BALLIOL COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

NEWS AND NOTES

UPDATES FROM BALLIOL ALUMNI AROUND THE WORLD

A SUPPLEMENT TO FLOREAT DOMUS 2024


Stuart Bebb

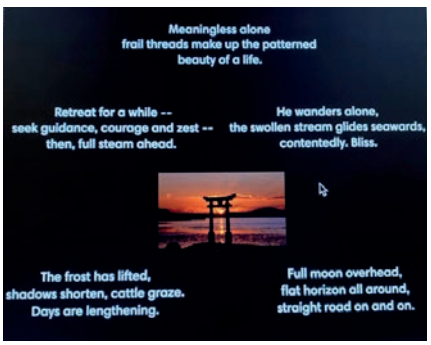
News and Notes

We are delighted to share news from the Balliol community

1940s

Edward Gelles (1944)
I have devoted the past 25 years to the study of my ancestors and their pan-European migrations. In recent years I have presented brief annual 'News and Notes' on the progress of my work, which is presently set out in seven published books and on the Balliol College website (Archives and Manuscripts) under the heading 'Papers of Edward Gelles': https://archives.balliol.ox.ac.uk/Modern%20Papers/gelles/gelles.asp. My work has involved inter-disciplinary studies of history, genealogy, genetics, onomastics, and other sources. My book entitled *Photographs*, published in 2020, presented a pictorial background of my life and of selected ancestors. This book has now been updated in 2023 and can be seen on the Balliol website in the article 'Edward Gelles – My Family Background'. It adds to both the paternal Gelles and maternal Griffel side of my family, including intermarriages, and other connections.

Emeritus Professor Malcolm Whyte (1948)
I have not anything of real value to submit but you may just be interested to know that I have, aged 103, compiled a little book of 100 of the Haiku poems I have composed over the years. Probably my last publication. Certainly not an academic one! I attach pictures of its first page and last page.



1950s

John Mallet (1950)
I have this year continued contributing to the history of ceramics with an article in the 'Transactions of the English Ceramic Circle' on connections between the Chelsea Porcelain Factory and foundling children. I also contributed, to Elisa Paola Sani's beautiful catalogue *Italian Maoiolica and Other Early Ceramics in the Courtauld Gallery*, an introductory chapter, 'Between Art and Artefact', in which I emphasise connections and distinctions between the so-called 'applied arts' and 'fine arts'.

Kenneth Cavander (1952)
2023 saw the outcomes of two out of the three projects I was working on in 2022. The films on the later life and personal involvements of C.S. Lewis (author of *Mere Christianity* and *The Narnia Chronicles*) are being prepared for production in 2024; my five-part adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* was aired on Next Chapter Podcasts in the spring of 2023, and received a Signal Award; my version of Sophokles' *Antigone*, scheduled for production at a theatre in Connecticut in the autumn of 2023, was a victim of the tsunami of debt that drowned many regional theatres in the US this past year – the theatre closed in the summer of 2023. I am now working with a director to present *Antigone* at a staged reading in New York City in the spring of 2024.

Professor Ian Macdonald (1952)
Now, 69 years since coming down from Balliol, my life continues on the retrospective path of the past few years – nothing new to report but many interesting ventures on which to reflect. This year marks the 50th anniversary of leaving my post as Deputy Minister (Permanent Secretary) of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs in the Government of Ontario to become the third President and Vice-Chancellor of York University in Toronto, a post that I occupied for ten years while remaining a Professor for the subsequent 40 years. At that time, York was a mere institutional adolescent of 14 years and it is now a mature university of 65, struggling along with many others in Canada with chronic underfunding and a vexatious debate about the appropriate number of international students that we should welcome. Otherwise in my life, the Grim Reaper continues to carry off friends and colleagues along with an increasing number of former students. I am happy to include a photo of my wife and me and a former graduate student who visited us last autumn from Germany.


My wife, Dorothy, on the left, with me on the right and my colleague and former graduate student, Professor Dietmar Braunig, in the centre.

Alan Spencer (1952)
My reply to all kind enquiries is 'so far, so good' and I feel very lucky to have got this far towards the front of the Balliol Register. At the hugely successful Usborne Dinner I even came top of the list and reflected that I might as well enjoy it, as it's the only Balliol list where that could ever happen. I still have discreet contacts with my business friends in Russia, where we had great success compared with multiple failures in Ukraine because of the corruption

there at the time. Maybe I'll end up as the last one who remembers when the Ukrainians were the bad guys and the Russians the good ones.

Emeritus Professor Colin Apelt (1954)
The annual invitation to contribute to *News and Notes* triggers memories of my time in Balliol a long time ago. I recall that all colleges had a curfew then that applied to all students, undergraduate and postgraduate. The college doors were closed at 9.00pm seven days a week and all students were required to be in college before the closure. The Proctors were said to police this to some extent – though I have no evidence of this. At that time my home town, Brisbane, now very vibrant, was a cultural desert and I was determined to attend as many concerts, ballets, and operas in London as I could afford. So, I often went to London by train in the afternoon in time to go to the performance, returning by train to arrive in Oxford about midnight. The trick was to climb into College without disturbing anyone. There were climbing routes into Balliol itself and Holywell Manor that were well known to curfew breakers. I was never caught.

Turning to the present, my retirement was interrupted in July 2023 when I was persuaded to review essential elements of the flood modelling for the Hawkesbury Nepean Flood Study in New South Wales that had been strongly contested by interested parties. This required solid full-time work under time pressure for about a week; I rather enjoyed working under time pressure again but I would not want it to extend.

David Brooks (1954)
My wife Anne was diagnosed with mesothelioma in February 2022. It is an incurable cancer but medication was very effective. After 57 years of marriage she died peacefully on 17 August last year with all of the family present, including six grandchildren. Three days earlier her radiant smile and a few words showed she was deeply conscious of God's love for her and her sure hope of the glory to come. Though physically very well for my age I mourn with plenty of tears, but am greatly encouraged by a sure hope for the future. I imagine many of my contemporaries are still with us who may be able to appreciate the news.



Alexander with his wife Margaret.

Alexander Hopkinson-Woolley (1955)
I am writing another book, with the same sort of theme as the others, designed for open-minded readers who are unsure but would like to have something credible to consider. The books are not popular because they suggest there were almost no miracles to be attributed to Jesus and that he was teaching a reformed Judaism which bypassed preoccupation with sin and atonement. One might remember, when Jesus had healed the paralytic at the pool, a psychological case, he later told him not to sin again, in case something worse happened. The man had absolutely no idea what his sin might have been; Jesus was having a joke with him. Jesus's telepathic and healing powers were almost preternatural but paralleled to a much lesser extent in Hanina ben Dosa, who was credited with healing the son of Gamaliel, Paul's teacher. For instance, the dead whom Jesus is credited with raising were in comas, as he said at the time, not actually dead. The transfiguration was a case of hallucination on the top of Mount Hermon where, at 2,800 metres, the rarefied air had that effect on Peter but not on the other three. The resurrection certainly happened, but not in a bodily fashion. The vital clue here is that he appeared only to former followers, with the exception of his sceptical brother, James, and the extraordinary manifestation to Paul. The latest book is to be titled *Dry Bones and New Flesh*. Any help in writing it would be welcome.

Michael Pritchard (1955)
The descendants and relatives of my late father, H. Wentworth Pritchard (1921), had an enjoyable occasion on 28 February 2023, when we celebrated the centenary of his oar, won in Torpids exactly 100 years previously. Though the family is scattered far and wide, I had alerted them to the coming event earlier in February, and took pleasure in instructing them in the rules of the race and explaining how the oar was won. We all drank to 'Wentworth's Oar' that day. I know there must be many other and more elevated oars in existence, equally or even more worthy of celebration?



Brian Richardson (1957)
My wife and I received the precious gift of another beautiful baby great-granddaughter, Montana Bryan Lauriente, born on 6 January 2024, in Edmonton, Alberta. A sister to Evelyn Linda Lauriente, now five years old.

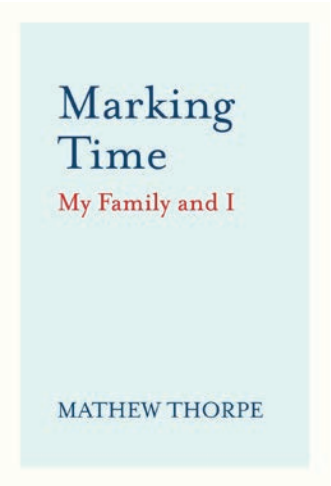
Professor Aaron Sloman (1957)
Despite dementia diagnosis late 2022 I've been working on my most ambitious ever theory, linking reproduction, development, and evolution of forms of biochemical information processing to ancient mathematical competences, contradicting fashionable neural network theories, as summarised at https://tinyurl.com/23v3v2df. Comments and criticisms welcome!

Anthony Sperryn (1957)
Health matters and the management of two properties and myself have occupied much of my time. I have continued with my efforts to put the world to rights, with social media comments and networking ongoing. An example is my comment for *Jewish Voice for Labour*, of which I am a 'top fan', although I am neither Jewish nor Labour. They recently put out a blog

Front cover: Balliol Rhodes Scholars greeting each other at a drinks reception at Balliol on 29 June 2023 – one of the celebrations marking 120 years of the Rhodes Scholarships. Photo by Stuart Bebb.

discussing how free speech in Germany is being jeopardised as a consequence of reactions to the Holocaust. This is leading to a new Fascist era, with genocidalists already in power, which we also see appearing in Britain. My comment, made in early January 2024, was: 'The word that comes to me in reading this article is "*Dummheit*" (stupidity), which is a long-standing characteristic of people in charge of Germany. *Dummheit* has been displayed over the years, but people can forget that a counter to it can be magnanimity in victory which Churchill proclaimed to be necessary. If people want to unite a country, they must be able to discuss differences and reach reconciliation. *Alle Menschen werden Brüder* ("all people become brothers") shouldn't be an unattainable ideal, but part of the progress towards peace and freedom.' I write this as one whose mother was expelled from Heidelberg University in 1934 for anti-Nazi activities.

Sir Mathew Thorpe (1957)
I have published a sequel to *A Divided Heart*. It's called *My Family and I*. Part 1 is my family: presented as a brief history of the four families from which came my grandparents. Part 2 is I: the story of my life from my birth just before the war, through boarding schools, then Balliol, tutored by Theo Tylor (1918, Fellow and Tutor in Jurisprudence 1927–1967) and Don Harris (1953, Fellow and Tutor in Jurisprudence 1956–1976, Senior Research Fellow 1977–1993 and Emeritus Fellow from 1993–2020), who launched me on a legal career which consumed me from pupillage with Raymond Phillips and Dick Beddington in 1961 until I retired as Head of International Family Justice in 2013.



David Blakely (1958)
My wife, Ruth Blakely, died in December 2023, having suffered from Alzheimer's disease for several years. Prior to her illness she had been researching the life and legacy of Dervorguilla. This followed on from her study of the Brus family in the borderlands of England and Scotland, for which she was awarded a doctorate by Durham University. It was her intention to write a monograph on aspects of Dervorguilla's life. Drafts of five chapters had been completed and notes made for the final chapter before she had to stop her research. I have donated her work to Balliol Library (in electronic form), where it is catalogued under accession number 2022/037. Medieval historians and others with an interest in the life of our co-founder may find that it adds to the rather sparse material already available. I should add that, appropriately, our home is in the town of Barnard Castle, within sight of the Balliol stronghold.

Sir Richard Heygate (1958)
My search for the Visigothic tombs and treasure continues. In France, my Englishness is not popular with local authorities, although the mayor is fully on side. In Italy, we are now officially approved and await the spring before we search for the diverted river and its ten wagon loads of gold. Wish me luck.

Henry Lloyd (1958)
Happy to report the birth of my latest grandchild, Archie, on 20 November 2023. At approximately three weeks, he is clearly a genius and wise beyond his years.

Professor Malyn Newitt (1958)
Notification of a publication. Malyn Newitt, *Navigations: The Portuguese Discoveries and the Renaissance* (Reaktion, 2023), ISBN 978 1 78914 702 5.

Peter Snow (1958)
The Snow family have been hitting runs all around the wicket. My wife and I are touring book festivals with our new *Kings and Queens: The Real Lives of the English Monarchs* (Wellbeck, 2022). Our son Dan (1998) is everywhere with his *History Hit* television and podcast programmes. Our daughter Rebecca has just written the screenplay for and directed the new film *The Boy in the Wood*, a thrilling account of a young Jewish boy escaping the Holocaust in Eastern Europe.

Anthony Williams (1959)
I had a visit from Dermot Glynn (1959) and his wife Ann, who were doing a city break. I am now President of Bristol Branch of the English-Speaking Union. I still play golf with the Pedagogues (Schoolmasters Golf Society) and occasionally for the Old Cliftonian Golf Society. Three of my granddaughters are at university in their third year, one at Newcastle reading Economics and Management (and working in London for 13 months with a firm in London); one at UCL in London reading Classics; and one in Exeter reading History, who hopes to go to Oxford for her PGCE and perhaps even to Balliol. My wife and I have celebrated our diamond wedding anniversary and received a card from the King and Queen.

1960s

Timothy Ades (1960)
Translating masses of German verse into English verse, and English verse into Latin verse. I am a scholar and a poet.

John Macfarlane (1960)
The year 2023 saw the publication of my book on the clarinet repertoire (*A Clarinet Almanac*, Austin Macauley, mainly about chamber music) and I continue to be busy promoting it. My other large musical venture that came to fruition in January was when I conducted my orchestration – for voice and chamber ensemble – of the 46 songs from *The Italian Songbook* by Hugo Wolf. This work is now available from Doblinger Verlag, Vienna. I remain a performer on the clarinet (semi-professionally) and on the bassoon (amateur). Some of my activities as



composer, arranger and editor can be found on the IMSLP website. 'John Macfarlane plays Bach' on YouTube reveals me playing a Bach sarabande on the basset horn. I am about to start rehearsing the Brahms clarinet quintet, a work I played 60 years ago at a Balliol Musical Society concert in the Hall, thus providing a fitting surround to a career as a university rheumatologist and teacher of medicine. (Contact: jmacfarlane@ziggo.nl.)

Michael Selzer (1960)
The University of Southern California's Shoah Foundation – established by Steven Spielberg in 1994 – recently recorded a long interview with me as part of its Testimonies programme. It can be accessed online at https://tinyurl.com/589y624x.

Ian Watson (1960)
At my 80th birthday party, held during the annual Eastercon science fiction convention in Birmingham, UK, I launched my latest book, *The Chinese Time Machine* (Newcon Press, 2023), while my first novel, *The Embedding* (Carroll & Graf, 1989), still in print and disconcertingly still valid, enjoyed a 50th anniversary translation into Romanian. June saw a trip to Uppsala in full bloom to check out Linnaeus. I continue to live in Asturias, the coolest place in Spain, helping with Spain's biggest international science fiction, fantasy, and terror festival, Celsius 232, held in the streets of Avilés in July. My job is magically to prevent any rain from falling during the five-day festival programme, which all visitors are sure to enjoy whether they know any Spanish or not. The photo shows a tiny bit of life at Celsius. (I'm third from left, with staff badge.) The local food and drink are amazing. Recommended! Direct flights from Blighty.


Cristina Macia

Richard Carter (1961)
Now in my 29th year of retirement, I try to live quietly at home with my wife of 50+ years, maintaining contact with a few old school friends (most of my old Oxford friends have died or moved far away), and with many former pupils. I am still active as a Reader in Rochester diocese (parish of High Halstow, with Allhallows and St Mary Hoo), preaching one or twice (occasionally more) a month. We shall shortly be in an interregnum, demanding more time and commitment.

Richard Morris (1961)
Little to report other than the inevitable declining health for both self (two forms of cancer) and spouse (Alzheimer's). Have maintained some contact with academe via Aberdeen University, including involvement in an epidemiological study of one of the rarer blood cancers, a development of my wife's DPhil half a century ago.

Eric Bodger (1962)
Selected as LibDem candidate for the Central Meon Valley ward on Winchester City Council. Since I don't believe parish councils should be political, I am standing down as chairman of Curdridge PC, though I remain chair of the Winchester Southern Parishes group.

John Dalton (1962)
John Dalton and his wife, Leanne Crowe, are pleased to announce the arrival of a new granddaughter, Joanna Antonia Dalton, born 18 October 2023.

Professor Richard Portes (1962)
As well as my teaching responsibilities – including accompanying London Business School students on an annual trip to Boston and New York, studying asset management, and a ten-session course on European Financial Markets – a lot of my work time is devoted to the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB), responsible for financial stability in Europe. I co-chair the Expert Group on non-bank financial intermediation and in that role take responsibility for the annual ESRB 'Risk Monitor' (https://tinyurl.com/2trsysey); I am also co-chair of the ESRB Task Force on crypto, and hence lead author on another ESRB report; and I am a member of the



Advisory Scientific Committee. My main remaining work activities are conferences, workshops, and speaking, mainly on financial sector issues.

I'm very healthy, except for my back, where I've had surgery, with a lot of metal in my spine which keeps me permanently bent over and sets off airport metal detectors. Still, I feel like 82 is the new 70 or even less. My wine hobby helps – I buy a lot, drink a lot. And I finally joined one of the Pall Mall clubs – not the Reform or the Oxford and Cambridge, but a club for wine enthusiasts, 67 Pall Mall.

Our daughter Ana is in her last year of the International Baccalaureate and applying to universities. My older children are fine. After 15 years in business, Alison (1987) quit and is now a GP. Jonathan (1984) went on from the Treasury to other government jobs, then ran a research institute, and is now Professor of Economics and Public Policy at King's College London.

Professor David Pugsley (1962)
David Pugsley, a former Chairman and Leader of Mid Devon District Council, has retired after 40 years as an Independent District Councillor, having defeated all the party-political candidates at the last elections in May 2019. First elected in 1975, he served for an unbroken 32 years until 2007 and for a total of 40 years after twice losing and regaining his seat between 2007 and 2023. He is now an Honorary Alderman of the Council.

Professor the Hon Robin Wilson (1962)
On 28 May 2023, the distinguished liberal-arts institution Colorado College (in Colorado Springs, USA) awarded me an honorary doctorate in mathematics (DMath). Over the past 42 years I have visited there many times to teach their month-long courses in mathematics, history, and music.

Professor Andrew Carstairs-McCarthy (1963)
My partner Jeremy and I, taking advantage of the Vatican declaration *Fiducia Supplicans*, had ourselves blessed by Father Kevin Christopher Burns on 23 January 2024. It has taken a long time to reach this point! While I was at Balliol, all male homosexual acts were still illegal. In 1967, a decriminalisation bill was passed – but it applied only to men over 21, and only in England and Wales (not Scotland or Northern Ireland). In 1981, when I arrived in New Zealand, the law there was still unreformed, but in 1986 the New Zealand Parliament passed a decriminalisation bill with 16 as the age of consent (the same as for heterosexuals). Meanwhile, in Britain, the law took a step backwards, when the Local Government Act 1988 banned local councils from 'promoting' homosexuality. But in New Zealand, Jeremy and I were able to enter into a civil union (or civil partnership) in 2005, and we converted this into a civil marriage in 2013. We look forward to a time when the Catholic Church acknowledges that the 'sin of Sodom' is not homosexual sex but hostility towards strangers, as is made clear in chapter 19 of the Book of Wisdom.

Professor Brian Legg (1963)
I am volunteering at Heartwood Forest for the Woodland Trust. I delivered the Salisbury Lecture for the Hertfordshire Natural History Society entitled 'Heartwood Forest – 14 years Old'. With others I designed and planted an 11-hectare arboretum with all 60 species of trees and shrubs native to the British Isles. I have published three short books on the trees, butterflies and wildflowers of Heartwood Forest. Despite these being of only local interest, about 3,500 books have been sold, and they were awarded a CPRE Hertfordshire Special Award for 'excellent publications which connect people with the countryside'.

Paul Williams (1963)
Early in 2023 I attended an online international conference on improving the experiences of disabled people. I gave a paper on the importance of friendship. There were 250 participants from all over the world, on Zoom. There are many advantages to the online format. Travel is not necessary and you can take part from the comfort of your own home. The proceedings can be recorded for viewing at a convenient time (rather than 4.00am to catch an Australian contribution). The main disadvantage is not meeting people face to face. Though long retired, I am still involved in this sort of topic. I've recently completed a history of disability services between 1940 and 1980. Arthritis has crept on, so I'm now experiencing services first hand, hopefully with a new hip soon. I still have my biography available if anyone would like it: email me at paulgwilliams@btinternet.com.

The Hon Justice Sir David Baragwanath (1964)
Covid's requirement that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon work remotely from our Hague chambers took Susan and me to Switzerland, where we now live. That has permitted attendance at the Younger Society's dinner and the London celebration of six decades of Don Harris (1953, Fellow and Tutor in Jurisprudence 1956–1976, Senior Research Fellow 1977–1993 and Emeritus Fellow from 1993–2020) and Jacqueline Harris. Like his Masterly spinnaker gybe returning to Auckland from Kawau Island, Don's response at my first tutorial to a compilation of other's opinions about a political philosopher was courteous, perceptive and unforgettable – 'Very interesting, but what do you think?' It was typical, like the warmth of their company and their hospitality.

Professor Stephen Clark (1964)
My most recent publications are:
• *Can We Believe in People: Human Significance in an Interconnected Cosmos* (Angelico Press, 2020)
• *Plotinus: Ennead VI.9*: translation and commentary (Parmenides Press, 2020)
• *Cities and Thrones and Powers: Towards a Plotinian Politics* (Angelico Press, 2022)
• *How the Worlds Became: Philosophy and the Oldest Stories* (Angelico Press, 2023)
• 'Citizens of the World and Their Religion': *Philosophical Papers* 48:1.2019, pp103–122, DOI: 10.1080/05568641.2019.1585201
• 'New Histories of the World: Spenglerian Optimism', *Philosophical Journal of Conflict and Violence*: vol. 6/2.2022: *Oswald Spengler's International Influence: From the Decline of the West till the Present Day* (ed. Gregory Swer): https://tinyurl.com/2pzsspsp
• 'Humanity: Respecting What Is Real', *Etyka*, Aug. 2023, ed. Dominika Szkoda, DOI: 10.14394/etyka.1306
• 'Metaphors and Realities', *International Journal of Philosophical Studies* 2023, DOI: 10.1080/09672559.2023.2287636
• 'Selfless Civilizations: Robots, Zombies, and the World to Come': *Minding the Future: Artificial Intelligence, Philosophical Visions and Science Fiction*, eds Barry Dainton, Will Slocombe, Attila Tanyi (Springer, 2021), pp165–78
• 'Plotinus, Eriugena and the Uncreated Image': *Eighteenth International Conference on Patristic Studies held in Oxford 2019, vol. 19, Eriugena's Christian Neoplatonism and its Sources in Patristic and Ancient Philosophy*, ed. Ilaria L.E. Ramelli (Studia Patristica, vol. 122, 2021), pp33–50
• 'Nature, Animals, and Ecology' in *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion*, eds C. Taliaferro and S. Goetz (Wiley-Blackwell, 2021): https://tinyurl.com/2n9t54zp
• 'Atheists and Idolaters: The Case of John Wren-Lewis' in *Atheisms: The Philosophy of Non-belief*, Victoria S. Harrison and Harriet A. Harris (eds.), pp90–125 (Routledge, 2023)
A collection of older papers, drawing on science fiction, will be published towards the end of 2024.

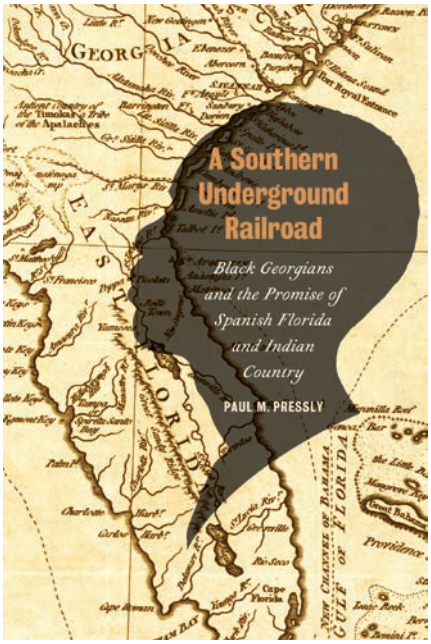
Sandy Gray (1964)
The group of 1964 Balliol contemporaries (Drs Barisas, Hall and Munford, and Messrs Burns, Davies, Gray, Picton, Russell, Shaw, and Weyman), a mix of chemists, engineers and a medic, first got together on Zoom in autumn 2020. The aim was to maintain visual and verbal contact and informally discuss topics of mutual interest and, often, concern at the time of Covid lockdowns. Individual locations range from Colorado through Maryland and the UK to Switzerland. Meeting roughly six-weekly, we are still going strong. The main subject in January 2024 was a discussion of the first of the BBC's Four 2023 Reith Lectures given by Professor Ben Allan (Nuffield) – 'The Future of Democracy'. The range of topics has been very wide over the three years, but always topical, and there are many lighter moments throughout, including music and photo/film clips. Long may we last!



Timothy Heyman (1964)
Timothy Heyman was awarded the Alex Anderson Prize by the CFA (Chartered Financial Analysts) Society de México for his work in the Mexican securities markets: https://tinyurl.com/3tm493m5.

Paul Pressly (1964)
I am a Rhodes Scholar who matriculated at Balliol in 1964. I have a book coming out this year entitled *A Southern Underground Railroad: Black Georgians and the Promise of Spanish Florida and Indian Country* (University of Georgia Press, 2024).

The thesis is a striking one. Despite its apparent isolation as an older region of the country, the Southeast provided a vital connecting link between the Black self-emancipation that occurred during the American Revolution and the growth of the Underground Railroad in the final years of the antebellum period. From the beginning of the revolutionary war to the eve of the First Seminole War in 1817, hundreds and eventually several thousand Africans and African Americans in Georgia, and to a lesser extent South Carolina, crossed the borders and boundaries that separated the Lowcountry from the British and Spanish in coastal Florida and from the Seminole and Creek people in the vast interior of the Southeast.



A Southern Underground Railroad constitutes a powerful counter-narrative in American history, a tale of how enslaved men and women found freedom and human dignity not in Jefferson's 'Empire of Liberty' but outside the expanding boundaries of the United States. It is a potent reminder of the strength of Black resistance in the post-revolutionary South and the ability of this community to influence the balance of power in a contested region.

I suspect and hope that the thesis will appeal to a broad audience.

David Willington (1964)
A visit to Costa Rica in January 2023 provided warmth for old bones and considerable interest, whether the scenery, flora and fauna or the nature of the country itself, a land without armed forces. Otherwise there have been visits to the Inner Hebrides and the Moray coast and down to England. At the end of November my sixth novel was published, *A Journey of Faith* (Ashgrove Publishing, 2023), set in and around the First World War.

Sir Michael Burton (1965)
Still some arbitrating and mediating, and judging, largely on Zoom, in the Abu Dhabi Commercial Court, though my term heading the RICS Appeal Tribunal came to an end. Apart from enjoying 11 grandchildren, I have had some dramatic activity, presenting a Dickens evening at Rockingham Castle (where he wrote *Bleak House*), performing *Naked Justice* by John Mortimer (three times cancelled during Covid) in Highgate and the odd song at the Gaudy and in the Gray's Inn Christmas show. Also I passed Grade 1 Piano, three marks short of merit!

Martin Cree (1965)
I have sold my business, Wire Fittings, and I am fully retired. I am spending much of my time caring for my wife, who has advanced Alzheimer's.

Phillip Gordon (1965)
I retired from the active practice of law at the end of 2022 and have remained engaged in many activities for educational and Jewish philanthropies. Since the 7 October savage attack by Hamas on Israel I have been working closely with the American Jewish Committee to fight the waves of world-wide anti-Semitism that date from that attack. Anti-Semitism never goes out of fashion.

Peter Hacker (1965)
Now in my 85th year, I have three books in the press: a monograph on *Representations in Psychology and Neuroscience*, co-authored with the eminent Australian neuroscientist Maxwell Bennett (Palgrave Macmillan); *A Beginner's Guide to the Later Philosophy of Wittgenstein* (Anthem Press); and *Solving, Resolving, and Dissolving Philosophical Problems: An Essay on Connective, Contrastive, and Contextual Analysis* (Wiley). My Chinese publishers are undertaking a complete edition of my works in a 30-volume edition, the first ten of which are scheduled for 2024/5. The second expanded edition of my *Philosophical Foundations of Neuroscience* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2021), co-authored with Maxwell Bennett, is being translated into French.



Professor Alan Knight (1965)
Taking advantage of the September College Gaudy, a select Balliol cohort (historians, class of '65) held a convivial reunion, which involved educational-cum-cultural excursions, punctuated by wining and dining. Alex Pravda, displaying formidable organisational powers (allied to patient stoicism when dealing with Oxford restaurateurs), signed up tour guides – Liz Wooley, a local professional, and Nina Kruglikova, a Russian studies postdoc – who ably took us through, respectively, Oxford's brewing heritage and the Russian presence at the University (including a direct link to Rasputin, whom – being Balliol historians – we well recall from the Boney M hit). Beneficiaries of the Balliol beer-and-Bolsheviks bash were: Martin Cree, Chris Saunders, Angus Stewart, Andrew Irving and Dorothy Chang, Dave and Sue Walmsley, John and Pam Green, Ron and Jane Berenbeim, Alex Pravda and Riitta Heino, and Alan Knight and Lidia Lozano – who, though she did not benefit from a Balliol education, provided invaluable admin assistance for Prof. Pravda. Apologies-for-absence were received from Michael and Jane Orr and Bill and Mary Makin. This gathering was – at a rough count (we are none of us Cliometricians) – the ninth gathering of this group, previous excursions having taken us to London, Scotland, Shrewsbury, France, Malta and the US. Irving, Pravda and Knight also recently paddled the Thames from Lechlade to Oxford: Three Men In – not A Boat but – Two Kayaks, one a relic of the Cockleshell Heroes; proof that Balliol is about brawn as well as brain. Future expeditions/excursions are under consideration, though with one eye on the actuarial tables.

Hubert Murray (1965)
My article 'Machines in the Garden', published in *Places Journal* (https://placesjournal.org/article/debating-wind-power-in-rural-spain/), argues that harnessing the wind to produce energy, while tempering environmental and social damage to the planet, does however exact a cost on rural economies and ecologies. Since it is mainly about the Spanish programme for the development of wind turbines, it has been translated into Spanish, '*Máquinas en el Jardín*'. I have also been caught arguing that the current polarisation of opinion that we are witnessing on American college campuses is less likely to happen in a collegiate system, citing the Balliol JCR as a forum for the dialectic of life.

Michael Paling (1965)
The older we get, the more experience we have to comment on the present. In these strange times in which we now live, I am delighted to see the prospering of Balliol in terms of the range of gifted graduates who are using their talents to pay back in kind to college, nation and world. That is after all the very purpose of higher education! Floreat Domus indeed!

Professor Benjamin White (1965)
Now 12 years into retirement, last year I contributed four chapters on Indonesia to *Becoming a Young Farmer: Young People's Pathways into Farming in Canada, China, India and Indonesia* (Palgrave Macmillan, open access) and another on child workers to the Elgar *Handbook of Decent Work*. An article on contract farming in Java was runner-up for the *Journal of Agrarian Change* prize for the best article in agrarian political economy. Shortly before the pandemic Ratna (spouse) and I joined 11 young Indonesian families to share a piece of land on the slopes of Mt Merapi near Yogyakarta (Java), where we have built a house and developed something between a housing co-op and a commune, and plan to divide our time between the commune and The Hague. Having joined the Dutch socialist party some years ago I have watched them lose seats to the populist right in seven successive elections, but am still convinced the tide will one day turn.

Stephen Bergman (1966)
As I near 80 years, I am gratified that I can still write novels, completing *The Healing Quartet: The House of God* (1978), *Mount Misery* (1997), *Man's 4th Best Hospital* (2019), and *Our Hospital* (2023). Also my best novel, *The Spirit Of The Place* (2008; two honoured USA 'Best Novels'). These capture the 'real' story of 50 years of medicine, riding on humour. Looking back, when I started in Harvard, I wanted to write. But my first story came back to me from the teacher with only 'See me.' I went to see her, and she said, 'It's too terrible to mark – it's below F.' So I gave up. When I got the Rhodes, I figured, 'She can't get me now!' I started to write. In the three years at Balliol of the Rhodes I tried everything. And I became a great friend of Professor Denis Noble (Emeritus Fellow) (we still talk for an hour every Sunday on Zoom). And in 1969, in order not to go to Vietnam and die, I went to the USA to be a doctor. And that was that. Bravo Balliol! Gratitude!



Me and writing pen, in our haven in Costa Rica.

Professor Benjamin Fine (1966)
I have just published the following books:
• *Economics Imperialism and Interdisciplinarity: Before the Watershed; Critical Reconstructions of Political Economy, Volume 1* (Haymarket, 2024).
• *Economics Imperialism and Interdisciplinarity: The Watershed and After; Critical Reconstructions of Political Economy, Volume 2* (Haymarket, 2024).
• *Cliometrics as Economics Imperialism: Across the Watershed; Critical Reconstructions of Political Economy, Volume 3* (Haymarket, 2024).

Alan Heeks (1966)
In late 2023, my wife and I emigrated from Dorset to Wales: it really does feel like a different country, with a much more progressive flavour of politics on climate change and more. We are in Hay-on-Wye, an auspicious place to launch my fourth book in March 2024. *Natural Happiness: Use Organic Gardening Skills to Cultivate Yourself* harvests my experience of starting an organic farm from scratch in the 1990s, and then using organic growth methods to help people cultivate their own wellbeing. See more at www.naturalhappiness.net.

François Dolbeau (1967)
François Dolbeau has published *Bibliothèques médiévales. Inventaires et lecteurs: Recueil d'articles en l'honneur de son 75e anniversaire, a cura di Benedetta ValtortaFirenze* (Sismel, Edizioni del Galluzzo, 2023).

David Gowan (1967)
In March 2023, I published *Quiet Between Trains: Lampeter, the Teifi Valley and the Aberayron Branch in the Final Years of Steam – 1963 to 1965* (Aspect Design). This is a collection of previously unpublished photographs taken in his spare time by Vernon Parry (1946), and also draws on his notes and correspondence. It forms a record of the role played by railways in rural Cardiganshire during the period before the lines in question were closed. Vernon was a specialist in Ottoman history at the School of Oriental and African Studies from 1949 until his death in 1974. The book was sponsored by the Lampeter History Society and has attracted considerable interest, especially in Wales.

David Hooper (1967)
I published my fourth book, *Buying Silence: How Oligarchs, Corporations and Plutocrats Use the Law to Gag Their Critics* (Biteback, 2023). It deals with SLAPP actions and issues such as hacking, with my being a victim of both! It also features Charlotte Leslie (1997). One of the opposing and on this occasion unsuccessful members of the opposing legal team was Hugh Tomlinson KC (1972).

Professor Jonathan Bayly (1968)
Following my ischaemic spinal-cord injury and an incomplete tetraplegia, I had found it increasingly difficult to continue my 'sunset career' in academic medicine. I have now resigned my role as a Visiting Professor in Osteoporosis and have embraced retirement fully. I still seem to have no more free time than I ever did!

Professor Anthony Ferner (1968)
My new novel, *Small Wars in Madrid*, was published by the independent Oxford-based literary press Fairlight Books in March 2024. Naval captain David Aguilera waits in his Madrid apartment for the impending inquisition into his potentially career-destroying mission to the Baltics. Emotionally vulnerable, and struggling to reconcile his conflicting identities, Aguilera does not know how to stop his marriage also hitting the rocks. The novel explores the small-scale conflicts that play out between lovers and friends, within families, and within individuals. It unfolds against the backdrop of wider



strife in an only slightly reimagined contemporary Europe. Link to publisher: www.fairlightbooks.co.uk/small-wars-in-madrid/.

Mark Lowe (1968)
I now live in Zürich and my house in Burgundy – about 50% in each place.

Professor William Outhwaite (1968)
Co-edited (with Larry Ray) *Teaching Political Sociology* (Edward Elgar, 2023). Also contributed (with Helen Small and others) to editorial work on Laura Marcus, *Rhythmical Subjects: The Measures of the Modern* (OUP, 2023).

David Satter (1968)
The second volume of my collected writing on Russia and the Soviet Union, *Never Speak to Strangers*, will be published in April 2024 by ibidem Verlag/Columbia University Press. I have also joined the board of the Victims of Communism Remembrance Association.

Professor Patrick Thomas (1968)
On the academic front, the new edition of *A Handbook of Children and Young People's Participation* (Routledge, 2023) finally appeared, and the second edition of *Social Work with Young People in Care* was submitted to Routledge. On the cultural front, Theatr Gwaun continues to thrive as a community theatre while struggling to make ends meet. Our festival On Land's Edge / Ar Ymyl y Tir ran for a third year, and I produced the opening show, *Ghost Rider From Dinas Cross* (the story of the only Welshman to die at Little Bighorn), to a full house. On the personal front, grandparenting has now become a regular responsibility; and since my father died in April, aged 98, I am now the old man of the family. It was good to have one more Gaudy and to meet some old friends (apologies to anyone who missed me because I now identify as Patrick, not Nigel).

Sir Nicholas Kenyon (1969)
In 2021 I completed 14 years as Managing Director of London's Barbican Centre (2007–2021), following my time as Controller, BBC Radio 3 (1992–1998) and Director of the BBC Proms (1996–2007). I have returned to writing and research, as Opera Critic of the *Telegraph* (2021–) and Distinguished Affiliate Scholar of Pembroke College, Cambridge (2023–). I 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). Broadcasts have included 'The musical mouse that roared', a Radio 3 *Sunday Feature* (2023) on the baroque ensembles founded in 1973. I currently hold a Leverhulme Trust Fellowship, supporting my research into the history of the early music revival.

Professor Lawrence Keppie (1969)
I have finished what I expect will be my final book, on a neglected aspect of the Roman army: *Slingers and Sling Bullets in the Roman Civil Wars of the Late Republic (90–31 BC)*, which has been published by Archaeopress, 2023.

The Hon Bob Rae (1969)
Continuing my work as Canada's representative at the UN in New York. Have become Vice President of ECOSOC, looking forward to that work as it builds on financing for



development to build on essential partnerships with World Bank and IMF. Global crises abound, constant need to work harder at finding solutions. Life sustained by arrival of six grandchildren, and Arlene and me being in good health and spirits. Floreat Domus!

Professor Timothy Weiskel (1969)
This note highlights a new research initiative, inspired by the Balliol and Empire Project, created in 2019 by the Master, Helen Ghosh, and the Balliol Fellows. Called *Imaging 'The Other'* (https://wp.me/p2iDSG-IVr), this international effort – like the Balliol and Empire Project – seeks to examine the long-term and large-scale implications of European overseas colonialism. The intention is to use digital technology to study the origins and evolution of images of 'the other' – that is, images of peoples from other cultures thought to be beyond or outside the cultural bounds of the observing artist or illustrator. These historical images can now be digitised and shared for reference and collaborative research by groups of scholars organised online from around the world. In our day, indigenous peoples are re-claiming the right to their own forms of art, challenging the ways in which museums and other cultural institutions have represented their cultures for centuries. In addition, specialists in generative AI, including Balliol Professorial Fellow Phil Howard, have drawn attention to the ways in which the internet and the text and images it makes accessible can function as a 'lie machine', generating and disseminating dangerously false images virtually instantaneously on a global scale. *Imaging 'The Other'* research can, in principle, be undertaken anywhere in the world in widely varied cultural or historical frameworks, but particular attention will be focused initially upon the history of images in European and American manuscripts and early printed maps since *c.*1450.



Detail from cartouche of map by J.B. Homann & Erben, 1759, Nova Anglia [Norimbergæ homann erben, between 1759 and 1784]. Retrieved from the Library of Congress. Courtesy of the Prosser Gifford legacy & the Africa Map Circle.

Professor Emeritus David Williams (1969)
Appointed by Auckland Council in November 2023 to be a member of the Auckland War Memorial Museum Trust Board: www.aucklandmuseum.com/.

1970s

David Jones (1970)
I was honoured to receive the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal. My QC has automatically become a KC. I have retired as Chancellor of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada after 13 years (and a previous 15 years at the diocesan and provincial level). And one of our daughters has been married. Still practising law, though trying to do so at a reduced pace.

Gordon Lessells (1970)
Elected President of the Contract Bridge Association of Ireland (CBAI) in July 2023. Achieved Grand Master Status in October 2023 – one of 35 Irish Bridge Grandmasters.

His Excellency Philip McDonagh (1970)
Our Centre for Religion, Human Values, and International Relations continues to progress, helping to supply the 'missing ingredient' of cross-cultural deliberation and discernment in a long-term perspective. Our work draws out the practical implications of the EU Treaty commitment to engage in structured dialogue with churches, faith communities, and philosophical organisations (Article 17, TFEU). In October I was the opening keynote speaker at a conference in Armagh on the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement. In November I was asked to address the Catholic Church in the European Union (COMECE) on the global situation, including the war in Ukraine. In April 2024, our Centre hosted a meeting on the ethical implications of AI as part of the 'European Future Talks'. The picture is of me with the First Vice-President of the European Parliament, Dr Othmar Karas.



Anthony Millard (1970)
2023 – an extraordinary year of travel (*Queen Mary* to New York then Amtrak to Baltimore to visit friends) and music, having rediscovered my voice after half a century, culminating in singing carols for the King's Foundation at Highgrove. Also have taken on roles as trustee of Roedean School, the Grove Learning Trust and Cheltenham Samaritans. At 75 the excellent Gaudy last September will probably be my last but have no intention of slowing up!



Anthony with his wife Lesley.

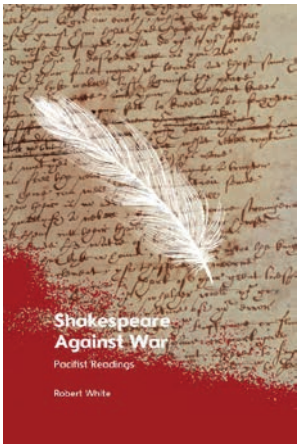
Andrew Craig (1971)
I have recently joined Royal Thames Yacht Club, which has its London base in Knightsbridge. I still sail dinghies at Queen Mary Sailing Club in west London, where over the years I have held the role of Commodore, chair of Sailing Committee and Principal Race Officer. I was determined not to join any committees at Royal Thames but have already failed: I am on the wine committee.

Tim Groves (1971)
It is a very long time since I have given an update. To be brief: I am still alive and I am still working. After careers

in commodity trading and property development, I have rebuilt my personal and financial life following a holistic meltdown which was precipitated by the 2008 banking crisis. Since that time I have been working in front-line social care, which, without wishing to disrespect Balliol, has given me the best possible education. I am currently employed in RBKC's Grenfell Dedicated Service, providing support to those affected by the Grenfell Fire of June 2017. As a second string to my bow: I have trained and work in mediation for the council and third parties.

Simon Walker (1971)
I greatly enjoyed returning to Oxford for both a Gaudy and the Oxford Union's 200th anniversary dinner in 2023. I have now stepped down as chair of the UK Trade Remedies Authority and moved out of London. I plan to spend the next year between France and New Zealand travelling and working out what to do next.

Professor Robert White (1971)
My latest book will be published in 2024: *Shakespeare Against War: Pacifist Readings* (Edinburgh University Press). It is intended to save the world from self-annihilation but this may be optimistic: https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-shakespeare-against-war.html.



Nigel Bryant (1972)
Still researching and translating medieval French literature. Most recently published *The New Reynard*, a translation of three 13th-century satires using characters from the Romance of Reynard the Fox: https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781783277384/the-new-reynard/. You could be forgiven for thinking that satires of the world 750 years ago would be a bit obscure and distant, but as these three are principally about lying, deceit and disinformation (and are almost apocalyptic), they seem remarkably topical.

Stephen Bury (1972)
Re-elected chair, Center for Book Arts, July 2023, and elected Treasurer of the Metropolitan New York Library Council, January 2023. Contributed to *RE-MAKING: A Documentation of Work by Angela Lorenz* (Jenny Press, 2023). Exhibition proposal, Paris Dada 1919–1922, accepted by the Grolier Club, to open April 2027.

Professor Richard Jones (1972)
In June 2023, Richard Jones (University of Kent) and his co-authors Tony Hosking (Australian National University) and Eliot Moss (University of Massachusetts) published the second edition of their book, *The Garbage Collection Handbook: The Art of Automatic Memory Management*: https://gchandbook.org.

Memory safety errors are overwhelmingly the largest source of critical security errors. For example, recently Google reported that 70% of the 912 high- or critical-severity security bugs in its Chrome web browser were memory safety problems (i.e. mistakes in manual memory management). Similarly, in 2019 Microsoft reported that the same percentage of its security updates had been fixes for memory safety vulnerabilities. Automatic memory management, or 'garbage collection', simply prevents these errors from arising. However, building a high performance, low-latency garbage collector is challenging and remains a vibrant area of research.

The Garbage Collection Handbook addresses this challenge. Regarded as the definitive text on the subject, it has been translated into Chinese, Japanese and Korean, and has won awards as one of 'The best memory management books of all time' and one of 'The best data structures books of all time'. Remarkably, the e-book version of this second edition contains over 37,000 clickable links from every item to its target (chapter, section, algorithm, figure, table, glossary, bibliographic reference, web resource and so on).



His Honour Judge David Morgan (1972)
After 23 years of full-time sitting, I retired as a Circuit Judge on 15 December 2023. Among those present at my Valedictory at the Crown Court at Cardiff were Professor Paul Davies (Emeritus Fellow), along with David Phillips KC (1972), His Honour Judge Andrew Keyser KC (1982), His Honour Judge Wayne Beard (1987), and the newly appointed His Honour Judge Richard Kember (1989), all former pupils of Professor Davies.

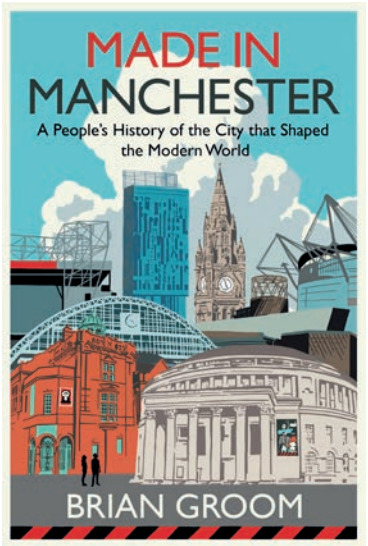
His Excellency the Honourable Kim Beazley (1973)
Appointed chairman of the Council of the Australian War memorial. I received an honorary doctorate of the University of Western Australia in December 2023.

Christopher Catherwood (1973)
Despite having lived for decades in Cambridge (and for many of those years very happily connected to Churchill College), I remain very much a Balliol person through and through! When my wife Paulette (New College, 1989) was terminally ill, Andrew Whittaker (1974) and his wife Clare (Somerville, 1978) were true friends indeed to us both. When I became a widower, fellow widower Peter Sowden (1973) came gloriously to my aid, as did Stuart Jamieson (1975) with invaluable medical wisdom. Balliol has always been there! In current life I am the Academic Director of the Wake Forest University INSTEP programme in Cambridge (no retirement age), a happy member of Churchill College SCR, author (latest book *Churchill and Eisenhower* published in the USA in 2022 by the Lyons Press, imprint of the better-known Rowman and Littlefield), and I am on the PCC of my fabulous church, All Saints, Little Shelford.



Mike Chisholm (1973)
I turned 70 in February 2024, which prompted all the usual thoughts and clichés ('70 is the new 30', etc.), but I continue to blog, make pictures, and self-publish. I still manage to exhibit prints and photographs fairly regularly, and was pleased to get work into the 2023 Open exhibition at the Royal West of England Academy. Here I am at the RWA with renowned landscape photographer Jem Southam (he's the handsome one). Oh, and respectability has finally been achieved, as advertised in *News and Notes* 2021: Gemma and I did enter into a Civil Partnership in 2021, two children and a few mortgages later, setting in legal concrete a relationship that began on Staircase X in 1974.

Brian Groom (1973)
My second book, *Made in Manchester: A People's History of the City that Shaped the Modern World*, will be published on 23 May 2024 by HarperNorth: https://tinyurl.com/48ypc367. This follows *Northerners: A History, From the Ice Age to the Present Day* (HarperNorth, 2022), which became a national bestseller. Also, our total of grandchildren doubled to four in July – a girl in Leeds, a boy in Eccles.



Colin Liddell (1973)
MBE: Andrew Colin MacDuff Liddell. Lately Charity Lawyer, Pitlochry. For services to Theatre and the Arts in Scotland (Pitlochry, Perth and Kinross).

Professor Martin McLaughlin (1973)
Martin McLaughlin edited and translated *Leon Battista Alberti: Biographical and Autobiographical Writings* (I Tatti Renaissance Library, Harvard University Press, 2023).

Neil Stuart (1973)
Wendy and I have enjoyed our first year in our new house in Tavistock, which is a marvellous place to live, on the moors but near the coast. We entertained Paddy Payne (1971), over from NZ, here last summer and as ever he is in fine fettle. Remaining active on the crags and as some may recall in the bar. Regards to all old Balliol acquaintances.



Paul Taylor (1973)
Another busy year of unretirement in which I became a freelance columnist for the European edition of *The Guardian* after six eventful years with POLITICO Europe and nearly 40 with Reuters. As a senior fellow at the Brussels-based think-tank Friends of Europe, I published a report launched in Vilnius in June, on the defence of Europe after Russia's war in Ukraine: https://tinyurl.com/zdsxrb44. And in my spare time, I took on a role as Senior Editorial Advisor for a political innovation start-up, PartyParty, dedicated to helping pro-European, pro-democracy



political parties up their game against the populists, nationalists and racists. Now living full-time in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence with my wife, Catherine.

Justin Dowley (1974)
In November my wife, youngest daughter and I, together with three friends from our village in Norfolk, drove three ambulances which we had bought from the NHS to Ukraine. They were filled to the brim with medicines and medical equipment. We were given free passage by Le Shuttle and then took two and a half days driving the 1,250 miles to Lviv, where we were warmly received by exhausted medics and volunteers. Otherwise, I am chairman of two FTSE 100 companies and a couple of private businesses, including Boden, founded with my brother-in-law Johnnie in 1991. I am also a deputy chairman of the Takeover Panel, surrounded by other Balliol alumni including Michael Crane KC (1968), the third Balliol man in a row to chair the Panel. Tony Pullinger (1974) retired as secretary at the Panel in 2021. I retired last year as a Steward of the Jockey Club where there was no Balliol presence evident.

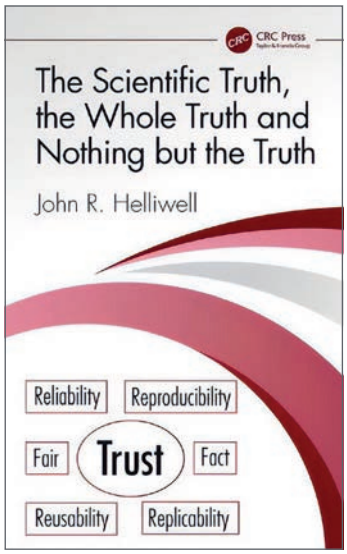
Professor Ian Duncan (1974)
I sold my (third) company at the end of 2023 and have moved into semi-retirement. Still teaching part-time in the Statistics Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Martin Edwards (1974)
In 2024 I received two lifetime achievement awards, and I like to think these aren't just polite ways of telling

me to stop writing any more. One came from the Popular Culture Association for my contribution to scholarship about crime writing, and the other from the Short Mystery Fiction Society for my short crime fiction. My history of the genre, *The Life of Crime* (Collins Crime Club, 2022), won awards in the US and UK, and my novel *Gallows Court* (Head of Zeus, 2018) was voted best crime novel translated into Japanese by an author new to Japan. I was also commissioned to write an audio drama for *Doctor Who*, starring Colin Baker and Miranda Raison, which has been recorded but not as yet released.

Tim Hardy (1974)
Stepped down in late 2023 from the board of trustees of UK charity Stagetext after a rewarding maximum-permitted ten years. Well supported by the Arts Council, Stagetext continues to play an invaluable role in affording access to the arts, promoting the delivery of captioning for theatres, talks and an array of cultural activities nationwide, successfully navigating choppy waters through the pandemic and political pressures for 'levelling up'. Continuing to engage in the activities of the British Insurance Law Association and the global Association Internationale de Droit des Assurances (AIDA). At AIDA's World Congress in Melbourne last September the raised awareness of the impact of climate change on catastrophic risks was all too evident, but whether 13 years of my chairing their Working Party has been impactful – or the UK's current response – is a concern. Renewable energy needed in more than one sphere!





Professor John Helliwell (1974)
In August 2023 at the World Congress of Crystallography held in Melbourne, Australia, I handed over several significant roles in the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr). These were as chairman of the Committee on Data and of the Book Series Committee with Oxford University Press and as IUCr's Representative to the International Science Council's Committee on Data (CODATA). My new book entitled *The Scientific Truth, the Whole Truth and Nothing But the Truth* is scheduled to be published in April 2024 by Taylor and Francis.

Professor David Kennedy (1974)
A busy year. April saw the publication of my book *Well Met! Friends and Travelling Companions of Rev. Thomas Bowles: Journals of Travels in Egypt, Petra and the Near East, 1854* (Archaeopress, 2023). May to July were at the delightful Institute for Advanced Study. August was a return to Italy and walking the next stage of the Via Francigena from Ivrea to Pavia.

Professor Sinclair Stockman (1974)
After 40 years across the world, I have returned to my home in Northern Ireland, to reflect on the insights of my time across the globe. Oxford gave us the potential to create pathways to global enhancement. Those of us who have had the honour of maximising our potential are blessed, particularly when we were able to save others when they were in danger of earthquakes and attacks in several global areas, and we must continue to create opportunities to deliver positive outcomes for the future.

Giles Vardey (1974)
Life continues to throw up surprises: I now have two restored knees thanks to modern surgery. This allows me to walk in a more dignified way and I have got back into my 'old boys' rowing crew, where we row for comfort not speed! My executive coaching work continues to expand and having a bit of grey hair seems to be an advantage in these troubled times.

Robert Waller (1974)
Publications: 'The 1924 election' in Iain Dale (ed.), *British General Election Campaigns 1830–2019* (Biteback, 2024). My *Almanac of British Politics* is appearing in another new edition online to include the boundaries from 2023 at https://vote-2012.proboards.com/board/186/vote-almanac-british-politics-boundaries.

David Young (1974)
Fifty years on, I'm now trying to distil and share the little I've learned in life. Fruits include a TEDx talk on 'Harnessing the Power of Disagreement' and a new 90-day consulting programme for growth entrepreneurs wanting to sell and exit their businesses called 'The Happy Landing Checklist'. But my greatest joys have been gifts; my three daughters. One of them, Grace, born in the US, is now acting over there. I'm very much looking forward to seeing old friends at my fifth Gaudy this year!



The Revd Dr Michael Cullinan (1975)
Still living in Pinner, saying Old-Rite Latin Masses, lecturing at Oscott Seminary (mainly by Zoom), and working from home for Maryvale Institute. It has been a challenging year at Maryvale, both directing the undergraduate distance-learning theology programme, and also managing the ecclesiastical part of the institute into a financially viable future and preparing for its re-approval by the Holy See. Last June, I was awarded a medal by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta for giving their members spiritual talks.

Derek Delves (1975)
My abiding memories of five years in Oxford's orbit are of two halcyon years (literally: there were kingfishers) of self-rustication an 8-mile bicycle ride away at Lower Whitley Farm near Farmoor. The landlord was a scented shepherd, tending his Lambo (and Maserati) and letting the spartan mid-17th-century farmhouse and farm cottages to collegians: 'Where Isis glides by verdant Berkshire meads / That spread from Bablockhythe to Pynkyl Lock / I follow in my course the path that leads / Through pastures where the Shepherd tends his flock …'

I left with light luggage from Oxford and Britain in 1981, but friendships made endured the rift. Of one comrade at Balliol, though, Brendan O'Kelly (1975), I had no trace – until providentially a mutual friend, Alvise Sartori (1975), met Brendan at a Gaudy at Balliol in July 2022. Then in 2023 Brendan and I arranged a reunion – 45 years on – in Ireland.

My father and maternal relatives live on the remote Hook peninsula in Co. Wexford. My stay there last summer coincided opportunely with a trip by Brendan and his wife Pauline away from Belfast (and its 1690 calendar: May, June, July, March, March, March) to south-east Ireland. We toured the Hook Head lighthouse together, at over 800 years the world's oldest in continuous operation, on the site of a signal fire beacon dating from the fifth century.

Otherwise, I still chair the UN Staff 1% for Development Fund in Vienna: https://viennaonepercentfund.wordpress.com.

Josh Dick (1975)
In autumn 2022 I bought a 60-year-old small wooden ketch, berthed on the Yealm, just east of Plymouth – but I live in North Norfolk. I chose to sail her home, clockwise. And so set off in mid-April and sailed to Newlyn, Milford Haven, over the Irish Sea to Arklow, up the Irish and Northern Ireland coast, back across the sea, through the Crinan Canal and up to Oban, which I used as a base for about a month and where I did some (not madly adventurous) exploring of the Western Isles (the most beautiful place on earth). Marty Burn (1978) joined me for a week. Then sailed through the Caledonian Canal and Loch Ness and straight down the North Sea, arriving in Wells, on 30 July. A fantastic trip, not all fun and games (the seas off Rattray Head were horrendous) but a major bucket-list jobby.

Peter Martin (1975)
I have now been sequestered in West Cork for five years; soon I will be able to apply for Irish citizenship and become an EU citizen once again, undoing some of the damage which one of Balliol's less illustrious alumni helped to cause. From 1 January 2023 I have been self-employed. I remain a director of a small Venture Debt company and chairman of an even smaller MedTech company specialising in spinal surgery. Most weeks I work just two days a week, allowing me to spend time with my wife and my seven-year-old daughter (pictured). One highlight of 2022 was attending my older daughter's degree ceremony – after initially eschewing higher qualifications she entered the University of Bedfordshire through an access course and went on to gain a first-class honours degree in Forensic Science.



Ambassador Koro Bessho (1976)
After leaving Balliol in 1978 (BA in PPE), I pursued a career in the Japanese Foreign Service until 2019. I served as Deputy Foreign Minister and later as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and the United Nations. Upon retirement from the Foreign Ministry, I joined the Imperial Household Agency and am currently the Grand Chamberlain to the Emperor. Both the Emperor and the Empress of Japan studied at Oxford. The Empress Masako was in fact a Balliol student (1988, International Relations) before her marriage. Their Majesties naturally have very warm feelings towards the UK and Oxford and I am honoured and delighted to be able to serve such a wonderful couple. Their Majesties had to postpone an official visit to the UK in 2020 because of Covid-19 and are hoping to come instead in 2024. We are now in the process of planning the visit, with a possible day at Oxford. On a personal note, I have not had the opportunity to set foot in Balliol since 1998, when I was seconded to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. It would be a great joy for me to be there with Their Majesties.

Ian Fletcher (1976)
My 27th year in Taiwan. Splitting my time between working and walking.



Robert Ingham (1976)
I have retired after working for more than 40 years in Britain's electronics industry, mostly as a logic designer. I am hoping that being churchwarden of my local church will leave adequate time for pursuing my various leisure interests.

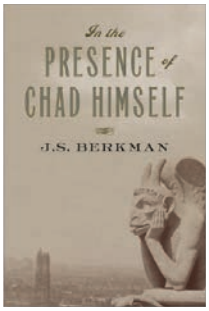


Adam Lloyd (1976)
In this brief lull between that Covid dress rehearsal and the full digital passport state control to come, we have been emphasising simple family life: of my two married daughters, one has two children and one is expecting soon; our third is engaged to be married into Ngapuhi. Like my special needs son I shun the fake and experts of all description, allowing *aroha* and happiness to fill the vacuum.

James Ogilvie (1976)
Published my debut novel, *A Family Tree* (Grosvenor House, 2023), and also published an account of my polar travels: *Latitude Attitude: Polar Adventures By Land and Sea* (Twinlaw, 2023).

Charles Tannock (1976)
Enjoying the quiet life, retired and now living in Bratislava. In 2022 became a Senior Associate Fellow of a prestigious Slovak NGO, Globsec, which enables me to keep a toe in Foreign & Security policy matters. I also did some work in Pristina, training the Kosovo Assembly officials on how Council of Europe and EU institutions work, which I think much of the UK political class would have done well to have attended in 2016! I keep on meeting Oxford graduates locally, so maybe it's time to set up a local O&C dining club!

Jim Berkman (1977)
I published my third novel in 2023, *In the Presence of Chad Himself*, which is a 'paraquel' (same time, place, characters, but different point of view) to *The Ambassadors* by Henry James. Here's what Gregory Maguire, the author of the very famous paraquel *Wicked*, had to say about it: 'You've done an amazing job of evoking the mise-en-scène of a James novel without descending into pastiche or parody – it's a tightrope walk that only the most intrepid might dare, and to my eye it is succeeding wildly … You were perfectly in charge of the narrative the whole way, in every particular, and I'm delighted to tell you how much I enjoyed it.'



Andy Buchanan (1977)
My new book, *From World War to Postwar: Revolution, Cold War, Decolonization, and the Rise of American Hegemony, 1943-1958*, was published by Bloomsbury in December 2023: https://bloomsburycp3.codemantra.com/viewer/6554ca20f4428a00018aacdc.

David Christie (1977)
This year, we are back to some kind of normality and could at least perform Nine Lessons and Carols in Fischingen Abbey, a beautiful location, where I conducted an ad hoc choir with my wife singing soprano. Covid still lurks, however, and we lost two singers to colds or flu at very short notice. Everyone seems to be sick, probably because of all the mask wearing in the past years. I officially became a pensioner this year and took the capital option, but have not retired and will continue working at 80% for one or two more years as a contractor. I now also receive state pensions from both Belgium and the UK which help with the household bills. The building permission process and other formalities for our new barrier-free 'tiny house' on a 13.5 × 5.5-metre plot behind our current house are almost complete. We are currently negotiating with the main building contractor and hope to get started in February 2024. If all goes well, we'll soon have three floors, lift and roof terrace in central Zurich, so that we can stay independent as long as possible during retirement.

Neil Johnston (1977)
Still living in Grand-Champ, southern Brittany, and enjoying French life: cycling, kayaking, walking and dancing plus various volunteering roles. Visitors welcome!

Hugh Kernohan (1977)
2023 saw the family – joyfully – gain a member when Astrid was born in September and – sadly – lose one when my father, the journalist and broadcaster Robert Kernohan (1953), died at the end of October. He never met his first great-grandchild, but the wonders of modern technology meant he saw and spoke to her from afar. So we entered 2024 both richer and poorer. Family aside, I continue to fence vigorously in both Veteran and Open competition (where I manage to maintain a UK ranking lower than my age). 2023 brought another bronze medal in the European Championships in the 60–69 category, but in the World Championships in Orlando I slipped back to 12th from the bronze I won in Croatia in 2022. So still striving for that elusive gold.

Andrew Lawman (1977)
I would like to say that in 2023 I was awarded a First Class Honours BSc in Mathematics from the Open University.

David Steiner (1977)
In 2023, Dr David Steiner, Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy and Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education, published *A Nation at Thought: Restoring Wisdom in America's Schools* with Rowman and Littlefield. In addition, Dr Steiner's piece on America's education system for the influential online publication 'the74million' was announced as that publication's most-read piece of the year.

David Apgar (1978)
Rowland & Littlefield's Lexington imprint is publishing my book *Disagreeing Despite the Data: The Destruction of the Factual Commons* in 2024. It argues that three turning points in 20th-century philosophy reveal three surprising requirements for widespread factual agreement, and finds them missing in America today. Apart from that, now living in Santa Cruz, California, with my wife and daughter and managing a fund that helps start-ups tackling the green transition.

His Excellency Christopher Dell (1978)
In June 2023 I became chairman of the board of Sicona Battery Technologies, an Australian start-up developing next-generation silicon-carbon anodes for lithium-ion batteries. We are currently producing samples for potential clients and seeking funding (including a grant from the US Department of Energy) to build a commercial demonstration plant in Tennessee. On the non-profit side, I serve as a trustee of the American College of Sofia (Bulgaria), and as a board member of the National Center for State Courts, an organisation dedicated to strengthening the role of law and improving access to justice through supporting the state-level court system in the US. I continue to split my time between Washington, Lisbon, and Sofia, while my wife is serving at the USAID mission in Kyiv.

Mark Joseph (1978)
A new phase of local history began on 7 October. I came to England for the first time in a long time a month after that; I and my partner stayed with friends and saw family. There is a struggle for representation, to have one's feelings, to grieve and mourn and be afraid. Ideologies encroach painfully and simplistically, adding to the pain and grief. Sanity, connection, creativity about ways forward abound and then can be quickly drowned. My study in an online class of Palestinian Colloquial Arabic has been one of those bright points of connection. So is work: I am translating a book of philosophical dialogues about time from Hebrew. (I am able to bring a certain passion about philosophical idiom to this work particularly because of the Channel-hopping example of Emeritus Fellow Alan Montefiore, from whom so many have learned.) Complex belongings. A new book on *Collective Equality* makes sense, extending liberal theory to deeply divided places, extending the notion of justice and bringing it closer to peace, says the author, Limor Yehuda. She embraces power-sharing as a better direction than partition in these cases. Nuances of well-researched political theory and practice help to produce a vision that somehow makes a difference in the present; however personal that present is, it is also shared. An email group of psychoanalysts erupts into bickering. Music, even now, is possible, in my place of shelter. Balliol seems so incredibly far away (as it should be), though memory isn't a place.

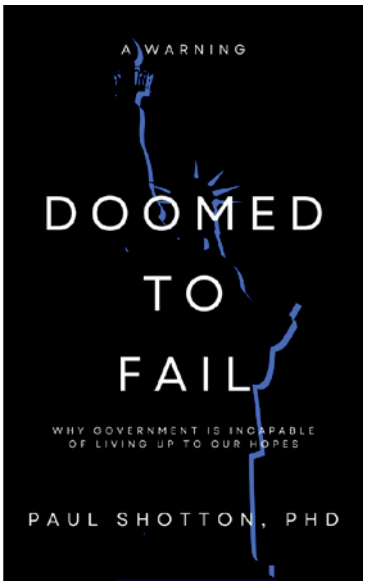


Robert Lewton (1978)
I completed my 40th anniversary at Merrill Lynch. In my beginning years with Merrill, I ran our political action committee – working with key employees to track political and legislative issues, developing fundraising strategies, and providing bipartisan and nominal support to candidates for federal office … 'kids' stuff' compared to the money world of today's Washington politics. I continue to work as a wealth management advisor to high-net-worth individuals and small companies. After spending years downtown in our Wall Street headquarters office, I now work in New York City's beautiful Rockefeller Plaza (of the annual Christmas tree fame). I believe being a native New Yorker and my time at Oxford have provided me with a 'visa' for outreach to people around the world and to newer Americans building families and businesses here. It's been gratifying to help guide what's become a multigenerational clientele to achieve long-term financial and retirement goals, amid the challenges of World Trade Center attacks, wars, market and financial meltdowns, the pandemic, etc. It's never been boring. It's also not been all work: I sing with the University Glee Club of NYC, a 128-year-old men's choir. We perform at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and at times help raise money for organisations in need. I have also tried my hand a few times at community musical theatre, but actually, that was work! I am a member of the NY Horological Society and the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. I live in New Jersey with my lovely wife, two daughters, and our cocker spaniel, Oliver.

Andrew Evans (1979)
I became a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 2018, following a stint in Istanbul working on the airside design of the new Istanbul Airport. I continued to be busy with airport projects until the end of 2022, when I decided to retire. 2023 saw me becoming used to the idea of retirement, although there was still some work on projects that refuse to go away. I am now looking forward to doing a bit more travelling … and not just to the airport as was my professional life.

Sir Geoff Mulgan (1979)
My book *When Science Meets Power* was published by Polity Press in December 2023.





Paul Shotton (1979)
In 2023 I continued with my consulting and board advisory work, but my most important achievement was writing my first book, *Doomed to Fail: Why Government Is Incapable of Living Up to Our Hopes*, available at amzn.to/499zIln in the UK and amzn.to/3vxUNbx in the US. The book encompasses ideas from my early career as a physicist and subsequently my career in financial markets. I explain why, because we have individual agency, human society and the things we create, such as our political framework and our economy, are complex adaptive systems (CAS), the theory of which was much developed when I worked in physics research in the 1980s. From the properties of CAS I explain why liberal democracy and free market capitalism are superior to other frameworks, and the importance of true diversity for the long-term health of any organisation. Surveys indicate declining faith in democracy and capitalism to deliver fair outcomes for all in society. Whilst doubtless this has multiple causes, in my book I explain the role of the Global Financial Crisis of 2007–2009 in driving this worrying development, and the role which the world's central banks played, unwittingly, in causing the crisis and exacerbating its effects through the mismanagement of monetary policy and bank regulation. I am currently working on a second book: *What Ails America? – And How To Fix It*. Peter Andrews (1976) has kindly agreed to review *Doomed to Fail* for the Balliol *Record*.

1980s

Christopher Gallop (1980)
I have managed to combine my new interest in social and political anthropology with my existing enthusiasm for heritage and the built environment ('old buildings' in plain language) by taking up a volunteer post in the front-of-house team at Fulham Palace, the former home of the Bishops of London. My next project there is to train as a tour guide. Meantime, everything else goes on much as it was this time last year.

Ian Gambles (1980)
A great year as interim CEO of the Ernest Cook Trust, a land-based charity connecting children and young people with nature.

Matthew Hamlyn (1980)
In June 2024 I made the shift from full-time wage slave at the House of Commons to being a part-time contractor there; and in December I finally exited Parliament completely after 36 years working there. Now the diary seems to be filling up with volunteering activity and a bit of teaching, but I am still looking for other interesting activities to undertake. So, if you have a Victorian building to renovate, or need to know how to run a legislature on Zoom, or just want some advice on parliamentary procedure or project delivery, do get in touch.

Martin Humphrey (1980)
Isobel Sophia Humphrey Shah is now five. She is my fourth and youngest daughter (the others are Rose, Eleanor and Sorrel), and also has three brothers (Gabriel, Oliver and Noah), two of whom are my sons. Sajel Shah and I formed a civil partnership in July 2022. I continue to work wholly in the NHS (32 years, psychiatry 31 years, and at St George's for 29 years). I have no plans to retire. I see Balliol and UCL friends and many European colleagues whom I have taught over the years in the Universities of Geneva, Pavia (sorry, older than Balliol), Udine and Madrid.

Paul Mason (1980)
After almost 25 years in the chemical industry, and nearly 16 years at Innovate UK, I stepped down this summer as IUK's Director of Innovation Policy. My



last major task had been to pull together and get published the organisation's strategy – our *Plan for Action* (available at all good bookshops). I am now a full-time music student, in the final year of an MA Jazz (Saxophone) course at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD). I was able to purchase my first MA for ten guineas. It turns out that I have to work for this one. Imagine the shock. I'm not finding it at all easy. Most people on the course have just completed first degrees in music; I don't even have O-level music or any of the AMEB instrumental grades, and I am almost 40 years older than they are. So for me, every day involves building from the bottom up. Highly challenging. But it really is a very wonderful experience; my fellow students are simply lovely and the staff at RWCMD superb. Thanks to them all for being so supportive and helpful. Here, should you be interested, is a link to a concert we did last year on college TV: www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_CzwYU2nxA. The family are all well. The kids, now in their 20s (where did that go?), are still trying to help me improve my German (their mother tongue). Patient souls. Very best wishes to all my Balliol friends, and if you ever need a band …

Duncan Taylor (1980)
I'm still working my way up Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The summit can surely not be much further now.

Derek Wax (1980)
Our original eco-thriller series *The Rig*, written by David Macpherson, launched on Amazon Prime in January 2023. It starred Iain Glen, Martin Compston, Emily Hampshire, Mark Bonnar, Mark Addy, Rochenda Sandall and Owen Teale among others. Its ratings success led to Amazon recommissioning it and once again we filmed in Edinburgh during 2023. My BBC mini-series *The Sixth Commandment*, written by Sarah

Phelps, and starring Timothy Spall, Anne Reid, Eanna Hardwicke, Annabel Scholey, Ben Bailey-Smith, and Sheila Hancock, premiered on BBC One in July 2023. It was rated number 9 in the *Guardian*'s top 50 TV shows of the year, 6 in *The Sunday Times* and 1 in the Sun! We will be filming a new series for Amazon in 2024.

John Colenutt (1981)
Busy with a health-tech start-up (Mobilise Care) and three not-for-profits – also the great pleasure of two beautiful (new) grandchildren.

Wayne Henderson (1981)
Liane and I continue to split time between Australia and the UK. I continue to work in the world of cyber-tech start-ups, which is a crazy world, but maybe that's just a reflection of what the world is really like outside the highly rationalised bubble of Oxford alums. In 2023 we brought Liane's 89-year-old mum over from Oz and visited friends in Mimizan, as well as the cathedral in Chartres, various gardens in Paris, and the Peggy Guggenheim museum in Venice. Quite a trip at that age. When we got home to our flat in Woking, we discovered that on the previous evening a massive bough from a very tall and unmanaged western cedar had fallen against our wall and on to our patio. We're lucky we weren't home one day early: it was a beautiful evening and we could well have been outside on that patio. After several weeks of hard work clearing it all away, and some expensive tree surgeons to get the unbalanced tree back under control, the garden is now back to normal.

Professor Beverly Lemire (1981)
A Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada since 2003, I was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 2023. Recent publications include the award-winning *Object Lives and Global Histories of Northern North America: Material Culture in Motion, 1780–1980* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2021), co-edited with Laura Peers and Anne Whitelaw. This volume arose from a four-year funded project, of which I was the principal investigator, involving Indigenous and non-Indigenous collaborators of various disciplines, plus major museums in Canada and the UK, including the Pitt Rivers Museum at the University of Oxford. *The Cambridge Global History of Fashion*, 2 vols (Cambridge University Press, 2023), is my most recent collaboration, co-edited with Christopher Breward and Giorgio Riello – a very satisfying undertaking.

Andrew Mosely (1981)
I joined Longborough Festival Opera (LFO) as non-executive chair on 1 September 2023. LFO was founded by Martin and Lizzie Graham over 30 years ago and produces an annual professional summer opera season of growing international reputation, performed in a 500-seat home-grown theatre at Longborough in the Cotswolds. The company is known particularly for its audacious programming of works by Richard Wagner and will be performing three full Ring Cycles in summer 2024. The vibrant year-round programme of community work spawned from this enterprise includes an Emerging Artists programme, a community chorus, a youth chorus and summer school for local young performers, and partnerships with schools across the local area. I am continuing my studies in opera as a PhD researcher at Newcastle University – my thesis will focus on representations of gender in European operas of the 1920s to 1940s influenced by Dada and Surrealism.

Professor Miguel Orellana Benado (1981)
Happy to announce the publication of Cristóbal Astorga Sepúlveda, Ernesto Riffo Elgueta (editors), *Valorando el Pluralismo: Ensayos en homenaje a M.E. Orellana Benado* (Rubicón, Santiago de Chile, 2023), my Festschrift, 450 pages of comments by former students and Argentine, Chilean, Mexican and Spanish colleagues on my version of pluralism.

Professor Jonathan Ostry (1981)
I am enjoying my second academic year as a professor in the department of economics at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, teaching macroeconomics to some 800 undergraduates per year, as well as an advanced seminar on the nexus between inequality and economic growth – using my co-authored book *Confronting Inequality* (Columbia University Press, 2019) as the main text for the course. I remain very active on the research side, recently publishing work on the political economy of climate change policies (the topic of an op-ed of mine published in the *Financial Times* last year), spill-over effects to emerging and developing economies from the Fed's monetary policy, the IMF's new policy on capital controls (the subject of an op-ed I co-authored with Nobel Laureate Joe Stiglitz), and reasons why the Fed was behind the curve on the surge in inflation earlier this decade. I am beginning to embark on some new work on geo-economic fragmentation and the macroeconomic consequences of populism.

Robin Stuart (1981)
A few years ago, an interest in the traditional methods of celestial navigation led me and collaborators to examine Captain Frank Worsley's original logbooks from the 1914 Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition under the command of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Our initial goal was to understand what methods Worsley had used to navigate the 800 nautical miles from Elephant Island to South Georgia in the 22½-foot vessel the James Caird seeking rescue. Our conclusions were published in the Records of the Canterbury Museum (New Zealand) where the logbooks are now housed. When it was announced that a search was to be made for the wreck of Shackleton's ship, *Endurance*, we returned to the logs and were able make a prediction of the position at which the wreck would likely be found. We circulated our conclusions and published them in the *Journal of Navigation*. The story was picked up by several media outlets including the BBC and the London *Times*. Ultimately *Endurance* was found very close to where we had predicted. The full story is told in my YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3sMS5p8Pgk. In April 2023 collaborators Lars Bergman, David Mearns and I were awarded a Certificate of Achievement by the Royal Institute of Navigation 'In recognition of their pioneering data analysis and modelling leading to the successful location of the Endurance wreck'.

Jonathan Vernon (1981)
Councillor Vernon is in his second four-year term as a Green Councillor for Lewes – which now has a majority of Green councillors at Town and

District level. Chairing the task and finish group for a major development in Lewes, which is also the largest town in a national park (South Downs National Park), and turning our Neighbourhood Plan into a deck of Top Trumps have been the highlights. Otherwise life drawing and printmaking during the rest of the day and coaching a squad of potential county/regional swimmers in the evening and at weekends.

Gordon Willoughby (1981)
I stepped down from my last CEO role at WeTransfer in September 2022 and decided that I wanted to do a variety of interesting non-executive roles and not just one executive one. 2023 has been about putting that plan in to action. As will surprise no one, giving my time away was not so hard, so I now have three really interesting pro bono roles. I am on the board of governors at Cheltenham Ladies College, I am on the advisory board of the Continuo Foundation – helping to make the early music sector in the UK more sustainable and widely available – and I am a mentor at Unlock Her Potential – providing mentorship for women of colour in the US. My main commercial role is as chair of Tibber AS, a Scandinavian energy supplier helping people to make the transition away from fossil fuels. Our daughter is halfway through her life at Bocconi University and our son about to take his A-levels – time has flown by.

Professor Tom Henry (1983)
I was appointed Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia (Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy).

Professor Brian Lewis (1983)
Four decades on, it was a privilege to return to Balliol in Trinity 2023 as an Oliver Smithies Visiting Lecturer and a pleasure to share some of my research on British LGBTQ history. My sincere thanks to all who made it such a congenial and rewarding experience.

Stephen McCann (1983)
For the last six years I have kept busy as a Flood & Drainage Engineer for Rochdale Council. With storm events becoming more frequent, I collaborate with the planning authority, United Utilities sewer team, house builders and local people to mitigate issues



with future flooding. Although this is a weekly two-hour commute from my home near Ilkley, I can keep fit by cycling to Bradford rail station, the best part being the cycle path away from traffic noise. While the train whisks me across the Pennines to the fells, valleys and urban area of Rochdale, I can bury my nose in a book. In leisure time, I enjoy mini-adventures with family and friends. Last year this included rock climbing in the Yorkshire Dales with my teenage daughter, crawling into Great Douk cave, a bivouac on top of Ingleborough, backpacking the Dales Way, and cycling in France from Montpellier to Lyon, following the Via Rhôna, exploring historical castles, campsites and rural southern France.

Professor Murray Pittock (1983)
Professor Murray Pittock became chair of the XR Project Management Board



at the University of Glasgow, with what is believed to be the first remit in the sector to drive the adoption of virtual and mixed reality in research and teaching across the institution; linked to this, he became a partner in the £5.6M Innovate UK Museums in the Metaverse project and is leading on the market research underpinning commercialisation of mixed reality in the cultural economy. He was re-elected to the National Trust for Scotland board and continues as chair of the governance of the Scottish Council on Global Affairs. In September he gave the Caledonian Lecture in Belgravia on 'Adam Smith, Sympathy and the Global Economy' (pictured) and as the lead in a number of the projects of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies he is joining the rest of the team for the presentation of the 2023 Queen's Anniversary Prize at the Palace in 2024.

Professor Christine Sypnowich (1983)
After two terms as Head of Philosophy at Queen's, I liberated myself from department administration last year, enabling me to finish my book on a fellow Canadian and socialist, the inimitable Jerry Cohen. I was pleased to be featured in a *Boston Review* forum, 'Is Equal Opportunity Enough', for which I wrote the lead essay, which was followed by several critical responses from superb scholars and then my reply. The issue was in the top 15 of 2023. I also had a piece in *Aeon*, a tribute in *Jacobin*, and a couple of podcast interviews. David Bakhurst (1983) and I celebrated the marriage of our daughter Rosemary (Balliol Nursery alumna). Alas, it was a year of sadness too: my parents' health worsened significantly, and my father passed away in October 2023. As my parents' chief caregiver, it's been tough to manage everything along with grief and sorrow. On a happier note, I look forward to returning to Oxford this spring for a workshop on cultural heritage that I am organising with Professor Cécile Fabre at All Souls.

Caroline Ashley (1984)
I've moved to put climate action front and centre in my international work, leading a start-up non-profit, SteelWatch: www.linkedin.com/company/steelwatch. I had not realised that over 7% of annual GHG emissions come from iron and steel and most



people don't. SteelWatch is challenging the steel industry to shift from 'trimming emissions' to transforming to a decarbonised sector. The photo is from my first visit to a steel plant, exactly a year ago.

Natasha Beschorner (1984)
I continue to work on digital transformation programs in Asia-Pacific, with Amazon Web Services, based in Singapore.

His Excellency Donald Bobiash (1984)
Had a fantastic year. A family highlight was the marriage of my daughter Catherine, who is now living in Iqaluit in the Canadian arctic territory of Nunavut. Iqaluit was visited by the English explorer Martin Frobisher in 1576, trying to find the Northwest Passage. In my position at the Asian Development Bank in Manila, had the opportunity to travel to Turkmenistan, which is the North Korea of Central Asia. A further travel highlight was a visit to Jordan and brief stayover in Israel. (Note to file: peace-good, war-bad.) Also visited Iceland to learn more about its geothermal technologies. Iceland is also the home of Leif Erikson, the first European to reach North America, sometime around the year 1000. Very much enjoyed the Rhodes Reunion and Balliol dinner in June 2023 and the opportunity to catch up with so many Balliol friends. While in the UK I had a great lunch with Dr Francis Stewart, the brilliant development economist who was my doctoral thesis supervisor. One of my responsibilities at my development bank is to represent the Republic of Ireland. Visiting Dublin in November I met many great people, including an erudite linguist who sang an Irish song for me in a famous Dublin bookshop dedicated to the works of James Joyce.



With a friend in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. I'm the one on the right.

Joanna Hindley (1984)
My dad, David Hindley (1952) died in 2018 and we celebrated his life and his music – inspired by birdsong – in 2019 with a memorial concert premiering his previously unperformed compositions based on transcriptions he made of songs of the woodlark, nightingale and skylark. In 2023 we marked what would have been Dad's 90th birthday by publishing his compositions and launching a website, www.davidhindley.org, bringing together radio, YouTube and TV, articles, lectures and letters about his music.

In 2023 I completed and concluded 30 joyful years as a registered practising (mainly home birth) midwife in Birmingham. I am continuing to work as a metaphorical 'Retrofit' midwife supporting Retrofit Balsall Heath, a local project retrofitting homes and neighbourhoods, hearts and minds in my local community. In our first year we collaborated with 23 local organisations to complete retrofit measures (insulation, draughtproofing doors and windows, fitting solar panels) on 650 local homes. We marked our first birthday by hosting tours, talks, teas, the exhibition 'Letters from the Global South' and a speaker supper spotlighting the work of Rupert Read (1984) and the Climate Majority Project. We also co-hosted the Retrofit Reimagined Festival in the deep end 'living room' of Balsall Heath's Moseley Road swimming baths, Birmingham. See our write-up: 'Yes, the future is still in Birmingham …' in *The Times*: https://archive.is/XqMrT.



Members of the Retrofit Balsall Heath community group.

Rupert Read (1984)
After 26 years as an academic, Rupert Read left his post at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in September 2023 to dedicate himself full-time to the Climate Majority Project (CMP), which he co-founded in 2023. CMP works to accelerate citizen climate action towards system change, and help a mass movement to see its own power. In the lead-up to and following its launch in June, Dr Read, who is now an Emeritus Associate Professor at UEA, was interviewed by a variety of media including *Sky News*, BBC Radio 4, *Newsnight*, the *Guardian* and the *Washington Post*. He also appeared at a number of diverse events including Glastonbury Festival, *The Times Weekend* Literary Festival, Anthropy, the Warming Up Festival in Amsterdam and the Edinburgh Fringe to talk about the climate crisis and promote CMP. CMP's first book, *The Climate Majority Project: Setting the Stage for a Mainstream, Urgent Climate Movement*, was released in early January 2024. Read is the lead editor on the book and wrote several chapters. The book's foreword is by Lord Deben. For more information, visit https://climatemajorityproject.com/.

Ned Bigham (1985)
Commission to compose rhapsodies based on six Gaelic heroic ballads (*laoidhean*) performed at the National Library of Scotland by Màiri MacMillan and the Edinburgh Quartet (recordings on Spotify etc.). Nominated for Ivors Classical Award for 'Together and Apart' (West Sussex Youth Orchestra/Youth Choir/Young Voices). Two EPs released as Anti Atlas.

Halik Kochanski (1985)
I was stunned, absolutely ecstatic and deeply honoured to be awarded the 2023 Wolfson History Prize for my book *Resistance: The Underground War in Europe, 1939–1945* (Allen Lane, 2022).

Professor Daniel Terkla (1985)
Felicitas Schmieder, FernUniversität in Hagen, and I continue to organise 'Mappings' sessions for the International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, as we have done for 12 years. I remain editorial board member for Brill publisher's 'Maps, Spaces, Cultures' series, and biennial editor for the 'Mappings' issue of *Peregrinations: Journal of Medieval Art and Architecture*. I also carry on as pre- and post-publication reviewer for journals such as *Ikon: Journal for Iconographic Studies*; *Imago Mundi: The International Journal for the History of Cartography*; *Material Religion: The Journal of Objects, Art and Belief*; *Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies*; and De Gruyter Publishers, among others.

Recent commissioned contributions include 'The Duchy of Cornwall Map Fragment (*c.*1286): Edmund of Almain (1249–1300) and Berkhamsted Castle' (Berkhamsted Castle Trust, www.berkhamstedcastle.org.uk/objects/mappamundi/) and I've completed the forthcoming 'Forgetting the Hereford Map', Festschrift volume for Felicitas Schmieder, *Nova Mediaevalia* series, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht; and for Brill's *Reading Medieval Maps*, 'Zooming Out: A Materialist Approach to Medieval Map Making' and 'A Piece of the World: The Duchy of Cornwall Map Fragment, *c.*1286'.

Currently, I'm working on a monograph, '"This Ancient Relic of Science": The Antiquarian Interest in and Conservation History of the Hereford Map'; and a related, web-based resource: 'The Hereford Map: Annotated Conservation Correspondence, 1830–2024'.

Nigel Casey (1987)
In November I returned to Moscow as British Ambassador, after a 17-year absence. We were delighted to welcome as our first guests to the residence long-time Muscovites Mike Gibson (1987) and his wife Nana. Mike no longer wears shorts in the winter, but he does regularly swim in ice-cold water. So far I have resisted his kind offer to join his swimming club.



Sir Julian Knowles (1987)
I was proud and humbled to receive an Honorary Doctorate from Birmingham City University on 4 January 2024.

Mark Kotecha (1987)
Set up a small children's homes group in north London a couple of years back. Now, really starting to see big and visible changes in the lives of kids with learning disabilities and autism we support. Really heartening to see how far kids can come with just a little holistic support and love.

Professor Heeraman Tiwari (1987)
I feel so happy, indeed proud, to be a member of our beautiful Balliol. The many years that I have spent under its wing, and in the shadow of Balliol's spires, are a source of inspiration and joy for me. My academic and professional career owes much to Balliol. Although I have not been able to visit Balliol in the past decade and a half, I always yearn to go there, and I hope I will visit my college soon; Balliol always beckons me. I have had many recognitions in the academic world of my beautiful country, India: I am a member of the governing bodies of some of the top educational and administrative institutions/organisations of India: Indian Council of Historical Research, Government of India; National Archives of India, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi; Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Ministry of Culture, Government of India; Indian Council of Social Science Research, Ministry of Education, Government of India; National Steering Committee for a Model Undergraduate Courses in Indian Colleges and Universities, University Grants Commission, Ministry of Education, Government of India, etc.

Joe Carey (1988)
I am pleased to report that we successfully won the prestigious Ingram (Gold) Cup for the best adult chinchilla rabbit in December at the National Chinchilla Adult Stock Show with Neptune. He was registered as a double club supreme champion and won 11 best in shows at open and stock shows during 2023. His progeny will be ready in mid-July to hopefully continue to compete at his level.



Peter Saacke (1988)
I am retiring from fund management in June and will start to train as a maths teacher at UCL's Institute of Education in the autumn.

Thomas Henman (1989)
Inspired by my attendance at the Gaudy last summer for the years 1989–1992 and shared rememberings of a long-lost video from that time, I decided to investigate. I found the original footage on VHS, had it converted to digital format, undertook some basic editing and then shared it with some of my fellow alumni and beyond. It was filmed by Martin Bees (1989) on his



camcorder, and was 'directed' by me. Styled as a promotional film for the fictional Sad B*stards Society, and taking a satirical look at College life, it centred on an apparently lonely individual – played by Sebastian Lawson (1989) – and his meanderings around College and the city streets beyond. It also features many well-known members of the College at the time lauding the benefits of joining the society, all in 'mockumentary' style, now familiar but then well ahead of its time. Review comments I can share with you include 'weird time capsule and ahead of its time' – leading BBC journalist Gwenan Roberts (1989), and 'I have no recollection of being in this' and 'absolute gold' (anonymous). Watch out for the full premiere in, say, another 30 years? The attached image is the opening shot of the archive film in question.

Katie Jamieson (1989)
After 15 years in leafy Chapel Hill, North Carolina, we're moving back to New York City. My husband Richard has taken a job at Columbia University, and I and the dog will be joining him up there after our daughter has graduated from high school this summer. I'll keep working for my same corporate overlords after I move – and since they have an office there, I'm looking forward to ending my 17-year stint of working from home. Time to buy some proper shoes.

Jennifer Milligan (1989)
Last year my husband Mark Bastin (1989) was recognised for his 25 years of service at the University of Edinburgh. This year he received a personal chair in the Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences. I am now enjoying being referred to as the Professor's wife.



Matthew Parker (1989)
Published *29 September 1923: One Fine Day: Britain's Empire on the Brink*, the story of the British Empire at its maximum territorial extent. On Saturday 29 September 1923, the Palestine Mandate became law and the British Empire now covered a scarcely credible quarter of the world's land mass, containing 460 million people. It was the largest empire the world had ever seen. But it was beset by debt and doubts. This book is a new way of looking at the British Empire. It immerses the reader in the contemporary moment, focusing on particular people and stories from that day, gleaned from newspapers, letters, diaries, official documents, magazines, films and novels: from a remote Pacific island facing the removal of its entire soil, across Australia, Burma, India and Kenya to London and the West Indies.

In some ways, the issues of 100 years ago are with us still: debates around cultural and ethnic identity in a globalised world; how to manage multi-ethnic political entities; racism; the divisive co-opting of religion for political purposes; the dangers of ignorance. In others, it is totally alien. What remains extraordinary is the Empire's ability to reveal the most compelling human stories. Never before has there been a book which contains such a wide spread of vivid experiences from both colonised and coloniser: from Pan-Africanists in West Africa to militant Buddhists in Burma, and from the grandest governors to the humblest migrants, policemen and nurses.

Thomas Raggett (1989)
I returned to the UK in 2022 after 12 fascinating years in Hong Kong and have settled back in Highbury, a mile down the road from where we used to live. It's been great catching up with Balliol friends in the UK and beyond. I've started an exciting new role as the first Chief Technology Officer at LifeArc, a self-funding and ambitious life sciences charity (lifearc.org).

1990s

Julian Green (1990)
Julian lives in San Francisco with his wife and two daughters. He sold his last start-up (AI for video-conferencing and remote work), and is setting up an institute for AI research to improve weather and climate prediction.

Isabell Kempf (1990)
I would like to announce that I am since 1 January 2024 the new Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning in Hamburg and continue to be a lifelong learner myself.

Niru Ratnam (1990)
Having spent three years in a first-floor space in Soho, the gallery will move to a new space on Great Portland Street in January. Highlights for artists this spring include a solo show at Camden Art Gallery for Matthew Krishanu, the group show *The Time Is Always Now* at the National Portrait Gallery for Kimathi Donkor and a group show at Hauser & Wirth for Lydia Blakeley.

Kitty Ussher (1990)
I've got a new job as Managing Director, Group Head of Policy Development, at Barclays, helping the company use its own data and insights drawn from across retail, wholesale and business banking to support governments to achieve societal goals. My first time in a big corporate!

The Hon Sir Adam Constable (1991)
In March 2023, I was appointed a Justice of the High Court (King's Bench Division), and became a Knight Bachelor at a ceremony with King Charles III in July.

Alison Taylor (1991)
My book, *Higher Ground*, about the new landscape for business ethics, was published by Harvard Review Press in February 2024.

Simric Yarrow (1991)
I continue to work with inspiring teenagers at a Waldorf School in South Africa (where I've spent most of my life now). Last year, alongside some very local workshop theatre, they produced hilarious versions of Ionesco's *Rhinoceros* (so very apt post-lockdown), Stoppard's *Arcadia* (which these 17-year-olds pulled off as if they knew what the academic characters were supposed to be talking about, even with credentialed scientists in the audience) and Durrenmatt's *The Visit*; as well as a potent *Medea*. I continue to work with teams guiding young men on wilderness adventures

towards themselves, supporting them with positive possible versions of masculinity; and as a writer I have moved from a position as corporate bankster poet to a less formal new Substack: lucidfringe.substack.com. Our younger daughter just aced her university entrance exams here, while the elder is almost qualified as a Steiner kindergarten specialist. Oh, fitted in some great gigs on the Mexican Pacific coast too!

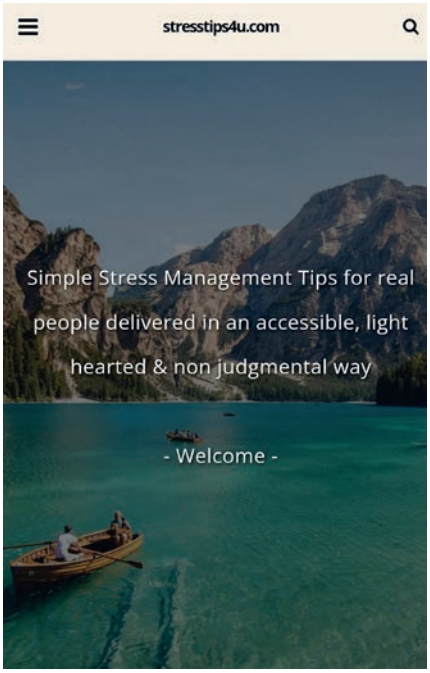
Professor Alex Jadad (1992)
Professor Alex Jadad has received the prestigious 'Paper of the Year' award during the 2023 American Public Health Association Meeting for his thought-provoking work 'Facing Leadership That Kills': https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41271-021-00315-9. During the award ceremony – sponsored by the *Journal of Public Health Policy* – he focused on the critical issue of navigating the complex relationship between artificial intelligence (AI) and leadership. Dr Jadad, a renowned advocate for creative human-machine collaboration across traditional boundaries, outlined a powerful two-pronged approach to navigating AI's rapid development. Firstly, he emphasised the need for humanity to respond to AI as a potential existential threat by rebuilding trust, crafting creative policies and regulations, establishing robust governance structures, and building defensive mechanisms against AI-driven misinformation, miscommunication or critical infrastructure collapse. These are vital, he argued, to ensure AI serves our best interests and safeguards life itself. He also emphasised the need to respond with AI, through human-machine teams aimed at creating bold, imaginative solutions to the simultaneous existential threats confronting us all. Dr Jadad underscored that achieving this harmonious future demands courageous leadership at all levels. His work keeps urging us to direct our path towards a world where humans and AI thrive together, stating, 'The future, quite literally, depends on it.'



Henrik Klagges (1992)
Life goes on. The three children grow and learn, even the bigger ones sometimes still listen. Fortunately we found out that physical activities such as wavesurfing beat computer games. The company, TNG, grew to now 826 employees and €117M turnover in 2023 – not bad. And it really made me happy that we opened up a research lab at the Oxford Centre for Innovation, just half a mile from Balliol. Thanks and respect to the Oxford Trust, for their vision in creating such places of invention. On top, we founded an AhGeh in Switzerland, close to Lake Geneva, and are scouting the US for a suitable location. There is one unsettling observation about Balliol that I feel compelled to share. In her speech, a senior Balliol official was airing and visibly enjoying the thought of stripping Boris Johnson of his alumni rights. Now, he was a functional prime minister of a significant country, and like him or not, Balliol should at least be partially proud of his achievements. He might even be asked one day to become Master. Who knows? I was always impressed that Balliol put its German alumni on the war memorial in the Chapel Passage, even though they were formally citizens of an enemy nation. That sense of community beyond enmity and even death shows unbelievable greatness. Let's not exclude Balliol alumni, let's continue that greatness.



With Julius, Klara and Magnus.



Michael Miller (1992)
Another active year of fatherhood late in the day (think Mick Jagger or Rod Stewart but without the entourage!) has me positively bristling, albeit with blurred enthusiasm. Our family-created website, stresstips4u.com (password 0109 for any Old Members interested or who would like to make contact), proudly continues to offer accessible and, as importantly, non-judgemental stress management support to ordinary people using real-time examples, with meaningful feedback received from its users. Over the next year we may be seeking investment to roll out more widely, though a single person benefiting made all the effort worthwhile.

Professor Alice Sullivan (1992)
I published a book, co-edited with the historian Selina Todd, exploring current controversies regarding women's rights: *Sex and Gender: A Contemporary Reader* (Routledge, 2023). I have been appointed by the UK government's Department for Science Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to lead an independent review into sex and data collection. I co-founded the London Universities' Council for Academic Freedom, which aims to help academics at London universities to collaborate in support of academic freedom. I remain Professor of Sociology at UCL.

Adrian Woolfson (1992)
Dr Adrian Woolfson is the Executive Chairman and President of Reply Holdings Inc, a cell and gene therapy biotechnology company based in San Diego, California. He would be happy to hear from Balliol students looking to do a summer internship.

Michael O'Sullivan (1994)
In January 2024 my book *L'Accord du Peuple* was published in France by Calmann-Levy. In the book – with impeccable timing! – Pierre-Charles Pradier and I examine practical ways to renew democracy in France (and also across Europe). Then I also gave a TEDx Talk on 'restoring democracy', at Stormont, Belfast (see photo), available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqLhmsASol8.



Athar Yawar (1994)
Much to my surprise, I've become the Director of Studies for Human Sciences at St Catherine's College, Oxford. Lovely college, lovely people.

Adam Heppinstall (1995)
During 2023 I inquired into and reported on the appointment of Richard Sharp as chair of the BBC Board for the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. I also published an article in the gardening journal *Hortus*.

Kostyantyn Ilyenko (1995)
On 23 January 2024 (about 7.00am local time) in Kharkiv we had a close hit by the Muscovites' Kh-22 missile (warhead 1,000 kg/2,205lb RDX) about 130 yards from the main building of my workplace. It hit a residential five-storey apartment block that partially collapsed, killing 10 people including



an eight-year-old girl and her mother; one more person passed away in hospital. Here is a photo of my office.

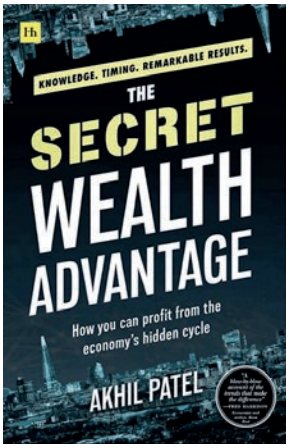
Jonathan Morgan (1995)
I was promoted to a personal chair as Professor of English Law, University of Cambridge, from October 2023. I remain a Fellow of Corpus Christi College.

Guido Bacciagaluppi (Junior Research Fellow in Philosophy 1996-1999)
I have been at Utrecht University now since 2015, researching the foundations of physics and teaching for a great Master's programme in History and Philosophy of Science. A few months ago I was awarded an ERC Advanced Grant for a project on Niels Bohr's philosophical legacy ('Niels Bohr for the 21st Century'), and I am looking forward to spending some lovely time doing research at the Bohr Archive in Copenhagen.



Ruth Higgins (1996)
Dr Ruth Higgins SC, FAAL, was elected President of the New South Wales Bar Association and appointed to the Takeovers Panel. Ruth was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 2006 and appointed Silk in 2017. She is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and an Assistant General Editor of the *Australian Law Journal*.

Akhil Patel (1996)
I am delighted to announce the publication of my first (and, given the effort required, quite possibly my last) book, *The Secret Wealth Advantage: How You Can Profit From the Economy's Hidden Cycle* (Harriman House, 2023). It's partly a historical journey through the 18-year boom-bust cycle (during which we witness many interesting historical episodes from the Great Financial Crisis of AD 33 to the financial panic induced by lockdowns in March 2020); partly an explanation of why the cycle happens, why it repeats so regularly – 200 years, and still going – and why most people don't see it; and partly an investment guide to the future. Throughout, the book provides plenty of practical ideas on how to navigate the economic cycles of the present and future.



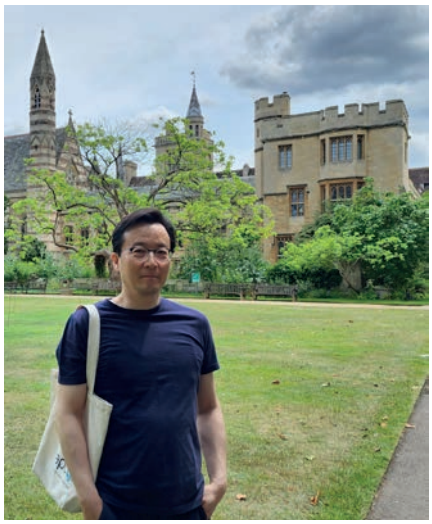
Samuel Denby (1997)
I married Lorna in 2012 and have been based near Wallingford since 2015. We have a daughter, Rose, who is at primary school and last year we acquired a cocker spaniel (Daisy) and two gerbils (Snowy and Chocolate). Careerwise I established my own company, BioFrey, in 2017 offering consultancy in bioprocessing, biomanufacturing and cell and gene therapy. Recent clients have included a manufacturer of a Covid

therapeutic, a biosimilar manufacturer of fertility treatments, a developer of T-Reg immunotherapeutics and clients working in the cultured meat space. Excited about the explosion of opportunities that biomanufacturing offers in both medicine and in combating climate change. Delighted to hear from Old Members: www.biofrey.com.

Sian Young (1997)
A post-university work experience placement in Ireland appears to have thoroughly stuck and here I am 22 years later, still living in Dublin with husband Ivor and daughter Jennifer (seven). After many years in soft drinks marketing my career has taken a turn into sustainability, which I'm thoroughly enjoying as a source of fresh challenge and purpose. This has led to some interesting job titles, Head of People & Planet being a particular favourite. I was recently appointed Director of Sustainable Business at Britvic Ireland and have received a number of industry accolades, including Hero for the Planet (ECR Awards) and ESG Industry Leader (Pakman Awards).

Justin Brierley (1998)
After over 17 years hosting the faith discussion radio programme and podcast *Unbelievable?*, I said goodbye to the show in 2023. I've transitioned into a freelance media role. Alongside regular speaking and broadcasting, I am now co-host of *Re-Enchanting*, a podcast recorded at Lambeth Palace Library, the home of the Centre for Cultural Witness. We interview cultural influencers and thinkers on the way Christianity has shaped the world. I have also published a new book, *The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God: Why New Atheism Grew Old and Secular Thinkers Are Considering Christianity Again* (Tyndale Elevate, 2023).

Kwang Kyhm (1998)
In the last week of June 2023, I returned to Oxford. Exactly 20 years had passed since my graduation ceremony held in June 2003. Currently, I am working at Pusan National University in South Korea, and I have begun to collaborate with the Physics Department in Oxford University through a prestigious research grant BrainLink, which is supported by the Korean National



Research Foundation. This grant will support various academic exchanges of professors, postdocs, and graduates through short- and long-term internship. The first seminar meeting of the Korea–Oxford Joint Physics team was held on 30 June 2023.

Karsten Plöger (1998)
In January of this year, I joined the wonderful community at Internatsgymnasium Klosterschule Roßleben as its 46th Head of School. Founded in 1554, Roßleben – located in Thuringia – is Germany's oldest independent boarding school. Zoë (Christ Church, 1997) and I are very much looking forward to helping this unique school build on its rich legacy.

Jonathan Baggs (1999)
Biggest achievement this year has been settling son one in secondary school, while son two is glad to be rid of him and to be in the top year of primary school. Careerwise I was glad to rejoin Transport for London, leading its work on community partnerships.

Giles Evans (1999)
I'm delighted to announce the birth of my daughter Ellie in December 2022.



Geoffrey Evatt (1999)
To help with the climate crisis, I recently took up a science advisor position for the geo-engineering company Arctic Reflections, founded by Fonger Ypma (2004). To help with various educational crises, I took up a school governor position for a tiny primary school in the Peak District. And to help with my midlife crisis, we bought a sailing boat to cruise the Western Isles.

Adam Killeya (1999)
In September 2023 I took up a new post as Deputy Headteacher of Dr Challoner's Grammar School in Amersham.

Hana Ross (1999)
I am currently on a career break. So far I have learned to drive, learned Hebrew cantillation (leyning), sat the JLPT N1 qualification, got both children through school entrance exams, fixed the wonky kitchen drawer and finally summoned the courage to tidy the box of cables in the loft. I am looking forward to going back to work full time for a nice rest.

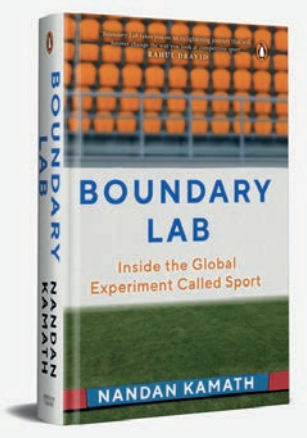
Professor Paul Williams (1999)
I was privileged to represent my employer (the University of Reading) at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai in December 2023. I chaired a panel discussion, organised by the Institute of Physics, on the feasibility of achieving a sustainable transport system. I spoke about the challenges of decarbonising the aviation sector, while two other distinguished speakers covered marine and ground transport. The session concluded with a stimulating discussion and questions from the audience. I cannot claim we solved climate change that afternoon! But at least we explored the roadmaps by which our various transport systems could plausibly reach net zero by the middle of the century.



2000s

Marie Guillot (2000)
With my co-editor, Professor Manuel García-Carpintero (Barcelona), I have published a collection of essays on self-experience: Manuel García-Carpintero and Marie Guillot (eds), *Self-Experience: Essays on Inner Awareness* (Oxford University Press, 2023). Here is a link to the online version of the book: https://academic.oup.com/book/45423.

Nandan Kamath (2000)
I recently published a book called *Boundary Lab* with Penguin's imprint India Viking (2024). Its subject is the governance structure, rules, commerce, ethics and architecture of organised sport. I use real case studies – many from Indian sport – to situate the role of sport in society. Is a bodybuilder a sportsperson or a contestant in a beauty pageant? Should women have separate chess tournaments? Should athletes own new sports moves they conceive of? These are some of the questions that feature in *Boundary Lab*.



Nicole Voelker (2000)
I completed my teacher training in 2023 and am now a teacher for German and English. I totally enjoyed the training at Waldorfseminar Berlin, which gave me the opportunity to meet so many interesting people from all over the world, who all share a passion for teaching. We were such an international crowd, with students from the US, the UK, Russia, Portugal, France, and many other countries, that it actually reminded me of my studies at Oxford at times. After my training, I took up a teaching position at a small Waldorf school in Berlin. After years of working surrounded mainly by adults of my own age group, it is such a great change to work with children and teenagers now. I love it.

Mark Cummins (2001)
My husband Nick and I welcomed identical twin girls, Sophie and Isla, born 29 August 2023. We are living in Dublin, exhausted but delighted.



Professor Hanna Roos (2001)
Hanna Roos (née Hyry) went on to read Law in Cambridge and to practise international arbitration (an alternative form of dispute resolution) at the 'magic circle' law firm Freshfields, and later Californian firms Latham & Watkins and Quinn Emanuel. She has recently founded her own dispute resolution firm, Aavagard LLP, to bring about a new era of law on the back of her reputation as the 'top gun of dispute resolution', acting on sensitive disputes for rock-star clients. She lectures as External Professor in pharma law in



Bergamo, Italy. Her husband Jonathan runs an award-winning eyelid surgery practice, Face Restoration, on Harley Street. They have two cheeky sons and spend their free time exploring the world's frontiers. In 2022, they sailed across the Atlantic and swam with sperm whales in the wild. Life is far from effortlessly superior: picture an early morning hunt for rain trousers and socks to get the boys to school in January rain, with the inbox singing and a silly puppy running interference.

Tom Lane (2002)
In March 2023 our son Ronan was born in Dublin. Alongside fatherhood I managed to find time to compose music for a number of theatre productions as well as a new piece for the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland which was performed at the National Concert Hall in November.

Adri Kerciku (2003)
Mumtaz Lalani (2002) and Adri Kerciku welcomed a beautiful baby daughter, Aria Manon Kerciku, in August 2023. They met at Balliol in 2003 and recently celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary.



Markus Bihler (2004)
We have recently built a home base in Cape Town and enjoy hosting friends and family at the foot of Table Mountain as well as regular travel to London for work. The latest addition to the family (Ari Bihler, born 2023) has taken well to outdoor life and keeps us all on our toes. I continue to work as investor and



advisor to investment managers; Angelina spent the last years in tech and defence with Palantir and Anduril.

Emily Gosden (2004)
My husband Charlie Burton and I welcomed our son, Rory William, to the world on 3 January 2024.

Guy Westwood (2004)
Guy Westwood began a new academic post in September 2023: he is now an Associate Professor in Greek Language and Literature in the Classics Faculty at Oxford, and Fellow and Tutor in Classics at Lady Margaret Hall.

Fonger Ypma (2004)
Last year, I started the new initiative/start-up Arctic Reflections (see www.arcticreflections.earth), with the moonshot ambition of trying to preserve Arctic sea ice to counter global warming. We aim to do this by pumping sea water from underneath the ice on top of the ice in winter, to have more reflective ice left in summer. After a business career in the energy transition, I realised that even rapid CO_2 reductions are too late to avoid a first ice-free Arctic summer. We have just raised funding for the first phase, with field tests at Svalbard and modelling with the



University of Delft and the University of Cambridge. If successful, we will move on to preparing a larger demonstration project. My Balliol friend Dr Geoff Evatt (1999), who is a senior lecturer at Manchester University, recently joined us as academic advisor, so the Balliol connection is still strong!

Dominic Weinberg (2005)
2023 was another memorable year. In May, Sebastian Max Oxley Weinberg (a brother for Wilf, now two) arrived. I happily took lots of parental leave from my job as an Assistant Professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam (I can confirm that teaching in Dutch and raising two boys are equally challenging experiences). At the end of the year, we returned to the UK and we are now settling into a new life in Bristol. I'm setting myself up as a freelancer in policy and research and would love to hear from anyone local, especially if you're also interested in youth, inequalities, public services and data.



Daniel Carden (2006)
2023 was a busy year! In March I bought a house in Brunete, a commuter town just outside Madrid, jointly with my wife Alejandra. In July our second daughter, Mila, was born: she's gorgeous



and has been keeping our boisterous four-year-old, Sara, entertained. Returning to work in November after 18 weeks of paternity leave (of which 16 weeks of Seguridad Social) I've been assigned to be statistical programming manager of five new clinical trials. I do hope I can keep up!!

Jasmine Parkinson (2006)
We've had a lot of big changes this year. Both my husband, James, and I have started new jobs. I've joined the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), where I'm supporting projects to protect biodiversity across the UK Overseas Territories, and James is running a data science team at the Department for Education (DfE). Meanwhile, our son, Lorcan, celebrated his first birthday in August 2023 and is growing into a delightful and beautiful little boy, full of affection and mischief. Here we are together (pictured) playing a favourite game: phone the bakery on the toy croissant.



Professor Keon West (2006)
Professor Keon West has written a new book: *The Science of Racism: Everything You Need to Know but Probably Don't – Yet*: www.thebookseller.com/rights/picador-acquires-the-science-of-racism-by-west. It's being published by Picador in the UK, and by Abrams in the US with an international release date of February 2025. Andrea Henry, editorial director at Picador, said: 'Professor West is doing for racism what Caroline Criado Perez did for sexism in *Invisible Women* (Vintage): he takes the evidence-based facts drawn from an extraordinary number of scientific

studies and guides us through, in a hugely engaging manner, opening our minds to the incontrovertible facts. It's an illuminating, provocative, and sometimes painful read which will spark conversation.'

Graham Barrett (2007)
In 2023 I published a monograph, *Text and Textuality in Early Medieval Iberia: The Written and the World, 711–1031* (Oxford University Press), co-edited a volume, *Christian-Muslim Relations: Primary Sources, I, 600–1500* (Bloomsbury Academic), was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and got engaged to Emma Cayley (Merton College, 1993).



Anna Christie (2007)
I have returned to Oxford to take up a position at the Faculty of Law as a Departmental Lecturer in Law and Finance.

Simon Wan (2007)
Elizabeth Mumford (2008) and I welcomed the birth of baby Nicholas in October. His big sister Sophie is delighted with his arrival.

Professor Edward Grefenstette (2008)
After spending a little over a year in start-up land, I have returned to Google DeepMind (where I began my industry career in 2014) to serve as Director of Research. I am enjoying reconnecting with old friends and collaborators, and making some new ones, as we continue on our mission to produce artificial agents that benefit humanity in a safe and responsible manner. I continue to co-lead the UCL DARK Lab at UCL's AI Centre, where I hold a position of Honorary Professor. We recently welcomed two more honorary faculty



members, and are seeking new students for 2024. On a personal front, my wife Renie and I continue to enjoy our quiet life in Richmond, with our children, Corentin and Marceline – who are both now going to school (how time flies!).

Joanne Lau (2008)
After 11 happy years practising as an arbitration lawyer at Allen & Overy, I have left to become the Secretary-General of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre. 2024 is going to be an exciting year for the centre, as Hong Kong is hosting the biennial ICCA Congress, one of the largest international arbitration conferences worldwide.

Nirawat Thammajak (2008)
I'm delighted to inform that I have been appointed to a Vice-President position at Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI), with effect from 15 January 2024 (https://siamrath.co.th/n/509294). TSRI is a government agency responsible for a national Science Research Innovation (SRI) Plan formulation and budget allocation, including a formation and development of public policies to promote and support research and innovation systems in Thailand. This new role will enable me to devote my time and effort for the country's SRI direction to achieve a national competitiveness and sustainable development through an investment in science and technology,



as well as a capability enhancement of brainpower and knowledge institutes in Thailand.

Nicolas Alfonsi (2009)
Last October, my wife Concy and I married at the Basilica of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris, surrounded by our fantastic Balliol friends Ellie Grant, James Maynard (both 2009), their adorable son George, Shivprasad Swaminathan (2008), and Adarsh Varghese (2010). It was a very moving moment, and we were particularly touched by the presence of them all. After the ceremony, the party was MCR style, and I was pleased to observe that, notwithstanding the passing of the years, none of us had lost any of their mojo on the dancefloor, nor the thirst that characterises anyone who frequented the Megaron more than a decade ago. It all ended in good order, at a relatively decent time of the night.



Ashley Nord (2009)
I'm a CNRS researcher in France, working in the field of biophysics. In 2023 I was a laureate of the Bettencourt Schueller Foundation's Impulscience award. The award, which carries an endowment of 2.3 million euros over five years, will support my research team's project 'Physics of bacterial biofilm nucleation'. Here's a link to a video describing the project: https://tinyurl.com/9c7jpj2b.



2010s

Emilie Oberlis (2010)
My husband Michael Lobie and I welcomed our son Louis on 30 October 2023.

Florence Trott (2010)
My husband Nick and I would like to share the news of the birth of our son, Alfred Trott Reid. He arrived on 27 June 2023. As I write he is almost six months old and cutting his first tooth!

Joyce Kwok (2011)
In October 2023, Joyce married Matthew Hodgson at the beautiful Hedsor House in Buckinghamshire, surrounded by family and friends. After a month of travels, they are back at home with their two rescue cats, Hady and Cleo.



Rahul Nath (2011)
The past few years have been an exciting period of transition in my career from academia to diplomatic work. I finished up my tenure track position at Ashoka University in June 2022. I have since started as an economist at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the Climate Diplomacy and Development Finance Division, working at the intersection of climate diplomacy, development finance and multilateral development banks.

Nauman Asghar (2011)
I completed my PhD in Strategy and Business Policy in May 2023 at HEC, Paris, following the completion of BCL and MSc in Law and Finance at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. In January 2023, I joined NEOMA Business School, France, as Assistant Professor in Strategy and Entrepreneurship. After five and a half productive and thriving years in France, I have moved back to the UK and joined the University of Liverpool as a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Strategy, International Business and Entrepreneurship. My research examines various behavioural biases in organisational decision making. Moreover, I explore ways to mitigate those biases through organisational design. I also married Sobia Riaz in December 2023 in Lahore, Pakistan, and we look forward to having an exciting time in the UK.



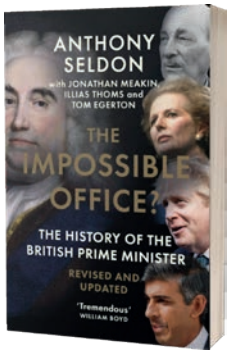
Marc Pacitti (2011)
Eleanor Southern-Wilkins and I celebrated our civil partnership in Oxford on 16 September 2023. We had the best time (ceilidh) dancing the night away and look forward to our lives together. We'll also be changing our surnames to Vendrell when we can face the necessary admin.



Seb Pike (2011)
I was awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry Dalton early career prize: Sir Edward Frankland Prize in 2023, and will be delivering a lecture tour this year: https://www.rsc.org/prizes-funding/prizes/2023-winners/dr-sebastian-pike/.

Isaac Rose (2011)
I've published my debut book, *The Rentier City*, which examines the trajectory of Manchester's politics, economy and built environment since the 1970s, situating it within the longue durée of the world's first shock city of industrial capitalism. It is out now with Repeater (2024) and available to buy from all the usual places.

Illias Thoms (2011)
In March 2024, the fully updated edition of *The Impossible Office?*, co-written by Illias Thoms, was published by Cambridge University Press, which describes it as 'A *Times* and *Sunday Times* Book of the Year. The recent political chaos enfolding Downing Street provides the framing for the extraordinary story of the office of Prime Minister, and how and why it has endured longer than any other democratic political office in world history.'



Phoebe Lowry (2012)
Phoebe Lowry (née Grant-Smith) and her husband, Dr Andrew Lowry, are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Duncan Andrew Stephen Lowry, a brother to John. Duncan was born on Saturday 13 May 2023, at 21:21, weighing 7 pounds 4 ounces.

Rebecca Savage (2012)
I'm incredibly happy to announce that my partner Joe and I got married this summer in the north-east! It was a brilliantly sunny day and we had the most amazing time before setting off to the fjords for our honeymoon.





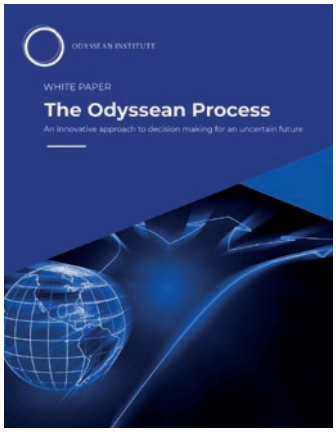
Caryn Davies (2013)
2023 was a big year in the Davies-Harwood household! Caryn founded her own law firm, Podium Law, focused on legal services for venture-backed start-ups and other small businesses. She and Lou were married in a small ceremony on their roof deck, and their son Davys Harwood was born soon after that. Lastly, Caryn was chosen to receive the Thomas Keller Medal, the highest honour in the sport of rowing. She is the first American ever to receive this honour.

Laurence Warner (2013)
Different lecture theatre experience presenting to Oxford Climate Society a Pandit & Warner musical about which state can rap and sing their way to be the 'Earth Hero'! See Ceru.li/musical.



Matt Coulter (2014)
In 2019 I began studying for a PhD in History at Balliol's Cantabrigian sister college – St John's – under the supervision of Professor Nora Berend and with an AHRC studentship. In August 2023 I submitted my thesis, before subsequently passing my viva in October, and as I type this the final hardbound version is being prepared for submission to the repository. The thesis is entitled 'Political Communication Practices of the Transylvanian Saxon Towns, *c.*1467–1526', and focuses on the diplomatic activities of a confederation of German-speaking towns on the eastern frontier of the kingdom of Hungary, amid the challenges posed by Ottoman expansion, the financial demands of the Hungarian crown, and repeated land disputes with their neighbours.

Giuseppe Dal Pra (2014)
My organisation, the Odyssean Institute, completed in November 2023 our White Paper on democratic deliberation, complexity modelling, and expert elicitation to produce better resilience policy against civilisational risks. Our White Paper is available here: https://tinyurl.com/yckpv3rc. We are preparing a pilot study in Oxfordshire for an expert panel on complex civilisational risks, and their critical tipping points in social, technical, and ecological systems, with an eye to identified crucial considerations for avoiding civilisational collapse and initiating positive social tipping points towards sustainability. It will involve around 15–25 experts engaging in these problem areas. Our academic advisory board has also grown, including Professor Peter Turchin, Dr Constantin Arnscheidt, Dr Matt Boyd, Dr Bonnie Wintle, Dr Mark Fabian, and Dr Mark Workman. As a small but ambitious think (and do) tank, we are always open to future collaborators, supporters, and funders. If you as an alumnus/a or current student are interested in getting involved in our remit of using cutting-edge decision-making to empower citizen-led democratic policy-making on the greatest challenges we face, we'd love to hear from you!



Ian McDonald (2015)
In November 2023 – after five thoroughly enjoyable and memorable years at 4 New Square Chambers, where I began my career at the Bar following my time at Balliol College – I joined 3 Verulam Buildings in Gray's Inn, London. I have a broad practice at my new professional home, with a particular focus on commercial litigation, international arbitration, private international law, and international human rights law, and I am regularly instructed in complex, high-value legal cases, often with an international dimension. For more information, see https://3vb.com/barrister/ian-mcdonald. I also recently contributed a chapter (focusing on the 'proper law' of a contract) to a new book, *The Common Law Jurisprudence of the Conflict of Laws*, which was published by Bloomsbury in May 2023.

Sofia Castelló Y Tickell (2017)
A group of alumni who first discovered improvised comedy as the Balliol Improv Group in 2018 recently co-founded a London-based troupe called Just Improv. Members include Sofia Castelló y Tickell, Emma Hinnells (2017), Hannah Sophie Williams (2017), Vidy Reddy (2016) and Eliza McHugh (2016). We performed an improvised comedy show about endangered species called *Wild Things* at the Edinburgh Fringe in August 2023. The project received funding from the British Ecological Society and the Knowledge Exchange Seed Fund at the University of Oxford, and also involved a research project to measure changes in audience attitudes to conservation. Our next show is currently in development, so



Balliol Improv Group perform *Wild Things* at the Edinburgh Fringe. Left to right: Emma Hinnells, Eliza McHugh, Matthew Kemp, Sofia Castelló y Tickell, Vidy Reddy and Charlie Blake

keep an eye out for future performances and follow us on social media: https://www.instagram.com/just.improv/.

Vasiliki Kiparoglou (2017)
I have just had my first anniversary as CEO at the Griffin Institute (https://griffininstitute.org.uk), a charity providing training in robotic surgery and other forms of minimally invasive surgical techniques. Last year, over 1,000 surgeons received training at our centre in north-west London.

I have also been made an Honorary Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery and Interventional Science at UCL.

Mia Jeronimus (2019)
My research into the experiences of Dutch women interned in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps in Java during the Second World War was published in *Human Rights Quarterly*. When I pitched it to Martin Conway (MacLellan-Warburg Fellow and Tutor in History) as the topic for my undergraduate dissertation in my second year – wanting to know more about what happened to my grandmother there – I was sceptical he would approve the idea, let alone tell me the College would fund my trip to the archives in Amsterdam. Since publication, friends and strangers alike have approached me about the article, their families asking for a copy, wanting to know what life was like for an ancestor there. It has connected me in extraordinarily special ways. Thank you, Balliol.

Max Nunn (2019) and Andrea Stykket (2019)
Having met in the Megaron at Holywell Manor in 2019, we are happy to share that four years later, last summer, we got engaged, perched over a waterfall in Bø I Telemark, Norway, in the company of our parents. We are hoping to hold our wedding in 2025 and we will be inviting many of our cherished friends from our time at Balliol.



Dhruv Sengupta (2019)
In December 2023, I was selected as the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for the Feltham and Heston constituency. I am honoured by this opportunity and the fact that, even in the short period of time since I officially joined the party as a member (September 2022), my hard work and devotion to the Liberal cause both locally and nationally have been recognised. For this, I must thank the London Liberal Democrats, the Hounslow Borough membership which selected me, and the two mentors who inspired me to put myself forward – Lord Richard Newby, our Leader in the Lords, and Donncha Hayes, the previous chair of the Richmond Borough Party. At the time of my selection I was the youngest selected Parliamentary candidate in London. Although running in a non-target seat, I look forward to using my position to establish myself as a national figure representing younger generations. You can keep up with the campaigns I am working on by following me on Twitter: https://twitter.com/dhruv4mp.



2020s

Sherry Yang (2020)
I am delighted to share that after graduating in September 2021, I moved back to Hong Kong and switched my career from consulting to a brand-new industry, fashion. Now I work as a senior manager at PVH, the US-based premium fashion brand and parent company for Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger, leading APAC Strategy Team.

Ankur Modi (2021)
Ankur Modi FRSA has been appointed as the Chief Technology Officer for RedCloud Technologies, a pioneering mobile and open commerce company that is one of the fastest-growing technology companies in Europe. RedCloud is preparing to debut its shares in its NASDAQ IPO in 2024. Ankur is responsible for driving innovation in AI and trade to enable hundreds of millions of businesses to access open commerce. Prior to joining RedCloud, Ankur was the head of product initiatives at Meta for Oversight Platforms, where he worked with industry champions like former Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Tawakkol Karman. Ankur completed his Executive Masters in Business Administration at the Saïd Business School and graduated as a Director's Scholar from Balliol College while in his leadership role at Meta. Ankur's continued contributions to the advancement of artificial intelligence and advanced technologies around the world have earned him a fellowship of Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. Ankur can be contacted at www.ankurmodi.com.



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 2025.

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

