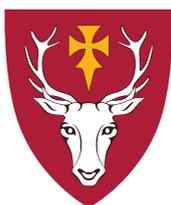


MAGAZINE

THE RECORD OF
HERTFORD COLLEGE
2024-25





Hertford
College
Magazine
2024–25

Issue No. 105





Contents

Editor's Letter – Ian McBride	6
Principal's Review – Pat Roche	8
Hertford Highlights	15
Hertford in the media	16
Hertford College Ball: back on site! – Evelyn Brenkley	22
Convening the Oxford Ministry for the Future – Anette Mikes	26
100 years ago... – Madeleine Jacob	28
Hertford Year	31
College life	32
Academic Office – Megan Roper	32
Bursar's Report – Jamie Clark	34
Chapel – Anthony Buckley	36
Development Office – Simon Lerwill	38
Library – Alice Roques	40
Archives – Lucy Rutherford	44
Sustainability – Ellen MacDonald	48
'Gardener's World' – Alison Vale	50
Subject reports	52
Archaeology and Anthropology – Dylan Gaffney	52
Biochemistry – Alison Woollard	54
Biology – Beth Mortimer	57
Chemistry – Claire Vallance	60
Computer Science – Mark van der Wilk	63
Economics – Federica Romei	65
Engineering – Thomas Morstyn	66
English – Emma Smith	67

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Geography – Janet Banfield	69
History – Giora Sternberg	72
Human Sciences – Clive Hambler	74
Law – Kate Greasley	76
Management – Steve New	77
Mathematics – Dawid Kielak	78
Medicine – Vladyslav Vyazovskiy	79
Modern Languages – Oliver Noble Wood	83
Music – Oliver Chandler	85
Oriental Studies – Bjarke Frellesvig	87
Philosophy – Peter Millican	89
Physics – Siddharth Parameswaran	92
Politics – Ian Carroll	94

Student life **96**

JCR – Digby Gough-Boyack	96
MCR – Filipa Paes	98
Arts – Evie Power	100
Charities – Richard Morris	103
Environment and Ethics – Freddie Brown	106
Music – Morgan-mei Arnold and Giuliana Tritto	108
Rowing – William Neal	111
Sports – Alice Ledzion	114

After Hertford **117**

In sight of shore – Rosalind Chaston	118
Hertford Society – Barry Lester	124
Alumni news	128
Obituaries	129

Donor Report **151**

Please contact magazine.editor@hertford.ox.ac.uk with any updates or contributions for the next issue.



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Editor's Letter



Ian McBride writes:

Last week I stood contemplating the Bridge of Sighs – the original one, in Venice, which got its name from the anguished *mascarons* or stone masks carved along its lower arch. I was in Venice for a friend's birthday, one of those decennial celebrations that seem to recur with increasing rapidity as you get older. A superb art historian had been hired as our guide, and I couldn't help pointing out to her that Oxford has its own bridge of sighs. 'Ah yes,' she replied, 'it leads to the exam halls, doesn't it?' Mmm...

Since my window is next to Hertford Bridge, I hear a huge amount of nonsense about it from the tour guides who stop on New College Lane every ten minutes or so. The most common explanation is that Oxford had to get a bridge of sighs simply because Cambridge had one. More entertaining is the story that the dons reside in OB Quad and the undergraduates in NB Quad, and when a student is summoned across the bridge it invariably means that some kind of punishment awaits. But my favourite theory is one I overheard from two passing Americans. A: 'Why is it called the Bridge of Sighs?' B: 'Dunno. Maybe because it's so small?'

The reason for Hertford's bridge was of course to enable students to pass between the two sites after curfew. The story is told in Christopher Tyerman's beautifully written *The History and Pre-History of Hertford College, Oxford*, published last September. As Giora Sternberg observes in his History report below, the book radiates Christopher's 'signature combination of sharp analysis and deep research'. But it is also extremely funny. The pieties of our predecessors and occasionally of our own generation are gently mocked with a mixture of affection and acerbity. The planned bridge was opposed for many years both by the council and by the warden of New College, 'who objected to the proposed interruption of the view of his college's cloister and bell tower, as well as to change of most sorts'. Thankfully Boyd's intention to complement



a bridge for fellows and students with 'an underground tunnel passage for the servants' was never realised.

While the bridge remains the most photographed site in Oxford, it is our friendliness and openness which really distinguish Hertford, and I hope that these qualities are evident in this issue of the magazine. I have learned many curious things. I had no idea that Alison Woollard, who nimbly steered our Principalian search committee last year, is a stand-up comedian in her spare time. I was immediately struck by the uber-cool contingent of medics photographed at the Medicine Schools Dinner last year and delighted to discover that they had all dressed in black in imitation of Vlad Vyazovskiy, who is, indeed, rarely seen in any other colour. Previous themes were Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Doctor Who. Perhaps next year they will organise a pyjama party in honour of Vlad's expertise on the purpose and regulation of sleep?

You will find in our subject reports a very impressive number of Firsts awarded to Hertford students, and it bears repeating that Hertford fellows currently hold four European Research Council grants and three Leverhulme Research Fellowships – more than almost any university, let alone college.

One event not mentioned inside was our dinner for honorary fellow Paul Muldoon, whose poems have won the Pulitzer Prize and T.S. Eliot Prize, among many others. As Emma Smith mentions in her report, another Irish poet, our former colleague Tom Paulin, has just published a new collection entitled *Namanlagh*. The book has already won the Pen Heaney Prize and been shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot. Speaking of Emma, she is right this minute talking about *Henry IV* on *In Our Time*, so that's enough from me.

Our thanks, as ever, to everyone who has contributed to the Hertford College Magazine. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Principal's Review



*Interim Principal
Pat Roche writes:*

In August 2024, when this year's reports begin, I was not expecting that I would be writing the introduction to the Hertford College Magazine the following year. I had just returned from a road trip to Orkney, exploring the neolithic splendour and wild coastlines of the islands, and was looking forward to more explorations and adventures. The last year has turned out quite differently, and I have had a tremendous opportunity to see the college, its community and its interactions with other parts of the University from an unexpected vantage point.

2024–25 was a year of change. The general election saw a new government and expectations of new policies and directions. More parochially, the site preparations for the library extension and renovation were taking place in OB Quad, with careful protection of stonework and furnishings before the excavations got underway. The lawn was fenced off, excavators were craned in from Catte Street and the quad developed into the building site that it is today.

We are now approaching the halfway point of the project and a lot has happened. A very large hole, which will become a secure, environmentally controlled space for the college archives and rare books collection, is nearing its full depth. The excavations are extending under the buildings on the south-west corner of OB Quad towards All Souls College. An intricate steel frame supports Principal Newton's 1740 chapel, while the contractors and archaeologists burrow down and create the basement.

Meanwhile, the rooms in the Catte Street frontages above and south of the dining hall have been gutted, with old partitions removed and new wiring, pipes, boilers, plant, control systems, steels and other construction materials being installed while remedial work continues. A tower crane was brought into the quad in June by an even larger crane, introducing a new spire into the Oxford skyline as it hauls materials into the site and extracts soil from the excavations. Piles were installed to define the walls of the new basement spaces, including

under the Georgian chapel and alongside the All Souls buildings. Throughout, targets on the inner quad walls are monitored for any signs of movement.

Despite the disruption caused by the building works, college life continued much as it has since the end of the Covid restrictions. The temporary library in Holywell Quad is working smoothly, with our wonderful librarians Alice and Katherine not only providing books and resources requested by the students but also supporting college events and developing plans for recommissioning the library after completion. The study spaces in the temporary library are augmented by desks in Warnock House for students in the south Oxford accommodation, and through access to other libraries in the vicinity of Catte Street. The Buttery Cafe in the former Old Library provides a popular social space, partially compensating for the loss of the lawn in OB Quad.

2024–25 was a very special year in the history of the college. Hertford was refounded 150 years ago on the Catte Street site which was occupied by Magdalen Hall following the demise of the first Hertford College. Some lessons to be learnt there regarding inadequate endowments and lack of attention to the viability of the business model... Furthermore, 100 years after that, Hertford was in the first group of formerly male colleges to go co-educational, admitting women to study for degree courses in 1974. We held a number of events during the year to mark these milestones and celebrate the college in its current form – whilst immediately tearing up OB Quad!

As summer drew to a close, we welcomed back alumni from 1980–82 and 2004–05 for Gaudies, and from 1983–85 the following March. Whilst it is always a pleasure to catch up with former students and find out what twists life has brought, I was particularly pleased to reunite with the Physics students that I had tutored. We were treated to delicious food, as we have come to expect these days, but definitely did not always experience two decades ago. Congratulations to our excellent catering staff, who not only provide tasty and nutritious meals day after day, but also find novel ways to present them.

Moving into Michaelmas term, the college was delighted to announce the award of honorary fellowships to Marian Bell, Laline Paull and Pip Wilson alongside the election of Kate McGrath, Elif Shafak and Lucy Smith as our Visiting Fellows for the year.

On the occasion of the John Donne celebration that kicked off the 150th/50th celebrations, we were treated to a wonderful discussion between renowned novelist and Visiting Fellow Elif Shafak and our brilliant Professor of Shakespeare Studies, Emma Smith. It was a memorable evening that showcased the remarkable fact that it was only 50 years since women were admitted to

Hertford, and also clearly showed what the college had been missing in the previous century. Change happens relatively slowly in Oxford. Hertford's first female fellow, Julia Briggs, was appointed in 1978. Women now make up 40% of the Governing Body, and with more rapid turnover the student body reached gender parity many years earlier.

The impact that Hertford women have made was celebrated in a number of events featuring alumni and fellows through the year. Discussions focused on women's stories in literature, history, law, media, and science and innovation. It was a joy to welcome back Carolyn Hitt and Yarrow Townsend in discussion with Natasha Kaplinsky about their books in October, exploring themes from nature to wonderful Welsh women. The following month, Elizabeth Norton, Virlana Shchuka and Catherine Sloan dug into the place of women and children in history and the way that they are represented in historical records and literature.

The new year brought new themes. Career trajectories and choices in Law were described by Schona Jolly, Alison Young, Aruna Nair and Kate Greasley, a particularly appropriate topic considering the significant proportion of our students who pursue legal professions after graduation. In March, Catherine Bennett, Natasha Kaplinsky and Charlie Hancock reviewed opportunities and potential pitfalls in the media and journalism. This event coincided with International Women's Day and we were thrilled that Pinny Grylls introduced and described the production and creation of her innovative, award-winning film *Grand Theft Hamlet*, showing it to a packed audience of students and staff. The series concluded in May with a panel discussion between Kay Davies, Claire Vallance, Alison Woollard and Ina Hanningier on science and innovation, and how technological developments can positively impact lives and improve service efficiency. If further evidence was required of the huge benefits that the move to co-education has brought, these sessions demonstrated it very clearly, celebrating the contributions and enrichment that our women have made and continue to make.

In January, a group of women from the first Hertford cohorts, matriculating in 1974–76, reunited for a celebratory dinner. Integration into the college and the University is now considerably easier than it was for the pioneers featured in the 1976 Magazine, who blazed the trail for those who have followed. It was wonderful to meet with them and hear first-hand their accounts of their experiences; they are a formidable and resilient bunch of women.

Three Oxford Ministry of the Future events were held this year, with thought-provoking discussions on the impact of climate change described from the viewpoint of the humanities. Authors Richard Powers, Laline Paull, Kim

Stanley Robinson, J.M. Ledgard and Elif Shafak recited and discussed issues of responsibilities and connectedness with nature with some of our fellows and other academics including philosopher Jonny Thomson. In a memorable session in April a remarkable soundscape by Brian Eno wove amongst the readings in the Sheldonian Theatre.

A very different event was marked by our library staff alongside student Kelli Skinner Eyerly to mark 500 years since the first publication of William Tyndale's translation of the Bible into English. Kelli curated a small display of books from our rare books collection representing different religious texts to commemorate this important anniversary. It was a stark reminder of the perils of publication in the face of suppression of ideas and new approaches.

Another variation was provided by Anthony Geffen, who talked about his production company and his adventures in virtual reality, demonstrating how far this technology has come in the last few years. He is exploring how it can be used as an educational tool and for improving techniques in medicine, and we look forward to finding out more in the coming year.

In late 2024, parts of Oxford and some sections of the media were consumed by speculation about the election of the Chancellor of the University. The outcome of the election, the appointment of Lord William Hague, has been very well received in the University and the college. We were delighted to welcome him and his wife Dame Ffion for a May Day dinner, which showed the college at its best with superb food and beautiful presentation. This appointment is particularly important for us because the Chancellor is the Visitor to the college, and we very much appreciate his warm words about Hertford's role within the University.



The academic year progressed smoothly from the matriculation of new students to a busy schedule of essays, problem sheets, dissertations, reports, collections and tutorial sessions, followed by end-of-year exams, and then end-of-year celebrations! The regular Schools Dinners were upstaged by the student ball. The JCR Ball Committee, working closely with the college staff, pulled off a wonderful summer ball at the end of June. Despite being in the middle of a major construction project, everyone worked hard to find solutions, including with the local council to fence off part of Catte Street and New College Lane. The clear-up was impressively quick, with the college ready to welcome prospective students at the Open Days four days later. As always, our Academic Office and student ambassadors created a warm and welcoming environment to promote Hertford's special qualities. Congratulations all!

The end of the academic year brings mixed emotions as students complete their courses ready for the next challenges that life will bring. It was a particularly poignant time for some of our Visiting Students preparing to return to a fast-changing US. For our academic staff, the end of term often brings a heavy period of exam marking and assessment, but after that, they can draw breath and focus on completion of research tasks with sustained concentration that is difficult to find during the teaching terms – and enjoy well-earned holiday breaks.

Our fellows and staff have been recognised with many awards and achievements: Professor Louise Slater was appointed Associate Head (Research and Impact) of the Social Sciences Division and was awarded a Philip Leverhulme Prize for her work on climate impacts on floods and droughts. She resigned her tutorial fellowship in June in order to concentrate on these; we congratulate Louise and look forward to the appointment of a new Fellow in Geography in 2026. Professor Dawid Kielak was awarded a European Research Council grant to support his research in geometric group theory.

Professor Martin Maiden was appointed as the inaugural Head of the Department of Biology, at a critical time as the department plans its move into the new Life and Mind building. Professor Michael Wooldridge was appointed as the inaugural Ashall Professor of the Foundations of Artificial Intelligence. Visiting Fellow and artistic director of Fuel Theatre Kate McGrath was awarded an OBE in the Birthday Honours list. She led a series of discussions on the challenges and responsibilities of leading major cultural institutions, including a panel discussion on values and ethics that included Professor Emma Smith.

Many of our fellows have been busy promoting their research or influencing public discussions. Emma Smith's five-part BBC Radio 3 series, 'Books for

Brighter Blackouts', uncovered unexpected stories about how World War Two changed books and reading forever. Carissa Véliz appeared with other panellists on the BBC News Context series, discussing the challenges and perils of Artificial Intelligence. Beth Mortimer demonstrated her research on 'Seismic Senses: From spiders to elephants' at the Royal Society Summer Exhibition. Claire Vallance and her colleagues secured a £3 million investment in their spin-out, Mode Labs, to develop sensors for water sampling.

Our indefatigable honorary fellow and former Principal Tom Fletcher is tirelessly seeking support and recognition for displaced and vulnerable people around the world. Tom resigned as Principal in November 2024 to take up the vitally important position of Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator at the United Nations. His diplomatic skills and optimism forged in his experiences at college, in government and as Ambassador to Lebanon are crucial attributes in bringing resources and attention to some of the most troubled regions on earth. Although he is not in Cotte Street as often as he was in his four-year tenure at Hertford, he is a frequent presence online and in broadcast and print media as he pushes governments and agencies to provide support and broker solutions that allow aid to reach those in need. Tom's legacy is large, with the ambitions of the Hertford 2030 vision and the college's estate plans moving forward. We wish him and his family the very best.

Because Tom needed to take up the UN position within a month, the Governing Body asked me to act as Interim Principal. It has been a privilege and a wonderful opportunity to fulfil this role, and to engage with our students, staff and alumni as well as other colleges and organisations within the University. When I was appointed to a fellowship in 1996, I had to step into Neil Tanner's shoes and carry on the great Physics (and boat club) traditions at Hertford; an experience that feels like important preparation for my current role.

I commend this issue of the College Magazine to you and hope that you will enjoy leafing through its pages, from the academic subject reports to updates from our various college departments, news from our alumni community, and the wide and vibrant range of student achievements in sport, music and other extra-curricular activities.

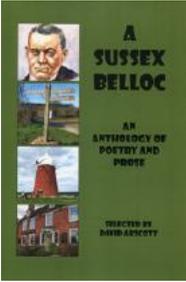
Thank you for your friendship and support for all that Hertford is and does.

Pat Rodu



Hertford Highlights

Hertford in the media



A Sussex Belloc

David Arscott (English, 1971)

Hilaire Belloc first fell in love with Sussex as a child when his widowed mother transplanted him and his older sister from London to the village of Slindon in the foothills of the Downs. When, years later, he sought a permanent base for his growing family, it was the rural west of the county that drew him back, and King's Land at Shipley would be a treasured home for the rest of his long life.

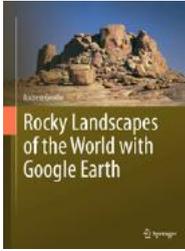
Editor's note: David Arscott wrote more than 40 books on Sussex themes, among them *A Sussex Kipling*. His obituary can be found on page 145.



A View from the Embankment, A View from the Line

Andrew Dodd (English, 1987), pen name Andy Stuart

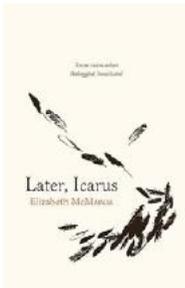
The behind-the-scenes story of Big Big Train's first ever European tour: 17 shows in nine countries across 23 days (the band's first significant sequence of performances with Alberto Bravin as lead singer following the untimely death of David Longdon in late 2021). Combining Andy Stuart's diary entries with insights from extensive post-tour interviews conducted with all the band members, the book offers a uniquely personal perspective on the tour, by turns humorous, philosophical and moving.



Rocky Landscapes of the World with Google Earth

Andrew Goudie (*Professor of Geography and Fellow 1984–2003*)

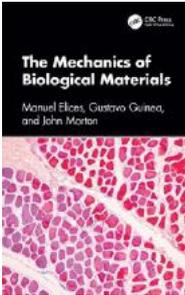
An introduction to rocky landscapes through carefully selected images from Google Earth, discussing what they show and providing references to the sites portrayed so that readers can go deeper if they wish. This book demonstrates Google Earth's value for understanding the landscapes associated with particular rock types and structures, and for appreciating their aesthetics, describing and illustrating the features concerned, their location and their origin.



Later, Icarus

Elizabeth McManus (*English, 1979*)

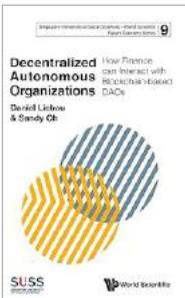
Myths and legends capture the fragility and intensity of human experience – but there are gaps between the stories people hold to be true and how it feels to witness these moments or live them. *Later, Icarus* uncovers what happens beyond the headlines, in the aftermath. All at once evoking a classical epilogue and a beautifully personal story of the everyday, these are the voices of ordinary people in poetry – the legends and the forgotten – as they reveal their own truths, and experience what comes next.



The Mechanics of Biological Materials

*John Morton (Stipendiary Lecturer in Engineering),
with co-authors Elices and Guinea*

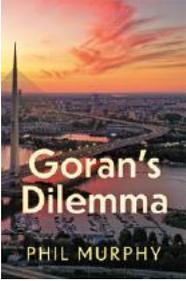
This book introduces the mechanical principles governing the behaviour of a wide range of biological materials, which are materials produced by a biological system. The approach is systematic and based on one-dimensional (fibres), two-dimensional (membrane) and three-dimensional (bulk) biological materials. The essential mathematical tools are developed from first principles and applied to materials as diverse as spider silk, blood vessels, and bone. *The Mechanics of Biological Materials* offers a progressive introduction of mathematics and mechanics concepts, including detailed solutions to numerous worked examples.



Decentralized Autonomous Organizations

Sandy Oh (PPE, 1993) and Daniel Liebau

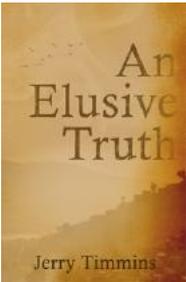
For financial services professionals, understanding the paradigm shift represented by Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs) is essential for staying ahead of the curve. What are DAOs, and how do they differ from traditional firms? How do DAOs use blockchain technology to enable decentralized governance and decision-making? With many DAO types emerging, how can finance professionals decipher and evaluate them based on their characteristics? This book provides finance professionals with a comprehensive guide to navigating this new frontier.



Goran's Dilemma

John P. Murphy (Classics and Modern Languages, 1976)

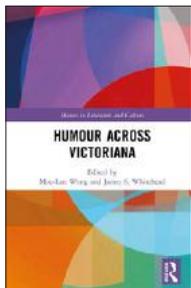
1992. Bosnian Serb Army Commander, Ratko Mladić, is besieging and bombarding the citizens of Sarajevo. His forces are rampaging through much of the rest of Bosnia at the same time. But, as his notoriety increases, his daughter Ana, a medical student in Belgrade, is struggling to deal with the anomaly of her commitment to the caring professions and her father's role as a genocidal killer. When her partner and fellow medical student, Goran, challenges her to renounce her father, she responds in a way no one might have foreseen, changing the lives of those close to her dramatically and irrevocably.



An Elusive Truth

Jerry Timmins (English, 1973)

An Elusive Truth follows Lucas, a young journalist burdened by guilt over his sister's death. Seeking to escape his past, he's dispatched on a routine assignment to Haiti, only to find himself ensnared in a spontaneous, popular uprising. What should have been a straightforward task rapidly turns into a fight for survival. Cut off from the world outside, Lucas increasingly finds it hard to determine truth from lies; reality from illusion. In a land where vodou teaches that the dead walk with the living, his grief for his sister clings to him, haunting his every step.



Humour Across Victoriana

*Edited by James Whitehead (English, 1988)
and Mou-Lan Wong*

Humour Across Victoriana investigates the varying facets of ubiquitous humour in Victorian society by focusing on the more marginal and less celebrated aspects of cultural production. Beyond the celebrated works of prominent humourists like Charles Dickens and William Makepeace Thackeray, this volume emphasises the humour found in the peripheral writings of luminaries such as Oscar Wilde, Matthew Arnold and Thomas Hardy. It also highlights the contributions of female authors, including Catherine Gore, Margaret Oliphant and Christina Rossetti, who generated humour that transcended patriarchal constraints.



BBC Radio 3: The Essay, Books for Brighter Blackouts

Emma Smith (Professor of Shakespeare Studies)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/series/m002bfyp>

Broadcast for the 80th anniversary of VE Day from 5 to 9 May 2025, highlights of the five episodes included the first wartime bonkbuster; Boots Lending Library and Brief Encounter; Red Cross books sent to prisoners of war from the New Bodleian; the impact of the Paternoster Row fire; and a tomato pie recommended in a wartime cookbook.



Godfather of Genetics: Can DNA predict your destiny?

Sir Walter Bodmer (Hertford Principal 1996–2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42lebWdPSSl>

On the Whitelist Podcast former Principal Walter Bodmer, one of the foremost pioneers in the field of genetics, discusses the role of genes in determining complex characteristics like intelligence, the genetics behind ageing and longevity, the potential of gene editing technologies to manipulate human DNA, and the genetic history of the British Isles.

Hertford College Ball: back on site!

Evelyn Brenkley writes:

'Half past twelve, and I'm watchin' the late show in my flat, all alone'. So begins ABBA's 1979 hit tune (and absolute banger) 'Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!'. Fortunately for me, when these opening bars rang out into the night of 27 June 2025, this couldn't be further from the truth – well, in most respects anyway. Credit to DFO, the funk band strutting their stuff in Holywell Quad, it was bang on half midnight when this number came on. However, I was nowhere near my college accom, and I was certainly not spending the evening by myself. Rather, this was the evening of the hotly anticipated College Ball, and as President of the Ball Committee, I was taking huge joy in seeing planning become reality.

Five hours previously, 400 guests, over half of whom were Hertford students, had spilled into our 'Ball compound' on Catte Street, been greeted with a glass of fizz, and eagerly explored the wonders awaiting them. With an English



student (Cora Bryant, 2022) in charge of the theme and entertainment, it was perhaps inevitable that a Beowulf-inspired universe became the epicentre for Ball 2025. ‘Heorot’ is the medieval mead-hall: a place of merriment, revelry and larger-than-life characters. As we posited, Heorot has more in common with Hertford than just its love for deer!

Hertford Ball 2025 was the first to be held on the Catte Street site since 2017, and the first (presumably ever) to be held in the midst of massive building works. The library project has seen OB Quad completely fenced off, and our very own crane peering over the Oxford skyline. This disruption provided added fun and games in logistics and site planning, and the loss of space required creative thinking (though, alas, the suggestion for a fibreglass dragon to be suspended from the crane was a bit too creative...). A successful road closure application for Catte Street gave us some wiggle room back. It did not, however, provide us with any grass – a fact not conveyed to the company supplying swingboats, who turned up on the Friday afternoon without the particular contraption needed to make the attraction safe on concrete. Gutting! A swingboat-less occasion though it was, spirits did not seem dampened, and thankfully we still had the axe-throwing (inflatable, much to the relief of the Bursar) to release any frustrations!

Other entertainment included two music stages (in Hall and in Holywell Quad) with genres ranging from funk to pop to folk to jazz, all wonderfully programmed by Music Officer Zoe Vereker (CompSci Phil, 2022). The ceilidh was particularly popular, with guests queueing down the spiral stairs to strip some willow and do-si-do. My shift in the cloakroom (aka the Pidge Room) coincided with it, and I was relieved that the ceiling did not cave in on top of me during the particularly energetic moments!

Guests were also treated to some of Oxford’s finest nosh. With curry, burgers, hot dogs, chips and doughnuts provided by our very own catering team (thank you Carl and Simon!), guests also enjoyed handmade pizzas from Wandering Pizza Co. and tubs of ice cream from the much-beloved G&D’s. Thanks go to Abbas Zaidi (Medicine, 2022) and Zayaan Merchant (Environmental

‘Hertford Ball 2025 was the first to be held on the Catte Street site since 2017, and the first (presumably ever) to be held in the midst of massive building works’

“



Change and Management, 2024) for their hard work in securing such yummy partnerships. We also provided every guest with a specially produced Heorot cup in a bid to reduce waste plastics; Skye Yi-Hardie (CompSci Phil, 2023) did a spectacular job of designing all our graphics, and I hope that guests can treasure their beautiful cups as souvenirs.

After many months of meetings, spreadsheets, minor disasters, emails, and more meetings, watching the Ball come together on the day was an epic experience. It was truly a team effort, with people from across college coming together to help make it happen. The committee of nine fellow students were wonderful even amidst busy lives and degrees; final and special thanks must go to Sophia Farrand (Politics, Visiting Student) and Sofia Turner (French and German, 2023) for their stability and support when I needed it most!

College staff were also utterly essential to the entire operation; from Catering to Housekeeping to Maintenance to Events, we absolutely could not have done it without the Hertford spirit of community and fun. Particular thanks must go to Jordan Davies, Head of Events and Operations, and James Hill, Domestic Bursar, who gave freely and happily of their time in weekly meetings/pep talks with me, alongside accommodation sorting, contractor vetting, council form submitting, walkie-talkie sorting, decoration ordering, catering planning and many more things I am sure I am not aware of which enabled the event to happen so smoothly.

As I look ahead to life post-Hertford, I aim to combine the Music degree I came here to do (and mostly succeeded in finding time for!) with the love of producing live events which I have found along the way, as I pursue a career in arts and music events administration.

After DFO had ended their set with ABBA classics, the remainder of the night is admittedly hazy. I remember being curled up in the corner of a room in NB Quad which was housing a suction cup 'bow and arrow' funfair game, feeling content as I listened to my friends intensely discussing the best tactics for a bullseye. I remember boogieing at the silent disco, munching on chips, and the wash of relief, pride and exhaustion coming all at once as we took the Survivors' Photo under the bridge at 4am. Mostly, though, I remember the unshakeable feeling of gratitude: to my peers for trusting me with such an extraordinary opportunity; to all those seen and unseen who made the Ball happen; to my tutors and friends for their patience and grace as I battled admin and essays. Oh, and also a strong suspicion that I'd never look at Catte Street in quite the same way again...

Convening The Oxford Ministry for the Future



Anette Mikes writes:

The Oxford Ministry for the Future (OMF) is an interdisciplinary network of academics, artists and authors, from Oxford and beyond, working on world challenges. It started with the blessing and participation of Kim Stanley Robinson, whose eponymous book gave OMF its name and mission: to be an interdisciplinary network and movement that matches idealism with pragmatism, and amplifies the voices of the humanities in the discussion of our grand challenges.

We organise high-profile public events, fronted by notable authors and artists, to open rich conversations and inspire moral imagination in the context of climate change, the biodiversity crisis, growing inequalities and other political-economy challenges of our time. We then bring together an interdisciplinary panel of experts who enter conversation with the authors, each other, and, at a follow-up 'deep dive' event, with the invited audience of other scholars, policy makers and artists. Over the last year, speakers have included Richard Powers (Pulitzer Prize for *The Overstory*), Laline Paull (of *The Bees*, *The Ice* and *POD*), Elif Shafak (of *There Are Rivers in the Sky*) and Kim Stanley Robinson (of *The Ministry for the Future*).

'We organise high-profile public events, fronted by notable authors and artists, to open rich conversations and inspire moral imagination'

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OMF has many supporting institutions such as the Saïd Business School, the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, TORCH and Global Canopy, yet the initiative is anchored at Hertford. As convenor, I have been privileged to be a part of it from the start. Tom Fletcher and Pat Roche have both regularly co-hosted the events (which close with a magnificent dinner in college), and Jamie Lorimer, Steve New, Emma Smith, Louise Slater, Anthony Buckley, Vlad Vyazovskiy and Mike Wooldridge have made notable contributions as discussants, moderators and supporters.

Our authors have stayed with us as OMF friends and advisors, returning to our events in various capacities. The next event in November will focus on the Arctic – ground zero for climate change and competing political-economic-military interests. Bathsheba Demuth (of *Floating Coast*), Laline Paull and Joanna Kavenna (of *The Ice Museum*) will be in conversation with a panel of academics about climate, history, ecology and geopolitics.

Last but not least, OMF has recently developed an important connection with the new Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities. We are in the process of preparing a two-day event series as part of its opening season 'Utopia Now' in November 2026.



100 years ago...



*Development Intern
Madeleine Jacob writes:*

In Emeritus Professor Christopher Tyerman's recent study of Hertford's history and pre-history, he describes the college's situation a century ago:

'The forty years following the end of the Great War saw Hertford stagnate, its finances increasingly precarious, its accommodation increasingly shabby, its perspectives increasingly confined.'

The college's fellowship had 'genuine academic distinction', including J.E. Campbell, the mathematician best known for his contribution to the Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff formula. He had been the first Hertford undergraduate to win a university fellowship. Hertford's small undergraduate body (around 120 students) was less distinguished. Writer and alumnus Evelyn Waugh took his History finals in Trinity 1924, received a third, lost his scholarship, and haughtily referred to Hertford in his memoirs as a 'respectable but rather dreary little college'. As a student he'd written to a friend: 'I do no work here and never go to Chapel'. College members' prospects, attitude and academic standing have improved in the last century, thankfully.

Much like the Hertford of today, though, parts of the college were building sites. The editor of the College Magazine wrote of the ongoing construction of NB Quad that 'so far there is not much to see except a foreground of hoardings and scaffoldings'. The New Pavilion on the sports field was completed in 1924, on which the magazine commented optimistically that it promised 'to become in time as good a playing-field as is owned by any college in the University'. The Octagon was also being refurbished. The late medieval building had been acquired by the re-founded Hertford in 1897. Building work to remove an 'outer coat of lath and plaster' began in 1923 and during 1924 it began 'to show signs of reassuming something of its former beauty'. Yet architect Thomas Graham Jackson, who designed much of the current college, passed away in

November of that year. It was only in 1926 that the works were completed 'without ceremony', after long delays following the war.

It was not entirely gloomy in college, however. As with this year's ball, festivities continued despite the disruption. In Trinity 1924 a dance was held in Hall between 7.45pm and midnight. 'The extensive lighting arrangements in the quadrangle, the special floor laid by Messrs. Minty, and the music supplied by Vassie, all helped to provide a very successful evening.' Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited* seems to take inspiration from this event. It opens with protagonist Charles Ryder (a Hertford alumnus) recalling how 'the front quad, where I lived, was floored and tented; palms and azaleas were banked round the porter's lodge; worst of all, the don who lived above me, a mouse of a man connected with the Natural Sciences, had lent his rooms for a Ladies' Cloakroom.' Likewise, the Michaelmas 1924 Freshers' Formal was concluded with 'an entertainment of a very finished kind by a troupe of Pierrots who were effective in concert and solos alike.'

And, typical to Oxford, pleasures were intellectual as well as hedonistic. Classics fellow John Denniston's delivery of a paper on 'Purism' to the Tyndale Society was apparently so provocative that 'some members [...] were to be found in the corner of the quad, wrangling deliriously into the small hours.'

It is impossible to prophesy when the new buildings will be ready. But when at last they are, Hertford, from being long unable to boast in its J.C.R., will be possessed of the most ancient and modern Common Room in Oxford.



The New Pavilion, as shown in the 1924 College Magazine



The refurbished Octagon from Catte Street, as shown in the 1926 College Magazine



Hertford Year

Academic Office



Registrar Megan Roper writes:

The 2024–25 academic year began with a handing over of the Senior Tutor reins as Professor Claire Vallance finished her spell in the role and was replaced by Professor Alan Lauder, Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics. We are enormously grateful to Claire for her contributions as Senior Tutor, which included developing new academic and admissions strategies, devising new ways to support academics' professional development, and collaborating with colleagues on student casework matters – not to mention the strategic proffering of pastries to the Academic Office team when she sensed the need for something to brighten up the day! Alan has taken to the role of Senior Tutor with aplomb, quickly learning how differently each course and subject operate, and how varied and extensive the administrative structure must be to enable the college's teaching and academic provision.

Finding ourselves waving farewell to Tom Fletcher partway through Michaelmas term, and welcoming Professor Pat Roche back to the college in a new capacity, we realised that it wouldn't be long before our Interim Principal would need to hold Principal's Collections. Our undergraduate freshers are normally the first in the academic year to meet with the Principal for this occasion, but given that they have only just arrived by the time meetings begin in November, we renamed this event to 'Meetings with the Principal' and changed the format from what might be a rather intimidating, albeit very brief, one-to-one meeting, to half-hour breakfast sessions for each first-year subject group.

This may be a far cry from the Principal's Collections of old, where a gown-clad undergraduate would be called into a meeting with the Principal, Senior Tutor and the student's own tutors to discuss the student's academic progress, but it proved to be an effective way to develop the relationship between our newest undergraduates and the Head of House, as well as a helpful way for the

Principal to gauge the students' general happiness and satisfaction. Students in subsequent years may have either cohort meetings or one-to-one meetings depending on what their tutors feel would be most helpful, but regardless, all these events will still be referred to as 'Meetings with the Principal', which we hope helps both with demystifying this tradition and maximising its usefulness for both parties.

We continue to try to develop the college's academic and student welfare support in this vein, clarifying traditional but esoteric terminology where it feels sensible to do so, while recognising the unique and often fascinating histories behind Oxford traditions. Striking this balance is essential in helping all our students, postgraduates as well as undergraduates, to feel more at ease, which in turn helps them to know to whom they should turn when they need support, as well as encouraging them to feel like they belong – because they do! It is also very useful in our ongoing outreach and access work, where deciphering Oxford terminology and traditions as well as our unique application process can otherwise feel like an impossible task for some prospective students and their teachers.

To that end, we piloted a teachers' outreach programme from January to September. This offered teachers the opportunity to participate in webinars where members of the Outreach and Admissions team shared information about the Oxford admissions process and student life. The teachers who attended the webinars have given excellent feedback, and we will continue to develop this programme in hopes that they, in turn, will feel more confident in supporting their high-achieving students to apply to Oxford. Ultimately, we hope that all these efforts will lead to ensuring that applicants and students alike feel that Hertford is truly the place for them.

'Ultimately, we hope that all these efforts will lead to ensuring that applicants and students alike feel that Hertford is truly the place for them'

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Bursar's Report



*Bursar Jamie Clark
writes:*

As has become usual for my annual report, a brief update on our various Estates works.

I'm delighted to report that we are now well-advanced on the construction of the new Library. It has been a long journey to this point, so very satisfying to see our efforts start to bear fruit. We are currently still on the way down, establishing the new basement under OB Quad, as well as the Old Chapel. The 60s extension has been demolished, and excavations in that area are also underway. We expect to 'bottom out' somewhere towards the end of the year. Unfortunately, we have encountered a few technical challenges with the dig so far, and now anticipate a 2027 completion date. Despite that, from the regular tours of the works we are able to make, it is clear just how much new space is being created – and that the final result will certainly be worth the current inconvenience.

Turning to another part of Oxford, our plans for brand new facilities at the Sports Grounds (in partnership with Exeter College) have been submitted to the Council. Our joint vision for the site has been developed over the last two years. As well as refurbishing the existing pavilions and maintaining current pitches, plans include new multi-sports hard surface courts, seven padel tennis courts (four of which will be indoor), four new changing rooms (in addition to those in the pavilions), a community room, a golf simulator, and a cafe. At the request of local residents, we have also proposed a new footpath along the Hertford boundary, separating cyclists and pedestrians, to improve safety and access. With all the facilities open for public use, alongside normal college demands, this development will be a significant investment not only in college life but in the local community. We hope to have the application determined by the autumn.

Another project that has been a long time in the making is our Winchester



Road development. This will provide new graduate accommodation between Winchester and Banbury Roads, on the gardens between the properties currently owned by the college. We are just about to complete the acquisition from the University of two additional properties on the site, which will provide us with the further space we need for the build. When completed, we shall have 46 new ensuite study bedrooms and seven flats. With this, existing college properties, and the new villas purchased, we shall have around 130 graduate rooms – in a single location. We hope to start work in 2026, completing in time for the start of the 2027 academic year.

Back on Main Site, I reported previously that we had started to look at a development in Holywell Quad, to provide a new lecture/performance space. Plans for this have advanced well, and we are targeting a planning application in the first half of 2026. The new facility will deliver a 120-seat auditorium and two seminar/conference rooms, with a range of supporting facilities. It is planned to create a new entrance along St Helen's Passage to allow public access to events. The new facility would replace the Baring Room, which would be converted to provide six ensuite student bedrooms.

Aside from these major works, we continue to advance on other fronts. Student room refurbishments are ongoing, and we have acquired and are developing various new accommodation units. The cafe in OB Quad is now well-established and proving very popular. We have a few years to go yet, but are making steady progress in transforming the Estate in the way we had imagined when we agreed our Estates Strategy back in 2019.

Chapel



Chaplain Anthony Buckley writes:

The chapel continued to play an important part in college life for many. Sunday services were well-attended, providing part of the college's welcome to friends and visitors. A range of speakers addressed issues as diverse as alumnus William Tyndale, Jesus' handling of difficult conversations and the symbolism of water in our lives. The choir, led by Helen Smee, Giuliano Tritto and George Finney, continued to flourish and indeed to be a magnet for those seeking to find a gentle, aspirational and welcoming opportunity to sing. On one occasion friends were drafted to play wine glasses of water to accompany the anthem – a wonderfully effective use of the space!

The weekday services continued, including a new brief service of Communion on Thursday lunchtimes. We enjoyed a Confirmation with alumnus Bishop Graham Kings in Trinity term. Chapel life is of course much more than the services. There are the countless individuals who use the space for quiet and reflection, for peace and for prayer, to work and to chat. In the midst of a busy time and a busy community, it is of great benefit to have a place of solace and sanctuary. Sometimes people wish to express themselves, and so notes are written, either for those in need or in memory of those who have died, and candles are lit.

We are one of the few college chapels (perhaps the only one?) where trees are clearly visible through the windows, and one student deliberately sits where she can watch the branches swaying.

‘Chapel life includes countless conversations, in the quad, in town, in hall, in the chaplain’s room’ “



Chapel life includes countless conversations, in the quad, in town, in hall, in the chaplain's room. National research in spring 2025 highlighted the renewed interest of young people in thinking about values and hope, meaning and faith, friendship and trust, and that is as true of Hertford as it is elsewhere. Quantities of coffee and tea (and occasionally wine) are drunk as issues are pondered and feelings are shared.

The major chapel calendar events went well, including a dramatically full Advent carol service. Due to the building work in OB Quad, we sadly still could not conduct weddings, but two alumni held their weddings elsewhere in Oxford, and the chaplain officiated. I am very grateful for the wonderful team of chapel assistants who did so much through the year to help with the smooth running of preparation and service.

My weekly emails, sometimes with strange anniversaries and quotes, continue to bemuse or interest my very patient readers. In line with this, may I end with two quotes that have become a favourite for some. Gandalf from *The Lord of the Rings*:

'It is not our part to master all the tides of the world, but to do what is in us for the succour of those years wherein we are set, uprooting the evil in the fields that we know, so that those who live after may have clean earth to till. What weather they shall have is not ours to rule.'

And A.A. Milne:

'But it isn't easy,' said Pooh. 'Because Poetry and Hums aren't things which you get, they're things which get you. And all you can do is to go where they can find you.'

Development Office



*Interim Development Director
Simon Lerwill writes:*

It didn't take long into my time at Hertford to understand why it is called 'the friendly college'. The welcome from fellows, staff, alumni and donors has been extremely warm and there is a really strong sense of a close community.

I arrived here in May 2025 to lead the development team, which exists to keep alumni in touch with each other and the college, as well as to raise philanthropic funding for key projects. It was an exciting time to start. There was new leadership on the horizon, in the form of the next Principal, and the start of a new building programme – the largest since the college was built.

The first building project is the new library, so often the soul of a college, which will be an incredible facility for our staff and students with double the study space, improved sustainability, the restoration of our heritage buildings and new disabled access. I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has



supported this project so far, including at our recent Giving Day. Over 200 donors have already raised £8 million, naming over 100 rooms, desks and seats in the process. There is still the chance to donate at hertford.ox.ac.uk/support-us/donate.

Beyond the library, the college is looking to fund and build a series of other new facilities, including a new auditorium for lectures and music recitals in Holywell Quad. Alongside this, we continue to require support for our undergraduate bursary and postgraduate scholarship programmes, to ensure that we remain accessible to the brightest minds, as well as funding for key academic posts, to ensure that we retain our famous tutorial system and tackle global challenges with real-world impact.

Finally, we are in the process of revitalising our alumni offering. We want to make sure that our graduates stay in touch with each other and continue to engage with the college, through our events, communications and volunteering. Please do tell us what you would like from your alumni programme in our upcoming survey, and look out for the launch later in the year.

‘Beyond the library, the college is looking to fund and build a series of other new facilities’ “



Library



*Librarian Alice Roques
writes:*

The library has continued to operate from its temporary base in Holywell Quad, far away from the whirring of cranes and heavy machinery, as the library building project progressed in earnest through the year. The ‘capsule’ collection of our most heavily used 4,000 or so books has been browsed and borrowed from, while supplementary material has come back in regular deliveries from our offsite storage. For some students on short courses this will be the only Hertford library they experience, and the library team have been working hard to ensure that they have access to the resources, study spaces and staff support they need to really engage in and enjoy their studies.

One of the most important parts of the year for the library is the start of Michaelmas and the dozens of welcome sessions we run (with the promise of free houseplants for attendees). The goal of these sessions isn’t to get students fully trained in how libraries work; their brains are already being stuffed with endless information in their first week at Oxford. There are two reasons we try to meet every new member: firstly, so that they know the library exists and, secondly, so that in it they will find friendly staff ready to help them when they do, inevitably, have questions. That might be two days later when they get their first reading list and don’t know how to navigate it, or two years later when they start their dissertation research.

‘During the year we enjoyed sharing our historic collections with college members at our regular displays’



Owls in Willughby's *Ornithology* (1678)



Dodo and other birds in Willughby's *Ornithology*

During the year we enjoyed sharing our historic collections with college members at our regular displays. We traced the history of college buildings (also on our blog <https://bit.ly/hertfordbuildings>), explored the legacy of Tyndale's Bible translations (curated by Hertford graduate student Kelli Skinner Eyerly) and took a flight of fancy with a display of books about birds. Sophie Floate, our rare books specialist, continued to uncover gems in the collection. Recently catalogued items include a 1626 first edition of Sandys' translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and a number of rare 17th and 18th-century tracts on global trade. Students Esme Gutch and Madhurima Sen kept the Holywell Library and Warnock Reading Room running smoothly. Assistant Librarian Katherine Knight completed her MA in librarianship, excelling at the course, and we are delighted that she will continue in her role with us in 2025.

Making the most of the library project, Beard Construction and the college took local carpentry students from Abingdon and Witney College on a tour of the building site. They gained insight into career paths in construction and



July 15, 1851
The Boston Herald
No. 10,000



Tyndale display

W. Tyndale, in
Hilford, Cal. etc.



Houseplants for freshers (real and upcycled felt)



enjoyed seeing behind the scenes of a college. Oxford Archaeology, who have been unearthing the history hidden beneath the site during the excavation phase of the building project, gave a useful talk on commercial archaeology careers and a fascinating site tour to our undergraduate Archaeology and Anthropology students. More students and staff joined the library team for site visits in Trinity term, with much enthusiasm (and a little impatience) for the new library.

If you would like to know more about the library redevelopment project, visit our website www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/support-us/library or contact our fellow librarian Professor Emma Smith on emma.smith@hertford.ox.ac.uk.

Emma adds a PS: 'We already have the best library team in Oxford. It will be great to give them the best facilities too!'

Archives



Archivist Lucy Rutherford writes:

One of the best things about this job is the unexpected offer of archival material. A significant accession has been a collection of wartime letters sent by undergraduates serving in the Forces to the college chaplain, Revd Ian Thomson. Revd Thomson kept in touch with many students and used their correspondence to produce printed newsletters which were sent out to college members throughout the war. These letters were preserved by Revd Thomson and have been donated to the archives by his son, Professor Richard Thomson. They give a fascinating insight into the activities which Hertford students took on, and demonstrate how hard the college worked to maintain a sense of connection amongst its scattered members.

From more recent years, we have acquired a set of the student magazine *Simpkin* from the 1980s, with the original artwork and submissions. In April we had a visit from Chris Hudson, son of Frederick Hudson who worked as a chef at Hertford in the 1950s. Chris had a tour of our current kitchens and recorded a video interview talking about his memories of his father and Hertford during the 1950s. He also donated some photographs of college catering staff, including his father with the head chef Mr Dyer. Our digital archive is growing exponentially as the volume of non-paper records coming into the archives increases.

‘Our digital archive is growing exponentially as the volume of non-paper records coming into the archives increases’

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Hertford College catering staff c. 1950s, with Head Chef Mr Dyer in the centre and Frederick Hudson at the end on the right; donated by Chris Hudson

A key project this year has been to review our disaster and emergency planning procedures. This deals with procedures such as cleaning routines, monitoring temperature and humidity levels in the storeroom, checking for pests and mould and maintaining gutters and roofs to prevent potential leaks. It also entails putting in place plans for dealing with emergencies such as a fire or flood. The emergency procedures also cover measures to protect our digital collections, which are potentially at risk from a major IT failure or a cyberattack. It is impossible to predict every scenario, but more systematic planning should enable us to prevent or mitigate some of the more common emergencies. One of the outcomes of the emergency planning review was to implement a programme of digitising our more significant or fragile records, such as the college registers. We are grateful to our volunteer, alumnus Andrew Ganley, who has skilfully mastered our in-house scanner and software in order to carry out these digitisation projects.



Lithograph of Thomas C. Baring, who endowed the new Hertford College in 1874; acquired for the archives 2025

Murray Tully
T. C. Baring
April 30. 1859

A further and enjoyable task has been to source images from our archives for various projects, including the recently published history of Hertford College by Professor Christopher Tyerman. Creating displays for the Boat Club's 150th anniversary has been a great opportunity to showcase some of our many rowing and Boat Club photographs. We continue to use our online resources to provide more information about our collections and latest accessions, so do browse our catalogue <https://archive-cat.hertford.ox.ac.uk> or visit our blog <https://sites.hertford.ox.ac.uk/library-archives> for more stories from Hertford's history.

For enquiries, please contact the archivist on archives@hertford.ox.ac.uk or the fellow archivist, Professor Emma Smith, on emma.smith@hertford.ox.ac.uk. For further information about access or donating to the archives, please visit our web pages www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/and-more/rarebooks-archives/archives.

Sustainability



*Sustainability Manager
Ellen MacDonald writes:*

It has been an exciting time to join the college, with the library project underway and the Winchester Road project ramping up for next year. In sustainability our eyes are always on the horizon, so it has been great to settle in as the college is actively improving its buildings for students in the decades to come.

My role as Sustainability Manager is a new one for Hertford. I joined the team in April 2025 to take on the crucial task of developing and implementing the college's sustainability strategy. I also act as secretary for our Sustainability Working Group. My work involves coordinating projects with different departments, driving community engagement, and creating a clear action plan to guide our efforts over the next few years. It has been a pleasure getting to know the Hertford community, and I am pleased to share a summary of the significant progress we have made this past academic year.

My first Sustainability Working group meeting was in Trinity term, and I was able to demonstrate encouraging progress in reducing our energy consumption. Compared to our 2018–19 baseline, our natural gas use fell by 23% and electricity use dropped by 40% in 2023–24. This change in natural gas use saved the equivalent of 128 tonnes of carbon dioxide, adding up to 142 flights between London and New York or almost 500,000 miles in an average car. Much of this progress has been driven by positive behavioural changes, such as the introduction of a heating season. In future I will be providing annual updates on our greenhouse gas emissions to show our progress.

As part of our net-zero ambitions, all new building projects are designed to operate with the lowest emissions possible. The library project will see the installation of the college's first air source heat pump, lowering gas use on the main site and providing additional cooling. The Winchester Road development will have no gas heating at all, bringing us closer to a net-zero estate.

In collaboration with the JCR, we trialled British Heart Foundation collection

bins to stop usable items being thrown away at the end of term. The students made a fantastic contribution, with 20 large bags of donations collected. This effort raised an estimated £300 for the British Heart Foundation through sales and saved 160 kilograms of waste from going to landfill. Our Sustainability Working Group has also been hard at work developing a comprehensive action plan to guide our efforts over the next two years. In addition, we have collaborated with other colleges on a joint emissions reporting tool, which will allow us to share data and learn from one another as we work towards our climate goals.



As we move into the next academic year, our focus will be on a comprehensive review of our buildings to identify opportunities for efficiency upgrades and reducing carbon emissions. We will also be implementing new, clear bin signage across the college to help reduce waste contamination and improve recycling rates. Look out for sustainability updates on our website.

Our journey to net zero is a shared effort, and I look forward to working with you all in the coming year to make Hertford a leader in sustainability. Thank you for being a part of this important journey. Please get in touch with me at ellen.macdonald@hertford.ox.ac.uk if you would like to learn more about sustainability at Hertford.

‘It has been great to join Hertford as the college is actively improving its buildings for students in the decades to come’ “

‘Gardener’s World’



*Gardener Alison Vale
writes:*

Welcome to another year in the Hertford gardens!

It was a late spring and a most beautiful one. Cherry trees kept their blossom for weeks because the weather was cool and dry and not windy. Bulbs everywhere are always very colourful and the miniature narcissi in the window boxes are a cheerful sight for office staff and fellows to see from their rooms. Primroses are my favourite – every year they are the first to show.

The rewilding project at Abingdon House is still ongoing. I am planting more wildflowers and casting seeds to improve diversity for the long term. Unfortunately, the summer was so hot and dry that a lot of the wildflowers succumbed very quickly; hopefully we will see them next year. I have pruned back one of the juniper shrubs to make a new border, and planted lavenders, extra cowslips and border geraniums for ground cover. I will also be planting more wildflowers to get settled in before next summer.

The Warnock House gardens are being updated, with shrubs reduced in height. More perennial planting has been added: geums, lavenders and penstemons to attract more pollinators and to improve the view from inside the reading room.

It is lovely to have time to do this, as due to the library building works I am not mowing the lawn in OB Quad at the moment! I wish you all continued success with your own gardens in the coming year.

‘I am planting more wildflowers and casting seeds to improve diversity for the long term’ “



Archaeology and Anthropology



*Dr Dylan Gaffney
writes:*

This year we celebrate our two finalists, Kira Law and Lois Hannon, who obtained first-class degrees. Lois achieved the top result in the University and was awarded the Gibbs Prize 2025 and the Sir Barry Cunliffe Fieldwork and Methods Prize 2024. We wish these students well in their future endeavours.

We also welcomed three new first-year students to Hertford, who had very successful Moderations results, with Alexandra Ampomah and David Percival obtaining scholarships. David obtained the top results in the University, receiving the Meyerstein Prize 2025.

Following exam season, the first years undertook their summer fieldwork experience. Ellis James spent two weeks examining satellite imagery from northern Syria to remotely detect the presence of archaeological sites. He then spent another two weeks in the World Museum, National Museums Liverpool, where he worked in the ethnology department and learned about curation and object database management. Alexandra took part in excavations in southern Spain. She worked in a crypt beneath the San Miguel Church in Jerez de la Frontera, learning to identify the sex and age of individuals buried there. The team also found religious objects, including a bronze crucifix. David joined a project in the Kruger National Park, near the border between South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana. The project focused on the origin of states and trade networks in the region, and David learned excavation and survey techniques at an important Iron Age site.

In May, second-year students Charlotte Andison, Elin Oliver, Digby Gough-Boyack, George Davis and Robert Mitchell helped to organise a guest lecture and dinner featuring Oxford Archaeology's Ayesha Purcell, who described the process of becoming a professional archaeologist and some of the research her company has been conducting under Hertford as part of the new library development. We also congratulate Digby for winning the Sir Barry Cunliffe



Alexandra (left) studying bioarchaeology in a southern Spanish crypt
(image © Alexandra Ampomah)



An archaeological site in the Kruger National Park
(image © David Percival)

Fieldwork and Methods Prize 2025 for his ethnographic research in Indonesian Papua.

Graduate students at Hertford have continued their fascinating studies all over the world – everything from the Bronze Age Mongolian steppe to indigenous health in Mexico. We wish departing students success in their next steps and welcome our new graduates arriving to college.

In September 2024, Professor Lambros Malafouris was Visiting Fellow at the Umberto Eco International Centre for Humanistic Studies and the Institute of Advanced Studies, Università di Bologna. In January 2025, he also organised the Pathways to Environmental Health symposium at Hertford that brought together interdisciplinary researchers and practitioners to explore the intersections of materiality, cognition and mental health (www.arch.ox.ac.uk/pathways-environmental-health-symposium).

Dr Dylan Gaffney released two books on the archaeology of New Guinea with Australian University Press, entitled *Forty Years in the South Seas: Archaeological Perspectives on the Human History of Papua New Guinea and the Western Pacific Region* (2024) and *West New Guinea: Social, Biological, and Material Histories* (2025). In July and August 2025, he undertook fieldwork in eastern Indonesia, excavating cave sites with evidence for early human habitation as people moved out of Eurasia and into the Pacific. This fieldwork involved three Oxford students including Hertford second-year Digby, who undertook ethnographic interviews about people's changing material culture.

Biochemistry



Professor Alison Woollard writes:

The 2024–25 academic year was slightly unusual for Biochemistry in that we were a tutor down! Petros went on sabbatical to the University of Chongqing, China, leaving Alison and Delia to hold the fort. I should say that we were ably assisted in this by two fantastic stipendiary lecturers, Agnes Michel and Antoni Wrobel. Both Agnes and Antoni are researchers in the Biochemistry Department keen to contribute to teaching and inspiring the next generation of biochemists. This turned out to be a win-win, with students thoroughly enjoying the new interactions they had, and Agnes and Antoni both being inspired to seek further teaching opportunities within the University after their posts finished. Many thanks to both!

Reflecting on his experience in China, Petros writes:

'My sabbatical took me to Chongqing in China under the Chang Jiang Scholars scheme, where trials are underway for the use of biological instead

Petros's work in China

Location: Jianshan Village, Qianjiang, Chongqing;

Trial size: 13,340M²;

Trial date: Aug–Sep 2025



95% corn plants infested; Density: 4–5 larvae/plant [newly hatched larvae (yellow arrows); egg mass (red arrows)]

of chemical insecticides in recovering losses in rice and maize cultures caused by insect pests. Fungi that infect insect pests and kill them (in this case locusts infected with the 'specialist' fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae*) can have a lot of impact in terms of food security as well as reduction in the use of chemicals in crops. In addition to working in the lab to find out how locusts succumb to *M. anisopliae* infection, I participated in a field trial (an absolute first for me and proof that biochemists do get to go out) that had impressive results even after just two weeks of fungal spore application in a test field (see photo). Also, the food was fantastic! Stay tuned for the paper, which is now under review.

On the student side, it was, as ever, a huge privilege to see the fourth-year students through their research projects and out of the door, the third-year students safely through Part I exams, and our bumper crop of eight first-year students to the other side of Prelims unscathed. The second years seemed to skip through the year without too many cares (other than the odd TSA), enjoying the new immersive course structure as well as some of the less-academic delights of an Oxford year devoid of much in the way of exams.

Fourth-year research projects included work on chromatin and chromosome structure, gene expression, channel proteins, malaria vaccine development and various aspects of human disease. The students all greatly impressed their

'One of the highlights of the year has become the fourth-year research symposium (with pizza!) **“**



First Application



14 days after application

tutors with their unstinting enthusiasm, industrious attitude and the quality of their presentations, both written and oral. One of the highlights of the year has become the fourth-year research symposium (with pizza!), attended by all the biochemists at Hertford, where new findings are shared and discussed and our more junior students learn about what it is to actually 'do' science. The third years approached Part I exams stoically, overcoming various challenges along the way, and taking advantage of diverse opportunities to shine. A special shout-out to David Proudlove, who made us all very proud by sweeping up both the Gibbs Prize for coming top of the year and the practical prize (this latter one seemed to surprise him greatly).

On the tutor front, Delia has been busy with her MSc course in Genomic Medicine, as well as leading important work on Generative AI and how this works in the context of both learning and assessment. I have published the first paper on our new *C. elegans* model system for assessing pesticide resistance evolution – a big problem in agriculture akin to antimicrobial resistance in human health. The second is on its way. I've even managed to find the odd moment to indulge my hobby of stand-up comedy (with a science flavour, of course!), including a short set at a comedy evening at the Northwall Theatre in Summertown, enthusiastically supported by Hertford friends and colleagues.

Overall, another fantastic year at Hertford. My only plea is that everyone who has departed the Biochemistry family keeps in touch!



Biochemistry Schools Dinner 2025

Biology



*Dr Beth Mortimer
writes:*

This year saw six Hertfordians complete their Biology degrees with either a BA, from the three-year version of the course, or MBiol, after completing four years of study with us: very many congratulations to Rithika, Aminah, Beatrice, Sean, Nadia and Finlay. Everyone has a unique journey in Oxford and it is a great achievement to complete it. Special mention this year must go to Sean, recipient of this year's Hertford Biology Prize, for achieving an amazing 77% on his research dissertation and a first-class degree overall. Remarkable for this year's leavers is the number going on to further study and research: from Master's degrees, to doctoral training centres for Biology PhDs, to graduate medicine, we wish all our graduating students the best for the future. We shall miss you all!

We have had a few Biology tutors this year to help support a busy teaching year at Hertford. Martin Maiden and I were back leading Hertford Biology following my maternity leave the previous year. Martin became Biology's first single Head of Department in October 2024 and we're proud to say that he is the first HoD in Zoology or Plant Sciences also to hold a college tutorial fellowship post. Martin amazingly manages to juggle the two roles, and we're very lucky to have him still very much a part of Biology at Hertford. Martin was supported by Frances Colles as college lecturer covering microbiology and disease topics for the college, and I had support from Thomas Miller as lecturer to cover animal behaviour topics. We also remain extremely grateful

**'Everyone has a unique journey in
Oxford and it is a great achievement
to complete it'** **“**



L-R: Nadia-Angela Bekhti, Sean Baldock, Aminah Memon, Beth Mortimer, Rithika Ravishankar, Martin Maiden, Amy White, Frances Colles, Beatrice McWilliams, Clive Hambler

for the wisdom and support of Timothy Walker, teaching plant-based topics. Both Frances and Thomas are moving on at the end of September 2025 and we wish them all the best for their next steps.

This year my research group were honoured to be selected to present an exhibit at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition in London from 1 to 6 July. The exhibit was called 'Seismic Senses' and featured hands-on activities related to our research on how spiders and elephants sense vibrations through the ground. Most popular was our 'multi-sensory experience', effectively a big gazebo where visitors could see, hear and feel the vibrational recordings we have made of spiders and elephants. I was very pleased to get support from the college; we gave out hundreds of Hertford bookmarks with QR codes to learn more about undergraduate study. I was also thrilled to take Nadia, a Hertford fourth-year student who did her research project with me, to demonstrate at the Exhibition. Nadia was wonderful and a real inspiration to all of the young people who pass through the doors of the Royal Society over that week. It was a pleasure to represent Hertford Biology through this prestigious outreach event, and we all really enjoyed it.



L–R: Rithika Ravishankar, Sean Baldock, Martin Maiden, Nadia-Angela Bekhti, Aminah Memon

A quick mention of the Darwin Dinner this year, which was a real pleasure and featured a talk from the inspiring Elspeth Garman. The Dinner is becoming very popular; we had nearly 100 attendees and I can see why. It is such a lovely evening with a relaxed atmosphere, where the alumni connect with our current students, including the careers 'meet and greet' at the start of the evening. We hope to see some of you at the Darwin Dinner in 2026!

Finally, we have the Schools Dinner photograph for 2025 and the Graduation photograph for some of the fourth years.

Chemistry



*Professor Claire Vallance
writes:*

The Hertford Chemistry tutors and students have kept up the tradition of working and playing hard, with contributions across research, teaching, and life beyond the laboratory.

Starting with the tutors, Organic Chemistry tutor Fernanda Duarte was delighted to receive a Visiting Professorship at the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, enabling her to spend time there over the summer, with a second visit planned later in the year.

Inorganic tutor Mike Laidlaw has been broadening his horizons both outdoors and in his workshop. When not tutoring at Hertford and other colleges, he has been climbing the peaks of North Wales, honing his clarinet skills, and expanding his shed with a new milling machine to complement the lathe. His metalwork skills now include silver brazing and nickel plating, all in the service of musical innovation and ever lower notes on his increasing collection of outsized clarinets.

After completing a three-year term as Senior Tutor in 2024, Physical Chemistry tutor Claire Vallance's focus returned to research and teaching. In addition to making some headway on a Senior-Tutoring-induced backlog of paper-writing, she has co-founded a new spin-out company with Hertford alumnus Dean James and other colleagues. Mode Labs will develop optical microcavity technology into chemical sensors for river water monitoring to help water companies comply with the sensing requirements of the Environment Act 2021. Outside of work, a broken collarbone made for a quiet summer on the sporting front, but with light at the end of the tunnel in the form of a top-five finish in a September open-water swimming race.

The Chemistry students have been at least as active as their tutors. Amongst the third years, Abigail Paxton and Joe Hayes won the Shimadzu and Turbutt Prizes in Practical Chemistry respectively, and not content with spending all of



Nick Long up to his elbows in the lab

the academic year in college, Abigail also spent the summer in Oxford working with Hertford International Programmes. Nick Long spent the summer working with Iain McCulloch's group in the Department of Chemistry on organic electrochemical transistors, supported by a Hertford Summer Studentship. His project aimed to speed up ion transport in polymers by introducing porosity, and he made and tested several new materials. Marcus Poad will be carrying out his Part II project in the USA, and started his overseas adventure over the summer by visiting Yosemite and climbing Half Dome for sunrise in full Hertford kit. Finally, Simeon Audu captained the Hertford badminton team alongside his Chemistry studies.

Fourth-year Arun Spencer combined his Part II project work with a major role in organising Oxford's first public powerlifting competition. The event attracted 50 competitors, over 100 spectators and sponsorship from fitness brands, and is now set to become an annual fixture.

The second years have also been combining study and sporting endeavours with great success. Kelvin Moy took on not one but two supplementary subjects and training for his first half marathon alongside the core Chemistry course, and still managed to come fourth in the year, a brilliant achievement. He is already training for his next half marathon, but has not mentioned further supplementary subjects. Thomas Whitmarsh celebrated sporting success on

the river, winning blades in Torpids with the Hertford M1 crew, and moving them from 12th to 8th in Division 1.

Among the first years, Elma Besic had the particularly memorable experience of meeting Denis Bećirović, one of the three current presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, during his visit to England. She also learnt to cook (both inside and outside of the lab) and completed a 5k Race for Life.

Finally, we say goodbye and good luck to our departing fourth years, and a huge thank you to departing tutors Thomas Player, David Heathcote and Sarah Jenkinson, who have done an amazing job of covering our physical and organic chemistry during various periods of leave for Claire and Fernanda. We also say thank you and farewell to Navoneel Sen as he completes his DPhil and hands over the first-year maths teaching to Tommy Pitcher. We look forward to welcoming both Tommy and five new Chemistry freshers to Hertford.

‘The Hertford Chemistry tutors and students have kept up the tradition of working and playing hard’ 66



Marcus and friends atop Half Dome, Yosemite

Computer Science



*Dr Mark van der Wilk
writes:*

Another enjoyable year has passed for Computer Science at Hertford. For me, this was my second year as a tutorial fellow at the college and an Associate Professor in Oxford, which means that the rhythm of interviews, tutorials, exams and dinners is becoming familiar.

From an academic perspective, perhaps the most striking news is the brilliant result of our fourth-year finalists. In Computer Science and Computer Science and Philosophy, all five of our finalists graduated with first-class degrees. While exams are not the only form of achievement, such a result is nevertheless very pleasing. Of course, most of the credit goes to the students themselves, but we hope that this shows that Hertford remains a place where our students can thrive to the fullest. Special mentions go out to our prize winners Samuel Dower, for best performance in Part C of CS&P, and Matt Sheldon, for best performance in the Part A and B Philosophy papers.

I was also glad to be a part of an event outside of the formal teaching arrangements, which I think nevertheless contributes something important: the Hertford Philosophy retreat. Originally started by some enterprising Hertford



students and supported by our Professor Peter Millican, it is intended for all degrees that have philosophy in them, and their 'pure' counterparts, which thankfully includes CS as well as CS&P. Restarted last year after a hiatus due to Covid, it gets our students together before the bustle of Trinity term for a few days of relaxation, fresh air, games and discussions. Tutors (including myself) and a few alumni (thank you!) join to ensure that things run smoothly, and that any contributions from the academic enrichment fund are well spent.

My contribution was to arrange talks at the end of each meal. While plenty of conversations naturally arose (in amongst having a good time) that would fit in a tutorial, there are plenty of thoughts and arguments that need more time than politeness generally allows in a conversation, and I was curious about what our students would have to share. I was not disappointed. We heard about freedom and how to preserve it in a post-AGI world, the history and ethics of using human remains for medical research, medical models of psychiatry, and a lot more, from first years all the way up to fourth years. AI featured frequently in talks and discussions, and having a wide range of perspectives, from the fully technical perspective of CS to the societal, was something that everyone could benefit from. As well as providing a fun break, I hope that the retreat will continue to allow our students to develop and share their thoughts for years to come.

My own research also happens to be in AI, and aims to make it do more with less energy and less data. In this past year, I have asked the question: What is the smallest that we can make a neural network, while still allowing it to learn everything it can from a dataset? The current advice is to make neural networks as large as possible, which is behind tech companies' insatiable hunger for electricity. To find a solution, we developed a single mathematical principle that measures how much each neuron contributes to what the network has learned as a whole. This allows us to remove neurons that contribute the least, or add neurons where they are needed most. This leads to smaller networks that do not compromise on performance.

For me, the most fascinating moment in the research was when we observed that our principle changes the network size depending on the phase of learning. Early on, when the network is still making sense of the data, the network grows large and memorises the data. But as it spots patterns, it memorises less, and our principle notices that fewer neurons are needed, and shrinks the network. While there are still obstacles to applying this to the giant networks that power modern Generative AI, we have provided an elegant and comprehensive solution for certain types of networks, which we hope is a starting point. Universities are still unique in supporting this kind of curiosity-driven research, and who knows where these ideas may go. The current AI revolution also grew out of our universities!

Economics



Professor Federica Romei writes:

It has been an outstanding year for the Economics community at Hertford. The team welcomed Talav Bhimnathwala, who joined the Economics group and has already become an invaluable member of the department. Elizabeth Baldwin was recognised with a prestigious teaching award and promoted to Professor – congratulations, Elizabeth!

Our students have also had a productive and inspiring year. Several have embarked on academic careers, while others gained valuable research experience over the summer. One student worked as a research assistant, another built a simulation of the UK housing market using an OLG-style model in Java, and another is developing a research paper exploring how discrepancies between stated and actual university grade requirements signal course quality and their welfare implications. One of our recent graduates has just begun the MSc in Economics for Development here in Oxford, and we hope more will follow into graduate study in due course.

We are also delighted to report excellent examination results: five students achieved Firsts, and seven students were awarded distinctions in their Prelims.

‘Elizabeth Baldwin was recognised with a prestigious teaching award and promoted to Professor – congratulations, Elizabeth!’

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Engineering



*Professor Thomas Morstyn
writes:*

In the 2024–25 academic year, we welcomed six new Engineering freshers to the college. Our three second-year students had their first formal examination this year and progressed well into year three. Our five third-year students progressed into year four with strong performances, with three of them currently at a first-class level. Our six fourth-year students performed exceptionally, and five of them graduated with a first. Finlay Jordan was awarded our College Subject Prize for Engineering. All of the fourth-year students have had excellent years with the college and we wish them the very best with the next chapters of their careers. Manolis Chatzis and I would also like to give our heartfelt thanks to our college lecturers, Dr Zsolt Laczik and Dr Andrew Pilkington, for their valued contributions to our teaching team.

I would like to congratulate Manolis on his appointment as Chair of the Dynamics Committee for the American Society of Civil Engineer's Engineering Mechanics Institute (EMI), a premiere organisation for engineering mechanics research and application. As Chair, Manolis leads the committee responsible for organising the election of new members, conference meetings, online seminars, an annual student competition, fellow nominations and awards.

I also had a busy research schedule this year, with two new projects getting underway. 'SAGEflex: Safeguarded AI Agents for Grid-Edge Flexibility' is exploring power grids as a critical area for AI safety guarantees, and the interdisciplinary 'Oxford Martin Programme on Circular Battery Economies' is focused on the engineering, economics and policy question around 'second-life' battery redeployment. In April, my research students and I also won the €15,000 first prize award in the Blaise Pascal Quantum Challenge, based on our work leveraging neutral atom quantum computing for power grid optimisation. The eight-week hackathon organised by quantum computing company Pasqal attracted more than 800 participants from 70 countries.

English



*Professor Emma Smith
writes:*

First to report are some excellent exam results, both in Prelims and Finals, this year. This confirms that our students continue to combine wide extra-curricular interests – including in drama, journalism and writing, sports and politics – with engagement in their studies. This year they benefited from a writing workshop from *New Yorker* staff writer Sam Knight, who shared his own editing process on recent essay-length magazine articles. A recent innovation is that exams are now all typed (to the relief of markers, at least, who do not have to decipher difficult script): like our now online admissions interviews, this is a legacy of changes made during the pandemic.

Hertford English tutors have also been busy. David Dwan recently submitted the manuscript of *The Good Life and Other Fictions* to Princeton University Press and has begun work on a new project: 'A History of Literary Theory in One Poem' – the poem being *The Waste Land*. Amanda Holton's book *Rhyme and the Construction of Love in English Lyric 1300–1579* is forthcoming from OUP. She is currently working on a book about anthologies of English verse and the fantasies of England they project. Emma Smith has finally submitted her edition of *Twelfth Night*, which will be published as the launch of the new Arden 4 series of the plays in 2026. She spoke at the Shakespeare Association of America meeting in Boston about a new project, on slave-owning and bibliophilia. And Penguin will publish her book on Elizabethan culture next year

'A recent innovation is that exams are now all typed (to the relief of markers, at least, who do not have to decipher difficult script)'

“

(title currently under review!). She continues as fellow librarian and archivist as the ambitious project to rebuild the college's library progresses.

Finally, a new poet from Hertford English to add to a growing cohort which includes Tom Paulin (whose new collection *Namanlagh* is published by Faber in November 2025), Will Harris, Joe Minden and Vidyan Ravinthiran (shortlisted for the 2025 Forward Prize). Second-year student Hannah Wei won this year's Eugene Lee-Hamilton Poetry Competition at Oriel College, and we are proud to publish her sonnet in the Magazine.

Cyrano de Bergerac to his cousin Roxane

It matters not if mine is not the right
to kiss your hand, or share your tears and joys;
It matters not if I was not your choice –
as moth to flame, so I am to your light.
And though it is by cover of the night
and Christian's mouth I bear my wooing voice,
it matters not – indeed, I should rejoice
your eye was never sullied by my sight.
But since it is you love him, love him true –
Love him whose face was fair enough for five,
and let his kiss your holy lips enshrine.
Think not of me, who thinks only of you;
I live not if your love is not alive –
It matters not that it was never mine.

Geography



Dr Janet Banfield writes:

The 2024–25 academic year brought another well-deserved strong set of results, with three of our finalists securing first-class degrees. Special congratulations go to Sophia Akbar-Frost, who was awarded the Gibbs Prize, and whose dissertation on how university students navigate food allergies has been forwarded to the RGS's Food Geographies Working Group Prize. First years are also celebrating a strong set of results, with three distinctions among them. Congratulations to all.

This year's array of dissertation projects provided the usual buffet of interesting ethical and risk assessment issues to navigate, resulting from inspirational topical interests, methodological preferences and travel plans. With characteristic Hertfordian ambition, innovation and thirst for knowledge, projects span from the digital ecologies of bears in Japan and acoustic monitoring of avian biodiversity in the UK, through explorations of East African rainfall patterns and seagrass conservation in south-west England, to youth understandings of place-making in Singapore. It will be fascinating to find out what the second years have discovered during their fieldwork as they return to college.

We also wish the departing finalists well for their future endeavours (keep in touch – we love to hear from you!), and we look forward to welcoming the first years back for the start of FHS in October, when they will no doubt offer a warm welcome to the incoming freshers.

Once again, the geography tutors have matched the work ethic and achievements of the students and offer the following updates:

Professor 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 return of beavers in London, practices of soil repair, and debates over the aesthetics of messy landscapes created by rewilding practices. This work is carried out under the umbrella of three large research projects: the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery; the Wellcome Trust funded Sustainable and Healthy Interventions for Food Transitions; and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research programme on Humans and the Microbiome. In October, Jamie will be starting a new research fellowship to write a book entitled *What's Your Beef? Why we disagree about cattle*.

Dr Janet Banfield, stipendiary lecturer, has continued and expanded her innovative approaches to academic skills support this year, providing diverse visual ways of engaging with tacit aspects of essays that contribute to their quality but fall outside the marking criteria. The paper on this work that was being drafted last year is now being developed into a book and Jan is exploring opportunities to extend these visual pedagogical practices beyond her own teaching through interested college tutors and University support services. Over the 2025–26 academic year, keep an eye out for a series of web posts about Jan's puppet research, which she is currently preparing with the SOGE communications team, as she continues work on her second book on puppet geographies.

Dr Linda Speight, Career Development Fellow, continues to champion research in flood hydrology at Oxford. This year she has helped launch a new option module for Geography students on 'hydrology in a changing climate', and as the Climate and Earth lead for the new ILESLA interdisciplinary doctoral training programme, she is looking forward to welcoming the first cohort of DPhil students who will be arriving in Oxford in October. Linda is the current chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) of the UK Flood Hydrology Roadmap and is actively working with colleagues at the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, SEPA and across water companies and consultancy firms to help ensure that society has improved hydrological information and understanding to manage flood hazard in a changing world. She has also been invited to join a World Meteorological Organisation project developing Multi-Hazard Flood Forecasting Systems for Early Warnings.

'This year's array of dissertation projects provided the usual buffet of interesting ethical and risk assessment issues to navigate' **“**

Professor David Thomas, now a senior research fellow, was awarded the 2025 David Linton Medal by the British Society for Geomorphology for his lifetime achievements in the discipline, especially in dryland geomorphology. David received his award at the annual BSG conference in Leeds. He and his research team have also completed in 2025 a Leverhulme-funded grant on the Holocene socio-environmental relationships in the Indus Valley. This study has addressed debates about the supposed Bronze Age civilisation 'collapse' through a data-rich approach employing luminescence dating to fluvial deposits to explore patterns of water resource and drainage change, and a novel modelling approach to integrate environmental and archaeological data sets. He has also been awarded a new John Fell Fund grant, to expand research on ecological change and aeolian accumulation in desert margin areas, focusing on the Namib.

In 2025, Professor Louise Slater resigned from her tutorial fellowship to take up a new position as Associate Head of the Social Sciences Division for Research and Impact and Professor of Hydroclimatology in the School of Geography and the Environment. We thank Louise for her contribution to Hertford during her time with the college, and we wish her all the best in this new role.

History



*Professor Giora Sternberg
writes:*

This has been a year of transitions for History at Oxford. Over the summer of 2025, the History Faculty vacated the George Street building, which has been its home since the last move from the former Indian Institute (now the Martin School) at Catte Street, just next to Hertford. The Faculty is moving into the new Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities at the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, which opens its doors for the 2025–26 academic year. Some may remember the Faculty's previous residence in the same quarter; the Schwarzman building, though, bears little resemblance to the labyrinthine annex in the then Radcliffe Infirmary. This state-of-the-art, sustainable building combines academic and cultural facilities, including concert halls as well as lecture and seminar spaces – a venue worth visiting when you are next in Oxford. The Faculty occupies a hub on the second floor of the building, shared with six other Faculties. The building also houses a new Humanities Library, but Hertford historians will continue to enjoy the close proximity of the History Faculty Library, which remains at its central location in the Radcliffe Camera.

Within Hertford, the temporary library continues to support the needs of our historians, led by our indefatigable librarian Alice Roques. We look forward to our own grand opening, of the new college library, expected in 2027.

This has also been the final year in post of the Regius Professor of History, Lyndal Roper, who completed a term of 14 years as Regius, and many more at Oxford, with an inspiring valedictory lecture. Her book, *Summer of Fire and Blood: The German Peasants' War*, came out this year to mark the 500th anniversary of this remarkable historical event. The lecture, 'Telling Stories: History, Narrative, and the German Peasants' War, 1525', traced the new

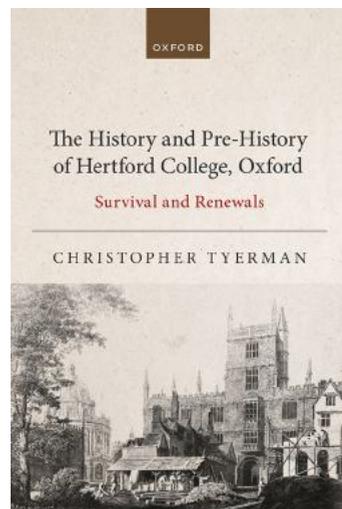
directions in her own research.

We congratulate another cohort of undergraduates who have completed their studies in History and its Joint Schools – including Jade Duong (single honours), who has been awarded the College Subject Prize – and the postgraduates who have finished taught or research courses this year.

The highlight of the year for History at Hertford is no doubt the history of Hertford written by our very own emeritus fellow Christopher Tyerman. *The History and Pre-History of Hertford College, Oxford: Survival and Renewals*, published with Oxford University Press, offers for the first time a comprehensive history of the college, from the foundation of Hart Hall in the 13th century to the forward-looking, 21st-century modern Hertford. As the cover notes, ‘On a small, intimate but precise scale, Hertford and its precursors map not only the internal history of the University but also the wider social, political, religious and educational settings over seven centuries.’ Characterised by Christopher’s signature combination of sharp analysis and deep research, this is a highly recommendable read for all Hertfordians: see how many of the ‘close portraits of dons, grandees, scholars, students, and staff through the centuries’ you recognise!

‘The highlight of the year is no doubt the history of Hertford written by our very own emeritus fellow Christopher Tyerman’

“



Human Sciences



Clive Hambler writes:

It's been a remarkable academic year. We had five finalists in 2025, including one gained at short notice in the first year when a college closed down, and one who returned after a sabbatical year as a welfare officer in Oxford University Student Union. They achieved four Firsts and a 2:1, so a pinnacle in results it will be hard to surpass if we keep admitting three a year! Only one previous year at Hertford had so many Human Scientists.

Amongst these results were the top prize in Human Sciences in the University (a Gibbs Prize), a Proxime Accessit prize (as runner-up to the Gibbs Prize), and the Wilma Crowther Prize for the best dissertation in Human Sciences, which I hope can be published, as could many dissertations if graduates have the time and energy to do so.

Dissertation topics were diverse and topical as ever: modelling the epidemiology of topics in social media; rewilding the human gut with worms; the marketing validity of microbial supplements for women; cultural variation in prostate cancer prognosis; and sociocultural influences on Covid vaccine uptake.

For personal reasons I've spent a lot of time in the city of my youth, Bradford, happily the UK City of Culture this year – so with even more curries. Time and energy has been dedicated to trying to protect the Chagos archipelago, a region which I've been involved in for decades, and one of the most natural tropical seas in the world. There are complex social, cultural and doubtless economic pressures to exploit this precious wilderness, and we need sites that are relatively undisturbed as 'biodiversity benchmarks' or 'baselines' against which we can compare more disturbed sites to understand the effects of disturbance. We may never know the effects of our activities at sea if we have no such 'control' sites to compare against managed ones. I had four letters published in newspapers and lobbied government to this effect.

My work on false widow spiders never really stops; I collect them for population genetics when I visit new regions. My description of the species as the most dangerous spider breeding in Britain was quoted several times in national and local newspapers, tragically with one student death in Britain very plausibly attributed to a bite. I predict more deaths until awareness has risen further, but my message is still resisted by well-meaning spider-huggers who fear a public backlash against spiders in general. It's a very Human Sciences perspective to see fear of spiders as both innate and culturally modified. Britain has simply been lucky, until now, not to be teeming with dangerous species – as was most of our ancestral range and history.

So, I'm stirring up debate, as usual. But many of you have encouraged me to keep being challenging and provocative: thanks for that.

As ever, please keep in touch and come to whatever reunions you're able to!

'Only one previous year at Hertford had so many Human Scientists' “



Human Sciences Schools Dinner 2025

Law



Dr Kate Greasley writes:

This summer, Hertford Law said a sad goodbye to another crop of finalists. We congratulate them heartily on a very pleasing set of results, and send all our best wishes with them. We also congratulate our first years on an excellent set of Law Moderations results, and especially Navin Sivakumar for his outstanding distinction.

In February, we very gladly welcomed back Professor Alison Young (Professor of Public Law at the University of Cambridge; formerly tutorial fellow in Law at Hertford), along with honorary fellow Schona Jolly KC, for a discussion with Law fellows Kate Greasley and Aruna Nair about women's stories in the legal profession and in legal academia as part of Hertford's *Women's Stories* series. The reflections shared by both were insightful and entertaining, and we are extremely grateful to the speakers for sparing the time to share their perspectives.

Both fellows continue to work on their pet research projects. Having secured a prestigious British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship Award, Dr Aruna Nair is spending some much-deserved research time writing her next monograph, on the theme of conflicting rights in property law. An unprecedentedly rigorous and sensible discussion of priorities in trusts law surely awaits!

Meanwhile, Dr Kate Greasley continues her work on the law and ethics of consent to sexual activity and other #MeToo related issues, including a video interview series 'Conversations on Consent' which, for anyone interested, can be viewed here: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwj4-Geqxt8YakXinkF3OZbWS2CqA0LE. A related conference on the themes of consent, truth and power, co-organised with Professor David Enoch, was held in June. Dr Greasley would like to thank everyone who has helped ease her return from maternity leave, and especially Dr Nair for holding the fort for so long! Finally, both fellows would like to express our sincere gratitude to our former stipendiary lecturer Benjamin Teng, who is moving on, no doubt to greater things!

Management



Dr Steve New writes:

This year saw amazing public events led by Professor Anette Mikes under the auspices of Hertford's Oxford Ministry for the Future initiative, including talks and performances at the Sheldonian Theatre, including novelists Richard Powers, Kim Stanley Robinson, Laline Paull and J.M. Ledgard, rock legend Brian Eno and folk singer Sam Lee, alongside academic colleagues from across the University. These extraordinary gatherings – focused on the impact of and response to climate change – succeeded in bringing together people and divergent perspectives that otherwise might not interact.

In March we hosted our first college Entrepreneurs Dinner, at which alumni entrepreneurs returned to meet and exchange ideas. We were delighted to have as guests of honour the amazing Dr John M. Neill CBE, former CEO and Chairman of Unipart, and our own Professor Hagan Bayley, the scientist-entrepreneur behind Oxford Nanopore.

John Neill returned in May to address the Economics and Management students about the lessons learned in his remarkable career. The E&M students also enjoyed a talk in Trinity term from alumnus Daniel O'Sullivan, currently completing a PhD on work in the platform economy at UCL.

In addition to his normal academic duties, Steve New spent much of the year leading the University's Task and Finish Group on Artificial Intelligence and Education.

'In March we hosted our first college Entrepreneurs Dinner, at which alumni entrepreneurs returned to meet and exchange ideas'

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Mathematics



*Professor Dawid Kielak
writes:*

Another year has whisked by – more water under the bridge! (Readers will be pleased to know that only the water is metaphorical; the bridge is still very much there.) Alan and I have been busy with teaching, research and the usual round of college administration. The students also seemed busy, for the most part with Mathematics.

We enjoyed a remarkable harvest of results among our fourth years: out of five students, four distinctions and a merit. On top of that, two of our Master's students (in the OMMS programme) also earned distinctions. This underlines how powerful the in-cohort dynamic can be: a critical mass of driven individuals creates an atmosphere that lifts everyone towards their full potential. Our first years have much to live up to!

I am writing this column in minus-first week, when Hertford readies itself for the arrival of the new year of students. The anticipation is palpable. We are all thinking hard about striking the right balance: friendly and welcoming on the one hand; clear about the expectation of hard work and academic ambition on the other. It is probably better to err on the former side; that certainly feels like the Hertford way.

On a more personal level, I have been invited to speak in the Topology section of the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) in Philadelphia in the summer of 2026. The ICM meets every four years and is a major gathering of the maths community. I am thrilled to speak – and to be there for the Fields Medals announcements!

Medicine



Professor Vladyslav Vyazovskiy writes:

The 2024–25 year in Medicine was as busy as ever and full of highlights. One of the most memorable events was the Medicine Reunion Dinner, held on 22 March 2025, which brought together numerous alumni, guests, current and past tutors, and students. The evening began with a mini-symposium in the Baring Room, featuring our own Dr Simon Brewster speaking about prostate surgery, followed by talks from Professor Richard Graham, Director of Research and Innovation and Consultant Radiologist at Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, and Andrew MacDonald, Consultant Diagnostic and Interventional Radiologist at Oxford University Hospitals. Their lectures, entitled ‘PSMA PET-CT and surgical management of high-risk prostate carcinoma’ and ‘Prostate artery embolisation for benign disease’, were both engaging and highly informative, as well as richly illustrated!

The event continued with drinks in the chapel and then a dinner which welcomed alumni matriculating as far back as 1959 and as recently as 2022, alongside current students who had the opportunity to sit next to and learn from their accomplished predecessors. The catering team went above and beyond in providing excellent food and wine, carefully selected by Mr Brewster, and together with the development team, who helped organise the event, we were delighted by the overwhelmingly positive feedback. After the dinner, Mark Alexander, a radiologist in Milton Keynes, sent Professor Greaves a card with the message: ‘Thank you for organising a wonderful evening. Intellectual, culinary and vinous fireworks (clearly the New Hertford), great to see so many old compatriots, and [the] undimmed optimism of younger medics.’

As usual, two Vaughan Williams (VW) dinners were held this year, in Michaelmas 2024 and Trinity 2025. Endowed by Miles Vaughan Williams (1918–2016), a renowned British cardiac pharmacologist and the first full science fellow of Hertford College, these occasions bring together both Hertford’s pre-clinical

students (years 1–3) and clinical students (years 4–6). As a tradition, VW dinners kick off with a lecture delivered by Hertford alumni. Dr Antonia Lloyd-Lavery, Consultant Dermatologist at Oxford University Hospitals, was our speaker in Michaelmas term, and Dr Nabeel Alsindi, GP and Medical Director (Doncaster), NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, joined in Trinity term to talk about his professional journey.

Our dinners continue to attract excellent guests, and on these occasions we were joined by Dr Charlotte Boccara from Norway, who was visiting Oxford to give a seminar at DPAG, Professor Petros Ligoxygakis, Biochemistry tutor at Hertford and a long-standing friend of Medicine, and David Ray, Professor of Endocrinology and Head of OCDEM, who kindly judged an endocrinology quiz, won confidently by first-year medic Arez Hussain. The Schools Dinner was another highlight, where finalists enjoyed dressing according to the theme of their 'favourite tutor'.

A new cohort of six students started in Michaelmas 2024 and have successfully completed their first pre-clinical year at Hertford, achieving three merits and some truly outstanding results in Section 1 of the BM Part I examination, with some scores as high as 98% correct responses. We look forward to teaching this cohort as they move into their second year, while also welcoming our new freshers.

At the other end of their Hertford journey, we were proud to see all five of our sixth years qualify as doctors. The Vaughan Williams Prize for Excellence in Clinical Medicine was awarded to Molly Hey, with joint runners-up Ivy Jie and Harriet Day. Their applications were exceptionally strong, showcasing publications, poster presentations and teaching experience. Molly published a first-author meta-analysis on adverse perinatal outcomes in pregnant women with HIV. Ivy presented a poster on the role of gut microbiota in the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative diseases at a neurology conference. All sixth years were supported by the VW Fund during their medical electives, which took them to Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Singapore, Hong Kong, Belize, Guatemala and the Scottish Highlands. Each has secured Foundation Programmes in their deaneries of choice, and we wish them well in their clinical careers.

Fourth-year student Sara Malik attended the Leiden-Oxford Transplantation Summer School (LOTS) in Leiden, supported by the VW Fund. Alongside peers from across Europe, she explored the challenges of kidney transplantation and the potential role of organoids in transplant medicine. We are delighted to welcome Sara back as a non-stipendiary lecturer, teaching Hertford's pre-clinical students. From 2024, we were also joined by Dr Elisabeth (Mira) Rothweiler, a

licensed pharmacist and postdoctoral researcher in the Oxford Drug Discovery Institute assay development team, where she uses innovative approaches for the delivery of therapeutics in Alzheimer's Disease. Mira is a non-stipendiary lecturer providing tutorials in Pharmacology, which are invariably enjoyed by our first years.

The tutors too have had a busy and successful year, publishing and presenting at conferences. Professor David Greaves co-authored 'Cardiac lymphatics retain LYVE-1-dependent macrophages during neonatal mouse heart regeneration', published in *Nature Cardiovascular Research*. Professor Vlad Vyazovskiy contributed to several publications, including an editorial in *Biological Psychiatry* ('Preclinical Models for Schizophrenia and Sleep Oscillations: From Biomarkers to Mechanisms'), an original research article on an experimental model of tinnitus in ferrets ('Cortical evoked activity is modulated by the sleep state in a ferret model of tinnitus: A cross-case study'), and a report on the development and validation of a new device ('The SnackerTracker: A novel home-cage monitoring device for measuring food intake and food-seeking behaviour in mice').

Vlad also taught at the European Sleep Research Society summer school in France, and presented his work at multiple conferences in Europe, the US, India, Japan and Singapore, including the Gordon Research Conference on 'Consciousness, Anesthesia and Evolutionary Biology' in January, held in Lucca, Italy, and the 'Forensic Sleep Symposium: Neurological and Legal Challenges' at the Royal Society of Medicine in London in March.

Meanwhile, the library project continues to progress, with archaeologists excavating Anglo-Saxon settlement remains and unearthing a variety of artefacts, including animal bones, possibly left from kitchen waste. Had they been better preserved, they might have served as fascinating teaching material for our first-year 'Organisation of the Body' tutorials on comparative anatomy!

'All sixth years were supported by the VW Fund during their medical electives, which took them to Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Singapore, Hong Kong, Belize, Guatemala and the Scottish Highlands'

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Modern Languages



*Dr Oliver Noble Wood
writes:*

This year's finalists made the most of their time studying Modern Languages. Their adventures on the year abroad varied from teaching through the British Council in Madrid and Vigo to studying at Sciences Po and moonlighting as a singer in the jazz clubs of Lyon. The papers they chose for Finals were no less diverse, with subjects ranging from medieval French literature to contemporary Latin American cinema. Several students exploited opportunities for interdisciplinary work through the Special Subject and, for the four students in the joint school with History, the Bridge Essay.

As one of this year's cohort said on graduating: 'People don't realise just how many different things we have to do as part of a Modern Languages degree!' Amongst other skills, they need mathematical precision in learning grammatical rules, sensitivity to tone and nuance when translating into and out of the target language, open-mindedness in encountering unfamiliar cultures through their most complex verbal artefacts, and eloquence in communicating clear argument in both English and one or more foreign languages. These are vital in today's fractured world and we are proud to offer a demanding course which fosters such versatility and resilience. The current pressure on Modern Languages in many university departments is a source of serious concern, and Brexit has compounded the challenges evident since languages stopped being a compulsory part of the national curriculum at GCSE. We look forward to hearing how this year's finalists make their way in the world – and to working with the incoming linguists from Michaelmas.

In between teaching and overseeing the studies of our students, tutors have been busy with their own research. Katherine Lunn-Rockliffe is putting the finishing touches to her book on Victor Hugo. Oliver Noble Wood continues work on Cervantes and Salas Barbadillo, hosting a conference on the latter (and Castillo Solórzano) at Hertford in September 2024 and then kick-starting

his edition of Salas's *La sabia Flora malsabidilla* whilst on sabbatical in Asturias in Trinity term.

Joanna Neilly gave a keynote at the British Association for Romantic Studies Early Career Conference, addressed an audience at the Royal Opera House on E.T.A. Hoffmann, and is currently translating Hoffmann's *Night Pieces*, a collection of eight stories that has never been translated into English in its entirety, for the Oxford World's Classics series. Claire Williams, who was awarded the title of Professor in the 2024 Recognition of Distinction process (*parabéns!*), gave a keynote at the II Encontro de Literatura de Autoria Feminina at the University of Juiz de Fora in Brazil. She also signed off on the proofs of *Clarice Lispector Entrevista*, and recorded a podcast about the book, with Lispector's son, for the publisher Rocco. This year, among other things, she is working on a selection of Lispector's letters, for publication in English translation, and a co-edited volume about women's life-writing in the Luso-Hispanic world, entitled *Feminine Plural*.

We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the ML machinery this year, and especially to those heading to pastures new. Our very best wishes go to both Carlos Iglesias Crespo, who kindly looked after all things Spanish during Oliver Noble Wood's leave in Hilary and Trinity, and to Afra Pujol i Campeny, who has overseen our Linguistics teaching over the past three and a bit years. Both are leaving us for exciting new challenges, with Carlos returning to Cambridge to take up a research fellowship at Christ's, and Afra taking up a permanent role in educational policy within Oxford.

Last but by no means least, we would love to hear from any former students, including those to whom we still owe a Schools Dinner... Please do drop us a line to say what you are up to, or drop in for coffee and cake in the cafe!

‘People don't realise just how many
different things we have to do as part of
a Modern Languages degree’

Music



*Dr Oliver Chandler
writes:*

In October 2024 we were delighted to welcome back Dr Benjamin Skipp as Director of Studies in Music – though his time with us was all too brief. Shortly afterwards, he was appointed Acting Academic Registrar at St Catherine’s College, and I was honoured to succeed him in January 2025.

Ben’s contribution to Hertford over more than 20 years cannot be overstated. Generations of students have flourished under his thoughtful teaching and pastoral care, and his influence continues to shape the college today. On a personal note, Ben has been both mentor and friend. When faced with difficult decisions – whether in teaching a tricky concept or supporting a student through a challenging time – I often find myself asking: what would Ben do? He will be a hard act to follow.

Our students, as ever, continue to inspire with their energy and imagination. Now in her third year, organ scholar Giuli Tritto founded Hertford’s new contemporary music collective, Screaming Mouth, which held its inaugural concert at the end of Trinity term. Boldly titled *i pledge allegiance to angry women*, the programme brought together undergraduate and postgraduate performers from across the University. The concert was not easy listening – nor was it meant to be. In confronting violence against women through sound, Giuli refused the aesthetic ‘candification’ of tragedy: protest was neither smoothed into something consumable nor diminished into a harmless cultural product. It was instead a powerful reminder of music’s ability to unsettle, to challenge, and to provoke change.

Meanwhile, Evie Brenkley, who has now graduated with the year’s top dissertation mark, continued her work with the Retune Festival, championing marginalised composers past and present. She also found time to organise the college ball – a triumph in itself – while mastering challenging chamber works by Elizabeth Maconchy and writing essays on both Le Beau’s sonata forms and

African jazz. Her ability to balance scholarship, performance and leadership was nothing short of remarkable.

Our other two finalists also did us proud. James conducted outstanding concerts with both the Oxford University Philharmonic and Symphony Orchestras, and will be heading to Estonia this academic year to pursue conducting studies. Toby, meanwhile, is launching a charity with his partner to advance the use of music psychology in tackling challenges in healthcare – an initiative that builds directly on the research he undertook for his dissertation. On both fronts, watch this space.

This October we are delighted to welcome back Dr Alice Barron, non-stipendiary lecturer in Music, following her maternity leave. She has been much missed, and I look forward to seeing her return to college life (and to meeting her daughter, Hazel). In Alice's absence, Dr Frankie Perry stepped in to cover her teaching and admissions responsibilities, doing a truly stellar job on both fronts. My colleague Dr Tom Czepiel continues to inspire our students with his teaching, ranging from 13th-century vernacular song to 18th-century opera, always delivered with inimitable wit and transformative insight. To all my colleagues: thank you for your support of Hertford's music students, and for enriching our community with both your expertise and your kindness.

We are equally thrilled to welcome Lucy Joy Morris as Hertford's first Director of Musical Performance – a role embracing not only our exceptional choir but also music-making across the college. A musician of the highest calibre, Lucy Joy brings a wealth of experience, not least from her years as Principal Conductor of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain Boys' Choir. During her audition she conducted myself, our chaplain Anthony Buckley, and a small group of students, creating both palpable electricity and plenty of laughter. With her leadership, Hertford can look forward to ambitious new choral and orchestral projects in the months ahead.

In short, music at Hertford continues to grow and adapt with the times. We remain rooted in the texts and sounds that define our discipline, while embracing the new ideas and challenges that the 21st century presents. The year ahead promises much, and I cannot wait to see where our students, staff and community will take us next.

**'It was a powerful reminder of music's
ability to unsettle, to challenge, and
to provoke change'** **“**

Oriental Studies



*Professor Bjarke Frellesvig
writes:*

This past year was a pleasingly quiet one for Japanese and Chinese at Hertford, with business much as usual.

However, one event stands out for me. In February, our former student Patrick Dickinson, who graduated with a First in Japanese in 2000, came back to visit. Patrick is now a successful film director, and the occasion for his visit was a screening of his latest feature film *Cottontail* at the Phoenix Picturehouse in Walton Street. It is a haunting and beautiful film, set in Japan and in the Lake District, mainly in Japanese, but with some parts in English, effortlessly directed in both languages by Patrick. With him Patrick brought the leading actor, the Japanese film star Lily Franky. The show was a sell-out and was attended by most of the Hertford students of Japanese, who had been given tickets by college for this occasion. The screening was followed by a Q&A session where Patrick and Lily Franky answered questions from the audience. Despite my acknowledged lack of expertise in film, Patrick had asked me to moderate the Q&A, which I happily did.

After the screening we went to dinner at High Table, which Professor Jieun Kiaer, our fellow in Korean, and Ms Junko Hagiwara, the senior language lecturer for Japanese, also attended. We were joined at the screening and dinner by our very recent former student Tanie Maseko, herself a budding film maker. It was a pleasure to have Tanie back in college and to see the conversation and interaction between her and Patrick, two generations of Hertford Japanologists spanning most of my time here – Patrick was here when I came in January 1999 and Tanie graduated in June 2024.

The spring of 2025 also saw completion of no fewer than three of my DPhil students: Chloe Sun (Japanese sociolinguistics), Federico Manglavite (Early Middle Japanese grammar) and Diana Shi (Old Japanese grammar). Diana in particular has been an almost permanent fixture of Japanese here since she



came up to study Japanese as an undergraduate exactly ten years ago, in October 2015, finishing with a First in 2019 and then moving directly into the DPhil. She'll be known to current undergraduates in Japanese and Chinese as she has taken part in our admissions interviews over the past five years.

For myself, I have just completed my five-year stint as Tutor for Graduates, which has been both interesting and busy. I will now have sabbatical leave during 2025–26, and during this time, my teaching in both faculty and college will be in the capable hands of another former Hertford student of mine, Dr Maria Telegina, who finished her DPhil here in 2020 and has spent time between then and now in Japan, at Kobe University and Tokyo University. It is a pleasure to have Maria back here.

The sabbatical will give me welcome time to work on my ongoing long-term project, the online *Oxford-NINJAL Corpus of Old Japanese* (<https://oncoj.ninjal.ac.jp/>), of which I am the editor-in-chief, as well as to pursue my most recent area of interest, namely the use and function of the imperative, prohibitive and optative verb forms in Old Japanese. These forms display interesting common syntactic properties and make up an intersecting system which expresses a range of meanings within the semantic realm of soliciting, asking, or wishing for something. I gave a preliminary talk on this topic to the Philological Society in May and am now looking forward to being able to work further on it.

‘The show was a sell-out and was attended by most of the Hertford students of Japanese’ “

Philosophy



*Professor Peter Millican
writes:*

Having reached my last two years before compulsory retirement, I appreciate even more the privilege that it is to be part of Hertford College and to teach such rewarding students within this very special community. So I shall start with their achievements over the last couple of years, which have been outstanding, particularly in Finals. In 2024, Oliver Harvey Rich came top of the year in PPE, and Julia Comar also got an excellent First. Angus Beazley got a First in PML, with Nick Feng and Anton Fedotov doing likewise in CS&P.

Then in 2025 we got three Firsts in PPE, from Jakob Timmermann, Rosy Wilson and Finn Pearson, who came close to top in the year. In PhysPhil, Ken Zhao did come top of his year, while in CS&P, the brilliant fourth-year group of Sam Dower, Hoa Duong, Tom O’Gorman, Louis Thomson and Harriet Wood all got Firsts, with Sam top of the year, having previously shared the third-year prizes with Harriet. A year below, Matt Sheldon snagged the third-year Philosophy prize. Remarkably, at least one Hertford College CS&P student has featured in the departmental prize lists every year since 2015!

But many other students also deserve considerable praise, and some especially so, having had to face a variety of health and other challenges, often exacerbated by Covid, and sometimes requiring them to leave for a year. Getting back into the intense Oxford academic groove after such experiences can be seriously difficult, but in the last three years no fewer than four students in Philosophy programmes – helped by the college’s very supportive staff and environment – have been able to navigate these difficulties successfully, leaving with a well-deserved 2:1 which in these circumstances represents a major achievement.

Lower years have also done very well, achieving six distinctions in the first-year exams in 2024 (four in PPE, one each in CS&P and PML) and five in 2025 (three in PPE, two in CS&P). An average of over 40% distinctions makes these impressive cohorts, and promises well for the continuation of Hertford’s excellent academic

record in these programmes.

Turning now to staffing matters, Nick Tasker continues to provide excellent organisation and teaching in theoretical areas of Philosophy, and last year we welcomed another wonderful lecturer, Dr Emma Curran, on a three-year contract replacing Carissa Véliz during her research leave. Emma is lecturing for the Faculty in Ethics, Practical Ethics, and Ethics of AI and Digital Technology, and has tutored for all of these as well as Prelims Moral Philosophy. She has also played a full part in other ways, for example participating at Open Days, and taking on two weeks of interviewing both in 2024 and 2025.

Interviewing is particularly tiring, and I felt relieved to be able to move down to just one week of it (for the first time since 2005), which seemed appropriate when I took flexible retirement after returning from my year's Visiting Professorship at the National University of Singapore (NUS) in 2022–23. It was largely the age-related strain of two such exhausting weeks, closely followed by the rush of the festive season, and with Hilary term arriving all too quickly, which led me to move down to two terms per year. But having agreed this with the college and faculty before I left for NUS, it then turned out after my year there that they wanted me back, and their second semester fitted well with my break from Oxford, but was significantly less demanding than the Oxford term. Since 2024, therefore, I have spent Hilary term in Singapore, and have to confess that in January it makes a nice change from cold, damp, dark Oxford (though I do miss the delights of the coming of the English spring)!

My main role at NUS is to boost their research (now ranked fourth in the world in 18th-century philosophy, with Oxford second), so my publishing counts for both universities. My primary focus continues to be Hume (if interested, look under 'Scholarship' at www.davidhume.org), though I have in recent years been doing a fair amount on Alan Turing and AI (under 'Research' at www.millican.org). Old members feeling nostalgic about past lectures or tutorials may appreciate the 'Teaching' links at these websites, where I've been putting my latest materials online in case others might find them useful.

Last summer, I hosted the 50th International Hume Society Conference at next-door Wadham College, since the library building works precluded Hertford. It was a particular pleasure to be able to show off to my fellow scholars the unique benefits of an Oxford college, with accommodation mostly on site and communal meals providing a wonderful context for mixing across all ages and nationalities (in contrast with the typical way of organising such conferences, where groups of friends separately head for eateries to match their budgets). Our Bursar Jamie kindly demonstrated his skills in devising a flexible payment system to facilitate booking of both rooms and meals, our Bursary staff made the financial arrangements easy,

and Patricia in International Programmes helped me equip the delegates with folders and pens to remind them of Hertford College.

They all loved Oxford, and amongst other attractions were wonderfully impressed with a display of early modern books kindly put together by the Wadham librarian and our own Alice Roques. They also enjoyed a tour of Hertford, and were duly impressed on discovering that the great Thomas Hobbes – whose portrait adorns the dining hall – is our alumnus!

From the point of view of Hertford College's philosophical community, however, the highlight of the past couple of years has to be the revival of the Philosophy Retreat, which after running from 2010 until 2019 was inevitably interrupted by Covid. As Covid receded, I was hopeful that the Retreat could restart, but with my own retirement getting closer, and Nick – who had gamely participated in previous years – now having young children (thus precluding three nights in the Cotswolds), it was becoming harder to see how this could work. At a lovely PPE reunion in 2023 I frankly expressed my sadness about this, and was surprised and delighted when Liz Neate (2007) – who had devised the plan for the first Retreat – and Brittany Pearce (2010) both independently came up afterwards and offered to help. The first post-Covid Retreat accordingly came together in 2024, with Brittany and Liz playing a major role.

Our new Computer Science fellow Mark van der Wilk was also enthusiastic, and added hugely to the experience by encouraging the students (now including Computer Science as well as the Philosophy programmes) to contribute talks and discussions. He came again in 2025, with Liz and a couple of other alumni also attending. Mark's commitment to the Retreat, and the participation of alumni, gives me confidence that it will now be sustainable beyond my retirement. This is wonderful, because I think that for many alumni – and for me personally – it is memories of the Retreat that will be amongst the most vivid and pleasurable when we remember the Philosophy community at Hertford.



Physics



Professor Siddharth Parameswaran writes:

The big news in Hertford Physics this year is that we were joined by new Fellow and Tutor in Physics, Maria Vincenzi. Maria is an Associate Professor of Astrophysics, whose work focuses on measuring the expansion history of the Universe using Type Ia Supernovae. She has quickly become involved in Physics teaching at Hertford, leading very popular first-year tutorials in mechanics and special relativity, while building her own research group in the department. She will continue in the fine tradition established by beloved tutor Pat Roche, now called back into service as our Interim Principal.

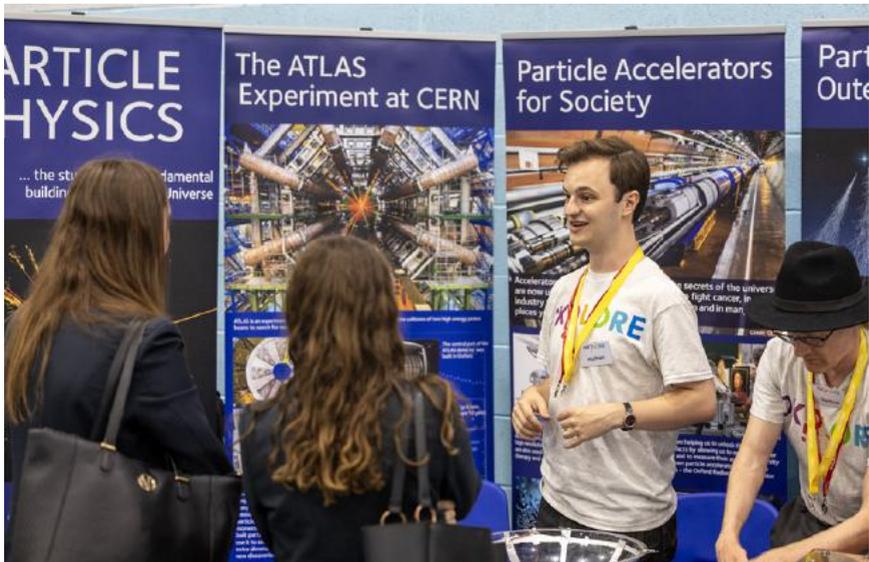
Student results have been similarly positive, with our recent track record of strong exam performances continuing with several first-class outcomes among our finalists. No less than three of them will return to Oxford for their DPhils (two in atmospheric physics and a third in atomic and laser physics, a field in which he also received a Finals Project prize), and a fourth is set to start a doctorate in medical physics at UCL.

On the research side, work has progressed on various fronts. I continue to work on a range of problems that arise at the interface of quantum many-body physics, condensed matter and quantum information, with particularly interesting results this year in two very different topics: understanding new classes of 'twisted' two-dimensional materials, and exploring how quantum information and correlations spread in non-Euclidean geometries.

'The Oxplore festival in Bradford and Warrington in July showcased Oxford research to hundreds of school students' **“**

Maria's independent career has already found early success: just as this article was being written, we were delighted to learn that she has been selected as a recipient of a Future Leaders fellowship from UK Research and Innovation, one of the country's most prestigious fellowship programmes for early-career researchers. The funding will enable Maria to establish a research programme that looks set to play a leading role in the next generation of Type Ia Supernova cosmology experiments, particularly the Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) at the Vera C. Rubin Observatory.

As well as tutoring Hertford students, Sam Henry continues work on ePIC – the Electron-Proton/Ion Collider, an experiment to be built at Brookhaven, New York, to study the result of smashing a beam of electrons into a beam of protons (or heavier ions) to probe the internal structure of these particles. He also presented particle physics at the Oxplora festival in Bradford and Warrington in July, which showcased Oxford research to hundreds of school students.



Politics



Dr Ian Carroll writes:

The 2024–25 academic year was my first opportunity to experience the full annual cycle of life at Hertford, from welcoming the newly arrived freshers to witnessing the feverish preparations for the college ball.

On the research side, I completed work on my paper on political liberalism and the credit theory of money (co-authored with Dr David Birks at the University of Hong Kong), which is now forthcoming in *Ethics*. This paper develops a novel critique of liberal anti-perfectionist accounts of legitimate state action. We argue that these accounts depend on a naïve understanding of how contemporary states acquire money to pay for goods and services, and that adopting a more sophisticated understanding of how money functions invalidates certain long-standing and influential objections offered by political liberals against state funding of art galleries, abortion services and churches, among other things.

Professor Rad Zubek's research has continued to focus on coalition dynamics in democratic legislatures. His most recent paper, published in the current issue of *The Journal of Politics* (DOI: 10.1086/734243), examines the development of the institutional mechanisms by which legislatures conduct oversight of governments – via parliamentary committees, for example. The paper proposes a model of procedural choice under coalition governments and tests the model against a dataset spanning 14 countries and 60 years. It finds that oversight procedures tend to be more robust under coalition governments in which there is substantial policy divergence among the coalition partners, opening up new questions for further research into how political parties shape legislative procedures in parliamentary democracies. Alongside his research, Rad will be stepping into the role of Tutor for Graduates for Hertford from Michaelmas 2025.

Also looking ahead to the coming year, in October 2025 Hertford will be

adding Daniel Lane to its Politics team, who will be teaching Practice of Politics in coordination with Rad. Daniel grew up in Brussels and did his first degree in Political Science at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, where he also completed two years of a BA in Law. Instead of finishing his Law degree, Daniel came to Oxford for the MPhil in European Politics and Society at the Department of Politics and International Relations, where he is now a DPhil candidate. Daniel's DPhil project focuses on understanding how different types of voters perceive compromise and disagreement under coalition governments and in varying political contexts. This literature also focuses on analysing how and why junior parties in coalition governments tend to perform worse than their senior partners in polls and subsequent elections.

Daniel's other research interests lie in broader European politics, with a particular focus on the European Union and its internal dynamics, as well as the politics of Southern Europe and Eastern Europe and how their political sociology differentiates them from Western Europe. In relation to this he has a specific interest in the rise and fall of left-wing populist parties in Southern European countries. When not reading political science academic articles or FT newsletters, Daniel enjoys playing basketball, reading and hikes with his film camera and a dumbphone.

‘This literature also focuses on analysing how and why junior parties in coalition governments tend to perform worse than their senior partners in polls and subsequent elections’

“

JCR

JCR President Digby Gough-Boyack writes:

2024–25 was an exciting and action-packed year for the undergraduate student body at Hertford. At a time of transition marked by the valuable development of the library, our students have also been contributing towards positive change across college and beyond, all whilst channelling the unchangeable Hertford spirit that we know and love. While saying goodbye to the incredible batch of finalists in Trinity term was hard, the absence they left was rapidly filled by an incoming wave of freshers who have brought new ambition to the college.

We kicked off the year with an engaging freshers' week, coordinated by Kimberley Gagliardi, our Freshers' Committee President. The committee got freshers involved in a wide range of activities, including a welcome formal, jazz and wine night, and a truly unforgettable Freshers' Fair. The fun continued into term, with a great selection of social events run by our Entz team, BOPs, pub quizzes, and open mic nights, all of which drew more students into a fun night at DTB.

Alongside these socials, the JCR has welcomed the creation of a diverse selection of new clubs and societies across college, allowing students to enjoy their hobbies and passions including film and poetry. Hertford students have also displayed their excellence through the recent publications of student magazines such as *Starch*, *Scratch*, *Twine* and the *Queer the Deer* newsletter, all of which have allowed Hertford to leave its mark on Oxford's impressive literary landscape. But it has not just been in writing that Hertford students have excelled, as we are proud to host a number of burgeoning new dramatists, whose work with OUDS has led to some highly enjoyed student productions across the city, including *Jack: The Musical*, which made it to the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh!

These societies have given students the opportunity to meet pioneers in their field, such as the Hertford Politics and Economics Society running a Q&A session with Will Hutton. Hertford also hosted several incredible speakers this year for International Women's Day, with all of these events demonstrating the strong link between current Hertford students and our inspiring alumni.

The JCR is proud to have appointed our first Environment and Ethics Officer, who has been working with the college's Sustainability Manager to improve Hertford's carbon footprint. As part of the college's broader sustainability initiatives, students are inspired to get involved and contribute our thoughts.

The backbone of the JCR lies not in its events but in the health and heart of its student body, which could not be maintained without the wonderful work of our Welfare Officers and Student Welfare Lead, Jane Corrigan. We have continued schemes for Welfare Week to shake off those Week 5 blues and have started new projects like weekly breakfasts with our officers. Additionally, we have tried to create new events which are welcoming and engaging to all, such as our first ever Hertford Sports Day at Marston, which was a resounding success. To continue this welcoming environment, we are proud that many students are involved in outreach projects giving tours of the college, which is both a fulfilling use of time and a project rewarded by Ben's Cookies.

Of course, no review of the past year would be complete without mentioning the awesome Hertford College Ball that took place in Trinity term. Catte Street was closed and a night to remember was held under our Bridge of Sighs, a night that would have been impossible without the relentless work of our Ball President Evie Brenkley. Simon and the catering team put on an amazing selection of delicious foods, and it was the perfect way to end the year!

I am incredibly proud of the wonderful student and staff community at Hertford, whose strength of spirit and perseverance through challenges inspires me every day. It has been an honour to have been the elected representative of the JCR this past year, a job which would have been impossible without the unfailing support of my committee and the consideration of college staff. Looking onwards into my final term as President, I am excited to welcome new freshers to our upcoming Christmas soirée, and to pass on the baton to a new generation who will undoubtedly watch over another year of great Hertfordian successes.

‘The backbone of the JCR lies not in its events but in the health and heart of its student body’



MCR

Filipa Paes writes:

The MCR's 2024–25 year started as it often does: with plenty of socialising and cheer, built upon a great deal of preparation by the committee, especially our terrific Social Secretary, Juliet Paiva. Our three weeks of freshers' events (for which I would like to think we now hold a university-wide reputation) included a games night to start things off, our traditional freshers' boat party, an under-the-sea-themed cocktail night, a pub crawl and an MCR run, all culminating in our masquerade Matriculation Ball. The Ball was a particular highlight, with handpicked cocktails from one of the best cocktail bars in Oxford (including a secret cocktail), plenty of ball gowns, and – having taken place three weeks into the term – the point at which many new friends got to attend an MCR event as that: friends.

Of course, you, being a Hertfordian, will know that the fun and busy life of the MCR did not end there. We jumped straight into Halloween celebrations, with carved pumpkins all over the Octagon and a fancy-dress party on the night itself. Throughout Michaelmas term, our long-serving Arts Officer Daniel Whittle hosted film nights under the theme 'You Can't Handle the Film' (films set in and around the courtroom), of which I was certainly a fan, as well as an oil painting night (the first of many, and the reason the MCR remained aptly decorated for the rest of the academic year). Waugh Night, when the MCR travelled back in time to the 1920s, was also a success as usual. Michaelmas term wrapped up with a full week of Christmas events, which included an event with baked goods and festive treats to thank Hertford staff for their hard work.

We returned in full swing in Hilary term, with exchange dinners with Green Templeton College and St Cross College, four oil-painting workshops, each focusing on a different skill, fortnightly film nights and, of course, a supper dedicated to Robert Burns. Not only did we welcome a Hertfordian back to perform the Ode to a Haggis, but we also had a bagpiper lead us from the

'On the first day of term, we gathered for the MCR's May Day formal, flower crowns in hand (or on head)' **“**

Octagon to the Hall to begin the proceedings. We returned to the 1920s once again for a murder mystery night, which may well have been the start of a new Hertford MCR tradition, and brought the term to a close with a wine-tasting evening led by Dr Simon Brewster, the SCR's Master of Wine.

Then came Trinity term, and with it the sun. On the first day of term, we gathered for the MCR's May Day formal, flower crowns in hand (or on head). We returned to some of the year's favourites, hosting more film nights and LGBTQ+ socials, another murder mystery night, a further wine tasting, and one last oil-painting class. It was also during this term that we passed a new MCR Constitution. To finish off the academic year, we had our usual boat party, followed by the Hertford Ball the next weekend. There was much to celebrate.

Such a successful year in the MCR is only possible thanks to the fantastic people who make it what it is, especially those who take on committee roles, without whom my role would have been impossible – and undoubtedly much less fun. I am pleased to report that the Hertford MCR is healthy and prospering.

Arts

Evie Power writes:

Over the past few terms, it has been a real joy to serve as Hertford's Arts Representative and to help build a creative, welcoming and wonderfully informal arts culture within the college. My main aim has been simple: to make art feel accessible, relaxing and fun; a reprieve from the competitive energy of Oxford life. I'm very proud of what we've achieved, and I'm delighted to share a short overview of the projects and events we've run.

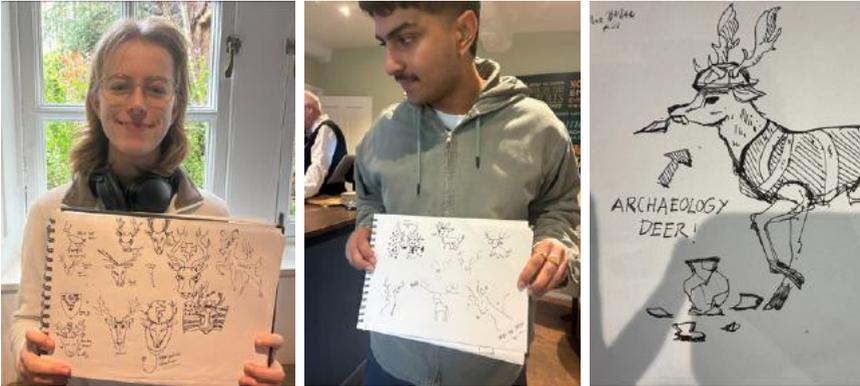
One of the most popular events on our termly calendar has been the 'Paint and Sip' evenings. These events give students the chance to unwind at the end of the day with a drink, some snacks, and a table full of paints and brushes. There's no pressure to create anything serious or polished – just plenty of space to experiment, chat, and enjoy the process. Alongside these, we've hosted recycled T-shirt painting sessions, which have been both eco-friendly and enormous fun. Students brought old shirts, tote bags and scraps of fabric, transforming them into colourful new pieces with the help of paint, fabric markers and a healthy supply of biscuits. These sessions have been all about creativity without judgement: art as play, rather than art as performance.





READING IS
SEXY

12 Colors
Sakura
Paint Markers



I've also been delighted to support Hertford's growing community of writers and illustrators. This term sees the publication of *Twine*, the college's new poetry magazine. We have helped fund small but essential things – printing, supplies, and refreshments for editorial meetings – so that students could focus on putting their best work forward. Alongside this, I co-founded *Scratch* (named after the fate of anyone who dares to pet Simpkin), an informal zine designed to give students a low-pressure space to share drawings, poems, scraps of creative writing, and anything else they feel inspired to contribute. Both publications reflect the ethos at the heart of Hertford creativity: openness, spontaneity, and a celebration of student voices.

Perhaps the biggest arts project of recent terms has been our initiative to replace the AI-generated images in the Buttery with artwork created by Hertford students. This project has involved multiple painting sessions where students were invited to produce new pieces for the Buttery walls. It has been wonderful watching students discover that they don't need to be 'good at art' to make something meaningful, warm and personal. To widen participation even further, we also launched the 'Doodle a Deer' project. Pens, paper and a notebook were left in the Buttery, encouraging anyone, regardless of confidence or experience, to sketch a quick deer.

Across all these projects, our focus has been on fun, informality and inclusivity. Hertford's arts activities offer a gentle refuge from academic pressures – a space where students can simply be themselves, pick up a paintbrush, and create something without worrying about grades or achievement. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who has taken part, and I look forward to seeing the arts continue to flourish at Hertford.

Charities

Richard Morris writes:

Since being elected the JCR's Charity Representative in Trinity term, I have been amazed by how generous and active the members of Hertford have been. Both in their own time, and in schemes organised through the JCR, people have been active in raising money and doing good, and deserve recognition for their brilliant efforts.

At the end of 2024–25 we expanded the collection boxes scheme, donating to three different charities, and the Hertford community did not let us down. Firstly, we collected food for Oxford Mutual Aid, a brilliant charity that provides food support for the community in the local area. We also collected bedding and toiletries for Edge Housing, a charity based in a local church which provides a home and support for people who have experienced homelessness or addiction, helping them to move into independent accommodation and rebuild their lives. Lastly, we collected clothes for the British Heart Foundation to assist research and support for heart and circulatory diseases. In total, we managed to fill five large boxes and three Bags for Life. Next term, we will be doing a collection drive with Oxford Public Health and Turl Street Homeless Action, collecting hygiene products for those experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, we will continue to work with Oxford Mutual Aid this Michaelmas term, organising group volunteer training sessions to pack food parcels and play an active role in the local community. A staple of collecting donations for charity has been our charity pub quizzes in the college bar (a huge thank you to the Bar Representative Elijah Ford for helping to run these), which combine providing an entertaining event with collecting donations and spreading awareness of relevant causes. Across two quizzes so far, we have raised almost £300 for Mencap Oxfordshire, to mark Global Accessibility Awareness Day, and the British Heart Foundation, to mark World Stroke Day.

Outside of JCR campaigns, individual members of our college deserve recognition for their efforts to raise funds in their own time. Last February, Laura Nicholson, Robin Waters and Ethan Janes did 150 loops of the Radcliffe Camera, raising over £500 for BEAT, a charity for those suffering from eating disorders. Marathons in particular have been an incredibly popular way for students to raise funds, and the JCR has played an important role in facilitating their participation by reimbursing their entrance fees. Laura, for example, has

gone on to do the Great North Run twice for the Great Ormond Street Hospital and Alzheimer's Society, as well as the Oxford Half Marathon for Oxfordshire Mind. But she is hardly alone in her endeavours: Holly Simpkins raised £250 for Alzheimer's Research UK in the Oxford Half; Ellis James raised £605 for Tommy's, the pregnancy and baby charity, by running 50 kilometres across the Lake District; and I am certain there are more whose work should be appreciated.

Lastly, I have been working with the JCR Treasurer Sonia to distribute the charities budget, using the money that students have donated in order to support various charities and the work of other students. Despite ever-increasing costs of living, most students have not opted out of the charity fee on their battels, showing the generous nature of our college.

This year, we are donating to a mixture of local and national charities which both reflect matters close to the hearts of JCR members and bridge



Ellis James before running 50k to raise money for Tommy's



Laura Nicholson's photo of the Great North Run

our college's community of students with those who live in the area. We are continuing to support Oxford Mutual Aid and Edge Housing, and will also be donating to Endometriosis UK, a charity that supports diagnosis, treatment and care of all those affected by this disease nationwide; Keen Oxfordshire, which organises inclusive sports, arts and social events for those with intellectual disabilities in the local area; and lastly, Great Ormond Street Hospital, which provides support and cutting-edge resources to children with some of the most complex and rare diseases around the world.

Despite intense academic courses, members of our JCR have done brilliant work over the last year through fundraising and volunteering – a testament to the Hertford spirit. As a college, we have done good both in the local area, across the country, and around the world. I am certain that things can only improve in the future and that Hertford will continue to engage more and more with charitable organisations in years to come.

‘We expanded the collection boxes scheme, donating to three different charities, and the Hertford community did not let us down’



One of the JCR volunteer groups at Oxford Mutual Aid

Environment and Ethics

Freddie Brown writes:

The 2024–25 academic year has been a very exciting time for progress in environmental and ethical issues within Hertford. This year saw the promotion of the former Environment and Ethics representative role to senior officer status on the JCR committee. This formal recognition of the importance of environmental and ethical issues to the student body is a clear demonstration of the JCR's willingness to engage with college staff to ensure that students' views are well represented. As a senior officer, both myself (as interim officer) and my predecessor Isabella Bridgman have had a much stronger position from which to champion issues of sustainability and ethical practice, to help ensure that Hertford makes positive steps in these areas.

Broadly, the role of the Environment and Ethics Officer includes working with other JCR members to promote sustainability in everyday life and advertise student fundraising events. Additionally, aiding in the communication of important updates on sustainability progress is a vital way to ensure that the student body remains engaged and has faith in Hertford's efforts to reduce its environmental impacts. However, arguably the most important responsibility of the role is to represent the JCR body during the regular meetings of the Sustainability Working Group: a group of college staff, including the Principal, who discuss Hertford's progress towards meeting its sustainability objectives.

One of the most influential factors to this end has undoubtedly been the employment of a new dedicated Sustainability Manager, Ellen MacDonald. Ellen has acted as a first port of call within the college for both myself and Isabella, and her willingness to engage with student concerns and projects has greatly enhanced cooperation between the JCR and college. It has been incredibly helpful to have a single member of college staff focused on issues of sustainability and Ellen's support has been particularly important in enabling progress on a wide range of JCR projects. Most notably, the JCR has successfully

'The role of the Environment and Ethics Officer includes working with other JCR members to promote sustainability in everyday life' **”**

implemented charity collection boxes at the end of term, in support of valuable causes such as Oxford Mutual Aid. The large amount of donations received has been a positive sign of student engagement with sustainability initiatives, and provided a way for the JCR to make a real difference on reducing its end of term food waste whilst simultaneously supporting local charities.

Looking forward, there are so many opportunities to enhance student engagement with sustainability. My current focus is on ensuring that biodiversity (an often overlooked aspect of sustainability) does not get sidelined, through initiatives such as installing solitary bee hotels and bird feeders across Hertford's various properties.



Music

Morgan-mei Arnold and Giuliana Tritto write:

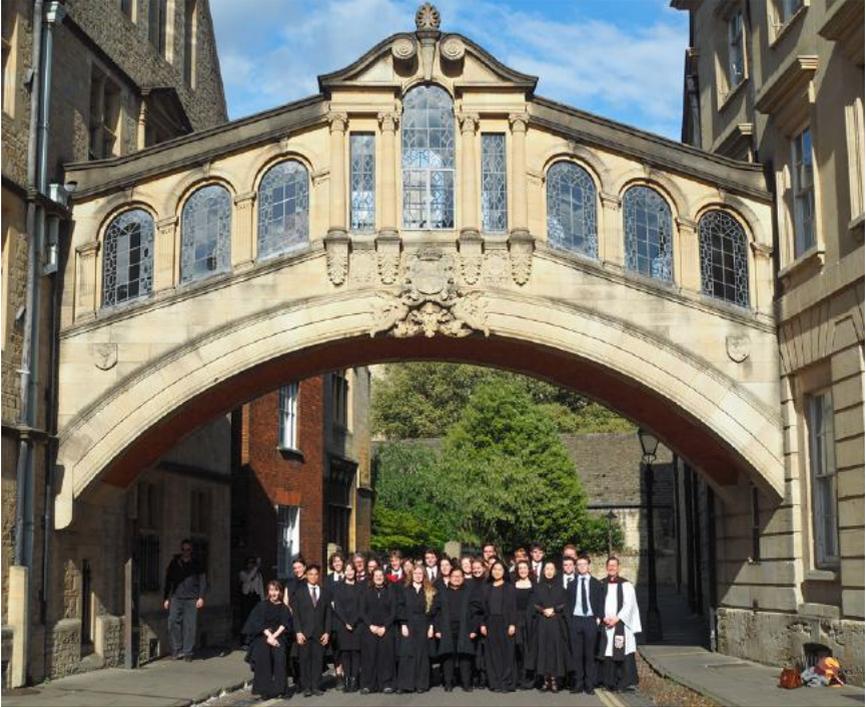
It's been another strong year for music at Hertford College, with offerings including our summer concert in Common Ground Cafe, another round of bleary-eyed May Day Madrigals from the Bridge of Sighs, and HCMS's newest foray into experimental and electronic music.

Warmed in the colder months by complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits, Hertford's chapel continues to offer a peaceful and relaxed venue for students to drop in for weekly lunchtime recitals every Wednesday. Hosting many talented students as well as professional musicians, our recitals provide a wide variety of music. Some highlights: Janáček, Liszt and Wagner were brilliantly played by Hertford tutor Richard Moukarzel in his piano lecture-recital 'Pilgrimages', while Giuliana Tritto's instrument of choice was a wine glass in a performance of Meredith Monk's 'Cow Song'.

As well as our Wednesday recitals, music in chapel continues to thrive through our wonderful chapel choir. We were very lucky to have Helen Smee with us for the first two terms of the year, who shaped and guided the choir with characteristic flair. Highlights included a spirited performance of Rutti's 'I wander as I wonder' for Epiphany Carols and Leighton's classic 'Solus ad victimam' for Passiontide Carols. Helen continued to support chapel music from afar during Trinity term as she prepared to take up her new post as Director of Music at Southwark Cathedral, and our organ scholars stepped in to direct the choir. Seizing the opportunity for a little added whimsy, one of our final services featured Esenvalds' dazzling 'Stars', accompanied by a valiant team of 12 wine-glass ringers. We must also extend our thankyou to Ian Tindale for stepping in to accompany the choir on multiple occasions.

Termly concerts from our three flourishing ensembles only added to the lively music-making at Hertford. Our concert in Trinity term packed Common Ground Cafe in Jericho to the brim! Tickets quickly sold out with the promise of summery drinks from the bar and performances by Hertford's orchestra, jazz

'Termly concerts from our three flourishing ensembles only added to the lively music-making at Hertford' “



band and choir. Haydn's 'Surprise Symphony' kicked the concert off with a great energy that carried through the night. Alongside some May Day Madrigals, the choir sang student composer Lucinda Bell's 'And He Shall Be Like a Tree' as well as 'Earth Song' by Ticheli. With formidable improvising throughout, jazz band brought familiar favourites, playing themes from *Monsters Inc.* and *The Incredibles*, Arturo Sandoval's 'Sandunga', and Stevie Wonder's 'Isn't She Lovely'. All ensembles are non-auditioned, making the musical community one of the most open and active across Oxford. Special thanks go to Oli Spooner, Louis Thomson, and organ scholars Giuli and George, who keep rehearsals and concerts fun and social while maintaining a high quality of music.

We've also had a number of achievements among our cohort of music students this year. George Finney was appointed Principal Conductor of OUChorus, the University's flagship open-access choir, and one of our finalists, Evie Brenkley, presented a very strong dissertation on the struggles and strategies in programming music by women composers, for which she



earned the top mark in the year. A great number of Hertford musicians were also involved in founding SCREAMING MOUTH – HCMS’s new collective for staging new music. Our inaugural concert (‘I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO ANGRY WOMEN’) was centred around music and art exploring women’s rage and raised over £300 for Refuge, a UK-based charity supporting victims of domestic violence. We plan to continue organising SCREAMING MOUTH concerts in the new academic year, hopefully contributing to the experimental music scene in Oxford and continuing to raise money for charity.

Looking to the new year, we’re delighted to announce that Lucy Joy Morris will be joining us as our new Director of Music, directing the chapel choir and overseeing the development of music at Hertford as a whole. As we open this new chapter with Lucy Joy, we can’t wait to see what lies in store for music at Hertford!

Rowing

William Neal writes:

The past year has been special for Hertford College Boat Club, packed with racing inside and outside Oxford, historic achievements, and continued growth. We are particularly grateful to celebrate the 30th year at HCBC of our coach Graham Topping, a truly great individual, coach and Boat Club legend.

Despite the wet, flooded start to Michaelmas, Hertford were determined not to let conditions prevent us from making a strong start to the year. Our usual taster sessions and Novice Regatta were replaced by welcome ergs and a novice 'Ergatta', which helped turn our novices into ergometer machines.

Moving into Hilary term, both M1 and W1 entered Quintin Head, racing a large section of the Tideway from Putney Bridge to Hammersmith Bridge. Our crews clocked impressive times and completed the course with two overtakes each, one of which involved a brutal blade clash between M1 and St Hugh's College. After competing in Quintin, preparations for Torpids began, with six crews eager to take on the winter Isis. However, after substantial rainfall and a prolonged red flag, the race organisers made the decision to race only the





top divisions. This left just the first eights, who both had remarkably successful campaigns. On the final day, W1 won an extraordinary blades-winning bump on Magdalen, who couldn't stay on the right side of the river as Hertford cruised past, keeping their calm. Similarly, M1 earned their blades against New College, who swung wide out of The Gut and couldn't hold off the relentless Hertford crew. Both crews finished the week in Division 1 for the first time in four years, and celebrated their double blades – only the second time in the club's history that such a feat has been achieved.

Our training camp in Exmoor was another highlight of the year, and a perfect opportunity to bring the club together. At the end of Hilary term, Hertford travelled to picturesque Dulverton, and trained hard on the nearby Wimbleball Lake. The five days were filled with windy rowing, battle paddles, delicious crew-cooked dinners, and plenty of local Exmoor ales. We also made our return to the Tideway to race in WeHORR and HORR. The championship course was a gruelling test of endurance, but Hertford took the challenge in their stride. The women's crew crushed the competition and finished with the fastest time out of all Oxford college crews. We were also delighted to meet Hertford alumni who had come to the Tideway to support at HORR and to share stories and drinks with M1 at The Blue Anchor pub.

Summer Eights is always a fantastic experience to finish the Oxford rowing calendar, and our five entered crews were ready to climb the bumps table. M1 and W1 finished their years strongly, both going positive, moving up in their divisions. Similarly, M2 continued their remarkable climb of +11 places in Eights over the past three years, whilst W2 and M3 also had great weeks, rowing on and battling hard every day. Ending the year with strong momentum, the Boat Club is prepared to continue making history next season, when we will celebrate our 150th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of Hertford women's rowing. As ever, Fear the Deer!

‘The women’s crew crushed the competition and finished with the fastest time out of all Oxford college crews’

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Sports

Alice Ledzion writes:

The 2024–25 sporting season unfolded with all the drama, determination and delightful unpredictability that Hertford sport has ever offered. From established powerhouses to brand-new clubs, Hertford students once again proved that our sporting spirit thrives wherever competition (and occasionally chaos) can be found.

We begin on the football pitch, where Hertble – the formidable Hertford–Keble women’s football partnership – continued their reign of dominance. Fresh from last year’s triumph, the squad stormed through Cuppers once again, dispatching Wolfson in the semi-final with a scarcely believable 17–3 victory. The final against Wertonfield proved far more nerve-racking, but Hertble rose to the occasion in characteristic style, battling to a resilient 4–2 win and securing back-to-back Cuppers titles.

On equally competitive terrain, Hertford’s chess players secured their own moment of glory, bringing home the Cuppers trophy after a season of near-flawless strategy and stoic concentration.

Netball enjoyed a similarly strong year. Having only just been promoted into Division 1, the mixed team wasted no time in asserting dominance and claiming the number one position. The following term, the women’s team also claimed the Division 1 title, marking a rare double victory and cementing Hertford’s place at the top of the netballing hierarchy. Hilary term also saw the return of the now-beloved Alumni Match – once again a joyous occasion for students and alumni alike.

On the hockey pitch, Hertford dreamed of reclaiming the Cuppers title of two years ago, but alas, it was not to be. After a gritty 2–1 victory over Magdalen in the quarter-finals, Hertford Hockey’s campaign came to an end with a 0–1 loss to the Lincoln/LMH/Corpus conglomerate in a fiercely fought semi-final.

Ultimate frisbee soared this year, achieving one of the most impressive

‘Hertford students once again proved that our sporting spirit thrives wherever competition (and occasionally chaos) can be found’ “



streaks of the season with at least six consecutive wins – one might even say the team has truly taken off!

Volleyball, too, enjoyed a thrilling Cuppers run, cruising week after week on confident wins to reach the quarter-finals before facing what players have diplomatically described as ‘professionals dressed up as students’ in the semis. Their exit may have been tragic, but the team’s determination never wavered.

Beyond match results, Hertford sport was shaped once again by its students’ commitment to causes beyond the field. Laura Nicholson, Ethan Janes and Robin Waters started their very own charity run, completing 150 laps around the Radcliffe Camera – totalling an impressive 30k – and raising £600 for BEAT Eating Disorders. Their enthusiasm set the tone for a year in which running took on new prominence in college life. Hertford’s newly founded Running Club quickly established itself with weekly Parkrun outings, a strong showing in the Oxford Half Marathon for charity, and an impressive turnout, as ever, for the Oxford Town and Gown 10k in support of Muscular Dystrophy UK.

This year also saw the launch of a second Hertford sports club: the Cue Sports Society, which has started strong with a 100% win record after being established only in Michaelmas.

Rounding out the season was a brand-new addition to Hertford’s sporting calendar: Sports Day. Held on the Marston fields in Trinity term, the event was the first of its kind in Hertford history and hopes to set a precedent for future years. Touch rugby, ultimate frisbee, five-a-side football, tug-of-war and even welly-wanging featured in a packed afternoon that drew students from across years to get outside, get active, and have a laugh – exactly what Hertford sport is all about.



After Hertford

In sight of shore: circumnavigating Britain in an ocean rowing boat



*Hertford alumna
Rosalind Chaston writes:*

I was careering down a wave at 2am, soaked to my skin, and within a mile of some particularly fierce-looking skerries on the west coast of Wales, when I had a real ‘what am I doing here?’ moment.

It was less than a year since I’d finished my MSc in Environmental Change and Management and left the comfort of Hertford’s MCR with the goal of circumnavigating the coast of Britain in an ocean rowing boat, talking to anyone who would speak to me about the challenges and opportunities facing our coastline. It had seemed like a good idea when my partner Andy and I hatched the plan in the mid-winter warmth of the Lamb and Flag. The expedition that followed saw us spend 81 days at sea in a six-metre rowboat, weathering three named storms, and learning as much about ourselves as we did about our coast.

Ocean rowing wasn’t entirely new to me – a year before Oxford, Andy and I had crossed the Atlantic – but the chop, whirlpools and rocks of the coast, alongside the world’s busiest shipping lane, presented a far steeper learning curve than any open-ocean swell. Our strategy was to make the most of strong tidal streams: rowing for 12 hours a day in two shifts with the tide, and anchoring to snatch some sleep in our tiny cabin when it turned against us.

A geographer’s paradise

For anyone who likes geography (and I know a lot of Hertford alumni do!), rowing is a wonderful way to travel. We move at more-or-less a walking pace, giving us the time and headspace to study the details of a landscape. A favourite pastime during long shifts was noticing how patterns evolved along the coast.

In the South-East, chalk cliffs rose tall with dark green vegetation perched on top like an ill-fitting wig. Settlements dotted open beachfronts like chocolate-box towns. Further west, the geology became darker, sandier, and more gnarled. Trees and hedges made homes for themselves on every ledge and towns gathered around river mouths and estuaries.

We rowed the 70 miles across open water to the east coast of Ireland, where settlements sat pleasingly in front of undulating hills. These grew taller as we headed north towards Scotland, with the great, glacial U-shaped loughs becoming the dominant feature of the landscape in the Highlands and Islands.

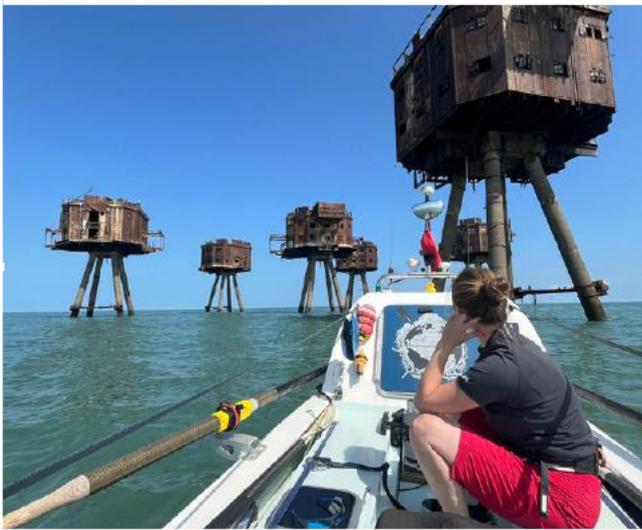
Throughout, we were joined by some of the most charismatic wildlife. Dolphins and porpoises were an almost daily feature (we have a theory that they like the 'woosh' of the oars in the water) and they would frequently come and play alongside the boat. The seals were less forthcoming, but just as curious, and we were even lucky enough to have an enormous minke whale visit on an incredibly still day in the middle of the Irish Sea.

A particularly magical encounter came as we rowed through a pitch-black night. There were no clouds and it was a new moon, so our eyes were focused up on a spectacularly clear night-sky when we heard a 'pfft' and saw a figure light up in bright sparkling turquoise in the water. A pod of dolphins had come for a visit when we happened to be rowing through a patch of bioluminescent plankton. As the dolphins swam alongside the boat, they disturbed the water and caused it to glow like some kind of siren or mermaid. I can see why sailors have always been a superstitious bunch!

The human coast

I wish I could return from an expedition and simply write an anthology of the wonderful places that we saw and people that we met, but the joy of rowing is that you see it all! The reality is that, like every ecosystem on earth, coastal waters are facing unprecedented challenges. We rowed through water polluted with raw sewage, plucked countless items of plastic out of the ocean as they floated past, and heard first-hand accounts from the people finding it increasingly difficult to make a sustainable livelihood from the sea. Having studied environmental change, one of the major goals of the expedition was to get a practical sense of these challenges in action, and hear from the people trying to tackle them. Reading about sustainable fishing methods in the Bodleian isn't quite the same as actually getting friendly with the fishermen – who always looked after us and offered the best recommendations for shortcuts and shelter!







We interviewed individuals working on a whole range of issues for our 'In Sight of Shore' podcast, with each displaying an awe-inspiring dedication to improving their corner of the coast: from the surfers campaigning for water-monitoring in bathing areas, to the sailor helping disadvantaged young people into secure maritime employment, the local group fundraising to restore coastal defences in a hamlet too small for government funding, and the energetic team growing seagrass nurseries and oyster reefs.

A consistent theme was the need to establish coastal cities as thriving centres in their own right; not just expecting a beach-side holiday amenity, but establishing them as leaders of tomorrow's economy, with innovation, secure employment and sustainability at their heart. Did you know that the UK (the Solent) used to be home to Europe's biggest oyster fishery? Imagine the cultural, environmental and economic value in re-establishing that!

A tricky and emotional end

From the very start of the expedition, the weather gods were against us and we spent much of our time holed up in the tiniest coves and rivers, praying that our anchor would hold in the strong winds and anxious about what we'd do if it didn't. Storm Floris hit on our second week, forcing us into the tiny (but beautiful) Cuckmere Haven nature reserve, where we waited for a week. Ex-Hurricane Erin hit as we rounded Land's End, forcing us to sprint from stop-to-stop, before the grand finale... Winds of over 60mph shook us as the epicentre of Storm Amy passed over our heads in Northern Ireland.

A warming climate is driving less predictable and more extreme weather, but we were particularly unlucky this year. The delays each storm forced meant that we weren't able to achieve our initial goal of circumnavigating the whole coast of Britain, and after 81 days we set foot back on dry land in the idyllic Scottish hamlet of Crinan – 12kg lighter and incredibly windswept, but thankful for a warm shower and a dram of whisky. It's the way adventures go sometimes, but it was a bitter pill to swallow – especially having put all our money and so much time and effort into achieving our goal. With a little time and distance, I can appreciate the wonderful moments we had and the lessons we learned along the way, but in the moment I struggled to overcome the feeling of what I perceived to be a failure and the disappointment that I wouldn't be able to see the east coast of Britain from the rowboat.

During my time at Hertford, I was lucky enough to attend the Head, Hand, Hertford course led by then Principal Tom Fletcher. One of the speakers was a poet who, having lived through apartheid, has faced more hardship and challenge than I can even comprehend. He spoke about the courage it takes to remain optimistic: to visualise a different world and to work, often quietly and without recognition, towards a goal that can feel impossibly far away. Hardship, he argued, doesn't have to harden us; it can sharpen our sense of purpose. That thought came back to me, staring out of the rain-streaked windows on the long drive home. The expedition hadn't ended as we'd hoped, but it hadn't ended without meaning.

As I return to 'regular life', the lessons from the ocean are frequently at the top of my mind. A deep sense of urgency to address worsening environmental crises, along with a renewed sense of hope drawn from the tireless efforts of the people I met around the coast, has guided my work at the School of Geography and the Environment since my return. Keeping society at the centre of any solutions is an absolute must. For the next year at least, I will be focused on this. But the call of the coast is never far away... there's still the whole of the east coast to explore!

Rosalind Chaston is Knowledge Exchange Officer at Oxford Net Zero, SOGE. She completed an MSc in Environmental Change and Management in 2023–24 and was Hertford's MCR Sustainability Officer.

'Like every ecosystem on earth, coastal waters are facing unprecedented challenges' “

Hertford Society



Chairman Barry Lester writes:

The Society has continued its efforts to bring Hertford graduates together, both in Oxford and elsewhere, complementing the alumni relations programme organised by the college's Development Office. We also look to find ways of supporting the college: mainly by paying for significant projects, small and large, which might not normally be given priority; or by contributing to major college projects.

The committee held its end of year meeting in November 2024 at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. Each year we give some money to both the JCR and MCR to support their respective Freshers' Weeks, and we agreed to donate £1,000 to each. Simpkin received the usual £250 for his upkeep.

We discussed how we might recognise outgoing Principal Tom Fletcher's services to the college and his support of the Hertford Society, and we decided to contribute £1,500 to a bursary for an undergraduate in need of support. I reported that I had received a letter of thanks from both Tom Fletcher and Interim Principal Pat Roche expressing the college's gratitude for our recent donations, totalling £3,750.

In February of this year, we held a committee meeting at the RAF Club. It was reported that Angela Fane (Education, 1978) had resigned from the Committee, and the Committee expressed its gratitude for her many years

'Pat Roche spoke at the event, outlining recent developments at the college and its ambitious plans'

“

of service and commitment. It was pleasing that, in response to an approach to Society members asking them to put themselves forward to serve on the Committee, we had received more applications than we had places.

After the meeting, we held our annual committee dinner, attended by Digby Gough-Boyack (President of the JCR) and Filipa Paes (President of the MCR) as our guests. Also at the dinner were our former Treasurer Stephen Kinsey and former President Roger Westbrook CMG.

In July 2025, we once again held a reunion drinks and canapé party for recent Hertford leavers, at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. This event, for JCR and MCR members who have left the college in the last three years, was planned, organised and given generous financial support by our committee member Bob Smith, who had conceived the idea. We are grateful to him and to the Development Office for making this successful evening happen. We believe it is so important for the Society to reach out in this and other ways to young Hertford alumni and we hope to maintain contacts with many of them in the future. Pat Roche spoke at the event, outlining recent developments at the college and its ambitious plans.





The long history of Hertford has always been very close to the heart of the Society. Two aspirational projects have recently been the subject of discussion among the Committee: helping to restore/conservé the Annunciation carvings on the Octagon; and, long-term, completing the restoration of the college's WWII memorial with a proper colouring of the incised names.

We are working very closely with Simon Lerwill, Interim Director of Development, to strengthen and develop the Society's contribution to alumni relations, and a very good working relationship has now been established between the college and the Society. The number of Society members has recently been increasing, which is encouraging. It seems that our policy of offering members of the Society discounted tickets to our social events is persuading alumni to sign up.

The Society held its annual summer social event in college in September 2025. This was preceded by a meeting of the Committee where we agreed to donate £5,000 to name one of the larger tables in the new library. The Annual General Meeting which followed, chaired by our President, elected five new members to the Committee. These are Nick Graves (Chemistry, 1974), Rosalind Atkins (Medicine, 1975), Julian Soper (Physiological Sciences, 1982),

George Panagopolous (Law, 1995) and Daniel Villar (Zoology, 2016 at Wadham; joined Hertford in 2020). The Committee will be strengthened by these new members, adding welcome new blood to our management.

Following the AGM, we had drinks in and immediately outside the chapel and then lunch in hall. The 60 or so alumni and guests who attended heard Pat Roche speak of the progress being made in the new library project, and the current healthy state of the college and its aspirations. The Development Office put a lot of work into making this day a success and the Society is grateful for that.

I am going to end by giving special thanks to my fellow Society officers: our Secretary Graham Jones, Membership Secretary Chris Mockler and Treasurer Steven Hubbard. They work hard and cheerfully to make the Society function. I would also like to thank the Development Office, and in particular Georgia Weir, for all their work on our behalf.

Our summer social event in 2026 will take the form of the AGM followed by a black-tie dinner in hall. With the kind permission of the college, this will take place on **Saturday 27 June 2026**. This is open to all Hertford alumni and their guests, so please put the event in your calendars.



Alumni news

In September 2024, the popular daily political podcast *Newscast*, hosted by **Adam Fleming** (Geography, 1998), hit 1,500 episodes.

In October, **David Holton** (Classics, 1964 and DPhil Mediaeval and Modern Languages, 1968), Emeritus Professor of Modern Greek at the University of Cambridge and Emeritus Fellow of Selwyn College, was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He continues to research and publish in the field of Modern Greek language and literature.

In January 2025, Honorary Fellow **Moazzam Malik** (MSc Economics for Development, 1989) became CEO of Save the Children UK. He previously served as UK Ambassador to Indonesia for five years and as Director General, first at the Department for International Development and then at the merged Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office. Most recently he was Managing Director at the World Resources Institute, working on global climate change and development, and leading a programme of organisational change.

Also in January, **Pinny Grylls** (Archaeology and Anthropology, 1996), together with fellow Oxford alumnus Sam Crane, won both Best Debut Director (Feature Documentary) and the prestigious Radiance Maverick Award at the British Independent Film Awards for their bold and innovative documentary, *Grand Theft Hamlet*.

In March, **Ina Hanninger** (MEng Engineering Science, 2016), CTO and co-founder of Anathem, received a Women in Innovation from Innovate UK for her work developing AI solutions that will help to transform high-stake public services. She opted to receive her purple plaque at Hertford because of the impact that her time in the college and the support of her tutors has had on her career.

In May, **Tony Champion** (DPhil Geography, 1969), Emeritus Professor of Population Geography at Newcastle University, was awarded an honorary fellowship by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) for 'Service to Geography', and Taylor & Francis's *Shakespeare* journal published the article 'Where Did Shakespeare Get Married?' by **Robin Selby** (English Language and Literature, 1967), 50 years after OUP published his book on Cardinal Newman.

In June, Visiting Fellow **Kate McGrath** (English and Modern Languages, 1997) was awarded an OBE in the 2025 Birthday Honours List in recognition of her services to theatre, and **Nigel Thornton** (Geography, 1986) received an honorary professorship in the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Exeter.

In August, Honorary Fellow **Athol Williams** (MPhil Political Theory, 2015) won the 2025 Best Story for 'The Ring Around Saturn', which appears in the Short.Sharp.Stories anthology 'Power: Short stories that light the dark'. Williams is a poet and applied philosopher at the University of Oxford, and 'The Ring Around Saturn' is his third published short story.

Obituaries

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

1947

David John Steen* (Literae Humaniores)

1951

John Dennis Bonney* (Law)

Edwin Longmire Pomeroy* (Literae Humaniores)

1952

Sir David Paul Brandes Goldberg (Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology)

Patrick Albert George Jeffers (French and German)

1953

Robert Arthur Peter Coupe OBE* (Modern History)

1956

Mark Gardyne Drake (Modern Languages)

David Meredith Spawforth* (Modern Languages)

1957

James Hugh Chatterton (Geography)

Roger Markham Kirkus (Modern Languages)

Wynne Milton Rigal* (Medicine)

Michael James White (Geography)

1958

Ian Gordon Barnett (Modern History)

Richard Edwin Copley (Modern History)

Charles Vevers Phythian-Adams* (Modern History)

1964

Timothy John Cornish* (Theology, 1964; Educational Studies, 1967)

1965

Alan John Hinchcliffe* (Chemistry)

Anthony Victor Swing* (Modern History)

1966

Dennis John Davey* (Music)

The Revd Prebendary John Kenneth Brownsell (Law, 1966; Theology, 1970)

1968

Paul Ellis White OBE* (Geography)

1971

David John Arscott* (English)

1973

Martin Denis Corrick* (English Language and Literature)

1979

Jeremy Roy Donaldson (Law)

1990

Sarah Jane Trevarthen* (Geology)

1992

Daniel Mortimer Reid Eatherley* (Biological Sciences)

2004

Robert Ian Knight (Economics and Management)

David John Steen (Literae Humaniores, 1947)

David Steen was born in Bromley in October 1928. The son of a schoolteacher, he won a scholarship to St Paul's, which was temporarily re-housed to near Camberley during the Second World War. His war summers were spent working on farms in Somerset. A golden period for cricket also led to a lifelong love of the game, along with football, horseracing and rugby.

Following St Paul's, he went up to Hertford College, studying Classics. After National Service as an Education Officer in the Royal Air Force, he went into the city, joining what was then the leading firm of Stock Jobbers Pinchin Denny. He remained there until it was acquired by Morgan Grenfell after Big Bang. He was made a member of the Stock Exchange in 1963 and with rapid promotion became a long-serving member of the Stock Exchange's Council.

Local politics also became David's passion. He was elected as a Sevenoaks Urban District Conservative councillor in 1965 and played a pivotal part in the reshaping of the Town Plan and route of the A21 bypass, protecting the natural beauty of Knole Park. He remained fiercely independent and enjoyed holding the Urban District Council to account over a whole range of local issues, not least the frequency of rubbish collections.

Outside of the City David was devoted to his wife Mary, whom he married in 1955, and his family. He was happily married for 66 years until Mary's death in July 2021. They had three children, Penny, Gill and Jeremy. Their eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also gave them great pleasure.

The *Financial Times* described David as an options crusader who broke the mould. David was the founding father of the London Traded Options market, spearheading its development, despite reservations from conservative City elders. He oversaw its launch in 1978 and became its chairman upon inauguration, remaining so until August 1986. By the time he retired in April 1987 the London Traded Options market had evolved into a billion-pound business. Pivotal moments in its development included British Telecom's options being listed after its privatisation in 1984 and then, after Big Bang in 1986, with circa 30–60 equity market makers having positions they wanted to hedge, using the Market.

Upon retirement in 1987, David and Mary became mentors to several of the Vietnamese Boat Children housed at Hampton Court House with 'Save the Children Fund'. They helped the children integrate into British life and remained in contact with their mentees throughout their lives, being particularly delighted

when one obtained a place at Hertford College.

David remained passionate about sport, *The Times* crossword and Worcestershire sauce throughout his retirement!

With thanks to Alexander Nicoll, *Financial Times*, and Tom Keevil.

John Dennis Bonney (Law, 1951)

Dennis Bonney passed away peacefully in San Francisco on 5 November 2024. He is survived by his six children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Dennis was a man of learning and integrity. He cared deeply about family and friends, about gaining and sharing knowledge, and about finding common ground across cultures and viewpoints. He loved listening to the music of others, playing his violin, being outdoors in the fresh air in any weather, and relaxing with a book or newspaper and a hot cup of tea.

Dennis was born in Blackpool. His childhood was defined by World War II. He had vivid memories of the Blitz while living in Sheffield, including strict food rationing, blackouts and bombings at night. Notwithstanding the deprivations and dangers of wartime, the outdoors figured prominently in his youth. He was a Scout, and enjoyed hiking, tramping, and camping as far away as the Lake District.

Following in his father's footsteps, Dennis learned to play the violin as a young boy and continued to play until the age of 91.

Dennis earned a Master of Arts degree from Hertford College and subsequently achieved a Master of Laws degree from the University of California, Berkeley. It is in California that he met his future wife Auriol and established lifelong friendships with fellow students from all over the world.

Dennis and Auriol married in England in 1960, and then moved permanently back to Berkeley, California, where they went on to raise four children. Beginning in 1967, they built a summer cabin at Jago Bay on Clear Lake in northern California. Hammers and power tools were the soundtrack of many a summer as they created a legacy which remains a treasured family retreat to this day.

Dennis found work with Standard Oil of California (later Chevron), where he spent the next 35 years. He particularly enjoyed the people he worked with over the years, and the opportunity to travel and explore other cultures. He formed many friendships that extended beyond his retirement.

In the mid-1980s Dennis married his second wife, Elizabeth. Together they lived in San Francisco and raised two boys. Going to their local baseball games and following the SF Giants became a shared favourite pastime.

Dennis was active in various organisations, especially those relating to his love of music. He found great intellectual challenge and joy from participating in organisations that created opportunities for learning and sharing knowledge, including such entities as the Commonwealth Club, the World Affairs Council, and the Bohemian Club. He maintained strong connections with the International House (UC Berkeley) and the Oxford-Cambridge Club. He loved the outdoors and supported efforts to protect the natural world for future generations. He was also an advocate for young musicians, encouraging their success through entities such as the Morrison Chamber Music Center.

With thanks to the *San Francisco Chronicle* and Ferelith Senjem.

Edwin Longmire Pomeroy (Literae Humaniores, 1951)

Edwin Longmire Pomeroy, otherwise known as Uncle Edwin, Ed or Pom, was well-educated, well-travelled and in every sense led a life well-lived. He remained close to his family at all times but lived in New York for the bulk of his adult life, travelling the world (and acquiring some exotic tastes in food and wine along the way). He was renowned for many things, including his classically British understated personality, incredible generosity, steel-trap mind, and insatiable curiosity about wherever he was and whoever he was with.

Edwin was born on 11 August 1932 to Salleye and Stanley Pomeroy at the family home. He was the middle child of three with Ruth, his sister, two years older than him and Henry, his brother, five years younger than him. The three siblings were close throughout their lives wherever they were in the world.

Edwin's education started at Dulwich Prep School, and it was there that he secured a scholarship to St Paul's School. From there he went on to Hertford College to study Classics (and, it transpired, to be President of the Wine Society). He and his great friends David Ransome, Dennis Bonney and a Rhodes Scholar from Oklahoma, Don Bell, formed a gang of four in college and as David said, it is ironic that the three Englishmen who in 1951 thought they were anglicising Don, all ended up having lives and careers in the US.

After Oxford, in 1955, Edwin went to work as a trainee at The First National City Bank of New York, or Citi as it is known today, in their London office,

transferring to New York later. He spent his entire professional career at the bank and spent his working life travelling around the globe as part of the international inspection team, working his way up to Global Corporate Head of Treasury and Capital Markets, the position he held when he retired in 1995.

Along the way, he visited over 110 countries. He was professional, knowledgeable, revered and respected wherever he went, and was a cherished mentor to many a colleague in the bank, often also described as kind, understated and the quintessential Englishman. As one of his colleagues stated, he helped make Citi a well-run institution. It is a testament to how much he was loved by his former colleagues that so many of them took the chance to write to the family with their stories and tributes following his death, 30 years after he retired.

Edwin's generosity was not limited to his family, and he made a great many charitable donations to the college, his school and a wide range of other charities covering everything from child welfare to Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

His classic British understated personality came to the fore as a passenger on Pan Am PA 073 when it was hijacked in Karachi, where he passed what must have been an incredibly stressful time playing cards with fellow passengers and, as legend would have it, even the hijackers. He rarely talked about this experience, but it wasn't until the recent documentary on TV about it that the true horrors became clear. When they escaped, Edwin was given a choice of two hotels and not surprisingly chose the one where you could have a stiff drink!

Edwin loved being in New York. He bought his Sutton Place apartment in Manhattan in the seventies and sold it only in late 2024. He had some extremely good friends there, and a great social life which included eating out far more often than he ate in (Edwin was many things but he was never a chef!), and spending time at the New York British Schools and Universities Club, the New York Old Paulines club, and playing bridge and backgammon. He was an avid backgammon teacher, and his love of that game in particular was handed down to many family members.

On retirement he often summered in the South of France and moved between New York and the UK regularly. Edwin took an interest in everyone he met and at any gathering could always be found talking to other guests about their lives. Anyone who met Edwin would be asked where they were from, be told a story about how he had spent a couple of weeks in their town once and then be excitedly asked questions about the current state of affairs in their region.

Edwin died on 27 April 2025. He is survived by his nieces and nephews, Jane, Tessa, Andrew and Chris and their families.

With thanks to Jane Stewart.

Robert ‘Bob’ Arthur Peter Coupe OBE (Modern History, 1953)

Bob was born in Stockport to Jinnie and Arthur Coupe, the middle of three siblings. Arthur was a compositor on the Manchester Evening News; Jinnie was a full-time mother who played the piano and the violin and gave her children their first lessons on these instruments.

He attended Heaton Moor Council School before gaining a place at Manchester Grammar School. He enjoyed his time there, responding well to the academic curriculum, playing his cello in the school orchestra and participating in debating. In the sixth form, he studied History, English, Latin and Greek. This set him on course for a place at Hertford College, Oxford where he read Modern History, shocking his tutor by wishing to base this study on events since 1939! After graduation came National Service, which took him to the Joint Services Language School at Crail in Fife. There he learned Russian before being posted to the War Office in Whitehall, London.

His two years completed, he returned to Heaton Moor and, having joined the Civil Service, began work in the local Pensions and National Insurance Office in Altrincham. From there he moved to London and worked on several aspects of government policy and with various Ministers of State on pensions and health.

In 1964 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace and served for 41 years on the Bench, eventually becoming Chairman of the Bench. When he retired from the Civil Service in 1995, he received an OBE from the Queen and enjoyed his visit to Buckingham Palace with his wife and sisters.

During his teenage years, Bob began to attend Heaton Moor Methodist Church and its youth club The Venturers. It was in this company that his strong Christian faith developed, which remained with him for the rest of his life. In London, this was fostered by the people of Sunfields Methodist Church in Blackheath, where he led a youth discussion group and met his wife Elaine. Their relationship was kindled by a shared interest in politics and attending a hustings event in Greenwich during the 1964 General Election campaign. In later years they supported the Liberal Democrats, and each stood as a candidate several times in local elections.

Having studied Russian at Crail, Bob was keen to visit that country, which he did with an old school friend in the 1960s. Over several years, Bob and Elaine visited most of the former Communist countries in Europe and then began on the parts of the old Yugoslavia. Their last expedition was to Serbia in April 2024.

Bob was also a great walker. With two friends he spent a week in 1966 covering part of the Pennine Way. After retirement, the South West Coast Path beckoned. Each year in springtime, in the company of two close friends, Bob and Elaine spent a week walking this wonderful trail. It took them 16 years to complete!

With thanks to Elaine Coupe.

David Meredith Spawforth (Modern Languages, 1956)

David's life was defined by his work. He was a teacher and headmaster who dedicated his working life to making a positive impact on the lives of the young people he taught and led.

David's career started when he was at Oxford reading French and German. During his studies, he spent time in Germany teaching English to German students. He very much enjoyed this experience and decided to become a teacher when he graduated.

His first job was as a Modern Languages teacher at Winchester College. From there David and his wife Yvonne moved to Wellington College, where his career flourished not only in the classroom but also as a pastoral leader. He was made a housemaster, responsible for the wellbeing, academic and personal development of boys who boarded in his House. He was supported enormously in this role by Yvonne. Together they acted as house parents to 60 boys aged 13 to 18, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They made a great team.

In 1980 family life changed dramatically when David was appointed Headmaster of Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh. David threw himself into his new role with drive and imagination and the school prospered under his 18-year headship. He made some great appointments and built a strong team and community. Over time academic standards improved, and Merchiston became a force on the rugby field and were many times Scottish Schools champions. Music and the arts also flourished.

David was quick to see opportunities to recruit boys from the Scottish expat community. He rekindled a strong relationship with Merchiston's namesake in South Africa. The choir went on tour to Hong Kong and the rugby team

to Japan. At some point on one of these excursions David seems to have been identified by the Chinese Government as some sort of expert in British Independent School Education and he was invited to go to mainland China to visit schools and talk about the merits of the British education system. There were many high points in David's career, none more so than the Queen's visit to Merchiston in 1983 to mark its 150th anniversary.

After retiring from Merchiston, David spent 16 years working as a Liaison Officer for the Arkwright Trust, which offers Arkwright Scholarships to encourage and support young people to follow a career in Design and Engineering. David's family received a lovely message from the CEO which commended David for 'playing a key role in supporting countless young people as they began their journeys into engineering, offering warmth, wisdom and unwavering encouragement'.

With thanks to Graham Spawforth.

Wynne Milton Rigal (Medicine, 1957)

Wynne Milton Rigal (Zelig Mendel ben Yitzhak) died on 17 October 2024 at his home in Brander Gardens, Edmonton. He was born on 28 April 1932 in Kimberley South Africa to Rachel (Reggie) Tooch and Isaac (Mike) Rigal. He grew up on the Tooch family ostrich farm in Oudsthoorn, after his father's death in 1937. His mother then married Isaac (Sakkie/Dood) Kahn and they moved to Cape Town; Dood became a beloved second father to Wynne.

After attending South African College School where he played rugby and excelled at track and field, Wynne completed his medical degree at the University of Cape Town where he received invaluable frontline training attending to patients in District Six. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford where he studied Physiology at Hertford College and earned his Doctor of Philosophy in 1961.

He married Elizabeth (Betsy) Frances Alexandor in Ottawa in 1961 after being introduced to her on a blind date in New York City, where he was attending a convention and she was working for the CIA. They moved to Edinburgh, where he took up a clinical teaching position at the University of Edinburgh. He received a World Health Organisation grant for travel in the USA (1960) and a Council of Europe grant for work in Amsterdam and Vienna (1961), and became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1961.

In 1968 Wynne and Betsy moved to Edmonton where he lived for 56 years.

Wynne practised and taught orthopaedic surgery at the University of Alberta until retirement. He then travelled Alberta in his beloved Dodge camper van running medical clinics and performing minor surgery at under-resourced rural hospitals. He was an active member of his synagogue, Beth Shalom, where he served as President in the 1970s.

Wynne is survived and mourned by his children, Kyna, Dara, Jennifer and Bruce and their spouses and their children, his stepchildren, step-grandchildren and by his three ex-wives/partners Betsy, Joan Wilson and Lesley Jacobson.

He will be remembered with love, gratitude and admiration by family, friends, colleagues, hunting, cycling and skiing buddies, and especially his patients, whom he treated meticulously with affection and professionalism. This is a bare outline of a life filled with passion for his profession, the outdoors, Judaism, debate, good food and drink, and the love of his Labradors, patients, friends and family.

With thanks to Bruce Rigal and Jennifer Rigal.

Charles Vevers Phythian-Adams (Modern History, 1958)

Charles Phythian-Adams started his academic career as a historian at Hertford, but he will always be associated with the University of Leicester and its Department of English Local History, originally founded in 1948 and now renamed the Centre for Regional and Local History. Alongside Leicester's Centre for Urban History, with which Phythian-Adams was also closely associated, this has proved one of the most productive centres for historical learning and research in postwar England. Its success owes much to his generosity as a scholar and the encouragement he gave to academics and students, but also to his skills as a fundraiser, administrator and political operator within the corridors of university bureaucracy. The 'Leicester School' of local history, which he did so much to secure, is widely admired and even envied by historians in other countries.

Professor Phythian-Adams grew up in Carlisle, the son of a canon at the city's cathedral. He went to Marlborough College before joining Hertford, where he started his thesis on medieval Coventry. This was eventually published in 1979 as *Desolation of a City: Coventry and the Urban Crisis of the late Middle Ages*. Although a history of economic decline, this study also drew on historical anthropology, examining how Coventry's citizens related to one another, and how they constructed their own world through their ceremonies and plays. Thus it contains what Richard Holt and Gervase Rosser consider 'the first serious

study of urban ritual in medieval England'. Phythian-Adams paid particular attention to the development of such rituals as they mutated in different periods and different locations: his study 'Milk and Soot', on the changing customs of May Day from the 17th to 19th centuries, is exemplary in this regard.

He followed his doctoral supervisor W.G. Hoskins from Oxford to Leicester, but whereas Hoskins was primarily a rural historian, Phythian-Adams' vision of local history integrated the rural and the urban, as demonstrated in *The Land of the Cumbrians: A Study in British Provincial Origins, AD 400–1120* (1996) and more widely in *Societies, Cultures and Kinship, 1580–1850: Cultural Provinces and English Local History* (1993). As these titles attest, he had a strikingly large chronological range for a historian. Both works also demonstrate his commitment to 'integrative' history which 'seeks to reconstitute and to explain the multi-dimensional nature of past experience', rather than what he termed 'disintegrative history' focused on 'pre-selected processes and highly specific tendencies in the relatively short term'.

This kind of 'history in the round' could probably only be done on the local scale, but his commitment to the local went beyond the demands of his chosen method. He also believed that regional societies, or what he termed 'provinces', were culturally and socially distinct, as demonstrated in place names, dialect, customs, vernacular building styles and religious behaviour, among other manifestations. Regional patterns of thought and behaviour might endure within these provinces over very long periods, affecting landholdings, choice of marriage partner, voting patterns and local government. Such patterns were related to, but not determined by, the agricultural landscape. While he emphasised continuities, as a borderer he was particularly keen to mark out the boundaries of these cultural provinces, drawing as much on bus timetables as on pre-Norman ethnic divisions. Not all of his determinations have been accepted within the historical discipline, but they always showed an openness to new ideas and new methods, while remaining committed to an integrated sense of the past.

It was important to him that this sense of the past was available, and comprehensible, to anyone who was interested. Like other historians from the Leicester School, he wanted to connect with the wider public, and did so, through the Open University as well as the Historical Association and local history societies. His handbook *Re-thinking English Local History* both celebrated amateur scholars and aimed to help them further enrich our knowledge of the local past. One measure of this commitment is that his writing is always jargon-free, unusually so for a historian who was methodologically innovative.

I would like to add one final word in my capacity as President of the Folklore Society. Charles Phythian-Adams regularly promoted folklore as means to explore what he labelled ‘traditional society’, a locally coherent way of thinking and doing. In the last quarter of the last century, English history flourished thanks to a profusion of historians who used folklore to escape the rigidities and silences of official, administrative sources – E.P. Thompson, Joan Thirsk, Keith Thomas, Bob Bushaway, David Cressy, Jim Obelkevich, Ronald Hutton, Keith Snell, David Hey and Margaret Spufford, to name just a handful (several of these names were also connected to Leicester). But not all of them actively proselytised for folklore as did Professor Phythian-Adams, for instance in the *Oxford Companion to Local and Family History*. The Society is very grateful for this support.

Professor Phythian-Adams, who died in May 2025, is survived by his wife Judy, for many years the head administrator in Leicester’s School of History, and his two daughters.

With thanks to David Hopkin and Keith Snell.

Timothy John Cornish (Theology, 1964; Educational Studies, 1967)

It seems appropriate to follow the obituary for Charles Phythian-Adams, Professor of English Local History, with that of Tim Cornish, another Hertfordian and local historian. Tim was, among other things, the author of *Medieval Mayfield: Archbishops and Peasants*, published in 2022. By that time, Tim had lived in the village of Mayfield, East Sussex, for 40 years and knew every inch of the parish.

Mayfield is a Wealden village of wood and hill, which, although home to a church and retreat built by St Dunstan in the tenth century, was only sparsely inhabited before 1260, the year in which the Archbishop of Canterbury, Boniface of Savoy, established a palace there. That palace still exists, and it is now the home of Mayfield School. The interactions between the archbishops and their tenants provide a wealth of sources for a local historian to explore the inner workings of a medieval rural community, but also its myriad connections to the wider world. Good local history is never just local. Tim planned to publish a second volume covering the Reformation and the Protestant ‘Mayfield Martyrs’, though his focus was more on the take-off of the iron industry in the Weald, and especially the trade in guns, legal and clandestine, which helped to

turn England into a maritime power. It is hoped that some fruit of Tim's mass of research, linking Mayfield ironmasters both to courtiers and to smugglers – who were often the same people – will yet make its way into the public domain.

Tim was, like Professor Phythian-Adams, the offspring of a Church of England family. Born in Devon, his father was later appointed rector of Poynings in the South Downs, and Tim attended Lancing College, as had his father, another Hertfordian, before him. In those days Hertford had particularly close connections to Sussex, and Tim came up to the college in 1964 to study Theology. While an undergraduate he played in the first eleven, and cricket remained an abiding passion; in 1991 he was partly responsible for the BBC radio series 'The Other MCC' about Mayfield Cricket Club. He also revealed his commitment to architectural heritage by founding, together with other Hertfordians Michael Gee and Peter Edwards, the Oxford Colleges Barges Preservation Trust, in part to save Hertford's own barge. Buildings were offered some protection by law, but barges, despite their rich history as the display pieces for the London Livery Companies, were not. The Trust still exists, though sadly Hertford's barge was burnt down in an act of vandalism in 1997.

After he graduated in 1967 Tim stayed in Hertford to prepare for a career in education. However, he was only briefly a teacher; his real career was as Media Officer for South-East Arts. Many projects and exhibitions owe their genesis to Tim, and he also promoted media studies in universities and schools. Tim had a prodigious knowledge of independent film making and founded Mayfield's film club, still a fixture in the village's cultural and social life.

Tim was urbane in manner, a scholar by inclination, but he was also a countryman, growing a surfeit of vegetables in his cottage garden, writing for the parish magazine, and adding to his store of knowledge of the landscape, and the families that inhabited it, as a Sussex footpaths warden. The village, for which he had done so much, turned out en masse for his memorial service in St Dunstan's Church on 2 September.

With thanks to David Hopkin (occasional Mayfield resident).

Alan John Hinchcliffe (Chemistry, 1965)

Alan Hinchcliffe was born in 1946. He attended Batley Grammar School, and at the age of 16, he met Sylvia. They married in 1969 when he was 21 and still a student.

Alan won an Exhibition to Hertford College in 1965, where his four fellow first-year chemists instantly loved his broad accent, and the friendly, outgoing,

and sometimes irreverent approach to life which seemed a bit incongruous in Oxford's academic environment! He was in the first batch of first-year chemists to have Hertford's newly recruited Keith McLauchlan as a chemistry tutor. Keith's tutorials were very relaxed and friendly, providing the ideal atmosphere for Alan to exercise his perceptive, questioning approach to what was taught.

As well as being a hard worker, Alan was always very sociable: Bob Payne and Graham Griffiths persuaded him to try hockey in their first term, and all three of them played in the college team the whole time they were there. They also spent many hours lazily punting along the Cherwell. Alan's room in NB Quad was practically open house; some card games began in the evening and lasted all night!

Alan did his Part II year, followed by his DPhil, in the Inorganic Chem labs, completing seven years of Oxford chemistry. This was followed by three years post-doc research as Assistant Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh. Deciding that academic life was not for him, Alan joined the Royal Navy in 1974 where he had a distinguished career and was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. He worked at various shore establishments, teaching Maths and Engineering Science, water chemistry and nuclear safety. He designed training courses and manuals, and in 1982 joined HMS Invincible as Education Officer. Here he served over two years at sea including active service during the Falklands War.

On leaving the Navy he worked as a civilian lecturer in radiation protection at Royal Naval College Greenwich, researched nuclear accident response and was the Radiation Protection Advisor for the decommissioning of the college's training reactor.

The crowning event of his career came with secondment to the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall for two years, working as a radiation protection specialist, briefing ministers and sitting on government committees, including those concerned with the threat of terrorist use of radioactive material in bombs.

Alan was a high achiever outside work too. His main interest for many years was 'Munro-bagging': mountain-walking to the top of the 282 Scottish peaks which are over 3,000 feet high. Alan did them all! He was a kind and generous man, welcoming to all, and always happy to help others with their studies or practical tasks.

Alan and Sylvia celebrated 54 years together before his death from rheumatoid arthritis in 2024. They have a son, a daughter and two grandsons. Fellow Hertfordians have lost an inspiring friend, but the wealth of happy memories lives on!

With thanks to Graham Griffiths and Sylvia Hinchcliffe.

Anthony Victor Swing (Modern History, 1965)

The Swing family is deeply saddened to announce the passing of Anthony Victor Swing, who died on 24 March 2025, aged 78.

Anthony was a man of quiet confidence, warm intellect and enduring curiosity about people, their background and roots. Those who knew him will remember his gentle manner, his dry wit and his gift for conversation, whether discussing history, culture, sport or current affairs. He had a remarkable ability to connect with people from all stages of his life, maintaining friendships that stretched back nearly eight decades, helped by his meticulous correspondence.

Educated first at Wetherby and Cumnor House, Anthony went on to Felsted School, where he excelled both academically and on the sports field, winning the Freeman Challenge Cup for outstanding sporting ability and sportsmanship.

One of the defining periods of his life was at his much-loved Hertford College in Oxford where he studied History from 1965 to 1968, a period that shaped his lifelong interests and friendships. This led to almost 40 years of service on the Hertford Society Committee (1975–2012), helping to organise countless reunions and social events that brought together generations of alumni.

Professionally, Anthony was a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations and spent many fulfilling years at Shell, from which he formed lasting friendships that endured long after his retirement. Anthony, and his wife Elizabeth, were longstanding residents of Clarence Gate Gardens in London, where he served on the Residents' Committee for several decades, bringing his meticulous organisation and love of order to every task.

Anthony's interests were wide-ranging: he was a devoted supporter of the arts, particularly the theatre, opera and classical music, and a keen sportsman in his youth, remaining an enthusiastic follower of his former club, Hampstead Hockey Club. His fascination with history led him to trace his own Austro-Hungarian roots with characteristic thoroughness, discovering long-lost relatives from around the world. Later in life, Anthony loved his extensive travel adventures with Elizabeth, to many varied spots from China to Cuba, from South Africa to Sri Lanka, as well as entertaining family and friends at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London.

He was devoted to his family, his wife Elizabeth, his children Victoria and Charlotte, and his four adored grandchildren Oliver, Zoë, Hugo and Rory, sharing with them his love of culture, history, and family roots.

Anthony will be remembered as a gentleman in every sense of the word:

thoughtful, steadfast, and ever-interested in the world and people around him. His funeral took place and his ashes were laid to rest at Chelsea Old Church, where he worshipped as a boy and where the family's connection continues.

With thanks to Victoria Rennoldson and Charlotte Swing.

Dennis John Davey (Music, 1966)

Dennis Davey was the organ scholar at Hertford from 1966 to 1969. He taught music at several private colleges during his early career and then taught privately in his later years. He was a cathedral chorister from an early age, and an organist and choirmaster until he retired aged 70.

He has left a legacy to 'The Principal Fellows and Scholars of Hertford College Oxford to be used solely for the furtherance of the Chapel music'.

With thanks to Rachel McLeod.

Paul Ellis White OBE (Geography, 1968)

Professor Paul White, who died in February 2025, was a distinguished academic and much-loved teacher whose career and life were shaped by a deep curiosity about people, places, and the world around him.

He graduated with a First in Geography from Hertford in 1971 and obtained a DPhil in 1975. As an undergraduate student he had one of the most envied rooms in college, overlooking the famous bridge. Renowned for his breadth of knowledge, Paul represented Hertford on University Challenge – sadly they did not progress far. During his undergraduate period, he made good friends, mostly fellow geographers, with whom he remained close throughout his life, and he met Liz, his future wife. In 1973 Liz and Paul celebrated their wedding at Hertford Chapel. Friends and colleagues remember him for his humour, wide range of interests and unwavering support for others.

After Oxford, Paul spent his working life in academia, based at the University of Sheffield, starting as a lecturer in Human Geography in 1974 and rising to become a Professor of European Urban Geography in 1997. His interests included migration, demographic change and social exclusion, with his research covering a huge range of topics from social segregation in European cities to tourism in Switzerland. Paul was passionate about teaching and improving the student experience. He supervised over 36 PhD students and led 29 foreign field classes in Normandy, Paris and Berlin. Paul never lost his

interest in research and was working on a book on perceptions of rurality in China and Europe when he died.

In 2004 Paul took on the role of Pro-Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning at the University of Sheffield, a post he held until 2014 when he became Deputy Vice Chancellor. He was a respected leader both nationally and internationally, holding various roles as visiting professor in European countries, as well as roles leading the improvement of teaching across the UK and beyond. Paul's contributions were recognised by being awarded an OBE for services to Higher Education in 2016 and an Honorary Degree from Sheffield University in 2022. He retired in 2016, although he continued to act as public orator at graduation ceremonies, as a trustee for the Students' Union, and as a Deputy Lieutenant for South Yorkshire.

From his very first visit to Austria on a school trip, Paul maintained a keen interest in travel, both for work and pleasure, initially in Europe and, more recently, further afield. Many of his family's happiest memories are of exploring new cities, cultures and countries together. In retirement Paul combined his love of exploration with his interest in walking, writing and art, undertaking several long-distance walks, including from Sheffield to London, recording his reflections along the way alongside accomplished sketches.

Music played a pivotal role in his life, playing the piano to a high standard, and sharing his love of opera with family through visits to Glyndebourne. In both his personal and professional life, Paul was seen as compassionate, thoughtful and an expert in many different fields. He has inspired students, colleagues and friends across the world. He is survived by his wife Liz, his daughters Katherine and Helen, and two grandchildren, Toby and Alice. He leaves behind a legacy of scholarship, kindness and commitment to public service that will live on in all who knew him.

With thanks to Helen White and Katherine Merrifield.

David John Arscott (English, 1971)

At most Oxford colleges in the early seventies, David Arscott would have seemed an unlikely candidate. He had left school – a London grammar school he had little reason to love – at 16 with four O-levels and had started in journalism on the Investors' Chronicle, wielding a slide rule in the battle with share prices, before rising to the City desk of the Evening Standard and then becoming a writer on the Daily Journal in Caracas.

But Hertford was slightly different from most colleges, looking for wildflower talent and happy to take a mature student. David was 29 and a father of two when he went up in 1971. In the days since school, he had learned Spanish and gained an A in English Literature A-level after a correspondence course. He had also read immensely and had a short story published in Iain Hamilton's *New Review*, alongside Margaret Drabble, David Lodge and Simon Gray, and with a brooding portrait photo by Fay Godwin.

David later remembered his Hertford interview: 'I sent in an essay on Norman Mailer, to show something of what I could do. The admissions tutor (A.O.J. Cockshut), who later became my English tutor and who I'm sure had never read a word of Mailer in his life, had such an oblique, donnish way of phrasing his questions that I rather hung on to the shirt tails of a somewhat halting conversation until he mentioned Macbeth. Here, at last, I found something to say, until he paused and commented that he felt 'favourably' towards my application. It took a couple of seconds for me to realise that I had been successful. Then it was just a matter of getting that Latin O-level, crammed with the help of a friend who was a classics teacher. Oxford was wonderful – three whole years to study literature. What a gift.'

David loved Oxford and flourished, with the typical older student's mixture of maturity, gratitude and determination to turn the years out of his career into fulfilling ones. The decision to consider mature students such as David was also good for Hertford, which moved up the Norrington.

A career in BBC radio followed. Local radio in those days gave the chance to run your own programme in every way, from picking the interviewees to operating your own controls. For David it was never pop 'n' prattle, which he disliked, but a local Radio 4 and the most wonderful job he ever had, with the opportunity to interview academics, archaeologists, politicians, artists, anyone with a story to tell which involved his adopted and beloved county of Sussex.

Books, family and Brahms were constants in his life, as was an affection for his old college. David wrote more than 40 books about Sussex as well as many other light national histories in his *A Very Peculiar History* series. There was published fiction, too, and always a subscription to the *London Review of Books* or the *TLS*. Literature was quite simply essential to him.

In recent years he attended English Schools Dinners at Hertford, a Christmas celebration for donors and a Gaudy. He took Jill, his second wife and mother of the last three of his seven children, around the college with fondness and pride. His scholar's gown still hangs in the wardrobe.

David died on 29 November 2024 at the age of 81. He leaves his wife, Jill,

seven children and ten grandchildren.
With thanks to Jill Arscott.

Martin Denis Corrick (English Language and Literature, 1973)

Martin Corrick, who died aged 80, was a novelist and teacher. Writing and social justice ran through his life, including adult education, governor training and setting up the Gosport Men's Shed.

Martin grew up in Bristol and left school early for an engineering apprenticeship, but dropped out of that and eventually, supported by his wife Hilary, studied A-levels. He was awarded a state scholarship and read English at Oxford, then trained as a teacher. Always pulled to the coast by his interest in sailing, he taught English and Drama at Itchen College in Southampton. He was concerned about the opportunities and self-esteem of young people, and keen to engage them in theatre – there were memorable productions at the Edinburgh Fringe and at Fort Nelson near Portsmouth.

Always restless, Martin moved to freelance writing; his work included articles for *The Guardian* about travelling the country by narrowboat. In 1997, Martin was accepted on the MA in Creative Writing at UEA, and wrote his first novel, *The Navigation Log* (Scribner, 2002). *The New York Times* praised its tenderness and 'elegiac vision'. *After Berlin* followed in 2005 and *By Chance* in 2008.

Martin was a school governor, and, with Nigel Gann, set up Governor Training Services for Hampshire local authority; he felt strongly about supporting and challenging schools. He met his partner Annie, a head teacher, through this.

Martin taught writing to adult students, at what was then the New College of Southampton University. Many of his students were older people who had not had much chance of education, and he enjoyed increasing their confidence.

Living in Gosport, Martin was aware of local deprivation, and that, and his own feelings of depression and isolation, led to setting up the Gosport Men's Shed in 2013 to provide company and activities for men. An Isle of Wight film maker, David George, made a film about it, *Better Shed than Dead*. The early years took hard work and negotiation on Martin's part. It is now a Gosport institution, with 170 members, and has helped to start other men's sheds. Its yellow-T-shirted members appear at every local event.

Martin was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2015. He was one of the first to join a clinical trial of lecanemab four years ago, and it was important to him

to do something that might help others. In his last few weeks of life, he was comforted by dreams of sailing on the Solent.

He is survived by Annie, his daughters Georgia and Freya, grandchildren Molly and Harriet, ex-wife Hilary, and his siblings Ann, Jenny, Tom and Sarah.

With thanks to Georgia Corrick.

Sarah Trevarthen (Geology, 1990)

Born in Truro on 26 October 1971 to Hugh and Ivy Trevarthen, and raised in Camborne, Cornwall, Sarah came up to Hertford in 1990 to read Geology.

Sarah T, as she was widely known, was a wholehearted participant in college life and was famously always there with a smile and a cup of tea for her many friends, many of whom remained close throughout her life.

Arriving with no rowing experience, she won blades, became secretary of Hertford's Women's Boat Club, and became Stroke for the Women's 1st VIII. She also represented Osiris in 1993 and later competed in traditional gig racing in the Isles of Scilly.

After Hertford, Sarah completed an MSc in Mining Geology at Camborne School of Mines in 1996, and from there blazed a trail for women in mining, working in gold mines as a production geologist in Johannesburg, SA.

Sarah returned to the UK to work for Arcadis GMI, focusing on contaminated land assessment and remediation. She met her husband Noel, and in May 2004 they were married underground in Poldark Mine, Cornwall – an amazing and unique venue worthy of an amazing and unique couple whose love for one another is still spoken of by friends and family alike.

2000 saw Sarah and Noel move to Greater Manchester, with Sarah transferring to URS in 2003, where she completed Environmental Health and Safety Audits. Never shy of a challenge, Sarah grabbed the opportunity her new role presented to relocate to Brisbane, Australia in 2007 and thence to Melbourne. A regular attendee of the comedy scene, Sarah took on the annual challenge at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival to see as many shows as possible – an amazing 178 in 3½ weeks, a record that stands to this day (meticulous spreadsheet planning was key!).

Sarah and Noel returned to Manchester in 2015 where Sarah took on a role at WSP in Environmental Auditing and Risk Management, which took her to unusual places such as Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan. When teased that she was, in fact, a spy, Sarah would point out that a six-foot-tall Cornish

woman was not, perhaps, the ideal cover.

Greatly in demand, Sarah maintained a high standard of work and ethics, and often refused to work for companies whose perception of environmental responsibility did not match her reality.

Beyond work, Sarah was a woman of many talents: a proud patron of the arts, a regular volunteer at Glastonbury, and one of the first volunteers at the Lowry, Salford when it opened in 2000. During the Covid pandemic she immersed herself in the quizzing world, where she made many more good friends and excelled, winning the jackpot on *Pointless* (with Noel, 2020) and becoming one of the top 50 UK Quizzers. Despite being diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, she was *Mastermind* Grand Final runner-up (2022) and became the only woman to have won both Radio 4's *Brain of Britain* (2022) and *Counterpoint* (2025).

Stoic and strong as ever, she took all opportunities to live life to the fullest with the twinkle in her eye undiminished, continuing to work, attend gigs, parties and weddings, and to look after and revel in the many friendships she made. She died on 20 August 2025 with Noel and friends Rachel and Melanie at her side.

Sarah is survived by Noel, Hugh, and a myriad of friends from Hertford and beyond, all of whom miss her dearly.

With thanks to Peter Terrington.

Daniel Mortimer Reid Eatherley (Biological Sciences, 1992)

Friends and family are deeply saddened by the loss of Dan Eatherley, who passed away in July, much sooner than he should have, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was 52. Dan was a passionate and prolific British naturalist, environmental consultant and science communicator as well as a husband to Clair and father to their two daughters, Merryn and Hannah. He will forever be remembered for his adventurous spirit, wry wit and deep appreciation for the natural world.

During his time at Hertford, Dan developed lifelong friendships and was a stranger to no one. He was just as at home knee-deep in mud in the local gravel pits, rooting out fossils, as he was rocking out the local pubs with his student band Travis. He was also a founding member of the university Dans' Club, with membership open to everyone, providing their first name is Dan.

He was understated, with a wicked sense of humour that was always self-

deprecating, modestly disguising his extensive knowledge and intellect. Having surprised tutors and fellow students alike by landing a first-class honours degree, he relocated to Bristol – a hub of wildlife filmmaking – to pursue a career that seamlessly wove scientific work with visual storytelling and writing. Over the following decade, Dan made significant contributions to acclaimed series from the BBC's Natural History Unit, as well as the *National Geographic* and the Discovery Channel. He notably served as an Assistant Producer on BBC's flagship series *Planet Earth* and *The Life of Mammals*, both hosted by Sir David Attenborough. It was during this time that he met and married his wife Clair Eatherley (née Rust).

Not content to express himself through a single medium, Dan also penned over 100 articles on nature, ecology and environmental policy, in publications such as *New Scientist*, *Scientific American*, *BBC Wildlife*, *The Guardian*, and the *New York Post*. In the mid-2000s he spent a short period living in Scotland with another Hertford graduate, where he co-authored a scientific paper on the congruence between automatic fish counter data and rod catches of Atlantic salmon in Scottish rivers.

His debut book published in 2015, *Bushmaster: Raymond Ditmars and the Hunt for the World's Largest Viper*, earned high praise as a richly detailed chronicle of the famed herpetologist and explorer. Four years later Dan followed it up with *Invasive Aliens*, exploring the ecology, economics, and cultural responses to non-native species in the UK. It was lauded as one of the Books of the Year by both *The Sunday Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

Until his recent passing, Dan served as a senior research fellow at the University of Exeter, from which he also has an MSc, where he worked on sustainable development and environmental innovation. Survived by his family, friends and colleagues, Dan's influence endures through his writings, films and contributions to science, but most of all through the countless people near and far whom he inspired to appreciate the beauty and fragility of our planet.

With thanks to Joe Thorley, Jon Clay and Clair Eatherley.

Donor Report



A new chapter in Hertford's story of books

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors, a new chapter in Hertford's long history of learning is taking shape on Catte Street – a street whose story has always been bound up with books.

In medieval times, this part of Oxford was alive with bookmakers, binders and printers. Centuries later, it became home to two of the world's most famous libraries: the Bodleian and the Radcliffe Camera. Soon, Hertford's new library will join their company, continuing this literary tradition.

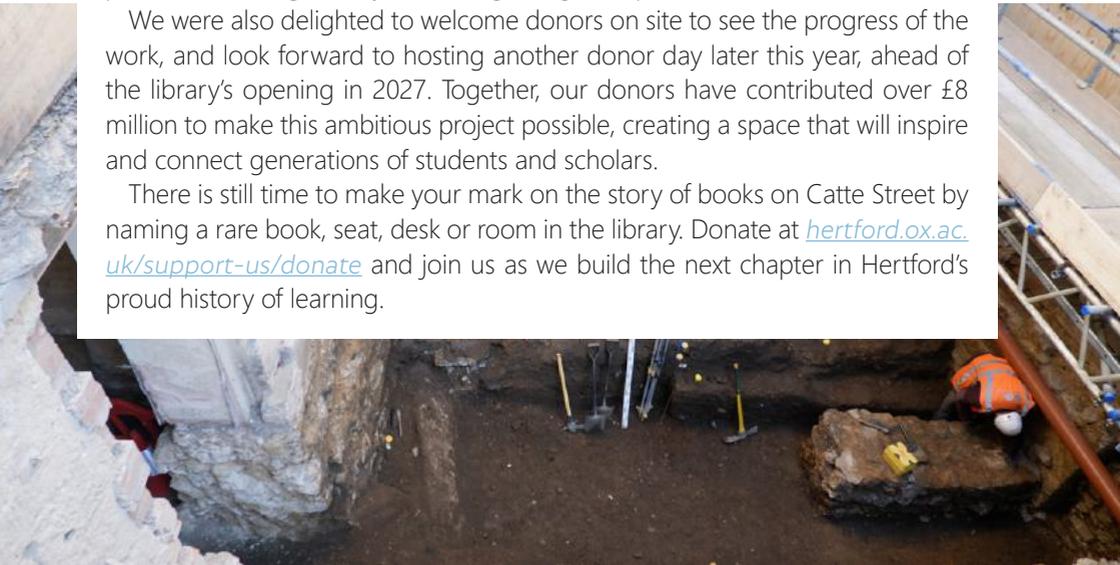
The exciting new facility will bring together our students and staff in a space twice the size of the old library. It will restore several heritage rooms, including the former Principal's lodgings, create purpose-built archival storage and greatly improve sustainability and disabled access.

Over the past year, the work has been very visible to our community and visitors – the serene greenery of OB Quad replaced with a busy building site. The project has involved spectacular feats of engineering, including propping up the old library so that a new underground basement can be created underneath.

Fortunately, the archaeological findings have not been too historically significant (we found the remains of Simpkins the Second rather than Richard the Third), but they have been historically interesting. For example, we found a large number of metal book clasps which reinforced the historical connection of the area to book-binding. Many of the discoveries were showcased at our public archaeological day at the beginning of September.

We were also delighted to welcome donors on site to see the progress of the work, and look forward to hosting another donor day later this year, ahead of the library's opening in 2027. Together, our donors have contributed over £8 million to make this ambitious project possible, creating a space that will inspire and connect generations of students and scholars.

There is still time to make your mark on the story of books on Catte Street by naming a rare book, seat, desk or room in the library. Donate at hertford.ox.ac.uk/support-us/donate and join us as we build the next chapter in Hertford's proud history of learning.





Creating opportunities: the Hertford Undergraduate Bursary

The Hertford Undergraduate Bursary provides means-tested financial support to home students taking their first degree. In 2023, the Bursary was reconfigured to support a greater number of undergraduate students as living costs rise. Alumnae **Bridget Austin** (Archaeology and Anthropology, 2015) and **Laura Smyth** (History and Politics, 2015) were both Bursary recipients.



How did you arrive at Hertford?

BA: I'm from Lincoln in the East Midlands and went to a state school before coming to Hertford. I wasn't the first student from my secondary school to get into Oxford or Cambridge, but we were few and far between. I was grateful to particular teachers who went out of their way to find out how to support me with the application and preparations for interviews.

LS: I grew up in a small village in the West Midlands with my parents, who both worked full-time, and my younger sister. Neither of my parents went beyond Level 2 qualifications, but they were consistently ambitious for me. I went to the local state secondary school, which was in special measures at the time. Those years were quite difficult. Things changed when I moved to King Edward VI College in Nuneaton for sixth form, which was a genuinely transformative environment. I studied History, Politics, Economics and Law, and I loved all four.

What does your life look like now, ten years after matriculation?

BA: I'm still living in Oxfordshire, and very recently got married. I met my husband at Hertford and we have been a 'unit' since our first year. A lot of our closest friends are people we met through college, and it's hard to believe it's been ten years – it still feels like we just graduated. I went into commercial archaeology to start with, but I currently work as a Deputy Operations Manager for a charity that works to prevent homelessness and increase independence for people that are struggling. I have been part of their supported accommodation projects for six years.

LS: I now live in Bath, where I originally moved to work as a research assistant at the University of Bath, aligned with the Institute for Policy Research. For the past few years, though, my focus has been on my PhD and work with the Centre for People-Led Digitisation. My research investigates skills and the development of skills policy in England, particularly in relation to Industry 4.0 and its recent devolution.

Alongside this, I've spent the past year working with the start-up Zeyro Ltd. In this role, I review and prepare financial promotions for crypto companies and European funds seeking to market in the UK. It's a completely different environment from academia, but one I enjoy just as much.



How did receiving the Bursary affect your academic experience?

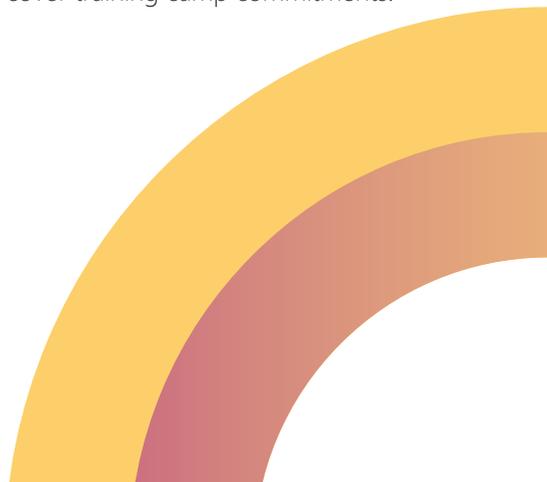
BA: Receiving the Bursary helped me to relax into the degree and make the most out of my three years without worrying about how to afford it. It meant I could focus on enjoying my course and that I didn't have to say no to trying new things. I think it did also help me feel like there was 'space' for me and that I was wanted in an academic environment that was a bit intimidating. Being an Arch and Anth student, the Bursary helped me to access Hertford's amazing opportunities to go on excavations outside of term time.

LS: Receiving the Hertford Bursary made a much bigger difference to my time at Oxford than I expected. Shortly before I started university, my dad was made redundant, which meant my family were suddenly in a much less secure financial position. Although I qualified for the maintenance loan and had saved what I could from working in retail, those funds were intended to cover the essentials.

The Bursary provided stability and choice. I didn't have to worry constantly about whether I could afford day-to-day academic life. I could focus fully on my studies without low-level financial anxiety accompanying me throughout my degree. It allowed me to make the most of my time at Hertford and get involved in wider university life.

Did the Bursary support any extracurricular pursuits?

BA: A lot of my time at Hertford was spent rowing, with a varied performance on the river. In my first Torpids we had the dubious honour of getting bumped 14 times, a HCBC women's worst performance record (we were very proud of our spoons). Being part of the Boat Club was a huge part of my college experience, and the Bursary helped both to cover fees but also to get the kit and rent my room outside of term time to cover training camp commitments.



LS: I had the chance to do things I wouldn't otherwise have been able to consider. For instance, I went teaching at a summer school in Hong Kong, skiing for the first time on the Varsity Trip, and took part in the MIRAI programme, which included a visit to Japan. The Hertford Bursary quietly made all of this possible in the background. It meant that when opportunities came up, I didn't have to rule them out straightaway for financial reasons.

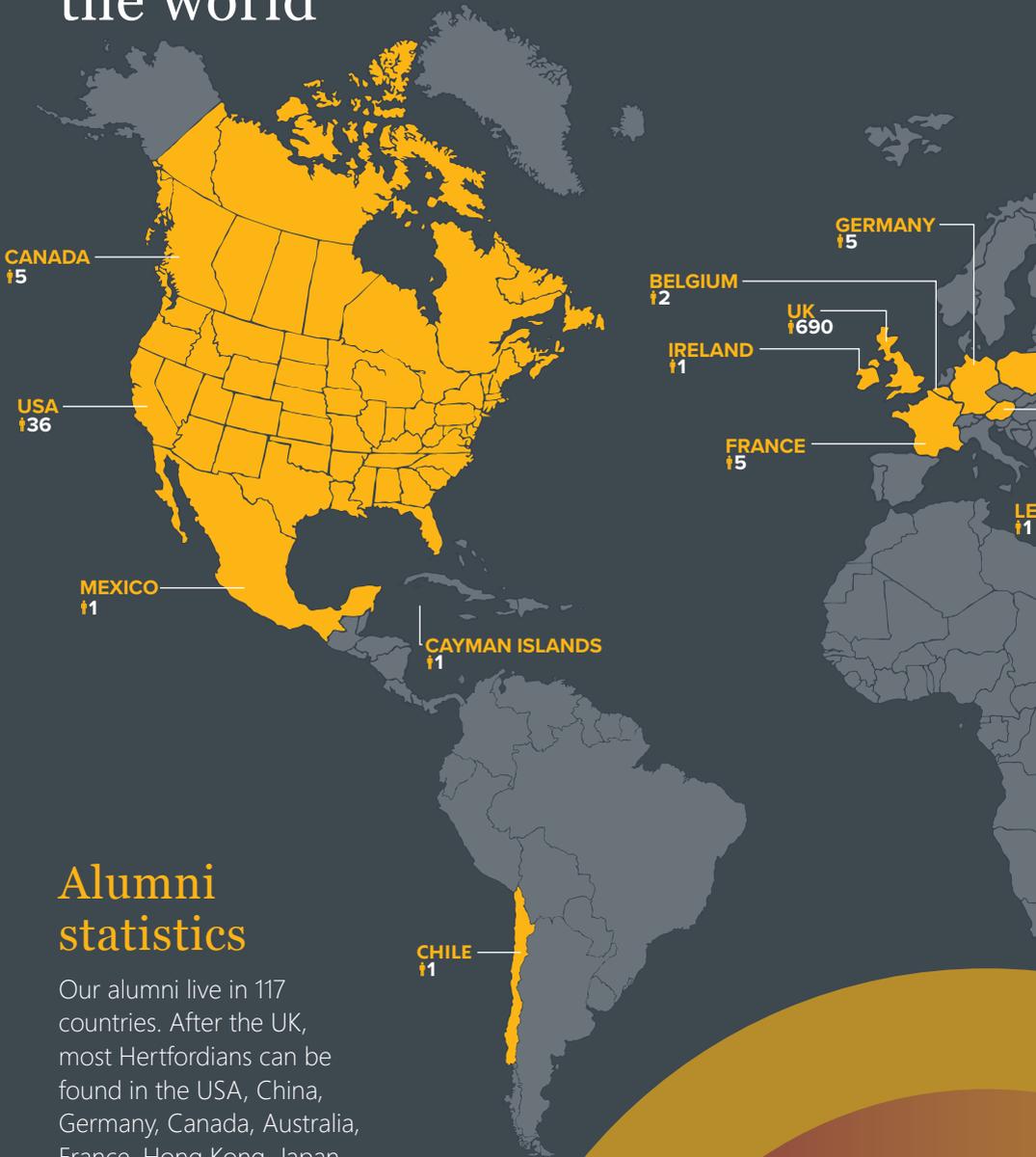
What have you taken with you from your time at Hertford?

BA: I think what's really stayed with me from my time at Hertford is how much your life can change from a single opportunity and hearing one 'yes'. Using my own opportunity to expand access to systems for other people has always felt important to me and has influenced my choice of roles.

LS: The period immediately after graduation can be surprisingly disorientating. I felt a strange mix of pride and insecurity: proud of what I had achieved, but often uncertain about how to access opportunities. That uncertainty could be intimidating, but it also made me realise just how much Hertford had equipped me. The tutorials, debates and society roles didn't open doors directly, but they gave me confidence, critical thinking, and the ability to articulate ideas. I could draw on that when opportunities finally appeared.

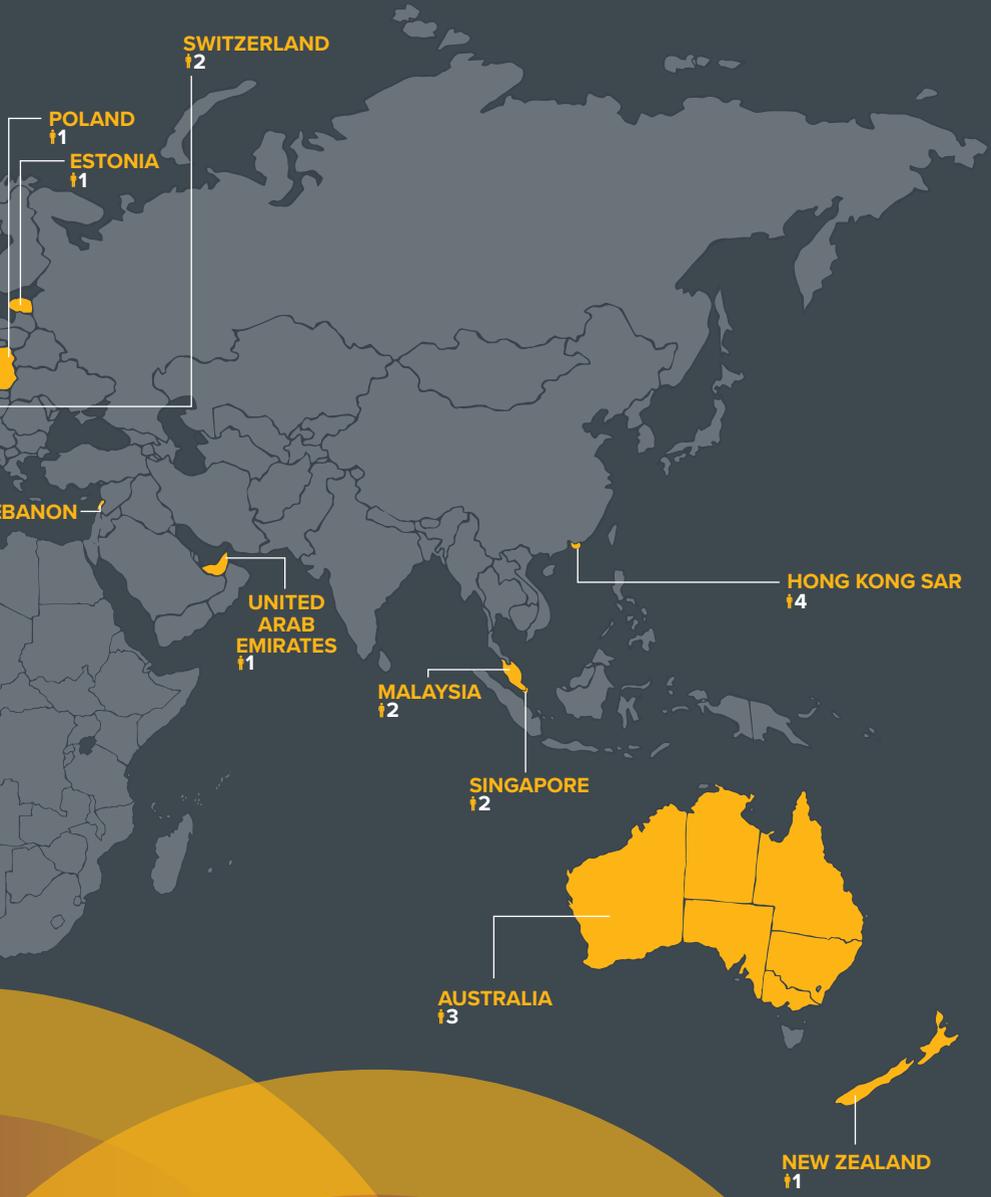


Hertford donors around the world



Alumni statistics

Our alumni live in 117 countries. After the UK, most Hertfordians can be found in the USA, China, Germany, Canada, Australia, France, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore.



Donors by matriculation year

Everyone at Hertford is extremely grateful for the support of our donors, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous. The following list of names is based on all donations received between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If any errors have occurred, please accept our apologies and notify us at development.office@hertford.ox.ac.uk.

1950

Peter Coulson
Peter Harkness

1951

Edward Greenwood
George Jupe†
Edwin Pomeroy†
Michael Port

1952

Denis Price

1953

Jasper Bell

1954

Michael Kirby

1955

Clive Aldred

1956

Robin Carey
Stephanie West

1957

Simon Frazer
Ronald Pattinson

1958

Ian Barnett†
Michael Brignall
Rodney Chambers
Richard Copley†
Ian Gunn
Philip Myerscough

1959

Brian Glover†
David Grant
Alan Mayhew

Hugh Sturzaker
Roger Trafford
Colin Wright

1960

David Baker
Iain Cheyne
Rex Goad
Chris Johns
Geoff Martin
Nick McCave
Pip Poulter
Michael St John
Roger Westbrook

1961

Alan Bowers
Christopher Craig
Ian Crichton
Malcolm Duce
Martin Friend
Garry Gauss
John Guyatt
Ted Laing
David Mander
Eric Martin
Anthony Quigley
Michael Sewell
Keith Sheather

1962

Geoff Bates
Robert Bearman
Chris Brooks
Alan Fearnley
Michael Gee
Michael Knee
Ian Michael
Richard Scott
Peter Stokes
Warwick Wilson

1963

Chris Baron
Christopher Cox
Christopher Fance
Steven Hartz
Leo Horton
Chris Mockler
Richard Partridge
Chris Plunkett
Ray Proctor
Paul Tompsett
Julian Whitehead

1964

Mike Brumage
Tony Champion
Jim Copper
Tim Cornish†
Peter Edwards
Julian Hay
David Holton
Graham Jones
Kevin Lynch
Tony Mitcheson
Chris Morton
Adrian Oldknow
Roger Sherman
George Spencer
Andrew Turrall

1965

Richard Anderson
Andrew Blake
David Cornwell
John Crook
Jeremy Dawkins
Ivor Fiennes
Richard Groom
Mike Henderson
Graham Johnson
Rodney Nelson-Jones
Colin Palmer

Stephen Potel
Anthony Swing†
Graham Winyard

1966

John Cooper
John Davey†
Andy Dransfield
Steve Greenwald
John Guest
Peter Hollins
David Levy
Bob Morrow
Mick North
Chris Osland
Rupert Perry
Peter Titchener
Alex Vinter
David Walker

1967

Robin Bynoe
Philip Chapman
David Clark
Richard Harington
Stephen Johnson
Ian Reid
Robin Selby
George Yoxall

1968

Lindsay Bashford
Meredith Childerstone
John Clark
John Dewar
Ken France

David Richards
 Bill Taylor
 Ian Walsh
 Richard Ward
 William Webster
 Paul White†
 Anonymous

1969

Paul Aynsley
 Gary Green
 Christopher Hooley
 Neil Kinghan
 Ken Patterson
 Eric Pawson
 Tom Robinson
 Clive Sherwood
 David Tester
 Nigel Wilkes

1970

Walter Bodmer
 Colin Bradley
 Tony Davies
 Chris Dowell
 Tom Greenshields
 Christopher
 Humphries
 Jeremy Kenworthy
 Barry Levy
 Henry MacDonald
 James Scrymgeour-
 Wedderburn
 Neil Swindells
 Kevin Williams

1971

David Arscott†
 Jonathan Davies
 Peter Friend
 Anthony Jones
 Peter Lane

Neil MacKenzie
 Graeme Marshall
 Philip Masson
 Simon McVeigh
 Roderic Mitchell
 Graham Rogers
 Alan Sandall
 Nigel Saul
 Lesley Sharpe
 Tony Smith
 Joe Szurszewski
 Christopher Tyerman
 Mike Waller
 Thomas Watkin
 Anonymous
 Anonymous

1972

Bulent Atalay
 Jerry Barnfield
 Tim Bird
 Peter Dart
 Lindsay Forbes
 Tom Hutton
 Peter Ireland
 Stephen Jukes
 John Landers
 Bernard Murphy
 David Newman
 Pete Owen
 Christopher Smale
 Jeremy Stevens

1973

Jon Billowes
 Phil Davies
 Mike Frederick
 Stephen Gill
 Bob Grant
 David Hughes
 Steven Jones
 Paul Masters

Peter Newman
 Stephen Pratt
 Brian Smith
 Ian Stephenson
 Mark Teversham
 Clive Thomas

1974

Mark Alexander
 Willie Barne
 Rob Barrigan
 Paul Batho
 Nick Graves
 Eric Harris
 David Harrison
 John Johnson
 Stephen Kinsey
 Antony Longworth
 Anne McGlashan
 Cara Rodger
 Martin Spencer
 Kate Stross
 Stephen Taylor†
 Boris Tyzuk
 Tim Wheeler

1975

Clare Dobie
 Bob Duffield
 Kim Fletcher
 Rob Lusardi
 John Mason
 Dave McCabe
 Stuart McLaren
 Ian McLenaghan
 Adam Mead
 John Needham
 Peter Nowlan
 Nicola Prior
 Michael Ratcliff
 Sarah Walker
 Richard Watts
 Kevin Wesbroom
 Kenneth White

1976

Robin Arthur
 Jane Bird

Chris Corrigan
 Nick Fishwick
 Jon Fitton
 Maggie Hill
 John Hughes
 Bill Jamieson
 Barry Lester
 Janet McCourt
 Mary McLaren
 Martin Milnes
 Peter Norman
 Ruth Reavley
 Frances Sanders
 Andrew Tait KC
 Julian Worth
 Anonymous†

1977

Hilary Allison
 Christopher Andrews
 Tim Austin
 Tessa Bamford
 Amanda Benton
 Susan Boruchoff
 Tony Donovan
 Stephen Ellis
 Henrietta Ewart
 Edward Fisher
 Jenny Hopper
 Robert Mellors
 Richard Quinn
 Ruth Sinclair-Jones
 Haidee Tattersall
 Robert Taylor

1978

Jenifer Batten
 Duncan Brack
 Xanthe Brooke
 Naomi Clarke
 Andy Eustace
 Angela Fane
 Trevor Hicks
 Adam Johnson
 Ian Jones
 Michael Joynson
 Simon Leefe

David Moon
Dix Roberts
Fiona Robertson
Bob Smith
Peter Whatley
Michael Wheeler

1979

Francesca Barrow
Bridget Calvert
David Cooke
Philip Dutton
Sarah Hewitt
Oliver O'Toole
Debbie Sarjant
Glyn Taylor
Mary Wood
Anonymous

1980

Steve Bell
Rachel Blissett
Alastair Blundell
Andrew Callard
Emilio Cattaneo
John Clark
Roger Edbrooke
Ed Farquharson
Julie Hazell
David Hibbs
Chris Hornby
Kathryn Hough
David Knight
Simone Lobo
Fiona Macaulay
Garrett Nagle
Andy Tighe
Anonymous

1981

Julia Brookes
Mark Glover
Guy Leaf

Judy Miller (Shaw)
Penny Neu
Elizabeth Payling
Amanda Rumming
Jacqui Smith
Tony Surkovic
Mark Thornber
Ian Valentine
Gerry Wait
Jeremy White
Lorne Whiteway

1982

Michael Adamson
Frank Ashcroft
Robin Ashworth
Monica Buckley
Yolande Chan
Stephen Clarke
Colin Cook
Lewis Findlay
Fran Gunning
Andre Gushurst-
Moore
Eleanor Hellier
Markus Jaigirder
Mossy Kennedy
Andrew Leonard
Phil Martin
Anna Morgan
Julian Soper
Salman Ullah

1983

Gilbert Benz
Jon Coombs
Malcolm Dowden
Brian Evans
Nick Foulkes
Matthew Greenland
David Horsley
Paul Meader
Vicky Pollitt
Simon Pride
Gabrielle Remedios
Mike Shiels

Andrew Sinclair
Stephen Tickell
Heather Walton
Ian Whitmore

1984

Elizabeth Akka
Graeme Dell
Paul Fiddaman
Emma Haughton
Paul Inman
Barbara McGowan
John Newman
Vicky Rietkerk
Debbie Shears
Julian Stander
Fiona Yates

1985

Chris Barber
Marian Berkowitz
Chris Birkle
Cicely Brown
Martin Lipton
Alan Livsey
James Newton-Price
Huw Peach*
Cindy von Kaufmann
Clare Wickert
Joanne Wicks
Jock Wills
Anonymous

1986

Sarah Barwood
Martin Dunsby
Chris Harley-Martin
Mark Herrmann
Steven Hubbard
Kevin Jones
Helen Murphy
Adrian Murrell
Jonathan Park
Rob Pritchard*
Nick Rollason
John Schilizzi

Peter Wiley
Simon Witney

1987

Peter Aeberli
Harvey Dobbs
Andrew Dodd
Helen Hardman
Ailsa Holland
Louise Hutt
John Jardine
Philippa Jardine
Guy Mason
Joseph Stokoe
Karen Thompson
Ian Thompson
Judith Toms
Anonymous

1988

Paul Belt
Michael Capocci
Sheila Chapman
Roanna Doe
Chris Harris
Robert Jones
Robert Keys
John Millar
Jonathan Notley
Vernee Samuel
Alison Stevens
Denise Ward
Anonymous

1989

Bruce Breckenridge
Gareth Dunn
Iain Lownes
Emily Muffett
Eklavya Sareen
Mark Warren

1990

Matthew Bailey
Christoph Bettin
Colin Black

Susan Brannigan
Richard Butterwick-
Pawlikowski
Charlotte Elston
Duncan Farnsworth
Clare Forsyth
Rachel Gauke
Tim Jones
Shawn Manning
Robert McCord
Jenny Milligan
Carol Pearson
David Shelton
Sarah Trevarthen†
Daren Wake
Tim Warburton
Richard Wilkinson
Anonymous

1991

Jeremy Goodwin
Roland Harris
Judith Hudson
Isabelle Mast
Richard Millns
Charlotte Morgan
Heather Newton
Tim Polli
Stephen Reid
Shirley Stacey
Garth Williams
Jayne Woodside
Anonymous

1992

Paula Clarke
Andrew Farrant
Michael Hunter
James Hylins
Andrew Longmore
Sarah Ryan

1993

David Head
Sarah Hughes
Andrew Hull
Phil Morris
Aaron Punwani
Emily Rayfield
Hugh Roberts
Pauline Robson
Natasha Standen
Pip Wilson

1994

Natasha Ashdown
Eleanor Blair
Simeon Gabriel
Dimitri Handera
Jo Hewitt
Richard Hogwood
Andy Huddleston
Nick Jefferson
Edmund Jolliffe
Graham Neale
Alex New
Catherine O'Hare
Emma Plunkett
Rahul Rao
Guy Reid
Alistair Reid
Christopher Sheldrick
Sam Tomlinson
David Vince
Luke Williams

1995

Emma Cremin
Harry Dunlop
Jenni Emery
Christina Haberditzl
Paul Jessop
Benjamin Jones
Emma Jones
Matthew Middleweek
David Parish
John Smith
Barney Stueck
David Tunley
Alex Underwood
Victoria Walton
Natalie Watts

1996

Paul Armitt
Lisa Bate
Oliver Bullough
Hugo Burchell
Rebecca Busfield
Alistair Feeny
Adam Gross
David Ingham
Stephen Kynaston
Mateusz Lasik
Colin Leckey
Ian Melling
James Redfern

1997

Alistair Allen
Charlotte Buxton
Duncan Chisholm
Matthew D'Aubyn
David Daker
Neil Dissanayake
Paul Emery
Aidan Liddle
Anna Morris
Hermione Ruck Keene
Chantal Taylor
Rachel Williamson
George Woods

1998

Charlie Apps
Tom Bashford
Melissa Ellis
Tom Elliston
Rory Galloway
Marina Hamilton-
Baillie
Kitty Hung
Ann Lingas
Chris Meier
Louise Peckett
Alex Preston
Donald Stark
Mary Stevens
Catherine Travers
Nina Winter
Helen Wolstenholme

1999

Tim Boswell
Jude Bunting
Nick Collins
Sharat Dua
Glyn Kennington
Robin Norton-Hale
Malcolm Parks
Bao Pham
Ashan Ramakrishnan
Simon Ramsden
Sam Roake
Ben Steele
Ruth Tarrant
Teresa Wu

2000

Sara Bielecki
Stephan Bocklet
Susannah Cooke

Louise Cowley
Kelly Hagedorn
Victoria Laurie
Michael Newbold

2001

Fiona Coady
James Fisher
James Grigg
Christopher Jones
Jan Lasik
Huw Lloyd
Will Lynn
Robert Pace
Simon Pritchard
Philip Smelt
Anonymous

2002

James Gilbert
Mark Grimmer
Scott Johnston
Mike Loydon
Samuel Peacock
Tobi Rufus
Amy Savage
Rachel Sharples

2003

Nabeel Alsindi
Joanne Bugg
Judith Cohen
Joern Grotjahn
Rhiannon Guibert
Jenny Hsieh
Joseph Jones
Alex Le
Andrew MacDonald
Caroline-Lucy Moran
Dave Shull
Morag Taylor
Jessica Tooby
Daniel Trott
John Whitworth

2004

Bethany Ehlmann
Timothy Killen
Edward Lamb
John Marnham
Viral Mehta
Peter Orr
Russ Taylor
Andrew Voysey

2005

Eleanor Bull
Matthew Collins
Emma Gerald
Alexander Gilkes
Emma Jones
Thomas Lowe
Igor Moreno
Thomas Nunn
Tom Roberts
Phillip Robinson-
Moore
Adam Samoon
Poppy Street
Kelsey Traher

2006

Tosin Awoyinka
Andrew Bergbaum
Sarah Campbell-Hill
Dan Cariad
Jesse Freedman
Swapandeep Mann
Alexander Woodham
Anonymous

2007

Matthew Barrett
Jonathan Beckett
Simon Coppack
Ella Davis
Abigail Dewhurst
David Edelman
Jonathan Galaviz
Rohan Kandasamy
Luke MacLeod
Michelle Sahai
Courtenay Watson
Alex Woolgar

2008

Nicholas Buchanan
Martin Gadsden
Simon Gage
Nicholas Smith
Alice Thornton
Anonymous

2009

Lauren Eyland
Joe Hitchen
Christopher James
Dan Parker
Adam Rheinberg
Dominic Riding

Laila Slaney-Dowse
Rachelle Tilly
Milly Walker
Richard Winslett
Anonymous

2010

Yiyang Bao
James Holley
Lloyd (Meadhbh)
Houston
Katy Kiernan
Sam Parsons
Hari Reeks Jackson
Sakura Zhi

2011

Kiran Arhestey
George Cochrane
Josh Ingham
Finn Keane
Robert Miller
Louise Murgatroyd
Helen Spooner

2012

Joy Aston
Brian Balchin
Max Brodermann
Freddie Harris
Justin Hubbard
Rachel Hunter
Colin Kim
James McNally-Field
Katie McNally-Field
Chris Nicholls
Adam Stones
Ksenija Yeeles

2013

Alex Benn
Emily Ding
Archie Jones
Marcus Meer
Jessica Rush
Katherine Sheridan
Richard Tanburn
Daniel Valentine

2014

Alex Allison
Lucy Allison
Stephanie Richards
James Ross
Jacob Vivian

2015

Kaja Fenn
Liisa Parts

2016

Oliver Barlow
Ina Hanninger
Daniel Villar

2017

Colleen Carroll
James Howard
Kat Rahmat
James Stringer
Mitchell Tate
Sarah Bannister

2018

Eve Davies
Honor Poulton
Abigail Sheppard

2019

Augustine Agyeman-
Duah
Thibault Jouen-
Tachoire
Kirsten Smith
Baoli Zhao

2020

Juliet Dyrud
Kirill Nezhentsev
Adam Parr
Simon Sällström

2023

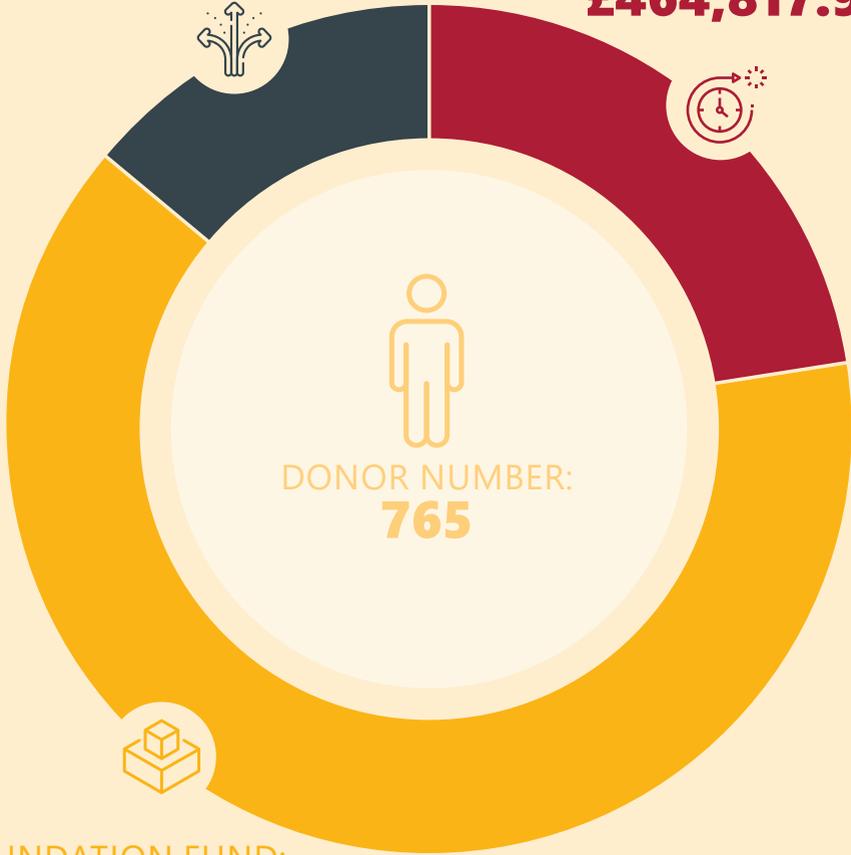
Pree Bharadwaj
Ronan Kennedy
Skye Yi-Hardie

Friends of Hertford

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Belchers Family
Charitable Fund
Timothy Bellman
Beste Family Fund
Chris Bracebridge
British Airways PLC
Clifford Chance LLP –
London
Jack Curran
The Drapers'
Company
John Finley
Thomas Fritz
Angelina Gibson
Heather Hair
Bahaa Hariri
Heather Howard for
Peter Howard
Icicle Production Co
Ltd
Keasbey Memorial
Foundation
Fouad and May
Makhzoumi
James Miller
Jared Pulham
The Roger De Haan
Charitable Trust
Timothy Sahr
Amanda Sara
Amy Tam
The Wolfson
Foundation
Esther de Zeeuw

OPPORTUNITY FUND:
£283,542.69

FUTURE FUND:
£464,817.92



FOUNDATION FUND:
£1,316,065.05

 **TOTAL DONATED: £2,064,425.66**

Warnock Society members by matriculation year

1951

Michael Port

1952Philip Hobson
Francis Scott**1953**Alan Broome
David Clay
Quintin Knight**1954**Jim Catty
Michael Kirby**1955**Clive Aldred
David Cutler
David Moseley**1956**

David Cressey

1957Peter Loveday
Gerald Paterson
Ronald Pattinson**1958**

Rodney Chambers

1959David Grant
Hugh Sturzaker**1960**Rex Goad
James Hemsley
Michael St John
Roger Westbrook
Marc Wigan**1961**Christopher Craig
Malcolm Duce
David Elkington
Colin Harris
David Mander
Eric Martin
Hugh Nicklin
Ken Waters**1962**Chris Brooks
Michael Gee**1963**Bob Eastwood
Christopher Fance
John Mollon
Paul Tompsett**1964**Tony Champion
David Hackett
Graham Jones
Adrian Oldknow**1965**John Crook
Mike Henderson
Chris Inge
Stephen Potel**1966**

Peter Hollins

1967Philip Chapman
Brian Fortnum
Edwin Gale
Victor Rayward-Smith
Ian Reid
Robin Selby
Ian Sharp
Mike Wyatt**1968**Meredith Childerstone
John Clark
John Dewar**1969**Peter Blakey
Alex Bristow
Gary Green
Eric Pawson
Simon Webb**1970**Andrew Binks
Neil Swindells**1971**Alan Barlow
Crispian Cartwright
Jeffrey John
Graeme Marshall
Roderic Mitchell
Lesley Sharpe
Christopher Wright**1972**Peter Dart
Lindsay Forbes
Tom Hutton
John Landers
Philip Watson

1973

Mellor Hennessy
George Patton
John Salmon

1974

Lindsay Baldock
Kate Stross
Boris Tyzuk

1975

John Asquith
Rob Lusardi

1976

David Brennan
Nick Carn
Bill Jamieson
Stephen Massey
Paul Rose

1977

Amanda Benton
Edward Fisher
Nicholas Haag
Adrian Hough
Keith Lyall

1978

Paul Chaston
Trevor Hicks
Rose Jackson
Adam Johnson
Peter Manning
Malcolm Wood

1979

Peter Beckford
Gary Collins
Elizabeth McManus

1980

Kathryn Hough
Jonathan Searle
Sheila Sharp

1981

Geoffrey Dobson
Sukhvinder Kaur-
Stubbs
Tony Surkovic
Lorne Whiteway

1982

Isobel Collyer
Jacquie Glomski
Markus Jaigirder
Stewart Kennedy

1983

Gilbert Benz
Ian Whitmore

1984

Gray Smith
Julian Stander

1985

DB Lenck

1986

Martin Dunsby
Chris Harley-Martin
Sally Harley-Martin

1987

Peter Aeberli
Jane Ballantyne
Jonathan Sharp

1988

Phil Smith

1989

Pete Houston
Ian Whittaker

1991

Gill Meller

1992

James Bruce
Nancy O'Brien Stuart

1994

Tom Fletcher

1995

Matthew Briers

1996

Jo Briers

1997

Hermione Ruck Keene

2001

Christopher Whalen

2003

Jessica Tooby

2004

Andrew Voysey

2007

Alex Woolgar

2016

Oliver Barlow

Friends of Hertford

Walter Bodmer
Barbara Davies
Angelina Gibson

Will Hutton
Ann McAfee
Philip Pentney

Barry Ryan
Lothar Waas
Stephanie West





Hertford College
OXFORD