



BALLIOL  
COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

# FLOREAT DOMUS

NEWS AND FEATURES FROM THE BALLIOL COMMUNITY | MAY 2017



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# FLOREAT DOMUS

MAY 2017

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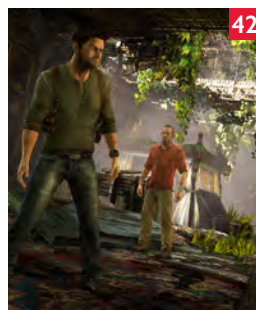
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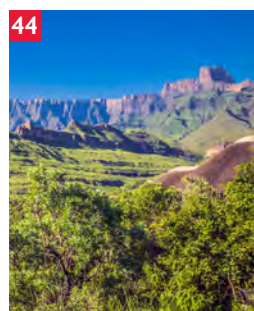
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Front cover: Kanittika Ruengkajorn (DPhil Organic Chemistry), left, and Wing Nam Yiu (DPhil Engineering Science) on matriculation day 2014; photograph by Rob Judges.

Thank you to all who have kindly written articles, agreed to be interviewed, provided photographs or information, or otherwise assisted in the preparation of this magazine. We are always pleased to receive feedback, and suggestions for articles: please send these to the Editor by email to [anne.askwith@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:anne.askwith@balliol.ox.ac.uk) or at the address above.



The Master speaking at the Jowett Bicentenary Seminar (see page 46).

# From the Master

## Sir Drummond Bone (1968)

There is a temptation to dive into the Alice Through the Looking Glass world of contemporary politics here and across the Atlantic, but it is probably better, and certainly safer, to put our energy into our own activities. Nevertheless, the College lives in a context which at best is unsettling. For the moment we seem both academically and financially secure, though the latter quality is only partly in our hands. But as I write we have three new young Career Development Fellows in post, and a further three in the works, with yet another three probable for the academic year 2018/2019. They represent a very significant addition to our tutorial strength, and we are most grateful to all of those who have given help with this initiative.

As I look out my office window the skyline is filled with the re-roofing project on the corner staircases beyond Staircase XIV, where the stone is also being cleaned, and which will complete the work on that flank which was begun on the St Giles wall three years ago. Broad Street façade and the roof over the Lodgings here are next on the list for repair and refurbishment, but the big news on the estate front of course is the Master's Field Project, which has received planning permission from Oxford City Council. This will give us some 223 rooms. Approximately 140 of these will be for additional student accommodation, for both undergraduates and postgraduates, crucially allowing us to offer rooms to all our undergraduates for their whole time at Balliol, and there will also be sets for Fellows and new accommodation for the Eastman Professor. It will be built in two phases, starting more or less now, and completing we hope in early 2021. During the build there will

inevitably be some minor disruption to the sports field, but on completion all will be as before – except for a rather splendid new sports pavilion.

Talking of which, recent news from the river and sportsfield includes the karting team and the mixed hockey team winning their respective Cuppers, the men's football team being promoted to the Premier University Division, blades for the women's second boat in the Christ Church Regatta, and a fourth-year in the finals and a second place for the men in the same event. If you watched the Women's Boat Race you will have been proud at the way the Balliol cox, Eleanor Shearer, handled coolly and calmly the very difficult start. Not exactly a sport, but bearing some kind of relationship to one – you will no doubt be as pleased as the rest of us with Balliol's victory in University Challenge.

Finally, in more senses than one, this may well be my last note as Master in *Floreat Domus*, since, if all goes well in the recruitment process, I will be retiring next December. There will be time enough in the *Annual Record* for summative comments, but it is a strange feeling beginning the round of 'last times'. One I have had already was the Snell dinner, which was for me a particularly evocative occasion, as a Snell Exhibitioner myself – Edward Caird is the only other Snell Master (1893–1907), and the Master's study in the Lodgings is dominated by a huge fireplace given by his friends – and I think I am the only Master to have spoken at that event on behalf both of the College and of the University of Glasgow. How short our timescale, how splendidly long that of the College and its great benefactors.





# Master's Field Project

Over 200 study bedrooms for students will be built as part of Balliol's development of the area between the Master's Field, Jowett Walk and St Cross Road. Crucially, approximately 140 of these rooms will be in addition to the number currently available, allowing Balliol to offer accommodation to all its undergraduates for all their time at Oxford, as so many other colleges now do. It will also increase the number of postgraduate rooms available, as well as providing new sports facilities and assembly spaces for College members.

The plan for the site was designed by Niall McLaughlin Architects in a careful process that included consultation with the public and with the Oxford Design Review Panel. It aims to improve the fragmented nature of the current site and to create 'a more unified whole that is enriched by the architectural and historical variety across the site'.<sup>1</sup> To achieve this, the existing pavilion, Dellal and Martin buildings and Eastman House will be demolished.

On the resulting arc-shaped site, adjacent to Balliol's sports ground on one side and St Cross Road on the other, there will be ten new buildings, so positioned as to establish central spaces, make the most of views and daylight, and encourage social interaction. In the buildings to the south and west of the site, by the existing undergraduate accommodation at Jowett's Walk, there will

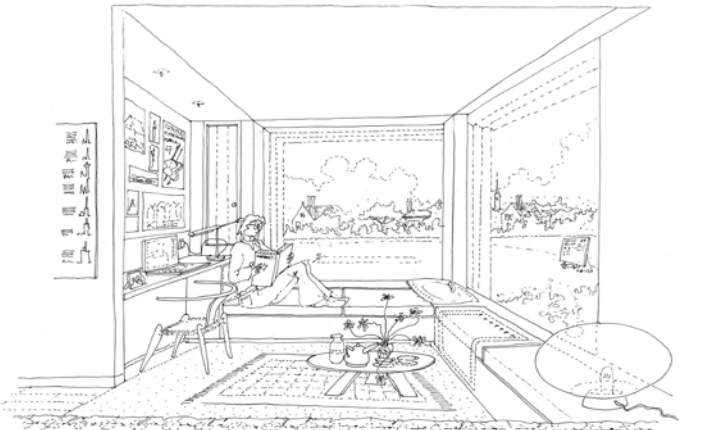
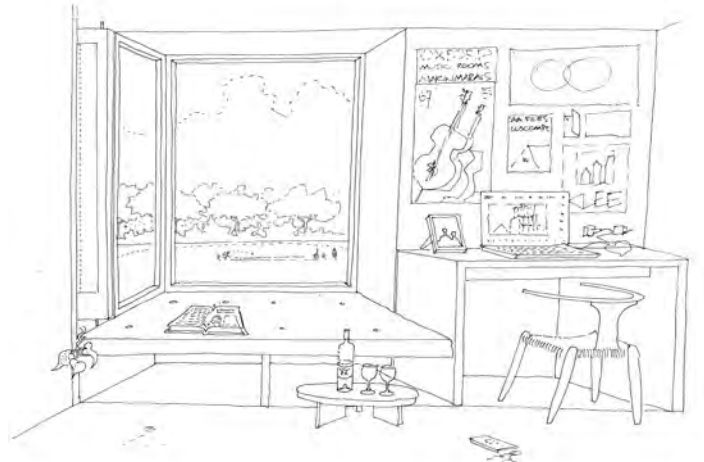
be new rooms for undergraduates; in the buildings at the northern end, there will be rooms for postgraduates. Each room will have an en-suite shower room. Arranged on staircases, all the rooms will be clustered around a central social space: a kitchen (typically one for every 4–8 undergraduate rooms and 6–12 postgraduate rooms), a common room (in three of the buildings) or an external amenity space. The buildings will also include sets for early career Fellows and a flat for the visiting Eastman Professor.

At the centre of the development, backing on to the gardens of 7, 9 and 11 St Cross Road and facing the sports ground, will be a new sports pavilion. This will be a modern facility capable of serving multiple functions, with a main hall for dining, events and watching sport, a glazed clerestory above and a pergola around the perimeter to provide screening from the sun. There will be squash

courts and changing rooms in the basement. A key space in the development will be the Graduate Terrace, a three-sided publicly accessible court which will open the site to the junction of Manor Road and St Cross Road and connect it with the Holywell Manor graduate centre on the other side of the road.

The architects' approach has been to keep the development within the Oxford collegiate tradition, 'by emphasising subtle difference within an overall, unified urban framework': in other

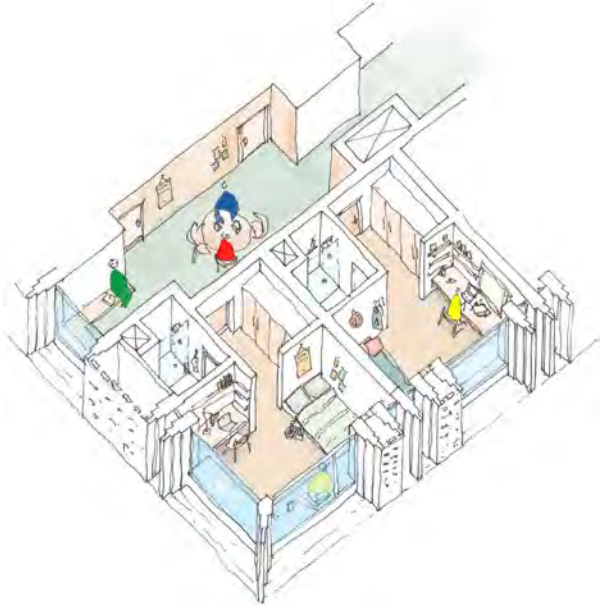
**The additional rooms will allow Balliol to offer accommodation to all its undergraduates for all their time at Oxford.**



words, the design aims 'to strike a balance between the repetition demanded by typology and materials on the one hand, and difference achieved through orientation, approach and key buildings' on the other – as in Broad Street, for example, where similar building types and materials predominate but there are subtle variations and the occasional key building such as the Sheldonian Theatre. Similarly, the positioning of the buildings, which invites people to meander through linked quads, courtyards and green spaces, lends the development an Oxford college air; while the clustering of rooms around social spaces encourages collegiate living.

As part of the sustainability strategy that will underpin the scheme, around half the roof area will be a 'green roof' of sedum over a membrane that will reduce surface water run-off. An existing beech tree will be the focal point of the south quadrangle and specimen trees will be planted to complement the new buildings and spaces. There will be cycle storage provision of 220 spaces, including 150 secured and under cover. The design allows any disabled student to participate in all activities, including visiting student rooms.

<sup>1</sup> The information and images in this article are from the masterplan for the project prepared by Niall McLaughlin Architects and presented to the public on 9 and 10 November 2016. Details may be subject to change as the project progresses.



Opposite: the new sports pavilion with new buildings for accommodation on either side.

This page, clockwise from top left: undergraduate bedroom; postgraduate bedroom; undergraduate bedrooms and dining room; view of the new undergraduate buildings on Jowett Walk; view of the new postgraduate buildings on St Cross Road.

All images courtesy of Niall McLaughlin Architects Ltd.



# New Fellows

## Career Development Fellows

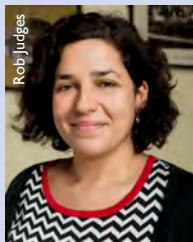
### Helen Appleton

Helen joins Balliol as Career Development Fellow in Old and Early Medieval English. Her research is focused on the relationship between religious devotion and the environment in early medieval texts. She is working on a monograph on faith and the land in the literature of England, from c.650 to c.1300, exploring how man's relationship with the environment was understood in the period through the intersection of piety, sanctity, and the landscape in the literary corpus. Her teaching areas are Old English, Middle English and English Language. Prior to coming to Balliol, Helen was a Lecturer at St Hilda's and St Peter's Colleges, Oxford. Having completed her BA and an MA in English Literary Studies at the University of Durham, she received her PhD from the University of Sydney, where she was an Associate Lecturer until coming to Oxford.



### Alice Cicirello

As Career Development Fellow in Engineering Science, Alice teaches undergraduates dynamics as well as conducting research on the reliability analysis of engineering structures; structural dynamics, vibro-acoustic and Shock & Vibration analysis of drilling tools, cars, and satellites; structural analysis of damaged beams; and models of structures with manufacturing variability and of imprecisely known input parameters. She was previously Bye-Fellow in Engineering at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, and Research Scientist at Schlumberger Gould Research Centre.



### Daniel Susskind

Career Development Fellow in Economics, Daniel was previously a Lecturer in Economics and undertook his BA, MPhil and DPhil at Balliol (2006). Before starting his doctoral studies, he worked in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, in the Policy Unit in 10 Downing Street, and as a Senior Policy Adviser at the Cabinet Office. He was a Kennedy Scholar at Harvard University. Daniel's main interest is in the impact of technology, particularly artificial intelligence, on economics. His research focuses on the consequences of technology on earnings and employment. He co-authored *The Future of the Professions* (OUP, 2015).



### Miguel Ballester

Balliol's new Lord Thomson of Fleet Fellow and Tutor in Economics is an economist interested in individual decision-making, with an emphasis on its psychological foundations. He uses theoretical techniques, and some empirical and experimental tools, to seek a better understanding of the relevant behavioural traits affecting individual decisions and their welfare implications, his last projects being published in the *Journal of Political Economy*. In parallel works, as in his article in the *Review of Economic Studies*, he has studied collective decision-making procedures, with a focus on how their design shapes societal welfare.

Previously, Miguel held a tenure position at Autònoma University of Barcelona.



### Adam Caulton

Adam comes to Balliol, as Clarendon University Lecturer and Tutor in Philosophy, from LMU Munich, where he was an Assistant Professor.

His research is focused on the philosophy of science, in particular the philosophy of physics, and neighbouring issues in metaphysics, logic and the philosophy of language. He has published papers which reflect his interests in quantum mechanics, quantum field theory and the role that a variety of symmetries play in the interpretation of physical theories.



### Alexander Kaiserman

Alex completed his MPhysPhil at Balliol (2007), moving to Jesus College for his BPhil and DPhil. Following a year as a Procter Fellow at Princeton University, he joins Balliol as Fairfax Fellow and Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy.

Alex's research focuses on the metaphysics of causation, freedom and responsibility. He has papers forthcoming in *Erkenntnis*, *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, and the *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. He is working on physicalism and mental causation, the concept of secondary liability in the criminal law, and causal contribution in the law of war.



### Philip Howard

Philip is Professor of Internet Studies at the Oxford Internet Institute and Professorial Fellow at Balliol. He investigates the impact of digital media on political life around the world, and his research has demonstrated how new information technologies are used in civic engagement and social control. He



has published eight books – most recently *Pax Technica: How the Internet of Things May Set Us Free or Lock Us Up* (Yale University Press, 2016) – and over 100 articles, book chapters, conference papers, and commentary essays.

Philip has held senior academic appointments at Stanford, Princeton, and Columbia Universities, and helped launch the School of Public Policy at Central European University in Budapest. Recently he received a Consolidator Award from the European Research Council for his study of algorithms and public life.

## Sidney Milkis

Sidney is the White Burkett Miller Professor of the Department of Politics and Faculty Associate in the Miller Center at the University of Virginia. He comes to Balliol as John G. Winant Visiting Professor of American Government.

Sidney's most recent books are: *Presidential Greatness* (2000), with Marc Landy; *The American Presidency: Origins and Development, 1776–2014* (2015), with Michael Nelson; and *The Politics of Major Policy Reform since the Second World War* (2014), edited with Jeffery Jenkins. He is also the editor, with Jerome Mileur, of three volumes on 20th-century political reform. Currently, he is completing a project that examines the relationship between presidents and social movements.



## Vicky Neale

Vicky came to Balliol as Whitehead Lecturer in 2014 and is now a Supernumerary Fellow. She was a Fellow and Director of Studies in Mathematics at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, before coming to Oxford.

Vicky's role combines teaching undergraduates, specialising in aspects of pure maths, with work on public engagement with maths. She has appeared on BBC Radio 4, and given numerous talks and workshops for school students as well as invited public lectures. She is closely involved with the UK Mathematics Trust, chairing the UKMT Enrichment Subtrust, which runs summer schools for UK school students.



## Niles Pierce

Niles is the 74th George Eastman Visiting Professor. As Professor of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Bioengineering at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), he is working to engineer small conditional RNAs that function as programmable molecular instruments, enabling readout and regulation of the state of endogenous biological circuitry within intact organisms. His research group has contributed to the founding of the discipline of molecular programming, developing molecular mechanisms, design principles, and computational algorithms that enable the rational design and construction of dynamic molecular devices.

Niles has received the Fox Prize in Numerical Analysis, a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, and the Feynman Prize for Excellence in Teaching. In 2014, he was one of two engineers in the United States to be named a Guggenheim Fellow.



Achim Steiner speaking at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, January 2017, on how sea-level rise will affect population displacement in a world warmed by 4°C.

## Achim Steiner

Prior to being appointed Director of the Oxford Martin School and a Professorial Fellow at Balliol, Achim served as United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (2006–2016).

He began his career as a development economist, which led him into the broader arena of sustainable development, international relations and global diplomacy. He has been chief executive of various institutions, including the World Commission on Dams, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the United Nations Office at Nairobi. He serves on the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, the AGORA Verkehrswende Council, Germany, and the International Olympic Committee's Sustainability and Legacy Commission and other boards and councils.

Achim's work has been recognised through the Talberg Foundation's Award for Principled Pragmatism, the Bruno H. Schubert Prize for Environmental Leadership, the German Sustainability Award and numerous other awards.



## Gijsbert Werner

Gijsbert is a Newton International Fellow at the Department of Zoology, and joins Balliol as a Junior Research Fellow in the Sciences, having completed his PhD at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

Gijsbert's research interests lie in the evolution and maintenance of cooperation. He applies economics and evolutionary theory to study how cooperative interactions within and between species can be analysed as exchanges between trading partners, including cooperation within species and among humans. As a JRF he will develop a large-scale database of insect sociality, mapping this dataset to a massive phylogeny of insects to elucidate large-scale and ancient patterns of eusociality evolution, with a view to establishing the relative importance of potential explanatory factors for the emergence of eusocial societies.



# Awards

## New Year Honours 2017

**Professor David Smith** (1963), writer, broadcaster and arts administrator, was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to culture and the arts in Wales.

**Professor Simon Frith** (1964), Tovey Professor of Music, University of Edinburgh, was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to higher education and popular music. An academic and journalist, he specialises in the problems of taking popular music seriously; most of his scholarly publications have been in this field. He was rock critic for the *Sunday Times* and the *Observer*, and a music columnist for the New York *Village Voice*; he has also chaired the judging of the Mercury Music prize since 1993.



**Simon Walker** (1971), lately Director General of the Institute of Directors, was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to business and the economy. He has also worked in the media and politics; he was previously Communications Secretary to the Queen and adviser to former Prime Minister John Major.

**Michael Williams** (1975), Director, HM Treasury, was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) for services to global tax policy and taxpayers.

**Professor V.C. Gibson FRS** (1980), lately Chief Scientific Adviser at the Ministry of Defence, was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) for services to defence. He is Visiting Professor of Chemistry at Imperial College, London, where he occupied the Sir Edward Frankland BP Chair of Inorganic Chemistry until 2008, when he joined BP as the company's Chief Chemist.

humanity'. He has published extensively on political philosophy, the philosophy of social science, history of philosophy and intellectual history and has also received the Kyoto, Templeton and John W. Kluge Prizes.



**Professor Jonathan Meakins** (Nuffield Professor of Surgery 2002–2008) was awarded an honorary degree by McGill University, where he was an undergraduate, faculty member and Chair of Faculty of Medicine.



**Professor Lyndal Roper** (Fellow 2002–2011), Regius Professor of History at Oxford, has received the Gerda Henkel Prize 2016 for her studies of the Early Modern period. The prize is awarded to 'excellent and internationally acclaimed researchers who have demonstrated outstanding scholarly achievement' and the jury described her as 'one of the towering figures of international historiography'.

**Professor Paul Newman** (1991) won the Institute of Measurement and Control's Sir Harold Hartley Medal, named for Brigadier-General Sir Harold Hartley MC GCVO CH FRS (1897, Fellow 1901–1941 and Honorary Fellow 1941–1972).

**James Mawhinney** (year four clinical student) was awarded an inaugural Sir Peter Morris Prize in Surgery, named for Sir Peter Morris, AC, FRS, KB (Emeritus Fellow).

**Abubakar Abioye** (2008) has been awarded a Kennedy Scholarship.

**Tom Melham** (Professor of Computer Science, Fellow and Tutor in Computation) has been made a Fellow of the British Computer Society.

**Benjamin Blonder** (Junior Research Fellow in the Sciences) has been offered a tenure-track faculty position in biology at Arizona State University, United States.

**Benjamin Pope** (2013) has been awarded a NASA Sagan Postdoctoral Fellowship.

## Academic awards and Fellowships

**Frances Kirwan** (Professor of Mathematics, Billmeir-Septcentenary Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics) was one of the first 12 women to receive a Medical Research Council Clinical Sciences Centre award in Mathematics and Computing. The award is in the MRC's Suffrage Science scheme, and winners are chosen for their scientific achievements and ability to inspire others.



**Professor Charles Taylor** (1952 and Honorary Fellow from 2009), Professor Emeritus at McGill University, was awarded the first Berggruen Prize for 'a thinker whose ideas [are] of broad significance for shaping human self-understanding and the advancement of

## Other appointments and awards

**Cressida Dick CBE, QPM** (1979) has been appointed as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

**Grégoire Webber** (2004) was appointed as Legal Affairs Advisor to the Minister of Justice and Attorney general of Canada.

**Bilge Demirköz** (2004) has won a British Council Professional Achievement Award.



# Conservation of Balliol's ancient stained glass

**John Jones (1961 and Emeritus Fellow) and Bruce Kinsey (Chaplain)**

In 1995, York Glaziers' Trust (YGT)<sup>1</sup> made a detailed survey of the ancient stained glass in the Library and Chapel. At that time, only the two windows on the south side of the Chapel proper had had any conservation attention in living memory. They were (and are) in excellent condition, but the rest was not, and a programme was begun with the medieval armorial glass in the Library, which includes the earliest known representation of the familiar arms of the University. We then moved on to the Chapel, and the four enamelled windows by Abraham van Linge (which are, remarkably, signed and dated 1637) were restored, with spectacular results.

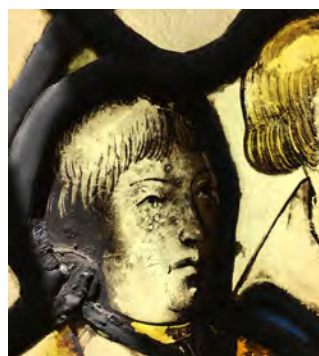
The distractions of other business and financial uncertainty imposed a ten-year pause, but we returned to the programme in 2013. More than two years' planning and debate with external authorities about best practice followed, but we were finally allowed to commission YGT to deal with the two remaining small windows in the Chapel (on the left as you enter the Chapel proper). They were removed to their studio in York during the last long vac, and have now been replaced, clean, secure and protected.

These two windows are, frankly, a haphazard dog's breakfast, but they comprise exquisite and important historic glass of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. It was saved from the Chapel which was demolished and rebuilt by William Butterfield in 1856. The modern College, however, should be grateful that it was saved at all, because much was thrown out or lost.<sup>2</sup>

Homing in on just one of the many interesting panels, the one depicting Sir William Compton (identified by his arms), with attendants behind him, is shown right on the conservation bench at York, with Laura Tempest working on it, with 'before and after' photographs of his head. below

Originally, this group faced another of Compton's wife and attendant or daughter above an inscription recorded in the 17th century as 'WILLELMUS COMPTON MILES CUMPIA CONSORTE SUA HANC FENESTRAM VITRAI FECIT, AN. DNI 1530'. This matching group and the inscription are lost.

Sir William Compton, who died in 1528, was for many years Henry VIII's most intimate personal friend, and a power behind the throne, as Groom of the Stool. He also jousting with him, and probably set him up with mistresses. Our glass is Compton's only



Top: Laura Tempest of YGT at work on Sir William Compton, October 2016.

Above left: Detail, before conservation.

Above right: Detail, after conservation.

known portrayal. If he had a connection with Balliol, it has eluded us. His benefaction probably had a lot to do with Thomas Leson, one of his executors. Leson was a Balliol man and major benefactor in his own right: he gave a window himself, and in his will he left 'To Ballioll coledge in Oxforth to the making of there Vestrie ther: Ten Pounds.' Sadly, nothing which was in Leson's window can now be identified for sure, but some probably survives unidentified.

We have also just received a detailed condition survey and recommendations from YGT for the Chapel's east window. Conservation work on it will be a daunting prospect, both financially and logistically.

<sup>1</sup> YGT ([www.yorkglazierstrust.org](http://www.yorkglazierstrust.org)) are international leaders in the field of stained glass conservation: they are responsible for all the glass in York Minster, and have done important work all over the place, including other Oxford colleges (Trinity, New College, and Lincoln). Sarah Brown, YGT's Director (who is also on the staff of the Art History Department at the University of York, which is a world centre for stained glass studies) and her team have been enormously helpful.

<sup>2</sup> The history of the Chapel glass and its abuse is very complex. See Hugh Arnold, *The Glass in Balliol College Chapel*, 1912.



Jim Rogers with his wife, Paige, and daughters, Happy and Bee.

# Grand reopening of the Boathouse

## Jim Rogers (1964) explains why he supports the Boat Club

I probably spent too much time on the river back then, but had a lot of fun winning the first *Isis-Goldie* race, setting the record winning the Thames Cup at Henley for my first Guinness Record, and winning the Boat Race. I absolutely loved it when a rag-tag group of us put together a Schools Eight which made five bumps! That sort of thing makes Oxford rowing so splendid. The photo of that eight has a pride of place in my home; I was delighted to see one in the Boathouse too.

My support for the Boat Club started with Nick Bevan (1960), who did wonders as head coach for the BCWBC after he retired. The women were so enthusiastic and excited that I decided to give a couple of boats named after my young daughters to help them row Head – the women had always been stuck with

hand-me-down boats from the men. Then they rowed Head! So we had to do it for the men too. The men were also in one of my daughters' boats for part of the time they were Head. At the Boat Club Dinner my daughters handed out gold sovereigns from the appropriate years to the members who had rowed Head as mementoes. We are delighted to have played a very small part in Balliol's being Head with both women and men. That was not the Balliol I knew back in the 1960s!

I well remember my first visit to the Boathouse in 1964. There were no showers at all, much less hot water. I was startled – nay, shocked, having come from Yale. No one seemed perturbed except me. And it continued for decades more! I have always remembered that, so as we got more involved, I decided that 2016





Balliol Blues: left to right Philip Hare (1978), Giles Vardey (1974), David Rose (1982), Caryn Davies (2013), Jim Rogers (1964), Nicola Tee (1968), Richard Wheadon (1951), Diarmid Cross (1952), Christopher Gomm (1958), Jonathan Hawksley (1967).



John Clark-Maxwell (2012) with the Cadle Award for dedication to the Boat Club, which he received in 2016 with Jenny Bright (2013).



W1, rowing in *Happy*.

was the time when even Balliol should enter the 21st century.

Eights Week itself is always enjoyable, but it was especially so on the day of the Grand Reopening of the Boathouse, since my family was there for the dedication and the Boat Club dinner. And it was delightful that many of the old Blues were there to see their names inscribed after all these years. The reunion of old rowers from over the decades was terrific for me: I saw some who had rowed back in my day, which was a joy and a surprise. The Boat Club Dinner was huge and exuberant – the College did a great job – which pleased everyone, so I hope we will have more reunions and participation in the future. But as all parents can understand, having my 13-year-old and 8-year-old daughters there was the highlight for me.



The Rogers family with the Master and (right) Victor Porras, Boat Club President 2015/2016.

**The grand reopening of the renovated Boathouse at Eights 2016 brought together the family of Jim Rogers (1964), whose generosity made the renovation possible, some of the Balliol Blues, and many other Balliol College Boat Club members and supporters. Here are some images from the day.**



# Reconstructing Nicholas Crouch

**Lucy Kelsall (Early Printed Books Cataloguer)** and **Nikki Tomkins (Project Conservator)** describe their work on a 17th-century book collection

Medical academic and practitioner Nicholas Crouch (1618?–1690) spent the majority of his life at Balliol, first as a student – he arrived at the age of 16 in 1634 – and later as a Fellow. He was heavily involved in College administration and record-keeping. He also had a personal library consisting of some 400 volumes, the majority of which contain many individual items bound together – perhaps 4,000 separate titles. He bequeathed this library to the College.

Crouch's library contains a wealth of bibliographical information. This includes the texts themselves, many relatively rare; Crouch's detailed handwritten notes and contents lists; and the original 17th-century bindings which make up the majority of the collection. Many of the books are in a fragile state and have never been identified or described in the online catalogue. But during 2016, the Library received funding from the Wellcome Trust for a project to bring the Crouch collection to light, making it fully accessible to researchers: now, over the course of a year, the collection is being conserved and catalogued.

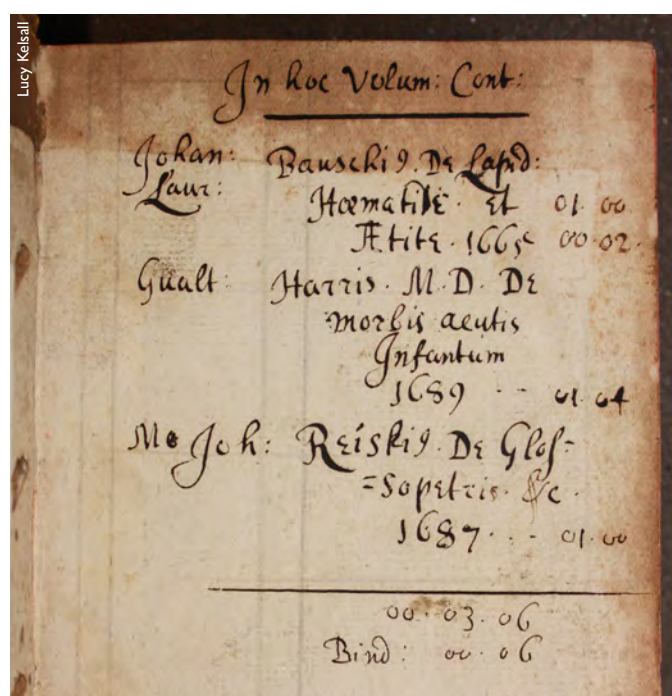
In the first six months of the project more than 250 volumes, containing more than 2,000 individual items, have been catalogued. Fifteen of these items are unique to Balliol. Around 40 volumes have had minor conservation treatments, and an additional 40 volumes have undergone more interventive treatment at the Oxford Conservation Consortium studio.

## Cataloguing Crouch

One of the initial surprises with Crouch's library was how varied it is in terms of subject matter. Crouch collected on subjects including (but not limited to) religion, science, politics, language, travel, poetry,



The collection *in situ* prior to treatment and cataloguing.



MS contents list from the end of Crouch's life (Balliol College Library shelfmark 905 f 3).

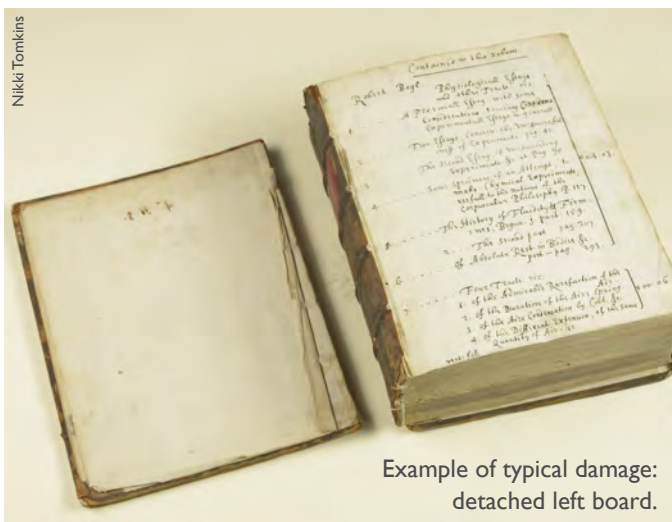
philosophy and mathematics. Many of the books in the collection relate to medicine, as one might expect from the library of a physician. One of the pleasures of cataloguing these volumes has been discovering snippets of medical advice which offer glimpses of the world of 17th-century medicine, a couple of which appear opposite.

A striking feature of Crouch's library is his meticulous handwritten contents lists. Crouch would frequently inscribe on the endpapers of a volume a list of the titles inside, often including individual prices, the price of binding and the name of the binder. This makes the collection a fascinating source for the history of the book trade.

Crouch would often annotate his texts, usually with factual information: bibliographical references, corrections, handwritten indexes. The tone of his marginalia is primarily brisk and pedantic. The manuscript contents lists are carefully laid out, using a grid of ruled lines to assist. Crouch even drew lines to ensure his marginal notes were level.

Most of the items which constitute Crouch's library were published in his lifetime. His collection is weighted towards works





Example of typical damage:  
detached left board.

**'I have some acquaintance with a Gentlewoman who could by no means possibly be cured, who was brought so weak with this continual flux of bloud, that she always fainted away when she was but turned in her bed, insomuch that her friends and Physitians despaired of her life, seeing that all those means which have been effectual to others, proved not at all succesful to her: At length she was advised to have a live Toad put up in a Napkin and bound to her back; which was no sooner done but her flux of bloud was staid from thence forward; and to the admiration of all, this Gentlewoman was thereby recovered.'**

Richard Bunworth, *The doctresse: a plain and easie method, of curing those diseases which are peculiar to women. Whereunto are annexed physicall paradoxes, or a new discovery of the æconomy of nature in mans body* (1656)

Balliol College Library shelfmark: 910 a 2 (5)

published in the latter years of his life, in the 1670s and 1680s. Crouch died in 1690, and we find him collecting right up to the end: the latest item catalogued so far is Walter Harris's *De morbis acutis infantum*, printed in London in 1689. The contents list for this volume shows Crouch's handwriting, and his maths, to be as sharp as ever:

Crouch also collected earlier material, from the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th century. In these older texts there tend to be fewer of his annotations. Sometimes other hands are visible; this too is less common in the texts printed during Crouch's lifetime, many of which he likely obtained upon publication. So far, around 40 per cent of the collection consists of works printed on the European continent. The majority of this continental material is Latin medical texts, whereas Crouch's British collecting ranged more widely.

Crouch's character continues to be revealed through his collecting choices and his marginalia. These glimpses will, we hope, be supplemented by further finds as cataloguing continues. As the project passes the halfway point, much remains to be discovered!

## Conserving Crouch

The conservation of the collection aims to enable researchers to access the books while preserving the original materials and format of the volumes, key components of Crouch's collection. The binding structures are an integral part of how the collection has been used historically, giving us an insight into the workings of a 17th-century academic. A large proportion of the collection's bindings

were commissioned directly by Nicholas Crouch. They collate the pamphlets and tracts in tightback volumes covered with thinly pared calf or sheepskin leather; blind tooled fillets and corner fleurons on the cover; and primary endbands in blue and plain colours. Usually, although not always, the edges are heavily trimmed to make the miscellaneous tracts a uniform size, and Crouch would frequently stain the textblock edges to demarcate the individual pamphlets.

The structural damage to the volumes is typical of bindings that have to cope with a variety of tightly packed variable material. Splitting spines, broken joints and abraded paper edges are all indicative of the kind of use the volumes received, often illustrating that the collection was a functioning resource rather than a mere depository. The damage is itself a mirror of its use. For a conservator, it is therefore important to preserve this aspect of the object's history while simultaneously restoring functionality to the book.

Over the course of the year a range of treatments will be applied to the volumes in the collection, from small tear repairs to major board reattachment and rebacking spines. Most of the treatments will use a combination of Aerocotton, sewing threads and Japanese papers. These materials are chosen for their strength, quality, and flexibility; they are toned using acrylic dyes with a good light fastness, and adhered in place using a 25 per cent wheat starch paste. The size of the book, scale of the problem and condition of the leather are all important factors to weigh up when choosing a suitable treatment. Where the outer leather is beginning to split at the head and tail, often it is enough to lift the leather and insert bridges of toned material between the spine and the board. This pulls the boards back into place, and gives support to the unbroken board attachment.

After treatment the books will still be fragile and should be handled with care: aspects such as restricted opening and degraded leather are inherent to the object. However, boards will be reattached and torn pages repaired, making the objects far more accessible to researchers of both the content and the bindings.

**'The Bone taken out of a Staggs heart, is a great Cordial. The Lungs of a Fox is reckon'd up amongst other Pulmonical medicaments, to contribute much towards the Cure of a Pthisis, or ulcer in the Lungs. The Liver of almost any Creature, stoppeth the Hepatical Flux. The Blood of him that bleedeth at the Nose, presently drunk, doth immediately stay his bleeding.'**

Richard Bunworth, *Two excellent discourses physical and philosophical. Viz. The exhibiting the cure of diseases by signature, &c. Also a vindication of the souls prerogative* (1657)

Balliol College Library shelfmark: 910 a 2 (1)

Further information is available on the Historic Collections @Balliol blog ([balliollibrary.wordpress.com](http://balliollibrary.wordpress.com)), with regular updates on the progress of the project.

**'Balliol now owns  
the largest and  
most flexible  
black-box studio  
venue in the  
University.'**

From a performance of  
*Rhinoceros* by Eugène Ionesco,  
Trinity Term 2016.



# A dramatic transformation

**Peter Sayer (2014)**

In the last two years, Balliol's own theatre, the Michael Pilch Studio, has undergone a transformation. Through an initiative led by members of the Balliol Drama Society, the space has been renovated and modernised, and as a result the theatre has become firmly established as one of the most vibrant and dynamic performance venues in the University.

The seeds of change were sown in Trinity Term 2015, which saw the first ever 'Playloli' in the Pilch. The idea was to give the chance of participating in high-quality theatre to members of College who may not have had the opportunity before. Harold Pinter's *The Hothouse*, directed by Conor Jordan (2014), was a huge success and the students involved fell in love with the Pilch. But it was also apparent that, despite being an excellent facility, the space wasn't being used to its full potential.

Consequently a plan was hatched to reinvigorate the theatre. With the goodwill and invaluable assistance of the College (including Fellow Custodian of the Pilch Professor Seamus Perry), TAFF (Oxford University's technical theatre society) and OUDS (Oxford University Dramatic Society), renovations began at the start of Michaelmas Term 2015 with the aim of being finished in time for the new Pilch's maiden production of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* in 7th week.

The project started with the 'Pilch Big Weekend', which was held to allow students from Balliol and across the University to lend a hand painting the walls and columns matte black, and to generate a sense of excitement about the new theatre. The small, awkward wooden stage at the back of the venue was removed and the shiny flooring was torn up in order to lay a black Harlequin dance floor. New chairs were brought in to increase the venue's capacity and professionalism, and the College invested in some

high-quality stage deck to allow for complete flexibility in terms of the layout of both the audience and the performance spaces. At the same time, TAFF and the Balliol Drama Society oversaw the modernisation of the Pilch's lighting and sound system, which was both digitalised and expanded.

As a result, Balliol now owns the largest, most flexible black-box studio venue in the University. The Drama Society was reorganised to oversee the running of the theatre and, each term, it accepts bids from across Oxford from student theatre companies.

The Pilch has proved more popular and successful than we could have ever imagined. A combination of the fantastic nature of the space itself, with its much-improved technical capabilities, and the kind of flexibility that comes with performing in an entirely student-run venue has meant that the studio has become a hub of innovative, daring and vibrant theatre. Demand is high, the competition for slots is fierce and the Pilch playbill (of up to eight shows a term) is always crammed with high-quality and popular work; over 50 per cent of the shows which perform in the theatre sell out before opening night.

Not only has Balliol become integral to theatre across the University: having such a brilliant venue at Balliol has also transformed drama at the College. The Drama Society thrives, 'Playloli' is becoming a much-loved Balliol tradition and in Michaelmas 2016, the College submitted a record three large teams to OUDS Drama Cuppers. Now that the new Pilch has passed its first anniversary, we'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone in College who helped make it such a success.

Find out more about past and upcoming productions at [pilchstudio.com](http://pilchstudio.com).



# Making a wee difference

**Richard Ware (2013)**



The lovely new loos by the Lindsay Bar are now twinned with a toilet in a developing country, as part of Tearfund's Toilet Twinning programme (see [toilettwinning.org](http://toilettwinning.org)): the sponsorship money the JCR has paid will be used to build a block of loos in a displacement camp outside Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR). There are currently over half a million displaced people within the CAR, and less than 35 per cent of its population has access to proper sanitation facilities. This is a tiny fraction of the 2.4 billion people globally who don't have somewhere safe and clean to go to the loo.

We've received a certificate from Tearfund saying exactly which toilet ours are twinned with, and we're going to put this up in the loos along with a number to text to donate money to a sanitation charity. So now our loos are doing some good. I'm looking forward to inviting the SCR to participate in the scheme!



## University Challenge win

Balliol won BBC2's *University Challenge* 2016/2017, beating Wolfson College, Cambridge, 190–140 in the final. The team – Freddy Potts, Jacob Lloyd, Joey (Daniel) Goldman (captain) and Benjamin Pope – said: 'We are incredibly proud to have won the *University Challenge* trophy for Balliol. It is humbling to think we are the first Balliol team to go the full distance.'

# Chinese Rhodes Scholar

**Wanju Zhang (2016)**

I was selected as one of the first four Chinese Rhodes Scholars in 2016. It is said that the launch in China is one of the most significant developments in the 114-year history of the Rhodes Scholarship. Knowing that this development was made possible only by incredible efforts made by many from Oxford and in China, I am deeply honoured and grateful.

What I am most grateful for is the opportunity provided by the Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford. Before coming to Oxford, I studied law at Peking University in China. In the past four years, through volunteering for underprivileged rural children and migrant workers, I have realised that a training in law is not sufficient to answer the many bigger questions and challenges posed to China today. I became more interested in the broad spectrum of theoretical underpinnings of social justice. That is what has driven me to pursue a second BA in PPE at Oxford.

I am very lucky to be able to study PPE at Balliol. In a short film marking the launch in China, one Rhodes alumnus said something that I couldn't forget: 'Even just one building in Oxford would be like a monument somewhere else.' When I first arrived at Balliol, saw the 15th-century Library, passed through its beautiful autumn Garden Quad and entered the magnificent Hall, I knew I couldn't agree more. Instantly after the first term started, I got a taste of Balliol's academic excellence. It is such a pleasure to study in the company of so many exceptionally talented fellow PPE



**'It is such a pleasure to study in the company of so many exceptionally talented fellow PPE classmates with the tutoring of experts in each field.'**

classmates with the tutoring of experts in each field. The Oxford tutoring method is nothing like what I experienced in my first undergraduate degree. Studying law in China is more technical, lecture-based and profession-oriented. My Oxford PPE experience has so far been the opposite. It is taking me time to adapt to it, but I have been enjoying the transition process. The contrast as well as combination of two vastly different methods of education is interesting and offers a lot to learn from. I am looking forward to the rest of my two amazing years at Balliol.

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# A chance to experience real-life biology

**Marcela Mendoza Suárez (2014)**

Thanks to Balliol's von Weyhausen Conservation Fund, I was able to participate as a volunteer in the monitoring project 'Reintroduction of hihi (*Notiomystis cincta*) and tieke (*Philesturnus carunculatus*) to Maungatautari Ecological Island' in New Zealand in Michaelmas Term 2016.

Hihi and tieke are birds belonging to two distinct and ancient endemic lineages, the *Notiomystidae* and *Callaeidae* respectively. An evolutionary history devoid of mammalian predation has left these two species of forest-dwelling passerines ill adapted to handle the pressures placed on them by the black rats and stoats introduced by European settlers. Their lack of instinctual fear, coupled with behaviours like roosting and nesting in cavities, make them ideal prey for such mammalian predators.

Small populations of hihi and tieke were able to persist on offshore islands, saving these two species from total extinction. These isolated populations have acted as source populations for reintroductions to managed predator-free reserves throughout the North Island, including mainland sites. Hihi and tieke were reintroduced to one such mainland site, Maungatautari Ecological Island, in 2009 and 2013 respectively, as part of a plan that focuses on restoring the biodiversity historically present there. To understand the factors that may lead to successful reintroduction at Maungatautari and elsewhere, both short- and long-term post-release monitoring is required.

As a volunteer, I helped the ecologist in charge of this project with two important tasks. Firstly, we walked pest-monitoring lines surveying for hihi and tieke, using playback of calls to detect birds, and binoculars to identify individually marked birds. We also caught unbanded hihi using mist nets, and banded them with unique combinations of coloured bands. This work allowed us to generate a minimum count for each species.

By the end of the season's monitoring work we had detected a minimum of 39 hihi (28 males, 11 females). We succeeded in catching and banding 11 unbanded hihi (9 males, 2 females), 8 of which were first-year birds (7 males, 1 female), indicating that breeding had taken place the previous year. For tieke we counted a minimum of 65 individuals (60 unbanded, 5 banded) and found birds to be exploring new areas of the mountain in which they hadn't previously been seen. These numbers signify a healthy hihi population and an increasing tieke population on Maungatautari.

The opportunity to be involved with this fieldwork helped me enormously to better my understanding of real-life biology. The need to be aware of my surroundings in the field reminded me how each part of the ecosystem is linked – something that can very easily be forgotten in the laboratory, where my PhD work is focused, and where all experiments are performed under controlled conditions. Now, I'm much more aware of subtle



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**'The chance to be in contact with native, often endemic, New Zealand flora was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that reignited my curiosity as a plant scientist.'**

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differences in my experiments' immediate surroundings which could impact on my results.

The chance to be in contact with native, often endemic, New Zealand flora was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that reignited my curiosity as a plant scientist, which can be lost in the repetitive DPhil life. The monitoring project not only contributed to the recovery of hihi and tieke at Maungatautari Ecological Island but also helped make me a more complete biologist.



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# Encouraging excellence in maths

Among the many scholarships, exhibitions and prizes with which Balliol rewards academic merit are those awarded in the name of Les Woods to undergraduates in Applied Mathematics and related subjects. These are made possible by a fund set up in memory of Leslie Woods, Tutorial Fellow in Engineering Science (1960–1970), Professor of Mathematics and Professorial Fellow (1970–1990), and Emeritus Fellow from 1991 until his death in 2007.

Alastair Bassett and Ian McFarlane are fourth-year Mathematics undergraduates who were both awarded first a Les Woods Exhibition and then, after continuing excellent performance, a Les Woods Scholarship. 'I'm really enjoying my course,' Alastair says. 'I'm specialising in fluid mechanics and mathematical biology. I've also just started work on my dissertation, which is looking at the use of microbubbles in the bloodstream to distribute drugs to cells. So far, it looks to be really exciting, and will hopefully see me work with students and professors in the Biomedical Engineering department.' Ian's pleasure in his course has come from the chance to study a wide range of topics within the subject. 'In my third-year and fourth-year options I have always chosen to continue with studies on both the pure and applied side of things, studying things like Set Theory and Graph Theory, as well as Mathematical Biology and Probability,' he says. 'This has been an excellent course for me because I particularly enjoy the different ways in which these varying disciplines get me to think.'

The money from the awards enabled both to work on academic projects last summer. Alastair worked at Oxford's

Mathematical Institute, looking at the interactions between arctic fox and lemming populations: 'This was really valuable for me, as it gave me an insight into what research is like, and helped me to evaluate my options after university.' Ian completed a project at King's College London, and the scholarship money funded staying in London for an extended period while he did so.

'Receiving the Les Woods Exhibitions and Scholarships has been amazing, both as a financial aid and as affirmation of the College's support of my studies and achievements,' says Ian. Alex McKenzie

(2012), echoes that sentiment: 'I was very pleased when I received the Les Woods Exhibition and Scholarship. It made me feel valued and that my hard work was being appreciated.' Alex is living in Berlin, looking for work as a software developer. 'My degree was Maths and Philosophy, so it's not directly related, but I think receiving the Les Woods Scholarship helped give me

a sense of confidence in my ability to learn new skills. In addition, I am thinking of applying for PhD programmes in the next few years once I have saved up some money from work.'

Over the ten years since it was set up, the Les Woods Memorial Fund has made more than 25 awards. In the *Annual Record 2007*, Denis Noble (Emeritus Fellow) describes Les Woods's own outstanding academic achievement, how he was 'enamoured of mathematics', and how, coming from a poor family, he achieved his success 'against the tide', as the title of his autobiography puts it. One hopes that were he to know that the fund has rewarded and helped talented Mathematics students such as Ian, Alastair and Alex, he would be delighted.

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**'Receiving the Les Woods Scholarship helped give me a sense of confidence in my ability to learn new skills.'**

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## Vocal training for the choir

**Edward Howell (Sub-Organist, 2013)**

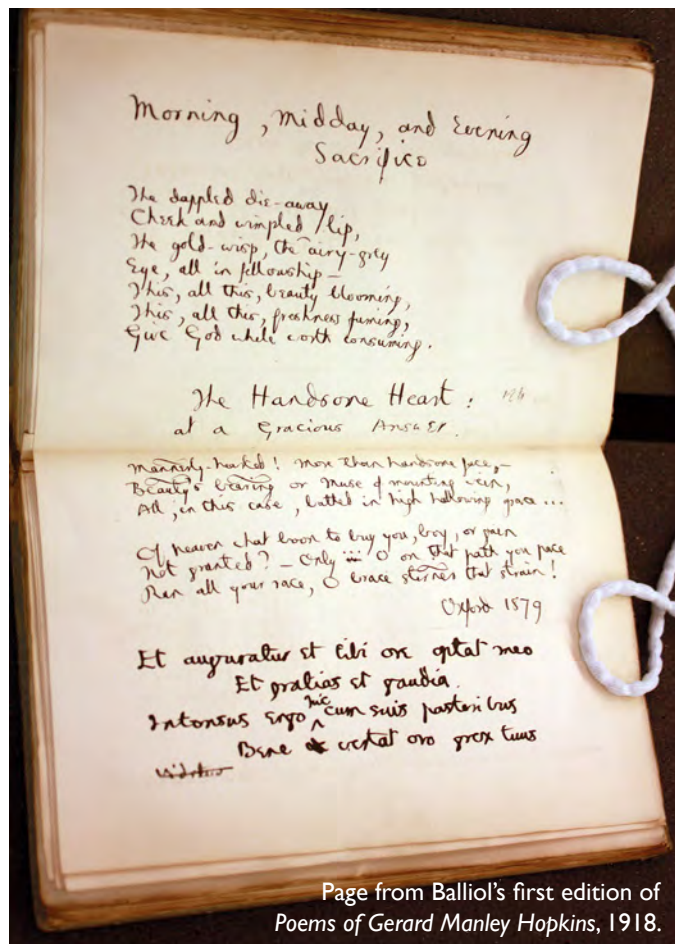
In Hilary Term 2017, the Balliol choir were delighted to welcome Nicola Harrison, Lecturer in Singing and Song Interpretation, based at Pembroke College, to lead a workshop in choral singing. As well as having an illustrious career as a classical soloist, Nicola teaches vocal technique, interpretation, and also speaking and presentation skills, at a variety of colleges and departments across the University. The workshop provided an enjoyable and informative means for the choir to understand the more technical elements of the voice: the production of sound, and ensuring clear and consistent articulation. Nicola's engaging delivery and interactive approach to learning meant that the choir were able to take on her advice with ease. Moreover, her programme for vocal exercises, tailored to Balliol, will allow the choir to focus regularly on improving confidence in their singing, and enhancing the quality of sound, which has already improved markedly since the start of the current academic year.

The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for the choir to work together musically, in readiness for a tour to Sicily at the end of Hilary Term, where it performed a variety of concerts and liturgical services across the island. The Chaplain, Senior Organ Scholar, and choir would very much like to thank the Carol Clark Choral Fund for funding it. Balliol College Choir is at the centre of College musical life, and offers a lively and social setting for all involved. The generosity of such funds helps ensure that that musical life continues to flourish.

*The awards and opportunities for students described on this page and opposite were all made possible by the generosity of Old Members. If you would like to support Balliol students, please visit [www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol/support](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol/support).*

# Hopkins in the archives

Alice Coombes Huntley (2015) gets close to her heroes



Page from Balliol's first edition of *Poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, 1918.

**'Here was a personal, intimate message, from one of my heroes to another. And I was holding it.'**

Coming to Oxford, and to Balliol, it is impossible not to be aware (and feel in awe) of the history surrounding you on all sides. For someone interested in Victorian literature, working in Balliol Library for the first time while being stared down upon by a painting of the poet Robert Browning (Honorary Fellow 1867–1889), by his son Pen (1868), was such a moment. However, I didn't think that such connections would have much influence on my work while I was at Oxford. I imagined that I would be using the same modern editions of the works as I had at my old university, and that the closest I would get to any of my literary heroes would be walking past St Barnabas church in Jericho, whose iron cross Thomas Hardy describes in *Jude the Obscure*.

But then I heard that Balliol Library was opening up the College archives to the MCR. Libraries can so easily feel like hallowed

spaces, and with that comes a sense that the knowledge they store is necessarily controlled and possibly off limits. Yet here was I, able to read anything I wanted, no matter how rare or precious.

Having looked at the documents online, any of which we could request to view, I found myself standing in the Historic Collections Centre at St Cross looking at a letter written by Browning to George Eliot. Here was a personal, intimate message, from one of my heroes to another. And I was holding it. I was reading it, seeing Browning's handwriting, holding the letter just as Eliot – Mary Ann Evans – had done a century or so previously. This wasn't the same as reading an edited version in a printed book.

I wanted to write about Gerard Manley Hopkins (1863), having loved his poetry since I had first read it. And knowing what treasures Balliol had, I decided to dive into the archives. Balliol holds a first edition of *Poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, which is the first published edition of Hopkins' work, edited by his friend the poet laureate Robert Bridges. By the time it was published, Hopkins had been dead for 20 years and was not known to critics or the public at large as a poet. The issue ran to 750 copies but was not an immediate critical or public success, taking 12 years to sell out. Nevertheless, Bridges' edition established Hopkins' reputation as a poet and has been the basis for all subsequent critical editions. Bridges decided to include two pages of facsimiles taken from a variety of Hopkins' manuscript pages, a decision subsequent editors have decided not to follow.

I wondered why Bridges had included the facsimiles. To make his friend seem more human, more alive? To detail the writing process? To allow fans to collect 'samples' of his handwriting, a popular Victorian hobby? I also wondered how the facsimiles had been produced. These questions led to a project researching Hopkins, handwriting, and facsimiles in the Victorian period. Helped by the Library staff, I combed through countless Victorian and Edwardian books, looking for any that also included facsimiles, trying to answer my questions.

Reading the first edition of *Poems* is a different experience. When you read a modern, printed edition without the facsimiles, your contact with Hopkins is always mediated by an editor and publisher who have decided which poems to include, what typeface to use, how to order the poems. This is all still true of Bridges' 1918 edition, but the facsimiles remind you that Hopkins was a living, creating, thinking and erring poet. You can see his idiosyncratic handwriting, see where he rejected one word in favour of another, see his famous prosody markings in his own hand and get a much better sense of his writing process.

It isn't often that we get close to our heroes, particularly those who are long dead, but exploring Balliol's archives allowed me to get much closer to Hopkins than I ever thought possible. Working with the archives in Balliol Library was a real highlight of my time in Oxford, an experience which would be hard to replicate anywhere else, and I want to say a huge thank you to the Library staff – James Howarth, Rachel McDonald, Naomi Tiley and Anna Sander – for all their help and support.



# Digitising letters

As a Classics undergraduate, Olivia Thompson (Balliol-Bodley Scholar 2016 and DPhil candidate in Ancient History) developed an interest in the relationship between texts of Cicero's letters and their original source, and she began to appreciate the importance of digital editing. She and Helen Brown (DPhil candidate in English at Hertford College) organised a conference, 'Speaking in Absence: Letters in the Digital Age', which took place at the Weston Library and included an opening lecture by Professor Christopher Ricks (1953 and Honorary Fellow).

This initiative led to a project supported by the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute (BII): a collaboration between the Bodleian's Department of Special Collections and Centre for Digital Scholarship and the History Faculty's Cultures of Knowledge project, which explored the potential of manuscripts through a series of workshops teaching students how to create digital editions of unpublished letters in Bodleian collections.

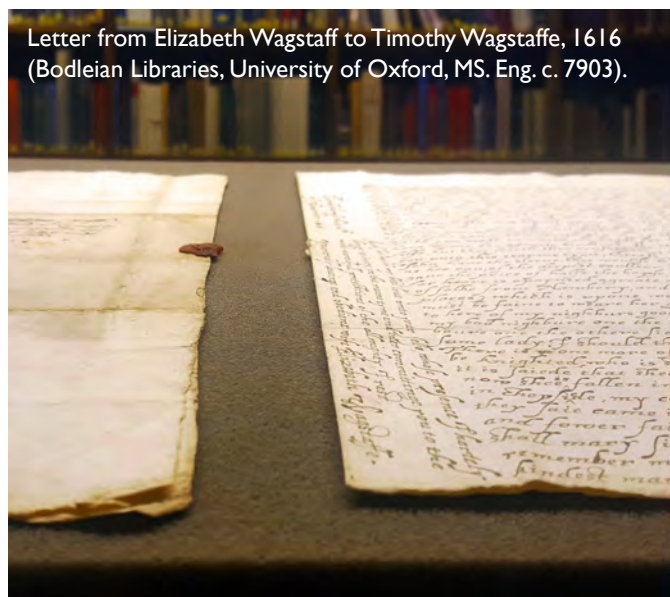
Digital editions are electronic copies of a text, with or without a facsimile of the original manuscript, which can be encoded to enable automated analysis on a large scale. 'For example,' Olivia explains, 'you can write a programme to highlight multiple revisions to the text, or to display all references to a person, whether or not he or she is named, and produce interactive visualisation of the results.' Many digital projects unite manuscripts of one author or period scattered across repositories: Early Modern Letters Online, the flagship resource of Cultures of Knowledge, allows cross-searching of disparate and connected correspondences from across the 'Republic of Letters' (1550–1750).

At the workshops, led by Mike Webb (Early Modern Manuscripts Curator, Bodleian), Pip Willcox (Head of the Centre for Digital Scholarship) and Miranda Lewis (Digital Editor, Early Modern Letters Online), students worked in pairs on a manuscript and were introduced to special collections handling, palaeography, transcription and metadata (its creation, curation and analysis); digital research methods, including text-at-scale, encoding, mapping and visualisation; and scholarly research practices.

Although the main aim of the project was 'teaching students about editing and how to be critical of editions', another outcome was the publication of the first Bodleian Student Editions on Early Modern Letters Online, based on metadata and transcriptions created by the students. The first catalogue comprises six letters written by Elizabeth Wagstaffe to her husband, Timothy, between 1616 and 1622, which give a fascinating insight into the life of Warwickshire gentry in the 17th century; Elizabeth ran their household, the manor of Tachbrook, while Timothy practised law in London. The second catalogue includes letters from the Bodleian's Carte papers, revealing prominent manoeuvrings among royalists in 1660.

Dr Christopher Fletcher, Keeper of Special Collections and a member of Oxford's English Faculty, expresses his satisfaction at this two-fold result. 'In the Bodleian's Department of Special Collections we are proud routinely to support the teaching and

Letter from Elizabeth Wagstaff to Timothy Wagstaffe, 1616 (Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, MS. Eng. c. 7903).



research of students through seminars, classes and of course day-to-day in our reading rooms. Our work with Olivia and Helen on the Bodleian Student Editions has allowed us develop an even more dynamic model, in which students and Bodleian staff have come together to develop and run an innovative series of classes with two very tangible benefits: the acquisition of valuable research skills by those participating and the promotion of original Bodleian manuscripts to the academic community at large.'

True to the spirit of the BII, 'The project brought together a wide range of expertise, and a lot of people who would not

normally interact with each other: we had students from all humanities subjects, as well as archaeology, biology and computer science,' Olivia says. She acknowledges not only the BII's financial support but also its provision of 'the flexibility and space to develop the project from our initial idea', as well as lending credibility to it; in that respect, the BII is 'perfect for start-up projects'.

A second BII project will allow these popular workshops (they were fully subscribed within five days) to expand. For the next series, Olivia says, 'We'll be looking at how to contextualise the workshops within teaching activities at the Bodleian, perhaps as options available to courses

in multiple faculties. We've had interest from faculty staff asking if we could teach a workshop on one specific subject for their students. So far we have focused on letters, but we'd also like to include other types of source material from a range of collections.' Joining the project is 2017 Balliol-Bodley Scholar Sian Witherden, who will be helping to select some of the manuscripts to be edited.

For more information about this project, please contact [olivia.thompson@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:olivia.thompson@balliol.ox.ac.uk); for more about the BII, see [www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/BII](http://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/BII).

**'Students and Bodleian staff have come together to develop and run an innovative series of classes.'**

# Advancing the treatment of prostate cancer

**Freddie Hamdy (Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Professorial Fellow)**  
describes some of his activities as an academic surgeon



Academy of Medical Sciences

'So what does a Professorial Fellow at Balliol do?' A question not infrequently asked by many ... Since I joined Oxford in 2008 as Head of the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences at the University and Professorial Fellow of Balliol, I have had the most wonderful academic, clinical, and College experience in this inspiring city – way beyond my expectations. Perhaps I could share with you now some of the activities with which I am involved as an academic surgeon.

All my predecessors, Sir Hugh Cairns (Fellow 1937–1952), Philip Allison (Fellow 1954–1974), Sir Peter Morris (Emeritus Fellow) and Jonathan Meakins (Fellow 2002–2008), were experts in different surgical specialties – including neurosurgery, thoracic surgery, transplantation and gut surgery – and distinguished academics,

making their mark in their field of expertise with different and major contributions. My own specialty is urology, concerning diseases of the urinary tract, and more specifically cancers affecting the prostate gland and the urinary bladder. Both are common conditions with many clinical dilemmas and unanswered questions.

Prostate cancer is one of the commonest malignancies in men globally, but particularly in the Western world. Age and genetic factors contribute to its development, to the extent that most men in their eighties will have a small prostate cancer that they do not know about, and which is also unlikely to cause them harm. However, a few of these cancers are lethal, and approximately 11,500 men will die of prostate cancer each year in the UK alone. Until the 1980s, many of these cancers tended to present late, and the only available treatment was to reduce the level of male hormones (testosterone), which controlled the cancer for a while but did not cure it.

Then three phenomena appeared. The first was the discovery of a test, for prostate specific antigen (PSA), which could be measured in the blood and indicated the possibility of an early cancer. The second was the great work of a North American surgeon at Johns Hopkins University, Patrick Walsh, who, with urologist Pieter Donker from Leiden in the Netherlands, refined the operation of radical prostatectomy to remove the cancerous prostate with excellent and reproducible results, particularly in maintaining urinary continence and sexual potency, though not in all cases. The third was the establishment of image-guided biopsies of the prostate under local anaesthesia, using transrectal ultrasound scanning. The combination of these three simultaneous developments led to an explosion of new cases of prostate cancer being diagnosed early worldwide, and treated radically with surgery or radiation.

These developments also meant that many men received an unnecessary diagnosis of the disease, and the majority received treatments they did not need, because the disease they had was unlikely to cause them harm in their lifetime. The difficulty came from the fact that it was impossible to distinguish at diagnosis the cancers which were likely to become lethal from those which caused no harm. Also, there was no strong evidence that treating the disease early by radical interventions improved survival from the cancer, or quality of life, in men who received the treatments.

Then the concept of 'observing' patients with the disease without intervention was developed, first called 'watchful waiting' and evolving later into 'active monitoring' or 'active surveillance'. The principle was that patients could perhaps avoid the side effects of radical treatments altogether, and would be kept in a 'window' of curability if they needed treatment in the future.



The dilemma grew bigger: PSA continued to be used indiscriminately in many countries, and patients who were diagnosed with prostate cancer confined to the gland found it increasingly challenging to make informed choices about how their disease should be managed. Health providers across the globe found it difficult to suggest that the disease should be tested for systematically, as it is in the case of breast cancer; and to date mass screening by PSA testing is not recommended as public health policy anywhere.

In order to address this burning issue, in 1999 I was fortunate enough to gather a team of researchers in Bristol, Newcastle and Sheffield for a feasibility study to find out whether it would be possible to conduct a randomised controlled trial of treatment effectiveness in PSA-detected prostate cancer. The feasibility was successful, against many negative predictions, and the UK National Institute for Health Research provided funding with which to conduct the main trial from 2001 to 2008. During that time, we mobilised a team of colleagues in nine major UK centres and tested over 80,000 men in the age range of 50–69 years. We detected approximately 3,000 cancers, and of those eligible men, 1,643 were randomly assigned to active monitoring, surgery or radiotherapy. We followed them up carefully and found out,

after an average of ten years, that irrespective of the treatment allocated, deaths from prostate cancer were tenfold fewer than we anticipated (around 1%). However, we also found that radical treatments reduced the risk of the disease spreading by approximately 50%, but at the cost of significant side effects such as urinary incontinence, sexual dysfunction and bowel problems. The results were published in the *New England*

*Journal of Medicine* as two publications, and had a great impact worldwide, as a result of which health care providers are now revising their policies and recommendations accordingly.<sup>1 2 3</sup>

Whilst we can now inform patients better about the 'trade-off' between the side effects of treating the disease early and the reduction in disease progression, we are still not able to tell what the significance of the trade-off is regarding survival from the cancer; and we intend to follow up these men carefully over the next 5–10 years. The work – and our precious bio-resources from the generous donation of tissue material and blood products including DNA – has allowed us to conduct valuable translational research to understand the genetics and biology of the disease, in order to distinguish as early as possible men with lethal from those with non-lethal disease, and to apply precision medicine to their management.

Another important aspect of my work has been the pursuit of innovation and the evaluation of novel technologies in order to deliver 'precision surgery'. In 2013, I organised a number of retreats for our academic surgeons, so as to define our strategy for the future. We went as far as redefining our identity. Most people associate the word 'surgery' with doctors who spend a large amount of their time letting out blood and pus and making large cuts on patients to remove diseased organs in an attempt to cure them from their illness. This is largely incorrect: the word 'surgery' comes from the Greek *cheir* (hand) and *ergon* (to work). So we redefined surgical research and innovation as taking place under the following conditions:

***Where conventional and/or minimally invasive surgical interventions including the precise delivery of ablative energy can be used alone, or in combination with other treatment options (physical or systemic) to improve outcomes and cure, enhanced by functional imaging, whilst reducing adverse events from individual treatment options – and where surgical interventional procedures can be improved by targeting the right patient through imaging, novel and experimental genetic, epigenetic or biochemical markers.***

And the motto of our department became 'Less is more'.

Over the past five years, we have obtained funding from the National Institute for Health Research Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, allowing us to establish a multidisciplinary theme of 'Surgical Innovation and Evaluation'. We now work with engineers, oncologists, physicists, chemists, geneticists, pathologists, imaging experts, mathematicians and people from other disciplines to meet many unmet needs. Real-time image-guided surgery is a particularly exciting area, whereby we are able to visualise cancer cells during surgery, using molecularly targeted fluorescence imaging technology. This technology enables surgeons to use robotic equipment with high precision without the risk of leaving cancer cells behind, at

the same time as preserving delicate structures responsible for good functional outcomes related to the diseased organs. This work is funded largely by Cancer Research UK.

Finally, one of my most important missions is training, teaching and mentoring surgeons and scientists in developing their academic careers. I take great pride and joy in guiding some of the most outstanding young people who join our department. My

privileged challenge is to provide them constantly with a vibrant environment where they can develop their skills in medicine and science, find and refine their strengths, heal the sick and understand their ailment (in body and mind), and become accomplished academic surgeons and dedicated world-leading scientists.

Challenging the young, and being challenged by them, is a blessing. Pushing them to go beyond the limits of what they think they can achieve is a mighty duty. As in the old 'seed and soil' hypothesis, find the seed, and what more fertile soil can one find than in Oxford? It is as the Greek writer Nikos Kazantzakis wrote in his *Report to Greco*.<sup>4</sup> Having asked his grandfather on his death bed, 'Give me a command, beloved grandfather', and been profoundly disappointed by his grandfather's first command, 'Reach what you can, my child', he pushed the old man to give him a more difficult, more Cretan command and saw him rise with a flame in his eyes to give him this ultimate, burning command: 'Reach what you cannot!'

**'We can now inform patients better about the "trade-off" between the side effects of treating the disease early and the reduction in disease progression.'**

<sup>1</sup> Hamdy F.C., Donovan J.L., Lane et al; ProtecT Study Group. '10-Year Outcomes after Monitoring, Surgery, or Radiotherapy for Localized Prostate Cancer', *N Engl J Med*. 2016 Oct 13; 375(15):1415–1424.

<sup>2</sup> Donovan J.L., Hamdy F.C., Lane J.A., et al; ProtecT Study Group. 'Patient-Reported Outcomes after Monitoring, Surgery, or Radiotherapy for Prostate Cancer', *N Engl J Med*. 2016 Oct 13; 375(15):1425–1437.

<sup>3</sup> Hamdy F.C. The Prostate Testing for Cancer and Treatment (ProtecT) study: what have we learnt? *BJU Int*. 2016 Dec; 118(6):843.

<sup>4</sup> Kazantzakis N., *Report to Greco*, transl. Peter A. Bien, New York: Simon & Schuster; 1965.



# The road to self-driving vehicles

Engineering undergraduate **Andreea-Maria Onescu (2015)** talks to **Professor Paul Newman (1991)** about robotics

'Autonomous vehicle' is a new concept that is hard for most of us to understand. What does it mean, how does it work, and what is behind this concept in terms of programming? I went to find out from Paul Newman, BP Professor of Information Engineering and an EPSRC Leadership Fellow, who is currently head of the Oxford Robotics Institute within Oxford's Department of Engineering Science and restlessly working with his team to make self-driving vehicles a reality.

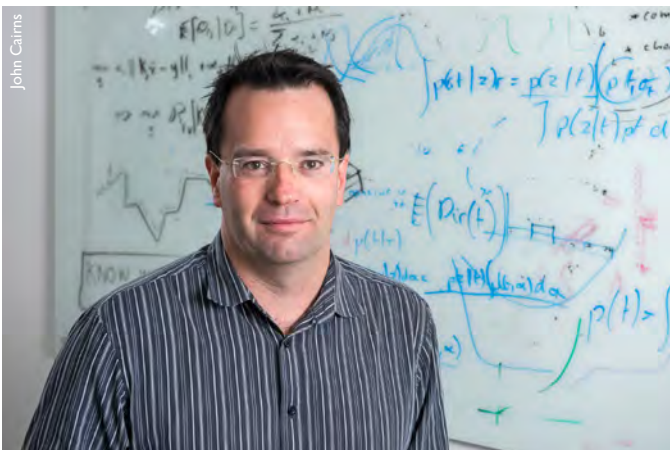
Paul started as an undergraduate engineering student at Balliol not so long ago, in 1991. He then moved to the University of Sydney, where he undertook a three-year PhD in autonomous navigation at the Australian Centre for Field Robotics. He really enjoyed his time there and describes himself as being 'the right guy, doing the right PhD, at the right time, with the right supervisor, in the right place'. After that, he came back to England and worked for a company in subsea navigation. Later he found out that the software he wrote during his time there was used to run the vehicles that were put in service to fix the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. Before coming back to Oxford as a young departmental lecturer in

2013, he attended MIT for three years. There he was a postdoc and then a research scientist doing a lot of underwater robotics.

Paul thinks he always knew he was going to work on robotics systems in the end. Explaining his choice, he says, 'There is something extraordinary about having a machine not do your will, but do your will in having its own will.' By writing software and equipping the machine with relevant sensors, 'you can have an agent work in the world in a way that was not pre-programmed'. He highlights the difference between automation and autonomy, the former referring to programming a machine to do the work you want and the latter meaning programming a machine to be able to make its own decisions later. It is really interesting to be able to create an autonomous machine which, after you have written several million lines of source code, is able to interpret the data received from sensors in order to decide, for example, whether it is safe to go through a red or green traffic light.

After publishing a lot of interesting papers, Paul decided that he wanted to bring everything that he knew together and apply it to a domain that really interested him, such as transport and cars.





## **‘There is something extraordinary about having a machine ... do your will in having its own will.’**

So he went to the UK funding agency for science (the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) and told them that he really thought he could build a self-driving car. He was awarded a Leadership Fellowship grant, the biggest grant he could have got, and the work it funded led to the successful trialling of a self-driving vehicle in Milton Keynes in October 2016, the conclusion of the Transport Systems Catapult's LUTZ Pathfinder project.

When asked about the part he played in the development of the autonomous car, Paul says that he made some big contributions to the field of robots knowing where they are. For instance, he worked on the structure of the SLAM (simultaneous localisation and mapping) project, which, he explains, enables a machine to 'go into a place with no idea what that place looks like and build a map of it and simultaneously use that map to localise'. He is also happy to have worked with another Balliol alumnus, Mark Cummins (2001), on the loop closing problem, which is about making a robot realise if it has returned to an already visited place.

Then Paul started thinking about space and studying how a robot would represent the space around it and its journey through the environment: what information it would store and how it would store it. He has recently started a project with a DPhil student, Chris Linegar, which has the purpose of programming a machine to determine its location based on the weather. Another interest of Paul's is the role of the huge amount of data for robotics. The goal of self-driving vehicles is to acquire data and then learn from their past experiences; the next goal is having a fleet of these vehicles, which will share information in order to become better. Unlike humans, vehicles can learn almost instantly about the experiences of another car – so, for example, being able to avoid making the same mistake, which can even turn into avoiding accidents. When it comes to the time taken by the car to make decisions, Paul says that each bit of software takes 1/50 of a second to give an answer to a main computer. If there is a completely new situation, then the computer decides it is safer to stop. There are still questions that need answering, however, before such a vehicle can be sold, since there can be a lot of unpredicted events on the road and the car must be able to interpret each of them and make the best decision in any situation: it might need to accelerate or to

slow down, for example, depending on the nature of the event or the behaviour of the object encountered.

It will also be possible for this type of robotic system to be implemented in other domains, such as surgery and vehicles going to Mars – there is already a project for the latter in which Paul is involved. When will this happen? He tells me it is not going to be long.

Paul's life would have been different if it weren't for the fact that Balliol said yes when he applied to read Engineering Science as an undergraduate, he thinks. He remembers the friendships he formed at Balliol, spending time in the JCR communicating his ideas, having fun, playing with the new computers. He loved sports – he used to play for the cricket team – and he remembers singing. He loved the intensity of everything.

From his time studying, he learnt that all the subjects taught matter. There is one thing, though, that he thinks should change about the course and that is that it should include programming classes. He would also really like students to try to learn more than just the syllabus, by getting involved in various projects. He is open to getting students to work as interns for his company, Oxbotica (which integrated the autonomy software on to the self-driving vehicle), so that they can 'get on the front foot', as he puts it, because 'everyone is doing the syllabus but it is all about the extra bits that you can do that really matter'. As an example of something extra, he remembers being in his second year and wanting to learn new things. So he decided to still go to the bar and socialise but not spend any money there. With what he saved, he took gliding classes and went to the cinema every Wednesday and Friday night at nine o'clock.

He also recalls loving the coursework modules he had to take in the Trinity Term of his second year. It was his first proper programming exposure and he really enjoyed it because it was challenging, it was not graded or timed, and the main purpose of the modules was to get you involved in real engineering. He believes he learned more during this time than in many other terms, since he had to learn how to split a complex problem into little bits. As for his tutors, he considers they made a huge impact on his career; he can still remember some of the tutorials he had with them.

When asked what advice he would give to young engineers, he says, 'Do the thing that technically you find the most interesting at the time, and be unapologetic about it because it's going to keep you happy.' That is what he did, and his own career has shown what can be achieved by doing so.



The software developed by Paul Newman's company Oxbotica, selenium, makes it possible for a vehicle to enter autonomous mode, using data from cameras and LIDAR systems to navigate its way around the environment.

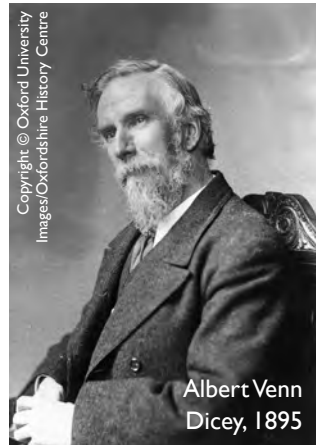
# Balliol and the rule of law

**Timothy Endicott (Professor of Legal Philosophy, Blanesburgh Fellow and Tutor in Law)** shows how Balliol lawyers have been at the centre of debate

Here is a coincidence, you may say: much of what law students read about the principle known as the rule of law was written by Balliol lawyers.

In fact, it was Albert Venn Dicey (1854 and Fellow 1860–1882), student of Benjamin Jowett (Master 1870–1893), who gave currency to the idea that the rule of law is a crucial feature of a good society, and of the British constitution. He had a theory about how the rule of law is attained in Britain: 'every man ... is subject to the ordinary law of the realm and amenable to the jurisdiction of the ordinary tribunals'. You can't help feeling that he thought that they didn't *really* have the rule of law in places like France, where there were special courts for claims against the government. But by the 8th edition of his famous *Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution* in 1915 he allowed that in most continental countries the rule of law was 'nearly as well established as in England', and 'private individuals at any rate who do not meddle in politics have little to fear, as long as they keep the law'. Conversely, he thought that reverence for the rule of law was declining in England, where early-20th-century executive officials were being given new powers to administer compulsory education and national insurance, and where 'The militant suffragettes glorify lawlessness; the nobleness of their aim justifies in their eyes the hopeless and perverse illegality of the means by which they hope to obtain votes for women.' He would not have put it this way, but I think that Dicey was demonstrating that the rule of law isn't everything. There might be something valuable – something that competes with the value of the rule of law – in compulsory education, national insurance, and the campaign for votes for women.

Joseph Raz (Tutorial Fellow in Law from 1972 until the University made him a Professor in 1985, and now Emeritus Fellow) brought the resources of analytical philosophy to bear on the nature and the ideology of the rule of law. He argued that the idea of the rule of law can only play the useful role that it ought to play in understanding and critiquing law and politics if we avoid running it together with the idea of rule by good laws:



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Albert Venn  
Dicey, 1895

*A non-democratic legal system, based on the denial of human rights, on extensive poverty, on racial segregation, sexual inequality, and religious persecution, may, in principle, conform to the requirements of the rule of law better than any of the legal systems of the more enlightened Western democracies ... It will be an immeasurably worse legal system, but it will excel in one respect: in its conformity to the rule of law.*

The famous Scottish legal philosopher Neil MacCormick (Tutorial Fellow in Law from 1967 until he went on to the Regius Professorship in Edinburgh in 1972; he would eventually become an SNP Member of the European Parliament) followed Raz in insisting that the rule of law isn't everything. It can be best to violate the law: '... occasionally, as with Nelson's blind eye, violations of strict legal requirements can have brilliant results. Politics sometimes calls for that sort of bold stroke.'<sup>1</sup> But then, as MacCormick also argued, politics sometimes calls for sticking to the rule of law. That, too, can be a bold stroke.

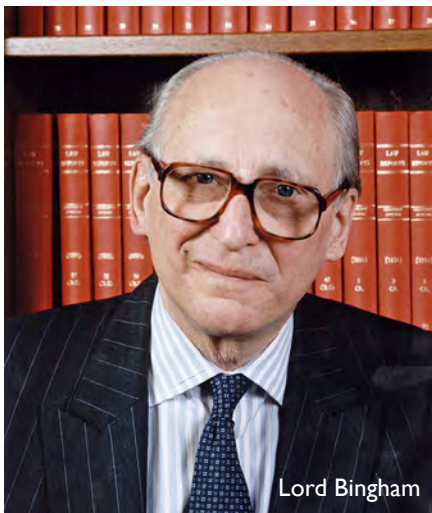


Neil MacCormick  
at Balliol in 1965

Among students, the most popular book on the subject today is *The Rule of Law* by Tom Bingham, a Balliol historian (1954 and Visitor of the College 1986–2010) who is reckoned to be one of the leading English judges of the past century. He was the Senior Law Lord when the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords was transformed into the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom in 2009. At that point he retired from the Bench, wrote his book on the rule of law, and came and taught human rights law at Balliol for just two years before his untimely death. His book is much in tune with Dicey's emphasis on the role of the 'ordinary tribunals' in upholding the rule of law. But he abjured Raz's austere distinction between the rule of law and the rule of good law: 'While one can

<sup>1</sup>When Admiral Parker signalled an inept order to discontinue the attack during the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801, Horatio Nelson is said to have held the telescope to his blind eye to read the flags, and to have told his signal lieutenant to nail the battle flag to the mast.





Lord Bingham

**‘It was Albert Venn Dicey who gave currency to the idea that the rule of law is a crucial feature of a good society.’**



Timothy Endicott (right)  
with Grant Lamond

recognize the logical force of Professor Raz’s contention, I would roundly reject it in favour of a “thick” definition, embracing the protection of human rights within its scope.’

By nature independent-minded, Lord Bingham was not going to let logic stand in the way of an idea that has become a 21st-century lawyer’s orthodoxy: that human rights must be understood to be an element in the rule of law. Perhaps the idea is tenacious – even though Raz’s objection to it is irrefutable – partly because of the fallacy that human rights must be part of the ideal of the rule of law because they are important. But there is more to it than that. Lawyers and judges like Tom Bingham – the good ones – work extremely hard, day and night, to bring their commitment to legality into harmony with their commitment to humanity, and in fact to unify the two. Raz’s approach is different, not because of his legendary intellectual rigour but because of his acute sensitivity to the law’s capacity for inhumanity, and to the connection between legality and mere legalism.

The current Balliol lawyers, too, have advanced the theory of the rule of law. Grant Lamond (Associate Professor, Frankfurter Fellow and Tutor in Law since 2000) has defended ‘a restricted conception of the Rule of Law that ... does not embrace the general protection of human rights’. Yet he sees the rule of law as an important *condition* for the protection of human rights, because in a ‘non-ideal world’, there is a standing risk of abuse of human rights by governments that are not subjected to legal control.

Leslie Green has held the Professorship of the Philosophy of Law since 2006, with a Fellowship at Balliol (the University established the Chair to sustain the strength in the subject that Joseph Raz had brought to Oxford). He has ramified Raz’s view by arguing that conformity to the rule of law isn’t even the best thing about a good law: ‘A fugue may be at its best when it has all the virtues of fugacity; but law is *not* best when it excels in legality;

law must also be just. A society may therefore suffer not only from too little of the rule of law, but also from too much of it.’ Green discloses something implicit in Raz’s work: that the law’s ‘internal virtues’ (the virtues of the rule of law) are not its highest virtues. I wonder whether this is a more widespread feature of human artefacts, techniques, things-we-try-to-do; Green leaves the question open as regards fugues. Perhaps the highest virtues of a fugue, likewise, do not lie in the features that make it a fugue, and perhaps a fugue might suffer from too much fugacity.

It is not a mere lucky coincidence, I think, that Balliol lawyers have been at the centre of the debates about the rule of law in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Perhaps it was a coincidence that both Albert Dicey and Joseph Raz were at Balliol. Those two have provoked the rest of us to respond to their ideas.



Les Green

References: Albert Venn Dicey, *Introduction to the Study of the Law of the Constitution* (1885; 8th ed. 1915, available at: [http://files.libertyfund.org/files/1714/0125\\_Bk.pdf](http://files.libertyfund.org/files/1714/0125_Bk.pdf)), pp lix, 110, 114; Joseph Raz, ‘The Rule of Law and its Virtue’ in *The Authority of Law* (1979), p 211; Neil McCormick, *Institutions of Law* (2007), p 182; Tom Bingham, *The Rule of Law* (2010), p 67; Grant Lamond, ‘The Rule of Law’ in Andrei Marmor (ed), *Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Law* (2012), 495–507 at p 507; Leslie Green, ‘Legal Positivism’, *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2009/entries/legal-positivism/>). See also Timothy Endicott, ‘The Impossibility of the Rule of Law’ (1999), 19 *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies* 1–18.

# Daedalic flight across the world

**Alex Popescu (1994)** describes his work on a fascinating art collection



Alex Popescu with Iona Ramsay, his research assistant.

For six months in 2016 I lived a life of self-reflection in the company of Tasmanian devils, on that small dot of an island off the bottom of Australia which is usually forgotten by map-makers. As a visiting research fellow at the University of Tasmania (UTAS), I was working on a collection of art with a fascinating story.

The story begins with the Australian collector Geoffrey Tyler's time in Romania during the 1970s and 1980s while he was working for the International Monetary Fund. In Bucharest, Tyler befriended

contemporary Romanian artists, a number of whom he continued to support and encourage after the collapse of Communism in 1989. Although he did not set out to build a formal art collection, he realised that the works he had acquired were a valuable testimony to the survival of Romanian culture and spirituality in a time of adversity. The collection now contains more than 750 works of art (including 61 Orthodox icons), most of them by 25 Romanian artists; over half of them are by one artist, Dr Corneliu Petrescu (1924–2009), a former endocrinologist who gave up medicine for art in the 1970s and who, until his death in 2009, received great protection and support from Tyler. These Romanian artworks were brought in a Daedalus-like flight over the Iron Curtain from Bucharest to Tyler's home in Washington DC, before eventually arriving in Hobart in 2013 as a donation to the UTAS Fine Art Collection.

The starting point of my project was one of Doug's Lunches, the informal Thursday talks for Balliol undergraduates hosted by the former Chaplain and now called Bruce's Brunches. It was May 2013 and Greg Lehman was speaking on 'Visual Representations of Tasmanian Aboriginal people in 18th- and 19th- century Colonial Art'. At the time Greg was a visiting indigenous research fellow from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, studying in Oxford for an MSt in History of Art. Greg's work opened my eyes to the historic and current treatment of indigenous people in Tasmania (now popularly considered 'extinct' or a 'dying race', an epithet of convenience): mythical fabrications are embedded in Australian historiography to rationalise and even justify the misappropriation of Aboriginal lands in the so-called 'Terra Nullius' ('nobody's land', a term used by the British when they occupied Australia and established their sovereignty over it).

Such fictitious histories, which are still promulgated by established Western scholarship, struck me as very similar to the way history was redacted and distorted in archives and reference books in Communist Romania. I wrote about this at Balliol in my doctoral work on the Romanian political dissident Petre Țuțea, former prisoner of conscience who was subjected to re-education through brainwashing, starvation, and torture. Greg's Aboriginal ancestors, the oldest (*ab origine*) living people on Earth, experienced similar traumas in Tasmania, the infamous penal colony of the British Empire.

By coincidence, Greg's wife was the curator of the UTAS Fine Art Collection, which included Geoffrey Tyler's donation of Romanian art. Everything clicked together, though it was three years before I could finally start work on the Tyler Collection to explore this Romanian art produced under Communism. This interdisciplinary project would never have been achieved without encouragement from the Master, the former and present Chaplains, and the Praefectus of Holywell Manor. I also had enormous help from Iona Ramsay, a recent graduate (from the Other Place) with an interest in Romanian art and iconography, as well as a talent for film-making. In order to meet me in Hobart, she decided to travel *per pedes apostolorum* from London to Australia via Moscow, Siberia, Mongolia, China and Hong Kong.

The main goal for the six months was to build up foundational knowledge and create a website for the collection ([tylercollection.omeka.net](http://tylercollection.omeka.net)). This involved preliminary interviews with surviving artists (Ștefan Câlția, Silvia Radu and Marin Gherasim) during a field trip to Romania in June 2016, putting together artist biographies and writing about the artworks and their context. We also explored the small archive of the collection, including an unpublished manuscript by Tyler and his extraordinary 30-year correspondence with the artist Corneliu Petrescu. Petrescu is virtually unknown as an artist today, but I had the privilege of getting to know his wife's niece in Bucharest, who provided us with invaluable material and fond personal memories.

As close friends of Tyler, the Petrescus had the unusual freedom to be able to travel together outside the Eastern bloc, and even visit America, at a time when getting a tourist passport from Ceaușescu's authorities was almost impossible. Petrescu's art is infused with his Byzantine heritage, while also depicting the mysterious landscapes of American deserts, an influence which



Silvia Radu, *Head of Woman* (1981).



he was to describe as 'the most important part of my life'. He regularly sent Tyler painted cards in which, over time, he developed a personal style combining the techniques of medieval miniatures, Byzantine iconography, and abstract collage.

For Tyler, the heart of the collection was its 61 icons, collected from across the Balkans. Icons are usually venerated in churches and seem out of place in private collections of art. Nevertheless, Tyler's icons express a private and ancient aspect of faith in the domestic environment from a time when Christianity was persecuted and the Orthodox Church struggled to offer spiritual guidance and support. It is this spirit of resistance that prevails in the contemporary artists of the Tyler Collection, many of whom were explicitly or tacitly Christian.

In truly interdisciplinary style I was invited to give a public lecture at the Institute of Antarctic and Marine Studies in Hobart (which to my disappointment failed to attract an audience of penguins). Entitled 'Communist Supermen and Autistic Systems: Dissident Romanian Art in Tasmania', the lecture moved somewhat improbably from local superstar Errol Flynn and his fictionalised autobiography to using autistic phenomenology as an analogy for understanding Communist systems of (re-)education, governance, and management. This analogy was developed from the idea of 'metaphysical autism', which I used in my book on Petre Țuțea to describe the aloofness of atheist humanity in its refusal to engage with religion in any other way than trying to eradicate it from people's consciousness. In this I was helped by Sir Michael Rutter's longitudinal study of Romanian orphans adopted into British families after 1989, which revealed that institutionalised children with autistic-like characteristics (for example, poor social functioning and problems with forming appropriate attachments) made a huge improvement after adoption into safe family environments.

The Pavlovian way a society can be dehumanised and 'autisticised' through institutionalised starvation, social deprivation, and ideological re-education is illustrated by one of the most interesting works in the Tyler Collection, a rare book of engravings by Ștefan Câlția. These are fable-like caricatures of the *homo sovieticus*, which originated with his depiction of Ceaușescu as a donkey with a sceptre from the early 1970s, satirising Ceaușescu's paranoid cult of personality which followed his 1971 visits to North Korea and China (where re-education programmes continue today) and culminated in his appointing himself the first president of the Socialist Republic



Ștefan Câlția holding his book of engravings.

of Romania. The engravings could well be described as artistic representations of institutionalised autism (or 'pseudo-autism', in Sir Michael's terms). Like Goya's *caprichos*, Câlția's grotesque and silenced monsters highlight the traumatic consequences of totalitarian irrationality disguised as Communist utopia.

We surveyed the Tyler Collection and its potential as a teaching resource, identifying key themes. In the allegedly civilising and Christianising project of the British Empire I found a parallel with the atheistic tyranny of Soviet dogmatism. At risk of oversimplification, the similarities between the extermination of Ab-original Tasmanians and the de-Christianisation of Romanians during Communism deserve further exploration. It seems that trans-generational trauma following war, genocide, natural disasters or personal tragedies can be partially overcome, either in words or through art, by telling the story in safe conditions.

It wasn't easy to bring this UTAS fellowship to an end. We watched the turbulence of 2016 – with its rejection of the establishment – from the opposite end of the world, our feelings of unease exacerbated by our observation of persistent features of post-colonial mentality and management in contemporary Tasmania. Such quasi-autistic characteristics of governance throughout the colonies of the British Empire are vividly represented at the historic Port Arthur Penal Settlement, where convicts were regimented within the model of Pentonville Prison (established in 1842). This form of re-education through labour marked a shift in the treatment of refractory convicts in the penal colony, as emphasis moved from punishment and reform through physical subjugation, to psychological control. Convicts were 'autisticised' through disciplinary social and sensory deprivation: they were forbidden to speak to each other and on the way from their dark 'dumb cells' to outdoor exercise would march in silent rows, wearing brown cloth masks ('beaks' with eyeholes which extended as a flexible visor from their caps). Even in chapel they were only allowed to listen repetitively to hell-fire sermons, standing in vertical coffin-like stalls blinkered by wooden flaps, as they were not allowed to glimpse each other.

Having primed the collection for further research, we are hoping that this project will involve future contributions from other disciplines: historians, art historians, sociologists, psychologists of religion, who will have to be drawn from all corners of the world. I hope too that Balliol and its Interdisciplinary Institute will mediate further links between Tasmanian and Romanian scholars and artists. Studying Romanian art in Tasmania was, for me, a revelatory experience which enabled me, and may perhaps enable others in the future, to understand better our own European heritage.



Corneliu Petrescu, *Butterfly* (1977).

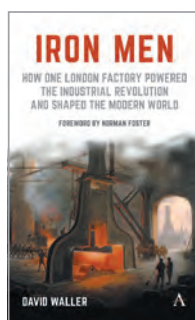
# Bookshelf

## Iron Men

How One London Factory Powered the Industrial Revolution and Shaped the Modern World

Anthem Press, 2016

**David Waller (1981)**



Describing his book as 'a nuts-and-bolts history of engineering enterprise in the pre-and early Victorian age', David Waller tells the story of Henry Maudslay, whose factory in south London produced exquisitely constructed machines and engines, and of the men who worked with him. Examining the men's innovation, expertise and influence, he shows how they revolutionised mechanical engineering techniques and so transformed the production of tools, railways, ships, weaponry and much else.

'David Waller has done us a great favour in highlighting Maudslay's boundless creativity and energy and [his book] reveals him as the mentor and inspiration to a generation of talented engineers who changed the world.' Lord Norman Foster

## Only in Australia

The History, Politics, and Economics of Australian Exceptionalism

OUP, 2016

**William Coleman** (ed.) (Supernumerary Visiting Fellow and Oliver Smithies Lecturer 2011–2012)



Reader in Economics at the College of Business and Economics, Australian National University, William Coleman has brought together contributions by economists, economic historians, and political scientists that seek to understand why Australia is different and how its economic and social policy has diverged from the approach of other countries. The book covers a diverse range of issues: the strength and weakness of religion, democratic and undemocratic tendencies, the poverty of public debate, the role of elites, the exploitation of Australian sports stars, the politics of railways, the backwardness of agriculture, deviation from the Westminster system, the original encounter between European and Aboriginal cultures, and the heavy taxation of tobacco.

## A Knight with a Big Blue Balloon

And More Irreverent Wordplay

Gibson Square, 2016

**Ranjit Bolt (1978)**



There is an Old Member of Balliol ... who might find a good rhyme for 'Balliol'. Ranjit Bolt, a leading translator for the stage who received an OBE for services to literature in 2003, started writing limericks and posting them on Facebook to entertain friends. Following a positive response, he published two collections, of which this is the second. Here is an Oxford-inspired example:

*One recalls through a soft-focus haze  
One's old university days  
Having neatly expunged  
All the times one was plunged  
In a mire of appalling malaise.*

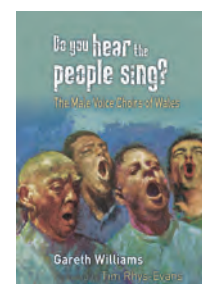
'Ranjit Bolt is the deftest, most dexterous of wordsmiths, able to make an Alexandrine dance and anapaests do headstands. Here he is proving himself a limericist extraordinaire.' Simon Callow

## Do You Hear the People Sing?

The Male Voice Choirs of Wales

Gomer Press, 2015

**Gareth Williams (1963)**



In what he describes as 'a social history of Wales viewed through the lens of its most famous export; the biography of a famous tradition, a people and their culture', Gareth Williams traces the origins and growth of male voice choral singing in Wales from the 19th century to the present day. In particular he situates the tradition in the context of the economy and society that nurtured it, and he shows how the choirs' reputation for excellence was often forged by rivalries at the eisteddfod.

## Wolfenden's Witnesses

Homosexuality in Postwar Britain

Palgrave Macmillan, 2016

**Brian Lewis (1983)**



Those giving evidence to the Wolfenden Committee, individually or through their professional associations, included a cross-section of professionals – police chiefs, doctors, prison governors, representatives of churches, youth organisation leaders – as well as individual homosexuals. In this selection from their testimonials and written statements, their collective voices provide a perspective on how homosexuality was understood in mid-20th-century Britain.

For details of more books by Old Members, please visit  
[www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol/publications](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol/publications).



### So You'd Like to be a Lawyer?

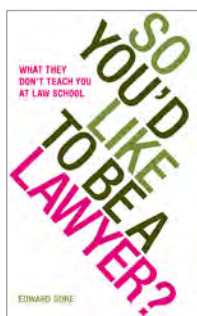
What They Don't Teach You at Law School

Coptic Publishing, 2016

**Edward Gore (1975)**

Edward Gore, who died in May 2016, offers common-sense advice that draws on his many years' experience as a solicitor, in-house counsel and law tutor. He guides aspiring lawyers through the practicalities of studying law, applying for jobs and making key career choices, and addresses everyday dilemmas that confront new lawyers in the real world of work – from manners and timesheets to specialisation and partnerships.

'His incisiveness, practicality, ingenuity and warmth shine through on every page.' John Bowers QC, Principal, Brasenose College, Oxford



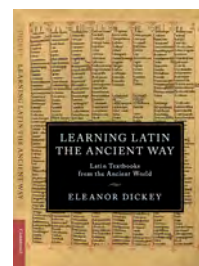
### Learning Latin the Ancient Way

Latin Textbooks from the Ancient World

Cambridge University Press, 2016

**Eleanor Dickey (1989)**

How did Greek speakers in the Roman Empire learn Latin? They used Latin-learning materials relating to everyday life. Professor Dickey's collection of such materials, which she has translated into English, includes bilingual texts on negotiating a price for clothing, visiting the baths or preparing for a dinner party; a glossary of words for things that happen in amphitheatres; words collected together on useful subjects like sacrifice; a phrasebook section on insults – and much else that not only shows modern Latin teachers and students how ancient Latin learning was conducted but also gives insights into life in ancient times.



### What is Education For?

The Views of the Great Thinkers and Their Relevance Today

John Catt, 2015

**Nicholas Tate (1961)**

Nicholas Tate, former Chief Curriculum and Qualifications Adviser to Secretaries of State and head of Winchester College and the International School of Geneva, takes ten thinkers – Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Montaigne, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Nietzsche, Dewey and Arendt – and examines their views on education. From happiness education to the education of elites to, from education for national and global citizenship to issues of authority in schools, he shows how their views help to illuminate some of the issues facing those working in education today.



### God's Wolf

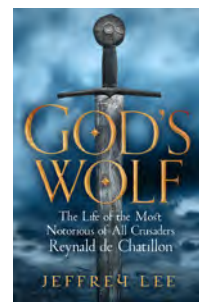
The Life of the Most Notorious of All Crusaders, Reynald de Chatillon

Atlantic Books, 2016

**Jeffrey Lee (1984)**

So reviled a character in Islamic history is the 12th-century crusader Reynald de Chatillon that in 2010 al-Qaeda addressed a bomb to him. Yet in the West he has often been considered a minor player in the Crusades, his reputation coloured by his brutal exploits. Considering him in context, using contemporary documents, Jeffrey Lee revises the traditional view to reveal him as an influential and powerful leader.

'Lee brings a blockbuster sensibility to this slice of 12th-century Levant ...' *Sunday Times*



### Outlandish Knight

The Byzantine Life of Steven Runciman

Allen Lane, 2016

**Minoo Dinshaw (2007)**

For his first biography Minoo Dinshaw takes as his subject a man who was not only a distinguished historian of Byzantium and author of *A History of the Crusades* but also Grand Orator of the Orthodox Church, member of the Order of Whirling Dervishes, Greek Astrologer Royal, Laird of Eigg, traveller, socialite, and much else, in his long, colourful and varied life.

'Monumentally impressive: scholarly, witty and gorgeously written.' *Spectator*

'Superb ... a dazzling young writer ... I have been riveted by this book from start to finish.' John Julius Norwich, *Sunday Telegraph*



### Putsch

Principle, Ambition, Compromise, Intrigue, Threats, Sex ... Well, That's Politics ...

CreateSpace Independent

Publishing Platform, 2016

**Sir Julian Priestley (1969)**

'If you were writing that part of a novel where some ambitious undergraduates ensnare a senior cabinet minister with the intention of using him as a launch pad for their political careers, but where in turn the politician uses their youthful energy and vitality to further his leadership ambitions (not to mention his infatuation with one of them), many authors would choose Balliol as the setting,' writes Sir Julian. And so he did for his first novel: key scenes set in Balliol's Front and Garden Quads open a political thriller about a former Labour minister who mounts an internal challenge to the leadership of his party.





# Celebrating 2,000 women

To mark the number of women who have matriculated at Balliol reaching 2,000 in 2016, we invited alumnae to reflect on the experience of being a woman at Balliol and to tell us what they are doing now

## Helen Lawrence (1979)

By a quirk of fate I happened to be born in the year that meant I was in the first year of women at Balliol. A year earlier or later and I wouldn't have had that opportunity. I felt very lucky then and I still feel lucky now.

My experience was that the women were enthusiastically welcomed into College life. I clearly remember the first evening in the JCR after Freshers' dinner. The women were rapidly sized up and within minutes I'd been scouted as potentially the lightest cox Balliol had ever had – luckily in the Schools VIII, who didn't go out too early. In that first term I also got sucked into Cuppers and the College panto. But Carol Clark, my wonderful tutor, generously accepted all of these as valid alternatives to reading the works of Baudelaire. Carol understood that College life is about many things.

I'd also like to pay tribute to two people who made that first year for women so positive. Nancy Kenny, the Master's wife, held lunch parties for all the women – a lovely gesture that simply affirmed we were valued.

And of course Anthony Kenny himself (Master 1978–1989): humble, gracious and an unsurpassed model of quiet leadership. At my first handshaking he asked how I felt I was getting on. I said I felt everyone else knew so much more than me about art and foreign countries and – everything. He replied, 'I wouldn't worry about it.'

This is probably the best advice I've ever been given.

**'Within minutes I'd been scouted as potentially the lightest cox Balliol had ever had.'**



'The enormous relief of finishing finals in 1983': Helen Lawrence (left) with Jane West (1981).



## Penny Phillips (1979)

'Tell us anything you'd like to about ... being a Balliol female first.' Well, this one really got me thinking. Have I ever actually been a 'first' in anything? I don't mean 'first' as in 'top of the class' – never a great claim to fame or stepping-stone to self-fulfilment. But *the* first and only to *do* something, or *be* something?

I wasn't my parents' first child. Not even their first daughter. I wasn't the first to write a rhyme. Or make a joke. I certainly wasn't the first to learn to swim. (Nor even the last: I *still* can't swim.)

Have I ever done anything truly original? Of course, like everyone else, I must have been the first and only person to undertake various projects – and doubtless for good reason, because the very minutiae that made them original probably also meant they were ridiculous/immature/foolhardy/dangerous and I was nuts. The first to read *War and Peace* wearing stripy leg-warmers? I am scraping the barrel here. I must have led the way somewhere, sometime, somehow.



Penny Phillips: 'At the bottom of my staircase in the Front Quad on my way to a ball (my one and only)'.

But wait ... Yes! I *have* been a first: in 1979 I was Balliol's first female Brackenbury Scholar in Modern Languages. Hurrah! The inscription on my headstone is assured.

I was also, I believe, the first female Balliol undergraduate to run for the position of Lord Lindsay (JCR bar manager). My manifesto was in rhyme. I didn't win. Phew. More time spent on the right side of the bar.

I won no prizes. I didn't get a first. But I made speeches, wrote poems, had fun and learned a lot.

Thank you, Balliol, for making me a first.

**'Among the things I routinely feel grateful to Balliol for are: no time for snobbery or social cachet.'**

## Katy Ricks (1979)

Among the things I routinely feel grateful to Balliol for – not least in my current role as head of a large coeducational school dedicated to international education, are:

- an unashamed pursuit of intellectual rigour and truth
- no time for snobbery or social cachet
- a genuinely liberal, international coeducational environment
- a powerful fraudometer
- a respect for the authority of first-hand scholarship and research
- a lightness of spirit pervading the above.

## Wendy Webster (née Wanklyn) (1983)



Wendy Webster (née Wanklyn) (1983) (left) with her friend Christine Sypnowich (1983), who are still in touch with each other: 'Looking oh-so-cool, not long after matriculation, en route to the house of Steven Lukes (Fellow and Tutor in Politics 1966–1988) for Sunday lunch in October 1983.'

## Harriet Goodwin (1988)

A few memories: Illegally lying in the middle of Front Quad at two o'clock in the morning gazing at the stars. Dancing in the JCR on Balliol Women's Day to 'Sisters are Doin' It for Themselves'. A great night. St Catherine's Night. Her feast day coincides with my birthday, so it was always a special evening for me. The Balliol Panto 1989. Legendary.

## Emily Wilson (1990)

I'm proud to have been a woman at Balliol. I was Women's Officer for a while, and really appreciated the strong community of women. I had gone to an all-girls school and hadn't been in such a male-dominated environment before. I was taught only by men in the whole four years I was at Balliol; I remember one of my tutors saying, 'One wonders what it would be like to be a woman here.' It seemed to me a symptom of glimmering awareness of a problem, without anything like an attempt at deeper understanding. I'm now a Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

**'I really appreciated the strong community of women.'**

Laura Hoyano in  
1998 when she was a  
Supernumerary Visiting  
Fellow in Law at Balliol.



**'I was the first Balliol woman  
to gain a First in the BCL.'**

### Laura Hoyano (née Hamson) (1990)

I understand from Jane Stapleton (Fellow and Tutor in Law 1987–1997 and Emeritus Fellow) that I was the first Balliol woman to gain a First in the BCL. (The degree is now unclassified so that would now be a Distinction, but back then it was a First). I seem to recall that Jane also told me I was the first Balliol woman to gain a First in any law degree but I'm not sure if that is correct.

I am now an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law and a stipendiary Senior Research Fellow at Wadham (previously a tutorial fellow there), and a practising barrister at Red Lion Chambers in London. I was also a Visiting Fellow at Balliol 1998–1999.

**'My tutors at Balliol had a huge  
part to play in challenging,  
encouraging and inspiring me.'**

### Michal Shavit (1994)

Balliol was and is a wonderfully vibrant and intellectually rich community of people and it provides its students with a distinctly brilliant environment for learning, thinking and inspiration. I think it will be an even richer and better place once there are an equal number of men and women there. At the beginning of this year I took on the role of Publishing Director of Jonathan Cape, the home of some of the greatest writers in the world. This was the first time in Cape's nearly 100-year history that a woman has been chosen to run the publishing house. There is no doubt that my tutors at Balliol had a huge part to play in challenging, encouraging and inspiring me, and I hope that Balliol will continue to encourage both its male and female students to achieve what they hope and dream for.

### Ute-Christiane Meier (1992)

I am very happy that the number of women who have matriculated at Balliol has reached a landmark 2,000. I have fond memories of my time as a student at Balliol and Holywell Manor. This experience taught me that you can succeed in a different country and language while widening your horizon both academically and personally, which is an exciting challenge. Balliol gave me the safety blanket with which to make this happen, thanks to inspirational mentors and like-minded individuals. The highlight was the mix of disciplines and nationalities, which shaped me enormously.

The amazing fact is that, while at Balliol, I was not even aware of gender issues, which indicates to me that the mixed community worked very well. I encountered such obstacles only later on in my career but somehow, because of the confidence I gained during my Balliol years and supportive mentors, I found my way as a female immigrant in academic science. As a Lecturer in Neuroimmunology at the Blizard Institute, I tell my students to focus on the big picture, find supportive mentors and do good science, which will get recognised irrespective of gender. The career path for woman in science is slowly improving and is becoming more flexible to accommodate child care issues, which I observe with great pleasure.

**'The career path for woman in science is  
slowly improving and is becoming more  
flexible to accommodate child care issues,  
which I observe with great pleasure.'**

### Sarah Hart (née Perkins) (1993)

I arrived at Balliol to read Mathematics in 1993, where my tutors were Frances Kirwan (Professor of Mathematics, Billmeir-Septcentenary Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics, and Senior Fellow) and Keith Hannabuss (1963, Fellow and Tutor in Maths 1971–2013 and Emeritus Fellow). I learnt so much from both of them. I didn't realise until later how very few women professors of mathematics there were, but from the start of my university career I had in Frances a role model of a successful female academic mathematician. Twenty years later I became a maths professor myself and I am now head of the Department of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics at Birkbeck (one of the colleges of the University of London). Keith's brilliant tutorials fostered in me a love of the history of mathematics, which has ultimately led to me serving on the Council of the British Society for the History of Mathematics (BSHM), and organising annual joint Birkbeck–BSHM conferences on topics in the history of maths.

The education that Balliol gave me was about more than just learning a lot of mathematics. It taught me to be very good at detecting errors or woolly thinking in my own reasoning, because I knew my arguments had to stand up to attack in tutorials. Feeling your way through a problem with examples and counterexamples, before finally constructing a watertight proof (bonus marks for elegance and brevity) – these are the things that mathematicians do, and these skills were honed at Balliol.



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**‘I made friends for life, both male and female, including the man I married.’**

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### Rebecca Ashton (née Ludlow) (1995)

I played on the Balliol netball team, which by the way was mixed gender. After a match one afternoon at the Worcester College courts, I came back into College, still in my netball kit, and was followed in by an older male visitor: ‘Seems peculiar; having women about the place!’ he commented. Unable to let this comment pass, I turned and asked what on earth he meant. We struck up a conversation in which I realised how recently Balliol had started to admit women, as this visitor was in fact an alumnus who had taken his degree when the College was all male. He wasn’t being rude or sexist: he had simply expressed his response on stepping into the quad for the first time in years.

In 1995 when I matriculated, I found the College to be truly mixed and never once felt marginalised or discriminated against. My experience of Balliol was profoundly life changing. I learned to analyse, criticise constructively, think creatively and see issues from different perspectives. I explored my political views, my sexuality, my sense of identity. I gained a deep sense of worth and self-confidence which has enabled me to weather all sorts of storms. I made friends for life, both male and female, including the man I married; Doug Dupree (Emeritus Fellow and Chaplain and Dean 1984–2014) married us in Balliol Chapel, and the ceremony was followed by a meal in Hall and a bop in the JCR. Thank goodness Balliol was a mixed community by the time I arrived!



Rebecca and Richard Ashton (1995) at their wedding in Balliol Chapel in 2003.

### Liora Lazarus (1995)

I gained from Balliol a profound sense of excellence, and a network of friends whom I continue to respect and admire. I was the recipient of two scholarships from Balliol, which made my education at Oxford possible: the first was the Kulkus Fund, the second was the Jowett Senior Scholarship. I admired Jane Stapleton, who was very supportive.

Being at Balliol has been pivotal in my career; Oxford would have been impossible without it. I went straight from Balliol to St Anne’s and became a Fellow and Tutor in Law there before completing my doctorate. St Anne’s is a very conscious employer and excellent on equality.

### Kate Marsh (1996)

I studied Modern History and Modern Languages (French) at Balliol, graduating in 2001 – after which I completed a PhD at the University of Liverpool, where I am now Professor of French Studies. Tutors at Balliol helped to make me the academic I am. Interrogations by Martin Conway (Professor of Contemporary European History, Chair of History Faculty, MacLellan-Warburg Fellow and Tutor in History) during my Special Subject

encouraged me to develop a critical eye, a scepticism of theoretical fashions in academia, and a tendency to shudder at the ‘ugly verb’ *to impact*. My other tutor was Carol Clark (Fellow 1973–2004). Her love of Baudelaire, Proust and Montaigne, accompanied by an encyclopaedic knowledge of French literature – quotations from which would creep into prose classes too – ensured that much of my subsequent research has combined

historical and literary analysis. Having taught in higher education for over ten years now, I am conscious of how much my teaching style has been shaped by Carol’s approach and irrepressible enthusiasm, be it for a tricky prose or a problematic literary text, and I will often pause, as she did, during a lecture to indulge in a digression about the idiosyncrasies of certain texts. Similarly, I find her invaluable

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**‘Having taught in higher education for over ten years now, I am conscious of how much my teaching style has been shaped by Carol’s approach and irrepressible enthusiasm.’**

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tips about how to translate effectively from French to English making their way spontaneously into undergraduate language classes.

As is so frequently the way, I did not reflect on how much Carol had influenced my career; intellectually and practically (such as the time she allowed me to use her flat for several weeks while I was carrying out research in the *Archives diplomatiques* for my PhD), until news of her death in 2015. At this point I particularly regretted not having informed her that I had been appointed to a personal chair in November 2014.

Throughout my career, while being mindful of the inequities within academia – particularly where academics from BAME backgrounds are concerned – I told myself that being female was not of fundamental significance in terms of career progress, a position which sat uneasily with the fact that I was frequently the only woman on a panel at conferences. On being appointed to a chair I learned that while Liverpool had a long history as a red-brick university teaching modern languages, I was the first woman to be promoted to a professorship in French. This was an uncomfortable discovery and a timely reminder of gender inequalities in HE.

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## Jenny Cousins (1999)

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I studied Modern History and I'm one of the few people I know (professional historians and perpetual students aside) who uses my degree content every day. I've worked in museums and heritage since I left Balliol and recently became director of the Museum of East Anglian Life in Suffolk. Balliol fed and broadened my interest in history, and my Coolidge [Pathfinders] summer in the USA helped to get me a job leading a five-year redevelopment of the American Air Museum at the Imperial War Museum in Duxford.

I remember seeing a sign up on the staircase when I arrived for



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**‘My time at Balliol introduced me to articulate and interesting men and women whose company I valued. It would have been very sad if half of us hadn’t been there because of discrimination on grounds of gender.’**

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interview comparing the ratio of men to women at Balliol with that at other colleges, and I also remember having a conversation about it with my dad, A.V. Cousins (1966) – the first generation in my family to go to university. He met my mother at Balliol. She left school at 15 and worked in the JCR pantry (then later went to the FE college and ended up as a GP). Dad talked about campaigning in the 1960s to get women admitted.

I find it shocking that there have only been 2,000 Balliol women. It's such a knowable figure. By the time I arrived in 1999, the mixed environment felt so normal. It seems odd to think that all the women who preceded me could have fitted into the Sheldonian. However, what was most important to me then and is now is that my time at Balliol introduced me to articulate and interesting men and women whose company I valued. It would have been very sad if half of us hadn't been there because of discrimination on grounds of gender.

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## Karen Croxson (2002)

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Balliol was a special place – full of fabulously talented men and women from all over the world, with delightfully irreverent tendencies. I lived at Holywell Manor for a while. It was awash with eccentrics and Rhodes Scholars, including some of the most impressive and hilarious women. It also had more than its fair share of drifting insomniacs like me, always up for a surreal conversation at 4.00am in the bar, the Painted Room, or the Lodge. I played football for the University and for Balliol, and loved the fact that Balliol would also gamely encourage me to pretend to row, play cricket, or anything else I fancied.

David Vines (Emeritus Fellow) and James Forder (Andrew Graham Fellow and Tutor in Political Economy) were indulgent mentors. They invited me to tutor economics and I was an enthusiastic Balliol lecturer. It was great to be part of the SCR and work with the likes of Sudhir Hazareesingh (Associate Professor, Fellow and Tutor in Politics) and Bob Hargrave (Lecturer in Philosophy 1996–2012). Many of our students were truly brilliant and I learnt a great deal from them.

After several happy years as an academic, including a collaboration with Bill Dutton (Professorial Fellow and Director

of Oxford Internet Institute 2009–2014), McKinsey director James Manyika (JRF in Engineering, 1992–1995) and others on distributed knowledge systems, I became a research fellow at the McKinsey Global Institute and a strategy consultant at McKinsey. On my first day, I spoke to the person opposite me at lunch and he turned out to be Ian Davis (1969), former global head of McKinsey. Random encounters followed with many more Balliol alumni over the years and there was always an instant warmth.

I'm currently an advanced analytics expert at McKinsey on secondment to QuantumBlack, a data science agency which helps organisations harness machine learning and artificial intelligence to gain a performance edge. My husband and I welcomed our daughter, Ada, last summer, and I hope she'll go on to have the kind of education, experience and sense of connection that I have been fortunate to enjoy at Balliol.



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**‘I hope she’ll go on to have the kind of education, experience and sense of connection that I have been fortunate to enjoy at Balliol.’**

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## Rachel Carrell (2002)

I lived in Holywell Manor as a graduate from 2002 to 2006, and enjoyed virtually every second of it. I thought I'd landed in some sort of paradise when I arrived. I'd never been in a place so stimulating, full of ideas and discussion, heartbreak and unrequited love, elation and despair. It was like being in a cocoon, an extended adolescence; we were hyper-rational half of the time, and extremely childish the other half. The bops were legendary.

After Balliol, I went to work at McKinsey, a very different sort of place. Efficiency and rationality dominated, and my life had a much steadier cadence. Eventually I discovered the London tech scene, and in March 2016 I founded my start-up, Koru Kids. We're building a new kind of childcare service in London, focusing initially on helping parents share their nannies with other local families. Childcare is an industry that has been overlooked so far by entrepreneurs and investors. I suspect this is because 95 per cent of childcare decisions are made by women, and 95 per cent of investment decisions are made by men. So I do think it's relevant that I am a female founder, and a mum.

Continuing the feminist theme, I'm delighted to see Dervorguilla has a higher profile at Balliol these days than she did ten years ago. I remember in 2005 playing the role of Dervorguilla in the Holywell Manor Christmas panto – I sang a song, although all I remember about it was that I started in the wrong key and it all went downhill from there – and in 2006 started campaigning for a portrait of her to hang in Hall.

I've stayed in touch with dozens of people from Holywell Manor, among them my closest friends. My husband – a Magdalen graduate – and I go back to Oxford fairly frequently to visit friends who have now settled there. So Balliol was, and remains, a hugely important part of my life.



Rachel Carrell with her daughter on a visit to Oxford in 2016.

**'I'd never been in a place so stimulating, full of ideas and discussion.'**

## Angela Daly (2003)

I did my undergraduate studies in Jurisprudence at Balliol. In the last ten years, I have developed a career as a legal academic specialising in the regulation of new technologies across a range of jurisdictions (EU, UK, US, Australia) and have published two monographs on the topic: *Socio-Legal Aspects of the 3D Printing Revolution* (Palgrave, 2016) and *Private Power, Online Information Flows and EU Law* (Hart, 2016). My legal studies at Balliol were indispensable for my later career in academic law, particularly the emphasis on legal philosophy at Balliol, thanks to Timothy Endicott (Professor of Legal Philosophy, Blanesburgh Fellow and Tutor in Law) and Grant Lamond (Associate Professor, Frankfurter Fellow and Tutor in Law), two of the world's leading legal philosophers. This ensured that we received a legal education which was far more theoretical and conceptually complex than the practitioner-orientation in many other law schools. While I do not work in the area of legal philosophy per se, this theoretical current and the ability that Balliol gave me to mix with, and learn from, undergraduate and postgraduate students in law and other disciplines have heavily influenced my own socio-legal approach to matters of technology regulation.

In addition to my academic work, I am a digital rights advocate: currently a board member of the Australian Privacy Foundation and an advisor to Digital Rights Watch Australia. I consult to public, private and NGO sector organisations on technology rights and regulation issues in Australia, the EU and the UK, and I have previously worked for Ofcom (UK) and Electronic Frontier Foundation (US).

**'Balliol became the cornerstone to building confidence in my life.'**

## Josefin Holmström (2007)

Balliol taught me how to think. Countless hours spent in classes and with tutors formed my critical mind, and that has been invaluable ever since. From Oxford, I moved on to work as a freelance literary critic in my native Sweden, to write a novel (published in 2013) and to study for a PhD in English at Cambridge. I was strengthened by my time at Balliol and developed the skills to state and defend my position in discussions confidently and assertively. With the help of understanding tutors, I overcame my fear of exams and my fear of putting myself out there. I am now very active in the literary community, and I would not have been had I not received my education at Oxford. Recently my book of translations of Emily Dickinson's letters was published in Sweden; I approached the publishing house with the idea, chose the letters and provided the commentary and the preface. My study of Dickinson began at Balliol, and she is now one of the authors in my PhD.

## Devaki Raj (2007)

As the one of the few American undergraduates to study at Oxford, I could not have chosen a better college at which to start my trans-Atlantic journey. Balliol became the cornerstone to building confidence in my life. My years there taught me to question, to be open minded and to work hard. I fondly remember learning these traits not only in tutes but also at Dean Dupree's lunches. I went on to do my MSc in Statistics at Oxford; then I worked at Google for four years on Maps, Energy, and Android. After that, I left to join the start-up accelerator Y-Combinator and then to found my own start-up, CrowdAI. We use deep learning to find objects in images for self-driving car and satellite companies.

# Pride in Balliol

Sixty years after the publication of the Wolfenden Report,<sup>1</sup> **Annie Williamson (2014)** reflects on the College's LGBTQ community



I am a Balliol finalist, the outgoing JCR President, a PPE student, and a gay woman at Balliol today. As for many other LGBTQ people, sexuality is not the only defining factor of my identity, but it is an important part. Moreover, this identity is uniquely shaped by, and dependent on, our history and community.

Being a confidently, openly gay student at Balliol is facilitated by more than acceptance and non-discrimination, though these factors are a prerequisite for equality and should of course be part of the fabric of a college that has long taken pride in being progressive and welcoming to all. Beyond this, what Balliol provides for LGBTQ students today is a large, thriving, supportive and diverse LGBTQ community, rallying together in times of hardship, in tune with the legacy of our past, and celebrating our identities with pride.

Given that LGBTQ identities are, unlike many other identity characteristics, unlikely to be shared with one's parents or immediate family, for LGBTQ students the community takes on even greater significance. University is often a time for young people to find others with whom they connect and by whom they are understood, but Balliol offers more than simply a place where this natural process can occur. I have been to showings of *Paris is Burning*, a film about drag culture, run by the JCR's LGBTQ+ reps, and talks on topics from asexuality to HIV public health programmes in India. A talk at Bruce's Brunch by Scot Peterson (Bingham Research Fellow in Constitutional Studies and Research Fellow in the Social Sciences) about the historical context of the fight for equal rights and same-sex marriage was one of the best-attended lunchtime seminars I've seen. This topic holds particular relevance given the anniversary of the Wolfenden report, as homosexuality remains criminalised in the home countries of many of our students, even more countries do not yet allow same-sex marriage, and unequal rights for members of the LGBTQ community persist in almost all nations. Balliol provides opportunities for learning, as one would expect from an outstanding academic establishment, but in this case the learning has also held personal significance for many.

Before coming out at Balliol I held a number of pre-emptive fears, though fortunately these turned out to be unfounded. When someone comes out as LGBTQ, they are necessarily the 'last' person to come out in a given community, at least for a short period of time. I came out early in my second term, which was nerve-wracking, primarily because, being relatively new to the College, I didn't know how the student body would change its perception of me. However, I received the perfect mixture of support and positivity where appropriate, and otherwise there was virtually no focus at all. In 2017 it appears that in Balliol, we are approaching the ideal point where another's sexuality does not particularly register as a point of note in the minds of most. We recognise and celebrate one another as multifaceted individuals rather than reducing how we relate to

people to stereotypes, labels or groups. Since then, I have been able to welcome dozens of others to the Balliol LGBTQ community, and the vibrancy with which this group operates is wonderful.

Nonetheless, to a young LGBTQ person the stories of those who came before are ever present, and the experiences of oppression and trauma embedded in our community's history can quickly rise to the surface. The tragedy of the Orlando shooting in 2016, when 49 people were killed and 53 others wounded in an attack inside Pulse, a gay nightclub, was a traumatic moment of awakening for many, shattering the significant, albeit incomplete, sense of security that we had been able to develop as a result of the battles fought by those who went before us. It was not simply an arbitrary act of terror but a specific targeting of a place where we can come together: for many, in particular queer people of colour, as many of those in Pulse were, a gay club is the only place one can be out and proud. Given the symbolic nature of the trauma of this attack, then, I have never been more grateful to the Balliol queer community than I was on that day.

Within hours of the tragic news, there was a floral memorial in the JCR, a Balliol group attendance of a vigil at the Radcliffe Camera, and hugs and kind words exchanged when they were needed most. Not only did the student community pull together, but LGBTQ staff and Fellows, as well as wonderful allies, were by our sides. The College immediately decided to fly the Pride flag at half-mast, setting a precedent followed by almost all other colleges. This was thanks to the Master and the Chaplain, and to our wonderful porters, who agreed to climb on to the roof to display this symbol of support and respect.

Despite the progress that followed the Wolfenden Report, LGBTQ people worldwide cannot always live openly, free from fear. However, communities like Balliol's give us the support and solace that we sometimes need; and academic institutions such as Balliol equip us, through learning, to challenge and change the biases and obstacles that remain.



Daniel Butt

<sup>1</sup>The recommendations of the 1957 report by the Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution, chaired by Lord Wolfenden, led to the decriminalisation of male homosexuality in 1967. The committee included the Labour politician and QC William Wells (1927).



# Meet the Boatman



Steve Gaisford with Jerry Lee

He likes the job because he is his own boss and it's an easy-going life. The students are appreciative – he's received many a card from a grateful Boat Club captain. For company he has Jerry Lee, his dog, who 'meets and greets' the students when they come to the boathouse and 'either takes to them or not'; students who miss their own dogs at home often take to him. Jerry Lee has the occasional swim from the punt on which Steve crosses the river each day from the towpath on the other side.

What has changed over the years? 'The biggest change was women,' Steve says. When women were first admitted in 1979, writes John Jones (1961 and Emeritus Fellow) in his history, 'a high proportion of them took to rowing with enthusiasm (there were two Balliol women's eights on the river in the first year)'. But with no lightweight boats available, they had to use the men's boats. 'Shoes were the main issue,' Steve remembers: the women had much smaller feet than the men, and at first they had to make do with the bigger shoes that were in the boats. Today Balliol women have their own boats, as well as their own changing rooms. The first women who joined the Boat Club were rowing novices, but these days women are more likely to be experienced rowers when they come to Balliol, Steve observes.

The College barge is no longer on the river: Steve remembers it being used for tea, changing and keeping sculling boats. There are no wooden boats left: the boats are plastic, which makes working on them easier – 'Now it's fill and spray,' Steve says. And of course the boathouse has been renovated, through the generosity of Jim Rogers (1964). 'Balliol has been very lucky with donations,' Steve thinks, acknowledging the alumni support which has also brought a 'good influx of big boats'.

At Eights Dinner in 2016, after the reopening of the boathouse (see page 8), the Master mentioned Steve in his speech; and when the Captain thanked him, he received a standing ovation. For Steve has now been Balliol's Boatman for 40 years – a fact that Giles Vardey says is 'a tribute to both Steve's loyalty and BCBC for keeping him'.



T.E. Spence, father of R.E. and S.T. Spence (1955 and 1957), *Balliol's First VIII Rowing Past the Balliol Barge*, oils, 1960.

When Steve Gaisford applied to be Balliol's Boatman, Brigadier Jackson (Domestic Bursar 1967–1981) thought that at only 21 he might be too young. Steve was then working for the boatbuilding firm George Harris Racing Boats, having been an apprentice for four years at Salter Bros Ltd. So the Brigadier went down to the river with the Captain of Boats, Giles Vardey (1974), to see Steve repairing a boat. 'We were seeking a replacement for Ernie Harris, our old boatman, who was retiring,' Giles recalls. 'Whilst we did not have a big fleet of boats, we wanted to maintain our high position in Torpids and Summer Vills and we needed a boatman who could keep everything in tip-top condition. Steve's dark hair and dark eyes were striking: they gave him an air of calm professionalism, which was combined with his obvious underlying passion for boats and their role in making rowers perform to their best. We were keen to hire him but I thought he would not stay long, as other boat clubs were also looking to replace retiring boatmen at the time.' That was in 1976; Steve has been at Balliol ever since.

Steve's job involves helping the students set up the boats how they want them; transporting boats for regattas; keeping the boathouse tidy; repairing boats when things break or they get holes and scratches; cleaning and checking; and generally 'helping if things crop up'. His busiest times, of course, are Torpids and Eights Week, when he is down at Iffley Lock poling the boats out at the beginning of the races and starting them; then, before the day is over, he has to sort out repairs needed after the bumps. 'It's a shame to see the boats damaged, but that's what it's all about,' he says.

One of three pre-production MGAs entered for the 1955 Le Mans race; the Stabulum de Balliolo raced another one of the three, with the same registration number.



# Stabulum de Balliolo

In 1959, a newly constituted College society, the Stabulum de Balliolo, submitted its first report. The society's purpose was

*To arrange pleasant successful car racing in such a way that it is combined with wide travels and the best chances of meeting people in the places visited. Thus it is as gipsies that we travel about in our three ton van – to those who cue [sic] up waiting to see a Ferrari disgorged from our van only to find our good looking red MG inside we offer coffee by way of compensation.*

Wilson Southam (1957) was the society's president and driver; Michael Thornhill (1956) its secretary and social convenor; and John-Christopher Spender (1957), who recently discovered the 1959 report in his papers, was responsible for transportation and accommodation. The group included Nicholas Ouroussoff (1956) and Angus Clydesdale (1956), as he was known then (later the 15th Duke of Hamilton and 12th Duke of Brandon), and others whose names we now seek. In the *Annual Record 1959* the society described its main activity as 'the preparation and racing of one of

**The society's main activity was 'the preparation and racing of one of the three MGAs built for the 1955 Twenty-four Hour Race at Le Mans'.**

the three MGAs built for the 1955 Twenty-four Hour Race at Le Mans', which the 'ideas and efforts of the two engineering students in the Club', with generous help from the works engineers in Abingdon, made into 'one of the fastest MGAs in England'.

The furniture van, a Commer repainted in the College colours, transported the members and their MG 'all over England even to Scotland', mostly during the vacations. The 1959 report lists some racing successes of 1958 – 'Coventry Hill Climb

(1st beat all Healeys, Triumphs and MGs). Brands Hatch Spring Meeting (2nd in class, Overall Award for 1st member), Aintree Liverpool (1st in handicap, 3rd in Marque race ahead of 8 triumphs, 2 MG and Healey 100-6)' – but in the second half of the season, 'The Stabulum was plagued by bearing troubles and superhuman feats were performed by the pit crew building up and running in the car between Saturday and Sunday events but also to little avail.' Altogether they entered 19 races that year. They achieved two first places, one second, and two thirds; there were three D.N.F. (did not finish), five D.N.S. (did not start) and one 'no result'. The season was a demanding one, as the report's 'notes on season' convey:



- a) *Chris discovered that if you line your front teeth up in front of an Iskendarian valve spring and let go of the compressor it knocks your front teeth out.*
- b) *Nick discovered that if you drive a van right through two nights and work on cars all day you start hallucinating ...*
- c) *Michael discovered that even when hiding in the North of England there is a great deal to be done.*
- d) *Wilson discovered that putting your foot through the steering wheel on a Le Mans start is SLOW, being beaten by a Cambridge Man is HUMILIATING, and catching a LOTUS XI from behind in an MG leads everyone to conclude it must have been parked.*

After the last race, the members rebuilt the inside of the van. By the time of the report the van included: 'an aluminium covered work bench: 6 built in storage cupboards: 7 Personal Wardrobe cupboards: Cooking equipment cabinets: Fold down cooking tables: individual homes for differentials: a roof rack for tires: sleeping place for seven people: radio: 4 electric lights including outside lighting for working on the car at night: a winch: ramps and filing drawers for small parts'.

Plans for the future were enthusiastic. About the car, the report says: 'Eyes are being cast longingly and lovingly at twin cam engines but plans are also going ahead to race it in 1500 c.c. events with the old engine reworked.' On entries: 'Experience has taught us to enter fewer races and to plan very carefully to the last detail for those who entered. Now that we are in possession of a national class licence, this will be particularly true.' On the size of the society: 'One Cambridge man and several Balliol men may be availing themselves of the services of the transporter during the coming season. It promises to be great fun.' And on the transporter: 'Miss Cary Nichols and Mrs Beverley Southam will continue to maintain their excellent cooking standards.'

Wilson, who had been loaned the MG, bought it in February 1959 and raced it again that year, having had a new steel body fitted, in red. Pip Danby (1958) recalls that in 1960 he and Alastair Mack (1958) were responsible for getting the car to the track and then back to the workshop. After a race meeting at Crystal Palace, Pip suggested to Alastair that the quickest way out of the circuit would be around part of the track, forgetting that there was a low bridge crossing the track. 'The Commer transporter never recovered!' Pip says.

But it seems that after Wilson went down in 1960, taking the car back home with him to Canada, the Stabulum folded. Today at Balliol, while there are students involved in the related sport of karting, only in the Master, who holds a current racing licence and is Vice-President of the UK Maserati Club, does the Stabulum's motor-racing spirit live on.

# Vehicilorum furiousum

## Nicholas Ouroussoff (1956)

The past comes rattling down the decades.

To begin at the beginning: my memory of the name was the 'Stabulum de Balliolo vehicilorum furiosorum'. This was devised by Jasper Griffin (1956, Tutorial Fellow in Classics 1963–2004 and Emeritus Fellow), who should know.

Other things: We had much help from Geoff Williamson, who had a workshop at Wheatley. He was a very clever engineer who had designed a cross flow head for the BMC A type engine, and he had a machine shop and a dynamometer and knew a lot more about engines than we did. We met there some motor racing luminaries: Mike Parkes, who was said to have achieved 190 mph on the Henley Fairmile, and Ted Martin, who had designed the twin Cam MG engines and later the Martin engine. We later fitted a Derrington cross flow cylinder head to the MG. I can't remember if it gave much benefit. We took the car to Charterhall in Scotland, where we got some friendly advice from a young driver called Jim Clark.

Angus Clydesdale and I were at the time practising, in his Ford Anglia equipped with an overhead valve head designed by Geoff Williamson, to attempt the Cambridge to Oxford record, held at that time by Anstice Brown in a Lotus. We wisely decided against it.

Those hallucinations stick in my mind. The first one was that a team of marines with white gaiters (created by the dotted white lines on the road) was marching towards me, and then a double decker bus, created by a house with lights in the windows, and finally a grizzly bear in the hedge, at which point we decided to stop.

I spent my working life in, initially, the outer fringes of the motor industry and then designing and making various machines.



# Tutorials remembered

Old Members share memories of the tutorial system, said  
to have been brought 'to perfection' at Balliol



**Benjamin Jowett (Master 1870–1893),**  
cartoon by Spy (Leslie Ward), 1876.

'The teaching of the undergraduate, man to man, by his Tutor or Supervisor ... gives to the education at Oxford and Cambridge something scarcely to be got elsewhere in such full measure. The rudiments of the system existed in the worst days of "old corruption", increased with the growing efficiency of the Colleges in the early nineteenth century, and were brought to perfection in Balliol by the example and influence of Jowett.'

Royal Commission on Oxford and Cambridge Universities, 1922, quoted in David Palfreyman (ed.), *The Oxford Tutorial*: 'Thanks, you taught me how to think', OxCHEPS, 2002

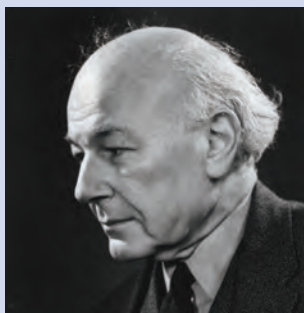
quickly discovered that he was an outstanding teacher – one of the two or three best I have ever encountered ...

What impressed me most – and set him apart from such distinguished contemporaries as James Meade and J.R. Hicks – was his dismissive attitude towards economic theory and his conviction that political economy is best understood through careful study of actual, historical events (a conviction shared in a later generation by Alan Greenspan). Tommy's view was, I think, that the study of economics has value only as an aid to better political decision-making and that academically it should be regarded as a branch of history or politics rather than an intellectual discipline in its own right. When, for example, the subject for the next tutorial was to be exchange rate policy, he would not ask one to read any of the theoretical literature but to immerse oneself in the events leading up to Churchill's decision to return to the Gold Standard in 1925 and the consequences which flowed from this. His subsequent comments on these events illuminated the subject in a way in which – for me at least – no amount of theoretical analysis could have done and provided insights which I have found relevant all my life.

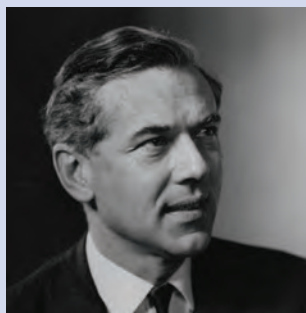
## Sir Ronald McIntosh (1938), PPE <sup>1</sup>

I first encountered Tommy Balogh (Fellow and Tutor 1945–1973) in 1946, not long after his election as a Fellow of Balliol, when I resumed my undergraduate career after six years of war and decided to switch from Greats to PPE. In the first few tutorials I was a bit put out to find that as I read my carefully prepared – and doubtless pedestrian – essays to him, Tommy would without warning stretch out on the floor and telephone his political friends in Hampstead. The third time this happened we had a sharp discussion about the correct etiquette for tutorials at English universities, after which Tommy gave up the telephone (though not the floor) and paid attention to the matter in hand. As a result I

<sup>1</sup> Reproduced from the *Balliol College Annual Record* 2008.



Tommy Balogh, Tutor in  
Economics 1945–1973



Paul Streeten, Tutor in  
Economics 1968–1978

## Professor Edward Dommen (1957), PPE

I had two economics tutors, Tommy Balogh and Paul Streeten (1944, Professorial Fellow of Balliol 1968–1978 and Honorary Fellow from 1986).

Tommy's methods were unique. I don't remember his ever finishing a sentence. This forced one to guess where he was heading, to anticipate his argument. One therefore needed to have a grasp of the subject before the tutorial started. His invective and allusions were scintillating, but again one had to know what or whom he was alluding to. One was constantly on one's toes. At the start of the year, one of my tutorial partners was taken with uncontrollable nervous giggling, managing sheepishly to explain that Tommy terrified him. His method clearly didn't suit everyone.

Mr Streeten's tutorials were structured, didactic, limpid and invariably courteous. I don't have any distinct recollection of what I learned in them.

Shortly after I left Balliol I was hired by the brand-new University of Sussex, known as Balliol-by-the-sea, precisely because I had experienced Balliol's tutorial methods. I regret that since I lacked Tommy's caustic wit and acrobatic lateral thinking, I strove to imitate Mr Streeten. I wonder if any of my students remember what I said.

## David Kingston (1957), PPE

Tommy Balogh was one of my economics tutors, along with Paul Streeten. From my point of view Paul was a much more effective tutor but Tommy was more entertaining. One of his eccentricities in



the winter was to lie on the floor in front of the gas fire warming his backside while we read our essays. One day he got too close to the fire, allowing us to cry 'Sir! Sir! You're on fire!' He leapt to his feet with amazing speed and rushed into the bathroom to put out the fire.

On another occasion he spent a long time on the phone talking to Dom Mintoff, then Prime Minister of Malta, to whom he was economic adviser. Mintoff was complaining that he had been double-crossed by the British Colonial Secretary. After the call Tommy said, 'Ach, politics is a feelthy business.' He paused and then said, 'But University politics is even feelthier!' I have since seen much evidence to prove how right he was.

## Richard Stones (1967), Classics

I don't remember a lot about individual tutorials: what sticks in my mind is what one could call their 'penumbra'. I have a vivid and Arcadian memory of sitting on the Balliol lawn going through my reading list, feeling my mind being stretched and my ideas of history reconstructed, and knowing that even these reconstructed thoughts would be turned upside down when I went for my tutorial with Oswyn Murray (Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History and Jowett Fellow 1968–2004 and Emeritus Fellow). Then there was the sense of privilege which I felt in interacting with tutors who were at the top of their profession and yet were prepared, with absurd courtesy, to treat me as if I was an equal. And the intellectual and social bonds between student and tutor (and between tutorial partners – I remember particularly enjoying tutorials with Philip Amphlett (1967)) that encouraged us all to think and talk about our subject well beyond the confines of the tutorial.

I do recall one tutorial for its comic aspect. It was with Jasper Griffin (1956, Tutorial Fellow in Classics 1963–2004 and Emeritus Fellow) on a poem of Catullus. When I was rushing to get there (I imagine I had only just managed to finish my essay) the only text of Catullus I could find was a Penguin Classics edition. As it happened (and unusually for that series) it contained both English and Latin texts, but Jasper didn't know this. So I had the pleasure of savouring his Batemanesque reaction to the student who thought he could discuss the finer points of Catullus armed only with an English translation.

## Hugh Wark (1987), Mathematics

As a graduate student, I was teaching a second-year undergraduate, who had been described by his tutors as highly intelligent. Unfortunately, probably because of my incompetence as a tutor, I was failing to sufficiently engage him in the matter at hand and he attempted diversionary tactics by telling a number of anecdotes.

Eventually he piped up, 'Do you mind if I smoke?' I have always been an understanding sort of person and believe that the dangers of passive smoking are over-egged, so I said, 'Of course not!'

He then produced a tin from which he rolled a cigarette. As the tutorial progressed, the mood became much more mellow as the fumes from the substance in his cigarette took effect, and the matter at hand in the tutorial assumed secondary importance.

It took me several days to remove the smell from my room but when I reported the smoking habits of this undergraduate to his tutors they just laughed.

The student was the only one of his cohort at Balliol to attain a First in Schools and he has subsequently published a bestselling



Oswyn Murray, Tutor in  
Ancient History 1968–2004



Jasper Griffin, Tutor in  
Classics 1963–2004

and highly acclaimed novel – in which a number of his diversionary anecdotes appear. I am afraid he was just too brilliant for the mundane subject we were covering.

## Victoria White (1999), Medieval and Modern Languages

As the 'haute couture' of education, tutorials presented a runway where we could test out our vibrant collections of theories while the tutor watched on to pass their critique.

I remember each week, we'd scamper up to the tutor's room at the top of the Balliol turret. It was like a working atelier; knee deep in books stacked perilously on top of one another. They formed a complete obstacle challenge that had to be navigated without setting off a small avalanche – which was all part of the experience.

Then came the showcasing of the crafted work – in my case, on the use of secret codes and ciphers in Vatican correspondence in the 16th century and the influence of Leon Battista Alberti's *De Componendis Cifris*. Tutorials were the only place to present such specialised concepts: examining theories about secret messages in front of a mass lecture hall would have rather missed the point!

Naturally for Italian tutorials, theories on food also featured strongly – particularly on the provenance of certain *tartufi* sold in Oxford and on the Slow Food movement. A great appreciation for both – and many other gourmet insights – keenly continues with me today.

## Dom Weinberg (2005), PPE

When prompted to recall tutorials, my first thought was of a tutorial partner who actually didn't stay very long at Balliol, studying at Oxford for only a year before moving away. But he left an impression because I was lucky enough to be his partner for the Prelims' Political Theory course. I can't remember any specifics (I can't even remember the name of the external tutor – Balliol's Adam Swift, Fellow and Tutor in Politics and Sociology 1988–2013, was otherwise engaged that term), but I do retain a strong overall impression. I would stumble to summarise my ideas following the week's readings, before my partner chimed in kindly, elegantly, to articulate the point that I felt I had been trying to make. In the many years since I'm not sure I've ever found such a perfect collaborator (though he might not have seen it in quite the same way, probably feeling more of a teacher than a partner!). This experience keeps me going in hope as I once again pursue academic studies.

# A Balliol poker school

Charles Humphreys (1956) marks a 60th anniversary

**‘The poker school was born on Staircase XVI  
[and we] have been playing together ever since.’**

There is a room on the ground floor of Staircase XVI which, for the year commencing Michaelmas 1956, was allocated to Denis Cross (1955), who was then starting his second year as a (fearsome) mathematician. It is hospitably located and was endowed with a large round table covered with a heavy blue counterpane and plenty of chairs. Denis had been brought up to play cards – his mother played at Crockfords – and gradually his round table drew in card players, especially to play poker. The following year Denis had to live out of College, I took over his room and the games continued there for a further year. I cannot remember organising them; they just seemed to happen. Throughout, the blue counterpane never moved.

On 13 January 2017, an anniversary dinner was given at the home of one of the players in Putney to celebrate the 60th year since the poker school was born on Staircase XVI. And, of course, a little poker was played. There were four ‘originals’ at the party: Denis, Tom Ulrich, Peter Scott and myself. Apart from Denis, we all matriculated in 1956 and the four of us have been playing together ever since, save for odd interruptions when individuals were abroad, domestically shackled or financially challenged.

At the beginning, we had little understanding of the game. Our bible was Herbert Yardley’s *Education of a Poker Player*. It features Monty who ran the only clean saloon in town and put up a sign, ‘Please don’t frig with the discards – Penalty \$20’, under which he wrote ‘Vulgar Language Forbidden’. To this day, you will hear his wisdom repeated from time to time; but the ever popular ‘always see, but never raise, a one card draw’ apparently comes from R.F. Foster’s *Practical Poker*, which Denis inherited from his grandmother.

Denis knew the basics, and Fergus Weir (1955) was a brilliant card player who went on to play bridge for England before dying distressingly young; but, above all, it was John Hamilton (1955), a large, athletic American with ‘former croupier to the US Armed Forces in Alaska’ on his CV, who taught us the niceties of the game. He also taught us how easily we could be deceived. One evening he whispered to Christopher Fildes (1955), who was sitting reading *Othello*, that he was going to see if he could collect four aces without our noticing. If he were rumbled, Christopher would testify to his worthy motive. He collected them; none of us noticed.

After graduating, we all started out in London and played in one another’s flats or, as they later became, houses. Over time, many others came and went but some have been with the school for several decades. Others living at distance put in guest appearances when visiting London.

If, as Damon Runyon declared, ‘all life is 6 to 5 against’, what were the odds, back in 1956, on the Cross School still functioning 60 years hence? Back then it was acceptable to bet on the horses



Denis Cross, Tom Ulrich, and Charles Humphreys (clockwise around the table from left) and friends; oil painting by Nick Botting, 16 January 2017.

but poker was seen as the slippery slope to ruin. I never told my father that I played. It wasn’t until he died that I told my mother, adding by way of comfort: ‘It’s not the sort of game where you lose your shirt.’ ‘I thought that was the whole point,’ she said. Well, yes, but bankrupting the punters is not a recipe for longevity, which is why we play ‘maximum takeout’. You have £x for the evening. When that’s gone, you go. Whatever your means, you end up playing to win chips and to avoid the humiliation of an early bath.

The game starts at 8.45pm and stops at 12.15am precisely. That’s crucial. It is tempting to drift on but people have to work in the morning. We meet just once a month, except August and December. Until emails, Denis sent everyone a postcard reminder – ‘It’s a cash game, no IOUs or luncheon vouchers’. We still get emails to the same effect. So no one gets into debt. And we don’t argue about the rules because there is only one: what Denis says goes. Without him, we would have vanished long ago.

But we do enjoy one another’s company. Losers are met with compassion, winners do not gloat. We all treasure memories of our time at Balliol. We like to think we have made good use of our respective degrees but the insights and friendships that have come from the poker table arguably top the list. It should be compulsory; only then it might not be such fun.





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# Balliol Academic Society's 40th anniversary

**Paddy Walsh (1974)** reviews a reunion dinner

On 24 September 2016 28 Old Members (with matriculation dates ranging from 1974 to 1986) and their guests met in College to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Academic Society. The society's name was not meant to indicate any particular prowess in the world of scholarship (though many of the society's members have gone on to considerable eminence in their chosen fields) but that the dress code for its dinners was to be academic dress, as worn in University examinations. The founder, Ray Bremner (1975), realised that, as every undergraduate possessed these clothes, the society would automatically be open to a much wider audience than would traditional black-tie dining societies. This would also have the advantage of giving subfusc more cheerful connotations for Balliol undergraduates than solely that of wearing it for public examinations.

The society's aims were 'To drink good drink, to eat good food, and to push back the frontiers of human understanding'. The first dinner of the society was held on 10 March 1976 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Winnie-the-Pooh* with a teddy bear, the Hon. Aloysius Flyte, as guest of honour. Later, more animate and even more eminent guests included the generously proportioned and pudding-loving Hollywood actor Robert Morley CBE (motion for discussion 'This House places more weight on currant [sic] events than yesterday's trifles') and the bon viveur Bishop of Southwark the Rt Revd Mervyn Stockwood ('A crook can cope, no mitre what'). As well as dinners the society held May Day balloon races involving the batting of balloons with mortar

boards from the Lodge, through both quads, to the Buttery; visited Royal Ascot; and entered a boat in Eights Week – all in full academic dress. The last regular dinner took place in Michaelmas 1993.

With such an august history to live up to it was important that the 40th anniversary dinner be a memorable one. The society rose to the occasion. The central event was of course a splendid four-course dinner in Hall, starting with the full College Latin grace chanted by the Revd Dr Michael Cullinan (1975), with chanted responses by those present. Toasts were made in Graham's 40 Year Old Tawny Port before an inimitable speech by Mr Ray Bremner OBE. Events began in the afternoon with a tasting of wines from the heyday of the society, including two bottles from 1976. This was followed by a moving and lustily sung Thanksgiving Service in the College Chapel, led by the Revd Dr Kevin Alban O. Carm (1976) with the organ played by Michael Brown (1977). A group photograph was taken by Gillman and Soame. Before the dinner the members and guests sampled 'Avanti Popolo' cocktails especially created for the occasion, and were entertained by a superb piano diversion by renowned concert pianist Iwan Llewelyn-Jones (1978). The evening concluded with what was perhaps the world's first digital Gordouli (not all present could remember the words, so iPhones were consulted to great effect) and communal singing of the society's extensive songbook.

At a hearty College breakfast the next morning there was much talk of a 50th anniversary dinner.

# A life in games

**Richard Lemarchand (1987)**, lead game designer on the award-winning *Uncharted* video game series, talks about his work



**'Games are so much more than a pastime. They're at the very core of our understanding of the world.'**

As a game designer at Sony-owned video game development studio Naughty Dog in Santa Monica, Richard Lemarchand worked on multiple multimillion-selling projects, including the award-winning *Uncharted* series for the Sony PlayStation 3. He was a lead game designer for *Uncharted: Drake's Fortune* (2007), *Uncharted 2: Among Thieves* (2009), and *Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception* (2011). *Uncharted 2* was a runaway hit, winning ten AIAA Interactive Achievement Awards, five Game Developers Choice Awards, four BAFTAs and over 200 Game of the Year awards.

Richard is a sought-after speaker on the subjects of game design and production, and is also a passionate advocate for independent and experimental games. He is now an Associate Professor in the Interactive Media & Games Division of the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California, where he teaches game design to graduates and undergraduates. He has also begun work on the development of a series of experimental research games that investigate virtual reality and participatory art. His recent game *The Meadow* was nominated as a finalist in the 2015 IndieCade International Festival of Independent Games.

## Do you feel that the time you spent at Balliol influenced your career at all?

I was a callow kid with a pretty narrow outlook when I arrived at Balliol. By the time I left, I understood that video game design – this diversionary pop culture thing I had fallen in love with as a teenager – was a budding art form. It was the inclusive intellectual environment at Balliol, fostered by my professors, friends and peers, that helped me to realise that video games could be artistic and expressive, and not just a fun way to pass time in the JCR bar.

Video games are technological, participatory, and often cinematic or literary in nature, so my degree in Physics and Philosophy, which bridges science and the humanities, has served me well. I now teach a class in 'philosophy of mind for game designers', thanks to a course I took with Professor Stephen Mulhall (1980 and Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy at New College). The fascinating ideas around personal identity and memory that Steve described – using examples from films like *Blade Runner* – are now inspiring my students towards new ideas for game mechanics and storylines.

## What led you to working in games and how did you start?

Like many Balliol people, I'm an odd mix of skills and interests. Having always felt unsure where I fitted in, during my second or third year at Balliol – my passion charged by the coin-operated games like *Gauntlet* and *Joust* that we played in the bar, and by late-night game sessions on a friend's Commodore Amiga – I realised that game design was something to which I was uniquely suited. The year after I graduated my mum found a job advert in the local paper: a game development studio called MicroProse was hiring video game designers. But the duties were rather unclear. I managed to convince the studio that, even if they weren't entirely sure what I was going to be doing, I could work it out. They took me on for a trial period, and I never looked back. My parents were very encouraging, and I'll always be grateful to them for helping to set me on such an interesting and rewarding professional path.

## What does a game designer actually do?

In principle, game designers come up with ideas for the play mechanics and stories in a game and then work with their development team peers to create the game using a set of software tools. In my experience, though, the best game designers spend much of their time gathering up strong and interesting ideas from *everyone* at their company – whether they are programmers or artists, animators or sound designers, the receptionists or the cleaners – and then synthesising those ideas into a coherent whole. Everyone has great ideas. The curation and cohesion of those ideas is the key to a great game.

## Can you pinpoint why the *Uncharted* series was so successful?

Game design is very much a design discipline with a capital 'D' and I've always liked the 'ten commandments for good design' described by the famous industrial designer Dieter Rams. The aspects of design he names, like innovation, usability, ease of understanding, and the aesthetic integration of form and function are all very important to good game design. Certainly the



*Uncharted* games tapped into these principles, but the real key to their success was that they touched people's hearts with their drama, comedy, and romance. The series' co-creator, my friend Amy Hennig, is a big fan of screwball comedy, and so there's quite a lot of Katharine Hepburn-style banter between the characters in the games that makes them amusing and heartfelt, as well as dramatic. It's a tribute to all the talented people who worked on those games that the emotional tone in the *Uncharted* series is so colourful, nuanced, and human.

### What have you learnt about how creativity and innovation come about?

I got my start designing for computers with processor speeds and memory capacities that were tiny by modern standards, and so the idea that constraints are a liberator and spur creativity and innovation is an important one to me. To make as big a splash as possible, you have to stop moaning about the constraints and just do what you can with what you've got. But the real key to innovation is a willingness to fail. If you don't fail sometimes, you're clearly not pushing any boundaries, artistically or commercially. That means that you have to have a creative process, like the one at Naughty Dog, the studio where I worked for a long time, which supports experimentation and failure. I now teach my students that same process and do my best to help them cultivate the emotional resilience they'll need to go with it.

### How much are video games an art form of their own and how much do they employ elements of other arts?

Like all art forms, video games can draw on every other cultural form imaginable. In the type of cinematic games I spent many years creating, the dramatic arts of storytelling and performance are very much to the fore, as are musical composition, architecture, cinematic production design, and costume design. We're beginning to see more games that look elsewhere for inspiration and innovation: there are games that draw on ballet, like *Bound* by the Polish studio Plastic, and on Islamic geometric art, like *Engare* by the Iranian game designer Mahdi Bahrami. Video games also have special creative opportunities related to their interactivity, and I think we're still only just beginning to explore those aspects of the form.

### How do you feel about the perceived negative effects of game playing?

Video games have their problems: I empathise with parents struggling to regulate their children's screen time, and games have been dogged since their early days by misogyny, militarism and otherwise politically oppressive issues. I'm happy to say that we're starting to leave some of those problems behind us as game designers think more deeply about what they're saying with their work. Meaningful and artistic games like *Journey*, by USC Games alumni thatgamecompany, are helping to redefine what video games can be by creating new styles of gameplay oriented towards interactions other than competition, and by taking a less frenetic, more contemplative tone. The interactive nature of video games aligns them naturally with concepts like learner-centred education, and I think their mechanics and interfaces represent an important

opportunity for our modern digital literacy. I always encourage parents to talk to their children about the games they are playing, to play alongside their children whenever possible, and to engage their children's critical thinking around interactive media.

### Why did you become a professor and how has that enriched your career?

After two very enjoyable decades in the mainstream of the game industry, I began to think about a career change. My friend, the educator and game designer Professor Tracy Fullerton, gave me an opportunity to join the faculty of the USC Games programme at the University of Southern California. I'm now in my fifth year of teaching, and I'm enjoying it enormously. The more I try to explain to other people how to make games well, the more I come to understand games and their creation. Games are so much more than a pastime. They're at the very core of our understanding of the world: they inform how we use language, how we learn, and how we perfect our skills. The more I teach and the more I study, the more deeply I understand how philosophically interesting games are.

### What are the possibilities for game design in the future?

The future of game design is incredibly exciting – and potentially very important, when the present is so troubled. Virtual reality, augmented reality, smart devices, AI, and pervasive networks are each going to bring both challenges and extraordinary opportunities for people making art and entertainment, as well as for educators, urban planners, health professionals and our systems of government. Games can be a tool for helping us find our way out of what often feel like intractable problems, and people are using games to do everything from healing PTSD to resolving conflicts between hostile groups. Games have always played an important role in bringing people together: the Dutch historian Johan Huizinga saw them at the root of every human cultural endeavour. I think that game designers can help see us through this next period of history by enlightening and uplifting us, even as they give us new forms of fun.



Screenshot from *Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception*. The *Uncharted* series of action-adventure games feature the treasure hunter Nathan Drake, who travels around the world fending off foes to uncover historical mysteries. The games were applauded for their realism, technical achievements and innovative storytelling.

# Global Balliol: South Africa

Two alumni who are trying to change the world talk about their work



Gill Cassar speaking on climate change at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, January 2017.

## Gill Cassar (née Einhorn) (2007), Programme Lead on Environment, Sustainability and Clean Energy at the World Economic Forum

Leaving Balliol wasn't easy. Ahead of me were countless paths and possibilities in a wilderness stretching as far as the eye could see. Where to next? It is the question any graduate student dreads.

To help find an answer, I went back to the basics. Of all the things I'd learned during my time at Balliol, the one that stuck with me was that with privilege comes responsibility. That message was first introduced when I was young, growing up in Apartheid South Africa. Balliol helped to reinforce this in its own liberal and reformist way – with discussions on living wages for all staff and the time-enduring philosophy of student acceptance on merit rather than means.

It was in Oxford that I was introduced to the organisation for which I would work in the ensuing six years. Dalberg is a strategic advisory firm dedicated to global development. The company

seeks to maximise impact (rather than profit). I returned to South Africa to work on issues from education to health and eventually focused on the environment. I had developed an appreciation of nature in the South African bush listening to the sound of cicadas in blistering summer heat. At Oxford, early mornings watching the steam rise from the Cherwell as the sun came up during Torpids practices were among my most memorable moments.

In the world of development, the environment has always been the underdog. We are just starting to realise the damage done to our soil, water, oceans and atmosphere through the last three industrial revolutions. Humanity's future is dependent on our stewardship of the global commons, but time is short and political will is lacklustre.

For the greatest impact, I felt I should work with the world's largest businesses which helped get us into this situation – but which also hold the keys to getting us out. I joined the World Economic Forum as the programme lead on environment, sustainability and clean energy. My responsibility includes deciding what issues to profile in our global meetings to help to change the hearts and minds of CEOs and heads of government.

I have seen executives and their businesses transformed, and new public private coalitions created to support COP21 negotiations and the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. In January 2017 at our meeting in Davos, Switzerland, we quadrupled the number of environment sessions compared with just three years ago.

Thinking back to the options I faced when leaving Balliol, I now see that it is in the wilderness of possibility that I belong. The paths may not be well defined and the road is certainly less travelled – but that has made all the difference.

**'Of all the things I'd learned during my time at Balliol, the one that stuck with me was that with privilege comes responsibility.'**





## Mark Heywood (1983), Executive Director of the public interest law centre SECTION27

### How did you come to be involved in human rights in South Africa?

My three years at Balliol were an interlude between different experiences of South Africa. In 1983, my year between school and university, I had worked as a volunteer in Johannesburg and become involved in the freedom struggle led by the African National Congress (ANC). I had to flee from SA several months before coming up to Balliol because intimidation by the Security Police made me fearful of possible arrest. I arrived at Balliol an angry young activist. After leaving I rejoined the liberation struggle, working with SA exiles in London as part of what was then known as the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the ANC. I lived in slum flats in Hackney, helping edit and write for *Inqaba Ya Basebenzi*, an underground journal that was smuggled into SA, and waiting for the moment when it would be possible to return to South Africa. That moment arrived in October 1989 as the apartheid regime began to crumble. I went back. Initially I had to work underground, as the ANC and all opposition political movements were illegal. To be witness to and participant in the four years between the release of Nelson Mandela in February 1990 and the first democratic election on 27 April 1994 was a humbling experience.

### Please tell us about your work with AIDS

After 1994 I was hoping for a course change. In fact, I wanted to revert to my love of literature (I studied English Language and Literature at Balliol) and I tried half-heartedly to become an academic. However, AIDS intervened. A comrade and close friend who became one of South Africa's most well-known AIDS activists, Zackie Achmat, was infected with HIV and drew me into a new struggle for dignity and equality. I first worked with Zackie at the AIDS Law Project, using law in various ways to protect and promote the rights of people who had been infected with HIV. In 1998 we co-founded the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) because we wanted to try and establish a mass social movement of people with HIV that would fight for equal and affordable access to efficacious treatment. Within three years TAC changed the course of the epidemic in SA and globally. It was nominated for a Nobel Peace prize in 2002. It has many achievements but its greatest is helping get nearly 4 million people on treatment in SA, by winning

the battle about why this is a human right that should be realised by the state. I am still active in the leadership of TAC.

### How did that lead to SECTION27?

I co-founded SECTION27 in 2010. It is also a human rights organisation, but it expanded our field of concern to the right to access health care services broadly (section 27 of the SA Constitution, hence its name), as well as the right to basic education. It is a wonderful team of 35 people, mostly lawyers, researchers and communications specialists, who work for public good and social justice. SECTION27 is very well known and highly respected. It has won several major court cases, including in the Constitutional Court, around rights to health and education.

### What is it like living and working in South Africa?

South Africa is like the Wild West. It is a frontier land, a country in motion, a country that is making itself a new identity and image. It has the most forward-looking and progressive constitution in the world, and much of my work centres around trying to make that vision a reality. Its identity has enormous possibility, despite the missteps taken by the ANC and the current crisis of corruption. I am in the strange position of having fought for the ANC and now being one of its more prominent critics. Politics aside, SA is a wondrous and beautiful country that is continuously energising and inspiring. That's a marked contrast with England, a country that I now only visit for reasons of nostalgia!

### How did your time at Balliol influence you?

My time *studying* at Balliol did not influence me directly. Sadly, I think I wasted the opportunity of studying at Oxford. What influenced me was the time I spent immersed in the politics of the early 1980s: supporting the mineworkers' strike, supporting the anti-apartheid movement, participating in the Militant Tendency, learning about Marxism. I immaturely eschewed Oxford's traditions and rejected its social hierarchy. Although I loved the course I did the minimum possible to pass my degree, and got a disappointing 2ii for my lack of efforts. But my race through 1,000 years of English literature was an important taster. I got to know what literature was out there and have returned to it throughout my life. In my forthcoming book (*Get Up, Stand Up, Journeys Towards Social Justice*, Tafelberg, 2017) I point out that there was only one moment to participate in the politics of the 1980s and early 1990s, and I not only had a ringside seat but was in the boxing ring; Oxford, on the other hand, will always be there. Nonetheless I would love another chance. I think I've earned it. I'm open to offers to teach activism, social movement theory and South African politics and history. It's all based on first-hand experience and deep thought!

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**‘To be witness to and participant in the four years between the release of Nelson Mandela in February 1990 and the first democratic election on 27 April 1994 was a humbling experience.’**

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Guests in Hall at the Jowett Bicentenary Seminar.



## Calendar of Balliol Events

2017

Saturday 24 June  
**Gaudy for the years 1987–1989**

Saturday 16–Sunday 17 September  
**Balliol Society Weekend**

Thursday 16 November  
**Usborne Dinner**

# Development news

## Recognising our regular donors: Balliol launches the Jowett Society

The Jowett Bicentenary Seminar, at which speakers and attendees discussed 'Keeping Higher Education Open: Access, Safe Spaces and the International Context', was held in College in March. Followed by dinner, it was an opportunity for Balliol's supporters to meet current students and to celebrate the continued progression and impact of reforms that originated in Balliol and culminated under Benjamin Jowett (Master 1870–1893) – and in which so many aspects of what we think of as the 'Oxford experience' are rooted.

The day also saw the launch of the **Jowett Society**, in recognition of loyal donors whose regular donations enable the College to advance the traditions which became established during Jowett's time, including the tutorial system, admission on merit, philanthropic giving and supporting students in need.

Annual membership comprises those who make regular gifts towards a College priority. Within the society, the 1263 Circle offers special recognition to those who give £1,263 per year or more.

You are invited to become a Jowett Society Founding Member, by making an ongoing regular gift (by direct debit or regular credit card payment) before the end of 2017 – the bicentenary of Jowett's birth. To make your gift, please visit [www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol/jowett-society](http://www.alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol/jowett-society) or call the Development Office on +44 (0)1865 277675.



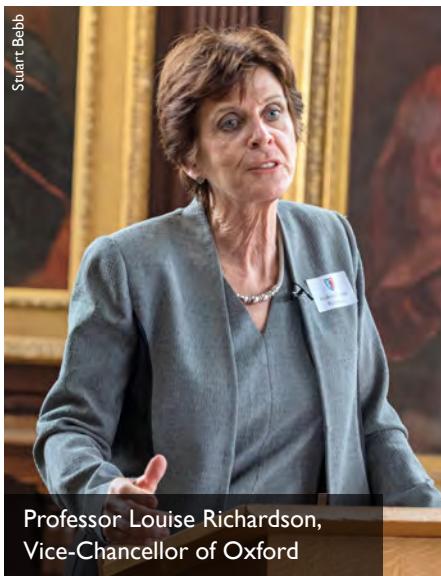
Above: Benjamin Jowett by George Frederick Watts, 1889.

Opposite: speakers at the Jowett Centenary Seminar.





Professor Richard Jenkyns (1967)



Professor Louise Richardson,  
Vice-Chancellor of Oxford



Oliver St Clair Franklin OBE (1967)



Michael Freeman (1969)



Kate Kettle (2007)



Vicky Neale (Supernumerary  
Fellow and Whitehead  
Lecturer in Mathematics)

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# Balliol Entrepreneurs Evenings



Balliol's new Entrepreneurs Evenings have turned into a hugely successful series of events attracting a wide range of funders and founders. The evenings offer enlightening conversation and rich networking opportunities for participants – whether someone with a great idea yet to turn into reality, an established businessperson looking for the next adventure or first-time investors looking to back an exciting new venture.

Each event has been hosted by inspiring facilitators who have shared their successes, failures and the valuable lessons they have learned along the way. One of the first facilitators, and the person who dreamed up these events, was Hephzi Pemberton (2004). Hephzi is a business founder, investor and believer in the power of good business to transform society. She has founded or co-founded several companies, including Kea Consultants, a boutique headhunting firm that specialises in placing candidates into investment and high-growth organisations, and is now developing two new businesses: The Inspire Movement and The Missing Middle. 'I know the benefit of meeting up with other founders at varying stages of business building, for encouragement, advice, connections and everything else in between,' she says. '[Entrepreneurship] can be a lonely journey at times and coming together under the umbrella of Balliol is a great way to get connected and be encouraged.'

Balliol has held three Entrepreneurs Evenings:

## 29 June 2016, MBA

- Hephzi Pemberton (2004), founder and investor at Technology Will Save Us, a company that helps kids make, play, code and invent using technology
- Shanker Singham (1986), CEO and Chair of the Competere Group LLC, an Enterprise City development company incubated at Babson College

## 27 September 2016, MBA

- Stephen Maher (1980), founder and CEO of MBA, a digital marketing company
- Nicola Horlick (1979), CEO of Money&Co, a person-to-person lending form

## 26 January 2017, Silicon Valley Bank

- Victor Christou (Junior Research Fellow 1994–1997), CEO at Cambridge Innovation Capital, investors in intellectual property-rich companies
- Tracy Doree (2003), founding partner at Kindred Capital, a seed-stage venture firm
- Alexis Richardson (1988), founder and CEO of Weaveworks, the cloud native app platform for Weave

Each event has its own distinct flavour. Initially guided by the expertise and background of the facilitators, the format evolves and conversations naturally follow attendees' interests and needs. Hephzi says, 'I've been delighted with the diversity of attendees at the events. It demonstrates the relevance of the subject matter, as well as creating a rich and fertile audience for discussion and networking. My hope would be to see business partnerships and funding opportunities, as well as informal mentoring relationships and renewed friendships, coming out of the events and this new network of Balliol entrepreneurs.' More Entrepreneurs Evenings are currently in development.

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## Young Alumni update

### Tessa McGuire (2010), Chair

The Balliol Young Alumni Programme was established in 2014, with the primary purpose of connecting and engaging with Balliol's younger alumni across year groups, subjects, careers and geographies, and seeking to build on the community we so enjoyed being a part of during some of the most formative years of our lives.

The early years of the programme have been incredibly exciting, as we expand the Young Alumni network and menu of events for our members. The most recent additions to the calendar have included another get-together at the Boat Race and the launch of the enormously popular Balliol Entrepreneurs Evenings.

Among the plans we're lining up for 2017, I am particularly

excited about our 'In Conversation' series, which we launched in December 2016 with Dan Snow (1998) and Rory Kinnear (1996). It was wonderful to see an idea conceived some two years prior, the first of its kind, finally come to fruition and the occasion was a testament to the hard work of all involved. Dan and Rory were fantastic and charming. Dan balanced questions that brought out Rory's deep intelligence about his career both in front of and behind the curtain with others about Rory the person and father. Both kindly stayed and mingled with guests afterwards, and the fact that they were approachable and welcoming was truly appreciated by all. I can't wait to welcome you to the next one in the series!





## First bitcoin donation

Balliol received its first bitcoin donation in September 2016. As far as we know, it is the first bitcoin donation to have been received in the collegiate University.

Bryant Gilot (1997), the donor, said: 'Bitcoin and the blockchain on which it is built are young and exciting technologies. I chose to make a gift in the form of bitcoin hoping that Balliol will become the first ever University of Oxford entity to have received bitcoin! In doing so, I would like to spark interest among past, present and future members of the College in this new field, which promises transformative opportunities in the domains of identity management, financial services, smart contracts and other distributed ledger based applications.'

Bitcoin is a digital currency that enables instant payments to anyone, anywhere in the world. Using open source software, bitcoin transactions take place between users directly. Users install a wallet on their mobile phone or computer and then send payments through the internet from their own bitcoin address to another. The transactions are verified by network nodes and recorded in the blockchain, a shared public ledger, which uses bitcoin as its unit of account.

The Balliol transaction was a symbolic 1.00000000 bitcoin exactly. It was made on a Friday afternoon; the funds were confirmed within an hour and in Balliol's possession in the form of GBP by Monday morning.

Bryant, a cardiovascular surgeon who is Chief Medical Officer at Blockchain Health Co. and has completed an MSc in Digital Currency at the University of Nicosia, explains why he wanted to give: 'My years spent at Balliol were some of the most formative of my life. I am delighted now and in the future to support current students with the hope that Balliol will have an equally beneficial impact on them.'

## 2000–2002 Gaudy years give £128,000 towards student support

Alumni who matriculated in the years 2000, 2001 and 2002 celebrated their first Gaudy in March last year, with a drinks reception in the Master's Lodgings followed by a black tie dinner in Hall. Jamie Lee (2002) spoke for the years, evoking vivid memories: 'Sitting in the JCR for Pantry breakfast ... and then Pantry lunch ... and then Pantry tea. Running around the JCR to get quorum for a General Meeting, or quorum for the rugby team by finding a 14th and 15th man. Banning Coca-Cola. Having an Extraordinary General Meeting to un-ban Coca-Cola. The Constitutional Crisis when we had to put up the cost of a shot and mixer at Crazy Tuesdays to 75p!'

In the run-up to the event, the Gaudy Committee, chaired by Vladimir Bermant (2002), raised a remarkable £128,000 from former classmates in support of current students. 'Raising money is always tough,' Vladimir says, 'but I was privileged to be part of an extraordinarily talented committee, motivated by a common cause: our desire to give back to Balliol, and help current and future students succeed and have fun along the way. The response from

our alumni peer group was terrific. People gave very generously and relished the opportunity to reconnect with Balliol. We all look forward to the next Gaudy!'

On behalf of the students, we warmly thank the Gaudy Committee members and all the Old Members who gave so generously.

### 2000–2002 Gaudy Committee

Vladimir Bermant (2002), Committee Chair  
Rohin Chada (2000)  
Patrick Hennessey (2000)  
Chip Horne (2001)  
Edward Knapp (2002)  
Jamie Lee (2002)  
Ian Marsh (2002)  
Kathryn Perera (2000)  
Ebrahim Rahbari (2001)  
Meera Sabaratnam (2000)

# Harold came up to Balliol nearly 100 years ago, but his name lives on



Harold Greville Smith was born in Sheffield, where he attended the King Edward VII School, before coming to Balliol in 1919 to study Chemistry. After several years in academia he moved to Montreal, where he worked until the outbreak of war.

He held the memory of his student days dear, and on his death in 1974 he left a fifth of his estate to the College.

The Greville Smith Society was founded in Harold's name,

to recognise and thank Old Members and friends who leave a bequest to Balliol in their will; all those who have pledged a legacy are offered membership of the society.

## Will you join the Greville Smith Society?

Harold and all those who leave a gift in their wills live on through the students and Fellows who benefit from their generosity.

Your own bequest to Balliol, large or small, will have an impact. Whether it is a named teaching post or enough to fund a Hardship Grant for a student in need, you can make a difference for years to come. To thank you, the College would be delighted to invite you to join the Greville Smith Society and welcome you back to lunch in Hall each year.

To discuss your bequest to Balliol, please contact Robert Crow on +44 (0)1865 277674 or at [robert.crow@balliol.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robert.crow@balliol.ox.ac.uk).



Rob Judges



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