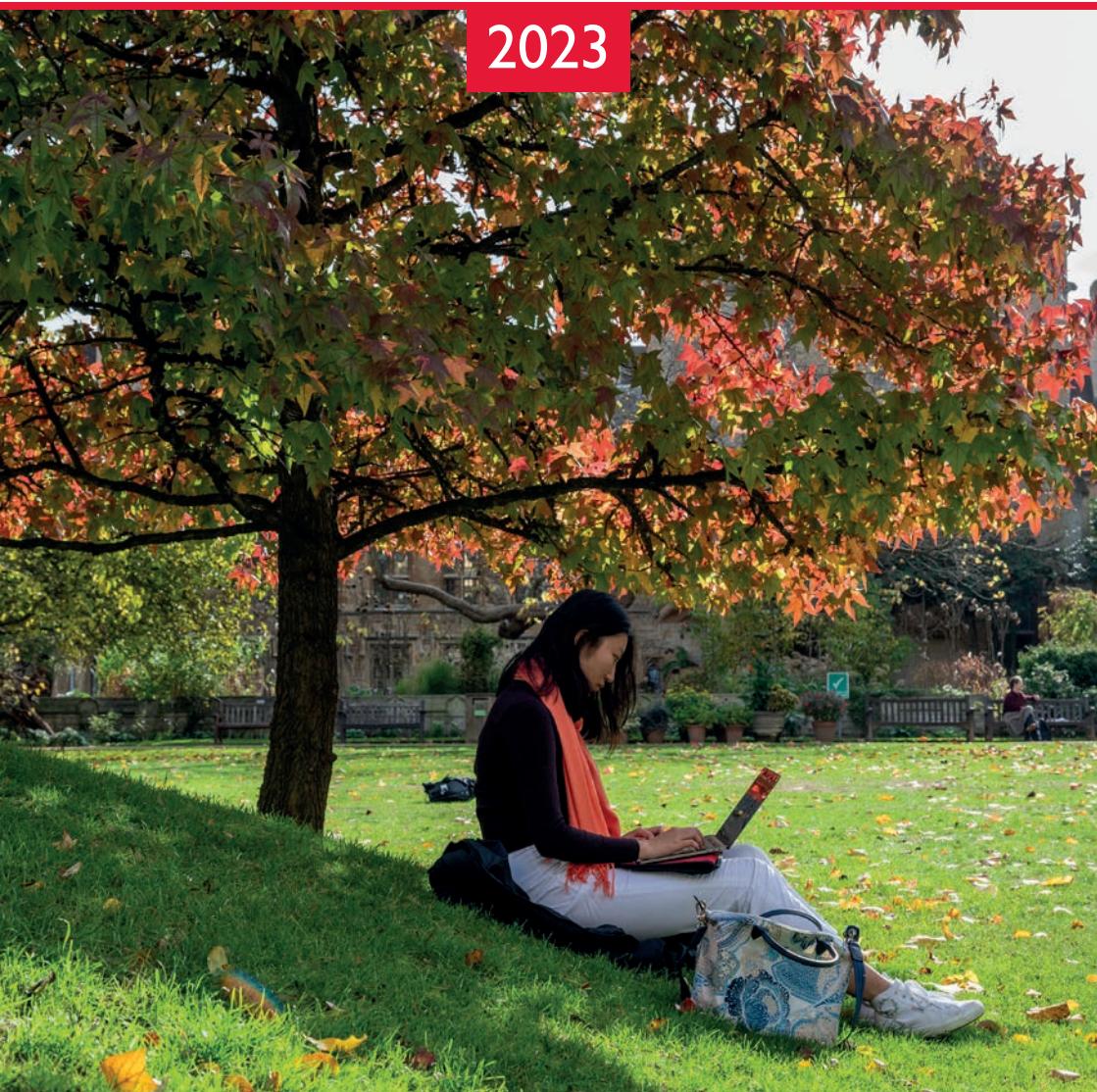




BALLIOL
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

ANNUAL RECORD

2023





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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

ANNUAL RECORD

2023

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Editor: Anne Askwith (Publications and Web Officer)

Printer: Ciconi Ltd

Front cover photograph by Stuart Bebb

The cut-off date for information in the *Annual Record* is 31 July. The lists of examination results (which exclude students who have chosen not to have their results published), graduate degrees, prizes, and scholarships and exhibitions may include awards and results made since that date in the previous academic year, as indicated. We are happy to record in future editions any such awards and results received after that date, if requested.

Obituaries of Old Members for the *Annual Record* are welcome, but there is a limit of 400 words. Please contact the Editor if you would like to write one.

The Editor may be contacted at the address above or by email: anne.askwith@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

To report a death, please send details to the Development Office at the address above or by email to development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

‘News and Notes’ from Old Members, formerly in the *Annual Record*, is now published as a supplement to *Floreat Domus*. We welcome submissions for the next edition, including photographs, which may be sent by email to newsandnotes@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

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The Master's Letter

Dame Helen Ghosh DCB

In the world of heritage, the 'Spirit of Place' is the guiding force in any decisions on how to present, explain or care for a historic building or landscape. When I was working at the National Trust, I came to understand how every place, because of its particular history, the people who lived there, its physical characteristics, has its own unique spirit.

I believe there is the same 'Spirit of Place' at work in a college. I was prompted to think this when reading – of all apparently unlikely things – the report here on the season from the Vice-Captain of our Cricket Club, Ed Grayson. Having described the team's triumph in winning Cuppers this year (hurrah!), Ed ends by saying that it was not the victory that meant most to him but being part of 'a group who loved playing with each other. Because of the togetherness of the team, and the camaraderie displayed by all throughout, cricket has been the highlight of my time here, and I thank you all for making it so special'.

I found this very moving. When I ask Freshers what were their first impressions of the College, the answer is almost always, 'It's such a friendly place.' That isn't just because of the people – staff, tutors, students – here now, but because that is the spirit of the place, created over generations. Of course, there will always be times when it seems unfriendly to some, and disputes can erupt. We need to have the resilience as a community to deal with that and support people as they need it. But the ethos of friendliness is an enduring one.

Another enduring spirit is that of satire. We have produced more than our fair share of novelists and journalists who look at the world around us with a sardonic eye. This year, we were sad to hear of the death of one of our most supportive alumni, publisher Peter Usborne (1958), not only the genial host of our London Usborne Dinners, but also one of the co-founders of *Private Eye*. This seemed a natural progression for him after editing a satirical student magazine *Mesopotamia* while here as a student.

So it was a delight to see the return to top form of the JCR Charity Musical. The concept of *Murder on the Balliol Express* involved a group of Balliol alumni, from Aldous Huxley (1913) to Boris Johnson (1983), in various unlikely combinations, being investigated by 'Poirette' for the eponymous killing. I should say that the student impersonating Boris with unnerving accuracy has

a calling for life, should he choose to pursue it. There were undoubtedly holes in the plot, or perhaps I just didn't follow it, but it was clever, funny and enormously entertaining.

Poetry also runs in our veins - in the 19th century Arnold (1840), Swinburne (1856), Manley Hopkins (1863) and Browning (our first Honorary Fellow in 1867) are examples, and more recently Gwyneth Lewis (1985 and Honorary Fellow), the first National Poet of Wales. You can read in this *Record* an inspiring account from Gwyneth of her time with us in Hilary Term as an Artist in Residence – 'a great insight', as she writes, 'into the hidden – and not so hidden – creative lives of Oxford'. It had such impact here and across the University that Gwyneth has kindly agreed to come back again in Hilary 2024 to be resident once more.

It should come as no surprise that a college like ours which has such a strong tradition of friendship and community should mourn our losses in the same spirit. Friends, family and students of Piers Nye (Fellow and Tutor in Physiological Sciences 1991–2011 and Emeritus Fellow from 2011) who died in 2021, joined in celebrating him in a summer picnic at Holywell Manor, where he himself memorably entertained students. The death of Bill Newton-Smith (Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1970–2005 and Emeritus Fellow from 2005) earlier this year elicited a wave of affection and grateful memories from colleagues and former students, which I am sure will be the essence of the memorial service that we will be holding for him next year.

Commemorations of Emeritus Fellows are something the College community can take in its stride; much more challenging is the death of a current Fellow still at the heart of our day-to-day life. The loss of Vicky Neale (Whitehead Lecturer in Mathematics from 2014, Supernumerary Fellow from 2016) in May at the age of 39 was felt deeply by the many students, former and current, colleagues and friends whose lives she had touched. Her life was celebrated on Radio 4's *Last Word*, which wonderfully conveyed her energy, warmth and the way in which her passion for her subject was central to her life.

It is possible for the spirit of place to be too deeply embedded in an ancient institution like ours. Jowett (Master 1870–1893) shook it up a bit in the 19th century with the reforms for which he is well known, and reminded us that looking forward is as important as looking back. I hope that, as the Master who remodelled our Library, he would approve of our current review of our Library facilities, now that our much-loved old buildings are bursting at the seams with books and students needing more space in which to work.

I was reminded of just how old the College is in Trinity Term when I was invited to the church of St Lawrence Jewry in the City of London, to take part in a ceremony to celebrate the completion of restoration works and the induction of a new Vicar. The College became the patron of the church in 1294 and only gave it up in the 1950s when the patronage system was reformed. But the Master still has their own seat in the front pew, marked by a fine College shield. How apt that the password on our guest Wifi in Broad Street is 'AVeryOldCollege!' *Floreat Domus*, and may its spirit endure!



The Master
beside the Balliol
Master's seat in
the church of St
Lawrence Jewry.

Balliol College

2022/2023

Balliol College 2022/2023

Visitor

Reed, Right Honourable Lord, PC, LLB Edin, DPhil Oxf, Hon LLD Glas, FRSE

Master

Ghosh, Dame Helen, DCB, MA MLitt Oxf, Hon LLD Nott

Fellows

Hazareesingh, Sudhir Kumar, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf, FBA, CUF Lecturer in Politics and Tutorial Fellow in Politics, and Senior Fellow

O'Hare, Dermot Michael, MA DPhil Oxf, Professor of Chemistry, Senior Research Fellow in Chemistry and SCG Fellow

Conway, Martin Herbert, MA DPhil Oxf, FRHistS, Professor of Contemporary European History, MacLellan-Warburg Fellow and Tutor in History

O'Brien, Dominic C., MA PhD Camb, MA DPhil Oxf, Professor of Engineering Science and Senior Research Fellow in Engineering

Skinner, Simon Andrew, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf, FRHistS, Associate Professor, Keen Fellow and Tutor in History

Forder, James, MA DPhil Oxf, Andrew Graham Fellow and Tutor in Political Economy, and Dean

Trefethen, Lloyd Nicholas, AB Harvard, MA Oxf, MS PhD Stanford, FRS, Professor of Numerical Analysis and Professorial Fellow

Lamond, Grant Ian, MA BCL DPhil Oxf, BA LLB Sydney, Associate Professor, Frankfurter Fellow and Tutor in Law

Reichold, Armin J.H., MA Oxf, Diplom PAS Dr rer nat Dip Dortmund, Professor of Physics, Reader in Particle Physics, Fellow and Tutor in Physics

Melham, Thomas Frederick, BSc Calgary, MA Oxf, PhD Camb, FRSE, FBCS, Professor of Computer Science, and Fellow and Tutor in Computation

Perry, Seamus Peter, MA DPhil Oxf, Professor of English Literature, Massey Fellow, Tutor in English, Fellow Librarian and Fellow for Charity Matters

Shimeld, Sebastian Mordecai, BSc Southampton, MA Oxf, PhD Manc, Professor of Evolutionary Developmental Biology, Julian Huxley Fellow and Tutor in Zoology, and Vice-Master (Academic)

Thomas, Rosalind, MA Oxf, PhD Lond, FBA, Professor of Greek History,

- Dyson-Macgregor Fellow, Jowett Lecturer and Tutor in Ancient History
- Lukas, André**, BSc Wuppertal, MA Oxf, Dr phil TU Munich, Professor of Physics, Fellow and Tutor in Theoretical Physics
- Marnette, Sophie**, Lic Brussels, PhD California, MA Oxf, Professor of Medieval French Studies, Dervorguilla Fellow and Tutor in French
- Lucas, David M.**, BA DPhil Oxf, Professor of Physics, Fellow and Tutor in Physics
- Barford, William**, BSc Sheff, MA Oxf, PhD Camb, Professor of Theoretical Chemistry, Fellow and Tutor in Physical Chemistry
- Paoli, Sandra**, MA Oxf, PhD Manc, Research Fellow in Romance Linguistics
- Goldin, Ian A.**, BSc BA Cape Town, MSc LSE, MA DPhil Oxf, AMP INSEAD, Professor of Globalisation and Development and Special Supernumerary Fellow
- Noe, Thomas H.**, BA Whittier, MBA PhD Texas at Austin, MA Oxf, Ernest Butten Professor of Management Studies and Professorial Fellow
- Hurrell, Andrew**, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf, FBA, Senior Research Fellow
- Kelly, Adrian David**, BA MA Melb, DPhil Oxf, Associate Professor, Clarendon University Lecturer, Fellow and Tutor in Ancient Greek Language and Literature
- Hamdy, Freddie Charles**, MBChB Alexandria, MD Sheffield, LRCP-LRCS FRCSUrol Edinburgh, LRCPS Glasgow, Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Professorial Fellow
- Schiff, Sir András**, Special Supernumerary Fellow
- Trott, Nicola Zoë**, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf, Senior Tutor and Academic Registrar, and Tutor for Graduates
- Walker, Lisa Jane**, BM BCh DPhil Oxf, BSc Manc, MRCPC, PGCME Dund, Fellow in Medical Sciences and Tutor for Undergraduate Admissions
- Belich, James Christopher**, ONZM, BA MA Victoria University of Wellington, DPhil Oxf, Beit Professor of Global and Imperial History, and Professorial Fellow
- Zaccolo, Manuela**, MD Turin, Professor of Cell Biology, Fellow and Tutor in Biomedical Sciences
- Tufano, Peter**, AB MBA PhD Harvard, Peter Moores Professor of Finance at Saïd Business School, and Special Supernumerary Fellow
- Lombardi, Elena**, Laurea Pavia, MA PhD New York, Professor of Italian Literature, Paget Toynbee Lecturer in Italian Medieval Studies, Fellow and Tutor in Italian

- Tan, Jin-Chong**, BEng (Mech) Malaysia, MEng NTU Singapore, PhD Camb, Professor of Engineering Science (Nanoscale Engineering), Fellow and Tutor in Engineering Science
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- Ghobrial, John-Paul**, BA Tufts, MPhil Oxf, MA PhD Princeton, Professor of Modern and Global History, Lucas Fellow and Tutor in History, and Praefectus of Holywell Manor
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- Godfray, Sir Charles**, CBE, FRS, Professorial Fellow and Director of the Oxford Martin School
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- Davis, Katrina**, BSc PhD Western Australia, Associate Professor and Tutorial Fellow in Zoology (Conservation Biology)
- Dickinson, Nicholas**, BA MSt Oxf, MRes PhD Exeter, Bingham Early Career Fellow in Constitutional Studies
- Wright, Frances**, BA Queen's Belfast, MSc Open University, Domestic Bursar
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Warburg, Rosemary Alison
Westerman, Matthew, MA Oxf

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Professor Jeffrey Ravel, MIT Visitor
Dr Shashi Jayakumar, Oliver Smithies Visiting Lecturer
Professor Brian Lewis, Oliver Smithies Visiting Lecturer

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Bagley, Peter, MA Camb, FCA, Lecturer in Medical Sciences (Biochemistry)
Bajo Lorenzana, Victoria, MD PhD Salamanca, Lecturer in Neuroscience
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Hunt, Timothy, BA MPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Economics
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Natarajan, Neil, MCompSciPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Computer Science
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Tang, Brian, MEngEcM, DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Engineering Science
Thomas, Arthur, BA Oxf, PhD Stanford, College Adviser to Graduates in Medical Sciences
Von Hausegger, Sebastian, BSc Göttingen, MSc, PhD Copenhagen, Lecturer in Physics
Wei, Yi (Hannah), MPhil DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Economics
Winzer, Viktoria, BA BCL MPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Law
Woodbury, Beau, BA MSt DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in History
Wyer, Sean, MA Oxf, Lecturer in Italian

New Fellows



Professor Lawrie Balfour John G. Winant Visiting Professor of American Government

Lawrie Balfour is James Hart Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia. A political theorist who studies race, gender, democracy, and literature with a focus on African American political thought, she is especially interested in investigating the relationship between the legacies of slavery and democratic possibilities in the US. The author of three books – *The Evidence of Things Not Said: James Baldwin and the Promise of American Democracy* (Cornell, 2000), *Democracy's Reconstruction: Thinking Politically with W.E.B. Du Bois* (OUP, 2011), and *Toni Morrison: Imagining Freedom* (Oxford, 2023) – she is currently writing a book about reparations.

James Baldwin and the Promise of American Democracy (Cornell, 2000), *Democracy's Reconstruction: Thinking Politically with W.E.B. Du Bois* (OUP, 2011), and *Toni Morrison: Imagining Freedom* (Oxford, 2023) – she is currently writing a book about reparations.

She was a 2020–2021 Guggenheim Fellow and member of the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J. She has held fellowships from the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research, the Center for the Study of Values in Public Life at Harvard Divinity School, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. A recipient of multiple teaching awards, she was Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Associate Professor for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton University in 2008–2009 and has held other visiting positions. She was the Editor of *Political Theory: An International Journal of Political Philosophy* (2017–2021) and serves or has served on the editorial boards of other journals.

Professor Kate Crosby Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies

After reading Sanskrit with Pali at St Hugh's College, Oxford (1986), Kate Crosby took up the Michael Foster Memorial Scholarship at the University of Hamburg and a Commonwealth Scholarship at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, also completing periods of traditional Sanskrit study in Pune and Varanasi. She returned to Oxford to complete her DPhil on medieval Sri

Lankan Pali literature (1999). She combines textual research on Sanskrit, Pali and Pali-vernacular literature with fieldwork in mainland Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka.

In addition to editions and translations, her publications cover the history, ethics and practices of Theravada Buddhism. Recent areas of research include how political context shapes Buddhist monasticism, Buddhist responses to colonialism and pre-modern meditation, in particular its relationship to the mathematics, grammar, obstetrics and chemistry of its day. She has taught widely on the religions, history and literature of the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asian mainland, with appointments between 1994 and 2022 at the universities of Edinburgh, Lancaster, Cardiff, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and King's College, London as well as visiting posts in Cambodia, Canada, Taiwan and Korea. As Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies, she teaches Buddhist Studies, Pali and Buddhist Sanskrit.



Dr Linda Eggert Early Career Fellow in Ethics in AI

Linda Eggert works primarily in moral and political philosophy, and also has interests in the philosophy of law. She completed her DPhil in 2021. Before joining Balliol, Linda was an Interdisciplinary Ethics Fellow at the McCoy Center for Ethics in Society at Stanford University. Before that, she was a Fellow-in-Residence at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University, and a Technology & Human Rights Fellow with Harvard's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.



Most of Linda's work is in normative and practical ethics, and global and rectificatory justice. She has recently written about moral and legal conundrums that arise when we try to protect human rights with military means, the ethics of supererogatory rescues, and requirements of necessity and proportionality in the ethics of self- and other defence. Linda's second area of focus concerns

how human rights and democratic values should govern the use of artificial intelligence and digital technologies. Her current work addresses questions including whether duties to rescue others may imply permissions to harm, what of distinctly moral significance is lost when we delegate certain decisions to AI, and whether there is a right against algorithmic decision-making.



Professor Christophe Fraser
Moh Family Foundation Professor of
Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Senior
Research Fellow

Christophe Fraser is Professor in the Pandemic Sciences Institute, part of the Nuffield Department of Medicine in the University of Oxford, where he leads the theme on Epidemiology, Data and Analytics. He studies the population dynamics and epidemiology of pathogens and translates this knowledge to public health. The primary tools used in his group are mathematical modelling and pathogen genomics. Trained in theoretical particle physics, he converted to mathematical biology after his PhD in 1998. He was Royal Society URF and then Professor in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Imperial College before joining Oxford in 2016. He was appointed Moh Family Foundation for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Balliol Senior Research Fellow in 2022.

Christophe's recent and current topics of interest include: HIV virulence; HIV treatment as prevention; HIV genomics; pneumococcal genomics; antibiotic resistance; outbreak response; COVID-19 contact tracing apps, COVID-19 epidemic modelling and COVID-19 sequencing. In current work, he is particularly interested in improving public health in areas that reduce the risks of pandemics and also increase the ability to respond to epidemics quickly and effectively.

Professor Carolyn Heinrich
George Eastman Visiting Professor

Carolyn J. Heinrich is the Patricia and Rodes Hart Professor of Public Policy, Education and Economics in the Peabody College of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt University, and a University Distinguished Professor of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations and Political Science. She

also holds secondary appointments as a Professor of Economics in the College of Arts and Science and a Professor of Health Policy in the School of Medicine.

Her research focuses on education, workforce development, health and social welfare policy, programme evaluation, and public management. She works closely with governments in her research to improve policy design and programme effectiveness and also collaborates with non-governmental organisations to improve the impacts of economic and social protection investments in middle-income and developing countries. She received the David N. Kershaw Award for distinguished contributions to the field of public policy analysis and management in 2004 and was elected to the US National Academy of Public Administration in 2011. She has also served as the President of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management and the Public Management Research Association.



Dr Ling Lin

Walker Early Career Fellow in Mathematical Physics

Ling Lin's research is centred around the interplay between physics and geometry in string theory. He utilises methods from algebraic geometry and topology to study physical systems for which more traditional techniques are not applicable. This includes inherently strongly-coupled quantum systems, as well as models with both quantum-mechanical and gravitational dynamics. His current work involves incorporating a modern notion of symmetry principles in this framework, and using these to uncover generic features of consistent quantum formulations of gravity. Before coming to Oxford, Ling held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Pennsylvania and CERN. He obtained his PhD in physics from Heidelberg University in 2016.





Professor Catherine Marshall Oliver Smithies Visiting Fellow

Catherine Marshall is Professor in British Studies (political history) at CY Cergy Paris Université, Director of the 'History of Political and Economic Ideas' axis of the AGORA research centre and Director of the MA 'Political Ideas in a Digital Age'. Her research is in British intellectual and political history during the Victorian period and its legacy.

Her work has focused on the ideas of Walter Bagehot, the publication of the Metaphysical Society Papers (1869–1881) and the importance of political 'deference' in the British constitution in the 19th and 20th centuries. This background has led her to start, in 2023, research on Victorian liberal women and their writings, to take a fresh look at their role in the history of liberalism.

Her most recent publications are a monograph entitled *Political Deference in a Democratic Age: British Politics and the Constitution from the Eighteenth Century to Brexit* (Palgrave, 2021) and two articles: one, in *Rivista di Politica* (April–June 2022) on Walter Bagehot and the concept of deference, and the other, in *Pouvoir* (September 2022), on the constitutional education of Elizabeth II. She has recently co-edited a special issue on 'One Nation Conservatism from Disraeli to Johnson' for the *Revue Française de Civilisation Britannique* (February 2023).



Dr Viktor Savchenko Research Fellow

Viktor Savchenko is visiting from V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine, where he is an Associate Professor in Civil Law. Whilst in Oxford he is working with Professor Thomas Douglas, confronting the question 'which influences on a person's mental life and behaviour infringe that person's fundamental rights?'.

Viktor holds a PhD in Law from the Research Institute of Private Law and Entrepreneurship, Ukraine, and a Masters in Law from V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine. He is currently completing postdoctoral research in fulfilment of the

requirements for a Doctor of Laws. His research (i) argues that non-property legal rights over the person can be grounded in human autonomy, (ii) explores the precise relationship between autonomy and these rights, and (iii) examines whether and when external mental and behavioural influences, including advertising, persuasive digital technologies, and psychiatric medications, infringe these rights.

Viktor is funded by the British Academy's Researchers at Risk Fellowship scheme, in association with Cara (the Council for At-Risk Academics), the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics and the Balliol Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

Professor Tim Soutphommasane (2004)
Chief Diversity Officer, Professor of Practice
in Human Rights and Political Theory, and
Senior Research Fellow

Tim Soutphommasane is Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Oxford and Professor of Practice in Human Rights and Political Theory in the Department of Politics and International Relations. In addition to his Fellowship at Balliol he holds a professorial appointment at the University of Sydney. His research focuses on questions of patriotism, multiculturalism, race, human rights and leadership. He is the author of five books: *On Hate* (Hachette, 2019), *I'm Not Racist But ... 40 Years of the Racial Discrimination Act* (New South, 2015), *Don't Go Back to Where You Came From: Why Multiculturalism Works* (New South, 2012), *The Virtuous Citizen: Patriotism in a Multicultural Society* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) and *Reclaiming Patriotism: Nation-Building for Australian Progressives* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).



He was previously Director of Culture Strategy at the University of Sydney (2019–2022) and Australia's Race Discrimination Commissioner (2013–2018). As Commissioner, he led Australia's national efforts in combatting racial discrimination during a period of extensive debate about race, human rights and freedom of speech. His work and commentary have featured in outlets including the *New York Times*, CNN, BBC, *Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, *New Statesman*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and *The Australian*. He has supported numerous international organisations with culture change relating to diversity, equity and inclusion.



Dr Raghavendra Srinivas
Early Career Fellow in Physics

Raghavendra Srinivas works on using a quantum network to make atomic clocks more precise via entanglement, and building a quantum computer out of single atoms. His research has focused on creating and manipulating entangled states of trapped ion qubits. During his PhD at the Ion Storage Group at NIST, Boulder, he developed new techniques for entangling ions without lasers. He then joined the networking experiment in the Oxford Ion Trap Group, which can generate entanglement between ions in two separate traps and recently used this system to demonstrate the first quantum network of entangled optical atomic clocks. He was awarded an EPSRC Quantum Technologies Early Career Fellowship for further quantum-enhanced metrology experiments using this network.

Photographs on pages 18, 20, 21 below, 22 below, 23, and this page by Stuart Bebb.

First-year graduates

- Angell, Kate, University of St Andrews, MPhil Modern Chinese Studies
- Arribas Blanco, Denis, Imperial College London, MSc Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing
- Astley, Jennie, University of Oxford, DPhil Molecular and Cellular Medicine
- Atmuri, Praveen, Monash University, Australia, EMBA
- Auestad, Henrik, ETH Zürich, Switzerland, DPhil Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics
- Aydin, Fatih, Istanbul University, Turkey, EMBA
- Baan, Jan, University of Oxford, EMBA
- Baghdadi, Jad, University of Oxford, DPhil International Development
- Barclay, Stephanie, Brigham Young University–Idaho (Ricks College), USA, DPhil Law
- Boduljak, Gabrijel, University of Edinburgh, MSc Advanced Computer Science
- Bordi, Pietro, King's College London, DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages
- Broadbent, Ben, University of Oxford, MPhil Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature
- Chang, Wei-Che, University College London, DPhil Medical Sciences
- Chang, Bernard, Stanford University, USA, EMBA
- Chapman, Benjamin, University of Oxford, DPhil Inflammatory and Musculoskeletal Disease
- Chapman, Tilly, University of Exeter, MSt Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature
- Chavan, Gayatri, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, MSc Medical Anthropology
- Clark, Charlie, University of Bristol, DPhil Genomic Medicine and Statistics
- Clesi, Aimee, University of Florida, USA, MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Conte, Lilla, University College London, MSt English (650–1550)
- Conway, Finn, University of Oxford, MPhil Greek and/or Roman History
- Devine, Mark, University of Oxford, EMBA
- Dewan, Diksha, University of Delhi, India, MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry
- Dhonchak, Anupriya, University of Oxford, MPhil Law

- Diaz Azcunaga, Ana, University College Utrecht, Netherlands, MPhil Law
Doll, Roman, University of Bonn, Germany, DPhil Medical Sciences
Duffy, Sarah, University of Oxford, DPhil in Economics
Dugaeva, Ksenia, University of Oxford, MSt Modern Languages (French)
Dutta, Ray, Johns Hopkins University, USA, MSc Modern South Asian Studies
Eames, Beth, University of Oxford, DPhil Engineering Science
Eid, Mark, Imperial College London, Autonomous Intelligent Machines and
Systems (EPSRC CDT)
Eliseeva, Elena, University of Oxford, DPhil Pharmacology
Englund, Anine, University of St Andrews, DPhil English
Epure, Ingrid, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Romania, MSc Social Science
of the Internet
Erholtz, Silja, Lahyi Polytechnic, Finland, MSc Social Science of the Internet
Garapo, Tinashe, Drake University, USA, EMBA
Gargano, Valentino, University of Oxford, DPhil Classical Languages and
Literature
Georges, Tim, University of Oxford, DPhil Physical and Theoretical Chemistry
Gitin, Leo, University of Bonn, Germany, DPhil Mathematics
Gittus, Brittany, University of Tasmania, Australia, MSt History – Modern
European History 1850–present
Glass, Alyssa, University of Oxford, DPhil Law
Goldstein, Adam, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, MSc (by
Research) Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics
Goodman, Pippa, University of Cambridge, MPhil International Relations
Graham, Miles, University of Oxford, DPhil Cellular Structural Biology
Grein, Thomas, London School of Economics and Political Science, MSc
Modern Middle Eastern Studies
Grindeland, Astrid, University of Oslo, Norway, DPhil Classical Languages
and Literature
Hadad, Justin, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA, MPhil
Economics
Harrington, Eve, University of Oxford, MSt Greek and/or Latin Languages
and Literature
Huber, Matthias, University of Vienna, Austria, DPhil English
Hughes, John, University of Warwick, DPhil Mathematics
Hussain, Hatim, University of Oxford, DPhil Law
Isachsen, Benjamin, University of Oxford, DPhil Theology and Religion

- Jama, Ikran, University of Oxford, MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies
- Kang, Dong Hyun, University of Oxford, MSt Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics
- Kaur, Kanwarjot, University of Oslo, Norway, MJur
- Kelly, Mara, Northwestern University, USA, MPhil History – US History
- Lansing, Victoria, University of Oxford, DPhil Classical Languages and Literature
- Larsen, Jonas, University of Oslo, Norway, MSc Economics for Development
- Laugen-Kelly, Algernon, University of Oxford, MPhil Greek and/or Roman History
- Laundal, Tobias, University of Oslo, Norway, MSc Advanced Computer Science
- Leu, Aaron, ETH Zürich, Switzerland, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics
- Liang, Shuting, University of Rochester, USA, MSt Ancient Philosophy
- Lisowska, Zofia, Goldsmiths, University of London, MSt in History – Medieval History
- Farinha, Miguel, Instituto Superior Técnico Lisbon, Portugal, DPhil Psychiatry
- Lovegrove, Catherine, King's College London, DPhil Surgical Sciences
- Lu, Christopher, University of London, MSt Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature
- Ma, Julius, London School of Economics and Political Science, BCL
- Martyn, Niamh, Trinity College Dublin, University of Dublin, BCL
- Mccormick, Lucy, University of Warwick, MSt History – Modern British History 1850–present
- McGrath, Brendan, University of Oxford, MPhil Economics
- McGregor, Madeleine, Australian National University, Master of Public Policy
- Mehra, Smiti, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, India, EMBA
- Metz, Sophia, INSEEC, EMBA
- Mhere, Ray, University of Cape Town, South Africa, EMBA
- Monchi, Valerie, University of Oxford, DPhil Public Policy
- Mueller, Marissa, University of Oxford, DPhil Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics
- Munoz, Martin, Columbia University, USA, BPhil Philosophy
- Murgulet, Diana, Imperial College London, MBA
- Muskett, Mia, University of Western Australia, MBA
- Naylor, Matthew, University of Oxford, DPhil Economics

- Neff, Alannah, University College Cork, National University of Ireland, MSc Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing
- Ngwenya, Tinashe, University of Cambridge, Future Propulsion and Power (EPSRC CDT)
- Nicheperovich, Alina, University College London, MSc Genomic Medicine
- Oertel, Charlotte, Ruprecht-Karls University, Germany, MSc Digital Scholarship
- Ojakäär, Triin, University of Oxford, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences
- Oproshchenko, Maryna, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine, MSc Financial Economics
- Otiato, Kevin, Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, Kenya, DPhil Engineering Science
- Patel, Jay, Imperial College London, MSc Musculoskeletal Sciences
- Pereira Da Costa, Maria, University of Oxford, MPhil International Relations
- Pillay, Kialan, University of Cape Town, South Africa, MSc Advanced Computer Science
- Prabhu, Trisha, Harvard University USA, MSc Social Science of the Internet
- Qin, Yi, University of Science and Technology of China, DPhil Engineering Science
- Remmington, Alice, University of Cambridge, MSt English (1830–1914)
- Rodel, Lily, University College London, DPhil Information, Communication and the Social Sciences
- Rouviere, Anna, University of St Andrews, Environmental Research (NERC DTP)
- Rustad, Linn, University of Exeter, MPhil Politics: European Politics and Society
- Ryan, Nick, University of Oxford, DPhil Mathematics
- Schmalian, Misha, University of Cambridge, DPhil Mathematics
- Schoenfeld, Molly, University of Birmingham, MSt History – British and European History 1700–1850
- Shafer, Nicholas, University of Sussex, MSc Modern Middle Eastern Studies
- Shearer, Jenny, University of Edinburgh, MSt Greek and/or Roman History
- Si, Yiwei, University of Oxford, DPhil Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics
- Siddique, Nadiya, London School of Economics and Political Science, EMBA
- Sieper, Tabea, ETH Zürich, Switzerland, MSc Mathematical and Theoretical Physics
- Singh, Nihal, University of California, Berkeley, USA, MPhil Modern South Asian Studies

Siva, Anouska, Carnegie Mellon University, USA, MSc Financial Economics
Small-Edwards, James, University of Edinburgh, Master of Public Policy
Smausz, Rebecca, University of Manchester, DPhil Experimental Psychology
Smith, Molly, Imperial College London, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics
Stiskalek, Richard, University of Glasgow, DPhil Astrophysics
Stojicevic, Hannah, University of British Columbia, Canada, MPhil Modern Middle Eastern Studies
Tandel, Pranav, London School of Economics and Political Science, MSc Economics for Development
Telò, Andrea, King's College London, MPhil Politics: European Politics and Society
Teworte, Emma, University of Oxford, DPhil History
Tirapu Sanuy, Josep, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain, MPhil Law
Tjandra, Jonathan, College of Law, Australia, BCL
Trinca, Isabel, College of Law, Australia, BCL
Trojanskis, Nick, University of Cambridge, DPhil Biology
Tse, Jeffrey, University of Oxford, Modern Statistics and Statistical Machine Learning (EPSRC CDT)
Visser, Marie-Pauline, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands, MSc Financial Economics
Wang, Yvonne, University of Edinburgh, MSc Digital Scholarship
Wells, Eloise, University of Sheffield, DPhil Genomic Medicine and Statistics
White, Victoria, University of Oxford, DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages
Williamson, Patrick, Australian National University, DPhil Philosophy
Yan, Christina, Imperial College London, DPhil Women's and Reproductive Health
Yap, John, University of Oxford, BCL
Yousaf, Sidra, Columbia University, USA, MPhil Modern South Asian Studies
Zaka, Wafa, Princeton University, USA, MSc Modern South Asian Studies
Zhang, Hengyue, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA, DPhil Astrophysics

Correction to 2022 edition

Aaba Atach, Ana-Diamond, King's College London, MPhil Modern Middle Eastern Studies

First-year undergraduates

- Ackerly, Margaret (Cooper), Virginia Commonwealth University, USA, Classics
- Ahmed, Mashhood, Sutton Grammar School, London, Jurisprudence
- Balint, Alison, Bexley Grammar School, Kent, Jurisprudence
- Bates, Alfie, Wembley High Technology College, London, History
- Batterbee, Daniel, Solihull School, West Midlands, Biology
- Baum, Angele, College of Marin, California, USA, Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies)
- Beach, Ewan, University of Queensland, Australia, Physics
- Beard, John (Jack), Westminster School, London, Classics
- Callan, Ben, Cardinal Wiseman School, Greenford, London, English Language and Literature
- Carey-Topping, Molly, Denmark Road High School, Gloucester, History
- Chakravarti, Ian, Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, PPE
- Chang, Joshua, North London Collegiate School, South Korea, Computer Science and Philosophy
- Channing, Michael, King Henry VIII School, Coventry, Engineering Science
- Charles, Karlton, Brampton Manor Academy, East Ham, London, Mathematics
- Chaudhry, Amisha, Antrim Grammar School, Northern Ireland, History and Politics
- Chen, Yijia (Keira), National Junior College, Singapore, Mathematics
- Chen, Yiming, Shanghai Yue Kong Pao Senior Secondary School, China, Physics and Philosophy
- Chen, Jack, Stanford Online High School, USA, Computer Science and Philosophy
- Chitty, Noelle, St Mary's Anglican Girls' School, Perth, Australia, PPE
- Chu, Luke, Lycée Français de San Francisco, USA, Physics and Philosophy
- Cody-Michael, Ella, St Mark's Catholic School, Hounslow, London, PPE
- Collins, Daniel, City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College, Staffordshire, Engineering Science
- Collins, Lillie, Colchester Royal Grammar School, Essex, Biomedical Sciences
- Cope-Brown, Biba, Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge, Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
- Crawford, Oliver, Eton College, Berkshire, Classics
- De Carvalho Espada De Sousa, Weza, Westminster Academy, London, History and Modern Languages (French)

- Diallo Solana, Julia, King Solomon Academy, Marylebone, London, PPE
Dunne, Fodhla, Newtown School, Waterford, Ireland, History
Durnion, Dylan, St Christopher's Senior School, Bahrain, Jurisprudence
Evans, Alexander, Alsager School, Cheshire, Mathematics
Farnell, Sian, Skipton Girls' High School, North Yorkshire, Modern Languages
(Italian and Spanish)
Feng, Jessica, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology,
Virginia, USA, Biology
Field, Rosamunde, Rosie, Chesham Grammar School, Buckinghamshire, PPE
Fitzgerald, William, Hermitage Academy, Argyll and Bute, Scotland, English
Language and Literature
Garrett-Langdon, Charlotte, Dr Challoner's High School for Girls, Little
Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, History
Gogna, Ria, Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls, Birmingham,
Economics and Management
Goodfellow, Frederick, Sevenoaks School, Kent, Engineering Science
Granholm, Abigail, St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith, London, PPE
Gupta, Anika, King's College School, Wimbledon Common, London, History
Handel Subbiah, Nikita, Jersey College for Girls, St Saviour, Jersey, Mathematics
Haque, Nicholas, Christ's College, East Finchley, London, History
Harland, Maxim, Colyton Grammar School, Devon, History and Politics
Hazarika, Arani, Holy Child School, Guwahati, India, Asian and Middle
Eastern Studies (Sanskrit)
Heslop, Keira, Loreto College, Manchester, Mathematics
Hinds, Charlotte, Sixth Form College Colchester, Essex, Chemistry
Holmes, Amelia, City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College, Staffordshire,
Mathematics and Philosophy
Holmes-Simeon, Phoebe, Woodroffe School, Lyme Regis, Dorset, Classics
Honeywill, James, St Brendan's Sixth Form College, Bristol, Computer Science
Horrocks-Taylor, Isabelle, Oundle School, Northamptonshire, Classics
Hughes, Jake, Colchester Royal Grammar School, Essex, PPE
Hundle, Amerleen, Bolton School Girls' Division, Greater Manchester,
Economics and Management
Islip, Conall, Harlington Upper School, Bedfordshire, Medical Sciences
Jadwat, Raeesah, St John's College, Johannesburg, South Africa, Physics and
Philosophy

- Jalal, Mohammed, St Thomas More Catholic Academy, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Chemistry
- John, Choice, Harris Westminster Sixth Form, London, Jurisprudence
- Jones, Lucy, Gryphon School, Sherborne, Dorset, Classics
- Jones, Jack, Torquay Boys Grammar School, Devon, History
- Kapadia, Suhayl, Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet, Greater London, Biology
- Kirkland, Eleanor, Esher College, Thames Ditton, Surrey, Jurisprudence
- Kundi, Harkaran, Robert Clack School, Dagenham, Greater London, Mathematics
- Lee, Jia Yi, International School of Penang, Malaysia, Engineering Science
- Lee, Kin Long Milton, ITS Tutorial School, Hong Kong, Mathematics
- Leggett, Cameron, Churchill Academy and Sixth Form, North Somerset, Engineering Science
- Lewis, Grace, Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge, Chemistry
- Liu Cannon, May, St John's Academy, Marlborough, Wiltshire, English Language and Literature
- Maclellan, Margaret, Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, English and Modern Languages (French)
- Maeckel, Anna-Sophia, Rossall School, Fleetwood, Lancashire, Biomedical Sciences
- Mahendra, Rosabel, St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith, London, PPE
- McCann, Keziah, Monmouth Comprehensive School, Monmouthshire, Wales, Modern Languages (French and Italian)
- Milnes, Sophie, d'Overbroeck's, Oxford, Mathematics
- Mitchell, Rory, Prior Pursglove College, Redcar and Cleveland, North Yorkshire, Chemistry
- Murray, Alice, Fallibroome Academy, Macclesfield, Cheshire, Biology
- Norton, Natascha, Denbigh School, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, Modern Languages (Italian and Spanish)
- Nuur, Yonis, Brampton Manor Academy, East Ham, London, History
- O'Connor, Chloe, Brentwood School, Brentwood, Essex, English Language and Literature
- Oyarzabal, Isaac, Uckfield College, East Sussex, Physics
- Pinto, Federico, Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle, South Kensington, London, Physics
- Polito Pons, Olivia, West London Free School, Hammersmith, London, History and Modern Languages (French)

- Priddle, Harry, Pate's Grammar School, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, Chemistry
- Prior, Harry, Oriel High School, Crawley, West Sussex, Engineering Science
- Probert, Sarah, Torquay Boys Grammar School, Devon, Biomedical Sciences
- Raj, Aditya, Westminster School, London, PPE
- Reilly, William, Richard Hale School, Hertford, Hertfordshire, Medical Sciences
- Renahan, Charlotte, Runshaw College, Lancashire, History and English
- Salter, Benjamin, Sackville School, East Grinstead, West Sussex, History
- Santhouse, Samuel, Woodhouse College, Finchley, London, Medical Sciences
- Saunders, Noah, Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, Rochester, Kent, PPE
- Scollin, Caitlin, Trinity High School, Rutherglen, Scotland, English Language and Literature
- Smith, William, Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge, History and Economics
- Smith, Phoebe, St Catherine's School, Guildford, Surrey, Biology
- Soepadmo, Jonathan, Raffles Junior College, Singapore, Engineering Science
- Stein, Sofia, London Oratory School, English Language and Literature
- Sultan, Aman, Luton VI Form College, Bedfordshire, Economics and Management
- Sykes, Mimi, Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College, East Sussex, Jurisprudence
- Tai, Milton, Shrewsbury School, Shropshire, Philosophy and Modern Languages (Italian)
- Tandon, Rohan, King Edward's School, Edgbaston, West Midlands, Medical Sciences
- Todman, Isaac, St Mary Redcliffe and Temple School, Bristol, Engineering Science
- Vendina, Alina, British School of Milan, Italy, Chemistry
- Watling, Eliska, Jane Austen College, Norwich, History and Economics
- Watson, Myles, Rainham Mark Grammar School, Medway, Kent, English Language and Literature
- Wei, Andy Lai, Markville Secondary School, Ontario, Canada, PPE
- Whelan, Joseph, Guiseley School, Leeds, West Yorkshire, History and Politics
- Williams, Matthew, Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, PPE

Wong, Tsz (David), University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA, Physics
Wu, Yiqian (Chian), Concord College, Acton Burnell, Shropshire, Physics and Philosophy
Yardy, Emily, East Norfolk Sixth Form College Academy, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, Biology
Yucelen, Mina, Bilkent Laboratory and International School, Turkey, History and English
Zahra, Matthew, Stewart's Melville College, Edinburgh, Scotland, Computer Science
Zhang, Chenrui, West Bridgford School, Nottingham, English Language and Literature
Zheng, Naiqi, Experimental High School Attached to Beijing Normal University, China, Physics
Zhuang, Sam, Kristin School, New Zealand, Engineering Science

Correction to 2022 edition

Andronikos, Julia, St Paul's Girls' School, London, Economics and Management

Undergraduates with Senior Status

Franke, Louise, Clemson University, South Carolina, USA, PPE
Sriram, Aditi, University of British Columbia, Canada, PPE

Visiting students

Buchinger, Lorenz, University of Vienna, Austria, Visiting Matriculated Non-Award History

Cornelis, Sharon, University of Paris II (Paris-Panthéon-Assas University), France, Diploma in Legal Studies

De Villeneuve-Flayosc, Raphaëlle, University of Paris II (Paris-Panthéon-Assas University), France, Diploma in Legal Studies

Favier, Jeanne, University of Paris II (Paris-Panthéon-Assas University), France, Diploma in Legal Studies

Franke, Louise, Clemson University, South Carolina, USA, PPE

Hofmann, Jakob, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany, Visiting Non-Matriculated Programme

Villanueva Estevez, Lucia, University of San Andrés Argentina, Visiting Non-Matriculated Programme

Buchinger, Lorenz, Leiden University, Netherlands, Europaeum visiting student, MA European History and Civilisation

College staff

Retirements

Alain Hunt, Lodge Porter, 31 July 2022 (joined 16 February 2015)

James Head, Head Groundsman, 2 September 2022 (joined 3 May 1988)

Colin Simms, Lodge Night Porter, 31 December 2022 (joined 2 May 2017)

Appointments

Thomas Stewardson, Boatman, 1 August 2022

Jennifer Stewart, College Office Administrator, 15 August 2022

Jack Farrow, IT Officer, 15 August 2022

Ahmed Shalaby, Junior Dean, 1 September 2022

Alexander Russell, Junior Dean, 1 September 2022

Carol Jones, Junior Dean, 1 September 2022

Isabelle Rocroi, Junior Dean, 1 September 2022

Tafadzwa Kufazvinei, Junior Dean, 1 September 2022

Konrad Ksiazek, Junior Dean, 1 September 2022

Anna Zerio, Junior Dean, 1 September 2022

Zhen Shao, Assistant Dean, 1 September 2022

Candice Gregory, Graduate Centre Manager, 6 September 2022

Kate Pullen, Acting Welfare and Wellbeing Officer, 13 September 2022

Melanie Marshall, Acting Chaplain, 20 September 2022

Anna Stolarska, Hall Supervisor, 3 October 2022

Chuchu Chen, Events Coordinator, 10 October 2022

Stefano Maccazzola, Weekend Lodge Porter, 31 October 2022

Elena Bizic, General Catering Steward, 21 November 2022

Paula Cassidy, Lodge Night Porter, 21 November 2022

Kerri-Louise Howard-Slaughter, Conference and Events Manager (maternity cover), 21 November 2022

Alexander Still, Events Coordinator, 24 January 2023

Mohammed Chisti, Weekend Lodge Porter, 6 February 2023

Gemma Benson, PA to the Development Director, 20 February 2023

Ryan Allen, Maintenance and Project Supervisor, 27 February 2023

Zoe Rucker, Alumni Relations and Development Intern, 13 March 2023

Ioanna Giannouli, IT Support Assistant, 20 March 2023

Rachel Cusack, Nursery Practitioner (maternity cover), 9 May 2023

Suzanna Bikar, General Catering Steward, 22 May 2023

Departures

- Juan Carlos Gimenez Bernat, General Catering Steward, 31 July 2022
Robert Foxx, Maintenance and Project Supervisor, 18 August 2022
Joshua Todhunter-Newman, College Office Assistant, 26 August 2022
Hannah Vinten, Alumni Events and Networks Officer, 2 September 2022
Rosie Thomas, Data and Research Officer, 30 September 2022
Ines Nizigama, Alumni and Development Coordinator, 1 November 2022
Stefano Maccazzola, Weekend Lodge Porter, 18 November 2022
Alanna Grisi, Weekend Lodge Porter, 30 November 2022
Chuchu Chen, Events Coordinator, 29 January 2023
Kerri-Louise Howard-Slaughter, Conference and Events Manager (maternity cover), 21 April 2023
Gemma Benson, PA to Development Director, 3 June 2023
Alexander Still, Events Coordinator, 14 July 2023
Candice Gregory, Graduate Centre Manager, 14 July 2023
Lesley Quirk, Development Officer, 31 July 2023

Review of the Year

Review of the year

Nicola Trott (Senior Tutor)

(We hope readers will take an interest in this content, which is produced for the College's annual accounts under Charities SORP – the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice. Equivalent reports for previous years, going back to 2010–11, are published with the accounts, the archives to which may be found at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding/archive-of-financial-statements?wssl=1>.)

Selected highlights of the 2022/23 year

To most intents and purposes, this past year, it was BAU for Balliol. Even now some effects of pandemic lockdowns are felt, in particular on student research degree schedules, but the College has resumed its wonted activities – and, indicative of returning vigour, added some new ones. An initiative by Praefectus and History Tutor John-Paul Ghobrial brought Holywell Manor Research Associates to the graduate community for the year, positions which gave three inspirational post-doctoral academics a college association and a chance to foster the interests and ambitions of young scholars close to embarking on their own careers. We were delighted, too, to host Honorary Fellow and former National Poet of Wales Gwyneth Lewis as Artist in Residence for Hilary Term 2023, in which time she met and guided numerous current members during (creative) writing office hours; with the Acting Chaplain, Mel Marshall, held contemporary poetry close reading sessions; and, with the Master, held themed evening events to which members were invited to bring along their favourite poems. Speaking of reading, for the second post-pandemic year under its newly refurbished roof, reading parties were held at the Chalet des Anglais in the French Alps, with Balliol groups led by Dominic O'Brien and Nicola Trott (Senior Research Fellow and Senior Tutor respectively). And, speaking of College-facilitated travel, cohorts of Balliol finalists lucky enough to be selected have spent part of the summer becoming Asian or North American William Westerman Pathfinders or Mexico Explorers.

Research interests moved on from Covid-19 also, in various ways, one of which – a clear sign of the times – went in the direction of AI. A June 2023 symposium on 'Generative AI, journalism and the future of democracy', held

at Balliol, organised by Early Career Fellow Linda Eggert and graduate student Felix Simon, and supported by the BII (Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute), has since been followed up with a published report. John Tasioulas, Director of Oxford's Institute for Ethics in AI, and both an alumnus and a current Fellow, was awarded a three-year AI2050 Senior Fellowship by Schmidt Futures, which will enable 'sustained attention' to be given to the 'urgent and profound ethical questions' that are raised by the developing technology. One of the challenges posed by machine-generated information, misinformation, is the focus of a new International Panel on the Information Environment, co-founded and chaired by Fellow and Professor of Internet Studies Philip Howard, officially launched at the Nobel Prize Summit in May 2023, and aimed at mounting a scientific and ethical response to the threats to that environment – a kind of global reality check, if you will. In the technical sphere, a holy grail of IT research is information security; and doctoral student David Nadlinger was lead author, in a team including Balliol Fellow and Tutor in Physics David Lucas, on a paper demonstrating a quantum protocol that is both much more secure than is achievable with classical computers and also immune to the vulnerabilities and defects of physical devices that plague current quantum models. A further aspiration in mathematical and machine learning disciplines, optimisation, came a step closer when Maths Tutor Professor Coralia Cartis and colleagues, one of them a former Oliver Smithies Visiting Lecturer at Balliol, published the 'go-to' book in evaluation complexity of algorithms – using novel methods to solve or to approximate solutions for hard optimisation problems. Another symposium and resulting book looked to the future by reaching back to the past, and to the Balliol trinity of greats Beveridge, Temple, and Tawney, by way of Re-Envisioning the British State in a Time of Crisis – a collection featuring essays by Keen Fellow and Tutor in History Simon Skinner and Jurisprudence alumnus Professor Simon Lee.

To pivot from one crisis to another, that of climate change, the College saw graduate Felix Simon's name in print on a second co-authored report, this time for the European Broadcasting Union, on how news organisations might go about improving their coverage in this area. Climate change research links knowledge and understanding to calls for action and even activism. Balliol's relatively new Climate and Biodiversity Committee, chaired by Maths Tutor Derek Moulton, seeks to take informed decisions towards a more sustainable future. Small steps in this direction included students competing to consume less energy using newly installed eco-valves among other Green Action events.

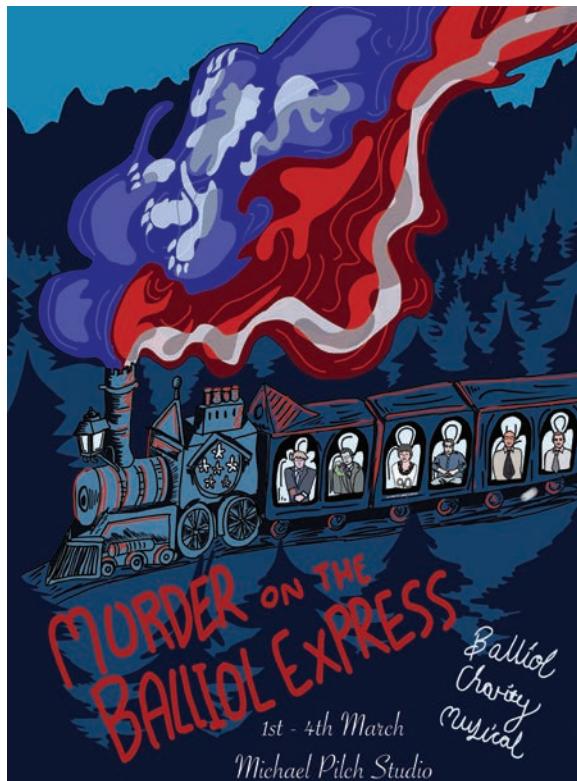
Balliol loves a competition, and this past year we were treated to several entertaining contests. The now traditional Library Christmas Quiz returned in style and in person for 2022. In the new year, the Library also ran a competition for members' photos of Balliol food and dining, ahead of its exhibition on the history of this core pastime at the College. But the College was also competitive on much bigger stages: recent alumnus Stefan Constantin-Buliga was in the Oxford University team that took bronze in the delayed 2020/21 World Finals of the International Collegiate Programming Contest; Classics Lecturer Alexandra Hardwick and her fellow-'Crustaceans' made it to the closely fought final of the BBC's brainy quiz show 'Only Connect'; and a team of four brave alumni led by crime writer Martin Edwards and including current Fellow and Warden of Rhodes House Elizabeth Kiss won the Christmas University Challenge 2022 – an occasion made all the more special for its being quizmaster Jeremy Paxman's last day in his iconic BBC role.

Not to be outdone, the Master's Field Project was entered into yet more competitions to add to its 2022 RIBA National Award, the College itself being

Christmas University Challenge winners (left to right) Elizabeth Kiss (1983), Andrew Copson (1999), Martin Edwards (1974) and Martin O'Neill (1993) with Jeremy Paxman (centre).



Poster for *Murder on the Balliol Express*, designed by Scarlett Stokes.



shortlisted for the RIBA Client of the Year Award, and the construction earning a certificate in the New Buildings category of the Oxford Preservation Trust Awards 2022.

Attention has been paid to some of the older buildings, too. Thanks to generous gifts to the College, planning was finalised in the course of 2022/23 for a refurbished lecture theatre, music room, and other facilities underneath the Senior Common Room. And several other bits of the Balliol estate have had a make-over, leading to an improved disabled access and teaching space in the Buttery area, and essential works on the main site and at Jowett Walk.

The cultural life of the College was enhanced as ever by the Balliol Musical Society - in the 2022/23 season a particularly memorable Trinity Term Members' Concert stands out in my mind – and, on 18 May, by the return, after far too long, of Sir András Schiff, Special Supernumerary Fellow of the College, to give his unique and very personal recital in memory of his teacher, the musician-composer and Balliol alumnus and Honorary Fellow George

Malcolm. The spirit of Malcolm lived on when, on 30 June 2023, doctoral student of Composition (and Junior Dean of the College) Carol Jones had her work premièred at the High Barnet Chamber Musical Festival. Music of a more rumbustious sort is on show in the JCR Balliol Charity Musical, traditionally held in Hilary Term; and this year's offering, *Murder on the Balliol Express*, written and directed by Modern Linguist Charles West, was a witty take on Agatha Christie-meets Tom Stoppard involving Balliol alumni (with an uncannily accurate impersonation of Boris, as well as portrayals of Hitch, Aldous and Cressida), and much enjoyed by the Master and Senior Tutor on 'seniors night'.

Other cultural highlights of the year included Denis Noble and Richard Dawkins, respectively Emeritus and Honorary Fellows, in conversation at the Hay-on-Wye Festival; a 2nd-year undergraduate, Jemima Chen, becoming producer on the first Oxford student-led feature film for 40 years; the discovery by Spanish Lecturer Maria Czepiel of lost works by the 16th-century Spanish Renaissance poet Garcilaso de la Vega; the development, by Fellow and Whitehead Lecturer in Mathematics, Vicky Neale, of a Maths + Cancer podcast; and, last but not least, two big JCR-organised parties, a Parisian-themed Commemoration Ball, on 6 May, and the lower-key and traditionally Balliol June Jamboree on the Master's Field. The College also enjoyed the presence and expertise of a full complement of academic visitors and an excellent set of in-person lectures once more, while the online lecture series put on by the Development Office continued to reach out to the wider Balliol community. These and other offerings are publicised on our Events and Events archive pages.

Very few of our activities would be possible without the assistance, experience, and not infrequently the patience, of our hardworking staff. One of the Master's Messages this year mentioned the Reward and Recognition scheme that the College has introduced to pay tribute to exceptional individual contributions; but the excellence of staff is widely enough distributed that it makes for quite a difficult selection process.

Select Honours to Balliol people

The start of the reign of a monarch is remarkable in itself, but for the College it came with the added interest and gratification of learning that the Right Honourable Lord Patten of Barnes, Honorary Fellow and Chancellor of the University, had been installed as a Knight Companion of the Most Noble



Chris Patten, Chancellor of Oxford University, speaking at Encaenia.

Photograph by Dick Makin.

Order of the Garter, the most senior order of knighthood in the British honours system. No fewer than 12 other alumni and a Friend of Balliol made honours in this, the first, year of Charles III's reign, seven of them in the New Year Honours List 2023, and a further six in the King's Birthday Honours 2023, and for services as wide-ranging and admirable as may be imagined – to the arts (Simon Mellor), to literature (Roland Keating and Anthony Cheetham), to reading and children's literature (Diana Gerald), to opera (Christine Rice), to technology and entrepreneurship (Dominic Jacquesson), to technology and engineering (Professor Paul Newman), to international peace and security (Sir John Chipman), to National Security and British Foreign Policy (Robert Harrison), to equestrianism and charity (Rosalind Slinger); and, of course, this being Balliol, there were honours for political and/or public service (the Right Hon Dr Julian Lewis MP; Marcus Bell and Suzy Kantor). The necessary switch from QC to KC was made easier to remember by the appointment, in the new year, of two alumni, Professor Richard Susskind and Professor Richard Ekins, as Honorary King's Counsel. The influence of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II continued to be felt, however, in the award in late September 2022 and approved before her death, of Honorary CBE to the College's alumnus and Honorary Fellow Oliver Franklin, for services to UK/US relations. The College congratulates them all.



Professor Coralia Cartis.

Select Academy elections

Alumnus James Maynard, now Professor of Number Theory at Oxford, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Though a signal recognition, this was but one of several that came his way this year alone. Double academy awards were made to Neta Crawford, newly arrived in Balliol/Oxford as the Montague Burton Professor of International Relations, with elections to Fellowships of the British Academy and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Joining her in election to the latter institution was Richard Ovenden, Bodley's Librarian and Professorial Fellow of Balliol. Also recognised by two academies, in Europe this time, was Manuela Zaccolo, Tutor in Biomedical Sciences and Professor of Cell Biology, who was made a Member of the Academia Europaea and elected a Fellow of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti. (She went on to gain a hat-trick when the International Society for Heart Research European Section made her the 2023 Ketty Schwartz Award.) Similarly, Coralia Cartis, Tutor in Mathematics and Professor of Numerical Optimisation, was elected EUROPT Fellow 2023 and then in quick succession selected by her leading professional body as one of the 2023 Class of SIAM Fellows. And alumna Wenmiao Yu was elected to a brand-new foundation, the UK Young Academy, an offshoot of the Royal Society in partnership with other national academies aimed at early career researchers and professionals.

Select awards and achievements of alumni and former Fellows

There is doubtless a confirmation bias in the weighting in College news items towards the achievements of alumni in academic positions. However, since all markers of esteem are welcomed, let us start this year's selection further afield. The year began very well when, in September 2022, Honorary Fellow Nada Al-Nashif was designated Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights at the United Nations. In the same month, another of the College's 750th Anniversary Honorary Fellows, Honorary Fellow Amit Chaudhuri, won a James Tait Black award for his book *Finding the Raga: An Improvisation on Indian Music* – which had also been the topic of a fascinating online lecture when the

book came out in 2021. A short film, his second since matriculating in 2018, was released by Bruno Atkinson: *Profit Motive and the Endless Sea* is based, appropriately enough for an English graduate, on Shakespeare's *Tempest*. Another Balliol creative, actress and author Soha Khan, and her fellow-countryman Arghya Sengupta, founder and research director of a legal policy think-tank, were chosen for excellence in their fields to receive UK India Achievers Awards, made in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence and of the evolving close ties between the two countries. Youthful enterprise was also recognised in the tech and business sectors: with her co-founders of the Oxford spin-out Quantum Dice, Wenmiao Yu (the UK Young Academy member) was selected for the Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe 2023 list; while MBA graduate Mohammed Omar secured a place on the 2023 Business Program of the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics. At the other end of an illustrious career, meanwhile, the Hon Bob Rae received a Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians. Public service is a feature of Oxford life also; in example of which, in 2023 Kathryn Murphy, now Fellow and Tutor in English at Oriel College, was inducted as Senior Proctor of the University, a year-long full-time role at the heart of its administration and governance.

Which brings us back to a selection of the academic and academic-related awards garnered by former students and Fellows of the College in 2022/23. Top billing should be given to Professor T.P. Wiseman for winning the Kenyon Medal, conferred by the British Academy for his lifetime of 'enormous contributions to the fields of Roman history and literature'. James Maynard added to a growing collection of elite awards with a 2023 New Horizons Prize for Early-Career Achievements in Mathematics. James' other achievement, of a Frontier of Science Award was, however, gained alongside three other notable Balliol people: Nick Trefethen (who at the end of this year vacated his chair of Numerical Analysis at Oxford/Balliol for one at Harvard), and Old Members Graeme Segal and Adam Nahum, each achieved Frontier awards, for work in a different category, at the inaugural International Congress of



Dr Kathryn Murphy
(2004). Photograph by
John Cairns.



Professor Nick Trefethen.
Photograph by Sara
Kerens.

Basic Science held in Beijing in July 2023. Adam's undergraduate degree was in due course followed by a fixed-term Research Fellowship at Balliol; and two other former Fellows in his career development cohort also received significant recognition this year: Engineer David Clifton, the IEEE's Early Career Award for 2022, and Hispanist Diana Berruezo-Sánchez a €1.77 million European Research Council Consolidator Grant.

Other young scholars had their share of impressive awards also: Isabelle Stuart a Sachs Scholarship from Princeton University; Sean Wyer (now a Lecturer in Italian at his alma mater) a Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from the Institute for Citizens and Scholars; Samuel Myers the Society for French Studies Gapper Undergraduate Essay Prize; and Hollie Booth the European Early Career Conservation Award from the SCB Europe Section at the 21st European Conference on Computational Biology, for her 'extraordinary contributions to the conservation of sharks and rays'. Three further alumnae whose achievements made the news were Leela Gandhi, awarded the University of Tübingen's Alfons Auer Ethics Prize for her work on postcolonial ethics and theory; Meera Sabaratnam, appointed to an Associate Professorship in International Relations and a Fellowship at New College; and, leading what will be a complex and longitudinal study, Rebecca Syed Sheriff, who won a National Institute for Health and Care Research programme grant worth £2.61m to investigate using the arts and culture to benefit mental health in under-represented young people.

Select awards and achievements of current members

Starting at the top, Fellows were pleased to learn that the Master Dame Helen Ghosh had been chosen to be the next chair of the Conference of Colleges – the Round Table as it were of the collegiate university's administrative bodies. Another leadership role, but one involving a loss to the College, went to Research Fellow in Clinical Medicine and Vice-Master (Executive) Martin Burton, who moved to the other place in August this year to become Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. But there have also been gains: at the start of 2022/23 alumnus Tim Soutphommasane came back to Oxford to be

its first Chief Diversity Officer and is now a Fellow of Balliol.

A slew of awards to Fellows of the College was reported in the course of the year. Leading the way were two Emeritus Fellows, with the top accolade of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Lomonosov Gold Medal, going to Denis Noble, in 2022, for his work in the 1960s, which for the first time mathematically modelled cardiac cells; and, as one of five 2023 Laureates, Frances Kirwan, alumna and formerly Tutor in Mathematics at Balliol and now Savilian Professor of Geometry, picking up a L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Award – Frances being the Laureate for Europe. Staying with Mathematics, it was a moment of great pride also when Supernumerary Fellow Vicky Neale was announced as the next President of the Mathematical Association. And that, as already mentioned, Nick Trefethen, still at the time Professor of Numerical Analysis, took a Frontier of Science Award. Other prizes of note were the £800k grant made to an international research project on 'Medieval Metalepses' co-partnered by French Tutor Sophie Marnette; the Frederic Lizzi Early Career Award made to Engineering Tutor James Kwan for therapeutic ultrasound; the Darwin Initiative Award made to Zoology Tutor Katrina Davis for 'incentive-based marine conservation'; the 2023 ACM/SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award to Edith Elkind for excellence in research in the area of autonomous agents; the MPLS Commercial Impact Award to Computation Tutor Tom Melham for a new commercial formal verification product; and, for our Early Career Fellow in English, Bysshe Coffey, the shortlisting of his monograph *Shelley's Broken World* for the University English Book Prize.

Balliol students, as usual, did the College proud. Several won competitively: Charlie Smith, doctoral candidate in Communication and Social Sciences, a Kim Cameron award from the OpenID Foundation; Felix Simon, another Oxford Internet Institute doctoral student, the Hans Bausch Media Prize 2023 for his study on AI in journalism; graduate student Yosuke Matsumiya, both the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Congress Award and the Sakaguchi Scholarship; Surgical Sciences graduate Richard Dumbill, the Medawar Medal for best clinical presentation at the British Transplant Society



Professor James Kwan.

annual congress; graduate lawyers Alyssa Glass and Jonathan Tjandra, the Blackstone Chambers Postgraduate Mooting Championship 2023; Balliol College Cricket Club, Cuppers, with a delightful report on the final match, and with other team successes in badminton, netball, basketball and, of course, rowing, including blades for the Women's 1st Eight; and, finally, 2nd Year undergraduate David Dunn, the University's historic Gaisford Prize for Greek Verse (thereby keeping up the tradition that the prize goes to a Balliol student – David's being the 24th winning Balliol entry in the 88 years it has been awarded since 1857; not forgetting the many other Balliol winners, of the Greek Prose and additional Gaisford prizes).

In Memoriam

A year marked by the death of a monarch who had reigned and served for over 70 years was bound to feel additionally solemn and poignant. Deaths of eminent Balliol people were recorded also: on 29 October 2022, of Sir Peter Morris, Nuffield Professor of Surgery and a pioneer of transplantation; and on 8 April 2023, of William (Bill) Newton-Smith, Philosophy Tutor who was founding leader of Central European University and made time to be Senior Tutor, Praefectus of Holywell Manor, and Senior Proctor as well. The custom of lowering the College flag to half-mast was also observed in respect of three other notable passings: of Jean Blumberg, widow of the former Master Baruch Blumberg; Alan Tadiello, who for almost 20 years worked as a librarian at Balliol; and George Long, the former Head Gardener who worked in different College roles for over 50 years. We also honour the memory of Derek Chapman, for 20 years the Clerk of Works, notice of whose death last year was recently received.

For the current College community, the most immediately felt loss of all was the death at age 39 of Vicky Neale, much loved teacher and colleague, and advocate for Maths at all levels of education. Her inspiration and her influence, in particular over thousands of young people embarking on their own journeys in mathematics, lives on and will continue to be felt. The Mathematical Institute provided a platform for online memories of Vicky; and the celebration of her life, officiated by Acting Chaplain Mel Marshall, led by family and friends, and attended by close colleagues and current students, was held in Balliol Chapel on 2 June 2023. (A memorial celebration will take place in the Mathematical Institute on 11 November 2023, the College arranging for its own alumni to be able to visit Balliol on the day.)

Jasper Griffin's memorial event, held in the Sheldonian Theatre on 18 March 2023, attended by his daughters and other family members, and bringing together generations of students, scholars, University members and College and Classics alumni from home and abroad, was a most remarkable occasion; and has since been made available, in all its glory, in print and on video. Another large and extraordinary gathering of family and friends, and of colleagues from across the global Jurisprudence communities in which he lived and worked, was held in Balliol Hall on 10 December 2022, in celebration of the life of Joseph Raz: that, too, is available on video. And a third great gathering for a departed Emeritus Fellow was a celebration for Physiological Sciences Tutor Piers Nye, who continued to teach until almost the end of his life, to the great benefit of his students and help of his colleagues. A family occasion like no other, his event took place at Holywell Manor, site of his renowned student BBQs.

Outreach

The College's commitment to 'outreach' – the educational and promotional work it does in and with schools and communities in the UK – has grown by leaps and bounds, driven by a dynamic College team (led by David Freeman Outreach Officer Pravahi Osman) and by the interest and generosity of alumni and donors, the time given by Balliol academics, and the paid and voluntary contributions of many Balliol students. This year saw three new initiatives join the existing Floreat programme in the Humanities: the first cohort on Frontier, for talented young scientists, successfully completed a Balliol residential in August 2022; Monday Maths, drawing hundreds of applicants, launched in January 2023, and in March the first academic sessions got underway of the new Discovery programme for year 10 students in state schools. Students from state schools across the UK, meanwhile, are able to benefit from rapid immersion in Subject Taster Days, six of which were on offer in 2023. A different approach again, directing resources to schools for their own initiatives, as seen in the Gregson Scholarship, has also borne fruit. And the College continues to welcome visits – a parent-and-child charity and more traditional school excursion have both found a home here this year.

Development

To all those who give to Balliol, we hope some of this account of the year reflects or renews your interests in and connections to the College. We are



ABOVE Year 12 students on the Frontier access programme being taught at Balliol. Photograph by Stuart Bebb.

grateful to have the opportunities you provide to develop and enjoy all that it means to be part of this institution and to contribute to its on-going history. That history is intertwined with many other histories and institutions – and so it was that, in June 2023, the College was pleased to play host to the 150 or so Balliol Rhodes Scholars from across the globe who returned to Oxford to mark and celebrate 120 years of the Rhodes Scholarships.

The year's landmark benefaction was undoubtedly that of £5 million to endow permanently the Fairfax Fellowships in Classics and Ancient Philosophy, bringing into effect an outstanding act of generosity initiated by the late James Fairfax AC before his death. The donation was marked on a special occasion shortly after the end of Trinity Term (pictured on page 212), marking at once a culmination of many decades of support from the Fairfax family for the academic life of the College, and the beginning of a new era of relationship with the James Fairfax Foundation and family.

OPPOSITE Dinner in Hall for Balliol Rhodes Scholars celebrating 120 years of the Rhodes Scholarships. Photograph by Stuart Bebb.



Three specific kinds of donation during the 2022/23 year perhaps by way of closing example: the gift made by former Development Director Judy Longworth of a silver penny from the reign of John Balliol, King of Scots, and described by John Jones, historian of Fellow Archivist of the College; the refit, thanks to former Domestic Bursar Carl Woodall, of the Balliol College Boat Club launch that bears his name, and which is now once again river-worthy; and, of a quite different order, but still to the lasting benefit of individuals, the contributions to the Balliol-Ukraine Crisis Appeal which enabled the College to bring two Ukrainian scholars to Oxford. Now that Oxford has received University of Sanctuary status, the College has been preparing to bring together under that umbrella this appeal and its existing Reach and Refugee Scholarships. Floreat Domus.

Achievements and Awards

Graduate Scholarships

College Scholarships

Alfred Douglas Stone Scholarship

Yan, Dongnan, DPhil Women's and Reproductive Health

Anderson Scholarship

Rouviere, Anna, Environmental Research (NERC DTP)

Balliol Scholarship and Jowett Scholarship

Georges, Timothy, DPhil Physical and Theoretical Chemistry

Black Academic Futures Programme Scholarship

Small-Edwards, James, Master of Public Policy

Brian Dickinson Scholarship

Gargano, Valentino, DPhil Classical Languages and Literature

Dan Norman Scholarship

Smausz, Rebecca, DPhil Experimental Psychology

Foley-Béjar Scholarship

Laugen-Kelly, Algernon, MPhil Greek and/or Roman History

Diaz Azcunaga, Ana Lucia, DPhil Law

Gregory Kulkes Scholarship

Glass, Alyssa, DPhil Law

Hakeem Belo-Osagie Scholarship

Pillay, Kialan, MSc Advanced Computer Science

JT Hamilton Scholarship

Zhang, Hengyue, DPhil Astrophysics

John Henry Jones Scholarship

Doll, Roman, DPhil Medical Sciences

Si, Yiwei, DPhil Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics

Jowett Copyright Scholarship and Balliol Scholarship

Harrington, Eve, MSt Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature

Marvin Bower Scholarship

Gitin, Leo, DPhil Mathematics

Oxford Economics Scholarship

Duffy, Sarah, DPhil Economics

Peter Storey Scholarship

Teworte, Emma, DPhil History

Ramage Scholarship

Astley, Jennifer, DPhil Molecular and Cellular Medicine

Ramage Scholarship and Dervorguilla Scholarship

Smith, Molly, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics

Singapore Law Scholarship

Ma, Julius, BCL

Snell Scholarship

Stiskalek, Richard, DPhil Astrophysics

Tang Scholarship

Barclay, Stephanie, DPhil Law

Graduate Scholarship for Ukraine Refugees

Oproshchenko, Maryna, MSc Financial Economics

UK Research and Innovation Awards**Arts and Humanities Research Council**

Gargano, Valentino, DPhil Classical Languages and Literature

Teworte, Emma, DPhil History

Economic and Social Research Council

Pereira Da Costa, Maria, MPhil International Relations, Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership Studentship

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research CouncilEid, Mark, Autonomous Intelligent Machines and Systems, AWS Studentship
in collaboration with Oxford–Singapore Human Machine Collaboration Initiative

Ryan, Nicholas, DPhil Mathematics

Tse, Jeffrey, Modern Statistics and Statistical Machine Learning

Natural Environment Research Council

Rouviere, Anna, Environmental Research

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Stiskalek, Richard, DPhil Astrophysics

Zhang, Hengyue, DPhil Astrophysics

International awards

Aker Scholarship

Auestad, Henrik, DPhil Atmospheric, Ocean and Planetary Science

Englund, Anine, DPhil English

Grindeland, Astrid, DPhil Classical Languages and Literature

Isachsen, Benjamin, DPhil Theology and Religion

Kaur, Kanwarjot, Magister Juris

Larsen, Jonas, MSc Economics for Development

Laundal, Tobias, MSc Advanced Computer Science

Rustad, Linn, MPhil Politics: European Politics and Society

Yousaf, Sidra, MPhil Modern Asian Studies

Marshall Scholarship

Shafer, Nicholas, MSc Modern Middle Eastern Studies

Rhodes Scholarships

Baghdadi, Jad, DPhil International Development

Clesi, Aimee, MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice

Dhonchak, Anupriya, MPhil Law

Hadad, Justin, MPhil Economics

Hussain, Hatim, DPhil Law

Jama, Ikran, MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies

Lu, Guanyu, MSt Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature

McGregor, Madeleine, Master of Public Policy

Mueller, Marissa, DPhil Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics

Ngwenya, Tinashe, Future Propulsion and Power (EPSRC CDT)

Otiato, Kevin, DPhil Engineering Science

Prabhu, Trisha, MSc SSI

Zaka, Wafa, MSc Modern South Asian Studies

University awards

- Astley, Jennifer, DPhil Molecular and Cellular Medicine Medical Sciences Graduate School Studentship (NDORMS)
- Barclay, Stephanie, DPhil Law, Clarendon Scholarship
- Chang, Wei-Che, DPhil Medical Sciences, DPhil Studentship (partial funding), NIHR Blood and Transplant Research Unit, Weatherall Institute
- Chapman, Benjamin, DPhil Philosophy in Inflammatory and Musculoskeletal Disease, Studentship from the Kennedy Trust for Rheumatology Research (MSDTC)
- Clark, Charlie, DPhil Genomic Medicine and Statistics, Studentship Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics (MSDTC)
- Dewan, Diksha, MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry, Felix Scholarship
- Doll, Roman, DPhil Medical Sciences, RDM Scholar, Medical Sciences Graduate School Studentship
- Duffy, Sarah, DPhil Economics, Department of Economics Scholarship
- Dugaeva, Ksenia, MSt Modern Languages, Living Languages Studentship (Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages)
- Dutta, Rayanika, MSc Modern South Asian Studies, Clarendon Scholarship
- Eames, Beth, DPhil Engineering Science, Department of Engineering Science Research Studentship
- Georges, Timothy, DPhil Physical and Theoretical Chemistry, Department of Chemistry Graduate Studentship
- Gitin, Leo, DPhil Mathematics, Clarendon Scholarship
- Glass, Alyssa, DPhil Law, Clarendon Scholarship
- Goodman, Philippa, MPhil International Relations, Clarendon Scholarship
- Graham, Miles, DPhil Cellular Structural Biology, Wellcome Trust Scholarship
- Harrington, Eve, MSt Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature, Faculty of Classics Scholarship
- Hughes, John, DPhil Mathematics, Mathematical Institute Scholarship
- Leu, Aaron, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics, Department of Physics Studentship
- Lovegrove, Catherine, Medical Sciences Graduate School Studentship (Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences) and Clarendon Scholarship
- Pillay, Kialan, Skye Foundation – Oppenheimer Fund Scholarship
- Rodel, Lily, DPhil Information, Communication and the Social Sciences, Gender Inequalities in Remote Work Doctoral Studentship (Oxford Internet Institute)

Schmalian, Michael, DPhil Mathematics, Mathematical Institute Scholarship
Si, Yiwei, DPhil Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics, Clarendon Scholarship
Smausz, Rebecca, DPhil Experimental Psychology (MRC and Department of Experimental Psychology)
Smith, Molly, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics, Department of Physics Scholarship
Trojanskis, Nikita, DPhil Biology, Clarendon Scholarship
Wells, Eloise, DPhil Genomic Medicine and Statistics, Studentship Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics (MSDTC)
Williamson, Patrick, DPhil Philosophy, Parfitt Scholarship
Yan, Dongnan, DPhil Women's and Reproductive Health, Clarendon Scholarship

Other external awards

Farinha, Miguel, DPhil Psychiatry, Studentship Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology
Grein, Thomas, MSc Modern Middle Eastern Studies, Ramsay World Universities Postgraduate Scholarship
Tjandra, Jonathan, Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship
Tirapu Sanuy, Josep Maria, MPhil Law, La Caixa Foundation British Council Scholarship

Correction to 2022 edition

Oreskovic, Tin, Nuffield Department of Population Health Studentship, Oxford University, and Ad Futura Scholarship (awarded by the Ad Futura fund of the Slovenian government)

Undergraduate Scholarships and Exhibitions

Ancient and Modern History

Oliver Khurshid, Theobald Exhibition; Laurence Young, Reynolds Exhibition

Biology

Jaya Robinson, Andrew Pang Scholarship; Ellie Smith, Andrew Pang Scholarship

Chemistry

Lidao Li, Mouat Jones Scholarship; Zoe Nicholas, Mouat Jones Scholarship; Joshua Sin, Andrew Pang Scholarship; Chloe Braganca, Andrew Pang Exhibition; Nicholas Hadjipaschalos, Andrew Pang Exhibition; Amy Hawkins, Jervis-Smith Exhibition; Eugenie Lumsdon, Andrew Pang Exhibition; Alex Mann, Andrew Pang Exhibition; Keer Xing, Andrew Pang Exhibition

Classics

Asher Weisz, Jenkyns Exhibition (*primaæ*); Susie Castledine, Jenkyns Exhibition (*proxime accessit*); Kate O'Sullivan, Jenkyns Exhibition (*proxime accessit*)

Computer Science

Henry Masding, Theobald Exhibition; Lily Sowden, Theobald Exhibition

Computer Science and Philosophy

Jeno Suh, Markby Scholarship

Economics and Management

Michael Hampshire, Second Robin Hollway Scholarship; Julia Andronikos, W.L. Newman's Bequest Exhibition; Josh Royan, W.L. Newman's Bequest Exhibition

Engineering Science

Markus Baumgartner, Lubbock Scholarship; Alec Berry, Lubbock Exhibition; Arese Joe-Oshodi, Newman Exhibition; Dylan Jubb, Newman Exhibition; Callum Umana Stuart, Lubbock Exhibition

English

Megan Burgess, Elton Exhibition; Zelda Cahill-Patten, Elton Exhibition;
William Wilson, Elton Exhibition

English and Modern Languages

Angus McNevin, Cecil Spring Rice Exhibition

History

Oskar Bishop, Fletcher Scholarship; Clara Holcroft, Fletcher Scholarship;
Mateusz Kacperski, Fletcher Scholarship; Emily Littlejohn, Fletcher
Scholarship; George Gresley, Theobald Exhibition; Megan Hassanali,
Theobald Exhibition; Michael Hughes, Theobald Exhibition; Felix
Ingemarsson, Theobald Exhibition; Ben Swan, Theobald Exhibition;
Panagiota Yiallouri, Theobald Exhibition

History and Economics

Paul Dugdale, Reynolds Scholarship

History and English

Zoe Gross, Fletcher Scholarship

History and Modern Languages

Eva Link, Fletcher Scholarship; Georgie Cutmore, Cecil Spring Rice Exhibition

Law

Helena Cox, Markby Exhibition; Sulaymaan Khalil, Markby Exhibition; Valerie
Lee, Markby Exhibition; Fionn McFadden, Markby Exhibition

Mathematics

Oliver Cort, David Kevan Lloyd Scholarship; Auri Guarino, Markby
Scholarship; Paul Kim, David Kevan Lloyd Scholarship; Gabriel Le Dain,
Markby Scholarship; Oliver Perree, David Kevan Lloyd Scholarship; Paul
Scarr, David Kevan Lloyd Scholarship; Tobias Bretschneider, Prosser
Exhibition; Aditya Gaurav, Prosser Exhibition; Linus Kelsey, Markby
Exhibition; Kiran Rebholz, Theobald Exhibition; Francis Westhead,
Theobald Exhibition

Mathematics and Computer Science

Joe Qian, Elliott Meriwether Bell Scholarship; Mark Williams, Elliott
Meriwether Bell Scholarship; Kiran Bahra, Theobald Exhibition; Dafang
Zhou, Theobald Exhibition

Mathematics and Philosophy

Dylan Holmes Cowan, Reynolds Scholarship; Helen Trenner, Theobald Exhibition

Modern Languages

Samuel Feltham, Higgs Scholarship; Harry Lauchlan, Higgs Scholarship; Deborah Lemke, Cecil Spring Rice Exhibition

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Seraphine Borrie, Reynolds Scholarship; Matilda Gettins, Markby Scholarship; Calum Isaacs, Reynolds Scholarship; Rohan Oyewole, Reynolds Scholarship; Rosie Ward, Reynolds Scholarship; Molly Jenkinson, Theobald Exhibition; James Keeling, Theobald Exhibition; Lianru Li, Theobald Exhibition; Eric Mannke, Theobald Exhibition; Lea Moutault, Theobald Exhibition; Zack Simpson, Theobald Exhibition; Felix Von Baumgarten, Theobald Exhibition; Callum Webb, Theobald Exhibition

Physics

Vlad Catanea, Reynolds Scholarship; Sidhaarth Kumar, Reynolds Scholarship; Qian Lin, Reynolds Scholarship; Orla Supple, Reynolds Scholarship; Aditi Chandra, Prosser Exhibition; Matthew Sullivan, Prosser Exhibition; Shannon Yu, Prosser Exhibition

Physics and Philosophy

David Danin, Reynolds Scholarship

College prizes

Academic awards

Any subject

Isabella Alexandrou, Prelims Prize
Alison Balint, Prelims Prize
Dylan Durnion, Prelims Prize
Julia Irvine, Prelims Prize
Ali Khosravi, Prelims Prize
Toby Lam, Prelims Prize
Aaron Low, Prelims Prize
Xing Tcheng, Prelims Prize
Cameron Tweed, Prelims Prize
Sabine Zednik-Hammonds, Prelims Prize

Chemistry

Naa Odoley Ntodi, Greville Smith Prize (shared)
Lucy Weatherill, Greville Smith Prize (shared)

Classics

Cameron Bloch, Samuel Dubner Prize

Engineering

Markus Baumgartner, Kyriacou and Sherwin-Smith Prize
William Cubitt, Prosser Prize
Eugenia Beldarrain Gutierrez, Lubbock Prize
Calin Profir, Prosser Prize

Law

Katie Bacon, Jenkyns (Law) Prize
Dylan Durnion, Lord Rodger of Earlsferry Prize
Emily Lennon, Archibald McDougall Law Prize; A.V. Dicey Prize (shared)
Aaron Low, Younger Prize
Nathalie Spiller, Archibald McDougall Law Prize (*proxime accessit*); A.V. Dicey Prize (shared)

Mathematics and Joint Schools

Toby Lam, Robin Wilson Prize

Paul Scarr, Prosser Prize

Francis Westhead, Prosser Prize

Medical and Biomedical Sciences

Will Oliver, Wurtman Prize (first place)

Physics

Yixuan (Wendy) Dang, Ken Allen Prize

Qian Lin, Ken Allen Prize

Hamzah Mahmood, Conroy Prize

Eleanor March, Conroy Prize

PPE

Ian Chakravarti, Samuel Dubner Prize (shared)

Abigail Granholm, Samuel Dubner Prize (shared)

Tallulah Lefkowitz, James Hall Prize (shared)

Lea Moutault, G.D.H. Cole Prize

Marina Ristuccia, James Hall Prize (shared)

Academic-related awards

Bob and Jeanie Heller Prize: Calum Isaacs

Raja Sir Maharaj Singh Prize: Anika Gupta (first), Klemens Okkels (second)

Gertrude Hartley Prize: Danish Malik (first), Justin Hadad (second)

George Powell Prize: Bethan Draycott

Sir Raymond Beazley Prize: Edward Grayson, Panagiota Yiallouri

Non-academic awards**Rachel Sarah Knapp Award**

Megan Burgess, Sian Dennett, Dannan White

Mexican Explorer awards

Eva Link, Emily Littlejohn

William Westerman Pathfinder Awards to North America

Megan Burgess, David Danin, Kaly De Oliveira Cerqueira, Paul Dugdale, Michael Hampshire, Polly Palmer-Jones, Emma Shaw, Megan Snaith, Siu Shing Wong, Samuel Woof McColl

William Westerman Pathfinder Awards to Asia

Helena Cox, Rory D'Angelo, Max Hadley, Joshua Penollar, Emmy Powell, Cerian Richmond Jones, Jaya Robinson

University prizes

David Dunn, Gaisford Prize for Greek Verse 2023

Henry Masding and team, Idea Atlas Group Project Prize for 2023

Samuel Myers: Society for French Studies' Gapper Undergraduate Essay Prize 2022

Emmy Powell, Co-President of the Oxford Sustainable Business and Entrepreneurship Society (OSBE), joint runner-up in the Environmental Sustainability Students Awards category of the Vice Chancellor's Awards for Environmental Sustainability 2023

Yiwei Si, Katrina Hayward Price Prize for best performance in the MPhil in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics

Isabel Trinca, Prize for Corporate Insolvency Law, for best performance in the Corporate Insolvency Law paper in the BCL

Final Honour Schools (FHS)

Dylan Holmes Cowan, Henry Wilde Prize in Philosophy for an outstanding performance in Philosophy in any of Philosophy's joint Honour Schools

Miriam Dirnhuber, Gaisford Undergraduate Essay Prize 2023 for best thesis in Greek language and literature in the FHS of Literae Humaniores, Classics and English, Classics and Modern Languages, and Classics and Oriental Studies

Samuel Feltham, Pagett Toynbee Prize for best performance in Italian Paper IX, FHS Medieval and Modern Languages

Zoe Gross, a Gibbs Book Prize for an excellent performance in FHS History and its joint schools 2023

Sulaymaan Khalil, Law Faculty Prize for Trusts for best performance in the Trusts paper, FHS Jurisprudence

Emily Littlejohn, a Gibbs Book Prize for an excellent performance in FHS History and its joint schools 2023; Hermila Galindo Prize for the best thesis on Latin American history

Eleanor March, for best undergraduate thesis in Philosophy at Finals (joint winner)

Hannah O'Connor, Saïd Foundation Prize for the Best Performance in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Paper in Finals (Economics and Management) during Trinity 2023

Amy Shim, Shimadzu prize for best performance in Practical Chemistry

Jeno Suh, Hoare Prize for best overall performance in Computer Science and Philosophy 2022

Asher Weisz, Arnold Ancient History Prize for best performance in Ancient History written papers in Greats, CAAH, AMH or Classics joint schools

Mark Williams, Hoare Prize for best overall performance in Mathematics and Computer Science 2023

Keer Xing, prize for best performance in Part IA Examination in Chemistry (third place)

Fangjing Xiong, Elizabeth Anscombe Prize for best undergraduate thesis in Philosophy at Finals (joint winner)

Graduate research degrees

Doctorates of Philosophy

- Abudu, Prince, 'Communicating Neural Network Architectures for Resource Constrained Systems'
- Arora, Rahul Krishan, 'SeroTracker: Synthesizing Seroprevalence Data to Map the True Extent of COVID-19 Infection and Immunity'
- Bellin, Robert, 'An Intersectional Analysis of Proprietary and Privacy Rights in Personal Genetic Material'
- Bohlin, Joakim, 'Design and Modular Self-Assembly of Nanostructures'
- Brubeck Martinez, Pablo, 'Optimal-complexity and Robust Multigrid Methods for High-order FEM'
- Burman, Richard, 'The Dynamic Landscape of Cortical Synaptic Inhibition'
- Butcher, Caiban, 'Darwinism in Global International Thought, c.1859–1914'
- Buxton, Xavier, 'Aeschylean Tragedy and the Cultivation of Fear in Classical Athens'
- Cornall, Matthew, 'Light-activated ATP Synthesis in Droplet Networks'
- Damianos, Stephen, 'The Skype State: Digital Pushbacks and the Absence of Asylum on Mainland Greece'
- Daniels, Harry, 'Desperate Remedies and Vital Lies: Art, Literature, and Escapism, 1840–1914'
- De Camps Mora, Jacobo, 'In Defence of Aesthetic Attachment: A Response to Walter Benjamin's Critique of Calderón de la Barca'
- de Jong, Marco, 'Kotahi te Moana, Only One Ocean: Pacific Environmentalism, 1970–1995'
- Dormor, Caroline, 'Retrospection and Re-orientation in Dante's Ante-Purgatory'
- Driggs, Derek, 'Pragmatics and the Invisible Language of Relationships: The Case of Korean and KFL Learners'
- Dunn, Isaac, 'Testing Deep Image Classifiers Using Generative Machine Learning'
- Eijking, Jan, 'A World from Nowhere: Nineteenth-Century Expert Politics and the Technocratic International'
- Falconmore, Rhiannon, 'On the Role of Explainability and Uncertainty in Ensuring Safety of AI Applications'

- Farquhar, Sebastian, 'Understanding Approximation for Bayesian Inference in Neural Networks'
- Freeman, Jaimie, 'Not on My Watch: Understanding the Affordances of Self-tracking for Adolescents' Social and Psychological Wellbeing'
- Freymann, Eyck, 'The Geopolitics of Climate Change in Greenland: Small States and Superpower Competition'
- Gammelgaard, Søren, 'Quiver Varieties and Moduli Spaces of Sheaves on Singular Surfaces'
- Harrison, Conrad, 'Transforming Outcome Measures in Plastic Surgery'
- Hoepcke, Christoph, 'Optimal Control and Reinforcement Learning for Formula One Lap Simulation'
- Hogan, Laurence, 'The Evolution of Luminous Infrared Galaxies through Cosmic Time'
- Hughes, Sophie, 'Understanding the Immune Microenvironment of Precancerous Lesions in Pancreatic Cancer'
- Kerth, Philipp, 'Effect of Transpiration Cooling on Boundary Layer Transition for Hypersonic Flight'
- Kuncoro, Adhiguna, 'Scalable Syntactic Inductive Biases for Neural Language Models'
- Lachapelle, Alexander, 'Towards Precision Medicine: Machine Learning Methods for Genome-Based Tuberculosis Drug Susceptibility Testing'
- Lin, Shuyu, 'Improving Representation Learning through Variational Autoencoding'
- Lowenthal, Thomas, 'The Protection of Children's Human Rights in the Context of the Privatisation of Education'
- Matache, Cristina, 'Concrete Sheaf Models of Higher-order Recursion'
- Muzhingi, Itai, 'Mathematical Modelling and Transcriptional Characterisation of Intratumoral Regulatory T Cell Sub-populations'
- Nadlinger, David, 'Device-Independent Key Distribution between Trapped-ion Quantum Network Nodes'
- Nait Saada, Juba, 'Inference and Applications of Genetic Relatedness in Human Populations'
- Nichol, Bethan, 'An Elementary Quantum Network of Entangled Optical Atomic Clocks'
- O'Brien-Ball, Caitlin, 'Investigating Triggering Events in T&B Lymphocytes'
- Sangwongngam, Paramin, 'High-speed Indoor Visible Light Communications (VLC) Using Beamsteering'

- Sarrazin, Verena, 'Cognitive Approaches to Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation in the Treatment of Depression'
- Sojkova, Barbora, 'Animals in Vedic Prose'
- Spanou, Petros, 'The Crimean Moment and Crucible: Ideas of War and Peace, 1854–6'
- Tann, Henry, 'Merchants and Their Cultural Horizons in Late Medieval Northern Italy'
- Taylor, Chelsea, 'Multi-parametric Characterisation of Peripheral Immunity in Recipients of Checkpoint Immunotherapy across a Large Patient Cohort'
- Then, Chee Kin, 'Dietary Fibre Manipulation as a Potential Endogenous Mechanism of Radiosensitisation in Bladder Cancer'
- Tillim, Hannah, 'Aspects of BSM Theories in the Early Universe'
- Tyrrell, Brian, 'Undecidability in Some Field Theories'
- Veronese-Clucas, Leah, 'Suing for Grace: The Early Modern Rhetoric of Petition'
- Vietti-Michelina, Stefania, 'Investigating the Mechanisms Underlying Cholinergic Regulation of Dopamine Release'
- West, Henry, 'The Development of Novel Artificial Intelligence Tools for the Early Detection of Cardiovascular Disease Using Computerised Tomography'
- Wong, Brian, 'Towards a New Theory of Reparative Justice under Authoritarian States'
- Yang, Huining, 'Policy Gradient Methods for Linear Quadratic Problems'
- Yi, Gangshun, 'Structural Approaches to Targeting RNA Uridylytransferases'
- Yogananda Jeppu, Natasha, 'Learning Symbolic Abstractions from System Execution Traces'

MPhil by Research

- Diaz Azcunaga, Ana Lucia, 'The Right to Care and the Need for Legal Order'

Distinctions in graduate taught degrees

Almond, Jon, EMBA

Alves, Eduardo, EMBA

Bright, Victoria, EMBA

Chapman, Matilda, MSt Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature

Dugaeva, Ksenia, MSt Modern Languages

Green, Elizabeth, MSt English

Hales, Ben, MPhil Modern Chinese Studies

Kang, Dong Hyun, MSt Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics

Lu, Christopher, MSt Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature

Ma, Julius Chen, BCL

Malik, Amena, EMBA

Martyn, Niamh, BCL

McLoughlin, Max, BPhil Philosophy

Meredith-Rodriguez, Megan, MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry

Puglia, Victoria, MPhil International Relations

Robertson, Poppy, MSt Modern Languages

Sabbagh, Bilal, MPhil Islamic Studies and History

Sieper, Tabea, MSc Mathematical and Theoretical Physics

St Clair, Kristijana, MSc Social Science of the Internet

Wagner, Joshua, MSt English

Wood, Charlotte, MSt History

FIRSTS AND DISTINCTIONS IN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Distinctions in Prelims and Honour Moderations

Biology: Suhayl Kapadia

Biomedical Sciences: Lillie Collins, Anna-Sophia Maeckel, Sarah Probert

Chemistry: Grace Lewis

Classics: Cameron Bloch, Thomas Rolfe

Computer Science: Matthew Zahra

Economics and Management: Ria Gogna, Amerleen Hundle, Aman Sultan

Engineering Science: Michael Channing, Frederick Goodfellow, Jonathan Soepadmo, Sam Zhuang

Mathematics: Yijia (Keira) Chen

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Chemistry: Alexander Mann

Mathematics: Aditya Gaurav

FIRSTS IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS YEAR 3

Engineering Science: Markus Baumgartner

Mathematics: Oliver Perree

Mathematics and Computer Science: Xiaochi (Joe) Qian

Mathematics and Philosophy: Dylan Holmes Cowan

Physics: Aditi Chandra, Sidhaarth Kumar, Qian Lin, Orla Supple

Physics and Philosophy: Zack Glindon, James Hodgson

FINAL HONOUR SCHOOLS

Ancient and Modern History: Oliver Khurshid

Biology: Alice Mosey, Jaya Robinson

Cell and Systems Biology: Chloe Taylor

Chemistry: Lida Li, Zoe Nicholas, Wing Pong (Joshua) Sin

Classical Archaeology and Ancient History: Keturah Sergeant

Classics: Asher Weisz

Computer Science and Philosophy: Jeno Suh

Economics and Management: Emily Powell

English and Modern Languages (French): Harry Lauchlan

English Language and Literature: Megan Burgess, Zelda Cahill-Patten

History and English: Zoe Gross

History and Modern Languages (Spanish): Eva Link

History: Clara Holcroft, Emily Littlejohn

Law: Sulaymaan Khalil

Mathematics: Alfred (Linus) Kelsey, Gabriel Le Dain, Paul Scarr

Mathematics and Computer Science: Mark Williams

Mathematics and Philosophy: Francis Westhead

Physics and Philosophy: David Danin, Hamzah Mahmood, Eleanor March

Because of UCU industrial action, which has affected the marking of exam papers for some candidates, it has not been possible to include all results. Any firsts and distinctions not available at the time of going to press will be recorded in the *Annual Record* next year.

Honours, appointments and awards

Order of the Garter

The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes KG CH PC (1962 and Honorary Fellow), Chancellor of Oxford University: Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

Honorary award to foreign national 2022

Oliver Franklin (1967 and Honorary Fellow), Honorary Consul for Greater Philadelphia: Honorary Commander of the British Empire (CBE), for services to UK/US relations.

New Year Honours 2023

Marcus Bell (1985), Director of Equalities, Cabinet Office: Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), for public service.

Dominic Jacquesson (1989), Vice President, Insight and Talent, Index Ventures: Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), for services to technology and to entrepreneurship.

Suzy Kantor (2002), Director, Personal Tax, Welfare and Pensions, His Majesty's Treasury: Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), for public service.

Roland Keating (1979), Chief Executive, the British Library: Knight Bachelor, for services to literature.

The Right Hon Dr Julian Lewis MP (1970), Member of Parliament for New Forest East and Chair, Intelligence and Security Committee: Knight Bachelor, for political and public service.

Simon Mellor (1976), Deputy Chief Executive, Arts and Museums, Arts Council England: Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), for services to the arts.

Christine Rice (1988), opera singer: Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), for services to opera.

King's Birthday Honours 2023

Anthony Cheetham (1961), publisher: Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), for services to literature

Sir John Chipman (1980), Director-General and Chief Executive of the Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS): Knight Commander of St Michael & St George (KCMG), for services to international peace and security

Diana Gerald (1987), Chief Executive Officer, Book Trust: Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), for services to reading and children's literature

Professor Paul Newman (1991), BP Professor of Information Engineering, University of Oxford: Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), for services to technology and engineering

Robert Harrison (1995), lately Director General, Russia/Ukraine, and Director General, Analysis, Covid-19 Taskforce, Cabinet Office: Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG), for services to National Security and British Foreign Policy

Rosalind Slinger, friend of Balliol and member of the Greville Smith Circle, Chair, Centre Membership Committee, Pony Club: Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), for services to Equestrianism and to Charity, Preston

Senior Members

British Academy elections

Professor Neta Crawford (Montague Burton Professor of International Relations and Professorial Fellow)

American Academy of Arts and Sciences election

Professor Neta Crawford (Montague Burton Professor of International Relations and Professorial Fellow)

Richard Ovenden (Bodley's Librarian and Professorial Fellow)

Other elections, appointments and awards

Dame Helen Ghosh (Master): awarded honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from University of Nottingham.

Professor Martin Burton, Professor of Otolaryngology, Director of Cochrane UK and Research Fellow in Clinical Medicine, and Vice-Master (Executive): elected as the next Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

Professor Coralia Cartis (Professor of Numerical Optimisation and Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics): elected EUROPT Fellow 2023; and selected as one of the 2023 Class of SIAM Fellows.

Dr Bysshe Inigo Coffey (Early Career Fellow in English): his book *Shelley's Broken World: Fractured Materiality & Intermittent Song* (Liverpool University Press, 2021) was shortlisted for the University English Book Prize 2022.

Professor Edith Elkind (Professor of Computing Science and Research Fellow in Computational Game Theory): won the 2023 ACM/SIGAI Autonomous Agents Research Award for excellence in research in the area of autonomous agents, because she has 'made significant research contributions in computational social choice and algorithms for cooperative games', and for her 'extraordinary service to the community'.

Dr James Kwan (Associate Professor and Tutorial Fellow in Engineering Science): awarded the Frederic Lizzi Early Career Award by the International Society for Therapeutic Ultrasound.

Professor Sophie Marnette (Professor of Medieval French Studies, Dervorguilla Fellow and Tutor in French): was one of three international partners on a research project awarded a £800K grant by the Fonds national suisse de la recherche scientifique (Swiss National Science Foundation): the Medieval Metalepses project, initiated by Professor Marion Uhlig of the University of Fribourg.

Professor Tom Melham (Professor of Computer Science and Fellow and Tutor in Computation): won an MPLS Commercial Impact Award for a new commercial formal verification product, the C2RTL App, integrating software symbolic simulation.

Vicky Neale (Whitehead Lecturer in Mathematics and Supernumerary Fellow at Balliol): appointed President of the Mathematical Association in 2024.

Professor John Tasioulas (1989, Professor of Ethics and Legal Philosophy, Senior Research Fellow, and Director of the Institute for Ethics in AI): awarded an AI2050 Senior Fellowship by Schmidt Futures, which will allow him to pursue a three-year research project that will take a humanistic approach to the ethics of Artificial Intelligence.

Professor Nick Trefethen (Professor of Numerical Analysis and Professorial Fellow): received a Frontiers of Science award at the International Congress of Basic Science in Beijing.

Professor Manuela Zaccolo (Professor of Cell Biology, Fellow and Tutor in Biomedical Sciences) has been awarded the 2023 Ketty Schwartz Award

by the International Society for Heart Research European Section; made a Member of the Academia Europaea; and elected a Fellow of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti.

Professor Frances Kirwan (1981 and Emeritus Fellow): won a 2023 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Award.

Denis Noble (Emeritus Fellow): awarded the 2022 Lomonosov Grand Gold Medal of the Russian Academy of Sciences for his work on the heart.

Professor Amit Chaudhuri (1987 and Honorary Fellow): won a James Tait Black award for his book *Finding the Raga: An Improvisation on Indian Music* (Faber, 2021).

Nada Al-Nashif (1984 and Honorary Fellow): designated Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights at the United Nations.

Junior Members

Richard Dumbill (2010, DPhil Surgical Sciences): won the Medawar Medal for best clinical presentation at the British Transplant Society annual congress.

Yosuke Matsumiya (2022, DPhil Women's and Reproductive Health): awarded the Sakaguchi Scholarship, for outstanding Japanese DPhil students at Oxford who are intending to take a leadership role in an international organisation; and won the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (JSOG) Congress Award for a presentation on his research, entitled 'Increasing Cellular Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) using isolated mitochondria: A potential treatment for Fetal Growth Restriction (FGR)'.

Felix Simon (2016, DPhil in Information, Communication & Social Sciences): won the Hans Bausch Media Prize 2023 for his study 'Uneasy Bedfellows: AI in the media, platform companies and the question of journalistic dependency'.

Charlie Smith (2019, DPhil Information, Communication and Social Sciences): won a Kim Cameron award from the OpenID Foundation.

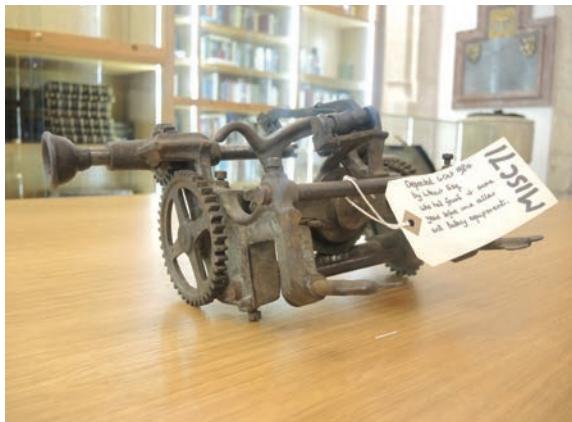
College Life

Library and Archives

The year 2022/2023 saw the Library offering the support, service and activities that it has always done but with one eye on the future. While we have been considering how the Library spaces might be reconfigured and updated (more on this below), we have also preparing for the introduction of a cloud-based library management system by the Bodleian. The latter will not be evident to users, as SOLO (Search Oxford Libraries Online) will remain substantially the same, but the back end used by staff is being upgraded from Aleph to Alma. After lengthy consultations and negotiations (in which our Assistant Librarian and Rare Books Cataloguer played key roles) all staff have been in training, with the system going live in August. Meanwhile we continue to provide training in research skills, respite for hard-working students with brain breaks and refreshments, and help to the Welfare Committee in purchasing texts to support students' learning. Of course, we have maintained our traditional Halloween ghost stories, our Christmas quiz and our Secret Santa for staff and students too.

Exhibitions and events

We hosted two exhibitions this year instead of our usual one, as we developed a few in reserve during lockdown, including our Michaelmas exhibition, *A Load of Old Babel*, which focused on the variety of languages in the historic books in Balliol's collections. This allowed us to juxtapose a 16th-century manuscript recording Welsh poetry with books by Gwyneth Lewis (1985 and Honorary Fellow), the first National Poet of Wales, and also to display items in languages from Armenian to Tiv. In Hilary we shifted from tongues to the tongue with *A Taste of Balliol*, which examined food and dining through Balliol's collections. Related events included a photography competition, a meal in Hall based on recipes from the Archives, and participation in the College's 'Pint of Sustainability' event. Further to the 2021 *Slavery in the Age of Revolution* exhibition two more online teachers' seminars brought together practitioners from both sides of the Atlantic; and with Honorary Fellow Oliver Franklin (1967), who initiated and supported the exhibition, the Librarian attended both an associated conference hosted by the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia and a talk at a screening of the video commissioned for the exhibition at the American Embassy in London.



A remarkable device for peeling lemons, found in the Buttery cellar and deposited by L. Peart (19th century?), displayed at the *Taste of Balliol* exhibition.

Beyond exhibitions there was a lot of demand on our historic collections. Tutors in German, French and Italian all brought groups of students to see historic books in their languages. Other visits included a class who came to see our 19th-century literary papers; a group from Stanford in Oxford looking at our medieval collections; Oxford Bibliophiles intent on viewing celebrated and exotic items; a group of budding poets led by Gwyneth Lewis; a session for *Finding our Way: Afro-Caribbean Experience in Oxford*, a collaborative and interdisciplinary project; and the Pugin Society and a U3A group – led by Richard Walker (1977) – who were both keen to see plans and drawings of College made by Pugin. In April the Historic Collections Centre played host to a conference on *Cultures of Use and Re-Use* in medieval manuscripts, coordinated by Dr Hannah Ryley (Lecturer in English). We also forayed into digital media: the Archivist featured in a podcast to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Brackenbury School in Brighton, and the Librarian produced a video featuring librarians from colleges across Oxford to encourage students to make use of their historic collections.

Circulation and purchasing

From July 2022 to the end of May 2023 our system recorded 14,544 loans and renewals, and 145 unique users per day during term time over the year. We purchased 781 books, mainly from suggestions by Fellows and students, although the Early Career Librarian also undertook a review of our Law Library to ensure the currency of the many titles that have frequent new editions.

Historic collections

We received 449 enquiries regarding our historic collections, maintaining last year's momentum, 72 of which translated into visits. Amongst the most consulted items in the collections are the diaries of the politician Harold Nicolson (1904), and Library staff met his granddaughter to discuss a prospective new edition. Our Antiquarian Cataloguer continues to find new things of interest in the collections. In a book by Francis Bacon she discovered extensive manuscript notes from the 17th century covering both political philosophy and repairs to the writer's house. Other items showed 17th-century users at play such as *The Compleat Angler* (2nd ed. 1655), *In Praise of Drunkenness* (1723) and *I secreti de la signora Isabella Cortese* a 1561 book on cosmetics.

Recent purchases have included *The Room and Other Poems*, 1927, by Eric Walter White (1924) and *The Men of the Rocks*, 1942, by Joseph Macleod (1922). Generosity from alumni and others continues to enrich our collections: we have received Balliol cricket scorebooks from Peter Andrews (1976); early issues of *Mesopotamia* magazine plus original associated printing blocks from Colin Wyman (1959), and R.A.B. Mynors' attaché case, amongst many other gifts. A major donation this year has been a gift of papers and books that belonged to Professor Roger Lonsdale (Andrew Bradley Junior Research Fellow 1960–1963, Tutorial Fellow in English 1963–2000 and Emeritus Fellow 2000–2022), donated by his widow, Professor Nicoletta Momigliano. Amongst the books are early editions of poetry by W.B. Yeats and Edward Thomas, and a range of Victorian poetry often with fascinating provenances.

In November we bought two letters by Algernon Swinburne (1856) from Rikky Rooksby, who donated some related items to our Swinburne collection. Rikky also compiled a description of a substantial collection of material donated to Balliol in 2019 by Swinburne scholar Jeremy Mitchell, which is available on the Historic Collections blog: '[Additions to Swinburne Collection 2019–2022](#)'.

Proposed Library redevelopment

Throughout 2023 the Library staff have been part of a College working group which has been working with Malcolm Reading Consultants to think through possibilities for the refurbishment and modernisation of the Library facilities. We have organised visits to recently completed library projects in other colleges (of which there have been several). Statistics and feedback have been

compiled and submitted, a survey was circulated to canvas ideas and opinions from Junior Members, and focus groups were arranged for all Library users to attend. The resultant report from Malcolm Reading outlines the costs and opportunities of a variety of options for maintaining and improving the Library's spaces. The next step will be to assess the feasibility of such a project and we look forward to taking this work forward in the next academic year.

Stewart Tiley (Librarian)

Gifts of publications by College Members July 2022–July 2023

- A. Burnham (1973): (contributing musician) *Scent of the Moon* [CD], 2022.
- S.J. Bury (1972): ed. *One Hundred Objects in the Frick Art Reference Library*, 2022; *Breaking the Rules: The Printed Face of the European Avant Garde 1900–1937*, 2017; *Artists' Multiples 1935–2000*, 2001.
- D. Butt (Robert Maxwell Fellow and Tutor in Political Theory): (contributor) *The Courts and the People: Friend of Foe?*, 2021.
- S. Commander (1972): with S. Estrin, *The Connections World: The Future of Asian Capitalism*, 2022.
- D. Critchley (1974): (translator) Claude Barthe, *A Forest of Symbols*, 2023.
- D. Davis (1963): (translator) 'A Journey to Arzrum during the 1829 Campaign by A.S. Pushkin', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 3rd series, 32 supplement, 2022.
- G. Davis † (1976): ed. (with M. Haywood) *Butterworths Insolvency Law Handbook*, 25th ed., 2023; *Butterworths Insolvency Law Handbook*, 24th ed., 2022.
- A. Fairclough (1971): *Bulldozed and Betrayed: Louisiana and the Stolen Elections of 1876*, 2021.
- E. Harris (1974): ed. (with S. Fachard) *The Destruction of Cities in the Ancient Greek World*, 2021.
- T. Heyman (1964): ed. Centro Médico ABC: *Filantropía y Medicina en México*, 2020.
- T. Hosking (1974): *The Shakespearean Hand of Edward De Vere*, 2023.
- C. Jessel (1964): *Crown and Government Land*, 2023.
- S. Lee (1976): *Vincent's 1863–2013*, 2014.
- C.R. Leedham-Green (1959): (translator) Isaac Newton, *The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, 2021.

- A. Ní Chroidheáin (Lecturer in German): ed. *'Dangerous Creations': Papers from a Roundtable Discussion*, 2022.
- M. Reid (1970): *Spain: The Trials and Triumphs of a Modern European Country*, 2023.
- M. Selzer (1960): *Holocaust Reparations: The Secret Agreement*, 2022.
- C. Sypnowich (1983): *Equality Renewed*, 2017.
- L. Trefethen (Professor of Numerical Analysis and Professorial Fellow): *An Applied Mathematician's Apology*, 2022.
- H. Wark (1987): (with P. Koszmider) 'Large Banach Spaces with No Infinite Equilateral Sets', *Bulletin of the London Mathematical Society*, vol. 54, part 6, 2022.
- C. West (2021): (contributor) *The Wasteland: A Centenary Review*, 2022.
- R.S. White (1971): *A Midsummer Night's Dream: Language & Writing*, 2022; *Shakespeare's Cinema of Love*, 2016.

Correction to 2022 edition

- N. Coles (1957): *The US Constitution of 1791 and the Fugitive Slave Clause*, 2020

Other gifts

The Library was kindly remembered in a bequest by Roger Lonsdale (Andrew Bradley Junior Research Fellow 1960–1963, Tutorial Fellow in English 1963–2000 and Emeritus Fellow 2000–2022).

Further welcome gifts were made by: Francesca Back (2016), Seema Chauhan (Asoke Kumar Early Career Fellow in Classical Indology), Norman Coles (1957), Martin Conway (Professor of Contemporary European History, MacLellan-Warburg Fellow and Tutor in History), Christopher de Hamel, Robert Harding, John Hennessy, Jean Houston, Daniel Karlin, Alexander Larman, Sarah McCallum (2020), Richard Ovenden (Bodley's Librarian and Professorial Fellow), Adam Roberts (Emeritus Fellow), Ricky Rooksby, M.W. Rowe, Vyvyan Salmon (1961), Mrs T. Sathasivam, Geoffrey Sedlezky (2017), Joe Stephen (2018), David Taylor, Duncan Taylor (1980), Naomi Tiley (Librarian), The Wedgestone Press, Kenneth Wheeler (1957).

Chapel

Preachers

Michaelmas Term

Revd Dr Melanie Marshall, Acting Chaplain

Edward Smyth, Patron, Prisoners' Penfriends and Trustee, Sing Inside

Revd Dr Joel Love, Vicar of St Peter with St Margaret, Rochester

Revd Esther Brazil, Assistant Curate of St Mary Magdalen's Church

Revd Justin White, Senior Provost, The Woodard Corporation

Revd Barry Hammett, Former Chaplain of the Fleet of the Royal Navy

Naomi Gardom, Ordinand-in-Training, Ripon College Cuddesdon

Hilary Term

Revd Dr Melanie Marshall, Acting Chaplain

Dr William Garrood, Head of Global Strategic Planning at WaterAid

Revd Stephen Hearn, Chaplain and Assistant Priest, Parish of St Marylebone

Revd Sam Dennis, Vicar of St Luke's Church, Woodside

Revd Sarah Lenton, Chaplain to the Royal Opera House

Professor Helen King, Professor Emerita of Classical Studies, Open University

Revd Dr William Lamb (1988), Vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin

Revd Stephen Coleman, Vicar of St Peter's Church, Grange Park

Trinity Term

Dr Chloë Reddaway, Research Associate, Arts and the Sacred, King's College London

Oliver Wright, Keble College, Oxford

Revd Peter Godden, Vicar of St Dunstan's Church, Monks Risborough

Gillian Hamnett, Director of Student Welfare, University of Oxford

Revd Dr Michael Lloyd, Principal, Wycliffe Hall

Revd Dr Alex Popescu (1994)

Dr Bethany Sollereder, Lecturer in Science and Religion, University of Edinburgh

Revd Dr Melanie Marshall, Acting Chaplain

Services for College Members

Interment of ashes

Betty Stockwell, mother of Christopher Stockwell (1974), 28 September 2022

Memorial services

Professor Jasper Griffin (Emeritus Fellow), 18 March 2023

Celebration of life

Dr Vicky Neale (Whitehead Lecturer in Mathematics and Supernumerary Fellow), 2 June 2023

Marriages and blessings

James Kohn (2008) and Chloe Wildman (2009), 27 August 2022

Ben Bleasdale (2005) and Elena Gillis, 3 September 2022

Hilary Martin (2011) and Stein Belderok, 10 September 2022

Olivia Ghosh, daughter of the Master, and Ian Stewart, 10 December 2022

Rose Angelia Hadshar (2012) and Max Ross Dalton (2012), 19 March 2023

Kirsty Duffy (2008) and Luke Pickering, 24 June 2023

Christenings

Florence Salisbury and Kitty Salisbury, twin daughters of Kate Salisbury, née Manns (2004), and Andrew Salisbury, 7 August 2022

Maia Lily Hamdy, daughter of Patrick Hamdy and Hannah Chapman, and granddaughter of Freddie Hamdy (Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Professorial Fellow), 19 December 2022

Oliver Gills and Matthew Gills, twin sons of Jacqueline Gills (Conference and Events Manager) and Timothy Gills, 25 June 2023

The Choir

As the half-time whistle blows on my time with the Balliol Chapel Choir I'm delighted to report that the choir is flourishing, with a vivacious community underpinning everything we achieve together in Chapel.

The start of Michaelmas marks a time of change for choir life, as we welcome returning singers and new singers alike, from the JCR, MCR and outside Balliol. This year was no different, as choir numbers swelled with a wonderful array of newcomers and the metamorphosis of the choir life cycle was complete. Michaelmas also marked two individually important arrivals: Angela Ede, our new Junior Organ Scholar, and Reverend Dr Melanie Marshall



Smiles abound after the choir got up early to sing well-received May Day madrigals from the Salvin Tower.

as Acting Chaplain. Remarkably, these arrivals meant that none of us had any prior experience in our exact present roles, and the resulting mix of collective decision-making, trial and improvement, and thinking outside the box made running the choir a very rewarding challenge.

In Michaelmas, the choir was the biggest it has been for some time and seemed eager to come together and make a beautiful collective sound. Old choir favourites were brought out, including Wood's *O Thou the Central Orb* and Stanford in B flat. The *Libera Me* from Fauré's Requiem was a highlight, as was the most challenging music of term, including Fauré's *Cantique de Jean Racine* and Lauridsen's *O magnum mysterium*, the latter beautifully prepared ahead of the Advent Carol Service. For many singers the Advent Carol Service is one of their choir highlights and this year it was certainly my favourite service of the year. The level of musicianship was excellent and the large choir handled the most contemplative Christmas repertoire delicately, whilst saving a hearty festive tutti for the carols. Our social secretaries organised carolling at a couple



Choir dinner was as popular as ever and additionally, in Trinity, a chance to wish our leaving singers farewell.

of local pubs, which was a splendid event enjoyed by all, even if the promised free round of drinks never materialised!

Hilary provided a chance to push the choir even further, helping them to develop their repertoire and sight-reading skills further. For the first time our Sunday services included regular introits, such as Coleridge-Taylor's *O Ye that Love the Lord* and Beach's *Peace I Leave With You and With Prayer and Supplication*. Unfortunately, the canon of church music is rarely inclusive of under-represented voices, and Angela and I will continue to prioritise giving the choir the chance to learn music by a diverse range of contemporary composers.

The choir's victory in the five-a-side inter-chapel-choir football tournament proved more than a morale boost, with calls in some quarters for that week's organ voluntary to be 'Football's Coming Home'. If readers are disappointed to hear that I didn't agree to this request, then they might be amused to hear that some choir members have apparently already begun training for next year's tournament! There were several outstanding performances, but the title

of 'Man of the Match' should surely go to (Cuppers finalist) Thomas Rolfe for an exceptional long-range goal at 0–0, or Matthew Shipway for his legendary goalkeeping, captaincy, and all-round spritely enthusiasm.

Trinity presented some new collaborative services, whilst repertoire was carefully chosen to prepare for the forthcoming September choir tour to Vienna. Our joint service with Hertford College continued the longstanding tradition of services with other chapel choirs; and perhaps one of the biggest highlights of the term was welcoming 25 members of the Oslo Cathedral Boys' Choir to sing evensong with us (and taking their older members to the pub with us afterwards).

After such a busy year, I would like to thank our amazing Acting Chaplain, Melanie Marshall, for being so encouraging, enthusiastic, and as easy to work with as I could have hoped. I would also like to thank Professor Martin Burton (Director of Cochrane UK and Research Fellow in Clinical Medicine) for his commitment to Chapel and the Balliol Musical Society over the last several years: choir and Chapel will miss him next year and we would all like to wish him the best as he becomes Master of Sidney Sussex, Cambridge. Dame Helen Ghosh (Master) has gone above and beyond to make the lives of the organ scholars easier and I would like to thank her particularly for making the tour possible this summer, supporting the choral awards scheme for next year, and her regular attendance on Sundays. The generous and invaluable advice of Dr Alexander Binns (Lecturer in Music) has helped both Angela and me at various points this year, and we are immensely grateful for all his help. Of course, Chapel could not run smoothly without the hard work of our Chaplain's Secretary, Dr Ilaria Gualino.

My thanks too to the social secretaries, Dannan White and Eleanor March, for their help and especially for their efforts in organising the carolling trip and choir picnics. I am hugely grateful to the Junior Organ Scholar Angela Ede, for her exceptional work and friendship. She has not only got to grips with the musical role astutely and with aplomb but has also been an invaluable help with her organisational skills and dedication. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the choir (and especially those leaving) for all their warmth and hard work this year. I have enjoyed getting to know them all better and I'm confident the choir will continue to blossom on tour and into the next academic year.

Benjamin Gardner, Senior Organ Scholar

Middle Common Room

When the new Balliol Middle Common Room committee was elected, we knew that our challenge was to reflect on what we do most of best whilst finding fewer ways of doing more of it better. At the heart of this mantra was a simple idea: to do everything within our power to ensure that the Balliol MCR community rediscovers itself whilst creating the conditions for its long-term flourishing.

Elyse Cox (Vice-President) has been the brains, heart, and soul behind this project. Before even taking office, she set out with two clear goals for the Long Vacation. First, organise a revolutionised Freshers' Week that welcomed the next generation of graduates to Balliol and integrated them into our community. Second, comprehensively rewrite the constitution and governing documents of the MCR to create the conditions that would allow our community to thrive into the future. Both Herculean tasks were a resounding success.

Following Freshers' Week, a cascade of stand-out events took place during Michaelmas Term. The Michaelmas BOP marked the changing of the guard between two generations of Balliol MCR greats. Under the tutelage of Andres Herrera Poyatos (Sports Officer) and Calum Braham (Bar Manager), the line of DJ talent was secured when Alina Nicheperovich (Social Secretary) performed her inaugural set and demonstrated an immense amount of musicality, vision, and aural ambition. On the theme of Balliol MCR's symphonic prowess, Ana Sotirova (Social Secretary) pioneered Balliol Friday: a bar-night-cum-open-mic-night-cum-social-spectacle that helped bring our entire community together every Friday night in the Megaron Bar. The undisputed highlight of the term was the set of Oxmas celebrations, impishly organised by our resident elves Brendan McGrath and Misha Schmalian (Oxmas Officers). The Oxmas Pantomime was not only written and directed by but also starred Brendan McGrath. Sceptics of the power of political satire need look no further than Brendan's uncanny yet crushing impersonation of me. There really is nothing better than MCR-made mulled wine and MCR-made gingerbread – thanks to Lilja Sæbø (Welfare Officer) – to ease the pain of watching every mannerism and every aspect of your character being mercilessly lampooned in front of the entire graduate community. It really was an unforgettable end to a remarkable term.

Hilary Term did not get off to a great start. Regrettably, we welcomed an exchange party who (unbeknownst to us) had at least one gastric saboteur hidden within their number. Keen to recover from the ordeal, we looked forward to our Burns Night celebration and cèilidh. The highlight of the night was the searing 'Reply from the Lassies', delivered with characteristically devastating wit by Kate Benjamin (IT Officer). The evening of merriment reminded everyone why it is so important to thank Lady Dervorguilla for our Scottish roots. Keen to commemorate our other iconic female founder, we organised the inaugural Foundation Dinner. Marking thirty-three years since the birth of Balliol MCR on 12 March 1990, we invited founding MCR President Dorte Rich Jørgensen (1989) to give an after-dinner address. Dorte's speech was truly inspirational and made us all once again feel fortunate to be part of such a unique graduate community.

The year rounded out with a term that was pure jubilation. It would be a dereliction of my duty if I didn't mention the crowning glory of this administration: the founding of the Balliol Centre of Aquatic Excellence (BCAE). Our newly acquired fleet, comprising kayaks, paddleboards, and punts, took its maiden voyage as soon as the weather permitted and everyone participating reported nothing but fluvial ecstasy. As a final act of sociality before the graduate community hunkered down for the examination period, we welcomed a party from our sister college in Cambridge, St John's. The favour was returned and we accepted an invitation to Formal and Evensong at St John's at the end of Trinity Term.

A momentous loss to the Middle Common Room this year was that

The MCR's newly acquired fleet makes its maiden voyage.



Professor John-Paul Ghobrial stepped down as Praefectus at the end of Michaelmas Term. Although the MCR community is poorer for his absence, we will remain perpetually grateful to him for the ethos he entrenched in our community: the values of trust, respect, open-mindedness, compromise, and affable good humour all stem from his convivial stewardship. On behalf of the entire MCR, I thank Professor Ghobrial for everything he gave to the Graduate Centre and wish him and his family all the best for their future. Inversely, a momentous gain was that the Graduate Centre was blessed by the addition of Candice Gregory (Graduate Centre Manager), who changed our community immeasurably for the better.

Looking back on the year as a whole, it is fair to say that it has been a momentous one. There were many challenges along the way, but the community came together and strove to create something greater than the sum of its parts. Thanks to the engagement of every member of Balliol Middle Common Room, the graduate community is in a much better place today. We set out to do the bare minimum ... but it turns out we did an awful lot more than that!

I would like to wish the incoming MCR committee and especially incoming President Mara Kelly the best of luck for the year ahead. Mara is an incredible friend and I couldn't feel more confident that our community will continue to flourish under her leadership.

Onwards and upwards, downwards and through.

Daniel Wilkinson, MCR President

Junior Common Room

As ever, the year has been a full one for Balliol JCR. Michaelmas began with a jam-packed Freshers' Week timetable, with various workshops, parent dinners and nights out, and after last year's trials and tribulations with flooding in the bar, we saw a successful reopening of the Lindsay Bar as Freshers mingled and sipped away at their newly beloved 'Balliol Blues'.

Above everything, we have felt a real sense of community this year throughout the JCR. Our Charity Reps have been hard at work, encouraging food donations for the BOGOF (buy one give one free) scheme, a competition between colleges to see who can donate the most food to food banks. Our International Reps organised a fantastic fundraising event in Pantry, serving traditional mezé, raki and Turkish coffee to raise money for those affected by the Turkish and Syrian earthquakes. Our Environment and Ethics Reps have been equally busy, organising clothes swaps with other colleges and arranging donation bins throughout College, as well as pushing for eco-friendly initiatives in Climate and Biodiversity Committee meetings.

The JCR has also been active on the access front. In April, we welcomed prospective students to Balliol on the Offerholders' Day after another year of online interviews. Furthermore, students did not hesitate to get involved in the forthcoming JCR admissions video, participating in discussion groups and in filming around College to showcase the brilliance that Balliol has to offer. Our Welfare Reps – newly renamed 'Welfaries' – have truly gone above and beyond this year in ensuring that there is always an abundance of activities on offer to distract undergraduates from the occasionally overwhelming workload. With regular welfare teas, welfare dogs (and llamas), movie nights every Sunday, and 5th Week scavenger hunts, there is never a shortage of things to do (or to eat) around College.

Alongside supporting the student journalism of *The Oxford Student*, the *Isis* and *Cherwell* (of which there were two Balliol Editors in Chief this year), our own Balliol publications have seen a strong revival. In Hilary the first *John de Balliol* in a long time was published, alongside *Scrawl*, which is headed by our new Comrade Shakespeares and showcases the artistic talent within the JCR. In other artistic news, After the Covid years when sadly student rooms were artless, we have been working on the administration of the JCR's art collection and we hope to revive the picture ballot next year. The annual Charity Musical



Balliol Commemoration Ball 2023. Photograph by Coco Cottam.

in the Pilch theatre was also a resounding success: *Murder on the Balliol Express*, which featured various alumni, past and present, produced many laughs and some truly unforgettable scenes.

As Pantry continues to thrive, typically serving more vegetarian and vegan meals, the JCR also agreed new, more affordable meal plan options with Hall to keep food costs low and affordable during difficult times. General Meetings have also been particularly vibrant this year: with an unusually healthy surplus of JCR reserve funds, the JCR has had the capacity to support various student projects. Furthermore, the JCR has been working on setting up a fund to support JCR students who fall outside the criteria for means-tested funding yet are still struggling, which we hope will be introduced in the next academic year.

Sunny Trinity brought afternoons lounging on the lawn in the Garden Quad and punting on the Cherwell. We were also thrilled to be able to host Balliol's very own Commemoration Ball, celebrating 50 years of female tutorship. The theme, *Les Années Folles*, prompted some impressive decor, such as swing boats, miniature Eiffel towers and macaroons. The entertainment was equally spectacular – with a mix of Amy, Abba, Hybrid Minds, jazz, and so much more, there was something for everyone. A special thanks goes out to Ball

President Henry Ferrabee and his committee for their exceptionally hard work on what was not an easy task. The June Jamboree was similarly a huge success: thanks to the hard work of our fantastic Vice-President Lilia Kanu, students enjoyed the bouncy castles, bubbles and the bar, as well as some much-needed burgers and ice cream to celebrate the end of term. No one went short of Balliol memorabilia this year either, with new stash such as Keep-Cups and tote bags on offer. Furthermore, for the first time in years, the JCR organised a leavers yearbook, a very popular keepsake which we hope will continue in future years.

In such a short report it is difficult to convey a year's worth of JCR activities, but I hope these highlights convey something of the vibrancy that has characterised the JCR community this year.

Isabella Alexandrou, JCR President

Clubs, societies and sports

Arnold and Brackenbury Society

A&B this year has been eventful to say the least.

In Michaelmas we held a few debates, with port, wine, and fizzy drinks in abundance, and very enthusiastic attendees. Many students from across the year groups came, but we found the second- and third-years to be the most willing to give floor speeches. A few brave Freshers took the floor, to great applause, and we hope to see a few of them on the committee next term. The tradition of allowing 'The Ashes of Mr Gladstone' to head the debate was revived, much to the fearful disgust of one of the Co-Presidents, whose sense of presidential duty ultimately overrode her fear of taxidermy.

Nepotists ran as smoothly (and rowdily) as usual, with lots of new first-year faces attending the traditional event, filing in to Out of the Blue's a capella Christmas collection. Carols were sung with Rough Edge playing. Old Balliol vs Trinity feuds were light-heartedly remembered.

The last A&B debate of Michaelmas Term, with a festive theme.



Hilary saw the club host another two debates, voted on from three choices as usual. A new committee member, Lucy Jackson, joined the team to allow another, Charles West, to direct this year's highly praised charity musical (in which many A&B speakers took on the more energetic, comedic roles). In his absence we hosted a fully female-led A&B, affectionately entitled 'A&She', which went on to host a well-attended and boisterous debate on the motion 'This house believes that uni years are the best years of your life'.

Trinity saw the committee stuck in the Library all term to revise for finals, which led to a lull in debates (there's not much to inspire comedy in exam season). Nevertheless, we have passed on the society to a new committee who we are sure will run A&B next year with great energy and, most importantly, a lot of playful goofiness!

Kaly De Oliveira Cerqueira and Sarah McCallum, Co-Presidents

Badminton

This is the first full academic year that the Balliol Badminton Club has been established for, and the pace at which the club grew was truly remarkable. We

Balliol badminton players.



were a big hit at Freshers' Week, and saw an intake of around 20 students across all years and degrees. Turnout to weekly training had its ups and downs due to workload and exams, but at its peak we packed out the entire sports hall of four courts at Oxford High School, and welcomed players of all abilities, from beginners to Blues players. We participated in the leagues and Cuppers organised by the University Badminton Club, and performed impressively in both. We came second in our division in both the men's and women's leagues, and top of the division in the mixed league. This means all three teams will be promoted to the next division in the coming year. Although our men's Cuppers team was eliminated early on in Trinity, our women's teams fought their way to the finals, drawing in the last match against the champions but losing on point difference and settling for second place. This year was also the first time we sent out a badminton team for sports day with St John's College, Cambridge, and although we didn't manage to defeat our opponent, everyone participated enthusiastically and had great fun. The club has come a long way in a short amount of time and we are in a strong position to continue the success in the next academic year.

Yaning Wu, Captain

BAME Society

This year was an incredibly full and enjoyable one for members of the BAME Society. It began with a BAME formal in Michaelmas: something which hasn't been held in the past four years. Our members were able to enjoy cuisines originating from different ethnicities and areas of the world, and were able to do so in their own traditional clothes – not having to adhere to the usual suit/dress formality and attending in saris, kurtas and other such items. Many expressed what a joy it was to be able to experience a Balliol formal without the common menu or strict dress code. The term went on to even greater heights with the society offering a pizza night towards the end of the term, allowing members of the BAME community to indulge in a free dinner with a selection of Domino's pizzas (a true staple of the society).

Hilary brought with it the opportunity to try new things. More welfare teas and pizza nights occurred, with much of the stock being bought from authentic shops in Cowley, allowing students to try out foodstuffs and snacks from different communities which they may not have experienced before. Trinity brought another two pizza nights and again many laughs were shared over free

Left to right: Debadrita Dass, Aditi Dahal, Vignesh Iyer and Yuvraj Bhagotra wearing traditional clothes at the BAME Society formal in Michaelmas Term.



slices of pizza offered by the society.

This year established Balliol BAME Society on firmer foundations and provided future presidents more flexibility (due to our budget increase) with events and ideas. Whilst I will no longer be president next year, I am firmly looking forward to seeing how the society grows and how future presidents and co-presidents keep Balliol's thriving BAME community catered for and well-represented with events. It has been an absolute pleasure having a hand in creating a hub for our BAME students and I cannot wait to see what the society can do over the next few years!

Yuvraj Bhagotra, President

Basketball

If I had to select a word to capture the essence of our team this year, it would undoubtedly be 'talent'. Across both the undergraduate and postgraduate student body, we had a whole heap of experienced players willing to donate their skills in the name of Balliol basketball, leading to unparalleled Cuppers and College League successes compared to recent years. Our newly formed

cohesive group of ballers also helped create a vibrant basketball culture that I'm thrilled to see revived in Balliol.

Michaelmas and Hilary featured College League games that were far (far) too early, but enthusiasm for the game prevailed nevertheless and we Balliolites balled out, squashing the opposition as the sun rose over the Iffley Sports Centre. The main event, however, was the Cuppers tournament in Trinity. In our first game – the first our full team had played together – we ran through St John's/ St Hugh's for a defiant 50-point win; a stellar offensive performance from the team. Yet it was our strong defensive presence that turned the tide in Balliol's favour later in the tournament as we faced a tough Keble team and won what was a gritty game by 16 points, even while missing a bunch of key players. Our unbeaten run took us to the semi-final, where we faced a skilful Osler House. Unfortunately, packed exam schedules meant we entered this game down many players, and after another great defensive effort, Balliol fell short of playing in its first Cuppers final in almost a decade by just two points. However, with most of the roster continuing with their studies next year, we hope to strengthen our team even further and finally bring a Cuppers trophy to Balliol.

Oliver Cort, Captain

BUMS

BUMS (Balliol Undergraduate Mathematical Society) welcomed a new cohort of mathematicians in Michaelmas and shortly afterwards the annual elections were held. The newly elected committee secured funding from the JCR, which enabled new 'Sip and Solve' sessions to be held fortnightly. At these sessions, snacks were provided for BUMS members in all year groups to work on problem sheets and discuss mathematics together. Other social events held throughout the year included ice-skating and a trip to G&D's for ice cream.

In a return to tradition, the annual dinner – the highlight of the BUMS calendar – was held in Hilary Term. We gladly welcomed a speaker from Oxford's Mathematics Institute, Professor Nick Trefethen FRS (Professor of Numerical Analysis and Professorial Fellow), head of Oxford's Numerical Analysis Group, for an excellent talk on his work such as on Chebfun in MATLAB. It was followed by a Q&A and then a dinner in Balliol's Hall. The dinner concluded with the singing of the BUMS anthem, led by Matthew Shipway, and the presentation of BUMS awards.

Sophie Winter, President

Cricket

The past year was one of Balliol College Cricket Club's most successful seasons of the current century. It culminated in a convincing victory over Brasenose in the Cuppers final on Friday 16 June, and it was the club's first triumph in the competition since the women's in 2012, and the men's in 2002.

The early days of the League season saw the emergence of new stars and thrilling performances. An authoritative 75-run victory away at Worcester saw Henry Ferrabee steal the show with an eclectic 62, turning our once assured number 11 into a certified middle-order hitman. Aided by some outstanding wicket-keeping from new recruit Miles Graham, Sean Duggan's 2–7, Nathan Van Wees' 3–12, and Olly Hughes' 2–4 with the ball proved so intimidating in response that the Worcester opener ran himself out. I have never seen a five-man slip cordon in a 20-over game of college cricket, though, so who can blame him. Our League season unfortunately ended prematurely with two close away losses to Pembroke and Jesus.

But there was more to come from BCCC: victory in the first Cuppers match against St Hugh's by three wickets saw Captain Louis Buck spearhead the bowling attack, with figures of 2–7. Louis took the Hugh's Blues opener for a duck, courtesy of an outstanding 'snaffle' low and to his right by Henry at point. Linacre were then easily brushed aside in the quarter-final in a six-wicket victory, Balliol comfortably chasing down a 99 total with overs to spare, with thanks to Josh Royan's maiden college 50 (which included an audacious ramp shot to bring up his half century on 49). Some excellent fielding in the deep by 'bucket hands' Calum Braham, and an over of tight bowling from Hrushikesh Loya, rounded off a comprehensive team performance.

The semi-final against New proved easier than expected: Josh Royan and Louis Buck skittled the openers early doors, and a tight fielding performance, in particular from Sam Glossop, restricted the opposition to 107 after 20 overs. Balliol veteran John de Bhal and I chased it down Bazball-style for no loss in 14 overs; thanks to JDB for the most fun I've had out in the middle to date – it was a pleasure.

The scene was set for the final against Brasenose the next day at University Parks. Brasenose bowled well early on, but a characteristically dogged and courageous 46 not out by Mr Balliol himself, Dan Altman, ensured that Balliol ran up a convincing 145–9, with an important cameo from Paul Dugdale with the bat at the end too; it was certainly reminiscent of a particular Stokes–Leach partnership at Headingley in 2019. Dan and Paul are two of a number



The Balliol College cricket team.

of senior players leaving Balliol this year, and we thank them for their tireless service to the cricket club over the years.

Some disciplined bowling from Royan, Sean, and in particular Sid Kumar at the death (playing on a nose broken in the QF) ensured that Balliol's total was defended by 28 runs. Some impressive glovework capped off an impressive season for Fresher Freddie Goodfellow, with two difficult edges taken behind the stumps. The victory was reflective of one of the most able Balliol teams of the past two decades, but more importantly a group who loved playing with each other: because of the togetherness of the team, and the camaraderie displayed by all throughout, cricket has been the highlight of my time here, and I thank you all for making it so special.

Ed Grayson, Vice-Captain

Drama Society and Michael Pilch Studio

Of the many venues for student drama that exist in Oxford, the Michael Pilch Studio is arguably the most popular and consistently sought after. Indeed, it

is always a challenge to condense the high number of impressive production applications that we receive into an eight-week term.

The simplicity and flexibility of the large black box attracts student productions of a bent both canonical (Shakespeare, Ibsen, Chekhov) and experimental (dare I mention the Balliol Charity Musical?). Above all, the Pilch is known for offering students the opportunity to put their own writing on stage. Frequently, these shows end up at the Edinburgh Fringe or in odd corners of London.

My predecessor, Ollie Khurshid, helped spark a Pilch renaissance after the inactivity induced by coronavirus. Inspired by his ambitions for the theatre, I turned my attention towards the venue itself: all light fixtures have been repaired, DMX capabilities expanded, and its walls repainted. But there is more to be done. I know that under the direction of the incoming BCDS President, Rosie Mahendra, the Pilch will continue to flourish.

The Pilch really is something special: a hidden gem of Balliol. Some of my fondest memories at Balliol so far have taken place in there. Although I know little about him, I feel I owe a great deal to the late Balliol alumnus who founded it, Mr Michael Pilch (1945).

Charles West, BCDS President

Men's football

The conclusion of another thrilling season for Balliol College Football Club brings with it a sense of pride and excitement for the future. With an impressive journey in the Cuppers Plate competition, in which we reached the semi-finals, our team has showcased their determination and unwavering spirit. One of the most remarkable aspects of this season has been the participation of Freshers. The influx of new talent and enthusiasm highlights the growth and popularity of our club within the College community. The camaraderie among the players, ranging from Freshers to post-grads, both on and off the field, has fostered a positive team spirit that has undoubtedly contributed to our achievements this season.

Reaching the semi-finals of the Cuppers Plate competition is a testament to the dedication and talent of our players, and the success achieved signifies a promising foundation for next season. We are confident that the club has an exciting journey ahead.

Sean Duggan, Captain

Women's football

The 2022/2023 season saw a major comeback for women's football in College. This year, the Balliol women's football team joined forces with Brasenose women to create Bralliol, a magnificent team that went on to achieve the unthinkable. Having the Master's Field ground finally open up after Covid meant that we were able to schedule training sessions, which not only improved our play but also provided new footballers across all years with a familiar environment to learn in. This allowed us to get enough players to actually form a team and thus play games!

Balliol had been quiet in women's football for the past few years but rebranding provided the fresh start needed to enable Bralliol to go on to win the league, remaining undefeated and thus securing a promotion. However, a combination of unfortunate events meant that we were knocked out in the quarter-final stage in the Hassan's Plate Cup. Here, we lost to the Foxes, who were playing with 11 while we only had 7. The match resulted in a 1–0 defeat for Bralliol, which was enough to end our run. Bralliol also played in the Futsal Cuppers {futsal being a variant of association football played on a hard court indoors} in which we narrowly missed out on the trophy and instead were deemed noble runners-up. More importantly, though, we returned the favour and knocked Foxes out of the competition, thus restoring equilibrium to the universe.



The Bralliol women's football team.

This comeback would not have been possible if it wasn't for the hard work of all those who played in matches and attended training. It has been a monumental year for women's football in both colleges and hopefully the comeback is only the beginning.

Hannah Raja, Captain

Hockey

The 2022/2023 season at Balliol College Hockey Club was a year of great fun, successes and what can be described as near-successes. Michaelmas Term saw a new hockey team step up to the challenge, as a lot of the old guard had left and the novices had to step in. This year saw the college league being played in Michaelmas, a seven-a-side tournament in Hilary and the Cuppers knock-out tournament in both Hilary and Trinity. Despite the rejuvenation (or maybe because), we managed to perform well by winning the second division in Hilary Term, which means we'll start in the first division next year. Unfortunately, we got stranded in the final of the seven-a-side tournament in what can only be described as a battle of attrition and exertion, with us having to play the semi-final and final back-to-back. Sadly, this year also saw us get knocked out in one of the earlier stages of the Cuppers tournament, after which we filled the rest of the term by playing some friendlies.

The Balliol College Hockey Club alumni match.



Several special events took place as well, such as the Sports Day at our sister college, St John's in Cambridge, and the alumni match, both always being the highlights of our season. Perfectly in line with tradition, we managed to lose by a close margin to St John's after putting up a commendable fight in the second half. The best match of the season, however, was the alumni match, which was both delightful and a slightly worrying reflection on our own stamina after a 60-minute match in which the alumni managed to gain the upper hand after tense shoot-outs. The match was followed by a sunny picnic on the fields near Iffley with the alumni team to end the sports year.

Arthur Platschorre, Captain

Medical Society

The Balliol Medical Society (BMS) has had a very successful year. Medical and biomedical students have enjoyed another year of undisturbed in-person teaching, pushing the memory of in-bed seminars and lecture binge-watching into the distant past. We aimed to revive certain roles that had been dormant during the pandemic, such as the first-year representatives and second-year secretary and treasurer, which has greatly enhanced student involvement in BMS.

In Michaelmas, the annual BMS dinner went ahead. We were fortunate enough to welcome two fantastic speakers: Dr Lauren Burgeno (inaugural Dan Norman Early Career Fellow in (Bio)medical Sciences), who spoke to us about neurotransmitter systems in addiction, and Lt Col Dan Burns, who described the logistics of delivering aid during the evacuation of Kabul. Well attended by students and alumni, the event was a demonstration of the strong community that characterises the BMS. Also in Michaelmas was the annual medic curry, held in memory of Piers Nye (Fellow and Tutor in Physiological Sciences 1991–2011 and Emeritus Fellow 2011–2021), who used to invite BMS students to the Al-Shami restaurant (his favourite) and left a donation for the society to be able to continue funding this informal meal.

In Hilary Term, we held the annual Wurtman Seminar, an engaging evening at which the third-year students present their FHS research projects in preparation for the vivas in Trinity Term. It was a riveting event where we heard about research ranging from neuroscience to molecular pathology, with Will Oliver being awarded the first-place Wurtman Prize for his presentation on hemianopia rehabilitation. We thank the BMS Senior Member Professor Robin Choudhury (Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Senior Research

The third-year members of the BMS at the Wurtman Seminar.



Fellow in Biomedical Sciences) as well as everyone else who supports BMS, as without their support these fantastic events would not be possible.

Chloe Taylor and Theo Heath-Coleman, Co-Presidents

Musical Society

For our regular Sunday concerts this year, the Musical Society has hosted a selection of bright and upcoming professional talent booked by outgoing General Secretary Rowan Heron, whose tenure drew to a close in Michaelmas 2022.

As of 2023, the website at <https://msoc.ballioljcr.org> is back up and running, with details of previous and upcoming concerts. The Society has also embarked on new advertising, with a public Facebook group and a dedicated poster board outside the College Lodge giving details of the term's events. As a result, we have seen a significant rise in concert attendance, which we hope will continue, and which does justice to the generosity of our donors, who help bring excellent music free of charge to all.

The highlight of the year was a special recital by Supernumerary Fellow Sir András Schiff on Thursday 18 May, for which the Hall was predictably packed. His impromptu set list drew from Bach's Goldberg Variations, and included Haydn's Piano Sonata in C Minor, Mozart's Piano Sonata No. 15, and Beethoven's 'Tempest' Sonata. It was a real delight.



Sir András Schiff playing to a full Hall in Trinity Term.

Lastly, the termly Members' Concerts have continued to charm and surprise us. Students have performed original works on guitar, Georgian and Scottish folk music, Rachmaninoff preludes for piano. Senior Organ Scholar Ben and his scout, Gina, presented a Pachelbel duet. Fellows have performed Mendelssohn piano trios and Grateful Dead-inspired rock sets. We've heard Bach violin sonatas and performances on the tabla and jorī-pakhavaja, too.

Cordelia Lawson, General Secretary

Netball

It has been a phenomenal year for Balliol College Netball Club. Despite a rocky start to the 2022/2023 season, with several of our strongest players graduating last Trinity Term, the team has been able to go from strength to strength thanks to the high uptake of the sport by first-year students. Our weekly socials and the team environment they cultivated were no doubt to thank for this great influx of players.

Michaelmas Term saw the introduction of male players to the University-wide league matches in which we participate. Balliol chose to continue the tradition of playing as a women's team, finishing in the middle of Division 2 as a result. In Hilary, however, the leagues were divided between mixed and women's. BCNC competed in the women's second division and won the league. We will therefore play in Division 1 next season – a great achievement for the team.

Balliol netball continued to dominate in Hilary, winning a very tight annual alumni match (despite coming up against some of last year's best players). The alumni match day culminated in a lovely dinner and coincided with the rugby and football alumni matches, making it a very special occasion for Balliol members old and new.

I look forward to seeing Balliol College Netball Club continuing to grow (and win!) next season.

Julia Andronikos, Captain

Men's rowing

Balliol College Boat Club men's side went into the year with an excess of momentum gained from several years of successful bumps racing and climbing the leaderboards. Our novice season saw a record number of rowers keen to join the BCBC legacy. We started off the year with 28 returning seniors and 35 novices.

Nephthys Regatta was the first of three events that were the highlights of Michaelmas Term. Sadly, the men's first crew was knocked out in the first round by Lincoln.

In the Michaelmas Novice Regatta (MNR) – replacing Christchurch Regatta, which was discontinued after last year – the men's first novice boat (A) had a fantastic race against Oriel MB on the first day, winning by over half of the course. They were prevented from racing on days 2 and 3 by adverse weather conditions and on the last day they raced New College MB. The tough stream and its asymmetry meant they had to gain a whole length over the course. They lost by a canvas, but it was a fantastic row nonetheless. The men's second boat lost against Lincoln MA on day 1 and were unable to return and race the repêchage because of bad conditions on days 2 and 3.

Michaelmas concluded with a more casual excursion into enemy territory to train with St John's, Cambridge (Balliol's sister college) for the St John's Sports Day. This did not end up developing into a proper race, because of logistical constraints; however, on the 'best chat' front, Balliol secured an indisputable dominance.

Heavy rain and flooding before Hilary Term began impeded our training for Torpids, and four of our finest were still training with OULRC (Oxford University Lightweight Rowing Club), not returning until Summer Eights.

On Day 1 of Torpids, M2 was chasing Teddy Hall; however, a run-in with



ABOVE M2 at Summer Eights



LEFT M2 for Summer Eights, left to right in rows front to back: John Hughes, Harry Prior, Toby Lassen (coach), Chris Crum, Jakob Hofmann; George Lawrence, Will Reilly, Arda Goreci; Ewan Wallace, Oscar Lyons; Helena Marshall.

an inaptly placed tree at the end of the gut saw them plummeting down the division, from 45th to 48th. They bumped Regent's Park College on day 2 before Donnington Bridge, and St Anne's before the gut on day 3. On the final day, they were chasing Magdalen M2, who were they unable to catch, and finished -1 across the campaign.

M1 started Torpids 5th in Division 1. They rowed over on day 1, as Wolfson caught St Catz faster than we could catch them. Quick work was done on St Catz on day 2. On day 3 M1 rowed over after a thrilling battle with Oriel. On day 4 we were ready, and rumour has it that the bookies were placing 100:1



ABOVE M1 at Summer Eights

RIGHT M1 for Summer Eights, left to right in rows front to back:
Benjamin Isachsen, Markus Baumgartner, Dewi Gould, Tobias Bretschneider; James Fraser, Alec Berry, Oscar Hayden; Sam Baker, Nick Ryan; Felicity Thomas.



bets against Oriel. But an unfortunate crab shortly after Donnington Bridge saw the crew tangle with Keble and a houseboat, bringing the successful start to this campaign to an end with a plummet down to 7th on the river.

BCBC are enormously proud that our president, Alec Berry, and resident former Team GB rower Sam Baker represented Oxford with the Oxford University Lightweight Squad in the annual Varsity race. For the Trinity season, we were also able to welcome Nick Ryan (OULRC 2021/2022), completing our triumvirate of Blues.

In preparation for Summer Eights, the men's side dabbled in external races,

participating in the City of Oxford Bumps as well as Wallingford Head at Eton Dorney – an exciting venue for those of us who learnt to row at university.

Balliol entered two men's crews for Summer Eights. On day 1, M1 was chasing Wadham and M2 was chasing Teddy Hall. M1 made easy work of Wadham and bumped up from 7th to 6th on the river. M1 remained at this position for the rest of the week, chasing Pembroke for each of the remaining days. Notably, the field was fairly even across the top of division 1, with no position changes occurring in the top seven for the last three days.

M2 had an unfortunate streak, racing in a division that was klaxoned on all four days. Nonetheless, they secured the bump on Wadham M2 on day 2, and on St Edmund Hall M2 on day 4, moving from 41st to 39th – proving that in a different reality this phenomenal crew would have been on for blades.

As per tradition, the year concluded with the social highlights, Summer Eights and the Gordouli Dinner. A large proportion of the club will return next year, and we are excited to welcome the incoming batch of keen Freshers, ready to take on the oar and be confused by the BCBC motto.

Never row,

Markus Werner Baumgartner, BCBC Captain

Women's rowing

The BCBC women's side had a strong start to the year, with lots of returning seniors and a sizeable intake of undergraduate and postgraduate novices. The novices enjoyed racing in the Michaelmas Novice Regatta, and the senior women had a great result at Autumn Fours, coming second only to Univ by half a length in the final.

In Hilary Term, the second VIII qualified comfortably for Torpids – a great improvement on the previous year. Overall, the women's side had the most success Torpids since before the pandemic. W2 went +2 despite multiple klaxons in their division, and W1 also went +2, moving up to 5th in Division 2.

Trinity Term saw a boost in training and moral, with W1 cycling to Abingdon for the first time. W2 once again qualified for Summer Eights, rowing on with ease. It was a great week of rowing, with lots of supporters cheering on the crews, and everyone racing sporting the iconic red bucket hat. W2 got off to a great start, with a quick bump on Somerville W2 on day one and a thrilling chase with Hertford W2 on day two, going -2 over the week after being bumped on the third and fourth days. After a spoons winning



ABOVE AND RIGHT
W1 at Summer Eights.
Photographs by Charlie
Stewart @CAHS.
Photography.



fall into Division 2 last year, W1 had a very successful bumps campaign, getting a bump each day on Catz, Hertford, New, and St Anne's to win blades and climb back into Division 1. The Summer Eights dinner was a great way to round off the week.

With a large proportion of the women's side still at Balliol next year, we look forward to welcoming new members and building on this year's success!

Sophie Winter, Captain

Skoliasts

Trinity Term has brought to conclusion another successful year of Skoliasts' events. As ever, it was a delight to introduce another year of Freshers to the termly dinners and welcome them into the wider Classics community at Balliol. We hope that they have all enjoyed their first three terms here.

It was an honour to host Professor Jo Quinn in Michaelmas and Dr Alex Antoniou in Hilary, both from Oxford's Classics Faculty, who presented on the fascinating topics of ancients maps and Roman priests respectively. Balliol's own Dr Alexander Bown (Fellow and Tutor in Ancient Philosophy) joined us for his first Skoliasts this February, which we hope he enjoyed immensely.

As another cohort of second-year students prepared for their exams at the end of Hilary, we held a Mods tea to give them a break from their revision and from the Library. Hearty congratulations to those who sat them! Congratulations must be given also to the finalists on completing their degrees, having endured the difficult circumstances of the pandemic in their earlier years. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

We are very grateful to the wonderful tutors at Balliol, Professor Rosalind Thomas (Dyson-Macgregor Fellow, Jowett Lecturer and Tutor in Ancient History) and Drs Adrian Kelly (Fellow and Tutor in Ancient Greek Language and Literature) and Matthew Robinson (Fairfax Fellow and Tutor in Latin Literature), for being steadfast patrons who enable us to hold our events. We look forward to next term, to welcoming a new set of Classicists, and to many more dinners to come.

Debadrita Dass and Oliver Ellingham, Co-Presidents

Younger Society

The Younger Society has had yet another fantastic year with a range of events which have enabled us all to enjoy the law community within Balliol.

A highlight was the annual Michaelmas dinner which brought together law students from Balliol's past and present. We were delighted to welcome as our honorary speaker Professor Alison Young (Fellow and Tutor in Law 1997–1999), Sir David Williams Professor of Public Law at Cambridge University.

We were also lucky to be hosted by Slaughter and May at Victors for a fabulous dinner at which Balliol lawyers with an interest in pursuing a corporate career could gain an insight into life at the firm. We are grateful to Tom Vickers (1999), who organised the evening, for also putting on an



The Younger Society Trinity Garden Party.

application workshop which was incredibly insightful, as well as to the alumni trainees who shared their experiences with us.

The Hilary formal was another wonderful opportunity for current Balliol law students and tutors to get together. Our final event was our Trinity Garden Party: a chance to celebrate the year and particularly to celebrate the finalists, with sunshine, scones and Pimm's providing a great backdrop.

We are very grateful to Dr Grant Lamond (Frankfurter Fellow and Tutor in Law) and Dr Hasan Dindjer (Blanesburgh Fellow and Tutor in Law) and all those who continue to support the Younger Society for allowing us to put on these events, and we sincerely look forward to the coming year.

Sachi Patel (Younger Society President) and Dylan Durnion (Younger Society Secretary)

Artist in Residence

Gwyneth Lewis (1985 and Honorary Fellow)



Gwyneth Lewis.
Photograph by Edward
Brown.

Poetry and creative writing have been at the centre of my life since I was seven or eight years old. I thought I knew how compelling the call to write is – after all, I was obsessed with it when I was at Balliol myself as a DPhil student in the mid-1980s. But what I learned when I had the opportunity to spend a term at Balliol as an Artist in Residence and talk to students and staff about their writing surprised me. I'd invited members of the University at all levels – 'anyone who is interested in creative writing, or having trouble with academic prose' – to come in for a chat. I stressed that the participant should use our session to address the issue that was most pressing to them. Passing reference was sometimes made to critical writing but everybody

wanted to talk about their intense desire to write creatively. Over the term, these intimate encounters built up into a moving testimony to a community – often invisible to itself – of those deeply engaged in writing.

People of all ages, abilities and levels of experience came to see me. One person shook as they read out new poems, the first time they'd shown them to anybody (the work was good, of course). Several writers were, daringly, composing in their second, third or fourth languages. A number of participants were already accomplished and experienced writers; some had book contracts or were prize-winners and are clearly heading for writing careers – I shall be looking out for their names. One person's work has already reached millions of readers online; several participants had overcome grave difficulties, political and personal. Others wanted to know about how to start publishing. Some people are writing in groups and were interested in less traditional forms of publication. No matter what the ambition, all of the writers showed the same passion for creating new work in all kinds of genres.

Participants came from a huge range of subjects (I held Saturday sessions, so that scientists and those busy with commitments during the week could

attend). I heard about the philosophy of AI, how women combine a top scientific career with raising a family, the shape of the soul in Old English literature and in fields of neurology and theology. Some work in biological conservation, global health; others are studying law or engineering or Spanish, Italian or Sanskrit or Near Eastern Studies or the history of avant-garde Chinese art. I Zoomed with a student away in South America.

Some people showed me snatches of writing, often brave enough to share pieces that weren't going well. Nearly everybody ended up talking about fear and creative writing. Many were surprised to hear that this uncomfortable feeling wasn't their own personal failing but nearly universal and that, no matter how many years you've been writing, it never disappears. I suspect that it's an essential part of the process, if you're going to produce anything original. Because of misadventures in my own life, I was able to stress how important it is to put your health and mental wellbeing before everything. After all, living a rich life, however you define that, is a gift in itself and your best chance of producing good work over a long time. It's a romantic fiction that misery produces worthwhile literature – though I do advocate taking notes during tough times.

I'd like to thank the Revd Dr Mel Marshall (Acting Chaplain) for arranging lively Close Reading sessions on Friday lunchtimes. We discussed poems by former American Poet Laureate Kay Ryan, Bridget Pegeen Kelly and Ocean Vuong. These sessions confirmed that reading in a group, with a wide range of life experiences and points of view, is the best way to come to grips with poetry that may, at first, seem opaque.

I was most touched to be part of a small commemoration for Professor Roger Lonsdale (Andrew Bradley Junior Research Fellow 1960–1963, Tutorial Fellow in English 1963–2000, and Emeritus Fellow 2000–2022), who was my tutor when I came to Balliol. A great scholar of 18th-century English literature, it turns out that he, too, was a formidable poet in private. He kept that quiet in the 1980s. I like to think that having an Artist in Residence at Balliol might have made him less private about it.

Thank you to the Master for one of the most joyful jobs that I've ever done and to Balliol for the welcome. I was inspired by those I met, reminded of myself starting out as a writer; this led me to an artistic renewing of my own artistic 'vows' or resolve. I'll treasure these frank exchanges, a great insight into the hidden – and not so hidden – creative lives of Oxford.

Jim Head's retirement cricket match

Paul Edwards (1975)

Anyone who spends half their life doing the same job is either a slave to the thing or a little in love with it. There was never any doubt in which group Jim Head (Head Groundsman 1988–2022) belonged. One only had to watch his hunched figure tending a 22-yard strip of turf or listen to him talking about the English climate to understand that for him groundsmanship was not so much a trade as a vocation, a pursuit into which he poured his entire professional being. Generations of Balliol students were the beneficiaries of such devotion, for Jim was the sort of bloke who wanted to get a game on and his determination was all the greater if he happened to be playing in it.

Every sport mattered to him but cricket mattered most of all. He went on the Balliol tour for many years and this connection led to opportunities to play for South Oxford Amateurs, London Erratics and other clubs. Yet when Old Members remember Jim they will probably recall him as a master of his craft on the Master's Field or in the organised clutter of his vast shed. So it was fitting that his retirement last year should be marked by a cricket match, on 18 September 2022, between two sides selected from Fellows, current undergraduates and Old Members, captained by Jim and Owain Williams (2006).

As ever with Balliol, the occasion transcended the best intentions of its organisers. Who could have expected, for example, that some Old Members not playing in the game would turn up simply to honour Jim and play their part in the day? Who would have thought that one Fellow, Simon Skinner (Keen Fellow and Tutor in History), would take three wickets for Owain Williams' victorious XI, while another, Tim Wilson (Emeritus Fellow), scored the match. Yet two others, Fran Wright (Domestic Bursar) and Richard Norman (Fellow and Development Director), with a daughter and a partner in tow respectively, ensured that players and guests were sumptuously fed and watered. On such an afternoon it was easy to rekindle old friendships and make new ones. It was also good to see Jim's wife Pat, a loyal long-term supporter behind the scenes.

There were some formalities but this being Balliol they were as informal as possible. In the tea interval, the Master and the Domestic Bursar paid tribute to Jim's 34 years of service and the recipient replied with typically atrocious jokes and tales of outlandish beasts. As to the cricket, Owain Williams made a fine 50 for his side and Dan Beary (1996) replied with an even better one for



Jim Head (front row, third from right) with the cricketers who played in his retirement match. Photograph by Richard Norman.

Jim's team, who nevertheless lost by 62 runs. The result mattered – otherwise there was no point of keeping score – but it took second place to the shared fellowship of a mellow September afternoon on which more than fifty people had gathered to honour a man who probably never expected such a fuss to be made of him. But I suspect Jim little realises how much he has enhanced people's lives or how valuable it was, when work was done or not done, to have someone who would do their best to provide high-class sporting facilities in eras when the value of games was scandalously underestimated. In that context, therefore, the folk who gathered at the Master's Field were representatives of nearly 40 years of Balliol members, the vast majority of whom remember Jim with gratitude and fondness, even if they could have managed without the bloody jokes.

There was a delightful coda to Jim's match. A few weeks later, I was interviewing an Oxford Blue who hopes to make his career in the game. We chatted about college cricket, for which he retained a great liking, and I

mentioned my membership of Balliol. He replied that while he envied us the convenience of the Master's Field, he particularly admired our groundsman, who clearly took immense pride in his work. He said we were very fortunate.



Left to right: Frances Wright, Jim Head, Owain Williams and Helen Ghosh. Photograph by Richard Norman.

Features

Buittle and Balliol

Alan James (1962)

On 22 August 1282, Dervorgilla,¹ Lady of Galloway, set her seal on the Statutes that transformed her late husband's foundation from what had been, to all intents and purposes, a hall of residence into a properly constituted, functioning college to rival Walter de Merton's new foundation on the south side of Oxford. That is well known to most Balliol people, but perhaps less familiar is the place where our Foundress sealed those Statutes, *Botel*.

Botel is nowadays Buittle, locally pronounced 'Bittle', a hilly parish near the coast of the Solway Firth in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, in the south-western part of Scotland that had been ruled by Dervorgilla's ancestors as the very powerful and independent Lordship of Galloway. Buittle Castle was the chief residence of Dervorgilla and John Balliol. Building in stone, on the site of an earlier timber motte-and-bailey castle, had begun in the 1230s under her father, Alan, Lord of Galloway, but it was completed after she had succeeded to all his domain. It was sited on a shelf of greywacke dominating what was at that time the navigable head of the estuary of the River Urr, some 16 miles west of the place beside the Nith where she was to establish Sweetheart Abbey in 1273; when it became her final resting place, she was accompanied, as she had been for 22 years, by the embalmed heart of her husband, cherished in an ivory casket.

During the tumultuous years that followed, Buittle remained a stronghold of Dervorgilla and John's son, the second John Balliol, and their grandson, Edward, both claimants to the Scottish throne. Robert I, the Bruce, had the defences of the castle, and probably Dervorgilla's keep on the motte, destroyed in 1313; he granted the place, along with the earldom and lands of Galloway, to his loyal friend Sir James Douglas in 1324. However, Edward Balliol reoccupied the site and had a new mansion built, which he occupied from time to time until he was driven by David II to take refuge on Hestan Isle at the mouth of the Urr in 1356.

Subsequently, under the Douglas lordship, a stone hall in what had been the inner bailey of Dervorgilla's castle was enlarged to form a tower house. This building has stood through seven centuries, passing through many changes of ownership, and various additions and modifications to the architecture, up to the present day. I've had occasion to visit the place a few times in the past 24



ABOVE The motte and ruined gatehouse. BELOW Buittle Tower.
Photos by William Barford.



years, and am happy to report that the present owners are taking good care of the Tower and its grounds, restoring the property in sympathetic ways.

Their grounds more or less correspond to the original castle bailey, but the motte, with what little remains of the site where Dervorgilla would have sealed the College Statutes, stands in an adjacent piece of land that was gifted to the College in 1984 by Lord Peter Maxwell (Balliol 1937, an uncle of the cousins who now own the Tower). Between 1990 and 2001, the late Alastair Penman undertook a programme of archaeological investigations, partly funded by the College, reports of which are summarised on Historic Scotland's Canmore website.² The field continues to be used for pasture by a tenant farmer.

Balliol alumni and all who have an interest in the College's heritage are strongly recommended to visit the very varied and beautiful land of Galloway that was once Dervorgilla's patrimony. Sweetheart Abbey is, at the time of writing, closed to visitors while Historic Scotland undertakes work to protect the stonework from the ravages of a changing climate; however, the magnificent building can still be viewed from close by in the village of New Abbey, on the A710 south of Dumfries. The tablet of local pink sandstone laid by the College in 1966 over the probable site of Dervorgilla's burial is now well weathered and lichen covered.

From New Abbey, a minor road across a shoulder of Criffel, the grand hill that dominates the upper part of the Solway Firth, comes to the village of Beeswing (named after a celebrated racehorse). Thence the A711 leads through the small town of Dalbeattie; Buittle is just across the bridge over the Urr to the west of the town, along a track off the A745 as it heads towards Castle Douglas. The field containing the remains of the keep can be entered through a gate, but care is needed if there is livestock, and the ruins are dangerously unstable, so should only be viewed from a safe distance. The grounds of Buittle Tower are open to the public at certain times, and tours of the Tower can be arranged.³

¹ I prefer the spelling Dervorgilla, as it's the closest approximation to early Gaelic Dearbh-fhorgaill but other spellings are of course available.

² <https://canmore.org.uk/site/65002/buittle-castle>

³ <https://www.buittletower.co.uk>

See also <http://archives.balliol.ox.ac.uk/History/buittle.asp>

Shoghi Effendi in Oxford

Professor Hooshang Nikjoo and Dr Stephen Vickers

Notwithstanding that many distinguished people have studied at Balliol, no more than a handful of them, one assumes, have gone on to become head of a world religion of global scope. One of these exceptions was Shoghi Rabbani, or Shoghi Effendi as he is generally known, who came up to Oxford for Michaelmas Term 1920 and transferred to Balliol from the Inter-Collegiate Delegacy in Hilary Term 1921, following a recommendation from his tutor. He left Balliol at the end of the same year, having been appointed in his grandfather's will as lifetime Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith, a responsibility he bore until his death in November 1957.

Born in Ottoman-ruled Palestine of Persian descent, Shoghi Effendi was related to both of the Faith's twin 'Manifestations' (prophet-founders), The Báb (executed by the Qajars in 1850) and Bahá'u'lláh (imprisoned and exiled by Shahs and Sultans for 40 years, culminating in two and a half decades in and around the Ottoman prison city of Akka). He was already a graduate when he came to Oxford, having studied for a BA at the Syrian Protestant College (SYP), later the American University of Beirut. The SYP's BA curriculum was very broad, and it permitted him to study English, French, Arabic and Turkish as well as other arts subjects and contextually in law and engineering.

For the year following his graduation he was enrolled as a graduate student at the SYP, but the post-war chaos and widespread famine in Syria, together with a desire to improve his English, led Shoghi Rabbani to apply for Oxford. He had long identified Balliol as his goal, but initially he had to settle for the Non-Collegiate Delegacy (NCD), since the college admissions deadline was long past.

His acceptance at the University this late was much facilitated by the support of A.L. Smith, the Master of Balliol (1916–1924), who introduced him to his tutor, A.D. Lindsay (Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1907–1922 and Master 1924–1949), later to find fame beyond academia as the anti-appeasement candidate in the 1938 Oxford by-election. It was Lindsay's idea that Rabbani would start in the Non-Collegiate Delegacy, notwithstanding that he regarded him as 'a quite exceptional young man'.¹

Thus in October 1920, recommended by Lindsay and Smith, Rabbani matriculated at the NCD, registered for a BA in Economics and Social Sciences.

He lodged with a landlady on Broad Street, in a house now swallowed up by the New Bodleian. Impressed by his performance over Michaelmas Term, Lindsay facilitated his migration to Balliol for the following term.

As soon as Rabbani arrived in the city, even before joining the University, he plunged into the Bodleian collections, and among other things began to research the origins of his own faith. In September 1920 he wrote to friends: 'I have been so busy and am still so absorbed in my studies . . . I have come, in the course of my readings at the University Bodleian library, across some rare and authoritative books, written by eminent statesmen and touching the Baha'i movement.'²

His exceptionality lay not only in innate talent. His earnest and single-minded devotion to learning and study were markedly at odds with the prevailing fashion for succeeding while simulating a lack of effort. He was keen to make the most of the opportunities offered by Oxford, as he wrote to a childhood friend:

My field of study is so vast, I have to acquire, master and digest so many facts, courses and books – all essential, all indispensable to my future career in the Cause. The very extent of this immense field is enough to discourage, excite and overwhelm . . . Think of the vast field of Economics, of social conditions and problems, of the various religions of the past, their histories and their principles and their force, the acquisition of a sound and literary ability in English . . . the mastery of public speaking . . .³

This obsession with learning did not lead him to ignore University social life; he merely became constantly active, playing football and tennis (the latter earnestly yet not always successfully), punting, hiking (a lifelong interest) and debating. He was frequently charged 'gate bill', for return after curfew. His religious motivation amused his fellow students: 'Rabbani was irrepressibly cheerful, always on the point of laughter, and bouncing around . . . Wherever he was, spirits were high. We all knew him destined for spiritual leadership, and believe me, in no sense of irreverence or courtesy; he was affectionately known as "God"', wrote his contemporary B. Bevan-Petman (1920).⁴

His desire to fill every moment with activity seemed to some over the top. He tried to arrange longer tutorials extending over the dinner break; Lindsay resisted this, but eventually agreed to shorten his dinnertime by 15 minutes: 'I had not found such eagerness for knowledge at Oxford. So I gave him another quarter of an hour and went with less dinner.'⁵

Shoghi Effendi appears to have appreciated the opportunity to converse and debate with people interested in ideas. With most of his Balliol friends he

Shoghi Effendi in Haifa,
1921.



discussed philosophy and religion and played tennis. Among his friends were Bevan-Petman, Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, Boyce Gibson, William Elliot, Leonard Manyon (all 1920) and J.R. Cullen (1918).⁶ Many years later, through a mutual Balliol friend, Nobel Laureate Dorothy Hodgkin was to offer to become the first Senior Member of the University of Oxford Bahá'í Society, so as to allow it to form.

In his non-existent free time at College Rabbani translated a range of Bahá'u'lláh's writings into English. Partly to aid in this work, he was determined to achieve and maintain an exceptional facility in English; anyone who has read any of Rabbani's later works will be astonished at the precision and clarity of his language. He wrote in April 1921, 'I am working on philosophy with Mr Lindsay and on English with two Balliol tutors, one of them admirably competent in English.'⁷ His opinion of the other Balliol English tutor's prowess was not recorded.

His earnestness and hard work would no doubt have enabled him to achieve a lot over his intended three years, but towards the end of his third term,

Michaelmas 1921, he was saddened to learn of the death of his grandfather, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, who in his will appointed Shoghi Effendi as Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith.

Shoghi Effendi therefore left Oxford for Haifa in British-mandated Palestine to take up his duties. The year he spent at Balliol is, however, forgotten neither by Bahá'ís nor by the College. Many of the world's most academically talented Bahá'í youngsters strive each year to gain admission to Balliol. In 1981 the Master, Mr (now Sir) Anthony Kenny, wrote to UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim to ask him to intervene to stop the executions of Bahá'ís in Iran: '... I feel particularly distressed,' he wrote, 'at the news of their persecution as leaders of the Faith have had connections with this College since the last century'.⁸

Three years ago, Oxford Bahá'í community presented the College with a Mark Tobey print, which now hangs in the Buttery. Each year large numbers of Bahá'ís from all over the world visit Oxford and arrange to stroll around the paths of Balliol, without our knowing exactly where his rooms are, although his wife remembers him saying that 'From my room I could look out at the Martyrs' Memorial'.⁹

It is our fervent hope that the relationship between Balliol and the Bahá'í community will grow and flourish.

The authors acknowledge their dependence on the research of Dr Riaz Khadem, and upon his book *Shoghi Effendi in Oxford* (Oxford: George Ronald 1999).

1. A.D. Lindsay, letter to J.B. Baker, Censor of the Non-Collegiate Delegacy, 7 October 1920. In Khadem, R., *Shoghi Effendi in Oxford* (Oxford: George Ronald 1999), p.80.
2. S. Rabbani, letter to Mr and Mrs Scott, 17 September 1920. In Khadem, *op. cit.*, p.77.
3. S. Rabbani, letter to A. Yazdi, 17 September 1920. In Khadem, *op. cit.*, p.82.
4. B.H. Bevan-Petman, letter to R. Khadem, 18 May 1969. In Khadem, *op. cit.*, p.108.
5. A.D. Lindsay, quoted in Rabbani, R. *The Priceless Pearl* (Oakham: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1969), p.37.
6. Khadem, *op. cit.*, p.107.
7. S. Rabbani, letter to E. Rosenberg, 17 September 1920. In Khadem, *op. cit.*, p.106. The letter is in the Archives of the NSA of the Bahá'ís of the UK.
8. One of the current authors was told by Dr Kenny of his intent. The letter is quoted in *Bahá'í News*, November 1981, p11. Sir Anthony was of course wrong about 'the last century', the relationship dating to 1921.
9. As told by Ruhíyyih Rabbani to Dorothy Wigington.

Sixty years of polymathic Balliol

Professor Denis Noble CBE FRS (Tutorial Fellow in Physiology 1963–1984, Professorial Fellow 1984–2004 and Emeritus Fellow since 2004)

In October 2023 I will have been a Fellow of the College for 60 years. I first became a Tutorial Fellow in October 1963, when Sir David Lindsay Keir was the Master (1949–1965), and I have since served under seven other Masters. The changes during those 60 years have been phenomenal: the creation of the co-educational Graduate Centre at Holywell Manor (1967); the admission of women, first as Fellows (1973), then as students (1979); the reforms of committee structures, including student representatives; and most recently the extensive buildings around the Master's Field.

But one thing has remained much the same. Balliol has consistently been a welcoming and polymathic community, encouraging the crossing of disciplinary boundaries.

Philosophy

As soon as I arrived in 1963, the philosopher Dick Hare (1937 and Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy 1947–1966) began discussing with me the physiology of pain in relation to his 1952 book *The Language of Morals*. A few years later I found myself giving a sermon in the Chapel based on what I saw as Hare's Popperian ideas on the function of moral statements: that they get empirical traction according to whether they work. Meanwhile, Alan Montefiore (1948, Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1961–1994 and Emeritus Fellow) and Sir Anthony Kenny (Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1964–1978, Master 1978–1989 and Honorary Fellow) both drew my attention to Charles Taylor (1952)'s 1964 book *The Explanation of Behaviour* (based on his Balliol DPhil thesis), which led to publications in the philosophical journal *Analysis* in interaction with Taylor. Those interactions then became the basis in the 1980s of graduate classes that Alan and I ran with David McFarland (Fellow in Psychology 1966–2000 and Emeritus Fellow), later to become in 1989 the book *Goals, No Goals and Own Goals*, which has recently been reprinted. Those early interactions with philosophers and psychologists form one of the bases of a new book, *Understanding Living Systems*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2023, co-authored with my zoologist and philosopher brother, Raymond. Those who know my recent debate with Richard Dawkins (1959 and Honorary

Fellow)¹ will not be surprised that the book expresses precisely the opposite view of living organisms to that expressed in his book *The Selfish Gene* (1976). I continue, 60 years later, to interact academically with Alan Montefiore and Tony Kenny on these issues.

Mathematics and computing

When I arrived at Balliol I had already published the first computer simulations of the pacemaker of the heart in the journal *Nature*. Those involved mathematical analysis of the relevant molecular and cellular processes, some of which I had discovered in my doctoral thesis project. Naturally, I wished to continue those studies here in Oxford. So, I immediately contacted the head of the computing laboratory, who happened to be Professor Leslie Fox. Yes, you can guess, Professorial Fellow of, well, precisely Balliol (1963–1983 and Emeritus Fellow 1983–1992).

It was still very rare in those days for a biologist to be doing mathematical computation requiring large computing resources. But the computer in Oxford, an English Electric KDF9 machine using transistor diodes, was very different from the valve-based Ferranti Mercury machine I had used so successfully in London. Time on the machine was valuable, and Fox insisted that I should first study his own work on mathematical integration routines – he had just published *Modern Computing Methods* (1961). So, yet again I had to go up the mathematical learning curve. But I have never regretted doing that. I learnt a lot from his book and ended up writing my own integration computer routines. That was one of the reasons why, a year or two later (1966), I was asked by the University to examine the thesis of a Balliol student who has since become a household name, Richard Dawkins. He was using Laplace Transforms in his analysis of patterns of bird behaviour. So, I went up yet another quick learning curve. Those methods turned out to be important in writing the standard book on the mathematics of excitation of electrical signals in biology, *Electric Current Flow in Excitable Cells* (Jack, Noble & Tsien, Oxford University Press, 1975). Much later I interacted with another Balliol computer science Fellow, Tom Melham (Professor of Computer Science and Fellow and Tutor in Computation), in Balliol seminars on systems biology.

Languages

Philosophy was not the only reason for my interactions with Alan Montefiore. We both shared a fascination with French culture, an interest which resurfaced

much later when I began working on the French evolutionary biologist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck. I can read his great (1809) work *Zoologie Philosophique*, and modern commentators, in his own language. Even the word ‘evolution’ echoes significantly different cultural backgrounds in French and English, which need to be understood. Indeed, Lamarck did not use the word in its modern sense. Nor did Charles Darwin initially.

A chance gift from the Master in 1972, Christopher Hill (Master 1965–1978), led to a very different linguistic exploration of French culture. Christopher invited me and my wife to use his house in the Dordogne for a much-needed holiday, when Susan was recovering from a long illness. That was where I encountered the language of the south, Occitan, the modern musical Occitan composers, and the songs of the medieval troubadours. When I was Praefectus of Holywell Manor in the 1970s and 1980s I ran soirées on medieval and modern Occitan music and poetry. I also ran evening dances featuring the Blusox, led by Steven Lukes (Fellow and Tutor in Politics 1966–1988 and Emeritus Fellow). Much later, in the 1990s, those events formed the basis for the formation of my music group, the Oxford Trobadors, when the Blusox lead singer, my brother Raymond, became the lead tenor. In the group’s early days, we often invited members of the Balliol Chapel Choir to our performances, and we performed in some Sunday night concerts. As I write this article I am a member of a University reading group studying Occitan texts.

Occitan has much in common with Italian. So, I have also lectured in Italian and found the transition from Occitan works after a few days’ immersion in Italian. In fact, the shared cultural roots go right back to the beginning of literary Italian in Dante’s *Divina Commedia*. The poetic form of Dante’s great work derives directly from that of the Sestina by the troubadour Arnaut Daniel, whom Dante described as ‘Il miglio fabbro’ of poetry in a vernacular language. Even more significantly, Dante himself knew and wrote in Occitan. In Canto 26 of the *Purgatorio* he makes Arnaut speak in his own language. These are some of the reasons why I took part in a Dante reading group with Elena Lombardi (Professor of Italian Literature, Paget Toynbee Lecturer in Italian Medieval Studies, Fellow and Tutor in Italian), Diego Zancani (Fellow and Tutor in Modern Languages 1995–2010 and Emeritus Fellow) and Stefano Zacchetti (Yehan Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies and Professorial Fellow 2012–2020) before Stefano sadly died in 2020. Diego Zancani and I also collaborated in a Royal Society publication interpreting the anatomical studies of Leonardo da Vinci.

The current Fellow in Medieval French Studies, Professor Sophie Marnette, kindly regards me as part of her Balliol strength in French studies, while l'Agence culturelle départementale Dordogne-Périgord treats me as a fellow Périgourdin by giving me the honour of singing Arnaut Daniel's Sestina in the remains of the chateau where he was born in the 12th century.²

Oriental Studies

Viewing the world from the cultural basis of another language is a wonderful way of escaping the straitjacket of one's own culture. If that is true between European languages, then it is even more true when the cultural distance is much greater. I began appreciating the extent of those distances through discovering languages, such as Japanese and Korean, that minimise emphasis on the subject, in favour of emphasising verbs, the doingness of processes rather than who or what is doing them. Complete sentences can exist without acknowledgement of a particular self or object that is doing things. I was attracted to this cultural difference through writing my book *The Music of Life* (2006), concerned with biology beyond the genome. I had come to similar conclusions on problems about the nature of the self through formulating what I call the principle of biological relativity, explained in my book *Dance to the Tune of Life* (2016), in which there is no privileged level of causation in living organisms. In *The Music of Life* I used a Buddhist parable, *The Oxherder*, to explain the links between my view of living systems and the Buddhist concept of no-self.

Needless to say, I worked on this only after stepping down in 2004 from my University Chair. I had freedom at last, without the risk of upsetting funding committees supporting the salaries of people working in my research group. This led to my collaborations with successive Professors of Sanskrit and Buddhist Studies at the College. When Vesna Wallace was the Yehan Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies (2008–2010), we jointly organised a two-day symposium on Buddhism and Science,³ with all the presentations recorded in 2010 by Voices from Oxford, the media project, directed by Dr Sunghee Kim, based here at Balliol. That project now has a valuable archive of cross-disciplinary events of many kinds in the College and the wider University.

When Vesna Wallace was succeeded by Stefano Zucchetti, I discovered that not only had he worked in Japan, but that he was working on precisely the period of transmission of Buddhism from India to China that is relevant to one of the most astonishing parallels between an early Buddhist text and modern

multi-scale relativistic biology: the 7th-century Korean monk Won Hyo, in his commentary on the Diamond Sutra. Stefano helped me in understanding the meaning of Won Hyo's classical Chinese, a story I was privileged to relate at a recent internet meeting to commemorate Stefano's memory three years after his death.

Debates and conferences on evolution

Reference to Voices from Oxford leads me to another seminal set of videos recorded by that project. In 2009 the Eastman Visiting Professor (2008–2009) was Lynn Margulis, the champion of symbiogenesis as a major process in evolution. With the exceptions of John Maynard Smith (in his textbook *The Theory of Evolution*) and Richard Dawkins (in *The Extended Phenotype*), Margulis's discovery is notable by complete neglect in the majority of Neo-Darwinist textbooks. As soon as she arrived in Oxford, she therefore challenged Richard Dawkins to debate the issues – he readily agreed – and then approached me to be the chairman. It was held in Lecture Room XXIII to a packed-out audience, with a queue snaking up the stairs and into the Garden Quad. It was a once-in-a-lifetime event, lasting over three hours, and the videos have become valued source material for historians and students.⁴

The gentlemanly nature of the Margulis–Dawkins debate could not possibly prepare me for a very different interdisciplinary discussion meeting hosted jointly by the Royal Society and the British Academy in 2016. Before preparing the proposal for the committees of the two academies, I cooperated with two previous Presidents of the British Academy here at Balliol, Sir Anthony Kenny and Sir Adam Roberts (Fellow of Balliol and Montague Burton Professor of International Relations 1986–2007 and Emeritus Fellow), and also prepared the way through correspondence with the then Royal Society President, Sir Paul Nurse. By the time the proposal for a discussion on 'New Trends in Evolutionary Biology' was submitted in 2014, I and my co-proposers, including Sir Patrick Bateson in Cambridge, had meticulously prepared the details. So, the proposal sailed through the committees of both academies and was duly publicised in February 2016. Imagine, therefore, my shock when a new President (Paul Nurse had reached the end of his tenure) received a protest letter signed by no fewer than 21 other Fellows of the Royal Society requesting that the Society should disown the meeting. Not surprisingly, this extraordinary protest had precisely the opposite effect to that intended. Anyway, how could a society climb down from a meeting its committees had

already approved and advertised? The meeting was a sell-out, and turned into a form of gladiatorial confrontation. This is not the place to go further into the details of that protest. Suffice it to say that the meeting resulted in a perfectly good publication in one of the Royal Society journals. It achieved its goal of bringing the philosophers, historians and others from the BA side into discussion with the scientists on the RS side. In addition to me, Balliol was present also through the philosopher Sir Anthony Kenny and the economists Andrew Graham (Master 2001–2011) and David Vines (Fellow and Tutor in Economics 1992–2017 and Emeritus Fellow).

I finish this trio of interdisciplinary meetings on evolution with a brief note on the Conversation (which is what we agreed to call it) between me and Richard Dawkins held at the IAI Festival ‘HowTheLightGetsIn’ at Hay-on-Wye in 2022. In direct contrast to the Royal Society–British Academy meeting, the event has been widely praised for the courteous way in which it was conducted. We both complimented the work of each other, but also made it clear why we disagree fundamentally. The video of that interaction is now on a free YouTube channel and has already attracted half a million views.⁵

Economics

I have already referred to collaborations with Andrew Graham and David Vines. Games theories in evolution and in economics have a lot in common, particularly similar mathematics. Not surprisingly, therefore, there could be major implications for economics and sociology if those games theories are shown to be misleading, as I think they have been. I have published with David Vines on this question.⁶ The interaction with Andrew Graham goes back a long way to around 40 years ago when I was leading a campaign for the funding of education and science, a precursor of what has become the Campaign for Science and Engineering today. At that time, Andrew was working as economic advisor to the Leader of the Opposition, John Smith. Andrew’s career, certainly, and mine, possibly, might have been very different had John Smith survived and become Prime Minister. The insights were not lost, however. Shortly before the 1997 general election I was briefing Prime Minister Tony Blair on the issues involved. That meeting led to a ten-year recovery under Tony Blair’s Science Minister, David Sainsbury.

Tutorials and supervisions

Even after becoming Emeritus in 2004 I continued to give tutorials for some

years. I am still, today, supervising a graduate student of the College.

I don't know whether working as a Fellow active in teaching and research in the College for as long as 60 years is a record. But it has certainly been great fun and a privilege. Long may the College continue to foster its polymathic character!

¹ www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNmzWRwJ-SI

² www.facebook.com/watch/?v=4922906717795243

³ www.denisnoble.com/philosophy-oriental/

⁴ www.voicesfromoxford.org/homage-to-darwin-part-1-bell-brasier-dawkins-noble-talks/

⁵ www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNmzWRwJ-SL

⁶ www.denisnoble.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Lee-Mayer-Noble-Vines.pdf

The translation and reception of Adam Smith

Keith Tribe, Senior Research Fellow, Tartu University

An overview of a lecture given at the Snell Dinner at Balliol College on 25 February 2023, recapitulating the oral arguments presented in the lecture in a concise form for readers. The year 2023 is the 300th anniversary of the birth of Adam Smith (Balliol 1740).

While Adam Smith spent six years at Balliol as a Snell Exhibitioner, from July 1740 to August 1746, we know very little of how he spent his time here. Some fragments of letters to his mother survive, but they barely cover three pages of the one-volume collection of his surviving letters, first published in 1977. Two points arise from this: for lack of biographical information, most discussion of 'Adam Smith' turns primarily on the interpretation of what he wrote and how it has been read; and the Glasgow edition of his writings, published from 1976, added significantly to the existing corpus of his writings in a way that changed how he is now read. The Adam Smith that scholars discuss today is far removed even from the figure discussed by the contributors to the *Essays on Adam Smith* that accompanied the publication in 1976 of the definitive editions of his books *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759) and *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776).

Nonetheless, since the later 18th century Smith has consistently had an international reputation as an apostle of free trade and the self-interested foundation of economic behaviour, and it is safe to say his name remains today associated more with this older reputation than with the rather different understanding of modern scholarship. Glory Liu's *Adam Smith's America* (2022) documents this long reception of Smith's work in the American context, from the Founding Fathers to the present, emphasising the way that successive generations of readers have created for themselves different 'Smiths': that the same corpus of writing has been read in different contexts and employed to support different arguments. We have, for example, the 'historical' Smith of Richard T. Ely and Edwin Seligman in the later 19th century, and the 'unhistorical' Smith of George Stigler and Milton Friedman in the 1950s and 1960s. Besides Seligman, all of these readings centred on *Wealth of Nations*, for another part of this story is that by the early 19th century *Theory of Moral Sentiments* was thought to be superseded, dated. But today this has changed;

modern scholars have rediscovered the significance of natural law and rhetoric in Smith, are no longer so interested in parsing Smith's 'price theory', or so wedded to the idea that the 'invisible hand' is a metaphor for the realisation of competitive market conditions. *Theory of Moral Sentiments* could today even be read as an early treatise in behavioural economics. The given context reorders and recalibrates the existing corpus, and in so doing changes the definition of what that corpus is. And this corpus has itself been progressively extended since Smith's death in 1790.

This is not an argument that a text is no more than the random readings of readers both attentive and inattentive. The established reputation of Smith as the 'founder of modern economics' has enjoyed a remarkable stability over two hundred years. But this is not a reputation that provides much insight into the arguments actually presented by Smith in *Wealth of Nations* – an essentially philological issue – nor into the differential reputational histories of *Theory of Moral Sentiments* and *Wealth of Nations*.

The publication of the first, in 1759, made Smith's national reputation, which in turn led to his commission in 1763 as the tutor and travelling companion to the Duke of Buccleuch on a European tour, following the end of the Seven Years' War. Having taught in Glasgow from 1751, from 1752 as Professor of Moral Philosophy, his departure for France in 1764 turned out to mark the end of his teaching career. Following his travels to Toulouse, Geneva and Paris, he returned to London in the autumn of 1766 and then, among other things of which we know nothing, advised the stepfather of the Duke, Charles Townshend, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the fiscal backwash of the Seven Years' War for the American colonies. But in May 1767, before Townshend had imposed the taxes that would trigger the rift between Britain and America, Smith returned to the seclusion of his mother's house in Kirkcaldy, as he had in 1746 from Oxford.

Smith then seems to have remained mainly in Kirkcaldy for six years, writing and developing arguments, now known to have been sketched in 1762–1763, into a second major work. But when in March 1776 *Wealth of Nations* was published, this was received as 'another work by the renowned author of *Theory of Moral Sentiments*'. Nobody at the time seemed to think this a puzzling development, inconsistent with his earlier treatise. Indeed, he also seems to have attached more importance to his first book than to his second – *Theory of Moral Sentiments* was revised and extended several times, for its sixth and final 1790 edition by the addition of a substantial new book, this final version being

about double the length of the first edition. *Wealth of Nations*, by contrast, underwent only minor revisions and the addition in 1784 of a clarifying chapter to Book IV of the third edition, this edition then being twice reset and reprinted but not revised before Smith died in 1790.

Glass paste medallion by James Tassie, of Adam Smith, 1787. Photograph by Ian Taylor.



Smith's own apparent priorities were not, however, reflected in the subsequent publication histories of these two works. From 1791 to 1907 there were 29 editions of *Theory of Moral Sentiments* in any language or format. Over the same period, there were 174 editions of *Wealth of Nations*. From the early 1800s new cheap editions of *Wealth of Nations* became common; while in German there was no new publication of *Theory of Moral Sentiments* between 1791 and 1926. This in effect meant that for most of the 19th century no German reader could easily access a copy of the work. While it should be emphasised that Eckstein's 1926 German edition was the first scholarly edition of *Theory of Moral Sentiments* and the basis from which the Glasgow editors later worked, the interest in Smith's work shown by German scholars during the 1920s was terminated by the Third Reich.

Understanding the access readers had to Smith's writings, and the context in which they might do so, is offered by study of translations of his work – not only when they were made available, as already noted with the German translations of *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, but how the way they were translated shaped what Smith meant to their readers. Important here is the fact that only in the course of the 20th century did English become a truly international language; during the 19th century French dominated as the second language of

the educated classes. Here Jean-Baptiste Say's popular *Traité d'économie politique* (1803) played a major role in transforming political economy into a doctrine based on a limited set of principles, a process in which *Wealth of Nations* was filleted and reduced to a set of bare propositions on wealth, labour and free trade. The previous year Garnier's new translation of *Wealth of Nations* had prepared the ground for this, recommending to its readers that they focus on Books I and II only, and largely disregard the discussion of historical development, policy and government in the remaining three Books. Not only was Garnier's introduction quickly translated into English and used to preface many cheap English editions; his version of Smith was more accessible to the many who did not read English. When Karl Marx first read *Wealth of Nations* in 1844 it was in the 1802 Garnier edition; in the first 1867 edition of *Das Kapital* Vol. I he still cites from this translation, not from any English edition.

What difference might this make? It is generally assumed that Smith's argument hinges on the behaviour of self-interested individuals, but this is inexact. In fact, he rarely used the term 'self-interest', and drew on a distinction made by Rousseau between what we might call 'self-preservation' and 'egotism'. This distinction is elaborated only in *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, and simply employed in *Wealth of Nations* to develop an explanation of the source of national wealth. 'Self-love' is the term Smith uses to describe the ordinary business of life, furthering one's own interest by appealing to the interests of others. But, he argued, the ordinary needs of individuals in a commercial society can quickly be met, and this would not necessarily promote national wealth. Human vanity, on the other hand, is a constant striving to be noticed, to outdo others, and this human trait underwrote a constant expansion of wants, what Thorstein Veblen in 1899 called 'conspicuous consumption'. This constant striving, argued Smith in his first book, made individuals no happier; but in his second book he maintained that the activity thereby created was what made nations wealthy – the prime 'cause' of the 'wealth of nations'. Smith's Stoic sensibility disparaged ostentation; after all, you could wear only one suit of clothes at a time, eat only so much. Joined with the virtue of self-love, however, this natural human passion could be tamed and promote national wealth. And so rather than seeing luxury consumption as an unalloyed force of social corruption, as some of his Scottish contemporaries argued, Smith proposed that (national) wealth could be associated with (individual) virtue. A self-sustaining process of production and consumption and increasing specialisation of labour represented the 'nature' of this wealth.

Garnier's translation of 'self-love' turned out to be '*intérêt personnel*'; previously, in a 1794 German translation, it had already become '*Eigennutz*'. When Smith writes in Ch. II of *Wealth of Nations* that in our economic transactions with others 'We address ourselves, not to their humanity but to their self-love', Garnier writes that we address the *égoïsme* of others. In this small shift Smith's carefully constructed argument about human passions and national wealth is collapsed into a crude argument about selfishness and personal wealth. And this was probably the most widely read version of *Wealth of Nations* in the first half of the 19th century.

After the presentation I was asked: And what would have happened if there had been no Adam Smith? As a counterfactual, erasing his writing and his legacy; where would that leave us? As I have already suggested, for the best part of two centuries 'Adam Smith' has largely been a name associated with one book, not two – as the author of *Wealth of Nations*. While modern economists would identify that book as the foundation of their discipline, the actual history of its international reception reduced it to a handful of theses and principles that already existed, mainly in mid-18th-century France, summarised in Jean-Baptiste Say's *Traité* of 1803. This shaped how political economy was internationally understood until the later part of the century, when there was a return to the emphasis upon human action that we can now see in *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, but which was by then a text fallen into obscurity. The shift in economic analysis towards the choices made by human agents that Stanley Jevons, Carl Menger and Léon Walras introduced in the 1870s thus seemed a new beginning, and this time around the development of the modern university provided a foundation for the new discipline of economics. Not until a century after that did a modern re-reading of Adam Smith get under way, reconnecting his published and unpublished writings and updating his status from that of the 'founder of modern economics' to a key member of the Scottish Enlightenment. Without Smith, modern economics would likely be much the same, minus a foundation myth. We would, however, be immeasurably poorer without the Adam Smith that modern scholarship has revealed to us: a moral philosopher who, beginning with his Glasgow lectures, connected history, law, government, policy and economy.

Opposing Hitler: remembering Adam von Trott (1931)

Paul Flather (1973)

Four years ago, I found myself in the July sunshine on a grassy hilltop, on the outskirts of a small hamlet in the state of Hesse in central Germany, celebrating the inspiring life of a Balliol Rhodes scholar – who opted to become a Nazi party member, no less. I had joined a gathering of 200, including the German Foreign Minister, as an Oxford representative, to remember Adam zu von Trott (Balliol 1931), who had risked all by taking part in Operation Valkyrie, the 1944 plot to kill Hitler.

The plot failed. The briefcase containing a hidden bomb, placed under the table near the Führer's seat, inside the concrete bunkers of the notorious Wolf's Lair military headquarters in East Prussia, was moved shortly before Hitler arrived, unusually late for a meeting. Three officers and a stenographer were killed, the bunker was devastated. Hitler suffered minor injuries.

Many Germans now commemorate 20 July annually as a significant anniversary, reminding them of the dangers of extremism, populism, and threats to democratic order. In the words of Foreign Minister, Heiko Maas, that day, 'the courage of all those involved must not be forgotten'. This was also the message from then German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, simultaneously to a large rally in Berlin: 'This day is a reminder to us, not only of those who acted on July 20, but also of everyone who stood up against Nazi rule.' It mattered more that year given rising support for the right-wing AfD party, and headline stories of political murders linked to rightist extremists in the region.

So it was that shared support from Oxford friends was warmly welcomed. It was an honour for me, as chair of the Adam von Trott Memorial Committee (originally the Adam von Trott Appeal), to join the crowd at Imshausen, by a large, rough wooden commemorative cross that rises above a clump of trees, not far from the family home. 'We should aim high,' I would find myself saying following von Trott's example, 'even if others aim low.'

The committee was founded by a group of alumni of Mansfield College, where von Trott first studied in Oxford, to remember him as a symbol of resistance.

Born in 1909 in Potsdam to an aristocrat Prussian family, he arrived in

Oxford in 1929, after training as a lawyer and developing a zest for travel and for making international friends. He enjoyed nothing more than discussing ideas, in his own way seeking a better future for his beloved Germany after the disaster of the First World War. He was at a conference in Manchester when he responded to an invitation to study theology and politics at Mansfield, which had been established through the United Reform Church in 1886, and he was undoubtedly attracted by its Nonconformist and ecumenical pedigree.

Oxford made an immediate impact on him, and he would write later that his experiences there taught him ‘to understand what democracy really means’. He would soon return, this time as a Rhodes Scholar, to study PPE at Balliol in 1931. The many friends he would make during these two years included Stafford Cripps (John his son was a contemporary friend), Richard Crossman, David Astor (1931), Isaiah Berlin, Lord Lindsay, and Maurice Bowra.

While he was in Oxford, Hitler was appointed German Chancellor. Like so many, von Trott envisaged Hitler’s rise as a transient phase that was bound to be corrected. He opted to travel extensively during the 1930s, including to the US and spending the best part of a year in China, making friends and giving himself time to reflect on global challenges and embryonic thoughts of a new peaceful Europe.

The Anschluss caught him by surprise, and he soon found himself associating with like-minded Germans opposed to the Nazi dictatorship while remaining an avowed patriot, and making plans for a renewed Europe. ‘The vision of Adam von Trott was of a Europe that would be at peace with itself and set a good example to the wider world,’ to quote Lord (David) Hannay, a former EU and UN Ambassador.

He travelled to the US and China searching for a suitable role for himself. He had discovered embryonic opposition within the army and foreign ministry. In 1939, with war imminent, he went on a much-analysed ‘official business’ trip to England for a week, as a national envoy, maintaining links with the German Embassy. Thanks to the good offices of David Astor, he was granted secret meetings with Foreign Minister Lord Halifax and Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, where he sought support for the opposition. However, there were frankly expressed suspicions over his possible ‘real motives’ and the likely nationalist stance of any emergent new government, notably from Bowra, who worried about his ‘patriotism’ and about the future of Hitler’s already seized lands. Von Trott’s pleas for a show of force from Britain to back an internal rebellion against Hitler therefore fell on deaf ears. Bowra would later

repent, and the intricacies are superbly explained by Astor himself in a piece in the *Record* (1973).

Von Trott declined, though, to go into exile, and in April 1940, he accepted a position in the Foreign Office. He joined the Nazi party, wearing the hated party insignia in the office, reasoning this was the price for mounting any opposition inside Germany. Anti-regime opponents, such as Sophie and Peter Scholl from the White Rose circle in Munich, were executed for high treason merely for dropping anti-war leaflets from a balcony inside their university.

The bomb plot, when it came, was part of a carefully planned *coup d'état* that aimed to assassinate Hitler, seize power in Berlin, establish a new pro-Western government, and somehow stabilise the country and save it from devastation. When it failed, the Gestapo speedily rounded up all the plotters, even those suspected of remote involvement. Von Trott was given away by the car logs of his official chauffeur, which revealed that he was often at an apparently ruined building in Berlin that was also visited by General Staffenberg's chauffeured car.

The plot was used as an excuse to round up critics and opponents of the regime. In all some 7,000 were arrested; almost 5,000 – including von Trott – would be executed. There is film of his show trial, where he is forced to admit his guilt before his smirking prosecutors. He is forced to admit that the plot would involve the killing of Hitler. 'Surely', he says. It is a painful watch.

He is commemorated outside the Balliol Chapel in the list of the Second World War dead. According to Martin Conway (Professor of Contemporary European History, MacLellan-Warburg Fellow and Tutor in History), he is understood to be among the very first Germans to be remembered in an UK inscription, and, almost certainly, the first Nazi party member. The head of the German Embassy recently visited the College to inspect the inscription.

Fifty years after Hitler seized power, Hedley Bull (Montague Burton Professor of International Relations and Professorial Fellow 1977–1985) instigated a series of memorable Adam von Trott memorial lectures at Balliol, later published as *The Challenge of the Third Reich: The Adam von Trott Memorial Lectures* (Clarendon Press, 1986).

At Mansfield, 70 years on, von Trott's bravery inspired the Revd Geoffrey Beck, Dr Elaine Kay and the Revd Tony Tucker, leading members of the College Alumni Society, to found a memorial appeal. Von Trott is now commemorated with an inscription in the Mansfield Chapel 'for resistance to the Nazi regime'.

Since 2004, Mansfield has also hosted a distinguished memorial lecture

series to full houses. Contributors have included historian Professor Margaret Macmillan, Foreign Secretary Lord (David) Owen, theologian Professor Diarmid MacCulloch, Vice President of the German Bundestag, Thomas Oppermann, former Principal, David Marquand, and museum director Neil Macgregor, on themes related to Europe, peace, resistance and Anglo-German relations.

Sufficient funding for a memorial Mansfield scholarship was finally achieved in time for Diana Koester to become Oxford's first Adam von Trott Scholar in 2010. Young Germans apply for a two-year MPhil degree within the Department of Politics and International Relations, again on theme relating to von Trott's interest. There have been 10 further scholars, now selected annually thanks to additional support from the German Federal Government, a generous fee-waiver from the department, and college support via funds raised by the committee. Brexit has thrown a spanner into the works, and a new source is sought to replace the German federal support.

It can be said that these Oxford initiatives through the committee – ably chaired by another Balliol graduate, Graham Avery (1961), for four years before me – encouraged our German friends, colleagues and supporters, to revive their own interest in the life and memory of Adam von Trott.

The University of Göttingen, where von Trott also studied, now has its own memorial lecture series, while German state funds also boosted the Adam von Trott Stiftung foundation, allowing it to refurbish the Imshausen family house as a meeting place and conference centre, now also with a new high-tech museum about his life.

Thanks to the Mansfield committee, there have also been joint initiatives including successful annual international workshops for groups of 25 graduates from leading European universities, including Oxford and Göttingen, over three days of debates, working groups and talks by academics, NGOs, politicians and policy makers – on themes that also challenged von Trott.

Thus students originating from across the world explored 'Populism, Prejudice and Post-Truth: Europe's democratic values in crisis'; 'Civil Resistance: how ideas, people and movements can change politics'; and, last autumn, 'How Ukraine changed our world: In Search of a New Global Order'. Sessions often crackled with the inclusion of personal testimonies and experiences of participants' own civil resistance, dissidence, and opposition in beleaguered states. Von Trott's daughter, Verena, has regularly added to this, with her own moving personal memories.

Finally, an additional study bursary scheme has enabled exchanges involving Oxford and Göttingen doctoral students pursuing research goals and discussions on 'relevant' themes ranging from the 1930 history to climate protest.

Why this new interest in the life and work of Adam von Trott? In part, it may be a reaction to global democratic backsliding that has characterised the past 20 years. In part, it may be a reaction to starker divisions between authoritarian and democratic governance. In part, it may be a historical reminder of the dangers of populism, of so-called strong-man rule and right-wing extremist, today even in Europe. History does not end, as Fukuyama himself readily acknowledges.

And what of von Trott himself? *A Good German* is the title of one of several books on his life, and it probably captures it. One is reminded not to sanctify, overpraise, or even tip into hagiography. Historians point out rightly that von Trott had his own ambitions and his own patriotic views of Germany and its standing in a new Europe, a vision of its time, not the EU of today. Though as Heiko Maas says, 'For him and his colleagues it was clear: peace in Europe could only be achieved by overcoming borders.' For sure Brexit would have pained him.

Yet, without doubt, he was an activist, a resister a defender of democracy, lessons learnt during his Oxford days, as he said. He made difficult choices, opting to go back to Nazi Germany to practice his dissidence. His fellow Balliol Rhodes Scholar and close friend Fritz Schumacher (who would write *Small is Beautiful*) chose exile. Von Trott would write about joining the Nazi party: 'I am not as you might think going over to some other side.'

After the hopes of 1945 and 1989, and today, after the global recession, Covid, climate change, and now Ukraine, courage and resistance are in demand. In Germany, those brave enough to resist need to be properly remembered as part of its historical reconciliation project – there were, indeed, Good Germans, and principled internationalists, too.

Twice the von Trott memorial cross at Imshausen has fallen in high winds. Twice it has been re-erected, still in rough wood, but stronger. Perhaps that is a symbol, reminding us, too, to stand firm in defending democracy despite clear and present dangers.

Paul Charles Ram Flather was Chair of the Oxford Adam von Trott Memorial Committee 2018–2022 and a Fellow of Mansfield College 2001–2020. He received the Jan Masaryk Silver Medal for his work in the Czech Republic, including with dissidents in the 1980s. If you would like to support the committee's work please contact him via development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

Balliol and the welfare state: Temple, Beveridge, Tawney and Toynbee

Simon Lee (1976)

William Temple (1900) and William Beveridge (1897) laid the intellectual foundations of the 'welfare state' with their famous 1942 publications, neither of which mentioned that expression. Temple had coined the term, rendering it as 'Welfare-State', in the 1920s. Beveridge disliked its connotations, preferring national or social insurance. In celebrating the 80th anniversary of Temple's *Christianity and Social Order* and the Beveridge Report, it is timely to reflect on their influences.

It helps to see Temple and Beveridge alongside R.H. Tawney (1899), the foremost Christian Socialist thinker. All three were students at Balliol College, Oxford, at the turn of the 20th century. This trio also links to a Balliol student from the 1870s, who became a lecturer and fellow there. Arnold Toynbee (1875) invented the phrase 'Industrial Revolution'. Tawney, Beveridge and Temple all lived and worked in Toynbee Hall in London, in the years after their time at Balliol. The Hall was named after Arnold Toynbee because he epitomised its spirit of privileged students living alongside and seeking to support, while learning from, the poorest in society.

This ethos was part of the reform movement in universities in the Victorian era, especially in Balliol, where Benjamin Jowett became a student in 1836, a Fellow in 1840 and Master in 1870, serving until his death in 1893. By the time Toynbee came up, Jowett's Balliol had the outstanding Idealist philosopher T.H. Green (1855) as a Fellow (1860–1882). Jowett and Green cultivated a liberal Christian ethos.

Peter Hinchliff (Chaplain 1972–1992) notes that: 'William Temple died in 1944, almost exactly a hundred years after Jowett and Stanley had set out on their campaign to make the university of Oxford conform, even in the study of theology, to the principle that education was an enquiry after truth not the transmission of correct answers.¹ Hinchliff also quotes the philosopher Anthony Quinton, in an essay on Absolute Idealism:² 'New ideas are normally produced by unimportant people; the holders of important posts disseminate the ideas they acquired in their comparatively unimportant youth.'³

Arnold Toynbee came from Pembroke to Balliol in 1875. Plagued by ill

health, he sat for the Pass School as a student of History and started teaching at Balliol in 1878. He was a pioneer of the discipline of Economic History, stimulated adult education, gave a famous lecture to the co-operative movement in 1882 in Oxford Town Hall, and died in 1883 at the age of 30. José Harris explains:

At Oxford in the early 1880s the historian Arnold Toynbee lectured to large audiences on the evils wrought by the 'Industrial Revolution' (a concept newly invented by Toynbee at this time) and on the falsity of the mechanistic equation between public and private interests proclaimed by Adam Smith. Toynbee's teaching led many of his hearers very easily into the orbit of the idealist system of political philosophy taught by the Balliol philosopher T. H. Green.⁴

In that 1882 lecture, 'The education of co-operators', Toynbee called for:

Education of the citizen. By this I mean the education of each member of the community as regards the relation in which he stands to other individual citizens, and to the community as a whole ... Only through associations like yours can effective citizenship-education be given to the great masses of the working people.⁵

On the first anniversary of his death, in the spring of 1884, Jowett invited the Wadham-educated leader of the settlement movement in the East End of London, Reverend Samuel Barnett, to preach in Balliol chapel. Henrietta Barnett, his wife, explains: 'As I sat on that Sunday afternoon in the chapel, one of the few women among the crowd of strong-brained, clean-living men, the thought flashed to me: 'Let us call the Settlement Toynbee Hall.'⁶

Hinchliff states: 'As with so many of those whose ideas were shaped at Balliol in the 1870s, it is difficult to be certain whether Toynbee was chiefly influenced by Green, or by Jowett himself, or simply by the general atmosphere of the college.'⁷ A quarter of a century later, Edward Caird, the Master (1893–1907) when the other three were undergraduates, paid tribute to the influence of Jowett and Green on his own thinking. Beveridge explained that Caird directly urged Balliol students to 'discover why, with so much wealth in Britain, there continues to be so much poverty, and how poverty can be cured'.⁸ The later trio certainly followed Toynbee in living up to this injunction and living out that 'general atmosphere'.

R.H. Tawney, born in Calcutta, came to Balliol from Rugby School in 1899, studying History, and then lived and worked in Toynbee Hall. He followed Toynbee's commitment to the co-operative movement and

was one of the pioneers of the similar Workers' Educational Association (WEA). He fought in the First World War, which affected him deeply. He wrote famously about equality. He taught workers around the country before settling into a long career at the LSE. Tawney was on a committee chaired by A.L. Smith, then Master of Balliol (1916–1924), on adult education for the Ministry of Reconstruction after the war, largely drafting its 1919 report. Tawney gave the inaugural Henry Scott Holland lectures at King's College London exactly 100 years ago. Canon Scott Holland (1866) was another Balliol-educated giant of Christian social reform. In 1926, he published those 1922 lectures as *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*.⁹ Tawney was a committed Christian and the intellectual powerhouse of the left in British politics. He read Temple's *Christianity and Social Order* in draft.

Pimlott, writing a history of Toynbee Hall in 1935, reports:

An interesting experiment in 1905 was an attempt to organize a course of study which would arise directly out of the lives of the students. In the winter term two residents, Tawney and Beveridge, lectured concurrently on the 'Social Aspects of Industry' and 'Labour and the Law', and in the spring term Graham Wallas gave a course on the 'Government of an English City', accompanied by a tutorial class conducted by the lecturers of the previous term.¹⁰

William Beveridge, born in Rangpur (then in India, now in Bangladesh), was at Charterhouse, then went up to Balliol in the same year as Tawney, 1899. He achieved first-class honours in Greats, also studying Mathematics and Law with distinction. He won an Oxford fellowship before proceeding to Toynbee Hall. Through their work there together, Tawney met Beveridge's sister, Jeannette, and married her.

Beveridge worked in the Civil Service throughout the First World War, not being medically fit to enlist. He was knighted for his contributions as a government economist, becoming director of the LSE in 1919 and master of University College, Oxford, in 1937. Like Tawney and Temple, Beveridge found reports an influential way of reforming society. In the Second World War, Beveridge's report on *Social Insurance and Allied Services* captured the public's imagination by identifying and linking the five giant evils which the welfare state was intended to slay: squalor, ignorance, want, idleness and disease.¹¹ A summary was translated and air-dropped behind enemy lines, explaining the kind of future for which the Allies, whose model Temple called the Welfare-State, were fighting, boosting morale at home and, to judge by the reactions of senior Nazis, undermining the morale of the Power-State. Two

copies were found in Hitler's bunker.

William Temple knew Tawney when they were both pupils at Rugby. He met Beveridge at Balliol, coming up in 1900, a year after Tawney and Beveridge. Temple was president of the Oxford Union, followed his first in Greats with an Oxford fellowship, and went on to Toynbee Hall. He was ordained a priest in 1909 and officiated at Tawney's wedding to Jeannette Beveridge.

Temple became the first president of the WEA in 1908, serving until 1924. He was invited to become headmaster of Repton in 1910. He married Frances Anson in 1916, becoming Bishop of Manchester in 1921, Archbishop of York in 1929 and Archbishop of Canterbury in 1942. He died in 1944. He was prolific in preaching, speaking, writing, convening and chairing groups, and drafting reports.

Historians and theologians have struggled to decide if Temple coined the phrase 'welfare state'. There are three books to consider and it is significant that each was the second in a series. Temple naturally varied what he said or wrote depending on the context of the invitation.

The historian Peter Hennessy is wrong in *Never Again* to say that William Temple first used 'welfare state' in 1941 in *Citizen and Churchman* and so was not the first to coin the term because Zimmern had used it in 1934 and Schuster in 1937.¹² In *Christ in All Things*, Stephen Spencer points out that Temple first deployed the term in his Scott Holland lectures in 1928, published that same year as *Christianity and the State*, dedicated 'To my friend, R. H. Tawney'.¹³ This is when Temple contrasted a Welfare-State with a Power-State. Why this odd format, with capital letters and a hyphen? In the wake of Russia's war on, and invasion of, Ukraine, it is worth examining this contrast between the two kinds of states, which in turn makes it important to note the dates and to understand the context of the different publications. In his 1928 lectures, Temple explained that the First World War

was a struggle between the idea of the State as essentially Power – Power over its own community and against other communities – and of the State as the organ of community, maintaining its solidarity by law designed to safeguard the interests of the community. The Power-State might have yielded to sheer pressure of circumstances in course of time; but it is contrary to the psychology of the Power-State to suffer conversion; it was likely to fight before it let a Welfare-State take its place.¹⁴

Welfare's religious underpinning was made clear by Temple in a letter to *The Times* in 1934: 'The gravest evil and bitterest injury... is the spiritual

grievance of being allowed no opportunity of contributing to the general life and welfare of the community.¹⁵ A welfare state, on this prophetic approach, is one where every citizen has the chance to contribute to the welfare – in the sense of the well-being or the common good – of society as well as to be supported by the community when necessary.

Temple explains in the 1941 book *Citizen and Churchman* that it was the second in another series. He created this one himself and invited the then Master of Balliol (1849–1865) (later Lord) Lindsay to speak first. *The Two Moralities* was the inaugural Archbishop of York's Lenten Talk in 1940.¹⁶ In *Citizen and Churchman*, Temple's sequel again mentions the idea of a Welfare-State, arguing that if certain Christian presuppositions (as you might expect in a Lenten Talk) are accepted, 'in place of the conception of the Power-State we are led to that of the Welfare-State'.¹⁷

The third of these books, *Christianity and Social Order*, was published early the following year, 1942, when he became the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was commissioned when he was still Archbishop of York – which is how he is described on the front cover. He explains in the preface that it was intended by the publishers, Penguin, as a companion volume to *Christianity and World Order*, by George Bell, the Bishop of Chichester, published in 1940. This explains both the title's reference to *social* order (rather than 'the State' or 'the Welfare-State' or 'Society') and why Temple did not concentrate here on his prescient Welfare-State versus Power-State analysis of international (dis)order. Bell's book having addressed the *world* order, Temple – now as archbishop – took time instead to justify the Church's right at home to contribute to progressive thinking, even so early in the war, about the reconstruction and reform of social order on the assumption of an Allied victory.

The first four footnotes in *Christianity and Social Order* all refer to Tawney, the fifth to Beveridge for his 1909 book *Unemployment*, and it is only in the sixth that he goes beyond Balliol to a text of St John's (the Gospel, not the neighbouring college). Later footnotes draw on Tawney.

In sum, the welfare state is an expression of faith in society. The fact that Temple initially portrayed it as the 'Welfare-State' was not an aberration but showed the values which were worth fighting for, against Power-States, as now in Ukraine's defence against the war being waged by the Power-State of Russia.

Finally, the genius of this quartet illustrates what I call a Paradoxbridge principle: the deeper the influence a college proves to have in your later life,

the less likely you were to have noticed it when it was first happening. This is why the distinctive ethos of Jowett's Balliol, or of any intermediate institution, matters and can make a difference after 80, 100 or 200 years.

This article was first published in *Theology*, Sage Publications, 2022. For the footnotes, please see <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0040571X221106453>.

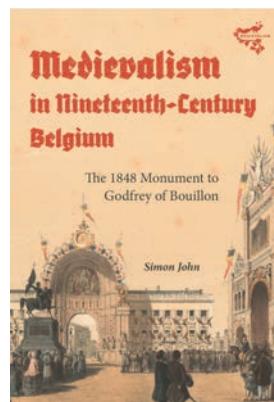
Medievalism in Nineteenth-Century Belgium: The 1848 Monument to Godfrey of Bouillon

Simon John (Lecturer in Early Medieval History 2013–2016), Boydell Press, 2023

Professor Alexis Schwarzenbach (1991)

In the summer of 1848, while most of continental Europe was still dealing with revolutions against repressive monarchical regimes, the King of the Belgians was able to participate in a ceremony to unveil a new public monument in Brussels in peace and quiet. The only problem was that it rained heavily on that 15 August, when an impressive bronze statue of the medieval crusader and first King of Jerusalem, Godfrey of Bouillon (1060–1100), began its presence at the centre of the Place Royale – next to the royal palace and facing down the street that leads to the capital's other main monuments clustered around its splendid Grande Place. Simon John's book not only shows that on that rainy day Belgium's elites took great pride in the fact that their young state, which had split from the Kingdom of the Netherlands less than two decades ago, had remained calm throughout the upheavals of 1848; it also traces the changing and at times conflicting meanings attached to the monument, from its commission in 1843 up until the First World War.

Like many other states at the time, Belgium, in an attempt at making the country fit for the challenges of the present marked by rapid industrialisation and the unforgotten promises of the French Revolution, looked back to the past in order to invent its nation. The choice of Godfrey of Bouillon was in many ways a good one, not least because of the obscurity of his origins. While he takes his name from a town on Belgium's southern border with France, he was probably born in Boulogne-sur-Mer. One of the strong points the book



makes is that 19th-century Belgian medievalists successfully made the claim, based on not much evidence but regularly quoted as a fact until today, that Godfrey had been born not in France but in a tiny village 30 miles south of Brussels. Thus, nationalised by scholarship, Godfroy appealed to both of the parties that dominated 19th-century Belgian politics. While for the Catholics he was the pious and humble crusader who took up the Pope's call to liberate the Holy Land, the Liberals identified with him as a lawmaker – a set of laws he was reputed to have passed in Jerusalem seven centuries ago was presented as the direct precursor to the Belgian constitution of 1831 in which the Liberals took enormous pride.

While statues intended to buttress national identity were also erected in other European cities, Simon John rightly points out that one of the peculiarities of the Brussels monument is that it was a long-term, state-sponsored project. Successive prime ministers supported the monument and allocated funds to it, while in neighbouring France and Germany comparable projects began as private middle-class and patriotic initiatives to commemorate long-dead national heroes, for instance the Vercingetorix monument at Alesia in Burgundy or the Hermannsdenkmal in Detmold near Bielefeld. This underlines the confidence of the young Belgian state, which united the main political parties behind a joint national project. However, by analysing the fate of the monument in the decades after its inauguration, Simon John's study also highlights the divisions which emerged about what Belgium was meant to be.

The statue stands on a pedestal featuring four panels. Within days of its inauguration the government had asked the country's Royal Academy for ideas about what to fill them with; but it took a very long time to implement a relatively simple answer, namely to add inscriptions to the front and the back and bas-reliefs on either side highlighting important events in the life of the commemorated hero. While a suitable choice of scenes was quickly found, one depicting the capture of Jerusalem in 1099 (for the Catholics) and the other the promulgation of the city's laws by Godfrey (for the Liberals), a delay of more than half a century ensued, until 1895, as both a first and then a second artist commissioned with the execution of the bas-reliefs took decades to deliver their work. The inscriptions were added slightly more quickly, but in this case, the first cracks in the project of a state-sponsored Belgian national identity became apparent. At least one member of the Royal Academy advocated inscriptions in French alone, the language spoken in

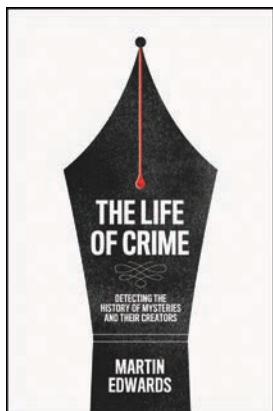
Wallonia and by most of the elite in Flanders. Yet even a decision taken in 1853 to implement the same text in both French and Flemish Dutch took until 1874 to implement. By the time the texts were added they contained three factual errors: in addition to the claim that Godfrey was born in Belgium, both the date of the government commission of the monument in 1843 and its inauguration in 1848 were wrong.

The issue of language makes the Belgian case special compared to neighbouring France, Germany, the Netherlands and Luxemburg, as these countries were able to organise their modern statehood around a single national language. The study thus focuses on the language issue at great length. Its author would probably have benefited from reading a book slumbering in Balliol Library since 1999, namely a PhD comparing the construction of national identities in Belgium and Switzerland by the author of this review, written under the supervision of Martin Conway (Professor of Contemporary European History, MacLellan-Warburg Fellow and Tutor in History), Balliol's expert for everything Belgian. Our findings were largely identical: it is possible to construct a nation in multilingual countries. What struck me when reading Simon John's book and reflecting on my own research project that began almost thirty years ago was, however, how Eurocentric both of our approaches are. For also outside Europe there were multilingual states in the 19th century where a sense of national identity emerged, among them the Indian Principality of Hyderabad. While the state's inhabitants spoke a great variety of languages and practised several faiths, the influx of migrants from other parts of the subcontinent led to a shared sense of identity among Hyderabad's elites. They identified as Mulkis and opposed the admission of Non-Mulkis into Hyderabad's administration. Even after the incorporation of Hyderabad into the Indian Union and its division into several language-based states in 1956, differences between the Telugu speaking areas of the Deccan and the coastal regions formerly under direct British rule remained pronounced. In 2014, Telangana together with Hyderabad spilt from coastal Andhra to become India's 28th state.

The Life of Crime: Detecting the History of Mysteries and Their Creators

Martin Edwards (1974), Collins Crime Club, 2022

Frances Wright (Domestic Bursar)



I was delighted to be able to review what could be considered Martin Edwards' *magnum opus* on crime writing – I only say 'could' because I know Martin and suspect there is more to come . . .

This is a big book, the sort of book that is tricky to read on the bus or train as it is heavy, but it needs to be this size because it is full to the brim of tales about stories and stories of tale tellers. I know Martin through 'The Bodies from the Library', a conference for lovers of the Golden Age of crime, and I thought that period (between the two World Wars) was the scope of this book, but it goes beyond the Golden Age in both directions, from Edgar Allan

Poe to modern-day crime writers such as Oxford's Colin Dexter and everything in between.

But this is not just a book to be read and enjoyed. It should become like a favourite battered cookery book: marks should be made on pages to remind you of new authors to read or true crimes to investigate. A notebook and pencil should be next to you at all times so that you can scribble down book titles – eliciting the start of what could be a long book search for slightly forgotten authors. If you are like me and need to put a face to a name, have Google on standby so that you can look up these estimable men and women – although despite describing them as estimable I was vaguely shocked by the number of writers who never made it past 60 because of a plethora of addictions, predominantly to alcohol.

The chapters are split nicely, with chronology running through them as a thread, but it doesn't feel like a traditional timeline: it is more an exploration of periods, themes and authors. I found some of the author stories absolutely fascinating, from Cecil Day Lewis who wrote crime novels under the

pseudonym Nicholas Blake, to a historical crime writer who was herself once imprisoned for murder, to writers who had murder in their midst like James Ellroy. Then there are writers who I did not know wrote crime, like Winston Graham, better known for his Poldark series and for being the father of Andrew Graham (Master 2001–2011); Winston Graham wrote quite a few crime novels, including *Marnie*, which was made into a film by Hitchcock. Such personal stories are interwoven with fictional stories and this is where your notebook will come in handy. By the time I had finished reading I had already purchased nine new books and had an even longer list to work through.

Martin is an excellent writer, at every turn dangling stories before you that you just have to read to find out what happens next. He engages you in such a wonderful way that even with styles that you might not be so keen on, you find yourself drawn in by salacious stories about the author or plots that have to be concluded. I had no intention of reading Raymond Chandler, perhaps because his style has been spoofed so often that one forgets it was original when it was first published; yet after reading so much about his life and how he viewed his own work, he is now firmly on my ‘list’. Margaret Millar was an author that I did not know, but after reading about her extraordinary life – married to another crime writer but with a troubled daughter – and learning that she wrote about the psychology of women, I felt I had to read her novels too, and they were gems to discover.

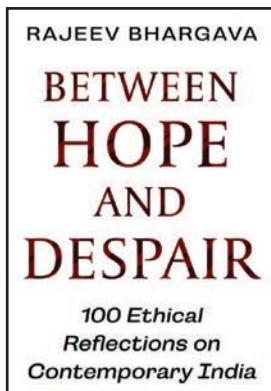
Each chapter has a footnotes section and these are well worth a read, particularly for further information on the crimes that inspired many of these stories (I found myself once more on Google, where my morbid curiosity was satisfied and as a result even more books on true crime were added to my lists) and for further reading, including biographies of these amazing writers. My mind boggles at how many books Martin must have consumed in the process of writing this one. Martin does not just stick to the English-speaking novel; chapters cover all areas of the world where crime writing is loved and enjoyed. I knew that Golden Age-style crime fiction is popular in Japan because of re-releases of Seishi Yokomizo’s novels amongst others, but there are many other countries and their authors covered here.

I finished the book feeling sad it was done, slightly grateful because it was a bit heavy, and overwhelmed by my new knowledge. Since then I have recounted many a story from the book to family and friends and lent it to a fair few too. It is that kind of book. I know I will have it on my shelves for ever and consult it whenever the book pile on my bedside table gets too small.

Between Hope and Despair: 100 Ethical Reflections on Contemporary India

Rajeev Bhargava (1975), Bloomsbury, New Delhi, 2023

Andrew Copson (1999)



The despair of Bhargava's title is easy to identify and no liberal watching India today could fail to feel it. Since taking power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist movement have increasingly narrowed the scope of Indian public and intellectual life. Muslims, Sikhs, humanists, and liberals feel the very real closing in of the walls, from routine harassment by petty officials to the rafts of social policies which gradually are adding up to the foundations of a closed society. Bhargava's essays deal with many aspects of this despair incisively and with a deep analysis in spite of each reflection's

short length (they originated as newspaper columns and it's hard to imagine columns of such intelligence and depth appearing in a UK newspaper). Unlike some others, he blames not the nationalist movement alone but all those who have facilitated their century-long rise, including through inaction.

The hope of the title is harder to discern before you begin to read but, turning the last page of this remarkable collection, the reader is left feeling that it is of two types. One is the past hope of the early 20th century. The great generation of Nehru and Gandhi and Ambedkar had this hope: the promise that a diverse society can sustain an egalitarian, peaceful, secular, and democratic republic not just for the benefit of its own citizens but as a shining example for the world. This is the hope that India once represented. A number of the reflections dwell on this past hope: its origins and quality and the ways in which it has and hasn't been fulfilled – re-examining it, with an agenda to revivify. Here we find many of the ideas for which Bhargava's academic work is justly praised – principles of secularism as a guarantee of pluralism or 'civic friendship', the idea of 'principled distance' between state and religion, the excavation of millennia of diversity within India as the background conditions

of a specifically Indian modernity – but lightly and fluently expressed for the general reader.

But there is a present hope for a better future in this collection too. Might not the very comprehensive triumph of the nationalist right in India lead to its fracturing and its eventual defeat? Might not the liberal forces, where they still hold power in regional redoubts, spring forth again? What Bhargava sees as the unconquerable ‘extent and depth’ of Indian diversity will surely rebound and demand a reformed secular and democratic India in due course. This ‘inevitable revolt’, as Bhargava sees it, will see ‘Young, self-reflective men and women, especially those facing continual restrictions . . . seize the moment and demand greater opportunity to exercise individual choice and freedom of expression.’ A return to a pluralistic ‘Gandhian’ secularism will fulfil the promise which India once represented.

It’s a positive vision and Bhargava is himself a representative of this hope, just as he remains a beacon to all of us who hope and work for the reviving of the ailing and besieged liberal tradition in both East and West (and his forthcoming book on secularism is keenly awaited as a further contribution to this endeavour).

This collection presents as being about India and there are a number of reflections which relate directly to India alone. But many of these short essays will have wider applicability to a whole swathe of struggling liberals across the democratic world. Despair is not confined solely to India. Take, for example, the reflection on structural humiliation. The deep and structural humiliation suffered by Dalits is explored, but it is linked with the structural humiliation suffered by African Americans, or by menstruating women in some monotheistic cultures. The First-Past-the-Post electoral system has been a significant contributor to India’s slide into a conservatism that does not represent its citizens, and so it has in the UK and the US. Reflections on ‘toxic masculinity’, ‘moral coarseness of our public culture’, the ‘perilous state of academic freedom’ or ‘statues as deeply contested heritage’ will resonate with readers from many nations. Even further, many of the reflections have universal applicability (if you remain a believer in the possibility of the universal, which Bhargava certainly is). Reflections on culture and identity, the good life, democratic citizenship, and personal ethics touch all who are human.

This artful blend of themes, taking on both public and private questions, questions of politics and questions of philosophy, questions of ethics and questions of meaning, makes this collection a genuine treasure.

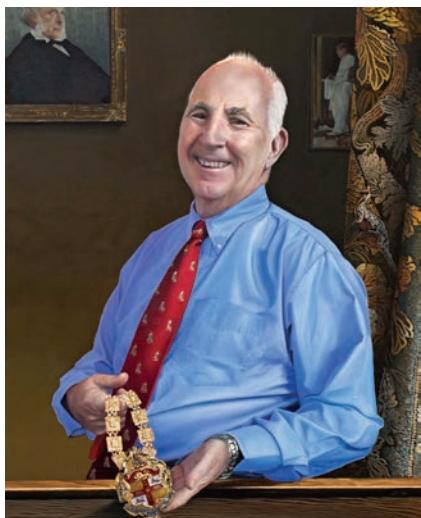
In Memoriam

Professor Sir Peter J. Morris FRS (1934–2022)

Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Fellow 1974–2001; Emeritus Fellow from 2001

David Cranston (Emeritus Associate Professor of Surgery, Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences) and Freddie Hamdy (Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Professorial Fellow)

The early years



Sir Peter Morris by Jon R. Friedman, 2005.
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Royal College of Surgeons, England.

Peter was born in Horsham in the state of Victoria, Australia, in 1934. His father, Stanley Morris, was a civil engineer, and a twice medal winner in the Premier Australian Football League (AFL). His mother, Mary (née Hennessy), was a pharmacist. His father died suddenly at the age of 49 from a heart attack, when Peter was 14, and tragedy hit again a year later when his younger brother, Stan, was killed in a car accident.

At Melbourne University, Peter switched from engineering to medicine and was first introduced to immunology by Sir McFarlane Burnett, who later shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine with Sir Peter

Medawar. He excelled at sport, representing Australia in university baseball and cricket. He graduated in 1957, started his surgical training in Melbourne, and married Jocelyn. They then travelled to England, working their passage on a cargo ship.

He continued his surgical training in Southampton and was a surgical registrar at the Hammersmith Hospital when the first living non-related kidney transplant was performed.

In 1964, he moved to a surgical resident post at the Massachusetts General

Hospital in Boston. The following years were spent as a research fellow while continuing his surgical training under the direction of Professor Claude Welch, who had been President of the American College of Surgeons. He worked 120 hours a week, lucky to get two hours sleep when on call. The day began at 5.00am to see all the patients before the formal ward round at 6.15am . . . Not only was Welch a superb technical surgeon, but he remained calm and polite in theatre, however difficult the situation. Due to return to Melbourne in 1967, Morris received a phone call to say that the university was going through a financial crisis and his post had been frozen. On hearing this, David Hume, the Head of Surgery at the Medical College of Virginia, invited him to set up a tissue typing laboratory in what was then the biggest transplant unit in the world. Attracted by a -80°C freezer full of samples taken before and after every transplant, Morris accepted. He tested all those sera for antibodies with Paul Terasaki, who gave him his new micro assay trays. Together, they discovered that, contrary to popular opinion, lymphocytotoxic antibodies did appear after transplantation and their presence at the time of transplantation imposed a high risk of hyper-acute rejection. The importance of humoral immunity was then gradually accepted by the transplant community.

He returned to Melbourne in 1968 to work as a transplant surgeon and to set up and direct the tissue transplantation laboratories, working with Professor Priscilla Kincaid-Smith, a nephrologist and renal pathologist, and a surgeon, Dr Vernon Marshall, who had started the transplant unit. There were often long nights as he was involved not only in the tissue typing of the donor and recipient, which was slow and tedious in those days, but also in the donor nephrectomy and the subsequent renal transplant, being performed continuously over a 15-hour time span.

By now, he and Jocelyn had five children, who remember waiting together in a very hot car outside the Royal Melbourne Hospital, on occasions for one to two hours, while Morris did his Sunday ward round before taking them swimming . . .

He was appointed as First Assistant in the Department of Surgery and became director of the Australian Kidney Foundation. From data of transplant outcomes, he showed that blood transfusion before transplantation, which could 'sensitise' patients, was associated with improved survival of donor kidneys, rather than making it worse, which was the prevailing opinion. This conundrum has never been satisfactorily explained.

The Oxford years

In 1973, Peter Morris was on the point of accepting the Chair of Surgery at Adelaide University in South Australia when he had a phone call from Sir Richard Doll, Regius Professor of Medicine in Oxford, asking him if he would be interested in the Nuffield Chair of Surgery. Doll had been tipped off by a surgical colleague that Morris was about to take the chair at Adelaide. He travelled immediately and after discussion with senior scientists he agreed to apply. The electoral board confirmed his appointment, but Peter only learned of their decision when he received a congratulatory telegram from a friend in London who had seen the announcement in *The Times*!

He moved to the chair in Oxford in 1974, where the department was in the doldrums following the death in office of his predecessor Phillip Allison, and became Professorial Fellow at Balliol College. Arriving at the old Radcliffe Infirmary on 4 August, he found his secretary, Joan Cracknell, who immediately handed him a note from Hans Krebs, whose office was along the corridor, inviting him for a cup of coffee. Krebs had won the Nobel Prize in Physiology in 1953 for the discovery of the citric acid cycle in 1937. Morris had no idea he was still alive and working!

In Oxford he established the transplantation programme with the backing of Rosemary Rue, who was Chief Medical Officer of the Oxford Regional Health Authority at the time, and Dr Desmond Oliver, a New Zealander and former All Black, who was running one the biggest home haemodialysis units in Europe at the nearby Churchill Hospital. To that date the UK survival figures for renal transplantation were very poor: 40% of patients died within one year, and the graft survival rate was only 50%.

The first two patients were transplanted on 29 and 30 January 1975 before and after midnight. Both kidney transplants were successful, and the patients lived for many years. Despite the early scepticism of many patients, who were aware of the poor outcomes after transplantation, there were soon more than a hundred patients on the waiting list. For the first few years he did most of the transplants himself but gradually he trained up a team of surgeons. He insisted on doing the living donor transplants himself, as the consequences of technical failure involved both donor and recipient. He followed the example of his mentor Claude Welch in always being courteous and unflappable.

He was also a vascular surgeon and set up an academic department of vascular surgery that provided an excellent service to the region. Soon after arriving he was called in to see a patient whose aortic aneurysm was bleeding

into his stomach. He saved his life by bypassing the problem, connecting the leg and arm circulations. The terrified junior doctor who had called him in later became his first Oxford DPhil student. For a time, he was the only surgeon to perform carotid endarterectomies – a risky procedure to prevent strokes.

He developed an internationally renowned research programme in transplant immunology and made pioneering discoveries in the fields of tissue typing and cross matching which led to longer kidney graft survival and more organs being suitable for transplantation. He also started the successful Oxford Pancreatic Islet Research Programme for the treatment of diabetes.

At Balliol, despite his busy schedule, he attended and contributed to Consilium and College meetings, and was always ready to assist anyone with medical matters in particular. He took an active part in College life, which he enjoyed as much as his commitments allowed, and after retirement as an Emeritus Fellow.

He retired from the Nuffield Chair in 2001, with a three-day *festschrift* delivered by leading surgeons and scientists from around the globe, ending with a cricket match and banquet at Blenheim Palace.

The Royal College of Surgeons' years

He was elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, serving from 2001 until 2004, and was extremely energetic in this role. He visited five to six hospitals each month, to see how surgical services and training were being delivered. He would meet the CEO's medical directors, consultants and trainees, separately, listening to the views of clinicians as to how improvements might be made and follow up on the actions taken. He would ignore artificial health service boundaries if he felt these were detrimental to patient services and safety.

Despite his workload he enjoyed life with a fondness for fine wines, food and sport. He was the first President of the College to have Sky Sports put into the Presidential Office and Lodge, and would often walk into meetings late, rattling out the latest test match score.

As Chairman of the RCS Research Board, he drove the implementation of the Research Fellowship Scheme, which has led to the appointment of more than 900 research fellows. He established and chaired a working party on transplantation in the UK, which led to the rationalisation of and improvements in the way organ transplant services were run.

While President he realised that there were 19th-century human remains that had been taken from Aboriginal graves in Australasia and some of this

material had ended up in the museums of the Royal College of Surgeons. Morris understood the Aboriginal spiritual belief that the body should be intact and repatriated more than 75 sets of remains to Australia and New Zealand. He also invited Sir Richard Doll to lead a working party to advise on the future of surgical audit, which led to the establishment of the Clinical Effectiveness Unit, bringing systematic methods to the collection and interpretation of surgical outcomes data.

After demitting, he established the Centre for Evidence in Transplantation at the Royal College of Surgeons and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to evaluate the quality of evidence in the field of organ transplantation. He was responsible for the development of an electronic library of all randomised controlled trials in organ transplantation.

And the rest . . .

He later served as Chairman of the British Heart Foundation and President of the Medical Protection Society which provides medical indemnity for some 250,000 physicians worldwide.

On one occasion when he was due to fly to New York he was asked to collect a donation for transplantation research at Heathrow from British Airways staff, one of whom was a patient. To his delight he was upgraded to Concorde and invited to the flight deck as the plane came in to land during a storm. He was impressed by how smooth the landing was.

He was editor of the journal *Transplantation* and author of 800 papers. His book on *Kidney Transplantation* (1979), regarded as a classic, is now in its seventh edition. He was the founding editor of the *Oxford Textbook of Surgery* (1994).

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1994 and a Foundation Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 1998. In 1997, he was awarded the Lister Prize for his contributions to surgical science, and the Medawar Prize in 2006 for his contributions to transplantation. He was knighted for services to medicine in 1996 and he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia for services to medical sciences in 2004. Accomplished at both cricket and golf, he was overjoyed one day to be playing golf in Australia one hole ahead of Sir Donald Bradman. In 2002, he was a castaway on *Desert Island Discs*.

His family was an important part of his life and their home in Oxford was always welcoming. Jocelyn would host the families of new arrivals to the Nuffield Department of Surgery (now the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences) for coffee mornings. Many family suppers were finished with an

assortment of people being welcomed to the dinner table, where quality Australian wine would be consumed.

Peter has been an inspiring academic surgeon, pioneer, innovator and scientist, and a role model for many generations of surgeons around the globe. It is impossible, in this short obituary, to do justice to his phenomenal career and achievements. He has always been a great support for the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences, diligently attending our annual away day, where the sharpness of his contributions during the presentations was always astounding. His regular warm incursions into the NDS offices for 'a coffee and catch up', and his generous advice and wisdom will be missed dearly and remembered fondly. Peter is one of the greatest figures of Oxford medicine, and an inspiration for any young trainee aspiring to become a successful academic and surgeon scientist. He is survived by his wife, Jocelyn, five children, eleven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

This obituary was first published on the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences website and is reproduced by kind permission.

Postscript

Martin Burton (Professor of Otolaryngology, Director of Cochrane UK and Research Fellow in Clinical Medicine)

I remember Peter Morris from my first year as a clinical medical student in 1980–1981. Even though he was *the* Professor of Surgery, he was always friendly and welcoming to his students. But he had high standards and he expected the students to aspire to those too. In my final year, I had become friends with a visiting Australian elective student. He had 'family friends' in Oxford, who had invited him to visit. When he took me along for dinner with them, imagine my surprise to find myself sitting around the Morris's kitchen table enjoying Peter and Jocelyn's hospitality. That was in fact the beginning of a long relationship. Peter offered me help and advice as a junior doctor, encouraged me to go to the United States early in my career and kindly acted as a referee. It was a pleasure when I returned to Oxford and we moved to Summertown to realise that we were neighbours. And then – the icing on the cake – I joined Balliol and he was a colleague here also. A brilliant scientist, a deft and meticulous surgeon, and a charming, family man. He is much missed and very warmly remembered.

William Newton-Smith (1943–2023)

Balliol 1967, Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1970–2005, Senior Tutor 1978–1981, Praefectus of Holywell Manor 1989–1997, Senior Proctor 1984–1985 and Emeritus Fellow from 2005

Professor Steven Lukes (Emeritus Fellow)

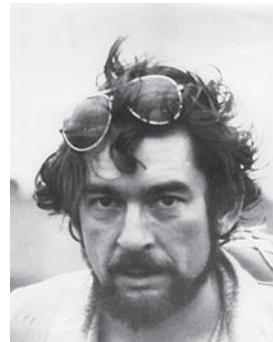
Bill Newton-Smith, Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy from 1970 to 2005, tackled large questions with rigour and precision. He published six books, most notably *The Structure of Time* (1980) (Is time absolute or relative? Is it a container of events or composed of them? He rejected both views and advanced instead two new theories, so as to shift the argument to whether time is a theoretical structure or a theoretical framework) and *The Rationality of Science* (1981) (How, as ‘moderate realists’, are we to account for scientific progress? He here advanced a widened view of rationality that effectively answers the criticisms of such sceptics as Thomas Kuhn and Paul Feyerabend). He also published an introduction to logic, he edited the Blackwell *Companion to the Philosophy of Science* (2000), containing entries by many distinguished contributors and described by one reviewer as ‘delightful and clear’, and he co-edited *Modelling the Mind* (1990), a book on the central question of cognitive science: ‘how do we model the mind?’, deriving from a Balliol-based interdisciplinary seminar, bringing together a distinguished group of philosophers, psychologists, and physiologists. He also edited *Popper in China* (1992), a collection of previously unpublished essays from both the West and China on Karl Popper’s philosophy of science, arguing that Popper’s philosophy had a direct relevance to the wider political context in China.

Bill was Senior Tutor from 1978 to 1981, but his presence, for the first two decades of his time at Balliol, was always felt around the College, from the seminar room to the squash court, from the SCR to Holywell Manor, of which he was Praefectus from 1989 to 1997. (He was also an effective Senior Proctor for the University in 1984–1985.) He was a much-loved and inspiring teacher of graduates and of undergraduates, remembered by one for his ‘humour and wise thoughts’ and for ‘taking the fear out of logic teaching’. Another writes that he ‘made me feel confident that I could, eventually, make some sense of Russell and Wittgenstein’. He was always fun to be with: Andrew Graham (Master 2001–2011) recalls that when acting as Bursar while Bill was Senior Tutor, ‘I have never

had such a good time, certainly not in the administrative field.' His enthusiasm was infectious.

I loved co-teaching with him, as did other colleagues in different disciplines. I myself learned a great deal in discussions with him – for example, about whether theories can be underdetermined by all actual and possible observations (on which topic he published an article in the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* in 1978), and about how to think about truth and rationality in relation to ongoing debates in which I was engaged at the time concerning the social sciences, particularly social anthropology, focused on how to understand and explain apparently irrational beliefs. He was thoroughly engaged in these discussions and in others that crossed over into the disciplines of our colleagues, including the scientists. For example, he participated in a series of seminars held in Balliol during the 1980s on the explanation of animal and human behaviour that led to the volume on modelling the mind, which arose from a long-standing collaboration between the philosopher Alan Montefiore (Emeritus Fellow) and the physiologist Denis Noble (Emeritus Fellow). Bill was a key member of our unusually cohesive PPE tutorial team.

Yet his impact on the world was to reach very far beyond the readers of his philosophical writings and the walls of Balliol. In 1979 I drew his attention to a report in the *Times Higher Educational Supplement* of an open letter sent from Prague in the wake of the Charter 77 Petition by an unknown Czech philosopher of indomitable courage and tenacity, Julius Tomin, to four universities: Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge and the Freie Universität Berlin. The letter invited them to send philosophers to join him in teaching philosophy in his flat after the Czech regime's recent drastic purge of universities. Only Oxford responded and that was because of Bill. He convinced the Philosophy Subfaculty to send philosophers to Czechoslovakia to lecture informal groups in private homes, together with small sums to cover their costs, and a network of such underground seminars soon developed to receive them. For the next eight years there ensued a stream of visiting philosophers from Oxford and beyond, including our colleague Alan Montefiore, Roger Scruton, Thomas Nagel, Charles Taylor (1952), Jacques Derrida and Jürgen Habermas, to address underground seminars, supporting dismissed Czech philosophers and



Photograph by Nancy Durham.

their students, often smuggling books in and *samizdat* out. This clandestine international network was soon organised by the Jan Hus Foundation, of which Bill was a founding trustee. It was regarded as a ‘centre of ideological subversion’ by the Czech police. It financed the visits and helped in many other ways, such as supplying photocopiers behind the Iron Curtain.

As one of the visitors in 1980, Bill had begun to address a gathering of some twenty students on the logic of science in Tomin’s flat when the doorbell rang, a dozen uniformed policemen entered to check identity documents, and he was arrested by two of them in plain clothes, taken away and interrogated for two hours. They ‘repeatedly tried to get me to say false things about Julius’, he recalled. His last sight of Tomin was of him being manhandled with blood on his face. Bill was then driven to the snow-covered border with West Germany. The Russian car broke down on the way and Bill helped to fix it, and at one point they lost their way and had to ask for directions.

Other visiting philosophers were detained and deported, including Derrida, and a diplomatic incident was then averted by the intervention of the French President, François Mitterand. Other early visitors to be expelled included Kathy Wilkes and Anthony Kenny (Master 1978–1989). Tomin was employed as a zookeeper and his wife Zdena was one of the three spokespeople of Charter 77. Policemen were regularly stationed outside their apartment. Other former philosophy teachers and intellectuals in Prague, including the former Rector of Charles University, were stoking boilers in the basements of buildings and driving trams. They were under constant surveillance, as were their children at school, who were sometimes barred from further education, and they were subject to regular harassment, detention and interrogation by the security police. Most laid low, holding clandestine seminars; some collaborated and some, like Julius Tomin, actively resisted. The story of these visits is told in Barbara Day’s *The Velvet Philosophers* (1999).

Bill’s lifelong concern for intellectual freedom probably originated when, while an undergraduate studying mathematics at Queen’s University in Ontario, Canada, he travelled to East Germany as part of a United Nations exchange programme to encourage mutual understanding among young people on both sides of the Iron Curtain. He had an East German penfriend whom he visited at Zittau in 1964, and he was deeply shocked by the barbed wire and minefields at the border and by what he learned about the activities of the *Volkspolizei*. The enduring impact of that visit led to the next stage of his academic activism in Eastern Europe and beyond.

This began when Bill encountered George Soros, the billionaire Hungarian-born financier and philanthropist (and the continuing target these days of antisemitic rhetoric in the ascendant right-wing politics in Eastern Europe, especially Hungary). Soros had been financing the Jan Hus Foundation and identified Bill as the person who could take a lead in his educational initiatives in Eastern Europe, which eventually came under the aegis of his Open Society Institute (later Open Society Foundations). Bill invited Soros to give a talk in Balliol about the theory of reflexivity in financial markets in the old Senior Common Room, and I recall a lunch at which the discussion was about Popper's ideas, about which Soros had submitted a thesis at the LSE, and over which Bill and Soros disagreed. A Karl Popper Open Society award would become one of the initiatives set up later. But the major such initiative was the foundation of the Central European University (CEU), in which Bill played a critical role.

The vision of this grand project had been born and nurtured in what seemed like purely idealistic discussions at the Dubrovnik Inter-University Centre, one of the few meeting places for students and faculty from East and West, in whose life Bill played an important role. Bill had also been instrumental in bringing East and Central European students on scholarships to Oxford. What made his role in establishing the CEU critical, according to Shalini Randeria, its current Rector, was that he overcame Soros's uncertainties, strengthening his will to realise that vision. Bill then promptly went on to make it real. He later wrote to a former student: 'From 1990 I was running George Soros's higher education philanthropy including creating for him the Central European University of which I was the first rector president. Eventually juggling this activity with teaching at Balliol became a little tiresome and so I resigned a few years early to work full time with him.' The juggling amounted, in effect, to his simultaneously leading two lives, applying to successive Masters for brief periods away.

On Soros's invitation, Bill became the chair of the Executive Committee – the predecessor of the Board – of the CEU, which laid down the foundations of the university. He was thus the *de facto* head of the institution until Alfred Stepan (1958) became the first *de jure* Rector in 1993. He then served as a CEU trustee between 1995 and 2016. As chair he brought all his well-honed Oxford intellectual and energetic skills to chairing, successfully, what was a wide-ranging board marching at high speed into the unknown, to the tune of Soros. It was, indeed, a Balliol-honed project, with Paul Flather (1973), a

former student of Bill's at Balliol, appointed by Soros in 1990, serving as the first CEO (secretary-general). Flather vividly describes Bill in this role:

His mind was always working. Even when, after particularly successful CEU Executive Board and Senate meetings, the reward was a meal out in a rather fancy Parisian restaurant, over the courses we would be jotting notes on napkins. Many board meetings under the famous sloping beam of Holywell Manor would start at lunchtime, but not finish until well after midnight, with refreshments magically appearing at regular intervals, Bill, cigar in hand, and George striding about, with me desperately trying to keep up with the notes, admired however late, however stressed, there he was, full of beans, rarin' to go, the next morning.

After the fall of communism, it was a time of optimism about and within the region, an optimism that is now increasingly hard to sustain. The idea of the CEU was that of an independent international university for the wider region that would educate a new cadre of leaders to help to develop democratic practices and institutions after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Soros backed this mission with a cheque for many millions of dollars, and with pressure. Appointing Bill in 1991 he told him: 'I want students here in September.' Bill used all his contacts to find visiting tutors and students, and with the crucial help of Flather, materials and a set of buildings were acquired. The deadline was met and the university opened in the autumn of 1991. Bill had the extraordinary privilege of spending these millions of dollars –sometimes \$200 million a year – promoting academic freedom, scholarship and community. He was trusted throughout and licensed to spend regularly in six and sometimes more figures. His time and energies were spent in engaging with distinguished scholars, and setting salary levels, choosing institutions to be supported, launching new institutions, such as the European University in St Petersburg, and pushing forward new programmes, such as the university libraries initiative, research support programmes and the CEU Press.

Later it was Bill who helped to calm matters after Soros had fallen out with Václav Klaus, the new premier of Czechoslovakia, who said he would close the CEU at once, moving it to Budapest. It took time to persuade him that no university with hundreds of students could close overnight, and a delay of 18 months was secured. The CEU was originally located in three cities – Warsaw, Prague and Budapest. After the Czech and Polish campuses were closed down, it continued and flourished in Budapest, soon securing international recognition, attracting outstanding faculty and some 1,500 students from over 100 countries. However, in the wake of similar hostility to that of Klaus on

the part of the autocratic Hungarian premier Viktor Orbán (who had studied at Pembroke College, Oxford, in 1989–1990, on a scholarship funded by Soros), it has now moved to Austria and is located in Vienna. Its links with Balliol continue: the current Rector is Shalini Randeria, mentioned above, one of the first cohort of women Rhodes Scholars at Oxford, who, though not a Balliol student, lived and worked at Holywell Manor.

On leaving Balliol, Bill went on to found or overhaul numerous universities globally on behalf of Soros's Open Society Foundations, whose board he joined, and the World Bank, in former Soviet Republics, the Middle East and the Global South – from Al-Quds University on the West Bank of Israel to the American University of Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan, as well as in Moscow, Minsk, Kyiv, Bucharest, Bratislava and Pristina, and visiting Albania, Bulgaria and Macedonia – all, as his *Times* obituary notes, 'aimed at spreading the ethos of open academic debate so that when virgin democracies started to become another dictatorship in all but name, there were enough around not to be fooled'.

Bill was married twice, first to the internationally acclaimed novelist Dorris Heffron, then teaching literature at Oxford and the Open University, a pioneer in the genre of young adult fiction and since 2013 chair of the Canadian Writers Union. His second marriage in 1989 was to Nancy Durham, an award-winning Canadian foreign television correspondent, reporting from London for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and for the BBC. In 1994 she became a video journalist covering the break-up of Yugoslavia from all sides in the conflict. Her television work took her across Europe, the former USSR, Africa, Europe, and Iraq. After ending his work for Soros in 2016, Bill and Nancy planted a field of lavender on their farm near Abergavenny in mid Wales, the first to plant lavender in Wales on a field scale. They then expanded their operations, becoming the only distillers of lavender oil in Wales. Their company Welsh Lavender Ltd produced oil and developed body and face creams sold from their shop in Hay-on-Wye. As he wrote to a former student, Bill was there 'fully engaged in writing my memoirs'. There are two daughters – one, Apple, a High Court Judge in Toronto, the other, Rain, recently appointed Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry – and seven grandchildren. He suffered from throat cancer to which he finally succumbed at the age of 79.

It was in Wales that he embarked on his last academic venture, becoming the founding chairman of Black Mountains College, based in Talgarth, the first



Photograph by Nancy Durham.

college in the UK dedicated to the study of climate change and sustainability. Its founder, Ben Rawlence, approached him for support. 'Are we mad?' Rawlence asked him, to which Bill replied, 'Yes, but I'll help you.' The funding was secured and Black Mountains College admits its first cohort of students this autumn, studying for a BA in sustainable futures.

Lines on Bill Newton-Smith

Alan Montefiore (Emeritus Fellow)

I was myself a member of the small Appointments Committee that unhesitatingly recommended Bill to the College for election to a Tutorial Fellowship in Philosophy well over half a century ago, and for all the ensuing years that we were there together I could not have wished for a better all-round colleague and, quite simply, friend. As a philosopher he had specialist knowledge and abilities in fields in which I have to confess to have always been very much an amateur; as a tutor he was always understandingly supportive of his students; and as a member of the Governing Body he was in many ways very effectively involved in the wider social and administrative affairs of the College. And his interests and very practical commitments extended, of course, well beyond those of the College and of Oxford as such – as indeed they are well recorded in the various obituaries that have already appeared.

Bill was, of course, a good fifteen or so years younger than me, and I would never have expected to find myself outliving him in this way. I shall be far from alone among those who, one way and another, will find themselves very much missing his presence among us.

Vicky Neale (1984–2023)

Whitehead Lecturer in Mathematics from 2014 and Supernumerary Fellow from 2016

Derek E. Moulton (Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics) and Frances C. Kirwan (Emeritus Fellow)



Victoria Neale, known to all of her colleagues and friends as Vicky, was born in Worcester on 28 March 1984, the first child of Barbara and Brian Neale.

Education was an integral part of Vicky's life from the very beginning. She was fascinated by mathematics from an early age, with activities such as counting the stairs on the way to bed providing an engaging way to explore numbers. Her love for learning expanded to encompass many subjects, and she soaked up knowledge wherever she could.

Vicky's intelligence stood out among her peers, as she effortlessly grasped concepts beyond her years. In primary school, classmates sought her help with unfamiliar words during reading lessons, her innate teaching abilities already starting to shine.

At the age of seven, Vicky's mathematical talent garnered attention, and she was assessed by the county's 'gifted children' advisor. By the age of ten, she had started to delve into advanced mathematical concepts, teaching herself topics like Cartesian coordinates and simultaneous equations. Her passion for mathematics grew even stronger as she learned more. She was keen to participate in extra-curricular activities such as the UK Mathematics Trust's 'maths challenges' in secondary school and beyond, persuading her sixth-form college to partake in competitions they had never been involved in before. Her friend Tim Austin, now the Regius Professor of Mathematics at the University of Warwick, recalls:

Vicky and I were in the same school year, and we met as students at the various camps that followed the British Mathematical Olympiad. We quickly discovered a lot in common besides maths itself, and she was one of my closest friends by the time we started at Cambridge together. On a dusty shelf in my office, I still have

photocopies of her immaculate handwritten notes from lectures that I missed. I can still recall the smell of ‘pasta and stuff’ filling her tiny college kitchen as we shared hopes, or worries, or stories about parents and siblings.

Vicky was a talented mathematician and a gifted teacher. She was also a deeply good person: honest and straightforward, unfailingly generous, instinctively humble, uncompromising when called for. We shared a love for the subtle beauty of Nature’s more desolate places: I can still picture her knitting in a tiny youth hostel in the Hebrides, grinning broadly at the top of Skiddaw, or sharing her lunch on a seawall in Essex. We could usually find a sense of humour in common even when we disagreed.

Vicky had the wonderful ability to immerse herself completely in a moment of the sublime, whether sitting in a lecture, listening to a joke, or reaching the rim of some windswept cliff. Perhaps the great joy of being a mathematician is the beauty of first contact with a new mathematical idea. But it always seemed that Vicky could recapture that sense of beauty, quite undiminished, whenever she revisited an idea later in her mathematical life. Then she could impart it to someone else with all the clarity and sparkle that she still saw it with herself.

This love, combined with her unwavering curiosity and hunger for knowledge, led her to study mathematics as an undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge, where she became President of the Trinity Mathematical Society and ended three successful undergraduate years as Second Wrangler in 2005, afterwards continuing at Trinity to complete a Masters (Part III of the Mathematics Tripos). Vicky remained at Cambridge for her PhD, working under the supervision of Ben Green (now the Waynflete Professor of Pure Mathematics at Oxford). Her PhD, awarded in 2011, was in an area of pure mathematics called analytic number theory, concerning what is known as the Hardy–Littlewood circle method.

During her tenure as a PhD student, Vicky joined Murray Edwards College in 2009 as a Bye-Fellow (a Fellow who does not take part in the government of the College), College Lecturer, and Director of Studies (DoS) in Maths where she made an indelible mark, taking on numerous roles and an active interest in teaching.

Having been President of the Trinity Mathematical Society, Vicky brought with her an ambitious approach to mathematics that invigorated the students. Under Vicky’s guidance, they became more confident and adventurous, embracing the challenges and opportunities presented by the subject. She also made both Murray Edwards and mathematics an attractive destination. Owen Saxton, a Fellow in Physics at the time, recalls: ‘Where I had as DoS in Physics

welcomed a steady stream of wonderfully able students changing from maths to physics over the years before her arrival, this stopped immediately and even reversed to the extent of a couple of my students opting to do the infamously challenging Part III Maths course after completing a physics BA.'

Vicky's dedication to mathematics extended beyond the classroom. She published a weekly challenge question on the noticeboards, encouraging students to think critically and creatively. These challenges not only engaged the students but also showcased Vicky's commitment to fostering a stimulating academic environment.

As a Director of Studies, Vicky's expertise and guidance helped shape the mathematical journeys of numerous individuals. Students were drawn to her supportive nature and her ability to challenge them to reach new heights of understanding and confidence. One of those students, Abi Royal, recalls:

There wasn't a single second where I ever doubted how completely she believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. Vicky had so many idiosyncrasies that still make me smile when I think about them: her colourful trousers, her mathematical knitting, her bad maths puns and the way she would smile when she told them ... She was also an absolutely phenomenal teacher – I was lucky enough to be supervised by her a fair few times, as well as attending her third-year Number Theory lectures. Her ability to communicate complex ideas in such an understandable and charismatic way was absolutely unparalleled.

Collaborating on admissions interviews, Vicky displayed her discerning insight and an unwavering commitment to fairness. She was known for challenging traditional approaches to questioning, favouring enquiries that assessed candidates' problem-solving skills and ability to navigate the unknown.

While Vicky was an undergraduate, she had volunteered with AskNRICH, an online forum set up by the NRICH Project in Cambridge. School students could seek help and advice with maths and maths-related issues. Vicky spent a few weeks during the summer holidays working for NRICH, writing articles for school students and editing resources. Her love for the subject and her passion for communicating it shone through, to the extent that when the AskNRICH Coordinator went on maternity leave, Vicky stepped into the role with ease. When she became Director of Studies at Murray Edwards, she continued to collaborate with NRICH, helping to organise maths events for local children and their families on Saturday mornings.

Recognised as an exceptional role model for young mathematicians, Vicky was often asked to represent the Cambridge Mathematics Faculty at Open

Days for prospective undergraduates. Her belief that mathematics could be enjoyed and appreciated by all students made her the perfect candidate to take a leading role in the Cambridge Mathematics Education Project (CMEP, later known as Underground Mathematics) for sixth-form students. She was recruited alongside Steve Hewson from NRICH to lead the development of this very open-ended DfE-funded project – how best to realise the aim of improving the teaching of A-Level Mathematics was not at all clear. CMEP Director Professor Martin Hyland recalls the start of the project.

Vicky and Steve introduced a way to describe progress through A-Level in terms of a Tube Map: stations displayed teaching resources devoted to the key topics. The nature of the resources was critical. They were to be Low Threshold High Ceiling, in the terminology of NRICH, and suitable for group work in class. Less palpable was the philosophy established by Vicky and Steve with the firm idea, stemming from their joint experience in NRICH, that authority lies in the mathematics. The overall tone, established early, lasted through the whole project.

In summer 2013, the project was committed to holding two Summer Workshops to obtain initial feedback from teachers. Sadly by then Steve had become very ill. Though others pitched in to help, Vicky was responsible for the planning, and she ended up fronting the majority of the sessions. Both intellectually and physically it was an amazing feat. One workshop outcome proved very special. The project needed to showcase teaching materials. Vicky had the idea for a circle-sorting resource. This was wonderfully realised by Karen Habermann, a student working with the project. Search the web for 'Teddy Bear, Circle' and you will find what became the exemplary resource for Underground Maths.

While at Murray Edwards, Vicky also succeeded in persuading (in the way that only Vicky could) the college, the Cambridge Faculty of Mathematics and the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust to set up the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) and host the inaugural event in 2012. The year after this event she described EGMO as follows, modestly omitting her own huge contribution (together with that of Ceri Fiddes, Julia Gog and others) to its existence and success.

The aim is to encourage more girls to participate in mathematics competitions, as a way of getting more girls involved with mathematics more generally. The format is rather similar to many other international mathematics competitions,



Vicky Neale at Murray Edwards College.

such as the IMO, and like these the host country will change each year. The papers at EGMO provided challenging mathematics, and the students also enjoyed the social aspect of the programme. Sixteen European countries sent teams, along with three guest nations. Following the success of EGMO in 2012, the second EGMO has recently happened in Luxembourg, and EGMO will be held in Turkey in 2014.

Ceri Fiddes, Assistant Head, Teaching and Learning, at Millfield Senior School, recalls:

Vicky and I worked closely on this project and she was a superb partner in every way. Her passion, drive and high level of organisation made everything easy and enjoyable. The mathematical craft evening was a particular highlight and a very typical Vicky event. Teams from 20 countries spent the evening curve stitching and making incredible origami polygons (followed by a ceilidh). She thought it was hilarious that I had budgeted £100 for the event when in reality she had just planned to bring in her own collection of embroidery threads and coloured paper.

Vicky's ability to persuade others to help her to get things done was remarkable. Thomas Forster, then a lecturer in the Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics (DPMMS) at Cambridge, remembers: 'She had a rare talent for getting people to do things that they really didn't want to do, and to achieve it without actually annoying them.'

Another Cambridge colleague, Marj Batchelor, remembers Vicky warmly as one who had a rough sea to sail and held her course to her great credit and honour. The department was then very focused on its research image; it was a brave young mathematician who would invest time, energy and enthusiasm in teaching and communicating mathematics to more general audiences ... In doing so perhaps she showed us a better way of being mathematicians, her simple humanity reconciling those perceived polarities, research and teaching.

Julia Gog, Professor of Mathematical Biology at Cambridge, loved working with Vicky, particularly on the 2012 EGMO Committee, and in the Faculty of Mathematics, where

Vicky brought much thought and wisdom to many issues we were grappling with then and now. For example: how do we encourage the strongest potential maths students to apply to top universities, no matter who they are and their background, how do we deliver our lectures and teaching so that students can best learn, and how do we shape our degree and examine fairly? Vicky never shied away from challenging questions, and made important contributions on all of these. ... Even now around ten years on, I can see so many places where Vicky's influence has changed how we do things, and always for the better for our students.

Vicky remained at Murray Edwards until 2014 as a Senior Teaching Associate, before accepting the position of Whitehead Lecturer at Oxford's Mathematical Institute and Balliol College (where she later became a Supernumerary Fellow). This position was not a typical one, but rather had been specially constructed for someone with Vicky's rare attributes in mind: while the role had the usual teaching responsibilities in department and college, instead of research the focus was on outreach and public engagement, both expanding existing initiatives and developing new directions to attract and inspire the next generation of mathematicians.

A very large part of the role involved setting up the new European version (PROMYS Europe), based in Oxford, of the Boston-based PROMYS high-school programme, and becoming PROMYS Europe's Executive Director. It also included many other activities, such as giving public lectures, visiting schools and sixth-form colleges to give talks and lead workshops, lecturing at Oxford's UNIQ Summer Schools, and supporting UK mathematics in general, for example via involvement with the London Mathematical Society's Education Committee and giving Royal Institution Mathematics Masterclasses.

Vicky was the driving force and inspiration behind the 'It all adds up: celebrating women across the mathematical sciences' events for schoolgirls, which have happened each year in Oxford's Mathematical Institute since 2016. The first such event was part of the London Mathematical Society's 150th Anniversary celebrations in 2016; afterwards Stephen Huggett (then the LMS General Secretary) described it as 'a spectacular event' in the Newsletter of the European Mathematical Society: 'The first two days were devoted to mathematically inclined schoolgirls, while the second two days were for female mathematicians at all stages of their university careers. There were talks, discussions, workshops, and poster displays. It was a huge success.'

Vicky did extensive work with the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT). She had been a UKMT volunteer for many years, after participating as a teenager in numerous UKMT activities and being selected herself for the IMO training squad. She was heavily involved with the UKMT mentoring scheme, and with the setting up of the UKMT's Enrichment Subtrust (acting as its first Chair). She was also a member of the British Mathematical Olympiad Subtrust for a long time, and helped with running summer schools and maths circles, later joining the UKMT's Council/Board of Trustees.

Vicky also became increasingly involved with the London Mathematical

Society. She gave an LMS Popular Lecture on ‘Addictive Number Theory’ in 2013, and was a Holgate Lecturer. Later she became a member of the Education Committee of the LMS, and a regular contributor to the LMS Newsletter and member of its Editorial Board.

It was clear from the beginning that Vicky was the perfect fit for the Whitehead Lecturer role, and conversely, she had found her ‘dream job’. There was something unique in Vicky, something genuine in her approach to even the smallest task, that was almost hard to define. In the words of Dyrol Lumbard, External Relations Manager at the Mathematical Institute, who would work closely with Vicky on a number of projects over the years,

Yes, she was energetic, very clever, certainly very kind, but what I came to most appreciate, and envy, was her selfless love of her subject and the people, especially her students, with whom she could share that love. Because in the competitive world of maths popularisers, Vicky wasn’t about Vicky. Vicky was about the maths. Not that she didn’t have opinions or didn’t express them, but they came with this obvious sincerity.

Her commitment to inspiring school students to do mathematics and her advocacy for women and minorities in mathematics paved the way for a more inclusive and diverse mathematical community. But Vicky’s commitment to mathematics extended far beyond the confines of academia. Her passion for sharing the beauty and significance of mathematics with a broader audience was evident in books, online lectures, podcasts, YouTube videos, and media appearances, which made mathematics accessible and engaging to the wider public, fostering a newfound appreciation for the subject.

Vicky wrote two influential books. *Closing the Gap: The Quest to Understand Prime Numbers* (Oxford University Press, 2017) delved into the intricate world of prime numbers, providing readers with a captivating exploration of this fundamental mathematical concept and progress towards proving the famous Twin Primes Conjecture. The book exemplified Vicky’s ability to communicate complex ideas in a way that engaged both experts and those new to the subject. *Why Study Mathematics?* (London Publishing Partnership, 2020) – a work that emphasised the relevance and practicality of mathematics in various fields of study and everyday life – inspired readers to appreciate the subject’s universal applicability, and it has undoubtedly encouraged numerous school students to choose mathematics as their path of study.

Vicky’s expertise as a mathematics educator and her ability to articulate complex concepts made her a sought-after guest on several BBC radio

programmes. Among her appearances, many of which may still be found online, are the following:

- ‘Fermat’s Last Theorem’, *In Our Time*, BBC Radio 4
- ‘Numbers Numbers Everywhere’, Series 10, *The Infinite Monkey Cage*, BBC Radio 4
- ‘e’, *In Our Time*, BBC Radio 4
- ‘Vicky Neale on the Mathematics of Beauty’, *A History of Ideas*, BBC Radio 4
- ‘Maths: Alex Bellos, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Serafina Cuomo, Vicky Neale’, *Free Thinking*, BBC Radio 3.

Sharing her deep understanding of mathematics with the general public, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm in listeners, Vicky brought mathematics to life, bridging the gap between academic research and everyday experiences.

In addition to her radio appearances, Vicky wrote for prestigious platforms such as *The Conversation* and *The Guardian*, engaging readers with thought-provoking articles on mathematics-related topics. Her accessible writing style and knack for breaking down complex concepts into digestible pieces resonated with readers, making mathematics more approachable and captivating for a wider audience.

When she died Vicky was President-Elect of the Mathematical Association, which exists ‘to support and promote confidence and enjoyment in mathematics for all’. She was also a Trustee of Mathematics Education for Social Mobility and Excellence (MESME).

Hannah Fry, Professor in the Mathematics of Cities at University College London, describes her impact on the communication of mathematics during an interview for BBC Radio 4’s *Last Word*:

[I] was just blown away by her grace of communication, but also her real commitment to trying to make our subject come alive for younger minds ... I would be gobsmacked if there weren’t literally hundreds, if not thousands, of people up and down the country who are studying mathematics and have become mathematicians as a direct result of the work that she did. I think that she, and I, believed really to our core that having a society that appreciates mathematics and has a good foundation in the mathematical sciences is better for everybody, and I think that there are few people in this country who had more of an impact on that goal than her.

In March 2021, Vicky was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. While it would have been natural to withdraw from work, Vicky strived not to let the turn of misfortune deter her from mathematics and education, the things she loved most. In her final two years, she continued to teach as much as she was physically capable, and maintained a strong connection with the ongoings of both Balliol and the Mathematical Institute. She also didn't hide from her diagnosis; rather she did with cancer what she had been doing throughout her life: learn and educate. Vicky used her own predicament as a catalyst to develop a podcast series called *Maths + Cancer*, in which she explored the use of mathematics and statistics in cancer research through a series of interviews with different experts. In 2023, the series was awarded a CASE Circle of Excellence Award, a silver medal in the podcasts category.

Philip Maini (1979), Professor of Mathematical Biology at Oxford, was one of the researchers interviewed by Vicky for the podcast. Philip recalls:

I find any form of public speaking (lecturing etc) to be stressful, particularly if it is being recorded. However, Vicky immediately put me at ease with her engaging manner. She knew all the appropriate things to discuss, and did so in a manner that brought out the best in me, another sign of a brilliant teacher.

Chatting with Vicky during the podcast, it was easy to forget that she was actually suffering from this disease, and I am still in awe of the strength shown by Vicky in that, having been diagnosed with cancer, she decided to tackle understanding the disease head on and do a podcast that would help other people.

In the realm of teaching, Vicky was one of a kind. In every teaching role she encountered, from lecturing at the Mathematical Institute to tutorial teaching at Balliol, lecturing at PROMYS Europe and her previous roles at Cambridge, her dedication to teaching was unparalleled. Her colleague Heather Harrington noted:

Vicky possessed a remarkable ability to meet a student or class where they were at in terms of level and skill, and educate and inspire them to grow mathematically. About ten years ago, Vicky gave the LMS Popular Lectures, and I remember thinking, how can I possibly captivate such an audience in the same way? She motivated all of us to strive to be the best versions of ourselves.

Vicky had an innate ability to engage students and explain difficult topics, both through immaculate and clear lecture notes provided online and through her lectures at the board, which often famously would be delivered without even holding any notes in hand. Some of these lectures were recorded and

uploaded to YouTube, where they have been immensely popular – a lecture on the first-year undergraduate course ‘Introduction to Complex Numbers’ has garnered, at the time of writing, 2.3 million views.

In the smaller setting of tutorials at Balliol, Vicky would use her imagination, inventiveness and infectious love of mathematics to engage students in a unique way. As an example, she frequently created overlaps between mathematics and her lifelong passion of knitting, be it a knitted scarf to illustrate the properties of prime numbers, a knitted octopus born of a discussion on base 8 that became a sort of mascot for Balliol mathematics, or little crocheted hedgehogs that would appear alongside truffles on the large desk in her Balliol teaching office.

Vicky took a deep interest in her students’ general well-being. She frequently sacrificed her time well beyond the normal ‘stint’ to help students find their way. She introduced weekly walks following office hours, a chance for anyone who wished to join her as she traversed the city, engaging in casual chat about her cats, gardening, or any topic that came up, with no insistence at all that mathematics be discussed.

While Vicky strived to make mathematics engaging and fun, she was also very demanding of her students, never letting a student off the hook after an unclear explanation. She insisted upon precision and rigour in written work, whether the exercise counted for anything official or not, and worked particularly hard with first-year undergraduates to frame their work within a structure of clearly stated Claims and Proofs (indeed so much so that many of them found it hard to avoid using this structure in more applied mathematics topics in which it was neither needed nor particularly appropriate). Vicky was deeply interested in teaching as a form that can be continually examined and improved. Nicola Trott (Senior Tutor), recalls: ‘Vicky was never less than whole-hearted: she gave unstintingly not only to teaching but also to the theory and practice of learning. She and another Balliol tutor set up a College forum for discussing and exploring different ideas and approaches – which, among other things, helped many get through the Covid years.’

Evidence for Vicky’s enormous success in teaching is given by her many teaching awards, beginning in 2015 with the award for Most Acclaimed Lecturer in Oxford’s Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division in the student-led OUSU Teaching Awards. In 2020, she completed the Oxford Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, with Distinction, and received a PGCert Prize for the portfolio with the highest

grade in her cohort in that year's Vice Chancellor's Education Awards, while in 2021 she was awarded Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA) through the Oxford Teaching Recognition Scheme.

Another telling measure of how effective she was in the classroom was the outpouring of memories from students past and present upon the news of her death. A webpage set up by the Mathematical Institute at Oxford contains dozens of fond recollections, including the following:

Auri Guarino (2020):

I found Vicky a real inspiration in school. Her online lectures and open day talks made maths seem so exciting and accessible, a feeling that I was not able to get from school. This motivated me to apply to Balliol and, after a (really quite fun) interview with Vicky where we discussed a problem involving bugs of different colours colliding, I was very fortunate to be accepted to Balliol. Vicky was a brilliant tutor – the benchmark for what an educator should be. She made every problem clear and accessible, and had a remarkable knack for figuring out what exactly was the core of my confusion and clearing it up. She was always on hand to receive questions outside of tutorials (whether through emails or office hours) and went far out of her way to answer them (including giving extra problems, hints, and offering one-on-one calls to clear things up if needed). I must add that Vicky was also an incredibly kind and thoughtful person who really cared about her students. Vicky's enthusiasm, love for maths and education, and her calm and kind nature continue to inspire me today.

Otilia Casuneanu (2021):

Vicky was a true inspiration as a lecturer and as a tutor. Her dedication to teaching and mathematics changed the course of life for better for so many people, among which I am lucky to be. As a student at Balliol, the Vicky walk was one of my favourite moments of the week as Vicky would manage to lift up my spirits even in the most stressful times. Her energy and general good spirits were so contagious.

The sentiments above shed some light on how important Vicky was to so many young lives, though this small sample cannot do justice to the huge impact she had. Her legacy was summarised for us by Hannah Fry:

Vicky had an abundance of rare qualities, but for me there is one that stands out. She did things, not because they made her look good, but because she thought they were important. All those radio slots and books and outreach programmes, she did them because she knew they made a difference. They did, too. I can't imagine the number of peoples' lives she touched with her work. And she was so good at it. She had a commanding calmness to her. A warmth and twinkle that is so impossible to replicate, no matter how hard I try. I admired her enormously. And I really, honestly believe, the world was a better place with her in it.

Vicky Neale's absence leaves an unfillable void in our hearts and minds. Her exceptional intellect, compassionate friendship, and transformative influence on communicating mathematics will forever echo not just within the departments and colleges that had the fortune to know her personally, but far beyond. Her books, radio appearances, writing contributions, and involvement in educational programmes and Olympiads all serve as testaments to her commitment to inspiring others and making mathematics accessible to all. Vicky's outreach efforts have left an indelible impact on countless individuals, igniting a passion for mathematics and empowering aspiring mathematicians to pursue their dreams. We mourn the loss of a remarkable individual, yet we find solace in the profound impact she had on our lives and the enduring legacy she leaves behind.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Charlie Gilderdale, Ben Green, Jennifer Balakrishnan, Cora Cartis, Jason Lotay, and Vicky's parents Barbara and Brian Neale for their help in writing this obituary. We are also very grateful to all the people who provided us with memories of Vicky, many of which were included as direct quotes, and all of which contributed to painting in our minds the picture of Vicky – dedicated educator, compassionate communicator of mathematics, and dear friend – that we have tried to get across in this obituary.

Old Member obituaries

Norman Franklin (1946)

Liz Thomson

Norman Franklin read chemistry as an undergraduate at Balliol from 1946 to 1949. He always remembered his time at Balliol with great pleasure and was a devoted attendee at gaudies. He took great pleasure that one of his children and two grandchildren also studied there.

He died just shy of his 95th birthday, having worked all his life for Routledge & Kegan Paul, the family firm. He presided over it for 27 years.

Certainly, Norman never behaved as though he owned the company. A colleague said, 'If the floor had to be scrubbed or the cellar cleaned out, he would roll up his sleeves and do it. He'd never asked anyone to do something he wouldn't do himself.' On one occasion, Franklin clambered out of a window and on to the roof of the Store Street offices to rewire the telephone system.

Norman oversaw a golden era in the company's history, publishing books by some of the great post-War thinkers, including Bertrand Russell, Edmund Husserl, Theodor Adorno and Carl Jung, making the house a hotbed of left-wing ideas.

Norman was a pioneering feminist and under him the imprint Pandora was established. Its great successes included the path-breaking *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* by Jeanette Winterson, which won the Whitbread Prize.

Sadly, two months after retiring, Norman's wife Jill died suddenly. They had met at a Society of Young Publishers meeting when she was a designer at Chatto. He married Carol Gardiner, a copy-editor from RKP, 18 months later. Sadly, he outlived her too, because she died in 2007.

Norman established a charitable trust in Jill's memory, its support targeted at small charities with immediate impact, with areas of interest including refugees and asylum seekers, victims of domestic violence and prisoners' education. He was also closely involved in a number of charities, sitting on their boards, giving help and advice, and supporting them himself.

Norman was a passionate cyclist who liked to describe his journey from home to work in the city as '23 traffic lights and turn left'. In older age he used



an electric bike. In 2017, aged 89, he and his sons cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising £120,000 for charity. Eventually, he switched to an electric trike. In November 2022, an accident on the latter caused a broken hip from which he sadly did not recover.

Norman is survived by his four children,

seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, to whom he was devoted.

Diarmaid Douglas-Hamilton (1958)

Iain Douglas-Hamilton

Diarmaid Douglas-Hamilton was born in Wiltshire on 17 June 1940. After his father, Lord David Douglas-Hamilton, squadron leader of 603 City of Edinburgh Squadron, was killed in 1944, Diarmaid's mother moved to South Africa with her second husband. Diarmaid lived there for five years before returning to the UK, where he attended Gordonstoun School and won a scholarship to Balliol to read Physics.

In 1960 on a skiing holiday in the Swiss Alps, he inadvertently touched a high-voltage cable with his ski stick. The shock catapulted him over a cliff and he tumbled 1,500 feet down a gully, before coming to a stop in a snowdrift. Recuperating in South Africa, he climbed mountains by day and watched stars by night. He immersed himself in astronomy at the Observatory in Cape Town, then enrolled in a PhD in Astrophysics at Harvard.

He left Harvard to work for the military industrial complex of America (first at AVCO Everett Laboratories, then the Eaton Corporation), ultimately as a team leader in building what was then one of the largest lasers in the world. He would not reveal his work even to his brother Iain, although he once let

slip that ‘the sudden dis-functioning of a Soviet geostationary satellite over New York was not entirely unconnected with my team’s work’.

Diarmaid and his wife Meg, whom he married in 1983, co-founded Hamilton Thorne Inc, which built advanced laser systems for human and animal reproductive technology based on his inventions. One, LYKOS & LYKOS-DTS, integrated lasers into the objective lens of a microscope, and is widely used to manipulate embryos and immature egg cells in women in IVF; another, the ‘motility analyser’, shines lasers through a solution of living sperms to assess their motion and health. Diarmaid, who was Chief Technology Officer, held some two dozen patents for devices and systems related to this work.

Dairmaid climbed often in the Alps, the Cuillins of Skye and peaks in the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. He held a pilot’s licence and flew thousands of miles in his Cessna 172. In one adventure he and Meg rented a seaplane and flew to Baffin Island, north of the Arctic circle, where they climbed Mt. Asgard. Their attachment to Scotland grew deeper over the years with frequent trips to the Isle of Raasay, where they had a house.

Dairmaid died on 19 January 2023. Meg survives him, as do his adored stepchildren Matthias and Arabella Plum, their spouses Coco Plum and Jeffrey Goldberg, and two grandsons. He is also survived by his younger brother Iain and his wife Oria, his two nieces Saba and Mara and their six children, as well as by the large extended family on three continents descended from Diarmaid’s grandfather, the 13th Duke of Hamilton.

Fr Ian Ker (1960)

Paul Shrimpton (1977)

Ian Turnbull Ker was born in Nainital, India, on 30 August 1942 and moved to England with his family in 1947. From Shrewsbury School he went to read Classics at Balliol under three of the leading scholars of the time: Gordon Williams (Fellow and Tutor in Classics 1953–62), Russell Meiggs (Fellow 1939–1970), and R.M. Hare (Fellow 1947–1966). Ker completed a second degree in English literature at Corpus Christi College before moving to Trinity College, Cambridge, for a doctorate on George Eliot. After a spell teaching at the University of York, he abandoned his academic career to train for the priesthood, having become a Catholic during his years at Oxford.

Ker stayed briefly at the Birmingham Oratory, where he got to know Charles



Stephen Dessain (1929), the leading scholar on John Henry Newman, and completed his training in Rome. Once ordained, Fr Ker taught at the University of St Thomas in St Paul, Minnesota. After serving as a university chaplain at Oxford and then Southampton, he became parish priest at Burford in the Cotswolds; during these years he was part of the Theology Faculty of Oxford University and a research fellow at Blackfriars Hall.

Over several decades Fr Ker managed to combine his priestly ministry with an impressive scholarly output. Besides critical editions of three of Newman's most influential works – the *Apologia pro Vita Sua*, the *Grammar of Assent* and the *Idea of a University* – he co-edited four volumes of Newman's *Letter and Diaries* (32 volumes) and worked in all the fields covered by Newman's own 'imperial intellect'. His *John Henry Newman: A Biography* (2009) has long been regarded as the definitive account of the most recent English saint; his scholarly biography of G.K. Chesterton (2011) is also much admired. In all he published over twenty books on Newman and was widely recognised as the leading scholar on his life and work.

Fr Ker's tireless energy saw him accepting invitations to speak about Newman all over the world, as well as organising symposia and international conferences. Not a few of those who met or listened to him were delighted by his bonhomie and wit, and found his company stimulating. His vivacity was much in evidence at a dinner to mark his 80th birthday last August, at which he was presented with a book of essays in his honour, which included pieces by three well-known cardinals. He died in Cheltenham on 5 November 2023.

Major General Sir Sebastian Roberts KCVO OBE (1973)

Lucian Roberts (1989)

Sebastian John Lechmere Roberts was born in January 1954 at a military hospital in Aldershot. He was the eldest of ten. After prep school in Kensington, and boarding at Ampleforth, Sebastian came up to Oxford and

learnt history at the feet of (amongst others) the great medievalist Maurice Keen (Fellow and Tutor in Modern History 1961–2000). He embraced all that College had to offer and thundered through university life. He delighted in the debating and wordplay of the Arnold and Brackenbury Society but turned down the invitation to push himself forward at the Union, when he refused to join Benazir Bhutto's slate. He enthusiastically ran with his generation's reincarnation of the Annandale dining society, and also accepted membership of the better known Bullingdon. Such was his confidence as he approached finals, he was known to have announced to anyone who would listen that really all revision was a form of cheating and that one should only take into the examination halls what you had inside your mind. He exited his first paper chastised and admitted: 'I was wrong.'

He left Oxford with a score of friends, a love of the academic, a love of the College, a clear understanding of how to read a wine list, and a third. This hurt. He was better than that and he knew it. Surprising many, he took his many talents to the Army, commissioning into the Irish Guards in 1977. He would go on to command them. Later he was appointed Major General Commanding the Household Division and General Officer Commanding London District. In 2007, he became the Senior Army Representative at the Royal College of Defence Studies, and he retired in 2010. While serving he made up for his undergraduate overconfidence and proved his military and academic credentials with his writing of the Armed Forces Covenant, specifically the moral component of the covenant. This influential work cemented the moral aspects of the relationship between the armed forces, society and the politicians who hold responsibility for how the armed forces are deployed.

Upon retirement he held numerous posts: including being non-executive Chairman of the Military Mutual, a Trustee of the Royal Armouries and Master of the Girdlers' Company. He was also an artist who designed Balliol's 2022 Christmas card for the Master.

His funeral was held at the Brompton Oratory; around 1,200 attended. He is survived by his wife Lady Elizabeth, four children and nine grandchildren.

Deaths

Professor Sir Peter Morris (Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Fellow 1974–2001, Emeritus Fellow from 2001), 29 August 2022

Vicky Neale (Whitehead Lecturer in Mathematics from 2014, Supernumerary Fellow from 2016), 3 May 2023

William Newton-Smith (Balliol 1967, Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1970–2005 and Emeritus Fellow from 2005), 8 April 2023

Guy Newbury (Lecturer in Music from 2006), 30 December 2022

Professor John Bridgwater (Lubbock Fellow and Tutor in Engineering 1973–1980), 2 May 2021

Professor Anthony Gear (Senior Research Fellow in Management 1991–2002), 2 July 2017

David Shapiro (Tutor in Politics 1961–1962), 1 April 2023

Jean Blumberg, wife of Baruch Blumberg (Master 1989–1994), 14 March 2023

Derek Chapman (Clerk of Works 1983–2003), 2 July 2022

George Long (Gardener c.1960–1975, Head Gardener 1975–2002, Gardener at King's Mound 2002–2014), 18 July 2023

Florence Davis, President of the Starr Foundation, major donors to Balliol and Oxford, 21 May 2023

Michael Innes (1943), 1 February 2023

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Professor Claude Mosséri-Marlio (1949), 25 April 2023

Colin Paver (1949), 9 June 2023

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