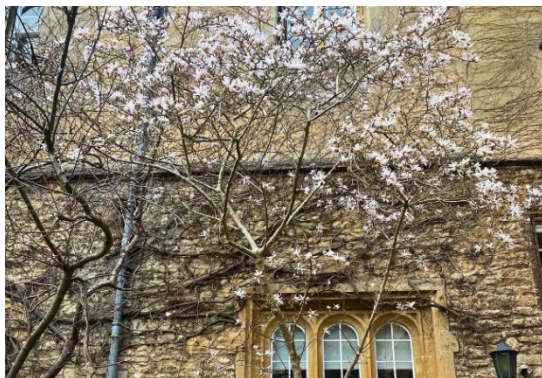




Dear Hertford Community,

Hilary term welcomed us back with cold, damp and grey skies, but as surely as anything is at the moment, after several weeks it cleared up and we cheered up as spring got into gear. The emergence of flowers and blossoms is noticeably later this year, but the rhythm of the academic year moves onward. One important event for the whole of the University was the [admission of the new Chancellor](#), Lord William Hague, in a ceremony at the Sheldonian theatre on 19 February. He gave a very warm, supportive and rousing speech, extolling the importance of the University and the impact that our community has on the UK and the wider world. He is also the Visitor to Hertford College, and we look forward to welcoming him back to dine with us next term.



Construction work in OB quad is continuing, although quite a lot of the effort this term has been in destruction, including demolition of the 1960s library extension, pulling down ceilings and removing partitions and other internal structures in the west range. While this project is progressing, the Hertford team has also been looking to the

future with plans for the Winchester Road student accommodation moving forwards and design studies being undertaken to revamp the former JCR, and now temporary library, in Holywell quad. Funding permitted, we hope to redevelop that corner of the site with an accessible auditorium and meeting rooms on the ground floor.



We have enjoyed a variety of college events this term, including a continuation of our *Women's Stories* series with fascinating discussions on women's rights and the law on 20 February and insights into the world of media on 8 March. The latter formed part of our International Women's Day celebrations, and followed on from an enthusiastically received screening of the [award-winning Grand Theft Hamlet](#) with a Q&A by the director Pinny Grylls. Will Hutton returned to Hertford on 25 Feb for a wide-ranging conversation with the Economics and Politics Society. And many members of college came together for our traditional (and fiercely contested) pancake race on 4 March. All of these events were followed by delicious meals provided by our wonderful catering team. The college's events and catering teams really are outstanding and have transformed the dining experience at Hertford over the last decade. The special events are now truly special, but the regular meals are also very high quality and a definite contrast to my experiences when I first arrived at Hertford in the 1990s.



I have been meeting with the finalists and first year undergraduate students this term, and almost without exception, they feel very fortunate to have joined our college with its welcoming, open ethos and high standards in catering and accommodation. This is a genuine tribute to our hard-working and loyal college staff, who will be gearing up again for the Medicine Reunion on 22 March, and the [1983-1985 Gaudy](#) on 29 March, as well as supporting our International Programmes activity over the Easter vacation. The next event in the [Oxford Ministry of the Future](#) series will be held in the Sheldonian Theatre on Monday 22 April, when we will enjoy conversations with novelists Laine Paull, Kim Stanley Robinson, J. M. Ledgard underpinned by contributions from musician and artist Brian Eno.

On the sport fields and the river, Hertford teams and individuals have enjoyed notable successes. The combined Hertford-Keble Women's Football team, Hertble, won cuppers at the Iffley Road stadium on 22 February, repeating the success of 2024. Both the Men's and Women's First Viii's won blades in Torpids, rowing very hard on a fast-flowing river, when only the top crews were permitted to race in half divisions. We also celebrate the success of our two Women's Rugby blues, Lilla Berry and Lucy McBride, who helped Oxford win the Varsity match, fittingly beating Cambridge 27-7 on International Women's Day. Joseph Bruton and Alice Ledzion were selected for the Varsity boxing matches at the Town Hall last night, with the dark blues regaining the Truelove Bowl. Great results all round!



As the end of term approaches, I wish you all a happy and restful vacation, and particularly for those who have exams coming up, I hope you find a good balance between preparation and revision, and relaxation and recovery. And in the first week

of next term, May morning will celebrate rebirth and renewal through music and dance on our doorstep.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'P' and a stylized 'at'.