future edition of this Magazine but rest assured that his tradition of excellence in astrophysics will be in good hands as he spends more time with his wonderful family: Anna, Rosy, and Tom. In the words of one of our recent students: "It's about time Pat took a well-earned break from his astronomy trips to Hawaii and Chile and finally relaxed!"



# TONY WILSON



**Fionn Dunne and Christopher Tyerman, write:**

Those of us lucky enough to have been Tony Wilson's teaching colleagues have witnessed – in spades, and over decades – his genuine care and commitment for his undergraduates, whom he interviewed, inducted, tutored, befriended, and professionally cared for over generations of students. After graduation, many would return as friends to visit for years, and Tony will long be cherished by all who passed through his tutelage.

In what is perhaps a rather unconventional reflection of his commitment to teaching, we learned one day that Tony was heading off to Venice for a few weeks to develop and write his new lecture course for first-year students in electricity. His view was clear: that the course would be higher quality and more efficiently prepared if the writing were to take place in the sunshine, on the decking of a Venetian island. By coincidence, a colleague happened to be in Venice on holiday about the same time, and comparisons of their respective hotels were made. It was amusing to note a little displeasure on Tony's part to find that he rated his hotel to be somewhat less superior than that of his colleague. It wasn't an occurrence that arose again. However, once the new electricity course was delivered the following term, the recently introduced student reviews came in and are appropriately summarised by one of the comments made: "Tony rocks!". Indeed he does, though we might express it a little differently.

Tony graduated from Pembroke College in 1976 and was awarded his DPhil in 1979. Following a Senior Scholarship at Christ Church, he secured a JRF at Brasenose and subsequently spent two years at Bell Labs in the USA. In 1984, he was elected as a University Lecturer in Engineering Science and a fellow of Hertford as part of

the New Blood scheme, instituted to mitigate the ravages of Thatcher university cuts. A Readership and personal chair followed.

His research established the theory and practice of scanning optical microscopy, particularly related to confocal microscopy. The latter involves serially imaging planar sections in order to build up three-dimensional images, which were incredibly important and useful in biomedical imaging. In 1978 he, Colin Sheppard, and colleagues developed a confocal set-up with laser illumination, as well as stage scanning. The laser illumination allowed high resolution sectional images, which had not been achievable previously with insufficiently bright light sources. It was then possible to record a through-focus series of thin, high resolution images from which three-dimensional images could be created.

During his JRF at Brasenose, Tony (with Sheppard) set up the spin-out Oxford Optoelectronics Ltd and the first laser scanning microscope was sold in 1982. This began to allow high-resolution characterisation of materials and biomedical imaging. Later, building on an idea from researchers in Prague and Yale called tandem scanning microscopy, a perforated spinning disk was employed prior to the microscope aperture in order to generate multiple emission pin-holes through which confocal images could be obtained. A further innovation used white light excitation sources with a patterned spinning disc and a defined geometrical grid, and projected the light pattern onto the specimen to generate optical sectioning. A key paper<sup>1</sup> presenting confocal microscopy with white light sources was published in Nature in 1996.

These collective developments

facilitated much brighter images and better resolution. New light demodulation computational processing enabled optical sections to be obtained from raw data images, and, with new disc designs and optical architectures, led to optimised optical sectioning. Further improvement in resolution resulted from adaptive aberration correction which was published<sup>2</sup> in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2002.

The development of the theory and subsequent practical innovations ultimately led Tony and collaborators to the formation of Aurox in 2004 to deliver a commercial spinning disc confocal microscope, subsequently distributed by Carl Zeiss and Andor Technology. Aurox was recognised with the Queen's Award for Enterprise and Innovation in 2012, and the company's

**Tony displays his origins as a Yorkshireman from his cricket to his sometimes awkwardly independent logic and opinions.**

turnover was in the millions. Little wonder that rumours would be heard around college that Tony was himself a millionaire.

Tony also won the Institute of Physics' Innovation Award in 2012 for his work in confocal imaging. In fact, he went on to be awarded many other prizes for his research. Naturally, as an internationally leading scientist, he served in a range of professional roles including President of the Royal Microscopical Society, where he remains an Honorary Fellow; he was General Editor of the Journal of Microscopy, and a Thousand Talents Professor at Harbin Institute of Technology; he was elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering (2008); and served as Master of the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers. It came as no surprise to hear David Cameron, while Prime Minister, speaking on television about UK science and technology and referring to "my friend Tony Wilson". Why wouldn't he? Because Tony was (and will remain) that sort of colleague, and a friend to us all.

Tony displays his origins as a Yorkshireman from his cricket to his sometimes awkwardly independent logic and opinions. A devotee of crosswords, with a sensitive

appreciation of academic and academics' absurdity, he politely explodes the pompous, superficial, meretricious and tendentious, his metier the convivial discussion, not the grandstand. In Hertford he has undertaken a wide range of college tasks, regularly serving as a sceptical member on key committees as well as memorably standing in as Bursar during an interregnum. More than once he has proved himself an adept player at appointments poker between the college and the department. Despite his international standing and global itineraries, for almost forty years, Tony has eschewed the glamour of high preferment elsewhere and remained a college man, finding quiet pleasure as well as humour and, inevitably, occasional frustration in its sociable traditions. He ended as Senior Fellow, the last fellow to have been a member of the Governing Body under Geoffrey Warnock.

We have worked in multiple universities over many years. Looking back and reflecting on our time at Hertford, and particularly our interactions and camaraderie with Tony, it was the most inspiring and fun time. We are privileged and grateful to have been his friends and colleagues.



1. Efficient real-time confocal microscopy with white light sources. Nature, 383, 804-806, 1996.  
 2. Adaptive aberration correction in a confocal microscope. PNAS, 99(9), 5788-5792, 2002.

# MIA SMITH



## Will Hutton writes:

The first Fellow I met in the quad after we appointed Mia as Chaplain inquired whether we had been successful. "Yes!" I replied triumphantly. "She was the outstanding candidate. She will be great with the students, run the chapel with flair, get on well not only with our Christian community but all faith, will be liked by fellows and staff alike, and personifies the best of that Church of England inclusive culture." I paused. "There is only one thing," I added, trying to be ironic. "She genuinely believes in God." "Ah," he replied. "Chaplains tend to. That's how they come."

But few pull it off like Mia. After nine years in Oxford, amidst its dense network of churches and college chapels, alongside fierce atheism and agnosticism, I learned over my Principalship that not all chaplains manage to convey that belief, or even have it. It is ever harder in a secular society, where even atheists come to chapel to enjoy the musical pageantry of the service, to sort out the boundaries between who has faith and who is just taking pleasure in coming together communally. It was always a matter of surprise to me that our own Professor Peter Millican – one of the leading scholars of the philosopher and atheist David Hume, and an atheist himself – could sing the hymns in chapel with such lusty enthusiasm. "Ah," Peter would smile: "such great music."

Mia never turned a hair. For her it was all part of God's design. Under her watch, even though she herself took a self-denying ordinance on singing the liturgy, a succession of organ scholars and choirs took the music and singing in chapel to amazing heights. She shared around the readings. She took care that her prayers had meaning for us all. She worked hard at getting intriguing speakers to preach every Sunday, only occasionally allowing herself to offer her

reflections on faith. When she did, she always had a good angle, and if your thoughts strayed (as mine tend to in chapel) some arresting phrase, biblical reference or line of argument would suddenly bring you back to contemplate the mystery of life and the probability (if not certainty) of there being divine purpose. Even a sceptic like me was made for a moment to think they were part of something bigger, with rock-solid moral foundations. Chapel became a vibrant part of Hertford, often surprisingly crowded on a Sunday evening, which – if you are the Principal doubling up as the "ordinand of the peculiar" (the Church of England delegates the administration of the Hertford chapel to the Principal) – is pretty gratifying.

It did not end there. She was an indefatigable member of the welfare team, and I hope the tradition of chaplain involvement continues. A good number of students are Christians who actively welcome the intervention of the chaplain, and even those who are not are thankful in times of need for the integrity, kindness and humanity that a chaplain like Mia brings. When a student was suffering from some personal crisis, Mia was on hand, and they were intensely grateful. It was inevitable that she would be the first college officer to go down with Covid, selflessly helping and offering invaluable support to the first isolating sufferers.

And there is so much more: conducting marriage ceremonies and funerals; organising the Shrove Tuesday race around the quad with a pancake (I was always last); working with the network of parishes of which the college is patron; ensuring that the fabric of the chapel, including its organ, was fit for purpose; bringing Oxford's



trans community together. She even managed to make the gauntlet of the annual MacBride sermon on the role of messianic prophecy (!) in religious life fun – a full English breakfast, the "messianic" sermon itself, and then Madeira and fruit cake afterwards as reward, as John MacBride (a nineteenth century Magdalen Hall-cum-Hertford College Principal) had thoughtfully instructed.

Towards the end of my Principalship, she began to joke that I had become her bishop, knowing full well that was the last thing she needed. She is the classic, highly driven self-starter who earned love and respect all round Oxford. The chapel is at once the college's Pascal's bet and source of Christian fellowship, and it needs someone very special to make that alchemy work. Mia was that someone. Hertford was lucky, and grateful, to have had her as our chaplain. I wish her only good fortune as she continues her personal quest.

# MY WAR IS OVER



**David Cooke,**  
**Academic Visitor**  
**(2022-23) writes:**

One dreary afternoon in late February, 1993, I was called into the office of my boss and mentor, Quentin Thomas. We were located in The Old Admiralty Building, which housed the London branch of the Northern Ireland Office, and which was a quirky building with high ceilings and confusing double corridors. The summons sounded if not urgent, then quite pressing, although Quentin was and is the least flappable person I knew.

Quentin proceeded to brief me on two things which were, at the time, Top Secret, and known only to a handful of people. They have since become the subject of several excellent books, and many of the key documents have been published.

First, a message had just been received which said: "The conflict is over, but we need your advice on how to bring it to an end." This was thought to have come from Martin McGuinness, the Chief Negotiator of Sinn Féin. Secondly, one of the reasons why the British Government believed this message really had come from Martin McGuinness was that it had been received via an established and very secret channel of communication between Republicans and the British Government which had existed since the early 1970s, and which had been used during the IRA ceasefire of 1975 and the hunger strikes of 1980-81.

Quentin said my immediate task was to draft a holding reply and then a substantive reply to this message, under tasking from him and Sir John Chilcot, and the political direction of The Prime Minister, John Major, and the Northern Ireland

Secretary, Patrick Mayhew. So began one of the most exciting years in my career.

I had been seconded to the Northern Ireland Office in the Autumn of 1990, and I would return to The Home Office in late December 1993, to become Director of Asylum. For most of my secondment I had believed that the only game in town was the three-stranded Brooke/Mayhew Talks, which had been suspended in the summer of 1992, but only after they had assembled many of the building blocks which would become The Good Friday Agreement of 1998.

But now I knew that another, larger paradigm was in play, which also envisaged the potential inclusion of Sinn Féin and the Loyalist political parties in the peace process, and, crucially, an end to violence. I think I had already sensed that there was potential for the focus to be widened in this way. Now I had my confirmation.

But was the message genuine? Quentin and I most certainly believed so at the time. Among other things, it was consistent with a number of things which Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams had been saying in speeches since 1990. It could also be viewed as a response to Peter Brooke's words in his Whitbread Speech in late 1990, that the British government had "no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland."

But would Martin McGuinness have used the language in the message? I had long conversations with him after I returned to the Northern Ireland Office in late 2002, although I did not reveal my role in 1993. But I got a sense of how he would speak about things. He would, I think, have spoken of "the war", not "the conflict". And he would not have said he was seeking our

"advice". I still believe, however, that the message incorporated a genuine approach by Republicans to the British government, perhaps in a deliberately crafted, deniable form.

At this point, it is important to understand that there were three other sentences in the message. It went on: "We wish to have an unannounced ceasefire in order to hold a dialogue leading to peace. We cannot announce such a move as it will lead to confusion for the Volunteers because the press will interpret it as a surrender. We cannot meet the Secretary of State's public renunciation of violence, but it would be given privately as long as we were sure that we were not being tricked." (This last point was a reference to a second important speech, by Patrick Mayhew, in Coleraine in late 1992.)

If that sounds like something drafted by a small committee, then that's because I think it probably was. These were the people involved in the operation of the communication channel, or "The Link", as we called it. There is a rational scheme in these sentences, and it would have been incredibly dangerous and unwise for any outsider just to have invented it. It would also have been foolish for the British Government to ignore it.

Behind the four sentences of the February message lay a conundrum - intricate, deadly, but potentially solvable.

What Republicans wanted was an unannounced ceasefire, dialogue with the British government, and then, perhaps, a lasting peace. From the British Government's point of view, there were several things wrong with this. An unannounced ceasefire would inevitably and quickly become public. More important,

the Republican scheme effectively involved negotiation under the duress of a threatened return to violence. The British Government could never agree to this. In any case, the British Government insisted that any overall settlement should be negotiated between all the qualified parties, and not just two of them. No just or stable settlement could be negotiated if either nationalists or unionists were excluded. The Irish government would also need, as our partners, to be fully involved.

Moreover, it is important to understand that the situation in early 1993 was worse than that. Republicans were still pursuing a dual strategy of violence and electoral politics, sometimes known as the ballot box and the armalite. They had been doing so ever since The Hunger Strikes.

This exchange of messages, therefore, wasn't and couldn't be a negotiation. It was an exercise in clarifying the conditions for a negotiation. In the meantime, the reality of violence posed a recurring threat to the exploration of conditions. We made this point repeatedly in the messages.

The full exchange of messages, which lasted on and off for most of 1993, can now be read, in versions published by the British government in November 1993 and Sinn Féin in early 1994. The Sinn Féin version includes much additional (and extraneous) material, and the designation of certain messages as "bogus". Nevertheless, a central core of undisputed messages suffices to show that genuine mutual clarification of positions took place.

But, while it happened, the deaths continued. It is understandable but blinkered to fixate on the awful personal suffering of the victims, and their families, of the Warrington

bombings in March 1993, which were in that year the most high-profile outside Northern Ireland. There were many other victims, mostly in Northern Ireland, but also in Great Britain. But Warrington alone could easily have derailed the process. In my view, John Major and Patrick Mayhew showed great courage and statesmanship in continuing it.

The Irish government showed comparable qualities. They had not been briefed on the messages or the link, but were working on a parallel initiative, under which the two governments would make a Joint Declaration leading to Republican and Loyalist ceasefires. At the end of 1993, Republicans switched to this initiative alone, and the resulting Downing Street Declaration of December 1993

What Republicans wanted was an unannounced ceasefire, dialogue with the British Government, and then, perhaps, a lasting peace.

did indeed eventually lead to ceasefires in the summer of 1994. These were breached in 1996 and restored in 1997.

Wise after these outcomes, some writers have dismissed the messages and the link as a waste of time, or worse. It is certainly true that there were flaws. Just after the government published the messages, it subsequently had to publish several transcription corrections. This was embarrassing, but the errors were not substantive, and resulted only from the extreme difficulty of producing over a single weekend in Belfast a clear record from disparate materials.

More significantly, the link proved not to have been entirely transparent, and there was some freelancing without authority, including an assertion made face to face by a British intelligence officer to Martin McGuinness and Gerry Kelly that "Ireland will be as one." This we would never have authorised because it left out the crucial requirement for the consent of the people of Northern Ireland to such a constitutional change.

The most compelling justification for the messages episode is this. It provided much the clearest indication thus far that Republicans were contemplating – and indeed, it is now thought, had taken a conditional decision to implement – a short ceasefire to pave the way for a lasting peace.

Of course, the question of how to achieve a lasting peace without pre-empting all-party negotiations on a substantive overall settlement would remain a live one, and is one of the

reasons why the first half of 1994 was such a difficult period in the peace process. But by then I was down in Croydon, dealing with the asylum backlog. And some key issues, called "acts of completion" by Tony Blair, remained unresolved for several years even after The Good Friday Agreement.

Because I was Patrick Mayhew's Private Secretary in 1981-2, John Chilcot gave me the job in late November 1993 of breaking the news to the Northern Ireland Secretary that the messages had leaked. It was just the two of us in Winston Churchill's old room, plus a Private Secretary sitting behind me out of sight. When I told him, Patrick Mayhew, a big man, hit his coffee table with considerable force, causing the china to jump and rattle, and said, "I shall have to resign."

"I don't think you will, Patrick," I replied, with the callow confidence of relative youth. I had some justification, since I had consciously, under Quentin's guidance, drafted all the government's messages to be strictly compatible with its public statements. But it was a difficult weekend. I drafted Patrick Mayhew's statement to the House of Commons. He delivered it, and fielded questions, with great skill. Dr Paisley got himself ejected from the House. That was a help.

And the title of this article? "My war is over" is something Martin McGuinness himself said on TV in 2002. He knew what he was saying. He understood the art of allusion – in a way that Hertford's own Emma Smith might approve of.

# WHAT SOCRATES CAN TEACH US ABOUT AI



**Professor Carissa Véliz writes:**

If Socrates was the wisest person in Ancient Greece, then large language models must be the most foolish systems in the modern world.

In his Apology, Plato tells the story of how Socrates's friend Chaerephon goes to visit the oracle at Delphi. Chaerephon asks the oracle whether there is anyone wiser than Socrates. The priestess responds that there isn't: Socrates is the wisest of them all.

At first, Socrates seems puzzled. How could he be the wisest, when there were so many other people who were well known for their knowledge and wisdom, and yet Socrates claims that he lacks both?

He makes it his mission to solve the mystery. He goes around interrogating a series of politicians, poets, and artisans (as philosophers do). And what does he find? Socrates' investigation reveals that those who claim to have knowledge either do not really know what they think they know, or else know far less than they proclaim to know.

Socrates is the wisest, then, because he is aware of the limits of his own knowledge. He doesn't think he knows more than he does, and he doesn't claim to know more than he does.

How does that compare with large language models like ChatGPT4?

In contrast to Socrates, large language models don't know what they don't know. These systems are not built to be truth-tracking. They are not based on empirical evidence or logic. They make statistical guesses that are very often wrong.

Large language models don't inform users that they are making statistical guesses. They present incorrect guesses with the same confidence as

they present facts. Whatever you ask, they will come up with a convincing response, and it's never, "I don't know," even though it should be. If you ask ChatGPT about current events, it will remind you that it only has access to information up to September 2021 and it can't browse the internet. For almost any other kind of question, it will venture a response that will often mix facts with confabulations.

The philosopher Harry Frankfurt famously argued that bullshit is speech that is typically persuasive but is detached from a concern with the truth. Large language models are the ultimate bullshitters because they are designed to be plausible (and therefore convincing) with no regard for the truth. Bullshit doesn't need to be false. Sometimes bullshitters describe things as they are, but if they are not aiming for the truth, what they say is still bullshit.

And bullshit is dangerous, warned Frankfurt. Bullshit is a greater threat to the truth than lies. The person who lies thinks she knows what the truth is, and is therefore concerned with the truth. She can be challenged and held accountable; her agenda can be inferred. The truth-teller and the liar play on opposite sides of the same game, as Frankfurt puts it. The bullshitter pays no attention to the game. Truth doesn't even get confronted; it gets ignored; it becomes irrelevant.

Bullshit is more dangerous the more persuasive it is, and large language models are persuasive by design on two counts. First, they have analysed enormous amounts of text, which allows them to make a statistical guess as to what is a likely appropriate response to the prompt given. In other words, it mimics the patterns

that it has picked up in the texts it has gone through. Second, these systems are refined through a process of reinforcement learning from human feedback (RLHF). The reward model has been trained directly from human feedback. Humans taught it what kinds of responses they prefer. Through numerous iterations, the system learns how to satisfy human beings' preferences, thereby becoming more and more persuasive.

As the proliferation of fake news has taught us, human beings don't always prefer truth. Falsity is often much more attractive than bland truths. We like good, exciting stories much more than we like truth. Large language models are analogous to a nightmare student, professor, or journalist; someone who, instead of acknowledging the limits of their knowledge, try to wing it by bullshitting you.

The philosopher Harry Frankfurt famously argued that bullshit is speech that is typically persuasive but is detached from a concern with the truth



One of the things that the past two decades have taught us is that tech needs as much regulation as any other industry, and no industry can regulate itself.

Plato's *Apology* suggests that we should build AI to be more like Socrates and less like bullshitters. We shouldn't expect tech companies to design ethically out of their own good will. Silicon Valley is well known for its bullshitting abilities, and companies can even feel compelled to bullshit to stay competitive in that environment. That companies working in a corporate bullshitting environment create bullshitting products should hardly be surprising. One of the things that

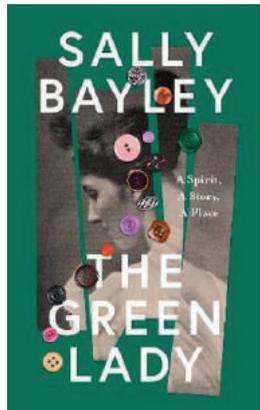
the past two decades have taught us is that tech needs as much regulation as any other industry, and no industry can regulate itself. We regulate food, drugs, telecommunications, finance, transport; why wouldn't tech be next?

Plato leaves us with a final warning. One of the lessons of his work is to beware the flaws of democracy. Athenian democracy killed Socrates. It condemned its most committed citizen, its most valuable teacher, while it allowed sophists – the

bullshitters of that time—to thrive. Our democracies seem likewise vulnerable to bullshitters. In the recent past, we have made them prime ministers and presidents. And now we are fuelling the power of large language models, considering using them in all walks of life—even in contexts like journalism, politics, and medicine, in which truth is vital to the health of our institutions. Is that wise?

# HERTFORD IN THE MEDIA

## BOOKS

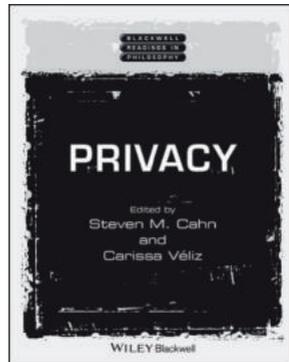


### The Green Lady

Sally Bayley, *College Lecturer in English for Visiting Students*

The final part of a trilogy exploring a child's escape into literature, the *Green Lady* continues her journey from reader to writer with the help of folklore and the laws of nature. Part novel, part memoir, it explores the traditions of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* as an imagined biography which urgently understands the need for a space of one's own in which to thrive. As one of the book's several foster children, Bayley reminds us that families and homes can be found and built within literature and the arts as well as nature's green spaces.

Sally also hosts the podcast *A Reading Life, A Writing Life*, which shows how literature and connection to nature can console and give courage and insight, even in the most difficult times.

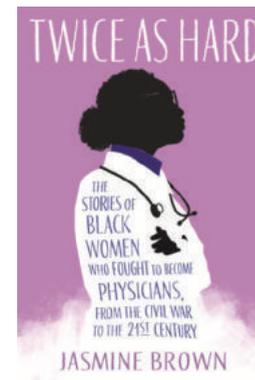


### Privacy

Co-edited by Professor Carissa Veliz, *Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy*

*Privacy* is a thought-provoking collection of philosophical essays on privacy, offering deep insights into the nature of privacy, its value, and the consequences of its loss. Bringing together both classic and contemporary work, this timely volume explores the theories, issues, debates, and applications of the philosophical study of privacy. The essays address concealment and exposure, the

liberal value of privacy, privacy in social media, privacy rights and public information, privacy and the limits of law, and more. Privacy is a must-read anthology for philosophers, psychologists, sociologists, and advanced undergraduate and graduate students taking courses on digital and applied ethics, philosophy, media studies, communications, computer science, engineering, and sociology.

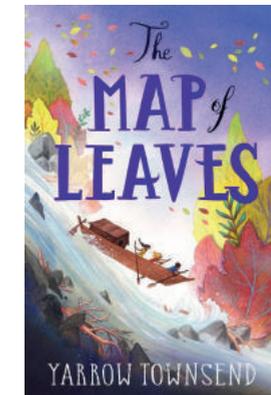


### Twice as Hard

Jasmin Brown (*MPhil in History of Science, Medicine and Technology, 2018*)

No real account of black women physicians in the US exists, and what little mention is made of these women in existing histories is often insubstantial or altogether incorrect. In this work of extensive research, Jasmine Brown offers a rich new perspective, penning the long-erased stories of nine pioneering black women physicians beginning in 1860, when a black woman first entered medical school. Brown tells the stories of these doctors from the perspective of a black woman in medicine. What she uncovers about

these women's struggles, their need to work twice as hard and be twice as good, and their ultimate success serves as instruction and inspiration for new generations considering a career in medicine or science.



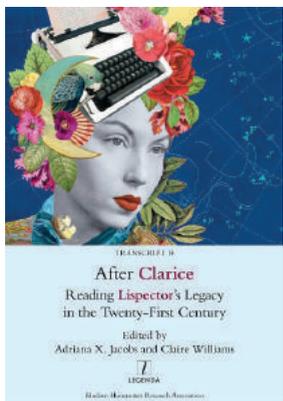
### The Map of Leaves

Yarrow Townsend (*English and Modern Languages, 2009*)

Orla has lived on her own since Ma died, with only her beloved garden for company. When sickness comes and nature is blamed, Orla knows she must find a cure.

Armed with her mother's book of plants and remedies, she steals away on a river boat with two other stowaways, Idris and Ariana.

Soon the trio must navigate the rapids of the Inkwater to a poisonous place from which they may never return...



### After Clarice: Reading Lispector's Legacy in the Twenty-First Century

Co-edited by Claire Williams, College Lecturer in Portuguese

Forty years after her death, Clarice Lispector's startling oeuvre continues to fascinate readers and scholars. *After Clarice* brings together scholars, authors, artists, and translators working in a wide range of languages and disciplines to address Lispector's place, as a Brazilian writer, in twenty-first century configurations of world literature. It aims to evaluate the fluctuations and swerves in Lispector's critical fortunes, focusing on the way her works have been reread and transformed in other languages, genres, and media.

## RADIO/PODCASTS

### Tom Fletcher, Principal (History, 1994)

*The Battle for Liberal Democracy*

In this podcast series, Tom Fletcher examines what future historians may well regard as the most fundamental issue of the 2020s: the complex, multi-faceted and far-reaching international contest between liberal democracy and its enemies. Tom draws on his own experiences in countries as diverse as Lebanon, Kenya and France to reveal how this battle has developed since the end of the Cold War. And in conversation with people he encountered along the way – people who rose to the very top – he examines the state of liberal democracy, ask where it succeeds and where it fails, and make the case for its urgent renewal.

### Professor Emma Smith, Professor of Shakespeare Studies and Fellow Librarian and Archivist

*Taking Issue with Shakespeare*

Might Shakespeare help resolve some challenging contemporary issues? To mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of Shakespeare's First Folio, five major public figures have a conversation with Emma Smith. Across the episodes, Emma talks with senior British statesman Gordon Brown and Chair of the RSC Baroness Shriti Vadera on populism and Julius Caesar; Secretary of State Michael Gove on inequality, the "levelling up" agenda and King Lear; writer Will Self on toxic masculinity and Hamlet; actor Fiona Shaw on post-Covid decisions to move from city to countryside and As You Like It; and Mercy Muroki, former broadcaster and Policy Fellow to the

Minister for Women and Equalities on whether the monarchy can unite the nation and Richard II.

### Oxford Sparks featuring Dr Beth Mortimer, Tutorial Fellow in Biology

Not everyone is the biggest fan of spiders...we know that. They might not be the first thing that springs to mind when it comes to romance, either! But, you've got to admit, when it comes to engineering, they're pretty incredible. Capable of making up to seven types of silk, and able to sense vibrations through thousands of 'ears' on their legs, there's a lot we can learn from spiders when it comes to new materials and sensor technologies. Beth Mortimer joined this episode of Oxford Sparks on their Valentine's episode to talk about how spider mating rituals could help us become better engineers.

### Riding Unicorns featuring Riya Grover (Economics and Management, 2006)

Riding Unicorns is a podcast focused on venture capital and growth startups. Riya joined James Pringle and Hector Mason in this episode to talk about the company she co-founded, Sequence, which helps B2B companies design and iterate on billing and payment flows so they can stay focused on their mission. Riya shares tips for facilitating merger and acquisition, the inspiration for her company, Sequence, her views on building enterprise products, and much more.

### AntiSocial and Newscast featuring Adam Fleming (Geography, 1998)

Each week on AntiSocial, Adam Fleming takes on a topic that's generating conflict on social media, blogs, talks shows and phone-ins, and helps listeners work out what the arguments are really about. Fleming is also one

of the hosts of Newscast, the BBC's flagship daily news podcast, which dives into the day's big stories so you're never out of your depth.

## TED TALKS

Two Hertfordians gave TED talks in the 2022-23 academic year. Tutorial Fellow in Medicine, **Professor Vlad Vyazovskiy**, explored the profound implications of human hibernation at TEDxLimassol – from emergency medicine and longevity to long-distance space travel and surviving environmental disasters. Have we, humans, lost the capacity to hibernate, or did we simply forget how to do it?

**Principal Tom Fletcher** spoke at TEDxStormont, on the anniversary of the Good Friday agreement, taking us behind the curtain of diplomacy and sharing a humanifesto for a renewal of society.

# REFLECTIONS ON THE JOHN DONNE LECTURE



**Charlie Hancock  
(Human Sciences,  
2020), writes:**

There are two tonally opposite stories you can tell about modern journalism. One is of an industry on its knees, gutted by a collapse in advertising revenue, battered by accusations of “fake news”, and reduced to pushing clickbait to survive. In the other, while those challenges remain very real, it’s also an industry staffed by persistent people who doggedly pursue impactful stories – sometimes putting themselves in danger to do so.

Critically, it is also a service that is trusted by far more people than pessimists may believe. “I started telling students that journalism is in an existential crisis, and journalism as we know it is going to live or die in your generation,” Lyse Doucet told those of us who attended her panel discussion with Krishnan Guru-Murthy for the 2023 John Donne Lecture. “Then the Ukraine war came along, and our audience fingers figures went through the roof. Because suddenly, when it mattered, people came back to the BBC.”

Hertford’s strong record of producing high-profile journalists was not a decisive factor in my decision to apply to the college. But for an aspiring reporter with no connections who wanted to break into a notoriously competitive industry, knowing I would be following in the footsteps of Guru-Murthy, Fiona Bruce, Oliver Bullough, and many other journalists I admired helped push the college to the forefront of my mind. Over the course of my degree, I was lucky enough to meet and learn from all three of these journalists, along with dozens of others.

While Oxford, and the proximity it grants you to top journalists, is rightly no longer the chummy conveyor belt to Fleet Street it once was, the

university remains an excellent proving ground for reporters of the future. Writing for, and eventually becoming Editor-in-Chief of Cherwell allowed me to develop to a level that meant I could hit the ground running when interning in a fast-paced newsroom, and even land a coveted journalism job for graduation.

Guru-Murthy arrived at Oxford with a foot already in the media world, having started working for the BBC in his gap year and continuing to work as a journalist part-time while studying. “Then at the end of my second year my tutor said you’re going to fail your degree; you’ve got to stop. So I did, I resigned,” he said. “Then literally the week before my third year I was approached by the BBC’s children’s news programme, Newsround. They said you can join us working your vacations and then come full time when you leave after finals, so I did that.”

For Doucet, despite having known from a young age she wanted to be a journalist, reporting on national news in her native Canada was unappealing. So, after graduating with a master’s in international relations, she was sent to volunteer in the Ivory Coast just as the BBC was establishing its first West Africa office.

Decades later, the news industry has changed dramatically. The industry has become more diverse which, as Doucet pointed out, means newsrooms are better able to interrogate situations from various points of view.

The attitudes of journalists and editors towards their viewers have also changed. The internet meant people who wanted to complain no longer had to pick up the phone or write a letter, puncturing the “tremendous arrogance” Guru-Murthy said shaped

their coverage. They could no longer hand down “tablets of truth” to viewers, who could now call them out in real time online. But despite these developments, “what we do hasn’t really changed,” he said. “We find out what happened, and we tell people, and we question people in power, or we reveal things. The basic fundamentals and values of journalism are essentially the same.

Doucet and Guru-Murthy were speaking months before Hamas massacred Israeli civilians, and thousands of Gazans were killed in Israeli air strikes. But the war in Ukraine, the story that drove viewers back to television news, was already fading from the headlines. Audiences were already reaching a form of crisis fatigue, leaving little space for caring about Sudan and Yemen. “Of course,

The industry has become more diverse which, as Doucet pointed out, means newsrooms are better able to interrogate situations from various points of view.



we would say that you should have space in your heart and in your mind to care about something else, and most people do [...] But it's been a really trying time for people in these past four or five years," Doucet said. Another crisis always feels like it's looming on the horizon.

A particularly exciting development in journalism is the rise of open-source intelligence – OSINT – which exploded to mainstream attention after the invasion of Ukraine. The founder of Bellingcat, Eliot Higgins, suggested that this method of scraping the internet for publicly available information like flight data or footage and images captured and shared on social media by ordinary people, and cross-referencing it with maps and the knowledge of experts

could replace the traditional foreign correspondent. Both speakers contested this, while acknowledging the groundbreaking work of groups like Bellingcat and BBC Verify. "You can't replace the testimony of people on the ground," Guru-Murthy said. "When Lyse goes off to horrible, dangerous places and talks to victims about that experience, that's irreplaceable."

"And trust," Doucet concurred. "Trust in who's telling the story. I would like to believe that still matters."

*Charlie Hancock is Opinion Editor at the Moscow Times.*



# HERTFORD SOCIETY



**Barry Lester,  
Chairman of the  
Society, writes:**

The annual lunches and dinners in College constitute the core social programme of the Hertford Society and they are very welcome. But we have been spreading our wings a little and are starting to offer and plan additional social events – for the enjoyment of our members and, we hope, as a way of attracting new ones.

In October 2022 the Society held what I am only slightly exaggerating in calling its wildly successful tea in the House of Lords, hosted by our President, Lord Pannick. Some 100 people attended – members and non-members – the maximum number that could be accommodated. The tea was a delight, as was the opportunity to talk afterwards on the Lords' terrace and visit the House of Lords shop. The Development Office provided invaluable help in making the event happen.

One innovation for this event was the introduction of cheaper tickets for members of the Society. Those who were not members had to pay for the full price tickets. This differential pricing policy was agreed to be a success and the Committee has decided to extend it to future Society events, where appropriate.

At the time of writing, a number of exciting social events are in the calendar. The first is a lunch at the Reform Club in September 2023. The event will start with two talks. One will be by Philip Mould OBE, the art dealer, gallery owner and co-presenter of the BBC's *Fake or Fortune?* The second will be by Grant Ford, a fine art specialist. Lunch will be prefaced by a talk by our own Professor Emma Smith, Tutorial Fellow in English and Fellow Librarian and Archivist, and followed by tours of the Reform and its garden.

A second event is a reunion drinks party at the Oxford & Cambridge Club in Spring 2024, specifically for those in the JCR and MCR who are leaving the college this summer. It will not be necessary to be a member of the Society to attend but we will of course be encouraging students attending on the night to join up if they have not already done so. We want to show young alumni that the Society exists and is thinking of them.

And our annual summer event in college will, in 2024, be a black tie dinner, open not only to Society members but also to all Hertfordians. Guests will be very welcome.

The Committee held its end of year meeting in November 2022, at the Oxford & Cambridge Club. There was a wide-ranging discussion of how to make the Society more attractive to younger alumni. A proposal on which we are now acting was to offer a reduced subscription to Hertford graduates for up to three years after going down, rather than for just one year as at present. It was also reported that we had made our usual financial contributions to the JCR and MCR to support their respective Freshers' Weeks; and that our longstanding support of the college cat, currently Simpkin IV, was continuing.

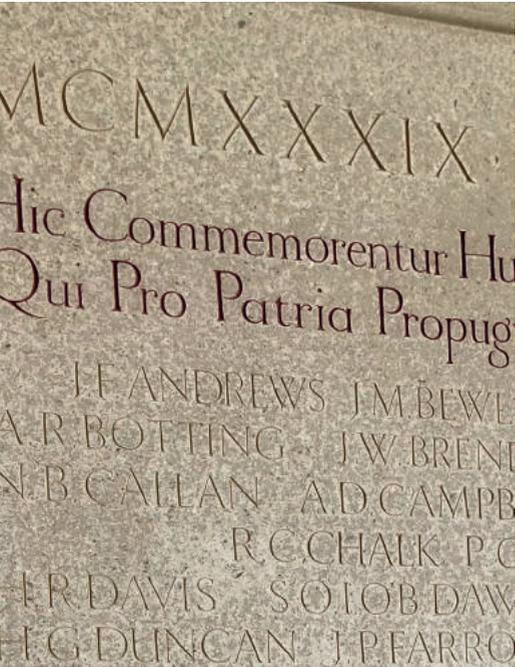
In February 2023 the Committee met at the RAF Club, the first time we have met there. Those attending the Annual Committee Dinner afterwards in the club included former President of the Society Roger Westbrook CMG, Vice-President Anthony Swing and President of the JCR Tanya Ranadive.

And, in March, the Society and MCR held a highly enjoyable cheese and wine party in the Octagon. We very much hope this will become a regular event.

How is the Society doing in terms of membership? In November 2022 we had 238 members. The latest figure is around 300, an appreciable increase. This is probably down in part to our introducing the differential pricing policy for the House of Lords tea. It made a number of Hertfordians aware that they were not members of the Society resulting in their applying to join. But probably a more important factor is that Genista Astell in the Development Office has been diligently chasing up those who had not renewed their membership in recent years. It costs £25 a year to belong to the Society. The recent increase in membership increases our income, giving us more money to support small scale but significant college projects and needs, a key element of what we do.

Some of these we identify ourselves; others are suggested to us by the college as good causes which fall within

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The memorial is once again in good condition, the red Latin inscription retouched and the names sharp and clear.

the remit of the Society. One such request in February 2023 was that we contribute £2,000 towards the cost of urgent work to treat and preserve 30 historic Buttery books in the archive suffering damage from mould. The aim is for books to be in a condition to be safely moved as part of the archive decant, in preparation for the renovation of the college library.

The Committee readily agreed that this project, helping to restore and preserve historic college records, is just the kind of one the Society would want to support.

A second project was suggested by the Committee. The stone war memorial on the outside of the Chapel commemorating those Hertford

men who fell in the Second World War had become weathered and the names hard to read. We thought it very important that the memorial be restored and suggested to the college that the Society fund the cleaning of the stonework and the retouching of letters where necessary. The Bursar Jamie Clark with admirable speed arranged for this work to be carried out by an experienced stonemason who had previously worked for several other colleges, Blenheim Palace and the National Trust. The memorial is once again in good condition, the red Latin inscription retouched and the names sharp and clear.

Here is a link to the Society's pages on the College website enabling you

to join – £10 a year (for up to three years) for JCR and MCR members and graduates in their first three years after going down; and £25 a year for other

Hertford members. Or contact our Membership Secretary Chris Mockler at [chris.mockler@talk21.com](mailto:chris.mockler@talk21.com) or [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/society](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/society)



Members of the Hertford Society Committee enjoying Afternoon Tea at the House of Lords

# ACADEMIC OFFICE



**Registrar Megan Roper writes:**

What a year it's been for the Academic Office! Last August, the college bid a very fond farewell to my superb predecessor, Lynn Featherstone, whose nearly six years of excellent leadership in managing the Academic Office, Admissions & Outreach, and Visiting Student teams helped the college thrive in innumerable ways – and, it must be said, left me rather enormous shoes to fill while she adjusts to life as Wadham's Senior Tutor. Our excellent Academic Services Manager, Julia Howe, not only stepped up to the plate and was Acting Registrar on top of her usual (and very busy) role in the gap between Lynn's departure and my arrival – at one of the busiest times of the year, no less – but she has continued to be a key resource and fount of knowledge for all things Hertford while I've been learning my way around the place. Julia is also the team's Chief Dreamies Supplier to Simpkin, carefully ensuring he has a wide range of treats available each day, as well as Chief Biscuit Supplier to the human members of the Academic Office team. Both roles are of course vital for keeping cranky grumps to a minimum!

Along with our wonderful Academic Officer (Graduate Students and Visiting Students), Emma Budd, Julia has helped to provide a sense of continuity while welcoming all the new members of the Academic Office and Admissions & Outreach Teams. I joined the College in November, having previously worked in a similar roles at two other Oxford colleges since 2011. My arrival was swiftly followed by the arrival of Lucy Stevens, our first-ever full-time Outreach Officer. In addition to providing us with much-valued extra resource in expanding our outreach initiatives, Lucy has been covering the work of the STEM Outreach Officer role since we bid a fond farewell to another beloved member of the

team, Kathryn Boast, who took up the role of Faculty Outreach Manager for the Faculty of Natural, Mathematical, and Engineering Sciences at King's College London this past spring. We look forward to appointing a new STEM Outreach Officer very shortly.

Since the start of 2023, we have also said goodbye to our former colleagues Anna Matthews (Admissions Officer), Billy Jackson (Academic & Admissions Assistant), and Kim Jones (Academic Projects Officer), and we have welcomed Alfie Deere-Hall (Admissions Officer) and Kitty Parker (Academic & Admissions Assistant). I have invested in a supply of superglue to keep anyone else from leaving! While we were very sad to see our former colleagues go, it has been an absolute delight to have Alfie and Kitty join the team, and students and colleagues alike can always be assured of a friendly welcome when popping by the Academic Office.

Amidst all of this upheaval, some things have remained constant: first, the team's dedication to supporting the prospective, current, and former students of the college, and second, the college's warm, friendly, inclusive ethos, which makes it a particularly special place to work, live, and study. From providing subject allowances for undergraduate enrichment activities – like the popular pizza and discussion sessions run by the Politics teaching team, or a trip to the opera for the Music students – to the Thanksgiving dinner organised for the Visiting Students, complete with turkey-themed décor provided by the Catering & Events team, the college takes great care to ensure its students are looked after while they undertake their demanding studies. We continue to explore ways in which we can further

support our students, whether they are undergraduates, postgraduates, or visiting students.

Similarly, the Senior Tutor, Prof. Claire Vallance, and I are keen to support the professional development of our academic staff, from lecturers to Fellows. While part of this of course means giving them time and resource to pursue the cutting-edge research for which they are famous, it also means organising continuous development training in teaching-related skills, working with students with disabilities, recognising signs of welfare concerns in students, and providing fora in which various aspects of academic careers can be discussed. Hertford's holistic approach to its staff and students is emblematic of its reputation for being a progressive, thoughtful, and dynamic community, and I feel very lucky to be a part of it.

We continue to explore ways in which we can further support our students, whether they are undergraduates, postgraduates, or visiting students.

# THE BURSARY



**Bursar Jamie Clark writes:**

When I wrote this time last year, I was expecting that by now I would be looking out over a building site in OB. That has not quite started yet, as we are putting the finishing touches to the design for new Library. This will be the most complex estates works the college has ever undertaken, and we need to make sure we get it spot on – which I am confident we shall. We are working with our construction partners, architect, planners, and a host of consultants to do just that.

We are also making significant progress on other key parts of our Estates Strategy, and I thought it might be a useful time to take stock on the plan that we set out around five years ago, and record where we have got to.

Aside from a new Library, the other major estates investment we have been focusing on is the Winchester Road project. This would create a new Graduate "hub" on our North Oxford site, with new accommodation, nestling within and complimenting the existing Victorian villa collection, to house over 120 graduates. As well as generously proportioned ensuite study bedrooms, the plan includes a number of mezzanine flats, and central social facilities. Developing in this area has always been a challenge, and it has taken several years of work with local planners to arrive at a final scheme design. We have had the added complexity that the proposed development would deliver not only for Hertford, but for two other colleges, and a University department at the same time – and has therefore been a joint project. I'm delighted to report that earlier this summer we received planning approval. With that achieved, we shall now set about planning for development.

There were plenty of other elements to the Estates Strategy too – most of which have either been completed, or are in various stages of planning. In

the former category, we have refurbished and expanded the Lodge, refurbished and upgraded Holywell student accommodation as well as around 25% of the total student housing, relocated and expanded the Academic Office, and Bursary areas, replaced the substation and associated power networks (critical for an eventual switch away from gas), established new IT infrastructure, and "remediated" many of our long-standing maintenance concerns. In the latter, we are continuing to develop plans for connecting OB and NB quads, to include the provision of lift access to key areas, as well as working steadily through our end-to-end redecoration and upgrade plans.

The Sports Grounds in Marston straddle both. Over the last eighteen months we have established a working partnership with our neighbours at Marston, Exeter College, and embarked on a programme of improvement and regeneration for our sports facilities. We have made good progress here, with the grounds now offering the full range of turf sports once again, with well-maintained pitches and fields. We are now considering options for a major investment in the area to add further facilities, in partnership with the local community and with third party sports providers. Our vision, supported by both Governing Bodies, is to develop a site that not only provides excellent facilities for our students, but also offers benefits for local residents and Oxford more generally. We are firm in our view that pursuing such collective benefit is not only right, but will also offer the best chance of developing and maintaining a high-standard, secure and vibrant sports and recreation area.

Plans tend of course to represent a view from a fixed point, but in reality our needs, day to day challenges and opportunities, shift and change constantly. So much of our estates work has been in response to that too

– although always consistent with the broad themes of the strategy we set back at the start. We have acquired three new properties, including a small hotel. The most recent acquisition will become additional student accommodation, but requires a complete refit. We shall take the opportunity to explore how we can do this in a sustainable way, making use of new technologies, to establish a low "footprint" building. We hope this will then provide a model for how we can convert the many similar properties we have, to help us achieve our sustainability targets.

We have also undertaken significant work, particularly on main site, in anticipation of the Library work. We have relocated the JCR to the ground floor of the Octagon, including installation of a new kitchen and WC. For the MCR we are refitting the first floor, and creating/expanding second floor facilities. The Gym, previously the Bop Cellar, is now becoming a Games Room/social space annex to the bar. What was the JCR in Holywell has been converted to a temporary library – and we shall also have an additional reading room in South Oxford at Warnock. At the same time we had the usual range of un-planned works, including the need to completely rebuild the bank behind Warnock House.

All in all, we have been exceptionally busy on the estates front over the last year – and will be for some time to come. That does of course have an impact at times – on the teams that are undertaking the work, and on college members who are living with constant change. But by looking back at what we have achieved, I hope we can recognise the positive shift that we have been able to make, and the benefits that has brought. The last five years, through that lens, have already seen major change. The next five will see significantly more.

# LIBRARY



**Librarian Alice Roques writes:**

There has been lots of change in the Library over the past year as we begin the major redevelopment project for the library and archives. We welcomed Katherine Knight as Assistant Librarian, she joins us from Newnham College Library in Cambridge. Our Graduate Student Assistant Alex Robinson and seconded colleague Jenny Yeong left their roles in the library. They made a much valued contribution to the smooth running of the library, used their creative flair to decorate the library with seasonal cheer, and welcomed our readers with many a friendly smile (not to mention saving students from various printing dramas and book crises).

The standard library services continued throughout the academic year, beginning with welcome sessions for new students. During the year we supported students in their studies by holding training sessions and offering one to one advice. We've been encouraging our students to try out the wide variety of libraries available in the University. Exploring the study spots and resources spread right around the city is a key part of studying at Oxford in any year, but especially important both after the disruption of the past few years and in anticipation of the library's temporary arrangements during the building project.

We've enjoyed sharing our collections through regular displays of new books in the modern library, as well as presenting themed selections for events like Green Action week and Valentine's Day. Our rare books were also on show in our special display on early modern physics. We have an excellent collection of books about 16th- to 18th-century science and visitors enjoyed viewing works by Copernicus, Herschel, and Galileo. We also displayed one of our manuscripts, a set of Arabic texts, diagrams, and tables on astronomy



▲ The temporary space for modern collections, study space and library staff offices in Holywell Quad, previously the space used by the JCR.

translated into Latin in the 15th century, for the first time in at least a decade. We look forward to further exhibitions of our manuscripts soon.

Hertford's expert rare books cataloguer, Sophie Floate, has been increasing the visibility of our collections by adding information to the publicly accessible database [Book Owners Online](#). The website records 16th to 18th century book owners and reflects an increased academic interest in the history of physical books and their readers and owners. The growing importance of book history is evident in the modules on the 'material text' now offered as part of undergraduate and graduate English courses at Oxford. We've been able to directly support students on these courses with handling sessions and one to one consultations with rare books in our collection.

Meanwhile, the library team have also

been busy preparing for our transition to temporary services required during the library's redevelopment. Every single rare book, modern book and archival item has had to be carefully packed, recorded and moved! We've benefited from the expertise of conservators at the National Conservation Service, our rare book volunteers from the Arts Society, and four student assistants: Ceola Daly, Evie Craggs, Joe Hayes and Dan Kimber.

The packing process began in September 2022, on Katherine's very first day in the job, with a special training session for the library and archives team on how to identify and grade damage in special collections and to safely pack different shapes and types of item. The team have since spent hundreds of hours painstakingly cleaning, recording, photographing, labelling, wrapping, and packing books into special archival boxes. Our collections have been sent



# ARCHIVES



**Archivist Lucy Rutherford, writes:**

Once again this has been an exceptionally busy but productive year as the Library and Archives redevelopment project begins. We have spent the year cleaning, repackaging and cataloguing the collections in preparation for their removal to specialist storage; altogether we have sent over 500 boxes of archival items into store, retaining only a small proportion of records on site. We have benefited greatly from our subscription to the National Conservation Service [NCS], whose conservators have been on hand with advice on packing methods and materials. In addition we have worked with the Bursary and Academic offices to repack 100 boxes of bursary records and over 200 boxes of student records. Academic Projects Officer Kim Jones carried out this invaluable work on the student records and created a detailed index which will enable us to retrieve files and answer queries much more efficiently than previously.

Unfortunately during our stock checks this year we discovered a mould outbreak in our collections, due to a combination of our below standard storerooms, restricted access during the Covid-19 pandemic and the particularly hot summer last year. Every item has been carefully checked and either cleaned on site or sent away for specialist cleaning and conservation treatment. Of particular concern is our Buttery Books collection, which has remained on site during this year but has been inaccessible for cataloguing and research activities. The National Conservation Service (NCS) spent four days over the summer cleaning these books, with some of the earlier, more fragile volumes sent for conservation treatment. We successfully applied for a grant of £5,000 from the National Archives Records at Risk Fund towards the conservation of the Magdalen Hall Buttery books. We are also extremely grateful to the Hertford



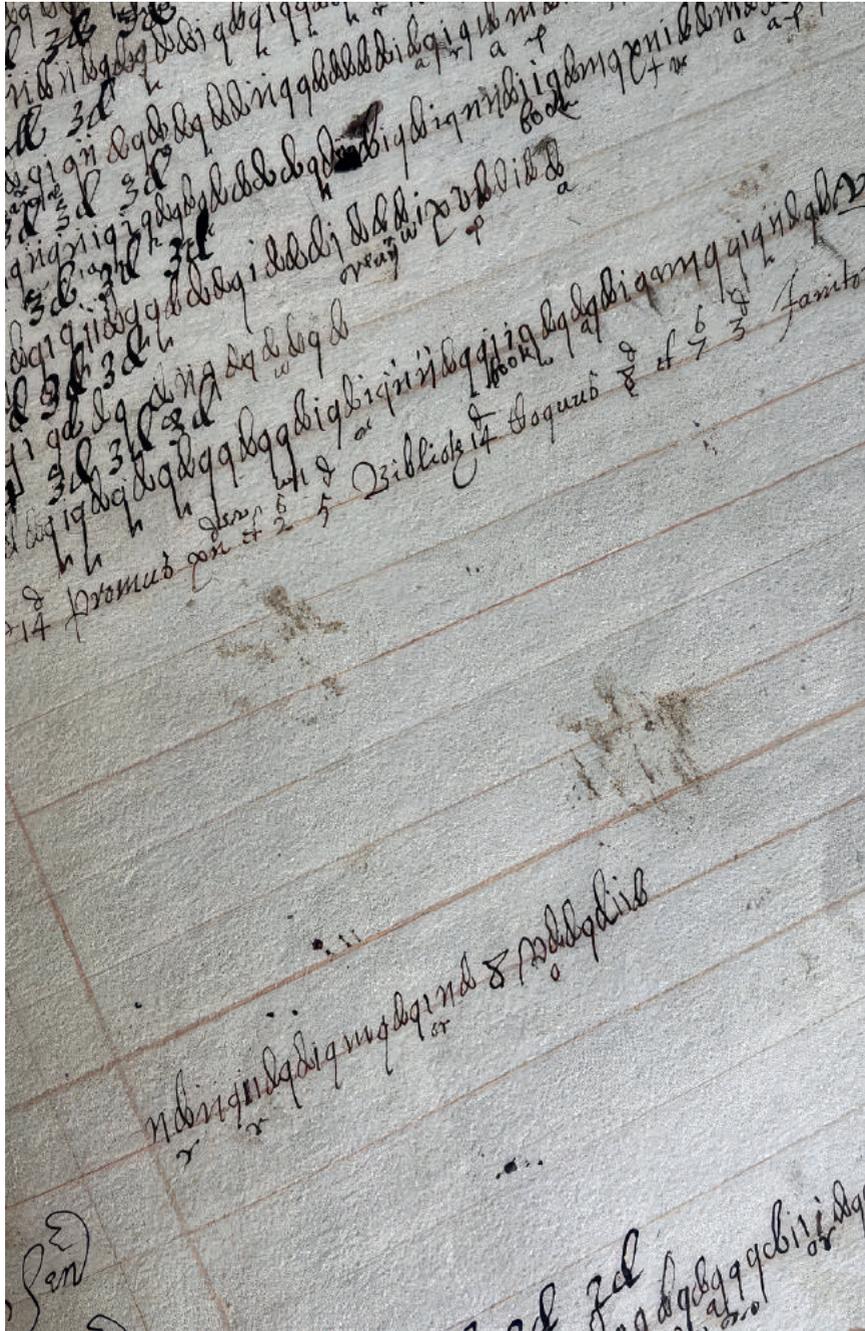
▼ An NCS conservator cleans the Buttery Books outside the Chapel

Society for agreeing to make a further grant towards this vital conservation work. This vital conservation work has enabled Prof Christopher Tyerman to carry on with the final phases of the research for his College History, temporarily paused whilst the cleaning and conservation of these volumes was carried out. He is unearthing some fascinating glimpses into the life of Magdalen Hall in particular, and we look forward to hearing much more detail in due course.

We have continued to work with researchers in person during this year. In May I was pleased to meet Malvika Kumar, the granddaughter of alumnus and Indian politician, Neil Bonarjee, who matriculated at Hertford in 1919; we were able to show her some photographs of her grandfather from the archives. We will continue to deliver as full a service to internal college users and external researchers as possible during the Library redevelopment period.



▲ Assistant Archivist, Bettie Hall, boxing up the storeroom ready for collection.



The Assistant Archivist has digitised our photographic collection and other more frequently used records and these images will be made accessible to researchers remotely. We have retained most of our historic college registers on site for consultation and aim gradually to digitise these over the next few years.

Some of our most interesting new accessions pop up unexpectedly – for example a rare photograph of some of the Officer Cadets who were stationed at Hertford during WW1, who had formed the 'B' Company No 4 Boating Club, taken in 1917. This was a gift from a Flintshire local history society, the Buckley Society; and as we have very few college photographs from this period we are particularly grateful for the donation. Other accessions are transferred by college departments. In particular our Chaplain, Mia Smith, has regularly passed on chapel-related records, all the more welcome as the archives contain very few chapel records prior to her appointment. Just arrived are a lovely collection of audio and video files created during the Covid-19 lockdowns – now safely and permanently stored in our digital preservation platform.

Our cataloguing work has highlighted many interesting items. One such example is an audio tape recording which was found in a collection of Hertford Society records. This turned out to have been created by Bill Young, who came to Hertford as a boot boy in the late 1930s and worked in the college until 1960. The tapes record his own reminiscences and are an invaluable record of life as a member of staff during these decades.

The routine work of accessioning new records, cataloguing and answering enquiries will continue. Sadly we have just said goodbye to our Assistant

Some of our most interesting new accessions pop up unexpectedly – for example a rare photograph of some of the Officer Cadets who were stationed at Hertford during WW1

Archivist, Bettie Hall, who was appointed for a year to assist with the preparations for moving our collections into storage. Her enthusiasm, skill, and hard work have enabled us to navigate through the many unexpected challenges which this year has thrown up; and future researchers will be indebted to her outstanding contribution to the physical preservation of the archive and her detailed and accessible cataloguing.

For information about any of our collections you can browse [our catalogue](#) or contact the Archivist on [archives@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:archives@hertford.ox.ac.uk). For further information about the Library and Archives redevelopment project please visit [our website](#) or contact the Fellow Archivist, Prof Emma Smith, [emma.smith@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:emma.smith@hertford.ox.ac.uk).

# CHAPEL



**Reverend Mia Smith writes:**

The diary of a college chapel can be likened to the births, deaths, and marriages pages of a newspaper, covering baptisms, weddings, and funerals – or 'hatches, matches, and dispatches' – alongside the routine term time services. This year in particular has seen some remarkable rites of passage.

Last summer I had the enormous privilege of conducting the marriage of my daughter Naomi to Tom. On one of the hottest days of the year, the quad looked fresh and green following the removal of the marquee thanks to the care given by Alison Vale, our wonderful gardener, and the domestic team. The catering team and the porters did us proud, with champagne, canapes, water spray for the flowers, and ice packs. Junior Dean Blake Trimble preached and led the service, making it a proper Hertford affair. Being on the other end of the wedding planning was a reminder of how hard our Events Manager, Jordan Davies, and her team work to make sure the big day is perfect for our couples. Those skills were tested on 8th September when Rosanna West and Guy Bartlett came in for their wedding rehearsal. We knew an announcement of the late Queen's death was imminent, but we were unsure if the marriage the next day could take place during a period of national mourning. As the marriage license was valid, we offered the couple the option of marrying there and then, which they took, dressed in denim and surrounded by a handful of their closest family. We later learned that this was the first marriage in the reign of King Charles III.

As is the case in times of national, international, and community grief, chapel became a focal point for prayers and a book of commemoration, and college representatives attended both university services of remembrance and of celebration to make the accession of King Charles III at University

Church. MCR member Thibault Jouen-Tachoire read prayers at both services.

In January this year we said goodbye to our dear Kenny Lewis, SCR Butler, coverage of which appears elsewhere in this publication. Two things stood out for me as officiating Chaplain. The first was the guard of honour to welcome Kenny into college for the final time. Staff colleagues were joined by fellows and students past and present to line the walk from Catte Street to Chapel, a reflection of our deep sense of community and affection for him and his family. Afterwards at the crematorium mourners were invited to file past the coffin; around 700 people filed through.

On a happier note, this year saw a wonderful celebration of baptism when the children of two alumni couples who met as students, Laila & Alex Slaney-Dowse (who married in chapel) and Natasha & Dominic Farrell. The lack of a font is no hardship when the SCR safe has so much lovely silverware for our use, and a punch bowl, tankard, and salt cellar were repurposed for the occasion.

Added to these formal rites of passages are the countless routine beginnings, human connections, and endings which characterise our lives together in the Hertford community.

Beginnings include the return of Hannah Towndrow (Music / Organ Scholarship 2016) as our choral advisor, and we wish her well as she continues as our Director of Music. We also welcomed Lisa Howarth's services working with our choral clerks on their singing technique, which is bearing fruit as we continue to rebuild after the pandemic.

Another special beginning which we all hope will turn into an annual event was the rite of blessing for our rowing crews as they approached Summer Vllls. Crews were blessed and anointed on their palms in honour of their hard physical graft and teamwork. Some may call their success coincidence, others divine intervention.

One of the most special 'matches' at Hertford is the annual pancake race, which brings together the whole community for fun and food. This year's



▼ Chaplain Mia Smith with former Head Porter, Dave Haxell



race was won by Nene Nagashima (International Programmes student) & Jack Smith (International Programmes Operations Manager).

This year we have enjoyed preaching from Hertford members past and present, including student preacher Juliet Dyrud, the Domestic Bursar, James Hill, and alumni, Jeffrey John, Bishops Graham Kings and Tony Porter, Keith White, and Augustine (Torrance) Chen OP. Bishop Graham combined his visit with a service of confirmation for history finalist Kirsten Smith. We also welcomed guest preacher the Reverend Lee Taylor, Rector of the college's living at Little Ilford.

College members this year have selected charities close to their hearts for our Evensong offerings. Alumna and choir member, Vicky Arnold, nominated KHARPP, a grassroots initiative working with refugees on the Polish/Ukrainian border which she had visited, and colleague Ewa Gluza nominated local charity Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground, which provides after school and holiday provision for local children.

One exciting beginning this year is being the first college chapel to gain a



bronze award in the ecology charity A Rocha's Eco Church scheme, which helps churches to focus on their environmental efforts. Thanks go to the Domestic Bursar, James Hill, and to our student team led by Nell Miles, for their enthusiasm in making this happen.

Thanks as ever go to our choir, and our graduating Organ Scholar Will Jeys. Also leaving us are Chapel Clerks Amy Leung and Juliet Dyrud, whose commitment and enthusiasm in serving chapel have been much appreciated by anyone who has attended.



I too will be dispatched back to Durham University, so this will be my final report as your Chaplain after seven years in the role. Hertford has been a wonderful match for me. I have worked with two extraordinary Ordinaries in Will Hutton and Tom Fletcher, and two exceptional Deans in Allison Woollard and Oliver Noble-Wood, and have valued the wise support of the chapel committee throughout. I am more grateful than I can express for the sense of community and support I have been shown by colleagues and students throughout my tenure. Your Chaplain thanks you from the bottom of her Hertford shaped heart.

▼ Clockwise from top left:

Naomi Smith's wedding in the Hertford Chapel

Rosanna West and Guy Bartlett after their impromptu early wedding

Christening silverware supplied by the SCR

Students attending the Zero Waster supper

A dragon for St David's Day

Kirsten Smith's confirmation by The Rt Revd Dr Graham Kings

Members of HCBC after their Summer Vills blessing

# DEVELOPMENT



**Director of  
Development  
Frances Wheare  
writes:**

In many ways, this year has felt like a transitional year for Hertford. It's the first full academic year that has been free from Covid; it's also the last year where we will not see any disruption due to the library redevelopment. If it felt like a return to normality, we were never far from the feeling that everything is about to change again.

We made the most of the year and hosted a full programme of events both in college and in London. We're grateful to Fiona Coady (Jurisprudence, 2001) for hosting our London Drinks at Taylor Wessing, and to Lord Pannick (Jurisprudence, 1974) for arranging the Hertford Society Afternoon Tea in the House of Lords; the Hertford Society graciously opened this event to all alumni to great interest. Thanks are also due to Lyse Doucet, who received an honorary degree from the University of Oxford this year, and Krishnan Guru-Murthy (PPE, 1991) who spoke in a panel discussion chaired by Tom Fletcher for this year's John Donne event. Recent alumna Charlie Hancock (Human Sciences, 2020) shares her response to the discussion on p.36 of this Magazine.

We also held subject reunions for Geography, Archaeology and Anthropology, and Physics, all linked to anniversaries or milestones. We were delighted to see so many of the founder members return to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the EW Gilbert Club (albeit in a slightly less raucous manner), and it was a pleasure to welcome back our Arch and Anth alumni for a triple celebration: 30 years of the subject at Hertford; the appointment of our new Fellow, Dylan Gaffney; and the retirement of Nick Barton. And finally, our Physics dinner honoured Pat Roche, who retires this year after nearly 30 years in college. It is remarkable to reflect that every single alum present at that dinner had been taught either by

Neil Tanner or by Pat Roche. You can read the valediction for Professor Roche on p.14.

For the Development team, much of the year was building up to the Hertford Festival, and in July we welcomed back nearly 200 alumni (along with their families and friends) for a weekend of talks and activities. The idea behind the Festival was to welcome our community back to Hertford after what for many had been a long absence, and to give everyone a chance to enjoy the college before the library building works start.

It was also an opportunity to showcase the very best that Hertford has to offer, and for me, that includes the incredible teamwork that made the event such a success. There are too many individuals to single out, but from the Bursar hanging bunting to our Porter, Scott Marshallsay, acting as a friendly, gentle bouncer as members of the public were drawn into college by the sound of local band Sol Samba, it truly was a team effort. Thank you to alumni Corin Throsby (DPhil English, 2002) and Fiona Bruce (Modern Languages, 1981), Professors Pat Roche and Emma Smith, and to Sarah Brown, Suzanne Heywood, Roberto Trotta, and Peter Frankopan for taking part, as well as our alumni and student University Challenge teams. Our Hertford-themed questions were written by Dom Hewett (English, 2013), who appeared on the show with his graduate institution, Bristol. Special mention must go to Tom Fletcher, who chaired three events and channelled his inner Jeremy Paxman to host University Challenge.

We are once again circulating our Donor Report\* with the Magazine this

year, and this year has seen a boost in our fundraising numbers. Our donors have supported a range of projects, from scholarships designed to open up graduate studies to underrepresented students to capital projects. I'm thrilled to report that we have now raised half of our fundraising target for our vital library refurbishment, which will transform the student experience at Hertford. This is an important milestone, but we still have a way to go before we're taking advantage of the glorious roof terrace. We will continue to focus on library fundraising over the next two years, alongside our existing priorities to give all our students an exceptional Oxford experience, free from financial burden. Thank you to every single one of our 944 donors this year.

Our fantastic Development team has undergone some changes this year. Towards the end of 2022, we welcomed Genista Astell as Development Officer, shortly followed by Sophie Carp as Communications Officer. Sadly, we also say goodbye to Deputy Development Director, Olga Batty, who is taking some time out to spend time with on her family. Olga has been at Hertford since 2018 and her contributions over the past five years cannot be underestimated – most recently, she led on the organisation of the Hertford Festival, a mammoth task that she approached with her customary calm, good-humoured professionalism. Olga will be very much missed, but we wish her all the best for the future and look forward to welcoming her successor later in the year.

As transitional years go, this has been a pretty good one. We hope you'll join us as we move into the next phase.

\*Please note that you will not receive the Donor Report if you have opted out of receiving fundraising materials. You can update your contact preferences on our website at any time: [www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/alumni/update-your-details](http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/alumni/update-your-details)

# SEEDS OF HOPE: REWILDING OUR GARDENS AND HELPING WILDFLOWERS THRIVE



**A conversation  
with Alison Vale,  
Hertford College  
Gardener.**

## How long have you worked at Hertford College?

For 20 years I was self-employed and did a lot of work at Hertford during that time. Then in the last two years I was taken on as an official employee here. I now work exclusively for Hertford and my role here is the College Gardener. I might be the only designated gardener in college, but it doesn't feel lonely as I can always ask for help. For example, I am not good with ladders but there is always someone I can call on to support me.

## What got you into gardening in the first place?

My grandfather was a gardener on the Isle of Wight. He used to grow carnations and send them up to London for people to use as 'nose gays'. I often smile now when I see the carnations worn by our students in exam season and think back to my grandfather and his work.

I also learned a lot about gardening from my dad. My father was of the 'dig for Britain' generation and he was always in the garden and produced all the flowers and vegetables for our home. When I retire, I would like to live like that. I have a large garden to keep up at home and would love to see it flourish.

## Where do you buy your plants for Hertford?

I mainly purchase from The Garden of Oxford in the Covered Market. They recently celebrated 40 years of business. [As we conduct the interview on a bench in the Hertford OB quad, Raymond



← Alison Vale, Hertford Gardener, standing in OB Quad in July 2023.

Martin from The Garden delivers plants.]

## Do you find gardening relaxing?

It is amazing how stressful gardening can be – especially when you are gardening for someone other than yourself. You can't just stride in and get cracking – you need to think about the different tastes and styles of those who are asking you to work for them. There is a lot to consider.

## Tell us about a typical day at work at Hertford

As soon as I get to work, I look around to see if the plants are stressed in any way. Are there any brown leaves? Are there any black spots on the roses? Do I need to deadhead the pansies? I have an eye for detail and the health of the flowers and plants is always at the forefront of

my mind. I want the flowers to always look as fresh as possible! I can't go to the nth degree as there is simply not enough time in the day, but I admit I am a perfectionist and I need to balance this!

Next, I am always watering: all the pots, all the window boxes, all the planters and any new planting I have recently done as the roots on new plants especially need watering.

After this, I check the lawn but always keeping one thing in mind. What is happening in college that day? Do I need to be extra mindful of noise? Are there exams taking place? Are there tutorials happening in nearby rooms? Will the lawn be in use later today? Will there be a lunchtime recital in the chapel today? Is there a drinks reception here later? This is why I don't use a noisy

hedge trimmer and I especially didn't during the Covid lockdowns when people were frequently connecting on Zoom and Teams. I also make sure I am careful when I am watering the window boxes in summer when the windows are open so as not to get any papers on window ledges or nearby tables, wet! I am very aware that I work in a special community, and I try to fit in and work around it.

### How do you prepare for your working day at Hertford?

I begin at 8.30am and I really enjoy my routine even before I get into work. I get off my bus and always walk through the Covered Market and scan what is on offer at The Garden. I try to buy perennials as they are more sustainable, and our plan is to rewild a lot more in the garden/quad borders at college.

Very often, I'll think the night before about what happened in the garden today and I think ahead to the next day and what needs to be done. I take stock. I reflect and I write it all down in my diary. I like this routine as I find it calming, and it helps me to keep on top of my tasks. Crucially, the night before work I also check the weather forecast so that I can make the most of the time I have got the next day. I plan my work quite carefully.

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

When staff members and tourists tell me about their gardens. Even if they have only got a balcony and one pot or an old wisteria plant to care for – I love hearing about it all as I find it so interesting.

I feel like I get to connect with many different members of the college community. For example, Clive Hamblen will stop and tell me about the insects

on the plants. Sometimes I will see him showing his students spiders and webs during their tutorials. He will often ask me not to cut back certain plants due to insect habitats!

Mia Smith and I have exchanged seeds, tulip trees, and sunflowers. I am hoping both do really well.

My work is quite varied and I do the flowers for the Chapel and internal displays wherever needed.

Mainly I like how I work with all staff at Hertford. It feels like we fit in together and it is teamwork. I feel lucky to work in such wonderful surroundings, and alongside such lovely people. The students are amazing and appreciate me and thank me. Tourists will nod and thank me too. I feel valued.

### What do you tend to do in the afternoons?

I tend to head down to South Oxford and visit the gardens next to the student accommodation sites at Abingdon and Warnock House. This area fascinates me as it is all being re-wilded. The wall at the back of Warnock House is currently being redone. It feels like there is always something happening in the garden.

### What do you like to do on a day off?

Once a year I go on holiday with Abingdon Horticulture Club and we visit National Trust and RHS gardens – we visit a different garden each day. We went to the Cheshire area this year. My very favourite place to visit locally is Buscot Park (NT) near Oxford. It is beautiful and in the spring, you get the bluebells. Every time you go you are treated to something different. I also love Rousham near Bicester.

### Tell us about how your role as Hertford Gardener was impacted by the

### Covid-19 lockdown?

When Covid-19 was at its height, just the porters and I were allowed access to the college. I would come in and 'do my thing', keeping the gardens going so that when people eventually started coming back into college, it was as if nothing had happened, and they felt immediately welcomed back. I always think that first impressions count.

### How do you think gardening has changed at Hertford over the years?

Since Covid, gardening has become simpler. We are not using so many shrubs but instead more grasses and more perennials. We are so much more mindful of biodiversity. The JCR Environment and Ethics Representative, Beatrice McWilliam, has been supportive of my work. I met Beatrice when she was living in Abingdon House and we would chat about how the seeds the JCR planted are doing. I am hopeful they will germinate. Let's see!

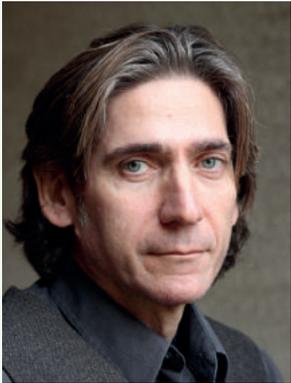


▲ Rewilding photo taken by Alison Vale in Summer 2023. The image shows a patch of soil at Abingdon House which was rewilded by the JCR and Oxford Uni seed initiative. Alison let everything grow and embraced the no-mow trend and was delighted to see little orange dandelions called 'fox and cubs' appear and a rare spot – a 'pyramid orchid'. This was a particular delight since it was the first time that orchids had been spotted on this site.

# SUBJECT REPORTS

## ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Professor Lambros Malafouris writes:



The start of the 2022-23 academic year marked 30 years of Archaeology and Anthropology at Hertford College and we celebrated by hosting a special reunion exhibition and dinner (with the kind help and support of the Hertford Development Office)! It was a memorable event that gave the opportunity to many of our Archaeology and Anthropology alumni to revisit the college, meet with old friends (including Professor Martin Biddle) and join with us to wish Professor Nick Barton all the best on his retirement. Some of the ex-students spoke about their experiences of their time at Hertford, and life after Oxford. We also had a small exhibition showing photos of our current work and images sent in or brought along by



▲ Celebrating 30 years of Archaeology and Anthropology at Hertford College.

students of their time at Hertford.

Moreover, last May, in collaboration with our undergraduate students (special thanks to Lucy Derrick for coordinating this), we organised an Arch & Anth academic enrichment seminar with Tim Ingold who is Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Aberdeen. The seminar took place at the Old Library at Hertford and was funded through the Hertford Academic Enrichment Fund. Professor Ingold gave a talk 'Anthropology and the Human to Come' followed by questions and discussion with the students.

During Trinity term and over the summer I had the chance to continue my research and fieldwork on the HANDMADE project which is funded from the European Research Council (ERC). The highlight of the year was the cross-disciplinary workshop and exhibition, 'Creative Meteorisms' ([www.arch.ox.ac.uk/article/creative-meteorisms-cross-disciplinary-workshop-and-exhibition](http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/article/creative-meteorisms-cross-disciplinary-workshop-and-exhibition)), organised in July at The Museum of Geological Formations of Meteora, Greece in collaboration with the Theodorou Art Studio. The workshop, brought together ceramists, artists and academics



▲ Arch & Anth academic enrichment seminar with Tim Ingold (University of Aberdeen). (Top row left to right: L. Malafouris, R. Mitchell, L. Hannon, L. Derrick, T. Ingold, E. Raja, A. Aston, L. Stein. Bottom: J. Hughes, K. Law, S. Morris, E. Williams).

with a range of specialisations from archaeology, anthropology, design, psychology, psychiatry and philosophy. Participants, using a series of practical demonstrations (raku firing & experimental reconstruction of ceramic techniques) and interactive interventions (mobile eye-tracking & exploration of the 'bodily self') tried to capture the meaning of 'creative meteorism' (from the Greek term *meteōra* referring to atmospheric or meteorological phenomena) and to understand its broader significance in the morphogenetic process. The combination of theoretical perspectives and practical/experiential sessions enabled productive dialogue across disciplinary boundaries which facilitated new insights on the process of creativity.

In addition, last December I spent a week in Palermo as Visiting Professor at the Department of Culture and Society, University of the Studi di Palermo where I gave a series of lectures and seminars. I

was also one of the keynote speakers for the 50th AISS Congress (Associazione italiana di Studi Semiotici).

Many congratulations to all our students for their academic achievements. This year we were particularly delighted that two of our third-years were awarded First class degrees (Leah Stein and Emily Williams). Moreover, two of our three first-year students (Lois Hannon and Robert Mitchell) achieved Firsts at Moderations. We are very proud of our students, and we wish them the best in the next step.

I should also mention that during the summer Lois and Robert spent two weeks in Germany working on an agricultural project doing experimental archaeology with the Laresham Open-Air Laboratory. This involved among others harvesting and threshing wheat, as well as weighing grains in order to determine why mediaeval farmers might have prioritised particular methods

During Trinity term and over the summer I had the chance to continue my research and fieldwork on the HANDMADE project which is funded from the European Research Council (ERC).



▲ Lois Hannon and Robert Mitchell and the rest of the team doing some technical measurements/drawings of an excavated furnace.

of ploughing/crop rotation/etc. over others. (You can see them broadcasted here: [www.1730live.de/oxford-studenten-trainieren-ausgrabungen/](http://www.1730live.de/oxford-studenten-trainieren-ausgrabungen/)). Another of our first-year students, Kira Law travelled to Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique as part of the Paleo-Primate Project, excavating GPL12- one of the many Miocene fossil sites in the park, and doing primatological research involving observation of baboon behaviour.

Last year we welcomed Dr Alex Aston as an archaeology tutor and college lecturer. We would like to thank Alex for his excellent work teaching our students and we are looking forward to welcoming Dr Dylan Gaffney at Hertford as a new fellow from Michaelmas Term.



▲ Kira Law with other students at the Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique.

## BIOCHEMISTRY

Professor Alison Woollard writes:



Last Saturday (23 September 2023), our fourth-year cohort managed to organise themselves to all graduate on the same day! This is a rare occurrence, and it was wonderful to be able to come and share the occasion with them on a beautiful sunny day. This lot had been in Oxford for just six months when the first Covid-19 lockdown started, and their experience was anything but normal from that point onwards. They were sent home, taught online, eventually returning to a very different college experience (remember the marquee, and the staircase bubbles?) that only just approached normality during their third year. It seems amazing how quickly we have all forgotten what an extraordinary time this was – not just for the fourth-

year cohort of course, but for those coming both before and after them. It is testament to the indefatigable spirit of all our students that they overcame the various challenges with energy and determination, emerging victorious – and along the way learning to work together and support each other unstintingly. As Biochemists, they wanted to know all about the minutiae of viral biology, and I remember Petros leading them through a wonderful set of online tutorials in which they analysed the Covid-19 research as it was coming out – evaluating real data in real time and learning much about science in the process. When it came to doing their fourth-year research projects, they relished the fact that their lab experience would be “normal”, even though this means, or course, an experimental failure rate of about 95%.... They have finished up with truly excellent results and fantastic plans, and Petros and I are looking forward to following their various careers with great interest.

For us tutors, it's been another busy year – the carousel of academic life spins through teaching, examining, new research findings, papers, conferences, administration, seemingly ever-faster (but perhaps we are just getting older...). The biggest joys, as ever, lie in the science and in the students. The flow of conversation with them starts in Freshers week, and often goes on for decades.

For Biochemistry more widely, this year saw the roll-out of Year 3 of our new Part I course, and the first round of the new assessment structure. As a Part I examiner, as well as newly minted Director of Teaching, I must confess it was a bit of a white-knuckle ride, but, to my huge relief, all went well, and we were very pleased with the results. The

overall aim of the new course structure is to enhance the skills focus of our students' experience, using more active and practical learning strategies to encourage students to be more

critical and analytical, to innovate – as well as to be creative problem-solvers. Goodness me, the world needs people like that!



▲ School's Dinner 2023

## BIOLOGY

Dr Beth Mortimer writes:



In Michaelmas Term 2022, we were delighted to welcome Beth Mortimer as a new tutorial Fellow in Biology: her account of her first year is given below. We are also delighted to announce that during the summer vacation, both Beth and her predecessor, Jeri Wright, had baby boys. Many congratulations to both of them and their families.

It has been a wonderful first year at Hertford as the new Associate Professor in Animal Biology, following the departure of Prof. Geraldine Wright to Jesus College as Hope Chair of Entomology. It has been a pleasure to work as part of the Biology team at Hertford, alongside Prof. Martin Maiden and Timothy Walker. I have loved getting to know the Hertford Biologists, and getting to grips with all the other diverse aspects of college life.

'Animal Biology' could mean many things, but my research speciality is in

animal behaviour and biomechanics. My research aims to understand how and why animals use their mechanical senses for information. This includes the traditional senses of touch and hearing, but also the often-underappreciated importance of vibration sensing. Mechanical senses are often considered in isolation, but this is not the physical reality. Understanding how animals operate within physical constraints to solve biological problems such as detecting, identifying, and locating sources of information can inspire solutions within applied contexts such as conservation and robotics.

My lab has two main research themes at the moment. One is lab-based and uses arthropod species to investigate mechanisms of vibration sensing, with a particular focus on spiders and bioinspired mechanical sensors. The second is field-based and focusses on how animals use ground-based vibrations to communicate. Our main focus is African elephants, but we've also found that through eavesdropping on a broad range of animal-generated ground-based vibrations, researchers can remotely monitor animal behaviour – with potential for conservation applications.

My lab is currently funded by the Royal Society (University Research Fellowship), Natural Environment Research Council (new investigator grant and studentships) and Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (studentships). Our work is very interdisciplinary, and I work closely with colleagues in Engineering, Earth Sciences and Computer Science Departments at Oxford and elsewhere on these projects.

My tutorial role at Hertford this year has focussed on whole organism animal topics. We are lucky at Hertford that



between Martin, Timothy, and me (with some input from the Biochemistry tutors!), we can cover all the diverse aspects of the first-year course within Hertford. In the second year, I support the students with their statistics and research skills course, as well as animal topics within the Organisms module. In third year, I've taught for research skills and Animal Behaviour and Physiology modules. The students have been great, very welcoming and engaged – and it's been a pleasure to tutor at Hertford this year.

Another set of strong examination results across the board this year included the Gibbs Prize for Nell Miles for performance in finals and the Keymer Prize in Computational Biology

to Kiran Weston for his project write up. Well done to both for this recognition of their hard work and commitment.

Finally, we have the Schools dinner photograph for 2023 (L-R: Kiran Weston, Caleb Bram, Cass Baumberg, Martin Maiden, Louise Miller, Beth Mortimer, Anna Prazmo, and Beth Prickett-Brown).

As I write, I'm two days away from starting my maternity leave for one academic year. The third years joke that they are cursed with different tutor combinations each year. But I'm sure the teaching cover that we have hired will be a great support to the students for next year and I look forward to my return in Michaelmas 2024.

## CHEMISTRY

Professor Fernanda Duarte writes:



new horizons. Lizzie (third year) had a great time applying her chemistry knowledge to a research project in the Department of Geography at the University of Sheffield. Krystian (third year) spent time in the Duarte group supported by a Hertford Summer Studentship, learning a great deal about computational methods and academic research. Minyu (third year) also enjoyed a taste of research working in the Vallance group. Jeremy (second year) contributed to a project at the University of East Anglia, developing high-throughput protocols to explore the link between diet and the progression of rheumatoid arthritis. Abi (first year) worked at the Formulation and Analytical labs at Unilever, Leeds, learning about the practical applications of analytical techniques in industry. Alex (second year) held his first solo exhibition as an expressionist landscape painter, selling ten paintings in only a week!

The Hertford Chemists had a busy and exciting academic year in 2022/2023, marked by new additions, a full return to in-person activities, and numerous academic and personal achievements.

In October 2022, we welcomed five new chemists to our ranks. We were also delighted to have Matteo rejoin the second-year crew. The group had much to celebrate in terms of academic achievements. Four students achieved Distinctions in Prelims exams, and our fourth years Joseph, Kamen, and Mohammed, successfully completed their Part II research. Kamen received the Gibbs Prize for achieving the best overall result in the Part IB exam. He continues to combine his passion for coding and chemistry now as an intern at a biotech start-up,

The summer break provided a unique opportunity for students to explore

**In October 2022, we welcomed five new chemists to our ranks. We were also delighted to have Matteo rejoin the second-year crew.**

Joe W (third year) brewed his own beer and recently broke into the university hockey team.

After overcoming the challenges of the past few years, we were thrilled to resume our social activities. The traditional Christmas mulled wine and nibbles event brought a bit of relaxation after a busy Michaelmas term. We also had the return of the Hertford Chemistry Dinner in April 2023, the first since the pandemic. We were honoured to have three alumni- Nick Graves, Andrew Hull, and Tim Ledsam – sharing their career journeys (none directly in chemistry) since studying at Hertford. All three alumni expressed their joy at being part of the event, emphasizing the sense of camaraderie and identity among Hertford chemists. Nick wrote to us after the event: "I was struck in particular by the contrasts between our three alumni experiences, which seemed to reflect the fast-evolving nature of careers, particularly during the last decade. So many thanks for including me, and may I wish you all the very best for Hertford and Chemistry." Similarly, Andrew wrote: "Thank you for inviting me. It was great to have the chance to come back and a pleasure to take part. You have a lovely friendly, inquisitive and enthusiastic group of students, and I hope they continue to enjoy their time at Hertford as much as I did." In accord with tradition, Mike, our inorganic Chemistry Tutor, entertained us with an amusing after-dinner speech

and presented awards, including 'The Crutch Prize,' 'The Accident Prone Prize,' and the 'Round Flat-Bottomed Flask Prize' to worthy recipients.

The academic team has been equally productive. Mike expanded his already impressive clarinet collection, from bass to contra alto to contrabass clarinet dimensions, playing them in a home-grown quintet, a larger clarinet ensemble in Eynsham, and Abingdon Concert Band. His first concerts with them were in July and September. Claire, our physical chemistry tutor, continued to excel in her multifaceted roles, from Senior Tutor to leading her research group and engaging in sports activities.

On a personal note, I was on maternity leave during Michaelmas and Hilary term, welcoming little Mateo into our family. Balancing different responsibilities was made much easier by the support of college and the chemistry community. I was honoured to receive the 2022 Novartis Early Career Award in Chemistry. It was also immensely gratifying to witness four PhD students in my group submitting/defending their DPhil Theses during the summer, with many others presenting their research at international conferences.

As we look forward to the upcoming academic year, we are excited to welcome new members, and to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr Andreas Galanis writes:



The academic year 2022-23 has been busy for Computer Science at Hertford in multiple ways.

Among the key developments was the appointment of our second Tutorial Fellow in Computer Science at Hertford, Mark van der Wilk, with research expertise on machine learning. I am sure that Mark's contributions in teaching our undergraduates and, more generally, developing computer science at Hertford are going to be catalytic. Watch this space for updates by Mark!

Our students (and ourselves) enjoyed a rather smooth academic year at the "usual" fast-paced Oxford tempo. All of our students progressed very well, with plenty of strong performances in the exams, and a few well above the first-class point. Hertford students also did very well at getting prizes in

the computer science department, including for two group design prizes for "delivering a real-time solution to a real-world problem" and for "presenting and demonstrating a high-quality and industrially competitive product". We also had two of our students who qualified and represented the Computer Science department (together with four other students from other colleges) in the international programming competition NWERC which took place in the Netherlands.

From a more personal perspective, this year has been quite unlike the others, mostly because of my one-year old son. Together with having new roles at the department (such as being Chair of the Examiners for the second and third-year exams) on top of usual research/teaching activities, this resulted into a far more intense year which, somewhat surprisingly, worked much better than I would have thought initially: the clearer distinction between academic and family time made me enjoy and value both more.

Research-wise, together with colleagues we have several promising directions that we are currently exploring. One such direction that I am excited about is the design of computational methods that go beyond certain intractability boundaries in problems of interest. More precisely, we aim to design fast solutions (algorithms) in obtaining statistics of complex systems (consisting of a gigantic number of components), overcoming in particular previous barriers that were impeding efficiency. We have a couple of papers that already significantly improve the state-of-the-art, and my hope is that we are going to accomplish even better benchmarks soon.

Looking forward to a great 2023-24, and wishing all the best to everyone!

## ECONOMICS

**Professor Elizabeth Baldwin writes:**



Economics in Hertford has had a celebratory year! Rather unusually for an Oxford college, both of our fellows spent some of the year on maternity leave. The year kicked off welcoming eight new students in each of PPE and E&M, but without me; I re-joined the fold mid-way through Michaelmas term, then Federica Romei was absent from January, spending time with her own new arrival.

Luckily our teaching in the college continues to be ably supported by Richard Povey (teaching macro to first years and micro to second years), who was joined this year by George Bitsakakis (teaching macro to second years) and Judith Guo (teaching quantitative methods to first and second years). Richard now has a permanent position in the college. We are lucky that Judith remains for 2023-24, while starting

her new position as Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Econometrics at the University of Manchester.

It was a strange year for examinations, with many undertaking a marking boycott with the University and College Union, especially in our partner subject Politics. Three of our finalists are missing so many marks that they have not yet had their degree classified – we hope this will be resolved soon! And that it will grant us more Firsts: we have three so far, with some excellent students in waiting. Meanwhile, PPE prelims has had to do without politics marks entirely, so far, and so no distinctions have been awarded to anyone. Hopefully this will change as the boycott is lifted – several of our PPE students performed very well in economics. Meanwhile in economics and management, five out of eight students were awarded a distinction.

I had a good year for publications; as I adjusted to my return from leave, two papers that had been in the works for some time came out. The more prominent one, published in the Journal of Political Economy, considers the existence of competitive equilibrium with indivisible goods. This is a surprisingly fiddly problem, given how natural it is when goods can be sliced up into fractional pieces, and most in the literature assume that preferences are quasilinear. We showed that the general case – with income effects – can be translated back to that simpler setting. This means that the existing literature can now be applied to questions of competitive equilibrium with “large” objects, such as houses, that can’t be sliced up, and whose purchase really impacts on an agent’s purchasing power. Finally, many alumni might enjoy Richard’s game theory problem, published in the European Mathematical Society magazine in February 2022 (problem 246) <https://euromathsoc.org/magazine/articles/78>

## ENGINEERING

**Professor Manolis Chatzis writes:**



In the academic year 2022-23, we welcomed five new Engineering Freshers who performed excellently in their Prelims examinations recording four distinctions. Our six second-year students performed exceptionally well, with three of them in the top 25% of students across the cohort. Our third-year students progressed into year four with strong performances. Our fourth-year students performed exceptionally well: Jingyi and Kin Sing graduated with very high firsts, and Zain and

Marcus with very high 2:1s. They have all had four exceptional years and we wish them all the best in their next step. We are about to welcome a new Engineering tutor, Thomas Morstyn, to our team.

This was the last academic year with Tony Wilson being part of our tutorial team. Students, colleagues, and graduates are all grateful for to have had the privilege to work with an outstanding engineer and tutor.

**Our six second-year students performed exceptionally well, with three of them in the top 25% of students across the cohort.**

## ENGLISH

Professor David Dwan writes:



The cohort of students who have just graduated have had a very disrupted time at Hertford, and we congratulate them on their fortitude in completing their degrees successfully. In the meantime, tutors Rachel Burns, David Dwan and Emma Smith report on their activities this year, and Charlotte Brewer offers a valedictory note.

Rachel Burns and her co-editor Rafael J. Pascual were delighted to see their edited collection, *Tradition and Innovation in Old English Metre*, in print this September. Rachel also wrote a chapter for *Ideas of the World in Early Medieval English Literature*, with the volume winning the best book prize at the 2023 conference of the International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England. In April, Rachel took students from Hertford's

first- and second-year English cohorts on a newly-devised walking tour of Chaucer's London, which culminated in a recitation of Middle English debate-poetry in the shadow of the House of Commons (against the backdrop of an Extinction Rebellion demo). The day offered wonderful opportunities to think about dissent, trade and journeying in Chaucer's times and works.

David has enjoyed teaching modern literature to the first years and third years and is grateful for all the ways in which they've made him rethink ideas for his new book on ethics and fiction (forthcoming with Princeton). He published an article on moral luck in *Conrad* in *Michaelmas 2022* and a chapter on revolution in *Yeats* in summer 2023. Two further essays – on the fraught relationship between T. S. Eliot and Bertrand Russell and on the role of philosophy in Iris Murdoch's fiction – are slowly snaking through the press.

Emma has been busy with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's First Folio, including trips to the USA, South Africa and Australia. This year she has also been the Sam Wanamaker Fellow at Shakespeare's Globe, and gave a lecture on the First Folio from the playhouse stage in June. Her books *The Making of Shakespeare's First Folio* and *Shakespeare's First Folio: Four Centuries of an Iconic Book* were reissued in new editions, and she has contributed to several documentaries, podcasts and radio programmes about the anniversary. She is the academic advisor to the BBC's Shakespeare documentary series due for transmission in November 2023. In May she presented a series of Radio 4 interviews called *Taking Issue with Shakespeare*, including discussing

populism with Gordon Brown, toxic masculinity with Will Self, and moving to the country with Fiona Shaw. Her current work is an edition of *Twelfth Night* for the 4th Arden series of the plays.

And finally, Charlotte Brewer writes, on the eve of her retirement from Hertford:

'Leaving Hertford for pastures new is one of those Janus moments in life, looking both forwards and backwards. Every year we tutors see our finalists go through this process, so it is fascinating to be doing it now myself.

Of course, it is not the same for me: I am looking back over decades, not three or four years – and my forward perspective is evidently rather different too. The world has changed enormously since I was appointed a tutorial fellow in 1991, and so has the college. But one of the things that strikes me most is how, through those different decades, some features of an Oxford tutor's life have remained constant. The intelligence, spirit and amiability of our successive students, and the pleasure to be got from seeing them fulfil their promise (whatever that turns out to be), both while they are with us and when they are gone, is one example. Another is the adaptability and richness of the tutorial, a free conversation always capable of leaping into unexpected territory, sometimes as illuminating for the tutor as it is—one hopes—for the student.

Students as well as tutorials can take us by surprise. One of my nicest experiences this year was sitting between two former English students at a college dinner. Both told stories of the unexpected paths that opened up for them after leaving college, and the unexpected aspects of their Oxford experience that came to their aid.

I have surprised myself a little in leaving Hertford, too. Taking French language lessons in Aix-en-Provence in 2018 began as a light-hearted diversion after a stretch of being Senior Tutor. Five years later our family has acquired a French base and I will now be spending quite a bit of time there as well as here, in both places learning and writing about national dictionaries, dictionary writers, and the links between them. And also, perhaps, taking up gardening, if only to conform to the retirement stereotype.

I have had a wonderful time at Hertford. A big thank you to all my colleagues, and all our students.'

English at Hertford will not be the same without Charlotte: she has our warmest wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

Both told stories of the unexpected paths that opened up for them after leaving college, and the unexpected aspects of their Oxford experience that came to their aid.

# GEOGRAPHY

Dr Janet Bamfield writes:



Conference in Reading, and Jemima Lane's dissertation (on the linear dune) has been submitted to the Quaternary Research Association's Undergraduate Dissertation Award.

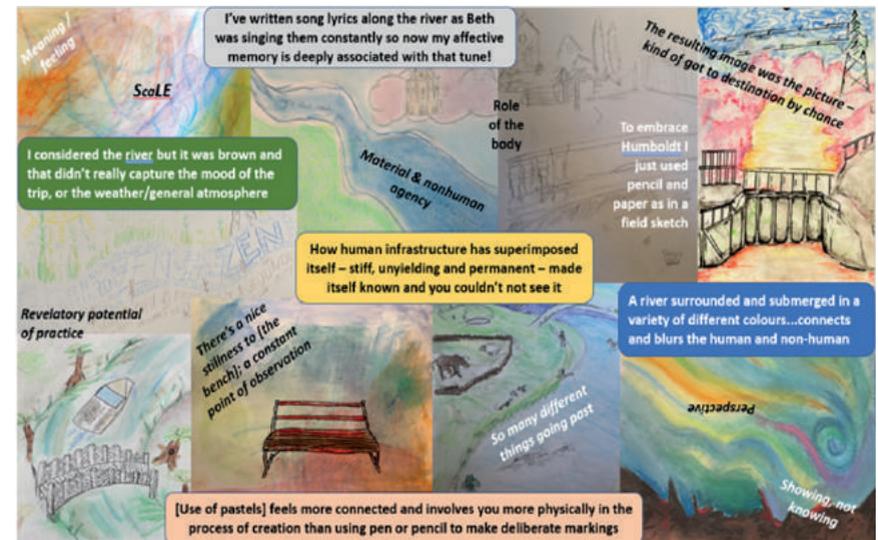
For this year's Academic Enrichment Activity, all three years got together for a boat trip on the river, during which we embraced our inner Sauers and Humboldts by painting and sketching the landscape as we went, proudly upholding disciplinary stereotypes involving colouring pencils. As always at this time of year, we wish the departing Finalists well for their future endeavours, we eagerly await the outcomes of the second years' currently active dissertation fieldwork and we look forward to welcoming the first years back for the start of FHS in October, when they will no longer be the 'new kids on the block'.

The academic team have been equally productive:

Hertford Geographers have completed another high-energy and successful year, with three of our students achieving Firsts at Finals so far (some results remain pending). Dissertation projects were as broad ranging and fascinating as ever, with a distinct skew to the physical side of the discipline this year. Topics covered included: links between rainfall, urbanisation and combined sewage overflows in the Solent area; convivial commuting in European cities; the chronology of a linear dune in India; analysis of low-level jets in Algeria; the skin as a political space in animal testing; impacts of air pollution on Oxford's stone heritage, and rewilding bison in Montana for climate mitigation. More specifically, Alice Reynolds recently presented her dissertation research (on low level jets) to the Royal Meteorological Society's Student and Early Career



▲ At work (sort of!)



▲ A collage of our creative outputs and disciplinary reflections

**Prof Jamie Lorimer**, Tutorial Fellow, has continued his research on how farmers and other land managers are adapting UK land management to the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. This has involved a range of projects including work with postdoctoral researchers and PhD students exploring: the rise of regenerative agriculture as a new model of farming practice; the use of integrated pest management to lower herbicide use; urban rewilding in London; and the growing enthusiasm for the reintroduction of beavers to British rivers. This work is carried out under the umbrella of three large research projects: the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery, the Wellcome-Trust funded Livestock Environment and People programme; and the *Canadian Institute for Advanced Research programme on Humans and*

[The 'more-than-human'] approach explores what happens to human geography when we take seriously how plants, animals, and technologies shape spatial practices.

the *Microbiome*. Jamie has been on sabbatical teaching leave this year and has been working on a new textbook introducing the field of 'more-than-human' geography. This approach explores what happens to human geography when we take seriously how plants, animals, and technologies shape spatial practices. It challenges the idea of humans as separate from the world and outlines an approach to geography that understands humans as immersed in the world and entangled with other beings and landscapes. The book will be published by *Routledge* in mid-2024.

**Dr Janet Banfield**, Stipendiary Lecturer, has been covering college duties for much of Jamie's sabbatical leave this year. Nonetheless, she has continued her involvement with a documentary film-making project on the psychological phenomenon of flow (loss of spatial, temporal and self-awareness due to deep immersion in an activity), and the draft manuscript for an accompanying book, which sets the conceptual, geographical and critical groundwork for the film-based research, is nearing completion. A chapter generated by Jan's invited presentation to a symposium on Knowledge and Space in Germany in 2019 has finally made it into print: *Improficiency and the Professionalisation of Undisciplined Practices* elaborates the challenges involved in building a career in interdisciplinary spaces with conflicting disciplinary demands for proficiency, and prompts rethinking such spaces in more differentiated and processual fashion as individual interdisciplinarians are accorded variegated validation by their diverse disciplines. A further paper, examines how giant puppets function as a post-human artform to reposition the spectator with respect

to the puppet through a series of spatial manoeuvres, thereby drawing them into the puppet's singularity and making their political message accessible. It is currently under review.

Career Development Fellow **Dr Linda Speight's** research continues to explore making better use of weather forecasts to improve preparedness for extreme events. A couple of months after Linda returned from a MSc field trip to drought ridden Spain with the WSPM students, the urgency of addressing this challenge was clear when videos from the same region were seen on the news of people stranded on their cars as walls of muddy water rushed down the Zaragoza ring road. In July, Linda had the opportunity to brush up on her operational weather forecasting skills during a five-week summer testbed with the UK Met Office. One of the activities compared flood forecasts from a new regional

This approach explores what happens to human geography when we take seriously how plants, animals, and technologies shape spatial practices.

approach Linda has been developing with the University of Leeds, with the current model used to produce flood forecasts and warnings for the UK. The rest of the summer will be spent analysing the results. Linda has worked with Louise Slater (and many others) to write a paper considering how blending AI with traditional climate and weather forecasting approaches could combine their strengths to improve forecasts. She has also been working closely with the Environment Agency and British Hydrology Society on the UK Flood Hydrology Roadmap, seeking to improve the skills, data, methods and scientific understanding in UK hydrology over the next 25 years.

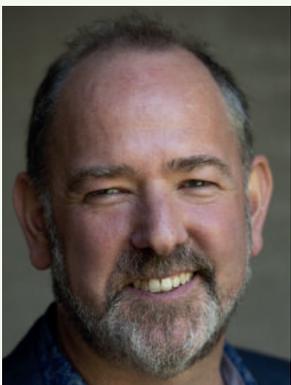
**Prof David Thomas**, Professorial Fellow, has had three terms of sabbatical leave in 2022-23, following his period as chair of one of the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) panels. During the year he has been working on two Leverhulme Trust-funded research projects, including co-authoring to publication seven research papers from the project investigating new Middle Stone Age-hydrodynamic interactions and adaptations in the

Kalahari Desert, and carrying out fieldwork on the margins of India's Thar Desert for the project investigating the collapse of the bronze age Indus Civilisation. He has also been writing a new public-facing science book on deserts, to be published by Princeton University Press in 2024.

**Dr Louise Slater**, Tutorial Fellow, is currently a fellow of UK Research and Innovation's "Future Leaders Fellows" scheme. Her fellowship is titled 'DRIFT: the dynamic drivers of flood risk' and seeks to disentangle the different drivers of changing river flood risk in time and space using a variety of approaches, including machine learning. In 2023, Louise received the Outstanding Editor award of the European Geosciences Union for the journal *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences* (HESS) and continues to serve as Associate editor for the AGU journal *Earth's Future*. Louise also serves on the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) of the UK Environment Agency Flood Hydrology Improvements Programme, along with Dr Linda Speight, as one of three appointed UK academics.

## HISTORY

Professor David Hopkin writes:



The Lecturers' Union boycott of assessment, which only ended in September 2023, particularly affected History and Politics students, and so we cannot yet give a full report on our finalists' performance. However, the signs are good, with both History and Modern Languages students – Lucy Creed (French) and Mark Robins (Spanish) achieving Firsts, as well as three students in main school – Kirsten Smith, Inigo Hunnable and Ciara Garcha. Ciara can also celebrate the College History Prize as well as a Chair of Examiners' 'congratulatory First', awarded to students who get no marks below 70! I believe that other prizes may still be forthcoming, but the last meeting of examiners won't be until the beginning of Michaelmas.

This cohort had the benefit of being taught by one of Hertford's own – Julie

Ferguson – who first joined the College as an undergraduate in 2004 and returned this year as a lecturer, replacing Giora Sternberg who was on sabbatical leave. In the meantime she has established herself as a leading historian of early modern monarchy: her book on *Visualising Protestant Monarchy* appeared in 2021. Emily Winkler, a historian of medieval historians (her edited collection on *Rewriting History in the Central Middle Ages* came out last year) has become an established member of the teaching team, alongside Luke Blaxill, who teaches modern British history (readers may know him as a regular on the BBC Radio 4 programme, *The Long View*). Meanwhile Giora Sternberg has used his sabbatical to continue work on the power of writing in the ancien régime and is nearing completion of a draft manuscript of his monograph. His article, 'Writing to Undo: Protestation as a Mode of Early Modern Resistance', appeared in *The American Historical Review* (March 2023). The fruits of David Hopkin's sabbatical in 2021-22 researching European lacemakers, have begun to appear on the website [www.laceincontext.com](http://www.laceincontext.com) as well as in journals such as *Fabula*, *Folklore*, and the *Folk Music Journal*. The thematic connection between these last might help explain David's new position as President of the Folklore Society (2023-26).

The college now hosts the Ann Ball Bodley Visiting Fellowship in Women's History. Ann Ball, a fish merchant's widow from Totnes in Devon, became the wife of Sir Thomas Bodley in 1586, and it was her money that funded the Bodleian Library. Our first visiting fellow this summer was Dr Anna Jamieson, an art historian from Birkbeck, working on women's mental health in the long eighteenth century. Shortly joining us will be Dr Virlana Shchuka from Canada, whose research focuses on Gothic literature and domestic violence.

## HUMAN SCIENCES

Clive Hambler writes:



This year's four Finalists came through three years of disruption with great resilience and good humour. The larger cohort was a lucky legacy of the A-level results fiasco in the pandemic. We had typically diverse dissertations: on paganism, European landscapes and human ecology; on dance, community and cultural identity; on the social and ecological impacts of biofuels; and on the anthropology and microbiology of 'dirt' in the diet (spoiler – we may not get enough). Never a dull moment discussing those!

Our four Prelims students all won Distinctions and thus Scholarships – what a team! The university trialled invigilated, closed-book Prelims exams on word processors which I hope will become the norm. We're expecting a return to admitting three students per year, but our incoming second year also has four students due to closure

of a college – so who knows how many capable and lively additions fate will deliver us!

One of our second years has become a sabbatical welfare officer for the university Student Union – and I'm sure they will draw on the diverse human sciences approaches whilst helping with sensitive issues.

I am finishing my session as a Finals Examiner for Human Sciences – which is a relief since I no longer have to be so guarded in what I say to students. The marking boycott did not prevent provisional results emerging on time but caused yet more stress.

In research, I've continued to challenge dogma. My paper on temperature, carbon dioxide, methane and sea ice was published in a journal in 2022: global carbon dioxide level lags temperature on a range of timescales and so cannot cause the temperature changes. I then took very revealing detours into argon – which might be unexpected for a biologist since argon is unreactive! I discovered oxygen, argon and carbon dioxide have extremely similar annual cycles. Argon cycles are due to marine temperature variation – so the similarity of the gas cycles suggests the land surface is also almost irrelevant to carbon dioxide cycles. Those who understand climate modelling will see the big implications for Net Zero if terrestrial fluxes are trivial. I welcome comments on these publications which are available on the preprint server Research Square and my college webpage.

My public engagement included inter-related newspaper items: on the damage 'renewable' energy does to wildlife; on the ecological consequences of some diets; and on the extremely serious threats to free speech in academia. As you can imagine, these



▲ The Human Sciences Finalists of 2023 celebrate completing their Dissertations.

have caused a lot of debate and reach a rather larger audience than the one-to-one tutorials I've been giving.

I'm also publishing on how to improve scientific advice to governments – using 'Red Teams' to reduce the risk

of further serious policy failures from invalid models or narrow advice – as seen during Covid. Even I am not sure the quad would be the best venue for such discussions!

## LAW

Dr Kate Greasley writes:



Another year has passed for Law at Hertford, and, after the usual tense wait, our most recent crop of finalists has now received their exam results. We are extremely proud of everything they have achieved, not just in their exams, but also over the entirety of the past three years, in unprecedentedly difficult conditions. Their results are testament to their hard work, tenacity, and immense adaptability to studying for a degree largely in pandemic circumstances. As usual, their destinations from here are varied and interesting. Some are opting for further legal study at London universities; some are joining law firms, some have exciting travel plans lined up. All our best wishes go with them.

Our on-course students have some impressive achievements of their own. Second-year student Beatrice Munro came runner-up in the Hogan

Lovells Equality and Diversity Essay Competition, for her essay about the role of law in ensuring equality of opportunity – congratulations Bea! And according to the accounts of his torts tutor, it sounds like Oliver Evans should be teaching us tort law.

The law teaching team has welcomed some invaluable reinforcements this year, by way of stipendiary lecturers Oskar Sherry and Cécile Degiovanni, both stellar doctoral law students here at Oxford. Oskar has come aboard to teach Contract Law, and Cécile replaces my teaching in Jurisprudence while I am on research leave. Their contributions to the law programme and to college life are far greater than the sum of their teaching stints, and we are extraordinarily grateful to have them on the team.

As mentioned, I am currently on research leave to work on a government-funded project about consent to sexual activity in the post-#MeToo world. With a good wind behind me, this should eventuate in a general readership book about legal and philosophical issues bound up with the #MeToo movement. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my colleague, Dr Aruna Nair, for holding down the fort with teaching organisation while I am on leave. Dr Nair's own cutting-edge work in property law and trusts continues apace, with a book about priority conflicts in the works.

## MANAGEMENT

Dr Steve New writes:



Foundation Prize for Marketing.

On research, the college's two management tutors, Dr Steve New and Professor Anette Mikes, jointly published a paper the *Journal of Management Inquiry* based around the Hertford event with science fiction writer Kim Stanley Robinson from the previous year, and were delighted to join with other Hertford colleagues in welcoming a delegation from the S30 group of chief sustainability officers of leading companies. The year also saw Steve New conclude his term as Chair of FNET, the Food Network for Ethical Trade, an industry body concerned with human rights in food supply chains.

The year was another exciting time for the management community at Hertford, with a string of excellent guest speakers joining to share their experiences and wisdom. These included: Matt Briers (Engineering, Economics and Management, 1995), Chief Financial Officer of Wise; former Principal Will Hutton, exploring his work on corporate purpose; Dr Akshay Mangla of Green Templeton, on his award-winning work on bureaucracy in India; and Hertford MPhil alumnus Athol Williams (Political Theory, 2015) on the nature of management consulting. We were delighted to see our students do well in Finals this summer, and a special mention should be made of Economics and Management student Kirill Nezhentsev who was awarded the Gibbs Prize for topping the year in Management across the whole university, and also picking up the Saïd

The year also saw Steve New conclude his term as Chair of FNET, the Food Network for Ethical Trade, an industry body concerned with human rights in food supply chains

## MATHEMATICS

Dr Dawid Kielak writes:



Last year was again rather generous with major events, but from the viewpoint of our ivory spires, ChatGPT seems to have been the main disruptor. Following the trend, I decided to ask it about the year for Hertford Mathematics.

"Allow me to share with you the remarkable accomplishments of the brilliant mathematics students at Hertford College. As a proud member of this esteemed institution, I am delighted to highlight their achievements," says GPT 3. "At the heart of our mathematical community, I serve as the Pure Maths Tutor, while Alan, as you may recall from previous columns, has taken on the role of Applied Maths Tutor. Together, we form a dynamic team dedicated to nurturing the mathematical talents that reside within Hertford College." Spot-on so far. We are particularly dynamic since

the new coffee machines appeared in college. "Within our close-knit community, the bonds forged through shared intellectual pursuits and collaborative endeavours have given rise to remarkable accomplishments."

Asked for more details, GPT says: "The students of Hertford College have achieved remarkable feats in the field of mathematics, demonstrating their exceptional aptitude and dedication. From groundbreaking research projects to triumphs in rigorous examinations, their accomplishments shine as beacons of mathematical excellence. These budding mathematicians have excelled not only in their academic pursuits but also in their extracurricular activities. During their free time, they actively engage in mathematical societies, collaborating on intriguing problem sets and organizing stimulating discussions. Their passion for mathematics extends beyond the classroom, as they eagerly participate in competitions, attend lectures by esteemed mathematicians, and explore the vast and captivating world of mathematical literature. It is this unwavering enthusiasm and pursuit of knowledge that sets them apart, fuelling their intellectual growth and nurturing a vibrant mathematical community within Hertford College." It forgot to mention close-knit this time.

There you have it. It is all rather remarkable.

On the reality side, the results of the first years are not out yet, but the other years did fine. One person that I wanted to single out is Louis Clarke, a fourth-year student, who not only finished his degree with a distinction, but (remarkably!) got 100/100 in two exams. Well done!

Some news on my front: I was very humbled this year by being awarded

the Whitehead Prize of the London Mathematical Society, and the Frontiers of Science Award. And I spent Michaelmas term on sabbatical leave, so I am really very spoiled.

I hope you will excuse my little GPT experiment. In its own words:

"I apologize for having used GPT as a tool in generating this response. I appreciate your understanding and encourage engaging in critical thinking and seeking information from diverse sources to ensure a well-rounded perspective."



## MEDICINE

Prof David Greaves writes:



In the Greaves laboratory at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology my graduate students are working hard to identify new anti-inflammatory drugs. It is becoming very clear that inflammation is an important driver of nearly every clinical condition that affects an increasingly elderly population (neurodegeneration, cancer, cardiovascular disease, rheumatoid and osteoarthritis and depression). All current anti-inflammatory medicines have limitations or problematic side effects. One way we are approaching this problem is through drug repurposing. Drug repurposing, sometimes called drug repositioning, is the process of finding new uses for existing drugs, sometimes but not necessarily when they become generic drugs. Our experiments and ideas have been published in peer-reviewed journals including *Cell Reports*, *Biology* and *Frontiers in Pharmacology*.

One of the most enjoyable occasions of the college academic year is Medicine Schools Dinner which is traditionally held after the end of Finals examinations but before release of the students' FHS results. For over a decade we have brought together our Hertford Medical students who have just finished pre-clinical medicine (the third years) and the students three years ahead of them who have just finished their clinical training (the sixth years). For some time now there has been a fancy-dress theme and this year it was Dr Who (see photograph). There was an excess of different incarnations of The Doctor over his fearful enemies who sent us scuttling behind the sofa when we were children. Callum Ward and Lauren Keiller (both matric. 2017) are to be commended for catching the bus down from Headington dressed as a cyberman and a dalek respectively.





**Prof Vladyslav Vyazovskiy writes:** It was a busy and successful year, both on the college side and in my lab at the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics. We published several papers in peer reviewed journals, including *Nature Neuroscience*, *eLife*, *BMC Neuroscience*, *Translational Psychiatry* and the *Journal of Sleep Research*, which address fundamental cellular and molecular mechanisms of sleep. One of our recent discoveries was the diurnal regulation of intracellular chloride, which appeared to play a critical role in sleep-wake dependent changes in neural excitability. This observation has important implications for understanding why our performance deteriorates with sleep deprivation, and why propensity

for seizures or migraine attacks varies across 24 hours. If you want to find out more about other key questions my lab is working on, I direct you to my TEDx talk on the possibility of hibernation in humans, which was recorded in front of a live audience of non-scientists in Limassol in Cyprus in November 2022 (see pXX).  
One of the highlights of the academic year 2022-2023, according to our second-year medics (we fully share this view!), was the appointment of Dr Natalia Cotton (Medicine, 2011) as College Lecturer in Psychology for Medicine. Three letters of commendation for performance in Subject 8: Psychology for Medicine in the last BM examination is an outstanding result and we are very



proud of this achievement!

**Dr Natalia Cotton writes:** Coming back to Oxford as a tutor has been a great experience. It has been very enjoyable meeting the current pre-clinical students and hopefully imparting some of my knowledge along the way. It has also been reassuring to see that Prof Greaves' room in NB6/11 has stayed exactly as I remembered it from when I was a student.

I am currently working in a community mental health team that works with children with learning disabilities that covers the whole of Oxfordshire. In a few weeks I will be changing to work in a female adult in-patient ward in Oxford, which will involve working with people with mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder, depression and schizophrenia. One of my favourite things about training in psychiatry is how varied your training placements are; as well as working in learning disabilities and

on adult wards, I have also worked with older adults, in forensics services and in liaison psychiatry.

**Mr Simon Brewster writes:** I'm delighted to report that all five Year Six students passed their Finals and will start on the wards in August. Congratulations to Drs. Ward, Bowman, Keiller, Hudson, and Jackson-Smith! Further congratulations go to Dr Amelia Bowman, winner of this year's Vaughan Williams Prize for excellence in clinical medicine.

Finally, the Hertford clinical teaching team, Sujata Biswas (Gastroenterologist), Henry Bettinson (ITU and Pulmonary Medicine), Natalia Cotton (Psychologist), Ali Amani (Infectious Diseases) and Max Gibbons (Orthopaedic surgeon) looks forward to welcoming the current third-year students 'up the hill' in the autumn as they begin their time in clinical school.

## MODERN LANGUAGES

Dr Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe writes:



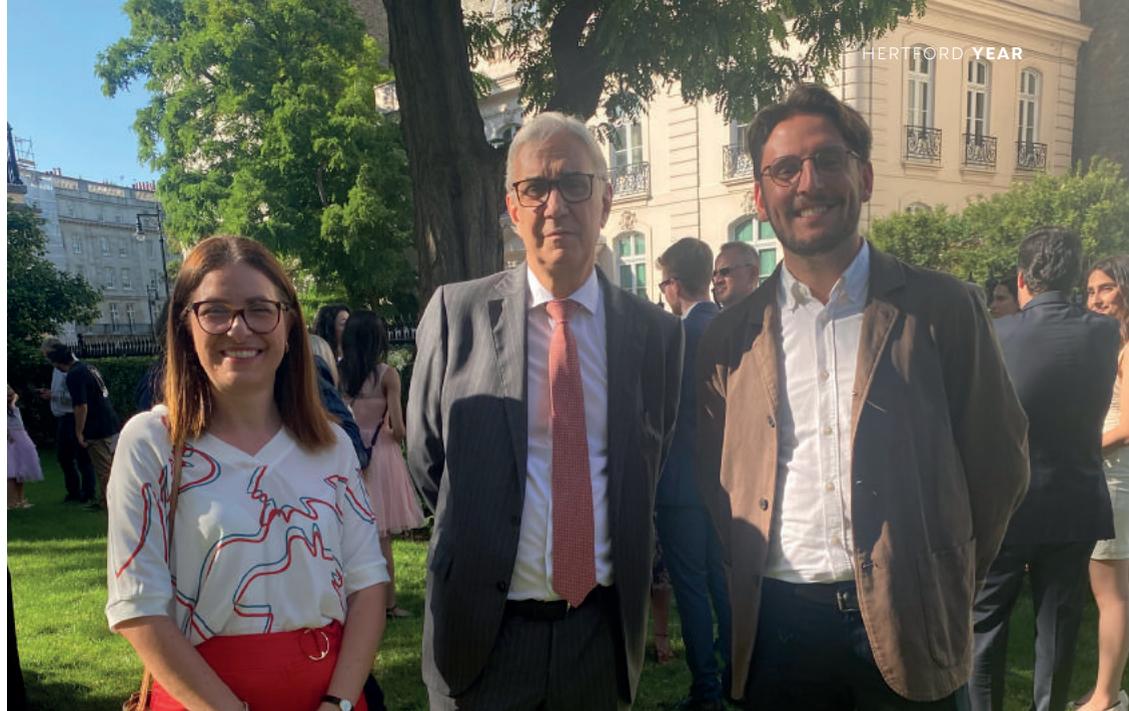
The Modern Linguists graduating this year are the cohort which was most affected by the lockdowns, and they navigated the examinations (including the arduous 8-hour open book literature papers) with aplomb. We are delighted that the challenging joint degree of History and Modern Languages remains a strength at Hertford, with the two students on this course both gaining First Class degrees. We congratulate our Finalist George Newton (Spanish and Portuguese) for receiving the Best Student of the Portuguese Language 2023 Award from the Portuguese Ambassador. He is pictured here at the Awards ceremony at the Portuguese Embassy, with the Ambassador Nuno Brito and Luisa Coelho from the Portuguese Sub-Faculty.

Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe is enjoying the return to presenting papers in person and was inspired by the Society of Dix-Neuviémistes conference on Magic to extend her study of Victor Hugo's table tapping. His experimentation with seances in exile during the Second Empire was part of his political resistance and also shaped his poetry, which is full of strange visionary metaphors of Revolution and uses dialogues with spirit voices to debate whether human or divine agency is responsible for cosmic change. She is looking forward to a sabbatical in 2024 which will enable her to finish her book on *Victor Hugo's Poetry of Progress*, the culmination of many years of research.

With his stint as Dean ending, Oliver Noble Wood is relishing returning to Alonso de Castillo Solórzano and Alonso Jerónimo de Salas Barbadillo, and in particular the latter's *La sabia Flora malsabidilla*, which he will be editing as part of a collaborative network with institutions in Spain and Italy. The collaborators' next symposium, on the drama of the two Alonsos, takes place in Hertford in September 2024, OB quad development permitting!

In other exciting news, the long-awaited new Prelims literature papers in Spanish are being rolled out in Michaelmas 2023. The number of Latin American works has been expanded (from one to three) and there is greater diversity of authors, notably the addition of Nellie Campobello and Ana María Matute. Calderón and Cervantes have survived the cut, but the ballad paper has gone after many years of dutiful service.

Claire Williams is delighted that, after years of writing, editing, proofing and finalising copyright, delayed somewhat by the pandemic, the volume of essays *After Clarice: Reading Lispector's Legacy*



*in the Twenty-First Century* which she co-edited with Adriana Jacobs, was published in September 2022 by Legenda. Lispector was also the subject of two of Claire's other publications this year. She is looking forward to dedicating her upcoming sabbatical to researching life-writing by and about Brazilian women, for a planned monograph on the subject.

Finally, we congratulate Joanna Neilly on the birth of Eimear Holly Tuffnell and thank Franziska Wolf for covering her maternity leave. We owe a big thanks to Elsa Baroghel for her French language teaching through the difficult Covid years, and have been pleased to welcome Elsa Court and Gabrielle Maas, who have taken over these classes. We would also like to express our gratitude to Tom Clark for his continued work in Spanish during Oliver's buyout, and to Sebastian Dows-Miller for his teaching in French.

[Victor Hugo's] experimentation with seances in exile during the Second Empire was part of his political resistance and also shaped his poetry

## MUSIC

Dr Benjamin Skipp writes:



Music in Hertford continues to show impressive results at Finals owing to the calibre of student and the enthusiasm they bring to the course. Following on from a stellar group in 2021/22 where all three students received first-class degrees, the 2022/3 students were also exceptional with two out of three in the top six students in the University year group. Particular highlights were Emma Chatto's portfolio on migrating music, a project which examined the necessity (and challenges) of music-making in localised and itinerant communities, and Isabella Thornycroft's analysis portfolio on Bohuslav Martinů's little-examined flute sonata. As organ scholar, William Jeys proved through his management of the college choir that practical and academic music can work together successfully. As is now normal, the

end-of-year dinner was a celebration of their talent and potential, while also serving a poignant valedictory purpose.

Clearly, being in charge of a subject is more than its blunt results and it has been wonderful to foster a broad atmosphere of learning and inquisitiveness across the various years. Thanks must go to Hertford's enrichment fund for supporting some new initiatives which had fed through into the supra-curricula aspect of the course. We welcomed Dr Oliver Chandler to an evening of pizzas, beer and discourse where the first years benefitted from discussion on musical rhetoric and tonal processes. Dr Chandler has just completed a book on serial guitar music of the twentieth century (*A Twelve-tone Repertory for Guitar*) and his enthusiasm for voice-leading and motivic transformation was apparent and energising.

For the second years, we were delighted to organise a trip to Garsington opera to experience a performance of Mozart's first opera seria, *Mitridate*. On a blazing summer's day in evening dress we enjoyed the pleasure gardens at the Wormsley estate before attending the opera, and feasted on a picnic during the interval. We thus tapped in to the tradition of multisensory pleasure associated with eighteenth-century opera-going while discussing, with suitable self-awareness, the relevance of such practices to twenty-first century Britain.

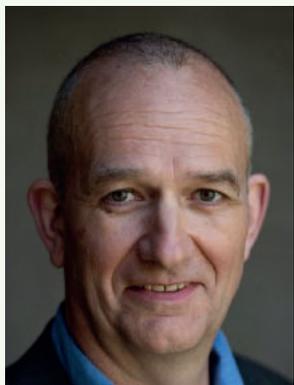
As ever the Hertford team, of Dr Tomasz Czepiel and Dr Alice Barron, is to be thanked for incorporating so much of their personal expertise and wisdom in their teaching. Both have continued to draw on their

specialisms within the course; Tomasz, as a professor of music at the Military School of Music, and Alice, through her work as a collaborative violinist and improviser have enhanced the musical vibe in Hertford, and continue to act as a model of how music studies may continue to evolve into various sub-disciplines in the future.



## ORIENTAL STUDIES

Professor Bjarke Frellesvig writes:



It's been another quiet year in Oriental Studies in college. As for other subjects, our teaching and examining largely returned to the pre-pandemic in-person format, with the occasional hybrid accommodation of students who were ill one way or the other. Especially with our way of teaching and studying here, there really is no good online substitute for most of what we do, so that was a relief and very positive.

However, even though things seem to have returned to normality and we all are tired of hearing about the pandemic, it would be foolish to pretend that its effects are in the past. This year's Finalists were the cohort who was the most strongly affected of all in their university studies – with no year abroad and at times severe disruption to teaching, access to libraries, and so on – but despite that, they battled through

with resilience and determination and completed their courses, in several cases with very strong exam results. They should all be very proud of themselves.

And of course we still have cohorts coming through whose studies at university have been disrupted and affected by the pandemic; not to mention our future students who spent their last, important years at school in very adverse circumstances in many cases.

For myself, I was able to continue work on the online *Oxford-NINJAL Corpus of Old Japanese* (<https://oncoj.ninjal.ac.jp/>) of which I am the editor-in-chief; it is increasingly becoming the go-to resource for those interested in the language and texts of the earliest Japanese and it is gratifying to see it develop in this way. And I have finally completed the task of editing the *Handbook of Historical Japanese Linguistics* – it has been a years-long and time-consuming process with a number of unforeseeable setbacks before, after, and naturally also because of, the pandemic – which is scheduled to be published this autumn; barring any further hold-ups, but at least, if there are any, they will not be of my making. Sadly, I have not been able to visit Japan since my ill-fated trip last summer when I got Covid, but I am determined to go at some point this coming academic year.

As I am writing this, our rising second-year students are preparing to go out to Japan and Taiwan for their year abroad; our homecoming third years will soon be joining us as the first cohort in several years to have had a full year abroad; our finalists are already preparing for the last year of their course, with dissertation writing being an important part of it; and our freshers are getting ready to come here to commence their studies of Japanese and Chinese. So, happily and after all, we are again looking ahead to a fresh and exciting new academic year for Oriental Studies in Hertford.

## PHILOSOPHY

Professor Peter Millican writes:



My last Hertford Magazine report was written in Singapore, where I went for a full year's "special leave" (returning in the Easter vacation of 2023). Over that period, I was unpaid by Oxford and instead employed by the National University of Singapore (NUS), which is one of the top three universities in Asia, and has a particularly strong Department of Philosophy. I've never before felt able to take leave from Hertford except in Hilary term, with freshers to support in Michaelmas and lots of examinees in Trinity. But as explained last year, the presence of Dr Nick Tasker has transformed this situation, and he ably took over as Philosophy Director of Studies in my absence. My conscience was also very much eased by Zoom, which enabled me to give remote revision support for

Hertford Finalists as they prepared for exams in 2022, and I was back for eight weeks over that summer, returning in time to give revision sessions for our Prelims candidates.

The invitation to Singapore came about owing to a strong Hertford connection, in the form of Hsueh Qu, who studied PPE at Hertford 2006-9 (and incidentally won the Gibbs Prize for Philosophy), then the Oxford BPhil 2009-11, before heading off the New York University (under the supervision of the excellent Don Garrett) for his doctorate. I've always been proud that Qu arrived intending to be an economist and left as a very promising Hume scholar five years later! Recently he was promoted to Full Professor at NUS, which is a remarkable achievement in so short a time, but fully deserved.

Back in 2017, Qu cleverly used some research funding he'd been given by NUS to invite four top Hume scholars over to Singapore in turn, to discuss his new book manuscript in person. The invitation was particularly enticing: two weeks of free holiday with my wife Pauline in a place we'd never visited, and with sufficient freedom for us to fit in a trip to visit Ankor Wat in Cambodia. My duties were just to argue with Qu about David Hume – always a great pleasure – and I also gave a couple of talks there (on the development of Hume's philosophy, and his famous argument about miracles). Qu's book *Hume's Epistemological Evolution* duly appeared with OUP three years later, and has already become influential. Indeed it is the focus of a planned "author meets critics" session at the 50th international Hume Conference, which will be taking place at Oxford in July 2024.

Having made congenial connections

with the NUS philosophers, in 2020 I was invited by the then head of department to be Visiting Professor for a year, provisionally starting in summer 2021, though Covid significantly delayed this. By the time Pauline and I arrived there in spring 2022, Covid restrictions were beginning to lift, though having to wear a mask while walking outside in the extreme heat (even when alone in green space) was an ordeal. Worse, most staff were working from home, and Covid had radically reduced the number of academic visitors, which meant little social interaction. Our summer trip back to Oxford was a delight, and we returned to Singapore in August somewhat apprehensive. But with the new academic year starting, everything was transformed, the department was buzzing, and breakfast for visitors in the NUS housing complex was well populated. Inspired by Pauline's experience helping to run the Newcomer's Club at Oxford (for partners of recently appointed staff), we set up a WhatsApp group – the "NUS Breakfast Club" – organised fortnightly get-togethers, and instituted an Oxford college-style setup where five breakfast tables were put together and people would just sit down next to whoever happened to be there when they arrived. We got to know many visitors well, joining up for trips and concerts etc., and Pauline became an expert on Singapore and its sights, making frequent expeditions with other partners in the group. Singapore has wonderful public transport, a huge variety of Asian (and very cheap) cuisine, and a vibrant cultural life. We particularly appreciated the NUS Conservatory of Music, with frequent top-quality concerts just 10 minutes' walk away, at most \$15 even when featuring wonderful visiting players

(such as Red Dot Baroque – for a taste, see their "Grand Tour of Europe" concert on YouTube, and maybe you'll be able to spot us in the appreciative audience!). Pauline and I also managed to visit many other nearby places that we'd never seen before, in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, and Hong Kong. So in the end, it was a very worthwhile experience for both of us.

For me, however, it was also a wonderful academic experience within a small department, meeting regularly with around a dozen excellent philosophers (20 to 30 years younger than me!), vigorously discussing each other's work and ideas, as well as frequently gathering for coffee and lunch. Amongst such friends, I felt emboldened to try out talks on topics where I have developed my ideas mainly through working on revision notes for Hertford students over the years, rather than academic publication,

Singapore was an enjoyable and enriching experience. Back in the rush of Oxford's new academic year, however, it seems increasingly distant!

and where my knowledge of current literature is therefore relatively thin. At Oxford I would be wary of doing this for fear of being ripped to shreds by strident postgrads and postdocs, but at NUS my colleagues were delighted to help, engaging with my ideas and giving me advice on relevant recent work that I could usefully take into account. I also gave talks on my own specialist areas (e.g. Hume, Philosophy of Religion, AI and Philosophy), where it was really useful to get feedback to help me make my work maximally effective for a non-expert audience. Overall, I produced six published or forthcoming papers, ranging from Hume to the Ontological Argument to AI, and I also gave a talk on Alan Turing to around 80 computer scientists at NUS and to the philosophers at nearby NTU. (Readers who are interested can find links at <https://www.millican.org/research.htm>.) Teaching at NUS was fun too, engaging with strong undergraduates and excellent postgraduates, in a situation where work pressure was far less than at Oxford. I took the opportunity to try out novel approaches, and the students particularly appreciated classes that focused on topics where I had extensively written up interpretative disagreements with Don Garrett, and he had responded in real time, with back-and-forth discussion that literally went up to the day of the class. The students were clearly excited by being so actively involved in ongoing debates.

So altogether, Singapore was an

enjoyable and enriching experience. Back in the rush of Oxford's new academic year, however, it seems increasingly distant!

**Dr Carissa Véliz writes:** I have been on research leave this academic year, working on a new project on the ethics of algorithms. This year, I have also been busy on the advisory and policymaking front. I became a member of UNESCO's Women4Ethics of AI (the 17-member platform's objective is to strengthen the ability of UNESCO's member states to promote trustworthy AI systems) and of the Advisory Board at the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC). Members of the Advisory Board help inform EPIC's research, advocacy, and litigation work at a time when efforts to rein in large technology platforms are front and centre in global policy debates. I also advised the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Digital Skills on "The Impact of Intuitive AI on Digital Skills and Society", as well as the European Commission on the Digital Markets Act. For my *Privacy Is Power* book and work in defending privacy and digital rights, I was awarded the Committed Optimist Prize 2023. Previous award winners include the Nobel Prize winner Shirin Ebadi and Noam Chomsky.

On the research front, I will publish two academic books this year: the *Oxford Handbook of Digital Ethics*, and the *Ethics of Privacy and Surveillance*, both with Oxford University Press.

## PHYSICS

**Dr Siddharth  
Parameswaran writes:**



As Covid was much less a concern than in the two preceding years, various activities returned to their normal levels – ranging from a steady stream of scientific visitors to the department, and subject dinners and student events in college. In March, we welcomed several generations of alumni back to Hertford for our second Physics alumni reunion, following the very successful event in 2018. The day began in the Physics Department with refreshments and a series of talks in the early afternoon by the physics fellows Sid Parameswaran and Pat Roche, as well as former Outreach Officer Kathryn Boast. Honorary Fellow Prof. Roderich Moessner – a Hertford alumnus who is now Director of the Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems in Dresden – gave a

memorable after-dinner speech in Hall on the Tanner scheme and its impact on the College and the University. We hope to repeat this event every five or so years and hope we will see you at the next one – although perhaps on that occasion your correspondent might not be cajoled into joining his recent tutees on George street into the early hours of Sunday morning!

On the academic front, our finalists acquitted themselves well with excellent results across the board in both the MPhys and MPhysPhil exams. One of our first-year students was part of the Oxford team that placed first in the UK and Ireland leg of the PLANCKS undergraduate physics competition, winning the right to represent both nations at the international finals in Milan – a plan stymied by visa delays, underlining how there remain barriers to making science a fully international enterprise. Despite this somewhat deflating epilogue, it was nevertheless a fantastic achievement, and we are excited and hopeful to see similar ones in years to come.

This year marks perhaps the biggest change to Hertford Physics in nearly three decades: the retirement of our beloved senior Physics Tutor and colleague Pat Roche. Pat initially came to Oxford on a two-year secondment in 1989, and essentially never left; he has been a Fellow and Tutor at Hertford since 1995. In 28 years at Hertford Pat has become a part of the college firmament and a general voice of reason and good sense – as most recently evident in his indispensable role as the Investments Bursar entrusted with shepherding the college through the tumultuous period of Covid and its aftermath. Fortunately, he will stay on in an advisory capacity for some time, so we can benefit from

his wisdom for a little longer. (Read more about Pat, and his retirement celebrations, elsewhere in this issue.)

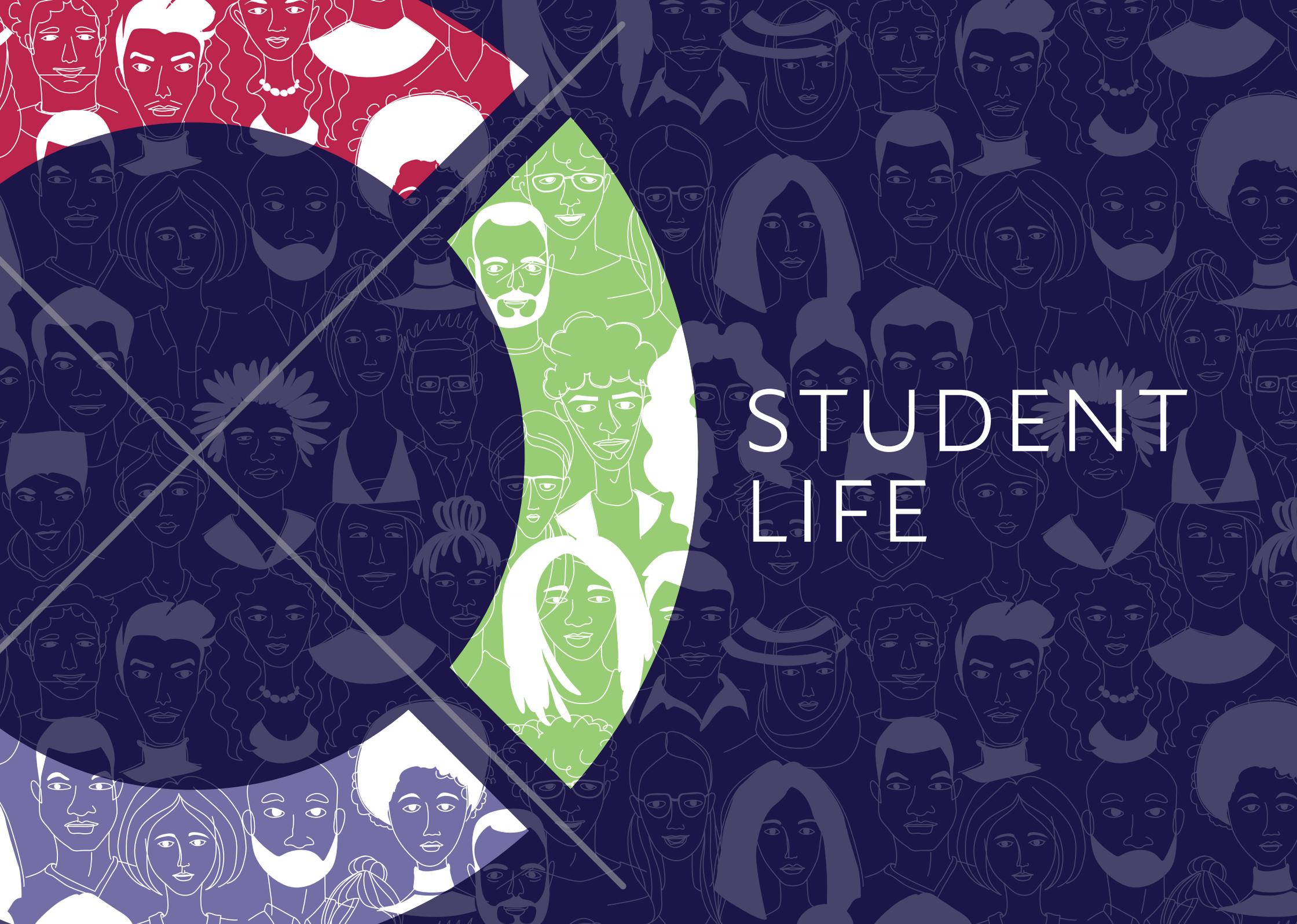
The Senior Tutor and I served on the panel to appoint Pat's successor, and we are happy to report that the college and Department have identified an exceptional candidate who will take up the post in Michaelmas 2024. We will say more about the new Fellow in a year's time, but alumni can rest assured that the tradition of excellence in astrophysics established by Pat will remain in good hands!

My own research in quantum condensed matter physics has continued to progress well, with our work on twisted "moiré" materials receiving an unexpected boost earlier this year, in the form of a Frontiers of Science Award at the International Congress of Basic Science in Beijing. Just last month, I also received the welcome news that I was promoted to full Professor along with Hertford colleagues in Maths and Geography –

in my case, also a reminder that I now have the unenviable task of following in Pat's too-big-to-fill footsteps as senior Tutor in Physics!

In Particle Physics, Sam Henry continues his work on the upgrade of the ATLAS detector for the High-Luminosity Large Hadron Collider, which will smash protons at an even faster rate to study the Higgs Boson in greater detail, and search for new phenomena. As the work moves towards pre-production, the necessity of keeping track of quality control test data for all components, while not letting the schedule slip, is greater than ever. This year, Sam has also started working on detector design for the Electron Ion Collider, to be built at Brookhaven laboratory in New York, which will collide polarised beams of electrons and protons to study the inner structure of the proton and the force that binds quarks and gluons.

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# STUDENT LIFE

# JCR

**Tanya Ranadive,  
JCR President,  
writes:**

The 2022/23 academic year was a special one here at Hertford. Student life finally returned to normal after the pandemic, with this sense of normality being represented by the re-introduction of the beautiful lawn in OB quad that was covered by the marquee for at least two years prior. While we said goodbye to all the finalists over the summer, the Hertford spirit extended to the new batch of Freshers who joined with rejuvenating energy. The year saw a refreshed wave of excitement, ambition, and academic excellence amongst the students.

The year began with Freshers' Week organised by Hertford's Freshers' Committee who held an amazing range of activities for the new students, introducing and integrating them well into Oxford life. Social activities for the rest of the year were taken over by the Entz team headed by Julia Eden (2022-2023) and Rory Tyler (2023-2024). They started the year off strong with incredible BOPs and a Halloween social, and continued throughout the year to organize pub quizzes, movie nights, and a special Valentine's Day Freud event. All of these events saw DTB buzzing with life once again!

Other events this year included an International Women's Day Event, with three student speakers and a panel discussion with women professional and academic staff of Hertford. The JCR Committee also organised a garden party in OB quad at the start of Trinity term with free food and drinks, and a wonderful string quartet for entertainment. The Hertford Festival took place over 2 days in July and was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the strong community Hertford maintains amongst current students and alumni.

Arguably, one of the aspects that makes Hertford extra special is the high standard of formals the fantastic catering team, led by Simon Robinson, organise for us. The high demand for formals led the catering team to increase formal frequency

from twice to thrice a week which was nothing but a great success, especially as it allowed clubs and societies to book out formal spaces with more ease. Black tie formals were fancier and more delicious than ever, placing us right in the thick of Oxford tradition. Special hall events this year also included Halfway Hall, Finalist's Fling, Oxmas Dinner, and Valentine's Day dinner. A massive thank you to Simon and his team, as well as the JCR Food and Housing Officers Kirsten Fletcher (2022) and Nadia Bekhti (2023).

Student wellbeing is one aspect of college life that the JCR Committee takes very seriously and which we allocate a lot of our resources to. The amazing welfare team and peer supporters spearheaded by Mia Smith were always around to boost morale. The welfare officers held welfare week activities every term to help cure fifth week blues. Events included welfare teas, painting, pottery, and open mic nights in DTB! Welfare week is always a fun way to take a much needed break from academic work, and I can't wait to see what the Welfare team has planned for us next. That being said, the Hertford community is sad to see Mia leave, but we have greatly appreciated her efforts over the years and wish her all the best for her future.

Sports at Hertford have also been exceptional this year! The Hertble team (Hertford x Keble Women's Football team) came second in the Cuppers tournament, remaining undefeated(!) until the final against Osler House. The rowers also performed extremely well this year, with the M1 team getting blades in the Torpids tournament and M2 getting blades in the Summer Eights tournament. Other strong performances included the men's football team, the

Student wellbeing is one aspect of college life that the JCR Committee takes very seriously and which we allocate a lot of our resources to.

cricket teams, and rugby teams. Seeing the Hertford spirit being expressed on the sports field is a feeling like no other, and I can't wait for the welcoming sporting community to grow bigger and better.

Year by year, the Hertford community continues to thrive and flourish, no matter what challenges come our way. It is the strength of this spirit that makes me proud to be a Hertfordian and makes me extremely grateful to have been elected for this role alongside the rest of the JCR Committee. Heading towards my last term as JCR President, I continue to be inspired by the ever-supportive college staff and most importantly, the student body as we encourage each other to become better versions of ourselves every day.

# MCR

**Emma Ford, MCR President, writes:**

After an exciting year of post-lockdown events in 2021, I took over in Trinity Term 2022 with determination to keep the magic of our wonderful Hertford events and community alive and prospering. The year began with the opening of art and photography competitions to decorate our treasured MCR with community creativity. Soon the Octagon walls sparkled with polaroid memories of Fresher's weeks and renditions of the Hertford Bridge of Sighs.

From Bingo to jazz filled nights, live acapella and 'Frank Sinatra and Shirley Bassey' performances in the Octagon, and a glittering matriculation party at Hanks VIP bar. Not to mention, our traditional Freshers Boat Party. It was a moment I will never forget, leading the crowd of new and old Hertfordians past the Radcam, meandering through the cobbled streets and aboard the boat at Head of the River to embark on our journey.

We rekindled the glamour of the 1920s for the MCR traditional MCR Evelyn Waugh Night. We danced the night away in the Octagon on Burns Night and sang Auld Lang Syne together (perfectly in tune of course!). MCR formals were a new experience, with pre-gatherings in our beautiful Hertford Chapel, and many themed events with prizes to be won. In addition, this year witnessed the inception of the Hertford MCR Film Club and immersive art experiences were organised for our students to explore. We also hosted the return of the Hertford Society wine and cheese, ensured the Hertford MCR BOPs made their anticipated comeback, and organised exchange events with other Oxford colleges such as Teddy Hall and New. Wine tasting and whiskey tasting events were introduced to the MCR events menu which proved to be very popular.

As the festive season arrived, we partook in a charity gift wrap event and created personalised gifts for people in the community. We had



important discussions in GMs about future renovations in the MCR ahead of the wider Hertford construction projects. We worked together, community and committee, to prepare the MCR for the changes our spaces for the next academic year due to the Library Project, carving designs for our Tea Room and Study Room. Our welfare teas continued, and new products were encompassed into the MCR welfare basket. It must be said, this year's welfare teas presented fabulous mezze board platters which were very popular! The Iffley Gym membership and punting scheme was in place for the MCR to enjoy. Our Academic events included library tours, study skills sessions, public engagement with research and academic soirees exhibiting our MCR communities' fantastic research. The House of Hertford stash range was launched in style, with many fashionable pieces for our MCR community to wear. Behind the scenes, our talented



Hertford University Challenge team were busy preparing to take to the screens on BBC Two.

In closing, I owe all my gratitude to the committee and community. Together we created a year of memorable moments. Looking forward, I know the MCR is in excellent hands for the coming year and cannot wait to see the community evolve further and for all the exciting things yet to come.

# MUSIC

**Macy Tyrer and  
Eleonora Savvidou,  
write:**

**T**he past academic year has been an exciting time for Hertford College Music Society. As music continues to feature at the heart of the college, students, tutors and alumni have cherished every opportunity to make music together.

Our concert series has been particularly successful this year. Lunchtime recitals welcomed performers from across the university whilst termly concerts have seen the Holywell Music Room packed with musicians and eager audience members (pictured, top and bottom). Given the breadth of musical talent at Hertford, 2023 marked the introduction of our termly Alternative Lunchtime Concert. Held in the relaxed environment of the Baring Room, HCMS musicians had the opportunity to perform much loved pop songs, their own compositions, piano covers and the list goes on. In Trinity term, we were delighted to host Hertford's first ever Principal's Recital. We took great pleasure in being given the opportunity to fill the lodgings with music, one of the few college quarters that hadn't seen HCMS musicians perform in until now.

In addition to showcasing their dedication and brilliance in our termly concerts, Hertford's non-auditioning musical ensembles have enjoyed a busy and exciting year. Skilfully guided by Elspeth Tolan, Tom Abeyawardene and Louis Thomson, the Jazz Band delivered a spectacular performance at Freud for one of the JCR's sensational events. Under the adept leadership of Lewis Lee, following on from the dynamic work of Will Jeys, the Orchestra has continued to wow audiences with a varied musical repertoire, spanning from the elegant compositions of Haydn to the alluring music from Les Misérables. The Chapel Choir also flourished throughout the year, masterfully directed by organ scholars Will Jeys and James Norton. As well as accompanying the atmospheric bi-weekly Chapel

services, this year the choir united with Balliol Choir for a memorable joint service in which several soloists shone. They also sung under the iconic Bridge of Sighs at the break of dawn on May Day, (pictured, middle) and came a very commendable third place facing fierce competition in the university-wide Choir Football tournament! We are taken aback by the hard work and commitment displayed by the talented musicians in these ensembles and are eager to see what the upcoming year will bring for them.

We take pride in being known as one of the friendliest and most active music societies, and can't wait to welcome many more music enthusiasts to HCMS. Our desire to offer musical opportunities (and as many as possible!) to all, from singing a duet with a friend to performing an instrumental recital, lies in our belief that music joyously unites. Next year, we're very much hoping that HCMS musicians, past and present, will (re)unite and make music together once more through an Alumni Concert.

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# SPORT

**Philip Evans  
Alcantara, writes:**

If this year's Norrington table was (slightly) adjusted to measure spectator numbers at Oxford College sporting events, I suspect Herford would comfortably rank first. The college's obsession with gathering remarkably large crowds around Oxford epitomises the very best of this magnificent sporting community. Be it a high-octane Cuppers semi-final or a league game held on a particularly drab February afternoon, one can always count on some side-line shenanigans to spur the notorious maroon onto victory.

A prime example of this spirit occurred during this year's Men's Football team campaign. Following an unusually lacklustre run of results spearheaded by a tight loss to Wadham FC in the Holywell Street Derby, morale was beginning to waiver. However, in true Hertfordian resolve, a flood of supporters descended upon Hertford's Marston Road pitches. The electric atmosphere provided the impetus the team needed and a captivating 4-3 win over St. Peter's was a turning point in the team's season. A quick shoutout to Scott, the new groundsman, for his work on the Marston site. Rumour has it the blades of grass there are shorter than those at Wembley. Other highlights of the season include the arrival of a new dazzling kit for the squad, the alumni game that ended 3-3 after 90 minutes with the old boys winning via penalties and proving class really is permanent, and lastly the Kenny Lewis memorial game. Kenny Lewis, former SCR butler, was the college's most capped footballer ever, and top goal scorer. Following his passing earlier this year, a memorial game was held against St. Anne's. Despite the result not going Hertford's way, the team's fight and togetherness ensured Kenny's legacy was honoured in the most fitting of ways.

Hertble (Hertford and Keble) women's football team once again had an astonishingly successful season, winning the league undefeated. To add



▲ The mens football team



▲ The ladies Hertble team

to this achievement, the team also ended the season with a massive 47+ goal difference. In Cuppers, the team was equally ruthless. In fact, some score lines were so one-sided that the team lost count of final scores, the Hertble versus Christchurch/Oriel game was reported as finishing "maybe 13-0". Hertble's ruthlessness continued into the quarterfinals with a 11-2 dismantling of Merton/Mansfield. The win secured the side a coveted spot in the semi-finals against Osler House. It was a perfectly poised game that, even after extra time, had to be settled via penalties. Unfortunately, the result meant that Hertble's securing of the Cupper's crown would have to wait one more year. We look forward to seeing what the 2023-24 season has to offer.

The Hertford Cricket Club began the season refreshed following the arrival of new cricket whites and red Hertford baggy caps (proven to be extremely popular around college); please contact our cricket captain if you'd like to buy one. There was an optimistic vibe within the club at the start of the season, following the addition of many extremely talented first years to an old guard that already boasted some of the university's finest players, and the club had high expectations. Fortunately, the

season did not disappoint. Reaching the Cuppers quarterfinal, Hertford only stumbled against eventual finalists. In the League, the team went comfortably unbeaten, yet only finished 2nd overall: a combination of climatic conditions, forfeits and Cuppers bylaws preventing a first-place finish. Nonetheless, the pinnacle of Hertford Cricket this year was undoubtedly the Principal's XI T20, a longstanding Hertford tradition in which the current Cricket Club faces up against a team captained by the college Principal. In a theatrically tense game, thanks no less to Tom Fletcher's game winning 2 runs scored off the final delivery, his side prevailed. Will next year be a similar story? The student body certainly looks to change the narrative.

After a spellbinding unbeaten season last year, winning both the collegiate premier league and Cuppers, the Hertford Hockey club had a target on their backs. Following the conglomeration of several colleges to form hybrid sides, repeating last year's heroics would prove a tough challenge. Nonetheless, the side won a historic second consecutive league title, cementing the club's status in Hockey folklore. The side also chased glory in Cuppers. Following a 4-0 win in the quarter final against previous victors



▲ Principal XI T20 with Tom Fletcher



▲ Oxford town and Gown 10km with some Hertfordians

Christchurch/St Hugh's a tantalising semi-final against Merton/Mansfield awaited. The game was a rambunctious affair, but the opposition's abundance of university level regulars proved too strong, and the side bowed out honourably, narrowly losing 3-1. Regardless, another scintillating season for the red army. With the squad continuing to grow in numbers and personality, the 2023-24 season will most definitely not disappoint.

Other Hertford sporting achievements this year demonstrate the multitude and diversity of the college's sporting engagements. The Men's Rugby team reached the Cuppers Plate semifinal, Tennis and Volleyball both succumbed to eventual runners up at the quarterfinals, Water Polo won bronze in Cuppers, Netball came 3rd in the first league division, and lastly the Association Croquet team outright won

Cuppers. Congratulations to all teams.

It has been an absolute pleasure to facilitate the many sporting endeavours of the college this year and I'd like to finish by mentioning a personal highlight of mine and many others of this year's sporting calendar: the Oxford Town and Gown 10km race in support of Muscular Dystrophy UK. Hertford spirit was abundant the entire day, be it during the strenuous 7am warm up or the well-earned post-race Hall brunch, it was a privilege to participate alongside (over 35) Hertfordians for such an important cause.

As has been demonstrated via Hertford's plethora of accomplishments, sport in all its glorious forms once again played a fundamental role in college life for the 2022-23 calendar year. I firmly suspect that this trend will continue long into the future.



# ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS

**Beatrice McWilliams, writes:**

**E**nvironmental sustainability continues to be a hot topic at Hertford, with actions being taken throughout college. This includes the meeting of the Sustainability Working Group in Trinity term, where staff and student representation discussed the work that has been done since the last meeting, and how to continue to work towards our goals. Going forwards, the group will meet once a term, with follow up Q&A sessions with the student body to increase engagement with the actions being taken.

A number of staff members have continued to work on sustainability, such as our gardener Alison who left an area for wildflower growth this summer in one of the college's annexes. A number of pollinators were seen enjoying these flowers, and a wild orchid was even spotted. It is great to see the biodiversity increasing in college spaces, benefitting both the environment and student wellbeing. The library staff have also been engaging with sustainability, with a brilliant book display being put together in Hilary term for Green Action week. Books relating to environmental action from a wide range of subjects were highlighted. In the catering department changes continue to be made by the team, such as coffee ground collection for turning into new products or to be used as a biofuel, and the removal of PVC clingfilm for a starch-based alternative.

Within the JCR, there have also been a number of ways that sustainability has been considered this year. This includes a donation box scheme trailed at the end of Trinity term with the aim of reducing waste while students are moving out. Food was collected for local foodbanks and items were either donated to a charity shop or stored

with the aim of re-use by students next year. In addition, with the Library redesign project requiring the JCR to move into a temporary new space, it was important for as much of the new furniture as possible to be sourced second-hand, reducing the impact and cost.

I've really enjoyed working with both staff and students on sustainability this year, and seeing how positive change can happen when our community comes together. We must continue this work to lessen our impact on the planet and inspire Hertford students to want to take environmental action throughout their lives.



# ARTS

**Evelyn Brinkley,  
writes:**

**T**he arts at Hertford have had another stellar year, with Hertfordians taking advantage of all the wonderful artistic opportunities college, university, and city have to offer. The JCR Arts Rep for Michaelmas, Lizzie Bateman (Chemistry, 2020) organised many in-college arts events, with the Halloween pumpkin carving in collaboration with Entz proving particularly popular.

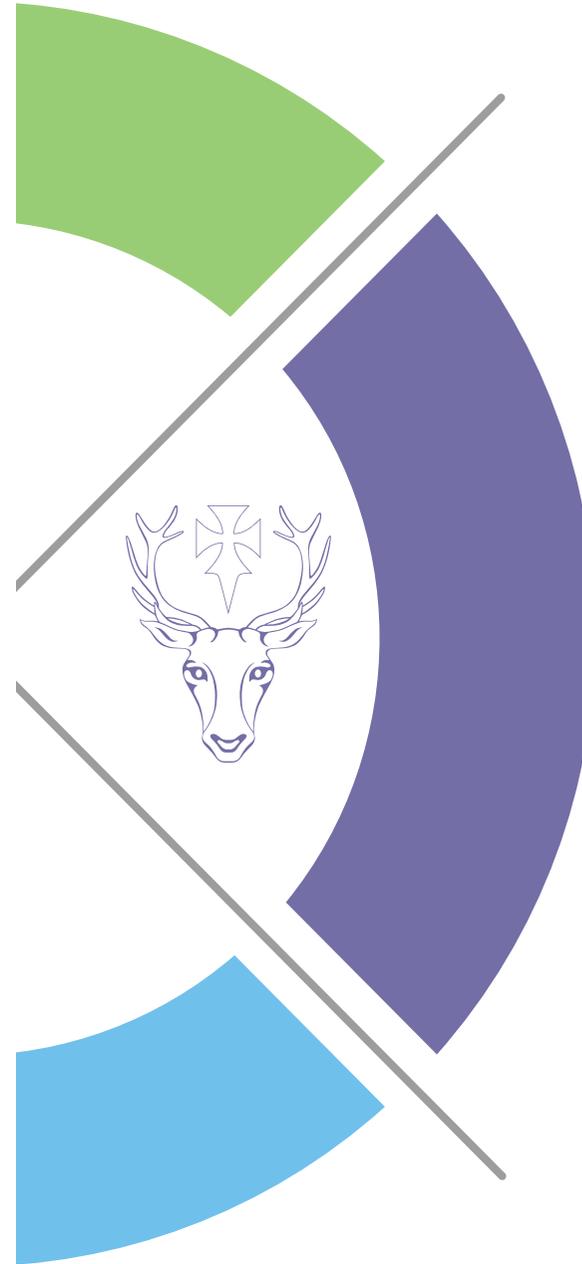
The new intake of Freshers also brought fresh talent to be showcased in Drama Cuppers, where a team of five performed the hard-hitting and poignant play 'Maryland', directed by Jenny Grehan-Bradley (English, 2021) and Tanya Ranadive (Geography, 2021). Trixie Smith (Spanish, 2022) was awarded Best Actor out of all competing college performances – we are super proud of her!

The college music society are going from strength to strength, with the introduction of the Alternative Lunchtime Concert being a particular highlight. The ALC provides a new space to counter the 'traditional' Lunchtime Recital, featuring more performers and fewer formalities.

I am very excited to be the new JCR Arts Rep for the coming year, with plans for more college-wide events and arts-and-crafts welfare, hopefully ensuring that music, drama, and art continue to flourish here at Hertford.



▲ Pumpkin carving at the Halloween BOP



AFTER  
**HERT  
FORD**

▲ Some of the Drama Cuppers team at the Awards Ceremony

# DO YOU LIKE PUZZLES?



**Christoph Bettin**  
(Earth Sciences,  
1990) writes:

Over 4 decades ago I went to visit my German Aunt Helga (yes – she is called “Helga”!) as I had done every Easter for years and on the way back from the airport, she turned to me and said – “this thing is all the rage and you like puzzles don’t you – so I got you one!”

With that she handed me my first Rubik’s Cube, however, as she passed it over, she started scrambling it right in front of my very eyes. “How difficult can it be” was my instant naive thought and so began a unique journey.

As she had predicted I was instantly fascinated and using the classically sophisticated method of “trial and error” I finally came up with a solution that would work most of the time! When it failed, I simply had to start again from scratch and eventually a combination that I could solve would present itself.

In the following months books and solving methods started to be published and I learnt the missing algorithm that had alluded me and armed with that there was no stopping me.

Like most things there is a decision point – either you go “well I’ve done it so that’s it!” or you go “how can I solve it faster?”. I was in the latter camp and was very pleased when I finally managed to consistently get to solve the cube in a reasonable time.

Over the years I have occasionally come across a scrambled cube and have rarely been able to resist the urge and yet sometimes there were long periods when I have not picked one up.

If word gets out that I can solve, the usual reaction I get is “well – I could never do that”. To me that was never a statement of fact – merely a challenge and in many ways simply another puzzle to solve. The only requirement to learn is

the willingness to invest the one and half hours of focused time required, and I have always been more than happy to show how it is done.

After over 40 years I have successfully taught thousands to solve the Rubik’s Cube and still have my 100% success rate intact.

Clearly becoming the CEO of Rubik’s Brand Limited – no they didn’t ask me to solve in the interview much to my disappointment – accelerated this. With this came opportunities to teach at trade shows around the world, at consumer events across Europe and Asia and even a full session with the Hasbro games development team – our then US licensing partner.

For our 50th anniversary the Rubik’s office team together with some of our Rubik’s ambassadors and even roping in my eldest daughter (who can solve the fastest in our family) to help, created a pop-up shop in Covent Garden and we used this to set a new Guinness World Record for teaching the most people to solve at a single event.

In many ways the greater the belief of a person that they would fail, the wider the smile when they finally succeed.

A while ago research from the University of Mississippi showed some unexpected results. We taught a wide range of children aged 10 to 12 how to solve over a 2-month period. All those who participated – even those who did not complete the task fully – showed improved scores in maths. While this was not completely unexpected the fact that every single child made improvements was remarkable. Most interestingly, however, was that they also all showed even greater increases in reading scores at the end of the 2 months.

Most recently we have done wider testing both with children with

autism and adults in the early stage of dementia and although this is ongoing, they are reporting positive benefits when looking across the entire cohort.

During the recent Hertford Festival I ran a session and understand that those who learnt have themselves passed on the joy of solving to others.

If you would like to learn please reach out on LinkedIn [www.linkedin.com/in/christophbettin](http://www.linkedin.com/in/christophbettin) and I’ll be more than happy to help. Alternatively, please go to [www.rubiks.com](http://www.rubiks.com) for the latest guides and videos to help you on the solve journey.

Good luck – you can do it!

After over 40 years  
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my 100% success  
rate intact.

# MY TOUR OF HERTFORD



**Arabella Warner  
(History, 1977)  
writes:**

**W**hy was Hertford once known as 'the paper college'? Which Principal caused a revolt from some of his students for being too disciplinarian? Who was described by his tutor as "a silly little suburban sod with an inferiority complex and no palate"? I'd discovered the answers to these questions (all will be revealed, but you must read till the end) after being asked to lead tours of the place at a summer weekend event for Hertford College alumni, of which I am one. Despite nearly burning the college down in my first term (an unfortunate accident involving an arm chair and a two bar electric heater in my Old Buildings attic room), I managed to graduate in 1980, and have spent a very happy working life in children's television, and then as Artistic Director of a theatre company working in local prisons. But my old tutor, Toby Barnard, might be pleased to hear that at last I am putting my History degree to good use. I now write a weekly blog about this wonderful city, and on occasion introduce visitors in person to Oxford's less well-trodden streets and their inhabitants. So I jumped at the chance to take a closer look at my place of tertiary education, to leaf through its archives, peruse its portraits and step into rooms that were off bounds to me as an undergraduate.

Hertford has its architectural gems; there's the circular staircase built by TG Jackson called by Pevsner 'the bastard child of Blois' because the stairs leading up to the dining hall go in the opposite direction to the ones at the Chateau de Blois in France on which they were based. There's the stone carving of the annunciation on the outside door into the octagonal building (now Hertford's MCR) which dates back to the

16th century when this was the chapel of Our Lady at Smithgate, part of the old city wall and where students would pray before heading across the road to Divinity School to take their exams. And there's the most famous of all, The Hertford Bridge connecting the Old and New quads known as 'The Bridge of Sighs'. Though it looks nothing like its namesake in Venice, it remains the most photographed monument in Oxford. A tunnel for the servants to use had been planned as well, but they only got as far as constructing the entry points, which can still be seen. Though there is talk, apparently, of resurrecting the idea. With space in the heart of the city at such a premium I can see going underground might make sense.

But it was the stories about the people of Hertford, the principals, the fellows, the students, and those that worked here, which most engaged the families I was guiding that weekend. A nine year old boy thought the demise of Walter de Stapleton, Bishop of Exeter, 'quite cool'. Walter who was Lord High Treasurer to Edward II, had bought the place when it was Hart Hall back in 1314 and went on to found Exeter College, but came to a gory end when he had his head sawn off with a breadknife by an angry mob in Cheapside. His body was then thrown on a dunghill and devoured by dogs. An older child, small for his age his mother told me later, was struck by the story of Alain Leroy Locke, who owing to a childhood illness measured only 4 feet 11 inches and weighed just seven stone when he first came to Oxford in 1907. He was the first African American Rhodes scholar at a time when racism was still rife. Hertford accepted him when others refused, and he went on to champion black arts and culture in Harlem, New York. A new scholarship has this year

You cannot fail to be moved by the stories behind the names on Hertford's war memorials

been launched in his name.

You cannot fail to be moved by the stories behind the names on Hertford's war memorials. Percy Nugent George Fitzpatrick, killed near Cambrai on 14 December 1917 is one of the 100 Hertford men who died in the Great War, remembered on the plaque in the chapel. It was Percy's father James who suggested that we keep a two-minute silence to remember those who lost their lives, that is still upheld on Armistice day around the world. On the wall outside, the name of Tom Roberts, who came up to Hertford from Carmarthenshire in 1940 to study engineering and was a talented photographer, killed in action at the Normandy landings is remembered

alongside others who died from the college in WW2. Tom's best friend, Dom Mintoff who stands smiling with him in their matriculation photograph held in the archives, went on to become the Prime Minister of Malta. He reckoned Tom was destined for great things in the world of cinema. It was not to be.

My favourite Principal story from Hertford has to be about Neville Murphy, who headed up the college between 1939 and 1959. There is a stern looking portrait of him by Stanley Spencer hanging in the Senior Common Room. An amateur engineer, whose expertise his students sought when they needed their watches mending, he once spent Christmas Day sorting the college plumbing. It was his peculiar filing system, however, for which he will be best remembered. After his death, his successor William Ferrar decided to redecorate the Principal's quarters and discovered hundreds of unopened letters hidden by Murphy beneath the old carpets. Some were from headmasters presenting him with their brightest students, left wondering why they never got an answer. One was dated from just after Indian Independence. It was from the University offering the Indian Institute to the college at a knock down price. Just think how perfect that would have made Hertford's real estate portfolio had he just unsealed that envelope.

So back to the beginning. Hertford was known as 'paper hall' because by the early 1800's its buildings were so flimsy that in 1820 the whole medieval front collapsed into Catte Street. The disciplinarian was Sir Richard Newton, the founder of the first Hertford College in 1740. A reformer who believed in hard work and Spartan practices, he was so disliked by some of students that they upped and left. And the "little suburban

sod" was Evelyn Waugh, whose life at Hertford was immortalised in his classic novel, *Brideshead Revisited*. Waugh claimed that the only things he learned at Oxford were 'how to smoke a pipe, how to ride a bicycle and how to get drunk'. If only he'd taken the time to look at his own college history. He might have found it interesting and learned a whole lot more.

Arabella writes a weekly blog on Oxford which is available at: <https://theoxfordsausage.com/blog/>  
If you'd like to enquire about a personal tour then you can contact her at: [theoxfordsausage@gmail.com](mailto:theoxfordsausage@gmail.com)

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by the early 1800's  
its buildings were so  
flimsy that in 1820 the  
whole medieval front  
collapsed into Catte  
Street



# ALUMNI NEWS

**Graham Kings** (Theology, 1973) enjoyed confirming and preaching in College Chapel in May. He had an Afterword published in Ian Randall, *Georgina Gollock: Pioneering Female Missiologist* (CCCW, 2023) and organised the premiere of Tristan Latchford's seven anthems, based on his poems, 'Celebrating Women in the Bible' at St Stephen, Walbrook.

**Laline Paull** (English, 1983) was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, for her third novel *The Pod*. Her update follows below:

[The prize was] carried off by Barbara Kingsolver (second time) and no one could possibly object to that as she's a queen on and off the page.

I was also made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and signed with George Eliot's pen. The choices were between hers, Dickens', TS Eliot's, Jean Rhys', and I think someone else. Byron maybe. Anyway, no contest for me, and I narrowly avoided getting lipstick on it by last-minute kissing my own thumb instead of The Pen.

And possibly most excitingly, at the last event I did, the wonderful Byline Festival at Dartington Hall in Devon, a nice fat friendly cat jumped up on stage to greet me. I got to stroke her while carrying on reading, making it very homely in the vaulting medieval Great Hall.'

**Jonathan Skrmetti** (PPE, 1999) was appointed in 2022 to serve as Attorney General and Reporter for the state of Tennessee. In this role, he is the chief legal officer of the state, protecting the rights of seven million citizens.

**Ruth Tarrant** (née Southworth; E+M, 1999) has returned to Oxford as a Stipendiary Lecturer in Economics at LMH, after 15 years working in secondary schools and teacher training in economics. She has just been appointed the Economics Subject Lead (as part of PPE) for the new Astrophoria Foundation programme.

**Patrick Haughey** (E+M, 2000) was appointed the Irish Ambassador to Poland in October 2022.

**Dr Christopher Ballinas Valdés** (DPhil Politics, 2003) has held numerous government positions in Mexico, most recently serving as Director General for Human Rights and Democracy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In August 2021, he was responsible for coordinating the extraction of an all-female team of Afghan robotics scientists. You can find a full account of this and more information about Dr Ballinas's varied career on the Bridge Blog.

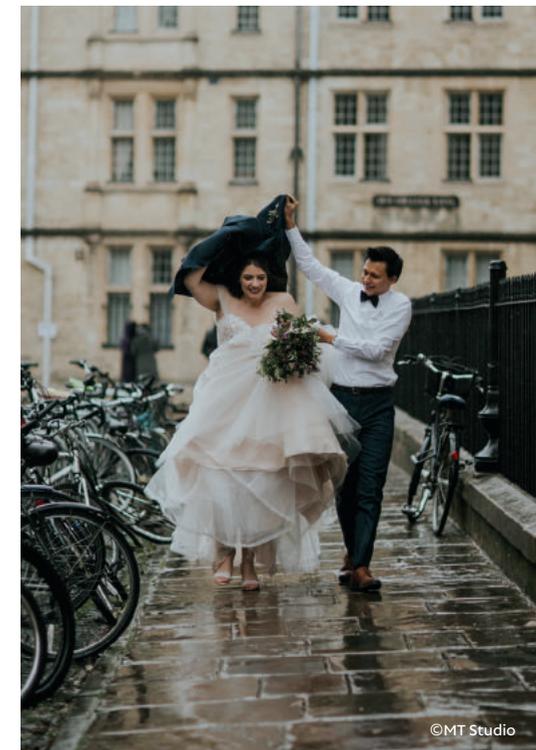
Congratulations to **Yarrow "Millie" Townsend** (English and Modern Languages, 2009), whose debut children's novel, *The Map of Leaves*, was shortlisted for the prestigious Branford Boase Award this year.



**Daniel Valentine** (MSc History, 2013) has been elected Executive Chair of Lovey Foundation UK (LFUK), a charity which helps children in rural Ghana to access education. He is pictured above with pupils from the Holy Trinity Cathedral Senior High School in Accra, Ghana.

**Athol Williams** (MPhil Political Theory, 2015) was awarded the 2022 Special Recognition Award by international organisation Blueprint for Free Speech "for integrity and bravery in the public interest", after he blew the whistle on large-scale corruption in South Africa involving politicians and corporations. He joined Hertford as a Research Associate in the John Porter Diplomacy Centre and was appointed to the faculty of the Saïd Business School as a Lecturer in Management.

Two Hertford alums – **Benjamin Fong** (MSt English, 2018) and **Alexandra Kimmons** (Oriental Studies, 2013) – celebrated their marriage in the college chapel on 18th December 2022. Mia gave a wonderful sermon and Alex and Ben are so grateful that she and the college were part of their big day. Alex graduated in 2017 after studying Chinese for undergraduate, and Ben did a master's in English literature from 2018 to 2019. Despite having both been at Hertford from 2016 to 2017 when Ben was a visiting student from the US, they met for the first-time during Ben's master's thanks to another Hertford alum (Josie Dyster) who introduced them in the MCR.



# OBITUARIES

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

## FORMER MEMBERS OF STAFF

Vic Madden  
Kenny Lewis \*

### 1944

William Weston  
Joseph Butler-Sloss  
Richard Lloyd \*

### 1945

Martin Sinnatt  
Tim Eccles

### 1948

Eric Hardy  
Stewart Richards

### 1950

Colin Curley  
Brian Jeacock \*

### 1951

Jeremy Harrold

### 1952

David Henderson  
Thomas Savery  
William Allan Scott

### 1953

Michael Short  
Gerald Barnes \*

### 1954

David Loewe

### 1955

John Wroughton  
John Robins

### 1957

John Woodhouse

### 1958

Merrick Baker-Bates \*

### 1959

Bruce Pattullo \*

### 1960

Geoffrey Hornby  
Michael Ross

### 1961

David Wilson \*

### 1962

John Doble \*  
David Gallifant

### 1964

Robert Weeden  
Richard Summers \*

### 1965

Julian Hubbard

### 1966

Joseph Olliver

### 1970

Michael Bridge

### 1972

Simon Attwood

### 1973

Marc Angers \*  
Simon Barker

### 1985

Paul Gleeson \*  
Huw Peach \*

### 1987

Jonathan Lewis

### 1991

Richard Penn

### 1994

Chand Patel \*

### 2006

Lisa Lodwick\*

# KENNY LEWIS

**The college was honoured to hold Kenny's funeral in January 2023, with the following addresses given as part of the service.**

John 14:1-4: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

I wonder where you were when you first set eyes on Kenny Lewis. For one person here, Mr Lewis, you will remember seeing your newborn son for the first time, with all the emotions which come with parenthood. Tina, I can imagine you recall first setting eyes on the man who was to become the love of your life. For others, he will have been a part of your life pre-dating your memories.

I remember very well setting eyes on Kenny for the first time. It was during my interview, and I was introduced to the college Butler, smartly dressed as ever in a shirt, tie, and waistcoat, walking the previous Simpkin on a lead so that our feline friend could get some fresh air during his final days. I remember thinking, how very Oxford. How very kind. Those two things for me encapsulate who Kenny was. A man who upheld tradition, and a person of huge warmth and welcome.

As I began to get to know him, one thing I realised was that there was one particular tradition he was not going to budge on, one which Tom has already mentioned. "Good evening, Madam," he would say. "Kenny," I would reply, "please call me Mia." "Very well, Mia it is, thank you Madam." But this always felt warm and welcoming, never stuffy and remote.

The reading today chosen by the family encapsulates so much about Kenny, about the hope the family have expressed, and about the comfort we can all access as we mourn his loss.

Kenny Lewis was undoubtedly a Hertford Legend. Oxford is full of legends, one of whom is Tolkien. At the end of Lord of the Rings, Frodo Baggins was now safe in the Last Homely House east of the Sea. That house was, as Bilbo had long ago reported, "a perfect house, whether you like food or sleep, or story-telling or singing, or just sitting and thinking best, or a pleasant mixture of them all.' Merely to be there was a cure for weariness, fear and sadness."

A perfect house isn't something spotless and pristine from a magazine, it's place of warmth, love, and welcome. Hospitality isn't about a house, it's about the creation of an atmosphere on which people feel valued, comfortable, and accepted. It seems that everywhere Kenny went, people were drawn to him, conversations were initiated, banter exchanged, and people left feeling better for the encounter. Someone said to me recently that in all the years they had known Kenny, they had never heard him say a bad word about anyone. What an amazing epitaph.

But of course, rooms and homes do matter. Anyone who has been to the Lewis home can feel the love and pride in one another, and the warmth of family life so well modelled by Kenny and by Tina. For the Hertford community, Tolkien's description reminds us of the hospitality and warmth we experience in this college, which for so many years was down to Kenny's professional input. On Kenny's retirement, Christopher Tyerman said: "The Lewis smile could light a parish... he treated the college not just as an employer or institution, but, in all its peculiar attitudes, aspects and eccentricities, almost a second home, in whose members he found enjoyment, entertainment and a sense of purpose."

Our Bible reading tells us that Jesus has gone to prepare a room in his father's house. The preparation of rooms for hospitality was a large part of Kenny's role. Kenny took pride in a beautifully set table, a topped-up glass, and a space in which others could be welcomed, relax, and be accepted as they are, even at their most expansive. The room his family most associate with him is the SCR Pantry, a space where they could often be found, sharing in its welcoming sociability. That perfect place of food, relaxation, storytelling, and sometimes singing whenever there was a football or rugby match to come in and enjoy.

Given Kenny's skills and experience, I wonder about the room the Lord prepared for him. I picture the Lord saying, "Kenny, I've been watching how you did it, and I've been learning from

you. I hope it's up to your standards." And the Lord will lead him into a room with a beautifully laid table, his mother waiting with a delicious meal, and his long-time SCR steward Paul Coones pouring him an enormous glass of the finest the cellars have to offer. I imagine the late Simpkinses will be there too, ready for a stroll around heaven's quad. And Kenny will say, "This is very kind of you, Sir." The Lord will say, "Kenny, call me Jesus." "Very well, Jesus, thank you sir," he will reply.

Jesus says, don't let your hearts be troubled. Now, of course, your hearts are broken as you mourn the loss of a husband, father, son, brother, relative, friend, colleague. But your broken hearts do not need to be troubled. From speaking to the family, it's clear to me that you know the place Kenny has gone. You trust in the promises of Jesus. You don't grieve without hope. You live believing that your place too is being prepared.

Kenny's legacy of warmth, love, and hospitality has touched all our lives, and we are all the richer for having known him. May his memory be a blessing.

*Former College Chaplain, the Revd Mia Smith*

Tina, Kieron, Theo, Mr Lewis, Kenny's family, and friends: the whole Hertford community stands with you in this moment of loss, memory, celebration, and respect. Thank you for sharing this day - this hardest of days - with us. Thank you for sharing so many of Kenny's days with us.

Later, there will be more important

tributes from family and friends. But over the past weeks, we have been reflecting on what he meant to the Hertford family. Memories poured in – from Fellows, colleagues, students, alumni, teammates, and friends. I knew Kenny in all six of those categories, and I worked for him too.

What is so striking from those stories is that, from whichever angle each of us encountered Kenny, he was the same man. That's extraordinary. Kenny was extraordinary. A still small voice of calm at the centre of this community. Or in Kenny's case, a bustling, loud voice of exuberance at the heart of Hertford.

Seeing Kenny carried into our chapel today, I remembered carrying him off the pitch after another of his super-sub match winning performances: he was not an easy man to carry. And there are plenty of stories of Kenny carrying students, colleagues... even the occasional tutor. The Fellow who had a throat cancer he didn't want known and found the meat on his plate discreetly cut into tiny pieces. The visiting students from another college who recall Kenny arriving with a silver tray, some excellent claret, and a wink: "That's how we do it here." The time he sat in on admissions interviews, and all his picks went on to get Firsts. The students he talked out of dropping out. The people he was there for when they too lost those they loved.

The truth is: he carried us all in different ways. Kenny probably had interactions with more Hertford people than anyone else, ever. Ever. And they weren't just interactions. Not with Kenny. They were interventions. Because so many of us recall that an interaction with Kenny left us feeling better about life. That essay crisis, social anxiety, bad day or (even) Domus Committee didn't seem so bad after a

blast of Kenny. You walked a bit taller, you smiled a bit broader. So many people told me that Kenny was the first person to make them feel that they were welcome here, that they really belonged. Those are serious interventions. Kenny made people feel better about themselves. All of us here are better people because of him.

And so, a question for us all. Hertford is known as the friendly college in Oxford. Can any one person have done more in the last half century to make that so? And that legacy is because Kenny was something you find incredibly rarely in people: he was irreplaceable. That cannot always have been easy, even if he made it look so. Ebulliently, big-heartedly, gloriously irreplaceable. And that's what now makes him feel so irreplaceable.

Kenny was of course a passionate West Ham fan. I can testify that being a Hammers fan is a journey of hope over expectation. It is brilliant that the team will be paying their tribute to him. More importantly, Kenny would say, they have even started scoring again. And Kenny was a fan like he was a man: unstintingly loyal; endlessly enthusiastic; ferociously kind. He was the same when he played for the Hertford football team. He led us – literally – from the front. Our most capped player ever, and top goal scorer.

And when he was here, over almost five decades at Hertford, he had – day in, day out – the same loyalty, enthusiasm, kindness as on the terraces and on the pitch. With a strong dash of mischief: one Fellow asked Kenny not to call him 'Sir'. Kenny gave him that huge Kenny Lewis grin: "It's only so I don't have to remember your name." I miss that grin.

In the last conversation I had with Kenny, he asked me what had changed

about being back as Principal. I said that the main difference was that I would now get into trouble if I sang: "I'm Hertford till I die", at the end of a dinner, like we'd done together so many times. I got the huge smile, but with the hint of the menace with which he terrified defenders. And he said: "You'll get into trouble from me if you stop singing it." Well, Kenny. You lived the song. You loved this place. And we loved you back. You were Hertford right to the end.

I defer on questions of the afterlife to Mia, who was such a support to Kenny in recent years. Kenny told one Fellow that hell would be quite good: endless West Ham replays. But Hertford does have its equivalent of the afterlife: this college does remember and does treasure our great figures long after they leave us. They become part of our pantheon, part of the story we tell those who follow them, from generation to generation.

And in that Senior Common Room for those who have done most for this community, Kenny Lewis is still being irreplaceable. And he is having drinks served to him by the likes of Geoffrey Warnock, Neil Tanner, and Roy Stuart.

One more song. Sometimes after the matches we used to sing: "There's only one Kenny Lewis". It was sung in turn at top volume for decades after reunions. We sang it again on the pitch last Tuesday.

So many people have told me that it is hard to imagine that we won't see him striding out of OB3. Or calling across the quad. Kenny always seemed to know where he was going. But he also always had time to stop and talk. This was his quad. Even Simpkin knew that.

And Kenny lives on in that quad. Every time we choose loyalty, or

kindness, or mischief, or generosity, or welcome, or service. Every time we choose to be irreplaceable. Kenny was not a quiet man. But our quad – his quad – is silent for Kenny today. And when it fills again, we'll make it noisy, for Kenny.

Kenny brought people together. And he's brought us together again today. United in respect and gratitude to him for giving us a cameo in his half century here; for the chance to be part of Hertford in the Kenny Lewis era.

Your life was another match winning performance, big guy. There really was only one Kenny Lewis. Thank you.

*Principal Tom Fletcher*

**Kenny was of course a passionate West Ham fan. I can testify that being a Hammers fan is a journey of hope over expectation.**

# SIR RICHARD LLOYD BT (PPE, 1944)

**Richard Lloyd was brought up in Scotland with his four older sisters in the family home overlooking Gairloch and on an island on Loch Lomond.**

Richard was bright with an enquiring mind which hoovered up knowledge on everything and everyone. His interest in the world was not a dry academic one. It was an almost childlike fascination, and enjoyment of discovery, no matter how obscure the topic. So, not surprisingly, he relished his time at Hertford College, Oxford studying PPE. He had fond memories of his time at Hertford and attended many Warnock Society lunches.

After graduating in 1952 he embarked on a career in the City of London, initially with Glyn Mills and Co, a small clearing bank. The city at this time was a small world where everybody knew everybody else, they had high standards of integrity and trusted each other completely. Lloyd was one of the bright young things who fitted right into this world and quickly made a name for himself. He was urbane, charming, and diplomatic, full of ideas and with an exceptional ability to make and keep friends from all walks of life. He was made an executive director in 1964, aged 36.

His big break came in 1970 when the Royal Bank of Scotland merged its three small English clearing banks to form Williams and Glyn's Bank. He was one of the architects of this merger and was appointed its first Chief Executive. He was only 42, considered exceptionally young at that time to run a bank. As an unusually cerebral banker, it was no accident that it was him, rather than the Chief Executives of the huge clearing banks, who was asked by the Heath Government to represent the City on the National Economic Development Council, known as Neddy, and on the Industrial Development Advisory Board. Together with the captains of industry and trades union heavyweights he sat round the table during the miner's strikes and three-day weeks, advising the government on the age-old question of how to stimulate UK manufacturing industry and whether to bail out struggling companies like Chrysler.

Lloyd served on many boards and think tanks, including the Ditchley Foundation, where he was a Governor for almost 30 years (1975-2004). Ditchley, which brings together distinguished people from various disciplines to share ideas on the big issues of the day, aligned closely with his interests and values. He was a master at bringing people together and creating goodwill.

His longest held directorship was with Vickers, the maker of, among other things, Challenger tanks and Rolls

Royce cars where he was a director for almost 20 years (1978-97) and chairman for five (1992-97). This job came with a company car which was his pride and joy. Being Chairman of Argos (1995-98) may not have had quite the same perks, but nevertheless he was proud of the customer service innovations he helped to introduce and the fight he put up to retain Argos' independence against a hostile take-over by Lord Wolfson, Chairman of Great Universal Stores; a battle which ultimately he lost but on good terms.

Lloyd was fascinated by medical science, so was well suited to the

role of President of the British Heart Foundation (1995-2004). The consultants and researchers were delighted with the level of interest he showed in their work.

A true 20th century Renaissance man and a gifted leader, Richard Lloyd will be remembered most by those who knew him for his gentle, kind and warm-hearted personality. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer and his three sons.

*With thanks to Richard's son, Simon (Geography, 1977)*

**Lloyd served on many boards and think tanks, including the Ditchley Foundation, where he was a Governor for almost 30 years**

# BRIAN JEACOCK (MODERN HISTORY, 1950)

**Brian Jeacock graduated from Hertford College, Oxford, in 1953 with a degree in History. He then qualified as a solicitor, something he successfully practised in the Midlands for the next 50 years, specialising in commercial and trust law. His expertise in the latter was such that he often advised top London law firms on the subject.**

Brian was a keen sportsman, always keeping fit, and played golf into his 80s. He imbued this love of outdoor pursuits into his children and grandchildren.

People who met Brian always came away with a feeling of having met a courteous, fun-loving, and humorous man. He was cheerful and optimistic, with the wonderful ability to laugh at himself.

Although a private man, Brian and his wife Anne were generous hosts, as anyone who arrived over the Christmas holidays would attest to. His dress sense – if you could call it that – was eccentric but consistent! He was very

proud of the fact that he could still fit into the dinner jacket that he had at Oxford, even aged 90.

He always had the Hertford College crest on his study wall, something to remind him of the values and learning he experienced there.

Brian is survived by his wife, Anne, whom he married in 1956, three children, and six grandchildren. His eldest daughter, Mandy, also became a lawyer; his youngest daughter, Tess, is a teacher and his son Drew was an officer in the Blues and Royals Regiment of the Household Cavalry.

*With thanks to Brian's son, Andrew*

# GERALD BARNES (MUSIC, 1953)

**Gerald was college organist from 1953 to 1955.**

I first met him in December 1952 when we were among those seeking admission to Hertford the following autumn. I was impressed by how immaculately dressed he was at the first evening meal. We saw a little of each other over those intense next few days and were pleased to find in October that we had both been successful, he as organ scholar and I to read history.

Four of us quickly struck up a friendship: Gerald and I, a friend from my school (Derek Roebuck) and another historian (David Clay). We used to meet in each other's rooms at tea-time, rejoicing in the abolition of food rationing and taking it in turns to host a snack of cheese, biscuits, and cake. After a while we began to play bridge on Sunday evenings. Perhaps not as enthusiastic a card-player as the rest of us, Gerald happily joined in. Gerald sometimes gave the impression of being rather vague, but in fact had a sharp mind. I treasure a photo I have of the four of us during our first term, taken after the matriculation ceremony and showing us all duly arrayed in white bow-ties, gowns and mortar-boards.

After leaving Hertford, Gerald and I kept in touch. We each had to spend two years on National Service before starting work. Gerald developed his

musical career. Over the years he was the principal organist at three major London churches, including Bloomsbury Baptist Church, the American Church, and St. Columba's (Church of Scotland). He also taught the organ and conducted choirs.

Meanwhile, I joined the Civil Service in Manchester but in 1963 was posted to London. That made it easier to meet again. In December 1966 he came to Liverpool to play the organ at my marriage. Thereafter, we came to know his wife, Rachel. Every year or two we would meet in each other's homes for a meal.

Later on, we were invited to each other's special celebrations – most recently our Golden Weddings. It was not long after our Golden Wedding celebration in 2017 that both Gerald and Rachel were admitted to hospital, where Rachel sadly died. After Gerald returned home, he had to have a resident carer. I spoke to him occasionally on the 'phone and we visited him a couple of times in North London before the epidemic intervened. You can imagine our sense of loss when Rachel's cousin informed us that Gerald had passed away on 31 August. We attended the funeral service on 30 September at St. Columba's, mourning a gentle man and a long-standing, steadfast friend.

*With thanks to Bob Coupe (Modern History, 1953)*

# MERRICK BAKER-BATES (MODERN HISTORY, 1958)

Posted to Japan by the Diplomatic Service in 1963, Merrick Baker-Bates later became one of his generation's most accomplished speakers of Japanese, narrating the live satellite broadcast of the wedding of Charles and Diana on NHK Television. In the English language his oratory was also impressive – the style of his delivery often bringing a rapt silence to a crowd.

Leaving the Service for a few years to be MD of the import-export company Cornes & Co. in the 1980s, he rejoined to serve as Deputy High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur in 1986. After an appointment as the first Commissioner for the British Antarctic Territories in London, he then spent five years in Los Angeles as Consul General before his retirement in 1998.

Throughout his career, and wherever he was, Merrick was known for his easy ability to make friends. His witty,

gentlemanly manner, occasionally sprinkled with a certain Northern English grit, gained him a wide circle of the rich and famous, particularly during his time in Los Angeles and in his fundraising activity for the actor Sam Wannamaker's project to rebuild the Shakespeare Globe. Credited among other things with introducing Elizabeth Taylor to John Warner (her sixth husband), his charitable involvement with a community outreach programme in Long Beach, California also led him to strike up an unlikely if brief friendship with one Calvin Broadus, later to become the rapper Snoop Dogg.

But perhaps unusually for someone with a position at the heart of the British establishment, he was always more enthusiastic about ordinary people in the countries in which he lived. He befriended taxi drivers, mechanics, golf caddies and teachers – some of whom he kept in touch with for many years, becoming intimately involved with their lives. In Japan, this gave him a subtle understanding of the way the Japanese saw Britain and the West, a quality overlooked by the office in London as the "economic miracle" played out. It was because of this that he was perhaps the best ambassador to Japan that Britain never had.

His interest in those who were unlike him took on a deeper aspect in the later years of his life. While also being

a local benefice of eight churches in the area where he lived in the rural village of Creaton, Northamptonshire, and a member of several philanthropic charities, he assumed a largely independent and self-directed role as mentor, teacher or simply a good friend of the disaffected. With a prolific interest in writing to individuals in jail in the US and the UK, he had a correspondence that lasted until his death for over twenty years with an inmate serving life without parole at the Kern Valley jail in California. Merrick's letters became a lifeline to the civilised world for those who had no other contact with it.

A remarkably relaxed involvement with drug addicts, former gangsters and thieves sometimes alarmed his family. His habit of accommodating the disadvantaged and otherwise homeless at his house in Creaton eventually had to be reconsidered when one such guest lapsed into an alcohol-fueled attempt to steal as many possessions as they could carry out of the house and into his car before being found by police the next morning in a ditch. Unperturbed, Merrick immediately visited the consequently reincarcerated former houseguest in prison – to discuss what to do on release.

He is survived by his wife, Chrystal and children, Jonathan and Harriet.

*With thanks to Merrick's son, Jonathan*

Throughout  
his career, and  
wherever he was,  
Merrick was known  
for his easy ability  
to make friends.

# BRUCE PATTULLO (AGRICULTURE, 1959)

**Sir Bruce Pattullo, a distinguished banker who dedicated 37 years of his life to the Bank of Scotland, passed away at the age of 84 on September 16, 2022.**

Born on January 2, 1938, in Edinburgh, Bruce's early life was marked by the tragic loss of his father, Major C. A. Pattullo (M.C), during World War II. He and his sister were evacuated to a family farm in Fife, and later at 13, after the sad death of his mother, brought up by an aunt and uncle in Edinburgh. He received his education at Edinburgh Academy, then Belhaven Hill near Dunbar, and later attended Rugby School, where he excelled not only in academics but also as a talented hockey player. He learned resilience and self-reliance.

He completed his national service with the Royal Scots, joining the Queen's Own Nigeria Regiment. Following that, Bruce pursued a BA degree at Hertford College, Oxford, where he enjoyed hockey, becoming captain, and was awarded a first-class degree in agriculture, fostering his interest in the economic aspects.

In 1961, Bruce embarked on his banking career, joining the Bank of Scotland's graduate recruitment program. He began working at various

branches in Edinburgh and Glasgow. His dedication and commitment to excellence became evident, receiving the Bilsland Prize from the Scottish Chartered Institute of Bankers in 1964.

Advancing up the ranks from within, Bruce held numerous senior positions within the Bank of Scotland, leaving an indelible mark on the institution. Notably, his appointment as Treasurer and General Manager in 1979, at the young age of 41, signalled his talents in international banking. Under his visionary leadership, the bank expanded its horizons, entering new markets and embracing technological innovations. In 1985, the Bank of Scotland became the first UK clearer to offer home banking services through customers' personal computers.

Bruce's strategic vision extended beyond the borders of Scotland, as he oversaw the acquisition of banks in New Zealand and Australia, and he played a pivotal role in the North Sea Oil business's expansion in Aberdeen. The Bank, under his leadership, became known for its innovation and increased its share in the UK banking market.

Bruce was dedicated to customer service and his belief in a personal and individual approach to banking. The adoption of the slogan "A Friend for Life" in 1984 embodied his personal approach to banking.

In 1996, Bruce Pattullo faced a significant challenge when Standard Life announced the sale of its 30% stake in the Bank of Scotland. His

reaction demonstrated his unwavering commitment to the bank, as he personally delivered his resignation from the Board to Standard Life's headquarters.

At the 1990 AGM, Bruce was announced as the incoming Governor, a position he held with distinction for 8 years until retirement. He steered the bank through various economic challenges and opportunities. His shrewd banking skills significantly benefited the Scottish economy, emphasising the importance of cautious and responsible financial management.

Sir Bruce Pattullo was awarded a CBE in 1989, an FRSE in 1990, and was knighted in 1995. He received honorary degrees from Strathclyde, Aberdeen, and Stirling universities.

Beyond his banking career, Bruce was a devoted family man, husband to Fiona, whom he met at a Christmas party in 1958, for 60 years from their marriage in 1962. He was a father to a daughter and three sons. He instilled a love of learning, integrity, and achievement in his children, who pursued careers in various fields.

Bruce enjoyed hillwalking, and was an avid tennis player, fostering camaraderie and competition among his peers. His weekends were often spent on the tennis court, where he demonstrated the same passion, dedication, and sportsmanship that defined his career.

Sir Bruce Pattullo's passing leaves a

void in the hearts of those who knew him. His enduring legacy, marked by integrity, dedication, and innovation, will continue to inspire future generations in the world of banking and finance, and his memory will forever be cherished.

Bruce is an Honorary fellow of Hertford College, which expressed its condolences and gratitude for Sir Bruce's contributions, flying its flag at half-mast in his honour.

*With thanks to Bruce's son, Phil*

**Bruce was dedicated to customer service and his belief in a personal and individual approach to banking.**

# DAVID WILSON (LIT HUM, 1961)

David Wilson was a born critic of the world around him, of the books he studied in his Greats course, and of the people he met. I first encountered him in the Hertford Quad in the early days of our going up. I was carrying a copy of *Sight & Sound*, the film journal, under my arm and David's eyes caught sight of it, sparkling on spotting a fellow film buff. Ours was a friendship cemented in celluloid.

David was born on 15 August 1942 in Liverpool, attended Liverpool Collegiate School and won a scholarship to Hertford in 1961. My overriding memory of David at college was of him presiding over debates on every topic imaginable, often political and leaning left in tenor, always carrying on into the early hours of the morning. His talents lay in journalism and although not

formally trained in this, his subsequent career showcased them.

On graduating he did a stint with the *Guardian* but his love of film (he had been Treasurer of OUFSS) led him naturally into film criticism and he joined the British Film Institute as a copywriter and later reviewer. In 1971 he became associate editor of *Sight & Sound* and for ten years worked with distinguished film critic Penelope Houston as editor. The films he chose to review were invariably political in content, such as *Politics and Pontecorvo*, *Battle of Algiers*, and *Queimada*. Much of his criticism embraced the auteurist theories that were fashionable in his day, and he liked nothing better than interviewing filmmakers about their art. His position gave him the opportunity of attending film festivals around the world, including one in Tehran. He returned from this excited to have met Ann Miller, the glitzy star of MGM musicals.

His later career followed the world of publishing, book reviewing and book editing. A final assignment was to edit TE Lawrence's *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* for Folio Publications. In retirement he threw himself into golf in the way he played squash in his youth, with a ferocious determination to win. One of his sporting highlights was to have toured India and Sri Lanka with the *Guardian Cricket Team*.

In the words of his nieces, "He was gentle, extremely kind and charitable

and we can all relate these endearing qualities to him in different ways. He was principled and stood strong for his beliefs. He could be headstrong, stubborn even, and fiercely independent."

David died peacefully on 26 January 2023. He will be missed by his nieces, nephews, and good friends.

*With thanks to Keith Sheather (1961, Modern History)*

On graduating he did a stint with the *Guardian* but his love of film led him naturally into film criticism and he joined the British Film Institute as a copywriter and later reviewer.

# JOHN DOBLE (MODERN HISTORY, 1962)

**John Doble (Modern History, 1962). One tribute at his funeral in May 2023 asked whether, with his qualities, John should have been born 150 years earlier. I suggest, rather, that his qualities are enduring and survive every age and fashion.**

My earliest memory of John is at a tea party in college very early in his, and my, first term at Oxford. It emerged that the father of another guest was a Labour peer. We all marked the stunned silence from John. Today, we would be quick to judge such a man for class prejudice. Yet this was the same man who, as a diplomat in South Africa, took the white Diplomatic Jaguar to a church in the heart of Soweto and sat down in the back pew with two white colleagues; whereupon the entire congregation (all Black) rose and clapped; who, in the same Diplomatic Jaguar one evening, ordered the driver to stop and gave a lift home to a weary worker who also lived in Soweto. The first time John visited a Swazi national park, he accepted an offer from a stranger to act as his guide. That stranger, Sibusiso Vilane, became John's lifelong friend; with John's support, he became the first Black man to climb

Everest. If you were John's friend, he was always on your side - forthright, honest, honourable.

John, the eldest son of Commander Douglas Doble RN and his wife Marcella Cowan, was born on 30th June 1941 in Edinburgh, the start of a lifelong love of Scotland. One distinguished ancestor was Colonel Carlos, who hid Charles II in the Boscobel Oak after the battle of Worcester in 1651. It was the Army who sent John to Oxford to read Modern History, which he did with distinction, coming within a whisker of a First.

The Army brought benefits to John's friends on the same staircase in the Old Quad. At the beginning of each term there appeared in the Porters' Lodge a large cardboard carton of stationery plus pencils, rubbers and the like marked for John: the Army's assessment of John's needs for the term. How well, on that staircase, we were supplied with our stationery needs for our first year!

But John was nowhere to be seen in the first half of any morning. He had risen before any of us and driven to Derek Ancil's racing stables and ridden out with the jockeys and stable lads - all six foot two of him. A winner at two point-to-point races, he seriously injured his liver in a fall at Larkhill. Yet his determination, with good medical care, saw him through sixteen weeks in Hospital, missing his third year at Oxford and coming back in his fourth year to complete his degree.

A highlight of Oxford friendship with

John was to travel in his "car" - a former VW German post van with the driver's seat the only fixed place to sit. I sat beside him in a folding garden chair. I don't remember whether this was secured to the floor.

John's enthusiasm for people and judgement of good opportunities were evident even at Oxford, when as Master of the Draghounds, he ran the Bullingdon point-to-point, and raised funds by holding a dance in the grounds of Cliveden House a short time after the Profumo affair.

Later in life, as a diplomat in South Africa, so keen was he to know all the key people and to understand the heart of South Africa, that Nelson Mandela once said to him at the headquarters of the African National Congress: "You are here so often; I don't know why you don't keep a camp-bed in our office." Other world leaders also benefitted from John's judgement. When, in 1982, President Reagan made a State visit to this country, John had the idea of a ride with the Queen at Windsor, and that became an iconic image.

I remember John as well for his courage and his faith. He climbed Mount Fuji in Japan and Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, went on seven expeditions to Nepal and Tibet, and reached Camp Three on Everest. To celebrate his 70th birthday he climbed Mont Blanc and then, as a novice in tandem with his

guide, parasailed down to Chamonix. In Beirut in 1973 John was captured by Palestinian fedayeen and held in a cellar ten feet by six. Not knowing when or whether he would be released, he walked round his cell until he achieved his calculated mile, and sustained himself by reciting hymns, and prayers from his beloved Book of Common Prayer learnt from his grandmother in childhood.

But I remember John most as a loyal friend and a great encourager, whether as his lawyer visiting his Thameside house at low tide to inspect for want of repair in the river wall giving rise to flooding in his basement, or his seeking my views on his local church, St. Simon and St. Jude, Hockworthy, in remote Devon, where he was a churchwarden.

John leaves a widow, Sue, who has the same intrepid spirit - how good it was that they found each other - and a daughter Louisa from his first marriage to Isabella Whitbread. Louisa was for a time a piano pupil of my wife.

*With thanks to David Munro (Jurisprudence, 1962). David acknowledges Brough Scott's tribute at John's funeral, and the Telegraph obituary of 4 (online) and 8 June 2023, and thanks Sue Doble and Tony Mackintosh, a fellow historian with John at Hertford, for reading, checking, correcting and improving this obituary.*

# RICHARD SUMMERS (CHEMISTRY, 1964)

In early December 2022, at the age of 76, Richard died in the arms of Maryse, his children, Francis and Sarah. Above all a father, a good and supportive friend, we give thanks to God for having known him and for having enjoyed his company. A proud Yorkshireman, he was well grounded, canny and sharp with a twinkle in his eye and also a proud European living in France with a Dutch wife

We came up in 1964, two of five chemists, still five friends. Richard relished the sporting, academic and social life of the college and the University. Under his captaincies, the football team and the tennis team progressed to be the best in the University. He gained a good degree but declined research. At a party in Magdalen he met Maryse, a Dutch girl from St Clare's. They fell in love.

Immediately after Oxford, whilst he was a successful fast track Unilever management trainee, he married

Maryse. A truly memorable marriage in a Dutch coastal village, as befitting the daughter of a notable family, the population donned local costume and waved them off to church.

He was awarded a scholarship to gain an MBA in Canada. After the MBA he was offered a remunerative short term consultancy contract in Canada then he returned to work in the City for the Bank of Montreal.

Always independent, Richard and Maryse decided that they would plough their own furrow. They returned to Kent where they bought and managed property. They owned and ran a hotel, organising jazz festivals. Over time they handled, together, very harrowing events, Richard's near fatal pancreatitis and the almost overwhelming personal tragedy of losing their son, Jacobus. During his illness Richard had an "out of body" instant which left him a believer. They became wealthy by their own efforts and intelligence.

One day Richard, now in his fifties, told me, "We've bought a château". Turned out it was a neglected 14th-century castle, family home of moribund and poor Savoyard aristocrats near Geneva. There was also some land and some poorly maintained, but tenanted, outbuildings. Looked like a major restoration project. Not daunted, they put heart and soul into the task. The château that had once hosted the Queen of Italy was restored to elegance. They were commended on their efforts and welcomed into the

French Château owners club.

Richard was a self-made man of many parts, respected by all. Spiritual, he worshipped in Geneva. A Jesuit, "Père Nicolas" was a close friend. Richard and Maryse became "Lord of the Manor and Chatelaine" with a circle of French friends. Open-hearted and always kind, with a teasing twinkle in his eye, I was so lucky to have him as

a friend. He gave people hope with his conviction the world is a good place and the comfort that there is a world to come.

I thank Maryse from my heart for her suggestion that I write this short obituary.

*With thanks to Mike Paul (Chemistry, 1964)*

The château that had once hosted the Queen of Italy was restored to elegance. They were commended on their efforts and welcomed into the French Château owners club.

# MARC ANGERS (PPE, 1973)

**Marc Eugene Angers, a psychoanalyst and clinical social worker in New York, died 18 February 2022 at age 70.**

For years Marc helped individuals and couples with depression, anxiety, relationship challenges, work problems, and other issues. Covid brought a switch to strictly virtual sessions, but with greater demand than ever before despite higher and higher rates.

A patient of Marc's for more than 20 years said he was texting with him the day before he died, and six days later was on his own sofa, waiting for a call that never came. He said that as a therapist, Marc was "smart and analytical, yet also so empathetic and passionate ... I feel blessed."

In the 1970s in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at Franklin & Marshall College, Marc earned a Keasbey scholarship that allowed him to read Philosophy and Politics at Hertford. After graduation he worked on an MPhil, but before returned home to Maine before beginning the thesis, working odd jobs in Damariscotta and later Pemaquid Beach when wall-to-wall spring-to-autumn tourists were still years away thanks to poor roads.

By 1978 he had rejected law school. He sent 120 letters with résumés to publishers in Boston and New York seeking editing work, but received just fourteen rejections, of which only

seven said they would keep his résumé on file. No word from the 106 other publishers. Despite misgivings, Marc moved to New York, working at more odd jobs till he began to find a niche as a counsellor in the Clubhouse Model for rehabilitation for those with long-term mental illness.

In 1993-1995 he earned a Master's in social work at Hunter College, and in 2000 completed four years of training in Clinical Psychoanalysis at the Washington Square Institute for Psychotherapy & Mental Health in Greenwich Village. On the faculty at the Institute, he trained candidates for certification in Psychoanalysis, edited its Journal of Record from 2011 to 2017, then served as the Dean and Executive Director from 2017 to 2019 and Acting Director into 2020.

From at least 2000 he lived on the Upper East Side on 91st Street in a typically compact Manhattan apartment, but with a baby grand piano that had been painstakingly maneuvered up five flights of stairs thanks to doors removed and inches to spare.

At Hertford, Marc entertained friends as a gifted mimic, notably of the Principal, G.J. Warnock, who he admired as both a philosopher and poet. Henry Higgins might have approved of Marc's ability to not just sound like someone, but in Warnock's case to be able to cite extended excerpts from his works such as his succinct observation that "Kant was a professor, and he wrote like a professor."

Marc could readily recall writings from Hegel into the 1950s. His first year was the last of all-male Hertford before women arrived in October 1974. And those were years in which most tutorials were still one-on-one with a

don rather than a graduate student. That was excellent training for writing and listening – skills Marc deployed as a therapist.

*With thanks to David Carter (PPE, 1974)*

Marc could readily recall writings from Hegel into the 1950s. His first year was the last of all-male Hertford before women arrived in October 1974.

# PAUL GLEESON (1985, ENGINEERING SCIENCE)

**Paul Gleeson was one of HCBC's greatest athletes, learning to row at Hertford and moving swiftly to row for Oxford after little more than a year.**

Paul arrived at Hertford in 1985 after a gap year working in the theatre. Already super fit from "cyclo cross" (a form of cross-country race on – or sometimes carrying – a bicycle), he tried his hand at rowing. He explained to friends after his first outing that his ambition in life was to own a Caterham 7 car, but he hadn't yet realised what he could do in a boat. He became the star of the first novice eight, jumping straight into the second eight for Torpids and then the first eight for the 1986 Summer Eights.

By 1987, he was selected for the Blue Boat – a position he would hold for three successive years, gaining three successive wins. That famous 'Mutiny Year' crew re-established Oxford's dominance during a period of unprecedented success for the Oxford Men. Paul learned from the morning papers that he was going to be stroking the boat after the US contingent left the crew. However, a last-minute reshuffle saw him moved to the four seat – and then came the

memorable moment when the BBC's boat race commentator introduced "Paul Gleeson... St Martin's School, Brentwood... a comprehensive school!" which made all of us watching roar with laughter and cheer with pride! They won by four lengths.

1988 saw Paul in the two seat and another Blue Boat win (by five and a half lengths) and again in 1989 (two and a half lengths). That summer, rowing as Isis A, Paul also added the Visitors Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta.

But at Hertford, we remember him most proudly for being an integral part of two of the greatest Summer Eights that we ever put on the water, in 1987 and 1988. The 1987 crew won blades, and even modelled in a Vogue fashion shoot! The 1988 crew went one better, moving into the first division and winning blades with a double overbump on Wadham. Both crews then performed heroics at Henley Royal Regatta, racing in the Thames Challenge Cup back when it combined student and club entries. The '87 crew lost on the Friday to selected London Rowing Club by 1.25 lengths; the '88 crew also raced up to the Friday, losing to selected University College, Galway by 2.5l. Paul rowed at seven in 1987 and stroked the 1988 crew. He served as President of HCBC in 1987/88, a year that was one of the most successful HCBC has ever seen on the river.

On leaving Hertford, Paul went on

to fulfil his passion to work with cars at Toyota then Ford in the UK and Germany. He also took up paragliding then fixed wing gliders, winning yet more competitions. In 2003, he was diagnosed with a brain tumour following a series of epileptic seizures and had to give up his beloved driving and flying – but not before he'd driven that Caterham 7! Ever the athlete, he beat his cancer for 20 years, dying on

Christmas Day, 2022. He is survived by his wife Karen, their daughter Lottie, and grandchildren Matilda and Arthur.

In a quirk of fate, shortly after Paul died, his dog Hero had to be put to sleep with cancer. Karen took him to their local vet who turned out to know Paul only too well, having been a Light Blue beaten by Paul in the Boat Race in 1987 and 1989!

# HUW PEACH (MODERN LANGUAGES, 1985)

**Huw Peach came to Hertford College in October 1985 to read Modern Languages. An experienced oarsman, having raced in the Abingdon School 1st VIII, he arrived at an exciting time for HCBC. An overhaul of the Boat**

**Club initiated by Rob Williams and built on by Ben Hall, was beginning to bear fruit. Huw's legendary enthusiasm for rowing and zest for life played a crucial role in continuing that momentum.**

The summer of 1986, Huw rowed for Hertford and then raced at Henley Royal Regatta under the colours of Cherwell Boat Club, stroking a crew in the Thames Cup where fellow HCBC members, Richard Bedford and Paul Gleeson, sat in the engine room.

It was in 1987 that Huw truly left his mark on HCBC, in his role as Men's Captain. His unbridled enthusiasm for rowing was infectious, inspiring more Hertford students than ever before to get in a boat and give rowing a try – and introducing not only psychedelic vests but “Boat Club aerobics” led by coach Nick Upton's wife Jane. Huw coached the men's first eight novice crew for Christ Church Regatta, leading to the spectacle of eight oarsmen screaming out 'Whoomph' as they took the catch and 'Wheeeee' as they rolled forward up the slide. He roped in his younger brother Guy, another accomplished Abingdon School rower, to coach the Hertford crews, and then stuck up witty posters all around college advertising when Hertford crews were racing on the Isis. The final touch was to ensure that Hertford crews boated to Ride of the Valkyries, blasted at full volume across the river from the JCR's PA system – and returned after bumps to the Hallelujah Chorus!

It was no coincidence that summer 1987 also saw one of Hertford's strongest performances for many years at Henley Royal Regatta, with Huw and Paul Gleeson then heading on to Turkey to row for Oxford on the Bosphorus. Ever the joker, this was followed by a slightly sticky moment when Huw arrived to join his fellow Hertford rowers at a Greek naval base for the

sea trials of the newly reconstructed Greek Trireme, still draped in a Turkish flag and wearing a fez!

His third year abroad, spent teaching in France, meant that Huw did not race with the 1988 crew, which again produced stand-out performances at Henley. However, he returned to Hertford for his final year, as enthusiastic as ever, helping the 1989 Torpids rise to the dizzy heights of fourth on the river, while also inflicting his 'colourful' fashion sense on crew mates with fluorescent training tops that he somehow persuaded everyone to wear.

It was no surprise that following a stint teaching English in Japan (through Beatles song lyrics!), Huw went on to become an outstanding teacher of Modern Languages at Shrewsbury School, where he also continued to pass on his love of rowing to many generations of students. An ardent environmentalist and pro-European, one of his proudest moments was being blocked on Twitter by Suella Braverman.

On hearing of his teammate Paul Gleeson's death at Christmas, Huw messaged to say he, too, had been diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour. With his infectious laughter and positivity to the end, he died at home in early March, surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his wife Sophie and their children, Sam, Millie and Zak.

*With thanks to Vanessa Collingridge (Geography, 1986), Duncan Coneybeare (Lit Hums, 1986), and Allan Watt (PPE, 1984)*



The final touch was to ensure that Hertford crews boated to Ride of the Valkyries, blasted at full volume across the river from the JCR's PA system

# CHAND PATEL (CHEMISTRY, 1994)

**This year we said goodbye to our great friend Chand Patel, who tragically died of a heart attack in London this summer.**

Chand came up to Hertford in 1994 after attending Bablake School in Coventry and settled into college life with characteristic ease. Hertford has a special quality that allows incredibly strong friendships to be forged and fused in the crucible of its three small quads. I and many others will count ourselves as lucky to have been in the right place at the right time to build such a friendship with Chand: a man of integrity, kind and generous to a fault, and one of the funniest people you could ever meet.

After Oxford Chand moved to London, working in the investment banking sector for companies such as Goldman Sachs and Credit Suisse. Unsurprisingly, he was a successful and immensely popular figure wherever he went. He was a huge fan of live sport, following Coventry City all over the country and was a regular presence at The Oval where he was a member. He was also

the lynchpin of many of our pub quiz teams and our performances have dipped dramatically since he left us, taking with him his encyclopaedic knowledge of sport and music - as long as it was released in the 20th century of course.

Chand's funeral took place near his home in South London and was attended by a multitude of Hertford College alumni, and those of his contemporaries who couldn't be there in person sent their messages of condolence from all over the world. It was standing room only, reflective of a man who had the rare gift of getting on with absolutely everyone: a great unifying force who was at the centre of college life in those heady years of the late 90s.

Just two months later, many of us would meet up back at Hertford College for the 94-95 Gaudy, and we got a chance to raise a glass to our friend in the very place we had all started our journey with him. He has left us too early, leaving behind a void impossible to fill. We will endeavour to keep his name alive by continuing to tell his stories as we while away afternoons watching the cricket at The Oval.

*With thanks to Dave Hart  
(Chemistry, 1995)*

Chand came up to Hertford in 1994 after attending Bablake School in Coventry and settled into college life with characteristic ease

# LISA LODWICK (ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY, 2006)

Lisa was a member of the School of Archaeology community for many years, beginning with her undergraduate degree in Archaeology and Anthropology at Hertford College, for which she was awarded a First and the Meyerstein Award for best performance overall.

Lisa was also a decorated rower, achieving an Oxford Half Blue. Following a Distinction for the master's in Archaeology, Lisa went on to forge a stellar academic career, working with Professor Mark Robinson on the archaeobotany of Silchester for her DPhil at St Cross College. Her first post-doctoral fellowship, with Professor Mike Fulford at the University of Reading, was on the rural settlements of Roman Britain project.

Lisa's excellence was further recognised when she was awarded a prestigious post-doctoral fellowship at All Souls' College, Oxford, funding

her innovative research into Roman agriculture over the last five years. She was recently appointed to the University Lectureship in Environmental Archaeology at Cambridge, a position Lisa was excited to take up.

Beyond her academic research and achievements, Lisa was also a resourceful and resilient supporter of women and of diversity in academia, of early career researchers and of the importance of the open access agenda. In all of these efforts, Lisa worked collaboratively, building many strong links between academic and professional archaeology, Roman and prehistoric archaeology, and Britain and continental Europe.

Lisa's boundless energy and determination (with a capital D) made her a powerful force to be reckoned with, but it was her brilliant sense of humour which won people over. Her friends knew better than to call her a Romanist. Lisa was an Iron Age/Romanist (the forward-slash was always explicit), with a penchant for social theory. Committed to helping women in archaeology get recognised, she tirelessly campaigned for better representation in academic conferences and management organisations. It also became her personal mission to create Wikipedia

pages for female archaeologists. She was famous for her rigorous sense of organisation and helped many with her no nonsense advice. Lisa's Viva Notes were legendary and a generation of graduates at the School have benefitted from them. Her top two tips: make tactical use of toilet breaks! Know the flaws but don't admit to them!

Despite her young age – she was 34 – Lisa has left a considerable body of innovative and collaborative work that stretches far beyond Oxford and the UK. She will be missed terribly by her friends and colleagues in the School of Archaeology and beyond, for whom she was a constant support and inspiration. What Lisa achieved is phenomenal. Her curiosity, generosity, and selflessness, combined with her extraordinary efficiency and practicality, means that her legacy will endure for many more years.

*With thanks to colleagues at the School of Archaeology*

Lisa's boundless energy and determination (with a capital D) made her a powerful force to be reckoned with, but it was her brilliant sense of humour which won people over.

