



BALLIOL
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

FLOREAT DOMUS

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FLOREAT DOMUS

MAY 2016

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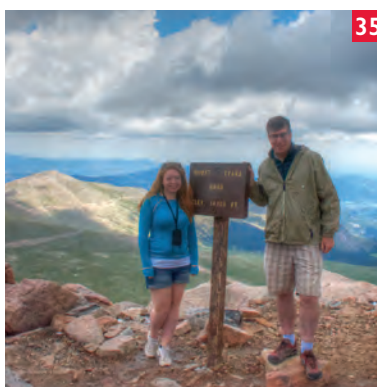
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We are most grateful to all who have kindly written articles, agreed to be interviewed, provided photographs or information, or otherwise assisted in the preparation of this magazine. We are always pleased to receive feedback and suggestions for articles: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

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Front cover photograph: Lunch for the new Vice-Chancellor – see page 2 (copyright © Oxford University Images/John Cairns)



The Master talks to Young Alumni at the Barbican in November 2015 (see page 48).

From the Master

Sir Drummond Bone (1968)

It's a beautiful early spring day in Oxford as I write, and the wild flowers under the first group of trees in the quad are looking splendid. There is even a dusting of green on some of the trees, slightly odd for this time of year, but energising nonetheless. Best to keep one's eye on nature, and away from government, which has given us a Green Paper (not at all green as in the trees), a review of the UK Research Councils, a Spending Review, and a law supposedly designed to prevent 'radicalisation'. Some of the principles behind the Green Paper are unexceptionable, but some of the suggested practical consequences are at best in an unfinished state. The research is a more extreme version of the same – Sir Paul Nurse's text is much to be welcomed, but we await somewhat anxiously what will pop out of the egg he has fertilised. The Spending Review could have been a lot worse, but as ever it's only when you start unwrapping the parcel you discover what has really been put inside – new things have to be paid for out of old money, and budgets have to include things that previously they did not. The 'Prevent' strategy as it applies to universities is a wrong-headed piece of legislation from the start, and is only even bearable thanks to intervention in the Lords *inter alia* from the Warden of Wadham and the Principal of Mansfield. We will do our best to follow the law without allowing it to interfere with our proper business of education and research, or in any sense to curtail our moral and legal obligations to protect free speech and the ideal of academic freedom.

In the midst of all this we continue to develop our plans for much new student accommodation on the perimeter of the Master's Field, and we hope to take that to the City planners early this summer. In preparation for that the College has issued a private placement for £35 million over 45 years at a fixed rate of 3.37% (University College, Queen's College and Keble have gone down a similar route, and the rate we achieved compares well with theirs), and we should be able both to pay the interest and to accumulate the principal from rents, while keeping these affordable for our students.

Arguably even more importantly for the long-term health of the College we are not allowing our fourth place in last year's Norrington Table to slow the changes to our teaching developments, and thanks to generous donations from many of you who will be reading this we will have three new Career Development Fellowships in place next academic year (in Economics, Engineering and English). We still have the intention, resources allowing, to have a total of ten, which will significantly increase our core tutorial strength with young researchers who are also keen to gain teaching experience, and who over the four years they will be with us will become an integral part of the community.

Sporting successes so far this year include the men winning the Christ Church Regatta, and so far as rugby is concerned our Division IV team of a few years ago is now a highly competitive Division I team of which we have high Cuppers hopes.

Lunch for the Vice-Chancellor

Following the swearing in of Oxford University's new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson, at the Sheldonian Theatre on 12 January 2016, members of Congregation attended lunch in Balliol Hall. Professor Richardson is the 272nd Vice-Chancellor in Oxford's history, and the first woman to hold the post.

Awards

New Year Honours 2016

Clare Moriarty (1982), appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) for services to transport, was Director-General, Rail Executive, in the Department of Transport and before that Director General, Corporate Group, in the Department for Transport. She became Permanent Secretary for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2015.



Professor David Ulph (1968), appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to economics and social sciences, is Professor of Economics and Director at the Scottish Institute for Research in Economics, at the University of St Andrews. His major research interests are the design and enforcement of competition policy, tax avoidance, individual behaviour in a social context, climate change, and the design and administration of tax benefit systems.



Amanda Ariss (1982), appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to equality, was Chief Executive of the Equality and Diversity Forum from 2008 to 2015. Amongst other achievements, she helped to secure the 2010 Equality Act. Previously Head of Policy and Research at the Equal Opportunities Commission, she is now Executive Director of the Creative Diversity Network.



Ivan Rogers (1979), appointed Knight Commander of St Michael and St George (KCMG) for services to British European and international policy, is the UK's Permanent Representative to the European Union. Before that he worked as the Prime Minister's Adviser on Europe and Global Issues and Head of the European and Global Issues Secretariat, and as Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Australia Day Honours 2016

Dr Bronte Adams (1986) received the award of Member of the Order of Australia (AM), for significant service to the community through executive roles in business, publishing, health and industry innovation, and cultural organisations.

Lifetime Achievement Teaching Excellence Award

Piers Nye (Lecturer in Physiology at Balliol 1984–1987, Fellow and Tutor in Physiological Sciences 1991–2011 and now Emeritus Fellow and Lecturer in Systems Biology) has received a 2015 Teaching Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Oxford Medical Sciences Division. The award acknowledges academics for 'the high quality and sustained commitment to education demonstrated throughout their career at Oxford'.



MPLS Impact Award

Dermot O'Hare (SCG Fellow, Professor of Chemistry and Tutor in Inorganic Chemistry) has won an MPLS Impact Award, which recognises excellence in 'generating broad user interactions that achieved impact or are conducive to achieving impact'. On receiving the award, he said, 'It recognises the effective and long-term collaboration that has been established between Oxford Chemistry and SCG in Thailand, through the creation of the Oxford-SCG Centre of Excellence in Chemistry.' His relationship with SCG chemicals has been extremely fruitful, bringing significant funds to the University and successfully translating his research group's innovations into industrial processes.

Cambridge Mastership

Professor Jane Stapleton FBA (1981 and Emeritus Fellow) has been elected Master of Christ's College, Cambridge. A distinguished academic lawyer who currently holds posts at the Australian National University College of Law and the University of Texas School of Law, she will take up her post in September 2016.



Oxbridge Fellowships

Mireia Crispin Ortuzar (2011) has been elected to a Title A Fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Hilary Martin (2011) has won a Research Fellowship at St John's College, Cambridge.

Christopher Metcalf (2009) has been appointed to an Associate Professorship and Tutorial Fellowship in Classical Languages and Literature at The Queen's College, Oxford.

Young Journalist of the Year

Daily Telegraph journalist **Tom Rowley (2008)** won the Young Journalist of the Year category at the Press Awards for 2015 for producing 'a stunning portfolio beautifully written covering diverse subjects print and digital'.



EPSRC award for former Career Development Fellow

Career Development Fellowships (CDFs) give some of the brightest young academics at the beginning of their careers the opportunity to pursue their research and to embark on some university teaching. We are delighted that one of our former CDFs at Balliol, **James Worrell**, has been awarded a Leadership Fellowship by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, which awards such Fellowships to support 'the aspiring and current world-leading individuals who are delivering the highest quality research to meet UK and global priorities'.

James was a Career Development Fellow in Computer Science at Balliol from 2005 to 2007. Tom Melham (Professor of Computer Science and Tutor in Computation) describes him as being 'a good and dedicated tutor too'. Since then James has been a University Lecturer at Green Templeton College and he was promoted to Professor in 2011. 'My research is in the field of automated verification, which is concerned with building and analysing mathematical models of computer systems in order to ensure their dependability and reliability,' he explains. 'Often such models include not just the system, but also its environment, leading to complex behaviours which include both physical and computational processes.' He gave an interview about his work to *Floreat Domus* 2006.

James's EPSRC Leadership Fellowship is entitled 'Verification of Linear Dynamical Systems'. He adds: 'The goal of this five-year project is to develop algorithms to analyse the behaviour of linear dynamical systems, for example, to determine whether a system variable whose behaviour is determined by differential equation can ever enter a critical state, or whether a piece of computer code can ever get stuck in an endless loop. The main challenge in the project is that the long-term evolution of systems can be very complex to analyse even though their short-term behaviour is simple. The project connects many areas of computer science and mathematics, from algorithms and logic to number theory.'

The Master writes about Balliol's plans to recruit new CDFs on page 1.

New Fellows

Benjamin Blonder

A Junior Research Fellow in the Sciences, Ben is a plant macroecologist with research interests in building a more robust biodiversity science that is capable of explaining the processes structuring communities as well as predicting their future dynamics under global change scenarios. To address these problems, he uses a combination of approaches drawn from mathematical modelling, fieldwork, and eco-informatics statistics. His current field projects are located in Colorado, Peru, Malaysia, and Norway.

Ben is a Research Fellow with the UK's Natural Environment Research Council. He is also affiliated with the University of Arizona's Sky School, an education programme at primary- and secondary-school level. He received his PhD at the University of Arizona, and has held visiting positions in Denmark at the Center for Macroecology, Evolution, and Climate in Copenhagen as well as in the eco-informatics group at Aarhus University.



Nadia Hilliard

A Postgraduate Visiting Research Fellow at the Rothermere American Institute, Oxford, Nadia joins Balliol as a Junior Research Fellow in the Social Sciences. She recently completed her postgraduate studies in politics (MPhil and DPhil) at Oxford, having studied philosophy at the University of Paris IV (Sorbonne) and comparative literature at the University of Chicago.

Nadia's current work bridges the theoretical and empirical poles of the study of politics by looking at concrete historical phenomena, and interpreting these practices in light of certain key concerns of political theory and philosophy. Her forthcoming book, *The Accountability State: US Federal Inspectors General and the Pursuit of Democratic Integrity*, details the practice of new forms of bureaucratic accountability, and explores the implications of this development for our understanding of the concept of the 'political'. As a JRF, she will be exploring the way that states of emergency and moments of crisis have lasting impacts on the structure of the state, both in its institutional organisation and the categories and concepts it uses to legitimate its actions. She has also recently begun to explore the legacy of theological structures and concepts on modes of contemporary, secular political legitimization.



John Horne

John Horne (1968) has recently retired as Professor of Modern European History at Trinity College Dublin and he is now combining a Visiting Research Fellowship in the History Faculty at Oxford with an Oliver Smithies Visiting Research Fellowship at Balliol. His research focuses on the history of 20th-century France and the Great War in a comparative and transnational perspective. He began as a social and labour historian



but has more recently explored the uses of cultural history as a way of opening up new perspectives on the First World War. He is currently writing a history of the French experience in the Great War.

John is a board member of the Research Centre of the Historical de la Grande Guerre, Péronne, and he participates in EURHISTXX, a consortium of research institutes across Europe, which explores the contemporary history of Europe at a continental level. From 2008 to 2010 John co-directed (with Professor Robert Gerwarth) a research project on 'Paramilitary Violence after the Great War, 1917–1923: Towards a Global Perspective', which resulted in an OUP book, published in 2012. He has been a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, and in 2005 was elected a Member of the Royal Irish Academy.

Elliott Horowitz

A native of New York City, Elliott was educated at Princeton and Yale, and taught in Israel for over three decades, first at Ben-Gurion University and then at Bar-Ilan University. His primary areas of academic interest are the history of Europe and the Mediterranean in medieval and early modern times, with a focus on Jews and Judaism. As an Oliver Smithies Visiting Research Fellow (Trinity to Hilary Terms 2016) he has been studying the reciprocal relations between travel narratives and scriptural interpretation.

Elliott's publications include *Reckless Rites: Purim and the Legacy of Jewish Violence* (Princeton, 2006). For the past 12 years he has been co-editor of the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, co-founded by Claude Goldsmid Montefiore (1877), one of the first Jews to study at Balliol.



Peter McCullagh

Peter is Professor and past Chairman in the Department of Statistics at the University of Chicago and comes to Balliol as George Eastman Visiting Fellow. He obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Birmingham, and his doctoral degree from Imperial College. He has held visiting positions at the University of British Columbia and at Bell Labs. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Royal Society.

Peter's research focuses on probabilistic modelling, statistical theory, and the application of statistical methods in diverse areas, particularly in scientific research such as biostatistics, agricultural research, ecology and animal behaviour. Recent probabilistic work includes boson point processes, exchangeability and random discrete structures such as random partitions, Gibbs random trees and random graphs. Recent statistical work has focused on health monitoring and survival processes.

Peter is the author of *Tensor Methods in Statistics* (Chapman & Hall/CRC, 1987) and *Generalized Linear Models* (Springer, 1983)



with co-author John Nelder. He has served as editor of the journal *Bernoulli*, and as an associate editor of *Biometrika*, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, and the *Annals of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics*.

Lisa Miller

Lisa is John G. Winant Visiting Professor of American Politics. She is Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University and received her doctorate from the University of Washington in 1999. Her research interests are in law, social policy, inequality, crime and punishment. Her forthcoming book, *The Myth of Mob Rule: Violent Crime and Democratic Politics* (OUP, 2016), is a comparative analysis of the causes and consequences of the political salience of crime, across the US, UK and the Netherlands. Her previous book, *The Perils of Federalism: Race, Poverty and Crime Control* (OUP, 2008), explored the relationship between the peculiar style of American federalism and the substantial inequalities in criminal victimisation and punishment across racial groups in the US. Her work has appeared in *Law and Society Review*, *Punishment and Society*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Criminology and Public Policy*, *Law and Social Inquiry*, and *Theoretical Criminology*, among others. In 2012–2013 she was a Visiting Scholar at the Program in Law and Public Affairs in the Woodrow Wilson School of Government at Princeton University. In 2011–2012 she was Visiting Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford.



Anand Venkatkrishnan

Anand, who has joined Balliol as Asoke Kumar Sarkar Research Fellow in Classical Indology, received his PhD in South Asian Religions from Columbia University, his MA and MPhil in South Asian Religions from Columbia, and a BA in Classics (Greek and Latin) from Stanford University. His dissertation, entitled 'Mīmāṃsā, Vedānta, and the Bhakti Movement', studies the impact of the *bhakti* traditions of religious devotion on orthodox systems of Sanskrit scriptural hermeneutics between the 13th and 18th centuries. His research interests include the intersection between religious movements and scholarly pedagogy, Indian intellectual history, and the early modern world. He also keeps a blog of Sanskrit poetry translations at <http://apurvaracana.tumblr.com/>.

At Balliol, Anand looks to extend this *longue-durée* social and intellectual history into the colonial and nationalist periods. For 19th-century Hindu intellectuals, debates over what constituted 'the only real religion of the Hindus' sought to define the spiritual and political core of a nascent nation. These competing visions were not exclusively the products of Orientalist discourses on Indian thought, but exhibited continuity with debates within precolonial intellectual circles. Anand's research in the Sanskrit manuscript archives at Oxford will contribute to ongoing scholarship on those precolonial sites of social and intellectual contestation whose outcomes exerted their influence into Indian modernity.



Balliol and the House of God

Athar Yawar (1994) reviews a talk by a Balliol author

Steve Bergman (1966) came to Balliol as a Rhodes Scholar; to do physiological research before becoming a doctor. At Balliol, he realised he did not want to become a doctor after all, but a writer. Nonetheless, he enrolled at Harvard Medical School, partly to avoid being sent to Vietnam, and eventually became Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard. He also, as Samuel Shem, became a famous writer. His best-known books are probably *House of God* (1978) and *Mount Misery* (1997), which describe the medical and spiritual training of Dr Roy Basch.

The world of *House of God* seems too macabre to be true. Highly educated but inadequately trained young people try to survive their first jobs as medical interns, and hope the patients survive too. Some cope by pursuing ambition at the cost of empathy and care; others go mad or kill themselves. Dehumanised young doctors dehumanise their patients, and make mistakes shocking in their incompetence and inevitability.

Mount Misery seems too dark to be true, as doctors destroy people's lives through psychiatry. Histories of child abuse are dismissed as fantasy; leading psychiatrists sexually abuse their patients (and there are hints of child rape and murder); other psychiatrists are merely cruel and destructive. The few good clinicians, who care and help their patients heal, have serious health problems and are professionally marginalised.

In his talk at the Balliol Medical Society on 27 September 2015, 'Staying Human in Medicine', Steve Bergman assured us that *House of God* and *Mount Misery* are based almost entirely on personal witness. The most outrageous events really did happen, including, he reminisced, a psychiatrist putting all her patients on the same antidepressant she was on, because they would find it depressing to have her as a doctor. The hospitals and characters are often slightly altered versions of real places and people (even their names can often be decoded). Roy Basch is a self-portrait, except that Roy is able to say and do what Steve Bergman wishes he had.

Bergman argues that the core problem is a venerated fantasy of the self: proud, standing alone, and able to use violence where necessary. In scientific medicine, the isolated self treats others as objects, to be described by theory, rather than people to be connected to. The theories often seem to make sense, but human beings are so complex that even deranged theories can seem to work, with appropriate perspective and narrow enough testing. Patients suffer for the dreams of their doctors. The more inept



doctors become at connecting and healing, the more they retreat into fantasies of knowledge and control. Consequently, Bergman finds, patients would often be better off without their doctors.

Bergman regards medicine as a microcosm of society. In *Mount Misery*, for instance, the psychiatric hospital is also a country, even a world. Bergman describes a world run by heartless people and riddled with financial and personal corruption. To the menial staff and patients, this is no surprise. To Basch, it comes as a shock.

Basch copes by learning to face his fears of inadequacy and suffering: to glimpse himself out of the corner of his eye, and tolerate enough to face his patients humanely. Through connecting and caring for people, he learns to heal, although his victories are ambivalent: the abusers in *Mount Misery* emerge essentially untouched, and the institution deteriorates further. And Basch, by the end of his journey, has begun to give himself the chance to live, but perhaps has not yet matured.

Bergman told us that letting ourselves see others, and letting others see us, and knowing and accepting the mutual gaze, is at the heart of healing and compassionate living. He feels that women are often more willing to connect than men, who retreat into fantasies of sufficiency. Even if you can't believe in God, it's important to know that you aren't God.

Bergman's talk was warmly received by an audience ranging from medical students to professors emeritus (and introduced grippingly by Emeritus Fellow Denis Noble, who was Bergman's supervisor all those years ago). Notwithstanding his anatomisation of medicine's horrors, Bergman believes that medicine practised with compassion and insight can be a powerful force for healing. He also remarked that well-meaning, committed people can change the world for the better. At medical school, he had not regretted going on strike in solidarity with civil rights, even at the cost of not studying the kidney.

Balliol launched me beyond me

Steve Bergman (1966)

The theme of all of [my] work, everything I do, is to try to put connection, or the 'we', at the centre of things, not the self. If the self is at the centre of things, in a strong way, then there is 'I and you', and that's adversarial. If you're in a good relationship, each self is more than themselves, and people feel better: they're more full of zest, power, knowledge, value – all that good stuff, mutually.

So being in that whole is the theme, which I've learned partly I think from being at Balliol: it was a very, very, rich, exciting community. People like me who didn't know anything learned that the foreigner is not foreign, the stranger is not strange. Through community, through political action, through connection you learn about the importance of the limits of the self. Later I learned from the work [my wife] Janet and I have done too – about how you make a good connection, what you do when it's not working, how you move a disconnect to a better connection, how it's not just what you *do*, but what you do *next*. How connection comes

first. Balliol opened the door to those ideas. I can't emphasise enough how much. I hit the wall in terms of self-centredness and achievement at Harvard, and I said, 'Uh oh, what's life all about?' Being at Balliol launched me beyond me. It stopped my life, and made me look at other things outside myself.

Extract from an interview by Keith Farrell-Dillon (2002) with Steve Bergman while he was visiting Oxford in autumn 2015, in which he talked about The House of God and some of his other writing, and how his time at Balliol influenced it. For the full interview, see www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/shem.

Buddha's Wife: The Path of Awakening Together, written by Stephen Bergman (Samuel Shem) and his wife, Janet Surrey, was published in 2015.

Open to all

Sam Bumby (2012) reports on Michaelmas Term in Admissions and Outreach



Sam Bumby at a recruitment day for the 2015/2016 Floreat access programme.

My first experience of Balliol was wandering in by chance at an Open Day, merely because we were walking down Broad Street and it happened to be 'one of the ones my dad had heard of'. I was greeted by a flood of enthusiastic volunteers, taken on a whirlwind tour and left with the impression that it was definitely a place where I wanted to spend three years of my life studying. It was this memory that, four and a half years later, I was conscious of as I helped with the preparations for the September 2015 Open Day during my first week as the new Admissions and Outreach Assistant. Having graduated from the College a little over two months previously, and as a veteran of many previous Open Days as a helper, I was confident that our student volunteers would deliver and they did not disappoint. Aided by the new College branding, visible everywhere on the students' T-shirts and on the hugely popular 'Balliol bags' (one of which was later spotted by an alumnus at Heathrow), our volunteers gave an overwhelmingly good impression to the hundreds of people who passed through our doors. The students definitely deserve some of the credit for the 19% rise in direct applications we saw this year, which compares favourably to the 6% increase seen across the wider University.

On the outreach front, our main focus has been the expansion of our flagship Floreat access programme, a series of seminars for Year 12 state school students interested in studying humanities subjects at university. The programme was launched very successfully last year in Hertfordshire, with over



Student volunteers and the Balliol bags at the September 2015 Open Day.

60 applicants for just 20 places. The selected students attended a series of Cold War-themed seminars, which ran in a local school throughout Hilary Term, and a week-long summer school in Balliol in August, during which they were able to stay on the main site, use the Library and have a mock tutorial. The programme is part of a wider trend across the University to work with school students over a prolonged period of time. Results so far, in terms of the number of Floreat students who have since applied to and been offered places at Oxford, have been promising.

This year we are running Floreat again in Hertfordshire, with increased numbers of students taking part. We have also expanded the scheme into Southwark in London, building on links with Balliol alumni involved in schools in the area. Many of the Southwark schools we are working with have high numbers of students on

free school meals compared to the national average, and a limited history of progression to university, particularly in humanities subjects. The expansion therefore provides a fantastic opportunity to engage with students in a demographic traditionally under-represented at Oxford. All candidates for both programmes were invited up to Oxford to participate in recruitment days, which took the form of three different seminars.

As December rolled around, the admissions process reached fever pitch when over 300 nervous school students descended on the College over a two-week period. I clearly remember my own interview, as every Old Member surely does, and I found it very revealing being on the other side of the process and seeing how it all works. Without giving too much away, the two-week period can be characterised as an intense period of communication, with a frantic stream of phone calls and emails between different colleges, departments and tutors to ensure that candidates are in the right place at the right time. There was the occasional hiccup, such as the odd candidate going AWOL at a crucial time, but nothing that was not to be expected when running such a large and complex process. I came out of the experience with a greater faith in the process than I had beforehand, convinced that our tutors go to every effort to ensure that they select and offer places to exceptional candidates.

‘Floreat provides a fantastic opportunity to engage with students in a demographic traditionally under-represented at Oxford.’

Chastity on the Verge

Lucy Rayfield, a second-year DPhil student in Modern Languages, directed *Chastity on the Verge*, a dramatisation of an anonymous 13th-century French romance, which was performed for the Robert Taylor Society in September 2015. A number of Balliol's talented actors starred in it, including graduate students Brian McMahon as the Narrator (right), Vera Schäfer, and Jessyca Hutchens as the Châtelaine, seen here (far right) with Edwina Christie of Univ.



BalliAle

The JCR is now selling its own brew, BalliAle, in the Lindsay Bar. Undergraduates Duncan Shepherd and Richard Ware were the instigators; students chose the brew at a tasting event and designed the label. BalliAle is brewed, bottled and labelled by the White Horse Brewery in Oxford.

Best of the best

Medical undergraduate Alice Buchan won the Sir Roger Bannister Neurology Prize. Having sat a neuroscience exam with everyone in the fifth year, she was one of a handful of students selected for a viva on the basis of her excellent exam marks; and, having answered questions about neuroscience from first principles – in her case autonomic dysfunction, 'apparently Roger Bannister's favourite topic!', says Alice – and about medicine, research and how medical science is done, she beat the other candidates to become the overall winner. She is one of a number of Balliol students who win University prizes each year, as listed in the *Annual Record*.



Fine art

Magdalen by Emily Carrington Freeman, 71 cm x 55.5 cm, oil on linen, and (above) a study for it. The painting is one of a series in which Emily, a Fine Art undergraduate, explores religious imagery. It is to be exhibited in Hall, and it has also been exhibited in the University Church with the studies for it.



Left to right: Rohan Mandumula, Joshua Lynbeck and George Badger (Dervorguilla Society organisers) with Eva Clarke.

Moving testimony

George Badger (2014) describes a
visit from a Holocaust survivor

On 23 November 2015, the Dervorguilla Society (Balliol's history society) welcomed Eva Clarke, who came to deliver a testimony of her family's experiences during the Holocaust. Every Holocaust survivor's testimony is a unique one, but Eva's story is particularly captivating, given the truly exceptional circumstances of her birth.

Having been summoned to the Jewish ghetto Terezin (in what was then Czechoslovakia), Eva's mother Anka and her husband were selected for work. Despite the strict segregation rules applying to men and women, they saw what they could of each other, and soon Anka became pregnant. She found herself being forced by the Nazis, with four other women, to sign a document stipulating that as soon as they had given birth they were to hand over their babies to be killed. In fact when Anka gave birth in February 1944, her son was not taken from her immediately, but sadly he died of pneumonia after two months.

In September 1944, Anka's husband was sent to Auschwitz concentration camp. Though pregnant again, Anka volunteered to follow him, in the hope of their being reunited. She was never to see him again. She was stripped naked for selection, had her head shaved and, despite having endured the appalling conditions at Terezin for three years, was judged strong enough to pass SS officer Josef Mengele's notorious selection process. She insisted that she was not pregnant, and so avoided being sent straight to the gas chamber.

'Students appeared inspired by the sheer power of human will which Anka demonstrated in the darkest of circumstances.'

After ten gruesome days in Auschwitz, sustaining herself and her unborn baby on merely a shared bowl of oily water a day, Anka was moved again. Forced into a cramped cattle truck, she joined other female prisoners being sent to the Freiberg armaments camp (a sub-camp of Flossenbürg concentration camp), where they were regularly beaten and where many died of starvation, disease and cold.

In April 1945, Anka was moved yet again when the Nazis began to retreat, evacuating factories such as Freiberg. After a 17-day journey in overcrowded carts without food, Anka arrived at Mauthausen concentration camp. It was during the journey, while she was packed among prisoners dying of typhoid fever, that Anka gave birth to Eva on 29 April. The day before, the gas chambers at Mauthausen had run out of gas; Eva maintains that had she arrived a few days earlier, she and her mother would have been killed immediately. Days later, American forces liberated the camp, and once they were strong enough to travel Anka and baby Eva returned to Prague.

And this was Eva's terrifying and barely conceivable story, which left students from Balliol and other colleges – from a range of academic disciplines – speechless. Yet Eva continued to surprise us by telling us that her story was in fact not unique. In 2009 she discovered Hana Berger Moran and Mark Olsky: two others who had been born at Freiberg and during the subsequent gruelling journey respectively. Having developed an incredibly special bond, which Eva described as being like that of siblings, the three have had their stories published in *Born Survivors* (Sphere, 2015) by Wendy Holden.

There was a strong sense within the room that Eva's testimony was far more than just a story: in a lengthy Q&A session afterwards, students appeared inspired by the sheer power of human will which Anka demonstrated in the darkest of circumstances, while appreciating the relevance of the Holocaust today. Eva stressed that the atrocity of the Holocaust and other crimes against humanity – which, regrettably, appear all too frequently throughout history – are testament to humanity's potential for hate and destruction; and the consequent need to remain vigilant against all forms of prejudice, given what it can lead to if left unchecked.

We were equally left in no doubt of Eva's resolve to work alongside other members of the survivor community to share their stories with audiences far and wide. Working with the Holocaust Educational Trust (for which I am a Regional Ambassador), survivors visit schools, universities and other communities to speak to young people in particular about the lessons we can learn about ourselves by studying the Holocaust, emphasising the need to remember its humanity amongst the staggering statistics usually found in textbooks. As the years pass, we come closer and closer to a time in which there will no longer be first-hand witnesses to the tragedies of the Holocaust; by teaching the next generation and encouraging them to engage with the universal and continuing relevance of the Holocaust, we can hope that such horrors will not be forgotten.

Community organising

Two students volunteered to work with deprived communities in the East End of London on the Urban Leadership Summer Internship Programme (formerly known as the Jellicoe internship). The project is run by the Centre for Theology & Community (CTC), an independent charity which equips churches to transform their communities through the practices of community organising, theological reflection and prayer.

Abby Taylor-Baptie (2013)

I spent a month at St Peter's, Bethnal Green, building on the work done by previous interns regarding road safety, and also looking at ways to improve communication between the church and congregation and the wider community. Through living in Bethnal Green and engaging with members of the community, I learnt that this is a place that is changing very quickly, and that change has left some people feeling as if they no longer have a place in the community in which they have lived all their lives. This was really difficult to hear, and it led me to focus on practical ways of making people feel more involved – for example, ways of improving communication between church, congregation and community. I hope this work will be continued by interns in the coming years.

The internship was unlike anything I have done before, and I found the concept of community organising really interesting. Throughout the internship I grappled with a lot of different ideas, but my overriding thought came to be that I really like the concept of people in a community coming together and speaking for themselves, rather than a person who hasn't had their experiences speaking for them. I have thought a lot about this since, and have felt personally challenged to be able to speak up when my experiences are relevant rather than feel underqualified because of my age or gender, and I think this is really valuable.



A training session on the CTC Urban Leadership Summer Internship Programme.

Joshua Barr (2012)

While I was on the programme, all the costs of my accommodation, food and travel for the month were covered, thanks to a grant provided by Balliol, along with subsidies from the Centre for Theology & Community. This meant that I was able to make the most of the experience and fully appreciate living in London – travelling around on work duties but also visiting friends for the odd drink without financial concerns.

I found the programme incredibly rewarding. After four initial days of training, I had a month in which to integrate with the Peckham community and to help develop community actions against local injustices. Specifically, I worked closely with Vicar Paul Collier of Copleston Church, local community organiser Callum, and another intern from Oxford called Hannah. We got to know members of the church by arranging some 121s (one-to-one conversations) in order to identify common issues in the local community. We also attended a series of Peckham Citizens (a partnership of six local institutions) meetings which were focused on specific problems which had been identified through a listening campaign that had been conducted in the area.

To begin tackling one of the main issues, debt, fellow intern Hannah and I organised a 'Money Walk' one afternoon. This involved visiting and learning about the dangers of pay-day lenders, the advantages of the local Credit Union, and the services of debt advice charities such as Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

The experience was overwhelmingly positive. There were no set hours, so ultimately it was a case of getting out as much as you put in. The task of quickly integrating into a community developed my interpersonal skills, and it was amazing to learn about individuals' lives through the 121s. Similarly, attending the Peckham Citizens meetings and speaking to Callum were a great insight into the mechanics of community organising, which I now wish to pursue further. The experience of living in London for a month helped me decide that I wanted to live there after university if possible. The internship has a strong element of theological reflection and the large majority of interns were Christian, but this is far from mandatory; the key thing is being theologically open-minded and reflective. I am agnostic, but I have had a heavily Christian upbringing, so I was perfectly comfortable in the atmosphere. The reflection sessions were only for a couple of hours twice a week and prompted interesting discussions.

Ross Murphy (left) and a friend.



Visit to Silicon Valley

Ross Murphy (2013) organised a trip for the Oxford Entrepreneurs

In Easter 2015, a couple of friends and I organised a trip to Silicon Valley for 20 members of the Oxford Entrepreneurs (a student society which promotes entrepreneurship in Oxford) to meet and discuss the tech industry with leading tech entrepreneurs. The ten-day visit was easily the most inspiring ten days of my life.

To organise the trip, we reached out to everyone and anyone who would listen to us. Active since February 2002, the Oxford Entrepreneurs has a huge alumni network and all the ex-Oxford Entrepreneurs we contacted were more than happy to help us. Through their generosity, along with that of others whom we contacted through numerous cold calls and emails, we managed to put together a jam-packed schedule, including up to four company tours a day and a social event every other night.

In order to shuttle everyone back and forth around the Valley, we rented a 15-seater Ford E-350 XLT, the kind of vehicle one could only really expect to see in the US. Despite its relentless propensity to drink diesel and overheat, it served us admirably for the duration of our trip and thankfully our hosts still took us seriously even when we turned up in a van straight out of *The A-Team*, but without the sliding door. The only accommodation we could find for a group our size was a 17,000 square-foot Tudor-style castle called the Buck Estate, designed by architect Albert Farr. Apparently modelled on England's Hampton Court Palace, it has a ballroom and leaded glass windows, but no central heating, and we only found out on arrival that we would be sharing makeshift dormitories with countless other money-saving entrepreneurs trying

to make a living in the Valley. The owner of the castle, John, a former data scientist for NASA who had served two terms in Afghanistan and been voted off in the first round of a reality TV show called *Pirate Master*, kept us entertained with a wide range of stories.

Despite the eclectic set-up, everything fell together perfectly and each day of the trip proved to be better than the last. Over the ten days we met a range of incredibly interesting organisations: huge companies such as Google, Facebook, and Square; start-ups such as Zumper, Partnered, and Quid; and even venture capital firms such as Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield & Byers (KPCB). At every meeting we got the chance to hear what it's really like to work in tech and we received candid, straight-to-the-point advice. We had fascinating discussions with amazing people in Q&A sessions that stretched on until we were in danger of missing our next event. Some brief examples: we learned how Square is extending hundreds of thousands of dollars of credit to firms that don't even know they need it yet; we heard an ex-CIA agent (currently working for KPCB) talk about how he and Bill Gates find new companies to invest in; and we discussed how Bitcoin is going to revolutionise the global monetary system.

Hearing an entrepreneur talk about his or her start-up is an unparalleled experience: you learn things that can never really be taught in a formal setting – a welcome change from the typical business-school lecture-slide buzzword guidelines. We received a lot of practical advice, such as how to build a scalable product, how to source venture capital, and even how to get a US visa. We also discussed more conceptual issues: for example, how to build a great team and how to inspire people to be the best they can be.

This sort of advice on building a company is immensely useful to students from a culture where start-ups are not very common. The prevalence of start-ups in Silicon Valley also makes it easier to understand what a company really is. The typical, European view of a company is one of a physical entity, a tangible object, within which people work – a view that can stifle the key development process of idea to reality. In Silicon Valley this view is inverted: a firm is, in its most basic form, simply a group of people coming together to make an idea a reality; it is a product of its people, rather than the other way around. When you can properly understand what it is you're trying to create, creating it becomes a lot easier.

The culture of the Valley is also vastly different to British culture. In my short time in Britain I've got the impression that British students coming out of university all too often follow the (dare I say) 'easy' route and leap on to a well-defined career ladder such as the nearest grad programme in law, banking, or consultancy, never too far from a safety net. By experiencing life in Silicon Valley I learnt that its culture runs completely against that principle. Instead the Valley is charged with a fervent ideology of disrupting any preconceived notions of 'the norm'. In the Valley, if

you go into law or banking you're a sellout. The philosophy of the Bay Area is one of actively seeking to change the world, not one of merely trying to fit into it. To this end, failure is never viewed as terminal: it is viewed as a necessary evolutionary process. It is this overarching culture that has enabled the tech revolution, as a result of which entrenched industries around the world are finding their market share swiped from underneath their feet by T-shirt-clad programmers working out of a café in Palo Alto, and slowly coming around to the realisation that, in the words of Jamie Dimon (CEO of J.P. Morgan), 'Silicon Valley is coming.'

The Oxford Entrepreneurs (OE) are an incredible group of people, and I feel humbled and privileged to have been a part of this trip. On numerous occasions I was left blown away by

our hosts' stories. The experience has changed my outlook on life and inspired me to seek out different things on my future career path. I firmly believe that anyone who still hasn't realised just how much the tech industry is going to revolutionise everything we take for granted right now is going to have a rude awakening very soon. As a student of economics and management, I am hugely interested in the mobile payments industry and the development of crypto-currencies. The massive scope for innovation in that area could result in a paradigm shift in the global monetary system, and that is something I want to be part of in the future.

Our trip's closing ceremony was entirely organised and funded by the Oxford alumni network. At the 50-person-strong drinks event on the tenth floor of the Orrick building in the financial district of San Francisco, we listened to a presentation by an alumnus who had recently sold his

company to Google. I also got the chance to meet two Balliol alumni: Anh Tran (2005), a data scientist now working with Misfit, and Julian Green (1990), a serial entrepreneur who co-founded Houzz and recently sold his company, JetPac, to Google.

The OE alumni network went out of their way to accommodate us throughout our trip and special thanks need to go to them. We were inundated with invitations to networking events full of alumni looking to extend a helping hand. It's massively reassuring to know that there is such a solid support network in the Valley for any OE looking to start a company. In collaboration with this network, the OE is now putting in place plans to make the trip an annual event, which will serve further to strengthen Oxford's connection to entrepreneurship in Silicon Valley. This link, even in its infancy, is a huge asset to all Oxford graduates, and through more projects like this we can cement Oxford's role in pioneering global tech development in the future.

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to the generosity of Balliol for the travel grant which enabled me to participate in a trip of a lifetime and to learn invaluable lessons from it.



'We met a range of incredibly interesting organisations: huge companies such as Google, Facebook...'

Bodley's postcard treasures

Jessica Rosenthal McGrath (2014) describes a research project

The Balliol-Bodley scholarship gives one Balliol graduate student per year the chance to undertake a research project under the watchful eye of the Bodleian staff and, in so doing, to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of Bodleian life. Balliol-Bodley scholars have been involved in many different, yet equally exciting projects, from archival and cataloguing work on collections of letters and songs, to assisting with curatorial tasks and exhibition preparations. I applied for the scholarship because, before coming up to Balliol, I had spent nearly two years working as an administrator in the metalwork section at the Victoria & Albert Museum and I was eager to keep up my involvement in the professional world whilst studying for my MSt in Medieval History. I also felt it would be an excellent experience in helping me establish a career in the arts and heritage sector; specifically in museums. I was therefore delighted when I became the sixth graduate so far to benefit from the scheme.

For my project I assisted Bodley's Keeper of Special Collections, Chris Fletcher, with research into the Library's literary postcard collection. As a medievalist, I was initially a little daunted by the thought of working on archival material so far outside my academic comfort zone; after all, postcards are a distinctly modern phenomenon, first used in the 19th century and still sent today. However, a series of meetings with Dr Fletcher and his colleagues set me firmly on the right tracks, and showed me that the research skills I had developed during my studies could be applied to all manner of sources, including postcards. Moreover, the material I worked with – mainly 20th century postcards – provided a refreshing counterpoint to my postgraduate work with medieval manuscripts.

There is something really special about working with postcards. As they are normally sent without an envelope and can be read by anybody, they are unlikely to reveal secrets or classified information. Instead, they can contain allusions to the everyday fabric of human relationships, be it between friends, colleagues, lovers, or family members. Little jokes, pearls of wisdom, or just a simple 'wish you were here', combined with a specially chosen image, all testify to somebody caring enough about another person to send them a postcard. They represent an immortalised moment of human interaction. Unlike more official forms of correspondence such as letters or telegrams, which are often carefully filed away or, if of particular importance, find their way into museum and library archives, postcards tend to be seen as ephemeral objects: indeed, the fate of a postcard is, more often than not, to be put to one side and forgotten about, or simply thrown in the bin. This makes the fact that the Bodleian holds so many literary postcards in its



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collection particularly remarkable. I was asked to document and select the postcards that I felt held the most popular appeal.

As the project was limited to Hilary Term, I decided to focus on investigating postcards within collections that I felt would be of the most interest to the widest possible audience. Thus I dedicated my time to the Spender archive, the Day Lewis archive, the de la Mare archive, and the C.S. Lewis archive. These archives hold some real treasures. I uncovered postcards written by some of the 20th century's most illustrious individuals: T.S. Eliot, Alan Bennett, Judi Dench, Frank Kermode, Henry Moore, and Iris Murdoch, to name but a few. Some of the cards were relatively unremarkable in their content – perhaps a scribbled message about a beachside hotel – whilst others were funny, rude, chatty, informative, and, in some, cases, really quite touching. Given the literary and artistic backgrounds of the senders, it is perhaps unsurprising that many of the postcards feature great artwork – for example, Sir Alec Guinness chose to write on the back of Goya's portrait of Fernando VII of Spain – and contain quotations from famous poems or novels. Indeed, Wordsworth, Shakespeare, Larkin, and Cecil Day Lewis are all cited. Some of the cards I selected will, I hope, be featured in a future library publication so that members of the public can discover these often overlooked and under-appreciated archival sources for themselves.

I learnt so much during my time as the 2015 Balliol-Bodley scholar; in particular, my research and documentation skills benefited enormously. I met so many interesting individuals associated with the library. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Gill Cassar (née Einhorn; 2007) who initiated the scholarship (see *Floreat Domus* 2010) and those in Balliol who funded it, as well as Chris Fletcher and all the Bodleian staff who so generously shared their time, knowledge, and expertise with me.

'I uncovered postcards written by some of the 20th century's most illustrious individuals.'

Detecting supernovae in tree rings at the BII

Since 2010, when the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute (BII) was founded to provide opportunities for Senior Members, Lecturers and graduate students to propose and lead pioneering research projects straddling the humanities, the social sciences, and the physical and medical sciences, the College lecture rooms have hosted a diverse array of outputs from BII projects. These have ranged from regular seminar series on the 'Evolution of Business Ecosystems' and 'Privacy Challenges in Genomic Medicine' to conferences showcasing emerging internet research and the evolution of inheritance and cooperation. But beyond the College's lecture halls and seminar rooms, there is a great deal of other BII-supported research that takes place in archives, hospitals, and laboratories – not to mention the forests of the Earth, in one of which the existence of 1,000-year-old-tree rings has turned it into the world's most unusual astronomical laboratory.

The 'Detecting Supernovae in the Tree Ring Radiocarbon Records' project, awarded a BII grant in Trinity 2014, is a prime example of how the BII supports collaboration between scholars across different disciplines – in this instance astrophysics, archaeology, ancient history and environmental science. Led by Ben Pope (2013), DPhil candidate in Astrophysics, in collaboration with Dr Michael Dee, based at Oxford's Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, this project aims to verify the evidence for one of the earliest recorded supernovae. Supernovae occur when a massive star explodes, in an explosion ten billion times more luminous than the Sun, and this one, according to manuscripts from ancient Chinese astronomers, is thought to have occurred in AD 185. The researchers use a delicate and challenging technique that leverages high-precision measurements of the radiocarbon content of tree rings, which can spike as a result of both solar flares and supernova explosions. These spikes not only can provide evidence for astronomical events that have yet to be verified, but can also be used to date other historical events

'Using tree rings ... we can explore the archaeology both of human civilisation and of the lives of the sun and stars.'

which were recorded in the same years on ancient artefacts, manuscripts, and papyri.

The BII's early support of the 'Detecting Supernovae' initiative allowed Ben and his team to take the first set of tree ring measurements, which was crucial for establishing proof of concept. Ben is pleased to report that the results of this pilot study have indeed been sufficiently exciting to enable them to develop the idea into a much larger study, and for the

team to apply successfully for further funding from the University's Fell Fund: 'The BII helped us turn an offbeat idea into the start of a fully fledged research programme. Using tree rings like this we can explore the archaeology both of human civilisation and of the lives of the sun and stars.'

The 'Detecting Supernovae' project shows just how fruitful radical interdisciplinary approaches can be. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine such a project taking off without an awareness of and admiration for research being carried out in other departments, as well as a willingness to take research risks by applying established techniques and methods from one discipline to another to see what might blossom. The BII looks forward to seeing Ben's project continue to develop, and welcomes more applications for research funding from Current Members in order to keep Balliol at the forefront of pioneering interdisciplinary research endeavours in Oxford and beyond.

The BII is also keen to hear from Balliol alumni about ideas for potential BII projects to be taken up by Current Members, to match alumni researchers with BII research teams, and to facilitate alumni involvement through seminars, conferences and workshops. To learn more about how to get involved, please get in touch with Rami Amin, the BII Research Coordinator, at bii@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

For more information about other BII projects, as well as BII news and events, please explore our web pages at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/BII.



The Whirlpool Galaxy (M51), photographed in the midst of an interaction with its smaller neighbour (NGC 5195). It has an actively growing supermassive black hole.

The evolution of galaxies

Brooke Simmons (Henry Skynner Junior Research Fellow in Astrophysics) explains what we know about why galaxies are all shapes and sizes



When William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse, opened his new 'Leviathan' 72-inch telescope to capture its first image in February 1845, the known Universe was much smaller. Not just because the Universe is ever-expanding, so that the Universe is larger now than when you began reading this sentence, but also because in 1845 the consensus

among scientists and the public was that our own Milky Way was the Universe.

Lord Rosse's recorded observation of a 'spiral nebula', made soon after the new telescope first saw light, was a significant step in the process of changing that world view. The variety of shapes eventually observed in multiple nebulae and the discovery that better observations can resolve individual stars in spiral nebulae led to Astronomy's 'Great Debate':¹ are spiral nebulae inside the Milky Way, or are they 'island universes', similar to the Milky Way but so outrageously distant that they appear small and fuzzy even with the best telescopes?

It took decades for science to be convinced of the existence of galaxies other than our own. In particular, it took scientists with newer, better telescopes who made newer, better observations. Technology has always driven astrophysics forward. Technology, and people.

The expanding Universe

In those days astronomers Edwin Hubble, Milton Humason and Vesto Slipher had to analyse their data by hand, using manual tools to determine distances to each of 40 'extra-galactic nebula'² and the velocity with which each was receding from us. The correlation between these came to be known as Hubble's Law (sorry, Humason and Slipher), and it led to the revelation that the Universe was expanding, not static; it had a beginning.

The evidence for and details of that beginning are best left to a different article; the key point here is that the early Universe was dense and hot. All the matter and energy that now occupies

billions and billions of cubic light-years of expanse was packed into a volume smaller than a pinprick (but growing). It was like a soup of expanding plasma, highly uniform and very different to the Universe we look out at today.

How, then, did things evolve from one to the other? By what mechanism have we ended up with galaxies of all shapes and sizes? Galaxy shapes were catalogued by Hubble too, in a famous 'tuning-fork diagram'³ showing a continuum of shapes from spiral discs to smooth and rounded spheroids. How did each of them come to be composed of stars and gas and dust and black holes (and other things unseen)?

Technology is helping us answer that too. New materials have helped us build bigger and better telescopes, with new equipment to capture all that data. Computers facilitate both data analysis and data creation, via simulations of astrophysical structures of many kinds. Indeed, not long after astronomers began a survey to image the nearest 1,000,000 galaxies in the northern sky,⁴ we reached the point where we could simulate whole universes for the first time.⁵

From these computer simulations we learned that the transition between a smooth, hot, dense plasma and a universe of extremes in density, temperature and structure, was propelled at its heart by gravity and time. The Universe first needed a little time (just a few hundred thousand years) to cool into a neutral hydrogen sea, so loosening the grip of other forces and providing gravity with the opportunity to amplify small, random fluctuations in density. With enough time the matter arranged itself into great filamentary structures along which galaxies formed and evolved, sometimes by the accumulation of surrounding gas, and sometimes by colliding and merging with other galaxies to form a larger galaxy.

Shaping the Universe

It also turns out we can infer a great deal about a galaxy's history from what we see at first glance. Galaxy shapes are a visual record of the combined processes affecting the evolution of each galaxy. The ordered structure of those beautiful spiral arms in Lord Rosse's observational target (now known as Messier 51, or the Whirlpool Galaxy) is formed naturally as galaxies grow, but the process of growth is also prone to galaxy-galaxy collisions which shatter the order and throw the existing stars into more randomised, less ordered orbits that make the galaxy look smooth.

Once order has been disturbed, physics informs us that it will

not un-disturb itself of its own accord. A broken pencil will not become whole again if left overnight,⁷ a whisked egg will not un-scramble while sitting in the bowl, and 'scrambled' elliptical galaxies do not re-order themselves into pure spiral discs. Even if they have enough raw material left after their encounter to re-form a disc, the smooth spheroidal element remains. The new spiral galaxy has a 'bulge' of stars at its centre – and appears at a different point on Hubble's tuning fork.

The shape of a galaxy is in some ways the simplest thing to observe in a resolved image of the galaxy. People have evolved over millions of years into excellent visual pattern detectors. You don't need a DPhil in Astrophysics to tell a spiral galaxy with a 'bulge' from one without; you just need to see a few examples. However, the current best computer algorithms need to see *at least* hundreds of thousands of examples, and they still aren't better than a child at separating galaxies by shape.

This need to visually classify the million (and more) galaxies observed by the latest astronomical surveys led to the creation of Galaxy Zoo⁸ in 2007. Since then, this project has collected over 150,000,000 classifications from more than 300,000 members of the public. By showing each galaxy image to multiple people (usually around 40 per galaxy), the project gathers consensus answers that are more accurate than the answers of any one person, expert or not. The public has collectively discovered new classes of objects⁹ and facilitated new analyses of known populations.¹⁰

Galaxy/black hole relationships

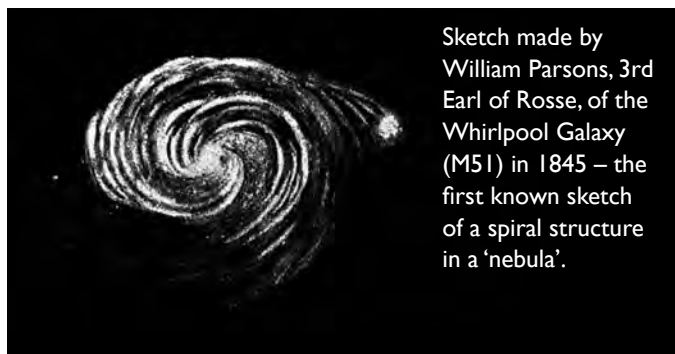
One interesting result from the Galaxy Zoo project is related to the growth of galaxies over cosmic time in relation to the growth of supermassive black holes.

We still don't understand why the supermassive black holes at the hearts of galaxies (every galaxy has one) grow with their galaxies in the way they do. They are much larger than any star: most are between a million and 10 billion times the mass of the Sun. That's big, but it's only about 0.5% of the total mass of stars in the host galaxy. It's even smaller in physical size – a galaxy can easily extend to a radius 100,000 times larger than that of the black hole's neighbourhood. Yet supermassive black holes grow with their galaxies so precisely that the mass ratio (0.5%) appears fixed across a huge range of masses. It's as though an ant in the middle of Wembley Stadium were 100 times bigger than an ant in the middle of a local pitch where the stands hold one-hundredth as many people. Why should this be so?

Until a few years ago, the best explanation resulted from the idea that galaxy mergers drive the growth and evolution of galaxies. If two identical galaxies (and their central black holes) merge, the result is a galaxy of twice the galaxy mass and a merged black hole of twice the black hole mass. The galaxy would likely both form new stars in the encounter and channel some material towards the centre of the galaxy, so both black hole and galaxy would grow further still. *Et voilà*. Via gravity and time (and some other physics as well), you naturally get a fixed galaxy-black hole mass relationship.

Well, perhaps. Mergers are only one way to grow a galaxy – so are they the only way to grow a black hole with the same fixed galaxy-black hole mass relationship? Galaxy Zoo volunteers

'How did [galaxies] come to be composed of stars and gas and dust and black holes (and other things unseen)?'



Sketch made by William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Rosse, of the Whirlpool Galaxy (M51) in 1845 – the first known sketch of a spiral structure in a 'nebula'.

helped identify a set of galaxies whose ordered spiral discs had never been disrupted enough by any merger to form even the smallest galactic bulge, yet which contained growing black holes. Moreover, these galaxies showed evidence that their black holes obey the same mass correlation as those in other galaxies with a history of violent galaxy–galaxy mergers. But these galaxies haven't had any significant mergers. Thus whether there has been a merger in a galaxy's history may not matter to the black hole–galaxy relationship after all.

So what drives this apparently fundamental correlation? The answer may lie in the galaxy matter we can't see, which *only* feels gravity: dark matter, which far outweighs the rest of the matter in a galaxy and which drives its overall gravitational properties. Or the relations may only be similar (but not the same) in merger-driven versus merger-free systems, and only more, and better, observations will reveal this. Research continues, driven by technology and people. We still don't know the answer, but thanks to the help of the public, at least we *know* we don't know, and we are making progress. And that makes this a great time for astrophysics.

¹ The May 1921 issue of the *Bulletin of National Research Council*, online at <https://archive.org/details/scaleofuniverse00shap>

² Hubble (1929), <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/#abs/1929PNAS...15..168H/abstract>; and Hubble & Humason (1931), <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/#abs/1931ApJ....74...43H/abstract>

³ Hubble (1926); <https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/#abs/1926ApJ...64..321H/abstract>

⁴ The Sloan Digital Sky Survey: <http://www.sdss.org>

⁵ In reasonable detail – the Millennium Simulation: <http://www.mpa.mpg.de/galform/virgo/millennium/>

⁷ Unless you are Bill Murray in a mid-1990s film, in which case you know there is something wrong with the Universe.

⁸ www.galaxyzoo.org

⁹ Voorwerpjes, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanny%27s_Voorwerp; and green pea galaxies, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pea_galaxy

¹⁰ The Galaxy Zoo team has so far written about 50 scientific papers using these classifications: <http://www.zooniverse.org/publications>

Brooke Simmons is leaving Balliol to take up a post as a NASA Einstein Fellow at the University of California San Diego, continuing to study the co-evolution of galaxies and black holes.

Developing quantum technologies

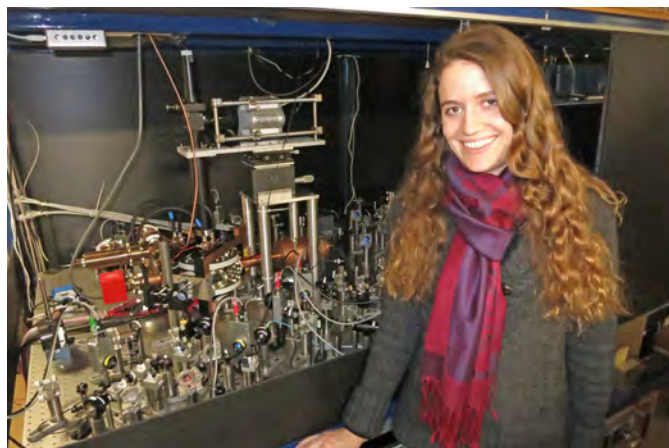
As part of her DPhil in Atomic and Laser Physics, Vera Schäfer designed and carried out an experiment that – with the contribution of other Balliol people – has played a significant part in the work of Oxford's Networked Quantum Information Technologies (NQIT) Hub.

NQIT is focusing on developing quantum technologies towards the ultimate goal of building a quantum computer, which, by processing information according to the rules of quantum physics, could far surpass the processing power of any of today's computers. To this end, a principal aim is to develop the constituent elements of a quantum computer based on trapped atomic ions. Two different species of ion are needed: one to store information (a 'memory qubit') and one to link different parts of the computer together via photons (an 'interface qubit').

Vera's experiment followed an idea by David Lucas (Professor of Physics and Tutor in Physics) and Jonathan Home, and she worked with Chris Ballance, a Junior Research Fellow at Magdalen College. In the experiment she used lasers to drive a 'logic gate' on single ions trapped in an electric field, to produce a 'hybrid' entangled state of two trapped-ion qubits held in different isotopes of calcium. An entangling gate between different species of ion allows quantum information to be transferred from one qubit to

another and the advantages of both to be used. This result showed for the first time that a quantum logic gate between different species of ion is possible, and with the precision necessary to build a quantum computer. The experiment led to the publication of a paper in the journal *Nature*, the authors of which include Professor Derek Stacey (1956) and Dr Tom Harty (2005).

Vera explains that quantum technologies are important because they are very good at dealing with particular problems – for example, the factorisation of large numbers. Current cryptography, commonly used in bank transactions and secure internet connections, relies on the fact that factorising large numbers is a very hard and time consuming; therefore, the development of quantum computers makes this kind of encryption increasingly unsafe. However, quantum technology also opens the way for new, safer 'quantum cryptography' algorithms. Another possible application is the simulation of large quantum systems which can help the growing field of quantum biology and eventually the development of new drugs. Vera says it is great to know that her work 'might open up new industries in the future'. With this experiment and the research of which it was part, the development of quantum technologies with all their potential impact is one step further ahead.





Biomedical Symposium

Sophie Avery (2009) reports on Balliol's annual graduate event

The annual Balliol Biomedical Graduate Symposium, first run in 1982, again hosted an array of exciting research in the life sciences in 2015. Held in Holywell Manor, the event attracted an audience that included not just students and alumni in the biomedical sciences but also students from other disciplines – evidence of the wide-reaching nature of biomedical research.

Final-year DPhil students impressed with diverse and technically challenging projects, ranging from mathematical modelling of functional networks in the brain (Sam Harrison) to the study of emotional processing following antidepressant drug administration (Matthew Warren). The prize for the best presentation was awarded to William Smith for his talk 'Cell Shape as a Weapon in Microbial Colonies'. Of his work William said, 'My research is about microbes: tiny single-celled organisms that adopt all kinds of weird and wonderful shapes. Contrasting shapes often grow together in dense heaps of cells, with both good and bad effects on human health. Using computer simulations, I showed that unexpected patterns emerge when these shapes grow together. Bringing this research to the biomedical symposium was a fantastic experience and I was really chuffed to receive the BMBS prize for my talk!' Runner-up

Natasha Ng presented 'Genetic Variants in the Islet Glucose-6-Phosphate Gene Reveal its Role in Influencing Fasting Glucose Homeostasis'.

Second-year DPhil students had the opportunity to present a poster, for which the best prize was awarded to Federico Zambon for his work 'Studying Alpha-Synuclein Pathology in A53T SNCA iPSCs-Derived Dopaminergic Neurons'. The runner-up prize was given to Sophie Avery for 'The Relationship between Progenitor Populations and the Organisation of Local Excitatory Synaptic Circuits within the Mammalian Cortex'. Attendees were fortunate to receive an informative lecture by guest speaker Dr Nicola Smart (BHF Senior Basic Science Research Fellow at Oxford's Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics), who presented 'A Beginner's Guide to Successfully Securing Grant Funding'. The symposium was brought to a close with a barbecue held in the wonderful gardens of Holywell Manor: the perfect conclusion to a stimulating and memorable day.

The organisers wish to thank Manuela Zaccolo (Professor of Cell Biology and Tutor in Biomedical Sciences) for overseeing the symposium, Thomas Melham (Praefectus) for the use of Holywell Manor, and the College for its help in funding the event.

A brave new world for the professions

Rahul Nath (2013) meets two economists, father and son

Technology, artificial intelligence, increasingly capable machines ... What, if anything, one may ask, do these have to do with the professions? Could technology force the professions into a brave new world where they can no longer maintain their exclusivity over the provision of professional services? If so, what might this new landscape mean not just for the future of the professions but also for the society that makes use of professional services every day? These are questions that Daniel Susskind (2006 and Lecturer in Economics) and his father Richard Susskind (1983) address in their new book, *The Future of the Professions: How Technology Will Transform the Work of Human Experts* (OUP, 2015).

The professions came about as human experts, i.e. those with access to specialised information, training and technical ability, were granted a level of exclusivity over their areas of specialisation. This exclusivity gave them autonomy over their practices and deciding

who may enter their fields. This 'Grand Bargain', as the authors call it, came with the understanding that professionals would deliver 'affordable, accessible, up-to-date, reassuring and reliable services'. Thus society, via the 'Grand Bargain', permitted professions to establish themselves as implicit monopolists over their services, in order to protect the recipients of those services.

Technology has always played a role in the evolution of the professions. Those who could not compete as developing technology made the tasks they performed cheaper were left behind to wither away or become craft industries. But Daniel and Richard Susskind argue that the inescapable march of technology is



Paul Stuart

Richard Susskind (left) and his son Daniel Susskind

now striking the very foundations of the professions by questioning the need for the 'Grand Bargain'. The professions may currently be prolonging the status quo and maintaining their exclusivity, Daniel says when I meet him and his father, by exploiting technology as they have always done – to streamline their tasks without radically changing them; and, he predicts, they may continue to do so into the not-too-distant future. However, one senses that Daniel and Richard both believe that such an attempt to stave off the future is akin to fixing a leaky dam by plugging the holes with one's fingers: it is only a matter of time until there are too many breaches and the dam breaks. They predict that the future will look radically different for the professions, with 'increasingly capable machines [and systems] taking the roles of the traditional professionals'; technology making many professional roles redundant; and new competitors who will dislodge the professions – competitors they have not yet even imagined.

This changed future for the professions, Daniel and Richard are both quick to point out, is not one that will happen tomorrow but one that will take many years, even decades, to happen; nevertheless, it will be radical.

But the Susskinds do not presage doom and gloom for the professions. They envisage a future where, as Richard puts it, we experience 'redemption rather than unemployment' in the professions and where Schumpeter's creative destruction is at its creative-destructive best. Many of the traditional professions, along with their professionals, will cease to exist as we know them, but from this period of destruction will come new roles for the professions, including well-known roles such as craftspeople, para-professionals and R&D workers along with new opportunities such as roles for empathisers, moderators and knowledge engineers. The book explores these possible future roles in detail.

So who benefits from all this creative destruction? Daniel and Richard point out that the future they foresee is very positive for the oft-ignored users of professional services. The benefits that technology will afford them are the main theme of the book. As technology changes the professions via increasingly capable machines and systems, there will be a fall in the cost to users. Furthermore, there will be greater access to professional services as more and more internet platforms appear that supersede current solutions. By way of example the authors cite some that have already appeared: WebMD, CrowdMed and InnoCentive in medicine; Rocketship Education, DreamBox, Khan Academy and Coursera in education; and Docracy, LegalZoom, Modria and Cybersettle in law. These platforms, and many others in diverse fields, operating on their own or with non-specialist users, provide expertise, at lower cost than human experts. With the inevitable development of technology, such platforms will proliferate, making expertise more accessible and affordable than ever before. Thus technology will help to tilt the scales back in favour of the society that granted professions the 'Grand Bargain'. Why is this argument so persuasive? Richard stresses that their view of the future of professions for both users and providers is made more compelling because 'current services are creaking'. Examples are, again, the health, legal and education sectors, where

the cost to users has increased to such high levels that it has priced most of society out of the possibility of ever accessing the very best professionals. Radical change, a recurring theme of the book, is necessary.

What does such a future – a radically changed environment where there is wider access at lower costs – mean for those who are entering the professions? Should they be afraid? Richard provides some sage advice: 'If you are entering medicine because you want to be a GP or a heart surgeon, that worries me more than someone entering medicine because they want to improve people's health and wellbeing. Being a health professional will change so radically that if you are fastened to the idea of being a

GP or a conventional surgeon, then you might be fighting against those changes. Similarly, I say to people interested in law that you should go into law if you are interested in improving access to justice rather than being the solicitor your uncle was... What I say to young professionals is that during their period as professionals they are going to see change and they are privileged that they can play a part in that change.' Young people used to take the torch handed to them by their forebears and become the new guardians of their profession; in the future, Richard says, new professionals will have something

that only comes around every few centuries: the opportunity to revamp their professions. So a final piece of advice from him is that young professionals should be 'enthused not just about doing the old job but also about changing the old job with a mind-set of fundamental change'. They have a massive role to play in what will be radical re-imagining of their professions during their careers.

The Future of the Professions is a wonderfully thought-provoking book to read, not just because it challenges the status quo but also because it is written in one voice. It is not often that one reads a co-authored book where there is no discernible disagreement forcing the single voice to break into two. As Daniel puts it, the book presents 'a single voice with a single opinion'; Richard shares this sentiment, being proudest of the fact that they agree on every point. They did not agree on every point initially; however, they would argue out their initial disagreements until they came to a consensus, never being willing to settle on agreeing to disagree. This very strict criterion for each of the arguments they present means that their arguments are of extremely high quality and show a depth of analysis. Daniel says that writing the book with his father 'has been a great privilege and very productive' and Richard adds that 'it was a lot of fun for a dad and son to collaborate on a book'.

Both agree too that the interdisciplinary nature of the work and their willingness constantly to question the consensus view are among the features of the book which are a testament to their time at Balliol. As a 'rallying call to a fundamental rethinking of how we share expertise as a society' (as Daniel describes it), *The Future of the Professions* is an iconoclastic publication in the spirit of the highest ideals that Balliol has instilled in them. And by shedding some light on what is an interesting and uncertain future for professions, it may spur people to action. For the only thing that is certain, as Daniel puts it, is that 'the least likely future is that nothing will change'.

'As a "rallying call to a fundamental rethinking of how we share expertise as a society", *The Future of the Professions* is an iconoclastic book.'

Bookshelf

The Age of Discovery: Navigating the Risks and Rewards of our New Renaissance

Ian Goldin (Professorial Fellow, Professor of Globalisation and Development, and Director of the Oxford Martin School) and **Chris Kutarna**
Bloomsbury Information Ltd, 2016



Just as the Renaissance was an era in which an unprecedented rush of discovery broke through long-standing barriers of ignorance and connected the whole world, politically and economically, so, this book argues, we can achieve our own golden age, given the will. But with many of the factors that undid the first Renaissance rising once again – warring ideologies, fundamentalism, climate change, pandemics – can we weather the crises and seize the moment to leave the world a legacy it will celebrate 500 years later?

'A powerful journey ... This book will help the world.'
Sir Richard Branson

Madness in Civilization: A Cultural History of Insanity from the Bible to Freud and from the Madhouse to Modern Medicine

Andrew Scull (1966)
Princeton University Press, 2015

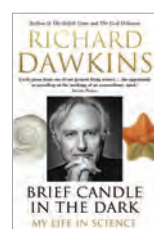


Andrew Scull traces the long and complex history of madness. From the Bible to Sigmund Freud, from exorcism to mesmerism, from Bedlam to Victorian asylums, from the theory of humours to modern pharmacology, he explores the manifestations and meanings of madness, its challenges and consequences, and society's different attempts to treat and make sense of it – through medicine, religion, or psychological or social explanation. The book also looks at the influence insanity has had on the arts.

'[His] tone is elegant; his scholarship, immaculate. The story he tells is riveting.' *Wall Street Journal*

Brief Candle in the Dark: My Life in Science

Richard Dawkins (1959)
Bantam Press, 2015

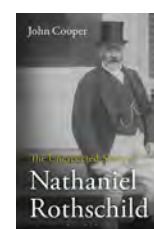


In this second volume of autobiography, Richard Dawkins recalls his life after the publication of *The Selfish Gene* in 1976. In what he describes as 'a series of flashbacks divided into themes, punctuated by digression and anecdote', he discusses his career at Oxford, reviews his scientific ideas as they evolved, and considers his experiences in the public eye, especially after the publication of *The God Delusion* in 2006. The book includes a tribute to Christopher Hitchens (1967).

'The opportunity to eavesdrop on the workings of an extraordinary mind, intellectually fierce yet personally generous.' Steven Pinker

The Unexpected Story of Nathaniel Rothschild

John Cooper (1955)
Bloomsbury Continuum, 2015



This biography of the 1st Lord Rothschild (1840–1915), a leading banker from the famous family of philanthropists and collectors who was the first Jewish peer; explores how, as chief spokesman of the City of London and as the leader of British Jewry, he played a significant part in the politics of his day (he was also a friend of Disraeli, Arthur Balfour, Lord Milner, Cecil Rhodes and Theodor Herzl), and was supportive of Jewish causes around the globe, while remaining devoted to Britain.

'A compelling narrative, which parallels and illuminates a formative period in British history.' *Daily Telegraph*

The Murder of King James I

Alastair Bellany (1986) and **Tom Cogswell**
Yale University Press, 2015



A year after the death of James I in 1625, a sensational pamphlet accused the Duke of Buckingham of murdering him. This book offers an account of this claim and explores not whether or not it was true but why contemporaries claimed or believed it to be true, and the consequences for English politics for the next 40 years.

'This is an astonishing detective work. It is also a magnificent piece of political reconstruction, locating each twist and turn in the plot within a fully international context ... This book does more than anything published in the last 20 years to explain why Charles I never had a chance and why there was a civil war.' John Morril, *History Today*

Aftershock: The Untold Story of Surviving Peace

Matthew Green (1995)
Portobello Books, 2015



What happens when soldiers come back home, having killed enemies, lost friends, and seen the horrors of war? *Financial Times* and Reuters correspondent Matthew Green considers this question, drawing on the experiences of men and women who have served in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Falklands and Northern Ireland, as well as their families and health professionals who work with those involved in conflict. He looks at the struggles that await those who face the greatest difficulties and the paths some have found to healing, and evaluates the help available to them.

'Compelling and instructive ... *Aftershock* is a work of integrity and substance.' *Spectator*

This Thing of Darkness

Harry Bingham (1985)

Orion, 2015

In this crime novel, Harry Bingham's protagonist DI Fiona Griffiths is tasked with looking at some old cases which the police have been treating as dead ends. Uncovering them as the murders that they really are and convinced that they are connected, she becomes embroiled in a challenging and dangerous case, in a story made more complex by the fact that Fiona is haunted by her own dark past. This is the fourth in a series which began with *Talking to the Dead*, followed by *Love Story, With Murders*, and *The Strange Death of Fiona Griffiths*.

'This fast-moving novel contains some of the most ingenious murder methods in modern crime fiction.' *The Sunday Times*



Hume: An Intellectual Biography

Dr James Harris (1988)

Cambridge University Press, 2015

This book presents an overview of the career of David Hume (1711–1776). Setting Hume's works – from *A Treatise of Human Nature* to *The History of England* – in biographical and historical context and bringing to light the major influences on his intellectual development, it shows how, as a philosophical analyst of human nature, politics, commerce, English history and religion, Hume addressed all the principal questions faced by his age.

'A lucid, well-organised and readable narrative, carefully informed by nuanced historical-intellectual scholarship.' *Times Higher Education*



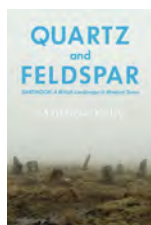
Quartz and Feldspar: Dartmoor: A British Landscape in Modern Times

Matthew Kelly (1994)

Jonathan Cape, 2015

In *Quartz and Feldspar* Matthew Kelly 'offers a history of how this unusually distinct landscape has been encountered, imagined and argued over since the late eighteenth century ... its subject is as much the material Dartmoor of granite, blanket bog, rivers, heathland and woodland, of the Dartmoor that provides "environmental services", as it is the Dartmoor of text and representation. Concern with specificity of place is central to its treatment of the overlapping responses the moor has evoked, be they antiquarian, archaeological, poetic, mythic, folkloric, religious, commercial, preservationist or environmentalist.'

'An imaginative cultural history, exploring with élan geological, literary and historical associations.' *Times Literary Supplement*



The China-Pakistan Axis: Asia's New Geopolitics

Andrew Small (1998)

C. Hurst & Co. Publishers Ltd, 2015

Asia expert Andrew Small gives a detailed account of decades of close dealings between China and Pakistan, and he explains the ramifications of Sino-Pakistani ties for the West, for India, for Afghanistan, and for Asia as a whole. It tells the stories behind some of the relationship's most sensitive aspects, including Beijing's support for Pakistan's nuclear programme, China's dealings with the Taliban, and the Chinese military's planning for crises in Pakistan. It also traces the dilemmas Beijing increasingly faces between pursuing its strategic rivalry with India and the United States, and the imperative to address a terrorist threat that is endangering China's internal stability.

'An impressive account of a little-understood friendship.' *Economist*



A Larger Australia: The ABC 2015 Boyer Lectures

Dr Michael Fullilove (1997)

Penguin Books Australia, 2015

In the ABC Boyer Lectures (an annual series of lectures delivered by prominent Australians who are invited to express their thoughts on major social, cultural, scientific or political issues), Dr Michael Fullilove, Executive Director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy, took as his subject 'Australia's place in the world'. He argued that Australia needs to be larger: a big, confident, ambitious country, open to the world, with an effective political system, the instruments to influence the balance of power and the confidence to have its own head of state.



Christ in a Choppie Box: Sermons from North East England

Michael Sadgrove (1968), ed. Carol Harrison,

Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity at Oxford
Sacristy Press, 2015

This volume is a collection of some of Michael Sadgrove's most thought-provoking sermons from his time as Dean at Durham Cathedral 2003–2015, when he preached on a wide variety of topics: on the 'dark places of life', Christian faith in the contemporary world, God's presence in the everyday, themes inspired by north-east people and places, and much more.

'Michael's sermons ... draw the reader face to face with God in surprising ways, always feeding the spiritual appetite ... They are beautifully crafted, and admirably concise. The use of English is impeccable and the scholarship profound. The eclectic references to art and literature demonstrate an aesthetic talent and theological versatility that is exceptional.' Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury



The Jewish Journey: A Passage Through European History by Edward Gelles (1944) (Radcliffe Press, 2016) will be reviewed in the Annual Record. You can see a video in which he discusses it with the Master at <http://voicesfromoxford.org/video/the-jewish-journey/639>.

Meet the staff

We talk to a few of the 120 (or so) non-academic staff amongst the Balliol community

Jane Irons (Hall Supervisor) and Andrea Stankovianska (Deputy Hall Supervisor)

Many alumni will remember Jane and Andrea as familiar figures in Hall: Jane has been at Balliol for 11 years, and Andrea, her deputy, seven. As Hall supervisors, they 'do everything', as Andrea puts it, in particular overseeing the work of all the casual staff who lay the tables and serve the food. From shepherding a queue of visiting school students to checking a seating plan, from noticing that a light bulb is missing to helping those working at the till, at both informal meals and formal functions Jane and Andrea make sure that everything is in the right place, that there's nothing unsightly, that nothing goes wrong.

A big part of their job, Andrea says, is 'taking care of students from the point when they come in to eat'. For both that's the best part. 'People feel better when they've eaten,' says Andrea, and she and Jane like to see students under pressure come into Hall and relax; they look out for unhappy-looking students and make a point of asking if they're all right. They enjoy getting to know the students and are pleased when they recognise them. Jane, a big fan of rowing, goes down to the river to watch the Balliol teams.

Many of the students express their gratitude to both Jane and Andrea. Indeed, at the MCR's Burns Night Dinner in Hilary Term 2016 MPhil student Jessica Wamala made a speech to Jane. 'Jane is the first person I look for when I go into Hall,' Jess says.



'She always has a smile on her face and always puts the students first. Even when she broke her wrist, she made herself available and continued supporting the great work of all the Hall staff. She panders to all of our requests, some seemingly mundane like extra bread, others rather more grave, like watching out for my friend with a peanut allergy. Balliol dinners are truly better dining experiences when Jane comes around because of her warmth, attention to detail, and passionate love of her work.'



John Thorne (Plumber)

It's hard to catch John Thorne for a chat because his phone keeps ringing and taking him away. As College plumber and gas safe heating engineer, he can be called anywhere at any time – not just on the Broad Street site but also at Holywell Manor, Jowett Walk, one of the College houses or any other of Balliol's 39 buildings on different sites. One day two staircases might have no water and John will have to provide an emergency pump; on another he'll be replacing a shower or fixing radiators that aren't working. Mostly he deals with emergencies: he may be allocated one of the tickets the scouts put in a box when they encounter a problem, or be emailed by students – callouts can come from anyone. But he also works on big projects, such as the refurbishment of the toilet in the Library Passage. And, apart from being part of a good team and having a good lunch in Hall every day, that's what he enjoys about the job: no two days are ever the same.



Michael Gorman (Night Porter)

Michael worked in the military and travelled all his life, so his background is very different from his present job, but it gave him plenty of experience in talking to people, and that is one of the skills he needs as a night porter. Once he comes on duty at 6.30pm, he spends

a fair bit of his time talking: people might come in to College for a meal or event and need directions; sometimes other people stray in and have to be asked to leave; students are going out or coming back in. Michael enjoys seeing the students relaxed as they go out for the evening, and he's amenable to conversation if they want to stop and talk – for instance, if they're feeling stressed about exams.

He particularly enjoys conversations about the theatre, having majored in English Literature and Theatre in the US, and he loves hearing about student productions in the Pilch Theatre: in Michael students find a sympathetic audience when they want to discuss, say, problems with equipment on a small stage. Working nights, though, Michael has so far been unable to take up their invitations to attend a play.

The shift sometimes goes a little quiet around 3.00am, although some students filter in until dawn. At 5.00am deliveries start and need to be attended to. Then Michael does his morning round. This is often in the dark, but he finds it a particular pleasure when spring comes and he can walk around the College in the early morning light: he delights in seeing the changes in the trees and borders through the year, before he catches his bus home.



Alain Hunt (Porter)

Alain is ex-Army too, and a retired police officer. Having spent 20 years of his police career in firearms protection, including spells as bodyguard to Prime Ministers Thatcher, Blair and Major, he has many a tale to tell. He had never been inside a college before he came to Balliol, but when he did he thought there was 'a feel' about it that he liked. His hunch proved to be correct: he loves his job.

The Lodge can be very busy in the day: there are 'keys for everything', Alain says – for meeting rooms, storage rooms, guest rooms – and the porters have to sign them all in and out; there might be 40 or 50 parcels a day which have to be got to the right people; and the porters are responsible for seeing all the Royal Mail post in and out of the College. But, Alain says, 'The best bit's the people. The students are fantastic, the staff are great, and I meet visitors from all parts of the world.'

Everyone comes through the Lodge. He regards it as his job to recognise College members and he knows all the names and faces. He gets to know the undergraduates especially: they like to sit on the bench in the Lodge and have a chat 'about all kinds of things', and Alain says, 'It's like losing a child when the third-years go.' There are 'queries from everybody' and he takes pride in helping people as required. He was pleased when a Fresher remembered him from an Open Day and said that the welcome she received at the Lodge made her want to come to Balliol. After 10.00am the Lodge can be busy with tourists (the Lodge takes more than £100,000 a year in visitor fees); often they ask him for information about the College and if he doesn't know the answer, he'll find out for them. He is delighted when he hears visitors remark what a fantastic place Balliol is, because that's exactly what he feels too.

Career development

Two recently created staff positions give the post-holders the chance to develop their careers

As Early Career Librarian **Rachel McDonald** (right) takes part in everything to do with the day-to-day running of the Library – shelving, manning the desk in the reading room, dealing with reader enquiries – as well as being the Library's disability rep and managing the journals. The post also supports her as she studies for her Masters in Librarianship, which she does with Aberystwyth's distance learning programme for one afternoon a week. Rachel not only appreciates this support but also finds her knowledge of how the Balliol Library works very helpful for her assignments. She praises Naomi Tiley (Librarian) and Fiona Godber (recently departed Assistant Librarian) for their inspiring 'energy and vision', and for their collaborative approach, which has given her the chance to contribute and to explore different ways of doing things; she has found the success of their collective efforts to make students feel that they can freely approach the Library staff particularly satisfying.

In the Kitchen, one of the chefs de partie, **Manuel Luz**, has been given the opportunity to assist the Executive Head Chef, Bertrand Faucheux, and the 2nd Chef, Jaime Baez, in creating new dishes for the Hall, the Senior Common Room and Balliol's growing banqueting business, with additional training as necessary. On top of his daily cooking duties, Manuel now researches new ingredients, techniques and menu ideas; writes detailed recipes and tests them; and costs new recipes, taking into account food and labour costs.



Neville Talbot (left) and Stephen Hewett on the Master's Field, summer 1915. Hewett (1911) fought in the Battle of the Somme and was killed in 1916. The photograph was taken by F.F. Urquhart, Talbot's Balliol tutor, while Talbot and Hewett were in Oxford on leave.



Remembrance Sunday Sermon

Delivered by **John Jones (1961 and Emeritus Fellow)**, Balliol Chapel, 2015

The remembrance of war dead risks telling again Wilfred Owen's old lie, *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*: literally, 'It is sweet and proper to die for the fatherland'. The caption on the Whitehall Cenotaph is 'THE GLORIOUS DEAD'. Rudyard Kipling, whose only son had been lost in the Battle of Loos, chose this phrase; he also chose the phrase 'THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE', which is on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing of the Somme battles. Both phrases appear on many

local war memorials. I prefer the second, which is in fact lifted from Ecclesiasticus 44, but they both lean towards Owen's old lie.

Balliol has mostly avoided this: the caption above both the war memorials which line our Chapel Passage is 'TO THE GLORY OF

GOD AND IN THE MEMORY OF THE BALLIOL MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE WAR'. And there is a bold Latin inscription which is rarely noticed on the north end of our spectacular silver altar: 'THIS ALTAR WAS PLACED

'When his younger brother was killed in 1915 he had crawled out alone into no-man's land under fire to locate his body.'

HERE FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF THE BALLIOL MEN WHO DIED IN THE WAR'.

The bronze tablets on the west side of the Chapel Passage were dedicated in 1922 by Neville Talbot, who had just been consecrated as Bishop of Pretoria. He had been Chaplain and Junior Dean before the war, knew most of the fallen, had shared the experience of many as an Army chaplain in the trenches, had buried at least one of them, and had won the Military Cross. When his younger brother was killed in 1915 he had crawled out alone into no-man's land under fire to locate his body.

More than one in five of the Balliol men who served in 1914–1918 were killed: decimation twice over! Five of the 1912 1st XV died. Harold Macmillan came up to Balliol that year, and was seriously wounded in action, but survived to be Prime Minister and Chancellor of the University. In 1975 he wrote in *The Times*:

I did not go back to Oxford after the war. It was not just that I was still a cripple. There were plenty of cripples. But I could not face it. To me, it was a city of ghosts. Of the eight scholars and exhibitioners who came up in 1912 Humphrey Sumner and I alone were alive. It was too much.

The names listed on the Great War memorial include Ronald Poulton (1908), Captain of England at rugby, and F.S. Kelly (1900), one of the greatest oarsmen of all time, two posthumous VCs, and the well-known war poet Julian Grenfell (1906). Grenfell wrote poetry which is uncomfortably enthusiastic about battle and blood sports. One of the few professional soldiers on the memorial, he recorded shooting three German soldiers in his game book as if they were pheasants. Patrick Shaw-Stewart (1907), less well known, but by consent among his contemporaries the most brilliant scholar of his generation, is remembered for just one poem written during a rest period off Gallipoli. Laced with allusions to the *Iliad*, it begins:

I saw a man this morning
Who did not wish to die
I ask and cannot answer
If otherwise wish I.

Shaw-Stewart survived Gallipoli but was killed in France two years later. He has another claim to a footnote in the history of



Harold Macmillan in uniform.

Great War poetry. He was a close friend of Rupert Brooke, and commanded the firing party at Brooke's funeral, not as Brooke expected in his most famous poem in 'some corner of a foreign field' but in an olive grove on the Greek island of Skyros.

College servants were included, separately above the exit into the Fellows' Garden. Balliol did not have the courage to follow New College's controversial example and commemorate German dead whom we should include in our thoughts today. One of these was Friedrich von Bethmann Hollweg (1908), the son of the German Chancellor, killed in action 1915. Raymond Asquith (1897), Balliol son of the Balliol British Prime Minister, was killed in action the following year.

There are four pairs of brothers named on the Great War memorial, including two sons of the 1st Lord Shuttleworth, a sad link to the Second World War memorial, which bears the names of another pair of brothers, his grandsons, the 2nd and 3rd Lords Shuttleworth.

There are other similarities: both memorials include an elderly civilian who was killed by enemy action, both have one Fellow and both have the names of several men who were accepted by the College but did not live to matriculate. There are also small differences, reflecting social changes. Harry Mold and Stanley Newton, College servants, are listed in their alphabetical places along with everyone else, and nobody is given a military rank.

The principal difference is that this time, still controversially, a separate group of five Germans appears, one of them deserving honour by any criterion. Adam von Trott zu Solz (1931) was a ringleader in the failed 1944 conspiracy to assassinate Hitler, whose revenge earned von Trott a terrible death.²

And, Ecclesiasticus 44 again, some there be which have no memorial.³



Julian Grenfell and Patrick Houston Shaw-Stewart, 1908.



Adam von Trott zu Solz, c. 1931.

From 1915 to 1918, there were very few students in Oxford, and successive companies of officer cadets under military training lived in Balliol for several months each. Around two thousand young men in all passed through en route to Armageddon. They were recognised by the College as substitute undergraduates; they were officially welcomed by the Master; they played in Balliol colours on the Master's Field against cadet companies based in other colleges, rowed on the river, ate in Hall and worshipped in this chapel. We know little about them because they were selected, sent here and organised by the War Office. Statistics tell us that several hundred shared the fate of those on our memorial. We should remember and honour them all as part of the College despite their anonymity. One we do know about is Hardy Falconer Parsons, who was at Balliol from October 1916 until commissioned in February 1917; he was awarded the VC posthumously for holding a trench outpost alone despite being badly burned.

And finally we should also honour the simply lucky Balliol survivors who lived into old age, leaving awesome examples of their courage as young men in wartime. I think especially of Dick Hare (1937), a philosophy don when I came up, who was a Japanese prisoner for three years and was a slave on the notorious Death Railway but showed no rancour towards the Japanese; and Peter Danckwerts (1935), awarded the George Cross in 1940 for his bravery as a bomb disposal officer in the London blitz. On one occasion he worked alone for 48 hours without sleep, defusing 16 mines which had been dropped on south London.⁴

Honour them all, preserve their memory, and be grateful for the freedom they earned for us. But read Wilfred Owen.



'Coming in for lunch' in Balliol Hall: Company of the 7th Battalion, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, in College for ten days (270 men).



'Practising trench making at Cumnor. No 1 section A Company Officer Cadet Battalion, Oxford; nearly all Australians, at "work" on our part of the line.'

¹ For number-crunching and analysis, see J.M. Winter, 'Balliol's "Lost Generation"', *Balliol College Record*, 1975, pp22–26.

² For more on the five Germans, see Tom Gibson, 'Balliol Germans', *Balliol College Annual Record*, 2010, pp35–38.

³ The College's First World War memorial lacks several names (see Winter; *op. cit.*) because the College did not know their fates until long after the war; and the Second World War memorial lacks at least one: the death of Yoshisaburo Takagi (1937) while serving in the Japanese Navy only came to our attention 60 years later.

⁴ Perhaps mention should have been made here of Balliol conscientious objectors, who suffered ostracism and hardship, especially in the First World War; e.g. Stephen Hobhouse (1900), who was court-martialled for refusing all orders when conscripted, and was sent to prison with hard labour.

Illustrations selected by Anna Sander (Archivist and Curator of Manuscripts), who arranged a small exhibition in the Ante-chapel.

Nonagenarians look back

To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in 2016, we invited Balliol Old Members who were also born in 1926 to send in their memories of Balliol



Alan Montefiore as an undergraduate, front row, left.



A scatter of Balliol memories

Alan Montefiore (1948 and Emeritus Fellow)

I started life as a Balliol undergraduate in October 1948 after having spent three years doing my then compulsory 'military service', which in my case had consisted for its whole first half in learning Hokkien (a southern Chinese dialect) on an army-sponsored course at SOAS in London. I was therefore allowed to read a version of PPE cut down to two years by virtue of leaving out Prelims; and I spent a further year as an incipient graduate student living in digs way up the Botley Road before leaving in the summer of 1951.

It so happens that I come from a fairly long-established Balliol family, so my Balliol-associated memories start from well before 1948; and, given that I came back in 1961 to spend over 30 years there as Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy, it goes without saying that they stretch far beyond those three years as a Balliol student. But let me try to stick to those student years.

On arriving at Balliol, I was directed by Cyril King, the unforgettable then Head Porter, to the ground-floor room on Staircase XVI, which, I was told, I was to share with one Robin Jessel (1948). Robin, it turned out, was straight down from Eton, having been spared military service on account, if I remember rightly, of poor eyesight. The very first thing that he said to me was, 'Hello, I am Robin Jessel. I got here first, and I've taken the best bed.' Despite this somewhat off-putting introduction, and despite the repeated invasions of our room by his Old Etonian rowing friends from all over the University, we became lifelong friends.

The following morning I remember being woken up by a little man saying simply, 'Good game, sir', and its taking me several minutes before realising that he was introducing himself as our scout. Mr Goodgame, for that was indeed his name, proved to be one of our best introducers to Balliol. Number XVI was, we soon learnt, a notably privileged staircase in that it possessed its own lavatory and bathroom, which meant that we were spared the need to cross the quad – whatever the weather – to visit the then distinctly unwelcoming communal facilities known as Lady Perriam in order to satisfy our needs in any of the relevant respects.

I was glad, therefore, in my second year to find myself promoted to a room on the top floor of the same staircase, a room which I had this time to myself, and where I remember, among other regular visits, those of William Rees-Mogg (1945), subsequently to become a distinguished Editor of *The Times*, but, as I best remember him, the then Balliol representative of the University's Student Conservative Association. As such, it was William's responsibility to try and convince as many Balliol students as possible to buy the association's card of events for the current term – and in my case we came to a mutually welcome agreement that when his round of visits brought him to my door, he would not waste either of our times in trying to persuade me to sign up as a Conservative, while I in turn would refresh him with a glass of sherry or of mead, while we talked of other things.

So many of my memories of those years collect, of course, around those of certain people, friends with shared interests and commitments, more particularly in philosophy and certain sports, above all sports which involved holding a racquet of one sort or another in one's hand – tennis, table tennis and, more especially, squash. So when I think of our discussions of philosophy, I think of queuing for coffee in the JCR with Bernard Williams (1947) and of his extraordinary intellectual vivacity, and of Tom Sebestyen (1944) and his quietly subtle tenacity. I think too of John Lucas (1947) and the learned intricacy of his arguments – and of his presiding care and distribution of the mulled wine that I seem to remember being always on offer at meetings of the Leonardo Society. Bernard, Tom and John are linked in my memory as the core of a sort of on-going discussion group, but there were, of course, many others among my contemporaries from whom I learnt much in friendly philosophical debate, including Leslie Grint (1949), Bill Dray (1949), Melvin Richter (1949), and, though they both went on to much more evidently practical things than professional philosophy, Ken Binning (1946) and James Robertson (1946).

Names and associated memories of my tutors come jostling back too: first and foremost that of Marcus Dick (Fellow 1947–1963), one of the most clear-mindedly intelligent men I have ever known; tutorials with him were lessons in how to think one's way through the intricacies of even the most entangled debates. (An especially vivid memory is that of the tutorial that I didn't have with him as, having failed to produce a decent essay in time, I persuaded him that we should both enjoy the allotted hour much more if he would meet me at the Balliol squash courts, a suggestion to which he very readily agreed; and being a good deal fitter than he was, I was able to beat him convincingly enough.) But tutorials with my other PPE tutors produced almost equally striking memories. I well remember, for instance, how, finding myself short of time (and no doubt of the necessary inspiration and energy as well), I presented the same essay to Marcus as one on the nature of inductive argument as I did the following week for my economics tutorial with Paul Streeten (Fellow 1948–1966), as being allegedly on the nature of the trade cycle, with different introductory and concluding paragraphs, but with everything in between being virtually identical – and how in each case I received the same comment: 'Not bad, but somehow not really directed to the main question.' My other philosophy tutor was Patrick Corbett (Fellow 1945–1961). I was the only one in

my year to opt for the special paper in the philosophy of Kant, and for this I found myself in one-to-one tutorials with Patrick. These I remember not so much for any deeply Kantian discussions that we may (or may not) have had as for the fact that they were scheduled for Monday mornings at 9.00am and that, given that I lived in College and that Patrick had to come in from his house in Holywell, I was somewhat more awake and in generally better shape than was he on most of these occasions.

Balliol's third philosophy Fellow in my time was Dick Hare (Fellow 1947–1966), but as he was a Greats tutor rather than a member of the PPE team, I never had tutorials with him. I was, however, allowed (twice, if I remember rightly) to take part in the annual week-long reading parties that he organised at Rhoscolyn in Anglesey in (again if I remember rightly) an old mansion belonging to the Verney family, of which Catherine Hare, his wife, was a member. I have an overall memory of these occasions as being both very enjoyable and intellectually stimulating, but my most specific memory remains that of somehow just about managing to keep up with Dick's seemingly effortlessly gliding stride as he led us on a day's walking in the foothills of nearby Snowdonia, while the rest of the group was left struggling on further and further behind.

Four of the six papers that I took for my shortened version of PPE were concentrated in philosophy, so it is natural that the memories that come first to mind should be those of my philosophy tutors; but Paul Streeten and Tommy Balogh (Fellow 1945–1973) for economics and (Brigadier) 'Bill' Williams (Fellow 1945–1980) and Sammy Finer (Fellow 1949–1950) for politics were in their own very different ways equally memorable; and if I didn't have tutorials with each of them, I did have them for revision classes.

So a whole host of names to be remembered. And one or two more or less random additions. First that of Griff Jones (1943), one of my very closest friends of my time as a Balliol student. Griff and I were the nearest of rivals at squash and allies – of course – in our leadership of Balliol's then remarkably successful team in the University's inter-collegiate squash competition. We spent much of a long vacation together driving round Normandy and Brittany in my repeatedly breaking down little Standard 8, sleeping rough in all sorts of odd places from under roadside clumps of trees to the rather more comfortable barns of friendly French farmers. Griff was not really a member of the core group of philosophy-committed student intellectuals – and indeed he succeeded only in obtaining a Third in the more formal context of his final exams; but he was the grandson of the distinguished Welsh philosopher Sir Henry Jones, and many of my most interesting philosophy discussions were those that we pursued together. The name too of Charlie Elliott (1948), my tennis doubles partner, who when, long after, I visited him – by then a well-established and well-loved family doctor – in his home town of Brisbane in Eastern Australia, met me at the airport with a racquet for me in his hands and the greeting 'We must hurry up to get changed – we're due on the court in a couple of hours' time.' And, finally, a query to which I have little hope of ever finding an answer: how was it that I (and I think Robin Jessel too) came to know our friend Jimmy Ellery (1944), a frequent visitor to our shared room on Staircase XVI, as 'the fire-engine'?

'Having failed to produce a decent essay in time, I persuaded [my tutor] that we should both enjoy the allotted hour much more if he would meet me at the Balliol squash courts.'



Alan Montefiore as an undergraduate, centre.

'I stood outside All Souls, and gazed around at the University Church, the Bodleian and the Sheldonian.'



Echoes of Balliol

Revd Canon Kenneth M. Whittam (1947)

'Yet, O ye spires of Oxford! Domes and towers!/Gardens and groves! your presence overpowers/The soberness of reason ...'

Wordsworth's verse expresses my delight when for the first time I stood outside All Souls, and gazed around at the University Church, the Bodleian and the Sheldonian.

This was quite early on the morning of my interview in 1944 for admission to Balliol. That I was there at all was due, paradoxically, to something of a gamble. As a result of my A-levels, I had been awarded an exhibition at Liverpool University, but my English teacher, Frederick English (1937), persuaded me to forego this, and sit the admission exam to Balliol. That he had been a scholar there himself was the key, and I duly devoted a third year in the sixth form to this.

And so I had arrived the evening before, together with another boy from our northern grammar school. We were given dinner in the Senior Common Room and there, and at my interview, I became aware of one of Balliol's great virtues: its generosity and thoughtfulness.

I experienced this again when, after three years' service in the Army, I arrived for my first term. Because of a slow voyage from Kenya, I missed the Michaelmas Term. Rather than make me wait yet another year, Balliol allowed me to skip this, and so I began my history study in the Hilary Term of 1948.

I valued, amongst many things, the Sunday evening concerts; afternoon teas in the Junior Common Room; and evenings reading in front of a good fire in my second-year rooms – overlooking both the Broad and St Giles!

After graduation, three of us – Ronald Gordon (1945), Tony Nind (1943) and I – went on to Ripon College Cuddesdon to prepare for ordination, probably a rare occurrence for Balliol.

Of tutorials, those of Christopher Hill (later to become Master) were of the most lasting value to me, for as chaplain of Highgate School I was invited to teach, amongst several other

history topics, 'The Puritan Revolution' as a special subject at A-level. I would not have found my way easily amongst the abundant literature this period has given life to if I had not benefited from those original tutorials, by an acknowledged authority.

Ronald Gordon also granted me valued assistance when, now as Vicar of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin in Oxford, he came to preach at our end-of-term service at Highgate.

Prevailing memories were again evoked when, many years later when I was Canon Residentiary of Chester Cathedral, the Chapter and I greeted Bill Vanstone (1940), another Balliol contemporary, and author of, amongst other titles, *The Stature of Waiting*.

And so these 'echoes' of the Balliol ethos, of scholarship with tolerance and grace, continue to resonate over the years.

Cuppers success

Sir Aubrey Trotman-Dickenson (1944)

I enjoyed my connection with the athletic world through cross-country, in which Balliol won the college Cuppers three years in a row. I was also a member and secretary of the University team.

A significant factor on the social scene was the network of British Restaurants, where one could have lunch or dinner for about one shilling. The clientele was very diverse from town and gown, including postgraduates.

The Balliol Outpatients

Arthur Clayborough (1947) shares a photograph from 1950

Those who lived out of College when I was at Balliol called themselves 'outpatients'. The 'outpatients' had normally had a previous two years living in College. The 'ward' in question was a room in the corner of the Garden Quad to the left of the JCR, which conveniently functioned as a cloakroom and a casual clubroom for third-year students.

When this photograph was taken, I had migrated up the Cowley Road to Kenilworth Avenue, where I paid Mrs Lilian Jeffs £2.00 per week for bed, breakfast and use of bathroom, plus the use of her front room and supper when present.

In the back row, the first outpatient, Norman Curry, worked, I seem to remember, at Harwell – a name which at that time had somewhat ominous implications. Ronald Hastings took English, like me. Andrew Sherrington, who had dropped his original surname, was on the science side. He was one of the few students to wear a bow tie, a novelty which at that time I thought of as specifically American.

Brian Davies, an amiable senior outpatient and medical student, came from a highly impressive military career in the Gurkha Rifles. To his left, Dougie Johnston (also sporting a bow tie) was destined for the Colonial Service. Klaus Berentzen (history) came from Germany, and if I remember correctly, was responsible for at least one younger relative. Lacking proper washing facilities, he told me that he simply burned his socks at intervals and bought new ones. As a generous landlady gave him too much toast and he was afraid the supply would dry up if he mentioned it, he had a drawerful of uneaten slices.

In the middle row, the name of the elegant gentleman at the end escapes me. Next to him the equally elegant Martyn Webb was reading geography, having returned to Balliol after an impressive military career. He supplied the motto on the coal bucket, *Nil carborundum*, to be translated as 'Don't let the b—s grind you down'.

Flanking the genial scout on Martyn's left, Charlie Parr had some connection with the BBC and I gathered that among other things, he was scripting an 'I Was There' series, including the young Churchill's escape from the Boers, for which he required a suitable conclusion. With the help of the outpatients, he settled eventually on a gradual fading of train wheels.

Seated on Charlie's left, Jasper Tomlinson, a physics student, had some colourful stories about his work as an electrician at the Old Vic, describing for instance a performance of *Henry IV* before royalty, at which Olivier, as the dying Hotspur, embarrassingly dropped a large spongeful of fake blood in the middle of the stage.

I seem to recall that Jack (in the front row) took English, but I can't vouch for his being the fabled candidate who is said to have returned for a viva from Hastings with a young lady on his arm, only to be 'locked in a cupboard' with an Old English text.

Bill Allchin, behind the bucket, a close and much-admired friend of mine, who had been a prisoner of war in Changi, was a medical student. He eventually settled down as a Winchester psychiatrist, whose patients inspired some moving poetry.

The only special feature I can claim personally – I am sitting next to Bill – is that I am the only outpatient who is actually wearing a Balliol blazer.



Left to right

Back row: Norman Curry (1947);
Ronald A. Hastings (1947);
Andrew Sherrington (1947);
Brian C. Davies ('Slasher') (1939);
Douglas E. Johnston ('Douggie')
(1947); Klaus Berentzen (1946)

Middle row: [?], Martyn Webb
(1943); scout; Charles Parr
(1946); Jasper Tomlinson (1947)

Front row: Jack [?]; W.H.
Allchin ('Bill') (1944); Arthur
Clayborough (1947)

A Balliol Sailing Party

Geoffrey Adkins (1951) recalls a nautical experience in Italy

Before my Finals in 1954 a handwritten note appeared on the JCR noticeboard saying: 'I was here in 1921 and now live in Italy. I invite four pairs of you to come out, each for a fortnight, to help me crew my yacht on the following dates ... Nautical experience an advantage.' The JCR President, Joe [Jocelyn] Laville (1949), clipped a page below the letter: 'Those interested please sign.' I did, along with many others attracted by the idea of a holiday in the sunny Mediterranean. Eight names were drawn from a hat and mine was the first out.

And so with Bob Dean (1951) I found myself walking along the quayside at Porto Santo Stefano and asking a boy in my faltering Italian, 'Dov'è il panfilo del Signor Rodd?' He took us to a 50-foot sailing yacht and its owner, a tall bearded man with a jaunty yachting cap, who welcomed us and said: 'I'm Peter Rodd. Call me Prod.' He had been a colonel in the Welsh Guards during the Italian campaign, was wounded and walked limping with a stick. The locals addressed him with great respect as 'Signor Colonello', since he had been elected honorary mayor of one part of the town.

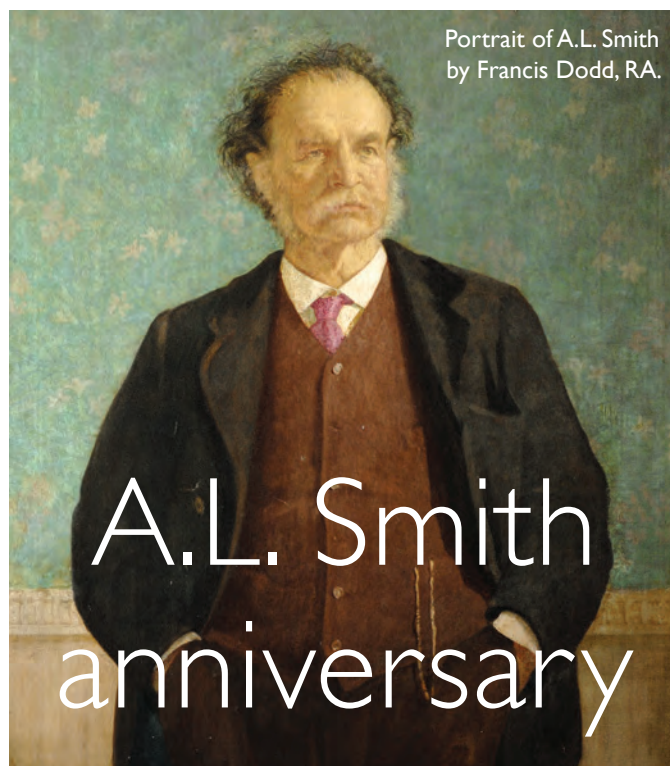
Naturally we all went to the local bar for an espresso. To my surprise the barman, Jock, was Scottish and he had stayed on in Italy after the war. Jock had fought at El Alamein and taken many Italian prisoners. He discovered that one also lived at Porto Santo Stefano and every year, on the anniversary of the battle, captor and prisoner celebrated by getting drunk together.

Prod spoke perfect Italian, having spent some years in Rome, where his father, Lord Rennell (1877), had been Ambassador. A cultured man, he had translated from the medieval Italian Machiavelli's *Il Principe* and published it privately. He told us he was divorced from the novelist Nancy Mitford but they had remained friends and dined together once a year in Paris – *chez Maxim*!

We finally put to sea and, under sail, visited the Tuscan islands of Giglio and Giannutri with its Roman villa and mosaics. We reached Anzio, still showing damage caused during the 1944 landing, and paused at Porto Ercole. My 'navigational experience', which was limited to having once sailed a dinghy on a lake in the Midlands, was justly considered inadequate and I was relegated to the humble post of ship's cook. The fortnight passed quickly without mishap and on departing we met Denis Henry (1951), arriving as part of the second crew.

Back in London that winter Prod proposed me as member of his club, the Savile. I was disconcerted to see a brass plate at the entrance reading 'Dogs and women not allowed' (it has long since been removed). He introduced me to the senior members with: 'This is Geoffrey, he was at Balliol. He's a good chap; when he's drunk he doesn't pee on the carpet.'

What a character! But I am still grateful to him for having invented the 'Balliol Sailing Party'.



Portrait of A.L. Smith
by Francis Dodd, RA.

The year 2016 marks 100 years since the election of A.L. Smith as Master of Balliol, a position he held until his death in 1924.

Arthur Lionel Smith came up to Balliol on an exhibition in 1869 and took a First in Classics (1873) and a Second in History (1874). He rowed for Balliol and was later coach and an enthusiastic promoter of College sport. After a short spell as a Fellow of Trinity, in 1879 he married Mary Florence Baird, left Trinity, and began teaching history at Balliol; in 1872 he became one of Oxford's first married Fellows after the regulations were changed. As a history tutor, he was a pioneer of modern history teaching in the College. He was also instrumental in establishing the School of Modern History at Oxford, and he was an examiner both at Oxford and at other universities.

Like some other Balliol Fellows of the 19th century, A.L. Smith worked to help make Oxford open to all. He coached and boarded students with poor school records for Oxford entrance; he encouraged overseas student admissions to Balliol; he served on Oxford's Workers' Educational Association WEA committee and taught at Balliol's WEA summer schools; and he promoted women's education at Oxford, tutoring at Lady Margaret Hall.

With his family, A.L. Smith was the first inhabitant of the King's Mound, now the official residence of the Master of Balliol. The father of nine children, he had a large number of descendants, many of them Balliol alumni. Those still living include grandson H.J.F. Cairns FRS (1939) (known as John), who was born in the Master's Lodgings, and great-grandsons Luke Hodgkin (1956), R.H. Hartley (1965), T.D.H. Cairns (1978) and Adam L. Smith (1983). Most of his daughters married Balliol men. Five generations of his descendants will gather at Balliol in September for lunch and a viewing of some of the papers and photographs in Balliol's large A.L. Smith archive, to celebrate the anniversary.

Information supplied by Anna Sander (Archivist and Curator of Manuscripts). For more about A.L. Smith, see <http://archives.balliol.ox.ac.uk>.

What Fellows read 1677–1712

Matthew Main (New College, 2012) looks at an old Library lending register

In the archives of Balliol Library there are two Folio ledgers, with dimensions suited for the task of recording tall columns of accounts. Alongside Bursar's accounts and a partial early Library catalogue, they contain fragments of a lending register from the main College Library, chronicling intermittent periods between roughly 1677 and 1712. The register consists of a total of 565 entries, including some that are illegible or too vague to be identified. As part of my role as an intern at Balliol Library in the summer of 2015, I transcribed the lending register, before converting it into a searchable database for researchers interested in libraries and their usage in this period.

Use of the register was haphazard. A considerable portion of the entries remain unidentified, for various reasons; some are scored out, presumably upon the book's return to the Library, while others are no more than an abbreviated scribble or a faded pencil mark. There appears to have been no agreed conventions for entering a record; one or more of the date, book, author, shelf mark and even borrower name may be missing from any given record. This made compiling a useful set of data a challenging task, but not an insurmountable one; I identified most books through a process of elimination and by consulting old Library catalogues.

It is difficult to say exactly how much the register can tell us about the historical intellectual community at Balliol. Officially, the Library was for Fellows of the College, although the register occasionally records instances where undergraduates and external visitors were apparently granted special dispensation to borrow from the collections. In *Balliol College: A History*, John Jones remarks that if one takes the register to be a picture of the College's scholarship, 'the impression is left ... of a dilettante approach, lacking in concentrated effort or application', an impression borne out by the dearth of meaningful academic work produced by the contemporary set of Fellows. This should not, however, put us off investigating the way that Fellows interacted on the page, and the entries offer an insight into the type of texts most commonly read in the wider period, as well as the specific, changing Balliol environment. After the Civil War, Balliol had been placed under the administration of the Bishop of Lincoln in an attempt to remedy its ailing financial health. The Fellows and successive Masters were engaged in raising funds in order to pay down accumulating College debts, many originating from years of unpaid battels, and a charitable explanation for the lack of academic output in the period might be that attentions were primarily focused elsewhere.

Close inspection of the register reveals plenty of instances where a community of readers appears to recommend certain works to one another, suggestive of interaction between scholars. The College subscribed to *Philosophical Transactions* and the rival journal *Acta eruditorum*, and Fellows perused both frequently. Plenty



Balliol College Library lending register 1677–1712.

of books were seemingly passed around, some of them relatively obscure; five different people are recorded as having borrowed mostly forgotten French writer Louis Ellies du Pin's 13-volume *History of Ecclesiastical Writers* (1692–1699). Mathematics and theology were generally the dominant subjects and, as Jones reminds us, these were the only fields in which anything of note was published out of Balliol between 1675 and 1725. The nature of progress in both fields is somewhat cumulative, and existing work is often superseded rather than lasting on in our cultural imagination, which means that many of the mathematicians and theologians studied at the time are not household names today. Thus the lending register allows us to recover the names of people who shaped the discourse of their respective subjects but might otherwise have been forgotten. It might be tempting for us to think of the 17th century as the era of *Paradise Lost*, but if Balliol possessed a copy of the poem – and catalogue records suggest that it did – then the lending register suggests that it did not appeal to any of the Fellows at the time. The register offers a rare insight into what was actually read in the College, not simply owned or bought, and might force us to modify our understanding of what readers considered to be important.

During my time at Balliol I was privileged to borrow from the expertise of the archivist, Anna Sander, and the librarians, Naomi Tiley, Fiona Godber, and Rachel McDonald, all of whose guidance has been invaluable. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to gain research and professional experience and the funding that has made that possible. I hope my work can play some small part in opening up this manuscript for further study by experts in this field.

Celebrating the Pathfinders Programme

Anniversary dinners

On 27 November 2015 over 170 Pathfinders and their guests gathered in Hall to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Atlantic Crossing Trust established by Bill Coolidge (1924) and the 10th anniversary of the William Westerman Pathfinders. Matthew Westerman (1983), who was a 1986 Pathfinder, his wife Siân, and their son Theo, who permanently endowed the Pathfinders Programme, were guests of honour. A second anniversary dinner was held in Washington DC on 9 April 2016.

Addressing Matthew, the Master paid tribute 'to the idea of facilitating travel as opposed to tourism through the generosity of those alumni who act as hosts, to the hosts themselves, and of course to all those students who took a project and their bags and set off one summer, to return with a different view of the world and, in many if not most cases, a different view of themselves.'



Left to right: Daniel-Konrad Cooper (2002), 2005 Pathfinder, and Ed Wise (2009), 2012 Pathfinder, with host Graham Nesbitt (1958) in Hudson, Canada.

'It would be worth applying to Balliol purely for the chance to go on the Pathfinders Programme,' wrote Alex Bartram (2011); here a few Pathfinders and hosts reflect on Balliol's unique scheme

Ruth Knapp (née Larkin) (2004), Pathfinder 2007

The scope to tailor the Pathfinder trip, in terms of geography and 'theme' of the written report, was and is unique. What I liked most of all was that we could go completely off the beaten track of the tourist trail if we wanted. You can always book a trip to New York or LA, but when can you go to Iowa or Milwaukee? Indeed, some of my most memorable experiences involved seeing the more obscure corners of that vast and varied country, and being welcomed by kind, interesting and generous hosts.

My lasting impression from my Pathfinder trip is of the kindness of those strangers, who gave me an insight into their country that no guide book or tourist trail ever could.

Flora Malein (2006), Pathfinder 2009

I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life when I finished my degree in 2009. My younger self felt as though I should have had it all figured out by that point, but the summer that I spent travelling the USA as a Pathfinder definitely put some of these worries to rest. Meeting so many different, interesting people and hearing their stories made me realise I didn't need to be in such a hurry to have my life all planned out. This probably made my decision to take the leap into medicine five years later a lot easier!

Maya Bahoshy (2006), Pathfinder 2009

A big effect Pathfinders had was motivating me to study my Masters in America. It opened my eyes to just how interesting the USA was. However, one of the greatest takeaways I had from the programme was that life is always changeable – a great lesson to learn when leaving undergrad. I met people from all stages of life, and hearing their stories about how they landed in their current jobs and careers left me reassured that although I still was not sure as to where I was going in my own life, I did not need to decide the rest of it now.



Beverley Pannell (2007), 2010 Pathfinder, with host Tom Rowe (1964) on his boat in Santa Monica.

Alice Lighton (2007), Pathfinder 2011

I gained the confidence to pursue my ambitions. I met inspirational people who had lived their lives in a variety of ways. Some completely defied expectations placed on them by their upbringing; others followed their childhood dreams. It was a real privilege to glimpse so many different lives during my seven-week trip. I think I learned more about life in that time than I have in the four years since.

Emily Seeber (née Taylor) (2007), Pathfinder 2011

My Pathfinders experience influenced my life massively. During my trip, I met a group of hikers in Mammoth Lakes, CA, before doing a bit more hiking with one of them in northern California. Eighteen months later we got married in Norwich! I remember that one of the aims of the award was to build UK-US relations; I never expected to take it literally.

Michael Webb (2008), Pathfinder 2011

I'd heard of Pathfinders even before applying to Balliol. It seemed to be one of those things that defines the Balliol experience – along with honing the proprietary tranquil consciousness, summering at the Chalet, and getting elected to the A&B. When the time came, I jumped at the chance: a chance to tread in the footsteps of so many great Balliol forebears, yes, but also to forge my own adventure through one of earth's greatest civilisations, received and guided at every turn by some of the kindest and most brilliant people I have ever had the fortune to meet. Many of my Pathfinder hosts have become firm friends.

The experience of being a guest meant I really came to *know* a little of so many wonderful people: people who were painting the canvases of their lives in such different colours, with such varied styles: and yet who had all come from Balliol, that same place from which I was now emerging. Pathfinders, then, expanded the stylistic possibilities of my own life a thousandfold.

Emily Mak (2010), Pathfinder 2013

The experience was fantastic and very diverse. The alumni I met across Singapore, Thailand, China and Japan had found success in many different ways, from lawyers to entrepreneurs. I stayed in cheap hostels as well as lovely guest houses; dined at hawkker centres as well as Michelin-rated restaurants; enjoyed activities from riding elephants in Thailand to cycling around Japan's Kaida plateau. I was able to pack so much in and have so many different conversations on a limited budget.

Hannah Gliksten (2010), Pathfinder 2014

It was a joy to explore the staggering range of American landscapes, physical, cultural, mythical. Alongside the exhilaration of the travel itself, the most special element of the Pathfinders Programme was the opportunity to connect with old College members, whose generosity and warmth was truly memorable.

Alex Bartram (2011), Pathfinder 2014

Pathfinders gave me the most extraordinary experience of my life so far, a two-month whirling blur of shoreline, neon, pavement, Greyhound, avocado, stars-and-stripes luxury nomad life. Still now, I get wonderfully vivid memories of moments on my trip – eating enormous breakfast quesadillas in a café in Philadelphia, staring in a sweaty haze at the outside of the LA County Museum of Art, swimming in the stormy sea north of Boston, walking down the dusty main street of Oxford, Mississippi. It made the USA seem a lot more accessible, psychologically more than anything else. I don't know when I'll go back, but I will.



Alex Harris (2006), 2010 Pathfinder, with host David Evans (1960) in Gloucester Point, Virginia.



Hannah Robertson (2009), 2013 Pathfinder, with host and 1985 Pathfinder Peter Batty (1982) at the top of Mount Evans in Colorado.

Richard Shaw (1972), host

Jeanne and I hosted our first Pathfinder in 2008, after moving to a small horse farm north of Atlanta. It is only 65 miles to the city, but a long way off in demographics, culture and lifestyle. Coming to Pickens County is an opportunity for Pathfinders to discover America beyond the big cities that mostly they visit. Here there are no national monuments or celebrity hangouts – but they get to meet everyday people who work on farms, own small businesses and shop at Walmart. Our neighbours invite them over for fishing and beer pong. As a species, Pathfinders have proven reliably enthusiastic, considerate, enquiring and appreciative, quietly blooming from recent success in Finals and eager for new learning. Each of them is both their own person and a facet of Balliol's many-splendoured personality, and hosting them is our annual reconnection with Balliol nowadays, Balliol as we remember it and Balliol as we hope it will continue to flourish.

Peter Batty (1982), host and Pathfinder 1985

Since I moved from the UK to Denver in 1993 I have hosted 43 Pathfinders. A typical Pathfinder stay is three days, so my time hosting adds up to around four months in total – somewhat more than the ten weeks I spent travelling around the US when I was a Pathfinder myself in 1985.

I really enjoy being a host for multiple reasons. One is simply returning the great hospitality that I received from many Balliol alumni when I was a Pathfinder. The Pathfinders are invariably nice and interesting people, and it's fun to get to know them a little. I enjoy taking them to the Rocky Mountains: my default trip is to drive to the top of Mount Evans, one of our local 14,000-foot peaks, where we often see mountain goats and bighorn sheep. This has become something of a Pathfinder tradition. When PPE

students visit, I dig out my pictures of Balliol's 1985 football first XI and tell them that their distinguished tutor Sudhir Hazareesingh (1981 and Tutor in Politics) was a fast and tricky winger back in those days. Since the advent of Facebook, I have kept much more in touch with Pathfinders who have visited me; I have met quite a number of them subsequently on visits to England. Another enjoyable aspect of hosting is that it helps me feel much more engaged with Balliol than I would have otherwise.

I was fortunate to be a Pathfinder in the last year that Bill Coolidge hosted Pathfinders at his home. Staying at his mansion in Topsfield, north of Boston, was an extraordinary privilege. He was a great art collector and had a Van Gogh in the dining room, a Renoir in his study, a Rodin sculpture in the garden, and a Turner in the guest bedroom where I stayed, to name just a few examples of his collection. Some years later, I visited the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and saw his collection displayed there, and it was amazing to recall the memories of the paintings casually hanging in a private home. I also remember him offering me a glass of some 1914 brandy after dinner on my last night there. I was in two minds about accepting, thinking that I wouldn't appreciate it sufficiently, but I decided I should accept on the grounds that I would probably never have the opportunity again – which has proved to be a correct assumption up to this point in my life!

Another highlight was staying on the ranch of John N. Irwin II (1937), a lovely humble man who had done many interesting things, including being US Ambassador to France, Deputy Secretary of State under Nixon and a board member of IBM. His ranch covered a quarter of a million acres in Arizona, and we went riding with the cowboys every day. I also attended my first ever live opera, in Santa Fe, with Philip Maini (1979), captain of the Balliol football team before me and these days Professor of Mathematical Biology at Oxford. Opera became a passion of mine, and I have been to the Santa Fe Opera every year for the last 20 years.



Shelley Cook performing with her husband, Gil Prado Mendez.

Salsa and science

Shelley Cook (1995) describes her portfolio career

I didn't set out to become a professional salsa dancer and teacher – it was simply a natural progression of a much-loved hobby. I first attended salsa dance lessons in Puerto Rico when I was collecting mosquito samples in order to study dengue fever outbreaks there. I found that dancing was a perfect way to de-stress after a long day in the lab, and in time my hobby became a vocation.

The mosquito samples were part of the research I did while I was at Balliol, where I completed an MSc in Integrative Bioscience and a DPhil in Molecular Evolution; my research was focused on the emergence and maintenance of emerging tropical viruses and their mosquito vectors. When I left in 2005, I worked in investment banking, as a biotechnology investment analyst in the City. This allowed me to use my science on a daily basis and to learn about a wide range of cutting-edge life science technologies and their financing through the public markets. In 2007, I was tempted back into full-time research to work with Dr Ralph Harbach, a world expert in mosquitoes. I had met Dr Harbach through my DPhil at Balliol – he was one of my viva examiners – and that meeting led directly to the wonderful experience of nearly six years as a research scientist based at the Natural History Museum (NHM). I had the honour of receiving a Sir Henry Wellcome Post-doctoral award from the Wellcome Trust, which provided four years of funding to study emerging viruses in the tropics. Following my post-doc, I received funding directly from the NHM for a further year of research. I remain in close contact with Dr Harbach and even now we collaborate on publication and research projects.

I have been lucky that all my employers have been incredibly supportive of my dancing. My employers in the City sponsored me and my dance partner at the time to enter the Salsa Dance World Championships in Las Vegas, where we achieved semi-final placings.

At the NHM, Dr Harbach supported me in an application to the Wellcome Trust to move to a four-day week, so that I could spend more time training for dance competitions and performances.

Now, my husband and I run a dance school together and the fifth day of my working week is taken up with rehearsals, preparing choreographies and administration for the school, which is one of the largest salsa dance schools in the UK. Once a month or so, we travel to one of our regular European congress bookings, where we teach and perform, sharing the stage with the top salsa dancers worldwide. We have also made numerous TV and film appearances, which again have frequently been made possible by being able to work flexitime hours in a research or corporate position.

Highlights have included performing on BBC1's *Strictly Come Dancing*, as part of the only pro-salsa team to demonstrate the dance on the show; appearing on the catwalk at *Britain and Ireland's Next Top Model*; being salsa consultants for *Matilda the Musical*; and making it through to the Judges' Shortlist on Sky One's *Got to Dance*, winning three gold stars. We are also credited feature dancers in the movie *Cuban Fury*. Filming that was particularly enjoyable, with the entire London salsa scene working together from 5.00am to midnight every night over a period of weeks. The atmosphere was incredible!

Once of the aspects that I enjoy most about my dancing is the universally welcoming nature of the salsa scene; I can travel to any city on business or for research and make new friends there by dancing. Indeed I met my husband, who is Mexican, on the dance floor in Austria. It's a very healthy lifestyle, especially when you are training to perform at professional level; and the music never fails to lift the spirit. But overall, the all-inclusive nature is for me the most rewarding part of dancing: on the

salsa dance floor you find people from every age and culture interacting – even if they do not speak the same language.

My background in biology, which has included aspects of anatomy and neuroscience, is a huge benefit to my dancing. I have completed a personal training and nutrition qualification, which was greatly helped by my academic background, and I use this to help train our semi-professional and student team members, as well as for my own training. I also believe that the skills of commitment, attention to detail and self-motivation required in order to complete a MSc and DPhil have been useful for running our dance school. We are widely acknowledged as amongst the most technically proficient salsa dancers in Europe and our school is consistently rated

as one of the most professional offerings on the scene.

I am now working back in the City, where I continue to enjoy using my science background, plus the commercial experience I gained through building up my dance school, as a life science/technology investment consultant. I have a particular interest in the business landscape of next-generation DNA sequencing technology development, which is driven by my experience of using these tools as a research scientist in my post-doctoral project.

I have had periods when I have been only dancing, or only conducting scientific research, and I have learned through experience that the two together are hugely synergistic. I feel very fortunate to be able to combine an academic approach to science with dance, in my portfolio career. It's a wonderful balance.

An innovative project

Last summer four Balliol students took part in the Investec Innovation Project, which was initiated by Vincent Romanelli (2005) of Investec Asset Finance, a wholly owned subsidiary of the FTSE 250 company Investec Bank PLC (www.investec.co.uk). Vincent explains how the project came about: 'The ability to innovate and adapt has helped our company's development over the years. However, we recognise that the future market leaders will be the ones who evolve and continually redesign their offering to meet changing customer behaviour and demands due to new technology. To help challenge our business thinking, we were keen to engage with the perspectives of those outside the industry, working with people who were well versed in technology but did not have a banking or financial services background. Asset finance is a product that is familiar to a lot of businesses but how does it resonate with a new generation?

Hoping that the high calibre of Balliol students could be helpful, Vincent and his MD, Mike Francis, invited a group of Balliol students to spend three days in their offices in Reading and London. The successful applicants were undergraduates Apoorva Joshi, Helen Davies and Robert Tomlinson and graduate Conrad Cotton-Barratt. 'It seemed like a really interesting way to learn about something I knew nothing about,' says Rob, 'and the idea of having the freedom to think outside the box in an otherwise traditional corporate

setting was exciting.' Conrad's reasons for applying were similar: 'As someone who enjoys problem solving, the idea of learning briefly about a business and then making suggestions for change struck me as rather fun. Also I'm considering going into finance after finishing my DPhil, so the project offered a great opportunity to learn a little more about (one facet of) the industry.'

The students, Vincent explains, 'were briefed by the leadership team on the challenges facing the business and were tasked with forming an understanding of the asset finance market and our business processes. They were then asked to prepare a written report with their ideas for innovation. We provided some guidance, but we were keen for the students to use their own initiative where possible.' Investec invited two students back to give them an opportunity to develop their ideas with the company further.

Rob and Conrad describe the three days as 'really intense' but also very enjoyable. Conrad: 'The opportunity to ask experienced employees about how their business worked was enormously illuminating. The whole experience was made much easier and more enjoyable by how friendly and enthusiastic everyone we met at IAF was!' Rob: 'When I came back over the summer, I spent most of my time thinking creatively about more specific ideas, and using other people in the bank to test these. I feel a strong sense of achievement, as the actual innovation I proposed is scheduled to undergo some pilot testing in the very near future.'

Vincent is equally positive about the project: 'The four candidates all excelled during their three days with us and we were immensely impressed with the quality of their written submissions. The papers touched upon a number of potential development areas for us, including better use of consumer or peer-to-peer-generated and other online data to improve the customer experience.'

Such a project can be successful for everyone, Vincent concludes: 'I would encourage Old Members, in whatever industry or profession they are in, to look at ways to re-engage with the College in some form of collaboration. It can provide a useful opportunity for current Balliol students to gain an insight into an industry and help shape their thinking on plans post University accordingly. For us as a firm, it was immensely refreshing to have a new perspective on our industry and operations.'



Left to right: Mike Francis (head of Investec Asset Finance) with Vincent Romanelli and Conrad Cotton-Barratt.



Chas Salmen (far left) with OHR Community Health Workers at the Ekialo Kiona Center on Mfangano Island, Lake Victoria, Kenya.

Growing community health

On Mfangano Island on Lake Victoria in East Africa, 30 per cent of the population is infected with HIV. The small beach villages that line the shores are only accessible from the mainland by a two-hour ride on wooden outboard canoes; fishing and subsistence farming are the primary occupations of the Suba people who live there. Disease, together with poverty, has forced these vulnerable communities – who receive little help from the Kenyan government – to make dangerous changes to their environment, such as deforestation and over-fishing. They struggle to survive and preserve their unique way of life on Lake Victoria.

One of those working to help them is Chas Salmen (2007), co-founder and President of Organic Health Response. While Chas was backpacking through Kenya as a medical anthropology student, a chance meeting at a bus stop led to an invitation to the island. Since then Mfangano Island has been his 'daily passion and long-term mission'. He decided to make the Suba people the focus of his research at the Oxford Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, publishing on the relationship between the introduction of Nile Perch to the Lake Victoria Basin in the 1960s and HIV epidemiology among Suba fishing communities on Lake Victoria, and writing his Masters dissertation on the way ecological change has influenced the epidemiology of HIV among the Suba of Lake Victoria. And in 2008 he and others founded Organic Health Response (OHR): a team of Kenyan organic farmers, health

workers and teachers, and a network of international medical and graduate students, sustainable designers and environmental activists, who work with other organisations around the world to help the island people respond as unified communities to the socio-economic, epidemiological and ecological challenges they face, and to make themselves healthy, resilient and self-sufficient.

First OHR built the Ekialo Kiona Centre, which provides free access to solar-powered computers and the region's first broadband internet to any resident who agrees to HIV testing and counselling. From this centre they launched subsequent initiatives, including a native tree nursery, an emergency boat, a scholarship programme for secondary school students and Africa's first wind-powered community radio station. Chas himself – who is now a resident Family Physician at the University of Minnesota – leads a microclinic programme for people living with HIV/AIDS which, among other things, facilitates confidential HIV status disclosure and leverages existing social networks to help those affected.¹ As the islanders begin to see their lives improve, Chas and OHR hope their work will become an example of partnership and home-grown creativity for similar communities around the world.

¹ http://journals.lww.com/jaids/Abstract/2015/08010/Implementation_and_Operational_Research___Pulling_It.aspx

Doctors in Uganda

Henry Tufton (2002) describes a valuable medical experience

As my wife, Sarah (2002), and I near the end of our two-and-a-half-year adventure, practising medicine in Uganda, we have mixed feelings about our return to the UK. We are excited to be moving back closer to friends and family, but we are sorry to be leaving behind a warm, vibrant country that has given us many treats and valuable experiences.

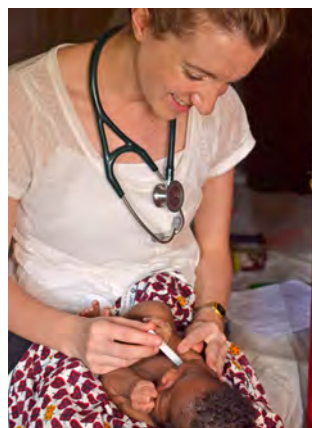
Three years into her training as a paediatrician, Sarah was lucky enough to be awarded Wellcome Trust funding to do a PhD. Her project is in paediatric immunology, investigating the possible protective effects of the anti-TB vaccination (BCG) against non-TB infections of newborn babies. For this she needed a country with high birth and infection rates. Sub-Saharan Africa was ideal and Uganda has a suitable research base. A trip to the facility in Entebbe showed it to be an extremely pleasant place in which to live: on a hill overlooking Lake Victoria, 28°C every day with a light breeze and luscious vegetation watered by rain that falls almost exclusively at night.

We were fortunate in that Sarah's funding would provide the two of us with enough to live on without my needing to earn a salary, but I had to find a way to keep myself busy. Having been a chemist at Balliol and only started to study medicine as a graduate, I was further behind in terms of training, with only two years of work under my belt. While Sarah began her PhD in London, I studied a diploma of tropical medicine in Tanzania and Uganda in order to boost my knowledge before we went to Entebbe.

Practising medicine in Uganda is a fascinating experience for a doctor. The patients tend to seek healthcare at a much later stage of their disease, which means that you see all sorts of clinical signs and illnesses that someone working in the developed world would never see in a lifetime of practice. This doctor's playground is an often sad and depressing place for a sane human. The patients present so late because of a combination of poverty, poor education and a dysfunctional health system, the result of which is usually something that even a Western hospital could not fix.

In her 'spare' time, Sarah works at the local government hospital. Care for children under five is free in Uganda, which sounds good, but unfortunately the reality is that the hospitals are so badly funded and managed that they rarely have more than a malaria and HIV test, and available treatments are usually a basic antibiotic and anti-malarials. Sarah sees some interesting cases, but with so few investigations she can rarely get to the bottom of any of them; even when she does, the family cannot afford to buy the treatment required. This is frustrating and makes you realise how small a part of the healthcare machine doctors are.

I volunteer at the local mission hospital, classed as 'private not for profit', which is one solution to the lack of governmental provision. The hospital receives 5 per cent of its funding from the state, so it has to recuperate 95 per cent of the cost from patients. While it provides a dual pricing structure to give some affordability to the poor, it has to cover its costs and that means many of the services are out of reach to regular Ugandans: two days spent as an inpatient will cost roughly the same as a teacher's monthly



'You see all sorts of clinical signs and illnesses that someone working in the developed world would never see in a lifetime of practice.'

salary. At least, though, if you arrive at our hospital in obstructed labour; you will be operated on without being asked for any money first; at the government hospital, even though the service should be free, nothing would be done until your family has bought all the equipment needed to perform the life-saving operation, leading of course to fatal delay.

I have the luxury of having more investigations and treatments available than Sarah has (more is a relative term – many fewer than in the UK and even fewer once the patient's budget is taken into account), which means that a precise diagnosis can often be reached and from a presentation at death's door the outcome may be good. This is obviously extremely satisfying.

While my time out here will not count towards my training, I think it has given me a deeper understanding of how tough the human body is as well as a practical view of what is really necessary to provide good care. Above all, it has cemented my belief that the NHS is an incredible thing that we should cherish implicitly.



Turquoise Mountain

Thomas Wide (2003) reports on the charity's progress

It can be a disorienting experience working for Turquoise Mountain, the British cultural heritage and arts charity based in Afghanistan which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. The organisation – founded by Rory Stewart (1992), with Balliol alumni as its Managing Director (myself) and one of its board members (Khaled Said, 1993) too – seems to have its own dynamic, quite at odds with that of the country at large. While Afghanistan is undergoing a period of significant political and economic uncertainty, our project in Kabul still has an atmosphere of optimism and energy.

Floreat Domus' last update on Turquoise Mountain was in 2008, when the project had been running for less than two years. At that time, Rory Stewart was still in charge of the project, and spending most of his waking hours trying to keep the charity from running out of funds. Turquoise Mountain had achieved impressive results quickly, but the gains were fragile and its future uncertain. I was working for Turquoise Mountain then as a 23-year-old straight out of university and I remember well the chaotic energy of the place. Young international volunteers slept several to a room in a dilapidated 19th-century mud fort on the edge of the city. Teams of Afghan engineers and construction workers waded through suppurating mud as they attempted to shore up crumbling historic buildings. Men from the neighbourhood hacked through mounds of garbage higher than their heads and carried it off in wheelbarrows. As one walked through the streets one engaged in a ballet of the

sidewalk, dodging carts, wading through the heavy smoke of kebab stalls, and trying not to slip in the ever-present mud. Our jobs changed as needs changed; at one moment I was helping to run a calligraphy school, the next I was hiring donkey drivers and pug-mill operators for a ceramics project in the Hindu Kush, the next again I was helping to set up a clinic for local residents.

Thankfully, the organisation is much more settled these days, while the pace of activity remains. Our work, to regenerate the historic old city neighbourhood of Murad Khani in Kabul and to revive the Afghan craft industry, is progressing well. We have now restored over 100 historic and community buildings across an area of 3.5 hectares; we've cleared 30,000 trucks of garbage from the streets, dropping the street level by 6 feet in places; we've set up two primary schools and a clinic that sees 18,000 patients a year; we've sold over \$3.5 million of Afghan crafts internationally; our Institute for Afghan Arts and Architecture recently won an award for best arts vocational training centre in the country; our restoration work won the UNESCO 2013 Asia-Pacific Award of Distinction; and we've staged exhibitions on Afghan arts and culture at the Venice Biennale, the Museum of Islamic Arts in Doha, the V&A Museum of Childhood, Leighton House Museum, and most recently the Freer and Sackler Galleries of the Smithsonian. This final exhibition is our largest and most high-profile yet: a strange situation in which to find ourselves, when Afghanistan is falling out of the consciousness of many

'We have now restored over 100 historic and community buildings ...; we've set up two primary schools and a clinic ... we've sold over \$3.5 million of Afghan crafts internationally.'



An interior room of a traditional courtyard house in Kabul before and after restoration by Turquoise Mountain.

Western leaders and amongst the general public. In Kabul, moreover, we are watching as many organisations are closing their offices or downsizing their teams. Yet we are expanding the geographic and thematic scope of the project, starting to work with carpet-makers in Mazar-e Sharif in the north and with textile-makers in Bamiyan.

What can explain this strange situation? I'd like to say it's due to our exemplary Balliol educations, but the fact is we simply don't understand well the reasons for our survival and (dare I say it) success. Our model of development was and remains at a squint to much of the development orthodoxy of our time. In the *Floreat Domus* article of eight years ago, Rory Stewart was quoted saying that he wanted to find 'pungent, real language' to 'drive home the necessity of deliberate, purposeful, and pragmatic action in rebuilding societies'. Perhaps there is something of that in our success – we have certainly been purposeful and pragmatic, and we have tried to avoid the patronising and totalising language of development-speak. Instead of the jargon of 'capacity building' or 'up-skilling', we have attempted to articulate our goals and vision in the language not of Western development professionals but of Afghans. There is no Pashto for 'down-stream intervention'. Rather, we have articulated our work in the language of pride (*iftikhar*), justice (*'edalat, insaf*), and respect (*ihitiram*), terms that resonate with Afghans and ourselves in our better moments.

Moreover, a guiding principle of our work has been that we are in Afghanistan to learn from the country and its people: we are students, not teachers. International staff have all been encouraged to learn Dari and Pashto, to do further study on the country (I received my DPhil in Afghan cultural history from Balliol in 2014), and to spend long periods in the country, rather than 12-month 'rotations' or short-term visits. We have also benefited from rooting our project in a physical location, in physical structures, and in a community of residents. Too often, development projects' results are not tangible: you cannot see 'civil society empowerment'. And without seeing any physical change, the people who are meant to benefit can quickly become disillusioned or cynical. Fortunately for us, one cannot ignore a restored house; nor can you ignore that your street level is 6 feet lower than it was before because of the removal of several tons of garbage.

But neither the manner nor nature of our work are sufficient conditions for understanding the success of the project. For that, one would need to take into account the very particular political and diplomatic situation in 2006 in Afghanistan when we started; the donor environment in which money was readily available for unorthodox projects; the particular constellation of Afghan and international actors involved in the project; the internal politics of

the Kabul neighbourhood where we worked during a period of profound change; the networking skills of senior members of the project's international staff; the lurches of Western and Afghan government political, military, and development policy over the last decade. Most of all, we need to take into account the importance of luck. I think we have been very, very lucky.

People now often ask me what I think the 'lessons learned' are from Turquoise Mountain's experience in Afghanistan. To what extent is the project 'replicable'? Is it 'scalable'? What is the 'model'? To my mind, the model is that there is no model. It may sound trite (indeed, it is trite), but somehow I still feel the need to say it: every project is completely different. Every project has a different context, a different set of actors, different opportunities, different limitations, and different unforeseen events one has to respond to each day. What somehow worked for us in Murad Khani may well not work in the next-door neighbourhood of Bagh Ali Mardan. What worked in Murad Khani over the last ten years may not work in the next ten years. When working in post-conflict situations one needs to be flexible, pragmatic, and – most of all – humble in the face of unavoidable uncertainty. I'll be intrigued to see what Turquoise Mountain looks like in *Floreat Domus*' next update on Turquoise Mountain in 2022.



Young Afghan women learn wood carving (opposite and left) and calligraphy (below) at the Turquoise Mountain Institute.



Global Balliol: India

Two alumni who have founded companies tell *Floreat Domus* about their work



Soumya Rajan
(1991), Co-Founder,
Managing Director and
CEO of Waterfield
Advisors, Mumbai

Please tell us about your company

Soon after the financial crisis of 2008, several articles and papers were written about the enormous conflict of interest in the financial world, particularly in large international banks. In 2010, I was heading the Private Bank of Standard Chartered in India and these articles prompted me to think about how we should be working with ultra-high net worth families in India. So I started to read more about the concept of the family office.

In more developed markets such as Europe and the US, the concept of the family office has been around for over 200 years, but in India at that time, there were only a handful of single family offices and the concept was not well defined. Moreover, the ecosystem around venture capital and private equity was developing. Whereas earlier it had been considered taboo for an India promoter to part with their equity in a company, from the late 1990s raising third-party capital or selling a business had started to gain acceptance. Also, with the unprecedented wealth creation the country had been going through there had been a major inter-generational wealth shift, from which had arisen the need for professional managers and good advisors in areas related to business and legacy planning. I saw all these developments as positive and I also believed that emerging markets like India would emulate the developed world. So I decided to start a multi-family office (MFO) company to serve family-owned businesses. Today, the company, Waterfield Advisors, has offices in Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai, advising on assets greater than US\$1 billion, and it is India's leading pure advisory MFO.

Please tell us about your career since you left Balliol

I left Balliol in 1993 and joined the banking sector in India. Mumbai is the finance capital of India, so it seemed logical to be based here. The early 1990s was a time when the country had just announced a slew of economic reforms and for a young professional starting out, you felt as if you were part of a transformation. I stayed with the same organisation, ANZ Grindlays Bank (which was subsequently acquired by Standard Chartered), for 16 years. I worked with some marvellous leaders and had some great mentors, including Mervyn Davies, the bank's Group CEO, who shaped my thinking and future within the bank. They encouraged women to break the glass ceiling in India, and I was fortunate to become, at the age of 38, one of the first few women in India to run an independent business unit.



What are the pleasures and challenges of your work?

What I love about the job is the client interaction and working closely with families across generations to help them find solutions. As is the case for all entrepreneurs, the challenges of building a company from scratch – its values, its culture, its brand – are many! I remember reading that when Coca-Cola first started it sold only 25 bottles in the first year of production. As a founder of a company, you have to have enormous self-belief, should never give up and must be sufficiently confident to challenge the status quo. I have been luckier than many others: I had great family support that allowed me to take a huge leap of faith to start the company.

What is life in Mumbai like?

Mumbai is a wonderful international city: cosmopolitan, frenetic and India's commercial capital. Like so many cities in India, it has changed so much over the past 25 years. People are professional and there is a strong work ethic. As a country, India is very hospitable and the people are warm and friendly. And of course, we have great food! Every part of India has a different cuisine and Mumbai is no different. India is not an easy country to live in, but I would certainly recommend spending a few months or a year in the country – it is diverse, beautiful and culturally very rich.



Arunabha Ghosh
(1999), CEO of the
Council on Energy,
Environment and
Water, Delhi

Please tell us about your career since you left Balliol

After completing an MPhil in International Relations in 2003 (following a BA in PPE), I joined the United Nations Development Programme in New York as a core author of its flagship *Human Development Reports*. In 2007, I returned to Balliol to read for a DPhil in International Relations. Immediately after submitting my thesis in 2008, I became one of the first Oxford-Princeton Global Leaders Fellows. With a fellowship at Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations and at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, I developed a research programme on climate change governance, focusing on low-carbon technology transfer, climate finance, and monitoring and compliance within the climate regime.

Soon after the 2009 Copenhagen climate change negotiations, I realised that the global climate change discourse was deeply disconnected from ground realities, especially in developing countries. In 2010 I left Princeton and returned to India. The next day I founded the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), starting up in Delhi in a single empty room and building my desk on day one. Since then CEEW has grown into a reputed

How did your time at Balliol influence you?

The international and liberal atmosphere at Balliol made a profound and deep impression on me. The manner in which debate and discussion was encouraged was stimulating and I have always looked at the Balliol experience as one where you could 'free your mind and thinking'. I've used these tenets in my professional career ever since and I believe they have paid rich dividends over the years. I also met my husband at Oxford. A Rhodes Scholar at Worcester, he was introduced to me by one of my Balliol mates. As a family, Oxford has a very special place in our hearts; when we visit, we go back to all our favourite places. I guess you could say that the Oxford influence is there in my life every day!

'I was fortunate to become one of the first few women in India to run an independent business unit.'

public policy research institution which has engaged in more than 100 research projects, advised governments across the world more than 150 times, published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers and reports, and organised more than 110 conferences and seminars.

Please tell us about your current work

My work since I founded CEEW has intersected the worlds of academic research, national and international public policy advisory, track II diplomacy, media (I write a monthly column), and interfacing with business and civil society. Working in more than 35 countries, I've advised the Prime Minister's Office, several ministries, state governments and international organisations on energy strategy, renewable energy policy, resource nexus and foreign and security policy implications, governance of water and sanitation, power sector reforms, environmental governance, and many other issues. In addition to my research I spent a lot of time working closely with several countries in facilitating a historic deal at the Paris climate negotiations. In many ways, CEEW's research moved the needle on how India and others understood and responded to climate change – from the perspectives of science, economics, social behaviour, politics, diplomacy, and national security.

My research during 2015 was focused largely on energy and climate change. My essay in *Nature*, 'Rethink India's Energy Strategy', was selected as one of 2015's ten most influential essays. I co-authored *Climate Change: A Risk Assessment* (with Sir David King,

'CEEW's research moved the needle on how India and others understood and responded to climate change.'

Daniel Schrag, Zhou Dadi and Qi Ye). My book *Human Development and Global Institutions* was published in February (Routledge, 2016). Two other books, which I am co-authoring or co-editing, will be published soon: *Palgrave Handbook of the International Political Economy of Energy*; and *Energising India: Towards a Resilient and Equitable Energy System*.

What are the rewards and challenges of your work?

CEEW has been consistently ranked among the major energy and climate institutions in the world: it ranked number 1 in South Asia on several metrics in the Global Go To Think-Tank Index (for the third year in a row), and the best climate think-tank in India in 2013 and 2014. In addition to numerous activities structured around climate negotiations, in recent months CEEW has supported the government of India with a large number of intellectual contributions. The trust we have gained within and outside India for doing high-quality, unbiased research is the greatest reward for our work.

Building CEEW has been a labour of love, but not without its challenges. Raising funds is a continuous occupation. We retain our editorial independence by not taking funds from primary clients and instead raising resources through third-party sources, but there are regulatory barriers to how much money can be raised outside India. Another challenge is maintaining focus on the quality of independent research while being nimble enough to respond to urgent requests from government or the media in a timely fashion.

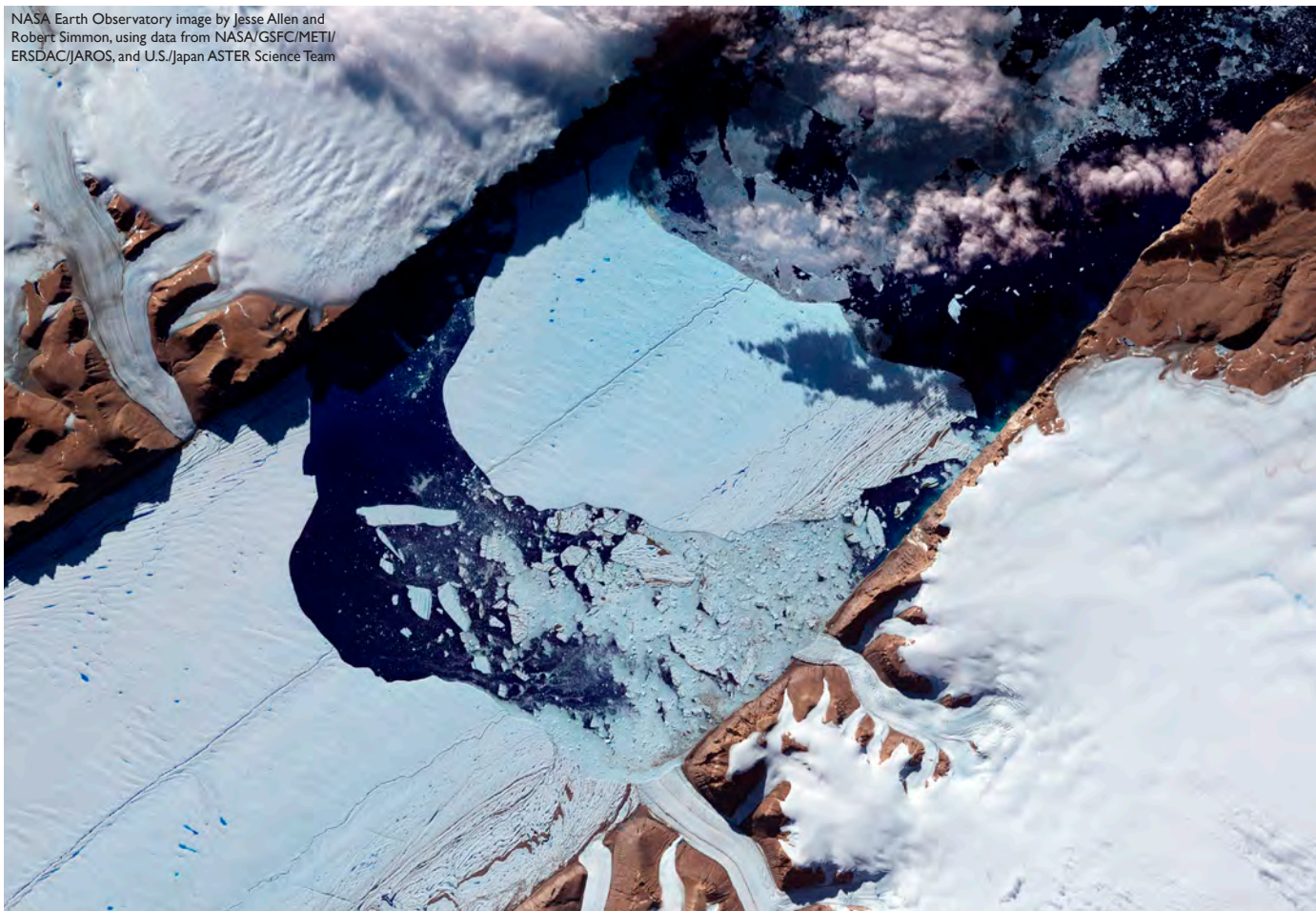
What is India like as a place in which to live and work?

Those who come to India with an expectation of Western-style efficiency will be disappointed. But those who come with an open mind will find a great diversity of experiments being played out all at the same time. This is where powerful billionaires and unknown social entrepreneurs (numbering in their hundreds) are jostling to have an impact, political fortunes are being made and unmade, air quality is suffering and yet the world's largest cash transfer scheme for the poor is being implemented. Most of all, I enjoy the sense of getting things done, building trust, finding solutions. I draw inspiration from accomplishment and hope.

How did your time at Balliol influence you?

At my first dinner in Hall with the faculty I asked my economics tutor, 'What do you look for when you review applications for admission?' He tapped his temples and said, 'Brainpower and how you think.' I discovered over time that the two are slightly different. One gives analytical prowess; the other helps to interpret the world around us. For me, the quest in my research and in my public policy work has been to bridge the two. Balliol was and is full of stars, but I was inspired by those who did not let their brainpower come in the way of how they thought about and understood the problems of society. It is the core inspiration that has shaped my career.

NASA Earth Observatory image by Jesse Allen and Robert Simmon, using data from NASA/GSFC/METI/ERSDAC/JAROS, and U.S./Japan ASTER Science Team



Close-up of the massive ice island which broke free from the Petermann Glacier in north-western Greenland in 2012 and is seen here floating down a fjord. The photograph appeared on a report which Arunabha co-authored, *Climate Change: A Risk Assessment*.



Young Alumni catch up over drinks before the Boat Race 2016.

Development news

The years 1968–1970 give generously to their Gaudy Campaign

Old Members from the years 1968, 1969 and 1970 returned to Balliol in June 2015 to celebrate their Gaudy, almost fifty years since they matriculated. More than 140 alumni and guests, the Master and Fellows enjoyed a drinks reception in the Garden Quad, followed by dinner in Hall.

To mark the special occasion, the Gaudy Committee – chaired by Hagan Bayley (1970) – reached out to hundreds of their former classmates and many chose to make a Gaudy gift in support of today's students. The appeal raised a remarkable £160,000, which will be used to fund vital projects across College that enhance teaching and the student experience.

We warmly thank the Gaudy Committee members, and all the other Old Members who gave so generously to support the College and its students.

The 1968–1970 Gaudy Committee

Hagan Bayley (1970), *Chairman*
Miles Emley (1968)
Richard Parry (1970)
Richard Salter (1970)
Paul Viita (1970)

'I thoroughly enjoyed helping the College by chairing the campaign. At the start, I was inspired to give myself by learning that without the Annual Fund it is just not possible to cover all the myriad needs of Balliol students. Next I found that raising donations is challenging, despite having captured numerous research grants in my day job. Consequently, I gained great admiration for the College's outstanding development officers. At the Gaudy it was wonderful to see friends from the 1970s, more sedate now and clearly well fed, yet mostly recognisable in body and in spirit. Thank you all for making a donation. And, if I caught you at the wrong time when I called, it really isn't too late to write that cheque ...'



Hagan Bayley

Calendar of Balliol Events to June 2017

2016

Saturday 25 June
**Gaudy for the years
1978–1980**

Saturday 2 July
Balliol Donors Day

Saturday 1 to
Sunday 2 October
**Balliol Society
Weekend**

Thursday 17 November
Usborne Dinner

2017

Saturday 18 March
**Gaudy for the
matriculation
years 2003–2005**

Wednesday 19 April
The Master's Lunch

Saturday 6 May
Balliol Ball

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



Our events calendar is updated frequently. To stay informed check alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol/events.



Balliol launches its Young Alumni Programme

In 2015 the College launched its Young Alumni Programme for Balliol Members who matriculated in the last ten years. Guided by a dynamic steering group of alumni volunteers, we hosted a series of well-attended events in Oxford and London to which everyone from the years 2002 through to 2013 was invited.

Mission statement

The primary goal of our Young Alumni Programme is to engage young alumni (prior to their first Gaudy) by connecting them with each other and with Balliol. We aim to foster a sense of community that goes beyond the time spent together at College, to facilitate ways for us to contribute to College life, and to strengthen those relationships for the future.

Steering Group members

James Lee (2002), *Chair*
 Sam Wilson (2004)
 Simon Morrison (2005)
 Michael Gallo (2006)
 Emma (Ed) Pearce (2007)
 Marine Debray (2008)
 Tessa McGuire (2010)

YOU? If you would you like to join the group, please email aria.johnston@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

Young Alumni Launch Event

Held at Google's trendy headquarters in London, the first Balliol Young Alumni event took place in March 2015. A drinks reception made possible by steering group member Simon Morrison (2005) offered the perfect opportunity for 100 Young Alumni to catch up with their contemporaries and tutors.

Summer Garden Party

On the Saturday of Summer Eights, 75 Young Alumni helped break in the newly refurbished Buttery with a party in the Garden Quad (opposite). Buttery staff created two bespoke cocktails for the occasion and guests voted to name them Fifth Week Blues and Red Lion.

Winter Party and Private Viewing at the Barbican

November saw Young Alumni enjoying a winter drinks reception (photograph above) on the Barbican's Conservatory Terrace, followed by a private gallery viewing of *The World of Charles and Ray Eames*, thanks to the generosity of Sir Nicholas Kenyon (1969).

Boat Race 2016

Young Alumni met at the Old City Arms in Hammersmith prior to the Boat Race to catch up over a few drinks on Easter Sunday (previous page). They then joined the crowds to cheer on both Oxford crews and celebrate victory by the women's boat.

Balliol Garden Party

Our Young Alumni were invited to join current students, Fellows, and friends at the 2016 Balliol Garden Party. Champagne, Pimm's, ice cream, waffles and Dot's Funk Odyssey kept everyone in good spirits.

We hope to develop the programme further. We welcome your suggestions and ideas for events to hold and ways to engage, whether in the UK or further afield: please email Aria Johnston, Young Alumni Programme lead, at aria.johnston@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

Young Alumni survey results

91%

of YA feel positively towards Balliol



76%

are interested in events tailored to young alumni



Type of event YAs prefer

84%



formal drinks reception

70%



cultural events

69%



talk/lecture/panel discussion

62%



black tie dinners

Top themes YAs would like for a talk

76%



current events

63%



human rights and social change

56%



technology and future

97%



of YA wanted a speaker who is a well-known alumnus



'Being a part of the steering group has been a fantastic way to keep up with College – I've met new friends and reconnected with old, gone to a private viewing of the Eames exhibit at the Barbican, and eaten macaroons at Google. The best moments, however, are when we're sitting in a pub coming up with the best events for Balliol Young Alumni and arguing over whether American universities do it better. At the Balliol Garden Party, where we were joined by current students and older alumni, it was wonderful to see everyone there partaking in waffles and Pimm's.'

Marine Debray (2008)



'The Young Alumni initiative is a really positive step by Balliol to harness the enthusiasm of recent leavers to help shape how it engages with its former students. Our events have also been a great opportunity to catch up with people and tutors after many years. I'm looking forward to maintaining the momentum of the past year and to getting more young alumni involved.'

Sam Wilson (2004)

In 2015 **304** Young Alumni made a gift to Balliol. Here's why:

'Because I received a lot of generous support when I needed it as a student.'

'Balliol provided me with a bursary when I was an undergraduate, which as someone who was not from a particularly moneyed background helped enormously. An Oxford (and particularly a Balliol!) education is one of the best gifts that can ever be given, and I feel I should similarly support current students.'

'I'd just been to the Balliol Society Dinner, and was still in a warm, fuzzy 'I ♥ Balliol' glow.'



Leave a gift to Balliol in your will

Leaving a legacy gift to Balliol is an increasingly popular and impactful way that alumni and friends are choosing to support our students, Fellowships and architectural heritage.

We are incredibly grateful to all who elect to give to Balliol in this way. Charitable bequests are enormously valuable to us; each one helps to secure the future of the College, reflecting a shared vision and commitment to Balliol's tradition of excellence.

Over the years, Old Members have shared with us their reasons for choosing to remember the College in their will. Here's what some of them have said:

'I know studying at Balliol has given me great opportunities in life. I have a duty to do my part to extend such opportunities to others with just as much right to benefit from an Oxford education, if not more, than me. I hope we can re-establish the age-old tradition of the wealth of one generation educating the brightest of the next.' (1991)

'I plan to leave something to College in my will – aside from anything else, its financial help to me as a student made living in Oxford a manageable experience.' (2004)

'Balliol provided me with much-needed financial support on multiple occasions and the gift that the College will receive after I die will be my final "thank you" for the belief they had in me.' (1986)

'I choose to leave something to Balliol in my will because I have nothing but good memories of the high standard of teaching I received from my tutors, the way in which Balliol sought to ensure that all of its members were nurtured as young adults, and its egalitarian outlook as a college.' (1997)

If you would like to join them, please do get in touch

Call Laura Bianco, Alumni and Development Manager, on **+44 (0)1865 277704** or email her on **laura.bianco@balliol.ox.ac.uk**

More information about making a bequest can be found at **alumniweb.ox.ac.uk/balliol/legacy**