BALLIOL COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

NEWS AND NOTES

Updates from Balliol alumni around the world

A supplement to Floreat Domus 2022





Stuart Bebb

News and Notes

We are delighted to share news from the Balliol community

Professor Jonathan Meakins (Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Professorial Fellow 2002–2008)
Jonathan Meakins is to be inducted to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

Carl Woodall (Fellow and Domestic Bursar, 2000–2009)
Now Director of Facilities, House of Lords (since 2009) and member of the House of Lords Management Board (since 2009). Also Chair, Parliamentary Safety Assurance Board, and Chair, Parliamentary Fire Safety Board. Married Caroline Mary Newell, September 2013 in Oxford (married by former Balliol Chaplain and Emeritus Fellow Dr H.D. Dupree).

1940s

Edward Gelles (1944)
I continue my researches into my ancestral background. I was born in Vienna and my parents were Dr David Itzig Gelles and Regina Griffel, who came from old Jewish families in Austrian Galicia. My paternal grandparents, Rabbi Nahum Uri Gelles and Esther, daughter of Rabbi Zvi Aryeh Weinstein, had Horowitz mothers. I am a 7th-generation descendant of Chief Rabbi Isaac Horowitz of Hamburg. I am a 6th-generation descendant of Chief Rabbi Shmuel Helman of Metz; 8th-generation descendant of Chief Rabbi Nathan Nata Shapiro of Cracow and 10th-generation from his eponymous grandfather, Chief Rabbi of Grodno; and 10th-generation of Rabbi Moshe Heilprin of Berdishev and Solotwina and of Uri Feivush ben David, Chief Rabbi of Vilna and later head of the Ashkenazi community in Jerusalem. I am a descendant of Mordecai Jaffe (1530–1612), Chief Rabbi of Prague, Grodno, and Posen, known as the Levush. His descendant Moses Mendel Levush married a daughter of Rabbi Shmuel Gelles of Siematycze, and became known as Moses Gelles, scholar of the Brody Klaus. I am his 6th-generation descendant. On my mother's side, the ancestor of my grandmother Chawa Wahl was Saul Wahl (1545–1617), scion of the Katzenellenbogen Chief Rabbis of Padua and Venice. I am his 14th-generation descendant. The family of my great-grandmother, Sarah Matel Chajes, left Portugal in the 15th century and came to Prague via Provence. My ancestor Isaac ben Abraham Chayes was Chief Rabbi of Prague and brother-in-law of Rabbi Judah Loew (*c.*1520 – 1609). Many Chajes rabbis and scholars followed in Galicia, Italy, Vienna, and the New World. Notable ancestors also included Cohen (HaKohen, Katz, Sacerdote) and Levites (Halevi, Halevi Segal).

For details see 'Papers of Edward Gelles' at http://archives.balliol.ox.ac.uk.

Thomas Hughes (1947)
Thomas L. Hughes is the subject of a new biography published by Brookings in Washington, *The Last Gentleman: Thomas Hughes and the End of the American Century* by Bruce Smith (2022). The book contains much new information about US foreign policy in the 1960s – especially Cuba and Vietnam. Hughes was Assistant Secretary of State (Director of Intelligence and Research) in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, and subsequently Minister in the US embassy in London (1969–1970). Hughes still lives in Washington, age 96.

Lionel Scott (1948)
My book, *Pytheas of Massalia: Texts, Translation, Commentary*, was published by Routledge on 22 November 2021. Pytheas deserves to be better known than he is, because it was his account of his pioneering voyage from Marseille into the Atlantic in *c.*325 BC that brought the very existence of the island of Britain to the notice of the Mediterranean world.

Leonard Barden (1949)
Leonard Barden still contributes his weekly chess columns to the *Guardian* www.theguardian.com/sport/chess, where they began in 1955, and to the *Financial Times* (from 1975). His daily *Evening Standard* puzzle, which began in 1956 and continued for more than 63 years, was the longest-running daily column by a single individual in all journalism when it ended, because of editorial cutbacks, in January 2020.

1950s

John Mallet (1950)
Last year saw the publication of *Maiolica in Italy and Beyond: Papers of a Symposium in Celebration of Timothy Wilson's Catalogue of Maiolica in the Ashmolean Museum* (Ashmolean Museum, 2021) of which, with Elisa Sani, I was joint editor and to which I also contributed a paper. It contains essays by a number of Tim's friends in Great Britain and overseas including Elisa and myself, besides a bibliography of the writings of this distinguished ceramic historian with a Balliol connection (Emeritus Fellow).

Robin Minney (1950)
In January I had my 90th birthday. Our eldest son came with his wife and she made not only the magnificent cake but also lunches for two sessions, all



Front cover: Caryn Davies (2013) and friends: see her entry on page 24.
Opposite: Old Members gather outside Hall at the Balliol Society Weekend, September 2021.

served on palm leaf plates and bowls. Because of the pandemic, we invited only local friends to come in four sessions: coffee and cake; lunch one; lunch two; or tea and cake. Everyone had a piece of cake, so I lit the candles four times and then blew them all out, and people sang 'Happy Birthday'. Our eldest son also had a birthday a year or so ago, which he celebrated by taking out a shell four on the Thames. I rowed wearing my Leander pink socks – I am still a member after 70 years.

James Taylor (1951)
In a ceremony at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador in Ottawa on 8 September 2021 I was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

Richard Wheadon (1951)
On 2 August 2021 my wife and I celebrated our Diamond Wedding anniversary. We originally met on a 'blind date' organised by her father, Group Captain F.C. Richardson, who was President of the RAF Rowing Club. I was a Flying Officer and Captain, coach and member of the RAF VIII. It seems that I was found to be a suitable escort for his daughter at the Coastal Command Summer Ball on 19 July 1957. Thereafter neither of us 'went out' with any other; we announced our engagement on 19 July 1959 and the rest, as they say, is (also) history!

Professor Ian Macdonald (1952)
It was 70 years ago that I came to Balliol to begin a wonderful three years in Oxford. To be accepted by Balliol was one of the greatest joys of my life. This milestone year has led me to reflect on many experiences during my Balliol years such as going to a public meeting to hear Dr Cheddi Jagan, Marxist leader of the independence movement in Guyana. He was on a mission to the UK to seek constitutional change for his country. Part way through the meeting, someone threw a smoke bomb into the hall, which was promptly evacuated. When the meeting resumed, a question period followed and I asked: 'Dr Jagan, what is it that you are seeking for Guyana?' He replied: 'I want to deliver my people from colonial rule and provide them with a free society.' I said: 'That is good enough for me.' Remember that this was in the midst of the Cold War and the McCarthy era in the United States. Fast forward 40 years and I was attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland, October 1995, as Chair of the Commonwealth of Learning. I introduced myself to the head of Guyana, Dr Cheddi Jagan, and asked if he remembered the Oxford meeting and the brash young Canadian who asked him a question. He exclaimed: 'It was you!' and gave me a big hug. How pleased I was to remind him that we had established the Cheddi Jagan Lecture at York University.

Robert Kernohan (1953)
I am resigned to being a spectator of the world's worries and not a participant. Giving up driving has been more isolating than legal lockdowns. In old age one can still share in the new worlds explored by one's children; when very old one draws increasingly on grandchildren. Isolation gave me time to absorb the thesis on aristocratic Victorian visitors to Australia and New Zealand which secured my granddaughter Kirsty a doctorate in anthropology from Aberdeen.

Emeritus Professor Colin Apelt (1954)
Two articles in *Floreat Domus* May 2020 highlighted how much Balliol has changed since my time there. The article 'Balliol women: 40 years on' told of their major contribution to College life since the first women were admitted in 1979. I recalled correspondence I had with Sir David Lindsay Keir (Master 1949–1965), after my return to Australia. At Christmas 1961, I reported the birth our first child, a daughter, but regretted that she would not be able to follow me at Balliol. The Master replied that he hoped that he would never see that day. Sir David died in 1973 so he did not have to come to terms with that change! The article 'New rooms for students' reported one outcome from the new buildings at the Master's Field would be to house more of Balliol's graduate students. I was delighted to read how well Balliol now is welcoming and making special provision for graduate students. I recalled that when I went up to Oxford to undertake a DPhil in Engineering Science, I felt that Balliol did not quite know what to do with graduate students. I was fortunate to be accommodated in Holywell Manor for the first two years but my only other formal connection was to be allocated a 'Moral Tutor', Heinrich Kuhn (Fellow and Tutor in Physics 1950–1969). I saw him twice a year. His field was Fundamental Physics and we did not know what we were supposed to do. So we talked about his work connected with the Manhattan Project.

Richard Grassby (1954)
I published a new book in December, 2021: Richard Grassby, *Aesop Redux: Fifty Fables of the Modern Era*.

Alexander Hopkinson-Woolley (1955)
My second book, *Where is the Evidence? Finding the Truth in the Gospel of John* (Troubador, 2022), is now in print. An important strut in the framework of the argument is that the writer of the Gospel was writing while questioning the witness. This process is best illustrated by the account of the informal trial of Jesus following his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. The writer asked where the party went after the arrest; the witness answered that they went to the house of Annas first and then to the house of Caiaphas. The writer then asked what happened and wrote his account without checking in which house the events occurred. As a result all the events that actually took place in the house of the High Priest are said to have occurred in the house of Annas. C.S. Lewis remarked on the authentic character of the stories in John's Gospel. This book tries to show how the witness gathered the information and suggests that the witness had a most retentive and detailed memory of all the experiences. If this thesis is accepted, the presentation of Christianity will need to be modified.

Malcolm Fluendy (1956)
No publications, no awards, just enjoying life!

Professor Roger Doherty (1957)
Sadly, for the last two years Covid has eliminated my regular biennial stay, together with my wife, Judy (LMH 1960), at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay – as it's still officially titled, although the city is otherwise always called Mumbai – where I work as a Visiting Professor with an ex-PhD student of mine from Drexel University in Philadelphia. He

has a very active and stimulating group of research students with whom I have been able to maintain contact via email and Skype, and thus contribute to a series of research publications. Covid also deprived us of our regular tourist visits to other places in India (and also to Nepal), which were a vital part of our months there. I have often told my younger colleagues at Drexel, where I continue as an Emeritus Professor: 'Always treat your students well – they may later invite you for enjoyable visits to interesting places.' More seriously, Covid also restricted our regular four-yearly visits to our son, Steven, in Sydney, which oddly always seemed to coincide with the Ashes series; and so, for the first time in well over a decade, we missed them. I suppose one can be grateful for small mercies.

Brian Richardson (1957)
I celebrated my 85th birthday in 2021 with help from all my extended family here in Canada. I'm still working as an organist for the Anglican church, funeral homes, and wedding venues; and plan to continue as long as possible.

Anthony Sperryn (1957)
In 2021, I continued my internet commenting, as Britain fast becomes a fascist state and its rulers ditch the conventions that should underlie our 'democracy'. My own health has deteriorated, in part because I have been caught up in the dismemberment of the National Health Service, with some items forbidden for staff to deal with. In April, after a six months' wait, I experienced a priceless moment when the hospital consultant administered a treatment saying: 'I'm not supposed to do this.' Successive governments have been neglectful about wellbeing, caring only about finance, which is completely the wrong way round to deal with a vital service. In September, I renewed my contact with the College with the very enjoyable Balliol Society weekend. I had previously made a donation of a new economics book (P. Allen, P. Konzelmann and S. Toporowski (eds), *Return of the State: Restructuring Britain for the Common Good*, Agenda, 2021) and I hope my interventions on that front will help stir things up. There *is* a magic money tree, but it needs to be handled for the common good and not only, as happens now, for those at the centre of power. If people understand this, the oncoming climate catastrophe may just be avoided. Late in the year, I grieved for Archbishop Desmond Tutu, outspoken champion of real Christianity, fighter for human rights and against apartheid in South Africa and elsewhere. I met him when I was working in Johannesburg in the early 1980s. He had been talking about sanctions. I said: 'What about foreign investment?' His reply was a splendid guffaw!

Malcolm Brahams (1959)
I have been an active member of various groups in our local Hampstead Garden Suburb U3A since my retirement in 2017 (and have been running two of them) but I have now become one of their trustees so, if I previously had any free time, that has taken up a good deal of it. Also, I turned 80 in August 2021 and my children treated me to a 'surprise' lunch in the Balliol Old Common Room. It was a delightful occasion and persuaded at least one of my grandchildren to aspire to an Oxbridge education.



Professor Richard Dawkins (1959 and Honorary Fellow)
I published two books in 2021. *Books do Furnish a Life* (Bantam Press) is a collection of my book reviews, forewords, afterwords and other book-related essays; *Flights of Fancy* (Apollo) is an account for young people of flying: all the methods of staying aloft that have evolved in insects, pterosaurs, bats, birds and man-made flying machines.

1960s

Timothy Ades (1960)
Rhyming Translator-Poet on Facebook and YouTube. Three sons, five grandchildren.

Professor Michael Reeve (1960)
In October I published *The Transmission of Pliny's 'Natural History'* (Storia e Letteratura, Rome, 2021).

Ian Watson (1960)
In February 2021 NewCon Press (UK) published in signed hardback and paperback my novella *The Monster, The Mermaid, and Doctor Mengele*. Suppose that Victor Frankenstein fulfilled his promise to the Monster to make him a mate, on the lonely Scottish island. Suppose that the Monster duly disappeared into South American jungles to live in blissful secrecy with his equally long-living mate – until the arrival of Nazi war criminals after the Second World War … (69 pages.)



Professor Roger Green (1961)
My translation and commentary of/on the Latin poems of Sidonius Apollinaris comes out this summer, as will a study of the very different Latin poems written in the mid-16th century by Roderick MacLean of Iona, produced with the help of the Scottish historian Alan MacQuarrie (introduction, translation, and commentary). I have also contributed to the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Later Latin Literature* and to the new edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*. My wife and I continue to enjoy life in North Yorkshire, close to the Dales (or at least one of them), having left Scotland, where I spent a life in the universities of St Andrews and Glasgow, teaching Latin and Classics. After the windswept west coast of Scotland, the average windspeed is not so different.

Professor David Kirk (1961)
It is some time since I appeared in News and Notes. However, there may still be some interested in my more recent activities. After I retired from clinical surgical practice in 2005, I continued to be involved in the examinations for surgical trainees. During the last few years this was as an assessor – overseeing the examiners rather than examinees. As I had started examining in 1984, before most of the recent candidates were born, I decided in 2014 the time had come to stop. Since we moved to Dunblane, Gill and I have become involved in the activities of its cathedral (about which, see *Record* 2010; 29–34). Despite its name, this is

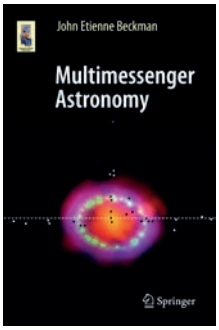


one of the Church of Scotland's parish churches. We are both elders and are involved particularly in the work of its Pastoral Care Committee, of which I am convener. A historically important building, it has a Society of Friends (in 1930 the first such organisation to be set up in Scotland). Coincidentally, Lord Blanesburgh (1880), who was the College Visitor from 1933 to 1946, was also the Society's first President and later its patron. Gill served as its secretary for 18 years until 2019; I am a member of its council, a trustee and the convener of its Projects Committee. Also, I have been documenting the history of early days of the society. Inevitably, since March 2020 the pandemic has interrupted or curtailed most of these activities. Perhaps by the time you read this we may be in happier times.

Neil McQueen (1961)
Last year I read that Stephen Jessel (1961), with whom I lunch occasionally in Paris where we both live, has a new nationality, French, and that my old friend Doug Rosenthal (1961) had a new love. I, in turn, now have an Irish passport, through my late mother, and so remain European after the awful Brexit. Also had lunch with Bob Huddie (1960) – first meeting in 58 years.

Richard Morris (1961)
As it has for many, 2021 has been a year to forget. Advancing years bring the joys of prostate cancer and spouse's Alzheimer's, but these have at least brought me into new fields of research as a patient specialist. The complexities of setting up current medical research are a revelation.

Professor John Beckman (1962)
In July 2021, after dedicating my years of professional work to articles in learned journals, I finally published a book with a style more appropriate to teaching and outreach. It is called *Multimessenger Astronomy*, and is published by Springer, who publish the scientific journal *Nature*. The title is a phrase which was used journalistically after the first detections of gravitational waves were published in 2016, to refer to the fact that gravitational waves are a way of exploring the universe by a means other than electromagnetic radiation. But for the book I expand the use of the term to include the variety of methods of detecting astronomical sources, across the full electromagnetic spectrum, as well as using neutrinos, cosmic rays, meteoritic material, and indeed gravitational waves. Each of 12 chapters is based on one technique, describing how and when it originated, the physics behind it and also the results it achieves, including the most recent results in each field.



Although I had the *New Scientist* reader in mind, friends have said that the book is suitable for A Level physics students, or as an introductory text for first-year undergraduates.

Hugh Beevor (1962)
Magdalena and I remain well and enjoying our full-of-light flat in Putney but hoping for a better set of politicians to govern the country. Our daughter, Mariana Szebrat (Economics and Management, Pembroke 2000), made use of her 2020 furlough time by following a Cambridge online course on sustainability. She posted a 29-page report on her LinkedIn entry, 'A Practical Guide to Environmental Sustainability', which was seen and liked by hundreds. From reading it, we decided against further long-haul travel, sold our diesel car and now use her petrol car while mostly she travels by bicycle and train. By a strange quirk of business life, after IHG plc had made her and many others redundant and she had started to build a profile in sustainability consulting with NFP work in Wandsworth, she was invited by IHG plc to take on the project management of their zero carbon strategy as a consultant and more recently to rejoin as an employee at a higher level than before as Director Global Decarbonisation. The twists and turns of corporate life! It will not be easy for her as most of the investors in US hotels franchised with IHG vote Republican.

Professor Wieland Gevers (1962)
After obtaining a medical degree in Cape Town, I came to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar to complete the honour school in Biochemistry in one year and a DPhil in Biochemistry by 1966 under Sir Hans Krebs. I have recently become an Emeritus Member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), of which I was President from 1998 to 2004. I had previously been a Helen Hay Whitney postdoctoral Fellow in the laboratory of Dr Fritz Lipmann at the Rockefeller University, New York, before returning to South Africa successively to build two new departments of medical biochemistry at the Universities of Stellenbosch and Cape Town; I was a deputy vice-chancellor at the latter institution from 1992 to 2002. I founded and directed UCT's new Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine (IDM) from 2002 to 2005. For many years I managed and chaired the selection committee for the Oxford Nuffield Medical Fellows from South Africa. I was elected to Fellowship of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in 2005. My wife Elizabeth, whom I married in Oxford in 1963 in the University Church on the High Street, passed away at the end of 2016; we have four children living in three countries. Of all the phases in our lives, that spent in Oxford was the most memorable.

Mike Morris (1962)
What do Balliol people do when they retire? It's the golf course for some, but for me it's writing letters to prisoners. I got into this through the choir I sing

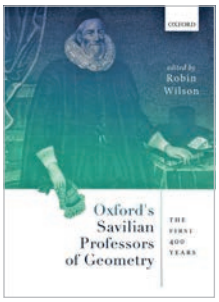


with (bear with me on this). The South London Choir supports a charity called Liberty Choir, which sends volunteers into prisons to sing with prisoners. It was a sight to behold, 30 prisoners and volunteers – mainly women – singing numbers from *A Chorus Line* complete with the dance movements. Of course, since lockdown we haven't been allowed in. So instead, we write letters. Every Thursday morning finds me sitting down and writing, as you can see in the picture. Some never write back, but others do and then it becomes really interesting.

Professor David Pugsley (1962)
Published on 17 December 2021, 'Albert Borowitz v. Jane Leigh Perrot,' JASNA, *Persuasions* online, vol. 42, No. 1, after reading Graham Avery's article on Jane Austen in the *Annual Record 2017*.

Norton Tennille (1962)
In 2021 my wife Jane Keen and I retired from active leadership of the South African Education Project (SAEP), an educational and charitable NPO based in Cape Town created in the US in 1994 (www.saep.org). SAEP's original mission was environmental education and sustainable development in the new South Africa. I arrived in Cape Town three weeks after Nelson Mandela's inauguration and have lived here and devoted my life to SAEP ever since. SAEP was Balliol-led from the outset. Its founding board included then Master (1989-1994) Baruch Blumberg and fellow Old Members Daniel J. O'Flaherty (1965) and Oliver St C. Franklin (1967 and Honorary Fellow). A number of Balliol students and graduates joined SAEP as volunteers in the early years, seven with financial support from the College. Many Old Members supported us from the US, including Jim Rogers (1964), who hosted some of our earliest events in NYC, and long-time board member Walter B. Slocombe (1963). The Rhodes Trust under Warden Anthony J.P. Kenny (Master 1978-1989) provided early support from the UK. Twenty-six years later, SAEP is a flourishing community-based project in Philippi township with programmes in environmental education, youth development, early childhood education, primary and secondary education, a 'bridging year' programme for recent high school graduates, and a tertiary support programme for university students. The College can, we believe, take pride in SAEP's many and diverse contributions to SA's post-apartheid education and development. We thank all those associated with Balliol for the generous support and encouragement which made this possible.

Professor the Hon Robin Wilson (1962)
Four hundred years ago saw the founding of Oxford University's Savilian Chair of Geometry, the earliest university-based mathematics professorship in England. To commemorate this event, I organised a one-day meeting for the British Society for the History of Mathematics at the Bodleian Library in November 2019, at which seven lectures were presented. I have now edited their presentations into a book, *Oxford's Savilian Professors of Geometry: The First 400 Years*, which has just been published by Oxford University Press (2022). Written for the general interested reader, the book is highly illustrated, and three of the chapters have Balliol authors: myself, Keith Hannabuss (1963, Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics 1971–2012 and Emeritus Fellow), and Frances Kirwan (1981, Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics 1986–2017 and Emeritus Fellow), the current Savilian Professor of Geometry).



Professor Gerald Wright (1962)
I have for nearly nine years been a member of the National Board of the Canadian International Council. The council is approaching its centenary year (2028) and, as well as producing the *International Journal* and an online magazine, *Open Canada*, has 19 branches that give it a presence across Canada – no small feat in a country that spans six time zones and is bounded by three oceans. I am also teaching Asia-Pacific Economic and Political Relations in the Norman Paterson School of Ottawa's Carleton University, an interest that was awakened by two visiting appointments, 30 years apart, in Japanese universities.

Professor Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy (1963)
At Balliol I was a reluctant classicist, since linguistics was not available. But I have now published a book which exploits what I learned about the Aeneid and Homer from Robert Ogilvie (1950, Fellow and Tutor in Classics 1957–1970) and Jasper Griffin (1956, Dyson Junior Research Fellow 1961–1963, Tutorial Fellow in Classics 1963–2004): *Zeus, Jupiter, Jesus and the Catholic Church: What Good Is a God?* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2021). Also I have become a Catholic, despite being in a same-sex relationship for 30 years. How come? God does not correct humans' mistaken beliefs by force. That is why Jesus could do no miracles at Nazareth. Hence also the Catholic Church did not unequivocally condemn slavery until the Second Vatican Council. And the Church on earth still makes mistakes. She condemns masturbation and homosexuality because they cannot lead to conception – yet she does not forbid married couples to have sex after the wife's menopause. The Church also allows a woman to represent Christ in baptising a baby – yet not in celebrating the Eucharist. Such contradictions benefit no one except the devil. The devil parallels Jupiter in the *Aeneid* that Virgil wrote in case Augustus should fail. This *Aeneid* is identical to the one he wrote for Augustus's success. The second is what almost everybody reads, but the first is more subtle and more powerful. Jupiter deceives Aeneas. Even so, Aeneas emerges as the hero. His pietas earns him the same praise as is lavished on the young warriors Nisus and Euryalus at the World Trade Center memorial: 'No day shall erase you from the memory of time.'



Professor Carlos Corrêa (1963)
I'm 85 years old and I've been retired since 2006. Death will certainly be the next news.

John Hamwee (1963)
John Hamwee married Scilla Elworthy on 19 June 2021, only 36 years after he proposed.

Paul Williams (1963)
I read maths, psychology and philosophy at Balliol in the 1960s, followed by a career in teaching and research in the field of social care. Last year I reported writing my life story during lockdown and a few fellow alumni requested it. I would still be pleased to email it to anyone who might be interested: paulgwilliams@btinternet.com.

Professor Charles Burroughs (1964)
Charles Burroughs is about to teach his absolutely final class, having already retired twice. Recent article on the idea of boundary in humanist culture in the early 16th century and current work on the crowd of tousled thinkers in Raphael's fresco *The School of Athens*. Like being back at Balliol, or the Monty Python sketch on the philosophers' soccer game.

Sandy Gray (1964)
The small group of '64/65-ers (chemists, engineers, a medic and a historian) reported last year continues to Zoom every six weeks or so, between the Alps in the east, across the UK, to the Rockies in the west. We celebrate the successes of Oxford science, lament the state of politics generally, worry about the world our grandchildren may inherit, but very much enjoy each other's company. Floreat Domus de Balliolo!

Nicholas Stoy (1964)
With support and encouragement from my old tutor, Denis Noble (Emeritus Fellow), I am currently a Visitor in the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics at Oxford and have had a paper published during 2021 in the journal *Frontiers in Immunology*, entitled 'Involvement of interleukin-1 receptor-associated kinase 4 and interferon regulatory factor 5 in the immunopathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2 infection: implications for the treatment of Covid-19'; article accessible in full in *Pubmed*. I have nearly completed another paper on Covid-19 which might appeal to a more general readership; it is written specifically for non-immunologists and should contain a programmable model, if I can ever get it to work!

David Willington (1964)
2021 has been of necessity a quiet year. However, we were able to celebrate our Golden Wedding anniversary with all the family, whether in Scotland or London. Congratulations to Mary for putting up with me for so long. My hip operation at the end of last year has been a great success. Five months later, I climbed a Munro with the grandchildren. I now have an electric bike, which takes the misery out of hills, and there are a lot of hills in Perthshire. Look out for *An African Romance*, my fifth novel, which will be coming out in the spring.

Sir Michael Burton (1965)
I have finally left the Commercial Court in November 2021, driven out by statutory incapacity at 75, with a valedictory performed in court in the best traditions of the Balliol Players: though I continue judging on Zoom for the Commercial Court of Abu Dhabi and appealing chartered surveyors, and the odd arbitration and mediation. More time to spend with my family including 10 grandchildren!

J. Eric Engstrom (1965)
Graduating from Dartmouth College in the US, I had only one year at Balliol (as a Recognized Student) due to a limited military service deferment. I studied history and numismatics at the Heberden Coin Room of the Ashmolean while living at the Manor.

Next was Law School at University of Chicago and then work at the Dewey, Ballantine New York City law firm before I was called to active duty. I was an Army Captain and served in Vietnam as a General Staff Officer, being decorated with two bronze stars. Upon leaving the service I returned to my home in Wichita, Kansas, and joined a law firm where I practised corporate law for nearly fifty years until the onset of Parkinson's Disease forced my retirement.

During my career, I was very involved with historic preservation. I am an Advisor Emeritus for Kansas to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and served on the state's Historic Sites Board of Review under nine governors for over 40 years. When the Board of the Wichita Art Museum asked me to become interim Director I continued my law practice along with the museum position for some thirteen months. My



Eric holding Ben Franklin terracotta medallion by Nini, 1777.

interest in numismatics continues: I have two books published and donated two large collections to the Ashmolean.

Over the years, I and my partner Robert Bell have received visits from a number of travel scholarship winners of what started as the Coolidge Pathfinders scheme (now the William Westerman Pathfinders programme).

Phillip Gordon (1965)
I'm happy to report that while my career as a practising lawyer is drawing to a close, I remain active in charitable causes, such as charter schools, Jewish studies, the fight against anti-Semitism and support of the College. I am looking forward to showing my numerous grandchildren around the College this summer when we visit the UK (assuming that we aren't barred by health concerns). I'm also engaged in assisting a family member who is developing a golf resort on the coast of Oregon, golfing when the weather permits and travelling, so boredom isn't imminent.

Roy Hay (1965)
We managed to resume the Australian rights to *Aboriginal People and Australian Football in the Nineteenth Century: They Did Not Come from Nowhere* and published a paperback edition in November 2021. The UK edition was shortlisted for the Lord Aberdare Prize of the British Society of Sports History. My biography of *Albert Pompey Austin: A Man Between Two Worlds* was commended in the Victorian Community History Awards. I'm still behind my mother-in-law, Catherine Wells, who did not publish her first book till she was 86.

Ian Mertling-Blake (1965)

Losing It?

'Do you know who you are?' they say.
Now she's asking, 'Name to-day.'
Then 'What month?' and next 'What year?'
They think I'm going potty I fear,
Just because when, said and done,
I've reached the age of ninety-one!
'Now tell me, backwards, from December months of the year. If you remember
Them all and recite them in right order,
That will mean we can recorder a
Tick on the form we both must sign
Just down here on the dotted line.'
Shall I pull her leg? Pretend
I'm already half-way round the bend?
Stumble when I get to June?
Put in April much too soon?
I'd better not in case they might
Send plain van, strong men in white
Coats. (I don't think I could hack it
However warm their padded jacket.)
Now where did I put down my keys …
When I came in? NURSE! Help me please.

NB I heard that these are some of the questions when testing for senility.

Michael Paling (1965)
Being well past my allotted three score years and ten, I sense the presence of Father Time's footsteps behind me, getting closer, and ready to tap me on the shoulder. Funny how one can take for granted the progressive decrepitude of aging as just part of 'the suchness of life', albeit hastened by high mileage. Regrettably I had to cancel my volunteer trip to Guatemala at the last minute for health reasons, and sadly I think it unlikely that I shall make it there again. Just when my Spanish was getting tolerable – curses! It is many years past that in my travels I found the profound benefits of insight meditation, and therein my acceptance that there is no enduring self occupying this corpus. Watching birds, squirrels, tortoise, and the occasional snake going about their business in the garden reinforces my understanding that I am in no way different from any other sentient being on this planet, and that in time we shall all meet the same fate. Thus I think this is a fine time to offer my very best wishes to all past friends at Balliol, to the Balliol community past and present as a whole, and to all who chance to read this missive. Be well; and may the force be with you.

Ian Prattis (1965)
The revenues from my 2021 book – *Past, Present, Future: Stories that Haunt* – created the Dr Ian Prattis Scholarship for Indigenous, Black and Racialized Students at Carleton University, Ottawa. Value $2,000. Established in September 2021. Awarded annually by the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs on the recommendation of the Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology to an outstanding Indigenous, Black or Racialized student. I was a professor there from 1970 to 2007. I present the scholarship to graduates who are outstanding, diligent and intelligent. I wrote the book because I had to. My responsibility of holding the pen was a mere posture to place words in a sequence that would resonate in the reader's mind. I had a sense of reciprocity about what I felt was necessary to heal the world from climate emergency and pandemic. The chapters play their part throughout as a sort of call and response meter that leans on kinship and community rather than corporate greed. The chapters become as seeds in the mind of the reader, so my work cannot be buried or lost. There is a strong emphasis on indigenous wisdom that pulls chapters together while displaying how easy it is to fall into destruction. Take a look at ianprattis.com/PastPresentFuture.html to purchase the book. Folks in Ottawa are welcome to get *Past, Present, Future* from my home and also receive, free, any prior book – no costs for postage.

Berel Rodal (1965)
In case of interest as the world enters the third year of the pandemic: the Global Commission for Post-Pandemic Policy, which I co-founded and co-direct with Bill Emmott, Editor-in-Chief Emeritus of *The Economist*, made up of 34 eminent thinkers and doers from around the world, has published its initial assessment. A core idea is that, from its inception an accelerator of fractures and fragilities, the Covid-19 pandemic is being experienced as four intersecting and mutually reinforcing crises: the public health crisis; an increasingly emergent ecological/climate crisis; a political trust/legitimacy crisis, as the authority of knowledge, indeed the authority of authority itself, erodes; and an international system/geopolitical crisis, as the post-Second World War international system loses cogency and effectiveness, shaped by and deepening rivalry and hostility between the US and China. The Commission's aim is to have a significant impact on public discussion in the media, expert commentary, and specialised fora, and directly on policy decision-making in government and other bodies at national and international levels. We will be launching a number of specific action-focused initiatives, treating lessons learned; the establishment of pandemic early-warning systems; managing and costing risk and resilience; and building trust/treating truth decay. Briefings of senior government leaders in several countries are in process. In personal news, daughter Rebecca gave birth to granddaughter Vivian Selah in New York in October, joining a company of 11 other grandchildren living in Toronto, Amsterdam, Boston, Tel Aviv, and New York.

Lord Angus Stewart (1965)
My wife Jenny and I joined the 2021 reunion of Modern History alumni from the years 1965 to 1968. The reunion took place in north London from 7 to 10 September. The enjoyable event was hosted and superbly organised by Andrew and Dorothy Irving. Other participants were: Martin Cree, Alan and Lidia Knight, Alex and Riitta Pravda, Michael and Jane Orr, David and Sue Walmsley. The group visited the site of the Battle of Barnet (1471); Alexandra Palace (where there was privileged access to the historic BBC television studios); the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon; Highgate Cemetery; and Kenwood House. Andrew and Dorothy arranged for exceptionally good expert guides at each location. Ron and Jane Berenbeim (USA), and Chris Saunders (South Africa) took part by internet link on the second evening. Bill and Mary Makin and Alan and Naomi Fell sent their regrets and good wishes. This was the 15th such reunion since 2004. Earlier in 2021 Ron and Jane Berenbeim (USA), John Green (Canada), Andrew and Dorothy Irving, Alex and Riitta Pravda, Angus and Jenny Stewart,

David and Sue Walmsley, and non-Balliol others took part in an online play-reading of A. Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard*. Great fun! There is a plan for some of the group, led by Alan Knight and Andrew Irving, to canoe from Lechlade to Oxford in May 2022.

Stuart Baldock (1966)
During lockdown I wrote a book. It is an adventure story called *Hit Loose*, published online at www.amazon.co.uk, and Balliol is a protagonist. I of course recommend it highly!

Ronald Berenbeim (1966)
As 2020 began, I had a great career ahead of me. I spent the summer of 2019 in Shanghai teaching high school seniors who wanted to apply to English-speaking universities the Global Business Ethics Practices course that I had developed over 25 years. I was offered a contract for 2020. Later that year, my wife and I attended a splendid 'History Boys' reunion hosted in Malta by Michael Orr (1965). We also visited our daughter in Cambridge, where she is a member of the English Literature Faculty and a Fellow of Jesus College; we welcomed our second grandson and helped to take care of the first. The 2020 summer class in Shanghai didn't happen, and it was nearly two years before we saw our daughter and grandsons again. I did collaborate with a colleague on an anti-corruption education book chapter that was published in a SAGE Handbook. I wrote an article on Ethical Stewardship for an IIC Netherlands publication and gave a seminar on Ethical Hygiene as part of a webinar series, *Coffee with Leaders*, which I hasten to add did not much resemble the visions of Vienna and Paris that it conjures. As Brooklyn Dodger fans used to say, 'Wait till next year.'

Christopher Currie (1966)
My Senior Research Fellowship of the Institute of Historical Research was renamed, perhaps ominously, a Senior Fellowship. No marriages or births this year, and no death yet. No book either, but a dual publication on a similar scale. I had been researching a moderately numerous type of medieval document that had previously been thought hardly to exist. Rather than a full printed edition, which would have taken a lifetime's work for a younger person, and probably ten more years to publish, I experimented with combining a conventionally printed and published article with a set of transcriptions and rough translations online. The transcriptions have been on British History Online (www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/tenants-copies-pre-1400) since April Fools' Day 2021, and the article, duly approved for April publication, finally appeared in December 2021 in *Archives*, volume 56, part 1 (British Records Association, 2021). Much is owed to two helpful editors.

Andrew Moore (1966)
My first scientific publication was with Paddy Phizackerley (Fellow and Tutor in Biological Sciences 1960–1994) in 1972; a recent publication marks the start of a sixth decade of scientific publishing. It is all rather surprising. A few years ago I was elected to a Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, and, to me rather more touching, to an honorary membership of the International Association for the Study of Pain (joining Balliol Emeritus Fellow Henry McQuay). Otherwise spending time pretending to be retired. As an aside, back in the late 1960s Balliol ran summer schools for underachieving boys from around the country. The idea was (as I recall) that these were boys considered to have considerable potential but who were not engaged with learning or developing. I was involved in one in 1968 or (more likely) 1969. I recently found this picture in a drawer from that school, with Chris Hill (Master 1965–1978), Denis Noble (Emeritus Fellow), and Neil MacCormick (Tutorial Fellow in Law 1967–1972), though apart from Phil Devon (also 1966) in the front row names escape me. I am not there, though perhaps I was behind the camera – who knows? A recent article on Balliol's outreach programme to schools reminded me of this.



Professor Christopher Pelling (1966)
Just publications: three books this year, one of them – *Classical Scholarship and Its History: From the Renaissance to the Present: Essays in Honour of Christopher Stray* (De Gruyter, 2021, tinyurl.com/2p9am93w) – co-edited with Professor Stephen Harrison (1978). The other two are *Thucydides: The Peloponnesian War Book VI* and *Thucydides: The Peloponnesian War Book VII* (both Cambridge University Press and available at www.cambridge.org/highereducation/).

Andrew Scull (1966)
Andrew Scull's new book, *Desperate Remedies: Psychiatry's Turbulent Quest to Cure Mental Illness*, will be published by Harvard University Press in the USA and Allen Lane/Penguin in Britain in April 2022.

Martin Walker (1966)
Martin Walker, whose 'Bruno' novels are set in the Perigord region of France, was awarded the Prix Charbonnier by the Alliance Française for his services to French culture. *The Bruno Cookbook*, which won the Gourmand International prize as 'World's Best French Cookbook' when it was published in German, comes out in English this year.

Oliver Franklin (1967 and Honorary Fellow)
I survived the pandemic in Philadelphia by working with the College on the 'Slavery in the Age of Revolution' exhibition and project. It was an excellent opportunity to get back in touch and realise why the College is special in so many ways. On the business side, I was appointed to the Ethnic Advisory Board of the NatWest Banking Group. And, on a personal level, we became grandparents.

Brendan Horton (1967)
Not much to report on this year, as life has been largely dictated by living with Covid. Have continued with my book on the history of stabilisation and adjustment in Morocco. Sadly, our younger daughter Charlotte was fatally injured in a car crash in October in Los Angeles. She was 34. We were fortunate to have our older daughter Rebecca with us for three months, till she returned to Edinburgh, where she is the operations director of an engineering company. Her presence helped ease the pain.

Professor Jonathan Slack (1967)
Slack, J.M.W., *Stem Cells: A Very Short Introduction*, second edition (Oxford University Press, 2021); Slack, J.M.W. and Dale, L., *Essential Developmental Biology*, fourth edition (Wiley-Blackwell, 2021).

Professor Sir Drummond Bone (1968 and Honorary Fellow)
Having finally given up my role at the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the diary space has been filled in by becoming the Chair of the National Library of Scotland. Working too on a second edition of the CUP *Byron Companion* for the anniversary of his death in 2024.

Julian Manyon (1968)
I have a book coming out entitled *Kidnapped by the Junta* (Icon Books, 2022). It takes its cue from my kidnapping in Buenos Aires in May 1982 during the Falklands War while I was reporting for Thames Television. Newly released CIA documents have identified the kidnappers as a gang working for the Argentine secret police led by a notorious killer, and the book explores their role both during the so-called 'Dirty War' between the Junta and left-wing revolutionary groups and in the war with Britain. Publication to coincides with the 40th anniversary of the Falklands conflict on 2 April 2022.

Professor Patrick Thomas (1968)
My duties as chair of trustees at Theatr Gwaun, our little community theatre which miraculously survives on a shoestring, drive out much else that I hoped to do when I retired, although some writing and editing continue. It was a pleasure to meet in Oxford in October 2019 with good friends from the 1968 intake Chris Dunabin, Tim Healey, John Horne and Joe Azizollahoff, just weeks before everything closed down. In other news, Natasha and I now have two granddaughters (Kushla Non and Amala Mali) who are indescribably delightful. And finally, increasingly fed up with the sound and the connotations of Nigel, I now use my middle name of Patrick, for preference. Photo taken in the Côte Brasserie on George Street, Oxford.





On 11 March 2022 Fred West (1969) and his wife Debbie stayed in College to celebrate the 50th anniversary of when they first met at Balliol on 11 March 1972.

Sir Nicholas Kenyon (1969 and Honorary Fellow)
Nicholas Kenyon completed 14 years as Managing Director of London's Barbican Centre in September 2021, having previously been Controller of BBC Radio 3 (1992–1998) and Director of the BBC Proms (1996–2007). He has taken up new roles as Opera Critic of the *Telegraph*, and Visiting Scholar at the Faculty of Music, University of Cambridge. He recently published *The Life of Music: New Adventures in the Western Classical Tradition* (Yale University Press, 2021) and edited *Building Utopia: The Barbican Centre* (Batsford, 2022).

Professor Timothy Weiskel (1969)
Beyond my daily work on long-term human survival strategies amidst our global ecological and epidemiological crises, I have followed with great interest Balliol's recent initiative in examining 'Slavery in the Age of Revolution'. Inspired in part by Balliol's impressive exhibit and important celebrations of it, I have convened an international group called the 'Africa Map Circle' to expand international scholarship in African historical cartography. The point of this new digital humanities research and teaching initiative is to help African historians and anthropologists to learn more about the ecological and social legacy in Africa of the trans-Atlantic maritime trade. Newly available technologies for digitising rare and delicate documents combined with Zoom conferencing communications now make it possible to convene international conferences between experts on multiple continents to examine the relation between European, American and African history from multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural perspectives, never previously possible.

1970s

Michael Hodges (1970)
Appointed Architectural Correspondent of the *Catholic Herald* (aka 'The Pointed Arch') in March 2021.

HE Philip McDonagh (1970)
The centre at Dublin City University of which I am Director – the Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations – was inaugurated by the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) in April 2021. In Vienna in October, we led a session at the EU Fundamental Rights Forum on religious actors and public values. We have projects with the churches and religious communities on the island of Ireland aimed at new thinking on the economy and Europe. Through the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions, we are developing a research project in the perspective of the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2025 and the role that a revived European diplomacy founded on values might play in the revival of global diplomacy as envisaged by the UN Secretary General in 'Our Common Agenda' (September 2021).

Professor Anand Pillay (1970)
I began in Balliol in 1970, Mathematics and Philosophy. I have just been appointed a Somins Distinguished Visitor at the Fields Institute, Toronto. Here is a link: www.fields.utoronto.ca/news/Anand-Pillay-receives-inaugural-Simons-Distinguished-Visitor-appointment

Jonathan Cox (1971)
As someone who has to take two types of immunosuppressant I have spent a lot of time indoors. Still manage to do a bit of voluntary community work, reading Jordan Peterson and laughing at the woke. I recently purchased the Harry Potter series, not to read the books (my grandson can do that) but as an expression of support for J.K. Rowling and the LGB Alliance. Sorry, I would like to support the College but cannot do so until both the Governing and Student Bodies condemn the cancel culture. Academic freedom underpins democracy but the cancel culture cares little for that.

Andrew Craig (1971)
Since retiring from IBM I have gained sufficient accounting qualifications to act as independent examiner for small charities with gross income up to £250,000. I do not charge for this service. If you know of a charity that is currently paying an accountant and would rather save that fee for their charity's beneficiaries, then do get in contact via the Development Office (development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk) to discuss.

Professor Adam Fairclough (1971)
Now in my fifth year of retirement, I live in Washington DC, about three miles north of the 6 January 2021 crime scene. Last year saw the publication of my *Bulldozed and Betrayed: Louisiana and the Stolen Elections of 1876*, a study of a presidential election in which there were genuine, rather than spurious, disputes. In contrast to 2021, moreover, in 1877 the leaders of both parties in Congress agreed to resolve the disputes peacefully. When a Democratic editor called for 100,000 protesters to descend upon Washington, party leaders quickly shot down the proposal. The prospect of violence in the nation's capital appalled Democrats and Republicans alike: they feared the 'Mexicanisation' of American politics. Implicitly and inadvertently, my study of the 1876–1877 electoral crisis illustrated the uniquely appalling nature of the insurrection of 6 January and the decline of the civic virtue that is so necessary for making such an unwieldy political system function. On a lighter note, I am currently researching the history of the *Daily Mirror*, where my father worked between 1947 and 1973. When not reading and writing, I like to collect, repair, and take photographs with film cameras, the oldest being a still functioning 1915 Kodak.

Simon Hill (1971)
Having semi-retired from a career in the City a couple of years ago, my wife Jane and I have taken the big step of embracing the retirement gig fully with a move to Cornwall – the first time I've lived more than 30 miles from London in my life. We've taken on a Georgian farmhouse and a large garden near Liskeard, and I'd be delighted to hear from any Balliol alumni who know me that are either in the south-west or passing



through. In family news our eldest son Oliver got married a couple of years ago and is a computer systems engineer, making robots do helpful things without catching fire; second son Alex (2010) is now using his First to good effect by engaging in the wine trade and emptying my bank balance. He got married last September. Our daughter Verity (New College 2013) is finishing a PhD at Edinburgh, tracking the philo-genetic evolution of viruses including Covid-19. She has a different understanding of PPE and goes to a post at Yale this summer. I'm still involved in theatre and singing from time to time, and am the doting owner of two Land Rovers (Gussie and Gertie) and a small tractor (Albert).

Nigel Bryant (1972)
Nigel Bryant published *Chrétien's Equal*, a translation of the complete works of Raoul de Houdenc (Boydell & Brewer, 2021).

Kim Beazley AC (1973)
My daughter Hannah was elected to the West Australian State Parliament at this year's election. She joined a Labour party Caucus of 53 out of 59 seats in the Legislative Assembly. She polled 64% of the primary vote and 78% of the two-party preferred vote. The best I ever managed in the Federal division covering the same area would have been 58%. I acknowledge a vastly superior politician.

Peter Grant (1973)
Happy to be fully retired and to have changed our residence to our house in the south-west of France, just before the Brexit deadline. The Gers is a beautiful part of the world, quiet with friendly people. Still very upset about Brexit, but at least it inspired us to change residence (and where we mainly pay tax).

Brian Groom (1973)
My book *Northerners: A History, From the Ice Age to the Present Day* was published in April 2022 by Harper North, a new imprint of HarperCollins. It's the first general history of northern England to be published for more than 30 years. It shows how the region, with its history of migration, invasions and battles, has had a profound impact on European culture and the global economy – and how northerners have shaped Britain and the world in unexpected ways. Our second grandchild, Sidney, was born in December.

Neil Stuart (1973)
I have for many years admired and envied those of my peers who are able to cite their latest erudite publications and it therefore gives me great pleasure to report that I have been unpublished: one of my letters to the *Daily Telegraph* has been included in their annual book of unpublished letters still thought worthy of belated publication. In case you wish to rush to buy a copy it is entitled *Wake Me Up When It's All Over* (Aurum, 2021). I have also had four letters actually published this year, which is something of a record and shows how bored I have been. I have had visits from Paddy Payne (1971) and Nick Demery (1973), both of whom are thriving. I look forward to visiting the College later this year unless the government backtracks again.

Martin Edwards (1974)
In 2021, I published another novel, *The Crooked Shore* (Allison and Busby), while *Howdunit* (Collins Crime Club, 2020), about the craft of crime writing, won the CrimeFest H.R.F. Keating Award for best critical/biographical book about crime fiction. 2022 sees the publication of my history of crime fiction, *The Life of Crime: Detecting the History of Mysteries and their Creators* (Collins Crime Club), and my latest novel, *Blackstone Fell* (Head of Zeus).

Professor John Helliwell (1974)
I have completed my donations to the Balliol College Library of my books, three on crystallography, and four in my general, 'scientific life', series: *Skills for a Scientific Life* (2017); then the *Whys* (2019), the *Whats* (2020), and the *Whens and Wheres of a Scientific Life* (2021).

Martin Kochanski (1974)
My book *The Creed in Slow Motion* is being published by Hodder & Stoughton in April 2022. Gripping and accessible, combining rigour with vigour, this book is for believers who are too busy saying the Creed to hear what it says, and for non-believers who want to know exactly what it is that they are disbelieving. As a Balliol mathematician I like to take everything back to first principles; and as a Balliol philosopher I find myself approaching (as the Schools examiners kindly put it) every question as if for the first time. creedinslowmotion.com

Giles Vardey (1974)
My executive coaching practice continues to grow and it is work I can do hopefully for many years yet. I continue to enjoy rowing in a mature gentleman's quad: we try and get in and out of the boat without grunting. That remains a challenge.

Robert Waller (1974)
Published 'What if FDR had died of polio in 1921' in Duncan Brack (ed.), *Prime Minister Priti … and Other Things That Never Happened* (counterfactual history) (Biteback, 2021) and 'Rutherford Hayes' in Iain Dale (ed.), *The Presidents* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2021).

Professor Ronald Beiner (1975)
I'm now pleasantly retired from the University of Toronto, after being happily employed there since 1984. 2021 also saw the birth of my gorgeous grandson, Kai Nikko Zhi-Ai Yao Beiner.

Giles MacDonogh (1975)
I have been elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

Ian Fletcher (1976)
This relic of 1970s Balliol is alive and well in Taiwan.



Adam Lloyd (1976)
In Golden Bay we have branched out from avocadoes into Cos lettuce production; in Nelson I've helped set up a new organisation to help autistic young people into employment (called 'The Buzz') but other than that have little to report, which has got to be a good thing!

James Ogilvie (1976)
Published *A Brief History of the Forestry Commission* (Royal Scottish Forestry Society, 2020), setting out the story of 100 years of British state forestry.

David Rossington (1976)
In spite of the pandemic, Sarah Mossop and I were able to hold our civil partnership ceremony last summer, and are well settled in east Oxford. I'm now semi-retired after a career in the Civil Service, and am continuing with some work for public sector bodies and charity trusteeships.

Professor Tom Schwartz (1976)
One bright spot of last year was the chance to visit London and give the Saki and Michael Dockrill Memorial Lecture at King's College, London. I knew, respected, and loved both Saki and Michael and grieved their untimely deaths. The opportunity to honour them through this lecture, based on my book about Henry Kissinger, was a special privilege to me. It was also a privilege to meet Lord Owen, who attended the talk. However, last year was also one of terrible loss, as my ex-wife, Dr Amy Kirschke, passed away in November from an aggressive brain cancer. Amy and I were divorced, but it was a 'friendly divorce', and we had been married for 20 years and still held a deep affection for each other. Our three incredible daughters set up a scholarship in her honour to help economically disadvantaged students attend college: full details at www.gofundme.com/f/amykirschke. I hope to get back to the UK, Omicron permitting, sometime in 2022.



Phil Boydell (1977)
The second year of retirement proved more active than the first as Switzerland doesn't do lockdowns much. Foolishly, I broke two rules of travel to Italy and regretted it both times: don't go in July or August and don't eat within sight of the sea. Continuing to enjoy an advantage of UK social distancing by inveigling my way into playing bridge (online) in the Wessex League. There's no longer the limitation of needing to be within driving distance of Oxford. Disappointingly I was outdistanced by an opponent competing from Estonia! In 2022 I hope to move the needle in chemical recycling of polymers after it not happening in three decades at DuPont, and indulge my interest in railways at the Blonay-Chamby museum railway. Handily, we moved to the eastern end of Lake Geneva and now live in … Blonay.

David Christie (1977)
Despite the great success of vaccinations, we are into our second Christmas with partial lockdowns and an alphabet soup of 2G, 2G+ and 3G certificate rules for access to indoor spaces (as the variants are called in German: *geimpft*, *genesen und negativ getestet*). Mostly, the loud minority of virus deniers remained a surprisingly tiny crowd: in Switzerland, where we had to vote to accept the Covid-19 legislation, a comfortable 62% voted 'yes'. There was substantial money spent on the 'no' side by groups that want to destabilise the state, else the 'yes' vote would surely have been higher.

Denial remains a strong force in UK and US politics of course. The ongoing 'institutional' dance with the EU resulted in an absurd one-sided withdrawal from negotiations by the Swiss government without even the legitimacy of a parliamentary vote! Don't worry, this is not Swexit. The nature of the beast is that Switzerland cannot afford not to be in bed with the EU. The question is only, what kind of mattress … On the family front, we have been in various styles of 'home office' this year, and my two sons have both successfully moved out of the family home. Leaving the two of us and the five cats … Again, music mostly did not happen for pandemic reasons. I still live in hope that we might start taking global warming seriously. Sadly, the Glasgow COP didn't really help.

Ted Schatzki (1977)
I wanted to report that, according to the Scopus-based Stanford study recently released, I was listed as the 13th most cited philosopher in the world in 2020.

John Whiston (1977)
In 2021 I was made a Fellow of the Royal Television Society, I guess mainly because I'm the oldest person still working in TV.

Rod Bunten (1978)
I retired from teaching, and left Canberra, when my wife Frances assumed office as 36th Governor of South Australia. I am yet to meet any Balliol alumni here in Adelaide, but I hope that that will be corrected in 2022.

HE Christopher Dell (1978)
I learned just yesterday that a former Foreign Service colleague has a surprising connection to Balliol. I posted a photo of the original College statutes on my Facebook page. My friend and colleague, Trudy Covington, wrote in reply that her family own Abbey House, formerly part of Sweetheart Abbey. Her family (Stewarts), including her parents, are buried within the precincts along with our foundress. Small world, indeed.

Murray Hancock (1978)
Still working on my retirement project, The Brisbane Dialogues, Australia's first and only dedicated 'civil discourse organisation', a growing corner of the public square in Australia and part of a loose global network of CDOs. I think of it sometimes as a direct transfer of the Balliol ethos across the world, and from an earlier to a later stage of my life. I now have three adult children in England: two sons working in London and a daughter graduating in PPE from the college opposite. Looking forward to visiting Old Blighty this summer for a family graduation, a 21st and a wedding.

Christopher Buckley (1979)
During the last couple of years I've been working for the Tracing Patterns Foundation in Berkeley, California. TPF documents disappearing indigenous lifeways, and we've been conserving an important collection of material from Papua assembled during the 1980s by the late Dr O.W. Hampton, including stone tools (which were still in use at that time) and fibre artefacts, which



we eventually hope to repatriate. There will be a catalogue at the end of next year. Aside from that I contributed three chapters to a new book, *Textiles of Indonesia* (Prestel, 2021). The photo is of a wealth stone from the Dani people who live in the Baliem Valley in Papua. It's a large piece of greenschist, decorated with plaited orchid fibre and rushes. The fibre wrappings resemble the skirts that were formerly worn by Dani women. The stones formed part of ritual exchanges of gifts at funerals and weddings.

Catharine Driver (1979)
I have been living in the Westmoreland Dales and working remotely as a schools' advisor for the National Literacy Trust since 2017. I stay in touch with family and friends down south through the ample use of the usual video conferencing platforms. Of course the Covid 'staycation' also brought people to the north-west during the last two summers, so we rarely felt isolated. A regular group of us 1979 alumni have met outdoors in rain or shine for 60th birthdays and urban, suburban and rural wanders in the last few years. Between us we row, ski, kayak, walk, run, swim, cycle, climb, scramble, and work whilst struggling to believe that it is nearly 40 years since we graduated.

Stephanie Norgate (1979)
In September 2021, my third poetry collection *The Conversation* (following *Hidden River*, 2008, and *The Blue Den*, 2012) was published by Bloodaxe Books: www.bloodaxebooks.com/ecs/product/the-conversation-1262.



Penny Phillips (1979)

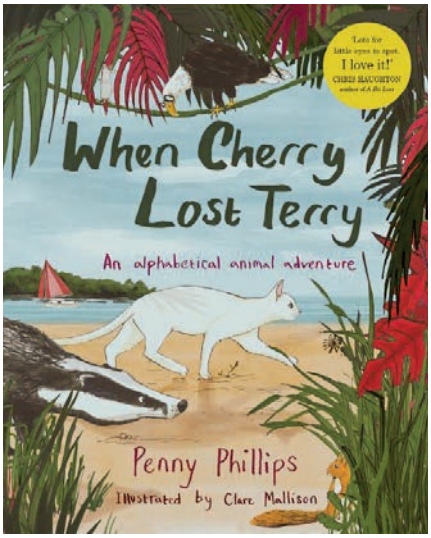
One reason to cheer and be merry:
My first book for children, I'm very
Excited to say,
Was published in May.*
The title? *When Cherry Lost Terry*.

When Cherry lost Terry one day,
Where was he? Could anyone say?
Asleep in a tree?
Or down by the sea?
He couldn't be TOO far away.

The animals searched high and low,
Unsure what to do, where to go.
Would Terry appear?
The story is here …
Just read it – and then you will know.

Oh, books! While I've edited many,
I've not, until now, written any.
    I hope you will read it –
    Your (grand)children need it!
With very best wishes from Penny

*actually April, but what rhymes with that?



Katy Ricks (1979)
I am very much enjoying my new(ish) role as Chief Master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, and Headmaster of the Schools of the Foundation of King Edward VI in Birmingham. A bit of a mouthful, but a fascinating and worthwhile challenge. The foundation must be one of the UK's most distinctive educational charities, comprising the two independent schools, six of the highest performing grammar schools in the country, and now four comprehensive academies in some of the most disadvantaged parts of the city. The foundation educates some 10% of the city's secondary-aged children, and is diverse and aspirational, with a bold mission 'to make Birmingham the best place to be educated in the UK'.

Paul Shotton (1979)
I continue to perform consultancy services in financial risk management, and to serve as a non-executive on the boards of several start-up companies. Reviving my earlier career as a physicist I am also now embarking on a new venture in quantum computing.

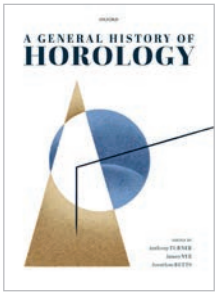
1980s

Peter Andrews (1980)
A time of reflection and change. 60th birthday, 30th wedding anniversary, children all grown up. After two years battling Covid-19 and 35 years on the NHS frontline, I am starting to plan for a tapered withdrawal. Time to have some fun and increase my carbon footprint!

Christopher Gallop (1980)
Happy to report a pretty good recovery after my back injury in 2019; I returned to St George's Tooting in July 2021 to have the internal scaffolding removed and have recovered from that operation also. Chloe and I were a featured story in *24 Hours in A&E* (Channel 4, Series 25, Episode 3); not really the way we had intended to score our 15 minutes of fame. The pandemic put paid to most of our plans for 2021 as it had for 2020's, including my intended retirement from the board of directors of Cloudfm Ltd on the day of my 60th birthday. Although I had been on the '*Kurzarbeit*' pathway by working three days a week for a year at that point, it wasn't yet quite the right time for the business if I took the next step, or so my colleagues felt. I have now secured agreement to leaving my seat on the board for a purely advisory role from April. Meantime, I'm dipping a toe very gently back into the world of academic study this year by signing up for a term's course in Social Anthropology with the Oxford Department of Continuing Education.

Philip Kolvin (1980)
Still working as a licensing barrister, with various extra-curricular activities including Chair of the gambling charity Betknowmore, Co-Chair of Crystal Palace Park Trust, Vice Chair of King's College Hospitality Charity and a board member of the Sports Grounds Safety Authority. I am also sitting as a Recorder of the Crown Court from time to time.

James Nye (1980)
I am pleased to announce the publication by OUP of *A General History of Horology* (2022) (tinyurl.com/bdhzr4a9), which three of us have collaborated on editing for the last three years, in which I contributed chapters alongside 32 other authors. At 756 pages, it is the first (and much the largest) attempt at a comprehensive survey of the history of timekeeping since David S. Landes published *Revolution in Time, Clocks and the Making of the Modern World* in 1983. Its range stretches from Antiquity to global positioning systems, and spans Europe, Middle East, the Americas and the Far East. It is richly illustrated, fully referenced, and exhaustively indexed. While offering a synthesis of current knowledge of the subject, it also incorporates the results of some fundamental, new and original research. It must also be said that it would never have been produced without Covid having happened. First discussed as an idea in a conference bar eight years ago, the project has been long in the making, but all of a sudden more than thirty writers had no remaining excuses not to finish



and submit their copy! The timing is additionally felicitous, in that having chaired the Antiquarian Horological Society (the principal learned society concerned with the history of time measurement) for some six years now, within days of its publication I was installed as the new Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers for the 391st year since its Royal Charter was granted.

Peter Telford (1980)
We've emptied the nest! Waved off two children to university in 2021, including daughter reading English at Regent's Park College. Now, if we can just find digs for the dog …

Alice Bateman (1981)
With my seventh decade fast approaching I have retired from the NHS and returned to academic study, and embarked on a Master's in Central and European History at University College London. This has been enjoyable and has involved the reassuring discovery that, after more than three decades of government taking a drably utilitarian view of higher education, there are so many clever young people who consider the study of history to be important. Away from academia I continue to write and have published a couple of short stories. Learning to sew is another ambition for retirement but I fear that may have to wait.

Professor Robert Crawford (1981)
It must be a few years since I was last in touch. In 2018 I published my eighth full collection of poems, *The Scottish Ambassador* (Cape), which was followed by *Strath*, a Scots-language collaboration with the photographer Norman McBeath (Easel Press, 2019), and an experimental biography of the Anglo-French wartime agent Violette Szabo (1921–1945), which was published in English by Molecular Press in Geneva in 2021 alongside a parallel text French translation by Paul Malgrati. In 2021 I was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and published a wee book of concrete poems, *Classical Texts* (Kettillonia). I took early retirement from the University of St Andrews in 2020, which has let me finish the second, concluding volume of my biography of T.S. Eliot, *Eliot After The Waste Land*, due to be published by Cape in London and Farrar, Straus & Giroux in New York in the summer of 2022. With my wife Alice (also now retired) I've been co-editing a book for OUP called *Libraries in Literature*. We're living in Edinburgh now – the worst thing two Glaswegians could possibly do.

Wayne Henderson (1981)
I have spent all of the 'Covid years' so far in Australia. Despite widespread images of police and army-enforced lockdowns, for most of the time we have been able to cycle, sail, walk, run, eat fresh food and drink excellent coffee. My day job is still in cybersecurity, but in the last six months in my spare time I have been working on a project to track biodiversity trends in developed environments – if anyone is interested in this, please get in touch.

Angela Jackman (1981)
2021 was an eventful year, despite the uncertainties and ongoing frustrations of Covid-19. I joined national law firm Irwin Mitchell as a partner in September. I have a very interesting and rewarding mixed remit of practising public law and also playing a role in developing the firm's responsible business strategy, with a focus on diversity and inclusion. I had the pleasure of delivering an opening speech at the Black History season celebrations at Ursuline High School, south London, following a request from fellow Balliol alumna Polly Harrison (1994). I also finally took silk on 1 November 2021, following a delay to the usual annual March ceremony caused by the pandemic. Westminster Hall was rather cold and draughty but it was a very special occasion, appreciated by friends and family.

Amanda Ariss (1982)
One of my lockdown projects was a History MA and I enjoyed it so much that I'm now planning to do a PhD on the role of colonialism in early 20th-century British feminist thinking. After abandoning employment to travel five years ago, I combine studying with working part-time as an independent equality, diversity and inclusion consultant. But the lure of the road is still strong, so when it's possible to do so without the risk of endless quarantine stops, I hope to make an overland trip from Nepal back to London via northern India, Iran and Turkey. The rest of the time, I still live very happily in London.

Paul Compton (1982)
Lockdowns had an impact on fieldwork but my history book is now at last very close to completion. *County by County* is either (for short) a history of the English counties or (more accurately) a retelling of English history with a sense of place. It's intended as an accessible work of popular history, not a scholarly volume. With one chapter on each of the 47 (modern) counties, it describes the ways in which geography – topography, natural resources, landscape – have shaped economic development, settlement patterns and ordinary people's livelihoods in each county. A recurring theme is the persistent differences of experience between England's north-western/upland half and its south-eastern/lowland half. By the time you read this I will have approached agents and perhaps publishers, and so quite likely I will also have had to take on board my first rejections.

David Kinloch (1982)
In 2020 I was appointed Emeritus Professor of Poetry and Creative Writing at the University of Strathclyde.

Chris Love (1982)
I'm now self-employed, offering Client-Centred Counselling. For more info please visit my website at chrislovecounselling.com.

Andrew Marshall (1982)
I am still in Washington, DC with the Atlantic Council, now working as Senior Vice President for Engagement. The transatlantic relationship is as important and as fraught as it ever was. Happy to see current and past Balliol people if they are passing through. Celebrating 40 years since going up, and the expansion of my horizons – and the many friendships – that brought.

Mary-Anne Newman (1982)
My bank tells me that a new year is a time for fresh plans and hope for the future, and 2021 turned out to qualify, apart from the cat dying. I had time to consider some existential issues such as whether I was having fun yet at work, and to decide whether I actually had enough to start doing all the things

I've been saving myself for (as long as I travel economy). The answers were predictable. Covid has been a great help to my planning. Lockdowns reduced my expenditure to paint, wine, and the occasional inflatable kayak. I finally ran out of responsibilities for elderly relatives. While I continue to ponder my dissolute future I am keeping myself busy as a trustee for a couple of good causes. It's great, because it lets you give people advice without their even asking you for it. It has also led to a fairly surreal experience, sitting on a church advisory panel – despite my Oxford education having rendered me a complete polytheist. They don't mind, it's the Church of England.

Paul Fox (1983)
Paul Fox, lately Chief Operating Officer, Natural Environment Research Council: Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), for services to scientific research.

Professor Keith Krause (1983)
I have had the privilege of being a Visiting Fellow at the IWM (Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen; Institute for Human Sciences) in Vienna for the period November 2021–February 2022, working on a project on 'State-building and the Global Practices of Security Sector Reform'. I am also Chair of the Research Committee of the Principles for Peace Initiative (until end 2022), working closely with the International Commission on Inclusive Peace on the elaboration of a new set of principles, standards and norms that will fundamentally reshape how peace processes are structured.

Professor Murray Pittock (1983)
In 2021 I became Co-Chair of the Scottish Arts and Humanities Alliance (saha.scot), bringing together 11 Scottish universities, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities into



a single organisation to defend and promote the arts and humanities. With the Scottish government, the Scottish Funding Council, the Russell Group, the Irish, North American and European Humanities Alliances and others, we have worked to ensure that the cutting edge of humanities research is better known everywhere. Our podcast series promotes those who have reached the top of their professions using an arts and humanities background: participants include Adam Bruce (1986). In other news, I have been working for the University of Glasgow on a range of projects ranging from early career development via the CIVIS EU confederal university initiative to the Dubai Expo, and have joined the advisory board of NISE, the Antwerp-based research platform which brings together research on national and transnational identities from 50 research centres across the UK and EU.

Nozomu Takaoka (1983)
I have been serving here in Yaounde as the Japanese Ambassador since the end of 2021. A big change from my previous post in Edinburgh, but the Christys' palm leaf hat looks more appropriate in this tropical setting.



David White (1983)
Now based in north Norfolk as a lifestyle choice. The initial lengthy commutes into London or customer sites were tough to start, but recently it has proved to be a foresighted move! Family and the Project House continue to drain all available time and resources; to be completed one decade soon, I hope. Dell Technologies continues to keep me financed and generally out of trouble. As a healthy contrast I maintain my sanity by walking the Mad Dog and occasionally skippering ecological visitor trips around the gorgeous salt marshes, courtesy of the Coastal Exploration Company. In winter I have discovered Walking Rugby as a way of continuing to pass odd-shaped balls well into my 50s – without too much collateral damage. Life is very busy but thankfully rarely dull. Vaccinated visitors welcome!

Professor Sean Freeman (1984)
A choppy time as Head of Physics and Astronomy at Manchester with three academic strikes and a faculty restructure (chuck everything in the air and put it back together again), followed swiftly by Covid and the myriad challenges for organisations that regularly put several hundred people close together in a room as part of core business. I think everyone in the department is still just about on speaking terms with me. After a long time at Manchester, I'm now seconded to CERN to look after their radioactive ion beam facility as ISOLDE Physics Section Leader and Collaboration Spokesperson. The facility serves a huge range of science from nuclear structure and nuclear astrophysics, fundamental interactions and condensed matter physics through to material science, chemistry and life sciences – so I'm learning a lot. And it's nice to cycle to work with a view of the Jura and Mont Blanc for the way home – shame I can't recall more O Level French.

Professor Dilip Menon (1984)
I was awarded the 2021 Falling Walls Foundation prize for the Social Sciences and Humanities (one of ten awardees) for my breakthrough work on theory from the global south. The previous year saw the publication of a book titled *Capitalisms: Towards a Global History* (Oxford, 2020) edited by myself and my postdoc Dr Kaveh Yazdani. A volume is forthcoming from Routledge in 2022 titled *Changing Theory: Concepts from the Global South*. The Routledge volume will be translated into Mandarin after publication and my introductory essay is already being translated for the journal *Remapping* from Tsinghua University.

Professor Cheryl Misak (1984)
On sabbatical January–July in Oxford, hoping to catch up with some old Balliol friends!



Rupert Read (1984)
In January 2021, my book, based on decades of research, *Parents for a Future: How Loving Our Children Can Prevent Climate Collapse* (UEA Publishing Project), was published. This was swiftly followed by an e-book, *A Timeline of the Plague Year: A Comprehensive Record of the UK Government's Response to the Coronavirus Crisis* (research-portal.uea.ac.uk/en/publications/a-timeline-of-the-plague-year-a-comprehensive-record-of-the-uk-go), while in July, I co-edited the first book in English on the topic of *Deep Adaptation* (Polity) with Professor Jem Bendell.

Lord Stevens (1984 and Honorary Fellow)
Simon Stevens retired as NHS Chief Executive in 2021 after seven years (including the pandemic), becoming an independent crossbench member of the House of Lords.

Professor Jordan Giddings (1985)
I finally made the leap and left permanent government service. Now doing bits. Realised that I'm not an expert at anything, but enjoy being a marriage broker, so now sit in the middle of a fun network of government, industry and academic players doing interesting things. Helping some amazing organisations with their future too – joined the board of the Met Office, and similar organisations in government and the private sector. Even the Chief Scientist for an amazing computer games company on a part-time basis!

Professor Ahuvia Kahane (1985)
Ahuvia Kahane has been made a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (2021).

Professor Anne Kiltie (1985)
I took up my appointment as the Friends of ANCHOR Clinical Chair in Oncology at the University of Aberdeen in June 2021. I am enjoying my new job very much, despite the pandemic restrictions, with lots of excellent colleagues with whom I am looking forward to working.

Michelle Cale (1986)
After many years away from research, I am now working on a local history project about Birmingham's Victorian paper-making industry. My first academic article in 27 years was published in April 2021. I am taking a sabbatical from philanthropy and community volunteering. Still living in California, still happily married to Duncan Greatwood (1986).

Karen Harrison (1986)
We were evacuated from Lagos, Nigeria, in May 2020, although I continued to work remotely, mainly from France, until September. We spent the following six months in Italy and Canada until I started as CFO for a founder-led homeware business in Nairobi, Kenya, in March 2021. This was a fun experience professionally with an extensive remit in addition to finance, from warehousing via HR to sales. We also travelled extensively through Kenya's incredible national parks and conservancies. My mother died in May 2021 to the great sorrow of all who knew her. In January 2022, I sold my London apartment, my bolthole for over 20 years and we hope to move to Canada. For Carey, this is back home to Calgary after 30 years abroad. I am applying for residency in Alberta. It is a leap of faith and, paperwork permitting, a new chapter. My third book of poetry, *A Study in Entropy*, is to be published by Small Stations Press in 2022.

Edward Morgan (1986)
Inspired by Dr Marisa J. Fuentes' Omar Azfar Lecture at Balliol in 2020 on the 'Politics of Slave Memorialisation', with a diverse range of artists and activists we took over Liverpool's iconic statues to make the documentary *Statues Redressed* for Sky Arts. We gave a radical new look to 50 statues including those of Queen Victoria, Gladstone, Disraeli, Columbus and Captain Cook. With like-minded others I've also launched WELL – a campaign for a beautiful, sustainable, accessible, life-enhancing, new public lido for people of all ages and backgrounds in west London: www.westlondonlido.com.

Mahesh Rangarajan (1986)
On 7 July 2021 I moved on from Ashoka University, where I had been teaching since January 2016. I have joined Krea University in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh, south India, as Vice Chancellor and Professor of History and Environmental Studies. It's a big change from a huge megalopolis to a small industrial township but with the challenge of being in a new, i.e. three-year-old varsity. It's challenging and exciting at the same time. This October was elected Foreign Member of the American Historians Association, the fourth Indian to be ever chosen.

Shanker Singham (1986)
Shanker Singham is the CEO of Competere, a trade law and economic policy consultancy. He is a founder member of the consortium which is managing the GB-NI boundary, the Trader Support Service, and a founder member of the Future Borders Consortium, which consists of Fujitsu, McKinsey, Hinduja Global Services, the Institute of Exports and KGH. The group is assisting the UK government with various aspects of its trade and border management policies. He also advises governments and multinationals on all aspects of international trade. He was appointed to be a member of the statutory Trade and Agriculture Commission, is an advisor to DIT on Technical Barriers to Trade and is on the Advisory Board of Wilton Park, the UK Foreign Office's think tank. He is equally involved with policy making in the US, he is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations and of Bretton Woods Committee, and he divides his time between northern Virginia and London with his wife, Mellicent. His daughter, Tanaquil, turned 30 in January, and other children include Tristan (28) and Jacques (19). Tanaquil is a theatre director, producer and actress; Tristan works in an environmental consultancy; and Jacques studies engineering at Georgia Tech.

Richard Sutcliffe (1986)
It's been a sad year in many ways. Following the death of our 16-year-old son, Mac, in 2016, my wife, Swee, died in September 2020 on the day before her 60th birthday. I'm coming out of all

of this and reflecting on my experiences in my blogs: www.findingmac.co.uk – a story of love, loss, adoption and bringing up teenagers, and, www.dearswee.co.uk – letters to Heaven. Please feel free to read and share with anyone who might be interested. I continue to work as a senior policy maker at the Financial Conduct Authority and as a part-time Church of England priest here in Hampshire.

Daniel Talbot (1986)
I have self-published a book, *William Henry Pearce: A Waterloo Veteran in the Irish Constabulary and Glasgow Police, 1821–48* (whpenquiries@yahoo.com if interested).

Professor Michele Gamburd (1987)
Since the last time I sent in information, I've served for a year as the Presiding Officer of the Portland State University Faculty Senate and I had a book published through Rutgers University Press: *Linked Lives: Elder Care, Migration, and Kinship in Sri Lanka*. I continue to row on the Willamette River in Portland, Oregon, and to commute by bike to campus.

John Hancock (1987)
Second year with closed borders in NZ created an opportunity to swim the long axis of Lake Taupō (the hole in the doughnut that is the North Island). It's the caldera of a giant (and mercifully extinct) volcano. Just over 40 kilometres in just over 14 hours. Hardly Effortless Superiority but an amazing positive to pull out of a tough year.

Lucy Ward (1987)
My book on the inoculation of Catherine the Great against smallpox in 1768 by Thomas Dimsdale, a Quaker physician from Hertfordshire, was published by Oneworld in April 2022. The Empress used her example to promote inoculation throughout Russia. My non-fiction account, drawn from the Dimsdale family's unpublished papers and other archival material, was proposed just before the Covid pandemic. Its themes – the history of the technology underpinning vaccination; the clash of science and superstition; and the importance of political leadership and trust in public health campaigns – gained dramatically greater resonance between pitch and publication.

Gareth Johnston (1989)
Since September I've been filling a Deputy Secretary post in the Executive Office at Stormont, responsible for community relations and racial equality policy in Northern Ireland; support for victims and survivors of the Troubles and of institutional abuse; and establishing a public inquiry into the legacy of Mother and Baby Institutions and Magdalene Laundries here, amongst other things.

1990s

Olly Blackburn (1990)
The Covid stress cycle was – amazingly – a boon to my TV show *Sanditon*, a free-wheeling adaptation of Jane Austen's final unfinished novel which found an army of fans around the world all trapped in lockdown and hungry for escape to another era. Syndication of the show sparked off an international grassroots social media campaign that resulted in the series being renewed for more seasons. Back in the 21st century another series I directed called *StartUp*, about cryptocurrency hackers, gangsters and entrepreneurs in Miami, became one of 2021's most watched shows on Netflix and I have spent the rest of the year with the *ancien régime*, making a new version of *Dangerous Liaisons*. Otherwise I've been working on two large projects of my own, one on God and the other a modern-day witch trial. That degree in early modern social and religious history has come in handy.



Professor Anusha Chari (1990)
I took over as Chair of the American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP). Here is a link to the announcement: tinyurl.com/2p9aza7f.

Graeme Garrard (1990)
My new book: *The Return of the State: And Why It Is Essential for Our Health, Wealth and Happiness* (Yale University Press, 2022).

Julian Green (1990)
Julian Green launched his start-up's product. Headroom aims to make remote working successful, and be less painful than Zoom et al. for video conferencing and searching, sharing and reviewing meetings.

Alan Taylor (1990)
Currently hunkering down in the Balkans, tidying up the film scripts and forging ahead with short story writing based on experiences in Morocco and Bulgaria. No show runners here! Just me and the words. Also structuring the timely sequel to my 2005 doctorate/book *We, The Media: Hollywood Representations of News Broadcasting* (Peter Lang). Thoughts to former colleagues in UK schools and FE.

Kitty Ussher (1990)
I've gone back in-house this year, as Chief Economist for the Institute of Directors, the chartered body for board-level business leaders, typically running ambitious small and medium-sized businesses across the UK. At such an interesting time for the economy it's a privilege to be the conduit between the lived experience of our diverse membership and national policymakers. I've also taken on two non-executive posts myself – a fintech (Revolut) and an asset manager (London CIV).

Michael Healey (1992)
After 23 years at Rebellion, an Oxford-based video game developer where I was Head of Programming, I have started a new job at Sony, working in the PlayStation Studios Tools & Technology group. I still live in Oxford with my wife Lucy and our three teenage boys. I have become a keen runner and completed the MK Marathon in under three hours to qualify for a place in the London Marathon for October 2022.

Abdur-Rehman Ismael Mia (1992)
Founded RECHORD.XYZ, a four-track recording studio in your pocket, launching Q1 2022. Joined Thames Estuary Growth Board as Creative Sector and Digital Lead. Appointed to board of In-House Records, an award-

winning skills-in-prisons initiative. Building a 300-seat immersive audio mix stage in Canterbury. Producing and directing a season of immersive audio theatre productions in summer 2022.

Susan Lamb (1992)
I was sworn in as a justice of the criminal division of the Supreme Court of Belize on 17 January 2022. I've spent the last decades working mainly for United Nations international criminal tribunals, as a prosecutor for the Yugoslavia Tribunal and the judiciary of the Rwanda and Cambodia Tribunals, as Chef de Cabinet for ICTR (International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda) and as Senior Judicial Coordinator for UNAKRT (United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials). In past years, and before moving to the Caribbean, I was based in Lisbon, Portugal, as a consultant in the rule of law and counter-terrorism areas, travelling or working in Syria, Iraq, Mali, Kenya and Somalia. I enjoy contributing to a summer school each year in Oxford and would love to hear from any Balliol members nearby or in similar fields.



Andrew Robertson (1993)
Music software program Ableton Live 11 featured my work on real-time tempo following, which synchronises a computer sequencer to a drummer. This follows another offline algorithm, Capture, which detects the tempo and beat in freely played MIDI keyboard parts. I released a couple of songs in the summer, 'Steve Jobs Song' and 'Wings', and will be releasing my debut album this spring. My lovely daughter, Odile, was born in September last year.

Michael d'Arcy (1994)
My wife Laura and I were delighted to welcome a second daughter, Teresa Grace, in March 2021, a younger sister for Mary Elizabeth (who is now two years old). Professionally, I continue to practise at the Bar, specialising in commercial law, at One Essex Court, the chambers of Lord Grabiner QC.

Sir James Mallinson Bt (1995)
I have recently published a book, available here: tinyurl.com/2p9cjkrv. Its title is a bit of a mouthful: *The Amṛtasiddhi and Amṛtasiddhimūla: The Earliest Texts of the Haṭhayoga Tradition* (French School of the Far East, 2022). I co-authored it with Dr Péter-Dániel Szántó (Fellow of All Souls 2015–2020). It's very much for specialists, being a critical edition from Tibetan and Sanskrit manuscripts, but it's exciting because we have been able to show that the text, which was probably written in the 11th century and is the first text to teach physical yoga methods, was written by Buddhists and not Hindus as previously thought.

Carol McQueen (1995)
I have now completed my assignment as Canada's Ambassador to Burkina Faso and have returned to Ottawa, where I now work for the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship as the Director General for resettlement and asylum strategic operations. Nice to be home again and to be enjoying winter sports!

Michael Truss (1995)
In September 2021, I took up the post of Principal of Concord College in Shropshire. Concord is an international school with a highly academic and inclusive ethos. The whole family are enjoying being part of a truly exciting community and are making friends from all over the world.

Sam Carr (1996)
A third child, Felix Quintian Mitchell Carr, born in October and doing well. And very importantly, continuing the family tradition of unusual middle names. For my part, about to move out of management and back to the coalface, to reinvigorate my hands-on coding and tech skills. Wish me luck.

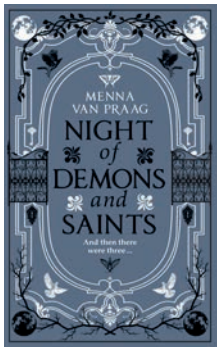
Ben Lynch (1996)
My father sadly passed away in August 2021. He was a great friend to many of my Balliol mates and is sorely missed by all.

Stephen Maile (1996)
I am currently Finance Director of the Fishmongers' Company, one of the modestly named Great Twelve Livery Companies of the City of London. The work is a pleasingly eclectic mix which includes looking after the company's investments, its listed hall, an events business, and charitable and philanthropic outputs, and the occasional opportunity to indulge in a glass of something nice. Fishmongers' Hall was much in the news in late 2019 owing to the tragic terrorist attack of 29 November. By chance, I was elsewhere on the fateful afternoon. While some dark months followed, not helped by the onset of the pandemic, I'm pleased to report that the company has emerged in very good shape with its desire to make a positive difference to society stronger than ever. I recently joined the board of the Livery Companies Mutual, which insures on a mutual basis over eighty livery companies, clubs and other membership bodies occupying historic buildings. It turns out that insurance is really rather interesting after all! I live in Bromley with my wife Rachel and my boys, Leo (11) and Josiah (8).

Allison Hoffman (1997)
Allison Hoffman has been named Executive Editor of CNN Politics, overseeing coverage of the upcoming 2022 congressional mid-term elections and the 2024 presidential campaign for the largest US politics news website.

Shashi Jayakumar (1997)
My book, *A History of the People's Action Party, 1985–2021*, was published by the National University of Singapore Press in December 2021: tinyurl.com/339fbf2b.

Menna Van Praag (1997)
My ninth novel, *Night of Demons and Saints*, the sequel to the bestselling work of speculative fiction *The Sisters Grimm*, was published by Penguin on 3 February 2022, and will be published in the US by Harper Collins in October.



The story is set in Cambridge and features modern-day versions of the four fairytale characters: Snow White, Cinderella, Red Riding Hood and Beauty. The *Guardian* called *The Sisters Grimm* 'a compelling, intensely poetic narrative of empowerment and self-realisation'. The third instalment of the trilogy, *Child of Earth and Sky*, will be published next year.

Siân Young (1997) (née Price)
Last year I celebrated 20 years of living in Ireland after a six-month move for a work placement got seriously out of hand. Married to Ivor with a five-year-old daughter, Jennifer. Having spent most of my career in marketing I have in recent years been upskilling in sustainability, leading to my current role as Head of People & Planet for Britvic Ireland – a fantastic job title, though my responsibilities are sadly limited to leading our HR and sustainability functions for the time-being.

Paul Durban (1998)
New recent addition to the Durban family. Margot Pamela arrived on 18 January 2022. Sister to Jana Ruby. Mum (Rachel) and Margot doing well.

Helena Hawthorn (1998)
I've been juggling the challenges which Covid life threw at us (like everyone else) including home-schooling, jobs and a poorly timed house renovation – and am still speaking to my immediate family despite that. Over 2021, Nell (aged 10) and Gus (aged 7) spent a not inconsiderable amount of time trying to teach me how to build the Lego Millennium Falcon. In between that, I'm working as Head of Legal at Legal & General and was recently appointed as a board member of one of their subsidiaries.

Emily Charnock (1999)
After several years back in the UK I am temporarily living in the United States again – in Palo Alto, California – where my husband Charlie is a Visiting Fellow at Stanford. Our second daughter, Clara, was born here late last year, joining big sister Eliza who was born in 2019. We plan to return to the UK in the summer. On the professional front, after a postdoctoral research Fellowship at Cambridge, my book on American interest groups and election campaigns, *The Rise of Political Action Committees*, was published in 2020 with Oxford University Press. I am now Director of the (John F.) Kennedy Memorial Trust in the UK, which has brought things full circle in a way, combining my interests in US political history – which I first studied at Oxford – and working with British students and graduates. As the pandemic restrictions lift this year I'm looking forward to reconnecting with Balliol friends on both sides of the Atlantic!

Geoffrey Evatt (1999)
My wife (Rachel Evatt, 2000) and I have had an eventful two years. Prior to these Rachel had been working in the tech scene (her first start-up, Zoombu, was acquired by Skyscanner, where she was Head of Product, which was then purchased by a Chinese firm, CTrip) and was running her second start-up, Aroundsound. I was/am a Senior Lecturer in the maths department at Manchester University, specialising in glaciology. As part of my research, I lead the UK's 'Lost Meteorites of Antarctica' project, which saw me hop between the Arctic and Antarctic four times in two years (shattered), and retrieve some 120 meteorites from an unexplored region of Antarctica. These are now being analysed and will be housed by the Natural History Museum, London. During these commutes, I wrote puzzles for Radio 4's *Today* programme. Yet the evidential demise of biodiversity and the pumping out of carbon we are all doing pushed us to take stock of our impact upon the planet, and the sale of Skyscanner enabled us to take action. In 2020, we purchased an upland farm in the Peak District, Sunart Fields, which we now run as a rewilding project: see *Floreat Domus* 2022, page 27. We both took unpaid leave from our desk jobs for two years to get things up and running (which included a lot of drystone walling), and have now returned at a 50% rate (Rachel doing so at the charity Rewilding Britain). We have two healthy/happy daughters, Iris (7) and Edith (5).

2000s

Melissa Ford Holloway (2001)
With funding from Diabetes Center Berne in Switzerland, I'm working on the proof of concept for a mobile-first patient education programme to help people get started using continuous glucose monitoring (www.smartstart.health) – would love to hear from anyone who is interested in the topic. Caroline turned 2 in September and her big brother James will be 7 in March. We are still happy in Pimlico.

Ella Kaye (2001)
Ella Kaye and her wife Natasha were thrilled to welcome their son, Ori Wolf Kaye, born 19 January 2022.



Professor Hanna Roos (2001)
2021 was a year of motion for the Roos family. Hanna (*née* Hyry, 2001) set up her own global dispute resolution law practice, located at www.hannaroos.com and 12 Hay Hill, Mayfair, London. It is founded on the pioneering principle that law can be practised more innovatively to benefit clients and lawyers alike, and on clients' recognition of her as a 'super star' and 'the best, brightest, hardest working



and most relentless lawyer of her generation'. Enormous thanks to Balliol for training her mind, with additional thanks to Cambridge, too. Hanna's surgeon husband Jonathan runs an award-winning eyelid surgery and facial rejuvenation practice on Harley Street (www.facerestoration.com). Hanna lectures as External Professor for a Master's programme in the intersection of medicine, biotech and law, the programme being reinvigorated post-Covid. Hanna and Jonathan have two sons, Emil (9) and Teddy (Edvard, 4). One of Teddy's middle names is Leijonamieli, Finnish for the 'mind of a lion'; he was aptly christened under the watchful eyes of the Balliol lion in the College Chapel. The boys go to the London Swedish School, where Hanna serves as chair of the board of governors. The boys are currently learning karate, cooking (including tidying up the kitchen – not popular), perseverance in good humour (Emil) and getting up in the mornings (Teddy). They have a bumbling puppy, Kiwi, who is no Einstein but makes up for it in cuddliness and in loyal companionship on Hanna's unimpressively slow and impressively muddy runs by the Thames.

Nicholas Rowan (2001)
I am delighted that, together with the help of the College and former students, a new fund in memory of David Dressler (1941–2014), Balliol Lecturer in Biochemistry 1997–2008, was set up to provide financial assistance for medical students of the College.

Rachel Carrell (2002)
My company, Koru Kids, launched a new childcare service at the end of 2021. Our mission is to build a new, much better childcare system. From 2022 we'll be launching thousands of 'Home Nurseries' across the UK, training up thousands of Early Educators to look after young children in a flexible, local, personalised way using the Koru ethos of forest education and emotional wellbeing. Having grown over the past five years to be the largest after-school childcare service in the UK, we're privileged to count many Balliol alumni among our users and investors already, and very excited about our service expansion in 2022.



Daniel-Konrad Cooper (2002)
Daniel was a producer on *The Colour Room*, a Sky Original feature film detailing the life of celebrated Stoke potter Clarice Cliff. The film stars Phoebe Dynevor (*Bridgerton*) and was released internationally in November 2021. With his company Rather Good Films he has recently completed photography in Hungary for *The Lair*, an action film directed by Neil Marshall which is set for release in late 2022. He is newly a BAFTA member and also remains a die-hard supporter of Oxford United FC.

Christian Hansen (2002)
Our son, Jack Erling Hansen, was born on 2 August 2021.



Tom Lane (2002)
In 2021 I was awarded my PhD in composition from University College Cork. I also completed the score for a newly commissioned chamber opera and composed music for several plays, including *The Tragedy of Macbeth* at the Almeida Theatre in London.

Rebecca Fitchett (2003)
Gethin Anthony (2002) and I are getting married on 24 June 2022, almost 19 years after we met during my first week at Balliol in 2003. We re-met in 2018 while I was living in Los Angeles, and, after postponing our planned wedding because of Covid, had a little boy (Macsen) in April 2021. Many of our Balliol classmates from both of our year groups will be attending, so it will be a bit of a Balliol reunion!

Natalie Quinn (2003)
I married Theo Maarten van Lint (Pembroke 2002) in July 2018 at St Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church in Kensington. My parents had married in the same church almost 40 years earlier; the dress I wore had been made for my grandmother's wedding in Cairo 30 years before that; my mother and I trimmed it with needlelace worn by my great-grandmother (or possibly her mother) in Ottoman Cilicia well over 100 years ago. We were five feet short on the trimming for the veil, and the only way to get more to match was to work out how to make it myself. Quite why this seemed like a good idea while running parts of a substantial research project in Kenya, I'm not sure; I completed enough with just hours to spare! Theo and I couldn't decide which of our colleges should host the reception, so compromised with Saturday evening at Lady Margaret Hall (where I am Domus Fellow and Tutor in Economics) and Sunday lunch at Pembroke. Our joy was complete when our daughter Hripsimé Cecilia arrived in November 2021. My research continues to focus on measurement (of poverty,



empowerment, impact of development programmes) in a low-income context, while on the teaching side a recent focus has been setting up the PPE Foundation Year at LMH, making the course accessible for candidates from very disadvantaged backgrounds. Its scale-up across the University will occupy the next couple of years.

Seb Sequoiah-Grayson (2003)
I have been appointed Senior Lecturer in Epistemics at the School of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) here in Sydney, Australia.

Kurt Mitman (2004)
I am living in Stockholm, Sweden (and became Swedish in 2021), where I'm an Associate Professor at the Institute for International Economic Studies at Stockholm University. My research is currently focused on inequality and macroeconomic policy, supported by a European Research Council Starting Grant. I'm currently serving as a Managing Editor of the *Review of Economic Studies*, one of the core economics journals.

Lucy King (2005)
It was a tough year in the elephant world with Covid causing the collapse of tourism in many national parks in Africa and a consequent effect on funding, although we're seeing a revival slowly now and hoping some more funding will start to come back to support these vital ecosystems. Our team at Save the Elephants (STE) has been insanely busy trying to support a network of partners across Africa with anti-poaching, anti-trafficking and human-elephant conflict mitigation support through our Elephant Crisis Fund. At least it feels like global awareness of the importance of the natural world is improving and STE is collaborating on several documentaries too, which should come out in 2022. www.savetheelephants.org



Lucy assisting with collaring a bull elephant with a satellite tracking collar in the Greater Kruger ecosystem.

Jennifer Reuer (2005)
Jennifer Reuer and her husband Tetsuya Yamamoto celebrated the birth of their son, Kai Ethan Reuer-Yamamoto, on 17 April 2021.



Keith Tse (2005)
Despite the fact that the pandemic continues to turn our world upside down and upset our normal way of life, I have sought to further my career by mainly working from home as per the government and Prime Minister/former Balliol classicist's health and safety protocols, and I am glad to report that I have joined Lancaster University as a Research Associate in their research team in Corpus Linguistics, which ties in with my ongoing research in the field. This is a remote position and I am now working from my abode in York (with profuse apologies to the Tudors). Furthermore, I am still publishing my research in linguistics and writing op-eds for *Asia Times Online*, where all my contributions can be found on my author's column. I have also been very pleasantly surprised to discover that some of my publications have been cited by colleagues in the field, including an old unpublished manuscript (2012) which has recently been cited in a peer-reviewed article published by De Gruyter. 2022 seems set to be another year beset by the Covid-19 pandemic and I wish all my Balliol contacts a happy, safe and healthy year!



Dominic Weinberg (2005)
2021 was a memorable year. In May, we welcomed Wilfred James Oxley Weinberg into the world. In November, I defended my PhD thesis ('The Social Gradient in Adolescent Mental Health: What, Why and For Whom'; tinyurl.com/y7dhwkwn). I continue to work at Utrecht University, now as a Lecturer in Social Policy and Public Health.

Daniel Carden (2006)
At the end of July last year, I finally got married in Marbella to my beautiful wife Alejandra after the wedding was postponed from 2020. We had a fantastic time, and it was attended by two Balliol PPE alumni, Paul Thiekoetter (2006) and John Lee (2004). My book *Econometric IFRS9 and Stress Test Models using SAS, Python and R*, co-authored with Jorge Ribeiro and Patrick Ribeiro, was published in March 2022.





Jasmine Parkinson (2006)
After a few delays due to Covid, James and I finally married on 14 August 2021. We recited our vows surrounded by old friends from Oxford and Cambridge alike, with Chiara Shea (2006) as my best woman and Jonathan Bish (2006) providing a reading of 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. After a disrupted couple of years, we're now making up for lost time and looking forward to spending the rest of our lives together.

Timothy Trudgian (2006)
We enjoyed plenty of Shakespeare during the various lockdowns here: with sessions spent reading, watching, and recreating. The boys displayed a particular keenness for *Henry V*. The attached picture is a domestic recreation of the Battle of Harfleur by Archie (11) and Monty (7). Can this cockpit hold the vasty fields of France? Sunday arvo pizza and opera sessions continued unabated, lockdown or no. The boys bolted out after the conclusion to R. Strauss's *Elektra* to rocket it to the top of their rankings: the oldies are the goodies. My wife, Di, is now a Jill-of-all-trades, with different hats for admin work, community support, and running a toy library. I've been bottling pesto like a madman to try to keep the basil in check … what else should a mathematician do at home? Prove theorems?



Wishing everyone a safe 2022, filled with good times amongst friends and family, Archie, Di, Monty, and Tim Trudgian.

Sanam Khanchandani (2007)
My husband, Kabir, and I welcomed our second baby into this world on 9 September 2021. A little baby boy named Krish, younger brother to our lovely daughter Inaya. Our hearts are filled with joy!

Oscar Schonfeld (2007)
Emily Duncan (2008) and I welcomed our first child, Holly, on 11 December 2021. It has been a steep learning curve but very exciting. Much like our time at Balliol!

Simon Wan (2007)
Elizabeth Mumford (2008) and Simon Wan (2007) welcomed the arrival of baby Sophie in September.

Professor Edward Grefenstette (2008)
My wife Renie and I were delighted



Abubakar Abioye (2008) married Natalie Posever in Harvard in 2021.

to welcome to our family, in 2021, our son Corentin, brother to Marceline (born 2018). In lesser news, I was happy to be promoted to Honorary Professor at University College London, where I co-run the DARK lab in the AI Centre. In tandem with this, I continued my day job as research lead at Facebook (now Meta) AI Research, enjoying the stimulation of talking to dozens of people smarter than me from the relative safety of my study. I was surprised to receive, along with my erstwhile collaborator and friend Richard Evans, the IJCAI-JAIR 2021 best paper award for most impactful work from the last five years. Fitting with the theme of pandemic-induced missed opportunities, we both missed the (virtual) award ceremony because of scheduling issues (and misunderstandings) but were flattered nonetheless. I look forward, in 2022, to a fresh set of opportunities for me and my family, and to the hope of getting to see friends new and old in person, for a change.

Nathalie Hoon (2009)
Following a 30-person lockdown wedding in 2020 – with Balliol bridesmaids Lucy Tucker (*née* Brooks) and Tonya Semyachkova, both 2009, in attendance) – I and my husband, Nick Cross (St John's College, Cambridge – someone has to!), welcomed our daughter, Autumn Betty, into the world in October 2021. It'll be a fight over light blue or dark blue in 18 years!



Ronan Lyons (2009)
Rossa Lyons was born in November 2021 and is currently being doted on by his two older brothers, Morgan (6) and Cullen (3), as well as his parents. I am very happy to be able to report also that, in 2021, I was promoted to Associate Professor in Economics at Trinity College Dublin.

2010s

Brook Hewett (2010)
Since graduating in 2013, I've married fellow 2010 Balliolite Shreya Sinha and this past August we've just had our third child together. We feel truly blessed. In 2020 I sold my business and I have now just started a new business making bathroom products for babies and kids – after all, I have some relevant experience in that area.

Ada Coghen-Brewster (2011)
I got married to Jack Coghen-Brewster on 14 August 2021 at Magdalene College, Cambridge. We had a lovely day with our close family.



Mireia Crispin Ortuzar (2011)
Bartomeu and I are delighted to share that our daughter, Marina Monserrat-Crispin, was born in Cambridge on 2 August 2021. She fills our days with joy (and hard work!) and we are loving our adventures as a new family of three.

Illias Thoms (2011)
Last year saw the publication of *The Impossible Office* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), a 300-year history of the office of British Prime Minister (tinyurl.com/2p86r6t6) by Anthony Seldon with me and Jonathan Meakins (Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Professorial Fellow 2002–2008). I returned to work in film and TV in February 2021, spending much of last year on the film version of the *Matilda* musical and a new action film called *Argylle*.

Cody Weaver (2012)
My name is Joseph Cody Weaver and I matriculated (but did not graduate) at Balliol as a graduate student in 2012 in the MSt programme in Ancient Philosophy. I successfully defended my PhD dissertation in philosophy at the University of Oklahoma in November 2021. My dissertation was entitled 'Aristotle on the Metabolic Status of Perception'. I am currently employed full-time (since 2019) as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Caryn Davies (2013)
I failed to make my fourth Olympic team in 2021 because of a shoulder injury. It was difficult to watch my teammates prepare for the Games without me, but I don't regret having quit my job as a corporate attorney in 2019 to give it a go. I'm especially proud of having done everything I could to be a good teammate and mentor to the younger generation of oarswomen. I'm now embarking on a new adventure, heading up the US business of UK-based legal services firm Avantia (www.avantialaw.com), founded by a fellow Said Business School graduate. The company uses Oxford-developed AI technology to do routine document processing. Although I'm once again retired from elite rowing, I remain active in Master's level competition, where sometimes the costume contest is as important as the race itself. In racing as Professor Trelawney in the *Hogwarts Express* this year (see photo), my fiancé and I remembered that life is not just how successful you are, it's also how much fun you're having. And how good you look doing it!



Laia Josa-Culleré (2013)
On 27 November 2021, we welcomed to our family a baby girl, Emma Perdigó-Josa.

Laurence Warner (2013)
I released my debut double album *Smalltown Dreamer*, fittingly launching it at my hometown Eastleigh's football stadium, and I'm now touring it in LA. I continue to raise awareness of Big Tech's harms via my new personal blog wa.rner.me. Laurence Warner aka Cerulean.

Giuseppe Dal Pra (2014)
In 2020 and 2021 I collaboratively produced a single of industrial techno with prophetic martial vocals, reflective of the terseness of our times, under the alias Vermillion. The release is called *Vehemence* and is available at amorfaticollective.bandcamp.com/album/vehemence as the debut release



from Amor Fati, which alumni may remember from the club night which celebrated the end of finals in 2017 at the Cellar.

Arman Karshenas Najafabadi (2017)
I graduated in 2020 from Balliol in Engineering Science and did an MPhil in Genetics at Cambridge, and now I am at UC Berkeley doing a PhD in Biophysics with a Berkeley Graduate Fellowship.

Neil Carmichael (2019)
Imogen Hope Carmichael – born on the 24 February 2021 and weighing 7 pounds and 4 ounces. Mum and Dad are completely besotted with her.



Keeping in touch

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

We are always pleased to hear what Old Members of Balliol are doing. You can send us any news, at any time during the year, by email (development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk) or by post (Development Office, Balliol College, Oxford OX1 3BJ). If you have news you would like to share in the next issue of News and Notes, please email it to newsandnotes@balliol.ox.ac.uk or send it by post to the Development Office as above: deadline end of January 2023.

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Stuart Bebb



Petros Spanou

