



BALLIOL
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

NEWS AND NOTES

UPDATES FROM BALLIOL ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

A SUPPLEMENT TO FLOREAT DOMUS 2025



News and Notes

We are delighted to share news from the Balliol community

Professor Ken Suslick (George Eastman Visiting Professor 2018–2019)

Ken Suslick has been elected to the US National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest professional honours for a scientist. Suslick, the Marvin T. Schmidt Professor of Chemistry Emeritus, has been a faculty member at the University of Illinois since 1978. He works at the forefront of chemical sensing, having developed an artificial optoelectronic 'nose' capable of detecting harmful substances in the air, such as poisonous gases, toxins and explosives. He is also a leading scientist on the chemical and physical effects of ultrasound, including sonochemistry and sonoluminescence. In addition to his academic research, Suslick has had significant entrepreneurial experience in the biomedical industry, and he is presently CEO of a new startup, Iridescent Sensors Inc.



Nicolas Jacobs (Lecturer in English 1966–1972)

I am still living mostly in North Wales but frequently visit Oxford, despite the demise of the academic bookshop and the danger from homicidal cyclists. Though slowing down at 82, I still have two articles in the press on Middle Welsh language and literature. In the hope of strengthening my European credentials, I have begun learning Polish – it remains to be seen with what degree of success.

Professor Richard Gombrich (Emeritus Fellow)

I would like to report the following two publications:

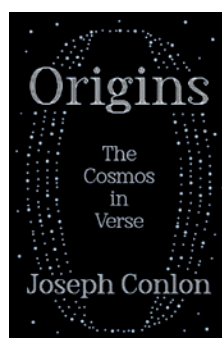
Buddhism and Pali (Mud Pie Books, 2018); and *'Chinese Buddhism Today: Conservatism, Modernism, Syncretism*

and *Enjoying Life on the Buddha's Light Mountain*' by Richard Gombrich and Yu-Shuang Yao in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (Equinox, 2022).

Joseph Conlon (Junior Research Fellow 2009–2012)

My book *Origins: The Cosmos in Verse*, a verse account of the early universe, was published by Oneworld in November

2024. The book covers the origins of both cosmic structure and the chemical elements, including verse biographies of scientists such as Fred Hoyle, Werner Heisenberg, Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin, and Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar.



1940s

Leonard Barden (1949)

Leonard Barden is a winner of the FIDE (International Chess Federation) 100 Awards for the category of 'Best Journalist'. The organisation commented: 'Leonard Barden's journalism has played a crucial role in promoting chess in both national and international media. He holds the record for the longest-running column in media history, with his daily *Evening Standard* column running for 63 years, 7 months, and 18 days. Barden continues to be prolific, writing weekly for *The Guardian* and the *Financial Times*.'

1950s

John Mallet (1950)

Last year I published, in the Oxford Ceramics Group Newsletter, a paper concerning a class of mid-18th century

porcelains known to ceramic historians as 'A' marked porcelain. Though extremely rare, this porcelain is technically and artistically fascinating as it is a hard-paste ware made with kaolin imported from the Cherokee Country in colonial America. Some pieces, including two saucers from the collection of the late R.J. Charleston, which I have recently ceded to the Ashmolean Museum, also deserve attention as among the very earliest of British ceramics finely enamelled in the rococo style. Understanding of 'A' marked porcelain is still evolving and controversial, but I attempted a provisional summary of the current state of play. This illustrated paper can be accessed on the Oxford Ceramics Group's website under: Ceramics Research, Mallet, JVG, Two 'A' Marked Porcelain Saucers Enter the Ashmolean.

Kenneth Cavander (1952)

After the rush of Zoom meetings in 2023, my work life narrowed its focus to one project in 2024 – the resurrection of my new version of Sophokles' *Antigone*, which was to have been produced in the summer of 2023. The commissioning theatre, the Westport Playhouse, in Connecticut, fell victim to the post Covid recession and closed its doors before the script was finished. The next step was to bring the play to life again in a staged reading. That took place in Los Angeles in May of 2024. The response from the audience, mostly members of the Hollywood community, was strong. The result was that the director and I are, as of December 2024, discussing a production at another small but vibrant theatre in Los Angeles in the 2025–2026 season.

Professor Ian Macdonald (1952)

In my 96th year, I am not involved in an active professional agenda or challenging travel. Most of my time is spent reflecting on the past and evaluating the satisfaction derived from a variety of roles in government and

academia. One of the most interesting connections can be drawn between my current lifestyle and my involvement in public policy in the late 1960s.

At that time, Canada was in the process of introducing a system of national healthcare – Medicare. Although the initiative lay with the national government, the responsibility for the administration and delivery of health services was provincial.

In my role as deputy minister in charge of finance and intergovernmental affairs in the Government of Ontario, it fell to me to play the leading role in the federal-provincial negotiations. Now, as I spend so much personal time in medical offices and hospital waiting rooms as a patient, and stare at a cross section of fellow citizens, I think so much about those earlier days, and the part that my colleagues and I played in shaping our current medical system.

My years of university teaching and administration have brought similar personal satisfaction and awareness of the contribution of Balliol in preparation for that life.

Alan Spencer (1952)

When my Mother reached the age that I am now, she gave up on the *Nottingham Evening Post*. ‘Not even the deaths column, Mother?’ I asked. ‘There’s no one I know in it anymore,’ was the reply. When she gave up the TV news, her reason was, ‘Well I can’t do a lot about it now’. I didn’t understand then, but now I know exactly how she felt. I am, however, still very happy to have the chance of travelling, seeing family and old friends and, of course, enjoying making new ones at the stimulating and superbly organised Balliol events. They beat the deaths column and TV news by a considerable margin.

Peter Bailey (1953)

My wife, Maria, died in December 2023, aged 89. We were married for almost 50 years. I have nothing else to report.

Derek Clements (1953)

I am not sure whether it’s good or bad news that I may be the last surviving member of the Balliol crews that were Head of the River in 1955 and 1956, although the Alumni Office may correct me. I now spend much of my time writing my memoirs and fighting the NHS, whose increasingly

absurd procedures make life difficult for anyone over 90. Some of my experiences would be unbelievable were they not true.

On the bright side, one of my younger grandsons, although not yet of college-age, has become a fanatical rower, training three times a week at Henley. As he is reasonably intelligent, I hope he may become a successful Balliol oarsman. At last, I have someone to inherit my five oars who can truly appreciate the sweat and toil behind them. Another pleasant surprise is that my college friend Keith Yates’ (1953) granddaughter started rowing for Balliol this year. I’ve told her it’s high time Balliol regained its Head of the River status, at least for the women, if not the men.

Although my speed-walking days are well over, I still drive and fly a light aircraft whenever my wallet allows, despite being a testament to the skills of medical engineering. My other medical ambition is to persuade some of my grandchildren to have an operation to separate their hands from their mobile phones! If only! With just under seven and a half years to go, I have just enough wall space left to frame the King’s telegram when it arrives!

Barry Day (1953)

In October 2024, Barry Day was recognised by the Noël Coward Foundation for his years of dedication and invaluable service to Noël Coward and his work.



Gerald Wicks (1953)

My dear wife, Eunice, died on 13 March 2024, aged 88. We were married for 67 years and still in love at the end.

Emeritus Professor Colin Apelt (1954)

This year I share a recent event rather than memories of past times. On Thursday afternoons, I go to St Vincent’s Private Hospital, Kangaroo

Point, Brisbane, to provide a ‘Happy Hour’

– offering drinks and companionship to patients in the Palliative Care Ward. I had a moment of ‘fame’ after I agreed – rather reluctantly – to allow an Australian Broadcasting Corporation TV team to follow me around during one volunteer shift, recording what was going on. The ABC ran a few minutes of the story after the news at Easter 2024 and scored millions of views with it. Eventually, a good number of volunteers joined after seeing the story – its main purpose. In one segment, I was shown serving a gin and tonic to a patient and this led to a donation of six bottles of gin from the Four Pillars Gin Distillery in Victoria and ten cartons of soft drinks from Schweppes – both of whom had received free advertising while I served their tonic water with the gin. In December 2024, the ABC reported that this was their most watched story in 2024, with 10.5 million views. You can watch the ABC segment here: <http://tiny.cc/5nyf001>

John Littler (1954)

Now retired in Woking, with two daughters near enough to help me if needed, and eight lovely great grandchildren since 26 December 2018. I still sing (Woking Choral Society and All Saints church choir) and follow scientific developments. But I am very sceptical about global warming.

Roderick Allison (1955)

I had the pleasure of receiving one of the London General Practice Awards at the Houses of Parliament on behalf of the Patients’ Participation Group, which I’ve chaired for the last ten years at our excellent local practice, the Caversham in Kentish Town. The award commended us as one of the best PPGs in London.

The Revd Canon Dr Peter Davison (1955)

I continue to serve as an honorary assistant priest at St. James, Dundas. I also write a weekly online sermon – a practice which began in 2003 as a





resource for small churches without full-time clergy. In 22 years I have missed only one Sunday. This has also got me in touch with Alexander and Margaret Hopkinson-Woolley, with whom it is a delight to correspond. But the big news of the last year was my marriage (after five years following Sabine's death) to Janet Cannon, the former Curator and CEO of the Grimsby Museum, Ontario – an event which has delighted my whole family. We would be delighted to see old Balliol members if you happen to be coming this way. Meanwhile, with many other Canadians and people worldwide, we wonder about the future of democracy as a new American administration reassumes power. I believe we will need another 'Confessing Church', just as Germany did in the 1930s. My email address is peterdavison61@gmail.com.

Alexander Hopkinson-Woolley (1955)

In the conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus, which was reported in the Gospel of John, we hear the claim that two births, the second being of water and the Spirit, are needed to reach God. Matching this claim, we have the combination of Jesus being naturally born and then being baptised (born again) of water and the Spirit by John the Baptist. Jesus had two births, one natural and one spiritual. We may then consider next the strange description of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah, chapter 53 verse 9, as translated by Alec Motyer, 'One assigned his grave/his grave was assigned with wicked ones and with a rich one in his deaths' and he explains



how this translation is correct (The Prophecy of Isaiah, IVP Academic 1993, p. 435). This extraordinary prophecy seems to make no coherent sense until we reflect on the circumstances of the deaths of Jesus. He was crucified with two criminals, entombed in the newly created one of the rich Joseph of Arimathea, while he had suffered two deaths on the cross, the first when the directing Spirit of God left his body – 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?' – and the second, the natural death. The apparently nonsensical prophecy of Isaiah seems to have been precisely fulfilled in Jesus. There seems to be a possible exposition: when Jesus was baptised by John, God took over guiding Jesus in a way in which no one else has ever been guided before or since.

Professor Roger Doherty (1957)

I would like to send some sad news about Bill Acraman (1956), one of my closest friends. Bill died on 2 July 2024 at Coxhill Manor nursing home near Woking, Surrey. He had lived independently until a few months before his death. Bill worked for several years in the UK nuclear industry before moving, for a few years, to the USA as a management consultant. He and his family (his wife, Marion, and three children, Paul, Jill, and David) returned to England in 1969, where he continued his career, first as a management consultant and then in technical management for UK companies. He was elected and served for an extended period as a Conservative councillor for the West Sussex County Council. Bill spent many years as a scout

master, first in South London and then in Cophthorne in Sussex. Bill and I were very close friends, and enjoyed numerous outdoor activities together, including hiking, camping, and dinghy sailing, until I left for the USA in 1982. We continued our relationship with regular meetings in both the UK and the USA, and spent many hours discussing, mostly via email, numerous topics, especially on politics.

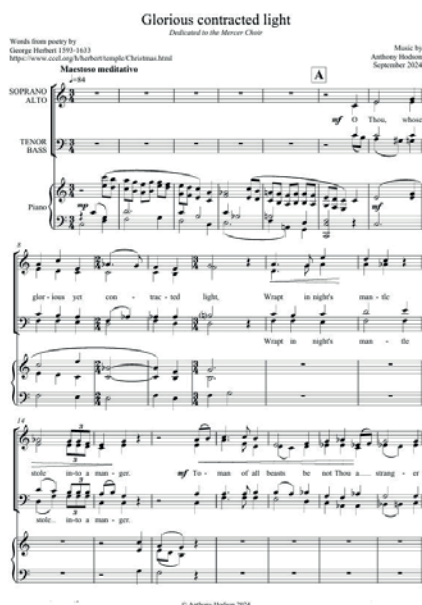
Adrian Firth (1957)

After a serious horse-riding accident at the age of 48, we moved to Le Luberon, buying a house in a magical, isolated valley. When we arrived, the 3.5 hectares were largely barren, except for a small wood of oaks and a surrounding of sapins in the hills, recently planted and not indigenous to the area. I read in *Le Figaro* of M. Hallé, whose project is to plant 'une forêt primitive' in 800 hectares on the frontier of France and Germany. It occurred to me that, unconsciously and on a much smaller scale over 37 years, this is what we have tried to achieve by planting 39 different types of trees, some from seed, none indigenous to this area. A small gesture to the continuity and development of Le Luberon, long after we have died.



Anthony Hodson (1957)

I'm still an active churchman, active Mercer Court of Assistants member, musician, and amateur mathematician. The monthly Winkfield Parish Magazine, which I edit, carried in February 2025 the 48th episode of my serial memoirs. My 2024 SATB Christmas anthem, setting words by George Herbert, was performed in December by two different choirs (the full score can be accessed here: <https://xdotd.com/music/choral/GCL/GCL.pdf>). I hope to pick up again soon



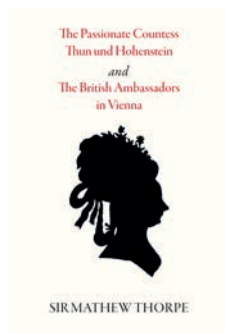
my wintertime computerised number-theory investigations. Margaret-Anne and I are in our 64th year of happy marriage.

Anthony Sperry (1957)

2024 was not an easy year, with a hostile world overshadowing things. Utility bills can be a hassle and a degree in mathematics, I suppose, helped me to get a big bill for one quarter overturned. That's the money bit. The health bit required lots of consultations over a variety of topics and all I can say is that I am alive and kicking, but less active than I was. A big part of my life has been political activity. I go to meetings, meet people and write comments on social media. A major event for me was in early April, when we heard (and I also met), the Palestinian ambassador to the UK and Munther Isaac, the Lutheran pastor in Bethlehem, address the people gathered in the Bloomsbury Baptist Church after a march in London. In the time since then, the British government has become more repressive and I am ashamed of it and its deep complicity in and support of what to my mind is undoubtedly a genocide. We live in a weird form of democracy and the Courts have their flaws. So-called 'mainstream media' is not devoted to truth and biased reporting is widespread. Here, also, to counter, I do my bit and I am a contributor ('top fan') of Novara Media, one of the leading independent media outlets and Jewish Voice for Labour, which supports the 'Jewish Bloc' on the marches for Palestine, amongst others.

**Sir Mathew
Thorpe (1957)**

Notification of a publication. The book explores two themes in Vienna at its zenith under Empress Maria Theresia. One is the eccentric penchant of the British Ambassador, Sir Robert Murray Keith, to host up to 25 young British Grand Tourists in the Embassy for a stay of several months, presenting them at the Imperial Court and introducing them to the society of the Viennese nobility. The other is the life of Countess Thun und Hohenstein who, through Sir Robert's academy, acquired a young English lover, Sir John Boyd of Danson Park, and a husband for her youngest daughter, Lord Gillford. At the heart of the book are Wilhelmine Thun's love letters to John Boyd, 1776–1779. After his return to England, her extraordinary career, as a gifted musician and as an important patron of both Mozart and Beethoven, is explored.



Philip Daubeney (1958)

Sadly, Margaret, my wife, died peacefully just before Christmas after a long illness. We were married the year I graduated in 1961 and were happily married for 63 years. She always said she admired my skill at climbing back into Balliol after midnight!

Henry Lloyd (1958)

My son Hunter has, with an assist from wife Eliza, produced a one-year-old boy, Archie, who, on the evidence, loves his Poppy. The sentiment is returned in spades. During my recent visit with the family in Greenwich (Conn.), I was the first to see him embark on two independent steps. Still teaching part time at George Washington Law School and would welcome any visitors to Washington DC environs.

Robert Mash (1958)

Robert Mash has moved to Brighton.
If you'd like to reconnect with him,
please contact the Development Office.

Professor Malyn Newitt (1958)

Malyn and Joan celebrated their Diamond Wedding on 1 January 2025.

Professor Richard Dawkins (1959)

Richard Dawkins published *The Genetic Book of the Dead* (Apollo, 2024).

Richard Kingslake (1959)

I am pleased to report that my wife, Gillian, and I reached our Diamond Wedding celebration this year. We were delighted to receive a card from the King and Queen. We also had a party on a cruise ship including all our children and their partners and all their children and partners – a total of 19 people.

1960s

Timothy Ades (1960)

Rhyming translator-poet. Three new books of poetry translated from German: *Morgenstern's Magic*, *Ringelnatz the Rhymer* (both bilingual), Ricarda Huch's *Autumn Fire*.



David Gordon (1960)

As I write this in mid-January, the Los Angeles wildfires are abating after a week of destruction. We live close to Eaton Canyon, which had the second biggest fire. We had to evacuate but had 90 minutes to pack. We returned five days later to find our house undamaged and with electricity, gas and water. Our town of Sierra Madre was relatively unaffected. We are among the lucky. The conditions remain dangerous. Plenty of brush after two wet winters now turned into kindling by a hot summer and dry winter, fanned by the powerful and hot Santa Ana winds. Now, there is the threat of landslides when the rain comes. At least no earthquakes yet. My wife, Sandy, the director of the Huntington Library, gave refuge to seven Torah scrolls from the burnt Pasadena Synagogue.

Very sad to have lost Alan Montefiore, my moral tutor from 1960, with whom I stayed in touch ever since. He was 97. Floreat oldie Balliolites.

John Macfarlane (1960)

My Indian summer of music activities now includes being the arranger of 16 Shakespeare songs by Roger Quilter and of pageant music by Charles Dibdin for the Shakespeare in Music Festival in Stratford upon Avon in early May. Other arrangements of Debussy's 'Claire de Lune' and Tanayev's 'Romance' for, respectively, a mixed quintet (flute string trio and harp) and a standard wind quintet, I hope will be performed soon. I remain a practising clarinettist and bassoonist and occasionally dabble in composition.

Ian Watson (1960)

At the World Science Fiction Convention in Glasgow in August 2024, I launched my latest novel, *New Adventures of a Chinese Time Machine* (Newcon Press), set in future Oxford as well as in 1790s Paris, bygone China, and Ireland of the famine. Later, I visited various Spanish cities to promote the Castilian translation of my book *The Monster, the Mermaid, and Doctor Mengele* (Newcon Press 2021; Dolmen 2024), escaping from Malaga on the last train before the station flooded and the bookshop where I signed was destroyed. Poznan, in Poland, amazed me as I attended as a guest at a 69,000-attendee cosplay convention. I went to Turin for a week to research an upcoming story (see www.ianwatson.info) at the gorgeous subterranean Damanhur Temples of Humankind. At our annual Celsius 232 free literary festival in lovely historic Avilés in Asturias in July, I was interviewed in the 17th Century Palace hotel gardens about Warhammer 40K fiction which I founded 30 years ago. Oh, and I became European Science Fiction Grand Master (only one per year per continent) which chuffed me. Few audience though fit, as Milton didn't quite say.

**Robert Wilson (1960)**

Lynette and I recently celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. We were already engaged at the College's 700th Anniversary Ball (24 June 1963) and her outfit, including her self-made top of two bright tea towels, caught the eye of the Tatler photographer. We still have the picture. I was JCR Treasurer for the occasion, and it was so lavish and magnificent (featuring Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth) that we lost money. Afterwards, Sir David Lindsay Keir, Master, asked to see me and very graciously agreed that it was all so splendid that the College would see to the deficit. My career took me from secondary headship to serving as Chief Education Adviser for Hertfordshire (1992 to 1997), followed by Co-Chief Trainer for NPQH in the Eastern Region. My last contribution is as a governor at a local primary school. We have five granddaughters and a great grandson. I write poetry and have self-published several slim volumes for family and friends. A few of the fan club kindly call me poet. Bill Miller, Robin Briggs, Peter Brice, Mark Franklin – friends at Balliol – have remained very close and we see them as much as we can.

Andrew Hallan (1961)

My wife, Naomi, and I have just celebrated the 60th anniversary of our wedding, a wedding that included a reception in the Balliol JCR. We have been living happily in Luxembourg since I arrived here with a 12-month contract in 1979. We are proud to carry Luxembourg passports and, thanks to a quirk of Luxembourg law, my son and our two grandchildren who live in the USA have also become Luxembourgers. My retirement hobby (if you can call it that) has been working, since 2010, as a monitor of human rights during forced returns of migrants to their countries of origin. I became a founder member of an EU-wide pool of independent monitors, administered by Frontex, the European Border and Coastguard Agency. Using my IT skills, I also helped design a reporting system for Frontex, which produces detailed half-yearly reports on human rights compliance for the European Parliament, the Commission and the Member States. From my field experience, well-trained police escorts ensure that rights are respected, even

in the face of verbal and physical resistance. It hardly needs saying that the whole question of migration management is an ethical, legal, and logistical minefield, but I am proud to have made a small contribution to doing it better. Frontex is on its way to becoming the biggest EU agency, managing (not protecting) the EU's external frontiers. As a keen European federalist since my days at Balliol, it has been very pleasing to see how Europeans from all the Member States can work well together – speaking English, of course!

Professor Richard Hyman (1961)

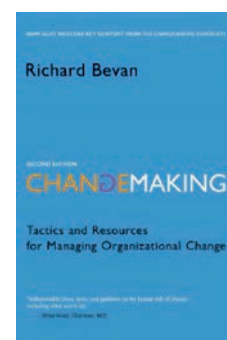
I have now turned 82, and alas the human body was not designed to last this long. My joints have probably not been improved by many years of competitive running, so now I need a second hip replacement and a knee replacement. More positive news is that my latest book, *A Concise Introduction to Employment Relations*, has just been published by Elgar, exactly 50 years after my first published introduction to industrial relations in 1975.

Dick Morris (1961)

Nothing positive to report. The usual catalogue of medication changes, scans and gradual physical deterioration – but at least 80 is ten years more than the biblical allowance.

Richard Bevan (1962)

I continue to enjoy writing and publishing under my own imprint, ChangeStart Press. In late 2024, I published



a much-revised second edition of my book *Changemaking*. It combines and updates content from the first edition as well as the companion volume, *The Changemaking Checklists*. The new book provides a framework for the successful management of change, supported by more than 60 checklists and other resources to guide and assist planning, implementing, and sustaining major change. Reflecting the rapid expansion of work-from-home and hybrid working patterns,

the book also addresses the growing impact of technology in collaboration and communication platforms, and AI-enabled tools. A central theme is that successful change is supported and enabled by the stakeholders. These are individuals and groups – including employees, managers, and many others – who need to be involved in the process, will be affected by the change, or can influence the outcome. www.amazon.com/dp/B0DLBLR6DJ

Eric Bodger (1962)

Eric Bodger was elected secretary of Meon Valley Liberal Democrat branch. He stood down from Chair of Curdridge Parish Council to contest – unsuccessfully – the Central Meon Valley ward of Winchester Council in the May 2024 election. He is delighted to have campaigned for the excellent Danny Chambers, who won Winchester in July, unseating a Conservative and attaining a large majority. He is still living in the house bought on Bastille Day 1977.

Professor Sir Andrew Likierman (1962)

Having worked on the subject of human judgement for several years and published articles on various aspects (judgement in leadership, professional judgement, independent judgement on the Board), the book bringing these ideas together has finally emerged as *Judgment at Work* (Profile, 2025). Someone who most generously helped on the way was Alan Montefiore. When he was 92 – five years before he died and 53 years after my last philosophy tutorial with him – he convened a group of philosophers to help me on the section ‘Can a machine exercise judgement?’ in relation to current developments in Artificial Intelligence. A great experience.

Professor Russell Bryant (1963)

Despite jogging, swimming, and working out daily, I find that being a youthful Octogenarian is a bittersweet experience. The bitter is outliving family and old friends, including Balliol ones, whose families made me most welcomed in their lovely homes. The sweet is still having old friends, including Balliol ones, hearing from former students and being nearly finished with my biography of the 20th-century British diplomat, Lord

D’Abernon. Sweet also includes having an occasional Pathfinder come to visit, as happened last summer. It was surprising to learn how much student life has changed since the 1960s.

Gone are the black-tie dinners in the Massey Room, ending with the toast: ‘To the wall, Gentlemen’. No more special dinners in Hall for the Boat Club during Eights Week, no afternoon teas in the JCR, and no drinks in the buttery in antique silver tankards before dinner in Hall. These changes brought to mind Maurice Chevalier singing in the musical *Gigi*: ‘I’m so glad I’m not young anymore’. Reflecting on them, however, reminded me of how much I enjoyed my years at Balliol. As we used to cheer after a Boat Club race: ‘Well rowed, Balliol.’

Paul Williams (1963)

The day before my eightieth birthday, I received a highly successful hip replacement. At midnight, three nurses appeared to sing ‘happy birthday’, and I was discharged that afternoon, home for a birthday tea. A project this year was to write a biography of someone I worked with after leaving Balliol in 1966. Albert Kushlick was a psychiatrist who pioneered community care for people with severe learning disabilities. Born in South Africa, he was a friend of Nelson Mandela and one of the founders of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement. It’s not published, but I have printed and digital copies if anyone would like one: email me at paulwilliams@btinternet.com. My wife and I attended an enjoyable Balliol Medical Society dinner. We stayed at the newly opened hotel ‘The Store’ just opposite the college. Very convenient but very expensive!

Sandy Gray (1964)

On a personal level, my wife, Jane, and I celebrated 56 years of marriage at the end of August 2024 and also, much to our delight, the start of our eldest (18) granddaughter’s university life, reading Natural Sciences at UCL – her choice. Our small group of ten Balliol ‘64 science ‘Zoomers’ (see the 2024 News and Notes) has continued to meet every 6-8 weeks at a mutually convenient time covering the European to US Mountain time zones; usually 8 pm GMT/BST. The discussion subject range remains eclectic, but health issues are starting to affect attendance a little

more. Nevertheless, at the College’s generous invitation, we hope that a good number of us will be getting together at Balliol on 2 May 2025 for a Gaudy lunch.

Christopher Moxon (1964)

Since retiring from my career in theatre administration in 2011, I have published three books (including my memoirs *Teamwork*); edited three more books and contributed twenty-seven articles to family history magazines. Since retiring I have also appeared in fifteen amateur drama productions with five different societies and have won awards from Greater Manchester Drama Federation (2013) and NODA Lancashire (2019) for my performances. All of this activity is a direct result of the encouragement I was given by Chris (now Lord) Patten at Balliol precisely sixty years ago.

Daljit Singh (1964)

I am still working at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore as a Senior Fellow, covering Southeast Asia’s international relations and politics – but with much reduced work responsibilities due to my age. In effect, I am partially retired. I am writing a memoir of my life. In 2021, I co-authored a book of essays entitled *America: A Singapore Perspective*.

Sir Michael Burton (1965)

My work as a judge of the Abu Dhabi Commercial Court continues, my annual trips out there made a little more exciting by coupling them with sightseeing in Oman and then Qatar (home of eight empty football stadia!). My highlight, however, was that this was The Year of the Three B’Mitzvahs, as we celebrated the 13th birthdays of three of my grandchildren in February, June and September. I also had the privilege of organising in London a fitting tribute to Don Harris, attended by his daughter Caroline and the great and good of Oxford legal academia and many of his pupils, judicial and otherwise!

Martin Cree (1965)

My wife, Anne, died in early 2024 after eight years of Alzheimer’s disease at the age of 74. I am engaged to be married in 2025 to Denise Bowditch, who lives in the same village, Owermoigne, near Dorchester.

Bill Drayton (1965)

Let me report that Ashoka: Everyone a Changemaker, which I lead, was chosen as one of the ten best NGOs in the world.

Phillip Gordon (1965)

For us, 2024 marked a turning point: our oldest grandchild graduated from college and is preparing to attend law school. A reminder that the years have flown by but rewards remain to be enjoyed. I continue my work on behalf of institutions which battle anti-Semitism and promote education.

Professor Peter Hacker (1965)

I published two books: *A Beginner's Guide to the Later Philosophy of Wittgenstein* (Wiley, 2024); and *The Representational Fallacy in Neuroscience and Psychology – A Critical Analysis* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), co-authored with M.R. Bennett. In 2025, I shall publish two further books: *Solving, Resolving, and Dissolving Philosophical Problems: Essays in Connective, Contrastive and Contextual Analysis* (Wiley); and a new edition and translation of Wittgenstein's *On Certainty* (Wiley).

Professor Nick Jelley (1965)

The second edition of my book, *Renewable Energy: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press) is due out later this year. With the climate crisis looming large for us all, renewables are becoming a vital source of affordable pollution-free power. My book explains the workings behind solar photovoltaic panels, wind turbines, hydropower, and biomass, and details the smaller contributions expected from tidal, geothermal, wave, and nuclear power; and also from carbon capture and storage. I emphasise how the huge cost reductions in batteries and in solar PV and wind power, seen in the last decade, can make powering the world with clean energy considerably cheaper than continuing to burn fossil fuels. I show how China is driving the expansion of renewable technologies and discuss what is happening in other countries. However, considerable roadblocks are hindering this transition. There are geopolitical tensions, a lack of grid infrastructure, planning issues, vested interests in fossil fuels, and a shortfall in the availability of finance in the Global South. Action is needed now to counter these challenges, and my

book explores how strong consistent policies, good community involvement, and financial initiatives, can enable the long-term benefits of renewable energy to be realised, and look to the future for a carbon-free world.

Hubert Murray (1965)

In an otherwise dismal 2024, I am happy to report that the Zahrat Al Yasmeen kindergarten in Aida Refugee Camp, Bethlehem, on which I have been working since 2018, has now completed its third classroom and we are hiring two more teachers for the new school year. Many thanks to Nicholas Lampert, Charles Burroughs, David Thomas, and Mark Glouberman for their generous contributions to the construction fund. I am also indebted in these dark times to Steven Lukes for his observation that while the pessimist may say that things are about as bad as they can be, it is the optimist who retorts 'oh no, they're not'.

Stuart Baldock (1966)

No interesting news this year, but still extant!

Christopher Currie (1966)

One very small publication. My IHR fellowship has been unexpectedly renewed. Some European travel in anticipation of its increasing impossibility.

Alan Heeks (1966)

I am keeping gainfully unemployed with projects on adaptation to the climate crisis, see www.seedourfuture.org.uk. My wife and I are enjoying our recent move to Hay on Wye, and the Hay Festival ran a session on my latest book, *Natural Happiness: Use Organic Gardening Skills to Cultivate Yourself*. Good to be recognised in your hometown!

Michael Venning (1966)

Retirement well established, time spent with family and friends... and (at our age) their accumulating ailments – close friends, hair regrowing after chemotherapy, having complications which a retired rare disorder specialist can support as NHS care is awaited; undiagnosed disorders identified and care initiated – the NHS, primary care included, strained to the limit.

Meanwhile beckoned by old friends to Paris, Glasgow, la France Profonde,

the Scottish isles, West Wales and Sarn Helen – the old Roman route from South to North coasts. The pleasures of hills, cities and seashores. Happily, we are almost all doing much better than three score years and ten. The second of the two funerals I attended was of a very happy Irish lady who passed on at 101 years – a CELEBRATION.

Jonathan Cohen (1967)

Having now been retired for 20 years, mostly spent travelling around the world and practising my water skiing, I have this year become European Slalom Champion in my age category for the 4th time and also World Champion. It is sad that the number of competitors at my age is diminishing as each year passes, but I hope to have a few more years left in me.

**Professor Jonathan Slack (1967)**

At the end of 2023 I was fortunate enough to be awarded the Lewis Wolpert medal by the British Society for Developmental Biology. This is for science education and communication, based mainly on the books I have written over the years. The award included funding for three talks by me on science communication, and I have done these during 2024 at Bristol, Edinburgh and Dundee. I am still writing. The current project is a textbook on regeneration of animals for Oxford University Press.

Professor Sir Drummond Bone (1968 and Master 2011–2018)

2024 marked the 200th anniversary of Byron's death – so a busy year for me, speaking at the BL, Trinity College Cambridge on 19 April, and at a memorable conference in Ravenna, where they are opening a new Byron centre in the Palazzo Guiccioli, amongst quite a bit else. Cambridge published a new edition of 'my' Byron Companion in late 2023, and I had a chapter in the positively huge Oxford Byron Handbook. 2025 is the 100th Anniversary of the National Library of Scotland, whose Board I chair, so that promises activity too!

Roger Harrison (1968)

Self-published an autobiography last year for family and friends, with a chapter on my time at Balliol. If anyone would like a copy, please ask. There is one in the College Library too.

The Very Revd Michael Sadgrove (1968)

Nearly ten years retired and living a quiet life in rural Northumberland I had open heart surgery in 2024: am still above ground, mobile, and in my right mind (on good days) thanks to our brilliant NHS. I volunteer at the local Oxfam book shop, as a guide in Hexham Abbey, on a couple of regional committees, and as a member of the village development trust, and play the organ once a month at services in our village church.



Sir John Holmes (1969)

Still working on humanitarian issues as Trustee of the British Red Cross and Chair of the Humanitarian Memorial Committee, about to place a unique memorial in Gunnersbury Park in London. Taking up a new role as an independent member of the Parole Board in May.

Rhion Jones (1969)

In 2022, I left the Consultation Institute, which I had founded and run for many years, and late in life, acquired a new identity as the ConsultationGuRU (www.consultationguru.co.uk) through which I publish regular blogs on all aspects of public and stakeholder consultation. I think it confirms me as the person who has written most in the world on this specialist subject!

Robin Poulton (1969)

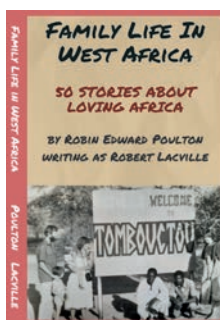
Dr Robin Poulton writes about Africa, where he was raised by his father (1931), a United Nations WHO doctor in the 1960s. His new book, *Family*

Life in West Africa, describes how Robin and his wife, Michelle (Somerville 1968), raised their children in French-speaking Africa – including both their own and the children of Malian friends who died. This book contains 50 good stories about life in Mali and Senegambia, full of fun and laughter (and African wisdom too), and about raising crocodiles while managing rural development projects under challenging climatic and political conditions.

Michelle worked for Save the Children; Robin ran ActionAid and Oxfam-funded programmes. During the 1990s, Robin wrote a popular column on West Africa in the international newspaper *The Guardian Weekly*, using the name Robert Lacville to separate his writing from his work with the UN and other agencies. Now, twenty years on, this book presents fifty of those columns, offering a vivid, affectionate portrait of *Family Life in West Africa* – and a deep love for the continent. The cover picture shows the Poulton family in Timbuktu on 1 January 1982. Buy the book from Amazon (UK: <https://amzn.eu/d/dJUoLjF>; USA: <https://a.co/d/czzA31u>), enjoy some good laughs, and discover very unusual things about Africa as lived from the inside: good stories, good writing.

The Hon Bob Rae (1969)

I am in my final year as Canadian Ambassador to the UN in New York, and



From a recent trip to Haiti on behalf of UNECOSOC

began my one year Presidency of the UN Economic and Social Council in late July of 2024. It is a busy year! In addition to my UN duties, my wife Arlene and I have six grandchildren who live in Toronto, where we shall be returning in the summer. I also made a presentation this year to the Orwell Society entitled 'With George Orwell at the UN in New York' which I hope to turn into a memoir of my time here during such a tumultuous time in the life of the world. Have enjoyed seeing and hearing from Balliol friends and look forward to more reunions in the future!

Frans van Walsem Vas Nunes (1969)

Finally, my Engineering degree has come into its own; I am now a repairer at the Newbury and Thatcham Repair Cafe.

Professor Timothy Weiskel (1969)

In recent years, I have created internet tools to enhance research and teaching with 'primary documents' in the humanities and social sciences. These include historically significant maps and prints (*The Africa Map Circle* – <https://wp.me/P2iDSG-A5E>), non-European art forms (*Voices from African Art* – <https://wp.me/p2iDSG-KL9>), and artifacts best understood



The Africa Map Circle

from narratives 'silently' embodied or implied in the objects themselves.

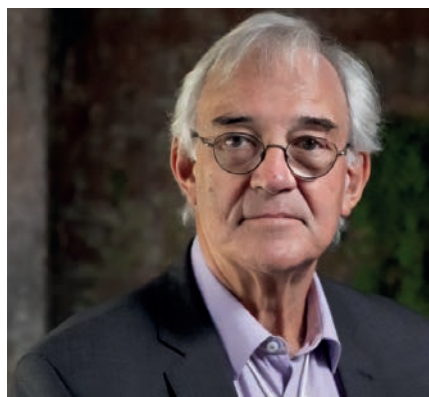
It is evident that telecommunication technologies have extended the scope and reach of the sciences and medicine across the world. It is now apparent that in cultural disciplines, the social sciences and the 'humanities', these technologies can be equally transformative.

Because of the recurrence of global pandemics, cultural institutions (schools, universities, museums, libraries, etc.) have all had to change the way they connect with the communities they serve. At the same time, it has become possible to digitize documents in high-resolution formats of 300 dots-per-inch or more. Technologies for group communication across the internet have also improved dramatically, now making it possible to share detailed images of rare or timely documents to reach unlimited audiences with unprecedented speed accompanied by detailed explanatory commentary and the real-time exchange of diverse interpretations.

With the 'Balliol and Empire Project', Balliol has provided a powerful model of how primary documents can enrich humanities research and teaching around the world. My work extends these initiatives in the global humanities and social sciences.

Professor Emeritus David Williams (1969)

I am a member of the Waitangi Tribunal in New Zealand. This is a permanent commission of inquiry that this year celebrates the 50th anniversary of its establishment by the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975. The Tribunal hears claims lodged by indigenous Māori persons or groups concerned about government laws or policies that are alleged to affect them prejudicially. 2024 was a



particularly busy year for the Tribunal as the three-party coalition Government elected after a general election in November 2023 has sought to implement a range of policies viewed as regressive by many Māori. The Tribunal panel that I was on published a report on a proposed Treaty Principles Bill. We concluded that 'if this Bill were to be enacted, it would be the worst, most comprehensive breach of the Treaty/te Tiriti in modern times'. The Report, NGĀ MĀTĀPONO THE PRINCIPLES: The Interim Report of the Tomokia Ngā Tatau o Matangireia – the Constitutional Kaupapa Inquiry Panel on the Crown's Treaty Principles Bill and Treaty Clause Review Policies, can be accessed via the link below. Regrettably, the Government Ministers flatly rejected all of our recommendations to them.

Full link: <https://tinyurl.com/57rt3t23>

1970s

Judge Francis Goddard (1970)

Finally, on reaching my 75th birthday in April last, I have ceased sitting as a District Judge, having sat on the Western Circuit, save for a few months on what was then the Midland and Oxford Circuit, since 1992. Family cases dominated. I continue to live in Seend near my good friend and neighbour Mathew Thorpe (1957), whose latest Vienna-focused book I highly recommend. Our last of four children gets married in Seend next May, grandchildren appear with regularity but sadly my wife Joanna is no more. As with Bob Dylan, I too wish in vain that we could sit simply in that room again, but as J.L. Carr put it, 'We can ask but we can't have again what once seemed ours for ever...'

Professor Dennis Goldford (1970)

After a 45-year teaching career, I retired from the Department of Political Science at Drake University at the end of this past May. I continue to do political analysis for various media organisations, and I now write a weekly column called 'Let's Talk Politics' for the Iowa Writers Collaborative at dennisgoldford.substack.com.

Alan Hobson (1970)

Still happily retired from teaching (ten years now) and living at Scapegoat Hill. Spending too much time, according to

my partner, playing crown green bowls but not getting any better at it. At least I do not have to contend with the tortoises which lived on the back lawn in front of the Hall when playing!

David Jones (1970)

I missed a curb in a snowbank, fell, broke my shoulder into four pieces, and now have an artificial replacement. Still practising law but only doing things I like.

Professor Anand Pillay (1970)

My book, *Topics in Model Theory*, was published by World Scientific, in May of 2024.



Andrew Craig (1971)

Living within walking distance of the Thames but almost never having sailed on the river, I have now joined Tamesis Sailing Club in Teddington. It is very different to my usual reservoir base at Queen Mary. For one, you have to keep a sharp look out for other river users, especially the day-trip boats which are large and fast. Looks like we may have just spotted one coming!



Andrew Foster (1971)

Still researching and writing early modern history. Serving as Honorary Vice-President of the Sussex Record Society and involved in a project to place, online (a first), church court

depositions dating from 1556 to 1694, now almost complete. Also engaged with friends at Lambeth Palace Library regarding their own work, the history of Chichester Cathedral Library, and a favourite village locally, Slindon. This was an archbishop's manor between 686 and 1542 and remained a 'peculiar' for a while thereafter, some would say, since. Looking forward to reading Michael Braddick's forthcoming biography of Christopher Hill.

Philip Ward (1971)

I left Oxford with an unclassified Chemistry degree and worked for nine years as a lab technician in Oxford and London. My partner Tina got a job in Sheffield and I moved there in 1985, having obtained a grant from the Inner London Education Authority to do a conversion course at the university (different times!). My MSc in materials science was followed by a PhD in preparation and characterisation of yttrium barium copper oxide (YBCO) superconductors and – still at Sheffield University – five temporary post-doctoral contracts, one on a different superconductor and four investigating semi-solid metal processing (thixoforming). Seeking greater employment stability, I moved into learning support in schools and finally worked as a chemistry technician in a local school for 12 years, retiring at nearly 68 when the lockdowns curtailed practical lessons in the school. Tina and I finally married in 2014 with our 24-year-old son and 22-year-old daughter acting as witnesses. My retirement activities include volunteer landscaping in Sheffield General Cemetery, a community amenity and wildlife refuge with seven listed structures less than 1km from the city centre. I sing with a choir set up mainly for refugees and asylum seekers and occasionally volunteer for Cycling Without Age, an international organisation that takes otherwise housebound people out on electric tricycles. The state of the world (oppression, poverty, wars, the climate emergency) has been a preoccupation of mine for a long time and I still try to do my bit to combat these.

Nigel Bryant (1972)

Published translation of *The Book of the Deeds of the Good Knight Jacques de Lalaing* (Boydell & Brewer, 2024).

Julian Daley (1972)

Just a note to record that my wife of 41 years, Margaret Rose Daley, died of cancer on 4 June 2024. We met in 1977, after my time at Balliol and while Margaret was studying at Liverpool University, and married in 1983.

Brian Groom (1973)

My second book *Made in Manchester: A People's History of the City That Shaped the Modern World* was published last May by HarperNorth (<https://tinyurl.com/4wz9ssrf>). Lots of people came to my events and signings, including an old Balliol pal, Philip Watts. That followed my bestselling *Northerners: A History, from the Ice Age to the Present Day* (HarperNorth, 2022). My third book, *These Isles: A History of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland* is due out in February 2026. That's a lot of history books for someone who studied English at Balliol! I'm so grateful to have had the chance of an extra career late in life.



Michael Macgregor (1973)

I retired from practice this year after 39 years as a solicitor. I retain various voluntary and honorary roles and continue to run a small holding (including bees). I have not completed any writing since my 2013 play, *The Jew's Ransom*, based on events of the life of Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg ob der Tauber (unpublished).

Denis Nowlan (1973)

I enjoyed a 33-year career at the BBC, first leading production teams in the department for Religion and Ethics, then in senior management. When I left in 2022, I was COO of Radio

4, 4 Extra, Radio 3, and the Proms: a garden of intellectual and musical delights. Retirement has been full of new things: learning to skipper a yacht; accreditation as a Commercial Mediator; facilitating in groups of prison inmates for the Sycamore Programme, a restorative justice charity; serving as Chair of Governors for St George's Weybridge, the largest Catholic independent school in the UK. In 2024, I took on the role of Executive Director for a faith-based charity, Initiatives of Change, which works to build trust in places of conflict and to promote integrity in leadership. The supreme joy of the last half century, though, is my wonderful wife Joanna Sciortino, teacher and Dante scholar, whom I was fortunate to meet in my first Oxford summer. We live part of the year in Sicily, where we have a new extended family through our daughter's marriage.

Neil Stuart (1973)

A year in which I was fortunate enough to meet many friends from College. Firstly, at the extremely well organised and attended memorial drinks for Don Harris at Brooks's Club in April – here pictured with Nick Demery as we arrived. Secondly, at the Younger Society Dinner in December. Whilst my literary skills only extend to letters in the *Telegraph*, my photography is relatively successful and shots taken whilst running or climbing featured as centrefold photo of the day 46 times last year in our regional newspaper. Regards to all who know me.



Professor Peter Cruse (1974)

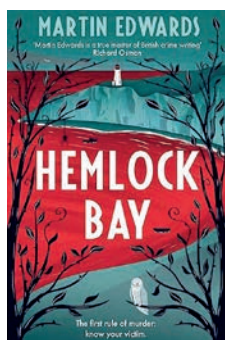
From Oudtshoorn to Oxford: A Life Well Lived published by Lifebook Memoirs is a poignant story of how hard work and persistence overcome childhood adversity. Professor Peter Cruse was born in the South African desert town of Oudtshoorn to poor parents, neither of whom finished high school. The

family moved to Pretoria, where it was soon fractured by divorce, domestic abuse, and alcoholism. Peter and his sister, Sandy, were placed in charity hostels and boarding schools and had to make their own way in life thereafter. This memoir, which is dedicated to Sandy, records the intervention of an anonymous benefactor, probably DF Abernethy, the Headmaster of Pretoria Boys' High School, who gave Peter a scholarship to this famous school. This set him on the scholarship path to UCT Medical School, culminating in a national Rhodes Scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford in 1974.

At Balliol, Peter read English Literature for a year, when the Warden of Rhodes House unexpectedly deployed him to return to Medicine as House Officer to Professor Sir David Weatherall, FRS, in the Nuffield Department of Medicine. After completing a PhD in cancer research at University College London and specialising in anatomical pathology, he held several clinical leadership roles, including university professorships, hospital pathology department chairmanships and hospital CEO. He started two successful medical practices in Harley Street and had a hand in building four hospitals and ten polyclinics in five countries. Poverty and adversity were overcome, and these medical legacies remain.

Martin Edwards (1974)

Hemlock Bay, my 23rd crime novel, was published last year. 2025 sees publication of my next novel, *Miss Winter in the Library with a Knife*. This is a light-hearted puzzle mystery, but one of the inspirations came from Matthew Syed's fascinating book *Rebel Ideas*.



Professor John Helliwell (1974)

My new book *Certifying Central Facility Beamlines for Biological and Chemical Crystallography and Allied Methods* now has a website: <https://link.springer.com/book/9783031801839>. The ebook is scheduled for publication in February 2025. This book, on one of my research themes, follows several general

audience books that I wrote on the scientific life, each of which I donated a copy to the Balliol College Library.

Robin Jones (1974)

I was privileged to attend the 50th reunion of our '74 group last September, and plan to attend this September's reunion featuring my '75 friends. Retired in 2014 from transactional legal practice at major US law firms (Cravath/New York, Robinson Bradshaw/Charlotte and Pillsbury/Washington) and now living in Virginia horse country (Fauquier County). First wife died of cancer at 48 in 1997, two daughters then aged 10 and 13. I remarried in 1998 and have three grandchildren. Plan to get back into hosting Coolidge/Westerman Pathfinders after a few years' hiatus and welcome any other visiting Balliol folks as well!



Robin Jones with wife Susan

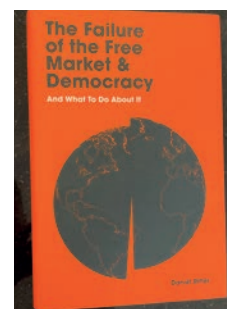
Professor David Kennedy (1974)

A busy year: a third and fourth grandchild born. After 12 years, I have sold my flat in Oxford and now reside only in Australia. In September, I walked a ten-day stretch of the pilgrim road to Rome – the Via Francigena, via the Great St Bernard Pass from Martigny to Ivrea. On Australia Day, I was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM – what used to be the British MBE), 'for significant service to archaeology as a researcher and academic'.

Stephen Saint-Leger (1974)

After *The Failure of the Free Market and Democracy* published under the nom de plume Daniel Ritter in 2020, I have started work on a sequel. Now that the free-market dogma is on its last legs, this will bring together the themes of the rising dissatisfaction with the dysfunctional political institutions of

many developed countries, and the secular stagnation they have fallen into since the GFC as debt loads continue to soar. This is aided and abetted by a finance industry that is in rude health and taking an ever-greater cut from the casino. Radical change is needed and is coming, one way or another. I am still based in Dubai, advising a family on investments, and always happy to meet other alumni passing through.



Professor Sinclair Stockman (1974)

This year will be one of transformation, requiring new methods and innovations to enhance the future of the UK, Europe, and beyond. To build a sustainable future for the next century, we must develop new pathways and innovative solutions while expanding our efforts beyond current initiatives.

While progress is being made in many areas, we must push further to ensure a thriving future for our planet. Last year, I took time to examine some global challenges, and will be aiming to build more on this.

The earth is changing; some shifts are positive while others present challenges. We are likely to see transformations in different regions and industries, and I believe we need to engage with greater focus to shape these changes effectively through 2026 and beyond.

For those of us involved in driving new initiatives, identifying risks, and creating new opportunities for the next decade, it is essential to establish clear pathways forward. This includes ensuring that students and experienced leaders are equipped to embrace new approaches and make a lasting impact.

For future generations, it is important to nurture emerging leaders who can think beyond conventional solutions and contribute meaningfully to the world. This is just a small start, and I hope to build on these ideas in the year ahead.

Nicholas Strong (1974)

Retired as consultant ophthalmologist two years ago. Live on a smallholding within city of Newcastle, NUFC season ticket holder. Do best to help with

grandchildren – but had forgotten how much work is involved!

Giles Vardey (1974)

I continue to enjoy helping people through my coaching work: there are a lot of senior people who need a safe space to share their dilemmas and challenges. I still go rowing with my 'old boys' crew, where our ambitions have reduced to celebrating that we can still get in and out of the boat unaided...

Robert Waller (1974)

Published: 'Walter Ulbricht' in Iain Dale (ed.) *The Dictators*, 64 Warnings From History (Hodder & Stoughton, September 2024) and 'Constituency Profiles' in Ian Brunskill (ed.) *The Times Guide to the House of Commons 2024* (Times Books, November 2024).

I am still actively tutoring and examining for universities and A levels and GCSEs in History and Politics.

I am also supporting West Wimbledon, the South Oxfordshire Amateurs, and London Erratics Cricket Clubs, along with Surrey Over 60s.

I have joined Kingston Chess Club, thus reuniting several members of the Balliol team of the late 1970s: John Foley (1974), the club president; Stephen Moss (1975), club captain; and Peter Andrews (1976), 1st team captain, Surrey League. I am a mere non-playing kibbitzer in chess terms.

David Young (1974)

Nothing like a College Gaudy to prompt reflection on our lives and what we've learned, if anything, personally and professionally, since Balliol!

So, I've been trying to distil insights gained over my 40 years in Mergers & Acquisitions, at banks, big and small, mostly devoted to defending relatively inexperienced sellers against sophisticated serial acquirors.

The upshot is summarised in this Exit Optimizer Checklist for Entrepreneurs.



If you happen to be an owner-manager, or know someone who is, my condolences: exit is particularly challenging for entrepreneurs and their concerns are more complex. They worry about meaning and management transition, as well as money. With buyers preferring larger deals and worrying about key-person dependence, 80% of small- and medium-sized business sales fail, with painful and potentially disastrous consequences even for the business, never mind the founder.

But there are ways through the maze and some simple moves that can make all the difference to the outcomes. I offer the Exit Optimizer as a guide and source of hope in increasingly challenging (and taxing) times.

If this is of interest, I could go on: <https://exit.happylandings.biz/opt-in-hlc>.

Michael Bartlet (1975)

Currently Senior Lecturer at SOAS, teaching Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Public Law. Routledge published *Mediation and other forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution* in 2024. The book makes the case for including ADR in legal training as a way of encouraging students to envisage their role as lawyers as not just the redress of legal disputes but as negotiating within a framework to resolve intractable disputes.

The Revd Dr Michael Cullinan (1975)

A quiet year directing things at Maryvale Institute, celebrating Latin Easter liturgies in Burgundy, visiting a friend on the Azores (imagine the West of Ireland towed into the Atlantic but far enough south for fresh bananas!), and being presented to Pope Francis at a Vatican conference. He really does have a very firm grip – but we already knew that!



Charles Randall (1975)

In September, I was licensed as a Lay Reader in Chichester Cathedral,



Charles Randall and Bishop Ruth

and I am part of the ministry team at St. George's Church in Worthing. I continue part-time supplying portable suitcase radio studios for disaster response agencies.

Gordon Barthos (1976)

Published *The Life of St Brendan and His Prayer* by the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies at the University of Toronto, a translation of two Latin manuscripts, one at Oxford, that reflect Brendan's status not only as a 6th-century founder of Clonfert, Ardfert, and other monasteries in the west of Ireland, but also as an emblem of the Gaelic people, their struggles and aspirations across the long arc of Irish history. The manuscripts are Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Rawlinson B 485 and Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Clm 13067. This is the first comprehensive portrait in English of this saint, one of the most celebrated figures of medieval Ireland. It comprises a definitive version of Brendan's *Vita* which includes his fabulous *Navigatio* seeking a terrestrial paradise on the great ocean, and the lengthy *Oratio lorica* prayer attributed to him.

Professor Ian Crawford (1976)

I'm still in employment and not yet planning to throw in the towel. Currently Professor of Accounting in the School of Management, University of Bath and active in the British Accounting and Finance Association (was General Secretary from 2020–2023). The last 15 years has involved much working with universities across Central Asia as well as work in Bath – less bouncing around now though.

Ian Fletcher (1976)

Still in Taiwan. Went back to the UK for a holiday with my younger daughter (19) last July. Took her around Balliol. Here I am outside the staircase I had my interview in. Brought up on Harry Potter, my daughter must have thought it was like Hogwarts, especially the Victorian gothic buildings. It always seemed like Gormenghast to me. Still does. But who reads Mervyn Peake these days?



Charles Gurrey (1976)

A master's in philosophy at Cambridge led unforeseeably to a creative and ongoing life as an architectural sculptor. Reading McDowell, Hacking, and others keeps me alert to philosophy's purpose still. My growing family matters hugely, as do some enduring friendships fostered in formative years at Balliol.



Guildford Cathedral West Front Sculptures

James Ogilvie (1976)

Having planned to keep retirement simple, I find myself working in the public, private and charity sectors. As well as serving on a Forestry Commission Forestry & Woodland Advisory Committee and a Highland



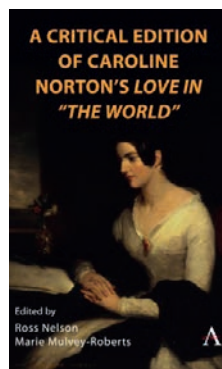
rewilding estate (Corrour), I am continuing as a Director of the Woodland Trust and as Chair of Paths for All (Scotland's walking charity). Fulfilling a childhood dream, I crewed a century-old tall ship from Easter Island to Tahiti via Mangareva, the Marquesas and Pitcairn. Happily, there were no mutinies on board...

Charles Tannock (1976)

Quiet life retired from gainful employment living in Brexile in Bratislava. Actively working with the Irish and Portuguese communities in Slovakia. Became a Senior Associate Fellow at Globsec, a foreign and security policy NGO here in Slovakia, and struggling to learn the very difficult local lingo which fortunately my dual British-Slovak national children all speak fluently.

Ross Belson (1977)

I have recently edited or co-edited: *The Selective Letters of Caroline Norton*, 3 vols, co-edited with Marie Mulvey-Roberts (Routledge, 2020); *Letters to Martin Van Buren: An edition of John Van Buren's 'Travel journal for a trip to Europe, 1838-1839'* (Routledge, 2022); *A Critical Edition of Caroline Elizabeth Norton's Love in 'the World'*, co-edited with Marie Mulvey-Roberts (Anthem Press, 2023); and *Letters from India, the Correspondence of Susan Ramsay, 1854-1856* (Routledge, 2024). I am currently editing *Journals, Letters and Minutes of Lord Dalhousie as Governor-General of India, 1848-1856* for publication in 6 volumes by Routledge in 2029. I have published book reviews in *Women's Writing* (May 2016, December 2019), *Women's History Today* (November 2019), *Reviews in History* (December 2019) and *History, the Journal of the Historical Association* (May 2022). My article 'The Athenaeum and Queen Victoria's Coronation' was published in *The Athenaeum Library e-Bulletin*, Issue 33 (Summer 2022). All with the pen name Ross Nelson.



Jim Berkman (1977)

My wife McKey (St. Anne's 1979) and I are blessed to get to know our fourth

grandchild, Jacob, born on 4 December 2024. Speaking of fourths, I am currently working on my fourth novel, having gotten affirming blurbs from authors John Banville (Booker Prize winner for *The Sea*) and Gregory Maguire (author of *Wicked*). Also speaking of fourths, two of our other grandchildren, through their four grandparents, are a quarter Jewish, a quarter Episcopalian, a quarter Hindu, and a quarter Muslim: they represent the 21st century!

David Christie (1977)

This year came to a close with two performances of *Nine Lessons and Carols* in Fischingen Abbey and in Hinwil, where I conducted an ad hoc choir with my wife singing soprano. Despite various types of 'flu' making the rounds, we only lost one singer for the second performance.

I worked 80% this year as a contractor and will continue to do so in 2025. I now also receive state pensions from both Belgium and the UK, which help with the household bills. To my surprise, I also received a tax bill from Belgium out of the blue.

We completed the building permission process for our new barrier-free 'tiny house' on a 13.5 x 5.5 m plot behind our current house and got under way with building in May. So far, the concrete frame of the building is already standing. We should be able to move in during the summer of 2025. We'll soon have three floors, a lift and roof terrace in central Zurich, so that we can stay independent as long as possible during retirement.

Looking forward to the Gaudy in March. Post-Brexit it will be harder for my Swiss wife to enter the country. The UK requires a full passport and soon a prepaid visa from 'our European friends'. For years, an ID card was enough.

Professor Nick Couldry (1977)

This has been a busy year for me in publishing terms. I co-published, with Ulises Mejias, *Data Grab: The New Colonialism of Big Tech and How to Fight Back* (Penguin, 2024: <http://tiny.cc/hkyf001>); and published *The Space of the World: Can*



Human Solidarity Survive Social Media and What If It Can't? (Polity, 2024).

Jeffrey Hawthorne (1977)

I finished full-time science teaching as an assistant headteacher in a state secondary school in 2017 and then trained as an Anglican licensed lay minister. I also completed a postgraduate diploma in theology with Westminster Theological Centre. I now help run a Wednesday morning church coffee shop with 30-50 attending and an 11 o'clock spiritual reflection, which has included occasional armchair aerobics. I am also a volunteer workplace chaplain with Kent Workplace Mission for our high street, supporting the wellbeing of the people working for our local businesses. This has also led to the local churches being invited into the park to lead two outdoor services, The Way of the Cross at Easter and Light in the Darkness in winter. Around March, we distribute packs of sunflower seeds for people to grow as a sign of Easter hope and in December, we take around the Peace Light from Bethlehem as a sign of Christmas blessing.

Neil Johnston (1977)

Still living in Brittany but moving to Lanester; nearer the sea, a larger town with the intention of ditching the car! Still kayaking, cycling, walking and singing. All welcome for a break or house exchange!

Rhodri Williams (1977)

In November 2024, I left AIG after 11 years. Working in the insurance industry was never remotely something I had imagined for myself, but it proved to be a varied and interesting chapter.

In 'retirement', I continue to advise Wallbrook, a leading provider of advisory and due diligence services. Being a member of the Council at Chatham House keeps me involved in international affairs and geopolitics.

I remain a Visiting Professor at Strathclyde University and in March 2025, will spend time as a Visiting Fellow at the Darla Moore Business School of the University of South Carolina.

A real pleasure this year has been meeting up with fellow Balliol historians of 1977-1980 (Messrs Kimber, Wooldridge, Hawksley, Dodds, Fielder, Warmoth and Urban). Conversations as stimulating as ever!

Beyond all this, and the joy of spending time with my grandson Llewelyn, I am having fun with historical research – amateur this time around – on British military operations in Persia during the First World War.

His Excellency Christopher Dell (1978)

My Foreign Service adventures continue, despite having retired from the Service 12 years ago. I'm writing from Yerevan, Armenia where my wife, Theodora, has just begun a four-year assignment as the USAID mission director. I'll be joining her permanently later in the year, after we wind up our life in Washington, but I'm enjoying a brief first taste now. A beautiful, mountainous land with a rich history and deep cultural identity, today grounded in an ancient Christian church (apparently Ethiopia and Armenia joust over which was the first to adopt Christianity as the state religion, a la the Oxonian dispute over the honours for oldest college, but suffice it to say both beat Constantine and Rome by a couple of decades – and just shy of a thousand years before Balliol was a gleam in the Foundress's eye). We're looking forward to attending our first Gaudy in March.

Murray Hancock (1978)

Still working on a not-for-profit retirement project – Brisbane Dialogues, in transition to Australian Dialogues, the country's only dedicated 'bridging organisation' addressing polarisation and raising the quality of public discussion.

Three adult Oxbridge-educated 'children' now living and working in London, one of whom has produced the first grandchild, so I'm spending as much time back in the UK as possible, and the long-held dream of doing the Big Lap of Australia is slipping away.

Mark Joseph (1978)

After 18 years, my partner and I are going to make a civil union; huppah can come later. Like many people, we have baulked at the restrictions placed on legally valid weddings in Israel. We couldn't, for example, have a woman officiant. Now we are in England, it's easier. It's a relief, too, to be away from the Kahanist trend in government and society – and war – with its radicalisation of the already

routine evasion of responsibility to find a viable way forward. But friends are there and it's hard to be away.

ChatGPT is in use for editing, as well as translation, and this potentially undercuts my work... but no doubt there will be enough people willing to pay for flawed human intelligence in this business of messing with texts.

I mourn Alan Montefiore's passing. There were always questions I wanted to put to him, but mostly didn't bother him with. I remember him pointing to a split in the subject, in Kant's first Critique, which, he said, would later make possible theories of ideology and unconscious. This was tremendously exciting. Now I'd like to connect that epistemological preoccupation with his interest in liberalism.

So now I am living in this damp land where one doesn't celebrate rain, hear the dumbek, or knows where the moon is in its cycle. But linguistically, boy, is it easier.

I continue to study Levantine Arabic, and began learning to leyn (chant the Hebrew Bible).

My translation of Ido Bassok's biography of Yehuda Amichai came out.

Professor Adrian Moore (1978)

I was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in July 2024.

John Sloan (1978)

My book *Andrew Lang: Writer, Folklorist, Democratic Intellect* (Oxford University Press, 2023) was shortlisted for the Katherine Briggs Award 2024. I have followed this up with an annotated edition of *The Poems of Andrew Lang*, published by Routledge in May 2025, with an introduction, notes, and details of the sources of Lang's verse translations from the French, Greek, Latin and Romaic.

Professor James Der Derian (1979)

Project Q: War, Peace and Quantum Mechanics, the new documentary film by James Der Derian (1979), premiered at the 2024 Melbourne Documentary Film Festival. The film brings together



physicists, philosophers, policymakers, military specialists, social scientists, and international relations experts to explore critical questions raised by a global race between governments, big tech and universities to build the first quantum computer. More information is available at <https://bullfrogfilms.com/catalog/pq.html>.

Paul Shotton (1979)

In 2024, I added two new businesses to my portfolio of VC interests, one focusing on using artificial intelligence to identify pathogens and then eliminate them using the remarkable properties of rhamnolipid biosurfactant, and a second which aims to support the UK's NHS by building welcoming communities throughout England and Wales to help people recover from mental illness. Having set aside the first draft of my second book, *What Ails America? And How To Fix It*, for a year I have now returned to it and plan to publish it in 2025, and then complete my partially-drafted third book, *The Tragedy Of The Climate*, with any luck, also by the end of the year.



Graham Wood (1979)

An eventful year, continuing to call Nanyuki, Kenya, home. I completed the credentialing process with the International Coaching Federation as a Professional Certified Coach, as well as being certified by the Academy of Executive Coaches. From January, I am the interim President and CEO of EcoAgricultural Partners International and was appointed Chair of the 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People global coalition. Oh, and climbed Mt Kenya, ran two very slow marathons, and have a book of short stories coming out later in 2025.

1980s

Peter Andrews (1980)

Still working as a Consultant Nephrologist, though stepped down to

three days a week in 2024. Appointed Censor of the Royal College of Physicians, an ancient and hard to describe post! And any spare time is spent travelling the world and maintaining a busy medico-legal practice.

Christopher Gallop (1980)

I have very much enjoyed taking a variety of opportunities to spend time with several old Balliol friends during the course of 2024. Personally and professionally, I now find myself increasingly involved in community efforts in SW London aimed at curbing the AELTC's enthusiasm for concreting over irreplaceable open space for the questionable benefit of expanding the Wimbledon Tennis Championships site.

Gavin Glover (1980)

On 29 November 2024, I was appointed and took the oath to act as the new Attorney General of Mauritius following the General Elections earlier that month.

Matthew Hamlyn (1980)

The first year post-House of Commons has been an enjoyable change, though busier than the word 'retirement' would suggest. I've been working with UCL Consulting to teach Treasury civil servants about how to engage successfully with Parliament and MPs, which has been fun, although I don't know what the real-world impact has been. At the end of 2024, I was re-accredited as an assurance reviewer with the Infrastructure and Projects Authority, and I look forward to undertaking some project reviews in 2025. On the voluntary side, as well as being elect chair of our local greenspace advisory group, I've become a trustee for the first time, on the board of a local charity which runs a community centre. I've also been involved in establishing a community orchard – first trees planted November 2024 and more to come in 2025–2026.

Dara Jeffries (1980)

My first granddaughter was born on 25 September 2024: Aliisa Noëmi Erkkilä-Jeffries.

Stephen Maher (1980)

Sold my digital marketing agency of 25 years, MBA, to MSQ, a private equity-owned global micro agency network,

over three years ago. I now serve as Chair of The Gate, one of MSQ's creative agencies, working with clients such as the AA, Royal Mail, Three mobile, Dulux paints, and Hargreaves Lansdown. (Happily) not retired quite yet.

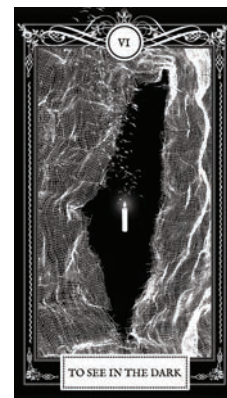
Professor

Nicholas

Mirzoeff (1980)

In August 2024, I became Chair of the Department of Media, Culture and Communication at NYU – we have over 1000 undergraduate majors and 150 graduate students, so we are a small university in ourselves!

My new book *To See In the Dark: Palestine and Visual Activism Since October 7th* is now available from Pluto Press. The photograph is the frontispiece by Berlin-based artist Amanda Priebe.



Duncan Taylor (1980)

I published my first and surely last book, which is a micro history of a British imperial war memorial in central Oxford and its place in public memory. Rewinding several hundred years but continuing the historical theme, I was awarded the Brian Cohen prize for a forthcoming journal article which decodes the elaborate carved ceiling of Oxford's Divinity School. I also realised a long-held ambition to cycle across France to Santander. There is life in the old dog yet.

Peter Telford (1980)

Our daughter Sarah (Regent's Park 2021) completed her BA in English. Her graduation in September was a real highlight in an otherwise tough year.

Derek Wax (1980)

My series *The Sixth Commandment* won the 2024 BAFTA and Royal Television Society (RTS) Awards for Best Limited Series, the BAFTA for Best Actor (Timothy Spall), and RTS for Best Writer (Sarah Phelps) and Best Supporting Actor (Éanna Hardwicke).

Professor Robert Crawford (1981)

My ninth collection of poems in English, *Old World*, is due from Cape in



June. Among other things, it contains an elegy for my personal tutor at Balliol, the late Roger Lonsdale. I suspect he would have been unsettled to be elegized by such a strict non-smoker, though less surprised to know that I continue to publish verse in Scots too... With luck, somewhere in the voluminous Balliol archives is the programme for the reading that fellow poet and Snell Exhibitioner David Kinloch (1982) and I organised at Holywell Manor around 1983, featuring poems in over 30 languages. That led to the first, Balliol-published issue of Verse magazine in 1984. Head days.

Wayne Henderson (1981)

My daughter has been making progress in wine this year and has just been promoted to Sommelier, with the result that the quality of wine drunk in our home has improved markedly. My son is actively involved with the Australian Labour Party, who are the incumbents in the federal election on 3 May. By day he scans the news and writes reports in a PR firm. I continue to scrabble around for money to fund our life until the pension kicks in. I have started an online master's course in philosophy at Edinburgh, which takes me back to my roots and provides a wonderful retreat from the day to day. I am also making slow but positive progress in drawing, which as so many of us later life beginners know, is really all about learning to look. It is another one of those retreats from the daily rough and tumble. Liane has taken up throwing pots but rarely gets to retreat. Our annual rhythm of spring and summer in each hemisphere continues.

Mick Herron (1981)

Following in the footsteps of my friend Martin Edwards (1974), in July I'll receive the Crime Writers' Association's Diamond Dagger, which marks 'sustained excellence' and 'a significant

contribution to the genre'. Despite those disturbing connotations of 'lifetime achievement', I'll be accepting the award, as is surely intended, in the spirit of a promising newcomer.

Mark Hume (1981)

Having worked within Omnicom for more than 33 years, mostly for Ketchum, in commercial, operational and leadership roles for all markets outside the US, I left earlier this year as international president and COO. Together with two former colleagues, we have established Folgate Advisors, a rapidly growing collective of like-minded consultants supporting business leaders and boards with strategies for growth and business improvement. Grown out of our extensive experience in the marketing communications sector, we're now providing a range of advisory services, including AI sprints (understanding to application), systemic growth studios and content creation. Never having more fun and loving the diverse and international collegiality. More about this here: www.folgateadvisors.com

Professor Miguel Orellana Benado (1981)

Happy to report that a third Chilean has been admitted to Balliol, a young lawyer who graduated from the Law School at Universidad de Chile, where I work. Also delighted to announce the publication of Cristóbal Astorga Sepúlveda and Ernesto Riffo Elgueta (editors), *Valorando el pluralismo. Ensayos en honor de M.E. Orellana Benado* (Rubicón, Santiago de Chile, 2024), with contributions from Argentinean, Chilean, Mexican and Spanish philosophers.

Professor Jonathan Ostry (1981)

I accepted an offer to join the faculty at the University of Toronto as Professor of Economics, Global Affairs and Public Policy, jointly appointed to the Department of Economics and the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy. This follows an enjoyable period as a Professor of Economics at Georgetown University in Washington DC. My wife remains at the IMF in Washington (where I worked for 33 years) but will retire in 2025, and we intend to split our time between Canada, the US and the UK/Europe where our two adult children have

resided for the past several years (in London and Geneva, respectively). I teach both undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Toronto, focusing mostly on the nexus between economic growth and income inequality, drawing on my book on this topic and related literature. My recent research has focused on geopolitical fragmentation and the consequences for trade and prosperity; the relationship between environmental policies and economic development; the drivers of trade reform; and the impact of gender gaps in employment on economic growth. I continue to write op-eds for the major economic newspapers, including the *Financial Times* in the UK and the *Globe and Mail* in Canada, on these topics.

Robin Stuart (1981)

In March 2022, the Endurance22 expedition found the wreck of Sir Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance* very close to the position that I, along with collaborators Lars Bergman and David Mearns, had predicted (see *News and Notes* 2024).

In June 2024, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) launched its own expedition to search for Shackleton's last ship, *Quest*, that sank off the coast of Newfoundland in 1962. The search was directed by David Mearns, a professional wreck hunter, aboard the vessel *LeeWay Odessey* using side scan sonar. David had contacted Lars Bergman and me for our input. Based on the reported position of sinking from a rescue ship's LORAN navigation system, we were able to calculate the elongated confidence ellipses that define the probability distribution for positions where *Quest* might lie. A search box was constructed based on this information and the wreck was found after just 18 hours of accumulated search time.

As a contributor to the expedition's success, I was awarded the specially-struck *Quest* Medal by the RCGS at a ceremony in Ottawa in November 2024 and made an Honorary Fellow of the Society.

His Excellency Professor Stephen Vasciannie (1981)

Stephen Vasciannie co-authored *Jamaica's Foreign Policy, 1962–2022* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024) with his wife, Dr Lisa Vasciannie, and co-

edited *Perspectives on Caribbean Law: A Compendium of Legal Essays* (University of the West Indies Press, 2024) with Professor Shazeeda Ali.

Jonathan Vernon (1981)

Fifty years ago, on 25 February 1975, I was given a five-year diary by my mum. At the time, I was the school's head chorister, captain of swimming, and captivated by English, Art, Geography, and History and about to take my Grade V flute exam. I filled that five-year diary religiously, day by day, before moving on to hardback notebooks while at Oxford, experimenting with photo journals while working in the Alps, and eventually blogging online from September 1999 until stepping away from digital platforms just two months ago.

Today, my life balance echoes the rhythm of an A-level student juggling enthusiasms (some paid, some not). My days revolve around diverse passions: surveying ancient woodlands, coaching competitive age group swimmers, creating relief prints of horses, bridges, castles, and trees, serving on planning and finance committees as a Green Party councillor, and researching and presenting on my favourite topic, the First World War.

Life, as it stands, is mind filling, modest, creative, and deeply rooted in connection with family, nature and community.

Jonathan Goldberg (1982)

In mid-2024, I received the 'Distinguished Engineer' award from the TM Forum. This organisation promotes standards and best practices in the telecommunications and digital services industry. I was recognised for my long-time work in designing and promoting standard APIs, and especially for supporting the community of API implementers.

Later that same year, I took early retirement from Amdocs, after 26 years. I am now working part-time for the very same organisation, TM Forum, that made me the award!



www.tmforum.org/about-tm-forum/distinguished-engineer-award

Professor David Kinloch (1982)

I stepped down as Chair of the Edwin Morgan Trust after a four-year stint. I remain on its advisory committee and joined the programme committee of Push the Boat Out poetry festival in Edinburgh.

Mary Newman (1982)

Happily frittering away my pension on jaunts, pilgrimages (think Wife of Bath) and village fundraisers. I feel much refreshed by giving up any interests in public policy, and I have started being interested in random stuff again. I also agreed to do part of a triathlon in the summer, which is insane. If you see someone drowning in Rutland Water, it will probably be me.

Professor Matthew Bell (1983)

After goodness knows how many years, my big Goethe book will appear in 2025 – *Goethe: A Life in Ideas*, published by Princeton UP.

Michele Deitch (1983)

I teach at the University of Texas at Austin as a Distinguished Senior Lecturer in Public Policy and Law, where I also founded and serve as the Director of the Prison and Jail Innovation Lab (PJIL) (www.PJIL.org). PJIL is a national policy resource centre seeking to ensure the safe and humane treatment of people in custody and to strengthen prison oversight. We work with policy makers, prison oversight bodies, advocacy organisations, justice system agencies, and the media on efforts to improve prison conditions, prevent deaths in custody, and reduce the use of incarceration. Anyone who remembers me from my Oxford days will remember my focus on prison issues – I'm still passionate about this work! And this year, I am especially excited to have the opportunity to return to Oxford as a Visiting Academic at the Centre for Criminology – my old haunts as a student. I will be there during Trinity Term 2025, along with my husband, Prof. Michael Sturley, who will be the Campbell Visiting Fellow in Commercial Law at Magdalen College. I look forward to reviving many happy memories of my time at Holywell Manor with an extraordinary group of friends from around the globe.

Andrew Gilmour (1983)

Having left the UN in 2019 after 30 years, I am now in my 5th year in Berlin, where I am head of the Berghof Foundation, the oldest and largest German organisation that works on conflict resolution. This year I published *The Burning Question: Climate and Conflict – why does it matter?* The first book to appear on this topic that I am regretfully certain will become ever more salient. I did much of the research for it as a Visiting Fellow of All Souls College.

Sir John Lazar (1983)

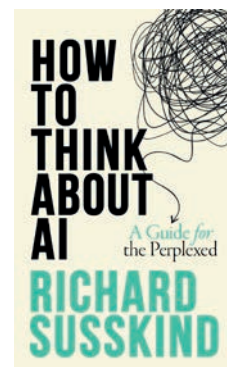
I was confirmed as President of the Royal Academy of Engineering at the Academy's AGM in September 2024 and will serve a five-year term.

I was honoured to receive a Knighthood in His Majesty The King's 2025 New Year Honours List for services to engineering and technology.

I continue my term as Chair of the Raspberry Pi Foundation, which enables young people, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, to realise their full potential through the power of computing and digital technologies. In June 2024, we successfully took our commercial subsidiary public on the London Stock Exchange, raising £150m in cash for the charity's global mission, while still owning nearly 50% of the public company.

Professor Richard Susskind (1983)

A few updates: Awarded CBE in New Years Honours List in 2024; appointed Special Envoy for Justice to the Secretary General of the Commonwealth; author of *How to Think About the Future: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Oxford University Press, 2025); co-editor (with M O'Connor) of *Computers & Law: The First 50 Years* (Society for Computers and Law, 2024).



Professor Christine Synnowich (1983)

My biggest news is that David Bakhurst (1983) and I became grandparents with the arrival of Oliver James O'Brien on 28 October to my daughter Rosemary

and her husband James. We also had the thrill of attending the Stanley Cup finals and seeing the Florida Panthers (for whom our son Hugh works as a motion graphics designer) win the National Hockey League's coveted trophy. Last year, I was in Oxford twice – in April for a workshop on cultural heritage that I organised with Professor Cécile Fabre at All Souls, and again in November for a launch at Balliol for my book on the 'no-bullshit Marxist' Oxford philosopher Jerry Cohen, published with Polity Press. I look forward to returning to Balliol as an Oliver Smithies Lecturer in Trinity Term this year.

David Witty (1983)

After some 14 years helping biotechnology start-ups and working as a consultant, I joined Sygnature Discovery as Chief Scientific Officer in April 2024 with responsibilities for scientific excellence across sites spanning Europe and North America. In November, as Chair of Publications on the Board of Trustees of the Society of Chemical Industry, I was honoured to launch *SCI Sustainability*, an interdisciplinary journal committed to sharing groundbreaking research that tackles the sustainability challenges faced by the scientific industries.

His Excellency Donald Bobiash (1984)

Met with one of the founders of Black Eyed Peas, Apl.de.Ap (Allan Pineda Lindo). He has developed an innovative foundation focusing on health care, training and education for disadvantaged youth. (I'm the one on the left in the photo)



Professor John Derrick (1984)

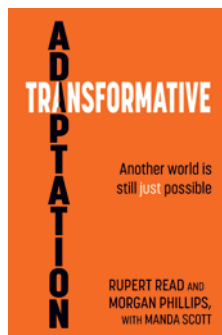
I am Vice-President and Head of the Faculty of Science at the University of Sheffield, and Elizabeth Milne (1995) is deputy Vice-President.

Joanna Hindley (1984)

Delighted to share two 2025 concert dates for the premiere public performance of my Dad, David Hindley's (1952), music inspired by birdsong. The Birmingham Contemporary Music Group will perform *Corn Bunting Fanfare* (for brass ensemble) on Sunday 23 March, and *Three Songs for Piano: Woodlark, Nightingale and Skylark* on Sunday 15 June (Father's Day). <https://whatsnew.composersedition.com/bcmg-david-hindley-concert/>

Rupert Read (1984)

In late 2024, I published *Transformative Adaptation: Another World is Still Just Possible* (Permanent Press) alongside Manda Scott and Morgan Phillips. This book assesses the impacts of moving beyond 1.5°C of global heating, as tragically is occurring, and how communities can act to adapt adequately to the changing world to minimise the damage caused by impacts.



The Lord Stevens of Birmingham (1984)

Chair of Council, King's College London; Chair, UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency; Chair, Cancer Research UK; crossbench peer.

Professor Riccardo Viale (1984)

Published *The Companion to Herbert Simon* with Edward Elgar Publishing in 2024 (<http://tiny.cc/cqyf001>), and the article 'The impact of generative artificial intelligence on socioeconomic inequalities and policy making' in *PNAS Nexus* (<http://tiny.cc/6qyf001>).



Duncan Johnston-Watt (1985)

I am now based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia where I am CEO and Co-Founder of Paravela, an enterprise data

management company (<https://paravela.com>).

The genesis of this was a visit I made to the Kingdom as part of a Saudi-British Joint Business Council delegation in late 2022. This was at the behest of my eldest son Oliver who had spent a significant amount of time there earlier that year. From then on, I visited the country regularly, getting to know it somewhat, forging some key relationships, and reaching the conclusion that if I was serious about doing business there, I really needed to set up a business there.

Long story short, by November last year we had completed the formalities, and I had received my Iqama as General Manager of Paravela KSA.

It is a great time to be in the MENA region and in Saudi Arabia in particular. There is a huge appetite for innovation here in the Kingdom which is undergoing a radical transformation thanks to Vision 2030. There are eleven Vision Realisation Programs (VRPs) designed to create a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an ambitious forward-thinking nation.

I am looking forward to the 1985 Reunion Dinner in September where I hope to meet up with and maybe even recognise some of my fellow graduate students from my time at Holywell Manor.

If you've not had a chance to visit the Kingdom, I'd thoroughly recommend this and I'd be happy to facilitate your visit!

Professor Robin Choudhury (1986)

My book *The Beating Heart* (a cultural history told through depictions of the heart) was published by Head of Zeus/Bloomsbury.

Theresa Heskins (1986)

Still the lucky Artistic Director of Staffordshire's New Vic Theatre. This year, *The Princess and the Pea* transferred to New York, and Angela Carter's *Company of Wolves* finally made it to the stage. I've wanted to direct it ever since I picked it up in Blackwell's bookshop during my second year. We planned a





production for spring 2020 but it was of course delayed. 37 years in the making! It was worth the wait.

Charlotte Jones (1986)

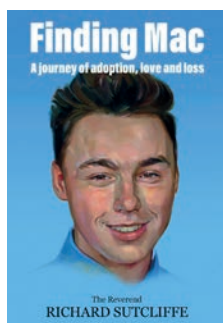
I am continuing to write plays despite everything! *Redlands*, my play about the Rolling Stones' drugs bust in 1967 ran very successfully at the Chichester Festival Theatre last summer, and there are plans for it to tour the UK, with a view to the West End in the future. I also have commissions for the Donmar Theatre and the National Theatre. I am also very much enjoying mentoring younger writers. My son, Dan, finished his master's degree in physics at Jesus College last year, my daughter Molly is studying photography at ManMet. I am in my fourth year of learning Greek and enjoy every moment I get to spend in Greece. I treasure all my Balliol friendships and very much enjoyed going to Professor Chaudhury's book launch earlier this year, bumping into the sartorially elegant Simon Pulleyn and the ever-glamorous Jasmine Dellal.

Shanker Singham (1986)

Shanker Singham continues to contribute to the policy discussions on UK economic and trade issues. Over the course of 2024, he acceded to the position of Chairman of the UK Growth Commission and was appointed to the position of Vice-Chair of the UK Trade Facilitation Commission.

The Revd Richard Sutcliffe (1986)

I was very excited to publish my first book, *Finding Mac*, all about bringing up my adopted son and dealing with



the aftermath of his death at 16 (more uplifting than it sounds, I promise!). It was also a great experience recording the audiobook.

Daniel Talbot (1986)

I've had an article published by The Thomas Hardy Society on the origins of the Talbothays dairy in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. The society runs two journals, one for academics, the other for nutters. (I really shouldn't have called myself Dan of the Talbots.)

Professor Michele Gamburd (1987)

Published 'Gender and alcohol consumption in a Theravada Buddhist village in Sri Lanka' in *Holy Waters: An Interdisciplinary Examination of Religion and Alcohol*, edited by Ryan Lemasters and Stephen Covell, 77-95 (Routledge, 2024).

Ramani Langley (1987)

I spent the winter skiing and training hard and finally passed my Level 2 ski instructor exam at the same time as my son, Luc (who didn't need to train at all).

I had a lovely summer singing in the Proms with the BBC Symphony Chorus. This was only marred by busting up my ankle slipping down a muddy slope in June and having to wear a boot for four weeks. It healed up just in time for an amazing trip visiting Malaysia, Thailand, Australia, and New Zealand. I'm currently back in the mountains trying to regain my ski fitness, which may take some time having eaten my way around the world for two and a half months!

Andrew Lavender (1987)

I continue to do life drawing as a hobby, just as I did through my time at Balliol. I'm not getting much better but am able to afford fancier paper.



Reynolds' Portrait of Mai

Lucy Ward (1987)

Having led a campaign in 2022/2023 to save Joshua Reynolds' Portrait of Omai/Mai for public display in the UK (it was acquired jointly by the National Portrait Gallery and the Getty Museum in LA), I am now writing a book about Mai and the extraordinary two years this young Polynesian man spent in Britain after travelling here with Captain James Cook's second expedition in 1774. Portrait of Mai will be published by Ithaka Press, an imprint of Bonnier, in late 2026, following my first book *The Empress and the English Doctor* (Oneworld, 2022).

Joe Carey (1988)

I am pleased to report that Larissa, the daughter of Neptune (featured in



News and Notes 2024) recently won best in show at the National Chinchilla Young Stock Show and followed up with several other notable wins, which now makes her a Supreme National Chinchilla Club Champion. She is now resting until the winter and will be defending our national adult stock show title, won by her sire last year.

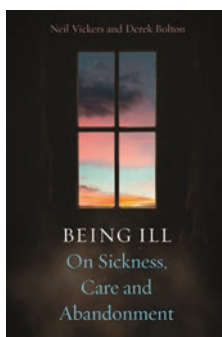
Segun Osuntokun (1988)

I was elected the first Global Senior Partner of the international law firm, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner (BCLP), effective 1 January 2024 for a four-year term. www.bclplaw.com/en-US/events-insights-news/bclp-appoints-global-senior-partner.html



Professor Neil Vickers (1988)

I'm delighted to say that my book, *Being Ill: On Sickness, Care and Abandonment* came out in October with Reaktion Books (available from the University of Chicago Press in the United States). It's been a long time in the making but so good to have it out there!



Professor Martin Bees (1989)

I'm now in my fourth year as Head of Department of Mathematics at the University of York, representing about 800 staff and students. I'm thrilled to say that my eldest daughter Madeleine went up to Oxford this year to study Biology, although she did choose Hertford rather than Balliol.

Mark Harrison (1989)

My now-permanent 'side gig' as Director of Music for St. Nicholas,

Worth has somewhat expanded since we're celebrating the 1050th anniversary of our founding. Several former Balliol Choir singers have been enlisted as part of our 'choir auxiliary'.

Thomas Henman (1989)

In April 2024, my term came to an end as Chair of the SiLC Professional & Technical Panel, a professional body dedicating to championing high standards in land assessments and supporting sustainable development. As part of this role, I led the development of and chaired a stakeholder workshop on future policy and regulation of soils in development, which was attended by representatives from across the government and the private sector. Following the workshop, I was the lead author for a series of papers culminating in a 'green paper' proposing options to improve future regulation of excavated materials. On the back of this, I wrote an article published in *Ground Engineering* magazine entitled "Regulation makes reuse of excavated materials hard, but there are opportunities to change this". I have also continued to be active in championing the beneficial reuse of marginal brownfield land and in this regard, I co-authored a paper published in the journal, *environmental SCIENTIST*, on 'Brownfield regeneration and biodiversity net gain', discussing the challenges and opportunities involved. I was also appointed as a Board Member and trustee for the Green Action Trust, one of Scotland's leading environmental regeneration charities. Finally, in my role at RSK Geosciences, I am currently leading a challenging project for CIRIA to develop good practice guidance for the construction sector on managing the impacts from climate change and extreme weather events on ground-based risks.

Sebastian Lawson (1989)

I will be winding back the clock in 2025 when I retire on 30 April before starting a master's course at SOAS in Middle Eastern Studies with Intensive Arabic. Before I applied to come up to Balliol as an undergraduate, I had actually been accepted to do a BA in Arabic at SOAS – finally making it there 37 years later is emphatically not a case of correcting a past mistake, but it is perhaps taking a peek into what might have been!

Clare Lewis (1989)

As of September 2024, I became the programme director of the Arts and Sciences (BASc) degree at UCL, which has just under 500 students enrolled on it. I've also become the joint deputy head of the Arts and Sciences department.

Jennifer Milligan (1989)

This has been an unusual year for my family. In the spring, my husband Mark Bastin (1989) signed the ancient registers of Edinburgh University when he took up his personal chair as a professor of brain imaging. In August, my father-in-law, John Bastin (1951) passed away. In September, I moved to Elche in Spain to teach for two years at IES Ascuncion de Nuestra Señora. The staff and students in this wonderful school have made me so welcome and happy. My first ever work experience was in 1985 when I had a British Council teaching post in France. I found it fitting to end my career in a similar way albeit in a different country. Mark's research shows the importance of new challenges in keeping the brain young... so it's baby steps in speaking a new language for me. As I walk through Europe's largest palm grove on my way to work, past date, orange and pomegranate orchards, all under blue skies and a hot Spanish sun, I feel blessed to have this opportunity. Hasta luego.



1990s

Richard Cayzer (1990)

I have, after 30 years of service to the banking financial crime technology community, secured a role within the UK National Crime Agency. I am extremely grateful and proud to have secured this position, offering service to the victims of crime. My particular passions are child protection, disrupting economic crime, and deploying the private sector. I would be delighted to be contacted by any Balliol students or alumni who wish to pursue a career within the UK law enforcement or banking technology sectors. Mentoring is a key focus of mine, alongside facilitation of the Christian Police Association.

Professor Anusha Chari (1990)

It has been an honour to serve on the President's Council of Economic Advisers at the White House this year.



Professor Graeme Garrard (1990)

I was elected as a Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales. That means I'm officially learned, but only in Wales.

Julian Green (1990)

Julian continues to enjoy San Francisco with his wife, two kids, and dog. He has started an AI weather forecasting tools company called Brightband, which is enabling weather forecasting without needing a supercomputer.

Professor Peter Sarris (1990)

In June 2024, my book *Justinian: Emperor, Soldier, Saint* (Basic Books, 2023) was awarded the London Hellenic Prize for the best book published in English concerned with or inspired by Greek history and culture. It was also shortlisted for the Anglo-Hellenic/Runciman Award.

Alex Sinclair (1990)

I've never sent an update before, but I figured that after 30 years I might as

well resurface. After Balliol, I did a PhD in education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and was a faculty member for many years at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York, first while living in the USA, and then remotely from Israel, where I moved back to in 2007. I am now an adjunct lecturer at Hebrew University and an educational consultant.

I've published several academic articles and many shorter pieces and op-eds over the years. My first book, *Loving the Real Israel: An Educational Agenda for Liberal Zionism*, was a finalist for the (American) National Jewish Book Award in 2013, and my debut novel, *Perfect Enemy*, came out at the end of 2023. I'm now working on my second novel.

Much of my writing and work stem from my long-standing support of the Israeli peace camp. I remain hopeful that even in these darkest of times, an equitable two-state solution is still possible, with Palestine and Israel living side by side with mutual recognition, dignity and security.

I live in Modiin, a small town between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and most importantly, I've been married to Peri since 1998 and have three fabulous children. My website is alexjsinclair.com and I'd love to reconnect with old Balliol friends I lost touch with – entirely, my fault, and with no small regret.

Alan Taylor (1990)

A delight in veteran times to pivot my education interests away from academic writing to fiction. So now



it's a three-part novel on the tricky teaching moments of Aristotle, Lenin, and Virginia Stephen/Woolf. (Vonnegut meets Barnes).

Lindy Cameron (1991)

In April 2024, I took over as British High Commissioner to India, based in New Delhi. I've had quite a few Balliol visitors already, including Rana Dasgupta and one of my predecessors Dominic Asquith.

Kathrin Luddecke (1991)

Chuffed to find my translation of Professor Hartmut Leppin's incredibly readable and informative *The early Christians: from the beginnings to Constantine* is positively reviewed by Anders Klostergaard Petersen in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*:

"The German edition was captivating, and so is the English version. Luddecke elegantly captures Leppin's German and offers a superbly reliable and stylish translation."

The review can be accessed here: <https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2024/2024.09.18/>

Ellie Naughten [Née Gordon] (1991)

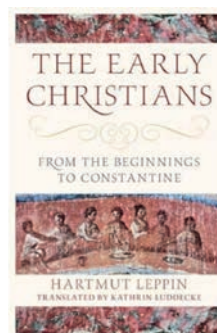
My boys are growing up fast and keeping me young(ish) so life continues to race by.

Oliver Peers (1991)

I went to seminary in Spain by mistake and this resulted in my novel *The Gospel According To Tomàs* (Amazon). It's really well written and there's no plot. My website (wordaloud.co.uk) expresses – something... Possibly why I went to seminary. Or something like that. It's all a bit odd these days. (I don't pretend to have a handle on it.)

Professor Ewan Birney (1992)

Barley Birney (1993) and I continue to live in North London. Our son, Joe, turned 18 and will be spreading his wings on a gap year. Our daughter, Rose, is about to enter the first year of GCSEs. I am now Deputy Director General of the European Molecular



Biology Laboratory (EMBL). I lead strategic engagement with the 29 European countries (UK included in this definition of Europe), advocate for and enable the use of genomics and computational biology in healthcare, and continue to run my own research group. My research is focused on understanding outbred populations from genome to behaviour, particularly in humans (we are particularly fond of studying British and Danish populations, which are two of the countries where you can do this at scale) and Japanese rice paddy fish (medaka fish), a species found in Japan and Korea that can be both sampled from the wild and kept in the laboratory. I was delighted to become an Honorary Fellow of Balliol, be awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Tartu, Estonia, asked to continue for another term as an Honorary Professor at Cambridge University, and be elected a foreign member of the Danish academy of Sciences and Letters.

Professor Alex Jadad (1992)

Professor Jadad continues to follow a 'high-tech and high-touch' approach, which leverages research evidence, big data, public engagement, cutting-edge digital technologies and hybrid (human-machine) teams to redesign or transform entire health systems.

In June 2024, his Harvard University keynote lecture, 'Making trust so strong it goes unnoticed,' presented an innovative framework for rebuilding healthcare system trust in the age of AI.

This vision gained momentum at the 2024 World Design Policy Conference in San Diego, where he and his daughter-coauthor, Tamen Jadad-Garcia, co-chaired the Health Track. The event enabled the identification of key components for a \$1 billion use case



Alex Jadad and Tamen Jadad-Garcia

for a trust-based, positive-sum, scalable and resilient health system for all.

With Tamen, he also co-authored two timely publications. In *The Foundations of Computational Management*, they present a new systematic framework for task automation. The paper equips organizations to harness AI's potential, foster human-AI collaboration, and clarify the role humans should play in the AI era. In *Cracking the Code: Lessons from 15 Years of Digital Health IPOs*, they examined market data for all digital health companies that entered US stock exchanges from 2010 to 2021, revealing that those with billing codes at IPO were 25.5 times more likely to achieve growth, and that founders, investors, developers and analysts overestimated consumers' willingness to pay out-of-pocket or underestimated reimbursement complexities.

Together, these initiatives highlight the power of trust, research evidence, financial incentives, digital technologies and human-machine collaboration to accelerate the transformation of health systems, at all levels.

Henrik Klagges (1992)

Once again, The Nerd Group grew – this year by 10% – to a total of 909 full-time employees, of which over 500 hold PhDs in maths, physics, and computer science. Turnover reached €132 million, an increase of 12%. All in all, it provides a solid platform for TNG to 'survive 2025', that is, to weather the major storm that is engulfing at least the German economy.

There is the famous curse, 'may you live in interesting times'. Well, we certainly are, with the war in Ukraine and many other sorrows. But I am still optimistic – sometimes, disruptive shocks can spark a renaissance. It may not be likely, but it is conceivable.

On a lighter note, the Klagges Five travelled around the world, including the very impressive Japan, *domo arigato gozaimasu*. And all three children were surfing the ocean in Waikiki, where Anke got her MBA. I include a picture



of one of last year's training sessions, holding hands on a standing wave in Munich.

Last not least: thanks to fellow Balliol Man, Alexis Richardson and his knowledge, we moved our Oxford research lab to a bigger and self-contained office building at 16c Worcester Place. Send us a note and drop by – hang up your coat, have a coffee, and talk AI ;-)

Timothy Large (1992)

I recently relocated to Vienna, where I work as Director of Independent Media Programmes at the International Press Institute, the world's oldest organisation dedicated to media freedom. A highlight of my work is managing the Investigative Journalism for Europe fund (ij4eu.net), which channels millions of euros from public and philanthropic sources into cross-border investigative journalism, while rigorously protecting editorial independence. Last year, I also became Co-Director of the International Society of Global Health (isogh.org). After nearly three decades as a journalist and editor in Japan, Britain and the Balkans, I'm thrilled to call Vienna home. It truly lives up to its reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities – even more so if you have a dog!



Timothy Large with Jelena, his partner, and their dog, Daisy

Barnaby Maunder Taylor (1992)

I was excited to discover a new integer sequence in November 2024 – now listed on the *Encyclopaedia of Integer Sequences* as sequence A378119 (<https://oeis.org/A378119>). Am aiming to try my hand at Triathlon in 2025.

David Walker (1992)

Finally decided the right time to get re-engaged in politics. Elected as a Labour Councillor for Deptford Ward in the

London Borough of Lewisham in a by-election in May 2024, receiving 65% of the vote.

Adrian Woolfson (1992)

Dr Adrian Woolfson's new book *On The Future of Species: Authoring Life By Means of Artificial Biological Intelligence* will be published by Bloomsbury on 26 February 2026.

Here is a brief summary: For the last 3.6 billion years, since the time of its origin, all life on Earth has originated as a result of a process of evolution by natural selection. We have, however, reached a transformative moment in life's history where it will soon be feasible to consider designing and synthesizing the genomes of new species from first principles. Darwinian evolution will no longer be the only mechanism for creating novel forms of life. This will be made possible by the convergence of AI-driven methods for designing genomes and new and improved methods for synthesizing them. It will lead to a genome synthesis revolution, with implications that go far beyond gene editing, where biology will be transformed into a predictive engineering material. This will impact almost every area of human existence, from biocomputing and biological information storage, through to the generation of bioenergy and biomaterials. We have entered the age of genome writing. The ability to comprehend the language of life – 'biology-ese' – will, additionally, result in profound advances in clinical medicine, leading to a considerable extension of the human healthspan and lifespan. In *On The Future of Species*, Woolfson provides a comprehensive scientific overview and philosophical analysis of these extraordinary developments, and presents the first-ever manifesto for life's future.

Professor Daniel Harbour (1993)

The last year has been a rather nice way to round off my first half century. In the summer, I was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. In the autumn, I agreed to become editor-in-chief of Springer's *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*. In the winter, I accepted the post of directeur de recherche at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique. Après la Brexit, la Frentrée. I leave Queen Mary University of London after 21 years, eight as

Professor of the Cognitive Science of Language. Any Balliolois à Paris are priés de me dropper un message (d@hrbr.com), and peut-être we can drinquer un verre ensemble.

Professor Chris Hooley (1993)

In October 2024, I was appointed Professor in Theoretical Physics in the Research Centre for Fluid and Complex Systems at Coventry University, where I am now the head of the Statistical Physics research group.

Ben Rowland (1993)

After the publication of my first book *Understanding Apprenticeships: A Students Guide* in the Autumn of 2023, 2024 has been all about apprenticeship and other government training programmes, in my not-so-new role as CEO of AELP, the membership organisation for government funded training providers. I feel very lucky to have a role that combines my two loves: how human beings learn to be useful and the workings of government. It's nice to be working again in the same world as Helen Hayes MP (also 1993) in her new role as Chair of the Education Select Committee.

Josh Harlan (1994)

The *Wall Street Journal* has published the insights of Josh Harlan on the intersection of artificial intelligence and intellectual property law: <http://tiny.cc/pi2g001>

Laetitia Rutherford (1994)

Laetitia Rutherford continues her work as a literary agent at Watson, Little. As of October 2024, this is alongside a part-time PhD at the London School of Film, Media and Design, University of West London. Laetitia received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for a project exploring the transition from print to digital media, starting with the 1986 strikes and over the last 40 years. She is looking forward to sharing her findings.

Chris Tayler (1994)

I was awarded a Robert B. Silvers Prize for Literary Criticism for my writing in *Harper's Magazine*, the *New York Review of Books* and the *London Review of Books*.

Jayne Bartlett (1995)

New book published, *Developing an Outstanding Curriculum* (Routledge, 2023).

Privileged to be part of our education system inspiring future generations.

Sarah Keogh (1995)

I am delighted to announce that in 2024 I was appointed as a Salaried Employment Judge, ending my long career at the Bar.



Roderick Rands-Webb (1995)

In 2025, celebrating 20 years of marriage to Imogen Rands (1994) and making two now-teenage sons. We had a hectic decade after Balliol with drumming (B*Unique records, Cerys Matthews, miming as a Womble) and acting (BBC radio plays, four Edinburgh Fringes) respectively. Now often teaching and tutoring in Kent, so still treading some sort of boards: the beat goes on.

Martin Sandbu (1995)

I keep trying to challenge conventional wisdom as a columnist for the *Financial Times* in these strange (but good for journalism) times. Always happy to reconnect with any lost Balliol friends who want to get in touch.

Roopa Unnikrishnan (1995)

I have taken on the role of Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer at IDEX corporation, with a focus on executing the transformative strategy I've helped design for the company. My literary novel is with my editor, and I'm looking forward to updating the community with details in the coming year. My twins are finishing up their undergrad years, with my daughter working on climate justice policy, and my son melding his passion for Mandarin, strategy and travel into new horizons. My husband's digital consulting firm continues to work with transnational and large NGO clients to demystify AI and media for good.

Professor Thomas Hegghammer (1996)

My wife, Målfrid Braut-Hegghammer, and I had our third child, Edvard, in March.

Jason Herrick (1996)

George Herrick (1960), died on Christmas Day. His obituary can be

read here: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/nytimes/name/george-herrick-obituary?id=57179312>

Professor Amrita Narlikar (1996)

From 2014 to 2024, I served as President (and Professor) of the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA). On accepting this appointment, I became the first woman to take on this role; I was also the youngest and the first from the Global South. Under my leadership, the Institute achieved record highs in publications, impact, policy exchange, and third-party funding, and also successfully completed its evaluation processes (thereby securing core funding from federal and state levels in Germany).

My personal contributions as a scholar to this output included four books in four years with top publishing houses – among them the co-edited *How Not To Guide for International Relations*, which was selected in an international competition as a centenary special issue of the Chatham House journal, *International Affairs*. I also authored papers in high-impact journals, secured nearly €3 million in research funding as PI/ Co-PI, and engaged in high-level policy discussions and public outreach.

Having kept my promise to help raise standards of excellence at the GIGA, I have now accepted a Distinguished Fellowship at the Observer Research Foundation in India, where I am enjoying the freedom to think, read, and write on a full-time basis! I continue to be affiliated with the ‘other place’; I was elected as its youngest Honorary Fellow by Darwin College, University of Cambridge, in 2021.

Read more about my publications (www.narlikar.com/cv/CVAmritaNarlikar.pdf) and I look forward to (re-)connecting with old and new friends from Balliol!



Karma Phuntsho (1997)

I am pleased to share that in November 2024, I have been awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's premier prize and highest honour, which is often dubbed as 'Asia's Nobel Prize'. More details can be found on the Ramon Magsaysay Award page as well as on other websites, including my own here (www.lopenkarma.org).

We have also celebrated 25 years of the Loden Foundation, which was initially launched at Balliol in 1999 when I was a student there.



Shehnaaz Suliman (1997)

Shehnaaz lives in the San Francisco Bay area with her family, where she is deeply plugged in to the biotech landscape and community. She is CEO of ReCode Therapeutics, a genetic medicine company developing treatments for respiratory lung diseases. Shehnaaz is playing a large leadership role in the biotech industry as part of the Biotech CEO sisterhood and leading advocacy initiatives of relevance to women's health, and innovation in multiple areas. At an industry conference in January, she led a 'wear pink' campaign with hundreds of biotech leaders to campaign for continued innovation and amplification of women in leadership roles within the industry.



Richard Heys (1998)

After nearly a decade at the UK Office for National Statistics, supporting development of the new System of National Accounts, I was invited to co-chair the UN's new technical Expert Group on Well-being Measurement. This group will take forward work to support the measurement of sustainable development as laid out in September's Pact for the Future (<https://www.un.org/en/summit-of-the-future/pact-for-the-future>). As part of this, my team and I have produced new, wider economic statistics, which we have branded 'Inclusive Income'.

Robert Watkinson (1998)

Last October, Sophie and I were delighted when our happy double-act expanded to an even happier trio with the arrival of our daughter, Coco.



Jane Kinninmont (1999)

Jane Kinninmont is Acting Director of the European Leadership Network, which brings together former defence and security leaders with current officials and future leaders to jointly brainstorm solutions to complex security problems, particularly in reducing the risks of nuclear war. To cheer herself up, she has enjoyed podcasting: starting with *Ok, Doomer!* which takes a fresh look at existential risk and showcases talented young people working to mitigate it, and now co-hosting *Disorder*, co-produced with Goalhanger, which takes a deep dive into the unsettled state of international affairs and tries to make sense of it all. Feedback and guest suggestions very welcome!

Radhika (1999)

Fabien (1999) and I have moved back to San Francisco after a few years in LA. Happy to be back. SoCal is great, but NorCal is home.

Hana Ross (1999)

My master plan to do all the things I should have done at 18 continues apace. I passed my driving test (second time

round) and the JLPT N1 exam this year. It has also been great fun catching up with old friends and making new ones at the Usborne Society and Younger Society dinners.

Professor Paul Williams (1999)

It has been a year of TV appearances. I was interviewed as an on-screen expert in a prime-time ITV1 documentary entitled "Turbulence: How Safe Is Your Flight?". Following a spate of high-profile turbulence encounters, including one in which a passenger sadly died, I explained the science behind turbulence and how climate change is increasing it. Just when I thought things couldn't get any better, BBC One's *The One Show* called and invited me to discuss the same with the one and only Chesney Hawkes. I'm not sure how to top that!



2000s

Carmen Bugan (2000)

I am happy to announce that my new book of poems, *Tristia* (Shearsman), was published in January 2025! You can find out more here: <http://tiny.cc/zj2g001>

Kathryn Perera [née White] (2000)

2024 was a great year for us. Our eldest son, Manny, started secondary school and our daughter, Charlotte, performed her first show in London (like mother like daughter...). Meanwhile, I was awarded my doctorate and finished nearly a decade leading improvement programmes in the NHS, taking up a new role at The King's Fund, working with health and care executive teams and boards. I'm looking forward to seeing old Balliol friends at the Gaudy in September 2025!

Patricia Schartau (2000)

As of October 2024, I have been promoted to Associate Professor in Primary Care at University College

London. I continue with my other roles: GP at Hampstead Group Practice in London and NHSE Pan-London Academic GP Training Programme Director.

Ali Chetwynd (2001)

Ali Chetwynd co-edited a special journal issue to commemorate the novelist William Gaddis's centenary: <https://electronicbookreview.com/gathering/william-gaddis-at-his-centenary/>.

Melissa Ford Holloway (2001)

After a successful proof of concept study in Ohio (USA), in Sept 2024, SmartStart Health received a £185k Innovate UK Smart Grant to develop our own platform for mobile-first diabetes education with adaptive learning and AI. We are in the midst of raising a SEIS funding round to complement the non-dilutive Smart Grant. More details at: www.smartstart.health. Personally, still happily based in Pimlico with James (ten in March 2024), Caroline (five in Sept 2024), and husband Richard.

Iryna Kuksa (2001)

Dr Iryna Kuksa, Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Design Research Centre at Nottingham School of Art and Design, was selected as one of the AHRC's Design Innovation Scholars and was awarded a grant to work with the leading strategic design consultancy in the UK – Nile. Nile's established reputation in steering complex, systemic changes in regulated sectors will be complemented by Dr Kuksa's illustrious background in digital humanities and design for personalisation. The main aim of this two-year partnership is to design pathways for businesses in the financial sector to become 'inclusive by default' through developing a new framework to help the companies not only to monitor their customers' changing circumstances, but also act upon them, ensuring necessary level of care.

Rahul Rao (2001)

My book, *The Psychic Lives of Statues: Reckoning with the Rubble of Empire*, will be published by Pluto Press in March 2025. The book explores the politics of falling and rising statues, beginning with an account of Rhodes Must Fall in Cape Town and Oxford. It tries to account for why statues have become

terrains for the assertion and contestation of racial and caste supremacy, and argues that the noise of the culture wars around statues conceal deeper shifts around notions of race,

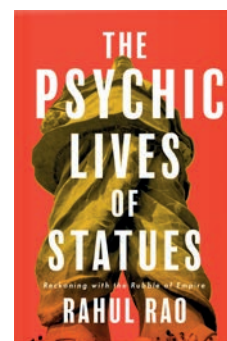
caste and decolonisation. Homing in on statue controversies in South Africa, England, the US, Ghana, India, Australia, and Scotland, and paying attention to both the toppling of colonial statues and the erection of postcolonial ones, the book explores issues of racial justice, memory and belonging in the Anglophone world. Written in a register that blends memoir with political theory and cultural studies, it illuminates how and why statues remain powerful and compelling forms of memorialisation.

Frederick Stone (2001)

I recently sold my business, The Arch Climbing Wall in London, after 17 years to spend more time with family in North Devon.

Tom Lane (2002)

In 2024, my new work, 'Earth – The Cradle of Life,' was commissioned and performed by the Esker Festival Orchestra in Galway and Dublin as part of the Planets Suite by Gustav Holst conducted by Peter Joyce. In September 2024, my newly commissioned trio for horn, violin and piano was performed by the Picorlino Trio in Cork, Dublin and Wexford. In 2024, I also created music for several stage productions including *Impasse*, a new contemporary dance piece by Mufutau Yusuf, which was performed in Dublin, Edinburgh, Belfast, Cork,



Esker Festival Orchestra concert in the National Concert Hall, Dublin on 18 August 2024

London, Lyon and Lagos. *Creatures of Habit*, a new musical theatre song-cycle composed in collaboration with writer Lily Akerman was performed in Cork Opera House in June 2024.

Brian Tang (2002)

I'm delighted to share that after nearly ten years together, Fiona Sanderson and I got married at the Oxford Town Hall in August 2024. We're settling into married life nicely, and now live in Kennington, where we bought a house together last year.



Michael Konaris (2003)

Michael Konaris (2003) is a Research Fellow at the Research Centre for Greek and Latin Literature of the Academy of Athens (<https://academyofathens.gr/en/personel/konaris-mihalis>). His research interests lie in the history of classical scholarship, particularly the study of Greek religion and mythology, as well as the history of comparisons between ancient Greece and China in 19th- and early 20th-century Europe and North America.

Dermot Green (2004)

I was awarded a European Research Council Consolidator Grant (€2 million for five years, 2025–2030) to continue my research on many-body theory of low-energy antimatter interactions with matter, following my ERC Starting Grant (2019–2024). I will be very happy to hear from Balliol alumni with experience in theoretical/computational physics or chemistry who may be interested in joining my group at Queen's University Belfast. I joined the Institute of Physics UK Council of Trustees as the sole representative of the island of Ireland, and am the first Chair of the Board of Directors of the newly-founded Institute of Physics of Ireland Plc.

Nic Ramsden (2004)

I will be joining RSK Middle East (<https://me.rskgroup.com>) on 1 February as Saudi Arabia Country Manager, delivering technical and engineering services throughout the Middle East. I will be leading RSK's environmental and social sustainability consulting, as well as engineering and technical services, for key clients in KSA, including NEOM, Al Ula, AMAALA, and Red Sea Global. Looking forward to the next adventure – if any old Balliol members have sustainability requirements in KSA, drop me a line!

Lucy King (2005)

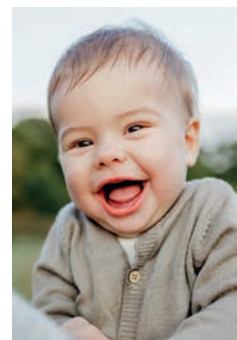
I'm just entering my 19th year of working with the Kenya-based organisation, Save the Elephants (www.savetheelephants.org), helping Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton's team protect African elephants, which is a huge challenge. In 2024, I was promoted to Coexistence Director and now work closely with our continental program, The Elephant Crisis Fund, which is helping provide technical and financial support to human-elephant conflict sites across 19 African range states. I recently published nine years of data from my project site near Tsavo National Park, showing that beehive fences are up to 86% effective during peak crop seasons at keeping elephants out of small-scale farms. This coexistence method emerged from my DPhil research at Balliol and Oxford's (old) Zoology Department and has now spread to 23 countries in Africa and Asia. We have a huge task on our hands, protecting elephants in today's political and environmental climate, so any support from old Balliol alumni for our programme efforts would be most welcome.



STE team monitoring a beehive fence in Sagalla with sunflowers

Evgeniya Rubinina (2005)

Evgeniya Rubinina and her husband, Tomas Vail, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Magnus Alexander Vail, on 20 March 2024.



Tuan-Anh Tran (2005)

My wife, Hien Phan, and I are delighted to share that our daughter, Ginger Hien-Anh Tran, was born in March 2023. Ginger is now going to nursery on Sydney's North Shore, whilst Hien is working as an Indo-Pacific geopolitics researcher at the University of New South Wales, and I split my time between Vietnam and Australia, running my startup Solano Energy to build Southeast Asia's first virtual power plant and distributed renewable energy network. Pictured is our family celebrating Ginger's first Lunar New Year.



Anthony Yeh (2005)

I'm pleased to announce that I represented Biosion in securing an exclusive agreement with Aclaris Therapeutics (NASDAQ: ACRS) for the development of two potentially first-in-class immunology assets. The total deal value exceeds \$1 billion, including upfront, equities, milestones and sales royalties. See details: www.biosion.com/news/datail/673b422228d661e81904926b.

Daniel Carden (2006)

I continue to be busy with Sara (5) and Mila (1.5), together with my wife, Alejandra. I have recently started a new statistical programmer role within clinical trial biostatistics, at a different Contract Research Organization (IQVIA->ICON). I live in Spain



between Madrid (Barrio del Pilar/La Paz) and Brunete. Please do say hello on LinkedIn if you're passing by.

Lizzie Paton Wise (2006)

Elizabeth Paton (2006) and her husband, James Wise, welcomed a daughter, Cara Evelyn Wise, on 13 June 2024. Cara has made a bright and bonny addition to their family, which also includes William Orion Wise, who was born in 2021.

Dan Susskind (2006)

President Barack Obama chose my new book, *Growth* (Allen Lane, 2024), as one of his favourite books of 2024: <https://x.com/BarackObama/status/1870153606822797692>



Professor Tim Trudgian (2006)

Another enjoyable year at Trudgian HQ in Canberra, Australia. Archie (13) and Monty (10) continued their hockey, music, and cricket, with Archie, in particular, carving loose deliveries through the covers with flair not seen



since his father's appearances on the Master's Field.

Di has resumed teaching, for the first time since her Wheatley Park days, when we were living outside Oxford during the latter stages of my DPhil. She labels her materials 'Di-namite' – it is unclear whether this moniker is too rock'n'roll for the students.

I continued to enjoy coaching Archie's cricket team, with such pearls of inspiration to tired and sun-struck lads as 'You can die on your own time, mate, right now we need you to bowl'. There are probably finitely many years left when I can reply to their shocked outrage with 'Don't blame me, I don't make the rules'.

No letter from 2024 would be complete without reference to this year's election – that's right, there was an election in late 2024 that was followed by all around the world. With the date known in advance, we were able to plan our lives around this global democratic event, and to discuss possibilities with friends and family over the world. We're happy to report that there was no fake news, no shredded ballots, or hanging chads. We had a peaceful and robust election for the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory: four more years!

Graham Barrett (2007)

In 2024, after eight years at the University of Lincoln, I joined the Department of History at Durham University as Assistant Professor of Early Medieval European History. With Louise J. Wilkinson, I founded a new journal, *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Sources*, and edited our first open-access special issue, *Lincoln Readings of Texts, Materials, and Contexts* (Arc Humanities Press), including my own study of trial by ordeal. And with Jamie Wood, I won a Royal Historical Society Workshop Grant on 'Present and Precedent in the Church Councils of Late Antique Iberia', which we



held at the University of Kent. I also attended the Usborne Dinner for the first time, at Lincoln's Inn in London, and enjoyed myself immensely in the company of Balliol friends new and old! But most importantly of all, I married Emma Cayley (Merton College, 1993) in September at St Chad's Church, Leeds.

Kate Kettle (2007)

We are delighted to share news of the birth of our daughter, Hester Cecily Kettle-Moore, who made her arrival on 2 August 2024.

Beverley Pannell (2007)

My book, *Motherhood Uncensored*, was released in March this year, raising money for maternal mental health charities. The book is the result of an international motherhood writing competition and brings together diverse voices on the theme of 'things left unsaid'.



Oscar Schonfeld (2007) and Emily Duncan (2008)

We were delighted to welcome Josephine in May 2024. Holly is very proud of, and increasingly rambunctious with, her new little sister...

Professor Mahmood Bhutta (2008)

In December 2024, I was awarded the President's Medal by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Professor Edward Grefenstette (2008)

Over the last year, I have gradually (though not entirely) wrapped up my seemingly second/side career as an academic, as my UCL PhD advisees graduate one by one without replacement. I expect to be finished



with this in the next year or two if I do not seek out new students or funding. This is partly because I joined the research board of Google DeepMind's Fundamental Research unit, which has absorbed what little free time I had professionally and introduced some exciting new challenges. In the pockets of research time that remain, I have enjoyed working with my team to explore how we can enable agents to make autonomous and human-aligned decisions in open-ended settings, such as writing documents and making plans.

On the personal front, my wife, Renie, and I continue to enjoy family life in Richmond, watching our children, Marceline (6) and Corentin (3), grow up – while also trying to retain our sanity.

Hayley Hooper (2008)

I was married to Dr Seamus Michael Cotter on 20 December 2024.

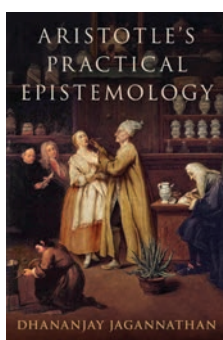
Dawn Hollis (2009)

My book, *Mountains Before Mountaineering*, was finally published in 2024 by the History Press. This is the culmination of work which

started in between my undergraduate interviews for Balliol, when I snuck round to Merton College to read the archives of Everest mountaineer, Sandy Irvine. It is written for a general audience and is relatively agreeably priced! I am also continuing to develop my letterpress business, the Crail Press, whilst Kelsey Jackson Williams (2008) works hard on multiple book projects – more to follow, hopefully, in *News and Notes* 2026.

Professor Dhananjay Jagannathan (2009)

I continue to teach in the philosophy department at Columbia University in New York City. My first



book, *Aristotle's Practical Epistemology*, was recently published by Oxford University Press.

Professor Ronan Lyons (2009)

I am very happy to report that I have been promoted to full Professor in Economics at Trinity College Dublin.

2010s

Kiri Ghataorhe Johnson (2010)

I would like to share that I got married last July 2024 to a Mr David Johnson! David studied Music at Queens' College, Cambridge. I am now Kirandeep Ghataorhe Johnson.



Aron Polos (2010)

Joanna and I now have a wonderful daughter, Gemma, born in early November.



Krista Halttunen (2011)

In September 2024, I married Ewan du Preez in Helsinki Cathedral. The ceremony was followed by a Finnish-South African party attended by many friends and loved ones from around the world, including many dear friends from Balliol. This was a few months after I had graduated from Imperial College London with a PhD



in Environmental Policy, so it was a happily eventful year.

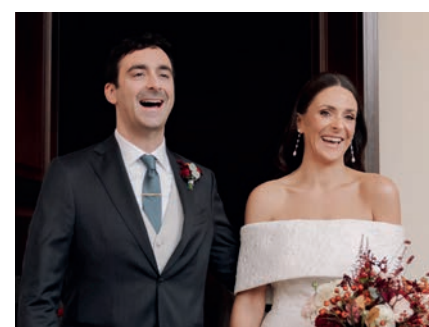
Emily Kesling (2011) and Fabio Massimo Zennaro (2011)

We are delighted to announce the birth of our son, Peregrine Kesling Zennaro. He was born in Bergen, Norway on 20 October.



Yasmin Naja (2011)

Matteo and I got married in November 2024 in Parma, Italy – close to Matteo's hometown. It was a lovely sunny day, and we had the best time with family and friends (and, of course, lots of great food) before heading to the Alps for our honeymoon. We are now enjoying married life back in London with our rescue cat, Percy, who was unable to make the wedding, but who was represented by a little figurine on top of the cake!



Andrew Paverd (2011)

I'm delighted to share that I married Dr Hania Wyciszczok (Newnham College, Cambridge, 2013) in the Church of St Barbara, Kraków, on 10 August 2024. We had a wonderful celebration together with family from around the world and friends from Oxford, Cambridge, and beyond.



Tom Theuns (2011)

My first book, *Protecting Democracy in Europe: Pluralism, Autocracy and the Future of the EU* (<https://tinyurl.com/4aak6akk>) was published by Hurst Publishers and Oxford University Press in November 2024. It explores European responses to democratic backsliding in EU member states using tools of political theory. I held launch events at the Representation of the European Commission in The Hague and at the European Parliament in Brussels. The book is based on my habilitation thesis, which I defended at Sciences Po Paris in the Autumn.

**Lorenzo Bondioli (2012)**

In 2024, I was appointed Assistant Professor of Medieval Islamic History at Harvard: <https://history.fas.harvard.edu/people/lorenzo-bondioli>

**Greg Lehman (2012)**

Greg Lehman has been appointed as Professorial Fellow and UNESCO Chair on Communication, Environment and Heritage at the University of Tasmania. Greg continues the research commenced during his MSt in History of Art and Visual Cultures, recently contributing to the curatorium and publication for the University of Melbourne Potter Museum of Art's exhibition, *65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art* by Marcia Langton and Judith Ryan (Thames & Hudson, 2024).

**Laia Josa-Culleré (2013)**

In 2024, I obtained an ERC Starting Grant, which allows me to start an independent research group at IQAC-CSIC in Barcelona. Our focus will be on developing new drug modalities

to eliminate cancer stem cells. Additionally, we welcomed our second child, Pau Perdigó Josa, who was born in May.

Benjamin Pope (2013)

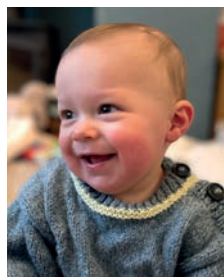
After four years at the University of Queensland, in February 2025, I joined Macquarie University in Sydney as an Associate Professor in Statistical Data Science, starting a group working on astrostatistics. It is a huge privilege to come home to a continuing position in the city I grew up in, and have the support of the amazing stats department at MQ to connect physics and statistics.

**Victor Porras (2013)**

I'm pleased to announce that Tanya Milne (2014) and I were married in July 2024. We're currently living in London and looking forward to our life together.

Lucy Rayfield (2013)

My husband, Adam, and I would like to share the news of the birth of our son, Thomas William Rayfield Cross. He arrived on 7 May 2024 and is eight months old as I write this. He is very adventurous and always smiling!

**Keller Scholl (2013)**

I was married on 29 April 2024 to Fabian Scholl ne Chandler, who has relocated to Arlington, Virginia to be with me. I'm finishing up my PhD in Policy Analysis at the RAND Corporation, writing about alternative frameworks for understanding automation.

James Collingwood Letten (2014)

On 25 May 2024, Ellie and I tied the knot at St Peter's Church in Westleigh, North Devon, joined by family and many friends from my time at Balliol. Anyone at the College between 2014 and 2017 may remember Ellie's frequent visits, where she could regularly be found waiting at the bottom of staircase



21 during early morning fire alarms, or unconstitutionally making quorum at Sunday night JCR committee meetings. We are now proud to call ourselves 'Mr and Mrs Collingwood Letten', and I feel incredibly lucky to have married the woman who has been my best friend for over a decade and counting.

Giuseppe Dal Pra (2014)

The news I have to share is that the Odyssean Institute, the charity and think tank I founded, has completed a world first in horizon scanning on global catastrophic risks this year. We aim to use the findings to help future citizen assemblies build resilience to such risks. Our findings are in preprint and under peer review currently.

**Zoë Pollak (2015)**

My essay, 'The Politics of Reverie in Olivia Ward Bush's *Driftwood*', won the American Literature Society's 1921 Prize for Best Essay in American Literature in 2024. The essay is published in *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters* in the 42.4 (Fall 2024) issue. The prize website can be found here: <https://americanliteraturesociety.wordpress.com/1921-prize-in-american-literature/>

Engin Demirel (2016)

I have been promoted to Global Head of Commercialization – General Manager position at Olympus Corporation as of 1 August 2024.



Erica Li (2016)

I'm pleased to share that my novel-in-progress has been shortlisted for the #Merky Books New Writers' Prize 2024/2025, an annual writing competition organised by Penguin Random House UK.

Felix Simon (2016)

2024 was a big year for me. In July, I passed my DPhil viva with no corrections (which I neither expected nor aimed for) at the Oxford



Internet Institute, bringing five years of research on the use of AI in the news to a preliminary conclusion. Balliol and its community have played a pivotal role in this, and my academic and personal journey would have been poorer without it. Thankfully, instead of leaving, I was able to stay in Oxford with my partner, Michelle, where I now work as a Research Fellow in AI and News at the University's Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, while Michelle carries out research in population health between Heidelberg and Stanford Universities. We both have tried to make the most of our time here and spend as much of it as possible with the wonderful friends we've made (many of them thanks to Balliol) in Oxford, London, the UK, and beyond. My research these days focuses mostly on the implications of a changing news and information environment for democratic discourse and the functioning of democracy, with a special emphasis on the use and reception of AI for news and information, the shifting power dynamics between the news and the technology sector, and AI's role in misinformation and democracy. For anyone interested in this, I can be contacted through: www.felixsimon.net

Francis Barnett (2017)

I will be getting married to the wonderful Eleanor Douglas in Hereford in February 2025. We are also expecting our first child together in May 2025.

Michael Fallona (2018)

Michael Fallona is pursuing a Doctorate in Business at Pepperdine University.

Claudia Serrano Colomé (2019)

After completing the MSc in 2020, I started a PhD in Barcelona, studying the genetics of mutational processes and cancer. I am very happy to share that in October 2024, I successfully defended my thesis, which is entitled 'Somatic and germline mutational processes and the evolution of cancer driver genes'. Now, I am looking forward to continuing learning and growing in the field of computational genetics in Munich, Germany.



the grounds of liabilities for citizens in non-democratic contexts. This problematically leaves a lacuna. This article advances a distinctive two-pronged authorisation-based account applicable to non-democracies. Objective authorisers are individuals who derive presumptive benefits, are comparably better-off under, and can reliably influence the decision-making processes over the injustice perpetrated by the state. Subjective authorisers are citizens who autonomously endorse their state as credible interpreters and upholders of their aims in relation to the injustices in question. Both objective and subjective authorisers of the state in relation to particular injustices perpetrated, are liable to compensate, actively oppose, and commemorate the victims of state-perpetrated injustices. This account will be shown to be empirically applicable to a large number of minimally decent non-democratic states, where the political elite enjoy moderate popular support over their incorporation and reflection of citizen interests and preferences in their governance, despite the absence of formal democratic electoral mechanisms.'

Keeping in touch

Thank you very much to everyone who sent in *News and Notes*. We have been delighted by the response this year.

We are always pleased to hear what Old Members of Balliol are doing. You can send us any news, at any time during the year by email (development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk) or by post (Development Office, Balliol College, Oxford OX1 3BJ). If you have news you would like to share in the next issue of *News and Notes*, please email it to newsandnotes@balliol.ox.ac.uk or send it by post to the Development Office as above: deadline end of January 2026.

If you would like to change how Balliol communicates with you or how you receive any of our publications, please contact the Development Office as above or manage your preferences online at www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol.

2020s

Brian Wong (2020)

Dr Brian Wong published an article with the *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* in 2024, which featured in the top 15 most read articles of the journal last year.

Edited abstract as follows: 'When states perpetrate injustices, do their individual citizens develop liabilities to repair such wrongdoings? Most existing accounts of citizens' liabilities for state-perpetrated injustices, whilst applicable across certain democratic contexts, struggle to provide robust accounts of

