



Floreat Domus

B A L L I O L C O L L E G E N E W S

750

T H E A N N I V E R S A R Y Y E A R



Contents

Welcome to the 2013
edition of *Floreat Domus*.

News

PAGE 1 **College news**

PAGE 13 **Student news**

Features

COLLEGE FEATURES:

PAGE 19 **This Week at the Cinema**

Tim Adamo's winning entry in Balliol's satire writing competition

PAGE 20 **Science and progress: growing synthetic graphene**

Jamie Warner explains how growing a synthetic version has allowed an Oxford team to study the fundamental atomic structure of a material

OTHER FEATURES:

PAGE 22 **Domus Sclarium de Balliolo 1263–2013**

As we celebrate the College's 750th anniversary, John Jones reflects on changes since 1263

PAGE 26 **Global Balliol: Sydney**

Two Old Members tell us why Sydney is a great place to live and work

PAGE 28 **The ethics of narrative non-fiction**

Jonny Steinberg talks about what readers expect from an author when the subject of the book is a real, living person

PAGE 30 **Memories of a Romanian childhood**

Alexandru Popescu talks to Carmen Bugan about her relationship with her native country

PAGE 32 **Educate, inform, entertain**

Phoebe Braithwaite speaks to two alumni in the world of television and sheds light on the realities of the industry

PAGE 34 **A lasting legacy in cosmochemistry**

Alice Lighton shows how Grenville Turner has contributed to our understanding of the solar system and the universe

PAGE 36 **Olympic reflections**
Richard Wheadon remembers the Melbourne Olympic Games and other rowing triumphs

PAGE 38 **Sustainability at the Olympic Park**

Featuring sustainability expert Dorte Rich Jørgensen, who helped make the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games the greenest Games ever

PAGE 41 **Facing the 2020s: adventures in resilience**

Alan Heeks describes a project aimed at achieving systemic change by developing 'community resilience'

PAGE 42 **Bookshelf**

A round-up of recently published books by Old Members

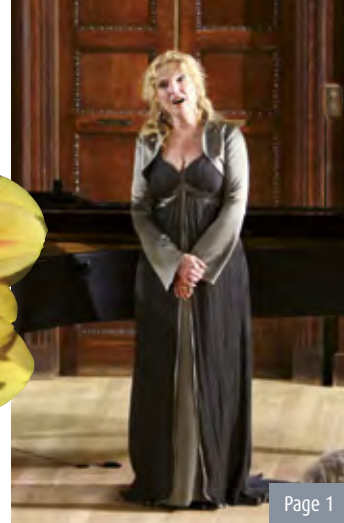
Development news

PAGE 44 **Ghosts, gorillas and Gaudies, as the Development Office takes to Twitter**

PAGE 46 **Benefactors to Balliol**



Page 7



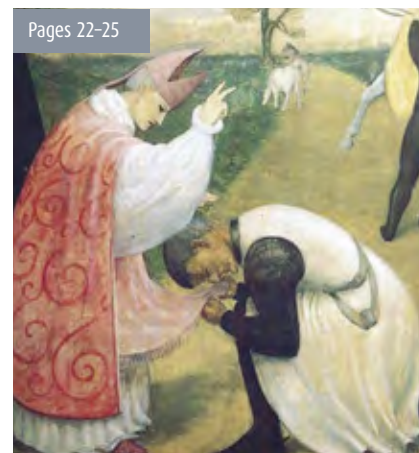
Page 1



Page 17



Pages 36–37



Pages 22–25

Editorial

The 2013 issue of *Floreat Domus* has the distinction of being published in Balliol's 750th anniversary year. With celebrations just beginning as it goes to press, some of the articles relate to that historic occasion – in particular John Jones's feature on page 22 – while next year's edition and the 2013 *Annual Record* will give further coverage of the year's events.

In other articles we welcome new faces to the College, celebrate successes, and gather Balliol-related news from within the College walls and without. Features reflect, as always, the multitudinous interests and achievements of some (out of many thousands of) talented alumni. We hope you will enjoy the glimpses these pages offer of a few of the diverse activities in which Old and Current Members are

involved. The final pages bring news from the Development Office and record the generous support of those who have donated to Balliol's 750th anniversary campaign.

We are hugely grateful to all the Balliolites past and present who kindly wrote the articles or agreed to be interviewed. Most of the editorial work for this issue was done by Sophie Petrou before she went on maternity leave. It also owes much to the suggestions of staff and Fellows, and the advice of Senior Tutor Nicola Trott and the other members of the advisory panel, Vice-Master Seamus Perry and former Tutor in Politics Adam Swift.

We are always pleased to receive ideas for articles and to hear from potential writers. And do get in touch with any thoughts or comments you have on the magazine.

Anne Askwith, acting editor

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Front cover: Balliol archives and Ian Taylor, except those credited elsewhere in the magazine and the engraving by Henry Taunt (top row, centre: copyright Oxfordshire County Council Photographic Archives)

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Pages 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 (below left): Ian Taylor



From the Master

BY DRUMMOND BONE

The oldest academic institution in the Anglophone world still on its original site, and almost certainly the oldest co-founded by a woman anywhere, is 750 years old. I hope by now you have all received the Programme and Calendar of Events which will celebrate the anniversary year and, in doing that, lay down some directions for the coming years as well.

We wanted the year to do what Balliol does: generate ideas and educate people who will change the world for the better. So we have two main strands for the year: first, our Master's Seminars, delivered globally but also available to alumni online, and second, the weekend in September, when there will be meetings with current Fellows to talk about the latest developments, and international panels to discuss the big issues and exciting ideas of the next 75 years (750 years seemed too much for one weekend). Interweaving with these more intellectual activities will be some fun – a Commem Ball, an open day during Eights Week, a

▼ Drummond Bone addresses the audience at the lieder recital at Balliol which launched the 750th anniversary celebrations in January 2013.

festival at Holywell Manor run by the MCR, and at the September weekend a scratch choir and a reading of a Graham Greene play, *The Great Jowett*. And there will be events of a more local nature not on the Calendar, in the City of London, in the north-east, and in Scotland, and yet more events still being nursed into existence.

Balliol in its anniversary year has between 700 and 800 students, and is about 50:50 in undergraduate and postgraduate numbers, with 80 per cent of the latter coming from overseas. For better or for worse, the university world has changed dramatically since the 1960s when I was an undergraduate, and in the last 25 years the pace of change (as in most other walks of life) has been increasingly rapid. We should always weigh the reasons for change, but equally weigh the reasons why we might be predisposed to reject it. When we are wholly exposed to an environment only for a short period of time – three years, say, as an undergraduate – we imagine the institution as having always been as it was when we were there, and remaining so after we have left. Both past and future are in fact highly

unlikely to have been, or be, the same. And yet in some less tangible sense, the Balliol spirit can probably be talked about as having existed for nearly two hundred years, since the beginning of the reforms in the early 19th century led by Parsons and memorably by Jowett. It is characterised by academic excellence mixed with social responsibility – both there in Jowett's competitive reforms and in his desire to found an annexe for poorer students alongside King's Mound.

But things do change, and, by way of example, Balliol (eventually) admitted women, early in the case of Fellows and rather late in the case of students, finally honouring, as it were, not only our co-founder but Elizabeth Periam's establishment of a Fellowship and two scholarships in the 17th century, Hannah Brackenbury's buildings and scholarships, and Annie Bradbury, who as Domestic Bursar was the first woman officer anywhere in Oxford – and many others no doubt who were Balliol's hidden female line. Our student profile also shifted dramatically in the early 2000s, a small drop in undergraduate numbers being compensated for by a large increase in postgraduates, in



this case prophesying correctly the change in the University, which, with the cap on numbers agreed with the City Council, is still struggling to increase graduate numbers and struggling to find the correct balance between those here for only one year and those here to pursue longer-term doctoral studies.

And fundraising has turned into Development, and become a major part of our normal activity. This is in many ways connected to the two previous changes I have just noted. Their history goes back to the early 1990s, to the abolition of the polytechnics, the financial cuts to the universities, and the rapid expansion of numbers at greatly reduced cost per head. Much of that expansion has been driven by a growth in the numbers of women (there are now more women receiving offers from universities than men applying; not so, however, at Balliol, and we are trying to address this shortfall), and has driven a consequent expansion at graduate level. Alongside this, at least until this year's increase in fees, the money accompanying each undergraduate student has been under continuing downward pressure. Where other long-established institutions have gradually been forced to abandon tutorial teaching, Oxford has been able to maintain this traditional level of support, but only at the cost of using endowment income. Of course, if we believe this is the best way to teach, this is what our charitable status is for: to allow us to teach what we believe we should teach, in the way that is most appropriate. And so in effect at Balliol we subsidise our teaching of undergraduate students



▲ *Lieder recital at Balliol
by Anne Schwanewilms
and Malcolm Martineau.*

by about £4k per head per year, and the living costs of those who live and eat with us by about a further £1k. Although the fee situation has eased things a little, Oxford has chosen to give a very large proportion of that income (again, rightly, we might well think) to those less well-off students, to enable them to study here – more than any other UK university in point of fact. In order to continue this level of subsidy we have to make sure the buildings are never empty (we now have no closed period other than Christmas), which changes the life of the College somewhat, and we have to raise money.

▼ *Vivian and Drummond
Bone with (centre)
Malcolm Martineau
and Anne
Schwanewilms.*

So pardon us if this year in particular we urge all of you who feel you have benefited from being a member of the College to support us for the good of the next 750 years. We have more than 7,500 of you whom we know about, some 22 per cent of you support us regularly, and our small team in College do their best to look after you all. This is a year in which we mark continuity, but also recognise change, and help prepare the way for what Balliol men and women will do next.

750th Service of Thanksgiving

A special 750th Service of Thanksgiving (Choral Matins) will be held in the University Church at 11.15am on Saturday 2 November 2013, followed by lunch in Hall for those who wish to book a place. The preacher will be the Very Revd Michael Sadgrove (1968), Dean of Durham Cathedral. All Old and Current Members are welcome. The Chaplain is particularly keen to invite former choristers and organ scholars: if you sang in the Chapel choir or know of someone who did, please email chaplains.secretary@balliol.ox.ac.uk. To book a place for lunch, please download a booking form from www.balliol.ox.ac.uk or telephone 01865 277733 and ask for one to be sent to you.



David Freeman Outreach and Student Support Officer

Balliol welcomes its first Outreach and Student Support Officer, Kate Kettle. Kate is no stranger to Balliol, having matriculated here in 2007. She was JCR Vice-President and a Pathfinder in summer 2010. 'It's wonderful to be back in College,' she says, 'and I feel honoured to have been invited to develop this new and important role at Balliol.'

After leaving Balliol, Kate worked for Debate Chamber, a company offering educational opportunities such as academic masterclasses and debate training to school students, and for Debate Mate, a charity working to improve social mobility among young people through debating and mentoring.



More recently she was working in the Change Management division of Accenture's Management Consulting practice. She had been looking out for a role in higher education, and had a long-held interest in access and admissions work from her time as a student at Balliol. 'The lure of returning to College was certainly an advantage,' she explains, 'but I was especially drawn by the unique challenges of a newly created post, and by the opportunity to shape Balliol's outreach and student support work for the future.'

As David Freeman Outreach and Student Support Officer, Kate will develop access, mentoring, and support programmes for students who might apply to the College, for students conditionally accepted by the College, and for students already at or recently graduated from the College. Since taking the post in October 2012 she has been very busy indeed. 'We have held over 30 outreach events, mainly with schools, and booked in a further 64 (and counting) for this academic year. We have launched Balliol's first ever Student Ambassador Scheme, which aims to train current undergraduates to visit schools to discuss both Oxford and university in general. We hosted our second Hertfordshire Schools Open Afternoon' – Hertfordshire being the

Local Education Authority with which the College is linked – 'with nearly 200 students in attendance, and received very positive feedback from students and staff.' And these are just 'a few highlights'.

For the future, she has several new initiatives planned. These include 'the development of an Offer Holders' Open Day, a Teachers' Conference, and a series of Academic Taster Days. Alongside this we hope to continue forming links with schools, notably in our link LEA of Hertfordshire, and any schools with which Balliol students and alumni are associated.'

The creation of the post was made possible by endowment funding from the Michael (1969) and Clara Freeman Charitable Trust, and further operating costs are met by the Trust and by Sir Ronnie McIntosh (1938). We are very grateful indeed for this generosity, which enables us to fund such an important role. Kate believes it is important for several reasons: 'It evidences the fact that Oxford generally, and Balliol specifically, reaches out beyond its own walls; and is proof that we are an outward-looking college which seeks to promote excellence wherever it is found. Outreach activities ensure that prospective applicants, whatever their background, are provided with good factual information about our application process and our environment. It breaks down myths about Oxford 'types', elitism, and interview horror stories; and it is a platform for Balliol, and Oxford, to state proudly what we're really about.'

Kate is keen to hear from school teachers, governors or parents who wish to develop relationships with Balliol. 'We are always delighted to welcome school groups to the College for information events and tours. Please see the Schools and Outreach section of our website for more information.'

Dervorguilla Scholarships

In a bid to increase applications from women graduates to subject areas where there is an imbalance in the female-male ratio, Balliol has created three post-graduate scholarships named for its co-founder the Lady Dervorguilla. With any luck, the College will be admitting three Dervorguilla Scholars during its 750th anniversary year, in October 2013. Women post-graduate students are under-represented at Balliol in the courses offered in the academic Divisions of the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Maths, Physical and Life Sciences. This is not because the College discriminates against its female applicants, but rather because many fewer women than men apply to Balliol in the first place. (Where our gender balance is more or less *in balance* – in the Medical Sciences – no targeted scholarship is being offered, and indeed the Equality Act 2010, which makes 'sex' a 'protected characteristic', would prohibit our doing so.)

The Dervorguilla Scholarships for women may be awarded either separately,

or in conjunction with a University or UK Research Council award. This method of entering into 'partnership' with other funding bodies is fast becoming standard practice across all graduate scholarships, since it enables scarce resources to be pooled to maximum advantage, and with as much flexibility as possible, in the fiercely competitive business of attracting the world's best graduate students. In this global endeavour, Oxford lags behind its peer institutions in the United States. However, the race to build an endowment for graduate scholarships is on, with University College recently announcing a matched funding scheme that will eventually secure as many as 50 post-graduate places.

Dervorguilla as the College's earliest female benefactor is a fitting representative of both the continuing effort to promote equality and the on-going question of how best to finance our highest educational aspirations.



New Fellows

Jin-Chong Tan

Jin-Chong joins the College as a Tutorial Fellow in Engineering Science. He carried out both his doctoral and post-doctoral research in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy at Cambridge. His research interests focus on the mechanical behaviour of advanced engineering materials useful for structural and functional applications, many of which operate under extreme conditions. Among the novel materials being developed are ultra-lightweight composite systems, multifunctional coatings, and a new class of nanoporous materials termed 'Metal-Organic Frameworks', targeted at emerging areas linked to energy, sustainability, and biomedicine.



Concepción Naval

Visiting Fellow and Oliver Smithies Lecturer (Education), Concepción has since 1993 been Professor of Educational Theory at the University of Navarra, where from 1996 to 2001 she directed the Department of Education and where she was appointed Vice President in 2001. She is the author or co-author of various books, including *Educación Retórica y Poética* (1993), *Educación ciudadanos* (2000, 2nd ed.), and *Gerontología educativa* (2001). Concepción's research while at Balliol will focus on new media literacy among primary and secondary school teachers, the social responsibility of universities, and museums as educational spaces.



Elena Lombardi

Elena joins Balliol as a tutor in Italian. She was Assistant Professor in Italian Studies at McGill University from 2000 to 2005, and Senior Lecturer in the School of Modern Languages at the University of Bristol from 2006 to 2012. Her undergraduate teaching focuses on Dante, Early Italian Poetry, and Medieval Studies, her post-graduate teaching on Dante. Her research is on concepts of language and desire in the Middle Ages, medieval poetics, ideas of the book in medieval times, and the Renaissance epic-chivalric poem.



John-Paul Ghobrial

John-Paul is Lucas Fellow and Tutor in History. Also a University Lecturer and Tutorial Fellow in Early Modern History, he is primarily interested in exchanges between The Middle East and Europe in the early modern period. His first monograph, forthcoming from OUP, explores the circulation of information between Istanbul and Europe in the late 17th century. This project led to a renewed interest in Eastern Christians and their roles as intermediaries between Europe and the East. He is at work on a second book called *The Secret Life of Elias of Babylon*, a microhistory of the adventures and writings of a 17th-century Chaldean traveller to the Americas.



Stefano Zacchetti

Stefano joins Balliol as the University's Yehan Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies. He was Associate Professor at the International Research Institute for Advanced Buddhology (Tokyo) from 2001 to 2005, and he worked as a tenured lecturer (*ricercatore*) at the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Department of Asian and North African Studies, from 2005 to 2012. Stefano's research focuses on the transmission of Buddhism from India to China, and on early Chinese Buddhist literature (particularly translations and commentaries). His publications include the monograph *In Praise of the Light* (Tokyo, 2005).

William Jones

William is Junior Research Fellow in the Social Sciences (Politics). He is currently a research officer at the Refugee Studies Centre, working on a two-year project on political mobilisation and transnational exile networks in African diasporas (in particular, of Rwanda, Eritrea, Angola, and Zimbabwe) as part of the Leverhulme Oxford Diasporas Programme. He is the Convenor of the Oxford Central Africa Forum, a regular seminar series presenting new research on the politics, history, and sociology of the Great Lakes region. He is also Editor of *St Antony's International Review* and a contributor to reports by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative for submissions to the UN Human Rights Council and African Human Rights Commission.



Matthew Robinson

Matthew returns to Balliol, where he studied as both an undergraduate and a graduate, as Tutorial Fellow in Latin Literature after 11 years as a lecturer at University College London. His primary research interests centre on Augustan poetry, though they also include Greek astronomy and astronomical mythology. His most recent book was a commentary on Book 2 of Ovid's *Fasti* (OUP, 2010); his current research examines the ways in which Augustan texts interact with various non-textual aspects of shared cultural experience, ranging from art and architecture to memory training and the movements of the night sky.



Christine Borgman

Visiting Fellow and Oliver Smithies Lecturer (Information Studies), Christine is Professor and Presidential Chair in Information Studies at the University of California. Her research interests lie in the changing nature of scholarship in the digital age, including social, technical, and policy concerns. She conducts research on data practices in the sciences and has written two monographs, *Scholarship in the Digital Age: Information, Infrastructure, and the Internet* (MIT Press, 2007) and *From Gutenberg to the Global Information Infrastructure: Access to Information in a Networked World* (MIT Press, 2000). She is on sabbatical this year at the Oxford Internet Institute and the Oxford eResearch Centre, and has plans for a book on the opportunities and challenges posed by open access to research data.



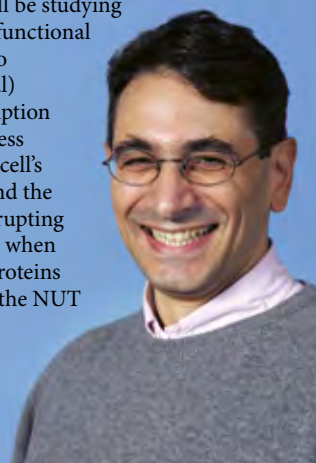
George C Edwards

George is John G Winant Visiting Professor of American Government. He is University Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Texas A&M University and the Jordan Chair in Presidential Studies. He has held visiting positions at Oxford, the University of London, Sciences Po-Paris, Peking University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the US Military Academy at West Point. The most recent of his 25 books are *The Strategic President* (2009), which offers a new theory of presidential leadership; and *Overreach* (2012), which analyses presidential leadership during the Obama presidency. He is currently working on the impact of basic policy premises on the decisions of political leaders.



Panagis Filippakopoulos

Panagis is Junior Research Fellow in the Sciences (Structural Biology). He is a Wellcome Trust Career Development Fellow in the Nuffield Department of Medicine. His research is focused on structural comparisons of entire protein families and the discovery of shared and distinct mechanisms that determine substrate recognition and protein regulation. During the tenure of his JRF, Panagis will be studying the structural and functional role of BET (Bromo and Extra-Terminal) proteins in transcription initiation, the process of copying a living cell's genetic material, and the implications of disrupting this role in disease, when for example BET proteins are found fused to the NUT (nuclear protein in testis) protein or when they are associated to viral oncoproteins.



Robin Choudhury

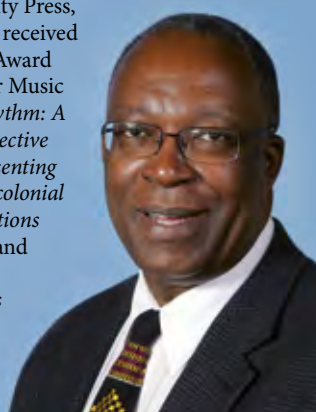
Research Fellow in Biomedical Sciences, Robin read medicine at Balliol and returned to Oxford as Clinical Lecturer in Cardiovascular Medicine in 2001. He is currently a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in Clinical Science; Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine; Consultant Cardiologist at the John Radcliffe Hospital; and Clinical Director of the Oxford Acute Vascular Imaging Centre (see page 11). His clinical expertise is in the management of coronary artery disease and myocardial infarction, including using invasive approaches (stents). His

research focuses on the cellular response to myocardial infarction, and on the development and application of imaging techniques for the characterization of atherosclerosis, thrombosis, and vascular inflammation.



Kofi Agawu

Kofi is George Eastman Visiting Professor 2012–13. Professor of Music at Princeton University, he previously taught at Harvard, Yale, Cornell, and King's College London. His research interests are in the analysis and theory of European and West African music. He is the author of *Playing with Signs: A Semiotic Interpretation of Classic Music* (Princeton University Press, 1991), for which he received the Young Scholar Award from the Society for Music Theory, *African Rhythm: A Northern Ewe Perspective* (CUP, 1995), *Representing African Music: Postcolonial Notes, Queries, Positions* (Routledge, 2003), and *Music as Discourse: Semiotic Adventures in Romantic Music* (OUP USA, 2009).



Martin Burton

Martin is Research Fellow in Clinical Medicine. He is a Consultant Otolaryngologist at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, based at the John Radcliffe Hospital, and also Senior Clinical Lecturer in the Nuffield Department of Surgery. He was appointed as Lecturer in Clinical Medicine at Balliol in 2005. He is Director of the UK Cochrane Centre and was the founding co-ordinating editor of the Cochrane Ear, Nose and Throat Disorders Group. He is currently President of the Otorhinolaryngological Research Society. His clinical practice is otological – particularly hearing loss, middle ear surgery, tinnitus, and balance disorders. He is interested in the application of evidence- (and wisdom-) based medicine in medicine in general and otolaryngology in particular.



New female portrait in Hall

In April 2011, the Chairman of the Portraits Committee suggested that Dame Stephanie Shirley be painted by Saïed Dai for a portrait to hang in Hall. The proposal was agreed at College Meeting and, after Dame Stephanie had embraced the idea, the wheels were set in motion. The portrait was finally hung in Hall in September 2012.

To say that Dame Stephanie has been a huge supporter of Balliol is an understatement. In 2001, having set up the Shirley Foundation, she made a founding donation of over £10 million for the Oxford Internet Institute, and subsequently contributed a seven-figure sum towards the conversion of St Cross to be Balliol's Historic Collections Centre; her support in other ways has been equally unstinting. So it seems fitting that her portrait now hangs alongside other Balliol greats in Hall. When asked how it felt to have her portrait there, Dame Stephanie replied: 'All portraits are by way of being a memorial and my head swelled when my picture went up in Hall.'

The work shows Dame Stephanie with a rectangular shape in her lap and a star-shaped object in her hand. The Lodge has received various queries about the symbolism of these. 'In capturing my essence,' Dame Shirley explains, 'the artist, Saïed Dai, included two

objects: the tablet in my lap shows the distinctive sundial at our Historic Collections Centre; and the five interpenetrating tetrahedrons that I hold close to my heart signify mathematics and – subliminally – that I was a Jewish refugee from Nazi Europe.'

The portrait is the first female portrait in Hall besides that of the College's co-founder, the Lady Dervorguilla. Dame Stephanie, seen here in front of her portrait with Drummond Bone and Professor Green, agrees that it's a real step forward to see a woman's face in Hall alongside all the men, and is symbolic of the progress Balliol has made in the last 30-odd years since it started to admit women undergraduates: 'I'm delighted to be placed near founder Dervorguilla, Lady of Balliol. The College was the first in Oxford to elect a woman as Fellow [Carol Clark] and it's appropriate that a female portrait should now record Balliol's progress in gender equality.'



Douglas Dupree



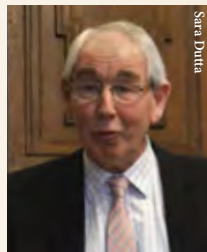
Celebratory lunch for Nick Bevan

On Saturday 9 February 2013, rowers, coxswains, coaches, and supporters gathered in college to pay tribute to Nick Bevan (1960) at a surprise lunch party. The occasion officially honoured Nick's phenomenally successful tenure as Head Coach of the Women's Boat Club. As testimony from members and Old Members plainly showed, Nick's influence extended far beyond rowing; those gathered wished to give their thanks to a wise friend and mentor, and visionary for Balliol sport.

The celebration was coordinated by Douglas Dupree together with Nick's wife Annabel, who brought Nick to college on the pretext of attending a birthday party. As they arrived, a message was relayed to guests – including the Master Drummond Bone, Andrew Graham and Peggotty Graham, trustees of the Boat Club, and rowers from each of Nick's Balliol crews – who duly hid below the windows of the SCR. Nick proved an excellent candidate

for his 'surprise!' moment, appearing quite astonished and only a little embarrassed. After champagne and glad reunions all round, lunch was enjoyed in high spirits.

On behalf of the trustees, Douglas gave a speech recalling the energy which Nick had brought to the Boat Club from the very beginning of his 'retirement' involvement, and the extraordinary clarity with which he set out what was to be done. The transformation of Balliol rowing that Nick's leadership brought about was unparalleled, and the statisticians among those coached by Nick assure us he has been, quite simply, the most successful coach in bumps race history. As a mark of their admiration and gratitude, the trustees presented Nick with a beautiful silver reproduction of the women's Headship trophy (left). The original – now the University trophy for the women's Headship race – was presented by Andrew and Peggotty Graham in 2010, when Nick coached the women's 1st VIII to Head of the River position for the first time in Balliol history (*Floreat Domus* 2011).



Sara Dutta

New dahlias for the 750th anniversary

BY CHRIS MUNDAY (HEAD GARDENER)

In spring 2011 the Gardens Committee felt that, as part of the garden's contribution to Balliol's 750th anniversary celebrations, we should endeavour to create a new garden plant variety. It was decided that the range of different colours, forms, and sizes of the dahlias growing in the long border in the Front Quad was such that they would have the most potential.

Modern plant hybridisation is usually a scientific and precise process in which two plants with specific qualities are cross-fertilised in an attempt to produce predicted results. The plants are hand-pollinated and usually kept in isolation to prevent undesirable additional pollination from insects. We, however, adopted the more time-honoured tradition of hybridising with 'open-pollinated' plants, where only the seed-producing plant is known and the pollen, carried by insects or wind, is contributed by any plant growing in close proximity.

Towards the end of the 2011 season we stopped dead-heading the dahlias in the Front Quad (as is our routine, to encourage continual flowering) and subsequently collected a quantity of seed, noting the varieties from which it came. This seed was dried and stored in individual envelopes, and between March and May 2012 it was sown in batches, with mostly high germination rates – only one batch failed. Seedlings were grown on in stages into larger pots until they were ready to plant out after the last frosts.



'Rawlinson 5'



'Rawlinson 4'



'Rawlinson 12'

In June 2012 some 110 dahlia plants were planted in specially created beds at our nursery at Rawlinson Road in north Oxford. The low temperatures in early summer affected the plants' progress and many were slow to reach flowering size. This trial collection of plants produced a pleasing range of flower colour (mainly shades of pink, orange, red, and yellow), petal shape, plant size, and leaf shape and colour. Interestingly, no plant was identical to its parent and the flowers were mainly single or semi-double, which is understandable, as the fully double and 'cactus'-type flowers of some of the varieties in our border at College are not good sources of pollen.

During late summer the best plants and flowers were photographed and notes taken on their key characteristics. The tubers of 39 plants were lifted and saved for planting in 2013, each tuber with a numbered label attached relating to a photo and a description of it in flower. Some of these tubers were

quite small and undersized because of the poor summer, and during the winter the challenge was to keep them frost-free and dormant, but not allow them to dry out and shrivel up. The intention is to display these plants in the two new beds that have been created in the Back Quad, with a display board accompanying them to describe the project.

Within this selection of plants there are a number which I hope we can put forward to be registered by the Royal Horticultural Society as new varieties, such as those that are currently named 'Rawlinson 6' and 'Rawlinson 37'. However, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of dahlia varieties in existence and it is difficult to know if any of our plants will be considered distinct enough to be given variety status.



'Rawlinson 37'

Old Members who rowed under Nick are scattered worldwide, and all were keen to contribute to this celebration. Anna Lewis (2003) and Abs Harrison (2002) coordinated the collection of crew members' favourite photos, abiding memories, and messages of thanks. They assembled these into a very fine book, which was presented to Nick at lunch on behalf of all former crew members, both present and not. Alongside the book came a final, possibly more dubious, gift in the form of a musical offering written for the occasion – and, accompanied by ukulele, guests joined in with gusto.

With characteristic (and memorable) modesty, Nick thanked his crews for their tolerance of 'an old codger with somewhat strange ideas' and outlined his hopes for the future of the club under new Head Coach – and thoroughly experienced hand – Ross Crooke (1998). Task number one: regain that Headship trophy. All present were encouraged to remain involved with the club and pursue ways of drawing in other Old Members. Leading by example, and as far from retirement as ever, Nick was at Bedford Regatta the following morning to support this year's crew.



Sara Dutta

Awards and appointments

New Year Honours

Two Old Members of Balliol have been mentioned in the New Year Honours List for 2013:

Mridul Hegde (1985), Director, Financial Stability, HM Treasury, was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) for services to the Stabilisation of the British Banking System;

Neale Coleman (1972), Director, London 2012, Greater London Authority, was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Warden of Rhodes House

Rhodes House has announced that **Charles Conn** (1983) has been appointed Warden, with effect from 24 June 2013. Charles will succeed Andrew Graham (Master 2001–2011), who is currently Acting Warden. Charles is presently Senior Advisor to the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation, where he has served since 2001, focusing on large-scale conservation projects. Charles, who read PPE at Balliol, says of his appointment, 'This is an exciting time for the Rhodes Trust as we near its 110th anniversary, with new strategic initiatives and an energetic commitment to helping develop young leaders for the new millennium. I am honoured to have been asked to be Warden.'



Fellows of the British Academy

Professor Mary Carruthers, George Eastman Visiting Fellow at Balliol 2005–2006, and **Professor Bernard Wasserstein** (1966) were elected Corresponding Fellows of the British Academy for 2012. Mary Carruthers is retired Professor with Chair, New York University, and her areas of interest are medieval literature and rhetoric, memory and mnemonic technique, and the history of spirituality. Wasserstein is currently the Harriet & Ulrich E Meyer Professor of Modern European Jewish History at the University of Chicago. His researches focus on modern Jewish and Middle Eastern history and the politics and diplomacy of 20th-century Europe.



Pulitzer Prize

Jeffrey Gettleman (1994) won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting, which is given in recognition of 'a distinguished example of reporting on international affairs, using any available journalistic tool'. He was awarded a Pulitzer for 'his vivid reports, often at personal peril, on famine and conflict in East Africa, a neglected but increasingly strategic part of the world'. As East African bureau chief for *The New York Times* Gettleman (who was featured in *Floreat Domus* in 2008) covers 12 countries and has focused much of his work on internal conflicts in Kenya, Congo, Somalia, Sudan, and Ethiopia. He was presented with the award by Gregory Moore, co-chair of the Pulitzer Prize Board.



Fellows of the Royal Society

The Royal Society's list of new Fellows for 2012 includes four Old Members of Balliol:

Professor Alasdair Houston (1969), School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol;
Professor Chandrashekhar Khare (1989), Professor of Mathematics at UCLA;

Dr Julian Hart Lewis (1964), former Head of the Vertebrate Development Laboratory, Cancer Research UK;
Professor John McNamara (1968), Professor of Mathematics at Bristol University.



Australia Day Honours

Professor Steven Schwartz, Oliver Smithies Lecturer in Hilary Term 2013 and former Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University, Sydney, has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Australia Day Honours List for 2013, for significant service to tertiary education, to the community, and to mental health. Previously Steven was Vice-Chancellor of, first, Murdoch University, Perth, and then Brunel University, London. In April 2004, the Blair government asked him to lead a national taskforce on university admissions. In 2005, he led a UK national project on ethics for the Council for Industry and Higher Education. He is the author of 13 books.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Professor Vernon Gibson (1980) has been appointed the Ministry of Defence's Chief Scientific Adviser. He comes to the role after a distinguished career as an academic researcher and a period in the commercial sector as one of BP's chief scientists. On his appointment he said: 'I am tremendously honoured and privileged to be joining the Ministry of Defence as its Chief Scientific Adviser. I'm looking forward to addressing the science and technology challenges that will help shape the capability of our Armed Forces in the 21st century.'

BAFTA nomination

Baldwin Li (2001) was nominated for a BAFTA for his short film *The Voorman Problem*, a whimsical dark comedy starring Martin Freeman and Tom Hollander. The film is about a psychiatrist who is called to see an enigmatic prisoner, Mr Voorman, who believes he is a god. Baldwin, who produced and co-wrote the script, developed the film with writer/director Mark Gill.

Baldwin was involved in making films while studying English at Balliol and believes his degree has been invaluable in helping him write for the big screen. Having worked hard on *The Voorman Problem* script, he felt confident enough to think: 'If this script lands in the right person's lap, they're going to take notice of it.' And they did.

Baldwin compiled an A-list of names to send the script to and top of it was Kevin Spacey, director at the Old Vic, who was unable to take the project on himself but suggested approaching Tom Hollander. Through a Balliol contact, tutor Sally Bayley (for whom Hollander had once given a reading at one of her conferences), Baldwin managed to get the script to Hollander and he agreed to play the part of Mr Voorman. And through Tom's recommendation, Martin Freeman of *Sherlock* and now

The Hobbit fame (shown here with Baldwin Li, right, and Mark Gill, left) agreed to play the doctor.

Speaking about the BAFTA nomination, Baldwin said it was 'a really great feeling to be vindicated by such a prestigious academy'. The film has also won Best Live Action Short Award at the St Louis International Film Festival and Best Screenplay at the Corona Fastnet Film Festival. It continues to tour the worldwide festival circuit with numerous screenings taking place in the forthcoming months.

Baldwin and his company Honlodge Productions have recently completed their second short film, *Full Time*, and are seeking funding for their first feature film. For full details visit www.honlodgeproductions.com.



Plaque for Pataudi

A plaque in honour of the late cricketer Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi (1959) has been installed on the wall of the Oxford University pavilion in the University Parks. The plaque was unveiled in the presence of his family, who were welcomed by Chancellor Lord Patten and Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Hamilton. While at Balliol Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi famously scored centuries in three consecutive first-class matches for the Blues and he went on to captain India from 1961 to 1974, despite having lost an eye in a car accident. He was named Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1968.

Ten years of the Oxford Society for Law and Religion

The year 2013 marks the tenth anniversary of the Oxford Society for Law and Religion, an academic society founded by Peter Petkoff (2002), Clarence Gallagher SJ (Campion Hall), and the Chaplain of Balliol, Douglas Dupree. For the past ten years Balliol has been home to the Society's activities. This association has helped the Society to become an important hub for the study of law and religion. Receiving international recognition, it hosts and co-organises international conferences at Balliol as well as overseas, and is developing a dynamic interdisciplinary network of scholars who work in the area of law and religion, religion and politics, and theology and public life.

Friends and distinguished speakers of the Society include Vatican II *peritus* Ladislav Orsy SJ (Georgetown), David Jaeger OFM (Antoniano and a Judge of Rota Romana), Heiner Bielefeld (UN Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Religion or Belief), Joan and Oliver

O'Donovan (Edinburgh), John Milbank (Nottingham), and Malcolm Evans (Bristol). On-going projects include the Legal Protection of Holy Sites as well as Jewish, Christian and Muslim Approaches to Legal Harmonisation in the XIIth–XIIIth Centuries. Through the efforts

of the Society and its wider research network, the *Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*, a major international peer-reviewed journal, was successfully launched by Oxford University Press in 2012.

Since the Society's creation the complex interaction between law and religion has become more visibly urgent, and law and religion has gradually become a distinct area of studies. In recognition of this the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute has recently provided a grant to help Peter Petkoff, Douglas Dupree, and the Oxford Society for Law and Religion to develop a bid and secure funding for a large international research project which will examine a number of legal and theological perspectives on the co-existence of religious and non-religious legal systems.

Balliol books raising money for charity

Lessons in Life by Tracey Wolffe (née Gold, 1985) is an A–Z of uplifting aphorisms, illustrated throughout by the author's colourful, inspirational artwork. All profits are being donated to the PACE Centre in Aylesbury, a school for children with cerebral palsy (www.thepacecentre.org).



PACE teaches conductive education to children with disabilities who need help with physical skills as well as cognitive learning. Tracey's six-year-old son has cerebral palsy, affecting all four of his limbs and his speech. 'This centre has recognised his cognitive abilities and understanding, and is using switches and communication books, and computer technology, to develop his communication and learning skills,' she says.

The centre has qualified physiotherapists and occupational therapists in every classroom, who give the children unprecedented care, and the very best support and opportunities. The staff-pupil ratio is very high. Every member of staff is caring and dedicated, above and beyond the call of duty. The centre received an 'outstanding' rating across the board from Ofsted in November 2012. Currently a primary school, PACE is raising funds for an early years centre and hopes in time to extend to much-needed secondary provision.

Both branches of Waterstones in Milton Keynes have supported *Lessons in Life*, allowing all proceeds to go to the charity. Altogether including Gift Aid Tracey raised £2,000 for PACE by Christmas 2012. The book is available for sale at www.traceywolffe.co.uk/book, and via Amazon.



Sporting audiobook

To appreciate the role of sport in Oxford University life, and the role of the University in the history of sport, Professor Simon Lee (1976) has compiled *The Z–A of Oxford Sport*, a guide in the form of an audiobook for which he reads all 26 parts. Celebrating both sport itself and specifically the University's contribution to and influence on the world of sport, the recording covers history and achievements – former students include many gold medal winners – and includes many fascinating facts and amusing anecdotes, allowing listeners to get to know their Oxford sport from back to front. For more information and to purchase the audiobook, go to www.audiogo.com/uk.

Vera Pratikaki (2012) has written and self-published a picture book for young children called *Caterpillar Pauline*. The story is about dealing with bullying and Vera is donating all the proceeds to BeatBullying, the UK's leading bullying prevention charity.

'BeatBullying is a great charity that offers invaluable help to children,' Vera explains. 'It offers a safe, friendly and confidential environment, where children can get the help and support they need from trained volunteers and professional counsellors. Unfortunately, nowadays there is often a lack of communication in many families and children feel they have no one to turn to when they are facing difficulties. The programme's "cybermentors" make them realise that they are not alone and that there is always someone there to listen to them.'

As a senior cybermentor – she has been volunteering for the charity since 2010 – Vera tries to help children overcome their problems by boosting their self-esteem in order to make them believe in themselves: 'due to bullying, the children tend to define themselves according to what others think about them,' she says. 'When they gain self-confidence, however, they are able to accept themselves and become the masters of their own lives.' Having seen at first-hand what the scheme offers and what a difference it can make to children who are suffering from being bullied, she wanted to find a way to raise

money for the charity and so wrote *Caterpillar Pauline*. She hopes the book, a 'celebration of individuality' and 'a story of acceptance and uniqueness', will help the children who read it: 'I believe that stories are a powerful way to shape new attitudes and bring about change, so I hope that this story will help raise children's awareness about the problem as a way of stopping it. Furthermore, my story has an empowering message. I wrote it to help those already being bullied to accept and love themselves. I hope that the book will help them smile again and encourage them to enjoy life to the fullest.'

Vera has raised over £1,000 from the sales of her book and has donated it all to BeatBullying. More information about Vera and her work can be found on her website, www.verapratikaki.co.uk. The book is available for sale via Amazon.



Unique imaging centre to improve heart treatment

A new imaging centre at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford is expected to improve the early treatment of heart attacks and strokes. The £13 million pound Acute Vascular Imaging Centre (AVIC), formally opened in October 2012, offers cutting-edge technology for imaging and diagnostics for patients. 'AVIC will help doctors understand much more precisely what is actually happening in the patient's heart or brain at those crucial times during the heart attack or stroke, when such information is needed the most,' explains Robin Choudhury, Balliol Research Fellow in Biomedical Sciences, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, and Clinical Director of AVIC. The treatment that patients receive is part of a research protocol: 'The idea is that we can take patients in the first minutes of presentation into a safe and controlled environment so that they can contribute to research with no compromise to the care that they receive,' Robin says. AVIC is thought to be unique worldwide in having both a fully equipped suite for treating blocked arteries and an MRI scanner. Patients can be transported smoothly and rapidly between the two, almost at the push of a button, thanks to a mechanised system and rails laid in the floor. AVIC has been used on over 700 patients since it opened and shows a lot of promise. It is hoped that in time the evidence it provides can be used to improve treatment and refine diagnostic algorithms.



Innovation for runners

Thanks to a team of experts headed by Jessica Leitch (2006), Oxford University's latest spin-out, Run3D Ltd, now offers Europe's first computerised 3D assessment for the prevention of running injuries. Dr Leitch (seen left with co-Director Dr David Bruce putting Blues cross-country runner Richard Franzese through a Run3D assessment) is herself an international runner, having represented Wales, and began working on the service after completing her DPhil in running injury biomechanics at the Department of Engineering. Accurate analysis is fundamental to understanding and preventing injuries, she explains, but has not hitherto been available. By using 3D motion analysis which is checked against the world's largest biomechanical database to identify any abnormal patterns in a runner's gait, Run3D 'provides an objective and scientific service, which delivers an effective and evidence-based programme that is tailored very specifically to that individual'. Overuse injuries affect 50 per cent of runners and the unique service, based at the Roger Bannister Running Track in Oxford, will be able to help runners both avoid injury and run better.



The Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute

Since its founding under the Mastership of Andrew Graham in September 2010, the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute (BII) has supported 13 innovative research projects initiated and led by Balliol members. Some of the early projects have now been completed, and we are very pleased with the significant contributions which these projects have made to Balliol's research agenda. Eight exciting projects are on-going as this issue of *Floreat Domus* goes off to the printers, ranging from the dynamic network analysis to the science of international treaty design.

In issue no. 17 of *Floreat Domus*, we reported about three exciting new projects funded by the BII. One research strand began life as a seminar run by Professor Denis Noble and Dr Eric Werner, and, led by them and two other founder members, Professor Tom Melham and Professor Jonathan Bard, has sought to sharpen the 'Conceptual Foundations of Systems Biology', connecting molecular biology with computer science, physics, and indeed philosophy. The group's seminars were motivated by the observation that, for all the recent advances on the technical problems of systems biology, the basic conceptual foundations of the field were far from clear. Their findings have been summarised in a focused issue of *Progress in Biophysics and Molecular Biology*, due to be published later this year.

The 'Duty of Care in Finance' strand investigated the possibilities of reforming the financial system by increasing self-regulation rather than tightening the external regulatory structure. A series of seminars on this topic, spanning two terms, brought together philosophers, lawyers, historians, and economists to consider behavioural aspects of the problems in the financial services industry that led to the Global Financial Crisis. The key question addressed – whether unhealthy attitudes and incentives could be resolved by recently proposed regulatory and structural changes – attracted large audiences from the College and beyond. The project leader, Professor David Vines, is currently preparing the manuscript coming out of the seminars for publication.

The third project, convened by Dr Sophie Marnette, has explored the complementary roles of formal quantitative models, qualitative metaphors, and rational myths in understanding the socio-political-economic determinants of the 'Evolution of Business Ecosystems'. Such an interdisciplinary

approach is immensely useful – to name but one topical example – in explaining how some firms have come to adopt a stakeholder approach, whilst others seek to maximise stockholder wealth.

Other projects have focused on providing new platforms for intellectual activity at Balliol. One seminar series, led by Dr Maria Donapetry, a Lecturer at Balliol, has explored the role of ethics and particularly the concept of complicity in cinema. The seminar group has been meeting every fortnight and has greatly contributed to the range of interdisciplinary discussion going on at Balliol.

The BII's funds have also allowed one of Balliol's graduate students, Will Clegg (2010), to convene a seminar series on a variety of themes in global and transnational history. This group's seminars have been extremely well attended and proved very stimulating for attending

historians, economists, and geographers from across the University. The seminar series will culminate in a one-day conference in May 2013, which will host more than 40 graduate students from universities in the UK and beyond.

Two new projects have been initiated in Hilary Term 2013. One of these projects will organise a series of interdisciplinary discussions about the privacy of genomic information and ways of preventing the inappropriate dissemination of such information, which could have significant adverse impacts on personal lives. These discussions will bring together specialists in genetics and medicine as well as in law and ethics.

The second new project aims to implement a 'mobile health' system in a local community in Guatemala to improve the efficacy of oral rehydration therapies to prevent the deaths of children from diarrhoea. The researchers will seek to identify cultural, educational, and technological factors which influence the under-utilisation of oral rehydration therapy. The project will provide a novel intersection between social behavioural studies, clinical healthcare, mobile telecommunications, and information engineering to address this medical challenge.

The BII has made considerable progress in providing the College community with important avenues into interdisciplinary research. The BII's funding of innovative and potentially high-impact research projects has begun to fill the void left by discipline-specific funding bodies at the university level. Our support of Balliol's researchers and their collaborators would not be possible without the funding that has been made available by very generous donations from Old Members.

For more information on the BII's activities, please explore our pages on the Balliol website at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/BII. If you would like to follow any of the current projects in more detail, please contact the relevant lead investigator or email bii@balliol.ox.ac.uk.



The BII's funding of innovative and potentially high-impact research projects has begun to fill the void left by discipline-specific funding bodies at the university level.



A worthwhile internship

BY MAX GOPLERUD (2010)

In First Year for my paper in British Politics, we read a book that was edited by Professor Robert Hazell, the head of the Constitution Unit – part of the School of Public Policy at University College London. The book was *Constitutional Futures Revisited: Britain's Constitution to 2020* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008). I found it fascinating, as it combined academic rigour with a focus on examining the interesting possibilities that face the UK in the coming years, unlike the more descriptive work that tends to dominate in the literature. This made me aware of the Unit and made me decide to apply there for an internship in the summer of 2012.

The internship involved contributing to a year-long project looking into the role of special advisers, known as 'spads', in the United Kingdom (originally from 1997 forwards, but subsequently extended from 1979 to the present). With the exception of a seminal book by Andrew Blick, *People Who Live in the Dark: The History of the Special Adviser in Politics* (Politico's Publishing, 2004), and TV shows such as *The Thick of It*, there is very little systematic information on spads. The project tries to correct this by constructing a database of spads, conducting interviews with spads/ministers/civil servants and surveying as many of the ex-spads as possible.

My role in this project mostly involved creating the database and finding contact details and background information on the Labour spads. This involved a fair bit of work at the British Library and the LSE to access periodicals that listed spads going back to 1979 and searching through the electronic

archives of Hansard. From these, I organised the data in a form that was searchable and wrote two intermediate reports on things such as the length of time in government, number of ministers served, etc.

I had a large degree of autonomy in my daily work, and I also helped Dr Ben Yong with any queries he had on his areas of the project, for example by writing background information sheets on potential interviewees.

Besides being in the incredibly friendly and stimulating environment of the Constitution Unit's offices, my greatest enjoyment was being able to do 'proper' research into a project where I had a high degree of flexibility. I was left to use my own initiative in designing the database, organising the information and testing various hypotheses. The internship also allowed me to get to know an area extremely well over three months, which was a major departure from weekly tutorial essays that change topics very frequently.

By doing an internship, I hope to have gained experience of doing academic research on a single topic. Before the internship, I was not entirely sure that I would enjoy full-time research; however, it showed me that I like the academic environment and the freedom and flexibility it provides. It reinforced my decision to apply for graduate programmes and (probably) eventually to pursue a career in either academic or policy-orientated research like that at the Constitution Unit.

Setting aside the real issues of variable funding for internships, I think they can be very useful in helping one get a perspective on future plans. In a sense, they can serve as a way of 'testing' a possible career or direction, so that even if one does not find an internship that is interesting, it can still provide insights into what to plan for after leaving Balliol. I would say that an internship is worth doing if it matches up with your interests (possible or current) but not so much just in order to put something on your CV.

The Constitution Unit

Tips for other students embarking on an internship

It's worth sharing your strengths and weaknesses (honestly) with the people you are working with, so that they can tailor the work to play to your strengths. Also, while this may vary depending on the internship, you may find it quite helpful, as I did, to question and critically assess some of the assumptions and ideas that your supervisors send you. They took you on the internship for a reason and it is plausible to think that they want you to be more than a mere drone and will value your input. You provide a different perspective from the one they are used to and that can work to everyone's advantage.



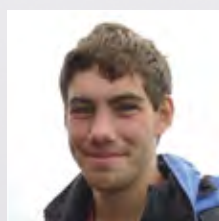
Student project grants

Each year a number of students are successful in their applications for College Grants for academic-related projects. These grants, which range from £25 to £2,000, are made possible by generous bequests and donations from Old Members and others, often people who have a connection with Balliol, and are made available via

the College Trust Funds. Some grants go towards enabling students to attend conferences relevant to their studies, while others help them get involved in interesting and inspirational projects around the world. Here, two students report on what they were able to do with their grants.

A hospital in Kenya

BY ROB STABLER (2010)



'What would a Western medical student be expected to do?' 'What can we do?' 'Ethically, what should we do?' These thoughts were rattling through the minds of Richard Dumbill (2010) and me as our bus pulled into Malindi, a town on the east coast of Kenya, at 5.30 in the morning. We only had time to deliver gifts to our hostess and briefly rest our eyes before starting our first day at Malindi District Hospital.

We arrived eager to learn but apprehensive about what we would be asked to do, and particularly what we should agree to do – before arriving we had been explicitly warned: "The patient may say "I don't want to be treated by the doctor, I want to be treated by the white man." Our concerns were not allayed when, after watching our first surgery (a patient who had extensive lacerations and three missing digits after being attacked with a machete), a second-year medical student from Ireland informed us that she had just been performing a Caesarean section.

In fairness, the interns asked us to do things not because they thought we knew how, but because we were there to learn. Nevertheless, the shift from learning via textbooks and demonstrations in Oxford to the 'learn by doing' attitude of Malindi took us by surprise, and we were often left unsure of how best to act. We frequently asked each other: 'Would we do this to a patient in England?', wishing to treat Kenyan patients with equal dignity.

But there was clearly a cultural difference between the two healthcare systems. During rounds one day we saw a patient with ascites (built-up fluid), and I asked the intern to ask the patient if I could palpitate his abdomen as well. 'If you want to examine a patient just do it, you don't have to ask,' came the reply. Worse still, consent was not the only right overlooked here: patients were talked about, not to, during investigations, and never had any choice in their treatment. The 'doctor knows best' attitude clearly still prevails in Kenya, and this has been thrown out of British medicine so forcefully that the contrast took us by surprise.

In the end, although there were some useful things we could do, such as testing patients' blood samples for HIV and dressing minor wounds, we spent more time talking to doctors and patients than we spent on practical activities. We learnt lots about the treatment difficulties faced in poorer hospitals, and also revised much of

our medical knowledge, especially with regard to AIDS and tuberculosis. We hope to have brought some patients comfort, and I have a particularly striking memory of a paraplegic patient waiting for a skin graft who spoke relatively good English and who was so bored we talked for two hours straight. Another highlight for me was reaffirming that 'the whole world loves football' when we took a ball and 20 children from the orphanage associated with the hospital to the beach one Sunday afternoon.

Towards the end of our stay I had some time alone with one intern, and after watching him place a number of cannulas (thin tubes) we agreed that I could try. Introducing myself to a patient ('*Si si si daktari, si si ni wanafunzi*' – I am not a doctor, I am a student) I felt certain I was more scared than he was, but he agreed and I proceeded. When I was sure the needle was in I felt a huge wave of relief, and indebted to that patient for allowing me to learn.

In the end I know that our most useful contribution to Malindi District Hospital was the fee we paid them on arrival. Despite this, I returned to England excited about medicine, excited about the prospect of clinical school, and excited about our sixth-year electives. It may still feel a lifetime away, but I know it's not that long before I will be able to make a useful addition to the staff at a foreign hospital. Rich and I agree that, once we are qualified, working in less developed countries will be incredibly rewarding and something we both want to do, and no doubt the contacts we made and things we learnt in Kenya last summer will prove helpful.

Biofuels in India

BY GEORGE HARRIS (2008)



'Do you think you would be able to cope with the heat and the Indian monsoon?' A strange question for a job interview. I replied that any weather must be better than the cold, wet English summer we were having, and that I'd been to a few hot countries before. How different could India be?

A couple of months later I entered a world of fraught traffic, short tempers and endless delays in the UK, and then embarked on a three-month internship with Indian Oil's research and development centre on the outskirts of Delhi, with a vague remit to analyse the feasibility of biofuels in India.

Biofuels have divided opinion among scientists and politicians: are they a short-term solution to global fuel emissions that is ideal for rural development, or a cause of burgeoning food prices and an aggravator of the droughts that have damaged rural communities and even led to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions? Biofuels grown from edible crops are particularly controversial and have been implicated in food shortages and food price rises, and lambasted as uneconomical without heavy subsidies.

India is understandably on a quest for energy security. Currently, over 80 per cent of its crude oil requirements are met by imports. A limited indigenous supply capacity means that this percentage will rise steadily alongside population and GDP. Diesel and to a lesser extent petrol account for most of the country's petroleum-product consumption, and with this in mind India has set a 2017 target to reach a 20 per cent blend of biofuel in both fuels.

This represents a considerable challenge in a country with almost all its potential fertile land already under cultivation and 20 per cent of its population undernourished. In such an environment displacing food crops for energy crops would be politically unpopular and ethically questionable. Along with a heavily diesel-dependent economy, these factors rule out mimicking biofuels programmes in Brazil and America.

The country has seen modest success in the conversion of molasses (a by-product of India's vast sugar industry) into ethanol. But production capacity is limited, and as demand for petro-fuels increases, any impact that molasses-sourced ethanol can make diminishes. Instead, hope has been placed on jatropha (*Jatropha curcas*), an oil-seed-bearing tree that produces oil suitable for blending with diesel. Studies of jatropha suggested promising growth on wastelands, of which India probably has around 20 million hectares. A successful programme, it was argued, could produce biodiesel at the same cost as petrodiesel, reclaim vast swathes of wasteland, and

alleviate rural poverty. Accordingly, the Indian government targeted a 20 per cent blend of jatropha-sourced biodiesel in all commercial diesel by mid-2012. Several months on from that deadline, the production of commercial biodiesel is negligible, largely because of cripplingly low seed yields from the jatropha plant and weak implementation of policy.

The conclusions I reached after reviewing the available information were relatively simple: pump resources into R&D and don't pursue large-scale biodiesel plantations until it has been shown that crops are viable on wastelands in an Indian climate. Meanwhile, focus on efficiency improvements for the molasses-to-ethanol process and adopt a technology-neutral approach to future biofuel processes such as algal biodiesel and lingo-cellulosic ethanol.

While writing the technical report I submitted to Indian Oil, I spent my weekdays trawling through government reports and academic papers with my sagacious supervisor, Dr Tuli. At weekends I had the opportunity to explore

Delhi. It is impossible to encapsulate such a fantastically complex and rich city in this brief article, if at all, although William Dalrymple's *City of Djinns* is a fabulous introduction. Of my Delhi experiences Qawwali (a form of Sufi music prominent on the subcontinent) perhaps made the greatest impression. I spent many happy evenings with friends in Old Delhi listening to the famous Delhi Qawwals ululate into the dusk, reciting poetry, sometimes improvised, with a backing of trance-inducing harmoniums and tablas. In a city hugely stratified by wealth, religion and caste, Qawwali was a rare pleasure enjoyed by people right across the social spectrum.

Thanks to Balliol and its bursary scheme, I had a memorable and stimulating internship with Indian Oil. As for the monsoon, it never fully arrived in Delhi that summer. Several times a savage black sky threatened, but only once did rain fall with any kind of ferocity. An ill omen for the biofuel crops of 2012, but a decent excuse to go back for the full experience!



Reflections on a rowing career

BY LYNN HUTCHINGS (2010)

In summer 2013 I hope to be racing with Balliol College Women's Boat Club in my 14th and final set of bumps. In a rowing career that has now stretched over 15 years, I've been fortunate enough to row for over ten clubs, including four colleges and two universities.

My rowing career started in Cambridge, where I spent eight years reading first anthropology and then medicine. In between studying I found time to race for Cambridge University Women's Boat Club from 2000 to 2002, and was Lightweight President in 2002. When

I finally left university, the real world of doctoring left little time for sport, and after needing a few operations myself, I assumed my sporting career was largely over.

However, when I came to Oxford as a graduate in 2010, the lure of trying for

another boat race was too great to resist. In my first year, I rowed with the Oxford University Women's Boat Club, racing in *Osiris* for the 2011 Henley Boat Races. In a controversial race, we won but were disqualified after crossing the finish line. For the past two years, I have trained and raced with OUWLRC, the University women's lightweight squad. Unfortunately, illness ruled me out of the 2012 Boat Race, but I raced for OUWLRC over the summer, which culminated in the elite lightweight coxless IVs event at Henley Women's Regatta. This has made me the first person to have raced for all three of CUWBC, OUWBC, and OUWLRC, and I'm extremely grateful for the financial support I've received from the College's Cadle Fund to allow me to do this.

While I'm now unable to spend as much time training as I would like, I continue to train with OUWLRC where possible. This year I've spent more time sculling, in preparation for finding a way to train alone once I return to clinical work! For me, though, the main attraction has always been the team nature of the sport. Rowing has allowed me to travel to some amazing locations, meeting numerous people and making excellent friends. It is extremely rewarding to be able to pass on some of the skills I've learned, and I hope to encourage the next generation of BCWBC rowers to love the sport as much as I do.



Lynn Hutchings (left) racing with BCWBC

Peter Stammer

Young Strategic Writer

Will Clegg (Commonwealth Scholar, 2010) has been awarded the *Australian Defence Business Review's* annual Young Strategic Writer prize (worth \$A2,500 to an author under 35) for an article he published in *Security Challenges*, an Australian peer-reviewed defence policy journal.

This is his second win: he previously won the same

prize in 2009, when he was working on a piece about irregular warfare under the supervision of Dr Daniel Marston (1998). The most recent piece, entitled 'Don't Get Smart With Me! Sustaining the ADF in the Age of the Strategic Reform Program', was a research project sponsored by BAE Systems, investigating defence sustainability policy in the Australian context.



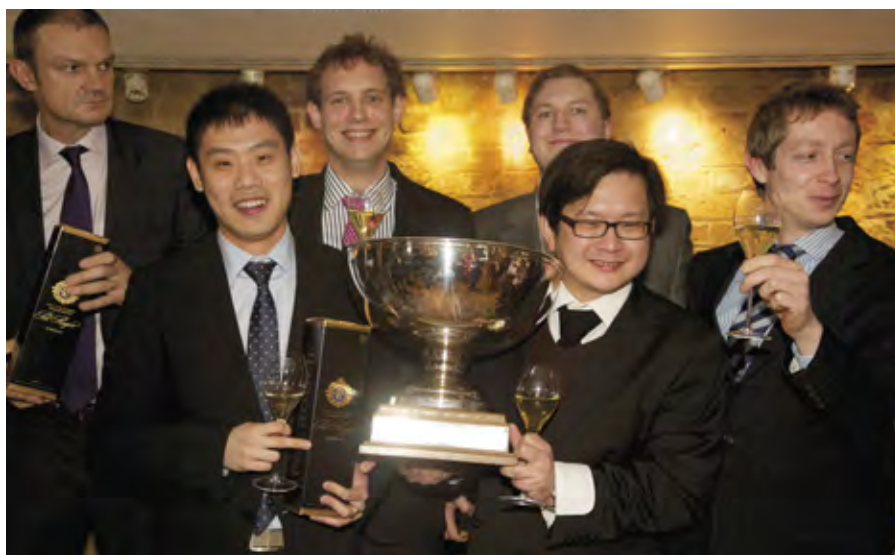
Mooting triumph

Balliol student Daryl Ho (second from the right below), was one of a four-member team from the University of Oxford to win the UK National Championship of the 54th Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, held in London on 17 February 2013. Daryl, who came to Balliol from the Anglo-Chinese School in Singapore, is reading Law Studies in Europe. He and his team-mates, all second-year undergraduates, defeated the University of Cambridge to bag the coveted Rebecca M M Wallace Trophy. With some help from College, Daryl is re-joining the team to represent the UK at the International Rounds in Washington, DC.



Top Taster

Tom Arnold (2007) was Top Taster at the Varsity Blind Wine Tasting Match, held each year at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London. The competition comprises 12 wines, six white and six red, with 40 minutes for each flight of six; the wines can be from anywhere in the world. Marks were awarded for grape variety, country, region, and sub-region of origin, vintage, and reasoning. Tom got three wines completely right and correctly guessed nine grape varieties and eight regions.



Courtesy of Will Clarkson Photography (www.willclarkson.co.uk) and Champagne Pol Roger

This year's match was the 60th; the match, which is sponsored by Pol Roger, is thought to be the oldest blind-tasting in the world. Tom (left) was one of a team of six tasters and one reserve, which achieved Oxford's 37th victory against Cambridge's 23. As Top Taster, he won a bottle of Pol Roger Cuveé Sir Winston Churchill and will enjoy a trip with

the winning team to Maison Pol Roger in Epernay in the summer, to compete against the top French team. He and the team will be featured in the forthcoming book *Reds, Whites & Varsity Blues: 60 Years of the Oxford & Cambridge Blind Wine-Tasting Competition* (for details, contact varsitybook@polroger.co.uk).

Oxford's energy-efficient vehicle

Competing in the Shell Eco-Marathon 2012 in Rotterdam with an elegant little blue-and-white-striped electric vehicle was an Oxford team that included Nathan Ewin (2005). Nathan is part of the Energy and Power Group (EPG), which is concerned with developing novel technologies to address key issues related to energy and transportation. The Eco-Marathon was one of three such events which Shell organises around the globe (the others are held in the US and Asia) to challenge universities, institutes, and schools to get the most kilometres on the least amount of energy. More than 200 teams competed in the European event. Supported by the Oxford Martin School – the Director of which, Ian

Goldin, is a Professorial Fellow of Balliol, and which is ambitious to push the frontiers of sustainable energy research – EPG competed in the event for the first time.

Peggie, as the vehicle is called, finished in 12th place in the prototype battery electric class with an efficiency of 366km/kWh – equivalent to approximately 6,000km on one gallon of petrol. To make a vehicle that could achieve this, the team brainstormed solutions for particular design challenges and chose the most simple, elegant yet robust ones, while trying to minimise weight as much as possible. Nathan, who was one of the team's two electric engineers, found the difference between lab work and racing a vehicle 'eye-opening', saying, 'It gave me an appreciation of some of the challenges involved in vehicle design.'



Keen to build on their performance, the team – including new recruit Robert Richardson (2012) – are redesigning *Peggie* to minimise mass and maximise the efficiency of each component, so as to take on the top teams at this year's competition in Rotterdam on 15–19 May. They have been working closely with Maxon Motor to improve the drivetrain, but are still looking for other supporters to reach their fundraising target.



Prize-winning medical essay



John Spaul Photography

Joshua Harvey (2008) won the 2012 Michael Pittilo Student Essay Award. The theme for the competition, which is run by the College of Medicine each year and is open to all healthcare students studying at undergraduate level or above, was healthy ageing. Joshua explains: 'The care of the elderly is often seen as costly but it is not age that is expensive but rather unhealthy ageing which causes disease. The basic idea about the essay was to re-orientate public health measures and primary care (GP services) to facilitate healthy ageing. I particularly focused on how GPs and local government can encourage exercise, healthy diet, and the use of preventative services – cancer screening, immunizations, etc.'

The essay not only won Joshua a cash prize – 'I found out I had won a few hours before the start of my first A&E night shift at the JR.

The thought of what I was going to spend the £500 on kept me going in the early hours of the morning!' – but also publication in the *International Therapist* magazine. As winner he was asked to present an abstract of his essay to doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals at the College of Medicine's Annual Conference. His speech was much admired by delegates and many have since requested a copy. Joshua was also presented to HRH the Prince of Wales (right).

Joshua would definitely encourage other students to enter competitions, 'particularly if they are outside your area of expertise. They get you doing things you wouldn't normally do and who knows, you might get a little bit of money along the way too.' Winning the competition gave him some experience of public speaking which, despite being 'quite nerve-racking', was a valuable opportunity:

'I had never spoken to that many people before and it has given me the confidence to speak in front of other (fortunately smaller) groups since. It also gives you a chance to meet lots of important people, some of whom I'm still in contact with – though unfortunately Prince Charles is not one of them.'



John Spaul Photography

Where have all the mockers gone?

In an article in *Annual Record* 2012, Richard Heller (1966) lamented that the tradition of satirical humour that he had enjoyed and participated in while he was at Balliol seemed to be in eclipse. In an attempt to revive the spirit of satire at the College, he launched a competition in memory of his parents, Bob and Jeanie Heller, to find the best original and inventive piece of satirical writing by a current Balliol student. The winner of the competition was Tim Adamo (2009) with 'This Week at the Cinema', which skewered pretentious film makers and critics. It appears opposite.

'There are a lot of really awful films being made these days,' says Tim when asked where his idea came from. 'If you read reviews for

some of them, it's hard to believe that they're real. Also, there seems to be no limit to how low good actors or film makers will stoop or how unexpectedly high otherwise middling entertainers will reach. A few years ago, I started writing fake reviews for real films I wanted to watch at the cinema in an attempt to convince other people to tag along and also to highlight how horrendous some of the other stuff on offer was.'

Tim is not one to shy away from competition, having won a Jowett Senior Scholarship in the first year of his Mathematics doctorate, and recommends entering competitions while at university: 'If it's something related to your academic

work, then it's an opportunity to prepare yourself for the challenges you will face after graduation. If it's something like this prize, then it's a wonderful opportunity to have fun at someone else's expense and hopefully make other people laugh.'

Currently in the fourth year of his DPhil, Tim says: 'I never would have started writing things like this if it weren't for the community of people in the Balliol MCR who were willing to put up with my shenanigans.' Perhaps there are others in the College, then, whom 'This Week at the Cinema' will encourage to try their hands at satirical prose or verse, just as the prize's founder, Richard Heller, hoped.



This Week at the Cinema

BY TIM ADAMO (2009)

The winning entry in Balliol's satire writing competition

We Need to Talk About Human Centipede

(18; 2hrs 5 mins. Dir. Andrej Barhowskiak)

Plot synopsis:

Donald (Dwayne Johnson) and Lydia (Kimberly Denise Jones) are the archetype of the modern American Dream: a happily married pair of affluent surgeons living a cosmopolitan lifestyle on the north side of Chicago. But as middle age approaches, and their libertine friends become few and far between, the couple find themselves facing uncomfortable questions they'd never dreamed of before. In a fit of ultra-conscious Darwinism, the pair decide that a child is just the thing for their slowly stagnating lives; however, in a twist as ironic as Johnson's previous career in professional wrestling, it is revealed that Donald is infertile. Unwilling to adopt or attempt artificial insemination, the couple put their surgical prowess to work, and create a Human Centipede (Chris Tucker, John Stamos, Eva Longoria) from John Doe patients at their hospital.

In an act of storytelling that is at times both tender and jarring, director Andrej Barhowskiak (*Exit Wounds*, *Prince of the City*, *US Marshals*) takes us through the slow erosion of Donald and Lydia's superficial American Dream precipitated by the arrival of the Human Centipede in their lives. While Donald strives to be the perfect father, the Human Centipede spurns his affection and shows no interest or aptitude in their activities together (basketball, wrestling). Lydia desperately attempts to balance her commitments as a mother with her self-image as an independent modern woman. These tensions build as the film races towards its inevitable climax: when Human Centipede commits an act of unspeakable violence in their community, how will Donald and Lydia cope?

Reviews:

'Six thumbs up . . . cuts to the heart of the post-modern dilemma of young American professionals.' **Roger Ebert**

'Johnson is magnificent as a well-intentioned but short-sighted Donald, and Stamos deserves praise for his understated performance as the middle link in Human Centipede.' **USA Today**

'A film to make us laugh and cry and take a good hard look at our own lives . . . [Johnson's] misguided paternal figure truly makes him "The People's Father" for the modern epoch.' **Empire Magazine**

'Perhaps the first post-family film . . . ' **LA Times**

Twilight: Brokeback Source Code

(18; 3hrs 20 mins. Dir. Duncan Jones)

Plot synopsis:

US Air Force Captain Colter Stevens (Jake Gyllenhaal) had it all: a beautiful wife (Maggie Gyllenhaal), talented kids (Samuel Jackson and John Cena), a great job, and a name worthy of a porn star. But in Duncan Jones's mind-shattering follow-up to the triumph *Moon* from 2009, we watch first-hand as it all comes falling apart in spectacular fashion. When a brooding but brilliant new analyst Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) turns up at the Dallas intelligence outfit where Stevens works, it's only a matter of time before the competitive work environment and a tense international crisis boil over into outright homo-eroticism. While he struggles to control these new urges at the workplace (where Pattinson's uniform is inexplicably, but inevitably, made entirely of spandex), the family life of this model patriot slowly crumbles. His eldest son (Jackson) is bullied by homophobic, rumour-fuelled drug dealers at school; the youngest (Cena) acts out by repeatedly suplexing furniture around the house and talking back via 'the people's eyebrow'; and his wife slowly comes to the realisation that, once again, it isn't just fishing trips that her husband is taking.

But even as the viewer is forced to come to terms with the widening cracks in Stevens's American Dream, not everything is as it seems . . . Why are soldiers at the base going missing, then turning up days later with their blood drained and mysterious bite marks on their necks? Why is it that Cullen sparkles whenever sunlight touches him? Why do the two main protagonists insist on addressing each other as 'spidermonkey' even in public? In the end, Stevens is forced to choose between a forbidden love and saving those around him from an evil older than America itself. Once again, director Jones shows us the unsettling power of cinema, with every facet of the film crafted to maximise awkwardness: whether it's casting the protagonist's real-life sister as his wife or forcing us all to go through THAT scene in *Brokeback Mountain* again (but now with a vampire, in a US military base, and much, much longer), we are clearly shown a talent unmatched since Hitchcock. Some viewers may be turned off by the film's lack of a coherent narrative, bizarre casting decisions, and possible allegorisation of the don't-ask-don't-tell debate, but the true connoisseur of cinema is in for a treat.

Reviews:

'Gyllenhaal and Pattinson strip away [literally] everything to give the most heartfelt performances of their careers.' **The Independent**

'Exquisite film-making . . . Jones utilises the conservative backdrop of Dallas as the ultimate cinematic canvas . . . a film that is sure to do for Dallas what *Boyz n the Hood* did for South Central Los Angeles.' **Rolling Stone**

'Unacceptable.' **Dallas Times**



Science and progress: growing synthetic graphene

BY JAMIE WARNER (JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW IN MATERIAL SCIENCE)

Growing a synthetic version has allowed an Oxford team to study the fundamental atomic structure of a material, using the University's electron microscope.

For the majority of our existence, humans have looked to the stars for an understanding of our universe. The philosophical aspects that drive us to contemplate the vast enormity and size scale of our universe also help point us towards the smaller scale with a view to unravelling the fundamental building blocks of matter. Scientific studies in the early 18th and the 19th centuries started to provide physical evidence that matter was comprised of atoms and, later, revealed sub-atomic particles. However, it wasn't until the development of the electron microscope in the 1930s and thereafter that the tools for imaging the atomic structure of materials became available. In the normal optical microscope we are familiar with, light (photons) is used to form an image of the sample, but these types of optical microscopes are generally limited to resolving micron-sized features due to the fundamental physics related to the long wavelength of light. The electron microscope works in a very similar manner to

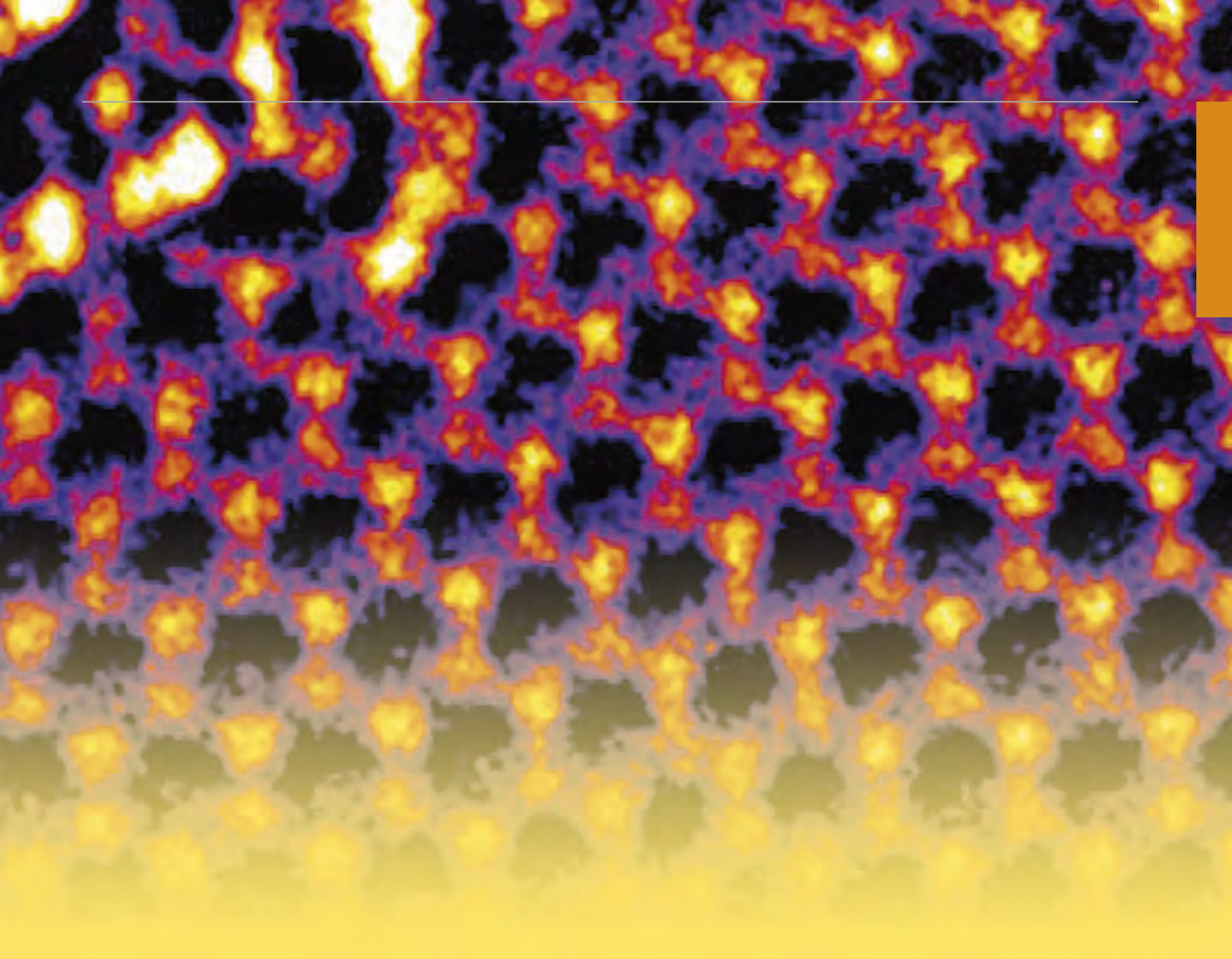
an optical microscope, with lenses to focus a beam and a detector for acquiring an image, but uses electrons instead of photons. The photograph opposite shows a state-of-the-art electron microscope based in the Department of Materials at Oxford, which is used by my team and me. An electron gun (1) sits at the very top and emits a beam of electrons that are accelerated to a velocity close to the speed of light. Electromagnetic lenses (2) focus the electron beam on to the sample (3), and after the electrons pass through the sample, further lenses (4) form an image on to a CCD detector below.

Quantum physics tells us that electrons can act as waves and have a wavelength that decreases with increasing energy and which can be many orders of magnitude smaller than light. Therefore, by using electrons as the 'illuminating' source for imaging, pictures of materials can be obtained with structure revealed all the way down to the atomic level.

In a solid material, atoms are typically arranged in a periodic crystalline stack, or are randomly distributed (amorphous), or form small crystal clusters that are randomly orientated within a larger structure. The way atoms assemble strongly influences the electronic, chemical, magnetic and

mechanical properties of a material. A great example of this is carbon, which can adopt a metallic form as graphite, be insulating as in diamond, or be semiconducting as in a carbon nanotube. All materials are made solely from carbon, but differ in the way their atoms are bonded together and assemble in 3D. This extraordinary diversity of carbon materials has generated substantial research interest. With the natural progression of science towards designed materials, and in particular nanomaterials, the ability to image the size, shape, crystallinity and elemental composition, using electron microscopy, has been critical to the rapid development of nanotechnology.

New materials hold great promises for changing technology and consequently quality of life. In 2010, two British physicists (Professor Sir Kostya Novoselov and Professor Sir Andre Geim) were awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for their work on the 2D material graphene. Graphene is made of carbon and is a single sheet of graphite. It is only one atom thick, much like a sheet of paper the size of ten football fields, and the carbon atoms are arranged in a hexagonal pattern, like a honeycomb. The charge carriers in graphene move at remarkable



speeds and behave as relativistic particles. Combining this with the near transparent nature of a one-atom-thick sheet means there are a vast number of applications for graphene in electronics and opto-electronics, such as touch-screen displays and solar cells. Critical to the implementation of graphene in technology applications is the ability to synthesise a high-quality material, and the key to this is being able to determine the structure of graphene at the atomic level.

My team have been working on growing synthetic graphene, atom by atom, by flowing carbon containing gas precursors across metal catalyst substrates inside high-temperature furnaces (1000°C). This high-quality synthetic material now provides a basis for studying fundamental atomic structure in graphene using Oxford's electron microscope. The electron microscope (right) was developed over ten years by the Department of Materials in collaboration with a leading Japanese manufacturing company, JEOL. Through the design of new electron-optics and hardware, it can now claim to be world-leading in atomic resolution imaging of light element materials such as carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen, which form the basis of many biological materials and nanomaterials.

My recent research showed that we could image individual carbon atoms within graphene that was suspended across a hole like a drum skin, as shown above. In this image, there are two dislocations; normally in graphene there are six carbon atoms per ring (hexagon), but in a dislocation there is a ring of five atoms (pentagon) next to a ring of seven atoms (heptagon) – can you find them? This was the first time that individual atoms were fully resolved and their exact positions were determined, atom by atom. If the position of atoms is accurately known, then it is possible to measure bond lengths with the graphene. The team applied this imaging to dislocations in graphene, which are fundamental to the plasticity of materials. Theoretical calculations predicted that some bonds within the dislocations should be elongated because charge had been depleted from that region. The results demonstrated that this was true.

The image above is the highest-resolution image of individual atoms ever obtained in the history of scientific research and was reported in the prestigious journal *Science* in 2012. Being able to image carbon-based materials with a high resolution of 80 picometres in this way opens up exciting opportunities for resolving the structure of individual biomolecules.





Domus Scolarium de Balliolo 1263–2013

BY JOHN JONES (1961)

The Chronicle of Lanercost records, without exact date, that John Balliol quarrelled with Walter Kirkham, Prince Bishop of Durham, who died in 1260. Kirkham had the upper hand, and humiliated Balliol with a public whipping to which he added a penance: supporting some scholars at Oxford. The whipping is a scene in Gilbert Spencer's murals in Holywell Manor; I prefer the mural at Broad Street by Christopher Fremantle showing Balliol accepting the penance.

Thus the legend, but John Balliol supported a group of scholars in Oxford willingly in his lifetime, and favoured them in his will. Never mind that what he left them was mostly uncollected debts. In the Archives we have an undischarged bond for what had been due for two horses. From 1269 his widow Dervorguilla of Galloway consolidated his work, giving his scholars Statutes, a seal, endowment, and his name.

We do not know when John Balliol's dole began. Probably well before May 1264, when he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Lewes, and definitely before mid-1266, when his scholars

▼ John Balliol accepting his penance from the Bishop of Durham. From the mural by C E Fremantle (1925) on Staircase II, c.1927.

are mentioned in a Royal writ. When Henry Savage wrote the first Balliol history in 1668, the College's foundation year had been accepted as 1263 since time immemorial.

So this year we celebrate the College's 750th anniversary, and I am prompted to reflect on changes since 1263. What do we have from those early days?

Our corporate name for a start. Dervorguilla defined it as *Domus Scolarium de Balliolo*, and a Royal Charter of 1588 changed it to *The Master and Scholars of Balliol College in the University of Oxford*. Both names survive, in our traditional toast *Floreat Domus de Balliolo* and in our everyday name. We also still have the earliest symbol of our corporate identity: the original matrix of the common seal given by Dervorguilla. Then we have our current arms,

which are taken from the back of the seal with which Dervorguilla authenticated our first Statutes (which also survive) in 1282. Almost all the early endowment land was sold in modern times. The only exception is the freehold of part of our ancient property in the London Parish of St Lawrence Jewry, which was acquired along with the Church and its incumbency in 1294. That land was unfortunately leased to the City Corporation for 999 years in 1778 for a modest fixed corn rent: the London Guildhall is partly built on it.

Dervorguilla was devoted to St Catherine of Alexandria, who thus became the College's Patron Saint. The earliest Chapel was dedicated to St Catherine, and celebrating her feast-day, 25 November, is probably the most consistent thing the College has ever done.

By the simple
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world.



Not a stone of the earliest collegiate buildings can be identified, but we have the Broad Street site, and by the simple criterion of continuity on our original site, Balliol, therefore, is the oldest college in the English-speaking world.

The benefactions of the College's first five hundred years enabled it to expand and build, but it never rose above middle rank among Oxford colleges. It weathered religious turmoil in the 16th century, the English Civil War of the next, and only narrowly avoided financial collapse in the 18th. But little from this long period left an obvious mark on modern Balliol. One exception is the will of John Snell (1679), initiating the on-going procession of Glasgow graduates, giving Balliol many stellar alumni and a Scottish association. The association is real enough, but Victorian Balliol got a little carried away with it, perhaps encouraged by the example of the Queen and Prince Albert, who visited privately to see the rebuilt Chapel in 1860. Adding to the confusion of centuries between our John Balliol and his son John Balliol King of Scotland, the College adopted the Royal Arms of Scotland for a while. Look up left as you pass from the Garden Quad into the Library Passage and you will see them prominent on the Library Tower.

The College was set up as a prep school for the English Church, and although some broadening of intake began in the 15th century, it was dominated by the Church until the second half of the 19th. The changes which shaped the modern College began around 1800. Until then, the Scholars were appointed by individual Fellows, inviting nepotism in its literal sense. And Scholars filled Fellowship vacancies more or less automatically. But in 1806 John Parsons, Master 1798–1819, rebuked three Scholars who had protested to the Visitor at being passed over in a Fellowship election. The Visitor dismissed their petition in crushing style, and all subsequent Fellowships were filled on merit alone. The Fellows so elected unanimously renounced their individual rights over Scholarship places in 1827, and established an Open Scholarship Examination. This had the immediate effect of attracting the best candidates the public schools could provide, and before mid-century Balliol was academically pre-eminent.

The slightly left-leaning College of today might like to see the fruits of liberality in these reforms. In fact, the men who brought about the

College's rise from obscurity were right-wing disciplinarians. Roman Catholicism was anathema, and they were not much interested in original scholarship or expanding the curriculum: sound religion and useful learning was their aim.

But their reforms brought in men of broader views like Benjamin Jowett, who followed his Open Scholarship (1835) with an Open Fellowship (1838) whilst still an undergraduate. He was soon one of the main movers in the College, was nearly elected Master in 1854, and led a majority of liberals for several years before his eventual election in 1870. The requirement for Fellows to be priests, which had lasted until then, was swept away by general reforms, but Jowett pushed further and both religious tests and compulsory Chapel attendance were abolished in Balliol. He was not a lone force, but he rightly gets most of the credit for Balliol's continued success, liberality and expansion in the second half of the 19th century. He died in 1893, but the next three Masters had all been influenced by him, and his spirit survives. To him we owe not only our most striking buildings and The Master's Field (the first step in the Balliolisation of Holywell) but also much else which is invisible.

It would have been inconceivable between 1263 and the 19th century that the College would ever embrace Jews, foreigners in any numbers or women at all. Guided by Jowett, the College led in admitting Jews and foreign students (especially from India, but also other eastern countries). And one of Jowett's pupils, F F Urquhart, Fellow of Balliol 1890–1934, was the first Roman Catholic Fellow of any College. The Rhodes Scholarship scheme was after Jowett's time, but the first Warden of Rhodes House was a Balliol man, and Balliol had more than its share of Rhodes Scholars from the outset, despite Edward Caird (first lay Master 1893–1907) and the Fellows of Balliol having voiced public opposition to

[Jowett] rightly gets most of the credit for Balliol's continued success, liberality and expansion in the second half of the 19th century.



▲ The First Seal of Domus Scholarium de Balliolo, 1282.

The College has always done its best to help its poorer people along, which ... was one of Dervorguilla's instructions.

the Honorary DCL given to Cecil Rhodes in 1899.

Jowett and Caird were also early in promoting the education of women; elsewhere, it is true, but even that was advanced thinking for the time. The case of Annie Rogers must have sharpened minds in Balliol: she was offered an Exhibition in 1873 following an outstanding performance in the Oxford Local examinations which she had entered using her initials only. Jowett had to retreat when her femininity was discovered. Perhaps there was memory of this when the College surprised Oxford by appointing Annie Bradbury Domestic Bursar in 1939. The first woman to hold a

senior position in any ancient College, she was unable by Statute to be a Fellow, but she attended College Meetings and ran the place with great efficiency until the mid-1950s. Balliol was similarly progressive in the 1960s when it collaborated with St Anne's by setting up a Graduate Institution in Holywell Manor, giving the St Anne's graduates Balliol privileges which made them members in all but technicality.

And in 1973, Balliol elected Carol Clark to a Fellowship. She was the first woman elected to any traditional college.

When women were accepted as full student members in 1979, Balliol was only being carried with the tide of the times. We might have been in the lead if we had been more resolute, less prone to hesitate over practicalities, and less sensitive to the impact on the women's colleges.

Apart from women, what were the other significant changes of my time?

When I first set eyes on Balliol, its buildings were black with the stain of air pollution. The clean-up began soon afterwards. The Waterhouse buildings which flanked the Hall on both sides, his staircase XX and the 17th-century building near the back gate, which both Waterhouse and Warren had left standing, were all demolished and replaced by Beard's staircases XX, XXII and XXIII. About the only good thing to be said

for them is that they increased the number of student rooms and SCR elbow room very considerably.

Formality in dress was already waning when I came up in 1961, but gowns were still worn by students for tutorials, and by all for dinner and Chapel; and for a visit to Sir David Lindsay Keir, Master, a dark suit under the gown was expected. The Head Scout inspected diners as they filed into Hall; ties were required. The food at dinner (consumption, or at any rate payment for it, was compulsory) was rotten, and for the sporty insufficient in quantity: but it was possible to get two servings by putting your empty plate under the table and looking innocent or relying on the connivance of your scout. Most scouts (all of whom were men) were in fact in cahoots with all sorts of minor undergraduate misbehaviour. The

The food has improved beyond our then imagination . . . Living conditions are far more comfortable.

▼ *The Bishop of Durham having John Balliol whipped. From the mural by Gilbert Spencer in Holywell Manor, c.1934.*

night Porter was easily corrupted; a packet of fags got admission in the small hours – so much easier than a perilous drainpipe climb, which few of us attempted more than once.

The gowns have now gone from Balliol (except for Fellows, and Chapel, where they have recently been readopted by the Choir), the food has improved beyond our then imagination, nobody dreams of making reference to ‘College Servants’, and there is no restriction inviting bribery. Living conditions are far more comfortable, with some en suite facilities and central heating: improvements driven by the need to encourage conference bookings on which the College depends so heavily.

Many social details contrasting then and now come into my head. Smoking, now a furtive deplorable habit: one of my first Tutors invariably began tutorials by offering a cigarette, and the other smoked

memorable cigars. And security. Few staircases had doors, and student rooms (at any rate mine) had no locks. I once got a flea in my ear from the Dean for fixing a padlock to a drawer in my room – not for damaging the furniture, which was utility junk, but for the implication that I did not trust my scout. And laundry. Once a week you packed your shirts etc. in a pillow case and left it at the foot of your staircase in the laundry basket. A few days later your shirts etc. reappeared beautifully ironed, and you were charged through battels in the following term. There were other services on battels which have gone. There was a bike repair man and a seamstress; we were, I suppose, thought incapable of sewing on a button. Above all there was room service; my scout called me every morning – hardly necessary as my room was by the back gate where at dawn hundreds of bottles of milk were noisily unloaded. He would come in with a cheery ‘Mornin’, Sir, it’s rainin’, and pull back the curtains; later he would make my bed and tidy the room.

Students have passed from relative affluence to penury since I arrived in 1961. I was broke then, broke when I graduated, and broke when I was elected to my first Fellowship, but I had no debts. A state scholarship, and a few prizes along the way, had kept me solvent despite unrestrained participation in Balliol life. The College has always done its best to help its poorer people along, which incidentally was one of Dervorguilla’s instructions. But debt-laden departure is now the norm for British students who have no family resource to tap.

In the early 1960s the College, led by Christopher Hill (later Master) and the science Fellows, decided to turn towards research and graduates. This was in tune with the times (though not with Sir David Lindsay Keir, then Master), and the legacy of their initiative is the modern vibrant Holywell Manor graduate community. It is difficult, you might think, to regret anything there. But there is a small downside. In 1961 graduates and undergraduates were mixed up in accommodation and social life, and I believe the undergraduate experience was richer for that.

The evolution which has taken place in so many areas of Balliol life in my time has mostly been in the same directions as in society as a whole, but this is not so for the Chapel, which has bucked the downward drift of the Church of England. The small group of



Chapel-goers has expanded, and there is a lively choir, forming a sub-community within Balliol comparable in impact to say the Boat Club – there has often been much overlap in composition. Whereas Chapel weddings were rare events in the past, the Chaplain now has his work cut out organising them, and often the christenings of the progeny. Long may all that continue.

I have long run out of space and must not let my reflections roam any further. I have said nothing about College government; the creation of an Executive Committee, a novelty for Oxford, was a fundamental change, and the participation of students in its business, strongly resisted to start with, did not do any harm. Nor have I mentioned sport or the JCR or Ray North's pint mugs of tea. Nor have I remarked on the so-called Student Revolution, the College's expansion, or the Norrington Table, but I have given enough politically incorrect hints without going there. Above all, I have

► *The Martyrdom of St Catherine of Alexandria. Woodcut by Albrecht Dürer, 1498, presented by Jonathan Meakins (Fellow 2002–2008) and Jacqueline McClaran.*



said nothing about my experience as Dean, which may disappoint some, but be a relief to others.

I had a euphoric moment during the Septcentenary Commem, dancing in a great conga out of the back gate led by a steel band as dawn broke. That event is one which this year's organisers will find hard to match. But the most satisfying experience has been the St Cross Church project. Work is in progress right now selecting, cataloguing,

[With] the St Cross Church project . . . work is in progress right now selecting, cataloguing, conserving, and arranging for display a range of things from the Archives illustrating some aspects of the College's life.

conserving, and arranging for display a range of things from the Archives illustrating some aspects of the College's life. Details will be publicised later: there will be an illustrated souvenir catalogue containing mini essays on the exhibits, which will also be available to those unable to attend. It is not known how much that will cost, but anyone who would like to reserve a copy may do so by emailing me (john.jones@balliol.ox.ac.uk).

Global Balliol: Sydney

BY ANNE ASKWITH

In the second of a series of articles about Balliol alumni working around the world, Hilary Carey (1980) and Michael Fullilove (1997) – both Australians who came to Balliol as graduates – describe their experiences of living and working in Sydney.



Hilary Carey, Ourimbah Director Research Development, Faculty of Education and Arts at the University of Newcastle, New South Wales



Describe your career since you left Balliol

I left Balliol in 1983, not long after the birth of my daughter Eleanor, who was born while I was working on my DPhil in medieval history. I think I was one of the first of the Balliol women to obtain doctorates, at about the same time as my friends Jane Stapleton, Beverly Lemire, and Jenny Hughes (now Swanson). I worked as a freelance historian, and then tutor and lecturer at Macquarie University and the University of Sydney (as well as giving birth to Ben and finally Beatrice in 1988).

In 1991, I got my first tenured lectureship at the University of Newcastle, New South Wales, on the Hunter River, 150 kilometres north of Sydney. I currently live in Sydney and commute to the University's Central Coast campus, which is about halfway between Sydney and Newcastle. In my early years I taught medieval and Australian history to undergraduates, but more recently I have been concentrating on my research field of religious history. I have been head of the Department of History and Assistant Dean in various roles.

Like most academics, I have also done a lot of travelling and held visiting appointments at places such as the University of St Andrews, Clare Hall at the University of Cambridge, and the York Centre for Medieval Studies. From 2004 to 2005 I spent two years as Keith Cameron Professor of Australian History at University College Dublin and my Irish experience had a big influence on my research. Having got the imperial history bug, I published a history of the colonial missionary movement (*God's Empire*, CUP, 2011) and I am now writing a history of religion and the campaign against convict transportation in the British Empire. I am currently President of the Religious History Association and was recently elected to the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

What does your current position involve?

Being Ourimbah Director Research Development means I am research mentor for the Faculty of Education and Arts at the University of Newcastle's Central Coast campus. The Central Coast is a region of rapid growth, great natural beauty, and high socio-economic need in Sydney's commuter belt. Besides conducting my own on-going research projects with my research group in Newcastle, I encourage staff to seek out research funding and publications, sit on the Faculty's research committee, and try to make sure this regional campus is fully engaged with the region and integrated with the other campuses of the University.

What do you enjoy about your job and what do you find challenging?

My job has two components: research and teaching, which keeps me alive and wanting to get to work (or an archive somewhere) every day, and the research administrator role. I

try to work out a balance between the two. Research in Australia has become more and more competitive and challenging, especially for new researchers trying to break into an established field. It is easy to lose heart and feel that no one wants to listen to what you have to say and – worse – to let the fight for funding overcome the intellectual curiosity and pleasure of discovery which drew you into university teaching and research in the first place. It is a challenge working in a big university in which the major research focus is in medicine and engineering and trying to promote the value of the arts and humanities. I work in a region where many people have never been to university and another challenge is working to ensure equity and access for all students of merit, whatever their background.

How have you come to be based in Sydney?

I was very homesick for Australia by the time I left Balliol, mostly because I missed my family. On a student grant, coming to Oxford had meant living in another country for three years (with no email or Skype) and I wanted to swim in the surf, catch a ferry, and, of course, try to get a job teaching history at an Australian university. I think I was one of the last generation of students for whom Oxford or Cambridge were the natural targets for high-achieving Australian students in the humanities; now they are more likely to head to the US or stay in Australia. I think, like the emigrating clergy I have written about, I feel part of a global intellectual diaspora which piggy-backed on the well-oiled if invisible networks of the former British Empire. These days, Australia feels more connected to Asia, and whereas I headed to Europe as soon as I could save the fare, my children all had backpacking adventures in South East Asia.



Michael Fullilove, Executive Director of the Lowy Institute for International Policy

What do you love about where you live in Australia?

Sydney is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. I watch the New Year's Day fireworks erupting over Sydney Harbour and wonder why anyone would want to leave. I am writing this in the State Library of New South Wales (taking time out from reading about convicts) and soon I will walk across the road to the Botanical Gardens with its spectacular views across to the Opera House and Harbour Bridge. It is hard to live without access to the water if you have grown up with it. I also love Newcastle with its Victorian cityscape, busy working harbour and liveable, 'can do' lifestyle and attitude. Across the whole continent, there is something for everyone.

Is there anything you miss about the UK?

Having worked every day in the Old Bodleian Library, when I went home I was heartbroken not to have access to medieval manuscripts and materials. Now cheap airfares have made it much easier to get back to work on original sources. I was deeply attached to the British Museum and its medieval galleries and manuscripts. Each time I return I pay a visit and find new things I never knew were there. Wonderful!

Would you recommend life in Australia?

Yes, I would recommend life here. It is a hard question to answer without dropping into tourist promotional cliché but the space, climate, lifestyle, and excellent working conditions for professional people are hard to beat. The large Asian population in most Australian cities is important to the changing identity of Sydney, which I think has become a global city of the south. The global economic crisis has not been a crisis for Australians, largely because of the mining boom. Australia is home to me.



Describe your career since you left Balliol

Before I went to Balliol, I was a lawyer and an adviser to the then Prime Minister of Australia, Paul Keating.

After Balliol, I married Gillian Fullilove (née Charlton), a Corpuscle whom I met while I was at Balliol. We have three young sons, Patrick, Thomas, and Alexander. I helped to establish the Lowy Institute for International Policy, Australia's leading think tank; I served as the director of the Lowy Institute's Global Issues programme; as a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC, I followed the rise of Barack Obama; and I wrote a book on Franklin D Roosevelt called *Rendezvous with Destiny: How Franklin D. Roosevelt and Five Extraordinary Men Took America into the War and into the World*, to be published by Penguin in 2013 (see page 43). I was appointed Executive Director of the Lowy Institute in August 2012.

What does your current position involve?

Being ED of the Lowy Institute involves leading Australia's pre-eminent think tank to publish research and generate fresh ideas on Australia's role in the world.

What do you enjoy about your job and what do you find challenging?

I love working with my exceptional colleagues at the Institute. The corridor conversation at our Bligh Street headquarters is fascinating: leadership transitions in the US and China, conflict in Syria and Gaza, the rise of diasporas, the challenges of Melanesia, democracy in Indonesia – it's like living in the pages of *The New York Times*.

How have you come to be based in Sydney?

I was born in Sydney and it's my favourite city in the world. I love the harbour, the ocean pools, the remarkable friendliness and diversity of the people, the optimism of the place, the sense that the geopolitical and economic action is all headed our way, the old Sydney characters I've known all my life.

Is there anything you miss about the UK?

Naturally there are things I miss about Oxford, especially Oxford summers – the soft light, the golden sandstone, the Trout, the Rad Cam when you come upon it late at night, the Codrington Library, the garden at Holywell Manor, all my great Oxford friends. But I brought the best of Oxford – my wife Gillian – home to Sydney with me.

The ethics of narrative non-fiction

BY JONNY STEINBERG (1995)

Central to any book is a contract, by its nature unwritten, between the reader and the writer. It consists of a set of rules the writer must obey if anybody is going to bother to read his book. What they are depends on the genre of the book. I want to talk here about the sort I write, narrative non-fiction, where the subject of the book is a real, living person. When the reader opens such a book, she will expect to see a particular sort of construction. If she does not see it, she will close the book and do something else with her time. She may even be offended and accuse the author of an ethical breach. What is it that readers expect to see when they start reading?

In a recent essay, David Grossman, the Israeli novelist, writes about the difference between writing about a person and making love to him:

We tend to think that when we merge completely with another person, in moments of love and sexual contact, we know that person in an incomparable way. In biblical Hebrew the sex act is even connoted with the verb 'to know'. 'And the man knew Eve, his wife,' says Genesis. But at the highest moments of love, if we are not completely focused on ourselves or on a pointed projection of our heart's desires onto our partner, we are usually directed towards what is good, beautiful, attractive and sweet in him. Not to all his complexities, all his different tones and shades – in short, not to everything that makes him 'an Other' in the deepest and fullest

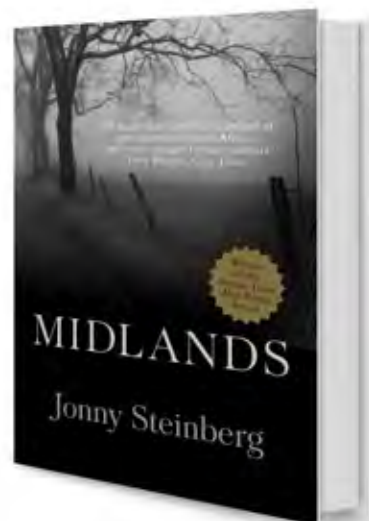
I was looking for the places where his soul shatters and his consciousness crumbles – these things are not hard to find in a man who has just lost his son – in order to tell a story . . .

sense of the word. But when we write about the Other, we aspire to reach the knowledge that encompasses the unloved parts in him as well, the parts that deter and threaten. The places where his soul is shattered and his consciousness crumbles.¹

Whether she knows it consciously or not, the reader of a work of narrative non-fiction is acutely aware of the difference between making love to someone and writing about him. When she senses that an author has crossed the line and has begun to make love to, rather than write about, his subject, she puts the book aside. Part of a reviewer's job is to give advance warning, and let prospective readers know whether the author is on the right side of the line.

I am thinking here of my own experience. Reading a couple of the reviews of my book *Little Liberia*,² I saw that I had almost crossed the line between writing about, and making love to, a subject. In the epilogue, I describe giving a draft copy of the manuscript to a man named Jacob, one of the book's two protagonists. Jacob sits up through the night reading every word very closely. When he summons me to his apartment the next day, I see the loose pages of the manuscript strewn all over the floor, each covered in coloured highlighting and ballpoint marginalia. Jacob sits me down and goes through his objections one by one, a process that takes seven hours. I accede to some of his demands and not to others.

Several reviews of the book paid special attention to the epilogue. Some said that what I did was controversial, or edgy. They were suggesting that I had come close to admitting that I had colluded with Jacob, that together we had found all the places where his soul



had shattered and his consciousness crumbled and that we had patched him up, and thus presented him to the reader as a lover, not a writer, might see him. The suggestion was that I had almost played a trick on the reader but that I had just managed to stay on the right side of the breach.

And so you can see a potential problem that emerges from the triangular relationship between reader, writer and subject. It is not difficult to imagine moments when a writer of narrative non-fiction must choose between betraying either the reader or the subject.

To put it dramatically, one might say that the writer is a spy working in the employ of the reader. You are invited into the subject's home, where you memorise the furniture, the photographs on the mantelpiece. You take notes the moment you leave, while the visit remains fresh in your memory. You are gathering goodies to take back to the reader.

But it is of course not quite right to call the non-fiction writer a spy, for he does not employ a private eye and he seldom snoops around himself. After all, the subject invited him in. Why does she do so? Why does she consent to allow thousands of strangers, many of them voracious, hungry people with little sympathy for her, to see the places where her soul shatters and her consciousness crumbles? Each has her own reasons, often very private, often quite opaque, even to herself. I want to take as an example a man about whom I wrote.

The book is called *Midlands*.³ I began writing it in 1999. Much in the news at that time was a syndrome that South Africans were beginning to call 'farm murders', a horribly loaded term that signified far too much. Narrowly speaking, it referred to what appeared to be an escalation of murders of white farmers by black predators. But it was



also shorthand for the expression of a great fear: that beneath the cover of South Africa's reconciliatory transition to democracy, the country's unfinished revolution against landed whites was covertly underway.

I went out into the countryside looking for a farm murder to write about. In the midlands of KwaZulu-Natal, I heard of a killing that piqued my interest. A 28-year-old white man had been ambushed and shot dead on his father's farm. The white family had bought the property less than a year earlier. Immediately, a dispute had arisen between them and the nine black tenant families who had lived on the farm for the last three generations. On the day of the murder, all the black men who lived on the farm cleared out. In the following weeks they started drifting back, settled into their homes and resumed daily life. I had clearly come across a hugely emblematic story, about race, land, change; about communication across frontiers, about justice. It was a story I very much wanted to write.

I introduced myself to the grieving father a couple of months after the murder. He spoke with me, he warmed to the idea of my writing about the murder, he took me into his home. I, of course, took mental notes about the furniture, about the absence of photographs of the dead man in the public parts of the house. The father told me a little of his personal history, and I scanned that, too, for many things, among them his unloved parts.

Step back and look at the narrative structure into which I would inevitably place the parts of him that I was gathering. He bought a farm, moved in, and his relationship with the people who lived there immediately soured. Things escalated. His son was killed. I was looking for the places where his soul shatters and his consciousness crumbles – these things are not hard to find in a man who has just lost his son – in order to tell a story about why his relationship with his new tenants disintegrated the moment it began. However well I might write the book, however subtly I might depict the historical forces shaping the situation and the people in it, the fact remained that in straining to deliver to the reader his shattered soul and his

crumbling consciousness, I was also offering an explanation of why his son died. That his weakness or blindness or his sheer racism lay at the bottom of his son's death was a constant possibility, even if it was one that never materialised. It was in fact the very possibility that gave the narrative its energy.

That's what I was doing. What was he doing? Well, he was grieving, deeply, and the vengeance inside him was boiling over. He could not believe that these people had killed his son and gone on with their lives without consequence, on his doorstep. But he also very much needed to keep a boundary between them and him: the boundary between the civilised and the uncivilised. As much as he might want to, he could not butcher one of them – for if he were to do so he would lose his sense of self as well as his liberty.

And so one of the substitutes he went for was exposure – expose a little of himself to a writer in order to expose his enemy to the world. A fair exchange.

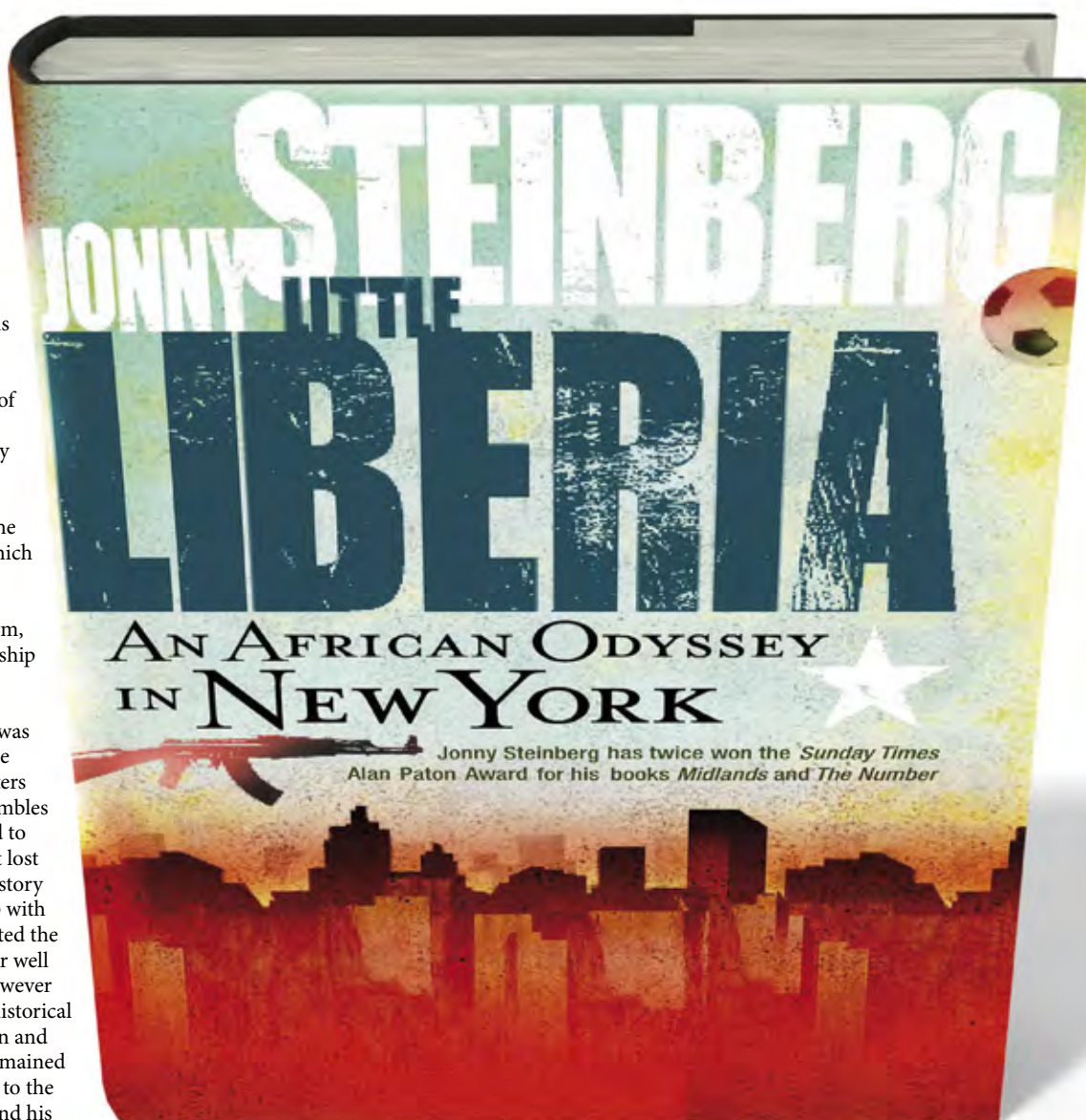
The week the book was published, it was extracted in his local newspaper and all of his neighbours read it: the description of the furniture in his lounge, of the absence of photographs. Why did you let him in, they asked? Why did you let him describe your house that way? Why did you allow him to use you to get at *us*?

For it was of course as if all their homes had been flung open to the eyes of strangers; as if all their relationships with black tenants had been held up for scrutiny. Only now did he realise what he had done. Until the day his neighbours read the book, he had thought he had been trading only his own shattered soul.

1 David Grossman, *Writing in the Dark: Essays on Literature and Politics* (London: Bloomsbury, 2009), p. 37.

2 London: Jonathan Cape, 2011.

3 Johannesburg: Jonathan Ball, 2007.



Memories of a Romanian childhood

BY ALEXANDRU POPESCU (1994) AND CARMEN BUGAN (2000)

Alexandru Popescu (1994) talks to Carmen Bugar (2000) about her memoir, *Burying the Typewriter*.¹

AP: Thank you, Carmen, for speaking to me about your memoir, *Burying the Typewriter*.² The structure of the book is suggestive of a triptych, of the soul, if I may say so: you begin with the poem 'Visiting the Country of My Birth', written shortly after your visit to Romania in July 2010; continue with the prose memoir of your childhood, which illustrates the poem; and end the book with a small selection of documents about your family from the archive of the Secret Police. Your father, the political dissident Ion Bugar, had served many years in Romanian communist prisons and after his release was followed day and night, along with your mother, because of his opposition to the Ceausescu government. At the time of publication of this interview you have obtained most of your family archive from the Romanian Securitate, documenting your family's life from 1961 until your emigration to the US in 1989.

While the book is a straightforward, truthful narrative of my childhood as I remembered it from the distance of almost 20 years of exile, it is also a sort of prayer that I may understand my place on earth.

CB: 'Visiting the Country of My Birth' was written in July 2010 when I had seen my father's files from 1961 until his public demonstration against Ceausescu in 1983 (the files from 1983 until 1989 arrived at the end of 2012). As you say, the role of the poem is to compress the actual and the metaphorical returns to Romania and to set up the complicated relationship that I have with my native country. The whole book illustrates, illuminates, and interprets the images and meanings of this poem. Metaphorically, the book is the result of my 'return' to my country. Another way to look at this is through the prayer that Ovid made at the beginning of his long poem *Tristia*, when he asked the book to return to the places he loved; if he couldn't return to his homeland physically, he tried to reach it 'with what feet I may'. My book is the 'feet' with which I returned to Romania.

Chronologically, the poem was written after I had completed the memoir. I wrote the book in 2006–2007. The structure of the book arose from a need that was poetic and spiritual in equal measure. While the book is a straightforward, truthful narrative of my childhood as I remembered it from the distance of almost 20 years of exile, it is also a sort of prayer that I may understand my place on earth. The role of the documents at the back is to provide a hard, factual context to my memories, to underline the truth I tell in the book, but also, more significantly, to show that there is an historical version of my family, a biography, written by someone else. In terms of literary style the presence of the files provides a contrast to the narrative voice. In my own words I tell the intimate story of a child who grew up



while being followed and informed on. The official government versions of our lives and the events that took place are sometimes true and sometimes fabrications in order to create an image of us, which suited their own purpose of inflicting psychological torture on us. For example, certain information is correct, such as the date of my father's demonstration, the days in which he was followed, or the time when we woke up as a family. However, the portrait of my parents is not always correct: the Secret Police, with the help of various 'informers' who had created gossip and rumours, constructed a public image of my father as an enemy of the people, and as an unstable human being.

AP: Do you know if there exists an unedited version of the files?

CB: I have only seen the documents I was meant to see. By reading the files I can infer missing years, missing facts, the fact that there exists secretly recorded video, audio, and photographic material on my family which was never given to me for consultation. The material that I have includes sections that were blotted out in black ink; it had been well 'cleaned' before it reached me.

AP: Through your memoir you make a public confession with the voice of the child that you were; you confess to readers who are aware that memory is imperfect and faulty. The prayer before confession in our Orthodox tradition involves asking forgiveness for things done and undone, remembered and not remembered, intended and not intended, simply because we do not know all the ways in which we sin. The important thing is to express our sense of repentance. In reading your book I feel that you expressed this sense of repentance for everyone, including the Securitate who caused suffering to your family.

CB: Confession and testimony are two great aspects of writing a book, especially one of this kind. Blame, finger-pointing, and putting victims on a pedestal are not issues which interest me at all and I have made a great effort to keep them out of my writing. The point that I am making, however, is that torturer and tortured, liar and lied to, coward and hero, we were citizens of the same country, we lived with each other, and our character as human beings was shaped by living in that situation. This is why I feel shame for all of us.

AP: The relationship between you and your father has been transformed since I met you years ago. Now you seem prouder of him. I think you could feel shame for everyone, Carmen, but not for him. Ion Bugan is a very rare type of dissident. He accepted that he would remain anonymous among his fellow men, accepted hard suffering, and answered only to God: he was a kind of Job. What do you think he will make of your book? As far as I know him he will just say, 'Well, my little girl has written another poem.'

CB: My father doesn't speak enough English to read the whole book and he is waiting for a Romanian translation. My book might sadden him because it shows the cost of his heroism to us. He is proud of me, yet he doesn't exaggerate with praise; he is very down to earth about my writing. He sees my literary work as being very different from his real, hard-life contribution to history – which is very true. What I see in the archives now makes me more proud of him than I was before: despite all the harassment he endured, my father did not compromise his principles that human beings should be free and should have an honest chance of making the best of their lives. I wrote the book in great part also as a tribute to him and my mother and I am only too happy that it could come out while they are still alive and, well, able to enjoy it!

AP: In an interview I had with your father in 2007 he said, 'I thought that if I live in dignity in front of God while all the others accept becoming lesser people, I, as a Romanian, can say that through me my nation retained its dignity.' This reminded me of Petre Tutea's dictum: 'You can make an ocean holy with one drop of holy water.' I think Ion Bugan has the conscience of a confessor of the faith.

CB: Yes. Yet this aspect of sacrifice must also be viewed from a down-to-earth, domestic point of view. Day to day my father was a man hurt by life as much as he has remained a man who never stops believing that the world can improve. Both he and my mother were refused the most basic chance of having a peaceful, settled family life. I can't

even begin to imagine what he suffered in those harshest of prisons. There is a conversation between my father and my five-year-old brother that took place in the first few days after he had returned from prison. I found it in the files and I want to relate it in full at the end of this interview because it illustrates a truth about my father's personality: the terrible tension between wanting to be a gentle parent and yet remaining too aware of being a man who no longer believed in anyone.

AP: I am fascinated by the fact that from the age of 19, when you left Romania, you have refused to write in your native language. What is the relationship between language and identity in your case?

CB: The question of language and identity makes me ask another question: do I have the right to forget my native language? It's a question of attitude towards language, the solution to which for me is this: think of trying to stop the flow of a river with a barricade of boulders and stones. Eventually the water goes around the stones. If my feelings are blocked in Romanian, they will go around the boulders and come out around them, in English. The most fundamental aspect of being a writer is the capacity to write in the language in which you feel that you are yourself, not necessarily in your native language.

AP: Mircea Eliade said, 'Romanian is the language in which I dream.' In what language do you dream?

CB: In English, in all the senses of the word.

AP: Oblivion is annihilating; by forgetting, one achieves a sort of moral immunity. What do you have to say about forgiveness?

CB: I think forgiveness was always part of me. The coldness I had felt towards Romania was due to the conditions under which I left. But I have spoken in my book and in my poems about people who, as you say, 'make the ocean holy' with a drop of kindness: think of the literature teacher who fed me with sandwiches when I could have starved to death as a 12-year-old. At the end of my poem 'Visiting the Country of My Birth' I talk about going back to Romania to look for the souls of my grandparents in the playful sounds of birds living under the eaves of their old house: this is also a kind of salvation, a forgiveness for a people with a history too complex to generalise about. The fact that I still return to my early childhood as to the most meaningful time of my life, a time of eternity and of miracles, means that there remained a part of me which was not destroyed. This has everything to do with forgiveness or at least with putting the history into perspective:



the historical moment was just a moment, not everything. My relationship with Romania, as *Burying the Typewriter* I hope shows, is not only one of suffering but also one of roots and love, and plum jam, even though I can write about it only in English.

12 February 1988 Conversation between Carmen's father, Ion Bugan, who had recently returned from prison, on 5 February, and Carmen's five-year- old brother, as recorded and transcribed by the Secret Police

'Barbu' [The code name for the in-house recording]

'In attention' [Note written on the top-left corner of the text]

6.00 a.m., in the room in which the 'object of observation' listens to the news from Radio Free Europe. The children sleep; he is listening by himself.

At 7.35 a.m. Carmen leaves the house . . .

The 'obj' is reciting the following verse to his son:

*Let us not by the will of the
Holy God
Crave blood, instead of land.
When we will reach the end
of patience,
Everything, by turn, will end.*

Son: Is this all?

'Obj': Eh! I no longer know this poem . . . I would like to live alone, not with people, because I do not trust them.

Son: Is this what is meant by loneliness?

'Obj': Yes.

1 This interview was recorded in Romanian on 9 June 2012 at Blackwell's bookshop in Oxford. It was transcribed by Alexandru Popescu, and translated into English and edited by Carmen Bugan and Alexandru Popescu.

2 Picador/Macmillan in the UK and Graywolf Press in the United States, 2012.

STOP PRESS

Burying the Typewriter has been shortlisted for the Orwell Prize 2013, to be awarded on 15 May for the work that comes closest to George Orwell's ambition 'to make political writing into an art'.

Educate, inform, entertain

BY PHOEBE BRAITHWAITE (2011)

The world of television is often veiled in glamour. Speaking to two Balliol alumni, Vanessa Engle (1981) and Derek Wax (1980), shed some light on the realities of the industry, and revealed something of the dedication and idealism which making television can involve.

When asked about the design and intention of the films she makes, BBC documentary maker **Vanessa Engle** appeals to the set of Reithian values which have been the foundation of the BBC. She describes her own remit in similar terms: 'to educate, inform and entertain' is, she believes, her films' responsibility. 'You have to



remember that people are going to be watching this for relaxation, after a long day at work,' and that if you wish to teach people about 'something they didn't know about before, you have to be entertaining and stimulating'. But is it the task of television more to educate or to entertain, and – nearly 90 years after Lord Reith established them – are these principles still relevant to the kind of television made today?

Engle has been making films for 25 years as a member of the BBC, and is proud of everything she has done in that time. Each film, she says, has been on a subject close to her heart. She started out with *Art & the 60s* and moved on to *Lefties*, *Jews*, *Women*, and *Money*, both subjects that clearly represent aspects

of Engle's own experience. And you can see why she is proud of them: deft and compassionate, they constitute the heart of what the BBC stands for and what Reith set out to achieve, the kind of probity which manages to combine a sense of the personal with an unbiased desire to hear what people have to say.

She has recently moved away from examining political subjects and into less divided territory: *Walking with Dogs: A Wonderland Special*, aired recently on BBC2, dispensed with any conscious agenda and sought instead to connect with those interviewed and those watching by way of their canine friends. Whereas the arts films Engle once made had a lot of ideas-based content, she has moved 'more recently away from that, more towards films about people's psychology and their relationship to the world, as opposed to theoretical things. The films I make now are more apparently mundane but they can be purer . . . much more revealing. *Dogs* . . . is the first film I've made which was not interrogating some kind of ideology but actually the interesting

thing is that it's been my most popular film.' Engle sees the essential purpose of the films she makes as 'holding up a mirror to your own life', be it by looking at how others live or simply by learning new things about the world around us, and this spirit of honest enquiry is present in every moment of these documentaries.

Though she dabbled in drama early on in her career, Engle says the flirtation was brief and she soon found her way to documentary because she found 'real people more interesting than invented characters'. 'People would sit around in meetings discussing what fictional creations would and wouldn't do, and it all had to be plausible.' But, taking a step back, she says she was confronted with the 'implausibility and strangeness of real life', and that this is what drew her to her profession. I ask her to describe the role she plays in the creation of her films, and with pride she answers 'everything' – she is director, producer, writer and voice. Laughing and asking me not to make her sound too pretentious, she calls herself an 'auteur documentary maker' and describes her specialism as one which is becoming ever more niche.

Engle says she has been lucky never really to have been out of work for the past 15 years. Nevertheless, working in a creative market can feel unstable: 'You never quite know what's coming down the pipeline . . . Because the industry has been in such a state of flux as a result of different media coming in, no one has been completely confident about which genres have a life.' The problem is compounded by the fact that 'documentary is quite a beleaguered genre'. Engle compares herself to a Wapping printer (which I originally pictured to be a 'whopping' printer, as in 'a whopping great printer' . . .) to express her fear that the medium could simply be superseded by newfangled pursuits, as 6,000 newspaper workers experienced at the hands of News International proprietor Rupert Murdoch in 1984: 'Maybe they'll just stop having a use for me.'



Television producer **Derek Wax** has worked at the television production company Kudos for seven years now and is currently Executive Producer for *The Hour*. He began his career directing in the theatre, from drama schools to the National Theatre and the Old Vic. He loved it, but laments the inherent evanescence of these early



pursuits, though he acknowledges this is part of theatre's charm. From theatre Wax moved to the BBC as a script editor because of a feeling – similar to Vanessa Engle's – of the insecurity that working in the arts can entail. But Wax is clear that moving from the theatre into television 'didn't feel like a step down' because he moved at an exciting time for television, to a flourishing department, with expertise and a guaranteed budget. Becoming a producer felt like a natural development, and he shows unequivocal relish for the 'rich and detailed' process of production, which as Executive Producer he oversees from beginning to end.

What is striking about Wax's portfolio is its eclecticism: from lighter fare to more serious drama dealing with anything from a 1950s newsroom in *The Hour* to gay communities in Glasgow (*Lip Service*). *Occupation*, written by Peter Bowker (and shown being filmed in Marrakech below), was made in 2009 and won a BAFTA for Best Serial; Wax thought 'there was a different way which wasn't necessarily about politics or issues or just saying George Bush was a bad man' to comment on Iraq. Dealing with subjects from a human angle is, he says, what motivates him, and so 'it was about portraying the experience as authentically as we

could, entering the skin of the characters, rather than setting them up to drive a message home'. The result was a story of 'three men who had come back from the war and who all felt impelled to go back for different reasons: for money, for love, for conscience'.

Occupation is one of the two projects Wax is most proud to have developed and

produced. The other is *Sex Traffic*, written by Abi Morgan, who is also writer of *The Hour*. It was endorsed by Amnesty International and UNICEF 'when they saw how thorough and authentic it was'. It 'was a big challenge to make: we were filming in Romania, the UK, and Canada. One of the crucial decisions I had to make was to ensure we hired the right director. David Yates had a brilliant sense of how to make it work in an understated way, rather than trying to sensationalise the subject. He brought a low-key, almost mundane realism to it which made it feel both gripping and all the more horrifying.' *Sex Traffic* won eight BAFTAs in 2005.

Underpinning the television Wax makes is a belief in the purpose and significance these shows can have. 'I think that the best television opens people's minds and stays with them. It's stuff which takes you into a different world.' At the heart of his practice is getting inside the heads of complex, engaging characters. 'I always feel that if you set out with an issue to impose on a viewer ... it kills the drama.' Wax studied English at

Balliol and ran both the Balliol Arts Committee and the Dramatic Society, and says he prioritises original writers because of his 'interest in brilliant storytelling'. Television offers the kind of storytelling which can really work its way into people's lives, so when he says that the shows he loves are, to him, in the same sort of world as the Dickens novels his younger self would get stuck into, I share his sentiment. 'You can understand why people spend hours discussing [*Mad Men*]'s Don Draper ... It's because there's a richness and a complexity of subtext, because his motivations aren't obvious. I think ultimately an interest in psychology, relationships and human beings is why most people study literature.' Perhaps also why they go into TV.

This approach is in some ways the reverse of the kind of work Vanessa Engle does, hers residing in the unpredictable reality of the people she interviews. But what both Wax and Engle agree about unequivocally is a commitment to the issues of the world we live in and a desire to affect and stay with the public they are seeking to engage. And though their professional and artistic attitudes differ in places, I am also struck by how much middle ground they share. At core what links these two figures is a creative vision based on a belief that art and life are

in continual dialogue, and an understanding that, when it comes to delivering a message, less is often more. Fictional or otherwise, the television both Wax and Engle make is rooted in representing life and influencing those who watch it, by education, information and entertainment in concurrence.

What links these two figures is a creative vision based on a belief that art and life are in continual dialogue, and an understanding that, to deliver a message, less is often more.



A lasting legacy in cosmochemistry

BY ALICE LIGHTON (2007)

Grenville Turner (1958), Balliol graduate and Emeritus Professor at Manchester University, is a 21st-century space scientist, studying the distant cosmos from the relative comfort of his well-equipped Earth-based laboratory. By analysing meteorites and other rocks from space he has made contributions to cosmochemistry which have profoundly informed our history of the solar system and the universe.

Turner arrived at Balliol from St John's College, Cambridge, as a graduate student in nuclear physics. His research at the time had little to do with his future area of expertise, space: he was given the task of designing and building a new kind of mass spectrometer, to determine the proportions of helium isotopes produced in nuclear bombardment carried out at Harwell. Individual chemical elements each have the same number of protons, but can have different numbers of neutrons, and are said to be isotopes of each other (*isos*/same; *topos*/place, i.e. place in the periodic table). Helium, with two protons, normally has two neutrons (He-4) but occasionally only one (He-3). A mass spectrometer can separate them with a magnet and measure how much there is of each.

Turner spent three years in the Clarendon Laboratory developing the new techniques of ultra high vacuum, in the process learning how to build a complicated mass spectrometer in stainless steel and avoid the frustrating leaks which regularly appeared in copper gaskets, until at the end of three years he could turn to actually making measurements. He completed his degree in the fourth year thanks to financial assistance from Balliol, and took up a post as Assistant Professor at the University of California Berkeley, with John Reynolds.

In 1956 Reynolds had built the world's first ultra high vacuum mass spectrometer in glass

and, incidentally, had just sold one to the Oxford Geology Department for their newly formed Geochronology unit. Turner arrived at Berkeley in 1962, an exciting time for the Reynolds group. Reynolds had recently started measuring noble gases trapped in meteorites – rocks from space – in his machine. Meteorites, which originate in the asteroid belt between Jupiter and Mars, were formed at the birth of the solar system; they are the debris left over from the creation of the planets. Reynolds had just discovered the first example of an extinct radioactive isotope, iodine-129. Having a 'short' half life of only 16 million years it no longer exists in the solar system but it is produced in exploding stars, supernovae, and was present four and a half billion years ago when the solar system formed. What Reynolds had observed was in fact not iodine-129 (being now extinct) but enrichments of xenon-129, the isotope into which iodine-129 decays. Since then another ten extinct isotopes have been discovered and by measuring their decay relative to a stable isotope, for example iodine-127,

they can be used as a kind of 'stop clock' to work out the very precise sequence of events in the first few million years of solar system history.

In addition to working on 'iodine-xenon' dating, Turner discovered a strange component of xenon in a carbonaceous meteorite, which 23 years later led to the unearthing by Chicago chemists of the first so-called pre-solar grains, mineral grains that formed around long-dead stars and which contain a wealth of information about element building (nucleosynthesis) in stars.

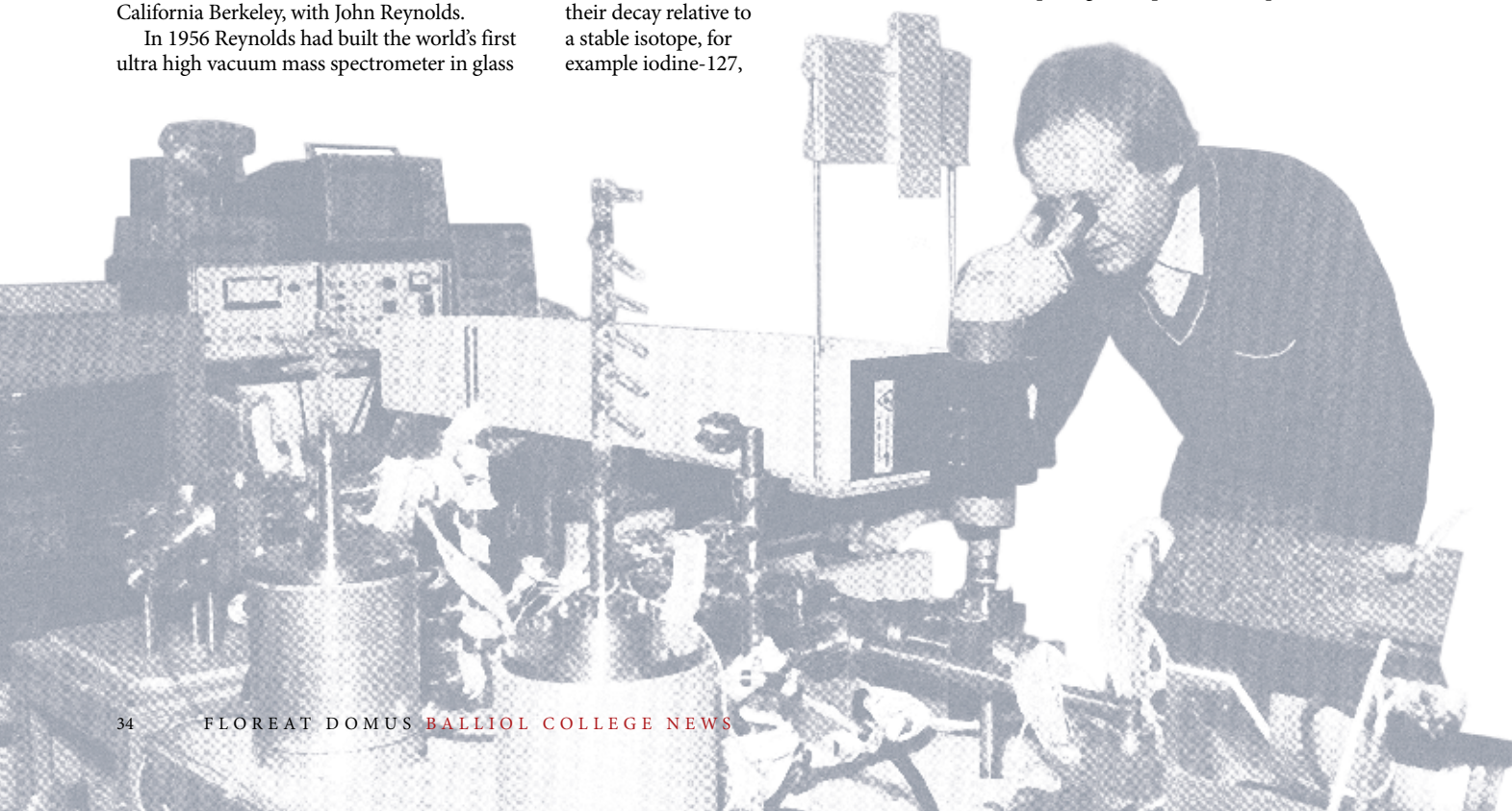
After a productive two years at Berkeley, Turner returned to his native Yorkshire, joining Sheffield University. Cosmochemistry was a new discipline not yet established there. 'I was something of a one-man band,' he says. He spent many months setting up equipment, in the meantime continuing to analyse data from the experiments he had performed in California.

Dating breakthrough

While glancing through some unexplained argon measurements from Berkeley, Turner had a flash of inspiration which led to what is now one of the most commonly used methods for dating rocks. Potassium-argon dating had been developed in the late 1950s and relies on the existence in all potassium of a tiny amount, 0.01 per cent, of a radioactive isotope, potassium-40, which decays over time into the noble gas isotope argon-40. Potassium-40 is a minor source of heat in the Earth, while the argon-40 released from the Earth's interior makes up 1 per cent of the Earth's atmosphere. The

build-up of argon-40 in a rock such as granite from the time it solidified and cooled can be used to date the formation of the rock, but has some problems. First of all the potassium and argon are measured by two different techniques requiring two equivalent samples. Also various

While glancing through some unexplained argon measurements from Berkeley, Turner had a flash of inspiration which led to what is now one of the most commonly used methods for dating rocks.



processes such as heating or weathering can lead to partial loss of argon at some intermediate time rendering the 'age' deduced meaningless and a source of uncertainty (and argument).

As part of the iodine-xenon dating experiments at Berkeley, meteorites had been irradiated with neutrons to convert (normal) iodine-127 to xenon-128. The ratio of the excess xenon-129 to the artificially generated xenon-128 was then converted to the ratio of extinct iodine-129 to normal iodine-127, and the (stop-clock) relative age of the meteorite calculated. But the neutron irradiation also produced argon-39 from potassium-39, so in a similar way the ratio of argon-40 to argon-39 could be converted to a potassium-argon age.

So far so good, but here is the bottom line. Not only can the method be applied to minute mineral grains without the need for separate potassium and argon analyses, but also, by releasing the argon by a series of heating steps, gas (and apparent ages) can be obtained from different mineral sites, such as the surface and interiors of grains. This is what the Berkeley argon data indicated. The 'age' of the gas released in the first few steps was 500 million years and indicated the time when the precursor asteroid had been involved in a major heating event, probably its destruction in a collision. Ages, as indicated by the higher temperature argon releases, rose to four and a half billion years, the age of the solar system.

The method is now one of the most widely used ways of dating both meteorites and terrestrial rocks. As a tour de force and to test the method, someone has recently used it to 'date' the AD 79 eruption of Vesuvius. In 1964, however, Turner was the only one doing it. 'It happened at a very convenient time,' he says: as he was refining the technique, NASA put out a call for scientists to work on the Apollo missions and, with the support of John Reynolds, Turner became a principal investigator.

'When the astronauts brought back these rocks I got a nice selection to apply this technique on. Nobody else was using [argon-argon dating] so it was really good – I had the field to myself, which always helps,' says Turner modestly. Needless to say it didn't take long for others to catch on.

Forty years since man first set foot on the moon, it is easy to forget the excitement the moon landings generated. Shortly after the Apollo 11 astronauts and their cargo of moon rocks returned to Earth, NASA sent Turner a sample of dust. The Sheffield museum put the dust on display for a few days. 'There were queues and queues of people going round the museum, outside the museum, round the park outside waiting to see this bit of dirt,' Turner recalls.

However, when the dust came into Turner's laboratory (left) it remained securely in the safe! 'I didn't dare put it in my machine to measure anything,' he says. 'We all knew that the dust would be absolutely loaded with solar wind (the sun's atmosphere streaming out into interplanetary space). The possibility of this fine dust, with its cargo of the 'wrong sort of argon', contaminating the extraction furnace

couldn't be allowed. Turner sat tight and waited for samples of actual rock to arrive. Eventually, in November, more sizeable pieces of beautifully crystalline rock appeared. There followed a hectic two months until all the principal investigators presented their preliminary results at a NASA conference in Houston in January 1970.

Shortly after the Apollo 11 astronauts and their cargo of moon rocks returned to earth, NASA sent Turner a sample of dust.

Working in the dark

Uniquely for this first Apollo mission, NASA had an embargo on the release of results, including press briefings, until the day of the conference. 'You had to come along with your abstract, which was your ticket to the conference,' Turner recalls, 'and you didn't know what anyone else was going to find. This was great from my

point of view as an individual researcher in competition with some large laboratories. Contamination was a problem for some investigators. This was particularly true for attempts to measure lead isotopes in lunar rocks. In the 1970s there was so much lead in the environment from petrol that without adequate clean room conditions some ended up just measuring terrestrial lead. There were some red faces.'

Successive lunar missions brought more moon rock to Earth, until the Apollo programme was terminated in 1972. Yet, 40 years on, arguments abound about the moon's history.

The moon has no atmosphere, so its surface is littered with craters – most meteorites slow down in the atmosphere before reaching Earth's surface. Only the very largest reach the Earth's surface with their 'cosmic' velocity of several kilometres per second. As we saw from the recent example in Russia, some very large objects explode as a result of the shock pressure. Rocks in several lunar craters have been sampled by astronauts. Most of those near a crater rim have been brought to the surface by the formation of the crater and exposed to cosmic rays since then. Bombardment by cosmic rays generates various isotopes from the target species in the rocks, including, for example, argon-38 and argon-36 from calcium-40. This build-up can be used to date the craters and help us estimate the probabilities of Earth impacts.

It's hard not to be fascinated by the history of the solar system that we call home. Turner is full of stories and his interest is infectious. An early result of his and other analyses seems to show that 3.9 billion years ago, 500 million years after the solar system's formation, the moon suffered a battering from meteors slamming into the surface and leaving huge basins and craters, the 'Late Heavy Bombardment'. 'There are lots of basins, some the size of Wales, to coin a phrase,' says Turner. 'But we still don't know what caused such a cataclysmic event. A Swiss colleague of mine produced a map of Europe showing statistically how the lunar



bombardment might have appeared there. He had a different distribution of craters depending on the nationality and prejudices of his audience!'

'A current suggestion is that initially Jupiter and the giant planets were in different orbits, which became unstable and they moved further out,' Turner continues. 'As they moved, this basically caused an upset in the smaller bodies, the asteroids and so on, and these collided with the moon and Earth at that time.'

Over his career, Turner has seen the field develop from a few people building their own mass spectrometers to the use of sophisticated commercial instruments in hundreds of

laboratories worldwide. Like many of his colleagues he has an asteroid named in his honour, 15523 Grenville, but using his first name is a nice twist.

Analysing lunar rocks can help understand the geology of our own planet, too. As Turner explains, the Apollo programme was a great spur for terrestrial research: 'It made people improve their techniques, and a lot of the interpretations that came out of the moon spurred some critical thinking about the Earth.'

While man is unlikely to head back to the moon any time soon, 'There's still quite a lot of interest in the moon,' Turner says. But although it continues to offer challenges for the interested scientist, the work is less exciting

than it was. 'Things just moved so quickly in the 1970s because everything was new.' The next generation is looking for new challenges where they can make their mark. 'Mars is a complicated active planet and a place where a lot of the interest is now, particularly if you can bring samples back,' says Turner. That seems unlikely at present, but Mars surface experiments able to perform isotopic analysis and dating *in situ* are being designed.

Spaceflight has changed since the 1970s. The shadow of the Cold War has gone, and Europe, America, Russia and others are now working together on a mission to Mars. Who knows what they might find?

An early result of Turner's and other analyses seems to show that 3.9 billion years ago, 500 million years after the solar system's formation, the moon suffered a battering from meteors slamming into the surface and leaving huge basins and craters.

Olympic reflections or ‘Reflets dans l’eau’

BY RICHARD (DICK) WHEADON (1951)

Balliol has a distinguished record of intellectual excellence sustained over many years. In January 1952 it could not claim a rowing reputation of comparable calibre. However, there were minds at work, led by George (John) Blacker, intent on changing that.

Ignorant of this and indeed of rowing in general when I came up in 1951, I found myself rowing the next term in the 1st Torpid. We are pictured below as we make our way from the Balliol barge, moored by the Christ Church Meadow towpath near Salter’s Yard, to collect our boat from a boathouse (now burned down) that was opposite where the College boathouse now is. Our dress betrays a motley crew: Pete Steffens, Barry Cox, Jock Ferguson, Raymond Parkhurst, Roger Robinson, Bill ‘Bodger’ Brooks, George Grosse, me, and Peter Eggington, our cox.

We were coached by Geoff Hoyland (LMBC) and Don Cadle.

We made four bumps. Moreover Raymond, Roger, Bill, and Don rowed the next term, Trinity, in the illustrious Balliol VIII which went Head of the River, thereby becoming eligible for election to membership of the Leander Club. During their pre-term training, living in the ‘Pink Palace’, that dedicated VIII coached by Charles Rew were sometimes heard to row in time with the mantra ‘PINK . . . SOCKS, PINK . . . SOCKS’ – such was their focus! To mark the



1st VIII's success, an (old) eight was burned outside staircase XV. Balliol was euphoric. In those same Summer Eights our 2nd VIII, in which I rowed, made seven bumps.

In 1953 I again rowed in the 1st Torpid. We made four bumps. But rowing in the 1st VIII I experienced being bumped by Magdalen to Second on the River.

Rowing men are not generically flamboyant. The nature of our calling flows contrary to that. While every man's every stroke has to be synchronised with Stroke and we must move as one, each makes his individual contribution. We each try to make our every stroke better than the last. We seek perfection in an imperfect world! We each have to be our own fiercest critic.

While mechanised callisthenics were yet to come, with Concept 2 rowing machines still a nightmare prospect, reveille at 7.00am, 1,000 skips (takes 15 minutes), press-ups, sit-ups, squats, and a run before a shower and breakfast was my every day except Sunday, with 10.00pm bed every day.

Ours is not a contact sport. We are gentle cerebral people. As members of Balliol College we are (presumably or presumptuously) intellectually gifted and responsible to others as to ourselves for making the most of the wonderful resources available for our benefit. This we determined to do. Most of us then in the Boat Club gained good honours degrees. Indeed of the 1st VIII that went Head of the River in 1952, six received Doctorates.

A magical coxless four comprising Jim Knatchbull-Hugessen, Patty O'Hea and Johnny Marshall as Stroke in which I rowed Bow and Steers did rather well in the University Fours in 1953. This was followed, for me, by Trial Eights at Wallingford; I was in the losing crew.

Throughout Hilary Term 1954, training at Wallingford under the

In my view there is no race to compare with the Boat Race. The prize is joy or devastation. Come the day its demands are unpredictable. With a 4-knot tide and that strange Tideway 'popple' movement of the water underneath the boat, each twist in the Thames from Putney to Mortlake brings a fresh confrontation with the prevailing wind.

Only two years after first rowing for Balliol I could not know that in three years' time, 1957, I would be coaching that year's Oxford crew at Wallingford. I was then stationed at RAF Benson, where I had been posted in April 1956 as an Air Radar officer. The RAF VIII was stationed there. As Captain in 1956 and 1957 I was responsible (without pulling rank – they threw my predecessor

into the Thames for doing that!) for good order and discipline, and also for training the crew in which I was rowing. The round trip between locks at Wallingford is 13 miles and we covered it every evening except Sunday come rain come shine, even after dark. We were very fit. I weighed only 11st 5lb.

Another motley crew! Among our number were stevedores and dockers from the River Lee and two future Oxbridge Boat Club Presidents: John Beveridge (CUBC) and Dick Fishlock (OUBC). We did well, winning in regattas and in every heat of the Thames Cup at Henley, but we lost in the final by one length to Princeton University – the same Princeton University that beat by the same distance the Balliol crew I had captained at Henley in 1953.

Still in 1956, two of us, Dave Huggins (an RAFMP from Durham) and I, were selected to row in the British VIII in the European Championships on

While every man's every stroke has to be synchronised . . . and we must move as one, each makes his individual contribution. We each try to make our every stroke better than the last.

Lake Bled, Yugoslavia. We found ourselves competing against 'the finest collection of Eights ever seen', according to Gaston Moullegg, the then President of the International Rowing Federation. We did not come in the first six!

There was no towpath. The Amateur Rowing Association was even more impoverished than the British Olympic Association and could not afford to hire a coaching launch at Bled more than once. The August weather was wonderful, the scenery magnificent, the crystal water freezing cold, and service in our hotel funereal – it took three hours to receive lunch!

The ARA decided to select a fresh crew for the Olympic Games in Melbourne. Trials resumed at Putney and Henley. Four of us kept our places, while two of that year's winning Cambridge Boat Race crew just back from successfully racing in Brazil, a Thames RC man and Chris Davidge, joined us. J F K Hinde, a Cambridge cox, completed the crew.

November on Lake Wendouree, Ballarat, Australia, should be warm and sunny. It was overcast and, at times, very windy. One day the weather was so bad that Tony Fox, our sculler, was seen in his boat up to his waist in water. Channels had been cut through the reed beds to accommodate the six-lane course and provide ways back to the boatsheds.

We rowed in a boat borrowed from Scotch College Melbourne. Used to training hard each day, imagine my chagrin when we spent each afternoon taking tea as guests of the Manager of Morley's Mill, in his garden.

Derek Mays-Smith, the Cambridge Blue Boat coach, was in charge of our training. We won no medals but the friendship of the competitors and the honour of representing Britain in the Olympic Games remain with me.

Reverend Bill Llewellyn-Jones, Chris Davidge and then Tony Rowe led on to the Tideway, where Group Captain 'Jumbo' Edwards coached us to triumph over Cambridge in the 100th Boat Race by 4.5 lengths. As Bow I was first man past the post.

Sustainability at the Olympic Park

BY ANNE ASKWITH

Among the Olympic Development Authority's many aspirations for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games was that they should be the most sustainable Games ever. And as sustainability manager for one of the infrastructure teams involved in the creation of the Olympic Park, where the Games took place, it fell to Dr Dorte Rich Jørgensen (1989) to try to achieve that.

The Olympic Park is a 2.5 square km site featuring a number of waterways and links to surrounding areas via highway, cycleway and rail networks.

The bridges and highways provide the backbone to the Park's infrastructure. For the purposes of construction logistics, it was split into two parks,

North and South. Dorte's employer, Atkins, a design, engineering, and project management consultancy, was responsible for the infrastructure for the North Park, in which the Basketball Arena, the Velodrome and the Olympic Village (among other Games venues) were located.

The structures, bridges and highways (SBH) for the North Park included retaining walls, highways, secondary roads, one land bridge, one highway bridge, six existing bridges, and two underpasses. Dorte's responsibility was to ensure that the sustainability objectives specified by the ODA were embedded in the design and construction of all the infrastructure features, which included SBH, parkland and public realm, and utilities. These objectives related to issues such as the use of recycled materials, increasing biodiversity, and the reduction of energy and carbon consumption.

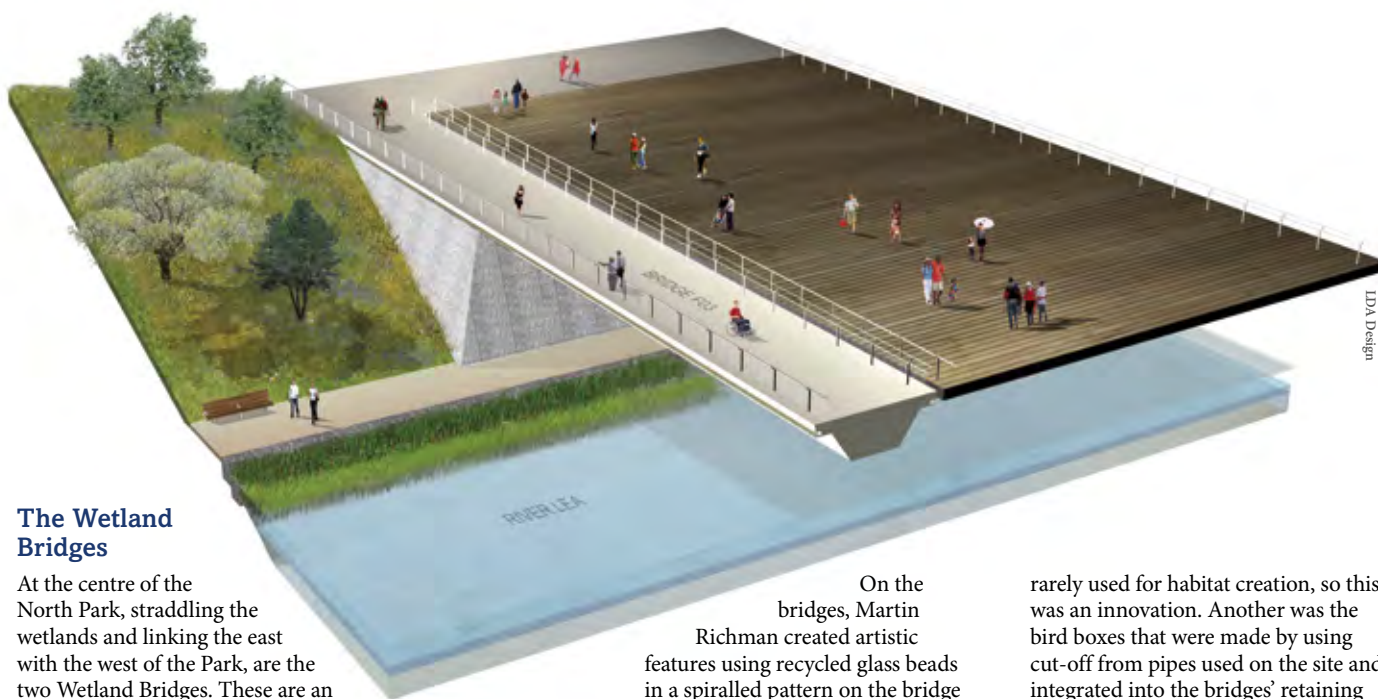
Embedded sustainability

As work started in 2007, the challenge facing Dorte was immense, especially, she says, 'the huge size of it, with a breadth of stakeholders and a very definite deadline, doing something that had not been done before in a heavy media and public spotlight'. Working with teams across the Park, she and her team set out to meet their objectives with many initiatives, including:

- using materials reclaimed from the site for gabion baskets to make walls; substituting pulverised fly ash for cement;
- replacing primary aggregates with secondary aggregates (e.g. glass sand and china clay stent);
- including recycled materials in flexible and rigid pavements;
- using waste plastic for temporary kerbs, which were used for the temporary roads used only during the Olympic Games;
- reusing existing structures, such as bridges;
- designing for Legacy, when the Park will be transformed into a visitor destination and community park, where feasible;
- choosing drainage pipes that used recycled aggregates as bedding material (e.g. concrete or clay);
- reducing pavement thickness for the temporary roads, which had a four-year design life as opposed to the 40-year design life of the permanent roads;
- ensuring that as much of the materials as possible for the infrastructure design could be delivered by rail.



Philip Wade Photography



The Wetland Bridges

At the centre of the North Park, straddling the wetlands and linking the east with the west of the Park, are the two Wetland Bridges. These are an essential component of the pedestrian walkways and cycle networks, both during the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and in Legacy. The permanent sections of the Wetland Bridges were designed to meet the Legacy requirements, while temporary sections such as the decked area shown above were designed to cater for the additional crowd flows during the Games and will be removed in Legacy Transformation.

▲ Illustration of one of the Wetland Bridges, showing the temporary decked area that will be removed in Transformation.

▼ An aerial view of the Olympic Park, with the area of the North Park outlined in red.

On the bridges, Martin

Richman created artistic features using recycled glass beads in a spiralled pattern on the bridge surface, which evokes the movement of water and symbolises the dynamic energy of human vitality expressed in athletics – an example of the use of a sustainable material being integral to the design aesthetic.

One of Atkins's responses to the ODA's requirement to enhance habitats and promote biodiversity in the Park was to ensure that bespoke bat boxes were installed underneath the decks of the bridges. Bridges are

rarely used for habitat creation, so this was an innovation. Another was the bird boxes that were made by using cut-off from pipes used on the site and integrated into the bridges' retaining walls. To enable the highest possible use of these, the preferred living arrangements for each species were taken into account: the boxes for colonial species like house sparrows, swifts and starlings, for instance, were set close together. The boxes were positioned to face from south-west to east (clockwise) to avoid the sun during the warmest part of the day and so prevent any nestlings overheating.



Project / objective	Recycled content by value	Recycled aggregate by weight	Sustainable Transport	Reuse of on-site demolition material site-wide	CEEQUAL Energy and Carbon Score	CEEQUAL Whole Project Award
ODA target	20%	25%	50%	90%	N/A	>60%
North Park SBH Lot 1	47%	59%	72%	98%	100%	98.3%
Wetland Bridges	45%	86%	66%	98%	96%	98.3%

Olympic success

In its work on the North Park area and the Wetland Bridges Dorte's team met and exceeded every single one of the targets the ODA had set them (see above).

To ensure it achieved the greenest Games ever, the ODA had also put in place procedures to track its contractors' performance, including the requirement to achieve a CEEQUAL Whole Project Award rating of at least 'Very Good'. 'This is a bit like when you buy a fridge and it is assigned how environmentally friendly it is by being an A+, A, B, etc.', Dorte explains. CEEQUAL (the evidence-based Sustainability Assessment and Awards Scheme for civil engineering, infrastructure, landscaping, and the public realm) gives scores of 'Excellent', 'Very Good', 'Good' and 'Pass'. All the Atkins projects got an 'Excellent' CEEQUAL score. The Atkins structure, bridges and highways achieved a Whole Project Award of 98.3 per cent, the highest score to date (July 2012) achieved in the United Kingdom. The Wetland Bridges also scored 98.3 per cent.

Awards for the team's efforts continue to flood in. Atkins has been shortlisted for four CEEQUAL Outstanding Achievement awards for its work in the Park, and has even won an award for an environmental film, *Park Voices*, about 'how Atkins helped to bring about monumental change on the Park, taking it from a polluted and under-used industrial zone into a world-class venue for the London 2012 Games'.

There are wider implications for this success. 'One of the key aspects of London 2012 was having a client commitment to sustainability with an auditable process to ensure compliance of a large team,' Dorte says. 'And the spirit that the spectators witnessed during the Games was a reflection of what the project was like for those of us who worked on it for years. There was a "London 2012 spirit" of being ground- and record-breaking, with a "positive winner" mentality: a very diverse project team with a higher number of women and ethnic groups than is usual on such projects, who worked in collaboration as "one team" across the Park. This client buy-in and team ethos meant that London 2012 has been a "game changer" for sustainability in the construction industry. It has lifted the bar and set a new precedent

▲ *Exceeded expectations: summary of Olympic Park Structure, Bridges and Highways Lot 1 and Wetland Bridges performance against the ODA's targets.*

for excellence and a pinnacle of best practice, which is the biggest achievement of all.'

As a result, a 'London 2012 Sustainability Lessons Learned' project has been set up. In addition to her continuing work on the Park as a reviewer of sustainability for the Legacy Transformation, Dorte is a 'London 2012 sustainability ambassador', helping to disseminate information to others in the industry and ensure that the 'gold standard sustainability' that distinguished London 2012 is employed in other projects. 'There is a list of great opportunities to be explored.'

The Balliol factor

Everything Dorte has done since leaving Balliol in 1995 has involved sustainability. She joined Arup as a building services engineer and worked on leading-edge projects like Potsdamer Platz in Berlin and Chiswick Park in London, an office development by the architect Richard Rogers's partnership, which is recognised for its sustainable credentials. She then worked as a sustainability engineer for Capita Symonds, which was the first time (2003) the word 'sustainability' entered her job title (it is now used more commonly in the construction industry), before joining Atkins in 2006.

Balliol, Dorte believes, has played its part in her career. 'I was the founding president of Balliol MCR and being in such a strong and transformational leadership role so young (24) meant that I started asking myself what it means to be a leader. I learned that it is important to be clear about who I am and what I stand for, and to have the courage

to stand by that while having a clear positive intention of the best possible outcome for all. Learning to embed this theme in my professional and personal life has been an on-going theme ever since I left Balliol.' She pays particular tribute to Professor Baruch Blumberg. 'I was also inspired through Baruch Blumberg's leadership as a Master. I was amazed how a Nobel Prize winner carried that so lightly. Working with Barry and many other senior Balliol officers was life changing.' Altogether 'Being part of Balliol is one of the best things that ever happened to me.'

Personal best

Of all the many satisfactions of her career, it is Dorte's contribution to London 2012 that means most to her. To have been involved in the building of the Park from the outset is for her 'a dream come true, very inspirational and deeply touching of what is possible'.

Her satisfaction is not just because of the professional achievement but because she is a keen sportswoman. 'I played handball in the premier league as a teenager and came third in Denmark. I dreamt about getting to the Olympics Games ever since but let it go. At Oxford I played basketball for the University (alongside a player who played in Atlanta 1996), and in an inter-university competition we won gold, a first for Oxford women. So, ending up working for the preferred and first ever engineering design organisation for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Atkins, achieving the highest score to date in my field, and reviewing the sustainable design of the basketball stadium feels like winning gold.'

► *Bird boxes made of utility pipe offcuts were placed in walls made of reclaimed materials held in gabion baskets.*



BAM Natural



Facing the 2020s: adventures in resilience

BY ALAN HEEKS (1966)

It was the riots in England in 2011 that spurred me to start my project Facing the 2020s. Plus being at Balliol in 1968. For a few months in '68, it seemed that major, systemic change was possible, and people were on the streets not to steal televisions but to manifest their ideals.

Overall, material living standards have risen strongly in Britain since the 1950s, but levels of happiness and wellbeing have declined. Recently, real incomes have shrunk, and if you look at many trends over the next ten to twenty years, real incomes are likely to drop much further: the provocation for the 2011 riots could be minor compared to what's ahead.

Many people close their eyes to the future, because they feel worried and disempowered by it. What do you see ahead? My list includes increasing impact from climate change, price peaks in oil and other commodities, rising food costs, and public service cuts. Despite this list, though, I'm an optimist at heart...

Every problem has its gift, and there's positive potential in this dismal outlook. Our society could choose, in Chaucer's phrase, to 'maken vertue of necessitie' and move towards a more localised, mutually supportive, less materialistic way of living. How to do that in a society and economy now driven by consumption is a huge and crucial question.

The term 'community resilience' covers a lot of the good work addressing these issues in recent years. You can find reports on the Internet about projects by several competent bodies, such as the Young Foundation, Forum for the Future, and the Carnegie Trust. Resilience can be a confusing term, as it's used in different ways: for response to disaster events like floods, or to systemic, gradual pressures like food or oil prices. I am using it to refer to both, with emphasis on systemic issues.

My Facing the 2020s project has commissioned two pieces of work. Firstly, a forecast by the New Economics Foundation of what the actual pressures of the 2020s will be. Secondly, a project led by Reos Partners in Oxford to assess current knowledge about community resilience in the UK, and propose ways to develop and propagate this knowledge further. This assessment is not yet complete, but some of the favoured ideas emerging from it are:



Our society could choose ... to ... move towards a more localised, mutually supportive, less materialistic way of living ... Facing the 2020s is ... seeking systemic change on a large scale.

- Running three Community Resilience Labs, with processes successfully used by Reos elsewhere: each would last a year and be rooted in a local community, with a large enough budget for meaningful learning and innovation.
- Locating one Community Resilience Lab each in England, Scotland and Wales. We have already found strong interest in community resilience in all three countries.
- Working with cross-sector groups, including local and large businesses, who we believe can be major drivers of positive change.
- Steer each Lab in partnership with other organisations, some within each local community, and some with larger bodies with expertise in the resilience field.
- Making each Lab as inclusive and diverse as possible. So far, many of those involved in local resilience work are

white, middle-class and middle-aged, and extending the reach may not be easy.

- During the Labs, exploring how the best approaches to community resilience can be seeded in neighbourhoods across the UK. We will explore this with large NGOs, local and national government, creative channels like arts and music, and anything else suggested to us.

Since I left my successful career in large business in 1990, I have started three pioneering and very challenging sustainability projects: you can see more at www.thresholdcentre.org.uk, www.themagdalenproject.org.uk, and www.hazellhill.org.uk. Facing the 2020s is proving far harder than any of them: partly because it is seeking systemic change on a large scale – even a local community of 200,000 people is a huge challenge. Secondly, because such change needs large inputs of resources: expertise and money. Thirdly, because most of the population, like the media and politicians, prefer to ignore the whole issue.

The collective wisdom of the readers of *Floreat Domus* must be tremendous, and if I can provoke even a fraction of this wisdom into action, including a debate on these pages, I shall be relieved. It's easy to feel isolated and overwhelmed just looking at these issues, so conversation and collective action are crucial. The biggest missing links I see in the resilience jigsaw are widespread motivation in our society to change behaviours, and sources of funding for the changes needed.

Studying English at Balliol in the late 1960s, under the guiding genius of Roger Lonsdale, was an education in life as much as literature. Great Victorian novelists like Charles Dickens or George Eliot may be relevant here: their depiction in literature of the social ills of their times was a powerful political campaigning move. The equivalent in our times might be a TV series (a dystopian soap?) or creative use of social media.

Some of you may know of the Transition Town movement, and wonder why that's not enough. My project has grown from conversation with Rob Hopkins, Transition's founder, and some of his colleagues. There are great strengths and weaknesses in the work of Transition groups. Their focus on positive approaches, not doom and gloom, is excellent; their recent emphasis on resilience for jobs and local economies, rather than sustainability, has shown how to make the message more engaging. However, the Transition movement has minimal funding, and is almost entirely shaped by its local groups.

This article is an invitation to give help of many kinds, including:

- Getting personally involved, on a voluntary or paid basis.
- Linking Facing the 2020s with potential partner organisations.
- Sharing expertise, or connecting us to it: we would value more academic and research input.
- Active help or contacts for funding this work.

Few could have gone through Balliol in the late 1960s without being affected by burning political intellectuals like Aidan Foster Carter, Chris Hitchens, and many others. The idealism they fired in me has now blended with 40 years of real-world experience. If the Balliol Baby Boomers could find a collective voice on community resilience, we could make a difference...

Bookshelf

Titles by and about Balliol Old Members



The Oxford Handbook of Internet Studies

William H. Dutton (ed.)
(Balliol Professorial Fellow and Professor of Internet Studies at Oxford Internet Institute)

Oxford University Press, 2013

Internet Studies has been one of the most dynamic and rapidly expanding interdisciplinary fields to emerge over the last decade and this book has been designed to provide a valuable resource for academics and students in this area, by bringing together leading scholarly perspectives on how the Internet has been studied and how the research agenda should be pursued in the future. Each chapter provides a synthesis and critical assessment of the research in a particular area. The spectrum of topics covered is broad, including social perspectives on the technology of the Internet, its role in everyday life and work, implications for communication, power, and influence, and the governance and regulation of the Internet. While the handbook aims to help strengthen research and identify the big questions for the field to pursue, a key theme is the potential of Internet Studies to change research across the social sciences and related disciplines, as more social research is driven to consider the role of the Internet and related information and communication technologies within its own orbits of inquiry.

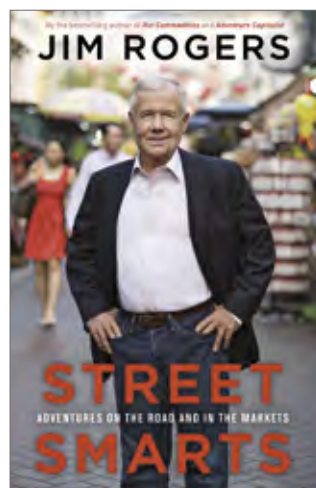
Street Smarts: Adventures on the Road and in the Markets

Jim Rogers (1964)

Crown, 2013

A co-founder of the hugely successful Quantum Fund, the success of which allowed him to retire at the age of 37, Jim Rogers takes readers through the highlights of his life in finance and the lessons he learned along the way, offering observations on how the world works and what trends he sees in the future. In particular he discusses how America and the European Union are in decline and why Asia will be the dominant economic force in the 21st century.

'Street Smarts is another great read from one of the most astute global investors of our time.' Peter D. Schiff, CEO of Euro Pacific Capital, Inc.



Fast Fiction: Volume One

Richard Mallinson (1957)

AuthorHouse™, 2012

'We read fiction . . . in order to meet individuals,' declares a character in 'Tolson's Creed', a short story in this collection published posthumously by Mallinson's widow, and here are a plethora of individuals, appearing in 499 stories, each only a page in length. In pithy tales of collisions, interactions, encounters and other snatched scenes of life, Mallinson shows what can be achieved with elegant structure, sharp observation and concise expression in the one-page format.



French Literature: A Beginner's Guide

Carol Clark (Balliol Emeritus Fellow)

Oneworld, 2011

This book aims to help readers with little experience of French literature to find some books that they want to read, whether in translation or in French, and to enjoy them. Starting with the *chansons* of the Middle Ages, Carol Clark considers poetry, prose, drama, fiction, comedy and tragedy from every century, from the essays of Montaigne to the plays of Ionesco, the novels of Voltaire to the verse of Baudelaire. She shows how the styles of each period took shape, what sort of audiences they were aimed at and how they were received. Illustrating each chapter with extracts, with accompanying English translation, she highlights the texts' distinctive qualities and shows what we can gain from reading them today.

'An entertaining and witty companion, wearing its learning lightly, and encouraging us . . . to explore the riches of French literature.' Nicholas Cronk, Professor of French Literature and Director of the Voltaire Foundation, University of Oxford

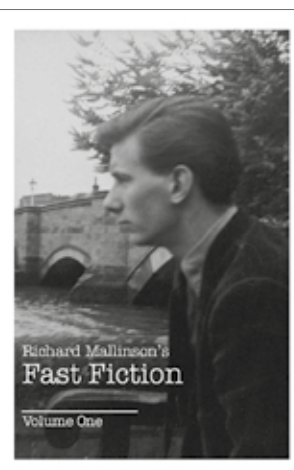
Success . . . or Your Money Back

Shed Simove (1989)

Hay House, 2012

A man whose drive in life is to 'come up with ideas and make them happen', entrepreneur Shed Simove draws on his successes – which include creating a global novelty gift empire, getting a blank book to no. 44 in Amazon's bestseller list and launching his own currency – to show you how 'to get anything you desire'. His 30 tips range from how to avoid Negnets (people who are magnets for negative energy and who tell you 'That'll never work') and 'Be Like Frankenstein' (give life to every idea you have) to the art of chunking (breaking enormous goals into manageable chunks).

'The book is brimming with caffeine-fuelled, bouncing-off-the-walls type optimism, but its prescriptions are grounded in experience.' *The Kernel*





The Hex Factor

Harriet Goodwin (1988)

Stripes Publishing, 2012

Harriet Goodwin's third children's book is a story of magic and witchcraft. Xanthe Fox can't wait to turn 13, but as the big day approaches, her world starts to fall apart. Her long-time enemy Kelly is making trouble for her; her teachers are threatening to expel her; her best friend is acting strangely. When mysterious glowing Xs start appearing in front of her eyes, Xanthe turns to her Grandma Alice for help. But the old lady has a secret that will change her granddaughter's world for ever. Xanthe isn't a normal teenager: she's a witch . . .

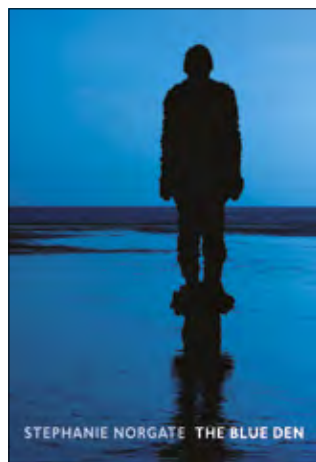
Goodwin won the Bedfordshire Children's Book of the Year 2010 for her first book, *The Boy Who Fell Down Exit 43*, and was shortlisted for the Oldham Book Award 2012 for her second, *Gravenhunger*.

Life on the Edge: Peter Danckwerts GC MBE FRS – Brave, Shy, Brilliant

Peter Varey

PFV Publications, 2012

Caught up in the war after graduating, Peter Danckwerts (1935) had to put aside his ambition to be a chemist and found himself responsible for dealing with unexploded bombs and mines in the Thames estuary. He was awarded a George Cross for defusing parachute mines during the Blitz. After going to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study chemical engineering and find out how Americans made chemicals in useful quantities, he joined the new Shell department at Cambridge University, where he acquired an international reputation by applying science to industrial practice and eventually became Shell Professor of Chemical Engineering. Describing the distinguished life of this shy, kind man with a razor-sharp intellect, this biography draws extensively on Danckwerts' own writing as well as the recollections of those who knew him.



The Blue Den

Stephanie Norgate (1979)

Bloodaxe Books, 2012

This is Stephanie Norgate's second poetry collection, following *Hidden River*, which was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for best first collection and the Jerwood Aldeburgh First Collection Prize. Here she expresses herself in visual, sensuous and imaginative ways, whether she is giving voice to a stream under ice or meditating on Giacometti working restlessly on the figure of a strange walker, gazing at plastic bags on the road or contemplating how the 'wine dark' colour of dahlias in a vase corresponds with the red light of a fishing boat.

'The poems in *The Blue Den* possess a brooding magnetism which draws us into a drowned ship, a slowworm's narrow skill or the hand-clasp of an orangutan. The beauty of imagery and rhythm is matched by the subtlety of the poet's thought.' Helen Dunmore

In the Shadow of the General: Modern France and the Myth of de Gaulle

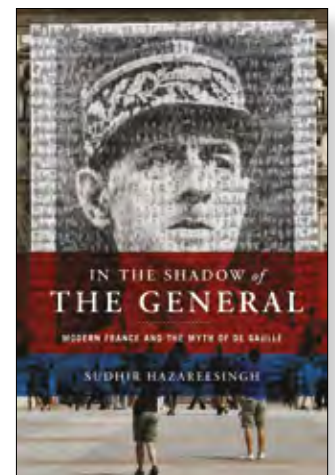
Sudhir Hazareesingh
(Balliol Fellow and Tutor in Politics)

Oxford University Press, 2012

A specialist on modern French political culture, Sudhir Hazareesingh explores how General Charles de Gaulle, leader of the French Resistance and founder of the Fifth Republic, became a national icon, and examines the significance of his iconic status to modern France. Hazareesingh analyses the deliberate construction of his myth by de Gaulle himself, and explores the different

ways in which the General has been viewed in France – by political and intellectual elites, in the memories of companions and collaborators, and among ordinary citizens. Drawing on hitherto unpublished sources to highlight the ideological and cultural complexity of France's favourite national hero, the author offers a new interpretation of the de Gaulle legacy as well as revealing a great deal about France in the 21st century.

'A wide-ranging and personal essay. This is not simply a book about de Gaulle. Rather, it seeks to show how de Gaulle evoked certain quasi-religious images concerned with salvation, liberation, fatherhood, and martyrdom.' *Times Literary Supplement*

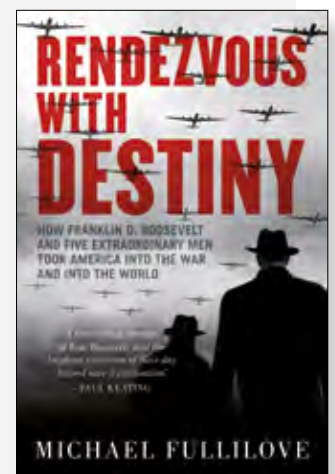


Rendezvous with Destiny: How Franklin D. Roosevelt and Five Extraordinary Men Took America into the War and into the World

Michael Fullilove (1997)

Penguin Press, 2013

When war broke out in Europe in 1939, many Americans were eager to isolate themselves from the conflict, but Franklin D Roosevelt wanted to help the democracies. Frustrated by congressional opposition and lack of information, he sent five men on special diplomatic missions to Europe to obtain the intelligence he required: first Sumner Welles and William 'Wild Bill' Donovan, whose visits to Europe convinced FDR to throw a lifeline to Britain in the form of Lend-Lease, and then Harry Hopkins, Averell Harriman and Wendell Willkie to help secure it. Later Hopkins's meeting with Stalin gave JDR the confidence to gamble on aiding the Soviet Union. Drawing on vast archival research, Fullilove shows how the missions of these five emissaries helped transform America from reluctant middle power into global leader.





Ghosts, gorillas and Gaudies, as the Development Office takes to Twitter

What do Barack Obama, Lady Gaga and Balliol's Development Office have in common?

Easy. We're all on Twitter, the microblogging website that allows users to contact anyone who wants to hear from them – 140 characters at a time.

Balliol's alumni relations office entered this brave new world in October, joining presidents and pop singers alike as we launched the first of two new Twitter feeds, @BalliolAlumni, as a way of keeping in touch with many of our more digitally inclined Old Members, and of sharing news of what they're up to – wherever they are in the world.

By Christmas, the account had attracted more than 100 followers – most of them Balliol alumni – drawn inexorably in by updates about their contemporaries, a fuzzy feeling of nostalgia and a steady stream of College-based titbits.

We talked about this year's Gaudies, Andrés Schiff and overhead kicks, while retweeting Old Members' thoughts on the weather, unconscious decisions and the perfect cup of tea.

There was occasional contact from outside our alumni network too. One non-member who got in touch was a Japanese collector of rocks, who confessed that he had 'borrowed' a particularly attractive stone from the Fellows'

Garden a couple of years ago and once showed it to Christopher Hitchens.

The popularity of this dedicated alumni account persuaded us of the need for a central College feed, which followed hot on its heels in November.

The purpose of @BalliolOxford is to interact with current students, publicise events and ensure that news about the College's work reaches the widest possible audience. That audience might only be 290 strong at the moment, but it's growing all the time.

It's also important to note that while Twitter is an indispensable tool in the context of modern communication, it also has a distinctly lighter side, so we're not averse to sharing pictures of the College 'ghost', offering news of a student whistling Darth Vader's theme tune, or reporting on the inexplicable arrival of a man in a gorilla suit, spotted in the Garden Quad one lunchtime.



If you would like to get in touch with the Development Office on Twitter, you can follow us @BalliolAlumni and @BalliolOxford. It would be lovely to hear from you.

Calendar of events up to April 2014

Friday 21 June 2013
Commemoration Ball

Saturday 22 June 2013
Summer Gaudy for the matriculation years 1971–1974

Wednesday 26 June 2013
Master's Seminar in Toronto
'New Directions in Medicine and Agriculture'
University Club of Toronto

Friday 28 June 2013
Master's Seminar in San Francisco
'The Internet: Reshaping Society, Business and the Economy'
To be held at the offices of Bingham McCutchen LLP

Monday 1 July 2013
Master's Seminar in New York
'Einstein's Universe: Do Parallel Universes Exist?'
To be held at the residence of the British Consul-General

Friday 5 July 2013
Evening reception at the Royal Society of Edinburgh

Wednesday 18 September 2013
Rhodes Scholars of Balliol – dinner in College

Friday 27 September and Saturday 28 September 2013
Anniversary celebration weekend at Balliol and in the Sheldonian Theatre

Thursday 24 October 2013
Balliol in the City reception at Barclays, 43 Brook Street, London W1

Saturday 2 November 2013
Service of Thanksgiving (Choral Matins), University Church, Oxford

Thursday 14 November 2013
Sung Evensong at St Lawrence, Jewry, London EC2

Thursday 21 November 2013
Usborne Dinner, Reform Club, London

Thursday 28 November 2013
Drinks reception for under-35s at the Barbican, London EC2

Sunday 1 December 2013
Recital by Andrés Schiff in Balliol Hall

Monday 16 December 2013
Choral Evensong at Durham Cathedral (College Choir)

Saturday 22 March 2014
Greville Smith Society Lunch

Saturday 29 March 2014
Spring Gaudy for the matriculation years 1959–1963

Friday 11 April and Saturday 12 April 2014
The University of Oxford's Biennial North American Reunion, New York

Saturday 12 April 2014
Balliol North American Reunion Dinner, New York

The AGM of the Balliol Society will take place in the JCR at 9.30am on Sunday 29 September 2013



BALLIOL NEEDS YOU

35 per cent of Univ alumni give to their college each year. Exeter College currently holds the UK record with 36 per cent. We cannot continue to let Balliol languish on 22 per cent, although we are, of course, hugely grateful to that 22 per cent!

Please make this special 750th anniversary year the one when Balliol shows a clean pair of heels to Exeter and Univ. Every gift counts – if 30 per cent of you donate before July a challenge gift of £75,000 will be released. Make your gift, of whatever size, to the Annual Fund today at

www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/giving

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The College is grateful for the generous support of those listed here, who have donated to Balliol's 750th anniversary campaign between **1 August 2011 and 31 July 2012**. The percentage of donors from each matriculation year who gave during the period is included. We have respected the wishes of those who have asked for their gifts to remain anonymous, and we thank them too for their support. We apologise for any omissions and ask you to tell us about them.

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