BALLIOL COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

ANNUAL RECORD

2026





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COLLEGE
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The cut-off date for information in the *Annual Record* is 31 July. The lists of examination results (which exclude students who have chosen not to have their results published), graduate degrees, prizes, scholarships and exhibitions may include awards and results made since that date in the previous academic year, as indicated. We are happy to record in future editions any such awards and results received after that date, if requested.

Obituaries of Old Members for the *Annual Record* are welcome, but there is a limit of 400 words. Please contact the Editor if you would like to write one.

The Editor may be contacted at the address above or by email: yingying.jiang@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

To report a death, please send details to the Development Office at the address above or by email to development.office@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

'News and Notes' from Old Members, formerly in the *Annual Record*, is now published as a supplement to *Floreat Domus*. We welcome submissions for the next edition, including photographs, which may be sent by email to newsandnotes@balliol.ox.ac.uk.

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The Master's Letter

Dame Helen Ghosh DCB

In my first Master's Letter in 2018, I thanked my predecessor, Drummond Bone, for handing on (in his words) 'a ship that is sailing smoothly'. As I prepare to hand on responsibility in my turn, I have found myself asking whether I have done the same. I knew when I arrived that being the head of an Oxford college is not at all like being a Chief Executive! Much of the time, I have enjoyed trying a different form of leadership – through influencing and engaging with colleagues and 'thought leaders' across the College and using our baroque Committee system to advantage.

I was once told that, during my appointment process, an unnamed Fellow commented to colleagues that they should be looking for someone 'not to work on us, but for us'. If change was not on their agenda, the context in which the College operates has nonetheless changed markedly over the past decade. The tsunami of regulation imposed by Government has meant a significant cultural transition for every Oxford college. When I arrived, the predominant ethos of the College was that of a family, with relaxed, lightly regulated relationships and – to exaggerate for effect – a somewhat *ad hoc* approach to running ourselves.

I believe that we have adapted to this new world while remaining true to our values, preserving the atmosphere and sense of community that define Balliol, while professionalising the services that best support our students, staff, and academics. We now have a highly experienced, full-time Welfare Officer leading three staff members and a part-time Counsellor, with a professional HR Manager to keep us on the straight and narrow. The Dean is still appointed from among the Tutorial Fellows, though some of our historic Deans' more colourful penalties for misbehaviour would no doubt be frowned upon by the Office for Students today. Our academics undergo all sorts of training, from anti-harassment to 'how to use a laptop'. Apparently the first piece of advice in the latter is to 'open the lid'!

I have long believed that the most important responsibility of any leader, and certainly of the Master, is to set the tone. What kind of institution are we? How do we do things here? What do we value? These can be communicated through the smallest detail of behaviour or habits. I hope I have conveyed our values – excellence, kindness and respect, and engaging with the world around

us – not just in the set-piece speeches the role requires, but also by being present and visible: through conversations with people I bump into in the Quad, at staff, student and academic events, and through my weekly 'Master's Message' to the whole College community.

During Trinity Term, our Front of House Manager put on, at my request, a fabulous display of College Silver in the Hall. The display ranged from some of our earliest pieces that had somehow escaped being melted down in the Royalist cause during the Civil War, to lovely 20th- and 21st-century gifts to the College. One of the students who came along said to me thoughtfully, 'We only ever talk about John de Balliol and Dervorguilla and the foundation of the College, and then we fast-forward six centuries to the glory days of "effortless superiority", to Jowett and his successors. We never talk about the bits in between'. Thinking of the potted history I've given each year to students at their Freshers Dinners, he was absolutely right.

I sometimes wonder whether we dwell too much as a College on the glories of our 19th-century past in particular and our pioneering work in University and educational reform. Of course, we should celebrate our predecessors who gave the name of the College such continuing lustre. But no great institution should rest on its laurels. Our reputation rests on innovation, on leading the pack, on thinking of new ways of doing things. A striking 21st-century example is Andrew Graham's establishment of the Oxford Internet Institute, now so successful that it has outgrown its Balliol nest and flown away to the new Schwarzman Centre up the road. We need to keep moving forward, like that proverbial shark, to stay alive. If we don't keep looking about us, as our forebears did, there are plenty of others who will happily steal our clothes.

I have few concerns about the intellectual fizz that still energises College life. To walk through the SCR dining room at lunchtime is to enter a room where the energy and quality of conversation are almost palpable. Visiting scholars rhapsodise about the stimulus and excitement they have found here. Thanks largely to the generosity of Old Members, we now have nine young postdoctoral Fellows beginning their academic and research careers, compared with four in 2017/2018. Our students continue to excel in Balliol's traditional strengths, with seven PPE Firsts last summer.

When I mentioned, six weeks or so into the job, that I thought the College looked a bit tatty, one of our Fellows commented huffily, 'Well, we don't want to look like a country house hotel'! I hope our efforts since have avoided that, although with rather less peeling paint, some excellent accommodation

around Master's Field, more (but still not enough) mobility access, and lovely additions such as the Gillis Lecture Theatre and the Warburg Music Rooms, made possible by the generosity of Old Members and their families. But we also know we have historically underinvested in our estate and that other colleges have done much more to improve the environment for students and staff. Addressing this will be one of the College's strategic priorities in the coming years, including the renovation of the Hall. An exciting project for my successor!

So, do I think we are still a 'ship sailing smoothly' through the squalls of everyday life? I do, thanks to the contribution of so many people – our academics, our professional staff, our students and our Old Members. I would single out this last group for particular thanks. Our alumni are extraordinarily loyal and generous, contributing to the life of the College in countless ways and enabling us to fund initiatives that have transformed both the student experience and our academic life. I have also found friendships among them that will last long after I step down.

It only remains for me to thank the Balliol community for all it has enabled us to achieve over the last eight years, and to say for the last time as Master – Floreat Domus!



Balliol College 2025/2026

Balliol College 2025/2026

Visitor

Reed, Right Honourable Lord, PC, LLB Edin, DPhil Oxf, Hon LLD Glas, Hon LLD Edin, FRSE

Master

Ghosh, Dame Helen, DCB, MA MLitt Oxf, Hon LLD Nott [until 30 June 2026]

Perry, Seamus Peter, MA DPhil Oxf [from 1 July 2026]

Fellows

Hazareesingh, Sudhir Kumar, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf, FBA, CUF Lecturer in Politics, Coolidge Fellow and Tutorial Fellow in Politics, and Senior Fellow

O'Hare, Dermot Michael, MA DPhil Oxf, Professor of Chemistry, Senior Research Fellow in Chemistry and SCG Fellow

Conway, Martin Herbert, MA DPhil Oxf, FRHistS, Professor of Contemporary European History, MacLellan-Warburg Fellow and Tutor in History, and Welfare Fellow

O'Brien, Dominic C., MA PhD Camb, MA DPhil Oxf, Professor of Engineering Science and Senior Research Fellow in Engineering

Skinner, Simon Andrew, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf, FRHistS, Associate Professor, Keen Fellow and Tutor in History

Forder, James, MA DPhil Oxf, Andrew Graham Fellow and Tutor in Political Economy, and Dean

Lamond, Grant Ian, MA BCL DPhil Oxf, BA LLB Sydney, Associate Professor, Frankfurter Fellow and Tutor in Law

Reichold, Armin J.H., MA Oxf, Diplom PAS Dr rer nat Dip Dortmund, Professor of Physics, Fellow and Tutor in Physics

Melham, Thomas Frederick, BSc Calgary, MA Oxf, PhD Camb, FRSE, FBCS, Professor of Computer Science, Fellow and Tutor in Computation

Shimeld, Sebastian Mordecai, BSc Southampton, MA Oxf, PhD Manc, Professor of Evolutionary Developmental Biology, Julian Huxley Fellow and Tutor in Zoology, and Vice-Master (Academic)

Thomas, Rosalind, MA Oxf, PhD Lond, FBA, Professor of Greek History, Dyson-Macgregor Fellow, Jowett Lecturer and Tutor in Ancient History,

and Vice-Master (Academic)

Lukas, André, BSc Wuppertal, MA Oxf, Dr phil TU Munich, Professor of Physics, Fellow and Tutor in Theoretical Physics

Marnette, Sophie, Lic Brussels, PhD California, MA Oxf, Professor of Medieval French Studies, Dervorguilla Fellow and Tutor in French

Barford, William, BSc Sheff, MA Oxf, PhD Camb, Professor of Theoretical Chemistry, Fellow and Tutor in Physical Chemistry

Paoli, Sandra, MA Oxf, PhD Manc, Associate Professor in Linguistics (Romance Languages), Senior Research Fellow in Romance Linguistics

Goldin, Ian A., BSc BA Cape Town, MSc LSE, MA DPhil Oxf, AMP INSEAD, Professor of Globalisation and Development and Senior Research Fellow

Noe, Thomas H., BA Whittier, MBA PhD Texas at Austin, MA Oxf, Ernest Butten Professor of Management Studies and Professorial Fellow

Kelly, Adrian David, BA MA Melb, DPhil Oxf, Professor of Ancient Greek Literature, Clarendon University Lecturer, Fellow and Tutor in Ancient Greek Language and Literature

Hamdy, Freddie Charles, MBChB Alexandria, MD Sheffield, LRCP-LRCS FRCSUrol Edinburgh, LRCPS Glasgow, Nuffield Professor of Surgery and Professorial Fellow

Schiff, Sir András, Special Supernumerary Fellow

Trott, Nicola Zoë, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf, Senior Tutor, Academic Registrar and Tutor for Graduates, and Official Fellow

Walker, Lisa Jane, BM BCh DPhil Oxf, BSc Manc, MRCPCH, PGCME Dund, Fellow in Medical Sciences and Tutor for Undergraduate Admissions

Zaccolo, Manuela, MD PhD Turin, FRSB, Professor of Cell Biology, Fellow and Tutor in Biomedical Sciences and Pre-Clinical Medicine

Tufano, Peter, AB MBA PhD Harvard, Emeritus Peter Moores Professor of Finance at Saïd Business School, and Special Supernumerary Fellow

Lombardi, Elena, Laurea Pavia, MA PhD New York, Professor of Italian Literature, Paget Toynbee Fellow and Tutor in Italian, and Praefectus of Holywell Manor

Tan, Jin-Chong, BEng (Mech) Malaysia, MEng NTU Singapore, PhD Camb, Professor of Engineering Science (Nanoscale Engineering), Lubbock Fellow and Tutor in Engineering Science

Robinson, Matthew, BA MSt DPhil Oxf, Associate Professor, Fairfax Fellow and Tutor in Latin Literature

Ghobrial, John-Paul, BA Tufts, MPhil Oxf, MA PhD Princeton, Professor

of Modern and Global History, Lucas Fellow and Tutor in History

Choudhury, Robin, BA MA BM BCh DM Oxf, FRCP, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and Senior Research Fellow in Biomedical Sciences

Moulton, Derek, BA Denver, MSc PhD Delaware, Professor of Applied Mathematics, Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics

Wark, David Lee, MS PhD Caltech, BSc Indiana, FRS, Professor of Experimental Particle Physics and Senior Research Fellow

Cartis, Coralia, BSc Babeç-Bolyai (Romania), PhD Camb, Professor of Numerical Optimisation, Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics

Butt, Daniel, BA MPhil DPhil Oxf, Associate Professor, Robert Maxwell Fellow and Tutor in Political Theory

Smyth, Adam, BA Oxf, MA PhD Reading, FSA, Professor of English Literature and the History of the Book, Clarendon University Lecturer, A.C. Bradley–J.C. Maxwell Fellow and Tutor in English Literature

Ovenden, Richard, OBE, BA Durh, MA DipLib Lond, FRSA, FSA, FRHistS, FRSE, Bodley's Librarian and Professorial Fellow

Norman, Richard Anthony, BA Oxf, Development Director, and Official Fellow

Caulton, Adam Edward Philip, BA Oxf, MPhil PhD Camb, Associate Professor in Philosophy of Physics, Clarendon University Lecturer, Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy, Tutor for Graduate Admissions

Kaiserman, Alexander, MPhysPhil BPhil DPhil Oxf, Associate Professor, Fairfax Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy

Howard, Philip, BA Toronto, MSc LSE, PhD Northwestern, Professor of Internet Studies and Professorial Fellow

Gittos, Helen, BA Newcastle, MSt DPhil Oxf, Associate Professor, Colyer-Fergusson Fellow and Tutor in Early Medieval History

Godfray, Sir Charles, CBE, FRS, Director of the Oxford Martin School and Professorial Fellow

Lotay, Jason, MMath DPhil Oxf, Professor of Pure Mathematics and Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics

Bown, Alexander, MA Oxf, PhD Geneva, Associate Professor, Fellow and Tutor in Ancient Philosophy

Kwan, James, BS Rensselaer NY, MS MPhil PhD Columbia, Associate Professor in Engineering Science, Fellow and Tutor in Engineering Science

Davis, Katrina, BSc PhD Western Australia, Associate Professor in Conservation Biology, Fellow and Tutor in Zoology (Conservation Biology)

Langton, Matthew, MChem DPhil Oxf, Professor of Chemistry and Royal Society University Research Fellow, Fellow and Tutor in Inorganic Chemistry

Tilley, Amanda, BSc Sheffield, FCA, Finance Bursar, and Official Fellow

Dindjer, Hasan, MA BCL DPhil Oxf, LLM Harvard, Associate Professor, Blanesburgh Fellow and Tutor in Law

Crosby, Kate, MA DPhil Oxf, Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies and Professorial Fellow

Fraser, Christophe, BSc Edinburgh, PhD Swansea, Moh Family Foundation Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Senior Research Fellow

Soutphommasane, Tim, BEc (Hons) Syd, MPhil DPhil Oxf, Chief Diversity Officer, Professor of Practice in Human Rights and Political Theory, and Senior Research Fellow

Cheval, Vincent, Licence, Master and PhD ENS-Cachan, Associate Professor and Fellow and Tutor in Computer Science

Enoch, David, LLB BA Tel Aviv, PhD New York, Professor of Philosophy of Law, Pauline and Max Gordon Fellow and Professorial Fellow

Mallinson, James, BA Oxf, MA SOAS, DPhil Oxf, Boden Professor of Sanskrit and Professorial Fellow

Giles, Mike, BA Camb, SM PhD MIT, FRS, Professor of Numerical Analysis and Professorial Fellow

Ondračka, Lubomír, MSc UCT Prague, MA PhD Charles University Prague, Asoke Kumar Sarkar Early Career Fellow in Classical Indology

Kelly, Conor J., BA NUI, MA Maastricht, MRes PhD Lond, Bingham Early Career Fellow in Constitutional Studies

Moretti, Jessica, BSc PhD Western Australia, Dan Norman Early Career Fellow in (Bio)medical Studies

Famprikis, Theodosios, BSc Rose-Hulman, MSc Grenoble and Darmstadt, PhD Amiens, Malcolm Green Early Career Research Fellow in Inorganic Chemistry

Thomas, Sarah, MA MSci Cam, MRes PhD Imp, Associate Professor, Eastern Electricity Fellow and Tutor in Engineering

Smith, Jennifer, MA Warw, Domestic Bursar, and Official Fellow

Devji, Faisal, PhD Chicago, Beit Professor of Global and Imperial History

Nenu, Theodor, MCompPhil Oxf, PhD Bristol, Early Career Fellow in AI and Theoretical Philosophy

Karlsson, Robin, PhD TCD, Walker Early Career Fellow in Mathematical Physics

McConnell, Thomas, BA Exe, MA SOAS, DPhil Oxf, James Irvine Early Career Fellow in Classical Languages & Literature
Fabian, Samuel, DPhil Camb, Early Career Fellow in Biology
Biron-Scott, Laura, BA MA MPhil DPhil Camb, GDip Durh, Chaplain
Chu, John, BA Camb, MA PhD Lond, Keeper of Western Art, Garlick Fellow and Professorial Fellow
Harte, Verity, BA MPhil DPhil Camb, George Eastman Visiting Professor
Zackin, Emily, PhD Princeton, John G. Winant Visiting Professor of American Government
Gygax, Marc Domingo, PhD UB, Oliver Smithies Visiting Fellow

Emeritus Fellows

Lukes, Steven Michael, MA DPhil Oxf, FBA
Weinstein, William Leon, BA Columbia, BPhil MA Oxf
Turner, David Warren, BSc Univ Coll of the South West, MA Oxf, PhD Lond, FRS
Barnes, Jonathan, MA Oxf, FBA
Morton, Keith William, MA Oxf, PhD New York
Stapleton, Barbara Jane, QC, BSc UNSW, PhD, Adelaide, LLB ANU, DPhil DCL Oxf, FBA
Davies, Paul Lyndon, QC, LLM Lond, MA Oxf, LLM Yale, FBA
McFarland, David John, BSc Liv, MA DPhil Oxf
Stoy, Joseph Edward, MA Oxf
Powis, Jonathan Keppel, MA DPhil Oxf
Cashmore, Roger John, CMG, MA DPhil Oxf, FRS
Noble, Denis, CBE, MA Oxf, PhD Lond, FRCP, FRS
Murray, Oswyn, MA DPhil Oxf, FSA
Gombrich, Richard, AM Harvard, MA DPhil Oxf
Logan, David Edwin, MA PhD Camb, MA DPhil Oxf
Morriss-Kay, Gillian Mary, BSc(Hons) Durh, MA PhD Camb, MA DSc Oxf, Hon FAS
Roberts, Sir Edward Adam, KCMG, MA Oxf, FBA
Hodby, Jonathon Wilson, MA DPhil
Zancani, Diego, Laurea Milan, MA Oxf, Dott Bocconi
Jones, John Henry, MA DPhil Oxf, CChem, FRSC, FRHistS
McQuay, Henry John, BM MA DM Oxf, FRCP Edin

Bulloch, Penelope Anne Ward, MA PhD Camb, MA DPhil Oxf, ALA, FSA
Brown, Judith Margaret, MA PhD Camb, MA DPhil Oxf, FRHistS
Schmidt, Aubrey Vincent Carlyle, MA DLitt Oxf
Hannabuss, Keith Cyril, MA DPhil Oxf
Buckley, Christopher Paul, MA DPhil Oxf, FIMMM, FIMechE, CEng
Swift, Adam Richard George, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf
Dupree, Hugh Douglas, BA Univ of the South, Tennessee, MA DPhil Oxf, MDiv Virginia
Abrams, Lesley Jane, MA Oxf, MA PhD Toronto, FRHist
Vines, David, BA Melbourne, MA PhD Camb, MA DPhil Oxf
Wilson, Timothy Hugh, MPhil Lond, MA Oxf
Kirwan, Dame Frances Clare, DBE, BA Camb, MA DPhil Oxf, FRS
Field, Robert William, MA MEng PhD Camb, MA Oxf, CEng, FIChemE
Endicott, Timothy A.O., AB Harvard, LLB Toronto, MA DPhil Oxf
Collier, Richard Hale, BSc US Naval Academy, LLM Camb, DrJur Cornell, MA Oxf
Green, Leslie, BA Queen's Canada, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf
Minkowski, Christopher Z., AB PhD Harvard, MA Oxf
Foster, Brian, OBE, MA DPhil Oxf, BSc Lond, FRS
Hurrell, Andrew, MA MPhil DPhil Oxf, FBA,
Trefethen, Lloyd Nicholas, AB Harvard, MA Oxf, MS PhD Stanford, FRS
Lucas, David M., BA DPhil Oxf, Hooke Professor of Experimental Physics

Honorary Fellows

Norway, HM King Harald V of, DCL(Hon) Oxf †
Thomas, Sir Keith Vivian, MA Oxf, FBA
Ricks, Sir Christopher Bruce, BLitt MA Oxf, FBA
Kenny, Sir Anthony John Patrick, MA DPhil DLitt Oxf, FBA †
Mallet, John Valentine Granville, BA Oxf, FSA, FRSA
Japan, Her Majesty The Empress Masako of
Alberti, Sir George, BM BCh DPhil Oxf, FRCP, FRCPE, FRCPath
Patten, Christopher Francis, Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes, KG, CH, PC, MA, DCL(Hon) Oxf, Chancellor of the University
Strang, William Gilbert, SB MIT, MA Oxf, PhD Calif
Lucas, Sir Colin Renshaw, MA DPhil Oxf, FRHistS
Bowersock, Glen, AB (Harvard), MA DPhil Oxf

Dawkins, Richard, MA DPhil DSc Oxf, FRS, FRSL
Keene, Rt Hon Sir David, PC, BCL MA Oxf, Hon PhD (Brunel), ACI Arb †
Nayyar, Deepak, BA MA Delhi, BPhil DPhil Oxf
Richards, William Graham, CBE FRS, MA DPhil DSc Oxf
Roitt, Ivan Maurice, MA DPhil DSc Oxf, FRCPath, FRS
Ryan, Alan, MA DLitt Oxf, FBA
Schmoke, Kurt Lidell, LLB Harvard, BA Yale
Berg, Maxine Louise, BA Simon Fraser, MA Sus, DPhil Oxf, FBA, FRHistS
Drayton, Bill, MA Oxf, JD Yale
Kroll, John Simon, BM BCh MA Oxf, FRCP, FRCPCH, FMedSci
Slack, Paul Alexander, MA DPhil Oxf, FRHistS, FBA
Taylor, Charles Margrave, BA McGill, MA DPhil Oxf, FBA
Graham, Andrew Winston Mawdsley, MA Hon DCL Oxf
Bayley, Hagan, MA Oxf, PhD Harvard, FRS
Bhargava, Rajeev, BA Delhi, MPhil DPhil Oxf
Donnelly, Peter, BSc Queensland, DPhil Oxf, FRS, FMedSci
Grey, Dame Clare, DCB, BA DPhil Oxf, FRS
Jones, Charlotte, BA Oxf
Kenyon, Sir Nicholas, CBE, BA Oxf
Nongxa, Loyiso, MSc Fort Hare, DPhil Oxf
Penny, Nicholas Sir, BA Camb, MA PhD Courtauld (London), FSA
Portes, Richard, CBE, BA Yale, DPhil Oxf, FBA
Sheinwald, Sir Nigel, GCMG, MA Oxf
Wells, Sir Stanley, CBE, BA UCL, PhD Birmingham
Williamson, Timothy, MA DPhil Oxf, FBA, FRSE
Bone, Sir Drummond, MA Glas, MA Oxf, FRSE, FRSA
Al-Nashif, Nada, MA Oxf, MPP Harvard
Birney, J.F.W. (Ewan), CBE, BA Oxf, PhD Camb, FRS FMedSci
Chaudhuri, Amit, BA Lond, DPhil Oxf
Davies, Gavyn, OBE, BA Camb, BLitt Oxf
Dick, Dame Cressida, DBE QPM, BA Oxf
Flanders, Stephanie, BA Oxf, MA Harvard
Franklin, Oliver St Clair, CBE, BA Lincoln, BPhil Oxf
Horlick, Nicola, BA Oxf
Lewis, Gwyneth, MBE, BA MA Camb, DPhil Oxf
Misak, Cheryl, BA Lethbridge, MA Columbia, DPhil Oxf
Roper, Lyndal, BA Melbourne, PhD Lond

Snow, Peter, CBE, BA Oxf
Stevens, Simon Laurence, Lord Stevens of Birmingham, Kt, MA Oxf, MBA Strathclyde
Thomas, Sarah, AB Smith, MS Simmons, MA PhD Johns Hopkins, MA Oxf
Winterbottom, Michael, BA Oxf

Foundation Fellows

Moynihan, Jonathan Patrick, OBE, MA Oxf, MSc North London, SM MIT
Warburg, Rosemary Alison
Westerman, Matthew, MA Oxf

Academic Visitors

Brett, Donna West, BA UniSA, MA PhD USYD, Oliver Smithies Visiting Lecturer
Kapouleas, Nicolaos, BA Camb, PhD Berkeley, Oliver Smithies Visiting Lecturer
Treharne, Elaine, BA PhD Manch, MA LPool, Oliver Smithies Visiting Lecturer

College Lecturers

Agarwal, Gaurav, BM BCh Oxf, Lecturer in Medical Sciences
Badiu, Mihai, Dipl-Ing MS PhD Cluj-Napoca, Lecturer in Electrical Engineering
Bagley, Peter, MA Camb, FCA, Lecturer in Medical Sciences (Biochemistry)
Bajo Lorenzana, Victoria, MD PhD Salamanca, Associate Professor in Neuroscience, Lecturer in Neuroscience
Bard, Professor Jonathan, MA Camb, PhD Manchester, College Adviser to Graduates in Medical Sciences
Barnard, Saskia, PhD Lond, Lecturer in English
Basualdo Bonatto, Luciana, DPhil Oxf, Whitehead Lecturer in Mathematics
Binns, Alexander, MA MSt DPhil Oxf FHEA, Lecturer in Music
Bride, Tania, BA Oxf, MPhil Camb, PhD UCLA, Departmental Lecturer in Early Modern History
Brown, Felicity, DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in English
Cahill, Tom, MB BS UCL, MA Camb, DPhil Oxf, MRCP, Lecturer in Clinical

Medicine
Deer, Cécile Marie-Anne, MA DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in French
De Gasperin, Vilma, Dott Ling Padua, MLitt DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Italian
Famprikis, Theodosios, BSc Rose-Hulman, MSc Grenoble and Darmstadt, PhD Amiens, Malcolm Green Early Career Research Fellow in Inorganic Chemistry
Galeazzi González, Juan, BA ITESO, MSc UG, DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Psychology
Gely, Mario, MSc PhD TUDelft, Lecturer in Physics
Ghosh, Abheek, BTech IITG, MS UTAustin, DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Computer Science
Gilday, Lydia, DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Chemistry
Gitin, Leo, BA MA Bonn, DPhil Oxf, Non-stipendiary Lecturer in Mathematics
Goddard, Stephen, MA DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in French
Han, Yang, BA BSc PKU, MSc LSE, DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Politics
Hinch, Robert, DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Mathematics
Hunt, Timothy, BA MPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Economics
Jones, Edward, DPhil Oxf, Stipendiary Lecturer in Ancient History
Kelly, Conor J., BA NUI, MA Maastricht, MRes PhD Lond, Bingham Early Career Fellow in Constitutional Studies
Kershenbaum, Simon, BA Camb, Lecturer in Biology
Littleton, Suellen M., BSc California, MBA Lond, Lecturer in Economics and Management Studies
Lucas, David, BA DPhil Oxf, Hooke Professor of Experimental Physics, Lecturer in Physics
McConnell, Thomas, BA MSt DPhil Oxf, James Irvine Early Career Fellow in Classical Language and Literature
McIntosh, Jonny, MA Oxf, MA, MPhil London, Lecturer in Philosophy
Marcus, Max, BSc Bonn, MSc Oxf, Lecturer in Chemistry
Mohammed, Khadija, Lecturer in Computer Science
Moretti, Jessica, BSc PhD Western Australia, Dan Norman Early Career Fellow in (Bio)medical Studies
Myers, Matthew, BA DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in History
Palmer, Christopher William Proctor, MA DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Physics
Paoli, Sandra, MA Oxf, PhD Manc, Associate Professor in Linguistics (Romance Languages), Senior Research Fellow in Romance Linguistics
Patchell, Greg, PhD UCSD, Lecturer in Mathematics

Popea, Marina, BA MA Lausanne, MA UChile, DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Spanish
Quarrell, Rachel, MA DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Chemistry
Römer, Hannah, BS (Mathematics) MS (Mathematics) MS (Economics) RWTH Aachen, Lecturer in Economics
Rowan-Hull, Autumn, DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Medicine
Ryley, Hannah, BA Durham, MSt DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in English
Shinbrough, Kai, BA OC, PhD UIUC, Non-stipendiary Lecturer in Physics
Smith, Florence, MA Glasgow, MSt Oxf, Lecturer in Modern History
Somers-Joce, Cassandra, BA Oxf, Stipendiary Lecturer in Law
Tang, Brian, MEngEcM, DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Engineering Science
Thomas, Arthur, BA Oxf, PhD Stanford, College Adviser to Graduates in Medical Sciences
Veronese-Clucas, Leah, BA DPhil Oxf, MA KCL, Lecturer in English
Von Hausegger, Sebastian, BSc Göttingen MSc PhD Copenhagen, Lecturer in Physics
Walker, Benjamin, MMath&Phys UOM, MSc DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Mathematics
Wilmore, Jamie, MA DPhil Oxf, Lecturer in Chemistry
Yan, Alexander, BA MMath Camb, Lecturer in Mathematics and Statistics



Balliol students welcoming prospective students during Open Day 2026

New Fellows

Professor Faisal Devji
Beit Professor of Global and Imperial History



Professor Faisal Devji specialises in the intellectual history and political thought of modern South Asia as well as in the emergence of Islam as a global category. His research examines both the cultural and philosophical dimensions of violence, as well as the emergence of non-violence as a political project. He is also interested in the different ways in which the idea of humanity achieves political reality, particularly in the context of globalisation, where it appears simultaneously as both subject and object. More recently, his work has explored political thought beyond the nation-state and the inheritance of anarchism in the post-colonial world. His latest book, *Waning Crescent: The Rise and Fall of Global Islam*, was published by Yale University Press in October 2025.

Dr Theodor Nenu
Early Career Fellow in AI and Theoretical Philosophy



Theodor Nenu is an Early Career Fellow in AI and Theoretical Philosophy at Balliol College (in association with the Institute for Ethics in AI). Prior to joining Balliol, Theodor was the Director of Studies for Philosophy at St Catherine's College, as well as a Lecturer in Computer Science at Christ Church. His academic background is in both Computer Science and Philosophy, having graduated with a MCompPhil degree from the University of Oxford in 2019. He then carried out his doctoral research at the University of Bristol as part of the ERC-funded *Truth and Semantics* project, spending some time in the United States as a Fellow in Philosophy at Harvard University in 2023. Theodor's current research interests fall within the Philosophy of AI and Cognitive Science –

with a special interest in the theoretical and ethical questions raised by artificial minds. He has taught several undergraduate courses spanning both Computer Science and Philosophy, including Models of Computation, Algorithms and Data Structures, Alan Turing on Computability and Intelligence, Ethics of AI and Digital Technology, and Philosophy of Cognitive Science, amongst others. Theodor is the host of the *Philosophical Trials* podcast, whose guests include Vicky Neale, Noam Chomsky, Simon Blackburn, and Robert Sapolsky.

Dr Robin Karlsson
Walker Early Career Fellow in Mathematical Physics



Robin Karlsson is a mathematical physicist whose research centres on gravity and theoretical high energy physics. His research explores black holes and quantum gravity, with a particular emphasis on holographic dual descriptions and the emergence of gravitational geometry. He is currently a Titchmarsh Research Fellow at the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford. Before coming to Balliol, he was a senior research fellow at CERN.

Dr Thomas McConnell
James Irvine Early Career Fellow in Classical Language and Literature



Thomas McConnell specialises in classics. His research interests concern the relationship between the literary contents of different texts and genres and their linguistic expressions. His current work centres around the language of Greek tragedy, applying cognitive and qualitative methods to understanding the linguistic choices made by the different poets. In 2025, his first monograph *Chronology, Dialect and Style in Early Greek Hexameter Poetry* was published by Oxford University Press.

Dr Samuel Fabian
Early Career Fellow in Biology



Samuel Fabian is a biologist whose research focuses on animal behaviour and biomechanics, with particular expertise in insect flight. His work explores how morphology shapes visually guided flight, examining the relationship between physical form, sensory perception, and aerial performance.

By analysing high-speed video of aerial dogfights between insects, he reconstructs both their visual input and flight manoeuvres to investigate the rapid decision-making processes that underpin aerial pursuits, offering new insights into the links between vision, behaviour, and biomechanics.

Dr John Chu
Keeper of Western Art, Garlick Fellow and Professorial Fellow



John Chu is an art historian specialising in 18th-century British art and visual culture, with particular expertise in the work of Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough. His research explores artistic experimentation across genres and media during a period of profound social change, examining the relationship between artistic practice, theory, and the expanding art market. As a museum curator working with collections, he has a particular interest in investigating the materiality of paintings in dialogue with conservation specialists.

A central strand of his work examines the role of art within the historic house, exploring histories of collecting, display, and interpretation, and the ways in which works of art acquire meaning in domestic and heritage settings. More recently, his research has turned to the homes of collectors of modern and contemporary art in 20th-century Britain and the transition of private collections into the national heritage. He has curated exhibitions for the National Trust, the London Art Fair, and major museums, contributed to numerous exhibition catalogues, and regularly appears on BBC television and radio programmes on art and cultural heritage.

Professor Verity Harte
George Eastman Visiting Professor



Professor Verity Harte is George A. Saden Professor of Philosophy and Classics at Yale University. She specialises in ancient Greek philosophy, with particular expertise in the thought of Plato and Aristotle. Her research explores the interconnected metaphysical, epistemological, psychological, and ethical dimensions of their philosophy, examining questions of reality, knowledge, language, memory, desire, pleasure, politics, and aesthetics.

Her recent work has focused on Plato's *Philebus*, a work investigating the respective roles of knowledge and pleasure in the good human life on which she is writing a monograph. She is the author of *Plato on Parts and Whole: The Metaphysics of Structure*, joint editor of *Aristotle and the Stoics Reading Plato, Politeia in Greek and Roman Philosophy*, and *Rereading Ancient Philosophy: Old Chestnuts and Sacred Cows*. Her current monograph on the *Philebus* is forthcoming in the *Cambridge Studies in the Dialogues of Plato* series.

Professor Emily Zackin
John G. Winant Visiting Professor of American Government



Professor Emily Zackin is Professor of Political Science at the John Hopkins Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. She specialises in American constitutionalism, public law, and political development, with particular expertise in the evolution of constitutional rights in the United States.

She is the author of *Looking for Rights in All the Wrong Places: Why State Constitutions Contain America's Positive Rights* (Princeton University Press, 2013), which traces the historical development of positive rights through state constitutional reform. Based on her Princeton doctoral dissertation, the book examines the political movements that secured education, labour, and environmental rights in state constitutions. Her dissertation received both the Edward S. Corwin Award for Best Dissertation in Public Law and the Walter

Dean Burnham Best Dissertation Award from the American Political Science Association (APSA).

Professor Marc Domingo Gygax
Oliver Smtihies Visiting Fellow



Professor Marc Domingo Gygax is Cotsen Professor in the Humanities, Professor of Classics, and Director of the Program in the Ancient World at Princeton University. A specialist in Greek history, classical historiography, epigraphy, and material culture, his research examines the long-term development of the Greek world, drawing on approaches from historical anthropology.

He has published widely on Athens, Hellenistic history, and historical theory, including studies on the emergence of the city-state in Lycia, the origins of Greek euergetism, political leadership in Athenian democracy, and Thucydides' philosophy of history. His current research investigates the practice of gift exchange in the Greek world, the integration and exclusion of non-citizens in the poleis of Hellenistic Asia Minor, and the interactions between Greek foundations and indigenous communities across the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.



Frontier 2025 participants on a tour of the Biochemistry Department

First-year graduates

Aggarwal, Pal, Indian Institute of Technology, India, MSc Mathematical & Theoretical Physics

Alshami, Samah, Islamic University of Gaza, Palestine, MSc Genomic Medicine

Alsheikh, Ahmad, Harvard University, USA, MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry

Amro, Sara, American University of Beirut, Lebanon, DPhil Medical Sciences

Anselmetti, Rebecca, The University of Cambridge, DPhil Public Policy

Babiker, Tibyan, The University of Oxford, DPhil Pharmacology

Bajer, Mia, The University of Oxford, DPhil Clinical Medicine

Barnett, Theo, The University of Cambridge, DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages

Barone Iii, Tommy, Harvard University, USA, MSt History

Barron, Theo, The Queen's University of Belfast, Northern Island, Post Graduate Certificate of Education – Biology

Bédard, Maxime, Université Laval, Canada, MPhil Law

Bird, Sebastian, The University of Cambridge, DPhil Ancient History

Bowen, Jack, The University of Cambridge, MPhil Modern Chinese Studies

Bruce, Colin, McGill University, Canada, Executive Master of Business Administration

Brudy Rigollet, Elsa, Université de Strasbourg I (Université Louis Pasteur), France, Inorganic Materials for Advanced Manufacturing (EPSRC CDT)

Bunting, Will, The University of Oxford, DPhil Condensed Matter Physics

Burstein, Ellen, The University of Oxford, MSc Migration Studies

Butcher, Christopher, The University of Cambridge, DPhil Theoretical Physics

Butlin, Adam, University College London, DPhil Economics

Carducci Agostini, Beatrice, Università Bocconi, Italy, MSc Financial Economics

Chapman, Thomas, University of Durham, MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy

Chen, Kai, The University of Oxford, DPhil Classical Languages and Literature

Cornely, Sacha, King's College London, Executive Master of Business Administration

Corona, Sofia, Harvard University, USA, MSc Economic and Social History

Difilippo, Alessandro, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine,

DPhil Chemistry
Earley, Joshua, The University of Southampton, DPhil Astrophysics
Elryah, Malaz, University of Khartoum, Sudan, MSc Pharmacology
Erle, Jona, The University of Oxford, DPhil Mathematics
Finlay, Owen, The University of Oxford, DPhil English
Flores Urzúa, Beltrán, The University of Oxford, DPhil Law
Gaffey, John, Universiteit Leiden, The Netherlands, DPhil History
Gambhir, Simran, Thapar University, India, DPhil Biology
Gathercole, Lucas, The University of Oxford, DPhil Theoretical Physics
Gayraud, Florencia, Instituto Torcuato di Tella, Argentina, DPhil Politics
Gloria, Gloria, The University of Oxford, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences
Gupta, Om, The University of Oxford, DPhil Mathematics
Gurusankar, Pranav, Stanford University, USA, MSc Translational Health Sciences
Hadjipaschalis, Nicholas, The University of Oxford, DPhil Chemistry
Harvey, Callum, The University of Oxford, DPhil Information, Communication, and Social Science
He, Angel, The University of Oxford, Auto Intelligent Machines and Systems (EPSRC CDT)
Hebert, Amanda, Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics
Higgins, Connie, The University of Oxford, MSt English
Hildebrand, Natalia, The University of Oxford, DPhil History
Ho, Hsin-Cheng, National Taiwan University, Taiwan, DPhil Biology
Hoare, Cecilia, The University of Cambridge, MSt Greek and/or Latin Language and Literature
Jain, Kshitij, The University of Oxford, DPhil Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Jakiela, Julia, The University of Edinburgh, DPhil Chemistry
Jeyakumar, Ragavi, University of New South Wales, Australia, DPhil Women's and Reproductive Health
Jin, Yifei, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, DPhil Medical Sciences
Jonassen, Martin, The University of Oslo, Norway, MJur
Jung, Charlotte, The University of Oslo, Norway, DPhil International Relations
Karaoui, Sara, The University of Westminster, MSc Genomic Medicine
Karar, Moayad, The University of Oxford, Bachelor of Civil Law

Khumalo, Wonderful, University of the Witwatersand, South Africa, DPhil Musculoskeletal Sciences

King, Maggie, University of Western Ontario, Canada, MSt Global and Imperial History

Krajcuskova, Ela, Fachhochschule (IMC) Krems, Austria, MSc Pharmacology

Krass, Calista, Yale University, USA, DPhil Engineering Science

Kunadu, Conrad, The University of Oxford, DPhil International Relations

Lachance, Clovis, The University of Oxford, DPhil International Development

Lampo, Kate, Columbia University, USA, MSc(Res) Engineering Science

Lemke Debbie, The University of Oxford, DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages

Lewis, Matthew, The University of Oxford, DPhil Genomic Medicine and Statistics

Liedtke, Merlin, University College London, DPhil Engineering Science

Low, Brandon, The University of Birmingham, MSc(Res) Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics

Marley, Kennedy, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice

Martner Sota, Clara, Yale University, USA, DPhil Law

Martyn-Smith, Sam, The University of Exeter, DPhil Clinical Medicine

Mathews, Shruthi, The University of Oxford, DPhil Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

McDermott, Casey, London School of Economics and Political Science, Executive Master of Business Administration

McGovern, James, The University of Northumbria at Newcastle, MSc Economic and Social History

McNeill, Ronan, University of Otago, New Zealand, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences

Mihalynuk, Shaeleen, University of Victoria, Canada, MSc Genomic Medicine

Mohebi, Kimia, University of Southern California, USA, MPhil Modern Middle Eastern Studies

Monadjem, Vahid, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Executive Master of Business Administration

Nair, Anushka, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, DPhil Computer Science

Natalie, Victoria, Oklahoma State University, USA, Executive Master of Business Administration

Neelakandan, Tasha, The University of Oxford, DPhil Mathematics
Ng, Roy, The University of Oxford, MSt Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Notman, Catherine, The University of Edinburgh, DPhil Mathematics
Nyerges, Julie, The University of Oxford, DPhil Politics
Offman, Noa, Georgetown University, USA, MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
Osuka, Kazu, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, DPhil Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics
Park-Sullivan, Áilill, Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin, Ireland, MSt Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Patel, Komal, University of Western Ontario, Canada, MSc Genomic Medicine
Pradhan, Alyssa, New York University, USA, DPhil Clinical Medicine
Qiang, Wei, The University of Oxford, DPhil Physics
Rajeswaran, Aynkaran, The University of Manchester, Post Graduate Certificate of Education – Mathematics
Rau, Sarika, University of Pennsylvania, USA, MSc Social Science of the Internet
Reilly, Nathaniel, McGill University, Canada, DPhil Law
Reuter, Felix, The University of Manchester, MSt English
Rosengren, Mathias, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, MSt Philosophy of Physics
Ryder, Dylan, The University of Cambridge, DPhil English
Saeed, Ayesha, The University of Warwick, MSc Mathematical Sciences
Saunders, Henry, The University of Oxford, DPhil Mathematics
Seymour, Tabitha, The University of Birmingham, Inorganic Materials for Advanced Manufacturing (EPSRC CDT)
Shenton, Emma, The University of Exeter, Post Graduate Certificate of Education – History
Sieciechowicz, Emil, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, DPhil Mathematics
Skulkina, Alice, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, MSt Modern Languages
Smith, Jenna, Duke University, USA, MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
Smith, Daniella, London School of Economics and Political Science, MSc Social Science of the Internet
Stuebner, Maria, Columbia University, USA, MSc Mathematical Sciences
Summerley, Louis, The University of Oxford, DPhil Chemistry

Sutton, Emma, Cardiff University, MPhil Law
Swaminathan, Vibha, National Law School of India University, India, Bachelor of Civil Law
Swinburn, Thomas, University of Auckland, New Zealand, DPhil Primary Health Care
Symes, Natasha, The University of Cambridge, DPhil History
Thain, Nick, The University of Westminster, Executive Master of Business Administration
Tian, Cherry, Amherst College, USA, MSc Financial Economics
Tozer, Daisy, The University of Cambridge, DPhil English
Troup, Milly, The University of Oxford, MSt Modern Languages
Vacaflores, Isabella, Australian National University, Australia, MPhil Politics: Political Theory
Vrantsalieva, Simona, London School of Economics and Political Science, MSc Financial Economics
Watson, Myles, The University of Oxford, Post Graduate Certificate of Education – English
Webb, Callum, The University of Oxford, MPhil Politics: Political Theory
Wikstrom, Eleanor, The University of Oxford, MSc Social Science of the Internet
Williams, Zoe, The University of Birmingham, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences
Winter Sophie, The University of Oxford, DPhil Clinical Medicine
Wu, Yuling, The University of Oxford, DPhil Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Wu, Alvin, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, DPhil Condensed Matter Physics
Xiong, Yuqin, Communication University of China, China, MSt Modern Languages
Yashvili, Joni, ESCP Business School, France, Executive Master of Business Administration
Zafar, Mohammad Ali, National Defence University, Pakistan, MPhil International Relations
Zaidi, Maha, Harvard University, USA, MSc Medical Anthropology
Zhou, Cat, Monash University, Australia, Bachelor of Civil Law

First-year undergraduates

Agarwal, Yash, Manchester Grammar School, Manchester, Master of Computer Science

Ahuja, Yashasvika, Shiv Jyot Convent Senior Secondary School, India, Master of Computer Science

Alexander, Isobel, Sir John Deanes College, Northwich, Master of Biomedical Science in Biomedical Sciences

Ardern-Jones, Katie, King Edward VI School, Southampton, Master of Engineering in Engineering Science

Azam-McArdle, Kaysan, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington, Bachelor of Arts in English and Modern Languages (French)

Bagley, Ollie, Seaford College, Godalming, Master of Biology in Biology

Baratta, Anna, St Andrews College, Ireland, Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages (French)

Baruch Harrison, Rosa, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies

Bedford, Gabriella, The Boston Grammar School, Boston, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Bennett, Tom, Whitgift School, London, Bachelor of Arts in Literae Humaniores

Berghes, Matei, Brampton Manor Academy, London, Master of Engineering in Engineering Science

Bleackley, Maddie, Brighton College, Brighton and Hove, Master of Computer Science and Philosophy

Brunt, Annabelle, Winchester College, Winchester, Bachelor of Arts in Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Chen, Yubo, Westminster School, London, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Chung, Jocelyn, Oxford International College, Oxford, Master of Engineering in Engineering Science

Coleman, Arthur, King's College London Mathematics School, London, Master of Mathematics in Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics

Cox, Imogen Hepburn, The Judd School, Tonbridge, Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics

Crowe, Harry, Penistone Grammar School, Penistone, Master of Physics

Curtayne, Tom, Newman College Brighton, Brighton and Hove, Master of

Mathematics in Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics

Dan, Raul, The Brakenhale School, Bracknell, Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence

Dasgupta, Amalia, Hockerill Anglo-European College, Bishop's Stortford, Bachelor of Arts in History

de Linde, Jasper, Hampton School, London, Bachelor of Arts in Ancient and Modern History

Dedinszky, Heather, Sir John Deanes College, Northwich, Bachelor of Arts in History

Ellison, Harry, The Sixth Form College, Farnborough, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Evans, Finn, Trinity School, London, Master of Mathematics in Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics

Fisher, Jack, Colyton Grammar School, Colyford, Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature

Frankel, Jake, The Judd School, Tonbridge, Master of Engineering in Engineering Science

Freeman, Millie, North Oxford Academy, Banbury, Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages (French and Italian)

Ge, Eleanor, Raffles Junior College, Singapore, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Gilbert, Hayleigh, Watford Grammar School for Girls, Watford, Master of Chemistry

Gittos, Sofia, The Latymer School, London, Master of Biology in Biology

Goacher, Amelie, Rye Country Day School, USA, Bacherlor of Arts in Jurisprudence

Grey, Emily, Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge, Master of Physics and Philosophy

Grieve, Michael, Friends' School Lisburn, Lisburn, Master of Engineering in Engineering Science

Grover, Tj, Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone, Master of Biology in Biology

Gunning, Cai, King Edward VI Five Ways School, Birmingham, Master of Mathematics in Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics

Hall, Chris, Malbank School and Sixth Form College, Nantwich, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Hall, George, Reigate College, Reigate, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Hamley, Aelwen, Westminster School, London, Bachelor of Arts in Literae Humaniores

He, Vivienne, St Paul's Girls' School, London, Bachelor of Arts in Medical Sciences

Ho, Kelly, Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton, USA, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Hodgkinson, Isis, Camden School for Girls, London, Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature

Holt, Emma, The Ladies' College and Elizabeth College, Guernsey, Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence

Hope, Rowan, Whitley Bay High School, Whitley Bay, Master of Mathematics and Computer Science

Innes, Alex, Bexley Grammar School, London, Bachelor of Arts in History

Ireland, Romilly, New Hall School, Chelmsford, Bachelor of Arts in Ancient and Modern History

Islam, Amani, Brampton Manor Academy, London, Master of Physics

Jackson, Luke, Collyers VI Form College, Horsham, Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature

Jones, Amelia, Latymer Upper School, London, Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature

Jones, Milou, Brighton, Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College (BHASVIC), Brighton and Hove, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Jones, Tom, Peter Symonds College, Winchester, Master of Physics

Joshi, Saachi, Sharnbrook Academy, Sharnbrook, Bachelor of Arts in Medical Sciences

Joyce, Molly, Richard Huish College, Taunton, Master of Chemistry

Keogh Cox, Ella, home educated or self-taught, Halstead, Bachelor of Arts in Literae Humaniores

King, Malachy, Thomas Mills High School, Framlingham, Bachelor of Arts in Literae Humaniores

Lam, Daniel, Greenhead College, Huddersfield, UK, Bachelor of Arts in History

Law, Cat, Northampton School for Girls, Northampton, Master of Biology in Biology

Lees, Naomi, Graveney School, London, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Lethaby, Charlotte, St Bartholomew's School, Newbury, Bachelor of Arts in

Jurisprudence

Liu, Anthony, Yew Chung Education Foundation, Hong Kong, Bachelor of Arts in History

Livingston, Amy, St Helen's School, Northwood, London, Master of Computer Science and Philosophy

Lockett-Burke, Esmé, St Edward's College, Liverpool, Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature

Lu, Frank, Nanjing Foreign Language School, China, Master of Engineering in Engineering Science

Ma, Brian, Xian Gaoxin No 1 High School, China, Master of Physics

Mahdi, Niaz, London Academy of Excellence, London, Master of Mathematics in Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics

Mann, Alex, Royal Grammar School, Guildford (RGS), Guildford, Master of Chemistry

Marlow, Daniel, Campion School, Northampton, Master of Chemistry

McCraken, Oscar, Dulwich College, London, Master of Chemistry

McKendry, Ingrid, St Michael's Catholic Grammar School, London, Master of Biology

Mills, Michael, Gordon's School, Woking, Master of Biomedical Science in Biomedical Sciences

Morgan, Freddie, Bexley Grammar School, London, Master of Mathematics and Philosophy

Nwokedi, Wills, Eton College, Windsor, Master of Engineering in Engineering Science

Obeng, Zee, Saffron Walden County High School, Saffron Walden, Bachelor of Arts in History and English

Oberg, Polly, Wyke Sixth Form College, Hull, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Olufemi, Daniel, Brampton Manor Academy, London, Master of Biomedical Science in Biomedical Sciences

Pandit, Kautilya, GD Goenka World School, India, Master of Physics

Pearson, Beth, The Sixth Form College Colchester, Colchester, Bachelor of Arts in History and English

Perry, Finn, The Sixth Form College Farnborough, Farnborough, Bachelor of Arts in History

Pierce, Isobel, Northgate High School, Ipswich, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Pitts, Mia, St John's Marlborough, Marlborough, Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature

Rackauskas, Oskar, Brampton Manor Academy, London, Bachelor of Arts in History

Randle, Peter, St Ignatius College, London, Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence

Rao, Ashmit, Manchester Grammar School, Manchester, Master of Mathematics and Computer Science

Raza, Izzy, St Paul's Girls' School, London, Master of Physics and Philosophy

Revie, Noah, West London Free School, London, Bachelor of Arts in History

Roberts, Stephen, Peter Symonds College , Winchester, Master of Engineering in Engineering Science

Saldanha, Dia, St Paul's Girls' School, London, Master of Chemistry

Schaefer Cheng, Emma, UWC of South East Asia, Singapore, Master of Biology in Biology

Scruby, Anna, Ascham School, Australia, Bachelor of Arts in Literae Humaniores

Shah, Anjali, St James Senior Girls School, London, Bachelor of Arts in Sanskrit

Shapland, Lillian, The Knights Templar School, Baldock, Bachelor of Arts in History

Shaun Manoj Abraham, Shaun, St Olave's and St Saviour's Grammar School, London, Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Management

Shi, Xinyi, HWA Chong Institution, Singapore, Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Management

Simpson, Daisy, Mearns Castle High School, Glasgow, Bachelor of Arts in History

Sinclair, Finn, Haverfordwest High VC School, Haverfordwest, Master of Mathematics in Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics

Srimurugan, Sunthosh, Wilson's School, Wallington, Bachelor of Arts in Medical Sciences

Staehler, Leon, Brighton, Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College (BHASVIC), Brighton and Hove, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Summers, Thomas, King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford, Bachelor of Arts in Literae Humaniores

Sung, Julian, Chinese International School, Hong Kong, Master of Physics and Philosophy

Susol, Andrej, Bilingvalne gymnazium Milana Hodzu, Slovakia, Bachelor of

Arts in Modern Languages (French) and Linguistics

Taylor, Arthur, Truro School, Truro, Bachelor of Arts in History and Politics

Taylor, Dan, St Paul's School, London, Bachelor of Arts in Literae Humaniores

Thayaparan, Thurka, North London Collegiate School (NLCS), London, Bachelor of Arts in Medical Sciences

Thorn, Maisie, Westcliff High School for Girls, Southend-on-Sea, Bachelor of Arts in History

Ustinov, Sasha, Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge, Bachelor of Arts in History and Economics

Verma, Pari, Le Bocage International School, Mauritius, Bachelor of Arts in Jurisprudence (English Law with Law Studies in Europe)

Vijaypurkar, Anika, Westminster School, London, Master of Mathematics in Mathematics/Mathematics and Statistics

Walker, Braiden, Churndown School, Gloucester, Bachelor of Arts in Medical Sciences

Wilson, Sylvie, Camden School for Girls, London, Bachelor of Arts in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

Wise, Joshua, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, Altrincham, Master of Chemistry

Xiao, Victoria, Shanghai High School International Division, China, Master of Physics

Yan, Jovian, Dulwich College, London, Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages (French and Italian (Course B))

Yan, Snow, Semiahmoo Secondary School, Canada, Master of Computer Science

Yang, Xiaokun, Colyton Grammar School, Colyford, Master of Engineering in Engineering Science

Ye, Thomas, Concord College, Shrewsbury, Master of Chemistry

Yeow, Sean, Raffles Junior College, Singapore, Master of Mathematics and Computer Science

Zimmermann, Alisha, Headington School, Oxford, Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages (Italian Course B) and Linguistics

Visiting students

Edenhofer, Lena, Ludwig Maximilians Universität München, Germany, Maximilianeum Exchange

Godard, Dorothée, École normale supérieure de Lyon, France, Modern Languages Exchange

Halster, Juliane, Rhenish Friedrich Wilhelm University of Bonn, Germany, Diploma in Legal Studies

Talbert, Hailey, Yale University, US, Yale Exchange

College staff

Retirements

Timothy Ing, Maintenance Multi-skilled Tradesman, 23 March 2026 (joined 17 November 2014)

Appointments

Elizabeth Thorley, HR Manager, 9 September 2024
Eldon Machedo Quadros, Kitchen Porter, 18 August 2025
Jordan Moore, General Catering Steward, 1 September 2025
Emelia Branagan-Harris, Junior Dean, 1 September 2025
Bhadrajee Hewage, Junior Dean, 1 September 2025
Mama Sekyi-Djan, Junior Dean, 1 September 2025
Sydney Burns, Alumni and Development Intern, 1 September 2025
Michal Woznicki, Support Technician, 1 September 2025
Jennifer Shioui, Nursery Practitioner, 4 September 2025
Paul Smith, Skilled Maintenance Operative (Building), 5 January 2026
Ethan Jackson, Accountant Apprentice, 6 January 2026
Raquel Carretero Moreno, Nursery Practitioner,16 February 2026
Benjo Cherian, Technical Manager, 9 March 2026
Mark Philips, Skilled Maintenance Operative (Building), 13 April 2026
Rachna Gadi, Payroll and Finance Officer, 16 April 2026
Ishbel Henderson, Junior Dean, 20 April 2026
Abdullah Boz, Weekend Lodge Porter/College Receptionist, 27 June 2026
Jennifer Miller, Nursery Practitioner, 20 July 2026
Alex Williams, Maintenance Assistant, 21 July 2026

Departures

Isabelle Rocroi, Junior Dean, 31 July 2025
Zoe Rucker, Alumni and Development Intern, 14 August 2025
Marizito Da Costa, Kitchen Porter, 17 August 2025
Tafadzwa Kufazvinei, Junior Dean, 31 August 2025
Konrad Ksiazek, Junior Dean, 31 August 2025
Joseph Barber, College Organist, 30 September 2025
Gail Ambridge, Purchase Ledger, 31 October 2025

Paul Smith, Skilled Maintenance Operative (Building), 22 January 2026
Sarah Whitteker, Nursery Practitioner, 30 January 2026
Mala Gunadasa-Rohling, Junior Dean, 21 March 2026
Hannah Obrien, Nursery Manager, 2 April 2026
Sarah Castle, Payroll and Bursary Officer, 6 April 2026
Mohammad Chisti, Weekend Lodge Porter/College Receptionist, 7 June 2026
Mark Phillips, Skilled Maintenance Operative (Building), 19 June 2026
Jennifer Smith, Domestic Bursar, 25 June 2026
Benjamin Falconer, Alumni and Development Intern, 30 June 2026
Zahra Hashemi, Nursery Practitioner (maternity cover), 6 July 2026

Review of the Year

Review of the year

Nicola Trott (Senior Tutor)

(We hope readers will take an interest in this content, which is produced for the College's annual accounts under Charities SORP – the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice. Equivalent reports for previous years, going back to 2010–11, are published with the accounts, the archives to which may be found at https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/finance-and-funding/archive-of-financial-statements?wssl=1.)

Selected highlights of the 2025/2026 year

This was the year in which AI came to stay. In autumn 2025, ChatGPT EDU and other AI tools went on general release to all students and staff at the University. Training sessions promoting widespread adoption appeared across platforms. Uptake and experimentation seemed to run ahead of policy and assimilation.

Balliol undergraduates understandably voiced their unease at the potential pitfalls they faced in using, or not using, systems actively being provided to them as assistants to study. In the midst of the AI windfall the University devolved to departments and faculties, and, in formative contexts, individual Tutors, the work of determining the legitimacy and limits of these agents and applications in their various academic disciplines.

In College it was possible to develop an overview alongside the subject-specific guidelines being produced by departments. The example set by the Faculty of Philosophy – the documentation for which was drafted largely by Balliol's own Tutor, Alex Kaiserman (2007, Associate Professor, Fairfax Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy) – seemed to offer a good starting-point for all: 'The following heuristic may be helpful: if it would be inappropriate to ask a friend to perform a task for you, then it normally wouldn't be permissible to offload that task to AI'.

In advanced applications, especially in certain scientific fields, the problems that can be put to and solved by AI agents are genuinely meaningful for research and, I'm told, might now be equivalent to having the on-tap online assistance of, say, a highly industrious postdoc. And this is only the start.

Oxford is one of the institutions where the promise of AI to benefit humanity is planned to be delivered, and at pace. Schmidt Sciences, a

philanthropic organisation, supports researchers working on projects to do just that, within a 2050 horizon. One of its AI2050 Senior Fellowships has been awarded to alumnus and Professor of Engineering Science Philip Torr (1990), to develop an AI system capable of working alongside human historians – a 'digital co-historian' helping scholars to navigate vast archives and address gaps in historical records. A new discipline of 'computational historiography' beckons.

Nevertheless, the challenges AI capacity poses to a schooling that trains young, organic minds over the course of many years, first to absorb knowledge, and then to begin asking interesting questions, and painstakingly to arrive at solutions, are profound. In many ways, Oxford is almost uniquely well placed to defend and advocate for an education that spends time and resource protecting and nurturing that joyous and laborious process. And to uphold and champion the enduring and irreplaceable plasticity and creativity of human brain power. AI won't get you through a tutorial. Or a written examination.

But the co-piloting of our work and play is here, in and out of the classroom. For our graduating students, many of whom are going on, with any luck, to skilful employment, the flexibility they are perforce acquiring is in itself a kind of preparation for what is to come.



Water fountain gifted to the College by Dame Helen Ghosh

It was altogether fitting, then, that at her going out as Master, Dame Helen Ghosh ended her eight-year period in office by pointing the way, having herself secured a new role as Chair of the Office for Environmental Protection. Dame Helen's last term was a flurry of activity, with one commitment after another in quick succession ably fulfilled – a tribute on the centenary of the General Strike to the conciliatory role played by Master A.D. Lindsay in that industrial conflict; training for and running in the 10k Town and Gown as a member of a 60-strong Balliol team; talks given in person to the Fellows and then online to the wider Balliol and alumni communities, on 'Doing the Right Thing for the Right Reason', drawing on her 30 years' experience as a civil servant, and valedictory messages to all members. Elegant use was made of the last occasions on which she presided as Master – for special requests, to the Musical Society, for a Members' Night Concert programme culminating in the Bach Double Violin Concerto in D Minor by association with which, through Dorothy L. Sayers, she had first been introduced to the existence of 'Balliol' as a teenager; to the Argentarius (Fellow for Silver) and Front of House Manager, for a revival of the traditional display of the College's silver collection in Hall; to the Chaplain and Choir, at the Leavers' Evensong where the Master by convention gives the sermon, for a favourite anthem, Stanford's 'Beati quorum via Integra est' ('Blessed are those whose path has integrity'), to be sung.

No less ceremonious and gracious were the gift exchanges, to the Master by the JCR at its Garden Party, the staff at their Trinity Tea, and the Fellows at their Leaving Dinner, and, in turn, from the Master to the College, of a slate sphere water feature surrounded by curved benches and chairs to sit on to contemplate their location in the green space of a transformed Master's Garden.

And so among many rituals of goodwill and good fellowship the year came to an end with the inauguration of a new Master, Professor Seamus Perry, long-time Tutor in English.

The College may have said goodbye to its first woman Master, but, thanks to the generosity of alumnus Jim Rogers (1964), paying tribute to his own daughters, it has permanently installed a statue of its female co-founder as a public work of art in the space overlooking St Cross Church at the edge of the Master's Field development, the new buildings of which are now known collectively as the Dervorguilla site. In the course of the year, Dervorguilla was joined by a second, much smaller, but equally characterful, statue of a cockerel,



Display of Balliol's silver collection in Hall

also by sculptor Alex Wenham, in reference to the agriculture that once took place in the area or, less pastorally, to the cock-pit that stood over the road at Holywell. Farming and fighting are both part of the long and complex history of the place our students can now call home.

The history of human conflict is only too lengthy – and has become dismayingly close-up in recent times – but as it happens, farming and fighting came together again in one of the most significant academic events of the past year. The German Peasants' War, as retold in the form of 'history from below' by former Balliol Tutor and subsequently Honorary Fellow, Lyndal Roper, was a force in the making of early modern Europe. The publication of her *Summer of Fire and Blood* added two major prizes, the 2025 Cundill History Prize and the Holberg Prize, to the many accolades she has previously won, and were a signal way of marking her retirement as Regius Professor of History at Oxford.

College life and activities

The shape of the academic year is very well established. What gives the

familiar arc its texture and vivacity are the traditions, both age-old and brand new, by which calendar fixtures are marked. Now that whole-College cohorts are able to graduate together, August is dedicated to the largest graduation ceremony and celebration of the year. Long in the planning, the summer is also the moment at which the happy few – Balliol finalists who have been made William Westerman Pathfinder awards – set off on their journeys of a lifetime. For those arriving rather than leaving, Balliol has developed an online 'Wellbeing Welcome' which takes place a couple of weeks before term to help Freshers transition to university. New Fellows joining are welcomed with short speeches of introduction by the Senior Fellow at the first Consilium Dinner of the year. The Library hosts a new exhibition at the Historic Collections Centre. And it closes the Michaelmas Term with its annual ghost-story writing competition and Library Christmas Quiz.

In Hilary Term, dark days are cheered by the arrival of the Artist in Residence, the friendly rivalry in sustainability of Green Action Week, and spring is encouraged on its way by staff and students alike with a now annual egg-and-spoon race. Balliol Choir marks May Morning and before we know it the tradition of Summer Eights begins for Balliol crews. One feature of the annual cycle which has evolved out of the need to fund-raise for the College, the Balliol Telethon, has brought great benefits to our student callers simply from the conversations they have been privileged to have with Old Members, for



The final round of the annual egg-and-spoon race in Front Quad

whose time and willingness to pick up their phones we are very grateful.

Awards and achievements of current members

The University's annual Recognition of Distinction exercise saw two Balliol academics promoted to full professorships – pleasingly, one a Tutor in the Humanities, Adrian Kelly, now Professor of Ancient Greek Literature, and one a Tutor in the Sciences, Matthew Langton, now Professor of Chemistry. Two Balliol mathematicians, a current Tutor, Jason Lotay, and a former graduate, James Maynard (2009), were among the inaugural cohort of Fellows elected to the new Academy for the Mathematical Sciences, founded in 2023 to harness mathematical expertise and leadership in addressing some of the UK's most pressing national challenges. James Maynard was also appointed Regius Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford and takes up the post at the Mathematical Institute on 1 October 2026. Vincent Cheval, Tutor in Computer Science, was awarded a European Research Council grant to investigate probabilistic security systems – industry safety standards on which we all rely – while solving some fundamental problems in theoretical computer science along the way. Two Emeritus Fellows, Dame Frances Kirwan (1981), until recently Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford, and Sir Adam Roberts, former Montague Burton Professor of International Relations, were recognised for their lifetime achievements and contributions. In the profession of teaching, Autumn Rowan-Hull, who tutors embryology and anatomy and directs First Year Medicine at Balliol, was awarded Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy. And students made impacts in specific fields – Economics & Management undergraduate Ege Havlucu (2024) taking second prize in the Oxford-Intesa Sanpaolo competition, entrepreneur and Executive MBA candidate Nicholas Thain (2025) being named Non-Executive Director of the Year, 2nd Year lawyer Alexander Stricklin (2024) winning the UK-wide 2025 Undergraduate Essay Prize organized by the Constitution Society, and Professor of Law at Georgetown University, and doctoral student at Balliol, Stephanie Barclay (2022), interviewing US Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett at the Georgetown Center for the Constitution of which she is Faculty Co-Director.

In a potentially highly significant breakthrough, the quantum computing team led by former Tutor in Physics, David Lucas, his successor in the post and recently Early Career Fellow at Balliol, Raghavendra Srinivas, and former Balliol graduate David Nadlinger (2017), demonstrated for the first time a



Stephanie Barclay (2022, DPhil Law), left, with Justice Amy Coney Barrett

novel type of quantum interaction arising from 'quadsqueezing' a trapped ion. In another scientific first, published in *Nature*, Tutor in Zoology Sebastian Shimeld, with Balliol graduate Yuanzhen Zhu (2023) as first author, identified ancient genome duplication as the driver behind the development of diverse and specialised brain cell types that in turn enabled the evolution of the larger and more sophisticated brains of vertebrates. The complexity of life as seen from a systems biology perspective is integral to the new book published by Emeritus Fellow Denis Noble about his lifelong exploration of this scientific approach, stemming from his pioneering work on the electrical origins of the heartbeat.

Awards and achievements of alumni and former Fellows

In a crowning achievement, Professor Michael Sandel (1975) was named the 2025 laureate of the Berggruen Prize for Philosophy and Culture. With an ear for under-statement, the chair and founder of the Berggruen Institute noted that in a world in flux Professor Sandel's 'infusion of ethics and reasoning into public discourse are necessary'. The Balliol roots of that infusion go back to when he studied for a doctorate under philosopher and inaugural Berggruen Prize Laureate Charles Taylor (1952). A no less significant lifetime honour went to Graeme Segal (1963) who was announced as the recipient

of the Chern Medal at the International Congress of Mathematics (ICM) in Philadelphia, USA, on 23 July 2026. As a mark of his seniority and distinction, leading Chemist and entrepreneur Professor Kenneth S. Suslick, who came to Balliol as George Eastman Visiting Professor in 2018/2019, was in April 2026 elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Another former Eastman Visiting Professor, Ronald Roy, was elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, while German and Goethe scholar Professor Matthew Bell (1983) was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. And Scottish historian, critic, and university leader Professor Murray Pittock (1983) was awarded an honorary degree by Robert Gordon University. Stephen Bergman (1966), meanwhile, who writes under the penname Samuel Shem, received the inaugural prize named in his honour, the PC4AA Samuel Shem Award for Radical Honesty and Moral Courage in Medicine. Professor Greg Challis (1994) received the Kitasato Microbial Chemistry Medal awarded by the Kitasato Institute and Kitasato University in Japan. Closer to home, the newly installed Chancellor of the University – who by convention marks the beginning of that office by nominating for Honorary degrees a number of recipients of their choosing – proposed to nominate none other than Balliol history podcaster Dominic Sandbrook (1993), of *The Rest is History* fame. Another Old Member, alumna and writer Charlotte Higgins (1990), launched a podcast of her own, co-hosted with Mary Beard, *Instant Classics*.

The younger generation of Balliol alumni are garnering distinctions too. Professor Dermot Green (2004) gained the 2025 Promising Scientist Prize of the Centre Mécanique Ondulatoire Appliquée (CMOA) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to theoretical atomic and molecular physics. Adam Sapnik (2014), now a postdoctoral researcher in Chemistry at the University of Copenhagen, was awarded the 2026 Physical Crystallography Prize by the British Crystallographic Association. Tobias Schillings (2016) saw his 2025 doctoral thesis on 'The Political Economy of Universal Healthcare' gain the Political Studies Association Dissertation Prize for Comparative Politics, while a paper of his won the Walter Korpi International Social Policy Prize. Alumna Jenny Yang (2021) raised substantial pre-seed funding for her co-founded biotech start-up, Outpost Bio. And alumnae Lilia Kanu (2021) and Alex Knighton (2018) were each awarded postgraduate scholarships to the States, Lilia on a Fulbright to New York University, and Alex to Harvard on a Kennedy Scholarship. In Lilia's case, pursuing a Master's in Art History and Archaeology at NYU's Institute of Fine Arts allows her to continue the journey she began



Adam Sapnik (2014), left, receiving his award at the British Crystallographic Association's Spring Meeting

two years earlier as a William Westerman Pathfinder, finding her way across America via its museums and cultural institutions.

Honours

The College was delighted to learn of the Balliol connections among those listed for Honours in 2026. The King's New Year Honours included awards made to three Balliol alumni, an MBE to Professor Andrew Pithouse (1977), for services to social care education and policy, and OBEs to Giles Shilson (1992), for services to outreach and inclusion and to charity, and to Lady Pinsent (1997), for services to business and to the beauty industry. In the King's Birthday Honours, Harry Matovu (1981) was made OBE for services to business and to the legal profession, Paul Berman (1983) CMG (Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George) for services to British foreign policy and international law; Ashley Ibbett (1989) CB (Companion of the Order of the Bath) for services to energy and net zero, Sarah Munby (2000), also CB, for public service; and Wendy Becker, friend of Balliol and member of the Greville Smith Circle, was awarded a CBE for services to business and to charitable causes.

In Memoriam

The College sustained three losses from among its Fellowship in the course of the year, all of them of individuals who were distinctively pre-eminent in their very different fields: Foundation Fellow Dame Stephanie Shirley (1933–2025), and Honorary Fellows Professor John Carey (1934–2025) and Sir Anthony Leggett (1938–2026). As is customary, on each occasion a notice was placed on the front entrance, the College flag was lowered to half-mast in respect, and Governing Body stood in their memory. We remember them all with admiration and gratitude.

Achievements and Awards

Graduate Scholarships

College Scholarships

Alfred Douglas Stone Scholarship
Krass, Calista, DPhil Engineering Science

Andrew Crompton Scholarship
Bird, Sebastian, DPhil Ancient History

Balliol Sanctuary Scholarship
Alshami, Samah, MSc Genomic Medicine
Zafar, Mohammad Ali, MPhil International Relations

Belo-Osagie Fund Scholarship
Charite, Gloria, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences

Brian Dickinson Scholarship
Saunders, Henry, DPhil Mathematics (EPSRC)

Bruce Net Zero Scholarship
Difilippo, Alessandro, DPhil Chemistry (EPSRC)

Dervorguilla Scholarship
Babiker, Tibyan, DPhil Pharmacology (MRC)
Gayraud, Florencia, DPhil Politics (ESRC)
Tozer, Daisy, DPhil English (AHRC)

Eddie Dinshaw Scholarship
Gupta, Om, DPhil Mathematics (ERC)

Foley Béjar Scholarship
Park-Sullivan, Áilill, MSt Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Grefenstette Scholarship
Qiang, Wei, DPhil Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics (STFC)

Gregory Kulkes Scholarship
Karar, Moayad Ahmed, Bachelor of Civil Law

JT Hamilton Scholarship
Neelakandan, Tasha, DPhil Mathematics

Jason Hu Scholarship
Ho, Hsin-Cheng, DPhil Biology
Wu, Zixuan, DPhil Condensed Matter Physics

John Henry Jones Scholarship
Anselmetti, Rebecca, DPhil Public Policy
Martyn-Smith, Samuel, DPhil Clinical Medicine (MRC)

Jowett Scholarship
Jakiela, Julia, DPhil Chemistry (MRC)
Jin, Yifei, DPhil Medical Sciences (MRC)

Jowett Copyright Scholarship and Balliol Scholarship
Hoare, Cecilia, MSt Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature

Oxford Economics Scholarship
Butlin, Adam, DPhil Economics

Peter Storey Scholarship
Symes, Natasha, DPhil History (AHRC)

Ramage Scholarship
Williams, Zoe, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences (MRC)

Sir Cyril Taylor Sanctuary Scholarship
Alshami, Samah, MSc Genomic Medicine
Zafar, Mohammad Ali, MPhil International Relations

Tang Prize Scholarship
Martner Sota, Clara, DPhil Law

UK Research and Innovation Awards

Arts and Humanities Research Council
Barnett, Theo, DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages
Symes, Natasha, DPhil History
Tozer, Daisy, DPhil English

Economic and Social Research Council
Gayraud, Florencia, DPhil Politics
Kunadu, Conrad, DPhil International Relations
McGovern, James, MSc Economic and Social History

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
Brudy Rigollet, Elsa, Inorganic Materials for Advanced Manufacturing (CDT)
Difilippo, Alessandro, DPhil Chemistry
He, Angel, Autonomous Intelligent Machines and Systems (CDT)
Hebert, Amanda, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics
Liedtke, Merlin, DPhil Engineering Science
Saunders, Henry, DPhil Mathematics
Seymour, Tabitha, Inorganic Materials for Advanced Manufacturing (CDT)

Medical Research Council
Babiker, Tibyan, DPhil Pharmacology
Jakiela, Julia, DPhil Chemistry
Jin, Yifei, DPhil Medical Sciences
Martyn-Smith, Samuel, DPhil Clinical Medicine
Williams, Zoe, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences

Science and Technology Facilities Council
Butcher, Christopher, DPhil Theoretical Physics
Earley, Joshua, DPhil Astrophysics
Gathercole, Lucas, DPhil Theoretical Physics
Qiang, Wei, DPhil Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics

International awards

Aker Scholarship
Jonassen, Martin, Magister Juris

European Research Council
Gupta, Om, DPhil Mathematics
Hadjipaschalis, Nikolaos, DPhil Chemistry

Marshall Scholarship
Lampo, Kathryn, MSc (Research) in Engineering Science

Rhodes Scholarships

Aggarwal, Pal, MSc Mathematical and Theoretical Physics
Amro, Sara, DPhil Medical Sciences
Barone, Thomas, MSt History – US History
Corona, Sofia, MSc Economics for Development
Gurusankar, Gurupranav, MSc Translational Health Sciences
Jeyakumar, Ragavi, DPhil Women's and Reproductive Health
Khumalo, Wonderful, DPhil Musculoskeletal Sciences
Lachance, Clovis, DPhil International Development
Marley, Kennedy, MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
Mihalynuk, Shaeleen, MSc Genomic Medicine
Nair, Anushka, DPhil Computer Science
Offman, Noa, MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
Smith, Jenna, MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
Swaminathan, Vibha, Bachelor of Civil Law
Swinburn, Thomas, DPhil Primary Health Care
Wikstrom, Eleanor, MSc Social Science of the Internet
Zhou, Cat, Bachelor of Civil Law

University awards

Clarendon Scholarship
Anselmetti, Rebecca, DPhil Public Policy
Bird, Sebastian, DPhil Ancient History
Charite, Gloria, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences
Krass, Calista, DPhil Engineering Science

Other University awards
Alshami, Samah, MSc Genomic Medicine, Oxford-Education Above All Foundation Palestine Crisis Scholarship
Alsheikh, Ahmad, MSc Theoretical and Computational Chemistry, Saïd Foundation Oxford Scholarship
Bajer, Amelia, DPhil Clinical Medicine, Nuffield Department of Medicine,

The Fever Tree Malaria Studentship

Bunting, William, DPhil Condensed Matter Physics, Department of Physics Scholarship

Butcher, Christopher, DPhil Theoretical Physics (STFC), Gould Watson Scholarship

Chen, Kai, DPhil Classical Languages and Literature, China Scholarship Council – University of Oxford Scholarship

Elryah, Malaz, MSc Pharmacology, AfOx Scholarship

Erle, Jona, DPhil Mathematics, Industrial Studentship (Moderna & Quantum Motion) via Oxford Mathematics

Gaffey, John, DPhil History, Oxford – Sir Colin R. Lucas Graduate Scholarship

Gambhir, Simran, DPhil Biology, Department of Biology and Sam Sheppard Wellcome Trust Scholarship

Gathercole, Lucas, DPhil Theoretical Physics (STFC), Gould Watson Scholarship

Hadjipaschalis, Nikolaos, DPhil Chemistry (ERC), Department of Chemistry Studentship

Harvey, Callum, DPhil Information, Communication and the Social Sciences, OII Shirley Scholarship

Hebert, Amanda, DPhil Atomic and Laser Physics (EPSRC), Central Physics Studentship

Higgins, Constance, MSt English (1900 – present), Violet Vaughan Morgan Studentship

Ho, Hsin-Cheng, DPhil Biology, Oxford Taiwan Scholarship

Hoare, Cecilia, MSt Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature, Faculty of Classics Scholarship

Jain, Kshitij, DPhil Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Bhagwan Adinath Scholarship

Karar, Moayad Ahmed, BCL, Oxford Faculty of Law COMBAR Scholarship

Lewis, Matthew, DPhil Genomic Medicine and Statistics, Medical Sciences DTC Studentship

Mathews, Shruthi, DPhil Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Glorisun Graduate Scholarship

Neelakandan, Tasha, DPhil Mathematics, Mathematical Institute Scholarship

Notman, Catherine, DPhil Mathematics, Martingale Scholarship

Park-Sullivan, Áilill, MSt Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Prendergast Scholarship

Pradhan, Alyssa, DPhil Clinical Medicine, Medical Sciences Graduate School Studentship
Ryder, Dylan, DPhil English, Oxford Graduate Scholarship
Saeed, Ayesha, MSc Mathematical Sciences, Martingale Scholarship
Sieciechowicz, Emil, DPhil Mathematics, Martingale Scholarship
Summerley, Louis, DPhil Chemistry, Department of Chemistry Graduate Studentship
Winter, Sophie, DPhil Clinical Medicine, Nuffield Department of Medicine Studentship
Wu, Yuling, DPhil Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, China Scholarship Council – University of Oxford Scholarship
Zafar, Mohammad Ali, MPhil International Relations, Oxford Academic Futures Refugee Scholarship

Other external awards

Flores, Beltrán, DPhil Law, Becas Chile Scholarship
Harvey, Callum, DPhil Information, Communication and the Social Sciences, The Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship
Jakiela, Julia, DPhil Chemistry (MRC), Jazz Pharmaceuticals
Jin, Yifei, DPhil Medical Sciences (MRC), GE Healthcare
Jung, Charlotte, DPhil International Relations, The Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship
Martner Sota, Clara, DPhil Law, Becas Chile Scholarship
McNeill, Ronan, DPhil Clinical Neurosciences, William Georgetti Scholarship – Universities New Zealand
Rosengren, Mathias, MSt Philosophy of Physics, Rejselegat for Matematikere Scholarship
Vacaflores, Isabella, MPhil Politics: Political Theory, The Ramsay Postgraduate Scholarship
Wu, Zixuan, DPhil Condensed Matter Physics, Royal Society Scholarship

Undergraduate Scholarships and Exhibitions

Biology

Miranda Barron, Second Robin Hollway Exhibition; Ruby Leys, Walter Galpin Scholarship; Mackenzie Robb, Walter Galpin Scholarship

Correction to 2025 edition:

Mackenzie Robb, Reynolds Exhibition

Chemistry

E.J. Jervis-Smith Bequest Scholarship: Gracie Lewis, Conner Maguire, Ben Scott

E.J. Jervis-Smith Bequest Exhibition: Maria Antoniou, Alice Calderbank, Zach Lees, Beth Meddins, Jamie Messett, Rory Mitchell, Matthew Swales, Chenwei Yu, Tuguldur Zolzaya

Classics

Robin Hollway Scholarship: Cooper Ackerly, Charlotte Fox, David Haar

Robin Hollway Exhibition: Angus Rhind, Samual Strautnieks, Mark Tan

Classical Archaelogy and Ancient History

Isabella Hill, Robin Hollway Exhibition

Economics and Management

Ansh Agarwal, Bishop Warners Exhibition; Rose Bamford, Robert Seabag Montefiore Scholarship; Yicheng Li, Robert Seabag Montefiore Scholarship

Engineering Science

Eli Arie, Reynolds Scholarship; Michael Channing, Reynolds Scholarship; Dan Collins, Second Robin Hollway Exhibition; Freddie Goodfellow, Lubbock Scholarship; Sophie Lindridge, Second Robin Hollway Scholarship; Suleiman Mahmood, Lubbock Scholarship; Finbar Percy, Walpter Galpin Exhibition; Jonathan Soepadmo, Reynolds Scholarship; Jake Wheal, Lubbock Exhibition; Sam Zhuang, Reynolds Scholarship

English

Olivia Barber, Anthony Maurice Goldsmith Exhibition; Fiona Gu, Anthony Maurice Goldsmith Exhibition; Margaret MacLellan, Anthony Maurice Goldsmith Scholarship; Ralph Whitworth, Anthony Maurice Goldsmith Scholarship

History

Robert Seabag Montefiore Scholarship: Maya Brockie, Barnaby Cox, Theo Fischer, Luca Karkutli, Jordan Liu

Robert Seabag Montefiore Exhibition: Zahara Agarwal, Juan Carlos Dauz, Weza De Carvalho Espada De Sousa, Oskar Gershfield, Max Harland, Daniel Kettle, Connor Mair, Olivia Polito Pons, Bea Smalley, Daisy Smith, Lara Ulkeroglu, Henry Waters

History and Ancient History

Luca Ryan, Robin Hollway Scholarship

Law

Gilon Fox, Second Robin Hollway Exhibition; Tristan Hood, Sir William Markby Exhibition; Alexis Komninos, Reynolds Scholarship

Mathematics

Nathan Adlam, Les Woods Scholarship; Keira Chen, Les Woods Scholarship; Cyrus Linden, Mouat Jones Scholarship; Robert Rowlands, David Kevan Lloyd Exhibition

Mathematics and Computer Science

Daniel Chang, David Kevan Lloyd Exhibition; Anton Le, David Kevan Lloyd Exhibition

Mathematics and Philosophy

Luke Corey, Mouat Jones Scholarship

Medical Sciences

Conall Islip, E.J. Jervis-Smith Exhibition; Amelia Lim, E.J. Jervis Exhibition; Anna-Sophia Maeckel, Hannah Brackenbury Scholarship; Oliver Milroy-Goulding, David Kevan Lloyd Exhibition; Tom Postance, E.J. Jervis-

Smith Exhibition; Sarah Probert, Hannah Brackenbury Scholarship; Sam Santhouse, E.J. Jervis-Smith Exhibition; Ashish Singh, David Kevan Lloyd Exhibition

Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Jade Bennett, Second Robin Hollway Exhibition; Jacob Bickerstaffe, Second Robin Hollway Exhibition; William Eckford, Walter Galpin Scholarship; Harvey Garnaut, Lazarus and Agnes Ward Fletcher Exhibition; Anna Hickman, Lazarus and Agnes Ward Fletcher Exhibition; Gemma Kelk, Walter Galpin Scholarship; Shirica Leong, Lazarus and Agnus Ward Fletcher Scholarship; Arina Makarina, Anthony Maurice Goldsmith Exhibition; Avrah Pernica, Anthony Maurice Goldsmith Exhibition; Mukund Soni, Lazarus and Agnus Ward Fletcher Scholarship

Physics

Vivek Abensour, Walter Galpin Exhibition; Ewan Beach, Reynolds Scholarship; Luke Chu, Reynolds Scholarship; Nola Guy, Walter Galpin Exhibition; Mali Jongman-Rios, Sir William Markby Scholarship; Ryan Lin, Sir William Markby Scholarship; Barney Marshall, Walter Galpin Exhibition; Liam O'Shea, Sir William Markby Scholarship; Isaac Oyarzabal, Reynolds Scholarship; Mikolaj Panasiuk, Walter Galpin Exhibition; David Wong, Sir Henry Theobald Scholarship; Yiqian Wu, Sir Henry Theobald Scholarship; Naiqi Zheng, Sir William Markby Scholarship

Organ Scholar

Angela Ede

College prizes

Academic awards

Any subject
Ethan Berni-Wright, Prelims Prize
Lana Dissanayake, Prelims Prize
Arabella Fellows, Prelims Prize
Edward Holmes, Prelims Prize
Megan Howard, Prelims Prize
Arjjay Meghdoot, Prelims Prize
Frieda Miller, Prelims Prize
Eve Benioff Salama, Prelims Prize
Alex Stricklin, Prelims Prize
Faith Victoria, Prelims Prize
Jonathan Webb, Prelims Prize
Tamzid Zuha, Prelims Prize

Chemistry
Matheus Ramos Florencio, Greville Smith Prize

Classics
Cooper Ackerly, Jenkyns Prize (*shared*)
Cameron Bloch, Jenkyns Prize (*shared*)
Charlotte Fox, Samuel Dubner Prize
Lucy Jones, Jenkyns Prize (*shared*)
Mark Tan, Samuel Dubner Prize

Engineering
Dylan Jubb, Prosser Prize
Callum Umana Stuart, Lubbock Prize

English Literature
Arabella Fellows, Kington Oliphant Prize
Jonathan Webb, Elton Prize

History
Angele Baum, Roger Hall Prize
Molly Carey-Topping, Martin Wright Prize
Jack Jones, Edwin George Engleby Wright Prize
Jordan Liu, William Mazower Prize
Bea Smalley, James Gay Prize
Henry Waters, Kington Oliphant Prize

Law
Dylan Durnion, Archibald McDougall Prize *(proxime accessit)*
Tristan Hood, Lord Rodger of Earlsferry Prize
Alexis Komninos, Younger Prize
Cameron Tweed, A.V. Dicey and Archibald McDougall Prizes

Mathematics and Joint Schools
Alex Evans, Prosser Prize
Nikita Handel, Prosser Prize
Vikash Janarththanan, Robin Wilson Prize
Malcolm Parris, Prosser Prize

Medical Sciences
Rachel Andrews, Periam Prize (*shared*)
Jai Goyal, Periam Prize (*shared*)
Olivia Murphy, Periam Prize (*shared*)
Sasmita Thiyagesh, Periam Prize (*shared*)
Sasmita Thiyagesh, Wurtman Prize
Jai Goyal, Wurtman Prize (*proxime accessit*)

Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Lars Carbonez, James Hall Prize (*shared*)
Nabeed Chowdhury, James Hall Prize (*shared*)
Eleanor Ge, Samuel Dubner Prize
Gemma Kelk, Ernest Walker Prize
Arina Makarina, Ernest Walker Prize
Avrah Pernica, Ernest Walker Prize

Physics
Ewan Beach, Conroy Prize

Non-academic awards

Gertrude Hartley Prize
David Haar (*shared*)
Brandon Low (*shared*)
Theo Barnett (*shared*; translation)

Maharajah Singh Essay Prize
Cameron Maiklem

Jasper Ridley Prize
Nathan Adlam

Sir Raymond Beazley Prize
Luca Ryan

Rachel Sarah Knapp Awards
Nathan Adlam
Evie Askew

William Westerman Pathfinder Awards to North America
Harvey Garnaut, Maggie Maclellan, Oli New, Jack Ovens, Mukund Soni, Theo Thornett, Debi Dass, Olivia Politopons

William Westerman Pathfinder Awards to Asia
Cooper Ackerly, Kitty Fisher, Phoebe Holmes-Simeon

University prizes

Angus Rhind, De Paravicini Prize for performance in the Greek language papers or Homer, Iliad in Honour Moderations in Classics

Braiden Walker, Medical Sociology Prize (shared) for excellent performance in the individual subjects in the First BM Part I examination; commendation for exceptional quality of answers in the Population Health 1: Medical Sociology assignment

Final Honour Schools (FHS)

Cooper Ackerly, Craven Prize 2026 for the second highest overall average in the FHS of Literae Humaniores, Classics & English, Classics & Modern Languages, Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies, Ancient & Modern History and Classical Archaeology & Ancient History

Nathan Adlam, Junior Mathematical Prize in recognition of excellent performance in examination

Miranda Barron, The Crowther Prize for placing sixth in the cohort for overall performance across nine assessments contributing to the FHS Part IA and IB exams

Isabel Doherty, Ancient History Prize 2026 for dissertation submitted for the MPhil examination

Jamie Honeywill, The Department of Computer Science Prize in Law and Computer Science supported by Sabesh Asokan for best Law and Computer Science submission in Part C 2026

Isabelle Horrocks-Taylor, Gaisford Undergraduate Essay Prize 2026 for the best thesis in Greek language and literature in the FHS of Literae Humaniores, Classics and English, Classics and Modern Languages and Classics and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies

Yash Jaiswal, The Hoare Prize for best overall performance in Computer Science 2026

Mackenzie Robb, The Gibbs Prize in Biology – Best Candidate for 2025-26

Maria Stuebner, Mathematical Sciences Dissertation Prize in recognition of excellent performance in dissertation

The lists on pages 63–69 include only results that were available before 31 July 2026: see page 2.

Graduate research degrees

Doctorates of Philosophy

Achar, Sooraj, 'Exploring CAR/TCR Antagonism from a Functional and Mechanistic Perspective'

Auestad, Henrik, 'Diabatic Jet and Storm Track Feedbacks'

Baker, Samuel, 'Dimensionality Reduction for Validating Engine Flow Simulations'

Benjamin, Katherine, 'Topological Data Analysis for High-Dimensional Data in Biology'

Berryman, Anna, 'An Agent-Based Model of the Labour Market with Applications to the Post-Carbon Transition'

Chapman, Benjamin, 'The Role of LYVE1 in Macrophages during Heart Regeneration and Repair'

Coulthard, Claire, 'Layered Double Hydroxide-Based Catalysts for Thermocatalytic CO2 Conversion'

Dominiak, Pandora, 'Molecular Gas Measurements of Supermassive Black Hole Masses in Nearby Galaxies'

Eames, Beth, 'Analysis of Non-conforming Contacts'

Eck, Luisa, 'Quantum Lattice Models from Fusion Categories'

Ejaz, Ayesha, 'Reactivating Embryonic ζ-Globin Expression in Definitive Erythropoiesis'

Elijah, Lorenzo, 'Kantian-Republicanism: Toward a New Theory of Political Authority'

Fisher-Pearson, Natasha, 'The Relationship Between Gut Microbiome Diversity and Mucosal-Associated Invariant T Cells'

Gargano, Valentino, 'Critical Euripides: Intersecting Hierarchies in Hecuba, Andromache, and Troades'

Gueroult, Quentin, 'Dynamics and Structural Complexity of Framework Materials'

Gunasekera, Alex, 'Spin-adapted Coupled Cluster Theory for Open-shell Molecules using the Normal-ordered Exponential Ansatz'

Hadjifrangiskou, Ioannis, 'Deformability in Soft Matter and Biological Physics'

Hood, Grace, 'Characterising Emerging Viral Spillover Events in Forested

Guinea (Guinee Forestiere), Republic of Guinea'
Hutchings, Heather, 'The Pragmatic Persuasiveness of Prose Rhythm: A Rhetorical Approach to Cicero's Rhythmic Technique'
Isachsen, Benjamin, 'Sons of Abraham: Non-Hegemonic Masculinity in Luke and Acts'
Kerfoot, Eleanor, 'The Dead and Disease in Southwark in the Long-Eighteenth Century'
Kufazvinei, Tafadzwa, 'Inflammatory Processes after Myocardial Infarction in Type 2 Diabetes'
Lansing, Victoria, 'Points of Contact: Engaging with Classical Authors in Boethius' Consolatio Philosophiae'
Liu, Feng, 'UV-C Short-Range Wireless Quantum Key Distribution'
Livesey, Jessica, 'Investigating the Role of Adrenergic Receptors in the Regulation of Striatal Dopamine Release'
Marti Dafcik, Daniel, 'Quantum Algorithms for Quantum Chemistry'
McQuaid, Sara, 'Authors of the Deed: Political Assassination and Selfhood in Weimar Germany and Fascist Italy'
Nadarajan, Darshini, 'Can the Subaltern (Teacher) Speak? Re-Searching in the Shadows of Silence'
Neudert, Lisa-Maria, 'A Decade of Regulating Tech Giants: Actors, Resources and Power Dynamics in Platform Regulation in Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States (2016–2025)'
O'Connor, Bethan, 'Dopamine Transporter and GABA Receptor Regulation of Striatal Dopamine Release'
Phillips, Richard, 'George Peele's Plays: Dramaturgy and Authorship'
Quastel, Max, 'Improving HLA-E Peptide Complexes for Low Affinity Peptides for Development of HLA-E Specific Therapeutics'
Rodel, Lily, 'Hybrid Lives: Work, Care, and Technology Among Britain's Hybrid Working Parents'
Rodríguez-Romera, Antonio, 'Megakaryocyte Whole Genome Duplication and Cancer Evolution'
Rones, Jane, 'Unraveling Mechanisms of B cell Reactivity in COVID-19, ANCA-Associated Vasculitis and Psoriatic Arthritis'
Rucker, Zoe, 'Resident Aliens: T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden, and the Transatlantic Cultural Landscape'
Saeboe, Lilja, 'The Lugwere Verb System'
Savage, Rhiannon, 'Stacks in Derived Bornological Geometry'

Schillings, Tobias, 'The Political Economy of Universal Healthcare: A Global Comparative Perspective'
Sen, Neel, 'Biophysical Approaches to Unravel Complex Protein Interactions'
Si, Yiwei, 'Verbal Particles in German: Aspect, Structure, and Processing'
Singer, Scott, 'Public Opinion and National Security: An Emerging Technology Perspective in the Age of AI'
Stiskalek, Richard, 'Constrained Simulations of the Local Universe as a Laboratory for Precision Cosmology and Astrophysics
Taylor, Vicky, '"No Ifs, No Buts, No Boats!": Asylum Policy, Border Policing, and the Criminalisation of People Arriving to the UK on "small boats", 2018-2023'
Teworte, Emma, 'Bleeding Bodies, Trusted Hands: Illegal Abortions in Germany, c. 1930-1955'
Usman, Fatima, 'Breathing and Brain Development in Hospitalised Neonates'
Vílchez Estévez, Lucía, 'Characterising Many-Body Systems via Quantum Dynamics Simulations'
Walker, Ben, 'Advances in Neural Controlled Differential Equations'
Wankhede, Asang, 'The Interaction of Economic Disadvantages and Caste in Affirmative Action in India'
Wilkinson, Daniel, 'On Progress: A Thick Conception of Moral-Political Progress'
Yang, Jenny, 'Algorithmic Fairness and Bias Mitigation in Clinical Machine Learning for Equitable Patient Outcomes'
Zerio, Anna, 'Modulation of Energy Substrate Transport by cAMP-Hydrolysing Phosphodiesterases in Cardiac Myocytes'
Zhang, Jiarui, 'The Phonology of Tone and Intonation in Guanzhong Mandarin'

MPhil by Research

Bentley, Maisy, 'Feminist and Wild Law Jurisprudence in the Era of Human Rights Climate Change Litigation: Rewriting KlimaSeniorinnen'

Distinctions in graduate taught degrees

Aggarwal, Pal, MSc Mathematical & Theoretical Physics
Chen, Xiang, MPhil International Relations
Crewe, Joel, MSc Theoretical and Comp Chemistry
Doherty, Isabel, MPhil Greek and/or Roman History
Duncan, Faye, MPhil Classical Indian Religion
Greco, Carla, MSc Financial Economics
Gurusankar, Pranav, Master of Public Policy
Harshbarger, Sam, MPhil History
He, Angel, MSc Advanced Computer Science
Heron, Isaac, MPhil Economics
Higgins, Connie, MSt English
Hirsch, Jake, MSt Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Jonassen, Martin, Magister Juris
Jones, Harrison, Master of Public Policy
Karar, Moayad, Bachelor of Civil Law
Khan, Yasmeena, MSc Social Science of the Internet
Lester, James, MPhil Economics
Marley, Kennedy, MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice
Ng, Roy, MSt Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
Oladipo, Aishat, MSc Genomic Medicine
Rayp, Justine, MSc Genomic Medicine
Reuter, Felix, MSt English
Saeed, Ayesha, MSc Mathematical Sciences
Schmidt, Constantin, MPhil Economics
Stuebner, Maria, MSc Mathematical Sciences
Troup, Milly, MSt in Modern Languages
Xiong, Yuqin, MSt in Modern Languages

Firsts and distinctions in undergraduate degrees

Distinctions in Prelims and Honour Moderations

Ancient and Modern History: Romilly Ireland
Biology: Catria Law, Emma Schaefer Cheng
Chemistry: Rongxuan Ye
Classics: Angus Rhind, Samual Strautnieks, Mia Tan
Engineering Science: Jake Frankel, Michael Grieve, Stephen Roberts
English Language and Literature: Jack Fisher, Amelia Jones, Mia Pitts
History: Amalia Dasgupta, Alexander Innes, Noah Revie, Maisie Thorn
History and Economics: Alexander Ustinov
Jewish Studies: Rosa Baruch Harrison
Mathematics and Computer Science: Sean Yeow
Mathematics and Statistics: Arthur Coleman, Finn Sinclair
Philosophy, Politics and Economics: Gabriella Bedford, Eleanor Ge, Kelly Ho, Isobel Pierce, Leon Staehler
Physics: Harry Crowe

Firsts in public examinations year 3

Computer Science: Yash Jaiswal
Engineering Science: Eli Arie, Sophie Lindridge, Suleiman Mahmood
Mathematics: Nathan Adlam
Mathematics and Statistics: Cyrus Linden
Mathematics and Philosophy: Luke Corey
Physics: Mali Jongman-Rios, Liam O'Shea

Final Honour Schools

Ancient and Modern History: Luca Ryan
Cell and Systems Biology: Anna-Sophia Maeckel, Sarah Probert
Chemistry: Grace Lewis, Jack Ovens
Classics: Margaret Ackerly, Cameron Bloch, Isabelle Horrocks-Taylor
Classical Archaeology and Ancient History: Honey Christophers

Computer Science: Jamie Honeywill, Matthew Zahra
Comp Science and Philosophy: Joshua Chang
Economics and Management: Rose Bamford, Yicheng Li
Engineering Science: Michael Channing, Frederick Goodfellow, Jonathan Soepadmo, Sam Zhuang
English Language and Literature: Evelyne Askew
History: Amy Bloch, Barnaby Cox, Theodore Fischer, Luca Karkutli, Lara Ulkeroglu
History and Modern Languages (French): Weza De Carvalho Espada De Sousa
History and Politics: Yashas Ramakrishnan
Jurisprudence: Alexis Komninos
Mathematics: Nikita Handel Subbiah, Keira Heslop
Mathematics and Computer Science: Dafang Zhou
Mathematics and Statistics: Yijia Chen
Mathematical and Theoretical Physics: Henri Abensour, Ewan Beach, Luke Chu, Bartosz Dlubak, Yiqian Wu
Medicine: Jai Goyal, Oliver Milroy-Goulding
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics: Harvey Garnaut, Shirica Leong, Mukund Soni
Physics: Tsz Wong

Honours, appointments and awards

New Year Honours 2026

Professor Andrew Pithouse (1977), lately Special Policy Adviser, Welsh Government: Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to social care education and policy.

Giles Shilson (1992), lately Chair, City Bridge Foundation: Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to outreach and inclusion and to charity.

Lady Pinsent (Demetra Pinsent, 1997) Chief Executive Officer, Charlotte Tilbury: Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to business and to the beauty industry.

King's Birthday Honours 2026

Harry Matovu (1981), Chair, Black Talent Charter and King's Counsel: Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to business and to the legal profession.

Paul Berman (1983), lately Legal Director, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for services to British foreign policy and international law.

Ashley Ibbett (1989), lately Director General for Energy Infrastructure, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero: Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) for services to energy and net zero.

Sarah Munby (2000), lately Permanent Secretary, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology: Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) for public service.

Wendy Becker, friend of Balliol and member of the Greville Smith Circle, Chair of the Board of Sony Group Corporation, Independent NED of GSK, and Trustee of the University of Oxford: Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to business and to charitable causes.

British Academy Fellows 2026

Professor Matthew Bell (1983), Professor of German and Comparative Literature, King's College London

Senior Members

Professor Lyndal Roper (Honorary Fellow): has been awarded the 2025 Cundill History Prize for her book *Summer of Fire and Blood: The German Peasants' War* (John Murray Press/Basic Books, 2025), as well as the Holberg Prize in recognition of her pioneering research on early modern European history

Professor Adrian Kelly: has been named Professor of Ancient Greek Literature

Professor Matthew Langton: has been named Professor of Chemistry

Autumn Rowan-Hull (Tutor in Medicine and Director of First Year Medicine): has been awarded Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA) in recognition of her outstanding contribution to teaching and learning in higher education

Vincent Cheval (Associate Professor and Tutorial Fellow in Computer Science): has been awarded a Synergy Grant by the European Research Council (ERC) to investigate the security of probabilistic systems

Professor Jason Lotay (Professor of Pure Mathematics and Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics): has been appointed to the inaugural cohort of Fellows of the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences

Sir Adam Roberts (Emeritus Fellow): has been awarded the Distinguished Contribution Prize by the British International Studies Association for his sustained contributions to the promotion of excellence in the discipline of International Studies over the course of his career

Professor Dame Frances Kirwan (1981 and Emeritus Fellow): has been awarded an honorary degree by the University of Warwick in recognition of her outstanding contributions to mathematics

Junior Members

Ege Havlucu (2024, Economics and Management): has been awarded second prize in the annual Oxford-Intesa Sanpaolo Prize

Nicholas Thain (2025, EMBA): has been named Non-Executive Director (NED) of the Year in the Private/Private Equity category of the NED

Awards

Alexander Stricklin (2024): has won the 2025 Undergraduate Essay Prize organised by The Constitution Society

College Life

Library and Archives

In any given year, we receive several donations of interesting books or papers, but this academic year has been a bumper one. Such generosity allows us to increase the value of our collections, both in terms of what we can offer researchers and also in what we can offer in terms of engagement for university classes, alumni events, or exhibitions for the public. At the same time, we have to exercise a level of judicious parsimony in what we accept because such collections require space – which is finite within a static estate – and staff time for cataloguing and organising if they are to remain accessible. So, alongside the excitement of receiving attractive acquisitions, this year has been one of continuing the intensive work of describing, moving, and rationalising collections. And, of course, we're also working to ensure a welcoming and engaging study environment for our current students at the same time.

Exhibitions and events

The Library and Archives prepare two exhibitions a year, which serve as our main showcases for our historic collections. This year's Michaelmas exhibition, *Apocalypse Now*, looked at a variety of Domesday scenarios, including plague, AI, and climate change, using the illustrations in our hand-painted and gilt Lutheran Bible (1541) as a starting point. Our Trinity Term exhibition turned its attention to the history of science at Balliol. Highlights included manuscripts of Aristotle's *Physics* from the medieval library, first editions of Galileo, the daybook of the Balliol-Trinity Chemistry Laboratory, Nobel prize-winning contributions by Linus Pauling (Eastman Visiting Professor 1948) and Baruch Blumberg (1955), a screening of the groundbreaking nature documentary, *The Private Life of the Gannets,* directed by Julian Huxley (1906), and the influential popularisations of genetics by Richard Dawkins (1959). A centrepiece of the exhibition came to us via the generosity of alumnus Keith Hannabuss (1963), who was alerted to the sale of the library of the 18th-century mathematician James Stirling (1711) and provided the funds to purchase a letter to Stirling from another 18th-century alumnus, James Bradley (1711), later Astronomer Royal, featuring a discussion of experiments in Jamaica to assess the shape of the earth.

Our collections have also allowed us to support a wide range of events from across the College. We worked with the Chaplain on lunchtime displays



The annual ghost story reading event in the Old Dean's Room

celebrating Balliol poets (Arnold, Browning, Hopkins), and an exhibit for clergy taking part in Balliol's Livings Conference. We also worked with the Development Office on the Balliol Society weekend, facilitated the Boat Club on a visit, supported graduates leading classes for summer schools, delivered sessions with Fellows using early modern French and English books, and provided reproductions for a display of Pugin drawings for the Victorian Society. Our events often seek to transform collections in imaginative and interactive ways. To celebrate the completion of the cataloguing of the letters of the Balliol chemist Ken Thomas (1935), the Librarian and Deputy Librarian took members of College on a biking trip to Uffington, following the routes described by Thomas in the 1930s.

Collections and description

Over 2025/2026, there were around 120 visits to the Historic Collections Centre and many more enquiries dealt with by email. Increasingly, users are able to explore our collections online through our cataloguing. The Archivist continues to expand access to the papers of alumni on our online Epexio catalogue, completing work on the archives of the colonial administrator John Hope Simpson, and the poets Arthur Hugh Clough and Gerard Manley Hopkins, amongst others. She also secured rights from the Hopkins estate to make images of his sketchbooks available online, providing remote access and relieving pressure on these fragile volumes. The Librarians contributed by completing work on the papers of Ken Thomas and making Mynors' catalogue of Balliol's manuscripts available online, allowing enhanced searchability and increasing access to digitisations where available.

There is an active programme of conservation for our collections, often prompted by ongoing cataloguing or the enquiries. Cataloguing the Arthur Hugh Clough papers, for example, led to the protective rehousing of his death mask and casts of his hands. As the redevelopment of the Hall progresses, the architectural plans by Waterhouse have also been receiving a lot of attention. As many are on vulnerable tracing paper, the Archivist has initiated a care and repackaging project to preserve them.

To accommodate new printed acquisitions, we have been actively reorganising, cataloguing, and rationalising our collections. Last August, we moved our alumni collection from the basement to the nave of the Historic Collections Centre in St Cross, where they are more prominently displayed. We have also continued to make space for other 19th- and 20th-century collections in the basement and on the ground floor. The Archivist has organised the maps and plan chests in their entirety, while the Librarian has finished cataloguing undocumented stock in the basement, with disposals freeing up further space. The Deputy Librarian is cataloguing our mountaineering collection – a particular enthusiasm of his. Meanwhile, our Antiquarian Cataloguer has come across first editions of works by Donne, Galileo, and Machiavelli, an illustrated 16th-century work on duelling, the first English work on the legal rights of women (1632), and a work by Tacitus which was the first experimental production of the renowned Doves Press (1900).



Rehousing Arthur Hugh Clough's death mask and casts of his hands as part of the cataloguing process of his papers

As mentioned, we've had quite a rush of interesting donations recently. These include graphic novels bequeathed by P-J Wilkinson (1980), a set of Penguin Specials from Simon Kroll (1971), books by Sir Sacheverell Sitwell (1918) from his editor Michael Raeburn, and funds from John Jones (Emeritus Fellow) and Professor Seamus Perry (Master) to purchase a prayer book with an early text of Balliol's bidding prayer. Archival donations have included a selection of 19th-century sketchbooks, notebooks, and autograph books from the family of Robert Browning, given by Luci Collings, whose father was chairman of the Browning Society. Professor Tim Weiskel (1969) has also generously donated his collection of early maps and prints relating to transatlantic trade, along with the funds to house and catalogue these important items.

Usage and welfare

From July 2025 to May 2026, we recorded an average of 148 unique users per day during term, up from 143 last year. The Library therefore continues to be actively used, with feedback from junior members indicating a demand for more study spaces.. This year, we also invested in an updated self-issue terminal for the foyer.

We continued our programme of user events throughout the year, including weekly pop-up libraries, ghost stories, a Christmas quiz, and Secret Santa. Following the ghost story competition and reading in November, one attendee said: 'it … goes to show the unique power librarians hold to bind a community together through words and creative events ... definitely a magical evening'. More formally, we delivered several classes on thesis-planning, plagiarism, and referencing for students in Biology, Chemistry, History, and English.

Staffing developments

Staffing this year has stayed the same, although we were granted a three-year extension for our Early Printed Book Cataloguer. We continue to support our staff in maintaining their professional expertise and encouraging them to attend training. To strengthen our team, we also visited the Bodleian's warehouses in Swindon, followed by a working lunch and activities at the nearby climbing wall. We've provided opportunities for work experience for students from local schools and Berlin, interns from the MCR, and support for the Oxford Bibliographical Society Fellow, Dr Kate Allen, on a project relating to the 17th-century poet Katherine Philips. Finally, and certainly not least, we would like to thank Professor Seamus Perry, who has guided us as Fellow Librarian over the



The Library team at an away day, which included a visit to the Bodleian's warehouses in Swindon, followed by activities at a nearby climbing wall

last decade or more, offering unstinting advice, support and encouragement, and welcome in his place Professor Adam Smyth (A.C. Bradley J.C. Maxwell Fellow and Tutor in English Literature) as his successor.

Stewart Tiley, Librarian

Gifts of publications by College Members July 2024–July 2025

R. Beiner (1975): *Radical Right Ideologues in the Age of Trump*, 2026; (with H. Fluss) Moses and Political Philosophy, 2025.
R. Bhargava (1975): *Reimagining Indian Secularism*, 2023.
N. Bryant (1972): translator, *Four Musical Romances*, 2025.
C. Buckley (1979): *Stone and Fiber: Daily Life in the Baliem Valley, Papua*, 2025.
P. Buckley (Fellow): (with N. McCrum & C. Bucknall) *Principles of Polymer Engineering*, 3rd ed., 2026.
A. Chaudhuri (1987): *Incompleteness: New and Selected Essays* 1999-2023, 2025.
M. Chisholm (1973): *Original Print, 2026; Twyford Down, 2025; Twyford Down: a Wider View*, 2025.
D. Critchley (1974): translator, *Shall He Find Faith on the Earth* by Abbé Claude Barthe, 2026.
J. Davie (1972): *Greek to Us*, 2025.
M. Fullilove (1997): *Present at the Destruction,* 2025.
P. Hacker (1965): *The Hamas Massacre and the Transmutation of Antisemitism*, 2026; (translator) *On Certainty* by Ludwig Wittgenstein, 2025.
S. Hazareesingh (1981): *Daring to be free: Rebellion and Resistance of the Enslaved in the Atlantic World*, 2025.
J. Helliwell (1974): *Precision and Accuracy in Biological Crystallograhy, Diffraction, Scattering, Microscopies, and Spectroscopies*, 2025.
R. Hokama (2009): *Devotional Experience and Erotic Knowledge in the Literary Culture of the English Reformation,* 2023.
T. Hosking (1974): *Shakespeare's Dreams and the Philosopher's Dual Certainties,* 2025.
S. Kutchinsky (1998): *Kutchinsky's Egg,* 2026.
J. Lee (2002): (with J. Glaister) *Hanbury and Martin Modern Equity*, 23rd ed., 2024.
R. Ovenden (Fellow): editor, *The Bovadium Fragments* by J.R.R. Tolkein, 2025.
S. Perry (Fellow): contributor, *Our Sense of Gratitude: for Christopher Ricks*, 2025.
N. Tyacke (1959): 'From *Studium Generale* to Modern Research University: Eight Hundred Years of Oxford History', in *History of Universities* volume XXX/1-2, 2017.
M. Smith (1985): *Privacy as Property,* 2026.
D. Wallace (1955): *1953 and All That: Slouching Towards Tomorrow*, 2025.

M. Walters (Visiting Fellow): ed. (with G. Cartier) *The Promise of Legality,* 2025.
P. Ward Jones (1963): *British Choral Singing: A History from Medieval Times to the Present Day,* 2026.
R. Wilson (1960): *Poems XIII*, 2025.
A. Woolfson (1992): *On the Future of Species: Authoring Life by Means of Artificial Biological Intelligence,* 2026.

Other gifts

From Jo Wilkinson, a collection of graphic novels and related texts from the library of Peter-John Wilkinson (1980), knowing how much importance he attached to the medium. With thanks to Andy Morgan (1980) for making the arrangements.
A collection of French language books by Charles West (2021).
An extensive collection of items by the Sitwells, especially Sir Sacheverell who was an alumnus of Balliol, given by his editor Michael Raeburn.
A nearly complete selection of Penguin Specials from Simon Kroll (1971).
Further welcome gifts were made by: Den Childs (1967), Des Coles in memory of his brother Norman Coles (1957), Cecile Deer (Lecturer in French), Adam Isherwood, Dr John Jones (Emeritus Fellow), Gwyneth Lewis (Honorary Fellow), Julian Luxford, Maksymilian Del Mar, Professor Heather Sharkey (Oliver Smithies Visiting Fellow), Duncan Taylor (1980), Jacqueline Worswick, David Womersley.

We are grateful to everyone who has made a gift to Balliol Library and Archives this year.

Chapel

Preachers

Michaelmas Term
Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott, Chaplain
The Venerable James Ridge, Chaplain General and Archdeacon of HM Prisons
Revd Naomi Gardom, Assistant Curate, University Church
Revd Canon Craig Huxley-Jones, Canon Precentor, Gloucester Cathedral
Sister Margaret Atkins OSA, Canoness of St Augustine and Theologian
Revd Heather Leppard, Anglican Chaplain, Oxford Brookes University

Hilary Term
Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott, Chaplain
Revd Dr Oliver Wright, Junior Research Fellow, Pembroke College
Revd Canon Dr Judith Maltby, Fellow Emerita, Corpus Christi College
Revd Dana English, Assistant Priest, the United Benefice of Holland Park
Revd Dr Alex Popescu (1994)
The Venerable David Meara, Former Archdeacon of London
Professor Jens Timmermann (1993), Professor of Philosophy, University of St Andrews

Trinity Term
Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott, Chaplain
Revd Canon Dr Duncan Dormor, General Secretary, United Society Partners in the Gospel
Revd Professor Sabina Alkire, Director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
Revd Dr Joanna Tarassenko, Assistant Curate, St Clement's Church, Oxford
Revd Dr Michael Ward, C.S. Lewis Scholar, Literary Critic and Theologian
The Venerable Jonathan Chaffey, Archdeacon of Oxford
Dame Helen Ghosh, Master of Balliol College

Services for College Members

Memorial services
Alexander Hopkinson-Woolley (1955), 11 July 2026

Marriages and blessings
Nicholas Winter [son of Edward Winter (1946)] and San Winter, 28 June 2025
Stephanie Barclay (2022, DPhil Law) and Douglas Barclay, 3 July 2025
Kazumi Hoshino-Macdonald (2016) and Rachel Jade Jorgensen, 25 July 2025
Benjamin Allen (2010) and Harriet Mitchell, 8 August 2025
Matthew Day (2015) and Sawako Ito, 13 September 2025
Eddie Jacobs (2008) and Sydney Rose, 6 June 2026
Amalie Schumann (2023) and Gustav Törnqvist, 27 June 2026

The Choir

How time flies! It seems like only yesterday that I first met the Balliol Choir, but in fact four years have passed. This year began with our September tour to Florence, Italy. We had a wonderful few days of singing and sightseeing in glorious weather, with highlights including Choral Eucharist at St James Episcopal Church and Choral Evensong at St Mark's Anglican Church, where we received warm welcomes. Renewed thanks go to Jonathan Tjandra, Chair of the Tour Committee, for all of his hard work and insider knowledge behind the scenes. The tour served as a way to strengthen bonds between singers ahead of the new academic year and to pass on the baton – from Benjamin Gardner, outgoing Senior Organ Scholar, back to me following my year abroad in Toulouse and, and then onto Jinzi Feng-Huang, our incoming Junior Organ Scholar, who joined us after a year as Organ Scholar at Gloucester Cathedral.

This year was also very special as we had an all-female Chapel team: Chaplain, two organ scholars, and Chaplain's Secretary, as well as the Master, who was incredibly supportive of the choir throughout her tenure. Huge thanks to Revd Dr Laura Biron-Scott (Chaplain) and Ilaria Gualino (Secretary to the Chaplain) for keeping the ship sailing smoothly.

As with all things in Oxford, the choir year had its regular ebb and flow, with special events each term. Michaelmas ended with a bang with our carol service, jam-packed with choir and congregation as ever, and featuring old favourites as well as new repertoire. Following the end of term, we had our first alumni carol service, held at St Lawrence Jewry-next-Guildhall, one of our livings.



The choir singing from the Salvin Tower on May Day

Enjoyable for singers and alumni alike, we hope to make this into an annual tradition. Many thanks to Amy Lamb (Events and Donor Relations Manager) and Dave Barker (Events Coordinator) in the Development Office for all of the organisation involved.

Balliol is one of two Oxford colleges with an organ in both its dining hall and Chapel, and, thanks to the Master, our 1885 'Father' Willis organ was heard after a long hiatus to welcome the Fellows to their Christmas dinner. We hope to raise the funds for a complete restoration of the organ in the near future.

Hilary was quieter, but still busy. We joined forces with three other choirs for the Ash Wednesday Intercollegiate Eucharist at the University Church and sang a concert-workshop for the Saïd Business School. Our final Sunday of term fell on International Women's Day, also adopted as Women Composer Sunday, and Evensong featured works by female composers for the introit, canticles, anthem, responses, and hymn texts. At the Balliol College Musical Society (BCMS) Members' Concert that evening, Jinzi and I played a duet by

the late Rachel Laurin on the Hall organ. In addition to marking International Women's Day, we have been working hard to maintain a diverse choral repertoire in our services and concerts across the year.

Trinity was bittersweet as ever but filled with fun. Madrigals from the Salvin Tower on May Morning, choir football, and the revival of a joint service with Trinity College for Ascension Day. The real highlight of the term was our new lunchtime organ recital series in Chapel, instigated by Jinzi. As well as the two Balliol organ scholars, we welcomed Ben Bloor from the London Oratory and See-am Thompson from Magdalen College to play.

And so, as with all good things, the year – and my time here as Organ Scholar – has come to an end. It has been such a privilege and a joy to work with the choir over the past few years. I will cherish the friendships I have made and the skills I have developed, which I am sure will set me in good stead for the future. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in choir and Chapel life at Balliol, and I wish Jinzi and the new Organ Scholar the best of luck for the coming years.

Angela Ede, Senior Organ Scholar

Middle Common Room

As I reflect on the past year, I am struck above all by how smoothly the Balliol MCR has continued to run. This is due in no small part to the work of my predecessors, who left behind firm foundations, well-established traditions, and a community whose members instinctively understand the importance of contributing to its collective life. My task was therefore not to reinvent the MCR, but to preserve what makes it special, support those who sustain it, and perhaps leave behind a few improvements of our own.

I owe a particular debt of gratitude to Professor Elena Lombardi, Praefectus of Holywell Manor, for her advice, patience, and support throughout my term as President. Elena has been an extraordinary mentor not only to me, but to students across Balliol. Her compassion and practical support have been especially meaningful for students who have come to Oxford from parts of the world affected by conflict, including Gaza and Sudan. At moments when members of our community have faced circumstances far beyond the ordinary pressures of graduate life, Elena has consistently offered wisdom, kindness, and a reassuring reminder that they are not facing those challenges alone.

I would also like to thank the Master, Dame Helen Ghosh, for her support of the graduate community during her time at Balliol. On behalf of the MCR, I wish her every success and happiness as she begins her next chapter.

No President can manage the MCR alone, and I was exceptionally fortunate to serve alongside Vice-President Markus Baumgartner and Treasurer Jonathan Tjandra. Markus was a dependable shoulder to lean on throughout the year, always ready to offer support, represent the MCR, or help resolve whatever unexpected matter arose that week. Jonathan's previous experience, calm judgement, and remarkable facility with numbers ensured that I never had cause to worry about the MCR's financial position. Their willingness to step into meetings whenever I was unable to complete the formidable expedition from the faraway lands of Headington made my year considerably less stressful. Together, we formed a powerful triumvirate – a dream team united by the modest but important ambition of ensuring that Balliol MCR continued to run smoothly. I am particularly proud of what may prove to be our most enduring contribution: the purchase of new DJ decks. These will, I hope, sustain Balliol's intergenerational culture of graduate DJs and ensure that future BOPs remain supplied with both excellent music and enthusiastic

amateurs convinced that they are only one set away from international recognition.

Much of the social heart of the MCR continued to beat in the Megaron Bar. Our Bar Managers, Charlotte Jung, Lucia Mullings, and Marcos Hernandez, kept it stocked with a fine selection of beverages and snacks while organising Balliol Fridays and memorable events including Pimm's and Pizza. Their work ensured that the Megaron remained more than simply a place to buy a drink: it was a space where friendships were formed, academic frustrations temporarily forgotten, and the graduate community came together at the end of another busy Oxford week.

The Bar also became an important vehicle for charitable action. Through the efforts of our Charities Officer, Clovis Lachance, and his collaborations with the Bar Managers, the MCR raised more than £3,700 for the Sudanese American Physicians Association. At a time when the conflict in Sudan continues to receive far too little attention in international news and public debate, raising both awareness and funds reflected our community's willingness to look beyond the walls of Holywell Manor. It demonstrated that the conviviality of MCR life can coexist with a serious commitment to supporting those facing hardship elsewhere in the world.

Our committee once again provided an extraordinary range of opportunities for members to escape their desks, meet one another, and enjoy Oxford beyond the confines of their libraries and laboratories. Maria Reboredo Prado, our Environmental Officer, combined efforts to reduce the MCR's carbon footprint with the organisation of hikes, proving that environmental responsibility can be accompanied by fresh air, impressive views, and varying levels of enthusiasm for walking uphill.

Akari Kobayashi, our Arts and Culture Officer, sustained the creative life of the MCR through movie nights, pottery sessions, and painting classes. These events provided much-needed opportunities for graduates to make something other than revisions to a thesis chapter and revealed artistic abilities that might otherwise have remained hidden from the world.

Our Social Secretaries, Amélie Breteau, Jed Hutchings, and Charlotte Jackson, maintained a packed calendar of BOPs, wine-and-cheese evenings, and formal dinners. Their events ensured that even the most committed inhabitants of the library were periodically reminded of the existence of music, dancing, food, and other human beings.

Alice Conner and Kat Konstantinidou, our Welfare Officers, provided



Steve the Porter and Lola, enjoying Pimm's and Pizza in Holywell Manor Garden, Trinity 2026. Photo by Akari Kobayashi.

essential care and restoration throughout the year. Their post-BOP brunches revived those who had made overly ambitious use of the new DJ decks, while welfare teas and salsa classes offered further opportunities to relax, recharge, and connect. Their work embodied the generous and inclusive spirit that lies at the centre of Balliol's graduate community.

Alex Hopkins, our Secretary, ensured that the administrative machinery of the MCR continued to function through her weekly emails, agendas, and communications. Callum Harvey maintained the MCR website and mailing lists, carrying out the sort of essential technical work that is most visible only when it is not done.

Carlos Ochoa Flores and Yanqing Wang served as our LGBTQ+ Officers, supporting and representing LGBTQ+ members of the graduate community. Ellen Burstein, our Disabilities Officer, worked to ensure that disabled students felt seen, heard, and properly represented within the MCR. Debi Dass, our Ethnic Minorities Officer, brought members together through BAME dinners, creating spaces for conversation, community, and mutual support. Maeve Janecka, our Women's Officer, organised Balliol MCR's first Women's Day Formal. This was an important and joyful addition to the MCR calendar, celebrating the women of our community and establishing what I hope will become a lasting tradition.

Our Living-Out Officer, Misha Schmalian, organised drinks so generous and popular that even those fortunate enough not to live out began attending them. Having successfully bridged the divide between Holywell Manor, Master's Field, and Oxford's more distant postcodes, Misha also organised tennis training sessions, contributing to the MCR's sporting life as well as its social one.

Mark Eid maintained the gym and carried out a great deal of less visible work to secure the future of the Balliol MCR kayaks. Thanks to his persistence, future generations may continue to experience the distinctive combination of serenity, exhilaration, and low-level fear that accompanies taking MCR equipment onto the river.

Leonardo Anonelli, our Returning Officer, ensured that Balliol MCR democracy remained unshaken. Elections were conducted, votes were counted, and constitutional order survived another year. Kate Lampo, meanwhile, fulfilled the vital role of Food Officer, ensuring that every Ordinary General Meeting was accompanied by something delicious. Her work offered a compelling practical demonstration that democratic participation rises considerably when accompanied by good food.

One absence from this year's calendar was Burns Night, which entered a period of reflection following issues arising from previous celebrations. While our enthusiasm for Scottish culture remains undiminished, it was clear that this enthusiasm had, on occasion, exceeded our capacity for good judgement. I look forward to its return and trust that the next generation will prove that lessons have been learned.

Serving as MCR President has been an immense privilege. The position has allowed me to witness the remarkable amount of work that members contribute behind the scenes to make Balliol's graduate community welcoming, lively, supportive, and outward-looking. Every brunch, formal, welfare event, fundraiser, BOP, meeting, email, and stocked bar has depended on someone giving their time and energy for the benefit of others. I am enormously grateful to every member of the committee and to the wider MCR community for making the year such an enjoyable and rewarding one. Balliol's strength lies not simply in its buildings, traditions, or facilities, but in the willingness of its members to show up for one another.

I could not be happier to hand over to Charlotte Jung, who becomes the fourth consecutive woman to serve as Balliol MCR President. After three years of dedicated service as both Bar Manager and Garden Party Co-President, Charlotte knows all the ins and outs of the MCR – including, quite possibly, several that the rest of us have yet to discover. Her experience, commitment, and deep understanding of the community make her exceptionally well prepared for the role. There is no one to whom I would rather entrust the next chapter of Balliol MCR.

I wish Charlotte and the incoming committee every success for the year

ahead. I hand over with gratitude for the year that has passed, confidence in what comes next, and the sincere hope that the new DJ decks survive us all.

Alina Nicheperovich, MCR President

Junior Common Room

The past year has seen the JCR community continue to thrive. The creation of new societies, alongside the revival of older ones, has enriched student life here at Balliol, and the JCR remains a welcoming and vibrant community at the heart of the College.

In Michaelmas, the Freshers quickly found their feet within the Balliol community, aided by a well-run Freshers' Week. These new first-years remained highly engaged with the JCR throughout the year, with many elected to the JCR committee within their first term. Michaelmas ended as always with the Christmas formal and Nepotists carols, both of which were well attended. Nepotists is my personal favourite event of the year; I don't think anything sums up Balliol's combination of active community and ancient traditions better than this Christmas sing-along.

The drama scene reached new heights, with the JCR running both a Nativity and a charity musical this year. Both proved successful and raised significant sums for charity. The Nativity, themed 'Straw and Order', saw the Chapel turn into a courtroom for barnyard animals, through which the Nativity was told. The theme for the charity musical, returning after a year-long hiatus, was Legally Balliole, an adaptation of Legally Blonde. Well-known College members and alumni were (tastefully) imitated by students, with our heroine, outgoing Master Helen Ghosh, pitted against a particularly ruthless Seamus Perry. The musical was performed in our Pilch Theatre to positive reviews.

Our big summer event was our Garden Party, whose theme this year was folklore. It was very well attended and graced by lovely weather. Student bands played and the afternoon was very enjoyable. The June Jamboree, our free party open to all students, was also a success. With the summer proving particularly hot, treats such as an ice cream van serving free ice cream at the Broad Street site went down a charm.

This year also saw renovations to the Lindsay, our JCR bar. This was made possible through the efforts of last year's Lord Lindsay, Adam Sherwood, and further renovations are scheduled over the summer thanks to the tireless commitment of our current Lord Lindsay, Will Gulliford. The bar is now painted in our blue and red College colours, with new lighting and tables. As the social melting pot of College life, and one of – if not the last – fully student-run bars in Oxford, the Lindsay is loved by all. A Cherwell article in



A bake sale organised by the JCR Charity Reps

Michaelmas placed it as the best college bar in Oxford, and I don't think anyone in Balliol would disagree. Events this year have included pool tournaments, karaoke nights, beer pong, table football tournaments, and a fundraiser for the Balliol Garden Party, which introduced the glittery 'Balliol Pink', a limited-edition drink. Balliol's social reputation has also been maintained by our new Entz reps, who have organised a range of BOPs to much success.

Balliol's sports teams have enjoyed a successful year. Netball reached the Cuppers semi-finals and won Division 1 in Michaelmas; the football 1st XI reached the Cuppers final, while the 2nd XI got promoted; rugby reached the semi-finals of the Plate and has a particularly exciting tour to Japan planned for September; and, in rowing, both First boats went up two positions. Sports continue to be engaging both on and off the field, with the social aspect of the clubs as active as ever.

On the JCR governance side, things have continued much as usual, with fairly consistent turnout at meetings. We have moved into a new JCR office and opened a new Faith Room at Jowett, giving students in the off-site accommodation a place to pray – something that has been needed for some time. The JCR has also reformed the Blues Fund to support a greater variety

of sports.

The list of Balliol activities could go on and on, but one development particularly worth mentioning is the revival of the JCR's poetry magazine, the Scrawl. Contributions come from JCR members, with a new issue published once a term. There have been some high-quality pieces, and I am glad that the JCR is once again showcasing the talent of its members. This year has also welcomed weekly film nights in the Gillis Lecture Theatre. Held on a Sunday evening, these free events have been organised by the JCR Film Society. The theme for Trinity Term was 'Midnight Movies', featuring a collection of weird and wonderful low-budget films from the 1970s.

Life at Balliol goes on upwards; student life is as vibrant as ever. Amid the pressures of exams and essay, the JCR continues to work to improve the lives of students, and it has done so with great success this year.

Toby Naldrett, JCR President

Clubs, societies and sports

BAME Society

This year, BAME Society marked another year of vibrant community events celebrating the diverse cultural backgrounds represented within our student body. Amongst regular BAME teas, which gave students a chance to relax from academic life, our first noteworthy event took place under the sun in the beautiful Back Quad. Co-president Mukund Soni arranged some authentic Alphonso mangoes, leaving everyone licking their fingers – many tried the 'king of mangoes' for the first time at this picnic.



BAME Formal, Hilary 2026

Later, our Diwali celebration featured savoury favourites from India such as samosas and kachori, alongside sweets including ladoos and cashew barfi. It was fantastic seeing Hindu members of the society in beautiful traditional dress, including kurtas and saris. Other members were equally excited by the celebrations: they enjoyed learning more about the festival and decorating their hands with henna.

The annual BAME formal was the highlight of Hilary Term. Balliol's chefs cooked a specially themed menu of cultural dishes that took us on an incredible culinary journey through Delhi, the Horn of Africa, and even Dubai's world-famous chocolate. The event was a collaboration with our sister society in the MCR, culminating in a beautiful evening where students from all years and degrees had the opportunity to connect with each other.

A screening of the movie adaptation of Lahiri's The Namesake was the perfect way to conclude the year. Kal Penn's character made us reflect on the tensions that second-generation children often navigate – balancing adjustment to Western society while maintaining cultural roots.

Mukund Soni and Jai Goyal, Co-Presidents

BUMS

The Balliol Undergraduate Mathematics Society (BUMS) has had a great year, welcoming our new Freshers, celebrating the return of several iconic BUMS events, and introducing what may well become some new classics.

The year started out strong with a memorable initiation organised by the older years to welcome our Freshers into the society. The questions spanned Balliol trivia, BUMS trivia, a little tabasco sauce, and the occasional maths question. It gave our Freshers a taste of the BUMS community and the older years a chance to see what was to come. This was followed by the continuation of the fabled 'Sip and Solves', which have become a BUMS staple. These give students from all years a chance to meet and catch up over snacks and a bit of table tennis, as well as the opportunity to ask Nety (our JCR Tutor) for help with problem sheets, if so inclined.

Among our more special events, we saw the return of both 'BUMS on Walls' and 'BUMS on Ice', our termly trips to both Gallery Bouldering and the Oxford Ice Rink respectively. As usual, BUMS on Ice was a fan favourite, with a big turnout and an appearance of one of our tutors and the legend herself, Luci.

Another major event was our Annual BUMS Formal, where we were joined by beloved alumnus, Philip Maini, who introduced the night with a great talk entitled 'Why are animal coat patterns and football shirts similar?'. The night was followed by good food, a range of Society awards, and notably, one of our tutors joining us at Wetherspoons afterwards. We are also currently trying to



Balliol Undergraduate Mathematics Society members at the BUMS initiation in Michaelmas 2025

reach out to Anh Ton's dad about speaking next year.

Our final big event was the return of the BUMS Bake-Off, which saw five teams of varying abilities compete for the crown. A panel of our tutors offered their time to judge and analyse our cakes, with a recurring comment from a certain French statistician about the abundance of sugar. Finally, in Trinity, with exams approaching, we held one last mega Sip and Solve as a refuge before exams started.

Overall, it was another great year for BUMS, and I am really excited to see how the society will grow with its new committee next year.

Vikash Janarththanan, President

Cricket

The Balliol College Cricket Club (BCCC) started the season at the beginning of Hilary Term, in the depths of winter, with early Sunday morning training sessions at Iffley. Despite the harsh conditions of those January mornings, we had an incredible turnout – a testament to the continued commitment shown to the club by both new and returning players.

The season began with narrow losses against strong opposition, including Jesus and eventual Cuppers winners St Catherine's. However, we regained



A friendly between Balliol College Cricket Club and Oxford India Society

momentum with a dominant performance in a 'bowl-off' vs St Hugh's as well as a massive Cuppers win of our own against Brasenose – the first Balliol cricket Cuppers victory since 2023.

We were also fortunate to be invited to play in a T10 Big Bash competition hosted by Exeter College. Despite losses in both of our games and rain cutting the event short, cricket was still the winner, with plenty of players making their debuts for the club and everybody getting involved with both bat and ball.

Whilst defeat in Cuppers to Jesus and Brasenose in the league saw our prospects of silverware fade away, the season was still full of highlights. My personal favourite was in our final league game of the year against Pembroke, when ex-skipper Jai Goyal and first-year Dan Taylor combined for a colossal partnership to bring victory within touching distance. The game was then finished in emphatic style with the current skipper hitting a six to secure the win. This game embodied what BCCC strives to achieve, with all players from both the JCR and MCR playing a crucial role in achieving such a fantastic result.

Despite the lack of silverware, I'm incredibly proud of everyone who played this year. From those who have never picked a bat up before to those rediscovering the game, Balliol cricket welcomes everyone, and it has been a delight to see everyone grow in skill and confidence throughout the season. It's been a privilege to lead this incredible team and I'm excited to see the club go from strength to strength in the future.

Ed Holmes, Captain

Men's football

The 2025/2026 academic year marked another successful season for both the 1st and 2nd XIs of Balliol College JCR Football Club (BCFC). The boys can be extremely proud of their efforts this year, with the 1st XI reaching Cuppers final for the first time in five years and the 2nd XI securing league promotion.

Michaelmas saw both teams start their seasons in strong fashion, most notably with the 1st XI's dominant performance in their opening Cuppers game, beating rivals Trinity 9-1. Standout performances came from Alexander James and Wills Nwokedi, who both netted braces, and Oliver Sutcliffe, who registered BCFC's first hattrick of the year. The strong start continued at the annual Balliol x St John's Cambridge Sports Day, as BCFC did the double over SJAFC. The 1st XI won 5-4, with strong performances from Gilon Fox, Sunthosh Srimurugan, and Sasha Ustinov, but the day's highlight was the 2nd XI's 4-3 win, in which much-loved Porter, Sean Qualter, stole the spotlight as he scored a brace.

The success of both teams continued in Hilary Term. The 2nd XI, captained by Daniel Batterbee, started the term with a resounding 17 –2 win over St Hugh's/Wadham, before going on to secure league promotion. The 1st XI also enjoyed Hilary success, extending their Cuppers run with wins over Exeter (4-2), Brasenose (2-0) and Worcester (4-1). The whole team excelled, but special mention must be credited to Charlie Cox (VC) and Samuel Glossop in midfield, who pocketed Brasenose's Manchester City Academy Player in our quarter–final win, and both scored in our semi–final win. Unfortunately, the 1st XI couldn't quite get over the line in the Cuppers final, falling agonizingly short against New College, despite standout performances from Jordan Jennings, Luca Ryan (Club President), and goalkeeper Thomas Salter, who saved an 80th-minute penalty to keep us in the game at 1-0.

Nonetheless, the Easter Vacation saw perhaps the highlight of the BCFC

Season, with 21 members of the club travelling to Libson, Portugal, for the club's annual tour. The tour truly had everything: a narrow defeat against a semi–professional Portuguese side, which saw Alfie Moore (Captain) and Wills Nwokedi score the first-ever international BCFC goals; the most scenic five-a-side football on Libson's beaches; and plenty of time for team bonding and experiencing the local culture.

Overall, it has been a year full of success and engagement for BCFC. Over the course of the season, 30 different players represented the 1st XI, 40 represented the 2nd XI, and over 80 played for BCFC in at least one game. It has been truly a privilege and a pleasure to captain this wonderful club, and I want to thank every single one of the boys for such a special year on and off the pitch. Further thanks must go to our groundsman, Todd Lepelley, who did a fantastic job at keeping Jowett in good condition all year. Finally, I



Balliol College Men's football team post-game with Lisbon Casuals on tour in Lisbon

look forward to the upcoming season, where we will be led by Wills Nwokedi (incoming 1st XI Captain) and Peter Randle (incoming 2nd XI Captain), who are certain to bring further success to the club.

Alfie Moore, 1st XI Captain

Medical Society

The 2025/2026 academic year marked an incredible milestone for the Balliol Medical Society.

Curated in celebration of Professor Denis Noble, the Annual Dinner became the largest event in the Society's 34-year history. We were delighted to welcome 140 attendees spanning many generations of Balliol medics, biomedics, and physiologists, from Dr John Cookson (1962) to current Freshers, and were especially honoured to hear Professor Noble give the post-dinner address. Fittingly for an evening in his honour, this was also the first student event in the College's recent history to experience the might of the renovated Hall Organ, with Jinzi Feng-Huang (Junior Organ Scholar) playing throughout.

The day opened with an afternoon of interdisciplinary seminars, with speakers exploring politics, Dante, language, evolution, and the heart. Many thanks to Dr Andrew Graham, Dr Frederick Ch'en (1993), Professor Elena Lombardi, Professor Sophie Marnette, Dr Atsuko Sato, Dr Anna Sher, and Professor Peter Kohl for their insightful contributions to the seminar. Following this, it was a great pleasure to co-chair the Graduate Research Session, featuring nine eclectic talks spanning cancer biology, cardiac regeneration, malaria vaccines, and the kidney-brain axis. Ahead of dinner, guests gathered for a drinks reception and a recital by the Oxford Trobadors – a lovely counterpart to the afternoon's exploration of Dante and Arnaut Daniel. The organ brought the evening to a jubilant close with Jinzi's performance of Widor's Toccata. My sincere thanks go to our Senior Member, Professor Robin Choudhury (1986), whose guidance throughout made the occasion possible.

At the end of Hilary Term, tutors and students gathered for the Wurtman Seminar, where third-year undergraduates presented their FHS Research Projects. It was a brilliant showcase of the diversity of undergraduate research taking place, with Sasmita Thiyagesh and Jai Goyal awarded the Wurtman Prize and Proxime Accessit Prize respectively. The Al-Shami Dinner, in memory of Dr Piers Nye, was held in Trinity Term with excellent attendance across all years – certainly a great way to celebrate the end of exams for some and give positive encouragement to the Freshers prior to their Prelims.

We bid farewell to both our sixth-year Medics, departing for their F1 placements, and our fourth-year Biomedics, heading into exceptional doctoral programmes. As the presidential baton passes to Eve Salama and Ashish Singh, I hand over with pride and gratitude, confident that the Society will only continue to flourish.

The video of Professor Noble's post-dinner address has been distributed with permission from Voices of Oxford, with thanks to Professor Sung Hee Kim.

Towa Matsuda, President

Netball

Netball at Balliol has never been better. From the very start of Michaelmas, Fresher interest was high, with immediate enthusiasm and turnout at both matches and socials. While the annual match against our Cambridge sister college, St John's, resulted in another defeat, we continued to see high numbers at weekly matches throughout the term. We finished Michaelmas by winning the Division 1 women's league despite strong competition.

Hilary Term dawned grey and rainy, and stayed that way, meaning that a high proportion of our matches were unfortunately called off. However, this didn't stop us playing a very wet game against our returning alumni in February. We also heralded the Old Girls' return with a social, so even those not playing in the match could get to know one another. This proved a great way of strengthening ties between alumni and current netballers, much as the men's teams have been doing for decades.



Balliol College Netball Club members

Cuppers, of course, was highly competitive, and happened to take place over a very hot weekend. We maintained our streak of winning our pool on the first day, but lost our semi-final against Trinity in an intense match. This left us in joint third, holding our position from 2025.

Mixed Cuppers was less successful, with the team losing its matches on the day of the tournament, but we had a lot of fun in training and introduced new players to the sport.

Overall, everyone involved in netball this year has a lot to be proud of, with consistent turnout and strong performances, as well as plenty of social fun. The committee taking over in October is a promising group of Balliol College Netball Club (BCNC) members, who we hope will continue to nurture such a welcoming space for women in sport.

Olivia Barber, Captain

Men's rowing

The Balliol men's side made the most of a drier Michaelmas, with regular 1st VIII training in Abingdon, 2nd VIIIs on the Isis, and a good intake of keen novices. With Tamesis – the novice regatta – going ahead on schedule, the men's novice VIII comfortably won their first two days of racing. Unfortunately, on the third day, they narrowly lost out to Pembroke. The senior side also fielded a 4+ at Wallingford Head for the first time since COVID-19 and placed third in their division.

Sadly, heavy and unrelenting rain led to a very wet Hilary, with even the robust Abingdon stretch being unrowable for much of the term and many hours spent on the erg instead. Torpids was, perhaps predictably, cancelled, but in its place came Torpheads, a time trial event. Despite this being the first outing in months for most of the crew, the boys put in a good row and we finished middle of the pack and beat several First boats who sit higher up the bumps order. Fortunately, the weather relented in time for our training camp at Monmouth Rowing Club. The novices came on a long way, and vibes were high heading into Trinity Term for Summer Eights. Balliol men also returned to the Head of the River Race (HoRR) this year, beating Division 1 VIIIs rivals Magdalen and Merton.

With Trinity Term came the welcome return of current lightweight Blues Will Reilly and Eli Arie, as well as former lightweight boat race winner, Nick Ryan. With bolstered numbers and a smart new shell to boot, the 1st VIII

secured our first bump since 2023, catching Trinity and following up with Magdalen on the second and third days respectively. M2 narrowly denied Wadham M2 a bump with some tidy coxing from Molly Joyce. Unfortunately, Wadham came back stronger the next day, securing the bump a few strokes from the line, and Brasenose completed their blades campaign with a bump on our M2 on the fourth day. Our M3 narrowly missed out on qualifying, but it was great to see them stay keen, coming down to sub in and support the other crews.

With many senior members leaving this summer, it is an exciting time for BCMBC. A huge thank you must go to our men's assistant coach, Quin, who over the last three years has taught nearly all the BCMBC to row. Best of luck to him with his Henley campaign and life after graduation. I also owe a big thank you to my Novice Captains, Jake Wheal and Phil Morgan, without whom I could not have managed this year.

Tom Postance, Captain

Women's rowing

The 2025/2026 academic year was another excellent year for women's rowing at Balliol, across all levels of the side. Michaelmas saw some excellent recruitment, with a new crop of novice rowers bolstering our numbers, after an impressive number of our senior rowers headed to the Blues after last year. Tamisis Novice Regatta ran for the first time in many years at the end of Michaelmas, giving our newcomers the opportunity to experience the excitement of head-to-head racing. Some of our novices were also seen alongside our more experienced rowers in our Autumn IVs and Wallingford Head crews, the latter of which marked a delayed post-COVID-19 return to external racing for Balliol.

Hilary's miserable weather kept us almost entirely off the water, except for 'Torpheads', the innovative new solution to the Isis' perennial flooding problems. Although lower boats were unable to race, a W1 that included old-timers and newcomers rowed the course in a respectable time. Spirits were also kept high through our landlocked Hilary by our two new coaches, Erica and Maddie who have proved to be invaluable additions to Balliol College Boat Club (BCBC). We were also given a welcome relief from time spent on the erg with a training camp in sunny Monmouth over the Easter vacation.





TOP M2 after rowing over in front of Wadham

BOTTOM M1 bumping Trinity





TOP W1 at Torpeads

BOTTOM W2 on the third day of Summer Eights

Trinity started with the excitement of a City Bumps campaign, in which W1 bumped three times to gain headship. A term of evening outings was a lovely antidote to Hilary and at the end of it, BCBC fielded three women's crews for Summer Eights for the first time since 2017. Although W3 did not row on, it was amazing to see a crew of entirely beginner rowers come so far in just a year. W2 had an exciting and hard-fought campaign, dropping down to become the sandwich boat of Divisions 4 and 5, but rowing over valiantly and bumping

Exeter II to return to Division 4 on Saturday. W1 secured two well-earned bumps on Wolfson and Wadham, followed by a gritty row over on the final day to end the campaign third on the river. This was an amazing end to a highly successful season for women's rowing at Balliol and leaves the side well placed to continue our upwards trajectory, both in numbers and in the bumps standing next year.

Iona McNeish, Co-Captain

Balliol College Musical Society

The Balliol College Musical Society (BCMS) has undergone, no doubt, many changes since its inception in 1885. Today, the Society's activities are largely led by its Student Secretaries, Nathan Adlam and Towa Matsuda, both third-year students, who have been actively involved since joining the College in 2023. The BCMS is officially presided over by the Master, with support from two senior members, Alexander Binns (Lecturer in Music) and Professor Jason Lotay (Professor of Pure Mathematics and Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics).

The Society's main activity is its renowned fortnightly Sunday concert series, the 1969th of which concluded this academic year. Alongside this longstanding tradition, this year saw several extraordinary activities that further strengthened the Society's momentum. Each term also features a Members' Concert, an informal, non-auditioned concert, celebrating the excellent talents of the Balliol students and staff across a wide range of genres. The remaining concerts are delivered by professional musicians of high calibre, with a focus on classical repertoire. All concerts are free to attend, and we extend deep gratitude to all donors for enabling this.

The current concert series remains much loved, especially by a loyal group of Fellows, while also attracting audiences from across Oxford. In 2025/2026, we hosted an outstanding range of performers, including the eclectic multi-genre composer Peter Broderick; the distinguished classical pianist and musicologist Emilie Capulet, who performed alongside the world-class Tippett Quartet; and the Ukrainian virtuoso pianist Lubomyr Melnyk. To cap it off, on the final day of full term, we hosted Sir András Schiff, a world-leading virtuoso pianist from the classical tradition, who gave masterfully definitive yet playful interpretations of one of Bach's French Overtures and of the Goldberg Variations. Sir András's childhood mentor, George Malcolm (1934), was a Balliol man and as such Sir András very kindly plays for free and holds a warm view of the College.

Beyond the regular activities, Towa initiated orchestral collaborations with other Colleges (Wadham, Queen's and St Catherine's) and reignited a notion of 'the Balliol Orchestra'. The ensemble delivered rich and impressive performances for the Members' Concerts this year, occasionally accompanied by the Chaplain's clarinet. Nathan also organised six external concerts for Lubomyr Melnyk, of whom he is the only long-term student in the world. These performances took place in Magdalen College Chapel, the Holywell Music Room, the New Space (New College), Exeter College Chapel, and, beyond Oxford, at Downing College, Cambridge, which has already invited them to return in Michaelmas 2026. While rooted in the classical tradition,



TOP Ulrich Gerhartz from Steinway & Sons servicing Balliol's Steinway grand piano ahead of Sir András Schiff's concert in Trinity 2026

BOTTOM Lubomyr Melnyk's concert in Hall in Michaelmas 2025



Lubomyr's unique physical technique and distinctive 'Continuous Music' create a polyphonic live sound which has been described as 'impossible' and deeply moving. This body of work is now attracting wider attention and is the subject of a study led by Creative Empirical (Cambridge and Goldsmiths) as well as a documentary by Rupert Clague and the Emmy Award-winning Cyrus Mirzashafa. Hundreds from the general public have attended these concerts with each venue reaching capacity and the BCMS finding new audiences and fostering a growing community around this music in particular. These series have been warmly received, including positive reviews in *The Oxford Blue*.

The Society also organised masterclasses for Balliol members and friends, led by Emilie Capulet, who graciously gave her time across three different events in our Hall. Towa further helped organise events (and Balliol discounts!) for the pianist Lilya Zilberstein in collaboration with the Oxford University Orchestra. Finally, the Hall organ was revived and featured once again at the Hilary Member's Concert and several special events, for example at the medical society dinner in celebration of our own Denis Noble.

Nathan Adlam, Co-Secretary

Squash

The Balliol College Squash Club enjoyed another successful year of squash, fielding two teams in the Inter-College Squash League, and one in Cuppers, which once again provided the main competitive focus of the season. The team progressed to the quarter-finals after victories in the opening rounds, before narrowly missing out on a place in the semi-finals with a 3–2 defeat to Wolfson College. Congratulations to Aaron Leu, Cyrus Linden, Joel Crewe and Mario Gely for representing Balliol throughout the tournament and contributing to another strong Cuppers campaign.

Mark Eid, Co-Captain

Features

An unpublished essay by Andrew Saint (1946–2025)

Following the death of architectural historian Professor Andrew Saint (1965) on 16 July 2025, his former tutor Oswyn Murray (Emeritus Fellow) introduces an unpublished essay by Professor Saint on 'The Spirit of Balliol Architecture'.

An introduction by Oswyn Murray

Andrew Saint was my first Balliol pupil (1968–1969), handed to me by Russell Meiggs (Fellow 1939–1970, Honorary Fellow 1970–1989) for revision before Greats; it was the most terrifying experience of my life: this cool, assured scholar already deeply passionate about Victorian architecture knew so much more than me. Just before Finals, one of his tutors spotted him coming out of Schools. 'Isn't it a bit late to be going to lectures?' he said. Andrew just smiled: the lecture was by Howard Colvin on Oxford architecture.

Andrew followed me to the Warburg Institute, where he was taught under Ernst Gombrich by the innovative art historians Michael Baxandall and Michael Podro, and wrote a master's thesis on Ruskin. He went on to a very distinguished career in architectural history at the University of Essex, the Survey of London, and Cambridge (which he hated) – and back to the Survey of London, always creating a new, embedded, socially aware form of the history of buildings.

When I came to draft the architects' brief for the Jowett Walk competition in 1991, 22 years later, it was natural to ask him to write a preface on 'The Spirit of Balliol Architecture' to direct the competitors for the new project. Here is his unpublished essay; I like to think that it inspired Richard MacCormac's final masterpiece.

'The Spirit of Balliol Architeture' by Andrew Saint

John of Balliol was a border baron in the reign of Henry III and a one-time Regent of Scotland; Lady Dervorguilla, more than her husband's equal in founding the College, held half the earldom of Galloway. So Balliol was in a great measure a Scottish foundation – a tradition reinforced over the centuries by a stream of students from Glasgow or with Scottish connections, from Adam Smith to Harold Macmillan.

After seven hundred years, there is something palpably Scottish still about the best of Balliol's buildings. Assertive, bracing and unyielding, they fit well with the image of rigour and high-mindedness long and proudly propagated by the College. Does Balliol's architecture just reflect the place's character and aspirations? Or can one venture to suggest that it may have helped to shape them? That is the mystery of architecture.

It is also why a major new building for Balliol on a new site away from the main College presents so great and formidable a challenge. The building will fail if it is too bland; or if it fulfils the functional brief, which it must do well, but has nothing extra to 'say'; or if it just soothes the ego of some 'signature architect' or expresses some current stylistic fad which has nothing to do with collegiate architecture, with Oxford or with Balliol. The hope is that its designers and builders can show themselves alert to Balliol's traditions and uncompromising architecture, and ready and able to transfer them in completely fresh, unexpected guise to Jowett Walk. To succeed in that, they must first catch the special spirit of the Balliol environment.

Nobody pretends that Balliol has the best buildings in Oxford. Before the revival of interest in things Victorian its appearance used to be looked upon as a joke. It was a kind of visible Achilles' heel upon Broad Street at which rival Colleges with mellower, older or subtler architecture but lesser academic reputations would poke vengeful fun.

The relics of the College's medieval buildings (never much to boast of) are late and few – less than two sides of the front quadrangle. The quads themselves are quirky: just two, without mutual relation of scale or shape. Pevsner found the front one distressingly lopsided. The far larger garden quad straggles on, changing style quixotically from one range to the next. As a whole, it conveys no definite idea. It breaks the bounds of the true Oxbridge quadrangle, only to fall short of becoming a campus. Yet in some loose, organic sense, it works marvellously well. It has something to do with the paths system and with the particular scatter of trees, bedding, verges (often muddy) and greensward; something too to do with the so-called 'height-space relationship'. In other words the way in which the buildings and the landscape between them mesh together in scale and mood. The planting is busy where the architecture is humdrum, but empty in front of the intimidating approach to the hall. The garden quad is a place for inevitable encounter, one in which many different activities, half-public and half-private, can go on at the same rate, or simply somewhere in a corner of which to loll, watch, ogle or study. In short, it is the

existential heart of the College.

The buildings that earn Balliol's architecture a reputation for guts and hard-edged vigour are three – the chapel (Butterfield, 1856-7), the front range to Broad Street including half the front quad behind and the old Master's lodgings to the west (Waterhouse, 1867-8), and the hall (Waterhouse, 1876-7). All were built in a short space of time, during the Masterships of Robert Scott and the celebrated Benjamin Jowett, just when the College was getting its modern intellectual reputation. Did either Butterfield or Waterhouse deliberately react to Balliol's new image or to its Scottish antecedents? It is unlikely. But both were known to be tough and uncompromising designers (though both saw themselves as aesthetes). So their choice must reflect the College's collective mentality and ideal of beauty. Certainly their designs caught something authentic in the mid-Victorian mood – a sense of ardour and lofty endeavour, even of freedom. Symmetry is spurned and gables rise high, while roof-eaves upon the main Waterhouse ranges escape the curb of parapets.

The chapel is not now hard to digest, in part because its interior was refurbished in 'good taste' between the wars. It is small, even delicate. The sandstone banding which used to make people talk of bloody-mindedness was Butterfield's attempt to break out from the old collegiate monotony of Headington or Bath stone into a world of richer colours and textures. Balliol today has a livelier and broader spectrum of stone facings to its architecture than almost any other college, ranging from the contrasts of the chapel to the sharp, experimental Guiting orange of the Edwardian Staircase 21 building in the north west corner staring down Beaumont Street, or the quiet interplay of concrete and stone on the Bulkeley Johnson Building and the Senior Common Room of the 1960's. There are plenty of possible cues in all this for the texture of Jowett Walk.

The Waterhouse buildings are stronger meat. Because of their bulk and prominence, they are also those which give Balliol most vim. While they were still disfigured by soot-staining, they were easy to dismiss as plain ugly. Now that the Broad Street front in particular is clean, one can revel in Waterhouse's delicacies of touch – dark mortar lines to bring out the flickering coursing of his small, precisely cut pieces of Box Ground stonework; the concentration at a few points of baying-out, carving and corbelling; and some tense but graceful ironwork. They convey a knack worth thinking about for making architectural detail tell and for saving a range of ordinary college rooms from boredom.

Even in the cleansed, honey-coloured state these buildings keep their fierceness, muscularity – and, in the case of the hall, thrust. The fierceness has much to do with Waterhouse's capacity for ignoring context. He was too sure of what he wanted to do to pay much heed to what was going on around his buildings. But in the sense of grasping what a site required, he was deeply contextual. The Broad Street range, like so many of Balliol's buildings, is slap up against the street. It is the only one where an effort is made to invigorate the slanting view, which after all is the way most buildings are seen for most of the time in towns. A forced symmetry seemed to Waterhouse all wrong in the Broad. Instead he set up an intricate articulation by means of brittle play with windows, stringcourses and gables. To see what is special about it, you have only to look across the street at Scott's respectable bloodless range for Exeter. When Waterhouse wanted to convey a commanding, face-on presence, he could do that too. That is what the hall is about. It calls the rambling, eventless garden quad to order. It would do so more brazenly still had the lower lights of its great windows not been blocked in favour of extra panelling in 1911.

Questions of architectural context depend firstly upon the site. But the example of the Waterhouse buildings is pertinent to Jowett Walk, where there is a street front (like the Broad) which can be used, abused or ignored; much open space and a certain looseness of context (as in the garden quad) which seems to call for some firm statement to pull things together. A successful design for the new site needs to face these issues anew and produce something which is specifically a Balliol building. At the same time it must embody the intellectual and emotional concerns of today, not of the moment when Butterfield and Waterhouse were building.

To sum up: Balliol's architecture fits the College's character with uncanny accuracy. It is not the prettiest kind of Oxford architecture, although there are beautiful things about it – chiefly, perhaps its stonework. Balliol's few classical buildings are neither sufficient nor strong enough to give the place a classical tone, though there is something almost pastoral about the garden quad. Its distinctive buildings, by contrast, are northern and Gothic in style, ardent, restless and enquiring in mood. Their language is the language of roof and gable, turret and window; robust, organic, anti-symmetrical, sometimes a little wild, often 'smart and hard' (to borrow a phrase of Lethaby's). These are qualities worth remembering when it comes to building in Jowett Walk.

The commemoration of Balliol benefactors

John Jones (1961, Emeritus Fellow)

A large-format Book of Common Prayer printed in 1813, which had been custom-bound for Balliol Chapel, was spotted on eBay recently. It bore the optimistic asking price of £235. A canny bidder secured it for £150 with the help of another anonymous member, and it is now in our Historic Collections Centre.

As a mere relic, it would hardly have been worth pursuit. But, pasted in at the back, is the earliest version known to me of the College's traditional Bidding Prayer, which commemorates Balliol's major benefactors. It was probably printed sometime soon after 1773, when the last person named in it, 'the Rev. Henry Fisher M.A.[1]', died. It mirrored a long Latin Grace[2] which gave thanks for the gifts of the same major benefactors, who were named with the same titles and in the same order. The Grace was for use after dinner 'in festo Catherinae D^{vae} & in die festivitatis Peryhamianae[3]' and the Prayer 'on St Catherine's Day, Lady Periam's[3] and during the whole week of St Luke's Tide[4]'.

The long Latin Grace[2] and Bidding Prayer have a common root in ancient custom and practice concerning the commemoration of benefactors.

Mediaeval charity was commonly conditional on prayers being offered for the souls of deceased donors. Modern cynics will be tempted to say that this was just a way of buying a ticket for fast passage through purgatory to the perpetual light of heavenly salvation. Dervorguilla herself laid down[5] that masses should be celebrated for the soul of John Balliol, her husband, and for her own salvation. Many pre-Reformation benefactors made similar stipulations for 'obits', services at which their souls would be prayed for, usually on the anniversaries of their deaths[6].

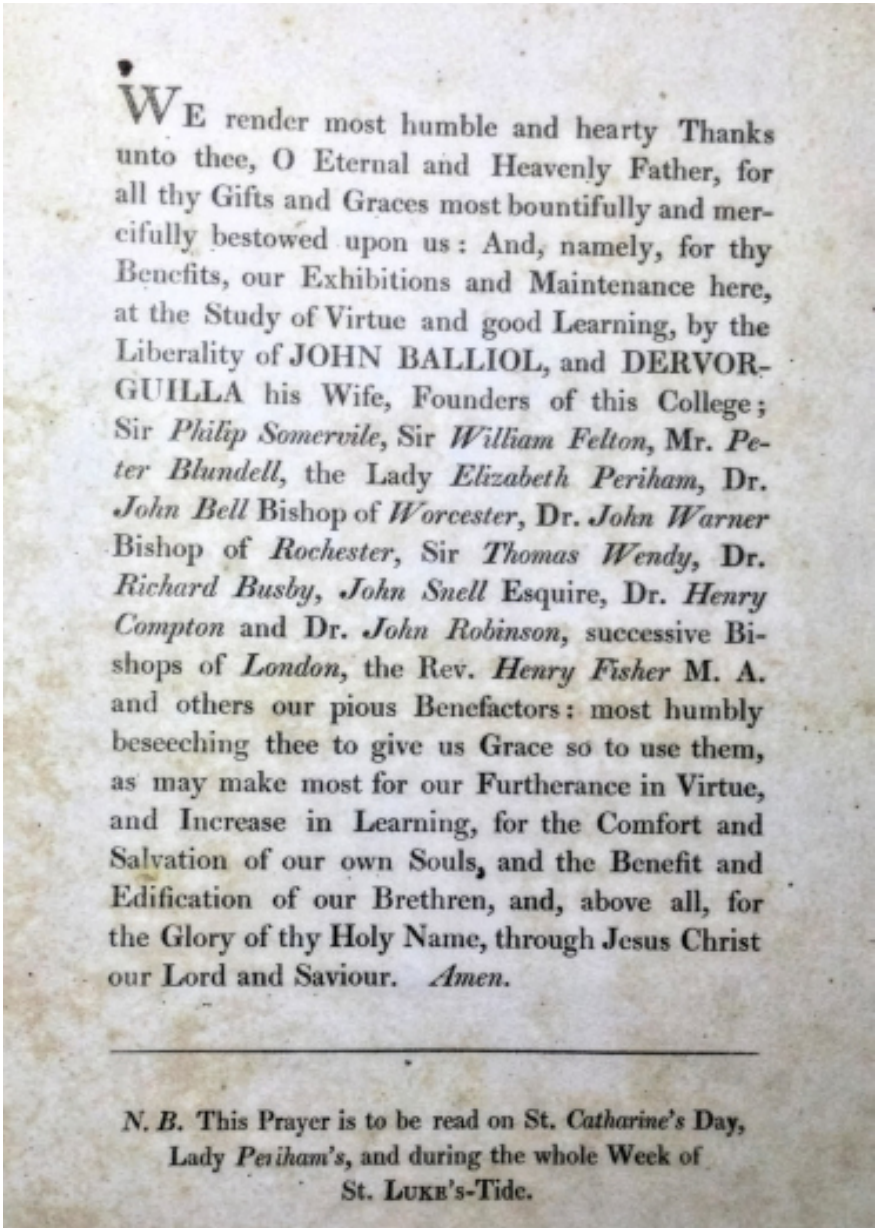
But in 1565/1566, 'superstitious' Catholic practices were stamped out by Protestant Commissioners sent by the Bishop of Lincoln, the College's Visitor. They imposed a series of injunctions, including 'that the prayers at usuall times and the graces at meals shall be sayde or songe within in the sayde college withoute invocation of sayntes or prayer for the dead'. The College conformed reluctantly, but the commemoration of benefactors was continued in the Grace and Bidding Prayer, with thanksgiving for their gifts replacing

prayers for their souls.

The long Latin Grace[2] naming major benefactors has not been used in modern times, but a shorter version was still in use at St Catherine's dinners in 2025. This acknowledges our founders and all our benefactors by giving thanks to God for 'tuis hisce donis datis a Johanne Balliolo et Dervorguilla uxore ceterisque omnibus benefactoribus nostris'.

The Bidding Prayer has been kept up to date[8]. Sir David Lindsay Keir (Master 1949–1965) used to intone it in Chapel with memorable euphonious emphasis, which disrespectful undergraduates mimicked behind his back. Multiple additions have made it rather long and tedious to recite, and its use is now infrequent. But since 2013, the Major Benefactors' Plaque in the Library Passage has served the Bidding Prayer's purpose a fortiori. The Plaque is a reminder to the many members who pass it by every day, instead of an occasional reminder to the minority who attend Chapel, of what we all owe to the 'Liberality of JOHN BALLIOL, and his Wife, Founders of this College …. and others our pious Benefactors'[9].

1. For Henry Fisher, see J Jones *Balliol College. A History*, 2005 edn., p 169. He gave the equivalent of about a million pounds for the Fisher Building (Staircases X & XI).
2. Archives F.12.22[c]. Unpublished and undated (but 1773-1798), this document is in the distinctive hand of John Davey, Fellow 1752-1785, Master 1785-1798.
3. For Lady/Dame Elizabeth Periam, see Jones, op. cit. above, pp 85-86. She endowed a Fellowship and two Scholarships. There was to be an annual commemoration and the Periam Fellow had to preach a special sermon on the first Sunday in May, the nearest Sunday to the anniversary of her death on 3 May 1621.
4. The week including St Luke's Day (18 October) was when the College elected Fellows and Scholars, appointed College Officers, and examined the Bursars' Accounts.
5. See her Statutes, translated in Jones op. cit. above, pp 318-320.
6. A.B. Emden, *The Last pre-reformation Rotulus Benefactorum and List of Obits of Balliol College*, 1967. See also Paravicini op. cit. below, pp 333-338 for a list of Benefactors and their gifts 1260-1600; and Archives D.8.1 for a list compiled by Henry Wall down to 1864.
7. Transcribed from Archives First Latin Register in Frances de Paravicini, *Early History of Balliol College,* 1891, pp 291-293.
8. For the most recent (2004) published version, see Jones op. cit. above, pp 315-316.
9. From the Bidding Prayer which is illustrated; the words are identical in all later versions.



WE render most humble and hearty Thanks unto thee, O Eternal and Heavenly Father, for all thy Gifts and Graces most bountifully and mercifully bestowed upon us: And, namely, for thy Benefits, our Exhibitions and Maintenance here, at the Study of Virtue and good Learning, by the Liberality of JOHN BALLIOL, and DERVORGUILLA his Wife, Founders of this College; Sir *Philip Somervile*, Sir *William Felton*, Mr. *Peter Blundell*, the Lady *Elizabeth Periham*, Dr. *John Bell* Bishop of *Worcester*, Dr. *John Warner* Bishop of *Rochester*, Sir *Thomas Wendy*, Dr. *Richard Busby*, *John Snell* Esquire, Dr. *Henry Compton* and Dr. *John Robinson*, successive Bishops of *London*, the Rev. *Henry Fisher* M. A. and others our pious Benefactors: most humbly beseeching thee to give us Grace so to use them, as may make most for our Furtherance in Virtue, and Increase in Learning, for the Comfort and Salvation of our own Souls, and the Benefit and Edification of our Brethren, and, above all, for the Glory of thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. *Amen.*

N. B. This Prayer is to be read on St. *Catharine's* Day, Lady *Periham's*, and during the whole Week of St. LUKE's-Tide.

Balliol's traditional Bidding Prayer, found at the back of a Book of Common Prayers printed in 1813

Speech delivered at the Usborne Dinner on 20 November 2025

Kirsty McNeill (1997)

It's lovely to be surrounded by Old Members. And I use the word 'member' deliberately, because that is what I want to focus on: why rebuilding a sense of (and, more importantly, a practice around) *membership* of communities and institutions should be a priority for us all.

I hope to persuade you of three things.

Firstly, that deep connections are what life is all about.

Secondly, that membership-based organisations could do much to restore joy and meaning to how we live together.

And, finally, that you should ignore those who think this is too hard, or not urgent, or not a question for politics.

My starting point is this: the way we are living now is making us sick and sad. We simply are not wired to live like this: being fed suggestions about what to eat next, watch next, read next, hear next, buy next as we sit alone, falling deeper and deeper into the world of apps and algorithms, streaming and scrolling.

We are spending less and less time socialising, all while there is enormous evidence that being disconnected from others makes us more likely to fall ill and die early.

In a study by the think tank Onward, 85% of 18- to 24-year-olds reported having fewer than six close friends. 57% reported having three or fewer.

And that finding really haunts me, because when I think back to the relationships I formed at that age, they remain to this day among the most important of my life, partly because of the time spent arguing about ideas.

The thing that has really stuck with me from studying alongside them is what I learned then about what philosophers call 'relationship goods': the benefits we can only accrue from being with others who love, value, or respect us. The idea is that the things that make life worth living generally happen when we spend time with others, attending to what happens in the spaces in between us.

While this point is well understood by most political traditions, I do think there is a special onus on those of us on the left to think about who gets to enjoy these relationship goods just as surely as we worry about who has

wealth and power. Our task, I believe, is both to grow the number but crucially change the *distribution* of relationship goods in our society.

Technology – from the car to the TV to social media – plays a key role in what the sociologist Sacha Hilhorst calls 'the radical domestication of existence'. But so too does income: in 2023, 35% of people said the cost-of-living crisis limited their ability to see friends and 34% stated that the crisis had impacted their ability to participate in social activities.

Fixing that will mean developing an increased momentum around *memberships*, not simply getting people out of the house. That's why I am focusing my own work in Midlothian and in parliament on supporting the country's network of working men's clubs. If you've not been to a social club like that, imagine a place that's one part pub, one part community centre, one part extension of the family sitting room.

Clubs are magical partly because they create space for the formation and maintenance of relationships that the author Derek Thompson characterises as 'familiar but not intimate'.

The same could be said, of course, of a much-loved local boozer. Indeed, in Penicuik, a town in Midlothian, one pub has a Christmas tree where every regular who has died that year is remembered with a bauble with their name on it. It's a beautiful tradition but here's the thing – those relationships are wonderful, but they aren't rooted, as a membership is, in explicit reciprocity.

Clubs are reciprocal by their nature because their governance structure – normally as co-ops or member-owned charities – means that we don't simply belong to social clubs, they belong to *us*. That turns them into places where we cultivate democratic habits of mind: if we want to make a change to our club, we need to persuade others with whom we share it.

My forebears in the trade union and co-operative movements well understood that giving people this sort of taste of everyday democracy is a pre-condition for, not a diversion from, engaging people in a more transformational politics. As an experienced trade union organiser once told me, the best bit of advice he was ever given was: 'Don't go talking to people about a revolution if you can't get a microwave in the staff canteen.'

Persuading people of the importance of clubs hasn't always been easy. Let's take just two objections I've heard.

The first is the idea that encounters are enough. And there are indeed lots of interesting experiments about how you can encourage people to chat to strangers more. But while a fleeting conversation might relieve the tedium of

the day or reduce loneliness for a moment, it doesn't mean we have someone we'd trust with a spare set of keys for when we're on holiday. For that we need *repeat* contact that can sustain a relationship across time and across our differences.

The second is that this just isn't that important, given the scale of the global crises that confront us. But that assumes it is possible to detach the crises we are facing globally from the crises many of us are facing personally. Alex Evans worked on global risks for two decades, as a special adviser to two cabinet ministers, in the UN Secretary-General's office and as a consultant for organisations like the US National Intelligence Council. He puts it this way: 'I used to think the answer was about what happens "out there", in the world of policy, finance, emissions and so on. The more time went by … the more I realised that actually, the future is made "in here" – in our mental and emotional states, our hopes and our fears, the stories we use to make sense of the world. Because it's here that our behaviours – everything from what we buy and what we share on social media through to what we demand from our political leaders – get decided.'

So don't let anyone tell you that this so-called 'inner work' is an indulgence in a world on fire. It's the very thing that lets you stay clear headed enough to douse the flames.

I said at the start that I wanted to persuade you of three things. Firstly, that connections are what give life its meaning. Secondly, that we have a connections crisis and memberships are the best remedy. And thirdly, that we should ignore those who say this can't or shouldn't or needn't be done.

I hope I have succeeded in all three. If I have, then my ask of you is simple. Join in. Join in locally: find a local club and get involved. And join in nationally: team up with those of us who are making a more connected, united country our focus.

And in closing, I do want to acknowledge that this is bloody hard work, because relationships are tough. The academic Hahrie Han has a lovely phrase that sums this up: 'If democracy is this challenge of people coming together to figure out the kind of shared lives they want to forge, then the behaviours that they use to negotiate difference are going to flow from the commitments they have to each other. So, when my husband and I fight, we fight like we want to stay married.'

What a great lesson for life. And what a pledge to make when becoming a member of institutions full of people you might disagree with. So, please, if

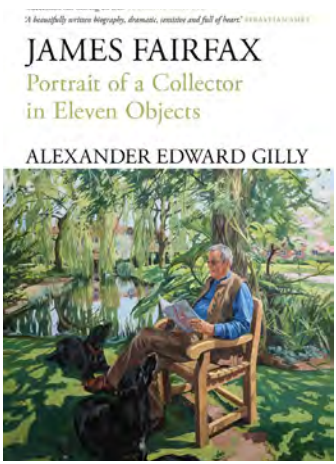
you think we're not supposed to live like this, go make some membership vows, and pledge that come what may, you've decided you want to stay married.

Kirsty McNeill is the Labour and Co-operative MP for Midlothian and the Minister for Scotland in the UK Government. This is an abridged version of her remarks at the 2025 Usborne Dinner.

James Fairfax: Portrait of a Collector in Eleven Objects

Alexander Edward Gilly, UNSW Press, 2024

Isabella Vacaflores (2025, MPhil Politics (Political Theory))



One of the first stops on any tour of Balliol's impressive Broad Street site is the marble donor board, situated prominently at the foot of the Library stairs. It lists major benefactors to the College in chronological order, starting from John de Balliol. Most tours move swiftly on after pointing out this fact. I, however, lingered, intrigued by a name much further down the list: James Fairfax AC. A few days later, it surfaced again at Holywell Manor – this time emblazoned on a building. Familiar… but from where? I made a mental note to find out, a resolution promptly lost in the haze of matriculation, punting, and tutorial cramming that followed.

Months later, back home in Sydney for term break, the name reappeared. Browsing the gift shop of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, I saw it again – albeit this time on a book cover, halfway across the world from Oxford: *James Fairfax: Portrait of a Collector in Eleven Objects*.

As I soon came to learn, the Fairfax family is one of the oldest media dynasties in Australia. For over five generations, they have been associated with *The Sydney Morning Herald* and the national press landscape. Yet, unlike the Murdochs and Packers – other homegrown names that might be more familiar to international audiences – theirs was a quieter form of influence: patrician, reserved, and away from the public eye, though not without their fair share of familial disputes, political drama, and minor scandal.

James Fairfax AC (1933–2017) was the chairman of the family's media empire for ten years, from 1977 to 1987. Educated at Balliol, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, he returned to Australia and moved,

over time, from the world of newspapers and business into that of high culture and the arts. By the time he passed away, he was widely recognised as one of Australia's most eminent art collectors and philanthropists. He never married or had children, leaving much of his fortune, collection, and property to the public good, including major donations to the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the National Gallery of Australia and the National Trust.

Written by his nephew, Alexander Edward Gilly, *James Fairfax: Portrait of a Collector in Eleven Objects* frames details gleaned from extensive interviews with its subject through key items he owned and cherished. In doing so, it provides a rare and intimate glimpse behind the curtain of a notoriously private individual and family.

Through these objects, ranging from public art installations, murals, antique clocks and classical paintings, we learn about Fairfax's life, from the highs of his halcyon days at Oxford to the lows of his fractured relationship with his father and the succession drama that ensued.

A 'born collector', Fairfax is often associated with the European old masters – with good reason: his collection of paintings, drawings and prints from this canon was among the most significant in the country. A born and raised conservative, such taste is hardly surprising. But the biography also reveals a curatorial sensibility far more sensuous, contemporary, and cosmopolitan than first meets the eye.

Indeed, the internal logic of his collection mirrored the way in which he lived his life. It also hints at what benefits above and beyond aesthetic experiences that collecting may have offered Fairfax: a means of exerting control, warding off anxiety and leaving a legacy.

It is on the topic of privilege – and the careful way in which Fairfax wielded it – that the biography is most compelling. It can be easy to assume that lives born into extraordinary wealth are, for the most part, without trouble. Indeed, the author does not ask us to forget the insulation from many quotidian aches and pains that a sizeable inheritance provides, nor does he invite any sentimental levelling of hardship. Gilly himself, being part of the media dynasty, would be all too familiar with this topic.

But he does complicate the picture for, as we see throughout the biography, Fairfax's life was marked by a series of deeply felt yet highly private challenges: difficult schooling, a domineering father, tensions with his stepmother Mary, the pressures of dynastic succession, and what the book presents as a quieter struggle with his own sexuality. Fairfax was gay at a time when such a fact

could not easily be lived, particularly given his public facing role.

Yet, what emerges from the biography is not bitterness, but a kind of disciplined generosity, in response to these trying moments. Fairfax seemed to have accepted the burdens of inheritance without allowing them entirely to define him. He had, as the author suggests, a strong sense of responsibility. James was, by most accounts, a capable steward of the family company during his decade as chairman. But his deeper legacy lies elsewhere: in the works he collected and the institutions he strengthened.

Balliol was one such recipient of this spirit of altruism, although the reason for this becomes clear once we learn of his experience here. Fairfax looked back on his days at Oxford as among the brightest of his life: a period of intellectual freedom, friendship, eccentricity and international escapades before the obligations of the family business closed in. Balliol was, at the time, cosmopolitan and international, and its peculiarities seem to have suited him. The author treats us to tales of a dining club whose members dressed in 18th-century garb and, at least on one occasion, dined on roasted swan. There was romance too: Fairfax fell for a man named K., with whom he travelled through Europe. For a young man from a powerful but constrained Sydney family, the College appears to have offered not only education, but permission – to be clever, aesthetic, eccentric and, perhaps for a time, more freely himself.

The private collector, so often imagined as acquisitive or possessive, becomes in the author's telling something more complicated. Fairfax collected intensely, even compulsively, but he also gave with remarkable seriousness. The objects he loved were not simply trophies of wealth. They became, in time, instruments of public enrichment. As such, we, as beneficiaries of such generosity, should take this recognition very seriously.

Returning, then, to the marble donor board at the foot of the Library stairs, I find the name altered. James Fairfax AC is no longer simply a name immortalised in stone or attached to a building at Holywell Manor. He becomes a reminder of public duty: of the obligation to treat good fortune not as an entitlement, but as something to be wielded with intention and responsibility.

In Memoriam

Dame Stephanie Shirley (1933–2025)

Foundation Fellow since 2001

Andrew Graham (Fellow and Tutor in Economics 1969–2001, Master 2001–2011, Honorary Fellow) and Professor Richard Susskind (1983)

Dame Stephanie Shirley, or Steve as she was called by anyone who knew her well, was not only a Foundation Fellow of Balliol, but also the first woman to have her portrait in Balliol Hall (of course, Dervorguilla is there but not as a portrait). In typical Steve fashion, it is a striking portrait, instantly recognisable, yet also more avant-garde than anything else in the Hall. Given that she had never been a student at Balliol, a portrait of her in Hall is one indication of the exceptionally higher regard in which she was held. It is both a pleasure and a privilege to record here why this was the case.

Richard Susskind knew her for many years before her association with Balliol. He therefore takes up the tale of her life, so to speak pre-Balliol, and Andrew Graham carries it on from September 2000 when he first met her.

Pre-Balliol

I (RS) first met Steve in 1998. She was then the President of the British Computer Society (the first woman to hold that office) and we were introduced at the tail-end of a dinner discussion in London on the future of technology. We engaged instantly and spoke intensely about the promise and perils of various emerging systems. We agreed to stay in touch, and we did so regularly until the end of her life.

We spoke much of her early years. Born in Dortmund, Germany, her father was Jewish – which led her, as a five-year old, in 1939, to flee to the UK on the *Kindertransport*. She lived with foster parents in Sutton Coldfield and, although her biological parents survived the war, she did not re-bond with them and remained in England, becoming a UK citizen in 1953.

After school, she forwent university in the first instance, opting instead in the 1950s to work at the Post Office Research Station where she programmed early computers in machine language. In due course, she secured a degree in mathematics by studying at evening classes.



Dame Stephanie Shirley at the unveiling of her portrait in Hall in 2012

In the 1960s, from her front room, she founded a software development company, Freelance Programmers, staffed almost exclusively by women working from home. That start-up burgeoned into a business valued at around £3 billion, making millionaires of 70 of her staff.

To be taken seriously in an industry dominated by men in the 1960s, Stephanie Shirley called herself 'Steve', a name that was favoured by her friends long afterwards.

She was the recipient of three national honours (OBE in 1980, DBE in 2000, CH in 2017), countless industry awards, fellowships, and honorary degrees, recognising her contribution largely to the technology industry and to the promotion of women in the workplace.

However, her life was plagued by tragedy too. Her inspirational autobiographies – *Let It Go* (2012) and *So To Speak* (2020) – reveal traumatic periods, from the pain of being a refugee to the profoundly sad life of her son, Giles, who was severely autistic and died in his 30s.

Having amassed a great fortune, she duly applied her characteristic energy and discipline in giving that money away. She retired in 1993 and went on to devote some three decades to philanthropy, focusing mainly on autism but

also on various technology initiatives.

Steve first came to Balliol in 1997 as our guest at the Snell Dinner. Mike Warburg (1949) and I invited her, knowing that she shared our interest (and that of AG) in the ethical and social impact of technology. We sensed (rightly) that she would enjoy the College – the evening was a great success, and it was clear she was keen to come again.

Steve at Balliol

I (AG) knew that she had come to the Snell Dinner, but it was another three years until I met her. The reasons are set out in *The Origins of the Internet Institute*[1].

In brief, the property at 1 St Giles reverted to Balliol in January 1998 and I advised the College to use this building in some way involving new technology, especially the then rapidly emerging internet. Aware of this, Judy Longworth, the Development Director, mentioned Steve's name to me. But the problem in approaching Steve about 1 St Giles was that, initially, there was no core vision, no business case, and no clear way of scaling what we had in mind. Balliol, despite its reputation, is not the size of a university and yet so much to do with the internet seemed to depend either on being large or on the ability to become large.

This all changed in June 2000, when the Vice-Chancellor invited Derek Wyatt MP to talk to a group in Oxford. Derek presented multiple ideas, and following the meeting, the VC asked Sir Peter Williams (Master of St Catherine's College) and me to assess these multiple suggestions in order to see what, if anything, it might be feasible for the University to pursue.

At that moment, at least for me, everything about the Oxford Internet Institute (OII) fell into place.

The fact that the VC had called the meeting and asked for a follow-up indicated that the University would be on board. If so the problems with scale dropped away as one could see how Balliol's ideas might be the springboard for a University-level initiative. And, by happenchance, if Balliol could be persuaded of the merits of the idea, 1 St Giles was sitting there, right in the middle of Oxford as the potential research space.

Following several meetings with members of the Government, each of them saying 'Great idea, but no money', I emailed RS and Mike Warburg asking whether they could contact Dame Stephanie and arrange a meeting.

They both knew her through the IT industry as well through the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists. Initially, distinctly unenthusiastic, RS

and Mike persuaded her to meet me.

She came, accompanied by her lawyer, on 13 September 2000. It was an unforgettable experience – and, as I later realised, pure Steve. After opening remarks by me, an intense set of questions were fired, ranging from what vision I had for the new Institute ten or twenty years ahead, to who were our regulators, how would I ensure quality, who were the main competitors, and whether we had a code word for the project – far more testing than those by the Fellows when I was contending to be Master!

It was pure Steve not only in its thoroughness, but also in its sense of what mattered. She had read everything sent to her and then surveyed the wider context. Moreover, once satisfied, she took a decision – right there, in the meeting – and then moved with equal intensity to discuss how to make this happen.

The one thing not mentioned was the name of her son, Giles, but RS tells me that when Steve asked where the new institute would be located and my answer was '1 St Giles', she later said, 'it all felt right'. It was certainly serendipitous.

The outcome of the meeting was I agreed to write to her Foundation saying what the OII would look like with support of £5 million and how much better it would be with £10 million. In addition, she agreed to a request for a sum of £100,000 to be made available 'at risk' to take the ideas forward (and this sum arrived at Balliol only days later). Alongside this, I agreed that the University and Balliol would seek to obtain approximately matching funds from the government; and that her name would remain confidential until there was a good prospect that the project would be launched satisfactorily. Finally, she emphasised that in the IT industry decisions were taken rapidly, that she personally did not expect to be kept waiting and that everything ought to be capable of being completed 'in months' and, certainly, in 'not more than six months'.

It hardly needs to be added that I left the meeting in no doubt about what needed to be done. Whether it *could* all be done, let alone on the timetable Dame Stephanie had indicated, remained to be seen. That we made it, owed much to the contribution of Steve, primarily of course in her generosity – The Shirley Foundation duly promised £10 million (as she later put it to RS, 'you have to do these things properly') – but also to her decisiveness and to her commitment. When nearly six months after our meeting I had to report that the matching funding from the Government was still not agreed and, even if

it came, was unlikely to be in the form we hoped, she quickly gave full support to the new approach.

She was, on multiple dimensions, the best donor I have known – clear sighted, firm, and generous in time and ideas, not just in money. She was also highly unusual in being willing to give, and to give quickly, without asking for anything in return and, above all, with absolutely no interference.

After the launch of the OII

On 4 May 2001, the formation of the OII was announced. However, as far as Steve was concerned, this was far from the end of her involvement with Balliol. Indeed, in many ways it marked the beginning: in part because her connection to the OII and to Balliol was only in the public domain after 4 May, but also because she was then elected to a Foundation Fellowship and so her strengths became manifest.

They showed in two particular areas. First, she became a founder member of the OII Advisory Board. Here we saw her in full flight – warm and supportive

Andrew Graham and Dame Stephanie outside 1 St Giles



to students, inquisitive and challenging with professors, and creative and demanding in meetings with fellow board members. On one occasion, she asked at an Advisory Board meeting why, given that the internet was global, the OII website was not available in Chinese – a question that remains unanswered to this day. Her personality also pulled in both directions: deep intellectual curiosity on the one hand, and her as-deep impulse to snap into action on the other. She could be imperious, empathetic, kindly, business-like, and creative, all in one sitting – a remarkable presence.

Second, following her election as a Foundation Fellow in 2001, Balliol became aware of how much she listened and how quietly she could tread. For some years, John Jones (Emeritus Fellow) had been hoping that Balliol might take over St Cross Church, next to Holywell Manor; and in 2007, the possibility emerged of acquiring it for a 999-year lease and creating a much-needed Historic Collections Centre. But would the conversion work and how much would it cost?

Speaking only to the Domestic Bursar, Steve offered to fund the design work personally. Then, when the plans proved viable, The Shirley Foundation donated £1 million in support of the reconstruction. We needed £3 million in total, but her two interventions had precisely the effect she intended, namely, to give the College the conviction to proceed.

Steve lived a long and remarkable life. She was intent through her years to show that hers had been 'a life worth saving'. By enriching the lives of so many, she certainly succeeded. Not long before passing, aged 91, Steve remarked – as she had so often – that Balliol and Oxford had greatly enhanced the latter part of her life. She treasured the traditions, the architecture, and the 'fine minds' (as she put it). But above all, she enjoyed the camaraderie and the fellowship. She came to see Balliol as her home and felt that the College had been as generous to her as she had been to us. We, in Balliol, were exceptionally fortunate.

1. https://www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/andrew_graham_origins_of_the_oii.pdf

Editor's Note

The College was deeply saddened to learn of the following deaths: Sir Anthony Kenny (Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy 1964–1978, Master of Balliol 1978–1989, Honorary Fellow 1989–2026) on 3 August 2026; The Rt Hon Sir David Keene (Honorary Fellow 2004–2026) on 18 August 2026; and HM The King

of Norway (1960, Honorary Fellow 1983–2026) on 28 August 2026. Extended obituaries will be published in next year's *Annual Record*.

Old Member obituaries

Neville Gittleson (1947)

David Gittleson (1986)



Neville was born in Leeds in 1930, the youngest child of John, a private tutor, and Annie. Evacuated during the war to Ilkley, he returned to Roundhay School, where he gained a state scholarship and was encouraged to apply to Balliol. Following the entrance examinations, he was awarded a Williams Exhibition to read medicine under Sandy Ogston (1929, Fellow and Tutor in Physiology 1937 – 1960).

Neville greatly enjoyed his time at Balliol, with close friends including Ivan Roitt (1945) and Brian Davies (1939). He was a member of the Tingewick Society, which staged annual Christmas charity shows, and also spent time rowing. With rationing still in place, he recalled his amusement at being served fresh fruit on a platter in Hall during his first year, as he was not yet 18.

After graduating in 1953, he spent two enjoyable years in general medicine in Wales before completing national service as a Medical Officer (Flying) in the Royal Navy. He then decided to specialise in psychiatry, gaining his DPM in Manchester before going to the Maudsley, then at the forefront of the developing discipline. In 1961, Neville accepted an appointment at the Middlewood Hospital in Sheffield, where he was quickly promoted to consultant psychiatrist at the unusually young age of 33 and remained for the rest of his career.

Neville was active across clinical work, teaching, and research, publishing 30 papers on a wide range of topics. In 1965, he returned to Oxford to receive a DM for his research on obsessions and depression, which challenged prevailing ideas. Expecting to be grilled in a viva, he was surprised to be told that the examiners felt none was required due to the quality of his work.

Neville's greatest interest became forensic psychiatry, and he was regularly called as an expert witness. He joined the Parole Board in 1978 and later served on the Home Office and Parole Board Life Sentence Committee. He also served on the Criminal Law Revision Committee's policy group and, for over ten years, was an independent assessor for the Civil Service Commission

Towards the end of his career, Neville worked for the Mental Health Act Commission and Mental Health Review Tribunal, advocating for patients' rights. Ahead of his time, he ran a mental health drop-in clinic for homeless people unable to seek help through hospitals.

Neville endured Parkinson's disease stoically in his final years. He was forever grateful for the opportunity to study at Balliol and how the experience had shaped his life. He took great pride in watching his grandson graduate in the Sheldonian, 70 years after he had been there himself.

He is survived by his wife Sandra, me and three grandchildren. His daughter Debbie sadly predeceased him. Neville will always be remembered by his family as a truly inspirational, modest and kind man.

Richard Jameson (1949)

Karin Jameson



My husband Richard (J.R. Jameson CB) died on 31 January 2024 at the age of 93, after a 34-year career as a civil servant. He spent nearly all of his working life in the then Department of Education and Science, where his final post was as the Department's Principal Finance Officer. Earlier in his career, he had spent two short periods on secondment to the Cabinet Office, the second of these as a senior member of the special unit set up to prepare the legislation which governed the UK's first referendum in 1975, resulting in confirmation of our continuing membership of the European Community (as it was then).

After retirement from the civil service, Richard moved into local politics

and served for 16 years as an elected Borough Councillor in Hertfordshire, including one year as Mayor of the borough. During this time, he also played a leading role on the governing bodies of several local schools.

He and I were married for 53 years. He is survived by three children (two from a first marriage), eight grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter. In accompanying him to College functions, I have always been proud to have my own connection with the College as the daughter of a Balliol man, J.E.G. Quick (1928).

Hugh Barber (1952)

Tim Barber

Samuel Hugh Barber was born on 1 September 1931 in Mumbai, India. He spent his early childhood years in India before returning to the UK, first boarding at a preparatory school in Cheshire. He progressed to Shrewsbury School, boarding there between 1945 and 1950. After Shrewsbury, he accepted a place at Balliol to read Languages in 1951. Whilst there, he earned his colours playing rugby and captained the 1st XI cricket team. He had many fond memories of being at Balliol and living in Oxford.

He began to use Hugh as his familiar name, in preference to Samuel. After graduating, he did a year of national service with the Royal Artillery, firing guns off the Norfolk coast. Following national service, he secured a job with BP Oil, working in a variety of roles in the early years in planning, supply, procurement, and sales, and travelling abroad extensively.

Hugh married Shirley Davies in 1956 and, over the next decade or so, they had three children: a son, Timothy, and two daughters, Jacquie and Joanna. A three-year secondment in 1970 with BP Antwerp required the family to relocate with him to Belgium. He remained within the BP group for his whole working life, undertaking many different roles for them. His last post was as a Product Planning Manager for BP Chemicals, before taking early retirement in his mid-50s.

In retirement, he returned to his academic interests, pursuing a variety of university courses, starting with an Open University course on the elements of music. In later years, this was followed by courses in Renaissance and Fine Art, and English Literature. Hugh would split his time between houses in

Leicestershire and Oxfordshire. The first of his seven grandchildren arrived in 1994, with their births and early childhood years being a major focus for him and Shirley over the next decade.

After Shirley's death in 2014, he based himself in Wallingford, developing new friendships and making a new life for himself in the local community there. During the COVID-19 pandemic, one such friendship led to the opportunity of moving to Norfolk. By this stage, Hugh had become increasingly reliant on care for his health and wellbeing. He spent the last years of his life there, living in Fakenham. He died peacefully in his sleep on 22 February 2026.

Donald Rickerd (1953)

Stephen Stamas (1953) and Professor Gerald Wright (1962)

Donald Sheridan Rickerd QC died on 6 September 2025, in Toronto. His history degree, with Christopher Hill as a tutor and contemporaries including John Prest (Fellow and Tutor in Modern History 1954–1996) and Sir Keith Thomas (1952), led to a career spanning law, academia (he was present at the creation of Toronto's York University), and philanthropy. In running several foundations, he helped pioneer that sector in Canada and served on a Royal Commission investigating the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, leading to reforms such as creation of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. He was later awarded several honorary degrees.



From left: Stephen Stamas, Donald Rickerd, and Christopher Rickerd (son) at the 750th anniversary celebration weekend

On 9 January 2026, the University of Toronto's Massey and Trinity Colleges hosted a joint celebration of Don's life, a recording of which is available at https://tinyurl.com/5aszmm65. Among the speakers was Ian Macdonald (1952).

Don loved Balliol and Oxford – where he also played basketball and ice hockey – carrying forward friendships that lasted up to seven decades. He enjoyed welcoming Pathfinders to Canada, as well as returning to College for Younger Society dinners and other celebrations. A full obituary was published at www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-donald-rickerd.

John Lewis (1954)

Professor Colin Apelt (1954)



Born in St John's Newfoundland on 16 June, 1932, John Francis Lewis spent his childhood summers at his father's family home in Holyrood, where his enduring love of the outdoors was born. I met John in Oxford in 1954. We were both at Balliol and Rhodes Scholars, John from Newfoundland, I from Queensland. We had two other close friends at Balliol – Geoff Bolton (1954) from Western Australia and Colin Imray (1954), an Englishman. It was a delightful group. Though we were pursuing very different studies – John in Medicine, Geoff in History, Colin in PPE, and myself in Engineering Science – we had many interests in common and, especially, similar values. We 'solved' many of the world's problems on the Balliol lawn. As goalkeeper for the Oxford Ice Hockey team, John wore very wide leg pads; we called him 'Legs Lewis'.

After graduating from Oxford Medical School, John returned to St John's, Newfoundland. He was a founding member of Memorial University's Division of Family Medicine, a benchmark for Canada. He helped establish

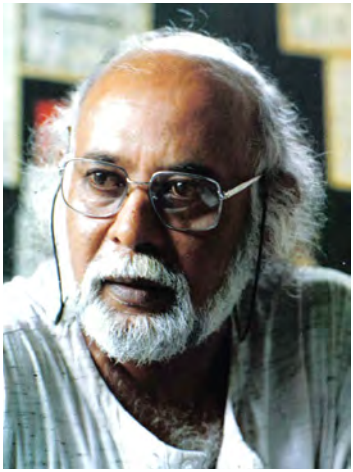
the Palliative Care program at St Clare's Hospital and planned and founded the original Shea Heights Medical Clinic, a flagship community clinic serving people in poverty. John sought to be of service throughout his life, personal and professional. Early In his career, in partnership with his wife Noreen and with three small children in tow, he relocated to Uganda, working in village hospitals while Noreen volunteered in local schools. They had two more children before returning to Newfoundland. When their six children had grown, they returned frequently to work in rural communities throughout East Africa. In 2009, John was awarded the Order of Canada in recognition of his many services.

John loved the Newfoundland countryside. He skied the entire length of the island over the course of his life, fished its rivers, and hunted its barrens. He kept a camp deep within the Salmonier wilderness area, accessible only by ski in winter and canoe in summer.

He had a passionate love for song and poetry and loved to recite and sing – especially Irish rebel songs. John was a religious man, attending church faithfully. His deepest prayer was his lifelong practice of seeking peace and meditation in the wilderness. John Lewis died peacefully in his family home on 13 December, 2025 after a short illness. *Ave atque vale.*

Ram Seegobin (1961)

John Jones (1961, Emeritus Fellow)



Deoprasad Seegobin, generally known as Ram Seegobin, was born in Mauritius on 11 August 1941 and educated at the Royal College Curepipe. At Balliol, he held the scholarship endowed in 1951 by RJB Anderson (1918) for 'men born in the island of Mauritius and/or its dependencies'. He was gregarious and fun, but also studious – perhaps not as boisterous as some of us.

After a good Second in Physiology in 1965, he qualified BM BCh in 1968, followed by appointments in various UK hospitals and

then GP training in London. In 1973, he married Lindsey Collen, then an anti-apartheid activist and now an internationally acclaimed novelist whose work explores tough Mauritius-based themes. In 1974, they settled in Bambous, a large village near the west coast of Mauritius with a mostly working-class population.

Reflecting in 2000, he wrote:

> 'When we first went to live in the village in the 1970s, I had no pre-conceived idea as to how I would practice as a doctor. The only thing I was sure of was that I was not particularly interested in hospital medicine and I was certainly not attracted by private practice which, in Mauritius, is a very highly commercialised operation.'[1]

Despite coming from a relatively affluent upper/middle-class background (his father had a thriving pharmacy business), Ram resolved to live the communist ideal. In 1975, following neighbourhood meetings and assemblies, the Bambous Health Project [1,2], a unique cooperative health service financed by village subscriptions and managed by an elected executive committee, was set up. Ram became its sole doctor, dispenser, and health educator, earning 450 Rupees (£35) a month – the average villager's earnings. He embedded himself in their community, and adopted their simple lifestyle:

> 'Il était toujours vẽtu d'une chemise à manches courtes et d'une paire de savates deux doigts [short-sleeved shirt and flip flops]. Tant et si bien que les villageois ne croyaient pas au début qu'il était medicin.' [2]

> 'Les villageois surnommaient affectuesement Dokter Pieni [Kreol, Dr Barefoot] en raison de sa simplicité.' [3]

Medical consultations were held in a rented room and health education sessions in the shade of the mango trees. By the time the Project closed, Ram had been on call continuously for 24 years.

He was not politically active at Oxford, or as far as we were aware, even interested in PPE-type subjects. In retrospect, this is puzzling to his surviving Balliol friends. There were students with Marxist views around in the University then, some in Balliol, but Ram did not mix in left wing circles; we who benefited from his friendship were mostly classicists, lawyers, chemists, and medics, not PPE-ists. After a year in Mauritius in 1971, he joined the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM), then a Marxist party, at a time of a working-class uprising. His commitment to socialist ideals took root, and three years later, when he and Lindsey were visiting Mauritius, they decided to make

their lives there.

They were both active in the MMM and quickly became leaders of the party's 'class struggle tendency', which produced a magazine called *Lalit de Klas* (Kreol, *Class Struggle*). It was printed phonetically in Kreol, the spoken language of the working class. In 1979, Ram was a key figure in organising a sugar workers' strike demanding union recognition, an end to sugar mill closures, and the right to strike. This expanded into a general strike and clashes with government forces. When the strike weakened, Ram and the other leaders began a hunger strike – including refusing water – to force things. The government eventually agreed to legislative changes, many of which were later implemented. As MMM's stance drifted towards class compromise and collaboration in the late 70s, his revolutionary socialist faction broke away to establish Lalit as a separate party in 1982.

Lalit never achieved electoral success, but it became – and remains – an influential far left think tank and pressure group. It consistently demanded the return of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius and closure of the US base on Diego Garcia; it campaigned for workers' rights and women's liberation; it was against privatisation, unemployment, austerity and undemocratic state controls; it scrutinised everything the government proposed, especially regarding the economy and electoral law; it promoted Kreol as the lingua franca of the workers, and it was a watchdog for police misconduct. Ram was its leading spokesman and philosophical guide for half a century, with Lindsey always in tandem. There were several police attempts to curtail their activities, but they rose above them.

Ram strongly opposed the ethnic and communal politics prevalent in Mauritius. He believed in the importance of a shared humanity, over and above the racial and religious divisions which politicians use all too often to divide people from one another. He often spoke publicly and published prolifically. His political, economic, and sociological analyses are lucid, logical, exhaustive, and hard-hitting. But there is no ranting. Personal attacks are rare and, as political rhetoric goes, muted. Boris Johnson, for example, he called a 'buffoon'[4] but went on: 'I can say this about him because he went to the same University as me'.

Ram died on 28 January, revered throughout Mauritius for his integrity, commitment, intellectual consistency, and simple lifestyle, even by those with whom he had political differences.

Sources and Notes

Lindsey Collen kindly provided the photograph and several obituaries,3,5-8 published in Mauritius. Several of Ram's surviving Balliol contemporaries responded to enquiries, and I am grateful to Sudhir Hazareesingh (1981, Anderson Mauritius Scholar) for advice. Ram's personal Balliol file is now in the College Archives. Googling for, for example, 'Ram Seegobin, Lalit' and 'Lindsey Collen, Lalit' yielded copious relevant hits.

1. Ram Seegobin, 'A 'Third Way' The Bambous Health Project', Indicator South Africa ,18(1), 77-80, 2001.
2. Jean Clément Cangy, 'Le Bambous Health Project ou une expérience de santé communautaire', Le Mauricien Forum, 3 February 2026.
3. 'Ram Seegobin, la discrétion par excellence en politique', Le Mauricien, 29 January 2026.
4. Ram Seegobin, 'What's at Stake in the Diego Garcia/Chagos Struggle?', 2016, downloaded from the Lalit website March 2026.
5. 'The Village Doctor and the Intellectual Conscience of the Mauritian Left', Mauritius Times, 1 Feb 2026.
6. 'Ram Seegobin: hommage unanime à un homme de convictions', Le Défi Quotidien, 29 Jan 2026.
7. Rattan Khushiram, 'Homage to Dr Ram Seegobin: An exemplary, dedicated leftist', L'Express, 2 February 2026.
8. Herman Assy, 'Dr Ram Seegobin, médecin intégralement révolutionnaire', Weekend, 1 February 2026.

Alan Sykes (1961)

Wilfrid Prest

Alan (Al) Sykes was born at Easebourne, Sussex, on 12 February 1942, the son of Harold (Bill) Sykes, a lecturer in Mechanical Engineering, and his wife, Margaret (Peggy) Carver. He attended Midhurst Grammar School, where he won a scholarship to study Modern History at Balliol. His outstanding abilities saw him appointed College Exhibitioner from his first year in residence. During his time at Balliol, he met Sian Dodd, a modern historian at St Hilda's, whom he later married. Towards the end of his third year, they decided to emigrate to Australia, where there was a vacant History lectureship at the University of Adelaide. In letters of reference, his two Finals tutors, Richard Cobb and Christopher Hill, later Master of Balliol, praised him in glowing terms. Cobb described Alan as 'a terrific chap – hard-hitting, egalitarian, anti-elitist, unpretentious, well able to outstrip all our most streamlined Etonians. He is interested in the right sort of history, and CAN EVEN MAKE PARLIAMENTARY POLITICS UNDER PEEL SOUND EXCITING…. He would be a first-rate teacher, for he is tough, provocative, original, and, ultimately, very sensible'.

Such endorsements prompted Professor Hugh Stretton to persuade the University to appoint Alan even before his confidently predicted First

materialised. Alan and Sian married in June 1964 before emigrating to Adelaide with their daughter, Catrin Natasha Jane (Tasha). There, he taught modern British and French history. Former Adelaide students still speak of him with great affection and respect. Sian also took up teaching in Adelaide, and their son, Thomas Jocelin, was born in 1969.

In 1970, the family returned to the UK on sabbatical leave, while Alan undertook research in London. He then accepted a post under the distinguished historian Norman Gash at the University of St Andrews, where he taught for the remainder of his career, apart from an academic exchange to Adelaide in 1990. Their third child, Claudia Claire (Claude), was born in 1971.

Sian's death from lung cancer in 1994 struck Alan hard and he found it difficult to throw his heart into research for several years. He later lived in East Fife, Yorkshire, and East Lothian, where he married Marjorie Robertson. After Marjorie's death, he spent his final years happily with Mary Lock in Wooler. Although mentally active until the end, Alan suffered from COPD and died of a chest infection on 14 December 2025.

Alan published three significant monographs on modern British economic and political history, including most recently *The Radical Right in Britain: From Social Imperialism to the BNP* (Macmillan, 2005). Throughout his life, he remained an enthusiastic and incisive debater with a keen interest in social and economic history. He leaves behind his partner Mary, his three children Tasha, Tom, and Claude, and three grandchildren, Mia, Max, and Maddy.

Bruce Thomas (1964)

Helen Hayes (1993)



Bruce Thomas was born in Deerfield, Massachusetts, in 1939 and educated at prep schools in New England, where his mother worked as a school nurse, culminating in four years at Phillips Exeter Academy. Bruce won a place at Harvard in 1958.

After two years at Harvard, Bruce took a break, working on merchant navy ships on the Great Lakes during the shipping season and travelling through Europe and

the Middle East when the lakes were frozen. He returned to Harvard in 1962 with a renewed sense of purpose, shaped by his experience as a trade unionist in the merchant navy.

Bruce was a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol from 1964 to 1967. In 1967, he joined the Kerner Commission, established by President Lyndon B. Johnson to investigate the causes of over 150 race riots that year. Bruce was a Field Team Leader for the Commission, which concluded that the unrest had been driven primarily by white racism and systemic inequality.

Bruce worked in a number of roles within the government of Illinois, relating to children's services and the criminal justice system. He developed a passionate interest in improving the lives of children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, which set the course for the rest of his working life. Bruce advocated, often against the flow of prevailing policy, that schools should be child-centred, learning in the early years should be play-led, every child should have a mentor or trusted adult to advocate for them, and that children need trauma-informed support to address the impacts of adverse childhood experiences.

His work was well ahead of its time. It culminated in the co-founding with others in Chicago of The Holding Circle, a school-based programme providing long-term counselling, crisis intervention and individualised learning support. Bruce started hosting Coolidge Pathfinders – today's William Westerman Pathfinders – in 1967, the year he left Balliol. He continued hosting until his partner, Karen Davis's, health deteriorated shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic. It was almost 50 years of extraordinary commitment to generosity, hospitality and the exchange of ideas. I stayed with Bruce and Karen in 1996, and they became very dear friends.

As his family said at a recent memorial service, Bruce led a life of learning, service and community, deeply committed to social justice and determined to make a difference. He was a very special person. Bruce is survived by his daughter, Erin, his son, Sam, and his granddaughter, Aderyn.

Ian Mertling-Blake (1965)

Sir Michael Burton (1965)

Dr Ian Blake – our James Robertson Justice lookalike – was a great friend, but



also a true literary giant: poet, author, playwright, actor, and teacher. His thespian, as well as academic, career commenced at Trinity College Dublin, where he also wrote short stories for *The Dubliner,* later becoming archaeological correspondent for *The Irish Times*.

But I first knew him at Balliol. By then, he was already involved in important archaeological excavations around the Dead Sea in Jordan and Israel, but still found time for Balliol drama – writing and directing *The Meeting*, directing *The Waste Land* and, astoundingly, directing *Oedipus* in Greek.

He also wrote a marvellous script, which formed the backbone of the Balliol Players' tour in 1967, 'Tis Pity she's the Merry Wife of Good King Wenceslas the Fourth Part 2', or rather 'Part 2B or not 2B', overflowing with characters such as Claret, Moselle, Burgundy and Hock and their bastard sons, and Wenceslas himself, all part of the Players' eclectic version of Aristophanes, taken round schools such as Charterhouse.

Another of his triumphant farces featured Viscount Babycham and Lady Fiona Fitzgropesworthy in the 1969 Players production.

Ian's experiences in Jordan led to a children's book called *The Marvellous Adventure of Edward and the Magic Scarab*.

Later, in London, we wrote and put on a pantomime, *Aladdin Boots*, in which Ian played the Grand Vizier and wrote a memorable scene for me as Wicked Uncle Ebenezer giving instructions to Aladdin.

After Balliol, Ian joined Charterhouse as a Master and later Housemaster. He was lured by the school's wonderful theatre, where he both acted and directed. He also completely reorganised its museum. He inspired generations of pupils.

When Ian finally left Charterhouse after 23 years, he moved to Gairloch, where he became the revered President of the Clan McKenzie Society.

Every Christmas, his many friends would look forward to a card containing one of his specially composed ghost stories, *Tales from the Other Side*. I have 32 since 1994.

Then there were his published books, written under the name Ian McKenzie Blair. *School Story* (2015) was a gripping story of a public school, which he always denied was based on Charterhouse, while *The Guardian* (2018) was a

sinister but beautiful story set in a Canadian Trading Post.

But above all, there were his poems: his Browning-style sequel to *The Pied Piper of Hamelin – The Return of the Piper* – without the children – and his trial. Ian and I twice performed this, with an audience acting as the jury.

There was such a marvellously varied selection of poems, published in slim volumes, ranging from Falstaff to Desperate Dan to Sherlock Holmes and Shirley Temple, as well as wonderfully moving poems, of which my favourite was inspired by a sepia photograph which Ian saw of Jews being rounded up by the Nazis in March 1944 in a Budapest Street.

Even now, I still expect that we will receive next Christmas a card from the Other Side called *The Gravedigger's Tale*. Meanwhile, I simply want to thank Ian for a life well lived and a friendship much cherished.

An extended obituary, containing some of Ian's poems, can be accessed on the online Obituaries page at www.balliol.ox.ac.uk/obituaries. Ian's death was recorded in Annual Record *2025*.

Daniel McNamee (1967)

David Hooper



Photo by Dudley Reed

Daniel V. McNamee III has died in Albany, New York, aged 81.

His time at Balliol (1967–1969) was curtailed by the Vietnam War. In 1979, he set up the McNamee Consultancy Company in New York, which became the go-to consultancy in the magazine industry. At the peak of his career in 2000, he suffered a haemorrhagic stroke that left him paralysed on one side and unable to speak. His resilience over the next 25 years was an inspiration to fellow sufferers, friends, and family.

Dan graduated in 1967 in Russian Studies at Yale. He followed his father, Daniel V McNamee Jr, to Balliol (1936–1938). In April 1969, just before completing his BPhil in Modern Languages (Russian and French), the US Army drafted him. While Balliol contemporaries were confronting Proctors at the Clarendon Building, Dan swapped the comforts of Balliol for live

ammunition fired just over his head during Fort Bragg training. Fluent in Russian and French, he was spared deployment to Vietnam by serving as a Russian translator and interpreter at the Counter Insurgency Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, and teaching French to the Green Berets.

He became a leading media management consultant, brokering the 1984 sale of *US News & World Report* to Mortimer Zuckerman, advising on the 1990 founding of *Entertainment Weekly*, and facilitating the 1984 Gruner & Jahr acquisition of *The New York Times* magazines, enabling the German company to become a leading US publishing house. In 1997, he guided the launch of *Condé Nast Traveler*.

His stroke ended his stellar career. Spurning conventional wisdom about stroke recovery, Dan embarked on occupational, physical, and speech therapy for two decades, maintaining a high degree of independence and quality of life. In 2015, he joined his speech therapist, Therese Pirozzi, for an hour-long discussion at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Convention in Denver, delivering a ten-minute talk on the possibilities for post-stroke aphasia patients and receiving a standing ovation.

Despite these afflictions, he attended rock concerts and made several trips to Europe on his own, attending Gaudies and Balliol Society events in his wheelchair – all part of his lifelong affection for Balliol.

Prior to his stroke, Dan inhabited a world of books, with shelves groaning under the weight of literature, politics, history, and art. A fine skier and sailor, he played competitive tennis and squash. His interest in ocean liners led him to join Walter Lord, author of *A Night to Remember,* for the *Queen Mary*'s final voyage, disembarking in New York with a brass sign bearing the words 'To the Life Boats'. In the 1980s, he helped Lord establish the Ocean Liner Museum, now housed in the South Street Seaport Museum in Manhattan, and the Walter Lord Gallery.

John Walker (1967)

Sir Alan Wilkie (1967)

On 5 May 2026, I attended John Walker's funeral with Philip Kay (1968) and Ted Allett (1967). We were members of the Balliol football team, which, during the late 1960s, had considerable playing success and provided comradeship and friendship for students from 'ordinary' backgrounds, for



whom Balliol could be intimidating.

Johnny Walker was a key part of that group. His athleticism, enthusiasm, fierce competitive courage and sense of fun gave us the belief to achieve beyond our abilities. John, Ted, Mike Pinnock (1967), Dave Wiltshire (1963) and me became University five-a-side champions in 1969. With his inspiration on our team, we just couldn't lose.

There were so many other memorable adventures together. He was a prime mover in obtaining, from Benfica, tickets for the 1968 European Cup final. Only one of us was a red, but we were all reds on that night.

After Oxford we drifted apart. In the following decades, I had a vague idea that John was involved in economic consultancy. But we met again at the Gaudy lunch in 2025. John was, characteristically, late, oblivious to the 'dress code' but he was the person many of the 1960s generation wanted to see. We clearly passed the acid test of real friendship, the 'it was as if it was only yesterday' moment. I saw him twice after that: in November and again on 5 March. He was the same as ever. I was delighted to resume our friendship and anticipated many more meetings.

It wasn't until the funeral that I appreciated what extraordinary success he had achieved in work and life: his brilliant and innovative company with its global pre-eminence, 750 employees, 20 offices in 14 countries, and clients at the highest levels internationally; and beyond work, his passion for skiing, sailing, and cycling.

Despite his worldly success, what came across from his family, colleagues and friends was that he remained unassuming and unpretentious, warm, charming and friendly, able to bring out the best in others. Exactly as it had been decades ago.

So it was that, less than two weeks after our last meeting, he was gone, leaving us stunned. He died following a skiing accident, after which he attended a business event, only to succumb at home in France to a delayed brain bleed from the accident.

As Roger McGough would have it: 'John you had a youngman's death'. We all miss you.

Deaths

During the last year (1 August 2025–31 July 2026), Balliol was saddened to learn of the deaths of the following Fellows, Old Members, and friends.

Professor Martin Karplus (George Eastman Visiting Professor and Fellow 1999–2000), 28 December 2024
Dame Stephanie Shirley (Foundation Fellow 2001–2025), 9 August 2025
Professor Hans Stetter (Visiting Fellow 1976–1977), 27 October 2025
Professor John Carey (Honorary Fellow 1992–2025), 11 December 2025
Professor Sir Anthony Leggett (1955, Honorary Fellow 1989–2026), 8 March 2026
Alexander Greenberg (Lecturer in Criminal Law 2024–2025), 5 July 2026

Samuel Yin, friend of Balliol, 26 May 2026

Noel Gates (1942), 16 December 2021
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Abigail Hafer (1982), 31 July 2025

Reuben Comiskey (1994), 30 March 2026

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