



Dear Hertford Community,

For most of our undergraduates, another academic year draws to a close marked by celebrations and nervous anticipation of the outcomes of their marks and dissertations. For those with exams stretching into next week, stay firm and determined, you too will soon be able to relax. Our Visiting students seem to have been particularly engaged, taking advantage of many opportunities to participate in the events held in college this year; many will be returning home to universities in home countries that are under very different pressures than when they left and we wish you all the very best in navigating the changes. Some of our graduate students will also be completing their courses, and whether you have been here for one or many years, we wish you success in your future lives.

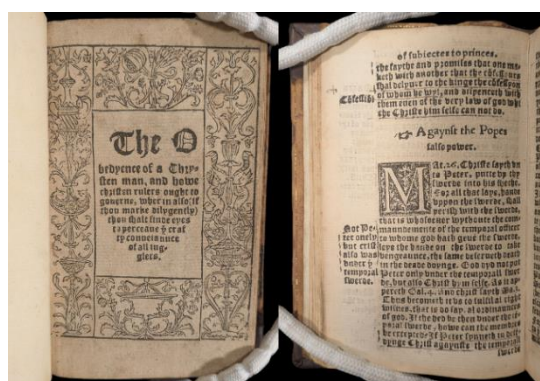
As always, there have been highs and challenges but this formative period in your lives has occurred in a period of global instability resulting from pandemics, political phase changes and enormous technological disruptions. It has been a privilege to meet many of you and to hear about your experiences and aspirations and we all hope that you will reflect fondly on your time here and maintain contact with the Hertford community.



This academic year has also been marked by the construction work that has dominated OB quad. A year ago, the college was its normal tranquil refuge with students relaxing on the lawn. Hertford today is very different with the rooms in the south-western corner stripped bare, an ever-deepening hole in the southern end of the quad and the former lawn occupied by construction materials. A team from Oxford Archaeology is slowly revealing medieval structures, possibly relating to Hart, Catte and Black Halls, and uncovering relics of the activities conducted within them. We anticipate holding an Archaeology Open Day in September, before the start of Michaelmas term and the next academic year. The current schedule indicates that the library work will be completed early in 2027.



As reported last time, in the first week we welcomed the Chancellor William Hague and his wife Dame Ffion on May Day and held an Oxford Ministry for the Future event on the previous Monday. We marked 500 years since the publication of William Tyndale's bible in English with an exhibition from our old books collection in the chapel curated by Kelli Skinner Eyerly, with the support of our library staff. We are very fortunate to have such treasures in our collection and look forward to the completion of the library project which will provide environmentally controlled storage to ensure their preservation in the future.



The image on the left shows the Tyndale window and the image on the right shows a woodcut in front of the window depicting Tyndale's martyrdom.

Both of the above images are pages from Tyndale's *Obedience* (aka *The Obedience of a Chrysten Man*) printed in London in 1561.

A couple of days later, on 15 May, we celebrated alumna Ina Hanninger's purple plaque award from Innovate UK. Ina won this award for being a pioneering woman in Innovation in AI and opted to receive the award at Hertford because of the impact that her time in the college and the support of her tutors has had on her career. The ceremony was followed by an exploration of careers in STEM with Ina and Emeritus Fellow Professor Dame Kay Davies in discussion with tutors Professor Claire Vallance and Professor Alison Woollard.



The parish of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin was marked by Beating the Bounds on 29 May, with hymns, beating of sticks and three cheers for Hertford outside the archway into OB Quad, temporarily drowning out the sounds of machinery working inside.

The 31 May was a glorious day for bumps races on the Thames. The Hertford crews rowed valiantly with M1 and W1 both bumping on the final day and rising within their divisions. It was wonderful to see so many of our alumni at the boathouse and as always, the catering crew did a great job in keeping everyone fed and watered (or Pimmed). We even had a guest appearance from a WW2 Spitfire which did three low passes over Longbridges during the afternoon. The dinner in the hall that evening celebrated a very successful rowing year, despite some very frustrating conditions in the winter months. The next date for diaries is the 150th anniversary

of HCBC, and the 50th anniversary of the women's teams with a lunch in college on 11 October.



As part of the Right Here, Right Now series led by the Vice Chancellor, a second Oxford Ministry for the Future event of the term took place on 2 June. It featured author and Visiting Fellow, Elif Shafak in conversation with philosopher Jonny Thomson, and covered a wide range of topics around water in the face of our changing climate, and echoed Elif's latest and widely acclaimed book, *There are Rivers in the Sky*. A panel discussion with water scientist Robert Hope, founder of 'Lawyers for Nature' Paul Powlesland, river historian Katherine Ibbett, political economist Rebecca Henderson, and ecologist Sandra Diaz followed. The OMF event was a precursor to the 24-hour global summit that was launched in the Sheldonian Theatre two days later and brought together contributions from around the world in a call for action. The topic of the next event in the OMF series on 5 November will be the Arctic, with environmental historian Bathsheba Demuth (of *Floating Coasts*) and Honorary Fellow, novelist Laline Paull.

On a damp 7 June, the Oxford Pride parade streamed down Cattle Street past Hertford on their way to a party in South Park. Because of the constraints imposed by the building works, we were unable to offer breakfasts on this occasion, but the catering staff, supported by some student members cheered on with refreshing ice lollies, despite the inclement weather.

On 3 and 10 June, Visiting Fellow Kate McGrath, who is also the Cultural Programme Fellow associated with the Schwarzman Centre, chaired discussions about the

challenges and responsibilities of leading major cultural institutions in today's dynamic landscape.

On the same evening, HCMS performed a wonderful summer concert at Common Ground. The performance included jazz standards and singing by the Hertford choir, as well as music from the Hertford orchestra. A great evening was had by all in attendance!



The term is not done yet though, with several exciting events coming up:

- 17 June: Visiting Fellow, Kate McGrath will chair the last event this term in the [*Fuelling Change: Values and Ethics in Cultural Production series*](#) at the Oxford Playhouse. Professor Emma Smith will also be a guest speaker at this event. We will also look forward to further stimulating programmes next term.
- 20 June: multi-award-winning producer and geography alumnus, Anthony Geffen will discuss and demonstrate his immersive VR systems in the Baring Room.
- 27 June: after careful planning from our student ball committee and staff to navigate around the construction work, we will welcome our sold-out Hertford ball.
- 1-6 July: the Royal Society Summer Exhibition in Carlton House Terrace in London presents an opportunity to talk with scientists engaged in a range of exciting research topics. This year, Fellow in biology, Beth Mortimer presents an exhibit, [*Seismic Senses: From Spiders to Elephants*](#).

- 2 and 3 July: we will welcome prospective students and families to our 2025 Open Days in NB quad. Much of OB quad is a building site for the library project, but we emphasise that those who take up places in October 2026 will reap the benefit of our wonderful new library in their first year.
- 4 July: a welcome event for [recent leavers at the Oxford and Cambridge Club](#) in London and hosted by the Hertford Society.
- 5 July: Pimm's and strawberries in NB quad to say farewell to our finishing graduate students.
- 11 July: Honorary Fellow and renowned saxophonist and rapper, Soweto Kinch returns to Oxford with a world premiere performance of his latest album, *Soundtrack to the Apocalypse* – the final part of a powerful trilogy following *The Black Peril and White JuJu*. Catch this unforgettable performance at Festival Hall, Magdalen College School as part of [Oxford Festival of the Arts](#).

And then, with no respite for our college staff, we will be welcoming our summer International Programmes visitors for another season of educational programmes and visits, supported by our IP staff and lecturers, and dozens of student residential advisors.

In September, we will welcome home former students at our popular Gaudies; for matriculation [years 1996/97 on 20 September](#) and [2006/07 on 27 September](#). I look forward to catching up with those attending, some of whom will be from the first cohorts that I met when I joined Hertford as a physics tutor in 1996. I never imagined taking up the office of Principal when I first entered the college and am still in some disbelief.



In staff news, we are delighted to announce that Tutor Professor Elizabeth Baldwin was awarded a 2025 Social Sciences Division Teaching Excellence Award (Individual

Award for Academic Staff), in recognition of her exceptional contributions to teaching in environmental economics and climate change.

We also received the exciting news that Lecturer Dr Delia O'Rourke was shortlisted for a Vice-Chancellor's Award in the *Innovative Teaching and Assessment* category for her contributions to a cross departmental team project titled *Building AI Confidence Across MSc Programmes*.

Also nominated and acknowledged as highly commended in the Local Community Engagement Award was The Oxford University Cultural Programme who, in July 2024, collaborated with 60 members of the Leys community, including the Bursary's Ewa Gluza to run the successful Leys Festival in Blackbird Leys Park. Over 4,000 people were in attendance and the festival [returns again this year on 5 July](#).

We welcomed a handful of new babies to the Hertford family this term – huge congratulations to Deputy Head of Catering Jamie Tong, Tutorial Fellow in Physics Dr Maria Vincenzi, Tutorial Fellow in Engineering Science Professor Manolis Chatzis and South Oxfordshire Scout Graziela Ximenes Da Silva on their new arrivals.

We have welcomed Olivia Warburton and Simon Lerwill as the new Communications Manager and Interim Director of Development respectively, while the search for the next Principal is gathering momentum.



This bulletin marks six months since I took over as Interim Principal. It has presented a wonderful opportunity for me to meet many people in our community and

uncover many links with other colleges and organisations within the city and beyond. This is undoubtedly a time of uncertainty and change in many aspects of life, and there will be significant impacts on our college. Just to pick one, the rise of Artificial Intelligence poses many challenges for academics, students and businesses and we need to think carefully about how to retain the integrity of our teaching and assessments as well as ensuring that we prepare our students for the challenges they will face.

I look forward to a quieter period over the summer, when we can concentrate on some essential administrative tasks, and on planning for the coming year and beyond. I hope that you too can find time for relaxation and reflection in this period.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Pat Roche, Interim Principal